

Town Council Actions: February 2022

- Adopted a Resolution to Refer Amendments to the Town Code Generally Relating to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Overlay District to the Planning Commission.
- Adopted a Resolution of Appreciation to Ms. Robyn Becker, owner of Yarn Cloud, on the Occasion of her Retirement.
- Adopted a Resolution of Appreciation to Ms. Mitzie Tibbets, owner of The Reclaimed Treasures, on the Occasion of her Retirement.
- Approved Amendments to the Town's Administrative Manual.

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

Military Tribute Banners



Beginning in March 2022 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 2022, visit militarytributebanners.org and select Virginia/Occoquan under the Banner Programs menu; or, stop by Town Hall or VFW Post 7916 for more information.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXIX, ISSUE III

703-491-1918

March 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

During the month of March staff and the Town Council will be working intently on the Town budget for fiscal year 2023, which begins July 1, 2022. One of the unusual features of this particular budget year is that the Town is receiving an infusion of more than \$900,000 in federal government COVID relief funds. Known formally as State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), the final rules for use of the funds were released in late January. In the place of a Town Council meeting on March 1 we will instead hold a public meeting that will consist of a brief presentation on potential uses for the funds followed by an opportunity for questions and feedback from the public. We expect to schedule at least one more such session during the budget process.

Also during the month of March we expect a significant amount of road work to occur in Town. As mentioned in prior newsletters, VDOT is expected to soon begin work on both some intersection improvements in Town and the scheduled repaving of some of our major roads. The latter will include fixing the crown on Mill Street to hopefully finally resolve the drainage issues that occur on Mill west of Ellicott. March is typically one of the best months in Town for such projects as it avoids the activity of the winter holidays and sits between the weather difficulties of the winter and the increase in activity that accompanies spring. Scheduling of these projects has been planned with that in mind. Additionally, we expect activity to begin shortly on the beer garden at the eastern end of Mill Street and on the partial demolition of structures related to the Mill at Occoquan project at the western end of Mill Street. We will strive to provide as much information as we can about all of these activities as it becomes available.

Last this month I would like to remind everyone that you can once again sign up to sponsor a military tribute banner. This popular program is a partnership between the Town and VFW Post 7916. More information can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and on the Town website. As always, thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact me at epor-ta@occoquanva.gov with any comments, questions or concerns.



Peep Week!

It's not too early to start thinking about The Occoquan Business Partners' popular annual Peeps event with more than a weeks worth of fun!

April 12— April 17

Stroll through historic Occoquan and vote for your favorite merchant-made PEEPS® Diorama! Cast your vote and enter to win a Peep basket of goodies. See [visitoccoquanva.com/peeps](https://www.visitoccoquanva.com/peeps) for more info.

Town of Occoquan Community Peep Contest

For the 5th year in a row the community is invited to participate in the **Town of Occoquan Community Peep Contest** by designing, creating, and submitting family-friendly PEEPS® dioramas. Enter by **April 11** to win in one of four categories: Individual; Family/Team; Youth (ages 12-16); and Kids (12 and under). The community will determine the winner with voting that will take place in Town Hall from April 12 through April 16.

More Fun for Lil' Peeps

On April 16 kids will be able to enjoy hunting for eggs, making free Easter crafts, and meeting the Easter bunny. The egg hunt will begin at 11:00 a.m. and tickets are \$5 per child. Participants can win a swag bag with goodies.

Find more information at [occoquanva.gov](https://www.occoquanva.gov).

MEETINGS & EVENTS

MARCH 1

Public Meeting on SLFRF Funds
7:00 p.m.

MARCH 1

Business License Renewal Applications Due

MARCH 15

Town Council Meeting
Includes Budget Work Session
7:00 p.m.

MARCH 21

Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

MARCH 22

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

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

SIGN UP FOR OCQ ALERTS

Register to receive email and/or text message alerts about emergencies and town events! Go to [occoquanva.gov](https://www.occoquanva.gov), scroll to the link for OCQ Alerts and complete the form to customize your account.

Upcoming Construction and Development Activities

As the weather warms, there will be several paving and road construction activities occurring in Occoquan. Staff is working with VDOT and PWC to coordinate these activities in order to minimize disruption and provide reasonable notice to the public.

- **Intersection Improvement Project:** The intersections of Washington/Mill Streets and Ellicott/Mill Streets will be upgraded with ADA ramps and crosswalks. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for early March, with construction beginning shortly thereafter. The impacts from the work will include construction in the sidewalk and portions of the roadway. This work is expected to take several weeks.
- **Mill Street Paving:** VDOT contractors will be milling and paving Mill Street from Ellicott Street to the cul-de-sac in early March. This work is to address the ongoing water issues experienced on this section of Mill Street. This work is expected to take a day or two. During construction, on-street parking will not be permitted on this section of Mill Street; however, one-lane will be open for local traffic.
- **VDOT Street Paving:** Other VDOT roads within the Town are scheduled for repaving this year. This will occur over the next several months. Town staff is communicating with VDOT and will be provided with advanced notice when crews will be in town to pave.
- **Other Paving:** The FY2022 Town CIP included paving for some town roads, including Center Lane. Staff is currently in the process of obtaining quotes for this work and it will be scheduled for later this Spring/Summer. Staff will communicate directly with impacted businesses and residents and update relevant information on the Town web site.
- **Development Projects: The Mill at Occoquan** project is continuing to work through the land development process and we expect to see demolition activity on the site within the next few months. In addition, land development activities will begin on Mill Street at the former visitor center as the **Beer Garden** property is developed over the next several weeks. The **Rivertown** townhome development on Center Lane/Ellicott Street is nearing completion and will be installing sidewalk and completing necessary road repairs in the coming weeks.

Staff will update the Town's website with information on the various construction and development activities. Select **Construction and Development Updates** on the Town's website at [occoquanva.gov](https://www.occoquanva.gov) for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Town Hall at 703-491-1918 or email the Town Manager at kjovanovich@occoquanva.gov.

FY2023 Budget Process

Next Budget Work Session: March 15, 2022

Public Hearing: April 19 (Budget) and May 3, 2022 (tax rates)

Budget and Tax Rate Adoption: June 7, 2022

More information on the budget: [occoquanva.gov/budget](https://www.occoquanva.gov/budget)