



MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

# Town of Carlisle

JANUARY 2024

## Welcome Sarah Wasserman!



We are excited to welcome our first Land Use and Sustainability Coordinator, Sarah Wasserman! Sarah comes to us from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife as a BioMap Outreach Specialist and received a BS in Environmental Science from the University of Vermont Rubenstein School. She is a great addition to Town Hall!

## Welcome to the World Russell Mark Meagher!

Assistant Town Administrator Aubrey Thomas and her husband Tim Meagher are happy to announce the birth of their son Russell! Russell was born January 4th at 1:44pm, weighing 9lb 5oz and 21 inches long. He is the first Town Hall baby!



@townofcarlislema



@townofcarlisle



@townofcarlisle



@townofcarlisle



carlislema.gov

# Reminder from the Treasurer/Collector

The Carlisle Treasurer/Collector's Office has mailed Fiscal Year 2024 third quarter Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Bills. These bills will be due on or before February 1, 2024. Postmarks are not accepted by Mass. General Law. If you have not received your bill, please contact our office at 978-369-5557.

Payments can be made online using the Town of Carlisle website and clicking on the Online Payments tab, or mailed to our lockbox in Boston using the envelope enclosed with your bill. Payments should no longer be sent to the Reading Post Office Box. Payments sent to an incorrect address will delay the Collector's Office receipt of payments. Payments received after the due date are subject to interest at the rate of 14%. In addition, payments can be made in person at the Town offices, second floor, Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Conservation Commission Needs Volunteers!



The Conservation Commission is pleased to begin work on restoring and maintaining the Cranberry Bog as wet meadow habitat and is inviting the public to join in by helping to remove small white pines and maples from the Cranberry Bog located at 750 Curve Street on the weekend of February 3 and 4. If conditions do not cooperate, the dates will be the following weekend of February 10 and 11. Check the Commission Website for updates (<https://www.carlislema.gov/181/Conservation-Commission>) or contact the ConsCom phone for an update if weather

Volunteers are welcome and encouraged. The work will mostly consist of hand cutting at ground level the small trees and hauling them out of the bog located closest to Martin Street to a staging area close to Curve Street. The DPW will chip them up on a later day and take them away. Under 18's need to be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. Bring warm footwear, jackets, hats, warm sturdy work gloves, protective eyewear (goggles) and a canteen of water. If you can, please supply your own handsaws, loppers and a plastic tarp to help drag trees off the bog. NO CHAIN SAWS please.

Car-pooling is encouraged as there is limited parking on Curve Street and at the Bog House. You do not need to sign up in advance but on the day there will be a sign-in table (sign-in is mandatory for insurance purposes) where you will be assigned to a quadrant.

Anyone willing to help with refreshments or to serve as quadrant supervisors, please contact Sylvia Willard at 978 369 0336 or [swillard@carlislema.gov](mailto:swillard@carlislema.gov).

We look forward to seeing you there!

# From the Town Administrator

*Ryan McLane, Town Administrator*

Town Officials are finalizing a design for long-awaited Police Station Renovation Project that will be brought to Town Meeting for a funding decision this spring. We invite members of the public to continue participating in this process, getting the answers they need to make an informed decision about this important project. Here are some ways residents can learn more about the project.



The Select Board scheduled an information session at the Fall Town Meeting outlining the processes for considering renovations at the Police and Fire Stations. To see a video of those presentations, [click here](#). To see the slideshows, [click here](#).

Following the project discussions this fall, the Select Board met with the Town's design firm, TBA, in December, to discuss the proposed conceptual design. To see this presentation, [click here](#). The Select Board approved the initial design and authorized a Building Committee to finalize the design and oversee the eventual project construction. That Committee will be appointed on January 23, 2024.

Next the Select Board will hold a public information session and open house on February 5, 2024, at 6:30pm at the Carlisle Police Station. Parts of the information session to include a Q+A will also be available through Zoom and recorded for residents who want to see the presentation later. Residents are encouraged to come tour the facility and ask their questions about the project and its goals.

As we head towards a Town Meeting vote on May 13, 2024, the Select Board will continue to make staff available for questions and answers, broadcasting all project decisions through the town's information channels.

