



FALL 2015

Town of Historic Sykesville

NEWSLETTER

www.sykesville.net
town@sykesville.net

TOWN OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Dawn M. Ashbacher
Town Manager
410-795-6390

Linda S. Joyce
Town Treasurer
410-795-8959

Janice M. Perrault
Town Clerk
410-795-8959

Steven Colella
Director of Economic Development
410-795-8959

Jana Antrobus
Executive Assistant
410-795-6390

Michael Spaulding
Chief of Police
410-795-0757

Barbara Prawdzik
Admin. Assistant/Police
410-795-0757

Ron Esworthy
Public Works Director
410-795-3186

The Town House
Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mayor and Town Council
Second & fourth Mondays
of the month

Planning Commission
First Monday of the month

Historic Commission
Fourth Tuesday of the month

Board of Zoning appeals
Monthly as necessary

Parks &
Recreation Committee
Fourth Thursday of the month

SUMMER BUT A MEMORY

As we come to a close of another Sykesville Summer it's a time to enjoy the last few days of summer and look forward to a wonderful fall season here in Sykesville. There is always some sadness in my heart at the end of the summer, but fall brings some very enjoyable experiences to the senses. I encourage you all to get out and see and experience your Town as the temperatures cool. It is a great time to bike, walk or run and get to know your neighbors and see your Town. Take some time to experience fall events and visit your Town's wonderful parks, trails and shops on Main Street.



We have really been moving forward on so many projects (see page 2). At times it is both very rewarding and quite overwhelming. I want to thank all of you who have been working in one form or another to keep our Town moving in such a positive direction. The Town's recent progress has truly been a very special combined effort of so many dedicated people. As you see the many dedicated business owners here in Sykesville, please take a moment to say "Thank You". It really does go a long way to reassure an often tired shop owner that they are very much appreciated.

We have a lot of new items and projects coming in the near future. Please sign up for the News Flash by sending an email to town@sykesville.net to stay informed of important information and project updates. It really is a quick and easy way for you to stay aware about what is going on in your Town. Staff has also been working very hard to implement a brand new Sykesville website, www.townofsykesville.org. It promises to be much more user-friendly, functional and capable to keep up with today's modern technology demands. Again, I really want to let our staff know how much our residents will appreciate the new site. They deserve another big "Thank You". Stay tuned for its debut! We are all excited about it.

Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend our many Town events as fall begins (see back page for a full list of events). The remaining Farmer's Markets, Harvest Festival, Trick or Treating on Main Street, Chili and Beer Cook Off, Merry Main Street and others. It truly is these types of events and your support of them that makes our Town so special. I look forward to see you all there!

In closing, please be mindful of our Town's speed limits and stop signs, especially as school starts. Many of the children will be walking on our streets and they are counting on you to be careful. Drive through Town like you would expect people to drive on your street. Avoid the ticket, slow down and savor your Town!

Best Wishes for a Happy and Safe Sykesville Fall!

Ian Shaw, Mayor

See upcoming EVENTS inside & on the back cover.

YARD WASTE- PICK UP ENDS DEC. 2

- ◆ The Town will pick-up yard waste on your trash day through **December 2**.
- ◆ Carroll County’s Solid Waste Ordinance prohibits yard waste from being mixed with standard household refuse.
- ◆ Yard Waste must be packaged in paper lawn bags. Plastic bags will not be collected.
- ◆ All brush and limbs must be bundled in 4’x4’ piles. No Larger than 4’ diameter.
- ◆ Loose limbs at the curb will not be collected.
- ◆ Dumping of yard waste in the parks and other wooded areas in the Town or along the Linear Trail is prohibited.
- ◆ Christmas trees will be picked up on the first two Thursdays in January 2016.

2015 HOLIDAY TRASH AND RECYCLING SCHEDULE CHANGES

- Veterans Day – Moved trash pick - up from Wednesday to Monday, November 9
- Thanksgiving – Recycling will be picked up on Wednesday, November 25
- Christmas – Recycling will be picked up on Wednesday, December 23
- New Year’s Day – Recycling will be picked up on Wednesday, December 30

All other trash and recycling pick-ups will remain on schedule.

MILITARY MEMORIAL DEDICATION

The Military Memorial will be dedicated on Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11 at noon. Everyone is invited to attend this event to honor our veterans. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be served in celebration of this event. For more information, contact Janice Perrault, at 410-795-8959 or jperrault@sykesville.net.

