



SPRING 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

Drew Rittenhouse
Parks and Recreation Coordinator
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

DEAR SYKESVILLE,

Well, it's finally happened! No more fake outs. Spring has sprung, but my fever hasn't broken yet. From the increased activity downtown, in our backyards, and in our parks, it appears I'm not the only one showing signs and symptoms of spring fever.

While preparing for my re-election campaign, I have been spending a lot of time reflecting on the value of the services the Town offers, the things I love most about living here, and serving this community.

So, I thought it would be a good time to highlight Sykesville's parks and recreation features. I want to make sure that our community knows just how much access each of us has to our many wonderful and perfectly placed amenities.

In that vein, I want to formally announce that in February, we hired Drew Rittenhouse—a lifelong Marylander, self-proclaimed history nerd, and lover of all things parks—for the newly created Parks and Recreation Coordinator position.

Parks and recreation services have traditionally been more of a secondary emphasis in our recently altered administrative structure, meaning that we have relied heavily upon our volunteer Parks Commission for the planning and execution of most SPARC events. With this newly created staff position and with Drew in that role, we have begun offering more direct administrative support, not only for events but for the overarching operations within our park system. This includes formally taking inventory of our manmade and nature-made park assets, creating and implementing a maintenance schedule for them, working closely with DPW and private service providers as part of our Tree City USA certification with the Arbor Day Foundation, and identifying opportunities for and creating additional programming. We will continue to depend upon the committed service of our steadfast SPARC Commissioners and the enduring volunteerism that they inspire.

When asked what "drew" him to the position, Drew noted, "the real opportunity to enrich others' lives in meaningful ways. To provide for and work with such hands-on and passionate citizens isn't always something that everyone in the world of Parks and Recreation gets to do."

Many of you may not realize that each of you live within a ten-minute walk of one of our twelve parks or trailheads. When you think about our parks and recreation services, I hope that you count them among the things you love most about living here, like I do.

See you around town, in the parks and at the voting polls on May 6th!



Mayor Link



Gate House Museum

The Gate House Museum Facebook has changed! Please update your bookmarks and make sure you are following us to find our upcoming events including:

Citizenship in the Community scout badge work days 4/4. 4/11. 4/25 10-3:30 drop-in activities at the Gate House

Civics Day 5/19 5-8 on the Town House lawn

Summer Craft Days 6/17, 7/15, 8/12 12-2 drop-in activities at the Gate House

Christmas in July Special Exhibit throughout July, with an Open House 7/11 from 10-6pm

The Gate House is also a partner of the Carroll Voices project, celebrating the 250th anniversary of 1776

(locally known as MD250). If you are interested in helping to organize our Town's plans for celebrating this national anniversary, contact our curator, Adrienne Smith, to discuss opportunities to get involved.

Did you know we do classroom visits? The Gate House can bring museum objects to your public school, group homeschool, or community site.

Scan this QR code to visit our new Facebook page!



Sykesville Police Department

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

As warm weather approaches and more residents take to the outdoors, motorists are reminded to:

- ✓ Obey the posted speed limit
- ✓ Buckle your seatbelt
- ✓ Avoid distractions (like using a cell phone) while driving
- ✓ 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 a major concern in our area. In order to deter potential car thieves, please consider stopping by the police station to obtain a free steering wheel lock.

If you have a home security camera system, 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 looking for mature adults who are interested in volunteering for our Police Auxiliary Unit or School Crossing Guard Unit. If you are looking for a way to give back to our wonderful community while making it safer for all to enjoy, we urge you to consider these opportunities. Please contact us at 410-795-0757, or you can go to our website at www.sykesvillepolice.org for more information. Feel free to check us out on our Sykesville Police Department or Sykesville Police Auxiliary Unit FaceBook page.



Scan this QR Code for the Sykesville Police Department's Facebook page.



Scan this QR Code for the Sykesville Police Auxiliary Unit's Facebook page.



SYKESVILLE PARKS



& REC. COMMISSION



Was it just us, or was Winter longer this time around? We here at SPARC are so happy and excited to have warmer weather and milder days ahead of us! That isn't to say that this Winter has been boring, far from it. We welcomed the very first Sykesville Parks and Recreation Coordinator, created new park rules signs and are working on an outdoor learning area for nature programs, outdoor yoga and more!

And what lies ahead? Well, we have our Great Spring Cleanup this year held at Shannon Run Park. Not long after that we will have our famous Easter Egg Hunt where the rumor is that the Easter Bunny and Sparky will both be in attendance! And don't forget about the Skate Jam Skateboard Competition in May.

