



# YOUR VOTE COUNTS!



TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN

# The Pipeline

May, 2015 Volume 19, No. 1

Charlestown Incorporated 1738

## All-Day Financial Referendum

**June 1, 2015**

**Charlestown Town Hall**

**Polls Open 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM**



## Proposed FY 2015 - 2016 Budget

To view the **COMPLETE 2015—2016 Proposed Budget:**  
<http://www.charlestownri.org>  
On right hand side of home page, look under **“News and Information”** and select **“Town Budget 2015—2016”**

The Budget Commission’s recommended proposal for the Fiscal Year 2016 annual budget, and its comparison with FY 2015 is hereby presented for your information and review. The recommended operating budget is \$26,960,644, an increase of 1.79% or \$474,499 above the 2015 budget. A tax levy increase of \$534,124 is required to fund the budget, based upon current estimates of the Grand List, as of this date. The proposed budget requires an estimated tax levy increase of 2.36%, at an estimated rate of \$10.10 per thousand of valuation.

**The Budget Commission’s recommendation of Expenditures for FY 2015-2016 and comparison with the prior fiscal year is presented below:**

EXPENDITURES				
	2015	2016	\$ Change	% Change
Chariho School Budget	14,351,417	14,264,152	(87,265)	-0.61%
Department Expenditures	9,497,735	9,827,702	329,967	3.47%
Tranfers Out	1,079,400	1,320,967	241,567	22.38%
Debt Service	754,015	676,721	(77,294)	-10.25%
Capital Expenditures	803,578	871,102	67,524	8.40%
<b>Total Recommended Budget</b>	<b>26,486,145</b>	<b>26,960,644</b>	<b>474,499</b>	<b>1.79%</b>

The proposed revenue schedule is based upon the current best estimates of local revenues and the Governor’s proposed State transfers/grants to the Town. The Governor’s proposed local funding remains subject to State legislative action and should be closely monitored. Charlestown’s tax rate will continue to be among the lowest in the State of Rhode Island.

**THREE BALLOT QUESTIONS:**

See page 3

Continued...

**The Budget Commission's recommendation of Revenues for FY 2015-2016  
and comparison with the prior fiscal year is presented below:**

<b>REVENUES</b>				
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
General Fund Tax Revenue - Current Year	22,650,789	23,184,913	534,124	2.36%
General Fund Tax Revenue - Prior Years	390,000	400,000	10,000	2.56%
Interest	150,000	150,000	-	0.00%
In Lieu of Tax	6,666	6,666	-	0.00%
Motor Vehicle Excise Tax	42,696	42,696	-	0.00%
State Aid to Education	1,716,895	1,716,895	-	0.00%
Other Governmental Revenue	339,727	343,726	3,999	1.18%
Local Revenues	1,074,972	1,065,748	(9,224)	-0.86%
Fund Balance Transfers	64,400	-	(64,400)	-100.00%
Impact Fee Transfers	50,000	50,000	-	0.00%
<b>Total Recommended Revenues</b>	<b>26,486,145</b>	<b>26,960,644</b>	<b>474,499</b>	<b>1.79%</b>

The Chariho School decision this year to utilize an unprecedented amount of fund balance to reduce the Town contribution has, in our opinion, created an unsustainable requirement on Chariho's future fund balance, essentially creating the need to replace those funds in future years before dealing with any changes in their operating budgetary needs. The Budget Commission recommends a reserve funding in the amount of \$250,000 in this budget, to offset this impact and maintain consistency in the annual funding for education.

**Major Capital Projects recommended include:**

**Public Works**

Burdickville Road reconstruction - survey and engineering phase	\$ 116,739
Road resurfacing throughout the Town	\$ 150,000
Equipment replacement - Truck w/plow, Vacuum Sweeper, Wood Chipper, Pickup truck	\$ 166,972

**Police Department**

Vehicle replacements	\$ 102,737
Dispatch Center update	\$ 55,590
HVAC equipment	\$ 14,810

**Parks & Recreation**

Basketball Court renovation - Ninigret Park	\$ 75,000
Recycling/trash stations - three, Beaches/Park	\$ 45,000
Programable Sign for Beaches/Police/EMA	\$ 16,000

This budget recommendation includes continuation of support and changes related to the improvement of Public Works and the Recreation Department coordination implemented last fiscal year. As was noted then, the budgets of both Parks and Recreation and Public Works have been modified to move maintenance and operational expenditures to appropriate accounts. This activity will continue in future years as changes are identified and activities coordinated. The Recreation Department budgets, particularly those which rely on temporary summer personnel, have been impacted by minimum wage increases mandated by law. There are proposals being discussed at the State level which may again raise these rates in the future.

