Officer of the Year

During National Police Week each year, the Rotary Club of Manassas hosts a lunch in recognition of the Manassas City Police Department’s Employee of the Year. This year Detective Andrew Speights has been named MCPD Officer of the Year.

Detective Speights has just concluded a nearly four-year assignment to the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force. During that time, he has developed a reputation for being a “walking encyclopedia” of gang knowledge and has been recognized for having a strong work ethic. Some of his accomplishments over the previous year include preventing several gang related homicides, assisting MCPD and other departments with solving several homicide investigations, being an integral investigator in numerous state and federal conspiracy cases and appearing in a Netflix documentary as an expert on gangs.

Andrew has received recognition from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the Prince William Chamber of Commerce, MCPD and several other agencies around the region. In fact, as the Chair Person for the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force, other member agency chiefs personally shared with Chief Keen their appreciation of his professionalism, work ethic and commitment to investigating gang-related cases, not only in Manassas, but in their jurisdictions.

For his efforts on the Gang Task Force, Detective Andrew Speights is the recipient of the John Conner Memorial Award.

A Little History

In 1962 President John F. Kennedy designated Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15 and the week in which it falls as National Police Week. Approximately 40,000 people attended one of the many events honoring our fallen officers during this time.

On average there are 15,000 assaults on officers that result in injuries each year and a police officer is killed in the United States every 63 hours. In 2018 there were 158 officers killed in the line of duty. July 24, 2019 marks 31 years since the violent murder of Sergeant John Conner of the Manassas City Police Department. Sergeant Conner’s death changed the face of this community and the direction of the Police Department. Our residents lined the streets to pay their last respects to Sergeant Conner. Today, the City honors Sergeant Conner and the sacrifices he and his family have made by naming a scholarship foundation after him.
A Message from the City Manager

Does it seem to you that we have a lot of things going on around the City, in particular new construction? Recent reports to City Council on economic development and City development and construction show that there really is a lot going on in the City.

Our Economic Development Director likes to claim that the new official bird around the Nokesville/Godwin corridor is the “crane” due to their prominence on the Micron expansion site. I hope that by now everyone is aware of the $3 billion capital investment and 1,100 new jobs that have been announced as the largest capital investment in Virginia history. Micron is already the Commonwealth’s largest exporter and the expansion will increase their exports by $1 billion annually. They are also the City’s largest employer, taxpayer and utility customer and this expansion solidifies the company’s future in Manassas. In addition, you will see road improvements in this corridor around Route 28 including new bike and pedestrian paths.

The Landing at Cannon Branch off Gateway Boulevard has also had a lot of activity during the past year with more to come. More than a third of the 274 luxury condos and townhomes have been completed with more than 100 of the units sold. On the commercial side of the development, a 20,000 square foot retail/office building is under construction and site plans have been approved for a 98 room, four floor Tru by Hilton hotel. Transportation enhancements for pedestrians and bikes will also be coming to this area.

The Manassas Regional Airport plays a major role in the economic prosperity of our community as the busiest general aviation airport in the Commonwealth. In addition, Aurora Flight Sciences has announced a $13.75 million building expansion with 135 new jobs. The relocation of parking on Wakeman Drive has been completed, so the building expansion can now begin. Chantilly Air recently held the groundbreaking for a $13 million, 90,000 square foot facility for jet operations and fueling in the southern portion of the airport. APP Jet Center has announced plans for renovation and improvements to 65,000 square feet of aircraft hangar storage and associated offices.

Driving through the Wellington and Dumfries Road areas you will see new residential infill houses, the expansion of Grace United Methodist Church, the Goddard School, a new 10,000 square foot daycare center, and eight units of Hasting Marketplace underway or recently completed. Site and building plan review is underway for the new Fire and Rescue Station #21 on Dumfries Road with a projected groundbreaking this summer. There will also be a new dog park at Dean Park along with enhancements to the Manassas Industrial School/Jennie Dean Memorial site to include a bronze statue of Jennie Dean. Utilities will also be lining the peak shaving pond in this area and building additional water storage capacity at the Dean Drive utility site.

