

# LEYDEN LIFE

LEYDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

May 2025

## Select Board Report

Indeed Spring is here, the starts and stops of April are over and we can increasingly enjoy being outdoors. Our town committees are busy planning for activities to be held in the Spring, Summer and Fall. Keep your eyes on this newsletter and the town website for community events; attend and tell your friends and neighbors, the more the merrier.

## Memorial Day

Our neighboring towns have big celebrations on Memorial Day with parades and speeches. Although we are a tiny town, we do commemorate those who have served in our military and have died. Our commemoration is planned for **Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am on the Town Common** with a speaker from the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans district office followed by a coffee hour at the Leyden Historical Commission museum with a special Leyden veterans display. Join us for what will be a brief but important remembrance. If veterans who are Leyden residents would like to contribute to planning or to speak at the event, contact [selectboard1@townofleyden.com](mailto:selectboard1@townofleyden.com). The flags at the cemeteries also will be refreshed that day – it's interesting to see the veteran graves and when they served, many are quite historical. Contact [select-board3@townofleyden.com](mailto:select-board3@townofleyden.com) if you would like to help.

## Town Meeting

Our Annual Town Meeting is getting closer – **June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30pm for the Special Town Meeting and 6:00pm for the Annual Town Meeting held at the Town Hall**. Warrants will be posted on the website and Town Office Bulletin Board a week or two before. The speaker system has been upgraded so it should be easier to hear the moderator and comments within the Town Hall. A large TV screen has been purchased and will be set up to allow **virtual participation this year**. Those who join virtually will be able to see, hear, and ask questions or comment but cannot vote. We will trial run all the equipment and procedures for virtual participants, however there may be some glitches during the meeting, and we ask for your patience. This is a step in our efforts to facilitate more participation and make the Town Meetings more accessible to all.

## Senior and Veteran Tax Benefit

Did you know that there exists tax reduction benefits? These are available for veterans with service disability, and survivor spouse, as well as older adults that meet the income/asset criteria. Also there is a hardship program that requires annual application and review. The assessors have forms about these tax reduction benefits, however only a few residents utilize this benefit. Check to see if you are eligible.

## OFFICE HOURS

### Town Office

Tuesday - Thursday 8:30 AM-4:00 PM

Select Board meetings

Mondays 9am or 5:30 pm

413-774-4111 x1

[Selectboard@townofleyden.com](mailto:Selectboard@townofleyden.com)

### Town Coordinator

Tuesday through Thursday

8:30am to 4:30pm

(413) 774-4111 ext. 1

Fax: (413) 772-0146

[towncoord@townofleyden.com](mailto:towncoord@townofleyden.com)

### Town Clerk

Mondays: 3:00 - 6:00pm

To make an appointment:

[townclerk@townofleyden.com](mailto:townclerk@townofleyden.com)

### Tax Collector

Monday: 4:30 - 7:30pm

To make an appointment

[taxcollector@townofleyden.com](mailto:taxcollector@townofleyden.com)

413-774-4111 ext. 4 (Leave a message)

### Assessor's Office

Monday: 4:00-8:00pm

For appointment: 413-774-4111 ext. 2

Meetings: Usually 1st Monday of the month at 7:00pm

[assessors@townofleyden.com](mailto:assessors@townofleyden.com)

## TOWN POST OFFICE ADDRESS

7 Brattleboro Road

Leyden MA 01301

DO YOU HAVE A NEW NEIGHBOR who might like to be introduced to the Leyden Life newsletter? Please let one of the editors know so we can reach out to welcome our new resident!

*(Select Board Report, continued from page 1)*

### Public forum on schools

The Select Board and Finance Committee have been attending or monitoring School Committee meetings to not only stay informed but also to gauge the trends and future challenges or opportunities for our schools and for the town. As you may know Leyden has a small school-age population and many choices as to where children can be educated – public schools, technical schools, private schools, charter schools, and home schooled. **The capacity of our public schools – elementary, middle and high school – is greater than the number of students that attend, except for the Franklin County Technical High School.** Particularly at the high school level, Pioneer Valley Regional High School has been losing students from Leyden. We are not alone - the challenges for public schools are similar throughout Western Massachusetts. Even if the state decides to provide more funding for our schools here, there will still be underutilized schools that require administrative and maintenance/upkeep costs, and that will continue to be mainly funded by the taxpayers. **The Select Board is considering a public forum to share ideas on the future of our schools,** especially from those who care for school-age children, and from the students themselves. We would like to know if this is of interest, and your willingness to attend. Please send an email to [selectboard3@townofleyden.com](mailto:selectboard3@townofleyden.com). Thanks in advance.

### Announcements:

- Marcia Miller has stepped down as chair of the Board of Health although she will remain on the committee. Beth Kuzdeba was selected as chair of the Board of Health.
- Town Hall is now open for rental and town events and activities.
- Railings for Town Hall Kitchen and Town Offices steps have been completed and installed.
- Sean Berthiaume has been appointed Inspector of Animals from May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026. The appointment is through the MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR).
- There will not be in-person early voting for the town elections. However, one can vote through early mail-in or in person on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Town Office.
- Department of Local Services (DLS) audited the work of the assessors and found it to be satisfactory.
- The Select Board is seeking ideas to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country. Leyden was not a town at that time, but let's find ways to observe this milestone next year. Send ideas to [selectboard@townofleyden.com](mailto:selectboard@townofleyden.com).
- The six-town school regionalization planning group issued an update on their progress and next steps. The update is on [page 5](#) of this newsletter.

