



SPRING 2021

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

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

IT'S BEEN A CRAZY YEAR, AND TOWN ELECTIONS ARE HERE!



It has been the most unexpected of years here in Town with the Covid-19 pandemic still upon us. With all that has happened, I have been both humbled and proud of how we as a Town, County, and State overall have risen to meet this challenge.

Here in Town, we mobilized quickly to completely change how we handled operations. This included modifying staff deployments, quickly securing personal protective equipment, implementing immediate changes to meeting formats, and working to keep our Town running as smooth as possible against such a devastating foe to our livelihood.

I am humbled by the selfless service of our staff at the Town House, Public Works, Police Department, and Post Office, as well as the rest of our Town service providers. Their willingness to work through such an event and adapt quickly has made this time of critical disruption much more bearable for us all.

The Town, and its partners at all levels (including you, our citizens!), really came together to support our local business community. These hard working people are such a part of the core of what makes Sykesville the place we have all worked for over the years. My thanks and gratitude to all of you hardly seems enough in the face of such courage. People continued to work, we found and funded grants, the Downtown Sykesville Connection creatively adapted and supported survival efforts, and citizens stepped up generosity and support for our business community and citizens as they struggled to survive.

We have learned so much about each other, our strengths together, and how to overcome any adversity, and we are far better prepared now to take on whatever the future may bring than ever before! It is no accident why we have done so well to quickly adapt to such challenges. All of us here in Sykesville have been working and building our future together, and I am proud to call all of you who are part of our success exactly what you are: heroes. They are among us every day, and now I recognize them far more than ever before! Thank you all and I hope to continue with you on this journey to keep Sykesville the Greatest Small Town in America to live, work and play in.

With that said, elections are upon us here in Town. My seat as Mayor and three council seats will be up for election on May 4th. We will have expanded nominating options, as well as additional ways of making mail-in balloting available, and safe in-person voting as well. Please participate in your local election process. It is more important than ever and we are where the rubber meets the road so to speak!

I look forward to continuing to serve you as Mayor and thank you for all your help and support over the past 8 years as your Mayor. I too look forward to seeing you and a robust and exciting election season.

Be safe and hopefully 2021 will break Covid-19 and be the beginning of our best years yet to come in Sykesville!

Sincerely, Ian Shaw, Mayor

Trash, Recycling, and Yard Waste!

TRASH AND RECYCLING CHANGES 2021

Veterans Day – November 11 –

Recycling regularly picked up on Thursday, November 11, will be picked up on Friday, November 12

Thanksgiving – November 25 –

Recycling regularly picked up on Thursday, November 25, will be picked up on Monday, November 29

ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP DAY IS APRIL 17, 2021 – FREE BULK PICK-UP!

- On Friday night, place unwanted items curbside.
- **NEW REGULATIONS:**
- Small items **MUST BE BOXED OR BAGGED**. Do not put loose trash at the curb.
- No more than **2 mattresses per address**.
- Appliances will be picked up on Monday, April 19, 2021
- Prohibited items include, but are not limited to: car parts, paint, chemicals, rocks, dirt, or rubble, tree stumps
- Construction debris **is not accepted**. Construction debris includes, but is not limited to sheetrock, concrete, wood, lumber, fencing, plywood.

If you have questions about what can be put out for pickup, please call or email the Town at 410-795-8959 or town@sykesville.net

YARD WASTE

- The Town will pick up yard waste on your regular trash day. It will occur after trash pick up
- Carroll County prohibits yard waste from being mixed with standard household refuse
- Yard waste pick up will begin on April 1, 2021 and will end on December 1, 2021
- Please have your yard waste in the brown yard bags or bundle sticks together no more than 4 feet long
- Yard waste must be placed in paper lawn bags
- Plastic bags will not be picked up
- Dumping of yard waste in the parks and other wooded areas in the Town or along the Linear Trail is prohibited

GRASS TRIMMING

- Remember to keep your grass trimmed to less than 12 inches
- Do not put grass trimmings in the street

STORM DRAINS

Grass clippings and yard waste that gets into storm drains causes many problems. The clippings will break down in the storm drains and the nutrients released can be harmful to the water quality. The clippings can also clog the drains, potentially causing storm drain failure and flooding.



Sykesville Police Department

As the warm weather approaches, please remember to obey the posted speed limit, buckle your seatbelt, and avoid distractions (like cell phones) while you are driving. As always, never operate a motor vehicle if you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Also, remember to lock your vehicle at all times, and avoid leaving valuables in plain sight when parking overnight.

If you have a home security camera system, or you are thinking about purchasing one, please consider joining our Neighbors App so that you can share video with your neighbors and the Police Department. We have had several 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 Ring devices to participate; anyone with any camera system can upload content to the Neighbors App! To download, please text "staysafe" to 555888.

And lastly, as a reminder or 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.

Let's strive to make 2021 the safest year on record for our Town. Please do not hesitate to call us if we can be of any service to you at 410-795-0757.



