

Leyden Life

Leyden, Massachusetts

February 2014

Selectboard Office Hours:

Monday 12:00 - 5:00 PM, Tuesday—Friday 9:00 AM - 2:00 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 Thursday, February 2th at 9:00 AM and Thursday, February 27th 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.

TOWN HALL MONTHLY MEETINGS

The following meetings are scheduled this month:

Tue, Feb 4	7:00 PM	Agricultural Commission
Wed, Feb 5	6:30 PM	Board of Assessors
Tue, Feb 11	5:30 PM	Board of Health (at the Police Station)
Wed, Feb 12	7:00 PM	Planning Board
Thu, Feb 13	9:00 AM	Selectboard
Mon, Feb 17	7:30 PM	Conservation Commission
Wed, Feb 19	6:30 PM	Board of Assessors
Thu, Feb 20	7:00 PM	Building Needs Study Committee
Thu, Feb 27	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*

Selectboard Corner

February brings the heart of winter along with the start of sugaring season. It will be nice to see the smoke billowing out of our local sugar shacks along the roads. Support our local farmers, as their syrup is always the best.

Good news from Greenfield—there are plans to reopen the pumping station bridge to vehicle traffic sometime later in the year. It's been years since Eunice Williams drive has been open to through traffic, and this is certainly welcome news to Leyden residents.

The Honor Court from the Sheriff's Department has been busy painting the walls and ceilings in the Town Hall dining room and kitchen. The Selectboard and the Building Needs Committee will meet in the dining hall on Monday, February 10th at 7:00 PM to discuss final plans to bring the kitchen into compliance with Board of Health regulations. We ask all residents who use this facility to please attend this meeting. We need your help as we finalize the plans to get things ready for discussion, and hopefully for approval at the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) in May.

Free Cash for Leyden has been certified at \$199,749.00. This is very welcome news as we start the budget process for the ATM. We will hold a Special Town Meeting prior to the ATM, on the same date, to transfer money as

Continued on Page 3

Town Clerk

VACATION SCHEDULE

The Town Clerk's office will be closed February 3 - 7 for vacation.

VITAL STATISTICS

There were no births, deaths, or marriages were report this month.

PRESIDENT'S DAY

The Town Clerk's office will be closed Monday, February 17 in observance of President's Day.

VETERANS' INFORMATION

Tim Niejadliki, Director of the Greenfield Veterans' Services District, as provided informational pamphlets describing services and benefits available to veterans. These pamphlets are available in the Selectmen's office during normal business hours.

—*Bob Hardesty*

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

Fire Department



From left, Brian Pelletier, Hayley Pelletier, Nikolas Adamski, Jacob Garmalo, Patrick Crowningshield, and Chief Clifford Spatcher.

At the January 14th meeting, the Select Board appointed Clifford C. Spatcher as Leyden Fire Chief. Cliff, born, raised and living in Leyden, is a current Firefighter/EMT and officer in his 10th year of service with the Fire Department. Cliff is President of Fire Fighters Association and is also on the Leyden Planning Board. In addition, the Select Board approved eight firefighters. Cliff Spatcher, Nik Adamski, Brian Pelletier, and Jacob Garmalo all of Leyden were approved. Antonio Velez (a Junior Firefighter), Patrick Crowningshield and Patrick Cote of Greenfield and Jacob Louison of Bernardston were also approved. There are several other potential firefighters considering joining the department. If you are interested in serving Leyden as a firefighter please contact Bob Hardesty at the Town Hall 774-4111.

The Leyden Fire Department and the Town of Leyden are grateful to the Bernardston Fire Department for their support and 24/7 on-call status for Leyden during this transition.

The next step for the Fire Department is reviewing and presenting an equipment plan. The first meeting took place January 16th. A building review will follow the approval of the equipment plan.

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.)

Christmas and New Year's Day have come and gone, and we're deep into winter. With this season comes snow and the onerous jobs of shoveling. But we have been blessed! Sam Allis has volunteered to plow the area in front of the library and also in front of the mailbox as a *gift* to the library and town. If you see Sam, give him a high five for his kind heartedness! This is one job I happily relinquish. Not knowing of Sam's kind offer, Nate Messer and son Eli shoveled us out after a recent storm before Sam could get here. Thank you all.

