



MEMORANDUM

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Timothy J. Baroody'.

TO: Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council
FROM: Timothy J. Baroody, City Manager
DATE: September 22, 2021 (for September 28, Council meeting)
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

Ceremony Held for the Unveiling of the Historical Marker on Freedom Rides – On September 22 the University of Mary Washington and the City of Fredericksburg unveiled a historical marker commemorating Fredericksburg, Virginia as the first stop of the Freedom Rides on May 4, 1961. Dion Diamond, a Freedom Rider, was the featured speaker at the event held in the grassy area adjacent to the Fredericksburg Fire Station #1 in the 600 block of Princess Anne Street, which is the site of the former Fredericksburg bus depot. There was a great turnout of local citizens and community leaders.

Mr. Diamond participated in the Freedom Rides in Jackson, Mississippi in 1961. He was arrested with many others and spent 30 days as a cellmate to Dr. James Farmer in Parchman Prison in Mississippi. The event was organized by City of Fredericksburg staff with the assistance of Christopher Williams, assistant director of the James Farmer Multicultural Center at UMW. Williams emceed the event, Dr. Christine Henry, UMW professor provided background information on the Freedom Rides and the historical marker program. Fredericksburg Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw and Vice Mayor Charlie “Chuck” Frye, Jr. participated on behalf of the City. Also, Mayo Carter, who provided the funding for the marker, as will Tim Roberts from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the State’s historic preservation office erecting this marker provided comments. During the unveiling commemoration, the names of the 13 original Freedom Riders were read by Sydney Baylor, UMW senior and a bell was rung after each of their names were announced, in their honor.

The Freedom Rides, organized by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) with Dr. Farmer as the co-founder and director, challenged states throughout the south to recognize the 1946 and 1960 Supreme Court rulings banning segregated interstate travel. Because of the Freedom Riders’ actions, new regulations prohibiting segregation in interstate travel became effective November 1, 1961. Dr. Farmer would later become a distinguished professor of History and American Studies at Mary Washington College, now the University of Mary Washington, for 13 years,

educating students about Civil Rights and his role in the movement. Additional information on the Freedom Rides is available online at the James Farmer Multicultural Center by visiting <https://students.umw.edu/multicultural>. For more information about the unveiling ceremony, please call the City Manager’s Office at 540-372-1010 or email citymanager@fredericksburgva.gov. A video recording of the event can be viewed here <https://www.facebook.com/VisitFred>

Rappahannock Area Health District

FREE COVID-19 TESTING
NO DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED
ALL AGES WELCOME

Wednesdays @ Stafford Hospital
 101 Hospital Center Blvd, Stafford
3PM – 6PM
DRIVE-THRU CLINIC

Thursdays @ Family Life Center
 400 Bragg Hill Dr, Fredericksburg
1PM – 4PM

To register:
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/rappahannock/freecovid19testing>
**Pre-registration is recommended but not required*

For questions, contact RAHD's Call Center:
(540) 899-4797
M-F 8:00-4:30





WHY COVID-19 COMMUNITY TESTING IS SO IMPORTANT

Testing helps identify active illness in individuals who have mild or no symptoms. These individuals can still spread the disease to others, some of whom may be at risk for severe illness due to COVID-19, such as the elderly and people with underlying medical conditions.

By identifying active cases of COVID-19 through testing, we can provide guidance on isolation from others for a period of time to help interrupt the spread of the virus in our community.

Identifying active illness can lead to quick identification of cases, quick treatment for those people and immediate isolation to prevent spread. Early testing also helps to identify anyone who came into contact with infected people so they, too, can be quickly treated.

Testing also is important in the bigger public health picture on mitigation efforts, helping investigators characterize the prevalence, spread and contagiousness of the disease.

