



MARYLAND MAYORS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 3 December 2016

MMA
*Helping its members
to better serve their
municipalities*

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2016-2017**

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Why Be Designated As A Main Street Maryland Community?

Ask A Main Street Manager. . .

The Main Street Maryland program provides assistance, training, and ideas to help small downtown areas in Maryland revive and thrive. As a member of the Main Street Maryland program, Denton has benefitted from grant funding, quarterly training, and one-on-one support from the Main Street Maryland staff. They have provided guidance to us to help promote our downtown main street businesses and offer staff support when needed.

We would recommend this program to any struggling downtown area in Maryland who may have struggles getting businesses in town, foot traffic to come to town, or problems with landlords that are not interested in keeping the storefronts open.

One of the many benefits to this program are quarterly meetings. Held throughout the state in downtown areas, they provide training, tours, and a chance for main street managers to share ideas for what works for them. As many of us working with main street programs know, some things work, and some don't. It's nice to have a group tackling similar challenges to sound off on.

www.marylandmainstreet.org

Lisa Orendorf,
Denton's Main Street Manager

Next Month:



*Legislative
Session Begins

*Tale of Two Marylands

**SAVE THE
DATE:**



**MMA Dues are
due now**

**MMA winter conference in
Annapolis FEB. 2-3**

MMA Winter Conference

"If I Were Mayor" contest forms have been mailed to the municipalities. Included in this packet are the forms, advertisements and this year's theme for the contest. **Maryland Mayors Association is a sponsor of this contest and we urge you to contact your local elementary school and schedule a visit.**

Your visit would be a time to review the contest rules and procedures and the theme: **"Inclusion"**.

MMA CHAPTER CAPTAINS

Chapter Captain is a position to help keep MD Mayors informed and aware of what is happening in their local MML chapter as well as member communities, if need be. And, share information from the MMA to the local MML chapter. This would require a short 3-5 minute sharing of this information at our 3 meetings.



Allegany/Garrett - Dan Colmer, Barton

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Meet our Mayor of the Month Randy McClement of Frederick

What is it like being a Mayor? It is a very interesting and humbling experience. One day, I am just one of many local shopkeepers in town, the next I am the Mayor of the 2nd largest city in the State of Maryland. I have been in this position for almost 7 years now, and I still cannot get used to people calling me Mayor. I find that almost every day something different comes across my desk that needs my attention and/or decision. Just when I think I have seen or heard it all, up pops something new!

What issues are you confronting in your town or city? I believe all cities and towns work on the same basic items...making sure the water is on, picking up trash, ensuring our streets are in good repair, and our neighborhoods are safe for everyone. In The City of Frederick, these are the day-to-day items we tackle. We also work on large projects that will have regional impact, like the public-private partnership to bring a full service hotel and conference center to our downtown. The items that are of great interest to our residents include major road construction projects to provide better access around the City, for example, the completion of Monocacy Boulevard; and enhancing our multi-use path system to allow greater bicycle and pedestrian access to all parts of our city. And, while it's not glamorous, we have a major project underway to upgrade our Wastewater Treatment Plant.

What is your "other" job or what did you do before you became Mayor

The Mayor of The City of Frederick is one of only 3 full-time Mayor positions in the State. As I mentioned, prior to becoming Mayor, I was just one of many local shopkeepers in town. My wife Maryjane and I owned a Bagel and Deli shop in downtown Frederick for 12 years. Before that, I managed homeowner associations and condominium associations.

Were you prepared for doing the job of Mayor? As prepared as a bagel maker could be to become Mayor! (Just kidding) I feel my customer service experience as a small business owner and my experience managing homeowner associations (which are just cities in miniature) provided me a great deal of training and prepared me to serve as Mayor.

Why/how did you get involved in local government? I am a firm believer that it is every citizen's responsibility to give back to their community in some form or fashion. You have to do that in whatever way suits you best. For me, it was my interest in how local government works and what I could do to help. I joined the Tourism Council of Frederick County as well as the Chamber of Commerce. I attended many, many, many Mayor and Board meetings to watch the proceedings and get a feel for the direction our local government was looking to take our city. I was asked to serve on the City's Ethics Commission and I accepted. I was asked to serve on the City's Charter Review Committee and I did. I also served on both the Water Task Force and the Parking Task Force for the City. All of this was my way of giving back to the community that had been so supportive of my families business. In a nutshell, that's how I got involved

Share a unique/unusual/funny experience you have had as Mayor. I was inaugurated on December 10, 2009. Ten days later we had 23" of snow. Two months later, we had 53.5" of snow! Since I have been Mayor, we have had 2 earthquakes, a derecho, super storm Sandy, another 39.5" snow storm and numerous flash flooding events. I am just waiting for the frogs and locusts to appear!

What would you like us to know about your town? The Bagel shop my family owned had a tag line... "Big City Flavor, Small Town Smile". That is how I see The City of Frederick. We may be the 2nd largest city in the State, but we have maintained our small town character.

We have great historic "bones" as you see in our historic downtown business district. We have a flood control project that runs through the middle of our City that is a great tourist attraction and economic driver.

We are the home to the Great Frederick Fair (that just celebrated its 154th year), Ft. Detrick, and an AstraZeneca Manufacturing Facility. We have a vibrant arts community and one of the best Parks Systems around, with 72 different parks!

I hope you can come visit just once, because once you do, you will be hooked!

www.cityoffrederick.com



Find us at
mdmayors.org
Click under News Links

WELCOME NEW OFFICERS

We have filled our vacancies for Treasurer and Secretary of the Board of MMA.

We welcome the service and commitment to our organization to:

Bennard Cann, Mayor Morningside as Treasurer

Joli McCatharan, Mayor Washington Grove as Secretary