

Town Elections

The Prince William Office of Elections strongly encourages voting absentee in the Town's May elections due to the COVID19 pandemic. Voters may choose "2A My disability or illness" as the reason for absentee voting. Applications for an absentee ballot can be printed at elections.virginia.gov (the Office of Elections is working on a fillable pdf of the application). Voters who choose to vote absentee should submit an application as soon as possible to receive their ballots in time to return them by mail before Election Day, May 5.

Park Facilities

Town parks currently remain open for public use. The restrooms at River Mill Park are closed until further notice. As in all public spaces, please do not gather in groups outside of your own household and practice respectful social distancing at all times.

Business Assistance

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has declared Virginia an Economic Disaster Zone, making businesses potentially eligible for assistance. Those who are interested are encouraged to visit sba.gov/disaster. While many businesses have been forced to close temporarily, Occoquan's website contains a directory of Town businesses that are offering online or phone ordering of gift cards/certificates, as well as merchandise/food for mailing, delivery, or pickup: occoquanva.gov/business-online-phone-pickup-offerings/

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

314 Mill Street
P.O. Box 195
Occoquan, VA 22125

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXVII, ISSUE IV

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APRIL 2020

TOWN COUNCIL

Earnie Porta, Mayor
Patrick A. Sivigny, Vice Mayor
J. Matthew Dawson
Cindy Fithian
Laurie Holloway
Eliot Perkins



TOWN HALL STAFF

Kathleen Leidich, Town Manager
Katy Nicholson, Town Clerk
Adam Linn, Chief of Police
Kathleen Dellinger, Town Treasurer
Julie Little, Events Director
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor
Pam Holbert, Administrative Asst.

Mayor's Letter

It will come as no surprise that this issue of the newsletter will focus almost completely on information related to the COVID-19 pandemic as it affects the Town of Occoquan. There are links to area resources, information on interacting with Town Hall and our business community, the availability of Town facilities, and the status of Town events and activities. All of this information and much more is available on the Town website (occoquanva.gov) under a post on the homepage entitled, "COVID-19 Update." I encourage you to check that often as it is updated regularly with new information. We are also making a special effort to push such information out via e-newsletters and social media.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic will be a major consideration for all of us in the coming months. On behalf of the entire Town Council and the Town staff, I want to thank residents, business owners, and our friends in the larger community. An overwhelming majority of you have been conscientious, compassionate, and cooperative as we work together to meet the challenges the pandemic poses. Such challenges are not, of course, limited to the virus itself, but also include the economic desperation and social isolation facing some in our community, shortages at local food and blood banks, concern for friends and relatives, and the sometimes-present specters of panic and fear. Our community has already responded responsibly and generously, and I know we will continue to do so. As so many have already said, we will get through this.

Occoquan is a vibrant community with a bright future and I, as I am sure you do, look forward to a return to more familiar times. As always, thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any questions, comments, or concerns.

April 2020



NOTE: The previously scheduled April 11 Peep Show in the historic district has been canceled.

Join us Easter weekend when we will hold the Occoquan Community Peep Contest online! In addition to the original categories of Individual, Family/Team, Youth (ages 12-16), and Kids (ages 12 and under), we've added an "Occoquan Merchants" group.

TO ENTER: Complete the form at occoquanva.gov by Thursday, April 9 to enter. You may upload photos of your diorama or bring it to Town Hall April 6-9.

TO VOTE: Voting will be open to the public on Facebook from Friday, April 10, to Monday, April 13. Winners will be announced on social media on April 14.

Volunteer at RiverFest

For the time being, we are still planning for RiverFest June 6 & 7 and will need volunteers. If you're interested in helping during the event, please contact Julie Little at jlittle@occoquanva.gov or 703-491-1918.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHECK OCCOQUANVA.GOV OR CALL 703-491-1918 FOR UPDATES.

APRIL 7
Town Council Regular Meeting
7:00 p.m.

Peep Show
Event canceled; contest going virtual

FOTO Spring Clean-Up Day
Postponed to May 30

APRIL 20
Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

APRIL 21
Town Council Work Session/Budget Public Hearing
7:00 p.m.

APRIL 28
Planning Commission
6:30 p.m.
Architectural Review Board
7:30 p.m.

APRIL 29
Town and Business Partnership Meeting
TBD

Meetings held at Town Hall, 314 Mill Street, unless otherwise noted.

COVID-19 UPDATES

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Town Council and staff are working to continue their service to the community while taking appropriate precautions. Community members are encouraged to conduct public business with the Town online or via phone or drop box. Subscribe to OCQ Alerts (instructions below), check occoquanva.gov, and/or call 703-491-1918 for the latest information.

How to Contact Us

Phone: 703-491-1918

Email: info@occoquanva.gov

Mail: P.O. Box 195, Occoquan, VA 22125

Lockbox: next to Town Hall front door

SIGN UP FOR OCQ ALERTS!

Register for email and/or text message alerts about the latest Town news. Go to occoquanva.gov, scroll to the link for OCQ Alerts and complete the form. Please mark all "occoquanva.gov" addresses as safe senders.

Temporary Change to Town Hall Business Hours

We encourage potential Town Hall visitors to consider the options listed above. To reduce the risk to staff and the public, we have implemented a temporary schedule with reduced business hours:

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Friday: Closed (staff telework day)

COVID-19 Resources

Prince William County Emergency Management: emergency.pwccgov.org

Prince William Health District Call Center: 703-872-7759

Northern Virginia Regional Commission: coronavirus-novaregion.org/

Virginia Department of Health: vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus or 877-275-8343

Welfare/Wellness Checks

A welfare or wellness check is when police stop by a person's home to make sure they are OK. Requests are made by friends, family and neighbors, typically after someone unexpectedly loses contact with others. In response to COVID-19, we have implemented a wellness check system. If you are concerned about someone in Town and would like to have Town police check on them, please complete the form at occoquanva.gov.

More information on back page.