

## October 2020 – Mayors Report

On behalf of the Mount Airy Town Council, we hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and a great start to the new school year. We realize this year has been very different in many aspects and we are proud of our community and town businesses as we successfully navigate our way through COVID-19. We continue to follow CDC recommendations to lower infection rates and steadfastly move toward expanded re-openings with a goal to resume our normal lives. Though the pandemic has had far reaching and long-lasting impacts to our daily lives, we can take comfort in knowing that it cannot impede the arrival of the ever-glorious autumn season!

**HALLOWEEN UPDATE-** The Emergency Response Team and Town Leadership reviewed both Carroll County and Frederick Counties suggestions. Carroll supports traditional Trick or Treating to restore more normalcy to our children with several precautions listed below. Frederick County, a more populated county, has discouraged it this year. Once again Mount Airy is united and respects the more rural approach, similar to Carroll County. You may choose to follow Frederick County's, more cautious, approach. It's up to you! Those participating please follow safety suggestions. Those NOT participating please leave your porch light off as the traditional symbol.

Carroll County Recommendations - Officials at the Carroll County Health Department say following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention rules, that it is safe for kids to trick-or-treat as long as they social distance and wear masks:

- Stay with people you live with, Social Distance, Wear a Mask, Stay home if you are sick
- Wear facial coverings, Non-Contact options: Candy Chute,

Bags More Town Options and Information listed below:

Looking ahead, while it does appear that the traditional Main Street Christmas Parade will be impacted this year, we are exploring other opportunities to celebrate the magic of the holiday season that awaits us! The only thing to make this past year even more incredible will be huge snow falls! Just Kidding!

**Our Rotary Club/MAVFC Duck Race** was a huge success and helped raise funds for both organizations to help serve our community! Thank you to both organizations, town staff and to our citizens that embraced and enjoyed this event so much!

**The Simpson -Baker - Bowlus Park:** Thank you to our local artist, Bailey Rammling and Gabi Deyo for their work! A new waterfall and fish pond!!! We love how this is encouraging so many people downtown! It's a unique gathering area and will be improving every week!

**Your Town Survey Results are coming!!!** Delayed by COVID-19 we expect the entire survey to be completed by October 31<sup>st</sup> with some preliminary results potentially released earlier! This 10-year survey ensures your neighbors, who also happen to be your elected leaders, know how the community wants their town managed. Thank you to everyone who filled out this survey and to the Growth Development Task Force for creating the survey!

**Blighted Property Updates-** David Warrington, Town Administrator, is working on several properties such as construction by Bank of America, South 1010 Main Street, to ensure we keep Mount Airy as nice as possible! The Bank on Main Street is no longer blighted as we knew

it to be for 20 years! It's an exciting new Main Street gathering area and Park! Named after Oscar Baker, Helen Simpson and Pete Bowlus. We also restored some history and re-installed an ESSO Gas sign on the Plumbery Building!

**Historic District Micro-Grant Program is now Open!** The Town of Mount Airy micro-grant program was created to assist small businesses within Historic Downtown Mount Airy that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and affiliated State Executive Orders and has a total of \$50,000 available for up to 25 businesses with no repayment! Go to the Town's website or [click here to find out more!](#)

**MHAA Grant Train Station Improvements:** The Train Station improvements are coming along nicely! Make sure you get a chance to see the new roof shingles, repaired chimney and upcoming new gutters when you are downtown! You can also check out the progress on the new [Train Station Project Webpage](#).

**Student Opportunities** – School is back in session and students are working to comply with their service-learning hour requirements. Matching our youth with organizations that need their assistance serves both, and ultimately serves our community. While every attempt has been made to ensure compliance with the service-learning hour requirements, they do differ from county to county (Carroll and Frederick), so please check with your local school coordinator to ensure that the service qualifies. I also ask that the youth contact the following individuals and organizations directly for specifics on assisting:

Tina Swanson - Mt. Airy Beautification Committee @ [tina406@yahoo.com](mailto:tina406@yahoo.com), to help with rewarding outdoor gardening projects; Holly McCleary - Town Hall @ 301-829-1424, for clerical office or other tasks; to help with any of the exciting Main Street Events please contact Kelly Patrick at 301-748-9089; Ray Miller-The Four County Lions@ 301-370-3046,they usually need help with Thanksgiving or Christmas Food Baskets, contact Ray for more information. Do you like the Caboose? We need volunteers to man the caboose and museum for our visitors, contact Director of Community Development, Gina Campanile, @ [Gcampanile@mountairymd.gov](mailto:Gcampanile@mountairymd.gov) for more information. Hopefully you will find something that interests you and benefits the community!!!!

