If you need help getting back to work or acquiring skills to get a job that will bring you and your family better pay, this program might be the solution. Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) is partnering with the City of Manassas, Prince William County, Virginia Career Works and the SkillSource Group to ensure that community members affected by COVID-19 are able to get back to work by receiving FREE education and workforce support services. The City of Manassas and Prince William County’s leadership forged this strategic partnership with a combined $1,900,000 in funding from the CARES Act to launch the ELEVATE program to provide free resources for displaced workers. This also supports businesses by teaching new skills to the workforce.

There is no cost to the participant and the services include:
- job training
- paid work experience
- career coaching
- financial coaching
- online job fairs
- virtual training
- transportation
- uniforms (if needed)
- work tools

This unique partnership offers participants a complete range of services from obtaining free education and certification, to support services such as transportation and stipends, and ends with job placement services, and in some programs, guaranteed interviews with a local employer. These educational programs can be completed in a short few weeks, so interested participants need to act now to receive the full benefit of ELEVATE’s workforce program. Applications need to be in by Nov. 6, 2020.

The earlier a participant can go through the application process, the more resources may be available. Funds for the program will continue until exhausted.

Examples of available training include:
- IT and computer skills, to include Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH); CompTIA A+
- Healthcare and dental, to include Certified Pharmacy Technician; Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA); Nurse Aide Preparation (CNA); Certified Billing & Coding Specialist (CBCS)
- Administrative Assistant Training: Intensive Program
- Commercial Driver’s License (CDL A)
- American culture and language Institute (ESL) to include Intensive Reading & Writing; Intensive Speaking & Listening; Part-Time Career Readiness; Part-Time ESL; Support ESL Grammar Review

Program participants will also have access to interview preparation and job placement assistance after the completion of their training. This wraparound workforce program enhances the opportunity for participant success with support from start to finish. From the first step of applying for funding through completion of the ELEVATE program, this workforce grant program is designed to be accessible, streamlined and results-driven.

The next step is to apply. For more information or to apply, contact Ziyoda Crew at 571-536-1979 or CARESjobs@vcwnorthern.com or visit www.vcwnorthern.com.

Meet our New Fire & Rescue Chief

Garrett comes to the City with more than 32 years of experience in public safety. He has experience managing a combined fire and rescue system, like the City’s, with both paid and volunteer staff. Garrett served as Fire Chief in Winchester, Virginia and before that worked in Fairfax County, Virginia where he served as Deputy Fire Chief. In his tenure at Fairfax, he served as Deputy Chief for Support Services, Operations Shift Deputy and Emergency Medical Services at differing times. In 2009, he was awarded the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Firefighter of the Year. He has received Chief Fire Officer and Chief Emergency Medical Services Officer designations thru the Center for Public Safety Excellence.
A Message from the City Manager

The last six months have been a challenge for the community and for City employees who have continued to provide all City services, mostly in person with public interaction. Public safety, transportation services, utility delivery, social services and conducting public business have all continued during the pandemic. In order to do this, most City employees have experienced significant changes to their job responsibilities, conditions and work schedules. Despite the challenges, they have continued to adjust to the changes and deliver necessary public services to the community without reducing services for our residents. It is a testament to their core values of teamwork and respect.

Each year in the fall the City recognizes City employees who have received letters and notes of thanks and appreciation from residents and colleagues. These notes show their commitment to public service and willingness to go above and beyond their typical day-to-day responsibilities to serve the community. A committee of staff members, that has been recognized in prior years, reviews each letter and selects individuals to receive recognition based on the core values exhibited in performing these acts of sacrificial public service. Over 100 nominations were reviewed by the committee this year.

Staff members from Public Works – Streets, Water and Sewer Utilities and Electric Utilities were all selected for the “City Beat” Award. These individuals were all nominated by community members in recognition of efforts like helping provide food security for individuals in our community, many of whom are suffering due to the pandemic and loss of jobs; working through storms and after hours to make sure that individuals would not have to suffer without power; and providing outstanding customer service to determine what was causing a homeowner problem, and then making sure that the actual problem was fixed right the first time. Individuals recognized this year for this award are: Danny Ridgeway, Mark Carter, Chris Frazier, Tommy Queen, Jason Roberts, Allison Rock, Robert Conners, Fred Brown, Tim Hogan, Shawn Dunford, Bill Gormours, Matt Holloway, Keith Keen, Michael Kirby and Cheri Seeba.

