

Town of Charlemont August 2025 Newsletter



Special Town Meeting Recap

At the Special Town Meeting held July 22, 2025, the Bylaw document that the Town Clerk presented was unanimously approved. The document has been sent to the Attorney General's office for their approval, once approved it will be added to the Town Website so this will allow us to have a complete document that will encompass our general bylaws and be regularly updated.

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

Franklin County Solid Waste District will hold the 2025 household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, September 20, at Greenfield Community College (GCC) and the Orange Transfer Station.

Residents and businesses must pre-register by September 10th. Online pre-registration for the 2025 collection will open in mid-August at franklincountywastedistrict.org. Mail-in registration forms will be available in mid-August at town transfer stations 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 collection is free for residents of most of the District's 21 member towns. 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 but should never 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. Fluorescent light bulbs are also accepted at Lowe’s (all types of fluorescents), and Home Depot (CFLs only).

SAVE THE DATE: FALL “CLEAN SWEEP” BULKY WASTE RECYCLING DAY

The three collection locations on Saturday, October 18 (9 a.m. to noon) will be Erving Highway Garage on Public Works Boulevard (off Rt. 2); Mohawk Trail Regional School at 26 Ashfield Rd. (Route 112 South), Buckland; and Whately Transfer Station at 73 Christian Lane in Whately.

Residents and businesses from any of the District’s 21 member towns may bring bulky items to this collection. There are charges for most items (cash only). A price list for the most common items is at: franklincountywastedistrict.org. Pre-registration is not required for this event. Acceptable items include tires, appliances, refrigerators, scrap metal, furniture, carpeting, construction debris, computers, televisions, propane gas tanks, textiles, books, bulky rigid plastics for recycling, and other large items. Materials will be recycled whenever possible.

Hawlemont School News

The Hawlemont Community Gardens have been launched and are growing beautifully. At the End-of-the-Year Celebration of Learning, a plaque was installed by the greenhouse recognizing Erwin Reynolds for his dedication to making the school's HAY program reality. Now the school's being deep cleaned and readied for the start of the 2025-2026 school year (79 students enrolled currently).



News from the Board of Health

We began the summer concerned with ticks. The peak season for ticks is May and June, but they are currently around and biting. In fact, they are active all year. We now are entering mosquito season. They carry serious diseases. Of particular concern are Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV). A mosquito in Belchertown tested positive for EEE and one in Leyden tested positive for WNV. EEE is rare but serious. About 30% of those who contract it die, and most others suffer life long neurological problems. It is best to avoid it. There is a vaccine for horses, but so far not for people. Our best defense is to avoid getting bitten. Below are steps you can take. You can learn more about both diseases at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/mosquito-borne-disease-prevention>.




Protect Yourself from Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes can spread diseases that make you very sick.
Take steps to prevent mosquito bites.

- Use an EPA-approved repellent anytime you're outdoors.** (Illustration: A hand spraying repellent from a can.)
- Wear long pants, long sleeves and socks to reduce exposed skin outdoors.** (Illustration: A person wearing long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, with a crossed-out pair of shorts.)
- Repair torn screens early in the season to keep mosquitoes outdoors.** (Illustration: A window with a torn screen.)
- Remove standing water around the house to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.** (Illustration: A birdbath with water being poured out.)
- Dusk to dawn is peak biting time for mosquitoes that carry disease.** (Illustration: A night sky with stars and a moon.)

Know your risk: stay informed throughout mosquito season.

For more information about each of these important steps, go to:
www.mass.gov/MosquitoesAndTicks

 Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Bureau of Infectious Disease, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization

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