



The City of Manassas Connection

February 2013

Check out the New Website

On Feb. 7, 2013, the City of Manassas goes live with a brand new website. Check it out! www.manassascity.org. We hope the new site helps users find the information you want to find more easily and with less clicks.

The new site will feature news and information about the City of Manassas. There will also be a Social Corner displaying the City's Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr sites. While you are looking at the new site, take a moment to like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.

At the bottom of the new website, visitors will find seven buttons to the most frequently visited pages, as well as some of the City's unique features, like the Manassas Regional Airport and the Museum. If visitors want to pay a bill or report a concern, there are buttons to do that as well.

One new interesting feature on the website is the Tax Dollars at Work button. On this page, visitors will find the CIP, Budget, Strategic Plan, CAFR and other City of Manassas public documents. This will help the City of Manassas become more transparent to residents and visitors.

There is also a tab on the front of the website for the City's media center. All City press information, as well as videos of City Council meetings and other City videos can be accessed from this area of the new website.

The footer, or bottom of the page, features quick access links to frequently

visited pages, like agendas & minutes, the City Code, departments and contact information.

City staff from all departments have worked hard to make this new site more user friendly and engaging. We hope you will like it!



A Message from the City Manager

Beginning a new year usually means that most of us resolve to start new things or take on new challenges for the year ahead, like diets and exercise. In the City of Manassas, we have made some resolutions, as well.

One of our new resolutions, as you can tell by the preceding article, is to have a more engaging, easier to use website. This is part of our resolution to communicate more openly and give better access to information for our residents and visitors.

I would like to ask City of Manassas residents to make a resolution as well.

Get involved! The City has many great programs to become involved with, like Neighborhood Services projects, Museum volunteers, or to work the polls during elections. On the new website, under *I Want To*, there is a list of the many ways you can become involved in the City.

You don't have to volunteer to do community service to get involved. We would love to have you on one of the City's Boards, Committees or Commissions. But, we would also like to see you at City Council meetings, at Town Hall meetings and engaged with the community around you. We want to hear

your views and understand what you wish to see in the future for the City of Manassas.

This is our City of Manassas, and with your help and input, it can become your city for a lifetime.



John A. Budesky,
City Manager

Walgreens Challenge Red Team Winners - Grant Deadline Approaches



If you live in the City's "Red Team" area, Wellington resident Lianne Best wants to hear from you!

Best led the Red Team to victory in the Step Up with Walgreens Challenge, a community health and wellness program supported by the City of Manassas and Walgreens. The program ran for 10 weeks last fall, and culminated in a community walk on Oct. 20.

The Red Team won a \$5,000 neighborhood improvement grant from Walgreens, and Best, along with the City's Neighborhood Services, is gearing up to determine how the grant will be spent this spring. Best is asking residents from the Red Team area – which includes

Wellington, Round Elementary, Jennie Dean Elementary, Bristoe Station, Calvary Run and Georgetown South – to submit grant request applications by **March 15**.

Applicants must submit a one-page essay that details their community project, including costs and the number of people who will benefit. The project should incorporate some elements of health and wellness. Only partial grants will be awarded; applicants may ask for as much as \$2,000.

Application forms are available in Neighborhood Services, Room 102, City Hall, 9027 Center Street, Manassas. The deadline to submit a grant application is March 15. Grant winners will be notified no later than April 10.

Utilities Celebrates 100 Years!

In 2013 the City of Manassas Utilities Department celebrates their 100th Anniversary. In October there will be a formal celebration, but the City will be honoring this 100 years of service all year long with news and information about the Utilities Department and fun happenings throughout the year. The article below is about the Operators who serve both Utilities and Public Works.



It is 4 a.m. on a dark and lonely Saturday morning. For Karisa, Tina, Amy, Sue and Monica, each night shift is a battle to clear the mind, stay alert, and be prepared for the unexpected.

It's all part of the job of an Operator. Each operator plays an important role as a 24-hour emergency liaison between residents and City personnel, providing essential assistance for all utilities and public works.

