



Leyden Life



Leyden, Massachusetts

December 2014

Selectboard Office Hours:

Monday 12:00 - 5:00 PM, Tuesday—Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Tax Collector:

Monday and Wednesday 5:30 - 8:00 PM

Assessors Office:

Wednesday 2:00 - 8:00 PM

Town Clerk

VITAL STATISTICS

No births, marriages or deaths were reported

Town Clerk Office Hours are Mondays 8:00 AM – 12:00 NOON and
Wednesdays 4:30 – 6:00 PM Phone 774-7769

Select Board

SELECTBOARD MEETINGS

The Select Board will meet Thursday, December 4th at 9:00 AM, and Thursday, December 18th at 6:45 PM in their office. To be added to the agenda or to get a copy of it, please contact Bob Hardesty at 774-4111 or leydenselectboard@crocker.com at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Anyone not on the posted agenda is welcome to address the Selectboard at the end of the meeting during the “Citizens’ concerns not anticipated in advance of the meeting” agenda item time.

TOWN HALL MONTHLY MEETINGS

The following meetings are scheduled this month:

- Wed, Dec 3 6:30 PM Board of Assessors
- Thu, Dec 4 9:00 AM Selectboard
- Tue, Dec 9 5:30 PM Board of Health (at the Police Station)
- Wed, Dec 10 7:00 PM Planning Board
- Mon, Dec 15 7:30 PM Conservation Commission
- Wed, Dec 17 6:30 PM Board of Assessors
- Thu, Dec 18 6:45 PM Selectboard

Any changes to these meeting dates or times will be posted separately. Meetings *not* held monthly will also be posted separately.

Note: Monthly meetings are now posted on the town web site at www.townofleyden.com. Any changes or additions to meeting times and/or dates should be forwarded to Municipal Assistant.
—Selectboard

Holiday Craft Fair

Saturday, December 6 — 9 AM to 3 PM

At town hall

Tables are available for \$5 (plus a portion of the ad cost)

Lunch will be available — also a bake table

Call Marilyn Kugler at 413-522-1847 for info

POETRY READING AND BOOK SIGNING

Sunday December 7th at 4 PM

Leyden Town Hall

Paula Sayword is pleased to invite family, friends and neighbors to celebrate the publication of her full-length book of poems, *Canticle of Light and Dark*.

Poet Anne Love Woodhull writes: “Canticle of Light and Dark has sting and grace, cloak and bare skin; each poem chimes with passion and clarity. From the tender to unbearable loss, these poems shine into the dark of northeast woods, the mesas of the west and the rigors of human experience. Here is quiet bravery.”

Please join us for poetry readings and book signings. Refreshments will be served.

Canticle of Light and Dark was published by The Synthesis Center Press of Amherst, MA.

Select Board Corner

The Select Board wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday season with family and friends!

The Town Hall roof is on, windows are beginning to be replaced, kitchen is underway, propane tank at PRES is fenced. Many residents have enjoyed the Leyden Cafe!

Members of the Select Boards and Finance Committees met with Dayle Doiron, the Superintendent at Pioneer Valley Regional School, to better understand the school’s budget process. This understanding will hopefully assist the Select Board and Finance Committee build a budget calendar. The Select Board Association had a meeting at GCC to update us on the Heroin and Opioid issue in Franklin County. There is a highly functioning Opioid Education and Awareness Task Force working to reduce/eliminate addiction. All areas are experiencing increased break-ins as drug users need to fund

their habits. Please follow good safety measures by locking your home when you leave and using an alarm if you have one.

A Special Town Meeting (STM) will very likely be held in January. This meeting will allow the town to move forward with some land donation and transfer issues as well as complete any necessary decisions to enable the auction of properties taken for lack of tax payments now owned by the Town. The Town received the certification of Free Cash of \$61,584 on November 12th, thanks to a great job by our finance team of Tracey Baronas, Roxanne Zimmerman and Kris Nartowitz. This prompt knowledge of the Free Cash position also assists in the budgeting process. We hope an informational meeting about the use of the land adjacent to the ball field and PRES can be held in conjunction with the STM. More on that to come.

—Select Board

Robertson Memorial Library

Library Hours: Monday 1:00 – 6:00 PM; Wednesday 1:00 – 6:00 PM, and
Saturday 10:00 AM to NOON Phone 773-9334 (Leave a message any time.)

