

Town of Charlemont May 2025 Newsletter



Annual Town Meeting and Election Information

Candidates Night and Town Meeting Information Session will be held May 12, 2025, at 6 PM at the Hawlemont Elementary School. Residents can meet the candidates running for office and ask questions as well as find out about the town meeting warrant.

Annual Town Meeting will take place at Hawlemont Regional Elementary School on May 27th, 2025, at 6 PM

Local Elections will take place June 3, 2025 from 12pm- 7 pm at the Hawlemont Regional Elementary School.

Spring “Clean Sweep” Bulky Waste Recycling Day

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District is holding the Spring 2025 “Clean Sweep” Bulky Waste Recycling Day on Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m. to noon. The three collection locations are 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 one of the three collection sites. Acceptable items include tires, appliances, refrigerators, scrap metal, furniture, carpeting, construction debris, computers, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other large items. Materials will be recycled whenever possible.

There are charges for most items. Disposal fees, cash only, will be collected during check-in at each site. A price list for the most common items is at: franklincountywastedistrict.org. Pre-registration is not required for this event. Mattresses and box springs will not be accepted at this collection. There are six regional mattress recycling locations across Franklin County, which are open year-round. For locations, pricing, and hours, see franklincountywastedistrict.org/mattress-recycling. If you are unsure if your mattress and box spring can be recycled, call the District office at 413-772-2438.

Electronics are accepted at the District’s bulky waste day, but residents are also encouraged to recycle computer equipment and televisions at their town’s transfer station, or at Greenfield Transfer Station. Staples stores accept most types of computer equipment (no TVs) free of charge: call store for details.

Clean, dry textiles and books will be accepted for free reuse or recycling. Textiles must be contained inside a sturdy plastic bag. Textiles are banned from the trash in Massachusetts. Textile recycling accepts 95% of all textiles and shoes, including clothing or linens that are torn, stained, with missing buttons or broken zippers. Damaged textiles can be sold to manufacturers that make insulation or shop rags. Acceptable items include CLEAN & DRY clothing, shoes, and accessories; plus curtains, sheets, towels, and stuffed animals in any condition (except moldy or wet). Books can be in any condition (except moldy or wet) and can be hardcover or paperback. No encyclopedias.

Bulky Rigid Plastics will be collected separately for a special recycling program; \$5 per load of acceptable items. This special recycling program only accepts these bulky rigid plastic items: clean and empty 5-gallon pails, plastic lawn furniture, laundry baskets, storage totes, plastic trash barrels, recycling bins, and milk crates.

Before sending unwanted items for disposal or recycling, consider offering them for reuse. Various charities, including local Salvation Army and Goodwill stores and non-profits, accept donations of household items and working electronics. Always call ahead to ask if they can accept your item. Or offer reusable items on a local “Buy Nothing” Facebook group, Freecycle group, or local town groups such as NextDoor.

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

Board of Health News

Watch out for ticks!

Ticks can transmit diseases to humans when they bite; the longer a tick remains attached to the skin, the higher the likelihood that it may spread bacteria that cause tick-borne illnesses.

In 2023, over 250 ticks from Franklin County were tested for tick borne illness. Lyme disease was found in ticks from 65% of Franklin County towns. Although only deer ticks (aka black-legged ticks) can transmit Lyme and anaplasmosis, other ticks should be avoided because they can transmit less-common diseases.

Luckily, there are many actions we can take to prevent tick-borne diseases:

- When outdoors, stick to hiking trails, wear light-colored clothing (to see ticks) and tuck in loose ends.
- Make a habit of checking yourself, your children, and pets for ticks after coming inside. Think like a tick: ticks often hitch a ride after physical contact with brushy plants—start by checking feet, ankles, legs and groin, then work your way upwards.
- Use tick repellents. DEET can be used on skin. Pre-treat clothing, including socks and shoes, with permethrin (not to be put on skin). Permethrin is invisible, odorless and stays effective in fabric through many washings. Using both repellents together is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Department of Defense (DOD).

Want to identify a tick? Send a photo to Tick Encounter (tickencounter.org), to learn about the tick and your risk level. You'll hear from a tick expert in about 24 hours when using this free service, run through the University of Rhode Island.

News from the Hawlemont School Committee

The Hawlemont All School Celebration will be on **Thursday, May 29th** from 4:30-7:00. During the celebration there will be student exhibits, an art show, cow patty bingo, a free dinner, and our annual greenhouse sale.

Sixth Grade Graduation is scheduled for **June 13**.

Sustainability Study News: The 2D8T steering committee has made a recommendation to school committees to explore a single campus multi-building model for Pre-K through HS. Nothing is happening overnight and nothing will happen without an 8-town consensus. The potential changes would happen in 5-8 years with thorough planning and intentional preparation. The 2D8T Steering Committee is concerned that financial pressures will build in the near-term and that an interim solution, including the closure of one or more elementary schools, may be required as an intermediate step. Principal Amber Tulloch and School Committee Chair Ken Bertsch are available to field feedback and questions. See the [LINK here](#) for a letter from the 2D8T committee.

WEST COUNTY: Public Health Nurses are available to you!



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Cooperative Public Health Service
Franklin Regional Council of Governments



Lisa White, PhD, RN



Meg Ryan, BSN, RN

SERVICES:

- Preventative and diagnostic health screenings
- Flu and COVID vaccinations
- Individualized help managing chronic health conditions
- Tools for medication self-management
(medication calendars, files of life, pill sorters)
- Mercury thermometer & sharps disposal and container exchange
(collaboration with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District)
- Home visits available to residents in need
- Medicare insurance counseling (SHINE) available by appointment
- Dementia and issues of aging education

WEST COUNTY NURSING DROP-IN HOURS:

ASHFIELD

1st Food Pantry Tuesday
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
First Congregational Church

CHARLEMONT

3rd Tuesday
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
(also Good Neighbors Food Distribution)
Federated Church

4th Wednesday
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Federated Church

SHELburnE

3rd Wednesday
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
(Family Playgroup)
Trinity Church

4th Tuesday
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Shelburne Falls Senior Center

TO REACH THE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES:

Lisa White, PhD, RN: lwhite@frcog.org or 413-774-3167 x 156

Meg Ryan, BSN, RN: mryan@frcog.org or 413-774-3167 x 158

*These public health nursing services are a program of the Cooperative Public Health Service.
The Cooperative Public Health Service is sponsored by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.*

