



WINTER 2020

Town of Historic Sykesville **NEWSLETTER**

www.townofsykesville.org
town@sykesville.net

TOWN OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Joseph Cosentini
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Craig Weaver
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410-795-8959

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Jana Antrobus
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410-795-6390

Michael Spaulding
Chief of Police
410-795-0757

Barbara Prawdzik
Admin. Assistant/Police
410-795-0757

Derek Shreves
Public Works Director
410-795-3186

The Town House
Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mayor and Town Council
Second & fourth Mondays
of the month

Planning Commission
First Monday of the month

Historic Commission
Fourth Tuesday of the month

Board of Zoning appeals
Monthly as necessary

Parks &
Recreation Committee
Fourth Thursday of the month

HOLIDAYS AMID A PANDEMIC

It is that time of year again where we get together with family and celebrate the holidays, both as a town and nation. This year will be vastly different than any I have ever experienced due to the COVID-19 outbreak.



Now more than ever it is imperative that we come together as a community and nation, while at the same time staying physically away from each other to the extent possible to expedite the recovery from this devastating virus. With that said, we cannot let the virus destroy what we have worked for and fought for so long: the success of our small town.

Take a moment this holiday to consider your neighbors and your downtown businesses. How you can help and support them through this difficult time? Can you buy all your gifts there this year? Can you pick up groceries or run errands for an elderly or compromised neighbor who needs some help to stay safe by being out less? Can you donate or help a local non-profit or charitable effort doing work right here in your community? These are just a few questions to get you to start thinking about your community and how you can make a difference in it each day. It makes a difference now more than ever – think local!

The Town, with help from the county and state, has done a lot to support our businesses and residents, and we will continue to do all we can as we weather this crisis. Please be safe and reduce family gatherings to protect both yourself and the community for the foreseeable future.



We look forward to the days when we can all gather as a community again and celebrate all that is Sykesville once again.

On behalf of the entire Town Council and staff, I wish you a blessed, safe, peaceful and happy holiday season!

Sincerely, Ian Shaw, Mayor

See upcoming EVENTS inside & on the back cover.

Trash, Recycling, and Yard Waste!

TRASH AND RECYCLING CHANGES 2020

Christmas Eve - December 24 - recycling regularly picked up on Thursday, December 24, will be picked up on Monday, December 28. There is no change to pickup on **New Years' Eve**, December 31.

A MESSAGE FROM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, DEREK SHREVES

Winter is fast approaching, with that, comes the enjoyment of the holidays. Family, friends, parties and school or church programs. Winter also brings many challenges, snow, ice, and freezing rain leading to school closings, and travel delays or restrictions. When required, a snow emergency declaration is put in place by The Maryland State Police. The Town does not declare the snow emergency but does enforce certain ordinances put in place by the declaration. (Town Ord §140)

Parking is not permitted on designated "Snow Emergency Routes" in order for Town snow removal equipment to keep roads clear for emergency services, other designated no parking areas are in place so Town crews have space to push snow out of cul-de-sacs and other roadways. Be observant to weather forecast as a snow emergency can be designated at any time, late evening or early morning. Town crews work all hours to make travel throughout Sykesville safe.

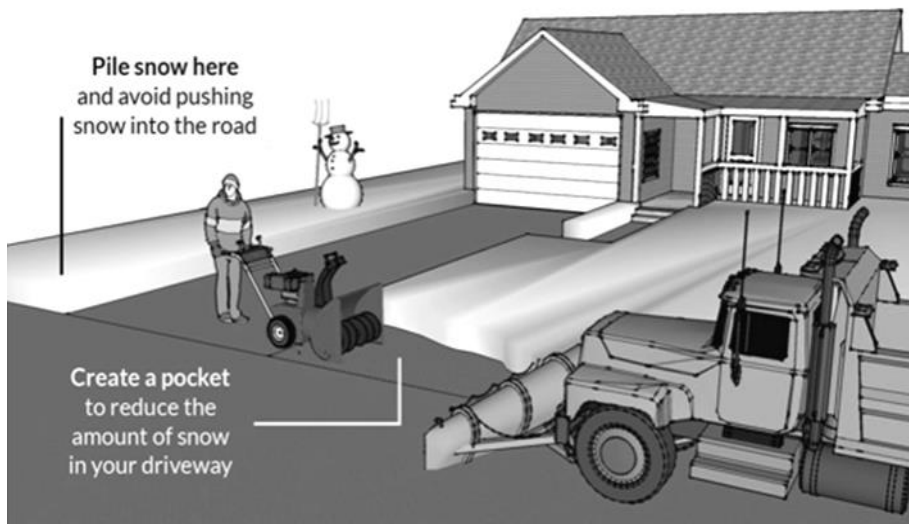
Town residents are reminded to keep sidewalks connected to their property free of snow and ice. Remember to wait until plows have come through your neighborhood to avoid having to shovel twice. Snow is not to be shoveled into roadways but kept on your property. Also important is keeping fire hydrants accessible and visible to emergency crews.

