



MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

Town of Carlisle

FEBRUARY 2025

Honoring SGT Mack: A Legacy of Service

Chief Andrew Amendola

Our Department extends our heartfelt congratulations to SGT Mack on his retirement. We are deeply grateful for his years of dedicated service to Carlisle, which have made a lasting impact. His professionalism and commitment have not gone unnoticed.

We hope that as he embarks on retirement, SGT Mack proudly reflects on the countless lives he has touched and the significant difference he has made. We wish SGT Mack nothing but happiness, health, and fulfillment.



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From the Board of Assessors

Taxpayer's Guide to Assessment Booklet

The Assessor's Department will be publishing a taxpayer's guide to assessment booklet on the town website. The booklet is intended to provide a layman's reference on the fundamentals of property assessment under Massachusetts law. The department prepared the booklet to provide improved transparency on the assessment process, which was one of a number of recommendations that had been agreed upon by the Deck House Advisory Board. The board was chaired by town administrator, Ryan McLane, and included rotating Assessor Board members, principal assessor Brian MacDonald, and Deck House homeowners.

Homeowners stated that the assessment process or the criteria used in assessment were not clearly understood. Additionally, members of the community felt that home style definitions were needed, since style classification had become a highly pertinent matter with the dramatic increase in the value of deck houses after Covid as urban residents fled the city in search of more bucolic surroundings. Carlisle and its deck houses, which had been out of market favor for years, were suddenly in high demand.

It became evident that homeowners also did not understand what latitude assessors actually had under Massachusetts law. The booklet is intended as a first step toward better community outreach and improving transparency. The assessors board plans to follow up with a public seminar later in the year that will take the public through assessment fundamentals, the abatement process, and answer frequently asked questions they hear from homeowners.

Open position on the BOA

The Board of Assessors has an opening to fill based on the pending resignation of Karen Yeyinmen. Karen has served nearly 3 years and needed to step down due to growing professional commitments. "Karen has left the board and the assessors department in a far better place than when she assumed her office in 2022," said board chair Ken Mostello. "She was instrumental in the recruiting and vetting process to fill the assistant assessor's position, and worked with me tirelessly through deliberations on an unprecedented 92 abatement applications early in her term. I will miss her, and I will also say the board and the town are losing a smart, talented and tireless professional volunteer," added Mostello.

From the Carlisle Garden Club

Get ready for family gardening with Spring on the Wing!

Mark your calendar for the Carlisle Garden Club's Spring on the Wing seed giveaway and family-friendly gardening and environmental event to take place on March 29 from 3 to 5 p.m. followed by a community pot luck at 5:30. And while calendars are out, note the Garden Club's Country Gardens Tour will take place June 13 and 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Watch for more details at carlislegardenclub.org.

Recreation Commission: Investing in Our Community's Well-Being

The Carlisle Recreation Commission continues to bring exciting opportunities and improvements to our town, enhancing spaces and programs that serve residents of all ages. Here are some recent highlights of our work:

Enhancing Community Spaces

- **Banta Davis Track Renovation:** The Commission is applying for Community Preservation Committee (CPC) funding to renovate the track, ensuring it remains a safe and high-quality resource for fitness and recreation.
- **Diment Park Revitalization:** A dedicated subcommittee is working on plans to reimagine Diment Park, exploring designs that will provide an inviting space for families and community gatherings.
- **Spalding Field Restoration:** In collaboration with the Historical Society, efforts are underway to preserve and restore this historic baseball field, bringing new life to a treasured town landmark.

New Amenities & Improvements

- **Eagle Scout Projects:** Local Scouts are making a difference! Recent initiatives include constructing a new informational sign at Banta Davis Field and building 10 new benches for public seating across our parks.
- **Dog Park Opening Soon:** While construction is complete, the official opening of the Dog Park will take place in the spring after final landscaping and seeding are finished. New signage will ensure a welcoming and well-managed experience for all visitors.
- **Brick Building Upgrades:** A new HVAC system is in the works to make the Brick Building a more functional year-round space for events and programming. The Commission is also finalizing policies to allow for rentals to residents.

Popular Programs & Events

- **Summer Fun 2025 Registration:** Demand for our Summer Fun program continues to grow! Registration opened in January and filled quickly. The Commission is exploring ways to accommodate more families in future seasons.
- **Expanded Accessibility Initiatives:** Working with the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC), we are enhancing inclusion efforts in recreational programming to better serve all children in the community.

Looking Ahead

With ongoing budget planning and CPC grant applications in progress, the Recreation Commission remains committed to strengthening Carlisle's recreational resources. If you are interested in getting involved or learning more about our initiatives, we encourage you to attend our meetings or reach out to us directly.

We're excited about the future of recreation in Carlisle and look forward to continuing to serve our community!

From the Environmental Sustainability Committee

Come find out how YOU can create beautiful, low-maintenance gardens that support pollinators and other beneficial wildlife!



When: Saturday, March 8 at 2:00pm

Where: Clark Room, Carlisle Town Hall - 66 Westford Street

Or by zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87813790240?pwd=JZeg8tC4Vyo2sDIh2xZcS695QBh6ND.1>

What: The Environmental Sustainability Committee is pleased to host Heidi Dollard, Co- Chair of the Steering Committee of the Massachusetts Pollinator Network for her presentation:

Gardening for Biodiversity with Native Plants

The “little things that run the world” are in big trouble: Insect populations are plummeting, and many species are headed for extinction. This spells disaster for our food supply, our ecology, and indeed, life on earth. The good news is that we can turn this around, starting in our own yards. By planting native plants, and other simple steps, we can restore vital insect populations. Come learn what you can do, and be inspired!

Refreshments will be served.

See you there!



From the Gleason Public Library

Upcoming Library Events - registration required at gleasonlibrary.org/events for all programs:

- **Drive-in Movie Night at the Gleason (ages 5-10)**, Friday, February 21st, 5 p.m.
- **American Stories: Race Amity and The Other Tradition**, Tuesday, February 25th, 6:45 p.m.
- **Is Cancer still a death sentence?**, Wednesday, February 26th, 1:30 p.m.
- **Book Discussion: Revolutionary Mothers**, Friday, February 28th, 1:30 p.m.
- **Read to Rudy the Dog (ages 5-10)**, Friday, February 28th
- **Wire Tree Art Class for Adults**, Wednesday, March 5th, 6 p.m.
- **A Musical Morning with Mara and Motoko (Ages 0-5)**, Saturday, March 1st, 11 a.m.



Winter Reading Challenge

Win an arctic stuffy or a cell phone powerbank in the Gleason Library's 2025 Winter Reading Challenge for all ages, presented with the support of the Friends of Gleason Public Library! This year, the challenge is to read 7 books that fit different challenges. The deadline is Friday, February 28th, at 5 p.m. To participate, stop by the Gleason to pick up a copy of your foldable challenge booklet, or [visit gleasonlibrary.org](http://gleasonlibrary.org) for a printable PDF.

Library Staff Updates

Congratulations to Sinead Sinnott on her promotion to Head of Circulation at the Gleason! Sinead has worked in the Gleason's circulation and children's departments since 2022. With a background in visual arts, Sinead also creates many of the library's eye-catching displays and graphics, and she was selected as one of the featured artists in the current [Art at the Gleason](#) exhibit.

Due to the promotion, the Gleason will be posting a part-time library assistant opening in the coming weeks - keep an eye out for our ad in the Mosquito or check back on the [Library employment page](#).

NEW MUSIC

Find our music CD collection around the corner from the copier

HONEY FROM A WINTER STONE AMBROSE AKINMUSIRE	HEARD NOISES MATT BEBBY	LIVE AT FILLMORE EAST, 1969 CROSBY, STILLS, NASH & YOUNG	THE BASQUATS! THE COMPLETE ATLANTIC STUDIO RECORDINGS THE BASQUATS!	HIGH ABOVE HARLESDEN 1978-2023 CREATION REBEL	IT'S ONLY A LOVE SONG COLMAN
THE FRENCH ALBUM LORDCHY CHORAL SINFONIA / MICHAEL WALKERON	EARLY DAZE NEIL YOUNG & CRAZY HORSE	MILES IN FRANCE 1963 & 1964 MILES DAVIS QUINTE: THE BOOTLEG SERIES VOL. 8 MILES DAVIS	HOT BUTTERED SINGLES ISAAC HAYES	LOOK UP RINGO STARR	THE PURPLE BIRD BONNIE "PRINCE" BILLY

