



MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

Town of Carlisle

JANUARY 2023

Welcome Eric Koukos to Carlisle PD!

Welcome Eric Koukos, our newest police officer at the Carlisle Police Department! Officer Koukos has years of police experience, was a School Resource Officer while working for Bolton and Dracut, is a certified Police Motorcycle Operator, and speaks Portuguese and Greek, to name a few of his credentials. Congratulations!



From the Town Clerk's Office



(Photo courtesy of Town Clerk Peggy Wang)

Peggy Wang, Town Clerk
townclerk@carlislema.gov

Based on a request from the Town Clerk, on December 13, 2022, the Select Board approved the use of electronic voting system to count and tabulate ballots beginning with the May 16, 2023 Annual Town election and all future elections thus replacing the current hand counting process. As a result, the old hand crack ballot box pictured here will no longer be used. This is the end of a long standing historical practice and I am saddened by the loss but it is a much needed change. Many town residents have shared their disappointment with the decision. So far in the month of January the Office of the Town Clerk has issued approximately 150 Transfer Station Stickers, 325 dog licenses and processed over 600 returned Town Census.

Social Media:



@townofcarlislama



@townofcarlisle



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2023 Climate Resolutions: Easy to make and affordable to keep

Sue Thomas, [Sustainability Coordinator](#), 978-399-2798

Climate news is everywhere this year. And overwhelming. However, while extreme weather events interrupted holiday celebrations across the continent and the globe, the Federal Government continued to roll out programs and financial assistance to citizens, municipalities, landlords and business owners for reducing emissions, and the incoming Healey Administration buttressed recent state legislation and funding for the same array of constituents with an Executive Order creating a new Climate Chief for Massachusetts. How does this impact you? It means whatever your circumstance, there is a climate resolution you can keep. These steps make Federal and State dollars available to help you lower your carbon footprint and protect the town and the people you love in the form of free equipment, rebates and tax credits, to:

- Make your home more energy efficient, just as energy prices are increasing
- Electrify your home and install clean energy
- Add battery storage
- Purchase a new appliance
- Buy an electric car.

See [Mass Save](#), [Energy.gov](#), [the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center](#), the [Green Energy Consumers Alliance](#), and the [IRS](#) for more information.

Incentives and tax credits are usually “stackable” meaning you can claim them all, and a greater number of people are now eligible for greater discounts, as the most recent legislation at both the federal and state levels places a priority on equity. Don’t be shy about checking into these resources!

How is Carlisle helping you?

Carlisle has a grant funded part time Sustainability Coordinator working on embedding sustainability principles into municipal decision making and assisting the newly formed Environmental Sustainability Committee. [Come listen to me talk about programs and funding available to help you on February 28th at 1:00 PM in the Clark Room, courtesy of the Council on Aging](#)



MASSACHUSETTS
CLEAN ENERGY
CENTER

- The Carlisle Select Board created the [Environmental Sustainability Committee](#), which has developed a workplan to achieve the goals in the [Master Plan](#), and is rapidly building a team committed to this mission.
- Group purchasing of electricity and municipal net metering agreements. If you are not already part of the [Carlisle Community Choice Aggregation Program](#), sign up! Opt Up to higher levels of renewables if you can. Perhaps this is your New Year's commitment?
- One stop solid waste disposal, swapping, recycling and composting at the newly organized [transfer station](#)
- A [Library of Things](#) at the Gleason Public Library, including an induction oven
- Participation in the [Green Communities Program](#), resulting in grant funded improvements to municipal facilities and fleets and a more resilient building code
- Participation in the [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program](#)
- Conservation Planning and an array of committees working to protect the character and resilience of the town.
- Public Safety officials prepared to help during extreme weather events.
- While it is not possible to mention every effort, department and committee that is hard at work in this space in one newsletter, all of town government is committed to protecting your health, the health of the town and of the planet as we address changes in the years ahead.

What will you resolve to do this year?

Make a plan using the resources above to select energy and money saving tasks that work for you.

