



SUMMER 2022

Town of Historic Sykesville

NEWSLETTER

www.townofsykesville.org
town@sykesville.net

TOWN OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Joe Cosentini
Town Manager
410-795-6390

Craig Weaver
Town Treasurer
410-795-8959

Kerry Kavaloski
Town Clerk
410-795-8959

Jana Antrobus
Development Coordinator
410-795-6390

Kevin Rubenstein
Town Planner
410-795-8959

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
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 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

THE LATEST FROM MAYOR LINK

Stacy Link, Mayor



Happy summer! Great things have been happening in Sykesville in the last three months. Here are just a few of the highlights:



I am SYKED to announce that I swore in Sykesville's first female police recruit on April 7th. Welcome, Officer Annelise Young!



Millard Cooper Park is making quite a splash these days! Every day, except Tuesdays, from 10AM - 7PM. "What could be cooler than the splash pad?" you ask. Answer: The feeling of zooming across the zip line in your wet swim suit.



Q. What do these three things have in common? 1) a Type B school bus, 2) an African Bush Elephant and 3) the amount of "trash" diverted from the landfill on our bulk clean-up day in April thanks to our partnership with Habitat for Humanity
A. They all weigh 7 tons.



I worked with State officials to secure \$2,000,000 for Sykesville!



Last year, I made two essential promises: to always involve the residents in all important town issues and decisions and to create a Citizen Advisory Council to the Mayor. And on April 28th the CAC held its first roving town hall at the Parkside at Warfield neighborhood to allow Sykesville residents to ask questions about the Warfield development. This was in advance of the public hearing held on May 3rd. Stay tuned for the next roving town hall.

For more about these great things happening in Sykesville, turn the page. Have a fun and safe summer. Don't forget the sunscreen and your refillable water bottles. And when those dog days are upon us, check on your neighbors to be sure they have what they need to stay cool and hydrated. Lastly, don't be silly. Splash pad aren't just for kids.

More from Mayor Link

SAFETY FIRST

Did you know...

In April I had the privilege of swearing in Sykesville's first female police recruit, Annelise Young, who graduated from Carroll County Sheriff's Police Academy. Officer Young is Sykesville's first academy recruit. Officer Juan Revelo took his SPD oath alongside Officer Young, as he joins us from Baltimore City PD, and brings his two years of service with him. Officer Revelo is an asset to our department and our community. His reporting supervisor informed the Town Council, while indicating one of many advantages of a diverse police department, that Officer Revelo had been called upon by the Westminster Police Department to serve as a Spanish translator on one of their department's calls.

This fall we can expect the Sykesville Police Department to be fully staffed upon my swearing in two more cadets, this time from the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission's police academy. Each will join one of two newly formed squads under the direct supervision of our recently promoted Sergeant Jason Kirkner and Sergeant Carl Bird. Congratulations to these loyal and dependable men who have collectively served Sykesville for 17 of their collective 46 years of public service. Likewise, join me in a hearty congratulations to (let me clear my throat) Lieutenant Shawn Kilgore who has been serving Sykesville since 1997. After 16 years of calling him "Sarge," it may take the community some time before his well-deserved raise in rank rolls off our tongues.

A fully staffed department assures two officers on shift at all times and offers not only improved safety for Sykesville residents, but also to the women and men serving our Department. Police retention is more challenging than ever these days. This new structure affords our officers opportunity for growth- the lack of which has historically been a big reason for turnover in the department.

....now you know.

WIN-WIN-WIN

Did you know...

I arranged for the Town to partner with Habitat for Humanity (H4H) for our annual bulk trash clean-up in April. Historically, on bulk trash clean-up days we send our DPW trucks with 41 tons of bulk "trash" to the landfill. But by the end of this year's clean-up, volunteers and I had diverted SEVEN TONS from the landfill, saving us \$450 in tipping fees. Win! But better yet, these diverted items will be repurposed by someone in need. Win! And you still got to declutter your home. Win! Thank you, neighbors, for participating. Next year's H4H efforts will likely occur on a different day than the annual clean-up. I'm considering a "fill-the-truck event."

