

## Town Council Actions: September 2023

- Adopted a Resolution Recognizing Vulcan Materials Company for Service to the Occoquan Community.
- Adopted an Ordinance to Repeal Town Code Section 92.02 through 92.10 and Adopt New Article 2 in Chapter 92, Generally Relating to Noise.
- Council entered into Agreement with Alethea Robinson to install a mural at the Intersection of Rt. 123 and Commerce Street.
- Adopted a Revised Architectural Review Board (ARB) Exterior Elevations Design Guidelines on Porches.
- Adopted Amendments to Title III of the Town Code.
- Authorized the Town Manager to engage Prince William County for Stormwater Repairs.

*The above items are extracts of recent actions and are not official meeting minutes. Minutes and agendas are posted at [occoquanva.gov](http://occoquanva.gov).*

## Trivia Night: Earth Escape

**Friday, October 20 at 6:30 pm in River Mill Park**

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. Doors open at 6:00 pm and starts at 6:30 pm. For more information see: [visitoccoquanva.com/trivia](http://visitoccoquanva.com/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 X

703-491-1918

October 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

Cancelling the Fall Arts & Crafts show was a difficult decision for us last month. In addition to the lost revenue and sunk costs, staff and others invest a great deal of time and energy in preparing for events of that size. I want to thank all of them for their efforts. They are currently considering expansion of other events as a means of recouping some of the lost revenue and I am confident some great ideas will emerge.

Of course, on its own the month of October is packed with events. We will hold our monthly Trivia Night in River Mill Park on Friday, October 20. Last month once again set an attendance record, with more than 32 teams and some 200 people, so even if you do not participate, you might enjoy stopping by for a bit. Also this month we have our Halloween-themed *Spirits & Spirits* event October 27-28. New this year is a Hollywood Murder Mystery on the 27th, followed on the 28th by our Halloween Parade and costume contest and our popular Haunted Maze, constructed by and benefiting the Occoquan 501(c)(3) organization, Patriots for Disabled Divers. More information on all these events may be found elsewhere in this newsletter and at the town web site at [www.occoquanva.gov](http://www.occoquanva.gov). Last on events, please note that the VFW Auxiliary will be holding its fall yard sale on October 14, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

We also have two regulatory announcements to make this month. This first concerns a new town noise ordinance. Requested by residents, the new ordinance now satisfies legal requirements for enforcement by establishing a decibel standard that is measured by calibrated decibel-measuring devices. For more information, contact the Town Hall staff. Additionally, as those of you who receive my e-newsletter know, a portion of Tanyard Hill Road will be closed October 2-31 while Fairfax Water, in collaboration with the Prince William County Service Authority, replaces about 650 feet of a 24-inch water main. More information on this project can be found at <https://www.pwcsa.org/Occoquan-River-Crossing>.

Once more thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact me at [epor-ta@occoquanva.gov](mailto:epor-ta@occoquanva.gov) with any questions, comments, or concerns.

## 2023 Real Estate Tax Bills Due December 5, 2023

This is a reminder that the Town Council adopted an Ordinance that changes the Real Estate Tax due date to **December 5th** each year. Real Estate tax bills will be mailed to each property owner unless a mortgage services company has requested the tax bill. If you do not utilize a mortgage services company, then you must pay your tax directly to the town. Send payments to Town of Occoquan at P.O. Box 195, Occoquan, VA 22125 or pay online. For more information go to [occoquanva.gov/living-here/tax-information](https://occoquanva.gov/living-here/tax-information).

## Haunted Maze & Spirit Garden: Saturday, October 28 from 5-10 pm

On **Saturday, October 28** Patriot's For Disabled Divers hosts the Haunted Maze at **305 Mill Street**, rated PG-13 (for adults and brave, older kids). Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance. More info: [visitoccoquanva.com/spirits](https://visitoccoquanva.com/spirits)

**General Admission:** \$10  
**Kids 12 and under:** \$5

Come prepared to be scared! Enter the maze through the spooky Spirit Garden. Then quench your thirst at the DIVE bar located just outside the maze in the Spirit Garden as the DJ spins dance music fit for all ghosts and ghouls. All event proceeds from the Haunted Maze & Spirit Garden benefit local non-profit Patriots for Disabled Divers.

## 2024 Vehicle License Renewal

This is a reminder that Vehicle License Fee Renewals will be due by **November 15th** and the Auto Decals displayed by **November 16th**. More information will be sent out via mail. You may drop forms off and pay at Town Hall or submit completed forms and payment online at [occoquanva.gov/make-a-payment](https://occoquanva.gov/make-a-payment).

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

**October 3**  
**Town Council Meeting**  
7:00 pm

**October 9**  
**Indigenous Peoples' Day/ Columbus Day**  
Town Hall Closed

**October 17**  
**Town Council Meeting**  
7:00 pm

**October 20**  
**Trivia Night**  
6:30 pm, River Mill Park

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

**October 24**  
**Planning Commission**  
6:30 pm  
**Architectural Review Board**  
7:30 pm

**October 27 & 28**  
**Spirits & Spirits**

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

## Spirits & Spirits: October 27 & 28, 2023

We are excited for this year's annual **Spirits & Spirits** in Historic Occoquan! If you aren't too scared, check out the spooky Haunted Maze and Spirit Garden! If you prefer your All Hallows' Eve to be on the tamer side, we have a costume parade and contest. And! New this year, we're hosting *An Old Hollywood Murder Mystery* in River Mill Park. Occoquan can really get into the SPIRIT of things! This popular fall event is coming to Occoquan on **October 27-28, 2023**. More information can be found at [visitoccoquanva.com/spirits](https://visitoccoquanva.com/spirits).



### Events

#### An Old Hollywood Murder Mystery

**October 27, at 7:30 pm, 458 Mill Street:** Come to the quintessential whodunnit thriller at the estate of Sir Warren Pease and get thrown into a night of mystery, intrigue, and murder you will never forget. This night will keep everyone looking over their shoulders and guessing who the next victim will be! Bribe suspects for clues and gather information to uncover the unhinged guest who is whacking all the invitees. Just be careful, because you could be next! Dress in your best in evening wear and suits - this is a refined party, after all. Tickets on sale at [visitoccoquanva.com/spirits](https://visitoccoquanva.com/spirits).

#### Costume Parade & Contest

**October 28, at 10 am:** Costumed kids of all ages are welcome to join in the Occoquan Costume Parade! Line up near the Riverwalk shops at 125 Mill Street **Saturday, October 28th at 10am** and the Mayor will lead the group through town to River Mill Park where costume judging will take place with categories including: cutest, scariest, funniest, most original, and family/group. First place winners in each costume category will receive a \$25 gift certificate to be used at select businesses throughout town. There is no fee to participate in this event and is open to everyone.

#### Haunted Maze & Spirit Garden

**October 28, from 5 - 10 pm, 305 Mill Street:** Come prepared to be scared! This haunted maze will have 15 themed areas with 32 "scare" zones. DJ dance music, firepits, and special spooky spirits are available at the Dive Bar, just in front of the Haunted Maze! No tickets required for the Spirit Garden. Admission to the Maze is \$10 for ages 13+ and \$5 for 12 and under. **Free shuttle service** will be available Saturday October 28 from 12pm - 11pm. Park at the Rt. 123/Old Bridge commuter lot and be taken directly to the Haunted Maze and Spirit Garden!