



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: July 7, 2021 (for July 13 Council meeting)
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:



Fredericksburg's newest park expected to open late summer –

After more than a decade of planning, land acquisition, and designing, Riverfront Park is nearing completion. A phased opening is expected to begin late this summer. Riverfront Park, located along Sophia Street in Historic Downtown, will be a significant, nearly 4 acre, public space downtown. When complete, it will feature Rappahannock River views with open space, event space, an interactive water feature, a meadow area, and a children's play area. Direct river access will also be a feature, complimented by upgraded dock infrastructure.



Solar-powered lights and smart-technology infrastructure will bring contemporary design and upgraded technology to the downtown area, while the park's design and materials will celebrate Fredericksburg's history as a riverside city. Riverfront Park will be Fredericksburg's first "Smart Park." The first phase will provide public Wi-Fi and security cameras. The infrastructure is also

upgraded technology to the downtown area, while the park's design and materials will celebrate Fredericksburg's history as a riverside city. Riverfront Park will be Fredericksburg's first "Smart Park." The first phase will provide public Wi-Fi and security cameras. The infrastructure is also

designed for future additions such as a digital information kiosks, an eventual public performance stage and restrooms, and environmental sensors for air quality and river flooding, and more. Visitors to the park will be able to enjoy shaded seating areas, climb on sustainably forested local logs and play among a river-themed rock bed. Children will also find self-actuated water jets that spring from the ground on demand to cool them during the summer months.

This city park is a collaborative work over many years to live a vision outlined as many as three decades ago. City Council appointed the Riverfront Task Force who labored through much of the last decade to bring ideas, concepts and budget estimates to the community. The Mayor and City Council identified the Riverfront Park as Priority #7 in their 2036 Vision work (accomplished in 2016) and directed staff to build the park in 2017. Design and engineering work concluded in 2018, and the project was out to bid for construction in 2019.

Riverfront Park’s play area and walkways are scheduled to open later this summer. The performance lawn and meadow area will remain closed to help ensure the grass and meadow mix grows for several more months. Additional information will be released closer to the opening date.

Midnight Madness Returning this Summer – The City Schools, Parks, Recreation and Events and the Police Department partner together to provide this free open gym program for upcoming 7th graders through seniors in high school (22401 only). This summer Midnight Madness will be held July 9, 16, 23, and 30th at James Monroe High School from 7:00 pm – 10:30 PM. City Schools are providing bus transportation and it will be provided from locations throughout the City. Besides pickup basketball games, teens can also enjoy video games and a hearty snack during the program. Midnight Madness is free, but **pre-registration is REQUIRED** before children may attend the program. Registration information can be found at www.parks.fxbg.com

Traffic Safety Initiative – The Police Department has launched a traffic safety initiative to target areas in the City where distracted driving and speeding have become a public safety concern. Drivers, be advised that the Police Department will be heavily enforcing speeding, reckless driving, disregard of stop signs, and failure to obey red lights. Want to avoid a ticket? Drive smart and safe, #FXBG.



Fredericksburg Nationals July 31th Game – The City of Fredericksburg is excited to be a game night sponsor of Gus' Summer Games at the Saturday, July 31st baseball game. Lace up your sneakers and get ready to compete! Go to www.milb.com/fredericksburg for more details.



Summer Restaurant Week runs Friday, July 23 through Sunday, August 1st. Eat Local. Support Local. Restaurants and details can be found online at FredericksburgRestaurantWeek.com. More than 25 restaurants are participating and will be offering various breakfast, lunch and dinner specials. See details [here](#).

Stuff the Bus – Help the Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office, Fredericksburg Fire Department, and the Fredericksburg Police Department "stuff the bus" with school supplies for City youth Saturday, July 9th and July 16th. They will be collecting items at the Central Park Walmart located at 1800 Carl D. Silver Parkway from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Thank you for helping ensure every student in the City has the items they need to excel in school!





FXBG StoryWalk Updated Following UMW Project – Fredericksburg has a new tale along its StoryWalk, and this one is extra special. This past semester, education students at the University of Mary Washington developed a children’s book specifically for our community and the StoryWalk along the Rappahannock River Heritage Trail.

The story, “Alex’s Day on the Rappahannock,” will be available through September. In it, the main character, Alex, discovers more about our Rappahannock River, how to enjoy it safely, and how to take care of it. The Fredericksburg StoryWalk is along the Rappahannock River Heritage Trail and Caroline Street between Old Mill Park and Ford Street.

FXBG Movie Night at Dixon Park – Enjoy a FREE summer movie night with at Dixon Park featuring “Raya and the Last Dragon.” Gates open at 7:30 pm and the movie will start at 8:30 pm. Food Truck will be on site for dinner. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets. For more information please call 540-372-1086 or email prfrontdesk@fredericksburgva.gov.

