



MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

Town of Carlisle

AUGUST 2025

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

Carlisle Flag Now at Statehouse



Carlisle residents and officials gathered with their Legislative Delegation to celebrate the raising of the Town's official flag in the Commonwealth's Great Hall of Flags.

Although Carlisle has had an official town flag since the nation's bicentennial, it was never formally presented to the State—making Carlisle one of the few municipalities without a flag in the Statehouse. After several residents brought this to light, Town officials, including Scott Evans, began efforts to create a replica to gift to the Commonwealth.

The project was started by Barbara Lewis, who meticulously recreated the flag to scale and hand-sewed a double-sided version. She passed away before completing the work, but the effort was revived by Marybeth Stevenson, who finished the flag in time for the Carlisle Minutemen to rededicate it in April and ceremoniously carry it "into battle" during this year's 250th anniversary celebrations.

On July 29, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, State Senator Michael Barrett, State Representative Simon Cataldo, and Select Board Chair Scott Triola formally accepted the flag on behalf of the Commonwealth. Visitors to the Statehouse can now see Carlisle's flag flying proudly—a tribute to community spirit and a project more than six years in the making.



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carlislema.gov

Road Maintenance Public Hearing on August 26th



The Select Board wants to hear from you! Join us for a public hearing on August 26th at 7:30pm during the Select Board meeting to share your questions, comments, and concerns about the Town's roads, bridges, and culverts. Your input will help shape future plans and priorities.

Use this form to tell us about your issue(s): <https://forms.office.com/r/UMd66SV75Q>

For current Road Maintenance Plans, see <https://www.carlislema.gov/1228/Road-Maintenance>

From the Carlisle Youth Commission

The Carlisle Youth Commission (CYC) is excited to welcome 2 new co-chairs and members for the 2025-2026 school year. The Youth Commission plans and hosts Friday Night Live (FNL) events for Carlisle middle school age residents (Grades 5-8) which provides a safe, all-inclusive, and fun environment for all! The CYC extends sincere thanks and gratitude to Stefani Keene for her service to Carlisle's youth and for helping put FNL on the right path forward.

Chelsea Mascari and Brooke Mackintosh will serve as the new CYC Co-Chairs and Heather Wright returns as Treasurer. We are excited to have Janelle Kapusta, Ryan Lester, and Matt Decastro on board for the full calendar year as they bring fresh ideas and perspectives to the commission.

Two new exciting events for the year include an off-site FNL in April where the CYC will welcome Carlisle students in Grades 5-8 to Roller Kingdom in Hudson for a "Saturday" FNL event. Also, the CYC has decided to host a January FNL after student feedback was received that the winter break was too long without the usual FNL fun!

The CYC can't wait to see Carlisle middle school-aged residents (grades 5-8) from public and private schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, at our first FNL of the year on Friday, October 3rd. Families can register on the Carlisle Recreation website starting Aug. 26th.

From the DPW Director

Howdy folks!

As summer moves along, we here at the DPW have had a busy July. We started the month out with some much-needed roadside mowing! We also had some large trees removed throughout town that were presenting a public safety issue for pedestrians and motorists alike.

Currently we are working around town refreshing the paint on crosswalks and stop lines. Up next on the schedule is some drainage work and putting some finishing touches on a few more paving projects! Finally, yours truly took a break from the heat for some ice-cold lemonade sold by some local entrepreneurs! (DELICIOUS!)

As always, we thank you for patience and support. Please support your local lemonade stand!



Jim



MBTA COMMUNITIES ZONING FOR MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING



The Planning Board will refine draft zoning language and site selection for compliance with the MBTA Communities Act



PUBLIC HEARING

WHEN?

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
7 PM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6
MONDAY, OCTOBER 20



WHERE?

CLARK ROOM @ TOWN HALL
66 WESTFORD STREET
&
ZOOM
[LINK ON AGENDA]

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

For more information, including draft versions of the bylaws, scan the code above

Water Chestnut Pull a Success

On July 19, twenty-nine volunteers, including six children, participated in a Water Chestnut removal event along the Carlisle and Bedford shores of the Concord River within the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Using 13 canoes and 2 kayaks over three hours, participants collected 245 baskets of plants—about 17 cubic yards, estimated at 32,000 plants. Work targeted a patch upstream of the Route 225 bridge on the Carlisle side and began removal downstream near Two Brothers Rocks on the Bedford side.

