



SPRING 2023

Town of Historic Sykesville NEWSLETTER

www.townofsykesville.org
town@sykesville.net

TOWN ADMINISTRATION

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410-795-6390

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Town Clerk
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Chief of Police
410-795-0757

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

Derek Shreves
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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

If Spring were human, she'd be an optimist! Here are some great things that have sprung in Sykesville:



I have planned a FILL-THE-TRUCK event in coordination with Habitat for Humanity's ReStore of Westminster. On April 15th from 9A to 1P, the ReStore truck will be stationed at Little Sykes Railway (LSR) parking lot. This is the same day as the Department of Public Works' bulk trash pickup day. (Bulk trash pickup details are inside the newsletter.)

Any resident with donations for Habitat for Humanity should bring them to LSR where we will fill the ReStore truck. Last year both bulk trash and Habitat for Humanity donation items were placed at the curb. This year no donations should be left at the curb. Please take your donation to the truck's location at LSR. We're basically bringing ReStore Westminster to Sykesville.

Scan this QR code for a list of acceptable items for donation to Habitat for Humanity. You might be surprised to find that you have leftover building materials on this list.



If you have a bulky items like a working washing machine or a sofa that you wish to donate, please call the ReStore manager, Carol Fearn, at (410)751-5200, Ext 8 or (443)278-6167 or email her at cfearns@cchabitat.org to assure that the items can be accepted and to make arrangements for ReStore pickup at your home if needed.



Last month, the Town Council met for our annual Saturday retreat to review and update our Strategic Plan. In addition to our identification of the Town Council's priorities, and a review and update to our Goals and Objectives Program, we established our Town's core values. These will help guide decisions and give meaning to why we do the things we do. These values are meant to define the core of our beliefs and should be at the center of our decision-making process and policy development. These are the values we identified: Belonging, Accountability, Resourcefulness and Ownership. In the next several weeks, we will formally adopt our 2024 Strategic Plan along with the FY24 budget. Both of these documents will be available on the Town's website and can be found by clicking on *Financial Documents* under the SERVICES tab. For our digital readers: [2024 Budget & Strategic Plan](#)

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The County's Maryland 851 subterranean infrastructure projects on Springfield Avenue and Main Street continue. Once their contractors have replaced the water and sewer lines, the State Highway Administration will work to improve and replace much of the storm water infrastructure. I want to thank all of you for your patience. Since the work began, I find myself reciting a mantra of mine: Benjamin Franklin's wise words: "[She] that can have patience can have what [she] will." The service life of the new sewer and water supply lines and storm drains shall likely outlast any of us reading this newsletter. But an even greater more immediate reward will be Sykesville's opportunity to finally seek the transfer of ownership of this state-owned road—which has served a local traffic purpose for decades— from state government to our own. We are hopeful that the dust will finally settle on Main Street by the end of April and on Springfield by June. And then on to our above ground more visible streetscape improvements. More on those later.



"Never doubt that a small group of concerned citizens can change the world. In fact, nothing else ever has." Over a year ago, a resident came before the Parks and Rec Commission to introduce the game of pickleball to Sykesville. SPARC learned that pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in America, having grown in countrywide participation an average of 158.6% every year over the last 3 years. So last month when an email from a few Sykesville pickleball enthusiasts landed in my inbox, I encouraged them to find a way to determine Sykesville's interest in the sport and the desire for a place to play it at one of our Town parks. Please complete their [pickleball survey](#). The Town Council and I want to know: Is this a service you would like the Town to provide?



On the topic of Warfield: I have no update, as we have received no communication from the developer since June last year; that is, at least none having anything to do with the actual development. You may have read in the newspaper about their complaint to the Maryland Open Meetings Act Compliance Board and the board's bogus opinion that my and three other councilmembers' passive observation of two Planning Commission meetings last year was a violation of the Act because the advertising about the Planning Commission meetings did not include an announcement that four members of the Town Council would be in the audience. Whether you've read or heard about this or not, whether you find it uninteresting, or are moved by the absurdity of it or are bothered by the developer's attempt to bully our small town, you may choose to [read](#) my formal statement on the matter in the February 27th Mayor & Town Council meeting minutes or [watch](#) it on Carroll Media Center's YouTube channel. No matter the developer's efforts to divert our attention, the Town Council and I remain focused on protecting our community's assets, representing your best interests, and exemplifying our core values.



