



MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

Town of Carlisle

JANUARY 2026

Sign up for News Flashes on the Town website to stay updated on the next edition!

Department Highlights from Fire Chief Bryan Sorrows

We want to thank Captain Robert Koning (pictured) for his many years of service to the department. Our records show that he officially started with the department in March of 1982, although he was volunteering before that. For many years he has done an incredible job making sure our aging fleet is always ready for a call. Captain Koning has retired as a structural firefighter but will continue to assist with fleet maintenance.



David Newman has been promoted to Captain/EMS Coordinator.

Lloyd Burke has been promoted to 1st Lieutenant.



We are pleased to welcome Greg Ascrizzi as a new firefighter. We are also pleased to welcome Bonnie Greco back to the department.

In addition, David Newman, Tom Bishop and Catherine Stevenson (pictured) recently completed their course and clinical work to be certified as an Advanced EMT. Bjorn Hanson has also completed his coursework to be certified as an EMT.



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Climate Leader Community Update – 2025

On May 2, 2025, Carlisle was one of the 19 towns and cities designated by the Massachusetts DOER to become the state's first group of Climate Leader Communities. This designation makes Carlisle eligible for grants up to \$1.15 million (for each community on a three-year funding cycle) for projects that reduce municipal emissions. This state-funded program supports Massachusetts' updated climate and energy goals in support of a 2021 climate policy act (officially "**An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy**") signed into law by Governor Baker.



Working in close collaboration with Sarah Wasserman and Ryan McLane, the ESC and MFC are targeting specific major projects on Carlisle's capital plan for this initial grant opportunity – specifically heat pumps at Carlisle Public School (Robbins and Grant buildings) and also at Town Hall. Both projects are driven by end-of-life replacement of the existing HVAC systems. Use of Climate Leader funds for these necessary projects directly reduces the amount that Carlisle's capital plan is funded by residential tax revenue.

While we continue to work diligently to fund these first two major projects, we are already looking ahead to projects that would be eligible for the second million-dollar funding cycle. These could include components of the Fire Station renovation and, further down the road, the DPW building renovation. More near term funding opportunities include energy efficiency projects using available Green Communities funds – the latest of which was awarded for weatherization of the Carlisle Public School Brick Building.



Submitted 22 Dec 2025

by Eric Balles, ESC co-chair

The acclaimed Tanglewood Marionettes are coming to the Carlisle School Auditorium on SUNDAY, FEB 1!

Join us for a magical family-friendly performance while supporting the **Campership Fund of the Concord Carlisle Foundation**, which helps families in **Concord and Carlisle** who would otherwise be unable to afford summer camp experiences for their children. Link to tickets: <https://givebutter.com/3tTKAv>

Cinderella

Sunday, February 1 @ 3:00pm

Carlisle Public School Auditorium

83 School Street, Carlisle



\$20 Priority Seating
\$15 General Seating

All proceeds will benefit the CCF's Campership Fund



From the DPW Director

Howdy folks,

Old man winter woke up early this year, as December started out cold and stayed cold throughout the month! He also added quite a few nuisance snow and freezing rainstorms to keep us on our toes. We have been busy restocking our sand and salt reserves and maintaining equipment, so we are ready for the next weather event to come our way!

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

Jim



THE OPIOID PROJECT: CHANGING PERCEPTIONS THROUGH ART AND STORYTELLING



Town of Wayland Display

The Carlisle Board of Health in conjunction with the Great Meadows Public Health Collaborative is pleased to present **“The Opioid Project”** in the first floor gallery at the **Gleason Public Library from January 20th through February 6th**. The Opioid Project is a collaboration between artist and public health practitioner Nancy Marks and physician Annie Brewster. “Through artmaking and storytelling, they seek to decrease stigma and promote positive social change through community dialogue, education, and advocacy.” The Great Meadows Exhibit is interactive, and features art created by community members from Carlisle and surrounding towns whose lives have been touched by the opioid epidemic, whether through a family member, their own recovery story, or their work. Each piece of art is accompanied by a QR code that scans to an audio clip of the artist telling their story in their own words. We encourage patrons of the library to take a moment and listen to these stories, and reflect on the ways our community members can work together towards a supportive future free from stigma. This project was funded by Carlisle’s Opioid Settlement Funding.

