



FALL 2022

Town of Historic Sykesville

NEWSLETTER

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town@sykesville.net

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The Town House
Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

TOWN MEETINGS

Mayor and Town Council
Second & fourth Mondays
of the month

Planning Commission
First Monday of the month

Historic District Commission
Fourth Tuesday of the month

Board of Zoning Appeals
Monthly as necessary

Parks &
Recreation Commission
Fourth Thursday of the month

THE LATEST FROM MAYOR LINK

Stacy Link, Mayor

Hello Fall! More great things have been happening in Sykesville. Here are just a few of the highlights:



I am SYKED to announce that I swore in two more of Sykesville's finest on September 12th. Congratulations to Officers Morgan Hoppa and Joel Pichardo on their recent graduation from the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission Academy. Welcome to the team.



On August 4th, Members of the Town Council, Town Administration and I were delighted to join the Downtown Sykesville Connection in welcoming Governor Larry Hogan to Sykesville. The governor graciously made Main Street one of his stops on his tour of Carroll County. I had just been in a two week long conversation with his staff about my request for a letter of support from the Governor for the Downtown Sykesville Connection's application to the Great American Main Street Award. Not only did he write the letter, he hand delivered it! His visit provided Sykesville with some very well deserved statewide attention and is certainly one of my favorite mayoral experiences to date.



Ever wish you had an easy and eco-friendly way to dispose of your jack-o-lanterns and festive pumpkins? Well, I've got a way! It involves feeding senior and disabled horses and goats at a nearby farm while reducing methane emissions and tipping fees at the landfill. I've organized a convenient drop-off for you. All details are inside this newsletter.



On September 9th Town Staff and I began our work with the University of Maryland's DeVos Institute of Arts Management. This marks the beginning of a long process in the renovation and reuse of the historic B.F. Shriver Canning Co warehouse at South Branch Park. This multi-phase process will involve community engagement



The Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) held its second roving town hall on August 4th. Plans were to meet at South Branch Park, but Mother Nature moved us inside. A prevailing topic of discussion was the recent Board of County Commissioners decision to forgo again the collection of impact fees from developers who are building residential units in our county, specifically in the Freedom District—a Designated Growth Area. Subsequently, I met with Commissioner Rothstein to discuss this decision and how it relates to the current school redistricting climate. The commissioner then held a District 5 Town Hall to allow for the public to weigh in on these issues.

For more about these great things happening in Sykesville, turn the page. I hope everyone's school year is off to a great start! I expect to see you either on Main Street or in my neighborhood—or both—for Trick-or-Treating.

Stacy C. Link, Mayor



Sykesville Police Department

8 SAFETY TIPS FOR DRIVERS

1. Look out for pedestrians everywhere, at all times.
2. Use extra caution when driving in hard-to-see conditions, such as nighttime or bad weather.
3. Slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or otherwise entering a crosswalk.
4. Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and stop well back from the crosswalk to give other vehicles an opportunity to see the crossing pedestrians so they can stop too.
5. Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing where you can't see.
6. Never drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
7. Follow the speed limit, especially around people on the street, in school zones and in neighborhoods where children are present.
8. Be extra cautious when backing up and look for pedestrians.

8 WALKING SAFETY TIPS

1. Follow the rules of the road and obey signs and signals.
2. Walk on sidewalks whenever they are available.
3. If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible.
4. Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections. Look for cars in all directions, including those turning left or right.
5. If a crosswalk or intersection is not available, locate a well-lit area where you have the best view of traffic. Wait for a gap in traffic that allows enough time to cross safely; continue watching for traffic as you cross.
6. Watch for cars entering or exiting driveways, or backing up in parking lots.
7. Avoid alcohol and drugs when walking; they impair your abilities and your judgment.
8. Embrace walking as a healthy form of transportation - get up, get out and get moving.

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We are proud to announce the newest additions to our police department. Officers Joel Pichardo and Morgan Hoppa successfully completed the 26-week entry level training program held at the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission on Friday September 2, 2022. Both were previously members of our Police Auxiliary Unit prior to entering the academy. They will now undergo 6 weeks of intensive training with a senior officer before patrolling on their own. We are so excited to have these fine officers, and look forward to great things from both of them. Please join me in welcoming and congratulating Officers Pichardo and Hoppa!



