



# Manassas Connection

February 2017

## National History Day

In honor of National History Day, yes, that's a thing, City staff are working with classes at Metz Middle School and Osbourn High School to not only learn from history, but to make it. The theme of this year's National History Day, "Taking a Stand in History," helps to teach, prepare and inspire students from middle school through high school about critical thinking, problem-solving, research and reading, but most of all self-esteem and confidence.

As the Regional History Day Director for this area, Doug Horhota, Manassas Museum Program Coordinator, is working with students to participate in the regional competition and hopefully go on to the state and national competitions. The Museum is also hosting its own competition at the end of March as a local National History Day competition.

Students at Metz Middle School have worked hard to pick the perfect topics for the competitions. Metz student Darren Elkins has selected Human Rights Violations in North Korea. He said that even though most of the media focuses on North Korea's nuclear testing, they are overlooking the very severe abuses happening in North Korea. Stepping outside the box to research this project, Darren used web sites like Liberty North Korea and the United Nations.

Michelle Law, another student at Metz Middle School, said that her National History Day project has helped her connect to the present and has been a great learning experience. She is working on the dispute over the Spratly Islands in the North China Sea and has interviewed a Chinese citizen on the topic, as well as using college resources to research her topic.

Amelia Echeverria had a topic in mind, but was advised by her family to select another one. She decided that being a young woman, Women's Rights would be a great topic to explore. Her research centers on the Seneca Falls Convention all the way through the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.

"Although we are researching the past," said Amelia Echeverria, "We are also taking a stand for ourselves in the present."

These and other National History Day displays will be available to view at the Manassas Museum on March 24-25. The regional competition is scheduled for the beginning of March, with the state competition in April and the National Competition in June. Good luck to our student historians.



*Students from Grace E. Metz Middle School pose with Manassas Museum Program Coordinator Doug Horhota as they prepare for National History Day.*

# A Message from the City Manager



**City Manager**  
**William Patrick Pate**

Over the past two years, about 1,000 randomly selected households have participated in a statistically valid community survey to give the City their thoughts on city services. These completed surveys give us a great deal of valuable information on residents' priorities and demonstrates a commitment to Manassas being a great place to live, work and play.

Some of the most telling information obtained from this survey is how the City of Manassas compares with the region and the country. It is a good idea to benchmark the City against other localities to see if we are on track with other communities. In the areas of quality of customer service and feeling of safety in business/commercial areas of the City, the City of Manassas ranked more than 20 percent above the region and the

United States.

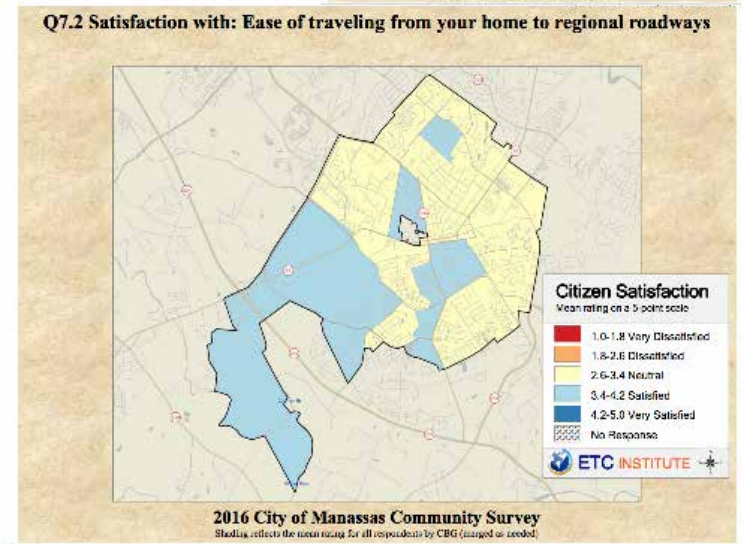
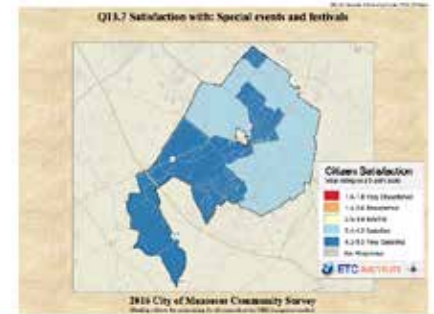
What this survey tells us is where we are doing well and should keep up the good work and where we are perhaps, a bit lacking and should focus more attention in the years to come. As a matter of fact, if you drill down into the survey results, you will find maps that color-code the Citizen Satisfaction results by category, question and area of the City. This is an effective tool when researching how City staff may better serve our citizens and where to focus our efforts.

For example, if you look at the map of satisfaction with the ease of traveling from your home to regional roadways, most of the map is yellow, or neutral. This makes sense, as a consistent priority is transportation and getting you to where you are going safely and efficiently. There are some corridors, like Route 28 in particular, that may take some time to improve, as we need to work with surrounding jurisdictions to improve the entire route.

