



Manassas Farmer's Market - Growing Business



CenterFuse, the co-work space in the City of Manassas, is a treasure for the City. It's a place that entrepreneurs and small business owners can go to learn and grow their businesses. Where business people can drop in for the day and get some work done using the Wi-Fi and copier or rent an office and use CenterFuse as their home base. Recently, the George Mason Small Business Development Center (SBDC) began to operate out of CenterFuse. This is great news for the City's entrepreneurs as they can get advice and so much more from the SBDC.

But, did you know that this was not the first City business incubator? The first incubator was the City's Farmer's Market. Small business owners and local growers start out at the Manassas Farmer's Market and more than a few have gone on to brick and mortar businesses.

Jennifer went to culinary school in New York for baking and pastry in 2010. Shortly after, she decided to open her own business offering Peruvian pastries, which was a natural fit with her Peruvian heritage. She came to Manassas in 2016 and began selling her homemade empanadas, Peruvian pastries, desserts, fresh fruit slushies, sandwiches and cakes as Dolce Amore Sweets.

Jennifer's business has done so well and received such a good response at the Manassas Farmer's Market that in May she will open her own shop next to the Juke Box Diner at 8641 Sudley Road.

Jennifer said, "It's a dream came true for me, and all I can say is that God had a perfect plan for me when He brought me to (the City of) Manassas, VA."

Sharita was a Certified Oral Surgery Assistant. As circumstances changed in her life she began making gourmet candy apples from her home and called it Tummy YumYum. The apple business grew very quickly. She went from making 100 to 800 apples a week out of her house.

Sharita was contacted by the Manassas Farmer's Market to become a pop-up vendor at the Saturday market. This was a huge success and she was received well from Farmer's Market participants. Sharita started creating her hugely popular candy apples for events in Historic Downtown and in October, 2018, she moved into the space formerly used by Moo Moo Junction on West Street.

Sharita says, "We have been warmly welcomed by the City of Manassas and the surrounding community and we are grateful to be here."

Sharita not only sells her yummy gourmet apples, but she feeds those

less fortunate who come to her window. She is a dessert favorite on West Street.

Kristi began her business as a small at-home business selling products at the Manassas Farmer's Market in 2012. She quickly evolved into a building on Battle Street in the heart of Historic Downtown. The Calico Jack's brand is carried at eight local Whole Foods Markets, all Merrifield Garden Center locations and numerous retail shops throughout Northern Virginia, the U.S. and across the globe via internet sales.

Not only did Kristi expand into a brick and mortar store, but in 2017 she moved the store to a bigger space on the corner of Center and Battle Streets. Here she sells handcrafted natural products for the home and the body.

In the future, when you stop by the Farmer's Market on Thursdays or Saturdays, you may just be buying from a future City of Manassas business entrepreneur.



A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
W. Patrick Pate

As we move into May the City really kicks it into high gear with events, festivals, outdoor dining and music among so many other ways we enjoy our charming community. May is also Business Appreciation Month in Manassas. City business owners work hard every day to bring us products and services needed by our community along with providing jobs for our residents. Did you know that there are over 1,500 known businesses just in the City of Manassas?

This year, Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) was selected as the Manassas "Business of the Year." For almost 50 years, NOVA has been a tremendous partner in the community, continually retooling and aligning its programs and services to meet evolving industry demands. As companies like Micron Technology Inc., Aurora Flight Sciences and Lockheed Martin continue to grow, it is more important than ever that we have a robust talent pipeline to fill the new jobs being created here in Manassas. This fall, NOVA will launch an Engineering Technology A.A.S. degree at the Manassas Campus that will utilize a state-of-the-art Engineering Technology and Fabrication Laboratory created in partnership with Micron Technology, the U.S. Army, Night Vision Laboratories, and BAE Systems. Entry-level salaries for these positions are high and creating this talent pool will have

a significant economic benefit for the entire community.

At a recent Prince William Chamber of Commerce event, six other City businesses were also recognized for being outstanding in their fields. The businesses recognized were:

- Lockheed Martin as "Tech Company of the Year"
- Loveless Porter Architects, LLC for "Excellence in Small Business"
- DuvallWheeler received the "Business Excellence Award (11+ Employees)"
- Leadership Prince William and Comcast as "Innovative Practice or Partnership of the Year"
- Apple Federal Credit Union with the "Community Outreach Award," and
- CASA Children's Intervention Services with the "Agnes L. Colgan Community Service Award, Health and Human Services"

These are just a few of the businesses in the City that are doing award winning work showcasing the entrepreneurial spirit of our community.

