# LEYDEN LIFE



Alexander Rd. Traffic Jam

Photo courtesy of Carolyn Asbury

## Selectboard

On November 13<sup>th</sup> the Selectboard held a public auction. There were 4 parcels of town-owned properties that went up for sale for nonpayment of taxes. All 4 parcels sold for a total of \$151,900. That revenue will appear next October as Free Cash. Our objective is to get properties back on the tax rolls. Free Cash is not a guarantee if outstanding receivables are delinquent. Failure to act on the delinquent accounts is unlawful and burdens the town as a whole.

On Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> all town offices moved from Town Hall to the former Pearl Rhodes Elementary School. All boards' and committees' postings should reflect this new location. *The new posting location is outside the former school*. The new mail address is 7 Brattleboro Road, Leyden, MA 01301. Please note the new zip code. *continued p.* 2

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

#### Selectboard

Monday 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM
Tuesday 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Wednesday 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Thursday 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

#### Tax Collector

Monday 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM Wednesday 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

#### Assessors

Wednesday 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM

#### Town Clerk ) subject to change[

Monday 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Wednesday 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
\*For an appointment, call 774-4111,
ext. 3 or call/text 413-362-9378. Calls
to my personal cell phone will be
answered when I am available (MonFri). Thank you,

Nicole Glabach, Town Clerk

# **Notice: Town Office Meetings**

Board of Assessors Board of Health Conservation Commission Council on Aging Historical Commission Library Board of Trustees Planning Board Recreation Committee Selectboard Ist & 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 PM As announced 3rd Monday at 7:00 PM Ist Tuesday at 4:30 PM 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 PM 2nd Tuesday at 4:30 PM 2nd Wednesday at 7:00 PM Ist Thursday at 7:00 PM every Monday at 7:00 PM (or as posted) (No meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> Monday)

\*Changes to meeting dates/times will be posted separately. Meetings NOT held MONTHLY will also be posted separately.

## 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.

## Selectboard continued from p. 1

The new mailbox is in front of the building. In addition, the US Postal Service requested the mail drop box be moved to the school. They will move it in the near future.

All chairs of boards and committees please see Michele for new keys to the PRES building and to turn in your Town Hall key. The entire building is set up for wireless high speed internet. Please see Michele for the passcode.

The Town Hall will be used for annual town meetings, dinners and functions. The COA will continue to host their coffee and lunches in the town hall dining room as well as the Sunday Café.

Greenfield Savings Bank donated an American Elm Tree in commemoration of the founding of the bank on April 1, 1869. The tree was planted next to the library so when it gets bigger there will be a shaded area to sit and read or enjoy the view. There is a plaque in front of the tree.

On December 9th at 7:00pm in Town Hall we will hold a Special Town Meeting. One of the warrant articles will be to transfer our Certified Free Cash from last fiscal year in the amount of \$99,000. There are other warrant articles regarding accounts that need replenishing, and this will be taken from Free Cash. The warrant will be posted 14 days in advance.

We hired Stacy Mousseau as Town Accountant and welcome her to our team. Dave Fierro decided it was too much to take on with working full time elsewhere.

Leyden will receive \$11,300 from the school district that was negotiated for the operation of the school this year. We are also exploring the idea of renting out a room to the virtual school. That revenue will be a plus to the town without having impact on the daily operations of the building.

Michele attended an Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) seminar to learn the health impact of this disease for Leyden. The state has never had a Mosquito Control District in the Pioneer Valley and was caught off guard by the EEE in this part of the state. It's a real health threat to our communities, and we are being asked to join the Mosquito Control District at a cost of \$5,000/year. We have no data or any way of trapping & testing mosquitoes in Leyden, so we don't know if we have mosquitoes that may test positive. This past summer many communities around us were in the high priority category. Michele will continue to attend briefings to inform the Selectboard & Board of Health on the best solutions.

