



MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

# Town of Carlisle

JANUARY 2024

## Congratulations Leif!



Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

Call/Volunteer Recruit Class #110 Graduation • March 7, 2024

Carlisle firefighter Leif Hanson graduated from the Stow Firefighting Academy with his national Firefighter I/II certification. This is a 240 hour program that covers the basics of structural firefighting and other hazards that firefighters respond to.

Video of the ceremony may be viewed on the Department of Fire Services YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/dfsosfm](http://www.youtube.com/dfsosfm)



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[carlislema.gov](http://carlislema.gov)

# Recreation Needs Summer Counselors!

Holly Mansfield, Recreation Director



Join Carlisle Recreation and our Summer Fun 2024 team!

If you are interested in joining the Carlisle Recreation Summer Fun Team, fill out the below linked job application and email to the Recreation Office at [hmansfield@carlislema.gov](mailto:hmansfield@carlislema.gov) or mail to The Brick Building, 97 School St. Carlisle, MA 01741

Applications are due by March 31<sup>st</sup>; interviews will take place in May.

For more information, please contact Holly Mansfield at [hmansfield@carlislema.gov](mailto:hmansfield@carlislema.gov).  
Application: [Summer Job Application 2024.pdf](#)

## From the Department of Public Works

Jim Hall, DPW Director

Top "o" the mornin' to ya, Folks!

Well, it looks like our old friend the groundhog was right for once! It seems like winter is winding down and we're getting ready for spring. We are still cleaning up trees from all the recent storms we've had.



Just a friendly reminder that we are still accepting brush until April 30th. Also, we have a large pile of fresh wood chips for all your spring beautification projects. We here at the D.P.W. wish you all Happy St. Patrick's day!!

**TOWN OF CARLISLE**

# From the Town Administrator

*Ryan McLane, Town Administrator*

The Annual Town Meeting and Town Election are just around the corner. Residents are often interested in learning more about these events to make informed choices during these important decisions. We encourage residents to reach out in the following ways to learn more about the Town Budget and associated financial matters, the Police Station Renovation Project, the proposed Town Capital Investments, and efforts to maintain the Town's land.

**1.) Review Our Online Information.** These sites receive continual updates with information about the major decisions happening this spring.



For Budget information, visit: <https://www.carlislema.gov/1083/Budget-Information>

For Town Meeting information, visit: <https://www.carlislema.gov/259/Upcoming-Town-Meeting>

For Town Election information, visit: <https://www.carlislema.gov/159/Town-Clerk>

**2.) Attend a Board of Committee Meeting.** Several Boards and Committees (listed below) and currently discussing and reviewing Town budget priorities and projects. Your input as a resident of Carlisle is vital to the process. The Town Calendar lists all public meetings (found here on the homepage <https://www.carlislema.gov/>) and every Monday we post the upcoming meeting schedule on our social media pages.

Select Board – Currently discussing the Town budget and the Town Meeting Warrant Articles.

Finance Committee – Reviewing budget proposals and requests to make recommendations.

Police Station Building Renovation Committee – Helping the Select Board to guide the building renovation proposal for a vote at Annual Town Meeting.

**3.) Schedule a Meeting with the Town Administrator or Select Board.** I hold coffee hours every month and am willing to meet with residents one-on-one or in groups. If you would like to host a meeting with me, meet at the Town Hall, or head to Ferns for coffee, I am available! Individual members of the Select Board are also willing to meet with residents.

# Foss Farm Garden Plots Available!

*Sylvia Willard, Conservation Administrator*



Foss Farm Community Garden plots are located on a multi-use conservation property in Carlisle, Mass. The 25'x30' plots are accessible via a roadway, have hand pumps for irrigation, and are plowed once every spring. The Carlisle Conservation Commission manages the property and appoints a garden manager to oversee the community gardens. The gardens are open to all applicants.

The plots are available for \$25 each, maximum of two plots per applicant. Jack O'Connor is the garden manager for the upcoming growing season.

