



Meet the New City Attorney

Stephen Craig Brown, formerly of Charlottesville, Virginia, joins the City of Manassas staff as City Attorney. Brown comes to the City with more than 38 years of experience as an attorney.

In his previous position as City Attorney for the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, Brown supervised and managed three attorneys and two paralegals, serving more than 900 City of Charlottesville employees and their City Council. He has a wide range of experience working in local government. Brown earned his law degree at Wake Forest University School of Law and his undergraduate degree at the University of Virginia.

“Craig’s long and distinguished career as a municipal attorney makes

him an excellent addition to the City of Manassas leadership team,” said City Manager W. Patrick Pate. “The City of Manassas is excited to welcome Craig to the community. He will provide in-house legal services and manage the use of outside counsel as needed for specific projects and specialized services.”

“We are looking forward to working with Mr. Brown as our City attorney,” said Mayor Harry J. Parrish. “City Council was impressed with his knowledge about City government issues and his experience in local government will make him a welcome addition to our team.”

Brown will begin his tenure with the City of Manassas on Feb. 20, 2018.



Guy Family Exhibit now in The Hall at City Hall

The late Manassas artist Richard Guy was well known for his commercial illustrations and government paintings, but the scenes he painted close to home were often closest to his heart. Many of his favorites are now on display in a new exhibit on the first floor of City Hall.

Guy’s daughter, Marianne Pendlebury, selected the works on exhibit to showcase her father’s affection for the Manassas area, but she also included some favorites from the Washington region.

Guy began his career as an illustrator for the U.S. Air Force and then worked for an art studio in Manhattan before starting his own studio. He created such works as the first drawing of the Pepperidge Farm goldfish cracker package, exhibit paintings for the U.S. Department of the Interior, a permanent portrait collection for the U.S. Patent Office, drawings for the U.S. Department

of State and many renderings for Red Cross manuals. Over the years, he painted eight views of the U.S. Capitol building that were made into Christmas cards and purchased by members of Congress.

After moving to Manassas in 1967 with his wife and four children, Guy became interested in the area’s history, drew Civil War historical sites throughout the region and created paintings of local sites for Manassas Museum Christmas cards. He was an active supporter of the museum, Old Town Business Association and Art Beat Gallery. Guy passed away in 2014.

His family recently supported the conservation of two museum paintings in honor of Richard, his late wife Shirley and his late son Allan, also a successful commercial and studio artist.

These pieces and more can be viewed at 9027 Center Street, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and are free to the

public. Exhibits in The Hall at City Hall rotate on a monthly basis and include different forms of visual art. For more information about art in the City of Manassas, visit www.manassascity.org/art.



A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
W. Patrick Pate

Happy New Year! Is it me or did you also just get comfortable putting 2017 on your letters and checks as the new year? I guess that gives a clue to my age as I still write checks.

With the start of the New Year we will be starting a new session of the General Assembly in Richmond. For Manassas residents you will be represented by Lee Carter as our new representative and Jeremy McPike in the third year of his first term as Senator. Carter and McPike will be joining many new faces in the General Assembly and throughout state government with the installation of Ralph Northam as our new Governor. As they work on various laws and the new biannual budget, it is important to remember that State Government can have a dramatic impact on the quality of life and local government in Manassas.

The Mayor, City Council, School Board and various senior staff members have been meeting and working with our local state delegation to promote issues of concern to you and the community that can be impacted particularly by the State budget. We encourage you, as a citizen of Virginia, to make sure that your voice is heard in Richmond.

We have identified six general areas of concern to follow in the General Assembly this year. The first is fiscal relationships. Virginia is a “Dillon Rule” state. This means that local government can only do what the Commonwealth allows us to do by state statute. This is

in contrast to “Home Rule” jurisdictions in other states that can adopt laws to support their communities unless they have been forbidden to act by their state legislatures. This means that the General Assembly can cut or eliminate local revenues sources, mandate new local costs or otherwise restrict your local elected officials on actions they can take to balance your City budget. We support the maintenance of local authority to make these decisions.

Two areas that continue to receive high priority from the community are transportation and education. In the area of transportation we are supporting VA-28 improvements, stable funding for regional transportation alternatives like VRE and PRTC and equitable funding of projects in the Northern Virginia Region. Education priorities include equitable state funding for K-12 education, flexibility in meeting the educational goals of the community and support for local educational initiatives.

