



The Charlestown Drift

October—December 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

Place items at curb any weekday for collection. No need to schedule!

As the autumn season unfolds, Charlestown continues to exude its timeless beauty. As we embrace this new season, 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.

First and foremost, the Planning Commission and Steering Committee have been diligently working on a draft plan, which is scheduled to be presented at a community meeting in November. The specific date for the meeting will be announced soon. This plan will help guide future development of the Town for the next 15 years, incorporating feedback received at the initial community 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.



Secondly, 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 replaced a section of sewer line along the North East River at the end of Tasker Lane. This location presented unique challenges due to its proximity to private beaches and susceptibility to wave action and erosion. Working closely with engineers and contractors, the Town designed a series of concrete collars to secure the sewer line and developed offshore breakwaters to minimize erosion and facilitate sand buildup over the sewer line.

Efforts are also underway to design stream restoration and stormwater management demonstration projects at the Athletic Complex. Construction has begun to intercept drainage along Frederick Street and redirect it into the park. Additionally, the Town Engineer has identified segments of the drainage system that require replacement or cleaning, and contractors are scheduled to commence this work in the next quarter.

Make sure to stay updated on these plans and projects by visiting our website, subscribing to our email newsletters, or downloading 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 attend one of our Town Hall listening sessions to share your feedback and participate in meaningful discussions. The dates for the 4th quarter meetings can be found on page 2.

{ UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS DUE NOVEMBER 7TH! }

VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBER OPPORTUNITY

The Town of Charlestown is seeking a candidate that is interested in the history of Charlestown and its Historic Preservation. There is currently one (1) vacancy on the Historic District Commission and the term is three (3) years.

Duties of this volunteer position include attending monthly meetings to review and approve permit requests, sharing responsibility of revising the Historic District ordinance, and helping to create a Historic Preservation Plan that implements a shared vision for the Historic District. Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm.

If you are interested in joining the Board, please contact Bryan Lightner, Town Administrator, at (410) 287-6173, ext. 2, or via email at blightner@charlestownmd.org.

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 resumed in September. Here are the scheduled meeting dates for the 4th Quarter, which have been updated since our last newsletter:

- **Thursday, October 17th at 6pm—Cool Springs, Trinity Woods & Trinity Woods Preserve**
- **Thursday, November 21st at 6pm—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!

NEW SOFTWARE & PAYMENT PORTAL

We are excited to announce the launch of our new utility billing software and online payment portal. The new bills are designed to be easier to understand, and the online payment portal allows residents to view their account statuses and current bills, and to make secure payments with ease. Here's what has and hasn't changed:

- **New Utility Bill Format, Account Number, and Pin.** The new format will provide more detailed yet easy-to-understand billing data and important announcements. Account numbers have also changed, so if you use bill pay through your bank, please update your information. For security, you will need your new account number and pin to access the online portal.
- **\$2 Administrative Fee.** If you are not enrolled to receive your utility bills via email-only, a \$2 administrative fee will be added to your bill to cover the cost of postage, stationary, and extra staff time. To avoid this fee, opt-in for email-only billing or choose to view your bill online and print a copy.
- **Updated Online Payment Methods.** You may use a debit or credit card or your bank account to pay your bill. Make one-time payments easily or create a login to set up scheduled or automatic payments using a Virtual Wallet.
- **Updated Payment Fees.** Paying with cash or check is free, as well as paying online with an e-check. However, paying online with a debit or credit card will now incur a 2.95% convenience fee.

If you need any assistance navigating the new payment portal or have questions about your utility bill, please contact Mary Culver, Assistant Town Administrator, at (410) 287-6173, ext. 4, or via email at mculver@charlestownmd.org.

4TH QUARTER HOLIDAYS

COLUMBUS DAY/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY— OCTOBER 14TH.

Town Hall will be closed.
Trash and recyclables collection will be on
Wednesday, October 16th, as usual.

VETERANS DAY—NOVEMBER 11TH.

Town Hall will be closed.
Trash and recyclables collection will be on
Wednesday, November 13th, as usual.

THANKSGIVING

—NOVEMBER 28TH & 29TH.

Town Hall will be closed.
Trash and recyclables collection will be on
Wednesday, November 27th, as usual.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS.

Town Hall will close at 12pm on
December 24th and December 31st, and
will be closed on December 25th
and January 1st.
Trash and recyclables collection will be on
Thursday, December 26th
and Thursday, January 2nd.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- ◆ **For Boat Ramp Users:** The Charlestown boat ramp is scheduled to be closed beginning on November 4th in order to carry out dredging of the ramp, Town pier, and the fire boat pier. The project is anticipated to take 4-6 weeks to complete, subject to weather conditions.
- ◆ **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, 2024 through March 14, 2025 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 12pm for Friday collection. This also applies to damaged or destroyed bins that need repair or replacement.



