



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council
FROM: Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager
DATE: May 6, 2014
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

Farmers Market 2014 - The managed [Farmers Market](#) season will bring a new look and layout to the area surrounding Hurkamp Park and welcomes the return of our Market Managers, Gayle Price and Mike Morrelli. Beginning on April 26, the 900 block of Prince Edward Street will be closed to traffic* on Saturday market days to allow vendors to set up in the street, thereby freeing the sidewalk for shoppers to navigate the market more safely. The George Street vendors will remain in their regular spots, and on the William Street side of the market several food trucks will be stationed at the curb. Shoppers who need to find parking in the vicinity of the market will have help again this year from the owners of Renato's Restaurant, who are graciously allowing shoppers to park in their lot, accessible from William Street. This year, the Art in the Park series is scheduled on the first Saturday of each month, and additional days for the series are scheduled during the Kid's Market on June 7, the Farmers Market Week Celebration on August 2, and the Harvest Festival on October 4.

In addition to the Farmers Market at Hurkamp Park every Saturday from 7 a.m. – 2 p.m., shoppers may also enjoy the Mayfield Farmers Market on Thursdays from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. beginning on May 1. The Mayfield Market will be located on Dixon Street across from Dixon Park.

*The 900 block of Prince Edward Street will remain open on June 7, September 20, and October 4 in an effort to support other events in the downtown area.

Elder Abuse Prevention Month - In recognition of Elder Abuse Prevention Month, the Fredericksburg Department of Social Services protective services unit has collaborated with several community partners to increase awareness, to educate, and to raise funds in an effort to prevent elder abuse. There are many forms of elder abuse, including physical and mental abuse, neglect and self-neglect, and financial exploitation. Abuse of older adults and individuals with a disability occurs in families and communities of all social, economic and racial backgrounds. In FY 2013, the Department investigated 64 new referrals for elder abuse.

The Department's activities for May include:

- On May 16, the Services unit of our Department will host a "Concert, Cookies and Carnations" event at Hughes Home Assisted Living Facility. This is a social event for the residents at Hughes Home. There will be a vocal concert by 8-year-old music student, Ava Young and vocalist Ashleigh Chevalier.
- On May 16, DSS staff will have the opportunity to participate in Flip Flop Friday. Participants contribute \$5 to wear flip flops for the day, and all proceeds will be given to the Senior Visitors Program. The Senior Visitors Program is a supportive service program of Mental Health America of Fredericksburg that promotes independence, dignity and healthy living for older adults in their own home environment. The program matches isolated homebound seniors with trained volunteers who provide a friendly visit on a weekly basis. There is no cost for this program to the client.

Travel Association Recognizes "Virginia by Rail" Program - [Fredericksburg Regional Tourism](#) partnered with [Richmond Region Tourism](#), [Visit Norfolk](#) and [Discover Prince William & Manassas](#) for the "Virginia by Rail" promotion. The promotional initiative was a collaboration of these four destination marketing organizations to create a regional itinerary for visitors, demonstrating Virginia's key destinations and experiences which are easily accessible by rail. At the quarterly meeting of the Virginia Association of Convention and Visitor Bureaus, the promotion was honored with a VIRGO award, which pays tribute to organizations that significantly contribute to the Commonwealth of Virginia's economy through tourism promotion and development. At the recent IPW tradeshow, produced by the U. S. Travel Association, representatives met with over 40 international tour operators and travel writers to discuss the itinerary.



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Interior Visioning for Downtown Spaces - The interiors of empty downtown commercial space are the focus of a new initiative of the Fredericksburg Economic Development Authority and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism that will build on the successful and established façade improvement program. The initiative will allow potential tenants to envision how the space might be configured for future use.

To test the initiative, the EDA is partnering with Spaces Design Studio and the property owner of the former Cards and Cones building at 201 William Street. Spaces Design Studio will present measurements of the interior space and a rendering of a possible use that complies with the building's current zoning. The design work will be displayed in the building windows or doors with links to the city's economic development website for those wanting more details on the property, including contact information for the leasing agent.

