



Manassas Connection

November 2017

Byrd Park Gets a Makeover

Have you been to Byrd Park lately? If you haven't, you might want to drop by and check out the improvements. As part of the City's Capital Improvement Program, the City invested \$150,000 into improvements at Byrd Park, at 8528 Cavalry Lane in Manassas.

Park improvements included a new playground suitable for all ages featuring the cozy cocoon, funnel tunnel, tube slide, rocking turtle, music panel and more. The Cozy Cocoon is especially designed for children with autism with features like a space to escape over stimulation and windows on both sides for adult supervision. This is the second cozy cocoon in City parks.

Along with new play equipment, the basketball, roller hockey and Bankshot basketball courts were resurfaced and repainted. Bankshot basketball is designed to encourage players to play with, not against, others. This is a non-running, non-exclusionary sport that accommodates wheelchair players, the physically and cognitively challenged and anyone who wishes to play.

A new sail shade was added near the concession stand for picnics and shade. Other park improvements include: two new picnic tables; six new benches; 17 new trash/recycling receptacles; refurbished basketball posts, backboards, and nets; a refreshed picnic pavilion; and a grill. The project included removal of hazardous trees, repairs around the courts, a refreshed parking lot; and flyer holders in the park

restrooms for City of Manassas events.

City staff worked with a local Manassas Mom's group and area residents who use the park regularly to help guide these improvements. Such things as placement of benches for best advantage when watching your children play were considered in the process. Two Girl Scout troops, Troops 6848 and 4413, have adopted the park to keep it clean and have just recommitted for two more years of park cleaning.



New Manassas branded bike racks are now at the entrance to Byrd Park.



Bankshot Basketball courts freshly painted and ready for play.



A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
W. Patrick Pate

Fall seems to have finally arrived and November generally turns my thoughts towards Thanksgiving. I am currently thankful that we are heading into college basketball season as my alma mater is not having a very good football season. I am enjoying seeing the leaves turning their fall colors, but thankful that I have not had to rake yet (and that I have the fall leaf pickup schedule from the City).

Thinking about the City, I have been able to enjoy many fall festivals, events and outings throughout the City as we have made it past Halloween and will honor our Veterans with activities on Veterans Day. It still amazes me to think about the number of volunteers that we have supporting our community. The Veterans Day parade, the Christmas parade and Santa Lights Manassas events are all a part of the City fabric because of volunteers. Programs at the Museum, Recycle Fest, Arbor Day, Beautification efforts, to name a few, all depend on the efforts of volunteers that are committed to their community.

I am also thankful for the many City employees that are making a difference every day supporting each of us that live and work in the City. Recently we recognized some employees for going Above & Beyond for our City residents. The following City employees were recognized: Servant Heart Award (City staff who work every day to make the City a better place): LaTanya Bell-Buckhalter, Donna Bellows, Chris Berry, Monica Boehringer, Rachel Bolton,

Samantha Carrico, Frankie Christopher, Victoria Ferrara, Christen Fox, Amelia Gagnon, Jean Griffith, Ellie Hill, Lorri Jackson, Thomas Joyce, Lindsay Kafton, Kim King-Anderson, Maria Lazarides, Nancy Mitchell, Sharon Minter, Jessica Moise, Tara Moore-Petty, Earl Peach, Sheila Pou, Kristi Rophael, Summar Scott, Arnold Solano-Godinez, Kalisha Spence, and Gayle Sucher; City Beat Award (City staff who have gone the extra mile): Melissa Heiderman and Jacob Turpin.

The highest honor, the Above & Beyond Award (City staff who really put themselves out there for staff and for the community) was awarded to Margaret Montgomery and Master Tech Kevin Shafer. Margaret received the award after two nominations for her “can do” spirit and her work on multiple apps and GIS solutions. Kevin received his award for his huge heart. He made the dreams of an Osbourn High School Student, facing life threatening surgery, come true.

I am thankful that this is such a friendly community. If you have not

seen the article, Expedia.com named the City of Manassas as one of the most tourist friendly cities in America. This is a reflection on the entire community as folks experience the City by the way they are greeted at restaurants and local business, how they experience the attractions and ambiance of the community, and how they are treated during each interaction as they visit. Sometimes this is as simple as giving someone directions, keeping up our homes and neighborhoods, making sure that we pick up trash or rake our leaves. It does take an effort by everyone in the community to make sure that we leave a good impression and I am proud to see the City recognized for our community efforts to do this.

