



The City of Manassas Connection

April 2015



City Manager
William Patrick Pate

A Budget Message from the City Manager

based on input given from your elected leadership, the residents, and professional and regulatory requirements related to services that we are required to meet. We have measured resident input in many ways. The citizen satisfaction survey told us that the community is satisfied with most city services and that residents do not want to see reduced services. The proposed budget maintains existing service levels within the existing tax rate.

The survey, along with Council discussions, also identified service areas where the community would like to see service enhancements. Those areas include transportation, economic development, education and recreation. To that end, I have asked the governing body to advertise a 2% increase in the property tax rate (about \$8 a month, or the cost of a fast food lunch). This will allow for community discussion on providing additional funding for community investments. If approved these funds would provide additional funding that can be used for Manassas City Public School priorities as well as city priorities.

The first city priority would be to provide matching funds needed for transportation funds authorized by the recent Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) legislation. This would provide close to a \$1 to \$1 return in transportation funds to be used for transportation improvements in the City of Manassas. Other priorities to be considered include capital investment in our commercial corridors for economic development, enhancements to the cultural and recreational amenities within the city and replacement of outdated public safety facilities.

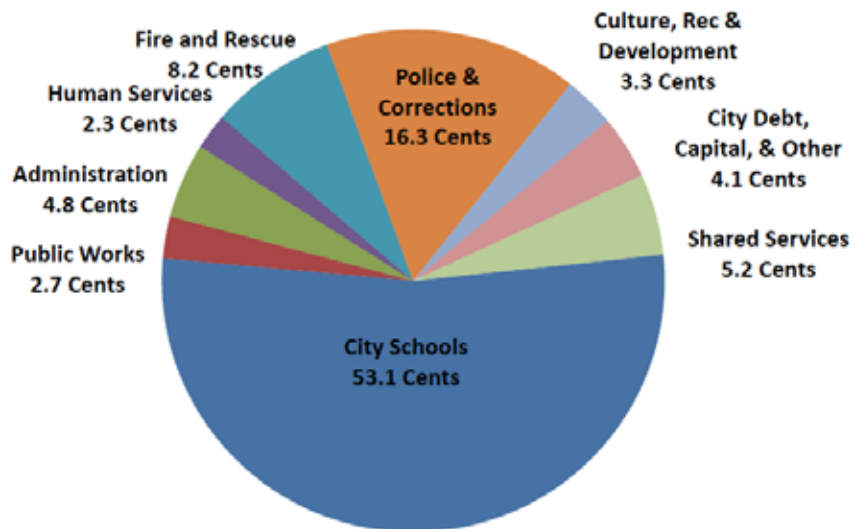
The proposed city budget, along with additional information provided at Council budget work sessions, can be found at www.manassascity.org/budget. Your Governing Body will continue to spend many hours reviewing and deliberating on this budget. The public hearing for the budget will be at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 27 in City Hall. If you have comments on the budget or community investments I would encourage you to attend.

Developing a City budget, much like your family budget, is never an easy or simple task. For a city, Manassas in this case, the budget must consider the needs and desired services of residents, businesses and visitors. An added difficulty is that in many cases control over setting the requirements on how services will be delivered is regulated by the state or the federal government. In addition, the opinions on what services are important and what residents are willing to pay for those services are quite varied.

In your family budget when you decide to buy a vehicle you can weigh your own personal needs regarding features, safety, luxury, uses and price to determine the right choice for your family from almost limitless options. For most city services (like water or electric delivery, fire and rescue or police response, or street maintenance, for example), we cannot make individual decisions concerning the level of service that we are willing to accept independent of everyone else in our community. City Council must make a collective decision on service levels that are in the best interest of the entire community.

The city manager's proposed budget is my attempt to provide a starting place for these Council decisions. It is

How \$1.00 of your General Taxes & Fire Rescue Levy is spent...



Crime is at its Lowest in the City

During Police Chief Doug Keen's annual report to City Council on the state of the Manassas City Police Department, he reported that the crime index for 2014 in the City of Manassas is at its lowest in more than a decade. The Crime Index for 2014 was 21 crimes per 1,000 residents. This is a 20 percent decrease.

Chief Keen also informed Council that part 1 crimes in the City (homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, theft from a motor vehicle and arson) are down by 12 percent. All offenses are down by six percent.

