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Mayors Report – September 2016

Back-to-School Safety – School is now back in session in all four of our counties. Please use extra caution when traveling throughout our town and in all communities in the four county area especially during school bus pick-up and drop-off times. Be mindful of our students who walk to school and approach crosswalks with care. We wish all students and teachers a great 2016-2017 school year!

Police Force Update - Our new Chief of Police, Doug Reitz, was sworn in on August 1st and has since been identifying critical needs associated with building our municipal police force and exploring options to meet those needs. We have selected the most qualified candidate for the Police Services Administrator position. Additionally, we are now finalizing the structure to begin hiring our staff of 10 officers. No timeline has been established to convert over from The Resident State Trooper Program to date. Chief Reitz has been partnering with allied law enforcement agencies over the past several weeks working on the logistical issues associated with the transition to a municipal police force. We are progressing forward, but doing so methodically to ensure the highest level of public safety protection possible. Lastly, I'm proud to announce the creation of the design for the Town's first police force badge. After receiving community input, Chief Reitz worked with a local business to finalize the badge logo. The phrase "Two Counties, One Community" will be incorporated into the badge design reflecting upon the Town's unique characteristic of being located in Carroll and Frederick Counties and honoring the spirit of the community that transcends county lines.

Revitalization - We proudly welcome the "New" Mt. Airy Health and Wellness Pavilion to Mount Airy. The Mount Airy Health and Wellness Pavilion is a joint venture between Carroll Hospital Center and Frederick Memorial Hospital and represents a multi-million dollar investment aimed at providing quality medical services to Mount Airy and surrounding communities. The center will provide general practitioner services, radiology, physical therapy, and community wellness programs.

Happenings Around Town - Thank you to all that came out to be part of the inaugural event, "Celebrate Mount Airy" in Downtown Mount Airy! This event wouldn't have been possible without the tireless work and support of our local Mt. Airy Lions Club and Mount Airy Rails to Trails. Thank you for all that you do for 21771. Thanks to our major sponsors: Dr. Hasson & Mt. Children's Dental Associates, Mount Airy Liquors, Lorien of Mount Airy, SAL's LLC, Green Turtle, Macaroni Kid, Blossom and Basket Boutique, and K-Sef Entertainment. This unique festival featured food, businesses, and community organizations from across the Greater Mount Airy Community. With special performances by Dale Corn and the Capitol Limited Orchestra, Duffy School of Dance, South Carroll Marching band, the Marine Core, and Scott Barrett.

The following events await us in the months of September and October:

September 9, 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Auxiliary to the MAVFC Cash Bingo

September 10, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Mt. Airy Health & Wellness Pavilion Open House – Health screenings, food and kids activities as well as tours of the new facility!

September 11, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Mount Airy Baptist Church is sponsoring Red, White, and Blue Festival for First Responders! Please don't deny us the privilege of saying "Thanks" for all you do!! Please join us on Sunday, September 11, 2016 from 4-7 p.m. at Watkins Park.

Free food, games, prizes, petting zoo, 3 bounce houses (3!!), face painting, photo booth and much more! Visit mtairybaptistchurch.com for tickets.

September 24, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Bi-Annual Yard Sale / Flea Market - Held rain or shine with over 250 booths with all kinds of merchandise for sale. The Mount Airy Lions Club will serve breakfast from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and lunch from 11:00 a.m. until closing.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

October 1, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., The Mount Airy Fall Festival at the Mount Airy Volunteer Fireman's Carnival Grounds. There will be crafters, vendors and delicious food. Stayed tuned for more information.

October 8, Harvestfest Cornhole Competition - Compete in the sanctioned corn hole competition for cash prizes. Great food & a beer tent will be offered.

October 15, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Beards, Beers and Brats Festival will be held on Main Street. - Local breweries, good food, beard, and mustache competitions as well live music!

This is one not to miss!

October 16, 10:00 a.m. - The Annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Watkins Park. - In 2015, we had close to 1,000 walkers raised over \$110,000. Let's see if we can beat that this year!

October 22, 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., Chamber of Commerce Soiree to benefit the Scholarship Fund A nice occasion for the business community to gather together, enjoy live music, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, while raising funds for our Scholarship Program.

October 29, Watkins Park Halloween 5K for the Maryland Center for Veterans, Education & Training, Inc. - coordinated by the South Carroll High School National Honor Society

Gem of the Month - Mt. Airy Bowling Lanes is a gem to Mount Airy as the premier duckpin bowling center for the whole family. Leagues are hosted for any age and throughout all four seasons. Mt. Airy Lanes takes reservations for events and birthday parties with a full menu to choose from, including assorted cakes and desserts baked fresh from a local cake shop. Fitting family bowling fun into your busy schedules will be easy as they are open 7 days a week. Check out the Lanes on Friday on Saturday night for their fun themed "Rock and Bowl" and "Women Bowling with Wine" returning in the fall! Mt. Airy Lanes is located at 304 Center Street and can be accessed from South Main Street in the heart of downtown Mount Airy!

Mount Airy Town Council Meetings - Mount Airy Town Council Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month beginning at 7:30 p.m. and are held in the Town Hall located at 110 South Main Street. The meetings are also televised live on Channel 23 in Carroll County. Please consider dropping by and participating in a meeting where the latest issues are openly discussed with your elected officials and fellow community members. Citizens are invited and encouraged to share their concerns or comments during the meetings.

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. We currently have vacancies on the Water and Sewer Commission. This volunteer commission is made up of Mt. 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 September Mayor's Community Forums will be held at the free stating Starbucks in the Safeway Shopping Center on Saturday, September 24th from 10:30am to 2:00 pm. The meeting is comfortable, informal, and many times one on one. So feel free to stop by and grab a cup of coffee!

All the best,

Patrick T. Rockinberg - Mayor