

OTBA Meeting Winter Breakfast Social February 14, 2018 at City Tavern

The meeting was called to order at 8:49 am by President, Joanne Wunderly. There were 21 in attendance..

The minutes of our November meeting were approved. Curtis Harrover made the motion and Elizabeth Bailey seconded. Since our January meeting was a social event and not a formal meeting, there were no minutes to approve although a re-cap of the meeting was provided to President Joanne Wunderly.

Nury Mena gave the Treasurer's report. We have \$7,494.58 in the treasury and annual dues of \$125 are beginning to come in. March 1st is the deadline for dues payment.

President Joanne Wunderly made a few brief announcements. OTBA is working on a shopping guide, similar to the very popular one we printed years ago. It is hoped to have a prototype ready for our next meeting in March.

OTBA is also working on a Welcome Packet to be given to new businesses in town.

At future meetings, we plan to have a "Spotlight on Your Business" segment at each meeting. It will be an allotted time to speak about what is going on in your business and by extension, familiarize others with what makes your business special. The thought process behind this portion of our meetings is that the more we know about what is and what is happening in Old Town, the more we can educate our customers and visitors about Manassas.

Historic Manassas -Melissa announced the upcoming events that HMI is working on. For the First Friday in March, plans are to have a Scavenger Hunt. The popular "Hop Around Old Town" press marketing programs will happen again this year in the week prior to Easter (March 25 -31).

Our Farmers' Market has been nominated for and award in 'The Best of Virginia'. This year, it will expand to more vendors as word spreads about it.

Manassas Museum -Doug Horhota announced that the museum is undergoing renovations (the first since 1980's) and that exhibits will be more interactive and immersive. A new exhibit opened in February, "Annie's Porch" which allows visitors to hear stories about Manassas' past. A card listing the upcoming book talks was available at each table.

On March 14, "Stories of Preservation and Progress", a monthly conversation on Manassas' past, present and future, will feature Vice Mayor, Sheryl Bass as the speaker. These conversations are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 3 pm.

Center for the Arts -no report

Harris Pavilion -no report

Welcome Center on Route 66 -Kathleen Reilly brought new scenes Virginia road maps, a newly printed Travel Guide for distribution.

Hylton Performing Arts Center -Jaque Connor announced that the next performance in the American Roots Series. "12 Strings and a Goat Skin", is close to being sold out. A Hylton Extra, a performance by Livingston Taylor (brother of singer/songwriter James Taylor) will be on Sunday, April 15 in the Gregory Family Theater.

Fire and Rescue - no report

Manassas Police -Steve Neely was our featured speaker this month.

Manassas City Government - Patrick Small announced that on February 28, the Chamber of Commerce Business Awards will honor a number of Manassas businesses:

On February 21, there will be a Town Hall Meeting at the Boys' and Girls' Club at 7:30 pm. City Council members and the Mayor along with directors of various city departments will be on hand to talk about future developments in the city as well as take citizen comments about living in the city.

Featured Speaker - Police Office Steve Neely spoke about the overwhelming support that the Police Department receives from our citizens. He cited several instances whereby police officers have been approached by civilians expressing gratitude of the police and the work they do.

Currently, there are six potential officers in the Police Academy and six recently graduated.

There have been queries about safety of those leaving their businesses or classes in the evening. Officer Neely mentioned that it is prudent to think ahead about leaving: have your keys (either to the building or car) out before you need them. Fumbling for them in your purse or coat pocket puts you in a disadvantaged position should there be a problem. Also, make certain that the door is locked after you exit the building. The patrolling officers check the doors of businesses and often find doors unlocked.

If you encounter someone or a situation that is suspicious, do not hesitate to call the police at 703-257-8000. If you feel threatened, call 911. Try to be as accurate as possible with a description of: clothing, shoes, height, gender, race or any other information that might help. That information is dispatched to officers on the street.

What's New in your Business

Elizabeth Bailey of Bedrock Yoga announced a 'Share the Love' promotion to bring a friend to yoga for a class at no charge during February.

Mary Reilly of Creative Brush Studio had a Grand Re-Opening at her new location at 8951 Center Street on February 4th. The new location features more classroom space for Mary and her daughter, Christine Raymond as well as studio space for each, and a gallery for displaying art for sale.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 am.

Jan Alten
Secretary

Our next meeting will be on March 14 at City Tavern.