Public Safety priorities include the full funding of the existing and upcoming judicial vacancies in the 31st Judicial District to help alleviate the back log of cases in our jurisdiction. Another priority is state assistance and financial support to Police Departments stipulated in the Code of Virginia. We are also supporting increased statewide efforts to prevent opioid addiction and efforts to increase statewide mental health support. Both of these areas continue to place a tremendous burden on our public safety, judicial and detention staff and budgets.

Finally, we are supporting efforts to maintain local land use control where the community has a say in how development occurs in the community and in maintaining local authority over local utility systems.

Our focus is generally to maintain local control over decisions that will impact our local quality of life. We also need your support in talking with your legislators to make sure that they understand the importance of issues like these and others that matter to you.

As I am being careful not to blink, so 2019 will not be here before I know what happened, I wish each of you and your families a blessed and wonderful 2018!

Below is contact information for your Virginia Government Legislature representatives:

Delegate Lee Carter
dellcarter@house.virginia.gov
(571) 261-8546

Senator Jeremy McPike
district29@senate.virginia.gov
(804) 698-7529
(571) 316-0581

Public Safety Facility Update

The City has demolished the former Safeway building located at 9608 Grant Avenue to allow the City to begin to develop construction plans and drawings for the new Public Safety Facility.

Architectural services are anticipated to be selected in January 2018 with the design process taking about a year. The City plans to conduct several community meetings throughout the design process to gain public input on this major capital project. The design will keep in mind the City’s historic heart while embracing its modern beat. Construction of the new Public Safety Facility will break ground in the summer of 2019.

City of Manassas Social Services Making the Grade

In December, the City of Manassas Social Services Department underwent a review of their Child Protective Services case filings by the Quality Assurance and Accountability (QAA) Review Consultant. This is to ensure proper ongoing case management and case management recordkeeping so that children in the child protective services are being properly protected and that records are properly maintained.

The review noted that there were no errors for this time period and that, "The agency should be commended for their outstanding work, and the QAA Review Consultant encourages the agency to continue their efforts in meeting all state and federal requirements."

Congratulations to Sheila Pou Perez!

Recently, the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) recognized City of Manassas Social Services staff member Sheila Pou Perez. The VDSS is working to modernize the child welfare information system to create a system that supports Virginia's children and families in achieving safety, permanency and well-being.

To name this new project, the state held a naming competition and our own Sheila Pou Perez won. She created the name COMPASS to signify the COMprehensive Permanency Assessment and Safety System. This system

is being created to meet the diverse needs of front-line workers, state and local leadership, children, alumni, families and community supports to optimize service delivery, reduce duplicative efforts and capture the story of children and families served by Virginia Social Service Departments.

Recycling News

Christmas Tree Collection

Live Christmas trees can be set out as yard waste beginning Jan. 8, 2018. Please make sure that all lights, ornaments and garland are removed. All artificial Christmas trees will be collected as trash on regularly scheduled collection days.

Battery Disposal

Make sure to safely dispose of your Alkaline AAA, AA, A, C and D batteries by bagging them before throwing them away. To avoid a fire hazard, tape the top of Alkaline 9 Volt batteries and bag them before putting them in the trash. Combustible Lithium Ion and rechargeable batteries should NOT go in the trash. They can be safely disposed of at Home Depot, Lowes or at the next HHW drop off day in March.

Winter Trash & Recycling Tips

Heavy snow fall may disrupt regular trash and recycling collection service for the City. The City will let you know when that happens - so keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages.

Here are a few tips to help make things easier:

- Always make sure to set your trash and recycling out in hard-sided containers with tight fitting lids. For

smaller recycling bins, cover them with a board so papers and lighter objects will not blow down the street.

- Always use trash and recycling containers. Loose trash bags can rip and blow into the street making it unsafe for drivers and pedestrians.
- Cold weather and ice can weaken plastic and make it brittle. Double bagging trash can prevent bags from sticking to the bottom of the trash cart and from ripping as the trash crew moves the trash to the truck.
- If it's snowing heavily, if there are high winds, if it's so icy that you stand the chance of slipping or falling when setting out the trash and recycling - don't do it. Always call and check about the schedule first.

For more information on trash and recycling in the City of Manassas, visit the website at www.manassascity.org/trash or call the Trashline - 703-257-8252.