We strongly encourage you to participate in this important process and help us decide the future of one of the Town's most important public facilities.



# From the Department of Public Works

*Jim Hall, DPW Director*

Howdy folks! What a way to kick off the winter storm season, huh? That one was a doozy!!

We worked throughout the day and night to clear the streets of snow and trees. As always, we thank you for your patience and understanding during this long process as we were pulled in different directions to attend to fallen trees to keep roads clear for our first responders. By the time you read this we will have endured 2-3 inches of rain on top of what has fallen. C'mon April!!



# From the Environmental Sustainability Committee

## 2024 Earthwise Community Challenge

The Environmental Sustainability Committee invites you to participate in the 2024 Earthwise Community Challenge! We understand that addressing the climate change that is causing our extreme weather and the ecological degradation that is impacting Carlisle neighborhoods and beyond can be daunting. The good news is that we can all take steps - even small, easy ones - to affect positive change.

The challenge is to receive one, two or three virtual certificates from ESC in 2024. Here is how:

“Seed” certificate: Pick a minimum of six (6) actions from the “seed” tier to complete within 2024 to receive a virtual certificate of “seed” completion from the ESC. The actions can be from any category (in the home, in the garden, in the community).

“Bud” certificate: Complete the “seed” certificate plus a minimum of two (2) actions from the “bud” tier within 2024 to receive a virtual certificate of “bud” completion from the ESC. The actions can be from any category.

“Flower” certificate: Complete the “bud” certificate plus a minimum of one (1) action from the “flower” tier within 2024 to receive a virtual certificate of “flower” completion from the ESC. The action can be from any category.

Once you have completed a tier, just email [earthwisechallenge@gmail.com](mailto:earthwisechallenge@gmail.com) a list of actions completed along with photos, descriptions or receipts for each action completed to receive the tier certificate. Receive a “butterfly” bonus for including reviews of products and experiences related to your completed actions.

Have you already completed a tier? Thank you. Just email us the list of actions that qualify and you will receive the pertinent certificate. Don't forget the “butterfly” bonus for reviews!

ESC will publish the list of people who have received certificates at the end of the year. Wish to keep your name private? No problem, just let us know and your actions will be listed under anonymous.

Time and time again, Carlisleans have made huge impacts when banding together for a common initiative. Let's continue this tradition, come together as a community, and make strides in environmental sustainability!



