



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council  
**FROM:** Timothy J. Baroody, City Manager  
**DATE:** August 5, 2020 (for August 11 Council meeting)  
**SUBJECT:** City Manager's Update

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Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:



**Summer Restaurant Week –** Fredericksburg's Summer Restaurant Week 2020 runs from August 14 through August 23. This summer, it comes with a Love Local Style twist! However you choose to enjoy our local food scene: curbside pick-up, outdoor picnic, take-home meal kit, or just dining in, Restaurant Week's got you covered.

Ordering from a participating restaurants is simple- choose from a menu of breakfast, lunch, dinner, and drink specials that are sold at price points in the "20 of 2020" range. The budget friendly options span between \$4.20 and \$40.20. Come out and taste what our local chefs have to offer! [FxbgRW.com](http://FxbgRW.com)



**Rappahannock Regional Landfill Fee-Free Storm Debris** – Due to Tropical Storm Isaias in our region, the Rappahannock Regional Landfill is suspending charges for storm-related debris, beginning immediately. This action is to aid residents with cleanup efforts. Residents of

Stafford and the City of Fredericksburg are asked to bring their storm debris to the landfill on Eskimo Hill Road, as this location is better equipped to manage this material. This action does not apply to non-storm related residential debris or any commercial companies or loads.

To be accepted, tree limbs must be less than 8 feet in length, and less than 12 inches in diameter. The residential portion of the Regional Landfill is currently open five days a week. Tuesday-Friday 8:00

a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Currently the residential operation is closed on Sunday and Monday. The landfill is located at 489 Eskimo Hill Road, Stafford, VA 22554. Please call 540-658-5279 M-F from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. for details.

**Love Scrub 2 Success** – On June 24th Chip Taylor, a local Long & Foster realtor, contacted us after his success with the Love Scrub downtown. He explained that he had received a small grant from the Board of Realtors (\$3,000) and to his surprise hadn't spent much of it on the downtown effort. He had



talked with others in the community and they decided that Hurkamp Park could use some landscaping love. He proposed to do a second Love Scrub on July 12th and focus on Hurkamp Park. After he discussed the improvement plans with Park Maintenance, it was agreed that he would spend money on mulch and some plant materials and that Parks, Recreation and Events would also chip in a little extra to ensure that we had enough supplies to do the whole park. Denise Sanders, one of our full-time landscaping crew, expressed an interest in working with the group so she brought tools, trash bags, etc. and met the group at Hurkamp. The community showed up in force and worked from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Lunch was provided by Joye Thomas and the Black Lives Matter Fredericksburg Chapter. Love was definitely in the air and we LOVE what the community did for us at Hurkamp!! Photo courtesy of Hyberbole.



**“Ask the Mayor” Video Series** – We are pleased to share the third episode of the “Ask the Mayor” video: [https://youtu.be/cL4zK9oX\\_5s](https://youtu.be/cL4zK9oX_5s) This video series serves to keep the community well-informed as we continue to navigate COVID-19 and the important social issue conversations taking place in our community. Each week Mayor Greenlaw will be sharing timely updates on what is happening in Fredericksburg and taking questions

from the public. Our revolutionary spirit is stronger than ever and we look forward to continuing to see an active and vibrant downtown. #lovefxbg



**Chatham Bridge Closure** – The bridge closed on **June 22 and will stay closed through October 2021** for improvements. Some history about the bridge.

According to the National Park Service, this is believed to be the earliest known photograph of Fredericksburg. It was taken in the location of today’s Pratt Park in June 1862. On the right side of the photograph, between the trees, you are able to see one of the Civil War pontoon bridges at the base of Hawk Street. If you look farther downstream the remaining abutments from the destroyed Chatham Bridge are also visible. Fredericksburg’s

pontoon bridges were constantly being destroyed from frequent flooding, which created the need for a more permanent crossing over the Rappahannock. After the pontoon bridge pictured here was destroyed by a flood, Washington Roebling, a Union Engineer, began his construction of a “wire suspension bridge” over the Chatham Bridge abutments in July 1862. Stay updated: [www.virginiadot.org](http://www.virginiadot.org) and at [www.fxbgbridge.com](http://www.fxbgbridge.com)

MAKE AN IMPACT. JOIN OUR

# Citizens Advisory Panel

Applications accepted through August 14th

**Citizens Advisory Panel Expanding** – The Fredericksburg Police Department is expanding its Citizens Advisory Panel and now accepting applications to fill five spots. To learn about the expectations of a Citizens Advisory Panel member and the important role they play, please read the Citizens Advisory Panel Charter and submit an application.

For more information see: <https://bit.ly/2XoFCNt>

**Second Community Outreach Event** – The Police Department plan is host a second community outreach event on August 19. More details on the event will be provided soon. The Department is committed to transparency and educating the community it serves about its practices, policies, and procedures.

**Upcoming Council Meetings** – All council meetings will be held virtually until further notice. The public is encouraged to access the meetings through the broadcast on Cox Channel 84 and Verizon

Channel 42. The meetings can also be viewed on [www.regionalwebtv.com/fredcc](http://www.regionalwebtv.com/fredcc) or accessed through Facebook at [www.facebook.com/FXBGgov](http://www.facebook.com/FXBGgov).

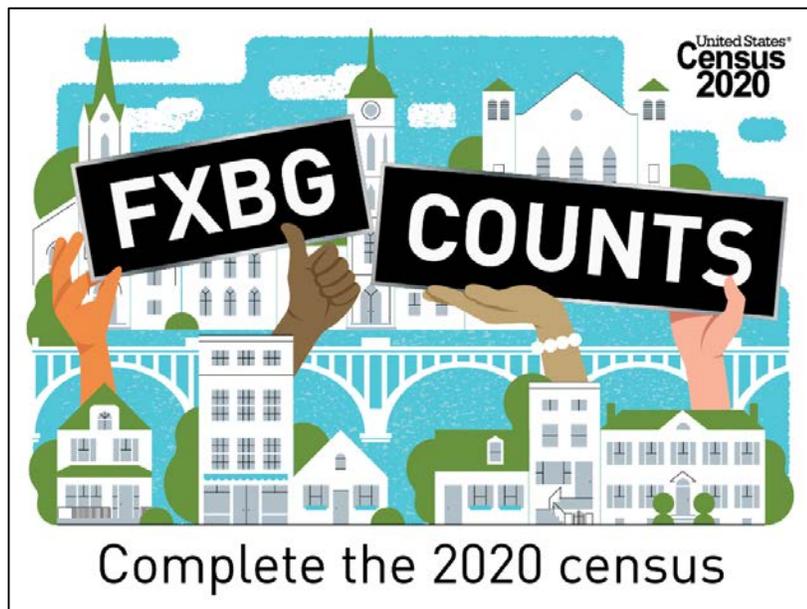
Citizens who wish to participate in the public comment period are able to send their comments in writing by (1) dropping them in the Deposit Box at City Hall, (2) U.S. Mail, (3) through a form on our website <https://www.fredericksburgva.gov/677/Public-Comment> or (4) emailed to the Clerk of Council. Comments must be received at least four hours in advance of the meeting – *for example, comments will be accepted until 1:30 p.m. on nights with a 5:30 p.m. work session.* The comments will be read out loud during the public comment portion of the City Council meeting. The standard rules apply to public comments: the person must identify himself or herself by name and address, including zip code, limit his or her remarks to **3 minutes** or less (read aloud), and address a topic of City business. Public comments are limited to a **total of 40 minutes**, with priority for comments from City residence or businesses. All written comments will be submitted to the council members. See [www.fredericksburgva.gov](http://www.fredericksburgva.gov) for more details or call (540) 372-1010.

