



# CHARLESTOWN CHATTER

First Quarter 2017

www.Charlestownmd.org

## Meetings

- Town Hall 410-287-6173
- Historic District Meeting is on the first Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 PM in Town Hall
- Planning & Zoning meetings are the first Thursday after the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00PM in Town Hall
- Town Meetings are every second and fourth Tuesday of the month beginning at 7:00PM in Town Hall
- Green Team meets every 4th Monday of the month at 6:00 PM in Town Hall
- Avalon, Election Board, 275th Anniversary Committee and Board of Appeals meet as needed as needed.

## Trash Dates

- Every Monday is Household Trash & Recyclables collection. Recyclables may no longer be placed in plastic bags.
- Household bulk pickup is the **last** Wednesday of the month Please call Town hall to request a pickup at 410-287-6173.
- Yard Waste is collected by the Town Staff on the second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Monday of each month.
- There will be no holiday interruptions in waste and recycling collections this quarter

## Add Me to the List!

- If you would like to be added to the town distribution list, please send your email address with your request to:townclerk21914@comcast.net

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## ELECTION RESULTS

The total number of voters was 135 (130 walk-in, 5 absentee).

### Elected were:

**Karl Fockler - Joe Letts**

**Thank you to those who turned out to vote!**

### At the first meeting of the newly elected board, officers elected were:

Andy Thompson , President

Joe Letts , Vice President

Karl Fockler , Treasurer

Renee Capano , Representative to Planning and Zoning Board

### Reminder: Town Commissioner meetings are open to all!

Town Commissioners meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month beginning at 7:00PM in Town Hall. Lots of exciting things coming Charlestown's way! The work on the 2017 - 2018 budget process will begin very soon. There are periods of public comment at each meeting. Get involved and stay informed.



### Cecil County Chesapeake Bay Wade In June 17, 2017 10 AM— 2PM

Due to beach construction at Elk Neck State Park, Charlestown has been chosen as the site for the Cecil County 2017 Wade-In activities. A family friendly event, activities will take place from 10 AM to 2PM at the lot next to Fairgreen Park and at Foot

Log Park. The Fairgreen Park site will feature environmental exhibitors and demonstrations in such areas as learning about local watersheds, water quality education, native and natural plantings, seine netting and fish ID, scales and tales by DNR, Plumpton Park Zoo, and live music and over 25 exhibitors. The Foot Log beach will be the site of the actual wade-in at 12:30 PM. Participants stand on the shore and "wade in" in a straight line until they can no longer see their shoes. You need to bring shoes that can get wet! This is a nonscientific check on the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Food vendors will also be available since the event spans the lunch hour. Walking, for our residents is the preferred way for you to get there, but there will be shuttle service from the elementary school for those who need to park their cars. Cecil transit will be providing the shuttle service.



Every week we get phone calls in the Town Hall about **trash blowing around** the neighborhoods because it is left out for the trash haulers unsecured. This seems to be especially true of recyclables now that they cannot be put into plastic bags. Please put your trash and recyclables in a container with a lid securely fastened on it. When trash is left to float around it ends up in a neighbor's yard or in common areas not policed by anyone. This makes the town unsightly and annoys your neighbors who are picking your trash up out of their yards. Please be responsible and secure your trash. Thanks!



Come join us at St. John's UM church every Tuesday from 10am—1pm for the **Young at Heart 50+ group**. We will be playing cards, games and sharing either lunch or snack.



## Utility Rates

### Your current bill is due May 5, 2017

#### In Town Residences:

- Bay Restoration Fee \$15.00 per quarter
- Water minimum \$69.55 for 13,500 gallons
- 1000 gal. units, in excess of the 13,500 gal \$4.75
- Sewer minimum \$88.40 for 10,000 gallons
- 1000 gal. units, in excess of the 10,000 gal \$8.95

#### Out of Town Residences:

- Bay Restoration Fee \$15.00 per quarter
- Water minimum \$110.80 for 13,500 gallons
- 1000 gal units, in excess of the 13,500 gal \$5.40
- Sewer minimum \$128.15 for 10,000 gallons
- 1000 gal. units in excess of the 10,000 \$13.30

The Bay Restoration Fee of \$15.00 per quarter is added to the sewer portion of water bills. If you pay your sewer fees to Cecil County directly, the \$15.00 is added to that bill and not your water bill.

