



## Mayor's Report July 2017

Independence Day Celebration- A huge thank you once again to the Founders of this annual event- Denise Fox, of the Fox Realty Team, Ben Golueke of Mt. Airy Liquors and Dr. Chris Coleman of Mt. Airy Eye Care. Thanks to their vision and hard work, you do not need to travel miles away, or spend hundreds of dollars on potentially illegal private displays. You can celebrate Independence Day right here in your hometown. Also, thank you to the Mount Airy Police Department, State Police, Town Council and Town Staff for their hard work and support of this event; to all the sponsors and vendors; and to the Mount Airy Community and beyond for being a part of this patriotic celebration! This was our 5<sup>th</sup> year for this amazing display of patriotism, all the way down to the American Flag that flies gloriously for all to see from far away.

Maryland Municipal Annual Conference- Thanks to the Councilmembers that took time off from work and used their own vacation time to attend this annual and beneficial conference held in Ocean City. We attend to enhance our knowledge and build skills that will improve our ability to serve the citizens who elected us. The Councilmembers and I attended courses on a variety of issues facing our community such as Signage Ordinances, Grant Applications, Ethics, Hot Button Legal Issues, Code Enforcement, Emergency Preparedness, and Social Media interaction. My personal takeaways were effective meeting management, code ordinances related to rental properties which was taught by former Mayor and current Assistant Attorney for The City of Gaithersburg, Frank Johnson, and social media. Also, the close interaction with the Governor's Secretaries allowed direct discussion of the State Highway entry sign process, suggestions regarding traversing Rt. 27 and handling issues related to the internal workings of commissions. Congrats to Councilman Jason Poirier who successfully completed and will graduate the Maryland University School of Public Policy! Students must attend a series of courses on municipal issues. Councilman Jason completed his requirements much sooner than most! Great Job Councilman!

Student Opportunities – Summer has arrived and students are working to comply with their service learning hour requirements. Matching our youth with organizations that need their assistance serves both, and ultimately serves our community. While every attempt has been made to ensure compliance with the service learning hour requirements, they do differ from county to county (Carroll and Frederick), so please check with your local school coordinator to ensure that the service qualifies. I also ask that the youth contact the following individuals and organizations directly for specifics on assisting: Dick Heiger - Mt. Airy Beautification Committee @ 301-829-8996, to help with rewarding outdoor gardening projects this summer; Monika Weierbach - Town Hall @ 301-829-1424, for clerical office or other tasks; Ellie Bonde – Blossom & Basket Boutique @ 301-829-8300, if you would like to help with any of the exciting Main Street Events, such as the Chili Cook-off, Main Street Christmas, Celebrate Summer event, History 101, etc.; Dick Swanson - MAMSA @ 301-829-1983 to help with eco-friendly and healthy Farmers Market; Terry Baker – MAVFC @ 301-829-0100 ext. 363 to assist with the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company, Brynn Miller-The Four County Lions@ [bmiller1132@yahoo.com](mailto:bmiller1132@yahoo.com) to assist with the Lions Carnival. For those with an interest in animals contact [volunteers@gentlegiantsdrafthorsescue.com](mailto:volunteers@gentlegiantsdrafthorsescue.com). Do you like the Caboose and meeting people? We need volunteers to staff the caboose for visitors from Noon to 4pm on Saturdays. If interested, contact Councilman Larry @ [councilmemberhushour@mountairymd.org](mailto:councilmemberhushour@mountairymd.org), For those with an interest in sports, several local 5K's could use race assistants, please contact Patrick Rockinberg @

[prockinberg@gmail.com](mailto:prockinberg@gmail.com). Hopefully you will find something that interests you and benefits the community. Have a great summer!!!!

Updates on recent vehicular tragedies on North Main Street and outside of town near the Falling Green community- Each time there is a serious crash investigation, the State Highway Administration-MDOT SHA goes to the location and evaluates the area for sight distance to ensure that brush/vegetation growth is not impeding vision lines, evaluates the condition of existing traffic control devices (pavement markings and signage) and conducts on site observation of traffic operations. The evaluation is conducted in conjunction with the details of the Police Accident Report. The State will determine what additional steps are needed. We expect to see the findings of the Main Street incident in August followed by the Falling Green incident. We are encouraging and monitoring the State's response.

Additional Parking Downtown- We added an additional 10-12 parking spaces near Blossom & Basket Boutique at minimum cost and are finalizing the agreement to take over an additional 20 + spaces across from the Plumbery. This is a total additional 30 - 35 spaces, in addition to the parking spaces added earlier on Center Street. I would like to thank those involved in finding creative ways to add parking at a fraction of the cost of elevated parking structures previously proposed. We also have some additional opportunities to add a large surface parking lot on the south portion of Main Street, and we look forward to our Downtown Master Planning to offer further professional guidance.

Downtown Master Plan Status- The Downtown Master Plan has been reviewed and comments received from the Planning Commission and the Economic Development Committee. It will now be advertised and sent out for bid. Depending on feedback we may be able to award and start formal review within the next 30-60 days.

The Mayor's Community Forums- The Mayors Community Forum for July 2017 will be held on Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., inside the Caboose downtown on Main Street. Also, feel free to contact me at [prockinberg@gmail.com](mailto:prockinberg@gmail.com) or call Town Hall @ [301-829-1424](tel:301-829-1424). Residents are encouraged to drop and discuss any town related items. Town Council members are also invited to attend. The setting is comfortable and informal. Grab a cup of coffee or your favorite drink and stop by!

Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company Carnival and Parade- The annual Fire Company Carnival will take place the week of July 24<sup>th</sup> through July 29<sup>th</sup> with an exciting line up of entertainment, delicious food, rides, and much more! We look forward to a favorite hometown tradition when the annual MAVFC Gala Parade travels through our historic downtown area on Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 p.m. Be sure to keep your eyes to the sky as the carnival winds down on Saturday July 29<sup>th</sup> with a fantastic fireworks display! I hope to see many of you there!

The Ambassador's 5K Challenge - Please join me and Bootcamp 21771 for The Ambassador's 5K Challenge at Watkin's Park on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, @ 8 am. Please help us honor Mt. Airy resident, Raul H. Yzaguirre, US Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, 2010-2013. Proceeds go to the Michael J. Fox Foundation. Help all those that suffer from Parkinson's disease, including our own Councilman, Bob King. Thank you for your support!

Sponsor...Donate...Be a Vendor...Volunteer...Participate @ <http://mailchi.mp/f67e4ae250a8/the-ambassadors-5k-challenge>.

Town Outreach- There are several ways to get in touch with your Town government and to see the latest updates. You can "like" us on Facebook or "follow" us on Twitter @MountAiryMD, or just visit us on the Web at [www.mountairymd.org](http://www.mountairymd.org). Also, we encourage you to sign up for notifications on the Town website by clicking the "Notify Me" button on the left side of the homepage. Sign up for notifications regarding upcoming events, news and meeting agendas.

Volunteer Opportunities- Please visit <http://www.mountairymd.org/> for a list of volunteer

opportunities on one of our many commissions. Please let me know if anyone is interested in serving on a commission where there is a vacancy. You can call Town Hall at [301-829-1424](tel:301-829-1424) or email me directly at [prockinberg@gmail.com](mailto:prockinberg@gmail.com).