



MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

Town of Carlisle

JANUARY 2024

Welcome New Employees!

Police Department



The Carlisle Select Board appointed Officer Jonathan Ryan February 13th and he was officially sworn in by Town Clerk Peggy Wang on the 15th. Officer Ryan joins our team with law enforcement experience, serving for the Dracut Police Department and a security officer at Lowell General Hospital. He is Crisis Intervention trained and serves on the NEMLEC SWAT Team. Welcome to the team Officer Ryan!

Town Hall

Town Hall is happy to welcome new Municipal Assistant Juniper Friedman! Friedman is a Carlisle resident excited to use her administrator and project manager background for the Town. She'll be supporting the Historical Commission, Community Preservation Committee, and Municipal Facilities Committee.

Fire Department

The Carlisle Fire Department has welcomed four new employees! Congratulations to new firefighters Colin King, Seth Perry, and Warren Smith and firefighter and EMT Chris Wagget.



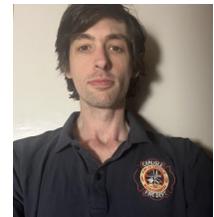
Chris Wagget



Seth Perry



Colin King



Warren Smith



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carlislema.gov

Reminder from the Treasurer/Collector

Sandy Nason, Treasurer/Collector

On February 5, 2024, the Carlisle Treasurer/Collector's Office mailed the first commitment of 2024 Motor Vehicle Excise tax containing 4,983 bills. A small commitment of 2023 bills were mailed as well for vehicles registered in the last few months of 2023. **These bills are due on March 6, 2024.** Please note that under Mass. General Laws Ch. 60A, Section 2 "failure to receive notice shall not affect the validity of the excise". **If you do not receive an excise bill, please call the Collector's office @ 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, or directly to our office at 66 Westford St., Carlisle, MA. 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 12%. In addition, payments can be made in person at the Town offices, second floor, Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., or left in our outside mailbox beside the front doors anytime.

From the Department of Public Works

Jim Hall, DPW Director



Howdy folks. Great news! The world-famous prognosticator Punxsutawney Phil has predicted an early spring! Unfortunately, he is only right 39% of the time 😊! However, we at the D.P.W. will be ready whatever the case may be. So, throw another log on the fire and grab your favorite Valentine and hope he's right! Happy Valentine's Day everyone!!



From the Town Administrator

Ryan McLane, Town Administrator

Spring brings residents many important projects and topics. Your input helps shape the future of Carlisle for generations to come. We invite you to participate in the process and help make these projects even better.

1.) Annual Town Meeting and Election

Key topics include the annual budget and capital plan, important financial decisions, the police station renovation project, a new fire truck, and several decisions about how to manage Town land and property. The election will also ask voters to support financial decisions and decide whether the Town Clerk will be an elected or an appointed position.

Ways to get involved

- Visit a Select Board meeting on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month
- Attend the annual Public Budget Hearing in April
- Schedule a meeting with me, virtually or in person, or visit me at a Coffee Hour!



2.) Town Building Renovation Projects

The proposed police station renovation will take center stage at the Annual Town Meeting in May, but the library renovation will also kick off this spring as will discussions about the conceptual design for a future fire station renovation.

Ways to get involved

- Each project will have a building committee that has regular public meetings
- Attend in-person and virtual open houses at each building site
- Ask departments to give you a private tour
- Schedule a meeting with me, virtually or in person, or visit me at a Coffee Hour!

We strive to build transparency and access to information about these projects. We will update the relevant websites regularly. You can find information about Town Meeting, the annual election, or any of the building projects by clicking on the links below:

[Town Meeting](#) [Elections](#) [Police Station Building Renovation Committee](#) [Library Renovation](#)

Recreation Program Spotlight!

Holly Mansfield, Recreation Director



Photo credit to Meredith Harjes

Left to Right: Jacob Ostrovsky, Gavin Monagle-Fleming, Ryan Kapusta, Logan Keene, Caiden Harjes, Brayden Hamilton

The Nashoba Valley Ski/Snowboard program one of the favorite programs organized through the Carlisle Recreation Department. Holly Mansfield, Director of Recreation, brings 50 children over to Nashoba by bus ranging in grades 2-8. The program runs for 6-weeks on Friday afternoons. Children participate in ski/snowboard lessons and enjoy time to free ski/snowboard.

