

Leyden Life

Leyden, Massachusetts

May 2012

Selectboard Office Hours:

Monday 12:00 - 5:00 PM, Tuesday—Friday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM and
Thursdays (May 10th and 24th) 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Tax Collector:

Monday and Wednesday 5:30 - 8:00 PM

Assessors Office:

Wednesday 2:00 - 8:00 PM

Select Board

SELECTBOARD MEETINGS

The Select Board will meet on Thursday, May 10th at 9:00 AM and Thursday, May 24th 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 leydensselectboard@crocker.com.

TOWN HALL MONTHLY MEETINGS

The following meetings are scheduled this month:

Tue, May 1 7:00 PM Agricultural Commission
Wed, May 2 6:30 PM Board of Assessors
Tue, May 8 5:30 PM Board of Health (at the Police Station)
Wed, May 9 7:00 PM Planning Board
Thur, May 10 9:00 AM Selectboard
Wed, May 16 6:30 PM Board of Assessors
Mon, May 21 7:30 PM Conservation Commission
Thur, May 24 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.)

COMMITTEE ON THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IN LEYDEN

The Selectboard has determined that it needs help in determining the future needs of the town in the area of education. It has determined that a select committee is needed to review the current condition of the educational system within the town and Leyden's role in the district. Since Leyden spends nearly 60% of its budget on education it is deemed necessary to periodically assess this area of expenditure.

Education has strong and tangible effects on every tax payer in the town. The town's school system affects not only the taxpayer's pocketbook but their sense of community. It also affects the desirability of a community for prospective new residents. Schools are often the focal point of a community. As such, both the financial aspects of their operation and their impact on the community as a whole should be assessed.

We therefore feel it is appropriate that a special committee consisting of the current Principal of PRES, a school committee member(s), and representatives from the Selectboard, Finance committee and Planning Board be named to this committee.

If you are interested in participating on this committee, please contact Bob Hardesty at the Selectboard office.

—Board of Selectmen

Leyden Life Summer Schedule

NOTE: During the height of summer we have found over the years that the number of submissions goes down quite a bit. We have decided to *skip the August issue*. This means that any items received after June 15th will be in the *September* issue.

Town Clerk

VITAL STATISTICS

None reported.

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

The Annual Town Election is Saturday, May 19th. Polls will be open from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Candidates for open offices are:

Office	Term	Candidates (Incumbent)	
Select Board	3-year	Lance Fritz (Inc)	Jeff Neipp
Select Board	1-year	Erik Johnson	Barbara Wallace
Moderator	1-year	Katherine DiMatteo (Inc)	
Town Clerk	3-year	Robert Hardesty (Inc)	
Treasurer	3-year	James Nielsen	
Tax Collector	3-year	Roxanne Zimmerman (Inc)	
Assessor	3-year	Kenneth Spatcher (Inc)	
Library Trustee	3-year	Trueman Robbins (Inc)	
Constable	3-year	Wallace Herzig (Inc)	
Planning Board	5-year	Peter Tusinski (Inc)	
Board of Health	3-year	Gloria Fisher (Inc)	
Board of Health	1-year	Linda Romano	
Tree Warden	1-year	Edmund Klaus (Inc)	

In addition to the offices listed above, there is a ballot question to change the position of Town Treasurer from an elected to an appointed position. If the ballot question is approved, it will override the elected office.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots are available at Town Hall during regular business hours until noon on Friday, May 18th. —Bob Hardesty, Town Clerk

Town Clerk Office Hours are Mondays 8:00 AM – 12:00 NOON and every other Wednesday (May 2nd, 16th and 30th) 4:30 – 6:00 PM Phone 774-7769

Highway Department Worker

The Town of Leyden is seeking a qualified individual to serve as a Highway Department Worker. Duties include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of streets, maintenance of Highway Department buildings, maintenance of vehicles and equipment; and operating heavy equipment and vehicles. This position reports to the Highway Superintendent. Valid MA Commercial Driver's License (CDL Class 2) and Hoisting License (2A) plus 4G with front-end loader, backhoe, and side mower endorsement required. Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma, experience in varied construction and maintenance work, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. This is a full-time position with competitive salary and benefits. Finalists will be expected to undergo a three (3) day paid on the job evaluation. Send resume and cover letter to Board of Selectmen, Town of Leyden, 16 West Leyden Road, Leyden, MA 01337 by 3:00 PM on May 19th, 2012. Call (413) 774-4111 for job description. EOE



