

**Happy 150th  
Birthday  
Manassas**

JULY 2023

## Was your house built before 1988

You may have heard about the cities where old lead pipes have made drinking water unsafe. Here in Manassas, we are asking for your help to check your water pipes and make sure they are up to date so that our water continues to win awards for its purity.

The upcoming water pipe checks are not a response to any water quality issues. In fact, the Manassas Water Plant was recently awarded a 2022 Gold Performance Excellence award from the Virginia Department of Health for going beyond minimum requirements in providing safe drinking water.

We ask customers to check the water lines coming into their homes as a precaution and to comply with new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations.

The new EPA rule protects water quality by requiring public water systems to track and inventory all water service lines, and replace any lead service lines. Although the City has been on a reduced monitoring schedule because our lead and copper levels fall below the EPA's goals, the new regulations require all water providers to complete the inventory by October 2024.

Should you be alarmed about your pipes? Tony Dawood, Director of Utilities, says most lead pipes and pipes with lead fittings were replaced years ago, and only existed in some homes built prior to 1988. Testing and monitoring will be increased at schools, day cares, senior homes and public buildings, and more information is coming about sampling at elementary and child care facilities.

"We know where the oldest service lines are and will pay special attention to checking them," Dawood says. "But having everyone check their lines and getting those survey results uploaded will be a benefit for our records going forward."

Fortunately, checking your pipes won't require digging up your yard. Instead of a shovel, all you need is a magnet and a coin or key to test the line where it comes into your home or business. The magnet will only stick to steel pipes. If you scratch the pipe with a coin, copper will turn copper-colored, and lead will turn silver. If you do find any lead pipes, the City will develop a plan as required for potential replacement.

You may also see crews digging around your outside water meter to check the water line connections into your property. The City owns and maintains the pipes that run from

water mains under the streets to your property. From there the pipes are owned by the home or business owner.

Look for a mailing in the coming weeks with a magnet and detailed instructions about checking your pipes and uploading the results to an online survey. It's always a good idea to check your pipes, but those pipes in houses built before 1988 are the priority and will get the mailings first.

If you would like an added level of safety with your drinking water, you can always use a certified water filter, use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula, and regularly clean the faucet's aerator screen.

Visit [www.manassasva.gov/](http://www.manassasva.gov/) leadpipe for more information and links to videos on how to perform the magnet and scratch tests. Once the survey is complete, you will be able to see the results on a map.

**If your house was built before 1988,  
be safe and check your water pipe**





## A Moment with the Mayor



**Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger**

It's July and to me, that means Freedom! We celebrate the birth of this nation with fireworks, family and food. We celebrate the young people in our community being out of school and maybe moving on to another school, as in those rising 7th graders or those who have left high school and are onto bigger and better things.

I also get to celebrate the birth of my son, who actually celebrates his 24th

birthday on July 4th, and of course YOURS TRULY celebrates her 30/24 birthday (figure it out...LOL) on July 6 so it's party time the entire month of July for many reasons in my house! For all of you who have birthdays in July, happy birthday to you. We are still celebrating the 150th birthday of the City of Manassas. I hope you have been able to attend some of the events this year. If not, there are always more events for you to enjoy in the City of Manassas.

Have you heard about the new train scavenger hunt? Just in time for our 150th year, the City has hidden 10 trains about the downtown for residents and visitors to find. City staff worked with Osbourn High School art students to create these trains. I hope you will look for them on your way around the downtown. You can find out more about these trains at [www.manassasva.gov/trains](http://www.manassasva.gov/trains).

Events are in full swing for the summer months. I am hosting the "Mid-day with the Mayor" series in

the months of July and August with the first lunch on July 7. Grab your lunch and join me at 12 noon at the Harris Pavilion and "chat and chew" with me for an hour, I look forward to seeing you there. I plan to, as I did last year, have guest speakers attend. Also, please try to catch an Acoustic Tuesday this summer and drop by our fantastic Farmer's Market on Thursdays and Saturdays. There's so much to do and see, I hope you will take advantage of some of these events. Also, in July the SummerSounds Concerts begin with Linwood Taylor on July 8 and the Lua Project on July 22. Visit [www.historicmanassas.org](http://www.historicmanassas.org) for more about these and other fabulous events.

The event I'm most excited about is the grand re-opening of the Manassas Museum to be held on July 28 at 6 p.m. we will celebrate the re-opening and new construction with a ribbon cutting. I hope to see you out at the Museum in August, until then, stay safe and stay connected, see you next month!

