

# NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF LEVERETT

www.leverett.ma.us

October 2011

## *Notes From Around Town*

- 2011-2012 **Transfer Station** stickers are **REQUIRED** for entrance to the Transfer Station.
- **Special Town Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at 7pm at the Elementary School. See draft warrant enclosed.
- TAX BILLS HAVE NOT BEEN MAILED. VOLUNTARY PAYMENTS GLADLY ACCEPTED!  
Mail check or pay online at [leverett.ma.us](http://leverett.ma.us). It's convenient, fast, secure, & free!
- NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINES: **1 December 2011 1 February 2012**

Send news items and 1946 (art deco-style) Chevrolet truck parts (who are we kidding...Will) to: Lisa Stratford at Box 300, Leverett, MA or [townclerk@leverett.ma.us](mailto:townclerk@leverett.ma.us) or call 548-9150 for guidelines.

## FROM THE SELECT BOARD

### Town Hall preservation

The renovation and repair of the Town Hall exterior is well under way. Primed siding is being installed on the north side of the hall with rotted sills being replaced as needed. The Select Board has received bids for the painting of the building and so far all the work is well within the budget provided by Community Preservation Committee. Thanks to John Kuczek, Greg Woodard, Julie Shively and Margie McGinnis for all the time and expertise put into this project.

### Energy Upgrades

The Town has continued to implement energy upgrades in Town Hall. Work includes the installation of new furnaces, new duct work to carry heat to all the offices and insulation. We hope to have the job complete soon.

### School Roof and Window Replacement

The window replacement project has now been scheduled for next summer due to the long delivery time of the windows and the asbestos remediation required as a part of the removal of the old windows. The slate roof repair project has been bid twice with the few bidders not meeting the minimum experience requirements or not being able to secure bonding. The Board is requesting approval from the State to rebid the project this fall. Many experienced contractors have not bid on our project because of commitments to repair buildings damaged by the tornado this summer.

### Weed Harvesting at the Pond

The weed harvesting project at the boat access on Depot Road has been completed. Grass is well established and the access way restored. A picnic table has been installed. Enjoy the wonderful view!

### FEMA Grant for Water Tank

The Select Board also has submitted an application for funding through FEMA for a large underground water storage tank to be installed in the school playground. This tank would provide a permanent and accessible water supply to fight fires in town. The initial response from FEMA has not been positive. Meetings continue as the submitted projects are evaluated.

### Cave Hill Road and the Sawmill Pond Project

During the summer the sawmill dam was breached lowering the pond to stream flow. The town took the opportunity to remove the large sediment deposits that had accumulated in the pond and under the Cave Hill Road bridge. One of the two bays of the bridge was partially blocked and the overall volume of the pond was reduced by the material. It was also an opportunity to sand-blast and paint the steel support beams under the bridge. This was one of the bridges that had not been repainted over the past 5 years. The work was completed just before the hurricane and subsequent tropical storm passed through. The scaffolding remained in place, making it through the storm and high water. Thanks to Will Stratford and the Highway Department for adding this project to their summer project schedule. Thanks to Dave Powicki and the Conservation Commission for working with us to get through the permits and turtle survey required. The removal of built-up material under and around this bridge will be necessary in the future in order to protect the structure from high water impacts, to maintain the function of the fire hydrant (one of two in town that can supply sufficient water to fight a fire) and to protect the town's investment in the sawmill building and dam.

### Town Water to Leverett

The Board has held discussions with the Town of Amherst looking into the possibility of installing a water main from North Amherst to the homes that have been impacted by the plume from the old landfill in the Teawaddle Road area. These talks are in the preliminary stage. A letter has been sent to the Amherst Select Board to gain initial approval and commitment for the connection before the town hires an engineering firm to prepare plans, permits, and specifications for the project. Investigation into available funding sources has begun. Funding for the design may be requested as soon as fall town meeting this October.

**Noise Complaints** The State Police have responded to complaints of large late night noisy parties in town. Written complaints should be made to the Select Board to utilize the town's noise by-law approved last year. The Board will

contact the owner of the property. Further complaints will result in the owner of the property being fined on an increasing scale. Please be respectful of your neighbors.

*Rich Brazeau, for the Select Board*

*Laurel S. Kahn for the Community Preservation Committee*

## Community Preservation Committee

### DO YOU HAVE A PROJECT THAT REQUIRES FUNDING?

The CPC has funds available and is seeking proposals for the next funding cycle. If you have a proposal for open space preservation, historic preservation, community housing or recreation, please consider applying. Application forms are available from the Town Hall or may be downloaded from the Leverett Town Hall website at <http://leverett.ma.us/>. Our application deadline is **December 1**.

