

## Town Council Actions: September 2019

The following items are extracts of recent Town Council actions and are not official meeting minutes. The most recent approved Town Council minutes and agendas are available online at [www.occoquanva.gov](http://www.occoquanva.gov). All votes are unanimous unless noted otherwise.

- Received a staff presentation on the Stormwater Work Plan
- Provided additional funding for the On-Call Financial Service Contract, to cover additional hours of service (\$6,210)
- Accepted the grant funding from the Department of Motor Vehicles pass-through funding from the National Highway Safety Traffic Safety Administration, approved the local match funding of \$6,632.
- Approved the Dredging Participation Contract for an amount not to exceed \$5,000.
- Adopted Energy Efficiency Day Proclamation

## OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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### TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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Occoquan, VA 22125

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# OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXVI, ISSUE X

(703) 491-1918

OCTOBER 2019

### TOWN COUNCIL

Earnie Porta, Mayor  
Patrick A. Sivigny, Vice Mayor  
J. Matthew Dawson  
Cindy Fithian  
Laurie Holloway  
Eliot Perkins



### TOWN HALL STAFF

Kathleen Leidich, Town Manager  
Chris Coon, Deputy Town Manager  
Adam Linn, Chief of Police  
Carla Rodriguez, Town Treasurer  
Julie Little, Events Director  
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor  
Pam Holbert, Administrative Asst.

## Mayor's Letter

I would like to start this month by thanking our Events and Community Development Director, Julie Little, as well as all the Town staff and the wonderful volunteers who helped make our recent 50th anniversary fall Arts & Crafts Show a success. Events such as the show, as many of you know, are the Town's main source of revenue for capital projects, deferred maintenance, and other initiatives that would otherwise require tax revenues to support. We are grateful both to everyone who was able to help and to those who were able to attend the show.

October is an especially busy month in Occoquan. On Saturday, October 5, the nonprofit Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO) will hold their annual fall river cleanup. This is FOTO's 20th anniversary and we are grateful that the Town is one of their cleanup sites. If you are interested in helping with the cleanup, please go to Town Hall between 9:00 a.m. and noon on the 5th. Supplies will be provided. On October 26, the Town will sponsor a new event called, *Spirits & Spirits*. Building on past Haunt the Town and other Halloween-themed events, *Spirits & Spirits* will run from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and feature a full day of activities for everyone. There is more information on this event elsewhere in this newsletter and on the Town web site. Stay tuned over coming weeks for information on additional events in the works for the month of October.

Please also be alert this month for announcements regarding upcoming public hearings on what is being referred to as the "Mill at Occoquan" project, a pending application for development of the riverfront parcels stretching from Ellicott Street to the Mill House Museum. This is a significant project in Occoquan's historic district and it is thus important that Planning Commission members, Town Council members, and the applicant receive community input. We are looking to secure larger space for future public meetings on the project, so please stayed tuned.

In closing I want to thank those of you who joined me for the Tanyard Hill Park hike and have volunteered to help develop the trail. Work days will be scheduled soon. As always, thank you for your continued support and encouragement. Please feel free to contact me at [eporta@occoquanva.gov](mailto:eporta@occoquanva.gov) with any comments, questions or concerns.

## Spirits and Spirits!

Haunt the Town of Occoquan and join us for all-day fun Halloween activities! This brand-new event features a full day of free activities for everyone, including kids' activities, a costume parade, a magic show, a Haunted Maze and a Spirit Garden with all your favorite beverages from 5pm to 10pm!

**KIDS HAUNT THE TOWN:** The day's events kick off at 11am to 2pm with Kids Haunt the Town activities, including tables for kids to get creative in making their own masks, constructing slime, face painting, tattoo art and more! At Riverwalk.

**COSTUME PARADE:** Then at 2pm, costumed kids of all ages are welcome to join in the Occoquan Costume Parade! Contestants will line up at the VDOT parking lot at 121 Poplar Lane and, led by the Mayor of Occoquan, will parade through town, ending up at River Mill Park where costume judging will commence! Judging categories include: Cutest, Scariest, Funniest, Most Original, and Family/Group. The best in each category wins First Prize ribbons and \$25 gift certificates!

**MAGIC SHOW:** Kids' events will culminate with a free magic show, featuring The Amazing Kevin at Town Hall, 314 Mill Street beginning at 4pm.

**HAUNTED MAZE:** Come prepared to be scared! This 35' by 40' Haunted Maze will have 15 themed areas with 32 "scare" zones. PG13. \$10 Admission. 305 Mill Street. Tickets available here.

**SPIRIT GARDEN:** Step right up! Your favorite spirits will be available for purchase in the garden adjacent to the Haunted Maze. Sponsored by Patriots for Disabled Divers.

In addition to these fun activities, Hauntingly Historic Occoquan Ghost Tours will host spooky town tours from 11am to 4pm. Prebook your tours here.

### Schedule of Events:

11am-2pm	Kids Haunt the Town, Riverwalk, 125 Mill Street
11am-4pm	Kids Maze, Patriot Scuba, 305 Mill Street
11am-4pm	Ghost Tours by Hauntingly Historic Occoquan Ghost Tours, Mamie Davis Park
2pm	Costume Parade and Contest, 121 Poplar Lane
3pm	Judging and Awards, River Mill Park
4pm	The Amazing Kevin Magic Show, Town Hall, 314 Mill Street
5pm-10pm	Spirit Garden and Haunted Maze, Patriot Scuba, 305 Mill Street

Free on-street and public lot parking is available in-town. In addition, off-site parking with free shuttle bus service is available from the Route 123 Commuter lot at the intersection of Old Bridge Road and Gordon Boulevard. The shuttle will run from 1pm to 10pm.

## October 2019

### Town Meetings and Events

*(All meetings are held at Town Hall, 314 Mill Street, unless otherwise noted.)*

**October 1:** Town Council Meeting  
7:00 p.m., Town Hall

**October 1-5:** Town Staff Work Week  
Town Hall open 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**October 5:** Town Clean Up

**October 15:** Town Council Work Session  
7:00 p.m., Town Hall

**October 16:** Town & Business Partnership Meeting  
6:00 p.m. Town Hall

**October 26:** Spirits & Spirits  
Historic Downtown 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

### Mill at Occoquan Development Public Hearing

The formal public review process for the Mill at Occoquan development application will start with the Planning Commission public hearing that will be scheduled for a future date. The public hearing will be the opportunity for members of the public to provide their comments and concerns regarding the application to the Planning Commission.

The development application consists of three (3) Special Exception Requests to allow 88 condominium units and 235-space integral parking structure on approximately .95 acres of B-1 zoned land located within the Town's Old and Historic District. The application also includes approximately 6,600 net square feet of retail space and removes the existing buildings and metal structure that occupy the site now.

The Mill at Occoquan-Special Exception Request 2019-001 includes the following three (3) applications:

- A request to exceed the height restriction in the B-1 District (35 ft.).
- A request to waive the setback requirement in the B-1 District (5ft.).
- A request to allow a residential use in the B-1 District

The formal application review process includes public hearings by the Planning Commission and the Town Council. The Town Council will make the final decision regarding the approval/denial of the application. For questions regarding the upcoming public hearings please contact the Town Manager at (703) 491-1918