If you're like me, you've spent the winter plotting and planning. Now that it's spring, a time where everything starts anew, let's open our eyes to new beginnings and set those plans into action. Join us in "rooting" for Sykesville's new Tree City Designation this Arbor Day, April 28th in Millard Cooper Park. Or consider getting your hands dirty with SPARC on April 22nd. (Details inside the newsletter.) Because as Canadian novelist, Margaret Atwood said, "In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."

I'll see you around town. Stay Syked.

Did you know you can access the newsletters digitally? This newsletter, and may from the past, are available on our website by visiting

<https://tinyurl.com/SykesNewsletter>

or by scanning the QR Code!



Sykesville Police Department

As warm weather approaches, and more residents take to the outdoors to walk, run, or ride bicycles, please remember to obey the posted speed limit, buckle your seatbelt, and avoid distractions (like using a cell phone) while you are driving. And remember, never operate a motor vehicle if you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Please remember to lock your vehicle at all times and avoid leaving valuables in plain sight when parking overnight, as thefts from vehicles are still occurring in the surrounding area.

If you have a home security camera system, or you are thinking about purchasing one, please consider joining our Neighbors App so that you can share video with your neighbors and the police. We have had many success stories over the last few years involving crimes that were solved with the assistance of the Neighbors App. This app will also allow us to inform the community of real-time crime and safety events so that you can always stay informed. You do not need Ring brand device to participate, as any camera system can upload content to the Neighbors App! To download please text "staysafe" to 555888.

Gate House Museum

Come see our new exhibits and sign up for our tours! You can find out more information about our new and returning events on the Gate House's event posts on our Facebook page.

**Current Hours: Monday 9:30am - 12:30pm,
Friday 9:30am - Sunset, Sunday 12pm - 5pm**

April 15, 10:30am Linear Trail Walk: A Path Through Time @ basketball courts on Kalorama road

April 29, 12:00pm Field Trip Meet up @ Carroll County Farm Museum (regular entrance fee applies)

May 1: SEASONAL HOURS BEGIN: M/W 9:30am - 12:30pm, Thurs/F: 4:30pm - 7:30pm, Sunday 12pm - 5 pm

May 20: Field Trip Meet Up @ Catoctin Furnace Iron Festival (free)

May 21, 12-1 Historic Laundry Demo and Game @ Cooper Park Pavilion 1

Fridays in June, 7:30pm Springfield Hospital Center: Warfield Tour begins @ Gate House (no tour June 16) ~ Group capped at 30, please call or drop by to reserve your spot. Drop-ins available as space allows

For any new residents, please consider joining our Nixle Emergency Alerting and Notification System. These may include public safety threats, dangerous weather conditions, and traffic advisories. Information is key, and we strongly encourage you to sign up to receive text message alerts directly from the Sykesville Police Department. Simply text your zip code (21784) to 888777 and you'll be informed and instructed when necessary.

We are always seeking mature adults to volunteer for our Police Auxiliary Unit and School Crossing Guard Unit. If you are looking for a way to contribute toward making our town safer for all to enjoy, we urge you to consider these opportunities. Please contact us at 410-795-0757, or go to our website at www.sykesvillepolice.org for more information. You can also check out our Auxiliary Unit on their Facebook page.

YARD WASTE

The Town will pick up yard waste on your regular trash day. It will occur after trash pick up. Carroll County prohibits yard waste from being mixed with standard household refuse. Please have your yard waste in the brown yard bags or bundle sticks together no more than 4 feet long. Yard waste must be placed in paper lawn bags. Plastic bags will not be picked up. Dumping of yard waste in the parks and other wooded areas in the Town or along the Linear Trail is prohibited.

GRASS TRIMMING

Remember to keep your grass trimmed to less than 12 inches. Do not put grass trimmings in the street.

STORM DRAINS

Grass clippings and yard waste that gets into storm drains causes many problems. The clippings will break down in the storm drains and the nutrients released can be harmful to the water quality. The clippings can also clog the drains, potentially causing storm drain failure and flooding.



Sykesville Parks and Recreation Commission



2023 SPARC EVENTS SCHEDULE

Mark your calendar for these fun and family friendly events. All SPARC events are free! More details will be posted to SPARC's Facebook page and the Town website closer to each event.

