



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council
FROM: Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager
DATE: February 16, 2016
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

Group Tourism Sales Staff is on the Road Again Marketing the City and Region –

Traditionally, January and February are busy travel months for Economic Development and Tourism group sales staff and 2016 is no exception. Tradeshow in January and February included “Your Military Reunion Connection” where staff had appointments with 22 reunion planners and a total of 48 appointments at the American Bus Association and the National Tour Association Conventions. In addition, staff continued to market to new arrivals at the Quantico Marine Base by attending “Welcome Aboard”. To target the booming wedding business, staff exhibited at the Virginia Bride Magazine Wedding Show at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House and will be in attendance at “The Big Day Wedding Expo” at the Fredericksburg Expo and Conference Center later this month.

New Drone Video Presents Central Park, Central Park Corporate Center – The Department of Economic Development and Tourism recently premiered the [Central Park](#) drone video on their [YouTube Channel](#). After releasing the department's first three videos in August 2015 of [Celebrate Virginia](#), the [Battlefield Industrial Park](#) and an [88-acre tract of land](#) owned by Hylton Venture, LLC along I-95, a request was made to promote Central Park featuring the Central Park Corporate Center. The department partnered with The Rappaport Companies, a significant owner, property manager and brokerage of properties within Central Park. Forrester Systems was once again engaged to create a diverse look at the magnitude of retail, restaurants, offices, hotels and service businesses within the shopping center. More videos will soon follow including a series of testimonials and a new perspective on Downtown Fredericksburg.

Celebrate Virginia Live Concert Series – A new concert promoter, “Celebrate Virginia Live After Hours”, has been working on a concert series in Celebrate Virginia South for the 2016 season. A preliminary meeting was held with City staff to discuss the venue in Celebrate Virginia South, revised plans for the set-up, and lessons learned from prior events. The promoter is still working to finalize agreements with musicians for shows, but preliminarily there are 12 to 14 shows under consideration from May through September.

FRED Transit Goes “Paperless” – This month, FREDericksburg Regional Transit (FRED) began “paperless” operations through the use of on-board Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs). The new system replaces a time consuming and error-prone pencil and paper process with an

electronic system. Data collected in this new format allows FRED staff to quickly and efficiently compile information and create statistical reports related to ridership (down to the bus stop level), on-time performance, route efficiency, and schedule adjustments.

The next major step is to implement “RouteShout”, the real-time customer information functionality of the software. This will enhance rider convenience by making next bus arrival information available to them on demand. Other transit agencies that have implemented this technology have reported increases in ridership and rider satisfaction. We anticipate that by July 1, all components of the software will be implemented and in use.

FRED Transit Files For Federal and State Grant Funding – Each year, the City of Fredericksburg applies to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for State and Federal Assistance Grants to help defray the cost of the operating expenses (up to 50%) and capital expenses (up to 100%). On February 1, FRED requested \$1,773,183 in operating funding (\$1,240,000 Federal and \$533,183 State). FRED also requested a \$300,000 capital grant to cover the cost of two replacement buses that have reached the end of their useful life, according to federal guidelines. Final approval for these grants typically occurs in June of each year.

Virginia Resources Authority Bond Pool Application – The Fiscal Affairs Department, with the assistance of the City Manager’s Office, prepared the bond pool application for the spring issue of the Virginia Resources Authority. As a reminder, the City will borrow approximately \$15 million from the VRA bond pool for the financing of the public safety radio system and the Original Walker-Grant School renovation.

The VRA will be reviewing the application materials and the City’s bond counsel and financial advisor will also be working on the bond ordinances and financing agreements for final approval. The VRA has notified the City that they wish for us to approve our local bond ordinance by April 1. Therefore, staff anticipates that the City Council will be asked to review a first reading bond ordinance and a public hearing on March 8, with second reading on March 22.

Public Safety Radio System – In mid-2015, the City of Fredericksburg began evaluating radio system options for its public safety personnel. In late December a contract was signed with Motorola Solutions and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Stafford County. The Motorola Solutions contract includes the purchase of all new radio equipment to include: portables, mobiles, dispatch consoles, and a microwave link to the Stafford County infrastructure. Many pieces of equipment have already begun arriving to our local vendor.

Over the next week, Motorola personnel from Communications Specialists (our local vendor) will be visiting the Police, Fire, and Sheriff’s departments to evaluate the needs for each public safety vehicle. Within the next month, the programming of each radio will be complete and installation done in each vehicle. The replacement of the dispatch center consoles and the installation of the microwave link will occur in April and May. During the month of June, the functional testing of the new system will be conducted and full acceptance of the system is expected in July. The installation and cutover of the new system will occur in conjunction with a major software upgrade and system enhancement to the Stafford County infrastructure.

