

# Leyden Life

Leyden, Massachusetts

February 2016

**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 February 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM and February 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 PM in their office (the first meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup> will be at PRES). To be added to the agenda or to get a copy of it, please contact Bob Hardesty at 774-4111 or [leydenselectboard@crocker.com](mailto: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

No February Meeting	Agricultural Commission
Tue, Feb 2 7:00 PM	Broadband Committee
Wed, Feb 3 6:30 PM	Board of Assessors
Wed, Feb 3 4:30 PM	Council on Aging
Thu, Feb 4 9:00 AM	Selectboard
Wed, Feb 10 7:00 PM	Planning Board
Thu, Feb 11 6:45 PM	Selectboard
Mon, Feb 15 3:00 PM	Board of Health (at the Police Station)
Mon, Feb 15 7:30 PM	Conservation Commission
Tue, Feb 16 7:00 PM	Historical Commission (Downstairs at
Wed, Feb 17 6:30 PM	Board of Assessors the church)
Thu, Feb 18 9:00 AM	Selectboard
Thu, Feb 25 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](http://www.townofleyden.com). Any changes or additions to meeting times and/or dates should be forwarded to the Municipal Assistant. —Selectboard

## Select Board Corner

The LED lighting at PRES has been completed. All the fixtures and lights have been replaced to make for a brighter school and cost efficient savings for the school district.

Many improvements at the school have been completed in the last two years as we have been working on the capital improvements list: New boilers to propane gas, roofing the old section, gutters to remove water buildup, and new fixtures for the rest rooms, all done and paid for with your continued support of our elementary school.

The Select Board is looking into having one board meeting a month at the school to better serve the community and stay more connected to our school district.

We have been in discussion with David Brooks and John Deere representatives about replacing the town road grader. It's 38 years old; the town purchased it used in 1993. It has required lots of maintenance, and even bigger maintenance issues lately. It's getting worn out with the hills here in Leyden, and it's an important piece of road equipment that does heavy bull work. We would be using our highway capital fund and Chapter 90 state money, along with trading

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## Town Clerk

### REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

The last day to register to vote and change party enrollment for the Presidential Primary is Wednesday, February 10, 2016.

### PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

The Presidential Primary will be on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Polls are open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

### ABSENTEE VOTERS

Residents are reminded that all absentee ballot applications for Calendar Year 2015 have been deleted. In accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 54, Sec. 89, absentee ballot applications are valid only within the calendar year in which they are received. Please remind out-of-town college students they must re-apply if they wish to vote absentee.

### VITAL STATISTICS

No births, deaths, or marriages were reported for December.

### STREET LISTINGS

Street lists for 2016 were mailed out at the end of January. The forms were printed from the Massachusetts Secretary of State's Voter Registration Information System. Please make any necessary changes and mail it back in the return envelope provided as soon as possible. If there are no changes, please write that on the form so that I can scan the information into the system. Any changes will be entered manually.

### DOG LICENSES

2016 dog licenses have arrived and are now available. Licenses cannot be issued without proof of current rabies vaccination. Also, residents are reminded that only checks or money orders are accepted. *No cash can be accepted* due to the lack of a Town safe.

The following license fees apply:

Male neutered and female spayed \$10.00

Male and female intact \$15.00

Kennel License 1-4 dogs \$30.00

Kennel License 5-10 dogs \$40.00

Kennel License more than 10 dogs \$50.00

### NEW CLERK HOURS

Beginning the week of February 15<sup>th</sup> the Town Clerk's office hours will change. The new hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. As always, other hours are available by appointment by calling 774-7769 or 772-3739. Email is [leydentownclerk@crocker.com](mailto:leydentownclerk@crocker.com).

—Elizabeth Johnson

Town Clerk Office Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

## WiredWest

WiredWest continues to work at an increasing pace to bring universal broadband to western Massachusetts. There are differences between the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) and WiredWest as to how to design, build, and run our fiber network. Previously our negotiations with MBI had been conducted by two or three members of the Executive Committee. Board members felt involvement of more people would be useful. At the December 19th Board of Directors meeting a negotiating team consisting of four members of the Executive Committee and six additional Delegates was selected. The negotiating team has organized itself as three subgroups, specializing in Technology, Finance, and Governance. Each subgroup is meeting frequently with counterpart specialists from MBI and the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MBI's parent organization). Members of the negotiating team are also

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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.)

