



The Dumfries Charter

Volume XI, Issue I

First Quarter 2012

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR:

Dear Citizens of Dumfries,

This is the first issue of *The Town Charter* since the death of our former mayor, Mayor Fred Yohey on November 6, 2011. At the time of his death, Mayor Yohey was in his second year of a four year term having been elected in May 2010. He had first been elected to the office of mayor in May 2006. In July 2010, I was elected by the Council to serve as Vice-Mayor. Mayor Yohey and I developed a very good working relationship and I learned much under his leadership. I am very fortunate to have known and to have been able to work with Mayor Yohey. On November 15, 2011, the Town Council elected me to serve in the position of mayor until June 30, 2012. A special election will be held on May 1 to fill this position for the next two years. Other council seats will also be up for election on May 1.

As your Mayor, I greet you and would like to share with you some of my thoughts that I shared in my first "State of the Town" address given at the council meeting on January 3, 2012.

Dumfries is moving forward and we have much of which we can be proud. As we continue to appreciate our heritage as "Virginia's Oldest Continuously Chartered Town," we need to set goals that take us into the future. First, we need to adapt to succeed. The weakening economy is causing us to rethink how we do things. More and more mandates are coming down from our state government to local government and we need to work more collaboratively with our county partners and to challenge the status quo by working not harder, but smarter.

As we look back over the past year there are many accomplishments of which we can be proud. These include: (1) completion of the design phase of the Tripoli Heights Project and initiation of right of way acquisition; (2) purchase of the land to build Ginn Memorial Park and successfully preparing the site for development; (3) redesigning our Town website; (4) Attracting several new companies that have open businesses

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REMINDER

2012 TOWN DECALS **DUE APRIL 15th!**

If you are a resident of Dumfries, you are required to display a Town decal on your vehicle. The Town decals are valid from April 15, 2012 to April 15, 2013. You may purchase the 2012 decals at the Dumfries Town Hall located at 17755 Main Street adjacent to the Dumfries Community & Cultural Arts Center. Town Hall is open Monday through Friday, from 8:30am to 5:00pm. Please bring your current vehicle registration, showing your Dumfries address, or bring the notice mailed to you in February. The cost for each decal is \$27.00.

For your convenience the Town Hall will offer extended hours during the weeks of April 1 through April 15. During this time the Town Hall will remain open for vehicle decal sales on Monday & Wednesday evenings until 7:30pm. We also offer our citizens the option of mailing in a copy of their vehicle registration, or the notice mailed to them, along with a check for \$27.00 per vehicle, and decal (s) will be mailed to your residence within the week. For your convenience there is also a mail drop box located next to the front door of Town Hall.

For more information, please contact the Treasurer's office at 703 221-3400 ext. 110 or ext. 101.

in Town and the expansion of existing business. These companies combined have created over 100 new jobs and occupy over 20,000 square feet of office space in the Town. (5) Continued restructuring of the Police Department through recruitment and selection of highly qualified personnel. On January 3, Ms. Rebecca Edwards was sworn in as Captain, a position that has been vacant for some time. It is good to see the rebuilding of trust and support for our Police Department that has come from the community.

(6) Completion of updates to the Comprehensive Plan that focus on Land Use, Transportation, and Historical and Cultural Resources in the Town and (7) collection of overdue taxes. This is just a representative list and much more could be added.

I would be remiss if I did not mention and thank the people who day-in and day-out make our Town run and run smoothly --- our staff. I cannot say enough about the great effort put forward on a day-to-day basis by the team of professionals we have in place at Town Hall. We have an exceptional staff that gets the job done no matter what and, often in spite of, the economic environment. Our community is fortunate to have each of these professionals.

As Mayor, I promise to work with our Town Council and our talented staff to develop responsible policies and initiatives to shape the future growth of our community. Let us work together to achieve the goal of Mayor Yohey to make Dumfries a place people come to and not just drive through.



News from the Dumfries Police Department:

The Dumfries Police Department is pleased to announce the recent hiring of several officers.

Captain Becca Edwards – Captain Edwards was hired on January 3, 2012. She grew up in Indiana and joined the Fishers, Indiana Police Department in June 1990, as a patrol officer. During the 9+ years she was with the Fishers Police Department it grew from 10 officers to 46 officers. Through her hard work and dedication to duty, she rose through the ranks to the position of Lieutenant.

In July 2003, Captain Edwards moved to Virginia and joined the Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Office as a deputy. Captain Edwards quickly rose through the ranks of the Sheriff's Office to the position of Major. During her time with the Sheriff's Office she demonstrated superior managerial skills and had experience with budget management, planning, staffing and was the Accreditation Manager.

Captain Edwards brings an extensive working knowledge of small town policing with real hands on experience in managing large assets. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology from Ball State University and is a graduate of the FBI's National Academy. Captain Edwards also has advanced training and education in the areas of leadership, management, supervision and human relations.

