

OTBA Meeting March 8, 2017 at City Tavern Grill

The meeting was called to order at 8:54 am by President, Joanne Wunderly. There were 26 members present. Virginia Delegate to the House of Representatives, Jackson Miller, attended the meeting

February minutes were approved by Chip Rohr and seconded by Elizabeth Bailey.

Treasurers' Report - Nury Mena Reported that our current balance in Fulton Bank is \$ 9,104.91. As the new year begins, we are beginning to send out invoices for the coming year. To make it easier to pay your dues, Nury is collecting dues at the meetings.

Brief Announcements - Joanne mentioned in her opening remarks that the annual Spring Sidewalk Sale will be the third Saturday in April and will be coupled with a Wellness Fair to be held at the Harris Pavilion.

Joanne touched on the subject of the Christmas lights atop the buildings and reported that the bill of \$1,683 had been paid. Individual bills for replacement light bulbs, clips and minor fixes are often quite small and are billed to individual businesses. OTBA invoices those charges to each participating business. Initial costs to participate in the program is higher and is also the responsibility of the business. Chip Rohr has coordinated the program with the City and OTBA. It is a huge job and **THANK YOU CHIP !**

Joanne also announced that Art Beat President, Mike Flynn, reported that Art Beat is closing due to falling membership.

In an effort to clean up the email list for OTBA, Joanne asked that any business present (not listing their email at last month's meeting) to please fill in the information on the passed sign up sheet.

Beverly Hess of the Center for the Arts announced that on March 24th at Osbourn High School, a rock opera - **A Will to Survive** will be presented at three performances. The theme is suicide prevention.

Beverly also announced that the Center for the Arts received the Agnes Colgan Community Service Award for Arts and Education at the Prince William Chamber Business Awards ceremony. A well deserved win!

Historic Manassas (HMI) - Brittany Bowman from HMI said that in addition to the Sidewalk Sale and Wellness Fair, our popular Restaurant Week will be the week of March 19 - 25 and there are specials for both lunch and dinner.

The Manassas Monopoly Game board is going into production and should be out soon.

The April First Friday Theme is a Poker Run. Participants will purchase a card for \$10 and visit participating businesses to obtain additional cards to build a winning poker hand. Center Street will be closed for that evening.

The Farmers' Market will open on Thursday, April 5 with a ribbon cutting at the Harris Pavilion. The Saturday Farmers' Market will open on April 7th

Manassas Museum - Doug Horhorta reported that Osbourn High School Art Exhibit will be up until April 16th. Many talented young artists have participated in this exhibit.

At the old courthouse on March 25th from 9 - 4 pm, there will be a Prince William History Symposium at 9248 Lee Avenue. Cost is \$10 per person and refreshments will be served.

Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory - Beverly Hess announced that currently there is an art exhibit by Argentinian artist, Ignacio Alperin, and that on Saturday, April 29 from 7 - 10 pm there will be an International Jazz Festival featuring live music, food and dancing. Tickets are \$ 45 per person.

Beauty and the Beast is the next Pied Piper production and opens on April 29. To kick off this production, on Sunday, April 23, **Tea with Belle** will be held in the gallery at the CFA. Tickets are on line.

Auditions for Charlie Brown will begin the first week in May.

Beverly's also mentioned that a three week (March 19, 26 31) Boozie Batik Art class will be held to make a hand painted textile while tasting wine from Morais Vineyard. On Friday, March 31 the art reveal and wine tasting will be held at Morais' Aroma wine tasting venue in Historic Old Town.

Tickets to all CFA events can be purchased on line at center-for-the-arts.org.

Harris Pavilion - no report

Welcome Center on 66 - Kiley Wonn had available Virginia Travel Guides for 2017 as well as State Transportation Maps to hand out.

Kiley also had a quick comment about the Marketing Leverage Grant Program - basically, "free money". If you would like your application reviewed, it must be in by April 9th.

The Manassas "Blitz" at the Welcome 66 Travel center continues and there has been much positive feedback. If you would like to participate, Brittany Bowman of HMI is coordinating participation for the center.

Hylton Performing Arts Center - Carol DeVany announced that the Hylton will host an 'Gala After Party' at the Hylton on Saturday, April 1 from 8:30 to 11:30 pm. This event will be a more affordable way in which to celebrate the Hylton's 7th season.

Carol also had available, for interested people, the Hylton's Summer Camp card.

Discover Prince William - no report

Restaurant Alliance - no report

Fire and Rescue - Fire and Rescue Chief, Rob Clemons shared some statistics from his annual report to City Council. There are 65 career personnel in the department. In 2016, 6,690 calls were made at an average of 18 per day. 76% of those calls were for emergency services. 49% of those calls were for advanced life calls. Fridays between

12 and 3 pm are the busiest for the department. Most of the calls were within the city though 35% were shared calls with either Manassas Park or Prince William County.

