

Town Voting Information

Last month, the Virginia State Board of Elections sent out incorrect voting information to residents here in Occoquan, as well as other towns in Northern Virginia. The local County Office of Elections followed up and sent out corrected voting information.

If you are a resident of the Town of Occoquan, your voting location for the November 8 election is **Occoquan Elementary School, 12915 Occoquan Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192**. Reminder that voting does not take place at Town Hall.

This election you will be voting for Congress, as well as for Mayor and Town Council. You may also vote early at the nearby DMV located at 2731 Caton Hill Road, Woodbridge, VA 22191, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30pm, Saturday and Sunday, October 29 - 30, and on Saturday, November 5.

Reminder: Yard signs are considered temporary signs and on residential properties, should be removed within 90 days of being erected. Please be sure to remove temporary yard signs promptly!

Occoquan Dam Siren Testing: November 16

Fairfax Water Authority has scheduled the annual testing of its emergency dam siren on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 10 am. People in Occoquan are likely to hear a loud, whooping siren for approximately two minutes. More information about the siren is available at occoquandamsiren.com.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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Occoquan, VA 22125

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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November 2022

TOWN COUNCIL

Earnest W. Porta, Jr., Mayor
Jenn Loges, Vice Mayor
Cindy Fithian
Laurie Holloway
Robert Love
Eliot Perkins



TOWN HALL STAFF

Adam Linn, Interim Town Manager & Chief of Police
Manuel Casillas, Town Treasurer
Philip Auville, Town Clerk
Julie Little, Events Director
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor
Matt Whitmoyer, Management Fellow

Mayor's Letter

After a busy October, Occoquan kicks it into another gear this month as the holiday season moves into full swing. Our annual HolidayFest begins with traditional Town Hall tree lighting event on Saturday, November 19, when town businesses are decorated and open late for your holiday shopping needs. From that day through December 11, you can participate in the "Shop, Dine, & Win Passport" event at your favorite Occoquan businesses for a chance to win gift cards that will help fund your holiday purchases. And during that stretch "Shop Small Weekend" occurs November 25-27, when we especially hope you will patronize the town businesses that are such an important part of our community. Consistent with both long-held and more recent tradition, the first weekend in December we follow all this with our Gingerbread House Contest, Santa's arrival by boat, our Holiday Artisan Market, and more. There's a lot coming in Occoquan and we hope you'll find time to enjoy it! Check out the town web site at www.occoquanva.gov for more information on these and other happenings in town.

This month the Town Council continues to review a variety of capital projects under consideration. Weather permitting, we expect to begin construction on the McKenzie Drive sidewalk project before the end of the year. Long desired by many Occoquan residents, the sidewalk will significantly improve the safety conditions for those who walk to and from the town's historic district along McKenzie Drive. Staff are also working to modernize some of our business processes in town. Among these is the vehicle license fee, which can now be paid online if you wish by going to the Town web site.

Last this month, as you may already be aware, the State Board of Elections recently sent out mailers to Occoquan residents with inaccurate voting location information (since followed by a correction from the county board of elections). **Both congressional and town elections take place November 8, and your correct voting location is Occoquan Elementary School, 12915 Occoquan Road, Woodbridge, VA (not town hall or a location in Fairfax).** If you wish, you may vote early at the Caton Hill DMV through November 5.

Once again, thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact me at epor-ta@occoquanva.gov if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Holiday Artisan Market:

December 3 & 4

Join us in **River Mill Park** on **Saturday, December 3 from 11am-5pm and Sunday, December 4 from 11am - 4pm**. This event will transform River Mill Park into a magical holiday shopping experience!



Visit with Santa

Santa will arrive by boat at the town dock at **Mamie Davis Park December 3 at 10:30 am**. Kids of all ages are invited to escort Santa to River Mill Park where he will be available to visit from **11am - 1pm** on **both days** of the Holiday Artisan Market.

Gingerbread House Contest

The fourth annual Community Gingerbread Contest takes place over Artisan Market Weekend. Head to River Mill Park to vote on your favorites.

Concerts in the Park

As a special extra, concerts are scheduled both days of the market beginning at **2pm**.

Un-Trim-A-Tree: Sponsor a Child for the Holidays

The Town is continuing the tradition of partnering with Volunteer Prince William where members of the public can sponsor a child for the holidays by purchasing a new unwrapped gift valued up to \$35. Each child will have two tags so you may fulfill one or both for the child. The tree that we have inside Town Hall over the holidays will have the tags hung on it that include the child's name, age, clothing size and toy interest. Collect tags, go shopping, and bring the unwrapped, new gifts to Town Hall for drop off, along with the tag. Please bring unwrapped gifts along with the tag to Town Hall **by December 5**. For more information, call Town Hall at (703) 491-1918.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

November 1
Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm

November 8
Election Day
Town Hall Closed

November 11
Veterans Day
Town Hall Closed

November 15
Auto Decals
2022 Vehicle License Fees Due

November 16
Dam Siren Test

November 19
Annual Town Tree Lighting

November 21
Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

November 24 & 25
Thanksgiving Holiday
Town Hall Closed

December 3 & 4
Holiday Artisan Market

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

HolidayFest: November 19 to December 4, 2022

Get ready for HolidayFest from **November 19 to December 4, 2022**. Come see the town entirely decorated. The holidays are a special time in Occoquan and HolidayFest is fun for the whole family! For more information visit: occoquanva.gov/holidayfest.

Free shuttle service into town from the VDOT lot at Rt. 123 and Old Bridge Road will be available during the following dates and times:

November 19 and 26 from 12pm - 9pm

December 3 and 4 from 11am - 6pm

December 10 and 17 from 12pm - 9pm



Events Throughout HolidayFest

Annual Town Tree Lighting

November 19, at 6 pm: Our annual tree lighting event kicks off HolidayFest and many shops will be open late! Head to Town Hall at 314 Mill Street for our ceremony at 6pm. The New Dominion Choraliers will create a festive ambience throughout town and visitors are invited to roast marshmallows for s'mores at River Mill Park!

Shop, Dine, & Win! Passport Event

November 19 - December 11, all day: Shop and dine at your favorite Occoquan businesses for a chance to win gift cards to use this holiday season!

Shop Small Weekend

November 25 - 27, all day: Get a jump on (or finish up) your holiday shopping at the best #shopsmall boutiques and retailers in the area. There's something for everyone in Occoquan!

Letters to Santa

November 19 - December 4: Drop your letter to Santa in our special North Pole mailboxes at Town Hall (314 Mill Street) or Hitchcock Paper Co. (125 Mill Street). If you include a return address, Santa will send a personalized letter back! Free coloring and fill-in Santa letters with envelopes will be available to kids of all ages.

Holiday Artisan Market

December 3 - 4: Explore over 50 artists and makers in **River Mill Park** on **Saturday, December 3 from 11am - 5pm** and **Sunday, December 4 from 11am - 4pm**.

2023 Vehicle License Fee:

Reminder that Vehicle License fees will be due by **November 15th** and the Auto Decals displayed by **November 16th**. You can fill out a physical form or you can fill out an online form at: occoquanva.gov/vehicle-license-fee.