



# Leyden Life



Leyden, Massachusetts

December 2015

**Selectboard Office Hours:**  
 Monday — Thursday 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM  
**Tax Collector:**  
 Monday and Wednesday 5:30 - 8:00 PM  
**Assessors Office:**  
 Wednesday 2:00 - 8:00 PM

## Selectboard

### SELECTBOARD MEETINGS

The Select Board will meet on Thursdays December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM and December 10<sup>th</sup> 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 [leydeselectboard@crocker.com](mailto:leydeselectboard@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

No December Meeting	Agricultural Commission
Tue, Dec 1 7:00 PM	Broadband Committee
Wed, Dec 2 6:30 PM	Board of Assessors
Wed, Dec 2 4:30 PM	Council on Aging
Thu, Dec 3 9:00 AM	Selectboard
Wed, Dec 9 7:00 PM	Planning Board
Thu, Dec 10 6:45 PM	Selectboard
Mon, Dec 21 3:00 PM	Board of Health (at the Police Station)
Tue, Dec 15 7:00 PM	Historical Commission (Downstairs at the church)
Wed, Dec 16 6:30 PM	Board of Assessors
Thu, Dec 17 9:00 AM	Selectboard
Mon, Dec 21 7:30 PM	Conservation Commission

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](http://www.townofleyden.com). Any changes or additions to meeting times and/or dates should be forwarded to the Municipal Assistant. —*Selectboard*

## Selectboard Corner

Leyden Working Farms and Forests Conservation Partnership signs are now being tacked up around town, explaining access into these parcels of land. We still encourage people to talk with the landowner to find out the best route to explore these areas, as some are still active working farms.

The Town recently had three successful bidders for Town-owned land that was auctioned off back in October. All three parcels were sold to the highest bidder, and taxes were paid on land through June of 2016. Money received after closings will be put back into the general fund where it will show up as free cash next fall. This is a big deal, as we have been working to get all property back on the tax rolls to lessen the burden of all taxpayers in town. “Great Job!” to all who have contributed the

(Continued on page 3)

## Town Clerk

### VITAL STATISTICS

Births: Alondra Bailey de Jesus Arteaga, October 30<sup>th</sup>, born to Fabiola Arteaga Chavez and Ricardo de Jesus Cruz  
 Deaths or Marriages: None reported

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

## Holiday Craft/ Tag Sale



The United Methodist Church will again be hosting a Holiday Craft and Tag Sale on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Town Hall. Brunch/lunch will be available and weather permitting

there may be a visitor from the North Pole. Beside a baked goods table (donations requested) there will also be a quilt show and a raffle. Donations have already been promised from crafters, Dillon's, Country Jeweler, and a brand new Weber grill. Your donations are most welcome and appreciated. Tables are still available and can be reserved by calling Marilyn Kugler at 413 522 1847, or emailing at [melodyhillfarm@gmail.com](mailto:melodyhillfarm@gmail.com).

## WiredWest

**We did it, Leyden!** We actually reached and passed the 40% goal for people committing to get fiber to the home. This is a big deal. We are moving rapidly toward 50% of all the families in Leyden who have already committed, close to 150 households! We have now joined 19 other towns who have passed the warrants at their Annual Town Meetings, voted on the debt exclusion to borrow funds, and then signed up at least 40% of their residents. A significant majority in Leyden voted for the warrant at the ATM and for the debt exclusion, recognizing how critical this initiative is to our future. Thank you to all of you have already committed. We know that many more will be signing up as we move closer to completion. The more who sign up, the more money we will bring back to our town through WiredWest.

As I have pointed out in previous articles, Verizon wants out of the rural broadband market, and as quickly as possible. They already do not cover many of our residents, and will not. The coverage we have is slow and inadequate. We cannot sell our homes with the promise that the buyers will keep the coverage we now have, since Verizon then pulls that residence to give to

(Continued on page 4)

## 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.)

Here are some motivators to visit our little library and read throughout the long winter ahead:

Discover possibilities! Connect. Inspire. Educate, Captivate!  
Enrich your life.  
Explore the world's knowledge.  
Explore today, discover tomorrow.  
Go anywhere. Learn anything.

As I write on this bleak November day, I rejoice that there are books in my life. If I need a break from print, there are DVDs of every genre and award-winning books on CD to fill my days, inspire my mind, and take me to different times and places as I meet characters both real and fictional.

