



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

17755 Main Street
Dumfries, Virginia 22026-2386
Tel: 703-221-3400 / Fax: 703-221-3544
www.dumfriesva.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Cydney Neville, Director of Community Services

DATE: November 4, 2013

RE: Monthly Department of Community Services Update

Priorities:

- Dumfries Cares
- Christmas-Holiday Parade

Dumfries Cares

Funding for the *Dumfries Cares* program has been continued through December 31, 2014! Due to the challenge of retaining High School aged youth, the Middle School and High School aged program will be combined, to service the teenage group on Monday's.

The Elementary Emerging Leaders Program will be expanded to Thursdays in an effort to reach more youth. Parents will have the option to enroll their children in either the Wednesday or Thursday after-school program. Currently, there are 11 youth in the Wednesday program exceeding the initial goal of 10. The extra day will make the new goal to service a total of 30 Elementary Emerging Leaders; 15 on Wednesday and 15 on Thursday. All programming is FREE of charge and provides group mentoring, prevention, and after school help.

We hope to have the Program Assistant vacancy filled, by the time this is published and we will be offering the STEP Parenting Program on November 18th, at 7pm. The Parenting Program is offered over an 8-week period, and is FREE of charge, to include the cost for books!

*In an effort to retain participants, we will need to be able to provide door prizes, snacks, etc. These items cannot be purchased with the funding we currently have in place. Without the "Miscellaneous Community Programs" line item, the Director of Community Services will need to seek supplemental funding from sources such as Wal-Mart to provide these items.

The Director of Community Services is working diligently to ensure the success of this program. With the change in staff, accurate reporting, assessments, advertising and training, it is evident that the minimum 10-15 hours weekly, from the Director of Community Services, will be needed-as mentioned in the initial program write-up, in order to effectively and successfully implement this program. Also, it is imperative that the Town look into other sources of funding to sustain program offerings beyond that date, which is being sought through an AmeriCorps

grant, or obtaining 501(c)3 status for the mentoring program to include and expand other community outreach such as ESOL classes, and Senior Program offerings.

“39th Annual Christmas-Holiday Parade”

The Christmas-Holiday Parade will be held on December 14th, 2013, at noon! Advertisement for the event has begun. The digital flyer can be found on Potomac Local, and as a sponsor advertisement on all articles that are related to education. Ads will be placed in the *Prince William Times* newspaper. The parade will be advertised in local establishments, as well as a wide variety of media and community listings, as well as information for the Christmas Tree Lighting, that will be held on December 7th.

The Marching Bands from Quantico has confirmed participation. We are awaiting confirmation from the Army Old Fife and Drum Corps. Registrations are coming in! Community groups are encouraged to register to participate in what is sure to be the best Christmas-Holiday Parade in Virginia! All entries will have to have a representative attend the mandatory Pre-Parade meeting on Wednesday, December 4th.

Grants

- Dumfries Cares/DCJS
- Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth-VFHY Healthy Community Action Teams (HCAT) for Childhood Obesity Prevention Grant. We will know the outcome of this application, in early December.

ON-GOING ITEMS:

Senior Luncheon

The October Luncheon was fun! Seniors enjoyed a great lunch, catered from Shoppers Food Warehouse, fellowshiped, and played a few rounds of BINGO!

The November luncheon will have a Thanksgiving theme, and will be held on Friday, November 15th at 1pm.

English as a Second Language

The Town’s FREE ESOL classes are offered on Tuesdays from 10am-noon, in the Community Center. During these classes, 7-13 participants are educated weekly, through this program.

Community Partnerships

- Literacy Volunteers of America-Prince William County-ESL classes (<https://sites.google.com/site/litvolpw/>)
- Sonia Hoehn-ESL Instructor.