Respectfully,

Jeff Baker, Katherine DiMatteo, Erica Jensen  
Leyden Select Board

### TOWN OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

Now is the time annually for those whose terms are up on June 30, 2025, to inform us of your intention to serve another term or not. Many of our committees have one year terms, if you are on a committee and are unsure about your term, contact [towncoord@townofleyden.com](mailto:towncoord@townofleyden.com). Then, please send an email to [selectboard@townofleyden.com](mailto:selectboard@townofleyden.com) by May 15th with your decision.

Now is also the right time to consider serving on the town committees and boards if you haven't before. There are still open seats that have not been filled yet this year, please consider stepping up for an appointment to start now. Call or email the Town Coordinator, [towncoord@townofleyden.com](mailto:towncoord@townofleyden.com).

#### OPEN SEATS

Agricultural Commission – 1 position, 3-year term

Conservation Commission – 1 position. 3-year term

Constables – 1 appointed position. 1-year term

Council on Aging- 1 position. 3-year term

Fence Viewer – 2 positions, 1 year term

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee – 2 positions, 3-year terms

School Committee – 1 position. 2-year term

**An abundance of gratitude for all those that volunteer!**

**PLANNING BOARD****IMPORTANT PUBLIC HEARING ON  
PROPOSED ZONING BYLAW CHANGES**

On **Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**, the Planning Board will hold a public hearing at the Town Offices on proposed zoning **bylaw revisions**. These changes are related to rural residential housing, common driveways, event venues and retreat centers, short term vacation rentals, temporary and alternative housing, mobile homes, multi-family housing, accessory dwelling units, and battery energy storage facilities. The purpose of this public hearing is to provide residents with the opportunity to learn the reasons why the Planning Board is proposing these revisions. It is a chance to ask questions and share your viewpoint with the board. The Board plans to present these bylaw revisions for adoption at Annual Town Meeting (ATM). These proposed changes are presented as three separate town meeting warrant articles; two related to housing issues and one for the battery energy storage system.

Historically under state law, all zoning bylaw revisions require a super-majority vote (2/3rds) at ATM. A few years ago, there was an amendment to the state law that separated out certain types of bylaws that would only need a simple majority vote at an ATM. Therefore, we are having to present our proposed residential changes in two separate warrant articles although they would appear to be related. We hope that Leyden residents will come to the public hearing and get as many questions answered as possible before town meeting. Copies of these warrant articles are available for review on the Town Coordinator's desk in the Town Offices and are also available to review at the library and on the town website. If you have any questions, please email [Planboard@townofleyden.com](mailto:Planboard@townofleyden.com).

We look forward to seeing you on **Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

**Police Advisory Committee**

The Leyden representatives on this committee are Liz Kidder, Emily Yazwinski, Erica Jensen, and Ginger Robinson. The next meeting of this Advisory Committee will be at 11:00 on **Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>**. If anyone has comments or concerns about Leyden's agreement for police services with Bernardston, please contact us at [Publicsafe-ty@townofleyden.com](mailto:Publicsafe-ty@townofleyden.com).

**The Leyden Historical Commission**

Invites you for Coffee, Snacks and Conversation

**Coffee and History**

**Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> Celebrate Leyden Mothers**

**Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> Observe Memorial Day**  
*Honor those who served and sacrificed*

**10am - noon**

7 Brattleboro Road, Town Office

**LEYDEN LIFE LOWDOWN****Easy Submission**

Submit by email: [leydenlife@gmail.com](mailto:leydenlife@gmail.com). Attach a document, preferably in Word format. If email is not possible, call Cornelia at 774-5146. Entries must be submitted by 5:00pm on or before the 20th of the month prior to the publication month.

**Distribution**

To receive *Leyden Life* in digital or print form, email: [leydenlife@gmail.com](mailto:leydenlife@gmail.com), or call Cornelia at 774-5146.

**Thanks to all our deliverers!**

Barbara Wallace, Lisa Limont, Pat Dempsey, Pat Little, Priscilla Sherman, Karen O'Neil, Marie Lovley, Carolyn Asbury, and Cornelia Reid.

*Leyden Life* depends entirely on donors and volunteers for its printing and delivery.

**Donations are welcome.**

Please make checks out to *Leyden Life*, and send to: Leyden Life, 30 West Leyden Rd., Leyden, MA 01337.

**What We Are**

*Leyden Life* is published and delivered monthly in Leyden, MA by a non-profit group of volunteers.

**Editors:** Carolyn Asbury, Annie Garvey, Lisa Limont, and Cornelia Reid.

**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 ([townofleyden.com](http://townofleyden.com)) to verify information regarding town business or activities.