Business appreciation also includes tourism which is extremely important in supporting our local economy and our local businesses. Event season is a great phenomenon for the City of Manassas where we celebrate with the arts, music, crafts, spirits and so much more. But why are these events important to City residents? Not only are they community defining, but they also bring in tourism dollars that support our businesses and community.

In 2018, more than 381,542 people attended one or more of the City's fun, family-friendly events. According to the Virginia Tourism Commission (VTC), tourists spent more than \$68 million in Manassas last year and generated \$1.85 million in local tax revenues. Tourism dollars help our businesses not

only survive but thrive. A great example of this is our year-round Farmer's Market which continues to grow, attracting 50,000 visitors last year and was once again named "The Best Farmer's Market in Northern Virginia" by Virginia Living Magazine.

The City of Manassas offers a unique tourism experience that is rich in history with many hints of modern culture and amenities that is reflective of our City logo, "Historic Heart. Modern Beat." Our walkable downtown, with its historic architecture and charming shops, is something that many communities strive to recreate for their residents. Our modern vibe, or beat, is definitely an attraction with live music filling the air during the warmer months and First Fridays all year long.

So, as you start to enjoy the warmer days of May, I hope you will patronize our local shops and restaurants, participate in the variety of events and celebrations in the City and help our visitors experience a warm, welcoming and friendly city.

To find out more about events happening in the City, visit www.visitmanassas.org, or text the word GoManassas to 888-777 to receive text messages and reminders of upcoming events. Of course, you can always use the calendar included on the back page of City Connections. If you receive this newsletter at the end of the month, sign up at www.manassascity.org/notifyme for notification of when it is available online.

Yard Waste Note

The weather is getting better and everyone is out in the garden making Manassas absolutely gorgeous. However, there are some yard waste rules that need to be followed:

- Yard Waste collection is on Mondays only. Set out yard waste on Sunday night for collection on Monday. Please do not set your yard waste out at the curb between Tuesday and Saturday.
- Yard waste should not be mixed in with the trash. All of the yard waste collected in the City of Manassas is recycled and used as compost material. It does matter. The more weight in the trash, the more the cost is likely to go up for disposal.
- Dirt, mulch, compost, sand and rock will not be collected. The Solid Waste Code section 98.1-24 lists these items as uncollectable. These items may be disposed of at the Manassas Transfer Station during one of the household hazardous waste days.
- The weight limit for all containers is 50 pounds. Wet grass and weeds contain residual fluids that leak out once cut. Please bear in mind that trash crews must lift these containers up to empty them.
- Loose branches and brush can be dangerous. Leaving loose branches and brush in the street can pose a hazard to pedestrians and passing vehicles. Make sure to bundle and tie material when it is set out at the curb.

For more information on yard waste collection, visit www.manassascity.org/trash or call 703-257-8252.



Property Code Enforcement

Inoperative Vehicle Storage

Keeping an inoperable vehicle is prohibited unless it is in a garage or under a car cover (only one vehicle may be covered).

Inoperable vehicles also include any motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer, or part thereof that has missing or broken parts, such as a tire, engine, or transmission required for normal operation, or which lacks:

- a current license plate; or current county, city or town license plate decal or sticker (if required by law); or
- a valid state safety inspection certificate or sticker.

How can you comply?

- Remove the vehicle from the property or
- Store the vehicle properly or
- Make the vehicle operable.

Parking

Parking a vehicle anywhere other than your driveway or on a paved surface is prohibited.

How can you comply?

Move the vehicle from the lawn and park it in an approved area.

Have a property code concern?

Call 703-257-8424, visit www.manassascity.org and click on Report a Concern or stop by City Hall, Room 201.



Congratulations to the following people for being named 2019 Outstanding Volunteers: Stephanie Curry, Manassas City Police Association; Emily Sue Fleming, Adopt-a-Street; Brent Heilman (not pictured), Manassas City Charitable Foundation; Robert Keller, Historic Resources Board; Pat Linehan, Parks, Culture & Recreation; Jeffrey McWhirt, Utility Commission; Adam Sampiller, Greater Manassas Rescue Squad and Linda Szymczak, Manassas Museum.

The City of Manassas Happenings

Find these events and more at www.visitmanassas.org. Here's what's happening in the City of Manassas:

Through September 15 - New exhibit at the Manassas Museum - **Expanding Boundaries: Celebrating Traditions, Shaping the Future**

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

Through October - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - **Museum at the Market** hands-on activities for the whole family.

