



# The Charlestown Drift

Third Quarter 2023

It is a beautiful time of year in Charlestown! Temperatures are growing cooler, leaves are changing colors, and Autumn and Winter holidays are quickly approaching. Along with the events we have planned for this year, we want to update you on a few things that are happening around Town.

**First, we have updated our ordinance and guidelines for trash, yard waste and bulk trash collections.** Starting in September, we went back to one collection day for bulk trash, which will be on the last Wednesday of each month. We also added an additional service for those residents who are moving and need help taking large items to the landfill. This service is available and can be scheduled within 48 hours of a desired pick-up day. The cost is \$150 per truckload, with a max of three (3) truckloads, and payment is due upon scheduling. Please note that this service is not available for evictions. Please contact Town Hall to schedule, and for a full list of guidelines, visit our website.

**Recently, we embarked on a journey to improve the way we communicate and provide information to residents, and to improve our records and efficiency at Town Hall.** In late September, we launched an app, titled "Historic Charlestown," that is downloadable on mobile devices and provides residents with on-demand Town information and notifications. We still utilize email distribution lists and social media to send out information, but wanted more ways to communicate effectively. We encourage residents to download the app and enable push notifications. Along with a new app, we are in the process of updating our website to a more user-friendly and inviting interface, which should go live before the end of the year.  
*(Continued on Page 2)*

## UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS DUE NOVEMBER 13TH!

### CHANGES TO POST OFFICE IN OCTOBER

As many may already know, our Postmaster, Lynne Reed, at the Charlestown Post Office will be retiring on October 31st. We are grateful for her many years of service and the care she has given towards our mail delivery, and wish her a very happy and healthy retirement.

To ensure that you continue to receive your mail efficiently, please remember to provide your Post Office box number when having anything sent to you. If the vendor you are providing it to doesn't accept P.O. boxes, substitute "P.O. Box" for "Suite," "Apt," or "Unit." Also, please ensure to collect your mail and packages within ten (10) days to avoid being returned to the sender.

**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 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 Wednesday of  
the month — Call to  
schedule!



**Town Hall Closures  
for 4th Quarter:**

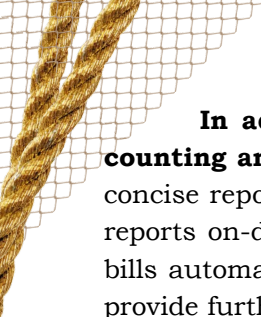
Friday, November 10  
Veterans Day

Thursday, November 23  
& Friday, November 24  
Thanksgiving

Friday, December 22  
Closing at 12pm

Monday, December 25  
Christmas

Friday, December 29  
Closing at 12pm



**In addition to the new app and upgraded website, Town Hall will be upgrading to a new accounting and billing software in the middle of next year.** This upgrade will allow for better recordkeeping, concise reports, and more detailed utility bills. Once the software is implemented, we will be able to provide reports on-demand, such as budget-to-actual, and direct debit for any resident that would like their utility bills automatically paid from their bank accounts each quarter. As we get closer to implementation, we will provide further updates.

**We have been working to address known speeding and safety concerns throughout Town.** In the next 3-4 weeks, we will be installing two (2) speed humps along the 200-blocks of Louisa Lane, Caroline, Frederick, Market, and Conestoga Streets, and four (4) along Cool Springs Rd from Louisa Ln Ext to Clemency Drive. Many of these speed humps were either petitioned by residents or not opposed when residents were surveyed and approved by our Town Commissioners. We know that speed humps won't address every traffic concern, but we are open to trying other solutions, such as line painting and flashing speed limit signs. We will also be installing stop signs in Cool Springs at the intersections of Cool Springs Rd and Colorado Ct, Steamboat and Colorado Courts, and Steamboat and Saratoga Courts.

**The Town of Charlestown has filed an application with the USDA Rural Development Office for financial assistance to develop the Town Hall Renovation and Addition Project.** A public information meeting for comments will be held at 6:00pm on October 24th at Town Hall to discuss the proposed project and to provide the opportunity for public comment. If you would like to join the meeting via Zoom, the link, as well as the agenda, will be available on our website, emailed via our distribution lists, and sent via our app notifications before the meeting.

**Last, but not least, we have planned our annual events for the Autumn and Winter months of the year and hope you will join us in the fun!** In October, the Red Lyon and Indian Queen Taverns will have a dedication day on the 22nd that you won't want to miss. It is a great honor that they will be presented with a historical marker by the Daughters of the American Colonies (DAC) and a proclamation from the Governor's Office. Also, our Halloween parade and trunk-or-treat, in partnership with Charlestown Elementary, will be on the 27th. On November 19th, we will have our 2nd Annual Donuts with Santa, and on December 1st, we will sip hot chocolate, sing Christmas carols, and light our Christmas tree at Market Square. On December 16th, we will honor veterans at Wreaths Across America. For full details, please see page 3.

Download  
Historic  
Charlestown

**AVAILABLE NOW**

- Access Information
- View Latest Updates
- Receive Notifications
- And more...