On March 8 after the OTBA meeting, the Fire and Rescue Department had plans to make a very ill young person's wish happen. Jamie Martinez wishes were to go up in "a bucket" on the ladder truck and if the weather cooperated, a ride in a helicopter. A Go Fund Me account has been set up in his name - Jamie Fights for a Miracle.

There will be a community meeting on March 21st to discuss concerns about the proposed new Fire Station 21 near Round Elementary School.

Police Department - Officer Steve Neely also mentioned the department's annual report to City Council and stated that it could be found on line. He did note that the Police Department's busiest time is between 1 and 8 pm.

Police summer camp, Quest, will begin in July.

Manassas City Government -Patty Prince alerted us to the changes that will occur in the Blue lot once the painting of the water towers (inside and out) - one at the Blue lot and the other beside the Fire Station begins. Restrictions will be lifted for the lot at the train depot and Museum to accommodate displaced parking slots. There will be parking disruptions.

Other city news, Patrick Small said the "Little Bits of Art" program has some new additions in across from City Hall and at the corner of Main and Center Streets. At present, only a few artist are participating and if you are willing, there are places to embellish!

The demolition of the old Safeway building in the Grant Avenue Shopping center can begin soon as the last tenant has moved out.

Bad Wolf Brewery and CJ Finz will open in the location last occupied by El Cactus on Battle Street. The restaurant will open first and the pub is scheduled to open later. This is Bad Wolf's third location.

Nicole Smith mentioned that the Business Appreciation Breakfast will be held at the CFA on Thursday, May 11 from 8 -11 am. Shining Sol will partner by giving a candle to each attendee.

Nicole also acknowledged other businesses in the city that received awards at the Chamber ceremony - Aurora Flight Sciences - Tech Company of the Year, Vanderpool, Frostick & Nishanian, PC - Business Excellence Award, and a number of other city businesses were recognized as well.

The grand opening of the Business Incubator will be in April. Work is currently underway to ready the space.

Election of OTBA Officers. Jan Alten, Nominations Chair, presented the slate of officers for election: *President* - Joanne Wunderly (Things I Love), *Vice President* - Darlene Renalduie (Scatter Seeds), *Treasurer* - Nury Mena, *Secretary* - Jan Alten (Bedrock Yoga), *Newsletter* - Elizabeth Bailey (Bedrock Yoga).

Nicole Smith made a nomination from the floor for Debbie Haight, Executive Director of Historic Manassas, to the office of Vice President. Patrick Small suggested that the slate

of candidates, with the exception of those for Vice President, be accepted as presented, and a vote to be taken for the office of Vice President. A quick flurry of secret ballots was produced and were handed out. While those votes were being counted, Doug Waldron, Commissioner of the Revenue gave his report.

Commissioner of the Revenue - Doug Waldron gave the results of the 3rd and 4th quarter reports. The 4th quarter report indicated a 51.9% decrease from the same period in 2015 and a 19.4% decrease in revenue YTD. Several comments from the floor were made regarding the decrease and questions/suggestions to break down the numbers even further to better understand the economic trend.

***** **Election of OTBA Officers continued** - The results of votes at the meeting:
Debbie Haight 9, Darlene Renaldue 8.

What's New in Your Business?

Chip Rohr announced that the recently held Ducks Unlimited Gala was a huge success and was sold out. Chip is also beginning his 39th year Soccer Camp held at Linton Hall School this summer.

Parking issues were discussed to include length of time, the parking garage and Ann Hempen suggested that making a sidewalk available on the south side of Center Street from Prescott Avenue to Fairview Avenue would facilitate more people walking to Old Town and would be more safe doing so.

Jim Boltz announced an Edward Jones Seminar - Outsmart the Scammers to be held on March 14th at the Montclair Library, in Montclair, VA at 7 pm.

Elizabeth Bailey announced an upcoming workshop - Yoga for Sleep Saturday, March 25th, 3 - 5 pm at the studio.

The 50/50 drawing netted \$43 collected and the winning ticket worth \$21.50 was won by Jan Alten and donated back to OTBA.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 am.

***** The **final result of the election** to include the proxy votes submitted prior to the meeting:

Darlene Renaldue - 12, Debbie Haight - 9

Your OTBA Officers 2017 -2018

President: Joanne Wunderly
Vice President: Darlene Renaldue
Treasurer: Nury Mena
Secretary: Jan Alten
Newsletter; Elizabeth Bailey

Next OTBA Meeting is April 12, 2017

