

JULY 2024

# CITY CONNECTION



## Renovated City Hall Opens

The last time City Hall opened, Ronald Reagan was president, *Dirty Dancing* was the movie everyone was talking about, and the top 40 hits included artists such as Madonna, Whitney Houston, and Bon Jovi (played on cassette tapes).

In Manassas, the population was about 20,000 (it is now 42,000), the Farmer's Market got its start, commuter rail was a hope for the future, Prince William Hospital (now UVA Health) purchased its first CT scan machine, the Manassas City Public Schools enrolled 4,000 students (there are 7,700 today), the IBM plant was expanding, and the Manassas Museum was hoping to move from its cramped space on Main St.

If you had been inside City Hall before it closed for renovations in 2022, you would have seen a building that was stuck in 1987. There were windows that couldn't insulate against the heat and cold, an HVAC system struggling to regulate temperatures, aging orange-colored tile, peeling

beige wallpaper, and limited meeting space.

All that has changed with a City Hall renovation that makes it easier for residents to navigate services with more inviting customer service areas; creates better public meeting and conference spaces with a public community room on the first floor; reorganizes department office space; carves out more space for public displays of art; improves energy efficiency; and updates the exterior façade.

The City Hall Renovation Capital Improvement Project was introduced in 2014, and the final cost of the renovation was \$15.9 million, which includes a new roof and generator that were installed in 2021.

Unlike redecorating projects that paint over problems, City Hall's new windows, HVAC, plumbing, elevator, and reconfigured office space address long-term challenges and ensure that the building's state-of-the-art mechanical, electrical, and data systems will last for years. "Our new City Hall will

serve our residents for the foreseeable future," says Steve Burke, Director of Public Works/Assistant City Manager. "The City Hall renovations reflect the successful collaboration of our architect, contractor, and City staff to establish a building that welcomes residents to fully participate in the governance of Manassas."

"Our goal has been to have City Hall open to the public by the end of June, closing the Customer Service Center on Godwin Dr. while we evaluate future needs," says Interim City Manager Douglas W. Keen.

"I believe our residents and customers will find the new layout easier for them to navigate and conduct business. It also adds a much-needed community conference room, something our community has asked for. I am glad to have staff back in one location so we can be more efficient in our operations."



The renovated City Hall at 9027 Center St. is now open for business



Para español, escanee el código QR  
[www.manassasva.gov/conexion](http://www.manassasva.gov/conexion)



# A Moment with the Mayor



**Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger**

In my family, July brings lots of reasons to celebrate. Along with fireworks on July 4th, we celebrate my son Joseph's 25th birthday, and on July 6th it's my turn to celebrate a birthday. Does anyone want to guess how YOUNG I will be? HINT: I am now qualified for senior housing. I know it's hard to believe!

July also marks the return of the Mid-Day Meet Up with the Mayor, which will start on July 12 and continue on Fridays at 12 Noon through August 30 on the Manassas Museum patio. Bring your lunch and join in discussions with special guest speakers from various departments in our City. I

am looking forward to this event returning; it really is a great time of networking and info gathering.

I have been humbled to celebrate the achievements of so many students in our community and especially honored to deliver remarks at this year's graduation ceremony for the Osbourn High School Class of 2024. Congratulations to all of you. It was also an honor to participate in the recognition of a couple of graduates that have overcome tremendous challenges to achieve academic and social progress. Osbourn High School graduates Anyeli Cuevas Lucero and Jacqueline Domínguez were both awarded scholarships at the Beat the Odds Banquet sponsored by the Prince William Bar Foundation and Prince William Bar Association. They represent exactly what OURMANASSAS is all about! Turning trauma into triumph!

I also attended this year's Early Identification Program (EIP) Graduation, a program I had the privilege of helping to get started. EIP enables City students who would be first-time college grads in their families to get a degree at little to no expense. Five Osbourn High School Seniors graduated from the EIP and 15

members of the class of 2028 from Metz Middle School were welcomed into the EIP program. Some of these students got full tuition scholarships and most will attend George Mason University.

Our students can also take advantage of the tremendous high-tech opportunities in our City through the Micron Technology Registered Apprenticeship Program. In partnership with NOVA Community College and The National Institute for Innovation and Technology, the program requires no prior work experience in the semiconductor or manufacturing industry. The first cohort begins this month and will be able to enter the industry through an "earn and learn" model. Upon completion of the program, students will receive a nationally recognized journey workers certification and be promoted into a full-time technician-level role at the company!

