



Welcome to the City of Manassas



Sonia Vasquez Luna was sworn in on January 3 as the first Hispanic elected to the Manassas City Council. She will serve a four-year term.

A native of El Salvador, she came to the U.S. in 2001 and took English classes at night while working to support her mother and sisters. She and her then active-duty military family moved to Manassas in 2010, attracted by the City's affordable housing. She earned an A.S. degree in Business Administration from Northern Virginia Community College, and a B.A. in Business Administration from the National Labor College.

She became the first immigrant woman elected Business Manager for LIUNA Local 572, (Laborers International Union of North America), and won reelection in May 2022. She also serves as the LIUNA District Council Secretary-Treasurer; Executive Board Member on the LIUNA Latino Caucus; National Executive Board Member on the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA); and Northern Virginia Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

Second Vice President. She worked as an election officer for over a decade in Fairfax County, in Prince William County, and in the City, and served on the Towing Ordinance Advisory Board.

She is the mother of two children attending Manassas City Public Schools.

career development courses, including the National Fire Academy, the Center for Domestic Preparedness, the Emergency Management Institute and the Department of Counter Terrorism Support with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



In January, our new Fire & Rescue Chief begins his tenure overseeing the system. Edward R. Mills, III comes to the City with more than 30 years of experience in Fire & Rescue services with the District of Columbia. Mills has a large variety of experience, including emergency management, EMS, working with the Medical Director, counter terrorism, and has been Assistant Fire Chief and acting Fire Chief. He has extensive volunteer hours around the area.

In the 1980's, Edward volunteered with both the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company (MVFC) and the Greater Manassas Volunteer Rescue Squad (GMVRS). He says that Manassas has always had a special place in his heart. Mills has a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of the District of Columbia. He has attended many

What is MARCUS Alert?

Marcus Alert enhances services for people experiencing a crisis related to mental health, substance use, or developmental disability. Marcus Alert creates coordination between 911 and regional crisis call centers and establishes a specialized behavioral health response from law enforcement when responding to a behavioral health situation.

Residents now have the ability to create a free Emergency Health Profile at emergencyprofile.org to share opt-in medical information with The Manassas City Police Department in the case of an emergency.

This new alert is being brought to you by the Manassas City Police Department and the City of Manassas with Virginia's Marcus Alert System through the Rapid SOS Platform.

Learn more about how to sign up for the Marcus Alert program by visiting <https://bit.ly/RapidSOSv>

A Moment with the Mayor



Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger

Welcome to 2023! I'm looking forward to a fabulous year. The City of Manassas is celebrating 150 Years as a community. I can't wait to see you all out at all of the events this year and, most especially on April 1, 2023 at Dean Park for the city celebration. More information will be coming soon, but we'll have bands, food, games and end the night with incredible fireworks. We hope you will join us for all the fun.

January is sometimes thought of as cold and dreary, but I'm going with a fresh start and sunshine in my thoughts. Did you make some New Year resolutions? Or, did you plan to

enhance your year instead of adding to it? Either way, new beginnings are worth some anticipation. When spring comes, we can all defrost and get back out in the community to visit and enjoy each other's company. City Council will begin working on the FY 2024 budget. We will meet over several months to discuss what is needed for the next year. This is not easy work and I appreciate all of council's hard work in figuring it all out and how to successfully meet the needs of everyone in our community.

I'd like to welcome our new Fire Chief, Edward Mills, to the City and ask that, if you see him around town, give him a hello and a warm welcome.

This month we recognize and celebrate the contributions of Martin Luther King, Jr. This is a man who worked tirelessly to bring an end to segregation through peaceful protests. He was the youngest person, at the time, to win the Nobel Peace Prize at the age of 35. If you ever get the chance, or take the time to read some of his writings, it is well worth it to learn from his wisdom. It is life changing. I stand on his shoulders and I am thankful for all that he

gave towards civil rights to provide opportunities that we are now reaping the benefits from.

A special birthday wish goes out to my dad, who will be celebrating 90 years on Jan. 20. My dad was born in the City of Manassas, on what is now Jennie Dean Elementary school. He has seen a lot living in Manassas his entire life, but one thing that has always been here and will continue to be here is love and hope. When asked what he is most proud of, of course it's that his daughter is Mayor, something he thought he would never see in his lifetime! Happy Birthday Dad! If you should see him riding around Wal-Mart, be sure to shout out and wish him a happy birthday!

See you next month, until then, remember to leave people better off than when you found them and encourage a visitor to make Manassas home!



2023 Household Hazardous Waste, Electronic Waste and Secure Document Shredding

Saturdays from 8AM – 12 Noon at the Manassas Transfer Station, 8305 Quarry Road



- March 4
- April 1
- May 6 + Shredding
- June 10
- July 1
- August 5 + Shredding
- September 2
- October 7
- November 4 + Shredding

Residents may shred personal documents in a safe and secure way. There is a 3 box maximum for shredding

www.manassasva.gov/trash

IMPORTANT EBT/P-EBT CARD SCAM NOTICE



The Virginia Department of Social Services is aware of malicious attempts on SNAP EBT and P-EBT cards. Protect yourself and your family by never providing personal information to an unknown or unsolicited source. Please know that you will never be contacted and asked to provide your EBT or P-EBT card or PIN.

IF YOU HAVE REPLIED TO ANY UNSOLICITED NUMBER,

Please contact the Virginia EBT Client Customer Service Helpdesk at 1-866-281-2448 to report your card stolen.

