



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council
FROM: Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager
DATE: November 5, 2013
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

Fredericksburg Holiday Ornament Uses Local Artistry - The Economic Development and Tourism Department and downtown retailer *Heather* collaborated to develop a Fredericksburg-themed holiday ornament for 2013. The department put out a "Call for Artists" this summer and received applications from a variety of artists and studios before selecting ceramic artist Christine Lush-Rodriguez's winning design. One of the primary goals of this project was to keep the design and production of the ornament local, and Mrs. Lush-Rodriguez's handmade ceramic ornaments are unique to Fredericksburg in both their artistic design and quality craftsmanship. The limited edition ornaments will go on sale during the Holiday Open House weekend on November 9 and 10 and will sell for \$27.50 at both the Fredericksburg Visitor Center and *Heather* at 721 Caroline Street. There will also be a special ornament signing event at *Heather* during First Friday in December from 5 to 7:30 p.m.



Bond Rating Agency Monitoring - From time to time, the major bond rating agencies (Fitch's, Standard & Poor's, and Moody's) will monitor the financial and economic conditions in the City and scrutinize the ratings they have assigned to the City's outstanding bonds. Fitch's Rating Agency recently contacted the City for a monitoring update and report. The Fiscal Affairs team worked through the questions from Fitch's and provided their analysts with information and updates with events in the City. This

week, the City received confirmation from Fitch's of the current double-A bond rating, with a stable outlook.

Dominion Power Projects - Dominion Power has completed their two volunteer projects at Old Mill Park. The first project consisted of installing a new electric line from the Maintenance Building to Shelter 1, which allows for greater flexibility in the management of major events and also creates the ability to run several smaller events in the park simultaneously. The second project consisted of the removal of several dead trees and many dangerous limbs. A *Cut Above Tree Service* donated their services for the day, chipping the tree remnants and grinding out the stumps. Parks Maintenance staff members were on hand the entire day to assist in any way necessary. The projects were completed on October 16.

Downtown Tree Well Rehabilitation Project - The Public Works and Parks, Recreation & Public Facilities Departments, along with Tree Fredericksburg, have completed the renovation of eleven tree wells in the 900 block of Caroline Street. The project involved the removal of dead, dying, and damaged street trees, realignment and refurbishment of tree wells, installation of new trees, and the installation of a new rubberized mulch



system in each new tree well. A variety of trees were planted, including Everclear elm, Chinese Pistache, Musashino Zelkova, Autumn Spire Maple, and Golden Globe Ginkgo. For the convenience of downtown patrons, the tree well locations were shifted to align them away from car doors as much as possible.

During the week of November 4, the final key element of the project was completed with the installation of a new rubberized tree mulching system. The mulching system was explored by the Tree Committee over the past year. A trial installation on two tree wells was completed in the spring with good results, leading to the selection of the 900 block of Caroline Street as the pilot project for the new mulching system. The rubberized mulch provides an attractive durable surface that is relatively easy to maintain. It is more porous than natural mulch, allowing water to drain readily to tree roots, and provides a smooth and level surface for pedestrians. Early comments about the new mulching system on Caroline Street are positive, and the Public Works Department is considering installing it in more trees wells in the downtown in 2014 as funds are available.

Recreation Commission Banquet - The Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation Commission Banquet will be held on Thursday, November 21 at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House. The Banquet will honor the many Parks and Recreation volunteers and contributors and thank them all for another outstanding year.

Grounds Maintenance Request for Proposals - The Grounds Maintenance Requests for Proposals are due by noon on November 8. A pre-proposal meeting was held on October 25 in the Dorothy Hart Community Center. The City has received interest from several businesses and it is anticipated that a contract will be awarded by December 1.

Urban Trail Ride - This longstanding tradition of over twenty years will “hoof” on through downtown Fredericksburg on November 9. Participants in the Urban Trail Ride will ride their personal horses on a guided tour led by retired Fredericksburg Officer Jim Shelhorse and his wife Jane. *Thunder 104.5* is generously donating breakfast for the ride, the *Rising Sun Tavern* will pass out hot cider and give riders some history, and the Police Department will be on-site providing support and traffic control.

Preservation Conference - On October 21 at Preservation Virginia's annual conference in Roanoke, Senior Planner Erik Nelson provided a session from his popular architectural review board training series. Mr. Nelson teamed up with Loudoun County planner Heidi Siebentritt and Leesburg ARB member Terri Minchew to present “It's OK, We're with the Government: How Architectural Review Boards Fit and Function Within the Larger Preservation Landscape.” Preservation Virginia is the renamed Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, which absorbed the Preservation Alliance of Virginia as well as its mission to support review boards throughout the Commonwealth. Mr. Nelson has worked with other planners and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to ensure this critical training is provided at least annually. Two members of the Fredericksburg Architectural Review Board also attended the conference.

Over the Edge Fundraiser - On October 18, the members of Team Fredericksburg from the Police Department went “Over the Edge” for Special Olympics Virginia by rappelling from a 25-story building in Richmond. The City's team raised more than \$11,000, surpassing every other team in the state in donations. Pictures from the event can be viewed at this [link](#).

New Police K-9 Team - Officer Lee Ridenour and his partner Loki graduated from K-9 School on October 31. The school was sponsored by the Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office and three canine teams completed the course. Officer Ridenour and Loki are now certified for drug detection and patrol tactics by the Virginia Police Canine Association.



Holiday Parking Extended in the Downtown Commercial District - Beginning November 9 through December 31, the normal two hour on-street parking will be extended an additional two hours, to encourage shopping and dining for the holiday season. See attached flyer and map for more details.



November 9th - December 31st

Four Hour Parking for Shopping and Dining
Compliments of the City of Fredericksburg
and Fredericksburg Main Street

For more information contact the Public Works Department at (540) 372-1023.

City of Fredericksburg Christmas Shopping Season On Street Parking in Historic Downtown



EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 9 – DECEMBER 31, 2013:

Motorists will be permitted to park for **FOUR HOURS** at **ON STREET PARKING** spaces signed for two hour parking within the area shown on the above map. The four hour restriction will apply Monday – Saturday, 9:00am – 5:00 pm during this period. On street parking during other periods is not time-restricted.

Restrictions on parking near intersections or fire hydrants, in accessible spaces or in spaces signed for periods shorter than two hours will remain in effect during this period. Timed parking restrictions are not enforced on holidays. However, the other restrictions referenced above are enforced at all times.

On January 1, 2014, the **TWO HOUR** limit on parking spaces with signs indicating this limit will resume.

Questions about this matter may be directed to the Public Works Department at (540) 342-1023 or dfawcett@fredericksburgva.gov.

LEGEND:

1. Paid Parking Garage: Intersection of Sophia Street and Wolfe Street (entrance on Wolfe Street).
2. Free Parking Lot: 700 block of Sophia Street, between Charlotte and Hanover Streets.
3. Free Parking Lot: 800 – 900 block of Sophia Street, end of George Street.
4. Free Parking Lot: 1000 block of Sophia Street, next to Barefoot Green's, no restrictions.

 Paid Parking Garage Symbol

 Free Parking Lot Symbol

 Four Hour Parking Area