

## Business License Fees Due May 31

The 2016 Business and Professional Occupational License (BPOL) renewals were due on March 1, 2016. Renewal notices were sent during the first week in February to businesses currently holding a license with the Town. A penalty of 10% may be added for *applications* received after March 1, and/or a 10% penalty will be added for *payments* received after May 31, 2016.

The business license fee is based on gross receipts for calendar year 2015. Tax rates are listed on the application, with a minimum tax of \$30.

Businesses operating out of homes within Occoquan are also required to obtain a business license and pay BPOL to the Town. For question, please contact the Town Clerk at (703) 491-1918 or visit [www.occoquanva.gov](http://www.occoquanva.gov) for more information.

## 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/next to Town-owned trash receptacles.**

## OCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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### TOWN OF OCOQUAN

314 Mill Street  
P.O. Box 195  
Occoquan, VA 22125

CARRIER ROUTE  
OCOQUAN, VA 22125

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# OCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXIII, ISSUE IV

(703) 491-1918

APRIL 2016

### 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  
Christopher Coon, Town Clerk  
Abigail Breeding, CPA, Treasurer  
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor

## Mayor's Letter

Spring has sprung in Occoquan, and despite a brief dip in temperatures two weeks ago, we are finally seeing the change in the seasons. Clean-up efforts are underway, with street sweeping resuming twice weekly, and increased focus on landscaping and maintenance. The semi-annual Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO) River Clean Up takes place in Occoquan, and four other sites in Fairfax and Prince William County, on April 16th from 9 am to 12 pm. This is FOTO's 33rd Clean Up event, in which hundreds of volunteers join forces with corporate sponsors and community organizations to remove tons of trash and recyclables from the watershed. Hope to see many of you there!

The Town of Occoquan has been selected as one of the project sites for Comcast Cares Day 2016! In partnership with Comcast and Leadership Prince William, Occoquan will host more than 200 volunteers on Saturday, April 30th, to help complete a number of maintenance and beautification projects in the community that will benefit residents, businesses, and visitors to the Town, and the entire Prince William County. Projects include rehabilitation of the Town public dock and boardwalk, upgrades and maintenance to Mamie Davis Park, the establishment of small gardens, improvements to the Town/County entrance at Route 123, creation of a backdrop for a public art project at Route 123 and Commerce Street, as well as landscaping, painting, and other maintenance projects throughout the Town. We have projects for all skill levels and physical abilities for individuals 12 and up. You can register for the event at [www.OccoquanVA.gov](http://www.OccoquanVA.gov).

Finally, last month I had the pleasure of attending the 30th Annual Prince William Valor Awards, presented by the Prince William Chamber of Commerce. The event recognizes those who serve our community in Police, Fire and Rescue, going above and beyond the call of duty. While all the stories of these brave men and women were incredibly moving, I had the honor of presenting our own Chief Sheldon Levi with the Bronze Medal for Valor. In October of last year, Chief Levi was dispatched to an attempted suicide on the Route 123 Bridge. Instinctively, he approached the subject and wrapped his arms around him, moving him out of harm's way and blocking the path to the jersey wall. Even with three lanes of northbound traffic buzzing by at 55-60 miles per hour, and the man pleading to let him jump, Chief Levi kept him engaged while he waited for backup. Several days later, the man came to the Occoquan Town Hall to thank him for saving his life. We are incredibly proud of the Chief for exercising extraordinary judgement and performance of his duties, and the resulting saving of a life.

*Elizabeth A.C. Quist*

## Town Council Actions: March 1, 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](http://www.occoquanva.gov). All votes are unanimous unless noted otherwise.

- Approved Snow Removal funds in the amount of \$13,265.
- Appointed the following Town positions:  
**Stan Orndoff**– Assistant Town Engineer, Zoning Administrator, Subdivision Agent  
**Bruce Reese**– Town Engineer; Assistant Zoning Administrator, Subdivision Agent, Floodplain Manager  
**Ned Marshall**-Zoning Administrator and Subdivision Agent; Assistant Town Engineer  
**Kirstyn Jovonavich**– Floodplain Manager  
**Christopher Coon**– Town Clerk
- Approved a contract with The Berkley Group to assist with the Comprehensive Plan Update as it relates to the Chesapeake Bay Act (grant funded.)
- Recommended the submission of Vicky Somma for consideration of appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals to the Prince William County Circuit Court.