Around the Town
TROLLEY
FREE EVERY 20 MIN.
FRI. AND SAT.
5:00-8:30PM

Weekend Downtown Shuttle – The City’s popular FREE downtown weekend shuttle service runs through Labor Day Weekend, on Fridays and Saturdays between 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Use the service to take advantage of the plentiful parking along the route and then ride to their favorite restaurants or attractions, or simply to enjoy a scenic 20-minute trip around downtown Fredericksburg. The shuttle, which is operated by our friends at Trolley Tours of Fredericksburg, will make the

following stops: Fredericksburg Visitor Center / Intersection of Caroline and William streets / Princess Anne Street near Carl’s Frozen Custard / Canal Quarter near Red Dragon Brewery / William and Winchester streets near Mellow Mushroom / William and Charles streets near Castiglia’s. Riders can also make requests for additional stops, time permitting. Find out

more [online](#) or inquire at the Fredericksburg Visitor Center. There is parking at the Sophia Street Parking Garage and the VRE lot during these times, to park and ride the shuttle to your downtown destinations.

CARES Utility Relief Funds for Water and Wastewater Service Billed by the City of Fredericksburg – City water and sewer customers may have an opportunity for funding from the CARES Act. Customers must be affected by the global pandemic and have accounts in arrears greater than 30 days to be eligible for this opportunity. To be considered, please submit a brief application for CARES Utility Relief Funds. Applications may be submitted via our website. For assistance or questions, or to submit the application by telephone, please call us at (540) 372-1017 ext. 235. Applications must be submitted by close of business October 1st, 2021.

Residential refuse collection fees are not eligible for relief under program guidelines.

The amended budget for the Commonwealth of Virginia, recently signed by Governor Northam, will allow those customers who are still impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic to receive assistance with their water and wastewater bills. If you are still affected by the pandemic and have already received aid in the first round of relief, you are eligible to apply again. Previously receiving aid WILL NOT affect your eligibility for relief. This is a continuation of the program enacted in late December aimed towards relief for utility customers whose accounts are in arrears.

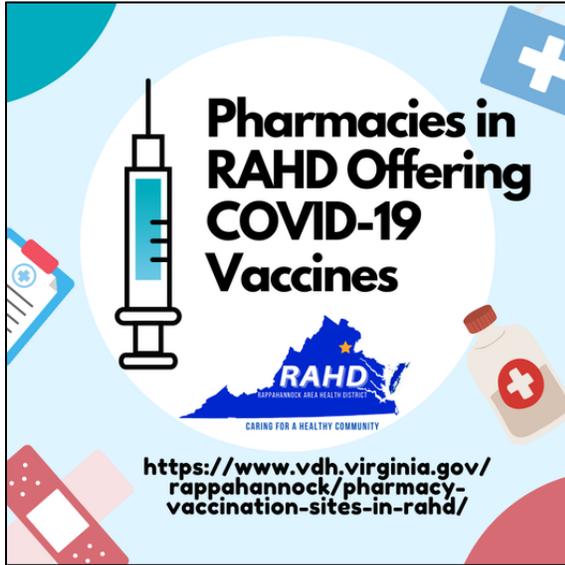
Submission of an application does not guarantee any or all of a customer's account arrearages will be offset by CARES Utility Relief Funds. After the application period, the City Finance Department will complete an analysis of each account to determine eligibility. Due to program guidelines, customers that are 60 days or greater in arrears will be given priority for forgiveness. See additional info [here](#).

Board and Commission Openings – Are you a city resident? Passionate about your community? Serving on a board or commission can be an excellent way to shape government initiatives in your community. The City is currently seeking applicants for the following:

- Arts Commission
- Board of Building Codes Appeals
- Board of Social Services
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
- Memorials Advisory Commission
- Rappahannock Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board & Board of Directors
- Recreation Commission

To learn more and apply, visit: <https://www.fredericksburgva.gov/221/Boards-Commissions> or please feel free to call the City Manager's office at 540-372-1010.

The **Fredericksburg Farmers Market** is open for the season. The farmers market is located in Hurkamp Park and open every Saturday, 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. now through October, with an expanded list of vendors. Art in the Park has returned again this year, and is held on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 9:00am – 1:00pm now through October. More information is available online at fxbgfarmersmarket.com or please call 540-372-1086.



COVID-19 Vaccines Update – Everyone in Virginia age 12 or older is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine now. Pre-registration is no longer required. Getting a shot has never been easier—vaccines are readily available at many supermarket pharmacies, hospitals, doctor’s offices, local health department clinics, and state-run community vaccination centers. To find a vaccine provider near you, visit vaccinate.virginia.gov, call 877-VAX-IN-VA (877-829-4682), or text your ZIP code to GETVAX (438829) for English or VACUNA (822862) for Spanish. Call center representatives are available from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through

Saturday. Additionally, local residents can also obtain a vaccine at Mary Washington Hospital by registering at vaccinate.mwhc.com.

Summer Programs – Our Parks, Recreation and Events team is continually working on fun and safe programs for this 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](#).