What's Happening on Grant Avenue?

Sometimes the inconvenience is worth the payoff. That's the case with road construction on Grant Avenue that is set to resume as the long-awaited Grant Avenue Streetscape project kicks off this month.

The Grant Avenue Streetscape Improvement project extends from Prince William Street to Wellington Road, and will create a tree-lined downtown gateway that looks more like the northern end of Grant Ave. The project was designed with input and comments from the community from five community meetings, begun in 2016.

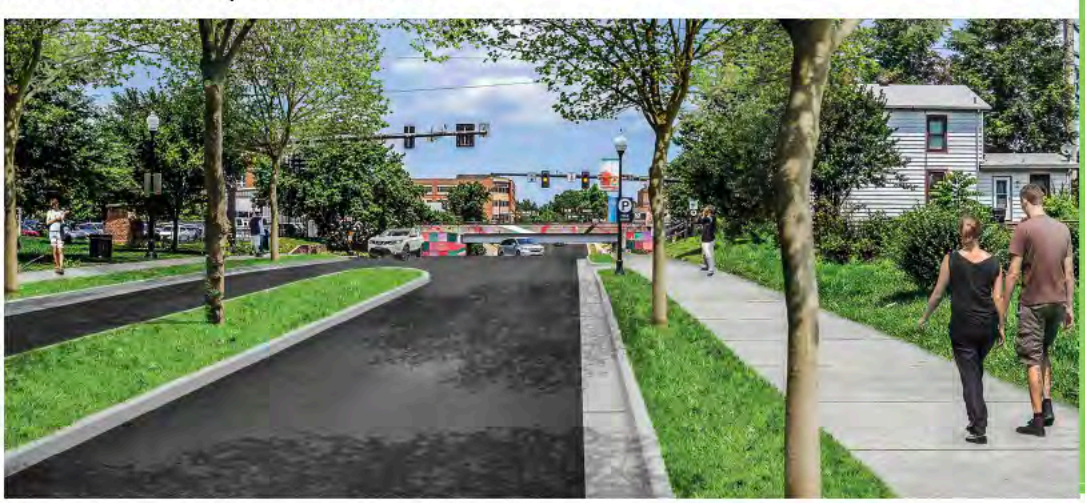
If you have traveled on Grant Ave. in the past year, you have felt the bumpy roads and navigated lane closures as crews buried water, sewer, electric and gas lines to improve service. This next phase of construction will concentrate on improving drainage; building safer and more accessible sidewalks and crossings for pedestrians and bicyclists; creating more green space and planting more shade trees for everyone to enjoy; improving bus stops with shelters; creating a landscaped median; and building a roundabout to replace the traffic light at Byrd Dr. and Grant Ave. The roundabout at Grant Ave./Byrd Dr./Bartow St. will help traffic flow continuously, allow for easier U-turns, and make it safer for pedestrians and bicyclists to get around.

Construction is expected to take about 13 months. It will begin when lanes on the Georgetown South side of the street are closed as storm drainage and new sidewalks are installed. It will be a priority to get pedestrians around safely, so look for detours at street crossings. It is also a priority to keep children safe, so please stay away from fenced areas that may have uneven ground. Residents will be informed in advance about changes to on-street parking, trash location pickups, and bus stops.

As much on-street parking will be maintained throughout construction as possible. The contractor will provide temporary on-street parking on the west side of the street, and will maintain access between on-street parking and adjacent properties at all times.

The future Van Metre residential neighborhood on the southern end of Grant Ave. is coordinating on the project. When it is built, the neighborhood will include a total of 233 residential dwellings: 10 single family detached homes; 97 single family attached townhomes; and 126 multifamily back-to-back units. The development will help extend pedestrian and bike paths by constructing 10-foot-wide sidewalks and trails on Grant Ave. and Bartow St. that will reach Main St. and Baldwin Park.

Visit www.manassasva.gov/grantave for updates on the project.



