



WINTER 2021

Town of Historic Sykesville NEWSLETTER

www.townofsykesville.org
town@sykesville.net

TOWN OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

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Town Manager
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Craig Weaver
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410-795-8959

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Jana Antrobus
Executive Assistant
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

STACY LINK, MAYOR

Infrastructure

MD851, more commonly referred to as Springfield Ave and Main Street, has, with some help from Senator Fry Hester, finally received State Highway Admin's full funding for the construction phase of storm water infrastructure improvements. The County will also be working on replacement and repair of water mains and sewer lines under Main Street and Springfield Avenue beginning in the spring, just ahead of the State's work. Cooperation between the Town, County and State continues so that interruption to services, disturbances in traffic and impacts to access are minimized. Residents and business owners who will be directly affected by the infrastructure improvements can expect to receive timely and direct communication regarding anticipated momentary interruptions in service while work is being done. In totality, the County and SHA projects should continue through 2022 with final resurfacing occurring in spring 2023. These improvements are a long time coming and desperately needed. And although the reality of them coming into fruition is exciting, I expect you'll hear me whistling "Patience" like it's 1989 as I roll into downtown next summer- windows down.



Sykesville Police Department

In hot pursuit... of two more of Sykesville's finest. We have two open police officer positions, thereby creating a method for promotions and growth in rank within our Department, while affording the establishment of two squads. Chief Spaulding and the entire SPD have our unwavering support, and we know that officer retention and recruitment are paramount to a sustainable department. Our current roster indisputably includes seven of our country's finest with a former Sykesville Auxiliary officer and soon-to-be academy grad joining ranks in the spring. She will be SPD's first female officer! It's easy for us to sometimes take our "feeling safe" for granted. I encourage you to be mindful that feeling safe is at the root of Sykesville's excellent quality of life.

Warfield

June marked three years since closing on the sale of Warfield to the current developers. On October 25th Warfield Investments, LLC came before the Council to begin discussion on their proposed revision to the development. This new proposal includes 527 more residential units, most of which are new construction (infill) of condominiums and town houses but also includes redevelopment of most of the remaining historic structures for rental units. These additional residential units are not inclusive of the previously approved 145 town homes that make up Sykesville's newest neighborhood, Parkside. This new proposal is in stark contrast to the original intent of the mixed use project and the Planned Employment Center zoning: new construction/ infill development of commercial space, including a hotel and redevelopment of the historic structures for a mixture of commercial uses such as office, retail, service, research, institutional, light industrial, hospitality and recreational. There will be ample opportunity for public input regarding Warfield as the proposal works its way through the Planning Commission and Council processes. Dates, times and locations of public hearings on this matter will be widely advertised. In the meantime, I encourage you to "tune in" to the live streams of our Council and Planning Commission meetings, or play them back at your convenience via the Town of Sykesville's Facebook page.

(continued on page 4)

Sykesville Police Department

Severe weather can be both frightening and dangerous for travelers. Winter storms, bad weather and sloppy road conditions are a factor in nearly half a million crashes and more than 2,000 road deaths every winter, according to research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Drivers should know the safety rules for dealing with winter road emergencies. AAA urges drivers to be cautious while driving in adverse weather.

AAA recommends the following tips while driving in snowy and icy conditions:

COLD WEATHER DRIVING TIPS

- Keep a bundle of cold-weather gear in your car, such as extra food and water, warm clothing, a flashlight, a glass scraper, blankets, medications, and more.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated and have plenty of tread.
- Keep at least half a tank of fuel in your vehicle at all times.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface, such as on ice and snow.

TIPS FOR DRIVING IN THE SNOW

- **Stay home.** Only go out if necessary. Even if you can drive well in bad weather, it's better to avoid taking unnecessary risks by venturing out.
- **Drive slowly.** Always adjust your speed down to account for lower traction when driving on snow or ice.
- **Accelerate and decelerate slowly.** Apply the gas slowly to regain traction and avoid skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry and take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.
- **Increase your following distance** to five to six seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.
- **Know your brakes.** Whether you have antilock brakes or not, keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.
- **Don't stop if you can avoid it.** There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.
- **Don't power up hills.** Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads will just make your wheels spin. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed downhill slowly.
- **Don't stop going up a hill.** There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.

TIPS FOR LONG-DISTANCE WINTER TRIPS

- **Be Prepared:** Have your vehicle checked by a AAA Approved Auto Repair facility before hitting the road.
- **Check the Weather:** Check the weather along your route and when possible, delay your trip if bad weather is expected.
- **Stay Connected:** Before hitting the road, notify others and let them know your route, destination, and estimated time of arrival.
- If you get stuck in the snow:
 - **Stay with your vehicle:** Your vehicle provides temporary shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to locate you. Do not try to walk in a severe storm. It is easy to lose sight of your vehicle in blowing snow and become lost.
 - **Don't over exert yourself:** When digging out your vehicle, listen to your body and stop if you become tired.
 - **Be Visible:** Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna of your vehicle or place a cloth at the top of a rolled-up window to signal distress. At night, keep the dome light on if possible. It only uses a small amount of electricity and will make it easier for rescuers to find you.
 - **Clear the Exhaust Pipe:** Make sure the exhaust pipe is not clogged with snow, ice or mud. A blocked exhaust pipe can cause deadly carbon monoxide gas to leak into the passenger compartment of the vehicle while the engine is running.
 - **Stay Warm:** Use whatever is available to insulate your body from the cold. This could include floor mats, newspapers or paper maps. Pre-pack blankets and heavy clothing to use in case of an emergency.
 - **Conserve Fuel:** If possible, only run the engine and heater long enough to remove the chill. This will help to conserve fuel.

