

Town of Charlemont October 2025 Newsletter



News from the Board of Health

Preventing Respiratory Sickness

Each year, respiratory viruses cause millions of illnesses and thousands of hospitalizations and deaths in the US. Flu and other types of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are spread mainly by airborne droplets released by talking, sneezing or coughing.

There are actions you can take to help protect yourself and others:

1. Get vaccinated. Vaccines are available for all major fall and winter respiratory diseases.
2. Put physical distance between yourself and others in public spaces, and when you feel sick.
3. When you sneeze or cough, use a promptly disposed of tissue, or the crook of your arm.
4. Handwash regularly and use a hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available.
5. Clean surfaces such as door handles and railings.

On Sept 4 Massachusetts became the first state in the nation to guarantee insurance coverage of vaccines recommended by the state, including respiratory virus vaccines, like COVID, flu and RSV. DPH Commissioner Dr. Robbie Goldstein also issued a standing order to allow pharmacies to continue to provide COVID vaccines to Massachusetts residents aged five and older.

For up-to-date information on where to find respiratory vaccines throughout Franklin County please see <https://frcog.org/project/vaccine-information/#FindaVaccine>.

If you need help accessing vaccine, please contact Franklin Regional Council of Governments Cooperative Public Health Service Nurses Lisa White or Meg Ryan at 413-774-3167 x 156.

News from the Assessor's Office

TAX BILLS AND OWNER'S NAMES

The Assessor's Office often receives calls from property owners regarding the name listed on their tax bill following a property transfer. We would like to offer a brief explanation about how property tax assessments work in Massachusetts and why the previous owner may still appear on your tax bill.

In Massachusetts, real estate taxes are assessed on a fiscal year basis, running from July 1 through June 30. However, the **ownership and valuation for tax purposes** are based on the ownership as of **January 1st preceding the start of the fiscal year**. This is known as the assessment date. Here's how it works:

- The ownership and value of the property are determined as of **January 1st** each year.
- Whoever owns the property on **January 1st** is considered the **assessed owner** for the entire upcoming fiscal year (July 1 – June 30).
- Your bill may be addressed to a C/O New Owner's Name, and this will be updated quarterly. If there are multiple owners, only the first owner's name will appear until the previous owner's name drops off, as there are only so many lines on the tax bill.
- Your name will appear as the assessed owner on tax bills beginning with the next fiscal year, following the next January 1st.

So, if you purchased your property between January 1st and December 31st, 2025, the previous owner will remain listed on the tax bill for **Fiscal Year 2026** (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026), because they were the owner on **January 1, 2025**. Your name will appear alone, starting with the **Fiscal Year 2027** tax bill.

Please be assured that your ownership is legally recorded with the Registry of Deeds, and this does not affect your legal rights as the property owner.

For billing purposes, we recommend notifying the Tax Collector's Office of your current mailing address to ensure proper delivery of your tax bill.

If you have any questions or need help updating mailing information, feel free to contact The Assessor's Office at 413-339-8586, X2 or assessor@charlemont-ma.us.

Hawlemont Regional School News

• Annual Apple Squeeze

Join us at Hawlemont's Annual *Apple Squeeze* on **Saturday, October 11, from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM** at the school. Proceeds will support construction of a **new playground**, made possible by Charlemont Selectboard's allocation of recreational funding. Please note: the old playground will be removed beginning **October 4** and will remain closed until **October 30**.

• HRS Play Groups

Free play groups for families with young children (birth to age 6) continue every **first and third Saturday** of the month in the school gymnasium, from **9:30 - 11:00 AM**.

- **Barnyard Friends Return**

Animals from local farms have joined the Hawlemont barnyard and pastures for the school year - including a cow, goats, an expectant pig, and the school's flock of laying hens.

- **4-H Programs Starting Up**

This year's 4-H clubs include Weaving, Farm Animal Science, Crafts, Rabbits, and Baking. New leaders and volunteers are always welcome! Contact: Liz Billings at 978-407-3812 or Sheila Litchfield at 337-4957.

- **Community & School Gardens**

The gardens are flourishing! Community members are invited to pick fruits and vegetables from marked areas during non-school hours.

- **Special Education Advisory Council**

The Mohawk Trail Special Education Advisory Council will meet on **Thursday, October 20, at 7:00 PM**. This group provides support and educational resources for parents of children with special needs. For more information, email: mohawksepac@gmail.com

FALL "CLEAN SWEEP" BULKY WASTE RECYCLING DAY

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District is holding the Fall 2025 "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Recycling Day on Saturday, October 18 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); 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 Bulky Waste Day.

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.

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.



**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:

Thursdays

4:00pm - 6:00pm

No appointment necessary

Tyler Memorial Library

Located in the Charlemont Town Hall

157 Main St, Charlemont, MA

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.

POTLUCK

Library Cookbook

Dinner

The Friends of the Tyler Memorial Library invite you to bring a favorite recipe from one of the Library's cookbooks.

October 6 at 5 p.m.

Join the Friends
at the Charlemont Federated Church.
Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m.