Keep in mind that during inclement weather Sykesville Public Works may have to reschedule trash and recycling pick-up while keeping the roads passable and safe. If necessary, delays will be posted on social media and Townhouse phone recordings.

**The Town of Sykesville
Public Works Department
wishes all residents a safe
and happy holiday season!**

How Can I Keep Snow Out of my Driveway?

Before your street has been plowed, we recommend the following:



CHRISTMAS TREES PICK UP

Christmas trees will be picked up for recycling on your scheduled trash day on January 5, and 6 and January 12, and 13.

Please place your Christmas tree by your curb the night before, and make sure to remove all lights, decorations, and tinsel.



Being Green Just Got a Lot Easier.

Sykesville is now an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful®, the nation's premier community improvement nonprofit organization. Though our community has benefitted from three Keep America Beautiful® grants since 2017, thanks to the Downtown Sykesville Connection's Green and Clean Committee applications, with awards funding the restoration of the Main Street Bulletin Board and the replacement of the Community Garden beds, it was not until October that our Keep Sykesville Beautiful program was officially launched. With our mission to inspire and educate people to take action every day to improve and beautify our community environment, Keep Sykesville Beautiful is a collaboration of multiple entities: Town staff, specifically the Department of Public Works, the Downtown Sykesville Connection, specifically the Design Committee as well as the Green and Clean Committee, many of whom are members of the Carroll County Master Gardeners Program, and Sykesville Parks & Rec Committee (SPARC). As a designated Keep America Beautiful® affiliate, our community will be afforded more opportunity than ever before to achieve sustainable, tangible results with proven impact on the quality of life for our residents. We now have at our disposal, the expertise, programs, and resources to help people end littering, improve recycling, and beautify our community. The Committee will also partner with local schools to include beautification and educational programs to inform and engage students about reduction and prevention of waste, the significance of being conscientious consumers, and becoming stewards of our environment.



I have confidence that our residents are being energized to take an educated and active role in caring for our community. This was apparent in our most recent Community Clean-up Day, sponsored and organized by SPARC, in alignment with the nationwide annual Great American Clean-up®. I was inspired by the collective efforts of the volunteers of all ages who, by 9 AM on a Saturday morning, could be found “crab walking” down the steep embankment along Oklahoma Avenue gathering seven full trash bags of litter, some of which had been there for decades. A group of 35 volunteers divided into three groups to collect ten large trash bags of litter in three different areas in town, thoughtfully segregating solid waste from recyclable material. In all, the majority of the litter was added to the recycling stream.

By the time you are reading this, America Recycles Day® on November 15th will have passed, but it's never too late for these reminders:

Plastic shopping bags, Ziplock™ bags, “shrink wrap” found around flats and cases of bulk canned goods and soft drinks, plastic padded Amazon™ shipping envelopes, bread bags, frozen vegetable and fruit bags and any plastic bag with this



symbol cannot go into our curbside recycling receptacles. But it SHOULD BE COLLECTED AND DROPPED OFF AT YOUR NEXT TRIP TO WALMART, MARTINS, SAFEWAY, KOHLS or FOOD LION. Every uncontentious American uses 500 Ziploc (or similar) bags every year; each used for less than six hours. 10% of these end up in our waterways. The rest: in landfills (or on hillsides and roadway shoulders). It takes 500 (or more) years for a plastic bag to degrade in a landfill. Unfortunately, the bags don't break down completely but instead photo-degrade, becoming microplastics that absorb toxins and continue to pollute the environment. So why have you not yet purchased your infinitely reusable, dishwasher safe pure silicone zipper lock food storage bags?

Keep Sykesville Beautiful will seek sponsorships, develop and expand its grant and fundraising opportunities. 2021 initiatives include:

- The installation of two-compartment solid waste and recycling receptacles at South Branch Park and Millard Cooper Park, funded by a grant made possible by our Great American Clean-up participation in October.
- Initiation of participation in The Cigarette Litter Prevention Program. Created by Keep America Beautiful® in 2002, it is the nation's largest program aimed at eliminating cigarette litter. For our dedication to eradicating litter and beautifying our community, we will be afforded merit-based grant opportunities. More on this to come.

