



# The Dumfries Charter

Volume X, Issue IV

Fourth Quarter 2011

## **Town Manager's Corner:**

In a democracy, citizens hold ultimate power. Abraham Lincoln best captured this spirit by describing democracy as a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. In indirect or representative democracy, the people elect representatives and give them the responsibility and authority to make laws and to conduct government. This does not, however, relieve citizens of the obligation to provide their elected representatives their opinions on any issue that has the potential to affect them or their community.

To further that concept, I believe that citizens should generally have access to the same information that their elected representatives have available for their use. To that end, any citizen may come to Town Hall and review all agenda items and support materials provided to Town Council regarding Council, Board, and Commission meetings several days prior to the actual meetings. In addition, citizens may visit [www.dumfriesva.gov](http://www.dumfriesva.gov) and follow the links to obtain the same information.

We welcome citizen input and realize that not everyone can actually attend all of the various meetings to provide their comments. To give everyone the opportunity to be heard, we encourage citizens to forward their written comments in advance of actual meeting dates to the Town Clerk. This information can be dropped off at Town Hall, sent via email to [town-clerk@dumfriesva.gov](mailto:town-clerk@dumfriesva.gov), or mailed to the attention of the Town Clerk, 17755 Main Street, Dumfries, Virginia 22026.

## **English as a Second Language Classes:**

The Town is excited to announce that we have 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 will be offered every Tuesday morning from 9:30am-11:00am. 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](mailto:lvapw@aol.com) to register.



## News from the Public Works Department:

### **“Leave” Them Alone: Lawn Leaf Management**

While we enjoy the beautiful colors associated with fall foliage, we also realize that most of those leaves will soon be on the ground. For many reasons, it is good to remove the leaves. A thick layer of leaves blocks sunlight, reducing turf growth because of the shading effect. The leaves also trap and hold moisture in the turf canopy, increasing the potential for turf disease. However, treatment and/or disposal of leaves can be time consuming and costly.



Are there reasonable alternatives in leaf management? The answer is yes. Of course one method is to collect the leaves and compost them. Many homeowners are committed to this environmentally friendly process, and if you are interested in how to effectively compost yard waste, consult Making Compost from Yard Waste, Virginia Cooperative Extension publication 426-073. But there is also a technique that can be less labor intensive (especially if you have a riding mower), and many of you have used it for years – mulching the leaves directly into the turf. Numerous studies have detailed how leaf mulching affects turf performance. In almost every instance, the results show that chopping up deciduous leaves as part of a regular mowing schedule is an effective means of managing these leaves without harming the turf.



In the Town of Dumfries, residents may simply bag their leaves and place them at curbside for removal.

However you manage your leaf fall, **do not sweep, rake or blow them to the curb, roadside, or drain.** Improper disposal can choke drains, add nutrients to streams, and decrease oxygen availability in waterways as leaves decompose.

So enjoy the fall colors and remember the following recommendations from your Department of Public Works:

**Mulch or compost leaves if possible**

**Bag collected leaves and set them at curbside.** Please use plastic bags or (preferably) kraft paper bags

**Do not push leaves to the curb, roadside of storm drain.**

For questions on leaf disposal contact Richard West, Assistant Director of Public Works, at [rwest@dumfriesva.gov](mailto:rwest@dumfriesva.gov).

Portions of this article were excerpted from “Leave” Them Alone: Lawn Leaf Management, by Mike Goatley, Jr., Extension Turfgrass Specialist, Virginia Tech.

### **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](mailto:rwest@dumfriesva.gov) with any questions.

## **Department of Community and Economic Development:**

The Department of Community and Economic Development has seen some changes over the past several months, starting with the merging of Community Development and Economic Development into one department and the creation of a Town Planner/Zoning Administrator position.

Debi Sandlin previously the Director of Economic Development is now the Director of the Department of Community and Economic Development. The combined department provides a more integrated and focused approach in attracting businesses, encouraging new development and redevelopment of underutilized areas of the Town, creating job opportunities, and improving the quality of life for residents and businesses in the community.

David Moss, Town Planner/Zoning Administrator, is responsible for providing guidance in land use and permitting cases, updating Town Codes, enforcing code violations, developing short and long-range planning initiatives, reviewing site plans, working with developers, updating and assisting in the facilitation of the Comprehensive Plan Update process and various special projects related to development in the Town.

