

LEYDEN LIFE

LEYDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

April 2026

Select Board

Happy April: welcome to the season of snowflakes - hopefully not a snowstorm – and snowdrops popping out of the thawing ground. Spring will triumph over winter this month, free us from heavy layers of coats, gloves and hats, and give us all a needed burst of energy.

Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) budget has been approved by their School Committee. With 2 additional students from Leyden attending FCTS, Leyden will be assessed \$158,433 for the FY27 budget. The FCTS plans for its **new \$246 million school building project** are moving ahead. Although the total cost would not be borne solely by the towns, it will still be a substantial request. A 30 year bond would be negotiated to fund the construction with a possible assessment to Leyden of \$95-98,000 a year. The nineteen district towns will be asked to **vote on this project on October 6th** through a ballot vote with Absentee ballots allowed but not a Vote by Mail option. 51% of all votes are needed to approve the funding. **A public hearing** is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 12th, 6-8pm at Greenfield Community College** . Mark your calendars if you want to hear and see the plans before being asked to vote.

Highway Department

It's been a tough winter, and the **Winter Highway Maintenance budget has been overspent**. Adjustments will be made through budget transfers and from free cash to be voted on at our Special Town Meeting on June 1st. The Department is ready to move on to all the Spring cleanup and projects. Watch out for the road crew and pass them safely as they work.

Select Board Report, continues on page 2

A Flowering of Song

with Jazz pianist, Stephen Page

Wednesday, April 1st at 5-6pm at the Town Hall

See page 7 for more information

Coffee and History

Please join us to learn about Leyden History, visit with neighbors, enjoy coffee (tea or hot cocoa) and a little snack.

Sunday, April 12th and 26th from 10 am - Noon

The Historical Commission will be open on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month at 7 Brattleboro Road.

OFFICE HOURS

Town Office

Tuesday - Thursday 8:30am- 4pm

Select Board meetings

Mondays 9am or 5:30 pm

413-774-4111 x1

Selectboard@townofleyden.com

Town Coordinator

Tuesday through Thursday

8:30am to 4:30pm

(413) 774-4111 ext. 1

Fax: (413) 772-0146

towncoord@townofleyden.com

Town Clerk

Mondays: 3:00 - 6:00pm

To make an appointment:

townclerk@townofleyden.com

Tax Collector

Monday: 4:30 -7:30pm

To make an appointment

taxcollector@townofleyden.com

413-774-4111 ext. 4 (Leave a message)

Assessor's Office

Monday: 4:00-8:00pm

For appointment: 413-774-4111 ext. 2

Meetings: Usually 1st Monday of the month at 7:00pm

assessors@townofleyden.com

TOWN POST OFFICE ADDRESS

7 Brattleboro Road

Leyden MA 01301



*Select Board Report, continued from page 1***Efficiency and Regionalization Committee (E&R)**

Once the E&R Committee prioritized further investigation of shared services for the Fire Department and Administrative offices with Bernardston, the discussions of a **possible Fire Department Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)** moved along quickly. Thanks to Liz Kidder, Pete Shed, Bernardston Fire Chief, Carey Barton, Leyden Fire Chief and Erica Jensen, a draft MOA has been completed and will be considered by each town's Select Boards. It is hoped that an MOA can be accepted by July 1, 2026. This is a one-year agreement which gives the towns time to delve deeper in the details, costs and consequences for a longer-term Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA). This process is similar to that which led to the IMA with the Bernardston Police Department. **The MOA and future IMA conditions will include a Fire substation in Leyden, and the equipment we have purchased will remain Leyden property.**

The community is invited to attend an **open house for the new Bernardston Fire Station**, located at 167 Northfield Road, on **Saturday, April 18th at 11:00 AM**. There will be guided tours of the building, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the apparatus bays, gear room, workspaces, and the thoughtful features built to support the department's mission. Light refreshments will be available, and firefighters will be on hand to answer questions and share the story of how the project came together.