# ESC Earthwise Community Challenge Seed Tiers

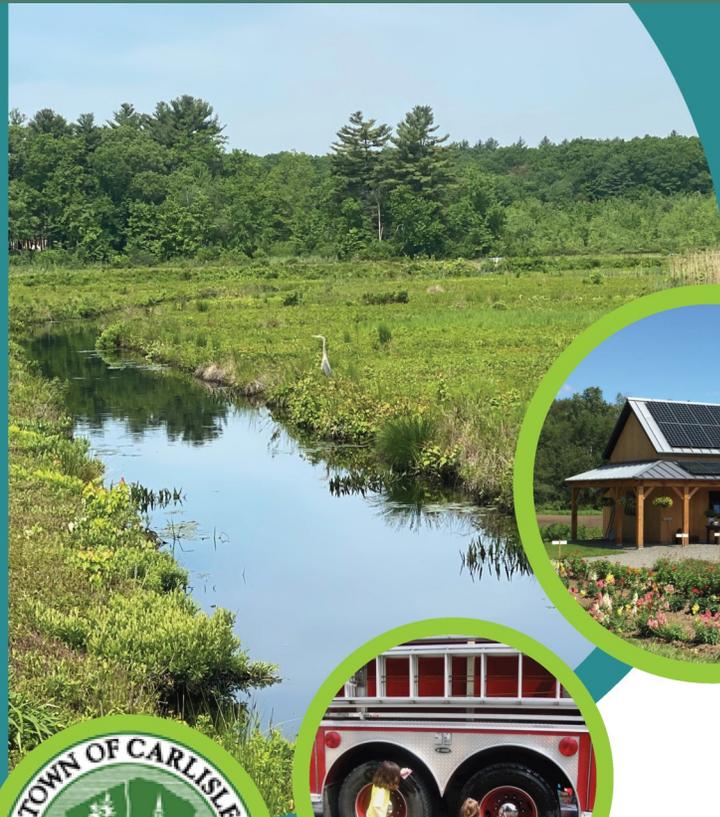
	AT HOME	IN THE GARDEN	IN THE COMMUNITY
<b>"SEED" TIER</b>			
	Get a free <a href="#">home energy assessment</a> .	Identify <a href="#">invasive plants</a> in your yard and remove 12 of them	Attend a sustainability seminar/webinar/talk (beyond RTSD)
	Install <a href="#">smart power strips</a>	Plant 8 <a href="#">native</a> , <a href="#">non-cultivar</a> plants	Volunteer for a community sustainability event
	Eliminate the use of <a href="#">rodenticides</a> and pesticides	Properly install a <a href="#">bat house</a>	Take a walk in nature and upload an interesting species to <a href="#">iNatu-</a>
	<a href="#">Find and seal rodent entry points</a> to address problem at	<a href="#">Replace outdoor spotlights</a> with warm LED lights on motion sensor	Carry <a href="#">reusable cutlery</a> and <a href="#">to-go container</a> when dining out
	Replace chemical cleaners with <a href="#">natural products</a>	Select a part of your yard and <a href="#">leave the leaves</a> where they fall	Make carrying a <a href="#">reusable water bottle and</a> using <a href="#">reusable shopping bags</a> a habit
	Replace paper goods with <a href="#">bamboo</a> .	Leave the <a href="#">moss</a> in your lawn	Support local, <a href="#">sustainable-practice farms</a>
	Reduce <a href="#">single use plastic</a>	Reduce <a href="#">pesticide</a> and <a href="#">herbicide</a> use	Buy local, sustainable products
	Compost food scraps in the proper bins at the <a href="#">transfer</a>	Create a compost pile	Consciously opt to bike or walk to a destination
	Reduce <a href="#">food waste</a>	Stop <a href="#">burning</a> yard waste	Turn your car off - <a href="#">don't idle</a>
	<a href="#">Hang-dry</a> laundry when possi-	Get rid of your <a href="#">bug zapper</a>	<a href="#">Carpool</a> at least once a week
	Hang on to working <a href="#">electronics</a> a little longer and <a href="#">properly recycle</a> them when no longer		Opt for sustainably grown natural fiber <a href="#">textiles and clothing</a>
	Practice <a href="#">meatless Monday</a>		Send a letter to a state/federal politician/sign a petition in support of environmental efforts

# ESC Earthwise Community Challenge Seed Tiers

	AT HOME	IN THE GARDEN	IN THE COMMUNITY
<b>"BUD" TIER</b>			
	Address <a href="#">weatherization</a> issues	Identify and remove all <a href="#">invasive plants</a> in your yard	Perform a sustainability outreach action
	Upgrade your <a href="#">Community Choice Aggregation</a> plan to	<a href="#">Plant 24 native, non-cultivar plants</a>	Join a <a href="#">CSA</a> (Community Supported Agriculture)
	Replace your fossil fuel dryer with an electric or <a href="#">heat pump</a> dryer	Convert a section of your lawn to a native, non-cultivar <a href="#">meadow</a>	Sign your kids up for the school bus
	Replace your fossil fuel hot water heater with a <a href="#">heat pump</a> hot water heater	<a href="#">Cable</a> instead of cut a large tree	Take public transportation whenever possible
	Replace your fossil fuel cook-top with an <a href="#">induction cook-top</a>	<a href="#">Leave the leaves</a> as mulch in all your flower beds	Start a second life reusable party supply lending system for your neighborhood (plates, cups, cutlery, etc)
	Replace part of your fossil fuel heating/cooling system with an <a href="#">electric</a> heat pump	Switch your landscape equipment/company to <a href="#">all electric</a>	Consciously <a href="#">reduce consumption</a>
		<a href="#">Eliminate pesticide use</a> (including spraying for mosquitoes - even	
		Eliminate <a href="#">herbicide</a> use	

