



MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

Town of Carlisle

NOVEMBER 2024

Subscribe to the Town Website's News Flashes to receive updates about the next edition!

Congratulations Kent Smack & Jeff Perkins!



Congratulations to Kent Smack (FF/EMT) and Jeff Perkins (FF/EMT) who graduated from the Mass Firefighting Academy earning national Firefighter I/II certification. They completed 240 hours of training on nights and weekends - and in spite of this rigorous schedule, both Smack and Perkins continued to join the fire department's regular trainings and answer medical/fire calls as well.

We are all proud of their major accomplishment and grateful for their commitment to Carlisle!

Congrats Sandra Fauvel!

Sandra Fauvel successfully completed and graduated from the 58th Public Safety Communications Academy and has now begun her field training in Carlisle!



carlislema.gov

From the Police Department

Happy Veterans Day!

Officer Dean Barbera: US Army

Traffic Officer/Retired Officer Tom Whelan: US Navy

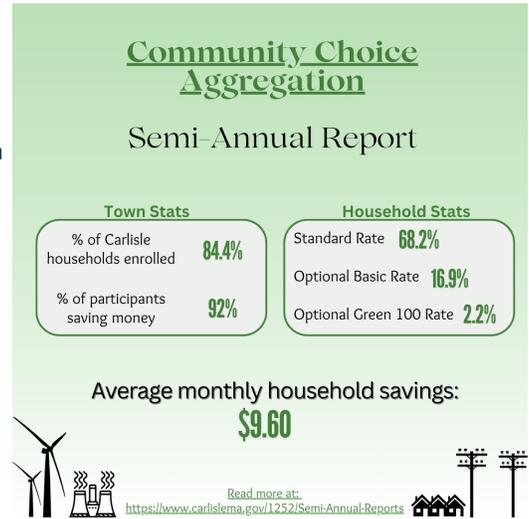
Chief Andrew Amendola: US Army

Officer Bill Burgess: US Airforce



Community Choice Aggregation Semi-Annual Report

The first semi-annual report on the Community Choice Aggregation program is now available on the town website. Residents can find data on Carlisle’s participation, how much households have saved, and what options exist for sourcing green energy. Questions can be directed to Sarah Wasserman, Land Use and Sustainability Coordinator: swasserman@carlislema.gov. (Please note: future savings are not guaranteed). [Read more here!](#)



Annual Trunk or Treat at CPS



Several Town Staff members joined the Carlisle PTO and residents for the Annual Trunk or Treat event at CPS this past October.

Recreation Director Holly Mansfield, Children’s Librarian Jenn Buliszak, CPS Superintendent Jim O’Shea, and Town Administrator Ryan McLane were honored to judge the amazing displays and costumes built by creative Carlisle residents. It was a fun and energetic beginning to the Fall season.

The winning trunks were:

- 1) Camp Carlisle Troop 135
- 2) Humpty Dumpty
- 3) American Gothic
- 4) Care Bears

And best duo to: Creep Carnival

The winning costumes were:

- Best: ET
- Most Original: No Face
- Scariest: Witch Queen Cat
- Funniest: Giant Squid
- Duo: Calvin and Hobbes

Central Burying Ground Restoration Update

Phase One of the Central Burying Ground Restoration project is now complete. Krissy O'Shea of the Historical Commission oversaw the removal of trees and limbs endangering the historic markers and graves inside the CBG. The next phase includes restoring more than 60 gravestones and repairing the Litchfield Seat. Funding for this project came from Community Preservation Act funds approved at the 2024 Annual Town Meeting.



Do You Have an Energy Storage System (ESS) or Battery Backup?

The Carlisle Building Department, in collaboration with the Carlisle Fire Department, is compiling a database of all Energy Storage Systems (ESS), also known as battery backups, in the town.

This information will be used by the Fire Department to enhance safety awareness for first responders in the event of an emergency.

If you have an ESS, please complete the survey at the following <https://forms.gle/KS6ogGWXxgwJV2Qj7> or email your address and contact information to building@carlislema.gov.



