

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!



TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN



The Pipeline

May, 2014 Volume 17, No. 1

Celebrating Charlestown's 275th Anniversary

All-Day Financial Referendum

June 2, 2014

Charlestown Town Hall

Polls Open 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM



Proposed

FY 2014 - 2015 Budget

Attached for your information and review is the Budget Commission's recommended proposal for the Fiscal Year 2015 annual budget, and its comparison with FY 2014. The recommended operating budget is \$26,486,145, a reduction of 0.24%. A tax levy increase to fund the budget is based upon an anticipated \$53,107,400, reduction in the revalued Grand List which is currently being completed. This proposed budget requires an estimated tax levy increase of 1.88%, at an estimated rate of \$9.87 per thousand of valuation.

To view the **COMPLETE** 2014—2015 Proposed Budget: <http://www.charlestownri.org>
On right hand side of home page, look under "**News and Information**" and select "**Town Budget 2014—2015**"

The Budget Commission recommendation of Expenditures for FY 2014-2015 (see note below chart) and comparison with the prior fiscal year is presented below:

EXPENDITURES				
	2014	2015	\$ Change	% Change
Chariho School Budget	14,645,357	14,351,417	-293,940	-2.01%
Department Expenditures	8,973,930	9,497,735	523,805	5.84%
Transfers Out	1,782,500	1,079,400	-703,100	-39.44%
Debt Service	751,214	754,015	2,801	0.37%
Capital Expenditures	397,436	803,578	406,142	102.19%
* General Fund Expenditures	26,550,437	26,486,145	-64,292	-0.24%
Retire Police Station Debt	2,807,728	-	-2,807,728	-100.00%
Total Recommended Budget	29,358,165	26,486,145	-2,872,020	-9.78%

(*Note: The General fund Expenditures line above is most appropriate for the year to year comparison. It excludes the unusual action of the Police building mortgage payoff).

BALLOT QUESTION:

"Shall the Town appropriate the FY 2014-2015 budget of **\$12,134,728** for municipal services, as adopted by the Charlestown Town Council on May 12, 2014?"

Continued...

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 monitored closely for changes.

The recommended budget Real Estate tax rate is approximately \$9.87 per thousand of real estate valuation, which will increase the tax levy approximately 1.88%. The rate is based upon the new revaluation of December 31, 2013 estimated net assessed property value base of \$ 2,317,651,678, a reduction in value of \$53,107,400. The tax increase is needed to fund the loss in revenue associated with the Grand List value reduction. Individual homeowner's real estate taxes will vary based upon the new Revaluation results. Charlestown's tax rate will continue to be among the lowest in the State of Rhode Island.

**The Budget Commission recommendation of Revenues for FY 2014-2015
and comparison with the prior fiscal year is presented below:**

REVENUES				
	2014	2015	\$ Change	% Change
General Fund Tax Revenue - Current Year	22,232,364	22,650,789	418,425	1.88%
General Fund Tax Revenue - Prior Years	300,000	350,000	50,000	16.67%
Interest prior year taxes	145,000	120,000	-25,000	-17.24%
In Lieu of Tax	24,900	6,666	-18,234	-73.23%
Motor Vehicle Excise Tax	40,195	42,696	2,501	6.22%
State Aid to Education	1,716,895	1,716,895	-	0.00%
Other Governmental Revenue	592,498	404,727	-187,771	-31.69%
Local Revenues	1,062,085	1,079,972	17,887	1.68%
Fund Balance Transfers	386,500	64,400	-322,100	-83.34%
Impact Fee Transfers	50,000	50,000	-	0.00%
General Fund Revenues	26,550,437	26,486,145	-64,292	-0.24%
Transfers from Fund Balance for Debt Retirement	2,807,728		-2,807,728	-100.00%
Total Recommended Revenues	29,358,165	26,486,145	-2,872,020	-9.78%

**The Budget Commission's comments regarding major changes and recommendations for
fiscal year 2014-2015:**

An unexpected reduction in the Chariho School expense budget allows the Town to address a number of needs which have been unmet over a period of years. Many of these addressed needs are Capital (one time) in nature, and will not add to future budgetary increases when the school costs increase.

