



SPRING 2024

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



I've always been fascinated with old things. When I was a kid, my grandparents were my best friends. I looked forward to the weekends because on Saturdays, I'd hand wash my neighbor's 1949 Ford pickup truck. And the first time I went to a sleepover at my friend's historic home, I began dreaming about living in one someday: the kind with a fixed stairwell to the attic, a back staircase that no one knew about, big bright windows that let in the perfect breezes and maybe one with a wrap-around porch and a porch swing.

Fast forward to 2005. In search of that historic home, I found myself in Sykesville where I indeed found that old house. But it came with a leaky roof, a 50-year-old oil furnace, mostly missing and rusted out gutters, peeling blue lead paint, and a basement that took on water like the Titanic with almost every downpour. But boy, did she speak to me, with her intelligently designed positioning on Spout Hill that afforded her caretakers those perfect breezes through her big bright windows and over 100 years' worth of sunsets from a porch swing. The day I laid eyes on her I knew she was the one. And so, for the next ten years, she was my every weekend and all of my week-long "vacations."

Then in 2011, former Mayor Jonathan Herman suggested I join the Historic District Commission. Two years later, I was elected to the Town Council, and today... well our "Blue Haired Old Lady" is home to a second Mayor of Sykesville.

Why do I share all of this with you now? Maybe I'm in the middle of a mid-life crisis, having just turned a year younger than that long since replaced oil furnace, and the things I worry about these days are different than what I worried about when it was me against the wet basement. These days, what I wouldn't give to be fretting over the perfect decorative cap for my newly installed half-round gutters or sorting through salvaged shutters and shutter dogs for those to match the originals still on the house.

Maybe it's because recently I've been reflecting on my twenty years in our old house in this historic town with its beautifully preserved and thoughtfully restored downtown and I'm concerned about where Sykesville's next generation of preservationists will come from. Who will carry the torch of those who have come before us with "saving Sykesville" on their minds, who were followed by the late 1980's version of tireless diehards, a few of whom continue to educate, and bust their knuckles on restoring a radiator or scraping paint? Who will succeed today's historians and story tellers, the restorers of Sykesville's architects and original builders' intentions? Who will be the next generation to concern themselves with how we got here and how to keep it from fading away? As Sykesville celebrates its 120th birthday this summer, I wonder: Who will volunteer to serve on the Historic District Commission in ten years? 20 years and beyond?

I know that right now living here in town there are high school and college students and young twenty-somethings that if they knew about the historic preservation trades, they'd take interest in honing those skills. I know that there are a handful that find architecture interesting and are curious why something is designed "that way" or care about economic and environmental sustainability. If you are one of people who want to leave their handprint on Sykesville, or know someone who fits this bill, turn the page and read, "Calling All Future Preservationists!" to learn about a program being offered very soon.



See you around town.

Mayor Link

Sykesville Police Department

As warm weather approaches and more residents take to the outdoors more often, motorists are reminded 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. In terms of car thefts, please consider stopping by the police station to obtain a free steering wheel lock in an effort to deter a would-be car thief. And lastly, if you own the type of vehicle that is susceptible to having the catalytic converter stolen, please consider having it engraved with a personal identification number (see FB post from March 18).

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. There are 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 a Ring brand device to participate, as any camera system can upload content to the Neighbors App! To download please text "staysafe" to 555888.

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.

Gate House Museum

On April 20th, in South Branch Park, Howard County archaeologist, Kelly Palich will be searching through sections of the park for clues to Main Street's history. Over the last month, volunteer and professional archaeologists have dug test pits and found pottery shards, school pencils, and other glimpses of life South of the Patapsco around the end of the 1800s. Through the end of May, you can find artifacts from previous excavations in the Sykesville area in our parlor.

The Gate House will be closed Sunday, May 26th, and will reopen for regular hours Tuesday the 28th. A new volunteer-created

exhibit on Elizabeth and George Patterson will be in our parlor, and we will be welcoming drop-in kids on our porch most Tuesdays from 12-2 this summer for historically-inspired activities. Follow us on Facebook for details on these weather-dependent activities.