I encourage participation in litter clean-up and waste reduction actions of all kinds by our schools, churches, and local civic groups that will bring awareness and education to the community. If your family or church or Scout troop, or as a member of a social group or club, or if you are simply a contentious citizen and are interested in directing a litter clean-up, please reach out to the Town House (410)795-8959 so our organization can offer some guidance and the tools for logging our collective conscientious hard work. Tracking our collected litter is an important key to our success! Together we can make a world in which everyone lives in a clean, green, and beautiful community.

Think globally. Act locally.

Council Woman, Stacy Link

Sykesville Police Department

Winter is right around the corner and with that comes the potential for significant snow. The Sykesville Police Department would like to remind you that when a snow emergency is declared, vehicles are not permitted to be parked in designated snow emergency routes. Plowing around vehicles is timely and can cause delays in clearing the rest of the streets. This could, in turn, delay our response to an emergency call. We would also encourage everyone to stay off the roads until the snow has been cleared if at all possible. If you must drive, please use caution and be courteous to the plow operators!

Snow Emergency Routes

The Town of Sykesville does not determine with a snow emergency is in effect and will not publicize when a snow emergency is declared. You can find out whether a snow emergency is in effect by visiting the State Police website:

http://www.chart.state.md.us/Storm.../snow_emergency_plans.asp

When a snow emergency is declared for Carroll County, parking is prohibited within the Town limits at the locations listed below. The Sykesville Police Department may remove a violating vehicle at the owner's expense. A Town citation will also be issued with fines ranging from a minimum of \$100 to \$500.

Cul-de-Sacs:

Autumn Sky Court
Braemar Court
Bunker Hill Court
Concord Lane
Dominique Court
Patterson Court
Revere Court
Shimmering Run Court
Windswept Court

Roads:

Harlan Lane
Jennifer Way
Kalorama Road
Main Street
Norris Avenue
Obrecht Road
Oklahoma Avenue
Sandosky Road
Second Avenue
Spout Hill Road
Springfield Avenue
Third Avenue
Willow Bottom Road

Remember, it is your responsibility to stay informed about declared snow emergencies and to remove your vehicles from designated snow emergency routes. Also, always remember to buckle-up, avoid distracted driving (texting) and never drink and drive! Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding, and have a safe and happy winter!



Sykesville Parks and Recreation Committee

The winter is normally a quiet time for Sykesville Parks and Recreation Committee (SPARC), so we'd like to reflect on how lucky we are to live in a town with great natural resources, outdoor activities for all, and a community full of people that want Sykesville to be the best it can be. SPARC would not be able to provide such great events without its dedicated volunteers. As we enter the holiday season, we are so thankful for those who dedicate their time and energy to support SPARC events and planning. SPARC meetings are being held virtually on the fourth Thursday of every month at 6pm. Please check Facebook or sign up for Town emails (email town@sykesville.net to be added to our email list!) for up-to-date information. Please note there is no SPARC meeting for December 2020.

Stay Safe While Enjoying Our Parks

We are thankful that we have been able to keep our parks open for safe outdoor activities (walking, bike riding, etc.) this year. Our parks have been a great source for exercise and a chance to get out of the house for a bit. Please continue to follow all town and state regulations. Please wear masks when you are unable to maintain 6 feet distance from others. Do not visit our parks if you are showing symptoms of COVID-19 or have recently been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. We also recommend washing your hands or using hand sanitizer before and after touching park equipment. These simple acts will help keep our community safe and healthy.

Sykesville Community Trash Pickup

Thank you to all the awesome volunteers who picked up trash around Sykesville on October 10 as part of the Sykesville Community Trash Pickup! We were so pleased with the turnout and enthusiasm! This cleanup kicked off the Keep Sykesville Beautiful initiative, a Keep America Beautiful affiliation that is led by the Downtown Sykesville Connection. SPARC committee members and community volunteers spent the morning picking up trash along Oklahoma Avenue and the Linear Trail and greatly reduced the litter in these areas. If you are interested in hosting a cleanup event in Sykesville, let us know!

Upcoming Events

SPARC does not have any planned events for this winter. In spring, we will be sponsoring a community trash pickup in April. Please stay tuned for more details. Come out, show your support, and help us clean our parks and community. We're planning an exciting 2021 season! Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Sykesvilleparksandrecreationcommittee and get up-to-date information on events and projects.

