

News from Boonsboro Town Hall

Published four times a year by the Town of Boonsboro, Maryland

www.town.boonsboro.md.us

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Town Hall, 21 N. Main Street, Boonsboro, MD 21713 **301.432.5141** Open: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Boonsboro Council approves Debt Service Fee to pay for Sewer Plant loans

The Boonsboro Mayor and Council is taking steps to alleviate the debt associated with the Waste Water Treatment Plant that went on line in 2009.

At the December 2nd meeting, the Council approved an Ordinance to levy a \$22.50 quarterly debt service fee, which the 1,200 sewer system customers will see on their April 2014 utility bills. This is the first time the current customers have been called upon to help pay down the cost of the \$11 million Plant.

The added debt service fee will generate only 25 percent of the revenue needed to meet the annual loan payments, totaling about \$430,000. The Mayor and Council decided to cover the remaining 75 percent of the payments by loaning funds from the general fund to the sewer fund. At the same time, a newly formed Task Force is exploring other possible ways to decrease the overall debt.

The Monroe Road Plant, located behind the South Mountain Little League Park, was built to replace an outdated lagoon system that the State of Maryland had deemed ineffective.

As part of the plan to pay for the Plant, the Town in 2006 annexed several parcels of land, essentially doubling the acreage of the municipality. The Town also entered into agreements with the landowner/developers to pre-pay for sewer taps with an eye on future development.

But the development did not materialize because of the overall state of the economy.

The pre-payments were designed to pay the loan payments on the plant for the first five years. Those agreements with the developers expire at the end of 2013.

The Waste Water Treatment Plant was financed with a \$6 million loan and \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a \$2 million loan and a \$2 million grant from the Maryland Department of the Environment. (Grants do not have to be paid back.)

The Waste Water Treatment Plan Task Force, which is exploring various ways to deal with the debt, is made up of two members of the Council; two members of the Planning Commission, and two members of the Utilities Commission.

Water and Waste Water Operator Pete Shumaker replaces retiring Superintendent Painter

Operator Pete Shumaker has been named Water and Waste Water Superintendent, replacing Rick Painter, who will retire at the end of the year. Shumaker has been with the Town for more than 10 years is a certified wastewater and water operator. Painter has served the Town continuously since 1999.

Officer Faith resigned effective December 23rd

Officer Shawn Faith has been serving the Town for the past five years. He has decided to pursue a career in agriculture and looks forward to spending more time with his family. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

Friends of Shafer Park

Friends of Shafer Park is seeking interested volunteers to assist in fundraising for future projects, including an aquatic center, walking trails, dog park, and connector road to link both parks.

Town seeks State Grants

The Council has established an energy reduction and renewable energy plan as part of the Maryland Smart Energy Communities grant program and plans to apply for additional project funding with the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA).

They also approved the submission of a Project Open Space application for walking trails and a pedestrian bridge in Shafer Park.

Shafer Park reservations for new year begin on January 2

The Town will start booking Park pavilions and the Community Center on January 2, 2014.

To make reservations call 301-432-5141 or visit Town Hall; no email bookings will be accepted.

For Town residents, fees are \$35 for small pavilions and \$40 for large ones. Non-residents pay \$10 more for each. The Community Center rental fee is \$60, plus a key/cleaning deposit of \$50.

Boonsboro Town Hall will be closed on

Monday, Jan. 20, 2014
for Martin Luther King Day

Yard debris site on Monroe Road Open 3rd Saturdays

during the winter months:

Jan. 18 - Feb. 15 - Mar. 15

8 a.m. until 12 noon

Free 2014 permits available at Town Hall

Christmas Tree Collection

Trees will be picked up at curbside by the Town employees

Each Monday during January

(Except Jan. 20 when pick-up will be on **Tues., Jan. 21** because of Martin Luther King Holiday)

Residents urged to register for alert notification system

Residents are being urged to sign up to receive notifications from the Town's CODE-RED alert system, by going to www.town.boonsboro.md.us or by calling Town Hall at 301-432-5141.

This system notifies residents of water/sewer related issues, Town events and changes, and trash/recycling pick-up changes, as well as Police alerts and emergency messages.

Residents may also sign up for the Washington County emergency system by clicking the link on the Town website, located under the Code-Red banner. Each alert registration must be done separately.

