

# News from Boonsboro Town Hall

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

www.town.boonsboro.md.us

Email: [bns.townhall@myactv.net](mailto:bns.townhall@myactv.net)

Town Hall, 21 N. Main Street, Boonsboro, MD 21713

**301.432.5141**

Open: Monday-Friday, 8 AM to 4:30 PM

## CHANGES AT TOWN HALL

Town Staff has been busy updating, rearranging and cross-training to better serve you!! We are very pleased to welcome **Sarah Murto Campbell as the new Town Clerk.** Sarah started work on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and comes to Town Hall with a strong background in accounting. She is originally from Boonsboro and recently returned to be closer to family and friends. We wish her the best of luck as she takes on her new position in the Town.

## New BMUC Utility Bill

Town residents will notice a change in the appearance of their BMUC Utility bill this quarter. Town staff has been working diligently to update the billing process. Your Utility bill is now a full-page bill that includes the last four quarters of consumption data for your reference, as well as the due date and late payment amount.

## Utility Payment Policy

Water, Sewer and Trash services are billed quarterly in January, April, July and October. Payments are due within 30 days from the date of the bill. After 30 days a 5% interest is charged on the balance and services will be terminated if payment is not received within 60 days. If you are experiencing difficulty paying your bill please call Sarah, the Town Clerk, at 301-432-5141 (press 3) to discuss payment options. Please note, the full balance must be paid prior to the issuance of the next quarterly bill.

**\*\*The full BMUC billing policy is available on the Town's webpage and also posted at Town Hall\*\***

## When it snows...

Residents must clear away a 3-foot wide walk-way of snow and ice from their sidewalks within the first 10 hours of daylight on the day the snow, sleet or freezing rain ceases. Town businesses must clear sidewalks within 4 business hours after a snow/ice event ends or by the beginning of business hours of the next business day.

**\*\*Please 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 your water meter covers cleaned off and the area around fire hydrants clear of snow and ice.

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

## AUTOMATED PHONE SYSTEM

When you call into Town Hall during normal business hours you will be greeted by our NEW automated phone system. We are hoping that this will make the office more efficient by having your phone call answered directly by the person that you need to speak to. Callers will be prompted to **press 2** for Town Taxes, **press 3** for Water and Sewer questions and billing, **press 4** for Shafer Park rentals and event information, **press 5** for Planning and Zoning and permits, or simply remain on the line for general questions and information.

**New Office Hours...**Town Hall is open Monday through Friday from **8AM until 4:30PM**. A drop-box is provided for after-hour payments and is located on the front door of Town Hall.

## Boonsboro Town Hall will be closed on

Monday, January 19, 2015  
for Martin Luther King Day

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## Yard Debris Site on Monroe Road

### Open 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays

during the winter months:

January 17 - February 21 - March 21

**8 AM until 12 noon**

*Free 2015 permits  
available at Town Hall*

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## Christmas Tree Collection

Trees will be picked up at curbside

**Each Monday during January**

(With the exception of January 19 when pick-up will be on **Tuesday, January 20** because of the Martin Luther King Holiday)

**Please consider using the Town's website** to find information about what's going on in the Town. The website features information on activities of the Mayor and Council, the various Boards & Commissions, trash pick-up and event reminders, as well as links to other resources. Town staff updates the website daily to provide up-to-date information. The site is accessible for use with all electronic devices [www.town.boonsboro.md.us](http://www.town.boonsboro.md.us)

Like us on **Facebook**, too!  
Town events, updates and changes are also posted on the **Town Facebook Page**. A link is provided on the Town website or search "**Town of Boonsboro, Maryland**" on Facebook.