It is a real joy to live and work in such a family friendly place. We can all be thankful, in this season of Thanksgiving, for our families, for our public servants, for our neighbors and for our community.
Happy Thanksgiving!

City Art Train

Have you seen the train in front of the Harris Pavilion? It was painted by Creative Brush Studios. In the near future there will be three more art trains to grace our Historic Downtown. This is a pilot project similar to the winged horses in the OBX. To find out how your HOA or business can be a part of this program, contact pprince@manassasva.gov.



Expedia Names the City of Manassas as one of America's most tourist-friendly cities

Expedia.com, a major travel website, named the City of Manassas one of America's most tourist-friendly cities. Criteria for this designation were: helpful tourism board; things to do; quantity/quality of hotel options; access to an airport or major transit center; city/discovery tours; and amenities and weather ratings.

On a scale of one to five star ratings, the City of Manassas scored five stars in amenities, and scored highly in other areas as well. On Expedia.com, the City

of Manassas is described as:

"Thirty miles from Washington, D.C., and surrounded by nature, Manassas is happily situated for tourists who like to explore. The Manassas Museum System offers tours for the knowledge-thirsty, while just plain thirst is quelled at family-run BadWolf Brewing Company, where the atmosphere is way friendlier than the name suggests. Get your days going at cozy Jirani Coffeehouse, complete with an in-house library. Visiting in fall? Take the family to nearby Cox Farms for the Fall

Festival and meet the locals (and a few llamas, rabbits, chickens, and goats). Back in town, fill up at Okra's Cajun Creole and see a show at Hylton Performing Arts Center."

"We are thrilled to receive this designation," said City Manager W. Patrick Pate. "The City, with our tourism partners and businesses, work hard to create the events and amenities that make our City welcoming to both residents and visitors."

Recycling News

Recycling and the Civil War Exhibit - In the City Hall Lobby

Recycling isn't just about preserving the environment; it has been around since the early days of our nation's history. An excellent example of that is how materials were recycled and reused during the Civil War. They provided much-needed supplies both on and off the battlefield.

For the past year, the City of Manassas Citizen's Advisory Committee on Solid Waste has been researching what and how people recycled during the Civil War. This intrepid group of volunteers have been visiting the Library of Congress and conversing with local and regional historians, uncovering a wealth of information on how materials such as paper, metal and textiles were recycled and reused on the battlefield and at home.

This exhibit is intended to travel and be shared with everyone interested in learning more about the value of recycling. Stop by and have a look!

Visit our website for more information: www.manassascity.org/recycling.

Virginia Recycling Association Award

Each year the Virginia Recycling Association (VRA) recognizes the best waste reduction and recycling programs

in the state at an awards ceremony. Nominations are sought from the public and private sectors, business, industry, schools, government and non-government agencies, civic or volunteer organizations and individuals for recognition.

The City of Manassas has received the Virginia Recycling Association Award for a City/County Recycling Program for the second year in a row!

Recycling in Manassas is Getting Better!

2017 has been a great year for recycling in the City of Manassas. According to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, our recycling rate has risen from 41% in 2014 to 47.2% in 2017. It's great to know that our community is contributing to the creation of local jobs and improving our public health by reducing carbon emissions and conserving natural resources. But, there is still a long way to go. The biggest problem we are facing now is contamination caused by the wrong items being thrown into recycling carts and bins.

You can help reduce recycling contamination by sticking to four simple things: paper, cardboard, plastic containers and cans. "Wishful" recyclers often include items that cannot be recycled such as used diapers, clothing,

food and cell phones. Please help keep our single stream clean. In the City of Manassas you can recycle paper, cardboard, plastic bottles and containers and cans.

Project Recycle Runway

A great group of volunteers and City staff have been working with students at the Martin K. Alloy Boys & Girls Club of Manassas to learn about recycling fabrics. The children were taken to Savers in Woodbridge and given a \$30 limit to find their clothing choices. The students are creating new fashions out of this recycled clothing and will strut their new wares at a fashion show on Nov. 15 at 6 p.m. at the Manassas Boys & Girls Club.

