

Town Council Actions: October 2021

- Held a Public Hearing on Amendments to the Town of Occoquan Charter and voted to transmit amended charter to the General Assembly for consideration
- Approved Site Plan SP-2021-007, Occoquan River Crossing Transmission Main
- Approved an Encroachment License with 301 Commerce Street LLC
- Appointed two Alternate Members to the Architectural Review Board: Lisa Terry and Theo Daubresse
- Referred amendments to Town Code § 157.304 (B)(12) regarding illuminated signs to the Planning Commission
- Referred amendments to Town Code § 157.121 to permit residential use by-right in one story buildings fronting Commerce and Ellicott Streets in the B-1 zoning district
- Held a discussion on property maintenance code enforcement

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

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 Test: November 17

Fairfax Water has scheduled the annual test of its emergency dam siren on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 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 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXVIII, ISSUE XI 703-491-1918

November 2021

TOWN COUNCIL

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



TOWN HALL STAFF

Kirstyn Jovanovich, Town Manager
Adam Linn, Chief of Police
Michele White, Town Clerk
Manuel Casillas, Town Treasurer
Julie Little, Events Director
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor

Mayor's Letter

October was a busy month with our popular monthly Trivia Night, our first Karaoke Night, a very-well attended Movie Night, an SUP/Kayak race, the FOTO cleanup, road repaving, Halloween festivities and more. But buckle your seat belts, as November as usual will be even busier in Town as the holiday season ramps up. This month's newsletter is chock full of information on holiday-related events. These include the annual Guild late shopping evening and Town Tree Lighting on Saturday, November 20; the Shop, Dine, and Wine Passport Event starting November 20; the Shop Small weekend November 26-28; our annual Un-Trim-A-Tree program; our annual Gingerbread House Contest; and then on December 4th and 5th Santa's visit by boat and our first Holiday Artisan Market, complete with caroling, marshmallow roasting, and hot cocoa. This is all in addition to our last Trivia Night of the calendar year in River Mill Park, which will take place on November 12. A less festive, but nevertheless important event will take place on November 17, at 10:00 a.m., when Fairfax Water will conduct the annual test of its dam emergency siren. Detailed information on all these events can be found on the Town web site at occoquanva.gov. Please check it out regularly for updates.

We also had a couple of new businesses open in Town recently. Anderson's Country Store is currently open on weekends on Union Street, and It's Your Day on Mill Street recently had a ribbon-cutting to celebrate its opening. Welcome to both businesses; we wish you success.

I'd like to close this month by thanking all the wonderful volunteers who have been making what is essentially a sprint to the new year that starts in late September a success. We could not do it without you. And thank you as well to our newest members of the Planning Commission (Ralph Newell) and ARB (Lisa Terry and Theo Daubresse) for your willingness to serve. Everyone, if possible, please take some time to slow down and enjoy the holiday season. As always, please feel free to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any questions, comments, or concerns.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ernest W. Porta, Jr.".

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 Patriot Scuba 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 November 30**. For more information, call Town Hall at (703) 491-1918.

Holiday Artisan Market: December 4 & 5

This year, River Mill Park will transform into a winter wonderland for a special shopping experience! Join us for a **Holiday Artisan Market** in the park where artisans and crafters will offer original, handmade work in a full range of media. Santa will visit between 11 am and 3 pm both days and the festivities run into the evening on Dec 4, with caroling and hot cocoa and s'more kits available at the fire pits for roasting marshmallows.



Saturday, December 4: Market Open 11 am - 8 pm

10:30 am: Santa arrives by boat at Mamie Davis Park

11 am - 3 pm: Santa visits with families at the top of each hour

4 pm - 8 pm: Caroling, marshmallow roasting, hot cocoa

Sunday, December 5: Market Open 11 am - 4 pm

11am - 3pm: Santa visits with families at the top of each hour

Free shuttle service from the commuter lot at 123 and Old Bridge Road will be available on December 4 from 11 am to 9 pm, and December 5 from 11 am to 5 pm.

For more information, visit occoquanva.gov.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2

Election Day
Town Hall Closed

NOVEMBER 3

Town Council Meeting, 7 pm
Town Hall Open Late for Vehicle License Fee Purchases

NOVEMBER 11

Veterans Day
Town Hall Closed

NOVEMBER 12

Trivia Night, 6:30 pm
River Mill Park

NOVEMBER 15

Auto Decals
2022 Vehicle License Fees Due

NOVEMBER 16

Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 pm

NOVEMBER 17

Dam Siren Test, 10 am

NOVEMBER 20

Annual Town Tree Lighting & Shop Late Saturday

NOVEMBER 22

Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

NOVEMBER 25-26

Town Hall closed for Thanksgiving holiday

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

Annual Town Tree Lighting: November 20

A favorite holiday tradition is back. Head to Town Hall on Saturday, November 20, at 8pm for our annual tree lighting ceremony. This event kicks off HolidayFest in Occoquan and many businesses will be open late! Grab a drink or dinner and come do a little evening shopping at your favorite boutiques and galleries. Many shops and eateries will be open until 8 pm or later. For more information, see visitoccoquanva.com/shoplate.



Shop, Dine & Win Passport Event: Nov 20 – Dec 12

Shop and dine at your favorite Occoquan businesses for a chance to win gift cards to use this holiday season! More information at visitoccoquan.com/holiday.

Shop Small Weekend: November 26-28

Get a jump on (or finish up) your holiday shopping by supporting small businesses in Occoquan.

Third Annual Gingerbread House Contest

Build a fun gingerbread creation by **December 3, 2021** and enter to win \$50 in OCQ gift cards! Use your imagination and gingerbread to build anything from a simple cottage to an elaborate historic reproduction. Categories include Traditional Gingerbread, Authentic Reproduction, and the Youth category: Gingerbread Creations. Winners will be announced on Saturday, December 11, at noon via Facebook Live. For more info about entries and to download an entry form, visit occoquanva.gov/occoquan-events/gingerbread-contest.

Santa Visits Occoquan by Boat: December 4 & 5

Santa will arrive by boat to the town dock in Mamie Davis Park on December 4 at 10:30 am. Kids of all ages are then invited to escort Santa to River Mill Park. He will be ready to visit with families at the top of each hour from 11 am to 3 pm on December 4 and 5, to coincide with the Holiday Artisan Market in River Mill Park. Santa will sing songs and tell stories and he may even let you take his photo! Families should bring camp chairs or a blanket to visit with Santa. A free shuttle is available both days beginning at 11 am picking up from the commuter lot at 123 and Old Bridge Road and take you directly to River Mill Park for your visit. For more information, visit occoquanva.gov.

Final Trivia Night: November 12, 6:30 pm

It's Game Night in River Mill Park! Join us for our final Trivia Night of the year. Bring your team of up to six people and rent a 10-foot circle in the park. One circle can accommodate up to six team members; one circle/registration per team. Visit occoquanva.gov/trivia-night-9 for more information.