Gate House Museum

This September, the Gate House reached its 25th anniversary of opening. In commemoration of this milestone, major renovation is afoot and a-ceiling and a-wall. Your patience as we navigate electrical updates, painting of archive spaces, and other limitations to our daily operations is greatly appreciated. This work will allow for greater research capacity and faster digitization of our archival collections, as well as provide us with additional display space on the second floor.

The Gate House is supported by the Town, volunteers, and generous donors of objects, funds, and oral histories. In 1997, when the Town purchased the little stone house adjacent to a mostly-empty Millard Cooper Park for \$100, the building had numerous problems structurally and had to navigate two separate battles with termite damage. Thanks to the stewardship of the Town, dedicated volunteers, and a collection of curators with diverse skills and great hope, the museum has collected over 1,500 objects, has welcomed over 6,800 guests, and is ready to sturdily face its next quarter century.

Until the 1980s, many long-time residents of the Town referred to Sykesville as "the village." The expansion of our village in recent decades has ushered in new caretaker-residents. We hope that you will take time this fall to visit the Gate House and find out about our town's history, share the objects, images, and stories of your past, and learn about how those before us made this village into the growing Historic Town it is today.

The museum is currently accepting donations of objects relevant to our upcoming 1950s and 60s-themed exhibit. Please call or stop by the museum for details on the donation process. 410-549-5150

The Gate House museum's off-season (Sept.-April) hours are:

Sunday 12-5 | Monday 9:30-12:30

Wednesday by Appointment | Friday 9:30-Sunset

The museum is closed Dec. 23 - President's Day and all Federal Holidays.

Sykesville Parks and Recreation Commission



2022 SPARC EVENTS SCHEDULE

The weather may be cooling, but we still have a few fun and family friendly events this year. All SPARC events are free! More details will be posted to SPARC's Facebook page and the Town website closer to each event.

<i>Sykesville Cinema</i> Millard Cooper Park October 8 Sunset	Come enjoy a spooky family-friendly night under the stars! We will be showing <i>Monsters, Inc.</i> (A little girl accidentally enters the land of monsters, where she befriends two creatures who work at a "scare factory"). Before the movie, we will have a costume contest for children ages 12 and under. For contest rules, check our Facebook page or email parks@sykesville.net .
<i>Music in the Park</i> Millard Cooper Park October 1 5PM - 7PM	Bring a chair and enjoy live music by a great local artist. Oct 1 - Liberty Road (Playing acoustic classic rock cover songs from the 60s to the 90s, along with country and current favorites)
<i>Santa's Arrival</i> Downtown Sykesville December 3 Time TBD	Santa is coming to Sykesville! Join us for a visit with Santa followed by the tree lighting.

We are collecting donations of non-perishable food items at Sykesville Cinema and Music in the Park. Collection bins are available onsite.

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Sykesvilleparksandrecreation and get up-to-date information on events and projects.

SPARC WATER BOTTLES

SPARC is selling reusable aluminum water bottles for \$5/each. Get them at the snack shack during our movie and concert events. Did you know there is a water bottle refilling station outside the snack shack?

OUR PARKS ARE ALWAYS IN SEASON

Fall is a great time to explore the many parks in Sykesville! The Linear Trail and Carrie Dorsey Park offer walking trails perfect for admiring the changing leaves. Bring family and friends together for a fun day at South Branch which features a skate park, playground, and picnic tables. 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 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.

More from Mayor Link

SAFETY FIRST

Did you know...

On average 15-20 children regularly cross Spout Hill Road every school day morning and afternoon on their walk to and from Sykesville Middle. Since 2005, I've been instructing them to pay attention to the northbound traffic at the top of the hill, particularly on their walks home since this coincides with the change-of-shift nursing home traffic on Second Avenue. Watching from my home office window, I hold my breath as the small packs of children approach the intersection of Second Avenue and Spout Hill.

I have asked staff to research solar powered beacons for strategic placement on the north and south bound lanes. The beacons will only illuminate and blink for one hour in the mornings and afternoons on school days. I hope to breathe a little easier on school days, as the beacons will certainly alert all commuters in both directions of the sixth, seventh, and eighth graders making use of Second Avenue and crossing Spout Hill Road.



The Hatton Animal Rescue Foundation

was founded by Gary and Annette Hatton who saw a great gap in our society when it comes to the care and support of senior and special

needs animals. These animals are the ones most often left behind and typically deemed un-salvageable or un-adoptable due to their medical conditions and age.

