

Tax Rate Changes and Tax Due Dates Change

The Town Council has adopted the following Tax Rates effective July 1, 2023:

- Real Estate Taxes decreased to **\$.116** per \$100 of assessed value—down from \$.12
- Meals Tax raised to **3.5%** which is the lowest in Prince William County
- A \$30 fee was added to the Business Licenses (BPOL)

Also, the Town Council adopted an ordinance that changes the Real Estate Tax due date to **December 5th** each year and the Business License and associated tax are due on **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

Saturday, June 17: Maggie Shot Burns (Covers)

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. For cancellations, visit occoquanva.gov.

Friday, June 23: Homage to Hollywood

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! Team registration is \$30. For more information visit: occoquanva.gov/trivia.



OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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Occoquan, VA 22125

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June 2023

TOWN COUNCIL

Ernest 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

Last month the Town Council set the tax rates and budget for fiscal year 2024, which begins July 1. The real estate tax rate was reduced to \$0.116 per \$100 of value, while the meals tax rate was raised to 3.5%. Additionally, a \$30 fee was added to BPOL to be used exclusively for tourism marketing. All other rates remain unchanged. For more information on the town tax rates and budget please visit the town web site (www.occoquanva.gov).

June is a heavy month for events in Occoquan, starting with our RiverFest & Craft Show on June 3 & 4. This year's event features a variety of new activities, include the "Whatever Floats Your Boat Parade," a "Name the Island" Contest, and an auction of old Occoquan items. There is still a need for plenty of volunteers and of course, as always, I would like to ask that you encourage friends and relatives to visit and patronize the show's vendors, including our own town businesses. As many of you know, the spring and fall shows in Occoquan are the town's major source of funding for capital projects and we thus depend upon them to keep the real estate tax rate low. For more information on the show and to volunteer, please see elsewhere in this newsletter and check out the town's web site. Other events this month include a Music on Mill concert by Maggie Shot Burns in River Mill Park on June 17 and our monthly Trivia Night in the park on June 23.

June 16 is the deadline for our exciting Mural Contest, in which we solicit artist proposals for a large mural to be installed on the retaining wall at the intersection of Route 123 and Commerce Street. Selection of the winning mural is scheduled for next month. On June 15 at Town Hall from 5:00 to 7:00 there will be a public viewing of the initial draft Riverwalk Vision Plan reflecting community feedback to date. Last this month, I am pleased to report that the town has received a grant of almost \$85,000 from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation for a flood prevention and management study, which will begin soon.

Once again, thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Ernest W. Porta, Jr.

Whatever Floats Your Boat Parade, June 4

Get ready to watch the first ever Whatever Floats Your Boat Parade on the Occoquan River, Sunday, June 4-10:30am launch. Entrants have creatively decorated a river vessel and will paddle, or row the 1/2 mile along the coastline of town to arrive at the Occoquan footbridge by 11am where judging will take place. Mayor Porta will lead the parade! Visitors can watch the parade from the Town Dock, Conservation Alley, or at the footbridge. The award ceremony is at 2pm in River Mill Park.



Mural Contest

Calling all local artists! The Town is hosting a mural contest and the awarded artist will install their work on the retaining wall at the intersection of Route 123 and Commerce Street. The goal is to bring more visitors into the area and create a town entrance that reflects the history and natural beauty of Occoquan. One finalist will be selected from the submissions received and awarded \$5,000 by the Town to create their proposed design. **The deadline for submitting entries is June 16th.** The selection of the winner will be in July and installation will occur between August and September. For more information visit: occoquanva.gov/public-art.

Occoquan Riverwalk Vision Plan Review: June 15

Join us on **Thursday, June 15th** at **Town Hall** between **5pm to 7pm** for a public open house of the revealing of the draft Occoquan Riverwalk Vision Plan. Your input will be used to help finalize the Riverwalk Vision Plan.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

June 3 & 4
RiverFest & Craft Show
10 am to 5 pm

June 6
Town Council Meeting:
Public Hearings to Amend Zoning Code and Amend Sign Ordinance
7:00 pm

June 17
Music on Mill Presents:
Maggie Shot Burns (Covers)
7 pm – 9 pm
River Mill Park

June 20
Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm

June 20
Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

June 23
Trivia Night
6:30 pm
River Mill Park

June 27
Planning Commission
6:30 pm
Architectural Review Board
7:30 pm

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

Occoquan RiverFest & Craft Show: June 3 & 4

When: Saturday, June 3 - Sunday, June 4

Open: 10 am - 5 pm

Where: Historic District, Occoquan, VA

Admission: FREE

Shuttles: \$8 Round Trip, 12 and under Free

Details: [OccoquanFestivals.com](https://occoquanfestivals.com)



Saturday, June 3:

10 am - 5 pm: Arts & Crafts and Sip & Stroll

10 am - 5 pm: Conservation Alley & Jr. Passport

12:30 pm and 2 pm: Kids Nature Puppet Show, Town Hall

12 pm - 4 pm: Concert, RMP

12 pm - 5 pm: Beer & Wine Garden, RMP

Sunday, June 4:

10 am - 5 pm: Arts & Crafts and Sip & Stroll

10 am - 5 pm: Conservation Alley & Jr. Passport

10:30 am - Whatever Floats Your Boat Parade

12:30 pm and 2 pm: Reptile World, Town Hall

12 pm - 4 pm: Concert, RMP

12 pm - 5pm: Beer & Wine Garden, RMP

There's Still Time to Volunteer 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, use the easy sign up link and pick your shift at occoquanfestivals.com or call Town Hall at 703 491 1918.

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. Passes must be picked up in-person; no holds.