To apply for a garden plot, download the application form by visiting the Conservation Commission's page on the Town Website <https://carlislema.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4725/Foss-Farm-Community-Garden-Rules-And-Plot-Application-2024>

The application form will also be available for pick up during regular business hours at the Carlisle Town Hall, 66 Westford Street, Carlisle. The Conservation Commission's office is on the second floor. The application deadline is April 1, 2024. Applications received after this date will be considered if space is available.

The Garden Manager plans to have the plot assignments completed by the middle of April.

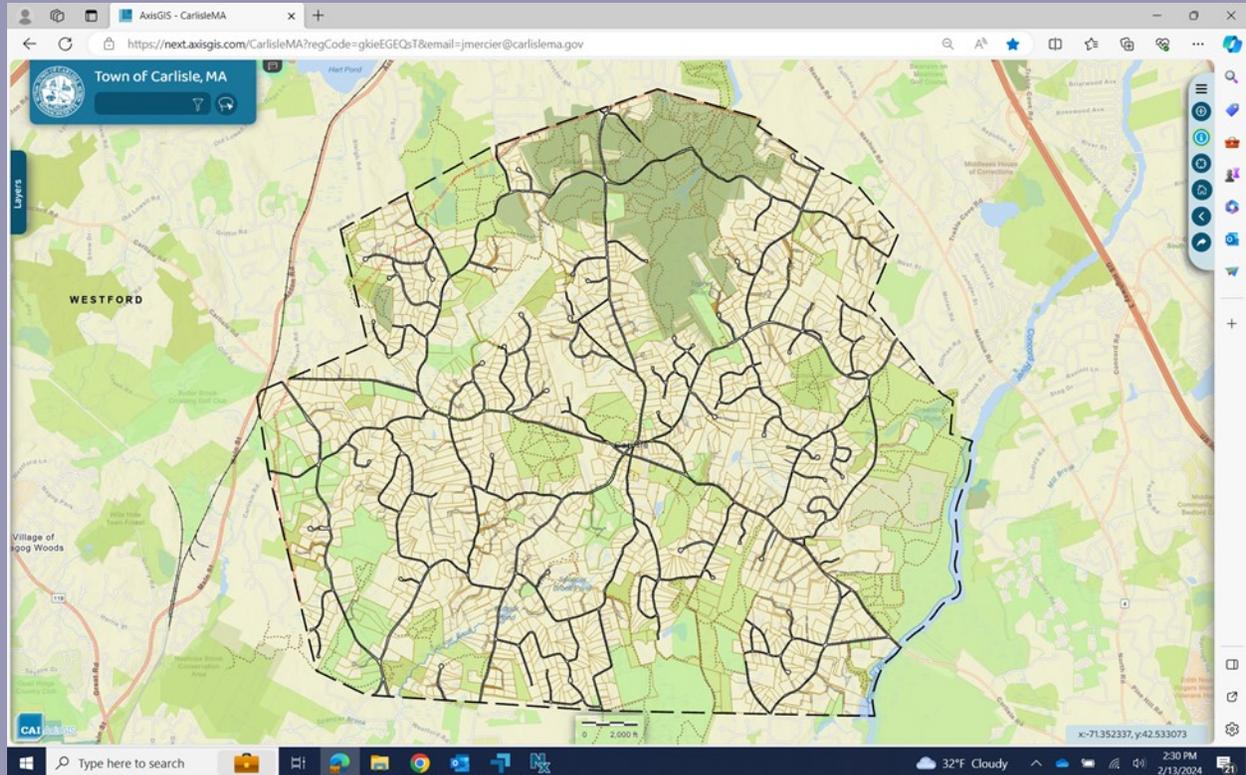
# AxisGIS is Here!

Julie Mercier, Town Planner

## Carlisle's Online Mapping is at your fingertips!

Carlisle's AxisGIS web-hosted mapping site was made available to the public on March 1<sup>st</sup>!!

### AxisGIS - CarlisleMA



If you're not sure how to get started, put your address in the search bar, zoom to your parcel, and then toggle the layers (tab on left) on and off. You can also check out your most recent Property Record Card, look through the recent history of building permits, fly around like a bird (oblique view) or pass by as if on the street (street view). There are additional basemaps (i.e., aerial photography, Open Street Map, etc.) if you click on the hamburger button on the top right.

For a full tutorial on all the site's functionality, check out the demo video from Feb 6th: <https://youtu.be/VQd5SJSknoY>

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](mailto:gisfeedback@carlislema.gov)

# Planning Board Call for Volunteers!

*Julie Mercier, Town Planner*

The Planning Board has two exciting opportunities for intrepid volunteers! Please contact Julie Mercier, Town Planner, if you're interested: [jmercier@carlislema.gov](mailto:jmercier@carlislema.gov)

## MVP Core Committee

The Planning Board established the Town's MVP Core Committee to facilitate local efforts toward planning for and implementing strategies to build climate resilience and to adapt to predicted changes in our warming climate. The predicted changes include increased flooding from large rain events and a greater likelihood of drought and increased extreme heat days and heat waves.

**See full Subcommittee Charge:**

<https://www.carlislema.gov/1162/Municipal-Vulnerability-Preparedness>

**Join the effort and help Carlisle avoid this fate:**



## MBTA Communities Subcommittee



The Planning Board established the Town's MBTA Communities Subcommittee to make a good faith effort to explore the feasibility of compliance with the MBTA Communities legislation (MGL Ch. 40A Section 3A) and guidelines, which is a strategy identified within the Housing Production Plan.

**See full Subcommittee Charge:** <https://www.carlislema.gov/1195/MBTA-Communities>

**Join the effort and help Carlisle avoid this fate:**

POV: It's the year 2030 and the only way you can obtain a house in Carlisle is by winning a MrBeast challenge.



# New Program: Curbside Compost!

## Curbside pickup makes composting kitchen scraps even easier

submitted by Tom Bilotta,  
Transfer Station Action Committee Chair



Approximately one third of the solid waste disposed of at the Carlisle Transfer Station consists of kitchen scraps. This is about 400-500 tons per year. The Transfer Station Action Committee (TSAC) is expanding the set of options available to residents in order to compost kitchen scraps through the addition of a curbside pickup option.

Currently we encourage (and subsidize) home composting and disposal of kitchen scraps at the Transfer Station which are then recycled by the Black Earth company. Black Earth would now like to begin curbside pickup of kitchen scraps in Carlisle and will begin service once 50 residents sign up.

The initial cost of this service will be \$20/month for weekly pickup but will go down if participation increases. In addition to curbside pickup of kitchen scraps, customers of Black Earth may also schedule disposal of other yard waste (leaves, grass, etc) for a small fee per large outdoor waste bag (such as those sold at home/garden centers). They offer additional extra fee services such as eWaste pickup as well. Customers of Black Earth also receive a free bag of high-quality compost (the end product of their processing).

Curbside pickup has generally proven to be the most successful means of optimizing food scrap recycling in municipalities of all sizes.

At the upcoming Earth Day sustainability event in April and also at some other town events, TSAC members will have more information on this program as well as the ability to sign up. You can also sign up directly on the Black Earth site. Once Black Earth has 50 residents signed up they will reach out and arrange to begin service, including delivery of a curbside bin. In order to encourage participation, the Town of Carlisle is providing a \$36/ resident signup (for the first 70 residents who sign up) which will be used by Black Earth to reduce the residents cost for the first six months from \$20 to \$14/month. It is hoped that we'll sign up many more than 50 residents in time and that the monthly fee will gradually come down.

Whatever approach you take to compost kitchen scraps there are other benefits. Removal of kitchen scraps from your waste eliminates the odor associated with handling and transport of your trash. Many have found that plastic bags are no longer needed, saving money and protecting the environment. You may find that without the odor and volume of kitchen scraps you only need to go to the Transfer Station every other week.

