

Town Council Actions: July 2025

- Executed the FY 2026 Contract for Trash, Recycling, Bulk and Yard Waste Collection to Bates Trucking.
- Rescheduled the August 5th Town Council Meeting to August 6th.

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

National Night Out: August 5

Join the Occoquan Police Department Night Out on August 5, 2025 from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Route 123 bridge parking lot on Mill Street. Activities include meeting and chatting with members of the Occoquan Police Department, testing your skills on a nerf target range, seeing public safety vehicles up close, touring the police boat, trying on public safety gear, and playing crime solving games. National Night Out is a national community-building campaign that provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together!



OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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August 2025

TOWN COUNCIL

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

At the time I am writing, the heat has been brutal for an extended period. When you receive this, hopefully we will have experienced some relief; nevertheless I encourage you to continue to take appropriate precautions and be alert for others who might be in distress.

Speaking of the heat, because of it we had to postpone our July Trivia Night in River Mill Park. As a result, we will have two trivia nights in August — one on August 1 and the regularly-scheduled event on August 15. We always have fun at trivia nights, so we hope you will take an opportunity to participate or watch some of the action.

In August we will also feature a first-time event in Occoquan, our Snakehead Roundup, which will take place in River Mill Park on Sunday, August 3, from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. This unique event for the town will bring attention to legal fishing practices, open a normally off-limits area for anglers, and help curb an invasive species that happens to be good eating. Then on August 5, our police department and other first responders will participate in the National Night Out from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Route 123 bridge parking lot. Check out elsewhere in this newsletter and on the town web site for additional information on all these events.

Some of you have probably noticed changes in the areas around the Mill House Museum. A vehicle struck the fence adjacent to the structure and the town has contracted for its repair. Additionally, the exterior of the Mill House Museum itself is undergoing some changes to make it more welcoming. Also, I want to thank to our growing group of volunteers in Occoquan, some of whom recently participated in a gardening-related project that included the removal of invasive plant species. And last I want to express my appreciation to Jim Drakes and Ann Kisling, who recently stepped down from the BZA and Planning Commission, respectively, for all their time and effort over the years.

As always, thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Volunteer for Board Vacancies

The Planning Commission is seeking two volunteers to serve through December 31st, 2026. The Planning Commission meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

The Board of Zoning Appeals is seeking one volunteer to serve through January 31st, 2027.

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).

Snakehead Roundup

The Town of Occoquan, Virginia will permit fishing exclusively for northern snakehead fish in **River Mill Park on Sunday, August 3 between 8 pm to 11 pm**.

In this pilot event, licensed fishers will be encouraged to catch and kill the **invasive** northern snakehead species from the River Mill Park area of town. Town staff and police will provide on-site monitoring to ensure compliance with all rules, public safety, and park integrity.

Trivia Night: Friday, August 15

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! August's theme is Mindbender Bonanza.



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.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

August 3

Snakehead Roundup

8 pm - 11 pm

August 5

National Night Out

6:00 pm

August 6

Town Council Meeting

7:00 pm

August 15

Trivia Night

7 pm - 9 pm

August 20

Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

August 26

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 27 & 28

The **Fall Arts & Crafts Show** will return **September 27 & 28, 2025**! The event will run from 10 am to 5 pm both days and featuring over 300 vendors in over 20 categories. 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.

Volunteers Needed!

The **Fall Arts & Crafts Show** is **September 27 & 28** 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.

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.

Celebrate Occoquan

This inaugural fundraiser event supports Visit Occoquan, a nonprofit committed to supporting the preservation, growth, and tourism of historic downtown Occoquan! The event will be held on Monday, September 15, 2025 at the Mill Street Beer Garden, at 6 pm. All proceeds benefit 501c3 nonprofit, Visit Occoquan Inc. Get your tickets at visitoccoquanva.com/celebrate.