



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council
FROM: Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager
DATE: June 16, 2015
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

Social Service Employees Recognized for Energy Assistance Programs - Department of Social Service employees, Judy Giddings and Bonnie Oakes, were among the honorees at this year's Salvation Army Volunteer appreciation program. Ms. Giddings and Ms. Oakes administer the various energy assistance programs for DSS. Energy assistance programs include: Cooling (June – August), Fuel (October – November), and Crisis (December – March). When funding is available, DSS works closely with the Salvation Army to determine eligibility for assistance through the Energy Share program which they administer.

In addition to their collaboration with the Salvation Army, Ms. Giddings and Ms. Oakes perform targeted outreach in the community. In May, they made a presentation at Old Mill Park on the Energy Assistance programs and they also facilitate the application process by hand delivering and picking up applications. Energy assistance provides eligible families and elderly residents with funding to cool their homes in the summer and heat their homes in the winter. In FY 2015, Ms. Giddings and Ms. Oakes processed 372 cooling applications (total benefit of \$42,964), 530 fuel applications (total benefit \$160,517) and 116 crisis applications (total benefit \$21,322).

Flag Retirement Ceremony - A retirement ceremony for U.S. flags was held Saturday, June 13 at the Fredericksburg-Rappahannock Chapter Izaak Walton League of America Park in Spotsylvania County. The flags are collected at City Hall and the Dorothy Hart Community Center in special boxes designed for that purpose. Approximately 215 U.S. flags and twelve Virginia flags were respectfully retired during the ceremony.

This is the third flag retirement ceremony held by the Izaak Walton League, local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts troops, and the City since Fredericksburg joined the [*Retire Your Old Glory*](#) program in August 2013. The program is based in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania, just north of Pittsburgh. The City Hall and DHCC flag collection sites are two of thirteen collection sites in the program. Fredericksburg is the only Virginia locality participating in the program.

Since the *Retire Your Old Glory* initiative was established in May 2011, over 11,000 U.S. flags have been retired in a correct and fitting manner through the program. Approximately 580 of those flags have been collected and retired through the City's participation in the program.



Highlighting the Outdoors via Social Media - Staff from the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities worked with regional stakeholders on a statewide social media initiative for Virginia's [June Great Outdoors Month](#). The "instameet" program, coordinated by the Virginia Tourism Corporation, invited localities to host a photography-centered event celebrating Virginia's natural beauty and outdoor adventure tourism assets. City staff collaborated with partners from River Rock Outfitters, the Virginia Outdoor Center, Friends of the Rappahannock, Pitiayo Yoga, and the American Canoe Association to host free classes and demonstrations, canoe and kayak rentals, river safety programs, a river clean-up, and a photography contest at City Dock. Groups leveraged the statewide hashtag #VAOutdoors along with the local #loveFXBG to correlate submitted images and select contest winners. Staff from the Department of Parks and Recreation will use some of the winning images in their upcoming promotion of National Parks Month in July.

Economic Development and Tourism Utilizes New Technology - Drone technology to develop aerial video that can be used to market available development properties is on the horizon for the City of Fredericksburg. The Economic Development and Tourism Department has engaged the services of Forrester Systems to create drone video footage of large scale properties. Among the properties are parcels within Celebrate Virginia South, Battlefield Industrial Park, and an 88-acre tract of land owned by Hylton Venture, LLC along I-95. The videos will navigate the properties to highlight access points, major transportation routes, surrounding co-tenancy, and call outs such as Mary Washington Hospital, Central Park, the Rappahannock River and residential areas defining the context of the land parcel. The video will be posted on the city's economic development website and used in electronic marketing packages sent to prospects.

Social Media a Growing Tool for Economic Development and Tourism - The Economic Development and Tourism Department in the past year has increased outreach via social

media by expanding the platforms its uses and increasing the frequency of postings. Accounts on LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram have been created while Facebook remains by far the most popular social media site for the department. The level of user engagement has increased across the board and Facebook "likes" have grown by 40.7 percent in the past year. Through social media posts of department news, new businesses, news stories, and photos, communication between the community and the city government is improved.

