MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council
FROM: Timothy J. Baroody, City Manager
DATE: January 7, 2021 (for January 12 Council meeting)
SUBJECT: City Manager’s Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

**Winter Restaurant Week** is returning to Fredericksburg **January 15 - 24** with an expanded territory and a different focus. This year’s promotion is open to restaurants throughout the City of Fredericksburg, including the traditional downtown footprint. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s focus will be on takeout and delivery meals from Fredericksburg’s fabulous restaurants. We’re calling it “The ‘Burg in a Bag.”

“Restaurants need our support more than ever, and we hope that people will come out in droves this Winter Restaurant Week to show how much we value their delicious products and commitment to the community,” said Fredericksburg Visitor Center Manager Danelle Rose.

Thanks to the generous support of the Fredericksburg Economic Development Authority, the Fredericksburg Visitor Center will be selling 20 percent discounted gift cards to restaurants participating in this year’s promotion. The cards will be sold at the Fredericksburg Visitor Center (706 Caroline Street) and online. Look for more details soon on this promotion as well as the list of participating restaurants at FredericksburgRestaurantWeek.com. We can’t wait to see what our restaurants have in store for you!

**Deadline Extended for the CARES Utility Relief Funds** – The deadline for applications for the CARES Utility Relief Funds has been extended to January, 15, 2021. City water and sewer customers may have an opportunity for funding from the CARES Act. Customers must be affected by the global pandemic, and owe a past due balance as of the end of November, to be eligible for this opportunity. To be considered, please submit a brief application for CARES Utility Relief Funds. Details are online https://www.fredericksburgva.gov/1695/CARES-Utility-Relief-Funds or call (540) 993-1655 for information.
New City Employee Core Values Video – The City of Fredericksburg is committed to six core values that guide our employees in the workplace. By living these values we can assure those who count on us daily as public servants that we will always work to achieve the highest standards in service delivery. These Core Values proved even more valuable during the Covid-19 pandemic, when our "Team Fredericksburg" faced unprecedented circumstances and tackled the challenges together. Our Values: Agile Innovation, Abundant Compassion, Outstanding Customer Service, Energized Work Environment, Essential Engagement and Unwavering Stewardship. We invite you to watch our video: https://youtu.be/qdn_BHZtk9Q

Year End Video – “Freehling Finds” is a weekly video series that showcases business and events in the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia. This video takes a look back at 2020 and shows the development and resiliency of the city during the difficult COVID-19 restrictions. Watch all of the 50 weekly videos of 2020 on YouTube here: bit.ly/3pYu94H

In the words of Bill Freehling, "Thank you for watching!"
**New Public Art Mural** – A blank white fence at 823 Caroline Street in Downtown Fredericksburg will soon be adorned with five paintings done by a group of local students. Late last year, about 15 students in kindergarten through fifth grade working in two different groups at Art Time for Kids created the paintings for an exhibit to be called “Fredericksburg: Past, Present, Future, Strong.” Claire Ellinger, who owns the business at 101 Hanover Street, said she approached the owner of the white fence, Jim Nikitakis, about hanging the panels there, and he graciously agreed. Ellinger plans to spruce up the fence in the coming week and then hang the paintings. Handymen interested in volunteering can contact Ellinger through the Art Time for Kids website. A sneak peek of what it will look like can be found on the Art Time for Kids Facebook page. We look forward to seeing this great addition to downtown take shape!

**Fall Leaf Collection** – The City’s Fall Leaf collection program is in the final stages of collection. 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!

**2021 Winter Catalog** – Read the newest issue online to learn about our January - March programs being offered. Yes, we are bringing back Soccer, Field Hockey, Baseball, as well as Nature, STEM, Cooking classes and more. Wondering about our Covid-19 protocols? Masks are required for indoor programs. For outdoor programs, masks are required when social distancing cannot be maintained (more detail about sports protocols in the publication). Questions? Feel free to contact us at 540-372-1086 or fredprpf@fredericksburgva.gov. Read it now: https://issuu.com/fre.../docs/fpre_winter2021_catalog_online
Alum Spring Park Playground – We are so excited to share our newest additions to the Alum Spring Park playground! We owe a very special thanks to all who contributed through our "Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation Director’s Fund" to help us expand the playground by adding these new pieces. Be sure to stop by and have your little ones try them out!