Officer Tyler Merritt – Officer Merritt was hired on December 14, 2011. He grew up in Ohio and learned of Dumfries through his father, a member of the Quantico Town Police Department. Officer Merritt is a recent graduate of the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy. He has an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice from Fortis College in Dayton, Ohio.

Officer Merritt will be released to solo duty next month and is looking forward to working with the citizens of Dumfries.

Officer Jose Vazquez – Officer Vazquez was hired on January 30, 2012. He grew up in Manassas, Virginia. After high school he served in the United States Marine Corps and was honorably discharged. He joined the Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office in 2001 and rose through the ranks to First Sergeant. Over Officer Vazquez's career, he has received numerous commendations and received the Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office Deputy of the Year Award in 2002.

News from the Department of Community and Economic Development:

The Department of Community and Economic Development has kicked-off the process to develop an Economic Development Strategic Plan for the Town of Dumfries. The process will engage various stakeholders to include:

- Residents
- Town Businesses
- Regional partners
- Quantico Marine Corps Base
- Defense and Technology businesses
- Site Selection Consultants
- Developers and Brokers

The purpose of the plan is to:

- Improve job opportunities
- Promote the Town as an attractive place to live, work and visit
- Improve the quality of life for Town residents
- Redevelopment and development of prime commercial areas of the Town

The process will be initiated by the Economic Development Advisory Group (EDAG) and facilitated by Debi Sandlin, Director of Community and Economic Development along with Dona Blackman, a professional facilitator and member of the EDAG.

The final plan will identify a vision and mission statement to guide the Town's future growth. This will be accomplished through the development of goals, objectives and implementation strategies designed to achieve the vision and goals of the plan.

The surveys and focus group dates will be published on the Town's website in early February. If you are interested in participating in a focus group or taking the online survey or interested in learning more about the process, please notify Debi Sandlin, Director of Community and Economic Development by email at dsandlin@dumfriesva.gov or by phone at 703-221-3400, ext. 140.

News from the Community Services Department:

The Community Services Department is looking forward to all of the wonderful things on the horizon, for Dumfries citizens in 2012! Please visit <http://www.dumfriesva.gov/residents/community-services>, to stay abreast of upcoming activities, to include: a Farmer's Market, and Spring Kickball League!

Volunteer Opportunities: We have several volunteer opportunities for Dumfries citizens, ranging from serving as a: Tutor, Mentor, Special Events Volunteer, Newsletter Committee Volunteer, Media Volunteer, Volunteer Office Assistant, etc.! If you are willing to offer your time and talents, we are more than welcome to have your help! Please contact the Director of Community Services to register as a volunteer!

Save the date for the following tentatively scheduled events:

- 3/24 - Today's Empowerment Woman Conference
- 4/7-Easter Egg Hunt
- 4/21- Quantico Creek Clean-Up
- 4/25 - PWC NAACP Candidates Debate
- 5/5- Town of Dumfries Multicultural Festival
- 9/8- Town of Dumfries Fall Festival
- 12/8- 38th Annual Holiday Parade

***Please visit www.dumfriesva.gov for details!**

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Seniors/Retirees Monthly Group Meeting: These meetings are held from 1:00pm to 2:30pm, on the third Friday of each month in the Community Center! All Seniors & Retirees are welcome to join us for light refreshments, fun and fellowship! Remember, you do not have to be a citizen of the Town of Dumfries to attend this event, so please plan to attend and bring a few friends! Please contact the Director of Community Services if you'd like to be placed on the mailing list.



English as a Second Language: The Town has partnered with Literacy Volunteers of Prince William-Prince William county to offer English as a Second Language classes in the Dumfries Community Center! Classes are FREE of charge, and are offered every Tuesday morning from 10:00am-11:30am. If you are interested in enrolling in English as a Second Language classes, please contact the Literacy Volunteers of America-Prince William County at 703.670.5702, or send them an email at lvapw@aol.com to register.

Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP):

The Town of Dumfries has partnered with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Office to offer STEP Class at the Dumfries Community Center, from Wednesday February 8-March 12, from 7:00pm, to 9:00pm. Prince William Cooperative Extension is offering the following Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP) groups. STEP is a six-week discussion group for parents and others who want to learn more effective ways to communicate and discipline. It is offered for three separate age groups: Parents of Young Children (birth to age five), School-Age Children (ages six to twelve) and Teenagers. Classes are also offered in Spanish. The cost to cover class materials is **\$40.00** per individual or couple. Class registration closes at 1:00 pm on the day of the class. To register for a class, please call us at 703-792-6288. **Childcare is not available.** If you missed registering for the first session of this class, please contact the Cooperative Extension to be placed on a waiting list for the next session.