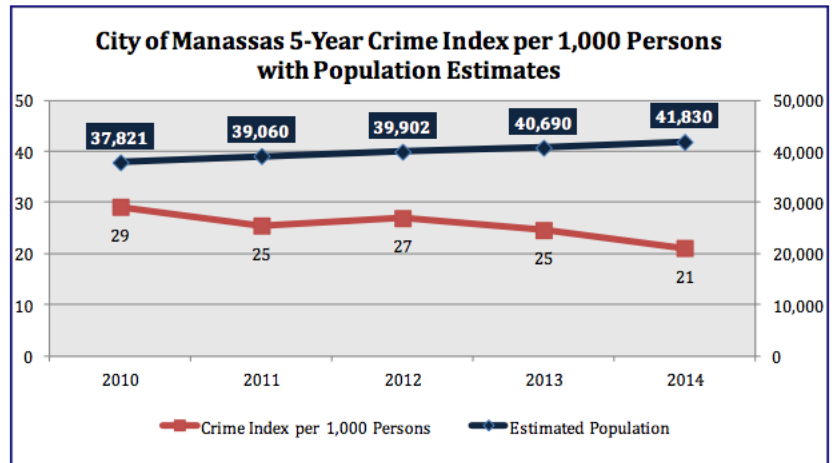
This is great news for crime in the City of Manassas. The entire 28-page Report can be found on the City's website at www.manassascity.org/police. Other items of note in the report are the following: 11 percent decrease in arrests,

nine percent decrease in traffic citations, two percent decrease in traffic crashes, four percent decrease in calls for service by residents and a 26 percent decrease in officer initiated calls for service.

"Department efforts will continue to be focused on ensuring our streets are safe through community policing, supplemented by data-driven policing techniques," said Chief Doug Keen.

"The Department will also continue to maintain the important and excellent level of citizen support and participation it has fostered over the years."

"The City Council and I could not be more proud of these results," said City Manager W. Patrick Pate. "I would like to thank every member of our Police Department for the continued efforts in keeping our community safe."



Great Things Happening in the City

Arts Abound

Have you seen the art around the City? *Impressions*, an art exhibit by Osborn High School students, is now at the Manassas Museum. Later this month it will be at The Hall in City Hall. Check out the work of these talented budding artists from the City.

Are you a painter or just want to watch artists create beautiful work? Come to Picnic with the Painters at Liberia Plantation on May 17. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy a relaxing day on the grounds of the Plantation.

At the Airport

Get ready for spring at the Manassas Runway 10K/5K run. This is the flattest run around as it is held on the runway. Also coming up at the Manassas Regional Airport on May 2 is the Manassas Airshow - a free event for the whole family.

At the Museum

Spring brings great Manassas Museum events. Bicycle tours, walking tours, Museum at the Market, great free

book talks and so much more. Find out about more Manassas Museum Events at www.manassasmuseum.org.

Achievement

Congratulations to Historic Manassas, Inc. (HMI) for winning the Volunteer Investment Award from the Virginia Main Street Program. Executive Director Debbie Haight, City Manager W. Patrick Pate and HMI Treasurer Charles Patullo were on hand to accept the award.



Interested in attending a City Council Meeting?

Regular City Council meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday's of the Month at 5:30 p.m., with public hearings held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. City Council meetings in April and May are as follows:

April 6 at 5:30 p.m. Council work session

April 13 at 5:30 p.m.

April 20 at 7:30 p.m.

April 27 at 5:30 p.m. with public hearings at 7:30 p.m.

May 11 at 5:30 p.m.

May 18 at 5:30 p.m., public hearings at 7:30 p.m.

More information is available at www.manassascity.org



Valor Award Winners

Congratulations to Senior Detectives Michael Gemmell and Amilcar Barahona on being awarded the Medal of Merit in Investigation and Senior Police Officer Erica Bauckman being awarded the Merit Award for Valor from the Prince William County Valor Awards Committee.

On Sunday, Aug. 17, 2014 Detective First Class (DFC) Gemmell responded to the 8900 block of Nicol Lane to the scene of a suspicious death. As the facts unfolded, it became apparent that this was a homicide and could be gang related. Senior Detective Barahona responded to assist with the case.

Within hours DFC Gemmell and Sr. Det. Barahona had sorted through information and confirmed that the incident was gang related. The investigation revealed that those responsible had connections with the 18th street criminal street gang. Six suspects had participated in this violent crime. Detectives interviewed all identified witnesses to confirm initial leads.

