

LEYDEN LIFE

LEYDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

August 2025

Select Board Report

Dog days of summer have come with hot sun and little rain and might just be with us until September. The Town Office is air conditioned and even when there is not a heat advisory come by and cool off. There is room for you to bring a project, and the Wi-Fi connection is great. You may run into a neighbor or someone in town you don't know yet. This could be the beginning of turning the Town Office into a community center.

Thanks to the 31 citizens that turned out for the **Special Town Meeting** on July 16th. Despite the heat in the Town Hall, **all nine articles** were discussed – thoroughly and vigorously – and **were approved**. Thanks to Jack Golden, Town Moderator, for his facilitation of the meeting in which many motions had amendments plus added friendly amendments. Eight of the nine articles were submitted by the Planning Board and represent changes and additions to Leyden's Zoning Bylaws. These will now be sent to the Attorney General for approval.

The Select Board met with Gary Ponce of **Colrain Volunteer Ambulance Service, Inc.** and he reported that there were **33 calls for this past year**, one call had only basic life support personnel and needed a paramedic level. Most of our calls have been for falls and they would like to start a falls risk assessment program so people can help themselves, reducing the need to call the ambulance. The Select Board signed a new contract to begin August 7th for one year. The payment will be once per year based on an assessment of 35 calls, an average of two years of actual calls, at a rate of \$330 a call.

(Select Board Report, continues on page 2)

Health Alert from the Board of Health

The Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District has alerted the Board of Health that a pool of mosquitoes have tested positive for West Nile virus in Leyden. The mosquitoes were trapped down by Avery Field and the Pavilion. Please take precautions when outside. Populations most sensitive to the severe symptoms of WNV are older people and those with certain medical conditions. Most people do not develop any symptoms. But if you do, symptoms can range from fever, body aches, joint pain, vomiting, diarrhea to encephalitis and meningitis. Please alert your medical professional if you have symptoms.

Avoid being outside early in the morning or later at night. Wear an age-appropriate insect repellent. Wear long sleeves and long pants. Repair any screens in your house. Empty any containers in your yard with water.

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





(Select Board Report, continued from page 1)

The Massachusetts Fair Share supplemental budget includes \$100,000 for capital improvements for Pioneer Valley Regional School District (PVRSD). The district hopes to use the **\$100,000** to build an **outdoor learning pavilion** at Pioneer Valley Regional School. The school was recently designated by the state for an Environmental Education Career Innovation Pathway, and Pioneer students would construct the pavilion as part of their environmental studies. Any thoughts you have about using the money for this project should be shared with the PVRSD School Committee chair Melissa Gerry gerrym@pvrsdk12.org.

Thanks to the persistent efforts of our Town Treasurer, Susan Bobe, **the outstanding property taxes have been reduced from \$100,000 to \$42,000**. Be aware that there are fees charged for late payments of taxes and after the second letter of request, those delinquent property owners will be posted on the town website and buildings. The motor vehicle outstanding excise tax is currently \$5,067. There are late fees also for these taxes and they go up quickly as months pass without payment. Taxes are essential to Leyden as they are our primary source of revenue, so prompt payment keeps us financially sound. Payment options can be worked out with the Town Treasurer.

Katherine DiMatteo, the Mayor of Greenfield, Ginny Desrocher, and Lisa Limont walked the **Leyden Glen** – Greenfield's Reservoir to bring to the Mayor's attention that many Leyden and Greenfield residents walk the trails and **recently No Trespassing signs are being enforced**. We would like to keep those trails open for those who use them respectfully and await a response from Greenfield.

Announcements:

- We received the **\$10,500 Fire Fighter grant** and the reimbursement payment.
- Bill Brooks will be on vacation the week of 8/4 through 8/7
- The **accessible walking path at Avery Field** connecting the pavilion to the pickleball courts is finished. Check it out! Thanks to the Highway Department for their work. This project was funded by the Mass in Motion grant.
- On July 18 the FRCOG traveled throughout Franklin County to show interns and residents who will be working at Franklin Medical Center what our county looks like. Katherine DiMatteo introduced them to Leyden on their way through.
- An **orientation for new appointees and elected officials** is scheduled for September 16th. More information to come but there will be food and beverages.
- The Town Clerk is seeking submissions of **photos for the Town Report**. Show off your photography skills and submit by September 15.
- **Year-end transfers** from accounts underspent to accounts overspent during fiscal year 2025 were approved by the Select Board and Finance Committee.
- The Select Board sent a **letter of support to the Town of Oakham** asking the MA Energy Facility Siting Board to reconsider their location for a large battery storage facility along the Ware River. Oakham residents voted against the project, but the state is overriding the town's decision.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Baker, Erica Jensen, Katherine DiMatteo

Leyden Select Board

TOWN OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

The Select Board has begun to make the annual appointments for town committees, commissions and councils. Big thanks to those who have volunteered to serve another term.

Not on a committee yet, it's time to consider serving. There are still open seats that have not been filled, please consider stepping up for an appointment. Call or email the Town Coordinator, town-coord@townofleyden.com.

OPEN SEATS

Agricultural Commission – 1 position. 3-year term

Constables – 1 appointed position. 1-year term

Council on Aging – 2 positions. 3-year term

East Hill Cemetery Commission – 2 positions. 3-year term

Fence Viewer – 2 positions, 1 year term

Mass in Motion Advisory Committee – 2 positions. 2-year term

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee – 2 positions. 3-year term

School Committee – 1 position. 2-year term

Zoning Board of Appeals - 1 position. 3-year term

An abundance of gratitude for all those that volunteer!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CURTIS FAMILY OF GREENFIELD ROAD

There was an announcement in the June Leyden Life about Henry Curtis graduating from UMass with a BA in Finance from The Isenberg School. He made The Dean's List all 8 semesters and earned a cumulative GPA of 3.9. He has since started a job in finance at a major company north of Boston. Henry's brother, Gavin Curtis, also made the Dean's list at Greenfield Community College where he continues to pursue his education.

Leyden Fire Department



From left: Firefighters Mathew Muka, Tina Riddell, Chief Carey Barton, firefighters Corrinna Thompson, Samantha Wood, and Caleb Howard. Caleb is leaving the department to pursue other interests out of state.

Photo submitted by Samantha Wood

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 to Robin Symonds,
Janell and David Howard,
and Ken and Shirley Lyman
for donations this month.**



Fire Department

Hello from the Leyden Fire Department!

In the past several months, Leyden Fire has lost the three youngest members of our department related to moves out of town.

We were a crew of eight, now down to five.

This is a hard loss.

At the same time, it is positive and necessary for young people to step into new work, adventures, and independence. These are members of our family, Ernie Royer, Caleb Howard, and Timothy Howard, and we send them off with the full strength of our best wishes, and the hope that our service together has made them stronger, more resilient, and an asset to every community they encounter.

We are grateful for their service.

We are now recruiting with more urgency.

If you, or someone you know, have ever considered the fire service as a way to get involved and serve your community, please reach out for a conversation.

More importantly, and I speak from experience on this: There are likely some people in our community who have never imagined they could be firefighters, and they might really like it.

Here are some details so you know a bit more about being a firefighter in Leyden.

We meet regularly, on Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m., to train, and maintain the station, trucks, and gear.

We respond to medical calls, fires, downed wires, and other emergencies.

Training is something that every firefighter is always doing. It involves both theory and practice.

We learn how pumps, hoses and fittings work, how to drive big trucks, how incident command structures work, breathing with an air tank, taking a blood pressure, putting out different kinds of fires, and health and safety in every situation.

There are opportunities to learn both how to take orders and be a useful member of a team, and to learn how to prioritize and lead.

We learn both that we need to be strong and useful, and we have to take care of each other.

Whether a beginner or years in, there are always new things to learn.

New recruits are invited and supported to try everything, but not expected to do anything they are not ready to do.

No one can respond to every call; we all have families, jobs, and real lives.

Perhaps the most important metric here is that the more members there are, the lighter the load we all carry.

Our current department is more than 50 percent female.

Being a member of a Fire Department is great motivation for improving physical fitness and taking care of your mental health.

Our neighbors in Leyden need and deserve a well-staffed Fire Department.

Please consider joining us.

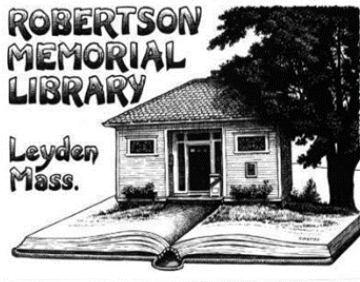
You can reach out to Chief Carey Barton at fire@townofleyden.com.

On the morning of Sunday, September 28, 2025, the Heart of Leyden road race will be starting from Avery Field.

That morning there will also be a Ready Fest, organized by the Leyden Emergency Management Committee. Ready Fest will be a fun opportunity to get together and to learn more about community skills for resilience.

Leyden Fire Department will be participating in the morning's festivities, supporting along the race course, and welcoming people at Ready Fest. Please stop by and say hello. If you have questions or are interested in learning more about the fire service, we will be happy to talk with you about it.

Submitted by Firefighter Samantha Wood



Library Hours:

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

The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer, the top of the live-long year, like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses in its turning. The weeks that come before are only a climb from balmy spring, and those that follow a drop to the chill of autumn, but the first week of August is motionless, and hot. It is curiously silent, too, with blank white dawns and glaring noons, and sunsets smeared with too much color.

—Natalie Babbitt, *Tuck Everlasting*

I've heard it said that August is the Sunday of summer. Isn't that the truth? Before we know it, the familiar hustle and bustle will return. Back to school, daylight will begin to wane, and the crisp air will come back. Fortunately, we have plenty of exciting activities planned in August to celebrate the remaining moments of summer!

It's official! Our library will go live on CWMARS on **August 4th**! We've been busy with patron registrations and aim to complete as many as possible in advance. If you already possess a CWMARS card from another library, you're all set; if not, be sure to get one!

Things have been bustling in our cozy library! Summer reading has been a priority for many patrons in recent weeks. Our children's reading program is thriving, with 33 local children actively participating. Kids have been keeping track of their reading time, and several young readers have already logged over 2000 minutes this summer! A special prize will be awarded to the child with the most reading time, and all participants who submit a reading log at the end of the program will also receive prizes. With so many participants, we are seeking donations of new art supplies, LEGO sets, board games, or local gift cards to reward these dedicated readers. Our adult reading bingo is also in full swing; each completed bingo line earns one entry into a grand prize drawing. Don't miss out! There's still time to join! This year's summer reading program runs until **Tuesday, September 23rd**.

We're eagerly anticipating our beloved annual **stuffed animal sleepover on Wednesday, August 6th**, along with a **Cosmic Wimpout tournament on Thursday August 21st**. A few weeks ago, we hosted an impromptu escape room program, offering two fully booked sessions. Participants used their wits to navigate through the 'terrible thicket' and had a fantastic time! We hope to run this event again in the future!

We finally have a date for our **visit to the Emily Dickinson Museum**! Join us on **Monday, October 20th, at 10 AM** for a tour of her home and a discussion of our favorite poems. Space is limited, so please sign up promptly. Admission to the museum is typically \$21.00, and we kindly ask for a \$10 donation per entry to help keep costs manageable for the library, allowing us to continue providing fun activities. Please contact Karin to reserve your spot.

A big thank you to Janell Howard for revitalizing our pollinator garden! She has replanted it with native pollinators and enriched the soil. A thick layer of mulch has been added to retain moisture and suppress weeds, and she has even installed a rain barrel to keep our flowers hydrated! Thank you, Janell, and to everyone who has helped water the window boxes. I believe it looks better than ever!

Karin Parks

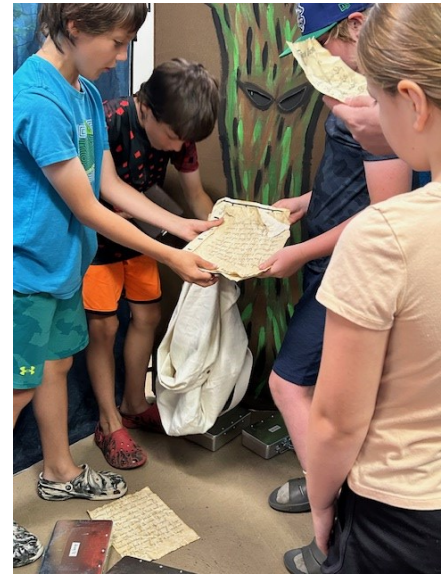
library@townofleyden.com

(413)773-9334

More library information on the next two pages.



Navigating through a terrible thicket in the Escape room!!



Local children and their families complete puzzles to escape!
A program sponsored by the Robertson Memorial Library.

YOUR FAVORITE STUFFED ANIMALS
ARE INVITED TO THE 4TH ANNUAL

SUMMER READING STUFFY SLEEPOVER

AT THE ROBERTSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6TH

STUFFED ANIMAL FRIENDS CAN
BE DROPPED OFF MONDAY OR
WEDNESDAY DURING LIBRARY
HOURS 1-6 . WE WILL MAKE
PICK UP ARRANGMENTS FOR
EACH STUFFY INDIVIDUALLY.

LIBRARY CARD REGISTRATION



NAME

LAST NAME: _____

Preferred Last Name (If Different): _____

FIRST NAME: _____ M.I.: _____

Preferred First Name (If Different): _____

MAILING ADDRESS

STREET: _____ APT/UNIT: _____

TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME ADDRESS *(if different or if mailing address is a PO Box)*

STREET: _____ APT/UNIT: _____

TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

BIRTH DATE: ____ / ____ / ____

PRIMARY PHONE: (____) ____ - ____

EMAIL ADDRESS (Optional*): _____

*Email address required if you'd like to receive notices, (courtesy, auto-renew, overdue, etc)

Would you like checkout receipts emailed by default? (Circle one.) YES / NO

How would you like to be notified when a hold is ready for pickup?

☐ Email

☐ Text Message, Mobile Number: (____) ____ - ____

SIGNATURE: _____

C/W MARS, INC. 2008
Revised June 2024

Bring your completed form to the library or send by email.

Board of Health

The Board of Health will be subsidizing a CPR class and a Basic First Aid class in October and November.

CPR Wednesday, October 22, 2025 from 6-8pm

First Aid Wednesday, November 12, 2025 from 6-8pm

Cost per resident \$25/class. Board of Health will pay \$10/person to cover total cost of \$35/person. It will be conducted by the Institute for Wild Med, they have done it for us the last two times and are wonderful. We are accepting 15 people/class, so please sign up only if you can definitely attend. If you need/want an official certification, it will be an extra \$15 or you can print a form of completion for free.

To sign up: Call Beth 413-774-2820 and leave your name and number; Email: boh@townofleyden.com, or sign up at ReadyFest in September

Food Resources

Food insecurity is where individuals or households lack reliable access to enough safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and preferences for an active and healthy life. It's something we should all be thinking of because it can affect anyone at anytime in different ways.

While issues of food and nutrition may be highly personal, they remain a public health issue. What we eat and where we source it from is ultimately a community concern. This is particularly true in small, aging communities like ours. The Leyden Board of Health urges folks to reach out for resources and support. Whatever your level of food insecurity may be, the BOH wants our residents to know that healthy, affordable food is available locally for everyone. Eating local is good for our farmers and good for us.

The Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) is a program in Mass that gives people in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) access to fresh local food for free. HIP helps a person buy more locally grown fruits and vegetables. When you buy fruits and vegetables with SNAP benefits at participating farmers' markets, mobile markets, farm stands or Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm share programs, you earn extra money on your SNAP/EBT card.

Effective July 1, 2025, **HIP benefits have increased to \$40/month** for all households.

This means that SNAP dollars spent on eligible fruits and vegetables will earn HIP up to a maximum monthly benefit of \$40 regardless of household size. To earn HIP, you must buy from participating farms (you cannot earn HIP by shopping at a grocery store) and spend SNAP on fruits and vegetables. The benefit is added directly back to your SNAP/EBT card and can be used towards any future SNAP eligible purchase.

You can check the Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) HIP map which shows all the places where SNAP recipients can use their HIP benefits locally: www.buylocalfood.org. For example, these benefits can be used at Just Roots in Greenfield (justroots.org) and the Guilford Food Hub (neighborhoodroots.org).

In addition to accepting SNAP and HIP, Just Roots' Farm to Family program provides CSA shares year-round to food insecure MassHealth patients across the state in collaboration with healthcare partners. Patients are referred to Farm to Family through their participating healthcare provider and receive home deliveries of fresh local produce and proteins, cookware, and nutrition supports.

The Guilford Food Hub also supports local farmers and helps make local food convenient and affordable for everyone. Food is sold at or below cost. If you are a SNAP/EBT customer, you'll get a 50% discount on all produce. There is also a pay-what-you-want food shelf open to the community on pickup days.

Devorah Vester, Leyden Board of Health
boh@townofleyden.com



Leyden Emergency Management Committee

Ready Fest is coming to the Heart of Leyden Festival on Sunday, September 28th!

Come check out what we have to offer our town's people in case of an emergency. A few of the things that will be there:

- The Fire Dept and all their new equipment. They will have information in case you want to volunteer for this dedicated group.
- Colrain Ambulance Service
- Bernardston Police Dept
- MEMA
- Bernardston Gill Leyden Snowmobile Club
- Displays to show how to be prepared in case of an emergency.
- Signups for the RAVE911 emergency call service
- Information on becoming neighborhood captains
- Information on Eversource's Life support equipment certification.
- Signups for short seminars throughout the year on what you can do till help arrives.

*Enjoy a day with your neighbors
at this year's
Heart of Leyden Festival!*

LEMC will be there from 10-12pm and, if there is interest, we'll be there a little while longer.

Please come out and see if you are ready!

Enjoy a day with your neighbors at this year's Heart of Leyden Festival!

Plant Swap

(In honor of Sue Howarth)

Let's get together for a plant swap (house plants or perennials). Save your cuttings, start them rooting, share with friends and neighbors.

Saturday, September 20th at 10am

Leyden Church Dining Room

Come at 10 am to bring your plants, have a coffee and snack. When you arrive you'll get a number. Then we'll draw numbers to pick your new "babies" until they are all adopted. Please share their name as well as light and water requirements.

Leyden Green Thumbs

The Leyden Historical Commission

The Historical Display is open on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month from **9am - Noon**.



Coffee and History

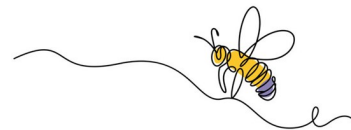


Join us for Coffee, Snacks and Conversation

Sunday, August 10th and Sunday, August 24th

10am - noon

7 Brattleboro Road, Town Office



**Sponsored by the Recreation Committee
and The Council on Aging.**

Autumn Riverboat Cruise

Saturday, October 11th at 11am

For Leyden residents of all ages. The cruise is free.

Join us on the riverboat, *Heritage*, to enjoy a relaxing and informative journey down the Connecticut River. An on-board interpreter narrates the cruise, offering information on the culture, habitats, and natural history of this spectacular stretch of river. This 12-mile cruise takes 1½ hours. The riverboat is wheelchair accessible.

More information will be available in September. Meanwhile, you can reserve a seat by contacting Annie Garvey at agarv3112@gmail.com or 413-775-1390.

Recreation Committee

Summer Solstice Soirée

The Summer Solstice Soirée held on June 22nd was a great success. The band, New England Sax and Wind Quartet, performed an excellent variety of tunes for an hour. This led up to a potluck dinner of culinary delights. The food was wonderful. The weather gods granted us a reprieve of what was supposed to be severe heat and laid down a thick layer of clouds to shelter us from the punishing forecast. All in all the event was an excellent opportunity to catch up with old neighbors and to meet new neighbors. Perhaps we can do this again in the future.

Heart of Leyden Race

The Heart of Leyden Race is coming up on **Sunday, September 28th**. The morning will open with a .5k fun run/walk/roll beginning at 10am. There is no fee for this event and there is no need to register, everyone is welcome. Costumes are encouraged and there will be prizes for best youth, best adult and best group costumes.

The 5k race will begin at 10:30 am from Avery Field. Preregistration is ongoing at <https://www.runreg.com> or you may register on the morning of the race from 9am until 9:45. Registration is \$15 per individual or \$25 for a family registration (2 or more people in the same household).

This year we will be sponsoring a memorial walk in memory of Irene Baker. The route of this walk will follow the route that Irene walked regularly. There is no registration needed nor cost for anyone participating though donations will be accepted. The Irene Baker Memorial Walk will start at Avery Field soon after the runners begin the 5k race.

Autumn Riverboat Cruise

This year the Council on Aging and the Recreation Committee are cosponsoring a riverboat cruise on the Connecticut River aboard the Heritage, on **Saturday, October 11th at 11am**.

Avery Field Walking Path

The Leyden Highway Department has finished its work on developing a walking path from the Avery Pavilion to the pickleball court. Thank you to Bill and A J for fitting this into their schedule when they have so much else to take care of in town. This path was paid for through a "Mass in Motion" grant offered through the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

Pavilion Rentals

Remember 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 \$125 per day or \$200 for 2 consecutive days. To make a reservation or to ask about when it is available, send an email to reccom@townofleyden.com. There are still dates available through the end of October.

Steve Richter

Reccom@townofleyden.com

The Summer Solstice Soirée



The New England Sax and Wind Quartet



From left: Nancy Edwards, Anders Ferguson, Abbey Parks.
In background (right) is Steve Richter.



FROM BLOSSOMS

by Li-Young Lee

From blossoms comes
this brown paper bag of peaches
we bought from the boy
at the bend in the road where we turned toward
signs painted *Peaches*.

From laden boughs, from hands,
from sweet fellowship in the bins,
comes nectar at the roadside, succulent
peaches we devour, dusty skin and all,
comes this familiar dust of summer, dust we eat.

O, to take what we love inside,
to carry within us an orchard, to eat
not only the skin but the shade,
not only the sugar, but the days, to hold
the fruit in our hands, adore it, then bite into
the round jubilation of peach.

There are days we live
as if death were nowhere
in the background; from joy
to joy to joy, from wing to wing,
from blossom to blossom to
impossible blossom, to sweet impossible blossom.

Submitted by Lisa Limont

Charlemont Forum 2025

Inspiring Lectures | Engaging Dialogue

Thursday, September 18th 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.*

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

Blackberries

by Margaret Atwood

In the early morning an old woman
is picking blackberries in the shade.
It will be too hot later
but right now there's dew.

Some berries fall: those are for squirrels.
Some are unripe, reserved for bears.
Some go into the metal bowl.
Those are for you, so you may taste them
just for a moment.
That's good times: one little sweetness
after another, then quickly gone.

Once, this old woman
I'm conjuring up for you
would have been my grandmother.
Today it's me.
Years from now it might be you,
if you're quite lucky.

The hands reaching in
among the leaves and spines
were once my mother's.
I've passed them on.
Decades ahead, you'll study your own
temporary hands, and you'll remember.
Don't cry, this is what happens.

Look! The steel bowl
is almost full. Enough for all of us.
The blackberries gleam like glass,
like the glass ornaments
we hang on trees in December
to remind ourselves to be grateful for snow.

Some berries occur in sun,
but they are smaller.
It's as I always told you:
the best ones grow in shadow.

Submitted by Annie Garvey



Leyden Cultural Council

The LCC has another round of wonderful events to encourage you to get out and explore the vibrant arts scene here in Franklin County this month.

Hilltown Youth Summer Spectacle Thursday to Sunday, August 7th-10th

A circus and performing arts circus experience for aspiring young actors, musicians, dancers and set designers ages 7-19.

For more information: hilltownyouth.org

Antenna Cloud Farm Music Festival, Artist Retreat, and Institute 2025

The current Antenna Cloud Farm season once again traverses a wide range of musical offerings: from stunning shows on our intimate indoor stage to glorious outdoor sunset performances, and from free events in surrounding local communities to school visits and workshops.

The Songs We Carry Tuesday, August 19th. Concert at 6pm. Doors open 5:30.

ACF Indoor Stage in Gill, MA. Followed by a reception.

Join us for an evening of powerful, contemporary vocal music performed by celebrated baritone Christopher Dylan Herbert and pianist Chris Reynolds. The Songs We Carry features a series of modern song cycles including a premiere by Judd Greenstein; Nico Muhly's The Last Letter, which gives voice to wartime correspondence from WWI; Chris DeBlasio's All the Way Through Evening, a piercing and poetic response to the AIDS crisis; and Ellen Reid's Comme les ailes d'un oiseau, based on Amin Maalouf's novel Ports of Call.

Known for his nuanced interpretations and rich, expressive voice, Christopher Herbert's career spans opera, art song, and cross-disciplinary performance, as well as musicology and scholarship. He is joined by Chris Reynolds, a soloist and sought-after collaborator, currently working with Deutsche Oper Berlin. Join us in welcoming these wonderful artists to Gill!

Kinan Azmeh and Cityband Saturday, August 30th. Concert at 6pm. Grounds open at 4:30.

ACF Outdoor Stage in Gill, MA. Followed by a reception. Raindate tba.

Originally from Damascus, Syria, clarinetist, composer, and improviser Kinan Azmeh has gained international recognition for his distinctive voice and genre-bending artistry, appearing with countless artists and groups including the New York Philharmonic, the Syrian Symphony Orchestra, Yo-Yo Ma, Marcel Khalife, and in venues such as the Opera Bastille in Paris, the UN General Assembly, and Carnegie Hall.

Formed in 2006 in NYC, Kinan Azmeh & CityBand celebrate 18 years of friendship with the recent release of their album, Live in Berlin. Comprised of Kinan on clarinet, guitarist (and ACF alum!) Kyle Sanna, percussionist John Hadfield, and Josh Myers on double bass, the quartet has gained worldwide acclaim for their virtuosic and high energy performances. With this ensemble, Azmeh strives to reach a balance between classical music, jazz, and the music of his homeland, Syria.

Pocumtuck Homelands Festival August 2-3. Saturday & Sunday, 10am to 5pm. Rain or Shine.

Unity Park Waterfront, 1st Street, Turners Falls

Annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival. Native American cultural celebration. Speak with elders, enjoy live music, drumming, storytelling, Native American fare, and crafts. People have gathered at the Great Falls for thousands of years, and this event is the perfect combination of live music, drumming, dancing, storytelling, native crafts, and food.

Forty outstanding Indigenous artisans will sell traditional craft including jewelry, pipes, baskets and instruments. The all-day schedule includes outstanding presentations by Mohawk Elder Tom Porter, Evan Pritchard and David Brule. The riverfront will be filled with traditional music by Nipmuck flute maker Hawk Henriess, Akwesasne singer Theresa Bear Fox, Abenaki singer-songwriter Mignon Geli, Nulhegan Abenaki singer-songwriter Bryan Blanchette and the Penobscot Rez Dog Singers. Festival goers can participate in social dance lead by Wampanoag artist Annawon Weeden. On Sunday (only) there will be a special performance by Hawaiian dance ensemble Pua Ali'i 'Ilima o Nuioka.

Heath Fair August 15-17, Friday to Sunday. Heath, MA

Marking its 107th year, the Heath Fair is a true slice of rural New England. The Heath Fair has a reputation for great live music and this year's line-up is one of our best ever. Also be sure to check out the tractor pulls, animal shows (sheep, goats, mini-horses), a bustling midway, arts & crafts, kids' activities, live music, and the beloved Fireman's chicken BBQ. Don't miss the antique tractor parade and the classic car cruise-in!



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

Council on Aging

Community Luncheon

Wednesday, August 13th 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, August 13th 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, August 19th at 2pm at the Town Offices.

We are looking for new COA members!! If you are interested in joining contact Annie Garvey at agarv3112@gmail.com or 413-775-1390.

Rainbow Elders Lunch: Thursday, August 14th, Noon - 1:30 pm

at the South County Senior Center, 22 Amherst Road (Rte. 116), Sunderland

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/>

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.

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.



413-773-5555

<https://lifepathma.org/>

Services include

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

Climate Corner: A Summer Reading List

Most summer reading lists don't arrive when summer is on the wane, but this one requires no immediacy of response. These three books have been sitting in that proverbial pile on the bedside table, untouched for months. Recently my personal reading refuge has become mystery fiction, punctuated by nonfiction magazine articles. Today, after reading an article entitled, "Earth's Turbulent Eons of Climate Change," by Elise Cutts, I decided that three in that pile will be next. (www.sciencenews.org/article/climate-change-history-earth-warming) Here are my personal responses/short excerpts.

Human Nature: Nine Ways to Feel About Our Changing Planet, by Kate Marvel

Kate, a PhD climate scientist, asks and answers in her introduction, "I feel so much...Isn't this unscientific? Aren't researchers supposed to be perfectly objective, unemotional, and neutral about the world we study? I can't be...I need to declare a conflict of interest regarding Earth: Everyone I love lives here." After the introduction, she offers approaches to how we feel about climate change in nine chapters: wonder, anger, guilt, fear, grief, surprise, pride, hope, and love.

The Parrot and the Igloo, by David Lipsky

In his preface the author describes the structure of his book, written in three parts, and suggests you read them in the order that interests you most. He states "The story this book tells is about people who *made* our world; then the people who *realized* there might be a problem; then the people who *lied* about that problem." I've started the first chapter which introduced me into the fascinating link between a particular technology and its long impacts.

The Panda's Thumb, by Stephen Jay Gould

A high school friend sent me the Folio Society edition of this book at holiday time. I had read it and virtually all of his books after I heard him speak at a special meeting of the American Society of Zoologists in the early 1980s centered on evolution. From then on I was hooked. I had used his essay, "Sex, Drugs, Disasters and the Extinction of the Dinosaurs," as a reading assignment for my Biology students, hoping the title would lead them to the objective of the piece: what makes a testable hypothesis and what does not. The title contains the hint to the nature of these three hypotheses. I must have heard Dr. Gould speak at least six times. The last time was in 1993 in Boston when I approached the podium, and asked him to sign his essay, "The Median is not the Message." He did so and added, "Welcome to the largest involuntary club in the world." He meant cancer; he was in remission and saw that I was wearing a hat to cover my then bald head. That essay had given me hope in a dark time. In his homage to Gould in the Folio edition of this book, Stephen Brussante says, "he didn't write like a scientist. He name-dropped philosophers, drew analogies from music, literature, and always wove history and culture into his narratives, all without being too haughty for a kid from farm country to embrace." And, yes, baseball, his passion.

Whatever your reading choices, know that there is good non-fiction out there, too.

Karen O'Neil oneilk160r@gmail.com



PHOEBES Photos by Ellen White



Ellen White on Alexander Road and her family enjoyed watching & hearing the young phoebes in early July. Mama and papa were busy! A few days after these photos were taken, the babies left the nest.

(N.B. Bill Danielson chose the photo on the far left for the Photo Contest in his weekly "Speaking of Nature" column in the Recorder)

WILD FLOWER MEADOW WORKSHOP

SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF REPLACING GRASS, VEGETATING HILLSIDES, AND/OR CREATING FLORAL ATTRACTIONS INCLUDE -

- ATTRACTING POLLINATORS
- EROSION CONTROL
- BEAUTIFY LANDSCAPES
- BUILD HEALTHY SOILS
- LOW MAINTANCE



AUGUST 9TH 2025

10AM - 11:30AM
79 S SCHOOLHOUSE RD

\$5-\$20 suggested donation

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- WHERE TO CREATE A WILDFLOWER MEADOW OR GARDEN BED
- HOW TO PREPARE THE SOIL
- NATIVE WILDFLOWER IDEAS
- LOW MAINTENANCE

For questions or to register for the workshop email Janell at how2grolandscapes@gmail.com



Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Importance: Milkweeds are the only larval host plant of the Monarch butterfly.

Bloom Time: July-August

What can you do? There are several milkweeds native to our region. Consider planting Butterfly weed, Common Milkweed or Swamp Milkweed in your garden.

The Joys of Growing Milkweed For Monarch Butterflies

<https://www.littleyellowwheelbarrow.com/growing-milkweed/>

Photo by Carolyn Asbury



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.

Antiques for Sale. Antique bottle collection.

Coffee table car books. Black iron water pump.

Scrimshaw powder horn. Gun rack. Beautiful gun cabinet with glass doors, handcrafted by cabinetmaker. Many other items! For more information: Ken Lyman at 413-773-8823.

New Ad

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 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

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.)