



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council
FROM: Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager
DATE: September 17, 2013
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

Trenching and Excavation Safety - On August 29, the Safety Officer conducted a refresher Trenching and Excavation Safety course for fifteen employees from the Public Works and Parks Maintenance departments. Topics discussed included soil classification, soil analysis, mechanics of a cave in, and protective systems. To provide protection to city employees working in excavations, the Public Works Department owns and utilizes protective systems including trench boxes and hydraulic shoring as required by the Virginia Occupational and Safety and Health Administration. The training course is also an OSHA requirement. Statistically, employees involved in trenching and excavation operations are subject to higher rates of injury and fatality than general construction workers.

“Retire Your Old Glory” Program - In the one month since collection bins were placed at City Hall and the Dorothy Hart Community Center for worn American and Virginia flags, over one hundred flags have been surrendered for retirement. These flags range in size from the small handheld variety to flags measuring nine feet by seventeen feet. Four of these large flags were recently placed, apparently at the same time, into the bin at City Hall. City staff will be working with our partners at the Izaak Walton League to schedule a flag retirement ceremony in the near future.

Parks and Public Facilities Updates - The following maintenance projects are ongoing or have been completed:

- ***Storm Damage*** - The Park Maintenance Division has been gradually cleaning up the damage from the tornado that touched down in Fredericksburg on April 19. Crews have been working on the Smith Run Trail and the Canal Path and at Old Mill Park, Hurkamp Park, Memorial Park, and Maury Playground, all of which suffered tree damage. The tennis courts at Memorial Park also had fence damage which is being repaired.
- ***Visitor Center*** – The Visitor Center façade windows were replaced with insulated low-e glass units which will improve the building envelope for energy efficiency.

- *Executive Plaza* – Public Facilities continues renovation efforts on the second floor of the Executive Plaza for the relocation of the City Attorney and Information Technology Departments. This project will be completed before the end of the year.

Dominion Power & A Cut Above Tree Service - Dominion Power has agreed to donate its services to assist the city with two projects at Old Mill Park. The first project is the installation of a new electric line from the maintenance building to Shelter 1. This will provide for greater flexibility in the operation of major events and will also allow several smaller events to run in the park simultaneously. The second project is the removal of several dead trees and many dangerous limbs, which will be facilitated by crews and three bucket trucks from Dominion Power. A Cut Above Tree Service has agreed to donate their services for the day as well by chipping the tree remnants and grinding out the stumps. Parks Maintenance staff will be on hand throughout the operation to assist in any way necessary. The projects are scheduled to be complete by October 16.

Eagle Scout Projects - The Parks Maintenance Division has three Eagle Scout projects scheduled for this fall. The first involves the construction of a new set of stairs along the Heritage Trail at the kiosk on Riverside Drive. The steps will mitigate an erosion problem at the kiosk and provide for a safer route to walk to Ficklen Island. The second project is the staining and sealing of the more than 150 posts along the Heritage Trail. The third project is the replacement of the steps behind the playground at Alum Spring Park. The current stairway will be removed, the area will be graded and leveled, and new steps will then be constructed. All three projects should be completed by the end of November.

5K Run for Food - As part of the fifth annual [5K Run for Food](#), the organizers have also partnered with the Parks Maintenance Division on service projects in the area. Currently, the race has over 500 individuals signed up to run and over 300 volunteers to help with service projects. The projects include constructing four new benches at Old Mill Park and Cossey Park, mulching over 125 trees at Old Mill Park, mulching the trails and trees at Cossey Park, and assisting Tree Fredericksburg in planting trees on the Washington Avenue Mall and in Memorial Park. The race and service projects will be completed on September 28.

Recognition for City Police Blotter - The Police Department's daily blog, hosted by local news site [fredericksburg.com](#), has been selected as one of the top 50 crime blogs in the nation by [BackgroundChecks.org](#). Editor Lisa Lidell wrote: "Our editors and readers selected your blog because of its high standard of quality information mixed with your excellent commentary. We enjoyed reading your posts and we find them very informative."