



# Town of Dumfries

V I R G I N I A

## The Dumfries Charter

V O L U M R X I I I S S U E I V

F O U R T H Q U A R T E R 2 0 1 3

### 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. 117

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## A Message from Our Mayor

What makes our Town unique is our partnerships, this Summer has been full of activities, there were "Movies on the Lawn" (w/ Pillar Church), "Concert Series" (w/ACTS), "Fall Festival", and an "I-walk" (w/ACTS and Image Church).

This year's I-walk had 315 participants, a 43% increase over last year's 220 walkers and raised approximately \$24,000 (as of printing the newsletter), a 134% increase over last year's \$10,220.

On 12 October 2013, I was honored to join with members of Council, Staff, volunteers, family, and friends of the late Fred Yohey to

dedicate the "Mayor Fred Yohey Memorial" in Ginn Memorial Park. I invite everyone to stop by the site, relax and enjoy the setting.

We've got quite a few activities upcoming; this truly is a time for giving and celebrating. The end of the 2013 year events include Christmas in Dumfries with the Police Department, a Christmas Tree Lighting, and the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Parade. After the parade, there will be a Victorian Christmas Open House with Santa at the Weems-Botts Museum!

December is significant for Christian and Jewish celebrations of Christmas and Hanukkah, it also includes spiritually significant days for

Muslims, Buddhists, Pagans and Zoroastrians. Let me end by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Be safe and enjoy your time with family and friends.

As always, thank you for your contributions to our community, and please feel free to contact me at [hongforeman@dumfriesva.gov](mailto:hongforeman@dumfriesva.gov) with any comments, questions or concerns.

As always, you make me proud to be your Mayor.

S/F  
Gerald M. Foreman  
Mayor

## Real Estate Taxes Due

The 2013 second half real estate tax bills will be mailed November 5, 2013. All bills are due on or before the close of business on December 5, 2013. 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.**

## News from the Department of Public Works

### ***DID YOU KNOW***

...polluted runoff is the number one cause of water pollution in Northern Virginia? That's right, the very same rain that washes streets, yards, and parking lots clean is sending chemicals, germs, and trash down the drain and into the local creeks where our kids play and fish and animals live!

That's the bad news. But here's the good news. If we work together, we can clean it up! This quarter we will concentrate on oil changing.

### **Home Mechanics**

Here in Northern Virginia, we love to jump in our well-oiled cars and drive to the river or the lake for a fun day with friends and family! We can keep doing that if home mechanics dispose of their used motor oil, oil filters, and antifreeze properly by recycling them at a service station or the Prince William County Landfill.

#### A Little Oil Can Do a Lot of Damage

It may not seem like much, but just a little bit of motor oil can pollute a lot of water. In fact, just two or three quarts can contaminate enough creek water to fill an Olympic swimming pool. **That's why you have to pay a big fine if you get caught dumping oil down a storm drain!**

#### Little by Little, it Adds Up!

The Clean Water Partners estimate that there are more than 200,000 "shade tree" mechanics in Northern Virginia. At 4 quarts per oil change, and three oil changes per year, that's 85 full-sized tanker trucks full of pollution that they have to dispose of. What would our local waterways look like if every do-it-yourselfer dumped their oil down a storm drain?

#### Do Your Part. They're Doing Theirs.

According to polls conducted by the Clean Water Partners, most shade tree mechanics do dispose of their oil properly — and that number grows each year. What would they say about you if they saw you dumping that oil down a storm drain? And how would you explain to your lady companion why you had to use your date night money to pay a fine for something like that?

#### Learn More!

The Town of Dumfries is a member of the Northern Virginia Clean Water Partners. To learn more, check out the web site at <http://www.onlyrain.org/>.

# News from the Department of Planning and Zoning



## Proposed Zoning Regulations May be Coming Soon!

In the last 6 months the new Zoning Administrator, Laura O'Dell, has been reviewing ordinances and has proposed some changes and amendments to better serve the Town. The reason for this is the amount of complaints received that the Town does not have the adequate regulations to enforce. Four ordinances are being worked on and in the process of being considered to: regulate parking in the grass, yard sales, graffiti, and the addition of the Virginia Maintenance Code.

The Town's current Zoning Ordinance prohibits parking in the grass in the front yard, but does not prohibit parking vehicles in the grass elsewhere on a lot. The new ordinance may restrict parking in residential neighborhoods to paved or otherwise stable gravel type surfaces only.

In an effort to preserve a downtown look and promote safety on major corridors in Town, the Town is considering an ordinance to regulate the location and frequency of yard sales. Yard sales may potentially only be allowed in residential districts off of the main corridors (Rt. 1, Fraley Blvd, Main St., and Rt. 234), limited in amount per year per property, and will require a permit at

no cost to the applicant.

