



The Dumfries Charter

Volume XII, Issue III

Third Quarter 2013

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR:

Recreational Events Have Something for Everyone!

Council approved their operating FY14 Budget and it took effect on 1 July 2013 through 30 June 2014. The Town has budgeted over \$50,000 in social programs to keep residents involved in our community. Council is sending a clear message that there is something for everyone. Of the approximately \$50,000, there is \$25,000 programmed for yet to be determined programs in the newly formed Parks & Recreations Commission (Concert Series approved 9 July 2013) and the remaining \$25,000 is for the Farmer's Market, Easter Egg Hunt, Black History Month, Multicultural Festival, Fall Festival, Volunteer Programs & Awards Ceremony, Summer Employment Program, Senior Lunches, Christmas Tree Lighting, Christmas Parade & Post-Parade Party, Multiple Movies on the Lawn, and the Town's Charter

Day events. There is also a Kids Police Academy funded by the Dumfries Police Department. So take advantage of your Town's planned events. There are more events over the next 12 months funded in our Town then in any other time in our history! Come and enjoy the activities.

I asked JoAnn Barron the Curator for the Weems Boots Museum to contribute to the Town's Newsletter. Located in Town, the Historic Dumfries Virginia, Inc has continual learning programs that are age appropriate for school aged kids and are offered at Weems Boots, Merchant Park and the Museum Annex. Additionally, there are Charter Day Events, Queens Tea Parties, Colonial Camps for Kids, Ghost Tours, Civil War Encampments, Revolutionary & Civil War Medical Demonstrations. So please check out the Historic Dumfries Section of this Newsletter for the latest happenings.

Come out and explore our Town, we have three parks; Merchant Park, Garrison Park, and Ginn Memorial Park. These

parks are paid for and maintained solely by the Town of Dumfries. Each park offers a different venue and has diverse amenities.

Enjoy the summer and I hope to see you at Town events. Let Council know how they are doing. In order to make our Town successful, we need to work with our Town Staff, Citizens, Business Owners, and sister communities of Triangle, Quantico, Southbridge, Graham Park, and Montclair. The Town of Dumfries is the gathering point for South-eastern Prince William County. The Council and Town Staff take a lot of pride on the direction of where the Town is going.

S/F

The Dumfries Charter

Gerald M. Foreman
Mayor

News from the Department of Public Works:

You may be aware that there are some changes within the Public Works Department. Greg Tkac has left employment with the Town of Dumfries as Director of Public Works to pursue other opportunities. Richard West is now Director of Public Works, moving up from the Assistant Director position. Terry Myers was promoted from Program Administrator to the Assistant Director of Public Works and was also named the Building Official for the Town of Dumfries.

Donald Howard, a long term, full-time employee, has retired from Public Works. Donald plans to continue to show his classic cars as well as do some traveling. The Town has hired two part-time employees within the Public Works Department to fill the vacancy caused by Donald's retirement. The Public Works Department sends best wishes to both Greg Tkac and Donald Howard in their future endeavors. They will be missed.

There are many projects occurring and being planned within Dumfries. Some of them include the Tripoli Heights street and curb improvements; Possum Point Road sidewalks; a Route 1 walking trail; walking and bicycle trails; the Graham Park Road and Main Street expansion; and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Prince William County, and the Town of Dumfries future re-routing and expansion of the Jefferson Davis Highway (Route 1) through Dumfries.

We are also working with the Potomac Shores Development northeast of Dumfries to effectively deal with several logistical concerns between the Developer, the Town of Dumfries, Prince William County, and the Virginia Department of Transportation. Studies are being completed and all are concerned with the impacts of this large development. Due to the magnitude of this project, it is a slow process; however, the Town Council and Town Staff are working to make sure the Town's interests are known and addressed.

Save the Date for Exciting Events at Historic Dumfries!

- Sept. 7: Civil War Demonstration
- Sept. 13: Friday the 13th – Ghost Walk and Lock-In
- Oct. 4/5, 11/12, 18/19, 25/26, 31: Ghost Walk / Lock-In
- Oct. 5: Civil War Living History Demonstration
- Oct. 5: “Children’s Day at the Museum”
- Oct. 12: Fall Celebration
- Nov. 2: Civil War Living History Demonstration
- Nov. 9: “Children’s Day at the Museum”
- Nov. 16: Silent Auction
- Dec. 7: Civil War Demonstration / “Children’s



News from the Police Department:

Recent Changes in the Personnel of the Dumfries Police Department

On July 8, 2013, Recruit Officer Travis “DeShawn” Sims became the newest member of the police department. Recruit Officer Sims is originally from South Carolina where he grew up and attended school. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Recruit Officer Sims served fifteen years in the Marine Corps and is a veteran having served three tours in Iraq, a tour in Kuwait and in Somalia. While in the Marine Corps, he served as an Aircraft Maintenance Administrative Specialist and as a Supervisor. He also served as a Drill Instructor, Martial Arts Instructor, and Officer Candidate/Physical Training Instructor.



