
Leyden Life

Leyden, Massachusetts

January 2011

Town Hall Hours:

Monday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Closed Tuesday,
Wednesday 9:00 – 11:00 AM, Thursday 12:00 – 3:00 PM *and*
6:00 – 9:00 PM, Friday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
If you need an appointment outside of these hours, call 774-4111

Select Board

SELECTBOARD MEETINGS

The Select Board will meet on Thursdays, January 6th and 20th at 6:30 PM at Town Hall. A copy of the agenda will be posted at Town Hall. To be on an agenda, please contact Liz Johnson at 774-4111 or at leydenselectboard@live.com.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

The following meetings are scheduled this month:

Tue, Jan 4	7:00 PM	Agricultural Commission
Wed, Jan 5	6:30 PM	Board of Assessors
Thur, Jan 6	6:30 PM	Selectboard
Thur, Jan 6	7:00 PM	Special Town Meeting
Tue, Jan 11	5:30 PM	Board of Health
Wed, Jan 12	7:00 PM	Planning Board
Mon, Jan 17	7:30 PM	Conservation Commission
Wed, Jan 19	6:30 PM	Board of Assessors
Thur, Jan 20	6:30 PM	Selectboard

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

A Special Town Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 6th at 7:00 PM in the upstairs meeting room at Town Hall. A copy of the warrant is available at Town Hall. A quorum is required to hold this meeting, so *please plan to attend if at all possible*. Thank you.
—Board of Selectmen

Town Clerk

VITAL STATISTICS

No births, marriages, or deaths reported.

STREET LISTINGS

As mandated by Massachusetts General Law, your official annual census form for the Town of Leyden is attached to this issue of *Leyden Life*. The information gathered will be used to update the Town Clerk's computer for our annual census, street list, and school list. Please note that "Livestock" has been added to the form this year. The Livestock count is used for the Animal Inspector's report. Please respond as soon as possible. *Do not enclose any payments (tax bills, dog licenses, etc.)*

—Bob Hardesty, Town Clerk

Town Clerk Office Hours are Mondays 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM and
Wednesdays 6:00 – 7:30 PM Phone 774-7769

Local Cultural Council

This is to report that the Leyden Local Cultural Council met is a public forum on November 8th in Town Hall to deliberate and vote on 21 applications for grants. The list of recipients will be presented in the February issue of *Leyden Life*.



Massachusetts Cultural Council

Meetings, Gatherings and Announcements

Council on Aging

Every time the Council on Aging meets we have a fun time. In December we exchanged gifts via a "Yankee Swap" and read numerous and amusing variations on the poem, "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Thank you, Edith Fisher, for organizing this very enjoyable event.

On Thursday, January 13th at 10:30 AM at the Leyden Church Fellowship Hall, we plan on watching a movie together. The exact film has yet to be determined, but rest assured it will be relaxing and funny and possibly inspiring. Come along on the 13th for a "movie morning"!

After the film, we will have lunch together, as usual. You are welcome to join us for lunch, but please let Edith know at 773-7336 by Monday, January 10th, so we can plan the meal accordingly. All are welcome, including first time and occasional visitors. If you're interested in helping out with the planning, cooking, and thinking for our monthly meetings, please let me know. I am seeking helpers, ranging from preparing the occasional dish to planning and overseeing meetings.

The Leyden Council on Aging is dedicated to providing programs that support healthy and independent living for local seniors, and is funded and supported by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Their funding allows the COA to offer delicious meals and interesting programs and to help support the newsletter and more.

—Laura Timmerman, 773-8325

Knitting Circle

The Leyden knitting circle will meet from 6:30 to 8:30 PM on Friday, January 14th at Laura's house and Friday, January 28th at Peggy's house. All are welcome to join us; no experience is needed. Knitters, stitchers, spinners, darners, quilters—all kinds of handicrafts are fine. Just come along for a relaxing evening. It's fun to spend time visiting, stitching and sharing our knowledge and interest in needle arts. Come join us.

—Laura Timmerman, 773-8325 & Peggy Brown, 774-5764

Leyden Art Group

Welcome in the new year with an art circle at the home of Kristin Nicholas at 31 Glen Road in Leyden. We will meet on Thursday, January 27th at 6:30 PM. Please bring your new year calendars to make plans for art time together. Let us hope and dream together! Call Kristin to RSVP at 773-9312. Questions? E-mail Peggy Brown at nianticgirl@yahoo.com

Artwork is needed to show at Robertson Memorial Library. Please contact me at 774-5764 or Chris Johnston at the library at 773-9334 with interest/questions. —Peggy Brown, 774-5764

Happy New Year!

Robertson Memorial Library

Library Hours: Monday 1:00 – 6:00 PM; Wednesday 1:00 – 6:00 PM,
Saturday 10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON, Phone 773-9334 (Leave a message any time.)

