



Shop at Home for the Holidays

Throughout the year one of the most important decisions you can make is where to spend your shopping and dining dollars. Buying local is a conscious effort to make purchases within the City of Manassas. Where people do their day-to-day shopping for things like groceries and convenience items and where they go to lunch or dine in/takeout for dinner really matters. This includes such basic, everyday purchases as putting gas in your car at a station inside of the City. Many people may not be aware that a portion of the gas tax is used to pay for local transit services like PRTC (bus service) and the VRE. If you buy gas outside of Manassas, then the City loses that revenue and has to make up its contribution to these services from other sources like property taxes.

Shopping local is most frequently associated with specialty retail and restaurants because studies show that shopping with independent businesses returns three times more money to the local economy than when shopping with a chain store. However, many national chain locations are franchised to owners and operators who live in Manassas and who support the community through engagement with sports teams, civic leagues and churches. These franchise owners are small business people and their local impact on the economy is important too. By helping to keep independent

businesses prosperous, shoppers help keep them open and contributing to the local economy in big ways. If you prefer a chain store, please pick one in Manassas whenever possible.

In addition to real estate and other taxes that businesses pay, 1% of the state sales tax that is collected gets returned to the community. While that may not seem like much, last year the City received \$8.2 million in local sales tax revenues. That money goes into the City's General Fund, which pays for important services like public safety, public works and education. Meals taxes are another important source of revenue for the City and last year Manassas collected \$4.2 million. So it's easy to see how this all adds up and why spending your

discretionary dollars at home is so important.

While the Internet makes buying items convenient and doesn't require walking into a store, there are a few things to consider before clicking that check-out button. A look at one online retail giant shows that the business creates less than half as many jobs as local stores. The retailer also doesn't pay business taxes and fees the way that local brick-and-mortar owners do. There are many choices you have when making a purchase, but where you choose to make that purchase is important. It does have an impact on the local economy and directly benefits your quality of life. So, this holiday season start making shopping local a habit and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same.



A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
W. Patrick Pate

As we come to the end of 2018, I want to welcome our two newly elected members of City Council and share some thoughts on the two that will be leaving City Council after their many years of dedicated service to the City of Manassas. I also want to congratulate Councilmember Ken Elston on his re-election.

On January 2, 2019, Theresa Coates Ellis and Michelle Davis-Younger will begin their official four-year term as members of City Council. While January marks their official start, I can tell you that they have both been busy attending regular council meetings, council work sessions, legislative sessions, a council orientation and many other meetings with elected officials, staff and community members to prepare themselves to be Council Members.

It is also interesting to note that they both decided to participate in our City Leadership Academy earlier this year. This program provides opportunities to meet with senior city staff and learn about the services that are provided to the community in broad areas such as public safety, infrastructure, utilities, community and economic development, among other topics related to local government. In one session they were able to work on setting budget priorities which they will be doing again soon.

These efforts will help them, as one of six Council Members and the

Mayor, set policy and direction for your city government. Completion of the election now turns attention away from drawing distinctions to serving together in the best interests of the community. I encourage you to thank them for their willingness to run for office and take on this responsibility.

It is also important to say thank you to the two council members that will end their service as council members in December. Most people, outside of the elected members' families, do not realize the time and sacrifice that they make to serve our community.

Councilmember Marc Aveni has served three terms for a total of 12 years in office. During my tenure with the City, he has served as Vice-Mayor, Chair of the Finance Committee and Chair of the Fire and Rescue Committee among other duties and assignments. Outside of his family and his faith, the accomplishments that I have heard Marc talk about with pride are the improvements that have been made and are in progress with the Fire and Rescue fleet and facilities, the city financial condition as evidenced by the AAA bond rating and efforts to promote transparency in the updated zoning ordinance.

Councilmember Sheryl Bass is completing a four-year term that was preceded by nine years serving on the Manassas City Public School Board and a three-year appointment to City Council. This makes 16 years of service in public office. Sheryl is currently serving as Vice-Mayor having also served as Finance Committee Chair, Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (MWCOC) Vice President and Chair of the MWCOC Region

Forward Coalition among other duties and responsibilities. Sheryl is often described as a positive and enthusiastic ambassador for the City. In addition to her pride in family, faith and her civic involvement, I have heard her take pride in supporting the schools, working on economic development activities and being involved with a variety of regional groups on behalf of the City.

Both of these individuals have been described as strong supporters of sound local government and I am thankful for their support of me in my role as City Manager. Over their tenures in public service, they have seen and been a part of significant changes that will benefit the community for many years to come. I appreciate the commitment they have shown in their individual ways to the community and their willingness to take on these elected roles in addition to their other full-time jobs and responsibilities.

When you have the opportunity, I hope that you will take the time to thank Marc Aveni and Sheryl Bass for their service to our community and in recognition of the many hours they have put into this service.

I also hope you will join me in supporting the new Governing Body as they set out to work together on moving past the election and into effective governance which requires listening to concerns and opinions and making decisions that are in the best interest of the entire community.



Did you know...

People exposed to extreme cold are susceptible to frostbite in a matter of minutes. If you must venture outdoors during extreme cold, dress in layers. Cover exposed skin to reduce your risk of frostbite or hypothermia. Try to seek shelter from the wind as much as possible and change into dry clothing immediately if you are wet. For more information, visit <https://www.weather.gov/safety/cold-during>.

Holiday Safety Tips from Fire & Rescue

The holidays are a time for family and friends. Make this a safe holiday by following a few practical tips:

- Choose holiday decorations that are flame resistant or retardant.
- Keep lit candles at least 12 inches away from decorations and other items that burn.
- Replace any lights or decorations with broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Use clips instead of nails to hang lights so cords do not get damaged.
- Test your smoke alarm and let guests know about your home fire escape plan.

- Stay in the kitchen when cooking.
- Keep matches and lighters in a high, locked cabinet, away from children.
- Make sure decorations are kept away from fireplaces, radiators, space heaters and other heating devices.
- When disposing of ashes from the fireplace, place them in a metal can away from the house or any structures.

We hope you have a beautiful, happy and safe holiday season. From our family to yours, Happy Holidays!



Holiday Recycling and Trash Notes

Live Christmas Tree Collection

Did you know that live Christmas trees can be collected as yard waste? Once the holidays are over, set out live Christmas trees for collection as yard waste beginning January 7, 2019. Please make sure to remove all lights, ornaments and garland before the tree is put out for collection on Sunday night. All artificial Christmas trees will be collected as trash on regularly scheduled collection days. Please call (703) 257-8252 for more information.

Christmas Day and New Year's Day

There will be no trash and recycling collection on Tuesday, Dec. 25 and Tuesday, Jan. 1, in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays. The collection schedule will be moved by one day.

Tuesday > Wednesday
Wednesday > Thursday
Thursday > Friday
Friday > Saturday

Holiday Tips for Your Trash and Recycling

Did you know that between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, the amount of trash produced in the United States increases by an estimated 25%—that's about one million extra tons of garbage every week.

Here are a few tips to help get through the holidays:

- Check trash and recycling carts for damage and order replacements before the holidays. Call the Trashline on (703) 257-8252 with the serial number of your current cart and they will help schedule cart replacement.
- Cardboard is a very valuable recycling item. Make sure to remove all the packing material and flatten boxes for recycling collection. Styrofoam, plastic packing bags and plastic wrapping cannot be collected as curbside recycling.
- Set aside a box or bin to make recycling easier for guests. By making it easier for guests to recycle, clean-up can be easier, too.
- Make sure to set trash and recycling out the night before collection day. Leaving trash and recycling out at the curb all week long can put a damper on everyone's holiday.

Adopt a Hydrant!

