

Town Council Actions: November 2019

The following items are extracts of recent Town Council actions and are not official meeting minutes. The most recent approved Town Council minutes and agendas are available at www.occoquanva.gov. All votes are unanimous unless noted otherwise.

- Received Kayak Ramp Project update
- Received Financial System update
- Adopted Shared Mobility Systems Ordinance
- Approved Snow Removal Contract
- Approved 2020 Town Council Meeting Calendar
- Received Town Projects update

Mill at Occoquan Development Public Hearing - Date TBD

The formal public review process for the Mill at Occoquan development application will start with a Planning Commission public hearing that will be scheduled for a future date. The public hearing will be the opportunity for members of the public to provide their comments regarding the application to the Planning Commission. All documents pertaining to the application can be found at www.occoquanva.gov.



Have You Signed Up for OCQ Alerts?

This FREE system allows residents and business owners to sign up for email and/or text message alerts about emergencies and town events. To sign up, go to www.occoquanva.gov, scroll down to the link for OCQ Alerts and complete the survey to customize your account.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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December 2019

TOWN COUNCIL

Earnie Porta, Mayor
Patrick A. Sivigny, Vice Mayor
J. Matthew Dawson
Cindy Fithian
Laurie Holloway
Eliot Perkins



TOWN HALL STAFF

Kathleen Leidich, Town Manager
Adam Linn, Chief of Police
Katy Nicholson, Town Clerk
Carla Rodriguez, Town Treasurer
Julie Little, Events Director
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor
Pam Holbert, Administrative Asst.

Mayor's Letter

Let me start by offering my heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the Occoquan Merchants Guild's Holiday Open House and the Town Hall Tree Lighting on November 22. I want to particularly thank the Guild volunteers who decorated the Town tree.

Of course, the holiday season continues apace this month with a slew of wonderful Occoquan holiday traditions. On Sunday, **December 1**, at 5:30 p.m., our friends from Ebenezer Baptist Church will hold their annual town blessing at the historic church on Washington Street. Everyone is invited, and the service will be followed by the free Town Holiday Party at Madigan's Waterfront Restaurant. Then, **December 9-12**, the Town will hold its first Community Gingerbread House contest. More information on the contest is contained elsewhere in this newsletter.

WinterFest this year will take place on Saturday, **December 14**. Although there are a variety of area activities (noted elsewhere in this newsletter), Town activities kick-off with **Santa's arrival by boat at 2:00 p.m. at Mamie Davis Park**, after which Santa will visit with children of all ages at the Town Hall until 4:00 p.m. Other WinterFest activities in Town include fire pits with marshmallow roasting, music, and a variety of children's activities.

Occoquan's holiday traditions also include remembering those who are less fortunate, and once again this year our Merchants Guild has organized an "Untrim-a-Tree" program for needy children that runs through December 11. Tags may be obtained at Town Hall. As always in December, I also ask that you please remember that the holidays are a particularly important time for our Town businesses, and I encourage you to patronize them to the maximum extent you are able for your holiday shopping needs.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your support and generosity of spirit during the past months. Please have a safe and joyful holiday, and do not hesitate to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.org with any comments, questions, or concerns.

Earnie Porta, Jr.

WinterFest in Occoquan December 14, 4-7 p.m.

WinterFest is fun for the whole family! Visitors will enjoy heart-warming fire pits with marshmallow roasting, festive live music and complimentary hot chocolate samples.

Santa Claus arrives via boat at Mamie Davis Park at 2 p.m. He will be escorted to Town Hall, where he will sit for photos until 4 p.m., when the other festivities start.

Visitors also are invited to browse the town's unique shops, boutiques, galleries, restaurants and cafes to experience all that Occoquan has to offer. Many businesses will be open late for visitors to complete their holiday shopping!



What should be on your WinterFest checklist?

- ❄ Visit Santa!
- ❄ Warm yourself and toast marshmallows over a fire pit.
- ❄ Enjoy the Dunbar Saxophone Quartet's performance at Town Hall.
- ❄ Sing along with the Woodbridge Community Choir as they carol through town.
- ❄ Find your favorite children's activities throughout town.
- ❄ View the entries to the Occoquan Gingerbread Contest at Town Hall!

WinterFest is a daylong family-friendly celebration of the winter season that highlights multiple destinations with entertainment, food and activities for all ages in the Lorton-Occoquan-Lake Ridge region.

The event begins with Santa's Lake Ridge Parade on Harbor Drive in Lake Ridge at 11 a.m., followed by a holiday arts market at Tackett's Mill until 2 p.m., Occoquan's holiday activities from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., and the Workhouse Arts Center's Second Saturday Art Walk from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.



Occoquan Community Gingerbread House Contest

The Town of Occoquan invites YOU to enter our first ever Gingerbread House Contest! Use your imagination and gingerbread to build anything from a simple cottage to an elaborate historic reproduction.

Entries will be accepted at Town Hall December 9-12, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Winners will be announced at WinterFest, Saturday, December 14, at 4 p.m., and will receive a \$25 prize to spend at any local Town of Occoquan business! For details, visit:

www.occoquanva.gov/occoquan-events/occoquan-community-gingerbread-house-

December 2019

Town Meetings and Events

(All meetings are held at Town Hall, 314 Mill Street, unless otherwise noted.)

December 1: Town Blessing
5:30 p.m., Ebenezer Baptist Church

December 1: Town Holiday Party
6:30 p.m., Madigan's Waterfront Restaurant

December 3: Town Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Town Hall

December 9-12: Gingerbread House Contest
Entries accepted at Town Hall 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

December 10: Planning Commission
6:30 p.m., Town Hall

December 10: Architectural Review Board
7:30 p.m., Town Hall

December 14: WinterFest
2 p.m. Santa arrives at Mamie Davis Park
4–7 p.m. WinterFest, Historic District

December 20: November 2019 Meals Tax and Transient Occupancy Tax Due

December 24-25: Christmas Holiday
Town Hall closed

Town Blessing & Holiday Party December 1

Ebenezer Baptist Church invites the public to attend its annual Town Blessing service on Sunday, December 1, at the historic church at the corner of Commerce and Washington streets. The evening will start with a service at 5:30 p.m., followed immediately by a candlelit blessing at Mamie Davis Park on Mill Street.

After the blessing, the community is invited to attend the annual Town Holiday Party at Madigan's Waterfront Restaurant. This entire evening is an Occoquan holiday tradition that extends back decades and is a wonderful way to share some holiday spirit with our friends at Ebenezer Baptist Church.



Untrim-A-Tree Through December 11

Participate in the Untrim-A-Tree Project and stop by Town Hall to select a gift tag from the tree and make a child's holiday wish come true. To participate, sign up at Town Hall and return new, unwrapped gifts to Town Hall or Personally Yours during normal business hours by December 11. If you are unable to purchase a gift, donations are also accepted. Sponsored by the Occoquan Merchants Guild and Volunteer Prince William. For more information, call 703-494-8683.