

# 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.

## NEW DEBT SERVICE FEE ON UTILITY BILLING

The new \$22.50 Debt Service Fee appeared on residents' utility bills this quarter. At the December 2, 2013 meeting, the Boonsboro Mayor and Council approved an Ordinance to levy a \$22.50 quarterly Debt Service Fee to alleviate the debt associated with the Waste Water Treatment Plant, located on Monroe Road, that went on line in 2009. 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 voted 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 has been exploring other possible ways to decrease the overall debt.

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.

## TOWN ELECTIONS SECOND TUESDAY IN MAY

The citizens of Boonsboro will be voting to fill the **Assistant Mayor** and **three Council Member seats** in the Town election set for **Tuesday, May 13, 2014** from **7am until 8pm** in the **Community Center** located at **Shafer Park**. [*The Mayor and two Council Member seats will be voted on in 2016. Town elections are held in even-numbered years.*]

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

## SHAHER PARK OPENS FOR THE 2014 SEASON

Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> is the opening day for the Park. Leashed dogs are now allowed and pet waste stations have been installed. *Please pick up after your pet!*

## SPRING CURBSIDE CLEANUP SATURDAY, APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup>

Collection begins very early, please make sure to have your items at curbside on Friday night. The trash truck will come by **only** once.

**Items collected are** metal appliances; electronics; metal plastic & wood furniture; rugs and carpeting (must be rolled & tied); mattresses; box springs and miscellaneous junk. Fill paint cans with sand or kitty litter and hammer the lids closed.

**Items not accepted are** car batteries, items containing Freon, construction and toxic materials.

**Recyclables:** Items that are in reasonably good condition, please consider saving them for Horizon Goodwill at Shafer Park for the Green Fest on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

## 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 3-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.

## Town Hall is closed on

April 18, 2014 for Good Friday  
May 26, 2014 for Memorial Day  
July 4, 2014 for Independence Day

## NEW TOWN MANAGER MEGAN CLARK

Congratulations to Megan Clark on her appointment as Town Manager on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Clark has been employed as the Town Planner of Boonsboro for the past 6 years. We wish her the best of luck as she takes on her new administrative role in the Town.

## TOWN HALL ON FACEBOOK

Town events, updates and changes will be posted online. A link is provided on the Town website or search "**Town of Boonsboro, Maryland**" on Facebook.

## YARD DEBRIS SITE REOPENS, MONDAY PICKUP RESUMES

The yard debris site on Monroe Road will open for Town residents on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Stop at Town Hall with your driver's license and vehicle tag number to renew your free permit. Monday curbside yard debris pickup starts on Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. A maximum of **8 paper lawn bags** per household pickup are permitted per week.

## FRIENDS OF SHAHER PARK

Volunteers are needed to assist in planning for future projects, including an aquatic center, walking trails, a dog park and a connector road to link both Parks. Please contact Town Hall for more information.

## Naming of the Park Stream

The Park Board is asking for your help in naming the stream that runs behind the Community Center in Shafer Park. Vote for your favorite name by visiting the Town website or calling Town Hall before April 9. Choices are **Lums Run, Warrenfeltz Stream** or **Boones Branch**.

## EARTH DAY CELEBRATION & SHAFER PARK CLEAN-UP

**SUNDAY, APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup>**

Join the Environmental Commission and Park Board from **1:00 – 4:00 PM** to help clean the Park grounds and streams. Events include the unveiling of the Stream Buffer Educational Sign, the Chesapeake Bay Drainage and the announcement of the name of the Park stream. Please plan to wear work clothes, boots and bring gloves!!

## GREEN FEST - MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>

Please see the enclosed "Green Times" newsletter for details.

## ANNUAL FISHING DERBY SATURDAY, MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>

The annual Fishing Derby will be held at the Shafer Park fishing pond behind the Boonsboro Library. Please enter via the park road off of Potomac Street beside the Police Department. Registration for ages 1 to 6 is 7:30 - 8:30 am; fishing time is 8:30 to 10:30 am. Ages 7 to 12 register at 10-11 am; fishing time from 11 a.m. to 1 pm. Fishing poles will be provided for any child without one and prizes will be awarded.

## WAGON TRAIN SUNDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>

The Wagon Train will again end its journey in Shafer Park around 2 pm. There will be pony rides, a blacksmith demonstration and concessions.

## BOONSBORO VOLUNTEER RESCUE & AMBULANCE CO. CARNIVAL

The annual Boonsboro Carnival begins on Friday, May 23 and runs through Saturday, May 31. For special ride nights, entertainment information & the fireworks date please contact the Rescue Company at 301-432-6979.

## MEMORIAL DAY PARADE SUNDAY, MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>

The annual wreath laying ceremony and memorial service at the monument in front of the Town Hall begins at 1 pm. The parade begins at 2 pm, forming at the High School and ending at Reeder's Alley on South Main Street. Hosted by the American Legion Post 10 Ladies Auxiliary.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

The Town's annual Independence Day Celebration and fireworks will be held the evening of **Thursday, July 3**. (Rain date is Sunday, July 6) Organizations or church groups wanting to sell refreshments should contact Town Hall for an application. Deadline to participate is Wednesday, May 21, 2014.

## CODE-RED ALERTS

Residents are urged to sign up to receive notifications from the Town's Code-Red system by going to the Town website or by calling Town Hall. This system notifies residents of water and sewer related issues, Police alerts and emergencies, and Town event changes.

## PERMITS REQUIRED...

If you are considering a pool, a deck or other additions on your property, please remember a permit is required. More information can be found on the Town website under Planning and Zoning or by contacting the Town Planner at 301-432-5690.

## 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.

## PAYMENT SCHEDULES

We realize that our customers may sometimes have difficulty in paying their utilities bills on time. We are willing to work with you to establish a payment schedule. Your invoice will still have to be paid within 90 days from the billing date, but we can accept weekly, bi-weekly or monthly payments, whichever works best for you. **Please call Michelle, the Town Clerk, at 301-432-5141** as soon as you receive your bill to set up a payment schedule.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION...

Many of you may have seen the "new" 10 year smoke detectors at nearby home improvement centers. You may have wondered "Are they worth the extra cost?" or "Are they any better?" Better yet, "Why should I replace my current ones with these?" They may cost a little more, but they are worth it, and there is a reason to upgrade.

A new law makes the installation of so-called "10-year smoke alarms" a requirement for Maryland homes and apartments. Under the new law, which went into effect July 1, 2013, homes and apartments in the state must have the lithium-powered alarms by 2018.

National statistics show, 94% of American households have smoke detectors, but 30% of those alarms don't work. Additionally, most fire fatalities happen in homes that lack working alarms.

Smoke alarm manufacturers recommend that alarms be replaced every 10 years. The date your alarm was manufactured can be found on the back of the device. However, alarms with lithium or "long-life" batteries can go a decade before they need to be replaced. The U.S. Fire Administration advises that the sealed batteries cannot and should not be changed. **Alarms with lithium batteries should still be tested every month as per previous recommendations. All safety devices should be installed, tested and maintained in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations.**

## E-BILL PAYMENT SYSTEM

An electronic bill paying system is coming soon. We apologize for the delay and encourage you to check the Town website for updates. We will include more information in the Summer Town Newsletter.

## 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