

NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF LEVERETT www.leverett.ma.us

JUNE 2011

Here are your elected officials for 2011:

Assessors- David Palmer (3);

Board of Health- Fay Zipkowitz (3);

Constable- John Swartz (3);

Finance Committee- Ann Delano, Nancy Grossman (3);

Library Trustees- Chris Condit, Joan Godsey (3);

Moderator- Larry Farber (3);

Assistant Moderator- Fay Zipkowitz (1);

Planning Board- Jeff McQueen, Gloria McPherson (5);

School Committee- vacancy (3);

Select Board- Rich Brazeau (3);

Tree Warden- Will Stratford (1).



Notes From Around Town

- For **Transfer Station information call: 549-1062.**
- Something you don't normally see this time of year: **VACANCY.** There is a vacancy on the School Committee. Interested parties should call Farshid at 549-5974, deadline: June 10.
- **June 11th Override Election (for Fire Truck), Leverett Town Hall, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.**

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

1 October 2011

1 December 2011

Send news items and canning recipes to: Lisa Stratford P.O. Box 300, Leverett, MA 01054; or leave them in the *Newsletter* box at Town Hall. Call 548-9150 for information and guidelines.

Email: selectboard@leverett.ma.us

FROM THE SELECT BOARD

Thanks!! To the LES 6th grade for the gourmet breakfast they provided at the town meeting and to the Leverett Historical Society for the delicious lunch! We're hoping that the 6th grade breakfast becomes a tradition so that we can start the day on a full stomach in the company of our friends and neighbors.

At the town meeting, a budget of \$5,148,863 was approved as was the purchase of a new police cruiser and a new fire engine. Stewart Olson gave us a power point presentation highlighting the many problems with the engine that is being replaced, not the least of which is driving it at night with the headlights going out.

Other highlights of the meeting included the amending of Sect. 4970 of the Zoning Bylaws to include a Solar Overlay District, the approval for the Select Board

to enter into an agreement with HCOG to provide electricity to residential customers in Leverett, and the approval for the Select Board to send the resolution brought forward by the Peace Committee to our state and federal representatives.

Although there was a unanimous vote to establish a municipal lighting plant in Leverett, this needed to be done by a ballot vote and is therefore not valid. We will hold the vote again at the next special town meeting. This vote is essential if Leverett wants to operate its own broadband system or join in a municipal cooperative such as Wired West.

This was Gary Gruber's last meeting as Moderator after many years of conducting town meetings with a sense of humor, fairness, and by the "book." Thanks again, Gary. Larry Farber will be filling his shoes.

The purchase of a new fire engine is contingent on a debt exclusion override vote on June 11th from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. which is necessary for partial funding of the engine (the balance will come from stabilization funds). Please come and show your support for the safety of folks that drop everything to save our property and lives. The Fire Truck Committee has found an engine that is a good price, with many features that would improve their ability to fight fires of all types; a positive vote, followed by the sealed bid process is necessary to make the purchase.

Leverett is applying for a \$50,000 grant from MBI (Mass. Broadband Initiative) to fund a study of what it would take for Leverett, in conjunction with Crocker Communications, to provide the "last mile" of fiber optic cable to get everyone in town hooked up to high quality high-speed internet, television, and telephone service. In other news on this subject, MBI has extended the trunk line to come to the N. Leverett Fire Station. We are grateful to the folks at MBI for pushing ahead on this and seeing it through.

The Energy Committee and the Select Board are looking into putting a small solar farm at the Transfer Station. The details of such a plan will need to be worked out of course, but we are very excited at the possibility of taking this step toward energy self-sufficiency.

The Select Board and the Leverett School Committee are working on issues of equitable retiree benefits vis-à-vis Union 28 employees and town employees. Leverett, Shutesbury and Pelham are also looking at the feasibility of creating a School Union of the 3 towns which have so much in common. This would be a complicated process,

but the concept was well received by Rep. Steve Kulik and Sen. Stan Rosenberg at a meeting held on April 21st.

Last, but not least – how are your phones?? A few people have mentioned to me that static in the lines has returned. Please report any problems to Margie, Rich, Peter or myself, preferably in written form, so that we can report problems to our contact person at Verizon. Thanks!