*Continued on next page...*

## Budget Commission recommendations for the Enterprise Funds:

\$215,030 ó The Charlestown Residential Collection Center (CRCC) recommended budget includes use of retained earnings, in the amount of \$24,492 and the continuing General Fund subsidy of \$15,000 to fully fund this activity.

\$59,121 ó Expenses to be funded by mooring fee revenues for the Coastal Ponds Commission activities, the Harbormaster, mooring fields and navigation aids. The Harbormaster now has boats stationed in both salt ponds to improve coverage and services. The Coastal Ponds Commission was requested to consider a mooring fee increase for future implementation.

Charlestown Budget Commission

# Sample Ballot

1. **“Shall the Town appropriate the FY 2015-2016 budget of \$12,696,492 for municipal services, as adopted by the Charlestown Town Council on May 11, 2015?”**

2. **WARRANT QUESTION #1**

**“Shall the Town of Charlestown finance the acquisition, preservation or protection of open space or any interest therein alone or in conjunction with federal agencies, state agencies, land conservancies, land trusts or preservation organizations for preservation and approve the issuance of bonds and notes therefor in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000?”**

3. **WARRANT QUESTION #2**

**“Shall the Town of Charlestown, pursuant to the relevant provisions of section C-14 of the Town Charter, acting through the Town Council, be authorized to grant or transfer any conservation easement or easements on real property and improvements thereon known as Assessors Map 17, Lot 186 commonly known as the Charlestown Moraine Preserve (the “Preserve”), as may be necessary to ensure perpetual preservation of the Preserve?”**

4. **PETITION #1**

**“Shall the Town Treasurer and the President of the Charlestown Town Council be authorized pursuant to RIGL 45-12-2, to issue and refund from time to time, bonds, notes or other evidence of indebtedness in the amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 (One Million Dollars) in order to finance the construction, furnishings, and/or equipping of recreational facilities, and/or other upgrades at Ninigret Park as outlined in the Ninigret Park Master Plan. The terms, details, and condition for such bonds, notes or other indebtedness to be set by resolution of the Town Council or by the Town Treasurer and the President of the Town Council in the absence of such resolution?”**

**Explanation: This referendum will allow the town to construct, furnish, and/or equip recreation facilities, and/or implement other upgrades in Ninigret Park. Example of items in the Master Plan include, but not limited to: A Sports Complex, Performing Arts Area, Festival Campground, Updated Little Nini Park, Improved Signage and Improved Interior Roads.**

## On-site Wastewater Treatment News

**Good News!** Compliance with the Town’s Wastewater Management Ordinance is at an all time high! This means less potential threat to our most important natural resource, our groundwater, which is our ONLY source of drinking water in Charlestown, and healthier, cleaner surface waters. Septic systems are regularly being inspected, pumped as necessary, maintained, and repaired. Harmful and dangerous cesspools and older failing systems continue to be removed and replaced with safer and cleaner septic systems. There are now only 26 cesspools remaining in the whole town! Enforcement actions for non-compliance are continuing through the Town’s Municipal Court System and have been effective in reducing threats to human health and the environment. Please remember to do your share in protecting our health and the environment of our Town. Please contact the Office of Wastewater Management at 364-5030 with any questions pertaining to wastewater, groundwater and surface water or visit the Wastewater Management Website at [www.charlestownri.org](http://www.charlestownri.org).



# 2015 Spring/Summer Parks & Recreation Programs

The Charlestown Parks and Recreation Department will offer the following programs. These can be registered at the Charlestown Parks and Recreation Department located in Town Hall, or online at [www.charlestownri.org](http://www.charlestownri.org). Our phone number is 364-1222.

**Summer Day Camp** at Ninigret Park will run for ages 5 - 12. Registration for this program will begin on May 4th. The fee for residents is \$275 and \$300 for non-residents. The camp runs from June 29th until July 31st. There will be extended weeks offered from August 3<sup>rd</sup> - August 7<sup>th</sup> for \$100. Also, from August 11<sup>th</sup> - August 14<sup>th</sup> for a cost of \$100. Trips are at an additional cost. There are daily extended hours from 8-9am and 4-5pm for \$10/hr. per day. The camp is open rain or shine. No program on July 3<sup>rd</sup> or August 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Summer Counselor-In-Training Leadership Program** will be offered for ages 13-15. Space in this program is VERY limited. This program will run the same weeks as the summer day camp and the cost is \$300, which will include a trip to Lake Compounce in CT. the last day. This program will provide leadership experience, including CPR, First Aid certification, trips, speakers, and additional materials and ideas to be used as resources for the youth in their future.

