Commissioner of the Revenue’s Office Accredited

Commissioner of the Revenue Douglas Waldron and his office have recently been honored at the 100th Annual Conference of the Commissioners of the Revenue Association of Virginia by becoming one of the first localities in the Commonwealth to achieve office accreditation.

Accreditation is awarded only to offices that have met the rigorous standards set forth by the Commissioners’ Association. These twelve standards include: education requirements for the Commissioner and staff; customer service; personnel and ethics policies; and assessment methodology. Each office receiving accreditation has undergone an audit to ensure compliance and will be required to annually demonstrate that they continue to meet these standards.

“Commissioner Waldron has demonstrated a commitment to the City of Manassas and to good governance. This is an honor that was earned through hard work and leadership. It signifies that the City of Manassas’ Commissioner of the Revenue office has met the highest standards of professionalism as set forth by the Commissioners of the Revenue Association of Virginia,” stated Thomas Blackwell, President of the Association.

Blackwell further added, “The Commissioners of the Revenue Association of Virginia has always been at the forefront in seeking to improve professional skills and overall performance for the good of the Commonwealth and its localities. In this, our centennial year, commissioners from around the state have worked to attain Office Accreditation in order to ensure greater accountability and increased uniformity with respect to office procedures for all our taxpayers.”

Election Officers Wanted

Do you want to help out on Election Day, Nov. 5? The City of Manassas Registrar’s Office is looking for Election Officials for the November election. If you are a qualified voter in Virginia, do not hold political office and are not related to or employed by an elected official, you can sign up. You will be paid for training and your time on Election Day. Visit www.manassascity.org/vote.
A Message from the City Manager

The City of Manassas is an independent city in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This means that the City provides local government services required or desired by our citizens. Most core services, like Police, Fire and Rescue, Public Parks, Public Works, Social Services, Utilities, and Administrative Services are provided by the City. Some services are provided by a contractor, such as garbage collection and street resurfacing. Joint arrangements with other localities provide services such as public health, senior services, jails, courts and libraries.

Library service has been a recent topic of conversation. The current agreement between the cities of Manassas, Manassas Park and Prince William County will expire on June 30, 2020. The original agreement that was approved by the County and the City was changed in 2015 after Prince William County decided to build two new libraries in Haymarket/Gainesville and Montclair. The 2015 agreement took out the funding of these new libraries for the cities as they had no role in their planning or expectation that those libraries would see a great deal of use from City residents. The 2015 agreement stipulated that the parties would look to upgrade Central Library or provide libraries within the two cities where no system libraries currently exist. Central Library is one of the oldest libraries in the system. The Library Board had made replacement of this library a priority for the system. Yet, no plans or funding beyond some minor alterations are in place for this to happen.

Since we are coming to the end of the current agreement, the three locations are discussing how to best provide library services in each of our communities. For the City of Manassas, we are looking at the citizen satisfaction survey trends related to library services, the number of citizens who are using the Prince William Library System and the costs that we are paying as a member of this system. Our discussions have focused on how to provide the best library services to Manassas residents within the funds that are currently allocated.

The City of Manassas has actually been studying ways to improve access to library services for City residents for many years. Convenient access to library services is shown to improve literacy and educational attainment, provide access to opportunities for job seekers and new business entrepreneurs, allows for collaboration that boosts the local economy, and provides a free welcoming space for community members. These are a few of the ways that a local library serves the community and would be beneficial to City residents.

The City of Manassas pays about $1.4 million for library services based on the current agreement. This per capita bill represents about 8.11% of the net costs of the Prince William Library System. City of Manassas residents primarily use Central and Bull Run Libraries for services. These are the two libraries closest to the City. Only 27% of the circulation of materials at Central Library and 9% of the circulation of materials at Bull Run Library are attributed to Manassas City residents. A recent report shows 4.63% of materials circulation being attributed to Manassas residents with about 45% of Manassas residents having library cards. With 70% of county residents having library cards, this means that we are paying more per user than our partners in the library system.

