

NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF LEVERETT www.leverett.ma.us

JUNE 2024

Notes From Around Town

• **Volunteer and paid opportunities in Town! Leverett needs your help. There are paid and volunteer opportunities in the following offices: Animal Control Officer; Animal Inspector; Conservation Commission Agent; Conservation Commission (2); Affordable Housing Trust (1); Capital Planning Committee (4) Finance Committee (1) Zoning Board (1); and Personnel Board; Senior Meal Site Coordinator. Please call 548-9150 for details. Thank You!**

• Need the police? Messages left at the Police Station (548-4994) are for business only. If you need the police in an emergency, call 911. To reach an officer for non-emergency call Shelburne Control at 625-8200 and they will page an officer for you.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

1 October 2024

1 December 2024

Send news items and strawberry rhubarb everything (!) to: Lisa Stratford P.O. Box 300, Leverett, MA 01054. Call 548-9150 for information and guidelines. Email: townclerk@leverett.ma.us

From the Selectboard

Happy Spring, everyone. I hope you're all enjoying the ever-lengthening days. Things have slowed down a bit since Town Meeting, but as always, this is a train that doesn't stop!

After Town Meeting, we bid a fond farewell to Melissa Colbert, thanked her for her service, and welcomed Jed Proujansky. Jed has taken over Melissa's mosquito collection project, which we hope will give us the data to opt out of the state's aerial spraying. Tom is continuing his role as Chairman with Jed's and my support and remains Chair of the Personnel Board. I've joined the Affordable Housing Trust and will continue serving on the Leverett Wendell Police Services Committee. Jed will be the liaison to the School Committee. [Psst: we need someone to replace Jed on the Finance Committee!]

Over the past few months, the Select Board has been tightening up its protocols and procedures while maintaining space for public dialogue. We appreciate these dialogues and learn a lot from the community. At Jed's suggestion, we've decided to have a 15-minute period at the start of each meeting for the public to make announcements, voice concerns, or suggest items for a future agenda. If no one has anything to say, we'll move on to our regular business until it's time for scheduled appointments.

We've also decided to invite various town boards and committees to occasionally meet with us, check in, and give updates. This will help us connect with the folks who work so hard for the town and reduce the silo-ing that can happen in municipal work.

Some committee updates:

- The Town Forest Committee has asked for more time to work on its charge to make recommendations about whether Leverett should accept the gift of a working forest.
- The Recreation Committee is seeing a revival and plans to use the 'community events' tab on our town website calendar. Did you know that existed? I didn't! But check out the calendar and you'll see the tab next to 'municipal calendar.'
- Eva Gibavic and Steve Weiss asked the Select Board to formally sponsor grant applications to get Rattlesnake Gutter Road/trail restored. We agreed, since this approach allows us to secure grants without having to outlay money upfront.

Our Annual Town Meeting was a success, and residents decided to opt for a 4th full-time police officer, a part-timer for the Highway Department, and a new programming librarian.

Just before the deadline for this newsletter, Natalie Blais and her Legislative Aide Corrine Coryat, and Linda Dunlavy from FRCOG, held office hours at our Town Hall. This is a new format Natalie is trying out to have more efficient outreach in her district. The topics for discussion were Infrastructure and Transportation. Linda had worked that day on a prioritization plan for Leverett and the Complete Streets Program. Natalie (and Jo Comerford) have been hard at work getting Boston to pay more attention (and cash) to our rural Western MA communities. This means more funding for our schools, more for our roads, and investment in transportation and the East-West rail. Leverett will be connected to the FRTA transportation (via scheduled on-demand van pick up) with a startup date of July or August. We also discussed internet privacy; an issue brought by resident Natasha Blackwell. I asked Natalie to give some thought to the idea of providing MassHealth to all Massachusetts municipal workers; this could help alleviate budget burdens in our small towns. We had a great discussion! And Natalie brought snacks!

I am still working on the Town Hall gardens. Spring has sprung and so have the weeds!

