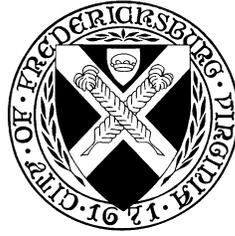


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**For Immediate Release**

**From:** Fredericksburg Department of Public Works and Department of Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities

**Contact:** Doug Fawcett 372-1023

**Subject:** New City Service to Businesses and Residents – Collection of Unserviceable American and Virginia Flags

**Date:** August 5, 2013

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Two City of Fredericksburg departments have teamed up to offer a new service to area businesses and residents. Public Works and Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities will now accept unserviceable American and Virginia flags for proper retirement. Collection bins have been placed in the lobby of City Hall (715 Princess Anne Street) and the lobby of the Dorothy Hart Community Center (408 Canal Street).

The City is initiating this effort through Retire Your Old Glory, a Pennsylvania based organization dedicated to the proper retirement of American flags. Fredericksburg is the first Virginia locality to participate in the program. City staff became aware of the program when a member of the staff was visiting family in the Pittsburgh area and read an article in a local newspaper about the program. To date, over 4,500 American flags have been honorably retired through the program.

The City's decision to also accept Virginia flags is based, in part, on the fact that the recommended procedure for honorable retirement of Virginia flags is the same as for American flags.

All sizes of American and Virginia flags will be accepted. The flags collected will be retired honorably and respectfully through a partnership of the City and the Fredericksburg-Rappahannock Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America. Greg Raines, President of the chapter, says that "It is our chapter's honor to conduct flag retirement ceremonies, in conjunction with local Boy Scouts and their leaders, and we look forward to working together with the City on this project."

For further information:

[www.retireyouoldglory.com](http://www.retireyouoldglory.com)

[www.iwlafred-rapp.org](http://www.iwlafred-rapp.org)