



Thank You's

A huge thank you goes to Amethyst Tymoch for bringing the first **Beards, Beers and Brats Festival** to our Downtown on October 17, 2015. Amethyst came up with the idea, planned, organized and brought in multiple local breweries, numerous food vendors, five live bands, beard and mustache competitions, a cigar lounge, and a corn hole competition all to the Railyard Downtown.

Another enormous thank you to all of the organizers of the Annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk that was held at Watkins Park that on October 18, 2015. I believe we had close to 1000 walkers and although I haven't heard how much money was raised yet, this incredible annual event continues to touch the hearts of many local residents.

School Update

By now, you've likely seen the **SAVE Mount Airy Elementary School (MAES)** signs throughout our community. What do they mean? The Board of Education tasked a Boundary Adjustment Committee (BAC) with cutting costs and realigning student feeder patterns. Three of the four options returned by the BAC included closing MAES, shifting some MAES students to Parr's Ridge, currently a K-2 school, and re-redistricting hundreds of other MAES students to schools as far as 10 miles away.

I am convinced that the three options to close MAES are extremely short-sighted and will negatively impact the Mount Airy community. Closing MAES will ultimately break up the current Parent Teacher Organization leadership, limit Mount Airy's potential to revitalize Main and Center Streets downtown, stifle economic opportunities for our town, and lower property values. Closing MAES would make our community significantly less attractive to those looking to move to Mount Airy. If you close MAES, a historic elementary school in a thriving town, you limit the possibility of further growth, which is vital to our County's future.

At this time, it is not in our best interest to discuss any potential alternative uses for MAES, and we will continue to put forth our best efforts to save our school and our community. This is ultimately what is in our best interest. So many have been working hard to save our school! I'd like to thank all of the Town Council members, staff, parents, and especially those who have volunteered their time to the SAVE MAES efforts.

As a result of these efforts, Superintendent Guthrie has added an additional Option 5 that would not close MAES for the 2016-2017 school year. We are hopeful that this option will receive the consideration that we feel it deserves. To learn more about how you can help to Save MAES, visit www.facebook.com/savemaes or email me personally at prockinberg@gmail.com.

Public Safety

To ensure we provide the residents of Mount Airy the highest level of public safety protection, we continually monitor and research the Town's coverage, cost and options with regard to this essential public facility. Following up on the Police Task Force Study and recommendation in March 2012, we assembled a team consisting of Councilmembers, staff and advisors, including Sheriffs from Carroll and Frederick Counties and other law enforcements professionals to review current conditions in detail. We have presented the Town Council with new options and recommendations. It is the committee's recommendation that Mount Airy start and maintain its own Police Force. Details of that study and recommendation will be made available on the Town's website. The Council will review and hold public meetings for your input.

Happenings Around Town

The 4th Annual Holiday Train Station Decorating is Saturday, November 7, 2015 at 9:00am. All available volunteers are invited to meet at the Historic Train Station (1 North Main Street) to hang garland, bows, wreaths, and light the shrubbery.

Holiday Preview Date Night is Friday, November 14th, 5-9pm. Wine tastings, holiday art displays, special Golden Ticket coupon good for Friday and Saturday, horse drawn carriage rides, DJ and Harpist entertainment, hot cocoa/holiday cookies, gift wrap station, Secret Santa wish list cards available in the shops. This will be a Holiday Preview to remember!

Small Business Saturday is Saturday, November 28th, All Day. Experience the excitement of shopping small as Main Street gives away "Shop Small Survival Bags" filled with goodies. This day is about your local shops all over town, please consider shopping small this season!

A Main Street Christmas is Saturday, December 5th 5-9pm. Tree Lighting 5:30pm, Santa Parade 7pm, and Pictures with Santa afterwards in Firehouse Pottery & Arts!

Mount Airy Town Council Meetings

Mount Airy Town Council Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month @ 7:30pm @ 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.

The Mayor's Community Forums

The November Mayor's Community Forum(s) will be held at Town Hall on Saturday, November 21st, from 10:30am to 12:00pm. Residents are encouraged to drop by Town Hall on Main Street 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!