A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
W. Patrick Pate

Happy New Year and I hope you are still keeping your New Year's Resolutions! Supposedly it takes at least 30 days to create a habit, so hang in there and see if you keep them going. We are now in our 150th anniversary year and planning has been ongoing for some time to make the events special for the City throughout the year. Keep an eye out for information on the Birthday celebration scheduled in Dean Park on April 1st, 2023.

One of the City leadership changes as we start the new year is the appointment of Edward Mills as the new Fire and Rescue Chief. Ed has roots in the Manassas Fire and Rescue history and spent a significant portion of his career working in the DC department including spending time as the Acting Chief. I am excited that Mills has chosen to serve as Chief to lead our outstanding Fire and Rescue Department and work with the dedicated volunteers from the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), the Greater Manassas Volunteer Rescue Squad (GMVRS) and the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company (MVFC).

Over the next several months I will be sharing information that you provided to the City through the recent completion of the 2022 Community Survey. As has been the case in the past, our independent survey team noted that we had an excellent response rate from our residents that is representative of the diverse demographics that we share as a community.

This month, I will provide a brief overview of the survey results. The survey results show that residents have a very positive perception of Manassas with four out of five respondents rating Manassas as an Excellent or Good Place to Live. Similarly, nine out of ten respondents reported an overall feeling of safety in the City, which is 20% higher than the U.S. averages.

Satisfaction with City Services is reported as much higher in Manassas than other cities with Manassas rated above the U.S. average in 52 of the 65 service areas compared in the survey. You also rated your satisfaction with the quality of customer service from City employees as 31% higher than the U.S. average. Providing exceptional customer service is one of the core values that we continue to emphasize as an organization.

This survey allows you to tell us what you would like to see as points of emphasis in the City over the next several years. Points of emphasis or top priorities include:

- Traffic Flow and Ease of Getting around the City
- Economic Development in Commercial Corridors
- Public Safety
- Public Education and
- Affordable Housing

All of the information in the survey is a vital component used by City Council in developing strategic priorities that then drive city budget development and adoption. If you are

interested in seeing more details on the survey, the results are posted on the city website at www.manassasva.gov/survey.

I hope you will join me in looking forward to all of the good things that 2023 will bring to the City, particularly as we celebrate the 150th year milestone. Feliz Año Nuevo!

Let's Keep Each Other Safe This Winter

If it snows 6 inches or less, please clear sidewalks within 24 hours. If it snows more than 6 inches, clear sidewalks within 48 hours.



If ice cannot be removed from a sidewalk, it should be covered with sand or other material to make it safe for pedestrians.

If a property is not occupied, the owner is responsible for removing snow or ice.

How to Dispose of Your Christmas Tree

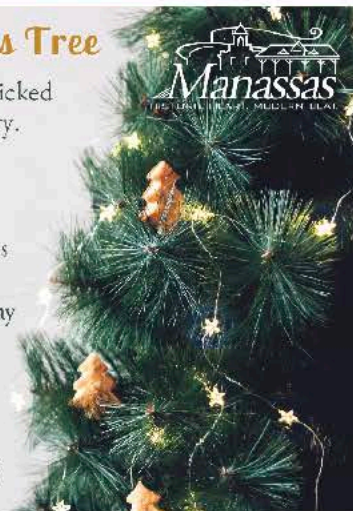
City of Manassas residents can have their tree picked up curb side and recycled throughout January.

To Participate, Take Care to Note the Following:

- Before setting out your trees to be recycled, please remove all lights, tinsel, ornaments, and stands (Trees should not be placed in plastic bags).
- Residents should place trees out by 6 a.m. on Monday mornings in January to be collected.

Options for disposing of Christmas trees include:

- Grinding the tree into mulch to be used in the yard
- Moving the tree to your backyard. The deteriorating tree will provide a habitat for birds.



The City of Manassas Happenings

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

www.visitmanassas.org.

Ice Skating - enjoy ice skating at the Harris Pavilion this winter. Bring the kids - www.harris pavilion.com

Jan. 16 – **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

Jan. 20 and 21 at 6:30 p.m. - Rooftop Productions presents **The Curse of Huxley Manor** Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre at the Evergreen Country Club

Jan. 28 and 29 – Pied Piper Theatre presents **Big Fish: The Musical** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

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

Feb. 20 – **President's Day**

Give your community a helping hand

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) is looking for some volunteers to make a real difference in our city. CERT volunteers help with city events and respond to emergencies. A training course for new members will start in February and will end with a live disaster exercise. Visit www.manassasva.gov/cert to find out more and to apply.



SAVE THE DATE
For The
Manassas
150th
Birthday Celebration

April 1, 2023

Jennie Dean Park
9501 Dean Park Lane



Will there be a
Winter Wonderland
this year?

Street Department crews are ready to plow 254 lane miles of city streets with:



10,000 gallons of brine

3,000 tons of salt



and 500 tons of sand

Visit www.manassasva.gov/snow to find out more about snow removal and when your street will be plowed.

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

City of Manassas Council
Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger

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

City of Manassas School Board

Sara J. Brescia	571-377-7492
Christina S. Brooks	571-377-7491
Carl Hollingsworth	571-377-7493
Suzanne W. Seaberg	571-377-7494
Jill Spall	571-377-7497
Lisa A. Stevens	571-377-7495
Robyn Williams	571-377-7496

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 p prince@manassasva.gov