Fredericksburg Police Launch New Program to Build Relationship with City Youth –

Earlier this school year, Sergeant Holland initiated a program designed to build a positive relationship between the City of Fredericksburg’s youth and police officers. Every week, one of our officers visits a class at Hugh Mercer Elementary School and reads a story or brings an activity for students. February 8, to celebrate the Chinese New Year, four police officers visited four second-grade classes and made Chinese lanterns with students. The craft activity was interactive and aligned with the student’s study of China. Students enjoy having officers visit them in their classroom and spend time with them.



Fredericksburg Police Officers Visit Senior Citizens for Valentine’s Day –

Valentine’s Day came early for some in the City. On Friday, February 12, six Fredericksburg Police Officers visited 24 senior citizens around the city and delivered cards and chocolates. The cards were signed by dozens of Fredericksburg Police Department employees and said “Police Be Mine.” This effort is part of the Department’s new community outreach program. More programs like this will be implemented in the months to come.



Parks and Recreation Holds Daddy Daughter Dance – The first “Daddy Daughter Dance” was held on February 12 and was well received. Held at Dorothy Hart Community Center, approximately 50 girls and their dads danced the evening away. Hopefully a new tradition has started for dad’s and their daughter’s.



Parks and Recreation Co-Sponsors Tax Aid – A tax assistance program co-sponsored by AARP and Parks and Recreation, is a free service providing assistance to seniors and other individuals who may need help filing their taxes. Participants are seen at the Dorothy Hart Community Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. until April 14. No registration is needed. Participants are seen on a first come, first served basis.

Property Maintenance Report for January 2016 – A summary of property maintenance activities is attached for your review.

Building Construction Report for January 2016 – A summary of January's construction activities is attached for your review.

CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA
Community Planning and Building Department



PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REPORT - JANUARY 2016

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	Jan-16		Jan-15		YTD FY2016	YTD FY2015	
Complaints	13		8		109	113	
Inspections	49		58		382	475	
Notice of Violations Issued	16		59		149	230	
Number of Violations Corrected	14		40		216	281	
INOPERABLE VEHICLES							
Notice of Violations Issued	10		6		61	48	
Number of Violations Corrected	4		6		55	36	
Number of Vehicles Towed	0		0		0	3	
STOP WORK ORDERS							
Number Issued	0		6		22	16	
UNSAFE STRUCTURES							
Notice of Violation Issued	0		0		4	4	

COMMENTS

There was an increase in tenant landlord issues mainly involving heating issues. In all cases the issues were abated within a few days and where needed other sources of heat/housing were provided. We were also able to gain access to the property at 201-203 William Street which was a issue for neighboring businesses. The complaints reached from rotten trim on the outside to flooding and infestation of rodents on the inside. A Notice of Violation had already been issued for the exterior property maintenance violations and the interior inspection showed no evidence of any flooding or infestation. The owner did hire a pest control company for preventative measure.

CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA
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BUILDING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY - JANUARY 2016

RESIDENTIAL	Jan-16		Jan-15		YTD FY2016	YTD FY2015	
New-Residential	0		2		27	7	
New-Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical/Other	2		1		17	12	
Alterations/Additions	11		12		111	109	
Alt/Add - Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical	21		35		267	247	
Certificates of Occupancy	4		4		24	19	
Fees Collected	\$4,018.20		\$9,183.40		\$69,893.05	\$50,908.45	
COMMERCIAL/MULTI-FAMILY		SQFT/#UNITS		SQFT/#UNITS			
New-Commercial	0		3		7	5	
New-Multi-Family	9	128	0	0	5	0	
New-Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical/Other	27		15		53	46	
Alterations	16		14		177	169	
Alt-Plumbing/Electrical/Mechanical	44		47		313	302	
Certificates of Occupancy	2		3		9	15	
Fees Collected	\$76,242.79		\$27,231.72		\$156,364.59	\$113,966.24	
CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY-EXISTING							
	10		7		71	86	
BUILDING INSPECTIONS PERFORMED							
	357		326		3435	3311	
UTILITY FEES COLLECTED							
Water Tap	\$3,352.40		\$3,762.12		\$11,152.40	\$11,062.12	
Water Availability	\$268,800.00		\$63,900.00		\$350,800.00	\$96,510.00	
Sewer Tap	\$0.00		\$5,100.00		\$15,300.00	\$20,400.10	
Sewer Availability	\$448,000.00		\$106,500.00		\$584,600.00	\$170,010.00	

COMMENTS

New Multi-family is comprised of the permits for 5 apartment buildings (128 units) plus 4 accessory structures at the Hamptons at Noble. Residential activity for January is behind the same month last year, while year to date numbers for FY16 remain higher than for FY15. Commercial activity for this month and FY16 so far are ahead of last year. The Hampton multi-family project not only adds creates a building and unit count that did not appear last year, it also significantly boosts permit and utility fees.