

Trash and Recycling Collection Reminders

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.**

Virginia Sales Tax Holiday, August 7-9

Virginia offers a sales tax holiday on school supplies, hurricane preparedness and emergency supplies as well as Energy Star and WaterSense appliances. This year Virginia has combined the three holidays into one weekend, August 7-9. For more information on what qualifies visit <http://www.tax.virginia.gov/content/sales-tax-holiday>.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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AUGUST 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

By now, I'm sure you've all seen the stunning transformation of River Mill Park at the west end of Mill Street. Fairfax Water opted for sod instead of its originally planned grass seed, which has made for a faster turnover than we at Town Hall anticipated. As a result, we have been working with Fairfax Water to organize a 'soft opening' in order to allow public access to the park to utilize the open green space and partial trail while construction continues on other areas of the site. While we are making every attempt to open the park by this fall, there are still several matters to resolve, the most important of which is to construct a safe access point for the public to use throughout construction. While we are certainly hopeful that we will be able to allow access to the park by this fall, we are planning a grand opening event for the spring of 2016 when park construction is fully completed. For the next phase of the project, we have selected Miller Brothers, Inc. to construct the public restroom facility and install improvements to the footbridge across the Occoquan River. They have already begun working behind the scenes; however, work will begin on site by mid-August. Stay tuned for updates on the park's opening ceremonies.

In addition to the increase in construction activity on the cul-de-sac on Mill Street, you will soon see crews working to improve other areas of Town. Fiscal Year 2016 kicked off on July 1, and funding is finally available to initiate striping of Town-maintained areas, such as McKenzie Drive and Town parking lots. Bucky Brill, Occoquan Maintenance Supervisor, has been working to construct fence enclosures for Town dumpsters and maintenance areas, in an effort to set a good example for residents and business-owners alike and comply with Town Code as it relates to Health and Sanitation. (Continued on page 2)

Town Council Actions: July 7, 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.

- Appropriated the funds in the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget. Passed 4-1, Councilmember Brown voting Nay.
- Approved the Town's building fee schedule.
- Appointed Daniel Braswell to fill an unexpired term on the Planning Commission effective July 7, 2015 to March 21, 2018.
- Approved a not to exceed amount of \$1,630 to upgrade the Town's firewall and purchase an additional Town Hall server.
- Approved Chief Levi's request to attend the Annual Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police Conference and Training.

Mayors Message: Continued

In addition, Town Staff has applied for permits with VDOT to begin pedestrian improvements in the Historic District. Town Council, during the FY2016 budget process, set aside \$150,000 for improvements to intersections, sidewalk maintenance and installation, street tree and gas light maintenance, and other features to improve appearance, access and safety for those walking our busy streets. Specifically, two intersections on Mill Street have been identified for the required upgrades to VDOT standard, so that crosswalks can be installed.

Finally, VDOT is expected to begin construction on the Washington Street Pedestrian Improvements in early September. The project is designed to improve pedestrian safety and provide continuity in pedestrian access by constructing a short segment of sidewalk from just north of Edgehill Drive to West Locust Street, and a crosswalk linking this new sidewalk to the north end of the Occoquan Heights brick sidewalk. The result of all this activity brings Occoquan another step closer to achieving its goals of pedestrian safety and access, community development, and Town appearance.

Elizabeth A.C. Quist

Occoquan Fall Arts and Crafts Show– Volunteers Needed

Interested in giving back to the community? Consider volunteering your time and talents to the Town's Arts and Crafts Show. This two-day event draws thousands of people to town and is successful due to the support of our businesses and volunteers! If you're interested in volunteering for the Arts and Crafts Show, email kforcier@occoquanva.gov, call 703-491-2168 or stop by Town Hall to sign up.

August 2015

Town Meetings and Events

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

August 4: Town Council Meeting

7:00 p.m., Regular Meeting, Town Hall

August 11: Planning Commission

7:00 p.m., Town Hall

Architectural Review Board

7:30 p.m., Town Hall

August 20: July 2015 Meals Taxes Due

Save the Date

Occoquan Fall Arts & Crafts Show

September 26 & 27

Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

River Mill Park Construction Update

Construction on the next phase of River Mill Park, located at the west end of Mill Street, will begin mid-August. This portion of the project includes the construction of the restroom and storage facility, improvements to the Nathaniel Ellicott Footbridge, including removing the fencing and adding railing and installing lighting, and retaining wall and sidewalk work. As a result of this work, access to the footbridge may be restricted at certain points during construction. Plans have been submitted and are under review for the second phase of the project, which include the construction of a pavilion, addition of lighting inside the park, and the completion of a looped stone-dust trail. All work is expected to be completed for a grand opening in spring 2016. Call 703-491-1918 for any questions regarding park construction or programming. Information on the park progress can also be found online at www.occoquanva.gov.

Grass Height and Vegetation Overhang

July brought a lot of rain and as a result, grass and weeds grew quickly throughout town and were sometimes difficult to maintain. Please be reminded that grass and weeds cannot exceed twelve inches in height. In addition, vegetation like bushes and tree branches must be cut back from the town's right-of-ways. If you have trees, bushes and/or vines on your property that are encroaching on to the sidewalk or into the street, please cut them back in order to allow pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles safe access. For more information on these regulations, please reference the Town Code Sections 30-36 and 50-7.