

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXI, ISSUE III

TOWN HALL - (703) 491-1918

MARCH 2014

TOWN COUNCIL

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Peggy Blackwell, Town Clerk
Abigail Breeding, CPA, Treasurer
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor
Patricia Thomas, Arts & Crafts Show Director

Acting Town Manager's Corner.....

Spring is right around the corner and it is time to think about the Spring Arts and Crafts Show scheduled for June 7 & 8. Town merchants are reminded in order to guarantee space in front of their establishment, their application had to be in by March 1. However, because March 1 falls on a Saturday, we are extending the deadline to March 7. The closer we get to the show date the more difficult it is for Show staff to accommodate your needs for an ideal space location. Residents are reminded of the need for volunteers to work during the Show. Volunteering is an opportunity to help the Town and meet some of your neighbors. Now is a good time to block off time on your personal calendars to volunteer at making this Show a true success. Remember all profit generated by the shows go to the Town's Capital Improvement Projects for the betterment of the Town.

With Sympathy

The Town would like to express its condolences to the family of Keith Beebo, who passed away on February 3, 2014. He will be missed around Town.

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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**CARRIER ROUTE
OCCOQUAN, VA 22125**

MAYOR'S LETTER

As some of you are aware, the Town went live with a new official town web site last month. This new site replaces a legacy site more than ten years old that was both difficult to update and suffered from a variety of inconsistencies. Our new site project substantively began last spring with the retention of a firm to design the site, discussions of site requirements, and the gathering of updated town information. Among the attributes of the new site are: ease of updating by staff (a significant priority given financial and personnel resources), ease of navigation, more attractive and consistent layout, and expansion of available information. This last feature includes, among other things, agendas and minutes, as well as Arts and Crafts Show information. There are a number of privately-owned Occoquan-related web sites out there, but the official town government web site can be viewed at the same address as in the past - www.occoquan.org. We are contemplating a photo contest to gather great new photos of the town to add at a later date - so check out the new site and stay tuned!

A little more than a year ago the Occoquan Strategic Planning Committee completed approximately 18 months of work and began a series of joint work sessions with the Occoquan Town Council to explore a strategic direction for the town during the next 5-10 years. Over the past several months we have been holding community input sessions on the draft plan. The fifth and sixth such sessions will take place this month. One will be held on Wednesday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m., at Madigan's Waterfront Restaurant, and another will take place on Saturday, March 22, at 11:00 a.m., at a place to be determined. Refreshments will be provided at both sessions. These meetings are being scheduled on various days and times in the hopes that residents and business owners will find at least one that is convenient to attend. Strategic Plan committee members have been incorporating the feedback received to-date in their presentations, so please feel free to attend even if you have attended a prior session.

Last this month, I want to remind everyone that the Occoquan Historical Society Town Gala has been scheduled for Sunday, April 6, at Madigan's Waterfront Restaurant. For more information, please go to the Occoquan Historical Society web site at www.occoquanhistoricalsociety.org.

As always thank you for your interest and support, and please do not hesitate to contact me at eporta@occoquan.org

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

- ♦ Approve \$1,500.00 for sponsorship of the Occoquan Historical Society GALA on April 6.



MARCH 2014

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (ARB)

Did You Know....

If April showers bring May flowers, does a long snowy winter bring whiteboards? We are noticing the popping up of many white boards in front of businesses. The town ordinance allows for these types of signs in chalkboard form, not whiteboard form. See 66-367 (17). The ordinance clarifies that a chalkboard and whiteboard are not the same. A can of chalkboard paint though can redeem that purchase and bring it into compliance.

Strategic Planning Update

At the most recent joint meeting of the Town Council and the Occoquan Strategic Planning Committee, the group reviewed the four "Strategic Goals" developed by the Committee, and adopted them with slight modifications. They are:

1. Be the shopping, dining and entertainment hub of the Occoquan region, the premier leisure destination in Prince William, southern Fairfax, and northern Stafford counties.
2. Be an attractive center of employment for start-ups and small businesses (fewer than 25 employees) in targeted sectors.
3. Be regarded as one of the top 5 most attractive towns in Virginia.
4. Be clean, green, safe, and stable.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:30am Frigid 5 K Race
2	3	4 7:00 - Town Council Mtg.	5 7:00 - Supervisor May's Town Hall Mtg. 	6	7	8
9 Daylight Savings Time Begins—set clocks ahead	10	11 7:30 - ARB	12 	13	14	15
16	17 6:30 ORC 	18	19 7:30-Strategic Planning Mtg. -Madigan's 	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 	27	28	29
30	31					