



WINTER 2025

Town of Historic Sykesville NEWSLETTER

www.townofsykesville.org
town@sykesville.net

TOWN ADMINISTRATION

Joe Cosentini
Town Manager
410-795-6390

Jennifer Livesay
Town Treasurer
410-795-8959

Kerry Kavaloski
Town Clerk
410-795-8959

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

A MAYOR'S YEAR VIEW MIRROR

Some good things in life are more apparent, more tangible than others. When reflecting on the accomplishments and progress of the previous 12 months, I must remind myself that what I may deem tantalizing conversation starters may be of little interest to others. After all, municipal government isn't all that thrilling. Ordinances, debate, meeting decorum. Perhaps these concepts of process are a turn-on for *some* (*this Mayor included*); but excitement is universally found in the obvious, in the things that you can touch or see and that make your life better, safer or more fulfilling.



Paradoxically, so much of what makes municipal government work goes unnoticed because when the collective achievement of all the cogs turns the gears, the machine remains in good working order. When your Mayor and Town Council, each administrative staff member, law enforcement officer, public works crewmember and department head does their job well, our lives are made better not worse. Why is it that human nature seems to dictate we become aware of Municipal Government only when there is a downshift in production or when our expectations are not met? Indeed, some do find the status quo warm and cozy; but I do not. The status quo concerns me because when things are going well, there is a potential for opportunities to be overlooked, and progress to be disregarded. And there's nothing exciting about that.

Turn the page for some tangible achievements of Municipal Government in Sykesville in 2024.

Cheers to a safe, healthy and happy 2025!



2024 in Review (continued on page 2)

This list is made possible by viewers like you and a rockstar assembly of public servants. Thank you.

New Legislation

Lowered Sykesville Property Tax from \$0.33 to \$0.32 per \$100 assessed value

Town Partnerships

- * Maryland Historic Trust approved all proposed restoration of and changes to Sykesville's crown jewel: the historic train station
- * Ratified the lease agreement with Lib's Grill for their business use of the train station
- * Storm drains stenciling in the Hawk Ridge neighborhood by Girl Scout Troop 1633 in partnership with Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- * New "selfie" wreath in Town House front lawn provided by the Downtown Sykesville Connection (DSC) and installed by Department of Public Works
- * Third annual pumpkin drop-off sponsored by Hatton Animal Rescue
- * Two full trucks filled with leftover building materials, furniture and appliances at our Third Annual Fill-the-Truck event, sponsored by Habitat for Humanity Restore, Westminster
- * Fifth consecutive round of DHCD's Façade Improvement Grant funds were awarded to the Town and distributed to Main Street property and business owners. (As if Main Street could be any more charming.) This biennial funding opportunity is made possible by our Main Street Maryland accreditation, administered by the DSC.

Services & Amenities Enhancements

- * Holiday décor including snowflakes on Main Street and Sandosky Road and a 14-foot tree in Centennial Park
- * Construction of a new trail connecting Jennifer/Norris to Oklahoma Ave
- * Springfield Ave Sidewalks
- * "Keanu Leaves" streetside leaf collection service
- * Created new staff position: Parks and Rec Coordinator who will work directly with the public, SPARC, DPW, Gate House Museum and the DSC.



What makes Municipal Government work?

- * Committed Volunteers. 2 new appointments to the Planning (PC) and Historic District Commissions (HDC); 5 reappointments to the Board of Zoning Appeals, PC, HDC and SPARC.

Mayor's Community Engagement Opportunities



- * Inaugural Civics Day
- * 2nd Annual Remembrance Day
- * Mayor's 2nd Annual Arbor Day Tree Planting in the Park
- * Assisted Cub Scout Packs 719, 392, 733 and 883 with earning their My Community badges.
- * Historic Preservation Summer Series in partnership with the DSC
- * Newly established Mayor for-a-day program
- * Community Composting Education Series with Girl Scouts Troop 1290, sponsored by the DSC



Sykesville Police Department



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

WINTER DRIVING TIPS

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
- Remember to keep your car's emergency preparation kit fully stocked, too.

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

- 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

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 overcorrect to stay in your lane
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly
- Increase following distance from 8 to 10 seconds
- If possible, don't stop when going uphill

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. The best course of action is to stay home during these types of conditions to avoid unnecessary risk.

Gate House Museum

The Museum will reopen for the season on Friday, February 28. In the third year of our Midcentury display, you will see examples of pop culture such as western themes, sci-fi influences, food, music, and recreation. Come visit your favorite hands-on artifacts like our candlestick phone, reed organ, and locomotive bell while exploring our changing exhibits through the year. Our Facebook page will be changing early this year, so keep an eye out for our new page!

If you have an item you would like to donate or lend to 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 on Sundays and during our busy summer season.



Sykesville Parks and Recreation Commission



As winter settles in, SPARC takes a moment to appreciate how lucky we are to live in a town with great natural resources, outdoor activities for all, and a passionate community that makes Sykesville an incredible place to live. 2024 was a great year for SPARC! We launched our new logo, gave our mascot Sparky the Squirrel a fresh makeover, introduced the Skate Jam skateboarding competition, and connected with countless amazing community members at our events.



SPARC is planning an exciting season for 2025 starting with events in April! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@Sykesvilleparksandrecreation) to get up-to-date information on events and projects.



ENJOY OUR PARKS

Although the days are short, you can still have maximum fun at one of Sykesville's many parks this winter! Warm up with a walk along the Sykesville Linear Trail or Carrie Dorsey Park. Build a snowman in the center of Bloomfield Park or Shannon Run Park. With so many parks in Sykesville, you may be surprised how close you are to one! Be cautious in freezing temperatures and watch for ice on trails and playground equipment. To learn more about Sykesville's parks, go to <https://www.townofsykesville.org/Facilities>.



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.





DOWNTOWN SYKESVILLE CONNECTION

2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Happy
2023



WWW.DOWNTOWNSYKESVILLE.COM



www.DowntownSykesville.com

www.facebook.com/sykesville

@downtown_Sykes

Art and Wine Festival
Saturday, May 3, 2025 - 12-4 pm
Main Street - DSC Fundraiser

Downtown Sykesville Farmer's Market
May 18 - Oct. 26 - 9 am-1 pm
Downtown Sykesville

Sykesville Pride Day
Saturday, June 14, 2025 - 12-4 pm
Mac Lot

Sykesville Juneteenth
Saturday, June 21, 2025 - 12-4 pm
Millard Cooper Park

4th of July Let Freedom Ring Parade
Saturday, June 28, 2025 - 10 am

Sippin' on Summer Festival
Saturday, August 16, 2025 - 12-4 pm
Main Street - DSC Fundraiser

Sykesville Fall Fun Festival
Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 - 12-4 pm
Main Street

Trick or Treat on Main Street
Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025 - 4-6 pm
Main Street

Craft Beer Festival
Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025 - 12-4 pm
Main Street - DSC Fundraiser

Help Shape a More Inclusive Sykesville!

Join the Downtown Sykesville Connection's JEDI (Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion) Committee and be part of a mission to celebrate diversity, foster understanding, and create a truly inclusive community. Through education, empowerment, and awareness, our volunteers promote fairness, respect, and appreciation for all.

2025 Projects:

- Shed light on Sykesville's Black history, culture, and contributions.
- Expand programs that honor diverse cultures and individuals.
- Enhance accessibility across our downtown programs and projects.

Email DowntownSykesvilleConnection@gmail.com to get involved and make a difference!

<https://www.downtownsykesville.com/jedi-committee>



JEDI Committee Meetings:
3rd Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 pm,
at Barrier-Free,
7520 Main St #103, Sykesville, MD 21784.

*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!

