



## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council  
**FROM:** Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager  
**DATE:** February 18, 2015  
**SUBJECT:** City Manager's Update

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Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

***Tenth Annual Restaurant Week is Most Successful Ever*** - The Department of Economic Development and Tourism presented its tenth annual Restaurant Week in January. There were 22 participating restaurants that sold a total of 12,776 special prix fixe meals during the 10-day period of January 16 - 26. The 2015 Restaurant Week event boasted the largest number of participating restaurants and the most meals sold since its inception in 2006. New to this year's Restaurant Week program was the addition of promotional flags along the William and Caroline Street corridors. The flags were generously sponsored by a grant from the Fredericksburg Economic Development Authority and will be used indefinitely during future winter and summer Restaurant Weeks.



***Collaboration Leads to Big Bookings in the Fredericksburg Region*** - Collaboration with regional partners is bringing large events to the Fredericksburg area. One such example is SkillsUSA, which will be coming to Fredericksburg in April 2016. [SkillsUSA](#) is a leadership conference and skills championship showcasing high school students in various competitions that include automotive technology, construction, nursing, and many more. EDT staff collaborated with Germanna Community College and with local businesses that employ skilled labor to obtain letters of support for the event. SkillsUSA will use 400 rooms per night for an approximate total of 800 room nights and 1,200 attendees.

The recently announced U.S. Youth Soccer Regional Championships, to be held in the area in June of 2017 and 2018, will use approximately 4,000 hotel rooms for both years. Total attendance is estimated at 9,000. EDT staff worked with the Virginia Youth Soccer Association to prepare the housing proportion of the bid that was presented to the U.S. Youth Soccer organization.

***Police Conduct Training Exercise at City Hall*** - On the afternoon of February 11, members of the PD Special Equipment and Tactical Team (SETT) and patrol officers conducted an active shooter training drill at City Hall. The drill allowed city workers to practice survival techniques that could be useful in the event of an actual shooter scenario in the workplace. The training prepares employees to choose and execute their best option if faced with a real gunman:

**RUN** - Look for an escape option and get out!

**HIDE** - If escape is not feasible, find a hiding place or barricade yourself inside a room or office.

**FIGHT** - If confronted up close with a gunman, use any means available to fight for survival, even if you are wounded.



**Photo credit Robert Martin**

During the drill, the "shooters" used air horns to simulate gunfire while city staff either escaped or hid themselves inside the building. At the conclusion of the exercise, SETT commander Lieutenant Bill Hallam conducted a debriefing in Council Chambers to answer any questions and critique the reactions of the city employees.

***Central Park Townhomes Community Day Event*** - Several Community Planning and Building Department staff members are working with the Central Park Townhomes homeowners association to hold a Community Day event. The event is scheduled for March 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The fun occasion will engage and encourage residents to take pride in their community and keep it free of litter, while expanding friendships throughout the neighborhood! Members of the Fire and Police Departments and the Department of Public Works are also participating and providing support for the activities.