



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 6, 2023 (for September 12, 2023 Council meeting)
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:



The City's Planned Improvements to Riverfront Park Progressing –

Additions are continuing to move forward, with the public restrooms nearing the final planning stages. The restrooms were originally planned to be open this summer, however, City staff and the design teams have been working diligently to ensure that the building's plans will work within the known floodplain as outlined in FEMA's April 2023 Flood Insurance Rate

Maps. The restroom building has been fully funded, the design has received a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Architectural Review Board, and the project is currently in the permitting stage. The restrooms are expected to be in place for the upcoming holiday season.

The meadow, which is the hillside area between the Rappahannock River and the park's promenade, has grown in significantly this summer with a wide variety of plant species to be viewed, including Mountain Mint, Virginia Wild Rye, Fox Sedge and Black Eyed Susan. Park patrons will soon be able to walk through mowed paths once most of the fences are removed in October. The sandstone benches and the second platform bench area will offer views of the river, and those walking along the park's paved promenade can sit on the edge to take in both the meadow and river.

Plans for the performance stage are also underway. Design parameters for the covered stage are being written, and an Invitation for Bids will be released in the coming months. Pending adequate funding, construction on the stage is expected to start early in 2024.

Riverfront Park, located at 701 Sophia Street, was opened in May 2022. Park visitors have been enjoying the fantastic river views while relaxing in the open spaces and children's play area. As the City's first Smart Park, Riverfront Park's amenities include free Wi-Fi, solar powered lights and security cameras. Located across the street from the City's public parking garage, this park is a short walk to downtown businesses, art galleries and restaurants - and just two blocks from the Visitor Center and their public restrooms. The park, meant to be a hub for downtown events and culture, is a collaborative work to live a vision outlined as many as three decades ago. Riverfront Park is open daily, and is closed from 10pm to 5am. For more information, please visit <https://www.fredericksburgva.gov/1262/Riverfront-Park> or contact [Fredericksburg Parks, Recreation & Events](#) at 540-372-1086.



Community and School Safety – The City of Fredericksburg and Fredericksburg City Public Schools (FCPS) continue to place a priority on school safety and security for the 2023-24 school year. In an effort to keep safety as our top priority, a *Community Engagement Roadmap* has been jointly created by the City and FCPS. It addresses teen violence in our City and seeks to engage our whole community in support of the

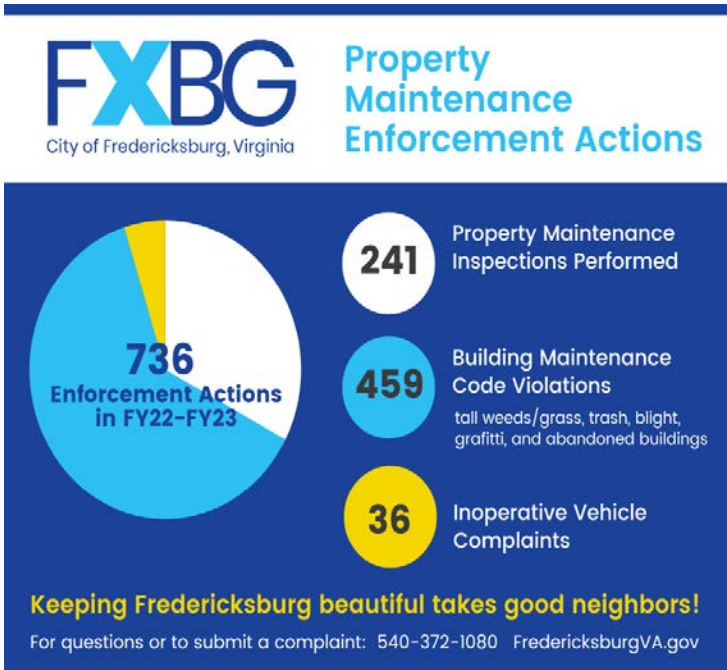
City's and FCPS' safety and prevention measures to help keep our youth and our community safe. This roadmap includes our joint efforts to share information about school safety measures and protocols implemented over the past two years, as well as plans to reestablish a multi-jurisdictional Regional Taskforce. A City Steering Committee on Teenage Violence has been created and have held meetings on July 31 and August 28, 2023. The committee is composed of school, city, and public safety employees, and many other community partners. The roadmap includes plans to engage the community on discussion areas and progress and make resources and information available to families to help support our community-wide effort to reduce teen violence in Fredericksburg. More information can be found on the [Community Safety](#) page of the city's website. Ongoing updates will occur.

