

LEYDEN LIFE

LEYDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

October 2025

Select Board Report

We have had glorious days to close out summer and kick off the Fall season. However, Massachusetts is in a significant drought and managing your water, even if you believe your deep well will make it through, is good practice so you don't get caught without water for essential needs. The drought also makes us vulnerable to fire outbreaks so take caution with grills, outdoor firepits, lanterns, etc. As we wrote last month there are many decisions that must be made by you, Leyden residents. Please stay alert for announcements on the town website, this newsletter, the local paper if you get that or at the town office.

School Forums. Our first informational forum on September 30th had a full agenda with presentations on the state of Massachusetts schools, especially rural areas, how the formula for the school assessments to the town works, the activities and plans at Pioneer Valley Regional School District (PVRSD) and Franklin County Technical School District (FCTSD), and the results of the Six-Town School Regionalization project. The forum was not recorded but presentations and handouts will be available on the town website and at the office.

The Six-Town School Regionalization Planning Board will be having additional forums at different locations. The schedule is:

Warwick: Thursday, October 2, 6 pm Warwick Community School

Bernardston: Friday, October 3, 1 pm Senior Center

Bernardston: Wednesday, October 8, 6 pm Senior Center

Montague: Thursday, October 9, 6 pm Senior Center

Warwick: Thursday, October 16, 6 pm Warwick Community School
(tentative)

Northfield: Saturday, October 18, 10 am Dickinson Memorial Library

Bernardston: October 25, 10 am Senior Center

Northfield: Thursday, October 30, 6 pm Dickinson Memorial Library

Leyden: Wednesday, November 5, 6 pm Town Hall

The website for the project is: [6 TOWNS](#).

Special Town Meeting: All six towns will be holding Special Town Meetings (STM) on Saturday, November 15th; Leyden's STM will begin at 10am at the Town Hall. Mark your calendars as this will be a vote on creating a new school district, Great River School District.

(Select Board Report, continues on page 2)

"He loved October. Had always loved it. There was something sad and beautiful about it—the ending and beginning of things."

—Jacqueline Woodson, *If You Come Softly*

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)

Solicitation Policy: The Select Board has approved, at long last, a solicitation policy which is available on the website under Resources/Policies. If a business or organization wishes to solicit their services door to door in Leyden, they must apply to the Bernardston Police Department who will approve and notify Town Coordinator and Select Board. Solicitation approvals will be posted on the website so that you can confirm that the solicitor is legitimate. You can post your property with No Solicitations signs if you wish.

Electrical Aggregation: The Select Board and Town Coordinator have been meeting with Colonial Power, our contractor, who has facilitated State approval and has negotiated an electrical aggregation contract. First Point Power, who is the supplier for the larger Franklin County aggregation, is offering the same rates to Leyden as the larger group contracted. Informational meetings will be scheduled prior to March 2026 to explain how the aggregation works and how to opt-out if that is your preference.

MLP Loan Payment: The Treasurer has informed the MLP Manager and Board that the loan taken out to bring in fiber optics broadband to Leyden will have to be paid off in 4 years as municipalities can only turn over yearly loan notes for 10 years. If the loan is not paid off in 4 years, the town would have to take out a bond which is a more expensive financing option. Initial loan was for \$1,070,000; balance is currently \$497,050. The MLP Manager has proposed to the Select Board and Finance Committee that the loan be paid through a combination of \$121,000 from MLP retained earnings and a town contribution of \$25,000 each year. The Finance Committee will consider this proposal as they work on the FY27 town budget.

Help us solve a mystery: The Right To Farm sign at the south end of Greenfield Road was redone within the past year (Thank you Pat Little) and there was not a flagpole holder attached. Since then a holder and an American flag has been placed on the sign, taken off for a number of days, and placed on again. The Select Board is not aware of if or when placing a flag on that sign was approved, or who purchased the flag. If you know when it was approved and by whom please let us know.