The Downtown Sykesville Connection is a 501(c)3 community service organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in downtown Sykesville for the benefit of residents, visitors and small businesses.

MAIN STREET ECONOMIC INVESTMENT

Since Sykesville's designation in 2012, the work of the Downtown Sykesville Connection resulted in the following:

- \$2 million in 106 private investment projects
- \$205,512 in 27 public improvement projects
- 29 new businesses
- 107 jobs created
- \$30,500 in Operations Assistance Grant for the creation of 2 part-time positions within the organization
- \$63,541 in direct financial support to local businesses in 2020
- 28,102 volunteer hours valued at \$714,633

The Downtown Sykesville Connection has successfully applied for and administered the following funding:

DHCD - Community Legacy	\$275,000
DHCD - Main Street Improvement Program	\$7,500
DHCD - Operations Assistance Grant (total)	\$34,500
HCWHA - Historic Preservation grant	\$14,300
Keep Maryland Beautiful	\$8,500
Carroll County Arts Council	\$5,900
Corporate grants and private investments	\$75,000
Community grants	\$12,000
TOTAL INVESTMENT	\$432,700

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

- Street sound system • Two community gardens • Parklet
- Up to nine events a year including a 6-month Farmer's Market • Train bike rack • Community billboard
- Snallygaster book and mini-murals • Public art displays
- Downtown Sykesville visitor guide and map

DHCD - Department of Housing and Community Development
 HCWHA - Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

- Maryland Heritage Area • National Register of Historic Places • MML Tourism Achievement Award in 2013
- Coolest Small Town in America by Budget Travel in 2016 • Best Main Street America by Independent We Stand in 2020.



SYKESVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Birds are chirping, flowers are blooming, and Sparky the Squirrel is venturing out of the nest to enjoy some mid-day sun. That can only mean one thing - It's Spring! Celebrate by exploring Sykesville's many unique parks and trails. A great way to enjoy our parks is by attending a Sykesville Parks and Recreation Committee (SPARC) event. SPARC has planned an exciting 2021 season!

SPARC meetings are held virtually on the fourth Thursday of every month at 6pm. Please sign up for Town emails to receive up-to-date information.

Follow us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/Sykesvilleparksandrecreationcommittee

2021 SPARC Events Schedule

Mark your calendars for these fun and family friendly events. All SPARC events are free! More details will be posted to SPARC's Facebook page and the Town website closer to each event.

- Easter ScavEGGer Hunt- April 2
- Park Cleanup - April 24 (Rain date: May 1) and September 18 (Rain Date: September 25)
- Sykesville Cinema - Second Saturday of the month from June through October
- Music Festival - October 2 (Rain Date: October 16)



Easter ScavEGGer Hunt Kickoff

April 2
Starts at 10AM
Millard Cooper Park

Join us for an Easter egg scavenger hunt throughout town. Come to the kickoff to receive your clue packet and get a picture with the Easter Bunny!

Check Facebook closer to the date of the event for more details.



Park Cleanup

April 24
9AM - 12PM
Location TBD

Let's come together as a community to keep our Town beautiful! Trash bags will be provided, and we have a limited number of heavy-duty gloves for participants. We recommend wearing a hat and closed toe shoes. Students who participate can get service hours. Just make sure a SPARC volunteer signs your paper before you leave.

Sykesville Cinema Returns for its 12th Season!

Come enjoy open-air movies with your neighbors and friends with our powerful audio and video system. We have an exciting line up of movies and thematic events this year. Come hungry, and enjoy fresh popcorn and other delights from our Snack Shack! Movies are on the 2nd Saturday of each month from June-October at Millard Cooper Park (next to Sykesville Middle). Preshow activities will begin an hour prior to sundown. Each show begins approximately 15 minutes after sundown. Come early to get a good seat (don't forget to bring your lawn chairs or blankets). General parking is available at Sykesville Middle. Millard Cooper Park includes easy access handicapped parking and an ADA-accessible viewing pad.

Sykesville Cinema is free, but we request your donations of non-perishable food items for Carroll County Food Sunday. Collection bins are available onsite.

June 12	<i>Dr. Seuss' The Lorax</i>	September 11	<i>The Karate Kid (1984)</i>
July 10	<i>The Princess and the Frog</i>	October 9	<i>The Nightmare</i>
August 14	<i>Toy Story 4</i>		<i>Before Christmas</i>



Stay Healthy While Enjoying Our Parks

Please continue to follow all Town, county, and state regulations regarding Covid-19. Do not visit our parks if you are showing symptoms of Covid-19 or have recently been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19. We also recommend washing your hands or using hand sanitizer before and after touching park equipment. During our events, we ask that you maintain at least 6 feet distance from other attendees, and wear a mask when you are at the Snack Shack and restrooms or when you are unable to maintain 6 feet distance from others. These simple acts will help keep our community safe and healthy.