Our hearts and healing thoughts are with Lisa and her family as she undergoes further treatment. D’Ann Kelty will be filling in as Town Clerk in Lisa’s absence.

Julie Shively, for the Select Board

Help!

Are you available in the event of a **town emergency**? Leverett is following state and federal guidelines by developing a local resource list of qualified individuals who are willing to share their time, talents and energy in the event of an emergency that could require your services. Doctors, nurses, pharmacists, paramedics, drivers, builders, the list goes on....

If you have any interest in offering your assistance, please contact Sue Nagy @ emergency@leverett.ma.us or 413-548-1022 x4.

Leverett Scholarship Committee

The Leverett Scholarship Committee last met in April, 2010, to review the applications received from Amherst Regional High School class of 2010. After considering our criteria of connections to and residence in Leverett, financial need, academic performance, and community service, we were happy to select two recipients who shared the available scholarship with \$600 awarded to each. Melissa Rennie is attending Eastern University in Pennsylvania and is studying to become a nurse. Gordon Kaufman, who had attended both ARHS and Greenfield Community College’s Early Transitional Program, entered the University of MA in Amherst this past January and is looking to Hospitality Management as his major. Both recipients have shown themselves to be hard workers and deserving of Leverett’s support.

Melissa and Gordon are our tenth and eleventh recipients of the scholarship. The committee just met in May to consider a new group of applicants. Contributions by Leverett citizens have made these awards possible. The simplest way to contribute is using the check-off box on your real estate tax bill. If you use the auto-debit option, then it’s easy as sending a note to Dee Ann Civello to debit your account for the amount desired, or you can send a check made payable to the Town of Leverett, indicating it is for the Scholarship Fund c/o Treasurer's Office, PO Box 300, Leverett 01054

Thanks to all who have contributed to this fund. I am sure the scholarship money is appreciated, and it serves as a vote of confidence for our graduates as they set off in their new direction. The committee always wishes we had more to give when the cost of education is so high.

I would like to remind all the families of Leverett that we entertain applications from any students pursuing post-secondary education. The Committee will consider students attending community college, trade school, or traditional four-year college. Criteria to be considered when making awards: financial need; length of residence; service to the community; academic history; and career goals.

With thanks and appreciation,

Leverett Scholarship & Education Committee

Stuart Warner, Chairperson swarner@wnec.edu,

Elaine Barker

Joan Godsey

Lisa Sullivan-Werner

Judy Weinthaler

LEVERETT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Following the successful passing of the Historical Commission request for Community Preservation Committee funds at town meeting on April 30, the LHC is going forward with meeting the requirements of the Massachusetts Historical Commission to receive their funds so we can hire a preservation consultant.

That person will be decided on by July 30, we hope. Then the work begins to research and document East Leverett, Moore’s Corner, and North Leverett. It will take about a year for the consultant to pull together and write all the necessary information to submit applications to MHC and then the National Park Service so that these villages can achieve National Register Historic Districts. (Recognition only, no controls!) Residents of the three villages will be contacted about an informational meeting in the Fall. It took the Leverett Historical Commission five years of volunteer time to achieve that status for Leverett Center.

The LHC discussed two demolition delay reviews for two barns on Montague Road that collapsed under the heavy snow over the winter. Both were deemed beyond any repair and the demolition was allowed to proceed.

Submitted by Betsy Douglas, Chair, LHC

Library Notes

Library Hours *Tuesday 3-8 *Wednesday 10-3 (story hour at 10:30) *Thursday 3-8 *Saturday 10-3 (Closed)

Sundays, Memorial Day to Labor Day). The library will be closed Saturday, July 2, for the 4th of July weekend and Saturday, September 3, for Labor Day weekend.

*Tuesday, June 21, 7-8 pm. Jill Horton-Lyons of Winterberry Farm will bring her new llama to the library for a reading of *Harley*, by Star Livingstone, a book geared toward children in grades k-4. All ages welcome.

*Wednesday, June 22, 7:00 p.m., Josh Weil, Leverett native son and author of *The New Valley*, will read and discuss his book. Winner of a "5 under 35 award" from the National Book Foundation, "intense and satisfying; highly recommended,"--*Library Journal*.

