



MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

Town of Carlisle

JUNE 2023

New Faces in Carlisle!

Welcome Melissa Roman!

Melissa is the new Social Services Manager for the Council on Aging & Human Services team. She joins us from Southwest Florida, where she worked for PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) as a Social Worker and eventually as Manager of Enrollment & Eligibility. She has a master's degree in social work from Florida Gulf Coast University. Please join us in welcoming Melissa to Carlisle!



Welcome Joe Pittorino!

Joe is the newest DPW Driver/Laborer for Carlisle. Joe joins us after working as a general laborer since 2016. He's already been a great addition to the team. Please join us in welcoming Joe to Carlisle!



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carlislema.gov

From the Department of Public Works

Jim Hall, DPW Director

Hey folks! In case you haven't noticed already, summer is in full swing, and we have recently completed a big paving project on some of our most needed roads. East St., Rutland Rd. Pinebrook, and Patch Meadow have all recently been resurfaced and we are working hard to put the finishing touches on them. We will be moving on to other projects soon. So, stay tuned, and happy motoring! Also, a friendly reminder to watch your speeds!



A look at Carlisle's solid waste and recycling data

*Submitted by Tom Bilotta, Chair
Transfer Station Action Committee*

Thanks to the residents of Carlisle for their efforts to increase recycling and reuse, during 2022, the Transfer Station realized a significant reduction in solid waste relative to the recent past.

For the last decade, Carlisle has disposed of approximately 1,800 tons of solid waste each year. During the pandemic year this increased to over 1,900 tons due to the lifestyle changes during this period. In 2022, the Transfer Station disposed of 1,620 tons of solid waste, a 10% reduction. Carlisle has not seen this kind of reduction in recent history. This reduction enabled us to achieve the objectives set by the Transfer Station Task Force in its 2021 Final Report. At that time the goal was to achieve a 10% reduction over two years.

Though the exact composition of the reduction is difficult to identify, there are a number of contributions. As expected, the recycling of new items (mattresses, compost, and textiles) contributed close to 50% of the reduction. Approximately 25% of the reduction is likely resulting from improved reuse and recycling due to the Transfer Station changes and community outreach. The final portion, which probably accounts for meeting the goal in one year, is likely due to an increased use of commercial haulers that then take the trash out of town.

An encouraging sign is that further reductions were recognized in the first quarter of 2023. If the entire year is projected based upon the ratio of total waste disposed of in this quarter, we will see another 100+ ton reduction.

In addition, some of the recycling tonnages were also down a bit in 2022. This was attributed to several factors. The increase in commercial hauler use also reduces recyclable tonnage as this is also processed out of town. A significant increase in cardboard tonnage is attributed to Amazon's effort to reduce the density of their cardboard as well as the amount of their packaging.

In hopes of sustaining this trend, the Transfer Station Action Committee (TSAC) will maintain a program of community education and outreach, explore additional recycling and reuse opportunities, as well as make additional improvements at the Transfer Station. Carlisle residents can help by participating in some of TSAC's current initiatives. First, compost food scraps, either at home or taken to the bins at the Transfer Station. And second, take electronic waste (printers, computers, etc.) to retailers who recycle them.

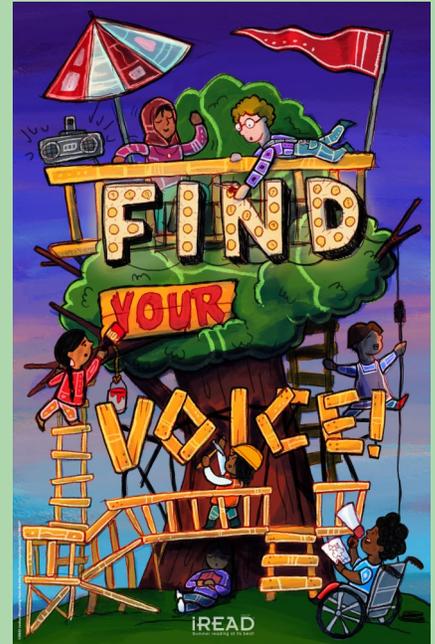


From the Gleason Public Library

The Gleason Public Library is excited to announce our 2023 Summer Reading Program: Find Your Voice! We have Book Bingos for ages pre-K through adult, plus a Reading Raffle for kids entering grades 1 through 8. Visit gleasonlibrary.org/summer for all of the details. Events include:

