



The City of Manassas Connection

December 2014

City of Manassas Removes the Last Pole in the Overhead to Underground Project



At a formal Pole Removal Ceremony held in November, the City of Manassas Public Works & Utilities Department officially declared the Center Street/Prescott Avenue Overhead to Underground project complete. This Capital Improvement Project, which began in July 2012, removed 33 utility poles from the side of the road and relocated the lines underground.

The project entailed moving 27,708 linear feet of conductor line from above ground to underground, making the area much more visually appealing. More than 15,352 man-hours were used to move electric lines and to upgrade 3,216 linear feet of water main pipes along the route which included: Center Street, Prescott Avenue, Zebedee Street, Quarry Road, Cherry Street and Maple Street. Moving these lines from above to below ground helps ensure reliability of electric service, while also taking away that cluttered feel of above ground power lines.

Local cable franchise lines for Comcast and Verizon were also moved to below ground during the project. An additional 20 new Sternberg street lights were placed along the route, adding an “old town” ambience to the project. The City also upgraded the water main in this area to a new 12-inch line for improved pressure in the area.

“This project has really improved, not only the aesthetics of the area, but the reliability of service that we can offer our customers,” said Public Works and Utilities Director Mike Moon. “Completing this project has been a major undertaking and I commend everyone involved in the process.” These types of projects are important to the City. More than 83% of the City’s electrical distribution system is underground and the average customer outage time for 2013 was 66 minutes. This means that customers experience service reliability that is one of the best in the Northern Virginia region.

In total, the cost of the project, including new lights, underground power, and upgraded water main, was \$1.73 million dollars. This included \$1.25 million dollars of electric work and \$480,000 of water main work. The project came in on time and on budget.



A Message from the City Manager



*City Manager
William Patrick Pate*

Thank you for your service

During the recent elections two council members decided not to seek reelection to the City of Manassas Governing Body. Most people, outside of their families, do not realize the time and sacrifice that elected officials make to serve our community. So during this (recent) period of Thanksgiving, I'd like to take a few moments to say thank you to the two council members who have served our community so well.

Councilman Andrew Harrover is a life-long resident of the City of Manassas. He has served two terms of office, six

years of that time as Vice Mayor for the City. Mr. Harrover has served on the Budget/Finance Committee, the Economic and Community Development Committee, and the Land Use Committee. He also served as the council liaison to the Airport Commission and the Manassas Historic Resources Board.

Councilman Steven Randolph has served on the City council since 1986. Over his 28 years of tenure on the council, Mr. Randolph has served in almost every capacity, recently being elected by the council to serve as Vice Mayor. Committees he has served on include: the Utility Commission, the Legislative Committee, the Cable TV Committee, the Lake Manassas Committee, the Building and Property Committee, the Public Safety/Social Services Committee, the City/Schools Finance Committee, the Economic Development Committee, the Land Use Committee, the Budget/Finance Committee, the Ad Hoc Legislative Committee and the Personnel Committee.

During their many years of service, these gentlemen have seen many projects

come to fruition, including the City's partnering with the Virginia Railway Express bringing rail commuter service to the City of Manassas, the creation of the Harris Pavilion, an almost entire rebuilding of Osbourn High School, the opening of the Candy Factory Center for the Arts, the completion and dedication of the new City Hall, the completion of the parking garage, the Hylton Performing Arts Center and the Freedom Center.

Personally, both of these gentlemen have been strong supporters of sound local government and to me in my role as City Manager. They have provided me with a wealth of knowledge about this community and the history of Manassas. I hope that you will join me in wishing both of these public servants good luck with their new endeavors and thank them for their many years of dedicated service to the community. It is dedicated service such as this that makes the City of Manassas a great community.

Holiday Trash Information

Recycle your Christmas Trees

Did you know that your Christmas tree can be recycled as yard waste? When the holidays are over and the decorations all come down, all you need to do is remove the ornaments, lights and garland from your tree and set it to the curb for Monday collection just like your regular yard waste. Your tree will then be recycled as landscaping material for use throughout the year.

