

Town Council Actions: December 2020

- Eric Mays and Ricky O'Connor with the PWC Building Department provided a presentation to the Town Council on the County's Building Code enforcement process.
- Town Council discussed the proposed timed parking program and directed staff to develop a plan for Council consideration at the January 2021 meeting.
- Approved an update to the Town's Administrative Manual, clarifying retirement and leave benefits.
- Discussed the Preliminary Planimetric survey and striping plan for the downtown. Directed staff to bring a plan for consideration to the February Town Council meeting.
- Discussed process to update Town Charter and next steps.

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

Mill at Occoquan: 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. This will be an opportunity for the public to provide comments to the Planning Commission regarding the application. Stay tuned to the Town's website at occoquanva.gov for the scheduled meeting date and time, as well as documents pertaining to the application.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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

CARRIER ROUTE
OCCOQUAN, VA 22125

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR OCQ ALERTS?

Register to receive email and/or text message alerts about emergencies and town events! Go to occoquanva.gov, scroll to the link for OCQ Alerts and complete the form to customize your account.

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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January 2021

TOWN COUNCIL

Earnest W. Porta, Jr., 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 would like to start 2021 by thanking all of you for your fortitude and cooperation during the past year. It has been a difficult time for many, but the overwhelming majority of Occoquan residents and business owners were nevertheless neither alarmist nor cavalier as we confronted the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most strove diligently and consistently to act responsibly, compassionately, and with as much good cheer as they could manage. While struggles certainly remain, we are hopefully seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, and thus I want to take this opportunity now, as we start a new year, to thank you for all you have done to date in the face of adversity.

Hopefully everyone found ways to enjoy the holidays despite how they may have differed from those of the past. In that context I am pleased to report that our staff-devised holiday OCQ Cares voucher program was a success thanks to Occoquan residents and 29 eligible businesses. Residents redeemed more than 1,000 vouchers, pumping more than \$25,000 back into the Occoquan economy. Thank you to everyone who was able to participate.

In January a number of important topics are likely to be addressed by Town bodies. First, we anticipate more substantive discussion on the proposed Mill at Occoquan project, with the first formal public hearing before the Planning Commission anticipated late in the month — so please stay tuned for more information on that. Second, it is expected that the Town Council and staff will finalize sometime this month the parameters for the implementation of a timed (not paid) parking plan for the historic/business district of Town.

I want to close this month by thanking all the Town staff, as well as my fellow council members, for their efforts over the past year. In particular, I have appreciated their willingness to face directly the unforeseen challenges of the year and their commitment to moving Occoquan forward despite those challenges. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at epor-ta@occoquanva.gov with any comments, questions, or concerns, and I wish you all a very prosperous and happy New Year!

Earnest W. Porta, Jr.

Emergency Snow Removal Routes

We've dodged the snow so far, but winter is just beginning! As a reminder, the Town has established snow emergency routes.* When snow is expected, on-street parking will not be permitted on the following roads to allow for snow removal: Mill, Commerce, Ellicott, Union and Washington Streets.

During inclement weather, if you normally park on-street, please consider parking under the Route 123 bridge. For more information, visit occoquanva.gov.



Please Clear Your Sidewalks

Help keep our community safe during the winter season and clear sidewalks of snow and ice. Residents and businesses are responsible for clearing snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property. For more information, visit occoquanva.gov/snow-removal.



Mark your calendar for **February 4 through February 14**, when the Town of Occoquan together with the Merchants Guild will sponsor a passport event for **ChocolateFest!** This refreshed event will feature in-person and virtual activities PLUS a chance to win an Occoquan Romantic Getaway package, estimated to be worth \$1,000! To help us kick off our event, tune in to Facebook at [facebook.com/VisitOccoquan](https://www.facebook.com/VisitOccoquan) on Feb. 4, at 6pm for a LIVE shopping event to snap up the perfect gift for your Valentine. In addition to Town and Guild led events, many local merchants and restaurant owners will offer special Valentine gift packages.

For more information and a growing schedule of events, visit occoquanva.gov or occoquanguild.org.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

JAN 1

New Year's Day
Town Hall Closed

JAN 5

Town Council Meeting
7:00 p.m.

JAN 18

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Town Hall Closed

JAN 19

Town Council Meeting
7:00 p.m.

JAN 20

**Meals and Transient
Occupancy Taxes Due**

JAN 26

Planning Commission
6:30 p.m.
Architectural Review Board
7:30 p.m.

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

Message from the Occoquan Post Office: Thank you for the kindness and generosity we received from the community during the holiday season. Happy New Year!

Holiday Greenery Recycling

Give your greenery a new life after the holidays! Christmas trees, wreaths and other cut greenery can be transformed into compost, mulch, or wild-life habitat. Ornaments, decorations, tinsel, nails and tree stands must be removed before greenery items are taken to the following locations to be composted or repurposed:

- **Prince William County Landfill**, 14811 Dumfries Rd., Manassas, M-Sat 6am—6pm; Sun 8am—5pm
- **Balls Ford Road Compost Facility**, 13000 Balls Ford Rd., Manassas, M-Sat 7:30am—5pm; Sun 8am-5pm
- **Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative**, 5399 Wellington Branch Rd., Gainesville, Dec 26—Jan 10 | (703) 335-0500 X1600, VegetationMgmt@novec.com

For more recycling information, visit pwcgov.org/trashandrecycling.

A Friendly Reminder to Lock Your Car Doors

It is important to always lock your car when it is left unattended. Studies have shown that the vast majority of vehicles that are burglarized or stolen have been left unlocked. Here are several simple steps that everyone should follow:

- Always lock your vehicle, even when it's parked in your driveway or garage.
- Always take your key fob with you.
- Never leave or hide a smart key, valet key, or spare key anywhere in or on your vehicle, no matter where you park it.
- Never leave your car running while unattended or unlocked.
- If possible, park your vehicle in a locked garage.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Keep the exterior of homes and driveways well illuminated.
- Close all your vehicle's windows completely when parked.
- Consider installing a GPS system, a visible anti-theft device, or an audible alarm.
- Never leave valuable personal property in your vehicle.
- Secure the transmitter for your garage door opener to prevent access to your home.

Thank You! OCQ CARES Program Summary

Thank you to everyone who participated in the OCQ Cares program! Through your support, over \$25,000 was distributed to Occoquan businesses through the OCQ Cares program. Over 1,000 vouchers were redeemed at 29 qualified, participating businesses between late November and December 13. CARES Act Funds were used to fund this program, which was intended to provide much need support to our businesses and residents, and stimulate the overall economy during these challenging times. Thank you to all that participated in this program! View all the great business we have to offer year-round at occoquanva.gov or occoquanguild.org.

Reminder: Town Real Estate Taxes Due February 15

The 2020 Real Estate Taxes are due on February 15, 2021. If you have questions regarding your taxes and pay out of escrow, please contact your mortgage company. If you do not utilize a mortgage company, please remit payment directly to the Town. More information: occoquanva.gov/tax-information