



MEMORANDUM

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Timothy J. Baroody'.

TO: Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council
FROM: Timothy J. Baroody, City Manager
DATE: October 7, 2020 (for October 13 Council meeting)
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:



Public Engagement on Racial Equity – As an outgrowth of their June adoption of the Racial Equity Plan – Phase One, Fredericksburg City Council has directed staff to gather public input about racial equity in the City of Fredericksburg. All input is being accepted and will be compiled and presented to City Council for their consideration at their December 2020 annual retreat. The City will be seeking public feedback through a public survey and also during limited virtual public sessions. These are scheduled for October 28 through November 10. Please visit the City's website now to express your interest in providing feedback. This is just the beginning of these efforts. The City will

continue to seek public input in an ongoing basis and into 2021. (City Board and Commission members will receive a separate outreach on this matter.) For more information about the upcoming survey and virtual input sessions, please visit <https://www.fredericksburgva.gov/1679/Public-Engagement>

Vice-Mayor Frye Re-elected to State Board – The Virginia Municipal League is pleased to announce that at its Annual Business Meeting held on October 8, 2020, City of Fredericksburg Vice-Mayor Charlie L. Frye, Jr. was re-elected to the position of City Section Chair of the Executive Committee. Vice-Mayor Frye was first elected to the position at the City Section meeting in 2019. VML is glad to have Vice-Mayor Frye in this position as he brings the same dedication to the role as he does for his community where he is actively engaged in serving the needs of its residents. More information about the Virginia Municipal League is available on the organization's website: <https://www.vml.org>.



New Trail Feature – Parks, Recreation & Events installed a new feature this week on the Rappahannock River Heritage Trail called a StoryWalk®. The Fredericksburg StoryWalk® is an opportunity for kids to get outdoors on a trail and read at the same time. Pages of a picture book are spread

out along a trail so that families can read them as they go. The Fredericksburg StoryWalk® is located along Caroline Street between Old Mill Park and Ford Street giving something exciting to view in a normally plain section of trail. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Storywalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson. Residents are invited to get out and explore the Fredericksburg StoryWalk® with their little ones. Post on social media using the #FXBGStoryWalk to show off your experience. Throughout the year, books will be changed out so that you can come back again and again to read something new. The first book to be featured will be *Bear Came Along* by Richard T. Morris and follows a group of animals as they discover that they all need one another.

FREE COVID-19 Testing – The Rappahannock Area Health District is offering weekly COVID-19 testing at Dixon Park, 1300 Dixon Street for the next four Fridays for FREE. See attached flyer.



Voting in the City – Early voting continues through in-person voting for the November 3, 2020 Presidential Election. Vote in person at 601 Caroline Street Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturday, October 24 and 31 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **October 31 is the last day to vote early in-person.** On November 3 polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fredericksburg residents should check the [Fredericksburg Voter Registration](#) webpage for more

information on polling locations and what items are on the ballot. Please call (540) 372-1030 with any questions.

Fredericksburg Regional Transit will provide no-fare service to all of its transit riders on Election Day. The goal is to provide riders easy access to their polling location without having the cost of transportation be a barrier. As a regional public transit provider for the City, Spotsylvania, and Stafford they encourage their riders to get out and VOTE (and of course, ride FRED).

VA Business Magazine – Fredericksburg is featured in the [October edition](#) of Virginia Business magazine. The article looks at the City’s growth over the past few decades and includes interviews with Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw, Jud Honaker of the Silver Companies and Seth Silber of the Fredericksburg Nationals. Virginia Business also featured the University of Mary Washington in the [October edition](#).



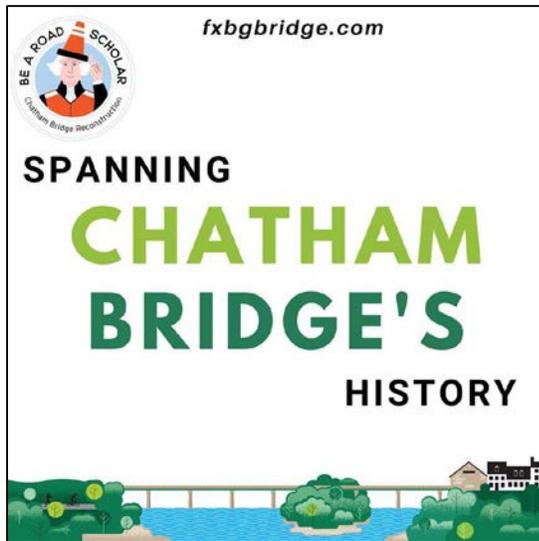
Christmas Parade 2020 Deadline Extended – The Parks, Recreation and Events Department has extended the deadline to November 13th for registering a float in the upcoming “Reverse” Parade on December 5 at 5:30 p.m. The theme this year is **“Light Up the Season!”** Let’s brighten the night and everyone’s spirits as we keep this tradition alive! Organizations and businesses are encouraged to register early. The cost is \$50 for commercial entry, \$25 for non-profit entry, and free to Veterans Groups, school organizations and first responders. More information can be found on the [parade’s webpage](#).