- Have MassSave make a plan for you based on a free energy audit. Did you know energy audits can be redone every three years?
- If this year, you hope to reach out and learn more, volunteering for a town committee
- If money and time are tight, even with these resources and supports, traditional conservation values can underpin your resolution to help the planet and yourself. [Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle](#) is the new motto and it works for almost any decision you may make.
- Refuse it – distinguish between needs and wants and choose the lower emission option.
- Reduce – If you can't or won't refuse an item, take or buy less of it. Consider items with recycled content and limit plastic when possible, including in clothing.
- Reuse – before you buy, consider if you have something you can repurpose rather than purchase, and before you toss, if that item has more life, or a possible second one, give or donate it to some-

Climate Resolutions, continued from page 3

one who will use it

- **Recycle** – Buy things that recycle or compost at the end of their lives and then do so when their utility has been exhausted. Aim for zero waste, meaning no trash, and see how low you can go!

This thought process can make a big difference when it comes to big problems for the environment, your budget, and town trash costs, as well as our global climate footprint. One important example is to apply this thinking to food waste:

- **Refuse:** Limit or eliminate items that are high on the food chain, use a tremendous amount of water to grow, are out of season, or come from far away. Buy local to encourage sustainable local food production. You may be surprised at how satisfying a blend of substitutes and small portions can be.
- **Reduce:** Buy only what you will use. Measure your current food waste. Most people are shocked to realize how much food they throw away. Make a list before you shop to avoid duplication and multiple trips to the store.
- **Reuse:** Make a soup or a sauce or a casserole or a stock with your leftovers or older produce. Freeze items for later.
- **Compost!** You don't have to be a chemist or a gardener to make great topsoil for your lawn or garden.
- Other examples of areas to start thinking about Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle include paper and plastic goods, but really any area of purchasing and consumption might benefit from a second look using this mindset. Consider doing a trash audit one week and use it to guide your changes. Limit yourself to one thing at a time and give yourself time (3 months at least) to build the new habit. Once you have made the switch, you will wonder what took you so long!



Take advantage of all these people and dollars working for you. Make a plan and work it to keep a climate resolution in 2023!

The Council on Aging and Human Services

Joan Ingersoll, COAHS Director
jingersoll@carlislema.gov

Thanks to a grant from the ARPA Committee we were able to provide an extra \$3,000 in home heating funds to 16 senior households, paid directly to their heating vendors. This support was greatly appreciated by all the recipients.

Carol is starting Health Tweak, a health coaching group for those interested in moving in a healthier direction in the new year. The group will consider nutrition, exercise, and sleep habits to get moving on a better path to feeling good. The group provides an opportunity to share and connect with others, while supporting everyone's

success.

Our January lunch will celebrate Chinese New Year with Chinese cuisine and a performance by the CPS Chinese language students.

For more information, visit <https://www.carlislecoahs.org/>

Route to Sustainability Day

The Carlisle Environmental Sustainability Committee is organizing a "Route to Sustainability Day" town event (subject to Select Board approval) for Earth Day (April 22nd) 2023. Attractions will include various activities and displays for all ages in key locations around the town center. These information stations will be linked by a suggested route for participants to walk. A myriad of town departments and committees along with non-profits, local groups, and local farms are being invited and scheduled to participate, each highlighting environmentally conscious efforts and presenting to the public information on environmental issues and sustainable practices. Volunteers, student participation and ideas sought and welcomed! Please contact us at esc.carlislema@gmail.com. Sponsored by the Carlisle Cultural Council.



New Stretch Energy Code Update: January 1, 2023

Jon Metivier
Building Commissioner
jmetivier@carlislema.gov

Important changes to the Stretch Energy Code have been updated for the beginning of 2023.

The Stretch Energy Code will be receiving two major up-

dates in 2023 and 2024. The Town of Carlisle is a Green Community and has adopted and enforces the Stretch Energy Code. Please visit this link for important information regarding these changes:

[https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stretch-energy-code-](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stretch-energy-code-development-2022#final-code-language-for-stretch-code-update-and-new-specialized-stretch-code-)

[development-2022#final-code-language-for-stretch-code-update-and-new-specialized-stretch-code-](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stretch-energy-code-development-2022#final-code-language-for-stretch-code-update-and-new-specialized-stretch-code-)

If you have project design or compliance questions, or would like more clarification on these changes, please contact Jon Metivier, Carlisle Building Commissioner.

