



MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

# Town of Carlisle

MAY 2023

## Welcome Chief Amendola!

The Carlisle Select Board and Carlisle Police Department held the swearing-in and pinning ceremony for our new Police Chief Andrew Amendola. Select Board Chair Barney Arnold and Town Administrator Ryan McLane thanked Chief Fisher and Interim Chief Fong for their service to the town and welcomed Chief Amendola and his family to Carlisle. Town Clerk Peggy Wang provided the Oath of Office, and Chief Amendola's mother, Elizabeth, gave the honors of pinning the Chief's badge. Staff, public officials, regional officers and members of the community were all in attendance. We look forward to working with the Chief!



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# Congratulations, Gary!

Gary Davis has officially retired after 49 years with the Town of Carlisle. On Thursday, May 18, the community gathered to celebrate his service as DPW Superintendent. Everyone commended his willingness to go above and beyond for residents and staff alike. After many speeches around the room, Representative Simon Cataldo presented a citation from the Massachusetts State Senate. Best wishes Gary; enjoy your retirement!



# Jim Hall announced as new DPW Director

Congratulations to Jim Hall, our new DPW Director! Jim quickly stepped into the role as Acting Foreman in December 2022, and then was quickly promoted to Foreman in February. We appreciate all of his work for the DPW for the past three decades and look forward to working with him in his new role!



# Heat Pumps and Home Weatherization



- Learn about climate-friendly heating, cooling, and water-heating systems for your home
- Learn about home air sealing and insulation, including no-cost Mass Save® home energy assessments

Hosted by:



**When:** Wednesday,  
May 24, 2023, 7 PM

**Where:** Clark Room  
Town Hall  
66 Westford St.  
Carlisle

Sign up for Energy  
Assessment:



**HomeWorks**  
Energy



Some restrictions apply and offers are subject to change or cancellation. Visit [MassSave.com/HEA](https://MassSave.com/HEA) for more details.



**HeatSmart**  
Alliance



**Don't miss it!**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Carlisle Music Festival @Old Home Day**

**3 Days of Amazing Hometown Talent!**

**Friday June 23, Saturday June 24 & Sunday June 25**

**Family-friendly • Carlisle musicians • Food & fun**

**Effects of the Sun • Five O'Clock Shadow • Lloyd Thayer • Walk Like A Cow • Red Velvet Slide • Dale Joachim's Carlisle Jazz 3 • Nightflies – Music of Steely Dan • Tedesco Duo • The Hansen Brothers • Kenny Selcer & Steve Gilligan • Concord Women's Chorus • The Honey Steelers • Carlisle Chamber Orchestra String Quartet • Judy Bose & Dan Lennon • Ravi Pathak • Neighborly • Soundbites • Mark & Lee's Blues Thing • Chris Brenne & Parul Vakani • Lee Perlman • Carlisle Community Chorus**

The Carlisle Music Festival @Old Home Day is a celebration of the deep and diverse musical talent in our hometown, featuring both amateur and professional musicians with Carlisle connections, performing in a wide variety of musical styles. All acts include at least one Carlisle resident. **See all the musicians' bios [here](#).**

**Come on out to listen and support your local music community!**

### **Friday June 23: Community Singalong & Open Mic**

Featuring Carlisle Community Chorus

**Main Stage @FRS Yard 6:30-9:00 PM**

### **Saturday June 24: Music at Old Home Day**

**Main Stage @FRS Yard 10:30 AM-2:15 PM** – diverse lineup of outstanding musicians

**Arts & Crafts Show @Union Hall 10:30 AM-12:30 PM** – music to enhance the show

**Book Swap @Gleason Library 10:30 AM-12:15 PM** – vocal mastery & bluesy tunes

### **Sunday June 25 Music Event Under The Tent**

**Spalding Field Noon-7:30 PM**

On Sunday, the Carlisle Music Festival @Old Home Day is an all-afternoon family-friendly party **under the big tent and on the lawn at Spalding Field**, featuring 9 talented artists.

Bring a blanket or low chairs, carry in a picnic or enjoy the food trucks, and make a day of it. Meet the musicians after their performances, and visit information tables showcasing Carlisle community organizations.

