A Message from the City Manager

Every couple of years, the City of Manassas sends out a survey to a scientifically selected sample of City residents to solicit thoughts and opinions about City government programs and services. This survey is designed to get confidential feedback from a valid cross section of residents that can be used to improve existing services and to help determine future needs for the City of Manassas. The questions are also designed so that we can compare responses from Manassas residents with responses from other communities and with a national survey. Your feedback is important and we hope if you are selected to receive a survey you will complete it and send it back to the company conducting the survey - ETC Institute.

Responses from previous surveys have resulted in enhancements to the street resurfacing program; an emphasis on improvements to existing parks, culture and recreation facilities; plans for additional walking and biking trails; and an emphasis on economic development. Past survey results formed the basis for the Community Conversations topics and discussions which are being used to develop the Comprehensive Plan update and will be used by City Council in setting strategic priorities.

The results from prior surveys can be found on the City website at www.manassascity.org/css. We will publish the results of this survey on the web as well. Thank you for being engaged citizens who pay attention to and care about the future of our community. In too many communities that is just not the case. Luckily that makes us the exception and not the rule.

Conversations Give Citizens a Voice

The latest round of Community Conversations has sparked some spirited debate and inspired some innovative ideas as citizens have helped to lend a voice to the Comprehensive Plan update. Participants in conversations on planning and land use; parks and recreation; community appearance and the environment; economic development; infrastructure; and culture and historic resources have had the opportunity to voice concerns, talk about what is working well, and imagine what the City might look like in the year 2040.

It’s not too late to join the conversation! Here’s how you can participate:

• Attend the Land Use and Transportation Town Hall Meeting hosted by the City Council on September 17 at 7 p.m. at City Hall
• Schedule a neighborhood Community Conversation by calling 703-257-8223. HOAs from Baldwin Oaks, Georgetown South, Wildwood, Point of Woods East and 1 and 2 and Cannon Ridge have also scheduled Conversations for their own neighborhoods.
• Stop by a “Pop-Up” Conversation: VRE Morning Commute on September 6; the Thursday Farmer’s Market on September 13; Car Free Day at the Saturday Farmer’s Market on September 22; and at the Manassas Latino Festival on September 23.
• Visit www.letstalkmanassas.org to participate online.

The goal of the 18-month Comprehensive Plan update process is to take the pulse of the community and create a document that will guide future land use, development, recreation, preservation, and transportation policy decisions while looking ahead to the year 2040. It will also include the City’s first Transportation Master Plan, a document that will guide future transportation investments and improve mobility in the City. Visit www.manassascity.org/planmanassas for more information.
Let’s Talk Leaves

Mowing Your Leaves? Did you know that lawn care experts consider leaf-raking an “optional” exercise? As the leaves start to fall, residents begin the arduous task of raking and setting out their leaves for collection. It is worth considering an alternative that can save time, effort and money while enriching your soil. While leaving a thick layer of leaves can smother the grass, mincing or mulching them with a lawnmower can actually improve your lawn. Here are a few tips on how to mow your leaves:

• Set your blade to the highest setting
• Take a few passes over the leaves to make sure that they are cut into shreds about the size of a dime.
• If you use the collection bag on the mower, you can spread your newly mulched leaves in your flower beds and over a vegetable patch.
• Mow leaves on a weekly basis during the height of the season to avoid a build-up of leaves on the lawn.

As the mulched leaves decompose, they enhance the soil with valuable nutrients that feed the microbes and worms present in any healthy lawn. The nitrogen boost that results from mulching is such that there is no need to fertilize in the fall. This means that compared with raking, mulching leaves isn’t only easier and more lawn-friendly, but it is also less costly, saving both money and time spent on fertilizing.

Good News for the City of Manassas

Aurora Flight Sciences, a Boeing Company (Nasdaq:BA), is investing $13.75 million dollars and adding 135 new jobs with an average annual salary of $105,000 at their Manassas headquarters. Manassas is a regional employment center for companies specializing in aerospace and defense. The City has the fourth highest weekly wage rate for positions in career and technical services and the 10th highest weekly wage rate overall in Virginia. More than 20,000 people commute into Manassas each day for jobs at major businesses like BAE, Lockheed, Novant Health/UVA Health Systems and Micron.

The City’s current unemployment rate is 2.5%, well below the State and National averages. In the recent press release by Governor Ralph Northam, Mayor Harry J Parrish II said “Aurora is a vital part of the Manassas business community and exemplifies everything a locality wants from its corporate partners – steady growth, community engagement, and great jobs”.

New Medic Unit In-Service

On Monday Sept. 3, 2018, the City of Manassas Fire and Rescue Department is putting their second 24-hour medic unit in-service at the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company (Station 501). Currently, 70 percent of all 9-1-1 emergencies for Fire and Rescue are related to emergency medical services (EMS) incidents. This newly staffed 24-hour medic unit provides additional needed EMS coverage to the City. The required positions for this new initiative were approved in May by City Council and included two additional Firefighter/Medics and three Firefighter/EMT upgrades.

Voter Information

On Tuesday, November 6, there will be a general election where citizens will decide midterm elections to include: U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives 10th District, City Council and City School Board seats. There will also be a Constitutional Amendment that you can read at www.elections.virginia.gov.

The following are important dates to remember for the November election:
• The Voter Registration office will be open for “In-Person” Absentee Voting Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning Friday, Sept. 21 and two Saturdays before the Election, Oct. 27 and Nov. 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
• Extended hours for “In-Person” Absentee Voting are Wednesday–Friday, 10/24 – 10/26 & Thursday–Friday 11/1 & 2, 8:30 a.m. – 9 p.m. at the Voter Registration office.
• Last day to request an Absentee Ballot by mail is Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2018 by 5 p.m.
• Final “In-Person” Absentee Voting is Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018.
• The last day to register to vote in the Nov. 6, 2018 General Election will be Monday, Oct. 15, 2018 at 5 p.m., online 11:59 p.m.
For more information call (703) 257-8378 or visit: www.manassascity.org/Trash

Leaves on private streets or lanes will not be collected. Please be advised that leaves are collected on city streets only.