*Thursday, June 30, 7-8 pm. Summer Reading kickoff party (and make-your-own-sundae celebration!). "One World, Many Stories": This year, kids who are finishing grades K-6 can help earthquake victims in Japan by participating. The kids do their part by reading. They DON'T collect any money. Thanks to support from the Friends of the Leverett Library, the library will donate the funding, up to \$180. Sign up at the library. Every book read earns money toward this cause. Kids will have a chance to make origami and small flags.

*Thursday evenings, July 7-August 11, from 7 to 8 p.m., hear local musicians outdoors on the beautiful library patio (and indoors if rainy). Bring a lawn chair if you have one.

*Wednesday, July 13, 7-9 pm: Harry Potter Party II. Mark your calendars for an evening of Hogwarts fun for all ages, two days before the release of the final movie. We're planning a quidditch match, Prof. Lockhart's live chess, Dumbledore's magic show, wand-making, Prof. Trelawney's fortune-telling, authentic treats, and much more. Thanks to a Leverett family, some props from the movies (including the "flying" car!) will be on display. Help us make the magic happen! To join in the fun, please stop in or call us at 548-9220.

*Tuesday, August 23, 6-8 p.m., kids' film in the series "Mist, Sheepdog Tales," and a visit and demonstration from Winterberry Farm's sheep-herding border collies.

Art exhibits: June, Watercolors, most of them of Leverett, by Bella Halsted and Alice Scheffey. July and August, b&w photos of Leverett landscapes by Judith Davidov.

Summer Story Hour with Georgie Schmid, Wednesdays at 10:30, features books, crafts, and visitors, from animals to trucks. It is geared for toddlers and preschoolers but all are welcome.

Beginning Knitting for Kids, with Phyllis Herda, Thursdays in July, 3:30-5:00. For kids in Grade 4 and up. Each participant will make a knitted bookmark and more.

Space is limited. Call to sign up. Participants must bring a pair of size 8, 10" knitting needles (not metal ones) and a ball of yarn in a solid color.

Summer is a wonderful time to borrow our museum and state parks passes. Also, Free "Weed and Read" Fitness Program: The perennial garden encircling the patio behind the library always needs weeding. Spend 10 minutes and feel good! Ask to use our bucket, digger, and trowel.

Linda Wentworth, Library Director

Friends of Leverett Library

Summer is upon us and we realize you're not thinking October right now but we want to give you a "save the date" notice: The Friends Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, October 23, 2011, at 2:00 pm in the Community Room at the Library. Our guest speaker will be Natick author Juliette Fay, author of *shelter me* (named One of Ten Best Works of Fiction in Massachusetts for 2009) and *deep down true*. The library has copies of both books and Lorna has copies of her first one if you would like to read her book(s) before meeting her. You can check out her web site at juliettefay.com We are hoping the afternoon program will encourage more people to come. As an added incentive, members of the Friends will be welcome at 1:00 pm for punch and cookies with the author. A reminder will appear in the October newsletter.

As a result of a comprehensive membership campaign by our membership chair, D'Ann Kilty, we now have 122 members which is many more than last year. THANK YOU to all who have joined and to those who sent in additional donations. If you haven't given Lorna your email address, please do so in order to save us from having to snail mail (\$\$) future notices of annual meetings.

Enjoy your library during the summer – remember it has AC – so it's a nice place to stay cool, it has a great collection to browse ... and the staff and volunteers are friendly!

Lorna Rivers, President

Reminder: The Property Tax Relief Committee will be holding its annual **Tag Sale September 10th and 11th at 172 Long Plain Road**. Last year we raised over \$1,100 for this Fund that assists low income, elderly Leverett residents in paying their property tax. Please save saleable items to donate to this fundraiser. They can be dropped off on Friday, September 9th. Contact Fennalee Bonsignore if you have any questions 548-9446. Thank you for your support.

Community Preservation Committee

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) has funds available for open space preservation, community

housing, historic preservation, or recreation. At the April 30, 2011, Town Meeting, voters appropriated funding for three projects from Community Preservation Act funds.

The first, from the Leverett Historical Commission, is for \$14,000 to procure the services of a professional consultant to research and prepare documents for National Register Historic Districts for North Leverett, Moore's Corner, and East Leverett, to join our Leverett Center Historic District. The Massachusetts Historical Commission has approved this project for a 50% (\$7000) reimbursement, contingent upon receipt of their own funding.

