

LEYDEN LIFE

LEYDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

JUNE 2025

Select Board Report

Can you believe we are entering the sixth month of the year, where does the time go! The Select Board and Finance Committee have met weekly over the past few months to determine the town's budget and articles for the Annual Town Meeting. Our report this month summarizes the recommendations we are bringing forward for your consideration and vote. We hope to see and hear from you at this opportunity to participate in this most direct form of democracy.

Town Meetings

Our Annual Town Meeting is **June 2nd at 5:30pm for the Special Town Meeting** (to clean up our accounts and pay overlooked bills from past years) **and 6:00pm for the Annual Town Meeting held at the Town Hall.** Warrants have been posted on the website, Town Office Bulletin Board and Robertson Memorial Library. 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 have had a trial run of all the equipment and procedures for virtual participants, however there may be some glitches during the meeting, and we ask for your patience. The access for virtual participation is: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82566120160>. This is a step in our efforts to facilitate more participation and make the Town Meetings more accessible to all.

The warrant has twenty-seven (27) articles; many are the usual ones that we are required to vote on every year. A **consent agenda vote** for six of these standard articles will be introduced to decrease the time required to read and vote on each of the articles. There are **spending articles through raise and appropriate** to be voted on: \$2,222,172.80 for the operating budget – 5.08% increase, \$1,500 for the Land Acquisition Fund, and \$3,000 for the Audit Fund. Articles to **transfer from Free Cash:** \$4,000 into Conservation Commission Knotweed project, \$10,000 into the Audit Fund, \$75,000 into Highway Stabilization account, \$10,000 into Fire Development Fund, \$47,000 into Fire Stabilization account, \$15,000 into Police Capital Stabilization account, and \$26,157.36 into General Stabilization account. **Other money articles** include a transfer of \$35,000 from the Town Building Stabilization account for Town Office roof repair. Also, a vote on the Municipal Light Plant (MLP) balanced (equal expense and revenue) budget of \$355,150; and transfers from the MLP Certified Retained Earnings to pay down debt and add to its Stabilization account.

(Select Board Report, continues on page 2)

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

Town Coordinator

Tuesday through Thursday

8:30am to 4:30pm

(413) 774-4111 ext. 1

Fax: (413) 772-0146

towncoord@townofleyden.com

Town Clerk

Mondays: 3:00 - 6:00pm

To make an appointment:

townclerk@townofleyden.com

Tax Collector

Monday: 4:30 - 7:30pm

To make an appointment

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

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)

In addition to the money articles, there are **three General Bylaw articles**. One corrects the language in the vote taken last year regarding the change to the Annual Town Report from a calendar year to a fiscal year. A second General Bylaw allows the town to deny licenses, permits, renewals or transfers, when the applicant or owner of the property owes town taxes or fees. The last General Bylaw establishes the Revolving Funds and accepts the funds for this fiscal year. This Bylaw was passed several years ago but was never registered with the Attorney General's Office, so it has to be revoted.

The much discussed Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Bylaw and other Planning Board Bylaws are not on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, however a Special Town Meeting for these Bylaws will be scheduled within the next months.

Announcements

- Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, June 3rd for elected town officials and on the question of changing assessors from elected to appointed positions. See the Town Clerk's report on page 3 for details.
- 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.
- The Town Office, Town Hall, Fire and Highway Department buildings have undergone upgrades for energy efficiency paid for through the Green Communities funds.
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Nondiscrimination and Grievance policies have been approved and are posted on the website.
- Andrea Rasmussen has been appointed to the Conservation Commission for a term ending 2028.
- Ginny Rockwood has been appointed as a Constable for a term ending in 2026
- Arthur Tuttle has been appointed to the Deerfield River Wild & Scenic River Study Committee. Thanks to the Massachusetts Woodlands Partnership and the National Partnership for funding this study.
- Hold onto your dogs – there has been an uptick of unleashed dogs wandering the roads and throughout town. This is dangerous for the dog and for those traveling on the roads.
- The Mass in Motion grant this year funded improvements to Avery Field: purchased handicapped accessible picnic tables; materials to create a walking path with the work done by the Highway Department; and handicapped parking signs as well as other repairs required for ADA compliance.
- Our Cultural Council provides funds for art, music, and cultural events each year. Requests for proposals are due in October and the Select Board urges people to consider submitting proposals that could enhance the town, such as town welcome signs, murals in town buildings, or other types of art projects in town buildings or on town property. See the Cultural Council report on page 10 for more information.

