

LEYDEN LIFE

LEYDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

July 2025

Select Board Report

We waited and waited and then summer finally arrived in full force. Be alert for heat warnings. If you have to be outdoors, take precautions to protect yourself. Check on neighbors, especially those who have health conditions, limited mobility and/or live alone. The town website will post alerts on extreme heat days and where and when you can find cooling centers.

Thanks to all who attended the Annual and Special Town Meetings. We had strong **in-person attendance – 59 at the Annual and 32 at the Special Town Meetings including 3 virtual participants**. We extend apologies for the abrupt cut-off of the virtual participants due to the computer losing power. We would like to hear about your experience as a virtual participant. We know that there are improvements to make, and your input would be helpful.

Despite no contested elections this year, you turned out. **By a majority you voted to change from elected assessors to appointed assessors**. This change will not impact on those currently elected until their terms end; therefore the first appointment will be next year. The Town Clerk report on page X includes the statistics on the [election](#).

More meetings to come in July, mark your calendars so that your thoughts, suggestions and votes are counted. The Planning Board has been working on changes to our Zoning Bylaws to clear them up and to address issues that had previously not been on the table. Several public hearings have been held and now those Bylaws are ready for a vote. A **Special Town Meeting is scheduled for July 16th at 6pm on Zoning Bylaw articles** presented by the Planning Board. **See page 2 for more information**. Virtual participation for comments and questions will again be available.

As you may know, we have a grant to look at and research ways that we can share our town's services with Bernardston as we have done with police services. The costs and requirements of running our small towns is getting burdensome and we are looking for how to minimize the costs and maximize services. The **Leyden/Bernardston Regionalization Committee** with the Collins Center will have a **public forum on July 31st from 6-8pm** at The Farm Table in Bernardston to share our work thus far and hear from you. There will be food so please come to help shape the future of our towns.

(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

Let July be July. Let August be August. And let yourself just be even in the uncertainty. You don't have to fix everything. You don't have to solve everything. And you can still find peace and grow in the wild of changing things.

Morgan Harper Nichols

(Select Board Report, continued from page 1)

Announcements:

- **Erica Jensen** will serve as **chair of the Select Board** this year. Katherine and Jeff welcome her leadership.
- The **Highway Department has a new seasonal worker** – Nathan Smith. Much thanks to Paul Zimmerman for his many years of service and best wishes.
- **Fire Department submitted a grant** from State Farm Insurance through the National Volunteer Firefighters Association for equipment. Thanks to Samantha Wood for writing this grant and submitting it under a short timeline.
- Thanks to the efforts of our Treasurer, Susan Bobe, **the town has an official credit card**. This should facilitate easier purchasing from vendors who will not send invoices to the town. The Select Board has approved a use policy for management and oversight of the card. Our Town Coordinator, Michele Giarusso, is the person to contact at towncoord@townofleyden.com.
- **The town does not have any official social media sites**. Any site that posts information about Leyden activities or information are privately owned and managed. No postings reflect official town positions or are submitted on behalf of the town.
- **Natalie Blais**, our state representative, will **be attending the Select Board meeting on June 30th** to listen to our needs for maintaining quality services, governance, and activities; and how the State can help.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Baker, Erica Jensen, Katherine DiMatteo

Leyden Select Board

Planning Board

The Planning Board is proposing revisions to **Leyden's Zoning Bylaws, to be considered at a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, July 16th**. Please check the town calendar (<https://townofleyden.com/calendar>) for the start time of this meeting, which will be held at the Town Hall. The proposed revisions were presented at a Planning Board public hearing on May 7th. With some minor edits and rearranging, the proposed revisions address the following considerations: accessory dwelling units, multi-family dwellings, related rural residential housing, common driveways, short term rentals, event venues and retreat centers, temporary and alternative housing, mobile homes, and battery energy storage facilities.

Copies of the revisions are available for review on the Planning Board webpage and are available for review in the Town Coordinator's office at the Town Offices. If you have any questions, please contact the Planning Board at Planboard@townofleyden.com.

July Quilling Classes with Nan Rolstad

Classes will be open to anyone age 10 and over.

Tools and materials will be supplied.

Saturday, July 12th and Saturday, July 26th

10am - 1pm

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 classes are sponsored by a grant from the Leyden Cultural Council.



Mountain Laurel bud

Photo by Lisa Limont

Board of Health

At the Annual Town Meeting, the Board was asked about the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD). The district was formed in 2017 and Leyden joined a few years ago. The town pays a yearly membership fee. Climate change is impacting the mosquito population and consequently the diseases transmitted by them.

