



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:

City Wins VML Awards – The City of Fredericksburg has been awarded five Local Champion Awards by the Virginia Municipal League for its efforts to protect the health and safety of Fredericksburg during the Covid-19 pandemic. The [Virginia Municipal League](#) is a statewide, nonprofit, nonpartisan association of city, town and county governments. The membership includes 37 cities, 160 towns and eight counties. Their Local Champion Awards recognized local governments for their efforts to provide communication, community health, continuity of operations, economic and business stability, public safety, risk management and education and youth initiatives during the unprecedented Covid-19 public health crisis in 2020. See [news release](#).



Christmas Parade 2020 Deadline Extended – The Parks, Recreation and Events Department is extending the deadline 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.

Virginia Public School Authority Refinances School Bonds – The Virginia Public School Authority is refinancing previously issued school bonds. The City participated in a 2004 issue from the VPSA to provide the funds to build James Monroe High School and Lafayette Upper Elementary School. The City, as a participant, will receive credit for the savings, beginning in FY 2022. Here is a table of the savings, which are preliminary estimates at this point:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Savings
FY 2022	\$197,289
FY 2023	\$198,585
FY 2024	\$208,578
FY 2025	\$210,993
FY 2026	\$235,702
FY 2027	\$239,078
FY 2028	\$236,673
FY 2029	\$237,213
FY 2030	\$239,381
Total	\$2,003,492

The Refunding Bonds are expected to be sold on or about October 20, 2020, and settlement is expected to occur on or around November 10, 2020. The savings schedule will be finalized after closing. The City and the School Board will not be able to change the use of the facilities built with the bonds (Lafayette Upper Elementary School and James Monroe High School) from school use, and there will be a ten-year call provision on the refunding bonds.



Voting in the City – Early voting continues through in-person voting and applying now to receive their absentee ballots by mail 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. All voters are qualified to vote by mail, but must submit an application requesting a ballot. Registered voters of any City or County in Virginia can apply online via the

[Virginia Department of Elections](#) Fredericksburg residents should check the [Fredericksburg Voter Registration](#) webpage for election applications, deadlines, and other information. The deadline to request a ballot is October 23rd at 5:00 p.m. Voters are encouraged to act now.

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).



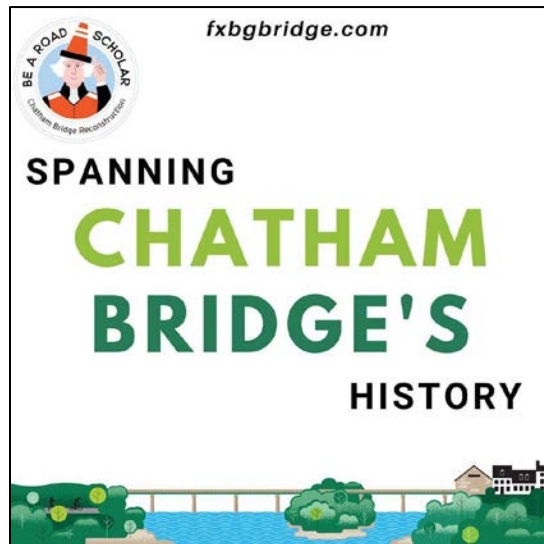
“Ask the Mayor” Video Series – In the newest episode Mayor Greenlaw is joined by Fredericksburg Parks, Recreation and Events Director, Jane Shelhorse. In this episode, Ms. Shelhorse answers your questions about what's happening in the 'Burg.

City staff has been working hard to organize COVID-safe events, classes and programs for us this fall. These include the Fredericksburg Reverse Christmas Parade, Drive-In Bingo, and

more! [Watch this week's episode](#) and then be sure to visit parks.fxbg.com for all of the details.

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: C.S Scott’s great bridge, the third construction of the Chatham Bridge, eventually met its end on June 1, 1889, when the City of Fredericksburg experienced a major flood, during which the Rappahannock river crested at 32.2 feet. Not only

did the flood destroy the Chatham Bridge, but the rapids of the flooded river carried its debris and sent it barreling towards the Railroad Bridge. The Free Lance reported that just before the moment of impact, “women closed their eyes, some screamed and turned away their heads.” Magnificently enough, the Railroad Bridge remained unharmed. On the other hand, the destroyed Chatham Bridge would have to be completely reconstructed. Thus began a heated debate among citizens on the location of the new construction of the Chatham 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.

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.



Free COVID testing! The Rappahannock Area Health District (RAHD), with the support of the Virginia National Guard, will offer free drive-thru COVID-19 testing each Wednesday evening throughout the month of October in the parking lot at Stafford Hospital (101 Hospital Blvd, Stafford, VA, 22554). Testing will be available from 4 to 7 p.m.

In addition to the weekly Wednesday events, RAHD will offer the following community testing events in coordination with Mary Washington Healthcare: **Saturday, October 17, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at**

Hugh Mercer Elementary, 2100 Cowan Blvd, Fredericksburg, VA, and **Saturday, October 24, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Lewis and Clark Elementary**, 18101 Clark and York Blvd, Ruther Glen, VA

Testing is available at no cost to participants, and no prescription or health insurance information is required. The test administered will be the PCR nasal swab that diagnoses active cases of the virus. Results will be available for all participants approximately three days after the event.

All events will be drive-thru, and individuals seeking testing should be seated near a window of the vehicle. All in attendance are asked to wear a cloth face covering.

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 visit <https://www.rappahannockunitedway.org/get-help/individual/housingassistance/> or call Rappahannock United Way at 540-373-0041 (Monday - Friday, 8:00AM - 4:30PM).



Maury Playground Refreshed – On Saturday, September 26, the UMW Community Outreach and Resources (COAR) students and the Tree Fredericksburg Tree Stewards did some sprucing up of the Maury Playground. The volunteers, all wearing masks, worked at the park for about three hours, trimming up trees and adding mulch. A great way for UMW students to be a part of their community, yet staying safe, as they return to classes.

Mother Son Dance – On Friday, September 25, Parks, Recreation and Events held the 2020 Mother Son Dance at the Fredericksburg Fairgrounds. The event had originally been scheduled for May, but had been postponed because of the pandemic. Using the pavilion at the fairgrounds gave the 100 participants (wearing masks!) plenty of space to enjoy a couple of hours dancing. One family even arrived by limousine! The pavilion was the perfect place for the event, with the ability to be outside, yet covered when the evening rain hit. The event was a big success, based on the comments from attendees.

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](#).