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. Now is also the right time to consider serving on the town committees and boards if you haven't before. Many of our committees have one year terms, if you are on a committee and are unsure about your term, or if you wish to volunteer to serve on a committee contact towncoord@townofleyden.com. **An abundance of gratitude for all those that volunteer!**

Condolences to the friends and families of Paul O'Neil who died unexpectedly and Greg Doyle who died in May after a long illness.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Baker, Erica Jensen, Katherine DiMatteo

Leyden Select Board



Proud father David Curtis, Greenfield Road would like to announce his youngest son Henry David Lanoue Curtis is a Graduate of the University of Massachusetts Isenberg School of Management with a BA in Finance.

David GB Curtis



Photo submitted by Carolyn Asbury

Town Clerk

New Office Hours: The town clerk office hours have changed to Monday from 3 – 6 PM or by appointment. Contact the office by emailing Town-Clerk@TownOfLeyden.Com or calling 413-774-4111 Ext: 3.

Board of Registrar: Leyden's Board of Registrars, also known as the Board of Registrars of Voters, plays a vital role in ensuring fair and accurate elections within the Town. The Board oversees voter registration, election administration and ensuring election integrity along with the town clerk. We are looking for registered Republicans to serve on the Board. It requires minimal time and no experience, but it does require a desire to help ensuring election integrity. Contact the Town Clerk to discuss or to get more information.

Town Special and Annual Meetings: The **Special Town Meeting** will be held on **Monday June 2nd, 2025 at 5:30 PM**. It will be followed by the **Annual Town Meeting at 6:00 PM** on the same day. The article warrants for each meeting will be posted online and at the Town Offices as well as Town Hall.

Local Elections Reminder: The Leyden local elections will take place on **Tuesday, June 3rd from noon-8pm at Town Offices building**. A sample ballot will be posted at various locations inside the Town Offices building as well as online. If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk's office by phone or email.

Vitals Certificate: Due to the limited office hours and allowing sufficient time to locate the required information and to process the same, when seeking for a birth, marriage, or death certificate, we request that you email or call ahead with your details to better serve you. Please allow at least a week to get the certificate processed. The fee structure:

Birth, Marriage or Death: \$10.00 for each copy
(For example, if you want 6 then the fee is \$60.00)

Marriage Intention (license) & Marriage Certificate: \$25.00

A check made out to the "Town of Leyden" at the time of pickup is required.

George Stephan

LEYDEN LIFE LOWDOWN

Easy Submission

Submit by email: 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, 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) to verify information regarding town business or activities.

The Leyden Historical Commission

Invites you for Coffee, Snacks and Conversation

Coffee and History

Sunday, June 8th and Sunday, June 22nd

10am - noon

7 Brattleboro Road, Town Office



Join us on the 2nd & 4th Sundays each month

Thanks to

Bernice Brooks

for a contribution this month.



Town Moderator's Note About Annual Town Meeting

Our **Annual Town Meeting** is coming up on **June 2 at 6pm. The Special Town Meeting starts at 5:30.** This year we are taking our first try at remote access. Our hope is to allow anyone to view, hear and participate (with the exception of voting) in real time from the comfort of home. There is a fair amount of technology involved, and this being the maiden voyage, please expect glitches. I can only say that we are trying and will make improvements as the years go by. Also though this will help people who can't physically get to the meeting to participate, I encourage you to get to town hall if at all possible. With a rich history, our town meetings are an opportunity to sit in a room together with your neighbors, get a chance to say hello, share your opinions, and take care of our town's business.

Hope to see you on the 2nd and thanks.

Jack Golden

Planning Board

The Planning Board would like to thank the 30 people who turned out for our public hearing on our proposed bylaw revisions, related primarily to Accessory Dwelling Units. Your questions and comments are being taken into consideration as we prepare our final warrant articles. At the request of the Select Board and Town Moderator, these bylaw revisions will be taken up at a special town meeting, probably in July or August.

Due to the zoning changes required by the Afford Homes Act that the state passed last year, most towns are updating their zoning bylaws. We have reached out to the Attorney General's office with our questions and are receiving advice on how to approach the preparation of our warrant articles. Some of those articles will require a 2/3rds majority vote and some will require a simple majority vote. As the Asst. Attorney General that we talked to said, there are many grey areas they are still considering and reviewing as they make recommendations to towns. Waiting a little bit longer to adopt the zoning bylaw provisions is allowing us to get more input from the State on how to stay in compliance with the state laws.

Be on the lookout for an announcement of the date for a special town meeting. If you have any questions, please contact us at Planboard@townofleyden.com.

Local Teen Competes in American Miss Pageant

Amber Kowal 16, daughter of Becky Snow Kowal and granddaughter of Valerie Snow has been selected to compete in the Massachusetts Teen National American Miss pageant July 5-7, 2025 in Springfield, MA.