**A New Tiny Tot Camp** will be offered from June 29th - August 14th. This program runs from 9am-noon daily and is for ages 3-4 for children that are potty trained. The fee for residents is \$100 per week and \$125 for non-residents. There is not an extended care option for this program. This program is limited to 15 participants per week. Registration is open on May 4<sup>th</sup>. This camp will be a fun experience for the little ones with arts and crafts, games, swim time and many fun activities and special events.

**Tennis Lessons** will be offered in Ninigret Park. Summer Tennis is from July 6<sup>th</sup> - August 14<sup>th</sup> Monday/Wednesday and Friday for \$120. Classes will run 8am-9am for ages 6-8, 9am-10am for ages 9-11 and 10am-11am for ages 12-17. There will be a Summer Junior Tournament Play on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8am-10am from July 7<sup>th</sup> - August 13<sup>th</sup> for Ages 12-17. The cost is \$45 for junior travel team. The instructors are Don Fair, Anna Overend, CJ Widdlefield, Nicholas Fair.

## **Summer Swim Lessons at Ninigret Park**

There will be swimming lessons offered at Little Nini pond in Niningret Park. Lessons for ages 3 - 5 will be at 9-9:45am, ages 6 and older 10 - 10:45am. Classes run on Mondays and Wednesdays. No class August 10<sup>th</sup>. The first class of each new session will meet at 9am to determine levels for the weeks to follow. There will be Session I on July 7<sup>th</sup> - July 23<sup>rd</sup> and Session II from July 28<sup>th</sup> - August 18<sup>th</sup> at a cost of \$60 per session. No class August 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **Junior Golf Lessons**

Offered at Winnapaug Country Club

Tuesdays- 7/1-7/28

SESSION 1: 2:00 - 3:00- AGES: 6-10

SESSION 2: 3:00 - 4:00- AGES: 11-15

Wednesdays -7/1 - 7/22

SESSION 1: 2:00 - 3:00 -Ages: 6-10

SESSION 2: 3:00 - 4:00 -Ages 11-15

Fee: \$125.00 (includes Four 1 hour lessons, balls, greens fees, water, snack)



## **Summer Movies** - held at dusk in Ninigret Park and free

Wednesday, July 8 - Maleficent

Wednesday, July 22- Big Hero 6

Wednesday, August 5 - Paddington

Sponsored by the Charlestown Senior Citizen Association



Continued on next page..

### **Summer Concerts** - 6:00-8:00pm

July 10 – Rhode Island Rednecks Country

July 17 – Jesse Liam – Pop Hits

July 24 – Run For Cover – High Energy Band

July 31 – John Connors and the Irish Express – sponsored by the Charlestown Chamber of Commerce

August 14 – Illusion – 5 piece dance band

August 21 – 5 Flavor Discount – Pop rock sponsored by Arrowhead Dental Associates



### **Bus Trip**

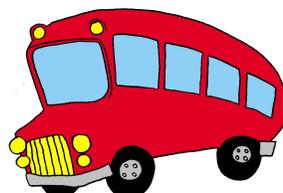
July 25<sup>th</sup> Fenway Park – Boston vs Baltimore Orioles

Depart: 11am – Charlestown Town Hall

1:35pm game

Leave Fenway for Charlestown immediately after game

Cost: \$90 includes coach transportation and ticket, seats are limited!!



### **Fitness Classes – Drop in's welcome**

**Zumba:** Monday Evenings, 5:30-6:30pm – Instructor: Gwynne Milar

**Strength & Stability:** Mon/Wed/Fri -9-10am – Instructor: Jodi Frank

**Pilates Strength & Conditioning:** Tues/Thurs-5:30-6:30pm – Instructor: Jodi Frank

**Tai Chi :**Monday Mornings- 10:30am – Instructor: Karen Psimer

**Yoga:** Monday Evenings: 6:45pm – Deidre Murphy, Community Yoga

Tuesday Mornings: 8:30 am – Sherry Cote, Community Yoga

Thursday Mornings:9:00am – Ann Blais, Community Yoga

Saturday Mornings: 8:30am – Deidre Murphy, Community Yoga

All classes are \$5/class no pre-registration necessary

Held at the Sr. Community Center in Ninigret Park



### **Yoga on the Beach**

July 8<sup>th</sup> - August 26<sup>th</sup>

Wednesdays, 6:00 - 7:15pm

Charlestown Town Beach

\$10/class

This is a basic yoga vinyasa flow offered to all levels of students, whether beginner or more experienced

### **Full Moon Yoga**

Tuesday 6/2, Wednesday 7/1, Friday 7/31 and Saturday 8/29

7:45-8:45pm

Charlestown Town Beach

\$10/per student

Rain date: If it is actively raining at time of class, Full Moon Yoga on Charlestown Beach will be offered the following evening.