- ◆ **For Boat Slip Renters:** Boats must be removed from slips no later than November 14th. Boats are not permitted at the pier from November 15, 2023 through March 14, 2024 because of winter icing.
- ◆ **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 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. This also applies to damaged or destroyed bins that need repair or replacement.





# TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN

## 2023 AUTUMN & WINTER EVENTS

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### OCTOBER 22ND—RED LYON & INDIAN QUEEN TAVERNS DEDICATION DAY, 1:30PM

The Governor of Maryland has issued a special day for Charlestown. The Red Lyon Tavern and Indian Queen Tavern on Market Street (322 & 328 Market Street) are being presented with a historical marker by the Daughters of the American Colonies (DAC). Charlestown residents are invited to attend the ceremony to proclaim October 22 as Red Lyon and Indian Queen Tavern Day in Maryland. History lives...

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### OCTOBER 27TH—NIGHTMARE ON WATER STREET, 5:30PM

Please join us for our annual Halloween parade and trunk-or-treat. Meet us at the Charlestown Fire Hall and we will parade down Conestoga and Water Streets. Before the parade starts, we will have bags for treats and glow sticks available for children. The trunk-or-treat, which is sponsored by the Charlestown Elementary PTO, will be on Water St in front of Veteran's Park. We will have hot dogs, beverages and snacks at the pavilion, which will be first come, first serve.

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### OCTOBER 31ST—HALLOWEEN NIGHT IN CHARLESTOWN, 6-8PM

Can't make it to the parade and trunk-or-treat, or want to get some extra candy? Go trick-or-treating in Charlestown on Halloween night!

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### NOVEMBER 19TH—2ND ANNUAL DONUTS WITH SANTA, CHARLESTOWN FIRE HALL 1-3PM

*Registration is required.* If you haven't already, please register today to have a professional photo taken of your child with Santa, and enjoy some hot chocolate, donuts and other refreshments with him. Each child that writes a letter to Santa, either at the event or ahead of time, will get a personalized, handwritten response, so please make sure your letters are presented with mailing addresses on them.

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### DECEMBER 1ST—CHRISTMAS AT MARKET SQUARE, BLADEN & MARKET STREETS 5:30PM

Please join us for our annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony at Market Square. Before the tree lighting, meet us at Fairgreen Park for some hot chocolate and cookies, and to find your child's ornament (made at school) on one of the smaller Christmas trees lined up in front of the park. The Charlestown Elementary School Choir will serenade us with some festive songs, and Colonel Nathaniel Ramsey will read us a Christmas story.

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### DECEMBER 16TH—WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA, 12PM

#### HONORING OUR VETERANS

##### Ceremony

St. John's United Methodist Church, 240 Market Street

This annual ceremony is hosted by Jeanette Armour and honors veterans that have been laid to rest in the Charlestown Cemetery.


##### Luncheon


Charlestown Fire Hall, 307 Market Street



The luncheon is hosted by the Town and is for all veterans and their families to enjoy. There will be soups, sweets and refreshments.



# Town of Charlestown - 4th Quarter 2023 Calendar

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>October</b>	1	2 Payment Plan Payments Due	3 Historic District Mtg 6pm	4	5 Planning & Zoning Mtg 6pm	6	7
	8 Yard Waste on Tuesday	9 CLOSED Columbus Day	10 Town Comm. Mtg 6pm	11	12	13 Utility Bills Mailed/Emailed	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23 Yard Waste Collection	24 Town Comm. Mtg 6pm	25 Bulk Trash Collection	26	27 Halloween Parade 5:30pm	28
	29	30 	31 Trick-or-Treating 6-8pm	<b>Red Lyon &amp; Indian Queen Tavern Dedication Day October 22nd at 1:30pm, Market Street</b>			

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>November</b>				1 Payment Plan Payments Due	2	3	4
	5 Daylight Saving Time Ends	6	7 Historic District Mtg 6pm	8	9 Planning & Zoning Mtg 6pm	10 CLOSED Veteran's Day Observation	11 Veteran's Day
	12 Yard Waste on Monday	13 3rd Quarter Payments Due	14 Town Comm. Mtg 6pm	15	16	17	18
	19 Donuts with Santa 1-3pm	20	21	22	23 CLOSED Thanksgiving	24 CLOSED Thanksgiving	25 
	26	27 Yard Waste Collection	28 Town Comm. Mtg 6pm	29 Bulk Trash Collection	30	<b>Tuesday, November 28th - Shut-Offs for Non-Payment</b>	

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<b>December</b>		<b>Christmas at Market Square - December 1st Tree Lighting at 5:30pm</b>					1 Payment Plan Payments Due	2
	3	4	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 Wreaths Across America 12pm	
	17	18	19	20	21	22 Town Hall Closing at 12pm	23	
	24/31 Yard Waste on Tuesday	25 CLOSED Christmas	26 Town Comm. Mtg Cancelled	27 Bulk Trash Collection	28 Trash/Recyclables Collecton Today	29 Town Hall Closing at 12pm	30	

See reverse for event details, or visit [www.CharlestownMD.org](http://www.CharlestownMD.org).