

Town of Charlemont Newsletter June 2022

IMPORTANT DATES

Economic Development
Meeting

June 8, 2022 at Hawlemont
Elementary School 6:30pm

Town Meeting and Election Updates

The results of the town election and town meeting will be updated and posted to the town website soon, preliminary election results are up on the website now.

Broadband Updates

As Broadband Project Nears Completion, Subsidy Period to Close on August 31, 2022

The Broadband Committee is delighted to announce that the Charlemont Fiber Network construction phase is nearly complete. All the Fiber Service (FSAs) areas are now active, with almost 400 customers now installed. If you have signed up for Internet Service you should receive a call or email from our ISP, Whip City Fiber, to schedule your installation. If you signed up and haven't received a call or email to schedule your installation, please contact Whip City Fiber Customer Service, (413) 485-1251.

Subsidy Period

We would like to remind residents and property owners that the subsidy period will officially close on August 31, 2022. Residential Service is \$79.99 per month (1Gbps). Optional phone service is available for an additional \$19.99 per month. Information on Commercial/business rates are on the [Charlemont Connect](#) website.

Those who sign up for a year of service before August 31, 2022, will qualify for the \$1400 subsidy toward installation costs that the Town is offering. In most cases, this will mean that a standard installation is free. After the subsidy period closes, your cost for installation of internet service could be up to \$1000 or more. If you are not ready to take service, we strongly recommend that you sign up for a Cold Drop. The Cold Drop brings the internet connection to the outside of your building, but does not include any inside work (wiring, equipment, etc.). The subsidy for the Cold Drop is \$500 and will reduce the cost of initiating service after the subsidy period ends. Complete details on Cold Drops and on all the subsidies available are detailed in the Drop Policy on our website – [Charlemont Connect](#). You can sign up for service on the [Whip City Fiber website](#) or by calling their customer service at (413) 485-1251.

Affordable Connectivity Program

We would also like to remind residents that the Federal Government is now offering the Affordable Connectivity Program. This program gives qualified residents a discount of \$30.00 per month on the cost of their internet service. They are several ways to qualify for the program. Detailed information is available on the [ACP Website](#). An application form is on the [Whip City Fiber website](#).

Historic Charlemont Cemeteries Opening Dates

Town History is information that helps us understand the past. Charlemont has bloomed and faded since Moses Rice staked his claim to this land. Our cemeteries tell part of that story. Here is the list of cemeteries where our ancestors are. Elizabeth Nichols, single grave at the Indian Pow Wow site on RT 2. (1765). The Old Burial Ground, behind Hicks Farm, off RT2. (1771) Moses Rice Family Cemetery, behind Zoar Outdoors, (1775) Hawks Cemetery, at Shun Pike on RT2, (1779) Charlemont Center Village Cemetery, across from the Town Hall, (1797). Shurtleff Family Cemetery/Warner Cemetery, in the woods off the old Maxwell Rd., (1802). Zoar Cemetery, on Zoar Rd. (1816). Nelson Family Cemetery, in Zoar Picnic Area, (1817). Thayer Family Cemetery, on Tower Rd. (1834). East Charlemont Cemetery, on RT 2, (1845), and John Wheeler and his wife, in the Mohawk State Park on RT2. (No date).

Eleven Historical Cemeteries are under the care and attention of our town. Some are tended to by volunteers, some the town pays to have mowed and repaired, some the Sheriff's dept. cleans once a year, the rest are left to dissolve into nothing. I thank all those people that have stepped up and spent hours tending to these important historical parts of our town. There is still work to be done by those of us that care about our history. The cemetery's operating budget is \$500 a year to do all the work that needs doing. We do have a Cemetery Fund that smiles when donations are slipped in, and in our town, volunteers are called angels. I hope this was helpful, I will share more information with you next month. Be safe and smile. NOTE, Leavitt Cemetery is still in the care of a board of trustees and has burial sites for sale.

Assessor's Office and Town Boards

The assessor's office and town boards are still looking for filing cabinets. If anyone is interested in donating filing cabinets, please contact Carlene Hayden 413-339-4335 ext. 2

Tyler Memorial Library Update

The Tyler Memorial Library asks for your help in gathering some information. Your input is important. It will help the library make strategic decisions.

You can access the survey using this link.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TylerMemorial>

Or, if you prefer you can stop by the library where there will be printed copies available.

Town Position Highlight

Agricultural Commission (Currently needs 4 members)

Role: The Agricultural/Forestry Commission represents the Charlemont farming/forest community. Said commission serves as facilitators for encouraging the pursuit of agriculture and forestry in the town both as a business and a resource, the preservation of farm and forest land, the promotion of natural resource-based farm and forestry economic opportunities, and the expression of planning needs and the visibility of farming and forestry in Charlemont. The commission consists of five members appointed by the Select Board. They shall serve staggered terms of three years each. Up to three voting alternates may also be appointed by the board, each for a one- year term. Vacancies shall be filled by the board