The event was held under USFWS Special Use Permit #53511-FY2025-06 and was sponsored by the Carlisle Conservation Foundation (CCF), OARS, Carlisle’s Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) and Land Stewardship Committee (LSC), with endorsement from Mass DCR’s Lakes & Ponds Program, MassWildlife’s Endangered Species Program, the SuAsCo River Stewardship Council, and the DPW and Conservation departments of Carlisle and Bedford.



Photo Courtesy of Sylvia Willard, retired Carlisle Conservation Administrator



Photo Courtesy of Heather Conkerton, OARS Ecological Restoration Coordinator



Photo Courtesy of Jonathan DeKock, CCF Director of Land Management

From the Facilities Director

Stephen Connearney, Facilities Director

Our Facilities team has been hard at work across town, tackling projects big and small to keep our buildings in top shape — and saving the community thousands of dollars along the way!

Classroom Projects

G-111

- Carpet removed by Steve Munroe & Facilities Director
- Floor stripped by Mark Tripoli & Rick O’Neill
- New flooring installed and patched by flooring company
- Floor wax finished by John Sanford

G-211

- Carpet removed by Steve Munroe & Facilities Director
- Glue stripped by Facilities Director (with a 3” razor blade over 2 days!)
- Floor stripped by Mark Tripoli & Rick O’Neill
- New flooring installed by flooring company
- Floor wax finished by John Sanford
- **Savings:** Prepping these two projects in-house saved the community **\$7,000**

Exterior Improvements

Soffits & Fascia – Robbins & Wilkins (partial completion)

- Work completed by Groundskeeper Tom Kiersey
- Contractor bids estimated at \$60,000; materials cost so far is about \$1,000
- True savings estimated at \$24,000
- Project still in progress

Mechanical & Systems Projects (Ongoing & Managed In-House)

- Hot water heater replacement – Grant
- RTU 7 cooling issues – Spalding
- Walkway repairs – Corey
- IDF HVAC project – Grant
- WWTF electrical issue
- WWTF transfer switch replacement
- WWTF fire panel replacement
- Grant & Corey HVAC Mitsubishi issues (with assistance from Technology Manager)
- MDF HVAC Mitsubishi issues
- Kitchen steamer installation
- Alarm system changes and repairs
- Robbins & Grant condensate issues



(Continued on Page 12)

From the Facilities Director, Continued

- IDF condensate issues
- Corey heat detector – Fire system
- Fence installation – Wilkins HVAC
- Fence installation – Highland dumpster
- Gymnasium floor refinishing

Recently Completed

- Electrical rewire at the wastewater plant – repaired
- New generator transfer switch installed at the wastewater plant
- New fire panel installation scheduled for Thursday

Our team’s dedication, skill, and creativity in managing projects in-house have resulted in significant cost savings and quality improvements for the entire community.



Town Signs Cemetery Software Contract

The Town Administrator's office and the Cemetery Committee are pleased to report that the open bid process has been concluded for the purchase and maintenance of cemetery software, as approved overwhelmingly by the voters at Town Meeting in May, 2025. The winning bid was Ramaker, who operates Cemetery Information Management Systems (CIMS). The software will incorporate all the Green Cemetery burial data now in handwritten ledgers dating back to the 19th century, as well as the deed information at Town Hall, and provide the information in a compelling graphical interface to both office desktops and a handheld iPhone app.

GOT JAPANESE KNOTWEED?

**You too can participate in Carlisle's pilot
Japanese knotweed disposal program!**

**The Transfer Station will accept Japanese knotweed on:
September 6, 13 and 20, 1:00pm-4:00pm**

**Visit the Carlisle Environmental Sustainability Committee
website for details**



Program for Carlisle residents with a valid
Transfer Station sticker



Invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed grow prolifically and usually outcompete native plant species for space, water and nutrients.

Japanese knotweed is a persistent, fast-growing invasive plant which degrades the soil and can cause damage to septic systems, foundations and roads. It primarily spreads through underground rhizomes, which can remain dormant for up to twenty years, and stem fragments. A new plant can establish from any piece of rhizome as small as 1/2 inch or any live stem joint that comes into contact with moist soil. Spreading via seed dispersal is also viable. Due to the ease with which it spreads, proper removal and disposal is imperative in the fight against Japanese knotweed.

