

Town Council Actions: March 2021

- At the request of the applicant, postponed the public hearing on the Mill at Occoquan Special Exception Applications to a date to be determined.
- Held a public hearing and granted a lease to Occoquan Beer Garden, LLC for the use of 200 Mill Street (formerly Visitor Center) as part of a food and beverage operation.
- Held a budget work session on the FY2022 proposed budget.

The above items are extracts of recent actions and are not official meeting minutes. Minutes and agendas are posted at occoquanva.gov.

FY2022 Budget Process: Information on the proposed FY2022 budget is available on the Town's website at occoquanva.gov. There will be a public hearing on the proposed budget on May 4, and on the proposed tax rates on May 18, with adoption scheduled for June 1, 2021. The 2022 fiscal year runs July 1, through June 30, 2022.

Military Tribute Banners

Residents, businesses, friends, and visitors to Occoquan can once again sign up to sponsor a banner honoring a U.S. military veteran. This successful and popular program is a partnership between the Town and VFW Post 7916. If you are a new sponsor interested in honoring your family member, ancestor, or friend for their military service, or a former sponsor wishing to renew for 2021, visit militarytributebanners.org and select Virginia/Occoquan under the Current Programs menu; or, stop by Town Hall or VFW Post 7916 for more information.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXVIII, ISSUE IV

703-491-1918

April 2021

TOWN COUNCIL

Earnest W. Porta, Jr., 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
Manuel Casillas, Town Treasurer
Julie Little, Events Director
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor
Pam Holbert, Administrative Asst.

Mayor's Letter

Springtime is when Occoquan typically shows a burst of renewed activity, and while we remain mindful of the safety guidelines associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, this spring is no exception. We have a number of outdoor events that we are hopeful you may be able to find the time to enjoy. On Saturday, April 10, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, the Town will once again be a host site for the Friends of the Occoquan Spring River Cleanup. Volunteers will meet at the Occoquan Town Hall; for more information see elsewhere in this newsletter. Then, on April 23 at 6:30 p.m., the Town will kick off its 2021 season of Trivia Nights in River Mill Park. These were a very popular socially-distanced activity last year and we hope folks will enjoy them once again. Information on the event and tickets can be found on the Town web site. Last, on Saturday, April 24, we are planning a formal dedication ceremony for our canoe/kayak launch ramp under the Route 123 bridge. Stay tuned for more details on that.

The Town also engages in earnest this month in developing the budget for fiscal year 2022, which begins on July 1. We are facing a number of challenges associated with economic difficulties created by the pandemic, but I am confident that we will continue to weather its effects. If you are interested in the budget development process, please stay alert for postings on the relevant meetings and hearings.

I imagine that we are all looking forward to spring for the renewed sense of optimism it typically brings as well as for the progress it promises for a return to some sense of positive normalcy. As we continue down that path, let us please not forget those who have experienced loss and who may find the transition especially difficult. As always, thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any questions, comments, or concerns.

FOTO Spring River Cleanup: April 10

Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO) will host the Spring River Cleanup on Saturday, April 10, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. To volunteer, contact FOTO at foto@friendsoftheoccoquan.org with the following information: **(1)** location, **(2)** time slot, **(3)** first and last names of volunteers in your group, **(4)** contact phone number and e-mail; and **(5)** do you need a community service letter? Include name and mailing address.

Refreshments will be provided in grab and go style and will include packaged snacks and bottled drinks. Please wear sturdy shoes and your masks! Rain or shine.

Location: Town of Occoquan, 314 Mill Street

Time Slots available every 30 minutes starting at 9 a.m. with a total of 10 spots available for each slot.

More information: friendsoftheoccoquan.org/home.html

Trivia Night at River Mill Park: April 23, 6:30 p.m.

Test your knowledge during our outdoor trivia nights in River Mill Park! Play six rounds of seasonally themed brain busters for your chance to win the \$100 gift card and grand prize. Bring

your team, camp chairs or blankets, and enjoy your socially-distanced picnic circle. One 10-foot circle can accommodate up to six team members. Registration is \$30 for the whole team/circle—sign up in advance online or at the door.

6:00 p.m. Doors Open | 6:30 p.m. Start

Snacks and beverages available! Proceeds benefit Patriots for Disabled Divers. Learn more at occoquanva.gov/trivia.



MEETINGS & EVENTS

APR 6

Town Council Meeting
7:00 p.m.

APR 10

FOTO Cleanup Day
9 a.m.—12 p.m., Sign up in Advance

APR 20

Town Council Meeting
7:00 p.m.

APR 20

**Meals and Transient
Occupancy Taxes Due**

APR 23

Trivia Night@RMP
6:30 p.m., *Tickets Required*

APR 24

Kayak Ribbon Cutting
10 a.m., 123 Bridge Parking Lot

APR 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.

Occoquan Artisan Markets

May 8,9 | June 5,6 | July 10,11

The Artisan Markets will be hosted in River Mill Park along the beautiful Occoquan River on three separate weekends: each a sleek and distinct arts and crafts market individually curated from the work of juried artisans. The shows are held Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm. As the event will be held within River Mill Park, town roads will remain open for traffic and parking. During these event weekends, timed parking restrictions will be temporarily lifted.



Patrons may take the free shuttles from the VDOT lot at Route 123 and Old Bridge Road or park in public parking areas within the Town, as available. To enter the show, there is an admission fee of \$5 and includes opportunities to win amazing prizes! For more information, visit occoquanva.gov/town-festivals/arts-craft-show.

New Visitor Information Kiosk Coming to Occoquan

Construction on the new Visitor Information Kiosk will start at the beginning of April. The Kiosk, located next to the Mill House Museum, will feature information from the Town of Occoquan and Prince William County. This kiosk is being installed by Prince William County and is replacing the operation of the Visitor Center. The old Visitor Center building, owned by the Town of Occoquan, will be leased out commercially as part of a food and beverage operation, expected to open later this year. Construction of the kiosk is expected to be completed by early May.

Canoe and Kayak Launch Ribbon Cutting: April 24

You're invited to the official ribbon cutting of the new free public Canoe and Kayak hand-carry launch on Saturday, April 24, at 10:00 a.m. While the ADA ramp has been open since September 2020, the official ribbon cutting event was planned for the start of the 2021 boating season. Please join us for a brief ceremony at the ramp, located under the Route 123 Bridge on Mill Street, to celebrate the addition of this boating amenity to our community! This project was made possible through grant funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation Recreational Trails Program. Read more: occoquanva.gov/kayak-launch-ramp