- Toe Jam Puppet Band, 6 p.m. Friday 6/30*
- Farm on the Go, 2-4 p.m. Monday 7/3*
- Henna on the Lawn, 4-6 p.m. Tuesday 7/11*
- The Yo-Yo Guy, 4 p.m. Thursday 7/20*
- Find Your Voice with Julie Stepanek, 6 p.m. Tuesday 7/25*
- Professor Bugman's Arthropod Petting Zoo, 1 p.m. Wednesday 8/2*
- Mr. Vinny the Bubble Guy, 4 p.m. Wednesday 8/16*
- Crafts on the Lawn*
- Story Times*

Summer Reading 2023: Find Your Voice! is sponsored by the Gleason Public Library, the Friends of the Gleason Public Library, the Susan Zielinski Natural Science Fund, the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.



Gleason renovation receives Mass Cultural Facilities Fund Grant

The Gleason Public Library has been awarded a prestigious Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund Grant of \$200,000 towards an interior renovation project to transform the space to serve the community through the coming decades.

Key features of the renovation plans include: (1) a more open floor plan, with a centralized service desk to improve customer service, visibility, and safety; (2) a dedicated area for teens and tweens; (3) additional and updated meeting spaces, plus a sound-insulated booth for phone and video calls; and (4) improvements to mechanical systems, accessibility, and safety.

The Gleason renovation is one of 94 capital projects funded by the Cultural Facilities Fund in this year's round of grants, funded through the Governor's Capital Spending Plan. Statewide, 2023 CFF grant recipients include such prestigious and renowned institutions as Boch Center, Groton Hill Music, Institute of Contemporary Art, Museum of Science, Old Sturbridge Village, and Umbrella Arts Center.

"The Cultural Facilities Fund is such a wonderful partnership – created by the Legislature, funded annually by the Administration, and jointly managed by Mass Cultural Council and MassDevelopment – all parties working together to ensure that cultural infrastructure has a public source for maintenance and support in Massachusetts," said Michael J. Bobbitt Executive Director, Mass Cultural Council. "These facilities are an important part of the Commonwealth's creative and cultural sector, hosting public events, meetings, concerts, and classes, allowing creatives to engage with members, visitors, and audiences. It's so important – for safety, for access, and for our state economy – to invest in and take good care of these gathering places, so that we can all engage and partake in the power of culture."

The CFF grant award is subject to a 1:1 matching requirement; the Gleason Public Library Endowment Fund is engaged in a capital campaign with a goal of raising \$2,300,000 to fund the renovation. Visit gleasonlibrary.org/library-renovation to learn more.

Join the Environmental Sustainability Committee

Are you passionate about ensuring there is a healthy sustainable planet for the next generation? The Environmental Sustainability Committee is looking for several new members who can help the committee in our six focus areas, mobility and transportation, the built environment, creating a healthy natural environment, school collaboration and including the next generation is included in our decision making, helping with outreach to our residents on environmentally sustainable issues, and working with the town to craft policies and plans are in place that will ensure that Carlisle's future is sustainable.

Committee meetings are twice a month and require some additional dedicated hours every week to the committee action items. If you cannot commit to being on the committee but wish to help you can be a 'Project Helper'. This requires a burst of time over a few months on a specific subject, and means that we can achieve goals faster, as everyone is aware, time is not on our side.