....now you know.

WARFIELD DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC HEARING

About 125 residents showed up for the public hearing. The Council and I are incredibly appreciative of those of you who took the time to share comments and concern about the real-world implications of an approved zoning text amendment either in-person at the hearing or via email. Trust that you have been heard and, in fact, you have informed our unanimous decision to accept the Sykesville Planning Commission's recommendation to deny the developer's proposed zoning text amendment.

Our vote had been slated for May 9th, but was postponed until June 21st after the Secretary of Maryland's Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) called me to ask that we first meet with his team and the Warfield developers. Council President Anna Carter and Councilman Leo Keenan and I joined Town staff and our Town attorney for this meeting on June 9th. I left the meeting feeling discouraged. After so many conversations with DHCD over these last seven months, as it is DHCD that administers the lion's share of the public funds for the redevelopment of the historic buildings, I expected the meeting to be more heavily focused on how we can assure the historic buildings are stabilized and finally prepared for re-use. While we were not able to resolve all of our differences, we were able to develop a path towards the utilization of existing allocated funding for the improvement of the historic structures. As stated by the Town Manager at the Mayor and Town Council Meeting on June 21, "That's really where we go from here: the applicant works with [Town] staff to try to come up with the best and most equitable solution based on the feedback we've received so far."

Stay tuned.

More from Mayor Link

APPLE BUTTER FACTORY WAREHOUSE & CONNECTIVITY

More good news!

Senator Katie Hester and I have been meeting regularly since last May, and our partnership has brought two million dollars in grant money to Sykesville. Back in November, Senator Hester helped me bring key people to Sykesville Station for lunch and a tour of downtown and South Branch Park. I shared my dreams for Sykesville with our guests: Senators Hester, Zucker (member, Budget and Taxation Committee and chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee), Guzzone (chair, Budget and Taxation Committee) and McCray (vice-chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee) - all of whom are essential to the legislative bond initiative process. While on our tour, I spoke of my decade-long dream of redeveloping the vacant apple butter factory warehouse in South Branch Park as well as our need for an improved pedestrian connection between the park and Main Street.

I led our guests across the Patapsco River Bridge in a single file line because the pedestrian walkway is not wide enough to walk alongside another person. As I explained what an improved bridge would look like, as if planned, a vehicle driving northbound on West Friendship Road met us as we exited the southern end of the bridge, exemplifying my point about safety concerns. We talked about bicycle, baby stroller and handicap access and what a "luxury" it would be for two people to be able to walk side by side or for one to pass by another on the bridge.

I presented my distant dreams for a thoughtfully developed river front while I pointed at the newly installed pervious

GET A GRIP!

(That's what Mayor Link calls a green tip.)

An old refrigerator or freezer can waste up to 1,200 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy and as much as \$100 in electric costs every year. But what to do with the dinosaur once it has been replaced?

Through BGE's Appliance Recycling Program, more than 95 percent of each appliance is recycled and disposed of properly, preventing usable materials from entering a landfill and decreasing the demand for raw materials such as steel, aluminum, copper, glass and plastic. Recycling old appliances also leads to a substantial reduction in emissions of ozone-depleting substances and greenhouse gases and helps prevent the release of toxic chemicals into the environment.

Did you know that a single spare refrigerator can contain up

paver parking lot and said how it will never be fully utilized or its value realized until there is a safe way for people to access Main Street from the park. I then shared my more personal vision for the apple butter factory warehouse: a performing arts venue inclusive of arts education and entertainment opportunities, while noting the need for a feasibility study to determine its best use and the rough estimate of cost associated with that study.

Drumroll please.....

As it reads in the recently passed Senate Bill 291— Budget and Taxation/Appropriations:

\$1,000,000 in FY2023 for "Town of Sykesville Infrastructure Improvements. Provide a grant to the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Sykesville for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of infrastructure improvements for the Town of Sykesville, including for bridge improvements and a warehouse."

This is non-matching, no strings attached. We have five years to spend it on these projects.

But wait! There's more!