*“Embracing the Past, Celebrating the Present,
Building the Future”*

**Thank you to everyone who
attended the Town of Dumfries
Annual Black History Month
Celebration, at Little Union
Baptist Church!**

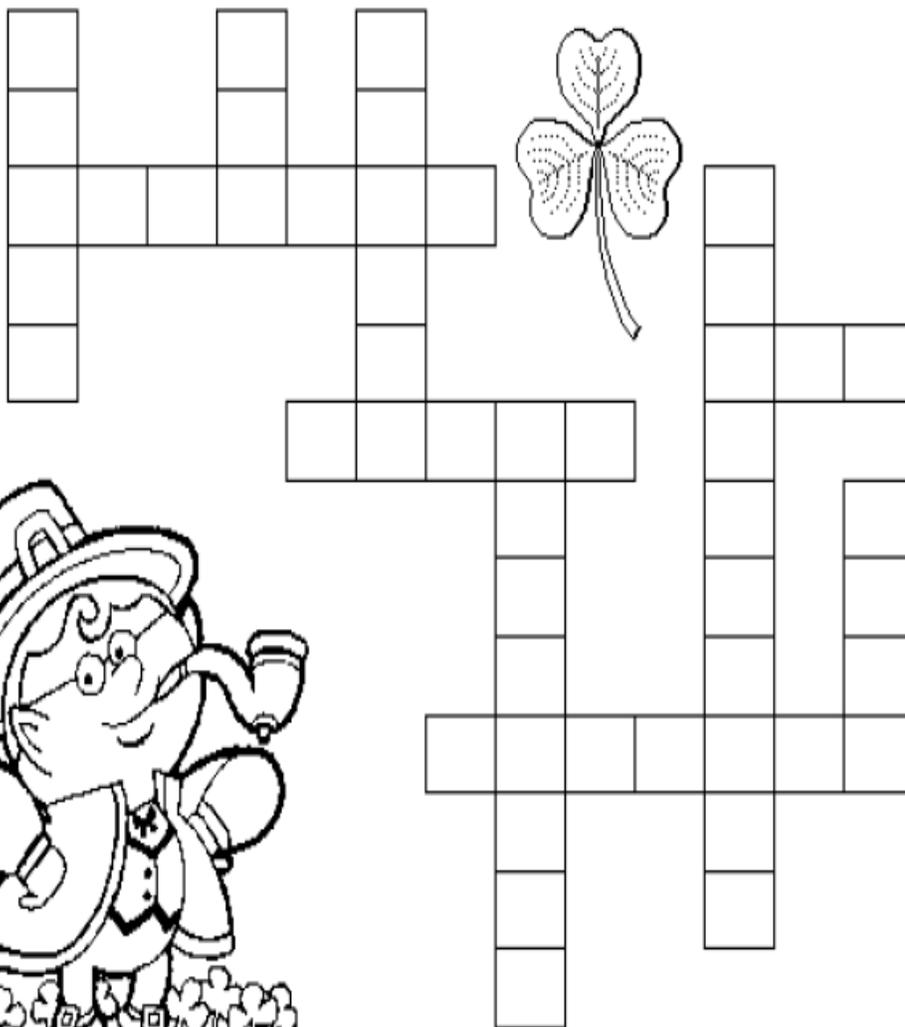
Please contact Ms. Cydney A. Neville, Director of Community Services for more information: cneville@dumfriesva.gov, or 703.221.3400 ext.144



Kid's Corner!



St. Patrick's Day Crossword



- FUN
- POT
- GOLD
- PARTY
- IRISH
- CLOVER
- IRELAND
- RAINBOW
- SHAMROCK
- LEPRECHAUN

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 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 Cydney Neville, Director of Community Services 703-221-3400, ext. 144 or via email at cneville@dumfriesva.gov

DUMFRIES TOWN COUNCIL

Hon. Nancy H. West Mayor
 703-221-3400 ext. 120

Hon. Willie Toney, Vice Mayor
 Hon. Dorothea Barr
 Hon. Gerald M. Foreman II
 Hon. Kristin W. Forrester
 Hon. Michele D. Jurgensen
 Hon. Gwen P. Washington

TOWN MANAGER

Dan Taber

TOWN ATTORNEY

Christine Sanders

Town Council Meetings

Town Council Meeting are held the *first and third* 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.*

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.

*****ECRWSS*****

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



How would you like to receive your future newsletters:



The Newsletter Committee would like to know if you would like to receive future newsletters electronically, or in the mail. Please complete the information below and return this form to the Director of Community Services by March 30, 2012.

I would like to receive the newsletter electronically.

My email address is:

I would like to receive the newsletter in the mail. My address is:

Return this card to: 17755 Main Street, Dumfries, VA 22026, or via fax at: 703.221.3544, or via email at cneville@dumfriesva.gov