Mother's Day Breakfast
7:00 to 11:00 AM
at Town Hall
Adult \$6—Child \$3
SPONSORED BY THE
FIRE FIGHTERS ASSN
Sunday, May 13th

Robertson Memorial Library

Library Hours: Monday 1:00 – 6:30 PM; Wednesday 1:00 – 6:30 PM,
Saturday 10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON, Phone 773-9334 (Leave a message any time.)

We have lost a wonderful friend and library patron. Mike Wells passed on to a new life in March, and it is with a heavy heart that I acknowledge how I looked forward to his visits at the RML. A history buff, Mike would read something serious and also select a “good read” to balance things out. When he completed a book, he would share interesting highlights with me; a better history teacher I will never know. His experiences as a Marine during WWII, his Irish roots, his having taught *my* daughter science at Bement... we had lots to share. We will all miss this very special man.

John Passiglia, a teacher at Pioneer and the owner of The Ironworks in Greenfield has met with the trustees, created a mock-up of the wrought iron railing he and Leyden PVRs students, Kyle Baker and Jake Garmalo, will forge, and we’re hoping for a May date when Johan Livingstone will install it. *Finally*, we’ll have a railing to aid people’s coming and going from the library, and it will have a Leyden connection!

LibriFoundation Grant Update: The creative genius of PRES, Principal Chris Maguire has been hard at work devising ways to help us raise the \$350 we need in order to receive \$1050 worth of topnotch children’s books. On Thursday, May 3, the singing pirate, “Rocking Ron,” will be performing (free of charge) at the school at 1:30 PM. To make the day really special everyone will be encouraged to dress like a pirate. Those who come in costume will be asked to make a donation of one dollar (*more* would be great!), and the money raised will go to the RML. This event will be open to the entire community. Pizza will be sold, and *everyone* will be free to donate to raise the money needed to order our books.

This will be a great chance for townspeople to visit their elementary school, enjoy some free entertainment, bring home an order of pizza from Hillside Pizza (can be ordered through the school before April 27), and meet the teachers and principal of your very special little school!

We need some April showers, but Happy Spring to all!

—Chris Johnston

Local Products Listing Wanted

The editors of *Leyden Life* plan to publish a list of farm and local products available to buy directly from Leyden producers. If you would like to be listed, please call or email the editors by May 15th. Include your name, address, products offered, and contact information.

Police Department

There have been several breaking and entries in the past month. We always see an increase of thefts at this time of year. If you see a suspicious vehicle, please call right away, and it would be helpful if you can get a plate number. The sooner it’s reported, the better chance we have to find it.

Office hours for the month of May will be Tuesday nights the 15th and 29th from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. You may pick up a weather alert radio during these office hours.

In case of an emergency call 911. For any other calls for an officer, call Shelburne Control, 625-8200. If you just need to leave a message for a call back, call 772-2369 and leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as they can.

—Gilda Galvis

Edible Wild Plants Walk in Leyden

Naturalist John Root will lead a 90-minute edible wild plants walk on Wednesday, May 30th at 6:30 PM at Dancing Bear Farm, 181 Frizzell Hill Road in Leyden. Come learn the distinguishing characteristics, seasons of availability, habitats, methods of preparation, and the nutritional value of some of our most common and appealing plant species. Taste wild edible food samples and take home handouts to guide your own future walks and harvests! The program is free and open to the public.

—Colleen Caffery



This project is sponsored in part by a grant from the Leyden Local Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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**.

LEYDEN LIFE BY E-MAIL

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 contributors Phyllis Aiken, James Brodeur and Linda Romano.

Thanks to collators Glen and Kathie Benson, Lois Feldman and Jeanne Breden, and thanks to deliverers Lauren Clary, Marie Bartlett, Marie Lovley, Jeanne Breden and the Cafferys. (If we have forgotten anyone, please accept our thanks and apologies.)



