

Town Council Actions: May 2024

- Held a Public Hearing on the FY2025 Budget.
- Held a Public Hearing on the FY2025 Tax Rates.
- Adopted the FY2025 Annual Budget and Tax Rates.
- Adopted a Proclamation for Police Week 2024.

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



Saturday, June 15: Hand Painted Swinger

Music on Mill is a free summer concert series featuring family-friendly entertainment. Join us in River Mill Park for a lovely evening down by the river from 7 pm to 9 pm. These events are free and open to the public. Bring your camp chairs or a blanket, and don't forget your picnic basket. For cancellations, visit occoquanva.gov.

Friday, June 14: To Quiz or Not to Quiz

Test your knowledge during our outdoor **Trivia Nights in River Mill Park!** Play six rounds of brain busters for your chance to win a \$100 gift card Grand Prize! Team registration is \$30. For more information visit: visitoccoquanva.com/trivia.



OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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June 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

Summer will soon be in full swing and on cue the first weekend of this month brings our RiverFest and Craft Show. We have booked the most vendors we have had in recent memory and there are a number of individual events that we have incorporated into the show. Among these is the annual Duck Splash race, which will take place on Sunday, June 2. Tickets for this are on sale online until Friday, May 31, and will be on sale thereafter during the show. Other events include boat tours, a boat parade, a beer garden, and more. A significant amount of information about RiverFest is contained in this newsletter and on the town web site. Most importantly I would like to encourage you to attend and patronize vendors, and if possible, volunteer. As I often remind folks, this and our fall show are significant sources of funding for town capital projects and other special initiatives and thus help keep our real estate property tax rate low.

Speaking of tax rates, last month the Town Council passed the budget and tax rates for fiscal year 2025, which begins on July 1. There were no adjustments to our existing tax rates.

In addition to RiverFest, the town hosts two other events this month. On Friday, June 14, we will hold our monthly Trivia Night in River Mill Park. The theme for the night is "To Quiz or Not to Quiz." On the following night, Saturday the 15th, we will continue our free summer concert series in River Mill Park, with the band, "Hand Painted Swinger."

Last this month I would like to encourage waterfront property owners to check out the Virginia Department of Forestry Program described elsewhere in this newsletter. Through this program, waterfront property owners can assist in reducing erosion and corresponding sedimentation of the Occoquan River.

Once again, I thank you all for your support of our community and encourage you to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any questions, comments or concerns,

Ernest W. Porta, Jr.

Riparian Forests for Landowners Program

The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) is offering a Riparian Forest for Landowners Program, where a no-cost riparian forest buffer will be installed covering the planning, site preparation, and planting, as well as one year of Maintenance. The program will be open to private property owners with land adjacent to a water feature, including homeowner's associations.

A Riparian Forest Buffer is a wooded area adjacent to a water feature to help allow sediment to settle out of the water and reducing excess nutrients from runoff.

The funding for this program is from the Inflation Reduction Act through the USDA Forest Service and the Commonwealth of Virginia's Water Quality Improvement Fund Act.

Sign-ups for this program will continue until the funding is depleted. To learn more and to apply please visit: dof.virginia.gov. From the home screen click on Water Quality Protection, then under Landowner Assistance click on Financial Assistance Programs. From there you will find the Riparian Forests for Landowners (RFFL) Program.

16th Annual Duck Splash



Occoquan non-profit Patriots For Disabled Divers is hosting its annual Duck Splash fundraiser on Sunday, June 2 at 12pm during RiverFest. Adopt a numbered rubber duck for \$5, then join us at the Town Dock to watch it race along the Occoquan River with hundreds of other ducks! Winners receive \$20 - 500 depending on their placement in the race. To purchase a duck, see occoquantourism.com

MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

June 4
Town Council Meeting:
Cancelled

June 15
Music on Mill Presents:
Hand Painted Swinger
7 pm - 9 pm

June 18
Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm

June 19
Juneteenth
Town Hall Closed

June 20
Meals and Transient
Occupancy Taxes Due

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

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

Occoquan RiverFest & Craft Show: June 1 & 2

When: Saturday, June 1 - Sunday, June 2
Open: 10 am - 5 pm
Where: Historic District, Occoquan, VA
Admission: FREE
Shuttles: \$8 Round Trip, 12 and under Free
Details: [OccoquanFestivals.com](https://occoquanfestivals.com)



WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Saturday, June 1:
10 am - 5 pm: Arts & Crafts Show
10 am - 5 pm: Conservation Alley
11 am - 12 pm: Whatever Floats Your Boat Parade
12 pm - 4 pm: Boat Tours on the River
12 pm - 4 pm: Concert in River Mill Park
12 pm - 5 pm: Beer & Wine Garden
1 pm & 3 pm: Reptile World at Town Hall

Sunday, June 2:
10 am - 5 pm: Arts & Crafts Show
10 am - 5 pm: Conservation Alley
12 pm - 1 pm: 16th Annual Duck Splash
12 pm - 4 pm: Concert in River Mill Park
12 pm - 5pm: Beer & Wine Garden
1 pm - 4 pm: Boat Tours on the River

There's Still Time to Volunteer for Riverfest!

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

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.

RIVERFEST PARKING - Event Area Residents and Businesses ONLY

Permits will be available to residents and businesses 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 Tuesday, May 28, 2024.