Leyden, Massachusetts

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 <u>Thursdays January 7th and</u> <u>21st</u> at 9:00 AM and <u>January 14th and 28th</u> 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 <u>leydenselectboard</u> <u>@crocker.com</u> 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 January Meeting		Agricultural Commission
Tue, Jan	5 7:00 РМ	Broadband Committee
Wed, Jan	6 6:30 рм	Board of Assessors
Wed, Jan	6 4:30 рм	Council on Aging
Thu, Jan	7 9:00 ам	Selectboard
Wed, Jan	13 7:00 рм	Planning Board
Thu, Jan	14 6:45 рм	Selectboard
Mon, Jan	18 3:00 рм	Board of Health (at the Police Station)
Mon, Jan	18 7:30 рм	Conservation Commission
Tue, Jan	19 7:00 рм	Historical Commission (Downstairs at
Wed, Jan	20 6:30 рм	Board of Assessors the church)
Thu, Jan	21 9:00 ам	Selectboard
Thu, Jan	28 6:45 рм	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 <u>www.townofleyden.com</u>. Any changes or additions to meeting times and/or dates should be forwarded to the Municipal Assistant. —*Selectboard*

Leyden Broadband Committee

While WiredWest and MBI continue to work through their differences, Leyden's Broadband Committee has been working to also explore another option. We are evaluating the feasibility of building our own independent network.

Such a network would be owned solely by Leyden's Municipal Lighting Plant (MLP) which was created in early 2015. Once built, we would then need someone to manage it for us, and are exploring the possibility of contracting with Greenfield's non-profit Municipal Lighting Plant (MLP) to be our network manager. Basically, the Greenfield MLP would be our internet service provider and would handle the administrative and maintenance needs for our network. Greenfield will be building out its own network in 2016, and by the end of the year, expects to have 17 employees, 60+ miles of Greenfield roads wired, and the ability to bring broadband internet, and phone to its 18,000 residents. The Committee has now met twice with the consulting group that is managing *(Continued on page 3)*

Town Clerk

VITAL STATISTICS No new births, marriages, or deaths reported.

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

Thanks from Edith Facey

Many, many thanks to the Town of Leyden for a great reception on the occasion of my 100th birthday. 9 was truly honored to receive such a wonderful outpouring of affection, cards and plants. Special thanks to Pearl Rhodes Elementary School pupils for the fine book of their birthday wishes.

—Sincerely, Edith Facey

Wells Trust Scholarships

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 Town Clerk during normal business hours. Please note that all applications, recommendation letters and official transcripts now need to be postmarked no later than *March 31, 2016.*

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

WiredWest

Have any of you ever traveled parts of old Rt. 66, or Rt.1 from Fort Kent, ME to Key West, FL? In fact, you don't have to go any further than the towns bordering Rt. 91 to see what a major highway does to areas that once thrived nearby. Seven or eight years ago, groups of us began meeting in all our western MA towns, aware that we were in danger of becoming like those towns that once thrived before a highway came in and re-directed their futures. We all appreciate driving on those highways, but we can still note what was lost. It was as stark a reality as eastern MA having electricity and western MA being still in the dark. We did not want to become an area that people would one day drive through and remember that a beautiful little town named Leyden was once here, and further west, there were Colrain, Rowe, Heath and so on, all gone.

We realized that we needed the advantage of a digital highway that comes right to our homes, keeping us vital while allowing us to live in these beautiful towns. We didn't need to die. In order to do that, members of all our 45 western towns began the process of forming what would become WiredWest, created by our towns and for our towns to bring the best broadband available in the most cost effective way, while (Continued on page 2)

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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.)

Welcome to 2016! I hope you will include the library in your year's activities! Great news! We have received a pass to the Francis Clark Art Museum in Williamstown. It is valid for one adult admission *per day*! It will be valid through December 2016. What a great Christmas present! If you are interested in using it, let me know.

The following came to my attention recently: Leslie Brooks' "Soul Writer" is at the library, so be sure to read it!

"Impressively well written, exceptionally well presented and organized, "Soul Writer" is an extraordinary read from beginning to end that is as insightful as it is informative, as thoughtful as it is thought-provoking. Very highly recommended for community and academic library collections, it should be noted for personal reading lists that "Soul Writer" is also available in a Kindle edition for \$6.99.

This review will be archived on our Midwest Book Review website for the next five years at http://www.midwestbookreview.com."

