

# CITY CONNECTION



Happy 150th  
Birthday  
Manassas

JUNE 2023

## An Award Winning City

If you live in the historic district, or just enjoy seeing a well-preserved street, the City's Historic District Guidelines document is an important reference. A recent update of the Guidelines was named a winner of the Old Dominion Innovative Approaches Award from the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA).

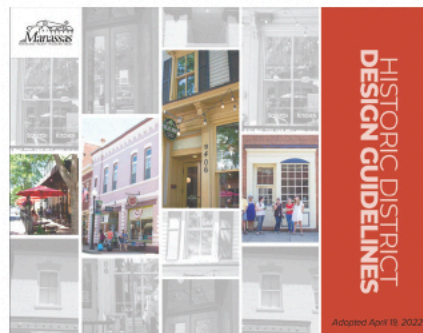
The Innovative Approaches Award recognizes pioneering planning efforts in the Commonwealth that have real results and make great places happen.

The Manassas Design Guidelines help guide property owners in the local historic district in making alterations or improvements like building a garage or replacing siding, and help guide the Architectural Review Board (ARB) in reviewing the appropriateness of an application.

At more than 200 pages, the Guidelines answer a lot of questions. You can learn all about why homes or businesses are considered contributing structures, or you can quickly look up what kind of roofing material you should use for your home's new roof.

Community Development Department staff and the ARB worked together on the new Guidelines, which was the first update of the document since 1991. Matt Arcieri, Planning and Community Development Director, says the effort is making it easier for property owners in the city.

"This is the second time in less than five years that the Virginia APA has honored the city for its innovative approaches to creating exceptional planning documents. The Architectural Review Board, Community Development staff, and the Berkeley Group have created a clear,



user-friendly document that will both protect and enhance our beautiful historic districts for years to come."

Visit [www.manassasva.gov/hod](http://www.manassasva.gov/hod) to find out more about the historic districts and the Design Guidelines, which have also been translated into Spanish.

If you were a student you would hate to take tests every two hours, but that is what operators at the City of Manassas water plant do to keep your drinking water clean. Their extra vigilance has been rewarded with the 2022 Gold Performance Excellence award from the Virginia Department of Health for going beyond minimum requirements in providing safe drinking water to City customers.

This is the City's first Gold Award, after consistently receiving the Silver award since 2011, and a Bronze award in 2016. The Gold award recognizes efficiency and effectiveness goals well beyond the regulatory standards, and a commitment to problem solving to improve operations.

Every day the water plant transforms 14 million gallons of Lake Manassas water into high quality drinking water. Operators manage several important phases of water treatment: flocculation, coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. That means chemicals added to the lake water cause particles to join together so that they can settle in basins and can be removed.

Water is then filtered, chlorine is added for disinfection, and fluoride is added to promote strong teeth. A lab operator samples the water every two hours and records the data, compiling it for monthly reports submitted to the Virginia Department of Health. Operators and maintenance staff walk the entire plant every two hours to check for leaks, making sure chemical pumps are running smoothly, and ensuring that there is enough water in the distribution system. Using the Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition system (SCADA), processes are continuously monitored and can be remotely monitored as well.

Congratulations to both teams.



The team at the Water Plant



## A Moment with the Mayor



**Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger**

It's the month of Dads and Grads!! June is such a great month for family gatherings and high school and college graduations. I was so excited to deliver remarks at the Osbourn High School commencement at Eagle Bank Arena last month. This month, though, it's also the month to celebrate our fathers. I am so thankful to celebrate my dear old dad...most people know he was born on the Jennie Dean site, has been a

lifelong Manassas resident, will be 90 years young in January, and on top of that he and my mom are celebrating 64 years of marriage in June as well!

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge Juneteenth, which is a federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. This very important day is celebrated on June 19, 2023.

Let us remember: "Juneteenth has never been a celebration of victory or an acceptance of the way things are. It is a celebration of progress. It's an affirmation that despite the most painful parts of our history, change is possible – and there is still so much work to do." -- Barack Obama

Most of you follow me on social media and know some of the activities I have participated in and there have been MANY! I keep representing Manassas the best that I can and as much as I can...it is OUR MANASSAS! I am truly excited to share the news that I will represent Manassas at the 2023 Commencement Ceremony for

Strayer University at the Capital One Arena in Washington, DC this month... this is such an honor and you know I will represent you with NOTHING but Manassas pride! There are going to be over 10,000 people at this wonderful event! I can't wait!