Announcements:

- **Dog Licenses were due on March 31st**. With less than 50% of dog owners in Leyden responding, the Town Clerk and Select Board **extended the deadline until April 15th**. An additional late fee of \$10 will be added after this date. Save money and get your dog licensed – there will not be another extension!
- **Finance Committee** meetings are held weekly on Wednesday nights at 5:30pm until the end of April when the budget recommendation will be completed. These meetings are open to the public, interested – please attend.
- The **Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee** will receive assistance from Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) with mapping and other tasks related to completing the plan.
- The **Council on Aging has received a \$3,000 grant** to complete the addition to the accessible walking path at Avery Field. Thank you, Pam Brown and Anne Garvey, for submitting the grant under a very short timeline and achieving success.
- **Additional trainings** on use of computers, phones, and other **digital devices** will be announced for **April through June 2026**. Watch the town website, this newsletter, and postings in the library and town offices. Sign up and expand your digital knowledge.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Baker, Katherine DiMatteo, Erica Jensen
Leyden Select Board

Police Department

It has been a relatively quiet month in Leyden as far as the PD goes. While we are still working on the speeding issues around town, we have noticed a lot of improvement and decrease in frequency. We appreciate everyone being safe. With the weather hopefully warming up we will see more pedestrians, dog walkers, cyclists and motorcycle riders around town so we urge everyone to continue this trend of safe driving.

We at Bernardston PD are hoping to make it to some events around town in the coming weeks and months. We certainly want to meet anyone we have not yet and also be available for questions, comments and concerns. We encourage everyone to reach out and to please stop and say hello when you see us.

Our Municipal Road Safety Grant patrols kick off in April with a focus on Distracted Driving. Please relay any concerns to us (feel free to use my email address) so we can put our focus where it will serve the community best. See you folks out there!

Officer Jordan Zukowski
Bernardston Police Department
Badge #4-3
izukowski@townofbernardston.org

TOWN OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

The Select Board will soon begin its appointment process for town committees, commissions and councils. If you are currently a volunteer and if your term is coming up for appointment, our Town Coordinator will be sending out a note to ask if you will serve again. The list of open seats below have been unfilled all year, it would be great to get them filled so if you are not on a committee yet, it's time to consider serving. Call 413-774-4111, ext.1 or email the Town Coordinator, towncoord@townofleyden.com.

OPEN SEATS

- Agricultural Commission – 1 position. 3 year term
- Constables – 1 appointed position. 1-year term
- East Hill Cemetery Commission – 2 positions. 3 year term
- Fence Viewer – 2 positions. 1 year term
- Franklin Regional Planning Advisory Board – 1 alternate town representative seat. 1 year term
- Mass in Motion Advisory Committee – 2 positions. 2 year term

An abundance of gratitude for all those that volunteer!

Leyden Origins

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.

Maple Sugaring

Native Americans in this area had long discovered the sweet sap of the Maple tree. Catching sap in birch baskets and hollowed out logs then dropping hot stones into the sap they boiled off the water to make a dark sugar.

The white settlers preferred the cane sugars that came from the Caribbean Islands until English taxes and shipping blockages made it unavailable.

Settlers in this area were some of the first to make Maple sugar in larger quantities. Falltown (Leyden and Bernardston) resident Sam Connable is credited with devising ways to extract large amounts sap and boil it using a progression of pans.

Records show that in 1866 there were 20 buildings in Leyden taxed as Sugar Houses.

Peter B. Ranney of North County Rd., died at home on January 25th after a brief illness. A Leyden resident since 1990, he was 73. Friends and family will celebrate his life April 4th at 1pm in Leyden at Bent Birch (formerly Angel's Rest). if you plan to attend, please carpool and park on the right side (east side) of the road.

See the full obituary for Peter by selecting the link below.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/recorder/name/peter-ranney-obituary?id=60689653>

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 Susan & David Brooks and Michele & John Higgins for contributions this month!



