

## Town Council Actions: July 2023

- Held a Public Hearing to Vacate a Parking Easement at the Townes of Occoquan Mill.
- Approved the Deed of Vacation of the Parking Easement to the Townes of Occoquan Mill.
- Adopted an Ordinance to Amend Sections 78.03 and 78.04 of the Town Code Relating to Shared Mobility Systems.
- Adopted a Resolution Naming the 19th Century Army Corps of Engineers Dike in the Occoquan River to "Heron's Haven" from the submission of Tom and Mary Craig.
- Approved the Forthcoming Contract and a Not-to-Exceed amount of \$15,000 for the Seasonal Shuttle Pilot.
- Held Presentations on the Mural Finalists and Selected Alethea Robinson's design as the Mural Design awardee.

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

### Saturday, August 12: The 257th Army Band (*Traditional*)

**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).

### Friday, August 18: Favorite Things

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

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OCCOQUAN, VA 22125

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# OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXX, ISSUE VIII

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August 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  
Philip Auville, Town Clerk  
Manuel Casillas, Assistant Town Treasurer  
Julie Little, Events Director  
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor

## Mayor's Letter

I am pleased to start this month by congratulating the winners of our "Name the Island" and Route 123 mural contests. Occoquan residents Tom and Mary Craig's entry, "Heron's Haven," was selected as the name for the island adjacent to the Route 123 bridge that sits on the remains of the Army Corps of Engineers dike built in the 1890s. A sign with this name will be placed on the island through June of 2024, at which time it will be given to Tom and Mary while a new name is selected in this annual RiverFest contest. Congratulations also to Alethea Marie Robinson, whose beautiful mural was selected from three finalists to grace a portion of the wall at the Route 123 entrance to town. Stay tuned to watch the mural go up. Thank you to everyone who submitted entries for this latest town public art project.

We have a number of events occurring in town during the month of August. Our Community Partnership Breakfast will take place on August 1. That same evening from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. we encourage you to join the Occoquan Police Department in the main parking lot under the Route 123 bridge for National Night Out. The weekend of August 12-13 will feature our annual Discover Occoquan activity, with a treasure hunt and shop late event, a free concert in River Mill Park by the 257th Army Band, and our annual Duck Splash Race. Then on August 18 we will host our monthly Trivia Night in River Mill Park. Information on all of these is available elsewhere in this newsletter and on the town web site.

Last for this month, I am pleased to report that the Town Council has approved a seasonal shuttle pilot program for the fall in an attempt to address parking challenges in the historic business district. More information on this will be forthcoming. Once again I would like to thank you for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [epor-ta@occoquanva.gov](mailto:epor-ta@occoquanva.gov) with any questions, comments, or concerns.

*Earnest W. Porta, Jr.*

## National Night Out: August 1

Join the Occoquan Police Department for National Night Out on August 1, 2023 from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Route 123 bridge parking lot on Mill Street. Meet and chat with members of the Occoquan Police Department. National Night Out is a national community-building campaign that provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together!



## Fall Arts & Craft Show: September 23 & 24, 2023

The **Fall Arts & Crafts Show** is back **September 23 & 24, 2023**, from 10 am to 5 pm each day and featuring over 250+ artisans, makers, and creators. You'll have the opportunity to meet emerging and experienced artisans, talk to them about their work, and view demonstrations of some of their craft techniques.



You'll have the opportunity to indulge in festival fare and enjoy live music in the **Beer & Wine Garden** in River Mill Park, the perfect spot to take a break. Kids will want to stop by **Imagination Alley** to create their own art through workshops. The Fall Arts & Crafts Show is free admission, though the shuttle service is \$8, round trip. More information can be found at [occoquanfestivals.com/fall](https://occoquanfestivals.com/fall).

## Volunteers Needed!

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](mailto:jlittle@occoquanva.gov) or sign up here: [occoquanfestivals.com/volunteer](https://occoquanfestivals.com/volunteer).

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

**August 1**  
**National Night Out**

**August 1**  
**Community Partnership Breakfast**

**August 11 - 13**  
**Discover Occoquan**

**August 12**  
**Music on Mill Presents:**  
**The 257th Army Band**  
**(Traditional)**

7 pm – 9 pm  
River Mill Park

**August 15**  
**Town Council Meeting**  
7:00 pm

**August 18**  
**Trivia Night**  
6:30 pm  
River Mill Park

**August 21**  
**Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due**

**August 22**  
**Planning Commission**  
6:30 pm  
**Architectural Review Board**  
7:30 pm

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

## Discover Occoquan: August 11 - 13, 2023

Celebrate all things Occoquan with a weekend of activities including a family treasure hunt, concert in the park, shop late night, and special offerings from businesses around town. Plus don't miss our always-popular Duck Splash fundraiser! Details and schedules can be found at [vistoccoquanva.com/discover](https://vistoccoquanva.com/discover).



## Events Throughout the Weekend

### Family Treasure Hunt

**August 12, 11am to 4pm:** Kids, adults, and families are all invited to solve fun clues around town to win prizes in our Town Treasure Hunt! The hunt will begin at Occoquan Town Hall.

### Concert in the Park and Shop Late

**August 12:** Known as the Band of the Nation's Capital, we are pleased to welcome the **257th Army Band** back this summer as part of our Music on Mill concert series in River Mill Park from **7-9pm**. Don't forget to also shop late at your favorite businesses, with many being open until 8pm or later.

### Duck Splash

**August 13, at 12pm:** Adopt a numbered rubber duck from Patriot Diving, then join us Sunday to watch it race along the Occoquan River with hundreds of other ducks! \$5 to adopt your duck. Winners receive \$20 – 500 depending on their place in the race. All proceeds benefit the Occoquan non-profit, Patriots for Disabled Divers. Buy your tickets online at [occoquantourism.com/2023-duck-splash](https://occoquantourism.com/2023-duck-splash).

## Community Partnership Breakfast: August 1

Join us for a networking partnership breakfast hosted by the Town of Occoquan on **Tuesday, August 1 from 9 - 10:30am**. During this open house, you will learn ways to boost your business through event sponsorships, partnership, and advertising opportunities. Town staff, including Mayor Porta and the Director of Events, Julie Little, will discuss upcoming events and talk with local business owners in and outside of town about new opportunities and increased tourism initiatives. Stop by anytime between 9am and 10:30am for a chance to network with the Town and local business owners. This event is FREE but registration is required. To sign up visit [visitoccoquanva.com/partnership](https://visitoccoquanva.com/partnership).