To encourage you to think of a project you might want to propose, we want to remind you about some of the projects that have been accomplished in our community with our Community Preservation Act funds. Details of these projects are available at Town Hall.

Open Space and Recreation funds have been used to purchase a number of parcels of land, for example, three parcels on Leverett Pond, formerly owned by Carlyle and Edith Field, David and Mary Field, and Phillip and Catherine Woodard. These include the Friendship Trail which goes along the shoreline from the channel inlet off Depot Road at the south end of the pond to Cider Mill Lane. Open space funds were also used to restore the weed choked inlet channel and improve public access to the pond.

Historic preservation funds have been used to restore the street side of the Leverett Crafts and Arts Building. You'll also notice work in progress to restore the Town Hall including new clapboards and fresh paint. In addition, research is underway to prepare documents for National Register Historic Districts for North Leverett, Moore's Corner, and East Leverett Centers, to join our Leverett Center Historic District.

Community Housing funds have been used to fund the Leverett Affordable Housing Trust. The Selectboard continues to work on a variety of ways for people to obtain affordable housing in Leverett.

**We hope these examples will inspire you to propose Leverett's next great project!**

The next CPC meeting is at 7:30 on Wednesday, October 12, 2011, at Town Hall when we will be glad to discuss proposals. If you have an idea for a proposal and would like an exploratory meeting before that, or to be on the agenda for October 12, please call Laurel Kahn at (413)548-9158 or email [LaurelKahn@aol.com](mailto:LaurelKahn@aol.com).

## Council on Aging News

**Flu Clinic** – Unfortunately, the Leverett Flu Clinic is in transition this year. Residents who have Medicare (or any insurance that covers the vaccine) are no longer eligible for the shots at our site due to changes in DPH policy. But next year, we are looking into a possible new and improved flu clinic in town for all. If so, we plan for the COA to continue to support a morning clinic for those over 60. Please read the “flu clinic” blurb elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.

**Take-It-Easy Yoga Testimonial** - “Try to join us for chair yoga! You won't believe what a difference it makes if you have arthritis in your back, legs, neck, etc! I am now more able to stand still without hanging on to the chair. I stand straighter and have a lot less back, neck, and leg pain. On top of these benefits, it has helped relieve acid reflux. I am now able to take far less medication and feel SO much better. Thank you Nancy!” Take It Easy Yoga with Nancy Paglia – Wednesdays, 10:00, at the Safety Complex temporarily. Call the COA for more info or just show up!

**Volunteers Needed** - Plan a monthly movie program for a while, be a friendly visitor or caller, JOIN THE COA (we need your energy and interest!), call us to just talk about your concerns regarding those over 60 in Leverett and what you would like your COA to be doing.

**Part B Insurance and Medicare** - As you probably know if you have Medicare, open enrollment dates for changes to your Part B policy have changed to October 15<sup>th</sup> to December 7<sup>th</sup>. Instead of a talk, Lorraine York-Edberg, director of SHINE, will be scheduling half-hour appointments in town on November 1. Please call the COA to schedule a visit with her and we will send you a list of items to bring with you to make the meeting as productive as possible.

**Fuel Assistance Help** – Although the word is that there is less fuel assistance available this year, it is still worth applying if you fall within the income limits. I am available (and trained) to help with recertification applications and, starting November 1, to fill out new applications. Call the COA to make an appointment.

**Preventive Medical Exams** - Medicare now covers a long list of preventive exams as well as an annual “wellness exam.” These exams range from an abdominal aortic aneurysm to diabetes screening. You can get a checklist of these exams to discuss with your doctor by calling 1-800-Medicare and asking about preventive services and the checklist.

**Home Weatherization Help** - Mass Save can provide 75% funding to insulate or weatherize your home. For consumers over age 60, FCHCC (Home Care) might be able to match the Mass Save money by paying the remaining 25%. Call Mass Save at 866-527-7283 to schedule an audit. When you receive your contract, please contact Home Care's Benefits Counseling Program at 413-773-5555.

**Special Thanks** to everyone at the Safety Complex for sharing your room with the mealsite and the yoga class while Town Hall is under renovation.

[coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us) 548-1022x5

*Tanya Cushman, for the Council on Aging*

### **FLU CLINIC UPDATE**

In the past, Leverett has received free vaccines from the Department of Public Health. Mary Jo Korfhage, BSN, and Sandy Rogers, RN, administered the shots as volunteers and the Council on Aging helped run the clinic, mostly for those over 60 or with chronic conditions. Last year, stimulus money helped to pay for the vaccine. This year, without that money, the DPH has reduced the number of vaccine available for free and has decided that only uninsured or underinsured people receive this free-to-the-town vaccine. This policy is a big difference from past years when seniors with Medicare and those with chronic conditions were still able to get the vaccine at this kind of flu clinic. Another big difference is that now children are the priority recipients of the vaccine, not seniors.

