

ARB News: Outdoor Merchandising

Spring is around the corner, and with that comes the warm weather and shoppers. In order to attract new customers, some businesses in town have set up displays of their merchandise outside in front of their businesses. While this marketing method is very effective, please take note of Town Code regulations regarding these types of displays. According to the Occoquan Town Code, outdoor merchandise displays by businesses with first floor frontage are permitted during business hours only, and the merchandise must be stored inside when the business is closed. In addition, merchandise cannot be placed in the public right-of-way, nor can it obscure the architectural features of a building or extend past the length of the storefront. Permanent outdoor display tables, racks or other permanent display pieces are not allowed. Please make sure that all items and displays are safe and stable with no risk of overturning due to wind or contact, and last but not least, no signs may be placed upon or hung from outdoor merchandise. For more information, please refer to Section 66-373 of the Occoquan Town Code.

Reminder: Town Real Estate Taxes Due February

The 2014 Real Estate Taxes are due on February 13, 2015. If not paid by the due date an 8% penalty will be assessed. Additionally, a 10% per annum interest charge begins to accrue on March 16, 2015. If you have questions regarding your taxes and pay out of escrow, please contact your mortgage company. If you do not utilize a mortgage company for escrow, please remit payment directly to the Town of Occoquan.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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FEBRUARY 2015

TOWN COUNCIL

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



TOWN HALL STAFF

Kirstyn Jovanovich, Town Manager
Sheldon E. Levi, Chief of Police
Abigail Breeding, CPA, Treasurer
Greg Holcomb, Town Clerk
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor
Krista Forcier, Craft Show Director

Mayor's Letter

Thank you to the residents and business owners who attended the January 6th Council meeting and offered comments on the agenda items related to parking in front of Mamie Davis Park and the Council's offsite goal-setting and visioning meeting. As always, the Council appreciated hearing from members of the public as it debates best courses of action for the community. Given the time and expense involved in conducting the offsite, the Council decided not to proceed. Instead, we held the first of two planned meetings on January 20th, to determine Council goals for the upcoming fiscal year, using background materials and resident surveys collected over the last seventeen years.

At this work session, the Council agreed upon the following six major goal areas to lead us through the remainder of our two year term in office and guide comprehensive planning. They include Town park programming, parking strategies, historic preservation and Town appearance, pedestrian access and safety, development of the river walk, and stormwater management solutions. I encourage you to attend our February 3rd Council meeting where the Council will finalize these goals and determine which portions of the Strategic Plan might be incorporated into the development of these goals.

Finally, I'd like to make one more appeal for volunteers to serve on the Town's three standing boards and commissions. The Planning Commission assists the Council by advising on all planning and land use matters, which includes making recommendations regarding the Comprehensive Plan, subdivision and zoning ordinances, and other land use regulations. The Architectural Review Board was established to ensure the historic preservation of Occoquan, and advise the Council on matters regarding both existing and proposed buildings in the historic district, as well as the review and approval of commercial signage. The ARB has recently added a position for a business representative. Both groups meet on the second Tuesday of each month. The Board of Zoning Appeals meets as needed to hear and decide appeals related to zoning matters, and to authorize variances in specific zoning cases.

Please consider giving back to the community by applying to serve on one of these three boards and commissions. More information, including applications and filing instructions, can be found on the Town website at: www.occoquanva.gov/boards-and-commissions.html.

Elizabeth A.C. Quist

Town Council Actions: January 6, 2015

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.

- Approved the placement of historical markers for the carbide storage unit in front of 430 Mill St., the carriage block located in front of 402 Mill St., and the gearwheel located next to the Mill House Museum.
- Adopted the Virginia Storm Water Management Program ordinance and revised the engineering fee schedule.
- Postponed action on the designation of a loading zone in front of Mamie Davis Park; rescheduled for February 3 meeting.
- Authorized the replacement of signage at Town Hall.
- Authorized the Town Treasurer to issue refunds for Real Estate Tax overpayments.

February 2015

Town Meetings and Events

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

February 3: Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm, Regular Meeting, Town Hall

February 10: Planning Commission
7:00 pm, Town Hall

Architectural Review Board
7:30 pm, Town Hall

February 13: Real Estate Taxes Due

February 16: President's Day
Town Hall Closed

February 17: Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm, Work Session, Town Hall

February 20: January 2015 Meals Taxes Due

Seeking Public Input: Future Park Naming

The Town Council is seeking public input on the name for the new park that is currently under construction at the west end of Mill Street. The park will sit on the former site of Fairfax Water's River Station Water Treatment Plant and once completed, will incorporate a restroom and storage facility, a pavilion, interpretative signage, historic artifacts and a walking trail, in addition to open green space. Prior to its most recent use by Fairfax Water, the site also played a significant role in the Town's industrial history as it relates to grist mill and iron furnace operations.

During the December 16, 2014 Work Session, Town Council discussed possible naming options and agreed that the name should certainly reflect the history of the town, but be unique in order to set it apart from the other historical features and parks in the region. Below are potential names currently under consideration by Council. During the February 3, 2015 meeting, Town Council welcomes the public to provide input on the future name of the park that is planned to be completed in the winter of 2015:

River Station Park

Mill Race Park

Oronocah Park (meaning *Garden* in Powhatan language)

To learn more about the park's progress, visit www.occoquanva.gov/projects-1.html. If you are unable to attend the February 3 meeting, please send your comments to info@occoquanva.gov by 4 p.m. on February 3, 2015.

Message from the Occoquan Post Office

The Occoquan Post Office would like to express our appreciation for all the kind words and gifts we received during the holiday season from residents and town merchants. Happy New Year! - *Judy and Eleanor*

Trash and Recycling Collection Reminders

Please place refuse to the curb **no earlier than 4 pm** on Tuesdays, but **before 7 am on Wednesdays**, and remove your containers as quickly as possible after collection. Ensure there is a pedestrian path available at all times by not blocking public sidewalks and rights of way with refuse containers. **Do not place household refuse in or next to Town-owned trash receptacles.**

Future River Park Site Plan Review: February 10

The Planning Commission and Architectural Review Board will review the site plan for the next phase of the river park, which includes a restroom and storage facility, on Tuesday, February 10, at 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., respectively. The Town Council will review the plan on Tuesday, March 3, at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. For more information on the park, visit www.occoquanva.gov. Updated conceptual plans of the park are available for viewing at Town Hall.

Visit www.GovDeals.com/OccoquanVA to see what we've got for sale this month! The latest auction ends February 13!