



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council
FROM: Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager
DATE: April 16, 2013 (*Updated April 19, 2013*)
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

B&D Official Elected to Leadership Position in Professional Association - At the conference for the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association (VBCOA) held last October in Fredericksburg, John Walsh was elected Sergeant-at-Arms of the organization. The VBCOA is a 1000+ member association of building code professionals and is a standalone chapter for the International Code Conference (ICC), the parent association that writes codes for 48 of the 50 states in the U.S. and more than 20 nations worldwide. The VBCOA dates back to 1929 and has been recognized as one of the top two chapters within the ICC for six of the last eight years. Mr. Walsh is the first officer to be elected from Planning District 16 and only the second maintenance official ever elected to a leadership position within the organization.

On April 8, B&D staff attended the VBCOA mid-year meeting in Charlottesville. The discussion topics included Life Safety for Commercial and Residential buildings.

Energy Training Class - On April 17, the Fredericksburg Area Builders Association along with the City of Fredericksburg and the counties of Spotsylvania, Stafford and King George will be hosting a HVAC Energy Training Class at the Fredericksburg Expo Center. Staff from Building and Development Services will be attending.

Route 3 Traffic Signal Timing Optimization - In late March, traffic signal timing and phasing adjustments were made to all eight signals in the City to optimize traffic flow along the Route 3 corridor, which includes Plank Road/William Street from Gateway Boulevard to Belman Road. Previously, only five of the eight signals operated in coordination with one another, but now all eight signals are coordinated. The signals currently operate on four timing plans that vary depending on the time of day and/or day of the week. Public Works staff and the City's transportation consultant have been monitoring traffic movement in the corridor over the past three weeks and will continue to do so to assure that the adjustments have had the intended effect of improving the traffic flow.

The Academy for Financial Empowerment - On March 21, the Fredericksburg Department of Social Services celebrated the graduation of the inaugural class of the Academy for Financial Empowerment. The Academy is a financial education program geared toward changing the

financial practice behavior of those transitioning from public assistance. DSS partnered with several community organizations to develop and implement the 10-week course, which included both classroom instruction and guidance from a financial mentor. The course covered topics such as banking basics, budgeting, debt reduction, credit repair, and home purchasing. Four participants completed the program and received continuing education credits from Germanna Community College. Preliminary survey results from the participants indicate a positive change in behavior in each of the 15 different financial practices surveyed.



Financial Empowerment graduates and instructor

The financial empowerment program exemplifies what can be accomplished when community organizations with complementary missions partner together. The community partners included Rappahannock United Way, Thrive, The Healing Center, Germanna Community College, Goodwill Industries, CVS Distribution Center, Geico, and several local banking institutions. The contributors provided financial support, services, strategic planning assistance, and classroom donations.

COC Receives HUD Renewal Funding - On March 13, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan awarded \$210,121 to four local programs through the Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care (CoC). Hope House will receive \$57,009 to provide supportive services for homeless women and children residing at the transitional housing facility. Micah Ecumenical Ministries was awarded \$58,546 to provide permanent supportive housing assistance to end the cycle of homelessness for chronically homeless individuals. Thurman Brisben Center will accept an award of \$36,192 to provide permanent supportive housing assistance, and the George Washington Regional Commission will receive \$58,374 to administer the regional Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). All grant exhibits are available for review on the CoC's website www.fredcoc.org. The City's Community Development Planner, Ms. Marne Sherman, is on the CoC Grant Writing Committee which prepares and submits the annual grant application. HUD is expected to announce the awards for new funding applications in May 2013.

Magistrate's Office Relocation – (Updated 4-19-13) The magistrate's office located on Lafayette Boulevard at the Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania County will be closed permanently as of Monday, April 22. The new magistrate's office is located at 9102 Courthouse Road near the

Spotsylvania County courthouse. As part of the process for the relocation, the Police Department has implemented video conferencing capability with the new site so that officers may conduct bond hearings with the magistrate from the booking area in Police Headquarters. If the circumstances of an arrest are not favorable for video conferencing with the magistrate, officers will transport detainees directly to the jail and use the services of the magistrate located at that facility. Citizens who wish to obtain their own warrants will be directed to use the magistrate at the new Spotsylvania courthouse site.