Adopt a Hydrant

The City is asking for your help in keeping fire hydrants clear of snow during the winter months. By joining the new Adopt a Hydrant program you can

help emergency crews gain fast access to fire hydrants. Simply Make sure that the nearest fire hydrant is clean and clear. Adopt your local fire hydrant by visiting www.manassascity.org/kmb or by calling (703) 257-8256. Keeping a clear space of at least 3 feet around the fire hydrant can speed up the response time and save lives. Sign up today!

January Electronics Drop-off Day

The City of Manassas is having a special Electronics Drop-off Day for residents in January. Working in partnership with Potomac eCycle, City residents can drop off their televisions, DVD players, game stations, printers and other electronic items on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018 from 9 a.m. to noon at Potomac eCycle, 7917 Wellingford Drive, Manassas, VA 20109

City residents can schedule television and computer monitors for collection at curbside by calling (703) 257-8252. Collections take place only on Thursdays and all items must be scheduled for collection at least 24 hours in advance.

The City of Manassas Happenings

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

Winter Farmer's Market - Every Saturday in the parking lot across from Baldwin Elementary School.

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. - Feb. - **Ice Skate** at the Harris Pavilion this season.

www.harris pavilion.com

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

www.visitmanassas.org

Through Jan 25 - **Off the Wall Art Exhibit** at the Center for the Arts.

www.visitmanassas.org

Jan. 4 - Feb. 8, 8:30 p.m. - **Ballroom Dancing** Intermediate classes at the Center for the Arts.

www.center-for-the-arts.org

Jan. 6, 2-4 p.m. - **Off the Wall Open House Reception** at the Center for the Arts.

www.visitmanassas.org

Jan. 7, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Hidden History of Arlington County** by Charlie Clark at the Manassas Museum

www.visitmanassas.org

Jan. 15, **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - City offices are closed**

Jan. 20, from 9 a.m. to noon - **Electronics Drop-off Day** at Potomac eCycle, 7917 Wellingford Drive, Manassas, VA 20109

www.manassascity.org/trash

Jan. 20, 2 p.m. & 5 p.m. - Pied Piper Theatre's Production of **Peter Pan** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center.

www.visitmanassas.org

Feb. 1, 6:30 p.m. - Annual Field Use meeting at the Manassas Museum - Field use applications will be accepted beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Feb. 15, 2018

www.manassascity.org/parks

Feb. 2, 6 - 9 p.m. - First Friday's **Souper Bowl**. Sample delicious soups as you shop downtown.

www.visitmanassas.org

Feb. 11, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk with Joseph Haynes - **Brunswick Stew** at the Manassas Museum.

www.manassasmuseum.org

Feb. 19, **President's Day - City offices are closed**

Mar. 18, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk with Paula Whitacre - **A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time** at the Manassas Museum.

www.manassasmuseum.org

New Solid Waste Code

As the City of Manassas grows, so does the need to find ways to keep our public spaces clean and safe - and our residential areas attractive and inviting. On Nov. 27, 2017 City Council passed a revised Solid Waste Code that introduced new ordinances for trash and recycling.

Notable revisions include:

- A new limit on Bulk Waste items - no more than 3 pieces of furniture or 2 rolls of carpet per collection.
- Confiscation and replacement charges for trash and recycling carts left out outside collection.
- Fines for plastic bags, trash bags found in recycling carts and bins.
- Fines for obstructing the street, sidewalks and storm drains during leaf collection.
- A charge of \$500 for removal and disposal costs for excess bulk waste and uncollectable items found curbside.

For more information on the new Solid Waste Code, visit www.manassascity.org/trash or call (703) 257-8252.

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

City of Manassas Council

Mayor Harry J. Parrish II 703-257-8213
 Vice Mayor Marc T. Aveni 703-795-9651
 Sheryl L. Bass 703-314-4278
 Ken D. Elston 571-377-8817
 Ian T. Lovejoy 703-828-7592
 Pamela J. Sebesky 571-358-9454
 Mark D. Wolfe 703-257-1702

City of Manassas School Board

Chairman Tim Demeria 703-895-4856
 Vice Chair Scott M. Albrecht 571-606-1129
 Kristen Kiefer 571-606-0285
 Peter O'Hanlon 571-535-0652
 Suzanne W. Seaberg 571-606-0499
 Robyn Williams 571-535-7510
 Sanford S. Williams 571-535-6364

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www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas

Put your own photos up at www.flickr.com/groups/mycityofmanassas.

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