



Manassas Connection

July 2017

The New Public Safety Facility

When you call 911 in the City of Manassas, you can expect a quick response from our Fire or Police Departments, but as the City has grown, maintaining those high standards has become more of a challenge. That's why planning efforts are underway for both a new Public Safety Facility and the new Fire and Rescue Station 21.

The need for both new facilities emerged after a number of studies and forecasts had been conducted regarding City space needs, some dating back as far as 1999. These concluded that three distinct facilities—a Public Safety Headquarters and two Fire and Rescue Stations on the east and west sides of the City—were needed to best serve our residents.

In 2013, when the City Council first adopted a capital improvement plan that included a Public Safety Facility, planning was focused on one facility that could potentially house the City's Police Department, Fire and Rescue Headquarters, the Emergency Operations Center, a Fire/Rescue station, an indoor firing range and the City's Information Technology (IT) Division. As planning progressed, staff studied the possibility of combining various public safety agencies in one building. It was clear that future

space needs, along with the availability of land parcels, made the three facilities option the best decision.

One of the factors in that decision was the recognition that the Police Department, with its emphasis on community policing, needed to remain centrally located and visible within the City. Although patrol units are continuously operating throughout the City, the importance of maintaining a central presence provides continuity to residents.

In 2017, one of the sites identified for a downtown relocation of the Police Department became available and was acquired by the City of Manassas. The site, an old grocery store building on Grant Avenue, is well situated on a main roadway and in need of rehabilitation. The old grocery store building is planned to be demolished and a new office building for the Police Department, Emergency Operations Center, IT Division and potentially, Fire and Rescue Administrative Offices will be built in its place. The site will have a 15,000 – 17,000 square foot footprint with three to four stories and a one-to-two story 7,000 square foot evidence/warehouse facility that will modernize the department's evidence storage process.

While not yet designed, the goal of the Public Safety Building is not just to serve the functional needs of the agencies it will house, but to also serve as a catalyst for façade and site improvements in the corridor. Concurrently with this project, the City has begun a study of the Grant Avenue corridor from the historic area to Wellington Road. This is to enhance the streetscape with wider sidewalks and landscaping. Local businesses south of the railroad tracks have long argued for similar streetscape enhancements as those north of the railroad tracks in the historic area, and better connections to the community facilities in the downtown. Some of these businesses have begun to eagerly plan for their own upgrades in anticipation of the City's investment.

To learn more about the new Public Safety Facility project, drop by the Farmers Market on Saturdays – July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, and Oct. 21, Thursday's on June 22, July 27, Aug. 24, Sept. 28. Visit www.manassascity.org/newsafetybldg and/or attend the Police Department's annual Open House in August. For more information on Fire & Rescue Station 21, visit www.manassascity.org/fire21.



A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
William Patrick Pate

July 1st begins the start of a new budget year for the City of Manassas and I expect you will see a lot of activity around the City over the next twelve months.

In the public safety area, the old grocery store building in the Grant Ave. Shopping Center will be demolished while plans are underway to replace it with a public safety center, housing the Police Department, 911 Communications and possibly the Fire and Rescue Administration along with Emergency Management. This will fulfill a documented need for space for evidence storage and enhanced community policing. Plans are also underway to build a Fire and Rescue station on the south and west side of the railroad tracks to improve response time to fire and rescue emergencies in this area of the City.

Increased activity related to street repair and resurfacing will continue over the next several months as additional resources have been allocated to address the recently completed street paving rating analysis. This will include some curb and gutter work along with sidewalk repair. Efforts to make infrastructure and landscape improvements, particularly along the major corridors leading into the City, are being developed and several pilot projects are underway.

We will begin work on addressing the needs identified in the recent parks, culture and recreation master plan. While a community engagement process for looking at possible Museum

renovations and library services will receive a lot of attention, we will be looking at prioritizing enhancements to other city parks. City Council has authorized the establishment of a new citizen Parks and Recreation Committee to help with setting priorities for improvements. If you are interested in serving on this Committee, check out the City website at www.manassascity.org/bcc.

For the City, July means that it is time to begin the planning and preparation process for the following year all over again. Later this summer and into the fall, I hope you will be on the lookout for opportunities to express your opinions at events that we are calling “Manassas Community Conversations.”

