



# The Charlestown Drift

Second Quarter 2023

## TOWN NEWS & UPDATES

Since last quarter, we've made a few exciting changes around Town! We've welcomed a new Commissioner, hired new park rangers, continued beautifying the Town, and there is more to come in the near future!

**At the Town Commissioners' Meeting on May 23rd, the Board of Commissioners appointed Jackie Akers to fill the vacancy.** Jackie has been a resident of our Cool Springs community since 2019. Her family is currently serving Active Duty in the Army and will be retiring here. She works at Aberdeen Proving Ground with Emergency Operations, Real Property, DPW and other stakeholders to oversee many aspects of community life for those who live and work on the installation. Her knowledge and experience from her role on APG has been a great addition to the Board and the Town. We've been enjoying working with Jackie, and hope you'll join us in welcoming her. Congratulations, Commissioner Akers!



**We also want to welcome and congratulate our new park rangers, Tiffany Schluter, Cassandra Poe, and Chris Ginn.** They've joined our park ranger, Terri Chestnut, to form a wonderful team that, on weekends, helps to keep our parks clean, and assist visitors with information about our parks, boat launch, and parking. When you see them around, please be sure to say hello!

**In May, our incredible maintenance staff started working hard to put up our new banners throughout Town.** We take pride in where we live and the communities that make up Charlestown, and we want to show it! The banners will let visitors know that they've entered Charlestown, that we are proud of our Town, *(continued on page 2)*

## UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS DUE AUGUST 7TH!

## CECIL COUNTY OPEN BURNING RESTRICTION UNTIL AUGUST 31ST

Cecil County has issued a notice that prohibits burning for air quality reasons from June 1st through August 31st.

**During this time, only campfires, that a person might build for "entertainment" and fires for cooking food, are allowed.** Yard waste and trash should be disposed of at the curb, not burned.

Please remember that Cecil County requires a permit for open burning. For more information, please visit [www.cecilcountyhealth.org](http://www.cecilcountyhealth.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](http://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 6:00am

#### YARD WASTE

The second and fourth  
Mondays of the month

#### BULK TRASH

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



**Town Hall Closures  
for 3rd Quarter:**

Tuesday, July 4  
Independence Day

Monday, September 4  
Labor Day

and that we are worth exploring. After all, we were the first town in Cecil County to be founded in 1742, and we have a rich history. If you didn't already know, we offer walking tours in our Historic District — check our calendar for dates, or call Town Hall to schedule a private tour!

**We've recently updated our Bulk Trash Collection schedule** to better accommodate our grass mowing schedule for the Summer. Going forward, **bulk items will be collected on the last Tuesday and Wednesday of each month from April to August, and the last Wednesday and Thursday from September to March.** As always, please contact Town Hall to schedule a pickup no later than 4:00pm the day before your collection — the first collection day is for South of Route 7, and the second is for North of Route 7. For bulk collection guidelines, please visit our website at [www.charlestownmd.org/bulk-trash-yard-waste/](http://www.charlestownmd.org/bulk-trash-yard-waste/).

Along with all the changes we've made recently, we are excited about what the future holds, too. **Town Hall is in the process of migrating to a new accounting/billing software, and upgrading our website.** During this transition period, we ask for your patience and understanding as we go through training and implementation. The new software, Edmunds GovTech, was approved by the Commissioners at the June 13th meeting, and will provide us with improved efficiency, better reporting, and comprehensive utility bills. Our upgraded website, which will be complete later this Summer, will also be more comprehensive and user-friendly, as well as more aesthetically pleasing, with an emphasis on our Town's Historic character.

Last, but not least, **designs for a renovated Town Hall and Town Center are still underway.** We appreciate all of the feedback we received at the Public Hearing in February, and are working to incorporate accessibility needs, as well as, an emergency operations center. The proposed commercial kitchen, large meeting space and basement will not only accommodate for these needs, but also community use, and much-needed storage space. Please stay tuned for more updates.

### **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](mailto:blightner@charlestownmd.org).*

### **FOREVER YOUNG... AT HEART!**

The Young at Heart Club is a senior citizen program sponsored by the Town. The club is always looking for new members — those who like to play cards, read books, quilt... you name it! They meet every Tuesday from 9:00am to 1:00pm at St. John's United Methodist Church, located at 240 Market Street in Charlestown. The club likes to share refreshments and lunch, and have fun! If you are interested, feel free to join the next meeting! Contact Town Hall for more information.

### **COLONIAL CHARLESTOWN INC.**

Colonial Charlestown Inc. is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization formed by some of the very people who grew up attending Charlestown's two-room school house. This organization is always looking for new members that are passionate about preserving Charlestown's rich history. Contact Town Hall for more information.



Colonel Ramsey at the Independence Day Celebration



## HOUSEHOLD TRASH & RECYCLABLES INFORMATION

- ◆ **Major holidays observed by Trash Tech that affect Charlestown service**, when holidays are on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, are **New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Christmas**.
- ◆ **Please make sure bins are not obstructed for pick up.** Keep them to the side of the driveway and away from parked cars and fire hydrants.
- ◆ **If you have trash or recyclables that are too big to fit in your containers**, please call Town Hall to be placed on the bulk trash list. Collection of bulk items is provided during the last week of every month (see page 2 for schedule).
- ◆ **Please be aware of what's recyclable and what's not.** This information can be found on Cecil County's website, under the Residents tab, Solid Waste & Recycling. You will also find here information about **Household Hazardous Waste Days**, which are held by Cecil County Central Landfill in October every year. These events are free for Cecil County residents and are for the disposal of items that aren't collected normally.
- ◆ **Please contact Town Hall every time household trash and recyclables are not collected as scheduled.** Do not contact Trash Tech, as Town Staff keeps record of all missed collections and must notify Trash Tech directly by Thursday at Noon for Friday collection, per our contract. This also applies to damaged or destroyed bins, which will be replaced.



### 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

#### **Jackie Akers**

jakers@charlestownmd.org  
443-248-7411

## 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.
- ◆ **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. When the 1st falls on a Saturday, payments are due on the next business day.
- ◆ **For Charlestown residents with P.O. boxes**, please make sure to always use your P.O. box as your shipping address — if P.O. boxes aren't accepted, use "ste," "apt," or "unit," instead. Using your physical address may cause your mail and packages to be returned to the sender.
- ◆ **For Charlestown residents with a North East mailing address, please be aware that you need to call Town Hall in Charlestown for all inquiries.** You may live in the North East zip code, but all billing and such is done through Charlestown, not North East.



## Town of Charlestown - 3rd Quarter 2023 Calendar

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
July	<b>Tuesday, July 25 - Bulk Collection, South of Rt. 7</b> <b>Wednesday, July 26 - Bulk Collection, North of Rt. 7</b>						1	
	2	3 <b>Payment Plan Payments Due</b>	4 <b>CLOSED</b> <b>Independence Day</b>	5 Historic District Mtg 6pm	6 Planning & Zoning Mtg 6pm	7 Utility Bills Mailed/Emailed	8	
	9 <i>Easter</i>	10 Yard Waste Collection	11 Town Comm. Mtg 6pm	12	13	14	15	
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
	23/30	24/31 24 -Yard Waste Collection	25 Town Comm. Mtg 6pm	26	27	28	29	

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August	<b>Tuesday, August 1 - Payment Plan Payments Due &amp; National Night Out</b>		1 Historic District Mtg 6pm	2	3 Planning & Zoning Mtg 6pm	4	5
	6	7 <b>1st Quarter Payments Due</b>	8 Town Comm. Mtg 6pm	9	10	11	12
	13	14 Yard Waste Collection	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22 Town Comm. Mtg 6pm	23	24	25	26
	27	28 Yard Waste Collection	29 Bulk Collection - South of Rt. 7	30 Bulk Collection - North of Rt. 7	31	<b>Tuesday, August 22 - Shut-Offs for Non-Payment</b>	

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September	<b>Community Yard Sale - Saturday, September 30 &amp; Sunday, October 1</b>					1 <b>Payment Plan Payments Due</b>	2
	3	4 <b>CLOSED</b> <b>Labor Day</b>	5 Historic District Mtg 6pm	6	7 Planning & Zoning Mtg 6pm	8	9
	10	11 Yard Waste Collection	12 Town Comm. Mtg 6pm	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25 Yard Waste Collection	26 Town Comm. Mtg 6pm	27 Bulk Collection - South of Rt. 7	28 Bulk Collection - North of Rt. 7	29	30