

# Town Council Actions: May 2025

- Held a Public Hearing on the FY2026 Budget.
- Held a Public Hearing on the FY2026 Tax Rates.
- Held a Joint Planning Commission and Town Council Public Hearing on Certain Short-term Recurring Zoning Offenses.
- Adopted an Ordinance on Certain Short-term Recurring Zoning Offense.
- Adopted an Ordinance on Taxing Cigarettes.
- Adopted the FY2026 Tax Rates.
- Adopted the FY2026 Town Budget.

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).

## FOX 5 Zip Trip

We're thrilled to announce that we will welcome back *Fox 5 DC* to broadcast live from the Historic Town of Occoquan on **Friday, July 11 from 7am - 11 am**, as part of their popular *Zip Trip* series! Join us as we showcase the charm, history, and local flavor that make Occoquan a standout destination. The morning will be filled with live interviews, community highlights, and plenty of small-town spirit!



## OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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### TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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# OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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June 2025

### TOWN COUNCIL

Earnest W. Porta, Jr., Mayor  
Jenn Loges, Vice Mayor  
Cindy Fithian  
Eliot Perkins  
Theo Daubresse  
Robert E. Love



### TOWN HALL STAFF

Adam Linn, Town Manager & Chief of Police  
Matt Whitmoyer, Deputy Town Manager  
Jason Forman, Deputy Chief of Police  
Philip Auville, Town Clerk  
Asma Rupani, Town Treasurer  
Tammy Hassett, Events Director  
James Auville, Maintenance Associate

## Mayor's Letter

Welcome to a full-blown spring, everyone, with sunshine, rain, flowers, pollen, and lots of outdoor events. Among the last is our upcoming RiverFest & Craft Show, which as always will take place on the first full weekend in June — this year that's the 7th & 8th. Like our fall show, this is an important source of revenue for town capital projects, so please try to take some time to patronize some of the nearly 300 vendors and help make the event a success. Of course, don't forget that the 17th Annual Duck Splash Race is part of the fun. We also could still use volunteers to help out, so please check out the information elsewhere in this newsletter and on the town web site for more on vendors, street closures, volunteer needs, and everything else.

Last month the town council held public hearings and voted on the tax rates and budget for fiscal year 2026, which begins July 1. All tax rates remain the same, with the exception of a new levy on retail cigarette sales (of which there are currently none) that brings us in line with other Virginia jurisdictions. Check out the town web site for detailed information on the budget and tax rates, as well as on a series of recommendations from the Planning Commission compiled over a year's time that are helping guide town planning.

There are a number of organizations and businesses I would like to congratulate this month. First, I would like to congratulate two new(ish) businesses in town. To Bee, opened on May 11 on 308 Poplar Alley, and Leaf & Petal, re-opened at their new location at 204 Washington Street. We appreciate both of you choosing to locate in Occoquan. Second, I want to once again thank VFW Post 7916 for their role in placing the military tribute banners throughout town beginning on Memorial Day weekend. These banners are now a great town tradition that honors our veterans.

Last, don't forget that on Friday, June 20, we have our monthly Trivia Night in River Mill Park, where the theme this month is the Great Brain Bake-Off (and I, too, have no idea what that means). As always, thank you for your support and please don't hesitate to contact me at [eporta@occoquanva.gov](mailto:eporta@occoquanva.gov) with any comments, questions, or concerns.

## 17th Annual Duck Splash



Occoquan non-profit Patriots For Disabled Divers is hosting its annual Duck Splash fundraiser on Sunday, June 8th. Sponsor 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.

### How to Sponsor a Duck

There are two ways to sponsor a duck:

- Online: Sponsor a duck online through Friday, June 6 at 11:59 pm ET at [occoquantourism.com/2025-duck-splash](https://occoquantourism.com/2025-duck-splash)
- In Person: On Saturday, June 7 from 10am - 5pm and Sunday, June 8 from 10am - 11:45am at the Patriots for Disabled Divers booth on the corner of Mill & Washington streets.

## Trivia Night: Friday, June 20

Get your brain buzzing and join us for a night of fun, friendly competition in River Mill Park! Test your smarts with six rounds of trivia, and you might just walk away with the \$100 Grand Prize! June's theme is The Great Brain Bake-Off.



Tickets are \$30 per group and can be up to 8 people. Register ahead or purchase a spot at the door. You can purchase season subscription tickets for all dates and for more information by visiting: [visitoccoquanva.com/trivia](https://visitoccoquanva.com/trivia).

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

### June 7 & 8 RiverFest & Craft Show

### June 17 Town Council Meeting 7:00 pm

### June 19 Juneteenth Town Hall Closed

### June 20 Trivia Night 7 pm - 9 pm

### June 20 Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

### June 24 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 7 & 8

Get ready for a vibrant weekend at RiverFest, where the historic district transforms into a lively hub of creativity and family fun! The event will be held on both **Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 5pm, June 7 & 8**. Nearly 300 vendors, including talented artisans, line the streets, showcasing their unique arts and crafts.



The annual **Duck Splash** hosted by Patriots for Disabled Divers will take place on **Sunday, June 8 at 12 pm!** Exclusively during RiverFest weekend, Carefree Boat Club will be offering 45-minute **boat tours** on the Occoquan River. Head over to **Conservation Alley** for demonstrations, recycled crafts, music, and plenty of love for the natural world. Through the **Jr. Passport** program, kids can earn a Conservation Alley sticker badge while learning simple ways to protect our wildlife and water. River Mill Park, with its spectacular views of the river, will hold the **Beer Garden** and **Live Music**. Ample seating makes this a great place to take a break, grab a drink, and enjoy food from the food court.

RiverFest & Craft Show is free admission, though shuttle service is \$8, round trip. More information can be found at [occoquanfestivals.com](https://occoquanfestivals.com).

## 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. Sign up at: [occoquanfestivals.com/volunteer](https://occoquanfestivals.com/volunteer).

### STREET CLOSINGS

The following roads will be closed from 8 am to 6:30 pm on June 7 and 8: 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. For real-time updates, sign up for AlertOccoquan at: [occoquanva.gov/government/public-safety/alertoccoquan](https://occoquanva.gov/government/public-safety/alertoccoquan).

### 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, June 6, until 6:30 pm, Sunday, June 8. 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, June 3**, between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. Town Hall will observe extended hours until 6:00 pm on Tuesday, June 3, 2025.