SOUTH BRANCH PARK

Construction will start in September to construct a new Skate Park. The Town and Howard County have been working together to improve South Branch Park and the Skate Park is another component of this collaboration. If you are interested in looking at the proposed designs please go to: www.facebook.com/shrimptownsouthbranchskatepark.

SEPTEMBER PAVING AND BALDWIN’S PARKING LOT

The roads scheduled for patching and paving are Kalorama Road (from Jennifer Lane to Harlan Lane), Old Norwood Ave, Boulder Court, and Old Norris Ave. Roads scheduled for patching only are Manor Road, Obrecht Road, and Sandosky Road. Work is to begin September 9, 2015 weather permitting and should be completed by the end of the month. Work on Baldwin’s Station parking lot will include constructing a storm drain and paving. This work will begin mid to late September, weather permitting, and should be completed in approximately 3 weeks.

UPDATE ON THE STREETScape PROCESS

A task force was developed to include residents and business owners to work with the State Highway Administration (SHA) to begin the process of designing improvements for MD 851 (Main Street and Springfield Avenue). The concept for Main Street from Sandosky to Church has produced much discussion. The task force is trying to balance parking needs with pedestrian needs. The next meeting of the task force will be held on October 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town House. A public input session is tentatively scheduled for November. For more information, contact Dawn Ashbacher, Town Manager, at 410-795-8959 or dashbacher@sykesville.net.



NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON!

Our new and improved website is coming soon! The website will have improved functionality as well as a cleaner, easier layout to navigate. With the new website the Town of Sykesville will be able to increase its community engagement and enhance the communication between residents and the local government. The site will go live in October and you can find us at www.townofsykesville.org.

HAWK RIDGE/SHANNON RUN STORM WATER POND UPDATE

The Shannon Run and Hawk Ridge Farms storm water management facilities have recently been cleared in anticipation of retrofitting these facilities over the coming years. A community meeting will be held in the fall of 2015 to discuss the proposed project with postcard notifications sent out by mail to surrounding property owners indicating the location, date, and time of the meeting. Engineering work will follow to determine if these projects are viable. The Town is working closely with the Carroll County Bureau of Resource Management throughout this effort to maintain compliance with our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. For more information, contact Dawn Ashbacher, Town Manager, at 410-795-8959 or dashbacher@sykesville.net.

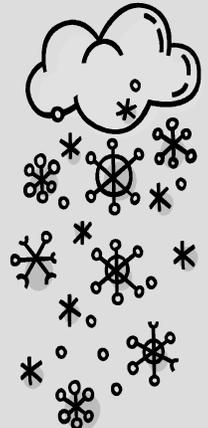
RECYCLING

- ◆ A 32 gallon trash receptacle (maximum size) may be used to hold recycling.
- ◆ Nothing heavier than 50 pounds.
- ◆ To find out what you can recycle, go to www.sykesville.net/recycle2.
- ◆ Recycling in plastic bags will not be picked up.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

- ◆ Trash and recycling operations may be rescheduled to allow our crew to make sure roads are safe for travel.
- ◆ Call 410-795-3186 for updates and information about trash and recycling.
- ◆ Please clear ice and snow from sidewalks within 24 hours of a snow storm.
- ◆ Don't push, plow, or blow the snow into the road.



Obtain latest Town News and information by getting on our email list by sending an email to town@sykesville.net or in October look for "Notify Me" at www.townofsykesville.org.

BECOME INVOLVED WITH YOUR TOWN

The Town of Sykesville is looking to fill the following volunteer opportunities:

- Planning Commission member - 5 year term and meets once a month on the first Monday of the month.
- Historic District Commission member - 3 year term and meets once a month on the fourth Tuesday of the month.
- Board of Zoning Appeals alternate - 3 year term and meets as needed.

Letters of interest and resumes for the positions above can be sent to town@sykesville.net by September 21, 2015.

- Parks and Recreation Committee is looking for volunteers to help with their events throughout the year. This Committee meets the fourth Thursday of every month.
- Gate House Museum is looking for volunteers to help with research, filing, and setting up displays.
- Main Street Association has many committees and could use help with all the events.
- Police Department is looking for individuals to become Auxiliary Officers.