In collaboration with Town residents, businesses, community leaders, Planning Commission members and Town Council members, staff has been working on drafting the minor update to the Town's existing Comprehensive Plan. The draft update was recently completed and went before the Planning Commission on October 18, 2011 for their consideration and comments. For the purpose of the update, the Steering Committee concentrated on updating the Land Use and Transportation sections of the existing plan and adding a Historic and Cultural Resources Plan.

Staff extends their greatest appreciation to the following individuals, all of whom participated on the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. Each of these individuals worked closely with staff over the past 10 months in providing their time, patience and expertise in drafting a well thought out document that will serve the Town for years to come.

Lou Cononico and Mike Kitchen from Christopher Consultants Engineering  
Don Little, Chair of the Architectural Review Board  
Joann Baron, Weems Botts Museum  
Marion Wall, property owner  
Rick Canizales, Prince William County Department of Transportation  
William O'Kelly Russell, Planning Commission  
Dorothea Barr, Town Council

We are also excited to announce that three new defense contracting companies have recently opened operations in the Town over the past few months.

Chenega CTI  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Technology Solutions  
Abacus

The Department of Community Development welcomes input from residents and businesses in the Town at any time. Please feel free to contact either Debi Sandlin at [dsandlin@dumfriesva.gov](mailto:dsandlin@dumfriesva.gov) or at 703-221-3400, ext. 140 or David Moss at [dmoss@dumfriesva.gov](mailto:dmoss@dumfriesva.gov) or at 703-221-3400, ext. 118.



## News from the Community Services Department:

Greetings Citizens of Dumfries Virginia! I am please to announce the following programs that are on the horizon to serve the Dumfries Community:

After School Tutoring: The After School Tutoring Program will serve elementary aged youth who reside in the Dumfries Community, and will be offered Tuesdays & Thursdays, at the Dumfries Community Center. This FREE program will follow the PWCS calendar and run twice a week from 3:45pm-5:15pm.

Middle School Mondays: The Middle School Mondays Program will serve elementary aged youth who reside in the Dumfries Community, and will be offered on Mondays at the Dumfries Community Center. This FREE program will follow the PWCS calendar and run from 3:00pm-5:00pm.

Teen Leadership Academy: The Teen Leadership Academy Program will serve teens who reside in the Dumfries Community, and will be offered Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Dumfries Community Center. The program will follow the PWCS calendar and run from 2:30-3:30pm.

Pre-K Parent Book Club: This Book Club will meet monthly and promote literacy with Pre-K youth in our community! Daycares are welcome to attend the program as a FREE field trip, as well as parents with youth in this age group.

Seniors/Retirees Monthly Group Meeting: These meetings are held on the third Friday of each month in the Community Center! All Seniors & Retirees are welcome to join us for light refreshments and fellowship!

Volunteer Opportunities: We have several volunteer opportunities for volunteers to assist with tutoring youth enrolled in our educational after school programs. We are planning to match all youth enrolled in our educational programs, with Mentors! If you are interested in becoming a Mentor, please contact the Director of Community Services.

### Upcoming Events:

The Town will be hosting it's "37th Annual Holiday Parade," on Saturday December 10, 2011! This year's parade theme is "Toys on Parade!" There will be a pre-parade "Kid's Literature Corner" sponsored by Mahogany Books! This event will be FREE and held in the Community Center from 10:00am-12:00pm. Parents please **walk** your children to this event.

\*We are accepting registrations for the parade through November 23rd, please visit the Community Services tab on [www.dumfriesva.gov](http://www.dumfriesva.gov) to download an application!

If you would like more information on any of the programs listed above, please contact the Director of Community Services at 703.221.3400 ext. 144, or via email at [cneville@dumfriesva.gov](mailto:cneville@dumfriesva.gov). Please visit the "Community Services" link on the town website, [www.dumfriesva.gov](http://www.dumfriesva.gov), for more information as well as registration forms.