Town Clerk

Don't Forget to License Your Dog! By the time the April edition of Leyden Life is published, the dog licensing period will have passed. A \$10 late fee per dog normally applies after the deadline; however, the Town is waiving this fee through Friday, April 17, 2026.

After April 17, we are required to compile a list of unlicensed dogs and provide it to the Animal Control Officer for follow-up. At this time, approximately 40% of the roughly 254 dogs in the Town's database have been licensed.

If your dog is no longer in town or has passed away, please notify the Town Clerk by emailing TownClerk@TownOfLeyden.com so our records can be updated.

Massachusetts regulations require veterinarians to report rabies vaccinations to the Town, and state law requires that all dogs over six months of age be licensed. State law also authorizes the Animal Control Officer (ACO) to address unlicensed dogs, helping ensure community safety.

Thank you to everyone who has already complied with dog licensing requirements. Licensing helps protect the health and safety of our community by ensuring dogs are vaccinated, especially against rabies.

It's Time to Complete the Annual Census: As of mid-March, we have received approximately 67% of the annual census (street listing) forms, with many still outstanding. Please note that failure to return your form may result in your voter

status being changed to inactive. A second mailing is planned for April, which we hope to minimize or avoid due to the significant cost in both staff time and postage.

Completing the street listing is required by state law and provides essential information used by schools, emergency services, and other Town departments. These forms help determine how many people live in Leyden, which directly impacts state and federal representation, redistricting (such as voting precincts and school districts), and the distribution of state aid. A more complete count can lead to increased education funding, improved infrastructure support, and greater local aid. Accurate information also supports emergency planning, evacuation strategies, and public health efforts.

Each household must list all individuals currently residing at the address, and all forms must be signed and dated. Even if no updates are needed, the form must still be signed by the head of household and returned. Unsigned forms cannot be processed and will be returned.

Please note that voter registration or political party changes cannot be made on the census form. To register to vote or update your party affiliation, you must complete a voter registration form. These are available at the Town Offices or online at www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr.

Your Chance to Serve: Town Caucus and Local Elections. By the time the April edition of Leyden Life is published, the annual town caucus will have already taken place. The results will be posted on the Town's website and will also appear in the May edition of Leyden Life.

It is not too late, however, to run for office. If you or someone you know would like to be on the ballot for the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, there is still time to get involved.

All adult Leyden residents are encouraged to consider running for office. Nomination papers are available from the Town Clerk. The deadline to obtain nomination papers is Monday, April 13, 2026, by 5:00 PM. Completed papers must be submitted to the Board of Registrars by Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 5:00 PM.

These positions are up for election this year:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Board of Health | 3 year-term | Planning Board | 5 year-term |
| Constable | 3 year-term | Select Board | 3 year-term |
| Library Trustee | 3 year-term | Tree Warden | 1 year-term |
| Moderator | 1 year-term | | |

Office Hours: The Town Clerk's Office is open Mondays from 3:00–6:00 PM at the Town Offices building. If Monday falls on a holiday, the office will be closed. While staff are usually in the office by 9:00 AM, 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

Board of Health

It may be hard to comprehend because of all the snow, but Massachusetts, and more importantly, Franklin County, are coming into the Spring in a drought. Western Franklin County is Dry. Eastern Franklin County is in a moderate drought. Leyden is between these two areas.

All of Leyden relies on wells....100% of our water comes from groundwater. Water conservation should be a discussion in every household and each family member should know how they can help, even in a small way. Take shorter showers, fix running toilets and leaky faucets, turn off the faucet when brushing teeth or shaving, and only run dishwasher and washing machines with full loads. If you experience a problem with no water from your well, call your well company. Usually it's a mechanical problem, ex. well pump motor. Leyden households are responsible for the cost of upgrade and/or repair of their wells. The town is not financially liable.

If your well goes dry - private citizen

- Notify the Board of Health to see if there are any local resources available to help.
 - www.rcapsolutions.org provide low interest loans to eligible households
 - www.fcrhra.org may also provide assistance to income eligible households
- If you have water storage available at your residence, you may be able to buy water from private suppliers.
- Contact a well driller to explore options such as well replacement or deepening your well.

If your well goes dry - farmer or smaller business

- Report it to the Board of Health
- A farmer may contact MDAR for assistance
- If you have enough storage, buy water from private water suppliers.

There will be an opening on the Board of Health in July for FY27. It is a 3 year term. The State requires training, for which you are compensated. It is interesting and educational...everything you learn pertains to your own household and life in Leyden.

If anyone is interested, please call me and I can answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.

Beth Kuzdeba Marcia Miller Devorah Vester

boh@townofleyden.com

413-774-2820

If you are looking for a certified laboratory to test your well water:

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/find-a-certified-laboratory-for-water-testing?>

or www.mass.gov >MASSDEP>Private wells

You can call the lab and usually they send you a container for water collection along with instructions.

To learn about your well or ask questions: www.wellcarehotline.org.

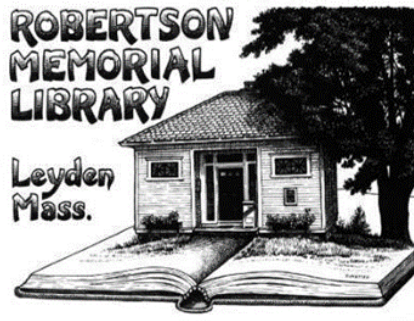
This site will also be coming out with a septic manual soon to learn how your septic works.

Hope this helps!

Beth Kuzdeba

BOH





Leyden's Little Library

White clapboard siding,
Just one story high.
To find this tiny building,
You need an eagle eye.

A stranger might not notice
As he drove on past.
If he did, (and I've heard him),
He probably would laugh.

But small packages
May be best of all.
For the things we keep in there,
Can't be imprisoned by a wall.

Thoughts of ancient thinkers,
Or of how to build a house,
Or the habitat and breeding grounds
Of the wild grouse.

In this little building
We can chat with Hank Thoreau
Or share the long lost love
Of morbid Edgar Poe.

Hitler's book, Mein Kampf,
Is there for us to read
To understand how holocausts
Spring from hatred's ugly seed.

This tiny little building
Where knowledge can be found
Is, I think a sacred place.
It makes this hallowed ground.

Doug Pratt 1993

Library Hours:

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

April brings National Poetry Month, and with it, a lovely bit of local history. Back in 1993, Leyden community member Doug Pratt wrote a heartfelt tribute to our library. Even after 33 years of change, his words still ring true—our library remains a steady, welcoming place at the heart of the community. Take some time this month to explore our poetry collection, discover works by local poets, or even try writing a few lines of your own!

As spring begins to bloom and the snow (finally!) melts away, we hope you're ready to shake off mud season and get out and about. We've got plenty of great things coming up!

Our book club will meet on **April 2nd to discuss Anxious People** by Fredrik Backman. We'll also choose our next read at that meeting—so stay tuned!

On **Thursday, April 16th**, we're celebrating **National Library Outreach Day** with the first of what we hope will be many library trivia nights at Incandescent Brewing in Bernardston. **Registration opens at 5pm, and the game kicks off at 5:30.** It's \$5 per participant, and the winning team will take home a cash prize (and, of course, bragging rights!). There will be snacks, great drinks, and plenty of fun—this is an all-ages event, and you might be surprised by just how much you know!

We're also looking for Saturday volunteers to help fill out our schedule. If you're interested, be sure to add your name to the list—we have some great opportunities coming up!

HAPPY SPRING!!

Karin Parks

library@townofleyden.com



(413)773-9334

INCANDESCENT BREWING
203 SOUTH ST, BERNARDSTON, MA 01337

PRESENTED BY LEYDEN'S OWN
ROBERTSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

LIBRARY TRIVIA NIGHT

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL LIBRARY
OUTREACH DAY, SHAKE OFF THOSE
WINTER BLUES WITH A SPECIAL NIGHT
OF TRIVIA

HOSTED BY LEYDEN
LOCALS (AND
FAMOUS FATHER
AND SON DUO)
DAVID AND
TRISTAN NEIL

THURSDAY, APRIL 16TH

REGISTRATION 5PM - GAME 5:30PM
\$5 PER PLAYER
CASH PRIZE!

Shine On



Recreation Committee

Moonlight Snowshoe

On February 28th a small group gathered at the Avery Pavilion for a Moonlight Snowshoe. The evening could not have been more conducive for this activity. The temperature was mild, the sky was clear, we had several inches of fresh snow, the moon was brilliant, and we had six planets aligned across the sky. Though the group was small they were very enthusiastic and had a wonderful time.

Stephen Page Piano Concert.

Wednesday, April 1st at 5-6pm at the Town Hall

This is a last minute reminder that on April 1st the Recreation Committee and Leyden Cultural Council are sponsoring a jazz piano concert with Stephen Page at the Town Hall. Stephen is a renowned jazz pianist out of Northampton and he will be performing "A Flowering of Song". This will be the first concert in a series of three that the Recreational Committee will be presenting in collaboration with Cultural Council over the next six months.

Avery Pavilion and Field

The Avery Pavilion will be opened in mid April, we are waiting for warmer weather so that we can turn on the water safely. We are looking to rent a portable toilet again so that there are hygienic facilities when the field house is locked.

The town has received two grants to finish work on the walking path around the field. Work on that should occur later this spring. Once the snow has sufficiently receded please feel free to walk the track, play some ball or some pickleball.

Steve Richter, Chair
 Leyden Recreation Committee
Reccom@townofleyden.com



A Flowering of Song
JAZZ PIANO
 with Noted Jazz Pianist Stephen Page

Where: Leyden Town Hall
When: Wed., April 1, 5-6 pm
"A brilliant talent" – Archie Shepp
 Free and open to the general public

Jazz Piano in the Hands of a Master Can Make Flowers Bloom – well, almost! There are pianists and there are pianists... Welcome to this rare opportunity to listen in depth to jazz piano by the brilliant Stephen Page. He's performed up and down the eastern seaboard, with top names in jazz. Experience the delight of the music, the excitement of his playing, and songs to entertain and inspire you.

This program is supported in part by the Leyden Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and Robertson Memorial Library, and Parks and Recreation.

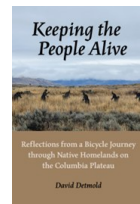
This event is supported in part by a grant from the Leyden Cultural Council.

Local Author Book Reading! Thursday, May 21st. 7pm at the Town Hall

Montague Resident David Detmold will read from his book

Keeping the People Alive: Reflections from a Bike Journey through Native Homelands on the Columbia Plateau

Sponsored by Robertson Memorial Library and the Recreation Committee




LEYDEN CUPBOARD
 at the Town Hall Kitchen

All Leyden residents are welcome to refill their pantry!

Open Hours
Monday, April 6th at 5-7pm
Wednesday, April 18th at 1-2pm
Wednesday, April 22nd at 1-2pm

By Appointment and Home Delivery:
 Jenny Campbell 774-217-4195
 Karen O'Neil 413-834-8009
 Karin Parks 413-522-2581

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

Mondays & Wednesdays 10 to 11am
at the 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

A Community Call to Action from the Leyden Emergency Management Committee

As we navigate the unpredictable shifts in weather—including recent alerts for hazardous wind gusts and extreme cold—the Town of Leyden is focused on strengthening our collective resilience. From warming and cooling centers to neighborhood coordination, here is how you can prepare and get involved.

Warming Centers: Your Sanctuary from the Cold

Warming centers are temporary, daytime facilities designed to provide a safe, heated environment for residents when home heating fails or temperatures become life-threatening. This winter the LEMC staffed a warming center at the Town Offices during the first extreme cold spell. It was a good exercise to gauge the need for a warming center.

- **What to Expect:** This is not an overnight shelter, but a "drop-in" location where you can get warm, charge devices, and access bathroom facilities.
- **Activation:** Centers typically open when temperatures reach extreme lows (often below 10°F).
- **Stay Informed:** Check the town website for real-time activation alerts.

Emergency Preparedness: The "4 P's"

Resiliency starts at home. Follow the [Mass.gov Preparedness Guidelines](#) to protect:

1. **People:** Have a 3-day supply of food, water (1 gallon/person/day), and medications.
2. **Pets:** Ensure your emergency kit includes pet food and that you have a plan, as some warming centers may not allow animals.
3. **Pipes:** Allow faucets to drip during extreme cold to prevent freezing and bursting.
4. **Plants:** Bring sensitive plants indoors or cover them before the frost hits.

Pro Tip: Ensure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors have fresh batteries—winter heating increases fire and CO risks.

Join the Team: Neighbor Coordinator Search

Our Leyden Emergency Management Committee is looking for **Neighbor Coordinators**. In an emergency, the "human factor" is our strongest asset.

- **The Role:** Coordinators act as the bridge between their neighborhood and town officials. You'll help maintain a contact list for your immediate neighbors, check in on vulnerable residents during power outages, and share vital town updates face-to-face.
- **Why it Matters:** When cell towers are down or phones aren't charged, your "personal touch" ensures no one in Leyden is left behind.

Ready to help? Email Jeff Miller at emergencymtg@townofleyden.com or attend **our next meeting April 30th at 6:30 at the Town Offices.**

Stay up to date with emergency information by signing up for RAVE Alerts by emailing Jeff Miller at emergencymtg@townofleyden.com

Bernardston Fire Department welcomes the community to an Open House at the new Fire Station

On **Saturday, April 18th at 11am**, the Bernardston Fire Department will welcome the community to an Open House at the new Fire Station, located at [167 Northfield Road in Bernardston](#). This event marks far more than the opening of a building—it represents years of planning, collaboration, and commitment to strengthening public safety in Bernardston. The Open House will begin with opening remarks from the Fire Chief, followed by a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to officially mark the station's opening. Guests will be invited to join guided tours of the building, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the apparatus bays, gear room, workspaces, and the thoughtful features built to support the department's mission. Light refreshments will be available, and firefighters will be on hand to answer questions and share the story of how the project came together.

Leyden has a wonderful working relationship with the Bernardston Fire Department through mutual aid. Leyden residents are very welcome at this open house.

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*. So far, we have served 21 households. No need to be shy!

The Cupboard will be open on: **Monday, April 6th from 5-7pm**
Wednesday, April 18th at 1-2pm (immediately following the Community Meal)
Wednesday, April 22nd from 1-2pm

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 1-6pm**.

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.

If you would like to donate to the Leyden Cupboard, you can drop off non-perishable food to the Leyden Town Office or the Library during regular hours or at the Town Hall during the Leyden Cupboard open hours. Foods that the cupboard could use includes: flour, sugar, beans, hearty soups, nuts, dried fruit, granola/snack bars, olive oil, cereals, etc.



Roland Johnson tapping maple trees on South County Road. The sap goes to his brother Ed Johnson for boiling at Ed's Sugar Shack.

Photo credit: Lisa Limont



Leyden Cookbook

The Leyden Historical Commission is making a new cookbook reflecting many things about Leyden (OLD and NEW). Please think about special recipes you'd like to share.

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



Recipes can be sent to nanetterolstad@gmail.com

You are invited!

**Open Space and Recreation Community Conversation
Tuesday, April 21st 4:30 - 5:30pm at the Town Offices**

FRCOG Senior Transportation Planner, Laurie Scarbrough will be joining the Open Space and Recreation Committee for discussion about the

Complete Streets Program and Prioritization Plan from 4:30 -5:30 pm.at the Town Offices. Your feedback is most welcome. If you are unable to attend in person, you can join by remote access through this zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86134878179>

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

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

Council on Aging

The next COA meeting is on Tuesday, April 14 at 2pm at the Town Offices.

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.

Community Lunch

Wednesday, April 8th in the Town Hall

11:30am: Tom Ashley from Dancing Bear Farm on Frizzell Hill Road cultivates fig trees in a permanent greenhouse. He sells a variety of figs and fig trees and, additionally, advises people about how to take care of their trees. Tom will provide a multimedia presentation about his experiences learning to grow fig trees and creating his business. Expect some great story-telling!

Lunch at Noon: Scalloped potatoes & ham, garlic knots, tossed salad and cookies.

Reservations are appreciated. Call Linda Allis at (413) 834-4417 and 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 meals because of health problems, let us know and we can arrange delivery.

Not just for seniors - all ages welcome.

Foot Clinic for Seniors: Monday, April 6th at the Town Offices

If you have questions or would like to reserve a spot, please call Linda Allis at 413-834-4417. There is a \$25 copay at the time of your appointment.

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!

Do you enjoy talking about Birds? About wild flowers?

We are looking for people to share their knowledge and passion at our community lunch. You would have 30 minutes for your presentation. It can be formal or casual. You will have a curious and appreciative audience!

Is there another topic you would like to share with us?

If interested, please contact Amy: at 774-6907 or amy.woodsprite@gmail.com

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, contact Amy at 774-6907 or amy.woodsprite@gmail.com. To volunteer to help, contact Amy.



On Maple Sugaring in Leyden: Past and Present

At the March Community lunch, Warren Facey and Nanette Rolstad told stories (some fun, some serious), showed slides, and displayed pictures to demonstrate the importance of maple sugaring in Leyden. They had an enthusiastic and appreciative audience. *Thank you Warren and Nanette!*

Photo credits: Laura Schlaikjer

Leyden Cultural Council

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

Jazz Pianist Stephen Page will present an approx. one-hour concert of jazz piano on his professional keyboard in Leyden. His concert will include upbeat, lively jazz tunes and rich ballads, classic and new with exciting improvisations. He brings decades of professional expertise that for more than 30 years has delighted and wowed audiences up and down the eastern seaboard. He plays a wide range of musical selections from standards to originals in varied jazz styles as played by Thelonius Monk, Coltrane, Miles Davis as well as original pieces uniquely his own. An exciting performer who consistently wows his audiences.

Pioneer Valley Symphony 32nd Annual Education Concert: Winter Moons. Thursday, April 9, 10am

Greenfield High School Auditorium

For 30+ years, the Pioneer Valley Symphony (PVS) has provided a free education concert to third- and fourth-grade classes in our region. Curriculum packages are delivered to schools, including a workbook for each child, an educator's guide, and a playlist to direct classroom activities. Musicians visit classrooms to teach students about their instruments and to prepare them for the live concert. This year, the PVS will present Winter Moons by Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate. Winter Moons is a musical journey inspired by Native American storytelling and the changing seasons. Blending rich orchestral textures with Indigenous rhythms and themes, Tate's work transports young listeners to a world of myth and nature. To ensure accessibility, the PVS provides materials in digital and print formats, and we distribute an online video of the concert to be streamed by classrooms and families.

"Biological Invasions: How Do We Cope?" Thursday, May 14, 7 - 9pm

Charlemont Forum Speakers Series 2026. Charlemont Federated Church, 175 Main Street, Charlemont.

Dr. Bethany Bradley, Professor of Biogeography & Invasion Ecology at UMass Amherst, will present "Biological Invasions- How Do We Cope?" a presentation of research investigating how geographical locations of species across landscapes and regions can shed light on the risks posed by invasive species and inform conservation planning. She will also discuss her ongoing grant funded project on natural resource management and the protection of native species pressured by climate change. To sign up or for more information go to charlemonforum.org or call 413-339-4294.

Cooking Connections: A Cooking Workshop for the Whole Family. Saturday, April 18th. 3-5pm.

Heath School, 18 Jacobs Road, Heath, MA.

Cooking Connections is a workshop designed to bring families together around learning new culinary skills. Families will cook, learn, and share a meal together. We will share Italian culinary traditions (gnocchi-making) as a meaningful cultural art form accessible to all ages. We will also share stories about the global travels of the humble potato through history. Participants will study basic plant biology of root vegetables and why starchy tubers evolved the way they did. Children and families will build confidence in the kitchen preparing fun meals from scratch and go home with new skills and recipes. **See poster on page 12.**



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

Climate Corner: Invitation to Readers

This month I invite you to send, by email, your understanding of the two words: climate change. I will be collating them and they will appear in next month's column. Please limit yourself to 12 words maximum. I will not identify you by name unless you state a preference for being identified. Deadline for submissions April 16. I look forward to reading your responses.

This column was written on my journey, via train, back to western Massachusetts after visiting my daughter and her family. I enjoyed the scenery and the joy of silence riding in the quiet car and the knowledge that taking a train is better for the atmosphere than driving alone in my automobile.

Thank you,

Karen O'Neil, oneilk160r@gmail.com

Leyden United Methodist Church

Join us for our annual **Easter Egg Hunt on Sat April 4th. Crafts and visits with the Easter Bunny will be held at 11 am, downstairs in the fellowship hall. The egg hunt will then begin at 11:30.** Be sure to bring a basket for collecting eggs and wear appropriate footwear, as the common may be wet. Donations of candy/treats, as well as monetary support are greatly appreciated. Candy and treats can be dropped off downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. The door is always open. Monetary donations can be mailed to the church or sent though Paypal or Venmo at: [Paypal.me/emelissa3](https://www.paypal.com/merchot?p=emilissa3)
Venmo@emelissa3

Contact Emily for further info @ 413-336-6248.

**Easter Sunday Service will be held upstairs in the church on April 5th at 9am.
All are welcome.**

Leyden Easter Egg Hunt

Hosted By The Leyden United Methodist Church



Sat. April 4th
Crafts @ 11:00 am
Hunt @ 11:30 am

Leyden United Methodist Church/Town Common
15 W. Leyden Rd, Leyden Ma

**Crafts & Pictures With The Easter Bunny
Will Be Held Downstairs In The Fellowship Hall
Prior To The Hunt**

**Bring a basket, wear appropriate footwear,
as the common may be wet
Donations of candy/treats are appreciated
Contact Emily @ 413-336-6248**

Facebook Event Page: Leyden Easter Egg Hunt 2026

FAMILY COOKING WORKSHOP

come & learn how to make



ITALIAN POTATO GNOCCHI

with the sapling school team

for kids of all ages & their families

SATURDAY, 4/18
3- 5PM @ THE HEATH SCHOOL

register before we fill up with the
code below or colrainsaplingschool.org



This program is free thanks to the Local Cultural Councils of Colrain, Heath and Leyden, which are supported by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Coming soon: **April through June 2026.**

***Trainings from CyberSeniors on the use of computers,
phones, and other digital devices.***

Check the town website and look for postings at the library and Town Offices for announcements of the schedule.



Walk-In Wellness Clinic

**Wednesday, April 8th 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**

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; suancarlson455@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

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

I don't believe the half I hear,
Nor the quarter of what I see!
But I have one faith, sublime and true,
That nothing can shake or slay;
Each spring I firmly believe anew
All the seed catalogues say!
- Carolyn Wells



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.)