Amber will compete in four overall categories including Formal wear modeling, Personal introduction, Interview and Community Service Project.

National American Miss is dedicated to celebrating America's greatness and encouraging its future leaders. Emphasis is placed on the importance of gaining self-confidence and learning new skills, such as good attitudes about competition, as well as setting and achieving personal goals.

Amber needs to raise \$1,000 in sponsorships in order to compete as Ms. Leyden. As a potential sponsor, you are being asked to help her participate in the state pageant. As a sponsor, you or your organization's name will be featured beside her photo in the State Yearbook. The sponsorship is tax deductible for businesses as an advertising expense. Checks should be payable to National American Miss with Amber Kowal in the memo line and can be mailed to 200 Mid County Road, Leyden, MA 01337. If you would prefer to make a donation on line by credit card please go to <https://iam.buzz/olc3ik>

Thank you for your time and for helping Amber realize her dreams!



Fire Department

A reminder to our neighbors: if you need help, call 911.

Using 911 ensures proper dispatch response, that the call will be correctly documented, and if needed, appropriate mutual aid can be called. Using 911 helps the incident commander manage the scene and get the right resources to the location faster. It is safer for the public, and for first responders, alike.

We would much rather you call for help as soon as you think you might need it, than for you to wait until a situation gets worse.

The personal phone number of a member of the Fire Department, including the chief, is not the appropriate way to call for a response. If you are reaching out about a nonemergency situation, please allow time for us to respond. We all work full time as well. Thank you for your understanding.

We have been seeing an increase in the region's wildfires. Please be cautious with any activities that may pose a threat of igniting a fire.

Leyden Fire is pleased to report that two of our firefighters, Caleb Howard and Samantha Wood, completed the Tri State Fire Training Basic 6 Course on May 10, with the live fire exercise. The day included several interior burns in Sunderland Fire Department's training burn trailers, with lessons inside related to reading fire behavior, flow path, heat tolerance, and keeping a level head. It was a great day.

The Tri State Basic 6 is a regional training powerhouse of experience and attention to educational technique in bringing along new firefighters so they build skills, strength, cooperation, and knowledge of incident command, safety, search and rescue, and hands-on firefighting. We are lucky to have this program and the many instructors who work to improve it each time.

Firefighters worked on pump training with Engine 1 at the West Leyden hydrant on the evening of May 13th. Matthew Muka led the crew in reviewing the pump functions, safe operation, adapters and hose fittings. You can expect to see us out and about for training more now that the days are longer.

Members of the Leyden Fire Department were happy to pitch in at the Free Spirit 50k race on May 17, working an aid station, and helping out at the finish. This ultra race traces a beautiful course north from the Leyden Town Hall and back again, and draws friendly runners from around the country and internationally as well. It was a very enjoyable day and a great way to meet some new folks and welcome them to town. We are very fortunate to have this local race, organized by Laure and Tom Van den Broeck Raffensperger.

Stay safe and take care of each other.

Submitted by Firefighter Samantha Wood



Upper left: Basic 6 graduation

Lower left: Pump training with Sam

Upper right: Basic 6 Burn Day

Lower right: Pump training with Chief Barton

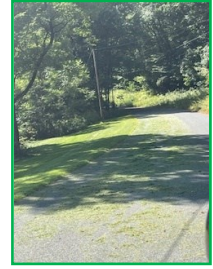
Photos submitted by Samantha Wood

Police Department

During our patrols, we see a lot of people out walking or bicycling. In some areas, this sneaks up on you so please use caution when driving and share the road safely. With the warmer weather, road use will increase and we're all responsibly to use care.

Another area of concern, is when our lawns are being mowed and the grass is being blown into the roadway. Please refrain from doing this. This does cause a safety hazard and potential injuries to our motorcycle and bicycling traffic.

Please don't be this person...



Reprint...we continue to process firearm licenses throughout the year and receive numerous daily phone calls regarding such. With the ever-changing rules and laws, I wanted to inform everyone where you could find a lot of these questions online. The best site is through the MA Firearms Record Bureau at <https://www.mass.gov/firearms-services>. Here, you will find everything you'll need. Another newer change in applying for a New or Renewal, is the online Portal site, found here; <https://mircsportal.chs.state.ma.us/mircs-portal/login.xhtml>. If using the portal, please use Bernardston for agency or town applying through. The fees for applying for a firearms license is \$100. Residents 70 years of age and older are Free to renew. Please make checks out to "Town of Bernardston". It is easier for us to process and track for when the State invoices us for payment. If using a hard copy application (not online), please fill out completely and drop off at the Bernardston Police Department for processing. We do have a Drop-Box if we're not present.