Operators handle such problems as power outages, water and sewer prob-

lems, damaged signs and general utility concerns. After determining the nature of a reported problem, operators coordinate such corrective action as contacting on-call personnel, as well as additional City personnel, if necessary.

Communication with City crews is provided by the operators through an 800 megahertz radio system. Directing phone calls and providing meaningful information to several departments – and to countless individual employees – is part of their daily routine.

Operators coordinate all switching of the electrical distribution network to restore service following a power outage. They also monitor and can control the six electric substations, operate peaking generation through the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA), and monitor the flow of drinking water to the City from the Lake Manassas treatment plant.

Operators monitor activities around the facility via cameras, and control access after normal working hours. They maintain and distribute Miss Utility requests to locate underground pipes and cables, along with answering Miss Utility questions.

Our operators are here around the clock to serve. If you experience an emergency water, sewer or electric problem, observe a malfunctioning traffic signal or notice a street light that's out, give them a call at 703-257-8353.

City of Manassas Given an A from the Virginia Coalition for Open Government



In a recent survey done by the Virginia Coalition for Open Government, the

City of Manassas received an A on the report card. The Virginia Coalition for Open Government is dedicated to the principle that self-government depends on well-informed citizens. The digital age presents unprecedented opportunities for government to provide citizens access to essential information. This report assesses and grades the performance of Virginia's 134 counties and independent cities in providing easy online access to local

government's fundamental operating document: its annual budget.

The survey measured the following information on websites regarding the budget:

- How many clicks does it take to get to a budget document?
- Do the hyperlink labels for the clicks use the word 'budget'?
- If a citizen didn't know exactly how the government is structured, how easy is it to navigate the clicks?
- Is the budget document the adopted budget for the current fiscal year, 2012-2013?
- If the current, adopted fiscal year 2012-13 budget is available, is it the complete budget?

- How useful is the budget document?
- Is the current budget available in the first page of search results from a homepage search box or via a website site map?
- Are there also links to past fiscal year budgets?

"The City of Manassas is working towards transparency and information sharing that is easy to access and easy to understand," said City Manager John Budesky. "In February, the City will launch a new website, which will help to better keep our residents informed."

The City of Manassas received 47 out of 50 possible points on this survey on open government. To read the entire list of localities and what they scored, visit www.opengovva.org.

Updating the City Medical Call List

The Public Works and Utilities Department Medical Needs Call List identifies customers with life threatening medical needs.

If a planned outage is scheduled, Operations staff will make phone contact with the utility customers who are on the Medical Needs Call List.

If an emergency power outage occurs, and service is not restored within a reasonable amount of time, Operations will make phone contact with utility customers who are on this Medical Needs Call List. These customers will receive the most specific information available about expected power restoration. This allows customers who are caregivers to

those with medical needs the option of making arrangements for the person to be transferred to a hospital, care facility or other location with power.

If you or a family member needs to be placed on the Utility Department's medical needs call list contact Customer Service at 703-257-8245 to receive the necessary form.

Have your doctor send a signed letter identifying the individual and the life threatening medical need to:

Manassas Utilities Customer Service
8500 Public Works Drive
Manassas, VA 20110

To remain on the list, an annual statement from the doctor is required. Without a current letter or statement, Customer Service will notify the customer before removing them from the list.



You Can throw Some Batteries in the Trash. . .

Here is some good news about batteries. Now that the holidays are over and batteries are running low in all of the new holiday gadgets, discarding old batteries has just gotten easier.

Since 1993, battery manufacturers are no longer adding mercury to alkaline batteries. AAA, AA, C, 6 volt and 9 volt batteries no longer pose a threat to the environment and can be put in household trash.

All rechargeable, nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cad), Lithium and button cell batteries still contain hazardous materials. Please take these to the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop Off on from 8 a.m. to noon at 8305 Quarry Road on the following dates: Feb. 2, April 6, May 4 and June 1. For City of Manassas residents only.