**Census 2020** –So far, 63.1% of Fredericksburg households have responded to the Census. Every person counted brings \$20,000 to the community, so it's important we count everyone! It's easy and safe to respond online at [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov)

Responding is easy and confidential. You have three options for responding: 1) Online. 2) By phone. 3) By mail.

Go

to: <https://2020census.gov/en.html>



**COVID-19 (Coronavirus)** – Information will continue to be provided in written updates shared through our website and social media platforms. See [www.fredericksburgva.gov](http://www.fredericksburgva.gov) for full details. Stay vigilant and practice social distancing, wear a mask in public settings, and frequent hand washing.

Also stay updated in the following ways: follow the [Virginia Department of Health for updates](#), be notified when we make City Government related updates on this page by subscribing to the "[Fredericksburg News](#)" [News Flash](#), subscribe to [FredericksburgAlert.com](#) for announcements for City Government, City Schools and also any changes in trash pickups, traffic, events and more.



**The Fredericksburg Visitor Center** has reopened with measures in place to help keep people socially distanced.

The Visitor Center, which is at 706 Caroline Street, had been closed since this spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Visitor Center re-opened Wednesday, August 5 and will now be open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

[Customized face masks are available](#) for purchase in person, allowing visitors to safely enjoy Fredericksburg's beautiful downtown. [Click here for a](#)

[list of open businesses and institutions \(including the Fredericksburg Area Museum, which reopened this week as well\).](#)

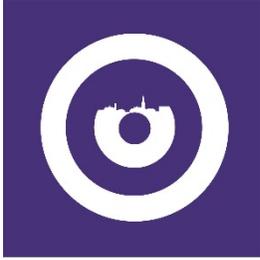
We can't wait to see you back at the Visitor Center soon!

Check out the [new video](#) developed and produced by Victoria Matthews and Jim Gaston with the Economic Development and Tourism department to offer meeting planners a firsthand look at facilities available in the City.

**Second Camp@Home Program a Big Success** – The Parks, Recreation and Events Department released its second “Camp@ Home” box in July, and again it was a big hit! The box included the supplies and directions for 25 different activities including art, nature, stem, physical and crafts (5 activities for 5 days) that were geared for elementary school aged children. The pick-up for the boxes was the week of July 18 with a video teaching session each day July 27 – 31 to make the “Camp” more interactive. Almost 200 Camp @ Home boxes were sold. And we received very positive feedback. Here's just one of many comments received. “First off I want to thank you for the wonderful craft box and guided videos. They were very helpful and the option to access them through the google drive has been a great option for us! The crafts have been a huge hit with our 5 year old and Mr. Buttons the caterpillar is a new family friend that has travelled with is everywhere since we made him..... Thanks again for the time put into this great camp at home box! If there is another box in the future we will definitely participate in that one too!”

**Fredericksburg Nationals Stadium Featured in Virginia Parks and Recreation Magazine** – This article was written in June before any decision had been made on minor league baseball. See attachment.

**Building and Property Maintenance Stats** – The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter statistics for FY20 are provided as attachments.



**Fred Focus**

**Fred Focus** – The [Fredericksburg Department of Economic Development and Tourism](#) is pleased to bring you Fred Focus, a weekly e-newsletter that goes out every Thursday and keeps you up-to-date on Fredericksburg business and tourism information and events. This week's [edition](#).



# Virginia Parks & Recreation

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of the Virginia Recreation and Park Society.

**MISSION**

*The mission of the Virginia Recreation  
and Park Society is to unite all  
professionals, students, and interested lay  
persons engaged in the field of recreation,  
parks, and other leisure services in the  
Commonwealth of Virginia.*

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# When Times Get Tough

**O**n January 16th, I was in a car with Jim Stutts, Executive Director of VRPS and Greg Sager, President of the Foundation of the VRPS on our way to a somber occasion, a memorial service for Cecil Gilkerson. Cecil was a founding member of VRPS, Past President and Fellows Award recipient. The somber occasion turned into a celebration of an amazing man and a life well lived. Throughout the day we were inspired by Cecil and discussed many ideas for ways to improve and help the society. Little did we know that five months later we would have such dramatic changes in our lives. A worldwide pandemic, economic failure and social upheaval have drastically changed our lives that will most likely continue far into the future. None of us at that time could have ever predicted where we would be today. However, there is a silver lining to such challenges and as the old saying goes “when times get tough the tough get going”. My hope is that we can see the positive side to these incredible stresses in our lives and do our best to learn from them. I would like to take a moment to look at these issues and do my level best to take away the positives. So here is what I have learned at this point:

- I am not incapable of embracing and utilizing technology I just got complacent in learning what I could use and allowed others to take on the responsibility. That has changed as I not only embrace the many technologies that make our jobs better, I actively search them out.
- I’ve always felt that one of the most overused phrases is “thinking outside the box” but with this crisis all around the state, agencies and professionals are thinking way “outside the box” coming up with new and interesting ways to engage all our communities and remain relevant to our citizens. It seems to me that the “box” no longer exists and a new way of thinking is now the norm.
- What I thought were priorities in my life has now changed as fear for safety, health and financial security dominated my thinking. But now, I’ve heard from many that this has made them appreciate what they took for granted in the past and get their priorities more centered, myself included.

- We have seen what can happen when we are unprepared for difficult and challenging times and if this has shown me anything it is that I need to better prepare both personally and professionally.
- I used to think that I didn’t like jigsaw puzzles, now I know I don’t like them. Patience has not been a gift gained from this experience unfortunately.
- Finally, VRPS is made up of a wonderful diverse, hardworking and creative group of professionals that inspire me daily and make me proud to be in this profession.



**Dan Smith, CPRP**  
*President, Virginia Recreation & Park Society*

My hope is that we can all look at what we gained and less about what we have lost but for some of us that is going to be difficult. As for VRPS we will continue to work to help all our members in any way that we can. Although we will not have a traditional conference we will have some educational opportunity with awards and citations coming in the fall. We will continue to work on our goals concerning mentoring and networking and have discussions in a virtual format. We recently offered a virtual Spring Directors Forum that went well and will look at more virtual informative sessions in the near future. It is through the strength of our members and the staff at VRPS that we will get through this time. We will all need to acknowledge that we will not be the same as we once were but change is inevitable and we will adapt to meet the challenges.

