



Moving the City Forward on Our Streets

Transportation, congestion and ease of getting around the City of Manassas have consistently been identified as important issues in the citizen satisfaction surveys. The City of Manassas continues to work on multiple projects to improve our transportation network, address congestion and make it easier to drive in and around Manassas.

Traffic Signal Optimization

The City has recently finished a comprehensive upgrade to all of the computer hardware and software that controls and operates the City's 64 traffic signals. Transportation experts were engaged to optimize the signal timings at every intersection to improve traffic flow and better coordinate the traffic signals in order to move traffic more efficiently and reduce travel times.

Centreville Road Turn Lanes

Beginning in late June, the City will lengthen the southbound left turn lanes on Centreville Rd. at the intersection with Liberia Ave. This area experiences some of the largest backups, especially during rush hour. Both turn lanes will be lengthened back to Kincheloe Dr., adding additional turn lane capacity and lessening the potential spillover into the travel lanes. Combined with the signal timing optimization, these improvements will ease congestion and improve traffic flow through the intersection. This work should be completed before the end of the summer.

Route 28/Nokesville Road Widening

For residents who travel Route 28/ Nokesville Rd. south into Prince William County, you may have seen significant construction over the last several years to widen this road to six travel lanes. The City will be widening its portion of Route 28 to six lanes beginning at the intersection of Godwin Dr. to the corporate limits to match up with the work being done by Prince William County. This project adds capacity and, combined with the PWC work, will enable traffic to move through the corridor

more efficiently. In addition, there will be a shared use path that will allow for safe pedestrian and bicycle movement in this corridor.

The City will be installing a traffic signal at the end of the exit ramp off of the northbound lanes of the Prince William Parkway along with other safety improvements to prevent vehicles from crossing over all lanes of traffic on Nokesville Rd. in order to access the left turn lanes at Godwin Dr. The work will increase the capacity of those same left turn lanes to prevent traffic from backing up, which will make travel through this corridor easier.

We expect this project to go out to bid by the end of June 2020 with construction to begin this fall.

Grant Avenue

This project will enhance Grant Ave. between Wellington Rd. and Prince William St. This is a comprehensive streetscape improvement project that includes new water and sewer lines and the undergrounding of the remaining above-ground electric lines along this section of Grant Ave. A major part of this project will be to reduce this section of Grant Ave. from four lanes to two. While this may cause residents to question how this helps traffic, three separate transportation engineering firms have confirmed that this lane reduction will work and traffic will move more smoothly through the corridor.

The City has incorporated citizen feedback from four community meetings on this topic to increase the number of crosswalks in the corridor from one to four, to maintain the existing on-street parking and to have both dedicated turn lanes as well as dedicated transit bus pull offs. There will be a new shared-use path that will connect with existing shared-use paths along Wellington Rd. to increase the safety of both pedestrians and cyclists. Coupled with the construction of the new Public Safety Facility next to the Grant Ave. Shopping Center, these two projects will transform this corridor.

Utility work should begin later in 2020 and the transportation improvements to Grant Ave. should begin in 2021.

Sudley Road Third Lane

This improvement project will create a third travel lane on northbound Sudley Rd. beginning at Grant Ave. to the City limits at Godwin Dr. The City received federal funding for this project (100%) through VDOT's "Smart Scale" program that evaluates projects that help to significantly address congestion.

Once completed, northbound Sudley Road will have three travel lanes, increasing capacity by 50% and providing a seamless transition to the existing three travel lanes in Prince William County. There will also be sidewalk and crosswalk improvements to allow for safer pedestrian movement through the corridor.

Design plans are currently at 60% and we expect final construction plans to be complete and ready for bidding in 2021.

Dean Drive Extension

Currently, Dean Dr. is in two separate sections – one section is off of Wellington Rd. and the other section off of Nokesville Rd. ends in a cul-de-sac. This project will extend the section off of Nokesville Rd. and connect the two separate pieces into one continuous road. This project is currently scheduled to be bid for construction in March 2021.

The goal of all of these projects is to enhance the City's transportation network, improve safety and reliability and help relieve congestion. As part of our recently adopted Comprehensive Plan, the City has developed a Transportation Master Plan that will be the foundation for determining future transportation improvements including new sidewalks, bike paths, and other multi-modal projects in addition to traditional road projects like the ones listed in this article. More information about the Transportation Master Plan as well as each of these individual projects may be found on the City's website www.manassascity.org.

A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
W. Patrick Pate

It is difficult to know where to begin this month. We are still in the midst of the pandemic although we have seen a loosening of some pandemic restrictions due to reductions in positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. Efforts to combat systemic racism are now in the forefront of our civic dialogue and nightly news. The economy is going through a significant economic downturn with many of our neighbors unemployed and businesses struggling to survive. Any of these factors by themselves represent a significant event impacting our communities, and together, they may be foreshadowing significant changes in our future.