The City of Manassas has 1,305 fire hydrants installed to provide fast access to water in the event of a fire emergency. Winter storms often hide fire hydrants under a mountain of snow, making hydrants impossible to find quickly. During a fire, firefighters have

to locate and shovel out buried fire hydrants before hooking up to them, losing precious minutes that could be spent saving lives and containing the fire. Neighbors can help by adopting a hydrant.

To adopt a hydrant, make sure that the fire hydrant closest to your residence or business is clear of snow, leaves, building debris and trash. The Fire Department needs a minimum 3-foot clearance on all sides.

To adopt-a-hydrant, visit www.manassascity.org/adoptahydrant or call (703) 257-8256. Citizens and business or civic groups may also adopt neighborhood hydrants.

January Electronics Drop-off Day

Between the holidays and the Super Bowl, old electronics can build up pretty quickly. It's easy to schedule curbside collection of televisions and computer monitors by calling the Trashline on (703) 257-8252 – but those other electronics can be pretty tricky to recycle and need special attention.

That's why the City of Manassas partners with Potomac eCycle to offer a special electronics drop-off day for residents on Jan. 19, 2019 from 9 a.m. – 12 noon at Potomac eCycle, 7917 Wellingford Drive, Manassas, VA 20109.

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.harris pavilion.com



Now - Dec. 9 - Rooftop Productions of **A Christmas Carol** the Musical at the Center for the Arts

www.visitmanassas.org
 ❖❖❖

Dec. 5 - 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
 ❖❖❖

Dec. 6, 5 p.m. - Novant Health Auxiliary Annual Circle of Lights - in memory of or in honor of. . .703-369-8173

❖❖❖

Dec. 7, 6 - 9 p.m. - **Jolly Ol' Confections** - Visit the shops and get sweet treats for this holiday First Friday

www.visitmanassas.org
 ❖❖❖

Dec. 8 - **Holidays of the Past at Liberia House** (tickets required)

www.visitmanassas.org
 ❖❖❖

Dec. 8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - **Holiday Market on the Manassas Museum Lawn** - unique gifts, hot chocolate and seasonal music to get you in the spirit of the season
www.visitmanassas.org
 ❖❖❖

Dec. 8, 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. - **VRE Santa Train Rides**
www.visitmanassas.org
 ❖❖❖

Dec. 8, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. - **Lotus Leaf Painting Workshop**
www.visitmanassas.org
 ❖❖❖

Dec. 9, 1-4 p.m. - GFWC Woman's Club of Manassas **Holiday House Tour**
www.visitmanassas.org
 ❖❖❖

Dec. 9 & 16 - Horse-drawn Carriage Rides through Historic Downtown Manassas
www.visitmanassas.org
 ❖❖❖

Dec. 12 - 16 - **Winter Wonderland Model Train Show** @Candy Factory - The National Capital Trackers set up their O gauge trains amid an elaborate winter fantasy background for the annual display
www.visitmanassas.org
 ❖❖❖

Dec. 12 at 3 p.m. - **Stories of Preservation and Progress**
www.visitmanassas.org
 ❖❖❖

Dec. 13-23 - **The Nutcracker** by the Manassas Ballet Theatre
www.visitmanassas.org
 ❖❖❖

Dec. 15, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - **Breakfast with Santa** at the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company.
www.manassasfire.com
 ❖❖❖

Dec. 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Dec. 18, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - **Novant Health Auxiliary Jewelry & Accessory sale** @Novant Prince William Hospital
 ❖❖❖

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
 ❖❖❖

Upcoming 2019 Events 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.

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

City of Manassas Council

Mayor Harry J. Parrish II 703-257-8213
 Vice Mayor Sheryl L. Bass 703-314-4278
 Marc T. Aveni 703-795-9651
 Ken D. Elston 571-377-8817
 Ian T. Lovejoy 703-828-7592
 Pamela J. Sebesky 571-330-5514
 Mark D. Wolfe 703-257-1702

City of Manassas School Board

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
 Peter O'Hanlon 571-535-0652
 Suzanne W. Seaberg 703-869-1171
 Robyn Williams 571-535-7510

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.youtub.com/user/manassascityva

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