

Town Council Actions:

The following items are extracts of recent Town Council actions and are not official meeting minutes. The most recent approved Town Council minutes and agendas are available online at www.occoquanva.gov. All votes are unanimous unless noted otherwise.

- Adopted Ordinance to Authorize Use of Electronic Summons System
- Set a Not-to-Exceed amount of \$10,000 for Landscape Beautification Project
- Accepted the FYE 2018 Financial Audit
- Approve the 2019 Arbor Day Proclamation
- Approved Advertisement Amounts for the FY 2020 Budget

OCQ ALERTS

In an effort to increase communication between the Town, residents, businesses, and visitors, the Town is establishing a program to send important information via emails and text messages. We encourage you to complete the survey below by following this link or going to the Town website homepage where the link will also be provided.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JDDW3P9>

For any questions or to receive a hardcopy of this survey, please contact Town Hall at (703) 491-1918 or email at info@occoquanva.gov.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXVI, ISSUE V

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MAY 2019

TOWN COUNCIL

Earnie Porta, Mayor
Patrick A. Sivigny, Vice Mayor
J. Matthew Dawson
Cindy Fithian
Laurie Holloway
Eliot Perkins



TOWN HALL STAFF

Kathleen Leidich, Town Manager
Chris Coon, Deputy Town Manager
Adam Linn, Chief of Police
Carla Rodriguez, Town Treasurer
Julie Little, Events Director
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor
Pam Holbert, Administrative Asst.

Mayor's Letter

This past month the Town Council voted on the fiscal year 2020 budget and tax rates to advertise for adoption later in the year. The Town is not planning to increase any tax rates or business license fees. Public hearings will be held on the proposed budget and tax rates on May 7 and May 21, respectively. For more information please go to the Town web site at www.occoquanva.gov/budget.

May begins a busy month for Occoquan, as we have scheduled a number of events. First, the 2019 season of *Music and Movies on Mill*, will begin on Friday, May 3, with a concert by the 90s cover band, *Maggie Shot Burns*. Later, on Saturday, May 18, Americana artist, Cheley Tackett will play in the park. Concerts are from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at River Mill Park and are free and open to the public. The latter concert will be part of a much larger series of activities as May 18 is also the date of *Discover Occoquan*. This event invites everyone to enjoy the variety Occoquan has to offer and will include the annual Blessing of the Fleet, drop-in classes and demonstrations at various businesses, a scavenger hunt, the Occoquan Kids Council raffle, a history tour, a pop-up tea room, a photo booth, Art on the Block, and a beer garden in River Mill Park. For more information and updates on all the day's activities, please check the Town web site periodically. June 1 and June 2 will again, of course, be the days of the Town's spring Arts and Crafts Show. Volunteers are always needed and welcome, and if you are interested in helping out I encourage you to contact Events and Community Development Director, Julie Little, directly at jlittle@occoquanva.gov.

I would like to close this month by honoring two individuals. First, as many of you know, long-time Occoquan resident Vernon Dawson passed away in late February. Mr. Dawson was an avid supporter of the town for many decades and will be very dearly missed by all who knew him. Additionally, at the end of April long-time Mill House Museum Administrator/Curator, Dolores Elder, is retiring and moving out of the area. Dolores has also been an exceptional supporter of the Town and I encourage everyone to join me in wishing her well for the future. As always, I appreciate all your support and urge you to contact me eporta@occoquanva.gov with any comments, questions or concerns.

Earnie D. Porta, Jr.

OCOQUAN TO DEBUT NEW SPRING EVENT in 2020

Next year, Occoquan will revamp its Spring Arts and Crafts Show, creating a dynamic new one-day event celebrating the historic town's natural beauty along the Occoquan River.

Occoquan's **RiverFest** in 2020 will feature a full day of activities for all ages, including live entertainment, great food, a juried artisans' market, beverage garden, river activities, and more.

It's a lively update to one of the town's two famous Arts & Crafts Shows, which draw tens of thousands of visitors to the riverside town steeped in history yet vibrant with excellent restaurants, unique shops and art galleries.

The new RiverFest will inject vibrant new activities in the spring, complementing the many other single-day events in the town, such as Discover Occoquan, the Music & Movies on Mill summer series, and WinterFest.

The award-winning Fall Arts & Crafts Show remains unchanged, hosting hundreds of artisans from across the U.S. and their one-of-a-kind, handcrafted items.

Stay tuned for more information about RiverFest in the coming months!

Spring Arts and Crafts Show, June 1 & 2

STREET CLOSINGS

The following roads will be closed from 8 am to 6:30 pm on June 1 and 2: 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.

CRAFT SHOW PARKING - Event Area Residents and Businesses

Permits will be available to merchants and residents living or working in the historic district for parking under the Route 123 bridge from 10:00 pm, Friday, May 31, until 6:30 pm, Sunday, June 2. 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 28, between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. Town Hall will observe extended hours until 6:00 pm on May 28, 2019.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

We still need a few good volunteers for craft show weekend! If you're interested, please call (703) 491-2168, or email jlittle@occoquanva.gov. Visit www.occoquanva.gov for more information about the event.

May 2019

Town Meetings and Events

(All meetings are held at Town Hall, 314 Mill Street, unless otherwise noted.)

May 3: Music & Movies on Mill Concert
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., River Mill Park

May 7: Town Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Town Hall

May 18: Discover Occoquan
10 a.m. – 8 p.m., Historic Occoquan

May 18: Art on the Block
11 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Historic Occoquan

May 18: Music & Movies on Mill Concert
4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., River Mill Park and Beer Garden with Water's End Brewery

May 20: April 2019 Meals Tax and Transient Occupancy Tax Due

May 21: Town Council Work Session
7:00 p.m., Town Hall

May 27: Memorial Day
Town Hall Closed

May 28: Planning Commission
6:30 p.m., Town Hall
Architectural Review Board
7:30 p.m., Town Hall

May 31: 2019 Business License Fees Due

Discover Occoquan is May 18!

The Town of Occoquan and the Occoquan Merchants' Guild host Discover Occoquan Day in downtown Historic Occoquan. This event features a full day of free activities for everyone, including interactive classes and free demonstrations hosted by Occoquan businesses, Art on the Block, a scavenger hunt, history tour, silent auction, live performances, and more! This year the town hosts a beer garden in River Mill Park, featuring Water's End Brewery and special guest, award-winning Nashville singer, songwriter Cheley Tackett! See the town's website for a growing schedule of activities: <http://www.occoquanva.gov/discover-occoquan.html>.



Local artists will be participating in **Art on the Block** in Historic Occoquan on **Saturday, May 18, 2019** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/OccoquanArt. Sponsored by the Art Galleries of Occoquan.