



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council  
**FROM:** Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager  
**DATE:** January 5, 2016  
**SUBJECT:** City Manager's Update

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Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

***Restaurant Week*** - The Department of Economic Development and Tourism is pleased to announce its 10th annual, Restaurant Week January 15 – 25. There will be 23 participating restaurants serving hungry patrons delicious, three-course dinners for \$20.16 and two-course lunches for \$10.16. The 2016 Restaurant Week boasts the largest number of participating restaurants since its inception and sample menus for the 10-day event feature a wide variety of dishes such as crab and corn chowder from Cork and Table, flank steak béarnaise from La Petite Auberge, house made cannoli from Poppy Hill Tuscan Kitchen and even a beer float from Spencer Devon Brewing. Restaurant Week is the perfect time to revisit a family favorite or sample offerings from somewhere new. For more information on participating restaurants and featured menus go to [www.visitfred.com](http://www.visitfred.com)

***Washington Avenue Mall Trees Public Meeting*** - On Monday, January 25, from 7:00-9:00 PM a public meeting will be held at the Dorothy Hart Community Center, 408 Canal Street in response to a petition signed by approximately 50 residents who expressed concerns about recent tree plantings on the Washington Avenue mall. The petition calls for the removal of most, if not all trees planted on the mall over the past 2 years, and restoration of the grassy areas. Staff and the Clean & Green Commission will explain the process involved with planting trees on the mall over the past several years. Citizens will then be given an opportunity to express their concerns, comments, and questions about the current and future plans for tree plantings on the mall. Citizens who are unable to attend the meeting may submit written comments to staff until February 15. Comments may be submitted to [dking@fredericksburgva.gov](mailto:dking@fredericksburgva.gov)

***Curbside Christmas Trees Collections*** - Trees and small amounts of refuse will be collected beginning Monday, January 11. Please have your [items](#) at the curb no later than 7:30 a.m. on January 11. Items that will **not** be collected include: items larger than 16 cubic feet, items heavier than 75 pounds, household garbage, paints, brush piles, hazardous materials, and building materials.

***Leaf Collection*** - Generally speaking, the leaves fell early this past year and the leaf collection crews are on schedule. When the leaves fall early in the season, the vast majority of leaves are collected during the first round. The first round was completed just before the Christmas holiday. Crews have begun the second round of collection and estimate to be completed mid-January.

***City Crews Prepare for Winter Weather*** - During the week of November 9-13, 2015, 85 city “snow fighters” attended an intensive Snow Operators training course. Members of Public

Works, Parks Maintenance, and Public Facilities attended the 8-hour training course coordinated by the City Safety Office. HT Solutions, LLC instructors Hank Gobar, Gary Wilbur, and James Carpenter provided both classroom and practical instruction to employees on preparing for the storm, snow fighting materials and equipment, basic snow plow operations, and snow scenarios. The week ended with a joint meeting / training session with VDOT Regional and City Department Supervisors in attendance. Special thanks to Jeff Faircloth, General Manager at Jim Carpenter Lumber who allowed the use of their company parking lot for the snow plow obstacle course.

As part of the annual review process that Public Works staff performs, this year they have assigned specific equipment and drivers to individual plow routes. The assignments are made based on truck type, experience of the driver, difficulty of the route, etc. Drivers have performed a “dry run” of their assigned route to become more familiar with their route’s curb locations, fire hydrants, on-street parking, etc. Additionally, the department recently replaced its radio communication system and now has the ability to effectively communicate among drivers and the dispatcher during emergency conditions.

***Retire Your Old Glory*** - The City continues its participation in [Retire Your Old Glory](#), a program that provides collection points for worn and faded US flags so that the flags may be respectfully retired. A total of 298 US flags (147 at the Dorothy Hart Community Center and 151 at City Hall), as well as 15 “other” flags” were collected in 2015.

The City also continues its partnership with the Fredericksburg-Rappahannock Chapter of the Isaak Walton League of America and various Boy and Girl Scout troops for the conduct of the flag retirement ceremonies. The third such ceremony for retirement of flags collected by the City was held June 13, 2015 and additional ceremonies will be held in the future.

***2015 Year End Economic Impact Report on Group Business*** - Conventions, conferences, meetings, reunions and weddings are bringing in revenue into the City of Fredericksburg and the surrounding region. The estimated economic impact of group business is \$14.6 million booked and supported by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism in 2015. Not included in the economic impact report, which was prepared by city staff, are additional costs or other ancillary services paid by clients, such as meeting room rental, audio visual, photographers, historical site visitation, transportation, and more.