We have so many events and festivals coming up this month, like our Railway Festival and the Bee Festival that you and your entire family can participate in and I hope to see you at these events...stop me and say hello. I will be looking for you at the various events in and around the city because I absolutely love chatting with our residents and visitors and hearing stories about what brought them to Manassas.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY to all dads, step-dads, brothers, uncles, and those that are like-a-dad! Please kick back, relax and enjoy your special day because you deserve every minute of it! Until Next Month...keep smiling and making a difference!

## Curbside Recycling

What can go in City of Manassas recycling carts? The answer can be different depending on what jurisdiction you live in. Most U.S. residents who have curbside recycling at home can put cans, plastic bottles, cardboard and paper into one container.

This is called single-stream recycling, and while it's convenient for residents, it means that all of those different types of materials have to be collected and sorted before they can go to a plastic recycler, paper mill, etc. Many of the most common materials – papers and plastic bottles are recycled back to their original product. This effectively eliminates the "life cycle" of these products, since they continue to be reused and recycled. Other more complex materials that are recycled are used in creating totally new products, from furniture to clothing.



Not everything that is technically recyclable can go into the recycling cart. The sorting process uses a conveyor belt to carry items through several machines that separate out typical items such as paper, plastic, aluminum, cardboard, and steel.

With changes to the markets that buy recycled materials, the City of Manassas no longer accepts glass bottles or jars for recycling. There are 2 options for disposing of glass in this area: put glass jars/bottles in with the trash or take them to a special "purple" bin located at the Dr. A. J. Ferlazzo Building parking lot, 15941 Donald Curtis Dr, James J. McCoart Building parking lot at Greatbridge Rd./Prince William Pkwy.

## Summer Holiday Trash & Recycling Schedule

### Juneteenth - June 19

- All trash & recycling on normal schedule

### July 4 - Independence Day

All trash and recycling will slide one day:

- July 4 - No service
- July 5 - Tuesday trash & recycling will be picked up
- July 6 - Wednesday trash & recycling will be picked up
- July 7 - Thursday trash & recycling will be picked up
- July 8 - Friday trash & recycling will be picked up



# A Message from the City Manager



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

June is the last month of the City's fiscal year which means we have been busy completing a new budget for the upcoming year. Council adopted a \$452.6 million budget for FY 2024 after completing the budget review process in May. The budget priorities included funds for economic development, local education, affordable housing, public safety, residential street resurfacing, sustaining quality services and competitive staff compensation.

Overall economic growth in the community led to a little over a 10% increase in real estate assessments. This was offset by reductions in the tax rate from \$1.135 in the General Fund to \$1.070 and from \$0.207 in the Fire and Rescue Fund to \$0.190. In total this was an 8.2 cent reduction in the tax rate following an 8.7 cent reduction in the previous year. The average residential homeowner would see about a \$90 increase in their semiannual tax bill.

During the year we will be looking forward to the completion of renovations to the Manassas Museum, City Hall and to the Dean Drive extension project. Major projects will be ongoing at Dean Park, Annaburg Park, Stream restoration at the Liberia House, Grant Avenue street improvements from Lee to Wellington along with a variety of water and electric utility enhancements.

More information on the adopted budget can be found at [www.manassasva.gov/budget](http://www.manassasva.gov/budget).

On a professional note, this month I will become the President of the Virginia Local Government Manager's Association. It is indeed an honor to be selected by my peers across the state to lead our organization that is dedicated to "supporting local government managers building great communities through inclusion, innovation and leadership." The primary goal of the association is to strengthen the quality of local government through professional management. Virginia is fortunate to be considered a "good government" state in no small part to the roles played by the many dedicated professional public servants serving our communities.

As we head into the summer, make sure that you are keeping track of the many things that are occurring in our community. We have a list on the back of the newsletter, but also check out the [www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org) websites and sign up to get notices on events. There are too many to remember them all.

