

Hereford Volunteer Fire Company

510 Monkton Road Monkton, MD 21111

Statement Regarding the Cancellation of the 2016 Fall Festival

October 4, 2016

As you are aware, the Hereford Volunteer Fire Company (HVFC), a non-profit organization that operates with 100% volunteer staffing and is supported by community donations, has canceled the annual Hereford Fall Festival. The Fall Festival, created and managed by HVFC volunteer personnel, is an area staple, a family favorite, and a source of income for many, many community vendors. It acts as HVFC's biggest annual fundraiser and public outreach event.

The Hereford Volunteer Fire Company had originally been told that the parking area would still be available to us even with the zoning and development issues that are still being decided on. The current developers were recently advised by their attorneys to deny access based on the uncertainty of the fate of the property. Royal Farms has been very eager to work with the Fire Company and the Hereford Community.

We have tried to work out alternative parking arrangements to be able to accommodate the nearly 10,000 patrons, we needed 8 acres of space for parking. Our volunteers immediately went to work to seek alternatives. We reached out to area businesses and residents in an effort to find substitute parking. Transportation companies were contacted to obtain quotes for buses to shuttle attendees. Despite our best efforts, we were unable to obtain neither adequate parking, nor cost-effective transportation. Having exhausted our final contacts, the decision was made to cancel the Fall Festival.

This decision was nothing short of difficult. While it was possible that a solution could have eventually been found, we refuse to string-along the dozens of vendors, musical performers, wineries, and community organizations out of the sheer hope that something would come together at the last minute. It would not have been fair.

This event is the biggest fundraising event for the Hereford Volunteer Fire Company and will be a major loss of income. Also this is a major function for the Hereford Zone Business Association (HZBA). They in turn sell raffle tickets for gift baskets and hold a large silent auction that they use to support four local community organizations: Hereford Vol. Fire Company, Hereford EMS, Hereford Food Bank, and the North County Cluster Food Bank.

We appreciate our community's support and understanding, and we apologize to anyone that is being personally or professionally affected by the Fall Festival's cancellation.

We would like to thank the following for their continued support for the Fall Festival and efforts to help us with this parking issue: John Mays, HZBA, Tommy Durst, HZBA, Ken Stevenson, President, Hereford Community Assoc., and Former Councilman Todd Huff.

A Special thanks to Mr. Andy Foard, President Foard enterprises and the Harold Burton family, Riverwatch LLC for all their continued support.

Please look for more information on next year's Hereford Fall Festival which we hope to be better than any other! Thank you for all of your support.

Hereford Volunteer Fire Company
Hereford Zone Business Association