



Hometown Heroes

It was the wee hours of the night when Jerry Rivas and Ashley Keys looked out their back window. They saw smoke coming from somewhere. Jerry leaned out a little farther and noticed flames leaping from the back of their neighbor's townhome.

Without a thought about their personal safety, Jerry and Ashley sprang into action. 911 was called and both Jerry and Ashley went door to door waking the neighbors and their children to get them out of their houses.

It was Dec. 16, 2015, right before the holidays. In all, two townhomes were damaged and two were destroyed. Jerry and Ashley had saved the lives of their neighbors.

Fire Marshals from the City of Manassas Fire and Rescue Department assisted by an agent from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) conducted an investigation and found that the fire originated in the electric clothes dryer in the laundry room located in an attached shed in the rear of one townhouse and spread to the other three homes.

If thank you is enough to say in this situation, the City of Manassas sincerely thanks Jerry Rivas and Ashley Keys for their selfless efforts that saved the lives of 14 people.

The City of Manassas Fire & Rescue Department wants to remind you of the following safety tips:

- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- Make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.



L to R: Fire & Rescue Chief Brett Bowman, Jerry Rivas, Assistant Chief Wade House, Mayor Harry J. Parrish II, Fire Marshal Frank Teevan and Ashley Keys.

- Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.

Don't miss First Fridays in Historic Downtown Manassas!

Every first Friday of the month, except January (brrr), come out to downtown for food, friends and fun. Each month has a different concept or theme. February's First Friday was the Souper Bowl where folks could sample soups from local restaurants. There are Gallery Walks, Dog Days, and a host of other First Friday happenings from 6 - 9 p.m. on the first Friday of the month. You won't want to miss one of them!

www.visitmanassas.org

A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
William Patrick Pate

March is an interesting month as we do not know whether to dress expecting another snow storm or a warm sunny day. Over most of my adult life, March has meant a lot of time at baseball games (usually coaching or helping in some other way, but occasionally just being a fan and parent). Now it means preparing a municipal budget. At first glance you might not see any similarities between these two things, but I have found many similarities.

Preparation: Every baseball coach knows that you must prepare for the season well in advance of the first pitch. Baseball fields take year round care and attention to provide a quality

playing environment. Equipment must be secured. Players must be recruited. Funds must be raised. Then you must begin to practice. Creating a city budget works much the same way as many months of preparation are necessary to create a budget. Information must be gathered. Strategic priorities must be set. Revenues must be forecast. Then you begin to build the budget.

Lineup: After the players are selected, you begin looking at the individual skills that they bring to the team in order to create a balanced lineup with offense to score runs and defense to produce outs. Then during each game you make adjustments and substitutions to keep a balance of skills that is in the best interest of the entire team. In preparing a city budget you also need to look at the services and programs that are being provided to the community and strive to provide a balance that meets the most needs of the community within the resources that you have available. Then you work to make adjustments based on the current circumstances and needs of the community.

Scorecard: Baseball is a game of statistics. Everything is tracked from pitch count to batting percentages and

recorded for every play. The play of each individual can be tracked and dissected, but ultimately it is still a team game and the overall productivity of the team becomes the highest goal. In budgeting, we also track statistics regarding quality of life, perception of safety, opportunities for personal education or prosperity, to property values. Each department can identify the delivery of specific services and programs or awards that they have received, but we are still judged by the overall quality of services provided to the entire community.

So this month, we will be spending a lot of time working on the lineup of services and programs that will be delivered to the community in the coming year. Ultimately, we will be trying to put forth the best “team of services” that will serve the community not only this year, but for years to come. And if you catch me at a baseball game or in the City, I can tell you that I am there just because I love the game and the community!

Recycling News

It's RecycleFest!

