City of Manassas Assistance During COVID-19

COVID-19 has been hard on everyone. Whether you work from home, are under employed, unemployed or are a business that is trying to keep the doors open, this pandemic has hit everyone hard. And that’s not saying anything about the families that have been devastated by actually contracting the virus. Not one person has been unaffected by this virus. We are all in this together and together, we will get through this.

Part of getting through this is staying at least six feet apart, wearing face coverings, washing your hands often and staying home if you are feeling sick. But that’s not what this article is about. This article is about some of the programs the City has made available that may help you get through this pandemic a little easier.

Rent/Mortgage/Utility Assistance

For instance, do you know about the COVID Emergency Assistance Program? This is a program offered through the City’s Social Services Department for those who are struggling to make ends meet because of the loss of a job due to COVID-19. This City program helps those who qualify with utilities, rent and/or mortgage assistance directly related to COVID-19. Visit www.manassascity.org for more information.

Food Assistance

If food assistance is needed, and we can all use a little help sometimes, visit www.manassascity.org/covid19 and click on the Manassas Area Food Resource Map. This map lists all of the available food pantries and such. Or, if you wish to donate food, this is a great map for that as well.

Jobseeker and Employer Services

The City of Manassas is dedicating $400,000 to expanding its long-standing partnerships with SkillSource and Northern Virginia Community College. The funds will directly help residents who have been furloughed or are unemployed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We will be using CARES Act funds to help people get the skills and support services they need to land the jobs they want,” said City Manager W. Patrick Pate. “Manassas has a resilient and diversified economy. Almost all of our businesses will weather this storm, but too many of our residents are out of work and we need to address that.”

Using SkillSource as the lead agency, the City is working with Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) and the City’s Department of Social Services to provide jobseeker and employer services focused on the needs of individuals. The $400,000 will go toward occupational training, subsidized work experiences, and supportive services like transportation, childcare, and providing work-related equipment. The money will also go toward job fairs and worker training.

The Jobseeker Services programs run by SkillSource, and the training provided by NOVA, already receive federal or state funding that reduces their cost. The City is allocating additional funding of up to $5,000 per participant that, in most cases, eliminates the cost for the participant altogether.

“By removing cost as a barrier and adding supportive services, the City can best help residents get jobs,” said Economic Development Director Patrick Small. “By helping people get jobs we help businesses meet their workforce needs. We are using CARES Act funds to build capacity in our local economy that will have positive effects long after this virus is under control as opposed to providing short-term stimulus.”

Like most local governments, Manassas initially used CARES Act grant funding would not be the best use of our resources.”

The City has also dedicated CARES Act funds to George Mason’s Small Business Development Centers to provide counseling and support services as a way to further help businesses.

“Manassas relies heavily on our partners in education and workforce development to meet the needs of residents and employers,” said Economic Development Assistant Director Nicole Smith. “We know that partners like Mason, Northern Virginia Community College and SkillSource are positioned to provide the training and support people and businesses need when the economy is good, but we also know they can pivot to adapt those services when it is not as good.”
After you have read this newsletter, I want you to make sure that you and everyone you know in Manassas has completed their 2020 census form. Every person not counted in Manassas will lead to a lower representation of your voice at the State and Federal level. This means less support for vital community services like schools, public health and disaster assistance and less economic prosperity as businesses rely on this information to make informed choices about locating or expanding. Filling out the census is a vital civic responsibility to provide resources for your family. Every person counts so make sure every person is counted!

Likewise, every couple of years, the City sends 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 statistically 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 questionnaire is designed so that we can compare responses from Manassas residents with responses from previous years, with other communities and with national data. Your voice is important and we hope if you are randomly selected to receive a survey you will complete it and send it back anonymously to the company conducting this survey.

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 conversation topics and were used to develop the comprehensive plan update and in determining community strategic priorities.

If you are interested in seeing the results from prior surveys, they can be found on the City website at www.manassascity.org on the City Manager’s page. Once completed the results of this survey will also be posted there. I am appreciative that Manassas has engaged citizens who pay attention to and care about the future of our community. In too many communities that is just not the case. which luckily, makes us the exception and not the rule.