Note:

5 Tips for Leaf Collection:

**FALL LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE 2018-2019**
The City of Manassas Happenings

Here’s what’s happening in the City of Manassas:

Now - October - Free Historic Downtown Walking Tours, Saturdays at 3 p.m. www.visitmanassas.org

Now - October - Museum at the Market - Saturdays during the Farmer’s Market www.manassasmuseum.org

Sept. 4, 7 - 9 p.m. - Community Conversations – Culture & Historic Resources @Manassas Museum, 9101 Prince William Street www.manassascity.org/planmanassas

Sept. 6 - Community Conversations Pop Up event at the Train Depot - greeting early morning commuters. www.manassascity.org/planmanassas

Sept. 7, 7-45 p.m. - Movie on the lawn with Baldwin PTO – Despicable Me www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 8, 12 - 6 p.m. - Bands, Brews & BBQ www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 8, 8 a.m. - noon - Preparedness Fun Fair @ Farmer’s Market www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 8, 7 p.m. - Manassas Ballet Theatre’s 2018/19 Season Kickoff. Contact Christina@manassasballet.org for information. www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 9, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk - The Maps of Fredericksburg www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 9, 2 - 4 p.m. - Out of the Darkness Walk www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 11, 7 p.m. - Community Conversations at Georgetown South Community Center www.manassascity.org/planmanassas

Sept. 12, 3 p.m. - Stories of Preservation and Progress Speaker Series: Potpourri www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 13 - Community Conversations pop up at the Farmer’s Market www.manassascity.org/planmanassas

Sept. 14-16, 4 - 9 p.m. - 15th Annual International Food Festival www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 15, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - 43rd Annual Edgar Rohr Car Meet www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 17, 7 p.m. - Community Conversation Town Hall hosted by the Manassas City Council www.manassascity.org/planmanassas

Sept. 17 - 23 - Fall Restaurant Week www.manassascity.org

Sept. 21 - Absentee Voting for November General Election begins www.manassascity.org/vote

Sept. 21 & 22 - Car Free Day - Stop by our pop up park on Friday on West Street and on Saturday at the Farmer’s Market. www.manassascity.org/planmanassas

Sept. 22, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Cystic Fibrosis Great Stride Walk www.visitmanassas.org


Sept. 23, 12 - 5:30 p.m. - Annual Latino Festival www.visitmanassas.org

Sept. 23, 11 a.m. - Cache in Trash Out park clean up at Mayfield Fort www.manassascity.org/leisure

Sept. 23, 11 a.m. - Community Conversation Pop up @Latino Festival www.manassascity.org/planmanassas

Sept. 29, 12 - 5 p.m. - Manassas Steins, Wines & Spirits Festival www.visitmanassas.org

Oct. 6, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. - 36th Annual Fall Jubilee - over 100 vendors, crafts and great gift items. www.visitmanassas.org

Oct. 6, 8 a.m. - noon - Household Hazardous Waste and eWaste Drop Off @Manassas Transfer Station www.manassascity.org/trash

Oct. 10, 3 p.m. - Stories of Preservation & Progress Speakers series www.visitmanassas.org

Oct. 18 - 21 - B17 Aluminum Overcast Aircraft at the Manassas Regional Airport for rides and tours www.B17.org

Oct. 19, 8 p.m. - Cemetery Tour www.visitmanassas.org

Oct. 19 - 21 - Dracula performed by the Manassas Ballet Theatre. www.visitmanassas.org

Oct. 20 at 6 p.m. - 6th Annual Hangar Dance and Dinner at the Manassas Regional Airport www.visitmanassas.org

Oct. 20, 8:30 a.m. - Alzheimer’s Awareness 5K www.visitmanassas.org

Oct. 20, 10:00 a.m. to noon - Haunted Happenings www.visitmanassas.org

Oct. 21, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk - To Hazard All: A Guide to the Maryland Campaign, 1862 www.visitmanassas.org

Oct. 25, 7 p.m. - Community Conversation with Point of Woods East HOA @Public Works www.manassascity.org/planmanassas

Oct. 25, 7 p.m. - Community Conversation with Wildwood HOA in City Hall www.manassascity.org/planmanassas

Oct. 27, 6, 7, and 8 p.m. - Spirits of Liberia Tours www.visitmanassas.org

Oct. 29, 7 p.m. - Community Conversation with Point of Woods 1 & 2 HOA @Public Works www.manassascity.org/planmanassas

Nov. 3, 11 a.m. - 10th Annual Veterans Day Parade www.visitmanassas.org

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

City of Manassas Council

Mayor Harry J. Parrish II 703-257-8213
Vice Mayor Sheryl L. Bass 703-314-4278
Marc T. Aveni 703-795-9651
Ken D. Elston 571-377-8817
Ian T. Lovejoy 703-828-7592
Pamela J. Sebesky 571-330-5514
Mark D. Wolfe 703-257-1702

City of Manassas School Board

Chairman Sanford S. Williams 571-535-6364
Vice Chair Kristen Kiefer 571-606-0285
Scott M. Albrecht 571-606-1129
Tim Demeria 703-895-4856
Peter O’Hanlon 571-535-0652
Suzanne W. Seaberg 703-869-1171
Robyn Williams 571-535-7510

Visit the City at www.manassascity.org.

Get Social!
Visit the City at www.manassascity.org.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas

Twitter: www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas

Flickr: 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@manassasva.gov