

LEYDEN LIFE



Photo courtesy of Maggy Lawall

Selectboard

Clayton Brooks a long time employee of the Leyden Highway Department passed away on March 15th. Clayton was a quiet guy that never missed a day of work. He and Bill Franklin worked side by side. They built and maintained many of our roads we still enjoy in town today. Clayton liked taking care of West Leyden Road and the many branches it feeds over in West Leyden. He retired in 2003. He was a Veteran of the Korean War and served proudly in the United States Army.

Annual Town Meeting and Elections have been postponed by the Selectboard in May due to the State of Emergency by Governor Baker. We have scheduled the meeting and elections for June 29th. *continued p.2*

OFFICE HOURS

All Public Town Offices are closed to the public 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

Town PO Address

7 Brattleboro Road, Leyden, MA 01301

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 Monday at 10:30 AM
Historical Commission	1st Monday at 7:00 PM
Library Board	1st Monday at 7:30 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)

POSTPONED

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

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.

Selectboard *continued from p. 1*

Annual Town Meeting will be held at 7:00 PM, polls will open at 4:00 PM closing at 8:00 PM for town elections. There will be no pre town meeting as in the past to go over warrant articles, we hope to have our warrant available for review by early June. Closing of the warrant will take place sometime during the week of June 15th. With the Coronavirus as we all know, things change daily and setting plans late into June is our best hope right now for a 2021 budget.

The new Leyden RAVE warning system has been helpful on our part to keep our community updated during these difficult times. Anyone still not signed up is encouraged to go to the town website and sign up. You can go back, anytime and change the way you would like to get notified, by text, phone or email. We haven't had a chance to ask your feedback on the system, but do hope the messages are helpful.

Westfield Gas and Electric has worked with MBI and have agreed to increase the download speed of one hot spot in each last mile town. In Leyden, this will be done at the town office building, so the download speed will increase from the current 2 MB per second to 250 MB per second. The idea is that people will be able to sit in their cars and work from laptops in the parking lot. It is estimated to be done in 2 weeks, the sign on will have a separate pass code. We will notify residents through the town's notification system when this occurs. We know this is not a permanent solution, but for the immediate, this was the most promising solution.

We have a new policy on working conditions and expectations during Covid-19 and all town employees, elected officials, department heads, should read it over for everyone's protection during this health crisis that has no boundaries.

With warmer weather and everyone staying at home we know our roads are busy with daily walkers, runners, biking and activities, our district schools are closed and children are out playing. The Police Department has seen an increase in speeding thru town, recent motorcycle accidents of high speed along with vehicles has put our police on notice and many tickets for speeding are now being mailed out without the vehicle being pulled over. In most cases it seems to be out of town drivers, but citations during this time are being mailed out according to Chief Galvis.

There was another outbreak of Rabies in Shelburne with a raccoon; this makes Colrain, Buckland and our town as having a live case of rabies with raccoons. Please make sure your pets are licensed in town so the town clerk has an updated list of pets that have vaccinations. We are a farming community and livestock live everywhere in town.

Leyden still remains in its longest state of emergency; our town is challenged with conducting business in many other ways. We are still feeling our way through the many daily changes. We know these are difficult times but we will see our way through it. We ask that you check on your neighbor. Our COA, Board of Health, Police Department, Selectboard are all available if you need help during these times. We would also like to mention a big thank you to our Leyden Life staff that continues to inform our community of what's taking place in our town, especially right now.

Respectfully, *Jeff, Lance and Bill*

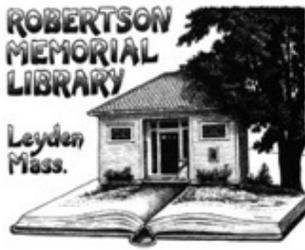
Spatcher Farm at 498 West Leyden Rd., will be selling annual garden plants at our roadside/self-serve/open air venue. Lots of vegetable and flower 6 packs.

Opening May 1st.
Questions? Call 624-3247.



Our *Leyden Life* deliverers were called on to get the news out to our paper copy recipients three times in this unusual month! We owe enormous thanks to Pat Dempsey, Marie Lovley, Lisa Limont, Pat Little, Karen O'Neil, and Barbara Wallace.

