

## **Town of Charlemont April 2025 Newsletter**



### **From the Assessors**

The Charlemont Assessor's Office is conducting property inspections to comply with the Department of Revenue's certification requirements that every property in town be inspected within a 10-year cycle, and to ensure the accuracy of our records. Inspections will continue throughout the next several weeks.

Jim King, from Catalis Tax & CAMA, Inc. is the consultant working with the Assessors to conduct these inspections; Jim will carry identification and a letter of introduction from the Assessor's Office. The Board of Assessors greatly appreciates your cooperation in allowing these inspections. If you have any questions about these inspections, you may contact the Assessor's Office at 413-339-4335, ext. 2.

### **EXCISE TAX EXEMPTION AVAILABLE TO 100% DISABLED VETERANS**

With the recent enactment of the HERO Act, veterans with a 100% disability rating from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) now qualify for an exemption of their motor vehicle excise tax on one (1) vehicle of their choice, per year. The Town is reimbursed in full for these exemptions, so there is no loss of revenue to the Town for veterans receiving the exemption. Veterans will qualify for a motor vehicle excise tax exemption if the VA determines they have a 100% disability rating or deems them unemployable due to their service-connected disability.

For the first year of the exemption only, veterans will need to fill out an excise abatement application and provide it to the Assessors along with a copy of their current letter from the VA. No subsequent documentation will be required to receive the exemption. Applications are available on the town website at: [Board of Assessors - Town of Charlemont \(charlemont-ma.us\)](https://charlemont-ma.us/BoardofAssessors), or you may contact the Assessor's office at 413-339-8586, x2 to request an application. Please mail the documents to:

Board of Assessors, PO Box 337 Charlemont, MA 01339

Sample letters from the Department of Veterans Affairs can be found below. To contact the VA for more information or a copy of your letter, please call 1-800-827-1000. If you have any questions regarding this exemption, please don't hesitate to contact the Assessor's Office at 413-339-8586, x2



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
810 Vermont Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20420

July 1, 2021

John Michael Doe  
5445 Honor Drive  
Hope, AR 71802

In Reply Refer to:  
xxx-xx-4321  
27/eBenefits

Dear Mr. Doe,

This letter is a summary of benefits you currently receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). We are providing this letter to disabled Veterans to use in applying for benefits such as state or local property or vehicle tax relief, civil service preference, to obtain housing entitlements, free or reduced state park annual memberships, or any other program or entitlement in which verification of VA benefits is required. Please safeguard this important document. This letter is considered an official record of your VA entitlement.

Our records contain the following information:

**Personal Claim Information**

Your VA claim number is: xxx-xx-4321

You are the Veteran.

**Military Information**

Your most recent, verified periods of service (up to three) include:

Branch of Service	Character of Service	Entered Active Duty	Released/Discharged
Army	Honorable	September 17, 1990	June 22, 1996
Army	Honorable	June 23, 1999	May 5, 2005

(There may be additional periods of service not listed above.)

**VA Benefit Information**

You have one or more service-connected disabilities:	Yes
Your combined service-connected evaluation is:	100%
Your current monthly award amount is:	\$4268.39
The effective date of the last change to your current award was:	January 1, 2021
You are considered to be totally and permanently disabled due solely to your service-connected disabilities:	Yes
The effective date of when you became totally and permanently disabled due to your service-connected disabilities:	December 15, 2004



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In Reply Refer to:  
xxx-xx-4321  
27/eBenefits

Dear Mr. Doe,

This letter certifies that John Michael Doe is receiving service-connected disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The current benefit paid is as follows:

Gross Benefit Amount	\$4268.39
Net Amount Paid	\$4268.39
Effective Date	January 1, 2021
Combined Evaluation	100 percent

**How You Can Contact Us**

- \* If you need general information about benefits and eligibility, please visit us at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov> or <https://www.va.gov>.
- \* Call us at 1-800-827-1000. If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the number is 1-800-829-4833.
- \* Ask a question on the Internet at <https://ids.eusthelp.va.gov>.

Sincerely,

Cheryl J. Rawls  
Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Field Operations  
Office of Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://franklincountywastedistrict.org), or contact the District office at [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto: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.

## From The Hawlemont School Committee

School committee is happy to share that the independent financial auditors’ report regarding the district’s finances was received and reviewed in March. No concerns were identified. The auditors stated that HRS “financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear” and that no problems were encountered in the audit.

### Important dates:

April 4– Registration for kindergarten at 9 and registration for preschool at 9:45 a.m.

May 3– Wingmaster Birds of Prey, a family event, will be held in the school gym at 1:00



# OPEN HOUSE

**Saturday April 12  
12:30 - 2 p.m.**

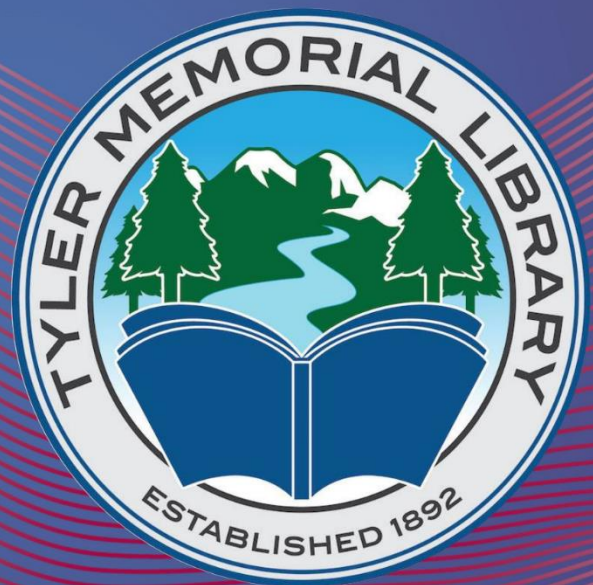
Refreshments will be served

**CELEBRATE  
NATIONAL  
LIBRARY  
WEEK**

**WHATEVER DRAWS  
YOU IN, THE LIBRARY  
HAS SOMETHING FOR  
EVERYONE.**

**SPONSORED BY THE  
FRIENDS OF THE TYLER  
MEMORIAL LIBRARY.**

**DISCOVER CWMARS,  
HOOPLA, LIBBY,  
MUSEUM PASSES,  
MAGAZINES, AND DVDS.**



**TYLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
157 Main Street  
CHARLEMONT, MA**

# DOG AND CAT RABIES VACCINATION CLINIC

This clinic will be for a rabies vaccination only.  
No other veterinarian services will be offered at this time.

Cost: **\$20.00** (CASH) per vaccination.

Payment Terms: Cash only

## About the Clinic

- 🐾 All dogs **MUST** be on a leash.  
**Flexi or extendable leashes are not allowed.**
- 🐾 All cats need to be in a carrier.  
**No exceptions.**
- 🐾 Both 1 year and 3 year rabies shots will be available.  
*To be eligible for a 3 year vaccine you will need to provide proof of a previous 1 year vaccine at the time of vaccination.*
- 🐾 We are hoping to have dog licensing available at these clinics as well.

## Clinic Locations

### 🐾 **HEATH**

Saturday, April 12th 2025 10am-12pm

Former Heath Elementary School  
18 Jacobs Road, Heath, Ma 01346



Hosted by:  
The Franklin County Sheriff's Office  
Regional Dog Shelter  
Regional Animal Control  
[www.fcrdogkennel.org](http://www.fcrdogkennel.org)

