

Town Council Actions: September 2020

- Voted to accept National Highway Traffic Safety Administration grant funding and approve a soft match of up to \$6,427.50
- Authorized Town staff to purchase items in response to COVID-19 utilizing CARES Act funding in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00
- Authorized the Mayor to execute a memorandum of agreement with Prince William County regarding the Tourist Information Center kiosk
- Approved the purchase of AV items from Acuity AV for a total of \$17,652.67
- Authorized the Mayor to execute a contract with Legacy Engineering for a planimetric survey and a signage & pavement restriping plan, for a total of \$3,250.00

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.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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October 2020

TOWN COUNCIL

Earnie Porta, Mayor
Jenn Loges, Vice Mayor
Krys Bienia
Cindy Fithian
Laurie Holloway
Eliot Perkins



TOWN HALL STAFF

Kirstyn Jovanovich, 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

Last month witnessed a number of advances for the Town. First, we were able to open our long-awaited free, public kayak launch ramp just in time for the Labor Day weekend. This long-envisioned project has become a reality thanks to the work of many over almost a decade, and we are planning a formal ribbon-cutting for the spring. Second, with the help of the Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition and some dedicated resident volunteers we also had a very successful trail work day on the Town's Tanyard Hill property. It was so successful, in fact, that there is now a usable trail on the property open for public use. Finally, last month we also had a very constructive public meeting on the proposed Mill at Occoquan project. We expect to hold formal public hearings on the project sometime before the end of the calendar year. In the meantime, see elsewhere in this newsletter for information on where you can view a full version of the applicant's presentation and a video recording of the meeting.

Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic remains with us, and I know many of you were disappointed that we could not hold our annual fall arts and crafts show last month as a result. That has in turn led some to be concerned about whether or not our normal schedule of events for the winter holiday season will go forward. Please be assured that Town staff is consistently evaluating ways of continuing our traditional public events in a way that is consistent with the safety of our residents, businesses, and visitors. Stay tuned for more information on them. In the meantime, we continue to schedule a variety of outdoor activities. One of those coming up this month is the Friends of the Occoquan river cleanup on October 10. More information on that semi-annual effort is also included elsewhere in this newsletter.

In closing, I would like to ask you to join me in congratulating Occoquan police officer Brent Barker, who is one of over 200 law enforcement officials in the state being recognized by MADD for outstanding efforts in DWI enforcement and education. And as always, thank you for your cooperation and support and please do not hesitate to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any questions or comments.



Bring your "quaranteam" of up to six people and rent your space in a socially-distanced picnic circle in the park!

Mayor Earnie Porta will MC this spooky Halloween Trivia Night! Adult beverages will be available for purchase, sponsored by Patriot Scuba and Patriots for Disabled Divers. Details at occoquanva.gov.

The health and well-being of our residents, patrons and businesses and local community is paramount. The Town of Occoquan will continue to closely monitor information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and local health and government authorities to guide decisions about Town events.

Kayak Ramp Now Open

Many of our residents were excited to learn that the Occoquan Kayak Launch Ramp opened last month. The Town plans to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the kayak ramp in the spring of 2021, so stay tuned for a future celebration!

MEETINGS & EVENTS

OCTOBER 6

Town Council Regular Meeting
7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 10

FOTO River Cleanup
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 12

Columbus Day
Town Hall Closed

OCTOBER 20

Town Council Work Session
7:00 p.m.
Meals/Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

OCTOBER 23

Trivia Night
River Mill Park
6:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 27

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

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

Friends of the Occoquan River Cleanup October 10



Get out with your family or friends on Saturday, October 10, and do your part to keep the source of our drinking water clean.

Volunteers should register in advance for half-hour time slots from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.; limit of 10 people per time slot. Please wear sturdy shoes and a mask. To register, email foto@friendsoftheoccoquan.org with the location, time slot, names of people in your group and your contact information.

Friends of the Occoquan is a non-profit organization of local citizens who preserve and maintain the natural integrity of the Occoquan River and other Virginia and nationwide watersheds by promoting community awareness through public and private partnerships.

Mill at Occoquan Public Meeting Recording Available

Thank you to all who participated in the September 23 public meeting for the proposed Mill at Occoquan development. The Town and the developer received valuable feedback during the meeting, and more than 100 people participated through Zoom.

The next steps include public hearings and votes by the Planning Commission and the Town Council on the applicant's requests for special exceptions and special use permits. These public hearings and meetings have not yet been scheduled; any future details will be posted at occoquanva.gov. The presentation and recording from the public meeting, as well as some informative FAQs about the project, are posted at occoquanva.gov.

Barker Recognized for Impaired Driving Enforcement

Officer Brent Barker has been recognized by MADD for his outstanding efforts in impaired driving enforcement and education. In 2019, Officer Barker made 25 impaired driving arrests and assisted in arranging for several impaired people to get home safely without driving. A big thank you to Officer Barker and the rest of our Police Department for their efforts to keep our community safe!