Announcements:

- The **orientation for elected and appointed officials was well attended** with around 30 folks who serve on our boards and committees. This annual orientation covers requirements of Massachusetts as well as best practices for conducting town business.
- Select Board **approved the Wage Classification and Compensation Plan** which is available under Resources/Policies on the town website.
- A **tree hearing is scheduled on October 8th** for Hunt Hill Road. Abutters will receive notices, and it has been posted in the Greenfield Recorder.
- **Paving of Greenfield/Brattleboro Road** was delayed but should be completed by the time you read this. The delay was not under the control of the Highway Department. Hopefully travel was not too inconvenient on the scarred pavement.
- Meetings to understand and explore solutions to the recent **high increases in the health insurance rates for the towns** have been attended by our Treasurer, Town Coordinator, Erica Jensen and Franklin County Council of Government (FRCOG).
- **PVRSD has formed a Strategic Planning Committee.** Jeff Baker is the Select Board's representative on that committee. A consultant has been hired by PVRSD to facilitate the committee's discussion and development of a plan.
- Conservation Commission and Select Board representatives completed the **annual walk through on Hunt Hill/Penfield Trust Land** per the conservation reserve agreement and were satisfied that the terms of the agreement are being met.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Baker, Katherine DiMatteo, Erica Jensen

Leyden Select Board

From a Leyden 1888 Annual Report

"We have spread before you in the most definite and intelligible form in our power the record of our doings. We need not perhaps, tell you of our vexations and anxieties; none can appreciate the cares and difficulties of a town officer who is solicitous of performing his duties for the best interest of his constituents and the public who has not had experience. Great curses and small blessings are the lot of him who does his whole duty. We can only wish our successors better success than we have attained.

David Moury

U.T. Darling, Jr.

R. B. Robertson

Selectmen of Leyden"

Thanks to Liz Kidder for submitting this item. Liz notes that these old annual reports can be viewed at the Historical Commission during their coffee hours (2nd and 4th Sunday of each month from 10am - noon).

Town Clerk

Fiscal Year 2025 Town Annual Report Updates: We are nearing the completion of the Annual Report. Many thanks to all for submitting their respective reports on time as requested. By early October we should have the draft completed to be reviewed and a final report done by the end of October in time to have it uploaded to the Commonwealth.

Photographs for the Annual Report Updates: We would like to thank all those who have sent in photos to be included in the Town’s Annual Report. We received several great and interesting photos; we have a lot of talented photographers in Leyden. Thank you.

Oath of Office Reminder: If you have not taken the oath of office yet, please make arrangement to get it done very soon. Anyone elected or appointed into a municipal position/office must be sworn in before they can perform their duties. Not doing so will jeopardize any decision made and votes taken.

Also, 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 the office by 9AM on Mondays, but please call to make sure that someone is in the office. The best way to get in touch is via email(townclerk@townofleyden.com) as it is checked remotely, whereas voicemail can only be checked in the office.

George Stephan, Town Clerk

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.

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, towncoord@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!

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 Wallace Herzig for a contribution this month.



Public Forum on Franklin County Rural Schools

Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at 6 pm at the Leyden Town Hall

ATTEND - BE INFORMED - ENGAGE

Purpose: To inform and discuss the challenges to our rural public schools and projections for the future in preparation for upcoming votes on School District Agreements, budgets, and regionalization.

Agenda:

Welcome and introduction of speakers – 5 minutes. Select Board Chair: Erica Jensen

Summary of the 2022 Rural School Commission’s Report. – 10 minutes Linda Dunlavy, FRCOG Executive Director

School Funding – 10 minutes

Doug Selwyn, former professor of education
Chapter 70 funding formula for public education

Franklin County Regional Technical School – 15 minutes

Richard Martin, Superintendent
Presentation of enrollment (historic, current, projected), staff retention statistics, new curriculum implemented and projected, budget, facility addition and capital plans (what, when, cost, process for approval), challenges and opportunities ahead.

Pioneer Valley Regional School District – 15 minutes

Melissa Gerry, School Committee Chair
Presentation of enrollment (historical, current, projected), staff retention statistics, new curriculum implemented and projected, budget, facility addition and capital plans (what, when, cost, process for approval), challenges and opportunities ahead.

Six-Town Education Regionalization Planning Board – 15 minutes

Greg Snedeker, Vice Chair/Secretary/Treasurer
Presentation of recommendations, analysis of six town education challenges and opportunities, differences in current academic approach: PVRSD/Montague-Gill District, next steps and timing of implementation if approved.

Clarifying questions after each presentation

Open Discussion– 30 minutes

Light Snacks and Beverages will be available

Don’t forget to fill out the

Efficiency and Regionalization Survey for Bernardston and Leyden

Due October 9th

Available on the town website and paper copies available at the town office.

Your input is critical to the Advisory Committee’s recommendations.

Fire Department

Greetings from the Leyden Fire Department!

It is hard to believe we are staring into October already, but here we go. The leaves are already turning color.

Western Massachusetts is in a severe drought. Please take care to prevent outside fires. Brush, trees, forest litter, and soils are all very dry and the risk is high.

We had the honor of representing Leyden in the Franklin County Fair Emergency Services Parade on Sunday September 7. Four members of the department took two vehicles, Squad 1 and Tanker 1, and left early to get in line for the parade through Greenfield. Members of many different departments had the rare opportunity to visit before the parade. It is a strong display of the community's resources, with departments from throughout Franklin County and southern Vermont participating.

We have been out training on pumps, hydrants, and running water through new hose lines. The department recently purchased two new nozzles and five 50-foot lengths each of 1.75-inch and 2.5-inch hose to replace worn hoses. We are continuously identifying opportunities to make necessary upgrades. The daylight hours are certainly getting shorter, and that gives us the opportunity to train in low light and in the dark.

Hunting is picking up again at this time of year. Turkey season begins in October, as does bow season for deer. You can find the dates and more details of the Massachusetts hunting seasons here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/2025-fishing-and-hunting-season-summary/download>. According to the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, "Wild game is a free-range, organic, and healthy protein with a low carbon footprint. Harvested venison provides more than 1.8 million meals to hunters, families, and friends across Massachusetts every year."

Wear blaze orange when you are out walking in the woods, and it helps to outfit dogs as well. As Tom Raffensperger noted in last year's Leyden Life, "If you see a hunter in the woods, make sure they know you are there. Usually they see you long before you see them, but give a nod and a wave to make sure."

We continue to be on the lookout for new members.

Looking for a reason to start running, and go to bed early? Join the Fire Department.

Need motivation to eat healthier and lift weights? Join the Fire Department.

Need an excuse to leave the house before chores are done? We are here for you.

Reach out if you would like more information. Fire Chief: fire@townofleyden.com

Submitted by Firefighter Samantha Wood



Firefighters Corrida Thompson and Samantha Wood practice discharging a hose line during training on Sept. 9, 2025. The Fire Department has acquired new 1.75-inch and 2.5-inch hose lines and two new nozzles.

Photo by Tina Riddell



Pump training at the hydrant off Coates Road involved moving a lot of water.

Photo by AJ Egloff

LITTLE PUDDLE FARM

Dave Morgan and Sally Mastaliz have lived in Leyden since 2015. They are avid gardeners and often grow enough to share the fruits of their labor with friends and family. But last year they had such a surplus of peaches they decided to bag some of them and put up a card table by the side of the road. It was a big success, and they enjoyed meeting the people who stopped by. This year Dave improved the card table by building a small farm stand, and Little Puddle Farm Stand was born.

Dave and Sally grow what they sell, and everything is organic. They have a wide and sometimes unusual variety of food, including tomatoes, green and yellow beans, cucumbers, summer squash, zucchini, onions, scallions, peppers, eggplant, and Jacob's Cattle beans. No peaches this year because of the drought and bears. Last year the voles ate their peppers, but this year 4 grey foxes arrived and took care of that problem!

Little Puddle Farm Stand is at 670 Greenfield Road. Stop by for a visit, or for some fall treats like potatoes or winter squash. If you're lucky you might discover something new, like small round orange vegetables called Turkish Eggplant!



HILLWIND FARM

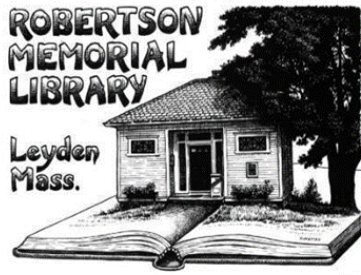
John and Kayla Rice live with their 4 year old daughter Lucy at Hillwind Farm, 18 Eden Trail Road. Kayla grew up on a Leyden farm, and has farmed all her life. For the past twenty years she has raised beef cows and grown fruit and vegetables, and about 3 years ago she started selling an assortment of all organic products at the farm stand in front of her home.

During the holiday season, Kayla makes beautiful wreaths with her two sisters, Kim Jordan and Emily Herron Clark. They forage for and grow the supplies for the wreaths, some of which get sold at Foster's Supermarket, and every year Emily sets up the wreath-making workshop at Leyden Town Hall to help raise money for the church.

During the growing season, Kayla sells tomatoes, peppers, sugar snap peas, green beans, beets, carrots, cucumbers, squash, blueberries, raspberries, and blackberries. Homemade sourdough bread and organic free range eggs are also available. Lucy helps in the garden and can identify most of the plants and vegetables. Proceeds from the flowers sold at the stand go into her piggy bank!



Stories and photos
by Lisa Limont



Library Hours:

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

“It must be October, the trees are falling away and showing their true colors.”

- Charmaine J Forde

We are diligently wrapping up our Summer Reading Program and can't wait to compile all the numbers and share them with you soon. By the time you read this article, we will have celebrated the success of the Heart of Leyden Festival, which took place alongside Ready Fest on September 28th.

We are thrilled to announce that Leyden has teamed up with neighboring towns and GCC to secure a grant for hosting **Cyber Seniors programs** in the coming year. This grant will offer group training sessions as well as support for one-on-one training. **If you need assistance with a tech project, feel free to schedule an appointment from 12 to 1 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons at the library.**

A big thank you to Bill and AJ for the installation, Pat for the painting, and Tom for his coordination efforts—**Leyden's Little Free Libraries are now up and running!** You can find one in front of the Town Office and another in front of the Town Hall. We aimed to place them in locations that can be easily maintained throughout the year. In the coming days, we will start filling these boxes with delightful treasures and hope you will join us in this effort. Remember, take a book and leave a book!

If you plan to visit this year's Trunk or Treat, on Saturday, October 25th, make sure to stop by and see if you can guess which children's spooky book series inspired my family's costume this year. It's one of my personal favorites!

Karin Parks

library@townofleyden.com

(413)773-9334

(Library information is continued on next page.)

Ethan and Abby proudly represent Leyden, a town deeply rooted in agriculture, this year at the Big E, the fourth largest state fair in the country.

Ethan Facey exhibited in the New England 4-H Dairy Show, winning Grand Champion Holstein, Queen of the Milky Way (made the most milk while at Big E), Second Senior Showmanship, and First Place Clipping Team.

Abby Parks exhibited seven Polled Dorset and eight Border Leicester sheep, winning numerous awards in both the open show and junior show over the first two weeks of the fair. She's proudest of winning first place in a competitive junior showmanship class with Susie, a homegrown Border Leicester yearling ewe. Abby and her sheep head to Kentucky next for the Naile in November.



Photo Credit: NX Level



Photo Credit: KAK Images



What We Offer:

- Basic Computer Skills
- Using the Internet
- Email Support
- Setting up New Devices
- Accessing Services:
 - _ Library Resources
 - _ Health Portals
 - _ Entertainment

And so much more!
Get support tailored for your needs!



Cyber-Seniors™
Connecting Generations



Scan to sign up or visit gccfor.me/cyber or call 413-325-3195

Wednesdays 12-1PM
Robertson Memorial Library
413-773-9334
849 Greenfield Road
Leyden, MA

This program is a partnership with the towns of Northfield, Charlemont, Colrain, Leyden, Wendell, and New Salem, and is funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Take a book. Leave a book.



Leyden's Little Free Libraries are located at the Town Hall and the Town Offices.



Walkathon for Meals on Wheels

Please share with your family, friends, and colleagues, gather your walking teams, and come join us on **Saturday, October 18th, 10am-2pm at the Franklin County Fairgrounds** in support of Meals on Wheels and other LifePath programs. We want people to donate, create walking teams, and come out and have fun for a good cause. This family-friendly event is designed to bring everyone together for a day of fun in support of a great cause.

If you can't attend the Walkathon, new this year, we are also encouraging people to hold their own mini-walkathons right in their own neighborhood. We always need volunteers for Meals on Wheels drivers and other programs too.

Give us a call if so at 413-773-5555. Visit LifePathMA.org/Walkathon for more information!



The Council on Aging is looking for a new member. Please consider joining us! You don't have to be a senior to join the COA - just have an interest in the lives of elders.

If interested, please contact Annie Garvey at 413-775-1390 or agarv3112@gmail.com

Recreation Committee

West Nile Virus

As the risk of West Nile Virus continues to be moderate in Leyden PLEASE remember to protect yourself from mosquitoes by covering up and/or wearing a mosquito repellent when recreating outdoors. This will be very important until we have a killing frost.

Heart of Leyden Festival

At the time that this edition of Leyden Life hits the stands the Heart of Leyden Festival will have been completed. If you participated thank you and for those of you who ran, walked or rolled, thank you and congratulations. I sincerely hope that you had a good time.

Added to the running festivities this year we were joined by the second edition of the Leyden Ready Fest. Thank you Jeff Miller for making this happen.

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. **More information about the cruise on page 12.**

Trunk or Treat

This year Leyden will be celebrating Halloween on Saturday, October 25th at Avery Field. Come decorate your vehicle and of course decorate yourself and children. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes and for the best decorated vehicle.

Steve Richter

Reccom@townofleyden.com



Trunk or Treat

oct AVERY FIELD **4-5**
25 LEYDEN **pm**

COME DECORATE YOUR VEHICLE AND GET SPOOKY! PRIZES ARE OFFERED FOR BEST DRESSED VEHICLE AND BEST CHILDREN'S COSTUME

SPONSORED BY THE LEYDEN RECREATION COMMITTEE

Board of Health

- Leyden is in a moderate drought which is predicted to persist in our area. Please make your households aware of water conserving actions, inside and outside.
- Because of our drought situation, the brush fire risk is high. Smoke production is a major health hazard to those with asthma, COPD, and any other respiratory conditions.
- Massachusetts has a standing order for vaccines and the Department of Public Health has published 2025-2026 vaccine recommendations. This is available at the Town Offices. All pharmacies in Massachusetts have the Covid vaccine along with Influenza. Due to massive federal budget cuts, there will not be many, if any, vaccine clinics. If anyone is looking for a way to receive a vaccine, please email the Board of Health, or visit a local pharmacy. VACCINES ARE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE.
- There is still room for Leyden residents to sign up for **CPR and/or First Aid classes**. The Board is subsidizing the fee. The cost for each class for Leyden residents is \$25. Because of our location, beautiful as it may be, we may have to wait 20-30 minutes in the case of a medical emergency for First Responders. These classes could save a life.

CPR Wednesday 10/22/25 6-8pm

First Aid Wednesday 11/12/25 6-8pm

To Register: <https://www.instituteforwildmed.com/cpr-first-aid-leyden>

Registration information is also on the Leyden website.

- Mosquito season will end soon with our first frost. But the state has now had 5 people contract West Nile Virus. Please use precautionary measures when outside and mosquitoes are active. We have an identified pool of WNV carrying mosquitoes at Avery Field.
- The Board will be at ReadyFest on September 28. Come down, have fun, and educate yourself to prepare your household for emergency situations.
- October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Men and women can get breast cancer. Your Primary Care can demonstrate to you how to do monthly exams at home. The rate of survival increases with early detection.

You can always reach the Board of Health by email boh@townofleyden.com. It is checked on a regular basis.

See you at ReadyFest!

Beth Kuzdeba Marcia Miller Devorah Vester

Prevent Respiratory Sickness

Each year, respiratory viruses cause millions of illnesses and thousands of hospitalizations and deaths in the US. Flu and other types of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are spread mainly by airborne droplets released by talking, sneezing or coughing.

There are actions you can take to help protect yourself and others:

1. Get vaccinated. Vaccines are available for all major fall and winter respiratory diseases.
2. Put physical distance between yourself and others in public spaces, and when you feel sick.
3. When you sneeze or cough, use a promptly disposed of tissue, or the crook of your arm.
4. Handwash regularly and use a hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available.
5. Clean surfaces such as door handles and railings.

On Sept 4th, Massachusetts became the first state in the nation to guarantee insurance coverage of vaccines recommended by the state, including respiratory virus vaccines, like COVID, flu and RSV. DPH Commissioner Dr. Robbie Goldstein also issued a standing order to allow pharmacies to continue to provide COVID vaccines to Massachusetts residents aged five and older. For up-to-date information on where to find respiratory vaccines throughout Franklin County please see <https://frcog.org/project/vaccine-information/#FindaVaccine>.

If you need help accessing vaccine, please contact Franklin Regional Council of Governments Cooperative Public Health Service Nurses Lisa White or Meg Ryan at 413-774-3167 x 156.



Walk-In Wellness Clinic.

Wednesday, October 8th at 10:30am-12:30pm in the Town Hall.

Everyone is welcome. No appointment needed. Services are free and confidential.

FRCOG nurses assist residents of any member town with a variety of health care needs, including:

- Support in learning how to better manage health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, COPD and asthma
- Support with managing multiple medications and navigating the health care system
- Blood pressure, blood glucose and other preventative and diagnostic health screenings
- Assistance in accessing vaccines.

To discuss health concerns, please contact the nurses: Lisa White 413-774-3167 x156 Meg Ryan 413-774-3167 x158

Important Announcement

Flu vaccine will be available for this clinic. There are a limited number of doses. **Please call to reserve a dose.**

It is possible that **COVID vaccine** will be available. **Please call to check on availability and to reserve a dose.**

Information on Flu and Covid vaccines:
<https://frcog.org/project/vaccine-information/>

Resource for flu information: [Mass.gov influenza page](#)

The clinic is held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

VENDORS WANTED for the LEYDEN HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, December 13th

1am - 3pm

At the Leyden Town Hall and
the Leyden United Methodist Church
15 & 16 West Leyden Road

Contact: Emily Herron-Clark,
413-336-6248, em_el_issa@yahoo.com
or Facebook Messenger

Hosted by the Leyden United Methodist Church

The Leyden Historical Commission Coffee and History

Join us for Coffee,
Snacks and Conversation



Sunday, November 12th

Sunday, November 26th

10am - noon

7 Brattleboro Road, Town Offices

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

**I'm so glad I live in a world
where there are Octobers!"**

- Lucy Montgomery,
Ann of Green Gables



October

O hushed October morning mild,
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;
Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild,
Should waste them all.

- Robert Frost



FREE

Autumn Riverboat Cruise
Saturday, October 11th at 11am
For Leyden residents of all ages
and their family and friends!

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.

Reservations Required:

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

Sponsored by the Recreation Committee
and The Council on Aging.

Information: Parking, Boarding, and more

- Plan to arrive at the dock at least arrive 15 minutes before your cruise departs 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.



Cultural Council

MONEY FOR ARTISTS!

Not many Leyden residents know that the town has a Cultural Council that provides grants to artists and groups every year. In fact, the Leyden Cultural Council is a state funded council of town-appointed volunteers that receives grant money every year from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. In turn, our local council receives grant applications from artists and cultural organizations from around Western Mass that want to provide a wide range of cultural programs. In the past, the Leyden Cultural Council has awarded funding to events including anything from quilling workshops here in town, lectures from The Charlemont Speaker Series, festivals such as the Franklin County Pride Parade and Festival 2025, music from Mohawk Trails Concerts, Festival, the Pioneer Valley Symphony Pops Concert and Live Music at the Heath Fair, as well as many other festivals, music and dance performances.

Leyden is blessed with a lot of talented artists

The Leyden Cultural Council members know that we're blessed with many artists living here in our little corner of the world. We need them to apply for a grant!

To learn more and apply, feel free to reach out to any member of the Leyden Cultural Council: Pat Williams (chair), Lewis Becker, Cornelia Reid, or Madeline Gens, or go to the Mass Cultural Council website:

<https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/application-process/>

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS OCTOBER 16th!

Consider joining!

If you're interested in joining the Leyden Cultural Council, please reach out to culturalcouncil@townofleyden.com.

Council on Aging

Community Luncheon

Wednesday, October 8th at noon in the Town Hall

Menu: American Chop Suey, 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, October 8th 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.

Please see page XXX for more information about the wellness clinic.

Foot Clinic for Seniors: 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 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, October 14th 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/>



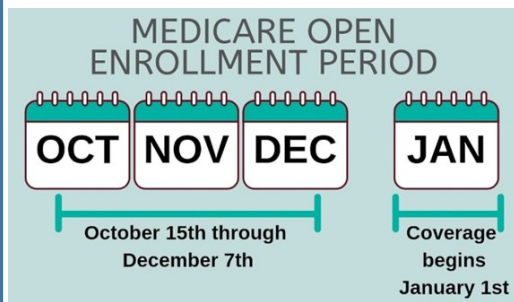
413-773-5555

<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

Medicare Open Enrollment:



Where to get help

Contact Medicare 1-800-633-4227 or
<https://www.medicare.gov/>

For Local Help: Call SHINE 413-773-5555
 or email <https://lifepathma.org/>

Shine provides phone or in-person
 consultations

Changes in your coverage can only be made during open enrollment.

If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan

- Change from one Medicare Advantage plan to another.
- Change from a Medicare Advantage plan without drug coverage to a plan with drug coverage, or vice versa.
- Switch from Medicare Advantage to Original Medicare.

If you have Original Medicare

- Enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan.
- Switch from one Medicare Part D plan to another.
- Quit your Medicare Part D plan (but watch out for late enrollment penalties if you go back later).
- Switch from Original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage plan.

SHINE: Medicare Health Insurance Counseling

Free, one-on-one health insurance counseling for Medicare beneficiaries.

413-773-5555

You can receive personalized information and support from a trained SHINE counselor at a location near you, by phone, or in your home.

Climate Corner: Words

Today I was stunned when a radio reporter in a serious news story made reference to “wonton disregard” (confusing *wanton*, “undisciplined unrestrained”, with a name for Chinese dumplings). The rest of the new article was lost on me. Words matter.

This was the prompt for reflection on the nature and evolution of the language around climate issues.

When these issues first took hold in the general public consciousness as a problem caused by humans, the term ‘global warming’ was applied to the result of excessive release of CO₂ through fossil fuel emissions. Prior to this time, perhaps 40 years ago, the term ‘greenhouse effect’ was used to describe the role of CO₂ in our atmosphere.

In the past several decades the common term, ‘climate change’, has gained increased usage. In fact, this phrase is said to have been promoted by a conservative operative to “de-emphasize the role of human actions in causing global warming”. However, this change in terminology has apparently not altered the level of emotional response and concern in American adults. In a study detailed in the same report, participants’ responses closely matched each other regardless of whether the label ‘greenhouse effect’ or ‘climate change’ was used. Subjects reacted with less concern and emotion to newer terms, such as ‘climate crisis or ‘weather whiplash’, leading the authors to conclude that familiarity with a term evoked greater concern and emotion than a “stronger” term. People’s strongest response reactions are to the phrase they know best”. (*Anthropocene* magazine. Sarah DeWeerd, September 10, 2024)

In a report released in 2018 entitled “Role of Emotion in Generating Advocacy,” fear and hope are both found likely to act as effective mediators” in taking actions on one’s concerns. The good news is that there has been a dramatic increase in both public beliefs and worries about climate change. Americans who accept that global warming is occurring outnumber those who do not by a ratio of 6 to 1. That should mean that more of us are taking individual actions to address this shared problem. Using a common language for discussion is a start. We can all do more to translate our awareness into action, by considering what is at stake (fear) and how we imagine the future (hope). Look around. What would you like to see remain in the decades to come?

In the words of John Muir, “Into the forest I go to lose my mind and find my soul.”

Thank you, Karen O’Neil oneilk160r@gmail.com

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.

FREE: 4 Hankook Winter Tires, i*cept iz2, M & S ,
Size: 215/55 R17 98T (Studless winter tire)
Call/Text Peggy Brown @ 413-522-9276

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- thermo-

philic, static, vermicompost. Biological soil drenches - com-

post teas and extracts Disease and pest management with-

out 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.)