

# NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF LEVERETT

www.leverett.ma.us

October 2013

## *Notes From Around Town*

- This is a **BIG** newsletter full of information; you may want to pour a cup of coffee and get out a highlighter and a calendar!
  - **Harvest Festival Saturday, October 19, Leverett Elementary School—be there or be square!**
  - **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 2013 1 February 2014**

Send news items, a set of wings, and a jet engine for a 16' travel trailer to: Lisa Stratford at P.O. Box 300, Leverett, MA or townclerk@leverett.ma.us or call 548-9150 for guidelines.

## **From the Select Board**

When was the last newsletter? June?! Lots of water in the weather since then, and lots of water under the bridge, so to speak. The Town functions all through the year, even when some folks are away. Here are some **highlights** from the SelectBoard, to bring you up to date.

Following the Annual Town Meeting, which left two vacancies on the School Committee, the Select Board jointly with the School Committee appointed Fenna Lee Bonsignore and Cheryl Bonica. The Elementary School accounts for the overwhelming majority of the Town budget, and it is important that the preparation of that budget be in the hands of people committed to the needs of the Town as a whole. These two appointments also allowed the Committee to proceed with contract negotiations with teachers.

The neighborhood controversy about the **gravel pit** near the Mt. Toby horse farm flared a bit during the summer, bringing residents to the Select Board to protest alleged inaction by the Zoning Board of Appeals. We heard them out, and then explained that the Select Board has no jurisdiction over ZBA deliberations, despite the fact that the Board appoints ZBA members. The controversy was subsequently **resolved** by the ZBA to provide the basis for a settlement of a court case regarding the gravel pit.

The **Fire Department Study Committee**, appointed in December 2012, presented its **final report**. The Committee was charged to study the best avenues for Leverett to provide affordable, community-supported fire services for the future. The report and the Committee's

recommendations are **available as a PDF file** you can locate from a link on the front page of the Town website. Thanks to the members of the Committee: Judy Weinthal, Chair, Peter Reich, Secretary, Dean Alfange, Steve Fleiner, Stewart Olson, and Barbara Tiner.

The Select Board will hold a **public hearing on October 29 (7 pm, Town Hall) to consider the Fire Department Study Committee's recommendations**. The major recommendation is to move to "a blended model" of a Call and Salaried force. Firefighting requires professional skills and is demanding of time. The need to supplement a Call Force is emerging nationwide. The Committee recommends hiring a full-time firefighter in the next fiscal year given the impending retirements of current members. The person hired should be an academy-trained, fully certified firefighter, preferably EMT-trained, able to become certified as a trainer, and qualified according to state standards to perform inspections and permitting."

The Board requested the members of the Committee to continue to be available to assist the fire department with education functions, including events to promote recruitment and to increase public awareness of the department's activities, and to assist with grant proposal research and writing.

The long-awaited **solar project**—a photovoltaic array on Town land, funded by our Green Community grant—is **nearing fruition**, with an award of the build contract to The Solar Store in Greenfield, at a cost of \$98,650. The pole-mounted, 15Kw facility will be located between the Elementary School and the Public Safety Complex.

*For the Select Board, Peter d'Errico*

## **Leverett Fire Department Study Committee Update:**

The Study Committee presented its final report and recommendations to the Select Board on September 10<sup>th</sup>. The report has been posted on the Town website. There will be a **discussion of the report on Tuesday, October 29 at 7:00.** We encourage town residents to attend. Significant issues that affect all of us in town will be discussed.

A copy of the article that appeared in the Gazette follows. It summarizes the recommendations and data the Committee reviewed. Please try and read the full report prior to the meeting. Thank you, Judy Weinthal, Chair.

## Panel recommends creating two staff positions on Leverett Fire Department

By TOM RELIHAN  
Gazette Contributing Writer

Thursday, September 12, 2013

(Published in print: Friday, September 20, 2013)

LEVERETT — With the Leverett Fire Department facing the imminent loss of a number of its most experienced firefighters and a shifting town demographic profile, a study committee has recommended creating two salaried positions.

The Leverett Fire Department Study Committee presented a report to the Select Board last week outlining options to bolster the call-force, including hiring a full-time firefighter and part-time chief to staff the station and respond to medical calls immediately.

“Having somebody staff the fire department during the day, when all the other firefighters are at work, would be really helpful because then that person would be available on a more consistent basis to respond to all the medical calls,” said Judith Weinthaler, the committee’s chairwoman.

The report comes as a result of research done by the committee between January and August and cites recruitment and long-term retention of personnel and the aging of the town’s population as the most pressing issues facing the call firefighting force.

According to Weinthaler, the department will lose five of the most experienced of its 13 members — the chief, the deputy chief, a captain and two firefighters — to retirement over the next few years. Compounded with the difficulty the department is having in retaining new firefighters for long periods of time, it may face a serious staffing problem in the near future. “It’s not any surprise that small towns are having problems recruiting and retaining call or volunteer firefighters,” she said. “It’s a national problem, and Leverett is no different. We are struggling to maintain an adequate-size force.”

As members of the call force, Leverett firefighters receive hourly pay based on their attendance at weekly training sessions and time spent responding to emergencies. Most of the staff, Weinthaler said, perform firefighting duties on top of their full-time jobs, which restricts their availability. “People oftentimes can’t leave their work. We have a teacher, we have a psychotherapist on the department, and they can’t just receive a beep on their pager and go fight a fire,” Weinthaler said. Additionally, Weinthaler said that preparing new firefighters to even enter a burning building takes about two years of regular weekly training, and it can take between five and 10 years to become adequately proficient. Many recruits may join for a year or two, but move on as their lifestyles change, she said. “People might be very enthusiastic and join for a year or more, but sometimes students join then finish college and leave, or

their family situation changes or they move. Life happens,” she said.

Stewart Olson, the department’s deputy chief, stressed the need for well-trained, long-term staff. “We can’t just have warm bodies,” he said. “There needs to be people who are dedicated to learning the process and responding to tasks when they happen.”

In addition to the staffing issues, the composition of Leverett’s population is also changing, with fewer residents falling into the department’s optimal recruitment age range of 20 to 40 years old, reducing the town’s pool of prospective recruits to 330 of the town’s 1851 residents.

According to Census data from 2010, 56 percent of the town’s population is over the age of 40, and the percentage of the population over the age of 65 has more than doubled from 7 to 17 percent since 1960. As a result, about half of the calls received by the department are medical emergencies.

In addition to the staffing recommendations, the committee advises discussing collaborating with other nearby towns, such as Sunderland, Shutesbury and Montague. It listed training, inspections, equipment testing and public outreach as aspects that could be shared. It also suggested creating a committee to improve public communication about the department.

Members of the Select Board said that they will consider forming such a committee and that the other recommendations may be brought before the annual Town Meeting.

### Fire Department

It gives me great pleasure to tell you that Firefighter Stephen Sengebush has completed the Call/Volunteer Firefighting Training Program with the MA Firefighting Academy. His training covered all aspects of firefighting. Not only did Steve graduate from the Academy, he finished 1<sup>st</sup> in his class. He will be a valuable member of the department. Great job, Steve!

Once again, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade class is participating in the SAFE program, a joint, grant-funded effort of the Leverett and Amherst fire departments. This program teaches fire safety and the dangers of tobacco use.

Where did summer go? As we move into the fall season, it is time to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Did you know that detectors are only good for 10 years? Even if you push the button and the alarm sounds it does not necessarily mean it is working properly. If your home has detectors more than ten years old, replace them. It is a small price to pay for your family’s safety. Also, heating appliances should be serviced and chimneys cleaned to make sure they are safe to operate.

*Respectfully, John Moruzzi*

## FALL "CLEAN SWEEP" BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

The District is holding its fall "Clean Sweep" bulky waste collection on **Saturday, October 19**, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The three drop-off sites are: the Buckland Recreation Facility on Rt. 112 South, the Northfield Highway Garage, and the Whately Transfer Station.

Residents may bring a wide range of bulky items such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, mattresses, carpeting, construction debris, computers, monitors, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other bulky items. Materials will be recycled whenever possible.

Residents do not need to pre-register for the bulky waste collection. However, there are charges for disposal. Disposal fees, in cash only, will be collected at each site. A complete list of prices for the most common items will be available at town halls, town transfer stations, the District office at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield, and online at: [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html). Businesses may participate.

