

Mayor's Report - July 2021



Our July American Spirit Weekend was just a beautiful tribute to our Country and Community. Thank you to our Mayor's Parade participants and the staff that put it together and for the Fire Department for taking part in it. Thanks to everyone who came out to Main Street and the Activities Grounds for the fireworks on the 3rd. Special thanks to Dr. Chris Coleman, Ben Golueke and Denise Fox for starting this. We met at a table 8 years ago and they made their dream come alive. Special thanks to the VFW Post 10076 for the ceremony on the 4th!!

Town Government Updates:

Have you heard that Town Hall has a **"No Solicitation"** sign for your home? New legislation is under consideration by the Council, allowing 501(c)3 organizations and political campaigns, except the latter must observe the "No Solicitation" signage. No person issued a peddler's license will be allowed to visit with the "No Solicitation" signage or the Mount Airy produced sign containing substantially the same message. You can pick up one of these signs in Town Hall.

The Town Council has rightfully lowered The Messenger advertising amount in our **Fiscal Year Budget**. We do need to remember our best source of information for many of our seniors is this print media publication.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, we relaxed restrictions on **temporary business signage**. The relaxing will continue for a while for all in-town businesses as a measure of assistance during continued recovery. We will be making sure that out-of-town businesses are not included in this.

Consideration is being given to **curb grinding** versus full curb removal and replacement as a cost savings method.

We are currently assembling a **Police Task Force Committee**; details are to follow. We are also working to tighten roles to save time and money. To be more efficient, if you have a need, please go directly to each Department first, instead of through me. My staff can respond much quicker, but I still love everyone! Call Town Hall at 301-829-1424 or email town@mountairymd.gov.

Mount Airy Rails to Trails located south of 3 N. Main Street and 615 Center Street is anticipated to be closed from mid-August to January for the construction of our Mt. Airy Old Main Line Central Branch Trail Project. When the project is complete, we will have a remediated stormwater management pond and a beautiful trail boardwalk with ADA compatibility.

Construction is progressing on the **Chick-fil-A**. Construction is still estimated to be complete near the end of the year.

The **2023 Comprehensive Master Plan Update** is underway! If you would like more information or have comments, please email 2023masterplan@mountairymd.gov.

Ocean City Maryland Municipal League Convention Lessons Learned:

I wanted to share just a few of the valuable lessons I brought back from the convention this year.

First, communication face-to-face is important because when enemies are talking, oftentimes they are not fighting. Anyone can put up a finger from behind a car door, but in-person communication allows for body language to be better understood.

Second, getting together with State leaders ensures that we are part of the process. This conference has allowed us the time to meet with our leaders to learn what they are working towards and share with them about our Town initiatives.

Third, getting to see all the vendors with all the equipment used by Town's to deliver services to their residents, lets me find cost savings on products we could be using or finding other vendors to give us a better price on existing products and services.

There is a lot of things to look forward to this month:

Sky Is The Limit, July 18th 2:30 -4:30 p.m. Join Pack 1191 as they make and launch their own water bottle rockets as far as they will fly. All supplies provided and families are welcome. Boys and Girls K-5.

Who is looking for a job? There is a **Job Fair on July 22, 2021** from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Plumbery Home Center Parking Lot. Convenience Catering will be on site to feed everyone and anyone free lunch! Rain or shine but moved inside if inclement weather. Several different employers will be on site ready to hire from trade positions, plumbing and septic, retail, restaurant staff, bartender, school personnel, office positions, etc.

Taste of MAVFC Fundraiser on July 23, 28, 29, 30 from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Mt. Airy Volunteer Fire Company Carnival Grounds, 1008 Twin Arch Road. Featuring Pit Ham and Turkey, Burgers, Hotdogs, Fried Chicken, Funnel Cakes, Sides, Lemonade, Ice Cream and Drinks, Plus Daily Food Specials.

Watkins Play Place, Evening of Inclusion, happening at the Watkins Play Place in Watkins Park, 615 Center Street on Saturday, July 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. This event is hosted by Ava's T21 Foundation and 100% proceeds will go to their non-profit to benefit Phase 2 of Watkins Play Place, an all inclusive ADA compliant play ground built for all individuals and abilities. This is a fantastic event with food trucks, live music, moonbounce, games and activities, a Slow Bike Race, with Beer and Wine available for purchase for those 21 years of age or older with I.D. There will also be a **Hometown Chili Cook-Off Restaurant Competition** to determine who this year's Stanley Trophy winner will be. Thanks to our very own Councilmember Pamela Reed and Ray Miller for bringing this to life and carrying on the tradition another year!

Enjoy a **Concert Series in Wildwood Park and Watkins Park** during the months of August – October. Check the Town website and Town of Mount Airy Facebook page for the latest information on the band or musician. Wildwood Park will be on the first Saturday of each month at 5:00 p.m. and Watkins Park will be on the third Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Join us at Watkins Park on August 14th for **Camp Night**, starting at 5:00 p.m. for music, crafts, the outdoor movie, campfire stories, s'mores and more!

Celebrate Mount Airy will be held on August 28th from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. hosted in the Downtown. This family-friendly event is a block party style featuring food, businesses, and community organizations from across the greater Mount Airy Community. While you and your family are Downtown, enjoy some quality time strolling Rails-to-Trails, strolling into the shops, and dining.

Come out to Downtown Mount Airy every 4th Sunday of the month from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. for **Cars and Coffee** in the Municipal Parking Lot! This is a free event, bring your cars or come check out the cars. Hosted in partnership by Chewey's Performance Auto and Concetta's Main Street Bistro.

The **Mayor's Community Forum** will be held at Simpson, Baker, Bowlus Pop-Up Park, Saturday, August 7th from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Please feel free to drop by in an informal setting and discuss any town related issues.

Volunteer Opportunities - Please visit our Town website (<http://www.mountairymd.gov>) for a list of volunteer opportunities with one of our commissions or task forces. Let us know if anyone is interested in volunteering when we have a vacancy. You can call Town Hall at 301-829-1424 or email my Executive Assistant, Colleen Reilly at creilly@mountairymd.gov.

Patrick Rockinberg

Mayor