Occasionally graffiti appears in Town, unfortunately there are no regulations that require graffiti removal, and the graffiti does not disappear. Under the Nuisance Ordinance we are considering adding a section on graffiti abatement and removal to aid in Town beautification.

Lastly the Virginia Maintenance Code is up for consideration. The Maintenance Code requires that structures be held to a minimum level of maintenance and care at the least possible cost to the property owner for the health and safety of residents. The Maintenance Code prevents properties from entering a blighted state, maintains property values, and protects the safety of people living in potentially unsafe dwellings.



If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Laura O'Dell at 703-221-3400 or by email at [lodell@dumfriesva.gov](mailto:lodell@dumfriesva.gov).



## *Winter is Coming – Get Ready Now*

Winter Preparedness Week is Dec. 1-7, 2013

Several record-breaking snowstorms have covered Virginia in recent years, and winter is right around the corner again! Winter Preparedness Week is Dec. 1-7 – this is the time for Virginians to get ready for bad weather by taking a few easy steps.

**Get a kit.** Imagine that you can't leave your home for three days. You need these basic emergency supplies:

- Three days' food that doesn't need refrigeration or electricity to prepare it

- Three days' water (a gallon per person per day)

- A battery-powered and/or hand-crank radio with extra batteries

- After you have these essentials, then add a first aid kit, supply of prescription medications, blankets and warm clothing, supplies for special members of your household, and pet items.

**Make a plan.** Everyone needs an emergency plan:

- Decide who your out-of-town emergency contact will be

- Where will you meet up with family members if you can't return home?

- Get a worksheet at [www.ReadyVirginia.gov](http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov) or on the new Ready Virginia app

**Stay informed.** Before, during and after a winter storm, you should:

- Listen to local media for information and instructions from emergency officials

- Be aware of winter storm watches and warnings and road conditions

- Get road condition information 24/7 by calling 511 or checking [www.511Virginia.org](http://www.511Virginia.org)

**Download the Ready Virginia app.** This helpful emergency planning tool for iPhone® and Android™ mobile devices features:

- Location-specific weather watches and warnings issued by the National Weather Service

- Disaster news from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management

- A customizable family emergency plan that can be easily shared

- A checklist for gathering emergency supplies

- Contact information for local emergency managers

- Links to register for local emergency alerts, and more

It's time to get ready for winter weather now! Get more information at [www.ReadyVirginia.gov](http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov).

-end-

Prepared by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, November 2013

(804) 897-6510

[pio@vdem.virginia.gov](mailto:pio@vdem.virginia.gov)

[www.ReadyVirginia.gov](http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov)

## News from the Police Department

### Christmas Holiday Parade Traffic Reminders

A reminder from the Dumfries Police Department that the Town of Dumfries will hold its 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas-Holiday Parade on Saturday, December 14, 2013. Residents and businesses alike are reminded this event creates vehicle and pedestrian congestion throughout the Town.

Approximately 30 officers from the Town and County Police Departments, as well as deputies from the Sheriff's Office will be stationed throughout the area to assist with traffic.

As in years past, all traffic is expected to be shifted from Main Street to Fraley Boulevard. This year, the parade start time is one hour early, so it is anticipated the traffic shift will take

place at approximately 9:15 a.m. Traffic is expected to return to normal shortly after the conclusion of the parade at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Any requests for additional information or questions regarding the traffic should be directed to the Police Department at (703) 221-1111.

## Christmas in Dumfries



The Town of Dumfries is gearing up to celebrate its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual "Christmas in Dumfries" program on December 7, 2013. The program was originally initiated by several Dumfries Police Department officers in hopes of making Christmas brighter for many children in Dumfries. In past years we have been able to

take approximately 50 children Christmas shopping at the local Wal-Mart.

Applications to participate in the program are currently being accepted. Applications are located in the lobby of the police department located at 18130 Triangle Shopping Plaza or on the Town's website:

[www.dumfriesva.gov](http://www.dumfriesva.gov).

This program is limited to children 13 years of age and younger who are residents within the Town of Dumfries.

Please contact Ms. Shaffer or Ms. Cannon at 703.221.1111 for additional information.

The Prince William County Police Department's Animal Control Bureau is advising residents to take precautions to avoid problems with the county's coyote population. Coyotes have been living in Prince William County for several years and generally are not a danger to humans unless the animals are sick, injured, or threatened.

If a person is approached by a coyote, making a lot of noise (clapping, yelling, and stomping feet) typically will scare off the coyote. It is important to remember

they approach humans (and pets with humans) only under unusual circumstances. More information about dealing with coyotes and other wildlife is available on the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries website at <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/problems/coyotes>.

Coyotes will eat cats, small dogs, and other small pets. Coyotes do most of their hunting at night. Therefore, owners of dogs, cats and small pets should not leave these pets outdoors unattended, especially at night. Residents can help discourage

coyotes from coming on their property by not leaving pet food outdoors, including bird feeders, and by securing all household trash.