**Thanks to  
Gordon Cobb**

**for a contribution this month.**



## Town Clerk

**Clerk Office Updates:** George Stephan has begun work as the Town Clerk, with Paul McLatchy III staying on as Assistant Town Clerk until June. Paul will run the town election on **Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>** and then will step down from that position. George's office hours will be on Mondays from 3:00-6:00 PM. Email is also a great way to get in touch with the town clerk's office ([townclerk@townofleyden.com](mailto:townclerk@townofleyden.com)).

**Census/Dog Licenses:** The second mailing for the census was sent out in late March- please return this if you haven't already. Voter inactivation will take place in late May or early June and anyone inactivated will need to show proof of residence and fill in an affidavit to vote. The due date for dog license renewals was March 31<sup>st</sup>. All licenses renewed now will have an additional \$10 late fee per dog on top of the regular \$5/\$10 fee.

**Local Elections:** Elections will take place on **Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12:00-8:00 at Town Offices** (7 Brattleboro Road). Caucus took place on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone who turned out- we were able to get started on time as we had a quorum from the get-go! The following individuals were nominated and have accepted. Barring any last-minute withdrawals, they will all appear on the ballot.

Board of Assessors	3 Years	Erik Johnson
Board of Health	3 Years	Devorah Vester
Constable	3 Years	Vanessa Russell*
Library Trustee	3 Years	Patricia Little*
Planning Board	5 Years	James Brodeur*
Moderator	1 Year	John Harris Golden*
Select Board	3 Years	Katherine DiMatteo*
Tree Warden	1 Year	William Brooks*

\*Incumbent

Elizabeth Kuzdeba has also taken out papers for the 1-year Board of Health seat (due to the timing of Jerry Lund's passing, this position was not able to be added to caucus) and appears to have adequate signatures to qualify for the ballot. This means this year's ballot will be full, but there are no contested races unless a write-in candidate steps forward.

Voting by mail is available for this election- you can either use the print-out form on the secretary of state's website, the secretary's application program on their website, or send a written request with your name, address, date of birth, and a signature. We cannot accept emailed or verbal requests- they must be in writing.

Paul McLatchy III

### Woodland Partnership of North West Massachusetts DEERFIELD RIVER WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY COMMITTEE

The Deerfield River Watershed Association (DRWA) is in the process of preparing an application for seeking a federal designation of the Deerfield River as a Wild and Scenic River. DRWA received a regional grant from the State through the Woodlands Partnership grant program. Leyden supported this grant application and agreed to appoint a representative of the town to serve on the study committee. Several meetings have been held and they are now holding their meetings in the offices of the Connecticut River Conservancy on Bank Row in Greenfield. Their next meeting will be from **5-6:30 pm on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**. On the agenda is a group discussion on River Management Strategies for the Deerfield and its tributaries which includes the Green River.

The DRWA is extending the timeline for this study and is also applying for additional grant funds for the purpose of conducting outreach to watershed communities and to implement some of the recommendations of the current study. Leyden is looking for a resident to be willing to serve on this study committee and represent our town and its important resource, the Green River. If you are able to and interested in serving on this committee, please contact Michele Giarusso. Liz Kidder, our Woodlands Partnership representative, has attended two of the meetings but is unable to continue due to scheduling conflicts. She is happy to answer any questions about this project for anyone who is interested. Her email is [publicsafety@townofleyden.com](mailto:publicsafety@townofleyden.com). If you have any interest in this study and appreciation for the Green River, please consider volunteering to represent Leyden on this study.

## Board of Health

Happy Spring, everyone. The warmer weather is right around the corner. This is a perfect time to assess your health, well, and septic.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued an update on measles vaccination. It details appropriate ages for children and boosters for adults. The MMR booster for adults can be scheduled at local pharmacies. A comprehensive list of vaccines is available at the town offices.

Ticks are out. The BOH provides Tick Keys for our Leyden households to safely remove an attached tick. Please call your primary care afterwards. If you choose, you can send the tick in for disease testing to [www.Tickreport.com](http://www.Tickreport.com). There is a charge for this but the BOH provides subsidized coupons to lower the cost for residents.

Spring is a great time to check your well head. Clear weeds away and check the well head for cracks or missing screws. These should be fixed as soon as possible to keep your water from getting contaminated. Your well company can address these. This is also a good time to get your water tested. There are no state regulations for well testing so the safety of your drinking water is the home owners responsibility. A laboratory can be located at [Mass.gov](http://Mass.gov). It is recommended that basic testing be done yearly and a more comprehensive testing every 10 years.

Your septic should be pumped every 3-5 years. The septic company will give you a recommendation on how often you should pump your septic at the time of pumping.

Preventative maintenance is much less expensive than fixing a problem and keeps our environment clean.

Thank you

Beth Kuzdeba, Chair      Marcia Miller      Devorah Vester  
413-774-2820  
[Boh@townofleyden.com](mailto:Boh@townofleyden.com)

### Six Town Regionalization Planning Board Update: Final Steps Before Town Meeting Vote

The Six Town Regionalization Planning Board (STRPB) was formed by the towns of Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Montague, Northfield and Warwick to research the feasibility of creating a new regional school district that was affordable, sustainable and educationally advantageous for our students. Its first in-person meeting was held in 2019 before the COVID 19 epidemic.

