Everyone counts in the 2020 Census

This month every household in the country will receive either a postcard or a paper survey from the 2020 Census. Every person living in the United States—no matter how young or old and no matter their status—needs to fill out a census every 10 years. You can complete the census on your phone, on your computer or on paper. If you do not complete the census right away, you will get up to four reminder postcards or letters. If you haven’t completed it in April, a census worker will visit you.

Taking just a few minutes to count everyone who lives with you will make a big difference for all of us in the City of Manassas.

What if I need help filling out the Census?
Computers are available at all libraries throughout Prince William County, but the Bull Run Regional Library is closest to the City to fill out the form online. The Prince William County Library System will also have volunteers available to help those who need it to complete the form. Central Library is closed for renovations currently, but other libraries are open and available on Census Saturdays - March 14, 21, and 28 and on April 4 and 11 from 2 to 4 p.m.

What if I need the form in a different language?
If you fill out the census on your phone or on a computer you can fill it out in 13 different languages or find a link for the census form in 59 more languages.

I’m worried about sharing my information.
Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics—they cannot be used against you in any way. By law, all responses to the census are kept completely confidential.

Who should I count?
Children count! Make sure you count every child that lives with you—even babies born before April 1. If you have a roommate, a friend or family member living with you, make sure to count them too.

Why is it important to fill out the Census?
The census count determines how much money our schools, hospital, fire department, roads and other community organizations get from the federal government and also determines our representation in Congress. The census count determines how much money our City gets for programs like special education grants, children’s health insurance, grants to local schools, school lunches, Head Start, the Women with Infants and Children (WIC) program, foster care and much more. For every person not counted the City of Manassas could miss out on $12,170 in federal funding for the next 10 years.

Can I still get a job with the census?
Yes, census jobs are still available. Visit 2020census.gov/jobs to find out more.

Where can I find out more about the 2020 Census?
Visit www.manassascity.org/census for sample forms, important links and updates.

TIMELINE FOR 2020

**MARCH**
All households will receive either a postcard OR a paper survey
- 1st reminder sent by letter
- 2nd reminder sent by postcard

**APRIL**
- 3rd reminder by letter in mid-April
- 4th reminder by postcard in late April with paper form*

**MAY-JUNE**
Follow up begins first by phone, then in person*
*IF YOU HAVE NOT YET COMPLETED THE FORM
For me March is generally a month of anticipation and preparation for things to come over the next several months. It is the bridge between winter and spring anticipating the coming of new life while continuing to be prepared for the late winter storms that seem almost inevitable during this time of year.

This is also a time of anticipation of upcoming religious holidays as we prepare for the Festival of Colors, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Passover or Easter among others. Some events like St. Patrick's Day have turned into their own general celebrations and the Greater Manassas St. Patrick's Day parade (on March 14) kicks off our annual community parade schedule. We will see the Historic Downtown ice rink (Harris Pavilion) close for the season and preparations begin for the many outdoor concerts and events that keep the downtown area alive and humming with a historic heart and modern beat.

The March thaw means preparations begin in earnest for spring plantings with the hope of a bountiful harvest later in the year. For the City, March brings the season of budget work sessions and reviews that will lead to plans for the services that will be brought to the community over the next fiscal year. A “Town Hall” has been scheduled by City Council on March 16 at the Manassas Regional Airport at 7 p.m. to hear from citizens about your priorities for the community. One of the items that will be discussed is the plan to remain a part of the Prince William Regional Library System with a branch library in the City limits.

If you have driven out Dumfries Road recently you have seen the much-anticipated construction progress on Fire and Rescue Station #21. This will be a four bay Fire and Rescue facility that will improve response times to the southern parts of the City. We are also finalizing the plans for the construction of a Public Safety Facility on Grant Avenue along with various street and infrastructure improvements to this corridor. Driving down Nokesville Road it is hard to miss the new Micron expansion under construction or the soon to be completed Tru Hotel off Gateway Boulevard in the Landing at Cannon Branch development.

This year March also brings us the start of the 2020 Census and our hope that you will fill out the forms helping to ensure that we have an accurate count of all people that are living in the City of Manassas. A complete count of all residents is vital to ensuring that we can get our fair share of the resources from State and Federal programs that provide needed services to the community. Please encourage all of your family, friends and neighbors to complete the census forms.

March is also anticipated by my family because our first child was born in March. My wife still believes that the doctor and I were more interested in college basketball “March Madness” than in the anticipation of the new child, but we were just providing her a distraction. Unfortunately, my alma mater is not providing much of a distraction this year. Oh well, a whole host of new activities in Manassas that we anticipate coming each spring will soon be here! I hope you are prepared to enjoy them!
One Love: Art & Music Festival
April 24-25

March means spring is coming! With spring comes the beginning of festival season in Historic Downtown Manassas. The first event of this season is the third annual art festival known as One Love: Art & Music Festival. On April 24 and 25 the City of Manassas will be filled with art and music. One Love features musical performances, dancing, a juried art show, workshops, Paint the Town, a market place, Manassas Reads, a film showcase and fun events for the whole family.

