

# NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF LEVERETT [www.leverett.ma.us](http://www.leverett.ma.us)

JUNE 2012

Here are your elected officials for 2012:

**Assessors-** Jim Hicks (3), Cat Ford (2);

**Board of Health-** John Hillman (3), Claudia Philips (3);

**Constable-** Brian Emond (3);

**Finance Committee-** Greg Woodard (3), Tom Powers (3);

**Library Trustees-** Lydia Peterson (3), Rachel Flint (3);

**Moderator-** Larry Farber (3);

**Assistant Moderator-** Fay Zipkowitz (1);

**Planning Board-** Jean Bergstrom (5), Richard Nathorst (4);

**School Committee-** Kip (Clifford) Fonsh, Sarah Dolven, Katherine Brooks, Aaron Osborne (length of terms yet to be determined by Moderator and Town Clerk);

**Select Board-** Julie Shively (3);

**Tree Warden-** Will Stratford (1).

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## Notes From Around Town

### • Employment opportunity— Cafeteria Assistant

Leverett Elementary is hiring a Cafeteria Assistant for the new school year which will start on August 28. Duties include assisting with all aspects of food preparation, serving, and cleaning during school lunch. 18 hours/week. Please contact Anne Ross or Molly Snedden at 548-9144. Applications on-line at [www.union28.org](http://www.union28.org)

• In this *Newsletter* you will find a one-page pull-out, perfect for hanging on your fridge, of all of the offices at the Town Hall, with our duties, and hours. All the better to serve you my dear.

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

**1 October 2012**

**1 December 2012**

Send news items and a job for a teenager 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](mailto:selectboard@leverett.ma.us)

### FROM THE SELECT BOARD

Those who were there know that our **Annual Town Meeting was standing room only**. Warrant Articles ranging from the budget and broadband, through cell towers and conservation restrictions, to dog leashing encouraged lively exchanges and rapt attention. The **delicious lunch** sponsored by the Leverett Historical Society nourished everyone.

The failure by three votes of the proposed cell tower by-law change to reach the required 2/3 vote prompted many people to realize that every vote counts. A lesson learned: **People who attend Town Meeting are not an audience.**

They are a decision-making body. When even one person leaves the meeting, the composition of the body changes, affecting decisions made thereafter.

Our public safety officials reiterated their strong support for the cell tower by-law proposal drafted by the Planning Board, after recent rescue efforts for lost hikers on Brushy Mountain were hampered by the lack of cell phone service for GPS information. The **Select Board will bring the proposed by-law back to Town Meeting** no later than the next annual session. We appointed an Advisory Committee to sort through the issues raised in the Town Meeting discussion.

Town Meeting marked a milestone in our ongoing efforts to find a **technical solution to assist hearing-impaired persons in participating in the work of Town government**. With the assistance of Thom Masterton, Town Administrator Margie McGinnis researched available technologies and selected what turned out to be a good product. The persons who volunteered to test it during the Meeting praised it. We will next look for solutions that fit the smaller meeting venues at Town Hall and the Library.

The installation of an expanded **culvert for the brook crossing on Bull Hill Road** moved several steps closer as the Highway Department removed trees in the vicinity. Rich Brazeau continues to oversee the detailed process of permitting and contracting needed to complete this project.

**Stacy Senflug and Barbara Tiner have stepped in to cover the work of the Town Clerk and the Clerk to the Select Board**, to give Lisa Stratford additional time away from the office for health reasons. We are grateful for their availability and willingness to serve the Town, and that Lisa will be relieved of the stress of these jobs.

Julie Shively is working with the Personnel Committee to **review pay scales and rates** for all clerk-related positions, to assure that staff is treated equitably across all departments. She is also working with Treasurer Dee Ann Civello to study funding issues associated with **long-term planning for retired employee health costs**. Leverett is one of the few towns in the Commonwealth already dealing with this issue. We want to avoid a financial crunch in years to come.