For more information, contact the Town at 410-795-8959.





Andra Dennett, Curator

It's time for Back to School again! Remember that the Gate House Museum is always a great resource for those history reports and research projects that will be due soon. Keep an eye out for our new autumn exhibit *Sykesville High School: A Look Back* to be opening soon!

Come join us for our Fall Events:

Sykesville History Talk -

Saturday, September 12, 1:00pm, Eldersburg Library

Held on the same day as our Town's Harvest Festival, our curator Andra Dennett, will be giving a presentation about the development of our Town and community, along with the important figures who played a role in its history. The presentation will be held at the Eldersburg Branch of the Carroll County Public Library System.

Paint in the Park- Sunday, -

October 11, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

The museum will once again be hosting a painting session in

At the Gate House

Cooper Millard Park. Paint, brushes, and canvases will be provided at \$6.00 per person (and \$4.00 for every additional canvas). We hope you can make it out for this fundraiser. Just bring yourself and your imagination!

Sykesville Fall 5K -

Saturday, November 7, 8:00am - 11:00am

The museum will be teaming up with the Sykesville Community Garden to hold our first 5K run! Athletes of all ages and abilities are welcome. Keep an eye on our Facebook site or call for upcoming information!

Visit our website at www.sykesville.net or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/gatehousemuseum for more information on the museum and its mission.

Hours of Operation:

Friday 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.



7283 Cooper Drive, Sykesville, MD 21784 • 410-549-5150

www.sykesville.net • www.facebook.com/gatehousemuseum

The Historic Sykesville Colored Schoolhouse

Let's step back to 1903. Three African-American fathers from the hillside above Sykesville asked the Carroll County Board of Commissioners for a schoolhouse so their children might have the education their parents were denied. Immediately an acre of land was purchased and a simple schoolhouse was constructed. Perhaps the reason the land was acquired so rapidly was its steep slope. No crops could be grown on the sharp hillside. The school bell rang out on January 3, 1904, and for the next 35 years the Historic Sykesville Colored Schoolhouse led children from ignorance to enlightenment.



Now let's fast-forward to 2006. After closing its doors, the Schoolhouse had become a family home for nearly 40 years. Sadly, the family moved away. The abandoned Schoolhouse started to decay. In 1998, with collapse a real possibility, the Town of Sykesville initiated efforts to restore the structure. Eight years of hard work (and fundraising!) later, the rehabilitated Schoolhouse was rededicated in September 2006. It had a story to share with today's learners, one of perseverance and strength in the face of segregation and poverty. And share that story it did! Until that steep hillside became a problem.

Each storm eroded the hillside. Soil and rocks tumbled onto the walkway up to the building. While indoors the Schoolhouse was ADA-compliant, the exterior walkway was not. The Schoolhouse was deemed inaccessible for visiting school groups. Its valuable lessons were no longer being taught. The Town of Sykesville initiated efforts to redesign the walkway, installing a stone retaining wall to prevent further erosion of the hillside and hard-surfacing the walkway itself.

Work is completed! The Schoolhouse has claimed victory over its precarious hillside location. The doors are open! The school bell is ringing! School groups, Scout troops, church youth groups, adult organizations, and others who are interested are invited to visit the Historic Sykesville Colored Schoolhouse and hear its fascinating story.

Please contact Pat Greenwald, the Schoolhouse coordinator, at patgreenwald@comcast.net or 410-489-6540.

ENJOY OUR FREE FALL OPEN HOUSES:

Hoping to ring the bell for you!

School Days! School Days! on

Sunday, October 4, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. and

An Old-Fashioned Christmas on

Sunday, December 6. 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Both events will include crafts for the kids, old-fashioned treats, and, of course, the story of the Schoolhouse.



Sykesville Main Street



www.facebook.com/sykesville

www.sykesvillemainstreet.com



HARVEST FESTIVAL

September 12, from 9am to 5pm

A new twist on a timeless classic, the upcoming Harvest Festival is a re-imagining of the traditional Fall Festival. An opportunity for families and friends to meet on Main Street, the Festival will feature local food and craft vendors, an



apple pie baking contest, a pancake breakfast at St. Paul's United Methodist Church on Main Street from 7 - 10 am, live entertainment and more. The Festival is made possible with the support of Carroll Community Bank, the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, the Carroll County Times, and Shannon-Baum Signs. For more information, go to www.sykesvillemainstreet.com or www.facebook.com/Sykesvillemainstreet.com.