Post-Thanksgiving Walk November 29

The public is invited to join the Carlisle Trails Committee for a post-Thanksgiving walk. Here's your chance to work off some of that turkey and stuffing. Starting at Malcolm Meadows, the walk will cover about 3.5 miles on the Two Rod Road, Davis Corridor and Woodhaven Farm trails, taking approximately 2.5 hours. A shorter option will be available if there is interest. The walk departs from the Malcolm Meadows parking lot on Stearns Street at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, November 29. As always, there will be refreshments at the end. Heavy rain cancels the trip. For more information, contact the Carlisle Trails Committee at carlisletrails@comcast.net.

From the Trails Committee

The Trails Committee has been busy this fall! Eight volunteers installed a drainage swale north of the 'turnpike' installed on the Two Rod Road trail reported on last month.



We then proceeded to replace an aging boardwalk on the Elliott Trail with a brand new structure with the help of another eight volunteers.



Lastly, 3 new benches have been installed on trails around town: one on Towle Field as you walk out to the main field from the parking lot; a second on the Tupelo Trail in the Rangeway Trail system; and a last one at the western end of the Fox Hill Trail.



Backyard Compost Bins for Sale

submitted by Dan Scholten, member of the Carlisle Transfer Station Action Committee (TSAC)

The Transfer Station Action Committee (TSAC) has arranged for Carlisle to sell backyard compost bins to town residents on an ongoing basis. The retail cost is \$65, but the town is currently subsidizing the bins so that the cost to residents is only \$35. This subsidy, while it lasts, is paid for by grants earned through the MA Recycling Dividends Program (RDP). Backyard composting is the easiest and most cost-effective way to dispose of food waste, reducing air pollution while creating rich organic compost for your garden.

Two models of bins are available: the rigid plastic Earth Machine (holding 10 cubic feet, or about 80 gallons) and the flexible plastic New Age Composter (holding 24 cubic feet, or about 180 gallons). Orders are currently being accepted. Payment is by check or money order to "Town of Carlisle" at the Town Hall (Executive Assistant - 2nd floor). Bins can then be picked up at the Transfer Station. For more information on compost bin sales, descriptions of the bins, and for a link to an order form, see www.carlislema.gov/1166/Compost-Source-Reduction.

Earth Machine



New Age Composter



From beyond Carlisle!

Judy Asarkof as a Carlisle resident gaining environmental wisdom traveling to remote Indonesian waters!



*Clockwise from top left:
Anemone fish saying hi,
Bangka, Indonesia;
Cuttlefish laying eggs,
Manado, Indonesia area;
Fire Urchins, Lembeh,
Indonesia; Juvenile Batfish,
Bangka, Indonesia;
Undersea Garden with soft
corals, Triton Bay,
Indonesia*

From the Town Administrator

Happy Veterans Day to those residents in Carlisle who served in the United States Armed Forces. Officially recognized as a federal holiday in 1938, Veterans Day is celebrated on the 11th day of the 11th month of the year, an homage to its origins as World War I's Armistice Day.

More than 270 veterans call Carlisle home, just a little more than 5 percent of the total population. Most recently, the Town honored its 20 residents who served during the American Revolution. This ceremony, led by Scott Evans and the active Carlisle [Veteran and Celebrations Committee](#), marked the beginning of the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord, an important world event that saw incredible Carlisle participation. Residents can expect to see much more of this 2025 anniversary in the months to come.

Carlisle military participation continued after the birth of the nation with residents serving in every conflict from that era forth. The Honor Roll on the Town Common lists 313 names from 5 service periods. Residents and loved ones seeking to place their veteran's name on this beautiful memorial should contact the [Veterans and Celebrations Committee](#).

And while Memorial Day is the holiday that honors our war dead, Veterans Day is a celebration of service, a day where we recommit to helping veterans and their families, especially if the veteran is suffering due to their wartime service. Karen Tyler (US Army), our dedicated and professional Veteran Director is ready to assist any Carlisle veteran with a benefit question or need. She can be reached at kyler@lexingtonma.gov.

Finally, I would like to thank our Carlisle employees who continue to use the skills and experience they learned in the military to help residents with continued public service.

James Hall, DPW Director, US Army
Matthew Herweck, Firefighter, USMC
Steven Frey, Firefighter, US Air Force
Andrew Amendola, Police Chief, US Army
Dean Barbera, Police Officer, US Army
Bill Burgess, Police Officer, US Air Force
Tom Whelan, Traffic Officer, US Navy
Karen Tyler, Veteran Services Director, US Army



From the School Committee

November 5, 2024

Dear Carlisle Community,

November has arrived and along with the falling leaves we have had a surprisingly warm autumn. It is looking to be another exciting month at Carlisle Public Schools. Among the many events and activities coming up in November we have an extended Veterans' Day weekend and of course Thanksgiving break at the end of the month.

