

## Town Voting Information

If you are a resident of the Town of Occoquan, your voting location for the November 7<sup>th</sup> election is **Occoquan Elementary School, 12915 Occoquan Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192**. Reminder that voting does not take place at Town Hall.

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

## 2024 Vehicle License Fee and 2023 Real Estate Taxes

Reminder that the 2024 Vehicle License Fees are due by **November 15<sup>th</sup>** and the Vehicle License Decals displayed by **November 16<sup>th</sup>**. All vehicles stored or garaged in the Town are required to display an annual Vehicle License Decal. You can fill out a physical form or you can fill out an online form at: [occoquanva.gov/living-here/tax-information](https://occoquanva.gov/living-here/tax-information).

Reminder that the Town Council adopted an Ordinance that changes the Real Estate Tax due date to **December 5<sup>th</sup>** each year. Real estate Tax Bills have been mailed to each property owner unless a mortgage services company has requested the tax bill. 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 did not receive or need a copy of the bill**, please 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](https://occoquanva.gov/living-here/tax-information) or contact us at (703) 491-1918.

## OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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### TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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

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OCCOQUAN, VA 22125

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# OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXX, ISSUE XI

703-491-1918

November 2023

### TOWN COUNCIL

Earnest W. Porta, Jr., Mayor  
Jenn Loges, Vice Mayor  
Nancy Freeborne Brinton  
Theo Daubresse  
Cindy Fithian  
Eliot Perkins



### TOWN HALL STAFF

Adam Linn, Town Manager & Chief of Police  
Matt Whitmoyer, Deputy Town Manager  
Philip Auville, Town Clerk  
Manuel Casillas, Assistant Town Treasurer  
Julie Little, Events Director  
Jason Forman, Deputy Chief of Police

## Mayor's Letter

Thank you to everyone who helped out or participated in our various Halloween-themed activities last month. They were all a great success, including our sold-out murder-mystery event in River Mill Park. As you have heard me say before, after the end of September it is a sprint to New Year's Day in Occoquan and we have the upcoming events to prove it. On Friday, November 3, we have our last Trivia Night of the year in River Mill Park. Then, on November 18, we kick-off HolidayFest, which runs through December 3. This year we're doing things a little differently on the 18th. First, we will be holding a pop-up market on Mill Street from its intersection with Ellicott Street to River Mill Park, starting at 11:00 a.m. Then at 6:00 p.m. (earlier than in the past) we will have the annual town tree lighting in front of town hall. After that everyone will be able to continue to enjoy our shops, restaurants, pop-up market, and fire pits with s'mores and marshmallows. HolidayFest will continue throughout the month with special shopping opportunities, letters to Santa, and our Un-Trim-A-Tree program to assist those less fortunate. And, of course, when early December rolls around we will have a host of other holiday events, including Santa's arrival by boat on December 3. Please see elsewhere in this newsletter and check out the town's web site for more information.

In the non-holiday category, there will be several projects taking place or coming to an end in town this month. Please note, for example, that on Tuesday, November 14, at 10:00 a.m. Fairfax Water will be performing the annual test of the Occoquan Dam siren system. More information on that can be found at [www.occoquandamsiren.com](http://www.occoquandamsiren.com). Also this month, both the blasting and Tanyard Hill Road construction activity associated with Fairfax Water's Occoquan River Crossing project should be completed. We appreciate everyone's patience with regard to any disruption they may have caused. Last, please note that because of Election Day, the first Town Council meeting in November will be held on Wednesday, November 8. As always, thank you again for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact me at [eporta@occoquanva.gov](mailto:eporta@occoquanva.gov) with any comments, questions, or concerns.

*Earnest W. Porta, Jr.*

## OPD SHIELD Program

The Occoquan Police Department (OPD) SHIELD program has been created to inform you of upcoming events, new intelligence and crime related events in the Town and region. To register to become a member of the OPD SHIELD program visit: [occoquanva.gov/special-operations-division](https://occoquanva.gov/special-operations-division).

If you are a Town Business you can complete the OPD After Hours Business Contact Form so we are able to contact you in case of an emergency or incident involving your business.

## Holiday Artisan Market:

Join us for a Holiday Artisan Market on **Saturday, December 2 from 11am–7pm and Sunday, December 3 from 11am–4pm**. This year, the Holiday Artisan Market extends onto Mill Street, where you can find over 100 artisans and crafters. Free shuttle service will be available for patrons from the RT 123 and Old Bridge Road commuter lot both days of the Holiday Artisan Market.

### Visit with Santa

Santa will arrive by boat at the town dock at **Mamie Davis Park December 2 at 10:45 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.

## 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 two new unwrapped gifts valued up to \$75 combined. 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 (or Hitchcock Paper) for drop off, along with the tag. Please bring unwrapped gifts along with the tag to Town Hall or other designated location **by December 1<sup>st</sup>**.

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

### November 7

#### Election Day

Town Hall Closed

### November 8

#### Town Council Meeting

7:00 pm

### November 10

#### Veterans Day

Town Hall Closed

### November 14

#### Dam Siren Test

### November 15

#### Auto Decals

2024 Vehicle License Fees Due

### November 18

#### Annual Town Tree Lighting

### November 20

#### Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

### November 23 & 24

#### Thanksgiving Holiday

Town Hall Closed

### December 2 & 3

#### Holiday Artisan Market

### December 5

#### Real Estate Taxes Due

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

## HolidayFest: November 18 to December 3, 2023

Get ready for HolidayFest from **November 18 to December 3, 2023**. Come see the town entirely decorated, as the holidays are a special time in Occoquan and HolidayFest is fun for the whole family! For more information visit: [visitoccoquanva.com/holiday](https://visitoccoquanva.com/holiday).

## Events

### Annual Town Tree Lighting & Pop Up Market

**November 18:** From 11am - 8pm, the Town is hosting a Pop-Up Market on Mill Street from Ellicott Street to River Mill Park. Be sure to head to Town Hall at 314 Mill Street for our lighting ceremony at 6pm. Mayor Porta will officiate this time honored tradition that officially kicks off HolidayFest. Afterward head down through the Pop-Up Market toward River Mill Park to enjoy s'mores and roasting marshmallows.

### Shop, Dine, & Win! Contest

**November 18 - December 3:** Shop and dine at your favorite Occoquan businesses for a chance to win \$100 in Occoquan business gift cards! Spend \$10 or more at six (6) different participating businesses, then receive a stamp from the business on the official form (pick one up at a participating business). Once the form is completed, return it to the red mailbox at Town Hall (314 Mill Street). Winners will be drawn Wednesday, December 6 at [facebook.com/visitoccoquan](https://facebook.com/visitoccoquan).

### Shop Small Weekend

**November 24 - 26:** 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 18 - December 15:** 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 2 - 3:** This year, Occoquan becomes a magical holiday shopping experience as our Holiday Artisan Market moves to **Mill Street!** Join us on **Saturday, December 2 from 11am - 7pm** and **Sunday, December 3 from 11am - 4pm**. A free shuttle service is available for patrons from the Rt 123 and Old Bridge Road Commuter Lot both days of the market.

### Gingerbread House Contest

During the Holiday Artisan Market, vote for your favorite gingerbread creations. You may also build your own gingerbread creation and enter it to win \$50 in gift cards.

### Volunteer in the Fun!

We are in need of a few good volunteers to help with the Holiday Artisan Market. If interested please contact Julie Little at: [jlittle@occoquanva.gov](mailto:jlittle@occoquanva.gov).

