

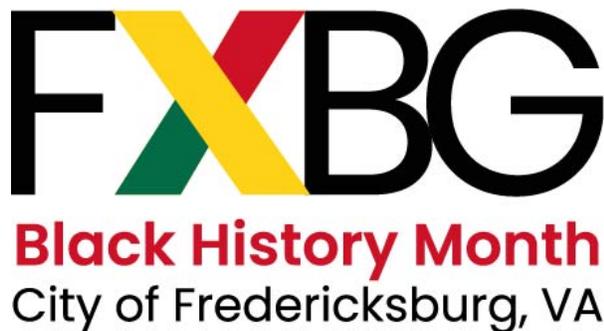


MEMORANDUM

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: February 4, 2021 (for February 9 Council meeting)
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:



February is traditionally celebrated as Black History Month. As a community dedicated to diversity, equity and inclusion, we are proud to celebrate Black History Month each year by fostering and sharing the history, achievements and contributions of African Americans in Fredericksburg and beyond.

We invite you to celebrate with us in our local Black history here in Fredericksburg. Share in our notable Black stories. Support our local Black-owned businesses. Find events and ways to get involved in celebrating online. And read about the importance of Black families and the rich resources available on the national websites also linked on our website at: <https://www.fredericksburgva.gov/1735/Black-History-Month>

Ask the Mayor Video – Vice-Mayor Frye joins Mayor Greenlaw in this edition and they discuss Black History Month and the new wayside panels added downtown. In August 2020 Fredericksburg City Council allocated funding and staff resources to advance our community's efforts in better representing Fredericksburg's full history to share a more inclusive lens to our story. These [three new panels](#) help to tell a more complete story of African American influence and experience in Fredericksburg's history. Watch the [video](#).





Freehling Finds Video – Watch this week's "[Freehling Finds](#)" to learn about the three new Black History panels that the City of Fredericksburg is installing at historic downtown locations. Thanks to the help of researchers at the University of Mary Washington and City staff, these new panels are now significant additions to the City's wayside historic markers. Chris Williams, Assistant Director of UMW James Farmer

Multicultural Center and Victoria Matthews, Tourism Sales Manager of Economic Development and Tourism share information with Freehling about the recent work on these new panels. For more information please visit www.fredericksburgva.gov/1736/New-Wayside-Panels.



FXBG Diverse City – The Department of Economic Development and Tourism is proud to announce the launch of a new 5 month-long program aimed at promoting diverse local businesses- FXBG Diverse City.

Every Tuesday and Saturday the FXBG EDT Facebook and Instagram pages will feature a 22401 business while following monthly themes:

February: Black-owned businesses (for Black History Month)

March: Women-owned businesses (for Women's History Month)

April: Minority-owned businesses (for

Celebrate Diversity Month)

May: Small businesses (for Small Business Month)

June: LGBTQIA+ businesses (for LGBTQIA+ Pride Month)

While each post falls into a theme, support for these businesses should reach beyond their recognized months. However you can, in ways big or small, support diverse Fredericksburg businesses throughout the year. This program is graciously funded by the Economic Development Authority. Stay up to date on all future FXBG Diverse City posts at VisitFred.com



COVID-19 Vaccination Update – The Rappahannock Area Health District (RAHD) is currently vaccinating individuals who meet [Tier 1b](#). Please sign up to receive the vaccine if you are age 65 or over or have underlying medical conditions through the RAHD sign up page located on their website at www.vdh.virginia.gov/rappahannock Also employers of essential worker please use this [link](#) to sign up your workplace. Please call (540) 899-4797 for questions from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

2021 Parks and Recreation Winter Catalog – Read the newest issue online to learn about our new 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



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 Update From VDOT – It's a new year, and we're getting closer every day to a new look for the Chatham Bridge! Progress is on track to reopen the improved Chatham Bridge over the Rappahannock River to traffic in October 2021. Crews continue to set beams that will form the foundation for the new bridge deck that will carry Route 3 Business traffic between Stafford County and the City of Fredericksburg.

While beams are being set from the Stafford approach, crews on the Fredericksburg approach continue to repair the bridge pier caps that will support new beams when work advances across the river.



When the bridge reopens in October, bicyclists, runners and walkers will also be able to use a new pedestrian path on the bridge's downstream side. There will be periodic single lane closures after October as the contractor finishes the project, but these should have a minimal effect on travel as most work will be occurring underneath the deck. All construction will be finished in April 2022.

Watch the progress online from the project's time-lapse construction camera, which is updated every 10 minutes: <https://app.oxblue.com/open/vdot/chatham>

Watch a simulation video showing how the bridge will appear when it reopens: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHojfOasmc8&feature=youtu.be>
Learn more about the project at <http://www.virginiadot.org/chathambridge>

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!



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](#).