



SPRING 2016

Town of Historic Sykesville

NEWSLETTER

www.townofsykesville.org
town@sykesville.net

TOWN OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Dawn M. Ashbacher
Town Manager
410-795-6390

Evelyn M. Sweet
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

ANTICIPATION OF SPRING!

Ian Shaw, Mayor

As I am writing this we are dealing with yet another blast of snow from Mother Nature and frigid temperatures. I have great anticipation for spring to arrive in the Town of Sykesville. The initial warm weather perhaps lulled us into thinking we may dodge a costly winter with numerous snow storms. That of course was not the case as we experienced record-breaking amounts of snow with the Blizzard of 2016. We all thank you for your patience during that monumental event that taxed both our staff and resources.

As we are only weeks away from the start of spring there is much to celebrate here in Sykesville. The Town has had a great amount of ongoing success with our Main Street events with our first ever winter event this year, the "Ice Fest and Black Ice Gala". We would like to thank our Main Street Association staff and countless volunteers. All of your support and help is greatly appreciated for all of these events as they do bring lots of energy and excitement to our Town. Please visit the upcoming events this spring and consider volunteering with the Main Street Association or for the Town positions that may be of interest to you. Your help really makes a difference.

As the weather warms up, it is with great anticipation we celebrate the new addition to South Branch Park. Currently under construction, the new Skatepark looks to be really exciting and we hope to have a grand opening. Representatives from Howard County Parks and Recreation were instrumental in getting this project moving forward and the Town of Sykesville appreciates all of their involvement. Many others were involved with the design of the Skatepark and we truly appreciate each and every one of you! We continue

to value the entire South Branch Park site as a wonderful resource for both Sykesville and Howard County and are excited about more great future improvement.



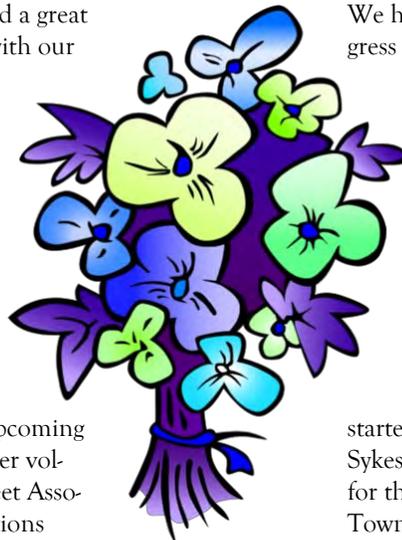
Progress continues on the Warfield Development with continued hopes of a transfer of the property in the near future. There continues to be many challenges as well as continued headway. Each challenge that is met brings added value for the future success of the site.

We have also made some very good progress with our Streetscape Enhancement project for Maryland 851 (Main Street and Springfield Ave.). Staff and numerous volunteers and meetings have yielded some very good and interesting progress with spirited discussion. It likely will be a long process, but I believe it will be critical for the Town's ongoing viability and future success.

Finally, the Council and I have started a plan to create a blueprint for Sykesville's future and an updated vision for the ongoing future success of the Town projects. It is with much anticipation that this effort has begun.

Please visit our newly designed website, www.townofsykesville.org. While there, please sign up for the Notify Me feature, as this can be very useful to stay abreast of changes to services and for upcoming notifications of safety issues, cancellations and events. Truly a great and simple tool to stay connected.

Best wishes for a wonderful spring. I hope to see you all soon, Ian Shaw, Mayor ♦



See upcoming EVENTS inside & on the back cover.

2016 Trash, Recycling, and Yard Waste Schedule

ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY, SATURDAY, APRIL 16 - FREE BULK PICK-UP!

