

Town Council Actions: June 2024

- Adopted a Resolution giving the 100 Block of Poplar Alley the honorary designation, "Ogle Harris Way."
- Adopted a Resolution of Appreciation for Ryan Somma for his years of service on the Planning Commission.
- Adopted a Resolution of Appreciation for Carol Bailey for her years of service on the Architectural Review Board.

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



Saturday, July 20: 257th Army Band

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, July 12: The Wonderful World of Quizney

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

OCCOQUANVA.GOV • INFO@OCCOQUANVA.GOV

TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

314 Mill Street
P.O. Box 195
Occoquan, VA 22125

CARRIER ROUTE
OCCOQUAN, VA 22125

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Occoquan, VA
Permit No. 19

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXI, ISSUE VII

703-491-1918

July 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

Thank you to everyone who participated in the RiverFest & Craft Show on June 1st & 2nd. With the weather cooperating it was one of the most successful shows we have had in the last decade or longer. We especially appreciate those of you who found the time and were able to volunteer for the show. Without your efforts we simply could not have pulled it off. Of course, a special thank you to our Events Director, Julie Little, as well as all the rest of the town staff, who work many hours before, during, and after the show to make it a success. We appreciate each and every one of you.

Town events continue in July, with our popular monthly Trivia Night in River Mill Park taking place on Friday, July 12, and the 257th Army Band playing in the park on Saturday, July 20. Also, if you get a chance, swing by the 100 block of Poplar Alley and check out the new sign at its intersection with Washington Street. On Saturday, June 29, we held a ceremony giving that block the honorary designation "Ogle Harris Way" in honor of Ogle Harris and his family. Ogle Harris founded a grocery at 204 Washington Street in the early part of the 20th century that continued to operate until 1974 under the auspices of his son and daughter-in-law after his passing in 1949. It was a cornerstone of the town's commercial and African-American community. Nearby you may also notice some modest construction taking place at the southeast corner of Washington and Mill Streets. This construction involves the installation of some automobile EV chargers at no cost to the town.

July 1 is the beginning of a new fiscal year for Occoquan. As those of you who follow the town budget process are aware, there have been no changes to any of the town's tax rates. A summary of the budget and tax rates is contained elsewhere in this newsletter, and more information is available on the town web site.

I hope everyone enjoys their 4th of July holiday. As always, given the heat we have been experiencing please plan accordingly and keep an eye out for those who might be in distress. Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any comments or concerns.

Earnest W. Porta, Jr.

RiverFest & Craft Show

Thank You!

What a spectacular two days to host the annual RiverFest & Craft Show! A profound thank you to residents, businesses, visitors, and volunteers for all of their efforts in helping to make RiverFest a success! We are already planning and looking forward to the annual Fall Arts & Crafts Show on September 28 and 29 - we can't wait to see you all again!

Independence Day Fireworks

- **Workhouse Arts Center:** Saturday, June 29th, 6pm to 10pm, 9518 Workhouse Way
- **Celebrate America, Historic Manassas:** July 4th, 3 pm - 9:30 pm; fireworks display 9:15 pm
- **Fourth of July Celebration, Manassas Park:** July 4th, 5pm to 9:30pm, Signal Hill Park
- **Independence Day Parade, Fairfax City:** July 4th, 10 am Downtown Fairfax
- **Independence Day Evening Show, Fairfax City:** July 4th from 6:30pm to 10pm, Fairfax High School

Occoquan Visitor's Guide Ads

Visit Occoquan Visitor's Guides will now be produced two times a year. The Fall/Winter issue will run from September - February and the Spring/Summer will run March - August. The early bird deadline for the 2024 Fall/Winter issue is Wednesday, July 24 and the deadline for the 2024 Fall/Winter issue is Wednesday, August 7th.

Purchase for the full year and receive a 10% Discount! Learn more or register today at visitoccoquanva.com/visitorsguide.



MEETINGS & EVENTS

July 2
Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm

July 4
Independence Day
Town Hall Closed

July 9
Occoquan Business Partners Meeting
5:30 pm

July 12
Trivia Night
7 pm - 9 pm

July 20
Music on Mill Presents:
257th Army Band
7 pm - 9 pm

July 20
Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

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

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

Fiscal Year 2025 Adopted Budget

At its May 21, 2024 meeting, the Occoquan Town Council adopted the Town's FY 2025 Budget and Tax Rates following two public hearings.

		FY 2024	FY 2025	Difference	+ / (-)
General Fund	Rev	\$1,316,017	\$1,408,258	\$92,241	7%
	Exp	\$1,316,017	\$1,408,258	\$92,241	7%
Events Fund	Rev	\$300,625	\$313,285	\$12,660	4.2%
	Exp	\$234,281	\$238,726	\$4,445	1.9%
Mamie Davis Fund	Rev	\$500	\$256	(\$244)	-48.8%
	Exp	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
E-Summons Fund	Rev	\$11,500	\$15,200	3,700	32.2%
	Exp	\$5,500	\$7,200	\$1,700	30.9%
Capital Improvement Fund	Rev	\$2,020,502	\$1,374,031	(\$646,471)	-32%
	Exp	\$2,020,502	\$1,374,031	(\$646,471)	-32%

The FY 2025 Budget maintains the Real Estate Tax Rate of \$0.116 per \$100 of assessed value with a due date of December 5th each year. The Meals Tax Rate was maintained at 3.5% and the Transient Tax Rate was maintained at 7%. The Adopted Budget is available online at occoquanva.gov.

Visit Occoquan Seeks New Board Members

Visit Occoquan seeks new board members, particularly with fundraising and/or accounting experience, to join its Occoquan-based nonprofit. All members of the Occoquan community are welcome to apply. Visit Occoquan supports the Town of Occoquan and town businesses through its tourism, marketing, and economic development initiatives. Interested parties may send a statement of interest and resume by July 31, 2024 to the current board of directors at info@visitoccoquanva.com.