



The Dumfries Charter

Volume XI, Issue IV

Fourth Quarter 2012

Town Contacts

Main number:

703.221.3400

Police Department:

703.221.1111

Town Manager: ext. 113

Town Attorney: ext. 112

Department of Comm. and Economic

Development: ext. 140

Department of Comm. Services: ext. 144

Department of Public Works: ext. 117

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR:

Dear Citizens of Dumfries,

This has been an exciting year; The Council and Town Staff have accomplished a lot in 2012 and we are prepared to accomplish more in 2013! Do not stop communicating with Council. The Town Council and Staff need citizen, property owner, business owner and taxpayer input. We have 5,000 citizens in this Town; write the Council on what is important to you and voice your concerns.

This year the Town of Dumfries is hosting a Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday, December 1st, 2012 at 5 PM EST at Town Hall in addition to the 38th Annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 8th, 2012 at 1 PM EST. Let's never lose that small Town feel.

This is the last Newsletter for 2012; I wish you all many blessings throughout the Holiday season. Enjoy your family gatherings during Thanksgiving, Veterans Day, Ashura, Hanukah, Christmas, Kwanza, and lastly New Year's Eve and New Year's Day!

Sincerely,

Mayor Gerald M. Foreman, II

Inside this issue:

Information on RPA's from Public Works	2
News from the Police Department	3
Police Department continued	4
Parade road closures	4
News from Community Services	5
Christmas-Holiday Parade	5
Save the Dates	6

TOWN OF DUMFRIES REAL ESTATE TAX BILLS

The 2012 second half real estate tax bills were mailed November 5, 2012. All bills are due on or before the close of business on December 5, 2012. Payments not received by the due date will be assessed a ten (10%) percent penalty. If you have a mortgage on your home, your mortgage company typically pays your real estate taxes and you will not receive a bill from the Town.

Payments can be mailed to the Town of Dumfries, 17755 Main Street, Dumfries, Virginia 22026, or for your convenience there is a drop box located next to the front door of Town Hall.

Another payment option is through **Official Payments**. To pay online visit www.officialpayments.com or to pay by phone call 1 800 2PAY-TAX. Use Jurisdiction Code 6234.

News from the Department of Public Works

Keep Our Waters Clean

There is a great deal of information about water quality and the Potomac River. The truth is that our everyday lives do impact water quality. There is however something we can all do as a community. Each person, each business, each organization can take steps to minimize impacts on water quality. It will take all of us to improve conditions. It is a local state regional national and global issue. We are all the problem but together we can all be part of the solution.

Each us can take steps to prevent pollution and keep our streams healthier. Here are seven steps you can take to protect our local streams, the Potomac River, the Chesapeake Bay and beyond.

1. CAR CARE- Recycle your used motor oil antifreeze and batteries at the County landfill. Remember to keep your car tuned so it runs better and pollutes less. Be sure your car does not leak dangerous fluids and oil that wash into streams. Wash your car on your lawn or divert water across a grassy area to filter your suds.
2. BOATERS AND FISHERMEN - Limit your speed because wakes can cause shoreline erosion. Don't litter. Avoid using soap to wash off your boat. Try to rinse and scrub your boat with a brush. If you must use soap choose a phosphate-free soap or detergent.
3. SWIMMING POOLS - Drain your pool only when it is necessary. Be careful to prevent the chlorine from entering storm drains or nearby streams. Allow pool water to sit for a few days then drain the water onto the lawn so soil can filter out the remaining chlorine residue.
4. YOUR PETS - Clean up after your pets and dispose of waste properly!
5. SEPTIC SYSTEMS - Monitor your tank yearly and have the system pumped every five years using a licensed contractor. Remember that additives do not help and may actually hurt your system. Divert water flowing from roofs and paved areas away from your septic system. Call the Health Department at 703-792-6310 for more information.
6. LAWN CARE - Apply fertilizers properly. Nutrients in fertilizers contribute to pollution in the Chesapeake Bay. Test your soil early to determine needs. Use pesticides wisely -- never spray them near water or into the wind. Call the **Virginia Cooperative Extension** at 703-792-6285 for more information.
7. HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS AND PRODUCTS - Handle and dispose of products that contain hazardous chemicals properly. These materials can wash into waterways and harm our streams and the Chesapeake Bay. Call 703-792-6001 for details.

