



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council
FROM: Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager
DATE: April 1, 2014
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

Special Events Street Closures/Impacts Calendars - A new page has been added to the [City website](#) to inform residents of events that close or impact streets, such as street festivals and organized walks or runs. Citizens may sign up for event notifications by going to the [Notify Me](#) button on the main page. As events are added, registered users will receive a text and/or email notification of the upcoming event.

HUBZone Business Employment Platform - The Department of Economic Development and Tourism launched the [HUBZone Business Employment Platform](#) in March. The purpose of this new website feature is to match city HUBZone certified businesses or businesses seeking their certification with qualified city residents, thus facilitating these businesses with meeting and maintaining the 35 percent employment resident qualification. The website feature is very user friendly, with only three steps to create a profile and upload a resume. Applicants may also search "Open Positions" from HUBZone businesses in the city.

Ten city HUBZone businesses are currently utilizing this feature to search for applicants and post open positions. Amy Peregoy, Marketing and Information Specialist and Janet Murphy, IT Project Manager, teamed on the development of the employment platform with Hirebridge, a web-based recruiting company.

Historicon to Return to Fredericksburg for 2016 and 2017 - [Historicon](#), a miniature gaming society, has signed contracts with the Fredericksburg Expo Center for July 14-17, 2016 and July 13-16, 2017. Economic impact is expected to be about \$1.17 million dollars per event. The dates for this year's Historicon are July 17-20, 2014. City staff was able to track 1,336 hotel room nights at nine hotels associated with the 2013 event.

Help Us Keep Your Events Local with an Upcoming Seminar - The Office of Economic Development and Tourism will host a meeting planning seminar and tradeshow on April 11 from 8:30 to 11:45 a.m. at the Hyatt Place Hotel in Eagle Village. Gary Hernbroth, a nationally known speaker and trainer, will present a seminar that focuses on suppliers and meeting planners working together. If anyone is interested in bringing a meeting,

conference or convention to Fredericksburg and would like to attend this event, they should contact Victoria Matthews at vamatthews@fredericksburgva.gov or 540-372-1216.

New Assistant Director for Public Transit Selected – FREDericksburg Regional Transit is pleased to announce the recent hiring of Mr. Rodney White. His extensive experience in transportation procurement and project management, coupled with his experience in applying for and administering federal grants, make him a great fit for FRED.

Mr. White has been an active member on FRED's advisory board (PTAB) for over 10 years and has attended many of FRED's celebrations. He also worked closely with FRED staff from 2002-2010 in his position as the Transportation Planner for Spotsylvania County. Most recently Mr. White worked for GWRC/FAMPO, the regional transportation planning organization.

Mr. White began work at FRED on Monday, March 17 and has been able to make an immediate contribution.

Department of Social Services Recognizes Child Abuse Prevention Month - April is Child Abuse Prevention Month in Virginia. The City of Fredericksburg Protective Services Unit has collaborated with several community partners to increase awareness and to raise funds to further our efforts to prevent child abuse and support families. Last year, the Department received 369 child protective service referrals, investigated 59 investigations, and provided services to families through 138 assessments. The DSS protective services team continued to educate the community by doing presentations to community partners on mandated reporting and providing information to the community on Safe Sleep for Infants.

Department activities supporting Child Abuse Prevention Month include the following:

- Information on Child Abuse prevention will be displayed in the FDSS lobby with special thanks to volunteer Ruth Niedomanski.
- A pinwheel garden will be planted in front of the DSS building and the Dorothy Hart Community Center. The pinwheel is the symbol for child abuse prevention and is meant to reflect hope, health and happiness of children.
- On April 4, Supervisor Hartung and Supervisor Newton will do a presentation to new volunteers for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).
- On April 11, the Department will be partnering with the City of Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office in a fundraising event at the Central Park Wal-Mart called Cover a Cruiser. All proceeds will be donated to the Department's Safe Sleep campaign. To date the Department has given out 56 portable cribs in order for families to provide a safe sleeping environment for their child(ren).
- On April 21, DSS staff will contribute \$5 to "Dress Down" for the day. All proceeds will be given to the local Child Advocacy Center, Safe Harbor, which provides a safe and welcoming place for abused children to be interviewed by professionals.

Summer 2014 Safety Awareness - Despite the recent wintry weather, Parks Maintenance Seasonal employees began the summer season on March 31. As a kick-off to the season, the Safety Office, in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Department, conducted a Summer 2014 Safety Awareness training session. Participating in the day-long session were all full-time, part-time, and seasonal Parks Maintenance staff. The training topics included personal protective equipment for landscaping, lawn mower safety, severe weather safety procedures, post-weather emergency response, and safe equipment use and maintenance. Based on this training and discussions amongst staff, the Safety Office is confident the Parks Maintenance Department will have a safe and successful summer season.

Spring Cleanup Week Begins April 7 – For [Spring cleanup week](#) April 7 - 11, the city will place collection containers in centralized locations for disposal of large items such as furniture, appliances, and brush. To schedule curbside pick-up of an old appliance on April 8, call Public Works at 372-1023 by Monday, April 7.