
Leyden Life

Leyden, Massachusetts

September 2015

Selectboard Office Hours:
Monday — Thursday 8:00 AM - 4:00 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 Thursdays September 10th at 9:00 AM and September 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 leydenselectboard@crocker.com at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Anyone not on the posted agenda is welcome to address the Selectboard at the end of the meeting during the "Citizens' concerns not anticipated in advance of the meeting" agenda item time.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

| | | |
|-------------|---------|--|
| Wed, Sep 2 | 6:30 PM | Board of Assessors |
| Thu, Sep 3 | 9:30 AM | Selectboard |
| Tue, Sep 8 | 5:30 PM | Board of Health (at the Police Station) |
| Wed, Sep 9 | 7:00 PM | Planning Board |
| Thu, Sep 10 | 6:45 PM | Selectboard |
| Tue, Sep 15 | 7:00 PM | Historical Commission (Downstairs at the church) |
| Wed, Sep 16 | 6:30 PM | Board of Assessors |
| Thu, Sep 17 | 9:30 AM | Selectboard |
| Mon, Sep 21 | 7:30 PM | Conservation Commission |
| Thu, Sep 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.

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 the Municipal Assistant.
—Selectboard

Selectboard Corner

The Selectboard has returned to weekly meetings on Thursdays (see schedule above).

At Annual Town Meeting we voted to establish a Broadband Committee, which is now in place. Members are Bob Ryan, Bob Anson, Tom Luck, Dave Curtis and Selectman Jeff Neipp. Leyden's WiredWest delegates, Sheila Hourihan and Al Woodhull, will be working alongside the committee. The committee's first meeting is Tuesday, September 8th at 7:00 PM to elect a chairman and secretary. WiredWest Delegates will have a packet of information for all members. A discussion on the MBI Broadband Planning Assistant Grant will be on the agenda. This \$5,000.00 grant will be used for legal expenses, engineering, and marketing for the towns collectively.

The PRES roof on the old section of the building has been completed and new gutters are scheduled to be replaced in the

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Town Clerk

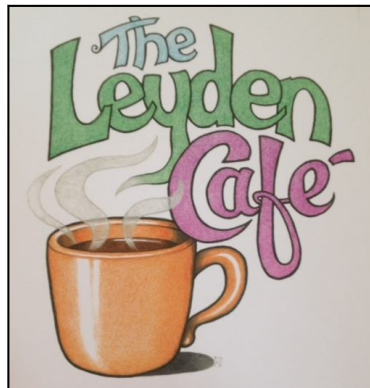
VITAL STATISTICS

No births, marriages or deaths were reported for June or July.

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Beginning in September, the Town Clerk's office will be open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

Town Clerk Office Hours are Mondays and Wednesdays 6:00 – 8:00 PM



New Season Opening

Fall is here and the Leyden Cafe is opening for its second season as a community cafe on Sunday, September 20th, 9 to 11:30 AM, with a Market Day! Local farms and crafts people will be selling their wares. Karyn's baked goods and Pierce Bros. coffee will be

available. The Café entrance is at the back of Town Hall. Our new flag will be out during Café hours, as well as special occasions when the Café is open for business. Regular hours will resume on Sundays, 9 to 11:30 AM through October.

Come for an hour and chat with friends and neighbors while enjoying Karen Brown's scones, coffee cakes, and other baked goodies and excellent coffee from Pierce Bros. If you haven't seen our cozy space yet, come check us out! Take a look at our local crafts and products, including Rhonda's pottery, Ed's maple syrup and Marie's antiques.

Our first year was a memorable one with the Café hosting game nights, market days, cultural events, and concerts, in addition to town meetings, Council on Aging presentations and our regular weekly hours. We plan to not only continue our offerings but expand them this coming year, so we hope to see you there. More people make for better conversation! The first five people on Opening Day get *free coffee*, and a free coffee is awarded after the first five coffees!

New on Market Day: Bread from "7 South Bakery", owned by Mike and Kay Dougherty of Leyden will be available for pick-up at the Sunday, September 20th Market Day. If it is something you would like to continue, let us know! Preorder must be called in by the morning of Friday, September 18th. Leave your name and say that you will pick it up at the Cafe along with your order, and homemade fresh bread will be right in town !

Prices are: French braid \$3.00 unsliced, Onion Rye \$3.00, and Whole Wheat \$3.00. Please specify if you would like either of those sliced.

Call Mike and Kay at 413-648-0070.

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.)

Don't miss this! On Thursday evening, August 27th, the library and the Mt. Grace Land Trust will sponsor an evening of local story telling for adults and family members at Town Hall. Similar to a successful venture held at the Athol Public Library, the stories will be told by experienced story tellers including, we hope, Davis Bates, Claire Green, and Tom Wonslaben. As the list grows, I'll let you know. Our Master of Ceremonies for the evening will be Mike Humphries. Ice cream will be served prior to this event, so don't bother preparing dessert that night. The focus of each story will be nature-related. It is hoped that speakers from Bernardston, Leyden, Guilford, Brattleboro, and other nearby towns will unite us all in our love of this wonderful area.

Summer Reading Program: We are well into a successful summer reading program. It is so much fun to see parents of youngsters visiting weekly to return and select new materials. These people realize how important reading for pleasure is for children and are really committed to seeing this challenge through. Readers who submit their reading logs by September 4th will receive a gift certificate to the World Eye Bookshop and will be feted to an evening of "make your own ice cream sundae."

Believe it or not, one Monday in June, the entire PRES student body and their teachers visited the library to kick off our summer reading program. In addition to the forty-six kids and adults who came, regular patrons swarmed the place for a grand total of 74 people signing out materials, stopping by to chat, and creating delightful chaos. What a rocking place this was!

May your gardens flourish and your summer days pass in joy! —Chris Johnston

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**.

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

THANKS

Thanks to The Farm Stand in Colrain, Marie Giurdanella, Angels' Rest, Spirit Fire, Bill Maguire, and Linda Romano for donations this month.

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

Visit the Town web site at
townofleyden.com

The Selectboard email address is
leydenselectboard@crocker.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

Tuesday, September 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

Adult Pastel Hands-on Workshop

Pastel artist, Gregory John Maichack, will present an *adult* hands-on workshop, "Scarlet Poppies: Pastel Paint Like Georgia O'Keeffe," on Thursday, September 17th, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Town Hall. Those wishing to attend this activity, which is designed for students, beginners to advanced, should contact Michael Frees at 773-5123. Early registration is advised as space is limited. Previous years' rosters have filled quickly.



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.

Selectboard Corner

(Continued from page 1)

front to correct some water issues on the sidewalk. The last few years we have been actively updating town buildings, and more needs to be done. We thank the residents for continuing their support when we ask for these funds at town meeting.

Now that school is back in session, buses and walking students are on the roads. Please use caution in the mornings and afternoons while traveling through town. The Police Department has been advised to monitor during these hours.

We are still seeking a member for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Contact Bob Hardesty if you are interested. The Agriculture Committee is also seeking two more members.

A town-wide auction for two more parcels is scheduled for Thursday, October 29th at 3:00 PM at Town Hall. Notices will be posted at the back of the Town Hall regarding property and information on procedures for acquiring these parcels.

Town Tree Warden David Brooks has talked with Eversource about a number of trees now slated to be removed. This has been a long process; we should start to see some of them taken down soon. Thank you to residents for your patience in this process and for calling attention to some of these hazards.

—*Respectfully, Bill, Jeff and Lance*

Knitting Circle

The Leyden Knitting Circle will meet on Friday, August 28th, at Peggy Brown's house. You are welcome to join us.

Please call Peggy (774-5764) or Laura (773-8325) for more information.

All are welcome to join us; no experience is needed and all kinds of handwork are fine. If you don't know how to knit, come along and we'll help you get started! Visitors and all ages are welcome, it's very relaxed and low key.

—*Laura Timmerman, 773-8325*

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

WiredWest

Leyden was the very first of 43 hill towns to overwhelmingly vote yes to join WiredWest and get connected to the 21st century.

Leyden was in the top five towns out of 43 hill towns when we were asked to indicate that we understood the importance of fiber to the home.

Now we are falling behind other towns in the effort to get a baseline of 40% of our households signed up. While several other towns have far surpassed 40%, *we still need more than 30 households*. It is very important that we continue our history of forward thinking by getting our residents to fill out the pre-commitment form and send in the refundable \$49 for the first month's service. Every one over that 40% helps to ensure that we will see more money returning to our town to cover the cost of the infrastructure. WiredWest and Mass. Broadband are

moving steadily forward in the drive to connect all our homes to the best internet possible. This is the largest, most complex project of its kind in the U.S., so we are literally making history.

I know it's easy to put things on hold over the summer, but it is important that you not put off making your commitment now. It benefits you by ensuring that you will be connected in the first tier at the best price. You will have the best internet available anywhere, with the option of phone and TV service as well. It benefits the town by creating a customer base that returns revenue to the town, not to big corporations that can't wait to get out of serving us at all. You can sign up online at wiredwest.net, find forms at the Leyden Cafe or attached to the online version of *Leyden Life*. Sheila Hourihan, 413-774-5922, and Al Woodhull, 413-773-3522, your delegates to WiredWest, are also always happy to help with sign-ups.

Leyden United Methodist Church

Lazy Days of Summer

As I drive over Brattleboro Road to worship with the precious congregation at the Leyden United Methodist Church each Sunday morning, a variety of wildlife crosses my path. Virtually every trip in my first two months as pastor here included at least one deer sighting. That was exhilarating for me since they hold deeply spiritual meaning. I purchased a Muslim prayer rug when I was exploring the ruins at Ephesus in seminary in 2009. (That's the site of the community called "Ephesians" in the Bible.) This intricately woven, silk work includes two deer at the heavenly gate. Between plying my friends and I with glass after glass of hot, sweet apple tea with two sugar cubes and an impossibly tiny spoon, the Turkish salesman told us that deer symbolize healing and guide one into heaven. In Native American lore I've also learned that in many ancient and indigenous traditions the antlers are a symbol of spiritual authority because they grow above the physical head, reaching towards the realm of spirit. They signify regeneration, because they die and grow back, bigger than before.

My impressions of other animals like rescued turtles, rafters of turkeys and scampering goose families are less profound, but equally enjoyable. I especially delight in the swallows that dart out in front of us as we pass the Franklin Farm, playing and flying upward in a tornado-like swirl beside the cows munching the pink clover blossoms. The red-winged blackbirds that fly by as we pass the marshy area remind me of Robert Pirsig's cross-country journey with his 11-year-old son in *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, when he says, "at age eleven you don't get very impressed with red-winged blackbirds." It seems that is true at age 17 too since my son isn't nearly as filled with glee as I am at seeing the wings of these spectacular fowl ablaze with color.

When a loon surfaced ten feet off the bow of my kayak during our recent vacation, my son did sit up and take notice and when it sang its mournful song so close we could see its throat vibrate, both of us were in awe. He seemed pretty impressed with the mink that snuck up behind an unsuspecting frog, making it lunch before rejoining its family that day, as well.

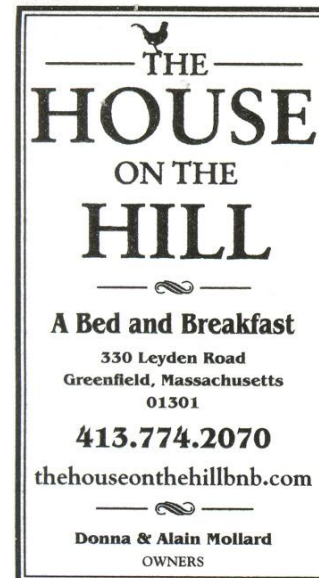
Summer is the perfect time to slow life down to notice all of the little things that whiz by during our busy lives, things that are always going on but just beyond our view. In summer, the windows are open so we can smell the fresh cut grass, as well as the pungent skunks. There are days when the sky couldn't be any bluer. We fall asleep to the sweet sounds of crickets and sights of fireflies, damp from the day's humidity, only to wake and pull on another blanket when the morning's brisk air chills our toes. There is so much more than roses to stop and smell. In fact, that may just be our reason for being, to enjoy this beautiful creation, not in some far off future, but now, along the way.

In Chapter 17 of the wonderful classic that is lingering once more on my Audible playlist, Pirsig writes, "Mountains should be climbed with as little effort as possible and without desire. ... [W]hen you are no longer thinking ahead, each footstep isn't just a means to an end but a unique event in itself. ... To live only for some future goal is shallow. It's the sides of the mountain that sustain life, not the top. Here's where things grow."

Enjoy these lazy days of summer: take time to notice the skunks as well as the grass growing sweetly on the sides of your life's mountain.

Pastor Cheryl preaches at the Leyden United Methodist Church which holds inspired worship at 8:45 each Sunday morning at 15 West Leyden Road across from Town Hall. Our facilities are handicap accessible and we offer Sunday school during our worship services. Come as you are, there are no fashion police. We welcome everyone to share communion on the first Sunday of each month. After worship every week you are invited to join us in our downstairs Fellowship Hall for delicious fresh baked goodies and friendly conversation.

—Rev. Cheryl L. Meachen



PIONEER VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL CLASS OF 1965 50TH CLASS REUNION

We are extending an invitation to **all Alumni and faculty** to join us in celebrating our 50th Class Reunion on Saturday, September 19, 2015 at Terrazza Ristorante at the Country Club of Greenfield, 244 Country Club Road, Greenfield, MA 01301

Cocktail Hour is at 6:00 PM with Snacks and Cash Bar, and the Buffet is at 7:00 PM. The cost is \$40 per person
(Your check is your reservation)

Mail checks to: JoAnn Coutu, 830 Gulf Road, Northfield, MA 01360 no later than **Friday, September 4, 2015**

If unable to attend the buffet dinner, you are welcome to join us at **8:00 PM for socializing.**

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sweet Morning Farm CSA

Busy growing, harvesting, eating, and storing fresh veggies and eggs these days. Hurray for summer!

EGGS: Organically grown chicken eggs for \$6.00/dozen, medium eggs \$4.00.

CHICKEN AND DUCK: We are raising some chickens and ducks for meat. Organic, pasture-raised poultry that is really delicious! Available in the fall. Let us know if you are interested.

Sign up for our Eggs & Extras email list to learn what we have each week.

—Laura Timmerman, Rob Creamer
Sweet Morning Farm, 413-773-8325,

sweetmorningfarm@gmail.com, <http://sweet-morning-farm.blogspot.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/SweetMorningFarm>

Linda Romano

"Awakening to Yoga" will continue on Mondays, 9-10 am at Town Hall or my studio in Leyden. Easy chair standing class. Special discount for seniors!

Energy medicine body work for all conditions. Call for info.

—Linda Romano C/LMT/BW, BSW 413-624-3334

Angels' Rest

Angels' Rest Retreat happenings in August include support for RECOVER Project, Community Action Response Team (CSO), Springfield College, The Mankind Project, Rett's Roost—a support group for families dealing with childhood cancer, Ashaya® Yoga teacher training with Todd Norian, and two writer's groups with artists Teresa Whittaker and Rona Levanthal. If you want to learn great storytelling skills, contact Rona at rona@ronatales.com for a Three-day Summer Storytelling Institute August 7-9 with CE credits available. <http://www.ronatales.com>.

Check out Angels' Rest's new website at <http://www.AngelsRestRetreat.com!>

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Leyden, MA

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(413)329-2221 (413)325-1235

Ryan Clary and Steve O'Hare
E-mail greenriverlawn@yahoo.com



The Farm Stand

108 West Leyden Road, Colrain

The freshest vegetables—tomatoes, zucchini, summer squash, great corn, melons and more. Boxes of tomatoes available. Picked fresh daily.

Convenient to Leyden residents.
Self-serve, open early and late.



Erik's Handyman Service
Let me help you with your "to do" list
Erik Johnson

Erik's Handyman Service
148 Kately Hill Rd, Leyden Ma 01301
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413 522 8260