



A Message from Chief of Police Doug Keen



As a community, we stand in shock and horror over the recent happenings in Dallas, Texas and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. I would like to share some personal thoughts with you during this very distressing time in our Country.

After the first tragic incident in Dallas, I had awoken to the news of five officers killed and seven more injured along with two civilians. That day I sat with my wife and two sons to discuss the entire event. My younger son struggled with the WHY and WHAT IF it happens here. We watched the news footage from Baton Rouge and Minnesota where two civilians were shot in different incidents. They had many questions, and I had few answers.

As with my children, I hope that the community knows that there are no quick definitive answers concerning those two incidents. We were not there and hopefully, as more evidence is collected, the justice system will find the answers.

We live in the greatest nation in the world where protesting is our right as a citizen. Protests about these two

incidents and others in the last year have taken place across the country. Protesting is our right, but taking lives is not.

Nothing can justify what occurred in Dallas and now Baton Rouge. Some would like to drive a wedge between police and the communities they serve. We must work together to ensure that this does not happen.

There are well over a million law enforcement officers in this country and an overwhelming majority are performing their jobs in a professional, ethical manner. An overwhelming majority of our citizens are good people-supporting law enforcement and their communities. None of us can allow these events to change that.

The stories are being played out in the media and on social media and can be very hurtful. However, we would like this community to know that the men and women of the Manassas City Police Department, as with most of our brothers and sisters in blue, are different.

We are the guardians of the community and understand that our communities support us. I see it every day and have had numerous emails, phone calls and acts of kindness shared

with our officers.

It would be easy for us to take the “warrior” mindset and begin treating people as such. But, we remember that as guardians, we are protecting, preserving and respecting all lives.

We have pledged to not allow these recent events change how we interact with our community every day and we hope you will take the same pledge. The Manassas City Police Department is a model agency and I believe that we have the respect of our community and have built wonderful working relationships with you, our residents. I hope we continue to do so. By continuing to work together, communicating and building relationships, we will continue to demonstrate what true community is!

As I have told my staff, we are guardians of the community with hearts of warriors. Ensuring your safety and our own is our mission.

God Bless and THANK YOU for your continued support,
Chief Douglas Keen



A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
William Patrick Pate

Events that have occurred over the past month or so have reminded me how blessed we are to live in the City of Manassas. Despite the heat, the Japanese beetles eating up my backyard trees or the many unfortunate events that we see on the news, we have much to be thankful for and I would like to share a few recent examples.

Last month the City had the opportunity to host bond rating agencies in Manassas. By hosting them here, we were able to give them a tour of the area to see firsthand the economic growth that is taking place and the plans that we have to improve the community for current and future generations. They were able to gather plenty of facts and figures about our demographics and financial condition, but the eye test that you can gather by driving around a community can make an impression.

These folks came to the City by plane, train and automobile showing the diverse transportation network in the community. Our tour hit many parts of the community including the Historic Downtown, the medical complex along Sudley Road, the industrial base around Godwin Drive and the Airport. It also included new developments planned at Gateway and the almost finished Hastings Marketplace and along Liberia Avenue. We toured a variety of housing developments with multifamily and single family dwellings incorporated into various neighborhoods.

Comments from our visitors after the tour that stuck with me included those related to the pride and patriotism shown in our community. Not only did the City streetscapes shine with flowers, flags and art, but almost all of the individual homes and neighborhoods were well kept with many showing signs of patriotism weeks after the July 4th Celebrate America events. We were seen as a community that takes pride in who we are and where we live.

Also, recently, a neighbor had out-of-state visitors over for an extended weekend. While they seemed to enjoy seeing some of the sites in D.C., the thing that seemed to impress them the most was the friendliness of our City. They had spent time in Historic Downtown and even had one business owner practically

close his shop for over an hour to really interact with them on a personal level about his business and their mutual interests.

Finally, I hope you read the message from our Police Chief in this newsletter. Despite all of the many tragic events that have been happening in the US and around the world, folks in our community have been reaching out to our law enforcement officers to offer words and other expressions of support for the often difficult jobs that they undertake every day. We have had community meetings, church gatherings and individual acts of kindness or gratitude directed at these public servants to show they are supported in the work they are doing to protect us all.