	AT HOME	IN THE GARDEN	IN THE COMMUNITY
<b>"FLOWER" TIER</b>			
	<a href="#">Fully electrify your home</a>	<a href="#">Reduce your lawn</a> to pathways among native, non-cultivar flower	Host a sustainability event
	Replace your gas car with an <a href="#">EV or plug-in hybrid</a>	<a href="#">Eliminate "fall cleanup"</a> except for your driveway and walkways	Assist your child in creating an environmental sustainability endeavor at their school
	Reduce the amount of <a href="#">impermeable surface</a> on your property	Document the species in your yard on <a href="#">iNaturalist</a>	
	Install <a href="#">solar panels</a> when <a href="#">tree cover allows</a>	Place a <a href="#">conservation restriction</a> on your property	

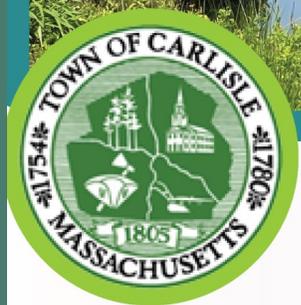
# From the Town Planner



## MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS



TOWN OF CARLISLE  
STAFF & VOLUNTEERS  
+  
HORSLEY WITTEN  
GROUP



# CLIMATE RESILIENT CARLISLE

Revising/Updating Local Codes  
for Improved Resiliency

## COMMUNITY FORUM

Clark Room @ Carlisle Town Hall  
& ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82987909710>

Meeting ID: 829 8790 9710

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,82987909710#

**JOIN US!**  
**FEBRUARY**  
**15TH**  
**6:00PM**

**FOR LANGUAGE OR  
TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE  
CONTACT JULIE MERCIER  
JMERCIER@CARLISLEMA.GOV**

**Purpose:** to gather public input on  
climate resilience priorities!  
Refreshments will be served!

[Carlisle MVP](#)

# From the Carlisle Transfer Station Action Committee

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## ***The benefits of taking your kitchen scraps to the Transfer Station***

Tom Bilotta, Chair Transfer Station Action Committee

Many of you are aware that for several years, the Carlisle Transfer Station accepts kitchen waste which is then converted into high quality compost by Black Earth. All kitchen scraps are accepted including animal waste, bones, shells, etc.

When I first learned of this program I was quite skeptical. I expected handling and storing the waste would be inconvenient and messy. Nonetheless, due to my role on the Transfer Station Task Force, I decided I should give it a chance and was quickly converted to the benefits of this program. I found it easy to implement and with it came unexpected benefits. All of a sudden the remainder of my trash was cleaner, lighter and did not smell. As a result I no longer use plastic bags and just place a paper bag in the trash bin. Also once organic waste was removed from my trash it became much easier to see what remained. The first thing that stood out was the number of K-cups in the trash. We were generating about 50/week including the weight of the coffee grounds inside. We were always aware that our cost of coffee was probably \$400-\$500 higher per year using the K-cups but that was not enough to deter us. However upon seeing the impact on our waste we were compelled to switch to brewed coffee and are very happy with the change including the savings which partially offset recent inflationary increases in our grocery bill. Once the K-cups were removed our weekly trash for 2 people was down to about 3-5 lbs/week. We also became more aware of what remained and choices which we could make to further reduce our waste.

Because Black Earth accepts all kitchen waste we found that one could scrape the entire plate into the kitchen bin instead of the trash barrel taking no more time. We purchased a small stainless steel countertop bin which stores the waste until we transfer it into a larger plastic container when full. The trips from the kitchen to the garage did not increase as the kitchen barrel filled less often than it used to.

Overall, we found that with essentially minimal additional effort we were able to incorporate taking the kitchen waste to the Transfer Station into our weekly routine and are much happier with the handling of all of our trash. I think you'll find it to be worth a try. Purchase a small countertop bin at about \$20 from Amazon to get started. For those of you who like to garden, this can be pared with a home composter which can handle a portion of the kitchen waste (excluding animal waste) and also handle yard waste. Email the Transfer Station Action Committee and tell us of your experience with kitchen compost at [recycling@carlislema.gov](mailto:recycling@carlislema.gov).