# Kevin Gallup Named Emergency Manager of Year

Article reprinted courtesy of  
*The Westerly Sun*



Emergency Management Director Kevin Gallup has been named Emergency Manager of the Year. Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency Director Peter Gaynor made the announcement at the April 8 annual meeting of the state's emergency managers.

Gallup said the award took him by surprise.

"There were about 50 people there, and the state director said he was going to give out an award, and I went 'uh oh'," he said.

Richmond EMA Director Joe Arsenault described Gallup, who works part time, as someone who devoted many additional hours to protecting the residents of Charlestown.

"Kevin gives 120 percent to the town," he said. "He is always working to make it safe and prepared for disaster ... Many times people don't understand all the different aspects of emergency management, but as a fellow emergency management director and an educator in emergency management, I can attest to the fact that Charlestown is extremely lucky to have him."

Charlestown Town Council President Thomas Gentz said he had spent time with Gallup during emergencies and appreciated how hard he worked for the town.

"I've participated with our EMA director in many emergencies from Irene and Sandy and I have found him to be very organized, very detail-oriented and very focused on the safety of the residents of Charlestown," Gentz said. "I'm thrilled that he won this accolade."

Gallup was named EMA director in 2007, after serving as assistant director from 2003 to 2006. He admitted that he was pleased to have been recognized for his work.

"I can't do what I do without the volunteers," he said. "This is a team effort here in Charlestown. I can't do it myself. It is nice to get something now and then."

*cdrummond@thewesterlysun.com*

**See related CEMA article on next page.**

# 15% Flood Insurance Discounts!

Congressionally mandated reforms required by the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 that repeal and modify the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (Biggert-Waters), while slowing some flood insurance rate increases, will still result in rising premiums and surcharges. The Town of Charlestown has been working diligently to offset these proposed rate increases by participating in the Community Rating System (CRS) Program.

On May 1, 2015 the Town will be officially accepted into the CRS Program by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The CRS Program is a voluntary program that recognizes communities for floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards. Upon acceptance into the program, property owners in the Town of Charlestown will receive discounts on their Flood Insurance Premiums based on the "Class" rating in the CRS program.

The Town has achieved a Class 7 rating, the first in the State of Rhode Island and the second community to receive such a great rating in the entire Northeast. The Class 7 rating qualifies all property owners with a, "standard" flood insurance policy, for a 15% discount on their flood insurance premiums. "Preferred Risk Policies" will not be awarded the discount as they already receive discounted rates; however "grandfathered" policy holders will still be eligible to receive a 5% discount.

Currently there are 794 Flood Insurance Policies in effect in the Town of Charlestown. The Class 7 rating will save property owners in the Town of Charlestown a total of \$173,850.00 per year. As more policies are purchased and as premiums increase, so will the savings.

Upon renewal of a policy or when a new policy is written, after May 1, 2015, property owners that qualify for the credit, including municipal and commercially owned property, will receive the discount on their premium. Be sure to check your policy upon renewal to verify you have received the discount, which should be done automatically by your insurance company. Should you not see the discount, be sure to verify the type of policy you have before contacting your insurance company as the "Preferred Risk Policies" are not eligible.

Feel free to contact me at (401) 364-1215 or by email ~ [jwarner@charlestownri.org](mailto:jwarner@charlestownri.org) should you have any questions pertaining to the CRS Program and related discounts.

Joseph L. Warner, Jr., CBO, CFM  
Building/Zoning Official  
Floodplain Manager

# CEMA Needs Volunteers All Year Long



“The Power, Phone and Cable TV have been off for 3 days. Nothing to Do! I wish I had joined Charlestown Emergency Management as a Volunteer.”

If this was you, join us before the next Disaster. We have volunteer assignments to match any individual's skill set. Contact CEMA Deputy Director Sara Michaud at 401-327-0187 or Email

[cema.deputydirector@charlestownri.org](mailto:cema.deputydirector@charlestownri.org)  
for more information.

