



FALL 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

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

"Be Careful"

As a child in rural West-Central PA, my "walk" to school was a short one, down a steep 30-yard-long driveway where the "cheese wagon" picked me and my sister up every morning beginning in kindergarten and ending senior year. My childhood home is on PA State "rural route" 36 and our driveway's end is directly across from Eckenrode Mill Road, forming an unofficial 4-way intersection of sorts. Route 36 has a 45 MPH speed limit but just before my parents' driveway there is a blind hill where a man on a motorcycle was killed when he collided with my high school sweetheart's car as he turned out of our driveway.



Nineteen years of my parents' concern for their three children as we boarded the school bus every morning was substantiated that afternoon. There had been many a near-miss in the years leading up to that fatal accident. Even the towering blinking lights of the school bus, capable of providing oncoming traffic with the most advanced warning possible, proved inadequate for many drivers. It was the decades of speeding vehicles and the reckless driving habits my father observed from the kitchen window that formed his lesson plans for us when he taught each of us to drive. And even today, with each of his children in their 50's, my father's every farewell consists of two words: "Be careful."

Well, it's that time again when our most vulnerable pedestrians are enroute every morning and afternoon on their walk to and from school. And for every one of them, the route includes crossing over or walking a length of Springfield Avenue. And for most of them their path to and from home includes crossing Spout Hill Road.

Here's where I give a Sykeout (Sykesville shout out) to our Auxiliary Police Department Crossing Guard, Doug Vogg, in his fourth school year of filling this vital role, and to all our sworn officers who share this detail over the course of every school week. And here's where I ask for 2-4 more super Sykesvillians (must be 18 to enter) to join the School Crossing Guard Program. If interested in learning more, please call SPD headquarters at 410-795-0757 or email PoliceAdmin@sykesville.net. Any morning or afternoon that a trained volunteer is (wo)manning one of the designated school crossings is one where our officers on duty are freed up to focus on traffic enforcement and various other calls for service while the students' safety is maintained.

And speaking of the Sykesville Police Department (SPD) and its Auxiliary Police Unit (APU), here's where I crow a bit more: Under the command of Lt. Jeff Queen, the APU is on track to log more volunteer service hours than 2023's whopping 1636 empowering our community and supporting our sworn officers in various ways at the Farmers Markets, Main Street and SPARC events and with independent patrols as well as ride-alongs. Lt. Queen trains his APOs in CPR and on AED use and the deployment of Naloxone to prevent overdose related death. Last year Lt. Queen and one of our APOs participated in CSX's derailment response training alongside several of our sworn officers.

Sykesville's Volunteer Auxiliary Police unit, the brainchild of Chief Wallace P. Mitchell, was conceived out of fiscal necessity in 1991 when our little town's population had doubled in short order and the only thing smaller than the space where SPD's business was being conducted—a small office with one desk, where the radiator and a pair of handcuffs were used to detain suspects before transport to central booking—was SPD's budget. By July 1992, Auxiliary Officers supported the first community event, a music festival at Milard Cooper Park.

As a testament to the high quality of Auxiliary personnel that Lt. Queen has routinely been able to recruit, four APOs in just the last four years have transitioned to the Police Academy, all of whom I have had the privilege of swearing into their positions in the SPD. Corporal Barrett, PFC Hoppa and OFC Bond continue to serve our community alongside the finest in Maryland.

To all of them and to all of the kiddos riding bikes and walking to and from SMS: Be Careful!

Mayor Link

Department of Public Works

TRASH AND RECYCLING HOLIDAY CHANGES!

Thanksgiving -

There is no recycling pickup on November 28.
Recycling will be picked up as normal on December 5.

Christmas -

Trash will be picked up as normally scheduled on Tuesday, December 24.

Trash that is normally picked up on Wednesday, December 25, will be picked up on Thursday, December 26.

Recycling that is normally picked up on Thursday, December 26, will be picked up on Friday, December 27.

New Year's -

Trash will be picked up as normal on Tuesday, December 31.

Trash that is normally picked up on Wednesday, January 1, will be picked up on Thursday, January 2.

Recycling that is normally picked up on Thursday, January 2, will be picked up on Friday, January 3.

Residents who live in the Raincliffe and Parkside developments will have the schedule that Area Refuse provides for their trash and recycling pickup during the holidays.



NEW LEAF COLLECTION!

The Town is excited to unveil a member of the Public Works fleet! A leaf vacuum, lovingly referred to as Keanu Leaves, will be used this fall to provide curbside leaf vacuum service. Leaf vacuuming will happen every Monday. Please rake or blow your leaves to the curb and do not bag. Only leaves can be vacuumed up; do not include sticks, branches, or any other yard waste material. General yard waste collection will still occur on your regular trash day. Please continue to bag all general yard waste properly.