I want to send a special shout out to the schools, parents, business partners, and the entire village that contribute to the success of these students! You all are to be applauded!! I am one proud Mayor! Onward and upward until next month!

*Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger*

## Students Get Inside Look at Policing During Camp

The Manassas City Police Department (MCPD) hosted the annual Youth Police Camp for a week last month, giving middle and high school students an opportunity to learn about what it takes to be a police officer. MCPD took them through a jam-packed schedule of classroom learning, hands-on activities, demonstrations and physical training with partners from Osbourn High School's criminal justice program, the City's Animal Control division, the Fairfax County Police Department, the Virginia State Police, and The FBI.

From traffic stops and evidence collection to K9 units, bomb disposal and Medevac helicopter visits, these students learned the many ways that MCPD works to keep our community safe.



**Stonewall Park Pool  
is open  
7 days a week  
Sunday to Thursday,  
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday,  
11 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
all weather-permitting**



# A Message from the City Manager



**Interim City Manager Douglas Keen**

We live in a world where, unfortunately, we often concentrate on our differences rather than on those things that bind us together. That is why it is always such a pleasure to see our community—and many visitors—come together at the Celebrate America July 4th event, enjoying food, watching kids dance with glow sticks, and finding that perfect spot to see the best fireworks display in Northern Virginia!

It's the same community spirit I have seen as young and older people, families, and groups have taken to the streets during our First Fridays, joining in a line dance or tossing beanbags in a game of cornhole. It's the spirit I see at National Night Out (this year it will be on August 6) on the Museum lawn, when kids look with wonder at fire trucks, snakes brought out by our Animal Control officers, police officers flying drones or the K9 Unit displaying their skills. Or when folks crowd the floor at the Harris Pavilion trying to learn salsa dancing, or swaying to the music of one of our many summer concerts.

It's that community spirit that also helps us move the City forward. We are settling into the renovated City Hall, a building that will better serve the needs of our residents long into the future. It took years of planning and setting aside Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds, and it required the support of many elected officials and our community to open the doors.

The newly-approved Marsteller Park and Community Center project, the Manassas Shopping Center acquisition, the Grant Avenue streetscape project, electrical and water system upgrades, and park improvements now underway all started with a majority of residents expressing (in person and surveys) a desire to see better service, better facilities, and better amenities.

We start this July with a new fiscal year 2025 budget, but work is already beginning on the FY26 budget. There are always plenty of opportunities to share your voice about projects and budget priorities in community meetings, surveys, emails and phone calls, and by attending

City Council meetings. This year, work is beginning on the City's required five-year Comprehensive Plan review, a document driven by community input that will chart our future and help determine the projects that will shape our City. Look for those community meetings to begin later this year.

When you visit us in the renovated City Hall, see the Grant Avenue streetscape taking shape, or watch your children play on new fields at Marsteller Park, I hope that you will take pride in seeing the improvements your community spirit has sparked. And as you gather this summer at the Pavilion or at a First Friday, I hope that you will look around and realize how special this Manassas community spirit is.

## WE'VE MOVED!



**ALL OFFICES, THE PERMIT COUNTER, TREASURER AND COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE COUNTERS ARE OPEN AT THE RENOVATED CITY HALL. SOCIAL SERVICES IS AT 9324 WEST ST.**

**CALL 703-257-8200 IF YOU NEED HELP FINDING A SERVICE.**



**9027 CENTER ST.**



## Community Saves a Life

It started out as a beautiful summer day at the Wellington pool, but if not for the quick thinking of four hometown heroes, it could have turned tragic.

In an instant last summer, two year old Luke Hogge was at the bottom of the pool. An instant later he was pulled out and lifeguard Amber Patrick, resident Jonathan Fleming, and Nicki Angelo and Cori Langin, two nurses who happened to be at the pool, went to work reviving him.

In less than four minutes, the City of Manassas Fire Rescue Department

scooped up Luke and got him to the hospital. Thanks to all those who stepped in to help, Luke (holding the dinosaur) was fine and this year joined his family and friends at a ceremony thanking the four heroes.