Eighteen members, three from each town, were appointed to serve. Grants from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Revenue supported our study and research over a five year period. The STRPB voted in January 2024 to move forward with crafting a proposed new regional agreement (RA).

The STRPB established a District Regional Agreement Subcommittee (DRAS). Its members were recommended by the respective Selectboards to serve with a few Planning Boards members. This subcommittee deliberated for a year and in March 2025 recommended a proposed RA for the Planning Board's consideration.

The Planning Board reviewed and voted to have the proposed RA undergo a technical legal review to ensure it complies with DESE regulations and state laws. This document will be shared with town officials. With these steps being completed the Planning Board will review, deliberate and recommend a final proposed Regional Agreement for the Town's consideration.

A comprehensive outreach effort will be implemented to share our research which resulted in the crafting of a proposed regional agreement that would combine the Gill-Montague Regional, Pioneer Valley Regional and the Warwick School District to form a "Super-Regional School District".

In the next 7 months, the STRPB will provide print and social media releases and updates for town newsletters/websites, public meetings/forums, multiple posted QR codes directing people to the STRPB website and the proposed regional agreement.

Materials will also be available at public buildings, such as town libraries. We welcome other outreach efforts suggested by the general public, including information relating to a coordinating Special Town Meeting in November.

If this can be scheduled on the same day in all six towns prior to December 30<sup>th</sup> we will meet the deadline for consideration by DESE to begin the transition process (which requires a year and a half) to form a new district. This vote must pass in all six towns. Our efforts will focus on voters having as much information as possible.



## Fire Department

A big thank you to all the mutual aid fire departments that came to help fight a two-alarm house fire on East Hill on April 7. Most departments, like ours, are made up of volunteers who also have full-time jobs, and we appreciate their commitment and cooperation.

If you are interested, please consider joining the Fire Department. For more information contact Chief Carey Barton at 413-522-9479.

Recent Fire Department training has included two of our newest firefighters going through emergency medical courses and Basic 6. Basic 6 is the 6-week training course for volunteer firefighters organized by Tri-State Fire Training, with certified instructors who are active members of fire departments in Franklin County. The course covers safety equipment and procedures, search and rescue, pumps and hoses, ladders, fire science, and communications systems. Each week includes classroom lessons and rigorous hands-on skills instruction. This course fosters teamwork, improves technical skills, and instills a culture of continuous improvement. We are fortunate to have such a strong course in our region.

Open burning closes on May 1.

With the change in seasons there are now more wildfires across the region. The department recently received new wildland gear, and upcoming training will include more wildland firefighting skills.

Please do what you can to keep our community safe, and enjoy the springtime.

Submitted by Firefighter Samantha Wood



Photos submitted by Samantha Wood

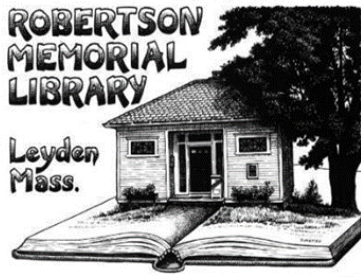
## Gratitude

On Friday afternoon, April 11<sup>th</sup> my husband, John Wallace, unexpectedly became very sick with rigor chills and a high fever. John was recovering very well from a bilateral SI joint fusion surgery done on March 18<sup>th</sup> so I did not think this sudden high fever and chills was about the surgery. Maybe the flu I thought. It seemed to be getting worse and I called Pat Little who immediately came to the house and said call 911 Right Now. I called 911 and gave them the needed information. Almost instantly a fully uniformed Bernardston/Leyden policeman was here, the Leyden Fire Department people arrived, and then the Colrain ambulance team! They checked John and worked as a team to get John into the ambulance. This was not easy since John could not bend from the waist, twist or walk on his own from the prior operation. Once at Baystate Franklin Emergency Hospital the care was excellent and by midnight the doctors had John on an IV and in ambulance headed to Dartmouth Hospital. After a week at Dartmouth John is home recovering. Whew!

We are full of gratitude to all those who helped us through this journey! Also so important to share is our gratitude to the Leyden residents who have worked together to create a community with a strong Fire Department, Police, and Ambulance. Thank you, Pat Little, for your skilled guidance.

John and Barbara Wallace





## Library Hours:

Monday 1-6    Wednesday 1-6    Saturday 10-12

"What I need is the dandelion in the spring. The bright yellow that means rebirth instead of destruction. The promise that life can go on, no matter how bad our losses. That it can be good again."

-from *Mockingjay* by Suzanne Collins

Things are moving along at the library, with numerous projects and events underway to engage our community. Here's a look at what's happening:

We are diligently working on our barcoding project, and the good news is that the end is in sight! We hope to begin signing patrons up for library cards and scanning your other CWMARS member library cards starting August 1st. This initiative will streamline our processes and enhance your library experience.

We're thrilled to announce a special event to engage and educate our community. On **Thursday, May 8th at 6 PM** at the Town Hall, join us for an evening exploring the world of mushrooms with Jonathan Kratz, a certified field naturalist and vice president of the Boston Mycological Club. Discover the secrets of fungi, learn about their life cycles, and get tips on safely foraging local varieties. Whether you're a budding mycologist or just curious, this promises to be both informative and inspiring. Don't miss this chance to uncover the wonders of the fungal kingdom and connect with fellow nature enthusiasts.