Trash collection information for holidays and bad weather:

Trash Schedule for upcoming holidays: Christmas Eve (normal service), Christmas Day (no service), New Year's Eve (normal service), New Year's Day (no service.)

The make-up day for designated holiday trash is always the Saturday following the holiday. Please call the

Trashline 703-257-8252 for holiday schedule changes (example: Holiday on Tuesday - trash collected on Saturday. In the event of bad weather such as snow and storms, contact the Trashline 703-257-8252 for more information or visit www.manassascity.org/trash.

RecycleFest 2014 Huge Success!

Many thanks to all of the residents, Solid Waste Committee volunteers, Waste Management, Goodwill and Prime Recycling Group for making the first ever Recyclefest a success. More than 400 cars passed through the gates of the Manassas Transfer Station on Nov. 15 to part with unwanted household hazardous waste, electronic waste, shredding and used clothing. The City celebrated America Recycles Day with more recycling in one day than ever before.



Cycler the recycle robot was on hand at RecycleFest 2014, greeting residents at the event.

An Award Winning Police Car!

For the last four years the Bedford, Virginia's Police Department has hosted a Police Car Show to build camaraderie and to raise funds for Special Olympics. This year the Manassas City Police Car won first place - Best Looking Police Car. K-9 Officer James Rust brought down the City's police cruiser for the show along with donations for Special Olympics.

In a letter to Chief Keen, Lt. F.T. Foreman from the Bedford Police Department stated, "we continue to be surprised by the turnout from departments around the state who are able to assist us with this commitment to Special Olympics." He continued by saying, "please thank your community for their participation in this event."



Neighborhood News

If you thought you missed the City of Manassas Neighborhood Conference, the good news is that you did not. We have postponed our annual gathering to the spring season for warmer temperatures. Our goal is to offer more interactive workshops and resources to members of the community. However, we will be hosting a bimonthly learning series on neighborhood topics. We encourage you to attend any or all of these sessions. To

learn about these sessions, make sure to visit www.manassascity.org/resource.

In the meantime, please share your ideas on community related topics that you recommend we discuss at future events. Feel free to send the Neighborhood Services team an email at kwilson@ci.manassas.va.us or call 703-257-8240. Visit us at our new office space in the Harry J. Parrish Town Hall, adjacent to City Hall.

Effective Jan. 1, 2015, enforcement will begin on zoned parking districts. This means that if you live in a parking district, instructional signs have been posted. Permanent and temporary parking permits can be obtained in the Treasurer's Office. Call 703-257-8242 or visit www.manassascity.org/parking, for more information or to purchase your 2015 permits.

Christmas Tree Safety Tips

The City of Manassas Fire & Rescue Department wants you to be safe this holiday season with these simple safety tips:

- A real tree should not lose needles when you tap it on the ground.
- Cut one inch off the tree trunk to help the tree to absorb water.
- Leave the tree outside until ready to decorate.
- The stand should hold at least one gallon of water.
- Secure the tree with wire to keep it from tipping.
- Keep the tree away from floor heater, fireplaces, and other heat sources.
- Use only UL-approved lights and no more than three strands linked together.
- Turn off the lights on the tree before going to sleep or leaving the house.
- Never use candles on the tree, not even on an artificial tree.
- Dispose of the tree properly after the holiday season. NEVER burn the tree in the fireplace.



The City of Manassas Happenings

Here's what's happening in the City of Manassas during December and January.