The ESC, in collaboration with TSAC, the Carlisle Department of Public Works and the Carlisle Fire Department is implementing a pilot Japanese knotweed disposal program. The Transfer Station will be accepting Japanese knotweed (normally not accepted) from Carlisle residents with a valid Transfer Station sticker during three dedicated times: September 6, September 13 and September 20, 1:00pm - 4:00pm. Please click [here](#) for pilot program details.

More information on Japanese knotweed can be found [here](#).

Thanks for participating!

TOWN OF CARLISLE



BICYCLE SAFETY

RIDE SMART ■ BE SEEN ■ STAY SAFE



Bicycling is a healthy, eco-friendly way to get around — but it comes with risks. Whether you're a cyclist or a driver, everyone shares the responsibility of keeping our roads safe. Here's what you need to know to stay safe and follow the law in Massachusetts.

Know the Rules of the Road

Massachusetts law (MGL Ch. 85 §11B) gives bicyclists the same rights and responsibilities as motor vehicle drivers.

- Obey all traffic lights and signs.
- Bicycles must stop at red lights and stop signs.
- Ride with traffic, not against it.
- Always stay to the right, unless turning left or avoiding hazards.
- Signal your intentions.
- Use hand signals for turning and stopping to alert others.
- Use marked bike lanes when available.
- When none exist, ride as far to the right as is safe and practical.

Drivers: Share the Road

Massachusetts passed new "safe passing" rules in 2023 to protect vulnerable road users.



- Give at least 4 feet of space when passing a bicyclist.
- Never block bike lanes. Treat them like traffic lanes.
- Check before opening car doors — look for cyclists ("Dutch Reach" method).
- Be especially careful at intersections and during turns. Yield to cyclists going straight when turning right.

Resources and Local Help

MassBike

Advocacy, education, & events: www.massbike.org

MassDOT Bicycle Safety Program

Laws and safety info: www.mass.gov/bike

Report road hazards to your local DPW

Use Proper Equipment

Stay legal and visible, especially at night or in bad weather!



Lights & Reflectors (required at night):

- White front light (visible from 500 feet)
- Red rear light or reflector (visible from 600 feet)
- Side reflectors on wheels or pedals

Helmet

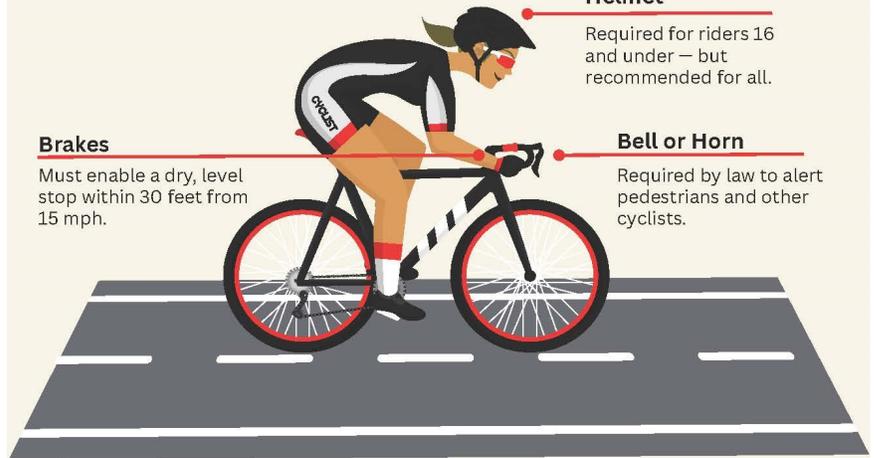
Required for riders 16 and under — but recommended for all.

Brakes

Must enable a dry, level stop within 30 feet from 15 mph.

Bell or Horn

Required by law to alert pedestrians and other cyclists.



Ride Defensively

Most crashes happen because drivers don't see cyclists. Protect yourself with the tips below:



Be Predictable

Ride straight, don't weave between cars



Stay Alert

No headphones—always listen for traffic



Avoid "Door Zone"

Stay at least 3 feet from parked cars



Make Eye Contact With Drivers

Never assume they see you



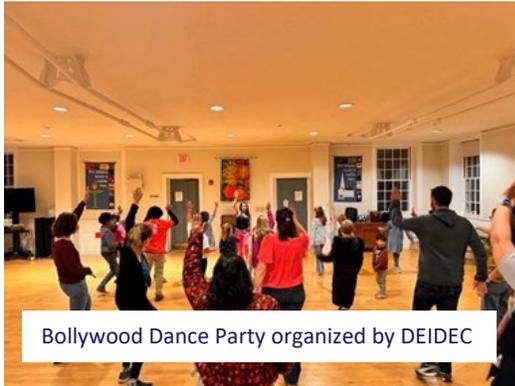
Use Caution at Intersections

They're hotspots for collisions



AUGUST NEWS

LCC CULTURAL GRANTS OPEN SEPTEMBER 2nd 2025.



