



MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

Town of Carlisle

DECEMBER 2023

Welcome Alanna Lynch!

Welcome Alanna Lynch, our new Assistant Town Clerk! Alanna has been a writing and narrative producer for Ghost Story Games in Westwood and has a BA in English Literature from Trinity College. She is a great addition to Town Hall!



Congrats Jennine Blum!

Jennine is our new Board of Health Assistant! Jennine has been working for the Town of Carlisle supporting the Municipal Facilities Committee, Carlisle Preservation Committee and Carlisle Historical Commission. Be sure to say hello at the Board of Health Department!



Welcome Officer Barbera!

Officer Dean Barbera was pinned by his daughter at his swearing-in ceremony during the December 12th Select Board meeting. Chief Amendola noted Barbera's extensive career as an officer for the Waltham Police Department and Northeastern University, an attorney, a member of the United States Marine Corps and a member of the United States Army. Welcome to Carlisle, Officer Barbera!



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Congrats Effective Leadership Development (ELD) program graduates!

Congratulations to COAHS Director Carol Grueneich, DPW Director Jim Hall, and Deputy Chief Andrew Booth! Town officials and volunteers joined to celebrate three Town department heads who were recognized for graduating from the 11-week Effective Leadership Development (ELD) program. ELD enables leaders to broaden their perspectives, learn different approaches to problem-solving, improve delegation, time management and feedback skills, and much more.



Congratulations to this year's Caroline E. Hill Scholarships!

Earlier this year, we announced this year's recipients of the Caroline E. Hill Scholarships. Below are two more write ups on our winners!

Hello, my name is Ariana Mostoufi. I have spent my entire pre-k through high school education in Carlisle and Concord. I am currently a freshman studying Business with a pre-law track at the University of Mississippi. I plan to graduate in 2027 then pursue an MBA! Thank you to the Caroline E. Hill scholarship committee, your generosity and support have played a fundamental role in helping me fulfill my dreams of pursuing a college education.



Elizabeth Walsh: I am a freshman at the University of Colorado, Boulder and am majoring in psychology and business, with a focus on leadership. In addition to my studies, I am enjoying exploring the outdoors and engaging in philanthropy activities with my sorority, and am looking forward to ski season.

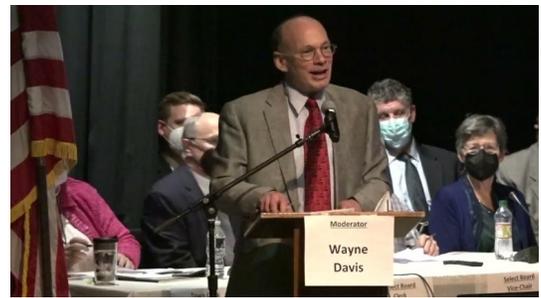
From the Town Administrator

Ryan McLane, Town Administrator

Help Wanted!

Two new committees will help shape the future of Carlisle and the Select Board invites you to be a part of them. The Town Meeting Study Committee (TMSC) and the newly chartered Building Committee will help Town Officials improve the Town Meeting experience and plan/guide the proposed renovation to the Carlisle Police Department.

Led by Town Moderator Wayne Davis and Select Board member Nathan Brown, the TMSC plans to study Carlisle’s Town Meeting processes and hear ideas about how to attract more attendees and make the whole process more accessible. Davis stated that he hopes the Committee will truly explore all ideas to try and think outside of the box. Town officials want to recruit residents that do not regularly volunteer or attend Town Meeting to hear how Carlisle can attract new leaders.



The Select Board just received a \$3 million renovation conceptual design for the Police Department that is scheduled for public vote at the 2024 Annual Town Meeting. We need dedicated volunteers that are willing to shape and help guide the renovation. Key changes to the Police Department include reconfiguring the building for more community space, increasing employee safety, creating accessible booking rooms, and expanding space for female officers. The project’s overall goals

include helping the Police Department meet state accreditation standards, increasing safety, and providing a space that retains and recruit officers. If you are interested in the changes, please volunteer!