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, stop by a SPARC meeting, or ask us about volunteer opportunities when you see us at an event.

It has been nearly a year now since the beginning of the COVID-19 shutdowns in March 2020. As the business liaison, I thought it was a good time to give a reflection on the special relationship the Town has with our businesses and Main Street merchants.

In May 2017, the Mayor recognized the need and appointed me as the Town business liaison to the businesses and Main Street merchants. As the business liaison, I have attended the regular monthly merchant meetings to provide information about Town events or procedures and anything that might impact the merchants. In turn, the merchants have an opportunity to ask questions, or ask for assistance with their upcoming events as well. As the liaison I can obtain timely information from both the Town and the business community. This has vastly improved communication through the Town Manager, staff, and Council.

As you can imagine, everything changed in March 2020 with the COVID-19 shutdowns. In the past year, there has been more communication between the Town business community and Main Street merchants than ever before. During this time, multiple zoom meetings were held with Town representatives, our District 5 County Commissioner, Ed Rothstein, State Department Commerce Representative Tamar Osterman and other County and State officials. These meetings have been invaluable to ensuring support and resources were available to our business and Main Street community; they helped to give our small businesses in Town the full attention and access to resources and staff they needed during this critical time.

Coming together has helped all of us to understand and navigate the COVID-19 restrictions of the State, provide feedback to the Town and County officials, and for the Town and County to share information about grants and loans that have been used to help our businesses and Main Street survive, as well as prepare for next steps. These meetings have allowed the merchants to communicate directly with

government officials about the reality of the impact on their local/small businesses. It has allowed frank discussions about what would work best to help the merchants in our Town, County, and at the State level. Businesses have been able to discuss with each other what grants and opportunities seem to be working best and how to obtain them.

The Town has been able to work with other government entities to help bring new ideas to fruition, such as blocking off parking on Main Street and space for more outdoor seating arrangements, as well as many more ideas and conversations about what is best for our merchants' growth and survival during this difficult time.

I am honored to serve in this capacity working side by side with so many talented and dedicated people. At the time of writing this, while the businesses have been through a lot during this pandemic, ***no businesses have closed*** on Main Street! That is a testimony to the talent on Main Street, our community supporting our businesses during this difficult time, and, I would like to think, the commitment of our local and county government to small businesses. Despite the hardships of the pandemic, we are grateful for the stronger Town, County, and State business relationships we formed during this time.

Finally, I would like to thank the Downtown Sykesville Connection (DSC) for their on-the-fly creativity to revamp events for downtown businesses. In addition, the DSC helped and supported obtaining much needed financial assistance not only for their organization, but Town businesses too! It has helped bridge this difficult gap faced by all.

We look forward to building on all we have learned for a stronger Sykesville business community! Thanks for your support during this difficult time.

Al Grasley,
Council President, Town of Sykesville

How many times have we heard the word "unprecedented" in the last twelve months? It seems to have taken on a negative connotation. Well, I've got an idea. Let's change that up.

There are over 3000 registered voters in Sykesville. On average less than 10% of all who are registered turn out to vote in our local elections. This year on May 4th, you have the opportunity, nay, the responsibility to select four fellow residents to represent you, to protect your best interests and to support your vision for this wonderful community of ours.

My hope is that in record numbers, in a turn out previously unseen here in Sykesville, so many will feel compelled to involve themselves in a process unlike that of the State and National level. Different because there's something to be said about local empowerment and the feeling of ownership over the thing we all have in common: our community. Community is not a place on a map. It is not a group of people. Community is the intangible way a place and a group of people make us feel. Community inspires us to take action, to extend a hand, to answer a call. Community is something we participate in. Community shapes us as much as we shape it.

The engagement of local people is critical to effective, sustainable and equitable progress. The attention to local values, knowledge and voices finds expression across neighborhoods, religions and partisanship. Let's do something unprecedented here in Sykesville on May 4th. Let's vote in record breaking numbers.

ELECTION DAY IS MAY 4, 2021!

The polling location is the Town House, 7547 Main Street, but there are vote-by-mail options as well! Any registered voter may apply for a mail-in ballot. Applications for a mail-in ballot can be found on the Town website (townofsykesville.org) or by stopping by the Town House in person. Applications can be returned in person, emailed to town@sykesville.net or mailed to the Town House at 7547 Main Street. The mail-in ballot can be returned to the Town via the United States Postal Service (USPS) or in person by utilizing our ballot drop box (located at the Town House). We encourage everyone who is voting by mail to use the ballot drop-box. Ballots must be received by the Town by the close of polls on May 4 at 8 PM. The Town is not responsible for any delays in delivery of ballots due to the USPS.

If you have questions, or for more information about the election, please visit our website, email town@sykesville.net, or call 410-795-8959.

Masks or appropriate facial coverings must be worn correctly while in the Town House, including on Election Day. If you cannot or refuse to wear a mask, please utilize our mail-in voting options.