- ◆ On Friday night, place unwanted items curb side.
- ◆ Remember no car parts, paint, chemicals, rocks, dirt, or tree stumps.
- ◆ No yard waste.
- ◆ Nothing larger than a 4x4 pile of wood or other stack-able product.
- ◆ All appliances or any metal will be picked up on Monday, April 18.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- ◆ Trash pick-up is normally scheduled for Tuesday or Wednesday, depending on where you live. Please place it at the curb the night before the scheduled pick-up.
- ◆ Recycling pick-up for Town residents is Friday. Please place it at the curb the night before the scheduled pick-up.
- ◆ Bulk pick-up or dumpster rentals are available to Town residents for a fee and are based on weight. Call 410-795-8959 to schedule or fill out the form on the website www.townofsyskeville.org.
- ◆ Please place animal waste in plastic bags.



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.
- ◆ Please keep vehicles off the road during snow events.
- ◆ Don't push, plow, or blow the snow into the road.
- ◆ Please clear out Fire Hydrants after snow events.

YARD WASTE

- ◆ The Town will pick-up yard waste on your trash day between April 13 and run through December 8.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Loose limbs at the curb will not be collected.
- ◆ All brush and limbs must be bundled in 4x4 piles.
- ◆ 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 2017 (5 & 12).

VEGETATION AND TREE TRIMMING

On February 22, 2016, the Town of Sykesville Mayor and Town Council approved an Ordinance providing for the regulation and control of trees and vegetation located on roadside property and elsewhere within the Town. Property owners of roadside property shall maintain all vegetation growth by keeping the area trimmed so as to prevent obstruction of travel on roads and sidewalks. Property owners must keep trees which overhang a road at least 13.5' above the road or which overhang a sidewalk at least 10' above the sidewalk. A full copy of the ordinance is available at www.townofsyskeville.org.

- Trim all vegetation and growth around stop signs
- Trim all trees overhanging a road to at least 13.5"
- Trim all trees overhanging a sidewalk to at least 10'



GRASS MOWING

- Keep your grass trimmed to less than 12"
- Don't put grass trimmings in the street

STORM DRAINS

- Prevent grass clippings and leaves from getting into the drains
- Nutrients breakdown from the clippings are harmful to the water quality
- Clippings clog drains, cause flooding and storm drain failure



Sykesville Parks & Recreation



Sykesville Parks and Recreation Committee (SPARC) meets at the Town House on the 4th Thursday of the month, at 7:00 pm. For more information, please call 410-795-8959 or email parks@sykesville.net.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Please join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Friday, March 25 at 10:00 am at Millard Cooper Park for children 8 years and under. There will be a separate area for kids 3 years old and younger. The Easter Bunny is scheduled to make an appearance so remember to bring your camera as well as your Easter basket. Save the date and don't be late!



SPARC COMMUNITY OUTREACH

With your help, Sykesville Parks and Recreation hopes to support various charities within our community. During the 2016 Sykesville Cinema Summer Series, we'll be collecting donations of non-perishable food items for **Carroll County Food Sunday**. Please help us with this very worthy cause by placing your donated items in the marked plastic bins found as you enter the park during movie nights.

Carroll County Food Sunday encourages donors to give the kind of nutritious, non-perishable food they would serve their own families. Listed below is their Wish List.

- Canned Fruit
- Hot or Cold Cereal
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Tuna, Chicken, or Salmon
- Plain Rice
- Canned Soup
- Spaghetti in one pound boxes, Macaroni & Cheese
- Peanut Butter; Canned Beans
- Tomato Sauce



Sykesville
Concerts in the Park

SYKESVILLE CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Sykesville Parks & Recreation Committee is planning a wonderful 2016 season! Dates and bands are currently being finalized. Concerts will be held at Millard Cooper Park. Keep an eye out for more details on

Facebook at www.facebook.com/Sykesvilleparksandrecreationcommittee and www.townofsykesville.org/Sykesville-Parks

SYKESVILLE CINEMA RETURNS FOR ITS 6TH SEASON!



