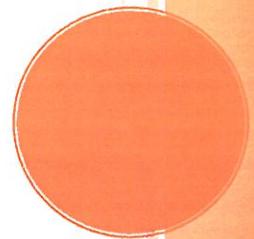


# COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

*11/1/11*

Cydny A. Neville

Town of Dumfries, Director of Community Services



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## DUMFRIES CARES-DCJS GRANT

The quarterly report for the DCJS Grant project, formerly known as *Frontline*, was submitted on October 19<sup>th</sup>. We are currently, in the process of implementing *Dumfries Cares*-a prevention program which will have a strong educational/literacy, mentoring and 4-H Leadership component, in addition to offering parenting programs for youth, through professionally trained facilitators through the Cooperative Extension.

We are currently advertising and building a resource of mentors and volunteers to support this program. Once the mentoring component is ready to be implemented, Virginia Mentors, will deliver an initial training for all mentors, monthly training will be provided thereafter. Some upcoming additions include: Pre-K book club (parents and children attend), Single Parent's Support Group, Family game/movie nights, etc.

We are in the final stages of finalizing the Ezra Nehemiah Solomon (ENS) issue. Once equipment that was purchased with grant funds is returned, we will have closure with ENS.

## SENIOR LUNCHEON

The October Senior Luncheon was quite a success! There was a Halloween theme, wonderful goodie bags were provided by Mrs. Taber, and an informative Senior Safety presentation was facilitated by Chief Forker. *Emoni's Dessert Bar and Café* was kind enough to provide delicious dessert samples for the second month in a row!

Details for the November meeting are currently being finalized. A nutritionist from Virginia Cooperative Extension will facilitate a health presentation, and participants will be encouraged to provide recipes to contribute to a recipe swap! The theme will be centered on Thanksgiving.

## ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

The Town of Dumfries has partnered with the Literacy Volunteers of America-Prince William County (LVA-PWC) to offer English as a Second Language classes in the Community Center. Our instructor is Mrs. Sonia Hoehn, she is also a member of our "Seniors Group!" She will be teaching classes every Tuesday morning, from 9:30-11:00am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Community Center. Classes are free, with the exception of a \$20 one-time assessment fee. LVA-PWC handles all registrations.

## 37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARADE

Plans are underway for the "37<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Parade!" The Parade Committee has been working hard to plan for this year's parade to be a very successful event! Fliers have been

distributed in the community, and registration forms are beginning to come in. The parade is set to take place on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. A few changes for this year are: 1. Mahogany Books will host a "Kid's Literature Corner" on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the community center prior to the parade. Parents are encouraged to walk their children to this fun event. 2. Weems-Botts hosts a Victorian Christmas event once the parade has concluded. The parade flyer mentions this event, so parade participants are aware of the festivities going on at Weems-Botts.

## PARENTING CLASS

The Town of Dumfries has partnered with the Virginia Cooperative Extension to offer a 6-week Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEM) class for parents of school-age children (ages 6-12). Classes will be held Wednesday evenings, February 8-March 14, 2012 from 7:00-9:00pm. This class will cost \$40 per individual/couple. The class will be advertised through the Cooperative Extension, as well as through the town.

## LEARNING CENTER

The Town of Dumfries was awarded a \$5000.00 grant from Walmart in October. Funds from the grant have been used to set up the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the community center in a fashion that makes it conducive to learning, ie. The Learning Center. The Public Works department has been instrumental in assisting with the coordination of picking up shipments as they arrive to the Dumfries Walmart Super Center. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor will be set-up in a way for all ages to feel comfortable learning in the environment. There will be various seating areas where 'centers' can take place in different parts of the room.

The goal is to host an Open House once the Learning Center is complete...which should be mid-November. Educational programs for youth should be up and running November 28<sup>th</sup>.

## GRANTS

October 2011-Walmart Foundation awarded us \$5000.00.

October 2011-We applied for the National Safe Routes to School mini-grant. Notifications will be made November 16, 2011. I decided to apply for this grant, due to the high volume of pedestrians and bicyclists in our community. If awarded this grant, the funds will be used to hold a "Bike Rodeo" during the month of May-Bicycle Month. "Trails for Youth" ([www.trailsforyouth.org](http://www.trailsforyouth.org)) will facilitate the rodeo and provide bikes-for use, helmets-for use, and an obstacle course with street signs. More details are forthcoming...pending the outcome of the grant application.

Grants on the horizon

- Fiskars Project Orange Thumb (<http://www2.fiskars.com/Activities/Project-Orange-Thumb>) I will be applying for Project Orange Thumb, deadline of December 5, 2011. This is a competitive grant, but I believe we can do it! If awarded, proceeds will be used to develop a Community Garden in Garrison

Park as well as Ginn Memorial Park. A Community Garden would be great for all citizens, youth through seniors! It would provide a plethora of activities that can focus on: health education, gardening education, gardening groups, etc.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- Literacy Volunteers of America-Prince William County-ESL classes
- Virginia Cooperative Extension-PWC-Parenting classes, 4-H resource, nutrition resource
- Mahogany Books-Kids Literature Corner ([www.mahoganybooks.com](http://www.mahoganybooks.com))
- Big Sis & Company- ([www.bigsisandcompany.net](http://www.bigsisandcompany.net)) This company is focused on domestic violence prevention. They will be hosting a few domestic violence prevention programs in the community center-still in the early planning stages.
- Sonia Hoehn-ESL Instructor, but has also donated children's books.
- Emoni's-donates samples for seniors. She also is willing to offer special coupons for students in our educational programs, who earn good marks on their report cards.