



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: June 28, 2012

RE: Monthly Department of Community Services Update

Priorities:

- Planning to implement the Dumfries Cares Program in July
- Fall Festival
- Town Farmers Market
- Summer Youth Employment Program Orientation
- Heart Health Event

Summer Youth Employment Program

Four Dumfries Youth have been selected to participate in the 2012 Summer Youth Employment Program! They will begin work on July 10th, with an orientation. There will be a "Meet & Greet" for the participants prior to the Council Meeting on the same day, during which, they will be introduced to the community.

Farmers Market

The Farmer's Market is growing! Plans are to hold a Grand Opening for the Farmer's Market on Saturday, July 14th! The Town Market will be a healthy affordable option to purchasing produce from the local grocer. Not only will there be fresh vegetables, but also the opportunity to purchase hot food and bakery items as well.

Fall Festival

Plans are underway for a successful Fall Festival! The event is set for Saturday, September 8th, from 10:00am – 5:00pm. Like all of our major events, it will be fun for the entire family and will feature the "2nd Annual Dumfries Has Talent" competition, and a Wine Tasting section. We are currently accepting applications for vendors as well as competitors for the talent competition!

Movies on the Lawn

The “Movies on the Lawn” event held in early June was a huge success! Thanks to our friends at Pillar Church, we were able to host such an event for our citizens and those in neighboring jurisdictions. I have met with representatives from Pillar Church, and we are planning to host another “Movies on the Lawn” event by the end of the summer. Once the details are confirmed, they will be publicized.

Heart Health Event

The Heart Healthy Symposium, co-sponsored by “Big Sis & Company,” is set for Saturday, July 14th. This will be an informational event, with a focus on heart health and an emphasis on steps taking steps towards leading a healthy lifestyle. There will be panelists of doctors, heart attack survivors, free health screenings, and nutrition information.

Grants

I am pleased to announce that the Town of Dumfries has been approved for the DCJS federal grant to implement Dumfries Cares! Our package should be received in June and the Department of Community Services will make this a top priority, to implement the grant in the Town and deliver a mentoring program that our citizens can be proud of! The grant packet is expected to be delivered the first week of July. Once received, updates will be provided.

ON-GOING ITEMS:

Senior Luncheon

Due to the forecasted excessive heat for Friday, June 29th, the plans for the luncheon have been changed. Seniors will enjoy free tours of the Weems-Botts Museum, with a tea in the lobby area. Instead of a traditional cookout, they will receive a boxed barbecue lunch.

The July Luncheon will be held on Friday, July 20th, 2012.

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/>)
- Mahogany Books-Kids Literature Corners at events (www.mahoganybooks.com)
- 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. March-Today's Empowered Woman Conference.
- 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)