In looking at a map illustrating satisfaction with

special events and festivals, you can see that the entire City is either very satisfied or satisfied. This is great news as the City works closely with Historic Manassas, Inc. to provide wonderful events and festivals all year long.

I invite you to dig further into the City of Manassas Citizen Satisfaction Survey at [www.manassascity.org/CSS](http://www.manassascity.org/CSS).



## Curbside Television Collection Begins in February

Disposing of old televisions and computer monitors can be an arduous task for residents who are unable to attend our regular electronics drop off days. To help residents with this disposal, the City of Manassas is introducing a new special collection program on Thursdays. Call the Trashline to schedule a pick up for your TV or Monitor at (703) 257-8252.

## Spring RecycleFest - Saturday, April 1

The numbers are in and now everyone knows about RecycleFest! Residents diverted more than 143 tons of household hazardous waste, electronic waste, used clothing and shredded paper from landfills in 2016. Great job everyone! Don't forget to put Saturday, April 1 on your calendar for the Spring RecycleFest from 8 a.m.– 12 p.m. at the Manassas Transfer Station, 8305 Quarry Road (off Liberia Avenue), in Manassas.

During RecycleFest, City residents can drop off household hazardous waste, electronic waste and shred up to four boxes of paper documents, for free. Proof of residency is required to enter and no commercial waste will be accepted. Savers™ will once again be our special recycling guest. Savers™ is a well-established recycling power house that collects gently used clothing, accessories and household goods and helps to support communities by donating part of the proceeds to a local organization. This year, the Martin K. Alloy Boys & Girls Club of Manassas will receive a donation based on the total weight of the recycled items they receive. For more information call the Trashline - (703) 257-8252 or visit [www.manassascity.org/trash](http://www.manassascity.org/trash).

## New City Treasurer

As your new Treasurer, I am so excited to announce that the School Bus Stop Arm Program is now live. After working out the logistics and coordinating with the Manassas City Police Department, Force Multiplier and Manassas City Public Schools, the Treasurer's Office is ready to collect the fees for those in violation of running the school bus stop arm.

Effective Jan. 5, 2017, anyone who passes an active school bus stop arm will receive a ticket in the mail. This

violation is subject to a \$250 fine. The ticket received by the violator will include instructions on how to remit payment.

We have all heard the many news reports of how often this violation occurs. I am particularly pleased that one of my first acts after assuming office is the expedited implementation of a system that will hold drivers accountable for jeopardizing the safety of our children. Proceeds from these violations will be invested in school funding.



## A New Way to Watch

The City of Manassas has made it easier to watch City Council Meetings online. With the new year and a new City Council in place, City staff have been working to transition to a new video product, Granicus, which will allow easier access to both streaming video and previous City Council meetings. This application provides viewers with

the ability to simultaneously view the meeting and the agenda side-by-side. If viewing a past meeting, viewers have the ability to click on specific portions of the meeting that may hold their interest and skip ahead to that portion of the meeting. To access this new way to watch, visit [www.manassascity.org/watch](http://www.manassascity.org/watch).

A New Way to Watch  
City Council Meetings

WATCH THE  
VIDEO



## Turning Recycling into Art

As this newsletter is being sent to print, a group of residents, City staff, business owners and Historic Manassas, Inc. are coming together to begin the judging process on the 3rd Annual Banner Art Competition. This is just one of the public art projects that have graced the City of Manassas in the last few years.

In 2017, the City will launch a new Outdoor Recycled Art competition. Artists age 14 and up are welcome to participate. This new competition is an

effort to help raise the profile of recycling and to celebrate America Recycles Day in November. We are looking for 3D outdoor art installations using plastic bottles, cans and paper. The work of ten finalists will be displayed in Nelson Park during the month of November 2017 and a \$1,000 award will go to the winner who will be chosen on America Recycles Day, November 15! For more information visit [www.manassascity.org/recycledart](http://www.manassascity.org/recycledart) or call (703) 257-8256.



*The UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) created these large fish sculptures in Botafogo Beach, Rio de Janeiro - Brazil, made of discarded plastic bottles.*

### A Big "Thank You" to the Community!

The Greater Manassas Volunteer Rescue Squad (GMVRS), which was one of the Manassas area collection centers for the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program in 2016, reported receiving the most toys and gift items ever in the four years it has participated in the program. According to Jeff Plumb, the Squad's Treasurer who served as program coordinator, five pickup truckloads of donations were taken to the Marines for distribution to needy families in the Manassas area. GMVRS worked in cooperation with the City of Manassas Fire and Rescue Department staff assigned to Rescue Station 1 at 9322 Center Street, Manassas, during the collection process, that took place from October 1 through December 23. However, the program's success and real credit goes to the hundreds of our citizens of all ages, including local schools and scouting organizations, who used their time and money to make the holidays a bit brighter for those less fortunate. THANK YOU! GMVRS plans to participate in the Toys for Tots program again in 2017.