You can learn more about The Opioid Project at: <https://www.healthstorycollaborative.org/the-opioid-project>



January 2026

2026 LCC/MCC Grant Awards.

The Carlisle Cultural Council is proud to announce that we have awarded a total of \$9,000 in grants—funded by the Mass Cultural Council and local contributions—to support 21 events and programs in and around Carlisle.

Thanks to generous donations from our residents, we were able to fund more programs this year than ever before. These grants help local organizations bring music, art, history, and cultural experiences to our community.

For details on upcoming events, follow the Carlisle Cultural Council on social media platforms, visit the organizations' websites and check the *Carlisle Mosquito* for updates.

MUSIC

- **Carlisle Community Chorus** – Performances throughout the year.
- On April 9 – *The Concord Women's Chorus* presents “**A Light Exists in Spring**” in Concord.
- In December 2025 – **Carlisle Chamber Orchestra** performed their Holiday Concert.
- Visit the **Carlisle Farmers Market** from June through September for Live music.
- On August 4 enjoy **the Outdoor Summer Evening Concert** on the Library Lawn, organized by COA & HS, Gleason Public Library, and the Recreation Department.



Carlisle Community Chorus Performing



January 2026, Continued from Page 6

STAGE

- Savoyard Light Opera Company— November 2025 performances of ***How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying.***
- Experience the Open Door Theater of Acton, – ***Honk!*** in March 2026 at RJ Grey Junior High School, Acton. This inclusive theater company brings accessible performances to the community.
- **Carlisle Public School Drama Club** – December 2025 student production showcasing local talent.
- **Plimoth Patuxet Thanksgiving Play** – First graders at Carlisle Public School experienced this historical reenactment in November 2025.

DANCE

- Celebrate community and tradition at the monthly **Contra Dance** events throughout the year. No experience needed—just bring your energy and enjoy live music and lively steps!

SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Carlisle Cultural Council is proud to support environmental initiatives that bring our community together.

This spring, we're helping fund two exciting events:

- **Spring on a Wing** – A community celebration of sustainable gardening, featuring seed distribution. Hosted by the Carlisle Garden Club at Union Hall on March 28.
- **Route to Sustainability Day** – Organized by the Environmental Sustainability Committee on May 3, this event promotes practical steps toward a greener future.

VISUAL ART

- See the artistry and creativity of talents of our High School students are **56th Annual CCHS School Exhibition 2026** at the Concord Art Association, at In June and July 2026.
- Join the **Threads of Pride Quilt Collective** Celebrate creativity and community by joining the *Threads of Pride Quilt Collective*, organized by the Carlisle Council on Aging & Human Services (COA&HS) this March. Come together to craft a beautiful quilt that honors diversity and inclusion.

FILM

- New this year, **Emerging Voices: An Evening of Short Film**. Hosted by actress and Carlisle resident Liz Bishop on May 7 at Lincoln-Sudbury High School



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CHILDREN

- **Open Door Connections at the Discovery Museum in Acton**
This program helps families for whom the cost of admission is a barrier, ensuring everyone can enjoy the museum's hands-on exhibits and learning experiences.
- **Music and Movement with Marcos Valles** will be at at **Gleason Public Library** on **February 18** with an engaging session of rhythm, movement.



CELEBRATING CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The Cultural Council continues to help make Carlisle an inclusive and welcoming community by supporting events that celebrate diversity and unity. Mark your calendars for these upcoming programs:

- **Community Multicultural Fair – February 26**
Hosted by Carlisle Public School, this fair showcases the rich cultural heritage of our community.
- **Pride Festival – June 12th**
Join the Gleason Public Library and community partners for a vibrant celebration of Carlisle's diverse community.
- **Race Amity Day Community Potluck – June 14**
Gather on the Carlisle Common for a beautiful day of friendship and unity. Enjoy live music, poetry, and delicious food as we come together as neighbors.
- **Community Diwali Celebration – November 2026**
Experience the joy and traditions of Diwali with food, music, and cultural activities.

“PLAY IT FORWARD: 14th March. Help Power the Carlisle Music Festival.”