The Robertson Memorial Library received an early Christmas gift of \$2,100 as our share of the distribution of the Durkin Bequest. Because the Western Mass. Regional Library System has been absorbed into the Mass. Library System, this money, originally intended for the purchase of books and CDs by the WMRLS for use by all libraries in western Massachusetts via bookmobile, has been divvied up and shared with all of our towns. I will be able to purchase books and CDs for Leyden with this money.

The grant for which I applied to the Foundation for Educational Excellence has been awarded. In coordination with the principal and teachers at Pearl Rhodes, author Liza Ketchum will visit the elementary school in April or May to share her expertise as a writer, researcher, and teacher with students in all grades. Each of the three classes (1/2, 3/4 and 5/6) will read a grade-appropriate novel by the author and be prepared to share ideas, ask questions and actually do some writing themselves with the author. I'm working on the curriculum for each book now and will be sharing it with teachers for their input soon.

Please consider joining the generous patrons and/or people who just love Leyden and this library by donating a monetary gift to the Friends of the RML. A tax deductible gift would be greatly appreciated in these tough financial times.

Winter is upon us again. Long nights beckon good books. Come into the library and browse for some of the most recent and best books of the year. Take home books to read with your little ones and make reading 'the great escape' from the snow, ice, and slippery roads! Our supply of CDs and DVDs is quite good, too!

Don't forget to purchase your personal copy of *The Leyden Portrait Project*, Trish Crapo's wonderful work of art. Christmas may be over, but this is a treasure worth owning. Copies are available at the library!

Happy New Year!

—Chris Johnston

Municipal Lighting Plant

Is there anyone in Leyden who can imagine life without electricity? Running water? Telephones? In a very short time, believe it or not, we will *all* be saying that about internet connection, even if you think you would never use a computer. Do you want your home to go up in value? Do you like to think of all the small businesses operating out of people's homes here in Leyden? Can you ever foresee being able to have routine medical testing - blood sugar, blood pressure, etc., done from your phone? Do you like having terrible phone lines? No chance for cable TV? If you are already using a computer, and stuck with dial-up, think about it: most of us are too old to waste all that time waiting to get information! It is hard to believe that most of western Massachusetts is behind the curve on this, but indeed it is!

The Special Town Meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, January 6th at 7:00 PM is a first big step in bringing to Leyden the best option anyone can imagine, fiber optic on a large scale, right to the door of anyone who wants it. It has been determined that forming a Municipal Lighting Plant is the quickest, most efficient, tried and tested way to do this for our hodgepodge network of small towns. What we are voting on at this point is really just a legal entity—no building, no employees, nothing to maintain. It will, however, allow us to join with other towns to form a co-op, which would then become the working arm of that entity, to do the work of raising funds, and completing the last mile to our homes. It puts no one under any pressure to opt for fiber optic to their homes. It just allows our towns to have the best means of becoming connected, of enhancing home values, improving police and safety communications, and of looking to the future in every sense. There is no going back to life without computers; the move is always forward.

There will be several people at Town Hall a half hour before the Special Town Meeting for those who want a bit more information. We will even offer cookies and coffee as an incentive to come. We hope to see a good turnout. This is the next big frontier for all of us. It is exciting to be in on it from the beginning. Let's all be part of this generation's Rural Electrification Program.

—Sheila Hourihan, Leyden representative to WiredWest and Mass. Broadband Institute

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 bobtwo@verizon.net.

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**.

ELECTRONIC LEYDEN LIFE

If you are interested in receiving *Leyden Life* in PDF format via e-mail, please notify Bob Taylor at bobtwo@verizon.net.

THANKS

Thanks to Scott and Judith Healey, Ruth Bellows and Don Clark for donations this month.

Thanks to collators Lois Feldman, Susan Coan and Carolyn Asbury, and to deliverers Lauren Clary, Marie Bartlett, Marie Lovley, Jeanne Breeden and the Cafferys. (If we have forgotten anyone, please accept our thanks and apologies.)



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

Standby Generator Program

The Leyden Police Department and the Emergency Operation Agency, in partnership with Vermont Yankee has started a standby generator program which consists of two phases.

Phase I will provide generators for the Town Hall, Highway, Fire and Police Departments, Leyden Methodist Church, and Peal Rhodes Elementary School. The Town Hall and church will serve as emergency shelters, providing for overnight accommodations, hot meals and showers. The second part of Phase I will be the availability of several standby generators configured in 120 volt only. These will be provided during times of power outages on a first come first serve basis, with priorities given to medical conditions, elderly, and farms with producing livestock.

Phase II will consist of supplying generators able to supply power to an entire household. The town will be broken into zones, such as the west end of River Road, the north end of East Hill Road, Kately Hill/Stephen Lane area, etc. The houses selected for this program must be willing to make their homes open to their neighbors in times of emergencies for necessity such as water and sanitary facilities. The second part of Phase II will supply standby generators for properly wired homes as they are available.

