

CITY CONNECTION



Happy 150th
Birthday
Manassas

APRIL 2023

Route 28 Widening

You may have been behind the snaking line of cars inching past traffic cones, narrowing lanes, and construction crews at work along Route 28/Nokesville Road in the last year. Now that the construction is all but finished and the traffic delays have eased, the benefits of the Route 28 widening project are coming into focus.

The project widens Route 28 from four lanes to six lanes from Godwin Drive to the southern Prince William County limit, and aims to reduce congestion for drivers traveling from western Prince William County to Manassas and beyond to I-66. This project is part of a much larger Route 28 widening project in Prince William and Fairfax counties, and has required extensive coordination in the region.

"Working with the various groups required a lot of coordination being that each party had its own goal and the City navigated all the groups to make it a successful and beneficial project for all," Director of Engineering Lance Kilby says.

Senior Engineer Sung Jin Chung notes that much of the coordination was with utility partners including the City's own Utilities Department, PWCSA (Prince William County Service Authority), UOSA (Upper Occoquan Service Authority), Washington Gas and other private utility companies.

"We required approvals from them as the project impacted their facilities, assets, right-of-way and infrastructures," Chung explains.

Although drivers are still adjusting to the separated dual turn lane to Godwin Drive on northbound Route 28, the intersection is much safer for

drivers exiting the Route 234 Bypass who no longer have to merge and get across two lanes of traffic to make the turn. The project also improves traffic lights and street lighting.

During construction it was a challenge to keep traffic moving on Route 28, a major regional roadway that spans more than 30 miles and runs directly through the City.

"Once the project started construction, it was a heavy lift in managing the day-to-day operations while meeting the needs of the public and the maintenance of traffic movement," Kilby says. "Sung had a large part in the project, assisting on a daily and weekly basis over the last two years. Without his commitment it would not have been as successfully completed."

The Godwin Drive Shared Use Path that is still under construction will tie into the Route 28 shared use path created as part of the widening project. The path runs on the east side of Godwin Drive from Wellington Road to Route 28 (past Micron with the GMU campus entrance across the street), and on the south side of Godwin Drive from Route 28 to Winters Branch Trail (passing by the City's Customer



Service Center). When completed later this year, the Godwin-Route 28 trail connection will make it much safer for pedestrians and bicyclists to get around.

The \$20.7 million Route 28 Widening project has been funded primarily through federal funds, with \$3.2 million from NVTA (Northern Virginia Transportation Authority), \$3.7 million from VDOT (Virginia Department of Transportation) funds, and \$708,000 in City Capital Improvement Program funding.

DEA NATIONAL DRUG TAKE BACK EVENT

April 22, 2023
10am-2pm

UVA HEALTH PRINCE WILLIAM
MEDICAL CENTER
8700 SUDLEY ROAD
MANASSAS VA 20110



A Moment with the Mayor



Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger

It's April! I love this month. There is so much to look forward to in April. On April 6, the Farmer's Market officially opens in the Harris Pavilion on Thursdays bringing fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers and more to our Historic Downtown. I hope you come and enjoy this award-winning market. People are celebrating Easter, Passover

and folks are going on Spring Break. Please be safe and have a great time, if you are traveling. And it is usually a beautiful month with spring in the air and the hint of promise on the breeze.

Here's a neat thing the City offers. Have you heard about our Household Hazardous Waste and eWaste drop off days? Visit www.manassasva.gov/ trash for more information on date and times. Along with this service, the City also offers residents the Courtesy Truck. This is a great program if you are cleaning out your basement or garage and need a big truck to haul it all away. Just call customer service at 703-257-8252 and reserve it for a day or the weekend for \$225. You can put your trash in the truck and on Monday or the next day, depending on when you reserve it, Public Works will take care of it for you.

On March 11, I was honored to receive the 2023 Power Up Trailblazer Award from the Power Up Women's

Conference. This was yet another opportunity for me to get Manassas in front of a different group of people. The ceremony was at 9 a.m. in Middleburg and I was still able to walk/ride in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Two honors in one day. What a great opportunity.

City Council has been working hard to give our residents a great budget for FY2024. We have been meeting several times a week since March 6 to put this budget together, always with our residents in mind as we do this hard work. The budget should be approved in May, and the public will have the opportunity to speak about the budget at the public hearing on April 24.

I hope to see you at one of the events happening in our City this spring. Until then, have a beautiful month!

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

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER WAITLIST

Opens on April 19, 2023 ONLY | 8:30am to 5pm



The City of Manassas Housing Program provides rental assistance to low-income families.

750 applications will be accepted for one day only and will be accepted through a lottery process.

This voucher program funded by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is designed to achieve:

- Improved living conditions for low-income families while maintaining affordable rent payments
- Freedom of housing options and inclusion of lower-income and minority families
- Incentives for owners to rent to lower-income families

Don't miss your chance to apply!
April 19, 2023 ONLY | 8:30am to 5pm

703-361-8277
9324 West St
Manassas, VA 20110

Questions? www.manassasva.gov/social_services/housing/ has answers!

A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
W. Patrick Pate

I hope that you were able to attend and enjoy our April 1st 150th Anniversary celebration. A significant amount of time and effort were put into creating this celebration and I want to thank all of those who did so much to make it happen. You know who you are! We will be continuing this celebration theme throughout the rest of the year so look for it at other community events and festivals. There is a lot of pride in making it 150 years.

As your city government moves into April, we are focused on reviewing and adopting a budget for our new fiscal year which will begin on July 1, 2023. The proposed budget was presented on February 27th and City Council has been reviewing the details which are available on our website at www.manassasva.gov/budget. On Monday, April 24, 2023 we will have the official public hearing on the budget where you can come in person and voice your opinion. Some of you have already done this at the March Town Hall and many of you have sent emails, comments on social media, made calls, and some have even sent an actual written letter to City Council expressing their views. All of this feedback helps City Council understand and address the needs of the community.

Several items are having a major impact on the budget this year. The economy is still strong in Manassas and this is reflected in the 10.79% overall growth in assessments. Assessments are done annually to keep values

comparable between properties, not to increase revenues. City Council will adopt a real estate tax rate as a part of the budget that will determine the change in our tax bills. The assessments help us with tax equity. The proposed budget calls for a 3.7% increase in residential real estate rates to deal with the maintenance of existing services in this inflationary environment that we are all experiencing. The City also has to pay the increases in items such as fuel costs and escalating vehicle prices.

The proposed budget does include pay adjustments for all city employees, including police officers, firefighters and social service workers, as we attempt to stay competitive in the Northern Virginia market with pay and benefits. An increase in local funds for the Manassas Public School System is also included to help as they also work to stay competitive in recruiting teachers and other staff. Only one new staff position is proposed in this year's budget which is a tax service specialist to assist with customer service in the Commissioner of Revenue's Office.

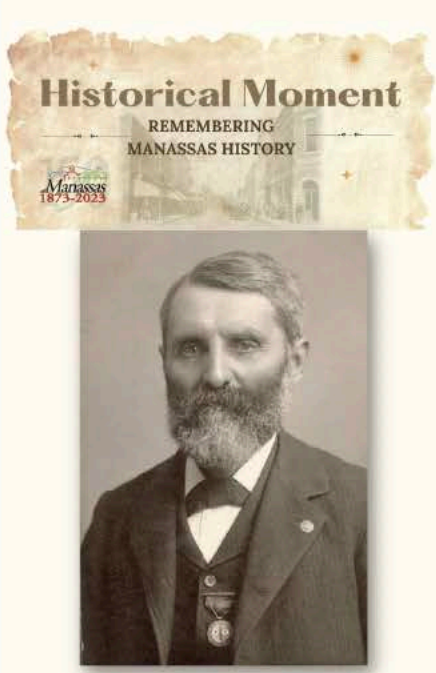
We are addressing needs such as replacement of police radios and fire equipment, enhancing traffic controls, updating our transportation master plan, completing utility projects

to ensure clean water and reliable electricity, enhancing technology and keeping up with maintenance needs. We are also required to contribute additional funds to services such as the Court System and Detention Centers. In the Electric Fund we have a significant increase in costs to buy electricity which will result in a 4% increase in electric rates while the proposed water, sewer and stormwater rates stay the same.


There are still several unknown factors that we may face in the budget. One major unknown is the economic predictions of a possible recession. This could impact revenues and increase demand for services. Likewise, the Virginia General Assembly has not completed their debates on possible changes to the state budget which often result in unfunded mandates being passed on to local jurisdictions.

Our overall financial health, however, is excellent. We continue to receive positive news about our local economy. We are making progress on our strategic priorities. Our community satisfaction survey shows your satisfaction and appreciation for the services that are provided in your community. And to cap it off, we are celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the founding of Manassas.

We have a lot to celebrate!



Historical Moment
REMEMBERING
MANASSAS HISTORY



Pennsylvania native and Union Army veteran George Carr Round was said to be headed to North Carolina to begin his career as a lawyer when he got off the train in Manassas in 1868. We're glad he did. He wrote the new town's charter in 1873 and served as town clerk, founded the state's first public school, supported African American schools, secured funding for the town's first library, and organized numerous reunions of Civil War veterans from the north and south. Round Elementary School is named in his honor.

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 through April - **Artistic Expressions** - Osbourn High School art show at Jirani Coffee House

Now - April 25 - **ARTfactory Instructors Exhibit** - featuring many of the artists around the area, including Mike Flynn, Michele Frantz, and Emily Thomson

April 3 - 8 - **Hop Around Downtown**

April 6 at 10 a.m. - Official opening of the **Thursday Farmer's Market** at the Harris Pavilion

April 7 from 6 - 9 p.m. - First Friday - **Hop Around Downtown**

April 8 - Opening of the **Saturday Farmer's Market**

April 8 at 2 p.m. - **Liberia Basement to Attic Tour** - cityofmanassas.recdesk.com

April 12 at noon - **Archaeology at Annaburg**

April 15 from 6 - 8 p.m. - **Artists Reception** at the ARTfactory

April 20 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - **Museum at the Market**

April 21 from 7 to 10 p.m. - **Paranormal Investigation of the Candy Factory** Tee Morris and Phil Rossi of Old Spirits Investigations - register at cityofmanassas.recdesk.com

April 23 from 12 - 4 p.m. - **Equality Prince William Pride** event at the Harris Pavilion

April 26 at 6 p.m. - **Manassas Volunteer Reception**

April 27 at 11 a.m. - **Storytime** with the Manassas City Library and the Manassas Museum

April 29 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. - **Manassas Reads** Literacy Event & free book giveaway at the Harris Pavilion

April 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - **Old Town Manassas Art Show and Craft Spring Fair**

April 30 - **Manassas Runway Run** at the Manassas Regional Airport
<https://manassasrunway10k-5k.com>

May 5 from 6 - 9 p.m. - **First Friday: Tacos and Tequila**

May 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - **Manassas Regional Airport Open House**

May 5 from 8 a.m. to noon - **Household Hazardous Waste** dropoff day with shredding

May 5 at 7 p.m. - Fresh Music Friday with **Theo Scott** at the Harris Pavilion

May 6 at 2 p.m. - **Liberia Basement to Attic Tour** - cityofmanassas.recdesk.com

May 12 - 21 - Pied Piper Theatre **School of Rock** performance

May 13 - Manassas Viking Festival

May 16 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with **Shane Gamble** at the Harris Pavilion

May 18 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - **Museum at the Market**

May 19 - 21 - Manassas Ballet Theatre's **Swan Lake**

May 20 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - **Larexpo** - Latin American Artisans & Entrepreneurs EXPO at the Harris Pavilion

May 20 at 11 a.m. - **Anything's Pawsible Festival & 5K Fun Run** on the Manassas Museum Lawn

May 21 from 1 - 4 p.m. - **Equality Prince William Pride** event at the Harris Pavilion

May 23 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with **MacKenzie Ryan** at the Harris Pavilion

May 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **Family Day free events at Liberia House** and Grounds - cityofmanassas.recdesk.com

May 30 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with **Brian Harris** at the Harris Pavilion

June 3 from 1 - 6 p.m. - **29th Annual Manassas Railway Festival**

Check out **Summer Camps** at www.manassasva.gov/camps

Free Chlorine Burn

The City of Manassas treats its drinking water with chloramine to keep it safe as it travels from the water treatment plant to your tap. Over time bacteria that are harmless to humans accumulate in the water system. To combat this, the water plant briefly switches from treating with chloramine to free chlorine. Free Chlorine is a stronger, faster-acting disinfectant that clears out the system. The Burn starts in late March and lasts until late June. During this process, you may notice that your tap water smells and tastes like chlorine; however, this is completely safe. This routine maintenance procedure will ensure only the highest quality water will reach your tap.



Get Social!

Visit the City at www.manassasva.gov

www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas

www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas

www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas

www.instagram.com/cityofmanassas

www.youtube.com/user/manassascityva

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

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

City of Manassas Council

Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger

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	703-257-1702

City of Manassas School Board

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