Students brought their smiles to school on Tuesday, November 5th for School Picture Day. Individual and class photos were taken that day. The Carlisle PTO is hosting two in-school student assemblies called Understanding Our Differences on Monday, November 18th, one for our middle school students and one for our elementary school students. The program will focus on understanding differences in general as well as learning differences. Following the introduction, a graduate student who is an author and speaker will share details on their journey with a Dyslexia diagnosis. We are also looking forward to celebrating our student's musical talents at the fall choir and band concert to be held in the auditorium on Wednesday, November 20th.

On the operational side of the school, fall is the season for town-wide budget preparation, and we have been hard at work developing the initial FY26 budget proposal which we are hoping to share at the November 13th School Committee meeting. The Public Budget Hearing for the FY26 district budget is scheduled for the December 11th School Committee meeting. We invite you to join us at these upcoming meetings to learn more about the school district budget.

The month of November contains two celebratory events which many are looking forward to; Veteran's Day on November 11th and Thanksgiving Day on November 23rd. This year the district has an extended long weekend with an early release day on Friday, November 8th for staff professional development and no school on Monday, November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day as we honor those who have served in the military past and present. For the Thanksgiving break there will be an early release on Wednesday, November 27th and school will be closed on Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th.

Wishing you all a joyous month and a Happy Thanksgiving!

Warm regards,

Sharon Whitt

Carlisle School Committee Chair

Jim O'Shea

Superintendent of Schools

From the DPW Director

Howdy Folks,

I would like to address the hazardous waste collection issue we experienced this past October. First, I want to apologize for the long delays that took place. This was a result of the overwhelming response by the community and the sheer volume of waste brought in by each vehicle. Secondly, we learned that collecting during rush hour and after daylight savings caused additional stress on the process (it was dark by the time the event closed).

Moving forward we plan to use these lessons learned to improve hazardous waste day and make it a better experience for residents.

As always, thank you for your patience and support!

Jim

**IMPORTANT
NOTICE**

CHANGES COMING TO TAX BILL MAILINGS

The Town of Carlisle will be changing the mailing of tax bills from four times per year to two times per year. When Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills are mailed on January 1st – the bill will contain two coupons, the bottom coupon will be for the payment due on February 1st, and the middle coupon for the payment due on May 1st.

There will be no mailing in April for the payment due on May 1st.

Bills will be mailed again on July 1st, with two coupons, one for the payment due on August 1st, and a second coupon for the payment due on November 1st.

There will be no mailing in October for the payment due on November 1st.

If you would like to pay two quarters when you receive the bill, please include both coupons when mailing or paying in person.

If you use our Unipay system, you can sign up under your account to receive an email and/or text reminder when the next quarter bill is due.

From the Council on Aging and Human Services



COAHS celebrated Veterans Day with the Salute to Veterans Breakfast. The veterans had time to enjoy their breakfast and socialize. Karen Tyler, the Veteran's Agent for Carlisle and Ryan McLane, Town Administrator, both addressed the gathering.

The COAHS visited the Alpaca Farm in Harvard, MA on November 8. Participants learned about the alpacas and were able to pat them.



The Lowell Regional Transit Authority

Announces

A Temporary Fare Free Pilot Program Commencing

December 1, 2024

And Continues Through September 30, 2025
(Fares may resume 10/1/2025 Subject to State Funding)



The LRTA wants to Thank Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, as well as the Massachusetts State Legislature for funding this Fare Free Transportation Pilot Program that will greatly benefit our communities.

 **Lowell Regional Transit Authority**
LRTA.com

If you enjoy baking cookies for the holidays, you won't want to miss our upcoming Holiday Cookie Swap on Saturday, December 6. This event takes place in the Clark Room at Town Hall. Call COAHS at 978-759-7633 or email coahs@carlislema.gov to register.

As part of the LRTA free fare program, COAHS will offer free fares for all local area rides in their vans from December 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025, making it a great time to try out our transportation program.

Books & Brews

FUNDRAISER & TRIVIA NIGHT TO SUPPORT THE
GLEASON PUBLIC LIBRARY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



SCAN FOR
TICKETS AND
INFORMATION



21+. BEER, WINE, &
OPTIONAL TRIVIA
PARTICIPATION INCLUDED
IN TICKET PRICE.