The roar of machinery right outside the library made for exciting times as Dave and Bill Brooks created our new parking lot! Countless hours, a gazillion loads of fill, and incredible finesse have created a splendid space just south of the library for safer parking for patrons. It is now a *fait accompli*, and it is definitely a very satisfactory result! Thank you, Dave and Bill; we know you have numerous projects awaiting you, but you put us high on your list of priorities, and we appreciate it.

Note: The parking lot is a great success! Often four cars parked side by side, so be sure to take advantage of this safe and well-designed area. Grass is poking up on the banks and things are looking *good*.

On a beautiful fall Monday, the twentieth of October, all of the students and teachers from the Pearl Rhodes Elementary School hiked up the hill to sign out a book which they'll read in school during sustained silent reading sessions. When done, they will work with art teacher Rhonda Wainshilbaum on a combined art/language arts project. What a wonderful group of kids attends the Leyden school! You'd have been impressed by their friendliness, politeness, and care in choosing their books. Their teachers are very special, too. What a nice day!

We have the opportunity to sponsor a series of programs for children, ages five and younger if there is enough parental interest. The Massachusetts Department of Early Childhood Education and Care via their Coordinated Family and Community Engagement program has been awarded a grant to offer programs in the PVRs district. We can design whatever works for the majority of families who might be interested in participating. Saturday morning events, after school gatherings, whatever will work, we may be able to coordinate. The focus is on tots' being able to socialize and play/learn. Basic literacy and STEM projects would be incorporated into each program. If you are interested, or have some ideas or questions, please call me or Cindy LeBlanc. We would love to make something good happen for the little ones and their Leyden parents!

We are weeding out the old to make way for the new books, CDs, and DVDs that arrive weekly at the library. Some of the young adult books will be donated to the PRES library, and some of the adult fiction and non-fiction will go to hospitals, nursing homes, etc. Why weed? It is really frustrating when books and materials are so crammed together that accessing them is next to impossible. We want a library that is user friendly and up to date in its offerings. If you want to pick through what will soon leave our shelves, come in and browse. A donation of a dollar per book would be great!

The trustees, patrons, and I would like to thank Trueman Robbins for his years of service as a member of the board of library trustees. From sanding and painting the picnic table to providing wood chips and plants for the library's garden, Trueman has been a great asset to the RML. He and Tucker, the library dog, have made countless people smile and have helped to create a friendly atmosphere here. Trueman will step down from his formal role, but he'll continue to donate ideas and time to help us make this the best little library ever. Thank you, Trueman!

Another thank you is in order to Rich DiMatteo who replaced the weather stripping around the door. With the precision of the artist he is, Rich has created an air-tight door, and we thank him for his time and expertise!

Happy days to you all.

—Chris Johnston

Charles Neville and The Skeletones Big Band rock Town Hall

What a great time we had at the terrific concert last month at Town Hall! A standing-room-only crowd enjoyed two sets of jumpin' jive music plus great desserts from the Leyden Cafe. Thanks to all who attended. Plans are in the works for the Cultural Council to host a similar shindig in warm weather at a larger venue so that we can dance! Special Thank You to Bill Glabach, Bob Hardesty, Bill Brooks, Dave Brooks, Karen Loomis and the Leyden Police Department for making the night a success.

—Leyden Cultural Council

Leyden Life Lowdown

EASY SUBMISSION

Submit an e-mail to Cornelia Reid at cr43wr41@gmail.com, Carolyn Asbury at carolyn.asbury@gmail.com, and Bob Taylor at bobxtwo@verizon.net. (Yes, please send it to *all three* of us.)

Either attach a Word document or include the information in the body of the e-mail. If e-mail is not possible for you, hard copies of items for *Leyden Life* can be left in the book drop outside the Library. The deadline for inputs is the **15th of the month**.

If you would like to receive the **electronic version of *Leyden Life*** in PDF format, please email the same three addresses listed above.

THANKS

Thanks to Karen Loomis and Kathie Benson for collating, and thanks to deliverers Marie Bartlett, Marie Lovley, and the Cafferys. (We apologize if we missed anyone.)



from the Leyden Life staff

DISCLAIMER

Leyden Life is not an official publication of the town, nor an official source of town business. We do our best to print accurately and distribute promptly the announcements and information we receive. Please check with the town to verify information regarding town business or activities.

