



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council
FROM: Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager
DATE: April 7, 2015
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

Fredericksburg DSS 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 the efforts to prevent child abuse and support families. Throughout the year, the DSS protective services team provides community education on topics such as mandated reporting and "Safe Sleep" practices for Infants.

Department activities supporting Child Abuse Prevention Month include the following:

- A Child Abuse prevention bulletin board has been created in the DSS lobby with special thanks to Volunteer Ruth Nedomanski. The board provides information to residents on healthy child and family practices.
- The front of the DSS building was decorated in blue and pinwheels planted in the front by student volunteers, Jordan Lee and Kyle Critzer. The pinwheel is the symbol for child abuse prevention and is meant to reflect hope, health, and happiness of children.
- April 14th - The Protective Services team will hold a bake sale at the 601 Caroline Street building in the morning and at the 608 Jackson Street building in the afternoon. All baked goods are being provided by DSS staff and proceeds will benefit the Department's Safe Sleep Campaign.
- April 24th - Cover a Cruiser Event. DSS will partner with the City of Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office to raise awareness and money for the Department's "Safe Sleep" campaign. To date, the Department has given out 119 portable cribs.
- During the entire month, tickets will be sold to employees for the chance to win a "Jeans for a Week" raffle. The lucky winning employee will pick five appropriate days to cash in their jeans voucher to their supervisor in support of Child Abuse Prevention. The drawing will be held the morning of April 24 and proceeds will go to the Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center and the Department's "Safe Sleep" Campaign.

Parks and Rec Receives Special Recognition - In February, the Department of Parks and Recreation was nominated in several categories for the Fredericksburg Parent & Family Magazine "Family Favorites." Between February 1 and March 31, local parents voted for their favorite businesses and services that go above and beyond every time. Parks &

Recreation was honored to be recognized as one of those businesses that add value to our community! The Department placed in the **top 5** of the categories below:

- Best Park category - **1st** place Alum Spring Park, **2nd** place Old Mill Park and **5th** place Kenmore Park (Memorial Recreation Park).
- Free Things To Do category – “Picnic in the Park” tied with a Spotsylvania Towne Centre event for **1st** place out of the 10 nominees
- Best Day Camp category - **4th** place – Summer Fun Festival out of 23 nominees.
- Outdoor Fun category – The Heritage Walking Trail won **2nd** place and “Picnic in the Park” won **4th** place out of 21 nominees.

Health District Office Changes Location - The [Rappahannock Area Health District](#) office moved on Monday, April 6 to 1320 Central Park Boulevard, Suite 300 in the city's Central Park complex. The Fredericksburg Health Department will remain at 608 Jackson Street in the downtown area.

Police Conduct Training Exercise - Members of the Special Equipment and Tactical Team (SETT) and the Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT), along with the sergeants and lieutenants in the Fredericksburg Police Department, took part in a realistic training exercise in Central Park on the afternoon of March 25. The scenario simulated a disgruntled employee taking several hostages inside a business. This type of training allows supervisors and other critical department members to become practiced in the Incident Command System and to apply their skilled training in a controlled environment. More photos are at this [link](#).



Photo credit Robert A. Martin

Police Lieutenant Graduates from Leadership School - On March 19, Lt. Hanson D. "Rikki" Johnson graduated from the [Professional Executive Leadership School](#), hosted by the Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation and conducted in cooperation with the University of Richmond. The intensive three-week program is designed "to acquaint participants with best practices in leadership, challenge them to reflect upon their own leadership competency, and examine ways of achieving both personal and professional growth."



City Hosts Family Reunion Workshop - Despite the unfavorable weather, a very successful family reunion workshop was hosted on March 7 by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Forty reunion planners from the mid-Atlantic region attended to learn why Fredericksburg can be an ideal family reunion location. Twelve vendors, including the city's Department of Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities, assisted guests with venue and other helpful information. A complimentary African-American history tour, provided by Trolley Tours of Fredericksburg, gave 31 participants the opportunity to visit the historic district. Pamela Williams, a veteran reunion planner from Spotsylvania County, conducted the workshop along with EDT staff. The 40 attendees of this workshop represent the possibility of 27 family reunion events planned for our area.

One Boat Ramp at City Dock Closed - On April 2, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries notified the city that one of the boat ramps had to be closed for a repair. A concrete pad installed as an extension to the ramp had shifted, creating an obstacle and hazard when launching and retrieving boats. The estimated time of closure is 30 days. There will be engineering and repair planning and then two weeks of visible repair activity on site.

Annual Water Flushing Program - The annual water flushing program consists of changing the method of disinfection used at the water treatment plant. As part of the program, both the city and Spotsylvania County conduct flushing programs to remove disinfection byproducts from the potable water mains. As of April 7, the city is in the final stages of flushing in the Mayfield and College Heights areas. Following completion of flushing in those areas, the city will continue flushing in many of the subdivisions. Residents may notice some minor discoloration in their water when flushing crews are in

their area. If this occurs, flush faucets for a few minutes until the water run clear. The flushing program ends on April 20.

Smith Run Sewer Repair - A contract has been awarded for the repair and upgrading of the Smith Run sewer following the discovery of the broken main and release on March 22. The contractor is currently installing the most critical manhole and will be proceeding with the installation of the piping and additional manholes. Work is scheduled to continue through April 17.