

NEWS from TOWN HALL

Summer 2013

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Holiday Closings

Town Offices will be closed for the following legal holidays:

Independence Day – Thursday, July 4th

Labor Day – Monday, September 2nd

(Residential recycling and trash collections will not be affected by these holidays.)

Faces Changing in Town Hall

Town Clerk Barbara Rodenhiser is retiring on July 31st after 35 years of service. Come in and grab a cookie, some punch and sit and share some memories with Barb between noon and 4PM on Friday, July 26th before she runs off to get married and takes a nice long, well deserved vacation.

Please welcome Michelle Higman, as the new Town Clerk. Michelle has spent the last nine years with the City of Hagerstown and now joins us as the latest member to the Town's staff.

SHAFER PARK HAPPENINGS

Summer Concerts

Sunday, July 21st – **Martinsburg Jazz Orchestra** performing Classical Swing and Big Band music. This is special a two-hour concert beginning at 6:30 p.m. with an intermission.

Sunday, August 18th – **South Mountain Jam** Concert time is at 7 p.m.

Saturday, August 24th – **US Navy Band Country Current** We are very fortunate to welcome back (because of the recent military budget cuts) and to be able to book another performance with this country-bluegrass ensemble this year. The entertainment starts at 7 p.m. Please plan to arrive early to get a good seat or bring your own seating arrangements.

Thirteenth Annual Independence Day Celebration

The Town of Boonsboro will celebrate our Nation's independence on Wednesday, July 3rd in Shafer Park. (Rain date Friday, July 5th.) The festivities begin around 5 p.m. and end with fireworks around 9:30 p.m. Please plan to bring lawn chairs and/or blankets and proudly wear your red, white and blue!

Several local organizations will be selling hot dogs, soft shell crabs, ham and country ham sandwiches, steamers, pizza, French fries, soft serve ice cream, brownies, popcorn, snow cones, soft drinks and bottled water.

Entertainment will be provided by the Rohrsersville Band and DJ Jeff Taulton, who will be taking requests.

National Night Out – Tuesday, August 6th

Our annual **National Night Out** will be held rain or shine, in Shafer Park from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Free food and drinks are provided. This program is a joint venture of the Mayor and Council, the Boonsboro Police Department, and the Police & Public Safety Commission.

42nd Annual Boonesborough Days - September 7th & 8th

The Boonsboro Historical Society's annual juried craft show, which is always held on the weekend (Saturday and Sunday) following Labor Day, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For further information visit the new website at www.boonesboroughdays.com.

Curbside Recycling & Residential Trash Reminder

Beginning the first week of July, recycling and trash will be collected once each week, with recycling on Tuesday and trash on Friday. Be sure to set out your new red recycling container at the curb after 4 p.m. on Monday evenings and set your trash out after 4 p.m. on Thursday evening.

New Downtown Business

Josie's on Main is located at 4 North Main St. Proprietor Dana Healy recently opened her doors offering the public an eclectic blend of vintage and new home décor and fashion accessories. Visit the business on Facebook or call 240-285-0383.

Friends of Shafer Park

Shafer Park is considered one of the most important assets of the Town and is, in many ways, the civic heart of Boonsboro. It provides many functions for the community other than your basic playground. Events such as Boonsboro Days, the annual carnival, Green Fest, and Olde Tyme Christmas, to name a few draw many residents and visitors alike. Due to the limited funding resources in these tight economic times, the "Friends of Shafer Park" has been established to support future development. Membership is open to anyone who enjoys Shafer Park and wishes to aide in fundraising efforts or to make a contribution. Please visit the Town's website www.town.boonsboro.md.us to fill out the membership form or stop by Town Hall.

Water Disconnection Fee Increase

Effective July, 1, 2013, the town water service disconnection fee will increase from \$50 to \$100 and the Town Hall office will no longer remain open during the evening of the disconnection date to receive payments. **If your payment is not received by noon, the water service will be disconnected and you will have until 4:30 p.m. to pay in full and have the service reinstated.** Otherwise, your service will not be reconnected until the following day. The Boonsboro Municipal Utilities Commission feels a 90-day period is plenty of time in which to pay a utility bill. If the need arises, you may make partial payments throughout the quarter, but contact the Town Clerk to set up payments

Environmental Commission Survey Results

The results of the Boonsboro Environmental Commission's community survey have been tabulated and they show that a large percentage of town residents would like to see a farmers market in the town; they are concerned about pet waste, flooding, litter, sidewalks, and energy consumption; and would like to see the town publish a local business directory. The survey is part of the preliminary work required for the Sustainable Maryland Certified program and will be used to guide the activities of the Green Team in its effort to attain certification by completing and documenting a list of actions that are designed to make Boonsboro a greener community. Survey forms were included in the town's April utility bills, which were sent out to nearly 1,200 residences. About 20 percent (235) of the surveys were returned. Go to www.town.boonsboro.md.us and click on Community Survey for full results.

BRF Exemption

The Town has established a program to exempt certain owner occupied residential properties from the Bay Restoration Fee based on substantial financial hardship. In order to qualify for this exemption, an application form must be completed and returned with the required supporting documentation that the applicant has met at least two (2) of the following criteria:

- Receiving energy assistance subsidy;
- Receiving public assistance – supplemental security income (SSI) or food stamps;
- Receiving veterans or social security disability benefits;
- Receiving the Homeowner's Property Tax Credit for same fiscal year;
- Meet the eligible income limits per household size.

Additional information and the application is available on the towns website at www.town.boonsboro.md.us or at Town Hall. Approved exemptions qualify for the current fiscal year period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 with a new exemption request to be submitted by May 30th of each year thereafter.