Manassas Connect - a New App

Have you heard about the new City of Manassas app? It's available in the Android play store and the Apple app store. But what is it?

It is called "Manassas Connect" and is a great tool for residents and visitors to report concerns directly to City staff. This is an easy solution for people to report things like potholes, street light outages, power outages, overgrown grass, traffic signal malfunctions and much more.

But wait, doesn’t the City already have an app for that? The City of Manassas has transitioned away from SeeClickFix to this new technology in an effort to serve our residents more economically and efficiently. This new technology also allows users to access government information easier than clicking on the website.

It's all in one app. Manassas Connect helps the user connect to the City with a few easy clicks. If you see a light out on your street, click the app. Overgrown grass or park equipment damaged? Click the app.

Download Manassas Connect, sign up and you are off to being connected with your City. Want to report something anonymously? You still can once you are in the app. Once signed up, click the categories and see where your concern fits. If it is park equipment that is damaged, you will see that under Public Works.

If you have a picture of the damage or concern, upload that right from your phone in the next step. Allowing Manassas Connect to use your location is helpful so that City staff can pinpoint the location of your concern.

The last step is to tell us about your concern. There's a place for your description and some identifying questions about your concern so that staff can react quickly.

Also on Manassas Connect, you can see information on your elected Council and on the City’s news and information. There are links to the City’s social media to keep you up-to-date on the happenings around town.

We hope you will take advantage of this new app and stay connected. If you are not a smartphone person, simply click on the “Report a Concern” button on the front of the website. You can use the application straight from the City website at www.manassasva.gov.

Important News about Utilities

Are you looking for help with rent or utility bills as a result of COVID-19? As of June 30, 2021, Virginia's Utility Disconnection Moratorium has ended.

Disconnections will begin on September 1, 2021. Residents looking to apply for local and state assistance programs should reach out to the City of Manassas’ Utilities at (703) 257-8245 or email cs@manassasva.gov to discuss payment options.

The Department of Social Services can help with Utilities, Rent or Mortgage, Childcare, or Burial costs due to COVID-19. visit their website at www.manassasva.gov/ss for more information.
August brings the Dog Days of Summer, but more than that, August brings a sense of beginning. It is the beginning of a new school year and the new fiscal year has begun in the City. Bright-eyed children are ready to begin learning new things from teachers who are hopefully restored and renewed from some summer downtime.

August also brings summer heat. If you find that you do not have enough cool air during the day, our libraries are cooling shelters for those in need. Stonewall Park Pool is also a great place to cool off this summer or take a day in the shade under a tree in one of our City parks. There’s even a park for our four-legged friends, Lucky’s Dog Park, located near the Boys & Girls Club at 9501 Dean Park Lane.

If you are in our Historic Downtown this summer, make sure to check out the concert schedule at the Harris Pavilion at www.harrispavilion.com. There’s also a wonderful Farmer’s Market on Thursdays and Saturdays. You don’t want to miss a moment of what we have in store.

This month I would like to highlight and thank our Thursday Farmer’s Market for their donations to the various food banks in the area, and specifically, Roberto’s produce who gave a whopping 1,110 pounds of their produce! It has been heartwarming to see how our community has and will continue to join together to fight food insecurity.

Now, for a serious conversation. With school beginning again, I’d like to take a moment to ask all of you to please watch out for our little ones along the sidewalks and at their bus stops. Stop when the bus arm comes out. Nothing is so important that it cannot wait for a child to get on or off a bus.

Thank you for living and thriving in Manassas. Until next month...
It is no longer a shock when someone recognizes me because they have seen my picture in the City Connection. I appreciate hearing about the value that you find in the information that is provided in this newsletter and your thoughts on things that would be helpful to share in the future. Our community survey shows that this is a primary way residents receive information about the City. It takes many hands to produce the City Connection each month and I love passing along your appreciation to them.

I have recently heard that some people don’t enroll in automatic pay because they think they would not get the newsletter each month. I want to ensure you that you will still get a bill and the newsletter mailed to you if you sign up for automatic pay of your utility bills just as I do at my house. We encourage you to take advantage of the on-line bill payinging capabilities to make sure that your utility bill is paid on time and nothing gets “lost in the mail,” or forgotten while you are on vacation or dealing with the multitude of things that we must all get done every month. You can sign up for automatic pay at our website www.manassasva.gov under “Pay My Bill.”

The other question that seems to come up often is “when I receive my newsletter some of the events that I wanted to attend have already occurred.” The City Connection newsletter is produced once each month. It has to be written, formatted, printed and delivered to be inserted in the bills before the first cycle of bills are sent the first week of the month. If, like me, you are in the fourth week of the monthly billing cycle, there will be events published that occurred during the first three weeks of the month, before the City Connection arrived. However, if you check, you will also see that two months of events are highlighted so you are also seeing the events that are upcoming during the month before you receive the next City Connection.