However, it appears that there is plenty of the vaccine around. If you have insurance, including Medicare, it is suggested that you get the vaccine where you can, as long as you are not paying out of pocket for anything. You should be asked to sign a waiver allowing the doctor (or whomever) to bill your insurance company or Medicare for both the vaccine and the administration of the vaccine.

If you or someone you know is uninsured or underinsured and would like to receive one of the flu shots reserved for Leverett, please contact Mary Jo Korfhage at 548-9616. Depending on the response to this request, we will decide how to proceed.

Looking ahead to next year, we hope to bring much better news. We hope to be working with the Leverett Board of Health to bring you a flu clinic again, everyone invited, but instead of counting on the free shots that DPH is willing to give us, we are looking into paying for the vaccine and then roster billing insurance companies. The reimbursement from the insurance companies should be more than enough to make the flu clinic a self-sustaining entity, especially with volunteer administration of the shot and of the paperwork.

Thanks, Mary Jo Korfhage, BSN, Flu Clinic Administrator

### **THE TOWN OF LEVERETT IS A MEMBER OF THE CONNECT-CTY SYSTEM**

*(Connect-CTY a Service to Enhance Emergency  
Outreach and Communication)*

The *Connect-CTY* service allows emergency and town officials to send and track personalized voice messages to residents in just minutes through a single phone call. The service requires no additional hardware; it can be used from any computer with internet access or telephone. This ensures that emergency officials as well as town officials can send out vital messages, such as severe weather, dam failure, or public health warnings as well as school closing and community outreach.

It is important that we have accurate telephone and e-mail information; if your information has changed or if you're new to town you can log onto to the town's website [www.leverett.ma.us](http://www.leverett.ma.us), on the left side click **Connect-CTY** then click **SIGNUP NOW** to enter your information. If you do not have internet access or are having trouble entering your information, please call 413-548-1022 X4 and leave your information and we will enter it manually. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Nagy at 548-1022 X4.

### ***FROM THE ASSESSORS***

The Board of Assessors is in the final stages of completing the triennial revaluation of real estate assessments. Massachusetts state law requires all real estate to be assessed at full market value, and further requires all cities and towns to bring their real estate valuations into line with the actual real estate market. In order to meet this requirement, we have analyzed all property sales in Leverett from July 2009 through June 2011, and adjusted our underlying assessment tables. The end result is a decrease, on average, of approximately 5% town wide. Due to the variations in properties, the change in your assessment may be more or less than this figure.

Although we have not received approval from the state, we are making the proposed new assessments available for review at the Town Hall and Leverett Library. They will also be posted on the town's website ([leverett.ma.us](http://leverett.ma.us)). These new assessed values will be used to determine the tax rate and thus individual tax bills for Fiscal Year 2012 [FY12] covering the period of July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

Once the Massachusetts Department of Revenue grants preliminary approval, the assessors will be holding informal meetings where you may ask questions and discuss your assessment. These meetings usually are held on Monday and Thursday afternoons and evenings, and by appointment.

**You may also contact the assessors by:**

**Phone: 413-548-4945**

**Mail: Box 300 9 Montague Rd Leverett, MA 01054**

**Email [assessors@leverett.ma.us](mailto:assessors@leverett.ma.us)**

Following the public comment period, we will submit the valuations, with any revisions, to the DOR for final approval. Once the values are approved, we will proceed to set the tax rate and mail the tax bills. The FY12 tax rate for Leverett cannot be determined until these new values are approved. As always, you have 30 days following the mailing of the tax bill to file for an abatement.

### **Friends of Leverett Library News**

The Friends Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2011 at 2 pm in the Community Room of the Leverett Library. After a brief business meeting, we will have as our guest speaker Juliette Fay, Natick author of *shelter me* and *deep down true*. Questions will be entertained after Juliette's reading/talk. Her books will be



available for sale and she will happily autograph them. This program is open to the public.

At 1pm, a Friends members-only reception will be held in the Community Room. Refreshments will be served and Juliette will be there for individual questions and comments.

Copies of Juliette's books, both in print and on CD, are available at the library for borrowing.

Hope we see you there – it should be a fun afternoon.

*Lorna Rivers, President, Friends of Leverett Library*

## Leverett Library News

75 Montague Rd. 548-9220 [www.leverettlibrary.org](http://www.leverettlibrary.org)  
Hours (Fall-Spring) \*Tuesday 3-8 \*Wednesday 10-3  
(story hour at 10:30) \*Thursday 3-8 \*Saturday 10-3  
\*Sunday 12-5

Come to the library to borrow books and other materials, to use computers with high-speed internet connections and a printer, to use your laptop computer with our wireless access (it works in the parking lot if we are closed), to meet your neighbors, and much more.

