



The City Has a New Park

The City of Manassas has completed the purchase of Annaburg Manor located at 9201 Maple Street. This purchase adds 3.65 acres to the City's parkland and an opportunity for an interested non-profit to restore Annaburg Manor, the 1892 home of Robert Portner, to its former beauty.

Annaburg Manor was the "center of beauty and interest" in this area during that time period, with 35 rooms, electricity, and reportedly, one of the first homes in the country equipped with mechanical air-conditioning. Portner's designs in air-conditioning, artificial cooling and ice making machines would later contribute to the technology used in today's air-conditioning systems.

Annaburg has a long history as a recreational destination. Robert Portner, the Prussian-born entrepreneur and Alexandria brewer who built Annaburg as a summer retreat, generously enabled his neighbors to enjoy what was essentially a town park long before parks existed. After Robert and his wife Anna Portner passed away and the house was no longer occupied, residents recalled the grounds as a place to stroll, take photographs, and skate on the frozen ponds in winter. Residents and visitors also enjoyed attending the town's Dairy Festival, 4th of July events, and even church baptisms in the estate's pond.

In the 1960s, two wings of the Manor, which have since been removed, were constructed and Annaburg became a nursing home and rehabilitation center. The facility was managed by what is now Novant Health UVA Health System, which currently operates the Caton Merchant House assisted living facility located adjacent



Photo credit Roger W. Snyder

to Annaburg Manor. In the last few years, Annaburg Manor has been used mostly as a place for storage.

"Once open, this new public park will be a great place for picnics and enjoying a nice day," said City Manager W. Patrick Pate. "The City is looking forward to receiving public input into the master planning process for this new park."

"Novant Health UVA Health System is pleased that the sale of this beautiful property will continue to contribute historical value and use as a green space serving residents and visitors alike," said Ian McDonald, Prince William Hospital Board of Trustees.

Annaburg Park will open within the next few months. To stay up-to-date on information about Annaburg Manor, visit www.manassascity.org/Annaburg.



A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
W. Patrick Pate

As the month of August moves along, many of us will have completed a summer vacation or respite and will be glad to see our young folks back in school and starting fall routines. It is interesting how our summer schedules are actually based on an agrarian society where everyone needed to work the farm/garden during the summer so that food could be produced to carry us through the winter. That has completely changed to summers dominated by crowded leisure activities and turning up the air conditioning so we can stay inside out of the heat. It is interesting how quickly things change as I can remember growing up in a rural community where despite the calendar, school didn't really start until all of the tobacco had been cropped!

So where am I going with this? As things change, the City works very hard to try and prepare for the future needs of the community through our long-term comprehensive planning process and our capital improvement program (CIP). This involves significant community, staff and committee input to develop a shared community vision and set priorities.

City Council recently adopted the annual CIP update (as a part of the budget) which includes 90 projects for the five-year planning period and for future funding consideration. These projects include school replacements and renovations, new public safety facilities, utility infrastructure,

transportation enhancements and improvements to culture and recreation facilities. They represent our commitment to the future of our community.

More specifically, over the next couple of years we will have a new Fire and Rescue Station #21 and construction will begin on the Grant Avenue Public Safety Facility. Transportation enhancements will continue to focus along the Route 28 corridor with projects along Sudley, Nokesville, Godwin and Centerville roads to be completed. A significant commitment is also being made on trail and sidewalk improvements to increase bike and pedestrian safety which will be seen with the completion of the Prince William Street improvements and in the Grant Ave. transportation project.

Coordination with the Manassas City Public Schools will continue on the redevelopment of Dean Park in coordination with the MCPS plans for the replacement of Dean Elementary and repurposing of the current Police Facility to address the need for MCPS Administrative Offices. Community interest is high on the creation of development plans for the new Annaburg Manor Park, enhancements to E.G. Smith baseball fields, and plans for community cultural areas like the Museum, Jennie Dean Memorial Park and provision of a City library.

Up-to-date infrastructure means water plant improvements, replacing the main water transmission line from the water plant to the City, continued conversion of overhead to underground power lines, replacement of sewer mains, water lines and storm water systems, airport enhancements and other economic development related initiatives to bring jobs and investment into the community.

Having such a comprehensive capital planning process as a part of our transparent financial practices is one of the factors that contribute to the City's achievement of a "AAA" bond rating from Standard and Poor's. This rating, in turn, allows the City to lower the costs of capital projects by reducing our interest payments related to debt. We also work to reduce costs by leveraging significant state and federal funds along with pay-as-you-go funding for capital projects.

If you are interested in more details, the Adopted FY 2020 Five-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is published and available for public review at www.manassascity.org/budget.

