Can you believe it’s 2019? I guess that means it is time to set our New Year’s resolutions again and hopefully I will exercise more, eat less and work to reduce my stress. (At least that is what I told my doctor!)

Towards the end of 2018 the City of Manassas completed its third community survey which was conducted independently by ETC Institute. This survey assesses satisfaction with the delivery of major City services and helps determine priorities for the community. Over 1,400 randomly selected households have participated in these statistically valid random surveys to give the City thoughts on City services. These completed surveys provide a great deal of valuable information on your priorities and shows your desire for Manassas to continue being a great place to live, work and play.

Consistent between each survey has been the ranking of “flow of traffic and ease of getting around” as the top priority, and this year it was rated as a very high priority for emphasis over the next two years. The City budget has reflected this priority over the past several years with additional funds allocated for road improvements along major corridors such as Liberia Avenue and Nokesville Road, additional funds to support public transportation through PRTC and VRE, and more emphasis on maintenance and resurfacing of City streets. We will be implementing a new traffic signal timing system over the next few months and are looking at other alternatives such as traffic circles to improve traffic flow.

Quality of public education and quality of economic development were also selected by respondents as high priorities for emphasis. Since the first survey was completed in 2014, City Council has increased local funding for schools by over $7 million from $49.9 million to over $57 million.

In economic development, the City has established an Economic Development Department and has seen, not only the single largest investment in the history of Virginia in the Micron expansion ($3 billion investment and 1,100 new jobs), but also a significant expansion at Aurora Flight Sciences/Boeing and completion of the master plan for development of The Landing at Cannon Branch.

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Service areas that received very high satisfaction ratings were Fire and Rescue, Police, Electric Utilities, Trash & Recycling, Water and Sewer Utilities and Special Events. More than 80% of responses gave high ratings to the City “as a place to live” and almost 90% of respondents felt safe in the City. Interestingly, a substantial number of respondents were also interested in seeing increased services in Education, Police, Streets and Traffic, as well as Fire and Rescue.

One of the key areas of information that we gain from this survey is how the City of Manassas compares with jurisdictions across the country in specific service areas. Out of the 65 areas that were compared, the City rated above the U.S. average in 50 areas. The City exceeded averages by the highest amounts in the areas of quality of customer service residents receive, maintenance of streets, sidewalks & infrastructure, reliability of water services and quality of City services. The areas that were the farthest below national averages were the City as a place to retire and availability of walking/biking trails.

This survey helps us to understand which services are doing well and we should therefore keep up the good work, and where we are perhaps a bit lacking and should focus more attention in the years to come. For most questions we also have the ability to look at the survey results in color-coded maps that show citizen satisfaction results by category, question and area of the City. This helps us identify specific areas where we may need to focus our efforts to better serve our citizens such as the map that shows a desire for more walking/biking trails near Stonewall Park.

If you are interested in looking into more of the details of the City of Manassas Citizen Satisfaction Survey results, they are posted on the City website at www.manassascity.org/CSS.

Thank you to each respondent for participating and helping the city set priorities for the future. This will help us in setting the City’s “New Year’s Resolutions!”

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**Winter Driving Tips from the Manassas City Police Department**

During the winter months drivers may find themselves traveling in some tricky weather conditions. Ice and snow can make driving, not only difficult, but dangerous. The Manassas City Police Department wants to encourage drivers to follow these simple winter driving tips to arrive safely this winter:

- During severe weather, limit your time on the road. If you have to travel in winter conditions, plan for extra time.
- Have your car serviced on schedule to avoid any breakdowns during winter weather conditions.
- Know how your car handles on wet, icy or snowy roadways.
- Consider carrying a snow shovel and ice scraper in your vehicle.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on wet or slippery surfaces.
- Make sure your tires are properly inflated.
- Never warm-up your vehicle in an enclosed space.
- ALWAYS buckle-up when operating your vehicle.

The Manassas City Police Department wishes you a safe winter season! Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for more safety and crime prevention tips.
What Happens When it Snows?

The weather in 2018 was, well, unpredictable at best. The forecasters are predicting a cold winter with some snow on the way. Do you know the snow emergency routes in the City of Manassas? A few more have been added this year and you can find them at www.manassascity.org/snowmap.

Clearing Snow From Your Driveway

Snow shoveling isn't fun, but it's often unavoidable. In areas where snow is no stranger, it's ill-advised to allow even the most meager snowfall to go unshoveled in your driveway. Chances are that it is likely to melt and refreeze. The resulting sheet of ice becomes a slipping hazard. Here are some helpful tips to make your “snow day” safer:

• Warm up before you start! Shoveling snow is pretty strenuous exercise. Take time to stretch and take breaks to prevent injury.
• Prepare your tools. Put some Pam cooking spray, car wax or floor wax on your shovel. It makes the job of shoveling easier.
• Shovel snow in layers skimming the snow as you go. Make sure that you bend your knees and periodically change your grip to give your hands, arms, shoulders and back some balance during your snow shovel workout.
• Clear a path to your car first.
• Do not shovel snow into the street. Snow plows will only push the snow back into your driveway during clearing and compact the snow making it harder to move.