**Special Closings** The library will be closed Sunday, October 9 (Columbus Day weekend), and Thursday, November 24 (Thanksgiving).

**Art in the Community Room:** Through October 29, Nature Prints by Leonore Alaniz; November & December, Judith Inglese's watercolor and collage illustrations from the new children's books *I See the Sun in China*, *I See the Sun in Nepal*, and *I See the Sun in Afghanistan*.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Saturday, October 15, Harvest Festival, 11:00-11:30:** Kids are invited to knit a bookmark with Phyllis Herda at the library booth.
- **Sunday, October 23, Author Juliette Fay at the Friends of the Leverett Library Annual Meeting**  
\*1:00-2:00 Reception for members of the Friends of the Leverett Library with author Juliette Fay. \*2:00-3:00. Ms. Fay will speak about her books *shelter me* and *deep down true* after a short Annual Meeting. The public are welcome to come at 2:00.
- **Tuesday, November 1, 6:30-8:00 pm.** Author Saloma Miller Furlong will discuss her book, *Why I Left the Amish: A Memoir*. Free refreshments featuring the author's home-baked, Amish-style treats.
- **Sunday, November 6, 12:00 noon.** In Search of Your Roots. Would you like to research your family history, but aren't quite sure how to where to begin? This basic workshop will cover a range of sources useful in genealogical research, where to locate them, and the types of information that can be gleaned from each one. Each participant will receive a handout of information. Presenter Martha Noblick has extensive experience in genealogy and local history research, including at the Jones Library Special Collections and at Historic Deerfield.

**New Museum Pass:** Thanks to the Friends of the Leverett Library, you may now borrow a pass to the Smith College Museum of Art. Museum passes may be reserved.

**Kindle Users:** At last, you too can download free e-books and audiobooks belonging to the CWMARS library network. For directions, go online to <http://www.cwmars.org/node/397> or ask us for help.

**A Big Thank You** to Georgie Schmid for running the library's Summer Story Hour! Thanks to Collin Woodard for headphones, and to everyone, especially the Friends of the Library, for help with the Harry Potter Party!

*Linda Wentworth, Library Director*

## Transfer Station News:

The FCSWMD household hazardous waste day was a success, thanks to everyone who participated. We will definitely be doing this again next year.

[transferstation@leverett.ma.us](mailto:transferstation@leverett.ma.us)

## Leverett Family Museum

The Camp Anderson exhibit will soon be on its way to a permanent home at Pine Brook Camp (formerly Camp Anderson) in Shutesbury. The *Life in Leverett 100 Years Ago* show (highlighting the lives of Fanny and Israel Taylor) will continue until mid-December, when we close for the winter. It will be expanded by adding a few examples of what life was like 150 or 200 years ago.

Paul Marchant, of Scituate, MA, has donated a copy of the 1856 and 1857 diaries of Ely O. Dickinson, who lived at 257 Montague Road during the mid- and late-1800's. Paul is the great-great-grandson of Ely. They include family pictures, diary pages, and a newspaper article written by Agnes Dods of Leverett about Ely's Civil War diaries, which Paul also has. Another view of life hereabouts can be seen by examining a daybook (ledger) that was used at a store located at 148 Shutesbury Road in 1810 and 1811. It was owned by Jonathan and Harvey Conant and by a unknown member of the Field family, who has so far escaped identification. We're still working on that one! The book has lists of the items sold with prices listed, as well as the customer's name. Interesting reading!! A smaller edition of this book was found by Stuart Olson, who now lives at #148, but it is in poor condition and must be handled with care. It was used in 1817 and 1818, but has the same handwriting and names contained in the older book.

We are beginning work on a project of making a large map of Leverett, with notations on it, identifying the working mills that were located on the Sawmill River and Roaring Brook in the 1800s. Lots of goodies!! Hours of the Museum are Saturdays from 10 to 2, or by appointment, calling 548-9452.

*Edie Field, for the Family Museum*

## LEC: Energy News

The energy handbook we've been working on for many months is about to be published and made available to each Leverett household. We intend to have the first copies available at the Leverett Harvest Festival. If you didn't get around to contacting us with your suggestions

and wish you had done so, you may contact committee member, Cynthia: [Cynthia@crocker.com](mailto:Cynthia@crocker.com). New respondents will be invited to share their contributions and offers of professional help at a soon-to-be-announced special meeting of the Energy Committee. Also: we still welcome new members willing to work with a crazy group of committed residents. Call Portia at 548-9737 or email [pweiskel@post.harvard.edu](mailto:pweiskel@post.harvard.edu).

