

Real Estate Tax and Business License Tax Date Changes

An Ordinance was adopted by the Town Council on April 4th that changed the Real Estate Tax due date and the Business License and Tax due date. This Ordinance will go into effect starting July 1st, 2023. Below are the new due dates for each:

- The **Real Estate Tax** due date is changing to be due by or on **December 5th** for the tax based on the assessed value as established by the County on January 1st of each year.
- The **Business License (BPOL)** and the tax fee shall both be due on or before **March 1st** of each year.

To view recent actions please refer to the official meeting minutes for the Town of Occoquan by visiting occoquanva.gov/government/agenda-and-minutes.

*Music
ON
Mill*

OCCOQUAN'S FREE
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Music on Mill is a free summer concert series featuring family-friendly entertainment. Join us in River Mill Park for a lovely evening down by the river from 7 pm to 9 pm. These events are free and open to the public. Bring your camp chairs or a blanket, and don't forget your picnic basket.

2023 Schedule

Saturday, May 20: Mystery Machine (Rock)
Saturday, June 17: Maggie Shot Burns (Covers)
Saturday, July 15: Hand Painted Swinger (Rock)
Saturday, August 12: The 257th Army Band (Traditional)

Cancellations: Visit occoquanva.gov for weather updates or call 703-491-1918 two hours before the event for information.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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Occoquan, VA 22125

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May 2023

TOWN COUNCIL

Earnest W. Porta, Jr., Mayor
Jenn Loges, Vice Mayor
Nancy Freeborne Brinton
Theo Daubresse
Cindy Fithian
Eliot Perkins



TOWN HALL STAFF

Adam Linn, 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

May is the month when the Town Council is scheduled to hold public hearings and ultimately vote on Occoquan's tax rates and budget for fiscal year 2024, which begins July 1. Please note that the public hearing on the budget will take place at the May 2 Town Council meeting and the public hearing on the tax rates will take place at the May 16 Town Council meeting. The Council is scheduled to vote on adopting the budget and tax rates at the May 16 meeting. More information on the rates and budget under consideration may be found on the Town's website.

Our warm weather cycle of events also begins in May. The first "Music on Mill" concert event of the season will take place on Saturday, May 20, beginning at 7:00 p.m. and feature the rock band Mystery Machine. On the following Friday, May 26, our popular Trivia Nights in River Mill Park will kick off at 6:30 using the theme "Know it All." Now is a good time as well to get ready for our RiverFest and Craft Show on June 3rd and 4th. A new addition this year is the "Whatever Floats Your Boat" Parade on June 4, where you can decorate a human-powered river vessel (e.g., a raft, canoe, inflatable, dinghy, kayak, SUP, or rowboat) that expressed your creativity. As many of you know, RiverFest and the Fall Arts & Crafts Show are the town's main source of internal funding for capital projects and critical to keeping our real estate property rates low. So please encourage friends and relatives in the community to attend and patronize the vendors, including our own town businesses. Of course you can always contribute by volunteering for a shift or two at the event — there are plenty of opportunities available. More information on all these events and opportunities are contained elsewhere in this newsletter and on the town website.

Last, it is with great sadness that I report on the passing of former Occoquan Mayor Pat Conway. Pat was Mayor from 1998-2006 and passed away in Florida. Once again, I thank you all for your continued support of our community. Please feel free to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any comments, questions, or concerns.

Earnest W. Porta, Jr.

Whatever Floats Your Boat Parade, June 4

Help support the ecology and water quality of the Occoquan River and have a blast with your crew at the same time! Decorate a river vessel that expresses your creativity-- be it raft, canoe, inflatable, dinghy, kayak, or rowboat and join us for the Whatever Floats Your Boat Parade on June 4, 2023! Pro tip: OCQ residents can team up with their favorite business to make a bigger splash! Join the fun! The greater portion of registration fees goes toward Occoquan's Million Mighty Mussel Project. Enter by May 20. For more information, ideas, rules, and registration see www.occoquanva.gov or contact Julie Little at jlittle@occoquanva.gov.



Trivia Night: Friday, May 26

Trivia Nights are back! Test your knowledge during our outdoor Trivia Nights in River Mill Park! 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. This year, you can purchase season tickets for all dates and get the final night free! Food, drinks, adult beverages, and delicious treats are available for order right at your picnic circle, delivered directly to you and your trivia team by The Spot on Mill Street.

6:00 pm Doors Open | 6:30 pm Start

The 2023 season starts May 26, with the theme: "Know It All". See visitoccoquanva.com/trivia for the full schedule to register.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

MAY 2

**Town Council Meeting
FY2024 Budget Public Hearing**
7:00 pm

MAY 16

**Town Council Meeting
FY2024 Tax Rates Public Hearing**
7:00 pm

MAY 20

**Music on Mill Presents:
Mystery Machine (Rock)**
7 pm – 9 pm
River Mill Park

MAY 22

**Meals and Transient
Occupancy Taxes Due**

MAY 23

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

MAY 26

Trivia Night
6:30 pm
River Mill Park

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

Occoquan RiverFest & Craft Show: June 3 & 4

The **RiverFest & Craft Show** is back **June 3 & 4, 2023**, from 10 am to 5 pm each day, celebrating the historic town's natural beauty along the Occoquan River!

RiverFest will feature a full two days of activities for all ages, featuring over 200 vendor booths filling the streets. River Mill Park becomes the venue for our concerts and adult beverages. Families will enjoy the Jr. Passport program in Conservation Alley in the center of town, where we'll bring a strong focus on sustainability, recycling, and the importance of protecting our river ecosystem. Be sure to get tickets for the Kids Nature Puppet Show on Saturday and Reptile World on Sunday--both at Town Hall. Those longing to get out on the water will have their opportunity at RiverFest with kayak and stand-up paddleboard availability all weekend. Do not miss the first ever Whatever Floats Your Boat Parade on Sunday! Spectators can watch from the Town Dock, Conservation Alley, or at the footbridge, at 10:30 am. There's something for everyone at RiverFest! Mark your calendar for this fantastic event!

RiverFest & Craft Show is free admission, though shuttle service is \$8, round trip. More information can be found at visitoccoquanva.com/riverfest.

Volunteers Needed for RiverFest!

This two-day event draws thousands of people to town and is successful due to the support of our businesses and volunteers! To volunteer, email jlittle@occoquanva.gov.



STREET CLOSINGS

The following roads will be closed from 8 am to 6:30 pm on June 3 and 4: 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.

RIVERFEST PARKING - Event Area Residents and Businesses ONLY

Permits will be available to residents and businesses living or working in the historic district for parking under the Route 123 bridge from 10:00 pm, Friday, June 2, until 6:30 pm, Sunday, June 4. Due to limited parking spaces, only one permit per business or family - first come, first served - will be issued. Permits will be available at Town Hall beginning Tuesday, May 30, between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. Town Hall will observe extended hours until 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 30, 2023.