Let's take this as an opportunity to greatly reduce the waste handled by the Carlisle Transfer Station and ultimately incinerator and landfill.

# Environmental Sustainability Committee Tips

## SAVE THE DATE: ROUTE TO SUSTAINABILITY DAY is April 27, 2024

The second annual Route to Sustainability Day will take place on April 27 from 10:00am to 2:00pm in the center of Carlisle. This Earth Day event will be chock full of environmental information with great fun and activities for all ages! There is a new feature this year: scheduled mini events at the top and bottom of each hour, including cooking demonstrations, music, and a fashion show! Hmmm, who will be modeling? Come find out on April 27!

## SPRING CLEANING

By Christina Christodouloupoulos



Spring is around the corner and many of us might take this opportunity to do a thorough spring cleaning in our homes. Perhaps this year, you may wish to use effective, environmentally friendly alternatives - and by doing so, you can complete one of the "seed" action items from the Earthwise Community Challenge, bringing you closer to getting your "seed" certificate. Harmful chemicals in many traditional household cleaning products can pollute the air, water and soil, all of which can then negatively affect the biota of our region, including humans. In addition to being harmful to the environment, traditional chemical household cleaners can pose health risks such as irritated skin and eyes, headaches, asthma and other respiratory issues. So how can we reduce the negative impacts of traditional household cleaners? White vinegar, baking soda and water are your cleaning friends! White vinegar is an excellent cleaner and disinfectant for almost everything in the house (and deck), kills mold, and when combined with baking soda, can even unclog toilets and drains! Hydrogen peroxide is an effective disinfectant, a great stain remover, a much safer alternative to bleach and can be combined with baking soda to clean kitchens and bathrooms. Keep rubbing alcohol in mind, which is an excellent disinfectant - although do test the surface before using since it can dissolve some finishes. Spraying high proof vodka on textiles can help eliminate odors. Some natural,

essential oils are reported to have cleaning and disinfecting properties. Bonus, when added to the above-mentioned natural cleaning hacks, they can serve as deodorizers. Spot tests are always advisable. There are various eco-friendly cleaning products on the market as well. Things to look for when opting for greener alternatives include: no phosphates, no chlorine, no artificial fragrances or colors, natural ingredients and nothing labeled anti-bacterial. Don't forget about the packaging. Reducing single-use plastics also benefits the environment!



# From the Gleason Public Library

Martha Feeney-Patten, Library Director



The Friends of the Gleason Public Library Present:

## Short Story Contest

\$100 cash prize to winners in each category!

Winning stories will be published in The Mosquito and on the library website.

Stories (2,500 words or less), must address the prompt, "I went for a walk in the woods..." in some way.

Please visit <https://gleasonlibrary.org/> for complete rules and information.

