



The Charlestown Drift

First Quarter 2024

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-F—8:30am-4:30pm

WWW.CHARLESTOWNMD.ORG

MEETINGS

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

The first Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm

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, starting at 6am, unless otherwise noted.

YARD WASTE

The second and fourth Mondays of the month

BULK TRASH

The last Wednesday of the month — Call to schedule!

Happy New Year and welcome to the first edition of our quarterly newsletter for 2024! We hope you had a fantastic holiday season with your loved ones and are ready to embrace the new year with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

As always, our staff has been working hard to keep you updated on the latest developments and happenings in our town. In this edition, we bring you news about the exciting events and activities that we have planned for the first quarter of the year, as well as updates on the progress of ongoing projects and initiatives.

UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS DUE FEBRUARY 12TH!

We made a few changes in the fourth quarter of 2023 that we want to ensure you are aware of. Firstly, we recently upgraded our website to make it more user-friendly, and in addition to that, have launched an app, called Historic Charlestown, that provides Town news and updates in an instant. We encourage all residents to download the app today on your iOS or Android device to receive critical updates as soon as they are available. Also, we have revised the hours at Town Hall to 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday through Friday. If you need help outside of these hours, please contact Town Hall for an appointment. Lastly, the parking lot at Veteran's Park is now for residents only. To obtain a parking permit, residents can get one for free at Town Hall during business hours.

At the Maryland Municipal League Conference in October, **the Town was awarded the Sustainable Maryland Certification**, which is the first for a Cecil County Municipality. We are honored and look forward to partnering with Sustainable Maryland and the University of Maryland as we look to strengthen the long-term sustainability of our Town.



In December, the Commissioners took a step towards improving the Town's code enforcement process by initiating the hiring process of a Code Enforcement Officer. The decision to hire Kenneth Hamilton during the legislative meeting on January 9th is a positive move towards ensuring compliance with Town ordinances and zoning codes. With his extensive knowledge of code implementation and customer service, he will be an asset to the Town. He will closely collaborate with the Town Administrator, Bryan Lightner, to ensure the Commissioners are presented with ideas for updating codes, residents are educated about the codes and provided with support for zoning permits, and the codes are effectively enforced. We welcome him to the Town Hall staff and encourage residents to say hello when they see him around town.

For information about upcoming events, such as our Winter Lights Decorating Contest, and more Town news, please visit our website at www.CharlestownMD.org. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Town Hall.

2024 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

THREE (3) COMMISSIONER SEATS ARE UP FOR ELECTION

The Charlestown Board of Supervisors of Elections will hold the 2024 Municipal Election on **Tuesday, March 5, 2024 from 7:00AM to 7:00PM** at the Town Hall Building, 241 Market Street, Charlestown.

In order to be eligible to vote, you must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and be a town resident for three (3) months prior to the election.

If you would like an absentee ballot, contact Town Hall at (410) 287-6173, ext. 1.

If you are considering candidacy, there are a few things you need to know:

- **QUALIFICATIONS:** You must be a resident of Charlestown for at least one (1) year, be at least twenty-one (21) years of age, and be qualified to vote.
- **HOW TO APPLY:** There are no write-ins on the ballot, so all candidates for Commissioner must apply. If interested, please submit an application, which can be found on the Town's website or at Town Hall, along with a recent photo and short biography on your background and pertinent experience related to the Commissioner position. **The deadline to apply is February 2, 2024 at 4:00pm.**
- **WHAT TO EXPECT:** Commissioners attend two (2) meetings per month to discuss policy, ordinances, expenditures, and civic progress. They also attend Town and County events, and help create a civic culture of mutual respect.



There will be a **Candidates Forum at the Fire Hall on February 20th at 6pm**, where the public can attend in person and ask questions of the candidates who filed for Town Commissioner. **Also, election results will be counted live via Zoom in the evening on Election Day.** The link to join will be available on our website.

Kindly direct any questions to Bryan Lightner, Town Administrator, via email at blightner@charlestownmd.org or via phone at (410) 287-6173, ext. 2.

IMPORTANT TRASH & RECYCLABLES COLLECTION REMINDERS

- ◆ **Bin color is important.** Bins provided by Trash Tech with dark-colored lids (blue or black) are for trash, and light-colored lids (yellow or orange) are for recyclables. Mixing these bins up may cause missed collection by Trash Tech.
- ◆ **Trash and recyclables cannot be mixed.** Contaminated recyclables will not be collected. Please follow Cecil County's single stream recycling guidelines, located on our website at www.charlestownmd.org/trash-recyclables.
- ◆ **Recyclables must be contained within bins.** Large boxes that are unable to be broken down must be taken to the Cecil County Landfill by residents, or collection must be scheduled as bulk trash for Town Maintenance Staff to collect.
- ◆ **Bulk trash items must be separated from household trash.** The Town Maintenance Staff collects bulk items on the last Wednesday of each month, but these items must be separated from household trash to avoid missed collection by Trash Tech. Bulk trash collections are limited to four (4) large items per household, but if you have more than the allowance, a pickup can be scheduled for \$150 per truckload, with a max of three (3) truckloads.
- ◆ **If your trash or recyclables are not collected by 4:30pm on Wednesday, please notify Town Hall no later than 12:00pm on Thursday.**



1ST & 2ND QUARTER EVENTS

JANUARY 19TH—HAPPY HOUR AT THE P. K. BARNES ICE HOUSE, 4PM.