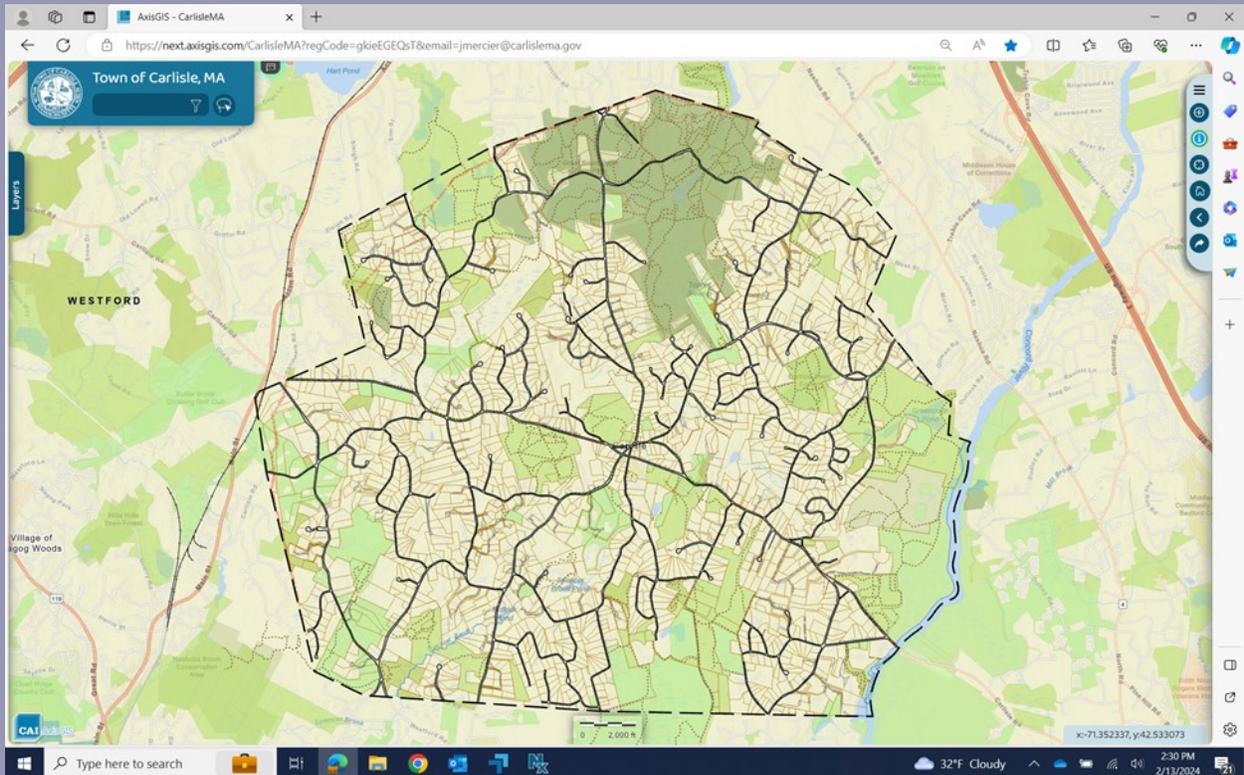
Thank you to all the parent volunteers that help to make this program a great success!

AxisGIS is Nearly Here!

Julie Mercier, Town Planner

AxisGIS to Launch for the Public on March 1st!!

Please mark your calendars and get ready to fall in love.



The CAI Technologies AxisGIS web-hosted site was made available to a limited group of staff in early December. Since that time, staff have been working with CAI and our other consultant Adam Kurowski to refine it to Carlisle. On February 6th, Aaron Weston of CAI Technologies, came to Carlisle and gave a demo of the AxisGIS site to approximately 25 staff, volunteers, and resident enthusiasts. At the end of the demo was a Q&A session and additional input was provided. A recording of the demo is available on our YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/VQd5SJSknoY>

Staff are working with CAI to make a few last modifications in preparation for... **the site to go live for the public on Friday, March 1st!**

In addition, other information related to the GIS Project is posted to the Town website here: <https://www.carlislema.gov/1194/GIS-Project>

And of course, please provide your feedback! gisfeedback@carlislema.gov

Get Ready to Plunge!!



JOIN US FOR THE 1ST ANNUAL

CARLISLE MOBILE POLAR PLUNGE

 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH, 2024

CARLISLE PUBLIC SCHOOL - 83 SCHOOL ST, CARLISLE

 CHECK IN AT 2:15PM | PLUNGE AT 3:15PM

SIGN UP NOW! LINK IS LIVE!

