

# Town Council Actions: August 2024

- Held a Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission on Accessory Dwelling Units and Accessory Structures.
- Adopted an Ordinance Reducing the Speed Limit on a Specific Section of Washington Street from 25 mph to 20 mph.
- Adopted a Revised Architectural Review Board (ARB) Design Guidelines Relating to Public Art.
- Adopted an Updated Town Land Use Fee Schedule.

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

## 19th Century Army Corps of Engineers Dike in the Occoquan River Named Craighill Isle

During RiverFest 2024, an island naming competition was held, where the winning submission was chosen by the Town Council. The “island” name is inscribed on signs placed on the Kayak Ramp and “island” for a period of one year. The winner of the annual competition with the name of “Craighill Isle” was submitted by the D’Andrea and Terry Families.



## 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 IX

703-491-1918

September 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

September begins what others have often heard me refer to as Occoquan’s sprint to Christmas. By that I mean that the town holds a significant number of events designed to help residents enjoy the holiday season and bring legions of visitors in to shop and dine during what is a critical time of year for so many town businesses. We have our monthly Trivia Night in River Mill Park on September 13, but what really kicks off the sprint is our Fall Arts & Crafts Show, which takes place September 28 and 29. The show makes a significant contribution to the town budget, generates substantial revenue for a number of our businesses, and is a well known and popular event in the region. Its success is also heavily dependent on the effort of volunteers. See elsewhere in this newsletter for how to volunteer and for other information on the show (the Mill House Museum is planning a silent auction of one or more items related to Occoquan during the show). Please encourage friends and family to attend — the Fall Arts & Craft Show is a great venue for early holiday shopping.

If you have not already, you may soon notice a couple of changes in town. In the town lot at 170 Mill Street four level 2 EV charges have been installed at no cost to the town. Additionally, some time in the near future you will see that the speed limit on a section of Washington Street near some crosswalks is being reduced to 20 mph in attempt to improve safety for residents and other pedestrians. More information on the latter will be forthcoming.

Sadly, I am closing this month by once again reporting on the deaths of several members of the Occoquan community. As many of you already know, in July town resident and avid town volunteer, Louis Soscia passed away. We also lost Merial Currer’s brother Bill, who generously donated his time and talent as the designer and builder of our annual Halloween maze. Then, but a short time ago, long-time Occoquan resident James Phelps passed away. I ask that you keep all of them and their family and friends in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you all for being a part of our community and do not hesitate to contact me at [epor-ta@occoquanva.gov](mailto:epor-ta@occoquanva.gov) with comments, questions, or concerns.

## Imagination Alley

Located in the center of town at 305 Mill Street, Imagination Alley will be packed with make-and-take projects and tons of family fun. Imagination Alley will be open both days of the Fall Arts & Crafts Show. A sneak peek into just some of the excitement in store:

- Make your own art project from recycled craft supplies at the Art Bar
- Create a one-of-a-kind masterpiece at the Spin Art machine (*fee*)
- Visit with our alpaca friends and learn about the sustainability of their wool
- Get your face painted with Fairy Jennabelle (*fee*)
- Make your very own bracelet from handmade beads (*fee*)
- Be inspired by our Junior Entrepreneurs
- Watch a performance from one of our community partners
- Add your special touch to our community art projects
- And much more!

## ARB Design Guidelines Update

The Architectural Review Board (ARB) Design Guidelines were updated at the August 6 Council Meeting relating to artistic structures and murals erected on properties within the Historic District. The new Public Art Section covers the Scale, Placement, Reversibility, and Contextual Relevance of artistic structures and murals.

## Trivia Night: Friday, September 13

Test your knowledge during our outdoor **Trivia Nights in River Mill Park!** September's theme is The Spanish Inquisition. Play six rounds of brain busters for your chance to win a \$100 gift card Grand Prize! Team registration is \$30. Rain date for Trivia Night is Sunday, September 15.



## MEETINGS & EVENTS

### September 2

#### Labor Day

Town Hall Closed

### September 3

#### Town Council Meeting

Cancelled

### September 13

#### Trivia Night

6:30 pm

### September 17

#### Town Council Meeting

7:00 pm

### September 20

#### Meals and Transient

#### Occupancy Taxes Due

### September 24

#### Planning Commission

6:30 pm

#### Architectural Review Board

7:30 pm

### September 28 & 29

#### Fall Arts & Crafts Show

*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](https://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](https://occoquanfestivals.com/volunteer).



## Street Closings

The following roads will be closed from 8 am on September 28 to 8 pm on September 29: Mill, Commerce, Union, and Washington Streets, as well as Ellicott Street from Mill Street to Center Lane. During this time, please coordinate movers or deliveries accordingly. There will be no street parking on the above streets after 10 pm on September 27 until 8 pm on September 29.

## Fall Arts & Crafts Show 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, September 27, until 6:30 pm, Sunday, September 29. 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, September 24, between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. Town Hall will observe extended hours until 6:30 pm on September 24.