

ARB Reminder: Signage Rules Apply on Weekends

It has come to the attention of the Architectural Review Board that numerous temporary signs are being placed outside of businesses, especially on weekends. Please remember that per Town Code, Article VIII, Sec. 66-367, only two portable signs being an A-frame or chalkboard not exceeding 2 x 3 feet in size may be utilized for advertising outside the business. Recently, many small signs are being placed in the windows or attached to the front of businesses. If you feel the need to place additional signage, please use the A-frame or chalkboards that are permitted. This will reduce the cluttered and often times confusing nature of too many signs. Please help to keep the historic district an inviting place to visit.

Park Benches On Auction Through April 9

The Town will install new park benches at Mamie Davis Park in April, so visit www.GovDeals.com/OccoquanVA by April 9, for your chance to purchase the benches currently utilized in the park. The Town of Occoquan periodically uses GovDeals to sell surplus items to the public.

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.**

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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Occoquan, VA 22125

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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(703) 491-1918

APRIL 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

As I write this April installment of our monthly newsletter, I am hopeful that we will soon be ushering in nicer weather and the higher temperatures of spring, and that Occoquan will once again see its residents and visitors outside, enjoying all that Occoquan has to offer. In preparation for the increase in activity, Town Staff has already begun its own version of spring cleaning. Work is underway at the Town Annex building to clean up the visible outdoor areas and find a home for all heavy equipment, sell or dispose of obsolete items on GovDeals.com, and reinforce the hill and terrain around the building to make the area more stable.

Vulcan Materials Company was kind enough to make two passes through the historic district with its industrial street sweeper in mid-March, clearing much of the sand and debris left over from the multiple snow events we endured this winter. They continue to be a generous corporate neighbor, and we are grateful for their continued support. In addition to their assistance with street sweeping, they joined Allsite Construction, Classic Concept Builders, GOEL Services, and Gaslight Landing residents Phyllis Beers and Chuck Desenberg, all of whom donated supplies and labor for the rehabilitation of the rip rap along the river bank at Mamie Davis Park and the Town dock. Bucky Brill, our Town maintenance supervisor, initiated discussions with the contributing entities, and managed the entire project on the Town's behalf. Please visit Mamie Davis Park to see the improvements, and thank Bucky for identifying and organizing this collaborative effort if you see him around Town!

Preparations for River Mill Park continue at the West end of Mill Street on the Fairfax Water property, and final plans for the restroom and maintenance facility have been approved by the Town Council. Construction of the building is scheduled to begin soon, and will continue through the fall, along with planned improvements to the Occoquan foot bridge, including removal of the chain link fence and augmented lighting.

Cleaning up after the winter weather is no small task, but we are fortunate to have a strong sense of community and plenty of volunteers willing to pitch in. A great, big "thank you" to Town staff, our corporate partners, and all of our volunteers for their efforts this spring!

Elizabeth A.C. Quist

Town Council Actions: March 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.

[March newsletter correction: Naming of River Mill Park, approved 4-1, Councilmember Brown voting nay. Authorization of no parking zone in front of Mamie Davis Park, approved 3-2, Council Members McGuire and Dawson voting nay.]

March 3, 2015 Regular Meeting

- Approved the River Mill Park Site Plan.
- Approved a resolution for encroachment of right of ways near River Mill Park to the Fairfax Water Authority.
- Endorsed proposals related to the development of River Mill Park.
- Approved the revised location of the walking trail at River Mill Park.
- Discussed and identified public safety goals for the Town including increasing the number of patrol hours especially on night and weekends, pedestrian safety, traffic enforcement, and updated Department policies.
- Held a work session on the proposed FY 16 Budget.

April Community Events

Occoquan Peep Show, April 4, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Historic Occoquan

Visit local shops and view creative dioramas using Easter peeps and vote for your favorite! Hosted by The Business Guild of Occoquan.

Ebenezer Baptist Church Sunrise Service, April 5, 5:45 a.m., Mamie Davis Park

A long standing Town tradition featuring the EBC Men's Choir. The community is invited to attend.

Occoquan Spring Cleanup Day, April 18, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Town of Occoquan

Town Seeks Grant Writing Assistance

Do you have experience in researching and writing grants? If so, the Town is seeking assistance in identifying and pursuing grant opportunities that will benefit the Town of Occoquan in areas of community development; transportation; security; communication; infrastructure repair, installation and maintenance; historic preservation and maintenance; parks and recreation; recreational and community programming, and more! If you are interested in assisting the Town in identifying and obtaining grant funding or want more information, please contact the Town Manager at (703) 491-1918, Ext. 2 or kjovanovich@occoquanva.gov. All grant opportunities will be reviewed and approved by the Town Manager and/or Town Council prior to application submittal.

April 2015

Town Meetings and Events

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

April 7: Town Council Meeting and Public Hearing

7:00 p.m., Public Hearing on FY 16 Budget and Regular Meeting, Town Hall

April 14: Planning Commission

7:00 p.m., Town Hall

Architectural Review Board

7:30 p.m., Town Hall

April 18: River and Town Cleanup day
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Town Hall

April 20: March 2015 Meals Taxes Due

April 21: Town Council Work Session
7:00 p.m., Budget Work Session, Town Hall, if needed

April 28: 7:00 p.m. Public Hearing
FY 16 Budget and Tax rates; Budget work session, if needed, Town Hall

FY 2016 Proposed Budget

The Town Council will hold a public hearing on the Proposed FY 2016 Budget on April 7, 2015 and on the Proposed FY 2016 Tax Rates on April 28, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. 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 2016 Budget

Fund	Revenues	Expenses
Operating Fund	\$600,883	\$586,396
Capital Improvement Fund	-	\$1,005,000
Mamie Davis Fund	\$2,000	\$2,000
Craft Show Fund	\$222,825	\$90,623

The Town Council has advertised for FY 2016 a one cent increase in the Real Estate Tax rate to \$.12 per \$100 of the assessed value, a one percent increase in the Meals Tax Rate to 3%, and maintenance of the current Transient Occupancy Tax Rate of 2%. The Town Council may set the real estate tax rate at 12 cents per one hundred dollars value or at a lower rate, but Virginia law does not allow a higher rate than what has been advertised.

The FY 2016 Proposed Budget is available online at www.occoquanva.gov and at Town Hall, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.