



Manassas Connection

August 2017

Summer Public Safety Camps

For the last five years the City of Manassas Fire and Rescue and Police have been providing summer camps for rising Osbourn High School freshmen. This year was no different. Students signed up during the school year and began the camps on July 10.

In Manassas City Police Camp, teens learn everything from animal control to forensics. They learn about K9's and how handlers use them to assist in law enforcement. They learn about investigative techniques, evidence collection and traffic laws. If these teens never aspire to be a police officer, now they know how to react when pulled over by the police, which can be intimidating at any age.

In Fire & Rescue Camp, teens learn how to put on fire gear in less than a minute, how to use a fire hose, work safely with ladders and how to use a fire extinguisher. Students also get a visit from the Air Care helicopter, learn how to fill out a job application and conduct mock interviews with the Chief and other Fire & Rescue officers. Teens take turns being the leader for the day and using the radio to make calls.

Students at both camps learn basic first aid and CPR, lifesaving skills that can last a lifetime. All of this comes at no cost to the teens or their families.

Why does the City offer these camps each year? It's to build trust and hopefully make a difference in someone's life, or alter a life path and help make tomorrow's leaders.

When a teen is entering their freshman year of high school, it can be intimidating and scary. High School seems so big and unfriendly. These camps encourage new friendships and new friend groups before they enter their freshman year. They may give teens a new sense of self confidence and help to encourage them to finish their educations, whether it be on to college, in a trade school or, perhaps serving the community as a firefighter or police officer.

City Fire & Rescue and Police staff freely give their time to help shape the City leaders of tomorrow. And, they get something out of it too.

"One of the Pillars of the 21st Century Policing Task Force report was building trust and legitimacy with the public and our youth," said Chief of Police Doug Keen. "We must find a variety of ways to engage the youth in our community. These camps are just one way we ensure there are positive interactions and relationship building between our officers and youth. We need to talk to, share, care and emphasize we

are the guardians caring for them and our community as a whole."

"The fire and rescue freshman and sophomore camps are much more than just putting on the gear, riding on a fire engine and learning how to flow water from a hose line. The kids learn some life lessons that will help them as they mature and enter the workforce," said Fire & Rescue Chief Rob Clemons. "Each camper must complete a job application and participate in a simulated job interview in front of service leaders from across the NOVA region. This part of the camp helps them understand that math, science, English, etc. are important and the saying of "I will never use any of that" is far from the truth."

Several years after one student finished Fire & Rescue Camp he sent a message to the Camp Coordinator, Firefighter Medic Kevin Shafer. Here's an excerpt:

"I got the presidential scholarship award at Virginia Tech, giving me \$17,500 a year for all four years. . . Summer Camp pointed me in the right direction. . ."

Now, not every teen going through these summer camps will have the same experience, but for one graduate, this camp made a difference in his/her young life.



A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
William Patrick Pate

FAKE NEWS! It seems that everywhere you turn recently there are internet stories and discussions about what supposedly happened or someone's opinion on what they think should be done based often on limited or presumed information. Instead of having personal interactions and conversations, social media has evolved to enable us to be disengaged from each other and to chase the latest "rumor" or sensationalized story. It makes me long for the days when my parents knew exactly where I had been and what I had done by the time I came home, because they would have heard it directly from a neighbor or friend.

As I mentioned in last month's article, the City is currently placing an emphasis on community engagement with an effort we are calling Manassas Community Conversations. This is an opportunity for you to shape the City by sharing your perspectives. Numerous opportunities are planned to allow the community to hear and engage directly with staff on plans for capital projects and other items. Also, the City will be gathering your opinions and ideas on your priorities and vision for the City of Manassas. We have already started with conversations at the farmer's market. These will continue throughout the summer, along with

community conversations. There are also plans for an online forum for those whose schedules don't allow much time



for direct conversations. A community town hall is planned for the fall. This will allow us to take a deeper look at issues and priorities raised in the community surveys that have also been done.

Information on these events can be found on the city website or on our Facebook page. You can also sign up to receive messages about this process at www.manassascity.org/notifyme. This information will be extremely valuable to City Council and staff as we prepare to update and revise our City strategic plan and our longer-range comprehensive plan.

I would be remiss if I did not remind you that City Council has a citizen's comment period at each regular Council meeting at 7:30 p.m. This is an opportunity for individuals, homeowner associations, neighborhoods or community organizations to address the Governing Body on any issue.

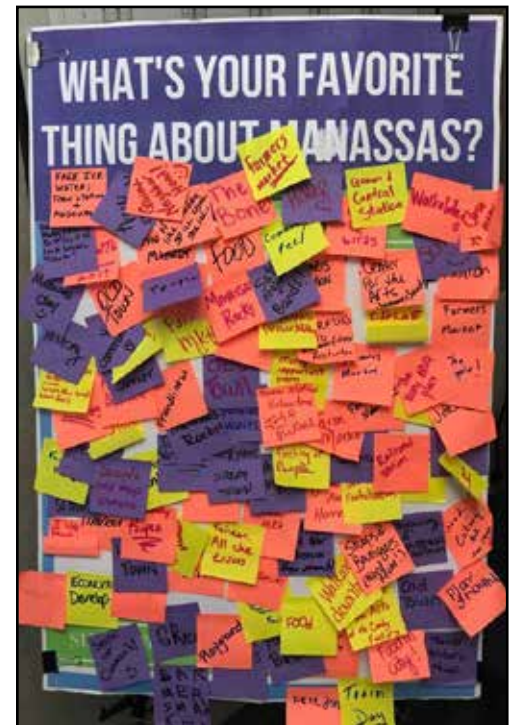
Several folks have asked why more than two City Council members cannot be at an event where City business is discussed. City business involving the Council is required to be conducted in strict accordance with the state open meeting statutes. This requires

many things, including advance notice, accessibility, an agenda and being open to everyone in the community. This is why you do not see three or more Council Members together at events where City business is being discussed unless it is formally noticed and meets the open meetings laws.

