



## **Mayors Report- December 2015**

On behalf of the Town Council, the Staff and me, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season. There are many exciting happenings in our Town this month. Please check your local papers and shops for all the festive events. I would like to thank The Mount Airy Lions, 4-County Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs for what they are each doing for those in need locally during this holiday season and all year long. Our community is a better place thanks to all the volunteerism and service that these groups and other individuals provide.

Thanks to the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company for the annual Twinkling Santa-Christmas Parade this past Saturday which is a Mount Airy tradition, as well as their service to our community overall. A special thanks to Melissa Thorn, Ashley Collier, Dick Swanson, Ellie Bonde, who with boundless energy pulls together many of the Christmas events. Also thanks to The Town Staff, Four County Lions Club, The Downtown Merchants and everyone for all they have done to make downtown Main Street so special during the holiday season. Please remember those less fortunate and let's all be thankful for our many blessings.

### **Inclement Weather**

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 those with a fire hydrant in their yard to please keep them clear of snow, in case they are needed. When they are needed to put a fire out, but covered with snow, fire and rescue workers are delayed in locating the hydrants - and in a fire emergency, seconds count. 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.

### **School Update**

Mount Airy has been spared in the first rounds of school board cuts; however, we have concerns regarding future cuts. Please stay tuned and do whatever you can to help protect our community and Mount Airy Elementary School.

### **Police Update**

The Town will be holding a Public Hearing on Monday – January 11, 2016 at 7:30 at Town Hall – 110 S. Main Street, Mount Airy, MD 21771 regarding options to the current State Police Program. Information regarding the options and the current recommendation are available on the Town's website.

## **Historic Downtown**

In addition to the upcoming arrival of “Mac the Caboose” in late December or January, the Town has installed historic signage on most of our historic downtown properties. Please take a minute to stop and read the plaques that tell the rich history of every building. Special thanks to all who contributed including our formal team consisting of Oscar Baker, Ellie Bonde, Pete Bowlus, Mike Eacho, Tyler Graham, Peter Helt, Pat Rockinberg, Mary Beth Ruch and both Dick and Tina Swanson.

The Historical Society is selling limited edition calendars that highlight the treasured history of our special town. They cost \$10 and are available at the following downtown businesses: Betty Lou’s Soft Pretzels, Blossom and Basket, Crying Johnnies, George’s Girls, and the Historical Museum.

## **Happenings Around Town**

The Holiday Train Garden at the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Department will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from December 5<sup>th</sup> until January 3, 2016, 12:00-5:00pm. Park in the lower lot in the rear of the Fire Station. We need to reserve access to the upper level parking area for Fire Department personnel responding to calls.

Breakfast with Santa will be Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:30-11am at the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Companies Activities Building. Please stop by to support the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company and enjoy a hearty breakfast!

## **Mount Airy Town Council Meetings**

Mount Airy Town Council Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month @ 7:30 p.m. @ Town Hall - 110 S. 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 December Mayor’s Community Forums will be held on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 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 for a chat!

All the best,

*Mayor Patrick Rockinberg*