Our monthly book club has been a tremendous success. We are just wrapping up *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier and are preparing to dive into *I Am Not Sidney Poitier* by Percival Everett for our May selection. Join us for our next meeting on **Tuesday, May 20th at 5:30 PM**.

Looking ahead to June, we will be reading the poetry of Emily Dickinson and planning a visit to her home in Amherst. We are currently working out the details, so stay tuned for more information on this exciting outing.


This year's summer reading theme is "Level Up at Your Library," focusing on games. To celebrate, we are highlighting a local favorite, Cosmic Wimpout! We plan to kick off the summer with an introduction to the game, distribute game sets, and conclude with a thrilling tournament.

Additionally, we are creating a summer reading Monopoly board as our challenge for both youth and adults. It's an engaging way to encourage reading and participation throughout the summer months.

Our library has recently received a fresh selection of bestsellers. We invite you to come and explore the latest titles and find your next great read.

We are thrilled about these developments and look forward to seeing you at the library soon!

Karin Parks  
library@townofleyden.com  
(413)773-9334




Uncover the secrets of these extraordinary organisms and enrich your understanding of nature. Discover what makes these fungi unique, learn about their life cycle, and gain insights into foraging for local varieties. Whether you're a budding mycologist or just curious, this event promises to be informative and inspiring.

**Thursday, May 8th**  
**6:00 PM**  
**Leyden Town Hall**

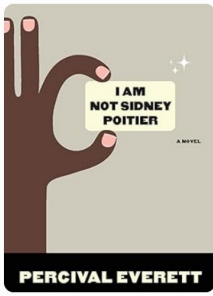
Presented by Jonathan Kratz, a MA Audubon Certified Field Naturalist and Vice President of the Boston Mycological Club. Hosted by the Robertson Memorial Library

**RML READS**



**Adult Book Club**


Join us for our book club discussion of *I Am Not Sidney Poitier* and bring your favorite appetizer to share. Copies of the book are available at the library.



**PERCIVAL EVERETT**

*I Am Not Sidney Poitier*  
Percival Everett

**May 20th**  
**5:30 PM**  
Leyden Town Office





## Recreation Committee

**Pickleball Workshops** for introductory lessons will be continuing. These are workshops run by Doug and Ann Pratt. They will be taking place: **Tuesday April 29 from 6pm until dusk and Sunday May 4 from 1pm until 3.** There is no sign up, just show up ready to learn and play.

The Recreation Committee in collaboration with the Leyden Cultural Council will be sponsoring a **SUMMER SOLSTICE SOIRÉE at the pavilion on Sunday, June 22. Starting at 4:00pm** the NEW ENGLAND SAX AND WIND QUARTET will open with an amazing playlist of popular music from over the past 300 years. Following at 5:30 we would like to bring the community together for a Pot Luck dinner. Bring a favorite dish to share with your neighbors. The Recreation Committee will provide plates, flatware, cups and soft drinks. Please label your dish to let people know if it contains nuts, meat, is vegetarian or vegan. You also may bring your own personal beverage choice.

Please remember that the Avery Pavilion is still available for leasing this season. For reservations please contact Steve Richter at [Reccom@townofleyden.com](mailto:Reccom@townofleyden.com). Rental for a day is just \$125. The facility has a variety of games available and flush toilets. There will also be Wi-Fi availability.

Steve Richter

### Pickleball mystery



Can you identify these mysterious creatures who have been seen on the Pickleball Court?

## Summer Soirée

featuring The New England Sax and Wind Quartet

June 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 4pm

Avery Field Pavillion

Potluck dinner at 5:30

This event is hosted by the Leyden Recreation Committee. This program is funded in part by a grant from the Leyden Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

### Is Pickleball Just a Fad? *(An opinion piece by local pickleballer, Doug Pratt)*

Probably, but unlike hoola-hoops there is a method to the madness. Let's look at why pickleball has become so popular.

The court is smaller than a tennis court and can be covered by a 70-year-old heavy dude with bad knees, or danced across by a martial arts instructor, hitting hard shots over their left shoulder. Either way we will all be impressed—especially if the ball lands in bounds.

Gender is not an issue. The size of the court tends to minimize the stereotypical male advantages, leaving reflex speed, and hand-eye coordination relatively equal. Although, I suppose, a case could be made for the stereotypical larger male having a longer reach, but, I think that's probably balanced by the stereotypical male's arrogance and overconfidence.

Rusty skills from your past will transfer, like the english you put on the ball playing ping pong in the rec hall on base. The tennis you played in college will help too, but the paddle is lighter than a tennis racquet, so the years since then don't matter as much.

It's a social event that introverts and extroverts can both engage in. I've watched introverted players quietly improve their game, then sit on the sidelines and grin, being entertained by the extrovert backslapping, grinning, and making up lies and jokes about excellent games from his past.

It's a great memory exercise. What's the score? Did I just serve? What game are we playing anyway? Which line is the kitchen line? What's your name again?