Sincerely,  
*Dan Smith, CPRP*  
VRPS President



# 2020 VRPS BOARDS, KEY LEADERS & STAFF

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Dan Smith, CPRP	Hanover County Parks & Recreation	804-365-4693	dcsmith@hanovercounty.gov
Vice President	Arlana Fauntleroy, CPRP	James City Co. Parks & Recreation	757-259-5377	arlana.fauntleroy@jamescitycountyva.gov
Treasurer	Jane Shelhorse	Fredericksburg Parks, Rec & Events	540-372-1086 (209)	jcshelhorse@fredericksburgva.gov
Lay Member	Amanda Walker	Patdart, LP	804-643-0406	acwpinrich@aol.com
Executive Director	Jim Stutts, CPRP, CAE	Virginia Recreation & Park Society	804-730-9447	jim@vrps.com
Board Member	Justin Bullock, CPRP	Louisa Co. Park, Recreation & Tourism	540-967-4424	jbullock@louisa.org
Board Member	Dean Crane, CPRP	Blacksburg Parks & Recreation	540-443-1101	dcrane@blacksburg.gov
Board Member	Kat Fish, CPRP	Prince William County Parks & Recreation	703-792-8203	kfish@pwcgov.org
Board Member	Aaron Reidmiller, CPRP	Hopewell Recreation & Parks	804-541-2353	areidmiller@hopewellva.gov
Board Member	Matt Spruill, CPRP	Colonial Heights Recreation & Parks	804-520-9392	spruillm@colonialheightsva.gov
Board Member	Kim Turner, CPRP, CTRS	New Kent County Parks & Recreation	804-966-8502	ktturner@newkent-va.us

## SERVICE AREA CHAIRS

Central	A.J. McCage, CTRS	Hopewell Recreation & Parks	804-541-2353	amccage@hopewellva.gov
Eastern	DeMece Williams	City of Norfolk Recreation, Parks & Open Space	757-664-7532	demece.williams@norfolk.gov
Northern	Julie Miles, CPRP	Alexandria Rec, Parks & Cultural Activities	703-746-5570	julie.miles@alexandriava.gov
Southwest	Crystal Hylton	Wytheville Parks & Recreation	276-223-3517	crystal@wytheville.org
Western	Jered Hoover	Shenandoah Co. Parks & Recreation	540-459-6777	jhoover@shenandoahcountyva.us

## RESOURCE GROUP CHAIRS

Aquatics	Kendall Evans	City of Norfolk Recreation, Parks & Open Space	757-441-2400	kendall.evans@norfolk.gov
Park Operations	Alister Perkinson, CPRP	James City County Parks & Recreation	757-207-0002	alister.perkinson@jamescitycountyva.gov
Seniors	Kim Graves	Chesterfield Co. Parks and Recreation	540-809-4930	gravesk@chesterfield.gov
Therapeutic Recreation	Tracy Newsom, CTRS	James City County Parks & Recreation	757-259-5354	Tracy.newsom@jamescitycountyva.gov

## ENTERPRISE GROUP CHAIRS

Annual Conference 2020	Katey Legg, CPRP	Gloucester Parks, Recreation & Tourism	757-823-4291	klegg@gloucesterva.info
Annual Conference 2021	Jerry West	Rockingham Co. Parks and Recreation	540-564-3164	jwest@rockinghamcountyva.gov
	Brian Mancini	Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation	540-433-9168	brian.mancini@harrisonburgva.gov
Foundation	Ned Cheely, CPRP	Retired	757-592-3446	ncheely@gmail.com
Awards & Citations	Leslie Bowery, CPSI, CPRP	Winchester Parks & Recreation	540-662-4946 x16	Leslie.Bowery@winchesterva.gov
LTI 2020	Kelley Herbert, CPRP	James City County Parks & Recreation	757-259-5372	kelley.herbert@jamescitycountyva.gov
Management Conference 2021	LaTanya Turner, CPRP	Isle of Wight Co. Parks & Recreation	757-357-5951	ltturner@isleofwightus.net
	Mark Furlo, CPRE	Suffolk Parks & Recreation	757-514-7266	mfurlo@suffolkva.us
Professional Education	Shannon Moore, CPRP	Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation	757-385-0420	smoore@vbgov.com
Virginia Senior Games	Andy Crane	Henrico Division of Recreation and Parks	804-652-1407	cra18@henrico.us
	Heather Clement	Henrico Division of Recreation and Parks	804-652-1422	cle066@henrico.us
Magazine Editor	Amy-Jo Hendrix, CPRP	Vienna Parks & Recreation	703-255-6357	ahendrix@viennava.gov

## VRPS STAFF

Jim Stutts, CPRP, CAE	Executive Director	804-730-9447	jim@vrps.com
Lori Haislip	Administrative Assistant	804-730-9447	lori@vrps.com

## BOARD LIAISONS

### SERVICE AREAS

Central.....	Aaron Reidmiller
Eastern.....	Arlana Fauntleroy
Northern.....	Kat Fish
Southwestern.....	Dean Crane
Western.....	Justin Bullock

### RESOURCE GROUPS

Aquatic.....	Kat Fish
Park Operations.....	Matt Spruill
Senior.....	Jane Shelhorse
Special Events & Marketing.....	Arlana Fauntleroy
Therapeutic Recreation.....	Kim Turner

### EVENTS

2020 LTI.....	Matt Spruill
Annual Conference 2020.....	Arlana Fauntleroy, Dan Smith
Annual Conference 2021.....	Justin Bullock, Dan Smith
Management Conference 2021.....	Matt Spruill, Jim Stutts
VSG 2020.....	Aaron Reidmiller, Dan Smith

### COMMITTEES

Awards & Citations.....	Justin Bullock, Matt Spruill
Foundation.....	Jim Stutts
Legislation.....	Jim Stutts, Kim Turner
Nominations & Elections.....	Kim Turner
Professional Education.....	Jane Shelhorse
Student Initiatives.....	Aaron Reidmiller, Dean Crane



# Certified Playground Safety Inspector Course and Exam

## September 16-18, 2020 - Virtual



Phone: 804-730-9447

FAX: 804-730-9455

Web: [www.vrps.com](http://www.vrps.com)

Email: [vrps@vrps.com](mailto:vrps@vrps.com)

CIRCLE REGISTRATION CHOICE	<u>On or before 7/31/20</u>		<u>8/1/20 – 8/31/20</u>		<u>9/1/20 or after</u>	
<b>CPSI Course &amp; Exam</b>	VRPS Member \$590	Non-Member \$665	VRPS Member \$650	Non-Member \$725	VRPS Member \$680	Non-Member \$755
<b>CPSI Course Only</b>	VRPS Member \$450	Non-Member \$525	VRPS Member \$500	Non-Member \$575	VRPS Member \$520	Non-Member \$595
<b>CPSI EXAM Only</b>	VRPS Member \$145	Non-Member \$195	VRPS Member \$155	Non-Member \$205	VRPS Member \$165	Non-Member \$215

**1.5 CEUs are included in the course fee.**

\*A candidate who has a disability may request a special accommodation; the request must be submitted in writing at the time of course or exam registration. In order to properly accommodate all persons with disabilities it is recommended that all requests be made 45 days prior to the scheduled date for the course and exam.  
 \*English as second language (ESL) candidates may request a time extension and/or the use of a strict translation dictionary. Candidates request forms/fees must be submitted to NRPA no less than 30 days prior to the exam.

