



Chasing Light

Chasing Light is a new art/light/music installation that will be held during the Manassas One Love Arts Festival on Saturday, April 27. It is not meant to be the kind of performance that folks sit and watch, but participate in.

Dallas artist Carmen Menza will produce the first-of-its kind 3D projected visual and music installation on the Manassas Museum lawn. Menza hopes that visitors will connect with others and says that participatory public art affords us the experience of making something beautiful with those around us and strengthening a sense of community. The multi-level art installation will include 3D projected visuals and **Chasing Light**, an original musical score created by Mark Menza, a Dallas composer and Carmen's husband.

Chasing Light, which Mark Menza wrote specifically for the City of Manassas, is a 21st century chamber piece that employs both recorded and live players and is juxtaposed to electronic and sampled sounds. Because a strong central element of this work is improvisation—using elements of jazz, philharmonic, soundscape, and an electronic score—it lends itself to improvisation by musicians at the event.

A copy of the musical score will be released prior to the event and musicians who want to participate on the night of the performance will be invited to join performers on stage. The music that community musicians perform will also trigger elements of the 3D light show and will continually transform throughout the evening. The projected visuals include abstract illuminated backgrounds and geometric objects created through camera shots and 3D software.

Mark Menza's work may be familiar

to those who have attended Manassas Ballet performances of **Colin: Son, Marine, Hero**, an original work that reflects on the life of the Ballet's Artistic Director Amy Grant Wolfe's son Colin, who was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq in 2006. Menza created the original musical score for the ballet, which premiered in 2013 to national acclaim. The Manassas Ballet will be premiering *Chasing Light* at their March performance of **A Fantastique Evening** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center.

Spoken word artists and dancers are also invited to collaborate during the continuous performance. The underlying music will serve as a soundscape for those who perform spoken word and poetry as they are invited to take the stage alongside musicians and dancers throughout the evening.

Carmen Menza has works in several prominent public spaces including The McKinney Avenue Contemporary and the Aurora Light and Sound Biennial, both in Dallas. The Aurora event had more than 60,000 visitors.

The second annual One Love Manassas Festival, which will be held April 26 - 28, 2019, is designed to give artists a platform to perform, share their art, raise awareness, and inspire hope for the love of all artistic platforms. The three-day event features a juried art show, Manassas Reads - a literary arts event, performances by local musicians, a film showcase, a marketplace, panels and workshops. Leading up to *Chasing Light*, weekend participants will walk to the Museum Lawn carrying light orbs in a parade of sorts called Turn on Your Light. Each orb will represent that individual's Celebration of Life through the arts.

The Virginia Commission for the Arts is sponsoring the *Chasing Light* installation. Visit www.facebook.com/onelovemanassas or www.onelovemanassas.com for more information or to see how you can participate in the event. For up-to-date information about One Love Manassas, text the word OneLove (all one word) to 888-777. You can opt out at any time.



A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
W. Patrick Pate

I know that spring must be just around the corner as we start hearing about the upcoming St. Patrick's Day parade on March 9 at 11 a.m. and the reminders to "spring forward an hour" for daylight savings time. Having had the opportunity to really see the "greens" of Ireland and where my Irish ancestors lived, it gives me some time to reflect on some old Irish proverbs. One Irish proverb that comes to mind is:

*"May you have the hindsight to know where you have been,
The foresight to know where you are going,
And the insight to know when you are going too far."*

As spring brings thoughts of renewal and new growth, it is important to think about where we have been and where we want to go. At our recent City Council retreat we began to talk about April 2, 2023. This date will be the sesquicentennial or 150th year anniversary of the 1873 founding of Manassas. 150 years gives us a lot of "hindsight" to explore as we look for vision to take us forward for another 150 years. Over the last year or so we have been gathering insights from you about our community and what you remember and cherish. This will continue over the next several years as we look to plan for our future and celebrate our past. This leads me to another Irish proverb:

*"Always remember to forget
The troubles that passed away.
But never forget to remember
The blessings that come each day."*

It is often our human nature to dwell on the "troubles" of the past instead of focusing on our blessings. I hope you will focus on the blessing that we share. One way we are blessed in the City of Manassas is through the blending of cultures and heritages that make this a unique and special place.