**One-on-one tutoring, consulting, trouble-shooting
Web site design, publishing and maintenance**

To schedule an appointment, contact:
Clint Davis, M.Ed.
Phone: (413) 774-4222  & 
Email: AskClint@Gmail.com
Web site: www.computingbylint.com

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,
Jeanne Breden 772-2861
Design & Word processing: 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 bobtwo@verizon.net by 5:00 PM on **Tuesday, May 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

Candidate Statements

Lance Fritz, Selectboard (3-year)

Hi, I'm Lance Fritz and I am seeking your vote for re-election to the Board of Selectmen. I grew up and was educated in this town and I have a deep love and concern for it. I remember how bad the roads used to be; in spring your car bellied out in deep ruts and sank in mud. Today we have some of the best small-town roads in the area. We must avoid those "good old days". Early in life I realized that the economic realities of this area were limited. I found, though I dearly wanted to live and raise my family here, I couldn't do it. Not much has changed since. Our children wishing to stay can't. Our older citizens find it increasingly harder to stay. What can we do about it? First address the tax issue, second jobs, and third maintain this town as a desirable place to live. That means good schools, roads, fire and police.

For the past several years I have been heavily involved in the budget process. When I first started, the town had nearly the highest taxes in the county. That's no longer true; I'm told we're nearer the middle of the pack now. The secret: Control budget growth. With inflation ever with us, the town's revenues must go up, or we have to cut expenses. Cutting expenses, however, can only go so far before cutting services and people. Leyden has precious few of either. So what is the answer? One is to look at the areas where we do spend money and ask if there are better and cheaper ways of doing things, while preserving quality and our sense of community. Also we need to search for new revenue streams to reduce our tax burden. As an example, through Dan Galvis' effort, a possibility exists to meet our future equipment needs at no cost to the town. A new grader currently costs \$250,000. What if we can get a used one for nothing? There may be other examples.

On being elected to the board, I was appointed to the FRCOG's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee and this year elected by them to The Economic Development Governing Board, and I am currently the Clerk of the FRTA Advisory Board. These committee assignments give me opportunities to network with others to accomplish my goal. JOBS!

Dave Brooks tells me that with the ever-increasing cost of materials, keeping up with our paving program will become a losing proposition by 2015. Many of our dirt roads are too narrow and need to be widened to accommodate increased vehicle traffic, school buses and emergency vehicles. We must start the planning process now to provide an innovative way to solve this dilemma without breaking the budget.

Public Safety is another major area of concern. Whether we like it or not, the world is changing. Gone are the days when the biggest problem is a stolen bike. Leyden, in its seclusion, is ideal for people bent on carrying out illegal activities. To prevent this we need a highly trained, highly professional Police force. It's a tough job, one that not many want or can perform properly. We do, however, need to provide them with better training and continuously upgrade both their professional and interpersonal skills. Our volunteer Fire Department also needs our help in many of the same areas. They, too, do a tremendous job, considering the obstacles.

Everything I've said above will take time; there are no quick fixes. I am willing to put in the time and energy to get it done. The caption in my high school yearbook described me as "the little guy that gets things done". Please give me the opportunity to get it done for Leyden

—Thank you, Lance Fritz, Leyden Selectman

Jeffrey Neipp, Selectboard (3-year)

As a former Selectman, Director of Council on Aging, and Finance Committee member, I once again am seeking your vote for a 3-year term on Leyden's Selectboard. I am now retired and own and operate Castle Hill Farm in West Leyden.

If elected I would like to bring back weekly Selectboard meetings. I feel that returning to weekly meetings would energize our local government and employees from the top down. I want local citizens to be able to engage their local government more readily and have the opportunity to solve problems in a timely basis. If you stay connected to the problems that the town faces today, you will be closer to finding solutions to resolve them.

I will work hard to make sure that all Boards are at full membership, and no longer will a Board sputter along, even if that requires a timely election to fill a vacancy.

I will meet with the Fire and Police Chiefs, respective officers and employees of related departments on a regular basis so they have a clear understanding of the values of the Selectboard Policies relating to Public Safety.

Our Highway Department is a big part of our tax expenditures. Everyone requires good roads for safe travel. I plan to work closely with our Highway Superintendent to ensure Chapter 90 and Cherry Sheet funds are spent effectively and that resources for David Brooks' department are always a priority so that they can continue their good work.

Years ago, I started the town website with volunteers and the Town Administrator. Over time it somehow got neglected. I am delighted to see interest in bringing it back. It is a great tool to keep residents informed and updated about our town, and former residents often view this website to stay connected. I will work to ensure that the site remains current.

As a parent of three grown children that grew up in Leyden and attended the public school system here, I am proud to say my oldest son is now a practicing Attorney in Massachusetts. My middle son is a Lineman for a power company. My daughter graduated from Salem State and is now enrolled at Michigan State in their Baccalaureate Program for Nursing. My wife Robin served as a School Committee member and Vice Chairman of the PVRS building program, and she and I have always supported the Public Schools. Our Library in town remains a treasured resource and I will continue to support Mrs. Johnston's great work.

In closing I would like to say I am a Veteran of the U.S. Army. I sit on the local board of Rolling Thunder, a national organization that advocates for missing soldiers from all wars. I support our local Veterans Agent Charles Loven and his ongoing important work.

I hope you will support and vote for me on May 19 for the 3-year term on the Leyden Selectboard. *—Respectfully Yours, Jeffrey Neipp*

The Farm Stand

108 West Leyden Road, Colrain

The freshest vegetables—
tomatoes, zucchini, summer squash,
great corn, melons and more in
summer. Now selling plants.

Self-serve, open early and late.



Remember Mom

Take her to the pancake breakfast

On Mother's Day

Candidate Statements

Barbara Wallace, Selectboard (1-year)

I am running to fill the one year remaining on the three-year Selectboard position held by Karen Sayword-Sims. I have attended the Selectboard meetings since December to learn and to clarify my interest in serving. Being on the Planning Board and attending the Selectboard meetings has given me a greater understanding of Leyden's governance.

I called the State Ethics Commission to determine whether I would be able, if elected, to hold both Planning Board and Selectman positions. They said there is no issue, and this often occurs in small towns. Since being elected to the Planning Board, I have attended both the NFIP (Nation Flood Insurance Program) Workshop and the Citizen Planner Training Collaborative at Holy Cross College. These programs are excellent, but I am most impressed by the history and working knowledge of Leyden held by those currently serving our town. It would be a great honor and pleasure to serve Leyden on the Selectboard.

—Thank you for your consideration, Barbara Wallace

James Nielsen, Treasurer (3-year)

With the resignation of Bob Taylor as our Treasurer (thank you, Bob, for six years of service!), I have decided to seek the position. For those of you who don't know me, I've been a Leyden resident for 33 years, living and raising a family on Mid County Road, and have previously served two terms on each of the Finance Committee and School Committee. My wife, Michele Giarusso, also has many years of local service, first on the Selectboard, then on the Finance Committee, where she is currently Chair, and also as Leyden's representative to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments ("the COG"). We both appreciate the quality of life in small, rural Leyden and also recognize the need to participate and be involved.

This election will be unique, as the election for Treasurer will occur concurrently with a vote on a ballot question to establish the Treasurer as an appointed, not elected, position that will allow persons other than Leyden residents to be considered. This is part two of a process that began with a prior town meeting vote, and assuming the town confirms that vote with an affirmative ballot vote, the position will be filled by an appointment of the Selectboard. I fully support the move to an appointed position, as we did for Town Accountant, because small towns often struggle to find the necessary skills to fill these positions from a relatively small pool of citizens. Having said that, one of the reasons I chose to seek the position was to insure that there would be a Leyden candidate regardless of the outcome of the vote.

The Treasurer is responsible for managing all of the Town's funds and making all payments authorized by warrant, including payroll and all associated state and federal filings. I will bring significant business and information technology experience to the position. For over twenty-five years I have owned and operated my own successful company, providing businesses nationally with comprehensive solutions for their information technology needs. I have worked with small businesses and large nationally branded organizations. As my company is organized as a corporation, I have extensive experience and skills that are directly transferable to the position of Treasurer: government reporting requirements, payroll, managing various financial accounts across multiple institutions, negotiating notes, and drafting and negotiating a variety of different contract types.