LEC meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays 7:30, Town Hall  
Portia Weiskel, for the Energy Committee

### FROM THE TOWN COLLECTOR

**FISCAL 2012 PROPERTY TAX BILLS** have NOT been mailed. They should be in the mail by mid-November and due within 30 days. **VOLUNTARY PAYMENTS (any amount) ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED** as we have a serious cash flow problem this time of the year. Town bills still need to be paid. **MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE ALREADY SENT IN PAYMENT!**

Your tax bill(s) will show the amount of real estate and/or personal property tax you owe for fiscal year 2012 (July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012) based on assessments as of January 1, 2011). Please check the bills carefully and report any errors or changes to the Assessors' Office (548-4945). **By law**, the name of the owner of record on January 1, 2011 **must** appear on the bill, so if you purchased the property after January 1, you do not need to notify us you now own the property. Total amount owed can be paid in one or two payments (bills \$200 or less must be paid in full). Payments received after the due date will be assessed 14% interest **FROM DATE OF MAILING** until the date received (yes, that means "one day late, 30 days interest"; this is still the law for semi-annual payments). You will not receive a bill for the balance due; it will be added to your second payment due May 1, 2012. If you plan to pay your bill late, contact the Collector's Office for the total amount owed. If you have an escrow account, your bank will be notified of the amount due, so keep the bill for your records.

On March 18, 2002, Leverett voters accepted CH44B **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT (CPA)** and approved a 3% property tax surcharge (\$100,000 assessed value is exempt). The amount of the surcharge is required to be listed separately; however, it is part of the tax bill and subject to the same interest and penalty charges for late payment. Low or moderate-income households may qualify for exemption from this surcharge. Request application or additional information from the Assessors' Office 548-4945 or [assessors@leverett.ma.us](mailto:assessors@leverett.ma.us)

Once bills are mailed, you will have 30 days to pay without penalty, but please remember **it is always the responsibility of the taxpayer to be sure payment is received on time, regardless of when or IF a bill is received.** If you own property and didn't get a bill, contact

the Collector's office. Allow at least 3-4 days when mailing payment. **DO NOT MAIL THE BILL ON THE DUE DATE**, as a postmark is **not** considered timely payment. *If you are making a "Due-Date payment," bring it directly to the Collector's Office (remember, don't mail it at the Leverett PO since ALL mail goes to Springfield first and will be received late).* Better still, become part of the paperless society. Sign up for **DIRECT PAYMENT** and we will automatically debit your account on the due date (or every month): no check, no envelope, no stamp, no trip to the post office or town hall, and no late fee because you forgot the due date! You can also pay your bill online at [leverett.ma.us](http://leverett.ma.us) (you initiate a debit to your bank account – no charge for this method; however, there is a charge for Mastercard & Discover payments; Visa & American Express **not** accepted), or drop off payment in box at back entrance of Town Hall. Office hours: Mon; Tu, Th, Sat: 2:30 – 8:30 pm; (**HOURS MAY VARY** so call ahead 548-9666; if you leave a message, I **will** return your call); e-mail: [treasurercollector@leverett.ma.us](mailto:treasurercollector@leverett.ma.us). If you need a receipt, please come during office hours or leave a stamped, self-addressed envelope in the Collector's mailbox. Please do not interrupt other Town Hall staff for tax payments/receipts.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPT PAYMENT.**

**VOLUNTARY CHECK OFF:** In April 2000, Leverett voters accepted the provisions of Ch60, sections 3C and 3D allowing the town to designate a place on the tax bill whereby a taxpayer can make donations to the Scholarship Fund and/or Tax Relief Fund (aid to homeowners age 60 and over or disabled persons (any age) of low income for the purpose of defraying real estate taxes). We appreciate your continued support of these programs. Donations can either be made to the Fund or you can request your donation be applied to a specific tax bill. The Tax Relief Committee distributes amounts depending on availability of funds and number of applications received. If you think you may qualify for tax relief, call or email the Collector to request an application

**RESIDENTS OVER 65**, widows and widowers, disabled veterans, and the blind **may** be eligible for a reduction in their taxes. Contact the Assessors Office at 548-4945 for more information.

**PLEASE NOTE: As voted at Annual Town Meeting, effective January 1, 2010, the DEMAND FEE for late payment INCREASED from \$5 to \$10. This is in recognition of the additional time and resources necessary to process late payments and applies to Real Estate, Personal Property, and Excise bills. PLEASE make every effort to pay your bill by the due date since the collector is not authorized to waive or reduce this fee regardless of all the good reasons you have for **not** paying on time: didn't get a bill, out of town, thought it was due the day after it was really due, wrote out the check but forgot to mail it, mailed it on the due date (payment must be received by the due date), the Town**

Hall was closed, etc, etc. If remembering due dates is not your forte, sign up for direct pay and NEVER pay another late fee. Or for all you lucky residents with DSL, pay online and your account is immediately credited. Still struggling with dial up? -- call the office and we will process payment for you. We hope the fee increase will provide incentive to pay early rather than just produce additional revenue to meet town expenses.