GLEASON PUBLIC LIBRARY

WINTER READING CHALLENGE 2025

JANUARY 6-FEBRUARY 28

Read to Rudy

DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT

Bring a big cardboard box large enough for your child to sit comfortably in. We'll decorate it and "drive" it to the Hollis Room.

Then we'll watch a movie together on the big screen!

Register online. Please note that this is not drop-off, and caregivers should stay for the entire event.

Friday, February 21 5 PM - 7 PM Children's Room

Ages 5 - 10

BOOK DISCUSSION:

Revolutionary Mothers
by Carol Berkin

Friday, February 28 1:30 pm Hollis Room

Celebrate Carlisle250 with a lively discussion about the women of the Revolution! Books available at Circulation.

From the Tax Collector's Office

2025 MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAX BILLS

2025 Motor Vehicle Excise Tax bills have been mailed for 4,900 vehicles in Carlisle. These bills will be due on Thursday, March 6, 2025. Payments can be sent to our lockbox at the address printed on your bill, online through the Unipay system on the Town of Carlisle's website, dropped off at our secure mailbox at Town Hall, or in person.



If you haven't received a bill, please call the Tax Collector's Office at 978-369-5557.

Facilities: Working hard to clear up after snow storms!



Pictured: Town Facilities Director Stephen Conneaney

From the Carlisle School Committee

Dear Carlisle Families,

We hope your start to the new year went well. We were both pleased and surprised by the fact that we made it through the month of January without a single snow day. Not to disappoint our students, February has brought with it more storms and to date one snow day. Thank you to our Facilities team for their efforts these last few weeks on snow removal and campus preparation, as well as the town DPW for their efforts both around the town and around the school. We are fortunate to have dedicated folks who work hard to ensure we have a safe and accessible campus. We appreciate all their efforts greatly.

We kicked off February with students from the 7th and 8th grade band and choir auditioning for the Junior District Music Festival on February 1st at Bedford High School for the auditions. The district has five students who were accepted. Congratulations to all our musicians who participated.

This month brings the highly anticipated CPS Multicultural Festival. The Festival will be held on February 12th, an early release day. During the school day students will have the opportunity to attend the fair which will include cultural exhibits, a scavenger hunt, and crafts/activities. There will also be an after school potluck lunch for families from 12:30-2:30 PM in the Corey Dining Room with delicious food and activities.



The Community Book Club continues to meet and discuss *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt. Join the discussion on the impact of smartphones and social media on child and teen mental health. The next session is planned for Wednesday, February 12th. For more information visit the PTO website [click here](#).

As a reminder, February break starts on Monday, February 17th with school being closed the entire week. We will welcome students back to school on Monday, February 24th.

Have a fabulous February.

Warm regards,

Sharon Whitt
Carlisle School Committee Chair

Jim O'Shea
Superintendent of Schools

From the DPW Director

Howdy Folks,

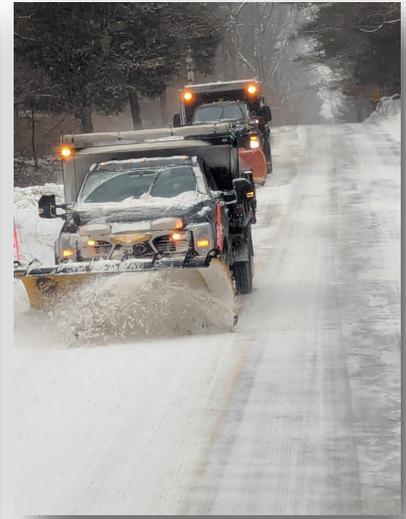
Well, it looks like that pesky Punxsutawney Phil was right for a change! 6 more weeks of potholes, (Err,) I mean winter. We have been hit with a string of snowstorms since his prediction, but thanks to our newly acquired equipment we have had a much easier time dealing with the snow.

