

Occoquan Town Charter Update

During their September 7, 2021 meeting, Town Council will discuss proposed changes to the Occoquan Town Charter. The current charter dates to 1930 with revisions through 1993, and reflects the times in which it was written. The Council plans to ask the General Assembly to update the charter in several ways, giving the Town a Council-Manager form of government, updating the description of the Town's boundary by referencing prior acts of the General Assembly and court orders, providing for architectural control districts patterned on Middleburg's charter, updating the election dates for council members and the mayor, updating or deleting provisions governed by general state law, and deleting provisions found to be unconstitutional since 1930 (such as the power to prohibit vagrants). A public hearing on the charter is planned for October. Visit occoquanva.gov for updates and more information.

Refuse and Recycling Reminders

DID YOU KNOW? Trash cans and recycling containers cannot be stored at the front of your home or business. Be sure to bring your trash and recycling containers in from the curb as soon as possible after trash pick up (Wednesdays) and store them at the rear of your home or business or in a screened or enclosed trash receptacle storage area.

REMINDER! Glass is no longer recyclable through your single-stream recycling bin! Do not mix glass materials with your weekly recyclable collection. Either throw glass materials into the trash or collect and drop off your glass materials in a Purple Bin; several are located within Prince William and Fairfax Counties. Visit occoquanva.gov/refuse-and-recycling-collection for more information or to locate the closest Purple Bin.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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Occoquan, VA 22125

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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September 2021

TOWN COUNCIL

Earnest W. Porta, Jr., Mayor
Jenn Loges, Vice Mayor
Krys Bienia
Cindy Fithian
Laurie Holloway
Eliot Perkins



TOWN HALL STAFF

Kirstyn Jovanovich, Town Manager
Adam Linn, Chief of Police
Michele White, Town Clerk
Manuel Casillas, Town Treasurer
Julie Little, Events Director
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor

Mayor's Letter

Sometime this month we will hopefully leave the intense heat of summer behind and move into the more comfortable temperatures of the fall. And with that change we can look forward to our Fall Arts & Crafts Show, which will take place on September 25th & 26th. This event is a major source of funding for Town capital projects so we are looking forward to a successful show after a pandemic-related hiatus. As always, volunteers are critical to the show's success, so if you are able, please consider volunteering for a shift. There is more information elsewhere in this newsletter on how to do that. Other events in September include our highly-popular Trivia Night in River Mill Park, which will take place on September 17, and a wonderful new addition — four performances in the park of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by the Castaways Repertory Theatre, September 3-5.

Please note that September and October will include a number of Council work sessions, town meetings, and/or public hearings on a variety of issues of public interest. These will include discussions on the use of American Rescue Plan funds, a VDOT presentation on road improvement options that will affect commuter traffic in Town, and potential changes to the Town Charter, some of which are necessary to comply with the General Assembly's decision to move all municipal elections from May to November. If you are interested in any of these topics, please stay alert for announcements with more information.

As always, thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with questions, comments, or concerns. Enjoy the Labor Day weekend!

Earnest W. Porta, Jr.



**Occoquan Plays in the Park presents
A Midsummer Night's Dream
in River Mill Park, September 3-5!**

Come hang loose and dig a groovy 60's vibe as Castaways Repertory Theatre performs this classic on Labor Day weekend. Bring your camp chairs or a blanket to enjoy the show. It'll be outta sight!

September 3: 7pm

September 4: 2pm and 7pm

September 5: 2pm

Tickets at the door and in advance
at bit.ly/OCQMIDSUMMER

Admission Rates:

General: \$15

Package: 2 Patrons \$25

Senior: \$10

Kids 12 and under free!

Trivia in the Park: September 17

Bring a team of up to six people and rent a 10-ft picnic circle in the park. Bring your camp chairs or a blanket.

One circle can accommodate up to six team members; one circle/registration per team.

Occoquan Mayor Earnie Porta will emcee. Gate opens at 6:00 p.m. Trivia begins at 6:30 p.m. Grand Prize: \$100 in gift cards to spend in Occoquan!

Snacks and adult beverages will be available at the park that evening. Reminder: State law permits alcohol use by permit only; no personal inventory of alcohol or glass containers are allowed into the park. More information at occoquanva.gov!

**MEETINGS
& EVENTS**

SEPTEMBER 3, 4 & 5

A Midsummer Night's Dream

River Mill Park

September 3, 7 pm

September 4, 2 pm and 7 pm

September 5, 2 pm

SEPTEMBER 6

Town Hall Closed

Labor Day

SEPTEMBER 7

Planning Commission Meeting

6 pm

Town Council Meeting

7 pm

SEPTEMBER 17

Trivia Night

7 pm – 9 pm

River Mill Park

SEPTEMBER 20

Meals and Transient

Occupancy Taxes Due

SEPTEMBER 21

Town Council Meeting

7 pm

SEPTEMBER 25 & 26

Fall Arts & Crafts Show

SEPTEMBER 28

Architectural Review Board

7:30 pm

SEPTEMBER 29

Planning Commission

6:30 pm

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

**Occoquan Fall Arts and Crafts Show
Saturday, September 25 & Sunday, September 26
10am to 5pm | Rain or Shine**

Beer Garden & Bands in River Mill Park, 12pm to 5pm daily

Free Event Entry | \$5 Shuttle (Kids 12 and Under Free)

With nearly 200 vendors lining the historic streets of Occoquan, we are looking forward to the return of this great open-air weekend full of fun, food, and shopping! In addition to the hundreds of art, craft, and food vendors along Mill, Washington and Union Streets, the event will include a food court, kids' activities, and a beer garden featuring local craft brews from Water's End Brewery in River Mill Park both days from 12 pm to 5 pm. *Just Wanna Play* is Saturday's featured band with *Redacted* playing for the first time in Occoquan on Sunday.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Interested in volunteering your time and talents to the Arts and Crafts show? This two-day event draws thousands of people to town and is successful due to the support of people like YOU! To volunteer or find out more information, email jlittle@occoquanva.gov.

STREET CLOSINGS

The following roads will be closed to traffic and public parking from 8 am to 6:30 pm on September 25 and 26: 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.

CRAFT SHOW PARKING

Free parking permits will be available to businesses and residents living or working in the event area for parking under the Route 123 bridge from 10 pm, Friday, Sept. 24, until 6:30 pm, Sunday, Sept. 26. Due to limited parking spaces, only one permit per business or household within the event area - first come, first served - will be issued. If you are unsure if you live or work in the event area, please view the map online at occoquanva.gov. Permits will be available at Town Hall beginning on Tuesday, September 21, from 9 am to 7 pm, and will be available daily from 9 am to 4 pm until Friday, or until all permits are issued, whichever comes first; no holds or reservations.

Shuttle riders are asked to wear a face covering when riding the event shuttle, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.

For more information, visit occoquanva.gov/town-festivals.

The health and well-being of our residents, patrons, businesses, and local community is paramount. The Town of Occoquan continues to closely monitor information from the Center for Disease Control and local authorities to guide decisions about town events. Updates will be posted on the event website.