Starting in June, the PVMCD sets traps in appropriate areas to catch mosquitoes. They continue to set traps until the weather no longer supports mosquitoes. They get sent off to a lab for identification. Different species of mosquitoes carry different diseases. West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) are most prevalent and can be identified from the mosquito and the town gets notified. Horses can get vaccinated for EEE.

The season has already been very wet. WNV has been identified in a mosquito in Shrewsbury. Recommended precautions are 1) repair window screens; 2) avoid being outside at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active; 3) empty any containers in your yard containing standing water; and 4) wear age-appropriate insect repellent.

Rabies has been identified in a west county animal. No people were affected. Educate yourself and teach your children about rabies, what to do if you see a potentially infected animal, and whom to call and please get all your pets vaccinated for rabies.

Ticks are horrendous. Lyme disease and Anaplasmosis are on the rise. There are many things you can do to prevent a tick bite. If you need information, please check the BOH webpage on the Town website.

One area we will focus on is updating the BOH webpage on the website. Hopefully soon, we will have seasonal information there for everyone to access.

Enjoy the summer and please do not hesitate to email us if you have any concern.

Beth Kuzdeba Marcia Miller Devorah Vester
boh@townofleyden.com



The Leyden Historical Commission
 Invites you for Coffee, Snacks and Conversation

Coffee and History

Sunday, July 13th and Sunday, July 20th

10am - noon

7 Brattleboro Road, Town Office



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

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.

Thanks for recent donations from:

Vickie & James Baker
 Elaine & David Brooks
 Julie McCarthy & Jerry Levine
 Sue & Cliff Carlson.



Town Clerk

Leading up to the Town meetings and Elections, May and June have certainly been a busy couple of months for the town clerk's office!

Voter Inactivation: Those who did not return their census (either the first OR second mailing) were inactivated at the end of May and sent postcards to let them know. This means that when a person goes to vote, they need to fill in an affidavit and show their ID. It's certainly annoying for the voter. This can be avoided by returning your annual census form. Returning that form reactivates everyone in your household, which is much easier than having to have everyone sign individual post-cards.

Town Meeting: The Annual Town Meeting took place on Monday, June 2nd. A special town meeting also took place that evening. The full results are listed on the town clerk's page of the website. Most articles were unanimously approved. Thank you to Stephen Richter and Sara Seinberg for helping with checking people in. A personal thank you to Michele Giarusso for taking the minutes on my behalf.

Local Election: The annual town election was held at the Town Offices on Tuesday, June 3rd from 12:00-8:00 PM. There were 51 votes cast out of 623 registered voters, an 8.19% voter turnout. Thank you to Carolyn Asbury, Joyce Muka, Marie Lovley, Karin Parks, Stephen Richter, Ginny Rockwood and Sara Seinberg for working the various stations. A personal thank you and a fond farewell to Paul McLatchy III, who filled in for me at the elections and who will soon no longer be active in the Clerk's office in Leyden. Paul and I have known each other and worked together for several years in the Town of Ashfield.

The following is a list of the candidates elected and the votes they received, with a full list of results on the town clerk's page on the website

- Board of Assessors (3-year term) – Erik Johnson - 41
- Board of Health (3-year term) – Devorah Vester - 47
- Board of Health (1-year term) – Elizabeth Kuzdeba - 38
- Constable (3-year term) – Vanessa Russell - 45
- Library Trustee (3-year term) – Patricia Little - 47
- Moderator (1-year term) – John Golden - 50
- Planning Board (5-year term) – James Brodeur - 45
- Select Board (3-year term) – Katherine DiMatteo - 48
- Tree Warden (1-year term) – William Brooks – 49

Swearing In: A reminder to all officials both elected and appointed that you need to be sworn in if you begin a new term this year, even if you are the incumbent. You are not permitted to function in your role if you have not done so, so please contact me to plan to get it done.

All municipal employees whether elected, appointed or hired are required to receive a summary of the "Conflict of Interest Law", complete an online Ethics Training Program, and acknowledge receipt of Open Meeting Law materials. Links are provided on the Town Clerk's website. Please complete the "Conflict of Interest Law" training online and email or bring in your certificate of completion with you when you are sworn in.

Office Hours: Public office hours continue to be Mondays from 3:00-6:00 PM at the town offices building. Usually in by 9am on Mondays, but please call first if you would like to stop by to ensure that someone is in the office. We're happy to make alternate arrangements if this doesn't work for you. The best way to get in touch is via email (townclerk@townofleyden.com) as it is checked offsite regularly, whereas voicemail can only be checked in the office.

George Stephan, Town Clerk, Town of Leyden, MA, 413 774 4111 ext. 3, townclerk@townofleyden.com



I drifted into a summer-nap under the hot shade of July, serenaded by a cicada lullaby, to drowsy-warm dreams of distant thunder."

Terri Guillemets



Fire Department

Hello from the Leyden Fire Department!

A reminder to our neighbors: Now that we are well into the growing season, please trim foliage from around street numbers and driveway access. Making sure you have clearly legible street numbers to identify your property is one important way you can help contribute to timely response to an emergency. It's important for our local response, and no less so for mutual aid agencies and utility crews.

Anything you can do to make your own numbers easier to read will be helpful, and it helps your neighbors because it facilitates first responder navigation. Simply put: when we can read house numbers, we have a better sense whether we are headed in the right direction.

On the topic of mutual aid, surely the best call we get is to bring trucks for a parade to celebrate a win. We have had the pleasure of two such events in recent months, when the Pioneer Valley Regional School boys basketball team won the state championship in March, then on May 28, Pioneer's baseball team won the Western Mass., and on June 14 they won the state championship. It was truly moving to see so many people turn out all along the route through Bernardston and Northfield to honor our young athletes. Our children need the community's support, and it feels good to come together to celebrate their hard work and accomplishments.

The third week of June marked the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services Firefighter Safety Stand Down Week. The focus of this annual event is on the critical topic of behavioral health in the fire service, using the acronym (firefighters love acronyms)

RESET: Recognize, Educate, Strategies, Empower, and Training, to remind fire departments to take an active approach to building mental health awareness and resilience.

Because the nature of emergency response requires first responders to face trauma and life-threatening emergencies as a matter of course, the aftermath and personal impacts of these experiences present special challenges. In a small community, we may also personally know victims and people in need of care. Reducing the historic stigma related to behavioral health, and putting practices in action, such as debriefing as a crew (discussing incident response as part of a routine of continuous improvement and reflection), and getting professional help, play an important role in overall health and fitness of any crew. In the Leyden Fire Department, we take these matters seriously. We check in with each other, examine what we could do better next time, and support each other. Physical health and mental health are part of the same system.

We are recruiting. If you are wondering what it is like to be a firefighter in Leyden, well, honestly, it's pretty cool.

We love experience, but you aren't expected to know it all when you start. We are a supportive department, and we all manage the time constraints related to family responsibilities and jobs. We take pride in serving our community, and we work together.

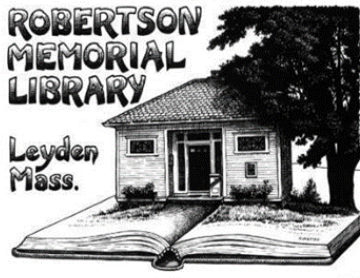
If you are interested in learning more about becoming a firefighter, reach out to Chief Carey Barton at fire@townofleyden.com

-Submitted by Firefighter Samantha Wood



Leyden Firefighters practice attaching hoses and nozzles and pump operation from water source, through one truck to another truck, and then out the deck gun. Top left: Firefighters Matthew Muka and Timothy Howard shoot water out of deck gun; top right: Firefighters Matthew Muka and Samantha Wood operate deck gun in second truck; bottom left: Leyden fire truck in parade to honor victorious PVRs athletes. The boys baseball and basketball teams had undefeated seasons and both took Division 5 Championships.

Photos submitted by Samantha Wood



Library Hours:

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

Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August.

- Jenny Han

Welcome Summer!

We hope you've managed to evade both raindrops and heat waves. This month, we have a plethora of thrilling updates to share!

Finally, we have successfully barcoded and entered our last book into the database! Now, we only have a few DVDs and audiobooks left to add. We anticipate starting patron registrations this month! This project has taken far more time than we initially expected, but the rewards will be worth it in the end.

We are excited to announce that Summer Reading is on! This year, our theme is "Level Up at Your Library," with a focus on games. We'll be highlighting the local favorite, Cosmic Wimpout, this season! Join us for a Cosmic Wimpout introduction on Tuesday, July 1st, to learn about the game's history and how to play. We will provide reading trackers and challenges for both youth and adults, allowing you to work towards prizes as you progress! You can sign up for the program at <https://forms.gle/yjG229bYutLXpCK16> or by contacting the library.

We are still in the process of scheduling our visit to the Emily Dickinson house.

We apologize for any inconvenience if you've been trying to reach the library by phone. Our old copper phone line tends to misbehave whenever it's humid or rainy, which has been quite frequent lately. Fortunately, we finally had a technician come to resolve all three issues with our phone line, and it's functioning beautifully now!

Our volunteers are wonderful! While our summer Saturday volunteer calendar is nearly full, we always appreciate extra help with minor projects. If you happen to be passing by, please check if the flowers in front need a bit of watering. We've kept milk jugs filled with water on the side of the building, readily available whenever you're around. There's always something to do at the library!

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



Robertson Memorial Library presents
Level Up at Your Library!
Summer Reading Program

Introduction to Cosmic Wimpout!

Tuesday, July 1st
6pm
Avery Field Pavillion

Cosmic Wimpout is a game for all ages. Learn all about its history here in Leyden and how to play! Come and be entered into a drawing for a game set of your own! Popsicles will be served.

Recreation Committee

Tai Ji Quan Movement for Better Balance. The second installment of Tai Ji Quan Movement for Better Balance has begun at the pavilion on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30. The recreation committee and COA are co sponsoring this 12 week course provided by the Franklin County YMCA. This is open to Leyden residents at no cost and to non residents for a requested donation.

Yoga. There has been some interest in having a Yoga class in Leyden. The recreation committee has been in contact with the YMCA to see if that might be possible, and if there is enough interest. If this is something that you would be interested in please contact the recreation committee at reccom@townofleyden.com. Let us know of your interest and what would be the best time of day for this. We will try to make it happen.

Pickleball. Pickleball continues to be open at the court behind the town offices. There are paddles and balls available in the plastic shed for anyone to use. There is also a new basketball available for use if that is more your style.

Heart of Leyden 5K and .5K Fun Run. This year the Heart of Leyden 5K race and .5K Fun Run will be taking place on **September 28th at Avery Field**. It will start at 10 am. There will be no fee for participating and no need to preregister. Costumes are encouraged and there will be prizes for best group costume, best adult and best youth costumes.

The 5k will begin at 10:30 from Avery Field. You may pre register at <https://www.runreg.com>. On the day of the event, registration will open at 9am and close at 9:45. The race starts at 10:30. Registration is \$15 per individual or \$25 for a family registration (2 or more in the same household).

Pavilion. There have been several graduation celebrations at the pavilion so far this month. We are looking forward to some family reunions later this summer. If you are looking for a venue for an event, please consider The Pavilion at Avery Field. There is a large array of lawn games available, as well as a gas grill and flush bathrooms. The rental fee is very reasonable at \$125. per day or \$200. for 2 consecutive days. To make a reservation or ask about a date please send an email to reccom@townofleyden.com. There are still dates available in July and August.

Steve Richter Reccom@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 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.

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
- How to create drought and flood resilient landscapes
- How to use microorganisms to combat pests and disease.



Saturday July 26th at 10am - 1pm
79 S Schoolhouse Rd Leyden, MA
\$45

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

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

Council on Aging

Community Luncheon

Wednesday, July 9th at noon in the Town Hall

Menu: Cold cut sandwiches, salad, and dessert.

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, July 9th 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, August 13th at the Town Offices

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.**

There is a \$25 co-pay at the time of your appointment. (If you need financial assistance, call Linda.)

Note for clients already participating in the clinic: Piper will be handing out post cards for you to fill out with your name and address so we can then send them out as a reminder for your upcoming appointment. If there is a more reliable way to communicate with you please tell Piper and we can arrange to call or text you. If you have any questions about this please call Linda Allis.

The next COA meeting is on Tuesday, July 15th 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, July 12th, 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.

For more information about 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



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

Available services include

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

Family Caregiver Program Free information and referral services

COA, continued from page 9

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.

Charlemont Forum 2025 Inspiring Lectures | Engaging Dialogue

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.



DO YOU HAVE A FURRY OR FEATHERED FRIEND? Feel free to share a picture with us! Animals of all types are part of life here in Leyden. If space allows, we will include pictures sent to us by the 20th of the month before publication.



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.

CLIMATE CORNER

It is mid-June and, for the first time in 13 weeks, there is no rain on a Saturday. Is this weather “anomaly” a definite sign of climate change? Probably not. But what does constitute an observable aspect of climate change? What are our personal benchmarks, the ones that help us to recognize the reality of climate change?

Dona Ana County in southern New Mexico, along with southwest Texas and the Mexican state of Chihuahua are in severe drought after 2-3 years of minimal rain. It is home to around 32,000 acres of hay, corn and wheat, and around 11,000 cattle and sheep, all of which rely upon water for their survival. (drought.gov) Drought has not been this severe in quite a while: it is rare, but not unique. The great dust bowl of the 30's also affected this area.

What evidence of climate change can you observe directly? And what else is “invisible”? This southern New Mexico spring has brought 34 “dust events” to the region in both drier and windier weather than usual. These consequential events have “visible” hallmarks: closed highways, deadly vehicle crashes and obvious health effects for those with asthma, lung diseases and heart conditions, all leading to spikes in hospitalizations. But it is the “invisible,” smallest particulate matter that cause the health effects. One El Paso monitoring station recorded over 1,000 ug of these small particles/m³ of air over a 2 hour period on March 3. The E.P.A. safe limit for these particles is 35 ug/m³ over a 24 hour period. (Inside Climate News, May 21, 2025) Air quality in nearby parts of New Mexico has been deemed unhealthy to hazardous as recently as June 16. (The Weather Channel, 06/16)

How are we to “see” climate change happening with our all-too-small human limitations of time and space? A personal benchmark has been right outside the window nearest me as I write this. It is a bush called “bridal wreath.” It reminds me of climate change every spring when it is in full bloom, this year on May 23, as it was during my parents wedding on May 23, 1944....Only that was 100 miles east of here at 1100 ft. lower in elevation. We can all encourage others to identify personal benchmarks for themselves. Data help, but something you can experience personally is so much more convincing! Keep doing good for the climate and stay cool!

Karen O'Neil oneilk160r@gmail.com

Turning

by Joseph Mills

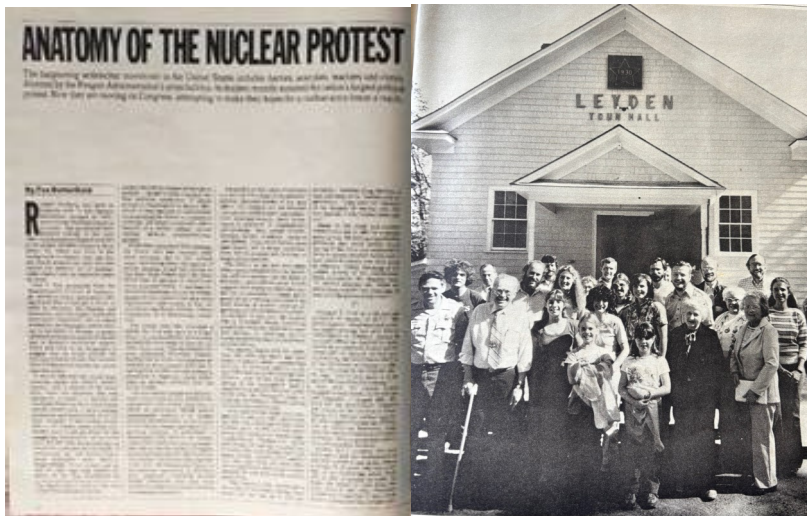
My friend's kid runs the sideline, gets a pass,
turns, and scores with a kick to the near post.
It's how the play should go, but at this age
rarely does. My son sprints to him, arms up.
They high five and celebrate a moment,
then turn to jog back to their positions.
Last year, they would have hopped around madly,
twirled, fallen backwards, and rolled in the grass.
This season, they are serious. No more
skipping. No more acting sweetly goofy.
Now, they turn towards one another rather
than towards us. No more checking that we've seen.
But we have. We know the score, and what's lost
as they try to turn themselves into men.

Poem submitted by Lisa Limont, with a nod to the athletes the
Pioneer Champions once were



Photo taken from the top of Wilson Road by Lisa Limont

During Ronald Reagan's era of nuclear proliferation in 1982, Leyden passed a warrant article calling for a nuclear freeze at the spring Annual Town Meeting. During the lunch break, 25 people gathered in front of Town Hall and were photographed. The New York Times used two full page photographs to demonstrate community protests: 700,000 protesters in New York City and 25 Leyden residents in front of their Town Hall.



July 2, 1982 Sunday New York Times Magazine.

"The antinuclear cause cuts across political lines. Last Spring, residents of the predominately Republican township of Leyden, MA, voted for a nuclear freeze."



June 14, 2025. People who appeared in the NYT Magazine photo gathered for a retake!

Photo by Sarah McKusick



Continuing in the spirit of making a statement, about 70 Leyden residents gathered in front of Town Hall on June 14th as part of the national 'No King's Day' rally.

Photo by Sarah McKusick. Submitted by Pam Brown

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.



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

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!

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.)