



WINTER 2024

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 Treasurer
410-795-8959

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410-795-6390

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410-795-8959

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410-795-0757

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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 & 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

Dear residents of Sykesville,

I hope this finds you in good health and high spirits. As we look ahead to a successful 2024, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the achievements and milestones we have reached as a community over the past year.

Projects Completed

We have had a truly productive year, marked by the successful completion of several significant projects. Our dedicated efforts and partnerships with the County have revitalized the infrastructure of Main Street and Springfield Avenue, ensuring enhanced water and sewer systems for our town. Main Street has been resurfaced, with Springfield Avenue not far behind. Over the summer we improved a section of the Linear Trail, providing smoother and safer journeys for pedestrians and cyclists. Additionally, we have installed new equipment along the Linear Trail, making it even more enjoyable for outdoor enthusiasts.

Community Engagement

I am pleased to announce that in 2023, in my steadfast commitment to community involvement, we have appointed three highly engaged residents to the Historic District Commission and two more to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Their readiness to serve and desire to contribute to the preservation of our town's heritage and the development of inclusive recreational activities benefits us all.

Throughout the year, I have had the pleasure of engaging with our community in various ways. From enjoying pancakes with Cub Scout Pack 719 to hosting several other packs at the Town House, we have fostered a sense of civic pride and leadership among our young residents. Their hard work and dedication earned them the Community Leader in Government badges, a testament to their commitment to our town. In May, I had the privilege of meeting with my favorite Daisy Girl Scout Troop 4211 in Millard Cooper Park. Together, we worked towards earning their Democracy and Government patches while instilling in them the value of civic service from an early age.

Recognition and Awards

In April, we celebrated our Tree City USA designation, an award presented to us by the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources at the Springfield Hospital Center's Arbor Day Tree planting ceremony. There, I had the privilege of planting an Eastern Redbud, an act that paid homage to the Town's ongoing 120 year partnership with the Hospital.

Furthermore, I am delighted to share that Sykesville received the prestigious Sustainable Maryland Certified Award in October. Both of these recognitions highlight Sykesville's commitment to sustainable practices and environmental stewardship.

Financial Accountability

I am pleased to announce that the Town received a "clean and unmodified financial audit opinion" with our annual audit. This positive outcome confirms the soundness and compliance of our financial statements. We remain dedicated to responsible financial management, ensuring that your tax dollars are used effectively and transparently.

Fostering Partnerships

In August, Secretary Day of the Department of Housing and Community Development visited Sykesville. Not only did I get to brag about our attractive and successful Main Street, which has benefitted from a decade of DHCD Façade Improvement Grant funding, I was equally delighted to present to the secretary the potential of the historic buildings at the Warfield complex during a tour graciously provided by Zeteo Tech, one of three businesses housed in the three adaptively reused historic buildings. In November, I met with Commerce Secretary Anderson at the Westminster Branch of the Carroll County Public Library as part of his Commerce Collaboration Tour. Those in attendance enjoyed a robust conversation about the diverse economic development potential in Carroll County.

Neighbors, let us carry the spirit of accomplishment and community with us into the new year. We achieve much together; but there is always more to be done. I am excited about Sykesville's opportunities and the progress we will forge as a united community. I am grateful for your ongoing support, involvement, and belief in the potential of our small town.

See you around town.

Mayor Link



Sykesville Police Department



Animal-vehicle collisions are not only costly but can be dangerous. From 2001 to 2011, animal collisions contributed to more than 2,080 fatal crashes nationwide. Whether a deer, dog, moose or squirrel, animals on the roadway are unexpected, and their actions can be erratic and unpredictable, creating a dangerous situation for motorists. AAA encourages drivers to use caution and remain alert to avoid becoming involved in a collision with wildlife. Most wildlife-vehicle collisions occur during the fall and winter, and many are preventable.

What To Do If an Animal Runs in Front of Your Vehicle

Scan the road and shoulders ahead of you. Looking ahead helps provide enough reaction time if an animal is spotted. Also, remember some animals move in groups, so when there is one, there are usually more in the area.

