

News from Boonsboro Town Hall

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

www.town.boonsboro.md.us

Email: TownofBoonsboro@gmail.com

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

301.432.5141

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

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR LONG:

I want to personally thank all of you for becoming active in local government! This past year a petition was circulated for residents to sign if they did not want water and sewer rates to increase. Raising fees is one of the hardest decisions of governments and the Town of Boonsboro strives to keep its costs reasonable and competitive. While the efforts of circulating a petition and seeking more citizen involvement is commendable, a petition for a referendum on fees, including taxes and utility rates, is not allowed and a vote on water/sewer rates will not be held. Approved Utility Rates go in effect January, 1, 2018. I encourage all citizens to know what is happening in their community and to become involved. Please visit the webpage and read minutes, memos, and correspondence of the various boards and commissions working to serve the citizens of Boonsboro. Seek out facts and attend meetings, and please continue to be actively working for your Town!

Respectfully in your service,
Howard W. Long, Mayor

2018 Town Election

Second Tuesday in May

The citizens of Boonsboro will be voting to fill the Assistant Mayor and three (3) Council Member seats in the Town election set for **Tuesday, May 8, 2018**. Residents living within the corporate limits of Boonsboro, who are registered to vote in Washington County, are qualified to vote in the Town election. ****The deadline to register to vote for the Town election is Monday, April 16, 2018**** Please note: There is a Town election each *even* year. The Mayor and two (2) Council Member seats will be voted for in May 2020.

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. It creates safety issues 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.

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 (3) years immediately preceding the election. Candidates for 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 to the Town Clerk by 4:30 PM on Monday, April 9, 2018***

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!!

Boonsboro Town Hall will be closed on

Monday, January 15, 2018
for Martin Luther King Day

Friday, March 30, 2018
for the Easter Holiday

Yard Debris Site on Monroe Road Open 3rd Saturdays

during the winter months:
January 20 - February 17 - March 17
7 AM until 12 noon

Christmas Tree Collection

Trees will be picked up at curbside **Each Monday during January** (With the exception of January 15 when pick-up will be on **Tuesday, January 16** because of the Martin Luther King Holiday) Please remove stands & tinsel!!

Bi-Monthly Street Sweeper 3rd Mondays in 2018

January 15 - March 19 - May 14 - July 16
September 17 - November 19

2018 Shafer Park Reservations

You can make Park pavilions and Community Center reservations by calling Kim at 301-432-5141 or visiting Town Hall. **A Rental Fee Increase was approved for 2018.** For Town residents, fees are **\$45** for the Gazebo & small pavilions (4, 5 & 6) and **\$50** for the larger ones (1, 2 & 3). The Community Center rental fee is **\$75**, plus a key/cleaning deposit of **\$50**, which will be refunded to you. Non-residents will pay an additional **\$10** for each rental. **Shafer Park officially opens for the season on April 9, 2018**

Monday Curbside Yard Debris pick-up will resume at the beginning of April. During the winter months, the **Yard Debris Site** at 6927 Monroe Road is open on the **3rd Saturday** of each month from **7AM until 12 noon**. **Open dates are: January 20, February 17 and March 17.** Residents must obtain a 2018 permit at Town Hall. The Debris Site will open for the 2018 Season on Saturday, April 7.

Spring Curbside Bulk Clean-Up Saturday, May 26th

If possible, consider dropping off your recyclable and/or reusable items at Shafer Park for **Green Fest** on **Saturday, May 19th**

Streetlight Outage Information

To report a streetlight outage, please call Town Hall and we will submit a 'repair request' to Potomac Edison for you. To speed the process, please make sure you have the closest 'address' to the pole. It usually takes about 2 -3 days to have a light repaired by PE.

Main Street Speed Changes

The State Highway Administration will be reducing the **Main Street** traffic speed limit to **30 mph** from MD67 to Mousetown Road, **25 mph** in the center of Town from Mousetown Road through Thomas Lane, and **30 mph** from Thomas Lane to Route 68/Lappans Road and Chase Six Boulevard. **Keep your eyes open for the NEW speed limit signs!!**

GREASE IN OUR SEWER LINES

When you put cooking waste, like grease, oil and food scraps down the drain, the grease builds up and clings to the pipes, clogging them and eventually interfering with the wastewater treatment process. Grease can cause sewer backups, expensive plumbing bills and increased costs to all residents due to the increased maintenance and treatment costs. **Dispose of grease properly by placing in a can, then put it out with the trash!**

Like us on Facebook & Twitter!! Town events, updates and changes are also posted on the Town's Facebook and Twitter pages. A link is provided on the Town website or search "Town of Boonsboro, Maryland" on either site.

Trash & Recycling Reminders

- Please place your trash and recycling out on **MONDAY night** for Tuesday morning pick-up. Apple Valley Waste comes through Town very early in the morning and many residents are not having their sanitation picked-up because they are waiting until Tuesday morning to place their sanitation at the curb side.
- If you place your trash and recycling out **AFTER** Apple Valley Waste picks-up on your street, they **will not** come back to pick-up your sanitation until the following Tuesday. If AVW misses your sanitation and you honestly placed it out on **Monday night**, please call Town Hall as soon as possible. We cannot guarantee that AVW will come back to pick it up, but we will try our best to contact them.
- The **RED** Apple Valley Waste container that the Town provides to you is for **RECYCLING ONLY**. If you place regular household trash inside the red container, AVW will NOT pick it up at all. (AVW **does not** provide a Town container for regular household trash.)

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. Please note: If you are experiencing difficulty paying your bill on time, please call Cindy at Town Hall as soon as you receive your bill to discuss payment plans and options.

****The full BMUC Billing Policy is available on the Town's webpage and also posted at Town Hall****

Fire Safety Tips for Winter

Keep fire safety in mind when heating your home this winter. December, January and February are the leading months for home heating fires.

Working smoke detectors & carbon monoxide detectors SAVE LIVES Change your batteries regularly!!

- Space heaters account for 1/3 of home heating fires and four out of five home heating fire deaths.
- The leading factor contributing to home heating fires is the failure to clean creosote from solid-fueled heating equipment and chimneys. ****Please remember to have your chimney cleaned annually****
- Placing things that can burn too close to heating equipment, such as furniture, clothing, mattress or bedding, is the leading factor contributing to ignition in home heating fires and accounted for more than half of all heating fire deaths. ****REMEMBER to turn off portable heaters before you leave home!!****
- Keep combustible and flammable materials **at least 3 feet away** from any heat source, portable heaters, wood and pellet stoves or fireplaces.
- **DO NOT use your oven, or stove top burners, to heat your home.**
- **NEVER EVER leave burning candles unattended!!**
- **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 www.usfa.fema.gov to learn more about winter safety tips or contact the First Hose Company of Boonsboro on their non-emergency number at 301-432-2348

Mayor

Howard Long, *term May 2020*

Assistant Mayor

Cynthia Kauffman, *term May 2018*

Council Members

Rick Byrd, *term May 2020*

Terry Davis, *term May 2018*

Marilee Kerns, *term May 2020*

Brigitte Schmidt, *term May 2018*

Janeen Solberg, *term May 2018*

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Boonsboro Police Department

301-432-6838

Sheriff's Office Dispatch 240-313-2910
or call 911