Another year has passed, and it's time to thank the wonderful folks who volunteered throughout 2015. These people kept the library open to patrons on Saturday mornings. Glen and Kathie Benson were this year's stars for devoting fourteen Saturday mornings to the RML. If Glen was unable to come in, Kathie was sure to take his place! Other volunteers who deserve our gratitude include the following: Drake and Pat Williams, Kathy Ruseckas, Cindy LeBlanc, Amy St. Clair, Lois Feldman, Sarah Podlesney and her friend Stephanie, Steve Richter, Karin Parks, and Robbi Browning.

If you might be interested in volunteering for two hours on a Saturday morning, please let me know. It takes all of five minutes to learn the routine, and if the library is not busy, you'll have a grand opportunity to browse and select some good books, CDs, or DVDs.

IN CASE OF SNOW! If I find it not safe to travel to Leyden to open the library on a regular 'open' day, I will do my best to be here on either the Tuesday or Thursday after a storm.

### End the Winter Boredom!

"I opened a book and in I strode.  
Now nobody can find me.  
I've left my chair, my house, my road,  
My town and my world behind me.  
I'm wearing the cloak, I've slipped on the ring,  
I've swallowed the magic potion.  
I've fought with a dragon, dined with a king  
And dived in a bottomless ocean.  
I opened a book and made some friends.  
I shared their tears and laughter  
And followed their road with its bumps and bends  
To the happily ever after.  
I finished my book and out I came.  
The cloak can no longer hide me.  
My chair and my house are just the same,  
But I have a book inside me."

—Julia Donaldson

Happy travels!

—Chris Johnston

*Read for fun  
Read for knowledge  
Robertson Memorial Library*

## WiredWest

(Continued from page 1)

meeting with state legislators, and asking their help in resolving issues.

In addition to the negotiating team two new standing committees were created at the December Board meeting. The Outreach Committee is charged with improving communications with Board members (Delegates and Alternates) as well as town leaders and the media. The other new committee is the Risk Analysis Committee. It will examine the business plan in the same way the Technology Committee has been analyzing the proposed network: looking at each component, identifying what could go wrong, and proposing a mitigation strategy and an alternative plan B for each component. Obviously identifying everything that can go wrong is impossible, but trying to do so is important.

WiredWest is the biggest initiative of its kind in the country. It is important to get it right. WiredWest, governed by delegates from our towns, many with years of experience in related fields, is focused on ensuring that our towns get the best broadband possible at the best rate possible, with the earnings returning to our towns. Nothing less than the growth and economic well-being of all of Western Massachusetts is at stake. So stay tuned as we work for our towns.

—Albert S. Woodhull and Sheila Hourihan

## 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 Fred and Susan Pazmino, Ed and Judith Quinlan, Spirit Fire, and Angels' Rest for donations, and to Merton Fisher and Deborah Black for gifts in memory of Edith Fisher, and thanks to deliverers Marie Bartlett, Marie Lovley, Pat Little and the Cafferys. (We apologize if we missed anyone.)

## To our Mail Subscribers

Renewal forms are enclosed with this issue. Please send them back as soon as possible!

Thank you.

## 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

**Monday, February 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

## Select Board Corner

(Continued from page 1)

in the old grader so that no additional revenue would be requested at the Annual Town Meeting. We would need town meeting approval to apply highway capital funds which have been put away for large scale purchases such as this.

Getting onto WiredWest and MBI has been a roller coaster ride of information and meetings the last few months. Al Woodhull is now Leyden's delegate for WiredWest, and Sheila Hourihan is the alternate delegate. We made the switch at their request as Sheila resides in Florida for the winter, while many things are rapidly taking place. Our hope is that MBI and WiredWest can work out their differences and work with the towns. What is clear is that we need cooperation from MBI so that our Town will have a say in how it's going to be built. We must be assured that WiredWest can establish a return on investment figure that will work for Leyden. We have always said that this is going to be a carefully thought out slow process because of the cost involved. Al and Sheila, along with Bob Ryan and the Select Board, have been attending meetings and forums all over western Massachusetts listening and asking what will serve Leyden the best. What we want here in Leyden is a reliable and quality fiber broadband network and telephone service that will serve this community well into the next 30 years.

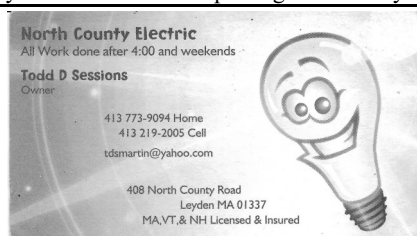
Our sign-up goal of 40 percent has been achieved in Leyden, but we are looking for a much larger percentage regardless of who we choose to run the network. Return on investment with more subscribers is what will make this work. MBI will do the build-out of fiber to ensure our \$600,000 in state aid and Town funding will help us determine who we want to partner with.

We must remember that WiredWest towns are made up of all three counties in western Massachusetts. Highly talented volunteers, who have committed years of work and design, along with outside study firms that have looked at this cooperative model, have determined that it can be successful. Again, if we are to be successful our return on investment, based on your internet monthly charge, will be applied to the authorization to borrow. It is important for all of us to be a part of the future and bring broadband to Leyden.

The Select Board, along with our WW delegate, Al Woodhull, and the Broadband Committee will hopefully have enough information so that we can share some positive news in a Leyden public forum for the residents at Town Hall sometime in April. We anticipate no other action will be required at our May Annual Town Meeting because an authorization warrant and debt exclusion were overwhelmingly passed last year. The Select Board signed a letter of intent to move forward with MBI on doing pole surveys and engineering studies that are supposed to start in July of this year around the counties. Our MLP manager was decided by the full board to be the Chairman of the Selectboard, as we anticipate many signatures in the next few years for work involved.

There have been numerous spots in town where beavers have moved in and caused huge volumes of water to back up. Wildlife surrounds us in Leyden and proper management is needed to control certain wildlife. Fred Pirog at 413-537-9538 can help with beaver management control, or call Department of Wildlife.

The Select Board continues to work on the Leyden Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan so homeowners who live in the flood plain can continue to get homeowners insurance. There will be a final public hearing that will be posted when the final draft has been completed (which is coming shortly). This has been a two-and-a-half-year work in progress and should be completed by 2016. A lot of work and team effort has gone into this plan, and your contribution at the hearing will help in getting it finally done. Look for the posting here shortly. —Jeff Neipp



## Council on Aging

**WELCOME** to our new part-time assistant – Cecilia Tusinski! The COA is delighted to have Cecilia on our team. You will see her at our third Wednesday luncheons and in a variety of additional roles, helping with behind the scenes planning and organizing.

**DID YOU KNOW...**about an online service called **Care.com** that helps people find caregivers – from child and senior care, to pet care, tutoring and housekeeping. This is a Massachusetts-based company that enables people looking for jobs to match up with people looking for help. The website can be searched by zip code and category, and photos are included along with preliminary background information. Initial contact is either by phone or email, in order to narrow down potential candidates for interviews. You can also post a job with your own specific requirements.

Caregivers with certified health care credentials sign up with Care.com because they prefer the freedom of working independently rather than through an agency. Care.com also provides background checks, references, and even payroll services if desired. Caregiver fees vary, depending on the type of help you're seeking. You can set up a free account to browse the website, but a fee is required to enable contact with potential caregivers.

**Grocery Pick-Up Survey:** It's not too late to return your survey. You can also contact Dianne Ryan (624-0225 or [dianne.ryan34@gmail.com](mailto:dianne.ryan34@gmail.com)) or Amy St. Clair (774-6907 or [amy.woodsprite@gmail.com](mailto:amy.woodsprite@gmail.com)) and let us know your needs.

**Need A Ride?** Our Cadillac has provided rides for doctor appointments, COA luncheons, 2 medical procedures, a ride home from the hospital, and one ride to a garage to pick up a car. Call Gilda Galvis (773-7932) if you need our free door-to-door transportation service.

### Wednesday, February 3

**4:30-6:00 p.m. ~ Monthly Business Meeting** at Town Hall. Anyone is welcome to attend.

### CONTINUING ~ Tuesdays at Noon ~ February 2, 9, 16, 23

**12 noon -1 p.m. ~ Core Strength Training Class** with Linda Allis. Downstairs at Town Hall for 4 more weeks.

### Friday, February 12

**Leyden seniors** have been invited to PRES to celebrate Valentine's Day with the children at the school! Watch for more details in the *Recorder*.

### Wednesday, February 17

**12 noon ~ 1 p.m. Community Lunch** at Town Hall, with hamburger pie, green beans and fruit cobbler. Call Sue Howarth (774-3118) in advance so she knows how much food to order.

### Friday, February 26

**MOVIE NIGHT!! – The Hundred-Foot Journey (PG) 7-9 p.m. at Town Hall.**

What could be better than watching a good movie with your neighbors on a winter night? This is a wonderful movie about the Kadam family, displaced from India, who with their Papa (Om Puri), travel to a small French village and open an ethnic eatery directly across the street from the haughty Madame Mallory's (Helen Mirren) Michelin-starred restaurant. All ages are welcome. We are very fortunate to have the Leyden Café provide refreshments.