# Carlisle Cultural Council News

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## 2024 Winter Cultural Grant Program – Coming Soon!

The **Carlisle Cultural Council** will be conducting a new cultural grant funding round that will open in February (dates TBD). All Carlisle-based organizations and individuals who produce cultural programs for Carlisle residents will be invited to apply.

Guidelines and priorities for this round will be provided in the application. Programs may be scheduled to occur from January 1, 2024 through November 1, 2024. All funds need to be disbursed by December 31, 2024.

Applications for programs that have been awarded an FY24 Mass Cultural Council LCC grant from the Carlisle Cultural Council are not eligible. If your organization was awarded an FY24 LCC grant, you are encouraged to **apply for a grant for a different project**. *I.E., if you were awarded a grant for a Winter Concert, you may apply for a grant for a Spring Concert.*

### Plan your program now!

To request an application, please email [culturalcouncil@carlislema.gov](mailto:culturalcouncil@carlislema.gov). Applications will be sent electronically before the round opening date.

This grant round is funded by Town of Carlisle ARPA funds, to assist Carlisle's cultural sector in recovering from the negative financial and engagement impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**What we mean by culture:** *music, dance, theater, fine art, pop art, sculpture, photography, multimedia, fiber arts, ethnic customs, culinary arts, humanities, literature, poetry, nature, gardening, woodworking, ceramics, storytelling, history, science, language and more...*

## Save the dates!

### Old Home Day weekend and 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Carlisle Music Festival, June 21-23!

Stay tuned for the call for Musicians. We'll be contacting previous music artists soon.

Who can play (all Saturday and Sunday acts are by invitation only):

1. Music acts with at least one member who lives, works, or grew up in Carlisle
2. Musicians playing international genres with Carlisle resident sponsorship
3. All genres: popular, classical, international, jazz – you name it!



# From the Gleason Public Library

*Martha Feeney-Patten, Library Director*

## This month at the Gleason:

### **HULA HOOPING WITH WILDKAT HOOPS (AN INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAM)**

*Tuesday, January 16 | 3:30 p.m.*

Get your hoop on! Kat Suwalski will demonstrate and get you hooping with laughter and fun! Hooping promotes exercise, exploration, expression, movement, and dance. We'll learn basic hooping moves while increasing hand-eye coordination, strength, balance, and agility in an hour filled with silly fun. This program is for all ages. If you have any questions about the program, please email Jenn at [childrens@gleasonlibrary.org](mailto:childrens@gleasonlibrary.org). Registration is required.

This program is sponsored by the [Carlisle Recreation Department](#), the [Carlisle Council on Aging and Human Services](#), and the [Friends of the Gleason Public Library](#).

Art at the Gleason  
Presents

# Natural Histories





**Joomchi Technique  
Paper Art**  
by Max Payne  
&  
**Sculptures**  
by Louise Berliner

## January 20th- March 23rd

### Talk & Reception February 3rd, 2-4pm

Art at the Gleason is sponsored by the Gleason Public Library Endowment  
Gleason Public Library: 22 Bedford Road, Carlisle, MA, 01741, 978-369-4898

# More from the Gleason Public Library

## INDOOR MINI-GOLF FUNDRAISER 2024

Sunday, January 28 | 1-5 p.m.

On Sunday, January 28th the Gleason will be transformed into a fun, indoor mini golf course! Proceeds will benefit the Gleason's Interior Renovation Project and Gleason Public Library Endowment.

Register to tee off during a 1-hour timeslot. Tickets are \$15 per person with a cap of \$50 per family. Payment

at the door by cash or check (made out to "GPL Endowment") preferred, or click here to pay online via Paypal (if Paypal account is in different name than event registration, please note on payment).



