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Mayors Report-December 2010

1. Communication/Emergency Management - As discussed at last month's meeting we are reviewing the Nixle blast notification system. We have provided Council a list of questions and answers that were noted at the first Mayor/Staff meeting with Nixle. I have also invited our Nixle representative to attend our Jan. 2011 meeting to brief the Council and address any remaining questions or concerns. We are also taking bids on our website update and considering how it could interface with a Town Facebook page. Council Member Scott Strong is taking the lead on this project.
2. Emergency Preparedness - I have asked the Emergency Management Coordinators for both Frederick and Carroll County for advice on updating our Operations Plan. We are adding contact information and continuing to establish letters of agreement with area vendors, as well as letters of mutual aid with neighboring jurisdictions. Once our updates are drafted, we will arrange a meeting with the coordinators to gain their final advice. Final drafts will then be submitted to the Council for approval.
3. Snow Information - After last year's weather, I hate to mention snow and ice, but the reality is that time of year is quickly approaching. As a reminder, residents are responsible for clearing their sidewalks within 24 hours of a snow fall. This not only helps keep our pedestrians safe, but allows our children to safely get to their bus stops. I'd like to thank those in the community who chip in to clear out the bus stops which are frequently plowed in when streets are cleared. We appreciate those who give this extra effort. Also, to help protect you and your neighbors, the town asks that those with a fire hydrant in their yard please try to keep them clear of snow, in case they are needed. Having the hydrants clear can make a huge difference when they're needed. This will save fire fighters much time in finding the hydrants in snow, as well as clearing the snow off of the hydrants once they do find them. As many of us know, minutes can count in a fire situation, and fires happen as much if not more in the winter as in the summer.
4. NIH Bone Marrow Registry Drive - Thanks to everyone that came out to support the NIH Marrow Donor Program, Be The Match Registry drive, held here in Mount Airy, on Saturday November 13, 2010. Thanks also to the many businesses which allowed us to post fliers, the Kiwanis members and NIH staffers that joined other volunteers from our community to assist in this drive. Your efforts resulted in over 150 people being added to the registry, and many others were educated on the process. These efforts may very well save someone's life!

5. The Kiwanis Club hosted a pancake breakfast on Saturday, November 20th and asked me to relay their sincere appreciation for the strong support they received from the community. This year's event was record-breaking with over 400-plus attendees. The Kiwanis Club asked me to let everyone know they will be tweaking their operations to handle larger crowds in the future.
6. Route 27 Road Improvement Update - The State Highway Administrations is telling us that if all goes well, road work on Route 27 may be wrapping up within the next 30 days or so. If that happens, it will be months ahead of schedule. Remaining work includes: new traffic signals at Park Avenue and Route 27, new guard rails in that same area and re-paving and striping from Park Avenue to Watersville Road.
7. Staff Appreciation. In addition to the many volunteers, Mount Airy is fortunate to have a dedicated staff. Many work behind the scenes and are not known to the thousands of residents they serve. I intend to highlight one of these dedicated employees each month to allow the community to better understand how things are accomplished and who is accomplishing them.

Marsha Zimmerman was hired in June 1988 and has been with the Town for over 22 years. Marsha is responsible for processing the water bills and does the accounting portion of the Town taxes. Marsha started out in 1988, processing 1100 water bills, and now sends out over 3400 water bills quarterly. Marsha lives with her husband Ed in New Market, and has two grown daughters - Dawn and Angie, and two grandchildren. She enjoys classic Chevys and participating in car shows, traveling with the Heart of Maryland Classic Chevy Club. In addition to other charities, this club has raised over \$200,000 for the Western Maryland Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. She also enjoys spending time with her family, pets and participating in Trivia Maryland.

The next time you come into Town Hall and visit the second floor, please take a moment to say hi to Marsha and thank her for her 22 years of dedicated service.

8. The Mayor's Community Forums. These will resume this month and will be held on Saturdays, December 4 and 18, 2010 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 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!
9. Volunteer Opportunities. Please visit our Town website (<http://www.mountairymd.org/>) for a list of volunteer opportunities, and let me know if anyone is interested in serving on a task force or commission. You can call Town Hall at 301-829-1424 or email me directly at prockinberg@gmail.com as well.
- Holiday Greeting- On behalf of the Town Council, The Staff and myself we wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday Season. Please remember those less fortunate and let's all be thankful for our many blessings.