All further information and are here at www.townofsykesville.org or by following this QR code:



Are you planning a birthday party, meeting, or small event this year? Pavilion rentals at Millard Cooper and South Branch Park are available! To book your event call (410) 795-8959 or email parks@sykesville.net

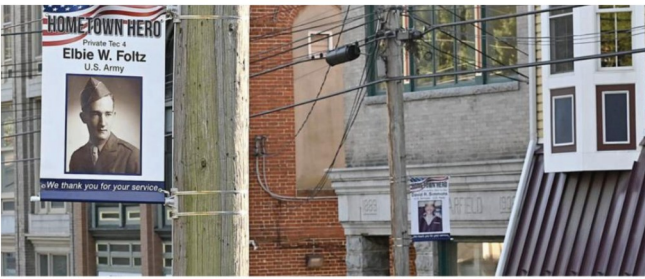


CALL for VOLUNTEERS

Do you:

- Enjoy being outside and enjoying nature?
- Like helping others?
- Want to be a bigger part of our community?

Then we would love to have you join SPARC! We are always looking for passionate and talented volunteers to help. We hold meetings every fourth Thursday of each month at 7pm at the Town House. Come to a meeting or email us at parks@sykesville.net to see how you can help to make our parks some of the best in Maryland!



Hometown Hero Banners

in Downtown Sykesville



The Downtown Sykesville Connection (DSC) proudly honors the sacrifices of our service members through the Hometown Hero Banner Program. In 2023, we launched our first round of banners to recognize and celebrate local veterans and active service members. The response was incredible, and we are thrilled to expand the program in 2025 with an additional 10 banners!

These banners will be proudly displayed throughout Downtown Sykesville, ensuring that all who visit our town recognize and appreciate the contributions of our military heroes. Once again, the DSC will cover the cost of the banners through proceeds from guest and tasting ticket sales at our three annual fundraisers: the Art & Wine Festival (May 3), Sippin' on Summer Festival (August 16), and the Craft Beer Festival (November 8). These events not only bring the community together but also help fund meaningful projects like the Hometown Hero Banner Program.

Application Deadline: May 5, 2025

Apply now @ www.downtownsykesville.com/design-committee

Join us in celebrating the heroes who have served our country and helped shape our community. We look forward to another inspiring display of gratitude in Downtown Sykesville!

The Downtown Sykesville Connection (DSC) is proud to implement a human-centered approach to building a community that does not choose who belongs—because everyone does - with our June event lineup.

Join us as we continue shaping a vibrant, united, and compassionate Downtown Sykesville.



SYKESVILLE PRIDE DAY

June 14, McElroy Lot

Face painting, band, mermaid, food truck, photoback drop, fairy floss hair tinsel, free cotton candy, vendors, crafts and lots of color!



June 21, Millard Cooper Park

Be a part of a community that commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans and celebrates African American culture with guest speakers, music, and activities.



Exciting new addition inspired by Mayor Link's creative vision: the "Unity Float Showdown"

June 28, Springfield Avenue and Main Street

This fun and community-driven contest invites Sykesville neighborhoods to come together and design themed floats or parade components that celebrate the town as an oasis of unity, friendly competition, and neighborly pride.

Mayor Link's idea aims to strengthen connections between residents by encouraging collaboration, creativity, and good old-fashioned fun. Neighborhood groups will be invited to enter their creations in the **Unity Float Showdown** category, with the chance to win a cash prize—and, of course, bragging rights!

Register at: www.downtownsykesville.com/let-freedom-ring-parade



Town Election!

Election Day is May 6!

For more information on the
Town Election, please visit our
Election Information page!



Mail-In Ballot Request forms are
available on our website. Scan the QR
code below, or visit the link in the caption.



Election Day is May 6!



SPRING CLEANUP DAY *Free Bulk Pickup!* APRIL 12, 2025

Small items must be boxed or bagged

No more than 2 large items or
mattresses per address

Habitat for Humanity's
ReStore of Westminster
will be located in the
Little Sykes parking lot
to accept donations. If
you have bulky items or
cannot make the drop
off, please call
(410)751-5200, ext 8 to
make arrangements

Prohibited items include,
but are not limited to:

- car parts,
- tires,
- paint,
- chemicals,
- rocks,
- dirt and rubble,
- tree stumps,
- construction debris

PRSR STD
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SK Printing, Inc.
216 A South Main Street
Mount Airy, MD 21771

*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!