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Please visit our Town website (<http://www.mountairymd.org/>) for a list of volunteer opportunities on one of our commissions. If anyone is interested in serving on a commission on which we have a vacancy, you can call Town Hall at 301-829-1424 or email me directly at [prockinberg@gmail.com](mailto:prockinberg@gmail.com).

**Community Outreach** – The Town uses several forms of community outreach to engage with our citizens. Please remember to follow our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram feeds for important community information. Links are provided below and are also available on the town's website. Our Twitter feed allows us to bring you up-to-the-second emergency and Town government information relating to public infrastructure emergencies and repairs, weather-related emergency information, State of Maryland emergency information, and other related content. If you have not already done so, please join us on Twitter today to stay connected!

Follow the Town's Facebook page to learn about exciting upcoming events happening in the community. Be certain to subscribe to the Town's website notification platform to receive important notifications and updates.

Town Web Site: <http://www.mountairymd.gov/>

Town FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TownofMountAiry>

MAPD FB: <https://www.facebook.com/MountAiryPD/>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/MountAiryMD>

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/mountairymd>

Emergency Notification Link: <http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/emergency>

## Upcoming Events!!

Want to know the latest events happening in our town? Make sure you are subscribed to the Town Newsletter! The latest edition can be found on the [Town's website](#) or by [clicking here](#).

Some highlights include:

**Our Weekly National Anthem was performed by Karleigh Hubble:** Ms. Hubble has been a Mount Airy resident all her life. She's a South Carroll High School Class of 2015 alumni and was heavily involved in Stagelighters. We are very proud to add Karleigh's version of the National Anthem to our Fridays at noon event!

**Spooky Safari Adventure Week:** October 20 - November 2, daily from 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM. This year we will have a trail take-over by all kinds of animal characters! Join us for this new two-week event. Bring the family, pack a picnic, and walk one of our hidden gems of Mount Airy, Rails to Trails. Parking available Downtown and in Watkins Park. While Downtown, stop by and enjoy one of our charming restaurants or retail businesses. Make memories on Main! For extra excitement bring a flashlight and walk the trail at dusk to see if our animals come to life! Please don't feed or touch our featured guests along the trail for this event. If you are walking the trail and capture a good photo on your Spooky Safari Adventure, share it with us for a chance to win a Mount Airy swag bag. To share your photos, feel free to post to our event wall or email us at [Events@mountairymd.gov](mailto:Events@mountairymd.gov). \*\*Please remember while enjoying our parks to keep in mind social distancing & wear a mask when appropriate. \*\*

**MAMSA HalloWeekend:** October 30 - November 1st: MAMSA is not letting COVID stomp out all the Halloween events! Join them for a fun-filled and safety-conscience weekend starting Friday night with an "The Park After Dark" event featuring Fireside Spooky Story Time at the Simpson-Baker-Bowlus Popup Park, followed by MAMSA's Main Street Candy Crawl on Saturday and Pets on Parade on Main on Sunday! For more information and tickets, go to [MountAiryMainStreet.org/upcoming-events](http://MountAiryMainStreet.org/upcoming-events).

**Making Strides** -We Celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary!!! With a Virtual 5k and Drive-Thru event! Making Strides looked a little different this year, but our passion hasn't changed. Our relentless pursuit of new answers hasn't changed. And our 24/7 support to patients hasn't changed. A shout out to Wendi's Warriors! They formed and started the walk in 2011.

**The Mayor's Community Forums – New Approach:** The October 2020 Mayor's Community forum was held on Saturday, October 10th, 10:30 am to 11:30 am. The focus was on our Senior Community!! For the first time I walked Parade Lane to engage many residents. I would love to talk to folks and answer any questions as they sit on their porch or simply pull their cars up from other areas! On October 24th I will walk through Merry Go Round Way at the same time 10:30 am -11:30 am!