



## Manassas Regional Airport Ranks #1 in Jobs, Wages & Economic Activity

The Virginia Department of Aviation just released the Economic Impact Study of 57 General Aviation and nine commercial airports. The findings from this study show that of the \$1.1 billion in economic activity created in 2016 by General Aviation airports, Manassas Regional Airport's economic activity was \$375,492,000, with 1,351 aviation jobs and wages of \$117,438,000. These are the highest economic activity numbers of any General Aviation airport in the Commonwealth.

In total, Virginia General Aviation airports created and sustained 6,119 jobs, \$361,645,000 in wages and more than \$1,061,194,000 in economic activity. Virginia's General Aviation airports contribute significantly to economic development, and the Manassas Regional Airport tops the list of contributors.



The Manassas Regional Airport has more than 400-based aircraft, two full service fixed base operators and sees about 90,000 takeoffs/landings a year. There are two runways, 6,200 feet and 3,700 feet, an FAA control tower, direct ramp access, U.S. Customs on request and a host of great features that make this the busiest General Aviation airport in Virginia.

Each day, more than 4,000 aircraft take off and land at Virginia airports bringing in about 23,000 business people and visitors. This greatly impacts the economic health of the City of Manassas, the surrounding areas and the Commonwealth.

## There's a New Truck in Town

Since 1997, Rescue 501 has been an integral part of the City of Manassas Fire and Rescue system. The City of Manassas Fire and Rescue Department has been staffing Rescue 501 24-hours-a-day, 7 days a week for more than ten years to serve the residents of the City of Manassas and the greater Manassas community.

Today, while the service delivery continues, it progresses to an enhanced level of specialized service with the initiation of a new Rescue Engine. Rescue Engine 521 (RE521) permanently replaced Rescue 501 in February 2018. The Rescue Engine concept was chosen, instead of a heavy rescue, in an effort to provide an additional means of fire



protection and suppression for the residents and businesses of the City of Manassas.

In using this new Rescue Engine 521, City of Manassas Fire and Rescue crews can now provide an additional

level of service. Rescue 521 will be a multi-functioning unit that will be able to provide not only fire suppression and technical operations, but EMS support as well.

# A Message from the City Manager



**City Manager**  
**W. Patrick Pate**

As some of you already know, my mother's maiden name was O'Leary and my given name, Patrick, is from my second generation Irish immigrant grandfather. This means that St. Patrick's Day has always given me a little pride in my family's heritage and some interest in Irish sayings, blessings and heritage.

Many of the recognizable Irish blessings talk about health, wealth, family, good fortune and good weather. For example, one blessing that I often see says; "May you always have walls for the winds, a roof for the rain, tea beside the fire, laughter to cheer you, those you love near you, and all your heart might desire." Having had the opportunity to visit this lovely island and learn more about the history of the Irish it is easy to see why these themes emerge again and again.

This is also true in Manassas where particular values and strategic priorities seem to be consistent throughout the community. As we begin to once again look at meeting community priorities in the upcoming budget, we are focused on taking pride in our authentic history, livable neighborhoods, quality schools, healthy economy and overall quality of life. We will be striving to create a place that showcases our strategic location, city spirit and charm. We are looking to create a safe, secure and family friendly community that highlights our unique neighborhoods. We will be supporting opportunities for individuals to live, work, learn and thrive in our City.

Another Irish saying that I believe provides particular meaning to us today is "May you have the hindsight to know where you've been, the foresight to know where you are going, and the insight to know when you're going too far." "Historic Heart" is a moniker that really means something in Manassas. Folks here are proud of our local history and the history that individuals bring to the community. You see it in the Manassas Museum, local festivals and events and in the diversity that has made Manassas what it is today. "Modern Beat" is a bit of a description of where we are going. You see this in the pride of our local students, the new entrepreneurs that are creating new businesses in the City and in

activities such as the various art projects that you can see all over the City.

The real challenge is in the last part of this saying, "the insight to know when you're going too far." Unfortunately, there are many examples in today's news about folks that did not have the insight to know when they had gone too far. As a community, however, it is good to see a healthy discussion on our collective vision and what it is going to take to reach this vision without overreaching our resources. Whether you are seeking better education, enhanced job opportunities, quality housing and neighborhoods, public safety, recreational and cultural activities or reliable utilities and infrastructure, as a community working together we can set strategic priorities to make our collective vision a reality.

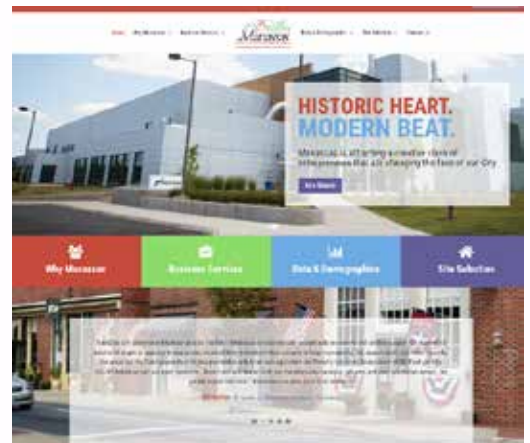
As we move past St. Patrick's Day (and our St. Patrick's Day parade) into full blown springtime in Manassas, I hope you will take the time to rediscover all of the wonderful things happening around town and "May your blessings outnumber the Shamrocks that grow. And may trouble avoid you wherever you go."