COVID-19 Vaccines Update – FREE COVID-19 Testing and FREE Vaccination Clinics are available now! To find a vaccine provider near you, visit vaccinate.virginia.gov, call 877-VAX-IN-VA (877-829-4682), or text your ZIP code to GETVAX (438829) for English or VACUNA (822862) for Spanish. Call center representatives are available from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Fredericksburg 2036



Community Meetings on Council Priorities – Council held community engagement meetings on the updated Council Priorities for Phase 3 and the added Desired Future State - Where We All Come Together. Meetings were held on **September 16 at 6 pm at Bragg Hill**

Family Life Center, 400 Bragg Hill Drive and on **September 18 at 10 am at Dorothy Hart Community Center, 408 Canal Street**. Citizens came out to the meetings to learn about the updated Priorities and asked Council engaging questions about various topics concerning them. The September 16 meeting was recorded and posted for playback on our website and social media for those who could not attend. See webpage for the updated Priorities and recording of the meeting.

https://www.fredericksburgva.gov/1268/Council-Priorities-2021-2023?fbclid=IwAR0pRLsc7cv5cf_lpwQ82zIL1S4dxKJPzc3cCJ2VQVKBPTpsVO6P0ynstcQ

Board and Commission Openings – Are you a city resident? Passionate about your community? Serving on a board or commission can be an excellent way to shape government initiatives in your community. The City is currently seeking applicants for the following:

- Architectural Review Board
- Arts Commission
- Board of Building Codes Appeals
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Memorials Advisory Commission
- Rappahannock Area Community Services Board

To learn more and apply, visit: <https://www.fredericksburgva.gov/221/Boards-Commissions> or please feel free to call the City Manager's office at 540-372-1010.

100 Block of William Street Stormwater Pipe Replacement – Work continues on the replacement of the William Street storm sewer system, between Caroline and Sophia Street, which began in early August. Ashburn Contracting Corporation (ACC) has been awarded the contract to install the system designed by The Timmons Group. ACC will complete the project in phases. The Sophia Street intersection is part of the first phase of the project to be finished before Chatham Bridge completion. The final phase will conclude the first week of November, 2021. Three of the four project phases are designed to occur during evening/overnight hours. All traffic in this vicinity will experience detours thru November. Parking may be temporarily impacted during construction. Alternate parking includes the parking deck located on Wolfe

Street between Sophia and Caroline- the first 4 hours are free (then a dollar each additional hour). Construction will accommodate customer traffic, businesses in the proximity to the construction are not anticipated to experience prolonged interruptions. Access to businesses remains a critical objective during this project. Additional information is available on the following City webpage- <https://www.fredericksburgva.gov/476/Stormwater-Management>.



Traffic Safety Initiative – The Police Department has launched a traffic safety initiative to target areas in the City where distracted driving and speeding have become a public safety concern. Drivers, be advised that the Police Department will be heavily enforcing speeding, reckless driving, disregard of stop signs, and failure to obey red lights. Want to avoid a ticket? Drive smart and safe, #FXBG.



Important Message from Chief Layton and Commonwealth's Attorney Humphries - Over the last few months, the City of Fredericksburg has seen instances of violent crime stemming from gun violence like most cities across the country. Gun violence doesn't just impact victims and offenders; it affects families, children, loved

ones – gun violence impacts our entire community.

On August 11, the City of Fredericksburg Commonwealth's Attorney Libby Humphries and Police Chief Layton are sent out this clear message to anyone who comes to Fredericksburg: "We will not tolerate gun violence in our City. If you are found in possession of an illegal firearm or use a gun in the commission of a felony, you will be arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. The Police Department and this community will not tolerate gun violence of any kind."

Wind Down Wednesday Live Concert Series winds down on September 29. The FREE concerts are being held on Wednesday evenings from 6:00pm – 8:00pm in Memorial Park, 1401 Kenmore Avenue. The last concert is: September 29 - Hazel Run. Bring a chair or blanket and your picnic. Or purchase dinner from one of the on-site food vendors. Parking available at First Christian Church on 1501 Washington Avenue. For more information please call 540-372-1086 or visit Parks.Fxbg.com.



Christmas Parade Registration – The registration for the Fredericksburg Christmas Parade opened on August 23. See www.fredericksburgchristmasparade.com for more details. The Christmas Parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 4 in downtown.

