



**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:** February 2, 2022 (for February 8, Council meeting)  
**SUBJECT:** City Manager's Update

---

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

**City to Unveil Historical Panel Recognizing the 1950 Walker-Grant High School Graduates –**

On February 10, the City will unveil a historical panel commemorating the Walker-Grant High School demonstration that occurred in June 1950. The public is invited to the event which will start at 1pm in front of the Dorothy Hart Community Center, 408 Canal Street. Speakers include Mr. Sonny Holmes, who championed that the City tell this story. During the unveiling commemoration, the names of the 27 graduates will be read.

In June 1950, the largest Walker-Grant High School graduating class, needing a location for their commencement ceremonies, were denied access through the front doors of the Fredericksburg Community Center due to the color of their skin. With help from Shiloh Baptist Church (Old Site), the graduates held their ceremony at the church, but not before protesting in front of the Fredericksburg Community Center with signs that read "This Entrance Closed to US."

This will be the fifth installation of a history panel/historical marker in the past 14 months related to City Council's Priority to "continue telling a more complete history of our diverse community, including the history and contributions of African Americans." The earlier installations feature: The Green Book, Freedom Riders Challenge a Nation, French John's Wharf, and a State Historical Marker on the First Stop on 1961 Freedom Rides. The City's commitment to develop and share stories that showcase the diversity of our region is critical to ensuring that Fredericksburg is a city where WE means everyone. Additional information is on [VisitFred.com](http://VisitFred.com). For more information about the unveiling ceremony, please contact Victoria Matthews at 540-373-1776 or [vamatthews@fredericksburgva.gov](mailto:vamatthews@fredericksburgva.gov). [Follow this event on facebook here.](#)



**Fredericksburg Art Lovers!** – To support Fredericksburg’s incredible art community, which has been hit particularly hard during this pandemic, the [Fredericksburg Arts Commission](#) is organizing its second annual weekend pop-up sale this weekend February 4th-6th, 2022.

Visit <https://love.fredarts.com> starting at 7 AM this Friday, February 4th, until 11:59 PM on Sunday the 6th, and you’ll find a one-stop shop for amazing art made right here in the City of Fredericksburg.

**COVID-19 Vaccines and New Testing Center Opens** – The Rappahannock Area Health District opened a Community Testing Center (CTC) on **Monday, January 24 at the FredNats Stadium, 42 Jackie Robinson Way. The CTC will be open from 9am – 6pm, Monday through Thursday with pre-scheduled appointments preferred, but walk-ins welcome.** The FREE tests provided will be Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing for COVID-19. Approximately 350 tests will be available each day. Those interested in making an appointment can go to [vase.vdh.virginia.gov/testingappointment](http://vase.vdh.virginia.gov/testingappointment) and search for the 22401 ZIP code. As noted on the website, appointments fill up quickly and those interested are encouraged to check back repeatedly for open slots.

Also, the Community Vaccination Center continues to offer vaccines in Central Park located at 1877 Carl D. Silver Parkway - **Monday through Sunday from 10am to 7:30pm.** Appointments are not required, but are recommended. To find an appointment, visit [vase.vdh.virginia.gov](http://vase.vdh.virginia.gov) and input "22401" into the zip code search bar to schedule an appointment at the Central Park community vaccination center, or call 877-VAX-IN-VA (877-829-4682, TTY users call 7-1-1). Assistance is available in English, Spanish, and more than 100 other languages. Have vaccine questions or need help scheduling? Contact the RAHD COVID-19 Call Center at (540) 899-4797, Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm.

Fire Chief Mike Jones offers weekly informational videos on COVID-19 and its impacts. See the February 1 edition at <https://youtu.be/Wj174bR6LSc> and on [www.fredericksburgva.gov](http://www.fredericksburgva.gov)

**Tree Debris Cleanup** – The City’s Public Works Department and its contractors have been working to remove damaged and downed trees and limbs resulting from this storm event that caused extensive tree damage throughout the city, which is estimated to be at least \$250,000 in damage to urban street trees. The Department’s crews, and its partner *Tree Fredericksburg*,

are jointly assessing conditions for structurally pruning those trees within City maintained public rights-of-way that can be saved and are identifying those trees determined to be too far damaged for removal. The vegetation debris removal and pruning has been determined to require more time and effort than initially estimated. At this point, the clean-up effort is ongoing and is prioritized based on safety, location, severity, and volume of traffic. It is anticipated this work will continue over the next couple of months. The Department of Parks, Recreation & Events is still in the process of assessing the trees damaged in City parks and trails to determine an appropriate course of action to address these trees and to minimize the impacts to these facilities during this process.