*If there is sufficient interest, we look forward to presenting more Movie Nights throughout the year, as we have purchased the necessary film license to show these feature films.*

**Weather Cancellations: If schools are closed, there will be no Council on Aging activities.**  
—Dianne Ryan

## Board of Health

### Heroin overdose-rescue drug Narcan now available without prescription.

Heroin use has reached epidemic proportions in all parts of Massachusetts. With increased use has come both an increase in overdoses and resultant deaths. Heroin suppresses the messages that tell the brain to breathe. An overdose of Heroin can stop your breathing, and death occurs in a matter of minutes unless the effect of the Heroin overdose is reversed. Narcan (naloxone hydrochloride) can reverse the effects of Heroin on the brain in many cases.

Narcan is now available *without* a prescription at pharmacies in Greenfield, and is covered by most insurance policies, including MassHealth. If you, a loved one, or a friend use Heroin, getting help to stop using is the best advice. However, until you stop, Narcan can help to save a life while professional assistance is on the way. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Kathie at 773-8595.

## Rural Missions

For the past 36 years I have volunteered each year in the Charleston, SC, area through an organization called Rural Missions. Together with other volunteers from Greenfield, we build and/or repair homes for the poor on the Sea Islands outside of Charleston.

All of our funds for supplies are raised by the volunteers themselves. We receive no money (nor do we ask) from the home owners.

After all the flooding this past year in South Carolina the need for help is at its greatest.

I am asking that if anyone would like to help financially, it would be greatly appreciated. We are selling \$10 shares, which are tax deductible, but any amount is appreciated. There is a share form to be completed and returned to Allison Snow, 200 Mid County Road, Leyden, MA 01337.

All donations need to be received by March 1<sup>st</sup> as we leave March 4<sup>th</sup> for South Carolina.

—Thank you, Allison Snow

## New Business in Town

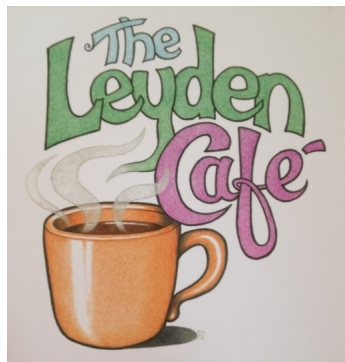
### Help with your health needs

Extended Hand Care Services offers people of all ages help in navigating their health care needs through comprehensive case management, advocacy at medical appointments, home safety assessments and options available according to need. Lisa Lamore, RN, Family Care Representative and founder of Extended Hand Care Services is a Private Duty Registered Nurse knowledgeable in care management in healthcare problems or end-of-life issues. Call her at 413-773-3186 or 413-834-0311 or email her at [extendedhandcareservices@outlook.com](mailto:extendedhandcareservices@outlook.com) and find out what your options are.

### PLEASE DONATE TO LEYDEN LIFE

*Leyden Life* depends entirely on contributions from its readers, as well as willing volunteers to edit, do the layout, collate, bag and deliver. We are immensely grateful for all gifts large and small. If you have never donated before, please realize that a gift of even a dollar or two helps, besides letting us know that what we do is worthwhile. Send a check payable to "Leyden Life" to Leyden Life, c/o Reid, 30 West Leyden Road, Leyden MA 01337, or drop off cash at this address.

If you have already donated, thank you!



## Leyden Café

**THE LEYDEN CAFÉ ENTERS THE NEW YEAR!** We re-opened after the holidays on January 10<sup>th</sup> and will be open Sundays, 9 – 11:30 through the winter. In January we had our first movie, night, showing Anonymous People, a documentary on heroin addiction in our area, followed

by a discussion.

February features **GAME NIGHT**, co-sponsored by the Leyden PTO and the Garden Club. We will have games, Karyn's baked goodies, coffee and hot chocolate. Game Night will be **Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.** We will have a variety of fun games, some featuring garden themes, or bring your own favorite games. We had a rollicking good time last year with our friends and neighbors. Set aside the date and we hope to see you there.

People have been gathering for coffee at the Café on Sundays for visiting, discussions and now knitting! Winter is upon us and it is good to get out and have somewhere to go and meet.

—Amy St. Clair

## 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

## Knitting Circle

The Leyden Knitting Circle will meet three times this month: Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at Amy St. Clair's home, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, 774-6907, Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at the Leyden Town Hall, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, and Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at Peggy Brown's house, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, 774-5764

If you are interested in any of these times and want to know more, get in touch or stop by. You are welcome to join us! Call Peggy (774-5764) or Laura (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.

**Contributions  
from advertisers  
are gratefully  
accepted.**



## 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.

**For Sale:** White used microwave and a rotisserie, each \$45. Call Linda at 624-3334.

**Boer Goat Meat** is available at Frizzell Hill Farm. Goat is quite tasty, low in fat and cholesterol, and high in protein and iron. Give it a try! Visit [frizzellhillfarm.com](http://frizzellhillfarm.com) for information and a price list. Thanks for supporting local Leyden farms!

