

Town Council Actions: March 2022

- Held a public information session on the potential uses of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) allocated to the Town of Occoquan as part of the federal government's COVID relief efforts
- Held a budget work session on the Proposed FY2023 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan

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

SLFRF Proposed Projects List (ARPA)

The Town is slated to receive approximately \$950,000 in Coronavirus State Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). The Town Council and staff, with community input, are in the process of developing a viable Spending Plan for these funds. Staff briefings were provided to Town Council at their February 15 meeting, and Town Council hosted a community feedback session on March 1, 2022. Below are the current projects being considered for at least partial funding by SLFRF. More information: occoquanva.gov/American-rescue-plan-act.

- Stormwater Projects
- Old Pump House conversion/demolition
- Riverwalk Expansion + Deck behind Mill House Museum
- McKenzie Drive Sidewalk (Fortress Way—Ellicott Street)
- Playground/Seating Area at River Mill Park
- Town Hall Energy Efficiency Upgrades
- Parking Garage Design
- Washington Street Sidewalk (Colonial Drive—Riverview Ln)
- Gaslight Conversion to Electric/LED
- Gateway Beautification Projects
- Public Fishing Floating Dock

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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April 2022

TOWN COUNCIL

Ernest W. Porta, Jr., Mayor
Jenn Loges, Vice Mayor
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
Ginny Rosell, Administrative Assistant

Mayor's Letter

This April the contrast between continuity and change is prominent. Our springtime rituals return with Friends of the Occoquan cleanup on April 9. Running from 9:00 a.m. to noon, Town Hall will once again be a meet-up site for volunteers. Later, from April 12 through April 17 the town and Occoquan businesses will offer Peep Week. More information on this popular event is available elsewhere in this newsletter. Then, of course, the Town Council and staff continue to work on the town budget and the allocation of SLFRF (ARPA) funds – stay tuned for more information on meetings related to both.

In the change category we say goodbye to a number of friends and welcome some new ones. Councilmember Krys Bienia has moved, leaving a vacancy on the Town Council. Consistent with the town code, the Council will appoint someone to complete the remainder of her term, which runs through December 31. Those interested should submit a letter of interest and resume no later than April 15. For more information see elsewhere in this newsletter. We also bid farewell this month to David and Jane Ernst of the Artist's Undertaking Gallery, who have been with us for more than 20 years. We very much appreciate the contributions of Ms. Bienia and the Ernsts to the town and wish them all the best for the future. As many of you know historic Ebenezer Baptist Church has been sold. The Ebenezer congregation's relationship with the town goes back almost 150 years and they will always be considered beloved members of our community. Their successor at the historic church site is a Muslim congregation. Town staff and I have been speaking and meeting with them over several months and look forward to a variety of community outreach activities being planned. As some of you may know, the Muslim holy month of Ramadan is in April this year. While the congregation does not broadcast the traditional Muslim call to prayer at the Occoquan site, I have requested that they do so once during the month of Ramadan as an educational opportunity for the town. Stay tuned for more information as we plan this. Last, we expect activity this month at both the Mill at Occoquan and beer garden sites at the western and eastern ends of the business district, respectively, as well as continued road and intersection improvements. Lots of stuff!

Thank you once again for your support and please do not hesitate to contact me at epor-ta@occoquanva.gov with any comments, questions, or concerns.

Council Vacancy - April 15 Deadline

The Occoquan Town Council is seeking candidates to serve the remainder of a Council vacancy through December 31, 2022. Interested residents should submit their resume and Statement of Interest by 5 p.m. on April 15, 2022 to the Town Manager. For more information, visit occoquanva.gov.

Construction Updates

Paving and road construction activities will continue 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 are being upgraded with ADA ramps and crosswalks. Work is expected to be completed by early April.
- **Sidewalk Improvements:** The Town has contracted to have several sections of brick sidewalk and curb repaired within the historic district. The work is expected to be completed by early April. Minor brick sidewalk repairs are ongoing throughout the historic district this spring.
- **VDOT Street Paving:** Several 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 and Capital Projects:** The FY2022 Town CIP included paving for some town roads, including Center Lane, as well as stormwater repairs. 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.

Stay up-to-date on construction and development projects within the Town here: occoquanva.gov/construction-updates.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

APRIL 5
Town Council Meeting
7:00 p.m.

APRIL 19
Town Council Meeting
FY2023 Budget Public Hearing
7:00 p.m.

APRIL 20
Meals and Transient
Occupancy Taxes Due

APRIL 26
Planning Commission Meeting
6:30 p.m.

Architectural Review Board
(ARB) Meeting
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, scroll to the link for OCQ Alerts and complete the form to customize your account.

RiverFest & Craft Show: June 4 & 5!



We are thrilled to be cultivating this dynamic new craft show which also celebrates the historic town's natural beauty along the Occoquan River. In-town businesses wishing to participate receive the special discounted price of \$125 for a 10'X10' booth space. Apply before the deadline of May 1, 2022 to receive a space in front of or near your storefront. Applications available online at occoquanva.gov/town-festivals.

Volunteers Needed!

This two-day event draws thousands of people to town and is successful due to the support of our businesses and volunteers! To volunteer, email jlittle@occoquanva.gov.

Peep Week: April 12 - 17, 2022

Stroll through historic Occoquan and vote for your favorite PEEPS® dioramas, made by and displayed at Occoquan businesses! Cast your vote and enter to win a Peep basket of goodies. Forms are available at participating business locations. See visitoccoquanva.com/peeps.

Occoquan Community Peep Contest

Create your own Peep diorama! Enter by April 11 to win in one of four categories. More info can be found at occoquanva.gov/peep-week. Vote for your favorites at Town Hall, at 314 Mill Street in Occoquan from April 12 to April 16th, 9 am to 4 pm. One vote per category per person. Winners will be announced at 4 pm on April 16.

Fun For Lil Peeps, April 16 — Visit the Easter Bunny

The inaugural Fun For Lil Peeps egg hunt event is sold out, but families can still come visit the Easter Bunny—no tickets required! The ticketed egg hunt event starts at 11 a.m. (doors open at 10:45 a.m.) at River Mill Park. The public is invited to visit with the Easter Bunny starting at 11:30 a.m. More information: occoquanva.gov/occoquan-events/peep-week.

Be a River Hero: Friends of the Occoquan River Clean Up Saturday, April 9, 9 am to 12 pm—Volunteers Needed!

Meet in front of Town Hall on Saturday, April 9, starting at 9 am and collect your gloves and bags and help us tidy the riverbank and town to prevent trash collecting in the river. Refreshments will be in a grab-and-go style. Wear sturdy shoes and proper attire for getting muddy. There is no rain date. Bring a friend! More information, see friendsoftheoccoquan.org.