Gleason Public Library

Martha Feeney-Patten, Director
mpatten@gleasonlibrary.org

The Gleason welcomed three new part-time library assistants this fall. Joseph Sorrenti has worked previously at the Concord Free Library and Dun & Bradstreet; he has a Bachelor's in Psychology from U. Mass – Lowell and a Master's in Library Science from Simmons University. Sinead Sinnott worked most recently at the Concord Bookshop and has a Bachelor's in Studio Art from Brandeis and a JD from Brooklyn Law School. Bárbara Carrera has a BA in American Studies and Sociology from Cornell University and a Master's in Library and Information Science from Simmons University; she is working primarily evenings and weekends at the Gleason in addition to her work as Assistant Director of Document Services at the Boston Housing Authority. This month, we are looking forward to our all-ages Endowment event on Sunday, January 22nd, when the Gleason will be transformed into a fun, indoor mini golf course! More information is on our website here: <https://gleasonlibrary.org/mini-golf-at-the-gleason/>

[Here is our full January enewsletter.](#)

Conservation Commission/Land Stewards - Towle Field

Warren Lyman
LSC co-chair

Did you notice that only a portion of Towle Field was mowed last year, and not until late fall? There is a reason for this. The Conservation Commission, at the request of the Land Stewardship Committee (LSC), has modified the management objectives for the field. Prior to 2022 it was mowed twice a year (early and late) with the objectives of maintaining an open field, maintaining vistas, providing a section for grassland-nesting birds (especially bobolinks), and – years ago – allowing some passive, open-field recreation, e.g., kite flying.



Wildflowers, joe pye weed and goldenrod, in Towle Field. (Photo by Judy Asarkof)

The current LSC recommendation add an important new objective: to manage the field for native wildlife habitat value, with a special focus on providing quality habitat for native wildflowers, grasses, and insects, especially pollinators. The changes this new management focus will engender should also prove a major benefit to small mammals and birds. To achieve this improved wildlife habitat, the field will in the future be mowed, in rotating sections (after the first hard frost), only every third year. Work will continue to remove invasive and unwanted plants from the field, and to encourage a higher percentage of native plant growth. We hope those visiting Towle Field in the future will observe a more robust and diverse habitat including more native wildflowers and insects, and lots more birds. This altered habitat should be more resilient in the face of future stresses including those related to climate change.

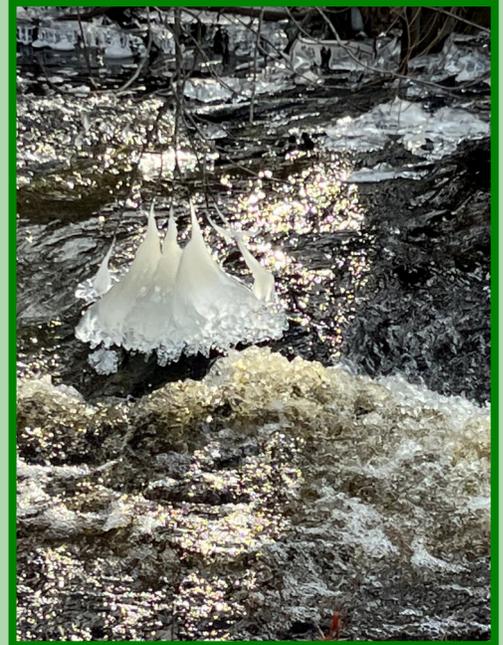
From the Friends of the Gleason Public Library

Karin Kliger

The Friends of the Gleason Public Library (FoGPL) will hold a FREE Pop-Up Book and Puzzle Swap on Saturday, February 11th. This book swap covers mysteries, thrillers, and romance as well as children’s books of all genres and jigsaw puzzles.

Please drop off your books and puzzles at the library on Saturday morning between 10am-1pm, then shop for “new” ones in the afternoon between 1-4pm. Shop whether or not you have left items in the morning. Donations are welcome - we hope to see you there!

The Friends is a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation made up of volunteers interested in supporting and enhancing the programs, services, and materials available to our community through Gleason Public Library. Because of your generous donations, this past year we were able to sponsor over 140 programs at the Gleason Public Library which reached over 4,100 people in town, in addition to almost 700 patrons who got to enjoy a museum pass.



Ice sculptures on Greenough (Photo courtesy of Sylvia Willard)

Carlisle Public Schools

Our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) group is planning a Multicultural Festival for Wednesday, January 25th, and while the morning portion of the program takes place during school, it is a half day and the afternoon portion is open to anyone. The afternoon session runs from 12:30 to 2:30 and includes a potluck!