Robertson Memorial Library



The library remains closed to the public. In response to a request by the state library commissioner we have ceased all physical lending including curbside pick-up. There are however plenty of online resources to keep you occupied! You can sign up for an ecard from the Boston Public Library (www.bpl.org/ecard/) and have access to all of the ebooks and audio books that you could ask for, along with movies and shows! It's free and easy! Head on over to the library Facebook page for activities and storytimes! Our parking lot has been busy with folks using our internet connection! The network information is posted on the building so you can sign in easily. These are uncertain times: I hope that you are all well and remain so.

Climate Corner

The average American throws away 64 lb. of clothing a year. For local residents, clothing put into the trash ends up in a landfill. As it decomposes, it releases methane gas, a much more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Here is the good news: all three of the R's can apply as alternatives to the landfill for your unwanted or damaged textiles.

REDUCE: If you purchase fewer pieces, you reduce your carbon footprint. Buying habits have been going the opposite direction in our culture unfortunately. U. S. consumers bought 60% more clothing in the year 2014 than they did in the year 2010 and kept each piece for half as long, according to the World Resources Institute. Rethinking our purchases and shopping more at consignment (local business) stores and charity thrift stores (Goodwill, Salvation Army...) could make a big difference.

REUSE: Passing on your used textiles can bring joy to the recipient (as in the huge box of baby clothes I received from a colleague many years ago), employment (Goodwill, Salvation Army...) and contributes to other charities, but it also provides environmental benefits. Many textiles can be repaired or repurposed. From creative patching, to wall hangings, lap quilts and pillows, your textiles can live again. A student I saw frequently in the halls of Monument Mountain Regional High School in the 80's has put her twin passions for art and the environment into a thriving upscaling business. Crispina ffrench's pieces range from luxurious quilts constructed of felted wool pieces (obtained from discarded sweaters) to pincushion jars, and no sew T-shirt aprons for children. Checkout Crispina's website or her blog, Rag, for ideas.

RECYCLE: Clothing and textiles that are damaged, stained, and missing buttons are accepted by some charities. PlanetAid sorts the bags they receive and sells such textile pieces to recyclers who use them to produce insulation, furniture pads, and rag rugs. Their bright yellow donation bins can be found in Bernardston and Greenfield. Please do not leave bags outside. Wet or moldy donations cannot be used.

Stay well and be safe.

Karen O'Neil pkoneil@crocker.com

Sources: wri.org The Recorder 4/7/20, p. A3 PlanetAid.org Crispina.org Crispinaffrench.com

Board of Health

Please keep doing what you're doing to stay healthy. Stay at home. Social distancing. Wash hands. Wear a mask in public. Please self-quarantine for 14 days if coming back into the state. Let someone else get your groceries for you. Reach out if you need help.

THANK YOU, LEYDEN, Beth Kuzdeba. 413-774-2820



Thank You Everyone! So many of our community and neighbors responded for our Annual Town Roadside Cleanup I do believe we saved the Earth. I headed out on Sunday to do part of the main road and was met both ways by town residents and bags of trash along the road! Our byways look beautiful and you all made this happen and you all made a difference! Thank you to the Selectmen for the dumpster. Hope we all continue to be safe and well.

Sincerely, *Robin Neipp*

Spring Graduate

Autumn Alicia Smith, daughter of former Leyden resident Crystal Barton Smith and Mike Smith of Heath, and granddaughter of Patricia Sanville of Eden Trail, has graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. While at UMass, she was on the Dean’s List every semester. She will apply to medical school this spring, to study to become a physician’s assistant. She is working in Greenfield for AMR Ambulance Service as a registered EMT and volunteering at Deerfield Valley Rescue in Vermont.