## 34th Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest

All City of Manassas students, Pre-k - 4th grades, are invited to create a poster with the theme of "If I plant a tree," for the 34th Annual City of Manassas Arbor Day contest. All submissions should be received at the Manassas Visitor's Center (Train Depot) by March 23, 2018. Winners will be recognized at the Arbor Day celebration on April 20, at 10 a.m. at Kinsley Mill Park, 10253 Hastings Dr. Contact Mark Olsen for more information at mbolsen@gte.net or 703-928-3993.

## A Brand New Look for Economic Development

The City's Department of Economic Development recently launched [www.ChooseManassas.org](http://www.ChooseManassas.org). The goal of this new site is to showcase Manassas as an exceptional place to do business. The site provides greater interactivity for brokers, developers and business owners searching for their next project or location. ChooseManassas.org provides current statistics on the City's demographics, market trends and features major development activity.



# Public Works and Recycling News

## Recycling Plastic Grocery Bags and Plastic Film

Thank you to all who called to ask about recycling plastic grocery bags. Plastic bags, as common as they are, are still not as widely recycled as other forms of plastic. According to the EPA, only 12 percent of the category of plastics that includes bags, sacks, and wraps ended up getting recycled. That's compared to 31 percent of PET bottles and jars (water bottles or peanut jars, for example).

Typically made of high-density polyethylene (HDPE, number 2 plastic) or low-density polyethylene (LDPE, number 4 plastic), plastic bags and other soft plastics are difficult to recycle because of their form. When plastic bags get mixed in with other recyclables, they are difficult to sort out, and often jam or damage the machines at materials recovery facilities and slow down the recycling process.

The City of Manassas sends all of our recycling to the American Recycling Center in the City of Manassas. Their equipment is designed to separate rigid materials like cans, bottles, or paper products.

## How Can I Tell What is Plastic Film?

That's easy! If the plastic material in question can be wrapped around your finger, it doesn't belong in your recycle bin.

## Where Can I Recycle Plastic Bags?

While it is best to reduce the amount of plastic bags you use by reusing them or remembering to bring your own reusable bags to the grocery store, you can still recycle plastic bags and keep them out of landfills or the environment.

Most large grocery chains, home improvement stores, and retailers, like Harris Teeter, Food Lion, Giant, Wal-Mart and Target, provide collection bins for clean and dry soft plastics such as:

- Grocery/carryout bags
- Newspaper delivery bags
- Dry cleaning wraps
- Bread and produce bags
- Zipper food storage bags
- Plastic cereal box liners

- Case wrap/shipping packaging (often found around diapers, snacks, water bottles, and paper towels)

All of the plastic bags and wraps are collected and then shipped to Trex in Winchester, where they are turned into backyard decking, fences and playground equipment. Trex also has a recycling program in local schools. If a school can collect more than 500 pounds of plastic refuse in a six-month span (about 40,500 plastic bags), Trex will donate a composite bench to the school.



## Adopt a Hydrant Success!

The new Adopt-a-Hydrant program is getting off to a great start. Many thanks to everyone who adopted a Fire Hydrant in January and February! By

adopting a fire hydrant, the adopter agrees to keep the fire hydrant clear from snow and debris. For promising to keep hydrant(s) snow- and debris-free, the adopter receives a hydrant adoption certificate and the Fire and Rescue Department's sincere thanks. Citizens and business or civic groups may also "adopt" neighborhood fire hydrants. Visit [www.manassascity.org/kmb](http://www.manassascity.org/kmb) for more information.

## Your Yard Waste Gets Recycled Too

As we get closer to spring, many start thinking about the garden. The City of Manassas collects more than 2,000 tons of leaves, grass trimmings, brush, wood chips, and shrub and tree trimmings every year.

Here are 5 tips to make yard waste collection easier:

- Only use paper yard waste bags or private containers. Yard waste in plastic bags will not be collected and could be subject to a fine of up to \$500 for removal.
- Bundle and tie all branches for collection. A strong wind or rain could move loose brush into the street or down the storm drain.
- Yard waste is collected on Mondays only. Please set everything out on Sunday night to ensure Monday collection.
- Leaves and grass clippings do not belong in the storm drain. Flooding happens when storm drains are blocked and can cause damage to homes and gardens.
- Landscaping or gardening services should know the rules! Ordinances vary from one jurisdiction to another.