Leyden Life

Published monthly in Leyden, Massachusetts by a non-profit group of volunteers.

Editors: Cornelia Reid 774-5146,
Carolyn Asbury 774-2840

Layout and Design: Bob Taylor 624-8965

Items for the next issue are due to Cornelia at cr43wr41@gmail.com, Carolyn at carolyn.asbury@gmail.com, and Bob at bobxtwo@verizon.net by 5:00 PM on

Monday, December 15th

If you cannot e-mail your submission, please leave it in the book drop outside the Library.

Donations are always welcome! Send to:

Leyden Life c/o Reid
30 West Leyden Road
Leyden, MA 01337

Leyden Council on Aging (COA)

Mission Statement: The Leyden Council on Aging is a senior advocacy group sponsored and funded by the Massachusetts Department of Elder Affairs. Our purpose is to enrich the lives of Leyden residents 60 and older, by providing educational and recreational opportunities that promote the physical, social, and mental wellness of our residents, and by directing seniors and their families to local and state agencies available to address their personal needs.

Community Survey for Seniors:

Thanks to all who filled out a survey, including those of you who don't identify yet as a "senior". The process of aging covers a large span of years and is unique to each individual (although an accident or unexpected diagnosis can change that in an instant). This survey will help us identify our common interests and also foresee our common needs, regardless of chronological age. Our goal is to better support each other through the long and interesting aging process.

The Council is still reviewing survey responses and will share them with you in the coming weeks. (A sneak preview: exercise/wellness classes are the most requested activity, and transportation is at the top of the list of desired services.) Thank you to those who gave us an address or email – we will be in touch soon!

Emergency Food Bank:

Our Emergency Food Bank is aimed at helping any Leyden individuals or families during extended power outages or other types of family emergencies. Canned and non-perishable food items can be left at Town Hall on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 9 to 11 AM, or anytime in a special collection bin located just inside the front door of Town Hall. The collected food items are being organized and stored in the Town Hall kitchen for use whenever needed. A donation from every family in town would be terrific!

Wednesday, December 3

4:30-5:30 ~ Monthly Business Meeting of COA Board at Town Hall. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Wednesday, December 10

12:00-2:00 PM ~ Holiday Workshop ~ Come for a light lunch and stay for a workshop on designing centerpieces for the holidays with local designer Emily Clark, followed by a drawing for a 16-piece holiday china set! Please RSVP to Sue Howarth at 774-3118 by December 9th, so that we can plan lunch and craft supplies.

⇒ Wednesday, December 17 (NEW!)

10:30 a.m.-1:00 PM ~ Lunch Club ~ Join us at Town Hall for our first official **Community Meal** from Franklin County Home Care. Come at 10:30 for coffee, conversation, some caroling, and a special holiday guest (although sadly NOT from the North Pole). A hot lunch of roast beef au jus, roast potatoes, veggies and apple/cranberry crisp will be served at 11:45. **Call Sue Howarth at 774-3118, at least 2 days in advance to reserve a space.**

Going forward, the **Leyden Lunch Club** will serve a hot meal on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at Town Hall. This is a great way to get out of the house during the winter without going too far, and get a good hot meal besides.

Weather Note: Council programs will not be held if school is closed or dismissed early due to bad weather.

Need transportation? Call Dianne Ryan at 624-0225.



Historical Commission

The Leyden Historical Commission will be mailing each household an important letter in December updating our goals for acquiring a permanent building to house and display the town's historic items and a request for a donation to help meet this goal. Any donation large or small will be helpful and most appreciated, and will be tax deductible. Please think of your town and its wonderful history when making year-end charitable contributions this year. Thank you!



Knitting Circle

The Leyden knitting circle will meet twice in December, on the 5th at Peggy Brown's house (774-5764) and on the 19th at Kathie Benson's house (773-8595) from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. All are welcome to join us; no experience is needed and all kinds of handwork are fine. Even if you don't know how to knit, come along and we'll help you get started! Visitors and all ages are welcome; it's very relaxed and low-key.