Near or in the Historic Downtown you will find renovations and conversions like Battle Street Bistro changing from office use to restaurant, the recent completion of Crossroads Tabletop Tavern, Loveless Porter Architects’ renovation of 9000 Center Street for office use, Galaxy Cloud renovation in the Post Office building, home restorations on Liberty Street and a new antique store planned on Center Street. Manassas Station on Prince William Street opened 105 upscale one- and two-bedroom units in 2018. Messenger Place on Center Street will be completed very shortly. This is a 94-unit luxury apartment building in the heart of Downtown. Plans for the new Public Safety Center on Grant Avenue are also moving towards completion along with street improvements to Prince William Street and Grant Avenue. Stabilization work will begin this summer on Annaburg Manor as a master plan is being developed to convert this property to our newest City Park.

Indeed there are lots of things going on in Manassas.

I would like to take a moment this month to recognize Ron King, our Social Services Director, who will be retiring from the City at the end of this month. Ron has been serving communities in Virginia for over 30 years including the last nine years as Social Service Director for the City of Manassas. He has served on a variety of local boards and as liaison from the City to many of our non-profit human service agencies. I have appreciated Ron’s understanding of and compassion for the citizens who need his department’s services and for his uncompromising willingness to fight for individuals, like foster children, who otherwise may not have a voice. I wish him, and his wife Pat, joy and happiness as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

As you are planning your summer activities, I hope you will remember to check out events happening in the City by going to www.visitmanassas.org and by texting the word GoManassas to 888-777 to receive text messages and reminders of upcoming events. There is always a calendar included on the back page of City Connection and you can sign up at www.manassascity.org/notifyme to get this publication as soon as it becomes available online each month.

As is our summer tradition in Manassas, we will showcase the best 4th of July celebration in Northern Virginia, our 2019 Celebrate America event. If you are in town this is a celebration that should not be missed. Have a wonderful summer!
RecycleFest

RecycleFest has become a pretty big event for our community. On May 4, our spring event was attended by 451 residents in just 4 hours! But what you may not know is that we also keep statistics for shredding; 246 cars brought in material for shredding.

These fantastic residents helped us save:
- 102 Trees
- 19.8 Cubic Yards of Landfill Space
- 2160 Gallons of Water
- 360 Pounds of Pollutants
- 62,400 Kilowatts of Electricity

Many thanks to all who participated in RecycleFest! Join us for our next shredding event on Saturday, Aug. 3. For more information visit: www.manassascity.org/trash.

Residents Keep Manassas Beautiful!

Keep Manassas Beautiful would like to thank all of the volunteers who participated in the Great American Cleanup. More than 100 volunteers participated in 21 cleanups throughout the City of Manassas collecting more than 1,100 pounds of trash. Keeping our community clean and beautiful is something that everyone can do! Visit www.manassascity.org/kmb for more information or call (703) 257-8256.

Safety Note

With warmer months upon us, more pedestrians will be out enjoying the weather, participating in City events, and exploring everything the City of Manassas has to offer. Help the Manassas City Police Department keep all pedestrians and motorists safe by following these important safety tips.

Pedestrian Safety Tips:
- Pedestrians should always use sidewalks and only cross at marked crosswalks.
- Use and obey all walk/don’t walk traffic signals.
- Stand clear of parked cars, bushes, and other obstacles so drivers can see you attempting to cross the street.
- When walking/running at night try to wear bright colored or reflective clothing.
- Stay alert for traffic and turning vehicles.

Driver Tips:
- Always yield to pedestrians crossing the roadway and obey the posted speed limit.
- Be cautious passing stopped vehicles as they may be stopped for crossing pedestrians.
- Stay off the phone and always watch for pedestrian traffic!

Lastly, there are many events in the Historic Downtown area that result in road closures and these events bring many pedestrians to the area. Always follow the directions of officers and be on the lookout for the bollards and signs signaling road closures.

LET'S PLAN MANASSAS

Comprehensive Plan Update
VISION SUMMIT
JUNE 26
7 PM @ BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
9501 Dean Drive
The City of Manassas Happenings

Find these events and more at www.visitmanassas.org. Here’s what’s happening in the City of Manassas:

Through September 15 - New exhibit at the Manassas Museum - Expanding Boundaries: Celebrating Traditions, Shaping the Future

Now - Fall - Saturday Farmer’s Market runs through the fall at the VRE parking lot across from Baldwin Elementary/Intermediate

Now - September - Liberia House Tours the 4th Saturday of the month - visit manassaschoes.com for tickets

Through October - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Museum at the Market hands-on activities for the whole family.

