

Town Council Actions: March 2024

- Adopted a Resolution of Recognition and Endorsement of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.
- Held a Budget Work Session on the Proposed FY2025 Budget.

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

VOLUME XXXI, ISSUE IV

703-491-1918

April 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
Asma Rupani, Town Treasurer
Manuel Casillas, Assistant Town Treasurer
Julie Little, Events Director
Jason Forman, Deputy Chief of Police

Mayor's Letter

As those of you who receive my free e-newsletter already know, thanks to the efforts of Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger (VA-7), the recently-passed federal budget includes \$920,000 for Occoquan to repair the key arteries in our antiquated legacy stormwater system. Those of you who have followed our stormwater efforts over the years know that with the assistance of the county we have made a variety of improvements over the past decade to some of the stormwater entry points to town. Repairing the underground system through town, however, some of which dates to the 1930s, has been well beyond our financial capabilities. Thanks to Congresswoman Spanberger we will now be able to make substantial progress in repairing and modernizing that system.

With the arrival of spring, the pace of events picks up in Occoquan. The last week in March featured our annual peep show, and although we take a quick breath in April, we also begin in earnest to look for volunteers for our spring Riverfest and Craft Show. On April 6 we are also once again a host site for the annual Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO) river cleanup. Information on both is available elsewhere in this newsletter and on the town web site. Please note as well that our VFW Post 7916 is holding their spring yard sale on April 27; donations can be dropped off after 3:00 p.m. the day prior. Also, don't forget the Military Tribute Banners program organized by our VFW Post and the town.

The Town Council's final budget work sessions will be held in April after which the town will advertise its proposed budget and tax rates for FY 2025 (which begins July 1). Please feel free to attend any of these meetings to let us know your views.

Last this month it is again my sad duty to report on the passing of another town resident. Jean Seiberling, wife of Walt Seiberling, passed away in March. I know all of you join me in offering our condolences to Walt. As always, I thank you all for your support of our community and encourage you to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any comments, questions, or concerns.



RiverFest & Craft Show

Mark your calendars because 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 1 & 2**. Over 250 artisans will fill the streets of the historic district for a weekend of family fun. This year we'll bring back these popular river events: **Whatever Floats Your Boat Parade** on Saturday and the annual **Duck Splash** on Sunday!

Volunteers Needed!

This two-day event draws thousands of people to town and is successful due to support of our volunteers! To learn more visit: occoquanfestivals.com/volunteer.

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 foot-bridge 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

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MEETINGS & EVENTS

April 2
Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm

April 6
Friends of the Occoquan River Clean Up

April 16
Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm

April 20
Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

April 23
Planning Commission
6:30 pm
Architectural Review Board
7:30 pm

June 1 & 2
RiverFest & Craft Show
10:00 am to 5:00 pm

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

FY2025 Budget Calendar

Budget Work Session: 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.

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 of the Occoquan. 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 rain (if light) or shine! For more information, visit friendsoftheoccoquan.org.

Trivia Nights in River Mill Park

Get ready for this summer as Trivia Night is back in Occoquan! Every second Friday starting in May Trivia Night will be held in River Mill Park at 6:30 p.m. Play six rounds of brain busters for your chance to win a \$100 Occoquan gift card. Tickets are \$30 per group. You can purchase season subscription tickets for all dates and for more information by visiting: visitoccoquanva.com/trivia.



- **May 10: Let's Get Quizzical!**
- **June 14: To Quiz or Not to Quiz**
- **July 12: The Wonderful World of Quizney**
- **August 9: Risky Quizness**
- **September 13: The Spanish Inquisition**
- **October 11: Quiz Pro Quo**