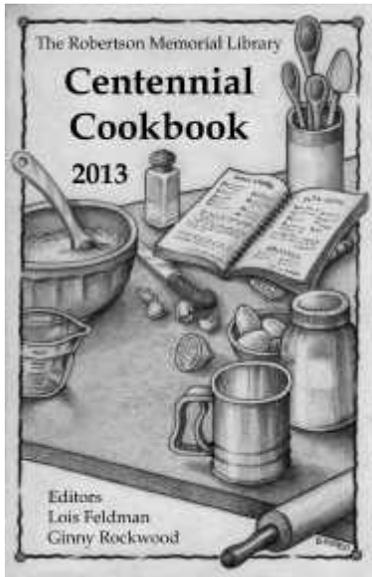
—Laura Timmerman, 773-8325

Facebook Group: "Leyden Knitting Circle" Members sometimes post pictures of their projects here, or interesting knitting-related links.



Leyden Seniors enjoy Thanksgiving turkey dinner at Town Hall On Nov. 19th thanks to Leyden COA arranged by Sue Howarth

It's not Just a Cookbook Anymore



Looking for a recipe for the holidays, or a great holiday gift? Look no further.

The Robertson Memorial Library Centennial Cookbook is published and out to rave reviews. Not only does it contain a wide assortment of tempting recipes from Leyden residents, but, there are photos and a concise history of the library. There are additional photos of historical buildings and maps of current and previous farms in town—all in all a little gem of a book.

Leyden Cookbooks are still \$12, and available at the library during regular library hours or by calling Lois at 774-4092.

WiredWest

How many of you have kitchens that were just fine with two outlets 20 years ago, but now you have six small appliances and are already eyeing another one for Christmas and trying to figure out how to get more outlets? How many of you had one phone in the living room 20 years ago, and now have portable phones everywhere but the bathroom? How many of you did not own a cell phone just ten years ago, and now there are three people in your house with smart phones, as well as at least one tablet, a reading device, and a computer or two? This is the direction in which we are all moving. None of us will go back to less technology. Even those of us who say we will never need that nonsense may soon find that if we want to stay in our homes longer, we will need to be connected via WiFi to our doctors. We already know that our homes are much harder to sell without it, that our children can't come back here to live without it, and that our home-based businesses simply struggle to survive without it.

WiredWest and MBI are at a crucial moment in this massive regional project to get fiber optic to our homes, by far the best option, and one that will last for decades. Any other options, broadband, DSL, etc., simply can't keep pace with our growing needs, and will need hugely expensive upgrades every few years. You can be sure those expenses will be passed on to us as consumers, while the WiredWest option will one day bring our towns financial returns. The good news is that we are at a point where concrete steps must be taken, by us and by our towns. We are going to be asked soon to make a refundable deposit to be applied to installation charges when the network has been built. This will enter into all the planning for the network, and may well affect how soon we get it, based on each town's response. We, and our towns, will need to make a real commitment in securing the future for ourselves, and for Leyden.

Much more information will be coming soon. In the meantime, Al Woodhull and I are looking for some help from some more technologically savvy, or even just technologically desperate, Leydenites to help us move forward. We are going to need some real supporters of this project who might be willing to meet to discuss the next steps. You can email me at lshourihan@aol.com, Al Woodhull at aswoodhull@yahoo.com, or Bob Hardesty at Town Hall at leydenselectboard@crocker.com, or call him at 774-4111 if you are interested in the next steps.

—Sheila Hourihan

Pearl Rhodes Elementary School

Holiday Concert

The Annual Pearl Rhodes Holiday Concert will be held on Wednesday, December 10th at 7:00 PM at Town Hall. All families and friends are invited. Parents please have your child arrive no later than 6:45 PM. Students are encouraged to dress in their best outfits for this special occasion.

There will be a gathering downstairs after the performance. Please consider contributing a baked treat or other light refreshment for everyone to enjoy. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

December 6 - Holiday Craft Fair at Town Hall

December 10 - Holiday Concert

December 11 - FCU Banking Day

December 24 – Jan 2 - Winter Recess

PLEASE DONATE TO LEYDEN LIFE

Leyden Life depends entirely on contributions from its readers, as well as willing volunteers to edit, do the layout, collate, bag and deliver. We are immensely grateful for all gifts large and small. If you have never donated before, please realize that a gift of even a dollar or two helps, besides letting us know that what we do is worthwhile. Send a check payable to "Leyden Life" to Leyden Life, 30 West Leyden Road, Leyden MA 01337, or drop off cash at the same address.