*Peter d'Errico, for the Select Board*

## Trying To Sell A House In Leverett?

The Affordable Housing Trust is interested in buying permanent affordable covenants (deed restrictions) to create affordable housing units in Leverett. The deed restriction limits the amount the house can be re-sold for in exchange for help in lowering the purchase price.

Here's how it works: when a house is for sale, the Trust buys the covenant, and then the house can sell for the sale price minus the covenant amount (which is determined by an appraiser). The house must sell to an income-qualified buyer (which would be determined by Franklin County Housing Authority).

For Example:

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Original Sale Price | \$180,000  |
| Cost of Covenant    | -\$ 30,000 |
| Final Sale Price    | \$150,000  |

The buyer gets the house at a lower price with a limitation on how much profit can be made on the house when sold – thus the house remains permanently affordable.

If you are interested in going through this process, please contact Margie at 548-9699.

Other affordable housing options are available, such as funds to help income qualified residents complete needed repairs on their houses, or funds to help an income-qualified buyer purchase a house. Please call if you would like more information.

## Community Preservation Committee

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) can provide funding for open space preservation, affordable housing, historic preservation, or recreation. If you would like more information on Community Preservation, the Community Preservation Coalition has an extensive web site at <http://www.communitypreservation.org> with information about the Community Preservation Act (CPA) and the many projects that towns across the state have completed with these funds. The Leverett [Community Preservation Report and Plan for 2012](#) has information about the history and current status of Community Preservation locally. You can read it in the CPC notebook at Town Hall or on the Town website at <http://leverett.ma.us/content/community-preservation-committee>.

At the April 28, 2012, Town Meeting, voters appropriated funding for three projects from Community Preservation Act funds.

The first, from the Leverett Conservation Commission, Kestral Land Trust, and Rattlesnake Gutter Trust, was a request for \$170,000 of Community Preservation funds to provide local matching funds, and other project, stewardship, and management costs, toward a total project

cost of \$434,250 for the Town to **purchase a Conservation Restriction (CR) on 147 acres of Teawaddle Hill Farm** at 72 Teawaddle Hill Road. Leverett has been awarded a Massachusetts State LAND grant of \$237,600 for this project which requires local matching funds. Additional required funds will come from private donations to Kestral Land Trust. The CR will eliminate development rights on the farm in perpetuity for the purposes of protecting agricultural lands and natural resources, maintaining the property in its natural, scenic, and undeveloped condition, providing public access for passive recreation, providing public access for hunting on about half the property, and preventing uses or changes that interfere with these values.

The second, from the North Leverett Cemetery Association, was a request for \$15,000 to **restore the metal fence on the street side of the Moores Corner Cemetery** located on Rattlesnake Gutter Road near the Leverett Coop.

The third, from the Leverett Cemetery Association, was a request for \$27,900 to **restore grave stones in the North Cemetery** located on Montague Road about a mile north of Town Hall.

Watch for these projects to unfold. 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.

*Laurel S. Kahn for the Community Preservation Committee*

## LEVERETT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The LHC has been rather quiet while our consultant, Bonnie Parsons, has been diligent in compiling information on the three new historic districts in North Leverett, Moore's Corner, and East Leverett. She submitted draft applications for the districts to us, and various members made suggestions and corrections. Bonnie then sent the final applications to the Massachusetts Historical Commission in Boston. Now comes the waiting period of about a year for MHC to approve and then forward things along to the National Park Service.

After the NPS review, we will have a meeting of all homeowners in the three districts and, with agreement from them, the final step will be cleared. Look for this sometime in 2013. (Nothing moves quickly!)

What's next? With the historic districts pretty much behind us we are looking for more activities. Any suggestions? Would you like to be on the Historical Commission? If so, please contact Betsy Douglas at 508-349-1075 or [profjmdouglas@yahoo.com](mailto:profjmdouglas@yahoo.com).

