

ARB Reminder: Business Merchandising

The busy spring season is here. As the season rolls into full swing we want to remind all merchants to represent their business and the town in the best light possible. While balloon promotions are allowed, balloons are to be no more than 50 inches in circumference and no higher than 10 feet from the ground. Balloons can be an effective means to draw attention to your business or they can greatly detract from your business. They need to be watched carefully and as soon as they begin to deflate they should be removed. If they are not removed, they can detract from your business and present an unattractive and unappealing appearance. While use of outdoor displays of merchandise is permitted during normal business hours, use of signage hanging from a rack or placed directly on the merchandise is not. These signs often block the view of the merchandise and do not display it in its best light. For more information please refer to the Occoquan Town Code, Section 66-367, available online at www.occoquanva.gov.

Disposing of Yard Waste

It's that time of year for our outdoor spring cleaning projects. While doing this work, keep in mind that there are regulations regarding the disposal of yard waste. Brush and tree limbs must be cut into 4-foot lengths, bundled with rope or twine, and should not exceed 50 pounds. Grass clippings, leaves and twigs can be placed in paper bags or personal containers. However, tree limbs that are larger than 6 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length will not be collected.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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P.O. Box 195
Occoquan, VA 22125

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Permit No. 19

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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MAY 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

Activity continues throughout Town as we (*finally*) usher in spring and begin preparations for the Occoquan Arts & Crafts Show on the first weekend in June. As always, we will be looking for volunteers to assist in a variety of tasks that help us welcome over 300 vendors, and more than 10,000 visitors to Town to shop, dine, and enjoy the river front. Please contact the Craft Show office (CraftShow@occoquanva.org or 703-491-1918) to add your name to the list of volunteers, and be sure to visit the show on June 6th & 7th.

Last month, approximately 40 volunteers joined Town staff and Council members in the *Occoquan Spring Cleanup Day* on April 18th hosted by Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO). Thirty-five bags of trash were collected in town by volunteers on land, as well as by kayakers from the water. Celebration of the Occoquan River continues on May 16th with *River Fest 2015* in Occoquan Regional Park.

Also, in Occoquan during the month of May is the annual *Art on the Block* celebration with gallery receptions, art demonstrations and a special prize drawing on May 9th. The Business Guild of Occoquan's annual *Sail Occoquan* event, featuring a festive boat parade, free round-trip boat rides between Mamie Davis Park and Occoquan Regional Park, and a prize drawing takes place on May 16th. See www.occoquanva.org for more details on these events.

As part of our continued efforts to improve Town appearance, you may have noticed updated signage at Town Hall, and street striping and benches in Mamie Davis Park. Between a \$2,500 grant obtained by former Mayor Earnie Porta, and the sale of the old benches on GovDeals, we were able to purchase and install five new benches in the Park at a total cost of \$77.81.

Finally, Town staff has been working to improve the information available on the Town website. In addition to general administrative information such as the Town Code and Council meeting agendas, you can now read about upcoming events in Town, see photos of the River Mill Park progress, view area trail maps, and find helpful information about street maintenance, tree removal, and doing business in and with the Town of Occoquan. Take a few minutes to check it out!

Elizabeth A.C. Quist

Town Council Actions: April 7, 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.

- Approved the Cable Franchise Agreement Renewal with Comcast. Approved 4-1, Councilmember Brown voting nay.
- Awarded a contract for on-call building official services to Total Construction Solutions, LLC, effective July 1, 2015.
- Approved an agreement to employ The Engineering Groupe to serve as the project administrator for the construction of the River Mill Park restroom and maintenance facility.
- Awarded a contract to Prince William County Public Works Department for the repairs to asphalt and curbing on River Road.
- Accepted the Fiscal Year End July 30, 2013 Financial Report.

Occoquan Spring Arts and Crafts Show Saturday, June 6 and Sunday, June 7

STREET CLOSINGS

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

CRAFT SHOW PARKING

Permits will be available to merchants and residents living or working in the historic district for parking under the Route 123 bridge from 10:00 p.m., Friday, June 5, until 6:30 p.m., Sunday, June 7. Due to 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 Tuesday, June 2, between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Interested in giving back to the community? Consider volunteering your time and talents to the Town's Arts and Crafts Show. This two-day event draws thousands of people to town and is successful due to the support of our businesses and volunteers!

If you're interested in volunteering for the Arts and Crafts Show, email kforcier@occoquanva.gov, call 703-491-2168 or stop by Town Hall to sign up.

May 2015

Town Meetings and Events

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

May 5: Town Council Meeting

7:00 p.m., Regular Meeting, Town Hall
Adoption of FY 16 Budget

May 9: Art on the Block

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm, Historic Occoquan
Sponsored by the Art Galleries of Occoquan

May 10: Mother's Day

May 12: Planning Commission

7:00 p.m., Town Hall

Architectural Review Board

7:30 p.m., Town Hall

May 16: Sail Occoquan

9:50 am to 4 pm, Historic Occoquan
Sponsored by the Business Guild of Occoquan
(9:50-10:15 a.m., Boat Parade)

May 19: Town Council Work Session

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

May 20: March 2015 Meals Taxes Due

May 25: Memorial Day

Town Hall Closed

May 31: 2015 Business, Professional, Occupation Licenses Due

Help Keep Occoquan Clean: Pick Up After Your Pet

As you are out walking your pet, please remember to pick up your pet's waste immediately. The Town maintains several pet stations throughout town and pet owners are encouraged to take advantage of these in collecting and disposing of your pet's waste. Help keep Occoquan clean and walkable by picking up your pet's waste immediately from public right-of-ways or your neighbor's yard. For more information on the Town's pooper scooper and leash laws, view the Town Code Sections 6-2 and 6-3, available online at www.occoquanva.gov.

2015 Business, Professional, Occupation License

If you operate a business in Town, the 2015 BPOL tax is due May 31. This license is required per Town and Virginia Code for all businesses that operate within Town limits. This includes home based businesses. The filing form and tax rate information can be found on the Town website at www.occoquanva.gov/bpol.html. If you need assistance calculating your tax, please call Town Hall at 703-491-1918 or email info@occoquanva.gov.