

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXI, ISSUE X

(703) 491-1918

OCTOBER 2014

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

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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

It seems as though the historic district has been under a constant cloud of construction dust for the last few weeks, as work has resumed at Gaslight Landing, the new PWCSA Lift Station moves into the final stages, and the decommissioning of the Fairfax Water facility got underway. I'd like to thank the businesses and residents in the historic district for their continued patience. The Lift Station project is one that has been in process for more than three years, and I'm sure we will all be happy to have our streets and parking spaces back when work is completed. We also look forward to welcoming the new residents of Gaslight Landing when they arrive.

Work continues on the site of the former Fairfax Water treatment facility, and remains on schedule. Both Fairfax Water and their contractor for the demolition project have made great effort to minimize the impact of large truck traffic and debris removal. I'd invite all those interested to stop by Town Hall to see the concept drawing approved by the Town Council for the river front park. On September 2nd, the Council voted to contract with The Engineering Groupe to manage the architectural and engineering services necessary to develop the site. The funding for this River Park project is coming from Prince William County capital improvement funds, upon the Board of County Supervisors' acceptance of the lease agreement terms and concept plan, hopefully this month.

In a continued effort towards updating and improving operations and the Town code, I am pleased to announce that Council voted on September 16th to adopt an amendment to the zoning ordinance within Section 66 of the Town Code to allow setback encroachments for ADA ramps, structures and equipment.

And, finally, as this newsletter goes to print, we are in the last few days of preparations for the Occoquan Fall Arts & Crafts Show. I hope everyone was able to visit the show and experience one of the truly unique events that Occoquan offers. The Arts & Crafts Show provides funding for all capital improvements within the Town, and we greatly appreciate the efforts of our staff, volunteers, businesses and residents in making it a success.

Elizabeth A.C. Quist

Town Council Actions: September 2 and 16, 2014

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 lease between Fairfax Water and the Town of Occoquan for Riverfront Park.
- Approved a contract for architectural services to design the Riverfront park property.
- Awarded a contract for the FY 2014 financial audit to Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates in an amount not to exceed \$7,750.
- Adjusted the Town's observed legal holiday schedule for 2014 to permit Town offices to be closed a half day on Wednesday, December 24, 2014, closed for a full day on Thursday, December 25, and closed for a full day on Friday, December 26, 2014.
- Moved the regular Town Council meeting of November, 4 2014 to Wednesday, November 5, 2014.
- Approved Zoning Text Amendments to Address Ramps, Structures and Equipment for Emergency Services Access.

Annual Fall Cleanup Day October 18

Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO) will host the annual Fall cleanup day on Saturday, October 18, from 9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. The event will focus on town beautification, river cleanup and trash removal. If you would like to volunteer, meet at Town Hall, 314 Mill St., at 9:00 a.m. Tools will be provided and you are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and sturdy shoes. For more information contact Sonia Monson, Friends of the Occoquan, at (703) 624-7124 or Sonia@friendsoftheoccoquan.org.

Vehicle Decals

The Town of Occoquan 2015 vehicle decals are now on sale at Town Hall. Town Ordinance Section 62-37 requires that owners of any motor vehicle principally garaged in the Town obtain a decal and "show a valid vehicle registration card showing an address within the limits of the Town of Occoquan." **The 2015 decal must be displayed on your vehicle by November 15, 2014.**

You will be receiving your renewal form in the mail during the first week of October. Forms and payments can be mailed back to Town Hall or dropped off in person.

If you have any questions, please contact Town Staff at (703) 491-1918, Extension 1 or at info@occoquanva.gov.

Town Meetings and Events

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

Tuesday, October 7: Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, October 13: Columbus Day, Town Hall Closed

Tuesday, October 14: Planning Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m.; Architectural Review Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 18: Friends of the Ocoquan Fall Cleanup, 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, October 21: Town Council Work Session, 7:00 p.m.

Halloween Safety Tips

It is important to remember that Halloween is around the corner and to make trick-or-treat enjoyable for everyone we need to be vigilant to ensure children's safety.

Here are a few safety tips for trick-or-treating:

- ◆ Make sure kids wear light colors, or put reflective tape on their costumes.
- ◆ Trick-or-treaters should always be in groups and parents should accompany young children.
- ◆ Make sure kids know not to enter strange houses or strangers' cars. Children should stop only at familiar homes where the outside lights are on.
- ◆ Kids need to know not to eat their treats until they get home. One way to keep trick-or-treaters from digging in while they're still out is to feed them a meal or a snack before hand.
- ◆ Check out all treats at home in a well-lighted place.

If you follow these simple tips you will be sure to have a happy and safe Halloween for the whole family!

Trash and Recycling Collection Reminders:

Please place refuse to the curb **no earlier than 4 p.m.** on Tuesdays, but **before 7 a.m. 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.

ARB News: Holiday Displays

It's that time of year when most businesses find themselves decorating their stores and storefronts for the upcoming holidays. October brings on that first urge with the winter holidays following not far behind. Occoquan is turned into a wonderland by the business and town officials with their outstanding displays and decorations. The residents appreciate all their efforts to make our town so attractive and appealing to visitors and customers.

Please be aware that these holiday displays and decorations are not to be considered permanent and should not remain up longer than 30 days from the original installation date. The exception is during the Winter Holiday season when an extended display time is allowed from November 1 to January 15. Please remember that generic or non-holiday-specific strings of colored lights outlining property lines, sales areas or any portion of a structure are not allowed except during the winter holiday season.

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

314 Mill Street

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