Have a great summer, everyone!
Pat Duffy, for the Select Board

Temporary/Part-time Election Worker Needed*

The Town Clerk's Office is interested in training someone in all aspects of running an election for the Town of Leverett. This election cycle (September 3 and November 5 state elections) is expected to be very busy. It is anticipated that about 5 hours/week to train beginning in July and perhaps up to 10 hours/week by October may be anticipated. Pay rate is \$18-23/hour depending on experience. Please email townclerk@leverett.ma.us or call 548-9150 if you are interested or would like more information.

*Position could lead to a more permanent role in the Town Clerk's Office.

Want to participate in Leverett's Summer Mosquito collection?

Hi, summer is coming and Leverett will again be collecting mosquitos around town to test for dangerous mosquito borne illnesses. In conjunction with Medzu, Inc. in Amherst, Leverett is collecting and testing our own mosquitoes in hopes that we will have concrete data regarding the mosquitoes in town for our residents' safety and to support exclusion should the state restart their mosquito spraying program. Participation includes coming to a training at town hall in early June, getting a collection kit which gets set out one night a week in your yard and then dropped off at town hall the next morning outside in a cooler. Medzu Staff will pick up the samples and take them back to the lab for testing. Getting addresses from diverse locations around town is preferable and the town tries to have back up locations for when folks go on vacation. Runs for 6 -8 weeks of the summer. Anyone interested can email Margie McGinnis at townadministratort@leverett.ma.us with your name, email address and street address.

Thank you.

Community Preservation Committee

The Community Preservation Committee, or CPC for short, is our Town committee charged with administering monies collected from Town real estate taxes and state contributions. To date, the Town of Leverett has consistently received a 100% match from the state. The Community Preservation Act allows participating municipalities to fund eligible projects dealing with 1) affordable housing; 2) historical preservation; and 3) open space & recreation. The state has regulations that govern whether a proposed project is eligible for CPA funding. Each year the CPC reviews applications and votes on whether to advance to Town Meeting advance those applications which meet these state guidelines.

This year, the CPC advanced the application filed by the Friends of the North Leverett Sawmill to Town Meeting, which voted to approve the FONLS request for \$24,500, to create an operational, fundraising, building assessment and design plan for the creation of a participatory technological and industrial history museum in the Slarrow Mill.

Since Leverett adopted the CPA, the Community Preservation Fund has received approximately **\$3,517,730**, half from Leverett tax payers and half from the state match. This year, as in all previous years except two, Leverett received a 100% match from the state of the funds raised from local taxes.

This year, fewer than 5% of the 189 municipalities that have adopted the CPA received a 100% match. The Town of Leverett has consistently received the highest possible state match, due to its early adoption of the CPA as well as the Town's election to utilize the maximum allowable surtax of 3%. The amount currently available for community projects is approximately \$1,470,000.

Thus far, Leverett Town Meeting has spent or appropriated \$2,072,145. on over 52 projects. The complete list of all 52 projects is contained within the CPC 2024 Annual Plan and Report, available on the town website. The breakdown of how that money has been allocated is as follows:

Historical: 29 projects, \$736,911 appropriated;
35% (approximate) of total CPC appropriations.

Housing: 5 projects, \$487,572 appropriated;
23% of total CPC appropriations

Open space: 9 projects, \$462,130 appropriated;
22% (approximate) of total CPC appropriations.

Recreation: 9 projects, \$385,632 appropriated;
18 % (approximate) of total CPC appropriations.

The Community Preservation Committee welcomes proposals and questions. The Application for Community Preservation funding can be found on the Town's website. The deadline for proposals this year is October 1, 2024. For more information, please visit the CPC page on the town website. For questions you can email our chair, Danielle Barshak, daniellebarshak@verizon.net.

Public Health Town Nurse Celebrates 1 year!

Sarah is the Leverett public health town nurse. Her summer office hours are Tuesday/Thursday 9-2 (first floor town hall). Her roles include communicable disease monitoring, emergency resource allocation (e.g., COVID-tests, diapers, Narcan, tick prevention etc.), referrals, blood pressure monitoring and health and wellness education. In addition to initiating a "simply walk" program, which offers pedometers and opportunities for individual/group walking, she delivers community education in collaboration with the LFD (e.g., Narcan training, seasonal health and wellness tips, tick-talks etc.). Her future plans include community CPR training, babysitting courses, wellness clinics, a

Leverett recipe book and other education sessions that promote Leverett's health and wellness.

You can contact her in person at the Town hall or by email sarah.fiske@greenfield-ma.gov (best ways!) or by phone 413-531-0657 (phone service is spotty!)

Council on Aging Updates

The Council on Aging continues to meet monthly, typically the third Friday of the month at 10am, at the Town Hall. Issues that we are focusing on are transportation, educational/community building forums and tax abatement for seniors. We continue to work with the Board of Health and the Leverett-Shutesbury Town Nurse and the Leverett Library to develop programs and events of interest for our town elders.

The COA sponsored an event with lunch on May 10 at noon in the Town Hall. It was very well intended with 60 participants. Delicious food and lively conversation was enjoyed by all.

We are planning another luncheon for June 28, 2024 at noon at the Town Hall's ground floor senior center space. We will be emailing an RSVP document with responses due by 6/21. RSVPs can also be called in to Judi Fonsh at 413-548-9053. Lunch choices will be turkey, ham, or hummus sandwiches. \$3 to \$5 donations to the COA will be accepted to help defray the cost of the lunch. Lunch will be followed by a presentation by the Village Neighbors including all they have done and are willing to do in Leverett.

We hope to continue with regular luncheons going forward. Future luncheons could include: Historical talks by local historians or knowledgeable residents; Nature and wildlife presentations by local ecologists or naturalists; Art and music events featuring local artists, authors, and musicians; Health and well-being workshops on topics like fall prevention, aging in place, and end-of-life planning; Practical sessions on technology use, estate planning, and tax information; Social activities like cooking classes, travel presentations, and interactive group discussions; and Flexible sessions that allow for a variety of interests and spontaneous topics led by community members.

The COA met with Village Neighbors at our April meeting. It was very informative and we are hoping to continue working with this excellent resource.

The UMASS School of Public Health's Center of Evaluation with Nora Finnerty as the principal is continuing work on the navigator grant. Reports will be available after the grant terminates on June 30, 2024

We are still looking for a Meal Site Manager. Please refer interested people to the town website to apply.

Ongoing COA Offerings:

Take it easy Yoga is currently on Zoom and in person on Wednesdays at 10am at the Town Hall. A \$6.00 donation is suggested for Leverett residents, \$10.00 for those from out of town. Contact Nancy Paglia at: npaglia62@gmail.com

Foot Care by Nurses Clinic: Appointments are now open for the COA foot care clinic, on Tuesday, June 18, and Tuesday July 16th, with the service provided by Foot Care by Nurses. Open to Leverett residents aged 60 or over and to people with disabilities, the service is held at Town Hall. These are 1/2 hour appointments, sponsored by the Leverett Council on Aging, and we ask for a donation of \$35-\$55 to offset the cost to the Town. Foot care by nurses increased their cost to COA in Jan. We continue to have one and 1/2 nurses as a trial to see if we can accommodate all who want appointments while meeting our expenses. Please contact Fay by email or at 367-9573 or the_czarina@fastmail.fm

The Council of Aging can be reached through e-mail: judifonsh@gmail.com or Judy Raphael (JR) at healthnharmony@gmail.com if you would like more information on any of our programs.

Respectfully Submitted, Linda Hoer, COA Board Member

Summer Library Updates

June is here and we are looking forward to one of our favorite times of the year: Summer Reading!

Our summer reading program includes ways for kids, teens, and adults to play with us, challenge themselves, and get together. For a full list of events, visit our website: leverettlibrary.org. Here are a few highlights:

The YoYo Guy Kicks off our Summer Reading Program on Tuesday, June 25th at 4:00 p.m. Come have fun with this world class performer. Fun for all ages and participatory!

Music on the Patio returns every Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. Join us for local music on the patio (or inside if it is raining or buggy). Thanks to the Friends of Leverett Library for supporting this program and to the Library Trustees for hosting it. And thanks,

especially, to the wonderful musicians! From June 25th through August 27th.

