

LEYDEN LIFE

Photo courtesy of Lucia Saviano



Selectboard

The Town of Leyden is under a declaration of emergency due to the Coronavirus. Our town website, (townofleyden.com) can be a useful means of getting necessary information of what is happening in your town during this health crisis. We have had to take some measures that will limit gatherings and meetings, the town hall is closed and the COA has now turned their attention to forming a system where they can check on the seniors in our community. The Library is aware of our notice that we do not want people gathering in small areas and they will take appropriate measures to ensure that books and *continued p.2*

OFFICE HOURS

All Public Town Offices are closed until further notice:

Town Clerk can be reached by
Email: Townclerk@townofleyden.com
Cell/Text: 413-362-9378

Office phone: 774-4111 ext. 3

**Leave a message of what you are in need of, I will be sending things by US Mail. I will attach an invoice for payment. Please be safe and stay health,*

~Nicole Glabach

Town Office Phone Numbers

Main Number. 774-4111
Selectboard 774-4111 ext. 1
Town Clerk 774-4111 ext. 3
Tax Collector 774-4111 ext. 4

Notice: Town Office Meetings

Board of Assessors	1st & 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 PM
Board of Health	As announced
Conservation Commission	3rd Monday at 7:00 PM
Council on Aging	1st Tuesday at 4:30 PM
Historical Commission	3rd Tuesday at 7:00 PM
Library Board of Trustees	2nd Tuesday at 4:30 PM
Planning Board	2nd Wednesday at 7:00 PM
Recreation Committee	1st Thursday at 7:00 PM
Selectboard	every Monday at 7:00 PM (or as posted) (No meeting on 5 th Monday)

**Changes to meeting dates/times will be posted separately. Meetings NOT held MONTHLY will also be posted separately.*

The LL editors are observing the 6' social distancing, hand washing, and sanitizing called for to slow the spread of COVID-19. As you look out for your physical health, please remember your mental health, too. Read some fiction, take a walk, meditate, or do whatever makes you calm and happy. Keep in touch with friends and family from a distance and we'll get through this together. Please take care.

Selectboard *continued from p. 1*

material will still be available.

We will focus in the next few weeks on keeping our Police, Fire, and BOH updated on state mandates and suggestions. The small size of our town makes for difficulties because we have a limited number of employees and volunteers and in case of quarantines or sickness, we must have plans in place for backup. That’s why it is so important that everyone abide by the guidelines and stay home if possible. All schools are closed in the state and many local businesses in our neighboring towns are reducing hours or even closing.

Governor Baker has relaxed the open meeting law, which will help us continue to function as a town; conference calls or emails to communicate will be allowed. Right now it is all within us to do what we can to slow the virus down. Neighbors helping one another with groceries and just checking on one another will be a heartfelt help and make our community safer.

During this time, walking in the Leyden Wildlife Management Area is a great way to relieve a stressful day. The trails can be entered from Eden Trail, the Leyden Glen where the blinking sign is located, and from Barton Road where it goes up to Camp Lion Knoll. From the access area off of Glen Road it is about a 3 ½ mile hike to Camp Lion Knoll so bring some water and enjoy the views. There is spectacular scenery down into the Pioneer Valley, and it is all in our back yard to enjoy. The Leyden State Forest is another beautiful walk. Behind the Methodist Church is a trail through privately-owned land which has been put into conservation, and allows for walking; this will lead eventually to the Leyden State Forest. Conservation signs around town identify the numerous parcels of land which have been made available to walkers.

Our Town Clerk will be handling nomination papers for elected positions that will need to be filled for your name to appear on the ballot at the town meeting on May 16th for elections of officers. Information will be available and forms can be picked up at the Leyden Town Offices on Brattleboro Road. The Selectboard is continuing to work on our fiscal 2021 budget and when complete, will be posted for information only for review on the town website. There will be no pre town meeting as in the past for review of the Warrant Articles. We thank you all for doing your part and listening to the advice that we must all take a part in. It truly is a small world today. If you haven’t signed up for the new RAVE alert system in Leyden go to the town website and take the time, as this system will be used in the coming weeks to help get you up to date information, along with our blinking sign, and website. Until then stay safe, stay informed and check on your neighbor

Respectfully,
Jeff, Lance and Bill

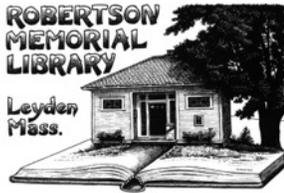


Knitting Circle

Leyden knitters usually meet every Tuesday afternoon, 1- 3, at the Leyden Town Hall and one evening per month at a knitter’s home. At the moment, knitting group is postponed for all our health and safety. In the meantime, enjoy knitting at home and feel free to post your projects on our Facebook page, Leyden Knitting Circle.