There are other weather impacts that could affect us in the future, and we are planning on how to be prepared with possible reverse 911, town wide emails and information on the town website. If you would like to receive town-wide information email blasts, please send your email to Michele at <a href="mailto:selectboard@townofleyden.com">selectboard@townofleyden.com</a>.

We are in the season where slippery weather should be expected. Be aware that dirt roads can turn to ice sooner than paved roads when it rains and the temperature is around 32 degrees. The box for residents to pick up their own sand has been moved to the library. David and Bill, our highway crew, will plow & treat the roads as needed all hours of the day. Remember there is no passing town plow trucks, as safety is our main goal.

MA deer season begins Monday, December 2 and continues through December 31. If you enjoy hiking or walking in the woods, it is always advisable to wear **hunter orange** even if you are not hunting. For hunters, whatever you carry into the woods please carry out.

We wish everyone a very Happy Holiday Season & Happy New Year! For all our military and their families throughout the world, stay safe and thank you for your service.

Respectfully, Jeff, Bill and Lance

# Bernardston Elementary School Report

The start of the school year flew by. Students from Leyden joined Bernardston students at Bernardston Elementary School with no problems. Leyden children were supported in each classroom with guidance from teachers & staff. All students at BES were new to their teachers this year and this eased the transition for those from Leyden. All kids at BES learned where to put their papers when they were done, what to do when they had a question, and most importantly when they would have recess & lunch. Several teachers from Leyden were added to BES so we moved classrooms around to accommodate the increase. This required students who already knew the building to take time to learn the new places. All teachers spent time acclimating their students with the new design. Three grade levels were split into two classes. This split was done with several considerations, one of which was keeping Leyden students supported and connected with their familiar peers. All in all it was a successful start to the school year.

\*\*Dr. Kelly Carriere\*\*, Principal\*\*

# Robertson Memorial Library

#### **Library Hours**

Monday 1:00 PM — 6:00 PM Wednesday 1:00 PM — 6:00 PM Saturday 10:00 AM — 12:00 PM

December's wintery breath is already clouding the pond, frosting the pane, obscuring summer's memory... John Geddes

The winds of change are blowing yet again. Winter is knocking on the door. Now is the time to get cozy with your new favorite book! We have a plethora of options for new books and movies to curl up with.

Things have been busy! We had a wonderful time at the Halloween party, the library was decorated & filled to capacity. The favorite (besides candy) was zombie hands coming out of the shelves. Our books are so good they will reach out & grab you! On Halloween night my daughter and I passed out candy and were very pleased that we had 23 people come in, full size candy was a very effective bribe!

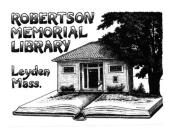
We are getting ready for the Leyden craft fair on December 7th. The Library will sell some beautiful canvas tote bags with our logo on them. Proceeds from the sales will be spent on a small outdoor storage closet. They will cost \$20.00 each and make great gifts! Let me know if you would like one or stop into the craft fair, there is a limited number and they will go fast. Also at the craft fair there will be a lot of local craftspersons including the BES PTO who will have gifts handmade by children. Make sure to come visit ©

A massive thank you to Greenfield Savings Bank for the gift of the beautiful Elm tree that is planted at the library. Our friends and Snow & Sons came to install a plaque and plant the tree. I can't wait for it to get big and be a great source of shade. Imagine reading a book underneath it.

This time of year can be stressful, remember to take time for yourself & enjoy the season. Stay Warm!

Come on in and 'check' us out! Want to know all of the news first? Find us on Facebook! Do you have a question or want to volunteer? Feel free to email me at <a href="mailto:leydenlibrary@gmail.com">leydenlibrary@gmail.com</a> or you can reach me at (413)522-2581 for call or text.