Alum Spring Park is located at the end of Greenbrier Drive. This wooded park with a footbridge is equipped with a picnic shelter, picnic tables, restrooms, grill and walking paths. Alum Spring Park may be closed during inclement weather or due to conditions considered hazardous to the public’s safety. Please sign up for Fredericksburg Alerts at www.Fredericksburgalert.com. This is how you will be notified of any park closures or delays. The park is open daily, closed dusk to dawn. For more information on renting the park and shelter, call the Parks, Recreation & Events office at 540-372-1086 ext. 0.

Fredericksburg Fine Arts Show returns for its 70th year this spring. Fredericksburg Parks, Recreation and Events Department has issued a call for artists to enter the popular and long-running art show held annually at the Dorothy Hart Community Center. This event co-sponsored by the Woman’s Club of Fredericksburg and proceeds from the show support the Woman’s Club local scholarship programs and city parks and recreation programs. This year’s event will follow the Governor’s safety protocols for preventing covid-19, while preserving this important tradition for local artists and art admirers. More information about this year’s show is available at parks.fxbg.com or by calling 540-372-1086.
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, 2020 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 a recent holiday edition: 130 years ago, amidst the magical snowfall on a peaceful Christmas morning in Fredericksburg, the fourth construction Chatham Bridge was opened for the first time to the public in 1890. The “first” citizen to cross the bridge in their vehicle was Captain Terrance McCracken of the city’s Bridge Construction Committee. However, later in the afternoon a local boy revealed that on Christmas Eve the day before, Charles Wallace and Mayor A.P. Rowe, also members of the committee, caught wind of said trip and “deemed it prudent to cross the bridge in a buggy just to test its strength.”
Despite the discrepancy of who got the honor of declaring themselves “the first to cross” the new iron bridge over Scott’s Island, it was officially opened to the public on Christmas Day. Echoing the community’s wishes, crossing the bridge was free of charge until January 1. Stay updated: www.virginiadot.org and at www.fxbbridge.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.

**Winter Programs** – Our Parks, Recreation and Events team is continually working on fun, safe, and socially distanced programs for the season. See the full listing which continues to grow! See flyers attached.

**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.
Join us every other Wednesday throughout the winter for Family Game Night…drive-in style! We will play Bingo and Trivia for great prizes! The parking lot will open at 6pm. Participants must remain in their vehicles at all times. Games will be played through your car radio. Bingo details: playing cards will be provided but please bring your own marker. Call Bingo by honking your horn and then turning on flashers. Trivia details: everyone in one car is one team and questions will range for all age groups. We will use Kahoot to provide an interactive platform for teams. Each team will need at least one cellular device with the ability to download the Kahoot app or visit Kahoot.com to play.

6:30 PM
Bingo- $5 per player
Trivia- $10 per team
Pre-registration is required.
Register online or call 540-372-1086 X0

January 13- Bingo Night
January 27- Trivia Night
February 10- Bingo Night
February 24- Trivia Night
March 10- Bingo Night

Dorothy Hart Community Center Parking Lot
Come join us for a free family movie night in the park. The movie will be played through your car radio. We will have a food truck available for dinner.

Sat., Jan. 9 - Frozen II
Fri., Feb. 19 - Jumanji: The Next Level
Sat., March 6 - Trolls World Tour

Gates open at 5pm
Movie starts at 6pm

Admission free
Old Mill Park
(Location subject to change)
Join us on Tuesdays throughout the winter for some Super Seniors Fun and Games! We will play drive-in bingo, watch movies and play trivia. During drive-in bingo and trivia participants will remain in their vehicles while games is played through your car radio. Movie and trivia (unless changed) will be held in the auditorium with spaced out seating. Participants are welcome to bring their own chairs for comfort but we will have chairs available too. Seats are very limited indoors due to Governor’s Orders and social distancing requirements. Dates may be changed to drive-in or cancelled based on current guidelines.

Tues. Jan. 12 - Drive-In Bingo
Tues. Feb. 9 - Drive-In Trivia
Tues. Feb. 23 - Drive-In Bingo
Tues. March 2 - Movie
Tues. March 23 - Trivia

Time: 10:30am

Dorothy Hart Community Center

Pre-registration is required. Register online or call 540-372-1086 x0