Due to the increase and severity of recent year storm events and concern for climate change effect, the following improvements are recommended to be funded in this budget:

- A. \$300,000 - Construction of the Storm Water Discharge Management System, previously engineered.
- B. \$40,000 - Emergency Management Hurricane Shutter System to protect the Police Building Command Center from wind and water damage.
- C. \$5,000 - Emergency Management Agency – Update communications systems.
- D. \$4,000 - Geographic information System – acquire automated tidal meter to gauge effects of climate and weather.
- E. \$10,500 / \$10,500 - A Research Internship is recommended to be shared by the Waste Water Management and Geographical Information Departments to assist in developing plans and knowledge of future impacts on Charlestown.

Continued...



2014 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. 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 20th for residents and May 28th for non-residents. The camp runs from June 30th until August 1st with a cost of \$250. There will be extended weeks offered from August 4th – August 8th for \$100. Also, from August 12-August 16 for a cost of \$100. Trips are at an additional cost.

A “NEW” Summer Counselor-In-Training Leadership Program will be offered for ages 13-15. This program will run the same weeks as the summer day camp and the cost is \$300, which will include a trip to Six Flags New England 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.

Tennis Lessons will be offered in Ninigret Park. Spring Lessons will be held on Saturday, from June 7th – June 28th for \$45. Times are from 8-9am –ages 6-8, 9-10am – ages 9-12, 10-11am- ages 13-16. The Summer Tennis is from July 7-August 16 – Tues/Thurs. for \$120. The times are the same as Spring Tennis. There will be a Summer Junior Travel Team on Wed/Fri. from 1-3pm from July 9-August 15 for Ages 11-16. The cost for is \$45 for junior travel team. The instructors are Don Fair, Anna Overend, Mike Gilligan and Evan Ross.

Paddleboarding

A “NEW” paddleboarding program will be offered on Saturday, June 14th, Saturday, June 28th from 9-11am. The fee is \$60 which will include: two hours of instruction, paddleboard, paddle and lifejacket rental. This is for ages 10 and older. This program will be held at the boat ramp on Charlestown Beach Road. The instructor is Julia Beasley.

Summer Swim Lessons at Ninigret Park

There will be swimming lessons offered at Little Nini pond in Niningret Park. Ages 3 - 5 will be at 9-10am, ages 6 and older 9 - 11am. There will be Session I on July 7-July 23rd and Session II from July 28th – August 18th at a cost of \$60. No class August 11th.

Junior Golf Lessons

Will be offered at Winnapaug Country Club on Thursdays, July 3rd until July 24th. For ages 6-10 the lessons will run from 10 - 11am and for ages 11 - 16 from 11 - noon. The cost is \$125 which includes: four one-hour lessons, balls, water and a snack. The instructor is USGTF golf professional Lou Toscano.

Summer Movies – held at dusk

Wednesday, July 9th – Frozen

Wednesday, July 23rd – The LEGO® Movie

Wednesday, August 6th – Despicable Me 2

Summer Concerts - 5:30-7:30pm

Sunday, July 13th – David Gerald – *Rhythm and Blues*

Sunday, TBA John Fusek – *Forever Young* – Neil Young Tribute (Sponsor: Arrowhead Dental Associates)

Sunday, August 17th – *Atomic* – high energy Rock & Roll – Sponsored by the Charlestown Chamber of Commerce

Continued...

