

LEYDEN LIFE

LEYDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

November 2025

Select Board

Welcome to Stick Season when all the leaves are off the trees leaving trunks and branches like sticks stuck in the ground against the sky. Fierce winds, cold rain and sharp, dark evening skies signal that winter is heading our way. We hope that you stay warm, your holiday plans are not stressful, and friends, family or solitude bring you joy during this month.

School Forum

The November 5th presentation by the Six-Town School Regionalization Planning Board filled the meeting room at the Town Office. Thank you to all who attended. It was an engaging discussion and provided further input to the Planning Board which is the purpose of the public forums. The Planning Board was convened by a vote of the six towns six years ago with representatives from all the towns to work on our behalf. If you want to delve into the research and reports of the Planning Board or if you haven't been able to attend any of the forums, the website [6 TOWNS](#) is the best source of information. There will be additional opportunities for discussion and input when there is a proposed six-town regional school district agreement. Any decision to form a six-town regional school district can only be made by the residents of the towns. Watch for announcements about future forums and plan on attending to be prepared for the vote.

(Select Board Report, continues on page 2)

GREETINGS AND AN INVITATION

Greetings dear citizens of Leyden. We are the most recent editors of Leyden Life, which has been bringing you local news, for free, for about forty-five years. We would like to thank everyone who supports us; it is a pleasure to work on this newsletter and to live in our wonderful community.

If you enjoy reading through Leyden Life each month, we invite and encourage you to make a donation. All donations go towards printing copies for those who can't or prefer not to receive the newsletter through email.

Normally donations allow us to maintain a comfortable balance in our bank account, but lately that balance has been dipping a little low. If you can, please take a moment to support Leyden Life – no amount is too small, all contributions are gratefully accepted, and can be sent to Leyden Life, 30 West Leyden Road, Leyden, MA 01337.

Cornelia Reid Carolyn Asbury Annie Garvey Lisa Limont

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

Wreath Making Workshop. Sunday, November 30th

11am-1pm and 1-3pm in the Town Hall
\$30 per wreath. Wreaths also available for purchase.

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

Hosted by the Leyden United Methodist Church

Reminder



Thanks to Carol Kuzdeba
and Sheila & Leo Hourihan
for contributions this past month!



(Select Board Report, continued from page 1)

Efficiency & Regionalization (E&R) Committee

The Bernardston/Leyden E&R Committee has reviewed the survey results and the memos prepared by the consultant, UMass Collins Center, about feasibility of sharing town services or creating a new town that encompasses Bernardston and Leyden. The discussions and analysis have led the Committee to decide not to do any further work on the creation of a new town but to focus on sharing the following services: administration (Administrator/Coordinator, Town Clerk) financial (Assessors, Accountant, Tax Collector, Treasurer), and Fire Departments. Further analysis will be done by the Collins Center and discussed at the next Committee meeting on **December 11th at 5:30 in Leyden Town Office. A second public forum will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 6pm at the Farm Table Barn in Bernardston.** Come hear a presentation of the survey results and the limited shared services analysis, bring your questions and comments, and enjoy dessert and warm beverages.

Flag Policy

Several years ago the Select Board approved a policy about which flags can be flown on or in town buildings and property. At the time this was in response to legal decisions and recommendations on this topic. Recently citizens have raised concerns about the flag placed on the Right to Farm sign on Greenfield Road and other general questions about flags have been brought to our attention. The concerns centered around the proper care of flags and who is responsible. The Flag Policy has been revised to address these questions and to fill in gaps in the previous version. The policy is posted on the town website under Resources/Policies and on page 3 of this newsletter. At the end of December 2025 any flag placed on town buildings, signs or property that have not been approved by the Select Board will be removed.

Announcements:

- Thank you, **Jason Tuell**, for stepping up for appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals. There are still other committee or board opportunities available. See the box below.
- The Pioneer Valley Regional School District (**PVRSD**) **Budget Subcommittee** will be meeting throughout the next two months to draft a FY2027 School Budget. The first Subcommittee meeting is on **November 24th at 6pm at PVRS Library**. Open to all who are interested in how the budget gets developed and how it will impact Leyden.
- The Bernardston/Leyden **Elementary School Winter Concert** will be held at 1:30pm on December 9th. Kick off the holiday season with this concert and support our young musicians.
- A contract with Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) has been signed to do a **street safety assessment through the Complete Streets Program**. A grant of \$21,898 will pay FRCOG for their work.
- The **Avery Field Pavilion** now has Internet service.
- New **FEMA Floodplain maps** have been drafted and will be reviewed by Conservation Committee, Emergency Management Committee, and Planning Board. When the maps are final, the town will have to approve them by a Town Meeting vote. Acceptance of the maps assures that Leyden will be eligible for FEMA funds in case of floods.
- An **audit of the town's financials FY2025** was completed and Leyden was found to be in a solid financial position. The auditors recommended that audits be conducted every three years. Thanks goes to Angelica, our Accountant and Susan, our Treasurer, for their diligent and careful work.
- After many meetings, discussions and investigation by our Treasurer and Town Coordinator, the Select Board has **voted to join the Government Insurance Commission (GIC)** to administer our employees' health insurance plans for next fiscal year. We determined that it would be too risky due to increased rates and the group's reliability to continue with our previous administrator, Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust (HCGIT).

We wish to recognize the Neighbors Helping Neighbors group, a citizen initiative, for organizing the collection of food gift cards and a pantry for Leyden residents who are food insecure. We are thankful for their kindness, generosity and care for the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Baker, Katherine DiMatteo, Erica Jensen

Leyden Select Board

Leyden Flag Policy

Re-opened and revised 11/10/25 Approved: Nov 17, 2025

Introduction.

This Policy is intended to address flags and banners allowed to be flown or displayed on Town of Leyden flagpoles.

Flags or banners allowed to be flown or displayed.

The Select Board authorizes the following flags or banners to be flown or displayed on Town-owned property, as an official expression of the Town’s governmental speech, to which the strictures of the First Amendment do not apply:

- The official flag of the United States of America;
- The official flag of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;
- The official flag of the Town of Leyden;
- The official MIA-POW flag. This flag will only be flown on the week of Memorial Day and the week of Veterans Day.

In addition, only banners and signs regarding Town business or Town sponsored events can be attached, erected or placed on Town property.

No other flags or banners shall be allowed to be flown or displayed on Town of Leyden-owned property, as those flags and/or banners and this policy are not intended to establish or serve to create a forum for private expression.

Requests to fly any additional flags on Town property (flags listed above) must come before the Select Board.

Town Employees that are approved to raise and/or lower town flags.

- Town Custodian, or appointed replacement, for Town Hall and Town Office;
- Chair of recreation Committee, or appointed replacement, for Avery Field.

Town flag poles that are considered town property.

- Town Office;
- Town Hall;
- Avery Field;
- All signs on town property (Avery Field, Town Common, Town Office and Right to Farm) are considered in this policy and none fly a flag.

Occasions the flag can be flown at half-staff.

- When the Federal or Commonwealth government issues a declara-

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.

**Winter Solstice 2025
Sunday, December 21**

10:03am EST
(for the Northern Hemisphere)

The start of winter; the day with the fewest hours of sunshine; the shortest day of the year. From here, the days will get longer and bring the return of more sunlight.



A time for reflection and renewal

I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields, that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says, "Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again.

— Lewis Carroll,
Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland /
Through the Looking-Glass

Town Clerk

General News: As we approach the end of 2025, the clerk's office is preparing for the upcoming calendar year when we begin sending out census forms, dog registration forms. This year, we are exploring the possibility of sending out a "Vote by Mail" application for all elections in 2026.

The Annual Town Census is conducted in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws in every city and town in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A census form is mailed to all households in January of each year. Residents are urged to check the information contained on the form, make any necessary corrections or additions, sign, and return it in the enclosed envelope to the Town Clerk's Office as soon as possible. By taking a moment to respond, the Town Clerk's Office is able to keep your voter history and voting address up to date.

Failure to return the census will result in removal from the active voter list on the first Monday in June. If removed, a confirmation card will be sent to all registered voters notifying them that they have been placed on the inactive voter list. To be reactivated, voters should sign and return their confirmation card.

Your participation helps the Town maintain its records, helps the School Department make more accurate class projections and better budgeting, keeps your voting registration active, helps prove residency, and allows access to certain Town services.

The Town of Leyden dog licensing period runs from April 1st through March 31st. All dogs six months of age and older are required to be licensed and have a current rabies vaccination per Massachusetts General Law. There will be more details on how to license your dog in a future Leyden Life submission.

Subscribe to Receive Town Website Postings: Did you know you can subscribe via email to the town website postings by selecting the boards or departments you want to stay in touch with, including notices of upcoming meetings?

Just go to the town website at "TownOfLeyden.Com" and go to the Contact page (link is in the top header).

Once there, put in your email address, then scroll down to the list of check boxes below the form. Check all the ones you're interested in, then click the "I'm not a robot" checkbox, then the big blue Send Now button. Done!

If you want to get off a particular list or unsubscribe altogether, you can click the unsubscribe link in the next email you receive, which will bring you back to the website. Scroll down to the checklists again, modify your interests, then save your changes. If you don't want anything, ever, either un-check all the boxes, or check the "never send me anything" checkbox.

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

"How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?"

- Dr. Seuss



TOWN OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

The Select Board is still seeking volunteers for appointments for town committees, commissions and councils. 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

An abundance of gratitude for all those that volunteer!

Fire Department

Greetings from the Leyden Fire Department.

Please take the time to set up street numbers for your property. Numbers should be reflective, and easily visible from a vehicle approaching your driveway or house, from each direction of approach, if applicable.

Take care with ashes from woodstoves and pellet stoves. All too often, ashes get set on a porch or too close to flammable material. Sometimes the wind picks up the ashes and embers and this can also cause a fire. An ash can with a fitted lit can help prevent this. Stay safe and take the extra steps to protect your home.

As you may have seen reported elsewhere, there was a massive fire in Amherst which began on Nov. 7. The Olympia Drive blaze burned for days, and required the demolition of an apartment complex, displacing 236 people. Fire departments provided mutual aid from 32 communities from Hampshire, Hamden, Franklin, Worcester, and Berkshire counties. Incident reports and analyses are still being written, and there will likely be some important lessons from this massive fire.

A couple of issues already worth noting are the subsequent call from the Amherst Firefighters Union for 18 more firefighters. "A significant and immediate increase in staffing is the only way to ensure the safety standards our community deserves," the statement reads, according to the Amherst Bulletin. Amherst's needs are complex, as that area's college population requires significant resources for fire and medical calls. But the shortage of firefighters is felt in large and small communities. There is a need for career awareness activities and effective recruiting to strengthen the fire service.

A significant detail about this fire response is that there were no injuries or loss of human life. This is worthy of reflection. Firefighters evacuated the apartment complex before the threat of collapse forced them out of the building. Residents were quick and the sprinklers worked. As devastating as the loss of housing truly is, the fact that no one was injured or lost their life is to be commended. (Information for this reporting comes from Amherst Bulletin/The Daily Hampshire Gazette, and from the Town of Amherst website.)

On a recent training night, Leyden Fire Department members worked on ladder skills and equipment maintenance. Cold, dark evenings provide an excellent opportunity to practice firefighting skills.

We need more firefighters in Leyden. If you are interested in learning more, reach out to Chief Carey Barton at fire@townofleyden.com.

Submitted by Firefighter Samantha Wood



Working on ladder skills and equipment maintenance.



Chief Carey Barton

Photos by Samantha Wood



Santa and his head elf, Karin Parks, in 2024

The Fire Department will bring Santa and his elves to Leyden homes on December 21st. Please see page 8 for details



Board of Health

The Board would like to thank Leyden Life for getting important health information to the town. It is not their responsibility and they have been so gracious and helpful.

- How do you want to get important information from the BOH? Please email us and let us know. eg. Reverse 911, email, webpage post
- Rabid raccoon was found dead on Alexander Rd. Please follow protocol and make sure any pets that go outside (dogs and cats) are properly vaccinated. Protocols for reporting an animal behaving abnormally are in the town offices.
- The BOH has much information at the Town Offices. Rabies protocol, Food Insecurity, SNAP, Pet Medical Assistance Programs, Emergency Preparedness, Vaccine recommendations, Ticks/Tick keys, Mosquitoes.
- The CPR and First Aid classes had a great attendance. If anyone else is interested in a class, the BOH can look into subsidizing another but we need a minimum of 10 people. Send us an email.
- With winter approaching, being prepared can prevent an emergency. We have information on e-kits for your cars, MEMA and FEMA recommendations for household supplies. Food, medication, shelter, and communication are the top items.
- Remember, if the roads are closed due to weather, the mail will not be delivered, ie medications.
- If you or someone you know, is suffering from food insecurity, please reach out to someone. The BOH serves every age group. No one should be hungry, and that includes your pets and livestock. We can't help if we don't know.

HAVE A WONDERFUL AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON!

Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Beth Kuzdeba Marcia Miller Devorah
 Vester
 413-774-2820

Walk-In Wellness Clinic
Wednesday, December 10th
at 10:30am-12:30pm
in the Town Hall.

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

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.

WILD MED CLASSES: CPR and First Aid

Every two years, the Board of Health has been subsidizing CPR and First Aid training through the Institute for Wild Med. These same trainings are offered online by this organization at 50% off if you sign up between 11/26-11/30. You do not have to take the course at that time. We have stressed the importance of being prepared because of where we live. Response time for emergencies could be 20 to 30 mins, that's a long time. Being prepared could save a life. <https://www.instituteforwildmed.com/black-friday>

Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance Program
With Certified TJQMBB instructor Penelope Corcoran

Monday & Thursday 10:00 am to 11:00 am
Leyden Municipal Office Building

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

This evidence-based program is designed to enhance postural stability, spatial awareness and mindful control of body positioning in space. Participants will learn and practice eight modified tai ji quan forms, plus therapeutic movements to improve balance. Each class builds upon itself. A chair can be used for assistance. Beginner's are welcome and a donation of \$10 per class is appreciated to support our teacher.

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. Please drop in and learn about our class.

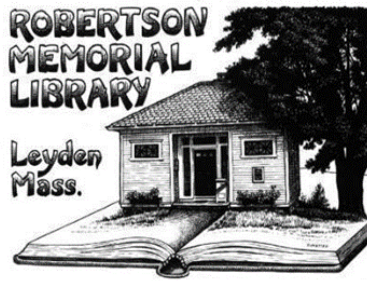
Sponsored by the Leyden Council on Aging

The Historical Display
is open by appointment.

Email nannetterolstad@gmail.com

The Sunday Coffee Hour
will return in April.

In the January 2026 Leyden Life, look for the first in a series on Leyden town history from Nan Rolstad!



Library Hours:

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

We feel cold, but we don't mind it, because we will not come to harm. And if we wrapped up against the cold, we wouldn't feel other things, like the bright tingle of the stars, or the music of the aurora, or best of all the silky feeling of moonlight on our skin. It's worth being cold for that."

— Philip Pullman, *The Golden Compass*

Taylor Swift once asked a very important question. Are you ready for it? Ready or not, Winter is on its way to Leyden. I admit, I used the same line the last 2 Decembers in my Leyden Life articles, and I giggled at my wit each time. Pop into the library when you know the forecast is looking yucky and get some goodies to help pass the time. Our fabulous highway department has installed the salt and sand bin in the library parking lot yet again. Residents can load up anytime to keep the ice at bay. If you come during library hours, make sure to say hello.

The RML Book Club is back! Come pick up a copy of *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt at the library and come to discuss on Jan 22nd at 5:30. Make sure to bring an appetizer to share with the crowd. Everyone is welcome!

The library, along with the Council on Aging and Neighbors Helping Neighbors, is working to host a food pantry in town. We are still in the planning and regulatory phases and hope to have more concrete information soon. In the meantime, if you would be willing to help or if you need immediate help, please reach out.

Santa is coming back to Leyden this year! Ol' St. Nick will be traveling the hills of Leyden to visit you and your family right in your own driveway. To sign up for a visit, simply scan the QR code or email the library. Santa will bring a sweet treat for everyone he meets and a special gift for each child. If you'd like Santa to deliver an extra-special gift of your own, he'll be delighted to help—just make arrangements at the library. Thank you to the Leyden Fire Department for escorting Santa and the Recreation Committee for organizing the event!

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.

As the holiday season approaches, we hope that you find joy no matter how you celebrate. Wishing you a peaceful end to 2025 and a warm beginning to 2026. We are filled with nothing but love and gratitude to our library patrons and community members.

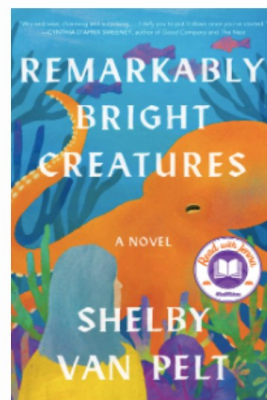
Karin Parks

library@townofleyden.com

(413)773-9334

When you visit the library, consider stopping at the Ninny Nanny Soap Stand!

Just look North from the library. It's a 1-minute walk!



Thursday January 22nd

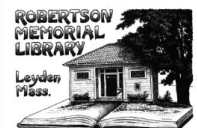
5:30 PM
Leyden Town Office

RML READS



Adult Book Club

Join us for our book club discussion of *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt and bring your favorite appetizer to share. Copies of the book are available at the library.



Recreation Committee

Trunk or Treat

On October 25th the Recreation Committee sponsored the Leyden Annual Trunk or Treat at Avery Field. There was a good turn out with many interesting and creative costumes. Many treats were handed out and I assume consumed. We would like to thank the Leyden Fire Department for their presence, they were a big hit. We would also like to thank the two Bernardston Police Officers, Jordan Zukowski and Joshua Dobosz, who were present and who we drafted to be the judges in the costume contest and the vehicle decoration contest. Congratulations to Maddie Arroyo, winner in the costume category and to Matt Muka for his fine vehicle decorating. (See pictures below.)

Santa's Coming to Leyden!!

On **December 21st around 2:00 pm**, Santa and some of his elves will be arriving at the Leyden Fire Station to begin their tour of Leyden aboard one of the Firetrucks. If you are interested in having them visit your home and children please register for a visit at either the Recreation Committee's email address reccom@townofleyden.com or the Library's email address library@townofleyden.com or scan the QR code in the ad in Leyden Life.

Snowshoeing in Leyden

With the acquisition of twelve snowshoe sets this past year the Recreation Committee will be planning a series of snowshoe events beginning in January. We would like to start off with an afternoon of becoming comfortable on snowshoes. This is intended for those who have not had previous snowshoe experience. We are also planning to sponsor an afternoon snowshoe hike, and hopefully a full moon snowshoe hike if the stars align. We will have more information about these events in the January Leyden Life.

Speaking of snowshoes, we are looking for donations of snowshoes, (especially children's) if you have any that are in relatively good shape that you are no longer using. Please call Steve Richter at (413) 774-7952 or contact him at reccom@townofleyden.com.mm

Avery Field Walking Path

In collaboration with the Selectboard and the Highway Department we are presently looking at the feasibility of extending the walking path around the whole of Avery Field. This would create a safe place for residents to walk away from traffic.

Wishing you a wonderful and healthy holiday season,

Steve Richter

Reccom@townofleyden.com



Above: Trunk or Treat. Look at those costumes!
Rght: Matt Muka and his decorated car.



Do you have snowshoes that you could donate to the Recreation Committee?

Council on Aging



Community Luncheon

Wednesday, December 10th at noon in the Town Hall

Menu: Lasagna, salad, garlic knots, and holiday cookies.

Added treat: Madeleine's magnificent rice pudding.



Seasonal music provided by Dave LeBlanc and his band.

Music starts at 11:30am.

Reservations are appreciated. Linda Allis at (413) 834-4417. Leave your name and the number of guests.

If you want a to-go lunch, please call Linda, 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.

Foot Clinic for Seniors: Monday, December 1st 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 copay at the time of your appointment. Please go to page 8 for important information about the Walk-In Wellness Clinic.

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. To volunteer to help, contact Amy.

Rainbow Elders: LGBTQIA+ Socializing, Support, and Resources. For more information about events, to sign up for the Rainbow Elders Newsletter, and for a variety of resources: <https://lifepathma.org/what-we-offer/health-and-wellness/rainbow-elders/>

Leyden residents are welcome to attend events and classes at the Bernardston Senior Center.

Activities include meals, art classes, music, games, book groups, and fitness classes for seniors at all levels of physical abilities. Call (413) 648-5413. **Sign up for their E-newsletter at coa@townofbernardston.org.**

The next COA meeting is on Tuesday, December 16at 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. **You do not have to be a senior to join the COA - just have an interest in the lives of 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

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR
Hosted by the Leyden United Methodist Church

Sat. Dec 13th
10am - 3pm

Leyden Town Hall & Church
15 W. Leyden Rd. Leyden Ma

Lunch Prepared by the Church
Bake Sale * Raffle

**LEYDEN UNITED
 METHODIST CHURCH**

Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday, Dec 24th at 5pm.

Downstairs in the fellowship hall.
15 West Leyden Road

The service will be led by
Lay Servant Kurt Pearson from
the First United Methodist
Church of Greenfield.



Santa comes to Leyden

SIGN UP FOR A VISIT WITH SANTA AT YOUR HOUSE! SANTA WILL VISIT LEYDEN IN A FIRE TRUCK ESCORTED BY SOME SPECIAL ELVES

Sunday December 21st starting at 2pm

SIGN UP WITH THE QR CODE OR EMAIL LIBRARY@TOWNOFLEYDEN.COM AND INCLUDE YOUR ADDRESS AND THE NAMES OF THOSE THAT SANTA CAN GREET.




JingleFest
 December 5 & 6, 2025
 Downtown Greenfield

Performances *Gingerbread House Contest* *Toy Drive*
Tree Lighting *Horse Drawn Wagon Rides* *Photos with Santa* *Makers Market*
Amazing Race *Wreath Decorating* *Cookies Decorating*

Shop Local. Dine Festive. Jingle Together.
 Visit our website for event details:
 www.greenfieldrecreation.com 413-772-1553

Food Pantry Donations needed

The COA, with collaboration with Neighbors Helping Neighbors is opening a Food Pantry in lower level of the Town Hall. The first distribution of non-perishable food will take place on **Wednesday, Dec. 10th from 1-2 p.m.** *See page 11 for more information about the Food Pantry and other Food Resources.*

<p>Non-Perishable Foods Only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oils (olive, vegetable) Vinegar Oatmeal Cereals Flour Rice White and brown sugar Peanut butter Jelly Tuna fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canned vegetables and fruits including beans Canned soup Marinara/ Spaghetti sauce Pasta Mac and cheese Boxed or canned milk Granola bars Crackers Nuts - All kinds Dried fruit (raisins, cranberries, dates, etc.) Honey, Syrup
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Community Luncheon
Wednesday, December 10th
at noon in the Town Hall

Seasonal music provided by
Dave LeBlanc and his band.
Music starts at 11:30am.

See page 9 for more information.



Emergency Grocery Card Distribution and Leyden Food Pantry

Neighbors Helping Neighbors, a Leyden volunteer run service project, is distributing donated grocery store gift cards through the holiday season to Leyden families and individuals who are hungry.

If you, a friend, family member or neighbor need assistance, any of the volunteers listed below will provide grocery store gift cards to Leyden residents. All requests are confidential.

Amy St. Clair: 413.774.6907- if no answer, please leave message

Robin Neipp: 413.530.3165- call or text or email: rneipp@gmail.com

Ann Pratt: 413.834.4559-call or text.

Lois Feldman: 971.344.3439 call or text

Pat Little: 413.768.9477 call or text.

Merry Lein: 413.522.6233- call or text

The COA, with collaboration with Neighbors Helping Neighbors is opening a **Food Pantry** in lower level of the Town Hall. The first distribution of non-perishable food will take place on **Wednesday, Dec. 10th from 1-2 p.m.** Contributions can be brought during this time or can be dropped off at the Library during regular library hours. All contributions should be brought indoors so that it will not freeze or be harmed. Food list with items that are needed for the pantry is attached to the newsletter, are available at the Town Hall and on the Town website www.townofleyden.com.

OTHER LOCAL FOOD RESOURCES (EVERYONE IS ELIGIBLE)

Saturday, Dec.13th- 9 am -12 pm- Food Pantry (sponsored by the First Parish Unitarian Church) at Dickinson Memorial Library, 115 Main Street, Northfield. Everyone is eligible, no income or residency requirements

Wednesday, Dec 10th 1 pm -2 pm- Mobile Food Bank will be at 7 Oak Court in Greenfield. Fresh fruits, vegetables and other healthy food to individuals of all ages. Everyone is eligible! no income or residency requirements. (Please bring your own box or bag.)

Wednesday, Dec. 17th from 1 pm -2 pm. Mobile Food Bank will be at 62 5th Street, Turners Falls, MA. Fresh fruits, vegetables and other healthy food to individuals of all ages. Everyone is eligible! No income or residency requirements. Please bring your own box or bag.

RESOURCES FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Thursday, December 4th-10:30 am. Brown Bag Program-Weldon House, 54 High St. Gfld. or 12:30 pm at Bernardston Senior Center. Seniors and people with disabilities complete brief application beforehand.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 11:45 a.m. Lunch at Bernardston Senior Center call 413.648.4319/ 48 hours in advance to reserve your place. **Monday and Friday; Grab and Go lunches at 11 a.m.**

Meals on Wheels provides free home delivered meals Monday-Friday. Call Lifepath at 413.773.5555 to register.

For immediate help, please call or text Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline at (800) 645-8333. The Hotline is available Monday-Friday at 8am-7pm and Saturday at 10am-2pm.

Ways that you can immediately help your neighbors:

1. Purchase a gift card to a local grocery store of any denomination (\$10, \$25, \$50) to be distributed to families and individuals in need.
2. Volunteer to drive a neighbor to the grocery store or local food pantries/distribution sites
3. Volunteer to pick up and deliver groceries to a neighbor
4. Volunteer to help distribute information about SNAP benefits, HIP benefits and other emergency food resources
5. Purchase non-perishables for the food pantry and **drop off at the Library during open hours or at the Town Hall on Wednesday, December 10th between 1-2 p.m.**

If you are in a position to provide a gift card or would like to volunteer, please let Pam Brown know either by phone, text (413.775.3470) or email pambrown01301@gmail.com. We can pick up the gift card from you, or you can drop it off at Pam and Annie's at 11 Coates Road

Climate Corner: Surprise!

Patrick Sullivan, pilot/ecologist, navigating the rivers and valleys of Alaska's Brooks Range, was surprised at the sight of the formerly clear, cold rivers; they were now cloudy and carrying a fluorescent orange color in 2019.. Later on, as they paddled the river itself, he and colleagues noted the same orange stain on the banks of the river. They also noted several emaciated bears, unusual for the time of year. Something was not right. The water samples they took along the river later revealed high concentrations of iron and other heavy metals including cadmium, aluminum and zinc.

They turned their focus to pyrite, a mineral found in permafrost which is rich in iron and sulfur. When permafrost melts, it is exposed to oxygen and water, producing sulfuric acid from the sulfur in the permafrost and the "rust" (iron oxide). Together they markedly increase the acidity of the water down to a range of pH 2-4 and alter the water color to orange. For reference the pH of human blood varies from 7.2-7.4. So how bad are these low pHs? A pH of 7 is neutral and any move up or **down** the 0 to 14 scale by a whole number is actually a multiplier of 10X. So, a move down from 7 (neutral) to 6 increases acidity 10X. (A move **up** the scale increases alkalinity by a factor of 10). This means a pH of 4 is 10x10x10x more acidic than pH of 7, equaling 1,000x the acidity found in neutral water. Likewise a pH of 3 signals a 10,000x increase in acidity and a pH of 2 represents a 100,000x increase in acidity over a neutral solution.

At this point more than 75 rivers across the Brooks Range are affected. Recent die-offs of Chum Salmon threaten the food supply of local villages while posing hazards to drinking the metal-laden water. Additional research has documented the **complete** loss of 2 fish species: Dolly Varden and Slimy Sculpin. Both are linked to a change in the invertebrate population upon which these fish depend, a decrease of 82% over a period of 4 months.

The sight of widespread color change in a high number of Alaskan rivers was unexpected; other effects of climate change may continue to surprise us. I am reminded of the following quote attributed to Kahlil Gibran, "Deliver me from the hands of those who know the truth and into the hands of those who search for it." We do not know all there is to know about what, where and how climate change may affect us in the future. It is well worth understanding the effects we have witnessed and continuing to search for/research whatever information that will assist us in addressing the causes and effects of climate change.

Karen O'Neil oneilk160r@gmail.com

Source references: nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/alaska-orange-rivers-rusting (November 4, 2025)
[Nature.com/articles/543247-024-01446-z](https://www.nature.com/articles/543247-024-01446-z)

Aurora Borealis, November 11, 2025

Photos by Pam Brown



11:40pm. Looking east from Coates Road.
 Bottom left: Moon is rising,



11:41pm. Looking west from Coates Road.

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.

CJ DESIGN, a small jewelry business. Are you looking for a one of a kind gift for that special someone?

New Ad

Holidays, birthdays, anniversaries or just because! I sell online at Poshmark.com my account is @cj_design. If you are a first timebuyer on Poshmark you can receive \$10 off your first purchase by using my code: cj_design. Make a bundle with your purchase and I will send you an offer. You can message me from your bundle or contact me, Carol Kuzdeba, at 413-539-4684.

For Sale: Ariens 1332 Pro Snowblower. Very good condition. Asking \$450. Susan Coan 413 624-3906

Doylegf@verizon.net

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.

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.

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



**We can give a fair quote on any job, no job too big or too small.
We have the experience to complete your tasks!**

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.)