About 16% of your neighbors moved in within the past year. Most moved from within Virginia but about 10% came from a different state and about 3% from abroad. Manassas proper has over 41,000 residents and we continue to see diversity in our neighbors. Since 2010 our Asian population has grown by 56% and the Hispanic/Latino population by 35%. As of 2017 less than half of Manassas residents are white and non-Latino. We are also getting a bit older with the fastest growing age group being those between the ages of 60-69. This trend really fits the proverb:

*"Do not resent growing old,
Many are denied the privilege."*

So in the Irish tradition for the month of March, I close with this toast to you -

*"For each petal on the shamrock
This brings a wish your way
Good health, good luck and happiness
For today and every day."*



Arbor Day Poster Contest

This is the 35th year for the Arbor Day poster contest hosted by the City Beautification Committee. Students from Pre-K to 4th grade are invited to create a poster with the theme "My Favorite Tree." Posters should be between 8 1/2 x 11 to 14 x 18 inches and are due to the Manassas Visitor's Center (at the depot) by April 5, 2019. Awards will be presented at the Arbor Day event on April 26 at 10 a.m. at Round Elementary School. Hope to see you there!



Comprehensive Plan Update

This month, the Planning Commission will update the long-range land use map and City design principles.

To learn more, sign up for updates at www.manassascity.org/notifyme and visit:

WWW.MANASSACITY.ORG/PLANMANASSAS

Recycling News

Keep Manassas Beautiful Receives President's Circle Award



Keep Manassas Beautiful has received the 2018 Keep America Beautiful President's Circle Award from Keep America

Beautiful for the second year. The award recognizes exemplary performance made by certified affiliates of the national nonprofit in creating clean, green and beautiful communities. We thank all of our extraordinary volunteers who have spent over 1,600 hours keeping our streets, parks and sites free from litter. Together they collected just over 2,800 pounds of trash!

The Adopt-a program is free to join and we welcome your support in Keep Manassas Beautiful. Visit www.manassascity.org/kmb for more information.

Be Part of Something Beautiful! March 20, 2019

Keep Manassas Beautiful is calling on all neighbors and friends to take to the streets, parks, fields, sites and streams on March 20, 2019 to celebrate the Great American Cleanup. If everyone did just one hour of cleanup – it would be the single biggest cleanup event in the history of the City of Manassas!

A New Way to Stay Informed

The City of Manassas has a new way to keep you up-to-date on some of our events. Text the word (all one word) FirstFriday or the word OneLove to 888-777 and we will text event updates to keep you in the know. You can opt out at any time. Check it out today!



Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup is the nation's largest community improvement program, which takes place annually in an estimated 20,000 communities nationwide. This is the 21st year of the event that engages more than 3.4 million volunteers and participants across the United States to create a positive and lasting impact. For more information visit www.manassascity.org/kmb

3 Simple Yard Waste Rules

Spring is the time everyone returns to their gardens to enjoy the return of warmer weather. Before you get your

gloves on, take a moment to remember three simple yard waste collection rules for the City of Manassas:

1. Use paper yard waste bags or private containers – DO NOT USE PLASTIC BAGS.
2. Bundle and tie your branches for collection.
3. Set out your yard waste on Sunday night for collection on Monday.

The City of Manassas loves beautiful gardens! Help keep Manassas Beautiful by handling and disposing of yard waste properly. For more information visit: www.manassascity.org/trash.

Join our Community



Make a Difference



Follow us on:



\$48,276 Starting Salary

- ❖ Comprehensive Benefit Package
- ❖ Competitive Salary
- ❖ Career Development Program
- ❖ Tuition Reimbursement
- ❖ Uniforms and equipment provided
- ❖ Health and Life Insurance
- ❖ Virginia Retirement System
- ❖ Spanish Language Proficiency Stipend
- ❖ Annual / sick leave and holiday pay
- ❖ Worker's Compensation
- ❖ State of the Art Technology, Equipment, and Training