Currently, all town payments are made by printed and/or manual check and mailed. If Treasurer, I would immediately move toward electronic payments and direct deposit of payroll. This saves both time and money and simplifies government reporting and record keeping, both for the production of current reporting as well as archiving. As it happens, the town has the opportunity to facilitate those changes because the town must replace its current accounting software, as it will no longer be supported as of July 1. An April 16 article in the Greenfield Recorder in part refers to Rowe's, and other county towns', similar problems with the same software.

In conclusion, I would ask you to please cast your vote on May 19 for the Leyden candidate for Treasurer!—*Respectfully submitted, James Nielsen*

Erik Johnson, Selectboard (1-year)

Dear Residents of Leyden: My name is Erik Johnson. I am running for the one-year term as Selectman. I have lived in town 35 years. I grew up in Leyden, and with my wife raised our family here. I am asking for your consideration to allow me the opportunity to serve the citizens of Leyden. My experience comes from life's lessons and some common sense. I have served in the Marines for four years to include the Persian Gulf War. I ran multiple departments for a window distributor for ten years. I have been a security supervisor for Vermont Yankee. Currently I am a foreman with a landscape company. I also currently hold a position on the Finance Committee and as a Constable in Leyden. Throughout my life, opportunities have surfaced to lead and I have stepped up to those opportunities each time. I am currently involved and knowledgeable about many aspects of the town. In conclusion, I ask that when Election Day arrives please take the time, come out to vote and consider voting for me.

—Thank you for your consideration, Erik Johnson

Please Approve the Treasurer Question

I urge you to approve the question on the Annual Town Election ballot to change the position of Town Treasurer from an elected position to an appointed position. It was at my urging that the article was placed on the 2011 Annual Town Meeting warrant last year (Article 20), and the town voted unanimously to approve this measure. In accordance with Massachusetts law, the issue must now be on the Annual Town Election ballot for final approval.

A large majority of towns in Massachusetts has now changed the Treasurer position to an appointed position, and the state recommends that towns do so. Making the position appointed allows the Select Board to choose a qualified candidate from out of town if such candidate is the most well-qualified, rather than requiring the position to be filled by a town resident. This gives them the latitude to select from a wider pool of candidates.

There is a candidate on this year's ballot for the position of Treasurer, nominated at the Annual Town Caucus. This is in no way meant to reflect on his expertise or abilities. It is, rather, the larger question of how the Town will select qualified candidates henceforth.

I will finish my second term as an elected Town Treasurer on June 30, 2012, and will no longer continue in the position. Again, I urge you to approve this ballot question for the betterment of our town government.

—Bob Taylor, Town Treasurer

Locks of Love

Looking for something valuable to do that takes no effort and costs nothing? Grow your hair!

Locks of Love is a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under age 21 in the United States and Canada suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. We meet a unique need for children by using donated hair to create the highest quality hair prosthetics. Most of the children helped by Locks of Love have lost their hair due to a medical condition called alopecia areata, which has no known cause or cure. The prostheses we provide help to restore their self-esteem and their confidence, enabling them to face the world and their peers.

Mission Statement: Our mission is to return a sense of self, confidence and normalcy to children suffering from hair loss by utilizing donated ponytails to provide the highest quality hair prosthetics to financially disadvantaged children. The children receive hair prostheses free of charge or on a sliding scale, based on financial need.

Yes, you can donate Gray hair. Gray hair is sold to other wigmakers. The money from those sales goes to defray the cost of making the wigs for kids and teens.

For more information, go to their website <http://www.locksoflove.org> or call Kathie Benson at 773-8595.

Meetings and Gatherings

Council on Aging

At our April meeting Kate Richardson of Northampton presented a wonderful introduction to origami. We got to see lots of models and pictures of the range of possibilities in folding paper, and each person folded their own paper crane. It was interesting and fun. Thanks, Kate!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 10th, at 10:30 AM. The program is not yet determined but we will have our usual good time together. (If you have a program idea, get in touch with me soon!) As usual, we will share lunch together using locally grown, seasonal food.

All are welcome to join us. We will meet in the church Fellowship Hall. If you want to join us for lunch, please let Edith Fisher know at 773-7336 before Monday, May 7th, so we can plan the meal accordingly.

