

Town Council Actions: November 2022

- Accepted the Resignation of ASAP Representative Amy Wong.
- Adopted Veterans' Day 2022 Proclamation.
- Held a Public Hearing on Zoning Text Amendments to Add a Definition of "Multilevel Parking Structure" and to Amend Town Code § 157.121 to Permit Structured Parking with a Special Use Permit in the B-1 Zoning District.
- Adopted an Ordinance to Amend the Town Code Generally Relating to Parking Structures.
- Appropriated Funds for the Purchase of a Solar Solution Pilot for Gaslight Conversion with SLFRF Funds.

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

Reminder: Real Estate Tax Bills Due February 15, 2023

Residents of the town receive the benefit of services from both the Town of Occoquan and Prince William County. As a result, property owners pay real estate taxes to both the Town and County. Town of Occoquan real estate tax bills have been mailed to each property owner unless a mortgage services company has requested the tax bill. **The real estate tax for 2022 is due on February 15, 2023.** Most homeowners pay real estate taxes through their mortgage services company. If you do not utilize a mortgage services company, then you must pay your tax directly to the town. **If you need and did not get a bill**, contact us to update your mailing address. Send payments to Town of Occoquan at P.O. Box 195, Occoquan, VA 22125 or **pay online**. For more information go to occoquanva.gov/living-here/tax-information or contact the Treasurer at (703) 491-1918 or treasurer@occoquanva.gov.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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December 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

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone! I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are ready to enjoy the special season that is the month of December. First, let me thank all those who helped make our annual Tree Lighting & Shop Late event such a success. It was likely one of the largest crowds we have ever had for the event and everyone appeared to be enjoying themselves. Second, let me encourage you to enjoy some of what is coming in the weeks ahead. On Saturday, December 3, at 10:30 a.m., Santa arrives again by boat. After disembarking at Mamie Davis Park he will stroll up Mill Street to River Mill Park to make himself available for visits. Meanwhile, on both Saturday and Sunday River Mill Park will also be the site of our Holiday Artisan Market, where artisans and craft persons will offer original, handmade work in a range of media. All this will be accompanied in the park by our annual Gingerbread House contest and two concerts. Also continuing through December 4th is the Shop, Dine & Win Passport Event; shopping at participating town businesses provides a chance to win gift cards to use this holiday season. Speaking of shopping for the holidays, as always, please consider patronizing Occoquan businesses as much as possible for your holiday shopping needs. As you know, this time of year is extremely important for them and as the largest source of town tax revenue, their success helps keep residential real estate taxes low. And if you have friends you'd like to join the fun in Occoquan in December, let them know that a convenient, free shuttle service is available from a nearby commuter lot on December 3, 4, 10, and 17. Finally, make sure to let the little ones know that they can drop off letters to Santa at our special North Pole mailboxes in front of Town Hall and at Hitchcock Paper! Whew — there's more information on all this elsewhere in this newsletter and on the town web site. Let me close this month by again wishing you all the very best for the holidays. There will be great deal going on in the new year, but for now please take some time to enjoy the season. Thank you once more for your support and please do not hesitate to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Earnest W. Porta, Jr.

NEW: Make Payments Online

New on the Town of Occoquan's Website is a page where you can do online payments. Go to occoquanva.gov/make-a-payment to now pay for Real Estate Taxes, Vehicle License Fees, Meals and Transient Taxes, and more.

The Occoquan Express Free Shuttle Service!

Don't worry about parking. Jump the FREE shuttle bus service into town during select days in December. Park at the Rt. 123/Old Bridge Road Commuter Lot and be taken directly into town. The shuttle will run approximately every 20 minutes. Strollers and service animals are welcome on the shuttle. The Occoquan Express shuttle service will be available the following days in December:

- **Saturday, December 3 from 11am to 6pm**
- **Sunday, December 4 from 11am to 6pm**
- **Saturday, December 10 from 12pm to 9pm**
- **Saturday, December 17 from 12pm to 9pm**

Shop, Dine, & Win! Passport Event

From **November 19 to December 4**, shop and dine at your favorite Occoquan businesses for a chance to win gift cards to use this holiday season!

How to Play

- Spend \$10 or more at six different participating businesses.
- Receive a stamp from the business on the official form (pick one up at a participating business).
- Return form to the red mailbox at Town Hall by Sunday, December 4.

Winners will be drawn **Wednesday, December 7** at facebook.com/visitoccoquan.



MEETINGS & EVENTS

December 3 & 4 Holiday Artisan Market

December 3 & 4 Concerts in River Mill Park

December 6 Town Council Meeting 7:00 pm

December 13 Planning Commission 6:30 pm Architectural Review Board 7:30 pm

December 20 Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

December 23 & 26 Christmas Holiday (Observed) Town Hall Closed

January 2 New Year's Day (Observed) Town Hall Closed

February 15 Real Estate Taxes Due

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

Holiday Artisan Market: December 3 & 4, 2022

Join us in **River Mill Park** for the **Holiday Artisan Market on December 3 & 4** when artisans and craft persons will offer original, handmade work in a full range of media. This event will transform River Mill Park into a magical shopping experience for all ages! For more information visit: occoquanva.gov/holidayfest.

- **Saturday, December 3 from 11am to 5pm**
- **Sunday, December 4 from 11am to 4pm**

Free shuttle service will be available during this event. Park at the Rt. 123/Old Bridge commuter lot and be taken directly into town. Shuttle services run from **11am to 6pm both days** of the market.

Events During The Holiday Artisan Market

Visit with Santa

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

Gingerbread House Contest

The fourth annual Community Gingerbread House Contest takes place over the Holiday Artisan Market weekend. Head to River Mill Park to vote on your favorites. The three categories to vote for are Traditional Gingerbread, Authentic Reproduction of a Structure in Occoquan, and Gingerbread Creations/Youth.

Concerts in the Park

Concerts are scheduled both days of the Holiday Artisan Market starting at **2pm**. Saturday will feature Lake Ridge Chorale and Sunday will feature The Hot Lanes.

Letters to Santa

Don't forget to drop off your letter to Santa in our special North Pole mailboxes at Town Hall (314 Mill Street, Occoquan, VA) or at Hitchcock Paper Co. (125 Mill Street, Occoquan, VA). If you include a return address, Santa will send a personalized letter back! Free coloring and fill-in Santa letters are available to kids of all ages at Hitchcock Paper Co.