Over the course of the next week intelligence was gathered and information was confirmed. Senior Detectives Gemmell and Barahona worked tireless hours over the next four days. Numerous search warrants were executed; hundreds of pieces of evidence were collected and all suspects were identified. The six responsible for the murder were all charged and arrested within five days following the initial response with the assistance of Northern Virginia Gang Task Force, United States Marshal Service, Metropolitan Police

Department, Baltimore County Police Department and Immigration Customs Enforcement.

Congratulations and job well done!

On Feb. 14, 2014 at 3:46 a.m. Senior Police Officer (SPO) Erica Bauckman was dispatched to an "Assist Rescue" call. The information received from dispatch was that a 78-year-old man stopped breathing and CPR was in progress. On this particular day there were several inches of snow on the roads.

SPO Bauckman arrived within three minutes of being dispatched. After she arrived, she found an elderly man receiving CPR from his son. He was still not breathing. His son told her he was tired from performing CPR, a very strenuous effort in the best of circumstances, and SPO Bauckman smoothly made the transition.

SPO Bauckman continued to administer CPR to the gentleman for about seven minutes. At 3:58 a.m. the gentleman started breathing and CPR was ceased. Shortly thereafter Fire and Rescue personnel arrived on scene to transport the patient to the hospital.

SPO Bauckman did not use any special equipment and she did not have any assistance with the CPR. Her minimal response time and quick decision making capabilities played a huge role in saving the patient's life. SPO Bauckman was certified by the department in CPR one month prior to this incident.

Congratulations and thank you!

Business Appreciation Breakfast

Do you own or manage a business in the City of Manassas?

If you do, come to the Business Appreciation Breakfast

May 6, 8 to 10 a.m. at the Center for the Arts as the City of Manassas and the Prince William Chamber recognize existing businesses within the City!

One person per business, please. There will be special recognitions during the breakfast

By Reservation only as space is limited - RSVP to 571.765.1874

Mix and mingle with fellow business leaders and City officials



The City of Manassas Happenings

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

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.

Through 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 Founders Day! There will be live entertainment, food and drink specials. Shops, galleries and the Manassas Museum will be 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 12 at 2 p.m. - Free book talk - **Wicked Northern Virginia** with Author Michael Lee Pope
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 17 at 8 p.m. - **Civil War Letters** - a ballet honoring the sesquicentennial of the Civil War and benefiting the Liberia Plantation restoration
www.hyltoncenter.org

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. - **Soaring 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 25 at 7 p.m. **CASA Retro Event** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

April 26 at 7:30 a.m. - **Manassas Runway 10K/5K** - the flattest race you'll ever run
www.manassasrunway10k.com

April 26 at 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk **Virginia Rails Trails, Crossing the Commonwealth**
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

May 1 - 16, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. enjoy Rooftop Productions **Incorruptible**
www.center-for-the-arts.org

May 2, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - **Manassas Airshow and Open House** at the Manassas Regional Airport
www.manassasairshow.com

May 2 - July 15 - **Protecting Manassas** - a new exhibit at the Manassas Museum featuring the history of our Public Safety.
www.manassasmuseum.org

May 2, 8 a.m. to noon - **Household Hazardous Waste and eWaste Drop Off** at the Manassas Transfer Station
www.manassascity.org/trash

May 2, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. - **Manassas Reads** a book event for the entire family at the Harris Pavilion - www.visitmanassas.org

May 3, 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk: **Brandywine** with Author Michael C. Harris
www.manassasmuseum.org

May 8 at 8 p.m. - **Manassas Cemetery Tour**
www.manassasmuseum.org

May 9 at 10 a.m. - **Architectural Tour** of Historic Downtown
www.manassasmuseum.org

May 12, 10 a.m. - **Pre-K Tuesday** for ages 3-5 with a caretaker
www.manassasmuseum.org

May 16, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. - **Greater Manassas Volunteer Rescue Squad Open House**
www.GMVRS.org

May 16, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. - **After the War: A One-Day Symposium** on the Effects of the Civil War - tickets available at 703-792-4754

May 17, Noon to 4 p.m. - **Picnic with the Painters** at Liberia Plantation.
www.manassasmuseum.org

May 17 at 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk: **Bloody Autumn and Hurricane from the Heavens** with Author Daniel Davis
www.manassasmuseum.org

May 23, 9 - 11 a.m. - **Bike Tour** of the City.
www.manassasmuseum.org

May 24, 2 to 6 p.m. - **Prince William Community Band Festival** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

City of Manassas Council

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

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