Important COA News: I have been helping with the Council on Aging since 2005 and it has been an enjoyable experience. However, I have decided to focus on other parts of my life and will no longer be directing the COA after June 30th. Therefore, *the COA will need a new Director* beginning July 1st. This is an opportunity for positive change for the COA and an opportunity for someone who would like to help out the town and spend some time with some wonderful people. If that appeals to you or you want more information, contact me or the Selectboard. Thanks!

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 two times in May, Friday, May 11th at Kathie Benson's house and Friday, May 25th at Peggy Brown's house.

We meet from 6:30 to 8:30 PM and enjoy a relaxed evening of handiwork and the company of our fellow stitchers. All are welcome to join us; no experience is needed and all kinds of handicrafts are fine. Visitors and all ages are welcome. Call ahead to RSVP and confirm the location. If you would like to be on an email group for the Knitting Circle, get in touch with Laura at 773-8325.

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

—*Peggy Brown - 774-5764, Kathie Benson - 773-8595*

Can You Solve the Mystery?

I live in what was once the old Center School. In the woods behind our house is a stone foundation for what we assume was a barn, and in the middle of the field in a clump of trees and wild lilacs is a stone cellar hole. There is no mention of it in the Leyden history book. My question is: Does anyone have any idea who lived there and when? I have wondered about it for years. Thank you for any input.

—*Sharon Clark, 67 West Leyden Road, jaseclark@verizon.net*

The Art Garden—Art for All

The Art Garden is a community-supported art-making place located at 14 Depot Street in Shelburne Falls. The Art Garden has seasonal community art exhibits, open studio hours, an after-school art program, open enrollment figure drawing and classes, workshops and events for people of all ages. The next exhibit is entitled "Source: a Community Exhibit about Water", and opens with a reception from 5:00 to 6:00 PM on Saturday, May 5th. Visit the Art Garden's website at theartgarden.org for more information on events and programs.

—*Colleen Caffery*

Pearl Rhodes Elementary School

Preschool and Kindergarten News

Welcome spring! We have been greeted with glorious weather and signs of spring all around. In our classroom we have been watching the forsythia bloom and we have been witnesses to the miracle of life. Just last week we welcomed ten baby chicks into the world. For the past three weeks the pre-k/k class has been learning about the life cycle of a chicken. For twenty one days we warmed the eggs in the incubator and all students shared in the responsibility of turning the eggs. On Tuesday the 27th we had one baby chick when we arrived at school and we spent the remainder of the day watching as the baby chicks cracked their eggs with their egg tooth and worked their way out. It was very exciting and it was a true miracle to bear witness to. All of the other classes and several of the teachers in the building stopped by throughout the day.

In our classroom we have also been learning about making maple syrup. On March 15th our class took a field trip to Stonewall Farm in Keene, New Hampshire where we got to see the sap being collected, learned about boiling sap, took a wagon ride, drilled a hole in a Maple tree to tap it, and had a sample of the sweet maple syrup. It was an excellent and informative trip and the students were able to share their knowledge with the farm workers. Thank you to all the parents that were able to join us for the day. Your willingness to transport us and be a chaperone is greatly appreciated.

Also in our classroom we have recently welcomed a new student. A couple of weeks ago Bradley Kabanec joined our preschool class and after vacation Sophia Manewich will also be joining us. It's lovely to see our classroom growing and learning together.

Dates to Remember

Thursday, May 3rd—Grade Six to visit PVRS, 11:40 AM to 3:00 PM. "Rockin' Ron," 1:30 PM.

Week of May 7th—MCAS

School Lunch Information

As many of you know, the Federal Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 and the Massachusetts School Nutrition Standards is being launched. Michelle Obama is traveling around the country promoting the Federal Law and Massachusetts requires many changes to school lunches by July 2012, breakfast by July 2013. Here are some of the changes you will see:

Milk: We have already implemented the milk changes, which limits milk served to 1% white milk or non-fat chocolate milk. White milk is the only choice for snack milk by law.

Whole Wheat/Whole Grains: Pasta and bread products will be made and served from whole wheat/whole grains only. We have started to phase this in across the district.

Fruits: A daily serving of fruit that is fresh, frozen without sugar, canned in light syrup, water or fruit juice; or dried is required.

Vegetables: A daily serving of vegetables is required plus a weekly requirement to serve a mix of dark green, red/orange, beans/peas, starchy, and other vegetables.

