



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor Tomzak and Members of City Council  
**FROM:** Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager  
**DATE:** February 7, 2012  
**SUBJECT:** City Manager's Update

---

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

***Career Offender Removed from City Streets*** - On January 9, Fredericksburg Police detectives arrested serial burglar Jonathan Matthew Shepherd after conducting surveillance on a vacant property where the suspect was known to have secured his belongings. Following Shepherd's apprehension, investigators linked the career offender to more than twenty-five crimes, using forensic evidence that included fingerprints, foot impressions, and DNA. The crime spree started in September 2011 and involved the burglarizing of homes in College Heights, College Terrace, and the neighborhoods surrounding Maury Stadium. The [Automated Fingerprint Identification System \(AFIS\)](#) also connected Shepherd back to a series of burglaries that occurred over the Thanksgiving weekend in 2010. Shepherd is currently incarcerated under charges related to three of the most recent cases, and he is expected to face additional charges as the investigation continues.

***Safety Inspections*** - In an effort to maintain a safer workplace for City employees, the Safety Office conducted comprehensive safety inspections of 18 facilities during the month of January. Based on the results of the inspections, 112 minor safety related work orders were submitted to Public Facilities through the City's Track-It work order system. The inspection schedule was coordinated with Public Facilities and many of the items noted in the work orders have already been corrected.

***Cool Springs Road Landfill Improvements*** - Public Works crews have begun the installation of a new pumping system that will remove water from the methane gas extraction system at the closed Cool Springs Road Landfill. Currently, crews must make weekly and sometimes daily visits to the landfill site to pump water from the system and dispose of it at the City's wastewater treatment facility. The new system will automatically pump water out and discharge it into a sewer manhole, thus significantly reducing the amount of time needed to maintain the system in proper working order. The project is anticipated to be completed by the end of February.

***New Snow Fighting Plan*** - The Public Works Department recently completed an overhaul of its plan for plowing and treating City streets during winter storms. The new

plan takes into account the addition of several lane miles of new streets as well as new equipment in inventory. In developing the plan, an emphasis was placed on focusing the right equipment on the right streets (smaller trucks on narrow streets, large trucks on wider streets) and increasing the efficiency of plow/treatment routes by directing trucks into specific zones. New maps were developed using the [City's GIS system](#).

***Additional Asphalt Work on City Streets*** - Public Works is taking advantage of this winter's mild weather to complete additional asphalt work on City streets and property. Ludlow Street from Willis Street to its western end is being rebuilt, and resurfacing work is being performed on Carl D. Silver Parkway in the vicinity of the Cowan Boulevard intersection. Also, the walking trail at Powhatan Park will receive an asphalt surface.

***Sidewalk Improvements*** - Public Works personnel recently performed various sidewalk improvements in the 1000 block of Princess Anne Street and the 200 block of Amelia Street. The improvements included the removal of dead or distressed trees and the relocation of tree wells to cause fewer impediments to the doors of cars parked along the curb. New trees, suited to this location, will be planted in the tree wells in the near future.

***2012 Restaurant Week Most Successful in Six-Year History*** - Eighteen restaurants participated in the January Restaurant Week in downtown Fredericksburg, selling about 6,150 meals during the ten-day promotion. The 2012 event showed a 21 percent increase over 2011 sales. The 2012 Restaurant Week was bolstered by growing interest in local foods and cuisine, good weather, and the highest number of participating restaurants since the event was created.

***Civil War Tours A Hot Topic at American Bus Association Marketplace*** - Economic Development and Tourism staff recently attended the American Bus Association Marketplace. Joining with All-In-One Tours and Receptive Services, the only professional tour company endorsed by the Civil War Trails program, EDT staff met with over 80 tour operators, many of them planning Civil War programs in late 2012 and throughout 2013.

