



FALL 2020

Town of Historic Sykesville

NEWSLETTER

www.townofsykesville.org
town@sykesville.net

TOWN OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Joseph Cosentini
Town Manager
410-795-6390

Craig Weaver
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

PANDEMIC AND PROGRESS

With the pandemic upon us, one thing has become clear. It looks like this will be a marathon and not a sprint to a resolution. While this could, and likely will, be with us for at least another year it is important to not only be safe but continue to thrive as a community.



With that said, we as a Town and County have been taking aggressive steps to support, work with, and communicate with all of the stakeholders in our community during this challenging time. It has yielded many positive results, programs, and partnerships that I believe will last for many years to come. While this pandemic has been detrimental to us all, it has brought out the best in many people as well, as we all pull together to find unique and creative ways to adapt to an ever-changing world.

In this changing world we now live in, we must continue to safely and wisely move forward as a Town on the bright path we have been on and are charting for the future. While threats will always be around us, we cannot allow them to paralyze our momentum, regardless of how overwhelming they may often seem. That is why I am proud to say that our amazing staff, committed Downtown Sykesville Connection, tough as nails business community, and countless, tireless volunteers and residents continue to forge on and set the standards for others along the way. We are moving forward despite the strong headwinds we are all facing as a community, as families, and as individuals.

A large and important part of this progress and effort is the update to our Comprehensive Ten-Year Town Master Plan. Many important stakeholders have been meeting regularly (via Zoom for safety) and your elected officials are participating. Be aware there will be several opportunities for you as community members to participate as well. It is important for you to keep an eye out for these opportunities to have your voice heard on how you wish to see your Town evolve over the next ten years. Without a map, you never know if you have reached your destination. While we may veer left and right based on the course charted, it is still an invaluable tool for us, especially as your leadership team, to know we are implementing, to the best of our ability, our citizens' desires.

So, I look forward to moving forward to the future and continuing our great success, despite all of the challenges before us. They are opportunities to thrive, be better, and more resilient than ever. I have never doubted our ability as a team to conquer any challenge before us. We will continue to be the best small town in America on all fronts!

Be safe, be strong, and thrive - Hope to see you all soon! - Ian Shaw, Mayor

Trash, Recycling, and Yard Waste!

TRASH AND RECYCLING CHANGES 2020

Veterans Day – November 11 – trash regularly picked up on Wednesday, November 11, will be picked up on Friday, November 13

Thanksgiving – November 26 – recycling regularly picked up on Thursday, November 26, will be picked up on Monday, November 30

Christmas Eve – December 24 – recycling regularly picked up on Thursday, December 24, will be picked up on Monday, December 28.
There is no change to pick up on New Years' Eve, December 31.

A MESSAGE FROM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, DEREK SHREVES

As autumn approaches and the leaves start to fall, remember street drains are critical to keeping neighborhoods from flooding when it rains. Currently, the Town does not have a leaf collection program. It is your responsibility to make sure that nothing but untainted rainwater flows from your yard to the street and into storm drains. Lawn clippings, leaves, and other debris often clump together, contributing to flooding in your neighborhood. You can help prevent flooding with a few small maintenance actions on your property.

- ◆ Keep leaves and debris out of drains
- ◆ Avoid piling yard waste, such as fallen leaves on your property where it could wash into Town drains. Keep yard waste in craft bags or other containers.
- ◆ If the drains are still clogged after you've removed the debris, call the Town.

It is important to remember the Town storm drains run to retention ponds that eventually lead via streams and rivers to the Chesapeake Bay. As organic materials, such as grass clippings and leaves decompose, they release carbon and nitrogen. These chemicals feed undesirable algae which pull oxygen from the water, leading to fish kills. And that is only the beginning! If you have used chemicals on your lawn or garden, they may contaminate the water that runs off from rains or your sprinkler system. Perhaps you only occasionally allow grass clippings, leaves and other plants to wash down the drains, but multiply your "occasionally" by the hundreds of homes in the area, and it is easy to see why non-point source pollution is becoming a major concern. Yard waste is picked up the same day as your trash and will continue until December 2, 2020. If you have concerns about your storm drains, please call the Town at 410-795-8959.



PLASTIC BAGS ARE NOT ACCEPTED IN CURBSIDE RECYCLING.