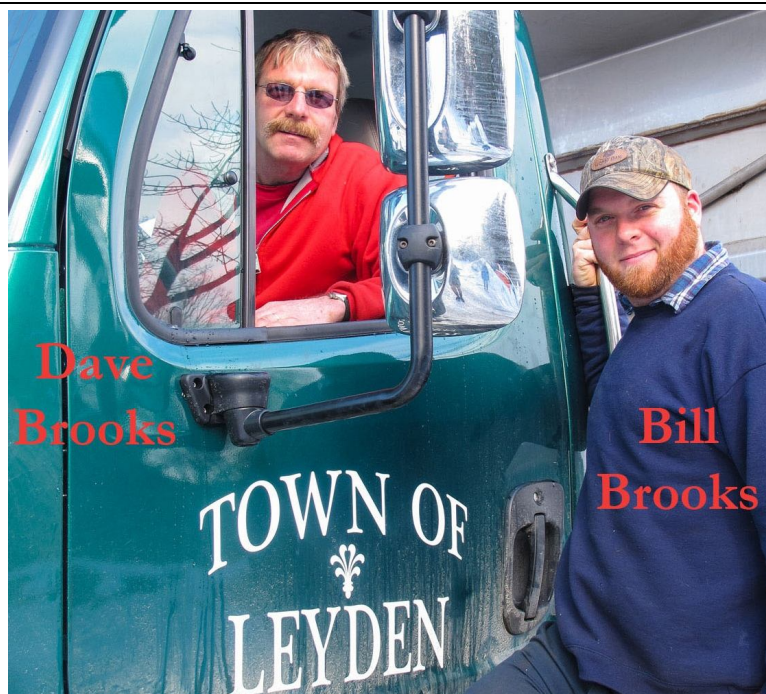
Enclosed in a nice Christmas card from Pat Little, her husband, Steve and son, Tim was a big fat check for the library. What a wonderful and thoughtful gift! We anticipate that, as in the past, more gifts will arrive to support the library's activities and needs. Thank you.

Our Saturday volunteers continue to be the best of the best. Breaking up their Saturday mornings to open the library to patrons from ten until noon is a real sacrifice, especially for those people who work all week. We are more than appreciative of their kindness in making the library available to all each Saturday of the year. This year's volunteers include Kathy Wells, Kathy Ruseckas, Lynne Podlesney, Lois Feldman, Robbie Browning, Glen Benson, Nick and Tracey Baronas, Rachel Rodgers, Pat and Drake Williams, Cindy and Erin LeBlanc, and Karin Parks. Three cheers and a big hurrah!

Are you interested in forming a book club? Two Leyden residents have expressed interest, but more people are needed to make for meaningful dialogue and idea sharing. If you are interested, please call me at the library (773-9334) or email me at leydenlibrary@gmail.com.

Working at the library in Leyden is often a unique experience. On a beautiful, crisp but snowless day in mid-January, Barbara and John Wallace returned books while on horseback! What a treat for me and the patrons who were here at the time. Both horses are beautiful, and it was a special treat for all. Super Leyden!

As you read this edition of *Leyden Life*, just think—it's February already, and spring is marching forth!
—Chris Johnston



**Thank You
to our Highway Department!**

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. (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**.

LEYDEN LIFE BY E-MAIL

If you are interested in receiving the **electronic version of *Leyden Life*** in PDF format, please notify Bob Taylor at bobtwo@verizon.net.

