

ARB News: Check Your Signs for Damage

We have certainly had a blustery winter. The signs and flags have certainly been tested for their endurance. And now the blustery month of March is upon us. Could March be worse than February was? Take a moment to check your signs and flags to be sure that nothing has come loose or broken. It's been a tough winter.

Reminder: Business and Professional Occupational License Tax Due March 1st

The 2015 Business and Professional Occupational License (BPOL) renewals are due no later than March 1, 2015. A penalty of 10% may be added if your *application* is received after March 1st and/or a 10% penalty will be added if your *payment* is received after May 31, 2015.

The business license fee is based on gross receipts for calendar year 2014. Tax rates are listed on the application, with a minimum tax of \$30. For more information and the BPOL form, visit www.occoquanva.gov/bpol.html.

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.**

OCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCOQUAN

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Occoquan, VA 22125

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OCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 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

Thanks to all of the Town residents and business owners who volunteered for Occoquan's Architectural Review Board, Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. The Council had multiple qualified applicants to choose from for each vacant position, and has appointed the following individuals:

- Architectural Review Board – Kathy Alden (Business Representative) and Daniel Braswell
- Board of Zoning Appeals – Teresa Janssen (reappointment) and Vicky Somma
- Planning Commission – David Irwin and Bret Stevens

Please join me in welcoming them to their respective appointments. Applications for those not selected to fill the most recent vacancies will be kept on file, and may be contacted as additional positions become available on these committees in the future.

On February 23rd, the Town formally began work sessions to prepare the 2016 fiscal year budget. Over the next three months, Council will be using the six goals formally adopted at the February 3rd Council meeting to frame budget discussions and adopt budgeted revenues and expenditures for the community. These six goals are:

- Parking Issues
- Historic Preservation & Town Appearance
- Community Development & Programming
- Pedestrian Safety & Access
- Riverwalk Project
- Stormwater Management

As always, these work sessions and Council meetings are open to the public, with public comment being permitted at the start of the latter. We welcome you to attend these meeting as our Town Staff unveil a new, more methodical and sophisticated approach to budgeting for local government activities.

Elizabeth A.C. Quist

Town Council Actions: February 3, 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.

- Named the new park at the former Fairfax Water facility, River Mill Park. Councilmember Brown voted nay.
- Authorized a no parking zone in front of Mamie Davis Park. Councilmember's Dawson and McGuire voted nay.
- Approved goals for the Council term to include historic preservation and Town appearance, parking issues, pedestrian access and safety, Riverwalk Project, Community development and programming and stormwater management.
- Adopted the Town Council Meeting schedule for 2015.
- Approved a not-to-exceed limit of \$1,000 from the Public Safety Grant Funds to purchase a permanent graphics package for the Town police vehicle.

FY 2016 Proposed Budget & Capital Improvement Plan

The Town Council held the first of three budget work sessions on Monday, February 23, 2015. The Council will continue to review the Fiscal Year 2016 Proposed Budget during work sessions on Tuesday, March 3, and Tuesday, March 17, at 7:00 p.m. The proposed budget is available online at www.occoquanva.gov and will be updated as we move through the process and changes and updates are incorporated into the document.

The Town Council will hold two public hearings on the Proposed Budget and tax rates on Tuesday, April 7, and Tuesday, April 28, at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, respectively. The public is invited to attend and provide their input to Town Council on the proposed budget. The budget and tax rates are scheduled to be adopted during the regular Town Council meeting on Tuesday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. By State Code, the Town must adopt a budget prior to July 1, each year.

If you are unable to attend the scheduled Town Council meetings, please forward your comments to the Town Manager, Kirstyn Jovanovich, at kjovanovich@occoquanva.gov.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Spring Town Cleanup Day: April 18

The Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO) will host the Town's annual Spring Town Cleanup Day on Saturday, April 18, 2015, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Look for more information on how you can help in the April Town Newsletter!

**COMING
UP**

March 2015

Town Meetings and Events

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

March 3: Town Council Meeting

7:00 p.m., Regular Meeting, Town Hall

March 4: Supervisor Mike May's Town Hall Meeting

7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Town Hall

March 10: Planning Commission

7:00 p.m., Town Hall

Architectural Review Board

7:30 p.m., Town Hall

March 17: Town Council Meeting

7:00 p.m., Budget Work Session, Town Hall

March 20: February 2015 Meals Taxes Due

March 31: Business, Professional, and Occupation License applications are due.

Snow Removal in Occoquan, Thank You!

Town staff extends our appreciation to the businesses, residents and property owners who cleared their sidewalks and properties of snow and ice during February's snow storms. By clearing the sidewalks, you assist the Town in providing a safe pedestrian pathway for those living, working and visiting town and limits the disruption to service for our business community.

The Town is responsible for removing snow from town-owned roads, parking lots and sidewalks on public property, and works closely with the Virginia Department of Transportation as they work to clear VDOT-owned roads. Staff is on-site during events and manages the snow removal process to ensure safe pathways are created for vehicular traffic.

Snow, while beautiful when falling, is a safety hazard and can be a nuisance to our residents, businesses and visitors. The priority for VDOT is to create safe vehicular pathways, which can impact the availability of on-street parking. We encourage residents and businesses to utilize parking under the 123 bridge during a snow storm in order to allow snow plows more opportunity to address snow in on-street parking spaces.

We appreciate everyone's patience and help as we all must work together to address snow within our community. For more information on snow removal in the Town of Occoquan, visit www.occoquanva.gov.