~Karin Parks



# **Leyden United Methodist Church**

15 W. Leyden Rd, Leyden Ma 01337, Leyden Center Pastor: Lawrence Lake

**Sunday Service** 9:00 am **Sunday School** offered shortly after the start of the service for children 3 and over.

For prayer or visit request, call 413-774-6441 Facebook- Leyden United Methodist Church

# Leyden Council on Aging (COA)

#### **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

The cold weather has hit our little town already! Don't worry. We have delicious food planned to warm you up. **Dec. 4th** we will serve homemade chili and cornbread. **Dec. 18th** we will serve lasagna with salad, bread, and tapioca pudding. This is one lunch you won't want to miss! Please call or text Linda Allis to reserve your spot. 413-834-4417. **Both luncheons will be served at the Town Hall at noon!** Come make wreaths with Emily Herron-Clark at the next coffee hour on **Dec. 11th** at the Town Hall. "Exercise for Independent Living" will be held every Tuesday (Nov. 19 - Dec. 17) at the **Pearl Rhodes School** starting at 10:30 AM. Come on down, have some fun and get stronger too! Keep in mind we will be having our next foot clinic on **Jan. 22nd**. For reservations please call or text Linda Allis. 413-834-4417.

Every 3rd week of the month, the Food Bank of Western Mass brings fresh & frozen food to the parking lot of the Montague senior center on 5th St. in Turners Falls. Volunteers will pass out food from 1:30-2:30. Everyone is welcome to come. Please bring your own bags. Help is available to bring food to your car.

## **Recreation Committee**

#### SANTA IS COMING TO LEYDEN

He will make an early stop at the Town Hall Auditorium at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 15, 2019. To be sure no one misses Santa, a sing along, Christmas craft area and coloring station will be available from 2-3 p.m. for kids of all ages to enjoy. Santa will read a story to all the children and bring presents for everyone. Cookies and hot cocoa will be shared by all. Spread the word to all your friends. We hope to see you there! For any questions, call John Higgins at 772-1924.



# **Broadband Update**

After much review and many meetings, Leyden signed a 3-year contract with Westfield Gas & Electric (WG+E) to act as the Town's Internet Service Provider (ISP). As our ISP, WG+E will have overall responsibility for managing all internet and phone connections to our homes, as well as any necessary repairs to our network. WG+E currently has more than 6,000 internet/phone subscribers and the customer support capability to handle any internet or phone problems we might run into. We look forward to partnering with them to bring high quality broadband and phone to Leyden.

#### WiredWest Refund Request

By choosing WG&E, Leyden has decided not to participate in WiredWest. If you made a \$49 deposit in 2015, you may request a refund. They **must hear directly from you in writing**. Visit <a href="http://wiredwest.net/campaign/refunds/">http://wiredwest.net/campaign/refunds/</a> to learn more.

Bob Ryan, Broadband Chair

# Neighbors Helping Neighbors

People are calling our help line to ask for a ride, a reference or other assistance. Please feel free to call, and we will do our best to help you out as needed.

Current needs are for light housekeeping and meal prep and for rides and snow shoveling.

We are compiling a list of people of all ages willing to lend a hand occasionally with either indoor or outdoor chores for seniors or disabled persons. Indoor chores might be helping out with cleaning or minor indoor repairs. Outdoor chores might be snow shoveling or yard help. This can be a volunteer or fee for service. Our goal is to help seniors and people with disabilities on limited incomes to be able to age in place and stay in their homes. Advocates to drive and go to medical appointments and help people without family nearby are also needed.

Call Amy 774-6907.



#### The "YES" in Your Year Reflection Retreat w/ Martha Hopewell Gift yourself (or a loved one!) a day to inspire & energize your vision for the year!

- Name your *Brightest Outcomes*
- Define your Guiding Principles and Ways of Being
- Design your Framework for Action
- Explore your *Sources of Personal Power*
- Identify the *Sweet Thing* you will create in 2020

This retreat blends personal work with supportive group sharing & a delicious home-cooked meal. Three group follow-up calls are included to help you keep momentum in the months ahead.