## Short Story Contest

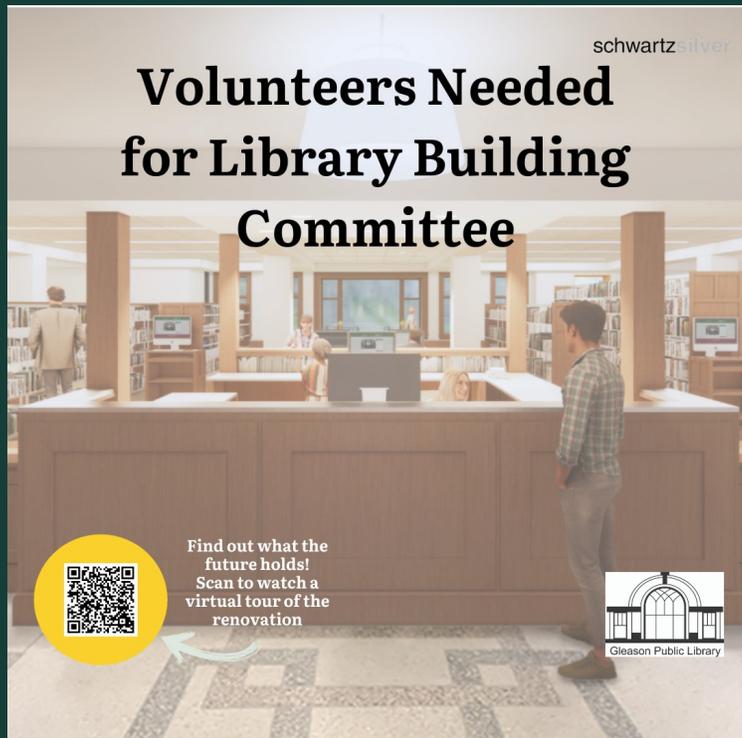
The Friends of Gleason Public Library present the "I went for a walk in the woods" Short Story Contest, for tweens, teens, and adults. Stories should be 2500 words or less and address the prompt, "I went for a walk in the woods..." in some way. \$100 prize for the best story submitted in each age group (5th-8th Grade, 9th-12th Grade, and Adult), plus publication in the Carlisle Mosquito. Open to anyone who lives or works in Carlisle. The contest entry deadline is Thursday, April 11th, and the winners will be invited to our awards ceremony on Saturday, May 4th.

Visit [gleasonlibrary.org/short](https://gleasonlibrary.org/short) for full entry guidelines or email [director@gleasonlibrary.org](mailto:director@gleasonlibrary.org) with any questions.

## Join the Library Building Committee

Resident volunteers are needed for the Library Building Committee as the Gleason moves forwards towards the planned interior renovation. The Gleason Board of Trustees has charged this committee to work with Library's appointed design and construction firms to oversee all aspects of the project.

If you are interested in helping with this important community project, please visit [gleasonlibrary.org/building](https://gleasonlibrary.org/building) for more information. Interested applicants should email [librarytrustees@carlislema.gov](mailto:librarytrustees@carlislema.gov) with a brief explanation of their interest in serving and any relevant background or qualifications by Friday, April 5, 2024.



schwartz silver

## Volunteers Needed for Library Building Committee

Find out what the future holds! Scan to watch a virtual tour of the renovation

Gleason Public Library

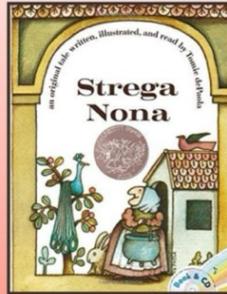
# More From the Gleason Public Library

## Strega Nona Story Time with Strega Mama

Join the Gleason Library for a special story time featuring performer, Strega Mama, as Strega Nona on Friday, March 29th, at 10:30 a.m. Enjoy a fun pasta-filled story, learn Italian words and numbers, and sing some great songs!

This program is geared for ages 3 through 7. This delightful program is supported by our wonderful Friends of the Gleason Public Library. Please visit [gleasonlibrary.org/events](http://gleasonlibrary.org/events) to register.

## Strega Mama at the Gleason Public Library!



- Greeting
- Story
- Italian Words
- Italian Numbers
- On Top of Spaghetti
- Italian Baby Shark

### March 29th 10:30

Register Now at [gleasonlibrary.org/events](http://gleasonlibrary.org/events)

This fun story time is sponsored by our wonderful Friends of the Gleason Public Library.



## Save the Date: Craft Supply Swap

**CALLING ALL MAKERS!**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**GLEASON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**CRAFT SUPPLY SWAP**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20**

**DROP OFF YOUR NEW/GENTLY USED CRAFT SUPPLIES**  
10 AM - 1 PM

**SHOP FOR "NEW-TO-YOU" CRAFT SUPPLIES**  
1 PM - 4 PM

Do you have leftover supplies from previous crafts? Would you like free craft supplies to explore a new hobby? Bring new or gently used arts & crafts materials to swap for new-to-you supplies! Only arts and crafts-related items will be accepted. Suggested items include yarn, decorative paper, fine art paper, fabric scraps, paints, patterns, tools, beads, craft storage and other arts and crafts materials.

