

Town Council Actions: November 2023

- Adopted a Resolution of Appreciation and Recognition to Althea Marie Robinson for her work on designing and installing a mural at Route 123 and Commerce Street.
- Adopted a Veterans' Day 2023 Proclamation.
- Approved the Reimbursement of the Hollows Section Town HOA for the Installation of a Streetlight at West Locust and Frayer's Farm Court.
- Approved an Agreement with Axon Enterprise to provide a new body-worn camera system for the Occoquan Police Department.

2023 Real Estate Tax Bills Due December 5, 2023

Reminder that the Town Council adopted an Ordinance that changes the Real Estate Tax due date to **December 5th** 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 or contact us at (703) 491-1918.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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December 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 the town staff, top to bottom, and everyone who participated in the very successful HolidayFest kickoff and tree-lighting on November 18. We appeared to have more people attending than in any prior year. Staff, including our auxiliary police officers, worked very hard in getting the town ready for the event, so please thank them if you have the opportunity. A special thank you as well, goes to Councilmember Eliot Perkins, who organized and operated the fire pits and associated activities with a group of town resident volunteers.

Holiday-related activities continue this month, starting with Santa's arrival by boat at the town dock at approximately 10:45 a.m. on Saturday, December 2, which will be accompanied by our Holiday Artisan Market, the annual Gingerbread contest, a Sip & Stroll, and the final weekend of the Shop, Dine & Win contest. We also have on hand our special North Pole mailbox in front of Town Hall where folks can mail their letters to Santa. To round out our activities, please consider coming to River Mill Park at 5:30 on December 7 for the first night of Channukah and the lighting of the menorah donated by Chabad Lubavitch of Greater Gainesville & Manassas.

Of course, it is an Occoquan tradition to remember those less fortunate during the winter holidays. Accordingly, once again we are hosting an Untrim-A-Tree program at Town Hall in collaboration with Volunteer Prince William. Please consider stopping by and picking up a tag to sponsor a gift for a child. There is more information on this and many of the other items mentioned above elsewhere in this newsletter and on the town web site.

Last, on behalf of the Post Office staff I would like to ask that you check your mail regularly during the holiday season. The staff in the Post Office drowns in uncollected packages as people travel or otherwise do not pick up their mail for days at a time, so it really helps them out and speeds things up when people check their mail daily. Once again, thank you for all your support. Merry Christmas and happy holidays to everyone and please do not hesitate to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any comments, questions, or concerns.

Earnest W. Porta, Jr.

Letters to Santa

Drop off your letter to Santa by **December 15** 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. On the weekends, kids can fill out and decorate their letters at Hitchcock Paper Co. and drop it in the mailbox on site.

Shop, Dine, & Win! Contest

From **November 18 to December 3**, shop and dine at your favorite Occoquan businesses for a chance to win \$100 in Occoquan business gift cards! Over \$1,500 in gift cards to specific Occoquan businesses will be awarded!

How to Play

- Spend \$10 or more at six (6) different participating businesses.
- Receive a stamp from the business on the official form.
- Return form to the red mailbox at Town Hall (314 Mill Street).

Winners will be drawn **Wednesday, December 6**, at [facebook.com/visitoccoquan](https://www.facebook.com/visitoccoquan).

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 5th**.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

December 2 & 3
Holiday Artisan Market

December 5
Real Estate Taxes Due

December 5
Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm

December 12
Planning Commission
6:30 pm
Architectural Review Board
7:30 pm

December 20
Meals and Transient
Occupancy Taxes Due

December 22
Christmas Eve (Observed)
Town Hall Closed

December 25
Christmas Day Holiday
Town Hall Closed

January 1
New Year's Day
Town Hall Closed

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

Holiday Artisan Market: December 2 & 3, 2023

Join us as Occoquan transforms itself for the Holidays, where you'll think you've walked onto the set of a winter wonderland Hallmark movie. The Holiday Artisan Market will take place on December 2 & 3 with over 100 artisans and crafters will line River Mill Park and new for this year extending onto Mill Street! You are sure to find the perfect gift for everyone on your holiday list and maybe something for yourself too. For more information visit: [visitoccoquanva.com/holiday](https://www.visitoccoquanva.com/holiday)

- **Saturday, December 2 from 11am to 7pm**
- **Sunday, December 3 from 11am to 4pm**

Free shuttle service will be available during both days of the event. Park at the Rt. 123/Old Bridge commuter lot and be taken directly into Town. The shuttle will run **Saturday, December 2, from 10 am to 8 pm**, and **Sunday, December 3, from 10 am to 5 pm**.

Events During the Holiday Artisan Market

Santa Comes to Town

Since we are a river town, it only makes sense to bring Santa in on boat! Santa will arrive on **Saturday, December 2, at 10:45 am** at the Town Dock just in time to open the Holiday Artisan Market at 11 am. He'll then visit with families in River Mill Park until 1 pm both days of the Market.

Gingerbread House Contest

During the Holiday Artisan Market, the community will vote on their favorite gingerbread creations located in the cul de sac in front of River Mill Park.

Arts & Crafts

Kids can make crafty gifts at the art table in River Mill Park or write a letter to Santa.

Sip & Stroll

On **Saturday, December 2, from 12 pm to 8 pm**, adults can pick up their favorite alcoholic beverage to carry with you through the market!

Alpaca Time

Come meet Connie and Carmella in River Mill Park! You can visit with them or even give them a snack!

Volunteer in the Fun!

We are in need of a few good volunteers to help! If interested, please contact Julie Little at: jlittle@occoquanva.gov or sign up for a shift at: form.jotform.com/232785581738167.