Let me start with the pandemic. We are all seeing businesses work to reopen by adopting changes to protect customers from unintentionally spreading the virus. Manassas City Public Schools are looking at state guidelines to try and develop a plan that will provide educational services for the new school year. Large gatherings are still banned and it is still recommended that we wear face coverings and stay six-feet apart from non-family members. While it is tempting to ignore these recommendations in the name of individualism, it is important to temper this desire with the need for social responsibility. Each of us taking individual precautions protects everyone around us, but it takes the cooperation of everyone around us to protect each of us individually.

Following the guidelines is necessary to protect our families.

On the second issue, I am sure that you are as saddened and upset as I am with the actions of individuals who abused their oaths to protect and serve their communities. Racism and intolerance should not be tolerated in any form, and individuals have the constitutional right to express their opinions on these issues. The Manassas City Police Department has demonstrated their commitment to ensuring that peaceful assemblies can be held peacefully; that constitutional rights are recognized and upheld; and that residents and visitors alike understand that they can trust and rely on them to protect and serve everyone equitably. Our Police Department strives to adhere to the highest standards of modern-day policing, including the use of de-escalation techniques and using the least amount of force necessary in every situation. Reviews are also conducted on every use of force action by the Department. We have many dedicated law enforcement officers serving our community with integrity and a commitment to protect the rights of all people without infringing on those same rights. I appreciate the support that they are given daily from all parts of our community.

In the midst of all of these changes, July is also the beginning of a new budget year for the City of Manassas. The economic downturn is impacting the City. Revenues such as meals tax, sales tax and any number of rentals and charges for services have all been lower and will continue to be lower due to the economic downturn. In reaction to these changes, the City has reduced expenditures in the current fiscal year and postponed expenditures planned for the new fiscal year. Fortunately, due to the good economic year we were having prior to the pandemic, conservative financial planning and by reducing expenditures, we do not expect to need any significant reductions of services to the community. You will see some changes in how we deliver services, and in particular, a

shift to having customer interactions electronically and by phone. You will also see new structures designed to promote physical distancing to protect you and City staff alike.

One of the items in the new budget that has been a significant topic of conversation is a new library agreement with Prince William County. This agreement will provide a new branch library in the City at 10104 Dumfries Rd. which is in the Wellington Shopping Center adjacent to Giant Food. This branch, which will open by February 2021, will be in addition to access all current Prince William library facilities and, in fact, all DMV area libraries, if they are more convenient. Enhancement to library services will also be seen in the renovations to Central Library on Centreville Rd., which are nearing completion.

Historic Downtown Manassas Goes Bigbelly

The next time you're in Historic Downtown Manassas, you may notice our new trash and recycling containers. The City has installed the latest technology to reduce litter and provide visitors with a more efficient way to dispose of trash and recycling. Bigbelly units are solar-powered and compact waste to hold five times as much waste as a traditional trash bin. Through smart sensors, the units communicate to a centralized dashboard to alert crews when stations are ready for waste and recycling collection.



Library Services in the City

On June 8, 2020 the Manassas City Council signed an agreement with Prince William County on Library Services. The agreement, signed by the Board of County Supervisors on June 16, provides for a library branch in the City of Manassas located at 10104 Dumfries Road (at the corner of Dumfries and Wellington Road).

This Manassas Branch will be run by the Prince William Library System and be leased by Prince William County. City of Manassas citizens will be able to continue using Prince William County libraries and the new Manassas Branch on Wellington/Dumfries Rd., as will Prince William County residents.

The terms of this agreement between the City of Manassas and Prince William County are for ten years beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2030 with a five-year automatic renewal term after that unless terminated by either party. The City will purchase the furniture and fixtures,



including shelving, for the completion of the build-out of the Manassas Branch with an estimated cost to the City of \$500,000.

“Libraries are an essential way that communities ensure access to materials and free educational resources for all residents,” said City Manager W. Patrick Pate. “Having a branch in the City limits will provide our residents with enhanced opportunities to take advantage of these resources as well

as provide a great space for community activities.”

For library services in the City of Manassas and continuing in the Prince William County System, the City of Manassas will pay \$1.2 million annually with a three percent escalator. The Manassas Branch will be open to the public on or before February 1, 2021.

Inspections still happening, virtually

“Can you please open the electrical panel box?” Building Development Manager Eric Lowe asks a customer during an inspection for an upgraded electrical system. In ordinary times, Eric would be shining a light inside the box in the customer’s basement, but today he’s peering at his phone and asking for a close-up view—all from his office.

When the pandemic made social distancing the new normal, the permit and inspections staff quickly found that virtual inspections could keep building projects on track, and that most inspections could be done quickly and safely from a distance. “Some inspections like those for water heater installations are simple and lend themselves to remote inspections very well,” Lowe explains. Other inspections require a little more effort from homeowners.

“We try to walk the homeowners through some inspections and let them know in advance that they may need a screwdriver to open up a panel, or a tape measure to show us the dimensions of something or to measure a clearance. Sometimes we have to explain where to find connections, bolts; or even what a nosing or a stair tread is,” Lowe says.

When contractors are on a Facetime or Zoom call, the inspections go much more quickly as they know where to find key mechanical parts.

When in-person inspections are necessary for projects like decks, Lowe

asks customers to place their plans outside, and lets them know when he will be there for the inspection. For more complex commercial and residential project inspections that cannot be done virtually, staff maintain social distancing and avoid contact with contractors as much as possible.

