



## Fredericksburg Parks, Recreation & Events

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: Tim Baroody, City Manager  
Doug Fawcett: Assistant City Manager  
FR: Jane Shelhorse, Director of Parks, Recreation and Events  
RE: 2020 Events Downtown  
DATE: January 6, 2020

*Tim Baroody*  
*approved.*  
*2/11/20*

### ISSUE

The upcoming construction of Riverfront Park, and the anticipated closure of the Chatham Bridge in early May 2020, combined with other construction projects in the historic business district will definitely influence the number and type of events held in downtown in 2020. A determination must be made as to which events will be allowed to continue to be held in the historic business district.

### BACKGROUND

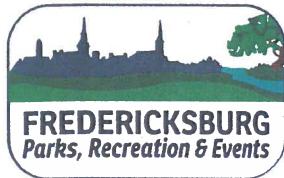
In the summer of 2018, Fredericksburg Parks, Recreation and Events Department partnered with Fredericksburg Main Street to create a strategic plan for events held in the City. Two consultants from the National Main Street organization were hired to facilitate several focus group meetings, develop and circulate surveys, and make recommendations.

Although the consultants were able to submit only a draft report, the Parks Recreation and Events Department has continued to work closely with Fredericksburg Main Street to create an Executive Summary of the survey results and recommendations (attached), and develop guidelines for events held within the historic business district.

In the meantime, VDOT has moved the Chatham Bridge Renovation Project to a priority status, and that project includes the closing of the Chatham Bridge as early as May 1, 2020 for a period of 16 months. At the same time, the City of Fredericksburg will be building Riverfront Park on Sophia Street, and there are a few other private construction projects underway in the downtown historic business district.

With the stress of the closure and construction on the downtown businesses the Special Events Review Committee, working with Fredericksburg Main Street has determined that limiting the number of events and street closures during the Chatham Bridge and Riverfront Park renovations is the best option.

**Commission Members:**  
David Dorsey, Chairman  
Cameron John, Vice-Chairman  
DaCorey Carter  
Timothy Duffy  
Eric Keeler  
Brandon McVade  
Sharon Null  
John Russ  
Sue Sargeant



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## RECOMMENDATION

For this reason, the Special Events Committee and the Parks, Recreation and Events Department recommends the following:

1. Beginning in May 2020 (once the bridge is closed) and continuing through the December 2020 the only two events that will be permitted a Caroline Street road closure will be the Marine Corps Historic Half Marathon/ Semper 5ive, and the Annual Fredericksburg Christmas Parade.
2. Other than the above events, no event-related street closures, including runs/walks will be permitted on Princess Anne Street and Caroline Street between Lafayette Street and Herndon Street.
3. During this period, no events will be permitted a street closure on Sophia Street between Amelia Street and Wolfe Street except the Annual Heritage Festival on July 4<sup>th</sup>.
4. Other than the Heritage Festival, Christmas Parade, Marine Corps Historic Half Marathon/ Semper 5ive and the Annual Fire Department Open House Event no events will be held on side streets directly connected to Caroline Street in the historic business district.
5. No new events that require street closures will be permitted in the downtown historic district from May – December 2020.
6. During October of 2020 the Special Event Review Committee along with representatives from Fredericksburg Main Street will meet to review the status of downtown activity, to determine the feasibility of events that could be held in Riverfront Park and additional closures of Sophia Street during 2021 when the park is completed.

These recommendations will become effective immediately per approval by the City Manager.

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