Bus Trip

Saturday, July 10th

Fenway Park – Boston vs Chicago White Sox

Depart: 1:30 pm – Charlestown Town Hall

4:05 pm game

Leave Fenway for Charlestown immediately after game

Cost: \$75 includes coach transportation and ticket

Fitness Classes

Zumba: Monday Evenings, 5:30-6:30pm

Pilates & Strength Conditioning – Tues/Thurs-5:30-6:30pm

Tai Chi: Monday Mornings- 10:30am

Yoga: Monday Evenings: 6:45pm

Tuesday Mornings: 8:30 am

Thursday Mornings: 9:00am

Saturday Mornings: 8:30am

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

Held at the Community/Senior Center in Ninigret Park

Yoga on the Beach

July 9th - August 20th

Wednesdays, 6:00 - 7:15pm

Charlestown Town Beach

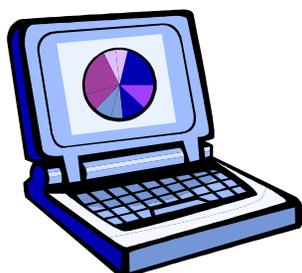
\$10/class



Free Disposal of Electronic Waste

Electronic waste can be disposed of for free at the Charlestown Residential Collection Center. This disposal program is open to all state residents, and is available without the purchase of a CRCC sticker. Examples of items that can be disposed of are computers, computer monitors, televisions, printers, keyboards, mice, adaptors, stereos, speakers, VCR's, scanners, fax machines, copiers, telephones, computer drives, storage devices, circuit boards, laptop batteries, and related computer and electronic equipment. The Charlestown Residential Collection Center is open Mon, Thurs, Fri and Sat from 8am until 4pm. Please call (401) 364-1230 with related questions.

See the LAST PAGE of this newsletter for helpful RI recycling information website.



Because You Need To Be Sure!

Get the facts about well water safety.



Free workshop for private well owners

Protect yourself, your family, your property and your investment.

Learn:

- The importance of regular testing
- How to protect your well water from pollution
- Proper well maintenance

Tuesday, June 24, 2014 7:00—8:00 p.m.

Where?

Chariho Middle School Cafeteria

455B Switch Road. Wood River Junction, RI.

Hosted in partnership with the

Charlestown Conservation Commission.

To register, call URI at 401-74-4918

Space is limited; pre-registration is required.

See www.rewelltesting.org for more information on private well protection.

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND



Boulder and Rock Removal at Breachway



The above photo shows the start of the Boulder and Rock Removal Project conducted in the Charlestown Breachway by the RI Coastal Management Council (CRMC) and the Town of Charlestown. This project was initiated due to the damage sustained to the Breachway during Super Storm Sandy. The project consisted of two parts; 1) removal of rocks that were transported from the east breachway wall during Sandy as well as rocks that have historically been known to be issue to navigation. 2) dredging of the sandbar that was established just outside of the breachway during Sandy and was found to be a severe hindrance to navigation. The project was completed as of May 9th, 2014 and was a great success. Thanks to all that were involved.

Stephen J. McCandless
Charlestown GIS Coordinator

Flood Insurance and What You Should Know!

The Town of Charlestown is currently in the application process with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to participate in the Community Rating System (CRS) program, a voluntary program for recognizing and encouraging community floodplain management activities exceeding the minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards. Upon completion of the application process and acceptance into the program, all residents in the Town of Charlestown will receive discounts on their Flood Insurance Premiums.

As you may already be aware, recent and upcoming changes to the National Flood Insurance Policy, specifically the “Biggest Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012” (BW12), has had a significant impact on flood insurance policies. The BW12 Act, passed by Congress in 2012, has implemented flood insurance premium rate increases, with a long term objective of making the NFIP more sustainable and financially stable. Due to the large public outcry the “Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act” was implemented to repeal and modify portions of the BW12 Act; however many of the provisions of the Act remain and are still being implemented.

The Town is working hard to reduce your premiums through the CRS program; however there are steps you can take as well:

Get a Flood Insurance Policy

- Homeowner’s insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because our community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the Federal Government and is available to everyone, even properties that have been flooded.
- A flood insurance policy will help pay for repairs after a flood and, in some cases it will help pay the costs of elevating a substantially damaged building.
- Don’t wait until the next flood to buy insurance protection. In most cases there is a 30 day waiting period before NFIP coverage takes effect.
- Renters should also consider buying a flood insurance policy for their contents.
- Be sure to photograph your home’s contents and put important papers and insurance policies in a safe place.

If you already have a flood insurance policy

- Verify your Flood Zone – with recent updates to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM’s), your home may be located in a different zone from what your insurance company has on file.
- Obtain an Elevation Certificate for your dwelling and verify your insurance company has based the premium on your dwellings true height. (Note: Should you already have an Elevation Certificate or should you obtain one, please submit a copy to the Building Department for our records. Retaining copies of all Elevation Certificates is a requirement of the CRS program.)
- Higher deductibles may also reduce your premium.

Consider some permanent flood protection measures

- Proper grading around the exterior of your home should drain water away from the foundation.
- Install gutters and downspouts and verify proper drainage away from the foundation.
- Incorporate Flood Mitigation into your remodeling projects such as elevating your mechanical and electrical equipment.
- Some properties may be mitigated by installing flood vents and/or filling in basement/crawlspace areas that are below grade on all sides.
- Elevate your dwelling above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). Drastic discounts may be achieved for each foot of elevation above the Base Flood. Note: The RI State Building Code requires a minimum of one foot of freeboard above the BFE. (lowest floor at BFE plus 1 foot)
- Before you build, obtain the proper Building Permits and do it right the first time.

