

PATRICK T. ROCKINBERG  
*Mayor*

PETER R. HELT  
*Council President*



*Council Members*  
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*Secretary*

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PATRICIA R. WASHABAUGH

## November 2018 - Mayors Report

### Team Mount Airy - Tornado Response

On Friday evening, November 2, 2018, the town was hit by a tornado with winds up to 90 miles plus per hour. This resulted in extensive damage to commercial structures, homes, and utility services. The Town's role was mainly one of support and coordination, ensuring those unfamiliar with the community kept vital access routes to communities open by providing emergency services and equipment throughout the event. Follow-up efforts will continue throughout the week as well as updates on storm recovery operations. Twin Arch Road was fully opened today.

We need to thank many others, that worked behind the scenes but whose roles were just as important as those who were more visible during the emergency. Thanks firstly to our residents that showed amazing resiliency and humanity to each other. Together you chipped in to restore normalcy, provide housing, essential services, worked to clear roads and open access to private homes, etc. as needed. Many thanks to your Town Council members Peter Helt, Larry Hushour, Bob King, Jason Poirier and Patty Washabaugh who all chipped in manning Town Hall as an Emergency Shelter, providing much needed refreshments with a warm greeting to our utility crews and first responders. We know that those actions go a long way. We also had chainsaw wielding Councilmembers, YES, they were out there with chainsaws too. Our amazing town staff that worked behind the scenes mostly, using large equipment to clear roads, keeping emergency generators running to ensure you received uninterrupted water and sewer services. At one point, they hand cut through the debris and using an ATV brought in emergency fuel to ensure essential water and sewer services were not interrupted. Thanks to the many commercial businesses that offered services and food to our first responders at no cost, such as Vocelli's Pizza, Wings of Angel's Chicken, Upper Deck, and Wagner's Meat Locker. Many other businesses did not have power but have a long history of sending food in for first responders who don't have the luxury of taking a break.

We were also fortunate and appreciative of assistance received from our State and County agencies. Special Secretary Wendi Peters from the Governor's office checked in, it's comforting to know our State Representatives and Governor have Mount Airy's best interest in mind. Our local elected representatives, Senator Van Hollen's office, Kathy Afzali's office, and Commissioner Rothschild all checked in to offer aid. Other agencies who were a critical part of the emergency response effort include the Carroll County Emergency Response Unit who set up the command center, Maryland Emergency Management Agency, first responders from neighboring local Fire Companies, Carroll County Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police and the Carroll County Roads Operations crew.

Again, thanks to the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company (MAVFC) and Chief Kenny Stull who were all out there in the rain Friday night securing our commercial areas that were literally torn apart. Life safety measures, getting gas lines, etc. secured was the priority and we are grateful for their swift and capable emergency response measures. Thank you to Chief Reitz and Lieutenant Snyder who along with other MAPD Officers assisted in various roles throughout the event. No major injuries were noted. Team Mount Airy, Working Together, Weathered a Tornado!! Thank you all!

## **What's Happening Updates to the most Frequently Asked Development Questions:**

**BANK BUILDING ON MAIN STREET-** After being stalled for many years to resolve a property damage legal issue, financing options tightened for owners and developers. However, there is some recent interest and we hope to see an operating business in the future or at the least encourage remedial steps for the property owner to improve the current esthetic condition of that very visible corner lot.

**DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN** –The last steering committee meeting will be November 8th at 6 pm. This is for the steering committee only. We will finish tweaking the charrette recommendations and set a more formal time for final presentation to the Town Council and residents of Mount Airy.

**PROPERTY BY BANK OF AMERICA - 7 E. Ridgeville Boulevard** -Construction has resumed and the town will be monitoring progress. The plan for this privately-owned site is commercial on the first floor and efficiency apartments on the upper floors.

**COLD STORAGE** - Property owners and potential developers are still working at the staff level to bring the development plans within Town Code. There are some Code compliance issues with the initially proposed development that need to be addressed. Should the process move forward the community will be notified and have opportunity to weigh in, as always.

**MERRIDALE GARDENS STORM WATER MANAGEMENT (SWM) POND PROJECT.** – Many have seen the huge construction project near Safeway. This is a state required storm water management project for storm water management remediation. Total project cost (engineering and construction) is \$1,331,789.00. We are working with Carroll County Commissioners through an agreement to complete this project. The County Office of Environmental Compliance received a grant of \$425,000., the balance is \$906,789. We are responsible for 20% of the remaining costs. The county has already collected these funds from our Town /County agreement contribution over the past several years.

### **MISCELLANEOUS TOWN INFORMATION -**

Please look at our newly refurbished Water Tower off Ridgeville Boulevard. You will notice our exciting new Town Logo, adding some excitement and highlighting our branding. Another example of improving our small town, without changing our small-town charm! Thank you to the Town Council for making things happen!

