



CITY OF MOUNT AIRY

Mount Airy, the largest of Surry County's four municipalities, is a postcard-perfect community of 11,000 residents that sits within easy reach of I-77, I-74, U.S. 52, U.S. 601 and the Blue Ridge Parkway. A rich legacy as a manufacturing center and backdrop for corporate headquarters has created a unique infrastructure-rich environment for industrial and business service operations. Its colorful musical scene, tourism attractions and "hometown" vibe make Mount Airy a growing destination for entrepreneurs and new residents at all stages of life.



Photo: Hobart Jones

BUSINESS BACKDROP: READY SITES AND SURPLUS CAPACITY

Mount Airy's economic roots can be traced to a massive granite quarry not far away. The Ararat River, along with other powerful, picturesque waterways, helped shape one of the nation's most vibrant local textile economies. Modern Mount Airy remains a backdrop for apparel and textile production; close relationships between local corporations and the community is one visible legacy of the city's long list of headquarters operations.

Along with abundant water, wastewater service and electric power, Mount Airy boasts two of the region's most attractive industrial parks. The 350-acre Piedmont Triad West Corporate Park is home to a diverse roster of commercial and industrial tenants. Certified "shovel-ready" by the North Carolina Department of Commerce, the park has easy access from I-74. Westwood Industrial Park is located off U.S. Highway 52. It too is home to a variety of manufacturers, service operations and administrative offices. Westwood is only 45 miles from Winston-Salem and about an hour's drive to Piedmont Triad International Airport. Both parks hold status as a Foreign Trade Zone (#230), making them cost-effective locations for globally oriented logistics and assembly operations.

Mount Airy offers a one-of-a-kind piece of rural Americana. The city was largely the inspiration of TV's "Mayberry." Thousands flock to Mount Airy each year to visit attractions such as the Andy Griffith Playhouse, the Museum of Regional History, and numerous shops and eateries along the city's vibrant Main Street. A growing tourism economy combines with steady streams of new residents to create a dynamic, lucrative environment for entrepreneurs and small companies.

Mount Airy has a pristine location and a high quality of life while maintaining a low cost of doing business. This combination makes Mount Airy very attractive to business and industry.

Mayor Deborah Cochran
City of Mount Airy, North Carolina



Photo: Robert Merritt



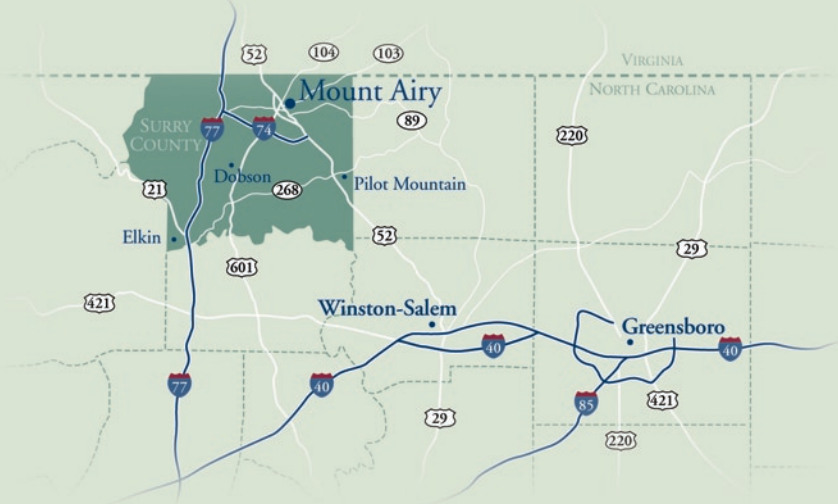
Photo: Hobart Jones

TEACHING, LEARNING, PREPARING: SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Mount Airy City Schools offer safe, student-centered instruction supported by the latest educational technologies. Small class sizes and ongoing parental involvement are two key ingredients of the system's success. In 2008, for example, U.S. News and World Report ranked Mount Airy High School in the top two percent of public high schools in North Carolina and in the top three percent nationwide. The main campus of Surry Community College, in nearby Dobson, offers college-transfer, continuing education and custom-tailored workforce development curricula. Wake Forest University, now among the nation's premier liberal arts institutions, is a short drive away, as is the North Carolina School of the Arts, Winston-Salem State University and other four-year campuses of the state's renowned university system.

A COSMOPOLITAN COMMUNITY: THINGS TO DO

As one of North Carolina's most dynamic small cities, Mount Airy offers recreational and cultural amenities to fit all tastes. The city's music scene—found outdoors and in numerous inside venues—provides an upbeat soundtrack spanning mountain folk and indie rock. High school athletic events draw large crowds of local and visiting spectators, and the expansive Reeves Community Center is an exciting hub for fitness, fellowship and fun. The area's storied history can be absorbed at the popular Mount Airy Museum of Regional History, whose rotating exhibits have included items from the Smithsonian collection. The city hosts colorful festivals that celebrate the region's wine, cuisine, music and unique assortment of native sons and daughters.



2009 DEMOGRAPHICS

Surry County

Population: 73,569
Median Age: 41
Median Family Income: \$48,302
Median Home Value:* \$119,154

Mount Airy

Population: 10,356
Median Age: 44.8
Median Family Income: \$36,376
Median Home Value:* \$123,501

*Owner Occupied
Source: ESRI, 2009

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Northern Hospital
Renfro Corporation
Pike Electric

AIRPORTS

Piedmont Triad International

Six Major Carriers
16 Non-stop destinations
60 Minutes from Mount Airy

Charlotte Douglas International

10 Major Carriers
130 Non-stop destinations
105 Minutes from Mount Airy

MAJOR ROADS

I-77, I-74
US Hwy 52, US Hwy 601
NC 89, NC 103, NC 104

DISTANCE TO REGIONAL CITIES

Charlotte, NC—100 miles
Greensboro, NC—65 miles
Roanoke, VA—90 miles
Winston-Salem, NC—35 miles