- You may look up your property's Flood Zone Information on the Town's website at
- <http://www.charlestownri.org> (see GIS link symbol below); additional information is also available under the Building/Zoning Department or at <http://www.ready.gov/floods>;



Additional flood protection measures with no cost

- Keep debris and trash out of streams, ditches and storm drains.
- Report missing or damaged silt fence; they help keep our streams clean.
- Sign up with the Town for "Code Red" an emergency messaging system and "Constant Contact" to stay informed.
- Elevate your belongings from the basement floor.
- During heavy rains check the current river status (flood gauge) at <http://water.weather.gov/ahps/>.

You may want to contact your insurance agent to discuss your policy and options. Additionally, I would encourage you to visit FEMA's webpage at <http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance> to learn more about programs the Town may be able to participate in for financial assistance, pending funding under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program. Feel free to contact me at (401)364-1215 or by email ~ jwarner@charlestownri.org should you have any questions pertaining to mitigation measures for your property.

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

Boundary Questions and Answers

*Where does my property end?
 Don't I own all the way up to the pavement?*

Many residents are uncertain in regard to their boundary at the street front. Many homeowners presume that they own and control the property from their home to the pavement. **IN ALMOST ALL CASES THE FRONT BOUNDARY OF YOUR PROPERTY IS NOT THE ROAD PAVEMENT!** In most areas Town property, known as the 'shoulder', is situated between your home and the pavement. The road shoulder may be grass, or natural un-improved woodland and brush. The shoulder may vary from twelve (12) feet in newer subdivisions to thirty (30) feet or just one foot or less along the original colonial roads in the community. It is important to know your boundaries before planting trees, shrubs, fences or other improvements. The shoulders are very important to the Town as they provide space to dodge traffic, infiltration of stormwater, and storage for snow in the winter. To determine your true boundary, we recommend a survey by a surveyor licensed in the State of R.I.

The DPW is not responsible for damage to items placed within the Town owned right-of-way by residents, i.e. landscaping, fences, timbers, etc.

Adoptable Pets

Charlestown Animal Shelter
 Call ahead, 364-1211

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



Fertilizer Use

We need your help. The RI Department of Environmental Management has identified that lawn fertilizer and pesticide use is one source of pollution that affects the quality of our local waters. The same kind of harmful nitrogen that many are required to remove using denitrification septic systems gets into our Salt Ponds by applications of lawn fertilizers.

Many people use fertilizers, weed killers and pesticides to enhance their yards and gardens, but if you use too much of these products or apply them at the wrong time, runoff can easily carry them from your lawn or garden into our sensitive Salt Ponds and other surface water bodies.

Similar to gardens or lawns, fertilizer in the Salt Ponds makes plants grow, but too much algae and other aquatic

plant growth can make boating, fishing and swimming unpleasant. More so, as the algae and other plants decay, they use up the oxygen in the water that fish and other aquatic life need. This also can cause very unpleasant odors. Weed killers and pesticides are designed to kill plants and animals, however when they get into our waters, they can kill beneficial plants and animals. Fish and amphibians are in particular vulnerable to these chemicals.

Lawn and garden care doesn't have to be a problem. You can make a difference in the health of Charlestown's Salt Ponds! Will You Help In This Effort? A lawn care brochure is available at Town Hall. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Matt Dowling, Town Office of Wastewater Management at (401) 364-5030 or visit the Town's website for more information on stormwater, wastewater and pollution protection at www.CharlestownRI.com.

Beach Sticker Fees 2014

Resident Beach Sticker	\$ 45
Resident Senior Citizens	\$ 25
Non-Resident Beach Sticker	\$ 90
Non-Resident Senior Citizen	\$ 50
Cottage Pass	\$400

As of May 1, 2013 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.

Daily Entrance Beach Fees

Charlestown Beach	
Weekdays	\$ 15
Weekends/Holidays	\$ 20
Blue Shutters	
Weekdays	\$ 15
Weekends/Holidays	\$ 20

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



A very helpful online resource for questions about how to recycle various items is located at 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