I want to take an opportunity to congratulate Fire and Rescue Chief Rob Clemons and wish him well as he begins his retirement. Rob postponed his retirement date for a few months to help the City and the department respond to the pandemic and I appreciate him doing so. He is leaving the department in great shape with almost all new apparatus; a new Station #21 almost complete; and more hours of staffed fire and rescue response units than at any time in the City’s history. We will look forward to seeing how he rides out the hurricanes in his future home.

Finally, I suspect that you, like me, have quit trying to guess how long it is going to be before we experience our post-pandemic life. The only thing we do know is that we must continue to follow the guidelines that are slowing the spread of the virus, like frequent hand washing, wearing a face covering and staying six feet apart from others. Please don’t attend events or frequent establishments that are not encouraging folks to follow these guidelines. Doing this is the best protection we can provide for our families.

Stay safe and healthy,

W. Patrick Pate
For more information call (703) 257-8378 or visit: www.mansassascity.org/Trash

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

Notes:

1. Make sure you follow the collection schedule for your area. Leaves will only be collected once during each scheduled collection period. If you have missed your collection, please wait until the next time your street is scheduled.

2. Your collection please wait until the next time your street is scheduled.

3. Do not rake leaves into the street or sidewalk. Leave them at the curb or edge of the street or sidewalk the day before the collection.

4. Do not leave leaves in plastic bags or private containers. Yard waste collection will not collect them.

5. Leave can also be set out in paper yard waste bags or private containers. For yard waste collection on Mondays.

6. Bags in plastic bags will not be collected.

7. Section 1

8. Section 2

9. Section 3

10. Section 4

11. Section 5

12. Section 6

13. Section 7

14. Section 8

15. Section 9

16. Section 10

Tips for leaf collection:

FA;L LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE 2020-2021
Find these events and more at www.visitmanassas.org or www.facebook.com/harrispavilion

Farmer’s Markets on Thursdays and Saturdays are now open. Don’t forget your face masks.

Now - Nov. 15, - Manassas Museum exhibit, Consider the Source: Interpreting Manassas History on Paper, open to public when Museum opens – manassasmuseum.org

Wednesdays at Noon, - Facebook Live Spotlight Talks - facebook.com/cityofmanassasleisure or facebook.com/youtube.com/manassascityva

Thursdays, now - Sept.10 at 8 a.m. – United States Navy Band Instruments from a distance virtual performance; facebook.com/HarrisPavilion

Sept. 5, 8 a.m. to noon - Household Hazardous Waste and eWaste drop off day at the Manassas Transfer Station, 8305 Quarry Road

Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. - Virtual Acoustic Tuesday featuring Jason Masi

Sept. 12 - 2-3 p.m. - Free Front Porch Talk @ Liberia House - watch on facebook.com/cityofmanassasleisure

Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. - Virtual Acoustic Tuesday featuring Jason Teach

Sept. 18 - 8:30 p.m. - Free African American Film Series @ Liberia House, reservations required at manassasechoes.com

Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. - Town Hall Meeting (if conditions allow) @ Manassas Regional Airport, 10600 Harry Parrish Blvd.

Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. - Virtual Acoustic Tuesday featuring James Shaffer

The City of Manassas Council
Mayor Harry J. Parrish II 703-257-8213
Vice Mayor Pamela J. Sebesky 571-330-5514
Michelle Davis-Younger 571-206-8433
Theresa Coates Ellis 571-247-6729
Ian T. Lovejoy 703-828-7592
Ralph J. Smith 703-303-8530
Mark D. Wolfe 703-257-1702

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
Suzanne W. Seaberg 703-869-1171
Lisa A. Stevens 571-535-0652
Robyn Williams 571-535-7510


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

The City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools
City of Manassas Council
Mayor Harry J. Parrish II 703-257-8213
Vice Mayor Pamela J. Sebesky 571-330-5514
Michelle Davis-Younger 571-206-8433
Theresa Coates Ellis 571-247-6729
Ian T. Lovejoy 703-828-7592
Ralph J. Smith 703-303-8530
Mark D. Wolfe 703-257-1702

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
Suzanne W. Seaberg 703-869-1171
Lisa A. Stevens 571-535-0652
Robyn Williams 571-535-7510

The City of Manassas will launch our brand new website on Sept. 10, 2020. You can still get to the website by visiting www.manassascity.org, but now, residents and visitors can use www.manassasva.gov.

Get City news and information on the new website.