

Town Council Actions: October 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 online at www.occoquanva.gov. All votes are unanimous unless noted otherwise.

- Awarded the contract for the construction of the Kayak Ramp Project
- Approved a month to month lease agreement for the operation of the Visitor Center
- Authorized the purchase of a LIDAR unit for the Police Department (not to exceed \$2,995)
- Authorized staff to pursue an actuarial study by the Virginia Retirement System
- Received presentation on Police Department SHIELD Program

Bag Your Leaves

It's that time of year! As you are clearing your property of fallen leaves, please be sure to bag your leaves and do not blow them on to streets, sidewalks, gutters, or other right-of-ways as they will not be collected. Leaves must be bagged and can be placed to the curb for collection on the Town's regular refuse collection day. Also note that brush and tree limbs must be cut into 4-foot lengths, bundled with rope or twine, and not exceed 50 pounds. Grass clippings, leaves, and twigs can be bagged or placed in personal containers; however, tree limbs that are larger than 6 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length will not be collected. Questions? Contact Town Hall at 703-491-1918.

OCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCOQUAN

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(703) 491-1918

NOVEMBER 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

I want to begin this month by making sure everyone is aware that the Planning Commission hearing on the Mill at Occoquan development project has again been deferred to a date uncertain at the request of the applicant. Please see elsewhere in this newsletter and the Town web site for additional information.

Next I want to thank everyone who participated in the various Halloween-themed events in town. There is not space to mention them all here, but the costume parade was certainly a big hit and the spirit garden with the haunted maze was a great new addition run by our friends at Patriot Scuba. Thank you as well to those who participated in the Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO) clean-up on October 5. This semi-annual event helps significantly in removing trash not only from the river, but from the streets and public spaces of town as well.

As many of you know, holiday happenings accelerate in Town during the month of November. This is one of the most important times of the year for Occoquan businesses, so as always I ask that you please consider doing some of your holiday shopping in town, and encourage your friends and family to do so as well. On **Friday, November 22**, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., the Occoquan Merchants Guild will hold its annual Holiday Open House, which will be followed promptly at 8:05 p.m. by the town tree lighting ceremony at Town Hall and the Guild gift certificate drawings. This has become a very popular event and I hope you will find the time to attend. Our holiday traditions continue early in December and include the annual town blessing at Ebenezer Baptist Church and town holiday party on December 1.

Last I would like to once again congratulate Occoquan's VFW Post 7916 for achieving All-American status, this time for 2018-2019! As always, thank you everyone for your support and please feel free to contact me with any comments, questions or concerns. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Earnie W. Porta, Jr.

Occoquan Vehicle License Fee Due

The Town of Occoquan 2020 vehicle license fees/decals are now on sale at Town Hall. Town Ordinance Section 71-02 requires that owners of any motor vehicle principally stored, garaged or parked in the Town obtain a license decal from the Town. **The 2020 decal must be displayed on your vehicle by November 15, 2019.**

Renewal forms were mailed in October; blank forms are available on the Town's website at www.occoquanva.gov or at Town Hall. Forms and payments can be mailed back to Town Hall or dropped off in person. Town Hall will be open late on **Wednesday, November 6, until 7 p.m.** for your convenience. If you have any questions, please contact Town Staff at (703) 491-1918 or at info@occoquanva.gov.

Holiday Open House & Tree Lighting: November 22

Kick-off the holiday season with an evening of shopping in historic Occoquan on Friday, November 22, 2019, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Stroll through the many unique shops of Occoquan during the Occoquan Merchants Guild Holiday Open House and enjoy shopping, refreshments and an old fashioned Christmas.

Immediately following this special shopping event, stop by Town Hall for the annual tree lighting event at 8:05 p.m. Then at 8:15 p.m. the Guild will hold its Open House drawing and distribute more than \$1,000 in gift certificates! Must be present to win.

Untrim-A-Tree November 18 thru 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, 2019. 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, contact (703) 494-8683.

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. Winners will be announced at WinterFest, Saturday, December 14, at 4 pm and receive a \$25 prize to spend at any local Town of Occoquan business! For more details see the town website: www.occoquanva.gov/occoquan-events/occoquan-community-gingerbread-house-contest/

November 2019

Town Meetings and Events

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

November 5: Election Day
Check your polling location:
www.pwcvotes.com

November 7: Town Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Town Hall

November 11: Veterans Day Observed
Town Hall Closed

November 13: Fairfax Water Dam Siren Test

November 19: Town Council Meeting Work Session
7:00 p.m., Town Hall

November 22: Merchant Guild Open House
4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Historic District

November 22: Annual Tree Lighting
8:05 p.m., Town Hall

November : October 2019 Meals Tax and Transient Occupancy Tax Due

November 28-29: Thanksgiving Holiday
Town Hall Closed

Mill at Occoquan Development Public Hearing

The formal public review process for the Mill at Occoquan development application will start with the 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 and concerns regarding the application to the Planning Commission.

The development application consists of three (3) Special Exception Requests to allow 88 condominium units and 235-space integral parking structure on approximately .95 acres of B-1 zoned land located within the Town's Old and Historic District. The application also includes approximately 6,600 net square feet of retail space and removes the existing buildings and metal structure that occupy the site now.

The formal application review process includes public hearings by the Planning Commission and the Town Council. The Town Council will make the final decision regarding the approval/denial of the application. For questions regarding the upcoming public hearings please contact the Town Manager at (703) 491-1918. Application documents can be found on the Town website www.occoquanva.gov.