**The Carters of Virginia**

The Carter family is the focus of a new joint exhibit, New World Aristocracy: The Carters of Virginia, opening at the Manassas Museum on August 15. The exhibit, a joint effort between the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division and the Manassas Museum, features rare artifacts on loan, items never before displayed, and hands-on children’s activities. The exhibit is open free from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and runs through December 31.

The Carter family was among America’s first millionaires and emancipators. They lived amid a swirl of controversy and extreme wealth worthy of reality TV. Their Virginia backyard included half a million acres in the 1700s and 1800s, but they left a lasting impact on much of Virginia.

“Everyone that lives in this area today lives on land that was once owned by a member of the Carter family,” said Manassas Museum Curator Mary Helen Dellinger. To see exactly what land the family owned, the exhibit will feature a map of Carter properties overlaid on a modern day map of area neighborhoods.

“A lot of these Carter storylines connect present-day neighborhoods,” said Prince William County Historic Site Operations Supervisor Rob Orrison. “Most people are amazed at how much land the Carter family owned around here.”

Liberia Plantation, Ben Lomond House, and Oatlands Plantation in Leesburg are among the properties built by Carter family members. In addition to vast land holdings, the Carter reach extended to Virginia’s cultural life.

“There’s a history here that goes back centuries, one that touches on slavery, politics, religion, trade and architecture,” Dellinger says. Robert “Councillor” Carter III, the grandfather of Liberia’s owner Harriet Weir, was a particularly colorful member of the family, best known for gradually freeing nearly 500 of his slaves, and leaving the Church of England to become an evangelical Christian.

One of the artifacts on loan from Oatlands Historic House and Gardens is a book from Carter III’s collection, The Doctrine of the New Jerusalem Concerning The Lord.

Gathering artifacts and images for the exhibit proved to be a challenge since so few of the Carter family possessions still exist and so many of their homes no longer stand.

Orrison and colleague Bill Backus were inspired to create the exhibit when they visited and led tours to Christ Church, the Carter family church in Virginia’s Northern Neck, where the Carter legacy is especially visible. Historic Christ Church is loaning Robert Carter III’s writing desk and bottle pieces with Carter’s seal for the exhibit.

“People who love history will enjoy so many rare things on exhibit,” Orrison says. “But even people who don’t like history will enjoy the story.”

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**Do You Know SAM?**

SAM stands for Safety Around Manassas. This initiative was started by the City of Manassas Fire & Rescue System to educate the public about safety in and out of their Manassas homes.

In the fall, you may hear a knock on your door and see a Firefighter or the Red Cross standing there. Don’t worry, your house is fine. These folks will just be in the area handing out emergency cards and information on how to be SAM smart.

To coincide with this program, the Red Cross has graciously donated smoke detectors for those who may not have them. If you are interested in having a free smoke detector installed in your home, call the City of Manassas Fire & Rescue Department at 703-257-8458.
As the City moves into our new fiscal year (which starts July 1st each year) you will start to see work on a variety of efforts aimed at meeting Council priorities for our community.

With the start of school this month, Education continues to be a major priority for Council and the community. Council approved $52,808,380 in local funds for schools which is $1,401,030 over the prior year’s allocation. This compares to $47,220,870 in state funds and $6,191,667 in federal funds budgeted this year for MCPS education.

Significant progress is also being made on the construction of the new Baldwin School off Prince William Street. This is scheduled to open in late 2016 or early 2017.

Another priority is Economic Development. A City of Manassas Economic Development Office is now operational and an economic development and tourism marketing initiative has been completed. Businesses continue to be recruited into the City and we are celebrating new business openings every month. You may already be seeing some of the results from the marketing initiative in promotions of the attractions, activities and opportunities that make Manassas great. If not, stay tuned for more.

Public Safety will also continue to be a major priority for the City. Efforts to work with neighborhoods, businesses and individuals to prevent and reduce crime and fires in the community remain a significant goal. We will also be working to reduce response times with the siting and construction of Fire and Rescue Station #21 and maintaining up-to-date technology and equipment.

In working on our sense of community and place we will also emphasize efforts on Community Investment and improving Housing and Redevelopment. Projects that will be ongoing during the year will include the relocation of the skate board park to Dean Park due to the new Baldwin School construction; improvements to existing facilities like Liberia Plantation and Prince William Street; and utility improvements related to water and storm water services. Phase I of the Zoning Ordinance Review has been completed and work will now continue on areas such as parking, signs and substandard housing.

Finally, a priority is being placed on having a Sustainable Government. This will be seen in a variety of efforts to simplify the ways you can interact with departments; creating transparent financial practices and documents; and improvements in use of technology to drive efficiencies and good customer service. You are welcome to view our current budget document on our website at www.manassascity.org/budget. You will see additional details on how city services and programs are funded. This is in an effort to produce quality financial documents.

I would also encourage you to follow the City on Facebook and/or Twitter for updates on events, programs and notices from the City so you can stay informed on what is happening in your community. This is going to be another busy year for the City of Manassas and I am pleased to be a part of a community that takes pride in our authentic history, livable neighborhoods, quality schools, healthy economy and outstanding quality of life.

