



SUMMER 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

Now that summer is in full swing, you are likely to find yourself at the farmers market retrieving fresh fruits and vegetables to enjoy at your dinner table or in pursuit of the summer's juiciest melons to be slurped up in the back yard. This time of year, the smell of a fresh cut cucumber takes me back to my grandma's cucumber salads made fresh from the cucumbers I picked from Pap's acre-large garden on my 100-yard walk to my grandparents' house at 4:15 every weekday to catch my first of three strategically timed suppers. Each peeled cucumber sliver sliced so thin you could see through them as they bathed in Gram's homemade dressing made of white vinegar, sugar, salt and fresh cream that she removed that morning from the top of the dairy delivered jug of whole milk. She never used a cutting board. She'd peel and slice each cucumber in only seconds with a decades-old paring knife that had been sharpened so many times, the blade had become crescent moon shaped.



At the end of each meal, it was my job to carry the cucumber and potato skins out to the end of the garden where Pap would compost them right into the soil for next year's crop. In my hometown in rural Pennsylvania, there is still no commercial or municipal trash pickup. My family's composting routine was then and remains a necessity. There is just no other option. Much like my grandparents' home was designed and built to take full advantage of the prevailing natural forces such as the direction of breezes, sunlight, and pressure differences generated by wind or air temperature so as to introduce and distribute outdoor air into or out of occupied spaces to ventilate and cool them, in a time before air conditioning was an option, composting their table scraps was as customary as opening opposing windows at night to draw cool air into the house. We don't normally think of such things as intelligent. But, indeed, they are.

Pap and Gram didn't associate their comfort with indoor and outdoor air quality; though, I'm quite sure they both were grateful for the relief ushered in by those reliable evening Allegheny Mountain breezes that regularly cooled their children's second floor bedrooms as so many summer's dog days drew to an end. And in all the stories Pap told from his rocking chair in the parlor, never did the phrase, *health and well-being* or *carbon footprint* ever pass his lips. But, fast forward 50 years and it is from my grandparents' mundane example of thoughtful, though simplistic, actions that we learn that two things can happen at once, even when one of those things is neither the intended outcome of that behavior nor the motivation for it.

It has been estimated that if food waste were a country, it would be the third highest emitter of greenhouse gases after the US and China. One third of greenhouse emissions globally come from agriculture, but 30% of the food we produce is wasted – about 1.8 billion tons of it a year. Approximately, 60% of wasted food in the U.S. is sent to landfills. Food waste is the single largest component taking up space inside U.S. landfills, making up 24% of municipal solid waste. Decomposing food waste in a landfill, where it is absent of oxygen, releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas with higher warming potential than CO₂. Municipal solid waste landfills are the third-largest source of human-related methane emissions in the U.S. The greenhouse gas emissions from landfilled food waste are equivalent to the annual emissions of 15 coal-fired power plants (or 7 million homes). Annually, 21,416 Sykesville tax dollars are spent in tipping fees on food waste alone.

Whether you choose to compost because you are concerned about your personal environmental impact for future generations, and perhaps find yourself encouraging your neighbors to start composting by way of sharing your backyard composter because you aim to influence a greater impact as part of a community-wide initiative, or you realize that because of cost saving initiatives like this one, we were able to lower your local tax rate for the first time in the residency of most of you reading this, you should definitely read more about our neighborhood composting program on page 5.



See you around town.

Mayor Link

Sykesville Police Department



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

2024 Sykesville Police Department Junior CSI Academy

The Sykesville Police Department is proud to announce that the 15th Annual Junior CSI Academy will be returning this year on **Saturday, September 28, 2024**. Once again, this year's program will be held outdoors at the Millard Cooper Park here in town. The program starts at 9:30 am and concludes with graduation and a certificate ceremony at 2:30 pm. Parents are welcome to attend the graduation at 2:30, but we are asking that parents not stay for the entire day. We will have additional staff to monitor and supervise the students throughout the day. This program is geared toward middle school students, so we would ask that you only register those children who are within that age group. This program is once again generously supported by the Freedom District Lion's Club Youth Outreach program. The academy will once again be led by Sykesville Chief of Police Michael Spaulding, with assistance from Sergeant Padraic Lacy, Sykesville Police Department, and CSI Supervisor Brittaney Soto of the Carroll County Sheriff's

Office. Students will be exposed to the various aspects of crime scene investigations during the one-day course. They will have the opportunity to learn about collecting latent fingerprints, performing grid searches, the use of canine dogs in locating evidence, and the importance of properly marking, photographing and collecting evidence, as well as maintaining the integrity of a crime scene.

