

Town Council Actions: September 2021

- Presented a Resolution of Recognition to Ms. Betsy Merklein on the occasion of her retirement
- Adopted a Resolution of Remembrance of the 20th Anniversary of September 11th
- Received a presentation of and accepted the FYE2020 Financial Audit
- Accepted the DMV NHTSA Highway Safety Grants
- Approved Site Plan SP-2021-006, a driveway expansion for 102 Poplar Lane
- Approved an encroachment license with 203 Union Street LLC for improvements in the ROW on Poplar Alley
- Approved Site Plan SP-2021-005, for improvements at 126 Mill Street for the Occoquan Beer Garden
- Approved Site Plan SP-2021-008, for concrete driveway and parking lot at 301 Commerce Street
- Set a public hearing for October 5, 2021 for the Town Charter Update
- Approved updated Architectural Review Board Design Guidelines
- Adopted a Resolution to refer subdivision and site plan amendments to the Planning Commission
- Approved the installation of a historic marker within the town addressing Valentine Peyton
- Appointed members to the Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission
- Hosted representatives from VDOT and PWC who provided a presentation on the Woodbridge Area STARS Study—Route 123 and Old Bridge Road Intersection
- Adopted a resolution of endorsement of PWC's application for the Ellicott Street Sidewalk (Occoquan Greenway Connection) project location in the Town of Occoquan

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

Free Confidential Document Shred: Saturday, October 23 at Pfitzner Stadium

The Prince William County Solid Waste Division will hold a free document shred event for Prince William residents on Saturday, Oct. 23, 8 a.m. to noon (or until trucks reach capacity) at Pfitzner Stadium, 7 County Complex Court. This event is for residents. Only confidential documents such as bank statements and tax returns will be accepted. Paper clips (regular size) and staples do not have to be removed. Residents may bring the equivalent of up to four boxes (18"x12"x15") of paper for shredding at no charge. No business or commercial shredding will be accepted. More Information: www.pwcva.gov/trashandrecycling.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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P.O. Box 195
Occoquan, VA 22125

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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October 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

Thank you to everyone who helped make our returning fall Arts & Crafts Show such a success! The weather was wonderful, the staff did a fantastic job, and vendors and patrons were overwhelmingly positive. Of course, our Events and Community Development Director, Julie Little, deserves much of the credit for organizing and implementing this huge event, but all our staff made substantial contributions to the effort. Just as importantly, the show could not have been so successful without our diligent and committed volunteers who performed numerous invaluable functions. We're truly fortunate to have so many who are willing to contribute their time and skills to something that is such a key part of the Town's revenue stream. Thank you all!

As usual, October will be a busy month in Occoquan. We have our monthly Trivia Night in River Mill Park on October 15, the Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO) fall river cleanup on October 16, our first ever Karaoke Night in River Mill Park on October 22, the movie Hocus Pocus in River Mill Park on October 23, and on the 29th and 30th our Spirits and Sprints event for Halloween, which features a haunted maze with a bar and DJ, a costume parade and contest, and a late shopping night. Information on all these activities is available elsewhere in this newsletter or on the Town web site.

As mentioned in prior newsletters and communications, at its meeting on October 5 the Town Council will also be holding a public hearing on potential changes to the Town Charter. Last spring the Virginia General Assembly passed a law requiring that all local elections be held on the November general election date (rather than May as had been the case with Occoquan) starting in 2022. This would put Occoquan elections on a cycle that would coincide with presidential elections. As a result, the Town Council is considering changing terms from two to four years beginning with the November 2022 Town elections, which would keep Town elections on what is typically the least crowded and least partisan ballot (generally sharing space only with a Congressional and perhaps a U.S. Senate race). Other potential changes to the Charter include updating the Town boundary description, eliminating provisions that duplicate the Code of Virginia, and deleting unconstitutional provisions. Again, more information is available on the Town web site.

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



Hocus Pocus in River Mill Park, October 23

Disney's Hocus Pocus will screen in River Mill Park at 7 pm on Saturday, October 23. Popcorn, candy, and beverages will be available for purchase in the park. Tickets \$5 for adults. 12 & under free. Bring your own camp chairs or blankets. Outside food is allowed. No glass containers or outside alcohol permitted. Tickets available on [EventBrite](#) or at the door.

80's Night Trivia in the Park: October 15

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](#)!

Karaoke Night in River Mill Park, October 22

Come sing your heart out at our rescheduled Karaoke Night! Gates open at 6:30 in the park to request songs. Mayor Porta will kick off the event! Patriots for Disabled Divers will offer adult beverages and snacks from the DIVE Bar. Guests are asked to bring their own camp chairs. This event is free and open to the public.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

OCTOBER 2

OCQ River Paddle Challenge
10 am—Occoquan River
[paddleguru.com](#)

OCTOBER 5

Town Council Meeting
7 pm

OCTOBER 15

Trivia Night
7 pm – 9 pm, River Mill Park

OCTOBER 19

Town Council Meeting
7 pm

OCTOBER 20

**Meals and Transient
Occupancy Taxes Due**

OCTOBER 23

Movie Night in River Mill Park
7 pm, River Mill Park

OCTOBER 26

Architectural Review Board
7:30 pm

OCTOBER 27

Planning Commission
6:30 pm

OCTOBER 29 & 30

Spirits & Spirits
Historic Occoquan

OCTOBER 30

Costume Parade
10 am, 121 Poplar Alley Parking Lot

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

Spirits & Spirits, October 29 & 30, 2021



Get ready for a scary, spooky good time during Occoquan's Spirits & Spirits! For the adults and older brave kids, we have a PG13 Haunted Maze. For families and kids, there's a costume parade on Saturday, October 30 and opportunities to vote for the best decorations, jack-o-lanterns, and costumes at your favorite businesses around town! For more information on Spirits & Spirits, see [visitoccoquanva.com](#)

Haunted Maze & DIVE Bar, October 29 & 30

The spooky 35' by 40' Haunted Maze is back on October 29 & 30! Located in the parking lot behind D'Roccas, the maze will have 15 themed areas and 32 "scare" zones. The maze area will also have DJ dance music and special spooky spirits will be available at the DIVE Bar. \$10 admission. Food will also be available from D'Roccas Grill.

Vote & Win Passport Contest, October 29-30

Stroll through town and vote for the best decorations, costumes and jack-o-lanterns at your favorite businesses! Cast your vote and be entered to win gift cards to use around Occoquan.

Costume Parade & Contest, October 30

Costumed kids of all ages are welcome to join in the Occoquan Costume Parade! Line up at 10am at the 121 Poplar Alley parking lot and the Mayor will lead the group through town to River Mill Park, where costume judging will take place. Several winning categories will be available.

Shop Late!

Get a jump on your holiday shopping and join us for Shop Late nights this season in historic Occoquan, Virginia! Grab a drink or dinner and come do a little evening shopping at your favorite boutiques and galleries! Mark your calendars:

Saturday, October 30
Saturday, November 20
Saturday, December 11

For more information, see [visitoccoquanva.com](#).