HOSTED BY:



POLAR PLUNGE
FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS MASSACHUSETTS

Environmental Sustainability Committee Tips

Three Good Reasons to Minimize Vehicle Idling

By Eric Balles

Vehicle idling consumes roughly 6 billion gallons of fuel in the U.S. alone and about half of that is from folks like you and me. There are numerous reasons why reducing the amount of vehicle idling time is a good idea, the top three that come to mind are:



It Reduces Our Personal Carbon Footprint and Minimizes Toxic Emissions – Personal vehicles idling in the U.S. contribute about 30 million tons of CO₂ per year. Furthermore, monitoring at schools has shown elevated levels of benzene, formaldehyde, acetaldehyde and other air toxins during the afternoon hour coinciding with parents picking up their children.

It Saves Money – A typical passenger car idling for 15 minutes per day consumes about 30 gallons of fuel over a year, which is about \$100 at today's prices for regular fuel, and even higher for premium fuel. And it's more than twice that on average for SUVs, minivans, and pickup trucks.

It's the Law – Massachusetts has a law on the books that limits the amount of time a car engine can legally be idling (Mass. General Laws, chapter 90 sec. 16A) and a more specific law (sec. 16B) that prohibits extended idling on school grounds. Penalties can be as much as one hundred dollars for the first offense, and up to five hundred dollars for each succeeding offense.

Modern vehicles are well adapted to minimizing idling without adverse effects, no longer requiring a 'warmup period' for the engine or experiencing undue wear and tear on equipment from frequent starts and stops. We all should do our part contributing to sustainability – conserving fuel, mitigating climate change, and improving the air quality for our children.



Environmental Sustainability Committee Tips

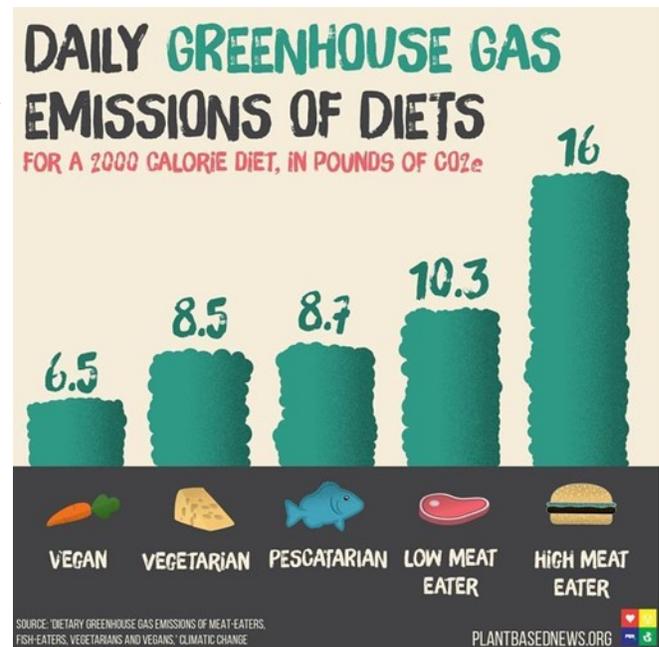
What is a Low-Carbon Diet?

By Christina Christodouloupoulos

A low-carbon diet is a plant-based diet. While many associate a vegetarian or vegan diet with animal rights, a justified reason to adopt the lifestyle in and of itself, fewer people are aware of the environmental benefits of reducing meat consumption. But you don't have to become a vegetarian to have a positive environmental impact. Simply switching one day a week to plant-based meals can have a significant effect. Here are some statistics directly quoted from the University of Colorado Boulder, [Environmental Center](#):

“Why are meatless Mondays important for the environment?”

- The meat industry uses large amounts of fossil fuels, water and grain to feed livestock. Eating less meat would reduce the need for and use of these resources. Especially in the U.S., where we consume more animal products than the rest of the world.
- About 1,850 gallons of water are needed to produce a single pound of beef, compared to 39 gallons of water per pound of vegetables. A vegetarian diet alone could dramatically reduce water consumption by 58% per person!
- Meat production is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, which is tied to climate change.
- Some benefits of eating plant-based once a week include:
 - Saving 133 gallons of water with each meatless meal.
 - Reducing your carbon footprint by eight pounds each meatless Monday you participate in.
 - Committing to meatless Monday each week equates to the same reduction of emissions as cutting out 348 miles of driving”



You can accomplish an Earthwise Community Challenge “Seed” action by adopting Meatless Monday and make a difference!



