

MOUNTAINSIDE RESIDENTS!



My name is Tom Murphy and I'm announcing my Candidacy for Mayor of the Borough of Mountainside. For those who do not know me, I have been a resident of Mountainside for much of my entire life. My parents purchased my grandmothers home in 1967 and we moved to Mountainside when I was four years old. I attended Echo Brook School (Borough Hall) from K-fifth, Deerfield School six through eighth and Graduated Jonathan Dayton Regional High School 1981. After high school I went to work, which is what I still do today. I'm married to my wife Heather for 29 years and we have two fantastic daughters, Paige and Payton. Just like all of you I am invested in this community with my home but I am also invested in this community with our farm stand business on Mountain Avenue, a business that brings something good to Mountainside.

I have been a Republican since I was old enough to vote, but I choose to run as an Independent for this election because I felt an all Republican primary did not give every voter in Mountainside a voice, whether that voice is for or against me. I also want to be clear with the residents that win or lose this election I will return to the Republican party, simply because that's the way I was raised, and the moral's I follow.

I served the Borough of Mountainside as a Police Officer for 25 years with pride. My priority as a Police Officer in this town was simply this, our children, our homes, and our backstreets. During my years of patrolling I was able to meet so many families that are still friends today, I developed a trust with the residents of this community and was one of the most recognized Police Officer in the Borough. Together with the help of other good Police Officers we created events such as the Cops vs 8th grade basketball and softball games, and many others events that brought the community and Police Department together.

I am also one of the founding members of the Mountainside Softball Association, a softball program that was recognized by many in the sport. Together with our great members we gave the girls who played softball a place to finally call home. Our organization continually raised money to completely level the fields, bring in the first ever snack shack for the girls softball program, a storage facility, new backstops and landscaping, without spending a single dollar of tax payer money. Our program put the kids first creating an environment that lead to undefeated Deerfield School teams, as well as, back to back Union County champs, and State Sectionals at the High School level. I spent over 20 years and countless hours coaching and helping our girls learn the game of softball. For me as a coach it wasn't just about winning, it was about teaching these girls how to stay strong when they fail or lose, how to handle that failure, that lose, that strikeout or dropped ball. How to always keep your head held high never letting anything or anyone ever stop you, because these are the valuable lesson you need not just in sports, but also in life. The time spent with these girls and their families are memories I will have forever.



**SO WHY AM I RUNNING
FOR MAYOR?**

MOUNTAINSIDE RESIDENTS VOTE COLUMN (C) ON NOV. 7TH

*****ECRWSSSEDDM****
Residential Customer



For me its simple. Its just about moving this town into the future, assuring that our kids, our homes, and our streets are safe. Assuring our back streets are patrolled at a high level hoping to deter criminals from coming into our homes, or harming our families, protecting what is our community. Its also extremely important to me to offer some of our own kids the opportunity to become Police Officers in our town. I feel the towns current hiring practice of only choosing certified officers from other departments is nothing less then penny wise and pound foolish. For me and other resident cops, this towns safety was our only priority, and how we felt about this community was substantially different from some others we worked with.

I also want to do more for our families, if elected I would make sure we have an event committee made up of residents and council members who's sole purpose would be to create events for our town throughout the year, and especially during the summer months when a lot of us stay home. I want to see if there is an area we can bring small live music venues to once a week during the summer. A place where our seniors and young residents can gather for a couple hours, relax and enjoy music. Another event I would like to see is an old fashion harvest festival for all the residents, with food trucks, beer tent, music etc. This event would be held separate, and after, the PTO festival, another great festival for the kids. Just recently the Borough of Mountainside decided to bring back the car show but events like this and others need to be done all the time. As residents we deserve the right to enjoy events within our own community without having to always leave for events held in other towns.

If elected one of my main priorities would be to revitalize our aging center of town. I know the Mayor and Council were planning some work, but merely fixing 25 year old sidewalks and replacing a few street lights is not the answer. This is Mountainside, we need to bring new life to our center, not just for the residents, but for the small tax paying businesses that make up our center of town. With the addition of our new park at the corner of Mountain Ave and New Providence Rd, we need that design to flow through our town center as part of it, making everything in our center beautiful. Just recently the Borough of Mountainside mentioned our community pool as an area of redevelopment, categorizing the area for major improvement, I think that's great but our town center is in desperate need of improvement and should be a priority as well. I'm sure there are grants or even avenues of funding we can pursue through the County and State to help beautify our town center so people passing through notice it and stop, not pass through and miss it.

Mountainside had always been a community other towns looked up to when I was a kid. But now I feel these towns have moved past Mountainside creating fantastic atmospheres for their residents and families that include outdoor dining, music etc. I'm not a beach guy so my summers are primarily here. All of my money is spent in other communities enjoying the outdoor environment when it should be spent here.

If elected I want the residents to understand, I am not a politician, I'm not fund raising or asking for donations, save your hard earned money for a family in need one day, or make a donation to our 100% volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, because without these good people your taxes would be 40% higher. I'm not a suit and tie guy, nor are you going to get inaugural speeches from me, I'm just going to fight like hell to make sure the quality of life in our town is second to none, that our homes stay safe, and that our kids can walk our streets without fear, because if we lose any of this, we've lost Mountainside.

For those interested My Facebook page is Murphy for Mayor Mountainside

