

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXIV, ISSUE XII

TOWN HALL - (703) 491-1918

DECEMBER 2012

TOWN COUNCIL

Earnest W. Porta Jr., Mayor
Kenneth T. Brunsvold, Vice-Mayor
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Peggy Blackwell, Town Clerk
Abigail Breeding, CPA, Treasurer
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Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor
Patricia Thomas, Arts & Crafts Show Director

MAYOR'S LETTER

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Business Guild's Holiday Open House and the Town Hall Tree-Lighting on November 16. I want like to extend a special thanks to those volunteers who decorated the town tree and served as Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign bell ringers for the evening—Rick and Andrea Coulson, Sharon Helton, Petra and Tony Casipit, and Theresa and Tessa Yates (Tessa also collected coats for those in need).

On Saturday, December 1, the Business Guild will sponsor Santa's arrival by boat. Santa will disembark at the Town pier at noon and then proceed to Town Hall, where he will greet children of all ages. The next day, Sunday, December 2, at 5:30 p.m., our friends at 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 lighting of the tree in Mamie Davis Park and the free town holiday party on the second floor of Madigan's Waterfront Restaurant. I hope many of you are able to enjoy one or more of these wonderful town traditions.

As always during the holidays, Occoquan makes a particular effort to remember those who are less fortunate. We are once again hosting an "Untrim-a-Tree" program for needy children. Tags may be obtained at Town Hall and at *Personally Yours*. Additionally, with the closing of *Simply Country*, the owners of *Off the Beading Path* have generously agreed to continue the annual "Tree of Hope" drive to benefit the Hilda M. Barg Homeless Prevention Center. Details on both initiatives may be found elsewhere in this newsletter. And, of course, do not forget that the holidays are a particularly important time for our town merchants, so please patronize them to the maximum extent you are able for your holiday shopping needs.

Finally, please note that at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 13, there will be an audible test of Fairfax Water's new warning siren for the Occoquan High Dam. This siren system was funded in part through a federal appropriation obtained for Occoquan by Congressman Gerry Connolly. More information on the siren and the test is available on the town web site (www.occoquan.org).

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

OCCOQUAN DAM SIREN TEST - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 10:00 A.M.

To further ensure the safety of the residents, visitors, and businesses along the Occoquan River shoreline, Fairfax Water installed three sirens to warn people in the unlikely event that there is ever a massive failure of the Occoquan River Dam.

Who is impacted? The impact zone include areas in Prince William County and Fairfax County located immediately adjacent to the Occoquan River from the Town of Occoquan to Belmont Bay. This includes the town, marinas, Occoquan Regional Park, and some residences and businesses adjacent to the river.

What does the siren sound like? The siren is a loud "whoop" noise. You can hear what it sounds like on the website, www.OccoquanDamSiren.com.

How do I know if I'm in the impact zone? Just because you hear the siren does not mean you are in the impact zone. Find out whether or not you are in the impact zone or the noise zone by visiting the website, www.OccoquanDamSiren.com.

What should I do? If you hear the siren and are in the impact zone, SEEK HIGHER GROUND IMMEDIATELY! If you are not in the impact zone, no action is necessary.

Go to www.OccoquanDamSiren.com to find out more.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

Email: Info@occoquan.org Town Hall: 703-491-1918

Founded in 1734

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

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OCCOQUAN, VA 22125

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DECEMBER 2012



TOWN BLESSING AND HOLIDAY PARTY



Please join your friends and neighbors for the annual Town Blessing at Ebenezer Baptist Church this Sunday, December 2, at 5:30 p.m. Immediately following the blessing will be the town's party at *Madigan's Waterfront Restaurant*. We hope to see you there!

TREE OF HOPE AND UNTRIM-A-TREE



To participate in the Tree of Hope campaign, visit [Off the Beading Path](#) at 310 Mill Street, Suite E, in Occoquan and purchase a small (\$5) or large (\$10) ornament and hang it on the Town tree in front of Town Hall (314 Mill Street). All proceeds from the campaign go to support the Hilda M. Barg Homeless Prevention Center.

To participate in the Untrim-A-Tree program, pull a gift tag from the tree inside the Occoquan Town Hall (314 Mill Street) or obtain one from Betsy Merklein at [Personally Yours](#) (308 Mill Street). Purchase the gift on the tag and return it to either Town Hall or Personally Yours by December 7. Gifts will be distributed to children in Prince William County who might not otherwise receiving anything during the holidays. The Untrim-A-Tree program is sponsored by Prince William County Volunteers, who partners with other local organizations -- in this instance the Business Guild of Occoquan. Gift baskets for home bound seniors are also accepted and do not require obtaining a gift tag.

Thank you everyone in advance for thinking of those who are less fortunate during the holidays.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1  12 noon Santa arrives by boat
2 5:30 Town Blessing and Party 	3	4 6:45—Public Hearing 7:00 Town Council 	5	6	7	8 Hanukkah begins 
9	10	11 6:30 - PC 7:30 - ARB 	12	13	14	15
16 Hanukkah ends	17	18	19 	20	21	22
23	24 Town Hall Closed	25 Christmas Day—Town Hall Closed 	26 	27	28	29
30	31 New Year's Eve (And a Happy New Year to everyone!) 				Town Hall will be closed on Tuesday, January 1.	