During the upcoming months, we will continue our daily patrols and radar enforcement throughout town. We will also be setting up our Radar Trailer, when weather allows. If you feel your neighborhood needs extra attention, please contact us through email to request this. Our general contact is police@townofbernardston.org. If you need to speak with a duty officer, simply call (413) 648-9208. If we don't answer, as we could be out patrolling, a dispatcher will answer and get the message to us. This is for non-emergencies, but quicker communication than an email.

We are also applying for another safety grant to enforce motor vehicle traffic laws. If approved, this will allow extra traffic patrols in your communities, dedicated to motor vehicle violations.

March and April 2025			
Dedicated Patrols and Radar Enforcement Duties	265	Medical Emergencies	9
Motor violations	17	Building Checks	43
Miscellaneous Calls for Services: Assist citizen, alarms, animal complaints, complaints, check welfare, DCF/Juvenile invests, frauds/scams, harassment, paperwork service, suspicious activity, safety hazards, unwanted persons, officer wanted, threats, vandalism, and general services.			81

Chief James E. Palmeri

(413)648-9208 Station (413)648-0244 Fax (413)625-8200 24hr Dispatch

Police Advisory Committee

The Leyden representatives on this committee are Liz Kidder, Emily Yazwinski, Erica Jensen, and Ginger Robinson.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee will be at **11am on Tuesday, June 17th**.

If anyone has comments or concerns about Leyden's agreement for police services with Bernardston, please contact us at Publicsafety@townofleyden.com.



Photo to the left.

GPS and Rural Roads! An 18-wheeler got stuck trying to back up on Alexander Road. For the 2nd time, google maps sent a semi down North County Road to get to Brattleboro!

Photo by Carolyn Asbury

Board of Health

It's difficult to think of sunscreen on days like today, but nicer days are coming. Skin cancer is the fifth most common cancer in the U.S. Sunscreen reduces risk of certain skin cancers, protects against skin damaging effects of UV radiation, and helps prevent premature aging.

There are two kinds of sunscreen, chemical and physical (mineral). Chemical sunscreens are absorbed into the top layer of the skin, absorb UV rays and convert them into energy before they do damage. Examples of chemical sunscreens are avobenzone, oxybenzone, and octinoxate. Some of these are banned in certain vacation spots because of the negative environmental impact on coral reef beds. Physical sunscreens sit on the skin to reflect the sun's rays. Examples of physical (mineral) sunscreens are zinc oxide and titanium dioxide.

Sunscreens only last so long and need to be reapplied. Depending on the UV index for the day, an SPF of 30-50 is the most recommended. Sunscreens come in creams, lotions and sprays. Some of the ingredients can cause allergic reactions. Certain health conditions may warrant one type over another. The best sunscreen is an individual choice based on your activity and skin sensitivity.

New England can get storms of different types and magnitude all year long. Be prepared for your family and pets.

Resources for Emergency Preparedness:

Massachusetts Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management (OPEM) <https://www.mass.gov/stay-aware-be-prepared>

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/emergency-information>
Ready.gov <https://www.ready.gov/>

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) <https://www.fema.gov/>

If you need assistance searching these sites, figuring out what information to have on hand and where and how to keep it, the BOH may be able to assist you. Please reach out.

Thank you to the men and women who gave their lives in service to our country. We honor them on Memorial Day. We have our Democracy because of them, and all who have stood up to serve.

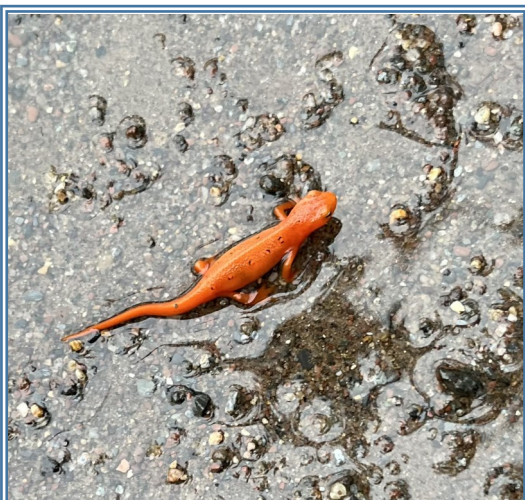
I thank you for allowing us to serve you on the Board of Health.

Beth Kuzdeba
413-774-2820

Marcia Miller

Devorah Vester

Boh@townofleyden.com



Red Eft

Photo by Karen O'Neil

Quilling classes by Nan Rolstad

I will be offering four quilling classes in the months of June and July.

