

Town of Charlemont June 2026 Newsletter



Charlemont Town Picnic

The Charlemont Town Picnic will be held at the Charlemont Fairgrounds on June 14 from 3-7 PM.

The event is a potluck so please bring your own picnic or a dish to share with the community. There will be lawn games such as bocce and corn hole (and you are invited to bring your sets from home or other favorite games to share). New this year is a jam session!

This event is an initiative of Charlemont residents for Charlemont residents and friends and supported by the Charlemont Parks and Recreation Department.

Hawlemont Regional School June Update

Proud Hawlemont News: HRS graduate Landon Clark was elected President of the regional Western Massachusetts Association of Student Councils! He's the first MTRSD student to even run for president of WMASC in more than 20 years!!

HAY (Hawlemont Agriculture & You) Updates: Accessible community garden plots at HRS are still available. Seeds are available at school and Tyler Memorial Library. Contact Jenn Sinistore for plot sign up.

Important Dates:

- *Monday June 1:* Community members invited to join **2D-8T Sustainability Project** Field Trip to Southern Berkshire Regional District (#3 visit to consolidated campuses)– Bus leaves MTRSD @ 9:00 am and returns @ 3:00 pm– contact Ken Bertsch at kbertsch@mtrsd.org to reserve a seat and/or more information.
- *Monday June 15:* **6th grade Graduation @ 5:00 pm.**
- *June 5 and June 19:* **Play Group** for children ages 0 - 6 with their parent/caretaker in the HRS gymnasium @ 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Annual Town Meeting

At the 2026 Charlemont Annual Town Meeting, voters approved nearly all articles on the warrant, supporting a wide range of operational, capital, and bylaw updates for the coming fiscal year. Approved articles included funding for a new highway one-ton truck, bridge and infrastructure repairs, cemetery maintenance, Town Hall bathroom renovations, and the required upgrade to the Town's AssessPro assessing software. These items were funded with Free Cash, and the remaining Free Cash was placed into Stabilization. Voters also approved amendments to the Town bylaws, including adoption of a new Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) bylaw, a dog waste disposal bylaw, amendments to the wireless telecommunications bylaw regarding towers and "small cell" installations, removal of outdated curfew and sex offender bylaws, and a change extending the Town Moderator term from one year to three years. Additional articles approved included authorization for the Town to participate in the C-PACE energy program, support for state "Medicare for All" legislation, and authorization related to the sale of Town-owned land on Avery Brook Road. The only article not approved was the creation of a Vehicle and Equipment Stabilization Fund.

The Fiscal Year 2027 operating budget was approved in the total amount of \$5,038,167.86 following amendments to the police department salary requests. The original proposal was intended to fund a full-time Police Chief and two police officer positions. During Town Meeting, voters reduced the Police Chief salary request to \$82,552.51 and reduced the police officer salary line item from \$140,000 to \$85,000, resulting in funding sufficient for a full-time Chief and one officer position. Salary for a shared Fire Chief with Rowe was also approved.

Save The Date: Plastic Free July Celebration

A Plastic Free July event will be held at the Charlemont Fairgrounds on **July 14 from 5:30-7PM**. The event will feature Amy Donovan from the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District speaking about the journey of our local plastics and answer questions about your recycling challenges!

Charlemont Affordability Connectivity Program Broadband Subsidy for Federal Lifeline Program Recipients

Subscribers to Charlemont's municipal broadband service who receive a federal Lifeline benefit through Whip City Fiber have an additional \$30/month subsidy automatically applied to their internet bills. This town subsidy is in addition to the \$9.25/month Lifeline benefit.

Municipal fiber network subscribers currently using a federal Lifeline benefit for a different service can qualify for Charlemont's \$30/month subsidy by switching the Lifeline credit to Whip City Fiber. Subscribers

not enrolled in Lifeline can learn more about this federal program at <https://www.Lifelinesupport.org/>. Subscribers who already receive

benefits such as SNAP, SSI, MEDICAID or other similar federal assistance programs may qualify automatically under federal guidelines.



To check eligibility and apply for the program through Whip City Fiber visit <https://Lifeline.whipcityfiber.com>.

News from the Board of Health

tickreport.com

Last month we offered information on ticks but neglected to include how you can get the ticks tested. The testing (see the address at the top of this) will tell you what kind of tick it is and what, if any, of the diseases it carried. The Board of Health has subsidized these tests so residents of Charlemont only pay \$15, as opposed to the \$60 full price. The correct price will show up at the end of the application. If you live in part of the town with a non-Charlemont zip code, make sure that it is clear that you live in Charlemont. Remember, prevention is the best defense.



**Let's Make a
Fairy House**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 20
12 -2 p.m.**

**Tyler Memorial Library
Charlemont Town Hall
157 Main Street
Charlemont**

**If you have an empty half-gallon container,
Please bring it, along with any nature-related items**

Parent child teams are welcome!

We have room for 10 spots

RSVP TO: maryannpadams@gmail.com or to the library.

Mass Cultural Council

**TYLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY
ESTABLISHED 1892**



**GREENFIELD
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**



AI for Everyone: Real Confidence with Artificial Intelligence

Robots, smart assistants and magic-sounding tech—oh my! If you’ve ever wondered what AI actually is (and what it isn’t), this fun, no-pressure class is for you. We’ll explore how artificial intelligence shows up in everyday life, how to use it to make things easier, and why it’s not just for the younger crowd. Come with questions, leave with confidence!



Rich Vaden
United Way of the
Franklin & Hampshire Region

	Date Thursday June 18, 2026
	Time 5 p.m.
	Address Tyler Memorial Library 157 Main Street, Charlemont MA



This program is a partnership with the towns of Northfield, Charlemont, Colrain, Leyden, Wendell, and New Salem, and is funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.



**GREENFIELD
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**

Google Docs

Learn the basics of Google Documents. In this workshop, we will go over creating, formatting, and sharing documents, as well as collaborating in real time. The session also covers useful tools like templates, comments, and file organization to help you work more efficiently.



Rich Vaden
United Way of the
Franklin & Hampshire Region



Date
Thursday June 4, 2026



Time
4 p.m.



Address
Tyler Memorial Library
157 Main Street, Charlemont MA



UNITED WAY
Franklin and
Hampshire Region

This program is a partnership with the towns of Northfield, Charlemont, Colrain, Leyden, Wendell, and New Salem, and is funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.