Date and Time: Sunday, January 5 10:00 – 5:00

Location: 174 Kately Hill Road, Leyden, Retreat fee: \$250 For Leyden residents, a 15% discount is offered for a fee of \$215 Maximum number of participants: 12 (If there is a strong response, a second retreat will be offered on January 12).

Martha Hopewell, a newly arrived resident in the Pioneer Valley, is the founder and lead catalyst of Social Mission Catalysts, LLC, a boutique coaching and consulting firm serving nonprofit leaders and their organizations. She also offers Spirit On A Mission™ retreats for thoughtful adults interested in developing their personal leadership − envisioning what is possible for their life and consciously choosing what they create, how they show up and how they relate.

For more information and to register,



#### Gentle Movement/Yoga & Meditation

#### at Spirit Fire in December!

Leyden residents have been enjoying yoga and asking questions about meditation. So, by request, we have added a meditation class. Join us on Mondays for either an hour of gentle movement or meditation. Please use the calendar above for the corresponding dates and note that class will not be held December 2<sup>nd</sup> due to a previously scheduled program. Class is held at 407 W. Leyden Rd, Leyden, MA 01337. Simply show up with your yoga mat & enjoy!

With the upcoming holidays and wintry months, we will take a pause from the yoga & meditation classes starting December 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will resume next spring. Until then, enjoy the holidays and be well!



## Café Hours

Every Sunday 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Downstairs

in

Town Hall

We welcome new members to the Café group. If you would like to join us, call Amy at 774-6907, or if you want to see what it's like, come by the Café on a Sunday morning for a free coffee. We have a good group of people and enjoy providing a place for our Leyden community to visit and share stories.

We are looking for a few more volunteers to help our staff. If anyone is interested in a minimal commitment please consider joining us! A few more folks would make the commitment even smaller.

- Leyden Café Staff

## LEYDEN LIFE LOWDOWN

## **Easy Submission**

Submit by email to Cornelia Reid at cr43wr41@gmail.com <u>and</u> Carolyn Asbury at Carolyn.asbury@gmail.com Attach a document, preferably in Word format, or include the information in the body of your text. If email is not possible, call Cornelia at 774-5146.

Entries must be submitted by 5:00 PM on or before the 15th of the month.

#### Distribution

To receive *Leyden Life* in digital or print copy, email Cornelia and Carolyn or call Cornelia (see contact info above).

Digital copies will get to you quicker, are colorful, and save time and money.

We still send a few copies by USPS to former residents & Leyden lovers in other places. A year's subscription is \$9.
Subscriptions are free to those in nursing homes or the military. A few extra copies may be found at the library.

## Thanks & Appreciations

To Michele Higgins & Barbara Wallace for collating this month, and to Spirit Fire for a donation. Thanks to Angela Saviano for doing the layout.

We could not exist without the help & generosity of our townspeople.

#### What We Are

Leyden Life is published and delivered monthly in Leyden, MA by a non-profit group of volunteers. We rely on donations to cover the cost of the print copies.

#### UNCLASSIFIED ADS

**2014 Prius – One Owner:** Very good condition, silver, kept in garage since new, 40,000 miles. \$14,500 Call Liz 624-5523.

**Ball/Freshtech Electric Water Bath Canner & Multi-cooker:** Only used once. Cooks & cans in large batches. VIRTUALLY BRAND NEW. All documents included. Asking \$75. Great Christmas present for anyone who cooks for large groups or likes to can w/hot water bath. Electric. No stovetop needed. Call Beth 413-774-2820.

**Ariens 64 snow thrower for sale**. Has electric start/pullcord, 6HP, 2 stage, 24 inch. Bought in 2004, well-maintained, serviced professionally yearly at end of season. Kept in garage, good condition. Asking \$300. Call Carol at 774-4491.

Free treadmill. Needs tune up. Call Peggy @ 774-5764 or email nianticgirl@yahoo.com Wood for Sale: Maple & oak boards, rough cut 5/4" thick, minimum 8" wide, various lengths.

Call Peggy @ 774-5764 or email nianticgirl@yahoo.com

**Leyden Life Delivery Volunteers Needed:** We are looking for help delivering our paper copies. If you would like to help in your neighborhood while walking your dog or just driving home, call Cornelia at 413-774-5146.

**Leyden Pottery Studio Offering Classes:** Call Rhonda @ 624-5175 or email <a href="mailto:rhondawain@verizon.net">rhondawain@verizon.net</a> **Potter's wheel classes:** Learn to use the pottery wheel to make dishes you can use. Learn to create, decorate & glaze pottery. Tuesday or Wednesday 7-9 pm. **Kids clay hand-building & wheel-throwing classes:** Tuesdays 4-5:30 pm. **Sunday afternoon one-day workshops:** \$50 includes instruction & materials. Call to discuss what you would like to make. Classes are \$175 for 6 classes, which do not have to be consecutive. This includes all supplies! Learn to make pottery in a friendly supportive environment.

**Wreaths:** Available for purchase. Contact Emily Herron-Clark @ 413-336-6248 or visit Facebook Wreath-Making Workshop in Leyden.

**Erik's Handyman Service:** Let me help you with your "to do" list. Property maintenance, brush control, lawn mowing, roto-tilling, jobs & projects. If you could use some help, give me a call at 413-774-9948 and ask for Erik, or email to erikshandy1@yahoo.com. Reasonable rates.

**Pet Care Services & Beyond:** Pet sitting, drop-in visits, and "doggy daycare." Serving Franklin County & Southern Vermont. Please contact Ruth Ayers via email at <a href="mailto:ruth.a.ayers@gmail.com">ruth.a.ayers@gmail.com</a> or call 413-773-8325. Feel free to inquire about references & rates.

**Digitize Your Old Slides:** Your old 35mm slides scanned and digitized at 20¢ per slide. (\$20 minimum order). You will provide a blank SD card or thumb drive to which the scanned images will be saved. Call Jerry Levine at 624-5546.

**Massage Service:** Engage in your wellness & treat yourself at West Woods Massage in Greenfield. Whether you are looking for general relaxation or have a specific focus, I am here to support you. Call Abbi Pratt at 413-281-1755 or email awestwood@massagetherapy.com

**Glenbrook Structures:** Need a chicken coop or a dog kennel at a reasonable price? Various sizes & designs are available. Call Michelle Barton or Chris Kemp at 774-4545 to place an order. We're also on Facebook & Craigslist.

**Stall Clean-outs:** We are looking for manure, bedding & other compostable materials such as old hay, leaves, etc. Call Robin or Laura at 773-8325.

**Bill Maguire Painting:** Serving the Leyden area's paint & staining needs since 1978. Interior, exterior, deck refinishing, window sash work, power washing, dirt & mildew removal. Call 413-774-5330.

### UNCLASSIFIED ADS - THANKS FOR SUPPORTING LEYDEN FARMS!

**Angus Beef for Sale:** Locally raised grass-fed Angus beef. No hormones nor drugs used. Minimum order 10 lbs. Call Jeff Neipp at Castle Hill Farm, 624-5512.

**Boer Goat Meat**: Available at Frizzell Hill Farm. Goat is quite tasty, low in fat & cholesterol, and high in protein & iron. Give it a try! Visit frizzellhillfarm.com for information and price list.

**Ed's Sugar Shack:** Local maple syrup available in gallons, ½ gallons, quarts & pints. Call Ed & Carol Johnson at 773-7619, 72 South County Road. Member of Massachusetts Maple Producers Association.

**Maple Syrup:** Facey's Bree-Z-Knoll Farm & Sugarhouse invites you to think sweet thoughts! We have pure Leyden maple syrup in all size containers. Call ahead any time at 774-3757.

**Natural Lamb:** Available from the Petersons at Orchard Valley Farm. No growth-enhancing hormones nor antibiotics. Usual cuts generally available. Special orders on request. Get your holiday orders in now! Call 624-5562 or email <a href="https://orchard.orchard.com">ovbecky324@gmail.com</a> Like us on Facebook at Orchard Valley Farm.

**Sweet Morning Farm:** THANK YOU for your encouragement & support this year. We feel so blessed to live in this beautiful place & to grow vegetables, meat, eggs, and flowers to share with you. If you are pondering gifts to share, consider the gift of healthy. Farm Shares make an amazing gift, or you can give a gift certificate to our farm that can be used for eggs, meat, or vegetables of the giftee's choice, or it may be applied to a farm share. We have fresh Leyden-grown spinach, salad, & a variety of storage crops this winter. We also have pasture-raised pork and eggs all season - available at the farm or the Greenfield Winter Farmer's Market (12/7 & 12/21). Stop by the farm anytime during the day or sign up to receive updates about what's available.

~We wish you a happy, healthy & peaceful 2020.

Rob Creamer and Laura Timmerman

413-773-8325

https://www.facebook.com/SweetMorningFarm http://sweet-morning-farm.blogspot.com/ sweetmorningfarm@gmail.com @sweetmorningfarm on IG





Climate Corner "Let's talk turkey!" Depending on when you receive this month's <u>Leyden Life</u>, you may be preparing a turkey or enjoying those delicious leftovers. However, let's turn the familiar expression in another direction.

It's clear that the earth in general is warming. This most recent October was the warmest on record globally. In fact it was the fifth month in a row with record or near record global heat according to the E.U.'s Copernicus Climate Change Service. So, what are we able to do about it through individual actions and beyond?

Well, we've also heard that "talk is cheap." Set a goal of talking to someone once a week or once a day about climate. Ask that someone what they think. Listen, engage....share your ideas, share what you know and how you know it. Bring it up and it may result in more of us thinking and doing something about the climate crisis. Your conversation may have a greater influence than you think. And it doesn't cost a thing.

Want someone more "important" to hear your views? Contact legislators whose email addresses appear below. If you wish to speak to specific proposals, check out the website *malegislature.gov* and search using the word climate. Here are a few bills currently in committee which look promising to me. BillS.1924 – An Act to Combat Climate Change, cosponsored by our State Senator, Jo Comerford. Bill H.2220 – An Act Relative to Public Investment in Fossil Fuels, consponsored by our State Representative, Paul Mark. And Bills S.433 and H.825 – An Act Establishing the "Commission for a Climate-Ready Commonwealth."

So let's change "All talk and no action" to "Take action to talk." It's a step we can all take.

Jo.Comerford@masenate.gov

Paul.Mark@mahouse.gov

~Karen O'Neil pkoneil@crocker.com

## Leyden United Methodist Church Christmas Services

15 W. Leyden Rd. Leyden MA 01301

413-774-6441

\*Sunday, Dec 1-Advent Starts.

\*Sunday, Dec. 15. Holiday Carol Sing. 4pm

\*Tuesday, Dec 24. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. 7pm

We are hosting Adopt-A-Family again this year. There is a list downstairs in the Fellowship Hall of suggested items and gift cards needed. Items due Sat. Dec, 14th.

God Bless and hope you have a wonderful Christmas leading into the New Year!

## New in Town?

Do you WANT YOUR PHONE NUMBER LISTED in the new Leyden Town Directory? Do you NOT WANT YOUR NUMBER LISTED in the directory? *Either way* please contact Amy – amy.woodsprite@gmail.com or 774-6907. Please give your name, address & your phone number, if you wish to be included or specify nonpublished if you do not. Thank you for your help with this. Amy

# **Knitting Circle**

Leyden knitters meet every Tuesday afternoon, 1- 3, at the Leyden Town Hall. We will also meet on Sunday, December 8 at 6:00 at the home of Karen Loomis. (624-3902). All are welcome to our knitting times ~ beginners, experts and other crafters.

For information, contact Laura 773-8325, Peggy 774-5764, or Michele manerelejo@gmail.com