From the Gleason Public Library

Martha Feeney-Patten, Library Director

February Vacation Fun at the Gleason

Tuesday February 20: Ancient Art of Chinese Paper Cutting

Join us as we celebrate Lunar New Year 2024, the year of the dragon. Zhonghe (Elena) Li will demonstrate the art form of Chinese Paper Cutting and storytelling with her scissors and will instruct participants on the basic skills of paper cutting. Participants will use their imagination to create their own unique pieces to illustrate their stories. The first session at 4PM is for ages 5 through 12 and their adult caregiver, and the second session at 5:30PM is for teens & adults (ages 13 and up). This program is supported by a grant from the Carlisle Cultural Council. Registration is required at gleasonlibrary.org/events.

Friday, February 23: Drive-In Movie Night at the Gleason

Join us for a fun Drive-in Movie Night on Friday, February 23rd from 5–7 p.m. We'll begin by creating our own cars to use at our drive-in; please bring a cardboard box large enough for your child to sit comfortably in. We'll decorate it and get it ready for the road! Afterward we'll drive in to the Hollis Room and watch a movie together on the large screen. Popcorn and juice boxes will be served. This program is for ages 4 through 10. Registration required at gleasonlibrary.org/events

Still looking for fun activities? Reserve your passes to visit one of the many amazing museums available through the Gleason Public Library with the support of the Friends of Gleason Public Library. Visit <https://gleasonlibrary.org/what-we-offer/museum-passes/> to learn more!

PEM
Peabody Essex Museum



Discover Bats

Meet bats — live and up close — in this multisensory exhibition exploring the wondrous world of bats and our connections with them.

ECOTarium
museum of science and nature



Dive into a Prehistoric Adventure

Dig in with paleontology and geology to learn about the history of our planet. Track footprints, touch real fossils, meet distant descendants of the dinosaurs, and more!

Adventure Awaits: Discover the Magic of Museums This February Vacation Week!

Reserve your Museum Passes at the Gleason Public Library for some fun family outings next week.

BOSTON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM



Celebrate Engineering

Celebrate National Engineers Week at the Museum this February vacation. Get your hands on trains, tools, screws, robots, circuits, and more.

mfa Museum of Fine Arts Boston



Become an Artist

Discover the wide variety of patterns and shapes in art! All are invited to February Vacation Week for free activities exploring playful designs.



Brought to you by the Friends of the Gleason Public Library

More From the Gleason Public Library

FIRST ANNUAL
GLEASON GROWN-UP

SPELLING
BEE

FRIDAY
MARCH
15

ADULTS
21+

6:30 PM

**FOOD, DRINKS, RAFFLE,
AND LIVE MUSIC!**

100% of proceeds will go toward the renovation of the young children's reading room at our community's historic library.

Hosted by the Gleason Endowment Board of Trustees

The First Annual Great Gleason Grown-Up Spelling Bee

The First Annual Great Gleason Grown-Up Spelling Bee will be held Friday, March 15, at 6:30 pm at the Gleason Library. Tickets are \$75 per person and proceeds will benefit the renovation of the children's room. Hosted by the Gleason Endowment Board of Trustees, this special event will feature food, drinks, a raffle, and live music. Teams of grown-ups will compete in multiple rounds of a fun spelling bee, each round with its own theme. Teams can buy mulligans and pay to bribe a panel of judges comprised of local officials (note: all bribes directly benefit the library renovation). Learn more and RSVP at gleasonlibrary.org/events

From the Council on Aging and Human Services



Gleason Public Library Director, Martha Feeney-Patten attended the COAHS February Women's Breakfast to share what is going on at the library and talk about the library of things. Everyone enjoyed some delicious food, including bread pudding made by COAHS volunteer, Carolyn Shoheit.



The Boston Post cane was presented to the oldest citizen in town, Grete Heims. Town manager, Ryan McLane, COAHS Friends Chair, Jean Bagnaschi, COAHS Board Chair, Ann James, and COAHS Director Carol Grueneich visited Heims in her home, where the informal cane presentation ceremony took place.



Fire Department Wins Grants!

The Carlisle Fire Department recently won two grants, totaling \$14,212.34!



Awarded from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and the Department of Fire Services, the Department won a Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant of \$11,512.34. Chief Bryan Sorrows said the grant will be used to purchase a variety of equipment including:

- Tools
- Gas and HCN detectors
- Boots
- Turnout gear
- Lighting equipment

Awarded from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, the Department won a \$2700 Emergency Management Grant for generators and lighting equipment.



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

