

Town of Charlemont March 2026 Newsletter



Recreation Tax Update

The Recreation Tax voted at Town Meeting has reached the Joint Committee on Revenue. The purpose of the Recreation Tax is to better align municipal revenue with the costs associated with hosting and supporting recreation-based activities. The Committee held a virtual and in person hearing January 27th, 2026, they are currently accepting written testimony until March 20th, 2026. If you would like to submit written testimony in support of the Bill, you can submit it to the following emails/addresses (please include bill number H.4435 in your submittal):

WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUBMISSION

Submitting Testimony for House Bills | Email: Anestis.Kalaitzidis@mahouse.gov

Mailing Address:

Chair Adrian Madaro
Joint Committee on Revenue
ATTN: Anestis Kalaitzidis
24 Beacon St, Room 34
Boston, MA 02133

Submitting Testimony for Senate Bills |

Chair James Eldridge
Joint Committee on Revenue
ATTN: David Emer
24 Beacon St, Room 511-C
Boston, MA 02133

All written testimony received by the committee will be made publicly available. At the discretion of the Chairs and per committee rules, limitations and redactions shall exist for sharing testimony that includes sensitive personal information or information that may jeopardize the health, wellness or safety of the testifier or others.

Electrical Aggregation

Important Update: Rate Increase Notification

As the result of a regulatory event, the Town of Charlemont's current aggregation rates **will increase effective with the March 2026 meter reads**. The new rates will be in effect for the remainder of the term, ending November 2028.

Program Product	Current Rate	Increase	New Rate	Renewable Energy Content
Standard (default)	\$0.12952 per kWh	\$0.01160 per kWh	\$0.14112 per kWh	Meets MA renewable energy requirements
Optional Green	\$0.13045 per kWh	\$0.01160 per kWh	\$0.14205 per kWh	100% renewable. Includes 31% National Wind RECs.
Optional Green 50	\$0.14752 per kWh	\$0.01160 per kWh	\$0.15912 per kWh	50% MA Class I RECs above minimum state requirements

For comparison purposes, National Grid's Basic Service rates are fixed from February 1 through July 31, 2026 -- Residential at \$0.15372 per kWh and Commercial at \$0.14493 per kWh.

WHAT IS A REGULATORY EVENT AND HOW CAN IT RESULT IN A RATE ADJUSTMENT? A regulatory event is an action taken or change enacted by a regulatory authority that results in a direct, material increase or decrease in costs during the term of an electric power supply contract.

- ⇒ **ISO-NE Day-Ahead Ancillary Services Initiative (DASI or DAAS)** – DASI introduces a co-optimized day-ahead market that simultaneously considers energy and ancillary services, replacing the previous Forward Reserve Market. This approach ensures that resources providing essential services like operating reserves are adequately compensated and obligated to perform when needed, thereby improving system reliability. By implementing DASI, ISO-NE aims to provide targeted compensation and establish clear financial obligations and incentives for flexible resources, which are crucial for maintaining grid reliability amid the increasing integration of renewable energy sources. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved DASI, recognizing that it would significantly improve operating reserve resource readiness, efficiency, and day-ahead price formation in ISO-NE. [See <https://www.iso-ne.com/participate/support/participant-readiness-outlook/day-ahead-ancillary-services-initiative>.]
- ⇒ **In other words**, DASI lessens the need for fast start generation assets and diminishes loads settled on the real time market over time. This new market structure operates on the day-ahead market, so costs are more variable. Most notably, DASI includes a new component to the ancillary market. This new component was designed to bridge the gap between supplier bids and expected demand. This cost is set on the real-time market, which means increased costs for consumers during times of uncertainty (e.g. heat wave, cold snap).
- ⇒ This regulatory event results in an **increase** in the Town's aggregation rates (effective with the March 2026 meter reads) pursuant to a provision in the Electric Service Agreement (ESA).

WHY IS THE AGGREGATION RATE CHANGING IF THE TOWN SIGNED A FIXED PRICE CONTRACT?

DASI was implemented in March 2025 and, given the newness of the program, costs were unhedgeable and had to be estimated based on guidance from ISO-NE.

