

Town Council Actions: February 2024

- Appointed Jason Forman as Coordinator of Emergency Management.
- Accepted the Department of Environmental Quality 2022 American Rescue Plan Act Grant.
- Approved the Mill House Museum Lease with the Occoquan Historical Society.
- Approved a Contract with Skyline Worldwide Transportation to provide Shuttle Services for the Town's 2024 Festivals.
- Referred Zoning Review to the Planning Commission.

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 2024 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 2024, 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

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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March 2024

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

Mayor's Letter

As we move into spring, events will once again begin to pick up in town. With the exception of the month of January we hold one or more events in town every month, along with our partners at Visit Occoquan, and our newest event, last month's Firelight Night, was a great success and has spurred thoughts of similar offerings. In March, of course, we continue with our popular Occoquan Peeps Week, which runs from March 26 - March 30, where establishments in town create dioramas with the marshmallow icons. See elsewhere in this newsletter and on the town web site for more information on how to vote for the dioramas as well as on how to submit an entry in our Community Peep contest. Also elsewhere in this newsletter check out the Annual Military Tribute Banners program. Administered annually by our VFW Post 7916, this program is responsible for the attractive banners typically displayed in town from Memorial Day through Veterans Day.

We may also this month witness the beginning of the demolition process for the construction of the long-awaited Mill at Occoquan project. Town staff will do they best they can to keep the community informed of what is taking place, so I encourage you to be alert to notices, email alerts, social media posts, etc., related to the project. Also this month the town council will begin reviewing the budget and capital plans for fiscal year 2025. The budget calendar is outlined elsewhere in this newsletter and I encourage any of you who are interested to attend the relevant meetings and hearings.

Lastly this month, as those of you who follow the local newspapers or my e-newsletter are aware, in February we lost 19-year-old town resident, Jason Brunsman, in a fatal auto accident on Route 1. Some of us witnessed Jason grow up here and I know all of you join me in wishing for peace and healing for the Brunsman family.

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

Ernest W. Porta, Jr.



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.

Community Peep Contest

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

Whatever Floats Your Boat Parade



For the 2nd year, the Town will host the Whatever Floats Your Boat Parade during RiverFest! Enter by designing and decorating a river vessel that expresses your creativity. Then, launch and paddle or row along the coastline of town to the footbridge to be judged on 6/1. Enter by **May 27** to win in one of these categories: Most Likely to Sink, Most Enthusiastic, Funniest, Most Creative, or Best Overall. More info: occoquanfestivals.com/boatparade

MEETINGS & EVENTS

March 1
BPOL Renewal Applications and Payment Due

March 5
Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm

March 19
Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm

March 20
Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

March 26
Planning Commission
6:30 pm
Architectural Review Board
7:30 pm

March 26 - 30
Occoquan PEEP Show

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

FY2025 Budget Calendar

Budget Work Session: March 5, April 2, and April 16

Public Hearing: May 7 (FY25 Budget) and May 21 (FY25 Tax Rates)

Budget and Tax Rate Adoption: May 21

The FY 2025 Budget is effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. 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 work sessions, as well as provide feedback and comments during the public hearings. All meetings are held at Town Hall, 314 Mill Street, beginning at 7 p.m. Budget work sessions presentations, and once finalized, the proposed budget, are available online at www.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.

Be a River Hero: Friends of the Occoquan River Clean Up Saturday, April 6, 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 6 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, which will include packaged snacks and bottled drinks. Make sure to wear sturdy shoes and proper attire for getting muddy. Don't forget to bring a friend!

This event will take place (light) rain or shine! For more information, visit friendsoftheoccoquan.org.