These two important Committees will help shape Carlisle future and offer experienced and new volunteers a chance to get involved. Residents seeking an appointment should send a letter of interest to Executive Assistant Gretchen Gallimore (ggallimore@carlislema.gov) by the end of the year. The Select Board will appoint residents to these groups in early January.

Carlisle Police Department Annual Toy Drive



The annual holiday toy drive trailer is ready at the Carlisle Police Department. All donations go to the Department of Children and Families, Lowell Area Office. Gift cards for the older children can be dropped off with the dispatcher or the mailbox located inside the trailer. Toys will be dropped off by the PD on December 18th.

From the Carlisle Transfer Station Action Committee

Stickers and Trees

The Transfer Station Action Committee has some 2024 tips for you. After you've enjoyed the holidays, it's easy to dispose of your live Christmas tree. You can also cross off your 2024 to-do list getting your Transfer Station sticker. Here's where and how...

Trees

A new year brings all sorts of endings and beginnings. If your holiday celebrations include live evergreen trees, the Transfer Station takes them throughout January – just drive your (undecorated) tree past the main entrance to the Transfer Station and take the next left into the "yard". Follow signs for Christmas Trees and add your tree(s) to the pile. Our own Carlisle Police Department offers residential pick up for one day in early January. Watch for the signs posted around the center of town if you'd like them to pick up your live (undecorated) holiday tree.

Stickers

As you probably know, every household in Carlisle must purchase a Transfer Station sticker, even if you use a trash collection company that takes your trash to the Carlisle Transfer Station or out of town. Stickers are \$30 for the first car and \$10 for each additional car. All of these funds support recycling efforts, including the annual Hazardous Waste Collection Day in Carlisle.

Here's how:

- In Person: Visit the Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator on the second floor of Town Hall during business hours (Monday – Friday, 9am-3pm). You'll need the license plate number for any vehicles you want to use for the Transfer Station and a form of payment: cash, credit or check.
- Purchase Online: You will find the application online, <https://carlisle.patriotpermitpro.com/>. Simply fill out the document, make your payment and your Transfer Station sticker/s will be mailed to your home.

All of the information to purchase stickers is on the town website, CarlisleMA.gov >[Departments](#) >Public Safety >[Department of Public Works](#) > Transfer Station.

Thank you, in advance, for purchasing your TS sticker/s which are available throughout the year. Your purchase has funded several initiatives at the Transfer Station that make it easier to recycle and keep costs down for the town and taxpayers.

Happy New Year!

Carlisle Recreation

Make Life-Long Learning FUN!

Winter/Spring 2024 Programs & Classes:

See what's happening at Carlisle Recreation. Join a class and get in on the Fun! Check out a complete list of class offerings at [Carlisle Recreation Programs](#)

Nashoba Valley Ski & Snowboard Program:

We are hoping for SNOW as we get ready for our ski/snowboard program at Nashoba Valley Ski Area which begins on 1/5. Fifty children are registered for the program. We are always looking for parent volunteers to assist with the program. If you are interested in chaperoning the program, please send an email to hmansfield@carlislema.gov.

Summer Employment 2024:

Summer Employment: Looking for Summer Counselors and Counselors in Training! Is your child or grandchild looking for a fun and exciting summer job! Apply to be a Counselor or a Counselor in Training. To obtain a summer application for Carlisle Summer Fun, contact Holly Mansfield at hmansfield@carlislema.gov

New Program Idea:

Have an Idea for a New Program? Let us Know! We would love to offer a class in your field of expertise! Contact Holly Mansfield at hmansfield@carlislema.gov

From the Council on Aging and Human Services

Carol Grueneich, COAHS Director



COAHS and the Garden Club worked together to hold the annual wreathmaking event for seniors. The garden club brought fresh green wreaths with a wide variety of decorations so participants could design their own unique wreath. Wreaths were also made and delivered



to the senior housing at Village Court and Benfield as well as to many seniors who were not able to attend the event. It was a fun event, and we are happy to have the Garden Club as a partner in spreading holiday cheer!