**Reminder!!** Pedestrians have the right-of-way in all cross walks. Please stop to allow pedestrians to safely cross the street...it is a Maryland State Law

## Fall Clean-Up Nets Tons of Trash & Recyclables

The Fall Clean-Up Day was held on October 18 in the parking lot of Shafer Park. Members of the Mayor and Council, the Environmental Commission and the Boonsboro Green Fest Committee helped sort and unload items during the event. Over 160 televisions of all sizes, filling up a large 8-pallet box truck, were collected by Unicor Industries and TV/electronic recycling was provided by Washington County Recycling Division. Residents also dropped off furniture and building materials which were collected by ReStore/Habitat for Humanity and household items, clothing and toys which were collected by Goodwill Industries. The Town collected 7,160 pounds (3.58 tons) of metal items which will be reused by Conservit, Inc. During the day, reusable items were set aside for residents to take free of charge. The Spring Curbside Bulk Clean-Up will be held on April 25. Recyclable items of all kinds can be held and dropped off during the annual Green Fest event scheduled for May 9. (For a list of recyclables, please visit [www.boonsborogreenfest.com](http://www.boonsborogreenfest.com))

### 2015 Shafer Park Reservations

The Town staff will start booking Shafer Park pavilions and the Community Center on January 2, 2015. To make reservations call Kim at 301-432-5141 (press 4) or visit Town Hall. 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.

**The Boonsboro Economic Development Commission (EDC)** will hold its next **Networking Breakfast** at 7:30AM Friday, January 16 at Vesta in Boonsboro. Area business persons may make breakfast reservations by emailing [boonsboroedc@myactv.net](mailto:boonsboroedc@myactv.net)  
The cost is \$7 per person.

### Attention: Green Fest Vendors

Prospective vendors for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Boonsboro Green Fest on Saturday, May 9, 2015, may submit applications by filling out a vendor form at [www.boonsborogreenfest.com](http://www.boonsborogreenfest.com) Vendors registering by the March 1, the Early Bird deadline, will pay \$20 a space; those signing up from March 2-15 will pay \$40 a space. Deadline for applications is March 15, 2015.

#### Sanitation Reminders...

- All trash and recycling must be set out after 4 PM 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 Kim at Town Hall at 301-432-5141.

**Monday Curbside Yard Debris** pick-up has stopped for the season and will resume, weather permitting, at the end of March. During the winter months, yard debris and used vehicle oil may be taken to the **Yard Debris Site at 6927 Monroe Road** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from **8AM until Noon**. **Open dates are: January 17, February 21 and March 21.** To access the site, residents must obtain a 2015 permit at Town Hall. The Site will open for the 2015 Season on Saturday April 4.

### New Healthcare Businesses

We are pleased to welcome Hospice of Washington County, Inc to 28 North Main Street (the old NAPA Auto building), Dr. Ken Film's Dentist Office at 708 Chase Six Boulevard and Boonsboro Family Dentistry and Orthodontics at 112 North Main Street.

### Safety Tips for Winter from the Public Safety Commission...

Keep fire safety in mind when heating your home in the winter months ahead. December, January and February are the leading months for home heating fires. Overall, heating equipment is the second leading cause of U.S. home fires and home fire deaths.

### Winter Heating Facts & Figures

Based on 2007-2011 annual averages:

- Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for one-third (33%) of home heating fires and four out of five (81%) of home heating fire deaths.
- The leading factor contributing to home heating fires (28%) was failure to clean, principally creosote from solid-fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys.
- Placing things that can burn too close to heating equipment or placing heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding, was the leading factor contributing to ignition in fatal home heating fires and accounted for more than half (53%) of home heating fire deaths.
- Half (50%) of all home heating fires occurred in December, January and February.

#### Working smoke detectors SAVE LIVES!!

- \*\*Please remember to have your chimney cleaned.**
  - \*\*Remember space heaters need at least 3 feet of space around them.**
  - 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.
- Visit <http://www.usfa.fema.gov> to learn more about winter safety tips or contact the **First Hose Co of Boonsboro** on their non-emergency number at 301-432-2348

Mayor: Charles 'Skip' Kauffman, Jr.

Assistant Mayor: Howard Long

Council Members: Sean Haardt, Cynthia Kauffman, Brigitte Schmidt, Janeen Solberg, Barbara Wetzel

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Boonsboro Police Department

301-432-6838

Sheriff's Office Dispatch

240-313-2910 or 911