

# 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.

## 2022 Town Election

### Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Tuesday in May

The citizens of Boonsboro will be voting to fill the **Assistant Mayor** and **three (3) Council seats** in the Town election set for **May 10, 2022.**

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 11, 2022\*\*** Please note: There is a Town election every 2 years and the next one will be 2024.

**A very special thank you to Girl Scout Troop 15036** for coordinating the **2021 Flat Frosty** event on Main Street for the Holiday Season. Funds raised will be split 50/50 between Troop 15036 and **Children in Need of Washington County** to purchase much needed items. Thank you to everyone who participated in this annual event!!

## 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.

## 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 Assistant 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 11, 2022\*\***

## 2022 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). The Community Center rental fee is **\$100**, plus a key deposit of **\$50**, which will be refunded to you when you return the key.

## Wash. Co. Legal Holidays

**Town Hall will be closed on:**  
December 31 – New Year’s Eve  
January 3 – New Year’s Day  
January 17 - 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 15 - February 19 - March 19**  
**8 AM until 12 noon**

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**Christmas Tree Collection**  
Trees will be picked up at curbside **Every Monday during January** (With the exception of January 17 when pick-up will be on **Tuesday, January 18** because of the Holiday) **Please remove tree stands & tinsel!!**

**Pet Reminder:** Please be considerate and **pick-up after your dog.** It is not pleasant having to clean-up after others’ pets, especially in your yard if you don’t own a pet. **Remember a baggie.** Fenced-in dogs that bark all day and night can disturb your neighbors. In cold weather your outdoor cat might take up residence in your neighbors’ garage. We love our pets, but please be considerate and keep them indoors when possible.

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

**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](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.

## **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.

## **News from the Boonsboro Environmental Commission and Boonsboro Tree Board**

In October the Town of Boonsboro and residents successfully planted 500 trees within the Town limits. These new trees will help the Town meet critical Maryland issued Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit requirements for Environmental Protection Agency Chesapeake Bay Watershed restoration goals. The Town planted trees at high visibility public lands around town including Shafer Park at the Boonsboro Free Library and the Boonsboro Educational Complex. Seven trees were dedicated to a memorial at the library for Vickie Messner, an active community member who recently passed. This year's Fall Tree Giveaway was the first of many that the Town plans to offer to residents to continue to meet MS4 requirements. Watch the Town Newsletter or website for information on sign up in the Summer of 2022. As a reminder to residents, everyone who accepted a tree signed the Town Tree Pledge. Please care for your young trees until maturity with proper watering from Spring to Fall to ensure the trees support our community and MS4 goals. Thank you to the Town, volunteers and residents who made this year's Fall Tree Giveaway a GREAT success!

## **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 Town Hall as soon as you receive your bill to discuss payment options. Water and Sewer bills have a base usage charge and are then calculated on how much water you use.

**\*\*The full BMUC Billing policy is available on the Town's website & posted at Town Hall\*\***

## **ACH Debit Payments**

This is a reminder that 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 25<sup>th</sup> of the month when your BMUC bill is due. 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 contact Town Hall if you are interested in this payment option.

## **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.

## **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 updated *New Resident Handbooks* available 😊

## **Like us on Facebook & Twitter**

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://facebook.com/VisitBoonsboroMD) [twitter.com/TownofBoonsboro](https://twitter.com/TownofBoonsboro)  
The EDC's Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/boonsboromd](https://www.facebook.com/boonsboromd)

**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