

February 2023

## Join Us for the 150th Birthday of the City of Manassas

On April 1, from 2 - 8 p.m. help mark the City's 150th Birthday during a community celebration at Jennie Dean Park that offers fun for all ages and ends with a bang: fireworks.

This free celebration will feature amusements like a moon bounce, axe throwing, bucket truck rides, touch a truck, storytelling and video presentations, live music, food, a time capsule ceremony, and much more.

The Town of Manassas was born on April 2, 1873, when the Virginia General Assembly granted a charter that created a town government to meet the needs of the growing village. In those early days, residents were most concerned with building and maintaining the unpaved roads, building sidewalks, protecting their town from the ever-present danger of fires, maintaining shade trees, regulating saloons, and making sure that livestock did not roam in the streets.

In 1873, about 300 people lived in what was then called the Village of Manassas. Another 1,000 or so people lived in the surrounding Manassas District, now part of Prince William County. Before the Civil War, the area was known as Tudor Hall, named for a home in the area. During the Civil War, with little more than a few homes and a depot at the railroad junction of the Manassas Gap and Orange and Alexandria Railroads, the area was called Manassas Junction.

Although not yet a town, Manassas was known around the world as the place where two major Civil War battles were fought. After the war, many northerners settled here, attracted by the inexpensive price of land. Union veterans like George Carr Round, the

first City Clerk and a Town Council member, worked together with Confederate veterans like Robert Carter Weir, the first Mayor.

Education was a priority for the town. By 1870 African Americans established the Manassas Village Colored School. Located first on the corner of Liberty Street, it was renamed The Brown School a year later. Ruffner School, the state's first public school for White children, was built in 1872 at the corner of Peabody and Center Street. The nationally known Manassas Industrial School for Colored Youth was established by Jennie Dean in 1893.

The town grew rapidly as the Prince William County Courthouse moved to Manassas in 1894, and passenger and freight rail service remained important. The town's neighborhoods remained largely segregated after a 1917 ordinance regulated where African Americans could live. Many settled in the historically Black areas around Liberty, Douglas, and Prince William Streets.

After World War II, Manassas became more suburban as farmland was transformed by housing and business development. The City of Manassas continues to be transformed by our diverse population in a way that our founders could never have imagined. Of our 42,772 residents counted in the 2020 Census, 13% are Black/African American, 38% are Hispanic/Latino, and 38% are White/Caucasian.

Be sure to visit [www.manassasva.gov/150](http://www.manassasva.gov/150) or the city's social media channels for updates on the celebration and ways you can participate.



### Manassas 150th Birthday

**April 1, 2023  
2:00 - 7:30 PM**

#### *On Stage:*

- 2 PM - Pershing's Own Band
- 3 PM - 150th Ceremony
- 4 PM - Celeste Vee - Electric Violinist
- 5 PM - Carleigh Jane
- 6 PM - Special Occasions Band
- 7:30 PM - Fireworks!

#### *Program Line Up:*

- 150th Video Series - watch residents tell their Manassas story
- Tours of the Manassas Industrial School at 2:15 and 4:15 PM
- Manassas Timeline exhibit
- Family-friendly storytelling at 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30 PM
- Community Crafts

#### *Other Fun:*

- Food Trucks
- Axe Throwing
- Face Painting
- Rock Climbing Wall
- Touch a Truck - (dump trucks, plows, police cars, fire truck, and a race car)
- 150th postal cancellation stamp



## A Moment with the Mayor



**Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger**

Welcome to February, which I also like to call the month of LOVE! Well, I think it is pretty obvious that I absolutely LOVE the City of Manassas and I hope you do too. On April 1, 2023, the City will celebrate its 150th birthday with a party at Jennie Dean Park. I hope you will attend and bring your friends and family to join us. The day will be lots of fun for all, but it doesn't end

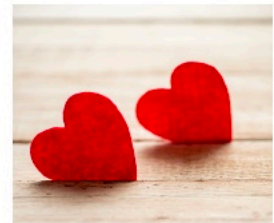
there. City staff will be out at events this year to hand out information, give-aways and more to continue the celebration.

During the 150th birthday celebration, I, City Council and others will be placing items in a time capsule (to be opened in 50 years) that we feel tells the story of this moment in history. If you feel like you have something to contribute, the City is holding a contest of sorts for resident items to be placed in the time capsule. Those selected will be asked to come up on stage on April 1 and place their item in the time capsule. Visit [www.manassasva.gov/150](http://www.manassasva.gov/150) for more information.

