

LEYDEN LIFE

LEYDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

November 2025

Select Board

October may have started off slowly in showing its colors, but we certainly have enjoyed the final weeks in golden color. Thankfully we also have had some rain this month to help ease the drought conditions. As we approach our holiday to give thanks, the Select Board extends our gratitude to all those who volunteer, participate in town activities, and keep us informed of your concerns, suggestions and news. You are the community that is Leyden.

School Forums

The September 30th forum on the future of our district schools was well attended with between 25-40 attendees, that included the speakers, school committee members, the presenters and residents from Leyden and neighboring towns. An abundance of information was shared and despite several fractious comments and questions, overall the discussion was a helpful start to understanding the situation facing the towns regarding our obligations to provide quality education, to keep our school system sustainable within the constraints of the town's budget. We hope to see you on **Wednesday, November 5th for the next forum.**

The next forum will be a more in-depth information session by the Six-Town School Regionalization Planning Board about the formation of a new, larger school district combining Pioneer Valley Regional School District and the Gill-Montague School District. Two informational sessions are currently scheduled, open to all:

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

Leyden: **Wednesday, November 5, 6pm Town Hall**

Warwick: **Thursday, November 6, 6pm Warwick Community School**
(tentative)

The website for the project is: [6 TOWNS](#) where you can find the general and financial reports and frequently asked questions.

(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



Daylight saving time ends
Sunday, November 2, 2025
Set clocks back 1 hour at 2am



(Select Board Report, continued from page 1)

Announcements:

- The **Special Town Meeting** planned for November 15th has been postponed. Stay tuned for an announcement about a re-scheduled date and time.
- Our Senator Jo Comerford at a meeting with municipalities announced that the **state's revenue is down**, potentially affecting the state budget, with cuts to rural school aid and charter school reimbursements.
- A **pole hearing was held** to discuss moving approximately 13 Verizon poles along Greenfield Road. The plan was approved at the meeting after consideration of concerns raised by residents impacted.
- The **Leyden, Northfield and Bernardston highway superintendents will be meeting with the PVRSD superintendent to discuss road conditions in the winter**. The process for determining whether to delay or cancel school due to inclement weather will be discussed. The message to be conveyed is how costly it is for the towns to keep clearing the roads for the buses if school is not delayed, and that town funds are getting tighter.
- The **Leyden Highway Department** will surplus a 5-ton military dump truck. Look for the surplus posting if you are interested. Also planned is the purchase for the town of a \$9,200 snowplow for the white highway truck.
- The Efficiency & Regionalization Advisory Committee received reports from the Collins Center consultants based on their interviews, survey results and analysis. **The Committee will plan a forum in November or December to present the reports and results** to the residents of Bernardston and Leyden. Watch for announcements about the Efficiency & Regionalization public forum.
- The Select Board approved the Town Clerk's request to apply for a **Roving Archivist Program Fellowship** from the State Secretary's office. The town's records are not organized or secure and with this program, work can be done to begin to rectify the situation.
- Leyden's **Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report** has been submitted to the state. Printed versions will be available and posted on our town website in the next months. Thanks to all who submitted their reports and to George Stephan, our town clerk, for bringing all the parts together to produce an attractive and informative report.

Well it's still 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 have purchased and placed the flag on the sign, please contact the Select Board for approval or remove the flag.

Sincerely,

Jeff Baker, Katherine DiMatteo, Erica Jensen
Leyden Select Board

Town Clerk

Fiscal Year 2025 Town Annual Report Updates: It was finally completed on October 6. It is expected to be uploaded to the State Library of Massachusetts by the end of October. It is expected to be printed by end of November provided the printer can get it done by this timeframe. Finally, it will be distributed at the Annual Town Meeting in June 2026.

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. If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk directly.

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 (town-clerk@townofleyden.com) as it is checked remotely, whereas voicemail can only be checked in the office.

George Stephan, Town Clerk

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!

Police Department

As summer has shifted into fall, Bernardston PD has begun adjusting to the new challenges with the seasonal change. The fall foliage and the approaching holidays bring increased traffic and folks unfamiliar with the roads. We are happy to report that Leyden has seen a slight decrease in major incidents during September compared to previous months. Traffic violations (especially speeding) however have been a constant. We continue to deploy our RADAR trailer and have focused our daily patrols on traffic enforcement, combined with our usual patrols town wide.

We are also pleased that we have been awarded a traffic safety grant which gives funds to the PD for addition patrols with the sole focus of traffic safety. In the coming months and into next year we will be deploying to areas where we feel enforcement is most needed to ensure the safety of everyone. The grant also awards funding for several more solar speed signs to help remind everyone to slow down.

We continue to enjoy our relationship with the Town of Leyden and look forward to this continued partnership. We also are happy to hear from anyone who may have complaints or suggestions where our effort can be focused so we can best serve the community.

Ofc. Jordan Zukowski
Bernardston PD #4-3

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
Dave Morgan and Beth Kuzdeba
for donations
and to Marie Lovley for an
in-kind contribution!**



Fire Department

Greetings from the Leyden Fire Department!

In the interest of safety, take the time to change your batteries and test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

With the cold weather comes turning on the heat and firing up the woodstoves. Please also clean and inspect chimneys, and take care not to plug space heaters into extension cords or power strips.

A reminder that brush burning season is January 15 to May 1, weather permitting.

There is no burning brush allowed at this time of year.

Please make sure your house numbers are clearly displayed at the road. This is essential for first responders to be able to find your house.

At the end of September we celebrated Ready Fest and the Heart of Leyden Road Race, with the Library's .5k Fun Run and the Irene Baker Memorial Walk. Mrs. Baker's commitment to taking regular exercise outdoors around the center of town is an inspiration from which we can each draw some benefit, and adapt to our capabilities.

The Fire Department provided an activity at Ready Fest for learning how to operate a fire extinguisher. It was great to see children jump right in and get to it.

We also gave out water bottles, informative magnets with instructions for fire extinguisher use, and fire hats for youngsters.

Thanks to some conversations that we had that day, and with cooperation from Nan Ralsted, we are now starting to plan some gatherings and activities related to collecting stories about the history of the Leyden Fire Department.

If you are interested, please reach out to Samantha Wood, fireadmin@townofleyden.com, or leave a message at 413-522-3832.

We are recruiting for more firefighters. Teamwork, driving big trucks, commitment to community, as well as a willingness to learn new things and challenge yourself a bit are all benefits of serving.

If you are interested, reach out to Chief Carey Barton at fire@townofleyden.com, or fireadmin@townofleyden.com.

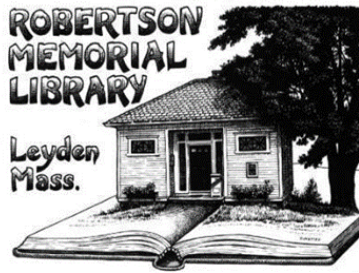
We meet Tuesday nights for training and equipment maintenance.

Submitted by Firefighter Samantha Wood



At Readyfest, Chief Carey Barton teaches children how to use fire extinguishers.

Photo by Samantha Wood



Library Hours:

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

In November, the smell of food is different. It is an orange smell. A squash and pumpkin smell. It tastes like cinnamon and can fill up a house in the morning, can pull everyone from bed in a fog. Food is better in November than any other time of the year.

- Cynthia Rylant, *In November*

The past few weeks have flown by as swiftly as the leaves begin to fall from the trees. It often feels like we transition directly from summer to preparations for winter. We hope you find time to cozy up with a good autumn read.

We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who joined us at the Heart of Leyden Festival on September 28th, held in conjunction with Readyfest. The weather was lovely, and we enjoyed a delightful turnout. A heartfelt tribute to Irene Baker was shared. Out-of-towners continue to be amazed by our town's hills, and we look forward to hosting another event on these hills that are alive.

On October 20th, a group of us braved the rain to visit the Emily Dickinson Museum in Amherst. We enjoyed a private tour of the two historic homes on the property and learned more about local history, the Dickinson family, and the renowned poetry that originates from our area. We all left feeling inspired to delve deeper into Emily's poetry.

Our Cyber Seniors tech help appointments have been a hit! Residents of all ages have utilized these sessions for assistance with various tasks, including phone photo storage, syncing devices to vehicles, using Zoom, organizing email inboxes, comparing products before purchase, and setting up older equipment to check its functionality. Karin has been temporarily contracted to provide this individual tech support until November, but we are working on extending this service. We hope to announce more permanent hours soon!

We are excited to restart our adult book club soon, but we need your book recommendations! Have you read something that you'd like to share with your neighbors? We've been alternating between classics and contemporary works. Books should be around 300 pages, available in large print and audio, and published more than six months ago. Our book group is open to everyone, and we typically meet to discuss the book, catch up with neighbors, and enjoy a potluck appetizer party. Please feel free to contact us with your suggestions.

Please note that the library will be closed on Wednesday, November 26th, in preparation for Thanksgiving and the annual Turkey Trot at Bernardston Elementary.

Have you had a chance to explore our library catalog? Visit leyden.cwmars.org to sign up for a digital library card for immediate access, which can be upgraded to a physical card during your visit. You can browse what's available on our shelves as well as what other member libraries offer.

Our volunteer calendar has a few openings for the fall and winter. We welcome you to come in and sign up!

As always, we are deeply thankful for all our patrons and those who dedicate their time and heart to our small library community.

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



On October 20th, the Library book club visited the Emily Dickinson Museum.

Photo by Karin Parks

Recreation Committee

Snowshoes

This past spring the Recreation Committee acquired 12 sets of new adult snowshoes with poles, in various sizes (thank you Karin Parks). The committee would like to make these available for loan to residents of Leyden. We would also like to add to this collection, especially with children's snowshoes. So we are asking if anyone has pairs of snowshoes and/or poles that are in reasonably good shape that they are no longer using, to please contact Steve Richter at (413) 774-7952 to donate. The plan is to have a series of snowshoeing events this coming winter.

Heart of Leyden Race and Irene Baker Memorial Walk

The Heart of Leyden 5k race was a great success with 37 runners taking part. Runners from around the valley took part this year. Paul Hake from Leyden was the first adult finisher. Harper Hake, also from Leyden, was the first youth finisher. After the race concluded attendees were entertained by the storytelling of Davis Bates, while refreshments were provided for purchase from the Bernardston Cub Scouts.

The Irene Baker Memorial Walk was also well attended with 30 young and older participants honoring Irene Baker by walking her daily route.

Trunk or Treat

By the time this issue of Leyden Life reaches your mailbox hook or electronic device the Trunk or Treat will have taken place at Avery Field. We hope for a good turn out with some spooky and clever costumes and vehicles.

The Recreation Committee wishes for you to have a scary and fun Halloween.

Steve Richter

Reccom@townofleyden.com

Board of Health

I know this sounds like a broken record. Humor me. It's great if you have a first aid kit in your home and car. But skills are just as important as the products. The ability to keep someone alive with CPR until emergency responders get on site; the ability to help when someone is choking..adults are different from infants; saving someone who's overdosing..with Narcan. Those skills don't come out of a box. The Board of Health is subsidizing CPR and First Aid classes every two years. Certification is good for 2 years, hence the 2 yr schedule. First Aid is November 12, from 6-8 pm. CPR was in October, but if there is enough interest, we can look at scheduling another class. The sign up for Leyden residents was sent out by Leyden Life and is also on the web site under 'Latest News'. I hope you can join us.

Food insecurity. Everyone thinks this does not exist in Leyden. We have quite a few single person households, 54% of our residents are over the age of 60, and we have families with small children. Our Federal government has reduced aid to SNAP, Medicaid, Medicare, school lunches, and our most vulnerable people. That's when the government is operating....and it's not now. The protests have shown us that we have more in common than not....and everyone needs to eat. If you find yourself struggling, for whatever reason, please reach out to someone or reach out to the Board.

We are getting into the season of respiratory issues. It is incomprehensible to me that measles and polio are on the rise but had virtually been eradicated with vaccines. Flu, RSV, Covid, and Pneumonia. Vaccines may not prevent all of these BUT if you get ill, vaccines can decrease the severity of the illness, prevent complications and hospitalization, shorten the length of illness, and help to prevent the spread to others.

All of these vaccines are available at local ph774-3167. Lisa White extension 156, Meg Ryan extension 158.

Enjoy the Fall, Happy Thanksgiving and good armacies. If someone is homebound, our public health nurses can provide some vaccines. They can be reached at 413-health to all.

Devorah Vester

boh@townofleyden.com

Leyden Board of Health

Beth Kuzdeba Marcia Miller 413-774-2820

The Heart of Leyden Festival and ReadyFest

September 28th, 2025

Picture on right:

The Irene Baker Memorial Walk begins.

Picture below:

Runners take your mark! The 5k race starts!



Our local Cub Scout pack came to the Heart of Leyden Festival during Good Neighbors Day.



Paul and Harper Hake were our 5k winners!

Walk-In Wellness Clinic.

Wednesday, November 11th 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 nurses: **Lisa White 413-774-3167 x156 Meg Ryan 413-774-3167 x158**

Important Announcement

Flu and COVID vaccine will be available for this clinic. There are a limited number of doses.

To reserve a dose, call Lisa White at 413-774-3167 X156.

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

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

Resource for flu information: [Mass.gov influenza page](https://www.mass.gov/influenza-page)

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 Historical Display will be open for

Coffee and History

Sunday, November 9th

10am - noon

7 Brattleboro Road, Town Offices

**This will be the last Coffee Hour
till Spring. See you in April.**

Please remember the display will be open by
appointment, email
nannetterolstad@gmail.com



The pottery of Carolyn Asbury will be on exhibit through November
at the Wheelhouse Clay Center, [48 Harmony Place](https://www.wheelhouseclaycenter.com), noon to six daily,
in downtown Brattleboro!

Website: wheelhouse clay [center.com](https://www.wheelhouseclaycenter.com), or check FB or Instagram.

Council on Aging

Community Luncheon

Wednesday, November 12th at noon in the Town Hall

Menu: Turkey roll ups with traditional sides and dessert.

If you want a to-go lunch, please call [Linda Allis at \(413\) 834-4417](tel:4138344417). Leave your name and how many meals you will be picking up so we can have them ready. If you are unable to pick up the lunch(es) because of health problems, let us know and we can arrange delivery.

Not just for seniors - all ages welcome.

Walk-In Wellness Clinic. Wednesday, November 12th 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.

Foot Clinic for Seniors: Monday, November 12th at the Town Offices

Please call [Linda Allis](tel:4138344417) with questions or if you would like to reserve a spot. **(413) 834-4417**. There is a \$25 copay at the time of your appointment. Please go to page 8 for important information about the Walk-In Wellness Clinic.

The next COA meeting is on Monday, December 17 at 2pm at the Town Offices. **This is a change from our usual Tuesday meetings.**

We are looking for a new COA member! If you are interested in joining contact [Annie Garvey at agarv3112@gmail.com](mailto:agarv3112@gmail.com) or 413-775-1390. **You do not have to be a senior to join the COA - just have an interest in the lives of 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.

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

Tech Support for Seniors

Jack Golden applied for and received a grant from the Mass Broadband Initiative which will provide Leyden seniors with classes and one-on-one consultations on technology issues. Jack has teamed up with Donna Dusell from GCC's CyberSenior program, Karin Parks from Robertson Memorial Library, and Annie Garvey from the Council on Aging, to plan future activities and outreach.

Classes for Beginners and Intermediate users will be offered, and Karin Parks will provide free consultations on Wednesdays from noon-1pm at the Library. If you are interested in learning more about this program, or would like to suggest a class topic, contact either Karin at (413)773-9334 or library@townofleyden.com, or Annie at 413-775-3910, agarv3112@gmail.com).



Delay in SNAP Benefits

Because of the Federal Government shutdown, beginning November 1st, SNAP benefits (food stamps) are scheduled to be delayed. **For information about local emergency food resources, please call the Project Bread Food Source Hotline: 1-800-645-8333. M-F 8am-7pm; Sat 10am-2pm.**

If you would like to help those in our community affected by the delay in their foodstamps, you can contribute to the United Way Emergency Response Fund @ <https://uw-fh.org/> State funded programs including HIP, TAFDC and EAEDC will continue to operate normally.

Change of hours at the Greenfield Transfer Station

Hours are now

Tuesday through Friday: 10am – 1:30pm
Saturday: 7:30am – 1pm

For more information about
Project Bread: Food Assistance in Massachusetts
<https://projectbread.org/making-food-accessible>

Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance Program

Monday & Thursday 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Leyden Town Offices, 7 Brattleboro Road

Taught by Certified TJQMBB Instructor Penelope Corcoran

“Program Objective: To improve strength, balance, and mobility, and prevent falls in older adults and individuals with balance disorders.

This program transforms martial arts movements into a tailored movement therapy aimed at improving postural stability, awareness and mindful control of body positioning in space, functional walking, movement symmetry and coordination, range of motion around the ankle and hip joints, and lower-extremity muscle strength.”

This class has been meeting for several months and those of us attending have really appreciated our improved sense of balance and general fitness. We would like to encourage others in town to share in this opportunity to have this beneficial class right here in Leyden. Beginners are welcome and a donation to support our teacher, Penelope, is suggested for each class. **Please drop in and learn about our class.**

Note: A chair can be used for assistance.

Sponsored by the Leyden Council on Aging

Pioneer Valley Regional School District. News from the Superintendent's Office

The District Update #110 *The Six Town Merger: My Perspective* by Patricia Kinsella, Superintendent
<https://www.parentsquare.com/feeds/60410816>

Ox Cart Man

by Donald Hall

In October of the year,
he counts potatoes dug from the brown field,
counting the seed, counting
the cellar's portion out,
and bags the rest on the cart's floor.

He packs wool sheared in April, honey
in combs, linen, leather
tanned from deerhide,
and vinegar in a barrel
hoped by hand at the forge's fire.

He walks by his ox's head, ten days
to Portsmouth Market, and sells potatoes,
and the bag that carried potatoes,
flaxseed, birch brooms, maple sugar, goose
feathers, yarn.

When the cart is empty he sells the cart.
When the cart is sold he sells the ox,
harness and yoke, and walks
home, his pockets heavy
with the year's coin for salt and taxes,
and at home by fire's light in November cold
stitches new harness
for next year's ox in the barn,
and carves the yoke, and saws planks
building the cart again.

Poem submitted by Lisa Limont



Photo by Carolyn Asbury

The wind that makes music in November corn
is in a hurry. The stalks hum, the loose husks
whisk skyward in half-playing swirls, and the
wind hurries on... A tree tries to argue, bare
limbs waving, but there is no detaining the
wind.

Aldo Leopold



A Leyden traffic jam on Alexander Road.

Photo by Carolyn Asbury

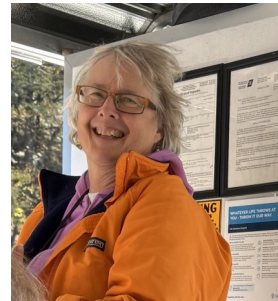


Photos by Annie Garvey

Autumn Cruise on the Connecticut River

October 11th, 2025

Sponsored by the Recreation Committee and the Council on Aging



Photos by Laura Schlaikjer and Annie Garvey

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD



Medicare Open Enrollment

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

SHINE: Medicare Health Insurance Counseling

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

413-773-5555



WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

Hosted by The Leyden United Methodist Church

Sun Nov 30th

11 am - 1 pm & 1 pm - 3 pm

16 W. Leyden Rd. Leyden Ma.

\$ 30 Per Wreath

Instructional Bow Making

Please bring additional accents if you wish to add more than a bow

Wreaths Available for Purchase

No Sign Up Required

Cash, Check PayPal and Venmo Accepted

Facebook: Leyden Wreath Making Workshop

Questions, Contact: Emily Herron-Clark 413-336-6248

LEYDEN HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Hosted by the Leyden United Methodist Church

Sat. Dec 13th

10am - 3pm

Leyden Town Hall & Church

16 W. Leyden Rd. Leyden Ma

Lunch prepared by the Church

Bake Sale & Raffle

Facebook: Leyden Holiday Craft Fair 2025

Contact: Emily 413-336-6248 call/text, Messenger, em_el_issa@yahoo.com



A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS FAIR
Sponsored by St. Joseph Parish
Saturday, November 8 (9 am - 2pm)
Sunday, November 9 (9 am - noon)
Shelburne - Buckland Community Ctr.
53 Main Street, Shelburne Falls, MA
Get Your Christmas Shopping Done Early!

- Unique Country Crafts
- Hand-crafted Christmas Ornaments and Home Décor
- Sewn, Knitted, Crocheted Gift Items
- Specialty Gift Baskets
- Attic Treasures
- Collectibles and Jewelry
- Handmade Quilted Wall Hangings
- Bake Sale ■ Tea Cup Raffle
- Great Food & More

Giant Raffle Prizes
\$100 Cash, \$100 Blue Rock Restaurant gift card, \$50 Buckland Pizza and \$50 Hot Fire Grill gift cards
For information call 413-625-6405

Leyden Board of Health

First Aid Class

Wednesday, November 12

6-8 pm

Leyden Town Hall

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

Registration information is also available on the Leyden website.



CLIMATE CORNER: A.I.

Recently, when searching for a lost document on a maas.gov website, I found that I could order a replacement online. A problem then occurred in verifying my identity. Having had this issue previously on other mass.gov websites, I consulted the helpful A.I. bot in the bottom corner and, sure enough, I learned that my problem was that the program probably did not recognize the apostrophe in my name. Very helpful, but I would need to complete my request via telephone, and of course it was the weekend!

It was a reminder of the usefulness of A.I. We hear and read about the rapid deployment of A.I. and accompanying concerns about technology outpacing the other issues it brings with it... And certainly one of those is its effect on climate.

For instance the “models” for training A.I. to provide information (such as Open A.I.’s GPT4) require huge amounts of electricity. And while we have had “data centers” for decades which themselves use large amounts of electricity to control their buildings and computational devices, such as servers, data storage drives and network equipment, A.I. model training requires 7-8 times the energy of traditional data centers.

According to Noman Bashir, MIT Computing and Climate Impact Fellow, the demand for these data centers “cannot be met in a sustainable way...”the bulk of the electricity to power them must come from fossil fuel-power plants.” This means a Chat GPT search such as I undertook is estimated to use 5 times the energy as a traditional internet search.

The good news is that some governmental entities are investing in public-private partnerships to tie new data center construction to nearby , newly constructed renewable sources of electricity. One such partnership is in the planning stages in New Mexico, tapping geothermal energy to power a data center co-funded by the state and Meta with MGX energy. While some in New Mexico are hopeful that the combination of wind, solar, and geothermal energy could supply the electricity needs for the entire state, it does not necessarily solve the climate issues for the state, country, or globe. Those oil and gas producers in N.M. plan to export their products out of state.

My recently made A.I. query helped me in the moment, but at what cost? As always, there is the climate to consider.

Major sources for this column were MIT News 01/17/2025 (news.mit.edu) and Abqjournal.com ... (search the Geothermal Lease article by Hannah Garcia)

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From Breezee Knoll Farm looking south.

Photo by Carolyn Asbury

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