

April 11, 2012

Dear Citizens of Fredericksburg,

It is my great pleasure to be coming on board on May 9 as your new City Manager. Gary Neffendorf has done a great job serving as your first City Manager and it is obvious that the City is in good shape due to his leadership and commitment to the City for many years.

As I begin employment with the City, I wanted you to know a little more about my background and interests. I was born in Aruba where I lived for about three years. However, I was raised in the Dallas/Fort Worth area in the City of Richland Hills. I graduated from Richland High School where I participated in football and baseball while employed at the local Burger King. I also delivered the Star-Telegram newspaper for several years.

Following high school graduation, I attended the University of Texas at Arlington where I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. After a brief try at law school and starting my own private business, I decided to get into public service where I felt like I could make a real difference. I attended Texas Christian University where I received a Masters in Public Administration. During pursuit of my degree at TCU, I had the opportunity to work as an Intern in the City Manager's Office in Hurst, Texas. This internship convinced me to embark on a career in city management and I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as City Manager for four different cities over the past 30 years.

Following graduation, I was employed on a research project with the Institute of Urban Studies at the University of Texas at Arlington. I then spent 3 years working for the East Texas Council of Governments in Kilgore. These positions provided me some good background on the operations of local government.

In 1981 I was hired as the first City Manager in Converse where I was employed for about seven years. The City of Converse was experiencing significant growth during this time. As their first City Manager, I was able to initiate a number of new programs and I completed several large capital projects.

I was then hired as City Manager in Casa Grande, Arizona where I worked for about 5 1/2 years. Casa Grande is located between Phoenix and Tucson and is a leader in economic development. During my tenure with the City we recruited a number of new businesses including two outlet malls. We also started a new customer services program involving all city employees.

I then accepted the position as City Manager in Hot Spring, Arkansas where I was employed for 14 years. Hot Springs is the #1 tourism destination in Arkansas with a beautiful downtown area, historical sites, lakes and many other attractions. During my service as their City Manager the City completed a number of capital projects and participated in attracting new commercial and tourism developments. This includes a new Embassy Suites Hotel, botanical gardens, Convention Center and amusement park/water park.

For the past 3 1/2 years I have worked as City Manager in Port Angeles, Washington which is the gateway to the Olympic National Park. This position has allowed me to be involved in downtown redevelopment, improvements to the City's waterfront area, expansion of several large industries and development of new partnerships with the County, Port and the City of Victoria, Canada. The City is also very involved in tourism promotion activities.

I am married and my wife, Dianne, and I will be celebrating our fifth anniversary this summer. She has her own business, Strait Strategies, which provides business research services to both the private and public sector. We both have two grown sons. My two sons include Kyle who graduated from the Air Force Academy and is now flying C-17s to Afghanistan. My youngest son, Lance, is a recent accounting graduate from Baylor and has recently passed his CPA tests. He is now employed with KPMG in Dallas. Dianne and I enjoy hiking, biking and weekend trips. We also enjoy time with our four pets including two King Charles Cavalier puppies, Oliver and Riley. I am also an avid runner and I have completed one marathon and several half-marathons. One of the many reasons we were attracted to Fredericksburg is the availability of great outdoor attractions including an excellent parks system.

Another attraction for us is that we will be much closer to our family which is very important to both Dianne and me. My dad and step-mom live in San Antonio. I have two brothers and a sister in Wimberley and lots of nephews and nieces in the area. Dianne's family lives in Arkansas. I have to admit that one challenge for me is that one of my nephews plays on the Wimberley High School Football team. I hope that he understands that I have to support Fredericksburg High School when they play Wimberley.

I have had the opportunity to visit Fredericksburg 6-8 times over the past 15-20 years to enjoy some of the historic sites, shopping, Enchanted Rock and other sites. I have always been impressed with the cleanliness of the city and the quality growth. During the recent interview process Dianne and I spent several days in the community and we were really pleased with the friendliness of local citizens and the warm reception that we received. We were also impressed with the Visitor Center, Museum, restaurants and residential neighborhoods. We also enjoyed meeting a number of City employees and we were very impressed with their positive attitude and level of professionalism and experience.

While we recognize that Fredericksburg has realized a lot of recent growth and progress, we believe that the community has so much more future potential. As City Manager, I hope to play a key leadership role working with the City Council and City staff to insure that the City realizes this potential. I am the type of city manager who likes to get involved in the cities I serve so you will see me out in the community on a regular basis. We look forward to meeting you in the next several weeks.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't thank the current Mayor and City Council for the confidence that you have placed in hiring me as your new City Manager. I am excited and ready to go to work to help Fredericksburg be the very best.

Kent Myers