

The Charlestown Drift

First Quarter 2023

A SEASON OF GROWTH

Spring has arrived! It's the perfect time of year to clean out clutter, complete necessary projects around the house, or spend time outside by the river. Charlestown is the place to be, and we can't wait to see you at our upcoming Spring events!



Need to do some Spring cleaning and have large items to dispose of? Our maintenance staff collects bulk trash on the last Wednesday and Thursday of every month. Please contact Town Hall to schedule your pickup, or if you'd like to earn some money off of your treasures, our Community Yard Sale days are May 20th & 21st.

Need to complete some major landscaping or repairs on your home? Make sure to speak to our Town Administrator, Bryan Lightner, before starting your project to see if a permit is required.

Looking to host a party outdoors or go fishing on the river? Avalon Park, Veteran's Park Pavilion, and Stone Wharf/Long Point are all great rental options year-round, and the Stone Wharf is a designated free fishing pier, which does not require a fishing license. Contact Town Hall or visit our website for details regarding rental pricing, parking and amenities.

No matter what your plans are for the Spring, don't forget to check out our upcoming events, listed on page 3!

UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS DUE MAY 8TH!

QUARTERLY UTILITY BILL PROCEDURES UPDATE

Effective March 15, 2023, the policy and procedures regarding quarterly utility bill payments and shut-offs have changed. The procedures are as follows:

Utility bills are mailed out quarterly within the first 7-10 days of the months of January, April, July, and October, and are due 30 days from the billing date (not the date received in the mail). **If you do not receive your bill by the 15th of the month of the quarter indicated, please contact Town Hall for a duplicate bill.** We strongly encourage residents to sign up to receive copies of their bills via email.

Last quarter, we notified you that any accounts more than two (2) quarters past due would be at risk for shut-off. Starting with the 1st Quarter 2023 bill, this time frame will be reduced to one (1) quarter past due. **Quarterly bills not paid by the due date are assessed a 5% penalty fee on the full balance owed, and if not paid within two (2) weeks after the due date, water service will be shut off.** If shut-off occurs, a \$50 Shut-Off fee will be assessed, and in order for service to be restored, the current account balance and \$50 Turn-On fee must be paid in full.

If you have any questions or need to establish a payment plan, please contact Mary Culver at (410) 287-6173, ext. 4, or via email at mculver@charlestownmd.org.

After-Hours & Water Emergencies — Bobby Straiton (443) 553-2087



TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN

241 Market Street
Post Office Box 154
Charlestown, Maryland
21914

(P) 410-287-6173
Staff@CharlestownMD.org

Town Hall
Hours of Operation:
M-Th—7:30am-5:00pm
F—7:30am-4:00pm

WWW.CHARLESTOWNMD.ORG

MEETINGS

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

The first Tuesday of the
month at 7:00pm

PLANNING & ZONING

The first Thursday after
the first Tuesday at
6:00pm

TOWN COMMISSIONERS

The second and fourth
Tuesdays of the month at
6:00pm

COLLECTIONS

HOUSEHOLD TRASH & RECYCLABLES

Every Wednesday,
excluding July 4th only,
starting at 6am

YARD WASTE

The second and fourth
Mondays of the month

BULK TRASH

The last Wednesday and
Thursday of the month —
Call to schedule!



**Town Hall Closures
for 2nd Quarter:**

Monday, May 31
Memorial Day

Monday, June 19
Juneteenth

TWO ELECTED TO TOWN COMMISSIONER SEATS

Newcomers **Robert Rinehart and Richard Mahan** were elected on **March 7, 2023** by the citizens of Charlestown to serve a two-year term. Their installation was held at the regular Town Commissioners' meeting on March 13, 2023 by Clerk of the Circuit Court, Charlene Notarcola. **After the swearing-in, the Commissioners held officer elections.** The results are as follows:

{ Renee Capano—*President & Planning and Zoning Commission Liaison*
Robert Rinehart—*Vice President & Maintenance Commissioner*
Richard Mahan—*Treasurer & Police Commissioner*
Loucretia "Lou" Wood—*Parks and Recreation Commissioner* }

At the March 28th meeting, Lou Wood was also appointed as the Historic District Commission Liaison. Commissioner Jeffrey Fields will support the team.

NEW FORMAT FOR TOWN COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS TO START IN MAY

Beginning in May, the Town Commissioners' meetings will adopt a new format in efforts to increase productivity. The first meeting of the month, which is held on the 2nd Tuesday, will be a Legislative meeting and the second meeting, held on the 4th Tuesday, will be a Working meeting.

During a Legislative meeting, the Commissioners will make decisions and vote on what was discussed in the previous Working meeting. The Legislative meeting is open to the public, but no comment will be taken, other than at the end of the meeting. The Commissioners will also review and approve the Accounts Payable for the month. The monthly reports for Miller Environmental, the Maintenance department, the Cecil County Sheriff's Office, and the Budget to Actual for the previous month, will be posted on our website prior to the Legislative meeting for public review. When the reports are posted, notifications will be sent via email and posted to our Facebook page.



At a Working meeting, the Commissioners will discuss current events and what action items should be considered before the next Legislative meeting. Public comment is welcome and will be requested for action items prior to voting at the next Legislative meeting.

TOWN COMMISSIONERS

Renee Capano, President

rlcapano@charlestownmd.org
443-309-0549

Robert Rinehart, Vice President

rrinehart@charlestownmd.org
302-363-1001

Richard Mahan, Treasurer

rmahan@charlestownmd.org
323-578-5050

Loucretia "Lou" Wood

lwood@charlestownmd.org
443-967-3871

Jeffrey Fields

jfields@charlestownmd.org
443-907-8204

PET ORDINANCE: CHICKENS

On February 28th, the Commissioners approved the proposal set forth by the Planning and Zoning Commission to amend Ordinance #2009-01. The amendment allows for residents in all residential zones of Charlestown to own chickens, with some exceptions, depending on the zoning classification.