### **Rattlesnake Gutter Trust**

It's official: [www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org](http://www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org)

Our thanks to RGT Board members Lou Bannister, Bob Dolan, and Eva Gibavic for their wonderful work. There are pictures, maps, archives, event listings, information - so much good stuff. And, you can click on TRAILS to learn about the Leverett Trails Committee. (See their article in this newsletter.) While you are surfing the site, please click on one of the "Contact Us" buttons to suggest other information that would be helpful.

RGT will be at the Harvest Festival (October 15): Not only will Julie Collier, Wingmasters, be bringing her wonderful raptors, but we will have a new T-shirt with her drawing of a very special owl. Rumor has it that the owl will be present, but has not agreed (has refused) to wear the T-shirt.

For more information on the October 15, 2 PM and 3 PM Harvest Festival Hikes on the East Leverett Trails and the October 22, 10 AM East Leverett Trails Workday, see the Leverett Trails Committee article in this newsletter.

### **TAX RELIEF TAG SALE**

Thanks to the efforts of many, the Tax Relief Tag Sale was a great success! We added **\$1,885** to the Fund. Thank you to everybody who donated items, provided tables, and made purchases (donations). Special thanks to all the volunteers: Anita Pelis, Chris Nelson, Barbara Alfange, Joanne Mully, Carol King, Ruth West, Tanya Cushman, Judy Hobart, Edie Field, Cynthia & Roy Kimmel, Shirley Thomas, Portia Weiskel, and Julian Brunelle. And an enormous thank you to Fenna Lee Bonsignore who once again graciously provided her well-situated property on Route 63. We would like to continue our fund- raising efforts and perhaps do another tag sale next year. One drawback we currently have to contend with is lack of space to collect and price the donations before the sale. If anyone has unused space and is willing to store items as they are donated, it would greatly ease the hectic organization project on the day of the sale. Also, if anyone would like to "host" the benefit next year, please contact Fenna Lee (548-9446). Again, thanks to all who participated in this worthwhile event. Donations to the Tax Relief Fund can be made any time (online or by check payable to Leverett Tax Relief Fund, c/o Treasurer's Office, PO Box 300, Leverett). Your generosity makes a difference for those in our community who are struggling to make ends meet. THANK YOU!

### **From the Board of Health**

We meet on the first and third Mondays of the month (Wednesday if Monday is a holiday) at 7 PM and will be working on minutes and mail from 7 to 7:30. We welcome citizen business or questions at 7:30. We monitor the phone calls and return all calls - phone number is 548-1022 x1.

Please note that by law we cannot act on any anonymous or third party reports of possible issues regarding health or safety violations at rental properties. We will act as quickly as we can if residents request an inspection. For questions about other responsibilities of the Board of Health, please call the phone number above or one of the Board members.

*Fay Zipkowitz for the Board of Health*

### **From the Peace Committee**

Last Spring, Town Meeting authorized the Peace Committee to continue its work and to define and refine its mission. The committee has continued to meet over the summer. Our real task now is to facilitate Leverett people to articulate their major concerns and purposes as regards sustainability, social justice, and peace, and then to help us connect with similar people and small groups in other communities -- both in New England and then further afield. We are planning programs and dialogues to advance critical analysis of the American society and economy as it impacts us locally, and then to move to locally appropriate actions.

Our first program on the subject of race relations and the legacy of slavery, was presented by Tim Bullock, last year's winner of the Martin Luther King, Jr. award from Greenfield Community College for his work in advancing the cause of race relations. We expect to bring other speakers, and are trying to bring Rep. John Olver.

Penny Gill, political scientist and former Dean of the College at Mt. Holyoke, who drew an audience of 150, has agreed to return to Leverett to help us think critically about our situation here in the world, the United States and Leverett, and to envision and articulate the peace committee's work. People who are interested in being with others to do creative writing on public issues may talk with Alice Scheffey who has brought together a writer's group. Sarah Pirtle will be back in Leverett in the winter to repeat her Vacation Peace Project with the children. Court Dorsey will create a performance piece for Leverett meant to inspire us with a vision of the need for change, the change that is already happening, and a future worth working for.

The committee's central goal for this coming year is to reach out to all segments of the Leverett community in order to understand the varying points of view, and gather the wisdom of the town as regards the promise and the problems of Leverett and the impact of world and national



realities on our lives here. Pat Fiero and Jann Rosemerta are leading this effort.

