



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council
FROM: Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager
DATE: October 7, 2014
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

VCR Trail – Don't Walk Really Means Don't Walk - Since the opening of the Virginia Central Railway Trail on September 20, the Public Works staff has been carefully monitoring the intersection and the Police Department has been enforcing motorist compliance with the new traffic pattern. Pedestrian compliance with the Walk/Don't Walk signals has generally been poor. For example, during a one hour period on September 30, a member of the City staff observed eight pedestrians cross with only one pushing the button and waiting for the Walk signal. The new traffic pattern at the intersection has been established for the safety of both motorists and pedestrians, but is especially designed to provide pedestrians and cyclists a safe means of crossing the Blue and Gray Parkway. The pedestrian signals are very visible and are easy to understand and use. Pedestrians who ignore the signals are not only exposing themselves unnecessarily to danger, but are also breaking the law.

If you are a user of the trail, please respect and obey the signals at the Blue and Gray Parkway. The extra minute or two you have to wait for the "Walk" signal will not measurably detract from your enjoyment of the trail (and may also prevent you from experiencing serious injury and/or the unpleasantness of receiving a citation and accompanying fine for disobeying a traffic signal.)

Officer Recognized for Crisis Intervention Skills - Crisis intervention training (CIT) is a critical component of an officer's experience and responsibilities. In 2013, city police officers served a total of 275 emergency custody orders and temporary detention orders. These orders are issued by a judge or magistrate for the purpose of detaining a person for a mental health evaluation due to behavior that indicates a mental health crisis. To proactively manage this aspect of law enforcement responsibility, a number of Fredericksburg's officers have received 40 hours of specialized crisis intervention training to enable them to handle these encounters safely.

On October 8, Officer Corey Dobson was recognized at the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board quarterly CIT meeting for his exceptional skill in handling a situation involving a mentally ill individual. The emergency services therapist who

nominated Officer Dobson wrote about a recent occasion where the officer was at the hospital with a lady who was experiencing symptoms of psychosis. "She was agitated and uncooperative with the medical staff and members of emergency services. Officer Dobson remained calm, talked to the woman in crisis, listened to her and was ultimately able to calm her down. With high levels of empathy and active listening, he was able to get the woman to cooperate with the medical staff. Officer Dobson has shown exceptional use of his CIT skills and is nominated this quarter to be recognized for his commitment to the community and dedication to using the crisis intervention team skills he has learned."

Officer Receives Madd Award - Officer Ryan Merrell was recently recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving for his efforts to combat DUI offenses. Officer Merrell was responsible for 39 of the 243 DUI/DUID arrests made by the Fredericksburg Police Department in 2013. He was personally responsible for 16 percent of the DUI/DUID arrests. He accomplished that while assigned to a regular patrol squad and he was also responsible for answering calls for service and other proactive policing duties.

Additionally, Officer Merrell regularly volunteered to work overtime and special details focused on DUI interdiction and highway safety. Officer Merrell serves as an excellent example, showing that a regular patrol officer tasked with a wide array of duties can have a meaningful impact on highway safety through proactive DUI enforcement.



United Way Day of Caring - On September 26, ten city employees participated in the annual [Rappahannock United Way](#) Day of Caring. Volunteers from throughout the region assisted non-profit agencies in a wide variety of improvement projects. This year city employees completed projects at the [Rappahannock Emergency Medical Services Council](#) and at [Rappahannock Legal Services](#). Landscaping, general cleaning and the moving and organizing of numerous filing cabinets were just a few of the tasks completed.



Holiday Parking Extended in the Downtown Commercial District - Beginning November 8 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 8th - 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 8 – DECEMBER 31, 2014:

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, 2015, 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 the Happy Clam, no restrictions.



Paid Parking Garage Symbol



Free Parking Lot Symbol



Four Hour Parking Area