Thanks to Our Beautification Commission! Limited Edition Town of Mount Airy “2018 Welcome Sign” Pewter Ornaments are now available. This is the 3rd ornament in the “Celebrate Mount Airy” series. Stop by Town Hall to purchase one. The cost is \$20. Limited Quantities - Once they're gone, they're gone!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS -**

All are invited to help **decorate the Train Station and Caboose on Saturday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**Holiday Preview** will be held in Downtown Mount Airy on Friday, November 16, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We will feature live music along Main Street and Horse and Buggy rides. MAMSA and some Main Street stores will serve wine, pending Town Council approval of our resolution request to allow alcohol along Main Street.

**Family Day November 17<sup>th</sup>**, 11-4: Kids Activities and family event at Saint James Thrift Shop.

**Small Business Saturday**, November 24<sup>th</sup> - All Day: Experience the excitement of shopping small on Main Street. This day is about your local shops all over town, please consider shopping small this season!

**Tree Lighting November 30, 6-7 PM** (Subject to change by MAMSA). Downtown Mount Airy.

The Economic Development Commission and Greater Mt. Airy Chamber of Commerce are hosting a joint **Business Card Exchange on December 6, 2018** in Town Hall from 5 -7 p.m. Please bring a canned good to donate to the Mt. Airy NET as your “admission”.

**The Mount Airy Main Street Association (MAMSA) meeting** on November 19, 2018 in Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. After a door to door survey being conducted by Pam Reed and Councilman Bob King of the downtown businesses to gauge the need for extending gas service, we plan and are excited to have Wendy Peters, Maryland’s Special Secretary of Smart Growth, and other employees of the State and BGE to discuss the potential of natural gas service downtown. Merchants, property owners, and stakeholders will be encouraged to attend.

**Park Survey-Your Opinion Matters and We Need Your Input** - We have had a soft launch—we will be posting more on social media as well as flyers to get as much public input as possible. Great feedback so far! Top interests for new features at our parks are an inclusive playground and an amphitheater and what to do with the Skate Park area, restore or change?

**Our Feature New Business! Hipsley Collective and Farmers Market** - opened Oct 18<sup>th</sup> and over the first weekend more than 500 people went through this unique store. Hipsley was a joint effort between private, public, and nonprofit organizations to fill a long-term vacancy in the downtown district and provide economic opportunities. To date Hipsley hosts 14 small businesses in a three-month retail incubator project. Including four of our Mount Airy Main Street farmers market vendors! The future of this project will be re-evaluated after the initial phase. We want to extend our gratitude to Joann Sap - owner of Deja Vu Boutique, Pamela Reed - Mount Airy Main Street Association President, and Donna Marie Needle - EDC Chairman, without their vision and dedication this project would not have been possible. Also, thanks to Councilman Bob King and along with the other Town Council Members who have all been huge supporters of this project. Also, a huge thank you to those who helped this project physically set up shop! Dan Horzobi Realty for use of his moving equipment, Sandy Baker Manager of Saint James Thrift Shop for Donations of fixtures and furniture, Jason Garvey Store manager of Walmart for decorations. We are proudly sponsored by the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce.

By example, incubators help our small businesses move into their own brick and mortar structures adding conveniences, employment and increasing our tax base. **Boot Camp 21771 just opened on Center Street.** For a couple of years they have been an incubator type businesses receiving assistance from Calvary Church and Snap Fitness. As a result of this assistance and housing they are now operating and expanding in Town!

BTW- The “Hipsley” name pays respect to a former furniture store that was at that same location many years ago.

#### **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS -**

**Mount Airy Town Council Meetings** are held on the first Monday of every month @ 7:30 p.m. @ 110 South Main Street. The meetings are also televised live on Channel 23 in Carroll County. Please consider dropping by and witnessing a meeting where the latest issues are openly discussed or letting us know any concerns or comments you may have.

**Volunteer Opportunities** - Please visit <http://www.mountairymd.org/government/vacancies/> for a list of volunteer opportunities on one of our many commissions or task forces. These volunteer commissions are

made up of Mount Airy residents who study and advise the Mayor and Town Council on issues related to the Commission. Please let me know if you are interested in serving. You may call Town Hall at 301-829-1424 or email me directly at [prockinberg@gmail.com](mailto:prockinberg@gmail.com).

**The Mayor's Community Forums** -The November Mayor's Community Forum(s) will be held in the Caboose on Main Street on Saturday, November 17th, from 10:30am to 12:00pm. Residents are encouraged to drop by 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 and stop by for a chat!