**There is a procedure in place to establish a payment plan for those experiencing a hardship in paying their bill.**

**Contact Town Hall (410-287-6173) to inquire about this procedure if you feel you might qualify.**

**Failure to pay your bill on time results in the following procedure:**

Your account will be assessed a penalty and an additional bill will be mailed to the address of record on May 8th.

Residences of unpaid bills as of May 17th will receive a door hanger notice of impending shutoff on or around May 18th.

Shutoffs at residences with unpaid balances over \$50.00 will occur on May 18th and an additional fee of \$50.00 will be added to the bill to facilitate shutoff and reconnection services.

Our website is set up to accept credit/debit card payments for your utility bills. Log on to see the requirements for this service at [www.charlestownmd.org](http://www.charlestownmd.org).

## Community Clean Up, Earth Day April 22nd

Join your neighbors in helping to clean up the neighborhood. Earth Day is a time for all of us to remember to care for the earth. Call Town Hall to join a team distributed to various locations in our community to spruce up as the summer season approaches!



## Town Wide Community Yard Sale Saturday, May 13, 8:00AM till?

Join your neighbors in re-distributing all that stuff you are no longer using! Call or email town hall to have your address added to the list along with a short list of attention getting items. Then just open up on May 13!



Mark Your Calendars Now! October 21 and 22 will see a Colonial Fair here in Charlestown to celebrate the 275th anniversary of the founding of Charlestown. The plan is for reenactors, musicians, tours, crafters and games. Oh my! What fun! A whole family affair! Want to help? See below!

### Charlestown Colonial Fair & Anniversary Celebration

Learn More, Have Fun! Join a Committee Now.  
Monday, 4/17 @7pm or Saturday 4/29 @ 9:30AM  
Meeting at 107 House, 343 Market St.  
Or, contact Town Hall.

### Take a Tour of the CHARLESTOWN MUSEUM!



Also known as the "107 House" or "Tory House" the Museum was created by Colonial Charlestown, Inc. Filled with interesting antiques it gives a unique perspective into the early history of Charlestown and surrounding community. Located at 343 Market Street the museum is open for tours the 3rd Sunday of each month, May thru September, from 2pm—4pm or by appointment. Please call 410-287-8262 for more information.

## Did you know??????

Route #7 was called the Post Road leading from Philadelphia to Baltimore along which Washington and Ben Franklin often traveled. Charlestown's first Post Office was at the end of Market Street on Cecil Street. Shortly after it opened in 1776 higher authorities wanted to move the post office. It took some time for Charlestown officials to fight to retain the post office, and they did!!!! (until the train arrived in the 1850s.)

The first Postmaster was Patrick Hamilton appointed 5 Jan 1776. In 1786 Elizabeth Cresswell became Postmistress who was the second woman ever employed by the US government!

This picture at the left shows the post office at the end of Market. It is the tiny white building in the middle of the picture. The point of view is looking up Market Street from the current post office. Photo courtesy of Audrey Edwards.





# USEFUL STUFF! SAVE ME FOR REFERENCE

**BUILDING PERMITS—No building or other structure shall be erected, moved, added to or structurally altered or use of land be changed without a permit.**

**If you are in the Historic Area of Charlestown, there may be other regulations as well**

**Major Permit—\$50 -Examples**

- In ground swimming pools, garages, room additions, decks, patios, porches and/or enclosing thereof, solar panels, additional or changes to siding, windows, doors.

**Minor Permit—\$20—Examples**

- Fences,
- Tree Removal, major landscaping
- Above ground swimming pool, whole house generator
- Change of driveway surface
- Replacement of **existing** siding, windows or doors



**When in doubt, call Town Hall 410-287-6173!**



**What Goes In?**

- \* Newspaper & magazines & catalogs
- \* Plastic & glass containers
- \* Aluminum & metal cans
- \* Clean Paperboard boxes

- \* Plastic trays with food residual, paper plates
- \* Fruit, food waste
- \* Polystyrene foam
- \* Paper towels, tissues
- \* Wood & more



[www.ccrecycling.org](http://www.ccrecycling.org) for a complete list

**Please read the enclosed flyer for more recycling tips!**



Please be mindful of the dates for yard waste and bulk. Do not put these items out far in advance of the date of pick-up. Doing so invites animals to pick through it or try to nest, becomes overly waterlogged and extremely heavy and generally creates an eyesore. Thanks!