Another \$1M has been budgeted for FY2024. That's right! We are receiving a total of **\$2M** of State investment for the realization of safe pedestrian connectivity between South Branch Park and Main Street as well as the thoughtful redevelopment of the apple butter factory warehouse.

I will be ever grateful for Senator Hester's representation of Sykesville and for her championing these efforts for all of us from within the Senate with the members of the Budget and Taxation Committee and Capital Budget Subcommittee.

to 135 pounds of metal, 11 pounds of plastic, 6 pounds of foam insulation and 4 pounds of glass? Those materials can be recycled and turned into everything from consumer goods to building materials, cement and energy.

Limit of three large units (refrigerators and/or freezers) and four small units (room air conditioners and/or dehumidifiers) per BGE residential household from 1/1/2021 through 12/31/2023.

BONUS: Get \$50 reward for recycling an old, working refrigerator or freezer. **AND** get a \$25 reward if you also recycle an old, working room air conditioner or dehumidifier *at the same time* as your refrigerator or freezer!!

To schedule a **FREE** pick-up of an old, working refrigerator or freezer, go to <https://www.bgenow.com/2022/03/03/100000-appliances-recycled-and-counting/> or scan this QR code:





DOWNTOWN SYKESVILLE CONNECTION

7566 Main Street, Suite 302,
Sykesville MD 21784
(410) 216-4543

Back in the fall of 2021, the DSC was awarded \$5,000 from the Healing the Planet grant program, through the Keep Sykesville Beautiful designation. The DSC decided to dedicate these funds to beautifying the Little Sykes Railway Park ("LSR"). The Town of Sykesville loved the idea and offered to contribute to the project. This is the DSC's first collaborative initiative with the LSR volunteers, led by Bob McLeod, and represents a tangible benefit of the DSC for visitors as well as shows the value of our organization for the Sykesville community.

This beautification project increased the park's visibility and popularity, and we cannot wait for you to check out the improvements of this local gem of an attraction. The project added a willow tree to offer shade and improve the park's serene atmosphere. Four gardens were created to retain water that the Doxzen Station accumulated. They add such beauty to the park!

These gardens are designated as "Certified Wildlife Habitats" through the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) program. We hope this will encourage visitors to begin their own projects to rehabilitate other local ecologies.

The beautification of the LSR also included adding a sign by the lighted flag pole describing the historical significance of the LSR. The beautiful sign designed and installed by Shannon-Baum Sings surely improves the park's attractiveness and visibility from the main roadway.

Another part of this project included applying to receive a quilt square from the Carroll County Economic Development and Office of Tourism. The DSC's application was granted, and the quilt was installed last month adding Sykesville as a stop on the Carroll County Barn Quilt Trail. This is an economic booster for the small businesses of Main Street Sykesville's unique boutiques and eateries.

Moreover, the cityscape that serves as a backdrop to the LSR was restored, embellished, and waterproofed by The Sykesville Pottery & Art Center owner Abby Dion and her volunteers, with the Hussle family (who originally created the cityscape) as a consultant.

The entire renovation project is a beautiful story of partnership, commitment to our town, and volunteer dedication. Shout out to the 50 volunteers involved, and special thanks to our community superheroes: Kyle and Kathleen Hiteshow who spearheaded the design, plant selection, and planting of the four gardens. Kathleen also lent her talents to the design of our stunning barn quilt.

Hats off to all who participated.



Scan this for the project summary



www.DowntownSykesville.com

www.facebook.com/sykesville

@downtown_Sykes



Sykesville Parks and Recreation Committee



2022 SPARC EVENTS SCHEDULE

Mark your calendar 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.

