



The Charlestown Drift

July—September 2024

A FIRE IN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT

On the windy afternoon of June 24th, a fire caused significant damage to the Historic District home of the Metz Family, who are also the owners of The Wellwood Restaurant. The fire, which is suspected to have started from their exterior HVAC unit, quickly spread and engulfed the home, known as the iconic Eagle Point Gun Club (c.1792), as well as the neighbor's boat dock and the Town's flagpole at Long Point Park. Fortunately, the family was not present at the time, but the loss of their home and possessions is truly devastating.



First responders, including our dedicated Charlestown Fire Company, quickly responded to the emergency and bravely worked to contain the blaze, preventing further damage to the property and surrounding structures. We are profoundly grateful for their selfless efforts, as well as for the support shown by the community for the Metz Family. Market Street Cafe's owner, Bobbie Spangler, generously provided water and refreshments to the firefighters on-site. We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone involved and express our heartfelt sympathies for the hardship endured by the Metz Family.

{ UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS DUE AUGUST 5TH! }

ZONING/BUILDING PERMIT UPDATE

Effective July 1st, the process for getting a Town permit has changed. The Town Commissioners signed and approved Resolution 2024-05, which grants our Code Enforcement Officer the authority to approve all zoning/building permit requests, except for certain circumstances in conformance with Town codes, so as to mitigate any unnecessary delays. If you have any questions regarding zoning or building permits, please don't hesitate to contact Ken at khamilton@charlestownmd.org.

ANNUAL OPEN BURNING BAN JUNE 1 TO AUGUST 31

As a courtesy reminder, the Cecil County Health Department has implemented an annual open burning ban from June 1 to August 31.

According to their regulations, a burning permit is mandatory for all open burning activities, with the exception of small recreational fires like campfires and outdoor cooking. Burning in a barrel is considered to be open burning, and burning of trash or refuse is never permissible. To access a comprehensive list of guidelines and to complete a permit application, please visit www.cecilcountyhealth.org.



JULY MEETINGS FOR HISTORIC DISTRICT AND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSIONS RESCHEDULED

Due to the Independence Day holiday, we have rescheduled the following meetings:

- ◆ Historic District—Wed, July 10th, 6pm, at Town Hall, 241 Market St, and via Zoom.
- ◆ Planning & Zoning—Wed, July 24th, 6pm, at Charlestown Fire Hall, 307 Market St, and via Zoom. This will include the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meeting.

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!

TOWN HALL SOFTWARE & ONLINE PAYMENTS UPDATE

We would like to inform you about an important update regarding our finance and billing software. We have been working diligently over the past few months to transition to a new system called MCSJ, which will replace our old software, FundBalance. We are pleased to announce that the transition's first phase, involving accounts payable, has been successfully completed.

The next phase, scheduled for the beginning of September, will focus on utility billing, accounts receivable, and receipting, allowing us to provide more detailed and user-friendly utility bills and receipts. At the same time, a new online payment portal will be introduced, allowing residents to access their accounts, view balances, and make payments online. This new system will also provide options for setting up scheduled and automatic payments.



In addition, the fee structure will be revised for online payments. Residents using a credit card for one-time payments will be subject to a 2.95% fee at the time of the transaction, while E-Check payments will be processed free of charge, with the Town covering the fee. However, automatic payments via either method will not incur any fees.

As part of our efforts to streamline operations and reduce costs, we encourage residents to opt for e-mailed bills or view their bills online. **Please note that starting in October, when 3rd Quarter utility bills are mailed, a \$2.00 postage fee will be applied to residents who are not opted in for e-mailed bills.**

We understand that this transition may require some adjustment, and we appreciate your patience and understanding. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at staff@charlestownmd.org or during business hours (M-F 8:30-4:30) via telephone at 410-287-6173. We are here to assist you.

2023 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT



Our Annual Drinking Water Quality Report/Consumer Confidence Report is available in electronic format on our website at www.charlestownmd.org/wp-content/uploads/CCR-2023.pdf.

In addition, we will continue to mail this website information to you with your 2nd quarter utility bills, which you should receive around the second week of July each year.

For additional information, please contact:

Bryan Lightner, Town Administrator

241 Market Street, PO Box 154, Charlestown, MD 21914

Phone: 410-287-6173, ext. 2

Email: blightner@charlestownmd.org

USPS RATE INCREASE EFFECTIVE JULY 14

The United States Postal Service has issued a rate increase, which will take effect on Sunday, July 14th.

The increases are as follows:

- ◆ Letters (1oz)—73¢
- ◆ Letters (metered 1oz)—69¢
- ◆ Domestic Postcards—56¢
- ◆ International Postcards—\$1.65
- ◆ International Letters (1oz)—\$1.65

For more information, visit pe.usps.com.

TOWN HALL LISTENING SESSIONS

The Town Commissioners hosted two rounds of successful listening sessions, which were resident-led, from February to June. After a break for the Summer, meetings will resume in Autumn, but will be condensed in order to bring more neighborhoods together. Here are the scheduled meeting dates:

1. Thursday, September 12th at 6pm—Scott Gardens, Louisa Ln Ext & Route 7
2. Wednesday, October 16th at 6pm—Cool Springs, Trinity Woods & Trinity Woods Preserve
3. Wednesday, November 20th—Historic District, Charlestown Manor, Holloway Beach, & Carpenter's Point

We hope you will be able to join us so we can review previous topics and continue important discussions on matters such as stormwater management and neighborhood safety. These listening sessions are essential for gathering feedback to guide Charlestown in the right direction and keeping our residents safe and content. Your feedback is much appreciated!