For more information, and to be placed on a waiting list, you may call 413-772-2369 and leave a message with your name, phone number and best time to be contacted.

—Dan Galvis, *Leyden Emergency Planning*

CONTRIBUTIONS AND VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

A sincere thanks to those who have already made contributions. Every donation is important to us, and deeply appreciated.

Leyden Life is entirely dependent on contributions from readers. We receive no funding from the town coffers. Please consider making a donation. All gifts, large and small, are very helpful. Heartfelt thanks to our many contributors over the last year.

For those who live outside of town but enjoy reading LL, a subscription by mail is available, still for just \$8.00. Call Cornelia at 774-5146 or email to cr43wr41@gmail.com for more information. Renewal notices will be sent out to current subscribers with the next issue. Subscriptions are free for those in the military or in nursing homes; please contact us if you wish us to send one to someone you know.

Collating and bagging the 350 copies we deliver takes four or five people about 45 minutes once a month. It is a sociable and easy job which we do in the Town Hall. Please call Cornelia if this would occasionally fit into your schedule—we always call each month to round up available volunteers.

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.

For Sale: Belgian “massive oak” furniture 1930s vintage in beautiful condition. Dining table seats 6 (\$500), 2 chair sets of six (\$500), oak cabinet (\$500) and oak buffet (\$750). Priced slightly less for complete dining set. Antique rectangular oak table with 2 leaves, decorative legs, top needs some work. Seats 8 with leaves \$200. Almost new Ikea Malm double platform bed \$150. French Provincial table seats 8 with leaf, antique blonde finish \$300. White metal twin-full bunk bed frame \$50. Call Jennifer at 760-672-5336 or email mntnhiker@sprintmail.com.

Leyden Portrait Project books are still available at the Library during regular hours or at my home. The price is \$18, which includes MA sales tax. Prints of your portrait are also available in black & white or color. Prices are: \$15 for a 5x7; \$20 for an 8x10. Larger sizes or wallet sizes are available as well. Call me for prices: Trish Crapo, 774-2021.

Jason Hall Landscaping and Home Improvement: Lawn care/mowing, tree work, stone walls, carpentry, windows and doors, painting, and roof repairs are just several of the many services offered. If you need anything else, just ask. Free estimates at 413-325-3211 or carpenterfnsh@aol.com.

Spirit Fire

Free online morning meditation by webinar, podcast, or join us at the Retreat Center Mon. - Wed 9 am. Reflect on 2010 and set goals for 2011 at the Enter the New Year Meditatively Retreat, which begins Friday December 31 - Sunday January 2, 2011. Esoteric Psychology starts November 2011. Contact Donna for information on all programs at 624-3955 or info@spiritfire.com. On the web at www.spiritfire.com. “Change yourself—change the world!”

Holiday Family Portrait Special: Many of you will be having extended family visiting for the holidays. Think about setting aside one hour somewhere in everybody's busy schedules and having a professional family portrait made in your home or in my studio in Greenfield. Special holiday rate of \$50 includes the one-hour session plus one 8x10 print in color or black & white. Additional prints, in both small and larger sizes, can be ordered. The portrait can be as formal or as casual as you like, creating an image you'll treasure for years to come. Call Trish Crapo at 774-2021.

Wool Blankets: The Petersons again have a supply of Massachusetts-grown and made wool blankets for the approaching cold weather. These are long throws, measuring approximately 72" long by 44" wide. They work well for holiday gift-giving and are wonderful for the recliner or rocker. The price is \$90. Call Becky at 624-5562.

Lamb for Sale: The Petersons are taking orders for freezer lamb, summer grass fed, no hormones or antibiotics. Call Becky at 624-5562.

13-Year-Old Wants Work: Avi Cox is willing to do yard work for \$6 - \$8 an hour. Please e-mail me at avicox@gmail.com or call me at 413-624-3077. Saving up for a car (only three more years to go). Thanks.

Tree work: Tree work, dead tree removal, limb pruning, ornamental or fruit tree pruning, etc. I can help you. Call Mark at 624-3405; references upon request.

Excavating and Carpentry: Site work, driveways, land clearing, field mowing, septic systems, drainage, trucking loam and gravel products, backhoe, dozer or excavation work. Rich Allis at 624-5582.

Bill Maguire Painting serving Leyden's interior and exterior needs for 28 years. Staining, power washing, trim work, deck refinishing, paper hanging. Insured. Call Bill at 774-5330.

Linda Romano

Mandalla II class early Feb. possible Sat. AM or Fri. evening; fee \$40.00, supplies etc. included. Vision board class early March using Feng shui principals; create your life! Same times/price as mandalla class. RSVP. Happy New Year! Linda Romano @ 624-3334.