



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: May 24, 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 still thriving. Youth are completing their Media Detective workshops, and had the opportunity to participate in a financial education workshop with Virginia Credit Union.

Staff attended training for STEP parenting classes. Should the grant be continued, parenting classes will resume in Dumfries this summer

Farmer's Market

The Town's Farmer's Market is open every Saturday from 8am-noon. The crop is ready, and farmers are participating in the Market.

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 was a huge success. Thank you to our volunteers, vendors, performers, and participants, who made it possible. Please remember to upload pictures with the LoveWork, to the Virginia Tourism website.

Bike To Work

The Town of Dumfries hosted "Bike to Work Day," on May 17th. We had six visitors to our pit-stop, which is an improvement from last year, and look forward to growing this event next year. Thanks to our volunteer, Danny Cosner for volunteering his time to greet our visitors as they stopped by.

Financial Education Workshops

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

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.

Movies on the Lawn

Movies on the Lawn are returning to Garrison Park, thanks to a community partnership with Pillar Church. Details are still being planned, but please be on the lookout for a flyer in early June for more information.

*Tentative dates July 12th, August 2nd, September 14-following the Fall Festival.

Volunteer Reception

A Volunteer Reception will be held on Monday, June 24th at 7pm, to honor those who have volunteered their time, talents, and services to the Town of Dumfries during the current fiscal year. Invitations will be emailed during the first week of June.

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 May Luncheon was held in the pavilion of Merchant Park. Participants enjoyed a barbeque lunch, fellowship, and a question and answer period with Uriah Kiser from Potomac Local.

The next Senior Luncheon will be held on June 21st from 1pm-2:30.

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