Town Manager's Corner……

I am very excited to join the Occoquan community and want to take this opportunity to thank Town Council, staff, residents and merchants for warmly welcoming me to town and assisting in creating a smooth transition. In my few short weeks here in Occoquan, I have had the opportunity to meet many of you and I am looking forward to becoming more involved and learning more about Occoquan. Please feel free to stop by Town Hall or stop me when I am out and about to introduce yourself. I am looking forward to getting to know the town and becoming an intricate part of the community as we work together to create a better, more vibrant Occoquan!

Please Note: There has been a rise in rabies in Prince William County in the last month. Please refrain from feeding any wildlife in our area. If you see wildlife that seem sick, please call the Prince William County Police Department 's non-emergency line at 703-792-6500.

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXI, ISSUE V **TOWN HALL - (703) 491-1918** **MAY 2014**

TOWN COUNCIL
Earnest W. Porta Jr., Mayor
Elizabeth A. Quist, Vice-Mayor
Denise M. Bush
Joe McGuire
Patrick A. Sivigny
Dr. James N. Walbert

TOWN HALL STAFF
Kirstyn L. Barr, Town Manager
Peggy Blackwell, Town Clerk
Abigail Breeding, CPA, Treasurer
Sheldon E. Levi, Town Sergeant & Chief of Police
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor
Patricia Thomas, Arts & Crafts Show Director

MAYOR'S LETTER

April was a month of significant change in Occoquan that went beyond the weather. Our new Town Manager, Kirstyn Barr formally began her tenure on April 14 and hit the ground running. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to Ms. Barr and welcome her to Occoquan. Also in April, the town began installing decorative banners on the town gaslights. Long-requested by a number of town residents, and long-featured in other towns, the banners represent the collaborative effort of a number of individuals and groups. Finally, Occoquan VFW Post 7916 underwent an interior make-over and has re-opened as a non-smoking facility offering a take-out luncheon menu to the general public. If you are able, take a moment to stop by and see what the post has to offer.

Another major announcement last month was the Town's signing of a sales agreement with the NRA Foundation for the purchase of the 17.7 acres of land at the corner of Tanyard Hill Road and Old Bridge Road known locally as the Oaks III property. As many of you may recall, this property was the subject of a controversial commercial rezoning in January of 2012 by the Prince County Board of Supervisors over the objections of the Town. The Town is purchasing the property for $300,000, subject to a conservation easement that will prevent future development. While the primary motive for the purchase is to prevent the parcel's development, ultimately the Town is considering make the property available as a passive recreation park. Closing is still weeks away, and in the meantime we are performing the relevant due diligence as quickly and as efficiently as possible.

There are a number of enjoyable events taking place in town during the month of May. On Saturday, May 10, from 1-5 p.m., over 60 artists will be participating in *Art on the Block*. Enjoy receptions and watch artists while they work at various galleries and shops. Also on the 10th, I will again start a season of leading historic tours by kayak and stand up paddleboard out of Occoquan Regional Park. Tours begin at 10:00 a.m. the second and fourth Saturday of the month, and the park charges $10 for kayak rental. And on May 17th, Occoquan Regional Park will once again host Occoquan River Fest. For more information on the last, go to the Occoquan Regional Park web site (www.nvrpa.org/park/occoquan).

Let me close this month by thanking everyone who participated in various volunteer activities last month, including the Occoquan River Clean Up and the Occoquan Historical Society Gala. As always, thank you for your support and please feel free to contact me at eporta@occoquan.org with any comments, questions or concerns.

Earnest W. Porta, Jr.

At the April 2014 Meeting, the Town Council voted to:

- Approve marking a "drop off" space and "bike rack" space in front of Mamie Davis Park;
- Approve the allocation of funds for new entry signs at Commerce and Gordon Blvd.; Tanyard and Old Bridge; Mamie Davis Park; and three "more shop" signs;
- Approve the allocation of funds for contracts for the upcoming Occoquan Arts and Crafts Show, June 7 and 8.

PLEASE VOTE ON MAY 6!

Occoquan's Town Election will be held on Tuesday, May 6. 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, 2014. The candidate for Mayor is Elizabeth A. Quist. The candidates for Council are : Tyler C. Brown, J. Matthew Dawson, James A. Drakes, Joseph E. McGuire, Jr., Patrick A. Sivigny and Steven V. Vonderheide.

THE OCCOQUAN SPRING ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW — JUNE 7 AND 8

STREET CLOSINGS

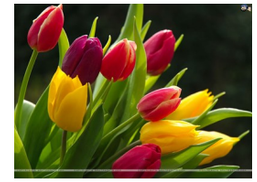
The following roads will be closed from 8 am to 6:30 pm on June 7 and 8: Mill, Commerce, Union and Washington Streets, as well as Ellicott Street from Mill to Center Lanes. During this time, please coordinate movers or deliveries accordingly.

CRAFT SHOW PARKING

Parking permits will be issued to merchants and residents living and/or working in the historic district for parking under the Route 123 bridge from 10:00 p.m., Friday, June 6, until 6:30 p.m., Sunday, June 7. Because of the 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 Wednesday, May 28.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED — PLEASE SIGN UP IN TOWN HALL!

For more information, about the upcoming Occoquan Arts and Crafts Show, visit www.occoquan.org.



MAY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 6 am – 7 pm Town Elections	7 7 pm - Town Council Meeting	8	9	10 1 pm - 5 pm
11	12	13 7 pm - Planning Com. 7:30—Arch Review Bd.	14	15	16	17 10 am - 5 pm River Fest 2014
18	19 6:30 pm Occoquan River Communities	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day Town Hall Closed	27	28	29	30	31

Mark Your Calendar: Occoquan Arts & Crafts Show, June 7 and 8