



WINTER 2019

# Town of Historic Sykesville

## NEWSLETTER

[www.townofsykesville.org](http://www.townofsykesville.org)  
[town@sykesville.net](mailto:town@sykesville.net)

### TOWN OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Joseph Cosentinni  
Town Manager  
410-795-6390

Evelyn M. Sweet  
Town Treasurer  
410-795-8959

Kerry Chaney  
Town Clerk  
410-795-8959

Mark Onheiser  
Project Coordinator  
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

Derek Shreves  
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

### IAN SHAW, MAYOR

Happy Holidays from the Town House.



It's hard to believe yet another year is quickly coming to a close here in Sykesville! We have had a busy year with much activity in Town. It's been another exciting year with forward progress on many fronts and 2020 looks to be another great year here in Town as well.

Many more projects continue, the new splash pad at Cooper Park should make its debut in the Spring/Summer we look forward to that as well as other park improvements. We continue to discuss options for the renovation of the former Apple Butter Warehouse as well. While it could take some time, we are working on all fronts for an ongoing plan.

We will have a plan in place to update our 10 year Master Plan in early 2020. This is a comprehensive look at all of the Town's assets, and we are working on getting the firm in place to facilitate the process. This will be a community involved process, so we want to get as much input as possible. Please keep an eye out for updates and opportunities to participate. It will be an important process that will be a blueprint for the Town's future for the next 10 years.

With another a great year in Sykesville coming to a close, I certainly want to thank all of those who continuing to help us thrive and succeed. It's the great citizens, volunteers, and supporters locally and regionally. Thank You!

Please continue to support the Town events, and spend your dollars locally first! It really does make a difference to our local merchants and you can get some great holiday gifts and gift cards that will be much appreciated by the recipients!

On behalf of the entire Staff and Town Council, happy holidays, and we wish you a safe and prosperous New Year!

Sincerely, Ian Shaw Mayor



See upcoming EVENTS inside & on the back cover.

# Winter Weather!

## A MESSAGE FROM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR DEREK SHREVES

Winter is fast approaching, with that, comes the enjoyment of the holidays. Family, friends, parties and school or church programs. Winter also brings many challenges, snow, ice, and freezing rain leading to school closings, and travel delays or restrictions. When required, a snow emergency declaration is put in place by The Maryland State Police. The Town does not declare the snow emergency, but does enforce certain ordinances put in place by the declaration. (Town Ord §140)

Parking is not permitted on designated "Snow Emergency Routes" in order for Town snow removal equipment to keep roads clear for emergency services, other designated no parking areas are in place so Town crews have space to push snow out of cul-de-sacs and other roadways. Be observant to weather forecast as a snow emergency can be designated at any time, late evening or early morning. Town crews work all hours to make travel throughout Sykesville safe.

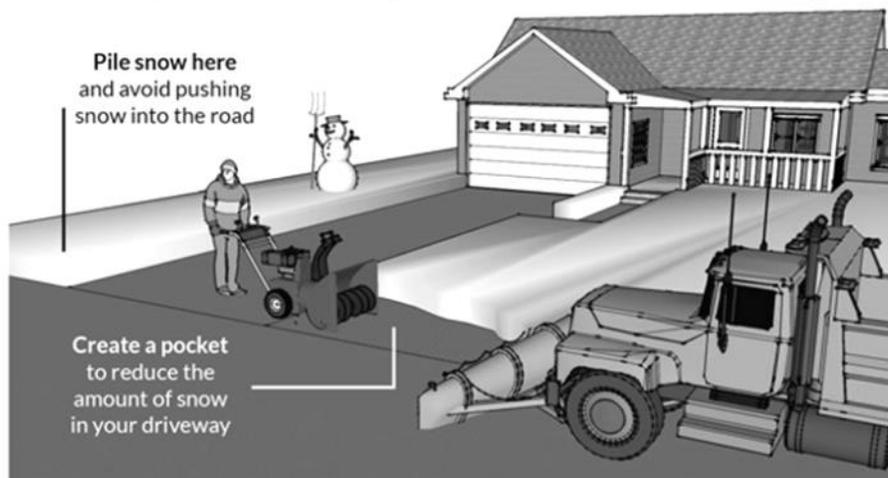
Town residents are reminded to keep sidewalks connected to their property free of snow and ice. Remember to wait until plows have come through your neighborhood to avoid having to shovel twice. Snow is not to be shoveled into roadways but kept on your property. Also important is keeping fire hydrants accessible and visible to emergency crews.

