

# The Dumfries Charter

Volume XII, Issue IV

*"Small Town, Big Difference"*

SEPTEMBER 2014

## Town Contacts

Main number: 703.221.3400

Police Department: 703.221.1111

Town Manager: ext. 113

Town Attorney: ext. 140

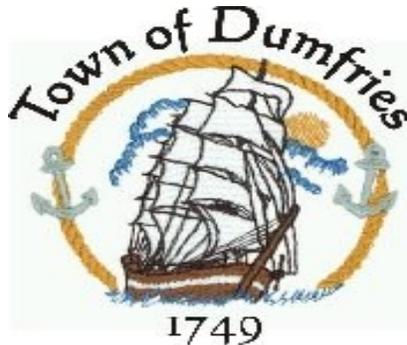
Town Treasurer: ext. 110

Community Services: ext. 144

Dumfries Cares: ext. 146

Public Works: ext. 116

Hours of Operation: M-F 8:30 am-5 pm



## Dumfries Town Council

Mayor Gerald Forman

Vice-Mayor Willie Toney

Councilman Charles Brewer

Councilwoman Kristen Forrester

Councilwoman Helen Reynolds

Councilwoman Gwen Washington

Councilman Derrick Wood

On the web: [www.dumfriesva.gov](http://www.dumfriesva.gov)

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR:**

I'll start this newsletter by saying "Thank You" for participating in the May 2014 Town election process. I am honored to be re-elected and to serve four more years as the Mayor of Dumfries.

School is back in session and the Town of Dumfries offers a lot of programs for adults and our youths. Take the opportunity to enjoy a day at one of our three Parks, the Weems-Botts Museum or the General Heiser Boys & Girls Club. To learn more about fall and winter activities visit our Town website <http://www.dumfriesva.gov/>, Historic Dumfries Virginia <http://www.historicdumfries.com/> and the General Heiser Boys and Girls Club of Dumfries <http://www.bcgw.org/heiser/>

As with any governmental body, Council has been busy passing items that directly affect citizens and business owners. A few highlights are as follows:

- Town Council moved forward a referendum to the May 2016 election cycle the opportunity for citizens to vote on amending the Town Charter by moving the Town's elections for Mayor and Councilmembers from the first Tuesday in May to the general election date in November beginning with the 2018 election cycle.
- Town Council passed a policy addressing Public Comments during Council meetings. Prior to speaking during a Council Meeting citizens will be required to read the policy that outlines the rules associated with citizen comment time.
- Town Council has amended the Yard Sale zoning ordinance amendment to Town Code Section 70-22 Temporary Uses. Yard sales have been held in the Town along Route 1 and this creates a concern for public safety. The adopted language regulates the use, frequency, and location of yard sales. The highlight of the amendment eliminates yard sales to be held on: Rt. 1, Main Street, Fraley Boulevard, Graham Park Road, and Rt. 234.

If you are interested in participating in Town Government as an elected official, serving on a commission, volunteering to assist with events or serving as an advisor, please contact me. If there is anything I can do to encourage or facilitate your involvement I am ready to provide you assistance.

As always, please continue sharing this publication and spreading the word about what's good and going on in the Town of Dumfries. Our Dumfries town government must be transparent and inclusive; as Mayor I have a duty to listen and understand your priorities. If you have a concern or an idea, please call me at 703-895-4715. We will set up an appointment for a call or meeting at your convenience. I look forward to seeing you around Town.

Semper Fidelis & God Bless You All,  
Mayor Gerald M. Foreman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gerald M. Foreman".

# NEWS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Back to School!

The Dumfries Police Department would like to remind our citizens school began September 2, 2014.

### School Bus Reminders:

The Code of Virginia requires drivers to halt, when approaching from any direction, any school bus which is stopped on any highway, private road or school driveway for the purpose of taking on or discharging children. Motorists must remain stopped until all persons are clear of the roadway and the bus is put into motion. [Drivers need not stop if the school bus is stopped on the other side of a divided highway, on an access road, or on a driveway when the other roadway, access road, or driveway is separated from the street on which they are driving by a physical barrier or an unpaved area. The driver of a vehicle also need not stop when approaching a school bus which is loading or discharging passengers from or onto property immediately adjacent to a school if the driver is directed by a law enforcement officer, or other duly authorized uniformed school crossing guard, to pass the school bus.] Violating this law constitutes reckless driving and can result in a fine of up to \$2,500 and possible jail time. Remember, when the lights on a School Zone sign are flashing, the speed posted on the sign is in effect and will be aggressively enforced. The penalty for speeding in a school zone is severe and can result in a fine over \$250 (depending on the speed and other circumstances, a driver may be charged with reckless driving).



### Children and Pedestrian Safety:

When school begins, there will be a lot more children and pedestrians walking early in the morning and after school, and school activities end. Remember to slow down when driving through Town. There is no expectation 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.

## Protecting Your Property!

The following tips will help make your home a difficult target for thieves:

- \* Keep all doors and windows locked, even when you are home.
- \* Keep your home's front a rear porch lights on and use motion sensors.
- \* Be on the lookout for suspicious persons or activity during the day as well as during the evening and night hours.



If you hear something, DO NOT investigate. Go to a safe room in your home, call 9-1-1 and stay on the line.

### Preventing larcenies from Auto

Most thefts from motor vehicles are preventable. After learning the following tips, we are counting on you to do them on a daily basis!

### Practice T. L. C.

**Take Out Valuables** If you can leave your valuables at home, do it. Otherwise, when you get to your destination, take your valuables with you. If you have to leave them in your automobile, put them in your trunk before you get to your destination. **This includes firearms! Please do not leave a firearm in your vehicle unsecured; ever!**

**Lock Your Vehicle** Enough said! Never, ever, leave your automobile unlocked!

**Close Doors & Windows** An open door or window allows a thief a quick & quiet way to enter your car. Take the time to make sure you closed everything. **REMEMBER:** always take your keys with you!!

## Zoning & Planning Reminder

Planning on Renting Commercial Property? Did you know that the Town is broken down into different zones, or zoning districts? Different districts allow for different uses. This allows for orderly development in the Town of Dumfries, & protects property owners from encroachment of dissimilar uses.

Occasionally a property owner wants to use their property for a use is not allowed for in their specific zoning district. When this happens the property owner often has the right to apply for a Conditional Use Permit. This is a permit application process that takes about 5 months, where the application has to be reviewed by both the Planning Commission & Town Council. In addition, a public hearing is held by both the Planning Commission & the Town Council so that neighboring residents have the opportunity to speak on the proposed Conditional Use Permit.

Conditional Use Permits are not guaranteed, & if approved are typically associated with specific conditions to allow for the best operation of that use in the district. Before you allow a business to operate from your property, or decide to open up a business, please come in & speak with the Zoning Administrator to ensure that the business is allowed in the location where you wish to operate. Contact Laura O'Dell at 703-221-3400 ext. 118



### PUBLIC WORKS NOTICE

**Town of Dumfries Dumpster Day**

**September 13, 2014 from 8AM—12PM**

**Dumpster Location: Cul-de-sac at north end of Old Triangle Road**

**At Dahlgren & Milroy intersection with Old Triangle Road**

Bring your old furniture, small appliances & large items that can't go in your normal trash collection to the dumpster.

**WE CANNOT ACCEPT** fuel tanks, motor oil, fuel drums, household hazardous waste, antifreeze, paint thinners, pesticides, pool chemicals or commercial waste. These items can be dumped at the PWC Landfill. Please call 703-792- 5750 for more information on proper disposal.

If disposing of households appliances, please ensure refrigerators are empty of their contents & wiped clean, remove glass trays from microwaves, & secure the doors with tape before dropping them off at the dumpster location.

**If you have large items to dispose please call (703) 221-3400 ext. 116 for assistance in loading & hauling . A truck will be available to assist you in loading. Space & time are limited, so call as early as possible.**

Prince William County  
**Neighborhood  
Services**



**Working with you for a better community!**

# Community Services Updates

## Senior Luncheons

The Town of Dumfries' Community Services Department hosts monthly Senior Luncheons for retirees to fellowship with one another. Participants do not have to reside in the Town to participate in the luncheons, which are typically held on the 3rd Friday of each month.

If you are interested in attending a future Luncheon, please contact the Director of Community Services at 703.221.3400 ext. 144.