For information, contact Laura 773-8325, Peggy 774-5764, or Michele manerelejo@gmail.com

Robertson Memorial Library



*"You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep Spring from coming."
~Pablo Neruda*

How can we be one quarter of the way into 2020? This past month at the RML was pretty swell. We had a successful (Thanks to Lois Feldman's cookies) storytime at the Sunday café in honor of our visiting author. We spent some time talking about our hopes, dreams, fears, feelings and all of our 'whatifs' and colored some friendly monsters, a silly elephant and a girl that can fly. Soon after that we hosted an evening of inspiration with Michelle Nelson-Schmidt. Children and adults alike were moved by her stories. I do have access to ordering signed copies of her books and stuffed characters if anyone has interest. Part of the proceeds from these sales come back to support our library.

As you all know, we are living in strange times. The library is currently closed to the public due to concerns of COVID-19. Our first priority is the safety of our community. We will continue to find creative ways to serve you. Please continue to be patient and kind as we all work through this formidable phase. We are all adjusting to our new normal. Perhaps it is a good time to learn a new skill or finish all the projects on our list. Do not forget to take time for your mental health - read the book that you've always wanted to! Take a walk, create art and continue to wave to your neighbors. If you are working/learning remotely, we have the best internet connection in town. Our WiFi information is posted on the window facing the parking area. We have an added bonus of a fantastic view while you are working inside your vehicle.

I have to thank all of the folks in our community that are the helpers: The Selectboard, Health Department, Police Department and Fire Department and our healthcare workers. Also, our educators deserve a huge round of applause. Never did I think I would be homeschooling- but there are so many resources that have become available because of the hard work of those that are often overlooked. Thank you to all that are underpaid and overworked that make such a large impact in our community.

Please feel free to reach me by leaving a voicemail or text message at (413)522-2581, emailing at leydenlibrary@gmail.com or I urge you to follow us on Facebook if you have the capability. I will do my best to post daily updates, fun activities, videos and some positive virtual interaction. We will do all that we can to support your needs as possible.

Wishing you all the best of health and don't forget to WASH YOUR HANDS!!

~Karin Parks

THE LIBRARY IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC ~ SAFETY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY

In response to COVID-19 we have closed to the public, but we are still serving you!

- We are taking requests - after cleaning materials you will be notified when your request is ready for you
- Roadside pickup
- Delivery to those in need
- Check out the gray tub outside filled with materials.
- Working remotely? Need faster internet? Park in our lot and work from your vehicle with the best WiFi in town. Check the window for log on info.
- Find us on Facebook for: Updates, links to resources, videos of what is available for materials, story time, and some positive social interaction.

We are being as flexible as possible to serve you. Please let us know how we can help you.

We are all in this together.

**Contact Karin with your needs - (413)522-2581 leydenlibrary@gmail.com
facebook.com/leydenlibrary**

Leyden Council on Aging (COA)

ALL APRIL EVENTS ARE CANCELED.

We will keep everyone posted about May.

~**Mark Your Calendars**~

Make stepping stones with Rhonda on June 1:00-1-4:30PM

Cost will be \$35 per person.

Please call Linda Allis to reserve your spot by May 15th

More information will follow in next month's newsletter

*****Birthday Cards*****

Do you love getting birthday cards? Are you 70 years young?

Let Linda Allis know and she will put you on the birthday card list!

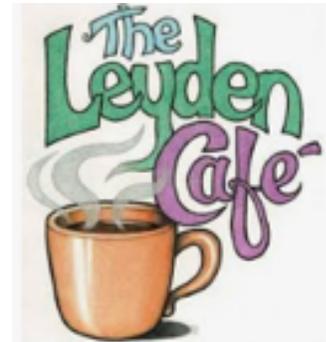
Spring has sprung in Leyden!



While we have listed our upcoming events, it is important to check the town website for updates & cancellations. The COA is working to identify people who might like a friendly check-in phone call. If you would like such a call, please email Michèle Higgins at manerelejo@gmail.com or Susan Howarth at wmsowarth@hotmail.com. We will plan regularly for other possible contingencies such as brown bag lunches, if circumstances warrant. In the meantime, keep checking on each other and be well.