If you have already donated, thank you!

Deliverers Needed

Would you like to help deliver *Leyden Life*? We need delivery people, especially on Greenfield Road and Brattleboro Road. It needn't be each month; whenever you can volunteer would be welcome. Call or contact Carolyn at 774-2840 or carolyn.asbury@gmail.com. Thanks!

Season's



Greetings

Leyden United Methodist Church Of Tea and Thanksgiving

I finally discovered what tea is all about. I know, I know, it took me long enough. I have always been someone who takes life on at 100 miles an hour with my hair on fire and tea always kind of ticked me off. It is too hot to drink and has no flavor when you first pour it and too cold to drink and is too strong if you let it sit. I'm not very patient. That's true of society in general. We love instant gratification. We expect our internet to run at high speeds, our microwaves to cook our popcorn speedily and our meals to be delivered quickly at restaurants. Chili's Bar and Grille even has a new electronic screen device at the table called a Ziosk where you can push a button to order your dessert halfway through your meal to avoid any of that pesky waiting around. I think that is really cool, but unfortunately, it feeds our desire as a society to move onto the next thing.

What I discovered was this: a cup of tea is bliss. It is time sitting still. It is a time of sitting still long enough that my kitten is delighted to find a place to rest on my lap. She reminds me that this is very unusual in the course of a busy week of jumping up to answer the phone or run to the next meeting. Sitting with a cup of tea is a radical countercultural slowing down in a world which speeds along. It is time valuing talking with your friends or loved one or pouring over a wonderful book or today's news. It's time savoring the moment, savoring the flavor of the tea and even savoring and opportunity to be alone with your thoughts, perhaps even prayers.

I think we all need some of that serenity this time of year especially. It tends to be a time of year when a lot of organizations plan special meetings and events and it can leave us quite breathless as the holidays approach with even more opportunities to be too busy shopping and cooking and wrapping and writing cards and entertaining family and friends.

Of the Ten Commandments, the fourth is, "Remember the Sabbath." For some people, Sunday is their Sabbath day, a day when they go to church. Worship is an important part of that day, but not the only part. Because I'm a pastor and work on Sunday, my Sabbath day is Tuesday. It's a day when I praise God by appreciating all that has been created. It's a time that I set aside to do nothing so that I can appreciate everything. Author Eugene Peterson reminds us that it is a time "to set aside our anxious attempts to make ourselves useful, to set aside our tense restlessness, to set aside our media-satiated boredom. Sabbath is the time to receive silence and let it deepen into gratitude, to receive quiet."

One of my favorite Bible passages is from Isaiah 58:13-14 (MSG). It says, "Treat the Sabbath as a day of joy, God's holy day as a celebration. If you honor it by refusing 'business as usual,' making money, running here and there—then you'll be free to enjoy God!"

That is what I learned about drinking tea. It is a time to receive silence and quiet and allow me to deepen my gratitude for the beauty of nature and family and community. It is a time of Sabbath, refusing business as usual and enjoying God's creation. In this season of gratitude and thanksgiving, I pray you will find a way to embrace that silence and joy in the midst of the bustle of busy-ness.

Let's put the tea in Thanksgiving, allowing time for silence and letting it deepen into gratitude! *Reverend Cheryl Meachen*

Unclassified Ads

Unclassified Ads Policy Statement

We welcome unclassified ads from Town residents, and will run them free of charge (though a small donation of \$1 or so is always appreciated). We will normally run an ad for one issue only, unless requested to extend it.

VHS to DVD Service Wanted: We are in search of someone who can transfer VHS tapes to DVDs. Please contact Jim & Sharon Clark at 773-9389, and leave a message if no one answers. We have a few VHS tapes that we would love to save onto DVDs.

Seasonal Outdoor Work: We're looking for someone to help with seasonal outdoor chores such as lawn mowing, weed whacking, fire wood stacking and raking snow off the roof. If interested in earning extra money, call Paula or Karen at 774-3897.

Timber Frame Buildings small, custom-designed and assembled. Locally milled lumber. Cabins, sheds, workshops, studios, pool houses, greenhouses, etc. Contact Patrick at Single Bay Timber Frames at 413-834-4285 or message me on Facebook at Single Bay Timber Frames.