# THE CITY OF MANASSAS HAPPENINGS

Find these events and more in the City of Manassas, Virginia. For more information go to [www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

Now through July 27 - **Just Another Day Art Exhibit at ARTfactory**



Saturdays, now through August 31, 12-3 p.m. - **Liberia Open House**



**Acoustic Tuesdays at the Harris Pavilion**, 7 p.m.-- July 2 – Joe Downer; July 9 – Timmie Metz Duo; July 16 – Travis Tucker; July 23 – Scott Kurt; July 30 – Shane Gamble; August 6 – Garrett Mabe Duo; August 13 – Kimberly Burke; August 20 – Mackenzie Ryan Duo August 27 – Rook Richards

**Fresh Music Fridays at the Harris Pavilion**, 7 p.m. -- July 12 – Jon Mitchem; July 19 – Bad Press Band; July 26 – Speakeasy; August 9 – Nitehawks; August 23 – Blue Bottleneck Band

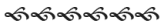
**Saturday Night Concerts at the Harris Pavilion**, 7 p.m. --- August 3 – Special Occasions; August 10 – Mike Parker

**Sunday Funday Concerts at the Harris Pavilion**, 3 p.m. -- July 7 – Navy Band Country Current; July 14 – Carleigh Jane; July 21 – Kings Park Concert Band; July 28 – Navy Band Commodores; August 4 – Prince William Community Band; August 18 – Washington Balalaika Society; August 25 – Manassas Symphony Orchestra

**Summer Sounds Concerts at the Harris Pavilion**, 7 p.m. -- July 13 – Joe Falero; July 20 – Deni Bonet and Chris Flynn; August 17 – Lil' Maceo; August 24 – Sol Roots



July 4 from 3-10 p.m. - **Celebrate America** celebration Downtown with Fireworks at 9:15



July 5 from 6-9 p.m. - **First Friday** in Downtown Manassas



July 6 at 7:30 p.m. – **Pandemics Improv Troupe** at ARTfactory

July 9 at 2 p.m. - **3D Printer Design** at the Manassas City Library



July 12-14 – Prime Time Players's **Potato Gumbo** at ARTfactory



July 12-21 – Prince William Little Theatre's **110 in the Shade** at Hylton Performing Arts Center



July 13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – **Teen Discussion of Caste: How Did We Get Here and What's Next?** at the Manassas Museum. Register now at [cityofmanassas.recdesk.com](http://cityofmanassas.recdesk.com)



July 13 at 12 p.m. – **Gallery Talk: Timeline of Manassas** at the Manassas Museum



July 13 at 4 p.m. – **Movie Night at the Museum** at the Manassas Museum. Register now at [cityofmanassas.recdesk.com](http://cityofmanassas.recdesk.com)



July 14 & 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – **NVA Thai Street Food & Culture Festival** on the Manassas Museum Lawn



July 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. – **Museum at the Farmer's Market**. Free take-home kit!



July 18 & 25 from 11-11:30 a.m. – **Toddler Story Time** at Manassas City Library



July 20 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. – **Reading to Dogs** for Grades K-5 at Manassas City Library



July 20 at 11 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. – **Neverland Tea Party** at ARTfactory



July 20 - **Model Railroads** with the Northern VA NTRACK Club at the Manassas City Library



July 23 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. – **Wildlife Center** for all ages at Manassas City Library



July 25 at 6 p.m. – **History Happy Hour** with Museum Curator



July 26 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. – **Spanish**

**Story Time** at Manassas City Library



July 26-27 – Pied Piper Theatre's **Anastasia: The Musical** at Hylton Performing Arts Center



July 30 from 2-3:30 p.m. – **Tween Hour of Code** at Manassas Library.



Aug. 1, 8 & 15 from 11-11:30 a.m. – **Toddler Story Time** at Manassas City Library



Aug. 2 from 6-9 p.m. - **First Friday** in Downtown Manassas



Aug. 3 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. – **Manassas African American Heritage Festival** at Metz Middle School



Aug. 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – **NVA Thai Street Food & Culture Festival** on the Manassas Museum Lawn



Aug. 6 from 6-7:30 p.m. – **National Night Out** on the Manassas Museum Lawn



Aug. 7 at 4 p.m. – **Birds of Prey** program at the Harris Pavilion



Aug. 10 at 12 p.m. – **Gallery Talk: Speiden - Architect of Manassas** at the Manassas Museum



Aug. 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. – **Museum at the Farmer's Market**. Free take-home kit!



Aug. 17 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. – **Reading to Dogs** for Grades K-5 at Manassas City Library



Aug. 22-24 – Rooftop Production's **New Play Festival** at ARTfactory



Aug. 23 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. – **Spanish Story Time** at Manassas City Library



Aug. 24 at 2 p.m. – **Book Talk** on the Battle of Second Manassas at the Manassas Museum

## City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

**City of Manassas Council**  
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[www.youtube.com/manassascityva](http://www.youtube.com/manassascityva)



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