Ryleigh Barton and grandmother Mary Lou, circa 2004, with Easter Bunny (aka Matt Muka)!



The Café is closed while we adhere to self quarantine and social distance guidelines.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Please call our help line, and we will do our best to help you out as needed.

We are always compiling a list of people of all ages willing to lend a hand occasionally with either indoor or outdoor chores for seniors or disabled persons. This can be volunteer or fee for service. Our goal is to help seniors and people with disabilities on limited incomes to be able to age in place and stay in their homes. Advocates to drive and go to medical appointments and help people without family nearby are also needed.

Call Amy 774-6907

Climate Corner

While we are uncertain of its origin, the phrase, “May you live in interesting times,” is often described as a curse disguised as a blessing. Whichever it is, we are definitely living in “interesting times” right now. It seems fitting to offer a hybrid column this month, some of which is directed by “opportunities” forced upon us by the times.

As promised, here is additional information on regenerative agricultural practices, through the words of my neighbor, Chuck Foley. It tracks well with much of what I have read on the topic, which is likely to be far less reading than he has done:

My big thing is pasture rotation. Ideally the animal should be moved every day. Keep the pasture small enough that the animals eat almost everything. That has been referred to as making them eat the box as well as the ice cream. If they only eat the best stuff, those plants will be set back and the undesirable plants will take over. You also need to make sure they are getting enough to eat as their health will suffer (if they don't). Better to err on the side of caution.

Hopefully the animals won't be back to that area until it has fully recovered. When the animal eats the plant, the roots will die back supplying organic matter for the soil microbes to eat thus improving the soil, sequestering CARBON, and feeding the plants. The animal waste will also be broken down to the same end. By keeping the pastures small, you help concentrate where the droppings fall. It doesn't help your pasture if all the manure is concentrated under some shade tree.

A big “thanks” to Chuck whose sources of information are given below. There will be more on agricultural practices in future columns.

In the coming weeks, as we spend more time close to home, many will turn to often neglected tasks: cleaning out, simplifying, and engaging in reflection about what we really need. It's a good time to practice the 3 R's: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. The next column will focus on recycling and reuse of cloth and fabric. Staying linked as a community while keeping a physical distance offers additional possibilities for this newsletter. Please share your own strategies for clothing/fabric which is beyond donation or repair. Stay connected and continue in health through these “interesting times.”

Chuck Foley's Sources: [The Stockman Grass Farmer](#) and [The Small Farmer's Journal](#)

~Karen O'Neil pkoneil@crocker.com

Poetry Corner

Trish Crapo, who lives on Frizzell Hill Road, is a poet and arts journalist. Her chapbook, *Walk Through Paradise Backwards*, has been recently reissued by Slate Roof Press. This poem casts back a ways; the daughter mentioned is now 26 years old, and rides through car washes just fine! But the poem still captures the spirit of this season.

First Day of Spring

Eight or nine robins huddle in the peach trees,
shuddering snow off their wings.

Obliging but glum they blink
in the bare branches, longing to return
to my mother's yard in North Carolina
where the daffodils have already come and
gone.

The azaleas, she says, bloomed too early to be
pretty
for the Annual Azalea Festival.

Life is hard.

So is the mud in my driveway, pressed
into stiff ruts like the ones at the carwash
my daughter won't ride through.

The "blue scrubbie things" remind her
of monsters' arms. Around the front door,
the cloven prints of our goat lead one detective
to speculate the Devil has been to our house.
But what would the Devil want from us –
or monsters for that matter?

We're just simple people,
waiting for spring.

Trish Crapo

If you have a poem you would like to share,
please send it to me by the 10th of the month for
publication the following month.

~Lisa Limont

llimont@crocker.com

60 Stephen Lane, Leyden, MA 01301

Recreation Committee

Hopefully things will return to normal soon. The square dance is still scheduled for April 25, 2020 but that may change as the situation dictates.

Summer programs are being planned and should be published in the May edition of *Leyden Life*, the Town website, and Facebook so get ready to mark your calendars.

The Pavilion at Avery Field will be open beginning in May. Reservation dates are filling up quickly so if you or someone you know is thinking about reserving the area, please contact John Higgins as soon as possible. A copy of the lease agreement and rules are available to view and download at the Town website under Recreation Committee.