Donations are not required to participate in the afternoon swap. Please bring along a reusable tote to carry the craft supply items home.

Calling all Makers! Do you have leftover supplies from previous crafts? Would you like free craft supplies to explore a new hobby? Bring new or gently used arts & crafts materials to swap for new-to-you supplies! Only arts and crafts-related items will be accepted. Suggested items include yarn, decorative paper, fine art paper, fabric scraps, paints, patterns, tools, beads, craft storage and other arts and crafts materials. At the Gleason Public Library on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, drop off donations between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and "shop" for new-to-you items between 1 and 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome to participate in the afternoon swap, even if you don't have items to donate.

# Healthy Carlisle

## COVID: New guidance from the CDC

Tricia McGean BSN, RN

In the everchanging world of COVID guidance and protocols, the CDC recently announced new updated recommendations on March 1, 2024. This new guidance reflects how the circumstances around COVID19 have changed for the better and focus on core prevention strategies to help reduce illness and death from COVID19 and other respiratory diseases. Instead of offering recommendations specific to COVID-19, the CDC opted to switch its' guidance to include other respiratory viruses including influenza and RSV.



### So what's new?

~If you get sick with a respiratory virus, stay home and away from others. If you have COVID19 or flu, treatment is available that can lessen symptoms and lower the risk of severe illness so contact your provider for advice. You may return to normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, symptoms are improving overall, and if a fever was present, it has been gone without use of a fever-reducing medication. No more 5 day isolation.

~Once people resume normal activities, they are encouraged to take additional prevention strategies for the next 5 days to curb disease spread, such as taking more steps for cleaner air, enhancing hygiene practices, wearing a well-fitting mask, keeping a distance from others, and/or getting tested for respiratory viruses. Enhanced precautions are especially important to protect those most at risk for severe illness, including those over 65 and people with weakened immune systems.

### The good news!

There are now fewer hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID19 thanks to population immunity and effective protective tools like vaccines and treatments. Weekly hospital admissions for COVID-19 in the US have decreased by more than 75% and deaths by more than 90% compared to January 2022, the peak of the initial Omicron wave. More than 98% of the U.S. population now has some degree of protective immunity against COVID-19 from vaccination, prior infection, or both.

### What can you do?

- **Stay up to date with vaccinations** to protect against serious illness, hospitalization, and death. This includes flu, COVID-19, and RSV if eligible.
- **Practicing good hygiene** by covering coughs and sneezes, washing or sanitizing hands often, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces. You know this!
- **Taking steps for cleaner air**, such as bringing in more fresh outside air, purifying indoor air, or gathering outdoors.

Mass. Department of Public Health has not offered its updated guidance, but local officials anticipate that MDPH will align with the CDC's new respiratory illness guidance. Schools, day care programs and congregate living facilities may receive their own specific guidance but for now, the news is good, and we are moving in the right direction!

# Carlisle Memory Café

## JOIN US!

Benfield Farms Apartments, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Community Room  
575 South Street, Carlisle

The last Wednesday of every month

11:00am—12:00pm



### Upcoming Dates:

March 27th, 2024

April 24th, 2024

May 29th, 2024

This event is meant for individuals living with memory changes and their loved ones, to come relax and socialize with us in a welcoming environment.

This event is free of charge and open to all. Each month will feature different activities, entertainment and refreshments.

For questions and to RSVP, **please contact Melissa Roman**, Social Services Manager: 978-759-7621 or [mroman@carlislema.gov](mailto:mroman@carlislema.gov)



C · A · R · L · I · S · L · E

*Council on Aging  
and Human Services*

# From the Council on Aging and Human Services

COAHS Trip to the Worcester Art Museum



The Council on Aging and Human Services (COAHS) visited the Worcester Art Museum in March to see an exhibition of Faith Ringgold: Freedom to Say What I Please. On April 27, COAHS will visit the Addition Art Gallery for an art workshop. See our website for more information.



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