Keep in mind that during inclement weather Sykesville Public Works may have to reschedule trash and recycling pick-up while keeping the roads passable and safe. If necessary delays will be posted on social media and Town-house phone recordings.

The Town of Sykesville Public Works Department wishes all residents a safe and Happy Holiday season.

## How Can I Keep Snow Out of my Driveway?

*Before your street has been plowed, we recommend the following:*



Christmas trees will be picked up for recycling on your scheduled trash day on January 14, and 15 and January 21, and 22. Please place your Christmas tree by your curb the night before, and make sure to remove all lights, decorations, and tinsel.



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## Sykesville Police Department

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### **COLD WEATHER DRIVING TIPS:**

- Keep a bundle of cold-weather gear in your car, such as extra food and water, warm clothing, a flashlight, a glass scraper, blankets, medications, and more.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated and have plenty of tread.
- Keep at least half a tank of fuel in your vehicle at all times.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Never leave your vehicle unattended while warming it up, this is an invitation for thieves to take it and it is illegal.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface, such as on ice and snow.

### **TIPS FOR DRIVING IN THE SNOW:**

- Stay home. Only go out if necessary. Even if you can drive well in bad weather, it's better to avoid taking unnecessary risks by venturing out.
- Drive slowly. Always adjust your speed down to account for lower traction when driving on snow or ice.
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Apply the gas slowly to regain traction and avoid skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry and take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.
- Increase your following distance to five to six seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.
- Know your brakes. Whether you have antilock brakes or not, keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.
- Don't stop if you can avoid it. There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.
- Don't power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads will just make your wheels spin. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed downhill slowly.
- Don't stop going up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR AN APPROACHING STORM:**

- Listen to weather forecasts and plan ahead.
- If you lose power, use flashlights. Do not use candles or kerosene lamps; they can create a safety hazard.
- Develop a family emergency plan that includes alternative arrangements should you need to leave your home. Make provisions for special needs family members such as the elderly, disabled, medically affected, or infants. If you are dependent on electric-powered medical equipment, seek alternate arrangements in the event of an outage.
- Have the following items on ready
  - ◇ Flashlights, not candles
  - ◇ Fresh batteries
  - ◇ Battery-operated clock radio
  - ◇ Fully-charged cell phone
  - ◇ Non-perishable foods
  - ◇ Water: one gallon of bottled water per person per day without electric service. If your home is served by well water, fill a bathtub with water for sanitation use.
  - ◇ Local maps
  - ◇ Blankets
- Keep a first-aid kit in your home and in your car. Visit the FEMA Emergency Preparedness checklist for recommended items.
- Make a list of emergency phone numbers (including 1-877-737-2662 to report outages).
- Keep cash on hand.

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## Old Main Line Visitor Center and Post Office

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There is a chill in the air, but here at Old Main Line Visitors Center and Post Office, we have a warm welcome for all our customers.

We have lots of new stamps in stock for Fall and Winter including Holiday stamps:

Winter Berries and Holiday Wreaths are most popular, along with Purple Hearts, Love Stamps and to honor our military, we have the Military Working Dog Stamp.

Priority flat rate letters are \$7.35, padded flat rate envelopes are \$8.00. And these can be delivered in 2 days. Flat Rate boxes are

available in small, medium and large. If you know you need stamps in advance, feel free to call us and we can special order for your needs.

As a reminder, we have the Tower Room for rent above the Post Office. It is a great place to have a meeting, small party or gathering! Stop in for details.

Hours are: **Monday through Friday: 9AM – 5PM** (closed for mail pick-up 2:00-2:30) **Saturday: 9AM – 1PM**

Phone -410-552-9975 ♦ Email- [postoffice@sykesville.net](mailto:postoffice@sykesville.net)  
Your friendly staff- Cecelia, Tom, Joyce, and Sarah



## Sykesville Main Street

Julie Della-Maria, DSC Executive Director

www.DowntownSykesville.com | www.facebook.com/sykesville/  
DowntownSykesvilleConnection@gmail.com  
7307 Spout Hill Road, Sykesville, MD 21784  
410-259-3515



### THE NEWLY ELECTED EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS



**Our President -**

Dana Alonzi, OTR/L, Johns Hopkins Hospital

Dana has been part of the Main Street program since its creation. She lives in Sykesville and loves her adopted hometown. She has been leading the Design Committee since its debut and brought to you a forged bike rack, 10 mini Snallygaster murals, 1 tank pig and so much more.