- ⇒ **Original Projections vs Actual Costs** – The Cost Impact Analysis that ISO-NE filed with FERC estimated DASI costs at \$120 to \$150 million/year or \$1 to \$1.25/MWh which were approved as *just and reasonable and not unduly discriminatory or preferential*. However, actual costs have far exceeded initial expectations with December 2025 coming in at ~\$17/MWh and January 2026 at ~\$48/MWh. The recent cold snap complicated matters further and resulted in two years of expected costs being incurred in only two days – January 26 and January 27.
- ⇒ **Per the ESA**, the Town’s aggregation rates included a *cost estimate* of \$6/MWh (or \$0.006/kWh) for DASI, which was more than sufficient at the time given ISO-NE’s projections, with a fully reconcilable provision once actual costs were known. This rate adjustment is a direct result of the pass-through costs that far exceeded initial estimates.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE RATE ADJUSTMENT? Given average usage of 600 kWh per month, the Town’s new aggregation rates represent an increase of \$6.96 per month versus the current rates.

All electricity suppliers operating in Massachusetts, including National Grid, are subject to the new market structure and the associated increase in cost (i.e. all ratepayers will be impacted). Winter Basic Service rates (effective August 1, 2026 through January 31, 2027) are expected to be elevated as a result of DASI.

The Town launched its electricity program in August 2020. From inception through September 2025, the program has saved residents and small businesses over \$900,000 in electricity costs as compared to National Grid Basic Service. Further, the 16 municipalities participating in the larger Franklin County aggregation have collectively saved residents and small businesses over \$12.4 million in electricity costs as compared to National Grid and Eversource Basic Service. For questions about the Town’s rate adjustment or your options, please visit colonialpowergroup.com/charlemont or call Colonial Power Group at (866) 485-5858 ext. 1. You may OPT-OUT or OPT-IN at any time in the future with NO CHARGE.

News From the Town Clerk



All dogs residing in Charlemont must be licensed with the Town. Licenses are available from the Town Clerk during office hours or by mailing the dog license application below, a copy of your dog's current rabies certificate, and a self-addressed stamped envelope with the appropriate fee to the Town Clerk.

All dog licenses are now \$5.00

Kennel fees:

1 to 4 dogs - \$30.00

5 to 10 dogs - \$60.00

Late fees: After March 31st - \$10.00

After April 30th - \$25.00

[Dog License Application](#)