With a 12' inflatable movie screen and a powerful audio and video system, the Sykesville Parks and Recreation Committee will be returning with quality-run movie performances.

Movies will once again be shown the second Saturday of each month throughout the summer. This year's Summer Series will be held at **Millard Cooper Park**. Each show begins around dusk - so come early to get a good seat (don't forget to bring your lawn chairs). General parking is available nearby at Sykesville Middle School. Millard Cooper Park includes convenient easily accessible handicapped parking. The **Snack Shack** will be serving delicious, freshly-popped popcorn, hot dogs, Hoffman's ice cream, candy, soda pop, bottled water, and glow sticks!

Get re-acquainted with our Town by spending the day visiting our many fine shops and restaurants; enjoying our parks and trails. Then enjoy a FREE movie under the stars at Millard Cooper Park.

SYKESVILLE CINEMA 2016 SUMMER SERIES

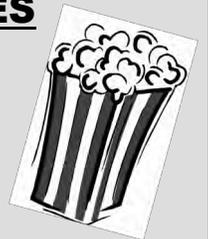
Saturday, May 14
The Lego Movie

Saturday, June 11
Inside Out

Saturday, July 09
Jurassic Park

Saturday, August 13
Ratatouille

Reserved Rain Date: Saturday, September 10



VOLUNTEERS

The Parks and Recreation Committee 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

Have you heard about Nixle®? Founded in 2007, Nixle® works with over 4600 public safety agencies across the US to ensure that you get the vital information you need, when you need it. Though this service is free of

charge, please be advised that your standard carrier text message and cellular rates apply.

We currently only have 743 subscribers to this service, and we would like to do better! Please take a minute to sign up for this free service so that you can ensure you receive all notifications that are sent out!

By simply sending a text message with your zip code to 888777, you are instantly registered to receive text messages from local public safety agencies in your area. If you want more control, you can create a Nixle® account at www.nixle.com and tailor exactly what information you receive and how you want to receive it – via text message, email, mobile application, or web browser. Please take a few moments to register for this exciting new public safety tool.

Also, please check out the Police Department's home page on our new Town website (www.townofsykesville.org) as well as our Facebook page for all of the latest information about your Police Department. Comments and suggestions are always welcome!

BECOME INVOLVED WITH YOUR TOWN

Letters of interest and resumes for the following positions can be sent to town@sykesville.net

- **Planning and Zoning Commission** member – 5 year term and meets on the first Monday of every month. Principal functions include developing plans for future developments, preparing recommended zoning, and subdivision regulations, approving site plans, and subdivision record plats.
- **Historic District Commission** member – 3 year term and meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Principal functions are to approve any exterior alterations, new construction, or changes to important landscape features prior to beginning work within the Town's Historical District.
- **Board of Zoning Appeals** member and alternate – 3 year term meets on an as needed base. Principal functions are to review applications for variances and special permits in accordance with Town Zoning Ordinance.



- Office Printing (*bus. cards, letterhead, etc.*)
- Screen Printing (*t-shirts, hoodies, etc.*)
- Embroidery (*shirts, caps, jackets, etc.*)
- Signs, Banners, Posters
- Graphic Design
- Personalized Gifts
- Promotional Items
- And much more...

Sykesville Office
7550 Main Street
443.609.4787

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The Historic Sykesville Colored Schoolhouse



Voices from its past have called out to the Historic Sykesville Colored Schoolhouse over the past few months. We received a wonderful bequest in memory of Irene Adele Harris Ridgely, (1894-1977). Her daughter, Helen Ridgely Gaither, recalled her mother often remarked that she would like to make a donation for the restoration of the "old schoolhouse on Oklahoma Road." Adele Harris Ridgely was the sister of Marion and Margaret Harris, known to many for her service at the Harris Store on Main Street. Another voice we heard from was Warren Dorsey. He has been named Person-of-the-Year by the Carroll County Human Relations Commission. He will be honored at a March 21 dinner for his work at the Schoolhouse and for sharing his memoirs

with "In Carrie's Footprints, The Long Walk of Warren Dorsey".

