

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, 8 AM to 4:30 PM

When it snows...Residents are

asked to clear away a 3-foot wide walkway 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 are asked to 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.

2020 Town Election

Second (2nd) Tuesday in May

The citizens of Boonsboro will be voting to fill the **Mayor and two (2) Council Member** seats in the Town election set for **Tuesday, May 12, 2020**. 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 13, 2020**** Please note: There is a Town election every 2 years and the next one will be 2022.

A very special thank you to Girl Scout Troop 15036 for coordinating the **2019 Flat Frosty** event on Main Street for the Holiday Season. Troop 15036 raised \$550 which was used to purchase much needed items for Children in Need of Washington County and the Humane Society of Washington County. Thank you to everyone who participated as well.

Trash & Recycling Reminders!!

- Please place your trash and recycling out on **MONDAY night** for Tuesday morning pick-up.
- If AVW misses your house, please call Town Hall as soon as possible. We cannot guarantee that AVW will come back to pick up your items, 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. 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. If you use a **BLUE trash can**, AVW might not pick it your trash because they will think it belongs to Republic Services.

Interested in running for Office?

Candidates must be United States citizens, a registered voter and a resident of the Town for at least three (3) years prior to the election. Candidates for Mayor must be at least 25 years old and candidates for Council must be at least 21 years old. ****Certificates of Nomination may be obtained at Town Hall and must be returned to the Town Clerk by 4:30 PM on Monday, April 13, 2020***

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!!

Town Hall will be closed on Monday, January 20, 2020 for Martin Luther King Day

Yard Debris Site on Monroe Road
Open 3rd Saturdays
during the winter months:
January 18 - February 15 - March 21
8 AM until 12 noon

Christmas Tree Collection
Trees will be picked up at curbside **Every Monday during January** (With the exception of January 20 when pick-up will be on **Tuesday, January 21** because of the Martin Luther King Holiday)
Please remove tree stands & tinsel!!

2020 Shafer Park Reservations

You can make Park Pavilions and Community Center reservations by calling 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.

Shafer Park and restrooms officially open for the season on April 6, 2020

Welcome New Town Residents!!

If you are a new Town resident, please take a moment to call Town Hall at 301-432-5141. Our staff can answer any questions you may have, update your information in our Tax and Utility systems and provide you with an Apple Valley Waste recycling bin. We also have *New Resident Handbooks* available ☺

Fire Safety Tips for Winter

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

**Working smoke detectors & carbon monoxide detectors SAVE LIVES
Change your batteries regularly or purchase a NEW 10-year detector!!**

- 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, stove top burners or any cooking element or grill 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.

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 or pole number. It usually takes about 2 -3 days to have a light repaired by Potomac Edison.

Monthly Town Meetings

(Please check the Calendar on the Town website and at Town Hall for changes to dates or times due to Holidays)

***Mayor & Council – 2nd Monday – 7pm**

***Environmental – 2nd Tuesday – 7pm**

***Utilities – 3rd Wednesday – 6pm**

***Public Safety – 3rd Thursday – 7pm**

***Planning – 4th Tuesday – 7pm**

***Mayor & Council Workshop – Last Monday – 7pm**

***Park Board – 4th Wednesday – 7pm**

***EDC – 4th Wednesday, EVEN months – 9am**

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 Amanda at Town Hall as soon as you receive your bill to discuss payment options. Water and Sewer bills are calculated based on how much water you use. ****The full BMUC policy is available on the Town's website & posted at Town Hall****

ACH Debit Payments

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a form to submit if you would like to pay your BMUC bill using '**fee free**' ACH Debit. This payment is drafted directly from your checking account 4 times a year, on the 25th of the month when your BMUC bill is due. ACH Debit will go into effect with the March 31, 2020 BMUC Utility billing, with payment in full drafted on April 25th. Customers are under no obligation to sign up for this service. We are offering this as a way to reduce credit card service fees.

Please Do Not Pour Grease Down Your Drains!!

Fat, cooking oil and grease clog the sewer lines and interfere with the wastewater treatment process. It can cause sewer backups, expensive plumbing bills and increased costs to all residents due to the increased maintenance and treatment costs. Please allow the fat, oil and grease to cool and collect it in a container and throw it away in the trash.

PERMITS REQUIRED!! If you are considering a shed, deck, additions, or starting a business, please remember that a building permit or zoning permit is required. Additional information can be found on the Town website under **Planning and Zoning** or by contacting the Town Planner Ethan Strickler at 301-432-5690.

Are you interested in serving on a Town Commission? Volunteers help make our community great! There are currently vacancies on the **Planning Commission** and the **Economic Development Commission (EDC)**. You can submit a form online through the Town website or stop in at Town Hall.

Pet Reminder: Please be considerate and **pick-up after your dog** in the Park, in your neighborhood common areas and in other people's yards. It is not pleasant having to clean-up after others' pets, especially in your front yard. **Remember a baggie.** Also fenced-in dogs that bark all day and night can disturb your neighbors and they may be too polite to let you know. **Outdoor cats** can be a nuisance to your neighbors. In cold weather your cat might take up residence in your neighbors' garage or kill the birds that your neighbor loves to watch from their window. We love our pets, but please be considerate and keep pets indoors when possible.

Town meetings, events, updates and changes are all posted on the Town's website, Facebook and Twitter pages. Social media links are provided on the Town website.
facebook.com/VisitBoonsboroMD
twitter.com/TownofBoonsboro

Mayor: Howard Long

Assistant Mayor: Rick 'JR' Byrd

Council Members: Ray Hanson, Terri Hollingshead, Marilee Kerns, Tony Nally and Rick Weaver

Boonsboro Police Department

Police Chief: Kevin Morgan
301-432-6838

**Emergency - Please call
911 immediately!!**