



DUMFRIES, VIRGINIA
Virginia's Oldest Continuously Chartered Town
CHARTERED 1749 INCORPORATED 1961

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Cydney Neville, Director of Community Services

DATE: October 1, 2012

RE: Monthly Department of Community Services Update

Priorities:

- Dumfries Cares-Anticipating Request for Funds Option
- Christmas-Holiday Parade
- Town Farmer's Market

Farmers Market

The Farmer's Market is open each Saturday from 8am-1pm! A new fall floral vendor will be joining us for this month, and possibly a bakery. October 27, 2012 marks the last day for this market season. The Community Services Department hopes to continue the market next year, beginning in April of 2013 and ending in October of 2013!

38th Annual Christmas-Holiday Parade

Plans are underway for the Town's 38th Christmas Holiday Parade! The parade is set for Saturday, December 8th at 1pm. An official Grand Marshall and parade theme will be determined at the Town Council meeting on October 9th. Requests for high school bands have already been communicated with local schools, and the Quantico Marine Corps Band is officially on board to perform in our parade!

Fall Festival

The Fall Festival was held on Saturday, September 8th, 2012. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event, to make it a success! This year's event had so many vendors, that we had to place the food vendors in the parking lot area, in an effort to accommodate everyone. We had a 'true' Talent Competition during the festival, which left our judges with two very difficult decisions to make selecting placements of winners in our Youth and Adult categories.

News stories regarding the Festival can be found on Potomac Local and InsideNova, as well as pictures from the event on the Town Facebook page.

Grants

As of late September, the Community Services Department has been notified that there is a *backlog* at the federal level processing an abundance of requests for “Requests for Funds.” However, the Program Administrator has made a *Dumfries Cares* a priority and is attempting to have our grant expedited. Once we are able to submit a “Request for Funds,” the department will move forward with implementing Dumfries Cares for the Community.

ON-GOING ITEMS:

Senior Luncheon

The September Senior Luncheon was held on Friday, September 21st. Senior participants were able to enjoy fellowship, lunch catered by Zoe’s Kitchen, free health screenings and a guest from Prince William Forest Park!

The next Senior Luncheon will be held on Friday, October 19th.

English as a Second Language

The ESOL classes are still going strong, thanks to the partnership with the Literacy Volunteers of America-Prince William County. Mrs. Sonia Hoehn has been doing an exceptional job as our volunteer teacher for this class, and is a pleasure to work with. (No change)

Building a Presence for the Town of Dumfries

Building a Presence is a community engagement and awareness campaign that will help to create a presence and rekindle relationships within the Town, for citizens and those in surrounding communities. The goal of Building a Presence is that by the end of the next fiscal year, it will be expected for citizens and those in surrounding areas to look to Dumfries first when it comes to: finding family friendly activities, festivals to enjoy, community service events and programs. This will be an ongoing campaign, and if successful, all of our events will be well attended, and citizens will be well aware of what the Town of Dumfries has to offer.

Community Partnerships

- Literacy Volunteers of America-Prince William County-ESL classes (<https://sites.google.com/site/litvolpw/>)
- Virginia Cooperative Extension-PWC-Parenting classes, 4-H resource, nutrition resource (<http://offices.ext.vt.edu/prince-william/>)
- Big Sis & Company- (www.bigsisandcompany.net) This company is focused on domestic violence prevention. Their CEO was a guest speaker at the Town's Black History Month Celebration! They will be hosting a few domestic violence prevention programs in the community center.
- Sonia Hoehn-ESL Instructor, but has also donated children's books.
- Pillar Church-Movies on the Lawn, volunteers. (<http://www.pillardumfries.com/>)
- Weems Botts/Historic Dumfries-Mrs. Baron has given presentations at some of our Senior Luncheon's and was also a guest speaker at the Town's Black History Month Celebration. (www.historicdumfries.com). She works diligently with our SYEP Participants on Fridays as well.