The Schoolhouse is alive on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 – 5:30 pm. St. Paul's United Methodist Church has brought it back to its original purpose, teaching kids of all grades within its walls. Students from Piney Ridge Elementary School and Sykesville Middle School are members of the Homework Club; they enjoy a healthy snack, get assistance with their homework, work on any academic weaknesses, and create crafts.

The Schoolhouse will have its next family Open House on Sunday, April 3. Children will create "Pots of Posies," beginning by painting a clay flower pot. As the paint dries, we will learn how seeds work, then fill the pots with soil and seeds.

For information on Field Trips for school classes, Scout troops, church groups, or adult clubs, please contact patgreenwald@comcast.net

Sunday, April 3, 1:30 p.m.

"POTS OF POSIES"

event for
children and adults.





Steven Colella

Sykesville Main Street



www.facebook.com/sykesville

www.sykesvillemainstreet.com



MAIN STREET HAPPENINGS

With a successful first IceFest and Black Ice Gala in the books, the Sykesville Main Street Association is thrilled to leap into 2016 with renewed energy for growth and development! From a new board of directors to exciting new projects, the Association will be working hard to ensure that downtown Sykesville is a vibrant place to live, work and play.

Coming up this Spring are great activities and programs, including the return of the Sykesville Farmers' Market and the 6th Annual Fine Art & Wine Festival. Several grant awards will also ensure that Sykesville Main Street will be looking its best as façade improvement projects, historic wayside exhibits and more are completed to expand our ever-growing list of downtown offerings.

As always, the Main Street Association is thrilled to welcome volunteers to assist with the coordination and implementation of these and other great events. Our planning committees meet regularly on the following dates:

- Promotion & Organization - 1st Tuesday of the month, 7pm
- Economic Development - 1st Thursday of the month, 7pm
- Design - 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7pm
- Green - 2nd Thursday of the month, 7pm

If you would like to volunteer to help out at an event or attend a committee meeting, please contact us at mainstreet@sykesville.net.

Don't miss the 6th Annual

Art & Wine FESTIVAL May 1 12-5pm

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At the Gate House

Andra Dennett, Former Curator

Over the last few years I have had the privilege of caring for and leading the Sykesville Gate House Museum. My time as the Town's curator has been greatly rewarding and I have had the chance to explore our local history and meet plenty of new and interesting people. At this time, however, I would like to announce that I have accepted a new position in project and contract management. As I move onto this new career path, I am confident that I will be leaving the museum in capable hands.

I would like to thank the community, the museum's volunteers, and the Town of Sykesville for giving me the opportunity to be a part of their excellent workforce. I wish everyone all the best for the future.

The Mayor and Town Council, staff and all the volunteers at the Gate House would like to wish Andra Dennett good luck with her new endeavor. She will be missed. We would like to welcome two curators to the Gate House Museum, Valerie Schultz and Jack White. They both bring a lot of experience for the future of the Gate House Museum.



Valerie Schultz, Curator of Development, has lived in the Sykesville area for the last 44 years. Valerie successfully owned a retail business for over 20 years. She became a founding member of the South Carroll Business Association. While working in this organization, she became the chairperson on the Beautification Committee and worked to beautify Rt. 26.

As a currently retired employee, she became involved with the Westminster Boys and Girls club and was honored with the Guardian Angel Award. Valerie has 2 daughters, a son and 4 grandchildren.



Jack White, Curator of History, grew up in Philadelphia and studied history and creative writing at Penn State. He received his Master's in Computer Information Systems from Boston University and spent 5 years in the army.

He works as publications manager for GSE Systems and is the author of "In Carrie's

Footprints," an account of Sykesville's African-American Dorsey family.

Jack lives in the Town of Sykesville with his wife and 2 daughters.

