



Broadband Affordable Connectivity Program

The [Affordable Connectivity Program \(ACP\)](#) is an FCC benefit program that offers qualifying households a \$30.00 per month credit on their internet bill. Due to uncertain congressional funding, the FCC has announced that ACP could be terminated by the end of April 2024 and has announced guidelines for wrapping up the program.

Currently 9.5% of subscribers to the Charlemont municipal fiber network receive ACP benefits and it is an important part of digital equity in our community. Please [contact your members of congress](#) and urge passage of the bipartisan, bicameral [Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act \(S. 3569\)](#) to fund the continuation of this important program.

West County Wood Bank News

Charlemont was awarded a grant of \$8,894 to start up a firewood bank. The funding came from the Alliance for Green Heat, a non-profit organization chosen by the US Forest Service in 2022 to administer a national program to support volunteer firewood banks.

Modeled after food banks, firewood banks depend on wood donated by tree trimmers, towns and homeowners to distribute to community members. There are more than 100 firewood banks around the country and each one is eligible for a grant of up to \$15,000 to purchase equipment so that they can more efficiently process firewood.

The volunteers at the Firewood Bank are working with Hawlemont School to set up wood bins and processes to distribute wood to those in need.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Firewood bank, please contact Jay Healy at healyjay7@gmail.com .

REMARKS & REFRESHMENTS



with

**Sen. Paul Mark
& Rep. Natalie Blais**

Charlemont

Friday, Feb. 16th

5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Charlemont Town Hall
157 Main St, Charlemont

District Contacts

Corinne Coryat, Legislative Aide
(Rep. Blais)

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News from Hawlemont

Mohawk Trail/Hawlemont Sustainability Project (the 2D8T Committee) is underway!

- **A Steering Committee has been named.**
 - Ashfield – Open seat
 - Paula Consolo, Buckland, Finance Committee
 - Colrain – Jenny Van Wyk, Parent and Educator
 - Julie Talbot, Charlemont, Parent and Educator
 - Ellen Purinton, Hawley, Community Member
 - Elizabeth Finn, Heath, Parent
 - Judy Coles, Plainfield, Select Board
 - Paul Hollings, Shelburne, Community Member
 - Robin Pease, Mohawk Trail/Hawlemont Director of Facilities and Transportation
 - Kristen Tilona-Baker, Executive Director, Mary Lyon Foundation
 - Sheryl Stanton, Mohawk Trail/Hawlemont Superintendent of Schools
 - Martha Thurber, Chair, Mohawk Trail School Committee
 - Elizabeth Van Iderstine, Chair, Hawlemont School Committee
- **A website has been launched at <http://2districts8towns.org/>.**
- **Community involvement will be vital!**

Hawlemont Statistics of the Month

13% more students are **AT or ABOVE** grade level in their literacy skills (DIBELS which stands for Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills scores in January as compared to the Fall)!

100% of Hawlemont families are being offered **home packs of math games** -- packs are **individualized** to suit every child's background skills with materials and instruction to suit every family's need

Calendar of Community Opportunities

February 5, 2024, 4:00 PM School Committee Special Budget Meeting (online meeting)

February 12, 2024, 4:00 PM School Committee standing Budget meeting, if needed

February 12, 2024, 5:00 PM standing monthly School Committee meeting

February 13, 2024, 5:00 PM Rural School Aid Information and Advocacy Event

The Hawlemont School Committee will be hosting a community event to dive into the details of Rural School Aid. Dinner will be fabulous and provided! More details will be coming soon so please hold the date!

Possible week of February 19 - Public Budget Hearing (TBD)

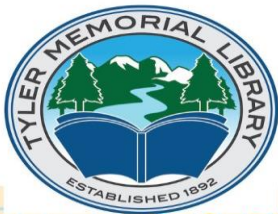
The Hawlemont School Committee is working toward a public hearing on the school budget, targeting the week of February 19th.

February 24, 2024, from 10:30-12:00 HAY Winter Weaving Workshop

Intro to Weaving for teens and adults with Jeanne Bruffee and Susan Gruen.

Learn the basics of working a loom from dressing to weaving samples. In this workshop you will learn the nuances of the wonderful and intricate art form. \$15 per person

Follow up weaving class for those that are interested.



Tyler Memorial Library Crafting Adventures

A decorative border surrounds the central text. It features a light blue grid background with various colorful elements: red and pink hearts, yellow and blue stars, green and pink leaves, and stylized floral shapes. The text is centered within this border.

**Thursday
February 8
Drop in
5 to 7 p.m.
All Ages Welcome**

***Embroidered felt
heart pillows***

Window suncatchers

Bear heart bookmarks