The instructors are from nearby agencies such as the Maryland State Police, the Carroll County Sheriff's Office, the Sykesville Police Department and the Baltimore City and County Police Departments, and all are experts in crime scene investigations.

Applications can be obtained in person at the Police Department, Sykesville Middle School, or on-line at <https://www.sykesvillepolice.org/>. Class size is limited, and applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis. For more information, please feel free to contact the Sykesville Police Department at 410-795-0757.



15th Annual Sykesville National Night Out

Hosted by the Sykesville Police Department,
Sykesville Freedom District Fire Department and the Freedom District Lions Club

August 6, 2024

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm (rain or shine)

Sykesville Freedom District Fire Department Grounds

**Free food, drinks, snow cones, face -painting,
giveaways and much more!**

For more information, contact Paula Shiloh @ 443-375-6645 or pbuck@sykesvillefire.org



Gate House Museum

Summer is the busiest season at the Gate House. Drop by and see our newest exhibit on Elizabeth Patterson Bonaparte (on display through September 29), ongoing 1950s exhibit, and small displays about local history, landmarks, and people of interest.

We want to hear from you about what you would like to see on planned historical signage along the Carrie Dorsey Trail (formerly Warfield Park)! Email, call, or come by to chat about what kinds of information you'd like to see on these signs.

ALL ABOARD!

"All good things. All in good time." ~ Mayor Link

The Town, as owner of the historic Baldwin Station, has been working with the new leaseholder on how best to modify the building in a way that will increase accessibility and sustain prosperous and long-term restaurant use. Because the Sykesville B & O Railroad Station is protected by the National Register of Historic Places, any physical changes to the interior or exterior of the building require Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) approval.

The Mayor is delighted to announce that in June she, along with staff, the leaseholder and in consultation with an architectural firm familiar with the MHT application process, garnered MHT's approval for all proposed modifications! The Liberator Team is working diligently to put together their full construction plans and hopes to share their vision with the public very soon.

"I am positive," said Mayor Link, "that E. Francis Baldwin's intention for this structure was never for it to be a restaurant, but it was always expected to be an economic driver. The Town's investment into this thoughtful adaptation process will return to us hundreds of times over. The upcoming changes to the station will provide for the greatest adaptive reuse potential and will afford Sykesville economic development for generations to come!"

We are all thrilled for our beloved landmark's future!

Current Hours:

Tuesday: 10-4; free crafts 12-2

(weather permitting—check Facebook the morning of)

Friday: 10-4

Sunday: 12-5

For scout, homeschool, and other groups of ten or more, please call us in advance to plan your visit.

gatehouse@sykesville.net

(410) 549-5150



Volunteers Needed!

Board of Zoning Appeals

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) is looking for a member! The BZA hears and decides cases for variance requests, appeals of administrative decisions, and more. Members are appointed for 3-year terms



For more information

- 410-795-8959
- townofsykesville.org
- krubenstein@sykesville.net



Volunteers Needed!

Parks and Recreation Commission

The Parks and Recreation Commission (SPARC) organizes events like the Movies in the Parks, offer input on improvements to the parks, and more! Commissioners are appointed to 3-year terms.

For more information

- 410-795-8959
- townofsykesville.org
- town@sykesville.net



Volunteers Needed!

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission is looking for a member! The Commission reviews plans for future developments, recommends zoning and subdivision regulations, reviews site plans, sets standards to guide future development in the Town, and more. Commissioners are appointed for 3-year terms.



For more information

- 410-795-8959
- townofsykesville.org
- krubenstein@sykesville.net

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 and Instagram pages 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. July 13 - Jurassic Park August 10 - The Mighty Ducks September 14 - The Super Mario Bros Movie October 12 - Ghostbusters (and costume contest!)
Pre-movie activities start about an hour before sunset. Come to Cooper Park early for fun crafts, face painting, and games!	
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. September 7 - Here 'Til Sunday September 28 - Duffy & Ro October 5 - Liberty Road
Park Cleanup Location TBD September 21 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.
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.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@Sykesvilleparksandrecreation) to get up-to-date information on events and projects.

OUR PARKS ARE ALWAYS IN SEASON

What's one of the best things about summer? Extra daylight to enjoy Sykesville's many parks! Carrie Dorsey Park and the Sykesville Linear Trail offer great trails for walking and enjoying nature. Need a break while shopping downtown? Rest at the Old Main Line Park. Bring your little ones to ride the train at the Little Sykes Railway Park (runs during the Downtown Sykesville Farmers Market). Many of our parks offer playgrounds and afterwards, cool off at the splash pad at Millard Cooper Park. There's something for everyone! 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. We currently have a commissioner position open for a dedicated volunteer. If interested, please come to one of our meetings. SPARC meets at the Town House on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. You can watch our meetings live or recorded on Facebook (@townofsykesville). For more information, please call 410-795-8959 or email parks@sykesville.net.



