



The City of Manassas Connection

March 2015

Public Place, Public Art Space

The Hall at City Hall is open with an inaugural exhibit by the p-ART-ners, a professional network of Manassas area artists. What is *The Hall* at City Hall? It is the new place for local artists to display their work. When Councilman Ian Lovejoy talked to City Manager W. Patrick Pate about replacing the 1980's artwork in City Hall at low or no cost, an idea was born.

In 2009 the City Council created an Arts and Tourism District in the Historic Downtown area of the city. With City Hall being right in the middle of the district, why not bring public art inside City Hall? Staff was tasked with learning about gallery space and making the area ready for artist displays. Local artist Michele Frantz, Center for the Arts Gallery Director Anna Mish, and Osbourn High School Art Teacher Sarah Weaver were consulted to help with

preparations for the opening. A picture railing already existed in the first floor hallway, so very little was needed to turn the hallway into *The Hall*.

P-ART-ners volunteered to be the first group to display their art in *The Hall*. The exhibit features an eclectic mix of vibrant scenery, Civil War portraits, and historic sites from more than 10 different artists. There is something for almost any taste. The exhibit runs from Feb. 13 through March 13. Exhibits will rotate in and out of *The Hall* and will include different forms of visual art. Visiting *The Hall* is free and open to the public from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and later when evening meetings are held in the building.

"It is our hope that this new gallery space will be a great place for the public to visit," said City Manager W. Patrick Pate. "Maybe it will inspire artists of the future."



Get ready for
Spring RecycleFest
Saturday, April 4 from
8 a.m. to noon at the
Manassas Transfer Station
(8305 Quarry Road in Manassas)

Shredding, HHW and eWaste,
drop off gently used clothes
for Goodwill, see robots and
pick up some freebies.
www.manassascity.org/trash



A Message from the City Manager



*City Manager
William Patrick Pate*

If you have not had a chance to see it already, I hope you will take the time to view the State of the City video at www.manassascity.org/stateofthecity. This short video captures many of the positive things that are happening in our community and showcases new development in the City of Manassas.

Over the last month the City has been busy working on many issues, not the least of which has been your Governing Body's work on setting goals and priorities for our community. As we

prepare a budget and capital plans for the upcoming years, Council has directed me to take the information that we have gathered from the community about priorities and perceptions along with the priorities that have been agreed to by the Mayor and City Council and bring back a consolidated plan to address the overall priorities of the community.

These priorities focus on providing economic opportunities through promoting quality education, recruiting new jobs and businesses and providing a general focus on economic development in the community. We also want to continue to focus on what makes Manassas special and unique. This includes enhancing the historic nature and feel of our community and enhancing our transportation network to include promoting alternate transportation.

A third major focus area revolves around the things that draw us together as a community, like the quality and safety of our neighborhoods and the cultural and social activities and events that occur routinely in our community.

Manassas is the fourth fastest growing area in Virginia since 2010; and I feel this is because we are a community that is heading in the right direction. Like all communities, we have challenges ahead of us and a need to be fiscally prudent. I am very optimistic about the future of the City based on the folks that continue to contact us about relocating to our community. I believe that we will be able to address our challenges, enhance and promote our unique strengths in the region and continue to provide high quality customer interactions that will allow Manassas to be the community of choice in the region.

As my given name is Patrick (after my grandfather who was a second generation immigrant), I also want to wish you a happy St. Patrick's Day and leave you with this Irish Blessing: "May you have: A world of wishes at your command. God and his angels close at hand. Friends and family their love impart, and Irish blessings in your heart!"

Solid Waste Ordinance

Have you heard of the updated Solid Waste Ordinance? You may want to read it as it affects every home in the City of Manassas. The ordinance was put into effect July 1, 2014 and has some changes you need to be aware of.

Some of the changes include:

- Residents will not be permitted to place plastic trash bags curbside for collection
- All plastic trash bags must be placed in a hard-sided plastic or metal trash container with a tight fitting lid.
- Containers must not weigh more than fifty pounds.
- Construction debris and yard waste in City trash containers will not be collected.
- Recycling must be placed in the City recycling cart or bin.
- Do not place plastic bags in the recycling cart.
- Please rinse all plastic and glass containers before recycling.
- Household trash, construction debris and yard waste in City recycling containers will not be collected.
- Cardboard boxes must be flattened, bundled and tied. Set cardboard next to recycling cart or bin for collection.
- Yard waste must be placed in a paper yard waste bag or personal trashcan for collection.
- Bags and cans for collection must not weigh more than fifty pounds.
- All branches must be less than four feet in length and three inches in diameter.
- Branches must be bundled and tied for collection.
- Loose branches, yard waste in plastic bags and yard waste in City trash/recycling containers will not be collected.
- Yard waste does not include stumps, fallen trees, large branches or limbs or cleanup from storm damage.



