

NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF LEVERETT

www.leverett.ma.us

October 2023

Notes From Around Town

- If you have Leverettnet or internet questions please call OTT at 866-746-3873.
- **Stonewall "Lift"**—It's the perfect time of year to show off our stately stonewalls. Clearing some overgrowth will accentuate their beauty and contribute to our town's rich heritage embodied in stonewalls, especially as 2024 draws near and we celebrate our 250th!
- Get your **250th parade ideas** to Maureen. We can't be outdone by Northfield!!

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINES:

1 December 2023 1 February 2024

Send news items and parade ideas (floats, bands, animal acts, costumed kids...) 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

Hello, neighbors! Here are some highlights from the Select Board's busy and energizing summer:

Spencer Land Offer

Former Leverett resident and long-time land steward Bruce Spencer, who spent over 40 years as Chief Forester with the DCR and MDC, has offered the town 147 acres of timberland that is held by Franklin Land Trust in conservation restriction. We engaged in interesting and lengthy discussions that considered the potential costs involved, including maintaining a bridge to a private property and forestry costs, as well as the benefits, such as income from harvesting cordwood and lumber, and the opportunity for forestry education and supporting the next generation of land stewards. It was generally agreed upon that establishing an expert forest management committee would be ideal before accepting the land as a town forest, and we hope to see this come to fruition before a town meeting vote in the Spring.

Decarbonization, Microgrid, Community Solar Survey

We have been in close conversation with the energy committee about growing interest in energy efficiency and decarbonization efforts. Many feel strongly that Leverett would benefit from a microgrid that allows for shared solar energy among the elementary school, library, and public safety complex. If you are interested in learning more, we have copies of the Umass Clean Energy Extension's assessment of Leverett's resources and infrastructure at Town Hall.

Rattlesnake Gutter Trust: Long Term Erosion Prevention Plan

Heavy rainfall this summer flooded and washed-out large sections of Rattlesnake Gutter Road. Our Highway department was celebrated for its successful repair of the extensive damage. That being said, there is ongoing concern for the long-term viability of the road if major updates are not made, including optimizing size/drainage of culverts and implementing other water diverting techniques. The Rattlesnake Gutter Trust (RGT) has asked that the town consider funding a plan to prevent future catastrophic erosion. Leverett residents who are interested may join the highway commission and RGT in developing a proposal for a potential warrant article for town meeting.

Melissa Colbert, for the Select Board

Energy Committee Update

Dear Town,

For years our contribution to the newsletter has been to chronicle the ways our committee has worked to ensure electricity for residents from environmentally protective sources at the lowest possible rate. Closely related has been our commitment to consuming less energy. Warnings about global warming have motivated our actions. Our most significant accomplishment has been to give residents a choice when making household decisions about energy sources. That is what the aggregation we formed almost four years ago with Colonial Power, an independent energy broker, was all about. With our three-year contract with Colonial established, each household could choose among three sources--100% Massachusetts renewable energy, 100% wind energy from Texas, or the much less green energy mix provided by Eversource--each at a different rate. When the contract ended, the invasion of Ukraine had resulted in international chaos affecting our next energy contract. No longer did we as a town or Colonial have control of the rates.

This spring, we reached a new agreement with Colonial for a two-year contract with considerably lower rates, starting in January 2024. Understandably, many residents have dropped out of the aggregation and joined with brokers offering lower start-up rates, but we think the new contract with Colonial which we joined with almost every Franklin County town is a sound choice and residents will decide to return.

Now however, the fossil fuel companies are losing profits to the solar energy providers and the public utility companies are not protecting the public interest. In Massachusetts the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) is proposing new restrictions on towns interested in forming

aggregations for lower-rate and greener choices that may include ending existing aggregations, like ours. The town along with others is joining the opposition in the state legislature. We may soon be asking residents to submit letters of opposition to this proposal that, in effect, takes from us our power to make more responsible energy choices and save money at the same time.

So, where are we NOW??? Awaiting a decision about the future of aggregations in our state. The committee thinks of itself as one advocating the principles of Right Living on Earth. We are all caught up in this situation—exciting, humbling, sometimes infuriating, sometimes even terrifying.