As Valentine's Day approaches, and snow keeps flying, I recommend huddling up near the fire with a warm blanket and a nice cup of hot chocolate and your loved ones and we will take care of the snow.

As always, we thank you for your patience and support.

Happy Valentine's Day folks!!!

Jim



American Stories: Race Amity and The Other Tradition

Tuesday, February 25

6:45—8:30 PM

Hollis Room

Gleason Public Library

22 Bedford Road, Carlisle, MA, 01741

Screening of "[American Stories: Race Amity and The Other Tradition](https://gleasonlibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/american-stories-race-amity-and-the-other-tradition)" in honor of Black History Month, in partnership with Carlisle's Race Amity Day. We will start with a quick intro by Janot Mendler-Suarez and a fun, interactive game where we find our connections.

<https://gleasonlibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/american-stories-race-amity-and-the-other-tradition>

Healthy Carlisle

Linda Fantasia, Health Agent

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 virus, also known as Bird Flu, has been making headlines on both the national and local level. Recently, HPAI has become the suspected cause of death among groups of wild and domestic birds in Massachusetts. There is no evidence of infection among dairy cattle in Massachusetts yet. While cases of HPAI are rare in humans, it is still important to take precautions to protect yourself and your pets. The following information is from the January 29, 2025 Press Release titled "State Officials Provide Updated Guidance on Suspected Avian Flu Cases Reported Across Massachusetts." Scan this QR code or visit the Board of Health website for a link to this Press Release:



Report Suspected Cases:

Report Wild Birds: The public should report observations to MassWildlife of sick or deceased birds if 5 or more birds are found at a single location, using this simple form at mass.gov/reportbirds.

Report Domestic Birds: The public should report sick or dead poultry or other domestic birds by calling MDAR's Division of Animal Health at (617) 626-1795 or through mass.gov/reportpoultry.

Humans are rarely infected with avian influenza viruses. Humans that have direct contact with animals infected with HPAI are the most at risk of becoming infected. People with questions about the public health impact of HPAI can visit DPH's Avian Influenza [webpage](#) or call the Division of Epidemiology (available 24/7) at 617-983-6800.

Tips for the Public:

- **Avoid handling birds and other wildlife:** The public should strictly avoid handling wildlife, especially sick or dead birds or other animals.
- **Keep pets safe:** Dogs and other pets should always be leashed and away from wildlife. Cats are highly susceptible to HPAI and may die from an infection. Cat owners in affected areas should keep their pets indoors to prevent exposure to infected wildlife.
- **Hunting:** While eating wild game meat is generally considered safe, licensed hunters can minimize the risk of wildlife diseases by following [best practices](#) when handling and processing game.

Tips for Livestock and Poultry Owners:

Since wild migratory birds are natural carriers for Avian Influenza viruses, including HPAI, preventing wild birds from mixing with or having contact with domestic flocks is essential to disease control and prevention.

- Poultry owners should continue to practice strong biosecurity measures to keep their birds away from wild birds, particularly wild waterfowl, feathers, and droppings.
- Poultry owners with water bodies on their property should take steps to mitigate wild waterfowl from frequenting those areas. Eliminating standing water and preventing domestic birds from having access to ponds, streams, and wetland areas that attract wild waterfowl is critical.
- Avoid unnecessary movement of poultry between locations and be aware of the potential to carry HPAI-contaminated materials onto properties where domestic birds are kept.
- New birds should be completely isolated for at least one month prior to being added to a domestic flock. Birds returning home from fairs or shows should also be isolated from the home flock as if they were new arrivals.
- Limit the number of people that have access to your flock.
- Do not share equipment with other bird owners without thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting between locations.
- For more information about HPAI, please visit MDAR's Avian Influenza [webpage](#).

The Carlisle Poppy Project

2025 marks the 80th Anniversary of the end of World War Two.

Working in collaboration with local journalist Nancy Shoet West, The Carlisle Poppy Project intends to compile an anthology of Carlisle resident family histories of that war. We are looking for stories that have been passed down through families and can include the wartime experiences of women, children, and civilians, as well as those who served. This collection of stories will reflect on the global nature of World War 2, and as Carlisle's population today is international it should cover all parts of the world and reveal the untold stories of this global conflict.

This anthology will also be a reflection on the creation of the USA, as a nation of immigrants.

Did your parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or neighbor tell you about their experiences during the war? Do you remember being a small child at that time, perhaps growing a Victory Garden or taking part in neighborhood air raid drills? We invite residents of all ages to sign up for an interview with Nancy at which they may recount their family stories. Nancy will then draft these accounts and compile them into a collection that will be published later this year. Photographs to embellish the stories are welcome as well.



London Bombing 1943

The interviews will take place at the Gleason Library during February and March, with both daytime and evening time slots available. Please RSPV with the date.

DATES FOR FEBRUARY INTERVIEWS: (more dates will be added later)

Monday 10th February : 12.30pm- 2.30pm

Thursday 13th February: 5pm-7pm

Wednesday 19th February: 10am-noon

Thursday 20th February: 5pm-7pm.

If you are unable to come to the Library please email us to arrange a suitable time and place to chat. Email :

CarlislePoppyProject@gmail.com

Thank you to the Gleason Library for partnering with this project.

Deborah Bentley





UPCOMING CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANTEE EVENTS

Be sure to check organizations' websites and the Mosquito for more information.

HISTORY

- The **Carlisle 250 Committee's** [Colonial Faire](#) will be held at the Town Common and in Union Hall on March 15th as part of the semiquincentennial celebration. Discover colonial period artifacts and craft demonstrations, and experience a variety of reenactments featuring Minutemen and women, with Fife and Drum music.

MUSIC

- On the weekend of March 29 and 30 the [Concord Orchestra](#) will perform American Heritage Concerts at 51 Walden, Concord.

STAGE

- "The Prom School Edition" by the **Open Door Theater of Acton**, an inclusive theater company, at RJ Grey JHS, Acton March 21-30. [Tickets on sale now.](#)

NATURE

- "Twiggy Workshops - Pruning and creating uses for small branches" organized by the [Friends of Center Park](#) on March 15.
- "Spring on a Wing" a community event to promote sustainable gardening, including seed distribution, hosted by the [Carlisle Garden Club](#) at Union Hall on March 29.

SUPPORT OUR GRANT RECIPIENTS!



KEEP THE MUSIC PLAYING —



SUPPORT THE CARLISLE MUSIC FESTIVAL @OLD HOME DAY

Entering its 4th year, the Carlisle Music Festival entertains hundreds of music lovers of all ages, while providing a "big stage" experience for the best of Carlisle's talented musicians across many genres. This year's dates are June 21-22 – Old Home Day weekend. Volunteers always welcome!

Your gift to **The Carlisle Cultural Council Fund** will help us produce this year's Festival. Make a secure online tax-deductible donation by credit card. Scan the QR code or visit carlisleculturalcouncilfund.org. Rather donate with a check? See instructions [here](#). Thank you!



CULTURAL COUNCIL FEATURED ON TOWN PODCAST

Check out the latest Town Podcast featuring Cultural Council Co-Chairs Debbie Bentley and Mark Levitan chatting with Ryan McLane about the work of the Council. It was tremendous fun to record and a great way for the town to broadcast all the activities that are going on in town.

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/show/4js1yqq6Pwgd33r19XCfYP?si=23f1069786334a3e>

Apple: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-carlisle-connection/id1779793756>

COAHS Valentine's Lunch 2025

Residents enjoyed a lovely lunch followed by bingo at St. Irene's this week!



Corey Auditorium

Carlisle updated the lighting equipment in the Corey Auditorium with high-efficiency fixtures, resulting in:



Receiving \$14,000 from Eversource in efficiency rebates



Saving over \$7,000 per year in electric bills

Reducing our carbon emissions by 7 tons each year, equivalent to 6.5 acres of forest!

Source: Eversource, Environmental Protection Agency

Wilkins Building

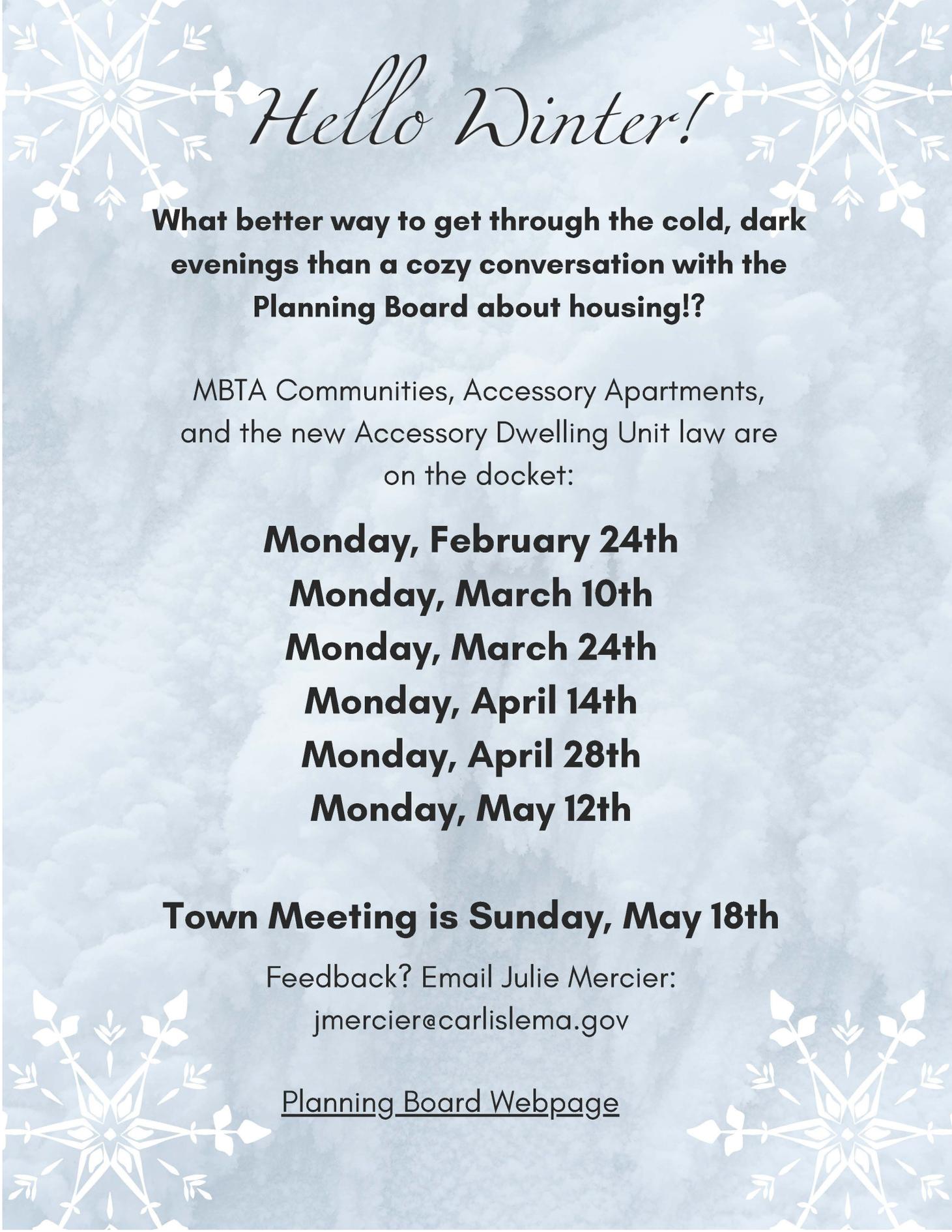
A new heat pump system was installed at the Wilkins Building in late 2023.

Carlisle received a rebate from National Grid for **\$117,310**, cutting the total project cost in half!



Energy use in the Wilkins Building will decrease by the equivalent of three households each year!

Source: EPA Equivalencies Calculator



Hello Winter!