In order to own chickens, you must meet all requirements listed in the Ordinance, such as obtaining a Town permit and providing proof of registration with the State of Maryland. Please note that if you live in a section of Town that has a Homeowners Association (HOA), other restrictions may apply.

For a full list of requirements and to determine your zoning classification, please visit our website at www.charlestownmd.org and click on "2023 Zoning Ordinance Revisions & Charter Amendments" under the Town News & Updates section.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- ◆ **Please do not cover up your water meters.** In case of water emergencies, or during quarterly billing, we need to have quick access to your meter to stop leaks or perform necessary maintenance. Covering the meters with flowerbeds or automobiles makes this process much harder for all of us.
- ◆ **Please ensure that your residence has a visible house number from the street.** In case of emergencies, you may need to be found quickly. Please call the Charlestown Fire Company at (410) 287-6451 for a house number.
- ◆ **Update your contact information with us.** If you are new to Charlestown, or your phone, email or mailing address recently changed, please notify Town Hall as soon as possible. It is important that we have this information so that we can contact you in case of emergencies, and to ensure utility bills are delivered to you efficiently.
- ◆ **If you have an active Payment Plan with us,** payments are due on the 1st of every month to avoid late fees and/or shut-offs.

SEEKING VOLUNTEER HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEMBER

The Board currently has a vacancy and is looking for an interested candidate to participate for a three-year term. Are you interested in the Town's historic district ordinance and willing to share the responsibility of revising it, along with creating a Historic Preservation Plan, in order to help implement a shared vision for the Historic District? If so, we would welcome your service!



The Commissioners may appoint by a majority vote, a candidate who is willing to serve in this capacity.

If interested in joining the Board, please contact Bryan Lightner, Town Administrator, at 410-287-6173, ext. 2, or via email at blightner@charlestownmd.org.

2ND QUARTER EVENTS

EVERY SUNDAY IN APRIL—OPEN HOUSE AT THE P.K. BARNES ICE HOUSE, 1-3PM.

Weather permitting, the Ice House will be open for tours by Jeannette Armour and Sonny Diamonte. You won't want to miss the opportunity to learn about this unique piece of Charlestown's rich history.

The Ice House is located next to Veteran's Park, at the intersection of Water & Market Streets.

APRIL 22ND—EARTH DAY & RIVER SWEEP 2023, 9AM.

Please consider volunteering your time for this year's Earth Day and River Sweep. We request your help to plant native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers at Foot Log Park, as required for our shoreline erosion control project. If you are able to volunteer, we would greatly appreciate it! Please park at Town Hall or at Fairgreen Park and meet us at Foot Log Park at 9am with your own gloves and shovel.

To show our gratitude, we will provide lunch. We'll also have some educational tables set up with local groups, including the Master Gardener's and the Poultry Palette, as well as a plant swap hosted by our Green Team.

Register by Tuesday, April 18th at UpperBayTrails.com.

APRIL 30TH—TOWN-WIDE SCAVENGER HUNT, 1-3PM.

We guarantee that our first ever Town-Wide Scavenger Hunt will be fun for all ages, and you won't want to miss it! The hunt will start no sooner than 1pm, will include all sections of Town, and prizes will be awarded to the first 3 participants, or groups of participants, that meet us at Avalon Park with their completed list before 3pm. In order to participate, look for the list on our Facebook page, in your email inbox, or pick up a paper copy at Avalon Park at 1pm sharp. The items on the list will need to be photographed with a date and time stamp, and must be completed within 2 hours. A rain date has not yet been determined. Please contact Town Hall at (410) 287-6173, ext. 5, with any questions.



MAY 20TH & 21ST—COMMUNITY YARD SALE, 9AM-2PM.

Clean out your closets and gather your treasures! It's time again for a town-wide yard sale!

The yard sale days will be advertised in the Cecil Whig and social media, and all residents are welcome to set up a sale on their properties.





Town of Charlestown - 2nd Quarter 2023 Calendar

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
April							1	Payment Plan Payments Due
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
			Historic District Mtg 7pm			Passover Planning & Zoning Mtg 6pm	Utility Bills Mailed/Emailed	
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
	Easter	Yard Waste Collection	Town Comm. Mtg 6pm					
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Earth Day River Sweep 9am
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29		
30 - Town Scavenger Hunt	Yard Waste Collection	Town Comm. Mtg 6pm	Bulk Collection - South of Rt. 7	Bulk Collection - North of Rt. 7				

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
May		1	2	3	4	5	6	
		Payment Plan Payments Due	Historic District Mtg 7pm			Planning & Zoning Mtg 6pm		
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
			Town Comm. Mtg 6pm					
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Community Yard Sale - Day 1
	Mother's Day			Town Comm. Mtg 6pm				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
Community Yard Sale - Day 2	Shut-Offs for Non- Payment							
28	29	30	31	Yard Waste Collection - May 7 & 22 Bulk Collection - North of Rt. 7 - June 1				
	CLOSED		Bulk Collection - South of Rt. 7					
	Memorial Day							

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
June						1	2	3
						Payment Plan Payments Due		
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
			Historic District Mtg 7pm			Planning & Zoning Mtg 6pm		
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
			Yard Waste Collection	Town Comm. Mtg 6pm	Flag Day			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
Father's Day	CLOSED			First Day of Summer				
25	26	27	28	29	30			
	Yard Waste Collection	Town Comm. Mtg 6pm	Bulk Collection - South of Rt. 7	Bulk Collection - North of Rt. 7				
	Juneteenth							