- Removal of trees that are trimmed or cut down by landscapers or tree services are the responsibility of the resident or property owner and will not be collected by the City.

To read the entire Solid Waste Ordinance, visit www.manassascity.org/trash.

Welcome and Congratulations!

At a recent City Council Meeting, two members of the City of Manassas Fire & Rescue Department were promoted and one new member was sworn in to office.

Firefighters Amos Akers and Robert Bettis were promoted to Master Technicians within the department. Before coming to work for the City of Manassas, Amos Akers worked for Loudoun County and volunteered with the City of Manassas.

When asked what he liked about serving the City of Manassas, Akers replied, “the City of Manassas Fire & Rescue feels more like family.” He went on to say, “The Department is a unique combination of volunteer and paid staff who have a great rapport - a close knit group.”

Master Technician Robert Bettis, or Bettis as he is known, began his career as a volunteer in Frederick County. He also worked in Martinsburg before becoming a firefighter and EMT with the City.

The City of Manassas Fire & Rescue Department welcomes new member Andrew Murray. Andrew attended the EMS program at Northern Virginia Community College while volunteering with the Dale City Volunteer Fire Department as an EMT. Prior to that, he worked for the City of Roanoke.



Old Town - New Blood

The City of Manassas and its downtown development partner, Historic Manassas Inc., have been gradually moving away from referring to Old Town in favor of the moniker Historic Downtown Manassas. This helps to avoid being confused with that other Old Town in Northern Virginia. But in this case, the title seems to resonate because the City is welcoming a host of new businesses to its historic district.

Over the past 12 months more than 16 new businesses have opened or announced their intent to relocate into the Virginia Main Street Community. As 2014 drew to a close the City had already welcomed new retail outlet Records and Rarities; professional office users Caitlan Jordan, Attorney at Law, and SCS Integrated Support Services; personal services provider the Man Cave; and restaurants The Bone and Zandra's. In January a regional favorite, Malone's, expanded to offer consumers a more casual dining and bar area on the second floor to complement the fine dining experience locals and visitors have grown to love.

Beginning late last year, a series of announced closures by long-time Manassas business owners in the Historic Downtown left development officials scrambling to identify new business prospects. They need not have worried as the City proved both its resiliency and attractiveness to entrepreneurs who are rushing in to fill the spaces being vacated.

As City Manager W. Patrick Pate told the Old Town Business Association recently, “What really happened was a generational opportunity for a new wave of small business owners to realize their dreams of opening or relocating their businesses in our Downtown. In many instances these spaces are some of the most attractive and high profile storefronts available.”

A number of business owners obviously agree. Manassas has recently announced that new business openings are pending by retail operators Scatter Seeds, a purveyor Fair Trade goods and local artisan products, Amy's Bridal (formerly of Woodbridge), Manassas Olive Oil and Totally Vintage Design (formerly of Haymarket); raw bar and restaurant CJ Finz and ice cream

parlor Jitterbug will join the crowd as will CutRate Barbershop and the NEW School. In addition, and proving that Manassas is becoming a living destination of choice in addition to a retail and dining mecca, two new urban style apartment projects have been approved which will bring almost 200 new studio, one and two-bedroom luxury units into the Historic Downtown.

Economic Development Director Patrick Small and Historic Manassas Inc. Executive Director Debbie Haight say there are still a few opportunities left for new businesses that may have missed the initial rush to open. One of these, the site of the former Opera House Gourmet, is possibly the most desirable retail location in the City. Located diagonally across Center Street from Harris Pavilion, it is the most prominent and highly visible storefront as people enter Downtown. Small and Haight say this and the few remaining retail spaces still on the market won't be vacant long. In fact, several confidential business announcements are pending.

The City of Manassas Happenings

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

Now through April 10 - 31st Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest - open to K-5 grades with a theme "If trees could talk. . ." Contact mbolsen@gte.net for more info.