Would you like to join the ranks of the Charlestown Volunteer Fire Department? Give them a call on the non emergency number of 410-287-6451 to find out the requirements.



**YARD WASTE** will be collected by the Town Staff on the **2nd and 4th Monday of each**

**month.** Grass, leaves, clippings, are collected in brown bags (preferred) (only filled with yard waste). Small limbs or branches not more than 3” in diameter, cut into 4ft lengths are accepted tied in bundles. Anything larger or in excess of 20lbs will not be picked up.

**BULK TRASH** will be picked up by **appointment** on the **last Wednesday of each** month by Town Staff.

This service is for residents to dispose of a **few** large items, not a full clean out. Call Town Hall at 410-287-6173 or stop in to sign the bulk list.



Cars continue to be a prime target of thieves. Remember to keep those windows up and doors locked! If you experience a loss or a break-in or attempted break-in please let the authorities know.

**SAFETY TIPS**

- Light the outside of your home
- Lock your doors, windows & install deadbolts
- Lock your car, roll up your windows, and put valuables out of sight
- Don't advertise your absence. Never leave an "away Message" on your answering machine or post on social media. Before you leave, set timers for lights, TV's & radios to go on & off.
- Inform MD State & Sheriff's Dept. that you are going to be away and get a "drive by property check". Forms can be picked up at Town Hall

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

- Call 911 for Emergency (you can ask for Sheriff or State Police)
- Cecil County Sheriff 410-996-5500 (non-emergency)
- Lt. Michael Holmes 410-392-2109 or e-mail Mchael.Holmes@ccdps.org
- Sgt. Ron Schmidt 410-996-5800 X3337 or e-mail Ronald.Schmidt@ccdps.org

**CRIME PREVENTION**



**Town Hall to Close for 1 Holiday this Quarter:**

**May 29th Memorial Day**

**Contact Us:**

- Town Hall: 410-287-6173**
- Town Administrator: Wib Pumpaly townadmin21914@comcast.net**
- After Hours Water Emergencies: 443-553-5464**
- President, Board of Commissioners: Andy Thompson 443-945-7210**
- Vice President, Bd. of Commissioners: Joe Letts 443-553-7665**
- Treasurer, Board of Commissioners: Karl Fockler 443-907-3344**
- Commissioner Renee Capano 443-309-0549**
- Commissioner Mary Carol Durange 410-459-0707**
- Charlestown Vol. Fire Dept. Non Emergency: 410-287-6451**

Every Monday Trash & Recycling

# April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Young at Heart Historic District	5	6 Planning & Zoning	7	8
9	10 Yard Waste	11 Young at Heart TCM	12	13	14	15
16	17 275th Anniversary Planning	18 Young at Heart	19	20	21	22 Earth Day Clean Community Up
23	24 Yard Waste Green Team	25 Young at Heart TCM	26 Bulk Trash	27	28	29 275th Anniversary Planning
30						

Every Monday Trash & Recycling

# May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Young at Heart Historic District	3	4 Planning & Zoning	5	6
7	8 Yard Waste	9 Young at Heart TCM	10	11	12	13 Town Wide Yard Sale
14	15	16 Young at Herat	17	18	19	20
21	22 Yard Waste Green Team	23 Young at Heart TCM	24	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day Town Hall Closed	30 Young at Heart	31 Bulk Trash			

Every Monday Trash & Recycling

# June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Young at Heart Historic District	7	8 Planning & Zoning	9	10
11	12 Yard Waste	13 Young at Heart TCM	14	15	16	17 Wade -In
18	19	20 Young at Heart	21	22	23	24
25	26 Yard Waste Green Team	27 Young at Heart TCM	28 Bulk Trash	29	30	