Arborist's Note:

September's dry spell and fluctuating temperatures have caused many trees to drop their leaves early. This early leaf drop will not harm your trees because we are headed into fall. Don't forget to check the leaf pick up schedule for your area. Fall plantings of pansies and mums help to spruce up the landscape with fall color. Treat them as you would treat your spring flowers with plenty of water. www.manassascity.org/leafmap

The City of Manassas Happenings

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

Farmer's Market - Every Saturday in the VRE Parking Lot on Prince William Street, and Thursday in the Harris Pavilion - check out the Farmers Market - from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

www.visitmanassas.org

Now - Feb. 18, 2018 - New exhibit at the Manassas Museum - **The Forgotten World War: Its Impact at Home**

www.visitmanassas.org

Nov. 3 & 4 - Novant Health Auxiliary presents: **The Holiday Bazaar @ Novant Health UVA Health System Prince William Medical Center**

Nov. 3 - 12 - **Flags for Heroes** - Displayed on the lawn of the Manassas Museum - more info at patrickawcloud@aol.com

Nov. 3, 6-9 p.m. - **Fall Gallery Walk**

www.visitmanassas.org

Nov. 4, 11 a.m. - **Greater Manassas Veterans Day Parade**

<http://vetpar.org>

Nov. 4, 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Conquer Hell** with Author Ed Lengel, Chief Historian of the White House Historical Association

www.visitmanassas.org

Nov. 4 & 5 - **The Wiz**, by Pied Piper Theatre at Metz Middle School

www.visitmanassas.org

Nov. 4, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. - **Holiday Bazaar and Rummage Sale** - Senior Center at Manassas

Nov. 5, 1:30 p.m. - **To Annoy or Destroy the Enemy** with author Patrick O'Neill

www.visitmanassas.org

Nov. 7 - **Election Day**

www.manassascity.org/vote

Nov. 9, 7 p.m. - **Grant Avenue Streetscape Public Meeting** at the Georgetown South Community Center, 9444 Taney Road

www.manassascity.org/grantave

Nov. 10 - Application deadline for the **Gingerbread House Competition**

www.visitmanassas.org

Nov. 11, 10 a.m. - Prince William and Manassas **World War I Monument Ceremony** at the Old Manassas Courthouse - 9248 Lee Ave.

Nov. 12, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Three Cheers for the Chesapeake** with Author Rick Richter

www.visitmanassas.org

Nov. 15, 6 p.m. - **Project Recycle Runway** at the Martin K. Alloy Boys & Girls Club

Nov. 20, 7 p.m. - City of Manassas **Town Hall Meeting** at Baldwin Elementary School

Nov. 25 - Dec. 10 - **Nuncrackers** - performed by Rooftop Productions at the Center for the Arts

www.visitmanassas.org

Nov. 25 - **Shop Small Saturday** - Shop in Downtown for all your holiday needs.

www.visitmanassas.org

Nov. 28 - Dec. 13 - **Vote for your favorite Gingerbread House** - visit stores in downtown to vote

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 1 - 24 - **Historic Downtown extended shopping hours.**

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 1, 5:45 p.m. - **Santa Lights Manassas** - Greet Santa as he comes into the City by VRE. An enchanting night in Historic Downtown.

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 1 - **Manassas Museum Open House**

www.manassasmuseum.org

Dec. 1- 30 - **Deck the Museum @Manassas Museum** all season

Dec. 2, 10 a.m. - **72nd Annual Greater Manassas Christmas Parade** - A Christmas Carole

<https://gmchristmasparade.org>

Dec. 3, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Ever the Gray Ghost: Colonel John Singleton Mosby and the Lincoln Conspiracies** by David Goetz

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 3, 10 & 17, 1 - 4 p.m. - **Free Carriage Rides** through Historic Downtown Manassas - start at the Train Depot

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 5 - 1st half of FY18 Real Estate Tax due

www.manassascity.org/tax

Dec. 13 - 17 - **Free Winter Wonderland Train Show** at the Center for the Arts, 9419 Battle St.

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 12 & 13, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Novant Health Auxiliary presents: **The Holiday Bazaar @ Novant Health UVA Health System Prince William Medical Center**

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 20 - **Secret Santa Shopping Day** - Between Nov. 26 and Dec. 19, shop for a friend, but register for yourself. During this time every shop will have gift registries available. Then on Dec. 20 at 6 p.m., your spouse/significant other will be able to shop off your registry. Drop off the purchased items at CenterFuse and enjoy dinner in downtown. When done, the packages will be gift wrapped and ready to go under the tree.

www.visitmanassas.org

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

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To contact the City of Manassas Connection newsletter, email prince@manassasva.gov