

## Mayor's Report - August 2020

**COVID-19 Numbers** - Great news--thanks to our small-town community and its sensitivity, COVID-19 numbers across our state are continuing to fall...one small town at a time! It is important we continue to exercise caution... especially as we move into another flu season. Thank you to everyone for thinking about your neighbors and those more vulnerable. Please note our signage throughout town and our creativity with mini pop-up parks everywhere! A huge thank you to our Emergency Response Team that continues to meet and oversee safe practices.

**New Simpson-Baker-Bowlus Pop-Up Park!** To assist with addressing blighted properties, encouraging downtown economic development and creating a safe outdoor space for public use, we are pleased to announce the opening of the Simpson-Baker-Bowlus Pop-Up Park on Main Street! Special thanks to project leaders Jim Stargel, Katie Giganti and Tina Swanson! Our downtown vision plan called for a public space with similar features including a water feature and stage, and now we now have one!! Civic groups, scouting, etc. are all encouraged to use this safer outdoor environment! With 26 new parking spaces, don't be surprised if several events start making this their new home. Please go to our website page at [www.mountairymd.gov/facilities](http://www.mountairymd.gov/facilities) if you or your group would like to reserve. Traditional folding chair seating will be made available as needed.

**Downtown Improvements** - Around our Town you will see several improvements, so while the world slows up Mount Airy keeps rocking! The property behind McDonalds has new businesses opening, El Mana Mini Market and Surah Japanese Steakhouse. Thanks to the Town Council, Center Street and downtown municipal lot improvements are taking place. Our appreciation goes out to the Planning Commission and Council for the adoption of new zoning to help encourage beneficial development in our historic downtown zone. This task was both arduous and immense! Great job Team!

**National Anthem** - To encourage National Pride in these unrepresented times, we will be playing the National Anthem every Friday on the downtown PA system. To overcome some of the depressing news, it's best to remember what's great about this Country and focus more on that! If you happen to be on Main Street, you are encouraged to stop whatever you are doing, face one of our many flags, remove headgear (non- military), and place hand on your heart or salute as a sign of respect and thankfulness! Winston Churchill wisely said that Democracy is the worst form of government... with the exception of ALL the others!

**Town Survey** - The results of the monumental Town Survey are delayed due to COVID-19, but the Town Council and I look forward to the results soon to ensure we are connected and meeting the community's needs.

**Mount Airy Town Council Meetings** - The regular Town Council Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month beginning at 7:30 p.m. at 110 South Main Street. The meetings are also

televised live on Comcast Channel 23 in Carroll County. Please consider witnessing a meeting on cable TV where the latest issues are openly discussed or letting us know any concerns or comments you may have via email address or phone numbers provided on the agendas posted on our website at [www.mountairymd.gov](http://www.mountairymd.gov).

**The Mayor's Community Forums** - The Mayors Community Forum for August 2020 will be held on Saturday, August 29th, from 11:00 a.m. - 12 p.m. @the new Simpson-Baker-Bowlus Pop-Up Park and will be live-streamed on Facebook! Special guests include Council President, Larry Hushour, and Doug Alexander of the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company (MAVFC). Make sure to tune in to find out what the yellow ducks around town are all about! Feel free to contact me at [prockinberg@gmail.com](mailto:prockinberg@gmail.com) or call Town Hall @ 301-829-1424. Residents are encouraged to drop by and discuss any town-related items. The setting is comfortable and informal. Grab a cup of coffee or your favorite drink and stop or drive by and we can talk at a safe distance!

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Please visit <http://www.mountairymd.org/> for a list of volunteer opportunities on one of our many commissions. There are residency requirements on most commissions. 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 or email me directly at [prockinberg@gmail.com](mailto:prockinberg@gmail.com).