The rules are simple. For example any ball that lands on any line is in. EXCEPT if it's a serve that lands on the kitchen line—then it's out. Also: you can play the ball from anywhere, even out of bounds, but NOT if you're in the kitchen—UNLESS it bounces first, then you can play it even if you're in the kitchen.

Ready to give it a try? Come on down to the court for an intro session. See the rec committee submission for scheduled times.



## Council on Aging



## Community Lunch

**Wednesday, May 14th at noon in the Town Hall**

**Menu: Shepherd's pie, garlic knots, a salad. and cookies.**

**If you want a to-go lunch or you need a delivery please call Linda Allis (413) 834-4417**

***Not just for seniors - all ages welcome.***

**Walk-In Wellness Clinic. Wednesday, May 14th at 10:30am-12:30pm in the Town Hall**  
Nurse Lisa White is available for wellness checks. To reserve vaccine doses or discuss health concerns, please contact the FRCOG Nurses at 413-774-3167 x156.

***This clinic is for people of all ages.***



**Foot Clinic for Seniors: Monday, June 2nd at the Town Offices.** There is a \$25 co-pay for this service.\* If you cannot make your appointment please call at least 24 hours ahead. If you would like to make an appointment or have to cancel please call **Linda Allis. (413) 834-4417.** *Note: The copay is the amount that remains after a subsidy from the Wells Trust.*

*Appointments are generally 20 minutes long. I provide medically based foot care. An appointment includes assessment of foot structure, health of skin, toenails, circulation and any areas of concern or discomfort of the feet are addressed. Nails are clipped and filed. Dystrophic nails are thinned. Painful corns and calluses are reduced. The visit ends with a brief massage with a specially formulated blend of essential oils. Recommendations to see primary care, podiatry, or wound care are provided as needed.*

- Piper Sagan, R.N.

## Leyden Resources

**Weekly Craft Get-Togethers. Mondays, 1-3pm at the Town Offices.** Knitting, Stitching, Crafts, and more!

Everyone is welcome. No need to respond, just come when you can!

**You CAN get Help With That!** Donna DePretto, Outreach Coordinator at the Bernardston Senior Center, is available to assist Leyden seniors. Donna can help with Fuel Assistance, SNAP applications, electric bills, veteran's questions, Shine appointments, and other issues. She can be reached at **(413) 768-1148** to answer your questions or to schedule a time to meet in person at the Bernardston Senior Center.

**Neighbors Helping Neighbors.** We have community support services in Leyden for people who need support and help for any reason. If you need help with transportation, picking up food or medicine, household help, medical appointments, or a friendly call, you can **contact Amy at 774-6907** or [amy.woodsprite@gmail.com](mailto:amy.woodsprite@gmail.com). If you would like to volunteer to help those who need assistance, contact Amy.

**The next COA meeting is on Tuesday, May 20th at 2pm** at the Town Offices. If you have concerns or ideas that you would like addressed please join us. If you would like to volunteer, we are looking for you!!

**Leyden residents are welcome to attend events and classes at the Bernardston Senior Center.** Activities include meals, art classes, music, games, book groups, and fitness classes for seniors at all levels of physical abilities.

Call (413) 648-5413. Sign up for their E-newsletter at [coa@townofbernardston.org](mailto:coa@townofbernardston.org).

## Demand Response Transportation Service



Demand Response transportation is a curb-to-curb service offered to: Persons 60 years Or older, eligible LifePath, Inc. consumers., veterans with a disability rating of 70% or greater and nursing home residents

An application for service needs to be completed and approved by the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) office before using the service. You may obtain a copy of our application or a brochure describing our service by calling (413) 774-2262 or download from: [www.frtc.org](http://www.frtc.org)

***All fares for the service are suspended for eligible riders until June 30, 2025.***

## LifePath

### Family Caregiver Program

Free information & referral services.

You can receive help in person, virtually, or by phone. Community Options Resource Specialists will listen to your unique situation, provide information, and help you make a plan. Call **413-773-5555**

## Free Spirit 50K on May 17<sup>th</sup>

We're gearing up for the 3rd edition of the Free Spirit 50K! The 30-mile running race starts from the old Town Hall in Leyden and follows a (sublimely!) scenic route through Guilford, Halifax, and Colrain, and back to Leyden. We are expecting around 50 runners for this event. So far, we have 24 entries from MA, VT, CT, NY, NH, RI and ME. We love sharing the beauty of our little town with these folks who have never heard of it. Some of them love the race so much they are coming back for the 3rd time!

This is a small event, but in previous years we have succeeded in making donations to Alzheimer's Research and the Leyden Fire-fighter's Association. You can help too! Here is how:

- By volunteering (at the start / finish or an aid station along the route)
- By cheering on the runners when you see them. It gives them a huge boost.
- By donating a prize! Anything local is great (maple syrup, a carton of eggs?)
- Do you play an instrument? Then come play for a while at the start / finish.

If you're interested, or have any questions or concerns, please get in touch:

Tom Raffensperger: [traffens@gmail.com](mailto:traffens@gmail.com)

Laure Raffensperger: [laurevandenbroeck@gmail.com](mailto:laurevandenbroeck@gmail.com)

*Note: the Heart of Leyden 5K will be held in the fall this year.*

### Photos from the 2023 Free Spirit 50K:



Runners Glenn Caffery and Doug Pratt.