What better way to get through the cold, dark evenings than a cozy conversation with the Planning Board about housing!?

MBTA Communities, Accessory Apartments, and the new Accessory Dwelling Unit law are on the docket:

Monday, February 24th

Monday, March 10th

Monday, March 24th

Monday, April 14th

Monday, April 28th

Monday, May 12th

Town Meeting is Sunday, May 18th

Feedback? Email Julie Mercier:

jmercier@carlislema.gov

[Planning Board Webpage](#)

CLIMATE RESILIENCE OFFICE HOURS



Chat with Carlisle's Town Planner and Sustainability Coordinator about planning for Carlisle's climate resilient future!

Where: Carlisle Town Hall, 66 Westford Street, Carlisle, MA 01741

When: 1st Tuesday of the Month, 11am - 1pm

For information on language services, or other questions, contact:

jmercier@carlislema.gov



 **Town of Carlisle**
MASSACHUSETTS

CAMBIO CLIMATICO HORARIOS DE CONSULTA



¡Charla con el Planificador Municipal y Coordinador de Sostenibilidad de Carlisle para asegurar un futuro resiliente al clima en Carlisle!

Dónde: Carlisle Town Hall, 66 Westford Street, Carlisle, MA 01741

Cuándo: Primer Martes del Mes, de 11am a 1pm

Para obtener información sobre servicios lingüísticos u otras consultas, contáctanos:

jmercier@carlislema.gov



 **Town of Carlisle**
MASSACHUSETTS

气候韧性 办公时间



同本镇（Carlisle）的计划及可持续发展协调员见面，探讨如何积极为本镇气候韧性的未来未雨绸缪！

地点：Carlisle 镇政府
66 Westford Street, Carlisle, MA 01741

时间：每月第一个周二上午11点到下午1点

如需语言服务或者您有其它问题，敬请电邮：

jmercier@carlislema.gov



 **Town of Carlisle**
MASSACHUSETTS

आबोहवा लचीलापन कार्यालय घंटे



बात करें कार्लिस्ले के शहर योजनाकर्ता और स्थिरता समन्वयक के साथ कार्लिस्ले के अबोहवा लचीलापन भविष्य की योजना के बारे में!

कहां: कार्लिस्ले टाउन हॉल, 66 Westford Street, Carlisle, MA 01741

कब: महीने का पहला मंगलवार, सुबह ११ बजे से दोपहर १ बजे तक

भाषा सेवाओं पर जानकारी के लिए, या अन्य प्रश्न, संपर्क करें:

jmercier@carlislema.gov



 **Town of Carlisle**
MASSACHUSETTS

Welcome to Town Meeting Season!

Ryan McLane, Town Administrator

Town Meeting is a proud New England tradition that empowers residents with a direct voice in shaping local government. Few things are more important than fostering an informed, engaged community. Over the next few months, Carlisle residents will have access to a wealth of resources to help guide their Town Meeting decisions.

The Town Meeting Study Committee met throughout the winter to explore ways to boost participation. As a result, this year's Town Meeting is scheduled for *Sunday, May 18*. Under the committee's direction, Town staff have developed a comprehensive communication plan to ensure voters stay well-informed.

The Town website will soon feature detailed information about the Town Meeting warrants, and we're creating easy-access resources like podcasts and videos to keep residents up to date. Additionally, every organization proposing a Town Meeting warrant article is already working on communication plans to share their goals and gain your support.

To stay informed, we encourage you to:

- Follow us on social media.
- Subscribe to the Carlisle Connection Podcast.
- Visit our website regularly for the latest updates on Town Meeting.

Thank you for your engagement, and we look forward to seeing you at Town Meeting!

See the Transformation: New LED Lighting at Corey Auditorium!

Corey Auditorium just got a major lighting upgrade, making performances and events better than ever! Thanks to the town's support and a grant from Eversource's Mass Save program, the outdated system has been replaced with energy-efficient LED theatrical lighting.

Want to see the difference? Check out this video by Minuteman Media capturing the impact of this upgrade!

Watch now: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNR1bdUg7sA>





Town of **Carlisle**
MASSACHUSETTS

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