Links: [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Instagram](#)

Torch Run - Members of the Police Department, along with friends, family, and supporters, carried the *Flame of Hope* through the city as they participated in the annual [Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Virginia](#) on June 12. The Torch Run is an important event that raises funds and awareness for Special Olympics Virginia. The run ends in Richmond as the *Flame of Hope* is used to light the cauldron that signals the start of the Special Olympics Summer Games.



Building Construction Report for May 2015 - A summary of the May building report is attached for review.

Property Maintenance Report for May 2015 - The May monthly report for property maintenance activities is attached for review.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager
FROM: Chuck Johnston, Director of Community Planning & Building
DATE: June 8, 2015
SUBJECT: May Building Statistics

The following provides information for building activity in the City. After 11 months of the fiscal year, the number of new single family homes is significantly lower than year. The number of single family renovations is almost at the same level. While the number of new commercial projects is slightly lower compared to last year; the square footage of new projects is 2/3 of last year. On the other hand, renovations are somewhat higher.

			FY to Date May 2015	FY to Date May 2014
<u>Single Family Residential Permits</u>				
<i>New Building</i>	1	4	24	42
<i>New Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical/Other</i>	0	0	19	24
<i>Certificates of Occupancy</i>	1	3	21	42
Existing Building	15	22	181	194
Existing Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical/Other	32	37	423	390
<u>Multifamily/Commercial Permits</u>				
<i>New Building</i>	3	0	13	15
<i>Multi Family Units</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Total Commercial Square Footage</i>	26,492	0	124,454	186,908
<i>New Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical/Other</i>	9	5	80	98
<i>Certificates of Occupancy</i>	1	2	20	20
Existing Building	27	23	260	207
Existing Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical/Other	45	24	523	410
Occupancy Permits for Existing Buildings	12	11	130	122
<u>Inspections Performed</u> Building	455	488	4863	4723
<u>Inspections Performed</u> Site	36	99	498	741

Utility fee collection for the current month and year to date are significantly lower than last year.

UTILITY FEES COLLECTED –

Water Tap	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 10,400.00	\$ 16,762.12	\$ 34,737.43
Water Availability	\$ 29,348.00	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 192,958.00	\$ 344,859.25
SUB TOTAL	\$ 32,448.00	\$ 46,400.00	\$ 209,720.12	\$ 379,596.68
Sewer Tap	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 20,400.00	\$ 30,800.00	\$ 71,600.00
Sewer Availability	\$ 50,017.00	\$ 80,400.00	\$ 337,227.00	\$ 553,636.15
SUB TOTAL	\$ 55,317.00	\$ 100,800.00	\$ 368,027.00	\$ 625,236.15
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$ 87,765.00	\$ 147,200.00	\$ 577,747.12	\$1,004,832.83



MEMORANDUM

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SUBJECT: May Property Maintenance Statistics

In response to a request from the City Manager, a special focus this month was removal of graffiti along the Marine Corp race route before May 17th. This was achieved with significant assistance from Dave King (Public Works) and Rick Pennock (Police) and with the cooperation of private property owners as well as city agencies that maintain city property.

	<u>May 2015</u>	<u>Cal Yr to Date May 2015</u>
<u>Exterior</u>		
<i>Chipping Paint/Siding/Missing Address</i>	14	58
<i>Fences/Sheds/Garages</i>	2	25
<i>Vacant Structures</i>	11	45
<i>Gutters/Drainage/Roofs</i>	5	24
<i>Graffiti</i>	11	37
<u>Interior</u>		
<i>Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical</i>	2	24
<u>Stop Work Orders</u>		
<i>Working without Permit</i>	5	16
<i>Electrical</i>	0	4
<i>Demo</i>	0	3
<u>Condemned Structures</u>		
<i>Plumbing</i>	0	1
<i>Structural (Unsafe)</i>	1	3
<u>Assisting Fire Department</u>		
<i>Car into building</i>	0	1
<i>Fire</i>	1	4
<i>Flooding</i>	0	1
<i>Sewer Back-Up</i>	1	4
<u>Inoperable Vehicles</u>		
<i>Expired Tags</i>	10	37
<i>Flat Tires</i>	2	7
<i>Wrecked</i>	1	1
<i>Other</i>	0	0
<u>Special Projects/Court/Training, etc.</u>		
<i>Meetings (citizens/internal/outside agencies)</i>	4	18
<i>Court</i>	1	6
<i>Training Hours</i>	6	9