

Town Council Actions: July 2026

- Adopted a Remote Participation Policy for Town Council members
- Discussed the Visit Occoquan FY2026 Annual Report
- Discussed the 2026 - 2036 Comprehensive Plan

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 4

Join the Occoquan Police Department Night Out on August 4, 2026 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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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXII, ISSUE VIII 703-491-1918 August 2026

TOWN COUNCIL

Ernest 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
Jason Forman, Deputy Chief of Police
Megan Lubash, Asst. Town Manager/Town Clerk
Philip Auville, Deputy Town Treasurer
Kristin Shaw, Town Treasurer
Tammy Hassett, Events Director
Jordan Sanders, Administrative Assistant

Mayor's Letter

This time last year I wrote about something we have again been experiencing — prolonged periods of excessive heat, this time buttressed for a few days by wildfire smoke. Hopefully, the recent relief we have been experiencing will continue and expand during the coming month. In the meantime, please take precautions and be on the lookout for others who might be in distress. There are some suggestions about dealing with the heat elsewhere in this newsletter.

We have a number of events coming up in town during the month. August 4th is National Night Out and once again police and first responders will be set up under the Route 123 bridge from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. to interact with the public. On Sunday, August 9, more than 25 Occoquan businesses will be participating in another day of Swords, Brooms, & Magical Beasts. Then, on Friday, August 21, the town will hold its popular monthly Trivia Night in River Mill Park. You can find more information on these events in some cases elsewhere in this newsletter or on the town web site, and on the web site of Visit Occoquan (www.visitoccoquanva.com).

Sadly, I also have to report on the deaths of three Occoquan residents over the last six weeks. On June 28, resident Melissa Hollis was found deceased in her home. Then, on July 10, resident John Grace, who could sometimes be seen picking up trash in town, was killed outside of town in a pedestrian vehicle crash. Last, on Sunday July 26, Bobbie Frank passed away at Westminster. Prior to moving to Westminster, Bobbie was a long-time town resident, having served among other things on the town council, as the town's Craft Show Director during what some might characterize as its golden age, and as a long-time board member of the Occoquan Historical Society. She was also a very dear friend. Please keep these individuals and their families and friends in your thoughts during this difficult time.

Thank you all for your support of our community and please feel free to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any comments, questions, or concerns.

Ernest W. Porta, Jr.

STAY SAFE DURING EXTREME HEAT

With high temperatures and humidity, it's important to take extra precautions to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your pets. Drink plenty of water, limit outdoor activities during the hottest parts of the day, wear lightweight clothing, and never leave children or pets in a parked vehicle—even for a few minutes.

Pets need extra care, too. Make sure they have access to fresh water and shade, avoid walking them on hot pavement that can burn their paws, and keep them indoors whenever possible during peak heat.

Extreme heat can be especially dangerous for older adults, young children, and those with medical conditions. Take a moment to check on neighbors, friends, and family members who may need assistance to ensure they are staying cool and hydrated.

Your kindness and preparation can help keep our Occoquan community safe all summer long.

Trivia Night: Friday, August 21

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! Join us for a night of friendly competition.



Tickets are \$35 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 4
National Night Out
6:00-8:00 pm

August 18
Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm

August 20
Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

August 21
Trivia Night
6:30-8:30pm

August 25
Planning Commission
6:00 pm
Architectural Review Board
7:30 pm

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

Fall Arts & Craft Show: September 26 & 27

The **Fall Arts & Crafts Show** will return **September 26 & 27, 2026!** 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** for an experience all their own! New this year is Art Park in Mammie Davis Park. This is an interactive experience where makers will showcase their skills throughout the day. The Fall Arts & Crafts Show is free admission, though shuttle service is \$10, round trip. More information can be found at occoquanfestivals.com/fall.

Volunteers Needed!

The Fall Arts & Crafts Show is September 26 & 27 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,

GRATITUDE

Thank you to those who have volunteered in the past and continue to dedicate their time to ensure attendees and vendors alike have an enjoyable weekend in Occoquan. It is because of you that Craft Show runs as smooth as it does and why it is such a beloved event.