RSVP at www.carlislemapto.org

Carlisle Public School
MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL
 January 25, 2023 Early Release Day

During school day for students:	&	After-school for families (12:30-2:30):
Multicultural Exhibits!		POTLUCK!!
Scavenger Hunt!		Multicultural Exhibits!
Crafts!		Henna Station!
Cross-Cultural Club!		Choir Performance!

Join fellow Carlisle families at the **POTLUCK** from **12:30-2:30** in the Cafe!
 RSVP at www.carlislemapto.org

If you're interested in sharing your culture by creating a display or planning an activity, contact Marie-Laure at mrivier@carlisle.k12.ma.us or sign up at www.carlislemapto.org

NEW Winter Cultural Grant Program — Apply Now!

Mark Levitan

The Carlisle Cultural Council is conducting an extra cultural grant funding round starting immediately. All Carlisle-based organizations and individuals who produce cultural programs of any kind are invited to apply by the February 28 deadline.

This grant round will be funded by Town of Carlisle ARPA funds, which were provided to the Cultural Council by the Select Board, upon recommendation of the Carlisle ARPA Committee. These funds are intended to assist Carlisle's cultural organizations in recovering from the negative financial and engagement impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

What we mean by culture: music, dance, theater, fine art, pop art, sculpture, photography, multimedia, fiber arts, ethnic customs, culinary arts, humanities, literature, poetry, nature, gardening, woodworking, ceramics, storytelling, history, science, language and more...

Guidelines and priorities for this round may be found in the application. Programs may be scheduled to occur from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

Applications for specific programs that have been awarded an FY23 Mass Cultural Council LCC grant from the Carlisle Cultural Council are not eligible. If your organization was awarded an FY23 LCC grant, you are encouraged to apply for a grant for a different project. I.E., if you were awarded a grant for a Winter Concert, you may apply for a grant for a Spring Concert.

To request an application, please email culturalcouncil@carlislema.gov



Carlisle Cultural Council Announces FY23 Cultural Grant Awards

The Carlisle Cultural Council is excited to announce the recipients of its FY23 Local Cultural Grants! These grants support a wide range of visual arts, music, science and multidisciplinary programs for the benefit of the Carlisle community. A total of \$7,025 is being granted to 16 organizations, funded by \$5,300 from the Mass Cultural Council and \$1,725 from the Cultural Council's ARPA program.

"The Cultural Council is thrilled to have received applications for so many creative and interesting programs in this grant round," stated Council Chair Mark Levitan. "Completely new programs, such as the new Environmental Sustainability Committee's Earth Day festival, and the Historical Society's educational program on preserving historically significant homes, highlight the awards, but all of the programs reflect the continued vitality and perseverance of Carlisle's cultural community through some very difficult times."

Local Cultural Grants are made possible by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, through its Local Cultural Council (LCC) program, the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation.

The Cultural Council encourages the entire Carlisle community to join in congratulating and supporting these worthy local organizations and programs. Look for dates and program information on organization websites or in the Carlisle Mosquito.

Carlisle Environmental Sustainability Committee — "Route to Sustainability" Town-wide Earth Day Festival

Gleason Public Library — "Chain Reactions: Make a Rube Goldberg Machine"

Carlisle Old Home Day Association — Old Home Day Arts and Crafts Show

Carlisle Garden Club — Seed Swap and Share for Sustainability

Deborah Bentley et al — Carlisle Poppy Project

Carlisle Chamber Orchestra — Winter Concert featuring pianist George Lopez

The Savoyard Light Opera Company — "The Pirates of Penzance"

Carlisle Community Chorus — Community Chorus concerts

Carlisle Historical Society — "Preservation of antique and other historically significant Carlisle homes"

Rita Parisi, for Carlisle COAHS — "I am Zelda," One-act play about Mrs. F. Scott Fitzgerald

Friends of Center Park — Outdoor Benching for Woodland Gardens

Carlisle Communications, Inc (Carlisle Mosquito) — Adding Color to our Shared Culture

Concord Women's Chorus — "Grown Wild" concert

Discovery Museum — Open Door Connections

Virginia Thurston Healing Garden — Visual Arts Therapy

Concord Orchestra — 2022-2023 Season and Music Director Search