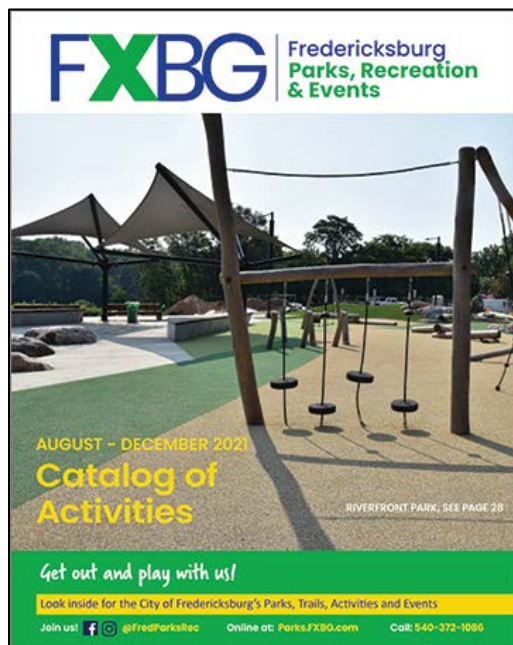


Become a Foster Parent – Fredericksburg Social Services is now seeking Resource Foster Parents. Our department especially needs people who are willing to care for ages 7 and up and sibling groups. Our Resource Foster Parents do not have to live in the City of Fredericksburg to foster. Foster care is temporary substitute care arranged for children who cannot remain in their homes due to abuse and/or neglect. To learn more about becoming a Resource Foster Parent or a Foster to Adopt Parent, please call 540-372-1032, ext. 241 or visit Fredericksburgva.gov/507/Foster-Care-Adoption.

CARES Utility Relief Funds for Water and Wastewater Service Billed by the City of Fredericksburg – City water and sewer customers may have an opportunity for funding from the CARES Act. Customers must be affected by the global pandemic and have accounts in arrears greater than 30 days to be eligible for this opportunity. To be considered, please submit a brief application for CARES Utility Relief Funds. Applications may be submitted via our website. For assistance or questions, or to submit the application by telephone, please call us at (540) 372-1017 ext. 235. Applications must be submitted by close of business October 1st, 2021.

Residential refuse collection fees are not eligible for relief under program guidelines. The amended budget for the Commonwealth of Virginia, recently signed by Governor Northam, will allow those customers who are still impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic to receive assistance with their water and wastewater bills. If you are still affected by the pandemic and have already received aid in the first round of relief, you are eligible to apply again. Previously receiving aid WILL NOT affect your eligibility for relief. This is a continuation of the program enacted in late December aimed towards relief for utility customers whose accounts are in arrears.

Submission of an application does not guarantee any or all of a customer’s account arrearages will be offset by CARES Utility Relief Funds. After the application period, the City Finance Department will complete an analysis of each account to determine eligibility. Due to program guidelines, customers that are 60 days or greater in arrears will be given priority for forgiveness. See additional info [here](#).



Fall Catalog – The Parks, Recreation and Events Fall Catalog of Activities is now available. They are excited to offer socially distanced programs for children and adults this season! Find out about the many special events, nature programs, special interest classes and youth sports that are being offered now through December. Plus, be sure to check out the full listing of city parks and trails for your family and friends to get outside and enjoy this autumn. Read the catalog [online](#) or pick up your print copy at the Dorothy Hart Community Center.

The Fredericksburg Farmers Market is open for the season. The farmers market is located in Hurkamp Park and open every Saturday, 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. now through October, with an expanded list of vendors. Art in the Park has returned again this year, and is held on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 9:00am – 1:00pm now through October. More information is available online at fxbgfarmersmarket.com or please call 540-372-1086.

Fall Programs – Our Parks, Recreation and Events team is continually working on fun and safe



Fredericksburg
Parks, Recreation
& Events

programs for this upcoming season. See the full [listing](#) which continues to grow!



Fred Focus – The [Fredericksburg Department of Economic Development and Tourism](#) is pleased to bring you Fred Focus, a weekly e-newsletter that goes out every Thursday and keeps you up-to-date on Fredericksburg business and tourism information and events. This week's [edition](#).

Fred Focus