

Town of Charlemont August 2026 Newsletter



ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

Franklin County Solid Waste District will hold the 2026 household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, September 19, at Greenfield Community College (GCC) and the Orange Transfer Station.

Residents and businesses must pre-register by September 9th. Online pre-registration for the 2026 collection will open in mid-August at franklincountywastedistrict.org. Mail-in registration forms will be available in mid-August at town transfer stations (as supplies last) and in local newspapers.

Participants will be assigned an appointment time to bring waste to the collection; an appointment time and instructions will be provided by mail after registration is processed.

The participating towns are Athol, Barre*, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Rowe, Royalston, Shelburne, Sunderland*, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately.

This collection event is free for residents of most participating towns. *Barre and Sunderland residents must pay to participate in 2026. Greenfield and Leyden residents are not eligible; call 413-772-2438 for disposal information. Businesses may participate but must pay for disposal costs. For business registration information, call (413) 772-2438.

This event provides an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items that should not be put in the trash, such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, household cleaners, and other household chemicals. A more complete list of acceptable items is at franklincountywastedistrict.org.

Batteries and mercury-containing items such as fluorescent light bulbs, thermometers, and thermostats are not accepted at this collection. However, these items, which may contain mercury or heavy metals, should not be put in trash or recycling. Handle them carefully, bring them to a municipal transfer station or a [Regional Hazardous Waste "Super Site"](#) and hand to the attendant. In addition, fluorescent light bulbs are accepted free of charge at Lowe's Stores (all types of fluorescents), and Home Depot (CFLs only).

For more information, visit franklincountywastedistrict.org or contact the District at info@franklincountywastedistrict.org, (413) 772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

News From the Administrator

Stay Connected: Make Sure Your Contact Information is Up to Date

The Town of Charlemont uses an emergency notification (robo call) system to quickly share important information with residents. This system is used to notify you of emergency situations, road and bridge closures, severe weather, construction updates, and other important town announcements.

If you have recently changed your phone number, switched from a landline to a cell phone, or would like to add an additional contact number, please take a few minutes to update your information. Having current contact information ensures you receive timely notifications when they matter most.

Even if you think you're already in the system, it's a good idea to verify that your information is correct. Many residents no longer have landlines, and updating your contact information helps us reach you quickly during emergencies and other important events.

To update your phone number or contact information, please contact the Town Administrator's Office at **413-339-4335, ext. 8**, or email **administrator@townofcharlemont.org**.

Looking for Assistance in Charlemont?

Information on programs that cover multiple types of assistance are listed here

Lifepath is dedicated to the well-being of older adults, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers. They provide person-centered service coordination, education and support. <https://lifepathma.org/>

Community Action Pioneer Valley Assists people who have low incomes to achieve economic stability and security and work to build communities in which all people have the opportunity to thrive (programs include **fuel assistance**, education and learning programs)

<https://www.communityaction.us/about/>

Massachusetts 2-1-1 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is staffed by counselors that can get you the help you need who can assist you with almost any challenge such as childcare options, workforce retraining, mental health issues, housing, and rental assistance. www.mass211help.org

[https://www.communityaction.us/about/Communities that Care Coalition](https://www.communityaction.us/about/Communities%20that%20Care%20Coalition). Extensive links and resources for many types of help. See more at <https://communitiesthatcarecoalition.com/resources/>

Food Assistance

Food Assistance Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly known as Food Stamps) benefits help low-income families buy nutritious food at most grocery stores, convenience stores, and pharmacies. www.mass.gov/snap Phone: 866-950-3663

Good neighbors Food Distribution: 4-5:30pm (3rd Tues of the month) Charlemont Federated Church

Health Insurance and Medical Bills

MassHealth Pays for health care for certain low- and medium-income people living in Massachusetts. www.mass.gov/masshealth Phone: 800-841-2900

The Sanford Fife Fund

For residents of the town of Charlemont, a private trust known as the Sanford Fife Fund is available. It is administered by Baystate Franklin and is used to pay for the healthcare expenses of current residents of Charlemont Massachusetts who demonstrate financial need. Payments are contingent upon availability of funds.

Sanford Fife was a well-known resident of the town of Charlemont who established this trust through his will many years ago. It provides funds for eligible individuals to offset the cost of any services rendered by Baystate Franklin Medical Center and/or its Baystate Health affiliates. To be eligible, a resident must have exhausted any other applicable insurance and must provide some simple information to the Sanford Fife Fund committee describing their need for assistance.