*Submitted by Betsy Douglas, Chair, LHC*

### ***Mark Your Calendars***

The Property Tax Relief Committee will be holding its **Third Annual Tag Sale Friday and Saturday, September 7th and 8th at 172 Long Plain Road.** Last year we raised **\$1,885** for this Fund that assists low-income and elderly Leverett residents pay their property tax. Please save saleable items to donate to this fundraiser. They can be dropped off on Wednesday, Sept 5th or Thursday Sept 6th. Contact Fennalee Bonsignore if you have any questions 548-9446. Thank you for your support.

### **Call to all creative Leverett residents!**

The Leverett Cultural Council is looking for creative grant ideas with the theme of **Who we are now: The Creative Spirit of Leverett.** This could be dance, music, poetry, art, or theater. It could have venues inside town properties or out of doors. It can be held any time during 2013.

So what do you need to do if you have a great idea? Find a venue in town to host you. Figure out your expenses and write a short grant proposal for the Leverett Cultural Council, The Grant is not due until October 15<sup>th</sup> so you have all summer to think about it.

Things to think about: The Cultural Council receives about \$4000 a year which also goes to Pass Grants at the school and Library programs. We fund what we can, but love to receive grants that can be partially funded elsewhere. An example would be tickets at the door and a band willing to give a break on the price, or a group artshow that needs funding for advertisement and the opening.

What have we funded? This year we funded Read it Leverett, a lecture series at the library, and the scrolls project on the Leverett trails. Next year we are hoping for a year of events that celebrate what makes Leverett special all the creative people who live in town.

Have an idea but need to talk it through? Give Ruth West a call 367-2694. The Pass Grants and all the forms can be found at: [www.mass-culture.org/Leverett](http://www.mass-culture.org/Leverett).

### **Rattlesnake Gutter Trust**

Join us to celebrate the Teawaddle Hill Farm Conservation Restriction, Sunday, June 10, 1-3 PM.

The afternoon will begin with a short Rattlesnake Gutter Trust Annual Meeting at the Leverett Town Hall. We will then go to Teawaddle Hill Farm for a walk and reception.

Should it be raining, the walk will be cancelled and both the meeting and reception will be held at the Town Hall. More information: [www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org/events](http://www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org/events)

### **From the Family Museum**

The Family Museum has many interesting collections of papers, pictures, and artifacts, some dating back to the late 1700s. Copies of deeds, advertisements from Leverett businesses, personal letters, genealogy, pictures, souvenir programs are on display.

One new addition is a copy of a petition written to the owners of a store, located at what is now 100 Depot Road. The owners were Charles W. Moore and Harrison Field. Certain citizens of the town were requesting that the store refrain from selling "ardent spirits, which have been so injurious to the character and happiness of our town and country." Another store offered angora and cassimere shawls, beaver- kid and horse-skin gloves, horse nail rods, tobacco and blown salt, oil of vitrol, all of which might be purchased "with most kinds of produce." Sample articles from the late 1800s and early 1900s tell of the way of life at that time. Another ledger from an East Leverett store shows, by name, purchases made by its customers, with rum and brandy being two of the most popular items purchased.

The exhibit of memorabilia from the 40s and 50s is still on view. We have a small display of Civil War items, a display of information about Leverett's famous son, Erastus Field a large collection of farm tools and machinery that tell of "the way things used to be done."

Our most recent addition is a child's wooden school desk and chair like the ones some of us may have used. It was donated by Angela Taylor, of Long Plain Road. It has an inkwell and we plan to have ink and a quill pen soon to add to its charm.

A photograph of a bald eagle in flight over Quabbin is on display. If you are interested in obtaining this photo, you may enter your name. The Museum is open on Saturdays from 10 to 2, or by appointment. For more information, call Edie Field at 413-548-9452. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

### **Leverett Cemetery Association**

The Leverett Cemetery Association held its annual meeting on May 15th.