Easter EGGraganza April 7 Millard Cooper Park Easter Egg Hunt and Photos with the Easter Bunny: 10AM	The SPARC Easter Egg Hunt is back this year for children 8 and under. There will be a separate area for kids 3 years and younger. The Easter Bunny is scheduled to make an appearance so bring your camera as well as a basket! ScavenEGGer Hunt (April 7-11): 8 eggs will be hidden along the Sykesville Linear Trail and each egg will have a letter. Find all the eggs and uncover the secret word to be entered in a drawing for prizes!
Park Cleanup Location TBD Spring: April 22 (Rain Date: April 29) Fall: September 23 (Rain Date: September 30) 9AM - Noon	Let's come together as a community to keep our parks beautiful for families to enjoy for years to come! The park and activities vary. This is a great opportunity for student service hours.
Sykesville Cinema Millard Cooper Park Second Saturday of the month from June through October Sunset	Come enjoy open-air movies with your neighbors and friends with our powerful audio and video system. June 10 - Space Jam July 8 - The Muppet Christmas Carol August 12 - Encanto September 9 - The Mighty Ducks October 14 - Ghostbusters
Music in the Park Millard Cooper Park August 26 September 23 / 30 5PM - 7PM	Bring a chair and enjoy live music by great local artists. Bands will be announced closer to the event dates.
Skateboard Competition Sykesville Skatepark October 7	In coordination with Shrimptown Skate Shop, SPARC is hosting its first ever skateboarding competition! More information, including competition rules and registration, will be available closer to the event date.
Santa's Arrival Downtown Sykesville December 2 3PM - 6PM	Santa is coming to Sykesville! Join us for a visit with Santa followed by the tree lighting.

In addition to these great events, look for Sparky at the Let Freedom Ring Parade (July 1) and Trick or Treat on Main (October 28).

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

PICKLEBALL INTEREST SURVEY

SPARC is assisting in the distribution of a pickleball interest survey since we have previously been presented with the pickleball court concept. The survey was created by a small group of citizens committed to the garnering of public interest to demonstrate to the Mayor and Town Council the desire for this amenity to be added to a Town Park.

To participate in the survey, scan the QR code.



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.

OUR PARKS ARE ALWAYS IN SEASON

Spring is a great time to explore the many parks in Sykesville. Shake off winter with a game of soccer or kickball at Bloomfield Park or Shannon Run, which both feature open space within walking distance of many residents. Take a walk at Carrie Dorsey Park and the Linear Trail. There's something for everyone! To learn more about Sykesville's parks, go to <https://www.townofsykesville.org/Facilities>.

If you haven't been to Millard Cooper Park recently, you might be surprised by some of our updates! The splash pad opened last year, and the plan is to reopen it on Memorial Day weekend this year! A new Little Free Library was also installed in Millard Cooper Park this year! New exercise stations were also installed along the Linear Trail, and there are more plans in the future for all of our parks!

Planning an
event this year?

Pavilion rentals are available at
Cooper Park and South
Branch Park.

To learn more, call
410-795-8959.

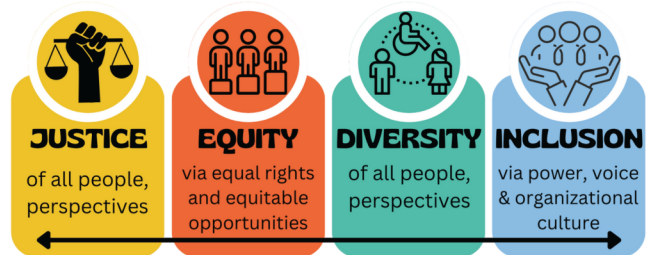
NEWS FROM THE DOWNTOWN SYKESVILLE CONNECTION



MARCH

The Downtown Sykesville Connection (DSC) will be recognized at the National Main Street Conference in Boston, MA as one of the best-performing Main Street programs in the US!

It takes a village, a Board of Directors, and a passionate staff and volunteer base to craft an experience of Main Street for all. After the DSC Executive Director's graduation from the Maryland Equity & Inclusion Leadership Program, the DSC board is training as well to continue leading economic development in the most creative and embracing way! The DSC is also coordinating a youth video class on the JEDI (Justice.Equity.Diversity.Inclusion) theme. Stay tuned for the video release!



APRIL

MAY

Our signature events are back! Scan the codes for details!

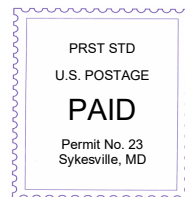


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**MAIN STREET
AMERICA**
2022 Accredited





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

Did you know the Town has an election coming up?
May 2 is Election Day! Polls are open from 8 AM to 8 PM.
For more information, visit our Election Information website
<https://tinyurl.com/SykesvilleElection> or scanning this QR code!