*Be more like Dana, bring beauty to your Town*

**Our Vice-President -**

Rich Austin, Trembling Giant Marketing



Rich has been involved with the Main Street program since 2015, in several committees, dozens of Farmers Markets, and all our major events. He also has been volunteering his creative skills for DSC's projects.

*Be more like Rich, be resilient.*

### THE ONES THAT CANNOT GET ENOUGH OF THE DSC (OR WEREN'T ALLOWED TO LEAVE)



**Our Secretary -**

Lisa Berman, Impaq International Inc

Lisa is a Sykesville resident who joined the Promotion Committee 4 years ago and got her socks wet helping at each Art & Wine Festival ever since. She has been doing a tremendous job designing policies, manuals and keeping minutes and agendas to improve the operations of our nonprofit.

*Be more like Lisa, help shape a better future.*

**Our treasurer -**

Rudy Linde, Northrop-Grumman



Rudy has been instrumental to the growth of our organization. He keeps our numbers and staff in check and works tirelessly to make sure our investment in projects is optimized to better serve our community.

*Be more like Rudy, know your mathematics.*

### OUR OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

- ◇ Jane Linde, Tri Sport Junction/ DSC liaison to the Sykesville Merchants
- ◇ Leo Keenan, Town Council/DSC liaison to the Town of Sykesville, Assist-2-sell
- ◇ Mary Ellen Will, Resident
- ◇ Michelle Williams, M&T Bank
- ◇ Rachael Beck, E.W. Beck's Pub & Restaurant

*Be more like them, volunteer for the DSC*

2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
Mimosas on Main Street by the Main Street Merchants Sunday, April 5, 2020 - 1-4pm	Trick or Treat Main Street by the Main Street Merchants Saturday October 24, 2020 - 5-7pm
Art & Wine Festival Sunday, May 3, 2020 - 12-5pm	Sykesville Craft Beer Festival Saturday, November 14, 2020 - 12-5pm
Farmer's Market Sundays, May 17 - October 25, 2020 - 9am-1pm	Twelve Hours of Christmas by the Main Street Merchants Friday, December 4, 2020 - 10am-10pm
Coollest Mile on Main Street (TBD)	Merry Main Street Saturday, December 12, 2020 - 12-4pm
Let Freedom Ring Parade Saturday July 4, 2020.	Visit <a href="http://www.facebook.com/sykesville">www.facebook.com/sykesville</a> for more Merchants and community events/programs

# Recycling!

## Council Member Stacy Link's Recycling Tips

**P**LASTIC. It is absolutely everywhere. We have come to rely on it and use it in its many forms all day every day. A recycling program is only as good as the recycler (that's us), and when we put things that can be responsibly recycled in our trash cans, we are not only wasting resources, we are wasting money. The Town (that's us taxpaying citizens) pays tipping fees at the landfill for the contents of every trash truck that our Department of Public Works crew collects twice a week. On the flipside, conscientious recyclers, who place only acceptable items in their recycling bins each week, not only reduce trash tipping fees, but also reduce the risk that an entire truck of recycling will be rejected due to contamination. This is a real risk, as it has actually happened earlier this year.

I've always been someone who tries to find a way to yes. So, in the hopes of minimizing confusion *and* waste, here are some important don'ts and dos.

1. **DON'T** place plastic grocery/ retail bags in your curbside bin—not a single bag, or a bag of bags or a bag of recycling.

Why? Because plastic bags clog up recycling processing equipment just like hair clogs up the rollers of a vacuum cleaner. The same is true for:

- ✓ Produce bags (what you use to carry home your apples and asparagus from the grocery store)
- ✓ Bread bags
- ✓ Newspaper bags
- ✓ Food storage bags (AKA Ziplock™ bags and snack/sandwich baggies)
- ✓ Most stretchy plastic wraps, like the wrap around multi-packs of drink bottles, paper towels, napkins, toilet paper & diapers
- ✓ Plastic wrap on cases of water bottles and the like
- ✓ Packaging air pillows AND Bubble wrap
- ✓ Some plastic cereal bags (inside the box)
- ✓ Amazon Prime (and similar) Padded envelopes
- ✓ Pouches carrying dishwasher and clothes washer single use packs (and similar)

**DO** take ALL of the above items to local grocery stores. Place them in the well-marked receptacles just before grabbing your cart. Then decrease the number of these bags you bring home by making use of some reusable cloth bags. Look for this label on any questionable plastic/film packaging. And visit <https://how2recycle.info/> for more very helpful information.