Don’t Forget to Vote

It’s that time again and November 3 is quickly approaching. This November make your voice heard. Vote! The following dates are important when thinking of the November election:

- Friday, Sept. 18 - Absentee Voting Begins
- Tuesday, Oct. 13 - Last Day to Register to Vote
- Saturday, Oct. 24 - Voter Registration Office open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for Absentee Voting
- Tuesday, Oct. 27 - Last Day to Request an Absentee Ballot by mail
- Saturday, Oct. 31 - Voter Registration Office open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for Absentee Voting. *Last Day to Vote Absentee In-Person*
- Tuesday, Nov. 3 - Election Day. Polls open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Visit www.manassascity.org/vote or call (703) 257-8230 for more information.
For more information call (703) 257-8378 or visit: www.manassas.va.us/leaves

Only leaves on public streets or lawns will not be collected.
Please be advised that leaves are collected on city streets.

**Note:**

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5 tips for leaf collection:

- Place containers on Monday within your yard Warren. Do not forget that you can also set your leaves in paper yard waste bags or collection bins. Please wait until the next time your street is scheduled to be collected. Make sure you follow the collection schedule for your area. If you have missed your leaves, only be collected one time during each scheduled collection period.

- Collect them in the curb.

- Do not place your containers under the curb. Always keep your container at the curb. If you have missed your leaves, only be collected one time during each scheduled collection period.

- You can help prevent flooding in your area by not packing your leaves into the storm drains.

- Pace your leaves to the curb (not into the street). The day before leaf collection begins in your yard, Warren.

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**Fall Leaf Collection Schedule 2015-2016**
Here's what's happening in the City of Manassas during September and October.

Now - October - Thursdays and Fridays at noon - Historic Downtown walking tours
www.manassasmuseum.org

September 4, 5 – 9 p.m. - First Friday in Historic Downtown – Join us for an evening of live music in the streets.
www.visitmanassas.org

September 5, 6:30 – 8 p.m. – Summer Sounds Concert with the Prince William Community Band
www.visitmanassas.org

September 6, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Historic Downtown Manassas Bridal Showcase
- Come discover everything Historic Downtown has to offer to make your wedding the wedding of your dreams.
www.visitmanassas.org

September 8 at 10 a.m. - Pre-K Tuesday for ages 3-5 with a caretaker
www.manassasmuseum.org

September 12, 12 – 6 p.m. – Bands, Brews, and Barbecue – Come sample award winning craft beers, enjoy some of Northern VA’s best barbecue and live music all afternoon on the Manassas Museum Lawn!
www.visitmanassas.org

September 12, 7 – 11 p.m. - CASA Evening Under the Stars event - 703-330-8145

September 12 at 2 p.m. - Architectural Tour of Historic Downtown by the Manassas Museum.
www.visitmanassas.org

September 13, 12 – 4 p.m. - Dog-a-pool-ooza at Stonewall Pool
www.manassascity.org/pool

September 18 - Annual Greek Festival at the Harris Pavilion.
www.visitmanassas.com

September 19, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - A Taste of Greece and the East
www.visitmanassas.org

September 19, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. – 40th Annual Edgar Rohr Antique Car Meet
www.visitmanassas.org

September 19, 9 a.m. - Color Vibe 5K color run at the Manassas Boys & Girls Club.
www.colorvibe.com/manassas.php

September 20, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Out of the Darkness Walk at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

September 25, 5 - 9 p.m. - Bull Run Rotary Food Truck Expo
www.harrispavilion.com

September 26 at 9 a.m. - Bike Tour of the City
www.visitmanassas.org

September 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Chili Cookoff
www.visitmanassas.org

September 27, 2 – 3 p.m. - Free Book Talk – Fight Like the Devil with author Daniel Davis
www.visitmanassas.org

September 27, noon to 5 p.m. - 14th Annual Latino Festival
www.visitmanassas.org

October 2, 5 – 9 p.m. – First Friday in Historic Downtown
www.visitmanassas.org

October 3, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. – 33rd Annual Fall Jubilee in Historic Downtown
www.visitmanassas.org

October 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - City of Manassas Utilities Open House at 8500 Public Works Drive.

October 10 at 2 p.m. - Architectural Tour of Historic Downtown by the Manassas Museum.

October 11, 2 – 3p.m. – Free Book Talk – Unionists in Virginia with author Lawrence M. Denton at the Manassas Museum
www.visitmanassas.org

October 13 at 10 a.m. - Pre-K Tuesday for ages 3-5 with a caretaker
www.manassasmuseum.org

October 17, 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Walk to End Alzheimer’s at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

October 24, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Haunted Happenings in Historic Downtown – Come out dressed in your best costume for games and trick-or-treating
www.visitmanassas.org

October 24 at 9 a.m. - Bike Tour of the City
www.visitmanassas.org

October 24 at 6:30, 7, 7:30 and 8 p.m. - Spirits of Manassas Tours given by the Manassas Museum
www.visitmanassas.org

October 25 at 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk - Three Days in the Shenandoah at the Manassas Museum
www.visitmanassas.org

October 30 at 8 p.m. - Manassas Cemetery Tour
www.visitmanassas.org

Get Social!
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.