Handling Trash and Recycling When it Snows

Snow and bad weather can make setting out your trash and recycling difficult and even hazardous to your health. Here are a few tips to make your winter trash and recycling collection easier:

• Trash and recycling collection may be postponed or delayed when road conditions are poor. Check the City of Manassas government channel, website, Facebook page or call the Trashline at (703) 257-8252.
• Make your container easy to see. Set your trash out in hard sided containers with tight fitting lids, preferably the City trash and recycling containers.
• Think before you set out bulk waste. Setting out large items in bad weather can be dangerous for you and for the crew. Please call ahead to schedule bulk waste collection.
• Report damaged carts and/or bins. Freezing cold weather can be hard on plastic containers causing them to shatter and break. Call the Trashline at (703) 257-8252 as soon as you see damage and we will replace your container on the next scheduled delivery day.
• Please have patience. Our aim is to collect your trash and recycling in a timely manner. Our contractor

When Snow Falls

It’s our joint responsibility to keep each other safe this winter. Please remember as the weather turns colder and snowflakes begin to fly that all residences and businesses are required to clear adjacent sidewalks.

IF IT SNOWS 6 INCHES OR LESS
Clear sidewalks adjacent to your property within 24 hours after the snow stops falling.

IF IT SNOWS MORE THAN 6 INCHES
Clear sidewalks adjacent to your property within 48 hours after the snow stops falling.

IF ICE CANNOT BE REMOVED FROM A SIDEWALK
It should be covered with sand or other material that will make it safe for pedestrians.

IF A PROPERTY IS NOT OCCUPIED
The owner is responsible for removing snow or ice.

Please make every effort to ensure that our neighborhood children and all our pedestrians do not have to walk in a roadway or on a slippery sidewalk.

Our contractor will be checking the safety of road conditions all night before they postpone or cancel service. Sometimes a storm may not be as bad as it seems and collections will follow a regular schedule. We will let you know as soon as there are any changes.
The City of Manassas Happenings

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

Now through February 2019 - Ice Skating at the Harris Pavilion
www.harrispavilion.com
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Now - Feb. 24 - New Exhibit: True Sons of Freedom - at the Manassas Museum - See the Library of Virginia photographic exhibit that features images of African American soldiers from Virginia who served in World War I.
www.visitmanassas.org
❖❖❖

Jan. 6, 3:30 - 6 p.m. - Sunday Ballroom Dance @Center for the Arts
www.visitmanassas.org
❖❖❖

Jan. 9 at 3 p.m. - Stories of Preservation and Progress
www.visitmanassas.org
❖❖❖

Jan. 12 & Jan. 13 - Newsies, the Broadway Musical produced by Pied Piper Theatre
www.visitmanassas.org
❖❖❖

Jan. 13, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk - Witness to Peace & Strife - The History of Ben Lomond in Manassas
www.visitmanassas.org
❖❖❖

Jan. 27, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk - Kentucky Barracuda - Parker Hardin French by Joe Goodbody
www.visitmanassas.org
❖❖❖

Feb. 1, 6-9 p.m. - First Friday Souper Bowl - taste soups at our stores and vote for your favorite.
www.visitmanassas.org
❖❖❖

Feb. 8, 9, 15 & 16 - Murder on the Menu at the Center for the Arts
www.visitmanassas.org
❖❖❖

Feb. 1, 6 - 9 p.m. - Souper Bowl

April 14 - 20 - Hop Around Downtown

April 26 - 28 - One Love Manassas

June 1, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Annual Manassas Railway Festival

June 15, 12 p.m. - 7 p.m. - Manassas Jazz Festival

July 4, 3 p.m. - 10 p.m. - Celebrate America

September 7, 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. - Bands, Brews & BBQ

October 5, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Fall Jubilee

October 26, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. - Haunted Happenings.

Nov. 1, 6 - 9 p.m. - Fall Gallery Walk

Dec. 6, 6 - 9 p.m. - Jolly Ol’ Confections & Merry Old Town

Dec. 6, 5 - 9 p.m. - Santa Lights Manassas

Dec. 7, 10 a.m. - 74th Annual Greater Manassas Christmas Parade

And, don’t forget First Fridays every month except January.

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

www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas

www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas

www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas

www.instagram.com/cityofmanassas

www.youtube.com/user/manassascityva

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