The highest recognition is called the “Above & Beyond” Award. This year two individuals were recognized for their outstanding teamwork in working mostly behind the scenes to make sure that City services were delivered and issues addressed during the pandemic.

The first staff member recognized with this award is Amelia Gagnon who is the City Emergency Management Coordinator working in the Fire and Rescue Department. Amelia works full-time helping other departments and the City as a whole plan and prepare for all types of emergencies. When a “State of Emergency due to COVID-19” was declared in the City, Amelia became the go to person for all manner of departmental needs related to the pandemic. She worked with regional bodies to keep our efforts coordinated and made sure that we knew where PPE (personal protective equipment) could be obtained and stored. If you have been to one of the free community testing sites for COVID-19, Amelia was the person in the background making sure that the testing event took place. She has worked tirelessly to make sure the community and the organization could respond as seamlessly as possible to the pandemic.

Jerry Burke is the acting Purchasing Manager working in the Finance Department. Despite being short-staffed in Purchasing, Jerry has been in overdrive working to make sure that supplies and contracts necessary to deal with the pandemic were put in place. He had to do this not only within the typical strict state and local procurement policies and laws, but also within a whole new set of federal guidelines that were being sent out and revised often on a weekly basis. He made sure we had all of the necessary items to provide a safe environment for staff members when delivering services to the community and to prepare City facilities to operate within new guidelines. Jerry had an unprecedented five different written nominations along with untold numbers of verbal thanks for his work.

It is working with these types of dedicated City employees that makes the City operate so well. I want to thank each of them, and in particular the award nominees, for all of the hard work and dedication to public service that they have shown during this challenging year. City Council has expressed, on behalf of the community, appreciation to staff for all of the efforts they have taken to maintain high levels of service for our residents. I am extremely proud of the way they have risen and continue to rise to the challenges we are facing this year.

Remember to continue to follow best practices so we can all stay safe and healthy,

W. Patrick Pate
There’s an Election This Year

Soon City of Manassas voters will be voting not only for president, but for U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives and local elections as well. Local elections include the mayoral race, council members and school board members. There are also two proposed Constitutional Amendments on the ballot.

To find out who is on the ballot and become familiar with the proposed Constitutional Amendments before you vote, visit www.manassascity.org/vote. Information about voting in this election is on the City’s website.

However, this year, with the global pandemic still looming, voters may decide that voting absentee is the best choice for health and safety reasons. Effective July 1, 2020 qualified voters may vote in person or by mail beginning up to 45 days before the election. To apply for an absentee ballot, visit vote.elections.virginia.gov.

For this election and only for City of Manassas voters, a new DROPBOX has been installed behind the General Registrar’s Office at 9025 Center Street where it is monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by surveillance cameras and emptied several times a day by the Registrar. If voters wish to drop off their absentee ballot in this box before the election or on election day, they should feel secure in the knowledge that each vote is being counted. On election day, there will be drop boxes at each precinct for voters’ convenience.

The following is a list of voting dates to remember:
- Oct. 13, Last day to register to vote
- Oct. 23, Last day to request a vote by mail ballot
- Oct. 24 & Oct. 31, Saturday hours at City of Manassas Voter Registration Office, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for early voting
- Oct. 31, Last day to vote early in-person
- Nov. 3, Presidential Election, polls open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Mail-in ballots must be received by noon on Nov. 6 and must be postmarked by Nov. 3.

www.manassascity.org/vote

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Trash & Recycling Note

City of Manassas Trash and Recycling Takes the Lead

The City of Manassas has a seat at the table when it comes to planning the future of trash and recycling in Virginia. Trash and Recycling Coordinator Monica Boehringer is now President of the Virginia Recycling Association and Chair of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on Solid Waste. Congratulations Monica!