For more information, please call (413) 772-2438, email: [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto:info@franklincountywastedistrict.org), or visit: [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org). *MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.*

## 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 413-548-9402 and leave your information or e-mail me at [assistant@leverett.ma.us](mailto:assistant@leverett.ma.us) and we will enter it manually. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Nagy at 413-548-9402.

## COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

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 website at <http://leverett.ma.us/>. **Our application deadline is November 25.**

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 funds were used most recently to purchase a Conservation Restriction on Teawaddle Hill Farm to preserve the landscape and permit hiking and hunting on part of the property. Parking areas have been established, trails and bridges built, and informational kiosks complete with maps have been erected (with volunteer labor supplied by industrious Leverett residents). Open Space and Recreation funds have also been used to purchase a number of parcels of land, for example, three parcels on Leverett Pond which include the Friendship Trail which goes along the shoreline from the channel inlet off Depot Rd. at the south end of the pond to Cider Mill Ln. In addition, Open Space funds were used to restore the weed-choked inlet channel and improve public access to the pond.

Historic preservation funds have been used to restore the Town Hall including new clapboards and fresh paint. Restoration projects have been funded for two Leverett cemeteries. Gravestones have been restored in the North Cemetery near the Public Safety Complex, and the historic metal fence at the Moores Corner Cemetery (near the coop) has been restored. In addition, work is in progress to establish National Register Historic Districts for North Leverett, Moores Corner, and East Leverett Centers, to join our Leverett Center Historic District.

Community Preservation funds were allocated to the Leverett Elementary School to improve the Preschool Playground by replacing an aging climbing structure and decaying split rail fence and purchasing a new cover for the sandbox. And, Community Housing funds have been used to fund the Leverett Affordable Housing Trust.

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

The next CPC meeting is at 7:30 on Wednesday, November 6, 2013, 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 November 6, please call Danielle Barshak at (413)548-8139 or email [Daniellebarshak@verizon.net](mailto:Daniellebarshak@verizon.net).

*Danielle Barshak for the Community Preservation Committee*

## Riveting Information from Treasurer/Tax Collector

**FISCAL 2014 PROPERTY TAX BILLS** have NOT been mailed. They should be in the mail by mid-November. **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 will show the amount of real estate and/or personal property tax you owe for fiscal year 2014 (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014) based on assessments as of January 1, 2013). Please check your bill 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, 2013, **must** appear on the bill, so if you purchased property after January 1, you do not need to notify us that you now own it. 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 printed on the bill 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, 2014. 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. Once bills are mailed, you will have 30 days to pay (at least half the amount) 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;** a postmark is **not** considered timely payment. *If you are making a "Due-Date payment," bring it directly to the Collector's Office.* Better still, become part of the paperless society. Sign up for **DIRECT PAYMENT** and your account will be debited 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), or drop off payment in box at back entrance of Town Hall. Office hours: Sun, Mon; Tu, Wed: 2:30 – 8:30pm; (**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.

*Dee Ann Civello (Sweetest Tax Collector Ever according to her friends)*

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## Broadband Committee Report

Our project is moving along with the expected date of completion of December 2014. Over the summer, we selected Millennium Communications/Matrix Design to do the construction of our network. Millennium has been helping us with the paperwork needed for the "make ready" work that must be done on the utility poles prior to our fiber being attached to them, as well as preparing to send crews around town to meet with homeowners prior to any work to be done on residents' property.

The plan this fall is for Millennium to meet with homeowners to discuss the installation location on the residence of the Optical Network Terminal (ONT) that will be required for the fiber connection. Prior to this Millennium visit, you must have completed the "right of entry" form. If the weather is favorable, Millennium may begin the ONT installations this fall, along with bringing fiber from the road to your home. The construction of the network along the Leverett roads will begin next spring.

The Broadband committee will have a booth at the Harvest Festival at the Leverett Elementary School on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Joining us in the booth will be folks from



both Millennium and Calix. Calix is the manufacturer of the networking hardware (including the ONT) that will be used in our network. We plan to have an ONT in the booth so you can see what they look like, and how they work. Please stop by and visit us – we look forward to answering any questions you have about this project.

