

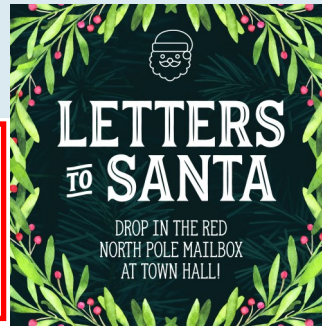
Town Council Actions: November 2020

- Passed a resolution of appreciation for Town Clerk Katy Nicholson in recognition of her dedicated service to the Town of Occoquan.
- Passed a resolution naming Town Manager Kirstyn Jovanovich as Interim Town Clerk.
- Adopted Ordinance O-2020-06 amending the Town Code §157.300 – § 157.339 related to signs.
- Rescinded Resolution R-2020-08 and adopted Resolution R-2020-09 to address the house at 104 West Locust Street as a danger to public health or safety.
- Approved the final site plan for improvements to add crosswalks on Mill Street, contingent on VDOT approval.
- Approved a lease agreement with Ebenezer Baptist Church for use of portions of their parking lot for paid public parking.

The above items are extracts of recent actions and are not official meeting minutes. Minutes and agendas are posted at occoquanva.gov.

Letters to Santa

Letters to Santa can be dropped off in front of Town Hall, 314 Mill Street, until December 18. If you add a return address, Santa may write back!



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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

314 Mill Street
P.O. Box 195
Occoquan, VA 22125

CARRIER ROUTE
OCCOQUAN, VA 22125

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXVII, ISSUE XII 703-491-1918

December 2020

TOWN COUNCIL

Earnie Porta, Mayor
Jenn Loges, Vice Mayor
Krys Bienia
Cindy Fithian
Laurie Holloway
Eliot Perkins



TOWN HALL STAFF

Kirstyn Jovanovich, Town Manager
Adam Linn, Chief of Police
Julie Little, Events Director
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor
Pam Holbert, Administrative Asst.

Mayor's Letter

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving. As many of you know, due to the pandemic we've had to cancel a number of Town holiday events. Among these are long-standing, treasured traditions like the Town blessing and holiday party. We've heard from many of you, however, how important some of our smaller activities have become to your overall sense of community and general well being. Consequently, we are moving forward with a number of events in our "HolidayFest" calendar that we are confident can be held in accordance with state guidance and in a manner consistent with public health and safety. Included in these are our Gingerbread House contest, a visit from Santa, and a staged reading of "A Christmas Carol." Please see elsewhere in this newsletter for more information on both. Of course, among our Town holiday traditions is our support of those less fortunate. Accordingly, the Merchants Guild and Volunteer Prince William are once again sponsoring an "Untrim-a-Tree" program through December 11. Stop by Town Hall to pick up a tag and provide a gift to a needy child.

As you may also know, the early winter season is an extremely important one for our business community, whose contributions to the Town revenue base fund many of the amenities we enjoy. The economic challenges of 2020 have made this time of year all the more important for them, so to the extent you are able, I encourage you patronize them for your holiday shopping needs. In support of that concept, Town staff have developed the OCQ CARES Voucher program, in which each Town household receives vouchers that can be used for a limited time at eligible Town businesses. This is one of the few ways in which CARES Act funds received by the Town can be used to directly support Town residents, so we encourage you to use the vouchers. Again, more information is available on this program elsewhere in this newsletter.

Although 2020 has been a difficult year, it is my hope that as we continue forward through Hanukkah, Christmas, and the other winter holidays, that all of you will find moments of joy and peace. Thank you once more for your support, and as always, please feel free to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any questions or comments.



HolidayFest continues through Dec. 13!

HolidayFest Passport Contest

Enter to win \$100 worth of gift cards from participating Occoquan businesses: occoquanguild.org/holidayfest

Gingerbread House Contest—Enter by Dec. 4

Enter the Annual Gingerbread House Contest by Dec. 4. More information and to register: occoquanva.gov/gingerbread-house-contest. Winners announced Dec. 12 and receive a \$25 prize to use at an Occoquan business.

Shop Occoquan, an Online Gift Market—Dec. 5

The Occoquan Merchants Guild will host this streamed event on Facebook on Dec. 5 at 6 pm: [facebook.com/visitoccoquan](https://www.facebook.com/visitoccoquan)

Fireside Family Fun—Dec. 12 & 13, River Mill Park Visit with Santa, Ticketed Event

Seven seatings available; limit 25 people each seating; no private photo opportunities

A Christmas Carol, Ticketed Event

Four seatings available; staged reading of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens; limit 25 people each seating Social distancing and mask-wearing enforced.

Tickets: [eventbrite.com/e/fireside-family-tickets-129912173809](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fireside-family-tickets-129912173809)

DETAILS AT OCCOQUANVA.GOV!

MEETINGS & EVENTS

DECEMBER 1

Town Council Meeting
7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 4

Gingerbread House Competition
Entries Due! In-Person or Virtually
occoquanva.gov

DECEMBER 12 & 13

Family Fun
Santa Visits Occoquan and a Reading of *A Christmas Carol*
Various Times, River Mill Park
Ticketed events: occoquanva.gov

DECEMBER 13

OCQ CARES Voucher Program Ends
Use your OCQ Cares vouchers at participating Occoquan businesses by December 13
occoquanva.gov/OCQCares

DECEMBER 20

Meals/Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

DECEMBER 24 & 25

Christmas Holiday
Town Hall Closed

DECEMBER 31 & JANUARY 1, 2021

New Year's Day Holiday
Town Hall Closed

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

OCQ CARES Voucher Program Runs Through Dec. 13

Town residents should have started receiving their OCQ CARES vouchers via USPS. The vouchers are able to be used at any participating Occoquan business through **December 13**. The program is intended to support local businesses, benefit our residents and help the overall economy during these challenging times. Each Occoquan household will receive four (4) \$25 vouchers—anyone in the household may use them or give them to another Occoquan resident to use, your choice! But, be sure to use them by December 13!

Didn't Receive Your Vouchers?

To develop the mailing list, we used our 2021 vehicle license fee list. If you received your 2021 vehicle decal by November 20, you're on the list and will receive your vouchers. If not, stop by Town Hall, Monday—Friday, 9 am – 4 pm, before December 13, to get your vehicle decal and pick up your four \$25 vouchers. If you're not able to stop in during business hours, give us a call at 703-491-1918 or email kjo-vanovich@occoquanva.gov.

For more information on the program and a list of participating businesses, visit occoquanva.gov/OCQCares. Happy holidays!



Untrim-A-Tree Through Dec. 11

Participate in the Untrim-A-Tree Project and make a child's holiday wish come true! Select a tag from the tree and sign the book at Town Hall, or sign up at Personally Yours. Return new, unwrapped gifts (one per child, up to \$35 value) to Town Hall or Personally Yours during normal business hours by **December 11, 2020**. Monetary donations are also accepted. Sponsored by the Occoquan Merchants Guild and Volunteer Prince William. Contact Betsy Merklein at 703-969-3193 for more information.



The health and well-being of our community is paramount. The Town of Occoquan will continue to closely monitor information from the Centers for Disease Control and local authorities to guide decisions about Town events.