



CITY CONNECTION

Stormwater Ponds Help Keep Streams, Bay Cleaner

You have probably seen the fenced-in ponds that ring neighborhoods, schools, parks, and commercial areas. Though they might look inviting, the ponds aren't meant for swimming or fishing. They are stormwater ponds that keep our streets from flooding, help keep waterways like the Chesapeake Bay clean, and are required by federal and state regulations for the city's state-issued stormwater permit.

Stormwater ponds fill up when water from heavy rainstorms, car washing, or lawn watering washes down the nearest storm drain and finds its way to the nearest stormwater pond. As the water flows over rooftops, roads, parking lots, and backyards, it can pick up pollutants like trash, leaked oil, household fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, and leaves along the way.

The ponds remove nitrogen and phosphorous in the water that could cause algae blooms that reduce oxygen levels and make it hard for crabs and other aquatic life to live.

Unlike swimming pools or water treatment plants, the ponds are designed to trap trash and naturally filter out pollutants without using chemicals. "A gate collects a variety of trash before it gets into the pond, and the sediment settles to the bottom of the pond," explains Stormwater Administrator Susie Orndorff.

Keeping the ponds free of trash and sediment buildup is a full-time job. Orndorff and staff regularly don hip boots and wade into the mud and muck around the City's 26 stormwater facilities to inspect inflow and outflow pipes, trash gates, and structures to make sure they aren't clogged and are structurally sound.

Public works crews keep weeds and grass at bay and pick up accumulated trash to keep the water flowing, and learn the proper way to clean up spills and hazardous materials so they don't end up in the ponds. Planners and engineers also have a hand in stormwater management as they review plans for new developments and buildings, and make sure construction does not cause erosion or more dirt runoff into ponds.

Some pond maintenance and renovations are required to meet state and federal regulations, but Orndorff says all work has a big payoff. She is currently managing nine capital improvement projects that will improve stormwater ponds or streams.

When the ponds are constructed or improved—like the Lucasville Pond on Hastings Drive that is being renovated soon—they contain features that help keep the sediment down in the bottom. "They have a cell in a small pocket of the pond that replicates natural wetlands, and plants on the edge of the pond. This gives the sediment a place to settle," says Orndorff. When the pond has less capacity to hold water because the sediment builds up, it needs to be

dredged or cleaned up.

Not all water stays in the ponds. An outflow pipe carries the cleaner water to nearby streams, where it eventually finds its way into the Chesapeake Bay. These stormwater facilities also control the flow of water, which is important because heavy flows after a storm event can cause erosion.

In addition to the 26 City-owned stormwater facilities, there are 52 privately owned or operated wet and dry stormwater ponds, trenches and filtration systems in neighborhoods and commercial areas across the City that also need to be maintained by property owners and homeowner associations.

"Many people think that stormwater ponds are there to improve the landscape—and while they can serve as community amenities—their main function is to reduce high volume flows after a storm and act as a buffer between pollutants and local streams. You can help by not putting trash, leaves, grease, oil, or any other debris in storm drains or around ponds," Orndorff explains.

Visit www.manassasva.gov/stormwater to find out more

Stormwater Administrator Susie Orndorff inspects the stormwater pond on Winters Branch Trail at Dean Park.



A Moment with the Mayor



Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger

November is the season of being Thankful, and I am thankful for this year and this great community I call home. In November, we can pass under the beautiful display of flags on the

Museum Lawn presented by the Bull Run Rotary Club. We are thankful for our veterans as we celebrate with the 13th Annual Northern Virginia Veterans Parade on Saturday, Nov. 5 at 11 a.m.

In November, we also start skating in the Harris Pavilion and we will hold a household hazardous waste, ewaste and Shredding event at the Manassas Transfer Station on Nov. 5 from 8 a.m. to noon. Not only are we thankful for skating, but for clean houses and garages.

On Nov. 24, I hope you will gather with your family or friends, or both, and give thanks for the many wonderful things that have happened or are happening this year. I know I will be celebrating with my family and I wish you and yours all the best at the beginning of this holiday season.

