

## Mayors Report March 2019

**Time for Spring!!!** As we put the winter season behind us, I'd like to once again join the community in showing our appreciation to our entire Public Works Department that kept our roads clear, many times working through the night while we slept. We'd also like to thank our first responders who were on the job 24/7 no matter the weather conditions. Thank you!!

**Growth Development Task Force** – I am pleased to announce that we are re-launching this task force to perform a new Town Wide Survey. I was honored to serve as the chairman of the previous GDTF Town Survey in 2006 which received an overwhelming response rate of over 40%. The feedback received in that survey was used as a basis for many of the decisions made during the past decade. We look forward to the information shared with us through the updated survey so that future decisions are made in consideration of the entire community. Details will be posted soon!

**Mount Airy Junior Task Force** - The Mount Airy Junior Task Force second official meeting will be held Monday, March 18, 2019 5:00 PM, Town Hall, 110 South Main Street. Thank you to Town Council Candidate Pam Reed for creating this Task Force to include and educate our youth on town leadership roles and projects.

**Budget Preparation** - The town is moving into our annual budget preparation cycle. Budget workshops and meeting dates will soon be announced. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Thanks to past leadership, the Town of Mount Airy continues to remain fiscally solvent.

### What's Happening in your town!

**Supporting our businesses** – Engage your appetites and prepare to enjoy Restaurant Week April 1 - 7<sup>th</sup>! A Resourceful Entrepreneur Series began on March 5<sup>th</sup> and continues every Tuesday morning through April 30<sup>th</sup> at M&T Bank. Please check out this great resource for small business owners! Always a favorite, Search for the Golden Egg Downtown Main Street returns April 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>.

**Downtown in your Hometown** - There will be a Downtown Mount Airy Vision Plan Presentation March 21<sup>st</sup> at MAVFC Reception Hall, 7:00 PM. **Art Exhibit** – Town Hall, located in the heart of downtown Mt. Airy, is hosting another Art Exhibit through March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Yard Sale!!!** - The ever-popular Mount Airy Lions Club Yard Sale is set for April 20<sup>th</sup>. We hope for sunny skies and bountiful bargains!

**Home Goods Re-Opening** – A topic of great interest for many of our community members. The HomeGoods re-opening has been delayed due to weather, however they now anticipate re-opening in June. Details to follow.

This is just a sampling! Be sure to visit the Town of Mount Airy website and social media pages for all the events and happenings!

**Staff Adjustments**- The Mount Airy Police Department Community Services Unit will now handle code enforcement, eliminating the need for a separate position. Thank you to David

Ricklis for his 10 years of service to the town! Also, to better utilize our resources, we have made some internal staff adjustments. Gina Campanile's role as Park Manager has been extended to overseeing our increased social media and Main Street presence. Her new title is Director of Communications and Events. Ashely Collier will be focused on special events and Parks that she does an amazing job with, Melissa Thorn and a new hire will have a greater Main Street presence as well as assisting with Parks. We are updating and improving many of our services using newer technologies.

**Storm Water Management** – The Merridale SWM Pond made good progress in January and February despite wet conditions. The contractor and Carroll County agreed they would take the month of March off while the next work activities require installing a concrete headwall and pipe in the bottom of the pond where it is currently full of water. They are expected to return to work the first week of April.

**Door to Door Solicitors** - It's Door-to-Door soliciting season! Please remember the Town has official "No Solicitation" stickers available at no charge. Please visit the Town Hall to pick one up today along with a description of allowable solicitors such as the Boy/Girl Scout and the Fire Company. These stickers list the violation and Ordinance and will send a unified message. We wish these businesses well, but this type of solicitation is not allowed without a permit.

**Mount Airy Rails to Trails** – Thanks to Cheryl Ladota of the MD State Highway Administration for coming out and talking to us about the Rails to Trail boardwalk project. It appears our successful TAP grant award received last fall will now be converted to a successful Recreational Trails grant award with less stringent requirements. This will save us \$120,000 worth of engineering design fees AND the project should be starting sooner! Look for improvements on our trail starting late spring/early summer! Special thanks to Barney Quinn, Chaslyn Derexson, Councilman Larry Hushour, Melissa Thorn and Gina Campanile.

**"If I Were Mayor" essay contest for all 4th graders.** Entries due March 30th.

I was very pleased to be joined by Councilman Jason Poirier and Bob King as we visited 4th graders from Mount Airy Elementary School and Twin Ridge Elementary to promote the annual "If I were Mayor" Contest sponsored by the Maryland Municipal League in partnership with the Maryland Mayors Association and Injured Workers Insurance Fund. This year's theme is "Together We Can". This reminds our students of what a great force we can be when we work together!! We have been very fortunate to have grand prize winners from our Mount Airy schools in the past. A special thanks to Mount Airy town colleagues Gina Campanile and Melissa Thorn for doing all the administrative work related to this program and for making it an enjoyable event for all involved.

**R.E.D. Friday** – Thanks to Josh Marks, the Town recognized members of our community currently deployed in our Armed Forces through the "R.E.D." Friday Program. RED stands for Remember Everyone Deployed. We asked the community to wear something RED to honor these Soldiers who risk their lives every day to protect our way of life in Mount Airy, MD and this great Nation.

**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 dropping by and witnessing a meeting where the latest issues are openly discussed or letting us know any concerns or comments you may have.

**The Mayor's Community Forums** - The Mayors Community Forum for March 2019 will be held on Saturday, March 30th, from 11:00 a.m. - 12 p.m. NEW Location Safeway Food Store sitting area by Starbucks. 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. Town Council members are also invited to attend. The setting is comfortable and informal. Grab a cup of coffee or your favorite drink and stop by!

**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).

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Patrick Rockinberg  
Mayor