



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: July 30, 2012

RE: Monthly Department of Community Services Update

Priorities:

- Planning to implement the Dumfries Cares Program
- Fall Festival
- Town Farmers Market
- Summer Youth Employment Program

Summer Youth Employment Program

The 2012 Summer Youth Employment Program Participants have been working diligently in their respective departments. We are halfway through the program, and have been pleased with their performance and diligence to accomplish their tasks. This week they will begin working on their presentation for their culminating activity, set for August 17th. (They will be sending invitations shortly).

Farmers Market

The Farmer's Market continues to grow! The Grand Opening was a huge success, and I am pleased to report that each Saturday following the Grand Opening has been equally successful! On behalf of the Community Services Department and Market Vendors, I would like to thank everyone for supporting the Market!

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!

Heart Health Event

The Heart Healthy Symposium, co-sponsored by “Big Sis & Company,” was held Saturday, July 14th. This event was very informative, although attendance was low. However, the event was recorded and will be played on the Fairfax County Community Channel, and will feature an announcement about the Farmer’s Market and other upcoming Town events!

Grants

As previously reported, the Town was approved for a Federal Grant, Dumfries Cares. This grant will provide resources to implement a mentoring program for youth in our community. Once funds are dispersed, we will move forward with hiring a part-time Program Assistant and Intern to support this program. In the meantime, a grant calendar is being created, as well as the groundwork to implement the program in September (to include forms for grant reporting, measureable objectives, and curricula for the program, developing partnerships for the program, and exploring training-mostly with Virginia Mentors).

ON-GOING ITEMS:

Senior Luncheon

During the July Senior Luncheon, seniors had the opportunity to meet two of the SYEP participants, who served the seniors lunch and enjoyed playing a few rounds of BINGO with them.

The August Luncheon will be held in conjunction with the Police Department’s National Night Out, on August 8th. SYEP Participants have taken the responsibility of mailing out invitations to Seniors.

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/>)
- 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). She works diligently with our SYEP Participants on Fridays as well.