All recycling should be loose in the bin. You can recycle plastic bags at local grocery stores. *Plastic bags will not be picked up in curbside recycling.* Please visit www.recyclecarroll.org for more information on recycling.

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL MEMBER LINK

My previous newsletter correspondences have been born out of my passion for a safer, cleaner, and more enduring environment and what it means to be good stewards of our natural resources and protectors of Mother Earth. Amidst all of the awfulness and trials dealt to us these last few months, I believe it might be prudent, if not at least temporarily relieving, to focus on some positive outcomes of our unfamiliar routines and to be aware of an unintended consequence of all this social distancing.

I've seen for the first time not just one but both a male and female yellow-shafted flicker. There are at least three red-bellied woodpeckers that have taken up residence in my neighbors' black walnut trees, and the Eastern bluebirds have returned threefold of last year's count. Now if only I could refill my feeder quickly enough to serve the booming cardinal and blue jay population on Spout Hill.

But as our bird population is seemingly soaring and air quality has been reportedly improving worldwide, our Main Street's health and wellbeing has been suffering. Ed McMahon, Chair of the National Main Street Center Board of Directors, has said that "Downtown is important because it is the heart and soul of a community. And if you don't have a healthy downtown, you simply

don't have a healthy town." It's the collective success of our small businesses that provides the oxygen needed for our desirable quality of life and lends itself to our strong property values. Our total property assessment, the combined values of all residential and commercial property in Sykesville, has gradually increased \$12-16 million each year since 2015. Coincidentally, 2015 is the first year of five consecutive years that we have touted no storefront vacancies on Main Street.

Investment in our downtown is an investment in our strong property values. Strong property values are what make a town attractive to home buyers in the hunt for a place with a sense of community. Town pride is contagious and lends itself to social engagement, fosters neighborly support, and volunteerism which cyclically promotes an even stronger community. Strong property values optimize the equity in your home. Strong property values afford low crime, education, and opportunities for our youth. Strong property values mean fewer vacant homes and negligible derelict properties which makes your property more likely to sell quickly when it is time for you to do so.

Unless, perhaps you can't part with what I know will be another unintended consequence of this trialing time: an even stronger sense of an even stronger community... and Eastern blue birds.

Sykesville Police Department

FALL/WINTER SAFETY DRIVING TIPS

Prepare Your Car for Winter

In addition to annual maintenance, here are some tips to winterize your car:

- Test your battery; battery power drops as the temperature drops
- Make sure the cooling system is in good working order
- Have winter tires with a deeper, more flexible tread put on your car
- If using all-season tires, check the tread on your tires and replace if less than 2/32 of an inch
- Check the tire pressure; tire pressure drops as the temperature drops
- Check your wiper blades and replace if needed
- Add wiper fluid rated for -30 degrees
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze
- Remember to keep your car's emergency preparedness kit fully stocked, too.

Before You Start Out

- Clean your car's external camera lenses and side view mirrors so you'll be able to see what's around you
- Remove dirt, ice, and snow from sensors to allow the assistive-

- driving features like automatic emergency braking to work
- In frigid weather, you may want to warm up the car before you drive it
- To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, never leave a vehicle running in your garage - even with the garage door up
- If the forecast looks iffy, wait out the storm if possible; if you must travel, share your travel plans and route with someone before you leave

How to Avoid a Crash

- AAA offers the following driving tips:
- Avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions
- Steer in the direction of a skid, so when your wheels regain traction, you don't have to over-correct to stay in your lane
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly
- Increase following distance to 8 to 10 seconds
- If possible, don't stop when going uphill

If visibility is severely limited due to a whiteout, pull off the road to a safe place and do not drive until conditions improve. Avoid pulling off onto the shoulder unless it is an absolute emergency. Limited visibility means other vehicles can't see yours on the shoulder.

Sykesville Parks and Recreation Committee



Summer is ending, but the fun doesn't stop! The Sykesville Parks and Recreation Committee (SPARC) invites you to our fall events. All events are weather permitting. To stay up-to-date with any changes, be sure to follow us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/Sykesvilleparksandrecreationcommittee.

Sykesville Cinema Ends 11th Season with a Spooky Night of Fun!

Come enjoy a spooky Halloween movie under the stars.

