



Town Hall Quarterly Meeting Town and Business Information and Updates

Oct 10, 2023

*October 10, at 5:30pm, a Quarterly Town Hall was held, and a summary of the discussion is below.
The next Quarterly Meeting is January 9, 2024, at Town Hall at 5:30pm.*

TOWN NEWS

New Businesses

Congratulations and welcome to the new businesses that opened in Town this quarter!

- Mill Street Draft Garden
- Verano
- EcoGlo Detailing

Tanyard Hill Construction

Construction work to replace a water line on Tanyard Hill has begun and will continue until October 31. Detours are via Washington and Commerce Streets.

Noise Ordinance

At the September 5th Council meeting, the Town Council adopted a new noise ordinance that uses decibel (dB) standards to regulate permissible levels of noise throughout the various zoning districts of the Town. In the B-1 Zoning District and the Old and Historic Occoquan Overlay District, **the maximum permissible sound pressure level is 65 decibels during the daytime and 60 decibels after 10pm.** Restaurants are exempt up to 80 decibels during the daytime.

Daytime means the local time of day between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on weekdays and from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays observed by the Town government, unless otherwise specified.

For more information, see: www.occoquanva.gov/noise-ordinance.

Real Estate Tax

Annually, the Occoquan Town Council sets a tax rate for real estate. This tax is in addition to Prince William County's real estate tax. The total real estate tax amount is paid in one lump sum, due December 5th of each year. Invoices are being mailed. The tax rate is expressed in dollars per one hundred dollars of assessed value. The tax rate for 2023 assessments is \$0.116 per \$100 of the assessed value.

Fall Weekend Shuttle Service

Free shuttle service continues from the VDOT lot on 123 & Old Bridge Road, with a drop off at Mamie Davis Park in historic Occoquan Saturdays this season until December 16. Additional shuttle service will be provided Friday, October 27 from 4pm to 10:30pm for the Murder Mystery plus December 2, from 10am-8pm and December 3, from 10am-5pm for Artisan Market weekend. More info: visitoccoquanva.com/express

Mill Street Draft Garden Restrooms

The restrooms at the Mill Street Draft Garden are open to the public when the Garden is open for business. Access is to the rear of the building. Current hours: Tues-Thu, 3pm – Close; Friday, 12pm - Close; and Sat-Sun, 11am - Close.

Occoquan Business Partners

The Occoquan Business Partners (OBP) formally transfers to Visit Occoquan at the end of the year. All businesses will become a part of Visit Occoquan with no membership fee due. For now, new activities or events will be subject to volunteer availability and on a donation basis.

TOWN EVENTS

Trivia Night

The series continues through November 3. More info: visitoccoquanva.com/trivia

Fall Arts & Crafts Show

As you know, we had to cancel our Fall Arts & Crafts Show last month due to the arrival of Tropical Storm Ophelia. That was a tough decision as revenues generated from our events go directly into the Town's capital improvement program. This major adjustment caused staff to rethink planning for holiday.

After much discussion, staff decided to extend the footprint of the Artisan Market on December 2 & 3 from River Mill Park up to Mill Street at Ellicott. All other streets in town will remain open and free shuttle service will be available throughout the weekend.

Town Businesses are welcome to register for a 10 x 10 booth space within the venue footprint. The cost is \$175 for the weekend. Businesses that have a credit from the Fall Arts & Crafts Show may transfer their fees to the Holiday Artisan Market or RiverFest, or have it refunded. Please contact Town Hall to indicate your preference by **October 20**.

Spirits & Spirits, October 27 & 28

**Murder Mystery,
Friday, October 27**

NEW this year! The Town will host the quintessential whodunnit thriller in River Mill Park. Guests will get thrown into a night of mystery, intrigue, and murder they will never forget. Tickets available [HERE](#). River Mill Park will close at 6pm for this ticketed event.

**Costume Parade & Contest,
Saturday, October 28 at 10am**

Starting at 10:00am, Mayor Porta will lead the annual costume parade down Mill Street to River Mill Park, where costume judging will take place. The 100 through 400 blocks of Mill Street will be briefly closed on a rolling basis between 10:00-10:30am. No registration is necessary, and this event is open to the public.