In addition, Council Members hold themselves accountable to a Code of Conduct, which is required for City staff members and City boards, committee and commission members to uphold. This is all done to ensure transparency in how City business is conducted.

One last note on "fake news." Be careful with anyone calling you and demanding immediate utility payments. These are scams and the City does not conduct business in this manner. If you get a call or have questions, call our utilities department at 703.257.8245.

Your City is here for you and we want to hear from you. Hope to see you at one of the Community Conversations!



Civil War Weekend

This year's Civil War Weekend promises to be chock full of history, activities and fabulous speakers.

Beginning Aug. 25 and running through Aug. 27, this free family event includes a Civil War Dance, Bourbon Tasting, Railcar Burning and both day and evening activities.

On Friday, Aug. 25 at 7 p.m. join the City for a keynote address by Dr. Catherine Clinton, a pioneering historian of the American South and the Civil War hailing from the University of Texas. At 9 p.m. enjoy Stories in Stone at the Manassas Cemetery.

Saturday morning brings the Civil War parade where characters from both the North and South proceed through the streets of Historic Downtown Manassas. There's a full day of activities on Saturday including artillery, cavalry and infantry demonstrations; and costumed guided tours of Liberia Plantation.

This year, join in an intimate conversation with one of the people from the Civil War. Conversationalists include: Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S.



Grant, William Sherman, Jefferson Davis, Matthew Brady, Clara Barton, Mary Todd Lincoln, Stonewall Jackson and many other famous to that time period. Bring your questions and enjoy the banter as these folks talk about their roles in history. All of these conversations will be hosted on the Manassas Museum Lawn.

You won't want to miss a minute of the fun. The weekend's schedule will be posted on the City's website at www.manassascity.org and on the City's Facebook page www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas.

We hope to see you there!



Let's Talk Recycling

Have your say on trash and recycling in Historic Downtown Manassas

In FY17, the City awarded a new contract for refuse and recycling collection to American Disposal Services. Two new cost saving features in the contract are:

- Paying Waste Management directly, instead of through the American Recycling contract has saved the City more than \$134,000.
- The February 2017 introduction of Thursday curbside collection of televisions and computer monitors has not only made our curbs more appealing, but saved the City \$4,000.

Another new feature of the contract includes a proposal for commercial collection in the Historic Downtown area which offers:

- A sliding scale of rates and collections for our local businesses by volume.

- An option to keep an existing private solid waste hauler of the business's choosing.
- New incentives for recycling.
- An opportunity for businesses to participate in our new Keep Manassas Beautiful program.

With the new contract, the City's Solid Waste Code has been reviewed and a new draft has been developed. This is easier to understand and to enforce. The City will be offering residents and businesses in Historic Downtown Manassas four ways to view and offer comments on the draft of the proposed Commercial Collection Plan and the revised Solid Waste Code:

- A manned information booth in the lobby of City Hall on July 27 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 4 p.m., and at Centerfuse on Aug. 24 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 4 p.m.
- A presentation at the July 12 Old Town Business Association meeting.

- Online at www.manassascity.org/trash
- By scheduling an appointment with Monica Boehringer (703) 257-8256.

Recycling and the Civil War

The Citizen's Advisory Committee on Solid Waste has been working on the importance of recycling during the Civil War. Their research has uncovered a wealth of information on the way materials, like paper, metal and textiles, were reused on the battlefield and back at home. The American Civil War Museum found the research fascinating and published an article acknowledging the hard work of the committee and adding their own contributions to the project. View the article online at www.manassascity.org/trash. The final exhibit is in production and will be available soon. Keep recycling – it's part of our history!

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.harrispavilion.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

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 p.m. - **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 free events for all ages and interests at the Manassas Museum, in Historic Downtown, and at Liberia Plantation.
www.manassasmuseum.org



Aug. 25, 8 p.m. - Friday night Adult Dance to **Southern Persuasion Band** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

Aug. 26, 9 p.m. - Civil War Dance at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

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

Sept. 1, 6 - 9 p.m. - **First Friday** in Historic Downtown Manassas
www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 2, 6:30 p.m. - Center for the Arts Free Concert at the Harris Pavilion - **Bruno Nasta**
www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 9, 12 - 6 p.m. - **Bands, Brews and BBQ** - live music, award winning craft brews and a sampling of Northern Virginia's best BBQ.
www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 10, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - **Out of the Darkness Walk**
www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 15, 5 - 9 p.m. - **Greek Taverna Night** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 16, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - **International Food Festival** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 24, 12 to 5 p.m. - **Latino Festival** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 27 - Oct. 1 - **B17 Bomber** at the Manassas Regional Airport.
<http://eaa186.org>

Sept. 30, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - **They Paved Paradise** - a driving tour look back at Manassas & Prince William County before asphalt changed the landscape
www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 30, 12 - 5 p.m. - **Manassas Steins, Wines & Spirits Festival** - taste beer from local craft breweries; wine from local wineries; local distilled spirits; and fun food
www.visitmanassas.org

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

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To contact the City of Manassas Connection newsletter, email pvince@manassasva.gov