

**PATRICK T. ROCKINBERG**  
*Mayor*

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**PETER R. HELT**  
*Council President*



*Council Members*  
**CHRISTOPHER P. EVERICH**  
*Secretary*

**ROBERT H. KING, JR**  
**KENNETH D. PHEBUS**  
**SCOTT D. STRONG**

## Mayors Report February 2015

**Winter Weather** - As a reminder, residents are responsible for clearing their sidewalks within 24 hours of a snow fall. This helps keep our pedestrians safe and 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 -- so they can be located as quickly as possible if they are needed. When they are needed to put a fire out, but covered with snow, fire and rescue workers could be delayed in locating them - 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. Also if a snow emergency is declared, as per Town Code, please ensure all vehicles are removed from town streets.

**Town Safety**- There is an increase of joggers on our road ways. As a reminder if hitting the streets in the dark, please wear a flashing beacon or reflective clothing. This will allow drivers to see you. These low cost safety options could save your life and prevent an unnecessary tragedy.

**Town Nominations for Public Office** – We are entering another election cycle. Three Town Council seats will be up for election. I urge those that wish to serve and represent your community to step forward. By doing so, you will have the opportunity to make choices that will impact how our town looks, grows and our quality of life. And I urge all of us to come out on Election Day to make your choice known. Many of our forefathers gave their lives to give us the right to represent ourselves and to vote. Please honor them by taking part in the process.

**Budget**- Understanding the process. Each year the Mayor, after working with staff, presents a draft budget. This is a starting point for The Town Council's consideration. The Mayor's role remains important, as fiscal officer, but it is then the Town Council which must consider what to approve - or not, and during the discussion, the Town Council will hold a series of public workshops. Once adopted by the Town Council, the budget is returned to the Mayor to be implementing on a day to day basis.

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**If I were Mayor Contest-** We are once again kicking off this annual contest and I look forward to visiting 4<sup>th</sup> graders from both Carroll and Frederick Counties during the month of February. This year's theme is "RESPECT".

**Frequently Asked Questions/Updates-**

***Why are those safety cones still in front of Miracles on Main Street?*** We are waiting on the State Highway Administration to approve hand railing plans. We have been strongly encouraging them to correct this eye-sore on our Main Street.

***What's going on with Historic Bank Building on Main Street?*** Site plan obstacles impacting development have been resolved and we are looking forward to future development.

***What's going on at the Super Fresh Site?*** Carroll Health Group still has plans to operate a wellness center in this facility. The anticipated opening date of the center is twelve to fourteen months from today.

**Special Nugget!** - Mount Airy is in Taylor Swift's Blank Space video- Actually the 2 white horses from Mount Airy's Spring Fever Farms are predominately featured.

**The Mayor's Community Forums** - The Mayors Community forums will be held on Saturdays, February 14 and 28<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Feel free to contact me at [prockinberg@gmail.com](mailto:prockinberg@gmail.com) or call Town Hall @ [301-829-1424](tel:301-829-1424). 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!

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Please visit (<http://www.mountairymd.org/>) for a list of volunteer opportunities on one of our many commissions. We have three openings on our Water Commission. This volunteer Commission is made up of Mt. Airy residents who study and advise the Mayor and Town Council on all issues related to water, cost structure, conservation, capacities, etc. Please let me know if anyone is interested in serving on a commission where there is a vacancy. You can call Town Hall at [301-829-1424](tel:301-829-1424) or email me directly at [prockinberg@gmail.com](mailto:prockinberg@gmail.com).

Patrick Rockinberg  
Mayor