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

Patriots For Disabled Divers will once again host the Haunted Maze. Admission to the maze is \$10 for ages 13+ and \$5 for 12 and under. Tickets are available for purchase at the door or in advance [HERE](#). Guests can quench their thirst at the DIVE Bar just outside the maze in the Spirit Garden. All event proceeds from the Haunted Maze & Spirit Garden benefit local non-profit Patriots for Disabled Divers. The Occoquan Express is available until 11pm that evening.

The parking lot behind D'Roccas will close on 10/21 for the build of the Maze. Volunteer scarers and folks to help build are most welcome. Contact Merial at merial@patriotscuba.com for more info.

HolidayFest, Nov 18-Dec 3

**Annual Town Tree Lighting,
Saturday, November 18**

- Tree Lighting – at Town Hall, 6:00 p.m.
- Shop Late – historic district until 8:00 p.m.
- Firepits and S'mores– Cul-de-sac, 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- Sip & Stroll - historic district, 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Mill West will close to traffic on November 18 at 9am for this event.

**Shop, Dine, & Win! Contest,
November 18-Dec 3**

Patrons collect a passport and spend \$10 or more at six different participating businesses for a chance to win prizes. To participate, businesses must offer at least one \$25 gift certificate and up to four. Gift certificates must be valid until March 2024. This contest is open to all businesses with a valid business license. The participation signup form will be available soon.

**Shop Small Weekend,
November 24-26**

Free shuttle service from the VDOT Lot November 25 from 12pm to 8pm.

**Holiday Artisan Market,
December 2, 11am -7pm and December 3, 11am -4pm**

- 100+ Vendor Tents
- Santa Comes to Town, Sat at 10:45am, Town Dock
- Gingerbread Making Contest in RMP, voting closes Sun at 3:45
- Visit with Santa both days in RMP till 1pm

- Craft table in RMP
- Caroling and cocoa
- Sip & Stroll throughout the weekend

Free shuttle service is available for patrons from the Rt 123 and Old Bridge Road commuter lot: Saturday, Dec 2, 10:00am-8:00pm and Sunday, Dec 3, 10:00am-5:00pm.

For more info, see visitoccoquanva.com/holiday.

DORA

The Town will implement the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) license, or Sip & Stroll, for the annual Tree Lighting from 4pm to 9pm and for the weekend of Artisan Market on December 2 & 3. This license allows on-premises licensed businesses to sell to-go adult beverages with an appropriately labeled to-go cup.

OCCOQUAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Follow the Occoquan Police Department (OPD) on Instagram at @occoquan_pd and sign up on [AlertOccoquan](#) via Everbridge to get updates on public safety/community initiatives. Businesses may contact OPD at 571-492-7274.

SHIELD

The Occoquan Police Department's (OPD) SHIELD program is the platform between the community we serve and the Occoquan Police Department that allows information and intelligence to flow back and forth. The key to success is information flowing in two directions. Community partners serve as the eyes and ears of the OPD and serve to directly impact efforts to prevent crime and acts of terrorism by reporting suspicious behavior as soon as possible.

We recognize that our community partners are uniquely qualified to assist OPD personnel during an incident. You know what belongs and what is out of place. Sharing your perspective and working together, we are better prepared to face the most difficult challenges.

Within the OPD SHIELD program several initiatives are housed:

- The OPD Community SHIELD Liaison Initiative
- The OPD "See Something/Say Something" and Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiatives
- The OPD Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch, Worship Watch, and Dog Walker Watch Initiatives
- The OPD SHIELD Program keeps its partners informed of upcoming events, new intelligence and crime/terrorism related information developing within the Town of Occoquan and the region.

To register to become a member of the OPD SHIELD program and have access to the website and all updates, please complete the application via [THIS FORM](#).

NEXT QUARTERLY TOWN HALL

The next Quarterly Town Hall meeting will be held **January 9, 2024 at 5:30pm**. Questions about any of the above may be directed to Town Hall at 703-491-1918.