On Friday, April 24 at One Love: Art & Music Festival, visitors can enjoy an awards reception for participants of the Juried Art competition at Center for the Arts in Historic Downtown Manassas. Or, participants can visit the film mixer at Jirani Coffeehouse. Saturday features more performances on the lawn of the Manassas Museum.

On Saturday, April 25, One Love: Art & Music Festival will feature a creative activity for all ages - Paint the Town! The event will supply the space and sidewalk chalk, and artists of all ages and abilities will supply the art on Center Street in 4’x4’ squares. Let’s “Paint the Town” with beautiful creations for all to enjoy!

Recycling Note:
The Courtesy Truck Returns in April
City residents love the Courtesy Truck! This working Street Department truck is made available to residents for removing large items, large amounts of unwanted household trash and yard waste. To book the truck, call (703) 257-8256 and pay $85 at the Treasurer’s Office. The crew drops the truck off, parking along the curb or backing into your driveway. You fill the truck and the crew drives it away in the morning. It’s that easy! For more information visit www.manassascity.org/trash

Bulk Waste
Mattresses, sofas, shelves and exercise equipment (and all the things that don’t fit in the trash container) … people go through a lot of stuff! Why can’t these items be set out with the trash on trash day? In the City of Manassas, residents are permitted to set out bulk waste every week, all year long.

But having this additional service does require a bit of organization. When it comes to trash collection, timing is very important.

By scheduling bulk waste collection, residents can make sure that what they are setting out can be collected by our contractor, and that bulk waste is collected quickly – keeping City streets clean and safe. Please call the Trashline at (703) 257-8252 to schedule bulk waste collection. Please note that there is a maximum of 3 bulk waste items per collection. For more information visit www.manassascity.org/trash

Those interested in selling their personal creations can apply to the Artist Marketplace on onelovemanassas.com.

For more information on the weekend, visit onelovemanassas.com and visitmanassas.org. For vendor applications or event questions, email Rebekah@historicmanassasinc.org.
Find these events and more at www.visitmanassas.org. Here's what's happening in the City of Manassas:

Open now through May 31, 2020 - Native Legacy: The Patawomeck Indians of Virginia Exhibit at the Manassas Museum

March 13 - 15 - *Les Sylphides* by the Manassas Ballet Theatre at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

March 14, 11 a.m. - Greater Manassas Saint Patrick’s Day Parade

March 14, 10 - 11 a.m. - Family Workshop: Native Legacy, Symbols

March 15 - Parks and Fields Open for Rental Season - www.manassascity.org/leisure

March 16 at 7 p.m. - City Council Town Hall Meeting at the Manassas Regional Airport

March 21, 7:30 p.m. - Voices United: One Voice, Many Voices by the Manassas Chorale at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

March 21 - May 31 - Great American Cleanup

March 21, 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Prince William County/Manassas History Symposium - County to be Named Hartford, learn about the Freedman's Bureau in Prince William County; Lady Spies of the OSS; Prince William County’s Frontiersman: Simon Kenton; The Life of Robert Carter III, Virginia's First Emancipator; and the Legend of “Stonewall” Jackson

March 27, 10 a.m. - Museum Stories - read a children’s book, explore the galleries and complete a simple hands-on activity

April 3, 5-7 p.m. - History Happy Hour at the Manassas Museum

April 4 at 2 p.m. - Front Porch Conversation at Liberia House

April 4 - American Battlefield Trust Park Day - Contact cfox@manassasva.gov for more info

April 5 - 11 - Hop Around Downtown

April 8, 3 p.m. - Stories of Preservation & Progress at the Manassas Museum

April 9, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Thursday Farmer’s Market begins

April 11, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Saturday Farmer’s Market begins

April 11 at 1 p.m. - Liberia House tours

April 11, 11 a.m. - Native Legacy Games at the Manassas Museum

April 16, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Museum at the Market - Manassas Farmers Market

April 18 - Great American Cleanup Day - cfox@manassasva.gov

April 19, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk - Witchcraft in Colonial Virginia

April 22 - Earth Day Park Cleanup - cfox@manassasva.gov

April 24 & 25 - One Love Art & Music Festival

April 24 at noon - Museum Stories

April 26, 8 a.m. - Manassas Runway 5k, 10k, & 1M - at the Manassas Regional Airport

May 2 & 3 - Cinderella performed by Pied Piper Theatre at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

May 2, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Leaseweb Manassas Airshow

May 2, 8 a.m. - noon - Spring RecycleFest - 8305 Quarry Road

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