\*Price includes UPS Ground Shipping within the Continental United States to a **BUSINESS** address. **Shipping to Residential address will be an additional \$10 fee.** Please call for international shipping fees.

**Cancellation Policy:** Registration fee, less a \$300 cancellation charge, will be refunded if cancellation is received in writing on or before close of business **July 31, 2020**. Substitutions are allowed. No refunds will be considered after **July 31, 2020**.

Request forms are available online at <http://www.nrpa.org/cpsi>. The course host will work collaboratively with NRPA to ensure all approved, reasonable accommodations are met.

**REGISTRATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [www.vrps.com](http://www.vrps.com)**

Legal First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Legal Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Badge: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Shipping Address: (No PO Boxes): \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address is Business or Residential? \_\_\_\_\_ VRPS Member:  Yes  No  
 Special Accommodations required, including dietary: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Registrants that are renewing MUST provide their CPSI Certification Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Study materials will not be shipped until both the minimum of 25 course registrants is reached and full individual payment is received. It is the student's responsibility to ensure timely payment is received by VRPS in order to allow materials to be sent and received, adhering to three weeks minimum preparation as recommended by NRPA.

Credit Card Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Check/PO Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment-in-full, in the form of check, money order, or credit card, is required to secure placement in program. If paying by check, make payable to VRPS and mail with registration form to:

Virginia Recreation & Park Society/CPSI  
 6372 Mechanicsville Turnpike, Suite 109  
 Mechanicsville, VA 23111



# RAISE UP!

## Racism & Social Equity: A Call to Action for Parks & Recreation Professionals

By Arlana Fauntleroy, MPA, CPRP (VRPS Vice-President 2020)

From Pandemic to Protest...who would've imagined or even been surprised that we'd be back here again so soon?

Nationwide, people of all ages and races were impacted by recent events surrounding the unjust and untimely death of George Floyd. I was inspired by Taryn Legg, a 13 year-old girl (and daughter of past VRPS President Katey Legg), when at 3 a.m., she and her friend depicted their thoughts and feelings through art (see picture below). Floyd's death ignited and relit the fire of action brewing in many, reminding me and others of the 400 years of racism, victimization, and social injustice.

The remembrance and the reality of the many years of racist acts that have preceded this one became center stage once again for many, putting a focus on the phrase "Black Lives Matter." Although a controversial and complexing phrase for some, all it simply means this: "Black Lives Matter" because All Human Lives Matter. And our history shows us that black lives have not been treated the same as all other human lives in this country.

Suffocated and perplexed by what is, Floyd's words of "I can't breathe" are perfectly symbolic of what so many blacks in this country feel due to systemic racism. Many throughout Virginia and the country are left with un-bottled fear, confusion, and emotions without aim or direction. To my disappointment, this frustration sometimes resulted in riots and looting, obscuring the purpose of

peaceful protest or gathering for a meaningful cause. Civil Rights Activist, Martin Luther King, Jr. reminds us that "a Riot is the Language of the Unheard." It doesn't make the actions right; however, makes the purpose behind the action more visible and demands RESPONSE.

A response for justice through the legal system and promoting social equity is required by Parks

& Recreation professionals. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) defines social equity as "ensuring all people

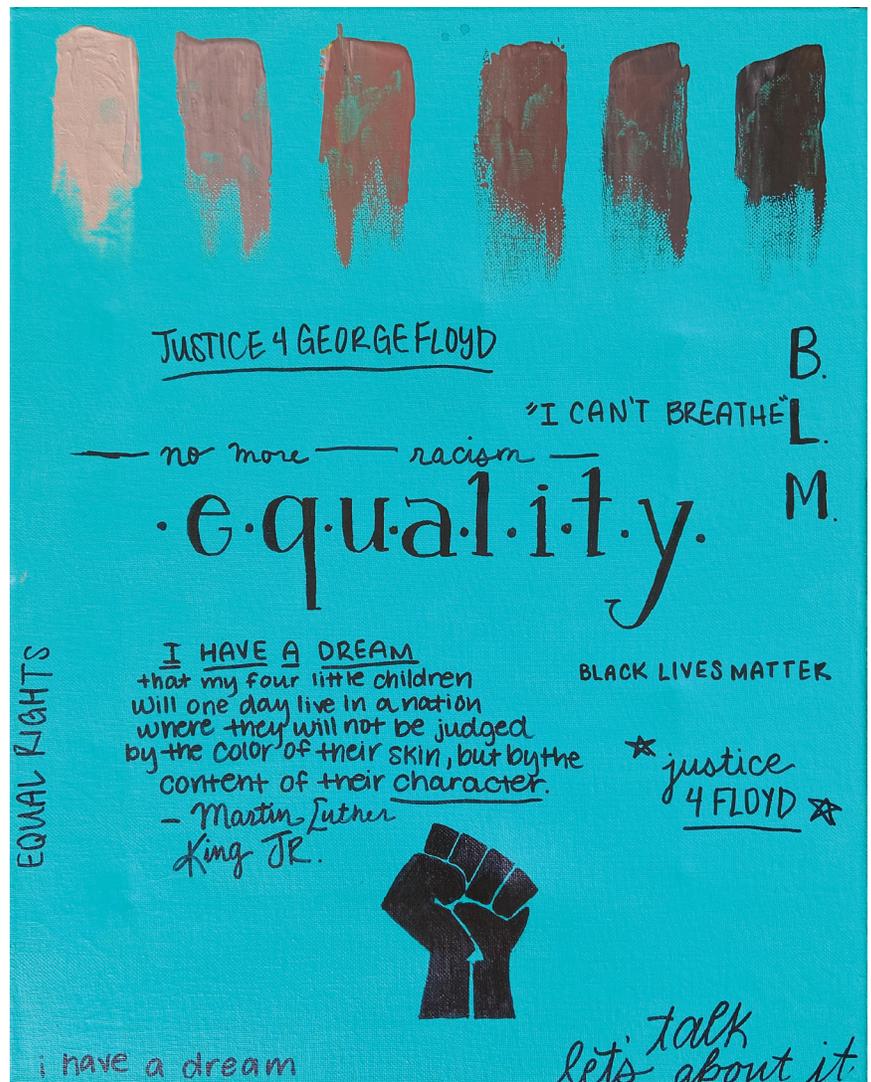


Photo Credit: Taryn Legg & Kendall Pratt

have access to the benefits of local parks and recreation, no matter the color of their skin, age, income level or ability.” Virginia, it is time to Raise Up! What will your response be and how can you impact positive change?

**Raise the Vote!** Voting is a basic human right and your ticket to advancing systemic CHANGE and justice for all. We must elect leaders in all areas of government, from the local to federal level, that role model and DEMONSTRATE social equity in mindset, policies and culture- equality, mutual respect, integrity, cultural unity and an understanding of all people without prejudice and bias. Know and support legislation, especially those related to parks and recreation and mandate fairness and the inclusion of all.

