

Congresswoman Spanberger's Mobile Constituent Service, April 7 at Town Hall

On April 7, at Town Hall, there will be a Mobile Constituent Service from Congresswoman Spanberger's staff. This is a service where residents can request assistance on a variety of issues. The Congresswoman will not be present at this service.

Potomac Riverkeeper Network Volunteers Needed

On April 19, the Potomac Riverkeeper Network will be hosting volunteer training for the Occoquan River water quality monitoring testing, at National Harbor, MD from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help collect and transmit water samples from two test site locations. If you are interested, please visit: <https://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/calendar/>

Military Tribute Banners



There's still time for residents, businesses, friends, and visitors to Occoquan to 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 2023, 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 XXX, ISSUE IV

703-491-1918

April 2023

TOWN COUNCIL

Ernest W. Porta, Jr., Mayor
Jenn Loges, Vice Mayor
Nancy Freeborne Brinton
Theo Daubresse
Cindy Fithian
Eliot Perkins



TOWN HALL STAFF

Adam Linn, Town Manager & Chief of Police
Manuel Casillas, Town Treasurer
Philip Auville, Town Clerk
Julie Little, Events Director
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor
Matt Whitmoyer, Management Fellow

Mayor's Letter

As the weather changes, things will be picking up significantly in town. Our annual Peep Week runs from April 4th to 8th, among the highlights of which is our popular Peeps Diorama contest. Be sure to check out the peep displays around town, cast a vote in the contest, and be entered into a drawing to win some peep-themed prizes. On Friday, April 7, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Town Hall the staff of our Congressional Representative, Abigail Spanberger, will be holding a mobile constituent service session where residents can request assistance on a variety of issues. Please check with Town Hall for details. Also this month the town will be one of the sites of the Friends of the Occoquan's (FOTO) semi-annual cleanup. This year it will take place on Saturday, April 15, from 9:00 a.m. to noon; volunteers should stop by Town Hall during those hours. The Town is also starting a new river-based initiative this year in April. Partnering with the Potomac Riverkeeper Network (PRKN), we will be installing two water quality monitoring stations in the Occoquan River. Volunteers are needed to collect and transmit samples. Training for volunteers will be held by PRKN on April 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at National Harbor. For more information and to register go to <https://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/calendar/> or contact Town Hall. Once again this year I have invited our friends at the Masjid Al Hussain (formerly Ebenezer Baptist Church) to offer the *Adhan* (the Muslim call to prayer) outside twice during the month of Ramadan for the general public. They plan to do so in the early afternoon of April 14. Our VFW Post 7916 will be holding their annual spring yard sale on April 22, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in front of the post. Donations may be dropped off on the 21st after 3:00 p.m. Last, Occoquan's FY 2024 budget will near completion this month. The Town Council expects at its April 4th meeting to select tax rates and budgets to advertise for a subsequent public hearing and ultimate adoption.

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.



RiverFest & Craft Show: June 3 & 4!

The wonderful weekend you know and love is back this spring! The event will be held on both **Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 5pm, June 3 & 4**. Get ready for 200+ Artists and Makers to fill the streets of Occoquan for your shopping pleasure. Other weekend highlights: Beer and Food Fest plus concerts in RMP, and learn ways to protect our water and wildlife in Conservation Alley in the center of town.

Volunteers Needed!

This two-day event draws thousands of people to town and is successful due to the support of our volunteers! To learn more see visitoccoquanva.com/getinvolved.

Whatever Floats Your Boat Parade

Design and decorate a river vessel - a raft, canoe, inflatable, kayak, or rowboat and join us on the **morning of June 4th**, when you'll put your craft in the river and ride, paddle, or row the 1/2 mile along the coastline of the Town to arrive at the Occoquan footbridge for judging in one of five categories: Most Creative, Best Eco-Float, Funniest, Best Overall, or Business. The greater portion of registration fees goes toward Occoquan's Million Mighty Mussel Project in partnership with the Potomac RiverKeeper Network. For more information see visitoccoquanva.com/events or contact the Events Director at jlittle@occoquanva.gov.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

April 4
Town Council Meeting

7:00 pm

April 4 - 8
Peep Week

April 7
Congresswoman Span-berger's Mobile Constituent Service at Town Hall

April 15
Friends of the Occoquan River Clean Up

April 18
Town Council Meeting

April 19
Potomac RiverKeeper Network Training: National Harbor

April 20
Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

April 25
Planning Commission
6:30 pm
Architectural Review Board
7:30 pm

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

Friends of the Occoquan River Clean Up Saturday, April 15, 9 am to 12 pm - Volunteers Needed!

Join us in April for the Occoquan River Clean Up! Hosted by Friends Meet in front of Town Hall on Saturday, April 15 starting at 9 am and collect your gloves and bags and come help us tidy the riverbank and town to prevent trash from collecting in the river. Refreshments will be in a grab-and-go style. Make sure to wear sturdy shoes and proper attire for getting muddy. Don't forget to bring a friend! This event will take place rain or shine! For more information, visit friendsoftheoccoquan.org.

FY2024 Budget Process

Budget Work Session: April 4, 2023

Public Hearings: May 2 (Budget) and May 18 (Tax Rates)

Budget and Tax Rate Adoption: May 18, 2023

The FY 2024 Budget is effective from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. 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 the public hearings to provide feedback and comments. All meetings are held at Town Hall during the Town Council meetings. For more information visit www.occoquanva.gov.



Occoquan Peep Week! April 4 - 8, 2023

Stroll through historic Occoquan and vote for your favorite PEEPS® Dioramas! Cast your vote and enter to win a Peep basket of goodies. Forms are available at participating business locations and Occoquan Town Hall.

Feeling Creative? Enter a Diorama!

The community is invited to participate in Peep Week by designing, creating, and submitting family-friendly PEEPS® dioramas. Enter into one of the four categories: Individual; Family/Team; Youth (ages 12-16); and Kids (ages 12 and under). Drop off entries to Town Hall at 314 Mill Street by **April 3rd** for community voting that runs **April 4 - 8**. Winners will receive gift certificates to use around Occoquan! This event is free, but participants must register. See visitoccoquanva.com/peeps for more info.