

# OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXV, ISSUE XI

TOWN HALL: 703-491-1918

NOVEMBER 2013

## Manager's Corner.....

I wish to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe Thanksgiving holiday. As you sit down to your Thanksgiving bounty, please remember the members of our military and public safety services who valiantly protect our freedom abroad and here at home on this holiday.

## 2014 Vehicle Decals to be Displayed by November 15

Section 62-37 of the Town Code requires any vehicle normally garaged, stored, or parked in the town to display a town decal. Purchases may be made by mail (enclosing a check for the proper amount), at Town Hall from 9:00 to 4:00, Monday through Friday, or on **Saturday, November 9, from 9:30 to 11:30am.**

Our deepest sympathy for the family of **Benjamin "Frank" McKenzie** who passed away on October 7, 2013. He will be surely missed around Town.

## OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

### TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

Email - [Info@occoquan.org](mailto:Info@occoquan.org) Town Hall - (703) 491-1918

314 Mill Street  
P.O. Box 195  
Occoquan, VA 22125

**CARRIER ROUTE  
OCCOQUAN, VA 22125**

Presort Standard  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Occoquan, VA  
Permit No. 19

### TOWN COUNCIL

Earnest W. Porta Jr., Mayor  
Elizabeth Quist, Vice-Mayor  
Denise M. Bush  
Barry G. Dean  
Patrick A. Sivigny  
James N. Walbert



### TOWN HALL STAFF

Sheldon E. Levi, Acting Town Manager  
And Chief of Police  
Abigail Breeding, CPA, Treasurer  
Peggy Blackwell, Town Clerk  
Bucky Brill, Town Maintenance Supervisor  
Patricia Thomas, Arts & Crafts Show Director

## MAYOR'S LETTER

I would like to start this month by thanking everyone who helped decorate the town for Halloween, helped pull things together for the various Halloween-themed events in town, and who supported the Halloween parade. I have received numerous compliments from visitors, business owners, and residents about all your efforts.

During November, the holiday season 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 Saturday, November 9, from 1-5 p.m., over 60 local artists will be participating in *Art on the Block*, with receptions and art demonstrations at five locations. Then, on Friday, November 22, the Business Guild of Occoquan will hold its annual Holiday Open House from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., followed at 8:10 by the town tree lighting ceremony at the Occoquan Town Hall, and then the Guild gift certificate drawings at 8:15 p.m. in front of Hawthorne House. This has become a very popular event for residents and visitors alike and I hope you will find attending enjoyable. Occoquan's holiday traditions continue in December as always. Make sure to check the December newsletter promptly for information on the annual town blessing at Ebenezer Baptist Church, the town holiday party, various charity drives (e.g. the Untrim-a-Tree, and Tree of Hope programs), and the arrival of Santa by boat (currently scheduled for noon on December 7).

Please note that Tuesday, November 5, is Election Day in Virginia, and this year will include a special election for a council seat in Occoquan. The polling location for town residents for this election is *Occoquan Elementary School*, and the polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Finally, I once again hope to invite 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 one or two hour shifts on the 22nd. Please email me at [eporta@occoquan.org](mailto:eporta@occoquan.org) if you are willing to volunteer for this relatively new Occoquan tradition. As always, thank you for your support and please feel free to contact me with any comments, questions or concerns. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

*Earnest W. Porta, Jr.*

**At the October 2013 meeting, the Council voted to:**



- register the Occoquan Arts and Crafts Show trademark
- approve Prince William Police to patrol Occoquan three days a week in four hour shifts
- not to change the elections for mayor and town council from the first Tuesday in May to the general election date in November
- change the date of the Town Council Meeting November 5 to November 12, because of Election Day. The Architectural Review Board will meet on November 5.

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2013  
ELECTION DAY**

Don't forget to vote - November 5 - at Occoquan Elementary School on Occoquan Road. The polls open at 6:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Special Election for Occoquan Town Council: Barry G. Dean (incumbent) and Joseph E. McGuire, Jr.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 3**

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 3, at 2:00 a.m., so be sure to set your clocks *back* one hour before heading to bed on Saturday night.








**ARB — Did you Know**

Did you know that chalkboards are the favored temporary sign in Occoquan? In the late 1990s, the Town made the decision to allow chalkboard signs in order to give merchants a temporary/changeable sign option. The subject was revisited in 2011, and after extensive research was conducted, the decision was reaffirmed by the ARB Task Force.

Specific details regarding chalkboard temporary signs may be found in Section 367 (17) of the Occoquan Town Code, which states the following: 1. Sign size shall not exceed two feet by three feet; 2. Sign frames shall be either wood or metal and may be black, natural wood tone, or similar historic color; 3. The chalkboards shall not have a pre-printed logo of any type; 4. Chalkboard signs must be placed away from doorways and the public right-of-way, and if leaning or standing, may not project more than two feet from the building; 5. Signs shall not be placed within any portion of the right-of-way; 6. Signs may be hung on the exterior of the building with hooks and eyes, leaned against the building independently or mounted on a stand.



# NOVEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3  Daylight Savings Time ends	4 7:00—PC	5  7:30—ARB	6 	7	8	9 10 - Noon Town Hall will be open for auto decal purchases
10	11 Veteran's Day  Town Hall closed	12 7:00-TC	13 	14 6:30—OHS	15	16
17	18 6:30-ORC	19 7:00—Occoquan Reach HOA	20 	21	22 4-8pm Holiday Open House 8:10—Tree Lighting	23
24	25	26 7:00—TC & Strategic Planning Cmte.	27 	28 Thanksgiving Town Hall closed 	29 Black Friday Shop in Occoquan  Town Hall closed	30