The council retreat is scheduled in February and is being held in Haymarket, VA. The meetings are open to the public. February also brings the beginning of budget discussions for myself and City Council. The City Manager and staff work very hard to

create a budget that includes all of the projects residents have asked to see come to fruition. Some of these take years to fund, others can be handled very timely. I don't know what it includes yet, but I can assure you that residents will have time to look over the proposed budget and comment during the budget process. More to come on that, we would love to hear from you.

I hope you enjoy this month celebrating the love of family, the love of friends, and the love for your City. Please remember to find places to show real love for our city and volunteer to serve on a board. See you next month!



## Composting Food Waste at Home

The City of Manassas is sponsoring a residential food waste composting program to help reduce the amount of food waste sent to the landfill. Food waste can be recycled into compost, a natural soil enhancer, that helps to improve the health of the soil and can reduce the need for fertilizers and pesticides. Collected food scraps will be taken to nearby Balls Ford Road Compost Facility and recycled into compost.

The City of Manassas has been working with Compost Crew to launch the Curbside Food Waste Composting Program. Since early 2021, City of Manassas residents participating in this program have collected 46,952 pounds of food scraps to be turned into compost. Residents who sign up to participate in the program will receive a container to separate out food scraps. Bins are lined with compostable liners to help keep the container clean. Compost Crew will empty the

bin and give you a new liner on your designated collection day.

As part of this program, the City of Manassas will fund the first 3 months of service for the first 300 participating households. After the initial 3 months, participants will pay the full cost for the curbside food scrap compost collection.

For more information, contact Compost Crew directly at (301) 202-4450.



## Historical Moment

REMEMBERING  
MANASSAS HISTORY



When Manassas was incorporated in 1873, fires destroyed many homes and businesses. The Town Council's Fire Committee kept ladders and buckets below the Railway Depot platform, and it was up to residents to protect their town. By ordinance, the Town Sergeant or Mayor were allowed to ask any citizen or bystander to assist in extinguishing a fire. Any person who objected to fighting the fire was subject to a fine.



# A Message from the City Manager



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

Are you getting excited? Our 150th birthday as a community will be here in a little over a month. Plans are underway and you are invited to the celebration at Dean Park on Saturday, April 1 from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m. And, we know that you like special events and festivals. In fact, you rate your satisfaction with special events and festivals in the City of Manassas 45% higher than the national average and 56% higher than the Atlantic region. Making it to 150 years old is a reason to celebrate, so we intend to keep it going throughout 2023.

Celebrating our 150th anniversary is a part of our efforts to be a City that celebrates and promotes the safety, diversity and character of our community. We call this priority "Community Vitality."

This is measured in part by your satisfaction with Manassas as a place to live. Four out of five respondents were satisfied with Manassas as a place to live. This is significantly higher than the regional or national averages. One goal in this area has been to invest in community spaces and to continue to promote community involvement.

This has been particularly evident in our recent efforts directed at Parks, Culture and Recreation. Over the past several years we have installed the Jennie Dean Statue and enhanced the memorial site, completed and opened Lucky's Dog Park at Dean Park, made improvements to playgrounds at Baldwin, Haydon and Mayfield, parks at Calvary Run, Kinsley Mill and Lee Manor, the Mayfield and

Liberia historic sites, and enhanced Stonewall Pool, the Candy Factory and the Harris Pavilion.

The City of Manassas purchased and completed the master planning process for the Annaburg site along with major efforts to stabilize and enhance the historic house. The Manassas Museum is undergoing extensive renovations and an expansion to create a multi-purpose space and enhance the space for exhibits. During the coming year you will see extensive work being done on Dean Park to provide for additional recreational opportunities.

Another goal in this area was to have a library in the City. The Manassas City Library is now open in Wellington Station at 10104 Dumfries Road and city residents also have access to all other libraries in the Northern Virginia consortium. We are also enhancing public safety with the completion of the Public Safety Facility on Grant Ave. along with the recent completion of Fire and Rescue Station #521 on Dumfries Road.

Another aspect of this priority area is housing and quality neighborhoods. Over the past several years we have seen a significant variety of housing options added particularly near the Historic Downtown area and at the Landing at Cannon Branch. Housing projects underway include the renovation of the Quarry Station apartments, a Van Metre project between Grant Ave. and Main St., King's Landing on Godwin Dr., Jefferson Square along Prince William St., and the Harris building addition on Battle St.