Join us for a fun and lively evening featuring performances by talented local musicians—all while helping raise funds to cover the costs of the Carlisle Music Festival. Bring friends, enjoy great music, and be part of a community celebration that keeps the arts thriving in Carlisle.

Stay tuned for more details.

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From the Tax Collector's Office



Tax Bills –

Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills were mailed on December 30, 2025 for 3rd and 4th quarters of FY26. These bills now contain remittance coupons for both quarters. Bills are due on February 2, 2026 and May 1, 2026. If you have not received your bill, please call the Tax Collector's office at 978-369-5557.

Motor Vehicle Excise tax bills will be mailed in February and due in March. Exact dates are not known at this time. Be on the lookout for these bills and please call us if you don't receive a bill.



Unclaimed Checks –

Check the list to see if there is a check for you! Located on our website at carlislema.gov/165/Treasurer-Tax-Collector is a list of over 90 checks that were issued by the Town of Carlisle and remain uncashed. If you or someone you know is on this list, please either complete the claim form and email to taxbills@carlislema.gov or call our office at 978-759-7616.

Cultural Council, January 2026, Continued from Page 8

HELP CREATE A THRIVING CULTURAL COMMUNITY

The Carlisle Cultural Council is launching a **Winter Grant Round** this February and March—an extra opportunity for Carlisle-based organizations and individuals to secure funding beyond the state's annual cycle. Because great ideas don't just happen once a year!

This special round is funded entirely through local donations. Your contribution will directly support creativity and culture in our town—helping bring new programs, performances, and community events to life.

Please consider making a gift today to keep Carlisle vibrant and inspired. You can donate through our on-line portal carlisleculturalcouncilfund.org or mail a check to the town hall, made payable to the Carlisle Cultural Council.

From the Gleason Public Library

Middle School After-School Hangout

Come play games, have a snack, and hang out after school, at the Gleason Library’s third floor Hollis Room on Fridays after school from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Activities each week will vary. This is a drop-in event for grades 5-8. Please call 978-369-4898 or email tshamlian@gleasonlibrary.org with any questions.



Winter Story Times

The Gleason Public Library has a new storytime lineup this winter:

- Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.: Once Upon a Baby Storytime (ages 0-2)
- Tuesdays at 11 a.m.: Wiggle Giggle Storytime (ages 3+)
- Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.: ABC Learn with Me (ages 2-5)
- Fridays at 10:30 a.m.: Tots and Tales (ages 0-6)



Registration is not required. Please contact Jill at childrens@gleasonlibrary.org with any questions.

Winter Reading Challenge

The Gleason’s 2026 Winter Reading Challenge has begun! Pick up your challenge sheets at the Library starting on January 5. Once you complete the challenge (a total of 8 books), come claim your prize – a yeti stuffy or a Gleason knit hat – by February 28th. Presented with the support of the Friends of Gleason Public Library.

FOGPL Book Swap

The [Friends of the Gleason Public Library](#) will hold a FREE Pop-Up Book Swap on Saturday, February 7th at the Gleason Library. This book swap will accept donations of nonfiction books for adults, children’s and teen books of all genres, and jigsaw puzzles. No textbooks, travel guides, or encyclopedias. Please limit donations to 3 boxes per household.

Books will be available for browsing on Saturday afternoon 2/7 from 1 to 4 p.m. Please drop off donations ahead of time during any of the following hours:

- Thursday 2/5, 3 to 7 p.m.
- Friday 2/6, 3 to 5 p.m.
- Saturday 2/7, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

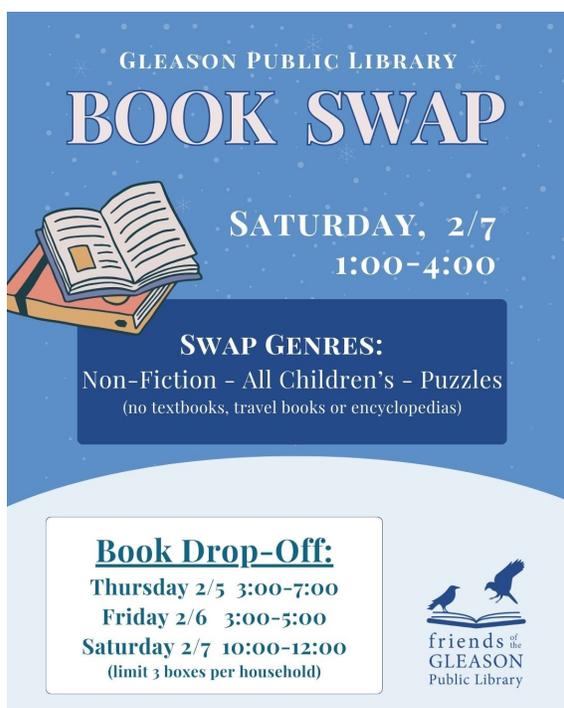
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Gleason Public Library, Continued from Page 10

