

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.

A Special Thank You...

The Boonsboro Park Board, and the Town, would like to extend a very special and HUGE thank you to all of the people and business that make our annual Olde Tyme Christmas possible: The Boonsboro Fire Department, Troop 20 and Pack 20 Scouts, Weis Market, the Rohrsersville Band and Boonsboro High School Band, Cronise Market Place for their delicious apples, and of course Santa Clause (and his family) and all of our volunteers. Thank you for many, many years of wonderful dedication to our Christmas event!!

A very special thank you to Kendall's Krew for coordinating the **2022 Flat Frosty** event on Main Street this year. 100% of the proceeds for the Frosties were donated to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. (AND Thank you to everyone who participated and made Frosties for 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 & YELLOW** Apple Valley Waste container is for **RECYCLING ONLY**. If you place regular household trash inside the RED and YELLOW 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.

Do you have a Knox Box?

These boxes can be installed at businesses and residences for Emergency Personnel to access in the event of an emergency – boxes can provide key access, codes, medical issues and emergency point of contact. The boxes are only accessible by local emergency services and can prevent personal property damage in the event of an emergency www.knoxbox.com

2023 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 30 – New Year's Eve

January 2 – New Year's Day

January 16 - Martin Luther King Day

Yard Debris Site on Monroe Road

Open 3rd Saturdays

during the winter months:

January 21 - February 18 - March 18

8 AM until 12 noon

Christmas Tree Collection

Trees will be picked up at curbside

Every Monday during January

(With the exception of January 16

when pick-up will be on **Tuesday,**

January 17 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. 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. It usually takes about 2 -3 days to have a light repaired by Potomac Edison.

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 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 😊

News from the Boonsboro Environmental Commission and Boonsboro Tree Board

In October the Town and residents successfully planted 200 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. Keep an eye out this Spring! A long row of Dogwood trees was planted at the Boonsboro Free Library and several Eastern Redbuds were planted along the walking trail between the old and new areas of Shafer Park nearest Pavilion 4. Both tree species are popular for their beautiful Springtime blooms! The Fall Tree Giveaway is an annual event 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 2023. As a reminder, 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 success!

The Town was awarded a **\$1,000 grant from the Maryland Urban Community and Forestry Committee** to purchase 6 new educational signs installed at Shafer Park, Town Hall and near the School Campus on Center Street. The signs are filled with environmental education information. In addition, International Society of Arboriculture tree care brochures are available to residents in Town Hall free of cost. Please enjoy the new signs and brochures while learning the importance of our urban forest, benefits of planting native plants, how to reduce pollutant runoff and the ways properly maintained trees increase your property values. Visit the Chesapeake Ecology Center's website at www.livewellandgreen.org for additional information on sustainability and ways you can help the environment. The CEC designs public environmental education signs through the support of grants, partnerships and donations.

BMUC Utility Payment Policy

Water, Sewer and Trash services are billed quarterly in **January, April, July and October**. Payments are due 30 days from the date of the bill. Bills can be paid online. **Call Town Hall to discuss payment options and plans.**

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 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 and is 'fee free.' 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.

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
twitter.com/TownofBoonsboro
The EDC's Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/boonsboromd

Mayor: Howard Long

Assistant Mayor: Tony Nally

Council Members: Ray Hanson, Terri Hollingshead, Marilee Kerns, Eric Kitchen and Rick Weaver

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Boonsboro Police Department

301-432-6838

Sheriff's Office Dispatch

240-313-4345 or 911