

## November 2020 – Mayor’s Report

On behalf of the Mount Airy Town Council, we hope everyone had an enjoyable, although different, Halloween. 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!

### COVID-19 Update

The Carroll County numbers have increased by 36%! Is it all fact? As a Town we need to have a conservative and safe reaction regardless. While some of us were hoping reductions would continue, it is not apparent. As a result, we request and will reinforce our earlier positions to not only keep ourselves safe but also folks who are more critical. These are steps to protect everyone and our businesses!

1. Wear proper mask correctly, cover your nose too.
2. Space yourself 6 feet from those you do not live with.
3. Limit larger group gatherings.
4. Consider alternative Thanksgiving gatherings, perhaps introduce Zoom to your family!! An opportunity to do something new and safe!!

Hopefully a vaccine will occur and medical professionals will give us all accurate data.

I myself will try to set a much better example.

The Town Council and I want to Thank You All for Being Safer!!!

Patrick Rockinberg

Mayor

Looking ahead, while the traditional Main Street Christmas Parade will be impacted this year, we have 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! See our website and Facebook page for more information about upcoming events.

**Rotary Club/MAVFC Duck Race** – the event 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!

**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 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!

**MAMSA Candy Crawl & Halloweekend** – what a great event! Despite having to alter regular Halloween plans, MAMSA and our downtown businesses came through with several wonderful events for the Mount Airy community.

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**Your Town Survey Results Are In!!!** Delayed by COVID-19, but now complete. 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! You can find the complete presentation and survey results on our website.

**Blighted Property Updates-** Town staff are 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!

**MHAA Grant Train Station Improvements** - The Train Station improvements are now complete! Make sure you get a chance to see the new roof shingles, repaired chimney and new gutters when you are downtown! Photos and more can be seen at [www.mountairymd.gov/TrainStation](http://www.mountairymd.gov/TrainStation).

**Hometown Heroes Banners** – The Town is very proud to announce the first round of the Hometown Heroes Banner Program is complete! Many thanks to Councilwoman Patty Washabaugh, Suzi Way, and Mary Hushour, and our Economic Development & Main Street Manager, Melissa Thorn for working to make this a reality for our Town! We encourage you to visit Historic Mount Airy and to see the Heroes banners proudly displayed this fall. You can also see all the banners on the town’s website at [www.mountairymd.gov/hometownheroes](http://www.mountairymd.gov/hometownheroes)

### **Upcoming Events!!**

Want to know the latest events happening in our town? Make sure you are subscribed to the Town Newsletter!

### **Some highlights include:**

**Shop \$small Mount Airy Contest** – Now through December 5<sup>th</sup>, shop at any small, independently-owned, brick and mortar business within the 21771 zip code and enter your receipt for a chance to win \$5,000 worth of prizes! Find out more on our website, [www.mountairymd.gov/shopsmall](http://www.mountairymd.gov/shopsmall)

**Mount Airy Town Ornaments** – Have been ordered. New this year, you can pre-order the 2020 Town ornaments online! Shipping is also available or free pickup at the caboose on Saturdays and Sundays from 12-4:00 PM. If you prefer to pay by cash/check, stop by the Mount Airy Historical Society Museum on Saturdays or Sundays from 12-4:00 PM once the ornaments arrive. The ornaments are due in Thanksgiving weekend. Order at [www.mtairyornaments.com](http://www.mtairyornaments.com).

**Veterans Day Program** - The Counties Four VFW Post 10076 of Mt. Airy and the Auxiliary invite you to a program to honor our Veterans on November 11th. This is open to the public and we hope you can join us. The event is outside at the Simpson-Baker-Bowlus Pop Up Park, 8 N. Main Street & Prospect Rd., so please dress accordingly. Masks and social distancing required. Please bring a chair as seating will be limited. In10se BBQ food truck will be available from 2:30-4PM and then an hour after the program. They accept cash and major credit cards. Come grab a bite to eat before the program or stay after.

**Our Weekly National Anthem was performed by Karleigh Hubble:** Ms. Hubble has been a Mount

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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!

**9th Annual Holiday Train Station/Caboose/Downtown Decorating** - Commission members and volunteers meet every year to decorate around town. This year November 14, they will be at it again, spreading holiday cheer and beauty to Downtown and Wildwood Park. Please join me in thanking them for making our town shine as we get ready for the holiday season.

**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, 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 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>

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

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