THANKS

Thanks to Linda and Andy Baker, Amy St. Clair, Richard Wallace, and Sue and Fred Pazmino for donations. Thanks to collators Foster Ranney-Asbury, Laura Timmerman Lois Feldman, and thanks to deliverers Marie Bartlett, Marie Lovley, and the Cafferys. (If we have forgotten anyone, please accept our thanks and apologies.)

townofleyden.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

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 bobtwo@verizon.net by 5:00 PM on

Saturday, February 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

Meetings and Gatherings

Leyden Council on Aging (COA) - February

January Report: On January 13th, the COA had a delicious potluck meal with lots of vegetarian and gluten-free selections, followed by our business meeting to plan programs and activities through June of this year. We are excited that there will be many opportunities to get together, meet new friends, share stories, learn about resources, and have a few laughs!

Join Us: If you are age 50 and over, or a caregiver, or just interested in participating in healthful and active aging activities, we encourage you to join us. All meetings are held Mondays at Town Hall.

Transportation needed to COA meetings? Amy St. Clair has happily volunteered to drive anyone who needs a ride. Call her at 774-6907.

Monday, February 10th

10-11:30: Outreach/Caregiver assistance available. Everyone knows budgets are tight, especially for those of us on a fixed income. Outreach Specialist Nancy Wood will be at Town Hall to help you find answers to questions about programs for food, fuel, housing and home care assistance; discounts for electric or phone bills; compensation for caregivers, etc. She can also help you fill out applications as needed, or help you create an action plan.

10-11:30: Learning to Paint with Acrylics with Dianne Cornwell. We will learn the basics of setting up a palette, mixing colors, techniques for avoiding a muddy palette, and techniques for studying a composition you want to paint. This will be a hands-on workshop. No skills required. Participants should dress comfortably. Most supplies will be provided, but if you are a painter already, you are encouraged to bring your own brushes. There is a recommended donation of \$2 for this fun workshop. If possible, please call ahead to Bob Hardesty at 774- 4111 as space is limited.

11:30-12:15 - a light lunch of soup and sandwiches will be served.

12:15- 1:00 - COA business meeting will follow lunch.

Monday, February 24th

10:30-11:30: Friend to Friend. Learn techniques for card-making or recycling old cards and sending them to seniors or friends in the community. No skills required. All ages are welcome.

11:30 – 12:15 a light lunch of soup and sandwiches will be served.

Bridge anyone? Someone would like to play on COA Mondays, and is looking for other bridge players out there to join him. Call Dianne Ryan (624-0225) if interested, and we'll see what can be organized.

Bad Weather: Council programs will not be held if school is closed due to bad weather. —Dianne Ryan

Knitting Circle

The Leyden knitting circle will meet twice this month, on February 14th at Kathy Benson's house, and January 28th at Peggy Brown's house from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. All are welcome to join us; no experience is needed and all kinds of handicrafts 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. Winter is a great time for crafting of all kinds. —Laura Timmerman, 773-8325

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

Last Paper Issue of *Leyden Life*

If we don't hear from you by phone or email to let us know your delivery preference, this will be the last paper *Leyden Life* delivered. *If you don't hear from one of us, please contact us with your preference.*

Thank you, *Leyden Life* Editors

Selectboard Corner

(Continued from Page 1) required from this fund. This is a large amount of free cash for Leyden; the team has been busy collecting old taxes due, along with tax title payments. We are committed to continuing this on-going process. This is work well done by Roxanne Zimmerman, Kristi Nartowicz, Tracy Baronas and Bob Hardesty. It has taken many meetings and discussions—a long process that is now starting to show results.

Sid Herron was the high bidder for the surplus Highway truck at \$3,520.00. That money will be returned to the general fund. There were no bidders on the police equipment; it will be advertised again.

—Respectfully yours, Jeff, Barbara, Bill

School Budget Public Hearing for FY 2015

The Budget Public Hearing for the FY 2015 school budget will be held on Tuesday, February 11th at 7:00 PM at Pioneer Valley Regional School in Northfield. This is part of the School Committee Process. If you'd like to have a voice in this process, please come to this meeting to be informed about the school budget for both Pearl Rhodes and Pioneer Valley Regional.

I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this or anything else about our school. You can contact me at 772-6245 or maguirec@pioneervalley.k12.ma.us.

