



## 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: April 29, 2013

RE: Monthly Department of Community Services Update

#### Priorities:

- Multicultural
- 2013 Farmer's Market
- Miscellaneous Community Events

#### **Dumfries Cares**

The *Dumfries Cares* program Elementary program is thriving and the middle school program is still growing. A continuation application was submitted, and if approved, and pending Graham Park Middle School's grant's approval, the middle school program will be implemented in an after school format at GPMS.

We are focused on filling the spots for the Middle School Program. If anyone is interested, please contact us at 703.221.3400 ext. 146.

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

#### **Farmer's Market**

The Town's Farmers Market Grand Opening was held on Saturday, April 13, 2013. The first 100 visitors received Town Market shopping bags and Town pedometers.

There has been a delay for the three farmers set up to vend, as the weather has been unpredictable, which has resulted in a delay of their crop. When the grand opening date was planned (last year), it was based on when their crop would be ready for sale. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other plans. We can expect farmers to sell their fruits and vegetables in May.

We are still accepting new vendors, throughout the market season. Si desea participar, por favor contacte al Director de Servicios a la Comunidad, se habla español. 703.221.3400 ext. 144

## **Multicultural Festival**

The Multicultural Festival will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2013, in Garrison Park from 10am-5pm.

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 1<sup>st</sup> -May 7<sup>th</sup>. Visitors are encouraged to take photos with the LOVEwork and to upload their photo on the Virginia Tourism Website: <http://www.virginia.org/LOVE/>.

We look forward to having the Dumfries Community show their Dumfries Pride at this event, as well as our friends in neighboring jurisdictions. Bring your lawn chairs, and enjoy a day of food, family, fun, community performances, professional performers, Bar-B-Que, meet Joshua Morgan of the Washington Redskins. Come and help us "*celebrate the cultures that make up the fabric of our community!*"

## **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 17<sup>th</sup>. Bikers will be able to stop at our pit stop for breakfast, bike safety information, and t-shirts. Sign up here: <http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org/dumfries-pit-stop/>.

## **Financial Education Workshops**

Through working with Virginia Credit Union, we will have the following FREE financial workshops available to the community.

5/22 - (For Dumfries Cares Elementary Group) - Interactive workshop, teaches youth the basics of budgeting, savings, and credit.

The following will be held at 7pm, on the following Monday evenings.

**6/10 - Building a Better Budget** (For the Community) Get practical advice for creating and sticking to a budget with tools to track spending and establish savings goals.

**6/17 - Your Credit Score** - Learn how to build, manage and maintain a great credit score.

## **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 April Luncheon was great. The Luncheon was originally planned to be held at the Boys & Girls Club; however, it was moved to the Community Center when no one from the Club arrived to let us in the building as planned. It is amazing how our wonderful seniors sprang into action to assist with the set up and coordination of the luncheon. Our senior group is absolutely amazing, and I'm humbled by the amount of support they showed, when we were faced with a sudden change of plans. They are to be commended for their assistance with the April Luncheon.

During the April Luncheon, seniors had the opportunity to chat with Potomac District Supervisor Caddigan, dance along with a Zumba Gold demonstration, paint, and enjoy one another's company. In addition, we would like to thank the Dumfries-Triangle Rescue Squad for the donation and support of the Senior Luncheon.

The next Senior Luncheon will be held on May 17<sup>th</sup> from 1 pm - 2:30 pm.

### **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 10 am - 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/>)
- Sonia Hoehn-ESL Instructor, has also donated children’s books.
- Pillar Church-Movies on the Lawn, volunteers. (<http://www.pillardumfries.com/>)
- Virginia Credit Union