Portia Williams Weiskel for the Energy Committee

Leverett & Shutesbury Welcome New Public Health Nurse

The primary responsibility of the public health nurse is to prevent the spread of communicable diseases throughout the community. This includes disease tracking actions, collecting and reporting clinical data, and providing patient education, resources and support when necessary. In addition, promoting overall community health and wellness is a goal. This includes developing and promoting a *Simply Walk* program which will soon begin. Community members who are able to walk will be encouraged to join, track their daily steps and become members of a healthy community initiative. Maintaining and improving physical activity by simply walking has profound overall health and wellness benefits. Pedometers will be available to track steps if needed and while supplies last, so stay tuned for more information and advertising. Other services **provided** by the public health nurse include:

- Basic health and wellness screening (Blood pressure, blood glucose and body mass index);
- Basic wound care consultation, assistance and referrals;
- Foot care referrals;
- Mobility education (use of walker, cane etc.);
- Risk reduction and injury prevention education (Fall risk, gun safety);
- Prenatal / postnatal care education, resources and referrals;
- Nutrition, exercise and general health and wellness education and resources;
- Tobacco, alcohol and substance abuse support and referrals;
- Assistance with navigating medical diagnosis, medications, and social services for physical and mental health;
- Emergency products and resources are also available upon request or while supplies last (Covid tests, Narcan etc.);

- Education programs, workshops and other activities will also be offered in the future.

***Services **not** provided by the public health nurse:

- Physical exams, work clearance / sports clearance exams or notes, diagnosing medical conditions, laboratory needs (throat/wound cultures, blood draws etc.), prescribing medications, treating infections (ear, strep throat, pneumonia, respiratory illnesses), laceration repair or treatment (suturing or removal), traumas, concussions/head injuries, fractured bones, imaging (x rays, CT scans etc.)

If you need any of these services or emergency services seek your primary care physician, urgent care services, the emergency department or dial 911

Office hours are currently Tuesday's: 8:30 - 12pm in

Leverett ~ 12:30 - 4pm in Shutesbury

Call: 413-531-0657

Email: sarah.fiske@greenfield-ma.gov

~ Sarah Fiske, PhD RN CNL

Library Updates

September was **library card sign-up month** and many of you got one of our new cards highlighting our mural by Judith Inglese. If you haven't gotten yours yet, it's not too late! Stop in and we'll get you a new card or replace your old one.

Speaking of new things, we have lovely **new landscaping** at the library's entrance. Thanks to a generous donation, we will enjoy watching the plants fill in over the next few years. And thank you to the Friends of Leverett Library for supporting the maintenance of all the library's gardens. Come enjoy them anytime!

Thanks to all who participated in our **summer Reading program**. Whether you read books and submitted book reviews, stopped into the library and said "hi!", came to one of the Music on the Patio concerts, or joined in one of our programs, we thank you for playing with us this summer. Let's do it again.

New! We now offer free access to **Craftsy**. Craftsy is a crafting tutorial service. You will find video and written tutorials about sharpening knives, using your sewing machine, baking sourdough bread, woodworking, and more. Find it embedded in the Libby app under "Extras." Click through to get a 7-day pass. Need more time? Just get another pass when you are ready. Stop in and show us what you've been learning!

Prefer to learn the old-fashioned way? We still have our popular **Curiosity Kits** designed for adults and teens. Borrow the tools and directions to learn things like embossing, Ukrainian egg decorating, knitting or origami.

*Sincerely, Hannah Paessel (she/her) Library
Director*

Why am I writing in Comic Sans? This font is easier for readers who are dyslexic. Are you dyslexic? Let us know if this font helps you.

LEF 2023 Fund Drive About to Begin

The Leverett Education Foundation will be launching our annual fund drive to support curricula and programs at Leverett Elementary School and to encourage innovative projects and proposals from LES teachers and staff.

Over the past three years, the money we have collected from more than 150 households, businesses, and organizations in Leverett has gone to grants that have funded, among other things: supplies; equipment; software; teacher training; and temporary outdoor classrooms during the pandemic; the restoration and expansion of the LES Greenhouse Program; the Sixth-Grade outdoor education program; the construction of a new low ropes challenge course; the creation of the Library Bird Nook; start-up funding for the Summer at LES Garden & Nature Program; and the establishment of a Principal's discretionary fund for unanticipated outdoor learning and nature-based education opportunities.

This year, we are extending the scope of our grants to include other high priority projects and programs that cannot be adequately funded through the Town's budget alone.

But in addition to raising money for the school, we also hope to expand the number of households and businesses contributing to this community-wide effort. If you belong to one of the Leverett households that has donated to LEF in the past three years, please help us continue to sustain Leverett Elementary School. If you've never given, we hope you'll consider joining this grassroots movement on behalf of our school, and our town.