—Thanks, Chris Maguire, Principal,
Pearl Rhodes Elementary School

Livingstone Carpentry

Traditional Craftsmanship, Quality Service

~SPECIALIZING IN~

WINDOWS • DOORS • FINE CARPENTRY
WEATHERIZATION • FIRE & WATER RESTORATION
NEW CONSTRUCTION • RENOVATIONS

Free Estimates
Fully Licensed
and Insured

Johan D. Livingstone
Leyden, MA
(413) 475-0771

Registered Holsteins and Brown Swiss
Maple Syrup
Raw Milk



Dairy Farmer Cooperative

Bree-Z-Knoll Farm, LLC

Warren Facey

160 North County Road, Leyden, MA 01337
Phone: 413-774-3757 Cell: 413-522-2512

Pearl Rhodes Elementary School

Principal's Corner

Hi everyone. All of us (students and staff) are working very diligently since our return from vacation. It was great, if unexpected, to have two weeks off. All of our classes are very busy. Meanwhile, it is time for the district to work on the budget for next year. Parents are encouraged to be part of this process. There will be a **public hearing at Pioneer** during the School Committee meeting. This meeting will be **Tuesday, February 11th at 8:00 PM in the kiva**. Please feel free to ask me or members of your school committee, should you have any questions.

Thanks, Chris Maguire

Six Flags Read to Succeed

The Six Flags Read to Succeed program is underway at PRES. Program details and reading logs were sent home in last week's Thursday folder. Twelve PRES students participated last year and received free tickets!

This program is sponsored by Six Flags Theme Parks. Every student in grades K – 6 who completes six hours of recreational reading before February 14th will receive a free admission ticket to Six Flags New England.

Upcoming Events

February 13

FCU Banking Day
School Committee, PVRS

February 13

FCU Banking Day

February 17 - 21

Winter Vacation

War and Peace Project

The War and Peace Project, a collaborative fusion of literature and art, has been invited to exhibit at Hampden Gallery Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts Amherst from February 23–March 13, 2014, with an opening reception on February 23, 2–4:00 PM. The show will be co-curated by Leyden residents Lola Baltzell and Trish Crapo.

The project consists of 747 individual collages that combine to form a unique work based on Leo Tolstoy's classic novel, *War and Peace*. It has been shown in part in Boston and New York, but this will be the first time the project will be shown in its entirety in the United States.

A selection of the collages was shown at the Moscow International Book Fair in June 2012, after which the entire project was exhibited at Yasnaya Polyana, the Leo Tolstoy Estate and Museum in Tula, Russia. Baltzell and Crapo traveled together twice to Russia, first in 2011 to plan for the show, and then in 2012 with six other artists to attend the opening reception and to offer several days of workshops in collaborative collage-making to a very enthusiastic Russian audience.

The War and Peace Project took over two years to complete. There was a team of artists who met weekly in East Boston as well as far-flung members in Atlanta, Berlin and Leyden. In addition, other guest artist friends were invited to participate. The Boston-based team worked elbow-to-elbow around a small table, sharing materials and exploring a collaborative process. Each 5x7 inch collage incorporates one page from the Russian text, and reflects some aspect of Tolstoy's novel.

Contact: Trish Crapo, tcrapo@mac.com or 413-834-7934.

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

For more information about the Hampden Gallery show go to <https://umafacweb1.admin.umass.edu/Online/WarAndPeace?sessionlanguage=>

Leyden Local Cultural Council

The Leyden Local Cultural Council (LCC), in conjunction with the Massachusetts Cultural Council, is pleased to announce the grants awarded for 2014:

Museum of Our Industrial Heritage, Fiddle Factory Summer Celebration; Marie Betts Bartlett, The Little Yellow Trolley Workshop; Pearl Rhodes Elementary School, Springfield Museums; Tom Sullivan, Native Bee Meadow Proliferation; Mohawk Trail Concerts, Five Storytelling events in Music and Anniversaries; Medicine Mammals, Native American music—drumming, dance and story-telling; Pioneer Valley Symphony, Six-week curriculum for 3rd & 4th graders and field trip to concert; Gregory Maichack, Sublime Sunflowers—Pastel Paint like a Master; Edward Wirt, Charles Neville and the Skeletones Big Band Concert; TEDx Shellburne Falls, TEDx Conference—Ideas Worth Spreading; Memorial Hall Association, A Family Opera presentation of *The Magic Flute*; The Art Garden, Three Community Exhibits at the Art Garden; Swift River Valley Historical Society, Children of The Swift River photo exhibit; Hilltown Families, Inc., On-line Community Support of Education; United Arc Positive Parenting Support Program, Bringing History Alive; and Rhonda Wainschilbaum, Pearl Rhodes bus trip to Brattleboro Museum of Art.

In response to our community survey done last spring, several of this year's grants are specifically for the students of Pearl Rhodes Elementary School and for area families. As we go through the year, details about all LCC programs will appear in *Leyden Life*.



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.

Fred Wells Trust Scholarship Awards

The Fred W. Wells Trust is an organization that provides scholarships to students graduating from high school and to those enrolled in college or an advanced educational program. Recipients are selected based on scholarship, need, extracurricular activities and recommendations.

Applications may be obtained from high school college counselors, or from the Leyden Town Clerk during normal business hours. All applications, recommendation letters and official transcripts now need to be postmarked no later than **Thursday, March 20, 2014**. Please note that this is a new deadline date, moved forward from the April 1st date used in previous years.

Please call Lois at 774-4092 for further information if needed.

The Circuit Breaker: Tax Relief for Massachusetts Senior Citizens 15th Anniversary

Dear Friends,

Here's a reminder about "The Circuit Breaker," a tax credit for Massachusetts senior citizens age 65 and older.

It's called the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit because it is "triggered," like an electrical circuit breaker, when property tax payments exceed 10 percent of a senior's annual income.

Those who qualify will still be required to pay property taxes to their local communities. But they will receive a dollar credit for every dollar their property tax, and certain water and sewer bills, exceed 10 percent of their income, up to the \$1,030 maximum.

Senior citizens who rent their homes can also take advantage of the same dollar for dollar credit, up to the same \$1,030 maximum, if 25 percent of their annual rent exceeds 10 percent of their annual income.

No special application is required. If you are qualified, you can receive this credit by filling out a 2013 Massachusetts state income tax return before the April 2014 deadline. Official information packets from the state Department of Revenue for 2013 state income tax returns will include Circuit Breaker schedules and will be available in local libraries and post offices beginning early in 2014.

Here are the basic requirements for eligibility:

- Must be a Massachusetts resident, age 65 or older;

- Must own or rent residential property in Massachusetts as your primary residence;

- Must have an annual income of \$55,000 or less for a single filer; \$69,000 or less for a head of household; and \$82,000 or less for joint filers.

You are ineligible for this tax credit if:

- You are married and do not file a joint a return;

- You are a dependent of another tax filer;

- You receive a federal or state rent subsidy directly, or live in a property tax exempt facility;

- Your property is assessed at a value greater than \$700,000.

This tax credit was approved in 1999, was implemented in 2001, and is based on a bill I filed after hearing concerns raised by seniors in Pelham. Over the years it has helped tens of thousands of seniors save millions on their property taxes.

If you need more information, please don't hesitate to contact my district office at 413-587-6365, or the state Department of Revenue Customer Service Bureau at 617-887-MDOR, or toll-free at 800-392-6089, or visit their website, www.massdor.com.

This law is based on a bill I filed after hearing concerns raised by seniors in Pelham. I hope this tax credit will help alleviate some of the burdens property taxes can create.

Best Wishes,



STAN ROSENBERG
State Senator

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.

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.

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. 10% of all purchases made in November and December will be donated to the Warm the Children Fund.

Maple Run Farm: Persephone's Garden Raw Honey is available in lovely gift-appropriate jars – 26-oz for \$14.00; it's a limited supply, so order soon.

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

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, birthdays or just because. See what is available, or special requests can be accommodated. Call Carol at 774-4491 or send an email to cjkuzdeba@yahoo.com.