In January we will be partnering with the Gleason Library to present Hula Hooping with WildKat Hoops and Grandparents and Grandkids Storytime and Breakfast. Look for more details in our newsletter, which will be delivered to all Carlisle homes at the end of December.





The Carlisle Board of Health Suggests...

The holidays are rapidly approaching, and the Board of Health would like to share its favorite holiday gifts for loved ones. Personal experience suggests that these will be met with a “Wow!”

- Septic tank pumping. Your spouse will love this! (Remember, it’s best done every two years, so you can give this gift again in 2025)
- Transfer Station sticker. This is your ticket to the Annual Hazardous Waste and Sharps Collection
- A will, durable power of attorney, and health care proxy. For your millennial children, arrange and pay for their visit to a lawyer to get these important documents set up
- Food thermometer to ensure safety and to determine the doneness of meat, poultry, and egg products like a real chef
- Fire Blanket to put out small kitchen fires and save the remaining dinner
- Snow roof rake. Ice and dams belong in rivers, not in ice dams on your roof
- Emergency preparedness kit. Visit <https://www.ready.gov/kit> for how to construct a kit.
- Car safety hammer and mylar emergency blanket or emergency bivvy bag to keep in the car
- Flashing LED dog collar – USB rechargeable – for safer walks when it’s dark outside
- Poop bags for the dog that has everything. Dog waste can be one of the most significant impacts on public recreation lands, so be a good steward of the land and dispose of your dog’s waste properly

***Best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season from the
Carlisle Board of Health!***

From the Environmental Sustainability Committee

As 2023 comes to a close, the ESC would like to thank the Carlisle residents, Board/ Commission/ Committee members, Town staff and Town organizations for incorporating environmental sustainability in their conversations, considerations and actions. By making meaningful choices and changes, we can generate impressive results - especially when we come together as a community.

Some examples of environmentally sustainable endeavors the Town has supported this past year include:

- The inaugural Route to Sustainability Day
- A partnership with HomeWorks Energy providing residents with free home energy assessments
- The adoption of the Specialized Code
- The submission of a thorough Green Communities report to the State
- The lobbying of the Department of Public Utilities regarding community aggregation regulations
- The renewal of a Community Choice Aggregation contract which provides Carlisle with sustainably sourced power at lower rates

Carlisle is even leading the way on a state level in the development of a more sustainable deconstruction policy for the Greenough Barn.

But there is more to be done. Stay tuned for an ESC community-wide challenge for 2024!

Let's continue to band together to help make Carlisle a beacon for environmental sustainability.

Thank you.

