

# News from Boonsboro Town Hall

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

www.town.boonsboro.md.us

Email: [Info@townofboonsboro.com](mailto:Info@townofboonsboro.com)

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

**301.432.5141**

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

## New Faces in Town

Please join us in welcoming **Paul Mantello** as our new **Town Manager**, **Kevin Morgan** as our new **Chief of Police** and **Dave Rizer** as our new **Police Officer**. Town Manager Mantello comes to us from Frederick and his first day of work was November 26, 2018. Chief Morgan has been with the Town for 12 years and was officially hired as the Chief on October 1, 2018. Officer Rizer comes to us from Hagerstown and started on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## 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 stops. Town businesses must clear sidewalks within 4 business hours or by the opening of business of the next business day. Please try to keep the area around fire hydrants clear of snow and ice.

**\*\*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.**

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

**Monday Curbside Yard Debris pick-up will begin again in April.** During the Winter, the **Yard Debris Site** at 6927 Monroe Road is open on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday** of each month from **8AM until 12 noon**. **Open dates are: January 19, February 16 and March 16.** Pick-up a 2019 permit at Town Hall. The Yard Debris Site will open for the season on Saturday, April 6, 2019.

## Trash & Recycling Reminders!!

- Please place your trash and recycling out on **MONDAY night** for Tuesday morning pick-up.
- 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 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. They will not pick up recycling in plastic bags either.
- The Town **does not** provide a container for regular household trash. You can place out bags or purchase your own container.

## 2019 Shafer Park Reservations

You can make Park Pavilions and Community Center reservations by calling Kim at 301-432-5141 or by visiting Town Hall. For Town residents, fees are **\$45** for the Gazebo & small pavilions (4 & 5) and **\$50** for the larger ones (1, 2 & 3). Non-residents will pay an additional **\$10** for each rental. The Community Center rental fee is **\$75**, plus a key/cleaning deposit of **\$50**, which will be refunded to you when you return the key. Don't delay, book today!

**Shafer Park officially opens for the season on April 8, 2019**

**Town Hall will be closed on Monday, January 21, 2019 for Martin Luther King Day**

**Yard Debris Site on Monroe Road Open 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays** during the winter months: January 19 - February 16 - March 16 **8 AM until 12 noon**

**Christmas Tree Collection** Trees will be picked up at curbside **Every Monday during January** (With the exception of January 21 when pick-up will be on **Tuesday, January 22** because of the Martin Luther King Holiday) **Please remove tree stands & tinsel!!**

**Bi-Monthly Street Sweeper 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays in 2019** January 21 - March 18 - May 20 - July 15 - September 16 - November 18

**Walking your dog...** Leashed dogs are allowed in Shafer Park. Please be considerate and **pick-up after your dog in the Park**. We have been finding doggy droppings in the Park and no one wants to accidentally step in that. Please also pick-up after your dog in your neighborhood common areas and in other people's yards. It is not pleasant having to clean-up after others' pets. Remember a baggie. ***Please pick up after your pet!***

**Reminder:** Pedestrians have the right-of-way in **ALL cross walks**. Please **STOP** to allow pedestrians to safely cross the street. Look for cross walk signs on Main Street. ***It is a Maryland State Law!!***

**News from the Boonsboro Environmental Commission...**

**“Plastic Straw Challenge!”**

Did you know that over 500 MILLION plastic straws are used and thrown away EVERY DAY in the U.S.? The average time a plastic straw is actually used is 20 minutes, then it's thrown in the trash at Chipotle, out the window of your car (heaven forbid!) or put in your trash at home, which then ends up in the landfill.

**Plastic straws are not biodegradable — their lifetime is forever.** If straws are in the gutter, they can wash down the storm drains and into the Chesapeake Bay, potentially injuring aquatic life (have you seen the video of the sea turtle with the straw in its nose?). Even though WE don't live on the Bay, our actions CAN affect the Bay. Many coastal towns on both coasts have banned plastic straws outright. The best solution? Refuse a plastic straw when your drink order is taken—say “I'll have water with no straw,” in one breath. It takes some getting used to but saying it WILL come naturally quite soon. If you're worried about germs, glassware is normally washed in a hot commercial washer — think about it--people don't seem to worry about beer mugs or wine glasses! Another solution? Bring your own straw—metal ones are available. Some will still need straws—people with disabilities and some children. Paper straws are making a comeback. They really do work and last at least through 2 or 3 refills. Many restaurants and fast food places are switching to paper straws or NO straws. No straw is the best policy, but paper straws are a better option. If we can reduce plastic straw usage by even 50%, that's a start! Next time you're at a restaurant, challenge yourself and say, “No straw, please!” You'll be a better person for it. **(The BEC meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the Town Meeting Chambers)**

**Welcome New Town Residents!!**

If you are a new Town resident, please take a moment to call Town Hall. Our staff can answer any questions you may have, update your billing information in our systems and provide you with a recycling bin ☺

**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 Potomac Edison.

**BMUC 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. Utility bills can be paid online.

**Payment options are available.** Please call Cindy at Town Hall as soon as you receive your bill to discuss payment plans and options. Water and Sewer bills are based on how much water you use. Conserving water can help reduce your bill. Check for running toilets, faucets and water softeners. **\*\*The full BMUC billing policy is available on the Town's webpage and posted at Town Hall\*\***

**Planning and Zoning Notes: PERMITS REQUIRED...** If you are considering renovations or other additions on your property, or thinking about starting a new business in Boonsboro, please remember that permits are required. **Zoning Permits are required for new businesses** in Town and business signs. Building Permits are not required for fences under 6 feet in height, landscaping or retaining walls less than 3 feet in height, exterior painting or other ordinary property maintenance. Additional information can be found on the Town website under **Planning and Zoning** or by contacting the Town Planner and Zoning Administrator Ethan Strickler at 301-432-5690 or by emailing [townplanner@townofboonsboro.com](mailto:townplanner@townofboonsboro.com)

**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!\*\***
  - **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](http://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**

**Like us on Facebook & Twitter...** Town events, updates and changes are all 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.

**Mayor:** Howard Long  
**Assistant Mayor:** Rick 'JR' Byrd  
**Council Members:** Ray Hanson, Terri Hollingshead, Marilee Kerns, Tony Nally and Rick Weaver  
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**Boonsboro Police Department**  
301-432-6838  
**Sheriff's Office Dispatch**  
240-313-2910 or 911