The second, from the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust, is for \$8,500 for purchase of an approximately one acre parcel of land on the shore of Leverett Pond off Cider Mill Road contiguous to other parcels recently acquired by the Town, and up to \$2,950 for fees associated with the purchase, for a total of \$11,450. This parcel will include the north end of the Friendship Trail. The south end of the trail is next to the pond inlet channel at the south end of Leverett Pond on Depot Road.

The third, from the Select Board, is for \$150,000 for the rehabilitation and continued preservation of the Leverett Town Hall, including removing and replacing the exterior siding and needed trim with wood, restoring the exterior as needed, painting the exterior, and repairing the interior buckled floor on the ground level.

The CPC has funds available and is seeking proposals for the next funding cycle. If you have a proposal for open space preservation, affordable housing, historic preservation, 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/>. Look for the Community Preservation Application in the column on the left. Completed applications are due in Town Hall by December 1. We will meet with applicants in December to discuss proposals.

The next regular CPC meeting is at 7:30 on October 5, 2011 at Town Hall, when we will be glad to discuss proposals. We could meet sooner if the need arises. If you have an idea for a proposal and would like an exploratory meeting before that, or to be on the agenda for October 5, please email Laurel Kahn at LaurelKahn@aol.com or call (413)548-9158.

Laurel S. Kahn, Community Preservation Committee

Vacancy! Vacancy!

No, you can't vacation at the Town Hall, although it could be fun! The **School Committee** has a vacancy for a three-year term. Interested parties should call Farshid by June 10 at 549-5974

**Do you know what was happening in
Leverett 100 years ago?**

The Leverett Historical Society has a good idea of what was going on here in 1911 thanks to the diary entries of Israel Taylor, Leverett's Town Clerk from 1906-1926.

The rest of the world learned that on May 26th the first Indianapolis 500 was held; on September 25th, a ground-breaking occurred for the building of Fenway Park; and on November 3rd, Chevrolet officially entered the automobile market in competition with the Ford Model T.

Meanwhile, here in Leverett, the Taylor family was living at what is now 101 Depot Rd., with a sizable farm. The daily activities included getting the horses shod, cleaning the water closet, pounding bones for the hens, paying \$2.00 for a doctor's house call; going to the railroad depot for a trip to Amherst or to get a load of grain, fertilizer, or supplies.

The diaries from which these entries came are now available at the Leverett Family Museum and will be on exhibit beginning July 2nd. Other parts of the exhibit will include pictures, items from the household, and of course, the diaries themselves. Anyone wishing to contribute should call Edie Field at 549-9452. The Museum is open on Saturdays from 10 AM-2 PM (extended hours) or by calling the above number. We welcome your visit.

Leverett Trails Committee (LTC)

Two new trails almost complete:

(1) 4-H Forest – we reopened the lower, loop trail along the west side of Doolittle Brook;

(2) Woodard's Corner – we created a new trail along the east side of Doolittle Brook connecting Shutesbury Road south to the Gordon King Life Estate (blueberry) property.

Most of the trail work was done on May 14th by 13 very hard-working folk ranging in age from 8 to 76, but other folks were out there ahead of time getting everything ready and are still out there finishing up. Do take some time this summer to enjoy these lovely trails.

While our summer plans are not finalized (we are waiting to hear about a DCR Grant to fund foot bridges and hiking trails connecting the eastern and western trails in the East Leverett area), both the committee members and the trail workers will keep in touch, work on trail projects, and plan a fall workday.

LTC is co-sponsored by the Leverett Conservation Commission and the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust. Special thanks to Tim Silva, an AmeriCorps/MassLIFT volunteer serving with the Kestrel Land Trust for his help in getting us off to a good start.

If you are interested in joining the committee or in helping with specific trails or related projects, let us know. Dave Powicki, ConCom, dpowicki@oit.umass.edu, 549-8595
Mary Alice Wilson, RGT, mwilson@umassk12.net, 548-9078

**Please join us to celebrate the Town of
Leverett's Friendship Trail**

Sunday, June 19, 1-4 PM. The afternoon will begin at 1 PM at the Town Hall with a walk to 34 Long Hill Road by way of the Friendship Trail. There will be a short Rattlesnake Gutter Trust Annual Meeting followed by a raptor presentation and reception. Rain cancels the walk but not the meeting at 2:30 and the presentation.