While 42% of respondents to the most recent survey listed affordability of housing as the most important factor impacting their decision to live in Manassas, affordability was also selected as the third highest reason for living in the City and that it should receive emphasis from the City Council. The overall perception of the availability of affordable quality housing and efforts to preserve and increase affordable housing are also both noted as areas for emphasis. As

such, affordable housing remains a priority topic of interest for City Council. You can stay up-to date on projects ongoing in the City by going to [www.manassasva.gov/newdevelopments](http://www.manassasva.gov/newdevelopments).

If you have never been to these park or project sites, I encourage you to get out and explore your City this year. 2023 is going to be a busy year for the City and we are excited to see the changes that are coming.



## Budget Award

The City has received an 18th consecutive Distinguished Budget Presentation Award and a 39th Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its 2023 fiscal year Annual Comprehensive Finance Report from the Government Finance Officers Association.

Approximately 1,800 governments, including states, cities, counties, special districts, school districts, and more have been recognized for transparency in budgeting. To earn this recognition, budget documents must meet program criteria and excel as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communication tool.

Thanks to the Finance Department for their work in preparing the budget, which is a year-round job. You can find all the budget documents at [www.manassasva.gov/budget](http://www.manassasva.gov/budget)



# 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).

**Ice Skating** - enjoy ice skating at the Harris Pavilion this winter. Bring the kids - [www.harrispavilion.com](http://www.harrispavilion.com)

Now through March 25 - **Winter Market** on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Commuter Lot on Prince William Street

Now through June - **ARTful Wellness Series!** with UVA Prince William Medical and the Virginia ARTfactory

Feb. 3 from 6 - 9 p.m. - First Friday **Souper Bowl**

Feb. 4 & 5, 8 p.m. - **Machine de Cirque** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

Feb. 11, 8 p.m. - **Mark Morris Dance Group & Music Ensemble** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

Feb. 16, 4 p.m. - **Evening for Educators** - Free for MCPS Educators, sign up at [cityofmanassas.recdesk.com](http://cityofmanassas.recdesk.com)

Feb. 20 - **President's Day** Holiday, all government buildings closed to the public

Feb. 24 & 25 at 7 p.m. - Pied Piper presents **Brother's Grimm Spectaculathon** at the ARTfactory

Feb. 25 at 11 a.m. - Manassas Museum **Family Workshop**, sign up at [cityofmanassas.recdesk.com](http://cityofmanassas.recdesk.com)

Feb. 26, 4 p.m. - **Lucy Loves Desi** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

March 3 from 5 to 9 p.m. - First Friday - **Mad Hatter Madness**

March 4 at 7:30 p.m. - **Manassas Symphony Orchestra** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

March 5 from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. - **Swing Dance** with Joe Manning at the ARTfactory

March 10 - 12 - Manassas Ballet Theatre presents **La Boutique Fantasque & More!**

March 18 at 11 a.m. - Manassas Museum **Family Workshop**, sign up at [cityofmanassas.recdesk.com](http://cityofmanassas.recdesk.com)

March 18 at 7:30 p.m. - Manassas Chorale **"Voices United"** Concert at the Hylton Performing Arts Center [www.manassaschorale.org](http://www.manassaschorale.org)

March 20 at 7 p.m. - **Town Hall Meeting** at Jennie Dean Elementary School Auditorium

March 25 from 2 - 4 p.m. - **Liberia Open House**

March 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - **8th Annual Prince William/Manassas History Symposium** at the Old Courthouse featuring the story of George C. Round

April - **Farmer's Markets (Saturday and Thursday)** open for the season

April 1 from 2 - 8 p.m. - **City of Manassas 150th Birthday Party** at Dean Park ending with Fireworks at 7:30 p.m.

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

April 29 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **Manassas Reads** free book event at the Harris Pavilion

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

## City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

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

Vice Mayor Pamela J. Sebesky  
703-895-4485  
703-330-5514  
Theresa Coates Ellis  
703-247-6729  
Sonia Vasquez Luna  
703-791-9401  
Tom Osina  
571-621-4069  
Ralph J. Smith  
703-303-8530  
Mark D. Wolfe  
703-257-1702

**City of Manassas School Board**

Chair Suzanne W. Seaberg  
Vice Chair Lisa A. Stevens  
Sara J. Brescia  
Christina S. Brooks  
Carl Hollingsworth  
Jill Spall  
Robyn Williams  
571-377-7494  
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## Get Social!

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



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