While we all realize that individually and collectively we are not perfect, there are many things that we can work on to improve community relations. It is still nice to know that we are a community blessed to have folks that love and respect each other and are willing to work together to create a better community for all of us and for the generations that will follow us. Thanks to each of you that are showing your pride for our community every day and are working to build a more perfect union. You are the blessing that others see in our City.

November 8, 2016 General Election Important Dates & Information:

Friday, September 23:	Absentee Voting Begins
Monday, October 17:	Last Day to Register to Vote
Saturday October 29:	Voter Registration Office OPEN 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for Absentee Voting
Tuesday, November 1:	Last Day to Request an Absentee Ballot by mail
Saturday, November 5:	Voter Registration Office OPEN 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for Absentee Voting <i>Last Day to Vote Absentee In-Person</i>



Tuesday, November 8: Election Day
POLLS OPEN 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
www.manassascity.org/vote



Department of Elections - www.elections.virginia.gov

To look up your Voter Registration and info - www.vote.virginia.gov

Recycling Tip

Did you know that car batteries are the most recycled item in the US? According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), lead automobile batteries have a recycling rate of approximately 99%.

You can recycle your car batteries at our next Household Hazardous Waste Drop off day!

Visit www.manassascity.org/hhw for more information!

Author, Author

Lisa Sievel-Otten, City of Manassas Community Development Administrative Assistant, has authored her second book and is donating all proceeds to Liberia Plantation restoration efforts.

Manassas, a new book that gives a glimpse into life in post-Civil War Manassas through vintage post cards, tells surprising stories from the emerging town and about the creation of the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Only a decade before, early Manassas residents had been on opposing sides of a deadly battle. And yet they came together in the 1870s to build a town and a sense of community. Many of the book's images exist only in post cards. Without these post cards, no visual record of many Manassas buildings, sites, and streetscapes would remain.

"In a time when instant communication meant walking down the street to a neighbor's house to deliver some news, Manassas citizens also helped to build a strong community by joining churches and civic organizations," said Sievel-Otten. "Much of the town turned out for school concerts and ball games, dairy festivals and horse shows."

The book also recounts the role of railroads, the establishment of the Commonwealth's first public school, the establishment of the nationally known

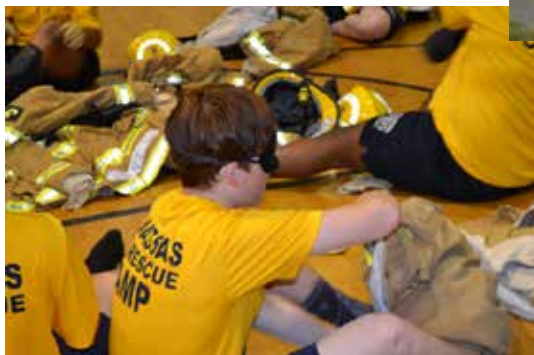


Manassas Industrial School for Colored Youth, and the emergence of the town as a tourist destination for those visiting the Manassas National Battlefield.

Sievel-Otten, who has led many tours for the Manassas Museum, helps to manage Liberia Plantation's restoration, and produces publications and signage for the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division. She is also the author of *Liberia Plantation: Sentry of the Ages*, a short history published by the Manassas Museum that also benefits Liberia Plantation's restoration.

"I hope readers will appreciate that early Manassas residents were able to overcome the division of the Civil War, and come together to build not only a town government, but a real community," said Sievel-Otten. "I hope they will also appreciate the struggles of African-Americans who were constrained by so many laws, yet built a positive community for themselves and their families."

Manassas is available online at <http://manassasechoes.com> or by visiting Echoes, the Manassas Museum Store.



Above are a few photos from this year's Fire & Rescue and Police Summer Camps. Teens learned not only the nuts and bolts of Public Safety, but community building and teamwork.

