



WINTER 2023

Town of Historic Sykesville NEWSLETTER

www.townofsykesville.org
town@sykesville.net

TOWN ADMINISTRATION

Joe Cosentini
Town Manager
410-795-6390

Craig Weaver
Town Treasurer
410-795-8959

Kerry Kavaloski
Town Clerk
410-795-8959

Jana Antrobus
Development Coordinator
410-795-6390

Kevin Rubenstein
Town Planner
410-795-8959

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
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 Wednesday 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

Happy New Year! Great things have been happening all year long in Sykesville. Let's review 2022:



From a legislative perspective, the Town Council has had a very productive year. We introduced, debated and garnered public input on nine ordinances in 2022, plus one carried over from 2021. Of these ordinances, some were related to the budget, others to Town Elections and others to zoning. The Town Council also passed three resolutions and one Charter Amendment, the latter of which amended residency requirements for election judges and updated the candidacy filing process for Town Elections. The only ordinance that the Council did not adopt was a zoning ordinance amendment brought forth by the Warfield developer's request for increased residential development within the Planned Employment Center District. This ordinance was unanimously denied by the Town Council but only after you- the residents- showed up and told us what was important to you. Thank you for your participation in this public process.

For a list of the 2022 ordinances, see page 4.



We started off 2022 with the engagement of a new Town Attorney after the passing of Dennis Hoover, our beloved Town Attorney of 35 years, who passed in October 2021.



In March, I reinstated the Town Council's annual Strategic Planning Retreat which we scheduled to be held for what would become the only bad weather day all winter. We are planning this year's session for a non-icy Saturday next month.



As part of FY2023 Budget process, the Town Council has created a schedule for the expenditure of the \$3.115M of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) received as part of the Federal American Rescue Plan Act. Allocation of this funding has been preliminary set through our strategic planning process, and our established Capital Improvements Plan. The entirety of this funding must be allocated by the end of calendar year 2024 and spent by the end of 2025. With that in mind, the schedule for SLFRF expenditures will be \$432,000 in FY23, \$1,473,000 in FY24, and \$990,000 in FY25 leaving roughly \$200,000 to be assigned. This does not mean that changes to the funding schedule cannot be made in the future. FY2023's SLFRF are dedicated to engineering for some transformational capital projects that you will begin seeing come to life in the next 18-36 months. These include improvements to the Baldwin Lot and Baldwin Drive, Oklahoma Avenue and the Town House Front lawn. Big things are also planned for the Sandosky Lot. The first phases of this project will be primarily funded through a 2021 Strategic Demolition Fund grant.



continued on page 2.



continued from cover.

In April, I established the Citizen Advisory Council to the Mayor. We meet quarterly at rotating town halls. All are welcome. I announce dates and locations for these town halls on my social media pages and at Town Council Meetings.



Three capital improvement projects were completed in 2022 including our annual road maintenance and resurfacing schedule, the conclusion of the Millard Cooper Park splash pad and related park infrastructure improvements and the purchase and distribution of our new lidded trash and recycling carts. We have also begun to implement our recently established maintenance schedule for our historic public buildings because, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."



I am pleased to have made six appointments to Sykesville's Planning, Historic District, and Parks and Recreation Commissions and Board of Zoning Appeals in 2022. I was also delighted to have recruited two resident volunteers for recommendation to the Town Council for appointment to SPD's newly established School Crossing Guard detail. Our volunteers are what make Municipal Government work. And so they receive the 2022 Sykeout. (That's what we're calling a Sykesville shoutout.)



I made four Proclamations in 2022, one of which emphasizes the value in Municipal Government, while another highlights our plans to participate in annual Arbor Day celebrations and touts the importance of trees in the beautification of our community, their positive impact on our property values as well as the economic vitality of our businesses. The third and fourth accentuated the dedication and accomplishments of Planning Commissioner Steve Enslow and Historic District Commissioner, Norman Fogg and their combined 27 years of volunteerism in service to our town.



In 2022, we collaborated with non-profit organizations including Habitat for Humanity, the Hatton Animal Rescue Foundation and the Downtown Sykesville Connection. As a result, the landfill is less full while our hearts are made fuller. What would otherwise be cast aside has fed some disabled animals. And our Downtown has never looked so festive as this most recent holiday season.



With the support of Senator Katie Fry-Hester, the Town of Sykesville received a \$2,000,000 capital grant that was approved in the 2022 Maryland legislative session. The funding is designated for infrastructure improvements, specifically for the adaptive reuse of the B.F. Shriver Cannery building located in South Branch Park.

There are many ways to stay informed about the goings on in town and even participate in the process. Come to the Town House for a Town Council Meeting or watch on the Town's Facebook page or Carroll Media Center's YouTube channel. Volunteer for a Town Commission, become a trained crossing guard, or join the Citizen Advisory Council to the Mayor. In any case, rest assured that the seven people you have elected to do this job are serving always with you in mind.

Here's to a safe, happy and productive 2023.
Cheers!
Mayor Stacy C. Link

HELP WANTED!



The Town is looking for interested people to serve on the Board of Election Supervisors! You must be a registered voter and cannot hold or be candidate for elective office while on the Board.

Election Supervisors are compensated!

Email Kerry at
town@sykesville.net
or call 410-795-8959
for more information



Sykesville Police Department

WINTER DRIVING TIPS

In addition to annual maintenance, here are some tips to winterize your car:

- Test your battery; battery power drops as the temperature drops
- Make sure the cooling system is in good working order
- Have winter tires with a deeper, more flexible tread put on your car
- If using all-season tires, check the tread on your tires and replace if less than 2/32 of an inch
- Check the tire pressure; tire pressure drops as the temperature drops
- Check your wiper blades and replace if needed
- Add wiper fluid rated for -30 degrees
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze
- Remember to keep your car's emergency preparation kit fully stocked, too.

