

OTBA Meeting October 17, 2017 at City Tavern

The meeting was called to order at 8:49 am by President, Joanne Wunderly. There were 28 in attendance..

The minutes of our September meeting were approved by Chip Rohr and seconded by Jackie Connor.

Joanne welcomed the candidates running for several offices in the upcoming November elections and stated that today's meeting was not a political forum but more of a chance to meet, put a face to a name and hear a bit about why they are running for office. Their remarks would be a timed presentation. All were invited to attend.

Joanne announced that the Annual Sidewalk Sale went well and attributed its success in part to the signs announcing the sale that were placed at the Annual Antique Auto Show (also well attended) held at the museum by Doug Horhorta. Thank you Doug!

The Haunted Happening will be the last Saturday, October 28. This is a fun family event with parents also dressing up. Joanne advised businesses to be prepared for lots of children seeking treats - she commented that very quickly last year, she gave out more than 500 pieces of candy. In addition to treats on the street, there will be a costume judging contest with prizes given.

Joanne also mentioned the passing of long time OTBA President, Lou Balboni. For many years, Lou worked tirelessly on behalf of OTBA and was the person responsible for lighting up Old Town at Christmas, coordinating the effort with the City, and singlehandedly gathering the information from businesses as to whether they wanted to participate.

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.

Christmas Lighting Program -Chip Rohr stated that this year there will be more participants and has encountered much more interest in participating in the program. Very few buildings will be unlit.

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

Treasurer's Report - Nury Mena reported that we have \$8,278.81 in our treasury.

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Historic Manassas (HMI) - David Rhodes spoke about the upcoming Haunted Happenings and the need for participating businesses in the annual Fall Gallery Walk to contact him to be included in a map to be given out.

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 11 and 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