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/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.
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.

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 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. Liberty 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 or call 703-257-1873 for more information.
A Message from the City Manager

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

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 to find out more.

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

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.: Summer Sounds 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.: Summer Sounds 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. - Summer Sounds Concert featuring Lil' Maceo at Harris Pavilion

Get Social!
Visit the City at www.manassasva.gov

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Twitter: www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas
Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas
Instagram: www.instagram.com/cityofmanassas
YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/manassascityva

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

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