The relationship between city EDT staff and All-In-One's owner spans over twenty years and continues to produce city and regional sales with overnights, meals, attraction visitation, and partnerships with local guide services and the National Park Service. In 2011, All-In-One submitted a tour which won one of National Geographic Traveler's "Top 50 Tours of a Lifetime". For 2012, they have submitted a tour to National Geographic that covers Fredericksburg and the Peninsula Campaign. For more information on the tour see [http://www.civilwartours.net/trips/civil\\_war\\_1862VA.pdf](http://www.civilwartours.net/trips/civil_war_1862VA.pdf)

***Community Garden*** - Registration for the new [Community Garden program](#) began on January 3 for City residents only, and the program proved to be very popular. With the help of Fredericksburg Alert notifications and an article in the Free Lance-Star, all twenty garden plots were filled in about two weeks, with an additional nine gardeners currently on the waiting list. Construction of the garden plots and the installation of a fence around

the community garden will occur in the next few weeks. The garden season begins on March 8 and will end November 30.

**Dixon Park** - [Dixon Park](#) will soon be busy with young soccer and field hockey players, as the spring seasons kick off on March 12. In addition to Parks and Recreation programs, two area travel team associations will have tournaments at Dixon Park that are scheduled to bring in many teams from outside the area. Additionally, elite teams from across the state will play a series of weekend games at Dixon Park to compete for the Commonwealth Cup. Dixon Park will also be the venue for a college showcase soccer camp for high school girls aspiring to play at the college level, and for a fall two-weekend tournament, both of which will be run by a local travel soccer association.

**Fredericksburg First Night** - New Year's Eve was celebrated in style in the downtown area and the weather was very accommodating. This year, over 6,000 entrance buttons were sold and a record number of sponsors were committed for our family-friendly, non-alcoholic celebration of the arts. Staff surmises that this year's success was due to the weather, the new enclosed layout, and the increase in quality entertainment venues. The New Year's celebration was enhanced with a fire pit at Riverfront Park for warmth and atmosphere, Native American dancers, a variety of musical acts, a Chinese Dragon, Moon Bounce Alley, "Monkey Man", an improved sound system for the New Year's countdown, a pineapple drop, and fireworks launched from Pratt Park in Stafford County. Again this year, access to the venues was verified by a First Night button. Attendees not only purchased the buttons, but also were eligible to register to win a \$1,000 prize donated by Pohanka of Fredericksburg. Go to [www.fredericksburgfirstnight.com](http://www.fredericksburgfirstnight.com) to view a video highlight of this year's event

**Battlefield Industrial Park Business Activity Update** - The Department of Economic Development and Tourism reports an upswing in the level of new business activity in the Battlefield Industrial Park:

- Greenbrier Percussion at 1117 Tyler Street now occupies one third of the 40,000 square foot former Stock Lumber building for its drum sales warehouse and distribution center. The business has plans to expand into the entire building.
- Hilldrup Moving and Storage at 1115 Tyler Street now occupies the 61,000 square foot former Newton Printing building for its short and long-term automobile storage business. Approximately two-thirds of the building is currently in use.
- M&M Auto Parts at 1351 Belman Road has commenced the dismantling of wrecked late-model cars and warehousing of parts in the 140,000 square foot former Insteel Wire Products building. The wholesale and retail departments plan to move into the newly renovated offices next month.
- WEB Equipment has leased 9,750 square feet of new flex space at 460 Central Road for its forklift service and parts business. After completion of the build out work, WEB will move in next month.

***Department of Social Services Provides Holiday Assistance to City Residents*** - The Fredericksburg Department of Social Services, with the help of generous donors, administered several assistance programs over the Holiday season. The Agency's "Gifts from the Heart" program, made possible by donations from 36 sponsors, provided Christmas gifts to 116 children. Additionally, Mary Washington Healthcare, Saint Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception, and many individuals provided gift cards and donations for fifteen children in foster care and five adult clients of DSS. Through Home Instead's "Be a Santa to a Senior" program, 35 elderly and disabled customers received gift baskets with Christmas gifts, food, and gift cards. These Holiday Assistance programs are administered by DSS employees who determine program eligibility and work with donors to ensure that the Holiday needs of our customers are met.