**Raise the Standard!** The fate of the future is in your hands. Be an example in your home, at work, and in every environment you encounter. Modeling appropriate behaviors and pushing beyond barriers for better are the keys for progress. This can be challenging to navigate for some due to no or low exposure to diverse settings and people, or fear about what others may think. However, I still challenge you not to be the status quo or repeat discriminatory actions displayed by others before you; it is time to “be the change you want to be in the world.” This was recently demonstrated by the Governor of Virginia when he declared Juneteenth a state holiday, and many localities followed suit. Work to identify service gaps for vulnerable populations of all races: lower income, teens, and seniors. Create a diversity team, and train your staff on social equity and respect for all

cultures. Develop programs and funding for programs and facilities that create inclusion and social equity for all.

**Raise Your Voice!** Some voices are louder than others, while other voices are quieter; all voices count and make the DIFFERENCE! Your voice can be audible or visible by your action. When you say nothing, it means you’re okay with the status quo. Model in your action social equity and humanity for all people. Your voice is your microphone and it projects what you stand behind! Again, this can be accomplished through hiring, fiscal policies, and training practices. Raise awareness through social equity policies, strategies for easier access to parks and facilities, trainings on cultural diversity and inclusion and developing facilities that reflect the cultural history of your locality. Examples of culturally-responsive parks and programming include Freedom Park and events such as Freedom Stories, two initiatives that demonstrate the diversity and inclusion of the African Americans story to the history of James City County, Virginia.

As an African American woman and parks and recreation professional, I’m so grateful to all who Raised Up before me. I know I have to do my part, and I am hoping you will join me in this most important work. 2020 has presented itself to be a year of momentous change, and you have a responsibility, a choice, a decision to make- will you say no to racism and Yes to social equity and Raise Up? Doing your part won’t look the same for everyone and that’s okay. Hopefully, we will lead the charge in modeling respect for all races and humanity we serve. It is time to Raise the Vote, the Standard, and Your Voice!

# WHAT'S NEW

## IN YOUR COUNTY OR TOWN?



Let VRPS spread the word about all your hard work!

Email us at [vrps@vrps.com](mailto:vrps@vrps.com) and appear in our next magazine.





# IF YOU BUILD IT, WILL THEY COME?

By Jane C. Shelhorse – Director Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation Events and  
Matthew L. Spruill – Assistant Director Colonial Heights Recreation and Parks.

If you're any kind of a sports fan, when you get to summertime you just HAVE to think about baseball. Yes, the World Series Champion Washington Nationals are right up the road in D.C., but even farm team and amateur league games can scratch the itch for baseball fans. There's just something about sitting in a stadium seat, drinking a cold beverage and having a hot dog, that says "Summertime" in the USA.

It's been a tough spring; with the Coronavirus forcing us to cancel high school proms, graduations, spring sports leagues, and even summer camps. And now it threatens to shut down Baseball! This is particularly painful for the City of Fredericksburg and the City of Colonial Heights, both of which had big plans for Baseball this year.

The City of Fredericksburg has been working with the Silber Family, owners of their Class A affiliate team of the Washington Nationals. Previously known as the Potomac Nationals, located in Woodbridge, they made the move to Fredericksburg, and became the Fredericksburg Nationals. Construction on their brand new 5,000 seat stadium began last fall, in anticipation of a first pitch at the stadium in April 2020. Then came COVID-19. . .

The finishing touches are still being completed, but the state of the art artificial turf field and the seats are all in, just waiting for players and fans. The turf is made of coconut hulls, and only two major league fields have it; Fredericksburg will be the first minor league team to have this type of field. Even if there is no baseball this season, the FredNats are working with the City to hold some community events in the space (as soon as the Governor moves us to Phase III of the re-opening plan).

Meanwhile in Colonial Heights, the hottest new team in the Coastal Plain League, the Tri-City Chili Peppers, are ready to get their season underway at Historic Shepherd Stadium. Recreation and Parks staff are working on the final touches at the Stadium with protective netting, umpire locker room upgrades, and outfield wall padding being installed. The City has been renovating the Stadium since 2012 in hopes of attracting a franchise to the City and it seemed all was ready to go until COVID-19 put a wrench in the plan.



The excitement in Colonial Heights is still building towards an opening night in early July, and hopeful for a full schedule of games this Summer for the Chili Peppers. A lot of work was put into this inaugural season to include lease agreements with the team, construction and upgrades at the Stadium, City Ordinance changes to allow alcohol on City property, as well as permitting for food and alcohol sales.... this doesn't include the behind the scenes work the Chili Peppers are undergoing to include staff hiring, completing a roster of players, securing host families, and the initial startup cost for the team.

The Cities of Fredericksburg and Colonial Heights are still excited for Summer baseball and working with their respective teams in hopes of baseball being played in their towns. What will that look like? — limited number of fans in the stands, no one in the stands, ramped up cleaning efforts, or worse, no baseball at all. No one knows at this point, but preparations and plans are being made for that first night and the moment we can all say "Play Ball"!

# Lake Hanover Nature Trail

## FROM CONCEPT TO CREATION WITHOUT TAX DOLLARS

By Greg Sager, Director  
Hanover County Parks and Recreation

Over the course of two years, what began as one man's dream of a spot to view waterfowl, evolved into a pristine nature trail with some of the most scenic views and challenging hills in the county.

In September 2017, local birdwatcher Heck Rice and his friend Dennis Treacy, approached Hanover County officials regarding creating a small path down to the base of Lake Hanover.

Lake Hanover, as it was affectionately referred to, was in actuality a swampy area adjacent to the County's main government complex where the water level rose and fell based upon the work of the local beaver population.

What the Lake did contain however, were nesting areas featuring a mixture of ducks, swans, cranes, geese and teals that allowed waterfowl enthusiasts to enjoy views unavailable elsewhere.

As this site was not identified in the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan and no additional funding was available, initial meetings between County staff and the two gentlemen resulted in an agreement where the Department would create the project scope while Heck and Dennis would procure the funding. An initial budget of \$25k was agreed upon



with Department management staff volunteering to mark the trail and provide technical assistance. By the beginning of 2018, donations began coming in and the trail outline was established.

Foundations, civic associations, businesses and state agencies were approached regarding grant opportunities. The Department worked with our public partners in completing and submitting grant applications to these organizations with some success. Over the course of the first twelve months, donations totaling almost \$8k were received. Just when it appeared that raising the total amount was going to be a three or four-year effort, the Department was approached by a local energy production corporation that was interested in investing back into the community. With over a dozen potential projects available, the Lake Hanover

Nature Trail was selected to receive \$13k in funds from Doswell Energy Center. With the majority of the project funding now in place, work began on identifying and clearing a trail throughout the site.

Progress was slow due to a severe drop in the elevation from trail entrance to the edge of the lake as well as the presence of the trifoliolate orange plant or as it's commonly referred to- Hardy Orange. This plant is a nasty, fast growing shrub full of thorns that aren't easily removed.

Initial trail clearing with a walk-behind bush hog resulted in bloody hands, torn clothing and a steady stream of expletives from staff. While this initial clearing was painful, it allowed us to save a great deal of money when the main trail was cleared as the path was relatively easy to follow.