Tom Wolff is leading a subcommittee to study the cost of the U. S. military for Leverett, and to organize Peace Budget Hearings. We are looking for new members. If you are interested in joining with us, please call or write Jim Perkins, 367-9520, or [jmsperkins746@gmail.com](mailto:jmsperkins746@gmail.com)

### Also From the Peace Committee:

A group of Leverett citizens have been concerned about accidents and leaks at the Entergy plant in Vermont. Thus, we have formed a local group to join a growing regional movement (The Daniel Shays Nonviolent Bioregional Liberation Frente) to organize support for Vermont in its decision to close the plant, and in the case that the company should try to continue operations in defiance of the State of Vermont, to take our case to the streets, even to engaging in non-violent civil disobedience. If you want more information or are interested in taking part, contact Apple Ahearn, or Don Ogden, Asaph Murfin, Jim Perkins, or Ann Ferguson.

### The Leverett Trails Committee

Our focus this fall will be the northern part of the East Leverett Trails.

- **Saturday, October 15, 2011**, 2:00 and 3:00 PM. Guided Hikes on the East Leverett Trails, part of the Leverett Harvest Festival. Groups meeting at 2 PM and 3 PM at the 4-H Forest parking lot on Shutesbury Road. (See directions below. Carpool if you can.)
- **Saturday, October 22, 2011**, 10:00 AM. East Leverett Trails Workday, Meet at the 4-H Forest parking lot on Shutesbury Road. Wear work clothes and gloves and bring hand tools if you have them; we have extras. (See directions below. Carpool if you can.)
- **Saturday, October 29, 2011**, 10:00 AM. Rain Date for East Leverett Trail Workday. See October 22.
- And there will be a **PHOTO CONTEST**: Explore the East Leverett Trails and share your discoveries. Photo contest submission deadline February 15. Pick up an entry sheet at the Harvest Festival or (after October 15) at the library, town hall, or school. The photos entered will be on display in the Community Room of the Leverett Library during March and April. Awards will be given for both black-and-white and color photos, and entries will be judged separately in adult and junior categories.

Directions to the 4-H Forest: from Town Hall, bear left on Shutesbury Road. Go 0.5 miles. The 4-H Forest and parking area are on the right just before the Doolittle Brook beaver pond. There is parking for 8 cars.

The Leverett Trails Committee is co-sponsored by the Leverett Conservation Commission and the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust. The East Leverett Trails project is funded by a grant from DCR.

As part of the two-year project, Leverett Elementary School students will be helping develop informational

materials, the Leverett Historical Society will conduct oral histories, and the Leverett Library will have maps, your photographs, LES students' work, and copies of the oral histories. Are there other ways to celebrate these and other trails in Leverett? Let us know: [lrc-info@rattlesnakeguttertrust.org](mailto:lrc-info@rattlesnakeguttertrust.org), RGT, P.O. Box 195, Leverett, MA 01054 or ConCom, Town Hall, Leverett, MA 01054. For updates, go to [www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org](http://www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org), click on TRAILS.

### HELP FOR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

The Kimball Trust Fund is a financial resource established on June 7, 1909, as the result of a bequest in the will of Catherine N. Kimball. At that time, her will provided \$1000 to be deposited in a trust, so that the income could be used to provide clothing for children from low income Leverett families. For the past 102 years, this fund has been used to provide basic protective clothing for Leverett children under the age of 18. The winter of 10/11 was a particularly hard one and the Kimball Trust helped multiple families buy necessary clothing for their children. Now the Fund needs to be replenished before winter comes again. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution at this time to the Kimball Trust, perhaps in honor of a teacher or a recent graduate. Checks made out to the Kimball Trust or the Town of Leverett may be sent to school (attention of Jill Roberts) or to town hall (attention of DeeAnn Civello). Many thanks. Anne Ross and Jill Roberts, RN; Fund Administrators

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### The Echo Lake Coffeehouse presents two fantastic concerts in October

#### Friday, October 21: Sharon Katz & the Peace Train with special guest, Abigail Kubeka

The Leverett Recreation Commission is happy to announce this family and community event, which will start at 7:30 pm at the Leverett Elementary School. Admission price is \$8/\$10; kids under 12 are free. That afternoon, Sharon will give a workshop for the 6<sup>th</sup> graders at the school and they will be invited to perform with her at the concert. The Leverett Community Chorus also will prepare a South African song to join with the band at the concert. For more info, call Diane Crowe at 413-548-9394.

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#### Friday, October 28: Wool and Grant with Arjuna Greist opening at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall, Admission \$10/\$12

Veteran singer/songwriters, **Bev Grant & Ina May Wool**, have paired up into a dynamite duo. Together they create a musical alchemy of fire and feistiness, wisdom and wit,

rocking, clear-eyed political songs while opening a window onto their travels – on the road and around the heart. Together they celebrate the personal and the political with rousing, funny, and poignant songs featuring beautifully constructed lyrics and rootsy, interweaving vocals and guitar parts.