## Free Disposal of Electronic Waste

Rhode Island Resource Recovery (RIRRC) offers free e-waste recycling to Rhode Island residents and public and private schools from grades K-12. Our program (the "State" program) keeps one collection container in each of RI's five counties.

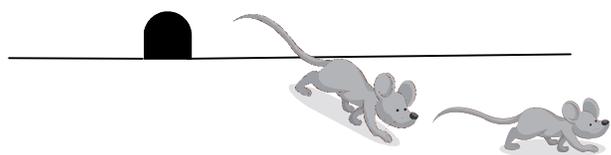
### Directions to State-sponsored e-waste collection in Narragansett:

- Route 1 North to Narragansett/Point Judith exit
- Turn right off exit onto Woodruff Ave
- At traffic light, turn right onto Point Judith Road/Rt-108
- Turn left onto Seaport Drive
- Seaport Drive becomes Westmoreland Street
- Location is Narragansett Department of Public Works
- 260 Westmoreland Street, Narragansett, RI.

(401) 782-0687

Hours: M-F 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM

## Barn Cats in Need of Homes! All are spayed/neutered and current on their vaccinations.



## Adoptable Pets

Charlestown Animal Shelter  
Call ahead, 364-1211

M-F 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM, Saturday 8:00 AM to Noon



Chance



Willie



Missy



Dusty



Papi



## About Working Cats...

We're a bunch of young cats just looking for work—like catching mice, patrolling your barn or yard, or hanging around and making sure no other cats bother you. We were living outside and someone was feeding us, but then they decided they didn't need us any more so they sent us here. We girls—Brianna and Neptune—are already spayed and Octavius is neutered, and we already have our shots. Although we probably won't sit on your lap or be too super mushy we'll do a really good job keeping your house and yard clean!



Working Cats



# Beach Sticker Fees 2015

Resident Beach Sticker	\$ 50
Resident Senior Citizens	\$ 25
Non-Resident Beach Sticker	\$100
Non-Resident Senior Citizen	\$ 50
Cottage Pass	\$400

As of May 1, 2015 seasonal Beach passes are available at the Town Clerk's Office. You may stop in or mail a letter of request to the Town Clerk along with your Charlestown property address, a copy of your vehicle registration, a check made payable to Town of Charlestown and a self addressed stamped envelope.



**Wastewater  
Humor**

## Daily Entrance Beach Fees

Charlestown Beach	
Weekdays	\$ 20
Weekends/Holidays	\$ 20
Blue Shutters	
Weekdays	\$ 20
Weekends/Holidays	\$ 20

### Seasonal Hours of Operation

Mon.-Fri. (non-holidays) 9 AM to 5 PM  
Sat., Sun. and Holidays 8 AM to 5 PM



### Lifeguards on Duty WEATHER PERMITTING

Mon. - Fri. (non-holidays) 9 AM to 5 PM  
Sat., Sun. and Holidays 8 AM to 5 PM

## CRCC Reminder

ID Stickers expire annually at the end of the calendar year, and must be renewed at Town Hall or by mail with a copy of your registration(s) and a twenty dollar check (made out to CRCC) for each sticker. Please call Alan at (401) 364-1230 weekdays with questions.



**A very helpful online resource for questions about how to recycle various items is located at [www.rirrc.org](http://www.rirrc.org). Go to A-Z Recyclopedia.**

## Town Hall Info

364-1210 Administrator  
364-1215 Building/Zoning  
364-1230 Dept. of Public Works  
364-1222 Parks & Recreation  
364-1225 Planning  
364-1233 Tax Assessor  
364-1234 Tax Collector  
364-1200 Town Clerk  
364-1235 Treasurer  
**364-1212 Police (non-emergency)**  
346-1076 Public Assistance  
364-5030 Wastewater Mgt.

4540 South County Trail, Charlestown RI 02813  
Town Hall Hours: M-F 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
CRCC Hours: M, TH, FRI, SA, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Animal Shelter: Call ahead, 364-1211  
M-F 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM, Saturday 8:00 AM to Noon

**NOTE: If a holiday falls on a Sunday, it will be observed the next day (Monday). If a holiday falls on a Monday, the CRCC does not open another day to compensate.**

### THE TOWN HALL PIPELINE

Charlestown Town Hall  
4540 South County Trail  
Charlestown, RI 02813



# Time Sensitive Material