Off to a great start!

Photos by Ben Kimball For more of his photos: <https://northeastracephoto.smugmug.com/2023-Races/Free-Spirit-50K>

Hello Leyden!

The Thursday Night Task Hour has been such a wonderful resource for overwhelming times. Alas, we are winding into the season finale. Come to **The Irritating and Overwhelming Task Hour** through May to put some checks on your list of Things to Do, and to lay eyes on your diligent neighbors. You can do your garden planning, summer camping reservations, vacation budgets, and grant applications. Maybe you've got other things to do that will lead to rewarding experiences.

**Come down to Town Offices**

**May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29th.**

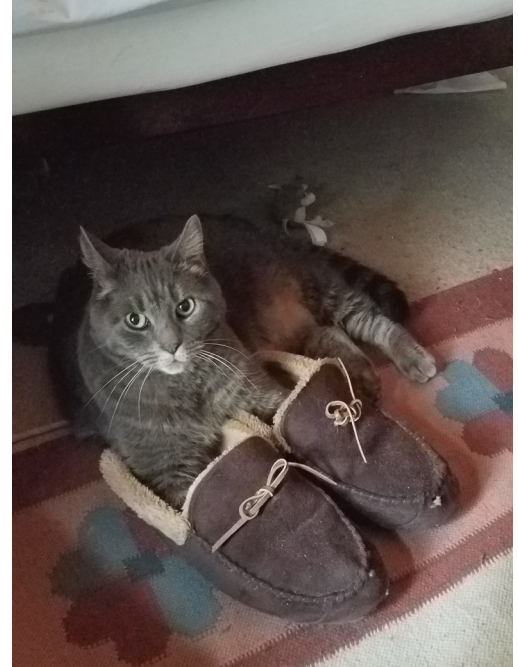
**6 - 7:30 pm**

And when we all head off to our long, hot, summer days of swimming holes and leaving zucchini on each other's cars, don't fret. We will reunite in September to get our groove back together.

Here's to the Green,

Karin Parks, Town Librarian

Pat Williams, Chair, Leyden Cultural Council



**Juney B. in her classic "warming up my paws" spot.**

*Photo by Carolyn Asbury*



*High Leyden Vista*

*Photo by Lisa Limont*

### **May Morning**

by Stephen Vincent Benét

I lie stretched out upon the window-seat  
And doze, and read a page or two, and doze,  
And feel the air like water on me close,  
Great waves of sunny air that lip and beat  
With a small noise, monotonous and sweet,  
Against the window — and the scent of cool,  
Frail flowers by some brown and dew-drenched pool  
Possesses me from drowsy head to feet.

This is the time of all-sufficing laughter  
At idiotic things some one has done,  
And there is neither past nor vague hereafter.  
And all your body stretches in the sun  
And drinks the light in like a liquid thing;  
Filled with the divine languor of late spring.

*Poem submitted by Carolyn Asbury*





**FREE UPCOMING SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP****Soil Analysis, Carbon Sampling and  
Planting for Resilience****Indian Line Farm, Egremont****Friday, May 9 10am – 1pm**

For more information and to register:

<https://www.nofamass.org/series/healthy-soil-through-maximum-biodiversity-farmscape-models-for-resilient-design-using-pollinator-habitat/>



Looking for empty Maxwell House, Folgers and similar coffee cans. Thank you for letting me take them off your hands! —

Devorah Vester

[devorah.vester@gmail.com](mailto:devorah.vester@gmail.com)

**CHARLEMONT FORUM 2025**

Inspiring Lectures | Engaging Dialogue  
[charlemontforum.com](http://charlemontforum.com) | [facebook.com/charlemontforum](https://facebook.com/charlemontforum)



**"A Republic...if  
You Can Keep It":  
Why Your Vote  
(Still) Matters**

Why American democracy is most responsive to the wealthiest and most powerful participants, and the importance of getting involved through voting, organizing, protesting, and speaking

**MAY 8TH | 7:00 PM**

**with Jesse Rhodes at  
Mohawk Regional School**

Professor Jesse Rhodes' work explores politics surrounding voting rights, education, economic and racial inequality, presidential rhetoric, and political parties in the United States. Recent research topics include racial attitudes and beliefs surrounding the January 6th insurrection, perceptions of voting policies among whites, impacts of implicit racism on state judges, partisan bias among jurors, and—most recently—legal consciousness in the LGBTQ+ community.



We are excited to host the 2025 Forum both in person and remotely via Zoom.  
 Visit our Facebook and website to learn more.



This program is supported by the following Cultural Councils: Amherst Buckland, Charlemont/Hawley, Colrain, Conway, Goshen, Heath, Leyden, Plainfield, Rowe, Shelburne

**Charlemont Forum 2025**  
**Inspiring Lectures | Engaging Dialogue**

**May 8th at 7 pm. A Republic... if you can keep it. Why your vote (still) matters.** At Mohawk Trail Regional High School. with Professor Jesse Rhodes discussing why the right to vote is so contested in American politics.

