

Town Council Actions: September 2024

- Adopted an Ordinance Relating to Accessory Dwellings and Accessory Buildings.
- Adopted an Ordinance Relating to Utility License Tax.
- Adopted Arbor Day 2024 Proclamation.

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

Trivia Night: Quiz Pro Quo
Friday, October 11 at 6:30 pm in River Mill Park
Test your knowledge during our outdoor **Trivia Nights in River Mill Park!** October's theme is Quiz Pro Quo. Play six rounds of brain busters for your chance to win a \$100 gift card Grand Prize! Team registration is \$30 per group. Doors open at 5:30 pm and game starts at 6:30 pm. The Trivia Bar operated by Occoquan nonprofit Patriots for Disabled Divers will be open at 5:30 pm and will run until "last call" before the last round of questions.



Cancellations: Visit occoquanva.gov for weather updates or call 703-491-1918 two hours before the event for information.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER
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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXI, ISSUE X 703-491-1918 October 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

As this newsletter goes to print we are preparing for the Fall Arts & Crafts Show and hoping we are not adversely impacted by Hurricane Helene. Keeping my fingers crossed that all will go well I would like to thank in advance all the town staff (including and particularly Julie Little and Adam Linn) and the wonderful volunteers who make the show possible. Revenues from the show, as many of you know are an important source of funding for town capital projects and special initiatives, thus helping keep town real estate taxes low.

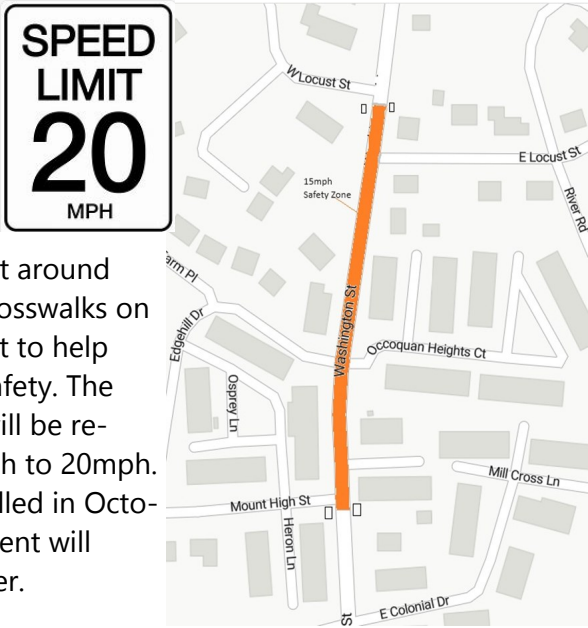
October is a month packed with events. On Saturday, October 5, the town will once again be a site for the Friends of the Occoquan's (FOTO) fall clean up, which will take place from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Pre-registration is encouraged so for more information and to register please go to www.friendsoftheoccoquan.org. On Friday, October 11, in River Mill Park, we will be holding the last Trivia Night of the season, whose theme will be "Quiz Pro Quo." More information on this event is contained elsewhere in this newsletter and on the town web site. Also in River Mill Park, on October 18 and 19 we will host our second annual Murder Mystery Night, this year entitled, "The Curse of the Amethyst." Last year's inaugural event was so well received that we decided this year to hold two nights of the event. Again, additional information may be found elsewhere in this newsletter and on the town web site. Last, October ends with our popular series of Halloween-themed events, which include, among other things, our costume parade and contest and haunted maze. You'll find additional information within these pages and elsewhere as we get closer to the end of the month.

You'll also see in this newsletter some information on an upcoming change to the speed limit on a portion of Washington Street. This change is designed to encourage motorists to slow down and notice the two pedestrian crosswalks on this stretch of roadway. More educational information will be forthcoming prior to implementation. As always, thank you all for your continued support of our community and please do not hesitate to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Earnest W. Porta, Jr.

New Speed Limit on Washington Street

The Town Council at their August 6th meeting, approved reducing the speed limit around two sections of crosswalks on Washington Street to help with pedestrian safety. The new speed limit will be reduced from 25mph to 20mph. Signs will be installed in October and enforcement will begin in November.



2024 Real Estate Tax Bills Due December 5, 2024

This is a reminder that the Real Estate Tax due date is **December 5th** for the 2024 year. Real Estate tax bills will be mailed to each property owner unless a mortgage services company has requested the tax bill. If you do not utilize a mortgage services company, then you must pay your tax directly to the town. For more information go to occoquanva.gov/living-here/tax-information.

2025 Vehicle License Renewal

This is a reminder that the Vehicle License Fee Renewals will be due by **November 15th** and the Auto Decals displayed by **November 16th**. More information will be sent out via mail. You may drop forms off and pay at Town Hall or submit completed forms and payments online at occoquanva.gov/make-a-payment.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

October 1
Town Council Meeting
Cancelled

October 11
Trivia Night
6:30 pm

October 14
Indigenous peoples' Day/ Columbus Day
Town Hall Closed

October 15
Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm

October 18 & 19
Murder Mystery Nights
7:00 pm

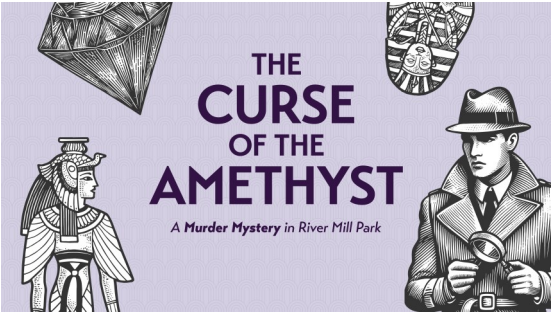
October 20
Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

October 22
Planning Commission
6:30 pm
Architectural Review Board
7:30 pm

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

Murder Mystery Night: October 18 & 19, 2024

The theme for this years Murder Mystery Night is **The Curse of the Amethyst**. A famous traveling exhibition of an ancient pharaoh is scheduled to open tomorrow, but the priceless headstone gem has been stolen! Plausible suspects have been gathered in the museum's secret late night speakeasy in an effort to solve the crime and return the jewel in time for the exhibition's grand opening!



Join us for an interactive murder mystery evening in River Mill Park! Due to the popularity of last year's event, we have added a second night of the show. The two date options are **Friday, October 18 at 7:00 pm** and **Saturday, October 19 at 7:00 pm**. 1920s glamour costumes are highly encouraged!

Tickets are \$48 or 2 for \$86. Space is limited so sign up early at visitoccoquanva.com/murder.

Costume Parade & Contest: October 26, 2024

Join the Town of Occoquan's family-friendly Occoquan Costume Parade & Contest on **Saturday, October 26 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**. Starting at 10 :00 am, Mayor Earnie Porta will lead the parade down Mill Street to River Mill Park, where costume judging will take place. Judging categories include: cutest, scariest, funniest, most original, and family/group. First place winner sin each category will be awarded a \$25 gift certificate that can be used in select businesses around Town.

National Weather Service StormReady® Signs

You will soon be seeing new signs around Town. The Town of Occoquan received its certification as a StormReady® Supporter by meeting all the communications, safety and preparedness requirements of the StormReady® program. The benefits to the Town of this certification include: the opportunity to review and improve our hazardous weather plans, receive increased weather and storm information, gain confidence and public recognition, and the Town and its residents may qualify for rate reductions in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which includes the Community Rating System (CRS).

