

CITY CONNECTION



Happy 150th
Birthday
Manassas

May 2023

Happy Birthday Manassas

Will those opening the Manassas 150th Birthday time capsule in 2073 know what to do with a thumb drive? Will the printed newspapers and newsletters be long-gone relics of the past? Will masks be a curious reminder of the historic pandemic?

All those who contributed items to the time capsule commemorating the City's first 150 years carefully considered what future Manassas residents will think as they unearth the small metal box. Winners of a contest, as well as community partners, area media, the Mayor and Council members, and staff all contributed items to the time capsule at the April 1st 150th Birthday celebration at the Boys and Girls Club. U.S. House Representative Jennifer Wexton, State Senator Jeremy McPike, and State Delegate Michelle Maldonado also read 150th Birthday resolutions they introduced in Congress and the Virginia General Assembly that were included in the time capsule.

The memory chip and data sheet placed in the box by Micron and BAE Systems demonstrate today's latest technologies powering our cars and industries. The bag of organic pea shoots offers the hope that life will spring from a buried packet of seeds. Challenge coins and buttons document the importance of the Virginia Railway Express, Omniride bus service, George Mason University, the NAACP, and the Manassas Regional Airport. Programs and post cards remember special events from Historic Manassas Inc., the Manassas Ballet Theatre and the Bee Festival. A commemorative Manassas City Police badge, and a



challenge coin from the Manassas Fire and Rescue Department remember generations who have served to protect the City.

Small charms represent the City's train, public safety and Civil War heritage, and the library, hospital, and fireworks. A thumb drive of local stories was prepared. Post cards with a special April 1 post mark note the City's birthday celebration at Dean Park.

The various Manassas City Schools mascots, t-shirts, cups, and bracelets represent the students who might be around to open the time capsule and lead the City of Manassas in its 200th year. They will probably have no trouble knowing what to do with the well-aged bottle of KO whiskey, distilled in honor of the 150th Birthday.

The time capsule will be buried outside City Hall, which is currently being renovated.



Congratulations to Steve Siler, Water Plant Lead Operator, for 50 years of service to this community. He says the best thing about working for the City is the people. If you want a job with great people, check us out at www.manassasva.gov/jobs.

A Moment with the Mayor



Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger

I can't believe it is May already. Spring is in full bloom and by May 8th, we will have a budget for our City. This has been a task taking much deliberation over several months of extra meetings and public comment. This Council has worked long and hard to pass a budget that is fair and equitable.

May also brings us the beginning of event season in the City with Acoustic Tuesdays beginning May 16 and Fresh Music Fridays beginning May 5. You won't want to miss a minute of the fun. Also, on May 6, meet me in the Osbourn High School Parking lot closest to the road for Mayor on the Move walks. We will walk around the downtown to get outdoors and healthy. If it rains, I'll see you the next Saturday. No sense in catching a cold.

As Mother's Day is in May, I'd like to wish each of you who are mom's, mommas, pet moms, grandmoms and great grandmoms a very happy Mother's Day. For me, I wish my beautiful mother a happy day and being a mom myself, I feel so blessed to be the mother of two beautiful children. Have a beautiful Mother's Day!

For all of the students graduating this month, I say hats off to you and your achievements. This is a milestone in your life that should be celebrated as you go on to bigger and better things. Your City stands behind you and, should you decide to come home to Manassas to work and build your career, we will welcome you back with open arms. There are so many opportunities for career growth in our City, I hope you will settle here and build your life.

I hope to see you out at any of our wonderful events throughout the summer. I'll be there.



Dean Park Phase II

Think of the possibilities! As Dean Park Phase I improvements get underway, we are looking ahead to Phase II plans to add amenities to the park. You have an opportunity to glance at the plans and share your voice about what you would like to see at the park.

At more than 70 acres, Dean Park is the largest park in the City and includes ball fields, batting cages, the skate park, tennis courts, and the Winter's Branch walking trail. Adjacent to the park is Jennie Dean Elementary School, the Manassas Industrial School/Jennie Dean Memorial, and the Manassas Boys and Girls Club.

Phase I work will soon be underway to install water, sewer, and electric lines, add stormwater facilities, add turf rectangular fields and lighting, and expand the skate park. Find out more: www.manassasva.gov/dean.



Blue Pinwheels?

What's up with the blue pinwheels in front of Social Services? Since 2008, blue pinwheels have been known as the national symbol for child abuse prevention. This helps bring awareness and encourages us to talk about child abuse and how to prevent it. Thank you to all who helped put out the pinwheels and for the community looking out for our littlest residents.



A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
W. Patrick Pate

We started off our 150th anniversary celebration literally with a bang (fireworks) and we are looking forward to keeping the celebration going throughout the year. If you send the word GoManassas (all one word) by text to 888-777 we will send you reminders on things that are happening in the City that you might not want to miss.

