

Town Council Actions: September 2022

- Accepted the Department of Motor Vehicles' (DMV) pass-through grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHSTA) Highway Safety Grants.
- Continued a public hearing on zoning text amendments to add definitions to Town Code § 157.008 and to add a section numbered §157.013 generally relating to solar facilities.
- Adopted an Ordinance on Zoning Text Amendments to add Definitions to Town Code § 157.008 and to add a Section Numbered §157.013 Generally relating to Solar Facilities.
- Adopted a Resolution of Support for Prince William County's Grant Application to the Fiscal Year 2022 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program.
- Adopted a Resolution to Set the Schedule of Regular Town Council Meetings for Calendar Year 2023.
- Adopted a Resolution to Refer Amendments to the Town Code Generally Relating to Parking Structures to the Planning Commission.

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

Movie in the Park: *Beetlejuice*

Friday, October 21 at 7 pm in River Mill Park

Join us in **River Mill Park** at sundown on Friday night, **October 21** for this fun Halloween-themed (but PG13) movie. Tickets are \$10 each or 2 for \$15. Kids 12 & under are Free! Popcorn, candy, and kid & adult beverages will be available for purchase in the park. Bring your own chairs or blankets for this event. More info see: visitoccoquanva.com/movies



OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

OCCOQUANVA.GOV • INFO@OCCOQUANVA.GOV

TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

314 Mill Street
P.O. Box 195
Occoquan, VA 22125

CARRIER ROUTE
OCCOQUAN, VA 22125

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Occoquan, VA
Permit No. 19

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXV, ISSUE VV

703-491-1918

October 2022

TOWN COUNCIL

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



TOWN HALL STAFF

Adam Linn, Interim Town Manager & Chief of Police
Manuel Casillas, Town Treasurer
Philip Auville, Town Clerk
Julie Little, Events Director
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor
Matt Whitmoyer, Management Fellow

Mayor's Letter

I'd like to start this month by thanking our town staff and volunteers for all their hard work in making our recent fall Arts & Crafts Show a success. New features like the Emerging Artists corner, Imagination Alley, and the sip and stroll component, were all well received by the public, as was the transition to credit card/advance purchase of shuttle bus tickets. A special thanks, of course, goes out to our Events Director, Julie Little, who has the lead role in planning, organizing, and operating this important annual town event from which we generate funds for Town capital projects. None of it could have been accomplished, however, without the work of all the town staff and our numerous committed volunteers. Thank you everyone for your efforts!

As most of you know, once the fall Arts & Crafts Show concludes it's a sprint in Occoquan to the New Year, with a wide variety of events coming one after the other. This month Halloween is the theme, with a movie in River Mill Park on October 21. On the 28th we hold our final monthly Trivia Night of the year, and then follow it with our *Spirits and Spirits* event on the 28th and 29th, which features ghost tours, our annual costume parade and contest, a haunted maze and dive bar, and a shop late evening. Businesses also decorate themselves with costumed figures, jack-o-lanterns, and other items as part of the vote-and-win passport contest in which participating voters have a chance to win gift cards. Information on all these activities and more is contained elsewhere in this newsletter and on the town web site.

The town council this month expects to move forward with approval of some capital projects, so stay tuned for information on those in the coming weeks. Last, it is with sadness that I report on the passing of town resident, Thomas Gamez Brown. As always, thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact me at epor-ta@occoquanva.gov with any comments, questions, or concerns.

2023 Vehicle License Fee:

Reminder that Vehicle License fees will be due by **November 15th** and the Auto Decals displayed by **November 16th**. More information will be sent out via mail.

Haunted Maze & DIVE Bar:

Saturday, October 29 from 5-10 pm

On **Saturday, October 29** Patriot Scuba hosts the Haunted Maze at **305 Mill Street**, rated PG-13 (for adults and brave, older kids). Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance. More info: visitoccoquanva.com/spirits

General Admission: \$10
Kids 12 and under: \$5

Come prepared to be scared! Enter the maze through the spooky Spirit Garden,. Then quench your thirst at the DIVE bar as the DJ spins dance music fit for all ghosts and ghouls. All event proceeds from the Haunted Maze & Spirit Garden benefit local non-profit Patriots for Disabled Divers.

Trivia Night in River Mill Park: Friday, October 28

Join us for the last Trivia Night of the season! Test your knowledge during Murder and Mystery Trivia Night! Teams that come in costume get Bonus Points! Play six rounds of brain busters for your chance to win a \$100 gift card Grand Prize! Bring your up to 8-person team, camp chairs or blankets, and a packed picnic. Team registration is \$30.

6:00 pm Doors Open | 6:30 pm Start
Visit occoquanva.gov/trivia to register.



MEETINGS & EVENTS

October 10
Indigenous Peoples' Day/ Columbus Day

Town Hall Closed

October 18
Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm

October 20
Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

October 21
Movie in the Park
7:00 pm

October 25
Planning Commission
6:30 pm
Architectural Review Board
7:30 pm

October 28
Trivia Night
6:30 pm, River Mill Park

October 28 & 29
Spirits & Spirits

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

Spirits & Spirits: October 28 & 29, 2022

Get ready for a scary, spooky good time during Occoquan's **Spirits & Spirits!** If you aren't too scared, check out our spooky Haunted Maze! If you prefer your All Hallows' Eve to be on the tamer side, we have a costume parade and contest, plus a movie night for you. Occoquan can really get into the SPIRIT of things! This popular fall event is coming to Occoquan on **October 28-29, 2022**. More information can be found at visitoccoquanva.com/spirits.

Free shuttle service will be available **Saturday, October 29**. Park at the Rt. 123/Old Bridge commuter lot and be taken directly to the Haunted Maze and Spirit Garden!



Events Throughout Spirits & Spirits

Ghost Tours

October 28 - 29, at 7 pm: In Occoquan, we live and work along side our ghosts. Almost every home, pub, or business has at least one non-living resident that resides within. Take a haunted pub crawl (adults 21+) or tour. See occoquanspirits.com for updates.

Vote & Win! Passport Contest

October 28 - 29, all day: Stroll through town and vote for the best decorations, costumes and jack-o-lanterns at your favorite businesses! Cast your vote in the red mailbox at Town Hall and be entered to win gift cards to use around Occoquan.

Haunted Maze & DIVE Bar

October 29, from 5 - 10 pm: Come prepared to be scared! This haunted maze will have 15 themed areas with 32 "scare" zones. DJ dance music, firepits, and special spooky spirits are available at the Dive Bar, just in front of the Haunted Maze!

Costume Parade & Contest

October 29, at 10 am: Costumed kids of all ages are welcome to join in the Occoquan Costume Parade! Line up 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 with categories including: cutest, scariest, funniest, most original, and family/group. First place winners in each costume category will receive a \$25 gift certificate to be used at select businesses in town. There is no fee to participate in this event.

Shop Late

October 29: Get a head start on your holiday shopping by shopping late at your favorite businesses throughout town until **8 pm or later!**