As a part of the strategic planning process for the City, your City Council has asked that we solicit information from a diverse representation of the community on questions that can help define a community vision. Some of these questions will help provide a deeper understanding regarding information provided by the citizen satisfaction surveys. Other questions will ask you to consider what you like best or least about

living in this community. While some of this public engagement will occur at community gatherings (like the Farmer’s Markets) or meetings, we will also use social media to gather input from folks that prefer this type of interaction. Visit the City website at www.manassascity.org, Facebook at www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas or Twitter www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas to learn about upcoming topics, questions or meetings.

In all cases, our efforts are intended to provide a forum to allow for a collective vision of the future of the City of Manassas to emerge from those of us that live, work and play in Manassas. Manassas residents are actively engaged in civic, social, religious and non-profit organizations and we have the volunteerism and community activities to show for this engagement. We are connected in ways that other communities can only aspire to achieve.

These qualities make this an exciting time to be a part of the City and we look forward to hearing more about your vision for the future of this special place we call home.

Byrd Park is Getting a Face Lift

Pardon our dust for a Capital Improvement Project that will be underway during the month of July. Great things to come in Byrd Park include: new park amenities, a shade structure, signage, playground equipment, and more. At different times during the month, parts of the park will be closed down for construction. To prevent injuries, please do not play in a construction area and remain outside the closed areas.

Stay tuned for the ribbon cutting. For more information, contact Christen Fox, Operations and Maintenance Supervisor at 703-257-8315 or cfox@manassasva.gov.



Award Winning Fire & Rescue Department



Congratulations to Firefighter/Medic Matthew Heppner who was awarded the Northern Virginia Regional EMS Award for Outstanding Pre-Hospital Provider for 2017. This is the third year that a City of Manassas EMS provider has won this award.

City of Manassas Fire & Rescue Responder of the Year

The Manassas Rotary Club recently honored Firefighter/EMT Brad Fairbanks as the City of Manassas Fire & Rescue Department's Responder of the Year. Fairbanks started his career with the City in 2012. He was part of the second Recruit School sworn in at the City of Manassas. He has been involved with many complex incidents over his career



and received a Silver Medal of Valor for bravery from the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce in 2016.

Fairbanks' impact on the entire City Fire and Rescue System is not just from these complex incidents. He has worked on the City's Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and face pieces. In a small Fire & Rescue Department, members do more than just respond to emergency incidents. They work on projects that may have an impact on the entire system.

Fairbanks' SCBA project responsibilities have touched every single career and volunteer member in the Fire and Rescue System. Not only does he maintain all of the components associated with the SCBA, he performs "fit testing" on every career and volunteer member.

For all of his work on behalf of the City of Manassas Fire & Rescue System, the City congratulates Brad Fairbanks.

Welcome to the City of Manassas Fire & Rescue Team

The City welcomes Mark Joyner who has just joined the City of Manassas Fire & Rescue Department as the Deputy Fire Marshal. Joyner has served for more than 33 years in the Fire Services, including 21 years in Portsmouth, and 12 years as the Manassas Park Fire Marshal. Joyner is a welcome addition to the team and we are happy to have him in the City of Manassas.



Let's Talk Recycling

Household Hazardous Waste, Electronics and Shredding!

The City of Manassas is holding a household hazardous waste, electronics and shredding drop off day on Saturday, July 8 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Manassas Transfer Station located at 8305 Quarry Road (off Liberia Avenue.) Your documents will be shredded right in front of you using a state of the art cross-shredding device. There is a maximum of four filing storage boxes allowed. Please remove all clips and binders before drop-off. No commercial shredding will be accepted.

Residents can drop off:

Paint, Oil, Gasoline, Pool Chemicals, Small propane tanks, Weed killers, Pesticides, Batteries, PFluorescent lights, Grease, Televisions, Computers, Telephones, Electronic Games, and Speakers.

For more information, visit our website: www.manassascity.org/trash or call 703-257-8252.



Weight Matters When You Set Out Yard Waste

Summer is here. Folks are out taking care of their lawns and helping to Keep Manassas Beautiful – but did you know there is a weight limit on yard waste? When private containers are filled to the rim with grass clippings and weeds, they can become very heavy and crews are not able to lift them for collection. Crews cannot lift containers weighing more than 50 pounds. So, keep it light by using paper yard waste bags or dividing your clippings into more than one container. For more information, visit our website - www.manassascity.org/trash.

