

Town Council Actions: October 2024

- Adopted an Ordinance Imposing Administrative and Collections Fees upon Delinquent Taxes

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

Town Voting Information

If you are a resident of the Town of Occoquan, your voting location for the November 5th Election is **Occoquan Elementary School, 12915 Occoquan Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192**. Reminder that voting does not take place at Town Hall.

Occoquan Dam Siren Testing: November 20

Fairfax Water Authority has scheduled the annual testing of its emergency dam siren on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 10am. 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

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November 2024

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
Asma Rupani, Town Treasurer
Manuel Casillas, Assistant Town Treasurer
Julie Little, Events Director
Jason Forman, Deputy Chief of Police

Mayor's Letter

While some always think it's a little early, our Christmas and winter holiday season kicks into high gear this month in Occoquan. On Saturday, November 23 (the weekend before Thanksgiving) we hold our annual tree-lighting, late shopping, and firelight night. The lighting of the town tree is a wonderful tradition that has continued to grow over the decades, and the addition over the last two years of the firepits near the Mill House Museum with marshmallows, s'mores, hot drinks, and music, has added another popular dimension. Take the time to patronize our stores for holiday gifts and enjoy this festive evening in town. That same day we begin our Letters to Santa mailbox offering; the Shop, Dine, & Win! Contest; and our Un-Trim-A-Tree campaign to benefit those less fortunate. Then, beginning November 29 we encourage you to remember town businesses during Shop Small Weekend. There is more information on all of these activities elsewhere in this newsletter and on the town web site (www.occoquanva.gov).

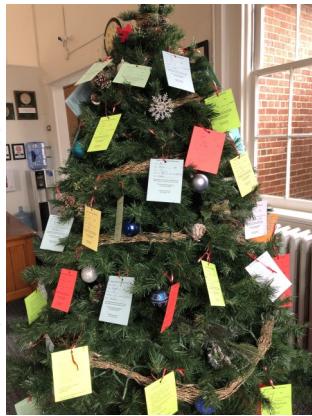
Also this month I would like to remind folks about the annual test of the Occoquan Dam warning siren by Fairfax Water. The test is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on November 20, 2024, and more information can be found at occoquandamsiren.com.

By now many of you will have noticed some new 20 mph speed limit signs on a short stretch of Washington Street. Under authority recently granted by the state, the town has chosen to lower the speed limit in this high traffic area, which too often witnesses unsafe speeds of 30 mph or more, to enhance safety for school bus stops and the two pedestrian crosswalks. As these are town signs, not VDOT signs, we eventually plan to outline them in lights that will help alert people to the presence of pedestrians in the nearby crosswalks. Together we believe these measures will help enhance safety along this stretch of Washington Street, which has been a long-time concern of some town residents.

As always, thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Un-Trim-A-Tree: Sponsor a Child for the Holidays

The Town and Visit Occoquan are partnering with Volunteer Prince William where members of the public can sponsor a child for the holidays by purchasing two new unwrapped gifts. There will be two trees to chose from, one at Town Hall (314 Mill Street) and the second at Tiny Supply Co. (125 Mill Street, Suite 11). The tags will have the child's name, age, clothing size, and toy interest. Collect tags, go shopping, and bring back the un-wrapped, new gifts to Town Hall or Tiny Supply Co. for drop off, along with the tag by December 4th.



2024 Real Estate Tax Bills Due December 5, 2024

This is a reminder that the Real Estate Tax due date is **December 5th** for the 2024 year. Real Estate tax bills have been mailed to each property owner unless a mortgage services company has requested the tax bill. If you do not utilize a mortgage services company, then you must pay your tax directly to the Town. For more information go to occoquanva.gov/living-here/tax-information.

2025 Vehicle License Renewal

This is a reminder that the Vehicle License Fee Renewals will be due by **November 15th** and the Auto Decals displayed by **November 16th**. More information has been sent out via mail. You may drop forms off and pay at Town Hall or submit completed forms and payments online at occoquanva.gov/make-a-payment.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

November 5
Election Day
Town Hall Closed

November 6
Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm

November 11
Veterans Day
Town Hall Closed

November 19
Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm

November 20
Dam Siren Test

November 20
Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

November 23
Annual Town Tree Lighting

November 28 & 29
Thanksgiving Holiday
Town Hall Closed

December 5
Real Estate Taxes Due

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

Holiday Events: November 23 to December 15, 2024

Get ready for the holidays in Occoquan with activities from **November 23 to December 15, 2024**. Come see the town entirely decorated, as the holidays are a special time in Occoquan and fun for the whole Family! For more information visit: visitoccoquanva.com/holiday.

Events

Annual Town Tree Lighting

Saturday, November 23, 5pm - 9pm: It's a night of fire pits, marshmallow roasting, caroling, hot cocoa, and more! This event is a toasty way to enjoy the start of the holidays in Occoquan. Before and after the Tree Lighting, enjoy the Holiday Firelight near Mill House Museum (413 Mill Street). Marshmallows for roasting are free. Hot cocoa, hot cider, plus s'mores kits can be purchased onsite. Join us at **6pm in front of Town Hall** for our annual holiday tree lighting.



Sing-A-Long with Santa

Saturday, December 7, at 11am: Join us for a festive sing-a-long with Santa's favorite kids (that's you!) First, **Santa arrives by boat at 10:30am** where visitors can wave him in from the town dock. From there, he and his friends will parade down Mill Street to **River Mill Park** for singing and merriment.

Letters to Santa

November 23 - December 15: Drop your letter to Santa in our special North Pole mailboxes at Town Hall (314 Mill Street) or Tiny Supply Co. (125 Mill Street). If you include a return address, Santa will send a personalized letter back!

Shop, Dine, & Win! Contest

November 23 - December 15: 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. Winners will be drawn Wednesday, December 18 at facebook.com/visitoccoquan.

Shop Small Weekend

November 29 - December 1: Get a jump on (or finish up) your holiday shopping at the best #shopsmall boutiques and retailers in the area!