## Batteries in the trash, not a good mix

Three billion batteries are disposed of each year in the U.S. The #1 worst thing you can put in your trash or recycling cart is a battery. Batteries can explode when damaged and have caused fires that have burned down facilities as well as trash and recycling trucks.

Common household items seem harmless, however, the batteries in them pose risks when disposed of in a trash or recycle cart because of their highly flammable nature. Batteries and the items they power such as cellphones, laptops and toys should be taken to the City of Manassas Electronics events held once a month. Safety first!



## July is Parks & Recreation Month

You are invited to celebrate Parks and Recreation Month with the City of Manassas. The Parks and Recreation Committee is hosting a Park Day on Saturday, July 15 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. that will include a series of activities to encourage everyone to explore and enjoy the beautiful City parks. Registration for this event takes place at the Farmer's Market on Prince William Street and the Manassas City Library on Dumfries Road. The day ends with free lunch on the Museum Lawn. Walk, bike, or drive; we want you to visit the parks.

Did you know that the City of Manassas has different types of parks? There are neighborhood parks, historic site parks, community parks and passive parks, like Nelson Park and Cannon Branch Park. There is so much to do and see in our parks.

Stonewall Park is home to the City's public pool which opened seven

days a week on June 17. The park features tennis courts, pickle ball courts, a playground, walking trail and more.

The City's smallest park, Walter Delisle Park, has a picnic table and a brand-new playground. And, within the last few years, Annaburg Park came into the park system. The lawn at Annaburg is a great place to have a picnic lunch or toss a ball around. In coming years, it may be a great place for a wedding or family gathering. Liberia features not only an historic 1825 home, but beautiful grounds with gardens, an amphitheater and an apiary.

The enclosed map highlights the features in each park in the City. This summer we hope you will get out and enjoy the City of Manassas parks. Visit [www.manassasva.gov/leisure](http://www.manassasva.gov/leisure) or call 703-257-1873 for more information.



# A Message from the City Manager



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

While many folks talk about Christmas in July, for Virginia governments we say Happy New Year on July 1st. July marks a time for new beginnings in municipal life with the start of our fiscal year and the new plans that come with each new budget. We also have a wonderful "Celebrate America!" event that helps us kick off our new year along with showing our national pride.

This July we will also celebrate the first phase of the Museum expansion project. On July 28 at 6 p.m. we plan to cut the ribbon on the new sections of the project which will allow us to begin the efforts to prepare the exhibits that will go into the rejuvenated space. This new space will continue to be a highlight of the historic heart of the downtown area and the surrounding community. It will also serve as a new modern beat for many generations of Manassas residents.

Another major project that is in the beginning phases this month is the revitalization of the Historic Downtown block that was the site of the Olde Towne Inn. It is not often that a community has the opportunity to have this type of rejuvenation in a thriving downtown. Thank you to the many individuals that have completed surveys, participated in small group discussion and have shared visions of what is needed in our Historic Downtown. Your involvement is key to making Manassas a great place to live, work and play. Stay tuned as this exiting redevelopment continues to unfold.

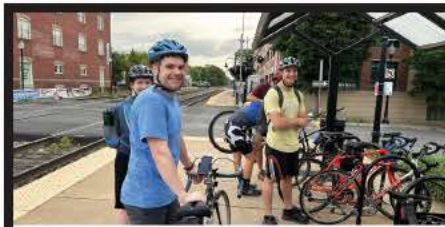
You may have also heard about some exciting news at the Manassas Regional Airport. City Council will be considering a recent proposal to provide scheduled commercial air service from the Manassas Regional Airport. This would not be carriers that currently serve Dulles or National airports, but would provide new options for services to selected destinations that would depart from and arrive in Manassas. The possibility of this type of service has been discussed for many years and may now come to fruition providing exciting new transportation options for our community.

City Council has also spent time preparing for the new year. They held a full day Saturday meeting to focus on Council visioning and steps to improve

the governance of the community. This includes continued efforts to keep the entire community informed on city plans and programs and to make sure all voices are heard. This meeting was in addition to all of the time they have spent over the last several months working to adopt the new budget.

Congratulations to all of the recent high school and college graduates as you begin new adventures and chapters in your lives. We seldom know where life will take us nor what twists and turns will be on the road, but the journey is what matters and I wish each of you the best in completing your own unique journey.

Just to finish, July is National Ice Cream, Blueberry, Hot Dog, Picnic and Pickle month. I hope you get to enjoy them all!



Manassas was named a Bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. We have added 13 miles of bike lanes and shared use paths in the last few years, with more on the way. Visit [www.manassasva.gov/trails](http://www.manassasva.gov/trails)



Have you ever seen a train off the tracks? Stroll through Historic Downtown this summer and find 10 trains created by Osbourn High School students. If you find all 10, you may win a prize. Visit [www.manassasva.gov/trains](http://www.manassasva.gov/trains) to find out more.