# NEWS FROM HANOVER COUNTY (continued)

Once the path was cleared and mulched in place, it seemed to build momentum for raising the last of the funds necessary to complete the project. When the last check was deposited, the project had received \$25.5k in donations- well above the stated goal. Funding was received from traditional groups that support nature preservation including Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries, Ducks Unlimited, and the Wildlife Foundation of Virginia. In addition, groups that typically have no involvement with wildlife projects were also willing to donate, these include the Smithfield Foundation, Tomato Fund, Ruritan Clubs and the aforementioned Doswell Energy Center. For many of these groups, all it took was a request and sharing the vision that Heck Rice had created.

With the last of the funding received, in quick order the Department contracted

for the construction of two viewing platforms, four trail benches- including one dedicated to Heck, signage, mulching, and two new handicapped-parking spaces with paved access to the main entrance. As walking a linear trail seemed a bit boring, the Department was able to transform an otherwise unused open field into additional trail space, increasing the length of the trail to 2/3 of a mile.

While the completion of a project, especially one that was accomplished without use of tax dollars, is a reason for celebration, unfortunately the ongoing pandemic forced us to cancel the scheduled ribbon cutting. This only made us more determined to celebrate the occasion and



thank those responsible. As we considered our options, word of the trail reached the local newspaper and we found the amount of visitor's doubling each week. To truly show off what had been constructed, the Department created a short video tour of the site and sent the link to all involved with the project. In addition, the professionally designed welcome sign/trail map below was created and installed at the main entrance.



## Welcome to Lake Hanover Nature Trail



**"In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous." - Aristotle**

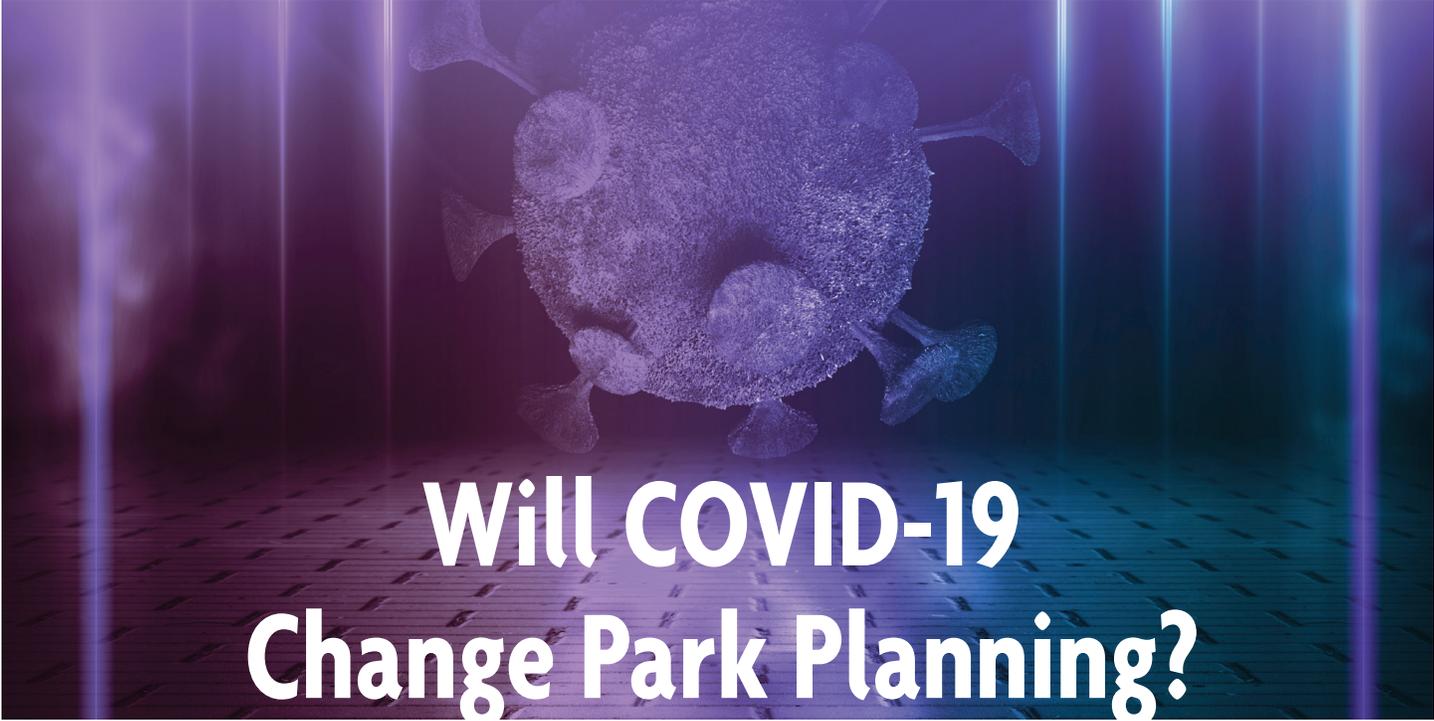
Thank you to the following businesses, organizations and individuals for their generosity and commitment towards the creation of this nature trail.  
*Without your support, this would not have been possible.*

**DOSWELL**  
Energy Center



**Smithfield**  
*Good food. Responsibility.*

- Donna & Dennis Treacy
- Susie & Heck Rice
- RCI Builders
- The Wildlife Foundation of Virginia
- Courthouse Ruritan Club
- Reber Dunkel
- Sandy Jensen & Ted Polk, Jr.



# Will COVID-19 Change Park Planning?

*By Janit Llewellyn, Planning Manager, Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation  
Adjunct Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University*

COVID-19 is changing how people spend leisure time. Parks and trails are at the center of this shift to the outdoors as the top recreation priority. Quiet walks surrounded by nature and a few family or friends are the number one activity for almost everyone. Park professionals have not seen increases in people heading to parks and trails at this rate since post World War II. With stores closed for shopping, gyms boarded up and restaurants open only for customer takeout, the American leisure time is shifting to parks and trails. With so many citizens flocking to parks there is less opportunity to social distance as recommended by the Center for Disease Control.

As compared with numbers of trail users counted the previous year, during the initial COVID-19 shut down, Chesterfield County realized a 30% increase in trail use for March 2020 and a 26% increase

in April. The longer that shelter in place and limited access to the commercialized way of life continues, the more likely the increase in trail use and outdoor recreation activities, excluding team sports, will continue. The question for park planners is - will this trend continue?

At the close of the spring 2020 semester, Virginia Commonwealth University, L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, Urban and Regional Studies and Planning Community Studies Park Planning class was asked how COVID-19 might change park planning. Of the twenty students polled, over half believed the changes realized as a result of COVID would have some lasting change on future park planning. The idea of creating smaller pods for activities and gatherings is, much like the wayside picnic areas that cropped up after World War II was a favored option over larger event

spaces. Park planning students agreed the immediate and not so immediate demand for these event venues as concert venues and festival locations would decline. This trend could last up to 2 to 3 years until citizens renew confidence in public health initiatives to eradicate COVID-19. This leads to the question of how celebrations like Trunk or Treat, the Fourth of July and summer movie nights may look and be held in the near and not so near future?

Focused on the immediate influx of trail users, park planning students commented that park design might need to change. To meet increased demand, more trails could be constructed throughout the parks. Additional trails could accommodate more hikers and social distancing. The downside of adding more trails in some instances is the environmental impact to the parks and the visitor experience. A balance of increasing trail carrying

capacity and protecting both the visitor experience and the park environmental and natural resources must be weighed when planning and develop a park, including trails.

