

OTBA Meeting September 13, 2017 at City Tavern

The meeting was called to order at 8:53 am by President, Joanne Wunderly. There were 19 in attendance..

The minutes of our August meeting were approved by Anne Hempten and seconded by Chip Rohr.

Joanne announced that the Annual Sidewalk Sale is happening this weekend as is the 42nd Annual Antique Auto Show and the International Food Festival.

The Haunted Happening will be the last Saturday in October. This is a fun family event with parents also dressing up. There will be treats on the street and a costume judging contest for children.

Looking ahead to the holidays, there will be the opportunity to register your preferences (a "Wish List" if you will) in shops from November 26 - 30. On Friday, December 15th, shops will be open late for "Secret Santa" shopping. We are in discussion with area downtown restaurants to see if they will offer specials for the evening.

At next month's meeting, candidates running for local offices will have an opportunity to introduce themselves. It will not be a candidates forum, simply a chance to meet, put a face to a name and hear a bit about why they are running for office.

Christmas Lighting Program -Chip Rohr gave a repeat report on the Christmas Lighting Program that adorns the roof tops of buildings in Old Town. The program is a partnership with the City. The Electrical Department installs and maintains the lights and the building owners or tenant /businesses pay for the electricity used. The City then bills OTBA for the replacement of bulbs, timers, extension cords, etc. used and in turn, OTBA has bills the individual building owners or business tenants.

The initial cost to light a building is billed to the building owner. There is no charge for the work to install the lights, only for the actual materials used.

To simplify billing of the maintenance of the lights, the City has proposed a flat fee depending on the size of the building:

Small buildings using 1 -2 strands of lights would be billed \$20.

Medium sized building using 3 - 5 strands of lights would be billed \$30.

Large buildings using 6+ strands of lights would be billed \$40.

Manassas looks magical during the holiday season because of the Christmas Lighting Program.

Treasurer's Report - Nury Mena reported that we have \$8,402.81 in our treasury.

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Historic Manassas (HMI) - David Rhodes spoke about the upcoming Antique Auto Show, The International Food Festival this weekend in addition to 'Steins, Wines & Spirits' on September 30th and the 'Fall Jubilee' on Saturday, October 7th.

Manassas Museum - Doug Horhorta jokingly reported that "nothing was going on at the Museum". He then handed out a flyer listing six events: "9/11 Remembered", an exhibit "They Paved Paradise, a look at Prince William before Asphalt changed the landscape", ongoing architectural tours of homes and businesses in Historic Downtown, the spooky

Cemetery tour on October 13th, the even spookier “Spirits of Manassas” on October 28th, and the Fall Gallery Walk which will occur on the First Friday in November.

Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory -no report

Harris Pavilion - no report

Welcome Center on 66 - Kylie Vonn mentioned that anyone wishing to put information about their business could do so in the rack card rack. Weekends at the Welcome Center are great for demonstrations to promote your business. Please call the center to schedule a time slot . The marketing leverage program is underway and is an opportunity for grant money. Old Town Manassas is featured at the Welcome Center all year.

Hylton Performing Arts Center - Jacqui Conner announced that “Arts Alive!” will be held at the Hylton on Sunday, September 17 th and that there will be live performances and exhibits, visual arts on display, and hands on activities and demonstrations for all ages. A Hylton Extra event, Paul Anka will be in concert on December 1 st

Fire and Rescue - no report

Police Department - Officer Steve Neely invited all to an Open House at the Police Department on September 16th. There will be tours of the facility from 12 - 5.

Manassas City Government -Economic Development Director Patrick Small announced that the property on Euclid Avenue that housed 65,000 sq. ft. Arlington Iron Works has been purchased by Dominion Mechanical and will move their operations from Fairfax to Manassas.

Program - Donna Flory of the American Red Cross, presented an overview of the mission of the American Red Cross and the work that they have been mandated by the Federal government to do. The financial support for the Red Cross comes from donations and not the government.

With disasters happening on both coasts of the US - the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, the wildfires in the Pacific Northwest, it was felt that having the Red Cross as the program for this meeting was particularly timely.

Donna’s message was to be prepared in the following ways:

1. Know what kinds of emergencies are likely to happen in your community.
2. Have a family disaster plan and practice it.
3. Have an emergency preparedness kit.
4. At least one member of the household be trained in CPR
5. Take action to help your community prepare.

What’s New in Your Business:

Jim Boltz announced that the Walk to End Alzheimer’s will be at the Harris Pavilion on October 21st. Edward Jones financial Management is a National Sponsor.

Deron Blevins happily announced his one year anniversary on September 29 and 30th. Deron also noted that the Promotions Committee at HMI is up and running. Things being considered are co-op advertising, in store displays promoting downtown and swag bag give aways.

Darlene Runaldue of Scatter Seeds told of her church's relief efforts in the aftermath of the most recent disasters. The church is celebrating 151 years and is donating and filling 151 cleaning buckets full of cleaning supplies to help those affected.

The 50/50 drawing raised \$32 and the winner, David Rhodes took home \$16. Proceeds from the 50/50 drawing help to defray the cost of breakfast at our meetings.

Several items donated from the Red Cross were also raffled: Chip Rohr got a blanket as did Jim Boltz and David Rhodes. Mugs were won by Anne Hempen and Ken Moorman of Jirani Coffee House.

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 am.

Jan Alten
Secretary