## Historical Moment

REMEMBERING  
MANASSAS HISTORY



In 1920 this car was part of a Fourth of July parade on Grant Avenue. The street was paved only with packed gravel and pedestrians walked on wooden sidewalks. In the late 1800s men were drafted to work on the town's street committee to build the gravel roads. Gravel was a big improvement over dirt, which turned the ladies' white dresses brown.



# THE CITY OF MANASSAS HAPPENINGS

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

Now - Oct. 7 - Battle Street Live - listen to live local bands on Battle Street in Historic Downtown Manassas

July 4 from 3 - 10 p.m. - **Celebrate America** with Fireworks and more in Historic Downtown Manassas

July 4 from 2 to 4 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with **Scott Kurt** at the Harris Pavilion

July 7 from 6 - 9 p.m. - **Bands after the Boom** in Historic Downtown Manassas

July 7 and 8 - **Disney's Descendants: The Musical** at Hylton Performing Arts Center

July 8 at 6:30 p.m.: SummerSounds Concert featuring **Linwood Taylor** at Harris Pavilion

July 11 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with **Joe Downer** at the Harris Pavilion

July 14 at 7 p.m. - Fresh Music Friday with **Jon Mitchem** at the Harris Pavilion

July 14, 15, and 16 - **Oliver!** Presented by Manassas Symphony Orchestra and Prince William Little Theatre at Hylton Performing Arts Center

July 15 at 7 p.m. - Saturday Night Free Concert featuring the **Silver Tones Swing Band**

July 15 from 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - **On the Trail Park Day**

July 16 at 3 p.m. - **Earls of Kent** at the Harris Pavilion

July 18 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with **Sharif** at the Harris Pavilion

July 20 - 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. - **Museum at the Market** with free Make & Take kit

July 22 at 6:30 p.m.: SummerSounds Concert featuring the **Lua Project** at the Harris Pavilion

July 23 at 3 p.m. - **Kings Park Concert Band** at the Harris Pavilion

July 25 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with **Rook Richards** at the Harris Pavilion

July 28 at 6 p.m. - **Grand Reopening** of the Manassas Museum

July 28 at 7 p.m. - Fresh Music Friday featuring the **Nighthawks Swing Band** at the Harris Pavilion

July 28 and 29 - **The Addams Family** presented by ARTfactory's Pied Piper Theatre

July 29 at 7 p.m. - **U.S. Navy Band Country Current** at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 1 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. - **National Night Out** on the Manassas Museum Lawn

Aug. 1 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with **Grayson Moon** at Harris Pavilion

Aug. 4 from 6 - 9 p.m. - First Friday **Dog Days of Summer** in Historic Downtown Manassas

Aug. 5 from 8 a.m. - noon - **Household Hazardous Waste & eWaste drop off** at 8305 Quarry Road

Aug. 5 at 6:30 p.m. - Summer Sounds Concert featuring **Quimbao Latin Band** at

the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 8 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with **Shane Gamble** at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 12 at 2 p.m. - **Liberia House Basement to Attic Tour**

Aug. 13 at 3 p.m. - Sunday Funday - **Prince William Community Band** at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 15 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with **Darryl Marini** at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 19 at 6:30 p.m. - Summer Sounds Concert featuring **Shenandoah Run** at Harris Pavilion

Aug. 20 at 3 p.m. - Sunday Funday - US Army Band at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 22 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with **Jason Masi** at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 26 from 10 a.m. - **Living History: Jennie Dean and Manassas Industrial School** at Jennie Dean Memorial

Aug. 26 at 7 p.m.: Saturday Night Concert Series with the **US Navy Sea Chanters** at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 27 at 3 p.m. - Sunday Funday - **Manassas Symphony Orchestra** at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with **Elevado** at Harris Pavilion

Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. - Fresh Music Fridays with **Joe Baione Quintet** at the Harris Pavilion

Sept. 2 at 6:30 p.m. - SummerSounds Concert featuring **Lil' Maceo** at Harris Pavilion

## City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

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

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Tom Osina 571-621-4069  
Ralph J. Smith 703-303-8530  
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**City of Manassas School Board**

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Lisa A. Stevens, Vice Chair 571-377-7495  
Sara J. Brescia 571-377-7492  
Christina S. Brooks 571-377-7491  
Carl Hollingsworth 571-377-7493  
Jill Spall 571-377-7497  
Robyn Williams 571-377-7496

## Get Social!

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



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

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