



STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

At the most recent joint meeting of the Town Council and the Occoquan Strategic Planning Committee, the group reviewed the four “Strategic Goals” developed by the Committee, and adopted them with slight modifications. They are:

1. Be the shopping, dining and entertainment hub of the Occoquan region, the premier leisure destination in Prince William, southern Fairfax, and northern Stafford counties.
2. Be an attractive center of employment for start-ups and small businesses (fewer than 25 employees) in targeted sectors.
3. Be regarded as one of the top 5 most attractive towns in Virginia.
4. Be clean, green, safe, and stable

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN HALL: 703-491-1918

MARCH 2013

TOWN COUNCIL

Earnest W. Porta Jr., Mayor
Denise M. Bush
Barry G. Dean
Elizabeth A. Quist
Patrick A. Sivigny
James N. Walbert



TOWN HALL STAFF

Claudia A. Cruise, CMC, Town Manager
Peggy Blackwell, Town Clerk
Abigail Breeding, CPA, Treasurer
Sheldon E. Levi, Chief of Police
Bucky Brill, Director of Public Works
Patricia Thomas, Arts & Crafts Show Director

MAYOR'S LETTER

I want to thank everyone who participated in and helped make successful two events held in town last month. First, thank you to the Business Guild and everyone who patronized the *Chocolate Walk* on February 9. Despite the blustery conditions, the event brought a great many people into town who seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. Second, thank you to everyone who helped out in a variety of ways with the *Frigid February 5K* on February 23, which raised funds for the children's programs of our local Optimist Club. Conditions were, well, semi-frigid, but spirits were high among the participants and everyone had a good time. A special thanks to Chief Levi and Bucky Brill, and town resident Jenn Mathis, for their assistance, and to town sponsors Patriot Scuba and the Garden Kitchen.

Please keep an eye out for some events in town planned for March. Among them, on March 21, at 6:30 p.m. in Town Hall, the Occoquan Historical Society is sponsoring a lecture by Mark Trbovich, entitled *Occoquan and the Civil War: 1862*. This event is free and open to the public, and kicks off the Society's bi-monthly lecture series.

I am also pleased to report that this past month the Occoquan Strategic Planning Committee completed approximately 18 months of work and began a series of joint work sessions with the Occoquan Town Council to set a strategic direction for the town during the next 5-10 years. A number of exciting initiatives are under consideration, which will be discussed in greater detail as they develop.

Last this month, I want to take a moment to thank Ken Brunsvold, who recently resigned from the Town Council, for his years of dedicated service and support. A special election will eventually be held to fill the vacancy on the Council, but in the meantime the Town Council has appointed former council member Barry Dean to fill the seat.

As always thank you for your interest and support, and please do not hesitate to contact me at eporta@occoquan.org with any comments, questions or concerns.

At the February 2013 meeting, the Town Council voted to:

- ◆ Approve the Minutes of the January 9, 2013, Special Emergency Meeting
- ◆ Appoint Barry Dean to fill the Town Council position vacated by Ken Brunsvold until the special election is held in November
- ◆ Appoint Jim Walbert as the Council liaison to the Planning Commission
- ◆ Submit the names of Mary Ann Phelps, Barbara Frank, and Betty Dean to the Circuit Court for consideration for appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals



MARCH 2013

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (ARB)

Did You Know....

Outdoor Merchandise Displays

Outdoor merchandise displays are allowed in the Historic District but there are parameters which should be followed. Merchandise is to be displayed only during business hours and must be stored inside when the business is closed.

One of the most important parameters is that no rack or table or any other display or storage apparatus can be in the public right-of-way or blocking an architectural feature (such as a railing, column, etc). Some store fronts have porches so this facilitates the following of this regulation; some store fronts do not have porches so they are not able to do an outdoor merchandise display. Those stores often find other creative means available to them for creating a short-term promotion.

Also no sign can be placed or hung on the merchandise outside. Create a beautiful display of your merchandise without adding an additional sign.

For more information on Outdoor Merchandise Displays, go to Sec. 66-373 the town ordinances. You may also have your own copy of the Merchant Design Guidelines which is available at Town Hall or at www.occoquan.org.

Next Month's Subject: *Signs for which the ARB does not have authority*



Dog Owners -- Immediately pick up after your dog(s) when walking on a public right-of-way or on any property other than your property. Please be responsible and help keep our Town clean.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 7:00 - Council	6 	7	8	9
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins	11	12 6:30 - Planning 7:30 - ARB	13 	14	15	16
17 	18	19	20 	21	22	23
24  Easter	25	26	27 	28	29	30