For Pavilion reservations or any other matters for the Recreation Committee, please email John Higgins at jphigginsarmy@yahoo.com.

Easter Egg Hunt

**Hosted by Leyden United Methodist Church
Sponsored by Leyden Rifle Club**



Sat. April 11th @ 11:00 am
Leyden United Methodist Church
15 W. Leyden Rd, Leyden Ma 01337
Games and Crafts

Treats and a Toy from the Easter Bunny

Bring a basket and if able please bring six colored hard boiled or treat filled plastic eggs (per child) for hiding on the town common

**Look for updates or cancellation on
Facebook Event: Leyden Easter Egg Hunt
2020**

Leyden United Methodist Church



Lenten/Easter Services & Events
15 West Leyden Rd. Leyden Ma 01337

- *Sun. April 5th - Palm Sunday, 9am.
- *Sat. April 11th - Easter Egg Hunt, 11am
- *Sun. April 12th - Easter Sunrise Service & Potluck Breakfast, 6:30 am
Easter Service 9am

Rev. Larry Lake, Pastor
413-774-6441(Church) 518-645-4783(Cell)
pastor-larry@live.com
Facebook: Leyden United Methodist Church
All Are Welcome



Having fun at the Author's Night.

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 LOWDOWN

Easy Submission

Submit by email to Cornelia Reid at cr43wr41@gmail.com *and* Carolyn Asbury at Carolyn.asbury@gmail.com Attach a document, preferably in Word format, or include the information in the body of your text. If email is not possible, call Cornelia at 774-5146.

Entries must be submitted by 5:00 PM on or before the 15th of the month.

Distribution

To receive *Leyden Life* in digital or print copy, email Cornelia and Carolyn or call Cornelia (see contact info above).

Digital copies will get to you quicker, are colorful, and save time and money.

We still send a few copies by USPS to former residents & Leyden lovers in other places. A year's subscription is \$9. Subscriptions are free to those in nursing homes or the military. A few extra copies may be found at the library.

Thanks & Appreciations

Thank you to collators Sue Howarth, Michelle Higgins & Barbara Wallace & deliverers Colleen Caffery, Pat Dempsey, Pat Little, Marie Lovley & Barbara Wallace. We are grateful for contributions made by Lois & Fred Feldman, Laura Schlaikjer & Bob DePalma, and Spirit Fire.

We could not exist without the help & generosity of our townspeople.

What We Are

Leyden Life is published and delivered monthly in Leyden, MA by a non-profit group of volunteers. We rely on donations to cover the cost of the print copies.

Board of Health

This too shall pass. Thank you everyone for all of your cooperation in this very confusing and frightening time. Unfortunately, it is not over. Everyone should be diligent and take this time of self quarantine seriously.

There is information on the town website if you have questions on the difference between self quarantine and isolation. If you are in a group, there should be no more than 10. Social distancing should be practiced with a distance of 6 feet between people.

Great sources of information are on the CDC, Mass. Dept. of Public Health and our local FRCOG websites. Our town website is also being updated daily with new information. The confirmed cases are climbing, but this is to be expected as testing is becoming more available.

We need to pull together as a community and check on our neighbors by phone. Please reach out to the Selectboard, police, fire, Council on Aging or the Board of Health if you are in need of something or have questions.

I am not sure what the Food Bank of Western Mass is doing with their pantries. There are applications for the Brown Bag for Elders at the Leyden Town Offices. If you would like one please call me, and I can get one to you. There is also a schedule for other available pantries.

As the days get nicer, a walk is a great activity.

Thank you Leyden, *Beth Kuzdeba. 774-2828, Ellen White and Marcia Miller*

Ticks and Reduced Tick Testing

With so much attention to the coronavirus, we also have to remember to protect ourselves and our pets from ticks. Some suggestions are:

1. Use a chemical repellent with DEET, permethrin or picaridin.
2. Wear light-colored protective clothing.
3. Tuck pant legs into socks.
4. Avoid tick-infested areas.
5. Check yourself, your children, and your pets daily for ticks and carefully remove any ticks.