Apply at ManassasCity.org/JoinMCPD

Contact us at MCPDRecruitment@manassasva.gov

The City of Manassas Happenings

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

March 3 at 1:30 p.m. – Free Book Talk
Bringing Down the Colonel: A Sex Scandal of the Gilded Age

www.visitmanassas.org



March 8, 9 & 10 - **A Fantastique Evening** by the Manassas Ballet

www.visitmanassas.org



March 8 - 17 - **Anne of Green Gables** by Prince William Little Theatre

www.visitmanassas.org



March 9 at 11 a.m. - **20th Annual Greater Manassas St. Patrick's Day Parade**

www.stpatparade.net



March 9, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Soft Pastels Workshop @Center for the Arts

www.visitmanassas.org



March 10 – **Daylight Savings Time** – Spring Ahead and remember to change the batteries in your smoke detector



March 10, 3:30 - 6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance - **the Cha Cha** @Center for the Arts

www.visitmanassas.org



March 13 at 3 p.m. - Stories of Preservation and Progress Speaker Series featuring **Women's History Month**

www.visitmanassas.org



March 17 – **Happy St. Patrick's Day**



March 18 at 7 p.m. – **Town Hall Meeting**



March 20 - **Great American Cleanup** Keep Manassas Beautiful event

www.manassascity.org/kmb



March 22, 6:30 p.m. - **Hylton Performing Arts Center's 9th Anniversary Gala**

www.visitmanassas.org



March 23, 7:30 p.m. - Manassas Chorale **Silver Voices: Voices United** Concert

www.visitmanassas.org



March 30 - **15th Annual Ballet Ball** in the Gregory Theater at the Hylton Performing Arts

www.visitmanassas.org



March 30, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. - 5th Annual Prince William County/Manassas History Symposium - **If I Were Today a Virginian**

www.visitmanassas.org



April 1, 9 a.m. - noon - **Museum Career Day**

www.visitmanassas.org



April 5, 7 - 9 p.m. - **Dance Night** at the Candy Factory to celebrate Hispanic and Latino contributions to our community

www.visitmanassas.org



April 5, 6-9 p.m. - **First Friday** - A Game of Thrones inspired Costumed Event

www.visitmanassas.org



April 5 - 20 - **Godspell** by Rooftop Productions @Center for the Arts

www.visitmanassas.org



April 6 - Oct. 12, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - **Museum at the Market**

www.visitmanassas.org



April 6 - **American Battlefield Trust Park Day**

www.manassascity.org/leisure



April 10, 3 p.m. - Stories of Preservation and Progress

www.visitmanassas.org



April 11 - **Thursday Farmer's Market** opens at the Harris Pavilion - Yum

www.visitmanassas.org



April 12 - **Earth Day Park Cleanup**

www.manassascity.org/leisure



April 12 - September 15 - New exhibit at the Manassas Museum - **Expanding Boundaries: Celebrating Traditions, Shaping the Future** - Produced in partnership with the local Hispanic community, this exhibit will examine such topics as music, food, holiday traditions and other subjects important to the local community.

www.visitmanassas.org



April 13 - Fall - **Saturday Farmer's Market** opens and runs through the fall at the VRE parking lot across from Baldwin Elementary/Intermediate

www.visitmanassas.org



April 14, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Six Days in September** - with Author Alexander B. Rossion @Manassas Museum

www.visitmanassas.org



April 17, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Novant Health Auxiliary Presents-**Dillard's from Stony Point** - Prince William Medical Center Main Lobby



April 26 - 28 - **One Love Manassas** - a three-day art event that celebrates life with the arts

www.visitmanassas.org



April 26, 10 a.m. - **Arbor Day** @Round Elementary School



April 27, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **Manassas Reads** @Harris Pavilion

www.visitmanassas.org



April 28, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Last Seasons in Havana: The Castro Revolution and the End of Professional Baseball in Cuba**

www.visitmanassas.org



City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

City of Manassas Council

Mayor Harry J. Parrish II 703-257-8213
Michelle Davis-Younger 571-206-8433
Theresa Coates Ellis 571-247-6729
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
Kristen Kiefer 571-606-0285
Scott M. Albrecht 571-606-1129
Tim Demeria 703-895-4856
Suzanne W. Seaberg 703-869-1171
Robyn Williams 571-535-7510

Get Social!

Visit the City at www.manassascity.org.

 www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas

 www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas

 www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas

 www.instagram.com/cityofmanassas

 www.youtube.com/user/manassascityva

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