A display is being designed for storefronts to provide a more attractive backdrop while a new tenant is secured (example below).



After the test of the initiative at the 201 William Street building, the program can be expanded to other long-term vacant downtown spaces, with the participation of the property owner.

City Hall Retaining Wall and Planter -

After noticing cracks and damaged brick in the retaining wall behind City Hall, the Parks, Recreation & Public Facilities Department secured an engineering firm to evaluate the wall for structural soundness. The resulting evaluation determined that the wall is still structurally sound at this time, but is in need of some repairs. The engineer has recommended re-pointing the cracked mortar joints and replacing the deteriorated coping stone and bricks in the retaining wall. In addition, some of the damaged adjacent planter wall will be replaced and the intrusive tree will be removed to prevent further damage. The three cracked coping stones in the planter walls will be replaced. Work on the wall will begin in early May.



Motts Run Celebration - The 10th Anniversary of the opening of the Nature Center at Motts Run Reservoir will coincide with the opening of the new "Nature Play Space" on May 10 with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 1 p.m. The Play Space was constructed by two Eagle Scouts, Connor Benhase and Philip Wiltenmuth, with funding from the Ann Page Garden Club. Friends and family are encouraged to attend.

Heritage Trail Steps Constructed - New wooden steps from the Rappahannock River Heritage Trail down to Ficklen Island have been completed. The stairs were completed by Zach Klinefelter as his Eagle Scout project. The stairs now provide a safe way for users of the trail to get closer to the river.

Flood Damage - The damage to Old Mill Park from the flooding on May 1 was fairly extensive. A bridge leading to the playground was swept away, the fence around the playground was damaged, much of the split rail fence along the entrance road was torn apart, several grills and one picnic table are missing, and the wooden stage was damaged in several places. Flood cleanup at several parks will continue for the next two weeks.

FRED Transit Driver Wins State Competition - FREDericksburg Regional Transit is pleased to announce that Mr. Bernard "Butch" Shields won first place in the Community Transportation Association of Virginia Roadeo competition (body-on chassis bus division) over the past weekend. The state-sponsored Roadeo tests the skills and knowledge of drivers in three areas: driving over a mock bus route that presents real world challenges; loading and securing wheelchair-bound passengers; and completing a written test on a wide range of laws, regulations, and rules of the road.

Mr. Shields has been a part-time transit driver with the City of Fredericksburg since 2001 and has participated in state and national competitions since 2003. During his tenure at FRED, he has secured first place at the state level on three occasions (2003, 2012, and 2014) and placed second and third, respectively, in 2009 and 2006. By finishing first at the state level, Mr. Shields will next represent the City of Fredericksburg and the Commonwealth of Virginia at the national level. This will be the third trip to the national competition for Mr. Shields, where he will try to improve on his fourth place finish in 2003. This year, the National Roadeo will be held in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota on June 7 - 8.



New Magistrate's Office - An office that is accessible from the lobby of the Police Department has been converted for the use of the magistrate. Through the end of May, the office will be staffed with an on-duty magistrate Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and available for walk-in service to the public. After June 1, the staffing schedule

is yet to be determined. Officers who have persons in custody will continue to use the video conferencing capabilities located inside the secure facilities of the building to hold hearings with the magistrate.

Aerial Lift Operator Training - On April 23 and 24, the Safety Office coordinated with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to instruct city employees in Aerial Lift Operator training. The course was instructed by Allan Grady of VDOT's Thornburg Maintenance Academy. Over the course of two days, multiple city departments including Parks Maintenance, Public Works, Public Facilities, and the Wastewater Plant sent 29 students to attend this one day course. Classroom topics included personal safety, equipment characteristics, identification and operation of controls and major components, inspections, and emergency response. Additionally, all students were required to participate in practical training to indicate ability to safely operate City owned equipment.

