

Town Council Actions: October 2018

The following items are extracts of recent Town Council actions and are not official meeting minutes. The most recent approved Town Council minutes and agendas are available online at www.occoquanva.gov. All votes are unanimous unless noted otherwise.

- Approved 2019 Meeting and Holiday Calendar
- Set a Not-To-Exceed amount of \$3,000 for Wreath Installation
- Approved Town Hall Credit Card System
- Appointed Mayor Porta and Councilmember Dawson to the Budget Committee

Bag Your Leaves

It's that time of year! As you are clearing your property of fallen leaves, please be sure to bag your leaves and do not blow them on to streets, sidewalks, gutters, or other right-of-ways as they will not be collected. Leaves must be bagged and can be placed to the curb for collection on the Town's regular refuse collection day. Also note that brush and tree limbs must be cut into 4-foot lengths, bundled with rope or twine, and not exceed 50 pounds. Grass clippings, leaves, and twigs can be bagged or placed in personal containers; however, tree limbs that are larger than 6 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length will not be collected. Questions? Contact Town Hall at 703-491-1918.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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VOLUME XXV, ISSUE XI

(703) 491-1918

NOVEMBER 2018

TOWN COUNCIL

Earnie Porta, Mayor
Patrick A. Sivigny, Vice Mayor
J. Matthew Dawson
Cindy Fithian
Laurie Holloway
Eliot Perkins



TOWN HALL STAFF

Adam Linn, Chief of Police
Chris Coon, Town Clerk
Carla Rodriguez, Town Treasurer
Julie Little, Events Director
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor
Pam Holbert, Administrative Asst.

Mayor's Letter

I would like to start this month by thanking everyone who participated in the various Halloween events in town. From the character hunt, pumpkin carving contest, and costume parade, to the magic show, movie, and canine "Howl-o-Ween" event, everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. A special thanks to Events Director, Julie Little, and the members of our business community for their great work. Additionally, I want to thank those who participated in the Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO) clean-up on October 13. This effort contributes significantly to the removal of trash both from the river and from the streets and public spaces of town.

During November, the holiday season really kicks into high gear in Occoquan. This is one of the most important times of the year for Occoquan merchants, so as always, I ask that you please consider doing some of your holiday shopping in town, and encourage your friends and family to do so as well. On **Friday, November 16**, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., the Occoquan Merchants Guild will hold its annual Holiday Open House, which will be followed promptly at 8:05 p.m. by the town tree lighting ceremony at Town Hall and the Guild gift certificate drawings. This has become a very popular event for residents and visitors alike and I hope you will find the time to attend. Occoquan's holiday traditions of course continue in December. Be sure to stay tuned for information on Santa's arrival by boat (**December 1**), the annual town blessing at Ebenezer Baptist Church and town holiday party (**December 2**), and charity drives like the Untrim-a-Tree program (more in this newsletter).

Finally, I have once again invited the Salvation Army to have bell ringers in Town the night of the Guild Open House and town tree Lighting, and for that I need volunteer bell ringers willing to serve two hour shifts on the 16th. Please email me at eporta@occoquanva.gov if you are willing to volunteer. As always, thank you for your support and please feel free to contact me with any comments, questions or concerns. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Earnie W. Porta, Jr.

Occoquan Vehicle License Fee Due

The Town of Occoquan 2019 vehicle license fees/decals are now on sale at Town Hall. Town Ordinance Section 62-37 requires that owners of any motor vehicle principally stored, garaged or parked in the Town obtain a license decal from the Town. **The 2019 decal must be displayed on your vehicle by November 15, 2018.**

Renewal forms were mailed in October; blank forms are available on the Town's website at www.occoquanva.gov or at Town Hall. Forms and payments can be mailed back to Town Hall or dropped off in person. Town Hall will be open late on **Wednesday, November 7, until 7 p.m.** for your convenience.

If you have any questions, please contact Town Staff at (703) 491-1918 or at info@occoquanva.gov.

Holiday Open House & Tree Lighting: November 16

Kick-off the holiday season with an evening of shopping in historic Occoquan on Friday, November 16, 2018, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Stroll through the many unique shops of Occoquan during the Occoquan Merchants Guild Holiday Open House and enjoy shopping, refreshments and an old fashioned Christmas.

Immediately following this special shopping event, stop by Town Hall for the annual tree lighting event at 8:05 p.m. Then at 8:15 p.m. the Guild will hold its Open House drawing and distribute more than \$1,000 in gift certificates! Must be present to win.

Untrim-A-Tree November 16 thru December 7

Participate in the Untrim-A-Tree Project and stop by Town Hall to select a gift tag from the tree and make a child's holiday wish come true. To participate, sign up at Town Hall and return new, unwrapped gifts to Town Hall or Personally Yours during normal business hours by December 7, 2018. If you are unable to purchase a gift, donations are also accepted. Sponsored by the Occoquan Merchants Guild and Volunteer Prince William. For more information, contact (703) 494-8683.

November 2018

Town Meetings and Events

(All meetings are held at Town Hall, 314 Mill Street, unless otherwise noted.)

November 6: Election Day

Check your polling location:
www.pwcvotes.com

November 7: Town Council Meeting

7:00 p.m., Town Hall

November 12: Veterans Day Observed

Town Hall Closed

November 16: Merchant Guild Open House

4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Historic District

November 16: Annual Tree Lighting

8:05 p.m., Town Hall

November 20: Town Council Meeting Work Session

7:00 p.m., Town Hall

November 20: October 2018 Meals Tax and Transient Occupancy Tax Due

November 22-23: Thanksgiving Holiday

Town Hall Closed

November 27: Planning Commission

6:30 p.m., Town Hall

Architectural Review Board

7:30 p.m., Town Hall

Airbnb and Transient Rentals

Municipal regulation of Airbnb and similar rentals has been a hot topic in the news of late. Generally speaking, such accommodations are permitted in Occoquan's business district. The Town Code, however, permits transient rentals of less than ninety days in residential areas **only as an accessory use**. In effect, this means that the rental must be incidental to the principle use of the building. Such use is also subject to the Occoquan Transient Occupancy Tax. Individuals interested in using portions of their home for transient rentals are encouraged to review the relevant Zoning and Taxation sections of the Occoquan Town Code, which may be found online at www.occoquanva.gov, and to contact the Occoquan Town Hall to ensure that they are in compliance with the relevant regulations.