

Town Council Actions: November 7, 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 County MOU – TAP Grant Funding Agreement
- Authorized an Increase from 3 to 5 Part-time Police Officers
- Approved Temporary Naming of Tanyard Hill Park

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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December 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 want to start this month by thanking everyone who participated in the Occoquan Merchants Guild's Holiday Open House and the Town Hall Tree Lighting on November 16. Thank you especially to those volunteers from the Guild who decorated the town tree, as well as those who volunteered to serve as Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign bell ringers for the evening – Mary Cramer, Petra and Tony Casipit, Jacob Moser, and Kelsey Dott.

On **Saturday, December 1**, the Merchants Guild will sponsor Santa's arrival in town by boat. Santa will disembark at the Town pier at noon and then proceed to Town Hall to greet children until 2:00 p.m. The next day, **Sunday, December 2**, at 5:30 p.m., our friends from Ebenezer Baptist Church will hold their annual town blessing at the historic church at the corner of Commerce and Washington Streets. Everyone is invited, and the service will be followed by the free Town holiday party at Madigan's Waterfront Restaurant. A week later, on **Saturday, December 8**, Occoquan will again participate in the regional event known as WinterFest; details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. These are but a sampling of Occoquan's wonderful December traditions and I hope you will be able to find the time to enjoy them.

As always, members of the Occoquan community will also make a particular effort to remember those who are less fortunate this month. Thanks to our Merchants Guild we are again the site of an "Untrim-a-Tree" program for needy children. Tags may be obtained at Town Hall. And of course, please remember that the holidays are a particularly important time for our town merchants, some of whom depend heavily on the holiday season for their success, so please patronize them to the maximum extent you are able for your holiday shopping needs.

Let me close by thanking all of you for your support and generosity of spirit during the past months. Please have a safe and joyful holiday, and do not hesitate to contact me at epor-ta@occoquanva.org with any comments, questions or concerns.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town, December 1



As he does every year, Santa Claus will arrive in Town by boat on Saturday, December 1, at noon. Escorted upriver by Rivershore Charters, Santa will disembark at the Town pier and then proceed to Town Hall, where he will greet children until 2:00 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Occoquan Merchants Guild and will include carols by the Bull Run Troubadours. Bring your camera for the perfect holiday picture!

Town Blessing and Holiday Party, December 2

Ebenezer Baptist Church invites the public to attend its annual Town Blessing service on Sunday, December 2, at the historic church at the corner of Commerce and Washington Streets. The evening will start with a service at 5:30 p.m., which will be followed immediately by a candlelit blessing at Mamie Davis Park on Mill Street. After the blessing, the community is invited to attend the annual Town Holiday Party at Madigan's Waterfront Restaurant. This entire evening is an Occoquan holiday tradition that extends back decades and is a wonderful way to share some holiday spirit with our friends at Ebenezer Baptist Church.

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.

December 2018

Town Meetings and Events

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

December 1: Santa Comes to Occoquan
12 p.m. – 2 p.m., Mamie Davis & Town Hall

December 2: Town Blessing
5:30 p.m. Ebenezer Baptist Church

December 2: Town Holiday Party
6:30 p.m. Madigan's Waterfront Restaurant

December 4: Town Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Town Hall

December 8: Winterfest
4 p.m. – 7 p.m., Historic District

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

December 24-25: Christmas Holiday
Town Hall Closed

December 31: New Year's Eve
Town Hall Closed

WinterFest in Occoquan, December 8, 4 - 7 p.m.

The fourth annual WinterFest will be held on Saturday, December 8, 2018! A full day of events are planned throughout the region. Festivities kick off with Santa's Lake Ridge Parade at 11:00 a.m., which begins at Minnieville Road and Harbor Drive and ends at Tackett's Mill Center. In addition to activities at Tackett's Mill, the day will include musical instrument performances and the Second Saturday Art Walk at the Workhouse Arts Center, as well as a fireworks show after 8:00 p.m. sponsored by Prince William Marina, and viewable from the Town, Occoquan Regional Park, and Hoffmaster's Marina.

In Occoquan on that day, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., enjoy an evening of shopping and dining where many businesses will be open late. What should be on your in-town WinterFest checklist? Lots! First, visit with Santa who will be strolling through town! Then, collect your s'more fixings at The Pretentious Gourmet and plan to warm yourself and toast marshmallows over the fire pits. Save room for some hot chocolate at Tastefully Yours and head to Town Hall to enjoy the Dunbar Saxophone Quartet. Stroll the historic district and sing holiday carols with the Woodbridge Community Choir; collect some roasted chestnuts from Gift & Gather along the way! Taste some delicious holiday beers at the Cock and Bowl before heading over to the Open House at The Artists' Undertaking! Join us for a fun evening! For more information, visit www.occoquanva.gov.