To learn more about the Environmental Sustainability Committee and how we are helping Carlisle residents live more sustainably on our website. Any resident can apply to join our committee. If you are interested in joining the ESC as a committee member or would like to learn more about the different opportunities to assist the committee visit our table at Old Home Day Market Space and at the Music Festival, or contact the committee at esc.carlislema@gmail.com.

Trails Committee Seeks New Members

The Carlisle Trails Committee is looking for two new members to fill vacant positions. The Committee typically meets once a month at Town Hall (or by video conference). The official responsibilities of the Committee are: public education; maintaining existing trails on public land; working to preserve trails on private lands being developed; creating new trails; and advising the Selectmen on trails issues.

In addition to actual trail work, the role of a Committee member may include planning, research and interacting with the public on trail-related issues. A wide variety of skill sets could be useful for this position, but the only real requirement is a willingness to help out however you can. If you enjoy using Carlisle's trails, you are the perfect candidate!

If you are interested in joining the committee, please send an email to carlisletrails@comcast.net with a brief note outlining your background.

Join the Affordable Housing Trust

The Affordable Housing Trust thanks trustee Gina Fox for her time, insight and ideas while serving on the Trust the past two years. Given Gina's departure on June 30, the AHT is seeking at least one new member. If interested, please email caht@carlislema.gov.

Healthy Carlisle

When Smoke Gets in my Eyes... and Lungs!



*Tricia McGean, RN
Carlisle Public Health Nurse*

Is it fog or haze or what's going on? By now, we have all learned that the haze you may see outside your window for the past several weeks is the result of the Canadian wildfires casting a plume of smoke onto its southern neighbors. These raging wildfires in Canada have already scorched about 15 times the normal burn area for this time of the year. Experts estimate that close to 11 million acres, more than double the size of New Jersey, have burned or are currently burning. British Columbia has had an unusual lack of rain in May and June which has precipitated the wildfire conditions in this province. 60% of these fires have been caused by lightning and the remainder are due to human activity.

Air quality is constantly being monitored by the Environmental Protection Agency and you can get current conditions and forecasted air quality markers at [AirNow.gov](https://www.airnow.gov). Air quality can be affected by the weather, large scale, and local events such as fires and chemical spills, a warming climate, and other types of pollution. When you get an air quality alert through your phone or hear about it on the TV or radio, be aware of this [scale](#) and the associated actions detailed in this [Air Quality Guide for Particle Pollution](#). This guide monitors particle pollution on a scale from 0-500 and assigns colors, titles, and actions to each section. Good (green) and moderate (yellow) indicate good days to be outside except for those with underlying health conditions, the very young and very old. Activity recommendations change for people in sensitive groups when the air quality index is above 100 (orange zone and above). These activity recommendations change for everyone when the air quality index is between 151-500 (red, purple, and maroon).

As of today, June 12, 2023, the air quality in Carlisle is considered moderate. If you suffer from respiratory issues, reduce your prolonged exposure outside, especially when exercising.

You can keep [N95](#) or KN95 type masks (the same kind considered 'best' during COVID-19 outbreaks) on hand and use them outside - or whenever you see fit. The Health Department of California has this [reference page](#) available that answers questions about masks and fire smoke.

If you have any specific concerns or questions regarding air quality as it relates to your health, please reach out to your primary care provider for guidance.

From the Environmental Sustainability Committee

Native plants in the garden

Thankfully, awareness of the importance of native plants is increasing. However, things can become confusing when choosing plants at a nursery where plant labels can be misleading.

Why are native plants important? Native plants are endemic to the area and have adapted to thrive in their natural environment. They are integral parts of the local ecosystem by providing nutrition and shelter for vital insects, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. Some insects are specialists, meaning they have evolved alongside a specific native plant and will only feed on that plant (or a few specific native plants.) Removing native plants eliminates the specialized insects that rely on those plants, which in turn has negative effects on up the food chain.