Gate House Museum

The Gate House is looking for individuals from the Sykesville community to join our Advisory Board! If you have worked, volunteered, or lived in Sykesville, and have a passion for the town's history, we would love for you to attend our quarterly meetings to help direct the content of the museum, the outreach we perform, and the events we plan. Contact the Gate House by phone or email for details.

This fall has been a time of extraordinary change at the Gate House. In October, new sidewalk was poured. Right now, we are planning a reinvention of our memorial garden, made possible by the generosity of the family of Dorothy Schaefer. Indoors, with the help of sturdy volunteers, we have shifted around exhibits to allow for greater foot traffic and accommodate walkers. This November, student service learners from Carroll County Public Schools are engaged in creating a virtual reality tour of the entire current exhibit space and nearby surroundings. In December, another group of students will be researching and 3D imaging artifacts from the museum—a program that has received more than five times the applications than our small house can accommodate. Our 1904 building has a plethora of accessibility challenges, but we are committed to making the history of Sykesville available to everyone—working on improving physical spaces and incorporating student group activity is just the beginning.



Of course, I am also new! My name is Adrienne Smith, and late this summer I was appointed curator of the Gate House. I have spent four years volunteering at the museum and researching historical sites of mental healthcare. Prior to moving to Sykesville, I was a public middle school social studies teacher in South Carolina, a private school social studies teacher in Silver Spring, MD, and most recently worked for Carroll County Department of Recreation and Parks as their volunteer coordinator. I hold a bachelor's degree in history, a master's degree in teaching, and am currently working on obtaining project management certifications. I look forward to meeting you all at the Gate House!

**The Museum
is currently in
winter hours of:**

**Sunday 11-5
Wednesday 9:30-1:30
First Fridays 11-5
And by appointment**

Bring your holiday visitors!

As you prepare for the holidays, please send us your old family photos of feasts, presents, and winter fun! We will have a holiday display in our parlor beginning with our special November hours through the end of the year but would love to feature YOU in our plans for 2022! Please email photos with the Who, What, Where, When information or call the museum to arrange to drop off copies.

Thank you for your continued patronage of the museum, our talk events, and new projects! As always, the museum is especially grateful for those who remember us in their end of year giving.

The museum will be open by appointment only Dec. 24 through the beginning of February while the volunteers and I update exhibits and plan for the year ahead!



Sykesville Parks and Recreation Committee

Winter is 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We're planning an exciting 2022 season! Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Sykesvilleparksandrecreation and get up-to-date information on events and projects.

While you wait for our 2022 events, bundle up and visit one of Sykesville's many parks. Build a snowman in Cooper Park. The Linear Trail and Carrie Dorsey Park offer excellent trails. To learn more about Sykesville's parks, go to <https://www.townofsykesville.org/Facilities>.

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, and we are always looking for additional members and volunteers who are interested in making a difference through park improvement, recreational activities, and events for our families and others. SPARC meets at the Town House on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. If interested, please come to one of our meetings. For more information, please call 410-795-8959 or email parks@sykesville.net.

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Splash Pad

We've all heard the expression, "once in a blue moon." A blue moon is a second full moon in a calendar month. After so many unforeseen road blocks since the ground breaking of our splash pad project in 2020, when I realized that June would bring us that elusive blue moon, I was confident the kiddos would be playing long before summer gave up her fight. Alas, the splash pad is complete! I promise you, that despite there not being another blue moon until August 2023, the grand opening of the splash pad will happen in May 2022.

New Staff

I am pleased to announce the addition of a new staff position at the Town House. Sykesville's first ever Town Planner has been hired and will play a vital role in the fulfillment of some of the most exciting parts of our recently approved ten-year comprehensive plan. Welcome Kevin!

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SHOP SMALL SEASON IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

After 20 months of the pandemic, shopping small means more in 2021 than it ever has before. The DSC's Economic Development Committee (EDC) focuses on initiatives that highlight our downtown and contribute to the financial vibrancy of Main Street small businesses. These initiatives include marketing campaigns and shopping programs. One of the EDC's last achievements was to coordinate the launch of the Sykesville GetSyked gift card.

The GetSyked gift card is valid in 28 downtown shops and restaurants and can be purchased from the DSC's website (www.downtownsykesville.com).

This program allows every dollar spent on the gift card (besides the processing fee) to be reinvested in the shops of downtown Sykesville. According to the Small Business Administration (SBA), if every family shifted just \$10 a month to locally-owned, independent businesses instead of national chains, more than \$9.3 billion would be directly returned to local economies. This means better schools, better roads, and overall better life for the whole community.



The DSC is proud that it was one of the first five Main Street programs in Maryland to provide this service to local businesses.

Check out the list of participants and their offers on the home page of our website (www.downtownsykesville.com)

Show your support to your Main Street by sharing with friends and family and consider suggesting that your company purchase these as employee appreciation or holiday gifts.

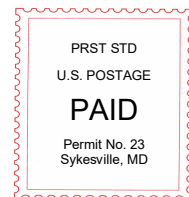
So far, over 500 gift cards were purchased generating close to \$11,000 worth of purchases on Main Street. With your help, we hope to boost this program for the Holiday season and generate a volume of sales to sustain our small businesses.

The GetSyked gift card is really the Coolest and Best gift for Sykesville lovers! The card can be redeemed all at one location or spread amongst several favorite boutiques and restaurants on Main Street.



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.





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



*Hello Sykesville
residents!*

We are conducting an interest survey for a possible new unofficial resident advisory council, and we want to hear from YOU!

If you reside within Sykesville's incorporated town limits, please take this 3-minute survey (only 180 seconds) to let us know how active you are in local government and your interest in participating. Even if you are not interested, any information helps!

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP

Christmas trees will be picked up for recycling on your scheduled trash day on January 4, and 5 and January 11, and 12.

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