***Police Department Launches Anonymous Tip App for Smart Phones*** - The Police Department has launched FPD Tip, a free smart phone app that allows for citizens to send anonymous tips directly to the police department from their smart phones. The app allows the public to share important public safety information anonymously with police by sending a secure message about crimes or suspicious activity in Fredericksburg and is available on the iPhone and Android platform. Anyone with a cell phone who does not want to download the app can send an anonymous tip to “847-411” by texting FPD tip and their message/tip to 847411 (tip411). Anonymous web tips can also be submitted right from the [Fredericksburg Police Department website](#).

***Building Construction Reports for October – November 2015*** - A summary of monthly building reports are attached for review.

**CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA**  
Community Planning and Building Department



**BUILDING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY - OCTOBER 2015**

<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	<b>Oct-15</b>		<b>Oct-14</b>		<b>YTD 2015</b>	<b>YTD 2014</b>	
New-Residential	17		1		18	3	
New-Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical/Other	0		4		8	9	
Alterations/Additions	18		17		71	67	
Alt/Add - Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical	48		31		168	146	
Certificates of Occupancy	6		0		14	7	
Fees Collected	\$22,214.30		\$6,703.30		\$43,974.25	\$28,509.60	
<b>COMMERCIAL/MULTI-FAMILY</b>		<b>SQFT/#UNITS</b>		<b>SQFT/#UNITS</b>			
New-Commercial	1	24,647 SF	0	0	3	1	
New-Multi-Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	
New-Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical/Other	7		6		24	24	
Alterations	28		27		126	120	
Alt-Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical	33		42		182	189	
Certificates of Occupancy	2		2		5	9	
Fees Collected	\$11,976.00		\$10,974.21		\$59,884.05	\$62,317.37	
<b>CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY-EXISTING</b>							
	10		14		43	55	
<b>BUILDING INSPECTIONS PERFORMED</b>							
	544		560		2222	2290	
<b>UTILITY FEES COLLECTED</b>							
Water Tap	\$2,600.00		\$0.00		\$2,600.00	\$4,700.00	
Water Availability	\$48,000.00		\$0.00		\$52,000.00	\$29,610.00	
Sewer Tap	\$5,100.00		\$0.00		\$5,100.00	\$10,200.00	
Sewer Availability	\$80,000.00		\$0.00		\$86,600.00	\$58,510.00	

**COMMENTS**

The jump in residential comes from 15 new SF Attached Townhomes at Summerfield and new SF Detached Homes at 304 Pitt Street and 140 Ridgeway Street. The commercial permit is the tenant build-out for Habitat for Humanity at 2378 Plank Road.

**CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA**  
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**BUILDING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY - NOVEMBER 2015**

<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	<b>Nov-15</b>		<b>Nov-14</b>		<b>YTD 2015</b>	<b>YTD 2014</b>	
New-Residential	0		0		18	3	
New-Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical/Other	1		2		9	11	
Alterations/Additions	11		18		82	85	
Alt/Add - Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical	28		40		196	186	
Certificates of Occupancy	4		7		18	14	
Fees Collected	\$3,485.00		\$7,270.45		\$47,459.25	\$35,780.05	
<b>COMMERCIAL/MULTI-FAMILY</b>		<b>SQFT/#UNITS</b>		<b>SQFT/#UNITS</b>			
New-Commercial	0		0	0	3	1	
New-Multi-Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	
New-Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical/Other	1		3		25	27	
Alterations	17		14		143	134	
Alt-Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical	40		27		222	216	
Certificates of Occupancy	2		1		7	10	
Fees Collected	\$11,519.75		\$9,287.80		\$71,403.80	\$71,605.17	
<b>CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY-EXISTING</b>							
	4		11		47	66	
<b>BUILDING INSPECTIONS PERFORMED</b>							
	377		357		2599	2647	
<b>UTILITY FEES COLLECTED</b>							
Water Tap	\$0.00		\$2,600.00		\$2,600.00	\$7,300.00	
Water Availability	\$0.00		\$3,000.00		\$52,000.00	\$32,610.00	
Sewer Tap	\$0.00		\$5,100.00		\$5,100.00	\$15,300.00	
Sewer Availability	\$0.00		\$5,000.00		\$86,600.00	\$63,510.00	

**COMMENTS**

Residential activity dropped off in November, while commercial activity was similar to last year.