Sip hot chocolate and tour the Ice House. Light a luminary to place along the path to the ice house, and take home as a souvenir. Hors d'oeuvres provided at the Wellwood Restaurant. Free event.



Brief History: Built circa 1890. Located at Veteran's Park, Market & Water Streets. This building was built in the 19th Century by Captain Perry K. Barnes to supplement his large commercial fishing business, and was used to store ice harvested from the river. The building has been preserved by Jeanette Armour and Sonny Diamonte and is now a museum that beautifully showcases this rich piece of Charlestown's history.

FEBRUARY 20TH—CANDIDATES' FORUM FOR 2024 MUNICIPAL ELECTION, 6PM.

Join us at the Charlestown Fire Hall for an opportunity to meet the election candidates and get to know them. Questions for the candidates can be submitted anonymously beforehand, but questions will also be taken at the end of the forum. Please check our website and watch for emails with further updates.

FEBRUARY 23RD—HAPPY HOUR AT THE TORY HOUSE, 4PM.

Hosted by Colonial Charlestown. Sip hot chocolate, enjoy light fair, and tour of the Tory House. Hors d'oeuvres provided by Market Street Café. Located at 343 Market St, parking lot on Cecil Street. Free event.

Brief History: Built circa 1750. The original deed for the property describes a building, which was somehow destroyed. Around 1810, the foundation was reused for the present structure, which still contains the tavern kitchen in the basement. Rumored, but not true, is that the property was sold in 1802 by the state of Maryland, which may have confiscated it from a Tory during the Revolutionary War, thus it's name "Tory House." It has been restored through the efforts of Colonial Charlestown, Inc., a 501c3 nonprofit organization.



FEBRUARY 24TH—ANNUAL ICE SPLASH, VETERAN'S PARK AT 1PM.

Hosted by the Sons of the American Legion, Cecil Squadron #15. Registration starts at 11:30am at the Wellwood Restaurant and the splash occurs promptly at 1pm. Restrooms and parking will be provided. At the request of the American Legion, no outside vendors will be permitted.



MARCH 5TH—MUNICIPAL ELECTION, 7AM-7PM.

All residents are encouraged to come to the Town Hall Building, located at 241 Market Street, to submit your votes for the three (3) commissioner seats that are up for election. If you can not come in person, please contact Town Hall for an absentee ballot. Election ballots will be counted live via Zoom, starting at 7pm. The Zoom link will be available on our website and sent out via email and app.



MAY 4TH—MARYLAND HOUSE & GARDEN PILGRIMAGE, 10AM TO 5PM.

Rain or shine, you won't want to miss this great opportunity to learn about Charlestown and Perryville's rich history and tour historic houses! Included on a worthy walking tour in Charlestown are the following: 107 House (Tory House), Red Lyon Tavern, Indian Queen Tavern, St. John's United Method Church and Cemetery, Eagle Point Club, Long Point Park, Still House, Barnes Ice House, Wellwood Club, and The Klondike.

Perryville homes to be determined.

The Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Please visit mhgp.org for ticket information. Tickets available at Town Hall for purchase.



Town of Charlestown - 1st Quarter 2024 Calendar

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January	Payment Plans Due Jan. 2nd	1 CLOSED New Years Day	2 Historic District 6pm	3	4 TRC Planning & Zoning 6pm	5	6
	7	8 Yard Waste Collection	9 Commissioners' Meeting 6pm	10 TRC	11	12	13
	14	15 CLOSED MLK Jr. Day	16	17 TRC	18	19 Happy Hour at Ice House 4pm	20
	21	22 Yard Waste Collection	23 Commissioners' Meeting 6pm	24 TRC	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31 TRC Bulk Trash Collection	TRC = Trash/Recyclables Collection <i>Christmas trees collected on Yard Waste Collection days.</i>		

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February	The Candidates Forum will be held at the Fire Hall on February 20th at 6pm.				1 Payment Plan Payments Due	2	3
	4	5	6 Historic District 6pm	7 TRC	8 Planning & Zoning 6pm	9	10
	11	12 Yard Waste Utility Payments Due Today	13 Commissioners' Meeting 6pm	14 TRC	15	16	17
	18	19 CLOSED Presidents' Day	20 Candidates Forum 6pm	21 TRC	22	23 Happy Hour at Tory House 4pm	24 2023 Ice Splash at Veteran's 1pm
	25	26 Yard Waste Collection	27 Commissioners' Meeting 6pm	28 TRC Bulk Trash Collection	29	TRC = Trash/Recyclables Collection	

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March	Town elections are held at Town Hall, 241 Market St, Charlestown. TRC = Trash/Recyclables Collection					1 Payment Plan Payments Due	2
	3	4	5 CLOSED Town Elections 7am-7pm	6 TRC Historic District 6pm	7 Planning & Zoning 6pm	8	9
	10 Daylight Saving Time Begins	11 Yard Waste Collection	12 Commissioners' Meeting 6pm	13 TRC	14	15 Boat Slip Season Starts	16
	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 TRC First Day of Spring	21	22	23
	24/31 31st - Easter	25 Yard Waste Collection	26 Commissioners' Meeting 6pm	27 TRC Bulk Trash Collection	28	29 Vietnam Veteran's Day	30 Take A Walk in the Park Day

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