

June 2016

Town Meetings and Events

(All meetings are held at Town Hall, 314 Mill Street, unless otherwise noted.)

June 1: Planning Commission
6:30 pm, Comp Plan Work Session

June 4: Spring Arts & Crafts Show
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

June 5: Spring Arts & Crafts Show
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

June 7: Town Council Meeting
7:00 p.m.

June 9: Planning Commission
6:30 p.m.
Architectural Review Board
7:30 p.m.

June 18: 10th Annual Duck Splash
12:00 p.m., Town Dock

June 20: May 2015 Meals Taxes Due

June 21: Town Council Work Session
7:00 p.m.

June 22: Planning Commission
6:30 pm, Comp Plan Work Session

June 28: Planning Commission
6:30 pm, Comp Plan Work Session

OCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCOQUAN

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Occoquan, VA 22125

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OCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXIII, ISSUE VI

(703) 491-1918

JUNE 2016

TOWN COUNCIL

Elizabeth A.C. Quist, Mayor
Patrick A. Sivigny, Vice Mayor
J. Matthew Dawson
Jim Drakes
Cindy Fithian
Joseph McGuire



TOWN HALL STAFF

Kirstyn Jovanovich, Town Manager
Sheldon E. Levi, Chief of Police
Abigail Breeding, CPA, Treasurer
Chris Coon, Town Clerk
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor
Donna Brown, Events Director

Occoquan Spring Arts and Crafts Show Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5

The Spring Arts and Crafts Show will be on Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, June 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Historic Occoquan. We hope everyone will come out for this great two-day event filled with contemporary and country crafters and artisans, live music, children's entertainment and great food! For more information on the show, visit www.occoquanva.gov.

Parking

Permits will be available to merchants and residents living or working in the historic district for parking under the Route 123 bridge from 10:00 p.m., Friday, June 3, until 6:30 p.m., Sunday, June 5. Due to limited parking spaces, only one permit per business or family - first come, first served - will be issued. Permits will be available at Town Hall beginning **Tuesday, May 31**, between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Volunteer!

Want to lend a hand during the show? Volunteer! Sign up at Town Hall, email info@occoquanva.gov or call (703) 491-1918 if you're interested in volunteering!

10th Annual Duck Splash: June 18, 2016

Everyone is invited to watch hundreds of rubber ducks race down the Occoquan River during the 10th Annual Duck Splash in Historic Occoquan on Saturday, June 18, 2016, beginning at 12 p.m. Tickets to "adopt" a duck are \$5 each, and prizes ranging from \$500 to \$20 are awarded for 1st through 10th places. You do not need to be present to win. To purchase tickets online or for more information, visit sites.google.com/site/occoquanoptimists. Tickets are also available for purchase at the Occoquan Arts and Crafts Show on June 4 and 5, at the Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO) booth! All net proceeds benefit the Patriots for Disabled Divers and the Occoquan, Woodbridge & Neabsco Optimist Club. Come out, do a little shopping, eat some lunch, and enjoy this fun, family friendly event in Occoquan that supports a great cause!

Town Council Actions: May 4, 2016

The following items are extracts of recent Town Council actions and are not official meeting minutes. The most recent approved Town Council minutes and agendas are available online at www.occoquanva.gov. All votes are unanimous unless noted otherwise.

- Adopted a Revised Building Fee Schedule
- Initiated a Zoning Text Amendment for Revisions to Chapter 66 to allow child care centers in B-1, with a special use permit
- Set a not to exceed limit for River Mill Park Signage and Refuse Containers
- Appointed two members to Planning Commission: Ann Kisling and Heather Ozuna
- Adopted the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget and Tax Rates beginning July 1, 2016

River Mill Park Progress Update

We are nearing completion of the new one-acre park located at the west end of Mill Street and are planning a grand opening event in July. The new park will be complete with a public restroom facility, a looped stone dust trail, an event pavilion and an overlook area, as well as plenty of open space to enjoy the beautiful view! In addition, the pedestrian footbridge will boast new lights and railings, creating a beautiful new gateway into town and the new park. The pedestrian footbridge will reopen to the public during the first week of June, just in time for the Spring Arts and Crafts Show! We are busy planning a grand opening event, as well as a summer concert series and other community events to be hosted in the new park. We are very excited to open this wonderful new addition to our community and stay tuned to the Town's website and newsletters for information on the grand opening and planned community events!

Did You Know? Grass Maintenance in Occoquan

Summer is upon us and now that the rain has stopped, we can return to enjoying our outdoor spaces and yards! As we turn our focus on lawn maintenance and care, please be reminded that grass, weeds and other foreign growth in your yard must be kept under 12 inches in height. Anything found above this height is a violation of the Town Code Section 30-36. The intent of this ordinance is to ensure properties are kept in neat condition and promote the health and safety of our community. The Town's trash collection service will pick up yard debris and leaves each Wednesday, but be sure to follow the rules that were provided in the May edition of the newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact Town Hall.



Fiscal Year 2017 Adopted Budget in Review

On May 4, the Town Council approved the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which will run from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

| | | FY 2016 | FY 2017 | Difference | Increase/ (Decrease) |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|
| General Fund | Expenditures | \$583,038 | \$685,415 | \$102,377 | 17.56% |
| | Revenues | \$583,038 | \$685,415 | \$102,377 | 17.56% |
| Craft Show Fund | Expenditures | \$104,182 | \$104,108 | (\$74) | (0.07%) |
| | Revenues | \$222,825 | \$217,125 | (\$5,700) | (2.6%) |
| Mamie Davis Fund | Expenditures | \$2,000 | \$2,000 | \$0 | 0% |
| | Revenues | \$2,000 | \$2,000 | \$0 | 0% |
| Capital Improvement Fund | Expenditures | \$1,005,000 | \$337,000 | (\$680,000) | (66.47%) |

The General Fund budget is based on an increase in the Real Estate Tax Rate from \$0.11 to \$0.12 per \$100 of assessed value. Based on 2015 real estate data and including a 1.8% increase in 2016 assessments, on average, the \$0.01 increase on the rate will result in a \$20 to \$70 annual increase, or \$1.67 to \$5.84 per month, for properties valued between \$200,000 and \$700,000. The budget maintains the current meals tax and transient tax rates at 3% and 2%, respectively. As was done in the FY2016 Budget, a portion of funding from the meals tax revenue has been identified to go back into the community to support our businesses and community programming.

The FY2017 Budget and CIP focuses on continuing the forward movement set by the FY2016 budget process and the work that has been started over the last two years. The next year will focus on continued maintenance and infrastructure improvements including construction of the ADA Canoe and Kayak launch, improvements to pedestrian facilities and traffic issues including brick maintenance, crosswalk installations and a parking and traffic study, improvements and much needed maintenance to our town buildings and facilities and continued improvements on Town beautification efforts. In addition, focus has been placed on continued professionalization of Town staff and services, with effort placed on improved customer service and staff accessibility, completion of the Town Code review and recodification process, conversion to an electronic document management system, and increased coordination with local and regional entities in support of the community. Finally, FY 2017 will launch the Town's new River Mill Park, which will be host to many community events and programming – an exciting new addition to our community, further enriching the lives of our residents, businesses and visitors. We're looking forward to another great year in Occoquan as we continue moving forward.

The full FY 2017 Adopted Budget will be available on the Town's website at www.occoquanva.gov and at Town Hall during normal business hours by July 1, 2016. The full proposed budget is currently available.