*Produced by the Carlisle Cultural Council and Carlisle Old Home Day*



# **The Carlisle Cultural Council's survey is open!**

**Help guide our decisions about programs and grant funding.**

<https://tinyurl.com/CCC-Survey-2023>

Open to all Carlisle residents through June 16, 2023



# 2023 Carlisle Poppy Display for Memorial Day

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Come along and help plant the poppies on **20th May at 10am** to create this year's installation.

The display has grown this year with 1100 more poppies hand crafted by the town's residents. The design is a maze which represents the trenches used in wartime. There will be small plaques at each dead end memorializing people that have served in wars and their connection to Carlisle or its current residents. The inspiration for the design came from Sally Duscha on Brook St.

The poppies will be displayed until the first weekend in June.

For more information see <https://carlislepoppyproject.weebly.com>



# Transfer Station Action Committee



No doubt there is nothing like taking a new computer, tablet or smart phone out of the package. But what to do with the old one? Computers, laptops, cell phones, printers and tablets of all sizes can be donated or recycled.

Though the Carlisle Transfer Station does accept electronic items (often referred to as Ewaste), it is not set up to perform optimal recycling of these items except for TV's and computer monitors which are sent along to a recycling facility. Other large electronic items such as computers and printers placed at the Transfer Station end up in household trash unless they are taken by another resident.

In the past, such items have been left in the Swap Shop but these items take too much space and result in more Swap Shop items ending up in household trash. As a result these items should no longer be placed in the Swap Shop but placed in the designated area outside of the Swap Shop.



A better choice would be to skip the Swap Shop entirely and take your office items directly to a retailer. This will result in a more environmentally friendly recycling of these items, AND help reduce the Town's solid waste.

Electronics retailers like Staples and Best Buy usually accept ewaste, taking several items per visit. Sometimes you will even get a small store credit when you turn in your old office electronics. Small electronics can also be sent to the Amazon Recycling Program for free, just follow the steps on the website and drop them off at a local UPS store. Shipping is FREE! Search for 'Recycling Your Electronics' in Customer Service on amazon.com.



With a little more effort, you can have the satisfaction of disposing of your Ewaste through these retailers and ensure that it is disposed of properly. And get even more enjoyment from your new product!

# Carlisle Affordable Housing Trust

Members of the AHT will present an Introduction to Affordable Housing to 8th graders at the Carlisle Public School (CPS) on Friday, May 26th. This is part of the CPS Parent Career Presentations. Anyone wanting an educational session on Affordable Housing and/or the draft Housing Production Plan should email [caht@carlislema.org](mailto:caht@carlislema.org). The Housing Production Plan can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/Carlisle-HPP-draft>.

## GIS is coming to Carlisle!

**(Soon, but also...in phases over the next few years!)**

In mid-April the Town issued two RFQs for GIS Services:

- (1) Web-Hosting and Parcel Updates
- (2) Geodatabase Design and Local Layers [Phase 1 to prioritize critical infrastructure: cisterns, wells, septic systems, culverts and catch basins.]

Responses were due by Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. We received 5 proposals in total, 2 for the first RFQ and 3 for the second. With authorization from TA McLane, the Town's procurement officer, Planning staff put together a Selection Committee comprised of staff and volunteers representing land use and stakeholder entities. The Selection Committee met on May 9<sup>th</sup> and, though all the quotes were very good, many of us had independently arrived at similar conclusions and thus the group was easily able to make a unanimous recommendation to TA McLane on the most responsive, Carlisle-suited, and cost-effective consultant for each RFQ.

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, the Planning Board voted unanimous support for the recommended consultants, and to contribute \$24,000 of their FY23 surplus salary money to the project. An ARPA request for \$81,050 to cover the rest of the project (Phase 1), is under review. Pending approval of funding, the Town will then work to finalize contracts with the selected consultants. The web-hosting setup, parcel updates, geodatabase design, and initial phase of local layer creation will occur simultaneously and be strategically coordinated directly between the selected consultants, with stakeholders involved in key decisions. Based on timeframes outlined in the proposals, we anticipate that the web-hosted mapping site will be available at some point during fall 2023, with local layers added as they are ready over the next 12-18 months.

During the next year, Planning staff will work with the consultants to better understand the status of what we have, and to determine which data layers need to be updated or created. Future phases of the project will include updates to and/or the creation of additional priority local layers, based on feedback received, and funding requests will align with the annual budget process.

