



FALL 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

Hello neighbors. Join me in welcoming another Fall to Sykesville. Some great things are happening here.



Have you seen it? It's finally here! The Town of Sykesville has a new website. I hope you'll visit it and find it way more user friendly and compatible for your smart phone use. Access to Town meeting recordings, community offerings, volunteer opportunities, information about our parks and services and elected officials are now just clicks away. From the new site, please sign up for news flashes about meetings, road closures and town events at our parks and museums. And there's more! I'm Syked to announce See-Click-Fix! You can access this tool from the new website's home page. Simply click on "Report a Concern" or scan the QR code here. See-Click-Fix is your way to report a pothole, a street sign obstructed by overgrown foliage, a dangerous sidewalk~anything on public property that requires our attention. See it! Click it! We'll fix it.



I have coordinated another pumpkin drop-off event with the Hatton Animal Rescue Foundation, an amazing group that homes, fosters and supports senior and special needs animals that would otherwise be left behind and typically deemed unsalvageable or un-adoptable due to their medical conditions and age. November 5th, bring your carved jack-o-lanterns and whole pumpkins to Little Sykes Railroad Park 731 Sandosky Road and meet donkeys Paco Bell, Patty and Truffles. Pumpkins will be received from 11:30-2:30. The farm animals will thank you! (And so will I when our landfill tipping fees are reduced.)



Infrastructure work on Main Street is wrapping up after a grueling go of it with the County contractor replacing the main water line as well as relining the insides of the entire sewer system. Only after the County's work has completed, will the State's storm water drainage improvements get underway. The State's contractor will be replacing four storm drain inlets on Main Street. This work is to begin in November and is expected to take 30 days. Winter is coming so we shouldn't expect resurfacing/ paving efforts to begin until next Spring.

Springfield Avenue water and sewer work has finally been completed. The State's storm water drainage improvements will be ongoing until it gets too cold for concrete to cure and will pick back up in Spring 2024.

I know this has challenged your patience as it has mine and staff's. Our downtown business owners and residents have been bearing the brunt of it and have remained most gracious. I keep reminding myself this will all be worth it. Wonderful and truly generational things will follow these infrastructure projects. I can promise you that!

(continued on page 5.)



Sykesville Police Department

7547 Main Street, Sykesville, Maryland 21784
Tel 410-795-0757 Fax 410-795-8864

PREPARE YOUR CAR FOR WINTER

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
- Have a fully charged cellular device with you during all winter weather trips, regardless of the length of the journey

Remember to keep your car's **emergency preparedness 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 over-correct to stay in your lane
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly
- Increase following distance to 8 to 10 seconds
- If possible, don't stop when going uphill
- Avoid all distractions while driving, to include hand-held cellular devices

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. If you must pull to the shoulder, activate your hazard lights and set out flares or other reflective/high visibility roadside markers to alert traffic of your position on the side of the road. Call the police to notify them of your location and the reason for pulling to 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. However, be cautioned that thieves look for this opportunity to steal your vehicle
- 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



THE GATE HOUSE'S FALL/WINTER HOURS ARE:

Tuesday and Friday: 10 until 4 | **Sundays:** 12-5

The museum will be closed from December 18 through February 23 for inventory and to accommodate a rehabilitation of our front porch.

Tours of the Warfield Complex of Springfield Hospital will be held Friday, Sept 29 and each Friday in October and are our only tours which require an RSVP to reserve your place.

Admission to these events and tours, as well as entrance to the museum is free.

If you are interested in volunteering to decorate the Gate House for the holidays or greet guests during our Open House event, please call the Gate House at 410-549-5150.

In addition to accepting historical donations on a rolling basis, This year, we will be setting up a mitten tree on the porch of the Gate House for chilly adventurers in Millard Cooper Park.

Check out our Facebook events page for upcoming speakers, tours and new homeschool programming.

Sykesville Parks and Recreation Commission



2023 SPARC EVENTS SCHEDULE

Summer is ending, but the fun doesn't stop! Mark your calendar for these 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.

Sykesville Cinema Millard Cooper Park October 14 Activities start 5:30pm Movie starts about 6:30pm	Sykesville Cinema ends the season with a spooktacular night! Come enjoy an open-air movie with your neighbors and friends with our powerful audio and video system. We will be showing Ghostbusters at sunset! Come early for pre-movie activities including our annual costume contest (with prizes!) and an appearance by the Charm City Ghostbusters.
The costume contest is for ages 12 and under (but adults are welcome to dress up for fun). Interested in touring the historic Warfield area at Springfield? Join the Gate House Museum one hour before the movie starts in front of the Route 32 tunnel entrance.	
Trick or Treat on Main Downtown Sykesville October 28 3PM - 5PM	Sparky will be handing out candy with SPARC members at the Trick or Treat event on Main Street. Stop by our table to get some treats and a picture with Sparky!
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.