There are two Cemetery Associations in Leverett. The Leverett Cemetery Association, which is in charge of the southern part of town, and the North Leverett Cemetery Association for the northern end of town. Both have been in existence for over a hundred years and receive a small amount of funds from the town, but are otherwise dependent on lot sales, yearly membership dues and donations for meeting their budgetary needs. There are several small family cemeteries located around town, which, like the others, are fascinating places to visit and are also in need of attention.

We wish to say a BIG thank you to the Town Meeting voters who approved the articles concerning the replacement of the Moores Corner cemetery fence and for the repair and restoration on some of the older stones



in the North Cemetery. The OLDER stones in all of the cemeteries in town are the ones which need our attention and we will be making plans to clean and repair them. Anyone interested in helping may contact Edie Field, Sharon Raskevitz, David Glazier or John and Charlotte Abbott. Training workshops will be scheduled in the late summer or fall.

Other business included raising the cost of a single grave lot to \$500.00. The East Leverett Cemetery, near the transfer station, and the Plainview Cemetery on North Leverett Road are the only "active" cemeteries in town. There have been two areas set aside and prepared for those who are planning to be cremated. These are the south-east corner of the Depot Road Cemetery, near the large oak tree, and the "New North" Cemetery, located to the west, up the hill, behind the Montague Road Cemetery, just to the north of the Safety Complex. The cost of a lot at these locations is also \$500, but four cremations are permitted in a single lot. Families are responsible for the stones in their lots, and there are guidelines for plantings and placing grave markers and stones on a lot. These will be given to grave lot owners, along with a deed, when a purchase is made.

*Edie Field, Cemetery Associations*

### **Leverett Historical Society**

The Historical Society with its two locations (Moore's Corner, on the road to Lake Wyola, and the second, in the center of town) will both be available for visits this summer season. The Moore Corner location, a former church/schoolhouse houses artifacts and historical papers from the villages of North Leverett and Moore's Corner including some recent Glazier family donations. The curator is Dr. Dan Bennett who will be at the Museum from 1 to 3 on Sundays, starting Memorial Day weekend. He may be reached at 413-367-2656.

The Leverett Family Museum( in the center of town) is the former Field Library, which was transformed into a museum following the building of a new town library. The building contains similar displays from the center village. The hours are Saturdays from 10 to 2 or by appointment. The contact for the museum is Edie Field, who may be reached at 413-548-9452.

Both buildings are treasure boxes for anyone interested in Leverett history or even bits of history from nearby towns. Admission is free to both locations, but donations are welcome. Why not plan a trip to both? Call for further information.

### **News from the Conservation Commission**

The Conservation Commission had a very busy spring with a number of projects coming to fruition. Most important on the agenda was the passage of the Town meeting Article 16 providing \$170,000 of Community Preservation funds as matching funds for the purchase of a conservation restriction on Teawaddle Hill Farm. Prior to Town Meeting the Con Com had a number of meetings and special hearings, responding to the concerns of various constituents, and working hard to prepare the most inclusive Conservation Restriction possible. Additional funding for the purchase comes from a Massachusetts LAND Grant of \$237,600 to the town and private donations to Kestrel Land Trust, a partner in the whole process. The positive vote at Town Meeting means the 147 acres of the farm will be preserved for agricultural, conservation, and recreation purposes.

Other business this spring has included the approval of an Aquatic Vegetation management Plan for Leverett Pond, and the finalization of WMECO's line reconstruction project in North Leverett. This latter item was a massive project replacing electric line towers in the beaver pond at the top of Richardson Road with minimal impact on the environment. WMECO also has been active in dealing with the beaver community in the area, and have installed a system to keep the water level constant and maintain the current pond.

With the advent of spring the ConCom, with the Leverett Trails Committee and Rattlesnake Gutter Trust, have continued trail building on the East Leverett Trail System. May 19 was one of several Trail Work Days, with major progress being made on the footbridge over Doolittle Brook, connecting the Gordon King Life Estate on the east with the 4-H Forest to the west. Major activity also has continued on the east-side trail from the King land down to East Leverett Meadow. Work in the summer and fall will concentrate on the west-side trail through Teawaddle Hill Farm creating a 3 mile loop. If you have not walked in this area, do come to the 4-H Forest parking area (just past 45 Shutesbury Road) and visit a lovely part of Leverett!