eBooks for Kids

Gleason Library members can log on from home to [TumbleBooks](#): animated, talking picture books that teach kids the joy of reading in a format they'll love. TumbleBooks are created by taking existing picture books and adding animation, sound, music, and narration to produce an electronic picture book which you can read, or have read to you.

To log on, visit [gleasonlibrary.org](#) and go to "What We Offer" and then "Digital Resources." The collection includes picture books, easy readers, nonfiction, and a growing selection of books in Spanish and French. Enjoy favorites like Bink & Gollie, Diary of a Fly, and The Paper Bag Princess, or discover new authors and characters.



GLEASON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOOK SWAP

SATURDAY, 2/7
1:00-4:00

SWAP GENRES:
Non-Fiction - All Children's - Puzzles
(no textbooks, travel books or encyclopedias)

Book Drop-Off:
Thursday 2/5 3:00-7:00
Friday 2/6 3:00-5:00
Saturday 2/7 10:00-12:00
(limit 3 boxes per household)



WINTER 2026
READING CHALLENGE
FOR ALL AGES

MONDAY, 1/5 - SATURDAY, 2/28
WIN A PRIZE FOR READING!

Eight categories - endless possibilities! Bring a completed sheet to the Reference Desk by Saturday, 2/28, to claim your prize.

From Carlisle Public School and School Committee

Happy New Year!

We hope the new year began on a positive note for you and your family, and that 2026 brings you peace, health, and joy. January is always an energizing time at school as students and staff return refreshed after winter break. We hope that you and your family will be able to join us for some of our upcoming events.

As we closed out 2025, we were incredibly proud of the generosity and service demonstrated by our students. Our second and fifth grade Pajama Drive collected more than 340 pairs of pajamas for those in need, and the schoolwide Coat Drive successfully provided winter coats to families in Carlisle and surrounding communities. These service-learning opportunities play an important role in helping students develop empathy and civic responsibility. We are also grateful to our professional staff who make these meaningful experiences possible.

Continuing this spirit of giving, our kindergarten students will be collecting mittens and gloves of all sizes for the month of January in conjunction with their annual performances of *The Mitten*. During the week of January 26, kindergarten classrooms will host performances of *The Mitten* while donations will be accepted throughout the entire month of January. We are delighted to continue this cherished tradition for our students and their families.

This month the district is launching a new strategic planning process and we invite community members to get involved. The district is forming a Strategic Planning Steering Committee made up of parents, staff, administration, and community members. Meetings will take place 4-5 times from January through April. The first meeting of the committee was rescheduled to Thursday, January 22 at 4:00 PM in the Community Room. If you are interested in serving on the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, there is still time to join. In particular we are looking for a few more community members who do not have students enrolled in the school. All you need to do is fill out the form that is linked [here](#), and attend the first session on Thursday the 22nd.

The Carlisle Middle School basketball teams are off to a strong start this season, and we look forward to cheering them on in the weeks ahead. Please check the [district calendar](#) on the website homepage for game dates and locations.



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From Carlisle Public School and School Committee, Continued from Page 12

Looking ahead to February, we are excited to host the annual Multicultural Fair on Wednesday, February 4. This event features an in-school multicultural fair for students and an After-School Potluck for families in the Café with delicious food and activities. During the in-school fair, students will celebrate and learn about different cultures represented in our school community through multicultural exhibits and crafts/activities.

Lastly, 2026 will bring change to the Carlisle School District. After 10 years of dedicated service to the school and community, Superintendent Jim O’Shea will retire effective June 30, 2026. The entire School Committee thanks him for everything he has done for Carlisle over the last decade, and we wish him all the best as he starts his next chapter this summer. Stay tuned for news from the School Committee as we start to work through the process to identify a new superintendent.