Now that our FEE grant has been approved, plans are underway for author Michele Barker to work with fifth and sixth graders at PRES. Multiple copies of "A Difficult Boy" have arrived at the school, and students will soon begin their reading, discussing, and reacting to the characters, action, and themes and writing strategies employed therein. I've been busy locating materials for students to conduct research about the setting of the novel prior to their reading it, and I may even visit the class to help them get started. Fun! I'll keep you posted. It's really great that the town library and the town's elementary school have such a strong relationship.

There is a popular saying that 'less is more,' and that seems to be true of this library. We have less space than most buildings in the state, but we have more 'good' stuff than many libraries that are much larger! The larger libraries are more than happy to lend materials to us, too, so we are a great source of books, CDs, and DVDs. Make a New Year's resolution to visit the RML once a week. You won't regret it!

-Chris Johnston

WiredWest

(Continued from page 1)

keeping the money generated in our towns. That has been our whole reason for existing, and it is the only entity involved in this project made up completely of representatives of our western MA towns.

There are those in our towns who think that the money we have pledged to spend goes to WiredWest, and think that WiredWest will make our taxes go up. None of that money goes to WiredWest. Both Mass. Broadband Institute (MBI), which will actually be doing the building of the network, and WiredWest did very difficult cost analyses, involving counting every utility pole, every residence, every mile of road, every business in western MA to come up with estimates of what it will cost our towns to be connected. WiredWest's commitment to this project is to keep it as efficient and as cost effective as possible, working together as adjacent towns. For instance, West Leyden and East Colrain can be thought of as a single community. It doesn't make sense to require that each part should be served by a different network. Some parts of the Franklin County town of Rowe would best be served by connections through Berkshire County. We see ourselves as part of a regional, cooperative solution.

MBI and WiredWest have had some significant differences as to how this is to proceed, as most of you probably know. We are working very hard to iron out those differences and to work together more smoothly. WiredWest wants to make sure that the best interests of our towns are served, and will be very much part of the discussions going forward. This is a huge project and there have been and will be bumps in the road that have to be smoothed. But it will happen. It has to happen if we are to survive. I was speaking with another resident of Leyden recently who mentioned that his real concern about taxes was that our population is diminishing. When he moved here, there were more than 800 residents. I think at last count we are under 700 now. That is what will really do us in financially, as fewer of us carry the burden of keeping our towns functioning. Without broadband, that decline is literally inevitable. -Sheila Hourihan

Leyden Life Lowdown

EASY SUBMISSION

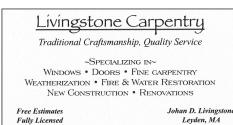
Submit an e-mail to Cornelia Reid at cr43wr41@gmail.com, Carolyn Asbury at carolyn.asbury@gmail.com, and Bob Taylor at bobxtwo@verizon.net. (Yes, please send it to *all three* of us.)

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 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 Angels' Rest, Mike and Irene Muka, and Becky George 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.)



and Insured

(413)-475-0771

DISCLAIMER

Levden 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 bobxtwo@verizon.net by 5:00 PM on

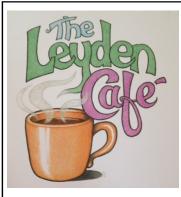
Friday, January 15th If you cannot e-mail your submission, please leave it in the book drop outside the Library. Donations are always welcome! Send to: Leyden Life c/o Reid 30 West Leyden Road Leyden, MA 01337

Leyden Broadband Committee

(Continued from page 1)

Greenfield's buildout to better understand the process and Greenfield's planned network. Lance Fritz and I have also met with Mayor Martin of Greenfield, who is more than willing to work with us if we choose this solution. There are still many issues to be explored, such as our eligibility for state funding, whether we will get true broadband speeds, etc. Keep in mind that this is only one of the options we are exploring and we will keep you posted as they evolve.

This is an extraordinarily complex project and your Committee is doing its best to listen to different points of view while trying to remain objective in order to identify the best solution to bring broadband to Leyden. —*Bob Ryan, Chair*



Leyden Café

We hope to see you on Sunday, January 10^{th} , when we re-open the Leyden Café after our holiday break. The Café will continue through the winter on Sunday mornings, 9:00 - 11:30 AM, downstairs at Town Hall.