## FY 2017 Proposed Budget

The Town Council will hold a public hearing on the Proposed FY 2017 Budget on April 5, 2016 and on the Proposed FY 2017 Tax Rates on April 26, 2016, at 7:00 pm at Town Hall. The public is invited to attend and provide their input regarding the budget and proposed tax rates.

### Budget in Brief: Proposed FY 2017 Budget

Fund	Revenues	Expenditures
General Fund	\$685,415	\$685,415
Craft Show Fund	\$217,125	\$104,108
Mamie Davis Fund	\$2,000	\$2,000
Capital Improvement Fund	\$0	\$337,000

The FY 2017 Proposed Budget is based on a \$0.01 increase in the Town's Real Estate Tax rate from \$0.11 to \$0.12 per \$100 of assessed value. Properties were reassessed in 2016 and are expected to increase on average by 1.8% over last year's assessments. With the additional penny on the real estate tax rate and the 1.8% increase, on average, for properties valued between \$200,000 and \$400,000, property owners will see a \$20 to \$40 annual increase, or \$1.67 to \$3.34 per month, in their town real estate property tax bill. Approximately 67% of the town's properties are valued between \$200,000 and \$400,000.

The Proposed Budget also includes maintaining the Meals Tax Rate of 3% and the Transient Occupancy Tax Rate of 2%.

The full FY 2017 Proposed Budget is available online at [www.occoquanva.gov](http://www.occoquanva.gov) and at Town Hall, 314 Mill Street, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4 pm.

# April 2016

## Town Meetings and Events

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

**April 5: Town Council Meeting**  
7:00 pm, Regular Meeting  
Includes Proposed Budget Public Hearing

**April 12: Planning Commission**  
Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm  
**Architectural Review Board**  
Regular Meeting, 7:30 pm

**April 14: Planning Commission**  
6:30 pm, Comp Plan Work Session

**April 16: FOTO Spring Clean-up Day**  
9 am – 12 pm, Historic Occoquan

**April 19: Town Council Meeting**  
7:00 pm, Work Session

**April 20:** March 2016 Meals Taxes Due

**April 21: Planning Commission**  
6:30 pm, Comp Plan Work Session

**April 26: Town Council Meeting**  
7 pm, Proposed Tax Rate Public Hearing

**April 27: Planning Commission**  
6:30 pm, Comp Plan Work Session

**April 30: Comcast Cares Day**  
8 am – 1 pm, Historic Occoquan

## Town Election Day: May 3, 2016

Occoquan's Town Election will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2016. All voting will take place at Town Hall, 314 Mill Street, from 6 am to 7 pm. Occoquan voters will elect a Mayor and five Councilmembers who will begin new two-year terms on July 1, 2016. The candidates for Mayor are: Elizabeth A.C. Quist and Johnathan W. Torres. The candidates for Council are: J. Matthew Dawson, Jim A. Drakes, Cindy J. Fithian, John E. Gould, Alexa L. Lewis, Joseph E. McGuire, Jr., Patrick A. Sivigny, and Steven V. Vonderheide. A Special Candidate Information Newsletter will be distributed on April 8, 2016 and available at Town Hall or online at [www.occoquanva.gov](http://www.occoquanva.gov).

## Comcast Cares Day, April 30—Volunteers Needed

On Saturday, April 30, 2016, from 8 am to 1 pm, Occoquan will welcome more than 200 volunteers to Historic Occoquan for Comcast Cares Day to help complete a number of maintenance and beautification projects that will benefit the residents, businesses, and visitors to the Town, as well as the entire Prince William County.

Volunteers and monetary and/or material donations are needed in support of this event. For more information or to volunteer for the event, visit <http://leadershipprincewilliam.org/comcast-cares-day>. To learn more about Comcast Cares Day, visit <http://corporate.comcast.com/our-values/community-investment/community-service>.