If you have feedback regarding the GIS project, please submit it! [gisfeedback@carlislema.gov](mailto:gisfeedback@carlislema.gov)

# The Conservation Restriction Advisory Committee Has a Field Day!

The Conservation Restriction Advisory Committee has a field day almost every month as there are currently 69 Conservation Restrictions (CRs) on existing properties with CR70 expected to be approved very soon. Conservation Restrictions are legal agreements made between Carlisle and private landowners that protect part or all their land from future development in exchange for a possible mitigation of certain taxes. The landowners did not give up ownership of the land, can still live on it, and later sell it. The CR agreement applies to future owners as well since it is established in perpetuity.

A CR in perpetuity requires periodic land inspections to monitor for compliance with the terms of its conservation restrictions. CRAC's goal is to inspect each CR property at least once every five years. This means that no matter the season, if weather and walking conditions permit, CRAC team members are out in the field each month with camera, clipboard, paperwork, maps, GPS and whatever else is needed. That month's inspection team leader has already reviewed the property CR, verified current ownership, and notified the owners that they are welcome to walk the CR property with the CRAC team.

Final inspection reports from field walks can differ significantly. Some might show total compliance with the terms of the CR or some minor infraction which is not the owner's fault such as an abutter's yard waste or trashed hardware left by a utility company. Significant non-compliance might be the use of the CR protected land for storage of heavy equipment or the cutting of trees and foliage and paving. In all cases, the property owners are sent the report's findings with the advised actions to correct the violations.



*CRAC members Nancy Cowan, Jeannie Geneczko, Rick Oches, and Ken Harte walking along the CR15 boundary overlooking the CR's picturesque wetland. (Photo by Marc Lamere)*

CRAC's field work is a part of protecting Carlisle's forest areas and wetlands and their flora, fauna and fungi.

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# Healthy Carlisle

Tricia McGean, RN

Even though we marked the end of the Public Health Emergency on May 11<sup>th</sup>, it cannot be argued that the COVID19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on not only our physical health, but on our mental health as well. From gathering and travel restrictions to the everchanging vaccine recommendations, we may have found our psyche a bit broken like a table filled with disconnected puzzle pieces. The pandemic caused lockdowns and disruptions in daily life while triggering a short but severe economic recession that resulted in unemployment for many. Three years later, Americans have largely returned to normal activities, but challenges with mental health remain.

The numbers of Americans diagnosed with depression and anxiety related disorders have increased dramatically in the last 5 years, particularly among our teen and young adult population. According to the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, 1 in 5 teens in the US will experience a mental health challenge by the time they are 18, suicide rates among youth ages 15-19 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death, and 64% of teens in the US who do experience mental health challenges, don't seek help. These statistics are staggering!

The Carlisle BOH, in conjunction with the Great Meadows Regional Collaborative, are pleased to offer an Adult Mental Health First Aid class in Carlisle on Wed. May 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:00-3:00pm at Carlisle Town Hall. This is a skills-based class that teaches participants how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges or crisis in adults ages 18+. This class is offered to all community members including parents, educators, and public safety staff. To sign up or get more information, please reach out to Katie Mayer at [kmayer@concordma.gov](mailto:kmayer@concordma.gov).

In the meantime, do an activity that brings you joy today. Go outside for a walk with a friend or coworker during lunch break, meet up for an ice cream at Kimballs with a friend who you have been meaning to call for weeks or attend that new yoga class that you may have been meaning to go and try. Even light exercise can greatly improve your mood and energy level and allow you to have more productive days. Giving yourself permission to practice self-care will only strengthen your resolve and allow you to better handle whatever curveballs life may throw at you.

Asking for mental health support is a strength, not a weakness and we must work together to eradicate the stigma associated with a mental health disorder. We call our doctor when we have a physical ailment so why not ask for help if our mental health is not where we want it to be? The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline offers 24/7 access to trained counselors via call, text and chat who can help anyone experiencing a mental health crisis. Counselors will listen, provide support, and connect you with helpful resources. Dialing 988 or visiting [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org) can be lifesaving.

Making your mental wellbeing a priority and demonstrating how to do so through your actions allows you to set an example for family, friends, and coworkers. Right now, look over at your co-worker or text a friend to join you for that walk at Great Brook and make a commitment to a healthier, happier you!