Your gift – however large or small – is crucial to maintaining the health and vitality of LES. Donate at

leveretteducationfoundation.org or by mail at P.O. Box 235, Leverett, Massachusetts 01054.

Thank you for your support.

The Leverett Education Foundation

*Steve Weiss, Hannah Blunt, Jon Camadeco, Craig Cohen,
Anne-Elise Olsen*

It's (almost) Our Birthday!

The 250th Committee would like to thank Stewart Olson for donating his time to make some really nice 250th signs that will be going up around town soon. Thank you so much, Stewart!

There is a new Facebook page thanks to a volunteer. If you would like to join the group, the page is Leverett 250th Anniversary. There is also the 250th page on the town website. <https://www.leverett.ma.us/g/96/250th-Celebration>. Both places will have up to date information as we get closer to 2024.

Pictures of the souvenirs and the order form are on the website or you can see them in person and pick up an order form at the library. The t-shirts have been very popular!

If you would like to donate to support the celebration, you can donate via the town website or you can mail a check payable to the Town of Leverett to 250th Anniversary Committee, Town of Leverett, P.O. Box 300, Leverett, MA 01054. Even the smallest donation will help!

There will be a 250th mailing going out to each household this Fall that will include a calendar of events so you can be sure to be in town for the festivities!

Help Wanted

Council on Aging Meal Site Manager

The Town of Leverett is seeking a responsible person to serve as the Council on Aging Meal site Manager, who is responsible for management of the Leverett weekly meals program. Duties include: Preparing weekly meals; coordinating, supervising and training meal site volunteers; submitting required reports; coordinating special events, such as picnics, volunteer lunches, speakers and activities; coordinating nutrition and needed inspections.

Qualifications include Food Safe Certification or the ability to get certified within two months of hire; knowledge of food preparation, serving and cleaning procedures and equipment; self-motivation; good organizational and communication skills; and empathetic and cheerful personality.

Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) background check required. Annual Salary is \$4,049 per year. Expected hours required is 5 hours per week. Applications are due to the Council on Aging by October 16, 2023.

Questions should be directed to Judi Fonsh at judifonsh@gmail.com. Leverett is an AA/EOE

Friends of the Leverett Library

The Friends of the Leverett Library are planning a busy year!

On October 21, 2023 1-230 PM we will hold our Annual Meeting in the Community Room of the Library. Jarice Hanson will present a Chautauqua performance of "Frances Perkins: A Woman's Work." Refreshments will follow.

A generous anonymous donor has offered the Friends of the Leverett Library a \$10,000 matching grant. Donations matched by the community will be used to expand the library's outdoor spaces. Ideas for the fundraiser will be presented at the annual meeting.

A Living History Presentation:

Frances Perkins: A Woman's Work

JOIN US FOR A
CHAUTAUQUA
PERFORMANCE BY

Jarice Hanson



Sat, October 21st, 2023

1:00 - 2:30 PM

Leverett Library

75 Montague Rd, Leverett, MA

From 1933 to 1945, the first woman Secretary of Labor, Frances Perkins, crafted some of the most significant legislation of the New Deal Era. For those who think that Social Security, child labor laws, minimum wage, the 40-hour work week, and policies focused on social justice have always been the work of men with ties, this presentation shows that all were crafted by one woman who wore pearls.

Friends of Leverett Library

c/o Leverett Library
P O Box 250
Leverett, MA 01054

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please complete this and send to the library at: Box 250 Leverett, MA 01054

Circle membership type: **Individual \$10 Family \$20 Patron \$50 Lifetime \$200** If your membership is other than "individual" please tell us how many people should be listed in our statistics for your membership (e.g. family of 4): _____

NAME _____

TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

We ask for your email address so that we can send an acknowledgement of your membership and very occasionally send you information about events and our annual meeting. We are not allowed to access your email address from library patron records and we will not share your email address with anyone.

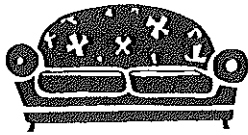
ALL DUES AND DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Thank you to new members and those who have already renewed their membership

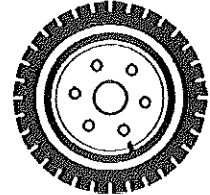


"CLEAN SWEEP"

BULKY WASTE RECYCLING DAY



Saturday, October 21, 2023
9 a.m. to noon




Locations:

- ✓ Mohawk Trail Regional High School, 26 Ashfield Rd, Shelburne Falls (Rt. 112 S.)
- ✓ Northfield Highway Garage, 49 Caldwell Rd. (off Rt. 142)
- ✓ Whately Transfer Station, 73 Christian Lane (off Rt. 5/10)

- No pre-registration necessary.
- Items will be recycled whenever possible.
- There is a disposal charge on most items; cash only.