Ed's Sugar Shack has fresh local maple syrup for sale. Available in gallons, half gallons, quarts and pints. Call 773-7619, Ed and Carol Johnson, 72 South County Road, Leyden. Member of Massachusetts Maple Producers Association

Natural Lamb is available again from the Petersons at Orchard Valley Farm. No growth-enhancing hormones or antibiotics. Usual cuts generally available. Special orders on request. Call 624-5562 or email ovfarm@verizon.net. Like us on Facebook at Orchard Valley Farm.

Maple Run Farm: A limited supply of Persephone's Garden Raw Honey should be available late fall. 2015 should be a great year. Pigs were raised this year, but what we have is spoken for. Natural Romney yarn is for sale for knitting or weaving, processed chemical-free at Green Mountain Spinnery in Putney, VT. Call Barbara Wallace at 774-7780.

Sweet Morning Farm CSA

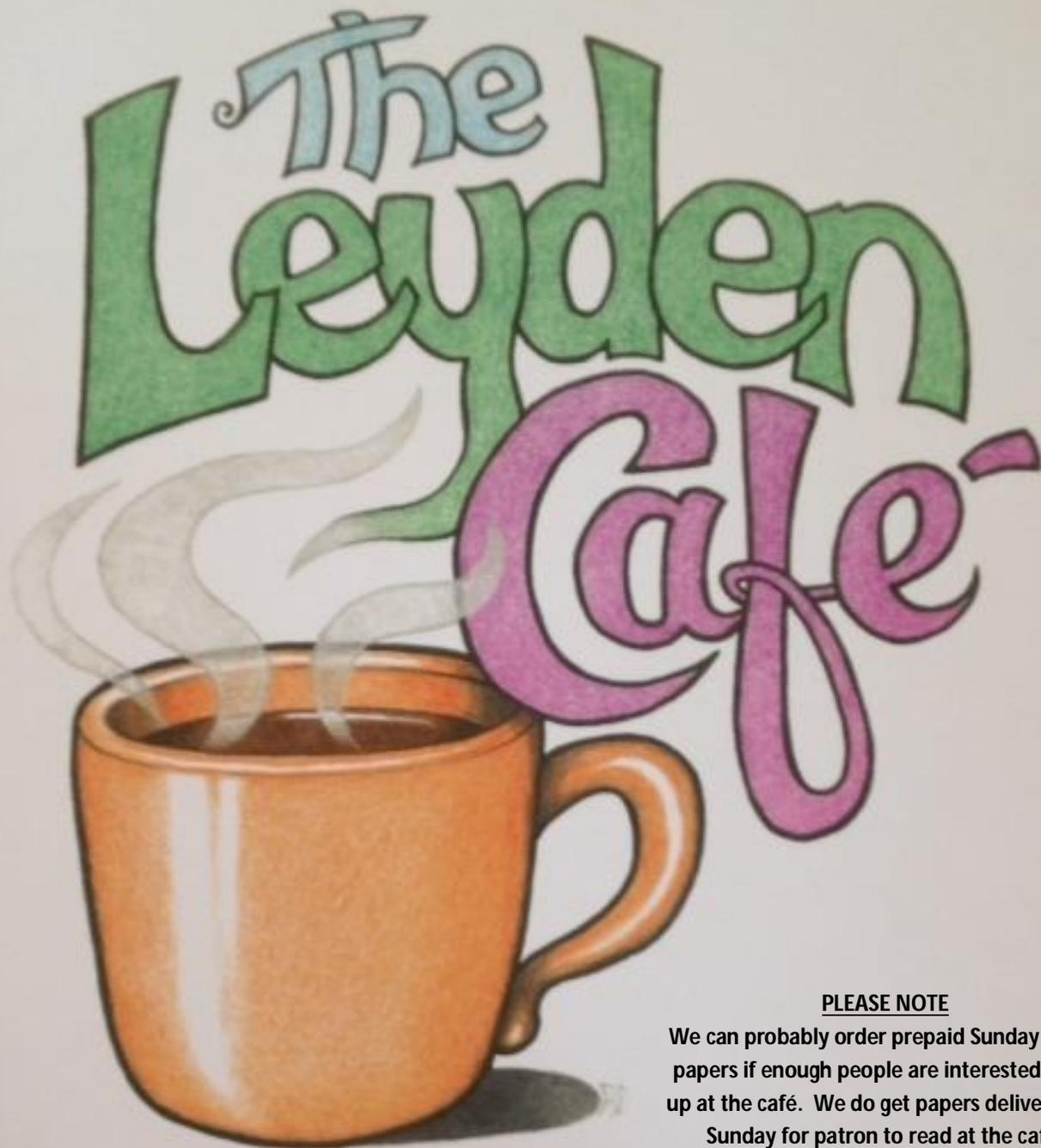
Thank you for your encouragement and support in 2014. It is a great honor and joy to grow vegetables, eggs, and flowers to share with you. We wish you all the best for a happy, healthy, and peaceful 2015. —Laura Timmerman, Rob Creamer