Thanksgiving is the traditional start to the shopping season too. But if you do not want to wait until Thanksgiving, feel free to drop by any of our City stores and shops to pick up a few things for your family. Shopping local is great for the local economy and supports your neighbors who give so much to the community.

I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Until next month,



Library News

Did you know. . .

The City of Manassas is a partner in the Prince William Library System, not only the Manassas Library. If you get a library card at a Prince William Library, you can also check out books at any library in the National Capital Region. That way, if you are at work in another locality and pass a library, you can check a book out there.

Laptop Loans

Here is some great news from our library system. Need a laptop? Prince William Public Libraries now loan out Chromebooks for three weeks at a

time. Chromebooks can be requested through the Online Catalog at pwcva.gov/library. Please have your Prince William Public Libraries card with you when checking out a Chromebook.

If you do not yet have a library card, you can visit any of the 12 branches throughout Prince William County and the City of Manassas. Library cards are free for residents – you only need to show proof of residence to receive a library card.

While Chromebooks are not connected to the internet, if you also need internet, you can check out a Mobile Wi-Fi Hotspot from the library. The hotspots provide free internet access at home and can be checked out for three weeks. In addition, Prince William Public Libraries provides free Wi-Fi available at any branch location, including 24/7 access in the parking lots. Learn more: pwcva.gov/library.



Are you able to:

- Protect and nurture children?
- Meet children's developmental needs & address developmental delays?
- Support relationships between children and their families?
- Connect children to safe, nurturing, relationships intended to last a lifetime?
- Work as a member of a professional team?



If the answer is yes, please contact the City of Manassas Department of Social Services at 703-361-8277, or scan the QR code for more information. If you scan the code, you will be asked to create an account so you can learn more information.



703-361-8277



www.manassasva.gov/ss

A Message from the City Manager



City Manager W. Patrick Pate

With the arrival of November, we see the end of the current election season and a return to our normal advertisement distractions instead of all the political ads. I will be glad for the break! Government is complex and difficult to explain in 30 second sound bites.

That is why I appreciate the recent graduates of our Manassas City Leadership Academy. These folks took the time to better understand our local government by participating in five weeks of meetings and discussions with city staff and leaders on city government services. This will make them better informed residents of the community they call home. If you are interested you can sign up for the class next fall.

In our current environment, I am consistently amazed at the level of personal sacrifice individuals are willing to make to run for elected office, particularly for our local City Council and School Board seats. They put themselves out in the public so that you can get to know them and their vision for the community or school system. Whether they won or not, remember to thank each of these local individuals for being willing to serve all of us for the next four years.

I have heard many seasoned elected officials tell newly elected officials, running for office was the easy part, now you have to learn how to govern! Governing (and serving on a Board) involve bringing different perspectives together to make the best decisions on how to move a community or

organization forward. A single opinion cannot approve action, it takes a majority working together to get things done.

As residents, we sometimes forget that elected officials represent all of the community not just the ones that voted for them. In Manassas, we are fortunate that our elected officials make an effort to interact with all residents of our community and work to listen to all sides of issues. For our part as residents, we should thoughtfully share our opinion on issues with our elected leaders while understanding that they will also be listening to other opinions while they work together to make decisions that are in the best interest of the entire community.

This is probably why public civility is often a topic of conversation among public officials. A recent "Civility in America" poll found that 93 percent of Americans identify a civility problem that is often associated with social media. This poll also identified on a

positive note that 88% of Americans also identified actions that they would take themselves to improve civility. The most common actions identified were to make an effort to be civil even when you are being treated uncivilly, encouraging others to be civil and voting for political leaders who behave in a civil way. I find that encouraging and appreciate that this is already the typical Manassas response.

As we are entering the season of Thanksgiving, I again want to say that I am thankful for my fellow city employees that go "above and beyond" every day to support excellent service delivery in our community. I am thankful for the many elected and volunteer leaders in this community that are working to make the quality of life in Manassas better each and every year. And I am thankful for the residents of this community that are engaged in civil discourse, embrace our diversity and are willing to reach out to help each other as we strive to build a stronger community.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Graduates of the 2022 City Leadership Academy

Easier Check In at Social Services Means Better Customer Service

A new sign-in kiosk is making it easier for customers to access services at the Department of Social Services at 9324 West St.

