

Town Council Actions: January 2024

- Adopted an Ordinance to Amend Title III of the Town Code.
- Reappointed Ann Kisling to the Planning Commission.
- Accepted the VTC Grant.
- Approved a New Town Seal Design.

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

Business License Renewal Applications and Payments Both Due By March 1, 2024

Town of Occoquan Business, Professional, and Occupational License (BPOL) renewals for 2024 and the payments are both due by March 1st. Renewal notices will be emailed and mailed in January to businesses holding a license with the Town. Please be sure to submit applications and payments on time. A penalty of 10% of the tax may be imposed upon failure to file an application or payment of the tax by the due date.

The business license fee is based on gross receipts for the calendar year 2023. Visit occoquanva.gov/doing-business-in-occoquan for more information.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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February 2024

TOWN COUNCIL

Earnest 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
Matt Whitmoyer, Deputy Town Manager
Philip Auville, Town Clerk
Manuel Casillas, Assistant Town Treasurer
Julie Little, Events Director
Jason Forman, Deputy Chief of Police

Mayor's Letter

As many of you are aware, February is often the month of the year when we are sometimes surprised with a heavy snow or rain storm. Consequently, I want to start this month by encouraging everyone to once again review the snow procedures and obligations outlined elsewhere in this newsletter. In the event you experience a power outage please report it to Dominion Energy at 866-366-4357, rather than assuming others have done so — this assists in Dominion's response efforts. And as always, in the event of a severe storm, please keep an eye out for others who might be in distress.

I also this month wish to thank those of you who were able to contribute to the relief of those members of our community affected by the fire at 116 Washington Street, either by making a donation to the GoFundMe effort organized by Councilmember Eliot Perkins or in some other way. Every donation helps and your generosity has been appreciated.

You may notice a different image than in the past at the top of this newsletter. That is the town's new seal. Recently adopted by the Town Council from among more than 20 seals that were designed, submitted, and modified in response to feedback through a crowdsourcing effort led by Vice Mayor Jenn Loges, this new seal will be used for all town official documents. This new image is designed to more comprehensively reflect the town's history and character and contains visual cues to the town's commercial past, its modern status as a gathering place, and the importance of our namesake river, among other things. As in the past, the "Authentic Occoquan" logo will continue to be used for event marketing materials.

Speaking of events, there will be a new one this month, on February 16, from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. Called "Firelight Night," it will be held in the Mill Street cul-de-sac and will feature fire-pits, music, drinks, and more, organized by Visit Occoquan. See elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.

As always, thank you all for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Earnest W. Porta, Jr.

Emergency Snow Removal Routes

Town staff and the OPD's Division of Emergency Management monitor inclement weather and its potential impact on the Town and coordinates with Prince William County's Emergency Management Office, VDOT, and the Town's snow removal contractor. 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. Timed parking restrictions will not be enforced under the bridge during snow emergencies.

Please Clear Your Sidewalks

Help keep your 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.

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 with Prince William County.

Application forms for these programs are available at the PWC Real Estate Assessments Office or by mail. You may request an application form by calling (703) 792-6780 or visiting www.pwcva.gov/department/tax-administration/elderly-and-disabled.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

February 6 Town Council Meeting

7:00 pm

February 16 Firelight Night

6:00 pm - 9:30 pm

February 19 Presidents' Day

Town Hall Closed

February 20 Town Council Meeting

7:00 pm

February 20 Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

February 27 Planning Commission

6:30 pm

Architectural Review Board

7:30 pm

March 1 BPOL Renewal Applications and Payment Due

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

Free Paper Shred at Pfitzner Stadium

Stop by **Pfitzner Stadium** on **March 30 from 9am to 1pm** for a free paper shred hosted by the Prince William County Solid Waste Division. Parking will be located at 7 County Complex Court, Woodbridge, VA.

Residents may bring up to four boxes (18" x 12" x 15") of paper to be shredded. Only official documents will be accepted such as bank statements and tax returns. Paper clips must be removed before shredding. No business or commercial shredding will be accepted.

For more information visit: www.pwcva.gov/trashandrecycling

Firelight Night: February 16

Join us in the **Mill Street cul-de-sac** (near River Mill Park) for a casual evening of live music, s'mores, and drinks with friends between **6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.** Bundle up, grab a date or some friends, and come hang under the stars in historic Occoquan.

Admission to this event is free. Drinks, snacks, and s'mores kits will be available for purchase. For more information visit: visitoccoquanva.com/firelight



The Occoquan Peep Show

Get ready for the Occoquan Peep Show from **March 26 - 30** in historic Occoquan! Stroll through town and vote for your favorite PEEPS® dioramas—made by and displayed at Occoquan businesses! Cast your vote and enter to win! Forms will be available at participating business locations and Town Hall.

The community is invited to participate too! Build your very own PEEPS diorama and enter to win a \$50 prize! Entries will be displayed inside of Occoquan Town Hall at 314 Mill Street.

There are four categories to enter: Individual, Family / Team, Youth, (ages 12 - 16), Kids (12 and under). For more information see: visitoccoquanva.com/peeps

Volunteer Now!

We're looking for a few dedicated community members interested in volunteering a few hours a month to support festival preparations. We want YOU!

For more information, see occoquanfestivals.com/volunteer.

