

# NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF LEVERETT

www.leverett.ma.us

APRIL 2016

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SATURDAY, 30 April, 2016, 9:00 AM, LEVERETT SCHOOL

## Positions up for election:

**Assessors:** Tom Maczka, Y (3-year);

**Board of Health:** Chuck Dauchy, U (3-year); Michael Fair, Y (3-year);

**Constable:** Thomas Masterton, Y (3-year);

**Finance Committee:** Steve Nagy, Y (3-year); Phil Carter, Y (2-year);

**Library Trustees:** Georgie Schmid, Y (3-year); Elaine Barker, Y (3-year);

**Planning Board:** Jeff McQueen, Y (5-year); Richard Nathorst, Y (5-year);

**School Committee:** Kip Fonsh, N (3-year); Alan Mully, N (3-year); Audra Goscenksi, Y (1-year);

**Select Board:** Peter d'Errico, Y (3-year);

**Town Clerk:** Lisa Stratford, Y (3-year).

## Notes From Around Town

- [lmlp.leverett.net](http://lmlp.leverett.net) for general information about LeverettNet. The new website is up and running.
- Don't miss the tour of the Old Highway Garage ahead of Town Meeting vote to use CPC funds to rehab this old girl. April 21, 6:00 pm
- The Conservation Commission will be starting its meetings at 7:15 from now on. Punctual eh?
- **Taxes are due in the Collector's Office May 2.** Payments may be made online by going to the Town website: [leverett.ma.us](http://leverett.ma.us)

## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

**1 June 2016**

**1 October 2016**

Send news items and snap peas to Lisa Stratford, Box 300, Leverett, MA 01054; leave them in the *Newsletter* box at Town Hall or email to [townclerk@leverett.ma.us](mailto:townclerk@leverett.ma.us).

## Legal Notice

The Leverett Planning Board will hold a public hearing on April 27, 2016 at 7:30 PM at the Leverett Town Hall, second floor, to take public comment on a proposal to make changes to Section 4970 which regulates ground-mounted solar electric systems. The proposed changes will increase the size of systems allowed, increase the zoning districts in which the systems may be located, facilitate the installation of larger ground-mounted systems and integrate the changes into other sections of

the zoning bylaw. The full text of the changes is available from the Leverett Town Clerk.

## Select Board Report

Although the abatement issue has not been resolved and we are not certain what Shutesbury will decide about the regional budget at their Town Meeting we are pleased to report that the departments in town are able to realize a 2% increase in their budgets. All departments, at the request of the Select Board and Finance Committee, cut their budgets last year and were level-funded in years prior to 2015-16.

Shutesbury and the other towns in the region reached a compromise for the regional school budget wherein 10% of the assessment of a town is based on proportional shares of taxable property and 90% allocated in accordance with the per-pupil method found in the regional agreement that has been used for many years (wherein each town pays the same amount per student). This compromise method means that Leverett pays more per student than all of the other towns. There will be discussion of this at the Town Meeting. If the Shutesbury Town Meeting does not vote for this compromise method the state law dictates that the statutory method be used, which would cost Leverett an additional \$100,000 unless the budget was reworked.

There is enough wiggle room in the tax levy limit for Leverett to accommodate the worst case scenario for the regional school budget and a property tax refund should we lose the abatement appeal. If neither of those things happens, taxes will go up slightly.

This is the year that the borrowing cost for the broadband build-out will hit the tax bills; this was estimated to be about \$200/year in additional taxes. HOWEVER! – due to refinancing the bond for all of the town's debts the loan is at a lower interest rate, so the debt payments are only marginally more than they have been in past years which means that the effect of the broadband build-out on taxes is negligible. Dee Ann Civello put in a lot of time on this before she retired and we are grateful.

The Select Board has applied for CPA funds to rehab the old town garage and this proposal is on the Town Meeting warrant. The old highway garage is just within the northern boundary of the Leverett Center Historic District, and, being over 50 years old, is an historic building and as such on the historic register. It is vintage late '40s, early '50s cinder block construction. It is still being used for storage by the fire, police, and highway departments, and the school. To demolish the garage and replace it with a metal building or something like that is 2 or 3 times more expensive than fixing up what we have. A tour of the

building will be held on April 21 at 6 pm – hope to see you there.

Mostly – we hope to see you at Town Meeting. Come vote, learn about the issues and voice your opinion.

*Julie Shively*

## Library News

Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 3-8pm, Sat. 10 am-3pm and Sun. 12-5pm (closed Sundays Memorial Day to Labor Day).

Special Closings: The library will be closed Saturday April 30 for Town Meeting and Saturday May 28 for Memorial Day weekend.

### Community Room Art Exhibits

April: Leverett Trails Scavenger Hunt.