Otherwise, enjoy the remaining moments of summer heat as winter will be here before we know it.

Election Officers Wanted

Do you want to help out on Election Day, Nov. 5? The City of Manassas Registrar's Office is looking for Election Officials for the November election. Find out more at www.manassascity.org/vote.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Find out more about the Comprehensive Plan at www.manassascity.org/planmanassas. A final draft will be ready for review in the fall 2019.



Welcome to the Manassas City Police Department Officers Olexo, DeSeve and Brown

There was a school . . .



Chip and Ann Paciulli began frequenting auctions, flea markets and antique stores in their twenties, collecting historic documents and other treasures that have recently confirmed some Manassas history.

Just last week the Purcellville couple donated a treasure trove of historic documents to the Manassas Museum. In this collection there was an 1845 math exam from the Liberia Classical and Mathematical School, then on the grounds of Liberia Plantation. This was the first document about the school at Liberia that Manassas Museum staff had ever seen, other than a mention in an 1847 newspaper ad.

Seeing the Liberia name on the yellowed piece of paper was an unexpected thrill for Curator Mary Helen Dellinger. "When I first talked to Chip and Ann, they told me they had

'a few Manassas papers' to give us" Dellinger says. "These papers included a few Civil War letters that are just fantastic first person accounts of the battles that were fought here. The letters paled in comparison though to the document with 'Liberia School' written across the top. I felt my heart skip a beat when I saw that."

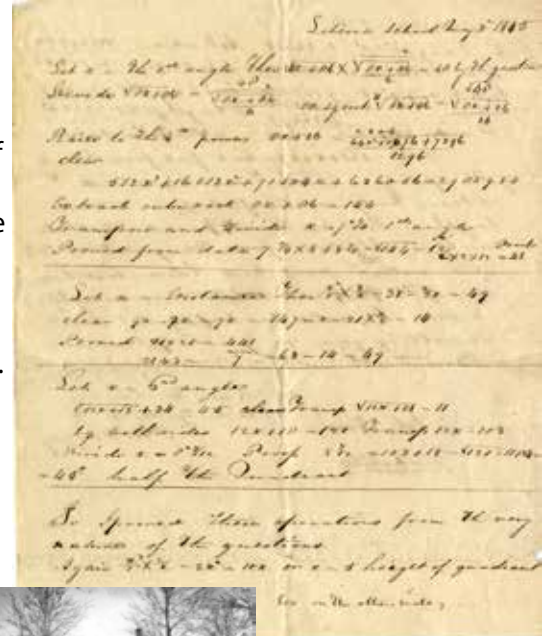
The collection also includes Civil War military orders signed by Confederate Colonel Thomas Jordan, who was a spymaster and had his headquarters at Liberia. Many of the documents like receipts and letters predate the Civil War and outline what Chip Paciulli describes as the minutia of history—the details that tell the stories of everyday life that are often lost in the accounts of history books.

Both Chip and Ann were inspired by the stories of past generations they heard around their family dinner tables. "Ann and I were the kids who loved to hear the stories," Chip says of these family conversations.

Ann's father, Dr. Samuel Cole, was a local optometrist who was an early and enthusiastic supporter of the Manassas Museum and instrumental in its creation. The couple thought the museum would be a fitting home for the collection.

"You can gain some window into a period of time in Manassas and Prince William County," says Chip of the collection. "Holding these documents connects you to another person and another time," Ann, a retired teacher agrees.

Dellinger hopes to mount an exhibit of the documents once they are organized and transcribed, and expects they will be an important research resource for the community.



School Traffic Safety

We know it seems early to think about school, but schools are back in session in August this year. Here are a few tips from the Manassas City Police Department.

- Always be aware and abide by school zone traffic signs and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing the roadway.
- Follow directions from crossing guards and law enforcement officers directing traffic.
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.
- Stay alert! Children are often less predictable than other pedestrians and can be difficult to see.

- If you are dropping off or picking up children, do not double-park as it blocks visibility for others. Do not pick up or drop off students across the street from any school.
- Traffic must stop when the stop-arm is extended on the school bus and the red lights are flashing.
- On a two-lane road or a divided roadway with no median, drivers in both directions must stop for a stopped school bus.
- Never pass a school bus on the right.

- Maintain a 10-foot distance behind a stopped school bus to allow students enough space to safely enter or exit the bus.
- Always abide by posted traffic signs and stay alert!



