



# The Charlestown Drift

January—March 2025

We are excited to share updates on our Comprehensive Plan and Watershed Master Plan. Our ongoing efforts are focused on preserving the Town’s natural splendor and history, and ensuring the safety of all residents.

**The Planning Commission and Steering Committee have been diligently working on a draft plan**, which will be shared for review and comment this quarter. A specific date for a public hearing will be announced closer to spring. This plan will help guide future development of the Town for the next 15 years, incorporating feedback received at the initial community meeting and steering committee meeting, the results of community surveys to determine wants and needs, and strategies to generate revenue. The plan will help achieve the community’s objectives of enhancing quality of life, promoting environmental stewardship, and ensuring fiscal responsibility in Town governance.



Additionally, **the Town has been actively implementing the Watershed Master Plan**, which includes various projects aimed at mitigating the impacts of flooding. Notably, the Town recently constructed a stormwater drainage pipe under the 300-block of Frederick Street to intercept stormwater runoff and redirect it into the Athletic Complex. We are also seeking a grant to construct stream restoration and other stormwater management projects at the Athletic Complex.

**We’ve identified areas in the stormwater drainage system that needed cleaning by contractors**, which was completed this past fall. We plan to regrade adjacent swales once stabilizing grass can grow, and we are prioritizing the replacement of necessary pipes into our schedule.

We’re also happy to report that the **dredging of the boat ramp, Town pier, and fire boat pier has been completed successfully**, and the boat ramp is open again for public use.

**Looking ahead**, ThinkBig, a broadband provider, is set to bring internet service to Charlestown in 2025 at no cost to the Town. This collaboration will give residents an additional internet option, alongside Xfinity, with pricing tiers ranging from \$60 to \$90 per month. We’ll keep you updated as more information becomes available.

**To stay informed about these plans, projects, and initiatives**, please visit our website, subscribe to our email newsletters, or download our app, Historic Charlestown. Your engagement and support are crucial as we collaborate to improve the quality of life in our community. We encourage you to participate in our Town Hall listening sessions to share your thoughts and contribute to important discussions. The dates for 2025 can be found on page 3.

## 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

Place items at curb any weekday for collection. Limit of one (1) collection per month. No need to schedule!

## IMPORTANT UTILITY PAYMENT REMINDER

If you pay your utility bills through your bank’s bill payment option, **please update your account number to ensure proper processing**. Include the new account number in the memo section of the check. Additionally, **please refrain from writing your PIN on any payment checks** (whether personal, money order, or via a bill pay service), as it should remain confidential for online access. If your PIN is found on a check, it will be changed for security purposes.

## UTILITY PAYMENTS DUE FEBRUARY 11TH!

Penalties Applied—February 12th

Courtesy Door Hangers for Non-Payment—February 18th

Shut-Offs for Non-Payment—February 25th

Sign-Up for Auto-Pay by February 3rd

# 2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

## **TWO (2) COMMISSIONER SEATS ARE UP FOR ELECTION**

The Charlestown Board of Supervisors of Elections will hold the 2024 Municipal Election on **Tuesday, March 4, 2025 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 one (1) month prior to the election.

**To request an absentee ballot**, please contact Town Hall by Friday, February 14, 2025 at 4:00pm.

**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. Short video biographies are also welcome. **The deadline to apply is January 31, 2025 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 Wednesday, February 19th at 6pm**. We strongly encourage residents to attend, as it is an opportunity to meet and get to know the candidates. To submit questions anonymously, please use the form at [charlestownmd.org/2025-candidates-forum-question-submission-form](http://charlestownmd.org/2025-candidates-forum-question-submission-form). **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](mailto:blightner@charlestownmd.org) or via phone at (410) 287-6173, ext. 2.

### Attention Boat Slip Renters

If you rented in 2024, on either the Town Pier or C-Dock Municipal Pier, you will soon receive an application to renew via mail for the 2025 season. If you do not wish to renew, kindly notify us as soon as possible.