Use high-beam headlights if there's no oncoming traffic. Wildlife may be spotted sooner when using high beams. This will give the driver time to slow down, move over or honk the horn to scare the animal away. High beams also help in spotting some animals' reflective eyes.

If a collision is unavoidable, apply the brakes firmly and remain in your lane. Swerving to avoid an animal can often cause a more serious crash or result in drivers losing control of vehicles.

Be extra cautious at dawn and dusk. Most animals, especially deer, tend to be more active early in the morning and at dusk.

Slow down and use extra caution when traveling through areas with a high and active wildlife population. Be aware of increased wildlife movement in some regions during certain times of year, such as hunting or mating season.

Drivers should always wear a seat belt and remain awake, alert, and sober.

Gate House Museum

The Gate House welcomed over 1,000 visitors in 2023, and we look forward to new and repeat visitors to see our 2024 displays including the second year of our Midcentury display which this year focuses on area businesses. 2024 marks the 120th anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Sykesville, and we have many new programs, tours, and workshops planned which will help you document your own stories and share them with the next generation. Stay tuned to our Facebook for details!

Although the museum is closed until late February, if you have an item you would like to donate or lend the museum, would like to volunteer, or would like to conduct research, please call us at 410-549-5150 or email us at gatehouse@sykesville.net

We are especially looking for volunteers who are available during our busy summer season.



Sykesville Parks and Recreation Commission



Winter is here and Sykesville Parks and Recreation Commission (SPARC) is planning an exciting season for 2024 starting with events in Spring! At this time of year, we 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 wishes you all a wonderful holiday season!

SPARC meets at the Town House on the fourth Thursday of every month at 7pm. Can't attend in person? The meetings are streamed live on the Town's Facebook page. Scan this QR code with your phone's camera to visit the Facebook page:



Visit our Facebook page for more information by scanning this QR code with your phone's camera.



ENJOY OUR PARKS

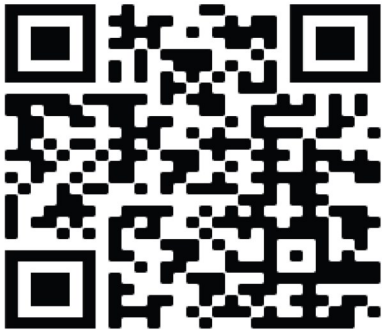


While you wait for our 2024 events, bundle up and visit one of Sykesville's many parks. Grab a mug of hot cocoa and warm up with a walk along the Sykesville Linear Trail or Carrie Dorsey Park. Build a snowman at Cooper Park. With so many parks in Sykesville, you may be surprised how close you are to one (perfect for snow days)! 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

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. 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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DOWNTOWN SYKESVILLE CONNECTION

2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Art and Wine Festival

Saturday, May 4, 2024 - 12-4 pm

Downtown Sykesville Farmer's Market

May 18 - Oct. 26 - 9 am-1 pm

Sykesville Pride Day

Saturday, June 1, 2024 - 12-4 pm

Sykesville Juneteenth

Saturday, June 15, 2024 - 12-4 pm

4th of July Let Freedom Ring Parade

Saturday, June 29, 2024 - 10 am

Sippin' on Summer Festival

Saturday, July 27, 2024 - 12-4 pm

Cooldest Golf Tournament

Thursday, Aug. 22, 2024 - 9 am

Sykesville Fun Fall Festival

Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024 -12-4 pm

Trick or Trick on Main Street

Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024 - 4-6 pm

Craft Beer Festival

Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024 - 12-4 pm

Snallygaster Family Fling

Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024 - 10 am-1 pm

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP

Christmas trees will be picked up on your regular trash day, either January 9/10 or January 16/17. Place your trees at the curb the night before your pickup. All ornaments, lights, tinsel, and other items must be removed prior to placing the tree at the curb.



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 Districts.

Meetings are once a month on the fourth Wednesday, 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.

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



«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!

