

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXI, ISSUE IV

TOWN HALL - (703) 491-1918

APRIL 2014

TOWN COUNCIL

Earnest W. Porta Jr., Mayor
Elizabeth A. Quist, Vice-Mayor
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Joe McGuire
Patrick A. Sivigny
Dr. James N. Walbert



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

Acting Town Manager's Corner.....

"Spring has sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the flowers iz". This is a quote from an Archie comic book I read when I was very young, but have always loved. Now that spring is here I would like to encourage everyone to pitch in and sweep their sidewalks and gutters (streets) to help rid the Town of the debris that has been left behind by "old man" winter.

This will be my last Manager's Corner now that we have a new Town Manager coming to work on 04/14. I would like to thank all residents, business owners and staff for your wonderful support these past 10 months. Although I enjoyed working and learning in Town Hall, I am very excited about our new Town Manager Kirstyn Barr. I believe she will be a true asset to the Town and encourage everyone to give her the same support that was given to me; she will definitely have mine! While I will be leaving the position of Acting Town Manger I look forward to seeing everyone as I resume my patrol duties as your Town Sergeant/Chief of Police.

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OCCOQUAN, VA 22125**

MAYOR'S LETTER

It is with great pleasure that I begin this month by announcing that after an extensive search process involving a very strong pool of candidates, the Town Council has unanimously and enthusiastically selected Ms. Kirstyn L. Barr as our new Town Manager. As many of you probably already know from the newspapers or one of my e-newsletters, Ms. Barr is currently the Public Information Officer for the Town of Vienna, Virginia, and has previously served as the Community Relations and Communications Specialist for the City of Newport News, Virginia. She is a graduate of both Christopher Newport University and the Senior Executive Institute of the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia. Additionally, she holds a Masters of Public Administration (MPA) from Old Dominion University. She will formally assume her new role the week of April 14, but in the meantime has been attending various town events and meetings. Kirstyn is an exceptional addition to the town and I encourage everyone to please join me in welcoming her to Occoquan. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Chief Levi and all the town staff for their outstanding collaborative efforts and performance as we searched for a new manager.

April is also the month when the town begins preparing in earnest for spring. Staff has begun scheduling the repair of signs, posts, sidewalks, etc., that have been damaged by the winter weather. Additionally, on April 12, the semi-annual Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO) river cleanup will be held from 9:00 a.m. to noon and the town will once again be a host site, with participants meeting at Town Hall. Please consider volunteering on the 12th to help spruce things up in town. I am also pleased to report that sometime in April the town expects to finally install decorative banners on the town's gaslights. Long-requested by a number of town residents, and long-featured in other towns, the banners represent the collaborative effort of a number of individuals and groups. We expect to adjust banner designs and placement over time based on public feedback and changing seasons, and look forward to the added color they will bring to the historic business district. Other improvements for the historic business district are also under consideration for the coming months, including new trash receptacles, so stay tuned. The annual gala benefitting the Occoquan Historical Society will also take place this month on April 6. For tickets and additional information, go to www.occoquanhistoricalsociety.org.

As always, thank you for your continued support, and please feel free to contact me at eporta@occoquan.org with any comments, questions or concerns.

At the March 2014 Meeting, the Town Council voted to:

- ◆ Approve Final Site Plan for the BB&T Kiosk
- ◆ Approve Final Site Plan for Riverfront Park
- ◆ Approve the Allocation of \$7,000.00 for Banners in the Historic District of Occoquan
- ◆ Recommend the Appointment of Three Names to the Board of Zoning Appeals
- ◆ Approve the Appointment of Ramsey Baerga to the Planning Commission.



APRIL 2014

May 6, 2014 is Election Day in the Town. Town Hall will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for you to cast your ballot. Most residents do not realize that the town's government is ruled by the Town Charter, granted in 1804. Five council members vote on issues pertaining to the town. A majority of three makes the decision. We have six citizens campaigning for these council seats, as well as Mayor. Absentee ballot applications are available in Town Hall and must be received in the Registrar's Office **by the close of business Tuesday, April 29.**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 - Town Council Mtg.	2	3	4	5
6 4:30 OHS GALA Madigan's	7	8 7:30 - ARB	9	10	11	12 9-12 noon FOTO Clean Up
13	14	15	16	17	18	19  12n-3:00 Bunny Around Town
20 	21 6:30 ORC	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Volunteers are Needed for Occoquan Arts and Crafts Show June 7 & 8

As you all know, Occoquan Arts and Crafts Show is a Town-sponsored event. It will take all of us to make this Spring Show a resounding success. Your Town needs **YOU** to volunteer a little, or a lot, of your time to help it run smoothly. Please Call Pat Thomas or Candie Best at 703.491.2168.