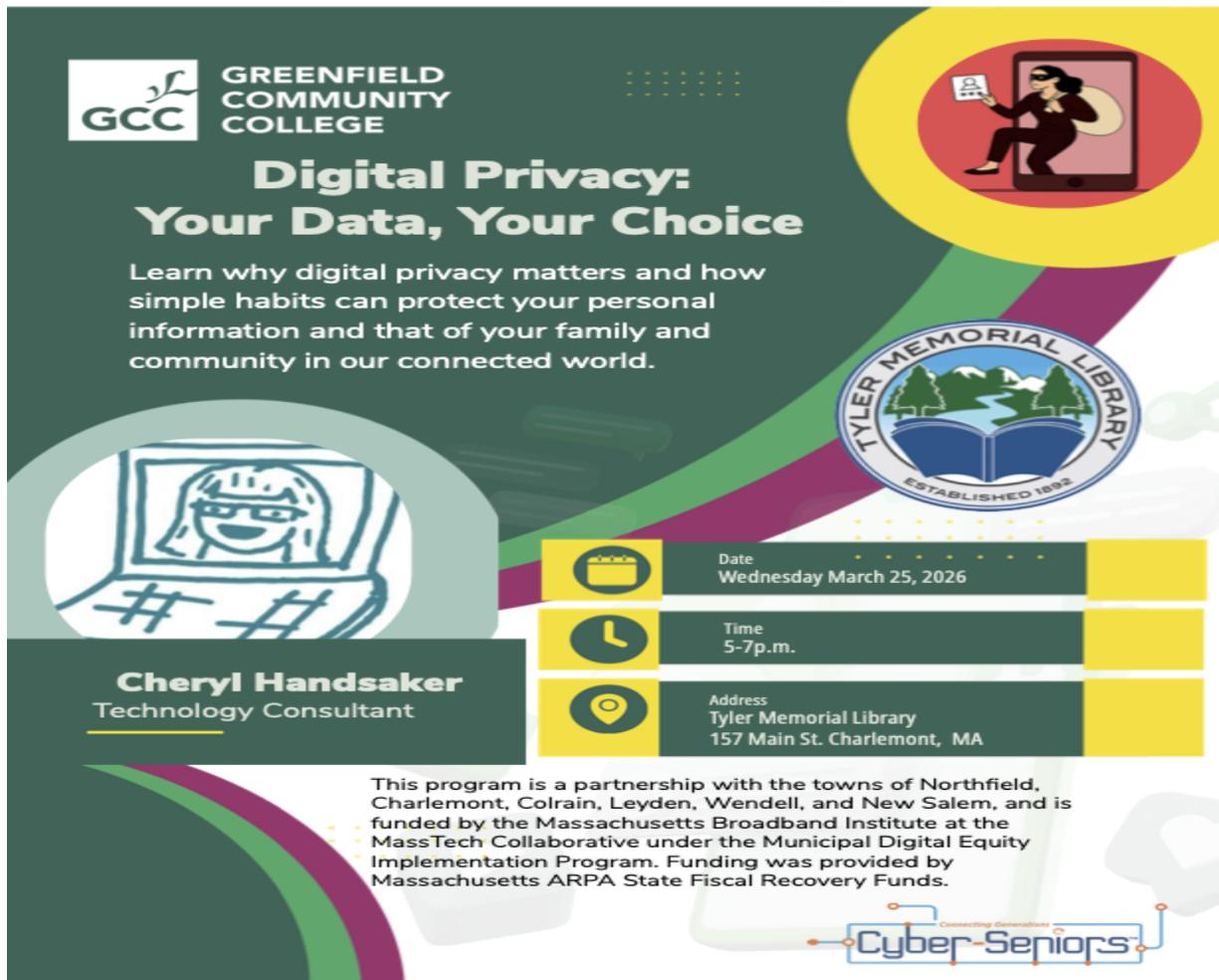
News From the Transfer Station

When temperatures drop below zero, winter weather doesn't just make roads icy — it can also affect how our equipment operates at the transfer station.

Our compactor runs on a hydraulic system. Hydraulics use fluid under pressure to power the machine that compresses and manages waste efficiently. In extremely cold conditions, especially when temperatures fall below freezing, hydraulic fluid can thicken and components can become sluggish or unresponsive. When the weather dips below 0°F, the system may not operate properly or safely.

Because the compactor is essential to keeping the transfer station running smoothly, there are times during severe cold when we may need to delay opening or temporarily close for the safety of both our staff and residents. These decisions are never made lightly, but protecting our equipment and ensuring safe operation is our top priority.

If the forecast calls for temperatures below zero, we strongly encourage residents to check the town website before heading to the transfer station. Any weather-related delays or closures will be posted there as soon as possible.



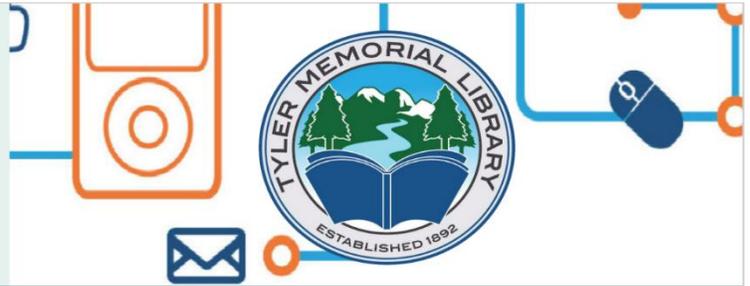
The poster features the Greenfield Community College (GCC) logo in the top left. The main title is "Digital Privacy: Your Data, Your Choice". Below the title is a paragraph: "Learn why digital privacy matters and how simple habits can protect your personal information and that of your family and community in our connected world." On the right, there is a circular graphic of a person in a black hoodie and mask sitting on a smartphone. Below that is the Tyler Memorial Library logo, which includes a tree and a book, with the text "TYLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY" and "ESTABLISHED 1892". At the bottom left, there is a graphic of a person's face on a laptop screen with the text "Cheryl Handsaker Technology Consultant". At the bottom right, there is a table with event details:

	Date Wednesday March 25, 2026
	Time 5-7p.m.
	Address Tyler Memorial Library 157 Main St. Charlemont, MA

At the bottom, there is a paragraph: "This program is a partnership with the towns of Northfield, Charlemont, Colrain, Leyden, Wendell, and New Salem, and is funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds." In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for "Cyber-Seniors" with the tagline "Connecting Generations".



**GREENFIELD
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**



**Get support tailored
for your needs!**

Free Tech Support

What We Offer:

- Basic Computer Skills
- Using the Internet
- Email Support
- Setting up New Devices
- Accessing Services

**Saturdays, noon-2 p.m.
No appointment necessary
Tyler Memorial Library**

**Located in the Charlemont Town Hall
157 Main St, Charlemont, MA**

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