## **Town Council's Corner:**

### **News from Councilwoman Jurgensen**

Greetings, Town of Dumfries! Since the last newsletter, we have had some extraordinary experiences! After the earthquake, who could have expected the 1,000 year rain from Tropical Storm Lee that struck soon after Hurricane Irene. The earthquake knocked out phone lines for several hours, but did you know that you could still communicate through text on cell phones? I was relieved that I was able to verify my family members' safety. It is important to prepare for those emergency situations. If you need assistance, visit this very helpful website <http://easyaccess.virginia.gov/emergencypreparedness.shtml>



We have been very busy this past month! Councilmember Barr and I, along with Vice Mayor West attended the Virginia Municipal League Conference in Richmond. During that conference, Council Member Katie Sheldon Hammler was elected as Town Section Chairwoman, and Vice Mayor Nancy West was elected as Vice Chairwoman. This is a great opportunity to promote the Town of Dumfries through the VML.

Councilman Willie Toney and I have been extremely busy working on the Community Activities Committee. We had a successful Fall Extravaganza that showcased our local talent. On October 26<sup>th</sup>, Debi Sandlin and I, along with other local business leaders held our first Job Expo. This event included several workshops from the Prince William Chamber of Commerce and prominent companies seeking qualified applicants. We are hard at work for our next event, the holiday parade which will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup>!

Council members Barr and Toney are also diligently working with staff on the Ginn Park Project. If you have any questions or comments, please contact them.

On behalf of the Town of Dumfries Council, I would like to wish you all happy holidays!

God Bless,

Michele

## **News from Councilman Foreman:**

There have been significant changes in the Town Government since our last newsletter. We have a new Town Manager, the Assistant Town Manager is no longer with us, there is a new Town Clerk, a new Town Planner / Zoning Administrator, a new Assistant Public Works Officer, a new Director of Community Services, a new Police Chief as well as new Police Officers.

The Town Council and Staff need citizen, property owner, business owner and taxpayer input. There are seven Council members and as with all political bodies there are sides taken on every issue that is brought before the Council at our meetings. While it is normal dialogue for Council members to attempt to discuss an agenda item, what is needed is citizen participation and contribution.

Voters have spoken loud and clear over the past two elections (and there is another election scheduled for May 2012), by turning over 100% of the Council with the exception of the Mayor; but Council members need to hear what you (the citizens) have to say at Council Meetings. The Council Candidates need your votes during the upcoming election. Listen to what is being said, ask questions during campaign forums and lastly participate in the vote.

For those currently serving as Council members, let us know how we are doing. Tell us what your concerns are. We work for you. Citizen insight and opinion is needed on the Annual Budget preparation, BPOL rates, Property / Real Estate Tax rate determination, Equalization Initiatives Repeal, Update or refresh of Town Ordinances and Policies. I know that I have not mentioned everything, but I will say that silence on any subject allows for Council members to take the position that all is fine and that the citizens agree with current fees and worse than that, agree to higher fees being applied in the next budget cycle.

We have 5,000 citizens in this Town and over the course of the last two elections it has taken approximately 300 votes to get elected to the Council. Write the Council what is important to you, voice your concerns at Council Meetings; you are being heard. Be involved on Committees and lastly do not elect Council members who do not listen to their constituents. We are too small a Town to have self-serving individuals. Hold Council members accountable for our actions and what we say. We need to hear from you.

The current Council is certainly divided on several issues, but we would be less divided if you as citizens voiced your opinions more often. I can't speak for the rest of the Council, but I will say that I am proud to serve as an elected official for the Town of Dumfries and that if contacted I will address each of your concerns.

Sincerely,  
Gerald "Jerry" Foreman  
Councilman  
Town of Dumfries



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TOWN OF DUMFRIES

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 Dumfries, Virginia 22026  
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 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](mailto:cneville@dumfriesva.gov)

**DUMFRIES TOWN COUNCIL**

Hon. Fred E. Yohey, Jr. Mayor  
 703-221-3400 ext. 120

Hon. Nancy West, Vice Mayor  
 Hon. Dorothea Barr  
 Hon. Gerald M. Foreman II  
 Hon. Kristin W. Forrester  
 Hon. Michele D. Jurgensen  
 Hon. Willie Toney

**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<sup>PM</sup>. 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](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.

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

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



The 2012 Business License Renewal Applications will be mailed in late December 2011 and are due by March 1, 2012. A late filing fee will be assessed if not received by the due date. For any questions or more information please contact Retta Ladd, Treasurer at (703) 221-3400 x110.