They are working closely with all City departments to format the parade in such a way that health and safety for our participants and the community are top priority. With that, they have redesigned the traditional parade to a **Reverse Parade** format. **Floats will be stationed along Gordon W. Shelton Boulevard and attendees will drive by.** Still free to attendees, it will be similar to a drive-thru light display. This reverse parade format will allow for spacing between parade entries and no direct contact with the public. Staff is excited about the new reverse parade this year, and think it will be a great way to spread some holiday cheer.



“Ask the Mayor” Video Series – In the newest episode, Mayor Greenlaw is joined by the city’s Watershed Manager Officer Joe Young. One of the many things we are proud of is our status as a river city. Fredericksburg is where it is today because of our location along the fall line of the Rappahannock River. We try to take full advantage of the river, working with great local partners. The Rappahannock River Heritage Trail is a wonderful way to take in our lovely river

views while getting some exercise. And now we are building Riverfront Park, which should be open next summer. An easement protects thousands of acres along the Rappahannock, which is the source of our City’s drinking water. [Watch this week's episode](#) Please continue submitting your questions at askthemayor@fredericksburgva.gov. Our revolutionary spirit is stronger than ever and we look forward to continuing to see an active and vibrant city. #lovefxbg



Chatham Bridge Closure – The bridge closed on **June 22 and will stay closed through October 2021** for major improvements. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism is proud to present the weekly social media series, Spanning Chatham Bridge’s History, every Thursday. As our Chatham Bridge undergoes construction, we’re taking a look back on the history of the bridge, and its prominence in downtown Fredericksburg throughout generations. In this week’s edition: Immediately after the Chatham Bridge (Scott’s bridge) was wiped away from the flood, The Free Lance quickly began pushing their idea for the new bridge to be constructed at French John’s Wharf. This leads us to question where exactly is

French John’s Wharf? Who is “French John?”

French John’s Wharf was located at the end of today’s Canal Street alley, which is now owned by the city. John DeBaptiste, a free black man, owned the wharf and operated the Falmouth Ferry there in the late 1700s. DeBaptiste immigrated from St. Kitts, an island in the West Indies, and spoke French and English. Hence the nickname: “French John.” He served in the American Revolution alongside Fielding Lewis, Betty Washington’s husband, and had six children, all who grew up to be local entrepreneurs and tradesmen in the city. His grandson George DeBaptiste, became a leader in the Underground Railroad and helped nearly 200 slaves escape to freedom between 1841 and 1846.

Though John DeBaptiste passed away in 1804, 85 years prior to the Chatham Bridge reconstruction debacle in 1889, the DeBaptiste legacy lived on and still characterized the location of the wharf.

Stay updated: www.virginiadot.org and at www.fxbgbridge.com

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 or accessed through Facebook at 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 for more details or call (540) 372-1010.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) – Information will continue to be provided in written updates shared through our website and social media platforms. See 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. Community members seeking testing can call 540-899-4797 to register in advance. Links to register online are available at www.vdh.virginia.gov/rappahannock. Day-of registrations will also be accepted. For more information on COVID-19 in Virginia, please visit www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus.

CARES Act Funding in Action – The City set aside \$400,000 in CARES Act funding for assistance to individuals in the community and has partnered with the Rappahannock United Way to help Fredericksburg individuals and families who have been directly affected by COVID-19 pay their rent or mortgage. To qualify for City-funded assistance, applicants must live in the City; have a lease, mortgage or proof of landlord-tenant agreement; have suffered a loss of income due to COVID-19; have a rent or mortgage payment that is at or below Fair Market Rent; and must be at or below 80% Area Median Income. In the City, Area Median Income varies based on how many people reside in a household. For example, the maximum income for a one-person household is \$55,750, and the maximum income for a four-person household is \$79,600. If you or someone you know needs assistance, please see www.rappahannockunitedway.org or call Rappahannock United Way at 540-373-0041 (Monday - Friday, 8:00AM - 4:30PM).

Fall Programs – Our Parks, Recreation and Events team is excited to bring back safe, socially distanced programs for the fall season. See attachment and full [listing](#) which continues to grow!



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](#).

COVID - 19

TESTING

DRIVE THRU



FRIDAYS BEGINNING OCTOBER 23RD

LOCATION: DIXON PARK

1300 DIXON ST

FREDERICKSBURG 22401

THESE ARE NO-COST EVENTS



OCTOBER 23

2:30-5:30 PM

Pre-registration
link:

[https://redcap.link/
DixonPark1023](https://redcap.link/DixonPark1023)



OCTOBER 30

2:30-5:30 PM

Pre-registration
link:

[https://redcap.link/
DixonPark1030](https://redcap.link/DixonPark1030)



NOVEMBER 6

1:30-4:30 PM

Pre-registration
link:

[https://redcap.link/
DixonPark116](https://redcap.link/DixonPark116)



NOVEMBER 13

1:30-4:30 PM

Pre-registration
link:

[https://redcap.link/
DixonPark1113](https://redcap.link/DixonPark1113)



TESTING AVAILABLE FOR THOSE AGE 16 AND OVER
PLEASE WEAR A CLOTH FACE COVERING!
For registration assistance, call (540) 899-4797

