



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: August 24, 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 was a very successful program! The SYEP Participants held a presentation on August 17th, in the Community Center, where they shared their experiences with the Town, and Council and staff had the opportunity to share remarks with them. Potomac Local was present to film a video on the event: <http://potomaclocal.com/2012/08/21/dumfries-youth-interns-celebrate/>

Farmers Market

The Farmer's Market is still going strong! The Market seems to be one that is thoroughly enjoyed by the community. It not only provides a local place to purchase fresh produce, but it is also a place that allows for citizens to meet and socialize with their neighbors. Due to popular demand the hours have expanded to 8am-1pm.

Fall Festival

The Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, September 8th, 2012 at Garrison Park from 10am – 5pm! The event will be full of fun for the entire family! There will be a Wine Tasting area, a Kids Corner-with activities for kids of all ages, a variety of food vendors, and a plethora of informational and arts/craft vendors...and the “2nd Annual Dumfries Has Talent Competition!”

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. The “Request for Funds” will be available the first week of September, 25% of the funds will be requested, and sent to the Town by the end of September. The positions of Program Coordinator and Program Intern will be advertised by September 14th.

ON-GOING ITEMS:

Senior Luncheon

The August Senior Luncheon was held in conjunction with the Police Department’s National Night Out Initiative! The Summer Youth Employment Program Participants ran the event along with an intern from the Police Department. Seniors were treated to a barbecue dinner and an evening of BINGO! They were also joined by Council, the Police Department and McGruff!

The next Senior Luncheon will be held on Friday, September 21st!

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.