If you use the library, I also want to make sure that you are aware of one other significant benefit that we enjoy. As members of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), we are a part of a shared use agreement that allows access to other regional library systems. Since many people in this area live and work in different locations across the region, you can get a library card from more than one place in the region. This will also be the case if a decision is made to create a Manassas Library separate from the current library system.

When the City studies the options for providing library services, we consider resident accessibility, satisfaction with services and overall costs. Current discussions are focused on enhancing library services by maintaining a partnership that allows for new libraries in the two cities in addition to the current libraries. Folks who use the Prince William Library System, including me, appreciate the services that are being provided and the help that we receive from the Library System staff. I am confident that they are also supportive of enhancing library services.

Nothing has been decided at this point. Staff will have information available for City Council to set a policy direction on providing library services in the next several months. In preparing for the next budget, City Council is looking not only at the users of the current library resources, but how to provide services that will be better for the entire community. More information is available on the City website at www.manassascity.org.
Halloween Safety

Halloween is quickly approaching and the Manassas City Police Department is encouraging parents to follow these safety tips to ensure a safe and fun Halloween in the City of Manassas:

• Arrange for costumes to be bright and reflective. Reflective tape can be a cost-effective and easy way to make costumes more visible.
• Avoid hats, wigs and masks that can obscure vision.
• Young trick-or-treaters should always be accompanied by a responsible adult.
• Try to trick-or-treat on well-lit streets with sidewalks and only cross streets at corners, traffic signals and crosswalks.
• Only visit homes that have a porchlight on and never enter the home of someone you don't know.
• For drivers, please be extra aware of pedestrians and children on Halloween. Reduce speed and keep an eye out for pedestrians!

Don't forget to stop by our trunk or treat displays at Haunted Happenings to pick up candy and high-visibility safety Halloween trick-or-treat bags for kids. The Manassas City Police Department wishes everyone a safe and spooktacular Halloween this year!

Recycling News

Recycling Your Plastics

The City gets a lot of questions about what plastics to recycle. Everyone wants to get it right – but it can be a bit confusing. We've put together a flyer and a webpage that will help you make sense of it all and help you get your recycling right. Visit www.manassascity.org/trash, stop in to Customer Service or call (703) 257-8256 for more information.

Keep Manassas Beautiful Litter Bags

Did you know that 75% of all litter on our roads comes from cars and pedestrians? A behavioral study undertaken by Keep America Beautiful tells us that those who throw - know exactly what they are doing.

Keep Manassas Beautiful volunteers work hard to help keep Manassas clean and beautiful. In 2018, your friends and neighbors collected more than a ton of litter from our streets and now you can help too!

We are offering free litter bags for your car. Fill them with your litter, empty them and fill them again. Visit www.manassascity.org/kmb or call (703) 257-8256 for more information.

Drop by and Drop off - RecycleFest

Saturday, Nov. 2, 8 a.m. - Noon

Don't miss the biggest community drop-off day of the year! Join us for our 5th Fall RecycleFest, Sat., Nov. 2, 2019, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Manassas Transfer Station at 8305 Quarry Road in Manassas.

Drop off your antifreeze, fertilizers, gasoline, glues, motor oil, paint, swimming pool chemicals, cell phones, TVs, computers, scanners, small copiers, game consoles, monitors and personal documents for shredding (4 box limit.)

Our special guest is the City of Manassas Animal Adoption Center. Support our furry friends by dropping off your gently used clothing, accessories and household goods. Many thanks to Savers™ for their help by donating part of the proceeds from sales to the City of Manassas Animal Adoption Center. Proof of residency is required to enter and no commercial waste will be accepted.

For more information visit www.manassascity.org/recyclefest or call (703) 257-8256.

Adopt-a Volunteers Needed

There are 530 streets in the City of Manassas and there's a very good chance that one of them is yours! When you adopt-a-street, you join your friends and neighbors in helping to keep our streets clean and beautiful. Volunteering has its rewards… apart from the health benefits you will get from walking, you will receive a vest, gloves, a litter picker and collection bags to help you get started. We will also put up a cool sign with your name on it as a thank you for being a valuable part of the Adopt-a-program.

Learn more about adopting your street at www.manassascity.org/kmb.

When emptying your pool this fall, please remember that the storm drain is only for rain collection. State and federal laws prohibit anyone from draining swimming pools into the stormwater drainage system. This means inlets, culverts, streams, ponds and roadside ditches are not the place to drain your pool.

Chlorinated pool water and pool cleaning products can harm aquatic life and degrade stream banks. Find out more at www.manassascity.gov/stormwater.
The City of Manassas Happenings

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

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

Through October 12 - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Museum at the Market - hands-on activities for the whole family.

Through November 2 - First Saturday of the month - Downtown Walking Tours by the Manassas Museum

Oct. 5, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Manassas Fall Jubilee in Historic Downtown Manassas.

Oct. 5, 8 a.m. - noon - Household Hazardous and eWaste Dropoff at the Manassas Transfer Station

Oct. 5 - Feb. 25 - New Exhibit Opens at the Manassas Museum - Native Legacy: The Patawomeck Indians of Virginia

Oct. 9, 3 p.m. - Stories of Preservation and Progress at the Manassas Museum

Oct. 11, 8 p.m. - Cemetery Tour at the Manassas Cemetery

Oct. 11-13 - Central Library Book Sale

Oct. 12, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Utilities Open House - 8500 Public Works Drive

Oct. 17, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Novant Health (Prince William) Auxiliary’s Dillard’s from Stony Point - name brand handbags, jewelry, perfume and more

Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m. - Jazz in Motion by the Manassas Ballet at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

Oct. 19, 8:30 a.m. - Walk to End Alzheimer’s begins at Harris Pavilion

Oct. 19, 12 - 2 p.m. - Kinsley Mill Park Ribbon Cutting - 10523 Hastings Drive

Oct. 20, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk with author Craig Gralely - Hall of Mirrors - Virginia Hall: America’s Great Spy of WWII

Oct. 20, 12 - 5 p.m. - Parks and Recreation Information Day at the Harris Pavilion

Oct. 25 - 27, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. - B-17 Bomber “Aluminum Overcast” at the Manassas Regional Airport

Oct. 25 & 26, 6:00 p.m. - Monster Mash Murders at Center for the Arts

Oct. 26, 10 a.m. - Haunted Happenings - Enjoy games and activities at the Harris Pavilion and trick-or-treating with Downtown merchants

Oct. 26, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Holiday Crafts, Desserts & Sweets at the Manassas Museum

Oct. 26, 6 – 9 p.m. - Spirits of Liberia - Hear the tragic and uplifting stories of those who passed through this historic landmark.

Oct. 26, noon - 3 p.m. - Annaburg Community Meeting - 9201 Maple St.

Oct. 27, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Veterans Day Parade in Historic Downtown Manassas

Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. - The Manassas Chorale presents - Sounding Joyful Notes

Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m. - The Manassas Chorale presents - A Festival of Christmas Music

Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m. - The Manassas Chorale presents - A Festival of Christmas Music

Nov. 1, 6 p.m. - Fall Gallery Walk in Historic Downtown Manassas

Nov. 1 – 11 – Bull Run Rotary Flag Display on the Manassas Museum lawn

Nov. 2, 11 a.m. - Northern Virginia Veterans Day Parade

Nov. 2, 2 p.m. - Downtown Walking Tours

Nov. 2, 1-4 p.m. - Baubles & Bling at Trinity Episcopal Church by GFWC Woman’s Club

Nov. 5, 9 a.m. – Career Day at the Manassas Museum

Nov. 13, 3 p.m. - Stories of Preservation and Progress Speaker Series at the Manassas Museum

Dec. 6 – 31 – New Exhibit: Deck the Hall at the Manassas Museum

Dec. 6, 5 – 9 p.m. – Merry Old Town begins in Historic Downtown Manassas with Santa Lights Manassas

Dec. 7, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Greater Manassas Christmas Parade in Historic Downtown Manassas

Beginning Dec. 8, 1- 4 p.m. – Merry Old Town: Ice Skating, Free Carriage Rides, Shopping!

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