4TH QUARTER EVENTS



FIRST RESPONDER NIGHT—OCTOBER 10TH, 5:30PM.

Join us in honoring and celebrating our First Responders in front of the Charlestown Fire Station at 307 Market Street. K-9 Farrah from the Cecil County Sheriff's Office will be present, and the fire station will be open for tours. The Charlestown Elementary School and Town Commissioners will also be in attendance to show their support. Food will be available for everyone to enjoy.

COOL SPRINGS COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY—OCTOBER 19TH, 9AM.

Volunteers needed! Meet us at 9am at the Cool Springs playground (Cool Springs Rd between Pagosa St and Colorado Ct). Our tasks include picking up trash at the playground and athletic field, as well as at the retention basins and common areas on Saratoga Ct, Steamboat Ct, and Cool Springs Rd. Gloves, vests, trash bags, and bottled water will be provided. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

NIGHTMARE ON WATER STREET—OCTOBER 25TH, 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. The trunk-or-treat, which is sponsored by the Charlestown Elementary PTO, will be on Water Street in front of Veteran's Park. We will have hot dogs, beverages, and snacks at the pavilion, which will be first come, first serve. Don't forget to bring your favorite bag for all the treats and goodies!

HALLOWEEN NIGHT IN CHARLESTOWN—OCTOBER 31ST, 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!



3RD ANNUAL DONUTS WITH SANTA—NOVEMBER 17TH, 12PM-3PM.

This year, registration is not required. Make sure to join us at Charlestown Elementary School with your kids for a professional photo opportunity with Santa! There will be hot chocolate, donuts, healthy snacks, and refreshments available. Kids can also enjoy fun activities and use festive paper and envelopes to write letters to Santa. We'd appreciate a \$10 donation per family at the door to support the Charlestown PTO.



CHRISTMAS AT MARKET SQUARE—DECEMBER 6TH, 5:30PM.

Please join us for our annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony at Market Square (Bladen & Market Streets). Before the tree lighting, take the opportunity to get some hot chocolate and cookies, and to find your child's ornament (made at school) on one of the smaller Christmas trees lines up in front of Fairgreen Park.

The Charlestown Elementary School Choir will serenade us with some festive songs, and Colonel Nathaniel Ramsey will read us a Christmas story.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA—DECEMBER 14TH, 12PM.

This annual ceremony, which is held at St. John's Methodist Church, 240 Market Street, honors veterans that have been laid to rest in the Charlestown Cemetery. Wreaths are placed at each veteran's grave. A luncheon will follow at the Charlestown Fire Hall, 307 Market Street, and is for all veterans and their families to enjoy. There will be soups, sweets, and refreshments.

SANTA ON A FIRE TRUCK—DECEMBER 17TH, STARTING AT 5:30PM.

We're eagerly anticipating Santa's arrival, and he's looking forward to seeing you, too! Thanks to the Charlestown Fire Company, Santa will be traveling through Town to greet everyone. You can find a map of Santa's route on our website.



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 - 4th Quarter 2024 Calendar

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October	Payment Plan Payments Due October 1st		1 Historic District Meeting 6pm	2 <i>TRC</i>	3 Planning & Zoning Meeting 6pm	4	5 Cecil Cares Day 9am
	6 Hazardous Waste Day 7:30am-3pm	7 Utility Bills Distributed	8 Town Comm. Meeting 6pm	9 <i>TRC</i>	10 First Responder Night 5:30pm	11	12
	13	14 CLOSED Columbus Day	15 Yard Waste Collection	16 <i>TRC</i>	17 Town Hall Meeting 6pm	18	19 Community Clean Up Day 9am
	20	21	22 Town Comm. Meeting 6pm	23 <i>TRC</i>	24	25 Halloween Parade 5:30pm	26
	27	28 Yard Waste Collection	29	30 <i>TRC</i>	31 Trick-or-Treating 6-8pm	Bulk trash collection now on any weekday. No need to schedule.	

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

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December	1	2 Payment Plan Payments Due	3 Historic District Meeting 6pm	4 <i>TRC</i>	5 Planning & Zoning Meeting 6pm	6 Tree Lighting 5:30pm	7
	8	9 Yard Waste Collection	10 Town Comm. Meeting 6pm	11 <i>TRC</i>	12	13	14 Wreaths Across America 12pm
	15	16	17	18 <i>TRC</i>	19	20	21
	22	23 Yard Waste Collection	24 Town Hall Closing at 12pm	25 CLOSED Christmas	26 <i>TRC</i>	27	28
	29	30	31 Town Hall Closing at 12pm	From all of us at Town Hall, we hope you and your family have a joyous and healthy holiday season and new year!			

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