We foster many different types of animals with special needs and disabilities in the hopes that they will one day be adopted into a loving home. However, if adoption is unsuccessful, we provide the comfort, care and forever home they need. Due to the increased challenges related to the adoption of farm animals, these special guys typically become our permanent residents!

Hatton Animal Rescue Foundation is home to horses, cows, goats, donkeys, miniature donkeys, sheep, chickens, ducks, dogs, cats, birds, guinea pigs, rabbits and even a Chinchilla! Due to age and medical conditions, the majority of our animals will live out the rest of their lives in our care at the sanctuary.

Why pumpkins? Pumpkins are the favorite treat to our farm animals! When they see a wheelbarrow full of pumpkins, they will come running! It is such a special time of year when fall rolls around as we know our furry friends are in for a big surprise with your donated pumpkins. And we get lots of great and often funny pictures of them enjoying the pumpkins!



PUMPKIN DROP OFF

When: Saturday November 5, 2022
from 12-4 pm

Where: Little Sykes Railway Park on
Sandosky Road

WARFIELD DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

You may recall that in June Council President Anna Carter, Councilmember Leo Keenan and I, along with Town administrative staff, had a meeting with the developers and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). In that meeting, DHCD proposed changes to the sales contract's escrow agreements. These agreements were created to ensure that the historic buildings in Warfield would be stabilized. DHCD's proposed change to the escrow agreements was the one fruitful thing to have come out of that meeting. In the nearly five months since the meeting, this potential progress has not been realized.

The DHCD's recommended changes could facilitate the Town's release of money to the developers which are being held in said escrows. By now that escrow should contain \$2.1M. But the developer has not deposited the additional \$1M into that escrow which was due in June 2020. That note not having been satisfied places them in default of the sales contract. Additionally, to date, the developer has been reluctant to spend money from one of these accounts due to their tax liability associated with expenditures on stabilization or any improvements to the historic structures. Reportedly, if these funds are instead spent on infrastructure, the developer's tax liability is reduced. I made it clear in that meeting that the Town is willing to consider releasing the current escrow money to the developers for use on other site preparation activities but only after requiring equivalent developer investment (\$2.1M) in the buildings. It was the Town's understanding that these changes were pending and were to be expected from the developer shortly after the meeting on June 9th.

Alas, no proposed revisions to the escrow agreement from the developer have been received. In fact, there has been no direct communication of substance from them since that meeting. The Town Council and I are in discussions with the Town Attorney regarding next steps.

More from Mayor Link

B.F. SHRIVER CANNERY WAREHOUSE AT SOUTH BRANCH PARK

Did you know...

South Branch Park is outside our municipal boundaries and in fact is in Howard County? Sykesville and Howard County entered into a cooperative agreement in December 2006 wherein Sykesville leases South Branch Park from Howard County, including the park's three remaining historic structures, for a cost of \$1 per year. The Town of Sykesville is responsible for all park maintenance. This cooperative agreement expires in December 2041 and can of course be renewed.

Did you also know...

This cooperative agreement between Howard County and Sykesville requires that the Town, "create a recreational area to be used primarily for recreation, historic and cultural purposes and to preserve, rehabilitate and operate for public use the historic structures on the property."

The park's historic structures include the stone mill house, the weigh station and the large brick warehouse. Since 2006, multiple stabilization projects have been completed and ongoing maintenance to these historic structures continues. More prominent improvements to the park include the installation of the pavilion, playground, skate park and, most recently, the pervious paver parking lot. But the South Branch Park improvement that holds some of the greatest potential for Sykesville—the redevelopment and reuse of the 1917 BF Shriver Cannery warehouse (also sometimes referred to as the apple butter warehouse, so called for a more recent use of the building)—is finally getting underway.

You may recall that...

Sykesville has been awarded \$2M through a legislative bond initiative (LBI) to support the redevelopment of the warehouse. LBI funding is made available from the State for local or non-state owned capital projects. These projects typically include various cultural, historic, health, educational, and economic development projects not funded by other state capital grant and loan projects.

Now the project begins...

The first step in the redevelopment of the warehouse is a four-phase scope conducted by the DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the University of Maryland which is expected to last 6-8 months.

