

CITY CONNECTION



Happy 150th Birthday Manassas

MARCH 2023

Olde Towne Inn

In an action that could transform an entire city block in Historic Manassas, the Manassas Economic Development Authority (EDA) voted to buy the Olde Towne Inn for \$5.75 million.

The February EDA vote began a 60-day period to conduct due diligence (or investigation) of the site and the right to assign the contract to the City Council, which could then complete the purchase.

The Inn, once known as the Downtowner, was originally constructed in 1964 and has been continuously operated as a motel. It sits in the center of the city bordered by Center, Church, Main and East Streets. The 2040 Comprehensive Plan, which was crafted with community input and helps guide building in the City, recognized the site as an opportunity area where redevelopment would enhance the Downtown.

Through the years private investors and developers have had an interest in buying the property.

"Recently our discussions have been about having the owners themselves build a new hotel or facilitating a sale to a third party for that same purpose," says Economic Development Director Patrick Small. "After a lot of discussion, modeling, and planning the owners decided that they preferred to have the City acquire the property because they felt that the best use of the site would result from a more public process."

Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger, who helped negotiate the potential sale with the Inn's owners, says that redeveloping the site will transform Downtown.

"The owners recognized that Downtown is the Historic Heart of Manassas and guiding its revitalization and development has long been a priority for City Council. That will always be true, and today, in the year of our 150th Anniversary, I'm excited we can start writing a whole new chapter in that history."

"I'm excited the EDA is able to help our City Council in acquiring this property," says EDA Chairman Gary L. Jones, II. "One of our key functions as an Authority is to support the City through real estate acquisition and disposition. I can't think of a bigger impact we could have on the continued revitalization of Downtown than this," he added.

No decisions about the temporary operation of the Inn or the future use of the site have been made, and community members are invited to share their vision for the site. Take a brief survey at www.manassasva.gov/ comment and let us know what you would like to see built on the Inn's site.

"I am eager to work with Council and our residents over the next few years to determine the future of this property," Mayor Davis-Younger says.



Manassas 150th Birthday

April 1, 2023 @ Dean Park
2 - 8 PM

1:45 PM Groundbreaking for Dean Park improvements
2 PM Poetry Contest Winners
2:30 PM - Pershing's Own Quartet
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 stories
- 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

March is a beautiful month with the hope of spring and flowers and events happening again in the City of Manassas. I always feel like March is waiting for things to bloom again. March is also time for the Greater Manassas St. Patrick's Day Parade down Center Street in our fair city. Be sure to be here on March 11 at 11 a.m. I can't wait to see all of your warm smiles and some even run up to give me a hug which is always welcomed!

Don't forget to be at the 150th Birthday Party of the City on April 1. We will kick off the celebration with kids rides and a poetry contest, followed by Pershing's Own Army Quartet. Then the real fun begins with a ceremony to put our mark on the time capsule to be opened in 50 years. I am so excited to have the official unveiling of my Mayor's portrait, big shout out to Mary Reilly who is an amazing artist. Next up is Celeste Vee on electric violin, followed by Carleigh Jane (a local favorite) and then the Special Occasions Band. At the end of the day (around 7:30 p.m.) there will be fireworks to kick off our year-long celebration. What could be more fun? I absolutely LOVE a good fireworks show and we have the best around!

There will be plenty for the young and young at heart to do and see at the Birthday Party. We will have a "touch a truck" area with dump trucks, fire trucks, bucket truck rides and more. Come out for the day and stay for the fireworks. I guarantee you will

have a great time, so bring your family and encourage your friends to come on out!

If you haven't heard, the Economic Development Authority for the City recently purchased the Olde Town Inn. This is very exciting for the City as we can now get feedback from residents about what they would like to see in that location. To give your opinion, please visit www.manassasva.gov/comment. I hope you will take the time to fill out this quick survey. We want to hear from you as we start down the path to figure out what we will do with this property...so much to get done, but we will get there together. I want to thank everyone who has had kind words to say about the purchase, many have wanted to see this taken care of for many years and it finally has happened.