We have received more than 700 right-of-entry forms so far. If we have not received a form at the time construction has begun, we cannot connect your home. If a connection is requested AFTER the network is complete, there will be an added charge, perhaps in excess of \$1,000, so it is in your best interest to fill out and return the form now. If you have misplaced the form, it is located at [http://leverett.ma.us/files/right\\_of\\_entry\\_ont.pdf](http://leverett.ma.us/files/right_of_entry_ont.pdf)  
<http://leverett.ma.us/files/right%20of%20entry%201.1%20-%20ont.pdf>

**If you are not sure if you have sent it in, please contact Robert Brooks at [robert@brooksresearch.org](mailto:robert@brooksresearch.org) or 253-0887.**

Please visit our web page at <http://leverett.ma.us/content/broadband-committee> to see the latest news of what we are doing. In order to receive ongoing information on our progress, please sign up to join a Google Groups listserv at <http://groups.google.com/group/leverett-broadband-project>.

The committee meets every Thursday at 7pm at the Town Hall. These public meetings are open to everyone, and the committee invites town residents to attend.

*Rob Brooks, for the Broadband Committee*

## **Septic System Revolving Loan Fund**

Leverett has a revolving fund for repair/replacement of septic systems administered by the Franklin Home and Redevelopment Corporation. The interest rate is currently 2%. There are two options available based on gross household income. Your repair plans must be accepted before you apply. For details and information contact the Board of Health, 548-1022, x1 or come to a meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month at Town Hall, 7 pm.

*Fay Zipkowitz, Board of Health Chair*

## **COUNCIL ON AGING NEWS**

**FUEL ASSISTANCE:** If you are single and make under \$32,065, including ALL income (or \$41,932 for two-person or \$61,664 for four-person households), you may be eligible for fuel assistance. Firewood and wood pellets can be your primary source of heat. The first time you apply must be in a face-to-face interview. Visit [communityaction.us/fuel-assistance](http://communityaction.us/fuel-assistance) or 774-2310 or the Benefits Program at Home Care at 773-5555.

**FILE OF LIFE** – The COA would like to ensure that all senior and disabled households have a file of life information card on their fridge. Please pick one up downstairs at Town Hall.

**LEVERETT SENIOR LISTING:** Please find the Leverett senior resource list at the town website on the COA page. The Leverett senior resource book can be found at the senior corner at the Leverett Library.

**MASSRESOURCES.ORG** - Find out what programs are available, who is eligible, which benefits you can get, and how to apply in Massachusetts at this easy to navigate website.

**VERIZON LIFELINE** - Lifeline is a federal assistance program that offers telephone discounts to qualified low-income customers (\$15,512 for one person and \$20,939 for two-person households). Call 1-800-VERIZON or go to [verizon.com/lifeline](http://verizon.com/lifeline) for more info or an application.

**PEOPLE** – We wish to thank Dick Kraus for all his years of thoughtful, wise and tersely humorous service to the COA. We also wish to remember Elaine Barkin who recently died as the only centenarian in town. She spent many years as a member of the Home Care Board of Directors and was an associate member of the Leverett COA. WE would also like to welcome Terry Allen as our newest member to the COA and Joyce Stowell and Carole King as Associate members. We are still looking for more members...

**DON'T FORGET** – Take-It-Easy Yoga at Town Hall on Wednesdays at 10:00 for \$5 and Senior Lunch on Fridays at noon for \$2 (call 367-2694 by Wednesday to make a reservation).

*Submitted for the COA by T Cushman*

## **Library News**

### Library Hours

Tuesday 3-8, Wednesday 10-3 (story hour at 10:30),

Thursday 3-8, Saturday 10-3 Sunday 12-5 (closed

Sundays Memorial Day to Labor Day)

Special Closings The library will be closed Sunday, October 13 for Columbus Day weekend; Sunday, November 10 for Veterans' Day; and Thursday, November 28 for Thanksgiving.

Lego Club was off to a tremendous start in September with high participation and high enthusiasm. The amazing robot creations will be on display until the next Lego Club meets on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to Phyllis Herda, our indomitable Lego Club leader, and thanks to all the parents who helped out.

### Art in the community room

Margaret Lloyd Watercolor Landscapes, September – October

Mary Glavin Peace Pagoda Photographs, November - December

UMass employees, we hope you will consider designating the Friends of the Leverett Library as a place to receive donations through the UMass Amherst Community Campaign.

