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2015/2016 Accolades building up for Fredericksburg

City recognized for quality of life, healthcare, entrepreneurialism and more

Fredericksburg, VA – The City of Fredericksburg and its business community have received significant attention of late from organizations and publications focused on quality of life, entrepreneurialism, healthcare and more.

The high marks and attention Fredericksburg has received from a large variety of sources illustrate the city's many outstanding attributes for residents, businesses and visitors. It is easy to assume that such accolades are the basis for a surge in new business openings in the City. Year-over-year data from the Virginia Employment Commission demonstrate 66 net new businesses now call the City home -- in the 12-month period of 4th quarter 2014 to 4th quarter 2015 (the most recent data). The City is now at a six-year high on total commercial establishments, with 1,685 businesses in place.

Here is a list of some of the accolades Fredericksburg has received in the past year:

- Mary Washington Hospital tied for Virginia's sixth-best hospital in U.S. News & World Report's [recently released annual rankings](#). Mary Washington Hospital finished fourth in the Washington area.
- Entrepreneur magazine [named](#) Fredericksburg as the ninth-best U.S. city for entrepreneurs.
- Livability.com [named](#) Fredericksburg as the 92nd-best place to live among more than 2,000 U.S. cities with populations between 20,000 and 350,000.
- Fredericksburg [placed](#) no. 1 in quality of life in WalletHub's rankings of 1,268 small U.S. cities.
- Forbes magazine [ranked](#) the University of Mary Washington as the 79th-best public college in the U.S.
- Fredericksburg ranked no. 46 on a [list](#) by House Beautiful of the 50 best small U.S. towns for antiques.

- Fredericksburg-based environmental consulting firm Marstel-Day LLC was named to [ZweigWhite's 2016 "Hot Firm List"](#) of fast-growing companies for the eighth-straight year, and also [made](#) the Inc. 5000 list of the fastest-growing U.S. private companies.
- Fredericksburg restaurants Spencer Devon Brewing, La Petite Auberge, Allman's BBQ and Kybecca all [won awards](#) in this year's "Virginia is for Lovers Culinary Challenge." Southern Living magazine also [recognized](#) Allman's as one of the South's top barbecue restaurants.
- The Virginia Tourism Corporation [named](#) Mason-Dixon Café as one of the best brunch spots in Virginia, and the Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop as [one of](#) Virginia's unusual museums "with interesting claims to fame." The VTC also [recognized](#) Trolley Tours of Fredericksburg's unique guided tours, and [declared](#) Fredericksburg one of Virginia's "8 Small Towns For Outdoor Lovers."
- The Fredericksburg Police Department [received](#) Accreditation with Excellence through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), the highest rating a law-enforcement agency can obtain from CALEA. Only 27 of Virginia's 244 law-enforcement agencies are accredited through CALEA.
- OnlyInYourState.com [named](#) downtown Fredericksburg as a Virginia Main Street that "you gotta visit."
- Fitch Ratings [affirmed](#) Fredericksburg's strong AA+ bond rating, citing the city's "prudent financial policies," "moderate debt ratios" and "healthy reserve levels."
- Gogobot [named](#) Fredericksburg as the fourth-most exciting city in Virginia, trailing only Alexandria, Charlottesville and Williamsburg.

"It's wonderful to see all these varied publications recognize what we have long known – that Fredericksburg is an outstanding place to live, work, visit and start a business," said Fredericksburg Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw. "We look forward to welcoming all of the above in the years to come."

The Department of Economic Development is available to assist small and large businesses alike, with a full-service staff ready to assist entrepreneurs. This professional staff can be reached at 540/372-1216 to facilitate growth and relocation to the highly acclaimed **22401** zip code. Additional information is available at FredericksburgVA.com.

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