As I sign off, I want to remind you to be kind and share a smile with someone...always leave people better than when you met them...invite a visitor to become a resident! See you next month!

Manassas Police E3 Parent Series

Engage-Educate-Empower

Parent E3 is a Community Awareness & Prevention Series hosted by Manassas City Police Department in partnership with Manassas City Public Schools, regional law enforcement partners, and subject matter experts. This series will Engage, Educate, and Empower parents and caregivers to address at-risk behaviors in our youth population.

The Parent E3 Series: Substance Abuse Awareness and Prevention will take place on March 22 at Osbourn High School, starting at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided. If you are interested in this program, please sign up to attend here: <https://bit.ly/MCPDpe3>. We will see you there!



2023 Household Hazardous Waste, Electronic Waste and Secure Document Shredding



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

Shredding is for residents who wish to recycle their personal documents in a safe and secure way. There is a 3 box maximum for shredding and commercial shredding is not accepted due to volume.
Do not include batteries, books, plastic folders or any other items.

Drop off days are held on Saturdays from 8AM – 12 p.m. at the Manassas Transfer Station located at 8305 Quarry Road, Manassas, VA 20110.

This is a free service provided for City of Manassas residents in partnership with Waste Management.



www.manassasva.gov/trash



A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
W. Patrick Pate

What do you think it would be like to talk to someone that lived in Manassas in 1873? If they were an older resident they could have stories from their parents or grandparents about their role in the Revolutionary War and maybe even have stories about George Washington or Thomas Jefferson or many of the other people that lived in the area and played a role in establishing our country. It would have only been a century since those events took place.

Manassas was an established farming community. You no doubt could have a conversation about what crops and livestock fared well in the area. You might find an emancipated individual that had worked in the fields or in a trade that was now looking to establish a new life in this new world.

I suspect you could find folks that knew all about the railroads that connected Northern Virginia with Washington and could tell you how the railroads were the determining factor that was going to make this new Town of Manassas. They could tell you about the goods and the people that came through the town and why Bull Run and Broad Run were so significant to the community.

I doubt that you could find anyone that would not be able to talk about the horrific war that recently ended with several major battles fought so close that many in the area likely would have been first-hand witnesses to the devastation. They could probably

talk about all the changes that they were seeing in the area which were so impactful they needed to establish a town along the railroad.

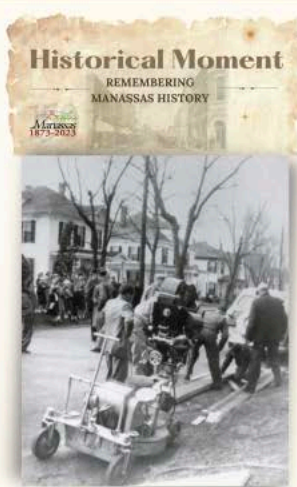
It would also be interesting to know what someone from 1873 would ask us today. Could they have imagined what the little town they had established would become? Would they marvel at the modern technology that we have in almost every person's pocket? Or would they be more surprised at how we spend our work days and the changes that occurred in our lifestyles. I can only imagine what they would think of the speed of communication and our ability to travel and get information from almost anywhere on the planet.

As we celebrate our 150th Anniversary as a community on April 1st, it is hard to imagine what will be remembered in the future about 2023. Will it be about the redevelopment that is occurring in our historic downtown? Will it be about the expansion of technology that has already changed from IBM servers to Micron chips and BAE space exploration and is now quickly moving to data centers and automated flying transportation? Will

automobiles be a relic of our past just like the horse and buggy are to us today?