If you fall into this category we are glad that you are looking at the City Connection for events. If you want to receive the City Connection as soon as it is produced, you can sign up to have it emailed to you the first of each month, on the website’s home page under “Get Notified.” It is also available on the website under the City Manager’s page, under “News Room,” if you want to check it out whenever you have a moment to do so. You can get event notifications on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas, on twitter at www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas and on Instagram at www.Instagram.com/cityofmanassas. You can also check out the events page at www.visitmanassas.org for current information on what is happening in our City. If you have other suggestions for publicizing events, please let us know. We encourage you to repost/retweet/forward/like/etc. events that are going on in the City so others in your networks will see them as well.

As you are coming to events in Historic Downtown, I encourage you to utilize the parking deck on Prince William Street. This deck is free to patrons after 10 in the morning and on weekends. It is a short walk to any of the retail shops and restaurants as well as to the Harris Pavilion and the Farmer’s Markets. During special events streets are often closed but the Prince William Street Deck is almost always available for parking.

In August, we will also be seeing a return to in-person school. Since it has been over a year since we have seen significant school bus traffic on the roads, I encourage you to be mindful of the traffic and safety of our young residents that are returning to school. As traffic has begun to pick up this summer, we are seeing more traffic accidents so please be extra cautious as schools reopen.

Keep enjoying the summer and the broad variety of activities, events and programs that are going on in Manassas. It is nice to see everyone enjoying Manassas again.

W. Patrick Pate
The City of
Manassas Happenings

Find these events and more in the City of Manassas, Virginia. For more information go to www.visitmanassas.org.

Farmer's Market for the Season:
Thursday Farmer's Market at the Harris Pavilion and Saturday Farmer's Market on Prince William Street Commuter Lot - Hours for both are 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

History Virtual Talks
Wednesday Spotlight on History Virtual Talks, tune in each week at www.facebook.com/cityofmanassasleisure

Now – Aug. 28 – Becoming Summer at the Art Gallery at the ARTFactory

Aug. 3 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with Tender Polman at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 6 at 6 p.m. – First Friday: Dog Days of Summer at Historic Downtown Manassas

Aug. 7, 8 a.m. to noon - Household Hazardous Waste, Shredding and Electronics Recycling Drop-off Day at the Manassas Transfer Station

Aug. 7 at 6:30 p.m. - Summer Sounds Concert with Lil’ Maceo Kareem Walkes at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 10 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with Shane Gamble at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 12, 2021 - First day of school for Manassas City Public Schools

Aug. 14 at 6:30 p.m. - Summer Sounds Concert with The Splinters at the Harris Pavilion

Aug.14 at 10 a.m. & 11 a.m. - Liberia House Tours with the Manassas Museum

Aug. 14 – 15 at 1 p.m. – ARTFactory’s Performance of Disney’s Aladdin, Jr. at Windy Knoll Farm

Aug. 17 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with Scott Kurt at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 20 at 7 p.m. – Night Painting Workshop with Michele Frantz at the ARTFactory

Aug. 20 from 6 - 9 p.m & Aug. 21 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Auditions for Fiddler on the Roof, Jr. at the ARTFactory

Aug. 21 from 6:30 to 10 p.m. - Manassas Ballet Theatre’s 17th Annual Ballet Ball at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 22 at 3 p.m. - Sunday Funday Concert - Navy Sea Chanters at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 24 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with Brian Harris at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 25 at 3 PM – Stories of Preservation and Progress with the Gum Springs Historical Society and Museum

Aug. 26 at 5:30 PM- Downtown Walking Tours with the Manassas Museum

Aug. 28 - Liberia Front Porch Talk with the Slave Dwelling Project

Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. - Saturday Night Concert with Special Occasions Band at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 29 at 3 p.m. - Sunday Funday Concert - U.S. Army Band at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 31 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with Jason Morton at the Harris Pavilion

Sept. 4, 8 a.m. to noon – Household Hazardous Waste, and Electronics Recycling Drop-off Day at the Manassas Transfer Station

Sept. 4 at 12 p.m. – 10th Annual Bands, Brews, and Barbeque at Historic Downtown Manassas

Sept. 4 at 6:30 p.m. – Summer Sounds Concert with Wicked Olde at the Harris Pavilion

Sept. 6, 2021 - Labor Day

September 10 & 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Stonehouse Quilt Guild Quilt Show at the Manassas Baptist Church - 8370 Sudley Rd

Sept. 18 at 11 a.m. – Halfway to St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Historic Downtown Manassas

Sept. 18 at 11 a.m. – 45th Edgar Rohr Memorial Car Meet at Manassas Museum

Sept. 25 at 10 a.m. – World Heritage Festival at the Harris Pavilion

Check out some of the great classes at the ArtFactory @ www.virginiaartfactory.org


Get Social!
Visit the City at www.manassasva.gov

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www.youtube.com/user/manassascityva

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