



## A Message from the Chief on School Safety

I want to take this opportunity to communicate with our residents about school safety. We have an outstanding partnership with the Manassas City Schools. We work together every day to foster a safe and secure environment for our children and the staff. In fact, this partnership was hard at work in March at Osbourn High School as we worked together to host a parent forum on school safety.

Currently, we have School Resource Officers (SRO's) at Osbourn High School, Metz Middle School and Mayfield Intermediate School. These Officers work with school staff, students and parents to identify potential safety or security risks at each location BEFORE they occur.

We understand and appreciate that our community and schools not only want to be safe, but want to feel safe. At times, this is a balancing act for both the schools and law enforcement, ensuring that law enforcement is not adding to the students' anxiety with our presence or

interfering with the teachers' ability to teach. We want to build relationships with the students and staff so they feel comfortable with a Manassas City Police presence and sharing information (trusting us).

When violence occurs at any school across our nation we feel the hurt, the suffering, the anxiety and the need to "do more." It is no different with our schools than in my own life. I worry about my children and my wife, Amy, who is a teacher for the City of Manassas. How can I protect them more? What needs to be done differently? How can I make them safer? There is no easy answer to any of these questions, but I do believe it begins with conversations — at home, at work, in the schools and in the community. All of this in the hope of preventing future violence by being prepared and sharing information.

What we do know is that we can never be prepared enough- as individuals or as a community. This is why the conversations must occur! Your police department will



continue to review and assess how we can improve strategies regarding school safety, including working with the schools to train their staff or make recommendations on hard security actions. The Manassas City Police Department is committed to protecting our children and the staff at our schools.

We can make our community and schools better and safer by working together!

Douglas W. Keen, Chief of Police

## Wellington Community Association Receives Grant

The City of Manassas and American Disposal Services have awarded a Community Recycling Grant award to the Wellington Community Association. The "Try It" Grant of \$1,000 will help the Wellington Community increase recycling in their public spaces.

The City and American Disposal offer three types of grants for City of Manassas Communities. Apply for a grant for your community.

- Try It – offers small amounts of funding of up to \$1,000 for communities to try out ideas to increase recycling. This might mean learning more about what is needed in the area or trying a project on a small scale.
- Do it – offers grants of up to \$5,000 to successful Try It award recipients who feel confident in taking their community project to the next level.
- Build it – offers grants of up to \$15,000 to communities that have successfully launched a Do It project and would like to install or renovate a common area within the community to benefit the health and well-being of community members.

For more information or to apply for a grant, visit: [www.manassascity.org/trash](http://www.manassascity.org/trash) or call (703) 257-8256.

# A Message from the City Manager



City Manager  
W. Patrick Pate

In March I presented a proposed FY 2019 budget for the City as required by City Council as they conduct a comprehensive review for a May adoption of the budget. Many hours of work by staff and City Council have already gone into the budget preparation process before this presentation including extensive input from the citizens of Manassas through surveys, community conversations and citizen boards and committees to help determine strategic priorities for the upcoming year.

Adopting a budget sets the stage for the future of this City and as such is one of the most important annual actions taken by any governing body. This is why so much time and effort is taken in the preparation of a budget each year as Council works very hard to understand and meet the priorities of the community.

The strategic priorities adopted by City Council, and reaffirmed from citizen interaction and at the Council's strategic planning retreat are: Economic Development, Education, Public Safety, Housing and Redevelopment, Community Investments, and Sustainable Government.

Starting with **Sustainable Government**, I am pleased to report that the City of Manassas has maintained a AAA bond rating (the highest possible) from Standard and Poor's. Very few localities are able to achieve this rating, which is a testament to the financial policies and practices that have been implemented by your City government.

**Community Investment** priorities have focused on transportation and public amenities. This budget continues funding for public transportation and road improvements so that our residents can get to work each day. Likewise emphasis continues on resurfacing and maintaining streets as prioritized in the pavement management plan found on our website.

Community Investment also means green space. During the current year we established the Division of Parks, Culture and Recreation to focus on public amenities and services to our community. A new Parks and Recreation Committee has also been appointed to help promote the goals and activities in this service area.

A report on promoting **quality housing and redevelopment opportunities** by looking for specific neighborhood and area housing strategies was recently prepared for Council review. An in-depth update to the City's Comprehensive Plan will also begin this year. Outreach for this initiative began in 2017 through our Community Conversations program. Preliminary design for the South Grant streetscape project is complete and funds are included in the Capital Improvement Plan for design. These efforts, along with the new Public Safety Building and Prince William Street improvements, show the City's commitment to Housing and Redevelopment in this area of the City.

Design of a new **Public Safety** Building is one of the ways we are addressing public safety needs. The City has purchased a site on Dumfries Road for Fire and Rescue Station #21 and a site on Grant Ave. for the Public Safety Building. Body worn cameras have been implemented in the Police Department and a staffing for a Fire and Rescue Department Advance Life Support (ALS) Transport Unit is included in the budget. These initiatives, along with public safety staff retention, are supporting our reputation as a safe community.