Yes, indeed, your library is full of surprises just waiting for you to discover. If you haven't visited for a while or if you've never set foot in this little library, I invite you to come soon! If you can't get out to select materials yourself, just call and I'll make sure you receive what you want ASAP!

Happy Thanksgiving!

—Chris Johnston

## Leyden Broadband Committee

The Leyden Broadband Committee was appointed by the Selectboard as a result of the Town Meeting vote of May 16, 2015, which authorized creation of a Committee “to work with WiredWest, or any other entity, to advise and assist in the development of high-speed broadband internet service in the Town.” The committee consists of five voting members which includes Bob Anson, David Curtis, Tom Luck, Jeff Neipp and Bob Ryan (Chair), with Sheila Hourihan and Al Woodhull, the WiredWest delegates for Leyden, acting as advisory members. Our first committee meeting was on September 8<sup>th</sup>, and the committee meets on the first Tuesday of every month downstairs at Town Hall.

The Committee is exploring several alternatives. The first, and the one the Town is most familiar with, is WiredWest. In addition to our own on-going due diligence of WiredWest, we are awaiting a report as to the viability of the WiredWest business plan from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI). MBI is the state group responsible for making sure the \$40 million of state money appropriated for bringing broadband to western and central Massachusetts is spent properly. That report should be available to the committee within the next month. At this stage, the Committee continues to support the WiredWest sign-up initiative as an expression of broadband support within Leyden.

The Committee's goal (and the MBI charter), is to provide broadband connectivity to every home in Leyden whether individual residents wish to be connected initially or at some later time. With the help of all three members of the Selectboard and the Municipal Assistant, the Committee is in the process of compiling a comprehensive list of all residences in town, including seasonal residents with unique seasonal broadband requirements. At present the list stands at 325 residences, 25 of which are seasonal non-voters.

In addition to evaluating the WiredWest alternative, the committee is also simultaneously exploring other options. We have met with several 3<sup>rd</sup> party internet service providers to determine whether it would be financially feasible to either operate our own broadband service, such as was done in Leverett, or to piggyback onto some other town's existing broadband solution. These exploratory meetings are on-going. At this stage we have ruled nothing out and continue to look for the best, and most cost effective, broadband solution for Leyden.

—Bob Ryan, Chair

## Leyden Life Lowdown

### EASY SUBMISSION

Submit an e-mail to Cornelia Reid at [cr43wr41@gmail.com](mailto:cr43wr41@gmail.com), Carolyn Asbury at [carolyn.asbury@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.asbury@gmail.com), and Bob Taylor at [bobxtwo@verizon.net](mailto:bobxtwo@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 **15<sup>th</sup> 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 Rhonda Wainshilbaum and Spirit Fire for donations and to Lois Feldman for collating, and thanks to deliverers Marie Bartlett, Marie Lovley, Pat Little and the Cafferys. (We apologize if we missed anyone.)

## Kristen Nicholas a Yankee Magazine Star

Yankee Magazine's November/December issue has a beautiful article about Leyden's own Kristen Nicholas, noted artist in wool, fabric and other media!

### **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](mailto:cr43wr41@gmail.com),  
Carolyn at [carolyn.asbury@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.asbury@gmail.com),  
and Bob at [bobxtwo@verizon.net](mailto:bobxtwo@verizon.net)

by 5:00 PM on

**Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**.

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

## Selectboard Corner

*(Continued from page 1)*

extra time to get this done.

The Selectboard recently met with all the cemetery associations in town, South Cemetery, Beaver Meadow, West Leyden and Town-owned Frizzell Hill Cemetery. Topics included their shrinking budgets to maintain them and Green Burials; each cemetery will make its own decision on that. Matt Muka from the BOH participated in the conversation and gave guidance on State regulations.

Our board has been busy with discussions and paperwork in bringing broadband into the community. We recently signed a letter that will allow us to share attorney costs with all towns to review WiredWest operation agreements. Towns working and sharing cost to bring better, faster, and reliable internet and phone service is another step in the right direction.

We also want to thank our Board of Assessors and Clerk for their great work. It's a busy time of year for them, as they are getting all the figures together to keep this town running. They just recently released \$2,025.56 from the overlay account back to the town that can be used at our next town meeting or revert back to free cash on June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2016.