# The City of Manassas Happenings

Here's what's happening in the City of Manassas.

**Farmer's Market** - Every Saturday in Parking Lot B, check out the Farmers Market from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (temperatures must be above freezing!)

Through Feb. 19, 2017 - **Not For Glory: Manassas Veterans & the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan**  
www.visitmanassas.org

**Ice Skate** at the Harris Pavilion now until spring www.harris pavilion.com

Feb. 3, 6 - 9 p.m. - **First Friday's Souper Bowl** - Sample delicious soups as you shop downtown  
www.visitmanassas.org

Feb. 8, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. - **Jewelry Sale** - Novant Prince William Medical Center in private dining area by the Novant Heath Auxiliary

Feb. 8, 7 - 9 p.m. - **Step by Step in Acrylics** at Center for the Arts.  
www.center-for-the-arts.org

Feb. 12, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk at the Manassas Museum - **Finding Elijah: Following His Footsteps in Civil War Virginia** with Author Geneva Lindner  
www.visitmanassas.org

Feb. 12, 3:30 - 6 p.m. - **Valentines Ballroom Dance** at Center for the Arts.  
www.center-for-the-arts.org

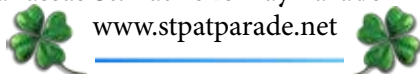
Feb. 14, 8 - 9:30 p.m. - **Valentine's Day Salsa Dance Party** at Center for the Arts.  
www.center-for-the-arts.org

March 3-April 16 - **New Exhibit: Illusions** Now in its fourth year, this annual exhibit features the art of students from Osbourn High School.  
www.manassasmuseum.org

March 3, 6 - 9 p.m. - **First Friday** in historic downtown Manassas  
www.visitmanassas.org

March 10-12 - **Carmina Burana and More!** by the Manassas Ballet Theatre  
www.hyltoncenter.org

March 11, 11 a.m. - **18th Annual Greater Manassas St. Patrick's Day Parade**



March 12, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. - **Historic Manassas Bridal Show** at the Center for the Arts  
www.visitmanassas.org

March 12, 1:30 p.m. Free Book Talk - **The Battle of Glendale** with Author Douglas Crenshaw  
www.visitmanassas.org

March 17, 8 p.m. - **Cemetery Tour** at the Manassas Confederate Cemetery  
www.visitmanassas.org

March 18 at 7:30 p.m. - Manassas Chorale **"Voices United: Honor and Majesty"** Concert at the Hylton Performing Arts Center  
www.manassaschorale.org

March 19, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Lincoln's Greatest Journey** with author Noah Andre Trudeau at the Manassas Museum  
www.visitmanassas.org

March 22, 7-9 p.m. - **Step by Step in Acrylics** - Pre-registration required  
www.center-for-the-arts.org

March 25, 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.; - **Everything is New Here**, Prince William History Symposium - \$10 (Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Avenue)

March 31, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. - **Environmental Stewardship Day Camp** ages 10-13; \$25 (Mayfield Earthwork Fort - 8401 Quarry Road)  
www.manassasmuseum.org

April 1 at 2 p.m. - **Architectural Tour** of Historic Downtown - first of the season  
www.manassasmuseum.org

April 2, 1:30 p.m. Free Book Talk - **Confederate Waterloo** with Author Michael J. McCarthy  
www.visitmanassas.org

April 7, 6 - 9 p.m. - **First Friday** in Historic Downtown Manassas  
www.visitmanassas.org

April 8 at 2 p.m. - **Liberia Plantation Sneak Peek**  
www.visitmanassas.org

April 9-15 - **Hop Around Downtown** - Shop downtown and receive a free gift!  
www.visitmanassas.org

April 22, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. - **Live Well Festival** at the Harris Pavilion. Health and wellness activities, Shred-It Truck, Farm to Table brunch and more!  
www.visitmanassas.org

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools			
City of Manassas Council		City of Manassas School Board	
Mayor Harry J. Parrish II	703-257-8213	Chairman Tim Demeria	703-895-4856
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Pamela J. Sebesky	571-358-9454	Robyn Williams	571-535-7510
Mark D. Wolfe	703-257-1702	Sanford S. Williams	571-535-6364

## Get Social!

Visit the City at [www.manassascity.org](http://www.manassascity.org).

[www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas](http://www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas)

[www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas](http://www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas)

[www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas](http://www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas)

Put your own photos up at  
[www.flickr.com/groups/mycityofmanassas](http://www.flickr.com/groups/mycityofmanassas).

To contact the City of Manassas Connection newsletter, email [prrince@ci.manassas.va.us](mailto:prrince@ci.manassas.va.us).