2. **DON'T** place Styrofoam™ at curbside for recycling OR trash pickup. Expanded polystyrene (EPS) more commonly called by a well-known brand name, "Styrofoam" is actually plastic infused with air and it seems to be everywhere. EPS is marked with this symbol  and includes:

- ✓ Clean foam food service containers, including foam cups, plates, take-out containers,
- ✓ Egg cartons
- ✓ Shaped or molded foam often used to package electronics

**DO TAKE** all of the above in a clear plastic bag to the Northern Landfill Recycling Center, 1400 Baltimore Boulevard, Westminster, Monday - Friday, 7 AM - 4:30 PM and Saturdays 7 AM - 3 PM. Once the polystyrene foam is dropped off at the county collection site, it is then picked up by Dart® Container Corporation and taken to its plant in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where it is reprocessed and sold to manufacturers that make new products such as picture frames and moldings, office desk products, building insulation, and other consumer goods.

No foam packaging peanuts are accepted at the Northern Landfill. BUT, guess what! You CAN take packing peanuts to most post offices and shipping stores.

Tune in to our Spring Newsletter for more of Council Member Link's Recycling Tips where she will reveal a great FREE recycling opportunity for "Hard Plastics"—which are also not accepted in our curbside residential recycling pickup. But if you can't wait, check out (and like/ follow) the Town of Sykesville's Facebook page where Stacy posts regularly.



## *Sykesville Parks and Recreation Committee*

The winter is normally a quiet time for Sykesville Parks and Recreation Committee (SPARC), so we'd like to reflect on how lucky we are to live in a town with great natural resources, outdoor activities for all, and a community full of people that want Sykesville to be the best it can be. SPARC would not be able to provide such great events without its dedicated volunteers. As we enter the holiday season, we are so thankful for those who dedicate their time and energy to support SPARC events and planning.

SPARC meets at the Town House on the fourth Thursday of every month at 7pm. Please note there is no SPARC meeting for December 2019.

### *Sykesville Cinema Costume Contest*

Thanks to all who participated in the Sykesville Cinema's Spooktacular Double Feature costume contest and congrats to the winners!

### *Upcoming Events*

This spring we will be sponsoring another SPARC cleanup in April.

Please stay

tuned for more details. Come out, show your support, and help us clean our parks.

We're planning an exciting 2020 season! Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/Sykesvilleparksandrecreationcommittee](http://www.facebook.com/Sykesvilleparksandrecreationcommittee) and get up-to-date

information on events and projects.



### *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. Whether you would like to help a few hours once or are looking for an ongoing opportunity, there are plenty of ways you can make a difference! If you're interested in learning more, please email [parks@sykesville.net](mailto:parks@sykesville.net), stop by a SPARC meeting, or ask us about volunteer opportunities when you see us at an event.

Happy Holidays and have a wonderful New Year!!!

## *The Historic Sykesville Colored Schoolhouse*



School was very different when the bell first rang at the Historic Sykesville Colored Schoolhouse on January 3, 1903. All the children had walked to school, some from Howard County. The teacher had trekked from her Baltimore home to Camden Station, then taken the train to Baldwin's Station, where she disembarked to climb up the hill to the school. Two of the older boys had arrived earlier to bring coal to the stove and light it so the high-ceilinged structure would be warm for the children. They returned with a bucket of water from the Dorsey's well so that drinking water was available for the students.

Lessons began with the Pledge, a patriotic song or two, and devotions when children recited memorized Bible verses. With grades one through seven in one room, the teacher taught reading to the first, third, fifth, and seventh grade students one day and the others on the alternating days. Those not being taught worked on seat work, and they did work because a switch was liberally used as punishment. Subjects included reading, English, penmanship, elocution, arithmetic, science, and what we today call social studies.

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## Gate House Museum

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I'm sure that just about everyone in Town knows that there's a place called the Gate House Museum across from Cooper Park, but I'm not sure how many people actually know what it is, or how it came into being.

It was once a house, built in 1904 and called the Gate House, because it was intended as one of the entryways to the Springfield Hospital. The idea was that the gate keeper would live in the house. There was actually a gate, that disappeared somewhere over the years, and a hospital policeman, on a motorcycle with a sidecar, would come and close the gates at night.



For some reason, the house never really served that intended purpose for very long, and in 1913 a man named William Shipley moved in and lived there and raised two daughters with his wife. Shipley was the chief purchasing agent for the hospital and the man with all the numbers.

The Shipleys were prominent members of the community. I'm told they once had a piano in the foyer that one of the daughters played and a tennis court in their backyard. When William Shipley died in 1954, they laid him out in the parlor, and shortly thereafter, the state kicked out the family. The house was a perk.

The house had no bathroom and no kitchen. There was a parlor and a dining room, two bedrooms upstairs (without closets), and an attic. The Shipleys had a cook named Mrs. Gaston. She was actually a patient from the hospital. She cooked in the cellar on a cook stove, and sent the meals upstairs using a dumbwaiter, which she operated by yanking on ropes. Mrs. Shipley could then take the food off the dumbwaiter and put it on the table.

There was also a speaking tube, nothing much more than a pipe really, that ran from the Shipley's bedroom all the way down to the cellar, where the cook waited in the morning for Mrs. Shipley to shout down her order for breakfast.

They're all long gone now, William, his family, Mrs. Gaston, the cook stove. A part of the speaking tube still sticks up from the floor, and the dumbwaiter, no longer functioning, is in the small bathroom that the Town added when turning the house into a museum. Interestingly, down the empty basement, right on the ledge where Mrs. Gaston used to load her meals onto the waiter and send them upstairs, there's a modem that provides Wi-Fi and Internet to the museum. Maybe someday that modem will seem just as old, antiquated, and strange as the dumbwaiter it's replaced.

7283 Cooper Drive  
Sykesville, MD 21784

410-549-5150  
<http://www.townofsykesville.org/2157/Gate-House-Museum-of-History>

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## The Historic Sykesville Colored Schoolhouse *(continued)*

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But the biggest difference was that the societal norms of the day dictated that the Sykesville Colored Schoolhouse was for the African-American children who were prohibited from attending the substantial brick school in town. How far we have come!

If you are interested in visiting the Schoolhouse, please come to our Open House on February 2 or email [patgreenwald@comcast.net](mailto:patgreenwald@comcast.net) to set up a date for your Scout group, church, civic organization, or club to share a Schoolhouse experience.





«first»  
«address2» «address»  
«city», «st» «zip»

# Sykesville **WINTER** Events

**A huge thank you to Stafford's Produce for donating the Christmas Tree located in the Fountain Park! Stop by and see it during December!**

**Mimosas on Main Street by the Main Street Merchants | April 5 | 1 pm – 4 pm**

Join the Main Street Merchants in shopping locally and enjoying mimosas while you do!

## **Historic Colored Schoolhouse**

The Historic Colored Schoolhouse is available for private tours by appointment. Please contact Pat Greenwald at [patgreewald@comcast.net](mailto:patgreewald@comcast.net) to schedule a tour.

**Love, Lace, and Learning! | February 2, 2pm-4pm**

Bring the kids to the Schoolhouse to create Valentines the old-fashioned way

## **Gate House Museum of History**

The Gate House Museum is open on Fridays and Sundays from 1pm to 5 pm. Stop in and learn about local history!

## **Town Meetings**

Stop by the Town House to watch or participate in one of the different committee and commission meetings!

Upcoming meetings include:

- Town Council Meetings – the second and fourth Monday of every month beginning at 7 PM.
- Planning Commission Meetings – the first Monday of every month beginning at 7 PM.
- Historic District Commission Meetings – the fourth Tuesday of every month beginning at 7 PM.
- SPARC Meetings – the fourth Thursday of every month beginning at 7 PM.

Meeting dates are subject to change due to holidays or inclement weather. Check the Town website for updates to the meeting schedule.

We also have volunteer opportunities available! Contact us at [town@sykesville.net](mailto:town@sykesville.net) if you are interested in volunteering.

For more information check out:

[www.townofsykesville.org](http://www.townofsykesville.org) • [www.downtownsykesville.com](http://www.downtownsykesville.com) • [#getsyked](https://twitter.com/getsyked)

**Note: Events are subject to change. Please visit the websites listed above for the most up-to-date information.**