The Friendship Trail was envisioned and so named by David Field when he and Mary donated land at the south end of the pond for conservation in 1992. In 2007 and 2011, the Community Preservation Committee and town meeting accepted RGT's proposals that the town purchase three additional properties along the trail using CPA funds.

The trail begins just down from the Town Hall and borders the pond's side up to Cider Mill Road providing view of the marshland and waterfowl, the church steeple, the length of the pond in its different moods, and the hills beyond. It affords a magnificent experience. Continuing on for five minutes the Long Hill Trail is reached with views of the town center and the valley to the south.

Our thanks to Philip and Catherine Woodard, Carlyle A. and Edith Field, and the late David and Mary Field for protecting this land for our community and to the residents of Leverett for supporting this effort.

Questions about June 19th? 548-9078

ANNOUNCEMENT from your Leverett Energy Committee

Be on the lookout for our latest display designed to remind all of us about another way to use less energy: OUR (fairly unattractive) **PLASTIC BOTTLE DISPLAY**. First of all, if you need water in a bottle and your Leverett well water is impure in some important way, WE are not talking to you. We are talking about the unthinking use of all those plastic bottles full of water from "exotic" places. Is their water superior to your well water? Probably not. Did that bottle made from petroleum travel a long way to get to you? Probably. Do you know how much climate-damaging gas/oil was used to make that bottle and then get it to you? And, because you are a responsible person (you live in Leverett) you probably actually re-cycle those flimsy plastic bottles, but do you know how many people just toss these things to get dumped and/or incinerated putting lots of disagreeable chemicals into our land/air? Besides, should we even be selling water to ourselves? That's for a different committee to ponder,

We meet in the Town Hall every second Monday at 7:30. For a committee dealing with grave issues, we are a pretty funny bunch. Come join us.

*Portia Weiskel for the Energy Committee 548-9737;
pweiskel@post.harvard.edu*

Council on Aging News

Take-It-Easy Yoga will end for the season on June 15th. You will have a new chance to try it out in September.

We now have a list of three drivers who are willing to take you somewhere if you need help (errands, doctors, library, etc.). If you need a ride or would like to be a volunteer driver, please contact the COA.

We are still interested in sponsoring the chronic condition self-management class, My Life My Health, sometime in the fall. However, we still need a few more interested people. The class runs for 2 ½ hours once a week for six weeks and its goal is to give you the tools you need to be in charge of your own well-being regarding chronic conditions. Please let us know if you are interested and what time of day is best for you.

The COA will resume showing movies in the fall. We would like to hear from you with suggestions of movies you would like to see.

Due to the small response, we will not pursue planning a trip to Tower Hill Botanic Garden. We hope you make it there this summer anyway, as it is quite a place and the ride through the Wachusett region is beautiful.

Don't forget to check leverettlistings.net for local events. And come to Friday lunch at Town Hall by making a reservation for a \$2 meal by calling 367-2694 by Wednesday.

Contact us: 548-1022 x5 or coa@leverett.ma.us

Submitted by Tanya Cushman

Thank you! On behalf of the Town of Leverett to the sixth grade for a delicious breakfast and to the Historical Society for a delightful lunch. We hope this will become a new Leverett tradition

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
LEVERETT, MA 01054
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LEVERETT RESIDENT

LEVERETT, MA 01054

Now would be a good time...

APPLICATION FOR A 2011 DOG LICENSE

Renewal _____ or New _____ license

Name of owner _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Name of dog _____ Age _____

Breed _____ Color _____

Male (\$10.00) _____ Neutered Male (\$5.00) _____ Female (\$10.00) _____ Spayed female (\$5.00) _____

I have enclosed the following:

- A check payable to Town of Leverett
- Proof of rabies immunization
- Proof of spaying (if newly licensed)
- A **business-size self-addressed stamped envelope**

Send to: Town Clerk, Box 300, Leverett 01054. Documents will be returned with license.

Reminder: Debt Exclusion Override Vote (for purchase of Fire Truck)

Saturday, June 11, 2011

8:00AM to 1:00 PM

Leverett Town Hall

(Annual Town Meeting voted to spend \$240,000 from Stabilization and to borrow \$135,000 contingent upon this vote for the purchase, and equipping of a new or used fire truck.)