## TOWN SPONSORED EVENTS

Dumpster Day	September 13 <sup>th</sup> , 8am - 12pm
Christmas in Dumfries & Tree Lighting	December 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Christmas Holiday Parade	December 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2014

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES EVENTS

### September

Parenting Classes	Starting September 15 <sup>th</sup> , 7-9 pm
Family Fun Night	September 26 <sup>th</sup> , 7-9 pm

### October

Family Fun Night	October 24 <sup>th</sup> , 7-9 pm
October Mentoring Training	(Date TBA), 7-9 pm

### November

Family Fun Night	November 21 <sup>st</sup> , 7-9 pm
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### December

Family Fun Night	December 19 <sup>th</sup> , 7-9 pm
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## ON-GOING EVENTS

FREE English as a Second Language Classes	Tuesdays, 10am-12pm
Dumfries Cares Mentoring Program	Contact us for more information
Senior Group Retiree Meetings	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday each Month, 1-2:30 pm

# HISTORIC DUMFRIES CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## September 13 - 2:00 pm

Children's Day at the Museum

Learn How Patriots Lived during the Revolutionary War

Location: Weems-Botts Museum Annex,

3499 Cameron Street in Dumfries, VA 22026

**RSVP: 703-221-2218**

*\*Sponsored by the PWC Historical Commission*

## October 3-5

**Civil War Weekend with Living History Demonstrations**

## October 3/4, 10/11, 17/18, 24/25, & 31st

**Do Ghosts Exist?** Join Historic Dumfries for a "Spirited" Ghost Walk. If you are brave enough, take a walking tour through Dumfries' Haunted Heights. You will visit the Weems-Botts House, listed as the second most haunted site in Virginia by the Fredericksburg Star & featured on "My Ghost Story" by A&E Entertainment & the CBS Radio Show "Spirited History". Hear local tales of spectral wonder & mystery along the way. Learn about the most haunted house in Dumfries & the most recent occurrences. Finish with hot chocolate & cider by the campfire in eerie & haunted Merchant Park. Share your own ghost encounters with other visitors! Walks are \$8 per adult & \$5 per student (ages 6 & under are free).

## October 5, 12, 19, & 26th

**Museum Lock-In Fundraiser** - For those really brave souls, test your bravery by spending the night in our "Haunted House!" The cost is \$75 per person and all proceeds go to benefit the Weems-Botts Museum. Reservations are required. Call 703-221-2218 today to schedule your date and time!

## Hours of Operation

W-SAT 10am - 5pm, SUN 12pm - 5pm

*Closed in the event of inclement weather (we follow Prince William County Public School closing policy).*

***\*Last tour starts at 4:15 p. m.***

Tours Start at our Museum Annex at 3944 Cameron Street in Dumfries. On-street parking alongside Merchant Park on Duke or Cameron Streets is available.



Historic Dumfries Virginia, is a private, 501 (c) (3) non-profit, membership organization, tasked with operating the Weems-Botts Museum, organizing history-related annual events, hosting guest speakers, managing a historical archives & library, and publishing a bi-monthly newsletter.

## The Board of Historic Dumfries

### Officers and Directors

**President:** Mayor Gerald Foreman

**Vice President:** Ron Smith

**Acting Treasurer:** David Penman

**Secretary:** Norma Fields

**Board Members at-large:**

Gene Seevers

Francis Halpern

Cydney Neville

Jeremiah Burns

Raymond Lowry

Selonia Miles

Mike Cecere

Bret Coulson

### Staff

**Museum Director:** Joann Barron

**Docents:** Patrick Higgins and  
Matthew Critchley

**Bookkeeper:** Ericka Bridges

# NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



October 5-11, 2014 is National Fire Prevention Week. In sticking with the theme of "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives", the Dumfries Triangle Volunteer Fire Department will be offering the Citizens of the Town of Dumfries an opportunity to have their Smoke Detectors checked Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Fire Prevention Week. The Fire Department will accept appointments from citizens if their smoke detectors need checking or batteries need changing. They will also have a surplus of batteries and smoke detectors on hand for citizens to utilize.

Residents can send an email to Public Education Coordinator Linda Frye at [LFrye@dumfriesfire.com](mailto:LFrye@dumfriesfire.com) or leave a message at [571-238-9567](tel:571-238-9567) to schedule an appointment.