Mindfulness when incorporating native plants in the garden. A plant can be native to North America without being native to Eastern Massachusetts so awareness of the region to which a plant is native is important.

One can find a number of “native” plants at nurseries but this is where things get a little tricky since many of these “natives” are cultivars - engineered for unique visual features, easier transportation, broader geographical tolerance, etc. Often, these cultivars are clones, resulting in reliable visual attributes but with little genetic diversity or nutritional benefit. Insects and birds are attracted to these plants, expend energy to reach them and try to feed on them, but get little or no nutritional energy in return. Therefore, being mindful of choosing non-cultivar native plants will have a greater ecological benefit.

How to spot a cultivar. Plant labels that include a cutesy name, a name in quotation marks or a name with a trademark symbol indicate cultivars.

A beneficial native garden. A wide range of true native plants in one’s garden can support a variety of specialist insects, allowing for a more biodiverse yard.



Sustainability

Sue Thomas, Sustainability Coordinator, 978-399-2798

Municipal Clean Energy and Energy Conservation Rebates

With Town Meeting behind us, town staff are focused on implementation, purchases, and year end, tasks which are keeping your Sustainability Coordinator focused on how to help defray the costs of facilities projects with rebates. As part of this effort, I attended [National Grid's 2023 MA Municipal Energy Summit](#), a gathering of municipal leaders, utility experts, state energy program managers, equipment vendors and expeditors. Attendance garnered the town an additional 10% off National Grid rebates/programs in addition to the knowledge and networking benefits.

The Environmental Sustainability Committee needs YOU!

After a tremendously productive inaugural year, the Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) and I are planning for the future. The ESC presented a proposed workplan to the Select Board on June 13th which can be found [here](#). As a new committee, the Select Board assigned all members one year terms and as is often the case, the ESC is looking for some new members to pick up the torch as that year comes to a close. The ESC provides a vital advisory function to the Select Board as well as important people power for the town. If you have energy to spare (pun intended) and an interest in sustainability, please consider attending an ESC meeting, currently on Zoom every second and fourth Thursday from 4:30-6:00 PM. A new meeting time may be established with the new membership. To apply, email a letter of interest to the Select Board, care of Jenn Gibbons at Jgibbons@carlislema.gov. Staggered terms of one, two or three years, will begin July 1st. More information may be found on the [ESC website](#).

Residential Clean Energy and Energy Conservation Rebates and Programs

Is committee work not your thing, but you are inspired to start making changes yourself? See [MassSave](#) to establish your next [energy reduction goal](#) and visit the

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Mass Clean Energy Center to learn more about [Electric Vehicles](#) and your [Clean Energy home](#).

Partnerships and Panels

This past month I had the honor of being asked to serve on two panels: the kick off to the [Groton Sustainability Speaker Series](#), and the finale event of the [Northern Middlesex Council of Governments Regional Clean Energy Series](#). Information sharing is critical to help us establish best practices and leverage successes. It is energizing to have so many people of all ages focused and engaged in collaborative efforts to address the climate challenge!

Fires and Forests

No doubt you noticed that New England got a taste of the health impacts of fire season that many of our western, and now northern neighbors, have had to flee or learn to live with. In Carlisle and in the press, the event generated anxiety, [apocalyptic scenes](#), [health risks](#) and lots of chatter. This [Washington Post article](#) reports on how we are entering the fire equivalent of an ice age as a result of forest management practices and climate change. The feedback loop references in the book review link at the bottom of this edition may be helpful in thinking about this article.

While the Commonwealth did not anticipate the Canadian forest fires, it has been preparing to make changes in forest management for some time. This [Forests as Climate Solutions presentation](#) discusses what the Commonwealth plans to do to protect our forests, our climate and our health. Management of our forests here in Carlisle is an important part of reaching our climate goals.

What can you do?