May-June Jake Blais, paintings

**Ukulele Play-Along with Julie Stepanek.** Thursday, April 28 @ 6:30 pm.

Free and open to all ages.

Local author **Bruce Watson** will read from and talk about his new book, **LIGHT : A Radiant History from Creation to the Quantum Age** Thur., May 12 @ 7pm.

**Free Movie Nights** on Friday every month.

Friday April 22 at 7:30 pm **The Intern.**

Friday May 13 at 7:30 **Steve Jobs, R**

*Ashley Blais, Library Director*

## Notes from the Leverett Municipal Light Plant:

**Protect your underground connection:** In order to avoid expensive repairs to the underground fiber that brings LeverettNet telephone and Internet services to the premise, remember it is the property owner's responsibility to avoid damage to the fiber or the ONT. Conventional methods of identifying utility lines before digging—such as Dig-Safe flagging—are not effective with underground glass fiber because the metal detectors they use cannot detect glass. If you plan on digging, contact the LMLP at 548-9699 to get a copy of the digging plan for your location.

**Telehealth Survey:** The Telehealth Survey of Leverett residents conducted during the winter has now been summarized compliments of the professional services of Bob Dolan of Diverse Learners Consulting, a Leverett-based business. This interesting graphic presentation can be seen on the Leverettnet.net website.

*Leverett Municipal Light Plant Board*

## Council on Aging

Jennifer Glover, Outreach Coordinator

The outreach coordinator is available to inform residents age 60 and older, and their families, of the available resources in the community and to link them with appropriate agencies and services. **Please call 548-1022 ext 5 to schedule a home visit.**

Carole King, Meal Site Manager, call 413-367-2694 to

sign up for Friday Lunch; Yoga- Wednesdays at 10:00 am. \$6 per class donation; Foot Clinic-2nd Thursday of month \$25 donation. Call 413-548-9415 to sign up for Foot Clinic or Yoga.

## Leverett Cemetery Association, Singular

Leverett now has only ONE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION. Anyone interested/concerned about the Town Cemeteries are welcome to attend the Annual Meeting on May 10th @ 6:30 in the Community Room of the Library. NOTE! You DO NOT have to be a member or a gravelot holder to attend!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, call Edie Field @548-9452 or Charlotte Abbot @ 367 2243.

## Julie Collier, Wingmaster

Sunday, April 24, 2:00 p.m., Town Library  
LIFE IN THE SLOW LANE: TRAVELS AND TRAVELERS ON THE 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY LANCASTER PIKE.

A 50-mile cart-way hewed by bush-rangers in the 1730s connecting the Bay Settlement with the Connecticut River above Springfield, itself already connected by the Bay Path, long used by Indians. Many of Leverett's settlers during the 1790s, the early years of the Federation, and the machinery of its characteristic water-powered industry, came over the Pike. Julie is drawing a series of illustrations to show what Pike transport would have looked like back in the day.

## FREE Health Fair—June 6, 2016, 1-5 pm

### Greenfield Community Health Center

Cherry Rum Plaza, 489 Bernardston Rd., Greenfield  
Medical, dental, nutrition, and mental health screenings/booths along with Health New England, Greenfield fire and police, Medline ambulance and life flight (an actual helicopter in the parking lot!)

## Creating a Village at the Leverett Village Co-op

Support your Local Co-op— Community Built and Community Owned

A sense of community is our greatest asset. Together we can do more to create connectedness, support, friendship, and cultural identity in town.

**The Co-op is an integral part of the fabric of the community!**

We need your help to build the village community. We have lots of ideas! Can you help with our summer craft and tag sale event? Are you a savvy marketer who can help us to get the word out? Could you be a "Fixer" at a Fix-it-Café?

Check out the Leverett Village Co-op on Facebook.com.  
Stop by the store and check out the bulletin board.  
Contact Heather Hutchinson- Outreach Organizer.  
[heather01054@hotmail.com](mailto:heather01054@hotmail.com)

“What is important is family, friends, giving back to your community and finding meaning in life.”- Adrian Grenier

# ***Annual Town Meeting***

## ***Saturday, 30 April, 2016, 9:00 AM***

### ***Leverett Elementary School***

### ***Warrant and Budget enclosed!***

(Please bring copies with you to Town Meeting)

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#### **APPLICATION FOR A 2016 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) \_\_\_\_\_

Send check payable to Town of Leverett, **proof of rabies immunization, proof of rabies immunization, proof of rabies immunization**, \*proof of spaying, and a **business-size self-addressed stamped envelope** to Town Clerk, Box 300, Leverett 01054. Documents will be returned with license.

TOWN OF LEVERETT  
***April 2016 NEWSLETTER***  
LEVERETT, MA 01054

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**LEVERETT RESIDENT**

**LEVERETT, MA 01054**