In historic Downtown Sykesville, it's never hard to find something to enjoy! Whether it's a delicious meal, a relaxing salon treatment, or a new addition to the wardrobe, there's something for everyone on Main Street. But it hasn't always been that way. The tireless efforts of the Sykesville Main Street Association, countless hours devoted by volunteers in the community, and generous financial contributions have combined to make our Town an enjoyable place to live, work and play. With that in mind, I'd like to take a moment to spotlight some of the wonderful projects that are in progress or have been completed to make Main Street better for all:

COMMUNITY GARDEN

In case you haven't noticed, behind the hedges on the Town House lawn rest multiple beds of lush greenery and thriving vegetation. The Community Garden, a project by the Main Street Association's Green Committee, provides an opportunity for a bona fide gardening experience in a small urban setting. Members of the Green Committee meet weekly at the garden (on Wednesday evenings) to perform maintenance and upkeep, as well as to harvest some of the Garden's delicious bounty. All are welcome at these Twilight Sessions to learn more about the garden and to "pick a weed, pick a veggie."



And finally, I'd like to note that opening a business can be a very positive experience; however, it's far from a sure thing. The Town and the Main Street Association are tremendously grateful to the businesses that place their confidence in our growing community. With that in mind, I would like to welcome two brand new businesses to Sykesville: **Tri-Sport Junction (7568 Main Street)** and **The Sports Nut (7541 Main Street)**. On behalf of the Town and Main Street Association, I wish you luck in your new endeavors!

FARMERS' MARKET

Every Sunday through October 4, the Sykesville Farmers' Market takes place on Baldwin's Drive by the Centennial Fountain Park. With more than 20 vendors, the Market is a wonderful opportunity to purchase locally grown produce, fresh meats and eggs, cheese, homemade soaps



and scrubs, handmade jewelry, and specialty goods (pickles, honey, candied nuts, sangria, etc.). Buying from these local vendors isn't just good for the consumer, either! Vendors at the Market eliminate the middle man, allowing them to retain more of their profits and keep their businesses thriving, ensuring that they'll be around for years to come.



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Old Main Line Visitor Center and Post Office



The Train is chugging along down here at Old Main Line Visitors Center and Post Office! We have been hearing great feedback about how excited the Town residents are to have a Post Office available in Town to do their business.

We have a new member on our Team, Tom Glinka. Tom has been a pleasure to have working here because he is so knowledgeable about our quaint little Town of Sykesville.

Stop in, say hi and meet him.

Also, we were pleasantly surprised to have the Forever Stamps remain at 49 cents while other postal rates have increased. Please stop in for all of your postal needs this fall and remember us for the holidays too.

As a reminder, we have our "Room with a View" for rent above the Post Office. It is a great place to have a meeting, small party or gathering.

Old Main Line Visitors Center & Post Office, 731 Oklahoma Ave. • 410-552-9975

Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. & 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sykesville Parks & Recreation

Sykesville Parks and Recreation Committee meets at the Town House on the 4th Thursday of the month, 7pm.

For more information, please call 410-795-8959 or email parks@sykesville.net. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Sykesvilleparksandrecreationcommittee and get up-to-date information on events and projects.



Sykesville Cinema - With a 12' inflatable movie screen and a powerful audio and video system, the Sykesville Parks and Recreation Committee runs four quality-run movies each summer. Movies are shown on the second Saturday of each month throughout the summer. The Lorax, Night at the Museum 2, and Earth to Echo were big hits this summer. We're wrapping up this year's Summer Series with The Lego Movie. Weather permitting, the movie will be shown on Saturday, September 12.



SPARC will be showing the original animated movie, A Charlie Brown Christmas, just outside the Old Main Line Visitor Center and Post Office during this year's Merry Main Street event (Saturday, December 5). The movie will be in full view of the kids and parents as they line up for a visit with Santa Claus.

Geocaching - Did you know there are Geocache sites in Sykesville? What's geocaching? Geocaching is a popular activity that involves the use of navigation to find hidden items around the world. Using mainly global positioning systems (GPS), adventurers seek out specific coordinates to find hidden boxes and enjoy prestige. In order to geocache in style, a hearty adventurer needs a few important geocaching supplies and a desire to hunt down slightly buried treasure.