Through November - First Saturday of the month - **Downtown Walking Tours** by the Manassas Museum

May 4, 8 a.m. - noon - **RecycleFest** Household hazardous waste, ewaste, and shredding drop off at the Manassas Transfer Station for free disposal. www.manassascity.org/trash

May 4, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. - **Manassas Airshow** www.manassasairshow.com

May 4, 9 a.m. - noon - **MS Walk** at the Harris Pavilion

May 8, 3 p.m. - **Stories of Preservation and Progress**

May 11, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - **Manassas Viking Festival**

May 11 & 12 - Pied Piper Theatre's production of **Annie** at Hylton Performing Arts Center

May 12, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk: **The Million-Dollar Man Who Helped Kill a President: George Washington Gayle and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln**

May 17, 8 p.m. - Manassas **Cemetery Tour**

May 17 - 19 - Manassas Ballet Theatre presents **Sleeping Beauty** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

May 18, 7 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - **Spring Fling Rummage Sale** at Novant Prince William Medical Center

May 18, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. - **Kids Fest** at the Manassas Museum

May 19, 3-4:30 p.m. - **Prince William Community Band** at the Harris Pavilion

May 19, 3:30 - 6 p.m. - Sunday Ballroom Dance with **Swing Lessons** @Center for the Arts

May 21, 7 p.m. - **Acoustic Tuesday** at the Harris Pavilion with Mindy Miller, part country part rock

May 23, noon at CenterFuse - Lunch & Learn Series: **The Portner Family History**

May 25, 2 p.m. - **Liberia House Tours**

May 28, 7 p.m. - **Acoustic Tuesday** at the Harris Pavilion with Shane Gamble for a blend of country, rock, pop, and Americana

May 30, 7 p.m. - **U.S. Navy Commodores** at the Harris Pavilion

May 31, 7 p.m. - Manassas Chorale **Silver Salute to the Red White and Blue** Spring Concert at Hylton PAC

June 1, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - **25th Annual Manassas Heritage Railway Festival**



June 2, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **SEPARATE: The Story of Plessy V. Ferguson, and America's Journey from Slavery to Segregation**

June 4, 7 p.m. - **Acoustic Tuesday** at the Harris Pavilion - **The Bone Show** - Classic Rock tunes

June 7, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. -- **Hispanic Culture Day** on the Museum Lawn

June 9, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **The Secret Token: Myth, Obsession, and the Search for the Lost Colony of Roanoke**

June 9, 3 - 4:30 p.m. - Summer Sundaes - concert and ice cream to the **Kings Park Concert Band**

June 11, 7 p.m. - **Acoustic Tuesday** at the Harris Pavilion with **Shane Hines**

June 12, 3 p.m. - **Stories of Preservation and Progress** at the Manassas Museum

June 15, noon - 7 p.m. - **Manassas Jazz Festival** on the lawn of the Manassas Museum

June 15, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. - **Team Hope 5K Walk/Run** at Harris Pavilion

June 15, 8 p.m. - Saturday Night Concert & Adult Dance at the Harris Pavilion to **Beatlemania Again**

June 18, 7 p.m. - **Acoustic Tuesday** at the Harris Pavilion with **Haley Fahey**

June 22, 8 p.m. - Saturday Night Concert & Adult Dance at the Harris Pavilion to **Special Occasions**

June 23, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Louisa on the Front Lines** at Manassas Museum

June 23, 3 - 4:30 p.m. - Summer Sundaes - concert and ice cream to the **Nighthawk Swing Band**

June 25, 7 p.m. - **Acoustic Tuesday** at the Harris Pavilion with **Shane Gamble**

June 26, 7 p.m. - Comprehensive Plan Update Community Meeting - www.manassascity.org/planmanassas

June 27 at noon - **Lunch & Learn** at CenterFuse - **The Weir family history**

June 30, 3 - 4:30 p.m. - Summer Sundaes - concert and ice cream to the **Prince William Community Band**

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

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

City of Manassas Council

Mayor Harry J. Parrish II 703-257-8213
Vice Mayor Ken D. Elston 571-377-8817
Michelle Davis-Younger 571-206-8433
Theresa Coates Ellis 571-247-6729
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
Peter O'Hanlon 571.535.0652
Suzanne W. Seaberg 703-869-1171
Robyn Williams 571-535-7510