Bollywood Dance Party organized by DEIDEC

Every year the state allocates approximately \$5,000 to Carlisle to help create local cultural events through the LCC grant program because it strengthens our sense of community, improves our wellbeing, and helps support artists, musicians and artisans.

The grant application for 2026 opens on the 2nd September, and closes on October 16th. We also encourage new applications, former grantees and “one off” applications for a unique Carlisle cultural venture, such as

the 2025 Colonial Faire held this spring.

Carlisle’s Cultural Council requires that for an application to be considered it has to specifically benefit Carlisle residents. Letters of support from a resident for events that are held outside the town are required.

Applications are through the Mass Cultural Councils [Portal](#), and MCC will run a workshop to help applicants through the process on 9th September.

<https://massculturalcouncil.org/event/local-cultural-council-grants-info-session-2/>

Carlisle now uses the direct grant system, which has reduced the amount of paperwork for both the grantee, and the town accountant. The Cultural Council typically gives grants between \$250-\$500 per program.



If you enjoy the programs that the Cultural Council supports, please consider donating through our [online portal](#). Every year we have more applicants than we have funds to support. Your donations help fund events here in town

OPEN STUDIOS COMING THIS FALL

The Open Studio where you can tour local several Carlisle Artists’ and Crafters studios will be on the 25th October and 8th November. The studios on the tour also host other Carlisle artists and craftspeople on their property. Last year we had 20 artists on display over the two days.



If you would like to be involved as a volunteer or considered as an exhibitor, please email the Cultural Council at culturalcouncil@carlislema.gov

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August News, Continued from Pg 7

HELP IMPROVE THE MUSIC FESTIVAL - TAKE OUR SURVEY



This year's Sunday's Music Festival was better than ever, with a broad variety of music and full of local Carlisle talent. Did you attend? What was your favorite act? Did you buy food from the food vendors? How long did you stay. If you did not attend, what was the reason?

These are a few of the questions that the Cultural Council ask in their survey, so that they can ensure that next year's Music Festival is as spectacular, and the place to be on the day after Old Home Day. Please go to tinyurl.com/CMF-survey and complete our SHORT and easy survey, which is for attendees and non-attendees. The Cultural Council needs your feedback so that we can grow the cultural activities in Carlisle.

MUSIC AT THE FARMERS MARKET

The Cultural Council grant to the Farmers Market, for music has been a tremendous success, with new musicians coming forward and performing at the market on the days we had not scheduled performances.

The Farmer's Markets has expanded this year and has several new vendors as well as the established vendors. This year they have a Carlisle barista and a variety of bakers. There are tables and chairs for you to have a chat with friends and neighbors.

WW2 ANTHOLOGY PROJECT

Ration Cards, Telegrams, Farewells, and Reunions: Family Stories Retold on the 80th Anniversary of the End of World War II," an anthology of wartime stories passed down within Carlisle families is now available for purchase at the Farmers Market and through Nancy Shohet West (nancyswest@gmail.com) and online.

This project received a grant from the Cultural Council.

From the Gleason Public Library

Summer Reading 2025: Level Up! at Your Library

The “Level Up at Your Library” summer reading program closes on Tuesday, August 26th. Readers of all ages can earn prizes with our Book Bingo Boards, and kids entering kindergarten through 12th grade can also enter reading raffles for more chances to win. Visit gleasonlibrary.org/summer-reading-program for more information, and gleasonlibrary.org/events to register for programs.

Teen Weekend Reading Kit

Grab a kit that has everything you need for a book-lover's summer weekend. Each kit will include a random YA novel for you to keep (genres and reading/maturity levels will vary), a craft or activity, a snack, a bookmark, and something to sip on. Registration is required at gleasonlibrary.org/events to reserve your kit. Pickup will be Friday, August 22 through Monday, August 25. These kits are for students going into grades 7-12. Teen Weekend Reading Kits are generously sponsored by the Friends of the Gleason Public Library.