Beyond Meals: The guidelines *will* impact what foods are brought into the buildings by families or teachers for celebrations during the school day and what is sold for fundraisers during the school day.

School Lunch Payments: You will be asked to pre-pay your child's/children's school meals. Payment may be by cash or check with money being deducted only when your child eats breakfast or lunch. Charging lunches will be discouraged now, so please plan ahead to pay as your child eats. More guidelines will be forthcoming.



This project is sponsored in part by a grant from the Leyden Local Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Artists of Leyden

For about a year, **Trish Crapo** has been freelancing for The Recorder, writing on poetry and art. Trish says, "The work has been exciting for me since it combines writing, my longtime love and profession, with my more recent skill of photography. I also fill in as a photographer on weekends when there are a multitude of events or during sports season, when there are games all over the valley. It's been great to find this work that I love—albeit later in life and certainly later in the life of print journalism." You can read Trish's Art features on Thursdays in the Arts & Entertainment section, and her poetry columns appear on Saturdays in Life & Times, on the Book page.

Leyden artists **Lola Baltzell** and **Trish Crapo**, together with The War and Peace Project, a collaborative fusion of literature and art, have been invited to exhibit at two venues in Russia in June. The project consists of 748 individual collages that combine to form a unique work based on Leo Tolstoy's classic novel War and Peace.

Lead artist **Lola Baltzell** came up with the idea of making a collage out of each page of a 1970's Russian Soviet edition of the novel. Other media are culled from hand-me-down books, maps, pamphlets and letters. The collages are a mash-up of personal fragments and random bits of printed detritus. Artists have added thread, dried flowers, wax, inks and graphite. The project is documented each day on the War and Peace Project blog, along with artists' reflections on their collages, the process, and the book.

From June 9–12, a selection from the project will be shown at the Moscow International Book Fair. The Fair is sponsored by the Central House of Artists, a modern art museum that is part of the New Tretyakov Museum which contains studios, galleries and exhibition space for rotating contemporary art. The annual fair will present over 200 participants from over 20 countries.

The entire project will then open on June 22nd at Yasnaya Polyana, the Leo Tolstoy Estate and Museum in Tula Province and will be on display through August. Several days of workshops in collaborative collage will follow the show. The team of artists, who dubbed themselves Team Tolstoy, will share the techniques they developed as they worked together for two years to complete the project.

To view the collages and for more info on Team Tolstoy go to <http://warpeaceproject.blogspot.com>.

For more information about Leyden artists and their events, please visit the Calendar pages at www.artistsofleyden.org, and on Facebook, search for Artists of Leyden.

Solid Waste Management

BACKYARD COMPOST BINS AVAILABLE

Spring is here and along with cleaning up the yard or planting a garden it's a great time to start composting. Composting food and yard waste can reduce your household trash by over 25%. The waste turns into a soil amendment for lawns and gardens. Residents can save money and reduce waste by using homemade compost instead of purchasing bagged fertilizers and topsoil every spring.

Composting is easy, and it can be even easier with an effective compost bin. Attractive, durable bins for home composting are available through the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District at its office at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield.

The "Earth Machine" sells for \$45, is made of a rigid recycled polyethylene plastic and has a twist-on lid. The bin stakes to the ground and is easy to assemble, is rodent resistant, and designed for good aeration. (It is not necessarily bear-proof.) The Earth Machine features a door in the bottom that can be lifted up to easily shovel out finished compost.

Bulky Waste Collection May 12th

Leyden is a member town of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. The Solid Waste District coordinates a special collection event every spring and fall for "bulky" items. The next collection is scheduled for May 12th at the Northfield Highway Garage, Buckland Recreation Center, and Whately Transfer Station. A wide variety of materials will be accepted, including electronics, furniture, tires, propane tanks, appliances, scrap metal, and construction debris. Fees are associated with each material. A price guide can be found at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html.

Leyden residents can also bring bulky items and scrap metal year-round to the Greenfield Transfer Station off Wisdom Way near the Franklin County Fairgrounds. The Greenfield Transfer Station has a different fee structure than the Solid Waste District's collection. Hours and pricing for the transfer station can be found at www.townofgreenfield.org/pages/greenfieldma_dpw/fees.pdf.