Finally, don't forget to celebrate the special men in your lives for Father's Day which also happens to be "Go Fishing Day." I didn't know those were on the same day but I should have as

my father loved to fish. It would be a fitting memorial to him for me to go fishing on Father's Day so that will be my new goal for this year.

Enjoy your summer!

## Summer Reading at the Library

Prince William Public Libraries' 2023 Summer Reading program is centered around kindness, friendship, and unity with the theme, "All Together Now." From June 20 – August 20, come into any of our 12 libraries to register for Summer Reading. You can also register online at [pwcva.gov/library](http://pwcva.gov/library) or through the Beanstack Tracker app on your smartphone.

Don't miss "I Need a Friend" Story Time with author Keisha

Strand at  
Manassas City  
Library on  
Saturday, June  
24 at 11 a.m.



## Historical Moment

REMEMBERING  
MANASSAS HISTORY

Manassas  
1873-2023



*The Manassas Town Band in the  
early 1900s*

Long before concerts at the Harris Pavilion, young men in the Manassas Band performed on warm summer evenings at a bandstand at the corner of Center and Main Streets. Members were farmers, factory workers, and shop keepers who practiced in the evenings. The band performed at the Alexandria Washington's Birthday parade and at firemen's conventions across the state.



# 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 - June 10 - Creative Brush Paints Manassas - **The Obvious and Obscure** in honor of the 150th Birthday of Manassas - [www.creativebrush.com](http://www.creativebrush.com)

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

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



June 3 at 7 p.m. - **Mike Parker** Saturday Night Concert at the Harris Pavilion

June 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - **KidsFest Spring Fair** on the Manassas Museum Lawn

June 3 & 4 - Prime Time Players presents **Just a Stage He's Going Through** at the ARTfactory

June 6 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with **Chesapeake Sons Duo** at the Harris Pavilion

June 8 - 11 - **1928 Ford Tri-Motor** at the Manassas Airport - [flytheford.org](http://flytheford.org)

June 8 & 13 at 7 p.m. - Community Conversations about the Olde Towne Inn - RSVP to [Hbaumstark@manassasva.gov](mailto:Hbaumstark@manassasva.gov)

June 10 from 8 a.m. - noon - **Household Hazardous Waste & eWaste drop off** at 8305 Quarry Road

June 10 at 7:30 p.m. - **Manassas' 150th Queen's Jubilee** presented by the ARTfactory

June 10 at 8 a.m. - **My Natural Me 5K** at the Harris Pavilion

June 10 from 3:30 to 10 p.m. - **Relay for Life** at the Harris Pavilion

June 10 all day - **Manassas Arts & Music Festival** on the Museum Lawn brought to you by Haven Arts

June 11 at 3 p.m. - **Community Band Festival** at the Harris Pavilion

June 13 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with **Andy B** at the Harris Pavilion

June 16 at 7 p.m. - Fresh Friday Music - **Twangtown Paramours** at the Harris Pavilion

June 16 - July 29 - **The Art of Photography: Through the Eyes of Earl J. Hooks** exhibit at the ARTfactory

June 17 from 12 - 9 p.m. - **Puerto Rican Festival** at the Harris Pavilion

June 20 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with **Hilary Veltri** at the Harris Pavilion

June 24 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - **Manassas Bee Festival** at Liberia House and grounds



June 24 at 7 p.m. - Saturday Night Concerts - **Beatlegacy** at the Harris Pavilion

June 24 from 6-8 p.m. - **Artist Reception** for The Art of Photography: Through the Eyes of Earl J. Hooks at the ARTfactory

June 27 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with **Shane Gamble** at the Harris Pavilion

July 1 from 8 a.m. - noon - **Household Hazardous Waste & eWaste drop off** at 8305 Quarry Road

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

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

## City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

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

703-895-4485  
Pamela J. Sebesky, Vice Mayor  
571-330-5514  
Theresa Coates Ellis  
571-247-6729  
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**

Suzanne W. Seaberg, Chair  
571-377-7494  
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)

[www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas](http://www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas)

[www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas](http://www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas)

[www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas](http://www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas)

[www.instagram.com/cityofmanassas](http://www.instagram.com/cityofmanassas)

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

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