If a coyote appears to be sick, injured or acting aggressively, contact Animal Control through the non-emergency dispatch number at 703-792-6500.

This information is provided from the Prince William County Police Animal Control Bureau in regard to precautions for residents when encountering coyotes.

# News from the Police Department continued

## Consumer Alert

### Scams linked to the Affordable Care Act's health insurance marketplace rollout

The Attorney General of Virginia has issued a warning about some of the ways that scammers may attempt to commit fraud. They offer the following tips:

Do not give personal information (such as Medicare or Social Security numbers, bank account numbers, credit card or debit card numbers, or your home address) in response to **unsolicited** telephone calls.

Only provide personal information if **you** initiate the contact. No one from the government will call, email, or text you to sell you an insurance plan or ask for personal information.

Don't be swayed by high-pressure visits, mail solicitations, emails, texts, or phone calls from people pretending to work for the government. No one should threaten you with legal action if you do not sign up for a plan.

Ask for credentials from anyone who wants to assist you in enrolling. In addition to your own licensed insurance agent, there are only two types of assistants who can help you sign up: Certified Application Counselors and Navigators.

**Certified Application Counselors** – these are people who work for organizations such as hospitals and who have been certified by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

**Navigators** – these are individuals or organizations trained to assist consumers in understanding their insurance options. The law forbids navigators from recommending specific health plans or coverage.

Navigators are funded through state and federal grant programs, and must complete comprehensive training. There is no charge for their services. You may locate a navigator in Virginia by visiting [www.HealthCare.gov](http://www.HealthCare.gov) or by calling 1-800-318-2596.

Beware of anyone asking for money to enroll you in a health insurance exchange. If the individual is a legitimate health insurance assistant (a navigator or a certified application counselor), they will NEVER ask you for money. Your insurance agent can accept premium payments, however.

Beware of anyone who tries to sell you an ACA insurance card. It may be a trick to get your money but not enroll you in a health insurance plan. You must actually apply for and enroll in a plan; you can't just buy an insurance card. Similarly, watch out for "fake" products such as prescription cards. They may look real, but may only be medical discount cards.

Communicate directly with the official exchange when you are ready to purchase insurance. Unless you are using a licensed insurance agent, navigator, or a certified application counselor, the only way to sign up is to use the official web sites found by going to [www.HealthCare.gov](http://www.HealthCare.gov) or by calling 1-800-318-2596. Avoid look-a-like web sites and look for web sites that have .gov on the end of the web site address.

If you are a Medicare beneficiary, you do not need to purchase insurance on the exchange.

## Volunteers Needed!

If you are interested in volunteering your time and talents, please let us know! We have plenty of volunteer opportunities for the upcoming "39th Annual Christmas-Holiday Parade," as well as future events. If you would like to play a major role in making our events a success, please contact the Director of Community Services at: [cneville@dumfriesva.gov](mailto:cneville@dumfriesva.gov).

# News from the Department of Community Services

## 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.



## Community Outreach Programs:

In addition to the Senior Luncheon, the Town of Dumfries offers the following programs FREE OF CHARGE, through the Department of Community Services:

**Monday**– Dumfries Cares

“Middle School Monday,” after-school program for teens!

**Monday Evenings**–STEP Parenting Classes for Adults—FREE, including books!

**Tuesday**– FREE ESOL Classes from 10:00am—noon, through a partnership with the Literacy Volunteers of Prince William County.

**Wednesday**–Dumfries Cares

“Elementary Emerging Leaders,” afterschool program for 1st -5th graders!

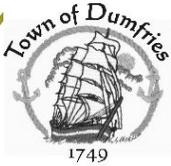
**Thursday**– Dumfries Cares “Elementary Emerging Leaders,” afterschool program for 1st -5th graders!

Please visit [www.dumfriesva.gov](http://www.dumfriesva.gov), to learn more about these programs.

Jingle Bells

**The Town of Dumfries**  
**39th Annual Christmas-Holiday Parade**  
**“The Sights and Sounds of Christmas”**  
**Saturday, December 14th, 2013**

**The Town of Dumfries cordially invites you to our “39th Annual Christmas-Holiday Parade” on Saturday, December 14th!**  
**The Parade will begin promptly at 12pm starting at Town Hall**  
**17755 Main Street, Dumfries, VA 22026.**  
**Bring the entire family out as we celebrate the holiday season!**



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

PRST STD  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 DUMFRIES, VA  
 PERMIT NO. 30

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

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

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

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-



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

**12/7 Christmas in Dumfries**

**12/7 Christmas Tree Lighting**

**12/14-Annual Christmas-Holiday Parade**

**2/8 Annual Black History Month Celebration**

**4/5 Quantico Creek Clean-Up**

**4/12 Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

**5/3 5th Annual Multicultural Festival**

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

**Also, Join us on Facebook!**