The Solid Waste District offers many programs and services to Leyden residents. For a complete list visit the District's website at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org or call 772-2438 with questions.



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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.

Recycle Your Coffee Bags: I am looking for used foil coffee bags for a craft project, the more unusual, the better. Pierce Brothers bags also desired. Thank you, Holly at 624-3247.

Adjustable Single Bed Needs a Home: We need to find a home for an adjustable single bed (like a hospital bed). It is in excellent condition, the mattress is good, and there is a remote control to adjust the head and foot of the bed. Please call Lance or Kathleen Fritz at 773-9003.

The Log Cabin Bed & Breakfast can provide comfortable space for your out-of-town visitors. Please check the website at www.LeydenLogCabin.com or call 773-8595 to check availability or to make a reservation. *Please be sure to ask for the Leyden discount of \$50 off the nightly rate for Leyden residents and their guests!*

Beaded Jewelry for Sale: Carol Kuzdeba dba CJ Design does unique one-of-a-kind designs of natural stone, pearls, furnace glass, etc. Brides, graduation gifts or just because. See pieces already made or ask for special orders available on request. Stop by to see it at Himalayan Views gift shop in the Tibetan Plaza, 265 Greenfield Road, South Deerfield. Carol Kuzdeba.

Maple Run Farm has farm-fresh brown eggs for \$2.50/carton. The girl's are Hubbard Golden Comets. The Hubbard Golden Comet has been widely acclaimed in all areas of the world where brown eggs are preferred. The reason is simple: The Golden Comet pullet is easily one of the finest brown egg layers available today. They mature early and lay eggs of excellent size and quality. She is an extremely quiet bird, that seems to be able to withstand the colder, non-insulated, laying houses of the small flock owner, better than most breeds. Try our eggs. Call Barbara at 774-7780.

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 MassMaple Producers Association.

Beautiful handmade stoneware functional pottery for sale. Mostly blues, greens, and purples. Microwave, oven, and dishwasher safe. Commissions accepted. Come check it out. Also would like to barter for housework. Call Rhonda Wainshilbaum at 624-5175.

LPs and Cassette Tapes to CDs: Will convert your favorite (or even your not-so-favorite) LPs and/or tapes to CDs. \$7.50 per CD. Call Jerry at 624-5546, or e-mail at jlevine4@verizon.net.

Natural Romney yarn for sale for knitting or spinning. Processed at Green Mountain Spinnery in Putney, VT, and chemical free. Call Barbara Wallace at 774-7780.

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.

Sweet Morning Farm CSA (Timmerman Farm)

I still have farm shares available for this season. The garden is growing and soon there will be lots of delicious, Leyden-grown vegetables to share. Farm shares include a wide assortment of produce including mesclun, tomatoes, beans, leeks, kale, carrots, chard, onions, garlic, shell beans, and lots more, including fruit, herbs and wild foods when available. Really, there's quite a variety and there is room for farm members to choose the items they prefer each week. Pick up at the farm on Thursdays.

I am already picking mesclun, greens, and radishes from the hoop-house each week. For a weekly email about what's ready, sign up for the Eggs and Extras list. (See: <http://lastingimpressionsfarmstand.blogspot.com/>)

Full Shares - 20 - 24 weeks - \$600.00 - \$675.00, sliding scale; Half Shares - 20 - 24 weeks - \$300.00 - \$350.00, sliding scale; Mini Shares - 16 weeks (just two items a week) - \$100.00; Extended Mini Shares - 20 weeks - \$125.00. All shares include flowers.

If you like fresh, organic vegetables, please consider signing up for a share.

Laura Timmerman, 413-773-8325, laurat@crocker.com, <http://lastingimpressionscsa.blogspot.com/>

Linda Romano

Spring yoga continues till the end of May. Yoga for Gardening session will be May 3rd in Leyden from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. Workshop will focus on postures that will make your back strong, and offer you plans and tools that will assist you. RSVP / ASAP.

Spring Healing—sinus relief, happy feet, Thai compress, steamy towels, all add-on's to your Massage/ Bodywork session. Gift certificates are available; don't forget Mom & Dad! Personal sessions—Yoga, strength training, Arthritis, chi- gong, chi-energetics are available.

Happy spring! Linda Romano 413- 624-3334



Linda Romano



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