The kiosk will allow customers to enter a reason for the visit, request a staff member, and sign in in Spanish.

The check-in system is not designed to replace human workers. Once signed in, customers will be assisted by staff members who are courteous, empathetic and knowledgeable.



The City of Manassas Happenings

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

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

Nov. 4 - 13 - **Flags for Heroes** on the Manassas Museum Lawn

Nov. 4 from 6 - 9 p.m. - **Fall Gallery Walk** for First Friday

Nov. 4 at 6 p.m. - **Grand Opening of The Lovejoy Gallery on Main** at 9358 Main Street

Nov. 4 - Dec. 24 - **5th Annual Holiday Small Works Show and Sale** @ Creative Brush Studios

Nov. 5 - **Fall RecycleFest with Shredding** at the Manassas Transfer Station

Nov. 5 at 11 a.m. - **12th Annual Veterans Day Parade** in Historic Downtown

Nov. 8 - **Election Day**-polls open 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Ice Skating starts in November as the weather gets cold. Watch Facebook at facebook.com/cityofmanassas for the opening day

Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. - **The United States Army Band Pershing's Own** @Hylton Performing Arts

Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m. - **Comedy night: G.I. Jokes featuring An All Veteran Lineup** @ARTfactory

Nov. 20 at 5 p.m. - **Last day to submit Off the Wall artwork** for high school students

Nov. 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - **Old Town Manassas Christmas Fair and Holiday Craft Show** on the Museum Lawn.

Nov. 26 - Dec. 4 - **A Christmas Carol** (Broadway Version) @ARTfactory

Dec. 2 at 5:15 p.m. - **Santa Lights Manassas** in Historic Downtown

Dec. 3 at 10 a.m. - **76th Annual Greater Manassas Christmas Parade**

Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. - the Manassas Chorale - **Everywhere, Christmas Tonight**

Dec. 4 from 1 - 4 p.m. - Free **Carriage Rides** around Historic Downtown

Dec. 10 at 3:30 p.m. - Manassas Symphony Orchestra - **Family Concert: Explorations**

Dec. 11 from 1 - 4 p.m. - Free **Carriage Rides** around Historic Downtown

Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. - Museum **Talk on architect Albert Speiden** at Bull Run Unitarian Universalist Church.

Dec. 14 - 18 - **Winter Wonderland Train Show** at the ARTfactory (Dec 14 - 16 - 5-8 p.m.; Dec 17 - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and Dec 18 - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

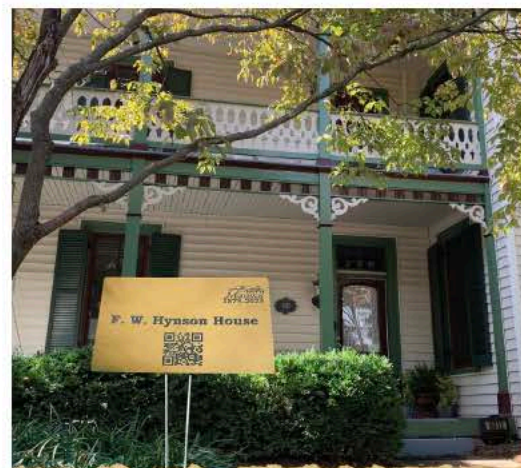
Dec. 16 - 23 - Manassas Ballet Theatre presents **The Nutcracker** @Hylton Performing Arts Center

Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - **Winter Wonderland Holiday Market** at the ARTfactory

Dec. 18 from 1 - 4 p.m. - Free **Carriage Rides** around Historic Downtown

Dec. 19 - 30 - Check out the **Winter Break classes** for students at the ARTfactory

Dec. 21 - Jan. 30 - **Off the Wall** artshow at the ARTfactory



150th Online House & Business Tour Celebrates Neighborhoods

Tell the unique story of your historic home or business in a new 150th Birthday online tour. Your building must be at least 50 years old, and you can purchase a sign for \$40. Find out more:

www.manassasva.gov/150

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

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