Mattresses and box springs are no longer accepted: see website or call for 6 recycling locations in Franklin County.

What To Bring:

- Tires
 - Televisions
 - Computers
 - Scrap Metal
 - Appliances: remove doors from refrigerators & freezers
 - FREE: Bring **clean, dry** bagged textiles and books for reuse or recycling!
- 
- Electronics
 - Microwaves
 - BBQ Grill Tanks
 - Construction & Demolition Debris
 - Furniture
 - Bulky Rigid Plastics
 - Carpeting

PLEASE DO NOT BRING:

Mattresses, Box Springs, Yard Waste, Brush, Asbestos, Paint, Auto Batteries, Oil Tanks, Hazardous Materials, Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Trash

For residents and businesses of the following towns:

Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Rowe, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, Whately

**For more info and pricing: franklincountywastedistrict.org,
413-772-2438, or info@franklincountywastedistrict.org
or see the back of this sheet.**

MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD)
The District is an equal opportunity provider.

REMODELING? Used building materials can be donated to EcoBuilding Bargains in Springfield.
Call first to confirm that they can accept your item: 413-788-6900, ecobuildingbargains.org.

CLEAN SWEEP BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

October 21, 2023, 9 a.m. to noon

Disposal Price Guide

CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS

Asphalt, bricks, cement, mortar	\$45/cu.yd.
Clapboards, doors, plaster, sheetrock, shingles, siding, windows, wood	\$40/cu.yd.
Hot tubs, spas	\$40/cu.yd.

ELECTRONICS

Cell phones	free
Computer monitor, CRT	\$25
Computer monitor, flat screen	\$10
Copy machine	\$30
CPU (computer)	\$5
Laptop computer	\$10
TV: Flat screen < 60"	\$10
CRT or 60" flat screen	\$25
Console or large projection	\$40
Printer (with flatbed), scanner	\$10
Printer (without flatbed), fax machine	\$5
VCR, DVD player, game systems	\$5

FURNITURE/CARPET

Bookcases, end tables, kitchen/dining tables, and wooden chairs	\$5
Bureau	\$10
Carpet or area rug up to 10x10	\$10
Carpet (larger: up to 12x20)	\$20
Carpet padding	\$10
Couch	\$20
Futon mattress	\$15
Loveseat	\$15
Mattresses no longer accepted!	N/A
Mattress for waterbed	\$15
Recliner chair, upholstered chair	\$15
Sink, toilet	\$15
Sleeper sofa	\$35
Vacuum	\$3

SCRAP METAL/APPLIANCES

Air conditioner/dehumidifier	\$15
Bicycle	\$5
Dishwasher	\$10
Fire extinguisher	\$10
Furnace (residential)	\$15
Lawn mower, push (drain gas)	\$10
Lawn mower, riding (drain gas)	\$15
LP gas tank, 1 lb.	\$1
LP gas BBQ tank, 20 lb.	\$5
LP gas BBQ tank, up to 100 lbs.	\$10
Microwave, trash compactor, etc	\$5
Misc. metal items, small	\$5
Misc. metal items, BBQ grill & larger	\$10
Refrigerator, freezer (remove doors)	\$15
Rototiller, snowblower, etc. (drain gas)	\$10
Stove, washer, dryer	\$10
Water heater (residential)	\$15

Gasoline MUST be drained from all small engines!

TIRES

Passenger up to 19"	\$5
Truck tires	\$20
Tractor/Loader tires	\$75

TEXTILES & BOOKS

Textiles* (CLEAN, DRY, bagged)	FREE
Books (paperback, hardcover)	FREE

**Textiles CAN be torn, stained, or have broken zippers or missing buttons: those will be recycled into insulation.*

BULKY RIGID PLASTIC RECYCLING*

ONLY accepts: 5-gallon pails, trash cans, \$5/load
soda crates, plastic lawn furniture, laundry baskets

**Nothing longer than 4' in any direction!*

See website or call for more instructions!

Cash Only. Some acceptable items may not be listed.

The District reserves the right to price other items accordingly on site.

MATERIALS WILL BE RECYCLED WHENEVER POSSIBLE.