*Laurie Brown for the Conservation Commission*

### **THANKS FROM THE LEVERETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY!**

The plant sale was a great success – LHS raised about \$800 and the addition of the garden fairies and plants from the LES Greenhouse and Claire Hopley with her marvelous cookbooks made it a festive day. Thanks to everyone who donated plants and who came to buy their neighbor's plants and to all the folks that pitched in – it was a jolly day!

Dawn Ward & Julie Shively



## Council On Aging NEWS

**COA Saturday Night at the Movies: "Paper Moon"** (PG, 1973). A con man (Ryan O'Neal) and his precocious "daughter" (Tatum O'Neal) grift their way across the heartland of 1930's America. 7:00 at the Leverett Library (doors open at 6:45).

**The Massachusetts Senior Legal Helpline** provides FREE legal information, advice and referral services for senior citizens (60 years or older) in most areas of civil law. Call 866-778-0939 and leave your name, town, and phone number. Your call will be returned in two days.

**Theater:** This year the Ko Festival at Amherst College is looking at aging, a "process that evokes a gamut of feelings." See KoFest.com for more information.

**0% Loans:** The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission has money available for ramps and home modification. The money comes as 0% loans - for low income people, no money is paid out until the house is sold or transferred to someone else.

**Simple Senior Survey:** Please send answers to the COA at Town Hall or reply by e-mail at [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us) or call 548-1022x5 and leave a message:

Are you a caregiver for an elderly parent? Would you like to meet other caregivers in Leverett for support and suggestions?

Have you thought about trying Take-It-Easy Yoga on Wednesdays at 10:00 and just have not? Or is there a reason you cannot?

Would you take advantage of a free monthly blood pressure reading? How about low cost foot care or ear irrigation?

Do you ever use [leverettlistings.net](http://leverettlistings.net)?

Are there any kinds of programs that you would like the COA to introduce?

Do you want to fill out your health care proxy and five wishes document but haven't? Would you attend a two part workshop to do so?

**With Sadness:** The COA and Lunch Bunch mourn Eleanor Duncan. She was vivacious, thoughtful, resourceful, caring and wise up until the very end. We are carrying on her charge of doing what we can to help the people who live in her beloved hometown. We miss you, Eleanor.

*Submitted by Tanya Cushman*

## From the Board of Health

For those of us who use sharps—syringes, needles, lancets—pleased be aware that as of July 1 the regulations concerning the disposal of these items will change.

Already many doctor's offices are no longer collecting them. Attached is a notice from the Franklin County Solid Waste District with all of their current collections sites for containers of used sharps. Do not dispose of them in the trash; they should be handled and stored safely until you can get them to one of the collection sites. For more information please contact the FCSWMD or the Board of

Health, 548-1022, ex. 1.

*Fay Zipkowitz, Chair, Board of Health*

## Harvest Festival

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Leverett Harvest Festival will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2012. It may seem early to mention it, but a committee is forming and a meeting will be held mid-June to discuss what was learned last year and to make a few decisions. Most of the work will happen in the early fall. We need a few more community members to join us – a great short term volunteer opportunity with a big impact! Please also think about having a table or volunteering just on the day of the festival. And if you have a way to arrive in style, do so – the old car and equipment show will be happening again. To volunteer or to make any suggestions or comments, please contact any of us or call 548-8099 or e-mail [tanya@leverettlistings.net](mailto:tanya@leverettlistings.net).

Julie Grow Collier, Sarah and Christopher Seward, Kate Rice-McIntire, Tanya Cushman, Cathy Wescott

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
LEVERETT, MA 01054  
PERMIT NO. 3

**LEVERETT RESIDENT**

**LEVERETT, MA 01054**

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**Now would be a good time...**

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**APPLICATION FOR A 2012 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.

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