



## Going Electric



Long before we all had sticker shock at the pump and gasoline topped \$4 a gallon, increasing mileage, saving fuel, and reducing emissions was a major goal for the City's vehicle fleet.

By July of this year, the Police Department will have 17 Ford Explorer hybrid patrol vehicles on the road, adding three to the 14 hybrid vehicles already used by the department. The addition of hybrids didn't happen overnight.

"It has been a joint discussion between our department and our vehicle maintenance shop for a few years," Police Chief Douglas Keen says. "The savings at the pump are significant while there has been no change in the vehicles' performance."

"The City is only 10 square miles and we do not need the same top end performance that would be required for the highway," Keen says. "With all of the changes in law enforcement, officers are carrying and using more electronics, which means the hybrids' beefed up electrical system is a good fit."

Although some of the department's vehicles that don't respond to emergencies—like parking

enforcement - are smaller and more fuel-efficient, the bigger, specially-equipped Explorers give officers room to carry mandated equipment needed to respond to emergencies.

"We have been utilizing hybrid vehicles in our fleet since 2006," Fleet Manager Mike Morgan explains. "Ford introduced a police package hybrid SUV in 2020 and we purchased five of them that year, six more in fiscal year 2021 and six more in FY2022. Using these vehicles in these positions saves us approximately 60% in fuel costs over their non-hybrid counterparts."

Eleven hybrids are also being used by other City departments, including a plug-in hybrid Chevrolet Volt that can travel 38 miles on electric power. A City-wide zero idling policy that requires drivers to turn off their engines when they are not actively driving has also made a big difference in saving fuel and helps the City meet environmental sustainability goals.

"I believe the hybrids are the right way to go," Keen says. "It will be interesting to see where new technology, such as hydrogen fuel cells, takes us in the future."

For now, hybrids will continue to be in the mix as vehicles need to be replaced. The first fully electric car purchase is planned for fiscal year 2024.

### SAVING FUEL = SAVING \$ &

Gallons of fuel used each year by City: 280,000

City's cost of diesel fuel in May, 2020: 86¢ per gallon  
Current cost of diesel fuel: more than \$4 per gallon



Police Ford Explorer hybrid SUVs get 57% better mileage than traditional Explorers



Approximate fuel savings per year per car: \$1,800

Each gallon of gas not burned saves 20 pounds of greenhouse gases\*

\*[fuelconomy.gov](http://fuelconomy.gov)



# A Moment with the Mayor



**Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger**

Welcome to May!

What a beautiful month with the blooming flowers and the fresh spring smell in the air. We are glad to see warmer temps along with our First Fridays in full swing and outdoor dining at its peak. Our historic downtown is absolutely beautiful! Don't forget the Farmer's Market is now OPEN! Thanks to all who have been joining in on the "Mayor on the Move" walks on Saturdays, which we have been enjoying weekly

around historic downtown. If you haven't had an opportunity to join me, there is still time. The walks are scheduled through June 25. We start at Osbourn High School at 8:30 a.m. and end at the Farmer's Market. I would love to see you!

Our RecycleFest at the Manassas Transfer station is scheduled this month on May 7 from 8 a.m. to noon, and this is the one that includes the shredding which is always a big hit. We are glad to see the return this month of LARexpo on May 15 at the Harris Pavilion. This is an amazing event with wonderful vendors and the variety of food offered is divine! Please take the time to view all of the wonderful events we have planned in our great City. There is something for everyone to do here!

Last month, I was honored to receive the Justitia award from the Virginia Womens Attorneys Association! I sincerely appreciate and thank all those who recognized my work in the community to empower females through nominating me. I will forever cherish this award and will always

try to be the example for our entire community of what hard work, and commitment looks like. Thank you VWAA!

I want to take a moment to thank all of you who contributed coats, blankets, socks, etc., at our many drop points throughout the City to help with the Ukraine refugee efforts spearheaded by the NVRC. We will continue to keep them in our thoughts and prayers. As usual, Manassas City goes above and beyond with helping our many relief efforts both at home and overseas.

Lastly, I want to wish all of the moms out there a Happy Mother's Day - many women fill the role of Mother in one form or another...it does not have to be biological. You may be a mom to a fur baby...just make sure to enjoy it to the fullest, I know I will. We recently found out that our granddaughter Maddie is going to have a little brother...he is due to arrive mid-August...I will be Mayor Gigi x 2! So exciting!

Until next month, always remember: it's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice!