Seeking Volunteers

Enjoy our events? Help us continue to put on these fun free events by donating some of your time. SPARC is a 100% volunteer group. Whether you would like to help a few hours once or are looking for an ongoing opportunity, there are plenty of ways you can make a difference! If you're interested in learning more, please email parks@sykesville.net, stop by a SPARC meeting, or ask us about volunteer opportunities when you see us at an event.

Happy Holidays and have a wonderful New Year!!!



DOWNTOWN SYKESVILLE CONNECTION

The Downtown Sykesville Connection (DSC) is proud to announce that it was awarded public charity with tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code! This status is a major milestone for the DSC. Formerly a component fund of the Carroll Community Foundation, the DSC is now serving its community as a stand-alone nonprofit while continuing to strengthen the downtown through economic development, promotion, design, and green initiatives. With this status, the DSC is thrilled to expand upon its fundraising efforts with emphasis on supporting existing and future merchants, showcasing our small town through a rich calendar of events, and promoting the downtown to visitors.

In other news, the DSC participated in the **Small Town America Civic Volunteer contest** with an entry for one of our star volunteers: Stacy Link, who has been volunteering on the DSC Design Committee for the past nine years, having been a part of the grassroots Main Street Association movement. You owe Stacy for the birth of multiple public art displays including “Sir Hamlet-Oinks-A-Lot,” (check the Mac parking lot), at least ten Sykesville Snallygaster murals adorning as many historic buildings throughout Town, as well as the spaceship stealing a cat on the orange building across from Tri Sport Junction. Stacy spearheaded the design and construction of your modular, recurring public gathering place, referred to as the “parklet,” at the corner of Main and Sandosky.



Left to right: Joe Cosentini (Town Manager), Julie Della-Maria (DSC Exec. Dir.), Stacy Link (see description), Michael Spaulding (Chief of Police)

Stacy has served us on the Town Council for almost eight years, having been the liaison to the Historic District Commission and currently to the Sykesville Parks & Rec Committee. In that vein, Stacy works with the DSC as a member of the Keep Sykesville Beautiful group, a new collaborative effort using the Keep America Beautiful framework for community education and hands-on stewardship that reduces litter and encourages recycling, and makes sustainable improvement possible. She also volunteers at the Farmers Market and other DSC events and is part of a group working on the eventual redevelopment of the Apple Butter Warehouse at South Branch Park. It was no surprise that Stacy Link was one of the winners of the Small Town America Civic Volunteer Award! The award includes the design and hosting of a brand website that we decided to donate to one of our most

valuable partners: the Sykesville Police Department. Thank you, Stacy, for all you do!

Finally, the Downtown Sykesville Connection is back at fundraising to make sure no child in our community will miss the joy of unwrapping the coveted present(s). Even though the DSC's event fundraising effort has been very limited this year, we have again received the support of IMPAQ International, Inc. with grant funds. This returning sponsor was joined by the Eldersburg Rogue Runners who contributed the proceeds from their Labor Day 5K. We also received grant funding from the Walmart Community Grant program.



We are off to a great start but, with more children on our list than ever, we are still far from our goal. If you wish to contribute, please use the donate button on our website or mail-in a check to our office (7307 Spout Hill Rd, Sykesville MD 21784)

www.DowntownSykesville.com | www.facebook.com/sykesville | DowntownSykesvilleConnection@gmail.com



Town of Sykesville is recognized as the lead sponsor in all that we do and will assist our Board of Directors in conducting our group on the path of continued success, innovation, and commitment to serve our community. The DSC administers the Main Street program in Sykesville.



SYKESVILLE
EAT, DRINK & BUY LOCAL.



«first»
«address2» «address»
«city», «st» «zip»

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE – YOU GOT SYKE'D!

The Town of Sykesville would like to say a quick thank you to everyone who got involved during all of our public engagement efforts during the month of October. We heard you and are now in the process of taking all of the great feedback we received and incorporating it into our updated Comprehensive Plan. Our online survey received over 400 submissions, and, as promised, we'd like to congratulate Lauren, Tyler, and Diana for each winning \$20 in Downtown Sykesville Bucks for their participation!



The Comprehensive Planning process is now moving into the drafting phase and with that will come more opportunities for public comment. The Town has launched our online virtual Town Hall which will allow members of the public to view and make comments on all components of the Plan. This feature can be accessed through the Town's website at www.townofsykesville.org. It is important for you to stay engaged in this process and continue to provide input. This is the only way to ensure that our Plan is responsive to the opinions of our residents, visitors, and stakeholders.

Again, we would like to thank everyone for their participation thus far! You can continue to provide comments directly to the Town by emailing us at town@sykesville.net. Also, remember to visit our website www.townofsykesville.org to check out the virtual Town Hall.