Wishing you continued health and happiness in the year ahead.

Warm regards,

Brian Waterson
Carlisle School Committee Chair

Jim O’Shea
Superintendent of Schools

ESC Hour!



Swing by the **Clark Room** at Town Hall on Tuesday, January 27 between 12:00pm and 1:00pm for ESC Hour! Help yourself to some refreshments while members of ESC and our Land Use and Sustainability Coordinator answer your questions and hear your thoughts, concerns, and ideas on all things environmental. We can also share information on the new Community Choice Aggregation contract and electric rate options, as well as the new Massachusetts Heat Pump Electric Rate Discount. See you there!

From the Town Administrator

Happy New Year!

Like many of our residents, the Town of Carlisle begins the new year with a period of reflection and goal-setting—something that might feel a lot like New Year’s resolutions. And like you, we are committed to making 2026 a healthy, productive, and forward-looking year as we address both Carlisle’s day-to-day needs and its long-term, generational challenges.

This month, the Select Board will review the goals established during its summer retreats. These annual goals help set the Board’s agenda and focus attention on the major initiatives needed to sustain the Town now and into the future. Grounded in Carlisle’s Master Plan, the Select Board’s goals guide Town staff and serve as the foundation for our daily operations.

To view the Select Board’s current and past goals, visit:

<https://www.carlislema.gov/157/Select-Board>

The Select Board will also conduct the annual review of the Town Administrator in January and work with the Executive Office to establish Town Administrator goals for 2026. These goals are similarly aligned with the Master Plan and Select Board priorities to ensure a clear, coordinated focus across the organization.

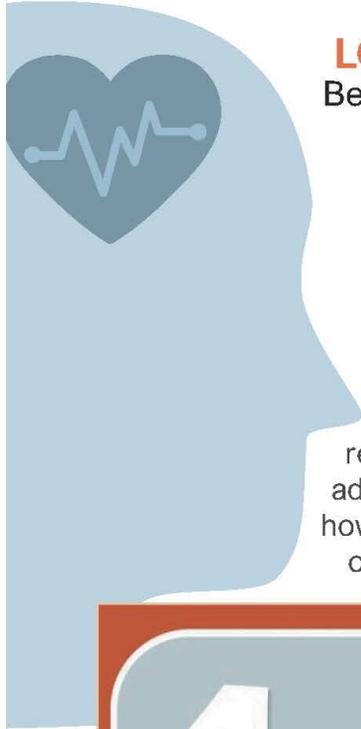
<https://www.carlislema.gov/1249/TA-Goals>

Perhaps the most important element of Carlisle’s goal-setting process happens at the staff level. As part of the annual evaluation process, every Town employee develops at least three goals that guide both their work and professional growth. Each set of goals must fit into the following categories:

- A goal tied to action items in the Master Plan
- A goal that improves the effectiveness of the employee’s department
- A professional development goal that strengthens individual performance

If you would like to learn more about how goals drive Carlisle’s operations, we encourage you to reach out to your elected officials or the Town Administrator. And just as importantly, we want to hear from you—**your input helps shape what Carlisle’s goals should be in 2026.**

Ryan McLane, Town Administrator



LOOKING FOR A NEW YEARS RESOLUTION?
Become certified to support friends, family, and loved ones with mental health and substance use challenges!

ADULT MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is an evidence-based, early-intervention course. MHFA for Adults teaches people how to recognize signs of mental health or substance use challenges in adults ages 18 and older, how to offer and provide initial help, and how to guide a person toward appropriate care if necessary. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, psychosis, and addictions.



Scan the QR Code to Sign-Up for the Training



OR REGISTER HERE:
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/3XZVBRAP](https://tinyurl.com/3xzvbrap)

Scan the QR Code to Learn More About the Training



MHFA TRAINING DATE

- January 24th, 2026
- 9 AM–4 PM, lunch provided!

You must register as spots are limited to 30 participants!

EMAIL OLIVIA WITH QUESTIONS
dufouro@sudbury.ma.us

Carlisle Board of Health

TRAINING LOCATION



Goodwin Forum, Main Library
129 Main St, Concord, MA 01742





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