Through Dec.24 - **Osborn High School Band's Wrapping Booth** - get your gifts wrapped at Manassas Mall by Osborn students - hours vary

Through Jan. 4 - **Christmas - A Claus for Celebration** at the Manassas Museum - View an extensive and unusual collection of Santa Claus figures and other holiday favorites in this special exhibit, open through January 4. Don't miss the ongoing exhibit, **What's Under Your Feet?** open through February 15.

www.manassasmuseum.org

Dec. 5, 5:30 - 8 p.m., **Merry Old Town Tree Lighting** - The holiday fun begins at 5:30 p.m. with holiday music and at 6 p.m. Santa arrives at the Manassas Depot via VRE train. The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting is at 6:30 p.m. at the Manassas Museum. Take a free hayride around Old Town or go for a skate at the Harris Pavilion. Santa will be at the Harris Pavilion gazebo to hear Christmas wishes.

www.visitmanassas.org



Dec. 5, 5:30-8:30 p.m. - **Museum holiday Open House** - free admission during the Manassas annual tree lighting; 10% discount on all merchandise at *Echoes* during the Open House.

www.manassasmuseum.org

Dec. 5 - 1st half of Fiscal Year 2015 **Real Estate Taxes are due**

www.manassascity.org/taxes

Dec. 6 from 8 a.m. to noon - **Household Hazardous & eWaste drop off** - Manassas Transfer Station, 8305 Quarry Road.

www.manassascity.org/trash

Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. - **69th Annual Greater Manassas Christmas Parade** - a tradition in the City of Manassas.

www.gmchristmasparade.org

Dec. 6, 1:30 - 3 p.m. - **Gingerbread House Workshop** at the Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 6, 4 to 7 p.m. - **Holidays at Liberia Plantation** - enjoy a tour, refreshments, living history and seasonal music.

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. - **Manassas Symphony Orchestra** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center.

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 7, 14 & 21, 1 - 4 p.m. - Take a free **Horse Drawn Carriage Ride** around Historic Downtown Manassas.

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 9, 10 a.m. - **Pre-K Tuesday** for ages 3-5 with a caretaker

www.manassasmuseum.org

Dec. 10 - 12 - **Winter Wonderland Train Show** at the Candy Factory.

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 13 from 8 a.m. to noon - **Manassas Firehouse Breakfast with Santa** at 9322 Centreville Road.

www.manassasfire.com

Dec. 13 at noon - **Wreaths Across America** wreath laying ceremony at the Manassas Cemetery. For more info. contact nuhse4u@verizon.net

Dec. 13, at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12 p.m., and 1:30 p.m. - **Santa Train** - tickets on sale at the Train Depot.

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 14, 1 - 5 p.m. - **Manassas Women's Club Holiday Homes Tours** - Tour historic homes, enjoy refreshments and a raffle - contact ramentroutr@pwcgov.org or call 703-368-6183

Jan. 10 at 10 a.m. - **Understanding History** workshop for 9-14 year olds - Learn more about Virginia history and help boost your academic record. The January program covers the 1607-1800 period, the Feb. 14 workshop covers 1801-1900, and the March 14 workshop covers 1901-2014.

www.manassasmuseum.org

Jan. 13, 10 a.m. - **Pre-K Tuesday** for ages 3-5 with a caretaker

www.manassasmuseum.org

Jan. 25, 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **That Furious Struggle: Chancellorsville and the High Tide of the Confederacy, May 1-4, 1863** with Author Chris Mackowski

www.manassasmuseum.org

Don't forget the Farmers Market, on Saturdays at 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Lot B (the watertower lot).


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 J. Steven Randolph	703-368-4732	Vice Chairman Scott M. Albrecht	571-606-1129
Marc T. Aveni	703-795-9651	Arthur P. Bushnell	571-535-7510
Andrew L. Harrover	703-368-2453	Ilka V. Chavez	571-606-0285
Ian T. Lovejoy	703-828-7592	Ellen M. Purdy	571-606-0499
Jonathan L. Way	703-368-9174	Pamela J. Sebesky	571-535-0652
Mark D. Wolfe	703-257-1702	Sanford S. Williams	571-535-6364

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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.