Sweet Morning Farm, 413-773-8325,
aurat@crocker.com, <http://sweet-morning-farm.blogspot.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/SweetMorningFarm>

Linda Romano

Winter Wellness: Massage/ Bodywork/ Yoga, for pain, fatigue, stress, wellness. Gift certificates for the holiday, buy 3 get the 4th free. Yoga classes on Wednesday nights 6-7 PM, de-stressing for the season with restorative poses. Herbal body products for small gift ideas. Mindfulness activities classes on Wednesday AM or PM, be in the moment of your life!

Have a Merry Holiday Season! Linda Romano CLMT, CYT.
Call 413-624-3334. Thank you.



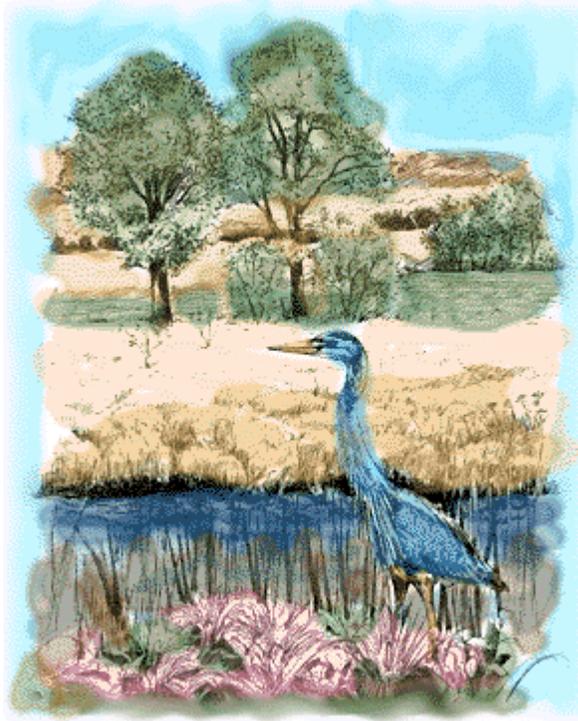
PLEASE NOTE

We can probably order prepaid Sunday newspapers if enough people are interested. Sign up at the café. We do get papers delivered on Sunday for patron to read at the café.

Leyden Town Hall
Sunday 8:30 to 11:30
Delicious local baked goods,
coffee and community
Please join us!

*Massachusetts Department of
Environmental Protection*

*Landscapers and the
Massachusetts Wetlands
Protection Act*



Wetlands Protection Program

The Wetlands Protection Act [Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) Chapter 131, Section 40] protects wetlands as well as other resource areas and the public interests they serve, including flood control, prevention of pollution and storm damage, and protection of public and private water supplies, groundwater supply, fisheries, land containing shellfish, and wildlife habitat. These public interests are protected by requiring a careful review of proposed work that may alter wetlands. The law protects these wetlands and other resource areas, such as land subject to flooding (100-year floodplains), the riverfront area (added by the Rivers Protection Act), and land under water bodies and waterways.

At the local level, the city or town conservation commission administers the Wetlands Protection Act. The commission is a volunteer board of three to seven members appointed by the selectmen or city council. On the state level, the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) oversees administration of the law. MassDEP develops regulations and policies, and provides technical training to commissions. MassDEP also hears appeals of decisions made by commissions.

What are these protected resource areas?

Bank – any Creek, River, Stream, Pond and/or Lake.

Bordering Vegetated Wetlands – Wet Meadows, Marshes, Swamps and/or Bogs that border rivers and streams, ponds and lakes.