By taking these simple steps, all residents, businesses and agencies to do their part to reduce pollution and improve water quality by changing their practices and habits. Remember our local waters also have an impact well beyond our County boundaries. All local streams feed into the Potomac River which feeds into the Chesapeake Bay which feeds into the Atlantic Ocean which feeds into other oceans.

Works Cited

- "Public Works | Town of Dumfries." *Town of Dumfries*. Web. 26 Mar. 2012. <<http://www.dumfriesva.gov/government/public-works>>.
- "Cars." - *The Crittenden Automotive Library*. Web. 26 Mar. 2012. <<http://www.carsandracingstuff.com/library/images/cars.php>>.
- Grass Pad. Web. 26 Mar. 2012. <<http://www.grasspad.com/sod.html>>.
- "Craft Project Patterns and Clipart." *Free Dog Clipart*. Web. 26 Mar. 2012. <<http://www.freecraftunlimited.com/clipart-dog-2.html>>.

News from the Department of Public Works Continued:

Winter Prep

The weather may be beautiful now, but Old Man Winter is waiting around the corner. Some thoughts from the Department of Public Works to reduce pollution in Quantico Creek, the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay:

When removing snow or ice, shovel or scrape to remove accumulations, and use as little chemicals or sand as possible. Chemicals eventually end up in streams, and sand clogs drains. The Town attempts to use no chemicals or sand in snow and ice control. Occasionally sand is applied where dangerous ice builds up.

Help keep drains clear by not shoveling or plowing ice or snow into curbs or drains. This will allow melt water to drain freely, reducing flooding and slippery conditions.

If you change your car fluids at this time, please **dispose of oil and coolant at a proper recycling facility. Take used car batteries to a facility that will dispose of them properly.**

Please contact Richard West, Assistant Director of Public Works, at rwest@dumfriesva.gov with any questions.



News from the Police Department:

Christmas in Dumfries

The Town of Dumfries is gearing up to celebrate its 12th Annual "Christmas in Dumfries" program on December 15, 2012. The program was originally initiated by several Dumfries Police Department officers in hopes of making Christmas brighter for many children in Dumfries. In the past we have been able to take approximately 50 children Christmas shop-



ping at the local Wal-Mart each year.

Applications to are currently being accepted. They may be located in the lobby of the police department located at 18130 Triangle Shopping Plaza or on line at www.dumfriesva.gov. This program is limited to children 13 years of age and younger who are residents within the Town of Dumfries.

The Police Department is pleased to announce the graduation of Officer Tyler Merritt from the Prince William County Crime Scene Technician School. Officer Merritt is the second Town officer to successfully complete this training with Officer Renee Moody graduating in April 2012. By becoming a Crime Scene Technician (CST) both Officers Moody and Merritt have the specialized training and skills to closely examine a crime scene and then properly document and seize pieces of evidence.



Officer Merritt

The Dumfries Police Department, by thoroughly examining crime scenes, is hoping to identify suspects and increase the Department's closure rate for crimes committed in the Town.

Congratulations to Officer Moody and Officer Merritt!

News from the Police Department Continued:

DON'T GET NAILED BY HOME REPAIR RIP-OFFS

Home repair scams are always something to be concerned about, especially since consumers are rushing to make a few repairs before winter rolls around. Follow the safety tips below to reduce your chances of becoming a victim.

BE ON ALERT IF, AND WHEN...

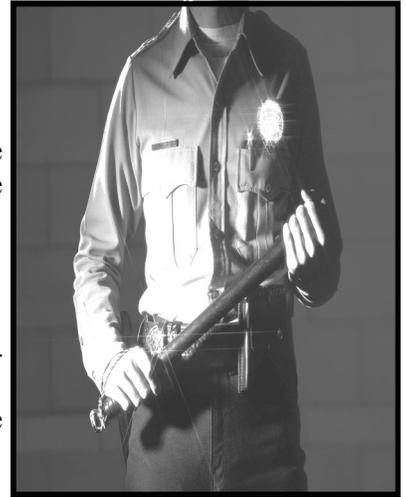
Unsolicited door-to-door salespeople offer to do home repair work for substantially less than market price.

A contractor comes to your door unsolicited and offers reduced prices because they've just completed work nearby and have materials left over.

A contractor asks you to pay for the entire job up front.

A company, listing only a telephone or post-office box number, solicits for repair work.

A contractor refuses to provide proof of insurance and references when requested



TIPS TO AVOID HOME REPAIR FRAUD...

Work with a licensed contractor. The best way to select one is to seek personal recommendations through friends or relatives. Verify the contractor is properly licensed, and do your research if there are unresolved consumer complaints on file with the Better Business Bureau.

Get written estimates from at least three firms. Ask for explanations for price variations. Don't automatically choose the lowest bidder.

Don't fall for high-pressure sales tactics or prices that seem "too good to be true."

On any home improvement job, you should expect to make a down payment, but try to limit it to no more than 30% of the total price. Pay only by check or credit card, not cash.

All agreements should be in writing and as specific as possible.

Do not sign a contract that has blank spaces or one that you do not understand.

Find out whether the contractor guarantees his or her work and products.

Don't make final payment until the work is 100% complete and you are satisfied.

Should you need additional information or have concerns, please contact your Dumfries Police Department at (703) 792-1111



*****Christmas-Holiday Parade Road Closures*****

A reminder that the Town of Dumfries will hold its 38th Annual Christmas-Holiday Parade on Saturday, December 8, 2012. Residents and businesses alike are reminded this event creates vehicle and pedestrian congestion throughout the Town.

Approximately 30 officers from the Town and County Police Departments, as well as members of the Sheriff's Office will be stationed throughout the area to assist with traffic.

As in years past, all traffic is expected to be shifted from Main Street to Fraley Blvd at approximately 10:15am. Traffic is expected to return to normal at the conclusion of the parade at 3:00pm.

Any requests for additional information or questions regarding the traffic should be directed to the Police Department at (703) 221-1111.

News from the Department of Community Services:

Christmas Tree Lighting

The Town of Dumfries invites you to join us for an evening of fun decorating the Town's Christmas tree, holiday poetry readings, caroling, and spreading Holiday Cheer with Santa! Join us at the Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday, December 1st from 5pm-7pm at Garrison Park, behind Town Hall!

Families are invited to visit <http://www.dumfriesva.gov/residents/community-services>, to download an ornament, for their children to decorate, to be placed on the Town tree! In addition, families are encouraged to bring an ornament of their own, to place on the Town tree, during the Christmas Tree Lighting event!



Senior/Retirees Monthly Group Meeting:



These meetings are typically held the third Friday of each month in the Community Center from 1:00pm—2:30pm! All seniors and retirees are welcome to join us for refreshments and fellowship, you do not have to be a Dumfries Citizen to participate, so please bring a friend!

The November Senior Luncheon will be held on Friday, November 16th. Please note that our Senior Meeting for the month of December will be held on Friday, December 14th.

Dumfries Cares: Mentoring Program is coming December 2012! Visit www.dumfriesva.gov for updates.

“38th Annual Christmas-Holiday Parade!”

Christmas Past, Present and Future

The Town of Dumfries invites you to join us for our “38th Annual Christmas-Holiday Parade!” The parade will begin promptly at 1pm at Town Hall (17755 Main Street, Dumfries, VA 22026), and will end in the far end of Dumfries Shopping Plaza-where we will have a festive area featuring a DJ in the Showmobile, time for pictures with Santa, and parade winners will be announced here! Bring the family and join us for our annual parade!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED: Town events are not possible, without hardworking, dedicated volunteers! If you would like to volunteer your time, in one of the capacities below, please email cneville@dumfriesva.gov

Announcer (1), Judges (3), Line-up/Staging Volunteers (5+), Morning Check-in (3), Dignitary Hospitality Room Hosts (5)

Would you like to know what is coming up in Dumfries?

Visit www.dumfriesva.gov and sign up for “Blackboard Connect!”





DUMFRIES, VIRGINIA
 Virginia's Oldest Continuously
 Chartered Town
CHARTERED 1749
INCORPORATED 1961

PRST STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 DUMFRIES, VA
 PERMIT NO. 30

TOWN OF DUMFRIES

17755 Main Street
 Dumfries, Virginia 22026
 Phone: 703-221-3400
 Fax: 703-221-3544

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 7:00^{PM}. 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 at 1-888-553-1555.



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

12/1 Christmas Tree Lighting

**12/8- Annual Christmas - Holiday
 Parade**

12/15 Christmas in Dumfries

(contact Police Department)

2/9 Black History Month Program

3/23 Easter Egg Hunt

4/6 25th Annual Potomac River Water-

shed Cleanup-Quantico Creek

(contact Public Works)

4/13 Grand Opening of the 2013

Farmer's Market

5/4 Multicultural Festival

Please visit www.dumfriesva.gov

for updates on our events!

Also, Join us on Facebook!