**June 26 at 7 pm. Vision: One Man's Journey with Blindness and Justice.** At the Charlemont Federated Church. Featuring retired appeals court judge, David Tatel who will share his experience sitting on the Washington DC appeals court and discovering he is losing his eyesight.

**July 17 at 7 pm. Dark Skies: Astronomy and the Environment.** At the Charlemont Federated Church. Douglas Arion will tell us why astronomers are the 'canaries in the coalmine' for a number of major environmental issues, including light pollution, climate change, space crowding, and polluting other bodies in space.

**September 18 at 7 pm. Fresh and Local, the Future of Food in New England.** At Mohawk Trail Regional High School in Buckland. A panel discussion about where and how our food is grown, processed, transported and sold.

*The format is generally 45 minutes for the presentation followed by 30 to 45 minutes of lively discussion.*

*Come learn something new, share your ideas and have a fun night out!*



## Unclassified Ads

### Unclassified Ads Policy Statement

We welcome unclassified ads from Town residents, and will run them free of charge (though a small donation would be most welcome.) We will run an ad for one issue unless requested to extend it.

**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 [erikshandy1@yahoo.com](mailto:erikshandy1@yahoo.com). Reasonable rates. Insured.

### Vintage, Ethnic, & Just Plain Good-Looking Fabrics:

Baby quilts, aprons, placemats and runners. All the fabric items you never knew you needed!

Sue Carlson (413-624 3695; [susancarlson455@gmail.com](mailto:susancarlson455@gmail.com))

**Pottery Classes.** Private and group lessons in hand building and wheel throwing are available at my studio in Leyden. \$45.00 per hour and a half class, or \$275 for six classes. The classes do not have to be consecutive. Materials are included. Call or email Rhonda for more info: 413-624-5175 or 413-325-3629 or [rhondawain@verizon.net](mailto:rhondawain@verizon.net)

**I play Irish music on a tenor banjo** and am looking for someone to play with and to give me banjo lessons. Please contact David Pomerantz: [davpome@gmail.com](mailto:davpome@gmail.com). Thanks.

**For Sale:** Westinghouse WGen7500DF 9,500/7,500 Watt Dual Fuel Portable Generator with Remote Start and Transfer Switch Outlet for Home Backup, plus Reliance 10-circuit transfer switch and generator cover. \$700. Paid over \$1400 for it all. Used twice except for monthly 1/2 hr maintenance runs. Easy start up and runs well. Contact Leslie @ [enlakesh@verizon.net](mailto:enlakesh@verizon.net) or text 413-773-0701.



We can give a fair quote **on any** job, no job too big or too small. We have the experience to complete your tasks!

## Support Leyden Farmers

**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!

**Ed's Sugar Shack** has fresh local maple syrup for sale. Available in gallons, half gallons, quarts and pints. Call **773-7619**, Ed Johnson, 72 South County Road, Leyden. Member of Massachusetts Maple Producers Association

**Orchard Valley Farm is now offering Wool blankets** that contain our own wool. "Throw" size is 52x76". Plaid with natural color with a dark gray banding. \$150.00. Also scarves Natural or Dark Gray 9x60". Both were woven in 2024 through our Baaay State Blanket Program. We also have a few sheep skins that were tanned naturally at a Vermont tannery. Natural Lamb available as always. Most cuts. Call 413-624-5562 or email [ovbecky324@gmail.com](mailto:ovbecky324@gmail.com) for more information.

### Quality Soap and Salve at Ninny Nanny Farm!

All-natural, nourishing, locally sourced lard-based goat milk soap. Many lovely scents and styles. Beef tallow balm to soothe and soften your skin. Come see what's new at the Soap Stand at 868 Greenfield Road!"

Patti Lawall at (413)325-1511. [ninnynannyfarm@gmail.com](mailto:ninnynannyfarm@gmail.com)

### For help with: Water Retention features. Rain gardens.

Rainwater Harvesting - barrels and in the soils. Biological Soil Testing. Edible landscaping. Garden sites - no till, in ground garden, garden boxes, etc. Food Forests. Wildflower Meadows. Composting- thermophilic, static, vermicompost. Biological soil drenches - compost teas and extracts Disease and pest management without chemicals - no herbicides, fungicides, or pesticides. Text or call Janell Howard at 385-685-0544 or email [how2grolandscapes@gmail.com](mailto:how2grolandscapes@gmail.com)

New Ad

**Come join our coop!** The principal goal of our coop is to support local organic produce and products by purchasing in bulk. We welcome all! Let me know if you are interested in joining us. You can reach me (Devorah) at 617.331.1598 or [devorah.vester@gmail.com](mailto:devorah.vester@gmail.com) for more information.

## Contacting the Police

**Emergency – Dial 911** **Non-Emergency** but would like a call from a duty officer: Call **(413) 648-9208 or (413) 625-8200.** (A dispatcher will answer these numbers.)

**Non-Emergency and you want to request information or report something that doesn't need immediate attention, please email us at** [police@townofbernardston.org](mailto:police@townofbernardston.org). (Note: emails are normally answered daily, but may take a few days with the Chief's days off.)