The City of Manassas Happenings

Find these events and more at www.visitmanassas.org. Here's what's happening in the City of Manassas:

Through September 15 - Exhibit at the Manassas Museum - **Expanding Boundaries: Celebrating Traditions, Shaping the Future**

Now - Fall - **Saturday Farmer's Market** runs through the fall at the VRE parking lot across from Baldwin Elementary/Intermediate

Now - September - **Liberia House Tours** the 4th Saturday of the month - manassasechoes.com for tickets

Through October - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - **Museum at the Market** hands-on activities for the whole family.

Through November - First Saturday of the month - **Downtown Walking Tours** by the Manassas Museum

Aug. 2, 6 - 9 p.m. - First Friday - **Dog Days of Summer** - bring your pup for some First Friday fun.

Aug. 3, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. - **29th Annual Manassas African American Heritage Festival** at Metz Middle School

Aug. 3, 6:30 p.m. - **Summer Sounds Concert** with **Sol Roots** at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 3, 8 p.m. - **Movies at the Pool** - Stonewall Park Pool

Aug. 3, 8 a.m. to noon - **Household Hazardous Waste, eWaste Drop Off & Big Summer Shred** at the Manassas Transfer Station

Aug. 4, 3 p.m. - **Summer Sundaes** - concert and ice cream with the **257th Army Band** at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 6, 6 - 8 p.m. - **National Night Out** on the lawn of the Manassas Museum - meet officers and enjoy food, vendors, K9s, a moon bounce and more

Aug. 6, 7 p.m. - **Acoustic Tuesday** at the Harris Pavilion with **Gary Smallwood**

Aug. 8, 7 p.m. - **U.S. Navy Sea Chanters** at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 10, 12 - 5 p.m. - **Steins, Wines & Spirits Festival** on the Manassas Museum lawn

Aug. 10, 8 p.m. - Adult Dance and Concert with the **Silver Tones Swing Band**

Aug. 11, 3 p.m. - **Summer Sundaes** - concert and ice cream with the **Washington Balalaika Society Orchestra** at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 13, 7 p.m. - **Acoustic Tuesday** at the Harris Pavilion with **Jason Teach**

Aug. 14, 3 p.m. - **Stories of Preservation and Progress** at the Manassas Museum

Aug. 17, 6:30 p.m. - **Summer Sounds Concert** with **Lil' Maceo** at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 17, 8 p.m. - **Movies at the Pool** - Stonewall Park Pool

Aug. 18, 3 p.m. - **Summer Sundaes** - concert and ice cream with the **Manassas Symphony** at the Harris Pavilion

Aug. 20, 7 p.m. - **Acoustic Tuesday** at the Harris Pavilion with **Shane Gamble**

August 25, 3 p.m. - **Summer Sundaes Concert** with the **Prince William Community Band**

Aug. 27, 7 p.m. - **Acoustic Tuesday** at the Harris Pavilion with **Sharif**

Aug. 29, 7 p.m. - **U.S. Navy Country Current** concert at the Harris Pavilion

August 30, at dusk - **Movie Night** on the Manassas Museum Lawn - **Coco**

Aug. 31, 6:30 p.m. - **Summer Sounds Concert** with **Sweet Yonder** at the Harris Pavilion

Sept. 3, 7 p.m. - **Acoustic Tuesday** at the Harris Pavilion with **James Britton**

Sept. 7, 9 a.m. - Great Strides - the **Cystic Fibrosis Foundation 5K Walk** starts at the Harris Pavilion

Sept. 7, 12 noon - 6 p.m. - **Bands, Brews & Barbecue** on the Manassas Museum Lawn

Sept. 8, 12:30 p.m. - **Out of the Darkness Manassas Walk** starts at the Harris Pavilion

Sept. 14, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. - **World Heritage Festival & Festival of Kites** on the Manassas Museum Lawn

Sept 21, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - **Edgar Rohr Car Show** at the Manassas Museum.

Sept. 21, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. - **International Food Festival** at the Harris Pavilion.

Sept. 21, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - **Car Free Day Celebration** at the Farmer's Market

Sept. 22, 1:30 - Free Book talk "**Too Much for Human Endurance**" with author Ronald Kirkwood at the Manassas Museum.

Sept. 27 - Feb. 25 - New Exhibit Opens at the Manassas Museum - **Native Americans** - Produced specifically for the 400th anniversary of the founding of the colony at Jamestown

Oct. 5, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. **Manassas Fall Jubilee** in Historic Downtown Manassas.

Oct. 11, 8 p.m. - **Cemetery Tour**

Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m. - **Jazz in Motion** by the Manassas Ballet at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

Oct. 19, 8:30 a.m. - **Walk to End Alzheimer's** begins at Harris Pavilion

Oct. 20, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk with author Craig Gralley **Hall of Mirrors - Virginia Hall: America's Great Spy of WWII**

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

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