7283 Cooper Drive
Sykesville, MD 21784

410-549-5150
www.townofsykesville.org

The Gate House will be closed for the foreseeable future while the new curators refresh and refocus the museum to create a more compelling visitor experience. Once we have a firm date, we'll announce the reopening on the town website and the museum's Facebook page.

Old Main Line Visitor Center and Post Office

Thank you for making 2015 a successful year. This past holiday season was very positive and we would like to thank all our customers. We are continuing to see many new faces at the Post Office and our loyal supportive town customers continue to use our services.

Remember Old Main Line for your postage and shipping needs, conveniently located across from the French Twist Café.

Alas, along with another year, comes a rate decrease. Effective April 10, the Forever Stamp will be 47 cents. Please use up your current stock of Forever Stamps as refunds will not be issued. We will have plenty for sale in both adhesive books and rolls for your personal and business needs.

The newest stamp available for purchase is the Botanical Flowers and Hudson River School from the American Treasure collection.

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.



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.

PARK PAVILION RENTAL



Millard Cooper Park has two Pavilions that are available to rent from April through October. Included in the rental fee are picnic tables, grill, electricity, and bathroom facilities.

Rental Fee

Resident \$75 - must reside within the incorporated Town limits of Sykesville

Non Resident \$100

South Branch Park has a big Pavilion that is available to rent from April through October.

Included in the rental fee are picnic tables and a bathroom facility.

Rental Fee

Resident \$150 - must reside within the incorporated Town limits of Sykesville or be a Howard County resident.

Non Resident \$180



A driver's license will be required for proof of address.

A rental permit application can be found at www.townofsykesville.org Submit the application to the Town House at 7547 Main Street office. Call 410-795-8959 with any questions.

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FUN! Every Month on Main Street

6-9pm

**Pick up your Goodie Bag full of
coupons at**

Hair by Samsara at 6pm

getsyked

Sykesville **SPRING** Events

First Fridays | Every First Friday (5pm-8pm)

Main Street

Live Music – Sips & Snacks – Open Late

Easter Egg Hunt | Friday, March 25 (10am)

Millard Cooper Park

Kids Activities – Outdoor Fun – Easter Celebration

6th Annual Art & Wine Festival | Sunday, May 1 (12pm-5pm)*

Main Street

Unlimited Wine Sampling – Food Vendors – Local Art – Live Art Demos

FREE Entry | Sampling Bracelets + Collectible Glass: \$20/person

Sykesville Farmers' Market | Every Sunday, May 15 – October 30

(9am-1pm)

Baldwin Drive and Oklahoma Avenue

Live Music – Sips & Snacks – Open Late

Sykesville Cinema*

A seasonal favorite, the Sykesville Cinema outdoor movie series returns with great new selections for Summer 2016:

Saturday, May 14

The Lego Movie

Saturday, July 09

Jurassic Park

Saturday, June 11

Inside Out

Saturday, August 13

Ratatouille

Reserved Rain Date: Saturday, September 10

Historic Colored Schoolhouse

The Historic Colored Schoolhouse is available for private tours by appointment. Tours are also offered during seasonal events, including:

Pots of Posies | Sunday, April 3 (1:30pm)

Free event for children and adults

***For the safety of your pets and other attendees, please leave your pets at home.**



Little Sykes Railroad

Free rides for kids on a 1949
12-gauge B&O model train

Every Sunday, 9am-3pm
(lunch break between
noon and 1:00 pm)
starting May 29, 2016

S&P Railway

Model train displays & 20th
century train cars

Open & free to the public:
1st & 3rd Sundays | 10am-2pm

Visit facebook.com/sprailway

For more information check out:

www.townofsykesville.org • www.sykesvillemainstreet.com
www.townofsykesville.org/2151/Sykesville-Parks

***Events are subject to change.**

Please visit the websites listed above for the most up-to-date information about all Sykesville events.