Broadband Hut Has Landed

Leyden moved one step closer to high speed internet on April 2, when a 45,000 lb. “telecommunications hut” was delivered and installed across the street from the Town Offices on Brattleboro Rd. Leyden’s Dave Vreeland oversaw the installation, along with DPW head Dave Brooks. The hut will eventually contain all the electronics required to control and maintain the new internet/telephone system. The 9’ x 16’ ft. concrete building was manufactured in Connecticut and was hoisted to the site by Davenport Trucking of Greenfield. Telecommunications is considered an essential business during the virus, which fortunately allowed the delivery to continue as planned.

We can also report that Verizon and Eversource have officially completed their task of moving wires and replacing poles that do not meet industry regulations. The next phase will begin this June with the hanging of 35 miles of fiber from pole to pole throughout the town. The final step should start in early October and entails connecting the fiber directly to each house and setting up the Internet connection for those who have subscribed to the service. A subscription sign-up campaign will begin this summer. We currently expect the entire project to be completed by December of this year.

Photo courtesy of Jerry Levine



Bob Ryan, Broadband Chair

Poetry Corner

Here is a poem by Dylan DePalma called Nature's Welcome. Dylan wrote this stunning poem when he was 13, and it won him the Youth Prize in the 2012 Poet's Seat Poetry Contest.

This spring Dylan will be graduating from the University of Vermont with a degree in Environmental Science/Wildlife Biology, although he has been home, studying in place, since March 7.

Congratulations to Dylan for his accomplishments and let us hope that his attention might once again capture the melody of Nature's beautiful ways, to liven up our coming days.

Nature's Welcome

I took a walk today and left my music home.

As I walked, spring greeted me with music all her own.

Her gossamer dress is new grass with daffodils in rows.

Her breath, the breeze, brought scents of melting snow.

The steady pulse of peepers in full song, her heartbeat, glows.

With arms as boughs to catch the clouds

And sprinkle sunlight down.

She speaks as birds and babbling brook.

I'm glad I listened, and homeward, took

The melody of her beautiful ways

To liven up the coming days.

~Dylan DePalma

Do you have a poem to share? One you wrote, or one you love? Please send it along to Lisa Limont, llimont@crocker.com, 60 Stephen Lane, Leyden, MA 01301. And thanks!

Notes from the COA

The COA would like you to know that we are 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 be planning regularly for other possible contingencies such as brown bag lunches, too, if circumstances warrant. In the meantime, keep checking on each other and be well.

~Leyden Council On Aging

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 our collators & deliverers. We are grateful for contributions made by Jerry Levine and Julie McCarthy, the Spatcher Farm, Leslie Brooks, Kathleen Anderson, Patricia Sanville, the Leyden Recreation Committee 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.

UNCLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: HP Office Jet 3830 All-In-One Series Printer. Like New - Hardly Used. One new cartridge. Bargain at \$15. Linda 773-8088.

FOR SALE: XT1 Enduro LT 42 in. 547 cc Engine with IntelliPower Hydrostatic Gas Front-Engine Riding Lawn Tractor, bought 2017, \$1000. New \$1699. Please call Leslie at 624-0235 or email me at enlakesh@verizon.net. Good condition. Needs new blades.

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

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.

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.

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. 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.

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.

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.

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 - Open Air Farm Stand
During this challenging time, we set up our farm stand a bit differently. The stand is outside under a canopy & we have set up some safety guidelines. We sanitize the stand several times a day & ask that when you enter the stand you sanitize your hands. One person in the stand at a time and of course maintain physical distance with each other & your farmers. Checks or cards only. Call to use a credit card or EBT card.

You can use your HIP (Healthy Incentives Program) award at our stand as well. HIP may be used for fresh vegetables and fruit. Like all cards, you'll need to call us so we can process your card.

It's very important to us to share good food with our neighbors and this system seems to be working well. If you would like to know more about what is available, sign up for our email list. Just send a message to sweetmoringfarm@gmail.com You can also check our blog for updates of what has been stocked. <http://sweet-morning-farm.blogspot.com/>

We have Leyden-grown spinach, mesclun, eggs, pork & beef available at our farm stand, open every day, 9-6.

Like all of us, our plans are up in the air, we'll keep you posted. The main thing is for us all to stay healthy. Call or email if you have a special request or questions.

All the best, Laura Timmerman Robin Creamer 413-773-8325