The City of Manassas Happenings

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

Farmer's Market - Every Saturday in the VRE Parking Lot on Prince William Street, every Tuesday and Thursday in the Harris Pavilion - check out the Farmers Market - Sat. & Thurs. from 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. and Tuesdays from 5 - 8 p.m.
www.visitmanassas.org

Through September - **Historic Downtown Walking Tours** - learn history and more on the second, third, and fourth Saturdays of each month
www.visitmanassas.org

Now - August at the Harris Pavilion - Take in a free concert at **Take Out Tuesdays** or **Wednesday Lunch Concerts**. Concerts are free.
www.harris pavilion.com

Now - October - **Museum at the Market** - Saturdays during the Farmer's Market

Through September - **New Free Exhibit: Tailor-Made:** Vintage Fashions from the Museum's Collection Unveiled
www.visitmanassas.org

July 4, 3 - 10 p.m. - Enjoy all the family fun at **Celebrate America!** New this year, purchase your tickets to a rooftop party on the top level of the parking garage!
www.visitmanassas.org

July 7, 6 - 9 p.m. - **First Friday** in historic downtown Manassas
www.visitmanassas.org

July 7, 8 - 11 p.m. - Friday Night Adult Dance at the Harris Pavilion and live music from the **Firebirds**
www.visitmanassas.org

July 8, 6:30 p.m. - Center for the Arts Free Concert - **Sweet Yonder** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

July 9, 2 - 3 p.m. - **Children's Concert & Instrument Petting Zoo** at the Harris Pavilion
www.harris pavilion.com

July 9, 3 - 4:30 p.m. - **Prince William Community Band Ice Cream Social** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

July 15, 8 - 11 p.m. - **Saturday Night Adult Dance** at the Harris Pavilion and live music from **The Silver Tones**
www.visitmanassas.org

July 16 at 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Virginia's Presidential Homes** with Author Patrick L. O'Neill
www.visitmanassas.org

July 16, 3 - 4:30 p.m. - **Sunday Ice Cream Social - St. Thom Cats** at the Harris Pavilion
www.harris pavilion.com

July 21, 8:30 - 10 p.m. - Friday Family Movie Night **Moana** at the Harris Pavilion
www.harris pavilion.com

July 22, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **ADA Fair** - Vendors showcasing services re: American Disability Act
www.visitmanassas.org

July 22, 6:30 p.m. - Center for the Arts Free Concert - **Anthony Swampdog Clark** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

July 23, 3 - 4:30 p.m. - **Sunday Ice Cream Social - Bull Run Troubadours** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

July 27, 7 p.m. - **U.S. Navy Sea Chanters** at the Harris Pavilion for a Military Band Concert
www.visitmanassas.org

July 29, 8 - 11 p.m. - Saturday Night Adult Dance at the Harris Pavilion and live music from **Special Occasions**
www.visitmanassas.org

July 30, 3 - 4:30 p.m. - **Sol Roots Band & Ice Cream Social** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 1, 6 - 9 p.m. - **National Night Out** - Manassas City Police invite you to enjoy music, entertainment and fun for the whole family on the Museum lawn.
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 4, 6 - 9 p.m. - **First Friday - Dog Days of Summer**. Bring your pup out for the fun!
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 4, 8:30 p.m. - Family Movie Night - **Finding Dory** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 5, 6:30 p.m. - Center for the Arts Free Concert at the Harris Pavilion - "**Lil' Maceo**" **Kareem Walkes**
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 5, 8 a.m. to noon - Household Hazardous Waste and eWaste drop off day at the Manassas Transfer Station
www.manassascity.org/trash

Aug. 6, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Civil War Battlefields: Walking the Trails of History** with Author David T. Gilbert
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 6, 3 - 4:30 - **U.S. Army 257th Band at the Harris Pavilion**
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 12 at 8:30 p.m. - Saturday Night Adult Dance - **The Fabulous Bel Aires** - at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 13, 3 - 4:30 p.m. - Sunday Ice Cream Social - **Moonlight Jazz Orchestra** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 18, 8:30 p.m. - Family Movie Night - **Storks** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 19, 6:30 p.m. - Center for the Arts Free Concert at the Harris Pavilion - **Marshall Artz**
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 20, 3 - 4:30 p.m. - Sunday Ice Cream Social and the **Manassas Symphony Orchestra** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 25 - 27 - **Civil War Weekend** - Enjoy dozens of free events for all ages and interests at the Manassas Museum, in Historic Downtown, and at Liberia Plantation.
www.manassasmuseum.org

Aug. 27, 3 - 4:30 p.m. - Ice Cream Social and **Fascinating Rhythms Band** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

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Put your own photos up at
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To contact the City of Manassas Connection newsletter, email prrince@manassasva.gov