

Town of Charlemont July 2025 Newsletter



Broadband News

The town of Charlemont is offering a new subsidy for broadband subscribers who qualify for the federal Lifeline program.

Starting in July, all Charlemont residents who receive Lifeline through Whip City Fiber will receive an additional \$30/month subsidy on their internet bills. This town subsidy is in addition to the \$9.25 subsidy from Lifeline.

If you are currently receiving Lifeline on your Whip City Fiber internet bill, you will be automatically enrolled in this program. You will see the additional credit starting with your July bill.

If you are currently using Lifeline for a different service, then you can qualify for the \$30 discount by switching your Lifeline credit to Whip City Fiber. The \$9.25 Lifeline subsidy can be applied only to a single provider and most telephone or internet plans are eligible.

If you are not enrolled in Lifeline, learn more here: <https://www.lifelinesupport.org/> You can check your eligibility and apply for the program at <https://lifeline.whipcityfiber.com>. You may qualify automatically under federal guidelines if you already receive benefits such as SNAP, SSI, MEDICAID or other similar federal assistance programs.

Special Town Meeting Information

Charlemont's bylaws have not been assembled in a single document since May 3, 1982. The Town Clerk has assembled the bylaws in a single document through the FY 25 Town meeting to be presented and voted upon.

This will give the Town a single bylaw document for reference, so that then future bylaws can be integrated upon their approval. The Meeting will take place July 22, 2025, 6PM at the Hawlemont Elementary School, 10 School Street Charlemont. A copy of the document is available on the Town Website and at Town Hall.

News From the Town Administrator

Bridge Projects

Bridge Projects continue South River Road and East Oxbow Road. The South River Road project is going to be several weeks, a section of beam loss in the bridge substructure required the closure for repairs.

East Oxbow Road Bridge is a full replacement, with work this summer to install a temporary bridge beside the current bridge. Once the temporary bridge is in place the current bridge will be demolished in place and a new one will be built. This project requires some closures and use of the West Oxbow Road Detour, when notified of the closures I send out a robo call to the affected residents, if you are not receiving these calls and would like to please call or email and provide the number you would like to have dialed. 413-339-4335 ext. 8 or administrator@townofcharlemont.org

Information From the Board of Health

Extreme Heat Resources

Extreme heat can be dangerous and even life-threatening if precautions are not taken. During prolonged periods of very hot weather, which may include high humidity, the body must work harder to stay cool, increasing the risk of heat-related illness. While anyone can be affected, **older adults, young children, pregnant individuals, workers exposed to excessive heat, and people with chronic medical conditions** are especially vulnerable. Taking preventive steps—like staying hydrated, avoiding strenuous activity, and seeking cooler environments—can help protect community members during periods of extreme heat.

H.E.A.T. Resources and Alerts

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/extreme-heat-resources>

Information can be found on the following subjects:

- **Extreme Heat Page:** A central hub for resources, tools, and guidance to stay safe during periods of extreme heat.
- **Unhealthy Heat Forecast Page:** Track upcoming heat conditions in your community with a 7-day forecast and color-coded risk levels.
- **Updated Extreme Heat Resource Guide:** A comprehensive guide for local health, clinicians, and agencies to plan for and respond to extreme heat. ([PDF](#)) ([DOCX](#))
- **Targeted MDPH HHAN H.E.A.T. Alerts:** Timely alerts delivered through HHAN to help healthcare professionals, local health departments, and other stakeholders respond during forecasted extreme heat events.
- **Expanded Fact Sheets:** Clear, targeted guidance for specific settings and populations vulnerable to extreme heat. [Extreme heat resources | Mass.gov](#)