3RD QUARTER EVENTS



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING—JULY 24TH, 6PM.

This public meeting will follow the monthly Planning & Zoning Commission meeting and will be held at the Charlestown Fire Hall, 307 Market Street, and via Zoom. Items of discussion will be municipal growth, land use and zoning issues, and the review of a strategic map. The Zoom link will be available on our website.

COOL SPRINGS COMMUNITY FUN DAY—AUGUST 3RD, 2-8PM.

Join Cool Springs for a day of fun, complete with a bounce house, games, and facepainting!

This event will be at the Cool Springs playground/sports field.

Volunteers Needed! If you are interested in volunteering your time, please contact Town Hall.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT & MUSIC IN THE PARK, FEATURING JAC CONNER—AUGUST 10TH, 5-8PM.

Join us at Avalon Park for our annual National Night Out to honor our local police and to enjoy music by indie singer/songwriter, Jac Conner! The Cecil County Sheriffs will bring along their drunk buster goggles and have K-9 demonstrations. The Charlestown Fire Company will have their vehicles on display. Bring a chair or blanket and don't forget bug spray! Vendors will be there selling food, goods and refreshments.



CHARLESTOWN FIRE COMPANY FUNDRAISER—AUGUST 17TH.

Save the date! More details to follow.

If you would like to donate a basket for raffle, please drop off at Town Hall.

LABOR DAY—SEPTEMBER 2ND.

Town Hall closed. Trash and recyclables collection will be on Thursday, September 5th.

END OF SUMMER FESTIVAL—SEPTEMBER 21ST, 12-6PM.

Come celebrate the end of the summer with music in the park, featuring Red Toad Connection, Bleach, and more! This festival will host lots of food vendors, including Market Street Café and 5th Company Brewing, and will have activities for kids, such as tie dye shirts and crafts. You won't want to miss this free event!

TOWN-WIDE YARD SALES—SEPTEMBER 28TH & 29TH, 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.



For more event information, please visit our website at www.charlestownmd.org/toc-events.

Download our app, *Historic Charlestown*, on your Android or iOS device today to get event information, along with other Town news, as soon as it's available!



Scan the QR Code





Town of Charlestown - 3rd Quarter 2024 Calendar

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------|--------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--------|----------|
| July | | 1 Payment Plan Payments Due | 2 | 3 <i>TRC</i> | 4 CLOSED Independence Day | 5 | 6 |
| | 7 | 8 Yard Waste Collection | 9 Town Comm. Mtg 6pm | 10 <i>TRC</i> Historic District Mtg 6pm | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 <i>TRC</i> | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| | 21 | 22 Yard Waste Collection | 23 Town Comm. Mtg 6pm | 24 <i>TRC</i> Comp. Plan Meeting 6pm | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 <i>TRC</i> Bulk Trash Collection | <i>TRC = Trash/Recyclables Collection</i> | | |
| | | | | | | | |

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------|--|
| August | <i>TRC = Trash/Recyclables Collection</i> | | | | 1 Payment Plan Payments Due | 2 | 3 Community Fun Day 2-8pm |
| | 4 | 5 2nd Quarter Payments Due | 6 Historic District Mtg 6pm | 7 <i>TRC</i> <i>Purple Heart Day</i> | 8 Planning & Zoning Mtg 6pm | 9 | 10 NNO & Music in the Park 5-8pm |
| | 11 | 12 Yard Waste Collection | 13 Town Comm. Mtg 6pm | 14 <i>TRC</i> | 15 | 16 | 17 Charlestown Fire Fundraiser TBD |
| | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 <i>TRC</i> | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| | 25 | 26 Yard Waste Collection | 27 Town Comm. Mtg 6pm | 28 <i>TRC</i> Bulk Trash Collection | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| | | | | | | | |

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------|---|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--------|--|
| September | 1 3 - Payment Plan Payments Due | 2 CLOSED Labor Day | 3 Historic District Mtg 6pm | 4 | 5 <i>TRC</i> Planning & Zoning Mtg 6pm | 6 | 7 |
| | 8 <i>Grandparents' Day</i> | 9 Yard Waste Collection | 10 Town Comm. Mtg 6pm | 11 <i>TRC</i> <i>Patriot Day</i> | 12 Town Hall Meeting 6pm | 13 | 14 |
| | 15 <i>Start of Hispanic Heritage Month</i> | 16 | 17 | 18 <i>TRC</i> | 19 | 20 | 21 End of Summer Festival 12-6pm |
| | 22 | 23 Yard Waste Collection | 24 Town Comm. Mtg 6pm | 25 <i>TRC</i> Bulk Trash Collection | 26 | 27 | 28 Town-Wide Yard Sale 9am-2pm |
| | 29 Town-Wide Yard Sale 9am-2pm | 30 | <i>TRC = Trash/Recyclables Collection</i> | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |