



MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

Town of Carlisle

MAY 2025

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on the Town
website to
stay updated
on the next
edition!*

Join Us for One of Carlisle's Most Important Civic Events This Sunday!

This Sunday, May 18 at 1:00 PM, we invite you to take part in Carlisle's first Sunday **Annual Town Meeting** in recent memory—a key opportunity to share your voice and cast your vote on vital town matters. The event will include **food trucks and childcare**, making it easier for residents of all ages and schedules to participate.

Thanks to the work of the Town Meeting Study Committee, supported by the Select Board, this year's meeting has been thoughtfully designed to be more welcoming, efficient, and informative. The goal: to encourage broader participation and ensure everyone's time is well spent.

To help you prepare, we've provided comprehensive resources on our [website](#), including:

- Detailed explanations of all warrant articles
- A series of short, informative video and podcast episodes available on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [YouTube](#), and other platforms
- Source documents and presentations for those who want to dive deeper

If you have questions, our knowledgeable staff is here to assist and can connect you with the appropriate Town Officials to ensure your concerns are heard and addressed.

We look forward to seeing you at Town Meeting and please save a space in line for us at the Food Truck!



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carlislema.gov

CARLISLE TOWN
MEETING

SUNDAY,
MAY 18
1 PM

COREY
AUDITORIUM



**TOWN MEETING
CHILDCARE**

\$20 PER CHILD - KINDERGARTEN - 4TH GRADE

SUNDAY, MAY 18TH

1:00pm - 5:00pm, Community Room @ CPS
with movement breaks in the Little Gym

****Parents to provide nut-free snacks and water bottles.****

MAX 40 STUDENTS

All proceeds to benefit the CPS Middle School Art Club.

*** REMINDER ***

The 2025 Annual Town Election is:

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

7:00am – 8:00pm

Clark Room, Town Hall, 66 Westford Street, Carlisle, MA 01741

Vote by mail is available – voters interested in receiving a ballot by mail should complete a vote by mail application and return it to the Town Clerk no later than May 27, 2025.

In office absentee voting is also available until noon on Monday June 2, 2025 for voters who will not be in Town on Election Day.

A specimen ballot is available to view on the website.

From the Gleason Public Library

Martha Feeney-Patten, Library Director

Poetry Festival

The Friends of the Gleason Public Library invite the community to celebrate the power of poetry at the 2025 Poetry Festival, taking place on Saturday, May 17 at 2:p.m. at the Gleason Public Library.

The festival will feature the announcement of the winners of the 2025 Friends of the Library Poetry Contest. Winning poets from four age categories will be recognized and invited to read their poems aloud to the community.

In addition to the awards and readings, the event will include a variety of poetry-themed activities for children and teens, designed to inspire young writers and encourage creativity in a fun, interactive environment.

A highlight of the festival will be a panel discussion with three published poets—Michael Ansara, Carla Schwartz, and Carolyn Oliver—who will offer insights into their creative processes, discuss their recent publications, and reflect on the inner workings of the writing life.

The afternoon will conclude with refreshments, book sales, and opportunities for attendees to meet and chat with the panelists and fellow poetry enthusiasts.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Carlisle Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



Carlisle Pride Festival

Community Members of all ages are invited to the Town Common and Union Hall from 4 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 3rd, for Music, Games, Crafts, and Kona Ice. Featuring music by The Local Ward starting at 5 p.m.

Sponsored by Gleason Public Library; First Religious Society, Carlisle; Carlisle Council on Aging and Human Services; CPS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Council; and the CPS PRIDE Club.

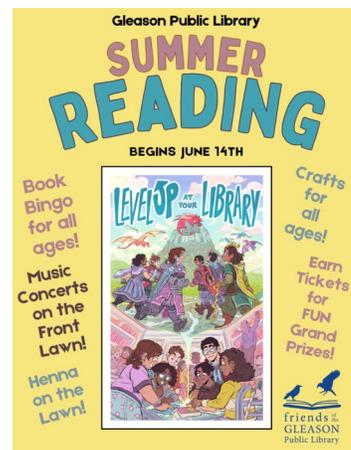
This event is supported in part by a grant from the Carlisle Cultural Council.

Save the Date: Summer Reading Kickoff

Kick off summer reading with a cold treat! Stop by the library's front lawn on Saturday, June 14th, between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. to grab your Bingo sheet and a Reading Log, and enjoy an ice pop. We are also available to help register kids and families for all our fun upcoming summer programs. If you have any questions, email us at childrens@gleasonlibrary.org. If we have inclement weather, we will move the Ice Pop Party inside near the main circ desk. Keep an eye on your mailbox in June for our summer reading flyer!

Taiwanese Documentaries Recap

On Thursday, May 8, our library hosted its first community screening of two touching Taiwanese documentaries from the Taiwan Film Festival: Wild Road and The Tale of Ino Yumin. We were honored to bring these films to Carlisle. *(Continued on Page 4)*



Climate Resilient Carlisle

We want to hear from you!

Eco-landscapes Fire Protection Floodplain/Wetlands/Drainage Housing/Buildings Infrastructure Social Resilience

Over the past year and a half, Carlisle staff, volunteers and residents have been working with the Horsley Witten Group on a report identifying the ways Carlisle can become more resilient to the effects of climate change.

**After 17 monthly office hours,
24 public meetings,
and 1 public forum,
the report is ready!**

There are several recommendations for Carlisle to consider, and we want to know if we are getting them right.

**Learn about the report
and tell us your
thoughts!**



The survey is available in English, Hindi, Chinese & Spanish.

If you need a printed copy, contact Julie Mercier, Town Planner: jmercier@carlislema.gov

Survey open May 19th – June 9th

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



From the Gleason Public Library, Continued from Page 3

Neighbors of all ages gathered to witness stories of animal rescue and human compassion, then joined a live Zoom Q&A with directors Chia-Wei Chen and Shu-Mei Huang. The evening was heartwarming: children watched in quiet wonder, seniors nodded in recognition, and families lingered afterward, inspired by the power of kindness.

Thank you to Chiao Bin Huang from the Carlisle Public School, Jerry Lin and other volunteers from the Taiwan Film Festival of Boston, and the Friends of Gleason Public Library for bringing this event to Carlisle.



From the DPW Director: A Joyful Start to the 250th!

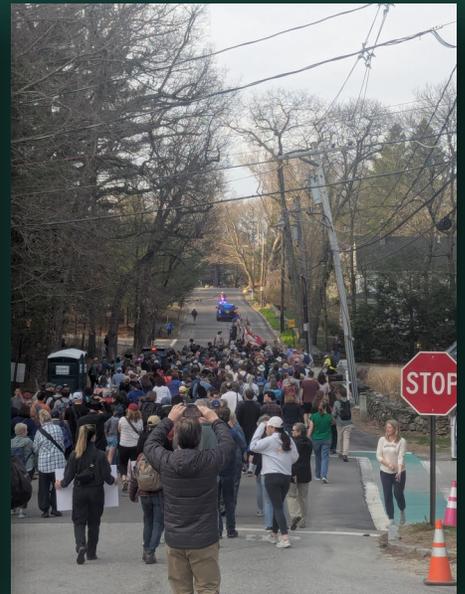
Jim Hall, DPW Director

Howdy folks!

Well, the 250th celebration started out with a bang! The boy scouts began the day by raising old glory high above the common for all see in the beautiful sunrise. The crowd then gathered and set out on the long journey to Concord. All in all, it was a wonderful fun filled day enjoyed by all, and a great way to kick off the spring season!

As always, thank you for your patience and support.

Jim



From the School Committee

Dear Carlisle Community,

As spring unfolds, we are witnessing something powerful on our campus—the tulips in our Hope Gardens are now in full bloom. These gardens, vibrant and full of life, are more than just beautiful spaces. They are symbols of our shared commitment to fostering hope, breaking stigmas, and supporting one another.

Carlisle's participation in the Yellow Tulip Project, a youth-driven initiative founded in Portland, Maine, reflects our belief in ending the silence surrounding mental illness. But here in Carlisle, our vision goes even further. Through the Carlisle Tulip Belonging Project, under the banner of Be Here, Be You, Belong, we aim to break down the stigmas tied not only to mental health, but also to neurodiversity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious beliefs, ethnicity, cultural heritage, and more. This project is a community-wide collaboration with the Carlisle Belonging Collective that includes the Carlisle Schools, SEPAC, DEICAC, WBYC, PTO, and countless dedicated individuals, all working together to build a culture of belonging and celebration of individual identity.



As the tulips push through the soil, they remind us of why we came together to create these Hope Gardens—to carry the message of renewal, resilience, and connection. They stand as a reminder that hope can grow even in the darkest seasons.

This month, Carlisle Public School has a variety of exciting and educational activities for students of all grade levels. The Spring Choir and Band Concert took place on Wednesday, May 7th. On Friday May 9th, the WBYC and the Ultimate Frisbee team collaborated to host an Ultimate Frisbee Tournament at Spaulding Field. The week of May 12th will feature the Kindergarten (Continued on Page 8)

NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO HELP BATS

Environmental Sustainability Committee

Bats are an important part of Carlisle’s ecosystem. They are pollinators and can contribute to mosquito control without the need of harmful chemicals.

Yet bat populations are in serious decline due to habitat loss, dwindling food supplies, light pollution and disease. Out of the nine bat species found in Massachusetts, five are classified Endangered. Only 1% of the Massachusetts little brown bat population survives compared to the population of a decade ago.

What to do if you find a bat in your home

Open a window in the room, turn off the lights, close all doors to the room and place a towel along the bottom of the door(s). If the bat does not exit on its own, put on some gloves and gently place a towel over the bat and scoop it up, then gently release it from the towel on a surface outside.

Never throw objects at the bat or try to “sweep” it out. These actions will only disorient the bat and potentially injure it.

If bats have taken residence in your barn, shed or garage, try to let them be. If you must remove them, remember that bats are protected and State law allows bat removal only in May or August to mid October.

(Continued on Page 8)

Bat World Sanctuary
April 25 at 7:41PM · 🌐

BAT FRIENDLY BACKYARD

- 1. Install a Bat House**
- MOUNT 12-20 FT HIGH
- CHOOSE A CERTIFIED BAT HOUSE
- 2. Reduce Outdoor Lighting**
- ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS CAN DISRUPT BATS' NATURAL BEHAVIORS
- 3. Avoid Pesticides**
- BATS EAT MOTHS, MOSQUITOS AND BEETLES
- PESTICIDES CAN POISON BAT'S FOOD SOURCES.
- 4. Provide Water**
- NATURAL WATER SOURCES WITHIN 1200FT, IS IDEAL
- 5. Create a Native Garden**
- PLANT NATIVE SPECIES
- INCORPORATE NATIVE TREES FOR ROOSTING

#BATWORLDSANCTUARY

From the School Committee, Continued from Page 6

Chicka-Chicka-Boom-Boom performances in the auditorium—an annual highlight and a delight for all who attend.

Spring sports are also in full swing, with our students actively participating in Ultimate Frisbee and Volleyball. We encourage everyone to attend at least one volleyball game and one ultimate frisbee match this season to show support for our student athletes. For game schedules, please visit the district's website.

Several field trips are planned for May as well. Fourth grade students will visit the Museum of Science for a hands-on engineering design challenge. Third grade will explore the Plimoth Patuxet Museum and the Mayflower II, while also hosting an Indigenous Nations Museum on the plaza. Fifth grade students will visit the Concord Museum on the heels of the 250th anniversary of the battle of Lexington and Concord. Our Preschool class will showcase their artwork at their Annual Art Show on May 21st. The month will conclude with Field Day, scheduled for May 23rd for elementary students and May 30th for middle school students.

A few important dates to note: Monday, May 19th, CPS staff will conduct screenings for incoming kindergarteners, so there will be no school for current kindergarten students on that day. Grade 8 Graduation will take place on Thursday, June 12th. The last day of classes for the 2024-2025 school year will be Tuesday, June 17th.

Warm regards,

Sharon Whitt
Carlisle School Committee Chair

Jim O'Shea
Superintendent of Schools

Help Bats, Continued from Page 7

How you can help your local bats

- Plant native, non-cultivar plants in your garden. Doing so will support a wide variety and abundance of beneficial insects, which, in turn will attract more bats. A single bat can consume 600-1200 insects per hour so, more bats can lead to fewer mosquitoes.
- Reduce the amount of exterior light and ensure any necessary exterior lighting is on a motion sensor and pointed toward the ground. Since bats are nocturnal, light pollution can disrupt their foraging patterns and access to their roosts. Bats have been found starved to death from being trapped in their roosts by artificial light.
- Install a bat house or two. [Click here for instructions on proper location](#)
- Visit [Mass Audubon's Bats in Massachusetts webpage](#) for more information.

Route to Sustainability Day: Thank you!

The Environmental Sustainability Committee held its third annual Route to Sustainability Day on April 27.

The Committee would like to thank everyone who exhibited, attended and assisted with this year's Route to Sustainability Day as well as the Carlisle Cultural Council for their financial support. Without fail, town staff and volunteers expressed eagerness to assist and support in the organization and execution of this event.



Healthy Carlisle

Laura Duff, Public Health Nurse

As the weather is beginning to warm, it is time to start thinking about mosquitos. In Massachusetts, the two mosquito-borne diseases of concern are West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Cases of WNV are typically mild with about 20% of those infected experiencing flu-like symptoms and less than 1% having severe neurological complications. While rarer, EEE is often more severe with about half of identified cases dying from infection and 80% of those who recover becoming permanently disabled.

Last year, there were four human cases of EEE in Massachusetts. In September of 2024, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health raised Carlisle’s EEE risk level to high due to a confirmed case in a resident of an abutting town. EEE typically occurs in outbreak cycles lasting 2-3 years. It is possible that the EEE activity last year signals the start of an outbreak cycle meaning that we are approaching this season with increased vigilance.

Unfortunately, because Carlisle does not participate in a mosquito surveillance program, we lack hyperlocal information on mosquito density, species type, and virus presence. We rely on data from neighboring towns who are participating in such programs to make decisions about our risk levels here. Warrant Article 27: Board of Health Mosquito Monitoring Program addresses this gap. A “yes” vote at Town Meeting would move the Town to join the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project, a regional program that would provide mosquito surveillance services. Carlisle would join all its neighbors who already participate in such a program. In addition to being supported by the Board of Health, both the Finance Committee and the Select Board recommend passage of this article.

Vote “yes” to join the East Middlesex Mosquito Control District for the following services:

- Surveillance: Trap and test mosquitoes for WNV/EEE
- Public Awareness: Educate residents on reducing mosquito exposure
- Risk Assessment: Determine the potential for contracting mosquito borne illness
- Advisory: Allow for data-informed recommendations to town officials (i.e. limiting outdoor activities at dawn and dusk)



Scan the QR Code or click [here](#) for information on mosquito-borne disease prevention.



Scan the QR Code or click [here](#) to view arbovirus updates and a risk map.



CULTURAL EVENTS

* Carlisle Cultural Council Grant recipients.

MAY

17th 2 pm: [Poetry Festival](#) and awards ceremony, Gleason Public Library*

17th 2-5 pm: [Colonial House Tour](#), Red Lion Tavern, 621 West St (Carlisle Historical Society/Patriots Day 250).*

JUNE

3rd 4-6 pm: [Carlisle Pride Community Festival](#), Town Common, Union Hall, FRS*

7th 6 pm: [Farm & Forest Concert @Clark Farm](#); potluck at 4:30 pm

JUNE

8th 1-4 pm: [Carlisle Race Amity Day Celebration](#), Town Common, Union Hall, FRS*

13th & 14th 10 am - 4 pm: [Carlisle Garden Tour](#) (Carlisle Garden Club)

19th 4 pm: Outdoor Summer Concert with the Party Band, Spalding Field (Carlisle Recreation)*

28th 10:30 am: [Insects for Beginners](#), Gleason Library (Carlisle Conservation Foundation)*

OLD HOME DAY WEEKEND!

[4th Annual Carlisle Music Festival @Old Home Day](#)

Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd June 2025

- Expanding to 3 Music Stages
- Children's Activities
- Food Trucks & Exhibitors

[Featuring exciting new groups and returning favorites](#)

**Yarina • Five O'Clock Shadow • Nightlife • 5 Orange • Concord Women's Chorus
Kenny Selcer & Steve Gilligan • The Hansen Brothers • Hot Club of Carlisle • Soundbites
Red Velvet Slide • The Soul Soothers • Dale Joachim's Jazz • Don't You Worry
Neighborly • Carlisle Community Chorus • Backbeat Farm Drum and Brass Band**



NEW EVENT!

[Old Home Day Community Performance Showcase](#)

Friday June 20, 7:00-9:00 PM at the Music Festival Tent, FRS yard. For soloists, small groups, musical theater sketches, poetry/spoken word. Must live or work in Carlisle. Watch for details.

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. Your gift to **The Carlisle Cultural Council Fund** will help us produce the Festival this year and in the future.



See our commemorative T-shirt fundraiser in this issue!

Deadline Friday May 30, 2025



Carlisle Music Festival

@Old Home Day

T-Shirt Pre-order

3 Days of Amazing Hometown Talent!

Music on three stages this year!

Friday June 20, Saturday June 21 & Sunday June 22, 2025
Family-friendly • Carlisle musicians • Diverse styles • Food & fun

The Carlisle Music Festival @Old Home Day is a celebration of the deep and diverse musical talent in our hometown, featuring both amateur and professional musicians with Carlisle connections, performing in a wide variety of musical styles. Every year since its beginning, the Carlisle Music Festival has delighted hundreds of music lovers of all ages, and this year will be no different (and perhaps even better).

Wear Your Support for the Music Festival!

It's been a long time coming, but now you can show your support for the Carlisle Music Festival during this year's Festival, and for many years to come. The shirts feature our iconic logo, the Goddess of Liberty (from the center rotary) proudly displaying her fabulous Flying-V guitar. She promises nothing but great music and fun.



image size and placement are representative of final design

**All proceeds benefit the Carlisle Cultural Council &
The Carlisle Music Festival**

Deadline Friday May 30, 2025

T-Shirt Pre-order

Reserve your shirt(s) now – pre-order to avoid disappointment! We will have a limited quantity of adult sizes (only) available for sale on Old Home Day weekend.

All children’s t-shirts must be ordered in advance.

All pre-orders must be prepaid by credit card or check.

Pickup will be available at the Old Home Day Community Performance Showcase on Friday June 20, from 7 to 9 PM in the FRS yard, and at the Old Home Day Country Fair on Saturday June 21, from 10:30-1:30 PM.

Payment

All pre-orders must be prepaid. Make a secure online payment by credit card to The Carlisle Cultural Council Fund, managed by the Community Foundation for MetroWest. Scan the QR code or visit carlisleculturalcouncilfund.org. Calculate your total payment below. **BE SURE TO WRITE A “GIFT NOTE” WITH THE WORDS “T-SHIRT ORDER.”** Credit card payments must be received by end of day May 30, 2025



Mail or deliver checks to:

Carlisle Cultural Council
Carlisle Town Hall
66 Westford Street
Carlisle, MA 01741

BE SURE TO WRITE “T-SHIRT ORDER” IN THE MEMO
Checks must be received by 2 PM May 30, 2025
Deposit in the designated box in the Tax Collector’s office.

Description: bright white Comfort Colors® unisex short sleeve T-shirt; full color image

Sizes & Prices

Kid’s KS KM KL KXL \$30

Adult S M L XL \$30

Adult XXL \$35

Order Form

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____

Qty Size Price Total Order Amount \$ _____

COMPLETE YOUR ORDER

1. Email your order form to culturalcouncil@carlislema.gov
2. Make payment as soon as possible.
Must be received by May 30, 2025
Unpaid orders will not be placed.
All sales are final.

**All proceeds
benefit the
Carlisle Cultural
Council &
The Carlisle
Music Festival**

Thank you!



7th ANNUAL CARLISLE RACE AMITY DAY POTLUCK CELEBRATION

**SUNDAY JUNE 8, 1-4PM
ON THE COMMON**

**JOIN NEIGHBORS OF DIFFERENT RACES, RELIGIONS, AND VIEWS
TO CELEBRATE DIVERSITY**

BOUNCE HOUSE, GAMES AND ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS!