Amenities that support trails may not significantly change. Wayfinding signage will continue to be important with an added emphasis on educational information about how to use and take care of the trails. Trail pavement and treatment selected according to use and site conditions will likely not change. However, if trails use increases and trail sustainability is compromised, hardened surfaces and permeable hardened alternatives may replace unpaved trails.

About one-fourth of the park planning class voiced concern and realism that

park and trail funding could decline after COVID. Students anticipate the needs for other health and community safety services will out compete the desire for additional parks and trails. Despite being a popular and healthy alternative for citizens during the COVID crisis, parks, trails and other outdoor recreation may not receive additional funding. While this is not what park professionals want to hear, this reality leaves park planners with a critical need for creative funding solutions.

Linking park improvements with healthy community initiatives will increase parks and recreation visibility, improve awareness of parks and ignite partnerships with health providers. The need for healthy outcomes has been a growing collaborative effort. The increased use in parks and social awareness because of

COVID -19 could further strengthen the link between health providers, medical organizations and parks and recreation professionals.

We do not know where the impacts from COVID-19 will lead parks and recreation. Nor do we understand the economics of how this pandemic will impact park planning, design and construction or even how parks might be used in the future. The reality is park planners need to be creative, proactive, forward thinking and resourceful. Partnerships and community collaboration will provide the backbone needed to fulfill future outdoor recreation needs. The bottom-line solution after COVID-19 is simple - create a vision for strengthening the community with parks and trails.

## A great place. A great place to play.

### Play is a fundamental human right.

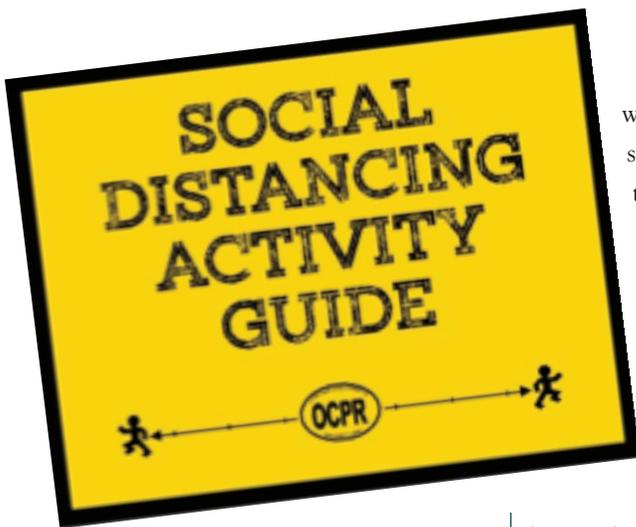
With initiatives like Play4All and Healing Communities Through Play™, Cunningham Recreation is bringing people together, using communities and creating a brighter future one great place at a time.

Join our mission at [play4allcampaign.com](http://play4allcampaign.com).



# Keeping Citizens Engaged from Afar with Their Social Distancing Activity Guide

By Jayson Woods, OCPR Programs & Facilities Supervisor



A cacophony of typing and ringing was the backdrop of the Orange County Parks and Recreation office on March 13, 2020. Here, as elsewhere throughout the commonwealth and beyond, activities were being cancelled and postponed as fast as participants could be contacted. Much was unclear regarding the future, but it was clear that the COVID-19 pandemic was dangerous and just getting started in Virginia. During the following week, it became obvious that the disease would disrupt the entirety of the spring activity season. Desiring to present a positive influence throughout, our department looked for a way to keep citizens engaged and active while they

were stuck at home. To that end, staff quickly shifted some of their time to the creation of a series of videos and handouts collectively referred to as our “Social Distancing Activity Guide.”

Drawing on personal skills and knowledge as well as internet inspiration, these virtual programs provided

instructions for activities like folding paper airplanes, making papier maché bowls, fashioning camp tripods, crafting Mother’s Day gifts, and even STEM-related activities like setting up a sundial at home. Avoiding an unexpected burden on the budget, staff filmed this content almost exclusively with one county-issued iPhone, often with it strapped to a coat rack to create a stable platform.

For video editing, we used the mostly hidden software available within Microsoft Windows’ “Photos” program. Admittedly, the program was basic, but it provided enough features to maintain a consistent look and deliver the message as intended. Handouts focused

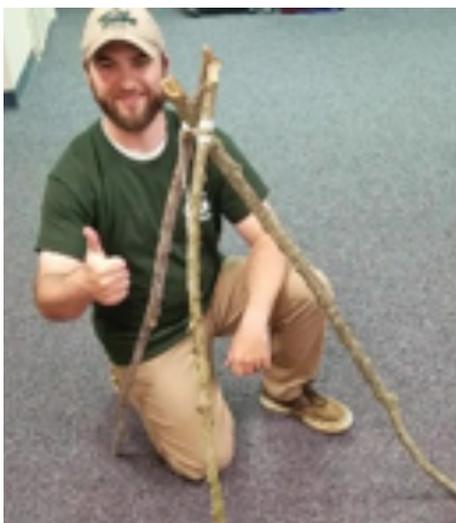
on coloring-page style activities and crafts. Everything was done in-house.

Facebook provided the primary platform for hosting and releasing the content, and we created website page called “Home Activities” to consolidate links and documents. Looking forward to the post-COVID world, our hope is that this page will remain relevant and continue to provide parents with free ideas to use on regular rainy days. As of this article, a total of twenty videos and eleven handouts have been released, with a few more likely before we return to fully normal operations. Our best performing video was an April Fool’s video featuring staff engaging in a “story time” setting



where they read aloud various synonyms for “prank” from a dictionary. It has enjoyed 625 viewers and has been viewed 904 times. The performance of that video illustrates how much folks wanted to engage with Parks & Recreation staff. Other chart-toppers included dandelion syrup making, paper airplane folding, home sundials, and catapult making. We proudly averaged 272 views per video, with many performing very well according to Facebook analytics. For example, the home sundials video had over 17% better viewer retention through the end of the video than others that Facebook found comparable, indicating that the content was both engaging and entertaining.

Laid on a foundation of solid content, we plan for these virtual programs to continue in the future as occasional releases. Public response was overwhelmingly positive to these virtual activities, so perhaps the focus can be shifted from a way to stay relevant into a way to reach more citizens and encourage them to participate in future in-person programming. More information and all Social Distancing Activity Guide content may be found at: <https://www.orangecountyva.gov/873/Home-Activities>.



# Collaboration is Key

*By Jimmy Lyon, CPRP, AFO – Superintendent, Fauquier County Parks & Recreation*

Earlier this year as many Parks & Recreation professionals came to grips with COVID-19 and dealing with so many unknowns, the Aquatics Resource Group(ARG) wanted to help bring our peers together and support our industry that teaches a life skill, promotes safety, provides an exceptional low-impact workout, and is one of the best ways to recreate year round!

Right before the Virginia Department of Health(VDH) was about to release Forward Virginia: Phase I, we made contact with Olivia McCormick, Acting Director, Food & General Environmental Services, at VDH. In a short amount of time, we had the first webinar set for May 12, 2020. The webinar was successful in bringing aquatic professionals together, hearing the information directly from VDH, and set the bar for future webinars.