Fall Leaf Collection

Get your leaves ready! The City’s annual curbside leaf collection program will begin the week of Oct. 26. Visit the City’s website www.manassascity.org to see when your leaves will be collected. Below are some helpful reminders to get leaf collection off to a good start:
- Make sure to rake leaves to the curb and not the street.
- Make sure to keep storm drains open. Don’t rake leaves near or in storm drains.
- Park cars away from the leaves once they are ready for pickup and please do not let children play in them once they are set out at the curb.
- Leaves in plastic bags will not be collected.

Trash and Recycling Online Consultation Closes Oct. 30

The City is looking for input on trash and recycling as we set our goals and objectives for the next 20 years. The Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is a document that helps the City develop ways to manage the trash and recycling program. The City plans for the future by looking at what has been done so far. Thought is also put into how the community will grow and the new technologies that may be available to help the City improve recycling and reduce the amount of trash going to landfill. Please take a moment to review the Draft Solid Waste Management Plan and then complete a short online survey. The information that is received will help improve trash and recycling services for the City of Manassas. Visit www.manassascity.org/trash for more information.

Trash & Recycling welcomes a new team member

The City’s Trash and Recycling Department has always been a busy place. As our community grows and changes – so does the need for a hand to keep everything running smoothly. Please welcome Jill Spall as she joins the team as a part-time staff member.

If you have a question about trash or recycling - or would like to become a Keep Manassas Beautiful volunteer, contact Jill at (703) 257-8342.
Manassas Happenings

Find these events and more in the City of Manassas, Virginia. Look forward to more events in the future.

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

Wednesdays at Noon - Spotlight on History Virtual Talks - Tune into facebook.com/cityofmanassasleisure for an interesting look at local history.

Oct. 3, 8 a.m. to noon - Household Hazardous Waste and eWaste drop off day at the Manassas Transfer Station, 8305 Quarry Road

Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. - Virtual Acoustic Tuesday featuring Shane Gamble

Oct. 16 & 23 at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. - Cemetery Tours - $5 (weather permitting) – Explore the Manassas City Cemetery with the Manassas Museum. Reservations and masks are required, tour size is limited, and social distancing guidelines will be followed; reserve at manassasechoes.com or call 703-257-8453.

Oct. 24 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Harris Pavilion - Artists Inventory Sale - Nearly 20 local and regional artists (socially distanced) will sell original artwork in time for the holiday season.

Oct. 24 from 7 - 9 p.m. - Spirits of Liberia Tour @ Liberia House - $12 adults/$6 those under 12 - Visitors often ask if Liberia House is haunted. Judge for yourself during this drop-in program that includes short, family-friendly historical talks, activities, and self-guided tours of the house! Reservations and masks are required, tour size is limited; and social distancing guidelines will be followed; reserve at manassasechoes.com or call 703-257-8453.

Oct. 28, Nov. 18 & Dec. 30 at 3 p.m. - Stories of Preservation and Progress @ the Manassas Museum - Reservations and masks are required, tour size is limited; and social distancing guidelines will be followed; reserve at manassasechoes.com or call 703-257-8453.

Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. - Liberia Front Porch Talk - Join Joe McGill, founder of the Slave Dwelling Project and History and Culture Coordinator at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens in Charleston, S.C., for a talk honoring the 80 enslaved who once lived and worked at Liberia House. Reservations and masks are required, tour size is limited, and social distancing guidelines will be followed; reserve at manassasechoes.com or call 703-257-8453.

Manassas Ballet Streaming Performances - enjoy classic ballet performances from the comfort of your home while maintaining social distance guidelines. These shows are either available now or coming soon to https://manassasballet.org

Get Social!
Visit the City at www.manassascity.org.
For your convenience:
- www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas
- www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas
- www.instagram.com/cityofmanassas
- www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas
- www.youtube.com/user/manassascityva

To contact the City of Manassas Connection newsletter, email pprince@manassasva.gov