Restoring Annaburg

Annaburg’s extensive grounds were a park-like haven for Manassas residents who strolled its paths, skated on its ponds, attended dairy festivals and church baptisms there, even when it was the summer home of beer baron Robert Portner at the turn of the twentieth century.

Today the community is still enjoying the more than three acres of parkland surrounding the historic 1892 house, and are now sharing their ideas for the way Annaburg Park will look in the future.

In survey responses and comments, the community chose one of two possible master plan alternatives that includes a small outdoor event pavilion and lawn that will be perfect for weddings; ample garden and tree-lined spaces; a redesigned fountain and plaza at the entrance; reconstructed wrap around porches; a porte cochere (or covered entrance); restrooms; a children’s nature play area; a reconfigured parking area; and ample space for picnicking and free play.

Many of the plan’s features hearken back to Portner’s original vision for his summer retreat. Early twentieth century photographs of the house and grounds show a fountain, entrance plaza, and wraparound porch, and the grounds were shaded by an array of trees Portner collected from across the U.S. and Germany. One feature from those days is noticeably absent: the ivy-covered stone tower that was said to be a replica of a European tower Portner and his wife Anna admired. The master plan hopes to remember the tower that was demolished in the 1970s with a small sitting wall or other structure.

The plans will be further refined during a Community Conversations meeting at Annaburg on May 8th at 11 a.m. and improvements will be made in phases.

Assistant City Manager Liz Via-Gossman urges residents to join in the conversation on Annaburg’s future plans. “Annaburg is such an important historic resource, we want to make sure that the community has had ample opportunity to weigh in on the plans for its future.” Those who haven’t been able to attend a community meeting can visit the website at www.manassasva.gov/annaburgplan to see plans and submit comments or can email pcr@manassasva.gov or call 703-257-8223 with comments.

Annaburg’s Restoration Work

Work to install a slate roof and remove the familiar white paint that was causing water damage to the house is almost finished. The red-toned appearance of Annaburg on the Maple Street main entrance also hearkens back to the home’s original appearance.

Julie Butler, the project manager who is overseeing Annaburg’s exterior work for Durable Restoration, explains that the color change is helping to preserve the home. “Whenever you are using a paint that is not breathable, the water can no longer come out the way it should. So, instead it gets trapped, and it can contribute to the deterioration of the material where the water is trapped.”

A brick-colored mineral coating was applied to the front porch columns, and the home’s original salmon-colored brick was revealed under layers of paint surrounding the main entrance.
A Moment with the Mayor

I hope everyone is enjoying our beautiful Spring weather and are able to enjoy some wonderful outdoor activities. We now have our new dog park that has opened, Lucky’s Dog Park. Several of our restaurants have outdoor seating where you can catch up with some old friends or make some new ones… whatever you do, make sure you do it in our beautiful City.

Everyone knows that May not only brings May flowers but also brings us MOTHER'S DAY!! I am absolutely thrilled that I still have my mom here with me and we are able to enjoy the day together, and even more that I get to celebrate with my granddaughter and my daughter. These are the special times that I cherish and I hope that each of you are able to celebrate your moms whether they are here physically or have become “angel moms.” Nothing takes the place of a mother’s love and I want to take a moment to wish all moms in whatever role: furr mom, grandma, mom, auntie, stepmom, sistermom, a very happy Mother’s Day and remember that you are loved and appreciated.

I am thankful for my mother and that she always taught me to be nice to everybody. And she has taught me to always remember that “the person you are in this world is a reflection of the job I did as a mother.”

Happy Mother’s Day to one and all!

Recycling News

Spring Cleaning Tips

This time of year is well known for “spring cleaning” with everyone heading to their shed, garage, basement or attic to finally get to those corners that need to be cleaned out for something new – or just for some space. Here are some tips to make disposal easier:

• The City collects old TVs and computer monitors at the curb. Call to schedule them for collection on Thursday.
• Take your household, garden and pool chemicals, paint, oil, old gasoline, and electronics to our next scheduled drop-off day at the Manassas Transfer Station.
• Always call to schedule collection of large items and extra trash. City ordinances only allow for 3 large items per collection.
• Book a Courtesy Truck for your big jobs. We park the truck – you load it and the City collects the truck and disposes of your items for you.
• Plan ahead! Call to schedule collections at least 24-hours before your collection day. Unscheduled items will not be collected.

Call the Trashline at (703) 257-8252 during regular office hours or visit the website at www.manassasva.gov/trash for more information.

The COVID Gardener …

Did you know that last year, City of Manassas residents generated more than 2,000 tons of yard waste - more than double the normal amount of any previous year. As we make our way toward the garden and start planning for spring, please remember that there are rules for setting out yard waste for collection.

• Yard waste can go in private containers or paper yard waste bags.
• Do not overload the curb with yard waste. Branches and brush must be bundled and tied.
• No yard waste in plastic bags will be collected.
• Fallen tree limbs and branches over 4 feet in length and 3 inches in diameter will not be collected.
• No compost, dirt, sand, or stone will be collected.
• Set yard waste out at the curb on Sunday night for collection on Monday.

For more information, visit www.manassasva.gov/trash.

Online Retail Sales

By now you’ve likely noticed that sales tax is being added to most online purchases. This is a result of Virginia passing a law to impose those taxes after South Dakota won a Supreme Court case against online retailer Wayfair in 2018. Items bought online are assessed at the State rate of 6% and 1% of all sales taxes collected in each locality go back to support local government.