**Education** has been a consistent priority for this community. Capital improvement efforts can be seen in

the recent completion of Baldwin Intermediate and Elementary School and the new Osbourn ballfields. The City Council and the Manassas City Public School Board entered into a joint funding agreement in FY 2017 to provide a dependable funding base with a stable increase of 2.625% towards MCPS funding each year. In FY 2019 this means that \$57.077 million of local funds will be provided directly to MCPS for education funding.

The remaining priority is **Economic Development**. This year we have seen the ground breaking of the \$250 million Landing at Cannon Branch project; the opening of the co-work space, CenterFuse, in the Historic Downtown; and a variety of business expansions and relocations to the City. Promotion of economic development and tourism in the City continues to enhance our reputation of being a City with a "Historic Heart and Modern Beat."

The overall City budget is proposed to increase 2% over the previous year. The major areas of increases in the budget are for water capital projects, land for Fire and Rescue Station #21 and funding for the Manassas City Public Schools per the funding agreement. While the budget focuses on lots of numbers and information, I am extremely proud of the dedicated men and women that make up the City workforce and spend countless hours delivering high-quality services to the community on a daily basis. It is the work of these individuals that really makes a difference in our community.

If you would like more details on the budget, our nationally recognized budget document is available on the City website at [www.manassascity.org/budget](http://www.manassascity.org/budget). A public hearing on the proposed budget will be held in the Council Chambers on Monday, April 30, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

# Don't Get Scammed!

All too often, the Manassas City Police Department receives reports about phone scams. Some of these phone calls are hard to identify as scams and the victims lose money that may never be recovered. Here are the top five phone scams happening in the City of Manassas.

1. **Utility Scams:** The caller will claim to represent a utility company and threaten to shut off all utilities because of owed money. The caller will demand that the resident send money immediately to avoid shut-off. The City of Manassas Utilities Department will never call and demand payment over the phone. If you are unsure of the call's legitimacy, contact Manassas Utilities at (703) 257-8245.

2. **Jury Duty Scams:** During a jury duty scam, the caller will claim to be a local law enforcement officer and tell the victim there is a warrant for their

arrest for missing jury duty. In order to avoid arrest, the caller will demand they immediately pay a bond/fine, often in the form of pre-paid cards.

3. **Phishing:** Scammers will contact the victim by phone or email and say they represent a credible business. The caller will try to get the victim to provide confidential information such as social security numbers, bank information, and credit card numbers. Never provide confidential personal information over the phone or by email.

4. **Grandkid Scams:** The caller will tell the victim that their grandchild or another family member needs money for bail, a medical bill, or says they are in some other kind of trouble. They can be convincing and use information they find on the social networking sites to make the call sound more legitimate. They will

pressure you to send the money before you have time to realize it is a scam.

5. **IRS Scams:** In an IRS scam, the scammer will call and claim to be from the IRS. They will say that the victim owes back-taxes and will be immediately arrested unless payment is made. Often, they will ask the victim to make payment in the form of pre-paid cards. The IRS typically sends a letter first and will never ask for payment to be made over the phone or with pre-paid cards.

Remember, hang-up and do research before making any type of payment. For more information about phone scams contact Crime Prevention Specialist Sarah Maroney at (703) 257-8064 or Community Services Officer Charles Sharp at (703) 257-8110.

## Load Management = Worry-Free Water Heating and Air Conditioning

### What is Load Management?

It is the targeted management of demand for electricity and plays a large role in holding down power costs. The City of Manassas purchases power based on the total energy used in kilowatt-hours (KWH) as well as the demand kilowatt (KW) at the peak of each month. By decreasing the peak demand, the City can reduce the cost of the power it purchases. These savings are passed on to City residents.

### What are some of the advantages?

If there is a problem with your water heater, after you sign up, we'll replace any malfunctioning heating elements, thermostats, or breakers, for FREE – labor and parts included. (*A leaking water heater tank is not covered.*)

Air conditioner not working? Before you call a contractor, call us. We will send a service representative out to perform a First-Call diagnostic so you know the extent of any problem, and can make an informed decision concerning repairs. This evaluation is also FREE and available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

This is all part of the City's new Load Management Program. Joining the program not only gives you the above benefits, but also helps the City

keep electric rates among the lowest in Virginia.

### How does it work?

During the peak demand for electricity, a switch attached to your water heater turns the unit off for typically up to two hours. Alternatively, a switch on your central air conditioner cycles the compressor on and off for 15 minutes out of every half-hour. Peak-demand periods usually occur on the coldest and hottest days of the year and last for only a few hours.

Currently, more than 2000 load management switches have been installed in City of Manassas homes by qualified service technicians. The majority of load management participants never notice a difference in their hot water availability or the comfort level in their homes.

### How do you participate?

To sign up, contact Air-Right Design, the licensed contractor that has been selected to perform the installation of the new equipment. To schedule your installation call Air-Right Energy Design at 703-530-0166. For more information on the program, call (703) 257-8354.

