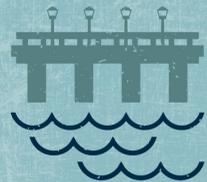


OCCOQUAN RIVER FEST & CRAFT SHOW

SEP. 26 & 27



ARTISAN'S WALK • SHRIMP BOIL
RIVER CRUISE • BEER GARDEN
MARKETPLACE • KAYAK RACES

RiverFest (originally set for June) is postponed to September 26 & 27 and will be combined with the Fall Arts & Crafts Show. That's right, two amazing events will converge into one spectacular festival! We're looking forward to a weekend full of fresh air and family fun on our beloved Occoquan River.

VFW Tribute Banners

Sponsor a banner to honor your family member or friend for their service! These banners will decorate the Town's historic district from Memorial Day through Veterans Day. Sponsorship fees have been reduced to \$150 for new banners and \$75 for the renewal of existing banners. For details, visit militarytributebanners.org and select "Occoquan, VA" under the "Current Programs" menu tab.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXVII, ISSUE V

703-491-1918

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

Mayor's Letter

May would normally be a busy month in Town with music and movies, with *Discover Occoquan* activities, and with preparations for our new iteration of the spring arts & crafts show that we are calling *RiverFest*. Unfortunately, due to the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic all of these have been cancelled or postponed. But they will return! *Discover Occoquan*, for example, has been rescheduled for August and *RiverFest* is being combined with the fall arts & crafts show. In addition, we are contemplating a variety of smaller events over the summer if conditions allow. So I urge everyone to stay hopeful about brighter times ahead.

May also would normally be the month when the Town adopts its budget and tax rates for the next fiscal year. Although Town Hall is open and Council continues to meet, we have pushed into June the hearings regarding the budget and tax rates in the hope that conditions may improve and more can attend the presentations. In this context, I would like to commend and thank former Mayor Liz Quist and former Town Councils. Years ago they specifically categorized some of our reserves for economic uncertainty and unforeseen events. Consequently, although we are anticipating a noticeable decline in revenues for the coming year as a result of the pandemic, we feel confident that it can be weathered without any tax or fee increases, and with luck, that we can perhaps offer some assistance that will help us recover more quickly when conditions improve. In the meantime, I would like to encourage everyone who is able to take advantage of the online and curbside to-go offerings of our Town businesses - information on how to do so is included elsewhere in this newsletter.

Occoquan's Town elections take place this month. Using his executive authority, Governor Northam has moved the elections from May 5 to May 19. Although in-person voting will take place in Town Hall that day, the County Office of Elections encourages everyone to consider voting by absentee ballot. The last day to request an absentee ballot be mailed to you is 5:00 p.m. on May 12. To do so, go to elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal.

We are doing our best to keep people informed about developments in Town as we deal with the pandemic, so I encourage everyone to check the Town website often, sign up for OCQ alerts, and monitor our other formal governmental communications. As many of you know, I send out an e-newsletter that of late has updates every couple of days; please email me at eporta@comcast.net if you would like to be added to the distribution list. I would like to close by thanking the overwhelming majority of residents, businesses, and visitors, as well as the Town staff and Council, all of whom have been cooperative, conscientious, and patient with the challenges and restrictions posed by the pandemic. This reaction in a time of stress is a testament to the character of our community and one of which we can all be proud. As always, thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any comments, questions, or concerns.

Earnie W. Porta, Jr.

The Town is launching **OCQ BINGO** to encourage support for local businesses' online shopping, curbside and delivery options. This social media campaign will enable patrons to play virtually by collecting receipts from businesses listed on the BINGO card. Once a customer has collected enough receipts to make BINGO, they are entered into a drawing for a giveaway. Visit occoquanva.gov for details.



OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

WWW.OCCOQUANVA.GOV • INFO@OCCOQUANVA.GOV

TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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

CARRIER ROUTE
OCCOQUAN, VA 22125

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Occoquan, VA
Permit No. 19

May 2020



The Occoquan Marketplace is a new place for merchants to share products with friends and customers. The Occoquan Merchants Guild created this platform to help buyers see what Occoquan offers, all from the comfort and safety of your couch! Join at facebook.com/groups/shopoccoquan.

Many merchants have websites to shop from or will be pleased to personally shop for customers. For an up-to-date list of businesses and their current offerings, visit occoquanva.gov.



As a means of encouraging healthy outdoor activity, supporting Town businesses and assisting local nonprofit organizations, the Town is sponsoring a Virtual 5K through June 10. Registration is \$25 and includes an event T-shirt. For more information and to register, visit occoquanva.gov.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

Music/Movies on Mill
May events canceled

MAY 6
**Town Council Meeting
Budget Work Session**
7:00 p.m.



Discover Occoquan
Postponed to August 1

MAY 19
Town Elections
6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Council Work Session TBD

MAY 20
**Meals and Transient
Occupancy Taxes Due**

MAY 25
Memorial Day
Town Hall Closed

**Planning Commission &
Architectural Review Board**
Meetings canceled

FOTO Spring Clean-Up Day
Postponed - Date TBD

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

COVID-19 UPDATES

Town Council and staff continue to serve the community while taking appropriate precautions. Our business hours remain temporarily changed, with Town Hall open Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 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

Drop box: next to Town Hall front door

COVID-19 Resources

Prince William County Emergency Management: emergency.pwcgov.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

Town Elections

Town elections have been postponed to Tuesday, May 19, following an order from the governor. Voting will take place at Town Hall from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., and social distancing measures will be implemented. The Prince William County Office of Elections strongly encourages absentee voting due to the pandemic. Absentee ballots must be requested by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, and must be received by the Office of Elections by 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19. Visit elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal for more information.

Candidate for Mayor (1 seat): Earnie W. Porta, Jr.

Candidates for Council (5 seats): Krystyna M. Bienia, Cindy J. Fithian, Laurie E. Holloway, Jenn M. Loges and Eliot R. Perkins

Deadline for Business License Fees Extended

In recognition of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town Council voted in April to delay the payment date for its BPOL fees to June 15, 2020. This deferral does not apply to meals tax payments, which are due on their normal schedule.

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.