



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: February 25, 2013

RE: Monthly Department of Community Services Update

Priorities:

- Dumfries Cares
- 2013 Farmer's Market
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Multicultural Festival
- Volunteer Program

Dumfries Cares

The *Dumfries Cares* program is running. Elementary slots are nearly filled. Staff is working to fill Middle and High School slots.

Middle School Program-Monday's 3:30-6:30pm, serving grades 6-8

Elementary School Program-Wednesday's 3:45-6:45pm, serving grades 2-5

High School Program-Thursday's 2:30-5:30pm, serving grades 9-12

Staff has completed preventive program training for the elementary and middle school students, and will begin implementing the programs the first week of March, in the after school setting.

*It is important to note, that *Dumfries Cares* Staff work solely on the *Dumfries Cares* Program. The Director completes all other tasks completed by the Community Services Department, other than Market Manger.

Farmers Market

The Town's Farmers Market is set for a Grand Opening on Saturday, April 13, 2013! Our Market is now partnered through the Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Sciences and featured on the Virginia Grown website! Registration material for participants is currently available on the Town's website.

Easter Egg Hunt

The 2013 Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 23rd at 11:00am, at the Ginn Memorial Park! The Dumfries-Triangle Rescue Squad has donated 7,000 candy and toy filled eggs for the event, which will also feature face-painting, games and the Easter Bunny for all to enjoy!

Multicultural Festival

The Multicultural Festival will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2013, in Garrison Park from 10am-5pm. Registration forms for vendors, Bar-B-Que Battle participants and Community Performers are currently available on our website. The event is currently being marketed in the community and local jurisdictions.

New to this year's festival- LOVEwork! In an effort to make the Town and its festivals tourist destinations and to promote family friendly travel destinations, Virginia Tourism's LOVEwork is constantly on 'tour' throughout the state of Virginia, and will be on display in Garrison Park from May 3rd-May 7th! Visitors are encouraged to take photos with the LOVEwork and upload their photo on the Virginia Tourism Website: <http://www.virginia.org/LOVE/>

*The Showmobile and Hilldrup trucks are not available, so we will be using an event tent/stage flooring, provided through Party HQ.

Volunteer Program

The Volunteer Program is nearly finalized. The program will consist of: an online volunteer management database that will allow volunteers to record and document their volunteer hours, implementation Volunteer Handbook, a screening process, and volunteer job advertisements (as needed) from departments.

Bike To Work

The Town of Dumfries Community Center will be an official "Bike To Work" pit stop this year! The event will be held on Friday, May 17th. Bikers will be able to stop at our pit stop for breakfast, bike safety information, and t-shirts! More information to come. <http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org/dumfries-pit-stop/>

Grants

- Dumfries Cares
- Walmart Grant- The Department of Community Services has received \$5,500 in grant funding from the Dumfries Walmart to support our Market and Health Initiative! Funds provided will cover the Market Manager, help to advertise the weekly nutritional option in the community (to include a banner and tent fold sign), provide funding for the Grand Opening, nutritious educational materials for youth who attend, provide pedometers for a walking program, and bags to give to the first 100 visitors!

ON-GOING ITEMS:

Senior Luncheon

The February Senior Luncheon was a hit! Seniors enjoyed a Valentine's Day themed luncheon and speakers Mrs. Becky Guy from the Powhatan Tribe, Historic Dumfries, and Bruce Potter-publisher from InsideNova! Please see Valentine's photo's from the luncheon, on the Town's facebook page.

The next Senior Luncheon will be held on March 15th from 1pm-2:30pm.

English as a Second Language

Thanks to the partnership with the Literacy Volunteers of America-Prince William County, the Town has been able to provide FREE ESOL classes to the community for nearly a year! Mrs. Sonia Hoehn has been doing an exceptional job as our volunteer teacher for this class, and is a pleasure to work with. The Town's FREE ESOL classes are offered on Tuesdays from 10am-noon.

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.

In the spirit of putting Dumfries First, with the implementation of *Dumfries Cares*, our Town will be unique in being one of the few, if not the only, Town in Virginia to offer a mentoring program for its youth! The implementation of the mentoring program, in addition to the Summer

Youth Employment Program, makes the Town of Dumfries a trailblazer in investing in the future of our youngest citizens!

In the spirit of Building a Presence for the Town of Dumfries, the sense of pride in our Town was palpable at the parade, and at the community block party towards the end of the event! The Department of Community Services will continue to strive to build upon “Dumfries Pride” in our citizens, throughout 2013!

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. Barron 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.