



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council
FROM: Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager
DATE: March 5, 2013
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

Upgraded Buses Added to FRED Fleet - In February, FREDericksburg Regional Transit received the first six of eleven replacement buses from Sonny Merryman, Inc. of Lynchburg, Virginia. The remaining five replacement buses are scheduled to be delivered in early March. This bus purchase is significant as it marks FRED's single largest bus purchase and will replace over a third of the entire FRED fleet, helping to move the fleet from light-duty (5 year/150,000 mile) to medium-duty (7 year/200,000 mile) buses. The buses that are being replaced range in age from six to nine years old and have 206,000-336,000 miles on each of them.

FRED drivers are currently receiving hands-on training on the new buses which are similar in style to the existing fleet vehicles (body on chassis). The replacement buses have several new upgrades, including back-up cameras, upgraded driver seats, and folding seats in the rear of the bus to allow more room for drivers to secure wheelchairs. The first six buses are expected to be on the road within the next week.



Smoke Free Initiative - The City of Fredericksburg Recreation Commission has adopted a Smoke-Free Initiative for its playgrounds and athletic fields. This initiative encourages smokers to voluntarily refrain from smoking within 50 feet of recreational facilities in the park system.

Parks & Recreation Program Highlights -

- Tax Aide 2013 - Co-sponsored by AARP and the Parks, Recreation & Public Facilities Department, this service provides free tax preparation assistance to seniors and low income individuals and families. Through April 11, 2013, participants will be seen on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Dorothy Hart Community Center. This program has been successfully helping seniors and low income individuals for nearly thirty years.
- Children's Art Show - This year the Children's Art Show will be held March 14 – 26 and will again be sponsored by Cox Communications. Over 400 pieces will be exhibited at the Dorothy Hart Community Center.
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt – Occurring on March 23, the Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Kenmore Memorial Park. The event is scheduled to start at 11:30 a.m. with an early special appearance of the Easter Bunny around 11:00 a.m. Last year well over 500 children, parents and bunnies attended!
- Dog Easter Egg Hunt – The first event of its kind in this area, on March 23 dogs will rule for the day! Currently there are 15 dogs registered and staff reports they are receiving more calls about the event every day. The event will start at approximately 1:30 p.m. at Kenmore Memorial Park.
- Icebreaker Fishing Tournaments – This event will be held on March 9 at Motts Run Reservoir with The Weekend Bassers. The Tournament is from 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and registration begins at 7:00 a.m.

Fredericksburg Hosts Virginia Recreation & Parks Society Management Conference - On February 25 and 26, directors, managers, division heads, and superintendents from across the state joined speakers from around the country to discuss *Unique Management Practices and Principles*. This two-day conference was one of the most successful conferences of its type in VRPS history. All logistics, including the speakers, sponsors, program, and marketing were handled by staff from Parks, Recreation & Public Facilities.

Restaurant Week 2013 Sells More Than 10,000 Meals - Final totals are in and Fredericksburg's Winter Restaurant Week 2013 was by far the most successful Restaurant Week in the event's six-year history. During the event held January 11 through 21, 10,186 meals were sold compared to 6,157 meals sold in 2012. Eighteen restaurants participated in 2013 compared to 17 restaurants in 2012. In addition to meals sold, restaurateurs also saw an increase in additional liquor and food sales from Restaurant Week parties.

Driver Safety Training Program - In 2010, Fredericksburg began a comprehensive driver safety training program organized by VML, the City's insurance carrier. The program "Where the Rubber Meets the Road" first required some designated City

employees to become National Safety Council training instructors, then additionally mandated driver training for all employees who drive as part of conducting City business, DMV driving record checks for all employee drivers upon hire and annually thereafter, and the implementation of a City policy governing the operation of City vehicles. To maintain compliance with the program, the City is required to provide an annual refresher course on safe driving to at least 50% of employees who drive for City business.

The Safety Office is pleased to report that this refresher training requirement was again successfully satisfied. On February 11, one hundred and forty City employees completed "Distracted Driving" training provided by one of the City's National Safety Council training instructors. This one-day coordinated effort, in addition to departmental driver's training, surpassed the 50% employee training annual requirement. Departments represented in the training included Public Works, the Fire Department, Parks, Recreation & Public Facilities, Building and Development Services, the Police Department, Economic Development and Tourism, FRED Transit, IT, Human Resources, Planning and the City Manager's office.

With VML's approval of the driver training rosters as well as a 100% rating on a risk management questionnaire, the City will receive a premium credit discount of 5% on its annual insurance premiums.

New Police Vehicles - The Police Department has added three Ford Interceptor sedans and three Ford Interceptor SUVs as replacement vehicles to its fleet. All six are outfitted as standard patrol vehicles with exterior lights, striping, and logos. Some new features on the replacement vehicles include: [SYNC package](#), back-up cameras, back-up sensors that sound off when approaching objects in reverse, and four switches on the steering wheel that are used to operate the lights and siren without requiring the driver to remove a hand from the wheel. All of these vehicles also come with a factory 5 year/100,000 mile warranty.