The City of Manassas Happenings

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

Thru October - Thursdays and Fridays at noon - **Historic Downtown Walking Tours**
www.manassasmuseum.org

Thru October - Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - **Museum at the Market** - find out what fun learning experience is in store every week
www.visitmanassas.org

Thru November - **Manassas Farmer's Market** - Thursdays & Saturdays, 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
www.visitmanassas.org

Thru Aug. 21 - **Summer Liberia Plantation Tours**, Sundays at noon.
www.manassasmuseum.org

Thru Aug. 28 - New Exhibits at the Manassas Museum - **The Quest for Light and Liberty** and **John Singleton Mosby: Lawyer, Soldier, Statesman**
www.visitmanassas.org

Every Wednesday thru August check out the **Lunch Concerts** at the Harris Pavilion from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Take Out Tuesday Concerts are every Tuesday thru August at the Harris Pavilion from 6 - 8 p.m.

Tuesday Farmers Market runs from June - August from 5 - 8 p.m. at the Harris Pavilion.
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 2, 6 - 8 p.m. - **National Night Out** on the Manassas Museum Lawn
www.manassascity.org/nno

Aug. 3 - Sept. 17 - New Exhibit at the Center for the Arts - **Jamie McPhail & Caleb Mathews**
www.center-for-the-arts.org

Aug. 5, 6-9pm - **The dog days of summer** are back for First Friday in Historic Downtown Manassas.
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 5, 8-11pm - **Friday Night Adult Dance with Southern Persuasion** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 6, 8 a.m. to noon - **Household Hazardous and eWaste drop off**
www.manassascity.org/trash

Aug. 6, 6:30-8 p.m. - SummerSounds Concert with **Dave Kline Band** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 7, 3-4:30 p.m. - **Sol Roots Band** and Ice Cream Social
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 9 - 12, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. - **Archaeology & Swim Camp** - try your hand on an archeological dig, and enjoy the afternoon at the pool
www.manassasmuseum.org

Aug. 13 & 20 - **Museum Van Tours** - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
www.manassasmuseum.org

Aug. 14, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Out Flew the Sabers** by Eric J. Wittenberg and Daniel T. Davis
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 14, 3-4:30 p.m. - **Moonlight Jazz Orchestra** and Ice Cream Social
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 20, 6:30-8pm - SummerSounds Concert with **Bruce Ewan** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 21, 3-4:30 p.m. - **Manassas Symphony Orchestra** and Ice Cream Social
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 26-28 - **Civil War Weekend**
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 28, 3-4:30 p.m. - **Fascinating Rythems** and Ice Cream Social
www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 2, 6-9pm - **First Friday** in Historic Downtown Manassas
www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 3, 6:30-8pm - SummerSounds Concert with **Project Natale** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 10, 12-6pm - **6th Annual Bands, Brews, & BBQ** on the Manassas Museum Lawn
www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 11 - Nov. 27 - New Exhibit at the Manassas Museum - **Remembering 9/11**
www.manassasmuseum.org

Sept. 11 - February 19 - **Bearing Witness to History: Manassas Veterans & the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan**
www.manassasmuseum.org

Sept. 16, 4 - 9 p.m. - **Annual Greek Festival**
www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 17, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. - **Edgar Rohr Memorial Car Show** on the Manassas Museum Lawn
www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 17, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - **Annual Manassas International Food Festival**
www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 18, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - **Out of Darkness Awareness Walk**
www.harrisapavilion.com

Sept. 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - **Annual Chili Cookoff and Kids Fest**
www.harrisapavilion.com

Sept. 24, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **Cystic Fibrosis Walk**
www.harrisapavilion.com

Sept. 25, 12 - 6 p.m. - **Annual Latino Festival**
www.visitmanassas.org

Oct. 1, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - **34th Annual Manassas Fall Jubilee**
www.visitmanassas.org

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

City of Manassas Council

Mayor Harry J. Parrish II 703-257-8213
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Marc T. Aveni 703-795-9651
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Mark D. Wolfe 703-257-1702

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Arthur P. Bushnell 571-535-7510
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Pamela J. Sebesky 571-535-0652
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Get Social!

Visit the City at www.manassascity.org.



www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas



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.