

Manager's Corner. . . .



As the summer vacation season draws to a close, let us remember schools are open and there will be increased traffic on our roads.

Please be sure you stop for all school busses with activated red stop lights as prescribed in VA Code #46.2-859. The penalty for failing to stop is a \$250 . When driving around the area or to and from work, please drive carefully obeying all traffic signs, signals and laws to promote safe travel for you and other motorists. Weaving in and out, “jack rabbit” and aggressive driving does not save time, is very dangerous, and can result in expensive traffic summonses or collisions. Texting while driving is also illegal and dangerous, please wait till you get to your destination or pull off the road to text.

The Fall Arts & Crafts Show is 09/28 & 29. If you have questions about parking or road closures, please contact Town Hall 703-491-1918.

Have a safe fall season!!!

Sheldon E. Levi, Acting Town Manager

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

Email: Info@occoquan.org

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXV, ISSUE IX

TOWN HALL: 703-491-1918

SEPTEMBER 2013

TOWN COUNCIL

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



TOWN HALL STAFF

Sheldon E. Levi, Acting Town Manager
And Chief of Police
Abigail Breeding, CPA, Treasurer
Peggy Blackwell, Town Clerk
Bucky Brill, Town Maintenance Supervisor
Patricia Thomas, Arts & Crafts Show Director

MAYOR'S LETTER

September's big event in town is the annual Occoquan fall Arts and Crafts Show, scheduled for September 28 and 29, and a great place to do some early Christmas shopping. As most of you are aware, the net revenues from the town's two arts and crafts shows are the primary source of funding for town capital projects, deferred maintenance, and special initiatives, so please encourage friends and family members to patronize the show's vendors.

One special initiative past craft show revenue is scheduled to fund is the implementation of the town's strategic plan. The town chartered and appointed a Strategic Planning Committee in July of 2011, and after approximately 18 months of research, public meetings, and site visits, the Committee issued its report, which has been adopted by the Town Council as a framework for town initiatives over the next 5-10 years. The evolution and successful implementation of the details of the plan will depend significantly on public involvement and support over time, so I encourage everyone to familiarize themselves with the background and details of the plan, which are available on the town web site (www.occoquan.org), and to involve themselves in those areas that interest them.

Among other things, the Strategic Plan recommends a program of community engagement projects, in which many of the events we have been holding and promoting over the past half dozen years neatly fit. Along those lines, on September 21, a variety of community partners will be working together for the improvement of the town's waterfront. On that day, the 501(c)(3) Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition will be cleaning up and improving the access points of the shoreline behind the Mill House Museum. Patriot Scuba will be sending divers into the water to remove trash and debris below the town's waterline, and providing a “Project Aware” demonstration suitable for families. And Vulcan Materials will be dispatching staff to clean up their dock complex across the river. Activities are scheduled to start at approximately 9:00 a.m. and run into the early afternoon. Keep an eye out for announcements about how you can participate by assisting in the clean up, viewing the “Project Aware” demonstration, or by simply grabbing a box lunch and watching the scuba divers work.

As always, be alert for other events on the horizon, including VFW activities associated with POW/MIA Recognition Day on September 20, and the arrival of some “Warrior Riders” on October 4 – more details on these as they become available. Thank you once more for your support and please do not hesitate to contact me at eporta@occoquan.org with any comments, questions, or concerns.

Earnest W. Porta, Jr.

At the August 2013 Meeting, the Council voted to:

- ◆ Appoint Dr. Jim Drakes as a member of the Planning Commission;
- ◆ Approve to Advertise to Readopt Existing Comprehensive Plan
- ◆ Approve the purchase of a five drawer lateral file cabinet not to exceed \$725.00.
- ◆ Approve the purchase of computer monitors at the cost of \$1,400.00.



SEPTEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Labor Day - Town Hall Closed 	3 7:00 Town Council	4 	5	6	7 8 - Noon Farmers' Market
8	9	10 6:30 PC 7:30 ARB	11 	12	13	14 8 - Noon Farmers' Market
15	16	17	18 	19	20	21 8 - Noon Farmers' Market
22	23	24	25 	26	287	28 10:00 - 6:00 Fall Arts & Crafts Show 
29 10:00-5:00 Fall Arts & Crafts Show 	30					

**THE OCCOQUAN FALL ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW
SEPTEMBER 28 & 29, 2013**

CRAFT SHOW PARKING

Parking permits will be issued to merchants and residents living and/or working in the historic district for parking under the Route 123 bridge from 10:00 p.m., Friday, September 28 until 6:30 p.m., Sunday, September 29. Because of the 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 Monday, September 23.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—STOP BY TOWN HALL AND SIGN UP!

ARB— Did You Know

With summer winding down, the hurricane season is unfortunately ramping up, and we all know that we can never be too prepared. As we double-check our candles, matches, flashlights and battery supplies at home, now might be a good time for businesses to double-check to make sure their signs, benches, plants and other exterior items are secure. Let's all do our part to make sure everyone's business signage is in good repair and securely hung, and other exterior items are safe and protected from the elements, as well. For more details, please see Sections 66-371 and 372 of the Occoquan Town Code.