PUMPKIN DROP OFF!

The fourth annual 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 un-salvageable or un-adoptable due to their medical conditions and age, is happening in November!

November 3rd, bring your carved jack-o-lanterns and whole pumpkins (pumpkins with paint or other chemicals cannot be donated) to Little Sykes Railroad Park, 731 Sandosky Road. Pumpkins will be received from 11 AM to 2 PM.

The farm animals will thank you!



Sykesville Police Department



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

It's that time of year again!

Animal collisions, especially those involving deer, increase during the Fall due to the mating patterns of white tail deer.

Animal-vehicle collisions are not only costly but can also 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 will be open during Fall Fest, sharing information about turn of the century bubble blowing, as well as the usual museum displays. For the rest of the year, an exhibit on farming and the Sykesville landscape is on display along with numerous photos of local farms c. 1880-1950. Do you have more photos to add to our collection? Call, email or come visit us!

Our second observance of Remembrance Day will be held on Sunday, November 10th at 4pm at the Sykesville American Legion Memorial Post 223 Flagpole at the front of Millard Cooper Park. This ceremony will include performances by Century High School Band as well as their JROTC who will perform the retiring of the colors this year. Speakers include new Legion Commander Themis Smyrnioudis, Commissioner Ed Rothstein, and Mayor Stacy Link.

The Gate House will be open for regular hours the Friday after Thanksgiving with our usual holiday displays as well as a train garden. Bring your house guests to the Gate House!



Hours:
Tuesday: 10-4
Friday: 10-4
Sunday 12-5



Sykesville Parks and Recreation Commission



2024 SPARC EVENTS SCHEDULE

Summer is ending, but the fun doesn't stop! 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 Halloween Movie Millard Cooper Park October 12 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.
Trick or Treat on Main Downtown Sykesville October 26 4PM - 6PM	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!
Visit with Santa & Tree Lighting 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

Fall is the perfect time to explore Sykesville's many parks! As the weather cools, check out the cool equipment at Cooper Park. Walk along the Sykesville Linear Trail or ride a bicycle on the trail at Carrie Dorsey Park and admire the colorful leaves. 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>.

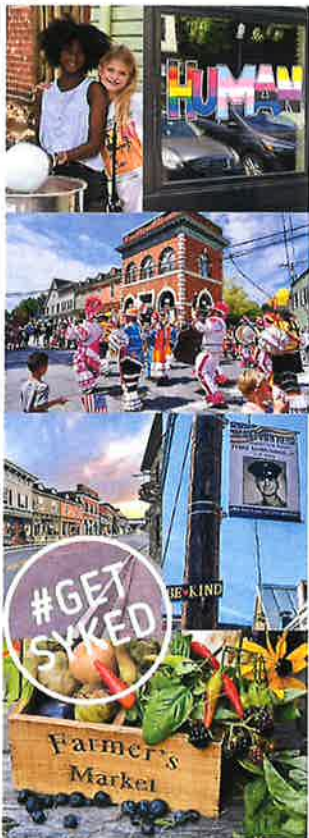


SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

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. 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 town@sykesville.net.



WWW.DOWNTOWNSYKESVILLE.COM



**GRAB YOUR
TICKETS WHILE
YOU CAN!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Main Street Fall Fun Festival

Saturday, October 19, 2024 - 12-4 pm,
Downtown Sykesville
Live entertainment and performances, food
trucks, and activities!
Free and welcoming all!

Trick or Treat on Main Street

Saturday, October 26, 2024 - 4-6 pm,
Downtown Sykesville
Free and welcoming all!

Craft Beer Festival

Saturday, November 2, 2024 - 12-4 pm,
**Support the Downtown Sykesville
Connection's biggest fundraiser**—help sustain
its programming, free events, and operations!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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!



IN THE NEWS

Coming soon to one of the suites at 7611 Main Street: We're thrilled to announce **Moonshadow Collective**, a versatile space designed to nurture creativity and connection in the heart of downtown. Ready to spark new partnerships and create unique experiences for all ages. Stay tuned for more details!

MORE FROM MAYOR LINK...

And now here's where I apologize. In the Spring 2022 Town Newsletter, I made an error when I announced that now Corporal Annelise Barrett would be graduating from the academy to be sworn in as Sykesville's first female officer. It has since been brought to my attention that SPD has a history of not just one, but two other women having served Sykesville as sworn officers in the 1980s, Officers Pam Skidmore and Marcy Durham. That makes now Corporal Barrett Sykesville's first ever Academy recruit to be sworn into her position but not Sykesville's first sworn female officer. My apologies for the error.

*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!

