



## 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: December 28, 2012

RE: Monthly Department of Community Services Update

#### Priorities:

- Dumfries Cares
- Black History Month
- 2013 Farmer's Market

#### **Dumfries Cares**

The Department of Community Services is pleased to announce that it is expanding, and has hired, Ms. Janae Williams-Program Assistant, and Ms. Brittany Jordan-Program Intern for *Dumfries Cares*! Both ladies will begin working with the Town on Thursday January 4, 2013. They will be completing a mentoring training on January 5<sup>th</sup> with Virginia Mentoring, and will plan an Open House for *Dumfries Cares*.

The Program Assistant and Intern will receive further professional development through attending the National Mentoring Conference in Washington DC, later this month.

#### **2012 Black History Month**

The Town's Black History Month Celebration will take place on Saturday February 9, 2013 from noon – 2pm. The theme for the event is “Believe, Achieve, Succeed: Showcasing Inspiring Testimonials from Change Agents in our Community.” The celebration will be held at Little Union Baptist Church!

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

The Town's Farmer's Market is set for a Grand Opening of 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 materials for participants will be available shortly.

## **Grants**

Dumfries Cares-Program in Progress!

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 salary to 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 December luncheon was held on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. This was the holiday luncheon, which was magnificent thanks to a performance from the Quantico Marine Handbell Choir! Participants brought in delicious dishes, participated in a gift exchange and turkey give-a-way (where each winner donated their turkeys), won door-prizes and did some caroling to the tune of the choir!

The next Senior Luncheon will be held on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. (Change in date, due to the holiday on January 18<sup>th</sup>).

### **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.

Since early December, the ESOL classes have been growing! Mrs. Hoehn has had between 7-10 students participate in these weekly classes. There is a strong need for ESOL classes in our area, and once more people are aware that they can take classes in Town for FREE, more will come!

### **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 and festivals to enjoy, as well as 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](http://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](http://www.historicdumfries.com)). She works diligently with our SYEP Participants on Fridays as well.