Downtown Sykesville

QR code to website



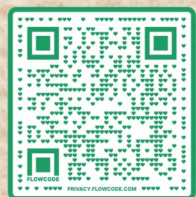
Composting Pilot Program

Helping to make Sykesville cleaner and greener

Next Session July 17th at the Community Garden, 7547 Main street

What is composting

Composting is a process that converts organic materials into nutrient-rich soil or mulch through natural decomposition. Check our website (QR code above) for details and registration and our presentation (QR code below).



By



Benefits of composting

Environmental

By turning our food scraps/yard trim into compost:

- We transform our waste into high quality soil and use it to help the environment.
- We reduce the volume of materials that might otherwise be disposed of in landfills
- We prevent powerful greenhouse gases from being emitted into the atmosphere.

Save Money

Composting involves minimal:

- effort
- equipment
- expense
- expertise

You save money by producing a free, high-quality soil—that can improve growth—which reduces your use of pesticides

Boosts life variety and social interaction

The process of composting supports a diverse range of microorganisms, beneficial for the soil ecosystem. These organisms help break down organic matter.

Community composting programs can foster a sense of shared responsibility and collective action towards sustainability goals.

Our Goal

We aim to empower residents to become active participants in waste reduction efforts while promoting a cleaner, greener Sykesville.

The program seeks to create lasting positive change for generations to come.

3 Easy Steps to Compost

Step 1: Add

Collect and add organic waste. Remember to balance 'greens' (nitrogen-rich materials) with 'browns' (carbon-rich materials).

Step 2: Dump

After your compost bin is full, you can connect with one of our Composting Champions. You can also bring it to the community composter near the Sykesville garden.

Step 3: Usage

The composting champions and Green Committee volunteers will be in charge of turning the composter over so that the compost becomes soil, which will be later used in the Sykesville Gardens.

What can I compost ratio browns to greens 3:1 to 4:1

Green Materials

Veggie scraps
Fruit peels and scraps
Garden Clippings
Tea Bags
Coffee Filters
Leaves
Green Plant Cuttings
Barnyard Manure
Seaweed and Kelp
Young weeds

Brown Materials

Dry Leaves
Wood chips
straw and hay twigs, branches, tree bark
Cardboard
paper/ news paper
Sawdust
pine needles/pine cones
egg shells
Brown paper bags
paper towels



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sippin' on Summer Festival

Saturday, July 27, 2024 - 12-4 pm,
Downtown Sykesville

Cooler Golf Tournament

August 22nd, 10 am,
Waverly Woods Golf Course

VOLUNTEER OPPORTINUTIES

We're always looking for volunteers to help with our events, maintain our community gardens, and support the Farmers Market along with its family-friendly activities. Many of these volunteering opportunities qualify for service hours. To get involved, please visit our website at www.downtownsykesville.com and check "Get Involved" Under "About DSC" or email us at DowntownSykesville.Event@gmail.com. Join us in making a difference in our community!



Sippin' on Summer

TICKETS



Join us for an unlimited sampling of hard seltzers and summer beers, food trucks, artists and artisans, live entertainment, and a country music concert!

July 27, 2024 | 12-4pm

IN THE NEWS



The tree that doesn't need to be planted to have roots
A new addition to downtown Sykesville is connecting the community with artists from all over the world. The Mural overlooks Main Street at the Sykesville Eileen Merkle Community Garden - 7547 Main Street. The Global Roots Mosaic Project is not just a mural; it's a canvas that reflects our community's dedication to cultural richness. With each panel, crafted by local and less local hands, assembled above our community garden, we are cohesively lacing the story of our global heritage through the heart of Sykesville. This installation embodies our mission at the Downtown Sykesville Connection, weaving together the threads of art, sustainability, and community in a tapestry of shared experiences and collective pride. The mural is an enduring reminder of our collective responsibility to nurture inclusivity and celebrate diversity as we grow together, rooted in tradition yet branching out to embrace the world.

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





Town of Sykesville

Splash Pad Operating Hours

SUMMER 2024

MONDAY: 10 AM - 7 PM

**TUESDAY: CLOSED FOR ROUTINE
MAINTENANCE**

WEDNESDAY: 10 AM - 7 PM

THURSDAY: 10 AM - 7 PM

FRIDAY: 10 AM - 7 PM

SATURDAY: 10 AM - 7 PM

SUNDAY: 10 AM - 7 PM

THESE HOURS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, PLEASE
CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UP-TO-DATE
INFORMATION ABOUT CLOSURES

Open through Labor Day 2024



*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!

