

Town Council Actions: April 2022

- Adopted a proclamation recognizing April 29, 2022 as Arbor Day in the Town of Occoquan
- Adopted a zoning text amendment to bring the Town Code into conformance with DEQ's recommendations for implementing the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act after holding a public hearing
- Appointed Philip Auville as Town Clerk effective April 19, 2022
- Adopted a Resolution Endorsing submission of an application to the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant
- Held a public hearing on the proposed FY2023 Budget
- Appointed Robert Love to the Town Council to fill the vacant seat of Councilmember Bienia through December 31, 2022
- Adopted a resolution to recommend reappointment of Jim Drakes to the Board of Zoning Appeals

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



Music on Mill is a free summer concert series featuring family-friendly entertainment. Join us in River Mill Park for a lovely evening down by the river from 7 pm to 9 pm. These events are free and open to the public. Bring your camp chairs or a blanket, and don't forget your picnic basket.

2022 Schedule

Saturday, May 21: Cheley Tackett (Americana)
Saturday, June 18: Mystery Machine DMW (Rock)
Saturday, July 16: Up All Night (Covers)
Saturday, August 6: 257th Army Band (Traditional)
Saturday, August 20: Collective (Rock)

Cancellations: Visit occoquanva.gov for weather updates or call 703-491-1918 two hours before the event for information.

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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May 2022

TOWN COUNCIL

Earnest W. Porta, Jr., Mayor
Jenn Loges, Vice Mayor
Cindy Fithian
Laurie Holloway
Robert Love
Eliot Perkins



TOWN HALL STAFF

Kirstyn Jovanovich, Town Manager
Adam Linn, Chief of Police
Manuel Casillas, Town Treasurer
Philip Auville, Town Clerk
Julie Little, Events Director
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor
Ginny Rosell, Administrative Asst.

Mayor's Letter

Take advantage this month of hopefully pleasant weather to experience some of the town's recreational offerings. On Saturday, May 21, our Music on Mill free summer concert series kicks off with returning performer, Cheley Tackett. Then, on Friday, May 27, our popular season of Trivia Nights at River Mill Park begins with the theme of the "Roaring Twenties." More information on both can be found in this newsletter and on the town web site.

Plan to be in town on June 4-5 for our spring RiverFest and Craft show. This is a long-planned, pandemic-delayed, reimagining of our 50-year traditional spring craft show that incorporates celebration of the town's connection to the Occoquan River with a series of river-related activities. Events such as this are an important component of the town's budget, typically serving as our primary source of funding for capital projects. As always, volunteers are necessary to make the event a success. Again, more information is contained elsewhere in this newsletter and on the town web site.

Our pedestrian intersection improvements are largely completed. Road repaving by VDOT, including the recrowning of Mill Street west of Ellicott, will take place later in the year. In the meantime, work on the new beer garden at the eastern end of Mill Street has begun.

To end this month, I want to first remind everyone that **the Town Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed tax rates for FY 2023 at the Council meeting on May 3** and second, take a moment to welcome Robert Love to the Town Council; he was recently appointed to fill the remainder of Krys Bienia's term, Ms. Bienia having recently moved out of town. Mr. Love has an impressive background and his willingness to serve is a great asset to us. As always, thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any comments, questions, or concerns.

Blessing of the Fleet: May 21, 2022

The Blessing of the Fleet is a centuries-old tradition where receiving a blessing from the local Clergy was meant to ensure a safe and bountiful season.

First responder boats will pass Belmont Bay Harbor Marina at 10 am heading upriver, toward the Town of Occoquan. At approximately 10:30 am, the first responder boats will turn around near the Occoquan Town Dock and begin heading back downriver, toward Belmont Bay Harbor Marina. The fire boat will lead the group, spraying a spectacular Water Salute for all to enjoy! Interested spectators can view first responder boats from land at Town of Occoquan's dock at Mamie Davis Park.

Trivia Nights at River Mill Park: Friday, May 27

Trivia Nights are back! Test your knowledge during our outdoor Trivia Nights in River Mill Park! Play six rounds of brain busters for your chance to win a \$100 gift card Grand Prize! Bring your up to 6-person team, camp chairs or blankets, and a packed picnic. Team registration is \$30. This year, you can purchase season tickets for all dates and get the final night free!

6:00 pm Doors Open | 6:30 pm Start

The 2022 season starts May 27, with the theme: "The Roaring '20s." Visit occoquanva.gov/trivia for the full schedule and to register.

Military Tribute Banners: Last Chance!

There's still time to sponsor a 2022 tribute banner honoring a U.S. military veteran. **Order by May 9, 2022**, and your banner will be proudly displayed in the Town's Historic District from Memorial Day to Veteran's Day. To sponsor a banner honoring your family member, ancestor, or friend for their military service, visit militarytributebanners.org and select **Virginia/Occoquan** under the Banner Programs menu; or, stop by Town Hall or VFW Post 7916 for more information.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

MAY 3

**Town Council Meeting
FY2023 Tax Rates Public Hearing**
7:00 pm

MAY 17

Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm

MAY 20

**Meals and Transient
Occupancy Taxes Due**

MAY 21

Blessing of the Fleet
10 a.m.
View from Mamie Davis Park

MAY 21

**Music on Mill Presents:
Cheley Tackett (Americana)**
7 pm – 9 pm
River Mill Park

MAY 24

**Planning Commission
Architectural Review Board**
6:30 pm
7:30 pm

MAY 27

Trivia Night
6:30 pm
River Mill Park

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

Occoquan RiverFest & Craft Show: June 4 & 5

The **RiverFest & Craft Show** is coming to Historic Occoquan **June 4 & 5, 2022**, from 10 am to 5 pm each day, creating a dynamic new craft show event that springboards from our 50-year traditional Spring craft show and also celebrates the historic town's natural beauty along the Occoquan River!



RiverFest will feature a full two days of activities for all ages, featuring over 200 booths of artisans, crafters, food vendors, and many of our local businesses. River Mill Park, with its spectacular views of the river, will be the venue for our RiverFest concerts and adult beverages. Families and scout troops will enjoy the Jr. Passport program in Conservation Alley in the center of town, where we'll bring a strong focus on sustainability, recycling, and the importance of protecting our river ecosystem. Those longing to get out on the water will have their opportunity at RiverFest with kayak and stand-up paddleboard availability all weekend. Spectators can watch SUP and kayak races on Saturday and a river clean-up is also planned for both days. Mark your calendar for this fantastic event!

RiverFest & Craft Show is free admission, though shuttle service is \$5, round trip. More information, can be found at occoquanva.gov/town-festivals/riverfest.

Volunteers Needed for RiverFest!

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.



STREET CLOSINGS

The following roads will be closed from 8 am to 6:30 pm on June 4 and 5: Mill, Commerce, Union, Washington Streets, as well as Ellicott Street from Mill Street to Center Lane. During this time, please coordinate movers or deliveries accordingly.

RIVERFEST PARKING - Event Area Residents and Businesses ONLY

Permits will be available to residents and businesses living or working in the historic district for parking under the Route 123 bridge from 10:00 pm, Friday, June 3, until 6:30 pm, Sunday, June 5. Due to limited parking spaces, only one permit per business or family - first come, first served - will be issued. Permits will be available at Town Hall beginning Tuesday, May 31, between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. Town Hall will observe extended hours until 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 31, 2022.