

ARB News: Non-Sign Marketing Methods

As we all know, the main advertising method for businesses is signage that informs customers of their location and/or products. In addition to signs, one can also observe other creative means to capture the attention of potential customers such as colorful flags, clever window displays, and flower gardens. Don't forget that the exterior of your business is the customer's first impression, so if the outside of your business looks terrific, folks will want to see what you have to offer on the inside, too!

Town Real Estate Taxes

The 2014 Real Estate Tax bills were mailed in late November to all Town property owners. Additionally, the Town has provided tax information to mortgage companies that have requested the information regarding properties for which they hold real estate taxes in escrow. If you have your taxes in escrow and the mortgage company requested the information from Town Hall, you do not need to pay the Town directly. If you have questions please contact Town staff. Taxes are due on February 13, 2015.

OCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCOQUAN

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Occoquan, VA 22125

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DECEMBER 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

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

I'd like to thank everyone who joined us on November 21st for the annual Town Hall Tree Lighting ceremony and the Business Guild's Holiday Open House. This event is always a popular and festive one, proving that the holiday shopping season is well underway. It was a comfort to hear the Salvation Army bells ringing, once again, that evening. It makes me incredibly proud to see our community's volunteer spirit and commitment alive and well, assisting those families that are less fortunate. The Red Kettle Christmas Campaign enables the Salvation Army to provide food, toys and clothing to over 6 million people during this holiday season alone.

The theme of giving back continues in Occoquan through December, with two other programs that reflect our sense of community. Those interested in participating in the "Untrim-a-Tree" program can sign out a gift tag at Town Hall and return their unwrapped children's gifts to Town Hall or *Personally Yours* by December 10th. Donations to the "Tree of Hope" may be made at *Off the Beading Path* through December 31st and an ornament will be placed on the tree in front of Town Hall to show your support for the Hilda M. Barg Homeless Prevention Program. Many thanks to the community leaders that keep these programs going.

On December 6th, the Business Guild brings **Santa Claus to the Occoquan Town Dock** by boat at noon, and he will greet children of all ages at Town Hall until 4 pm. On Sunday, December 7th, Pastor Lundy and Ebenezer Baptist Church will once again open their doors for a holiday service at 6 pm. Immediately following the service will be a candle light blessing in Mamie Davis Park and the **Town Holiday Party** at Madigan's. All are welcome!

Finally, please remember to support your local Occoquan merchants, restaurants and businesses this holiday season. While Occoquan is well known for having a concentrated mix of retail shopping and dining opportunities, we are also home to a variety of service businesses that count on your continued support now and throughout the year. So, the next time you are tempted to search the internet for a service provider, consider patronizing one of the many talented professionals located right around the corner in Historic Occoquan.

Best wishes to all for a safe and happy holiday season!

Elizabeth A.C. Quist

Town Council Actions: November 5, 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 funding for the Annual Town Holiday Party not to exceed \$1,500.00.
- Approved the funding for the installation of pole holiday decorations and conversion of electrical outlets on Dominion Power poles not to exceed \$5,500.00.
- Approved raising the fine for illegally parking in handicap spaces from \$100.00 to \$250.00 and the \$25.00 other parking violations fines up to \$50.00. (Approved 4-1, Brown voting Nay)

Town Blessing and Holiday Party

The Town invites the public to attend the annual Town Blessing and Holiday Party on Sunday, December 7. The evening will begin with a sermon at Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, located on the corner of Commerce and Washington Streets, at 6:00 pm. It will be immediately followed by a Town Blessing at Mamie Davis Park on Mill Street and a Town Holiday Party at Madigan's Waterfront Restaurant. Free and open to the public.



Snow Removal in Occoquan

Snow removal in the Town of Occoquan is a joint effort amongst the Town, VDOT, Homeowner Associations, residents and businesses. While the Town, VDOT and HOAs handle clearing the Town's streets, we rely on our residents and businesses to assist in clearing sidewalks to create safe pedestrian pathways. The Town Code Section 50-5 states that the occupant of any property that has a sidewalk abutting their property needs to remove snow and ice from it within 12 hours after it has ceased falling, or if it snows overnight, it should be removed by 5:00 pm on the next day. For those with properties adjacent to brick sidewalks, when using ice melt products, please use those that are safe for brick as other materials like salt and sand can severely damage the bricks. We appreciate everyone's assistance as we work together to create a safe environment for both vehicles and pedestrians over the winter months. For more information on snow and ice removal from sidewalks, view the Town Code online at www.occoquanva.gov, Chapter 50 Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Sec. 50-5.

Town Meetings and Events

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

December 2: Town Council Meeting

7:00 pm, Town Hall

December 6: Santa Comes to Town

12:00 pm- 4:00 pm, Santa arrives, Mamie Davis Park

December 7: Town Blessing and Holiday Party

6:00 pm, Ebenezer Baptist Church

December 9: Planning Commission

7:00 pm, Town Hall

December 9: Architectural Review Board Meeting

7:30 pm, Town Hall

December 16: Town Council Work Session

7:00 pm, Town Hall

December 24: Christmas Eve

9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Town Hall open

December 25: Christmas Day

Town Hall Closed

December 26: Winter Holiday

Town Hall Closed



Santa Comes to Occoquan

The Business Guild of Occoquan will welcome Santa Clause to Town on Saturday, December 6. Santa will arrive by boat at Mamie Davis Park at 12:00 pm. Once he arrives he will be escorted by the OWL Volunteer Fire Department to Town Hall to visit with children until 4:00 pm. Bring your camera! For more information, contact the Business Guild of Occoquan at (703) 201-8499.

Trash and Recycling Collection Reminders

There is no change in service on Christmas Eve. Please place your refuse out for the normal pick up on December 24.

Please place refuse to the curb **no earlier than 4 pm** on Tuesdays, but **before 7 am 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.