In Manassas, this is an important revenue source that helps to fund City services, like public safety and education. While we always urge our residents to shop for food, gas, meals and other retail items in the City to support our small businesses, online shopping is increasing. Amazon.com is now the 14th largest payer of sales tax in Manassas behind most of the grocery stores and Home Depot (which ranks #1).

Online sales tax is assigned based on where your purchase is delivered. You can help support your community by making sure your online purchases are shipped to your home or business address in the City of Manassas with a 20110 zip code.
As we face the second spring season with the pandemic, I am hopeful that you have signed up for or received a vaccination. There are a variety of options for getting a vaccine and you can visit https://vaccinefinder.org to see an up-to-date list of vaccination sites. I am grateful for the many folks in our community who have come together to do their part by following the pandemic guidelines and continuing to practice physical distancing (social distancing) while we are in public places. Every day, as more and more residents receive vaccinations, we get closer to being able to reduce the current pandemic restrictions. This will allow us to move back into hosting events and opening up retail and restaurants to more capacity. Folks tell me they are eager to see more pedestrian activity on our city streets, to have the ability to gather for events and want to feel safe going back to their favorite stores and restaurants.

Speaking of local businesses, May is Business Appreciation Month and I encourage you to continue to support our local businesses. The past year has been a difficult one, particularly for businesses that rely on travel, tourism and discretionary spending from the local community. We are fortunate to have a very diverse business community in Manassas and a business community that works hard to support each other. The City has made several changes to help businesses over the last year, like adding online services to make interactions easier; lessening restrictions on outdoor activities and dining; providing grants, marketing and counseling help; and promoting efforts to help with employment. Each of these changes were made to help our overall economic recovery.

While restrictions remain necessary to control the virus, our efforts to eat and shop local whenever we can is vital to our local economy. Our local businesses provide employment to many of our friends and neighbors. They support local charities, community fundraisers, school activities and many other altruistic events. Any efforts that we make to support our local business owners as they continue to work to get back to normal has three times the local impact on our economy than shopping at national retailers. Getting restaurant delivery or take out, ordering online from local shops or buying gift cards are all ways you can continue to support our local businesses while we work to get to a post-pandemic normal. We have seen many examples of community spirit and support over the past year and we encourage you to keep it going!

May also brings us hope as spring comes into full bloom, we honor our Mothers for the many sacrifices they have made for us, we celebrate graduations and of course we observe National Limerick Day.

It has been a while since we could meet, Or gather in a good place to eat, But act like it’s Christmas, Support local business, Keep our “Historic Heart, Modern Beat.”

Thanks for doing your part to support your neighbors during the pandemic and to help fight the spread of this virus. Stay hopeful, helpful and healthy!

W. Patrick Pate

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**A Message from the City Manager**

**City Manager**
W. Patrick Pate
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:
Thursday Farmer’s Market at the Harris Pavilion and Saturday Farmer’s Market on Prince William Street Commuter Lot - Hours for both are 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Now - June 5 - In-person Absentee Early Voting for Democratic Primary Election, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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.

May 5 - Cinco de Mayo

May 9 - Mother’s Day

May 8 at 2 p.m. - Equity & Inclusion Task Force Housing Listening Session Employment - www.manassasva.gov/equity

May 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Annaburg Community Meeting at Annaburg

May 11 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday Concert with Shane Gamble at the Harris Pavilion

May 14 & 15 – Manassas Ballet Theatre limited seating: Giselle

May 15 from 9 a.m. to noon - Bike to Work Day at the Farmer’s Market - learn about bike trails and facilities, PRTC bus routes, and more. Sign up at www.biketoworkmetrodc.org for Bike to Work Day on May 21

May 15 at 11 a.m. - (Re)Imagine Your Museum Community Meeting - meet in the courtyard of the Manassas Museum

May 17 at 7 p.m. - City Council Town Hall at the Harris Pavilion

May 18 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday Concert with Brian Harris at the Harris Pavilion

May 20 at 7 p.m. - Sidewalks and Trails Virtual Meeting - Sign up at www.manassasva.gov/transportation

May 22 - Equity & Inclusion Task Force Housing Listening Session www.manassasva.gov/equity

May 22, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Kidsfest & Festival of Kites on the Museum Lawn

May 25 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday Concert with Jason Masi at the Harris Pavilion

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

June 1 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday Concert with David Andrew Smith at the Harris Pavilion

June 5 from 8 a.m. to noon - Household Hazardous Waste and eWaste Dropoff Day

June 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - 26th Annual Manassas Heritage Railway Festival

June 8 from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. - Democratic Party Primary Election

June 8 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday Concert with Patty Reese

June 13 at 3 p.m. - Sunday Funday Concert with the Navy Country Current at the Harris Pavilion

June 15 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday Concert with Andrew O’Day at the Harris Pavilion

June 19 from noon to 7 p.m. - 16th Annual Jazz Festival

June 20 - Father’s Day

June 20 at 3 p.m. - Sunday Funday Concert with the Prince William Community Band

June 22 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday Concert with Among the Willows

June 29 at 7 p.m. - Acoustic Tuesday Concert with Shane Gamble at the Harris Pavilion

June 30 at 3 p.m. - Stories of Preservation & Progress Talk - Join Pastor Etoria Goggins of the First African Methodist Episcopal (FAME) Church in Manassas.

July 4 - Celebrate America with Fireworks


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

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Visit us on YouTube www.youtube.com/user/manassascityva

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