

## Town Council Actions: June 2023

- Held Public Hearings on the two zoning text amendments and sign ordinance amendment noted below.
- Adopted an Ordinance Relating to the Use of Temporary Trailers for Real Estate Sales and Construction Uses.
- Adopted an Ordinance to allow the Zoning Administrator Authority to Make Modifications from the Zoning Ordinance.
- Adopted an Ordinance to Amend the Sign Ordinance.
- Adopted an Ordinance to raise the Meal and Food Tax Rate to 3.5% starting July 1, 2023.
- Adopted an Ordinance to Amend Council Remote Participation.

*Music  
ON Mill*  
OCCOQUAN'S FREE  
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

### Saturday, July 15: Hand Painted Swinger (Rock)

**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](http://occoquanva.gov).

### Trivia Night! Fridays, July 7 & 21

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](http://occoquanva.gov/trivia).



## OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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### TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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

CARRIER ROUTE  
OCCOQUAN, VA 22125

# OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXX, ISSUE VII

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July 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  
Matt Whitmoyer, Deputy Town Manager  
Manuel Casillas, Town Treasurer  
Philip Auville, Town Clerk  
Julie Little, Events Director  
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor

## Mayor's Letter

I would like to start off this month by proffering a heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in our annual RiverFest and Craft Show. It is quite gratifying how many of you regularly volunteer to help make town events a success and this last RiverFest was no exception. As you know, our spring and fall shows are a critical source of funding for the town budget and without all of you they would simply not be possible. Special thanks as always to our Events Director, Julie Little, and our great staff from our Town Manager, Adam Linn, through the entire organizational chart. We appreciate all you do.

We have no shortage of town events in July, of course, As a result of a previous rainout we will be hosting two Trivia Nights in River Mill Park this month, on July 7 and July 21. Between them we will also have another free Music on Mill concert on Saturday, July 15, featuring the rock band "Hand Painted Swinger." More information on these events is available in this newsletter and on the town web site. Tickets for the annual Duck Splash race held in town (scheduled for August 13) are also expected to go on sale shortly, so keep an eye out for more information on that as well. To wrap up on coming events, although we do not host July 4th fireworks in town, there are a number of nearby locations that do, and staff have provided more information for you on those opportunities elsewhere in this newsletter.

July 1 starts a new fiscal year for the town and as those of you who have been following the budget process know, there have been some modest adjustments in two of the town's tax rates. While the meals tax has been increased slightly (still lower than surrounding jurisdictions) the town real estate tax rate has been lowered slightly. A summary of the town tax rates and budget is included in this newsletter and more details are available on the town web site.

Once again everyone, thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact me at [eporta@occoquanva.gov](mailto:eporta@occoquanva.gov) if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

*Earnest W. Porta, Jr.*

## Independence Day Fireworks

- **Workhouse Arts Center:** Saturday, July 1st, 6pm to 10pm, 9518 Workhouse Way
- **Celebrate America, Historic Manassas:** July 4th, 4 pm - 9 pm; fireworks display 9:15 pm
- **Fourth of July Celebration, Manassas Park:** July 1st, 5pm to 10pm, Signal Hill Park
- **Independence Day Parade, Fairfax City:** July 4th, 10 am Downtown Fairfax
- **Independence Day Evening Show, Fairfax City:** July 2nd from 6:30pm to 10:30pm, Fairfax High School; no public on-site parking available

## Occoquan Visitor's Guide Discounts

The Town of Occoquan Residents and Businesses receive discounted rates and early access to advertisement spots in our popular Visit Occoquan Visitor's Guide. The deadline for the 2023 Fall/Holiday issue is Wednesday, August 9th.

Purchase for the full year and receive 10% OFF! Learn more or register today at [visi-  
toccoquanva.com/  
visitorsguide](https://www.visitoccoquanva.com/visitorsguide).



## RiverFest & Craft Show Thank You!

What a spectacular two days to host the annual RiverFest & Craft Show! A profound thank you to residents, businesses, visitors, and volunteers for all of their efforts in helping to make RiverFest a success! We are already planning and looking forward to the annual Fall Arts & Crafts Show on September 23 and 24 - we can't wait to see you all again!

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

**July 4**  
**Independence Day**  
Town Hall Closed

**July 7**  
**Rescheduled Trivia Night**  
6:30 pm  
River Mill Park

**July 15**  
**Music on Mill Presents:  
Hand Painted Swinger (Rock)**  
7 pm – 9 pm  
River Mill Park

**July 18**  
**Town Council Meeting**  
7:00 pm

**July 20**  
**Meals and Transient  
Occupancy Taxes Due**

**July 21**  
**Trivia Night**  
6:30 pm  
River Mill Park

**July 25**  
**Planning Commission**  
6:30 pm  
**Architectural Review Board**  
7:30 pm

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

## Fiscal Year 2024 Adopted Budget

At its May 16, 2023 meeting, the Occoquan Town Council adopted the Town's FY 2024 Budget and Tax Rates following two public hearings.

		FY 2023	FY 2024	Difference	+ / (-)
General Fund	Rev	\$1,227,546	\$1,316,017	\$88,471	7%
	Exp	\$1,227,546	\$1,316,017	\$88,471	7%
Events Fund	Rev	\$256,870	\$301,225	\$44,355	17%
	Exp	\$196,223	\$234,280	\$38,057	19%
Mamie Davis Fund	Rev	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.0%
	Exp	\$5,000	\$0	(\$5,000)	(100%)
E-Summons Fund	Rev	\$12,000	\$11,500	(\$500)	(4%)
	Exp	\$0	\$3,150	\$3,150	75%
Capital Improvement Fund	Rev	\$1,032,704	\$2,020,502	\$987,798	96%
	Exp	\$1,032,704	\$2,020,502	\$987,798	96%

The FY 2024 Budget decreases the Real Estate Tax Rate to \$0.116 per \$100 of assessed value — down from \$0.12, with a new due date change to December 5th each year. The Meals Tax Rate increased to 3.5% which is the lowest in Prince William County and the Transient Tax Rate was maintained at 7%. The Adopted Budget is available online at [occoquanva.gov](https://www.occoquanva.gov).

## Sign Code Changes

The Town Council adopted an Ordinance at the June 6th meeting that made changes to the Sign Code for the Historic District. Below is a list of changes to the Sign Code:

- A-frame signs are now restricted to only one without a permit, must not be made of plastic, must use a chalkboard.
- Clarify the definitions and number limits of permanent signage.
- Changes to window signs, sign structures, and more.

For more information on the Sign Code changes visit: [occoquanva.gov/business/sign-permits](https://www.occoquanva.gov/business/sign-permits)