

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

Due to rising health concerns surrounding COVID-19 and finding ways to slow the spread of the virus, beginning on Friday, November 20, 2020, until further notice, **Town Hall is CLOSED to the public** and will be OPEN by appointment only. Town staff will be in the office during normal business hours, however, we will only be open to the public by appointment. Our goal is to help slow the spread and to promote social distancing in our community. The health and safety of our residents, staff and visitors is our top priority. Thank you for your understanding over the next few weeks and we hope everyone stays safe and healthy. Please call 301-432-5141 for additional information or to make an appointment with Town staff. ***If you are dropping off a water or tax payment, please use the mail box slot on the front door of Town Hall ***

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. **It is a STATE roadway.**

NOTICE: Boonsboro Water Disconnection day is Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 12 noon.

The Maryland Utility Termination Ban has ended. On October 1, 2020 the Town of Boonsboro sent out Final Notices stating that residents had 45 days to pay their BMUC water and sewer bill or begin a payment plan. Governor Larry Hogan's Executive Order prohibiting service terminations and late fees expired on Tuesday, September 1, 2020. According to Maryland's Department of Human Services, affected customers had 45 days from the date of a termination notice to seek a payment plan or energy assistance. **Customers who take action by contacting Amanda at 301-432-5142 and set up a payment plan by 12 noon on January 12 will not have their water disconnected. This means that if you are making even small payments towards your water bill, it will not be disconnected.** *If you need help with any of your Utility bills, please contact: **Washington County Community Action Council at 301-797-4161 or www.wccac.org***

Boonsboro officially has 2 EV Power Charging Station Towers!!

The EV charging station towers are located in the rear of Town Hall in the Municipal Public Parking Lot and have been shared to the PlugShare App for people passing through Town who might need a charge. The cost for charging a vehicle is \$0.16/kWh. Thank you to the Environmental Commission for getting the ball rolling on this project. This is a great addition to our Municipal Public Parking Lot!

Town Hall will be closed on Monday, January 18, 2021 for Martin Luther King Day

**Yard Debris Site on Monroe Road
Open 3rd Saturdays**
during the winter months:
January 16 - February 20 - March 20
8 AM until 12 noon

Christmas Tree Collection
Trees will be picked up at curbside **Every Monday during January** (With the exception of January 18 when pick-up will be on **Tuesday, January 19** because of the Martin Luther King Holiday)
Please remove tree stands & tinsel!!

Trash & Recycling Reminders!!

- Please place your trash and recycling out on **MONDAY night** for Tuesday morning pick-up.
- If Apple Valley Waste honestly 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 and contact them.
- The **RED** Apple Valley Waste container 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 your recycling if it is in plastic bags inside the bin.

The Town **does not provide trash containers**. You can place out bags or purchase your own container.

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!!

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.

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 ☺

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**

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.

The Park Board and Environmental Commission would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped to make the **Shafer Park Clean-Up, Earth Day, and Arbor Day Celebration** a success! They dedicated a tree, planted a tree, landscaped around the gazebo and cleaned up the stream and Park. The Town also received the Tree City Award for the fifth year! Thank you to Scout Troop 20, Scout Troop 2119, and all the community volunteers for their hard work!!

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

BMUC Bills - ACH Debit Payments

You can 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.** 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. Please call Amanda at Town Hall **as soon as you receive your bill** to discuss payment options. We accept cash, checks, money orders & credit cards.

If there is an emergency at your house, does Town Hall have your phone number? Write your phone number, or email address, on your Utility bill stub when you send in your payment. **Your information will be kept private.**

Boonsboro's **Animal Control Ordinance** is enforced by the *Washington County SPCA*. If you are having problems with neighborhood pets, barking excessively or acting aggressively, or are concerned for any animal living in unsanitary conditions, please contact the **SPCA** immediately at **301-733-2060**.

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Town meetings, events, updates, cancellations and changes are all posted on the Town's website, and our OFFICIAL Facebook and Twitter pages. [facebook.com/VisitBoonsboroMD](https://www.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

301-432-6838

Sheriff's Office Dispatch

240-313-4345 or 911