Meet Your New Council Members

Meet David Farajollahi. As a lifelong Virginian, Council Member David Farajollahi has dedicated his entire adult professional career to public service. He brings strong experience working across government jurisdictions and has now worked at all levels of Virginia government: Federal, State and Local. He is a product of the Virginia public school system and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and a Masters of Arts in Global Affairs from George Mason University (GMU).

Mr. Farajollahi will serve the City on the following committees: Finance Committee; Land Use Committee (Alternate); Social Services Advisory Board; Community Policy Management Team (CPMT); and COG Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee.

Also new to the City of Manassas Council is Tom Osina. Mr. Osina and his husband have resided in the Georgetown South community for the last 20+ years. He is the father of 2 grown children.

Council Member Osina is a graduate of the City of Manassas Leadership Academy and a member of Historic Manassas Inc. He co-founded Equality Prince William. He is the owner of an association management company which has been providing services to associations and non-profits since 1994. He is a Certified Association Executive (CAE).

Mr. Osina will serve the City on the following committees: Appointments Committee; Citizens Advisory Committee on Solid Waste; Parks & Recreation Committee; Finance Committee (Alternate) and the Council of Government (COG) Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee.

Fewer things have an impact on achievement than educational attainment. In our modern society that frequently means an alphabet soup of college degrees. But certainly, apprenticeships can be considered education as can career and technical training. Many say the best education comes from the “School of Hard Knocks!” Regardless of what level of education a person ultimately achieves, it is generally assumed that the baseline is a high school degree. After all, it’s free to get and attendance is compulsory. But still nearly 1 in 5 Manassas residents don’t have it.

In citizen satisfaction surveys, our residents rank education as one of their top 3 priorities. Our City-wide strategic plan prioritizes increasing the number of adults who have a high school equivalency and GRADUATE is designed to help. Together with regional workforce development and education partners, Manassas will provide course materials, online instruction and test-taking expenses FREE to City residents who want to get their GED. Graduates will also receive $250 worth of gift certificates to participating Manassas restaurants and retailers. If you or someone you know, for whatever reason, never finished high school, visit https://vcwnorthern.com/graduate/ for information or to register.
A Moment with the Mayor

SPRING! After this trying year, I am SO EXCITED to see spring arrive. It’s a time of renewal and we all can look forward to warmer days and blue skies. Please take time to “smell the flowers” and dance in the rain, it will feel amazing.

In looking forward to coming out of this pandemic, all of our City of Manassas staff members have gone above and beyond, and this month, I would like to spotlight the Benefits Unit at the City of Manassas Department of Social Services. The Benefits Unit is managed by Remona Thompson, who has been with the City for 28 years. Ms. Thompson manages a team of 16 Benefits staff and 18 Benefits programs. Ms. Thompson and her incredible staff work hard to provide quality customer service to the residents of the City of Manassas who are in need of food, medical or financial benefit assistance.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the Benefits team has processed thousands of benefit applications in an effort to ensure that City residents have the resources needed to take care of themselves and their families. Our Benefit Team Members develop a personal relationship with their clients and are invested in client success. Team members work with each individual or family to answer questions and help clients navigate the Benefit Program. They know their clients’ stories.

If you or someone you know is in need of food assistance, the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) may be an option for low income, qualified households. Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) provides financial assistance and workforce training to needy families with children. Medicaid is a program that provides medical coverage to qualified households. To obtain more information about securing benefits, call the main number at 703-361-8277 or visit the Manassas City website: www.manassasva.gov/ss.

Fire & Rescue Update

The City of Manassas Fire and Rescue System is starting 2021 off with significant activities. At the 2021 Valor Awards, held in March and sponsored by the Prince William Chamber of Commerce, Lieutenant Mike Nazionale was presented with a Bronze Medal of Valor. Lt. Nazionale was recognized for his efforts in an auto accident that turned into a water rescue incident. Three citizens also selflessly assisted during this call and were presented with Hometown Hero awards in December.

Tower 501 was approved for replacement in the FY2020 budget. The replacement apparatus, which is a 2019 Pierce Arrow XT 100-foot mid-mount, will go into service in early April. This apparatus is a new concept for the City where, in the past, rear mounts have been used. A mid-mount will allow firefighters faster setup in tighter areas. The pump is capable of pumping 1,000 gallons per minute (gpm). Equipment on new Tower 501 will include an assortment of ladders, rope, extrication, suppression and EMS supplies.

The new Fire & Rescue Station 21, located at 10306 Dumfries Road, will be opening in mid to late April 2021. Every step of this new station has been a collaborative approach between multiple City departments, volunteer leadership, City leadership, City Council and citizens. This project is a replacement for the existing Station 21 (located at 9322 Center Street, by, the courthouse). It will not be a third operational station for the City. Units housed at Station 21 will be one Rescue Engine, two Ambulance/Medic units and one Battalion Chief. It will be staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days each year and will respond to various types of calls for service including medical emergencies, fires, vehicle accidents, injuries, rescues, etc. Due to continuing COVID-19 restrictions, a grand opening has not yet been planned. However, staff is working on a plan to introduce themselves to surrounding neighbors. Anyone with questions concerning new Station 21 may call Fire and Rescue Headquarters at (703) 257-8458.
We’ve all done it at one time or another. Circling the parking lot at the mall, the parking deck at the airport or slowly down the street trying to find that elusive empty spot when all of the spaces are full. We do a happy dance when the very first space closest to the door on a rainy day suddenly opens up and we can claim the spot as our very own.

For a lot of us, the need to find a parking space doesn’t happen very often. When it does, it’s usually a mild frustration. However, the availability of parking in certain areas of the City of Manassas is at a premium.

To try and help alleviate parking issues and attempt to be more equitable in our residents’ ability to park along City streets, City Council created a parking district ordinance in 2015 that allowed neighborhoods to determine whether or not they wanted to restrict parking along their street. The creation of these parking districts has certainly improved the availability of parking spaces in certain areas, but there are still other areas where there are more cars than available spaces.

A number of citizens have written to City Council or spoken at a council meeting asking for more solutions to these parking concerns. Some of the suggestions made include:

• Limiting eligibility of who can obtain a parking permit by address and vehicle registration status
• Limiting the number of parking passes that can be issued to a single address
• Raising the fee (currently $10) for a parking district decal

One thing the City is not able to do is create more land for parking. Realistically, the City is 10 square miles in size and for the most part, is fully developed. Constructing a parking deck in residential neighborhoods is not a financially viable option.

So, what is the most equitable way to make parking along City streets available? City Council will be holding a Town Hall and wants to hear from our residents about this issue. The Town Hall will be held on Monday, May 17 at 7 p.m. at the Harris Pavilion in Historic Downtown. Please come and share your views. This is a community-wide issue and we need to develop a community-wide solution.

If you’re not able to attend on May 17, please send us your thoughts via email to cityclerk@manassasva.gov. We hope to hear from you as we work to develop a better solution.

Stay safe and healthy,
W. Patrick Pate

Food Rescue Heroes Recycling to Reduce Food Insecurity

Over the past year, many members of our community faced hardships that they never imagined possible. Among the most challenging has been food insecurity, which is when a household is not able to provide enough food for every person to live an active, healthy life. Fortunately, hundreds of City of Manassas residents and local businesses have signed on with Prince William Food Rescue to become Food Rescue Heroes.

By donating extra food to distribution sites, diverting food scraps to local farmers, and composting food scraps that go to the new composting facility at Ball’s Ford Road, we can divert between 30% and 50% of our recoverable food to feed families, support local farmers, and provide nutrient-rich compost for their gardens. Signing up is easy and being a Food Rescue Hero is FREE.

The City of Manassas is happy to partner with Prince William Food Rescue to make reduce, reuse and recycle something more than just a catchy phrase – it’s a lending hand for our friends and neighbors. Visit www.pwfoodrescue.org for more information.

Calling all volunteers!

There are 530 streets in the City of Manassas and there’s a very good chance that one of them is yours! The Great American Cleanup happens March 20 – June 30. Help us clean up Manassas. As a Keep America Beautiful Affiliate, Keep Manassas Beautiful is part of the country’s largest community cleanup program. This national program engages millions of volunteers and participants who act in their communities every year to create positive change and lasting impact. By becoming a Keep Manassas Beautiful Volunteer, your participation will help the City of Manassas start sprucing up for spring! Last year, volunteers shared over 700 hours of their time and collected more than 1 ton of litter from our parks, streets and public spaces.

Want to take part? The City of Manassas provides litter pickers, vests, trash bags and a little gift to show our appreciation - all you need to do is give an hour of your time between March 20 and June 30. Clean up your adopted street, park or public space and report your activity through our website: www.manassasva.gov/kmb.
The City of Manassas Happenings

Find these events and more in the City of Manassas, Virginia. For more information go to www.visitmanassas.org.

**Farmer’s Market for the Season:**
April 8 - Thursday Farmer’s Market Opens at the Harris Pavilion
April 10 - Saturday Farmer’s Market Opens on Prince William Street Commuter Lot - Hours for both are 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

April 10 at 12:30 p.m. - **Equity & Inclusion Task Force Housing Listening Session - Education** - www.manassasva.gov/equity
April 14 at 7 p.m. - **Equity & Inclusion Task Force Housing Listening Session Employment** - www.manassasva.gov/equity
April 17 at 1 p.m. - **Dog Park Ribbon Cutting** at Dean Park
April 19, 21, 23 at 7:30 pm - **What’s the Next Move Line Dances!** at the ARTfactory
April 22 - **Earth Day & Park Cleanup Day** - Find out more at www.manassasva.gov/parks
April 24 at 11 a.m. - **Equity & Inclusion Task Force Housing Listening Session Criminal Justice** - www.manassasva.gov/equity
April 28 at 3 p.m. - **Stories of Preservation & Progress Talk** - Join Ron Chase of the Gum Springs Historical Society. Visit facebook.com/cityofmanassasleisure to watch this virtual program.
April 30 - **Arbor Day**
May 1, 8 a.m. - noon - **Household Hazardous Waste and eWaste Drop Off Day with Shredding** at the Manassas Transfer Station - 8305 Quarry Road
May 3 at 7 p.m. - **Equity & Inclusion Task Force Housing Listening Session** - www.manassasva.gov/equity
May 5 - **Cinco de Mayo**
May 8 at 2 p.m. - **Equity & Inclusion Task Force Housing Listening Session Employment** - www.manassasva.gov/equity
May 17 at 7 p.m. - **City Council Town Hall** at the Harris Pavilion

Now - May 23, 2021 - Manassas Museum Exhibit: The Power of Play - The toys in this exhibit may be familiar or foreign, but the joy of time spent playing is something we can all remember fondly. The vintage toys on display are from the Museum’s collection and from private collectors. The exhibit is free during the Museum’s open hours.

April 3, 8 a.m. – noon - **Household Hazardous Waste and eWaste Drop Off Day** - 8305 Quarry Road
April 6 - **Equity & Inclusion Task Force Housing Listening Session** - www.manassasva.gov/equity
April 8 at 7 p.m. - **Equity & Inclusion Task Force Housing Listening Session - Healthcare** - www.manassasva.gov/equity
April 10 - **American Battlefield Trust Park Day** - Help clean our historic sites - at www.manassasva.gov/parks
April 10 & 17 at 2 p.m. - **Anime Print making Workshop** at the ARTfactory

May 22 - **Equity & Inclusion Task Force Housing Listening Session** - www.manassasva.gov/equity
May 26 at 3 p.m. - **Stories of Preservation & Progress Talk** - Join Shirley Dominic, Co-founder and President of Willing Warriors for this talk. Visit facebook.com/cityofmanassasleisure to watch this virtual program.
May 29 at 7:30 p.m. – Manassas Ballet Theatre (Virtual Event): **Giselle**
May 31 - **Memorial Day**


**City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools**

City of Manassas Council
Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger 571-206-8433
Vice Mayor Pamela J. Sebesky 571-330-5514
Theresa Coates Ellis 571-247-6729
David Farajollahi 703-209-6320
Tom Osina 703-304-3984
Ralph J. Smith 703-303-8530
Mark D. Wolfe 703-257-1702

City of Manassas School Board
Chairman Sanford S. Williams 571-535-6364
Christina S. Brooks 703-241-0918
Tim Demeria 703-895-4856
Carl Hollingsworth Jr. 703-789-2224
Suzanne W. Seaberg 703-869-1171
Lisa A. Stevens 571-535-0652
Robyn Williams 571-535-7510

Get Social!
Visit the City at www.manassasva.gov

- [Facebook](www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas)
- [Twitter](www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas)
- [Flickr](www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas)
- [Instagram](www.instagram.com/cityofmanassas)
- [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/manassascityva)

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

- [City of Manassas Connection](https://cityofmanassas.recdesk.com)
- [AAPC](https://www.aapc.com)
- [Manassas Museum](https://www.manassasva.gov/museum)

**Cinco de Mayo**
May 5 - **Cinco de Mayo**

**Memorial Day**
May 31 - **Memorial Day**

**Manassas Happenings**

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  - April 17 at 1 p.m.
  - April 22 at 3 p.m.
  - April 30 at 12:30 p.m.

- **Earth Day & Park Cleanup Day:**
  - April 22

- **Equity & Inclusion Task Force Housing Listening Sessions:**
  - April 24 at 11 a.m.

- **Arbor Day:**
  - May 1, 8 a.m. – noon

- **Household Hazardous Waste and eWaste Drop Off Day with Shredding:**
  - May 3 at 7 p.m.

- **Cinco de Mayo:**
  - May 5

- **Cinco de Mayo:**
  - May 8 at 2 p.m.

- **City Council Town Hall:**
  - May 17 at 7 p.m.

- **Anime Print making Workshop:**
  - April 10 & 17 at 2 p.m.


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