Through November - First Saturday of the month - Downtown Walking Tours by the Manassas Museum

Now - June 28 - Array of Light - art from the Center’s instructors - on exhibit at the Center for the Arts

June 4, 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday at the Harris Pavilion - The Bone Show - Classic Rock tunes

June 7, 6 - 9 p.m. - First Friday - Battle of the Bands

June 7, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. -- Hispanic Culture Day on the Museum Lawn

June 8, 8 a.m. - Team Hope Walk - 5K to fight Huntington’s Disease

June 9, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk at the Manassas Museum - The Secret Token: Myth, Obsession, and the Search for the Lost Colony of Roanoke

June 9, 3 - 4:30 p.m. - Summer Sundaes - concert and ice cream with the Kings Park Concert Band at the Harris Pavilion

June 11, 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday at the Harris Pavilion with Shane Hines

June 12, 3 p.m. - Stories of Preservation and Progress at the Manassas Museum

June 15, noon - 7 p.m. - Manassas Jazz Festival on the lawn of the Manassas Museum - check out the VIP tent

June 15, 8 p.m. - Saturday Night Concert & Adult Dance at the Harris Pavilion to Beatlemania Again

June 18, 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday at the Harris Pavilion with Haley Fahey

June 21, at dusk - Movie Night on the Manassas Museum Lawn - Space Jam

June 22, 8 p.m. - Saturday Night Concert & Adult Dance at the Harris Pavilion to Special Occasions

June 23, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk - Louisa on the Front Lines at Manassas Museum

June 23, 3 - 4:30 p.m. - Summer Sundaes - concert and ice cream with the Nighthawk Swing Band at the Harris Pavilion

June 25, 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday at the Harris Pavilion with Shane Gamble

June 26, 7 p.m. - Comprehensive Plan Update Community Meeting - www.manassascity.org/planmanassas

June 27 at noon - Lunch & Learn at CenterFuse - The Weir family history

June 30, 3 - 4:30 p.m. - Summer Sundaes - concert and ice cream to the Prince William Community Band at the Harris Pavilion

July/August - Manassas Ballet Academy’s Summer Intensives

15th Annual Manassas Jazz Festival
June 15 @ 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm | $25 – $430

Now - June 9, 3 - 4:30 p.m. - Summer Sundaes - concert and ice cream with the Prince William Community Band at the Harris Pavilion

June 10, 3 p.m. - Stories of Preservation and Progress at the Manassas Museum

Now - June 13, 8 a.m. - noon - Household Hazardous Waste & eWaste Drop Off @ Manassas Transfer Station

Now - June 13, 8 p.m. - Saturday Night Adult Dance with the Classic Spotlight Band at the Harris Pavilion

June 16, 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday at the Harris Pavilion with Timmie Metz

June 16, 6:30 p.m. - Summer Sounds Concert with Shenandoah Run at the Harris Pavilion

July 21, 3 p.m. - Summer Sundaes Concert & ice cream with St. Thom Cats Swing Band at the Harris Pavilion

July 23, 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday at the Harris Pavilion with Shane Gamble

July 25 at noon - Lunch & Learn at CenterFuse - George Round

July 26, at dusk - Movie Night on the Manassas Museum Lawn - How to Train your Dragon

July 28, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk at the Manassas Museum - Lee After Gettysburg

July 28, 3 p.m. - Summer Sundaes - concert and ice cream to Mars Rodeo under the Harris Pavilion

July 30, 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday at the Harris Pavilion with Shawn Owen

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

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

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Michelle Davis-Younger 571-206-8433
Theresa Coates Ellis 571-247-6729
Ian T. Lovejoy 703-828-7592
Pamela J. Sebesky 571-330-5514
Mark D. Wolfe 703-257-1702

Manassas Ballet Academy’s Summer Intensives

https://manassasballet.org

City of Manassas School Board
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