LIVE MUSIC AND OTHER PERFORMERS!

POETRY READING FEATURING LOCAL POETS!

BRING A PICNIC BLANKET & A DELICIOUS DISH OF YOUR CULTURE

THIS IS A NON-POLITICAL COMMUNITY EVENT & ALL ARE INVITED



ORGANIZED BY THE CARLISLE RACE AMITY DAY COMMITTEE AND CPS DEICAC

THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE CARLISLE CULTURAL COUNCIL

VISIT [HTTPS://RACEAMITY.ORG](https://raceamity.org) FOR MORE INFO FROM THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR RACE AMITY

From the Facilities Director

Stephen Connearney, Facilities Director

Below are some of the great facilities updates happening at CPS:

- Added lighting to the Plaza Walkway at Spalding and Robbins building areas. (night-time safety)
- Repaired cracked and corroded concrete at the Plaza area walkway (Spalding door #30)
- Repaired dangerous corroded stair case off the back of Grant building door #13. (partial stair repair)
- Additional work: We performed All classroom HVAC Preventive Maintenance work.



Carlisle Garden Tour features Signs of Life June 13 and 14

Save the date for the 2025 Carlisle Country Garden Tour. Five exceptional gardens on the theme, "Signs of Life" welcome birds, butterflies, and other life forms. They also welcome you! The Carlisle Garden Club's Tour kicks off on Friday June 13 at 10:00 am and continues Friday and Saturday June 14 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Walk beautiful country landscapes as you learn more about the dynamic and beneficial relationships between the inhabitants. A plant sale and demonstrations are planned. All proceeds support Carlisle Garden Club community programs, including scholarships, public speakers, library purchases, and beautification projects. Discounted tickets are available until May 31 at www.carlislegardenclub.org.

Cranberry Bog Gets Cleanup Boost Thanks to Local Volunteers

Land Stewardship Committee (LSC) would like to thank Jeannie and Dennis Lieb who have graciously donated a third doggie poop bag dispenser, and even installed it to join the 2 existing at the Cranberry Bog! In addition, they have also donated 3 new metal trash barrels placed close to the bag dispensers for dog owners to deposit the filled bags in.

A special huge thank you goes to Jeannie, who tirelessly picks up poop other dog owners leave on the path. Between encouraging other dog owners to pick up after their dogs and making sure the tools are made easily accessible- the bog is benefitting!

Lastly, Jeannie also helps LSC by volunteering to help keep the poop bag dispensers FULL of bags, ready for people to grab!

Carlisle could not exist without helpful folks like Jeannie and Dennis!

Carlisle Public School Recognized for Excellence in Drinking Water Quality

Stephen Connearney, Facilities Director at Carlisle Public School, received a commendation from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) for the school's outstanding performance in maintaining safe and high-quality drinking water.

In a letter dated April 22, 2025, MassDEP's Drinking Water Program congratulated Carlisle Public School for earning one of the highest scores in the Non-Transient Non-Community System Category of the 2025 Public Water Systems Awards Program.

The agency praised the school for its strong compliance with evolving state and federal regulations, recognizing the team's efforts to go above and beyond the required standards.

"This award reflects your commitment to excellence and to the health and well-being of the school community," wrote Yvette DePeiza, Program Director of the Drinking Water Program.

Carlisle Public School's achievement underscores the essential work being done behind the scenes to ensure clean, safe drinking water for students and staff every day.

Climate Leader Communities

Carlisle is now a Climate Leader Community! At a ceremony held on May 2nd, Carlisle was recognized as one of the first 19 municipalities to receive this distinction. Becoming a Climate Leader allows Carlisle to apply for an additional \$1,150,000 in state funding supporting technical assistance and building decarbonization efforts.

Many residents and staff contributed to this effort over the last year. Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll presented Carlisle's certificate to Town Administrator Ryan McLane, Land Use and Sustainability Coordinator Sarah Wasserman, and Environmental Sustainability Committee chair Eric Balles.

Carlisle is one step closer to achieving its decarbonization goals!





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MASSACHUSETTS

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APPLE PODCASTS

