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Mayor's Report – February 2019

Happy New Year Mount Airy- Together we have weathered much this past year and as we always do we have come through as an even stronger community. Tornado's, illnesses for many, celebrating our first with our own Police Force and a special election! The Town Council, staff and I look forward to an even greater 2019.

Winter Weather - As a reminder, residents are responsible for clearing their sidewalks within 24 hours of a snow fall. This helps keep our pedestrians safe and allows our children to safely get to their bus stops. I'd like to thank those in the community who chip in to clear out the bus stops which are frequently plowed in when streets are cleared. We appreciate those who give this extra effort. Also, to help protect you and your neighbors, the Town asks those with a fire hydrant in their yard to please keep them clear of snow -- so they can be located as quickly as possible if they are needed. When they are needed to put a fire out, but covered with snow, fire and rescue workers could be delayed in locating them - and in a fire emergency, seconds count. Having the hydrants clear can make a huge difference when they're needed. This will save fire fighters much time in finding the hydrants in snow, as well as clearing the snow off the hydrants once they do find them. Also, if a snow emergency is declared as per Town Code please ensure all vehicles are removed from town streets.

Town Safety- There is an increase of joggers on our road ways. As a reminder, if hitting the streets in the dark, please wear a flashing beacon or reflective clothing. This will allow drivers to see you. These low-cost safety options could save your life and prevent an unnecessary tragedy.

FY 2020 Budget- Understanding the process. Each year the Mayor, after working with staff, presents a draft budget. This is a starting point for The Town Council's consideration. The Mayor's role remains important, as fiscal officer, but it is then the Town Council which must consider what to approve - or not. During the discussion, the Town Council will hold a series of public workshops. Once adopted by the Town Council, the budget is returned to the Mayor to be implemented on a day-to-day basis.

What's Happening Around Town-

Home Goods- The rebuilding continues with an anticipated re-opening of March 2019.

1010 South Main Street (Old Chevy Building)- The owners are working with staff to develop residential dwellings on this parcel. No details as it's still in the planning process.

Downtown Master Plan – Is in its final "edit" phase and will be presented to the Planning Commission at their February meeting. Depending on what changes the Planning Commission recommends, the study will go forward to the Town Council for presentation in March or April. Remember this study will look at the Flat Iron Building, Center Street corridor, parking and utility infrastructure and do a full marketing study among other items.

Pickle Ball is Coming to Mount Airy! - Thanks to our pro-active Parks and Recs. Board for keeping up to date with changing trends. Both the Village Gate tennis courts and Prospect Parks street hockey courts are due to be lined for pickleball this Spring. The Village Gate Courts will use the tennis nets for pickleball and the Prospect Park's street hockey court will have movable nets so that it can be used both for street hockey or pickleball.

If I were Mayor Contest- We are once again kicking off this annual contest and I look forward to visiting 4th graders from both Carroll and Frederick Counties. This year's theme is "Together We Can!"

Downtown Events- Our Chocolate Crawl is Friday 2/8, 5pm to 9pm, live music from 6pm to 8pm with free Cinderella Horse and Buggy Rides. The next event is the Golden Egg event the week before Easter, but all the details are not worked out yet.

Public Service Announcement- Mount Airy Town Council Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month @ 7:30 p.m. @ 110 South Main Street. The meetings are also televised live on 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.

Volunteer Opportunities- Please visit <http://www.mountairymd.org/government/vacancies/> for a list of volunteer opportunities on one of our many commissions or task forces. These volunteer commissions are made up of Mount Airy residents (and a few allow out of town Mount Airy citizens) who study and advise the Mayor and Town Council on issues related to the Commission. Please let me know if you are interested in serving. You may call Town Hall at 301-829-1424 or email me directly at prockinberg@gmail.com.

The Mayor's Community Forums- Will resume Saturday, March 2nd from 10:30am to 12:00pm. This next session will be held at the Downtown Caboose "Mac". 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 and stop by for a chat!