PROFESSIONAL TRIVIA HOSTED BY GEEKS WHO DRINK.

NOVEMBER 16, 2024 • 6:30-9:30PM

Do you have your team together? No worries, there's still time or you can form a trivia team when you get there! Sure to be a night filled with good cheer and plenty of beer! (Wine and soft drinks are also an option:-). All while supporting our wonderful Gleason Library!

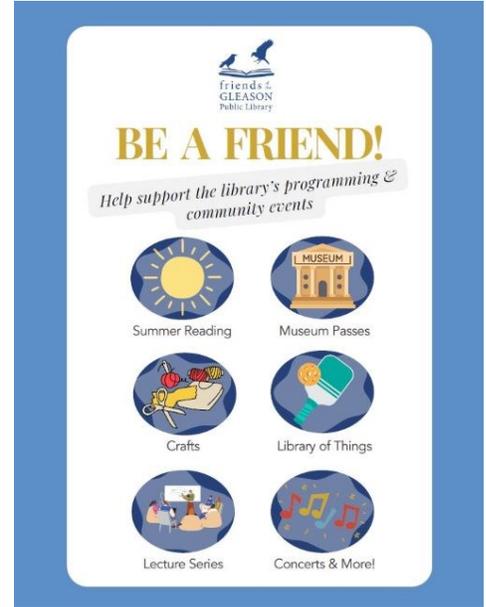
From the Gleason Public Library

Supporting the Gleason

While our town budget funds the Library's basic operations, two nonprofits provide support for some of the Library's most popular services:

Carlisle residents have just received the annual fundraising mailer from the Friends of Gleason Public Library, a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation made up of volunteers interested in supporting and enhancing the programs, services, and materials available to the community of Carlisle through Gleason Public Library. Donations to the Friends are essential to funding activities such as: museum passes, the Summer Reading Program, the Great Pumpkin Spectacle (congratulations to this year's winners!), speakers for adults, arts and crafts for all ages, and other programs, as well as some Library of Things items.

The Gleason Public Library Endowment Fund, a 501(c)(3) charitable trust, manages funds given directly to the Library for large and long term dollar expenditures, items, and programs beyond the means and scope of the Friends of the Gleason Public Library. Some examples of projects supported by the Endowment are the study room, lawn marquee, and staff professional development. The Endowment is currently engaged in a capital campaign for an interior renovation to meet the demands of today's and tomorrow's users.



Donations to both organizations are tax-deductible and help make the Gleason the amazing community resource that it is. If you are interested in supporting the Gleason with your year-end charitable giving, visit gleasonlibrary.org/giving for more information on donating to the Friends and the Endowment. Thank you to everyone who has already donated!

Upcoming Special Events at the Gleason

Visit gleasonlibrary.org/events for more information on all programs and to register.

- Friday 11/22, 2:45 p.m. Middle School Make & Take: Oreo Turkeys (grades 5-8; drop-in)
- Tuesday 11/26, 10:30 a.m. VIRTUAL TALK: Living with Wild Turkeys in Massachusetts
- Wednesday 11/27, 7 p.m. VIRTUAL: Native Nations & The Beginning of the United States
- Monday 12/16, 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Gingerbread House Workshops (registration opens 11/18)
- Tuesday 12/17, 7 p.m. Across Namibia – A Natural History Journey
- Wednesday 12/18, 4 p.m. Felted Gnome Hoop with Pop Up Art School (grades 5-8)
- Wednesday 12/18, 6:30 p.m. Felted Gnome Craft with Pop Up Art School (ages 18+)
- Thursday 12/19, 6 p.m. Winter Holiday Sing-Along with Steve Blunt



NEW MUSIC

Find our music CD collection around the corner from the copier



Library Holiday Hours

The Gleason will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27th and remain closed on Thanksgiving and Black Friday. We will open on Saturday, November 30th, for our regular Saturday hours of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MBTA COMMUNITIES HOUSING



The Planning Board and MBTA Communities Subcommittee are excited to chat with all residents about a creative strategy for Carlisle to comply with the MBTA Communities housing mandate.



WHEN?

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16TH
4-7PM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH
9AM-12PM

OPEN HOUSE



WHERE?