Used and broken electronics can also be recycled at the HHW drop off, like

monitors, fax machines, tvs and computers. Large appliances, like vacuums and microwaves, can be disposed of curbside on your regular trash days and on Fridays for townhomes.

Used car and boat batteries can be disposed of at any store that sells lead acid batteries or at most scrap dealers. There are two on Euclid Ave. in the City of Manassas. Thank you for recycling!

The City of Manassas Happenings

Here's what's happening in the City of Manassas during February and March.

The Harris Pavilion is open for Ice Skating - visit www.harris pavilion.com for times and fees.

Feb. 2 & 16, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. - **Basement to Attic Tours of Liberia Plantation** - In commemoration of Black History Month, learn more about the diverse people who inhabited Liberia and the role the property played during the Civil War. Call 703-368-1873 for tickets or more information.

www.manassasmuseum.org

Feb. 6 - March 16 - **Rayhart exhibit at the Candy Factory.**

www.center-for-the-arts.org

Feb. 9 from 12 - 5 p.m. - Annual Cartoon Skate - skate with your favorite cartoon character, free smores (admission/rental fees apply). www.harris pavilion.com

Feb. 24 at 2 p.m. - **Frederick Douglas in Washington D.C.** Free Book Talk at the Manassas Museum.

www.manassasmuseum.org

March 2 & 16, 10 a.m. - **Learn Your Neighborhood: Wellington Walking Tour**

www.manassasmuseum.org

March 2 & 3 - Pied Piper's Theatre presentation of **Treasure Island** at Metz Middle School

www.center-for-the-arts.org

March 9 at 7:30 p.m. and March 10 at 3 p.m. - **La Boutique Fantastique & More** by the Manassas Ballet at the Hylton Performing Arts Center.

www.manassasballet.org

March 10 at 2 p.m., **The Washington Arsenal Explosion - Civil War Disaster in the Capital.** Free Book Talk at the Manassas Museum.

www.manassasmuseum.org

March 21, 2 - 8 p.m. - **Red Cross Blood Drive** at the Greater Manassas Volunteer Rescue Squad, 9322 Center Street, Manassas.

March 23, April 6 & 20, May 4 & 23 9-11 a.m. - Bicycle Tours

Visit the Civil War sites where Confederate and Union soldiers camped, learn how the topography of the area has changed, and discover some little known history.

www.manassasmuseum.org

March 24 at 2 p.m. - **Mama, I Am Yet Still Alive** - A Composite Diary of 1863 in the Confederacy, with author Jeff Toalson. Free Book Talk at the Manassas Museum

www.manassasmuseum.org

March 25 - 30 - **Hop Around Old Town** - Shop in Old Town Manassas between March 25 - 30 and for each purchase at a participating Old Town shop, visitors can select an egg from the merchant's basket. Inside, there is a sweet Easter treat. Some eggs will

contain small prizes from Old Town businesses. Two runner-up prizes are adorable, large stuffed bunnies. The Grand Prize is a giant oversized stuffed bunny! Look for the bunny pennant in participating shop windows, and come shop and hop around Old Town to win!

www.visitmanassas.org

March 21 - April 25 **Carol Lopatin & Rosemary Luckett** at the Candy Factory in the Gallery

www.center-for-the-arts.org

Remember to check the website for upcoming **Refuse to be a Victim and RAD** self defense classes.

www.manassascity.org/police

Did you know that security assessment for homes and businesses are free? Call 703-257-8064 to schedule your free assessment.

The City GIS Website has been redesigned! The site now uses the power of ArcGIS Online. The interactive map allows users turn on and off different layers such as bike trails, school districts, parks, police beats, and more by using the Layers tab. Assessment values, zoning, and more parcel-specific information can be viewed by simply zooming in and clicking on a piece of land. Visit www.manassascity.org/gis.

Get Social!
Visit the City at www.manassascity.org.

 www.manassascity.org/facebook

 www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas

 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 pprince@ci.manassas.va.us.

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

City of Manassas Council

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Marc T. Aveni 703-795-9651
J. Steven Randolph 703-368-4732
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City of Manassas School Board

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