

## Town Council Actions: July 2024

- Adopted a Resolution Naming the 19th Century Army Corps of Engineers Dike in the Occoquan River to Craighill Isle.
- Adopted a Proclamation Request and Issuance Policy.
- Approved Encroachment Licenses for 302 Commerce Street and 402 Mill Street.

*The above items are extracts of recent actions and are not official meeting minutes. Minutes and agendas are posted at [occoquanva.gov](http://occoquanva.gov).*



### Saturday, August 17: Side Piece

**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](http://occoquanva.gov).

### Friday, August 9: Risky Quizness

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](http://visitoccoquanva.com/trivia).



## OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

OCOCQUANVA.GOV • [INFO@OCOCQUANVA.GOV](mailto:INFO@OCOCQUANVA.GOV)

### TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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

CARRIER ROUTE  
OCOCQUAN, VA 22125

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

# OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXI, ISSUE VIII

703-491-1918

August 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 everyone for your patience as we began the replacement and repair of our antiquated and deteriorating stormwater system. The most recent project directly impacted Union and Commerce Streets and was funded by a state appropriation secured for us by Delegate Luke Torian. Future improvements are to be funded by a federal appropriation secured by Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger. We are grateful to both for having obtained the funds needed to make these necessary projects financially feasible for us.

As this issue is going to print we have been informed that a drought "Watch" has been declared for northern Virginia, including the Town of Occoquan, due to unusually dry conditions. This is the first time since the relevant regional plan was adopted in 2011 that a "Watch" has been declared. A drought Watch is a step short of a drought Warning, which could entail potentially mandatory water restrictions. Although there is currently an adequate supply of water in the Potomac River and backup reservoirs, everyone is encouraged to implement voluntary water conservation measures to help ease pressure on the system.

This month in Occoquan we will once again have multiple events. August 6 is National Night Out and the Occoquan Police Department will be holding an open house under the Route 123 bridge from 6-9 p.m. On August 9, we will hold our monthly Trivia Night in River Mill Park, with the theme, Risky Quizness. Then, on August 17, we will have a free concert in the park from 7-9 as part of our Music on Mill series, this time with the band "Side Piece."

To close this month I want to congratulate Brandon D'Andrea, who was the winner of this year's name the island contest, where we each year at RiverFest solicit potential names for the former 19th century Army Corp of Engineers dike that is now an island under the Route 123 bridge. Known as "Heron's Haven" for the past year, the island will be called "Craighill Isle" for the next, the name of the Army Corp officer who supervised the dike project in the late 19th century. As always, thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact me at [eporta@occoquanva.gov](mailto:eporta@occoquanva.gov) with comments, questions, or concerns.

*Earnest W. Porta, Jr.*

## National Night Out: August 6

Join the Occoquan Police Department for National Night Out on August 6, 2024 from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Route 123 bridge parking lot on Mill Street.

Meet and chat with members of the Occoquan Police Department. National Night Out is a national community-building campaign that provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together!



## Volunteer to Join the Architectural Review Board (ARB)

The Architectural Review Board (ARB) is seeking a volunteer to serve as an alternate member and a Town Business Representative to serve on the board. The Town relies on volunteers from the community to serve on the ARB. To learn more about the Architectural Review Board, visit [occoquanva.gov/architectural-review-board](http://occoquanva.gov/architectural-review-board).

If interested please complete the short application and submit to Town Hall M-F, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 314 Mill Street. Applications are available at Town Hall or online under the Boards and Commissions page at [Occoquanva.gov](http://occoquanva.gov).

## Post Office Reminders

The Post Office would like to remind everyone that per U.S. Post Office Regulations, mail cannot be hand delivered across the counter. All mail must be picked up using the key to the P.O. Box, unless a slip is present to pick up a package from the counter. Also, per U.S. Post Office Regulations dogs are not permitted inside the building unless they are a certified service dog. Thank you.

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

**August 6**

**Town Council Meeting**

7:00 pm

**August 6**

**National Night Out**

6:00 pm

**August 9**

**Trivia Night**

6:30 pm

**August 17**

**Music on Mill Presents:**

**Side Piece**

7 pm - 9 pm

**August 20**

**Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due**

**August 27**

**Planning Commission**

6:30 pm

**Architectural Review Board**

7:30 pm

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

## Fall Arts & Craft Show: September 28 & 29

The Fall Arts & Crafts Show is back **September 28 & 29, 2024**, for its 54th year! The event will run from 10 am to 5 pm both days and featuring over 300 vendors in over 20 categories. Meet experienced artisans, talk to them about their work, and view demonstrations of some of their craft techniques. You'll have the opportunity to indulge in festival fare and enjoy live music in the **Beer Garden** in River Mill Park. Kids will want to stop by **Imagination Alley** to create their own art at the Art Bar! The Fall Arts & Crafts Show is free admission, though the shuttle service is \$8, round trip. More information can be found at [occoquanfestivals.com/fall](http://occoquanfestivals.com/fall).



## Volunteers Needed!

The Fall Arts & Crafts Show is **September 28 & 29** and we need every set of hands, so choose your shift and invite a friend! There are lots of ways to help out: at the Shuttle Stops or Info Booth, with Vendor Assistance, in Imagination Alley, or with Set Up & Breakdown. Select a shift (or two!) here: [occoquanfestivals.com/volunteer](http://occoquanfestivals.com/volunteer).

## Craft Show Volunteer Opportunities

**Shuttle Stop** - Volunteers ensure that each patron over 12 that rides the shuttle has paid the round-trip fare upon drop off at the festival and receives a stamp allowing them into the show and indicating what stop to which they should return in order to board the shuttle back.

**Vendor Assist** - Volunteers are asked to "booth sit" for vendor breaks.

**Imagination Alley** - Volunteers will assist at the Art Bar and with set and clean up.

**Volunteer Coordinator** - Our coordinator will check in volunteers and troubleshoot shifts as necessary.

**Breakfast** - Our volunteer will set up breakfast, trouble shoot and restock as necessary, and greet vendors with a smile.

**Information Booth** - Volunteers answer questions for festival patrons and share the many fun things happening throughout the year.

**Set Up** - Saturday morning set up includes helping staff set tables, tents, and chairs in River Mill Park and at the shuttle stops.

**Break Down** - Sunday afternoon break down includes helping staff breaking down tables, tents, and chairs.