

Potomac News

Andrew H. Mick
Publisher

Luke West
Editor

Clinton H. Schemmer
Opinion Editor

William Murphy
Controller

Sandra Peirce
Advertising Director

Glenn Jessee
Operations Manager

Richard F. Gathen
Circulation Director

Renita Pryor
Composing Manager

Kudos to the curator

■ *Our View: An era of historic accomplishments is coming to an end at The Manassas Museum. With the departure of the curator for new horizons, we should take a moment and reflect upon his successes.*

As much as credit can accrue any one person for bringing to life the history of a place, Douglas K. Harvey deserves accolades for his conservation of the heritage of Manassas and its environs.

To many people's great regret, after 13½ years at the helm of The Manassas Museum, Mr. Harvey is leaving town Jan. 4 for fresh opportunities in Petersburg.

Pursuing what he calls his "childhood dream," Mr. Harvey will become director of operations at Pamplin Park Civil War Site — a new, well-reputed venture that includes a historic house, Confederate trenches, a battlefield, an interpretive center and a planned national monument to the Civil War soldier.

It's a fine spot, to which we're confident Mr. Harvey will bring much energy, enthusiasm and wit. But clearly, his career's gain is our region's loss.

When the Lynchburg native arrived in Manassas, the municipal museum consisted of an uneven collection of homegrown displays and castoff exhibit cases, quartered in an old bank beset by a leaking roof, a cranky heating system, and flocks of nesting pigeons. Well liked by local residents and Civil War history buffs, it was scarcely up to snuff with

EDITORIAL

modern curatorial standards.

Spearheaded by Mr. Harvey, the museum's supporters waged a years-long campaign to convince the City Council to build a state-of-the-art facility to house its growing collection. Eventually, they succeeded, creating a top-drawer facility that interprets the history of the Piedmont and is the envy of many a Virginia community.

Together, Harvey & Co. did plenty more besides. They:

■ Preserved the site of Mayfield, a Manassas Junction home, and two earthworks from the town's epoch days in the Civil War.

■ Investigated the ruins of Tudor Hall, Manassas' earliest estate, and Clover Hill, Manassas' last working farm.

■ Erected a fitting memorial to educator Jennie Dean and to the proud and innovative institution she created for black youths, the Manassas Industrial School.

Plainly, Doug Harvey is responsible for an exceptional string of accomplishments — made all the more remarkable by the hurdles leapt to make them happen.

With humor, passion and skill, Mr. Harvey has done much to make Manassas proud. He will be sorely missed.