In addition to his extensive military service and work experience, Recruit Officer Sims is currently enrolled in Strayer University and is working toward his bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice and Computer Forensic Science. He also speaks and understands some Spanish.

Recruit Officer Sims is currently attending the Prince William County Basic Law Enforcement Academy, and he will be a positive, valuable asset to the Police Department and Town. An additional note of interest is that Recruit Officer Sims is the third former Marine currently employed by the Dumfries Police Department.

On June 30, 2013, Chief of Police Rob Forker “re-retired” from law enforcement. Chief Forker retired as a Captain from the Prince William Police Department in 2007 after serving 25 years. He had served with the Dumfries Police Department since March of 2010, and he was initially asked to help review records, documents, policy and procedures. He was appointed Chief of Police in the fall of 2011.

Since Chief Forker has been with the police department, it has become more visible and involved in the community; the officers walk foot patrols, and eat lunch with the children at Dumfries Elementary School. In addition, citizens feel more comfortable stopping by the police station, telephoning the police station and even sending an e-mail from their personal account to express concerns and issues in their neighborhood.

Chief Forker said he is going to miss the officers of the police department, the Town employees, and the citizens he has met over the past few years. On July 1, 2013, Becca Edwards was appointed the Chief of Police for the Dumfries Police Department. She has served as the Police Department’s Captain since January 2012 and has over 25 years of law enforcement experience and has worked in both small and large agencies.

News from the Police Department Continued:

Town of Dumfries Dog Ordinance Reminders

The Dumfries Police Department wants to remind citizens of several Town Ordinances regarding civic responsibilities in controlling dogs in your possession.

Town Code 10-30 requires that all dogs leaving your property must be on a leash and in the control of a responsible person.

Town Code 10-31 requires dog owners obtain a license tag from the Prince William County Animal Control Bureau.



New Town Planner/ Zoning Administrator Goes to Work:



On March 28, 2013 the new Town Planner/Zoning Administrator, Laura O'Dell, began work with the Town. Laura has more than 7 years experience in planning and zoning, and is a certified Zoning Administrator in the State of Virginia, and is also a Certified Code Official of the VA Maintenance Code as certified by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

Laura was most recently the Zoning Administrator with the Town of Strasburg in Shenandoah County, and prior to that worked at Fairfax County as a Zoning and Property Maintenance Enforcement inspector.

Laura is responsible for inspecting zoning complaints, writing ordinances, issuing permits, assisting developers and property owners with development applications, meeting with potential business owners in Town to verify zoning and business regulations, and assisting residents with any other planning and zoning matter. Currently an ordinance on yard sales is being drafted, newly revised Historic District Guidelines are being reviewed, and a potential graffiti ordinance is a consideration for the Town of Dumfries.

News from the Police Department Continued:

Summer Safety Reminders from the Dumfries Police Department

Summer is here and school is out! The Police Dumfries Department wants to remind citizens there is a need for increased awareness due to the additional foot and vehicle traffic through the Town's neighborhoods.

Please slow down when driving through residential communities. There should be no expectation that a child will stop walking at an intersection, stop riding their bike, or not quickly dart across the street. Wait an extra five seconds before you cross or turn in an intersection. Allow enough time for all pedestrian traffic to clear.



Do not make yourself a target of opportunity! Do not leave attractive objects out for thieves to take. Examples are items such as lawn mowers, weed eaters, power tools, and ladders. Other items that are easy to take are bicycles, mountain bikes, motorized scooters, razor scooters, and any type of sports equipment. Do not tempt would be thieves, put these items away; out of sight and locked up.

Always lock your vehicle. How many times have you heard a neighbor, friend, or relative say, "I was only gone a minute..." All it takes is a minute. Remove all valuable items from your vehicle. Items such as portable GPS units, MP3s, iPods, iPads, and your pocketbook or wallet are easy targets for those who are looking to take things from vehicles. Also, do not leave valuable, irreplaceable documents and packages in your vehicle.

Finally, remember to keep your home safe as well. Always keep your doors and windows locked, and make sure your home and out buildings are clearly visible at night.

 **Town of Dumfries Summer Concert Series**
FAMILY FUN IN THE PARK
"FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS"

 Friday Aug. 23 From 5:00pm to 8:20pm Tony Craddock Jr.	A Benefit for the ACTS Food Pantry Bring a Non-Perishable Donation	Friday Sept. 6 From 5:00pm to 8:20pm  Ron Kronz
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Garrison Park - behind Dumfries Town Hall, 17755 Main Street, Dumfries, VA 22026

News from the Department of Community Services:

2013 Summer Youth Interns:

The Town is pleased to have Asjah and Janel serve as our 2013 Summer Youth Interns! While both of these future leaders attend Forest Park High School during the school year they have been very busy working with the various departments in the Town for the summer.

They've helped with the coordination of the upcoming Fall Festival with the Department of Community Services, sampled water for pollution with the Public Works Department, and have assisted with clerical duties with Administration, to list a few of their accomplishments!

Thank you, Summer Youth Interns, for all that you do for the Town!



Don't forget to visit the Town website, www.dumfriesva.gov, and the Town's facebook page, to stay abreast of happenings in the Town of Dumfries, in between quarterly newsletters.

Town of Dumfries 2013 Fall Festival

Saturday, September 14, 2013
11:00am - 6:30pm
At Garrison Park
(Behind Town Hall)
17755 Main Street
Dumfries, VA 22026

Featuring:

**"3rd Annual Dumfries Has Talent
Competition!"**

***Kids Activities, a variety of vendors,
great food, artists and crafters!**

There will be something for everyone!

If you are interested in vending, or participating in the
Talent Competition, please visit www.dumfriesva.gov.



"Movies on the Lawn"

**"Wreck It Ralph" on the
Lawn, following the Fall
Festival! Seating begins
at 7:00pm!**



It Doesn't Cost a Lot to be Prepared

September is National Preparedness Month

It's no secret that disasters, both natural and manmade, seem to be occurring frequently in the U.S. September is National Preparedness Month and the perfect time for Virginia families to get ready for whatever may come, including tropical storms. Being prepared for emergencies doesn't have to cost a lot.

Make a plan. This may be the single most important thing you can do, and it's free. Make sure everyone in your family understands where to go and what to do in case of an emergency. Update your contact information and post it in visible places in your home and workplace. For help, use our free emergency plan worksheet at www.ReadyVirginia.gov or get the Ready Virginia app from the App Store and Google Play.

Set aside emergency supplies. Don't wait for a storm. Buy preparedness items throughout the year instead of all at once. Shop at sales and used goods stores. Choose the essentials that fit your needs and budget. If you don't have emergency supplies, September is a good time to get started. Get a list at www.ReadyVirginia.gov.

- **Request a gift.** We all get things we don't need. Suggest preparedness supplies as gifts from friends and family.
- **Store water.** You don't have to buy expensive bottled water. Just make sure your water containers are disinfected and airtight. Have at least a three-day supply of water on hand – that's one gallon per person per day.

Check your policy. Take a few minutes to review your insurance policy during National Preparedness Month. Get with your agent to make any necessary changes. Consider adding flood insurance because most policies don't include it. Renters, you can get flood insurance, too. When a disaster strikes, you want to be sure that your coverage will get you back on your feet.

Encourage your loved ones to get ready for emergencies during National Preparedness Month. If you would like to join a national community of families and organizations that are preparing for emergencies, visit www.Ready.gov and click on the "Pledge to Prepare" banner.

Prepared by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, August 2013

(804) 897-6510

pio@vdem.virginia.gov

www.ReadyVirginia.gov

Safety Tips for Walkers:

- Cross streets at marked crosswalks or intersections, if possible.
- Obey traffic signals such as WALK/DON'T WALK signs.
- Look left, right, and left again before crossing a street.
- Watch for turning vehicles; make sure the driver sees you and will stop for you.
- Look across ALL lanes you must cross and visually clear each lane before proceeding. Just because one motorist stops, do not presume drivers in other lanes can see you and will stop for you.



Don't wear headphones or talk on a cell phone while crossing.

Visit www.walking.org, for more information.



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The Dumfries Charter is a quarterly newsletter produced to inform Town residents and businesses of Town services and events. All questions & comments regarding the Charter should be addressed to Cydney Neville, Director of Community Services 703-221-3400, ext. 144 or via email at

cneville@dumfriesva.gov

*****ECRWSS*****

P.O. Box Holder

Town of Dumfries Resident/Business

Dumfries, Virginia 22026



DUMFRIES TOWN COUNCIL

Hon. Gerald M. Foreman II Mayor
703-221-3400 ext. 120

Hon. Willie Toney, Vice Mayor

Hon. Charles Brewer

Hon. Kristin W. Forrester

Hon. Helen Reynolds

Hon. Gwen P. Washington

Hon. Derrick Wood

TOWN MANAGER

Dan Taber

TOWN ATTORNEY

Christine Sanders

Town Council Meetings

Town Council Meeting are typically held the *first* Tuesday of the month at 7:00PM. The regular meetings are broadcast locally and may be viewed on Comcast Channel 3 & Verizon Channel 35.*

Work Sessions are typically held on the *third* Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. Please visit the Town website for an updated schedule.

Additional meetings may be called by Council. For information and meeting schedules, contact the Town at 703-221-3400, or visit www.dumfriesva.gov.

*If you have difficulty viewing or hearing a televised Town Council regular meeting, please contact Comcast at 1-800-266-2278 or Verizon

**Please SAVE THE DATES
for these upcoming Town
Events!**

Saturdays: Farmer's Market

(8:00am-12:00pm)

Market ends 8/31

8/23 Dumfries Concert Series

9/6 Dumfries Concert Series

9/14- Fall Festival/Dumfries Has Talent!

(followed by "Movies on the Lawn")

12/7 Christmas in Dumfries

(Contact the Dumfries Police Department)

12/7 Christmas Tree Lighting

12/14-Annual Christmas-Holiday Parade

Visit www.dumfriesva.gov

for updates on our events!