May is Business Appreciation Month and Manassas is home to over 2,650 businesses that create more than 24,000 jobs. The growth in the City's economy has led to a 56% rise in household incomes in the City since 2010 which is by far the highest level of growth in Northern Virginia. Our economy is also well diversified with major employers in healthcare, manufacturing, government contracting and professional/technical services leading the way.

Businesses account for more than a third of the City's revenue reducing the tax burden on residents for delivery of services like schools, public safety, transportation and other public infrastructure. Our local businesses also give support to many efforts that are working to improve the quality of life in our community including education, arts, recreation and human services. They also provide jobs for many of our friends and neighbors. I encourage you to continue supporting our local businesses.

Last month the City honored our more than 600 Volunteers with a reception and recognition event.

Service is in the blood of this community and I continued to be awed by not only the number of city volunteers, but the number of volunteers that support our non-profits, religious institutions, education institutions and generally just get involved to give back to the community.

The City recognized 16 outstanding volunteers this year. Those individuals are: Jan Alten, Debby Bruce, Larry Cain, Harry Clark, Patricia Fields, Michael Flowers, Doreen Frederick, Randy Gamble, Russell Harrison, Mark Olsen, Adam Sampillar, Robert Schilpp, Richard Seraydarian, Linda Szymczak, Don Wilson and Martha Wilson. I want to thank each of these outstanding volunteers and to the many others that are doing so much for our community. You know who you are!

The first week of May is Public Service Recognition Week Honoring our Public Servants. From the time you get up and turn on the lights (or TV) and brush your teeth until you arrive home to fix dinner and prepare for bed, public servants have impacted your day in countless ways. These individuals keep us safe, provide infrastructure for our communities and

improve our quality of life every day of the year. Please thank them when they are providing you good service.

I recently had the opportunity to recognize 221 individuals that have met one of the five-year increment milestones of working for the City. These individuals were recognized for more than 3000 years of public service. One individual, Steve Siler will be celebrating 50 years of working for the City of Manassas later this year. That is remarkable! If you want to work for this great organization, we are always hiring at www.manassasva.gov/jobs.

Finally, May is a time for us to celebrate Mother's Day, Memorial Day and Oyster Day. Those first two are really important not to forget and the other one is just enjoyable to me. Hug your mothers, remember those that made the ultimate sacrifice and have a little fun along the way as we have the opportunity to enjoy this spring season in this great community that is celebrating 150 years in the making!



Students in front of the old Bennett School (now a historic site on Lee Ave.) with the old Manassas High School in the background.

In 1930 students celebrated May Day on May 1 by decorating and dancing around a Maypole, a tall pole decorated with greenery, flowers and ribbons. The ceremonial folk dance dates back to European spring rites to ensure fertility. Similar ribbon dances can be traced back to India, Latin America, and northern Africa.

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 - June 10 - Creative Brush Paints Manassas - **The Obvious and Obscure** in honor of the 150th Birthday of Manassas - www.creativebrush.com

May 5 from 6 - 9 p.m. - **First Friday: Tacos and Tequila** in Historic Downtown

May 5 at 7 p.m. - Fresh Music Friday with **Theo Scott** at the Harris Pavilion

May 6 from 8 a.m. to noon - **Household Hazardous Waste** dropoff day with shredding

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 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - **MS Walk** at the Harris Pavilion

May 6 - June 24 at 8:30 a.m. Saturday Mornings **the Mayor is on the move** - Walk with her starting at Osbourn High School

May 12 - 21 - Pied Piper Theatre **School of Rock** performance at the Hylton Performing Arts

May 13 - **Manassas Viking Festival** in Historic Downtown

May 16 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with **Shane Gamble** at the Harris Pavilion

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

May 19 - 21 - Manassas Ballet Theatre's **Swan Lake** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

May 20 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - **Larexpo** - Latin American Artisans & Entrepreneurs EXPO at the Harris Pavilion

May 20 at 11 a.m. - **Anything's Pawsible Festival & 5K Fun Run** on the Manassas Museum Lawn

May 21 from 1 - 4 p.m. - **Equality Prince William Pride** event at the Harris Pavilion

May 23 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with **MacKenzie Ryan** at the Harris Pavilion

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

May 30 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday with **Brian Harris** at the Harris Pavilion

June 2 & 3 at 7 p.m. - **Pirates! Theodore Thud and the Quest for Weird** by Pied Piper Theatre at the ARTfactory

June 2 at 7:30 p.m. - Manassas Chorale "**From Sea to Shining Sea**" Spring Concert at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

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

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 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 - **Bealegacy** at the Harris Pavilion

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

Check out **Summer Camps** at www.manassasva.gov/camps

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

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