What will happen as construction continues on Grant Ave?

- First, the southbound lanes will close for demolition and construction of a new curb and sidewalk on the west side of the street.
- The red-light signal at Grant Ave. and Bartow St. will be removed and Bartow St. will be controlled by a temporary stop sign.
- Byrd Drive will be closed at Grant Avenue to allow for construction of the roundabout. Vehicles and pedestrians will be detoured to Taney Road.
- Street lights will continue to stay on during construction, but will be relocated.
- A new median will be constructed after sidewalks are finished.

A Moment with the Mayor

Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger

Welcome to Fall y'all. In September the leaves start changing colors, the air gets a bit nippier, students are back in school and the routine begins anew. Since school is back in session, I ask that you please watch out for our students as they walk/ride to their schools and back. Changes happen in September, with kindergartners, middle schoolers and high schoolers just beginning their journeys. Change is also happening in the City of Manassas. If you haven't heard, City Manager W. Patrick Pate is leaving the City after 10 years to work in his home state of North Carolina. We appreciate all his efforts on behalf of our City over the years and wish him well on his journey. This means that the City is now looking for a new City Manager to carry Manassas into the future. You may be hearing more about this in the coming months.

As you may have experienced, the City has been having some power issues over the last few months. What happened was that the Battery Heights substation was hit by lightning, not once, but twice. This caused city workers to reroute power through our other substations. During severe heat, the other substations became overburdened and lines that would normally stay on, went off. So, what's the solution? The City was able to locate and rent a portable substation from Pennsylvania. They have hooked this into our power grid and power in the City should be back to the reliability you have come to expect.

Another change in the City is that the Manassas Museum is open again, but has a completely new look and feel. We hope you will drop by and see the more than 4,600 square feet of added space. On the wall in the new Mae Merchant Hall there is a community quilt hanging on the wall which was created by members of our community at the 150th Birthday event in April. Stop by and see it for yourself. There is also a Manassas timeline exhibit you will want to check out. The main exhibit hall is not open yet, but that just gives us another opportunity to gather and admire our newly-renovated museum.

I wish you good luck in your endeavors this school year. Good luck to those in school and those sending their babies off to school for the first time. I remember those days and wish you the best.

Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger

The City Needs Election Officers

Have you ever thought about seeing the election process up close, or becoming a part of it? The City of Manassas Voter Registration office is seeking Election Officials for the 2024 election season. It will take many hands to make this Presidential election season run smoothly.

It is simple to apply to become an election official. Simply fill out the form at **www.manassasva.gov/polls** and someone in the Registrar's office will contact you. Election days begin early, at 5 a.m. and close by about 9 p.m. Election officials are paid on election days and for training.

Speed Zone

Speed enforcement cameras have been successfully installed outside Round Elementary School and Metz Middle School. The cameras will be active during two thirty-minute periods, one before the start of school and the second at the end of the school day. A 30-day warning period began on Aug. 16 - the first day of school. During this period, the MCPD will distribute warning notices instead of fines. Follow us on social media @ManassasPD (Facebook) or @ManassasCityPD (Twitter).

Moving Manassas

Project development has begun for a **new bike trail on Sudley Road** between Godwin Drive and Grant Avenue. The City is interested in hearing your feedback. Take the survey and vote for your favorite option at www.manassasva.gov/sudleybike

We are still gathering feedback for a **new bike trail on Dumfries Road** between Wellington Road and Hastings Drive. Take the survey and vote for your favorite option at www.manassasva.gov/dumfries

CAR FREE DAY METRO DC 9.22.23

This year **Car Free Day** will be held on Friday, September 22. Take the pledge and discover ways to go car-free or car-lite at carfreemetrodc.org

Trails at Godwin Drive/Gateway Boulevard are now open!