How to Avoid a Crash.

AAA offers the following driving tips:

- Avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions
- Steer in the direction of a skid, so when your wheels regain traction, you don't have to overcorrect to stay in your lane
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly
- Increase following distance from 8 to 10 seconds
- If possible, don't stop when going uphill

If visibility is severely limited due to a whiteout, pull off the road to a safe place and do not drive until conditions improve. Avoid pulling off onto the shoulder unless it is an absolute emergency. Limited visibility means other vehicles can't see yours on the shoulder.

Before You Start Out

- Clean your car's external camera lenses and side view mirrors so you'll be able to see what's around you
- Remove dirt, ice and snow from sensors to allow the assistive-driving features like automatic emergency braking to work
- In frigid weather, you may want to warm up the car before you drive it
- To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, never leave a vehicle running in your garage – even with the garage door up
- If the forecast looks iffy, wait out the storm if possible; if you must travel, share your travel plans and route with someone before you leave



Gate House Museum

Thank you for making our last year of celebrating Christmas early 1900s-style a success! If you would like to be on our holiday set up/tear down list for next year, the Gate House always welcomes helping hands. This winter, our building will see continued renovations with a porch lift, and further changes on our main floor displays to reflect our next long-term theme—the 1950s and 60s. While the permanent elements of this exhibit include a look at Sykesville High School, downtown businesses, and advances that changed Springfield Hospital Center, the rotating focus element of this display for 2023 centers on food and restaurants.

In honor of the Gate House's 25th anniversary and the opening of the new exhibit, we hope you will join us on Saturday, March 4 from noon to 3 for an Open House detailing what's new and what's coming next. Light refreshments will be provided and no RSVP is required.

The Gate House is currently closed except for research by appointment, but will reopen for regular off-season hours beginning Friday, February 24, 2023.

Call us at (410) 549-5150 or email us at gatehouse@sykesville.net

Sykesville Parks and Recreation Commission



SPARC volunteers with
Mayor Link at A Visit With Santa.

At this time of year, Sykesville Parks and Recreation Committee (SPARC) reflects on the past year and plans for the new year! We are lucky 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. We are so thankful for those who dedicate their time and energy to support SPARC events and planning.

SPARC meets at the Town House on the fourth Thursday of every month at 7pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We're planning an exciting 2023 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 2023 events, bundle up and visit one of Sykesville's many parks. Build a snowman at Bloomfield Park or Shannon Run Park. Warm up by playing basketball at Lexington Run Park, Burkett Park, or The Linear Trail (right off Kalorama Rd). With so many parks in Sykesville, you may be surprised how close you are to one! To learn more about Sykesville's parks, go to <https://www.townofsykesville.org/Facilities>. Be cautious in freezing temperatures and watch for ice on trails and playground equipment!

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.



2022 Ordinances

2022-01 FY2022 Budget Revision

2022-02 FY2023 Annual Budget

2022-03 Zoning Text Amendment –
Planned Employment Center

2022-04 FY2022 Budget Revision

2022-05: Establishing standards by which Town Elections
are administered

2022-06: Updating the Zoning Code regarding signs

2022-07: Updating the Town Ethics Code to comply with
State Code.

2022-08: Designating responsibility for managing, care of,
and planting of public trees

2022-09: Amending the allowable trash and recycling
containers



Downtown Sykesville Connection

7566 Main Street, Suite 302, Sykesville MD, 21784

www.DowntownSykesville.com

DowntownSykesvilleConnection@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/sykesville

410-216-4543

'Tis the magic of the holiday season!

If you follow us, you know by now that the Downtown Sykesville Connection's finest work is creating memories and building stories. We have a good one for you.

It started three years ago with a committee composed of business owners working alongside the Downtown Sykesville Connection Executive Director to boost the Shop Small Season on Main Street. Little did we know then that this group of women, alongside the Town of Sykesville, would transform our downtown into the Hallmark postcard scene you can experience this holiday season.

For our group, the obstacles we overcame made it look even



more beautiful. Main Street is also State Highway MD-851 requiring special approvals and an engineering study of the banner frame by a specialized company. The light strings in the alleys mandated collaborative work, with proper insurance and agreements, between our organization and the seven parties that own either the walls, a business, or an easement at these locations. Finally, fundraising, budgeting, and finding the right equipment to create custom decorations, all of this with supply chain and staffing issues, felt, at times, like there was nothing magical about holiday decorations.

Monthly meetings, catalog reviews, internet searches, homework, and special tasks for all members culminated with needing a bucket truck on November 18th to add the topper on our tree and the Main Street holiday banner, just in time for the Shop Small season.

And then here it was! The magic of the holiday season turned on at 4 pm the Friday before Thanksgiving, when Allbrite Lights plugged in the last cord, followed by a happy dance by our staff and volunteers.

Celim Chavez - Main Street friend and partner - captured these pictures of the downtown Sykesville holiday look with her remarkable talent we have all seen on other projects.

Imagine this scene with the holiday music from our street sound system. Actually, better than imagining it, why don't you stroll downtown to experience it in person? Happy Holidays Sykesville!

Special thanks to our Economic Development Committee members:

Dana Jendrek, Patapsco Distilling Co.

Jane Linde, Tri Sport Junction

Donna Larkin, Tri Sport Junction

Jennifer Elliott, Market Tavern (now Finch Market in Taneytown)

Shannon Hammond, Hammond Law, LLC



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!