Land Under Water Bodies and Waterways – Under any Creek, River, Stream, Pond or Lake.

Land Subject to Flooding – Bordering and Isolated Areas.

Riverfront Area - the area of land between a river's mean annual high water line and a parallel line measured horizontally typically 200 feet out.

Both Bank and Bordering Vegetated Wetlands have a 100 foot regulated area known as the buffer zone.

The conservation commission ensures that proposed activities will not alter resource areas and the public interests they provide by reviewing projects on a case-by-case basis according to regulations [310 Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR) 10.00]. The regulations describe how each type of resource area provides one or more of the

public interests. The regulations also spell out the type and extent of work allowed in resource areas. Proposed work must meet these standards. This information helps landowners and developers plan their work and helps commissions apply the law to specific projects.

The law regulates many types of work in resource areas, including vegetation removal, regrading, and construction of houses, additions, decks, driveways, and commercial or industrial buildings. If you want to work in a wetland resource area or within 100 feet of a wetland (an area called the buffer zone), contact the conservation commission before you start work.

If you are unsure whether your proposed work site is in a resource area or whether the work will alter a resource area, you can apply for a Request for Determination of Applicability. If the conservation commission determines that the work will alter a resource area, you must file an application, called a Notice of Intent (NOI), and pay an application fee.

Certain activities conducted by landscapers are considered an exempt activity if conducted within the Riverfront Area or with the buffer zone to Bank and the wetlands.

These activities are:

1. Unpaved pedestrian walkways for private use;
2. Fencing, provided it will not constitute a barrier to wildlife movement; stonewalls; stacks of cordwood;
3. Vista pruning, provided the activity is located more than 50 feet from the mean annual high water line within a riverfront area or from bordering vegetated wetland, whichever is farther;
4. Plantings of native species of trees, shrubs, or groundcover, but excluding turf lawns;
5. The conversion of lawn to uses accessory to residential structures such as decks, sheds, patios, and pools, provided the activity is located more than 50 feet from the river's edge within the riverfront area or from bordering vegetated wetland, whichever is farther, and erosion and sedimentation controls are implemented during construction
6. The conversion of impervious surfaces to vegetated surfaces, provided erosion and sedimentation controls are implemented during construction; and

7. Activities that are temporary in nature, have negligible impacts, and are necessary for planning and design purposes.

Other activities are not regulated:

1. Mowing of existing lawns; and
2. Pruning of landscaped areas.

Local Wetlands Bylaws

Over 100 Massachusetts communities have local wetlands protection bylaws in addition to the state and federal laws described here. Contact the conservation commission at your city or town hall for more information about local bylaws.

If you are not sure whether or not the work you are doing is an exempt activity, you should contact your local conservation commission

For more information about:

Wetlands laws in Massachusetts, call the conservation commission at your city or town hall or, call MassDEP's Western Region Circuit Rider, Mark Stinson at 413-755-2257 or email to mark.stinson@state.ma.us



HOLIDAY RECYCLING REMINDER

Happy Holidays! Thank you for your recycling efforts over the past year. Following are some guidelines for recycling during the holiday months and all year long:

Please **DO** include the following items in your paper recycling mix:

YES

- ✓ corrugated cardboard boxes
- ✓ paperboard gift boxes
- ✓ greeting cards (except those with foil, metallic inks, or glitter)
- ✓ wrapping paper, gift bags, tissue wrap (except those with foil, metallic inks, or glitter)
- ✓ paper shopping bags (any type of handle is okay)
- ✓ catalogs and calendars



TIP: Keep a recycle bin or paper bag near gift wrapping and unwrapping.

Please **DO NOT** include the following items in your recycling mix:

NO

- ribbons, bows, and tinsel (reusable from year to year)
- packing peanuts and Styrofoam (accepted for reuse at Greenfield UPS Store)
- holiday lights (WtE scrap metal recycler in Greenfield pays for light strings)
- plastic bags (clean, dry plastic bags marked #2 or #4 recyclable at some retailers)
- blister packaging (formed plastic package used to hold toys and electronics)
- photographs

Questions about recycling? Please contact Franklin County Solid Waste Management District at (413) 772-2438; info@franklincountywastedistrict.org, or visit www.franklincountywastedistrict.org.
MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD).