IMPORTANT DATES

Town Elections and Town Meeting

May 24,2022 at Hawlemont Elementary School

Elections 12pm-7pm

Town Meeting starts at 7:30pm

Last Day to register to vote in the Annual Election and Town Meeting

The last day to register to be able to vote in the Annual Election and Town Meeting is Friday, May 13, 2022. The Town Clerk will hold special registration hours on May 13, 2022, from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. and again from 7:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. in Town Hall. Please contact Town Clerk Kathy Reynolds if you should have question

Town Meeting Warrant

Town Meeting will be held on May 24,2022 at Hawlemont Elementary School beginning at 7:30 pm. The warrant and sample ballot for town meeting will be posted on the town website (it will be added to the calendar event already created for town meeting). On this year's Election ballot there will be a 2 ½ override question. This is to allow the town to defray the Hawlemont Elementary School Budget increase over last year's operating budget in the amount of $231,958.00.

Other Warrant articles, include a new ambulance, bridge funds, infrastructure funds, funds to replace flooring in town hall, and cemetery funds. The recommendation of the Finance Committee is to fund these warrant items from free cash. There is also a citizen petition for a recall bylaw and approving the layout of the East Oxbow Road for the bridge replacement project.

The Town's total operating budget of $4.2 Million Dollars will also be voted at Town Meeting.

Annual Town Elections

The Annual Town Election Ballot will feature several contested positions this year. Voting will be May 24,2022 at the Hawlemont School. Voting is noon to 7 pm. There will be a meet the candidate's night on May 16,2022. Check the Town Calendar for details.

Planning Board Updates

After an extended time seeking additional members for the planning board, two new members were appointed to the board this past month, Lori Merrigan and Coleen Champ. Both new members will be running for these potions on the ballot at the upcoming town elections. Current planning board members, Gisela Walker, Carlene Hayden, Bob Nelson and alternate, Dan Miller welcome these new members and look forward to working with them.

From the CPHS Public Health Team:

With COVID-19 still out there, it is important to take precautions. The FRCOG website has up-to-date information on what to do if you are exposed to or test positive for COVID-19: **https://frcog.org/covid. No internet? Give us a call: 413-774-3167 ext. 206.**

There will be a number of no-cost COVID-19 vaccine/booster clinics around Franklin County. On May 11th, the Shelburne Falls Senior Center will host a clinic from 11:30pm – 1:30pm and the Buckland-Shelburne Elementary will host a clinic from 3pm-6pm. On May 18th, Hawlemont Elementary will host a clinic from 2:30-6:30pm.

All vaccine brands (J&J, Moderna, Pfizer) will be available for primary series (initial) vaccines and booster shots (and 2nd booster for eligible individuals). Sign up online at **https://frcog.org/covid**, for those without internet call 339-4335 x6,2, or walk-in. Please bring your insurance card if you have one.

Free treatment options for COVID-19 are available and can help prevent hospitalization and reduce the chance of severe disease. Treatment is available for people who are at increased risk of severe disease, test positive for COVID-19, and have symptoms, even mild ones like runny nose or cough. If this applies to you, contact your medical provider to see if oral medication (anti-viral pills) or monoclonal antibodies (IV) would be an option for you.

The sooner you start treatment after getting sick, the better. Most treatments need to be started within 5 days of symptoms starting. Treatments are widely available at local pharmacies and need to be prescribed by your medical provider.

If you have a weakened immune system or are unable to get vaccinated due to severe reaction to prior COVID vaccination, contact your provider to see if the preventative medication, Evusheld, could be taken by you before a COVID infection.

As always, **West County walk-in wellness nursing hours are open to the entire community**:
In **Charlemont** at the Federated Church the 2nd Tuesday from 10:30-12pm and from 4-5:30pm every 3rd Tuesday (during the Good Neighbors Food Distribution). In **Ashfield** from 3-5pm on May 3, June 14 and July 12 (and future dates) at the First Congregational Church. And in **Rowe** the 4th Monday from 10am – 12pm at Town Hall. In **Shelburne** at the Senior Center the 4th Tuesday of every month from 10:30am – 12pm.

Charlemont Fire Department

A reminder that the Charlemont Firefighters Benefit Association Street sign program is still open for orders. Flyers can be printed online or picked up at the Transfer Station.

Additionally, we are always looking for Fire Department Volunteers! If you are 16 and older, we welcome you to stop by the station on a Tuesday night while we are training, or you can contact us by email at chafire7@gmail.com.

Broadband Service is now available throughout Charlemont

High-Speed Broadband is now available throughout Charlemont! Whip City Fiber is scheduling installations in the newly released areas of West Charlemont and North Charlemont. If you have already signed up for service in these areas, you will receive a call from Whip City Fiber to schedule your installation. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Whip City Fiber Customer Service at 413-485-1251.

With the conclusion of network construction, the subsidy period will be closing as the installation crews wrap up work in town. The subsidy for installation is expected to be available through the end of August. In most cases, this subsidy will cover the cost of installation, making it free to the subscribers committing to a year of service.

Detailed information about the Charlemont Broadband Project can be found on our website Charlemont Connect. It includes information on the phone service that is available separately, and such topics streaming TV via the internet.