On Friday, January 22^{nd} , at 7:00 PM, the Leyden Café we will show the documentary

film, "The Anonymous People" about the need for long term support for substance abuse rehabilitation. Discussion will follow. We also hope to have information on nasal Narcan available.

The café will be open for coffee and baked goods, and a Full Moon Walk is planned after the film and discussion. Bundle up and join us.

We welcome new people and volunteers. If you are interested, call Robin at 624-5512 or Amy at 774-6907.

—Amy St. Clair

Knitting Circle

Afternoon knitting: The Leyden Knitting Circle will meet Friday, December 11th 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: "Levden Knitting Circle" Members sometimes

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

Council on Aging

Three New Year's Resolutions:

#1 ~ Join us at a Community Lunch at Town Hall during 2016 (3^{rd} Wednesday of every month).

 $#2 \sim$ Attend at least one session of our Exercise Classes in 2016 (next series starts on Jan. 19).

 $#3 \sim$ Volunteer for one of our upcoming projects (more information soon).

Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you all.

Survey Regarding a Grocery Pick-Up Service: In our larger survey last year, many seniors said that a grocery store in Leyden would make their lives easier as they age. In the absence of a store, the COA is contemplating a grocery pick-up service instead for people who can't get out shopping for themselves. *Please take a moment to answer the short survey at the end of the newsletter.* Your answers will help us figure out if seniors have any interest in such a service and whether they are likely to use it.

Need A Ride? Winter is here, and if you're worried about driving, this is a good time to take advantage of Leyden's free door-to-door transportation service. Call Gilda Galvis (773-7932) for rides to medical appointments, grocery shopping, hairdressers/barbers, etc. Our volunteer drivers include Bill Glabach, Lance Fritz, Jeff Neipp and Dan Galvis. There is room in the Cadillac for up to 4 people. Minimum 24 hr. notice required.

Wednesday, January 6

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, January 20

12 noon ~ Community Lunch at Town Hall. Call Sue Howarth (774-3118) in advance – especially if you are inviting guests. We need to know how much food to order!

1:00-2:00 p.m. ~ Mystery Entertainment!

Tuesdays at Noon, January 19 to February 23

- 12 noon -1 p.m. ~ Core Strength Training Class with Linda Allis. Downstairs at Town Hall for 6 weeks. Core exercises focus on strengthening abdominal, back, and pelvic muscles. Strong core muscles make it easier and safer to keep up physical activity and movement as we age, and help maintain good posture. This class will be a combination of chair and standing exercises. Linda Allis is a certified trainer and teaches a variety of exercise classes in senior centers throughout the county. She will also keep you laughing as you exercise! *Register in advance by calling Cecilia Tusinski at 624-3436*.
- The Council on Aging welcomes people of all ages to our programs. If something interests you, please feel free to join us. —Dianne Ryan

New Training Classes Provided by the Leyden Police Department

The Leyden Police Department is offering a **Firearms Defensive Tactics Class** that is free to Leyden residents and \$45 for non-residents. This class will be taught with airsoft training firearms. All protective gear will be supplied; there will be no live fire during this class. This class will cover legal aspects and concealed carry responsibilities. I will also better prepare you to react to threats you may encounter at home, in your car, or on the street. Classes will be limited to *six students per class*. Call

413 772 2369 to leave your name and contact information for this class.

The Leyden Police Department is also offering the **Basic Firearms Safety Course** that is required to obtain your FID or LTC. The cost is \$45 for Leyden residents and \$85 for nonresidents. This includes all class materials and certificate of completion. Call 413 772 2369 to leave your name and contact information for this course.

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, roto-tilling, 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 Spinnery in Putney, VT. Call Barbara Wallace at 774-7780.

Sweet Morning Farm CSA

2016 FARM SHARES

Shares are on sale! It's not too early to reserve your share of Leyden-grown, organic vegetables, fruits, and flowers. All shares include a wide variety of vegetables and flowers plus pick-your-own pole beans, snap peas, and cherry tomatoes. Our farm is not certified but we are committed to organic and sustainable practices.

Planning and planting are happening now for lots of delicious food for us all. Kale, mesclun, tomatoes, peppers, beans, shell beans, spinach, carrots, onions, leeks, peaches, mushrooms, beets, flowers, duck, chicken, and so many more delicious, nutritious, and beautiful crops are on their way. Microgreens and sunflower shoots are growing. Soon we'll be planting the earliest flower seeds.

For details call or email Laura or Robin. And check out our farm blog and Facebook page for news and pictures.

