



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council
FROM: Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager
DATE: May 5, 2015
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

FRED Transit Driver Finishes Strong in State Roadeo Competition - On April 11, FREDericksburg Regional Transit driver Bernard "Butch" Shields was awarded overall 2nd place in the Community Transportation Association of Virginia Roadeo competition (body-on chassis bus division) held in Harrisonburg. This 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. In addition to his 2nd place finish, Butch won three 1st place awards in the following individual obstacles: Right-Rear Tire Clearance (regulating tire position), Forward Offset Street (simulating a lane change in a confined space), and Diminishing Clearance (simulating a reduction of lane width).



Butch has been a part-time transit driver with the city since 2001 and has participated in state and national competitions since 2003. During his tenure at FRED, he has won 1st

place at the state level on three occasions (2003, 2012, and 2014), placed 2nd on two occasions (2009 and 2015), and also had a 3rd place finish (2006). He has also competed in three national competitions, placing 4th nationally in the 2003 competition held in Philadelphia.

Fredericksburg Partners with State and other Localities for Meetings Sales Mission - Seven localities, including Fredericksburg, Newport News, Fairfax, Loudoun, Hampton, Alexandria, Roanoke, along with the Virginia Tourism Corporation, teamed up for a three-day sales mission to the Philadelphia area April 14-16. The sales mission included appointments with meeting planners and an evening event with the Philadelphia Chapter of Meeting Professionals International. The goal of the sales mission was to make Pennsylvania meeting planners aware of meeting options available in Virginia. Philadelphia was chosen due to the driving proximity to Virginia. Many planners were very interested in Virginia and the sales calls helped educate them of meetings facilities in the Commonwealth.

City Detective Recognized for Outstanding Action - Detective Betsy Mason was recently recognized by both the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board Crisis Intervention Team and with an award from RACSB's Partners in Recovery for calls for service in March at Mary Washington Hospital involving two different individuals experiencing mental crisis. In one of the cases, the detective was able to safely disarm a man who was stabbing himself with a knife and threatening others. Detective Mason's response to these two incidents was excellent. She was able to handle both of them without force and without incurring any injuries to law enforcement or hospital staff.

Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness - In January, Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw signed onto a nationwide initiative to end homelessness among U.S. veterans by the end of the calendar year. Since beginning this effort, an ever expanding working group consisting of city staff, homeless services providers, the Veteran's Administration, Virginia Wounded Warrior, and other interested participants have successfully housed four veteran individuals and families. An annual census of the area homeless population shows that at any given point in time, there are roughly 15 veterans experiencing homelessness. Over the summer and fall months, the working group will continue with outreach, re-housing, and case management techniques to get all of these veterans and their families off of the streets and into permanent housing. The city invites all those interested in more information or wishing to participate in this worthwhile effort to contact Hunter Snellings, Community Development Planner, at 540-372-1179.

Fredericksburg Hosts Virginia Local Management Association Meeting - A group of 35 Deputies, Assistants, and Others (DAOs), a sub group of the Virginia Local Management Association, from around the Commonwealth held a meeting in Fredericksburg on April 24 at the Downtown Marriot. The meeting began with an icebreaker "quiz," where attendees learned historical and current facts about Fredericksburg. The big draw of the day was hearing from an esteemed panel of experienced managers: Tony Griffin (retired Fairfax County Executive), Art Anselene (Town of Herndon Manager), and Bob Middaugh (former James City County

Administrator and current Loudoun County Asst. Administrator). The panel offered insight on what it's like to be a manager covering items such as transitions in elected bodies, managing work/life balance, differences between large and small jurisdictions, and discussed career progression and how to deal with changes in your profession. The group really appreciated the panel's insight and honesty about the enjoyment and challenges of sitting in the "big chair."



The final session of the day extended some of the morning's themes by considering how to empower staff by giving control for decisions. A great leadership video (found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqmdLcyES_Q) described that authority can be pushed down to those with the best information when a culture is built on competence and clarity. The group discussed the principles of this idea, challenges in implementing it in an organization, and ways to support our managers in promoting this mindset. It was a beautiful day in Downtown Fredericksburg to showcase our City to local government practitioners from around the state!

May is 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 disabilities occurs in families and communities of all social, economic and racial backgrounds. In FY 2014, the Department investigated 72 new referrals and provided supportive services to the elderly and disabled. The Department's activities for May include:



- On May 15, 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 9-year-old music student, Ava Young (daughter of CPS investigator Kelly Young) and vocalist Ashleigh Chevalier.
- On May 15, 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.
- On May 22, DSS staff will visit Mill Park Terrace to provide a presentation on the Department's energy assistance programs and to assist residents in enrolling.