- Classes will be open to anyone age 10 and over
- Tools and materials will be supplied

Saturday, June 14th 10am - 1pm

Saturday, June 28th 10am - 1pm

Saturday, July 12th 10am - 1pm

Saturday, July 26th 10am - 1pm

At the Leyden Town Offices
7 Brattleboro Road

Class size is limited to 10 people.

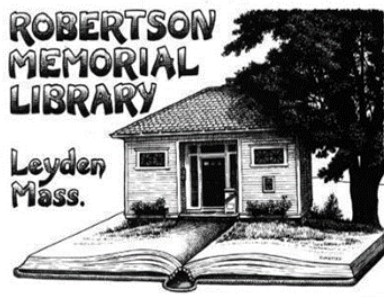
Please sign up in advance:

nannetterolstad@gmail.com or 413-512-7283



These events are sponsored by a grant
from the Leyden Cultural Council.





Library Hours:

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

"In early June the world of leaf and blade and flowers explodes,
and every sunset is different."

— John Steinbeck, *The Winter of Our Discontent*

A Note from the Trustee

The next few months will be busy for the library!

There will be multiple library programs to watch out for this summer. Jonathan Kranz, the host of our great mushroom program, will be back, and this time he will lead people on a foraging expedition. Be on the lookout for a date!

Level Up at Your Library, summer reading is just around the corner! Cosmic Wimpout, a game with a deep history in Leyden, will be the star of this year. We'll open up with a fun introduction for all ages on **Tuesday, July 1st, at 6 pm**. We'll wrap up our summer with a Cosmic Wimpout tournament and fun on **Thursday, August 21 at 3 pm**. Summer reading signups and forms will be ready soon!

Our book club has been very successful. In June, we will be reading poetry by Emily Dickinson and will take a field trip to her home in Amherst. We are organizing a date now. Please email Karin at library@townofleyden.com if you are interested in joining us. We'll be taking a break from book club for the summer.

Along with the flowers, Little Free Libraries will be popping up around town soon. Thank you to the highway department for installing these and also creating a nice new handicapped parking space at the library!

Make sure you take a look at the beautiful art piece on display at the library. This watercolor piece was created by Luz, a young Leyden resident. Luz hopes to organize an exhibit in town filled with work from young artists.

We are in the homestretch of getting set with CWMARS! We should be ready for patron registrations this summer. To celebrate, we will be planning a big celebration!

We hope to see you at one or ALL the upcoming events. Thank you, Karin, for all your planning and hard work!

The Trustees,

Vanessa Russell, Pat Little, and Tom Raffensperger

Karin Parks

library@townofleyden.com

(413)773-9334

Recreation Committee

Summer Solstice Soirée. 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 4pm** the New England Sax and Wind Quartet will open with an amazing playlist of popular hits from over the past 300 years. Following **at 5:30 we would like to invite the community to a Potluck Dinner.** Bring a favorite dish to share with your neighbors. Please label your dish to let others know if it contains nuts, meat, is vegetarian or vegan. The Recreation Committee will provide plates, flatware, cups, and soft drinks. Feel free to bring your own personal beverage choice.

Pickleball. After a series of successful Pickleball introductory lessons, despite uncooperative weather, participants decided to begin Open Play at the courts Mondays and Wednesdays, from 9 to 11 am. Open play means players of all skill levels are welcome. This will let players know of a time when others will be there to make up a game. If you have questions about open play please call Doug Pratt at (413) 522-0890 or Ann Pratt at (413) 834-4559.

Tai Ji Quan. An introductory course in *Tai Ji Quan Movement for Better Balance* which has been co-sponsored by the COA and RecCom will be finishing up at the end of the month. The participants in this course have requested to continue on with the second installment of this course. The RecCom and the COA have decided to continue the sponsorship of this class. Beginning **Thursday, June 12th, Tai Ji Quan Part 2 will be held at the Avery Field Pavilion on Tuesday & Thursday mornings from 9-10am. This is open to residents of Leyden at no cost** and nonresidents will be asked for a suggested donation of \$5 per class. This 12-week course is provided by the Franklin County YMCA.

Thank you. The Recreation Committee would like to thank John Higgins, Richard Parks, Ella Muka, and Abbi Pratt for taking their time on a beautiful Saturday morning in April to assist with the opening of the pavilion for the season.

We also are grateful to the town's Highway Department, Bill Brooks, A J Egloff, and David Brooks for their assistance with a broken underground water pipe and some ongoing improvements to the field and pavilion.

Last but not least, we want to thank Jeff Miller for fixing a split pipe in the pavilion and his help in sanitizing the water system. It is wonderful to live in a town where people are so happily willing to help.