The Skateboarding Contest is being rescheduled to 2024. More details will be available soon.

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



OUR PARKS ARE ALWAYS IN SEASON

Fall is the perfect time to explore Sykesville's many parks! Admire the colorful leaves as you walk along the Sykesville Linear Trail. Head to Burkett Park to enjoy a game of basketball or a pickup game on the open fields. As the days get shorter, there's no need to travel to find a great place to take the kids. Check out Sykesville's hidden gems in your neighborhood like Jones Park, Lexington Run Park, Beach Park, and more. 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.

NEWS FROM THE DOWNTOWN SYKESVILLE CONNECTION

NEW STAFF

Hi! I'm Bree, the new Event Coordinator at the DSC. I grew up right up the road from Main Street in the Hawk Ridge neighborhood, so Sykesville has always been home. As a kid, most of my days were spent on Main Street. My childhood was spent going to church at St. Paul's United Methodist every Sunday, getting my first job at The French Twist Cafe, spending my Saturdays running River Road with the cross country team, and family dinners down at Beck's.



After I graduated college from Elizabethtown College, I ran for seven weeks from Baltimore, MD to San Francisco, CA to raise money and awareness for young adults impacted by cancer, supporting the Ulman Foundation. After completing that run, I worked as the Engagement Coordinator at the Ulman Foundation for two years. Making a difference through nonprofit work is a huge passion of mine and I am excited to bring that to the DSC.

When I got married in September of last year, my husband (also a Sykesville local and my high school sweetheart) and I decided to stay in the community we have grown up in and love so much. We now live right off Main Street with our little kitten, Roo. We both work from home most days in a small one bedroom apartment, but we absolutely love it. Our date nights are often spent walking down to listen to the live music outside and getting some ice cream. We love to take backpacking adventures, go skiing, play indoor soccer, and really anything outdoors! I am so excited for this new role and continuing to build up our Main Street to be phenomenal. I still run River Road every day, so feel free to wave if you see me chugging along!

UPCOMING EVENTS



Sykesville Fall Fun Festival, Oct. 21, 12 to 4 pm

Trick or Treat on Main Street, Oct. 28, 3 to 5 pm

Sykesville Craft Beer Festival, Nov. 4, 12 to 4 pm

Snallygaster Family Fling, Nov. 19, 10 am to 1 pm



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www.facebook.com/sykesville
www.instagram.com/downtownsykesville



MAIN STREET
AMERICA



As autumn approaches and the leaves start to fall, remember street drains are critical to keeping neighborhoods from flooding when it rains. Currently, the Town does not have a leaf collection program. It is your responsibility to make sure that nothing but untainted rainwater flows from your yard to the street and into storm drains. Lawn clippings, leaves, and other debris often clump together, contributing to flooding in your neighborhood. You can help prevent flooding with a few small maintenance actions on your property.

- Keep leaves and debris out of drains
- Avoid piling yard waste, such as fallen leaves on your property where it could wash into Town drains. Keep yard waste in craft bags or other containers.
- If the drains are still clogged after you've removed the debris, call the Town.

It is important to remember the Town storm drains run to retention ponds that eventually lead via streams and rivers to the Chesapeake Bay. As organic materials, such as grass clippings and leaves decompose, they release carbon and nitrogen. These chemicals feed undesirable algae which pull oxygen from the water, leading to fish kills. And that is only the beginning! If you have used chemicals on your lawn or garden, they may contaminate the water that runs off from rains or your sprinkler system. Perhaps you only occasionally allow grass clippings, leaves and other plants to wash down the drains, but multiply your "occasionally" by the hundreds of homes in the area, and it is easy to see why non-point source pollution is becoming a major concern. Yard waste is picked up the same day as your trash and will continue until the end of November. If you have concerns about your storm drains, please call the Town at 410-795-8959.



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 23

There will be no recycling pickup on this day. The recycling will be picked up on Thursday, November 30.



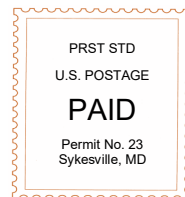
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Don't forget to turn your clocks back the night before the pumpkin drop-off! Daylight savings time ends at 2:00AM on November 5th.



On "the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, the Armistice Agreement would end the First World War. This November 11th, the Gate House Museum will be hosting a Remembrance Day Event on the front lawn of the Town House. As the time has not yet been set, please be on the lookout for an announcement of this event on the Town's website and social media.

Enjoy my favorite season, everyone! And don't forget to Shop Small November 26th! See you around town.



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

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!