Phase 1: Engagement and Analysis

A community engagement process that yields resident, stakeholder, and local artist insights on desired uses and functions of the warehouse

Phase 2: Mission & Vision Building

A Mission and Vision for the development will be established as a result of the fusion of engagement and analysis. These statements will express the value the enhanced warehouse will provide on a local, regional, and national basis, as well as indicate key program areas (e.g. performance, education, workforce development)

Phase 3: Conceptual Site Plan

Here we will work with the Town's appointed architect and master planner to develop a conceptual site plan, or "bird's eye view" of the site, as well as a concept for the adaptation of the warehouse for established uses

Phase 4: Business Plan

A Business Plan for the new operation, illustrating both the up-front capital required to build and the ongoing revenue and expense flows to be anticipated.

In the meantime, the Town is working with State Highway Administration on the pedestrian connection between the park and Main Street.

TOWN OF SYKESVILLE



HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS



Practice safe street crossing and walking on the sidewalk now. Only cross at crosswalks and when it is clear. Do not walk in front of cars or run into the intersections. Drivers should remain extra vigilant while driving on Halloween. Slow down and be prepared to stop.

Give and accept wrapped or packaged candy. Examine all candy before consumption.

Adults should accompany young children at all times.



A costume mask should not be worn over a protective cloth mask. Make sure vision is not impaired by any masks.

Face paint is a fun alternative to wearing a costume mask and it will not block vision.

Wear light colored clothing and/or attach reflective tape to the sides, front, and back of your costume.

Carry a flashlight to increase visibility.



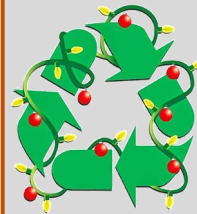
Trick-or-treat is on October 31, from 6 PM to 8 PM. Only trick-or-treat at houses that have turned on their porch lights.

Thank you for helping us all, adults and children alike, have a happy and safe Halloween!

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

HALLOWEEN!

Trick-or-treating will be on October 31st, from 6 PM to 8 PM. If you do not wish to participate, please leave your porch light off.



HOLIDAY RECYCLING CHANGES

Thanksgiving – November 24 – There will be no recycling pickup on this day. The recycling will be picked up on Thursday, December 1.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Historic District Commission

The Historic District Commission is seeking volunteers! The Historic District is composed of two areas in Town, the downtown area, and the Warfield Complex. The Historic District Commission is in charge of ensuring exterior changes do not negatively impact the historic nature of these two areas. Both areas are included in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Historic District Commission is made up of 7 volunteers, serving 3-year terms, who have interests in historic preservation, architecture, conservation, or any other related fields. The Commissioners are responsible for reviewing applications for exterior changes to buildings in the Historic District. A rewrite of the Historic District Guidelines will be occurring soon, so now is the perfect time to join! Meetings are once a month on the fourth Tuesday, beginning at 7 PM, at the Town House. Please email a letter of interest and a resume to town@sykesville.net or call 410-795-8959 for more information.

Board of Zoning Appeals

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) hears and decides cases for variance requests, appeals of administrative decisions, and appeals of zoning map interpretations. The BZA is a quasi-judicial body whose members are appointed by the Mayor for 3-year terms. Meetings are held as needed at the Town House. Vacancy Information: The Town of Sykesville is seeking persons interested in serving as a member and as an alternate on the Sykesville Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). Please contact Jana Antrobus, Development Coordinator, to learn more about this volunteer position at jantrobus@sykesville.net

DOWNTOWN SYKESVILLE CONNECTION'S NEWS

From the National Main Street Center:

Announcing the 2023 Great American Main Street Award Semifinalists!



The applications are in, and the national jury of community development professionals has convened, deliberated, and selected the 2023 Great American Main Street Award Semifinalists! The Downtown Sykesville Connection is part of the eight Main Street America communities that are in the running for being recognized for their exemplary use of the Main Street Approach™ to transform their downtowns and neighborhood business districts.

Stay tuned to the DSC's social channels this week for our Semifinalist shout-outs!
www.facebook.com/Sykesville | www.instagram.com/downtownsykesville/



DOWNTOWN
SYKESVILLE
CONNECTION

7566 Main Street, Suite 302,
Sykesville MD 21784
(410) 216-4543

The Downtown Sykesville Connection is a community service nonprofit organization and a Main Street Program with state and national accreditations.

The Downtown Sykesville Connection implements the Main Street Approach™ to enrich the quality of life of the downtown Sykesville community.



Did you know you can
access the newsletters digitally?

This newsletter, and many from the past,
are available on our website by visiting

<https://tinyurl.com/SykesNewsletter>

or by scanning the QR Code!