Stay tuned for updates on our porch preservation which will affect our hours!!!

Currently, the Gate House is open:
Sunday 12-5
Tuesday and Friday 10-4



Calling All Future Preservationists!



Free program for 16–25 year-old residents of 21784

Workshops by Preservation Maryland, Gatehouse Museum Curator, Historic District Commissioners and more!

Storytelling and lessons learned by Sykesville's own preservationists.

Onsite seminars at multiple structures found on the National Register of Historic Places and within Sykesville's Historic District including private homes.

Wednesdays, 5-7P 6/12 - 7/31



Sykesville Parks and Recreation Commission



2024 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.

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 8 – Coco July 13 – Jurassic Park August 10 – Mighty Ducks September 14 – The Super Mario Bros Movie October 12 – Ghostbusters
Music in the Park Millard Cooper Park September 7 / 28; October 5 5PM – 7PM	Bring a chair and enjoy live music by great local artists. Bands will be announced closer to the event dates.
Fall Park Cleanup Location TBD September 21	Let's work together to maintain the natural beauty of our parks. Students can earn service hours.
Santa's Arrival Downtown Sykesville December 7 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 (June 29) and Trick or Treat on Main (October 26).

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



SPARC HAS A NEW LOGO

If you follow us on Facebook, you may have noticed SPARC's new logo! SPARC is dedicated to making a positive impact in the community through family-friendly outdoor activities and environmental stewardship, and we believe our logo demonstrates this commitment. The green and tan hues reflect the natural beauty of Sykesville's parks. The circle signifies unity and community. In the center of the logo, we celebrate the SPARC mascot, Sparky the Squirrel, who has been a steward of our parks since 2018.

OUR PARKS ARE ALWAYS IN SEASON

Spring is a great time to explore the many parks in Sykesville. Pack a basket with your favorite snacks and head to Cooper Park for a relaxing picnic under the trees with family and friends. Shake off any lingering winter chills at Lexington Run Park, which features a rock climbing wall and basketball court. Take a morning stroll at Carrie Dorsey Park or the Linear Trail and listen for bird calls. There's something for everyone! Sykesville parks and trails are open every day from dawn to dusk. To learn more about Sykesville's parks, go to <https://www.townofsykesville.org/Facilities>.

Planning an event this year? Pavilion rentals are available at Cooper Park and South Branch Park. To learn more, call 410-795-8959.

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.





DOWNTOWN SYKESVILLE CONNECTION UPCOMING EVENTS

Art and Wine Festival

Saturday, May 4, 2024 - 12-4 pm

Downtown Sykesville Farmer's Market

May 19 - Oct. 27 - 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



The Downtown Sykesville Connection applied and was selected as the US host of the America Connects Friends & Family National Mural of the Global Roots Mural Mosaic program. This program connects individuals across continents through painting tiles represented in murals displayed in selected host locations worldwide. This mural is designed to be a culturally enriching addition to our historic district, providing an immersive visual experience for both residents and visitors.

The unveiling of the mural is poised for June. <https://www.muralmosaic.com/friends/>



www.DowntownSykesville.com

[@downtown_Sykes](https://www.facebook.com/sykesville)

Follow our social media pages to learn more and get ready for this stunning and exciting public art installation in our downtown!

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 23
Sykesville, MD

*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](https://tinyurl.com/SykesNewsletter)

or by scanning the
QR Code!



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING

Civics Day!

Meet the Council
Learn how local government works
Check out Sykesville vehicles like trash
trucks and police cars
And more!

May 11 | 1 PM - 3 PM
Town House Grounds
7547 Main Street, Sykesville, MD, 21784

The background of the flyer is a photograph of the Sykesville Town House, a two-story building with a red roof, white columns, and a porch. American flags are hanging from the porch.