

# December Mayor's Report 2018

**Seasons Greetings!!** It is wonderful to see our community coming alive with the spirit of the season! Our Town holds a special charm all throughout the year, but there is a special magic that happens when December approaches that reminds us why we love to call this town our home. On behalf of the Town Council and Town Staff, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a joyous Holiday Season! To celebrate this most wonderful time of the year, there are many exciting happenings in our Town this month. Please check your local papers, social media and our web-site, <https://www.mountairymd.gov/> for all exciting happenings in town.

The spirit of the season is displayed far beyond the events and Holiday decorations. We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the Mount Airy Lions, Four County Lions Club, Mount Airy Net, the scouts, Rotary Club of Mount Airy, Kiwanis Club of Mount Airy and all our local churches for caring for those in need locally during this holiday season. Our community is a better place due to the selfless acts of volunteerism and service that these groups and many others provide.

**A Main Street Christmas-** The Twinkling Santa-Christmas Parade was cancelled and adjusted due to weather and concerns for the comfort of our residents. The Annual Tree Lighting was rescheduled for Friday, December 7th. Please join us in the Railyard festivities start at 5:30PM. MAVFC will be bringing Santa to Town on their antique Fire Truck! This year we have added live music, a moon bounce, much loved rideable trackless train, free hot cocoa, and a lot of small-town charm! The event is a highly anticipated Mount Airy Tradition enjoyed by all!

**Volunteer of the Year** - Congratulations to Mr. R. Wayne Evans for receiving the 2018 Frank Johnson Volunteer of the Year award for his countless services to the town including (but not limited to):

Vice President of Mount Airy Main Street Association, Mount Airy Lions Club, Melvin Jones Fellow, Chair Thanksgiving Food and Gift Collection, Leo Club Advisor - Mount Airy Middle School, Member Historical Society of Mount Airy, Museum Committee, District Representative-Calvary Methodist Men's Club and can be seen throughout the year working many downtown events: museum, farmers market, Corn Hole, Oktoberfest, Chili Cook off, etc.

**Turkey Trot 2018-** Thanks to everyone that came out to Challedon to take part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Turkey Trot. Folks no longer need to travel to Fredrick or other areas to enjoy a Thanksgiving running event--by running locally you support a local charity and several local businesses! It's a win-win. Thank you to all the participants, MAMSA and Pam Reed for heading up yet another successful project. Big thanks also to Challedon and Ben Sproles for hosting. This year over \$6,000 was raised for a donation to Mount Airy Net! This is a big increase over last year and is expected to grow!!!

**2018 Holiday Ornament** – Many thanks to our Beautification Commission for another astounding addition to the Holiday Ornament Collection! The 3rd ornament in the limited-edition "Celebrate Mount Airy" series is now available. Stop by Town Hall to purchase Town of Mount Airy "2018 Welcome Sign" pewter ornaments. They will also be available this Friday night at Town Hall during the Tree Lighting Ceremony. The cost is \$20. Limited quantities - once they're gone, they're gone!

**Park Survey - Your Opinion Matters and We Need Your Input!** - We have had a soft launch to advertise the survey and we will be posting more on social media and distributing flyers to get as much public input as possible. Thank you to those who have taken the survey and provided valuable feedback so far! Top interests for new features at our parks are an inclusive playground and an amphitheater. The future of the Skate Park area is also of key interest, specifically whether this amenity should be restored or changed.

**Parks Attendant position** - The Town is in search of a Parks Attendant to man our caboose. "Train"-ing will be provided to answer questions concerning the history of the caboose. Friday evenings and weekend hours only. Ideal job for high-schoolers to seniors or those looking for a second job.

## **Property Updates What's Happening:**

**Home Goods** - They have a permit and are working on shoring up the bar joist to bring the building back up to code. No anticipated re-opening date currently. We optimistically hope by spring. We will keep the community updated.

**South 1010 Main Street- Old Chevy Dealership and Dennis Kitchen** - The owners have cleaned up the site and are proposing returning the property back to the residential use that is required. They are currently working with staff on plans. Once through the town staff process, the public hearing on the proposal will take place. At that time adjoining neighbors will be notified, and the property will be posted for a public hearing and input.

**Carroll County Public School Updates:** Good News! In summary, the BOE has declared an end to any consideration for additional school closures or redistricting for at least five years, unless a school closure is part of a replacement/modernization project. Therefore, our immediate concerns have been addressed. Also, CCPS has a board appointed committee known as the CAC (Community Advisory Council). Jennifer Weitzel represents Parr's Ridge, Aubrey Phamdo represents Mount Airy Elementary, and Tina Lewis is the Mount Airy Middle representative. This committee serves as a liaison between the school board and the community. The need for a formalized Task Force will be tabled for the foreseeable future. We will continue to monitor and be informed about school system activities in both counties and be prepared to once again work to ensure that our schools remain of good quality and to keep our neighborhoods together. Thank you to these ladies and all the other parents and concerned citizens that attended meetings all over the county to support our schools and our community for their efforts.

**Redistricting and School Closing Committee Recommendations:** On November 14, 2018, The Carroll County Board of Education unanimously accepted the Superintendent's Recommendations submitted on October 10th, 2018. The link to his recommendations can be found here: <https://www.carrollk12.org/boe/BoardShareDocs/2018/10-10-2018/Attachments/7.a/Coversheet%20RSCC%20Recommendations%2010102018.pdf>

**Carroll County Cable Regulatory Commission** - Dan Hardiman of Nottingham will serve as the Town's representative on the Cable Commission. The CCRC was formed in 2001 and is responsible for administering the cable television franchise agreement, government access channels, and the institutional network. Meetings are held quarterly at the County Office Building. Mr. Hardiman will report business of the Commission to the Mayor and Town Administrator.

**Facility Work – Noise**- Starting Wednesday, December 5th, there will be construction-related rock blasting at the Merridale Storm Water Pond project near Ridge Avenue. This will continue for 2 to 3 weeks Monday thru Friday during normal working hours.

**Get Involved – Stay Informed!** - Mount Airy Town Council Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month @ 7:30 p.m. at 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 Community Forums** -The December Mayor's Community Forum will be held in the Caboose on Main Street on Saturday, December 15, from 11am 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!