Small Area Planning Process Meetings – City Planning staff through Rhodeside and Harwell, Inc. have organized three community interaction meetings to gain input and views from community residents! These meetings will cover community and environmental topics in Area 5, the University/Central Route 1 area of the City. They will be:

AREA 5 SMALL AREA PLAN

- Wednesday, September 20th 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Chandler Ball Room (1701 College Ave)
- Thursday, November 16th 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Chandler Ball Room (1701 College Ave)
- Saturday, January 20th 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Chandler Ball Room (1701 College Ave)

Keeping Fredericksburg beautiful takes good neighbors in FXBG! The Department of Community Planning and Building provides ongoing enforcement actions to enforce the City’s maintenance code and nuisance ordinance. These enforcement efforts focus on the maintenance and repair of existing structures as well as violations for tall weeds/grass, trash, blight, graffiti and abandoned buildings. The Building Services Division executed **736 enforcement actions** in the past two years. In FY22 and FY23:



- 241 Property Maintenance Inspections
- 459 Building Maintenance Code Violations (tall weeds/grass, trash, blight, graffiti, and abandoned buildings)
- 36 Inoperative Vehicle Complaints

For more information on Property Maintenance requirements, please visit our website at www.FredericksburgVA.gov. To submit a complaint, please feel free to call our team at 540-372-1080.

Community Resources – Local resources are people, places, and activities that can help



promote well-being for our youth, our families, and the community as a whole. [Fredericksburg City Public Schools](https://www.fredericksburgva.gov) has provided a guide for "Local Resources to Know" to help connect students and families to local resources for food, housing, employment, adult education, child care, health, family and community support. Please download and help share this information found at www.fredericksburgva.gov

Vehicle Tampering – The Police have seen an increase in vehicle tampering over the last month. They want to remind everyone to:

- Keep your vehicle locked at all times. Unlocked vehicles are easy targets for criminals
- Never leave valuables like purses, laptop computers, portable music players, or cash in your vehicle. If you must keep valuables in your car, place them in the trunk or entirely out of view
- Do not leave book bags, gym bags, or luggage in view as criminals assume they contain valuables
- File a police report if items are stolen from your vehicle. Stolen items are often recovered and can be returned to their owner. However, if stolen items are not reported to the police, there is no way for things to be returned. If an item is stolen from you in the City of Fredericksburg, call our non-emergency line at 540-373-3122

Council Priorities Phase Four – Council has received their progress report on the first quarterly update for Council *Priorities* Phase Four for 2023-2025 under the categories of the nine desired future states for Council’s 2036 Vision. As most will recall, in October 2016 the Fredericksburg City Council formally adopted its 2036 Vision Statement, Desired Future States and its associated Priorities. Staff reported in late 2018 on Phase One (2016-2018) of our work, and for Phase Two (2019-2020) in August 2021 and Phase Three (2021-2022) in January 2023. These Reports are meant to update and demonstrate aggressive efforts to accomplish a majority of these Priorities - while managing increasing daily workloads. During each Phase, staff has delivered quarterly updates to Council and will



continue to provide updates. See link below for full details of Priorities and status of work. [Council-Priorities-2021-2023](#)

Traffic Safety Initiative – The Police Department continues a traffic safety initiative started in October 2021 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. “The City of Fredericksburg has issued over 1,425 speeding citations through August 2023 of this year. Want to avoid a ticket in the City of Fredericksburg – follow posted speed limits, it is that simple,” stated City Manager Tim Baroody. Additionally, loud muffler citations are being issued for excessive noise. Over fifty-five such citations have been issued year to date. Want to avoid a ticket? Drive smart, safe, and quiet. Please be a good neighbor!



The Parks, Recreation and Events Fall Catalog is available! Come play with us! Fredericksburg Parks, Recreation and Events offers many special events, nature programs, special interest classes and sports programs. Read it [online](#). Pick up your paper copy from the Dorothy Hart Community Center.



Registration is open [online](#) and in person at the Dorothy Hart Community Center, 408 Canal Street. Questions? Give us a call at 540-372-1086.



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](#).