83 SCHOOL ST
SCHOOL CAFETERIA

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED
DROP IN AND CHAT WITH US!

For more information scan here

<https://www.carlislema.gov/1195/MBTA-Communities>

CPS Halloween Parade 2024

Fun was had this year at the parade, where staff dressed as characters from Inside Out! (Photos courtesy of Chris Winders)



Quey Winders (Racer Car Driver), was the 2024 Grand Marshall of the CPS Halloween Parade, accompanied by Liam Redmond (Pikachu) and Kai Radovan (Greninja). Escorted by Dr Sidell (Fear), Jenny Wright (Sadness), and Trisha Adams (Joy)

David Zuckerman, 6th Grade Teacher (Anger)



FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

WINTER WONDERLAND



PARTY



DECEMBER 6TH

7:00-9:30 PM

CARLISLE SCHOOL GYM



MUSIC ❄️ **FOOD** ❄️ **SPORTS**



We will be collecting pairs of new socks to be
donated to Concord Community Closet.



Cultural Council News Nov. 2024



Carlisle Open Studios Saturday November 16



The 2nd and final **Carlisle Open Studios** for 2024 takes place Saturday, Nov. 16 from 11 AM to 4 PM.

More than 20 artisans will be showing and selling their works at multiple locations in town. See our [web page](#) for a link to a downloadable map and information.

Carlisle Open Studios is a new initiative by the Carlisle Cultural Council to create opportunities for the many artists and artisans that live in town to exhibit and sell their work locally. The enthusiasm from artists and residents for this event has been phenomenal.

If you are a Carlisle-based artist or artisan and want your studio to be considered for future dates, please email Openstudios.CarlisleMA@gmail.com with **Open Studio** in the title. Please provide your studio address, description of your art, photo of one of your products, website link, and if your studio/space is mobility accessible.



A small sample: L to R: Sonal Shah- ceramics; Doug Hansel- pottery; Subito Farm Designs- textile products and DIY

Calling all Artists, Craftspeople and Creatives

Join our list of Carlisle-based artists, craftspeople, and other creatives (photographers, filmmakers, authors, etc.) as we work to serve as a creative hub, ensure better networking, and create more events to support the creative community in Carlisle.

Email culturalcouncil@carlislema.gov with **Community Artist List** in the subject; in the message, provide your name, your specialty, and a link to your website if you have one.

Don't miss a beat!

Follow us and stay informed about events like the **Carlisle Music Festival** and **Carlisle Open Studios**, plus many events produced by our cultural grant recipients/partners.

www.instagram.com/carlisle_cultural_council

www.facebook.com/CarlisleCulturalCouncil

Reducing Food Waste This Thanksgiving: A Gift to Your Wallet and Our Community

As Carlisle families prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, it's the perfect time to think about reducing food waste in our kitchens. According to Axios Boston ¹, Massachusetts let 1.6 million tons of food go to waste in 2022 — most of it from residential households – making up 24% of municipal landfill and costing \$759/person on average.

This holiday season, consider these simple steps to reduce waste while still enjoying abundant celebrations:

Before the Feast:

- Take inventory of your pantry before heading to your preferred grocery store
- Plan portions realistically - the "guest-imator" tool at savethefood.com² helps estimate how much to cook
- Shop with a detailed list to avoid overbuying perishables
- Clear space in your refrigerator and freezer for leftovers

During Thanksgiving Week:

- Store foods properly in reusable containers to maintain freshness
- Use clear reusable containers so nothing gets forgotten
- Consider sending guests home with reusable containers of leftovers
- Transform extras creatively (turkey soup, sandwich fixings, casseroles)

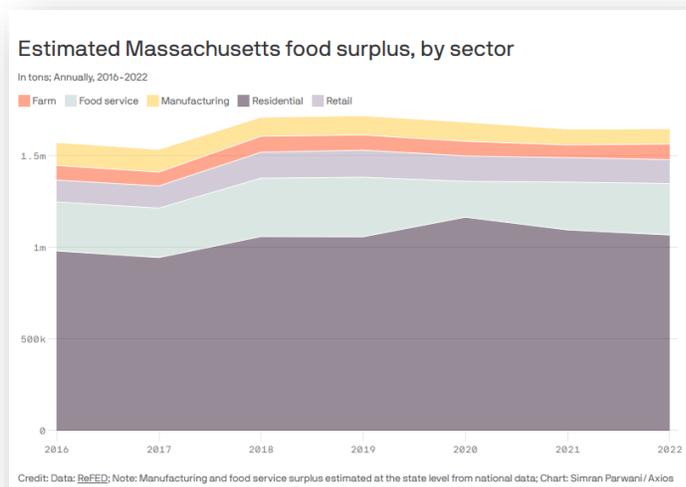
Looking Beyond the Holiday: Carlisle residents interested in year-round food waste reduction can:

