

LEYDEN LIFE

LEYDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

February 2026

Select Board

BRRR! It certainly has been cold after the January thaw, we hope everyone has stayed warm through the Arctic weather. Thanks to the Highway crew for keeping our roads clear and passable after the snowstorms. There may be some delay in getting to your road, especially when the snow comes periodically over two or more days, but it does get done as quickly as possible. We are entering budget season, and it will be a rough ride for the Finance Committee and Select Board to present a reasonable budget given the high increase in health insurance costs and school budgets. Stay tuned!

Electric Aggregation

By the time you receive this newsletter, you should have received a letter from the town about the **Community Choice Power Supply Program**. At Leyden's Annual Town Meeting in June 2024, those in attendance voted to pursue a program that would offer a fixed rate on electric supply rates for all residents. Detailed information, including frequently asked questions, can be found on our website: [IMPORTANT AGGREGATION INFORMATION - Town of Leyden, MA](#). All residents are automatically enrolled in this program, however you can Opt-Out if you wish. **A public forum will be held on February 2nd at 6pm in the Town Office** to present the program and answer any questions. It is important that you understand this program and your options as the aggregated rate will go into effect in March 2026. The basic service rate is very favorable at \$.012952 per kWh until November 2028. *See page 3 for the full announcement.*

School Budget

We have been meeting with the Pioneer Valley Regional School District (PVRSD) Budget Subcommittee and with the Superintendent and Director of Finance. Although they have worked to present a lean budget, not a wish list, health insurance costs (which at this point are only estimates) as well as contracted salary increases and other salary adjustments result in a **9.75% increase from last fiscal year**. Town assessments, as the draft budget stands now, will increase by 15.5% to be allocated among the three towns in the district. More to come as the budget is finalized in February and then voted on at our Annual Town Meeting in June. There will be a **public budget hearing on February 5th**, for agenda and location, check this website: [PVRSD - Meetings & Materials](#).

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

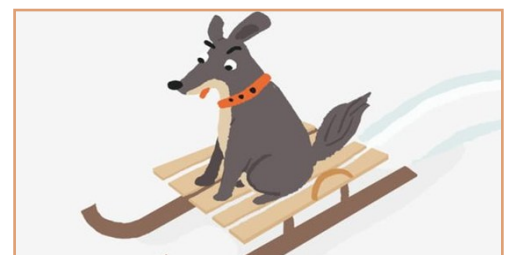
7 Brattleboro Road

Leyden MA 01301



Surely as cometh the Winter, I know
There are Spring violets under the snow.

Robert Henry Newell



Select Board Report, *continued from page 1***Announcements:**

- **Snow Shoveler** position has been filled by Ryan Clary who will keep Town Hall and Kitchen, Library and Town Office walkways clear within 24 hours of a snow event.
- Efficiency & Regionalization (**E&R**) **Grant Public Forum #2** was well attended with 24 Leyden residents and 28 Bernardston residents in attendance. The E&R Advisory Committee is moving on to prioritizing which shared services we might pursue.
- Daniela Teaca will work with Town Clerk as an **unpaid intern** remotely until May after which she will work at the Town Office for the summer.
- **New ADA (Americans with Disability Act) requirements** for websites and all documents have been issued by Massachusetts. Leyden has until April 2027 to come into compliance. Changes to the website have already begun.
- Finally, work has begun on a **Complete Streets Prioritization Plan**. FRCOG is contracted to develop the plan and will reach out to Planning Board, Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, Council on Aging, Library, Highway Department, and Recreation Committee. If you wish to share your thoughts about how to make our roads, paved and gravel, safer, please send an email to selectboard3@townofleyden.com
- The **surplus AMC General Truck** was sold for \$13,450 and was picked up by the purchaser. A nice addition to our revenue.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Baker, Katherine DiMatteo, Erica Jensen
Leyden Select Board

Police Department

As winter trudges on and we all question why we have not become snow birds yet, Bernardston PD has been busy. With the holiday season comes extra traffic as people travel to see their relatives or the dreaded in-laws. December was also the first month we were able to deploy officers as part of the Municipal Road Safety (MRS) grant which we were awarded last fall. We are pleased to say we were able to assist many motorists in correcting their driving so we can all be safer during our travels.

The 2025 year was one that BPD is proud of in terms of our work on behalf of the communities we serve. As expected, we have nothing bad to say about our interactions with the folks in Leyden and we are looking forward to continuing our partnership. As with years past, speeding has been the most prevalent issue on the roads through town and we have stepped up our efforts to bring the average down. Even our friends from north of the Vermont line that like to traverse Brattleboro Rd. in a rushed manner have gotten the message we hope.

In the coming months we hope to make a few appearances at town events in an effort to be more available for comments, questions, concerns or just friendly banter. We actively seek residents of town bringing their concerns and queries to us as we believe communication is the best way for us to provide the best service to the people of Leyden. Please come out and see us, feel free to say hello when we are on patrol in town and, as always, reach out if you have any concerns.

Warmest Regards,
Ofc. Jordan Zukowski, BPD #4-3
jzukowski@townofbernardston.org



WELLS TRUST SCHOLARSHIPS

The Fred W. Wells Trust is an organization that provides scholarships to students graduating from high school who are planning to enter college or an advanced educational program and to students who are already enrolled in these programs. Recipients are selected based on scholarship, need, extracurricular activities and recommendations.

Applications may be obtained from high school college counselors, or from the Town Clerk during normal business hours. They may also be downloaded at <https://www.wellstrustscholarship.com> All applications, letters of recommendation and official transcripts must be postmarked **on or before MARCH 20, 2026** and sent to:

Prudence Blond
Greenfield Savings Bank
400 Main Street
P.O. Box 1537
Greenfield, Ma. 01302

For further
information,
please call Lois
at 774-4092

TOWN OF LEYDEN

COMMUNITY CHOICE POWER SUPPLY PROGRAM

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Town of Leyden is pleased to announce that **First Point Power** (“First Point”) has been selected as the supplier for its Community Choice Power Supply Program. First Point will provide electric power supply for all consumers currently on Eversource Basic Service in Leyden.

Following the approval of Article 14 at Town Meeting in June 2024, the Town of Leyden developed and published its Aggregation Plan (“Plan”) in compliance with Massachusetts law regarding municipal aggregation of electric consumers (M.G.L. c. 164, § 134). The Select Board approved the Plan in March 2025, and a power supply agreement was executed this past September to take effect March 2026.

LOOK FOR A MAILING WITH THE TOWN SEAL that contains information about the Program. Those on Eversource Basic Service should receive an envelope with a Consumer Notification Letter and Opt-Out Reply Card. Those already enrolled with a third-party supplier should receive an informational postcard.

BASIC SERVICE CONSUMERS do not need to take any action to participate. You will be **AUTOMATICALLY** enrolled.

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE you must **OPT-OUT** by signing and returning the Opt-Out Reply Card **OR** visit colonialpowergroup.com/leyden, click the **OPT-OUT** button and follow the instructions specified **OR** call First Point at (888) 875-1711. There is **NO CHARGE TO OPT-OUT** of the Program and return to Eversource Basic Service.

IF YOU WISH TO JOIN THIS PROGRAM you may **OPT-IN** at colonialpowergroup.com/leyden **OR** call First Point at (888) 875-1711 and ask to be enrolled. If you are currently contracted with your own supplier, you should confirm with them that you will not incur any early termination fees or penalties for leaving their supply.

Basic Service rates change twice a year or more, depending on rate class. As a result, the aggregation rate may not always be lower than the Basic Service rate. The goal of the aggregation is to deliver savings over the life of the Program against Eversource Basic Service. However, future savings cannot be guaranteed.

Colonial Power Group, Inc. is an energy consulting company chosen on a competitive basis by the Town of Leyden to facilitate the Community Choice Power Supply Program.

For more detailed information, call us toll-free at (866) 485-5858 ext. 1.



Reminder About Leyden Meetings

Monday, February 2 at 6 pm. Public Forum about Electric Aggregation. At Town Offices.

Thursday, February 5. PVRSD Public Budget Hearing. Agenda and location will be posted: [PVRSD - Meetings & Materials](#).

Monday, March 23 at 6pm. Town Caucus. At Town Offices

Monday, March 23, 2026, at 6:45pm. Open Space and Recreation Plan Listening Session. At Town Offices.

Board of Health

January is Radon Awareness Month. Radon is a naturally occurring, odorless, colorless, radioactive gas from soil/rock breakdown. It can enter your home in your basement and lower levels through foundation cracks. Radon can also be dissolved in our well water. Winter is a good time to test, when homes are closed and the gas can accumulate. Radon test kits can be bought at hardware stores and be laboratory tested.

Carbon monoxide is also a major concern in the cold weather. There should be a CO detector near every sleeping area with batteries changed each daylight savings.

There are various organizations in Franklin County that support residents with substance use disorder. The RECOVER Project provides a welcoming community and supports all aspects of recovery. They are located at 68 Federal St., in Greenfield and can be reached at 413-774-5489.

www.recoverproject.org

Because of our location in Franklin County and the severe weather conditions that we can experience through the seasons, it is worthwhile to have an emergency preparedness plan in your household. All family members should be aware of the plan. The emergency preparedness division of the FRCOG developed a special needs identification form. If you would like a copy, they will be present at the town offices or available by email. This form can help you develop a plan "in the event of..." and/or realize where you might need assistance. Please do not send these forms anywhere, they are for your personal use only. ready.gov is the FEMA site that will give suggestions as to what supplies you should have on hand.

If you would like an email copy of the form, please send me a request at boh@townofleyden.com

Thank you and stay warm! ❄️

Beth Kuzdeba Marcia Miller Devorah Vester

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.

Walk-In Wellness Clinic

Wednesday, January 14th

at 10:30am-12:30pm

in the Town Hall

Everyone is welcome.

No appointment needed.

Services are free and confidential.

For more information or to discuss a health concern call Lisa White at 413-774-3167 X156

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



Thanks to Denise & Donald Bassett and Susan & Fred Pazmino for contributions this month



Town Clerk

Last week, the Town mailed the annual Street Listing and Census form to all Leyden households. The packet also included a dog license application, as required under state law, and a form to request Vote by Mail for the 2026 elections.

It is important that each household lists all individuals residing in the home. This information is required by state law and is necessary to verify residency when requested by school departments, ensure voter registration remains active, and provide access to certain Town services.

Residents are urged to review the information carefully, make any necessary corrections or additions, sign the form, and return it to the Town Clerk's Office as soon as possible using the enclosed envelope. Detailed instructions for completing and returning the form are included. The form must be signed by the head of household as indicated on the document.

The **dog licensing** period runs **from April 1 through March 31**. All dogs six months of age and older must be licensed and have a current rabies vaccination, as required by Massachusetts General Law. Licenses not received by April 1 will be subject to a late fee for each dog.

Town Caucus: This is a reminder that the Town Caucus is scheduled for **Monday, March 23, 2026, at 6:00 PM**. Several seats will be up for election. Please note that the **Board of Assessors** is no longer an elected position and is now an appointed role.

The following positions are up for election this year, along with the incumbents who must run for re-election if they wish to retain their seats:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------|--------------------|
| - Board of Health | 3 years | Elizabeth Kuzdeba |
| - Constable | 3 years | Gary Russell |
| - Library Trustee | 3 years | Tom Raffensperger |
| - Moderator | 1 year | John Harris Golden |
| - Planning Board | 5 years | Emily Yazwinski |
| - Select Board | 3 years | Erica Jensen |
| - Tree Warden | 1 year | William Brooks |

Anyone wishing to run for office is encouraged to attend the caucus to be nominated. If you are unable to attend, nomination papers may be obtained from the Town Clerk. The deadline for obtaining these papers is **Monday, April 13, 2026, by 5pm**, and the deadline to submit them to the Board of Registrars is **Tuesday, April 14, 2026, by 5pm**

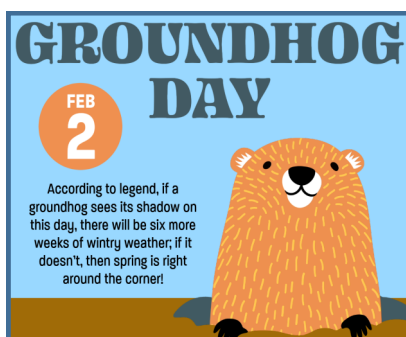
Final Reminder to Elected Official regarding Annual Campaign Finance Report:

All elected officials in Massachusetts are required to file their annual campaign finance report with the Town Clerk by **January 20** each year. An email with the report form was sent earlier this month.

If you have not yet submitted your report, please contact the Town Clerk's office as soon as possible to make arrangements. Any reports not filed by the deadline must be reported to the Commonwealth's Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF) as required by law. Timely submission ensures compliance with state requirements and helps avoid unnecessary complications.

Office Hours: The Town Clerk's Office is open Mondays from 3–6pm at the Town Offices building. If Monday falls on a holiday, the office will be closed. While staff are usually in the office by 9am, please call ahead to confirm. The best way to reach us is via email at townclerk@townofleyden.com, which is checked remotely. Voicemail is only checked in the office.

George Stephan, Town Clerk



“Why, what's the matter,
That you have such a February face,
So full of frost, of storm and cloudiness?”

— William Shakespeare
Much Ado About Nothing

Fire Department

Greetings from the Leyden Fire Department!

Open burning is allowed January 15 to May 1. A permit from the Fire Department is required for burning. According to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection open burning must be done 75 feet from all dwellings. To get a burn permit, use the website: <http://www.fcburnpermits.com>

At this time of year it is especially important to be sure your driveway is clear of snow and accessible to emergency vehicles.

On Wednesday, January 14, Leyden Fire had an excellent opportunity to train with Bernardston Fire Department in an interior attack scenario. The Leyden Fire crew split up and worked with teams from Bernardston Fire entering a dark, smoke-filled building, in full gear and on air, hauling hoses, working through a maze set up to simulate rooms, finding our way back out along the hose. We went through the building multiple times. It takes a lot of work to set up a training such as this, with cooperation from the building owner and preparation at the site. Nothing is as effective as this type of training scenario, and we are grateful to Bernardston Fire for inviting us to join them for the evening.

It was our distinct honor to once again take Santa on his rounds when he dropped in to Leyden just before Christmas on December 21, 2025.. We aren't sure how he makes the time, but the elves must have a very efficient system for running the workshop while he sneaks out to visit. Firefighter Matthew Muka drove Tanker 1, and made a stop with Santa to see his family.

Submitted by Firefighter Samantha Wood



The Muka family, Ella, Remi, Sawyer and Matthew, stand with Santa and their dog, Lilly.

Photo Credit: Samantha Wood



Members of Leyden Fire Department participate in a training scenario with Bernardston Fire Department on Jan. 14, 2026. In the photo on the right: Firefighters Samantha Wood and Corrinna Thompson. Photo credit: Chief Carey Barton

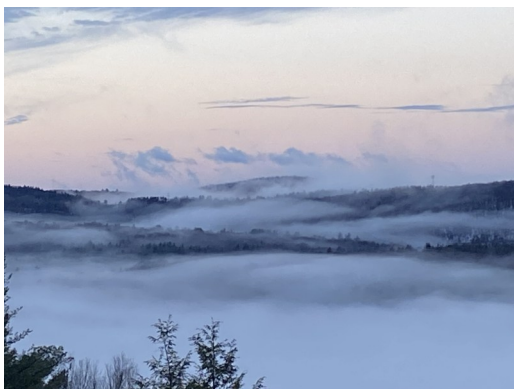


Photo credit: Lisa Limont

Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance Program

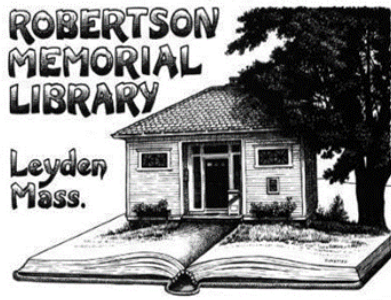
With Certified TJQMBB instructor Penelope Corcoran

Monday & Thursday 10 to 11am
Leyden Town Offices

For improving strength, balance, mobility, and fall prevention.

Beginners are welcome. Please drop in and learn about our class.
A donation of \$10 per class is appreciated to support our teacher.

Sponsored by the Leyden Council on Aging



Library Hours:

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

“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

As February arrives, we find ourselves deep in winter—and what a season it has been. Each morning begins with the familiar question: *How many layers will I need today?* Winter in New England can feel long and isolating, but there are hopeful signs all around. The days are getting longer, seed catalogs are arriving, and spring is just around the corner.

While mud may not be my favorite season, I always look forward to the sense of renewal it brings. In the meantime, the library remains warm and cozy! We are also very happy to welcome Ryan Clary, who is keeping up with library shoveling and sanding—thank you, Ryan!

Book Club is back! On January 22nd, we enjoyed a lively and thoughtful discussion of *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. The book was incredibly popular, with 27 copies checked out for patrons to follow along. As always, the evening was filled with snacks, laughter, and great conversation. Together, we selected our next read—a classic! You can pick up a copy of ***Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley** at the library, and we will meet again on **Thursday, February 26th, at 5:30 at the Town Office building**. As always, bring an appetizer to share. We hope you'll join us.


In collaboration with the Cushman Library in Bernardston, we have created special book displays at both libraries to support an anti-bullying focus at the Bernardston Elementary School. The displays feature some wonderful book selections, along with meaningful and inspiring student artwork.

We continue to offer Cyber Seniors tech help at the library. Did you receive a new device over the holidays? Need help adjusting an email setting or organizing digital photos? Contact Karin to schedule a one-on-one appointment for assistance. You can also sign up online at engage.gcc.mass.edu/seniors/cyber-seniors/. Looking ahead, we'll be offering a Tech Club this spring with workshops and drop-in opportunities—stay tuned!


Karin Parks

library@townofleyden.com

(413)773-9334



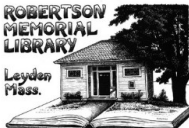
RML READS



Adult Book Club

Join us for our book club discussion of *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley and bring your favorite appetizer to share. Copies of the book are available at the library.

Thursday February 26th
5:30 PM
Leyden Town Office





Come and visit the Leyden Cupboard at the Town Hall!

If you find that your food budget just doesn't fill your basket the way it used to, you are not alone. In the spirit of community care, Neighbors Helping Neighbors has filled the kitchen cupboards at the Town Hall so that our neighbors who need a sharing hand can help themselves to items they would like.

The Cupboard is chock-full of non-perishable staples for you to refill your pantry. The cupboard has everything from soup to nuts, so come nourish yourself. There are no eligibility requirements and *everyone is welcome*. No need to be shy!

Leyden Cupboard will be open on **Monday, February 2nd from 5-7pm** and **Wednesday, February 25th from 1-2pm** and immediately following **the Community Meal on Wednesday, February 11 at 1pm**. If these hours don't fit with your schedule you can reach out to our Librarian, Karin Parks (413.522.2581) who can open the Cupboard for you during **Library hours on Mondays and Wednesdays between 1-6 p.m.**

If you would prefer to have the privacy of shopping alone, or have a bag delivered, you can contact one of our Coordinators, Jenny Campbell at 774.217.4195 or Karen O'Neil at 413.834.8009, and they can make special arrangements for you.

Additionally, thanks to an outpouring of generosity from our community Neighbors Helping Neighbors has more grocery gift cards for distribution. If you, or a family member, friend or neighbor needs food assistance, please call Pam Brown at 413.775.3470. Your privacy will always be respected.



Open Space and Recreation Plan Listening Session, Mon. March 23rd, 6:45pm

Thank you for your *incredible* response to the Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey. The committee received 142 responses with your thoughtful ideas and suggestions which have become the foundation of our community's updated plan.

A draft summary of the results of the survey can be found on the Town's website at <https://www.townofleyden.com/p/24/Open-Space-and-Recreation-Committee>.

Over the past months, the committee and community volunteers have drafted goals and objectives for our ten-year plan and we would like to have your input as to whether we have captured what you believe are the most important long-range goals. The draft goals and objectives will be posted on the Town's website by March 1st.

A Listening Session to review the goals and objectives will be held at the Town Offices immediately after the Town Caucus on Monday, March 23rd at 6:45pm. Join us for dialog about retaining and enhancing the natural resources of Leyden. Light refreshments will be served.

Pam Brown, Chair, Open Space and Recreation Committee
pambrown01301@gmail.com

Recreation Committee

Santa's 2025 visit to Leyden

Santa's visit to Leyden was very successful this past year. Santa visited 41 youthful Leyden residents and he delivered 37 wrapped presents. We would like to thank Santa for making the long trip down from the North Pole to visit our beautiful town during his busiest time of year. We would also like to thank the "elves" who accompanied Santa, Samantha Wood, and Karin Parks. Lastly we thank Matt Muka for driving Santa's sleigh (the fire engine).

Experiencing the Joy of Snowshoeing



On January 18th we held a snowshoe introduction at Avery Field. Mother Nature cooperated with us and dropped 6 inches of snow in town over the previous day and provided us with a beautiful sunny, calm afternoon to try the snowshoes. Participants had a fabulous time snowshoeing around the field, trying out our new snowshoe collection and shoes of their own. This was truly a multi-generational activity. After taking a turn at snowshoeing the younger participants took to the hill to sled and the elder folk sat around the fire and had hot cocoa. Next up we are organizing a **Full Moon snowshoe for Saturday, February 28th, bad weather day Sunday, March 1st**. The plan is to **meet at the Town Offices at 5 pm to get outfitted** and then to car pool to the Leyden Wildlife Management Area off of Glen Rd. If you are planning to participate and will need equipment please contact Steve Richter, (413) 768-9540, if no answer please leave a message. Please dress appropriately and bring a headlamp or a flashlight.



Leyden Recreation Committee
hosts:

Game Time

Come Play!

Come play with your friends and neighbors of all ages! We'll have a selection of board and card games, but feel free to bring your favorite.

**Sunday February 22nd
2pm
Leyden Town Offices**

Winter Game Day

On Sunday, February 22nd at 2 pm we will be sponsoring a multigenerational game day at the Town Offices. Bring your favorite board game to share with other residents of all ages. Last year we had some rousing games of Cosmic Wimpout as well as Poop Bingo. Join us to share your favorite game or to learn a new game with your neighbors.

Jazz Piano Concert. Wednesday, April 1, 5-6pm at the Leyden Town Hall

You're invited to a rare opportunity to listen in depth to jazz piano by the brilliant Stephen Page. The Recreation Committee in collaboration with the Leyden Cultural Council are sponsoring the Jazz Piano Concert, entitled "A Flowering of Song", from 5 to 6pm at the Leyden Town Hall.

Submitted by Steve Richter
Reccom@townofleyden.com

Council on Aging



Community Luncheon

Wednesday, February 11 in the Town Hall

11:30am: Luke Goodridge, Attorney at Law will speak about *Important Documents for Seniors*

Attorney Goodridge will describe and answer questions about legal documents including: Last Will and Testament, durable financial power of attorney, and medical & healthcare directives.

Lunch at Noon: Chili and Mac & Cheese, salad, garlic knots and cookies.

Reservations are appreciated. Call 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.

If the lunch must be cancelled due to inclement weather, we will follow the PVRSD weather cancellation policy. Cancellation notices will be posted on the PVRSD website: <https://pvrs.pvrsk12.org/home>. You may also go to WWLP for the latest cancellations and delays.

Foot Clinic for Seniors: Monday, February 2nd 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.



The next COA meeting is on Tuesday, February 17 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. You do not have to be a senior to join the COA - just have an interest in the lives of elders.

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.

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.



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

Leyden Cultural Council

Full Snow Moon Gathering and Social Dance. Saturday, February 7, 2026 (snow date Sunday, February 8) 1-4 pm at the Dining Commons, Greenfield Community College

The annual Full Snow Moon Gathering and Social Dance is a rare and joy-filled opportunity for the public to experience aspects of a traditional Social Dance taught and led by Indigenous leaders. Also called a stomp dance, these are typically open to tribal members only. The dances of the Eastern Woodland tribes are a testament to their longstanding cultural heritage and the importance of social cohesion within their communities. This tradition played a crucial role in maintaining the tribe's identity and ensuring the transmission of their traditions to future generations. The single-file call-and-response dances are easy to learn and enjoyed by people of all ages. People are encouraged to bring rattles and shake out the end-of-winter cabin fever! It's an opportunity to develop new friendships and better understanding of area history and Native lifeways before colonization to present day.

Winter HooPla. Saturday, February 21, 2026. 6-8pm. At the trolley Museum in Shelburne Falls.

Our Winter HooPla happens in February, during the harsh and isolating winter. The event happens at night so LIGHT is a key element. For six weeks prior to the event, artists, community members, and teens spend hundreds of hours working collaboratively to co-create ephemeral artworks to be installed and lit outdoors in the Trolley Museum rail yard's historic buildings, train cars and open landscape. During the event, people of all ages wander along candle-lit paths and gather around a fire at the far end of the yard for conversation, making connections with other community members. The HooPla is a magical experience rooted in the distinctive character of the place we call home. Those who brave the elements to experience it express wonder and delight! Art installations are often made with re-purposed materials, and always involve the creative challenges imposed by the weather.

For more information <https://www.theartgarden.org/winter-hoopla>



Images from previous HooPlas

Antenna Cloud Farm Spring Residency with Yasmin Williams. March 16-23, 2026.

Antenna Farm will produce its second annual Spring Residency program, this year featuring world-renowned guitarist, composer, and artist-activist Yasmin Williams, who will engage with the community in a number of robust ways:

- 1) interactive educational workshops and performances at schools in the Gill-Montague and Greenfield public school districts, and with after-school student music programs (Pioneer Valley Symphony Youth Orchestra, Strings for Kids in Greenfield, and others)
- 2) a mini-tour in the New England area, centered around a live performance at Shea Theater featuring Yasmin accompanied by a large ensemble comprised of a mix of local and regional musicians
- 3) the arrangement, development and studio recording of new works to be released on a new album
- 4) an artist project incubation retreat for all performers involved, taking place at Antenna Cloud Farm in Gill.

For more information: <https://www.antennacloudfarm.com/home>

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



Leyden Origins

The Beginning of Settlement in Leyden

The East half of Leyden was the original Falls Fight land grant. A second land grant from the state (Boston #2 grant) included West Leyden and part of East Colrain.

One of the earliest families in Leyden was Silas and Submit Newcomb. The birth of their son Daniel was recorded in November 1741. Daniel's Peak in Leyden was named for that child. Their homestead was on the west side of Beaver Meadow.

The first settlers in Leyden left for the safety of forts in Bernardston when the French and Indian War began in 1754. Very little other settlement occurred in Leyden until after 1760.

After 1760 many pioneer families moved to the Hills of Leyden. Soon there were grist mills, lumber mills, turning mills (broom handles) and fulling mills (making felt) on every stream.

Daniel Newcomb returned to the family homestead in Leyden where he raised a family of 12 children. It was land from his farm which was deeded to the town for a "burying ground", The Beaver Meadow Cemetery in 1791.

This piece is submitted by Nan Rolstad, Chair of the Leyden Historical Commission. Nan will contribute articles of general historical interest to Leyden Life from time to time.



The Leyden Historical Display is open by appointment.

Email nannetterolstad@gmail.com

The Sunday Coffee Hour will return in April.

Leyden Cookbook

The Leyden Historical Commission is making a new cookbook reflecting many things about Leyden (OLD and NEW) Please be thinking if you have a special recipe you'd like to share.

Some sections will be Maple Products, School Lunch Ladies, Leyden Produce and Meat (Lamb, Goat, Blueberries, Figs) Fair Booth, Pie contests, Chili cookoff, Vegan, some wonderful sourdough and so on.

Recipes can be sent to

[nann-](mailto:nannetterolstad@gmail.com)



January Poem

by Suzanne Matson

Only the wrinkle
of a disappearing squirrel
breaks the snow stillness.

The walker, swathed in wool,
lowers toward the prints left
by others, feet that lead to the village.

There a clock stands in front of a closed shop,
its hour not late, though the moon has come early
to mirror the white coin of its frozen face.

Submitted by Lisa Limont as a good-bye to January.



GREENFIELD'S 104TH ANNUAL WINTER CARNIVAL

YETI OR NOT

FEBRUARY 6TH-8TH

Come be a part of a Greenfield tradition that began in 1922!

Events All Over the City. All Weekend Long

**Fireworks • Ice Carvings • Glow Party
Parade of Lights • Family Activities
Yeti Hunt • Jigsaw Puzzle Contest
Fire and Ice Show • Cribbage Tournament
Chili Cook Off • Vintage Snowmobiles
K9 Keg Pull • Cardboard Sled Contest
And so much more . . .**

For schedule of events:

<https://www.greenfieldrecreation.com/wintercarnival.html>

Need Help Paying Your Heating Bill? The Massachusetts Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), helps eligible renters and homeowners pay a portion of their winter heating bills. HEAP supports households across Massachusetts, regardless of the type of heating source or whether heating costs are included in rent. This is a grant and does not have to be repaid.



Eligibility Criteria

- Eligibility depends on income, household size, place of residence, and other factors.
- Household income must be below 60% of state median income. (See table.)

The **HEAP (Fuel Assistance)** application process is streamlined to include multiple programs with one application, including: **Heating System Repair and Replacement Program (HEARTWAP)** **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)**

With HEAP eligibility, discounts are automatically given on:

- Phone bills / Electric bills for investor-owned electric utilities**
- Gas bills for investor-owned gas utilities**

For more information and to apply online go to the Client Portal: <https://toapply.org/MassHEAP>
To apply in person, contact: Fuel Assistance / HEAP Action Pioneer Valley (Community Action!)
 377 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 01301 **(413) 774-231**

Household Size	Maximum Income
1	\$51,777
2	\$67,709
3	\$83,641
4	\$99,573
5	\$115,504
6	\$131,436
7	\$127,720
8	\$134,423
9	\$137,410
10	\$140,397

Not all income counts toward eligibility. Please confirm your actual eligibility.

CLIMATE CORNER: CONNECTIONS

Of the many memorable moments from summer of 1971 backpacking in Europe, the one on my mind at this time centers on one of the most beautiful countries, my bilingual (French, English) college roommate and I explored. On foot from the ferry to the Isle of Mon, several kilometers later, we reached the campground. Finding that the desk manager spoke neither French nor English, I tried my German and immediately noticed an unfriendly demeanor *until* I identified myself as American. The 25+ year old wounds of war remained, but as Americans we were welcomed.

The climate connection? Greenland and its status as an autonomous territory of Denmark, has been “culturally and economically associated” with Europe for over a 1,000 years (Wikipedia). The current dispute over “ownership” of Greenland seems to be about national security, defense and natural resources. Indeed these are all factors but there is another climate connection: wind power. Denmark has made climate change a national priority. Their commitment can be seen in the fact that one of its major fossil fuel companies, Oersted, has transformed itself into the world’s foremost developer of offshore wind energy projects, and an important cornerstone of the Danish economy.

There is an even closer connection: the Revolution wind farm project, 87% complete, off the coast of Connecticut and Rhode Island in which Oersted is a co-developer. The company had already spent 5 billion dollars when it was paused by the U.S. government. Oersted has filed suit over their potential loss, and faces the prospect of laying off 75% of its workers. As of this writing a federal court has ordered resumption of the project, and the current U.S. administration is said to be taking a separate avenue to prevent further work on Revolution. When complete this wind farm is estimated to replace 11 million metric tons of CO₂ otherwise emitted from fossil fuel plants (The New Yorker, January 19, 2026).

Revolution is but one of 5 East Coast wind farms cancelled by the Department of Interior on Christmas Eve of 2025. Thus far Interior has been unresponsive to questions regarding their security concerns, and 3 of the 5 have seen their cancellations reversed in the courts which heard developers answer questions about their already included security plans.

At a time when relations between Denmark and the U.S. over Greenland are at an unprecedented low, pressure on Denmark has included one of their most profitable and respected economic entities: Oersted. It leaves me to wonder how I would be received at that Danish campground should I return in 2026. Would I be better off masquerading as a German?

Karen O’Neil oneilk160r@gmail.com

Additional resource information: www.politico.com/news/2026/01/18/trump-offshore-wind-problems-00734850 and Talbot, Margaret. “Under Threat.” The New Yorker, January 19, 2026

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? 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, 413-539-4684.

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

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

The COA is looking for volunteers to help with our

monthly luncheon. Can you help with set-up, serving, and clean-up on the day of the lunch, the 2nd Wednesday of each month. We have been providing food from Fosters Supermarket for our lunches. In the near future, we will be doing more on-site cooking at the Town Hall. At that time, we will welcome assistance with food preparation.

Let us know if you want to help. Contact Annie Garvey at agarv3112@gmail.com or 413-775-3910.

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.)