*Ashley Blais, Library Director*

## Water, Water Everywhere

The towns of Leverett and Sunderland share the Long Plain Aquifer which provides water to many homes and is where the Hubbard Well of the Sunderland Water District is located. This aquifer encompasses approximately 1.4 square miles, stretching from Route 116 in a northeasterly direction generally following the course of Long Plain Brook, terminating in Leverett.

Historically, this gravel and sand delta was formed over the course of 4,100 years when glacial meltwater flowed into ancient Lake Hitchcock. So 20,000 years ago a lake existed where we now live and enjoy the benefits of its existence.

Knowing the long process of Nature to provide such an excellent source of drinking water it is incumbent upon us to protect it from contamination. Currently and historically, all testing on water from the Sunderland's Hubbard Well indicates excellent quality.

For more information on protecting drinking water go to the Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection website at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/source-water-protection-for-drinking-water-supplies.html#1>. Locally, contact Fred Laurenitis at the Sunderland Water District 423-537-5030.

### FROM HISTORIAN TO NOVELIST

All are invited to the **Annual Meeting of the Friends of Leverett Library**, to be held at the library on **Sunday afternoon, October 27 at 3:30**. After refreshments and a short business meeting (which will include a slide show of our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration), our guest speaker will be longtime Leverett resident Gerald McFarland.

Gerry is an Emeritus Professor of History at UMass who has authored four scholarly books on US History. He taught upper-level history courses on the American West and his first novel, *The Brujo's Way*, set in early eighteenth-century Santa Fe, New Mexico, has just been published. The main character, Don Carlos Buenaventura, is a brujo (or shaman) who maintains a public persona as an ordinary member of New Spain's elite, but who practices a benign form of sorcery.

Please join us to hear Gerry talk about the transformation from historian to novelist, and to hear about his adventures in the realm of magical realism.

### DUDLEY, GLAZIER, MOORE, & WATSON: (A plea from the Cemetery Associations)

These names would have been very familiar to you if you lived here in the 1800s. (Actually, the name Glazier is still familiar!) Many of them are buried in the Moores Corner Cemetery near the Co-op. This cemetery needs T.L.C.. Have you seen the North Cemetery by the Safety

Complex? The work was funded from C.P.A. funds, voted by you at the April Town Meeting. A number of local people did cleaning and resetting of some of the stones. The Leverett Cemetery Associations are planning to apply this year for funds to do similar work in Moores Corner.

The pig-iron fence of that cemetery was replaced last year using C.P.A. money. We have received compliments on both areas of work recently and we hope you will make a point of driving or walking by to take note.

We plan to have a workshop so volunteers can assist in the work of cleaning the stones. This is done with water, a soft brush, and the use of a right or left arm. (The use of a foot is permitted, depending on your flexibility.) Plastic scrapers are used to remove accumulations of mold or lichen.

All in all, a good chance to put on you sunscreen, get outdoors, bring your pails and brushes and either one of your arms and get acquainted with other community volunteers.

If you'd like to help, call either Charlotte Abbott at 367-2643 or Edie Field at 548-9452.

## ENERGY COMMITTEE ALERT!

Dear Leverett Residents, If you don't already know this, let us be the first to tell you that there are currently available several easy and efficient ways to use more "greenly"-produced energy (wind and solar) for your home and even to save money at the same time. We already know this might sound too good to be true, but it IS true and your energy committee is exploring the best ways to take advantage of these opportunities and to do so in a manner that's not completely baffling. More details in next newsletter.

In the meantime, please remember these important climate-healthy suggestions for the season:

SUN-DRY your laundry (this is being written during a stretch of balmy breezy days) or indoors. It once got into people's heads--erroneously and unfortunately--that line-drying clothes was in bad taste; for those who know how much energy is consumed by clothes-dryers, line drying is indeed a sign of conscientious intelligence! We all need to catch on!

Make an effort to MOW LESS and LESS OFTEN. American lawns--the cycle of mowing, re-fertilizing, and re-mowing--is responsible for a surprisingly huge percentage of greenhouse gas emissions. There are many interesting and productive and beautiful ways to use large and unused portions of your lawn that otherwise just continue to require the endless cycle.

*Respectfully, Your Energy Committee*

We meet the second Monday of the month at 7:30 and our meetings are actually fun as well as productive and earnest! Contact: 548-9737.