- Protect yourself and your family from air pollution (stop idling, stay indoors on polluted days and/or mask, and keep your indoor air clean)
- Learn about forests and become a forest advocate

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- Adopt a new climate habit – perhaps one that eliminates a paper product from your life? Our great Northern Forests are harvested primarily for paper towels and toilet paper. Try a bidet today! Or replace your paper items with reusable and washable ones.
- At the very least, don't respond by using more energy if you can help it!

Wildlands and Biodiversity

At the same time, the first U.S. study to map and characterize all permanently conserved lands in one region that are managed to be forever wild, [Wildlands in New England](#), was released this month. The finding, despite the regrowth of the forest canopy in New England over the last century, may surprise you. Only 2.3% of Massachusetts is considered Wildlands today, a far cry from the [30X30 goal](#) identified as necessary to protect biodiversity. What can we do? The Study recommends:

- Center Wildlands in an integrated approach to land planning and conservation that includes actively managed forests and farms.
- Strengthen existing Wildlands through permanent legally and legislatively binding protection and landscape buffering.
- Create more Wildlands, thoughtfully and strategically, with a diversity of partners, through private and public action.

Why should we do this? Watch the [webinar](#).

Beyond advocacy, there is a lot **you can do** even if you are not a large land or forest owner. Your land, however small, can be habitat. Garlic mustard has flowered and gone to seed, but it is still a great time to pull [Oriental Bittersweet](#) and [Multiflora Rose](#) before they produce seeds and even deeper root systems this summer. Consider creating your own [wildland in a patch of your yard](#) (this reference is older, but still offers a lot of info).



Oriental Bittersweet

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Multiflora Rose

Plastics (and toxin) Waste Reduction

Despite the hype about bioplastics, most plastic continues to be manufactured from petroleum, is not biodegradable, and escapes into the environment where it is [creating a distinct geological layer of microplastics around the globe](#), and [new rock types](#), in addition to the host of problems you hear about on a regular basis, like piling up in our environment and killing sea life. One you don't hear about as much: [that it is accumulating in you](#). You eat, drink and breathe in microscopic plastic every day. [It is in your bloodstream](#). Some of these chemicals imitate human hormones. For all of these reasons, [200 countries joined UN talks in Paris this month to forge a binding treaty to reduce Plastic pollution, the 2nd of five rounds of talks on track to produce a final version by the end of 2024](#).



Plastic rock found on remote island

Here in the United States, Extended Producer Responsibility Bills are designed to create beneficial incentives and closed loop recycling. [Beyond Plastics](#) has a primer on the effort with plastics.

In Massachusetts, [several plastics reduction bills](#) are before the legislature this term. Your favorite conservation organization is likely following them and can help you stay current and participate in advocacy.

See my book recommendations discussed below, for additional suggestions about what you can do as a consumer to limit your exposure to plastic, as well as limit your contribution to this waste problem.

Looking for other ways to reduce your solid waste?

Check out this [great article](#) on how buying used is easy, inexpensive and often

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yields items of equal or better quality than buying virgin products.

Want to put your dollars to work on your climate goals?

Whether you are looking to buy goods and services, or investment vehicles, [these US companies are leading the way in carbon emissions.](#)

Carbon Countdown Links

Did you, like me, get locked out of the [Carbon Countdown](#) on Zoom sponsored by Sustainable Middlesex? Find the links to the Youtube videos [here](#). They cover topics ranging from heat pumps (featuring Carlisle resident Bob Zogg of the ESC and the HeatSmart Alliance) to policy.

Sustainable Summer Reading

Finally, it is summer, and I wish you all a great beach read (or 10!) and a refreshing trip to the library or media room. My summer “reading” suggestions may be found [here](#). Whether you seek escape through transporting fiction, meditation, or nonfiction immersion, or you are more task oriented and in search of resources for your next climate step, seek to protect your household, or provide education for the entire family through text or video this summer, I have a suggestion for you to try!



