

Town Council Actions: October 2020

- Adopted an ordinance to repeal/replace Town Code 92.2 generally relating to noise.
- Voted to enact timed parking within the business district in early 2021. (3-1, Fithian voting Nay) More information: occoquanva.gov/government/parking
- Authorized staff to expend an amount not to exceed \$68,870 to purchase projects utilizing CARES Act funds.
- Approved a directional signage plan for the Kayak Ramp and public parking.
- Adopted a resolution to address the house at 104 W. Locust Street as a danger to public health or safety.

***Note:** Councilmember Holloway not present at October 6, 2020 meeting.

The above items are extracts of recent actions and are not official meeting minutes. Minutes and agendas are posted at occoquanva.gov. All votes are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

SIGN UP FOR OCQ ALERTS!

Register for email and/or text message alerts about the latest Town news. Go to occoquanva.gov, scroll to the link for OCQ Alerts and complete the form. Please mark all "occoquanva.gov" addresses as safe senders.

OCOCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCOCOQUAN

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OCOCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXVII, ISSUE XI

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November 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
Katy Nicholson, Town Clerk
Julie Little, Events Director
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor
Pam Holbert, Administrative Asst.

Mayor's Letter

The month of November is when Occoquan really kicks things into gear for the winter holiday season. While we know that 2020 has been and continues to be a challenging year, we are striving to continue the Town's holiday traditions (and maybe create some new ones) in a manner consistent with public health and safety. This year we are bundling many of these activities into what we are now referring to as "Holiday Fest." Among other things it includes a modified version of our Town tree lighting on November 20 and a new holiday market on December 5. We will also continue to remember those less fortunate by hosting the Merchant Guild's annual Un-trim-A-Tree initiative beginning on November 20. See elsewhere in this newsletter for information on the variety of events being planned and the places you can go for more information. Please keep in mind that our ability to maintain and expand our traditions depends largely on your compliance with pandemic health and safety guidelines, so please remain conscientious.

Amongst more formal items in the coming month, the Town will continue to move forward with the planning for the required public hearings on the proposed Mill at Occoquan project. Please remain alert for announcements about these hearings, which are likely to occur sometime between late November and late January. Additionally, after a couple of years of deliberation the Town is planning to implement a timed (not paid) parking program in the business district beginning sometime in early 2021. We are currently in discussions with the business community about the details and will be seeking broader input over the next three months. FAQs on the proposed program will be available soon on the Town website.

Sadly, our excellent Town Clerk, Katy Nicholson, is leaving for a wonderful opportunity at VRE. Katy's work has been outstanding and we are going to miss her. Please join me in wishing her all the best. As always, thank you for your continued cooperation and support and please feel free to email me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any questions or comments.



Town staff and the Merchants' Guild hope to make spirits bright with a festive and safe three-week event: **HolidayFest!**

HolidayFest Lineup (subject to change)

- Town Tree Lighting (Nov. 20, 8:00 p.m.)
- Shop Small Weekend (Nov. 27-28)
- Holiday Market (Dec. 5)
- It's a Wonderful Trivia Night (Dec. 11)
- Gingerbread House Contest (winners announced Dec. 12)
- Family Fun in River Mill Park (Dec. 12): Reading of *A Christmas Carol*; s'mores/cocoa; Santa arrives by fire engine

Updates will be posted at occoquanva.gov.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

NOVEMBER 3

Election Day
Town Hall Closed

NOVEMBER 4
Town Council Meeting
7:00 p.m.



NOVEMBER 11
Veterans Day
Town Hall Closed

NOVEMBER 13
Let's Talk Turkey Trivia Night
6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
River Mill Park

NOVEMBER 16
Vehicle Licensing Fees Due

NOVEMBER 17
Town Council Work Session
7:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 18
Fairfax Water Dam Siren Test

NOVEMBER 20
Meals/Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

NOVEMBER 20—December 13
HolidayFest
Various Locations

NOVEMBER 26-27
Thanksgiving Holiday
Town Hall Closed

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

Occoquan Vehicle License Fee Due November 16

Town of Occoquan 2021 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 2021 decal must be displayed on your vehicle by November 16, 2020.**

Renewal forms were mailed in October; blank forms are available at occoquanva.gov or Town Hall. Forms and payments can be mailed to Town Hall or dropped off in person. Town Hall will be open late on **Thursday, November 12, until 7:00 p.m.** for your convenience. For more information, contact Town Hall at 703-491-1918 or info@occoquanva.gov.

Fairfax Water Dam Siren Test November 18

Fairfax Water has scheduled the annual test of its emergency dam siren on Wednesday, November 18, 2020. People in Occoquan are likely to hear the word "Test" and a loud, whooping siren. More information about the siren is available at fairfaxwater.org.

OCQ CARES - Shop Local

The Town is launching the OCQ Cares program aimed at supporting local businesses, benefitting residents and helping the overall economy during these challenging times. By mid-November, each household in Occoquan will receive four (4) \$25 vouchers via USPS to be used at any participating Occoquan business. For information on the program and a list of participating businesses, visit occoquanva.gov/business/OCQCares.

Untrim-A-Tree Nov. 20 — 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.