

LEYDEN LIFE

LEYDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

September 2025

Select Board Report

The winds have shifted, bringing cooler weather and rain to ease the extremely dry conditions we have had this summer. It's time also to shift out of our relaxed and vacation modes. Many critical issues are coming up for the town and the Select Board will be asking for you to participate in sorting out priorities and direction for the town. There is still direct democracy in Leyden, and the Select Board is hopeful that you are interested and make the time to influence the decisions and outcomes.

The **Regionalization Advisory Committee (RAC)** held a public forum on July 31st to present the work done so far to gather information and explore opportunities for efficiencies. It was well attended by almost equal numbers of citizens from Leyden and Bernardston. Thanks to all who came and asked good questions and expressed your opinions about the future of administration and services for our two towns. **To broaden input a survey will be sent out around September 8th** and we urge you to respond. There have been rumors that decisions have already been made about combining services, committees or departments and closing some Leyden buildings. **NO decisions have been made; this is an exploratory effort only.** This grant and its work will end in 2026. If there are any recommendations, they will need detailed future work and proposals. Ultimately, the towns' citizens approve of any changes. **The Finance Committee and the Select Board meeting on August 25th** will be discussing the **20% health insurance premium increase on October 1.** The town's budget that was approved in June will not cover this increase and a decision will be made on where and how to manage the increase. Leyden is not alone and the towns around us are faced with this problem. Not only does the town's portion of the insurance costs go up, the school's health insurance costs and the town and school employee share of the costs also increases. We will work to find a solution that has the least impact on our budget and your tax rate.

Back in the 1980s a Town Meeting vote was taken that identified the **official town roads that would be maintained.** All other roads were discontinued. Well, we have discovered that the list was incomplete at the time, that some road names have since been changed, and that there are a number of errors resulting in confusion for the town and residents. A review of our town roads that are currently being maintained will be conducted, and at a **Special Town Meeting there will be a vote to confirm the official town roads.** Stay tuned for the date for this Special Town Meeting, possibly before the end of December.

(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



(Select Board Report, continued from page 1)

Leyden is one of the towns in the **Pioneer Valley Regional School District (PVRSD)** with Bernardston and Northfield. In the past two years Warwick left the district, the enrollment of students continues to decrease while costs are increasing, the ability to provide a variety of classroom, cultural and sports experiences is challenging, and state assistance is inadequate for our rural schools although our state representatives are working on our behalf. The **Six-Town School District Regionalization** project has a report in this issue (on page 5). You will be asked to vote soon on how to provide the best public school experience while keeping costs to the town within our ability to pay now and into the future. It's not easy to keep up with what is happening so, to inform and begin this discussion, a **Forum on the Challenges to Rural School Education will be held on Tuesday, September 30th at 6pm**. Please plan on attending whether you have or do not have students in our public schools.

Announcements:

- The Town Clerk is seeking submissions of **photos for the Town Report**. Show off your photography skills and submit by September 15.
- Select Board has sent a **letter to support the Deerfield River** designation as a Wild and Scenic River.
- **Tree Warden position** is now a permanent special employee position – this will allow those holding this position to also be a town employee or hold another official town position.
- **Reminder:** if you have any projects or work done near streams, even intermittent streams, or wetland areas, before you start any work contact the **Conservation Commission** (conservation@townofleyden.com) for guidance and approval. It's an oversight that may have consequences including delays, fines and remediation work. No one is exempt, not even the town is exempt.
- Another section of the Town Office roof and its gutters have been replaced.
- An **orientation for appointees and elected officials** is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 16th at 6pm**. More information will be sent to committee chairs, but all committee members are urged to come. There will be food and beverages.
- Leyden has received **another Mass in Motion grant of \$4230.00** for this year. Interested in helping to identify age-friendly projects, contact selectboard3@townofleyden.com.
- **New signs** have been put up at **Leyden Glen/Greenfield Water Supply** in both English and Spanish for no trespassing, no fishing, no hunting and no swimming. However, staying on the trails for walking or biking is acceptable.
- **Jo Comerford**, our State Senator, will be attending the **Select Board meeting at 5pm on Monday, September 15th**. Come and join the discussion about state priorities and impacts on tiny towns.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Baker, Katherine DiMatteo, Erica Jensen

Leyden Select Board



FORUM: CHALLENGES TO RURAL SCHOOL EDUCATION

Tuesday, September 30th at 6pm

at the Leyden Town Office

OPEN DISCUSSION – ALL INVITED

FOOD AND BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED

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 – 1 position. 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!



Select Board member, Erica Jensen, addressing the July 31st Regionalization meeting in Bernardston.

Photo submitted by Lisa Limont

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 Fall Equinox of 2025, occurs on **September 22nd at 2:19 pm** and marks the start of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere. The Earth's axis is not tilted toward or away from the sun, resulting in (almost) equal amounts of day and night. This event signals a shift to shorter days.

The double spiral is the symbol of the Autumnal Equinox. It represents the co-existence of opposing forces, seeking balance, the cycles of the natural world.



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

Approximately 100 copies are printed each month and delivered to people who do not have computers or prefer a hard copy.

All donations are gratefully accepted to help defray these costs.

Town Clerk News

Special Town Meeting: A Special Town Meeting was held on July 16, 2025. There were nine articles on the warrant to be discussed and voted on. One of the articles was a general bylaw (article 1) while the remainder (articles 2-9) were zoning bylaws relating primarily to "Accessory Dwelling Units" (ADU). The ADU was enacted in 2024 and more details on it can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/accessory-dwelling-units>. All articles passed and have been submitted to the Attorney General's Municipal Law Unit as required.

Fiscal Year 2025 Town Annual Report: The process of creating the Town's first full fiscal year annual report started in early July. Reports from all departments, ommittees, boards, commissions and other municipal/regional entities are due on September 15, 2025. We urge all to complete their respective reports and return them by the deadline so that the final report is not delayed and so that it is filed on time with the Commonwealth.

Photographs for the Annual Report: We are seeking photographs to be considered for inclusion in the FY2025 annual report. Anyone who wishes to have their photo considered for submission please email it to the Town Clerk at TownClerk@TownOfLeyden.com by September 15, 2025. Please provide a high-quality photo and include the following additional information if possible:

Name of the photographer

Date taken (if known)

Brief description and what makes it interesting (ex: Snowstorm on March 5th when we had 3 feet of snow fall on Frizzell Hill Road outside my home)

Swearing In: Once again this is 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 - 6pm at the town offices building. Usually in the office 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

Police

In the month of July, officers responded to 143 calls for service ranging from animal complaints, the unattended death of a person, assist citizens, building checks, fraud/larceny, harassment, hold/burglar alarms, medical emergencies, fire alarms, firearms licensing, traffic hazards and radar enforcement. This included 79 dedicated patrols throughout the town.

As always, we encourage residents to reach out to us through Shelburne control whenever there is a question on whether or not we are needed. We are happy to help work through an issue even if it is not of criminal or emergent nature.

Firearms license renewals can be completed on line or dropped off in the drop box at the police department. If completed on line a check for 100.00 still needs to be mailed or dropped off made to the town of Bernardston. Anyone 70 years of age or older has no charge for renewal.

New Firearms License Applicants have the same process.

Sergeant Thomas Chabot 4-2
Bernardston Police Department



More students. More opportunities.

The Motivation

- The school-aged population in Franklin County has been declining since the end of the 1990s
- Both Gill-Montague and Pioneer Valley districts have struggled during population decline because state funding is heavily dependent on population increase
- Population and budget constraints make it harder to offer electives, sports, and AP classes

The Plan for a Combined District:

Great River Regional School District

- The Pioneer building would become a middle school for all students in the district
- The Turners Falls building would become a high school for all students in the district
- With larger numbers, the district could provide more robust academic and enrichment opportunities at the middle and high school



Combining Districts to Benefit Students

Faced with the challenges of a declining school-aged population, the towns of Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Montague, Northfield, and Warwick sought to create a sustainable educational future for their students with robust offerings. The six towns created a regional planning board in 2019 to study a potential merging of the Gill-Montague and Pioneer Valley regional districts to explore a new, six-town regional school district.

Over the past six years, the Planning Board has worked to examine the challenges and benefits of combining these two districts. The Planning Board engaged expert consultants in studying various dimensions of such a merger. The Planning Board sought the perceptions and perspectives of the students, parents, school district staff, community members, elected officials, and business partners in these communities.

In January 2024, the Planning Board overwhelmingly recommended moving forward with the drafting of a regionalization agreement.

The proposed six town regional agreement, written in collaboration by members of each town, will be voted on at each Town Meeting to be held sometime in November. Visit the website to stay up to date.

Learn more at  **6TOWNS.org**

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!

Board of Health

We love where we live, we wouldn't live here otherwise. But Leyden presents some challenges. Response time in an emergency is one of them. This is why the Board is sponsoring classes so that we can help each other until the professionals get on site. Brain damage can start after only a few minutes of oxygen deprivation. Cardiac arrest, drowning, and choking are a few ways that oxygen deprivation can occur. The classes are designed for all ages and abilities. They will be open to Leyden residents until September 15, and then if they are not full, we will admit residents from other towns. The two classes are **CPR and First Aid**. The cost to residents is \$25 per class. To register: <https://www.instituteforwildmed.com/cpr-first-aid-leyden>

On another note, Leyden is at moderate risk level because of **West Nile Virus** mosquitoes caught in town. Take appropriate precautions.

Septics

- Do you know where your tank is?
- Do you know what should/should not go down your drain?
- Do you know where your leachfield/drainfield is? What precautions to take with these?
- When was the last time you had your tank pumped? It should be every 3-5 years and the pumping company would make that recommendation to you.

In Leyden, we do not have the infrastructure of cities. Care of your septic and well are each homeowner's responsibility. If you do not have copies of your septic plans, email the Board at boh@townofleyden.com. We will make an appointment with you at the town offices to go through your file.

Thank you

Beth Kuzdeba Marcia Miller Devorah Vester
boh@townofleyden.com

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

Leyden Fire Department

Hello from the Leyden Fire Department!

Please be careful to prevent wildland fires. As of this writing, there is a little rain in the forecast, but it has been very dry for many weeks. Be sure your trees and bushes are trimmed so emergency vehicles can easily move along your driveway, if need be. Make sure your house number is prominently displayed and easy to read. Thank you for helping.

A reminder from the Chief's Desk: We are a small department. All of our members work and have family responsibilities, including the chief. There will be every attempt to respond to requests in a timely fashion, but it may take extra time to respond to emails, etc. We appreciate your patience.

We are looking forward to the **Emergency Services Parade for the Franklin County Fair on Sunday, September 7**. It starts at 11 a.m. in downtown Greenfield and proceeds to the Franklin County Fairgrounds. You can expect to see Leyden Fire there.

Leyden's Ready Fest is coming on **Sunday, September 28, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., at Avery Field**. The Heart of Leyden road race – 5k or 0.5k fun run – will be a great way to stretch your legs and see your neighbors, whether you run or stroll.

Ready Fest coincides with Massachusetts Good Neighbor Day. According to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments CHIP (Community Health Improvement Plan) newsletter, written by Jen Audley:

"September 28 was proclaimed [National Good Neighbor Day](#) by President Jimmy Carter in 1978, and has had a resurgence recently with increased awareness of how powerfully strong social networks can affect individual and community health. In Massachusetts, the [Coalition to Build Community and End Loneliness](#) is rallying communities across the state to host Good Neighbor Day events this year, and we are hoping for a strong showing from our region!

There are lots of ways to get involved!

- **Challenge yourself** to get to know your own neighbors (or colleagues, classmates, etc.) better in the next six weeks.
- **Organize an activity** that strengthens connections between people who live, work, or play in a particular place such as a park, campus, or community center.
- **Help community members connect** with local resources, tips, and tools that will help them build positive relationships with their neighbors.
- **Help spread the word!** Share this message with your networks and encourage people you know to celebrate Good Neighbor Day this year."

Ready Fest is an excellent opportunity to learn more about what you can do to help during emergencies, sign up for the town's emergency messaging system, and to bump into your neighbors. The Emergency Management Committee is working on an initiative to build neighborhood teams with captains. Come check it out.

The Fire Department has been training on laying hose lines from a truck for attacking fires down narrow driveways, and doing maintenance checks. You can expect to see us around town in the coming weeks practicing pumping and checking hydrants.

We are actively recruiting. Much is being written these days about the importance of putting down our screens and getting out into the real world. We are truly fortunate in Leyden to have a glorious real world all around us. The Fire Department is an excellent way to get involved. Be part of a crew, learn new skills, drive big trucks, and build community. We need your help, and it's fun. Please feel free to reach out to Chief Carey Barton, fire@townofleyden.com, or to me, Samantha Wood, fireadmin@townofleyden.com, if you have an interest in learning more.

Submitted by Firefighter Samantha Wood

Leyden Fire's Tina Riddell, Corrida Thompson, Matthew Muka, and Chief Carey Barton practice laying lines from the back of Engine 1..

Photo credit: Samantha Wood





**LEYDEN EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE**

READY FEST

In conjunction with the Heart of Leyden Festival 5k

*This is an opportunity to gain
information on ways to be more
prepared for an emergency.*

**September 28th
10am - 1pm**



Learn

Multiple departments will
have booths with emergency
preparedness information



Volunteer

Sign up to become a
neighborhood captain.



Share

Spread the word and
raise awareness in our
community

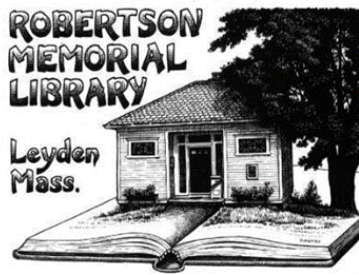
**AVERY FIELD
7 BRATTLEBO RD
LEYDEN**

*Learn how to help yourself so you can
then help those around you.*

To contact the Emergency Management Director email:

emergencymgt@townofleyden.com

Stronger together — Ready to go



Library Hours:

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

The summer ended. Day by day, and taking its time, the summer ended. The noises in the street began to change, diminish, voices became fewer, the music sparse. Daily, blocks and blocks of children were spirited away. Grownups retreated from the streets, into the houses. Adolescents moved from the sidewalk to the stoop to the hallway to the stairs, and rooftops were abandoned. Such trees as there were allowed their leaves to fall - they fell unnoticed - seeming to promise, not without bitterness, to endure another year. At night, from a distance, the parks and playgrounds seemed inhabited by fireflies, and the night came sooner, inched in closer, fell with a greater weight. The sound of the alarm clock conquered the sound of the tambourine, the houses put on their winter faces. The houses stared down a bitter landscape, seeming, not without bitterness, to have resolved to endure another year.

James Baldwin, *Just Above My Head*

It's official! Our library is now live on CWMARS! We've welcomed 68 new patrons who have obtained brand new library cards, in addition to the 256 patrons who already had CWMARS cards. Excitement is in the air as patrons can now access CWMARS.org to search the catalog and request any book for delivery right to Leyden. Plus, they can enjoy eBooks and e-audio through Libby. The possibilities are endless!

There's still time to achieve your Summer Reading goals! A special prize awaits the child with the most reading time, and every participant who submits a reading log at the end of the program will also receive prizes. With so many eager readers, we are seeking donations of new art supplies, LEGO sets, board games, or local gift cards to reward these dedicated participants. Our adult reading bingo is also in full swing; each completed bingo line earns an entry into a grand prize drawing. Don't miss out! Join us before the summer reading program concludes on **Tuesday, September 23rd**.

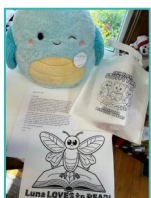
We had a blast at our 4th Annual Stuffy Sleepover! On August 6th, 18 extra stuffed animals joined our resident library plushies for a night full of fun. Together, we read stories, watched movies, played games, and even had a dance party! Each child went home with a bag of treats from their stuffed animal, which included a custom-written letter and a coloring page. This event continues to be one of our favorite activities throughout the year!

Join us on **Monday, October 20th, at 10 AM** for a tour of the **Emily Dickinson Museum** and a discussion of our favorite poems. Space is limited, so please sign up early! Admission to the museum typically costs \$21.00, and we kindly request a \$10 donation per entry to help manage library costs and continue providing engaging activities. Please reach out to Karin to reserve your spot by **9/26**. Late reservations will not be accepted.

Mark your calendars for **The Heart of Leyden Festival on September 28th!** This event, hosted by the library and the Recreation Committee, will feature the **3rd annual Heart of Leyden 5K, a 0.5K fun run, and a memorial walk honoring Irene Baker**. Simultaneously, the Emergency Management committee will host Readyfest. Plus, September 28th is National Good Neighbor Day—what a wonderful way to celebrate!

A heartfelt thank you to Elwin Barton for volunteering his time to mow behind the library! Our view is absolutely spectacular now.

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



See the next page for information about the Heart of Leyden Festival and page 8 for information about the Ready Fest.





HEART OF LEYDEN FESTIVAL 5K + .5K FUN RUN

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH
AVERY FIELD, LEYDEN MA**

NEW THIS YEAR:

- MEMORIAL WALK FOR IRENE BAKER**
- LEYDEN STORIES BY DAVIS BATES**
- READYFEST, SPONSORED BY LEYDEN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**RAIN OR SHINE! ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT AVERY FIELD, 7
BRATTLEBORO RD, LEYDEN MA**

DRINKS AND SNACKS OFFERED BY THE BES PTO AND CUB SCOUT PACK 3!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS *PRE-REGISTER FOR THE 5K HERE*

9:00-9:45 AM- 5K REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN

10:00 AM- 0.5K FUN RUN BEGINS

10:30 AM- 5K BEGINS

10:35 AM IRENE BAKER MEMORIAL WALK.

**STORIES BY DAVIS BATES AND AWARDS TO
FOLLOW**



RUNREG.COM/HEART-OF-LEYDEN-5K

**HOSTED BY THE ROBERTSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND LEYDEN
RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Recreation Committee

West Nile Virus

As the risk of West Nile Virus has been upgraded to moderate in Leyden PLEASE remember to protect yourself from mosquitoes by covering up and/or wearing a mosquito repellent when recreating outdoors.

Heart of Leyden Festival

Remember the Heart of Leyden Festival taking place at **Avery Field, September 28th**. The Heart of Leyden races, sponsored by the Robertson Memorial Library and the Recreation Committee, will be taking place that morning starting at 10 am. First up is the .5 K fun run/walk/roll at 10 am. This is a free event and all are encouraged to participate. There is no need to register, all that's needed to participate is you and your sense of humor. Costumes are encouraged (though not mandatory) and there will be prizes for best youth, adult, and group costumes.

The 5K race will take place at 10:30 from Avery Field. You may preregister at runreg.com, or on the day of the race. Registration will open at 9 am and close at 9:45. Registration is set at \$15 per individual and \$25 per family (2 or more people from the same household).

This year there will also be a walk in Memory of Irene Baker that will follow the route that Irene walked regularly. There is no cost for this event though donations will be accepted. The Irene Baker Memorial Walk will commence from Avery Field soon after the start of the 5K race.

Connecticut River Riverboat Cruise

The Council on Aging and the Recreation Committee have joined forces this year to sponsor a Riverboat Cruise on the Connecticut River, October 11th at 11 am. This will probably be the best weekend of the year and the best way to view our beautiful Franklin County foliage. This activity is open and free to all Leyden residents but participation is limited. Reserve your seat by contacting Annie Garvey at agarv3112@gmail.com or (413) 775-1390.

Avery Field Pavilion

There are still dates available in September and October for rentals of the pavilion. Rentals are a modest \$125 per day or \$200 for two consecutive days. If you want to make a reservation or have questions about dates please **contact Steve Richter at reccom@townofleyden.com**.

Steve Richter

reccom@townofleyden.com.



**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.

To reserve seats:

Contact Annie Garvey at agarv3112@gmail.com or 413-775-1390.

Info for Parking and Boarding for the cruise. Plan to at the dock at least arrive 15 minutes before your cruise departure to allow time for boarding. **Park at the Riverview Picnic Area, 144 Pine Meadow Rd. Northfield, MA.**

The dock is approximately 100 yards down a paved path through the picnic area. Restrooms are available at the picnic area. Feel free to bring a drink and a snack. The riverboat is wheelchair accessible. Be sure to use the restrooms at the picnic area. The small restroom at the back of the boat is currently out of order.

Pets are not allowed on the cruise, pets may not be left unattended on any FirstLight Power property.

Council on Aging

Community Luncheon

Wednesday, September 10th at noon in the Town Hall

Menu: Chili and Macaroni & Cheese, Salad, Garlic Knots, and Cookies

If you want a to-go lunch, please call Linda Allis and leave your name and how many meals you will be picking up so we can have them ready. (413) 834-4417

Not just for seniors - all ages welcome.

Walk-In Wellness Clinic. Wednesday, September 10th 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: Wednesday, Wednesday, October 8th at the Town Offices

Please call **Linda Allis** with questions or if you would like to reserve a spot. **(413) 834-4417**. There is a \$25 co-pay at the time of your appointment. If you have a financial hardship, please let us know ahead of time and we can help.

If you are not able to make it to your appointment, please call as soon as possible so we can fill that spot in.

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 at (413) 834-4417.

The next COA meeting is on Tuesday, September 16th at 2pm at the Town Offices.

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

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.

Rainbow Elders: LGBTQIA+ Socializing, Support, and Resources Ongoing events with the Rainbow Elders:

[Surviving & Thriving through These Times: Virtual Rainbow Elders Gatherings](#) and [Rainbow Elders Luncheon Club](#)

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/>



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

Spotted on South County Road



Michael Frees with two baskets he made by hand from materials grown on his land. The flat round basket is an Irish Skib woven from willow branches, the other a foraging basket fashioned from the bark of an ash tree. His basketry products can be found at the Museum Store in Old Deerfield.



Ed Johnson cutting 32" black birch sticks for his sugarhouse on a splitter he made right there on his farm. The split wood goes on a pallet, and he burns 15 – 16 pallets each sugaring season. Each pallet is roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ of a cord of wood.



Photographs for the Annual Report: We are seeking photographs to be considered for inclusion in the FY2025 annual report. Anyone who wishes to have their photo considered for submission please email it to the town clerk at Town-Clerk@TownOfLeyden.com by September 15, 2025. Please provide a high-quality photo and include the following additional information if possible:

Name of the photographer

Date taken (if known)

Brief description and what makes it interesting

It was a lovely afternoon—such an afternoon as only September can produce when summer has stolen back for one more day of dream and glamour.

L.M. Montgomery

September Tomatoes

By Karina Borowicz

The whiskey stink of rot has settled in the garden, and a burst of fruit flies rises when I touch the dying tomato plants.

Still, the claws of tiny yellow blossoms flail in the air as I pull the vines up by the roots and toss them in the compost.

It feels cruel. Something in me isn't ready to let go of summer so easily. To destroy what I've carefully cultivated all these months. Those pale flowers might still have time to fruit.

My great-grandmother sang with the girls of her village as they pulled the flax. Songs so old and so tied to the season that the very sound seemed to turn the weather.

Submitted by Annie Garvey

Plant Swap

(In honor of Sue Howarth)

Let's get together for a plant swap (house plants, cuttings, saved seeds, extra veggies, bulbs 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 names as well as light and water requirements.

Leyden Green Thumbs

The Leyden Historical Commission

Coffee and History

Join us for Coffee, Snacks and Conversation

Sunday, September 14th

Sunday, September 28th

10am - noon

7 Brattleboro Road, Town Office



The Historical Display is open on the
2nd and 4th Sunday of each month from **10am - Noon.**

Join us for an exciting FALL PREP FOR SPRING WORKSHOP

Discover the secrets of unlocking the potential of your garden to harvest rain water in the soil, farm microbes, and boost plant fertility all while creating a drought and flood resilient garden.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH AT 10 A.M.
79 S SCHOOLHOUSE RD LEYDEN MA
\$5-\$20 SUGGESTED DONATION**



**FOR QUESTIONS OR TO REGISTER FOR THE EVENT EMAIL JANELL AT:
HOW2GROLANDSCAPES@GMAIL.COM**

Climate Corner: Connections

We all have connections: with people, with our pets, with special places, with influences around us. My interest is activated when I hear or see things ‘connected’ to my connections. One of these recently occurred when a small town in N.M., fewer than 100 miles from where I had lived, was affected by a natural disaster. The town, devastated by wildfires last year, was now experiencing swift water flooding and it had swept away two young children and an adult man. The connection was more than personal... The burn scars from the previous year’s fires were unable to absorb the rainfall and overflow from the river and streams. I also connected it to climate change. (Recorder, Volume 233, Issue 135)

The following are also connections “fueled” by climate change in ways we may often not realize.

- Homeowner’s Insurance: Massachusetts ranks 5th in the nation for nonrenewal of these policies. While this is mostly due to risks associated with hurricanes and damage caused by severe storms on the Cape & Islands, we are not exempt from nonrenewal here in Franklin County. On a recent Zoom call, 2 of the 7 local colleagues with long-standing policies were recently not renewed. Apparently we also find ourselves at a higher risk than in the past.
- Erin, the latest hurricane to threaten New England may bring severe winds and flooding to the Cape & Islands. In its formation it went from a CAT 3 to a CAT 5 in a little over 24 hours, an extremely rare event. Warming waters in the Atlantic were cited as a major factor (NPR, August 17, 2025).
- Malaria: It is endemic in Africa, and a 2024 article cites climate change as an issue in maintaining the progress made in saving lives (pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11398779). Trends in sub-Saharan Africa are towards changing levels of precipitation and less predictable timing of the rains which both promote mosquito reproduction. Add to this the recent withdrawal of U.S. funding for malaria assistance, a program called P.M.I., the President’s Malaria Initiative, begun during the George W. Bush administration, and malaria forecasts are dire for places like the country of Guinea.
- Militarism in the Arctic: As the ice in the arctic recedes, more land is exposed. Bordering countries, the U. S., Russia, Canada, and Norway are busy mapping the seabed for boundary claims. There are valuable minerals in the rock below the ice. Military outposts are already operating and more are planned, including at least one Russian submarine port. (NPR series on Adaptations)

These connections surround us and are reported more often. How many times has climate change **not** been specifically noted as a connection? Do their frequency and severity register with you? Continue noticing and having conversations with your **connections**. Keep doing all that you can to slow fossil fuel usage.

Karen O’Neil oneilk160r@gmail.com Have an enjoyable autumn with activities in and around beautiful Leyden!

Want to be a Good Neighbor?

The FRCOG’s Franklin County/North Quabbin Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Network and Greenfield Community College invite you to **celebrate Massachusetts Good Neighbor Day on or around the weekend of Sept 26-28**.

September 28 was declared National Good Neighbor Day during Jimmy Carter’s presidency and has had a resurgence recently with increased awareness of the powerful positive impact social networks can have on individual and community health. In Massachusetts, the statewide Coalition to Build Community and End Loneliness is rallying communities across the state to host Good Neighbor Day events this year.

There are lots of ways to organize an activity that strengthens connections between people who live, work, or play in a particular place such as a park, neighborhood, library, apartment building, or senior center. You don’t have to start from scratch! The FRCOG can provide a Good Neighbor Day Toolkit and lots of other helpful materials for getting to know your neighbors.



Interested in hosting something to bring neighbors closer together?

Fill out [this form](#) or visit bit.ly/GND-CHIP to sign up.

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.)