The City of Manassas is celebrating Earth Day, with a Spring Recyclefest, Sat. April 2, 2016, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Manassas Transfer Station, 8305 Quarry Road in Manassas.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the average U.S. household generates more than 20 pounds of household hazardous waste per year. In 2015, City residents dropped off more than 123 tons of recyclable material at nine household hazardous waste and electronic waste drop off days.

During Recyclefest, City residents can drop off household hazardous

waste, electronic waste and shred their paper documents, for free. Proof of residency is required to enter and no commercial waste will be accepted.

In November, more than 400 residents took part in RecycleFest to celebrate America Recycles Day. Over 20 tons of recyclables were collected in just four hours, making it the biggest single recycling event in the City's history. The event even received national recognition from Keep America Beautiful for a job well done.

Become part of the new classic recycling event in the City of Manassas – drop in and drop off at RecycleFest! For more information call (703) 257-8252 or visit www.manassascity.org/trash.

Compost Awareness Day

The City of Manassas is joining Prince William County to celebrate International Compost Awareness Week with a community event for everyone who wants to know more about composting. Attend a gardener's workshop with Lisa Ziegler; see a worm composting demonstration; buy a new compost bin; find the perfect plant for your garden or pick up some tips from local and regional experts. Join us on Saturday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Prince William County Balls Ford Road Yard Waste Compost Facility, 13000 Balls Ford Road in Manassas. For more information call (703) 792-4670.

Manassas City Police Choose Employee of the Year

The MCPD Employee of the Year award goes to a person who makes a significant difference—sometimes in an instant, sometimes over the course of months working a case, and sometimes it's every single day. The nature of police work calls for commendable and heroic actions of individuals on a daily basis.

Detective Cindy van Noppen has been selected as the Employee of the Year for 2015 because of her contributions to the department, the community, and to humanity. Detective van Noppen has interviewed and consoled countless victims. She has volunteered many hours to nonprofit organizations and fundraisers.

As a detective, van Noppen applies diligence and scrutiny to cold cases, fraud, and identity theft investigations. She is always willing to help other detectives on their cases and work beyond her scheduled shift. She is also the first to volunteer to help—whatever that may entail.

Over the course of her 38 year career as a police officer and detective at the Manassas City Police Department, Cindy has been commended by victims and other community members for her treatment of them. Prosecutors have credited her persistence as a detective for successful prosecutions. Countless nonprofit organizations have benefitted from her volunteer work.

She is a member of the Crisis Negotiations Team, a board member of the Manassas City Police Charitable Foundation, and contributes to the Police Association and memorial services for Sergeant John Conner each year. She is committed to a lifetime of learning as well, achieving her master's degree in forensic science from George Mason University in December 2015.

Detective Cindy van Noppen's contributions over the course of nearly 40 years are truly remarkable. Her selfless service does not go unnoticed by all of the lives she has touched. Congratulations and thank you, Detective van Noppen!



Look Up

Do you ever notice what is overhead? People don't always look up as they are walking along the streets of our City. Beginning in March/April looking up in the City's Historic Downtown will be a good thing.

Banner Art winners will be displayed on 60 light poles around the Downtown. Each piece is individually created by artists from the DMV (the District, Maryland and Virginia).

Manassas is fortunate in that we have some great local artists right here. During the Banner Art competition, we also invite artists from the local area to participate. More than 120 different pieces of art were submitted for the competition.

One piece of art will be selected by a juried panel of artists to win the \$1,000 grand prize. A booklet will then be available at the Train Depot for those who wish to walk around the downtown looking up at all of the pieces displayed. Prizes and costs associated with the

competition are offset by a modest entry fee.

This is the second year for this competition in the City of Manassas. Fabulous submissions make the judging of the competition a rather hard endeavor. To select the 60 banners to be displayed, a group of business owners, artists, elected officials, students and community members gathered to judge.

The Banner Art Competition is part of the City and Historic Manassas' initiative to create a positive atmosphere for art in the community. The City already has spring and fall Gallery Walks that are great events that draw wonderful crowds.