**Boating Season Starts on March 15, 2025, at the Town Pier, and April 15, 2025, at the C-Dock Municipal Pier.**

### **REMINDER: SIGN UP FOR AUTO-PAY FOR THE 4TH QUARTER BY FEBRUARY 3RD!**



**If you haven't signed up for auto-pay for your quarterly utility bills and would like to do so through our new Online Payment Portal, please note that the deadline for 4th quarter payment registration is February 3rd!**

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### Board of Supervisors of Elections

**Vacancies: Two (2)**

**Term: Two (2) Years**

Seeking candidates that are interested in the Town Commissioner Election process, willing to help administer the rules related to the registration of voters and the conduct of the elections. This position offers compensation for Election Day. Town Election Day is on the 1st Tuesday in March annually.

### Planning & Zoning Commission

**Vacancies: Two (2)**

**Term: Five (5) Years**

Seeking candidates who are interested in the Town's zoning ordinance and are eager to assist in revising it, updating the official zoning map, and enhancing the Comprehensive Plan. This is an opportunity to contribute to a collective vision for the Town's future. Meetings are held on the 1st Thursday after the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm at Town Hall, 241 Market Street, and via Zoom.

*The Town Commissioner may appoint, by a majority vote, candidates who are willing to serve in these capacities.*

*If you are interested in joining one of the boards, please contact Bryan Lightner, Town Administrator, at [blightner@charlestownmd.org](mailto:blightner@charlestownmd.org), or at 410-287-6173, ext. 2.*



# 1ST QUARTER HOLIDAYS & EVENTS



## **HAPPY HOUR TOUR AT THE P.K. BARNES ICE HOUSE—JANUARY 17TH, 4-6PM.**

Located at Veteran's Park, at the intersection of Water & Market Streets. 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. Hor d'oeuvres provided at the Wellwood Restaurant. Free event. Rain date: January 24th.

## **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY—JANUARY 20TH.**

Town Hall will be closed. Trash and recyclables collection will be on Wednesday, January 22nd, as usual.

## **HAPPY HOUR TOUR AT THE TORY HOUSE—FEBRUARY 7TH, 4-6PM.**

Located at 343 Market Street. Hosted by Colonial Charlestown. Sip hot chocolate and tour the Tory House, also known as the 107 House. Hor d'oeuvres provided by Market Street Café. Parking lot on Cecil Street.



## **PRESIDENTS DAY—FEBRUARY 17TH.**

Town Hall will be closed. Trash and recyclables collection will be on Wednesday, January 22nd, as usual.

## **CANDIDATES FORUM—FEBRUARY 19TH, 6PM.**

The forum will be held at the Charlestown Fire Hall, located at 307 Market Street, and via Zoom. We strongly encourage residents to attend, as it is an opportunity to meet and get to know the candidates for the 2025 Municipal Election. The Zoom link will be available on our website.

## **ANNUAL ICE SPLASH—FEBRUARY 22ND, 1PM.**



This event is hosted at Veteran's Park by the Sons of the American Legion, Cecil Squadron #15. Registration opens at 11:30am, with an approximate splash time at 1pm. Food and beverages will be available on-site for purchase at the Wellwood Restaurant. Please visit [alpost15.com/ice-splash](http://alpost15.com/ice-splash) for full event details, including registration and waiver forms.

## **2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTION—MARCH 4TH, 7AM-7PM.**

Town Hall will be closed for business but will be open 7am to 7pm for Municipal Elections. Trash and recyclables collection will be on Wednesday, March 5th, as usual.

## **TOWN HALL LISTENING SESSIONS—MAY 21ST & NOVEMBER 19TH, 6PM.**

All residents are encouraged to attend these resident-led listening sessions, as they are essential for gathering feedback to guide Charlestown in the right direction and keeping our residents informed. We will meet at the Charlestown Fire Hall, located at 307 Market Street, and via Zoom.