The members of Carlisle Environmental Sustainability Committee

Christina Christodouloupoulos, Co-Chair

Eric Balles, Co-Chair

Glenn Reed, Treasurer

Launa Zimmaro

Dave Boettcher

Sara Dunleavy

Eloisa Marquez-Gonzalez

Aidan O'Connor, Associate Member

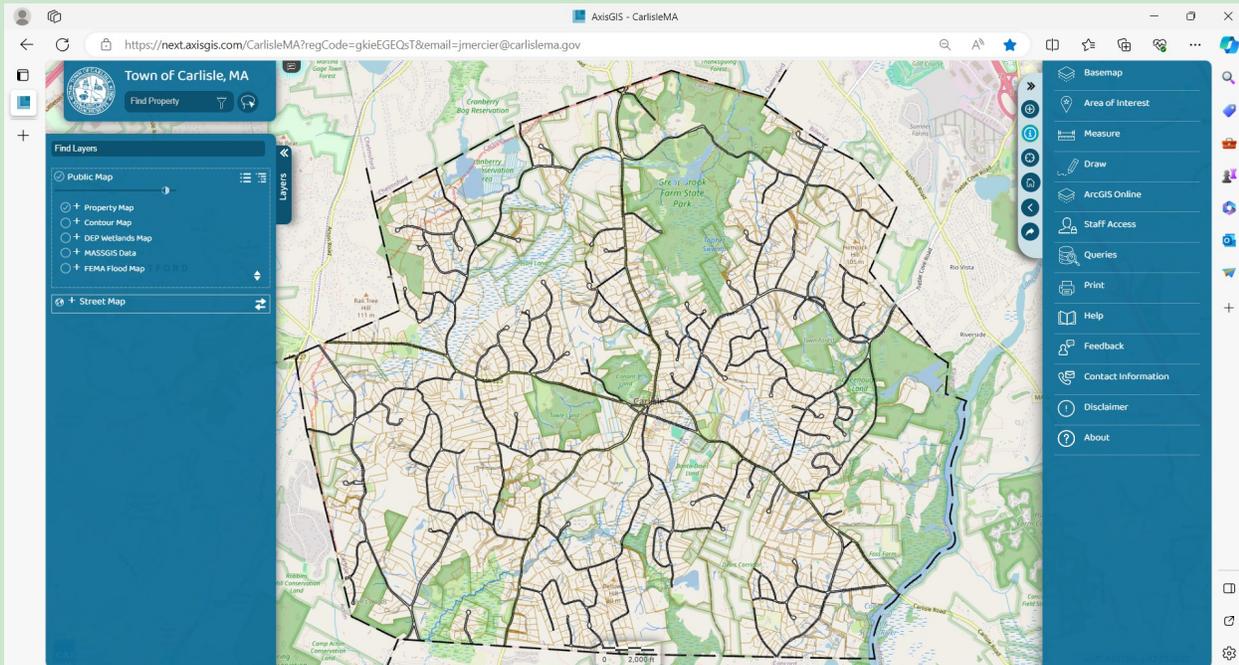
With appreciation to prior members Debbie Bentley, Bob Zogg, Dan Cook, Joeth Barlas, Judy Asarkof and Kath Hardcastle



From the Town Planner

Happy Holidays, Carlisle!

Your AxisGIS Web-Hosted Mapping Site is Nearly Ready!



Refresher: during the past year, with the approval of \$87,500 of ARPA funds and \$24,000 of Planning Board FY23 surplus salary funds, the Town was able to embark on establishing a robust and publicly available GIS program. Over the summer, the Town entered into contracts with CAI Technologies (parcel updates, AxisGIS site) and Adam Kurowski (strategic plan, geodatabase design, local data development).

In early December, CAI Technologies delivered their standard AxisGIS site to Town staff (see above). Our role is to verify it meets contractual obligations, ensure tools and features work properly and are user-friendly, identify additional layers we want displayed, and refine it to fit Carlisle. A few staff, and Adam (our other GIS consultant), have access to logins and are beta-testing the site to provide CAI with a first round of coordinated feedback. After the site is revised per staff feedback, a group of resident GIS enthusiasts will be invited in for a demo and will have the opportunity to provide feedback that may result in additional modifications to the site. Once we are satisfied that the site is ready for prime time, it will go live! At this time, I anticipate the site will be public in mid-late January. [NB: even in these early stages, staff are amazed by the site and it's potential.]

In addition, consultant Adam Kurowski will be meeting with the Planning Board on January 8th to discuss the first draft of the Town's GIS Strategic Plan. If you are interested, please join!

If you have feedback regarding – or want to get in on - the GIS project, please let me know!
gisfeedback@carlislema.gov

From the Department of Public Works

Jim Hall, DPW Director

HO-HO-Howdy folks ! It's that time of year again! The hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping and stocking stuffing is upon us, and Ole St. Nick is getting ready for his annual trip around the world to bring joy to all the children on Christmas morning. We here at the D.P.W. would like to thank Carlisle's finest fire department for all their help getting the Christmas tree on the common ready for the annual tree lighting ceremony! "Awesome job to all involved!" From all of us to you, we hope you have a Merry Christmas and a happy healthy new year! 😊



Season's Greetings from Carlisle Cultural Council
Carlisle's cultural advocate & producer
Thank you for an awesome 2023!
We have great things in store for 2024
including the 3rd Annual Carlisle Music Festival
@ Old Home Day (June 21-23)

 Members wanted: Do you love visual arts? ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨
You don't need to be an artist to join us; email culturalcouncil@carlislema.gov

From the Carlisle School Committee

The Carlisle School Committee has made progress on each of its goals. Broadly our goals this year are to:

- **Develop a Sustainable Budget that supports the core values and mission of Carlisle Public Schools to be moved for approval at the 2024 Carlisle Town Meeting;**
- **Keep Policies current and relevant by reviewing all policies more than 3 years old and monitoring MASC for updates;**
- **Complete the Superintendent Evaluation as required;**
- **Collaborate with Town Leadership and Stakeholders;**
- **Engage in Member Professional Development;**
- **Monitor Student Performance and Achievement to ensure optimal use of resources and anticipate future school needs; and**
- **Monitor facility use and maintenance.**

At our most recent meeting, we particularly addressed the budget, capital plan, and student achievement. Working with Superintendent O'Shea and the administration, we have developed an FY25 Budget. Facilities Director Stephen Conneaney and Superintendent O'Shea have also developed a comprehensive capital plan. Both of these were included in our FY 25 Budget Hearing. Dr. Mehler and Dr. Sidell presented a thorough analysis of student achievement that included longitudinal context to see where we are coming out of the pandemic. We applaud the work of the district administration, faculty, and staff to keep apprised of student needs by monitoring not only academic achievement but also social-emotional well-being and adapting and evolving in accordance with these needs. As part of this work, the school committee endorsed administration recommendations, including hiring a part-time literacy support specialist in the elementary school, increasing paraprofessional wages to stay competitive in the labor market; and extending our Pre-K offering to a full-day option.

At our next meeting, the School Committee looks forward to memorializing a streamlined and comprehensive facilities plan, voting on the FY25 Budget, having a first reading of all policy updates as recommended by the policy subcommittee; reviewing school fees and the proposed 24-25 calendar.

A highlight of our meetings are the student reports. We thank Sarah Endo and Tennyson Sprong for attending our meetings to give the community a window into the day-to-day ongoing in our schools. We have also enjoyed having students who are completing their Civic projects attending our meetings as audience members.

Our meeting agendas and recordings are available [by clicking here](#). Here, you can access our budget hearing, the student achievement presentation, and all other matters we have discussed. Most importantly, here you can also view the student updates to hear about all the wonderful activities in which our students participate.

From the Gleason Public Library

Martha Feeney-Patten, Library Director

Coming up at the Gleason

Winter story time sessions begin in January, including Baby Lapsit at 10:30am on Tuesdays, Toddler Story Time at 11am on Tuesdays, and Preschool Story Time at 10:30am on Fridays.

Join the Gleason and the COAHS for a special **Grandparents & Grandkids Story Time and Breakfast** on Saturday, January 13th, at Union Hall. All seniors and kids (ages 3+) are invited! Please note a special someone doesn't have to be a grandparent/grandchild specifically to join in on the story time fun. We'll read stories, sing songs, and eat a tasty breakfast afterwards (Breakfast items included).



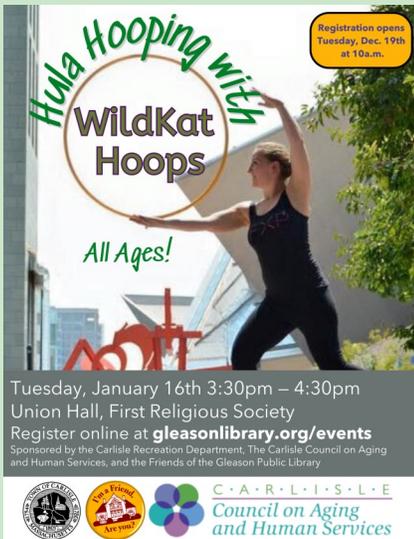
Grandparents & Grandkids Story Time and Breakfast

Dive into enchanting stories, belt out tunes, and cap it all off with a scrumptious breakfast!