EGGS: We sell organically grown chicken eggs for \$6.00/dozen. Call or email for availability or to be placed on our News & Extras email list. Currently we have microgreens, sunnies, spinach, daikons, and leeks available. You can also find us at the Greenfield Winter Farmers' Market and the Leyden Cafe Market.

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



Leyden Police Department

Massachusetts laws regarding registration exemptions and farm plates.

Exempt vehicles. G.L. c. 90 S 9 allows specific vehicles to be operated without a registration, including vehicles towed by tow trucks, agricultural vehicles, new cars delivered to dealers, industrial vehicles, golf carts, cemetery vehicles, and earth moving vehicles. In most cases the owner still must maintain some sort of insurance coverage.

This means that if you operate a tractor on a public way you must have insurance, such as an agricultural policy or rider on a home-owners policy. If a tractor is used in commercial ventures such as plowing snow for compensation it must be registered and insured for commercial use unless it is moved by trailer.

General registration vehicles (aka farm plates), G.L. c.90 S 5 allows registrations to be issued to certain businesses (dealers, farmers, contractors, repairmen, and transporters), and the plates that accompany these registrations may be moved from one vehicle to another. Their issuance and use are covered under RMV regulations.

General Distinguishing Registration: Compliance decal must be conspicuously displayed. Except for a dealer any person who owns a vehicle or trailer with a general registration must display a decal showing that a title has been applied for and sales tax has been paid. The decal notes the plate and vehicle identification numbers. Failure to comply with decal requirements would indicate that the vehicle is considered unregistered. Implements of husbandry are exempt from decal requirements.

Farm Plates

The farmer must be engaged in the occupation of farming, including cultivation and tillage of soil, dairying, harvesting of any agricultural or forest products, or raising of livestock, bees, or fur-bearing animals.

Farm plates must be used on vehicles owned by the farmer, but may not be used on any passenger vehicles.

The vehicle must be used for farming activity, and the compliance decal must be displayed, except on an implement of husbandry.

Regarding personal use

A "farm" plate may only be attached to a motor vehicle or trailer if the vehicle is: 1) owned by the farmer; 2) principally used and dedicated to the farming activity; 3) displays the valid Compliance Decal; and 4) is not a passenger vehicle. If the vehicle meets this criteria, then personal use of the vehicle is acceptable, except that a commercial use unrelated to the farming activity is not authorized. This also applies to commercial use unrelated to farming activity of any vehicles owned by the farmer and operated on the farm plates, such as plowing snow for compensation. For this use the vehicle must be registered and insured for commercial use. Plowing snow on the property owned or leased by the farmer is acceptable. Use of a vehicle for other than farming activity constitutes misuse of the general registration plate and the farmer can be cited for same and the Registrar may hold a hearing. Following the hearing the Registrar may suspend or revoke the General Registration Plate(s) if he finds the holder violated the provisions of Chapter 90 s 5 or the Rules and Regulations of the RMV. *—Dan Galvis*

A <u>Short</u> Survey for Seniors

The Council on Aging (COA) would like you to fill out this brief survey about a **Grocery Pick** -up Service for Leyden seniors. In our larger survey last year, many said that a grocery store in Leyden would make their lives easier as they age. In the absence of a store, the COA is contemplating a grocery pick-up service instead, for people who can't get out shopping themselves.

Your answers will help us figure out if seniors have any interest in such a service and whether they are likely to use it. *Feel free to add your own thoughts and ideas!*

Have you been <u>unable</u> to get out and buy your groceries any time in the last 2 years?

YES_____ NO_____

Would you use a free grocery shopping service offered by the Council on Aging?

YES_____ NO_____

Would you use this service on a regular basis (for example, weekly)?

YES_____ NO_____

Would you use this service occasionally? (For example if you are sick or if road conditions are poor)

YES_____ NO_____

Are there other types of errands that you could use help with? If yes, please list

them.

YES_____ NO_____

To respond:

Mail to Council on Aging, c/o Leyden Town Hall, 16 West Leyden Rd., Leyden MA 01337

Leave in COA mailbox at Town Hall.

Call or email your answers to Dianne Ryan (624-0225 or <u>dianne.ryan34@gmail.com</u>) or Amy St. Clair (774-6907 or <u>amy.woodsprite@gmail.com</u>).





COA Holiday Luncheon at Town Hall On Wednesday, December 16th



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