Information and applications are available at the Town Hall.

VETERANS' BENEFITS Department of Veterans' Services Benefits and resources for veterans and their families may be available through your local Veterans' Service Officer. www.mass.gov/veterans Phone: 617-210-5480

Heating Assistance

West County Wood Bank income qualified residents can receive a cord of wood.
Email administrator@townofcharlemont.org or call 413-339-4335

Housing Assistance

Mass Housing Consumer Education Centers Nine Centers across Massachusetts provide Housing Information and Referrals. Connect to resources on foreclosure prevention, rental assistance, and subsidies, housing search, transitional and support housing for the homeless, and more. www.masshousinginfo.org Phone: 800-224-5124

Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA). Multiple programs including one-on-one housing counseling, foreclosure prevention, get the lead out, first time home buyer workshops, financial workshops, and rental voucher programs, there are also programs for landlords. HRA also has a [Home Modification Loan Program \(HMLP\)](#). The Home Modification Loan Program (HMLP) is a loan program that was established in 1999 by the MA state legislature. HMLP funds give homeowners the opportunity to modify or adapt their homes for a household member of any age with professionally documented limitation(s) or disability. HMLP offers loans from \$1,000 to \$50,000 to property owners at 0%. Borrowers sign a promissory note, and a mortgage is recorded as a lien against the property to secure these loans. HMLP can also lend from \$1,000 to \$30,000 to owners of manufactured or mobile homes. Landlords with fewer than 10 units may be eligible for a 3% loan for a tenant who has a functional limitation. Borrowers sign a promissory note and a UCC-1 is filed against the home to secure these loans.

Please note that this is not a home repair program. For instance, HMLP would not be able to rebuild a deck without modifying it in some way. Projects funded by HMLP can include ramps and lifts, bathroom and kitchen adaptations, sensory integration spaces, fencing, as well as accessory dwelling units. This is far from an exhaustive list. If you are curious or have questions,

Gandhi Gracia

Email: ggracia@fcrhra.org

Phone: (413) 223-5228

or watch an informational video: [Home Modification Loan Program \(HMLP\) - HRA \(fcrhra.org\)](#)

Housing Rehabilitation Program

The Town of Charlemont with the town of Wendell as the lead town, was awarded funding through a Community Development Block Grant to run a housing rehabilitation program. Charlemont participates in this program through the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority. This program offers loans that are 0% interest and deferred payment (meaning you make no monthly payments) and provides an affordable means for homeowners to bring their homes into compliance with building codes, perform needed repairs, and weatherize their homes. Depending on the

severity of the building code violations on the property, applicants may be eligible for loans of up to \$50,000. For more information about the program visit the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment website:
<https://fcrhra.org/housing-rehabilitation-program/>

USDA Housing Program

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/housing-programs>



Franklin County Plans for National Good Neighbor Day September 26-28

The weekend of September 26-28, 2026, marks the 2nd annual Massachusetts Good Neighbor Day effort organized by the Massachusetts Coalition to Build Community and End Loneliness. The coalition is encouraging communities, organizations, and individuals statewide to host activities that strengthen connections, encourage kindness, and foster a deeper sense of belonging in the Commonwealth.

Locally, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments is organizing neighborhood gatherings across the region. Increasing social connectedness is a priority of the FRCOG's community health improvement plan, or CHIP, because isolation and loneliness impact people of all ages and walks of life in our region. Good Neighbor Day is a reminder that we can all contribute to making this a better place to live – and even the smallest steps help.

Want to plan an event in your neighborhood? FRCOG has resources such as invitations, signs, and activity suggestions for local Good Neighbor Day organizers at bit.ly/GND-CHIP

- You can find more info about MA Good Neighbor Day at <https://www.endlonelinessma.com/gnd>
- For more information email or call at 413-774-3167: Jen Audley (jaudley@frcog.org or extension 126) or Phoebe Walker (walker@frcog.org and extension 103)

CRAFTING WITH MARY ANN FELTED BEAD NECKLACES

Saturday, August 8
Noon - 2 p.m.

Tyler Memorial Library
157 Main Street, Charlemont



Learn how to take carded wool and felt it into a sphere shape.
Pick your colors, do the needle felting and arrange into a
necklace design

All Materials supplied.