The City's #littlebits program is attracting more artists to the City who wish to paint on City infrastructure, like fire hydrants and benches. And, there is a new venture between Northern Virginia Community College and the City's Art Group. It is a sculpture project with students from NOVA providing

sculptures for downtown. Look for the unveiling of some great student sculptures at the spring Gallery Walk. One more reason to be an artist in the City of Manassas.

To find out about these and other art projects going on in the City of Manassas, visit www.visitmanassas.org/artful-Manassas.



Native Echinacea by Daniel Fleming

The City of Manassas Happenings

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

March 1 -31 - Stonewall Park Pool **season passes are on sale for 20% off**

www.manassascity.org/pool

Through March 17 - **Catherine Cole: Drawing and Printmaking** at the Center for the Arts

www.center-for-the-arts.org

March 4 - **First Friday** in Historic Downtown Manassas

www.visitmanassas.org

March 4 - April 17 - Two New Free Exhibits at the Manassas Museum: **Impressions**, Osbourn High School Art Exhibit; and **To Be Sold**, a Library of Virginia loaned exhibit on enslaved African-Americans.

www.manassasmuseum.org

March 5, 8 a.m. to noon - **Household Hazardous Waste & eWaste Drop off**, 8305 Quarry Road

www.manassascity.org/trash

March 5 at 7:30 p.m. - Manassas Symphony Orchestra: **From the British Isles**

www.hyltoncenter.org

March 6 at 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk at the Manassas Museum - **Poems of the Manassas Battlefield**

www.visitmanassas.org

March 7 - 14 - **Spring Restaurant Week** in Historic Downtown Manassas

www.visitmanassas.org

March 11 - 13 - Manassas Ballet Theatre: **Dances and Divertissements** – A Spring Sampler

www.manassasballet.org

March 12 at noon - **Liberia House Hard Hat Tours**. Discover the most recent Civil War graffiti and see the rarely opened attic and basement.

www.manassasmuseum.org

March 12 at 11 a.m. - **17th Annual Greater Manassas St. Patrick's Day Parade** in Historic Downtown

www.stpatparade.net

March 13 at 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk at the Manassas Museum - **Dark Days in our Beloved Country**

www.visitmanassas.org

March 19 at 7:30 p.m. - Manassas Chorale: **Voices United – With Hearts and Hands and Voices**

www.hyltoncenter.org

March 20 - 26 - **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**

www.visitmanassas.org

April 1, 6 to 9 p.m. - **First Friday** in Historic Downtown Manassas

www.visitmanassas.org

April 2, 9 - 11 a.m. - **Museum Bike Tour** around the City

www.manassasmuseum.org

April 2, 7 - 11 p.m. - **Feed the Arts** - Center for the Arts Annual Fundraising Gala - Experience What We Do & Party on Every Floor --at the Candy Factory!
www.center-for-the-arts.org

April 3 at 1:30 p.m. – Free Book Talk – **Private John S. Mosby, First Virginia Cavalry** by Gregory P. Wilson at the Manassas Museum

www.visitmanassas.org

April 8 - 23, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. - Rooftop Productions **Little Shop of Horrors** at the Center for the Arts.

www.center-for-the-arts.org

April 10 at 1:30 p.m. - Free book Talk - **The Man Who Would Not Be Washington: Robert E. Lee's Civil War and His Decision That Changed American History** with Author Jonathan Horn

www.visitmanassas.org

April 11 at 5:30 p.m. - Manassas City Police recognition ceremony at City Hall.

April 16, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. – **10th Annual Live Well Festival** – Enjoy free exercise classes, document shredding, tips on recycling, and much more at the Harris Pavilion.

www.visitmanassas.org

April 23, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **Manassas Reads** at the Harris Pavilion. Come for free books and fun!

www.visitmanassas.org

April 24, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. – **2nd Annual Manassas Bridal Show** on the Manassas Museum Lawn

www.visitmanassas.org

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

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