

# The Dumfries Charter

Volume XIII, Issue I

Second Quarter 2014

## Town Contacts

**Main number:**

703.221.3400

**Police Department:**

703.221.1111

**Town Manager:** ext. 113

**Town Attorney:** ext. 140

**Town Treasurer:** ext. 110

**Department of Comm.**

**Services:** ext. 144

**Dumfries Cares:** ext. 146

**Department of Public**

**Works:** ext. 116

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR:

We're several months into the year and things are really happening fast. We've already had a couple events and there are still quite a few scheduled happenings in our Town. The Public Works Department, Parks & Recreations Commission, Dumfries Police Department, Community Services Department and Historic Dumfries Virginia (Weems Botts Museum) all have events planned throughout the year for the entire family. Our celebrations coupled with our three Parks (Garrison, Ginn Memorial and Merchant) have something for everyone. Our Town has come a long way; we've gone from providing events that highlight our Town, to promoting Southeastern Prince William County.

The next several months are important; as the Council and Town Staff discuss the Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Operating Budget there needs to be an alignment of spending priorities with operational goals. There are going to be many topics discussed such as taxes and social programs. Where do you want your money spent? The Fiscal Year 2015 Operating Budget requires citizen and business owner comments. Be involved, this is your tax money being spent.

Our future, the Town's future, involves being an active governmental body outside the Town borders. We must remain committed to partnering with organizations that champion shared goals. Our citizens are our most precious resource, your volunteerism and donations to Town always amaze me. Our business owners have made a choice to be here, they want to be here; we should not drive them away with unfair tax burdens and ordinances that do not create a level operating field. Lastly, we have quite a few Churches and Non-Profits that call Dumfries home; these institutions are essential to our Town. Our Citizens, Businesses and Churches / Non-Profits are what make Dumfries unique with strong values and an All-American Town.

I'll end this with a reminder that citizens should communicate with their elected representatives. E-mail Councilmembers your concerns, your vision and voice your opinion. There is citizen's time at every Council meeting; this is your time to let your voice be heard. This is your Town, never let us forget that we work for you!

Semper Fidelis, God Bless You All,

*Jerry M. Foreman*  
Mayor



## REAL ESTATE TAXES DUE

The 2014 first half real estate tax bills will be mailed May 7, 2014. All bills are due on or before the close of business on June 5, 2014. 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](http://www.officialpayments.com) or to pay by phone call 1-800-2PAY-TAX. Use Jurisdiction Code 6234.**

### Inside this issue:

News from the Dumfries Police Department and the Public Works Department	2
Upcoming Events: Parks and Recreation Commission, Historic Dumfries, VA	3
Council Information and Save the Date	4

# DEPARTMENT NEWS

## NEWS FROM THE DUMFRIES POLICE DEPARTMENT:

### **The Dumfries Police Department Modifies Its Uniform**

The Dumfries Police Department is pleased to announce the new uniform shirt.

The membership of the Police Department has changed where eight of the ten sworn officers have less than three years service with the Town of Dumfries. Current members of the Dumfries Police Department recently agreed to modify their uniform.

Also during the past four years, the police department has been restructured and has improved training and equipment. Additionally, the police department has worked to improve its relationship with the citizens and businesses of the town through improved community outreach, improved positive interaction, and increased criminal and traffic law enforcement to improve overall safety and quality of life for those who live, work, and visit the town.

The uniform is a representation of the police department and is a recognizable symbol to the public. The police officers feel the change will represent the police department's improved openness and its commitment to being professional, service-oriented, and responsive to the needs of the community.

The new shirt color will be light gray. A lighter color shirt was selected for several reasons. The contrast brings a sharper, more professional look to the uniform, the color is not the same as any other agency nearby, and it will be more comfortable when the temperature rises.

The officers' shirts will have silver trimmed patches and the supervisors' shirts will have gold trimmed patches.

The change in uniform and introduction of the new shirt was presented to the Town Council and citizens during the February 4<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting. During the presentation, the reasons for the change were presented and it was explained there was no impact to the budget in making the change.

Dumfries Police Officers are supportive and excited about the change in the uniform shirt and are anxious to make the transition.



## NEWS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

The Building Department in Dumfries falls within the Public Works Department. Building permits are required for demolition, new residential construction, renovation and alterations of residential buildings, new commercial construction, renovation and alteration of commercial buildings, any land disturbance which disturbs more than 2,500 square feet, decks, outbuildings greater than two hundred (200) square feet and fences over six (6) feet tall. Even when your project does not require a permit, the building codes still apply to your project. We want to help you build your project in compliance with the applicable building codes and the Town Ordinances. It will save you time and money to always check out the requirements before you start your project.

As a Code Enforcement Department we have the sad duty of going to fire scenes after the fact to assess damage to buildings. It is the responsibility of a professional in the building field to design the necessary repairs to bring the building back into compliance with the building codes. As the owner or a tenant, you should be aware of who insures the structure and the property within it. In a crisis this information will be needed and must be readily assessable.

Finally, a thought I would like you to keep in mind, it is my observation that in some residences beds sometimes are pushed up against the wall. This creates a situation where a bad electrical receptacle could malfunction and set the bed-ding on fire. This practice might keep someone from falling out of bed but it could have disastrous consequences.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION:



Over the past several months, the Parks and Recreation Commission has been diligently planning events for the spring and summer. In late March, the Commission kicked off their Community Gardening Program at Ginn Park with the initial build out; however, this is a work in progress so stay tuned to the town website and meetings for upcoming information. On April 5, the Commission hosted a well attended Commonwealth Day at Ginn Park which featured various family athletic activities, music and entertainment. Immediately following the Town of Dumfries Easter Egg Hunt on April 19, the Commission is having an Inspirational Festival at Ginn Park. This event hopes to bring the community and business leaders together in a fun-filled day consisting of various activities, musical and artistic performances and much more. On May 17, the Commission is planning 3-on-3 basketball tournaments starting at 12:00 pm at Ginn Park. Finally, to finish up FY14, the Commission has planned a 5k Family Walk/Run on June 21 to begin at Merchant Park. More information about the upcoming events will be posted on the town website as it becomes available. With the start of FY15 just around the corner, the Commission will no doubt be planning many more exciting events. If you would like additional information on any of the events mentioned, would like to volunteer, or have general questions about the Parks and Recreation Commission, you can call (703) 221-3400 to leave a message for the Commission or reach out to them via email at



## HISTORIC DUMFRIES VIRGINIA:

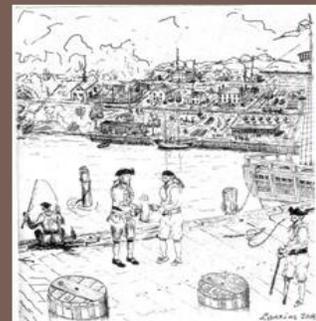
# DUMFRIES CHARTER DAY

## FREE FAMILY CELEBRATION

*Celebrating our 265th year as  
the oldest chartered town in Virginia!*



- ◆ Live Entertainment -  
Dumfries Elementary School Choir
- ◆ World Renown Jamie Turner -  
Colonial Glass Harpist
- ◆ Games & Contests
- ◆ Colonial African/American Experience
- ◆ Native American Experience
- ◆ Colonial Food Demonstration
- ◆ George Washington
- ◆ Children's Free Crafts
- ◆ Colonial Dr. Turner Kitt



*Sponsored By  
The Town of Dumfries!*

Saturday, May 10 10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Merchant Park in Dumfries

Call 703-221-2218 for Information

*For more information on Historic Dumfries Virginia events, visit the town's website or call (703) 221-2218.*



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

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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 Director of Community Services 703-221-3400, ext. 144

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*

P.O. Box Holder  
 Town of Dumfries Resident/Business  
 Dumfries, Virginia 22026



**Please remember to VOTE!**  
**May 6, 2014—Town Elections**



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

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**4/19 Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

**5/3 Multicultural Festival**

**5/16 Bike to Work Day**  
 (7:00—10:00am)

**9/13 Fall Festival**

**12/6 Christmas in Dumfries**  
 (Contact the Dumfries Police Department);  
**Annual Tree Lighting**

**12/13 Annual Christmas-Holiday Parade**

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**Visit [www.dumfriesva.gov](http://www.dumfriesva.gov) for updates on our events!**

**Also, join us on Facebook!**

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

Olaun Simmons

Town Council Meetings

**Town Council Meeting** are typically held the *first* Tuesday of the month at 7:00<sup>PM</sup>. 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](http://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.