<p><i>Sykesville Cinema</i> Millard Cooper Park Second Saturday of the month from June through October Sunset</p>	<p>Come enjoy open-air movies with your neighbors and friends with our powerful audio and video system. Aug 13 - Toy Story 4 Sept 10 - School of Rock Oct 8 - Monsters, Inc.</p>
<p><i>Music in the Park</i> Millard Cooper Park September 10 / 17 / 24 October 1 5PM - 7PM</p>	<p>Bring a chair and enjoy live music by great local artists. Sept 10 - 4 on the Floor with Overdrive Sept 17 - Here 'Til Sunday Oct 1 - Liberty Road</p>
<p><i>Park Cleanup</i> Location TBD Fall: September 17 (Rain Date: September 24) 9AM - Noon</p>	<p>Let's come together as a community to keep our parks beautiful for families to enjoy for years to come! The park and activities vary. This is a great opportunity for student service hours.</p>
<p><i>Santa's Arrival</i> Downtown Sykesville December 3 Time TBD</p>	<p>Santa is coming to Sykesville! Join us for a visit with Santa followed by the tree lighting.</p>

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Sykesvilleparksandrecreation and get up-to-date information on events and projects.

OUR PARKS ARE ALWAYS IN SEASON

Summer is a great time to explore the many parks in Sykesville. Cool off in the splash pad at Millard Cooper Park. Get some ice cream on Main Street and relax at the Old Main Line Park. Take a relaxing stroll along the Linear Trail, stopping to relax in the shade. There's something for everyone! To learn more about Sykesville's parks, go to <https://www.townofsykesville.org/Facilities>.

SPARC WATER BOTTLES

SPARC is selling reusable aluminum water bottles for \$5/each. Get them at the snack shack during our movie and concert events.

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 and we are always looking for additional members and volunteers who are interested in making a difference through park improvement, recreational activities, and events for our families and others. SPARC meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. If interested, please come to one of our meetings. For more information, please call 410-795-8959 or email parks@sykesville.net.

Splash Pad Operating Hours for Summer 2022

Daily 10 AM - 7 PM, except Tuesdays.

The Splash Pad will close during inclement weather. Check

www.facebook.com/townofsykesville for updates regarding the Splash Pad.

Sykesville Police Department

The Sykesville Police Department is proud to announce that its popular Junior CSI Academy will be held again this year on Saturday, September 10, 2022. This year marks the 13th anniversary of this program being held here in Sykesville. The program will take place outside at the Millard Cooper Park and will run from 9:30 am until 3:00 pm. This program would not be possible without the generous sponsorship of the Freedom District Lion's Club Youth Outreach program.

Applications will be available after August 1st, and can be obtained in-person at the Police Department or on-line at www.sykesvillepolice.org. Class size is limited, and all applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis. For more information, please go to our Facebook page or feel free to contact the Sykesville Police Department at 410-795-0757.

GATE HOUSE MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Hot summer nights mean it is time for SPARC's Movies in the Park series. Set up your blanket and pop in during special Saturday hours before each of the movies to see what's new in the museum! Have you ever wondered where people went in the past to see movies in Sykesville? Here is an excerpt of an anonymous account of theaters in Sykesville from 1935-1948:

The first motion picture theater experienced as a small boy was located in the North end of the Hood building on the first floor. On a summer evening, Mother, our cousin, a teacher who was visiting attended a film showing in the Sykesville Theater. The year was 1935 or 1936 and the film was silent. I later learned the piano player was Mrs. Dean. The piano was in the front of theater to the left of the screen. The floor of the room was slightly inclined from the front to the rear. This was my only visit to the theater in this location which after World War II housed Colette's and then Emery's drug store. Sorry, I do not know the name of the film. Mrs. Dean assisted Mr. Church at *The [Sykesville] Herald [Newspaper]* for many years.

When next visiting the "movie theater" in Sykesville it was located in the bank building on the second floor and [the] entrance was from the alley to the rear [with] a stairway. Here there was sound with the film. I saw a few films here. The room was quite bare with no decoration. The screen was elevated, the ceiling was high, and the floor levels bare wooden seats and center aisle. Films I recall [include] *Gone with the Wind* [1939], *Sergeant York* [1941], *Mildred Pierce* [1945], *The Green Hornet* the serial [1940].

Gate House 2022 Summer Hours (June 1-Sept 4)

Monday and Wednesday 9:30-12:30

Thursday and Friday 4:30-7:30

Sunday 12-5