Saturday, October 10 - Millard Cooper Park

The movie previews start at sunset (approximately 6:30 PM)

Changing regulations and best practices regarding COVID-19 may affect our events.

Stay up-to-date on our Facebook page!

The October movie will be selected by you! Check our Facebook page closer to the event date to vote for the movie you want to see.

If you thought our inflatable screen was large before, wait until you see our new screen that we will be debuting this October.

Come early to get a good seat (don't forget to bring your lawn chairs or blankets). General parking is available at Sykesville Middle School. Millard Cooper Park includes easy access handicapped parking and an ADA-accessible viewing pad. Sykesville Cinema is free, but we request donations of non-perishable food items. Collection bins are available onsite.

Yoga in the Park

Don't miss our remaining Yoga in the Park classes! These classes are beginner friendly and are a great way to start your morning. All classes are from 9 - 10 AM and held downtown so you can walk to the Sykesville Farmers Market or visit the shops and restaurants downtown after the class. Check Facebook prior to event for exact location. Be sure to bring your yoga mat, towel, and water.

September 13 | October 11

Concerts in the Park

Join us on Saturday nights in early fall for great performances by local artists. Concerts are held in the gazebo at Millard Cooper Park. General parking is available at Sykesville Middle School. Concerts will be held 5 - 7 PM. Check Facebook closer to concert dates for performers. Changing regulations and best practices regarding COVID-19 may affect our events. Stay up-to-date on our Facebook page!

September 19 | September 26 | October 3

Concerts in the Park is free, but we request donations of non-perishable food items. Collection bins are available onsite.

Find Your Perfect Park This Fall

Fall is the perfect time to check out Sykesville's many parks! As the weather cools, check out the cool equipment at Burkett Park. Grab your camera and walk down the Linear Trail to see the leaves changing colors. 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 and walking trails, 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. 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, attend a SPARC meeting, or ask us about volunteer opportunities when you see us at an event.

All events are tentative and subject to change. Please check our Facebook page prior to the event to stay up-to-date!

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www.facebook.com/sykesville/
DowntownSykesvilleConnection@gmail.com
7307 Spout Hill Road
Sykesville, MD 21784
410-216-4543



The Downtown Sykesville Connection is pleased to introduce its three newest board members, growing the Board of Directors to a group of 11 dedicated volunteers who strategize with the Executive Director to sustain and develop our organization.



As a 14-year resident of Eldersburg, **Jennifer Elliott** is a passionate and caring member of our community. She has always been a willing volunteer and advocate for the Town of Sykesville, schools, and a number of local non-profits. After a successful career in insurance, Jen and her then-husband Pete opened Market Tavern on Main Street Sykesville in 2015. This brought her even deeper into the community as she and other small businesses fought to revitalize the town. Jen is a proud new member of the Downtown Sykesville Connection Board and can't wait to collaborate with other board members on the Best Main Street in America.

Nicole Musgrave is a lifelong resident of the Sykesville/Eldersburg area. In her capacity as Special Counsel for Wiley Rein LLP, she counsels and provides strategic advice to health care companies on state and federal regulatory compliance relating to pharmacy benefit management and other ancillary programs. As a volunteer attorney for the Community Law Center, Nicole provides legal services to start-up nonprofit organizations. She resides in Sykesville with her family.



Hélène Taylor opened the French Twist café in downtown Sykesville on April 1, 2014. The French Twist served a full menu of savory and sweet crêpes as well as specialty coffee drinks. She has been married to Howard for 21 years and they have 4 children together. She loves to stay involved in the community, and she loves to volunteer at all the festivals.

Other news: The Downtown Sykesville Connection hosted its first golf tournament on August 7th, with the support of the Town of Sykesville. It was a fantastic day of togetherness, fun, and emotions while we honored the memory of Donna Carol Box.

We are excited to announce that the lead volunteers, Leslie George-Rowe & Denise Rowe, who dedicated efforts and time to the planning of the tournament have decided to continue working with the DSC to organize this new annual event and other fundraisers.

#Together

www.DowntownSykesville.com

www.facebook.com/sykesville



Town of Sykesville is recognized as the lead sponsor in all that we do and will assist our Board of Directors in conducting our group on the path of continued success, innovation, and commitment to serve our community. The DSC administers the Main Street program in Sykesville.



SYKESVILLE
EAT, DRINK & BUY LOCAL.