Within a 48-hour period earlier in the week, the June 5, 2020 Forward Virginia: Phase II webinar was planned and held with another great turnout of attendees. Ms. McCormick took the lead, again, by sharing Phase II details and helped answer well over 100 question out of 200 that were submitted before and during the webinar.

The collaboration and dialogue within the aquatic’s community has been unparalleled to anything ARG has ever seen in the past. The professionals in our field are passionate about what they do and are anxious to open their facilities as soon as it is safe to do so.

Speaking of that collaboration within the state, ARG was not the first group to try and increase communication efforts among our peers. Willa Suter, Past ARG Chair and Aquatics Director with Reston Association, had already started a bi-weekly video conference meeting to see what other aquatic professionals were planning. Attendees were initially from the Northern Virginia area but it quickly expanded to outside that area while culminating in a state-wide invite in the weeks that followed! We are confident that there are other groups, small or large in the state, that are working together to support aquatic professionals during this difficult time and we would like to acknowledge their hard work. We would also like to thank Harper & Company for sponsoring both webinars. Their support was redirected to VRPS as they have had to make some difficult cost saving decisions.

As aquatic facilities make the ultimate choice to not open at this time or have been able to open with extreme limitations on capacity, ARG will continue to work with VDH on future webinar series, especially when Forward Virginia: Phase III is announced.

# VRPS Preferred Vendors

## ACTIVITIES

Blue Ridge Mountain Biking  
Conference

Kings Dominion & Soak City

Innova Disc Golf

USTA Mid-Atlantic

Zambelli Fireworks

## AQUATICS

Jeff Ellis & Associates

National Pools of Roanoke, LLC

## APPAREL

Image First Outfitters

## DESIGN/CONSULTING

Gale Associates

Gay and Neel, Inc.

LSG Landscape Architecture

Timmons Group

William H Gordon  
Associates, Inc

## EDUCATION/SERVICES

AARP Virginia

## FACILITY AMENITIES

Bliss Products

CXT Concrete Buildings

Glasdon

JJM Associates

Mateflex

Musco Sports Lighting, LLC

Pure Play Sports Turf

SealMaster

Shoco, Inc.

Smith-Midland Corporation



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Stageline Mobile Stage

Sternberg Lighting

## PLAYGROUND/PARK

All Recreation

Cunningham Recreation/  
GameTime

MaxPlayFit, LLC

Mid-Atlantic Products, Inc.

VPS Recreation

## SOFTWARE

MyRec.com

RecPro Software

## Thank You 2020 Annual Conference Sponsors





**CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA**  
**Community Planning and Building Department**

**BUILDING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY - 4th Qtr FY 20 - (APRIL-JUNE) 2020**

<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	<b>April-June 2020</b>		<b>April-June 2019</b>		<b>FY 2020</b>		<b>FY 2019</b>	
New-Residential	19		33		67		58	
New-Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical/Other	6		3		17		20	
Alterations/Additions	65		68		211		222	
Alt/Add - Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical	106		135		450		482	
Certificates of Occupancy	20		14		62		40	
Fees Collected	\$41,978.10		\$60,164.73		\$146,069.22		\$153,635.25	
Construction Value	\$5,019,641.15		\$7,790,377.64		\$18,715,183.06		\$16,907,936.34	
Fees Waived	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	
<b>COMMERCIAL/MULTI-FAMILY</b>	<b>SQFT/#UNITS</b>		<b>SQFT/#UNITS</b>		<b>SQFT/#UNITS</b>		<b>SQFT/#UNITS</b>	
New-Commercial	*1	108,240	2	36,452	6	260,707	4	60,848
New-Multi-Family	**7	7	0		10	214	0	
New-Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical/Other	29		24		132		89	
Alterations	49		95		288		323	
Alt-Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical	90		163		426		487	
Certificates of Occupancy	4		3		13		11	
Fees Collected	\$81,712.80		\$101,547.87		\$468,451.52		\$324,220.20	
Construction Value	\$15,499,658.68		\$17,587,728.70		\$91,668,846.46		\$36,086,582.11	
Fees Waived	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	
<b>CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY-EXISTING</b>								
	30		41		165		148	
<b>BUILDING INSPECTIONS PERFORMED</b>								
	1945		3333		7887		7633	
<b>UTILITY FEES COLLECTED</b>								
Water Tap	\$10,400.00		\$8,939.15		\$24,064.71		\$36,558.18	
Water Availability	\$61,700.00		\$402,450.00		***\$480,650.00		\$805,830.00	
Sewer Tap	\$20,400.00		\$4,500.00		\$35,700.00		\$45,300.00	
Sewer Availability	\$102,400.00		\$675,750.00		***\$700,650.00		\$1,349,650.00	

**COMMENTS**

\*1 New Commercial permit was for the Winchester Parking Deck, 1076 Winchester Street.

\*\*7 New Multi-Family permits were issued for Riverview Townhouses on Sophia Street - Units 506-518.

\*\*\* Availability fees associated with the baseball park have not yet been collected. They will be in the range of \$350K to \$400K.



**CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG**  
Community Planning and Building Department

**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE COMPLIANTS - 4th Qtr FY 20 (April - June 2019)**

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE COMPLIANTS	April - June 2020		April - June 2019		FY 20		FY 19
<b>By Type</b>							
Exterior Maintenance	4		7		47		51
Interior Maintenance	4		6		59		33
Elevator Maintenance	0		0		31		0
<b>Total Number of Property Maintenance Complaints</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>13</b>		<b>106</b>		<b>84</b>
<b>PROPERTY MAINTENANCE COMPLIANTS</b>	<b>April - June 2020</b>		<b>April - June 2019</b>				
<b>By Outcome</b>							
Violation	4		10		99		53
Educational Out reach	2		1		8		13
Unsafe/Unfit	0		0		6		7
Unfounded	2		2		17		11
<b>Total Maintenance Complaints By Outcome</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>13</b>		<b>130</b>		<b>84</b>
<b>NUISANCE ORDINANCE COMPLAINTS</b>	<b>April - June 2020</b>		<b>April - June 2020</b>				
<b>By Type</b>							
Trash & Debris	3		18		54		90
Grass	16		118		87		229
<i>Grass Cut by City Contractor</i>		2		26		32	50
<i>Repeat Offenders</i>		1		14		29	38
Graffiti	1		1		1		3
Trees	1		5		3		5
Inoperable Vehicles	2		15		50		53
<b>Total Number of Nuisance Complaints</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>157</b>		<b>195</b>		<b>380</b>
<b>NUISANCE ORDINANCE COMPLAINTS</b>	<b>April - June 2020</b>		<b>April - June 2019</b>				
<b>By Outcome</b>							
Violation	8		147		167		334
Educational Outreach	12		3		15		11
Unfounded	3		7		18		22
<b>Total Nuisance Complaints By Outcome</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>157</b>		<b>200</b>		<b>367</b>

No proactive inspections were performed for property maintenance during the 4th quarter due to the PMO being furloughed the entire quarter. Property maintenance inspections were performed by the Building Official on a complaint basis only and the lower numbers reflect this.