### **CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION**



If you had a natural tree this Christmas and want our Town Public Works staff to pick it up, **please leave it at your curb on the first or third Tuesdays in January (7th & 21st)**. We kindly ask that you keep it separate from regular yard waste. There's no need to reach out to Town Hall to arrange this service. However, if you happen to be missed or have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

### **BULK TRASH UPDATE**

Collection days have changed. Bulk items are now collected as needed throughout the week. Simply place your items at the curb on any weekday. However, there is a limit of one collection per month, per household, and a maximum of four (4) large items. You don't need to schedule this, but please notify Town Hall if your items remain out for more than 48 business hours.



For a full list of guidelines, please visit our Bulk Trash & Yard Waste webpage through our app, Historic Charlestown, or by going to [CharlestownMD.org/bulk-trash-yard-waste](http://CharlestownMD.org/bulk-trash-yard-waste).



**GOT QUESTIONS?** We're working on creating a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section on our website. Once it's available, it will be located at [CharlestownMD.org/FAQs](http://CharlestownMD.org/FAQs). Until then, please don't hesitate to contact us at [staff@charlestownmd.org](mailto:staff@charlestownmd.org) or at 410-287-6173 with any questions or concerns you may have.

Scan the QR Code to download our app, *Historic Charlestown!*



**For questions or concerns regarding your utility bill**, please contact Mary Culver, Assistant Town Administrator, at [mculver@charlestownmd.org](mailto:mculver@charlestownmd.org) or 410-287-6173, ext. 4.



## Town of Charlestown - 1st Quarter 2025 Calendar

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January	<i>Christmas trees collected on January 7th and 21st.</i>			1 <b>CLOSED</b> New Years Day	2 <b>TRC</b> Payment Plan Payments Due	3	4
	5	6	7 Historic District Meeting 6pm	8 <b>TRC</b>	9 Planning & Zoning Meeting 6pm	10 Utility Bills Distributed	11
	12	13 Yard Waste Collection	14 Town Comm. Meeting 6pm	15 <b>TRC</b>	16	17 Happy Hour at Ice House 4-6pm	18
	19	20 <b>CLOSED</b> MLK Jr. Day	21	22 <b>TRC</b>	23	24	25
	26	27 Yard Waste Collection	28 Town Comm. Meeting 6pm	29 <b>TRC</b>	30	31	

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February	<b>February 11th - Utility Payments Due   February 12th - Penalties Applied February 18th - Courtesy Door Hangers   February 25th - Shut-Offs for Non-Payment</b>						1
	2	3 Payment Plan Payments Due	4 Historic District Meeting 6pm	5 <b>TRC</b>	6 Planning & Zoning Meeting 6pm	7 Happy Hour at Tory House 4-6p	8
	9	10 Yard Waste Collection	11 Bills Due Town Comm. Meeting 6pm	12 <b>TRC</b>	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15
	16	17 <b>CLOSED</b> Presidents Day	18	19 <b>TRC</b> Candidates Forum 6pm	20	21	22 2025 Ice Splash at Veteran's 1pm
	23	24 Yard Waste Collection	25 Town Comm. Meeting 6pm	26 <b>TRC</b>	27	28	

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March	<b>Bulk trash collections now on any weekday. No need to schedule. Limit of one collection per month per household. See website for full guidelines.</b>						1
	2	3 Payment Plan Payments Due	4 <b>CLOSED</b> Town Elections 7am-7pm	5 <b>TRC</b> Historic District Meeting 6pm	6 Planning & Zoning Meeting 6pm	7	8
	9 <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	10 Yard Waste Collection	11 Town Comm. Meeting 6pm	12 <b>TRC</b>	13	14	15 Boat Slip Season Starts
	16	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19 <b>TRC</b>	20 <i>First Day of Spring</i>	21	22
	23/30 <i>A Walk in the Park Day</i>	24/31 24 - Yard Waste Collection	25 Town Comm. Meeting 6pm	26 <b>TRC</b>	27	28	29 <i>Vietnam Veteran's Day</i>

**\*\*Note: TRC = Trash/Recyclables Collection**