Preparation is important for virtual inspections. Permit Technicians Chris Hogan and Eve Aguilera make the initial contact with customers who request an inspection, and if the inspection can be done remotely, they confirm that the customer can use Facetime or Zoom and that they have a good Wi-Fi connection.

“The comments about the virtual inspections have been really good,” Hogan reports.

Construction Plans Examiner Ernie Deihl, who helped implement the virtual system, says the startup has been smooth. He has also heard positive feedback. “All the comments I have received have been positive with the exception of some customers who have not had good internet reception.”

What began as an effort to keep customers and inspectors safe during the pandemic may become a permanent, more convenient option for customers who need inspections.

“As long as there is enough cellular connectivity on the customer’s end, the inspections have been going well. They

work great for smaller jobs,” Deihl says.

“I do believe that most homeowners and contractors performing smaller projects love the option of being able to do a virtual inspection simply for the convenience. I hope that once we go back to standard operation procedures, that we can keep virtual inspections as a tool for doing smaller and less complicated projects.”



Make an Appointment

Walk-Through Wednesdays

If you need to discuss a permit for a project of limited scope, we're now open for appointments at manassascity.org/ds
703-257-8278



The City of Manassas Happenings

Find these events and more at www.visitmanassas.org.



Farmer's Markets on Thursdays and Saturdays are now open. Don't forget your face masks.



Now - Aug., Art Factory (formerly Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory) art and performance classes and camps - www.virginiaartfactory.org



Now - Nov. 15, - Manassas Museum exhibit, **Consider the Source: Interpreting Manassas History on Paper**, virtual tours and open to public when Museum opens - manassasmuseum.org



Tuesdays, 8 a.m., - **Virtual Hands-On History** - facebook.com/cityofmanassasleisure



Wednesdays at Noon, - **Facebook Live Spotlight Talks** - facebook.com/cityofmanassasleisure



Thursdays, now - Sept.10 at 8 a.m. - **United States Navy Band Instruments** from a distance virtual performance; facebook.com/HarrisPavilion



Thursdays, now - Sept. 3 at 5:30 p.m. (weather permitting) - **Historic Downtown Manassas Walking Tours** from the Manassas Museum. manassasechoes.com or call 703-257-8453.



July 7, 7 p.m., - **Virtual Acoustic Tuesday** concert with Daniel Roberts - facebook.com/HarrisPavilion



July 11, 8 a.m. - Noon - **Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Drop Off Day**, Manassas Transfer Station, 8305 Quarry Road - manassascity.org/trash



July 12, 3 p.m. - **Virtual Sunday Concert with Classic Spotlight** - facebook.com/HarrisPavilion



July 14, 7 p.m. - **Virtual Acoustic Tuesday concert with Scott Kurt** - facebook.com/HarrisPavilion



July 18, 8 p.m., **Virtual Saturday Night Concert with Tim Campbell & the Tropical Attitudes** - facebook.com/HarrisPavilion



July 19, 3 p.m. **Virtual Sunday Concert with Marshall Artz** - facebook.com/HarrisPavilion



July 21, 7 p.m., **Virtual Acoustic Tuesday concert with Jason Masi** - facebook.com/HarrisPavilion



July 26, 3 p.m. **Virtual Sunday Concert with Prince William County Band** - facebook.com/HarrisPavilion



July 28, 7 p.m., **Virtual Acoustic Tuesday concert with Shane Gamble** - facebook.com/HarrisPavilion



July 29, 3 p.m. **Stories of Preservation and Progress** at the Manassas Museum - Reservations required, also broadcast on facebook.com/cityofmanassasleisure; manassasmuseum.org



August 1, **Household Hazardous Waste, Electronics and shredding drop-off day**, Manassas Transfer Station, 8305 Quarry Road - manassascity.org/trash

New Building & Trade Permit Fees

Effective 6/29/20
manassascity.org/ds
 703-257-8278

Rent the Courtesy Truck

Did you know that residents can rent a City truck? The Courtesy Truck is a working Street Department truck that is rented to residents who need to dispose of bigger yard waste or DIY projects. The truck is delivered at the end of the work day (3pm) - residents load the truck - and the crew comes by to pick it up the following morning at the start of the day (7am) to dispose of the contents. For more information on how to rent the Courtesy Truck visit: www.manassascity.org/trash or call (703) 257-8256.

Have Your Say on the future of Trash & Recycling in the City of Manassas

Now is your opportunity to contribute your thoughts and ideas on trash and recycling as goals and objectives are set for the next 20 years.

The Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is a document that helps the City of Manassas develop methods to manage the trash and recycling program. Planning for the future means looking at what has been done so far and thinking about how the community will grow and the new technologies that may be available to help improve recycling and reduce the amount of trash going to landfill.

Please take a moment to review the Draft Solid Waste Management Plan and give your feedback by completing a short online survey. The information that we receive will help us improve trash and recycling services for the City of Manassas.

Visit www.manassascity.org/trash for more information.

Get Social!

Visit the City at www.manassascity.org.

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 prrince@manassasva.gov

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

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