FLYING HIGH DOGS



HIGH FLYING FRISBEE DOG SHOW & MORE

Spalding Field
Friday June 23
5 PM

Sponsored by
Carlisle
Recreation



*OUR FOUR DOGS ARE SOME OF THE
MOST ATHLETIC HIGH FLYING DOGS
IN THE WORLD. OUR SHOW IS
EDUCATIONAL, INTERACTIVE,
DYNAMIC & FUN! THE SHOW IS
GUARANTEED TO ENTERTAIN &
THRILL CROWDS OF ALL AGES!*

Carlisle Recreation Department
The Brick Building
97 School Street
Carlisle, MA 01741
978-759-7632

**Carlisle Recreation Department
and Gleason Public Library present**



Carlisle Summer Music Series for Kids & Families

Sulinha's Trio Family Concert | June 12th | 6:00PM | GPL Front Lawn

Sulinha's Trio performs educational children's music influenced by traditional Brazilian music. The trio uses traditional instruments from their native country like berimbau, cuica, pandeiro and surdo.

Plum Island Pans | June 21st | 6:00PM | GPL Front Lawn

Learn about the history of steel drums and how these fun instruments are made. Plum Island Pans are a steel-drum ensemble and cover a number of styles and genres of music including traditional steel drum music, reggae, and jazz.

LibraryBEATS! Drum and Rhythm Circle with Otha Day June 27th | 4:00 PM | GPL Front Lawn

Learn and play songs, rhythms, chants, and activities from the cultures of East and West Africa, the Middle East, First Nations Peoples, African America, and European America. Drums featured will include: djembe, frame drums, conga, and bongo.

Register online at carlislema.myrec.com/info/activities

**This series is sponsored by the
Massachusetts Cultural Council**





THE CARLISLE POLICE DEPARTMENT



"Ask Me Anything"



Topic of Discussion



**ASK THE NEW CHIEF OF POLICE
ANYTHING ABOUT THE POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

SPEAKER:



**ANDREW AMENDOLA
CHIEF OF POLICE**

WHEN:



**WEDNESDAY
JULY 26, 2023
5:00-7:00PM
TOWN HALL
CLARK ROOM**

Second Annual CARLISLE MUSIC FESTIVAL @Old Home Day

Family-friendly • Carlisle musicians • Diverse styles • Food & fun
Friday, June 23, Saturday, June 24 & Sunday, June 25, 2023

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 • Ravi Pathak
Carlisle Chamber Orchestra String Quartet • Judy Bose & Dan Lennon • Neighborly • Soundbites
Mark & Lee’s Blues Thing • Chris Brenne & Parul Vakani • Lee & Caleb Perlman • Carlisle Community Chorus

All music events are free.

FRIDAY JUNE 23 — OPEN MIC & COMMUNITY SINGALONG

Featuring Carlisle Community Chorus and winners of the 2023 Gleason Library Poetry Contest. Open sign-up 6:30; Singalong starts at 6:30; Open Mic 7–9 PM

SATURDAY JUNE 24 MUSIC

- Main Stage @FRS Yard 10:30 AM–2:15 PM
- Arts & Crafts Show @Union Hall, FRS 10:30 AM–12:30 PM
- Book Swap @Gleason Library 10:30 AM-12:15 PM

SUNDAY JUNE 25 MUSIC NOON– 7:30 PM

A family-friendly concert under the big tent and on the lawn at Spalding Field. Make a day of it!

- Bring a blanket or low chairs
- Carry in a picnic and/or enjoy the food and ice cream trucks
- Meet the musicians after their performances
- Visit local arts & crafts vendors and community orgs
- Lone’s face painting (Noon–2 PM)



Schedule



Musician Bios

Produced by the Carlisle Cultural Council and the Carlisle Old Home Day Committee.

This program is supported in part by grants from the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, and the Carlisle Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council. Additional funding provided via an ARPA grant from the Town of Carlisle.

Design: Nancy Zizza; “Goddess of Liberty” concept: Hayes Sagalyn

