



News from the Tax Collector

You can now pay overdue excise that is with Jeffrey & Jeffrey online. Go to Jeffrey & Jeffrey Deputy Tax Collector – UniBank. You will need your bill number and year, if you don't have that information call them at 413-967-9941 or call the Treasurer /Collector at 413-339-5707.

News from the Town Clerk

Annual Election Nomination Papers are available now through April 12th, 2024, by 5 pm, from the Town Clerk. The last day to turn in the nomination papers will be April 16,2024 by 5pm.

The annual election will be on June 4th, 2024, this change was voted at the annual town meeting last May. New this year, early voting by mail and in person will be available for the annual town election, watch the town website for details.

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 28th.

List of the open election seats is below (1 seat available unless noted otherwise):

Selectboard- *2 seats

Assessors

Charlemont School Committee

Mohawk School Committee

Local Education Council

Planning Board – *2 members 1 associate

Board Of Health

Tyler Memorial Library Trustee

Constable

Park and Recreation

Moderator

Information about the various election positions can be found in the Volunteer Handbook available on the town website Selectboard page in the document section. Information about positions can also be obtained by contacting the Town Clerk 413-339-4335 ext. 7.



Time to renew your Dog Licenses.

2024 Dog Licenses Available

All dogs 6 months or older must be licensed with the Town Clerk's office every year. New dogs must be licensed within 30 days of their arrival in Charlemont. Proof of current rabies vaccination (and spay/neuter certificate, if applicable) are required to license your dog. A license form was mailed with the annual street listing. Contact Town Clerk Thorne Palmer with any questions 413-339-4335 ext. 7.

Annual Street Listing Forms

The Annual Street Listing forms are mailed annually to every known household in the Town of Charlemont. The Street List is used to compile the school list, dog list, and to maintain a census for the town. This information is also used when the town applies for grants and ensures that the town receives adequate State Funding which is based on the population. It is also important for the police and fire departments to know where residents are located for an emergency response. Please update the information, if necessary, sign, and return the form in the self-addressed envelope provided. If you have not received a form, please contact the Town Clerk.



PROJECT UPDATE, MARCH 2, 2024

Berkshire Educational Resources K12 (BERK12) is working with the Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont regional school districts to conduct an ongoing study and analysis of the two districts as they seek ways to ensure their long-term sustainability. The project, branded as 2districts8towns, encompasses the Western Massachusetts towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Hawley, Heath, Plainfield, and Shelburne.

The purpose of the study is to identify the best options for providing a high-quality education that prepares students for future success in college, career, and life while considering educational and fiscal opportunities, challenges, and options. Like many rural areas across the Northeast, the region faces challenges associated with declining enrollment, rising operational costs, relatively flat state aid, and increasing student needs. The study builds upon previous data collection.

“Our communities care deeply about our schools and want the best possible education for our youth,” said Sheryl Stanton, superintendent of Mohawk Trail/Hawlemont Regional School Districts. “I’m proud of the work the community has done over the last two decades and am excited and hopeful about identifying the best possible options for a sustainable future for our districts through the BERK12 study.”

The first stage of work focuses on collecting data on current educational programming, enrollment, fiscal conditions, and building infrastructure. Additionally, over the next few months, BERK12 consultants will engage with the community by meeting with teachers and administrators, students, school committees, select boards/finance committees, family members, and community members to provide an overview of the project plan and gather their perspectives about the districts and schools.

Following the data collection and community engagement efforts, BERK12 will present potential operating models that offer a more sustainable future for the schools and member towns. These models will then be presented and discussed in community settings throughout the eight towns. By early 2025, BERK12 will generate a final report that identifies preferred models for moving forward and recommended next steps.

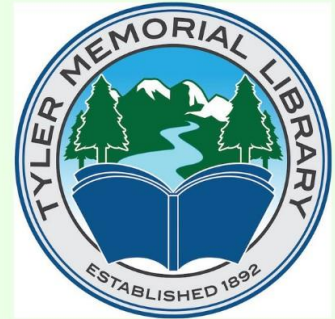
A steering committee has been formed to provide ongoing guidance and oversee the work. The committee will be assembling advisory teams in the areas of community outreach, educational quality, and finance. Community members interested in serving on advisory teams can submit their names through the website (2districts8towns.org).

Community members are encouraged to learn more about the study by visiting the project website and social media pages and attending upcoming outreach meetings. The 2districts8towns website provides past and current presentations and reports, a full schedule of upcoming community engagement meetings, a list of steering committee members, links to the project’s Facebook and Instagram pages, and other relevant project information.

For more information, contact project manager H. Jake Eberwein, jeberwein@gmail.com.

FELTED FROGGY

HOOP



THURSDAY

MARCH 28

5-7 PM



LEARN HOW TO NEEDLE FELT A FRIENDLY FROGGY FACE.

THIS EXPRESSIVE FROG HAS A THREE-DIMENSIONAL TONGUE AND A SPEECH BUBBLE.

GET CREATIVE AND ADD ACCESSORIES TO YOUR FROG LIKE A HAT, A BOW OR A MUSTACHE.

THIS FELTING PROJECT IS FUN FOR ALL AGES.

**TYLER MEMORIAL
LIBRARY
157 MAIN STREET
CHARLEMONT, MA
413-339-4335**



*This library program is sponsored by the
Charlemont-Hawley Cultural Council*