Town's Election Second Tuesday in May

The citizens of Boonsboro will be voting to fill the Assistant Mayor and three Council seats in the Town election set for Tuesday, May 13, 2014.

There is a Town election each even year. The Mayor and two Council seats will be up in 2016.

Residents living within the corporate limits of Boonsboro who are registered to vote in Washington County are qualified to vote in Town elections.

Interested in running for Office?

Candidates must be citizens of the United States, a registered voter and a resident of the Town for at least three years immediately preceding the election.

Candidates for Assistant Mayor must be at least 25 years old and candidates for Council must be at least 21.

Certificates of Nomination may be obtained at Town Hall and must be returned by the close of regular business hours on Monday, April 14, 2014, with at least 10 signatures of qualified voters of the Town in addition to a \$1.00 filing fee.

E-bill paying coming soon

An electronic bill paying system may be available by the time the next utility bills are mailed out. More information will be in the Spring Town Newsletter.

Networking Breakfast Jan. 17

The Boonsboro Economic Development Commission (EDC) will hold its next Networking Breakfast at 7:30 a.m., Friday, Jan. 17, at Vesta in Boonsboro.

Area business persons may make \$7 breakfast reservations by emailing boonsboroedc@myactv.net

The next breakfast will be on March 21.

Scavenger Hunt winners ...

The EDC's 3rd annual Scavenger Hunt winners are: Melanie Reese, first place, \$100; Natalie Mose, second place, \$50; Lorraine Eccard, third place, \$25; and Leon Jones, fourth place, \$25.

Winners received gift certificates to local businesses. Participants were asked to identify landmarks at 12 different locations in Boonsboro during the month of October.

Trash & Recycling reminders

-All trash and recycling must be set out after 4 p.m. the night before collection day.

-All clean corrugated cardboard can be recycled, as well as the boxboard used for cereal and tissue boxes. Please break down all boxes.

-Recyclable plastic bags, such as grocery bags, should be bundled up in a plastic bag.

-New residents, who would like a free recycling container, please contact Town Hall, 301-432-5141.

When it snows ...

Residents must clear away a three-foot-wide swath of snow and ice from their sidewalks within the first 10 hours of daylight on the day the snow, sleet or freezing rain ceases.

Businesses must clear sidewalks within four business hours after a snow/ice event ends or by the beginning of business hours the next business day.

DO NOT shovel or blow snow onto roadways. This is a violation of the Town Ordinance and could result in a \$50 fine.

Please help Town employees by keeping the water meter covers cleaned off and the area around hydrants clear of snow.

Do not park on Main Street during a Snow Emergency Plan; your vehicle could be towed.

Dogs now allowed in Park, pet waste stations set up

Now that the Town has changed the regulations to allow leashed dogs in Shafer Park, two pet waste stations and signage have been installed. The stations have plastic bag dispensers and receptacles for the bags of waste. Please pick up after your pet!

Attention: Green Fest vendors

Prospective vendors for the sixth annual Boonsboro Green Fest on Saturday, May 10, may make application beginning Jan. 1 by filling out a vendor form at www.boonsborogreenfest.com

Vendors registering by the March 1 Early Bird deadline will pay \$20 a space; those signing up from March 2-15 will pay \$40 for a 10-foot space.

Safety Tips for winter ...

Help prevent winter weather-related home fires and injuries by following these safety tips, provided by the Boonsboro Public Safety Commission and the U. S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Protection Association:

- Keep combustible and flammable materials **at least** three feet away from any heat source, portable heaters or fireplaces.
 - **DO NOT** use your oven or stove top burners to heat your home.
 - **NEVER** leave burning candles unattended. Be sure to turn off portable heaters when leaving a room.
 - **Carbon Monoxide**, or CO, is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- <http://www.usfa.fema.gov> to learn more about winter safety tips or contact the fire department on its non-emergency number at 301-432-2348.

Elected Mayor & Council

Mayor: Charles F. Kauffman, Jr.
Assistant Mayor: Howard W. Long
Council Members: Kevin M. Chambers
Sean K. Haardt - Cynthia Kauffman,
Janeen N. Solberg - Barbara B. Wetzel

Boonsboro Police Department

301-432-6838

Sheriff's Office Dispatch

240-313-4382 or 911