Now through March 13 - **P-ART-ners Art Show** at The Hall at City Hall
www.p-art-ners.org

March 6, 6 - 9 p.m. - **First Friday in Historic Downtown**
www.visitmanassas.org

March 7, 8 a.m. to noon - **Household Hazardous and eWaste** drop off at the Manassas Transfer Station (8305 Quarry Road).
www.manassascity.org/trash

March 7 at 7:30 p.m. - **Classicus** by the Manassas Symphony Orchestra at the Hylton Performing Arts Center
www.hyltoncenter.org

March 10, 10 a.m. - **Pre-K Tuesday** for ages 3-5 with a caretaker - theme is St. Patrick's Day
www.manassasmuseum.org

March 13 - 15 - **Peter and the Wolf and More** by Manassas Ballet Theatre
www.hyltoncenter.org

March 13 - April 12 - **Impressions** - a New Exhibit at the Manassas Museum. Come peruse original pieces of art created by Osbourn High School Students.
www.manassasmuseum.org

March 14 at 11 a.m. - **Greater Manassas St. Patrick's Day Parade**
www.visitmanassas.org

March 14, 10 a.m. to noon - **Understanding History**, a program at the Manassas Museum for 9 to 14-year-olds.
www.manassasmuseum.org

March 16 - April 24 - Hannele Lahti's **Ebb & Flow** exhibit in The Hall at City Hall
www.hannelelahti.com

March 21 at 7:30 p.m. - **Manassas Chorale: Voices United Concert**
www.hyltoncenter.org

March 22 at 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Stuart's Finest Hour: The Ride Around McClellan, June 1862** by John J. Fox.
www.manassasmuseum.org

March 28 from 2 to 5 p.m. - **Pysanky ~ Ukrainian Hand-decorated Eggs Workshops**
www.center-for-the-arts.org

March 28, 9 - 11 a.m. - **Bike Tour** of the City.
www.manassasmuseum.org

March 29 at 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Stand to It and Give Them Hell: Gettysburg as the Soldiers Experienced it From Cemetery Ridge to Little Round Top, July 2, 1862** by Mike Priest
www.visitmanassas.org

March 31 - April 4 - **Hop Around Downtown** - Come shop and hop around Historic Downtown to win sweets and prizes!
www.visitmanassas.org

April - October - Thursdays and Fridays at noon - Historic Downtown walking tours with admission to the Museum
www.manassasmuseum.org

April 3, 6 - 9 p.m. - **First Friday in Historic Downtown**. Celebrate the City's birthday with live entertainment, food and drink specials, and shops, galleries and the Manassas Museum open late.
www.visitmanassas.org

April 4, 8 a.m. to noon - **Spring RecycleFest and household hazardous waste drop off**
www.manassascity.org/trash

April 9, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. - **Thursday Farmer's Market** is open at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

April 11, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Summer hours start at the **Saturday Farmer's Market** in parking lot B
www.visitmanassas.org

April 11 at 10 a.m. - **Architectural Tour of the City**
www.manassasmuseum.org

April 14, 10 a.m. - **Pre-K Tuesday** for ages 3-5 with a caretaker
www.manassasmuseum.org

April 16 - 18 - **Seussical** at Osbourn High School.

April 18, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **Live Well Festival** - an Earth Day celebration.
www.visitmanassas.org

April 18 at 8 a.m. - **Souring Eagles 5K**
imathlete.com/events/SoaringEagle5K

April 25 & 26 - **Shrek The Musical** by Pied Piper Theatre
www.hyltoncenter.org

April 25, 9 - 11 a.m. - **Bike Tour** of the City.
www.manassasmuseum.org

April 26 at 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk **The Early Morning of War, Bull Run 1861** with Author Edward Longacre
www.manassasmuseum.org

April 27 - May 22 - **Osbourn High School Art Show** at The Hall in City Hall
www.manassascity.org

May 1, 5 - 9 p.m. - **First Friday Spring Gallery Walk** in Historic Downtown
www.visitmanassas.org

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools			
City of Manassas Council		City of Manassas School Board	
Mayor Harry J. Parrish II	703-257-8213	Chairman Tim Demeria	703-895-4856
Vice Mayor, Jonathan L. Way	703-368-9174	Vice Chairman Scott M. Albrecht	571-606-1129
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Put your own photos up at
www.flickr.com/groups/mycityofmanassas.

To contact the City of Manassas Connection newsletter, email prrince@ci.manassas.va.us.