

## OTBA Meeting November 8, 2017 at City Tavern

The meeting was called to order at 8:56 am by President, Joanne Wunderly. There were 28 in attendance..

The minutes of our September meeting were approved by Jaqui Conner and seconded by Elizabeth Bailey.

Joanne announced that the many fall activities that were held were successful. The Haunted Happening was just pure fun and many, many children participated. The First Friday Fall Gallery Walk was a success with more than 20 artists showing their works of art in locations scattered around Old Town. Saturday November 4th was the annual Veterans' Parade which is always moving as we honor those who have served our country and that the attendance this year was less than normal, most likely due to the fact that the parade was earlier than normal.

Joanne announced that at the meeting today, there would not be a speaker but an opportunity for those present to talk about what was happening in their business. Also noted was a reminder that we do not have a meeting in December and that our January meeting is held later in the month rather than the second Wednesday.

**Christmas Lighting Program** -Chip Rohr stated that this year the lighting program will be "the best it has ever been".. Very few buildings will be unlit. Chip also mentioned that the lighting program was started by the late Lou Balboni whose efforts to light up Old Town made the program what it is today.

**Treasurer's Report** - Nury Mena reported that we have \$8,313.81 in our treasury.

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**Historic Manassas (HMI)** - David Rhodes spoke about the upcoming Shop Small program initiated by American Express and that Debbie Haight was busy coordinating and getting supplies for this very popular shopping day for small businesses.

The First Friday in December is filled with

The Fall Gallery Walk will be held on Friday, November 3rd. and most businesses are open late with an artist displaying their work in residence for the night. It is a very popular event.

The Annual Veterans' Day Parade will be held the next day, Saturday, November 4th. It is earlier this year as actual VeteransDay is the following Saturday, November 11and many of the usual participants will be involved elsewhere.

David also mentioned the banners that are the light posts in Old town honoring deceased Veterans of World War II from Manassas and the surrounding area. More information about each one can be found at the Museum.

**Manassas Museum** - Doug Horhorta had available flyers for the upcoming spooky Cemetery tour on October 13th, the even spookier "Spirits of Manassas" on October 28th.

**Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory** -Beverly Hess had available the new catalogue of classes at the CFA. Beverly also mentioned upcoming productions of the Pied Piper Theater - "The Wiz" to be held at Metz Middle School . The ever popular "Nuncrackers" will start off the Rooftop Players for the year and in February, the "Mafia

Murders”, an interactive dinner theater production where the audience is encouraged to come dressed in period clothing.

**Harris Pavilion** - no report

**Welcome Center on 66** - Kathleen Riley invited anyone interested to come to the center and do a demonstration to promote your business. The tourism blitz is on going and has featured Manassas businesses all year.

**Hylton Performing Arts Center** - Jacqui Conner announced that the new season at the Hylton is up and running. New this year is The American Roots series of performances in the Gregory Theater that celebrates American home grown music - jazz, folk and country.“ A Hylton Extra event, Paul Anka will be in concert on December 1 st

**Fire and Rescue** - no report

**Police Department** - Officer Steve Neely said the the Open House at the Police Station in September was a huge success with many residents dropping by to learn more about policing in Manassas.

The Manassas SWAT team competed at a SWAT competition in Harrisonburg and placed third in the competition.

The Police continue to try and improve pedestrian safety in Manassas.

**Manassas City Government** -Mayor Hal Parrish said that there is a lot going on in Manassas - a new Fire station is in the works, a new Police station is going in the Georgetown South Shopping Center, a multi story residential building has begun at Messenger Place and nearby on Prince William Street, another residential complex is nearing completion.

**Program** - Candidates running for office each gave a brief introduction of themselves:

**Jackson Miller** running for re-election to the Virginia House of Delegates said that this election is an important one for Manassas and Prince William. Jackson highlighted the many awards he has received as the representative from Manassas.

**Lee Carter** who is running against Jackson Miller for the Virginia House of Delegates did not attend.

**Alonita Vannoy** is running for Commissioner of Revenue. Alonita is a native of Roanoke and has lived in the area for 25 years. Alonita’s work experience in government, corporate and non-profit organizations are the sources for her belief that she is qualified for the position.

**Doug Waldron** is running for re-election for Commissioner of Revenue. Doug has been involved with the city for 16 years as a member of the School Board, served a term as Mayor and was elected to Commissioner of Revenue 4 years ago.

**Russ Harrison** is running for the office of the Treasurer. Russ feels that his education, volunteer experience and 22 years of experience in the non-profit sector more than qualify him for the position.

**Patricia Ritchie-Folks** is running for re-election as Treasurer. Patricia has been in this position for the past 11 months . Patricia's volunteer experience and her belief that "giving back" to the community stems from her being from a family of ministers.

The 50/50 drawing raised \$36 and the winner, Hal Parrish donated his winnings back to OTBA. Proceeds from the 50/50 drawing help to defray the cost of breakfast at our meetings.

**General Announcements** - Nicole Smith mentioned that Expedia listed Manassas as one of the top places to visit.

Jan Alten mentioned that she recently attended the Hylton for the American Roots performance of Baltimore's Charm City Junction and Virginia artist, Annie Stokes. The music was amazing!

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 am.

Jan Alten  
Secretary