Yard waste does not include stumps, whole trees, large branches, limbs or cleanup from storm damage. Removal of trees that are trimmed or cut down by landscapers or tree services is the responsibility of the resident or property owner and will not be collected by the City. Keep Manassas Beautiful and your street safe. For more information visit: [www.manassascity.org/trash](http://www.manassascity.org/trash).

## Spring RecycleFest is Saturday April 7, 8 a.m. to noon

City residents have made RecycleFest the most popular drop-off event in Northern Virginia! Residents may bring electronics, paper for shredding, gently used clothing and household hazardous waste to the Manassas Transfer Station located at 8305 Quarry Road off Liberia Avenue on April 7, 2018. The gates will be open from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and volunteers will be there to help unload everything. The first 500 residents through the gates will receive free yard waste bags courtesy of Home Depot! Visit [www.manassascity.org/recyclefest](http://www.manassascity.org/recyclefest) or call (703) 257-8256 for more details.

# The City of Manassas Happenings

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

Through April 1 - New Exhibit: **Artistic Expression**, Osbourn High School students' art - See the diverse work Osbourn students create from a variety of mediums in this annual exhibit.

[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

March 3, 8 a.m. to noon - Household Hazardous and eWaste Drop Off

[www.manassascity.org/trash](http://www.manassascity.org/trash)

March 9 - 11 - Manassas Ballet Theatre presents **Swan Lake** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

March 10, 11 a.m. - **St. Patrick's Day Parade**

<http://www.stpatparade.net>

March 11 - Daylight Savings Time - Change your clocks, change the batteries in your smoke alarm

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**March 17 - St. Patrick's Day**

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March 17, 7:30 p.m. - Manassas Chorale **Voices United** Concert at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

Mar. 18, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk with Paula Whitacre - **A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time** at the Manassas Museum.

[www.manassasmuseum.org](http://www.manassasmuseum.org)

March 24, 1:30 p.m. - **Women's History Month Performance: A Visit with Suffragist Mrs. Robert Walker** with

Living Historian Lynne Garvey-Hodge

[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

March 24 - **Great American Clean Up Day** - Join the City's Parks, Culture & Recreation Department to clean up City parks and historic sites.

[www.manassascity.org/leisure](http://www.manassascity.org/leisure)

March 24, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. - **Growing Roots: A Prince William County/Manassas History Symposium** - [historicpreservation@pwcgov.org](mailto:historicpreservation@pwcgov.org) for tickets

March 25 - 31 - **Hop Around Downtown** - Hop around from store to store for sweet surprises and a chance to win more prizes.

[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

March 25 - 31 - **National History Day Exhibit** by local students Manassas Museum Gallery

[www.manassascity.org/museum](http://www.manassascity.org/museum)

April 7, 8 a.m. to noon - **Household Hazardous & eWaste Drop Off** with shredding

[www.manassascity.org/trash](http://www.manassascity.org/trash)

April 7 - **Civil War Trust - Park Day Cleanup** at Liberia Plantation

[www.manassascity.org/leisure](http://www.manassascity.org/leisure)

April 7 - Oct 20 - **Historic Downtown Walking Tours** at 3 p.m.

[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

April 7 - Oct. 27 - **Museum at the Market**  
[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

April 13 - Sept. 16 - 2 New Exhibits at the Manassas Museum - **Expanding Boundaries** - the Manassas Boys & Girls Club; and **Living the American Dream: Robert Portner, Immigrant, Entrepreneur, Philanthropist**

[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

April 15, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk **Code Girls**

[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

April 21, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **12th Annual Live Well Festival** - There will be a 5K run to kick off the event

[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

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**April 22 - Earth Day**

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April 22, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk **-Suffragists of Washington DC**

[www.manassascity.org/museum](http://www.manassascity.org/museum)

April 28-29 - **Little Mermaid** performed by Pied Piper Theatre at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

April 28, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **Manassas Reads** - come to the Harris Pavilion for live music, free books, Manassas Therapy dogs and more.

[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

April 29, 7 a.m. - **Manassas Runway 5K/10K**

[rev3tri.com/manassas-runway](http://rev3tri.com/manassas-runway)

May 4 - 6 - **One Love Manassas** - A Celebration of Art and Artists in the City of Manassas

[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

## City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

### City of Manassas Council

Mayor Harry J. Parrish II 703-257-8213  
Vice Mayor Sheryl L. Bass 703-314-4278  
Marc T. Aveni 703-795-9651  
Ken D. Elston 571-377-8817  
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  
Vice Chair 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 571-606-0499  
Robyn Williams 571-535-7510

### Get Social!

Visit the City at [www.manassascity.org](http://www.manassascity.org).

 [www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas](http://www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas)

 [www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas](http://www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas)

 [www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas](http://www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas)

Put your own photos up at  
[www.flickr.com/groups/mycityofmanassas](http://www.flickr.com/groups/mycityofmanassas).

To contact the City of Manassas Connection newsletter, email [prrince@manassasva.gov](mailto:prrince@manassasva.gov)