

FY2023 Budget Calendar

Budget Work Sessions: February 15 and March 15, 2022

Public Hearings: April 5 (budget) and April 19, 2022 (tax rates)

Budget and Tax Rate Adoption: May 3, 2022

The FY 2023 Budget is effective from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. The budget guides the town's daily activities, as well as larger capital improvement projects over the next year. The public is encouraged to attend work sessions, as well as provide feedback and comments during the public hearings. All meetings are held at Town Hall, 314 Mill Street, beginning at 7 p.m. Budget work session presentations, and once finalized, the proposed budget, are available online at

www.occoquanva.gov.

Business License Renewal Applications Due March 1

Town of Occoquan Business, Professional and Occupational License (BPOL) renewals for 2022 are due March 1. Renewal notices were emailed in January to businesses holding a license with the town. Please be sure to submit applications and payments on time.

- A 10% penalty may be added if your **application** is received after March 31.
- A 10% penalty will be added if your **payment** is received after May 31.

The business license fee is based on gross receipts for calendar year 2021. Visit occoquanva.gov/doing-business-in-occoquan or contact the Town Treasurer at (703) 491-1918 for details.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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Occoquan, VA 22125

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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February 2022

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
Michele White, Town Clerk
Manuel Casillas, Town Treasurer
Julie Little, Events Director
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor
Ginny Rosell, Administrative Assistant

Mayor's Letter

I would like to thank everyone for their patience this past month as we weathered our first snow storm of the year. We had more than our usual number of downed limbs and some extended power and telecommunications outages. In after action reviews staff identified some areas where we hope to be able to improve communication and coordination with our partners in the county, at VDOT, and at Dominion Virginia Power. A special thank you to Chief Adam Linn and our police department, who devoted themselves not only to traditional policing functions during the storm, but who spent a significant amount of time clearing downed limbs and engaging in other remediation activities during and after the storm. It is not unusual for us to get hit with a sizeable storm in February, so I would again like to encourage anyone who has not done so to sign up for OCQ email/text alerts. This is the best way for us to communicate specific details to you (including updates we receive from VDOT and Dominion) during a storm, particularly during power outages, and is far more reliable than using social media. To sign up for OCQ Alerts go to occoquanva.gov/2021/01/16/ocq-alerts.

As usual we have planned a very robust slate of activities and events for calendar year 2022. In addition to our spring and fall festivals, trivia nights, movie nights, and other regular events, we're planning a few new ones, including a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Hurricane Agnes and a cornhole tournament in River Mill Park. Our event calendar kicks off this month with the ChocolateFest on February 12-13. This popular event features a weekend of tastings, workshops, and other valentine-themed activities, as well as a chance to win a box stuffed with sweets and treats from around Town. For more information see elsewhere in this newsletter and go to occoquanva.gov.

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.

Emergency Snow Removal Routes

As a reminder, the Town has snow emergency routes. When snow is expected, on-street parking will not be permitted on the following roads to allow for snow removal: Mill, Commerce, Ellicott, Union and Washington Streets.

During inclement weather, if you normally park on-street, please consider parking under the Route 123 bridge. Check your email for OCQ Alerts, indicating that timed parking restrictions will not be enforced under the bridge during snow emergencies. For more information, visit occoquanva.gov.

Please Clear Your Sidewalks

Help keep our community safe during the winter season and clear sidewalks of snow and ice. Residents and businesses are responsible for clearing snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property. Please do not use salt on brick sidewalks. For more information, visit occoquanva.gov/snow-removal.

Reminder: Town Real Estate Taxes Due February 15

The 2021 Real Estate Taxes are due on February 15, 2022. If you have questions regarding your taxes and pay out of escrow, please contact your mortgage company. If you do not utilize a mortgage company, please remit payment directly to the Town. More information: occoquanva.gov/tax-information

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR OCQ ALERTS?

Register to receive email and/or text message alerts about emergencies and town events!

Go to occoquanva.gov, scroll to the link for OCQ Alerts and complete the form to customize your account.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

FEBRUARY 1
Town Council Meeting
7:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 12-13
ChocolateFest
Historic Occoquan

FEBRUARY 15
Town Council Meeting
7:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 15
Real Estate Taxes Due

FEBRUARY 21
Presidents' Day
Town Hall Closed

FEBRUARY 22
Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

FEBRUARY 22
Architectural Review Board
7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 23
Planning Commission
6:30 p.m.

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

ChocolateFest in Historic Occoquan: February 12 and 13

The annual chocolate event is back on Saturday, February 12 and Sunday, February 13, 2022. This popular event hosts a weekend of tastings, workshops, and other valentine events, including a shop late on February 13!

Plus enter for your chance to win a chocolate box stuffed with sweets and treats from around Occoquan in the **Shop, Dine & Win! Contest!** One winner will receive a decadent chocolate box stuffed with sweets and treats from participating businesses in Occoquan! See details at visitoccoquanva.com/chocolatefest.



Mark Your Calendar for our other 2022 Events!

We have a bunch of events already scheduled for you to enjoy in 2022, including some new ones and others still in the planning stages. Mark your calendars!

- **Peep Week:** April 12-17; **Fun for Lil' Peeps Egg Hunt and Shop Late:** April 16
- **Concerts in the Park:** May 21, June 18, July 16, Aug 6
- **Trivia Nights:** May 27, June 24, July 22, August 19, September 16, October 28
- **RiverFest & Craft Show:** June 4-5; **OCQ River Paddle Challenge:** June 4
- **Hurricane Agnes 50th Anniversary Commemoration:** June TBD
- **Discover Occoquan:** August 13-21; **Duck Splash:** August 14; **Kayak History Tour:** August 20
- **Theater in the Park:** September 2-4
- **Fall Arts & Crafts Show:** September 24-25
- **Movie Night:** October 21
- **Spirits & Spirits:** October 28-29; **Costume Parade & Contest and Haunted Maze:** October 29
- **Town Tree Lighting and Shop Late:** November TBD
- **HolidayFest:** November 19–December 11; **Santa Arrives/Holiday Market:** December 3

Visit occoquanva.gov/events to stay up to date on all of our upcoming events!

Tax Relief Programs for Elderly and Disabled Persons

Senior citizens and disabled persons who meet certain criteria may be granted relief from all or part of real estate and personal property taxes. Tax Relief is granted on an annual basis and a renewal application must be filed each year by April 15.

Application forms for these programs are available at the PWC Real Estate Assessments Office or by mail. You may also request an application form by calling (703) 792-6780 or visiting www.pwcva.gov/departments/finance/tax-relief-program-information.