## There's an election coming

### **Public Notice for the June 21, 2022, Democratic Party Primary Election in the City of Manassas, Virginia**

Early voting for City of Manassas voters will be available at the location, dates, and hours listed below beginning Friday, May 6, and ending Saturday, June 18 at 9025 Center Street, Manassas, VA 20110,

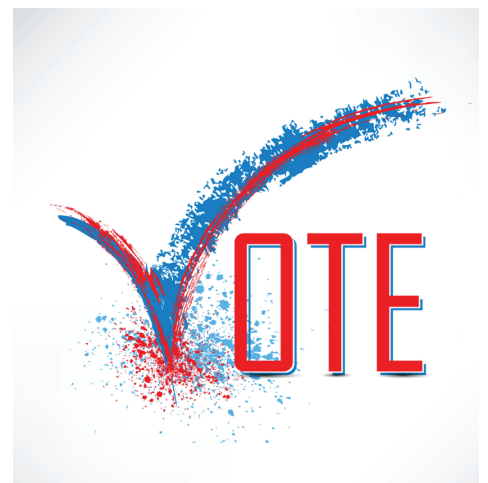
- Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Saturday, June 11, and Saturday, June 18, 2022 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Drop Box available 24/7 behind 9025 Center St. Building
- Drop Box monitored 24/7 by camera

**Tuesday, May 31, 2022:** Last day to register to vote or change your voter registration information for this election. Mailed voter registration applications must be sent to the MC Voter Registration and Elections Office postmarked on or before the deadline.

**Friday, June 10, 2022:** Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail. Applications must be received in the City of Manassas Voter Registration and Elections Office by 5 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 21, 2022:** Election Day - ALL DROPPED OFF Absentee voted ballots must be returned to the City of Manassas Voter Registration and Elections Office or Precinct drop box locations by 7 p.m. to be counted.

**Friday, June 24, 2022:** ALL Absentee voted ballots that are returned via mail must be post marked on or before election day and received in the MC Voter Registration and Elections Office by Noon to be counted.



# A Message from the City Manager



**City Manager**  
**W. Patrick Pate**

We are now just under a year away from our 150th anniversary (1873) as an incorporated community of Manassas. The City is exploring a number of ways to celebrate this milestone and one of the ways is by gathering stories and pictures that tell the story of Manassas and how it has changed over the last 150 years. If you have information or suggestions on others who might be willing to help with the gathering of this information please contact Patty Prince at [pprince@manassasva.gov](mailto:pprince@manassasva.gov) or visit [www.manassasva.gov/150](http://www.manassasva.gov/150). 2023 is going to be an exciting year for the City of Manassas.

One of the reasons that Manassas is such an interesting and unique place is our local businesses. May is Business Appreciation Month and I encourage you to continue to support our local businesses. Many of them are locally owned and operated. They employ our friends and neighbors and support our local events and activities. They also provide about a third of the general revenues used to support local services such as schools, police, fire and rescue, and street maintenance.

This year SemiFreddo Italian Cuisine was selected as the City of Manassas 2022 "Business of the Year." After years of serving in top kitchens across the region, Head Chef and Owner Franklin Hernandez opened SemiFreddo in 2020 in the Canterbury Village Shopping Center on Sudley Road. SemiFreddo has been ranked among the best authentic

Italian restaurants in the region, making the list of Northern Virginia Magazine's 'Best Restaurants of 2021' and earning countless high marks from visitors. SemiFreddo's emergence has highlighted a growing restaurant and dining scene in the City of Manassas.

At the recent Prince William Chamber of Commerce event, six other City businesses were recognized for being outstanding in their fields. The businesses recognized were:

- Transaction Expert, Excellence in Small Business (1-10 employees)
- Chantilly Air, Business Excellence (11+ employees)
- Commonwealth Aviation, Emerging Business
- Zandra's Taqueria, Innovation in Hospitality & Tourism
- BAE Systems, Tech Company of the Year
- Three Monkeys Pub & Chophouse, Community Outreach

This May we are also honoring our many Volunteers that work for the City. We will be able to hold the Volunteer Appreciation Reception in person (which was on a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic). We truly appreciate all of our volunteers who generously give their time and energy to make our City the great community that it is. If you are interested in becoming more involved with the City perhaps by serving on a Board or Committee, volunteering with Parks, Culture and Recreation, City Beautification or the Library, or in one of many other opportunities, I encourage you to check out the website at [www.manassasva.gov/BCC](http://www.manassasva.gov/BCC) or speak to one of our Department Heads or Program Managers who can work to match your passion with a particular opportunity. There will also be many new ways to get involved as we celebrate the 150th anniversary.

Meanwhile, enjoy the spring weather, support our local businesses, thank a volunteer and get outdoors to participate in the various events that are happening in the City.

*W. Patrick Pate*

## Spring Clean Up



Spring is a great time to clean up your property and keep our neighborhoods beautiful. Here are two tips to help with your spring cleaning!

- Grass grows quickly this time of year. Best practice is to keep lawns trimmed at 2-3 inches - over 12 inches is a violation.
- Clear your property of trash, yard waste, debris, and litter to keep our community clean and safe.



**[WWW.MANASSASVA.GOV/PCE](http://WWW.MANASSASVA.GOV/PCE)**

# The City of Manassas Happenings

Find these events and more in the City of Manassas, Virginia. For more information go to **[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)**.