### Spring Yard Waste Tips

Know the rules this spring when you or your lawn care service are caring for your yard.

- Yard waste must be set out in brown paper yard waste bags or in a private trash can.
- Branches and brush must be bundled and tied for collection.
- Plastic bags are not biodegradable, so no yard waste set out in plastic bags will be collected.
- Yard waste should be set out on Sunday night for collection on Monday.
- A fine can be assessed if any material is not set out correctly – or is left at the curb all week long.

For more information, visit [www.manassascity.org/trash](http://www.manassascity.org/trash) or call (703) 257-8252.

# The City of Manassas Happenings

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

April 6, 6-9 p.m. - **First Friday** in the City of Manassas - Scavenger Hunt  
[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

April 7, 8 a.m. to noon - **Household Hazardous & eWaste Drop Off** with shredding  
[www.manassascity.org/trash](http://www.manassascity.org/trash)

April 7 - **Civil War Trust - Park Day** Cleanup at Liberia Plantation  
[www.manassascity.org/leisure](http://www.manassascity.org/leisure)

April 7 - Oct 20 - **Historic Downtown Walking** Tours at 3 p.m.  
[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

April 7 - Oct. 27 - Museum at the Market  
[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

April 8, 11 a.m. - **April Showers Bridal Show** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center  
[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

April 11, 3 p.m. - Stories of Preservation and Progress Speaker Series: **The World Around Us** - at the Manassas Museum  
[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

April 13 - Sept. 16 - Two New Exhibits at the Manassas Museum - **Expanding Boundaries - the Manassas Boys & Girls Club**; and **Living the American Dream: Robert Portner, Immigrant, Entrepreneur, Philanthropist**  
[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

April 14, 8:30 a.m. - **Care Net 5K**  
[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

April 14, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. - Plan Your Park **Community Picnic** at Kinsley Mill Park

[www.manassascity.org/Leisure](http://www.manassascity.org/Leisure)

April 15, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk **Code Girls** [www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

April 15, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **MS 5K Walk**  
[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

April 19, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Novant Health Auxiliary **Silver Jewelry Event** at Prince William Medical Center

April 21, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **12th Annual Live Well Festival** - There will be a 5K run to kick off the event  
[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

April 22, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Suffragists of Washington DC**  
[www.manassascity.org/museum](http://www.manassascity.org/museum)

April 22, 2 - 6 p.m. - **Prince William Community Band Festival**  
[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

April 24 - May 22 - **What's the Next Move Line Dances** at Center for the Arts  
<https://center-for-the-arts.org>

April 28, 9 a.m. to 2 pm. - **Manassas Reads** at the Harris Pavilion - Free books, games, special guests, Manassas Therapy Dogs and much more  
[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

April 28-29 - **Little Mermaid** performed by Pied Piper Theatre at the Hylton Performing Arts Center  
[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

April 29, 7 a.m. - **Manassas Runway 5K/10K and 1 miler**  
<http://bishopsevents.com>

April 29, 8 a.m. - **March of Dimes Walk**  
[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

May 4 - 19 - **The Addams Family** musical comedy at Center for the Arts  
[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

May 5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - **Leaseweb Manassas Airshow**  
[www.manassasairshow.com](http://www.manassasairshow.com)

May 5, 8 a.m. - noon - **Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Day**  
[www.manassascity.org/trash](http://www.manassascity.org/trash)

May 9, 3 p.m. - Stories of Preservation and Progress Speaker Series: **Art and its Many Forms** at the Manassas Museum  
[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

May 11, 8 p.m. - Manassas Museum **Cemetery Tour**  
[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

May 12, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. - **Manassas Viking Festival**  
[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

May 18-20 - **One Love Manassas** - A Celebration of Art and Artists in the City of Manassas  
[www.onelovemanassas.com](http://www.onelovemanassas.com)

May 18, 6 p.m. - **Movie Night** on the Museum Lawn.  
[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

June 2, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - **24th Annual Manassas Heritage Railway Festival**  
[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

## City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

### City of Manassas Council

Mayor Harry J. Parrish II 703-257-8213  
 Vice Mayor Sheryl L. Bass 703-314-4278  
 Marc T. Aveni 703-795-9651  
 Ken D. Elston 571-377-8817  
 Ian T. Lovejoy 703-828-7592  
 Pamela J. Sebesky 571-330-5514  
 Mark D. Wolfe 703-257-1702

### City of Manassas School Board

Chairman Sanford S. Williams 571-535-6364  
 Vice Chair Kristen Kiefer 571-606-0285  
 Scott M. Albrecht 571-606-1129  
 Tim Demeria 703-895-4856  
 Peter O'Hanlon 571-535-0652  
 Suzanne W. Seaberg 703-869-1171  
 Robyn Williams 571-535-7510

### 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@manassasva.gov](mailto:prrince@manassasva.gov)