In consideration of the above effort and its duration, City crews are primarily focused on addressing public trees and performing debris removal efforts for those trees through mid-February. At which time, City crews will split their focus to assist residents with removal of fallen tree limbs from the January 3rd storm event.

To facilitate this process as expeditiously as possible, residents may begin **now** to place their vegetative debris for pick up in the following manner:

- Limbs must be cut in 4-foot lengths, tied with string or twine (no tape or wire) in bundles of 50 pounds or less
- No tree limbs greater than 12 inches in diameter will be picked up
- No root balls will be picked up
- Limbs are to be placed in the utility strip in front of a resident's home
- Debris should be stacked as neatly as possible and cannot block or impede travel-ways, parking lanes or sidewalks

Residents will be responsible for the removal of larger debris, and it is suggested to consider employing a commercial contractor for proper removal. Additionally, residents are also encouraged to continue to take their large tree debris to the R-Board Landfill located at 489 Eskimo Hill Rd, Stafford, VA 22554. See [www.r-board.org](http://www.r-board.org) for more information.

Stay up to date with City alerts on curbside services by subscribing to [www.FredericksburgAlert.com](http://www.FredericksburgAlert.com). Already subscribed to Fred Alerts? Login to ensure you are subscribed to the list for "*Trash/Recycle Collection.*"

For more information, please contact Fredericksburg Public Works online at [www.Fredericksburgva.gov](http://www.Fredericksburgva.gov) or by calling 540-372-1023.

**Update on Delinquent Utility Accounts** – Beginning January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, the City of Fredericksburg reinstated penalties and cutoffs on all delinquent utility accounts. The City had previously suspended penalties and cut-offs due to the global pandemic. If your account is currently in a delinquent status, this change may impact you. To inquire about your account status, please contact the Utility Billing Office at 540-372-1182. To make a payment, please contact the Treasurer's Office at 540-372-1001 or visit our website <https://www.fredericksburgva.gov/531/Utility-Billing-Office>

**Local Redistricting Process Update** – Redistricting is the process of redrawing the boundaries of voting districts based on changes in population. It occurs every 10 years following the United States Census and is governed by state law. Local redistricting determines which neighborhoods and communities in the City are grouped together into wards that elect City Council and City School Board members. By making sure each ward has approximately the same number of people, redistricting can help ensure residents have fair representation on City Council and the City School Board. It also determines where residents vote and who represents them.

City staff has been working with City Council on finalizing a plan on the proposed changes. Several public information meetings were held in November and December 2021, along with a public hearing and work session discussions. At the December 14 meeting Council was presented with a Citizen Plan option for some ward realigning, from a local resident. Council decided at the meeting to delay their vote till the January 11, 2022 Council Meeting. At the January 11 meeting a modified Citizen Plan was presented and discussed by Council. A first reading was held on the modified plan. The Council received the slight change to the modified Citizen Plan by transmittal at their January 25 meeting. A public hearing and final reading is scheduled for February 8 on the final plan at the regular Council meeting. Attached is a map showing the block groups shifting from new Ward 3 back to Ward 1. Note, the numbers in the map show population, not number of voters.

Read more: <https://www.fredericksburgva.gov/1793/Redistricting-in-City-of-Fredericksburg>

**Stormwater Infrastructure Rehabilitation** – Stormwater infrastructure is vital in preventing flooding, erosion, and directing stormwater flow safely to the Rappahannock River. The City is currently assessing, repairing, performing maintenance, and replacing critical stormwater infrastructures. The recently completed large William Street project and the soon-to-be-underway Learning Lane project adjacent to Emancipation Highway (Route 1), between the Ford Car dealership and Lafayette Upper School are examples of rehabilitation projects.

Additionally in the spring of 2022, the City will be rehabilitating one of two 140 linear foot sections of a stormwater culvert under Emancipation Highway – just north of Learning Lane. The culvert repair rehabilitation project under Emancipation Highway will take about a week to repair utilizing structural liner material, which is far less intrusive and less costly than other repair options, and has an estimated lifespan of at least 75 years.



**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.

**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:

- Board of Building Codes Appeals
- Board of Zoning Appeals – Alternate members needed
- Fredericksburg Arts Commission (member specific, see specifics)
- Memorials Advisory Commission

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



**Winter Programs** – Our Parks, Recreation and Events team is continually working on fun and safe programs for the season. Keep updated on all the activities

available. See the full [listing](#).



**The Parks, Recreation and Events newest Activity Catalog is now available!** The Winter and Spring issue features parks, trails, activities and events here in the City of Fredericksburg. Find exciting new programs being offered this season for children and adults. Read it online now at <https://www.fredericksburgva.gov/370/Catalog-of-Activities>



**Fred Focus**

**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](#).