**For Sale:** 4wd Massey-Ferguson tractor, 800 hrs, bucket, back blade, brush hog, York rake, lifting forks and one furrow plow. \$10,000. Please contact Ed Quinlan at 413-774-6364.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:ovfarm@verizon.net). Like us on Facebook at Orchard Valley Farm.

**Maple Run Farm:** 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. Signing Bonus: All who pay in full for their share before March 20 receive a free dozen eggs as our thank-you.

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. For details call or email Laura or Robin. 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, and leeks available. You can also find us at the Greenfield Winter Farmers' Market and the Leyden Cafe Market.

We invite you to become part of our little farm.

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

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

## Linda Romano

Winter wellness, warming sessions to comfort you. Contact for specifics! Restorative yoga this season, private or classes.

Valentine specials: gift certificates, buy one or two, get next one for a free half hour. Rose cream and rose petal bath salts for sale.

Call Linda at 624-3334.

## Leyden United Methodist Church

### Tale of a Methodist Circuit Rider

At a recent Sunday service, I announced that the Bishop is moving me to Sunapee, NH, on July 1, 2016. It was hard news to share because I love this community so dearly and only two years together seems far too short. The Bishop and cabinet will be working together to discern who the pastor coming on July 1<sup>st</sup> will be, and in the meantime the congregation and I are continuing to worship together and do the work of the church in the community.

In most jobs, a person applies and is interviewed for a position and that's true in some churches that "call" their pastors. In the United Methodist tradition, pastors covenant to itinerate (promise to move) and are appointed based on the Bishop and cabinet matching the pastor's profile with a church's profile. That means we are connected together as members of a conference and promise to move when the Bishop sends us to a new community. There is no average length of time that a pastor stays in a place. Every United Methodist pastor can be moved any July 1<sup>st</sup> of any year. Sometimes the job of a pastor's spouse or the fact that a family member is in high school keep a pastor in an appointment for a few more years. Sometimes a special mission with the homeless, hungry or imprisoned requires specialized gifts of a certain pastor. Each year the church and pastor fill out a form that provides some guidance to the process, and both this church and I affirmed that we wanted to continue together this year but other circumstances prevailed.

Itinerancy (moving pastors around) is based on Christ's "missional appointment" of sending His followers to "go make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:18-20). This is still the primary mission of United Methodist laity and clergy which our appointment system is meant to serve in a creative and dynamic way.

John Wesley, who, with his brother Charles, founded the Methodist movement, sent circuit riders to travel to share the good news throughout America. There are places in New England where you can read roadside historical markers that testify to these preachers on horseback who traveled to visit congregations and communities and bring them Communion. These circuit riders weren't stationed in one place as many of today's pastors are, but relied on the laity (church members) to continue the work of the church in the community in between pastoral visits.

The work of the church, in addition to sharing the good news that we are forgiven and beloved, and making disciples by encouraging people to understand their own belovedness and share it with others, is to feed the hungry, give a cup of cold water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked and visit the sick and those in prison. (Matt. 25) That work will go on through the strength and dedication of this lovely, healthy congregation and with its new pastor, and I will do that work with a new church family in Sunapee. Leyden and I are now a part of one another's story and for that I am deeply grateful.

"Best of All, God is with Us." ~ John Wesley

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.*

Get acquainted with a  
Stanley and Fuller Brush  
hostess party

PAT WEBB  
your stanley dealer

22 EUNICE WILLIAMS DRIVE  
GREENFIELD, MA 01301

TEL. 413-773-5142

### Erik's Handyman Service

Let me help you with your "to do" list  
Erik Johnson

Erik's Handyman Service  
148 Kasey Hill Rd Leyden Ma 01301

413 774 9948  
erikshandy1@yahoo.com

413 522 8260

## THE HOUSE ON THE HILL

### A Bed and Breakfast

330 Leyden Road  
Greenfield, Massachusetts  
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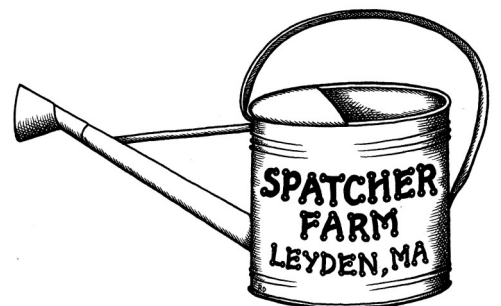
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