

Subscribe to *The Occoquan Reader* E-Newsletter

The Town has launched *The Occoquan Reader*, an e-newsletter designed to provide up-to-date information on Town activities, events and information related to Town government. This e-newsletter will provide irregular and unscheduled updates to subscribers, but is not intended to replace the hardcopy Town newsletter that each resident and business receives in their mailbox each month.

In addition, we've created *The Occoquan Reader, Business Community Edition* – an e-newsletter designed specifically for our business community. The Town will use this to communicate directly with town businesses regarding issues that will directly impact our business community.

Subscribe to one or both of these useful e-newsletters online at www.occoquanva.gov.

River Mill Park Progress

Construction is moving along at River Mill Park where work has begun on the new restroom and storage facility. During this part of the project; however, the footbridge will be closed at times in order to install utilities, add lighting and replace the chain link fence with hand railing. By the end of the year, improvements to the footbridge and the new building will be completed; however, the park is not slated to open to the public until Spring 2016. The final phase of the project includes the installation of a pavilion, completion of a stone-dust looped trail, lighting and vegetation. For more information, visit www.occoquanva.gov.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXII, ISSUE XI

(703) 491-1918

NOVEMBER 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

Thank you to the 128 volunteers that participated in the Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO) 32nd river clean-up in October. Volunteers cleared about 1.3 tons of trash from the river and shoreline from five sites in Prince William and Fairfax counties, including the Town of Occoquan. Thank you to everyone that has dedicated their time and efforts in stewardship of the Occoquan River and the Town of Occoquan.

The Town has accepted an invitation by Governor McAuliffe to submit a handcrafted ornament that represents our community to be featured on the 2015 Executive Mansion Christmas tree in Richmond. The Occoquan Business Guild accepted the charge and commissioned local artist Vicky Somma to design an ornament to represent our rich history. She chose to honor the Mill House Museum building with a 3-D printed model of the 256 year-old icon. The ornament will be on display at the Governor's Mansion beginning on December 4th.

The holiday season kicks off in Occoquan with a number of family-friendly annual events, such as the Business Guild of Occoquan's Holiday Open House from 4:00 to 8:00 pm on November 20th. The Town Tree Lighting will take place at 8:05 pm that evening, followed by the Guild's gift certificate drawings at 8:15 pm in front of Hawthorne House. Planning is underway for a number of other Occoquan traditions in December, to include the Town Blessing at Ebenezer Baptist Church, the Town holiday party, and a variety of charity drives. Watch for details in the December newsletter and on the Town's website at www.occoquanva.gov.

Congratulations to the Town Staff and Council for receiving the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its FY2016 budget document. This is the highest form of national recognition in governmental budgeting, and is based upon an entities' success in creating a document available to the general public that serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device. By winning this award, we have proven to be proficient in the fourteen mandatory criteria outlined by the GFOA. In our case, the award is made even more meaningful in that it comes with our first ever submission to the program.

Elizabeth A.C. Quist

Town Council Actions: October 6, 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.

- Accepted the FYE 2014 Financial Audit.
- Adopted ordinance to establish snow emergency routes, Chapter 62.
- Awarded Contract for a document management system.
- Approved funding for Town Hall roof replacement.

Comprehensive Plan Update – Public Meetings Scheduled for November

The Town of Occoquan is undergoing a review and update of the Town's Comprehensive Plan. During the month of October, we solicited feedback from the community through a survey regarding the comprehensive plan and the future of Occoquan. The public is invited to several community forums designed to discuss the results of the survey, as well solicit additional community feedback. There will be additional public meetings regarding the Comprehensive Plan review and update during the first week of December. For more information on the process, visit www.occoquanva.gov/comprehensive-plan.html

November 2, 2015 – Public Forum #1, 7:30 p.m.

November 3, 2015 – BZA/ARB Group Meeting, 6:00 p.m.; Public Forum #2, 7:30 p.m.

November 4, 2015 – Planning/Town Council Group Meeting, 8:00 p.m.

All meetings are at Town Hall and open to the public.

Vehicle Decals

The Town of Occoquan 2016 vehicle decals are now on sale at Town Hall. Town Ordinance Section 62-37 requires that owners of any motor vehicle principally stored, garaged or parked in the Town obtain a license decal from the Town. **The 2016 decal must be displayed on your vehicle by November 15, 2015.**

You should have received 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. Town Hall will be open on **Saturday, November 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** for your convenience.

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



November 2015 Town Meetings and Events

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

November 2: Comprehensive Plan Update
Public Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

November 3: Comprehensive Plan Update
BZA/ARB, 6:00 p.m.; Public Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

November 3: Election Day, Occoquan Elementary, 12195 Occoquan Road, Woodbridge, 6:00 a.m.– 7:00 p.m.

November 4: Town Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Regular Meeting

November 4: Comprehensive Plan Update, Public Meeting, 8:00 p.m.

November 10: Planning Commission Meeting,
7:00 p.m.

November 10: Architectural Review Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

November 11: Veterans Day
Town Hall Closed

November 14: Auto decal sales, Town Hall extended hours, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Auto Decal must be displayed on vehicles by November 15.

November 17: Town Council Work Session
7:00 p.m., Work Session

November 20: Business Guild Open House, 4:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

November 20: Holiday Tree Lighting, 8:05 p.m.

November 26 and 27: Thanksgiving
Town Hall Closed

Holiday Shopping Event & Tree Lighting: November 20

Kick off the holiday season with an evening of shopping in Historic Occoquan on Friday, November 20, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Stroll through the many unique shops of Occoquan during the Business Guild of Occoquan's Holiday Open House and enjoy special deals, refreshments and activities.

Immediately following this special shopping event, stop by Town Hall for the annual tree lighting event at 8:05 p.m. Then at 8:15 p.m. the Guild will hold it's Open House drawing in front of Hawthorne House Fine Papers, and distribute \$1,500 in gift certificates!

Occoquan Commemorative Brick Program

Leave your mark on Occoquan and help support the community by purchasing a personalized brick paver to be installed at River Mill Park – opening in Spring 2016! All proceeds will go toward park programming and maintenance in Occoquan. For more information visit www.occoquanva.gov.