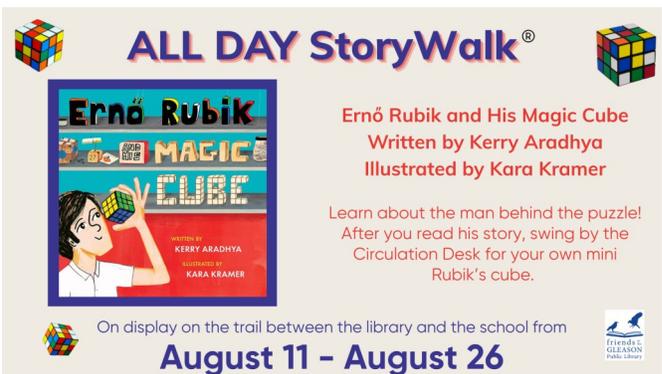
Registration open for September Paint-a-Pint at the Gleason

Create a stunning pint glass that is unique and also functional at an awesome art night for adults at the Gleason Public Library on Wednesday, September 10th, at 6 p.m. This workshop will be led by Mandy Roberge of Wicked Good Henna and is sponsored by the Friends of the Gleason Public Library. Space is limited; registration opens on Wednesday, August 13th, at gleasonlibrary.org/events

Library Hours

Summer Saturday hours of 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. are in effect at the Gleason through 8/23. The Library will be closed for Labor Day weekend, Saturday 8/30 through Monday 9/1. Regular Saturday hours of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. resume 9/6.

(Continued on Page 10)



ALL DAY StoryWalk®

Erno Rubik and His Magic Cube
Written by Kerry Aradhya
Illustrated by Kara Kramer

Learn about the man behind the puzzle!
After you read his story, swing by the
Circulation Desk for your own mini
Rubik's cube.

On display on the trail between the library and the school from
August 11 - August 26

Friends of the Gleason Public Library

Gleason Public Library presents

A Summer Concert with MUSIC at the Blissful



Thursday,
August 21st 6:00PM
Front Lawn
Gleason Public Library
Ages 0 through 10

Register online at
gleasonlibrary.org/events



This concert is made possible by our wonderful
Friends of the Gleason Public Library.

From the Gleason Public Library, Continued from Page 9

Borrow Museum Passes for Summer Fun

The Gleason offers more than two dozen discount passes to area destinations thanks to the Friends of Gleason Public Library, Carlisle Garden Club (Butterfly Place), and Assurance Technology (Museum of Science). Visit gleasonlibrary.org/museum to see what's available and make reservations; many passes are now e-passes that are sent immediately to your email.



READ TO RUDY

Come to the library to read to Rudy, a certified reading therapy dog! Read to a dog programs help kids develop literacy skills and build confidence and self-esteem. Rudy is looking forward to sharing a favorite book with you! Children, ages 5-9, will enjoy one-on-one time reading aloud to this gentle, comforting, 7-year old Black Lab as they practice their fluency and strengthen their confidence in reading.

Children may bring their own book or choose to read one from the library collection. Please arrive 5-10 minute before your session begins. If you have questions, please email childrens@gleasonlibrary.org



Friday, September 5th beginning at 3:30PM | Hollis Room
Register online for your 15-minute session at gleasonlibrary.org/events



NEW MUSIC

Find our music CD collection around the corner from the copier



I QUIT
HAIM



THE LOST TAPES:
BEETHOVEN
SVIATOSLAV RICHTER



MORE SONGS ABOUT
BUILDINGS AND FOOD
[SUPER DELUXE EDITION]
TALKING HEADS



MOISTURIZER
WET LEG



HEADLIGHTS
ALEX G



I WANNA BE A TEEN
AGAIN: AMERICAN
POWER POP 1980-1989
VARIOUS ARTISTS



KESHA



VIRGIN
(CLEAR DISC)
LORDE



THE SECRET OF LIFE:
PARTNERS, VOLUME 2
BARBARA STREISAND



BOLEROS
PSICODELICOS II
ADRIAN QUESADA



LOST AND FOUND:
SELECTIONS FROM THE
LOST ALBUMS
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN



THE SURROUNDING
FRED HERSCH



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MASSACHUSETTS

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