**Art, Dance, and Theatre** Workshops, Dinner theatre and more at the ARTfactory **[virginiaartfactory.org](http://virginiaartfactory.org)**

Now - November from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Manassas Farmer's Market on Thursdays @Harris Pavilion and Saturdays on Prince William Street.

Now - May 28: Creative Brush presents the **"Look Deep into Nature"** Exhibit

Now - June 25 at 8:30 a.m. - **Mayor on the Move**, walk or bike with our Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger - meets at Osbourn High School

May 6 from 6-9 p.m. - First Friday - **Downtown Derby Day** - Downtown Derby and Hat contest. Come race a Manassas Stick Horse/ hopper ball horse or make and bring your own. Make sure to register your Hat for the Derby Hat contest

May 7 from 8 a.m. to noon - **RecycleFest** at the Manassas Transfer Station - household hazardous and ewaste collection with shredding

May 7 from 2 - 4 p.m. - **Family Gardening** at Liberia - **[cityofmanassas.recdesk.com](http://cityofmanassas.recdesk.com)**

May 7, 7:30 p.m. - Manassas Symphony Orchestra **"Reflection and Hope"** May concert @ Hylton Performing Arts Center

May 14 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - **Manassas Viking Festival**

May 15 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - **LARexpo** at the Harris Pavilion

May 17 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday free concert with **Shane Gamble** @Harris Pavilion

May 19 - **Museum at the Market** (Farmer's Market)

May 20 - 22 - **Cinderella** by Manassas Ballet Theatre at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

May 21 at 2 p.m. **Liberia Basement to Attic Tours**

May 21 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. **Manassas KidFest Spring Fair** on the Museum Lawn

May 22 at 4 p.m. **Manassas Museum History Hikes** - sign up at **[cityofmanassas.recdesk.com](http://cityofmanassas.recdesk.com)**

May 24 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday free concert with **Jason Masi** @Harris Pavilion

May 29 at 3 p.m. - Sunday Funday free Concert with **Carleigh Jane** @Harris Pavilion

May 30 - **Memorial Day** - City Government buildings closed

May 31 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday free concert with **Darryl Marini** @Harris Pavilion

June 3 at 7:30 p.m. - Manassas Chorale **"Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow"** Spring Concert at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

June 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - **27th Annual Manassas Railway Festival** - model train displays at the Harris Pavilion, Storm Troopers from the 501st Legion, a puppet show with RUFUS and Friends by Blue Sky Puppet Theatre, games, rock wall, slide and Train Rides to Clifton and back.

June 6 at 7 p.m. - Manassas City Council **Town Hall** at Mayfield Intermediate School

June 7 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday free concert with **Hilary Veltri** @Harris Pavilion

June 11, from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.: **Household Hazardous Waste** and Electronics Waste drop off at the Manassas Transfer Station

June 14 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday free concert with **Tender Polman** @Harris Pavilion

June 18 from 4 - 9 p.m. - **The Manassas Jazz Festival** - An evening of Jazz with a 1930's Cotton Club atmosphere, featuring headline jazz artists Marcus Johnson, battling pianos by local band Velvet Storm and comedian Doug Scott

June 19: **Juneteenth Holiday** (City of Manassas Government Buildings closed in observance on June 20)

June 21 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday free concert with **Bradley Rhodes** @Harris Pavilion

June 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **Manassas Bee Festival** at Liberia House and grounds

June 25 at 7 p.m. - **Beatlegacy** Saturday Night Concert @Harris Pavilion

June 26 at 3 p.m. - Sunday Funday Free Concert with the **U.S. Navy Band Country Current** @Harris Pavilion

June 28 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday free concert with **Shane Gamble** @Harris Pavilion

## City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

**City of Manassas Council**  
Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger

**Vice Mayor**

Pamela J. Sebesky  
Theresa Coates Ellis  
Lynn Forkell Greene  
Tom Osina  
Ralph J. Smith  
Mark D. Wolfe

571-206-8433

571-330-5514

571-247-6729

571-364-2184

571-621-4069

703-303-8530

703-257-1702

**City of Manassas School Board**

Chair Suzanne W. Seaberg  
Vice Chair Lisa A. Stevens  
Christina S. Brooks  
Carl Hollingsworth Jr.  
Alex Igbal  
Jill Spall  
Robyn Williams

571-377-7494

571-377-7495

571-377-7491

571-377-7493

571-377-7490

571-377-7497

571-377-7496

## Get Social!

Visit the City at [www.manassasva.gov](http://www.manassasva.gov)



[www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas](http://www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas)



[www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas](http://www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas)



[www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas](http://www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas)



[www.instagram.com/cityofmanassas](http://www.instagram.com/cityofmanassas)



[www.youtube.com/user/manassascityva](http://www.youtube.com/user/manassascityva)

To contact the City of Manassas Connection newsletter, email [prrince@manassasva.gov](mailto:prrince@manassasva.gov)