- Set up bear-resistant home composting systems
- Connect with Black Earth Compost's local service <https://blackearthcompost.com/composting-in/carlisle/>. Compost bins are at the transfer station. TSAC also has subsidized bins for sale (the order should be in by December) and is trying to sign people up for curbside pickup. The Chair is Laura Snowdon laura@snowdonparra.com
- Share excess food through neighbors
- Donate to local organizations dedicated to addressing food issues like:
 - Maynard Food Pantry <https://www.maynardfoodpantry.com/> for donating non perishable food, your time, and financial support
 - Gaining Ground in Concord <https://gainingground.org/> to donate your time or financial support

By reducing food waste, we're not just saving money - we're supporting our local farms, reducing methane emissions from landfills, and protecting Carlisle's natural resources for future generations.

Want to learn more? stop by the ESC table at the COAHS Thanksgiving Lunch (Nov 21, 12:00pm, First Religious Society) for more information.

1. [Most Massachusetts food waste comes from homes - Axios Boston](#)
2. [Guestimator - Save The Food](#)



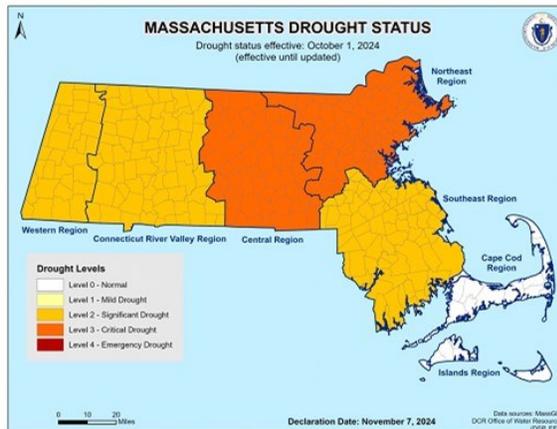
MASSACHUSETTS DROUGHT ALERT

November 8, 2024



DROUGHT STATUS

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) has declared a **Level 3 – Critical Drought** in the Central and Northeast Regions, and a **Level 2 – Significant Drought** in the Western, Connecticut River Valley, and Southeast Regions. The Cape Cod and Islands Regions remain at a **Level 0 – Normal Conditions**.



CURRENT CONDITIONS

Due to unprecedented low rainfall over the last two months, with many locations recording their lowest rainfall ever, the Commonwealth is experiencing significant drought conditions. Wildfires are occurring across the state (208 fires in October and 115 fires in November so far). Smoke effects from extended drought fires have impacted local communities. Since August, all regions, except Cape and Islands, have seen a rainfall deficit of 7 to 9 inches. Streamflow has dropped significantly, resulting in dry brooks and streambeds, increased ponding, exposed beaches and sediments, and limited fish passage. Groundwater levels are declining in all regions.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs:
Rebecca L. Tepper

Director of MEMA:
Dawn Brantley



For Information on **Water Conservation**
click [here!](#)

Private Well owners
click [here!](#)

ALL DROUGHT REGIONS

Residents, Facilities & Businesses

- Minimize overall water use
- Run dishwashers & washing machines only at full capacity
- Fix leaks immediately
- Take shorter showers
- **Ban on open flame & charcoal fires at state parks**

Cities & Towns

- Use [outreach materials](#) to inform users about drought/water conservation tips and
- Establish a year-round water conservation program
- Enforce water use restrictions with stringent penalties
- Prepare to activate emergency inter-connections with other water suppliers
- Implement drought surcharge/seasonal water rates
- Establish/enhance water use reduction targets
- Conduct targeted outreach to top water users
- Establish a leak detection program
- Develop/refine local drought management plan for water supply
- Prohibit washing of hard surfaces, vehicles, boats

Learn more at www.mass.gov/ma-drought-management



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MASSACHUSETTS

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INSTAGRAM

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X

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and Spotify!

