



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council
FROM: Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager
DATE: February 19, 2013
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

Chief Nye on Live Chat – Police Chief David Nye participated in a live web chat hosted by fredericksburg.com on February 13, during which he answered questions ranging from crime rates to gun laws to concerns of homelessness in the City. Click [here](#) to read the entire chat transcript.

EDT Publishes Quarterly e-Newsletter - The Department of Economic Development and Tourism recently published its e-Newsletter, which is sent to over 1,100 businesses and individuals in the City and throughout the area. This latest edition of the quarterly newsletter has over twenty stories and economic trend reports of interest to our business community. Included are articles about a current downtown historic tax credit commercial rehabilitation project, a recent [Brownfields](#) grant-funded plan for commercial redevelopment of a former industrial property on Princess Anne Street, Mary Washington Health Care's impressive and growing array of certifications, accreditations and awards, and the tourism staff's travel industry marketing calendar for spring and summer. Click [here](#) to read the newsletter.

Virginia Turfgrass Council Gives Back – On January 28-31, the Virginia Turfgrass Council returned to Fredericksburg for the seventh year in a row at the Fredericksburg Expo Center, and for the second consecutive year, Virginia Turfgrass exhibitors presented garden items to the City. This year's gifts included a 12-foot tree and pallet of mulch. Virginia Turfgrass averages 250 room nights and has about 300 attendees come for their event. Virginia Turfgrass Council plans to return to Fredericksburg again in 2014.

Parks, Recreation & Public Facilities Updates – The following are the latest project and staffing updates:

- ***Visitor Center*** - Public Facilities continues to work with English Construction and the Visitor Center staff toward completion of the storage area renovation. The work is substantially completed with only punch list items remaining. The

anticipated date for the moving of storage items to the renovated space will be the week of February 25.

- ***Kenmore Memorial Park*** - Work has been completed to repair the lighting at the old basketball court at this park. Upgrades to the lighting panel and controls will help improve use of this facility.
- ***Gordon Cemetery Work Completed*** - The renovation work on the Gordon Family Cemetery has been completed. The cemetery graves date back to 1826. Mr. David Via was contracted last year by the City to repair twelve grave stones damaged by several incidents of vandalism. Each grave stone required unique repairs requiring specialized equipment and braces. Mr. Via is now working on a proposal for similar repairs at the [Thornton Cemetery](#).



Community Garden - The 2013 season for the Fredericksburg Community Garden begins on March 1. Ten of the gardeners from the 2012 season have requested to retain their plots, leaving eleven plots for new participants. Many lessons were learned during the 2012 season, and it is hoped that the use of landscaping fabric and new sifted top soil will correct last year's problem of wire grass in the garden plots. Installation of a composter is also planned, per the request of returning gardeners.

Icebreaker Fishing Tournaments – The Icebreaker Fishing tournaments will be held February 24 and March 9 at Motts Run Reservoir with The Weekend Bassers. The tournament will run from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on each day and registration will open thirty minutes prior to the start.