

Important Dates

August 9 ,2022 6pm

Special Town Meeting at the
Charlemont Fairgrounds

August 12,2022

Last day for comments on the
Planning and Hazard Mitigation
Plans

August 31,2022

Last day for Broadband Subsidy

Town of Charlemont Newsletter August 2022

Special Town Meeting August 9,2022

There will be a special town meeting on Tuesday August 9th, 2022, at the Charlemont Fairgrounds to discuss the following warrant article:

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to allow the Hawlemont Regional School District to borrow a sum of money, not to exceed \$66,700, of which the town's share of 79%, per the Regional Agreement, shall not exceed \$52,693; for the purpose of replacing the two oil-fired boilers at the Hawlemont Elementary School, said sum is to be expended under the approval of the Chair, is authorized to borrow said sum under MGL. Ch. 44 or any other enabling authority

September 6, 2022, State Election in person early voting hours

The in person early voting location is in the Town Clerk's office located in the Town Hall. Days and hours for in person early voting are:

Saturday, August 27 9:00 A.M. to 11 A. M. & 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Tuesday, August 30 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Thursday, September 1 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

The Special Voter Registration hours will be held on Saturday, August 27 from 9am to 11 am and 3pm to 5 pm in the Town Hall Clerks office.

Select Board News

The Planning consultant has provided a plan for public comment, which is available now on the Charlemont website. Please send comments to administrator@townofcharlemont.org. This plan is the conclusion of public meetings and comments that the planner received to develop an economic strategy for the town.

Town of Charlemont Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

The Town of Charlemont has developed 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan that identifies and prioritizes actions the Town can take to mitigate the impacts of natural hazards and climate change. Citizen participation is essential. The public is invited to review and comment on the draft plan.

- Access the plan on the Town's website: <https://charlemont-ma.us>
- View a hard copy in the Town Offices
- Comment between July 29, 2022 – August 11, 2022

To provide comments

- Contact Sarah Reynolds, Town Administrator
- Phone: 413-339-4335
- Email: administrator@townofcharlemont.org

Charlemont's Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee has developed this plan as a strategy for reducing current and future natural hazards risks and impacts from climate change. When implemented the Hazard Mitigation Plan makes the Town more resilient to natural hazards such as flooding, snowstorms, high winds, and extreme temperatures. Town officials and local stakeholders developed this plan with support from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approval, and Town adoption, of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update allows the Town to apply for pre- and post-disaster hazard mitigation grant funds. For questions regarding this project, please contact Sarah Reynolds, Administrator, Town of Charlemont, Phone: 413-339-4335 ext. 8 or administrator@townofcharlemont.org.

Transfer Station News

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

Franklin County Solid Waste District is planning to hold the 2022 household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, September 24th at GCC's Main Campus and the Orange Transfer Station.

Residents and businesses must pre-register by September 16th. Online pre-registration for the 2022 collection will begin in mid-August, at: franklincountywastedistrict.org. Mail-in registration forms will be available in late August at town transfer stations and in local newspapers. Participants will be assigned an appointment time to bring wastes to the collection; an appointment time and instructions will be provided by mail after registration is processed.

The collection is free for residents of most of the district's 21 member towns. Businesses may participate but must pay for disposal costs. For business registration information, call (413) 772-2438.

This collection provides an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items that should not be put in the trash, such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, household cleaners, and other household chemicals. A more complete list of acceptable items is at: franklincountywastedistrict.org. Batteries and mercury-containing items such as fluorescent light bulbs, thermometers, and thermostats will not be accepted at this collection. These items, which may contain mercury or heavy metals, should never be put in trash or recycling. Handle carefully, bring them to a municipal transfer station or a [Regional Hazardous Waste "Super Site"](#) and hand to attendant. In addition, fluorescent light bulbs are accepted at Lowe's Stores (all types of fluorescents), and Home Depot (CFLs only).

For more information visit: franklincountywastedistrict.org or contact the District at info@franklincountywastedistrict.org, (413) 772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The district is an equal opportunity provider.

Final Reminder: Broadband Subsidy Deadline is August 31, 2022

The summer is quickly passing by. As we enter the month of August, we would like to again remind town residents that the subsidy period for broadband installation will soon close. Residents are eligible for the subsidy if they commit to a year of service and sign up before the deadline which is **August 31, 2022**. You have the option of signing up for just a broadband or you can bundle it with the optional phone service. Complete details can be found under Resources on the Charlemont Connect website (<http://www.charlemontconnect.org>). This page includes information about our drop policy and subsidies, commercial pricing, the phone service, and the federal Affordable Connectivity Program which may reduce your cost for internet service if you qualify. There is also a button that will connect you to the Whip City Fiber page for Charlemont to sign-up.

We encourage residents who haven't sign up to do so during the subsidy period, where you are eligible for a subsidy of up to \$1400, making the connection free for most residents. You can still connect after the subsidy period ends, but you will be responsible for the cost of the connection currently estimated to start at \$650. If you choose not to take service at this time, please consider taking advantage the \$500 "Cold Drop" subsidy, where the fiber optic cable is brought to the outside of your home thus lowering the cost of a connection in the future. For many residents the subsidy will cover the complete cost of the cold drop. In addition, the town is offering special cold drop subsidies for owners of rental properties. Again, the deadline for all subsidies is August 31, 2022.

To sign up call Whip City Customer Service at 413 485-1251 or go to the Whip City Fiber webpage for Charlemont (www.whipcityfiber.com/charlemont) and click the sign-up button.

Volunteers Wanted:

As several members have moved on, the Broadband Committee needs new members to work with us as the broadband project transitions from the construction phase to a functioning Network. If interested in joining the Broadband Committee, please contact us at broadband@charlemontconnect.org or (413) 337-1199.

Planning Board News

The planning board will be holding a public hearing to review proposed zoning amendments in August. Please watch the town website for the meeting announcement.