Here is the geocaching 101 link. There are apps out there, some free and some that cost \$\$ www.geocaching.com/guide. Start your adventure today, go explore our parks and trails.

Thank You!!! SPARC would like to thank Sykesville's Police Department, Auxiliary Police, and Public Works Department. Sykesville Cinema and the Concerts in the Park series would not be possible without their support.



SPARC is looking for additional members and volunteers who are interested in making a difference in our parks, recreational activities and events for our families and others. If you have a few hours a month to spare and would like to join the team, please email parks@sykesville.net or call 410-795-8959.

Sykesville Police Department

Michael Spaulding, Chief of Police



With school in session, Chief Spaulding would like to remind motorists to use extra caution while traveling through town and through our neighborhoods. Motorists are reminded to be observant of any school bus which is stopped for the purpose of loading or unloading children, and that it is a violation of Maryland Law to pass a school bus which has activated flashing red lights and/or an extended stop sign arm. The penalty for such a violation is a fine of \$570 and 3 points! I am pleased to announce that the Sykesville Police Department was awarded a grant from the Governor's Office specifically for, school bus safety enforcement, and as such, we will have extra personnel on duty during the mornings and afternoons for school bus safety enforcement.

Also, the Chief would like to offer the following safety tips to parents and children regarding going back to school:

- Walk on the sidewalk, if one is available. When on a street with no sidewalk, walk facing the traffic.
- Before you cross a street, stop and look left, then right, then left again to see if cars are coming.
- Never dart out in front of a parked car.
- Practice walking to school with your children. Cross streets at crosswalks when available.
- If you ride a bicycle to school, always wear a helmet when leaving the house.
- Make sure the helmet is fitted and secured properly.
- Teach your child the rules of the road, i.e. riding on the right side of the road, with traffic, in a single file and coming to a complete stop at stop signs or before crossing the road.
- If your child rides a bus, go to the bus stop with your child to teach them the proper way to get on and off the bus.
- Make sure that your child stands 6 feet away (or 3 giant steps) from the curb.
- If you must cross the street in front of the bus, do so in a way that you can see the bus driver and he/she can see you.
- Choose a backpack for your child carefully, and make sure that it is not overloaded and that your child uses both straps

TIP: SIGN UP FOR NIXLE

Text your zip code to 888777.

If there is an emergency public concern within the Town, a text message will be sent to you.



7565 Main Street
Sykesville, MD
410-795-1001
www.ewbecks.com

getsyked

Do you own a business in town?
Get Syked!
rediscover Sykesville Main Street

Would you like to meet other Sykesville business owners?

Join us for coffee & conversation on May 29, June 26, July 31, August 28, or September 25 at 9:00am at E.W. Beck's Pub.

Contact rachael@ewbecks.com for more info and meeting

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Sykesville **FALL** Events

First Fridays on Main Street | Every First Friday | 5pm-8pm

Live Music – Sips & Snacks – Open Late

Sykesville Farmers' Market | Every Sunday | 9am-2pm thru October 4

Baldwin's Drive at the Centennial Fountain Park

Join us for a special Sustainability Event on September 27!

Harvest Festival on Main Street | September 12 | 9am-5pm

Pancake Breakfast at St. Paul's | 7-10 am,

Food & Craft Vendors – Live Entertainment – Apple Pie Baking Contest — and more!

Halloween on Main Street | October 29 | 5-7pm

Trick-or-Treat – Crafts & Activities – Costumes

Chili & Beer Festival on Main Street | November 7 | 12-5pm

Local Craft Beer – Chili Cookoff – Live Entertainment

Military Memorial Dedication at the Town House | November 11 | noon

Sykesville Cinema | September 12 | Movie begins at Dusk

Miller Cooper Park | The LEGO Movie

Gate House Museum

Sykesville History Talk | September 12 | 1pm

Eldersburg Public Library

Paint in the Park | October 11 | 1-3pm

Millard-Cooper Park

5K Run | November 7 | 8-11am

Historic Colored Schoolhouse

Open House | School Days! School Days! | October 4 | 1-4pm

Open House | Old Fashioned Christmas | December 6 | 1-4pm

For more information check out:
www.sykesvillemainstreet.com
www.facebook.com/gatehousemuseum
[#getsyked](https://twitter.com/getsyked)