## LEVERETT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

National Register Historic Districts – A public informational meeting on the North Leverett National Register Historic District was held at the North Leverett Baptist Church on August 22, 2013 at 7PM. Attended by about 20 residents and neighbors of the potential district, Phil Bergen, Massachusetts Historical Commission and Elizabeth Rairigh, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission talked and showed pictures about the architecture, society and industry of North Leverett, and the significance of the designation. They were assisted by several local historians.

“Celebrating Leverett in the Civil War Era” – During the summer months a collection of teachers from Leverett Elementary School (LES), Leverett Historical Society (LHS) and Leverett Historical Commission members met to talk about collaborating to celebrate the sesquicentennial. Plans are underway for a year of study by the LES Sixth Grade with their teacher Alyson Bull that will include research on Leverett citizens who became soldiers in the Union Army and life during that era in the villages of Leverett. Artifacts such as a soldier’s uniform, sword, powder horn, bullets and letters from the battlefield are among the treasures that the students will have access to through the Moore’s Corner School House and Leverett Family Museums. The Civil War Celebration will kick-off with a “Recruitment Tent” at the Leverett Harvest Festival on October 19, 2013, 10-1PM to invite all Leverett citizens to join the fun and sample some “Civil War Sweets”!

*Everyone is invited to share family records, letters, diaries, photographs or family tales with the students. They will present their research to the Town in late March or early April 2014.*

The next meeting of the Leverett Historical Commission will be on Thursday, October 17, 7PM, Leverett Town Hall. All are welcome! Please email [susan.mareneck@gmail.com](mailto:susan.mareneck@gmail.com) or call 413-367-2403 with questions.

*Submitted by Susan Mareneck, Leverett Historical Commission*

**PLEASE REMEMBER to save the aluminum bottle tabs; Les Allen collects them for re-cycling to benefit the Shriner's Hospital. You can leave your collection at the town treasurer's office or the bottle collection site at the landfill.**

## ***Community Events:***

### **The Leverett Peace Commission Presents Project Unspeakable**

(A dramatic presentation of the meaning and circumstances of the assassinations of

John and Robert Kennedy, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X)

Leverett Elementary School

Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, 7:00 PM

Do you remember the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of JFK? With the passage of years, dwindling numbers of people are left to talk about where they were and what they were doing when they heard that Kennedy was shot. Those old enough to remember the sixties recall the optimism that we were the generation to bring change, to establish a just and peaceful society. Much hope died with the deaths of these leaders. Each assassination was covered up, and only over the intervening half century has the truth been revealed about how and why they died. Those stories are still not well known.

Project Unspeakable is a play written by Court Dorsey and associates that tells the whys and wherefores of these assassinations, using the documented words of the real historical persons who were involved in these events. The authors and producers plan hundreds of performances around the country in the tradition of the Vagina Monologues and the Laramie Project, one of whose writers, Steve Wagh, helped Court envision and write this play. The nationwide launch will take place on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>. The first performance in the Valley will be here in Leverett. It will be presented as a semi-staged reading by Leverett people, and will be followed by an opportunity for discussion.

### **The Natural History of Leverett**

The Rattlesnake Gutter Trust has begun gathering contributions for a book on the natural history of Leverett.

The new publication will consist of essays, maps, drawings, photographs, and paintings describing, discussing, and illustrating Leverett’s natural world, including its geology, climate, botany, and zoology. The project will focus on Leverett’s woods, fields, meadows, streams, rivers, hills, and mountains, as well as the mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, flowers, bushes, and trees that make Leverett their home or stopping place, as well as the ways in which human beings shaped and have been shaped over time by this environment.

The essays that make up *The Natural History of Leverett* will not only describe Leverett’s natural world as it is today, but also examine how current habitats, ecosystems,

and creatures came to be here and what Leverett's natural world is likely to look like in the future.

If you have ideas or are interested in contributing to *The Natural History of Leverett*, please contact Steve Weiss at the address or email below for further information.

Leverett is a special place in no small part because of the rich and diverse natural world that surrounds us. We hope that this new volume will help all of us better understand the extraordinary legacy that we have inherited.

*Steve Weiss, Rattlesnake Gutter Trust  
steve.weiss47@gmail.com*

## **Who We Are Now**

### **The Creative Spirit of Leverett Artists- Musicians-Writers & Dancers Art Opening**

**Saturday, October 19, 5-8 PM  
Leverett Crafts and Arts  
Art Show Oct 19-30<sup>th</sup>**

Come celebrate the creative spirit of Leverett! Art work, music, readings, and dance by Leverett artists will be featured on October 19<sup>th</sup>, on the evening of the Leverett Harvest festival.