As a part of our 150th celebration we are creating a time capsule to be opened at least 50 years in the future. The City has or is in the process of completing many capital projects that we expect to be in use for 50 years including the Public Safety Facility, Fire Station #21, Baldwin School, the Manassas Museum and the renovations of City Hall. Other upcoming projects like the redevelopment of the Olde Towne Inn and replacement of Dean School are intended to last for more than 50 years. What do you think the City will be like in 50 years?

At our celebration on April 1st you will have the opportunity to see what items are being placed in the time capsule and participate in many other activities that will be happening at the event. The event will be held at Dean Park and shuttles will be available at the triangle parking lot across from the parking garage so that you can park downtown and get a convenient ride to the event. The fireworks show that evening will be fantastic and I hope to see you there!



Pattie Lynn Adams captured this scene of the production with her Brownie camera.

In March of 1951 Hollywood came to Manassas to film the movie *My Son John* at a house on West Street. In the movie the Jeffersons are the ideal all-American family in a small town, but their eldest son John returns home with views that cause them to worry he may be a Communist. *My Son John* was released in 1952, at the height of the "Red Scare" when many Americans were convinced that Communists were at work in the United States and must be rooted out. The film starred Academy Award-winning actress Helen Hayes, Robert Walker, Van Heflin, and Dean Jagger. Residents thronged to West Street to watch the filming, and children were allowed to leave school early to catch a glimpse of the stars.

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 through April - Artistic Expressions - Osbourn High School art show at Jirani Coffee House

March 10 - 12 - La Boutique Fantasque & More! by the Manassas Ballet Theatre at the Hylton Performing Arts

March 11 at 11 a.m. - Greater Manassas St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 18 at 11 a.m. - Manassas Museum Family Workshop - Public Works Conference Room - cityofmanassas.recdesk.com

March 24 - April 2 - Rooftop Productions presents By the Way, Meet Vera Stark by Lynn Nottage.

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

March 25 10 a.m. to noon - Winter Market last day

March 25 at 8:30 AM - PWC/Manassas History Symposium- www.pwcva.gov/events

April 1 from 2 - 8 p.m. - 150th Birthday of the Manassas Community at Dean Park. A family-friendly event with music, touch a truck, kids amusements and more. www.manassasva.gov/150

April 6 at 10 a.m. - Official opening of the Thursday Farmer's Market at the Harris Pavilion

April 7 from 6 - 9 p.m. - First Friday Hop Around Downtown

April 8 - Opening of the Saturday Farmer's Market

April 8 at 2 p.m. - Liberia Basement to Attic Tour - cityofmanassas.recdesk.com

April 20 from 9 a.m - 1 p.m. - Museum at the Market

April 21 from 7 to 10 p.m. - Paranormal Investigation of the Candy Factory Tee Morris and Phil Rossi of Old Spirits Investigations - register at cityofmanassas.recdesk.com

April 26 at 6 p.m. - Manassas Volunteer Reception

April 27 at 11 a.m. - Storytime with the Manassas City Library and the Manassas Museum

April 29 from 10 a.m to 3 p.m. - Old Town Manassas Art Show and Craft Spring Fair

April 30 - Manassas Runway Run at the Manassas Regional Airport <https://manassasrunway10k-5k.com>

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

May 6 at 2 p.m. - Liberia Basement to Attic Tour - cityofmanassas.recdesk.com

May 12 - 21 - Pied Piper Theatre School of Rock performance

May 18 from 9 a.m - 1 p.m. - Museum at the Market

May 19 - 21 - Manassas Ballet Theatre's Swan Lake

May 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Family Day free events at Liberia House and Grounds - cityofmanassas.recdesk.com



Get your special postal cancellation stamp at the 150th Birthday Celebration on April 1. Bring your own letter or post card with stamp or buy a post card there.

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

City of Manassas Council

Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger

Theresa Coates Ellis	703-895-4485
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City of Manassas School Board

Sara J. Brescia	571-377-7492
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To contact the City of Manassas Connection newsletter, email prrince@manassasva.gov