Trails. There had been some interest in the hiking trails in Leyden as expressed in responses to the Open Space and Recreation survey. If you are interested in seeing how we as a community might improve Leyden's hiking trails please contact me, Steve Richter at reccom@townofleyden.com.

Steve Richter



Leyden Cultural Council

Summer has finally arrived in our little corner of the world, and with it a wealth of events for us all to get out and enjoy. Here are some of them, supported in part by the Leyden Cultural Council:

Saturday June 7th: Gay Pride Parade at 12pm in downtown Greenfield. (See page 8 for more information.)

Check <https://www.franklincountypride.org/> for details.

Saturday, June 16th at 5pm. Mohawk Trail Concerts' summer season begins with the first of six **chamber music concerts** at the **Charlemont Federated Church**. For more information pick up a flyer at the Robertson Library, or check the website: <https://www.mohawktrailconcerts.org/>

Sunday, June 22nd: Summer Soiree in Leyden! The New England Sax and Wind Quartet, beginning at **4pm at Avery Ball Field**. **Potluck supper at 5:30pm.**

Thursday, June 26th: Charlemont Forum: "Vision: One Man's Journey with Blindness and Justice" at 7pm at the Charlemont Federated Church. For more details check <https://www.charlemontforum.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/charlemontforum/>

Sunday, June 29th: Pioneer Valley Symphony Sumer Pops Concert! 5pm, outdoors at the Northfield Golf Pavilion. A family event! For more details: pvsoc.org

Friday, July 4th: Annual Jazz Concert, at 5pm, at the Charlemont Federated Church. By donation – no advance tickets needed. For more information pick up a flyer at the Robertson Library, or check the website: <https://www.mohawktrailconcerts.org/>

Also, see **Nan Rolstad's Quilling Class** announcement (on page 7) for more information and dates of Saturday classes in June and July.

These events are funded in part by grants from the Leyden Cultural Council



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 30th 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.

Council on Aging

Community Lunch

Wednesday, June 11th at noon in the Town Hall

Menu: American Chop Suey, garlic knots, salad. and cookies.

If you want a to-go meal ready for you to pick up please call Linda Allis (413) 834-4417

Not just for seniors - all ages welcome.

Walk-In Wellness Clinic. Wednesday, June 11th at 10:30am-12:30pm in the Town Hall. Nurse Lisa White is available for wellness checks. To 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 at the time of your appointment.

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.

The next COA meeting is on Tuesday, June 17th 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 join the COA, we are looking for new members!!

Rainbow Elders: LGBTQIA+ Socializing, Support, and Resources

Lunch: Thursday, June 12, from noon - 1:30 pm at the South County Senior Center, 22 Amherst Road (Rte. 116), Sunderland

On the second Thursday of the month, enjoy a noontime meal with other LGBTQIA+ people 60 years of age and older. Elders can be joined for lunch by their spouse of any age, or an individual with a disability who lives in the same household as the elder. A donation of \$3 will be suggested to elders able to pay, and those under 60 will be charged a fee that will be based on the full cost of providing the meal. Additional program donations are always welcomed. The event is supported by the Older Americans Act, the MA Executive Office of Aging & Independence, and LifePath.

Virtual gathering: Thursday, June 5, from 1 - 2:30 pm.

Connect with other LGBTQIA+ elders, friends, and providers—in the comfort of your home via Zoom (phone or computer). We chat, share support and resources, reflect upon our LGBTQIA+ experience, and connect with friends new and old.

Instructions for joining virtual gatherings are available at the Rainbow Elders website.

Potluck: June 26, from 1-2:30 PM at the Greenfield Public Library, 412 Main St., Greenfield. Those wishing to attend should plan for 10 people, if preparing a dish.

For more information about these events, to sign up for the Rainbow Elders Newsletter, and for a variety of resources:

<https://lifepathma.org/what-we-offer/health-and-wellness/rainbow-elders/>

Demand Response Transportation Service

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. For an application or a brochure describing the service, call (413) 774-2262 or download from:

www.frta.org

Fares for the service are free for eligible riders until June 30, 2025.



**Call us at:
413-773-5555**

Available services include

- Healthy Living program
- Behavioral Health Services
- Benefits Counseling
- Phone Pals
- Nutrition education and consultations
- Caregiver Grants (caring for older adults or grandchildren)

COA, continued from page 11

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!

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.
If you would like to volunteer to help, contact Amy.

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.

A few highlights from the Bernardston Senior Center Activities

Living After Loss Bereavement Group. Friday June 6th and 20th at 11:00.

Open to individuals who have recently suffered a loss and seek a compassionate environment to navigate the complexities of grief. Call Donna, Outreach Coordinator at 768-1148

Every **Thursday at 10:45am The Romeo's will be playing your favorite tunes.** Come to listen or to sing along!

Building an Age & Dementia-Friendly Community, Tuesday, June 17th at 11:30am

All are welcome to attend this info session! Donna DePretto will present information on how we can work together to build a welcoming community for all. We will provide lunch from a local restaurant. Sign up in advance: 413-768-1148.

Charlemont Forum 2025 Inspiring Lectures | Engaging Dialogue

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!

For more information: <https://www.charlemontforum.org/>

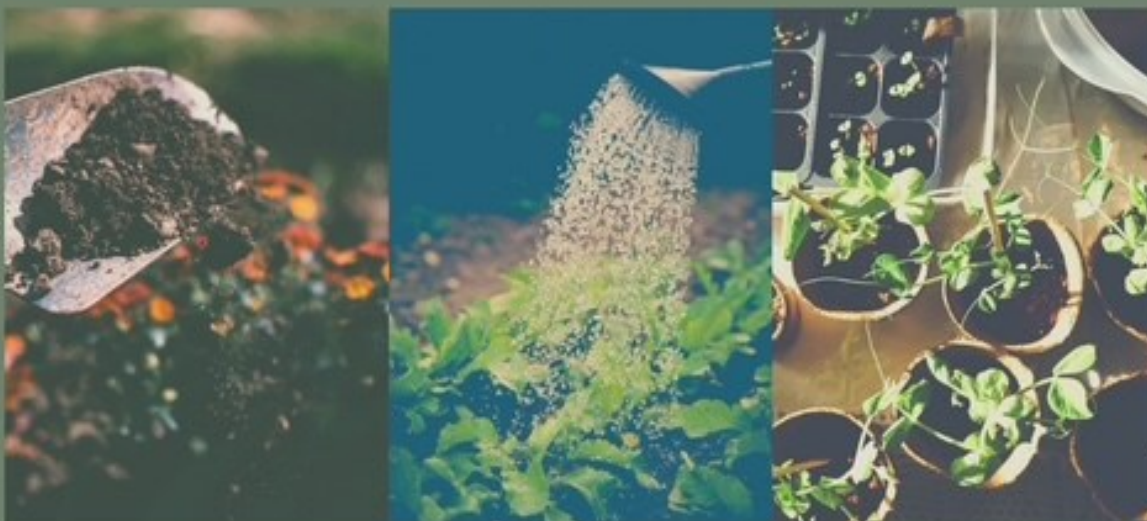
These events are sponsored in part by a grant from the Leyden Cultural Council.



BIOLOGICAL COMPOST WORKSHOP

Come learn:

- How to make your own biologically active compost using thermophilic conditions
- How to build, monitor, and manage piles to create microbe rich compost
- The role microbes play in unlocking nutrients in your soil



Saturday June 7th at 10am - 1pm
79 S Schoolhouse Rd Leyden, MA
\$45

For more information contact Janell Howard at
how2grolandscapes@gmail.com

*Bring food, water, and a camp chair, this
is outside.*



Open Space and Recreation Committee

The Open Space and Recreation Committee is thrilled that 137 individuals have completed their surveys providing detailed feedback about the community's values related to open space and recreation. In-person interviews will be offered this summer to anyone who would like to share their ideas about land preservation, recreation, affordable housing, or building community. New committee members are also welcome. If you are interested in being interviewed or serving on the committee, contact Pam Brown, Chair at pambrown01301@gmail.com for more information. Future town-wide meetings will be held this fall and winter to provide your input as goals for the community are developed. Look for a summary of the survey and notes from the Community Listening Session on the town website in the next few weeks.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan establishes goals and objectives to guide the Town in its decisions affecting open space, but it is not a legally binding document. A final draft of the plan will be brought to the full town for approval in 2026. This is not a plan for large-scale acquisitions of land by the Town, but it may recommend protection of specific areas, or their acquisition for public use. It can help preserve our heritage and plan for future needs, ensure space for recreation, and safeguard the rural character of Leyden.

CLIMATE CORNER

Dad was a chemical engineer, a fiscal conservative and social moderate, a man who practiced civic engagement. In the time after his death, I came across a 50's era journal article among his papers. It linked fossil fuels with increasing amounts of CO₂ in the atmosphere, at a time when CO₂ was already known to act as the glass in a greenhouse retaining heat in the air below. While I didn't know when this became a concern for him, I did know that his summers away from professorial work took him to Los Alamos, not to work in nuclear research, but to focus on water pollution associated with coal mining. He was driven by a desire for hopeful change, especially environmental change.

In the present, our chief executive has signed orders to slash employment and programs which benefit our environment such as wind projects and methane monitoring. At the same time he has promoted the "revitalization" of the coal industry, but there remain reasons for hope. For instance:

- Rapid advancements in electric batteries with a range of 500 miles/charge and charging times in a matter of minutes. ([greencars.com](https://www.greencars.com))
- A prediction that by century's end, wind is expected to be the 2nd largest source of global renewable energy generation, behind solar photovoltaics, ahead of hydropower. ([iea.org/energy/renewables/wind](https://www.iea.org/energy/renewables/wind))

"Rapid adaptation of clean energy technologies limiting emissions growth (which has avoided) 2.6 billion tonnes (metric) of additional CO₂ emissions/yr. in 2024" Although emissions continued to rise, the increase was at a slower rate than in 2023. ([iea.org/reports/global-energy-review-2025](https://www.iea.org/reports/global-energy-review-2025))

The move away from fossil fuels continues; it will require hope and action to increase the pace of change.

Karen O'Neil

Above: *Jack-In-The-Pulpit*

Submitted by Annie Garvey

Celebrate National Pollinator Week June 19th-25th

Join with others across the country to celebrate pollinators and spread the word about what we can do to protect them!

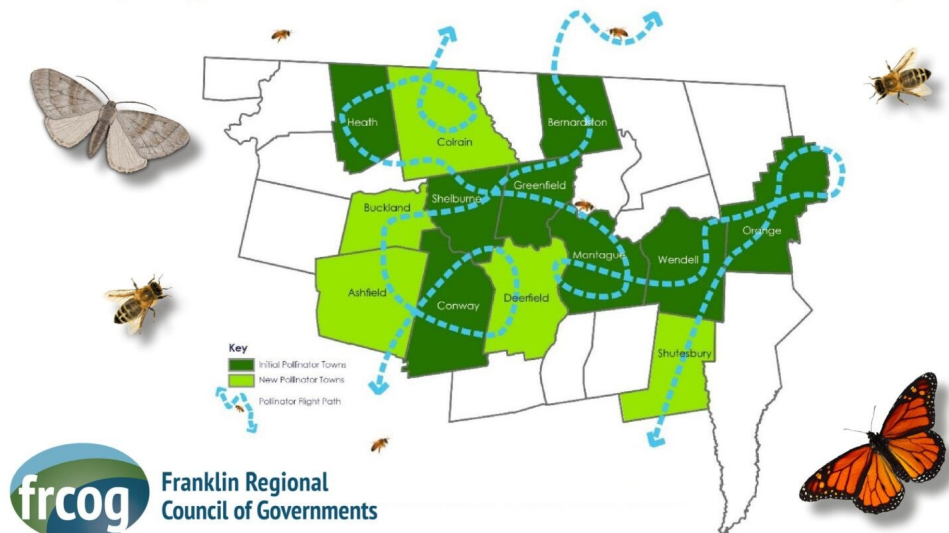
- Visit <https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week> to find **information and activities for all ages.**
- Read the **Regional Pollinator Plan for Franklin County, Pollinator Toolkit**, and existing **Town Action Plans** at frcog.org/publications/regional-and-local-pollinator-plans/.
- If your town already worked with the FRCOG to develop a Pollinator Action Plan, **register for a workshop** to share about pollinator efforts in your town and learn from other communities.

The workshop will be held via Zoom on **Tuesday, June 27th at 2pm**

Please register in advance at: bit.ly/fcpollinator

- **Join the pollinator planning conversation!** The FRCOG is expanding the Regional Pollinator Plan to five new towns starting this summer. If you live in **Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Deerfield, or Shutesbury**, please contact your Town Administrator to express your interest.

Participating Towns in the Franklin County Pollinator Corridor Project



Franklin County Pride Festival & Block Party

Saturday, June 7th

Pride Parade, noon - 1pm Pride Festival, 1- 4:30pm

Come be part of the fun at this joyful, celebratory, family friendly event! The parade marches down Federal Street to Energy Park in downtown Greenfield. Multiple groups and performers play music during the parade - from drummers to horn players and DJs playing festive pop music. The Franklin County Pride Festival occurs after the parade, featuring guest speakers, musical performances, circus performers and face painting.

<https://www.franklincountypride.org/>

Franklin County Pride Festival

Pamela Means ● Indë ● Mz.October

B-52.0s ● Queer Joy Chorus ● Wylder Ayres

Millz Saint Morta ● Two Wrong Turns

Miss Christine ● Nanoli Brennet ● Tim Caira

Mz.Clementine KuLayd ● Forrest Fleur

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. 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)

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

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. 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 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 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 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

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

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 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. (Note: emails are normally answered daily, but may take a few days with the Chief's days off.)