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.

Excavating, Land clearing, installing and repairing driveways, septic systems, drainage, field mowing, snow-blowing and sanding driveways. Also sweet maple syrup. Allis Construction 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

2014 FARM SHARES: Shares are on sale! Sign up *soon* for yours! I'd love to have you as a farm member. Now is time to reserve your share of Leyden-grown, organic vegetables, fruits, and flowers. Planning and planting are happening now for lots of yummy food for us all. Kale, mesclun, tomatoes, peppers, beans, carrots, onions, leeks, peaches, beets, flowers, and so many more delicious, nutritious, and beautiful crops are on their way. For details call or email me. Check out our farm blog and Facebook page for news and pictures.

EGGS: I sell organically grown chicken eggs for \$5.00/dozen. Call or email me for availability or to be placed on the weekly Egg & Extras Email List. Currently we have leeks and microgreens available. It's winter now, but spring is on its way! *Laura Timmerman, 413-773-8325*

*laurat@crocker.com, <http://sweet-morning-farm.blogspot.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/SweetMorningFarm>*

WiredWest

WiredWest is a project of major proportions. It means that a huge amount of money must be raised. The support cards we keep asking you to sign are a visible indicator of the level of interest throughout the region, an important piece in selling the project to funders and providers. The Executive Committee is hard at work applying for a grant through the US Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service.

This may mean that we will come back to you to fill out a survey similar to the support cards but *needing to be returned quickly by mail*. This will be a crucial component in the application for that grant. We really need the participation of all of you for the completion of this project. It is *our* project, our commitment to the growth and stability of our communities. As a reminder, if you have not yet filled out a support card, please go to wiredwest.net and do so. It is not too late to help to add weight to the urgency so many of us feel to bring our towns into the 21st century.

When our member towns joined WiredWest, we paid an initial fee of \$1,000. At our last meeting of the Board of Directors, we voted unanimously to come back to our towns for an additional \$1,000. This will be on the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting in May. I want to tell you about some of what that initial seed money has done, what we as member towns are getting for our investment, and why we need to contribute a bit more for this enormous and exciting project.

The work being done on behalf of the towns has been truly monumental. The Executive Committee of WiredWest has donated, and continues to donate, literally thousands of hours of time, beginning with the formation, operation, and ongoing management of a 42-town telecommunications cooperative. This has involved legal advice, compliance work, and fees on every level. It has meant building relationships with WiredWest stakeholders, marketing and communications, bookkeeping, grant applications and reporting, as well as fundraising. Our \$42,000 seed money then grew.

Close to \$150,000 has been raised through grants and donations. Additional work, estimated at over \$300,000, has been completed through donations of services and expertise, and volunteer efforts of our delegates, alternates, and other interested community members. This has included a feasibility study, market research, and economic impact studies. We had to create a GIS map database and work up high-level engineering and cost estimates. We as towns have not been asked to foot the bill for all this work. Our \$1,000 fee is a tiny percent of what is needed for the day-to-day work of this project.

At the moment, our main tasks involve four key areas: 1) Support the passage of the IT bond bill currently working its way through the State Legislature; 2) Work to form a partnership with Mass Broadband on developing the last-mile network; 3) Seek the additional funds needed for its construction and operation; and 4) Work closely with our member towns to assure local participation in the project.

—Sheila Hourihan

J. R. Roy Martial Arts Studio

Serving Franklin County since 1972

1 Osgood Street, Greenfield, MA



- ◆ High quality martial arts instruction for adults and children ages 4-94
- ◆ Group classes in Greenfield
- ◆ Private lessons available in Leyden

Sifu (teacher) J. R. Roy, 8th degree Black Belt

www.jroy.com — 413-774-2888



JEFF'S HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Carpentry • Renovations • Home Repairs
Masonry and Tile • Home Organization
Painting • Property Caretaking
Organic Garden & Landscaping Services

FULLY INSURED • 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE • EXCELLENT REFERENCES
10 ROLLING LANE • LEYDEN, MA 01337 • 413-773-9597