I imagine 100 years from now (when Leverett has distinguished itself as a creative center in its unique part of the world) someone will be digging through the Town archives asking, "What did the arts look like in Leverett in the beginning of the 21 century?" The project, "Who We Are Now" is the second in the series that offers a glimpse of who we are and what we were doing in 2013.

Five years ago, I documented the visual artists in town. Now, the project has broadened to include musicians, dancers, and writers. It is a self selecting-group; there is no jury. My philosophy is that the creative spirit should be celebrated in everyone from our youngest artist –age 11—to our oldest at 80.

The companion book for WHO WE ARE NOW will be shown for the first time at the opening at the LCA.

Afterwards, the self-published volume will be housed at the Library, Town Hall, Historical Society, and Leverett Crafts and Arts.

*Ruth West*

*This effort was supported by a Mass Cultural Council Grant.  
For those of you who would like to do a Cultural Project for  
Leverett, grants are due Oct 15<sup>th</sup>!*

## **Leverett Recreation Commission**

### **Evening Yoga Class at the Leverett Library**

Friendly, therapeutic and gentle.

Thursdays 5:30-6:45 PM

November 7-December 12

5 weeks \$60 (drop-in \$14) No class 11/28.

Please pre-register at 413-367-2658

or [enzer@earthlink.net](mailto:enzer@earthlink.net)

## **Leverett Trails Committee (LTC)**

- **Work Day: Building the Bill Rivers Trail Bridges, Saturday, October 19, 9 AM until we are done**

The Bill Rivers Trail is behind the library and school beginning with the two short bridges that cross Doolittle Brook. In April, the Town Meeting voted CPA funds for the bridge materials. Now all we need to do is build them! The 19<sup>th</sup> is also the day of Harvest Festival. Bridge builders can take a break, go to the Festival and support LES classes by having a delicious lunch. (Unless Leverett gets food trucks, this will be the only LTC Work Day ever to provide access to good food.) For information on the final planning, either email [concom@leverett.ma.us](mailto:concom@leverett.ma.us) asking to be put on the LTC email list; or leave a message at 548-1022 x 3; or go to [www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org](http://www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org) (click on Bridge Building Work Day at the top of the opening page).

- **Multimedia Arts Project and Exhibit, Leverett Library, March 1, 1-4: Assemblage Day, March-April: Exhibit**

Start taking photographs now as you walk the trails in this wonderful fall light; take your brushes and paints along; or invite your poetic muse to accompany you. All forms of creativity can be assembled on poster boards to be displayed at the library during March and April. Watch this space for detailed information in the next newsletter.

*LTC is co-sponsored by the Leverett Conservation Commission and the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust. For more information, visit the LTC table at Harvest Festival.*



**LEVERETT RESIDENT**

**LEVERETT, MA 01054**

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**Come to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Leverett Harvest Festival!**

**Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup> 2013**  
**Celebrate Fall with Friends, Food & Fun.**

- LIVE MUSIC, FOOD, GAMES, RAFFLES, DEMONSTRATIONS
- OLD VEHICLE SHOW, BIRDS OF PREY -WITH JULIE GROW COLLIER
- HORSE RIDES, CHAIR MASSAGE, MAPLE COTTON CANDY, GREENHOUSE WITH DAWN WARD, VENDORS, SEATING AREA AND MORE.

Fireman's Pancake Breakfast 8-10:30am  
Festival grounds 10-1pm

**Late Breaking News Story: Unusual Storm Forecast for Leverett**

**Oct 19, 2013**

**Spaghetti with a Chance of Meatballs!**

Weathermen forecast that unusual low-pressure systems will bring drifts of gluten free and regular pasta and a downpour of Tomato Sauce with a Chance of Meatballs! They advise everyone in town to stay indoors at the Leverett Elementary School in case of a deluge of unexpected salad dressing

**Between the hours of 5-7pm**

Buy tickets in advance at the school or at the door. Adult \$8/9, Kids \$6/7 Proceeds Benefit 6<sup>th</sup> grade Field Trip Fund.  
Sharing a meal brings our Town together!