The Selectboard has received numerous letters and comments about lack of parking during events held at Town Hall. As geography shows us, there is not a whole lot of room without some creative ideas. We have reached out to the Leyden Methodist Church and discussed the possibility of expanding parking next to the church. They would give the Town land next to the church, we would survey it, prep it for parking, and in the deed return eternity parking back to them for their use. This is in the beginning stages and input is always welcome.

In closing, we wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year. With everything that is going on in the world we must step back and give thanks to the great country in which we live. —Bill, Jeff and Lance

## Council on Aging

Whatever your religious or cultural background may be, we wish everyone a good holiday season. Whether it's loud and busy times with family or friends, or quiet times with old memories, both are part of this special time of year. Best Wishes from Amy, Carol, Dianne, Gilda, Linda and Sue.

**Transportation:** Call Gilda Galvis (773-7932) if you need free transportation for medical appointments, holiday shopping, hairdressers/barbers, etc. Minimum 24 hr. notice required.

### Wednesday, December 2

**4:30-6:00 p.m. ~ Monthly Business Meeting** at Town Hall. Anyone is welcome to attend. Please call Chair Carol Johnson (773-7619) if you wish to be added to the agenda.

### Wednesday, December 16

**11:00 a.m. ~ Christmas/Winter Music and Sing-along** upstairs at Town Hall.

**12 noon ~ Holiday Lunch** at Town Hall. Please join us! Friends and family members are welcome too.

*Please be sure to call Sue Howarth (774-3118) in advance – especially if you are inviting guests. We need to know how much food to order!*

### Thursday, December 17

**4:30-6:30 p.m. ~ Christmas Caroling!** *Come one, come all! All ages are invited, including teens and children. Join us for our second annual evening of caroling throughout the roads and lanes of Leyden. Meet in front of Town Hall at 4:30. We'll provide the music and itinerary. You provide your transportation, or arrange to share rides. Here's an opportunity for a time-out in the midst of holiday preparations, for some singing, some good laughs, and some very appreciative listeners.*

**COMING IN JANUARY** ~ exercise classes with Linda Allis.

*The Council on Aging welcomes people of all ages to our programs. If something interests you, please feel free to join us.*

—Dianne Ryan



## Leyden Café

LEYDEN CAFÉ IS OPEN SUNDAYS!

Come and join us Sunday morning! The Leyden Café is open on Sundays through November, 9-11:30 AM downstairs in the Leyden Town Hall. We feature Pierce Bros coffee, Karyn's special baked goods, town crafts and business items and good conversation. Here's a chance to meet up with your neighbors and chat over coffee and a treat in a cozy nook!

The use of the downstairs space at Town Hall for the Café on Sundays is greatly appreciated. The Café was formed to promote community and provide a congenial place to meet neighbors and chat. We operate on a shoe string and are grateful for the continued use of this space. Any group in town is welcome to use this space at any time. Let us know if you would like us to move things out of the way for your event and we will make sure it is ready for you. The Café has been used for the community meal by the Council on Aging, the Cultural Council for special events, the library for

reading awards events, and for committees to meet. We are more than happy to have Leyden residents use this community space. Just let us know so we can accommodate you!

Bread from 7 South Bakery in Bernardston, owned by Mike and Kay Dougherty of Leyden will be available for pick-up on Sundays through November. If it is something you would like to continue, please let us know! Preorders must be called in by the Friday morning before delivery. Leave your name and let them know that you will pick it up at the Café, and homemade fresh bread will be available right here in town! French braid is \$3.00 unsliced; onion rye is \$3.00; and whole wheat is \$3.00. Please specify if you would like your bread sliced. Call Mike and Kay at 413-648-0070.

—Amy St. Clair

## WiredWest

(Continued from page 1)

someone on a wait list.

I have seen a couple of articles that indicate that Verizon wants to be out of the landline business as well, which will affect everyone, not just those who need the Internet. The day after I read one of these articles we had to have a service tech here for our phones. I mentioned to him that I had heard that Verizon wants out of the landline business. He just paused for a moment then said, "No comment." It is clear that what we are doing through MBI and WiredWest is really being done just in the nick of time. You may think you will never need a computer, but you will absolutely need a phone.