**MINI GOLF** *at the* **GLEASON**  
LIBRARY FUNDRAISER

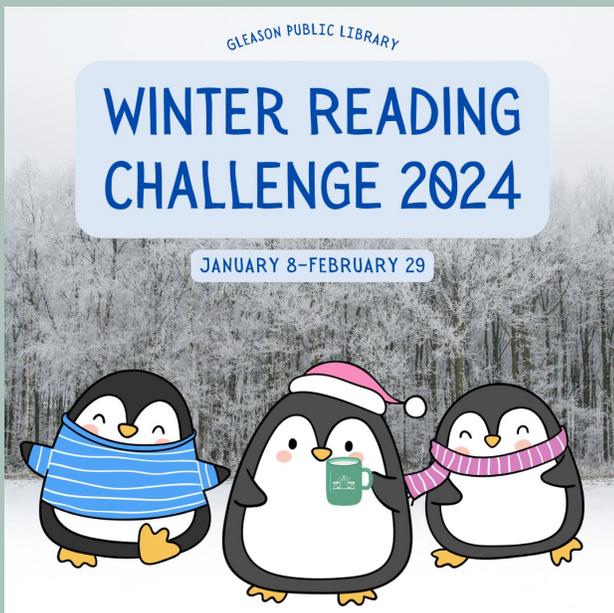
**SUNDAY**  
**JAN 28**  
2024

1 PM  
TO  
5 PM

\$15/PERSON,  
MAX \$50/FAMILY

BACK BY POPULAR  
DEMAND!

REGISTER AT [GLEASONLIBRARY.ORG/EVENTS](https://gleasonlibrary.org/events)



GLEASON PUBLIC LIBRARY

**WINTER READING  
CHALLENGE 2024**

JANUARY 8-FEBRUARY 29

Illustration of three penguins: one wearing a blue and white striped scarf, one wearing a pink Santa hat and holding a green mug, and one wearing a pink and white striped scarf.

## WINTER READING CHALLENGE 2024

Monday, January 8 through Thursday, February 29

Join us in the Winter Reading Challenge! This year, the challenge is to read 7 books that fit different challenges. To participate, stop by the library to pick up a copy of your foldable challenge booklet on or after January 8, or print one out at home. Read one book (at your reading level) for the challenge on each page. When you've completed your book, bring it in for a prize!

The 2024 Gleason Public Library Winter Reading Challenge is generously brought to you by the [Friends of the Gleason Public Library](#).

# Gleason Public Library 2023 Recap!

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## TOP DVDS



**Everything Everywhere  
All at Once**



**Mrs. Harris Goes to  
Paris**



**The Fabelmans**



**Wakanda Forever**



**Babylon**

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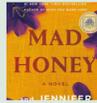
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## TOP ADULT BOOKS



Bonnie Garmus  
**Lessons in  
Chemistry**



Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan  
**Mad Honey**



Barbara Kingsolver  
**Demon Copperhead**



Ann Napolitano  
**Hello Beautiful**



Ann Patchett  
**Tom Lake**

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## TOP CHILDREN'S BOOKS



Rebecca Elliott  
**Eva's Treetop  
Festival**



Tracey West  
**Rise of the Earth  
Dragon**



Tui Sutherland and Barry Deutsch  
**Wings of Fire: The  
Brightest Night**



Tracey West  
**Griffith's Guide for  
Dragon Masters**



Jennifer Holm  
**Turtle in Paradise**

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**And  
we're  
just  
getting  
started.**



Thank you  
for being an  
incredible  
community!

# New Class from the COAHS!

## New Line Dancing Class for all Ages of Adults

Line dancing is a lively and rhythmic form of dance that emerged from traditional folk dances and gained popularity in the country and western dance scenes. Participants, arranged in lines, perform a series of synchronized steps and movements to the beat of music. The beauty of line dancing lies in its accessibility, as it doesn't require a partner and can be enjoyed by people of all ages and skill levels. With roots deeply embedded in American culture, line dancing has evolved into various styles, incorporating elements of different genres such as country or pop. COAHS has a new line dancing class on Tuesdays at 11:15. The class is taught by Katrina Rotondi, a dance teacher with over 15 years of teaching experience, and is open to adults of all ages. Come join us for some fun. Call us at 978-371-2895 for more information.



## Congrats Tom McConnon!

Tom McConnon is retiring from the DPW after almost nine years with the department; however, he is not gone! He's now our newest COAHS Driver. We look forward to collaborating with him in his new role!



## Follow us on social media!



[@townofcarlislema](https://www.facebook.com/townofcarlislema)



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

