



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: November 18, 2020 (for November 24 Council meeting)
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

Fire Recruit School Graduates and Housing of Engine 1 Ceremony – In the last week of October, the Fire Department celebrated three new Fire Medic graduates (all female) and a ceremony that “housed” the new Engine 1. The FF Medics Kristina Linger, Alaina Patterson and Asher Dewey were presented with their fire helmet from Deputy Chief Balderson and their Battalion Chief, Chief Shackelford. The graduation ceremony formally congratulated the graduates on passing



their state fire certification testing as well as welcomed them to the department as firefighters. This has been the Department's second fire school graduation since 2019.

Although history is not complete on the origins of a “wet-down” or “housing” ceremony, fire service history as pieced together by renowned fire service historian and retired Asst. Chief Glenn Corbett of New Jersey, offers some insight on the traditions of housing and wet-downs. Although there are many ways to

celebrate, a common tradition now calls for the retiring apparatus to wet down its new replacement, then be towel dried, and ceremonially pushed backed into its apparatus bay by the company or members of the community. The Fire Department was honored to have City Councilman and former Fredericksburg Volunteer Firefighter Billy Withers and City Manager Tim Baroody, led by our Fire Chief Jones, in



wetting down new Engine 1 with water from retired Engine 1 (Engine 4). It was the first time in memorable history that this type of “housing” ceremony had been performed in the City.



Christmas Parade 2020 – The Parks, Recreation and Events Department has worked hard on designing a safe and fun “Reverse” Parade for **December 5 from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

They worked closely with various City departments to format the parade in such a way that health and safety for participants and the community are a 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. The theme this year is “Light Up the Season!” More information can be found on the [parade’s webpage](#).

New Video on Moment of Recognition

– On October 27, the City recognized the importance of honoring all voices in history at the former site of the Slave Auction Block. See the [video](#) that was created to commemorate the moment. A new wayside panel display with brick renovations and placement of the circular medallion were completed at the site and a brief moment of recognition took place to provide closure. Mayor Greenlaw and Vice-



Mayor Frye gathered as an homage of respect, with the purpose of reflecting as a City organization and how the City has honored its commitment to the community. Phase 1 has been completed, as reported in the [Plan for Relocation](#) to City Council on November 12, 2019.

Important next steps continue to advance through the City’s Racial Equity Plan development and implementation. This marks an important step in the City’s efforts to tell an inclusive history, reflective of a more diverse lens and voice. The City removed the 1,200-pound auction block from the corner of Charles and William Streets, in downtown Fredericksburg, in June 2020. These improvements complete phase one of a multi-phased process to interpret this site of importance. Within the next 18-24 months the City will design a permanent interpretation for this site. In the

block's place, a wayside panel display has been installed to mark the location and share information about the process with all audiences. It is not intended to be comprehensive, but to ensure that the site remains visible and that information is readily available to the public.

The Slave Auction Block has been transported to the Fredericksburg Area Museum, where it will be displayed later this year. Additional details about the planned FAM exhibit will be released at a later time.

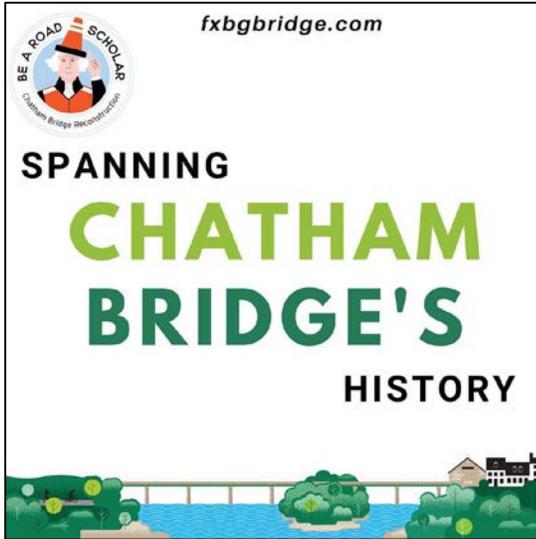


Fall Leaf Collection – The City's Fall Leaf collection program began on November 2nd. Weekly collection schedules will be posted on website (see link below) and weekly updates will be sent via FRED ALERT to subscribers of "leaf collection". Additional Information is available [online](#). Happy raking!

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 frequently wash your hands.

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.

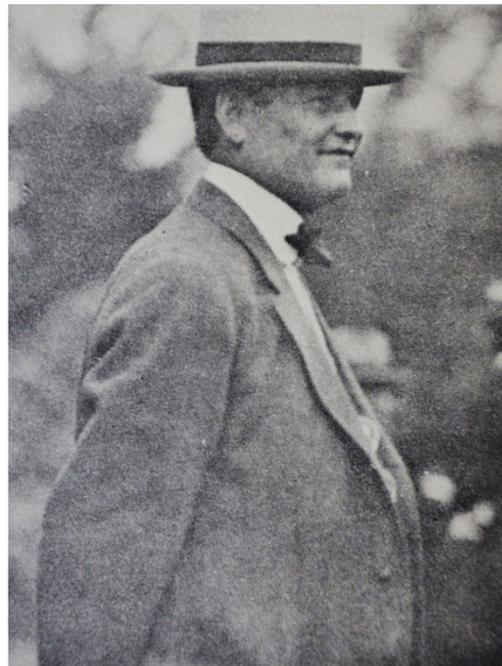




Chatham Bridge Closure – The bridge closed on **June 22 and will stay closed through October 2021** for major improvements. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism is proud to present the weekly social media series, Spanning Chatham Bridge’s History, every Thursday. As our Chatham Bridge undergoes 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: James G. Rowe (pictured) is considered to be one of thoroughbred horse racing’s greatest jockeys and horse trainers. In

fact, he was the youngest trainer to win the Kentucky Derby, is only one of two players who have won the Belmont Stakes as both a jockey and a trainer, and holds the record for 8 total trainer wins. Rowe, who is in the Racing Hall of Fame, trained horses for many notable owners such as August Belmont, a wealthy New York banker and politician. His connection to the Chatham Bridge? The September 9, 1890 publication of The Free Lance gave a shout out to the locally born sportsman. Rowe was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1857, where his father worked as a toll collector on none other than the Chatham Bridge (Scott’s Bridge).

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.

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 – 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](#).

Fred Focus