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# Sustainability

Sue Thomas, Sustainability Coordinator, 978-399-2798

**April was the hot time to hedge electricity contracts.** The Town just locked in municipal and residential rates for the coming years to help keep your tax and electricity supply bills in check. Carlisle residents are fortunate to have a Community Choice Aggregation Program. Take advantage of it! Make sure you are part of [the program](#). WBUR just ran a series on the [Massachusetts electricity market](#), [the unfortunate advertising deregulating the electricity supply has created](#), and the [value of community aggregation plans for consumers](#)

**May is Town Meeting Time.** Many thanks to everyone who attended town meeting and supported Article 13 for the Corey Stage lighting, which will save the town operating dollars and carbon, Article 12, for the hybrid police cruiser, and the town budget, which supports both the Environmental Sustainability Committee and Sustainability staff time.

**Have you noticed May has been hot and dry?** While we have had enough periodic heavy rain to finally pull us out of drought, and clear weather is wonderful for spring celebrations, southeastern Massachusetts is still [abnormally dry](#), the [Pacific Northwest](#) is experiencing a heat wave, and the national weather service issued a drowning danger alert last week for New Hampshire to warn people not to swim in normal cold spring waters when the weather is abnormally hot. **[What can you do?](#)**

- Attend the virtual [Carbon Countdown](#) Saturday with Climate Chief Melissa Hoffer and learn more about pathways to 2030 climate targets
- **Consider greener cooling** – attend a heat pump webinar at Carlisle Town Hall on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM to learn about this technology and get direction on equipment and funding
- Get your **A/C tuned up** for maximum efficiency
- **Purchase a rain barrel, abide by water restrictions, and limit or stop mechanized irrigation**, which is both an electricity and water hog
- **Plant a drought tolerant landscape.** This list is not exclusively natives. Native plants are best, not natives or cultivars (which often have catchy, marketing names), which are bred for human preferences and may no longer serve as food or other desirable traits for the ecosystem that is your yard. See the [Native Plant Trust](#) and pay attention to where a plant was grown to avoid error and importing unwanted hitchhikers (bugs, worms).

*(Continued on Page 12)*



## Sustainability, Continued from Page 11

- [Drive to Concord and visit lawn alternatives.](#)
- Support local agriculture and minimize trucking! Eat in season, grow your own food, frequent the Farmer's Market and/or join a CSA.

**[It isn't just the air temperatures.](#)** New England Right whales have noticed too, and have largely left our waters for cooler temperatures and likely more plentiful food further north, allowing restrictions for their safety to be lifted this month.

**Dryer weather means fewer insects (for you and the birds) and disease vectors, so lighten up on the poisons, practice natural controls, and use plants to feed both pollinators and birds.**

- Save money and protect your health: eliminate regular spraying and chemical applications
- Remove standing water from around your property (that isn't wetland or a vernal pool) – invert wheelbarrows, pots etc.
- Screen your house and your rain barrels
- Use plants that repel critters and insects, like marigolds, onions and garlic, citronella, bee balm and the mint family. Many of these attract pollinators. Go native. Use containers for bee balm and the mint family, which are aggressive, unless you are growing a meadow.
- Practice [companion planting](#)

**Looking to stay cool in the kitchen? Join [New Yorkers](#), [Buy an induction stove to get heat only when you need it and get a money back from Mass Save.](#)**

Remember to **avoid single use items** as you celebrate the end of the academic year, recognize those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, and enjoy summer.

Best wishes for moving May gatherings and a bountiful growing season!





# 5TH ANNUAL CARLISLE RACE AMITY DAY POTLUCK CELEBRATION & POETRY JAM

**SUNDAY JUNE 11, 1-4 PM  
ON THE COMMON**

**JOIN NEIGHBORS OF DIFFERENT RACES, RELIGIONS, AND VIEWS  
TO CELEBRATE DIVERSITY**

**POETRY JAM FEATURING GUEST POET AND LYRICIST REASON BEING,  
MICHAEL ANSARA & OTHER LOCAL POETS!**

**BOUNCE HOUSE, GAMES AND ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS!**

**LIVE MUSIC FROM NEIGHBORLY AND OTHER PERFORMERS!**

**BRING PICNIC BLANKETS, CHAIRS AND A DELICIOUS DISH OF YOUR CULTURE**

**THIS PICNIC IS A NON-POLITICAL COMMUNITY EVENT AND ALL ARE INVITED**



**ORGANIZED BY THE CARLISLE RACE AMITY DAY COMMITTEE AND CPS DEICAC.**

**THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE CARLISLE CULTURAL COUNCIL.**