

19th Century Army Corps of Engineers Dike in the Occoquan River named Heron's Haven

During RiverFest 2023, an island naming competition was held, where the winning submission was chosen by the Town Council. The "island" name was inscribed on signs placed at the Kayak ramp and on the "island" for a period of one year. The Town will follow the same process again at the next RiverFest in June 2024. The winners of the inaugural competition were Mary and Tom Craig with the name "Heron's Haven".



OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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September 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
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

Although the temperatures are sometimes still scorching, fall is around the corner and with it comes the usual uptick in town activity, with a few special things thrown in this time around. Of course, September is the month of our Fall Arts & Craft Show. Taking place on September 23-24, this event is a very important source of revenue for town capital projects, so please encourage relatives and friends to attend. Additionally, as always we count on the generosity of volunteers to make the show a success, so please consider volunteering if you are able. More information on the show and volunteering can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and on the town web site.

Other events in town this month include a free concert on September 2 in River Mill Park featuring the rock band *Mystery Machine DMV* and our monthly Trivia Night in the park on September 15. Our most recent trivia night was the largest ever with nearly 200 attendees.

There are also a variety of other exciting things taking place in town this month. The Town Council has selected a submission by artist Alethea Robinson as the town's welcome mural. Located on the retaining wall at the Route 123 entrance, work on this wonderful addition may begin this month. Also, as reported in the last newsletter, the Town Council selected "Heron's Haven," the entry submitted by Occoquan residents Mary and Tom Craig, as this fiscal year's name for the island adjacent to the Route 123 bridge. A sign so designating the island has been installed and is available for viewing. In another exciting development, to address our sometimes limited parking availability, starting this weekend the Town will operate a free Saturday shuttle service from a local commuter lot. The shuttle will run from 12:00 to 8:00 p.m. on most Saturdays through December 16. Last a few new businesses have also opened in town. Among them are the new Mill St. Draft Garden and E-Bike Rentals at Anderson's Country Store. Please check them out and our various other town businesses.

As always, thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact me at epor-ta@occoquanva.gov with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Music
ON Mill
OCCOQUAN'S FREE
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Saturday, September 2: Mystery Machine DMV (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.

Friday, September 15: Wanderlust

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 see: visitoccoquanva.com/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

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

The Occoquan Express

Don't worry about parking in Occoquan this fall. Jump the FREE shuttle bus service into town all season from the VDOT Commuter Lot at the corner of Rt. 123 and Old Bridge Road and then drops off at Mamie Davis Park in historic Occoquan. The shuttle will run approximately every 20 minutes, depending on traffic. Services will run every Saturday from 12pm to 8pm, starting September 2nd and going to December 16th.



Due to various events in Occoquan this season, shuttle service is extended on the following Saturdays:

- **September 2** from **12pm - 9:30pm** to include Music on Mill concert in River Mill Park
- **October 28** from **12pm - 11pm** to include Spirits & Spirits' Haunted Maze experience
- **December 2** from **11am - 8pm** to include HolidayFest

Imagination Alley

During the Fall Arts & Crafts Show on September 23 and 24, explore **Imagination Alley**, packed with family fun, music, demonstrations, performances, and DIY art projects with recycled crafts! Here are a few of the exciting activities in store:

- Make a DIY craft from recycled supplies at the Art Bar
- Have your face painted by Fairy Jennabelle
- Make your own bracelet from hand made beads
- Get a glitter tattoo or fairy hair
- Listen to a book reading by a junior author
- Make your own spin art
- See live dance performances
- Experience scuba diving with Patriot Diving

MEETINGS & EVENTS

September 2
Music on Mill Presents:
Mystery Machine DMV (Rock)
7 pm – 9 pm
River Mill Park

September 4
Labor Day
Town Hall Closed

September 5
Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm

September 15
Trivia Night
6:30 pm
River Mill Park

September 19
Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm

September 20
Meals and Transient
Occupancy Taxes Due

September 23 & 24
Fall Arts & Crafts Show

September 26
Planning Commission
6:30 pm
Architectural Review Board
7:30 pm

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

Fall Arts & Crafts Show: September 23 & 24, 2023

The **Fall Arts & Crafts Show** is coming to Historic Occoquan **September 23 & 24, 2023**, from 10 am to 5 pm each day and featuring over 250+ artisans, makers and creators in over 20 categories. 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 demonstrations and workshops. The Fall Arts & Crafts Show is free admission, though shuttle service is \$8, round trip. More information can be found at 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 or sign up here: occoquanfestivals.com/volunteer. A Volunteer meeting will be held at Town Hall on September 20, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Street Closings

The following roads will be closed from 8 am on September 23 to 8 pm on September 24: Mill, Commerce, Union, and Washington Streets, as well as Ellicott Street from Mill Street to Center Lane. During this time, please coordinate movers or deliveries accordingly.

Fall Arts & Crafts Show 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, September 22, until 6:30 pm, Sunday, September 24. 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, September 19, between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. Town Hall will observe extended hours until 7:00 pm on September 19.