There will be much more in articles to come about what telemedicine and cyber medicine will mean to us as we move forward. If you have not already sent in your pre-commitment form and your refundable \$49 fee for your first month's service, please get online at wiredwest.net to sign up online or to print out a copy that you can mail in with your check. If you have questions, or need a form from some other source, please call Sheila Hourihan at 413-774-5922 or Al Woodhull at 413-773-3522.

—Sheila Hourihan

## Leyden United Methodist Church

### The Christmas Story

"We are people of the story." That's how I've been starting worship the last few weeks at the Leyden church. Each week we retell an ancient story from the New Testament written 2,000 years ago or from the Hebrew Bible (also called the Old Testament) written as much as 5,000 years ago. We then interpret the story for our time, gleaned the lessons it has for us now. That's church in a nutshell.

During the season of Advent throughout December we'll be telling the story of the anticipation of the birth of the Messiah, the one who would redeem and save us all. Check us out on Facebook or at leydenumc.weebly.com to learn more.

On Christmas Eve we will tell the precious and familiar story of Jesus' birth from the shepherds to the angels to the baby in the manger and gifts from the wise ones in short readings interspersed with carols. Our service will begin at 7:00 PM and end with everyone standing in a circle, holding candles and singing Silent Night in the darkness.

It is a wonderful story. Come and share it with us on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

--Rev. Cheryl L. Meachen

*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.*

## Knitting Circle

Afternoon knitting: The Leyden Knitting Circle will meet Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at Barbara Wallace's house.

You're welcome to join us! Bring your knitting, mending, embroidery, crocheting, or any craft work you enjoy.

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

—Laura Timmerman, 773-8325

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

## Leyden Historical Commission



The Leyden Historical Commission continues its fundraising activities as each donation gets us closer to our goal of \$150,000 for the acquisition of the old blacksmith shop (the forge) as a vital community resource to house and display Leyden's history. We ask that you help create a positive addition to our community by contributing to the success of this endeavor by making a tax-deductible donation.



Please make all checks payable to:

"Town of Leyden"

Mail them to:

Allison Snow  
100 Mid County Road  
Leyden, MA 01337

*We appreciate every donation!*



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.

**Help Wanted:** We're looking for a responsible person to occasionally care for our house and indoor male cat, especially the first two weeks of February. Call 774-3897 if interested. Also looking for someone to help with seasonal chores like wood stacking, snow shoveling and clearing snow off the roof in winter. Call 774-3897 if interested.

**For Sale:** Hearth pad, 40" x 40", gray slate with wood trim, very handsome. Yours for a donation to the Leyden Firefighters' Association! Call Linda at 773-8088 or Cornelia at 774-5146.

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**For Sale:** For sale: 4 barely used studded snows, size 195/65R15. Bought the set for \$400 last season, selling for \$200. Also, a high-end lightly used Rowing Machine. Bought 6 yrs ago \$800 for my disability, but now can no longer use it. Would love to get \$250 for it. It's a good machine and would make a great Christmas or Life-betterment gift for anyone. Call Donna (Steve or Tim): 624-3955 for either item.

**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.

**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 Spinners in Putney, VT. Call Barbara Wallace at 774-7780.

**Sweet Morning Farm CSA**

FARM SHARES are over for this year but we still have eggs, spinach, daikons, radicchio, leeks and more. We will be at the Greenfield Winter Farmers' Market on December 5 and the Leyden Cafe and Market on December 6. See you then!

For weekly updates about eggs and vegetables, email us to be placed on the Eggs & Extras Email List. It's not too early to sign up for a farm share for 2016. And remember, **a farm share would make an extra special gift!**

—Laura Timmerman, Rob Creamer  
Sweet Morning Farm, 413-773-8325,  
sweetmorningfarm@gmail.com, <http://sweet-morning-farm.blogspot.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/SweetMorningFarm>

**Spirit Fire**

Plan ahead and make the New Year Meditation Retreat your gift to you and your life. This annual retreat provides guided contemplation on the wisdom gained from the year that is passing. With that wisdom recognized, we then set the tone for 2016. The retreat is January 8-10, 2016. Commuter rates are available for locals. Also, every day online free group meditation, including monthly full moon and every Sunday World Service meditations. [www.SpiritFire.com](http://www.SpiritFire.com)

—Donna Mitchell-moniak, founder of Spirit Fire  
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