For more info, 413-548-9394

<http://bevgrant.com>    [www.inamaywool.com](http://www.inamaywool.com)

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### **A GRAVE SITUATION HAS ARISEN!**

There are a number of ways to record history. Leverett has close to a dozen places where it is recorded, from one end of town to the other. Some are visible, some not. Some are small; some not. Some are newer than others. Some have recorded a great deal of history, others not so much. Some are in good condition, some not so good. And we'll bet that most of you have seen one recently. Have you guessed the answer?

The two Leverett Cemetery Associations are facing a GRAVE SITUATION. Many of the stones that are recording the history of our town are sadly in need of T.L.C. A group of concerned citizens has been meeting for the last several months in an effort to correct the situation. This group includes, Charlotte and John Abbott, Don Robinson, David Glazier, Will and Lisa Stratford. A conservator, Ta Mara Conde of New Salem has met with the group.

She has agreed to assist the group in assessing the condition of the stones (specifically the Moore's Corner Cemetery on Rattlesnake Gutter Road). She also will help with the process of applying for C.P.A. funds, which would be available next summer. She is holding a workshop on October 15th (at the cemetery), from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m. to instruct volunteers in making simple repairs. These will include straightening stones, cleaning, repairing and making bases and also simple repairs to broken stones. It is hoped that these volunteers will pass the new skills on to others, as the project continues. The harder work will be carried out by Ta Mara, provided she is awarded the grant by the C.P.A. committee.

Actually, both Associations have been very pleased with the discussions we have had with her and we are looking forward to working with her as long as this GRAVE SITUATION continues. If you are interested in attending the workshop, please call Margie McGinnis, Town Administer at 548-9699. She will give your name to the committee and we will notify you with more information. We would also appreciate monetary donations to help defray expenses. They can be made out to the North Leverett Cemetery Association and mailed to David Glazier at 88 Hemenway Road, Leverett, MA. 01054.

### **LEVERETT CULTURAL COUNCIL**

**Local Cultural Council Program: \$2.3 million**  
Local Cultural Councils (LCCs) comprise the most extensive public cultural funding network in the nation. They provide funding to every Massachusetts city and town through 329 local councils and more than 2,300 volunteers. The councils support local arts and history,

fund school field trips, and sponsor local concerts and exhibitions. Grants to local councils range from \$3,870 for the smallest towns to \$74,270 for Worcester and \$133,320 for Boston, according to a formula that reflects the state's local aid system.

**The Leverett Cultural Council has been awarded \$3,870 and we want to share that grant with YOU!**

You can apply for a grant by going to <http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/applications/lccapp.asp> and choosing Standard Grant Application form on the left side of the page. You will be able to download and print your application to submit to the Leverett Cultural Council.

### **Application Deadline is October 15!**

In the past granting cycle the **Leverett Cultural Council** awarded grants for author's talks at the Leverett Library, an author's Skype visit to the Leverett Elementary school, and a local artist teaching pastel drawing to adults. Are you a Leverett resident that would like to share your talents with the community? Are you an artist, musician, or maybe even a magician? Do you want to share your knowledge of flora or fauna, have a concert or a fair? Have an idea but you are not really sure if it works? The Leverett Cultural Council members can help you if you have questions. We are Peggy Marshall, Joanne Mully, Ruth West, Leslie Abrams, Holly Lynton, Sarah Dolven.

To find a complete list of local guidelines and past grant recipients please go to

<https://www.mass-culture.org/Leverett>

### **A COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED**

The Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993 mandated the formation of a School Council at each school in the Commonwealth. The School Council's responsibility is to consult with the Principal in the process of identifying educational needs of students attending the school, adopting educational goals for the school that are consistent with the goals and standards the Commonwealth established as a result of this law, and formulating a school improvement plan which is reviewed and approved annually by the Superintendent.

The Leverett School Council includes the following members: the Principal, two school staff members, two parents/guardians, and one member from the Leverett community who is not a parent/guardian of children in the school. Terms are for three years. Meetings are held monthly throughout the school year and are open to the public.



The community representative position is vacant. If you think you might be interested in serving the school and community by being a member of the Council, please contact Anne Ross, Principal at 548-9144 or [ross@leverettschool.org](mailto:ross@leverettschool.org)

TOWN OF LEVERETT  
October 2011 **NEWSLETTER**  
LEVERETT, MA 01054

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**LEVERETT, MA 01054**

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**Special Town Meeting  
Tuesday, October 25, 2011, 7:00 PM  
Leverett Elementary School  
SEE ENCLOSED DRAFT WARRANT**

**You must be a registered voter to vote at Town Meeting. If you are not yet registered, the last day to register to be eligible to vote at this meeting is Friday, October 14, 2011.**