Saturday, January 13 10:00 AM
Union Hall, First Religious Society (27 School Street)

All seniors and kids (ages 3+) are invited!

Carle Place Council on Aging and Human Services
Gleason Public Library



Hula Hooping with WildKat Hoops

All Ages!

Registration opens Tuesday, Dec. 19th at 10a.m.

Tuesday, January 16th 3:30pm – 4:30pm
Union Hall, First Religious Society
Register online at gleasonlibrary.org/events
Sponsored by the Carlisle Recreation Department, The Carlisle Council on Aging and Human Services, and the Friends of the Gleason Public Library

Carle Place Council on Aging and Human Services

On Tuesday, January 16th, at 3:30 p.m. people of all ages are invited to **Hula Hooping with Wild Kat Hoops!**

Visit gleasonlibrary.org/events for more information on these events and to register. Thank you to everyone who makes these programs possible by donating to the [Friends of Gleason Public Library](#)!

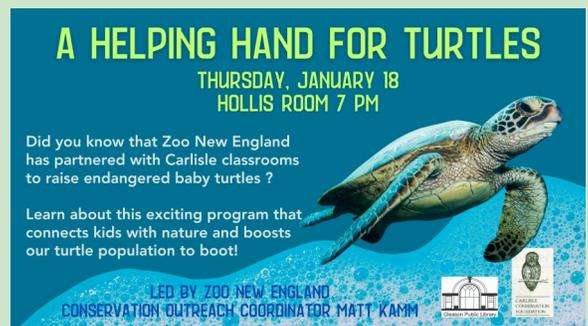
Library Hours

The Gleason Library will be closed on 12/25 Christmas Day and 1/1 New Year's Day. The library will be open on its regular schedule on all other days over this holiday season.

Kanopy: Streaming Movies and TV

No library card? No problem! [Sign up online for an electronic library card!](#)

[Kanopy](#) is a video-streaming platform delivering a diverse collection of 30,000+ thoughtful and thought-provoking films. Kanopy's content is available to stream anytime and anywhere with your Gleason library card — from desktop to TV to tablet. With an ideal platform for showcasing independent films that fuels lifelong learning, Kanopy is on a mission to ensure that everyone has access to enriching films that bridge cultural boundaries, spark discussion, and expand worldviews. It includes independent films, world cinema, classics, documentaries, and kids' tv shows, movies, and animated storybooks. Sign up for Kanopy with your Gleason card at gleasonlibrary.kanopy.com or download the Kanopy app today.



A HELPING HAND FOR TURTLES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18
HOLLIS ROOM 7 PM

Did you know that Zoo New England has partnered with Carlisle classrooms to raise endangered baby turtles?

Learn about this exciting program that connects kids with nature and boosts our turtle population to boot!

LED BY ZOO NEW ENGLAND
CONSERVATION OUTREACH COORDINATOR MATT KAMM

Carle Place Council on Aging and Human Services

Also from the Gleason Public Library

Submitted by Kaitlin Waterson, GPL Trustee

The Gleason Public Library's Capital Campaign is still underway! To date, we have raised \$1.68 million toward our goal. We are still seeking donations for the remaining \$620,000 to do this renovation. The sooner we can raise the funds the sooner we can begin our project - hopefully before construction costs increase. We are hopeful that every household in Carlisle that can will donate.

The Gleason Public Library's major indoor renovation aims at better accommodating the needs of Carlisle today and in the future. It will offer a more open floor plan and better acoustics to be able to host more community events, such as lectures, art exhibits, and concerts. It includes a dedicated Teen room for our youth to hang out, learn and socialize in a safe environment. It includes more meeting rooms for patrons to use from larger board meetings to private work and telehealth calls. It also includes improving the staff area so that we can attract and retain top talent at the library, ADA and building code compliance updates, better lighting and much more.

More information about the renovation is available here: <https://gleasonlibrary.org/library-renovation-design->



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[@townofcarlisle](https://www.instagram.com/townofcarlisle)