Above cited from <https://magazine.medlineplus.gov/article/understanding-and-preventing-tick-bites>

More information about natural tick repellents, such as cedar oil spray can be found at:

<https://www.farmersalmanac.com/7-natural-tick-remedies-work-27452>

2019 Tick Testing Results

Ten Leyden residents received low-cost tick tests in 2019 through a Leyden Board of Health subsidy. 40% of ticks tested in Leyden in 2019 tested positive for the Lyme Disease Pathogen, 10% for the Babesiosis pathogen, and 20% for the Anaplasmosis pathogen.

Should you want to get a tick tested: (the Board of Health encourages you to do so)

- Go to Leyden's website. Townofleyden.com
- Under the **Government** tab, click on **Board of Health**.
- Click the highlighted section at the end of the paragraph that says, "**Information on having ticks tested**".
- Click on "order a TickReport" and fill out the necessary information.
- You will need a credit card to pay the \$15 fee (rather than the usual \$50 fee)
- Mail the tick (sealed in a plastic bag) with the **Order Number** assigned to you

Opening on the Board of Health

After serving on the Board of Health for six years, I will not be running for the position this May. If you have an interest or background in the health sciences and would like to serve your town please consider serving on the Board of Health. Be well, *Ellen White*

UNCLASSIFIED ADS

Fruit tree pruning: We can help you restore abandoned fruit trees & maintain trees of any age. One-on-one lessons and consults available. Contact Ruth and Robin 413-773-8325, robinc23@yahoo.com

Leyden Life Volunteers Needed: We're looking for help delivering paper copies. If you'd like to help in your neighborhood while walking your dog or driving home, call Cornelia at 413-774-5146.

Clay Classes & Wheel Throwing Class in Leyden: Call Rhonda @ 413-624-5175, or email rhondawain@verizon.net Learn to use the pottery wheel to make dishes you can use. Learn to create, decorate & glaze pottery. Kids clay hand building classes, too. Sunday afternoon 1-day workshops: \$50 includes instruction & materials. Classes are \$175 for 6 classes, which don't have to be consecutive. This includes all supplies.

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

Pet Care Services & Beyond: Pet sitting, drop-in visits, and "doggy daycare." Serving Franklin County & Southern Vermont. Please contact Ruth Ayers via email at ruth.a.ayers@gmail.com or call 413-773-8325. Feel free to inquire about references & rates.

Digitize Your Old Slides: Your old 35mm slides scanned and digitized at 20¢ per slide. (\$20 minimum order). You will provide a blank SD card or thumb drive to which the scanned images will be saved. Call Jerry Levine at 624-5546.

Massage Service: Engage in your wellness & treat yourself at West Woods Massage in Greenfield. Whether you are looking for general relaxation or have a specific focus, I am here to support you. Call Abbi Pratt at 413-281-1755 or email awestwood@massagetherapy.com

Glenbrook Structures: Need a chicken coop or a dog kennel at a reasonable price? Various sizes & designs are available. Call Michelle Barton or Chris Kemp at 774-4545 to place an order. We're also on Facebook & Craigslist.

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

Boer Goat Meat: Available at Frizzell Hill Farm. Goat is tasty, low in fat & cholesterol, and high in protein & iron. Give it a try! Visit frizzellhillfarm.com for information and price list.

Maple Syrup: Facey's Bree-Z-Knoll Farm & Sugarhouse invites you to think sweet thoughts! We have pure Leyden maple syrup in all size containers. Call ahead any time at 413-522-2512.

Ed's Sugar Shack: Local maple syrup available in gallons, ½ gallons, quarts & pints. Call Ed & Carol Johnson at 773-7619, 72 South County Road. Member of Massachusetts Maple Producers Association.

Natural Lamb: Available from the Petersons at Orchard Valley Farm. No growth-enhancing hormones nor antibiotics. Usual cuts generally available. Special orders on request. Get your holiday orders in now! Call 624-5562 or email ovbecky324@gmail.com Like us on Facebook at Orchard Valley Farm.

Sweet Morning Farm: Pork, Beef, Eggs, Vegetables, and Flowers
Happy Spring! We have Leyden grown spinach, eggs, pork and beef. All are available at our farm stand, open every day. Soon there will be mesclun, radishes, head lettuce and more. This year we have decided to not have farm shares but instead to keep our porch well stocked for you all. Call or email if you have a special request or questions.

Laura Timmerman and Robin Creamer

413-773-8325

<https://www.facebook.com/SweetMorningFarm>

<http://sweet-morning-farm.blogspot.com/>

sweetmorningfarm@gmail.com

@sweetmorningfarm on IG