Historical Moment

REMEMBERING MANASSAS HISTORY

Manassas 1873-2023

Founder Jennie Dean spent a decade fundraising before the Manassas Industrial School for Colored Youth opened in 1894. Students studied academic subjects, music, and vocational skills like carpentry, blacksmithing, shoemaking, sewing, cooking, domestic arts, and laundry methods. Students earned their tuition and board by selling products they harvested and made. Visit the Jennie Dean Memorial at 9601 Wellington Road to learn more.

(top) Students at the Manassas Industrial School in the early 1900s.

If you missed the opening of the Manassas Museum, drop by any day and check out the newly redesigned building.

Pictured above: Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger, members of City Council, Senator Jeremy McPike, Delegate Michelle Maldonado, Commonwealth's Attorney Amy Ashworth and members of the Historic Resources Board cut the ribbon on the newly-redesigned Manassas Museum.

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

Sept. 4 - **Labor Day Holiday**, all City of Manassas government offices closed

Sept. 5 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with **Shane Gamble** at Harris Pavilion

Sept. 8 from 4-6 p.m. - **Dog-o-pool-ooza** at Stonewall Park Pool

Sept. 9 at 2 p.m. - **Liberia House Basement to Attic Tour**

Sept. 9 at 6:30 p.m. - Manassas Ballet Theatre's **Season Opening Reception** at 9121 Grant Ave.

Sept. 10 at 12 p.m. - **Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk** at Harris Pavilion

Sept. 10 at 12 p.m. - **Arts Alive!** 2023 at Hylton Performing Arts Center Parking Lot

Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. - Sunday Funday – **U.S. Navy Band Commodores** at Harris Pavilion

Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. - **Prince William County Historic Towns Tour in Manassas**. Call 703-792-4754 for more information

Sept. 16 from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. - **Manassas International Food Festival** at the Harris Pavilion

Sept. 16 from 12 - 6 p.m. - **La Feria – Raices Latinas, Latin Roots** at Metz Middle School

Sept. 16 - 24 - Performance of ***FENCES*** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

Sept. 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Old Town Manassas **Art Show and Craft Fall Fair** at the Manassas Museum Lawn

Sept. 23 at 8 p.m. - **Voctave** acapella group at Hylton Performing Arts Center

Sept. 30 from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. - **Annual Latino Festival** at Harris Pavilion

Oct. 1 at 3 p.m. - Sunday Funday – **Carleigh Jane** at Harris Pavilion

Oct. 6 from 6 - 9 p.m. - First Friday **Southern Nights**

Oct. 6 – 15 - Prince William Little Theatre presents ***The Westing Game*** at Hylton Performing Arts Center

Oct. 6 and 7 - Pied Piper Theatre presents ***Finding Nemo Jr.*** at Metz Middle School

Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. - **40th Annual Manassas Fall Jubilee**

Oct. 7 from 8 a.m. - noon - **Household Hazardous Waste & eWaste drop off** at 8305 Quarry Road

Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. - **Special Occasions Band** at the Harris Pavilion

Oct. 13 and 14 from 4 p.m. – 9 p.m. - **Haunted Hallows** at Harris Pavilion

Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. - ***Disney's Coco in Concert*** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

Oct. 14 at 4 p.m. - **Manassas Chorale "The Places We'll Go!"** Fall Concert at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. - Manassas Symphony Orchestra presents **Folk Echoes** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

Oct. 21 and 27 - Manassas Museum **Cemetery Tours** just in time for Halloween

Oct. 20 – 29 - Rooftop Productions presents ***Kinky Boots: The Musical*** at the ARTfactory

Oct. 21 from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. - **Walk to End Alzheimer's** at the Harris Pavilion

Oct. 28 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. - **Old Town Manassas Holiday Crafts & Treats Fair**

Oct. 28 from 12 – 4 p.m. - Art Committee **Fall Inventory Sale**

Nov. 3 – 12 - **Flags for Heroes** on the Manassas Museum Lawn

Nov. 4 at 11 a.m. - **Northern Virginia's Veterans Parade** in Downtown Manassas

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

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 pprince@manassasva.gov