Community Read: *Mr. & Mrs. Prince* by Gretchen Gerzina

Deepen your understanding of the Black experience in the Pioneer Valley in the 18th century. Pick up a copy of *Mr. & Mrs. Prince* or check it out on Libby with your library card. Borrow our Historic Deerfield museum pass and check out their current exhibit our Black residents of the Pioneer Valley. They are also hosting a free author talk on Thursday, July 18th at 7 p.m. And our book discussion here at the library will be on Thursday, July 25th at 5:00 p.m.

Do you like a challenge? We have two this summer!

1. Enter to win one of our giveaways by visiting the library and leaving book or movie reviews. June 25th through August 15th.
2. Celebrate Smokey Bear's 80th birthday by visiting Massachusetts State Parks. Borrow the library's free parking pass and visit somewhere new to help us fill in our map. Let's see how many parks our community will visit this year. Until November 28th.

And so much more!

We look forward to seeing you around,
Hannah Paessel, Library Director

Community Events

Leverett Cemetery Association

Have you thought about being buried in a Leverett Cemetery? Leverett cemeteries can accommodate full or traditional, cremation, natural, and green burials. A "Green Burial" has no embalming, no vault and everything that goes into the ground with the body is biodegradable. If you are interested in securing a plot or learning more, contact Sharon Raskevitz at (413) 548 - 9205.

The Leverett Cemetery Association is a non-profit and not supported by town taxes. Membership dues (\$25 per year) plus generous donations are needed to maintain the grounds of Leverett's five cemeteries. Also, we honor our veterans with flags every Memorial Day. Please consider donating or sending dues to: Leverett Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 224, Leverett, MA 01054.

Thanks to all who have contributed this spring; your help is needed and much appreciated.

LEVERETT EDUCATION FOUNDATION AWARDS NEW GRANTS

The board of trustees of the Leverett Education Foundation is delighted to announce the award of a total of \$13,014.00 in the form of ten grants to the Leverett Elementary School for the period April 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. The grants were made to nine different LES teachers and staff and will help fund projects across the full range of grades from pre-school to sixth grade, as well as the LES Afterschool Program.

\$389.00 for cooking supplies and equipment for the Early Childhood and Kindergarten classrooms

\$814.00 for alternative seating options for the Early Childhood and Kindergarten classrooms

\$3,800.00 for flexible seating options for the 1st Grade classroom

\$1,650.00 for a whole-school subscription to the Teachers Pay Teachers online curriculum resources

\$1,524.00 for a field trip to the Boston Museum of science for the 3rd and 4th Grade Classes

\$900.00 for Social emotional picture books and psychoeducational titles for use with Pre-K through 6th Grade students

\$1,086.00 for mental health iPads for use with Pre-K through 6th Grade students

\$2,055.00 for materials, equipment, and supplies for the Greenhouse and Garden Program

\$550.00 for mud kitchens for the Afterschool Program

\$184.00 for walkie talkies for the Afterschool Program

We at LEF made a concerted effort this year during the grant application period to reach out to teachers and staff at the school and were very pleased with the thoughtful and creative grant applications we received.

Thanks to everyone whose generous donations made these grants possible, with special appreciation to the following local businesses and organizations.

Apollo Contracting
Cambodian Temple Society of Western Massachusetts
GoBerry 'N Cream
Grass Roots Landscaping
Jamrog HVAC and Plumbing
Mt. Toby Stables and The Craig Equestrian Center
Richard Drury Memorial Fund
West Branch Capital
Woodsmith Forestry
Wright Builders
The Leverett Education Foundation

POND PADDLES

The Friends of Leverett Pond is pleased to announce the start of our 5th season for this enormously popular program for Leverett residents. Pretty simple, actually. We have assembled a fleet of canoes and kayaks and built a boat rack at the south end of the pond. We give these out to Leverett residents for 1 week each summer. All you need to do is show up on Saturday at the Leverett Library from 10:00-12:00 to claim your key. You get to keep the boat for 1 week, using it whenever it suits your schedule. All for free!

If you've never seen the nooks & crannies of our pond from the water, here's your chance. Just another reason to live here.

EMBODIED HISTORY: Conversations with Workers in Leverett's Charcoal Industry

Video Premiere
1-3 pm
September 14, 2024
Leverett Public Library

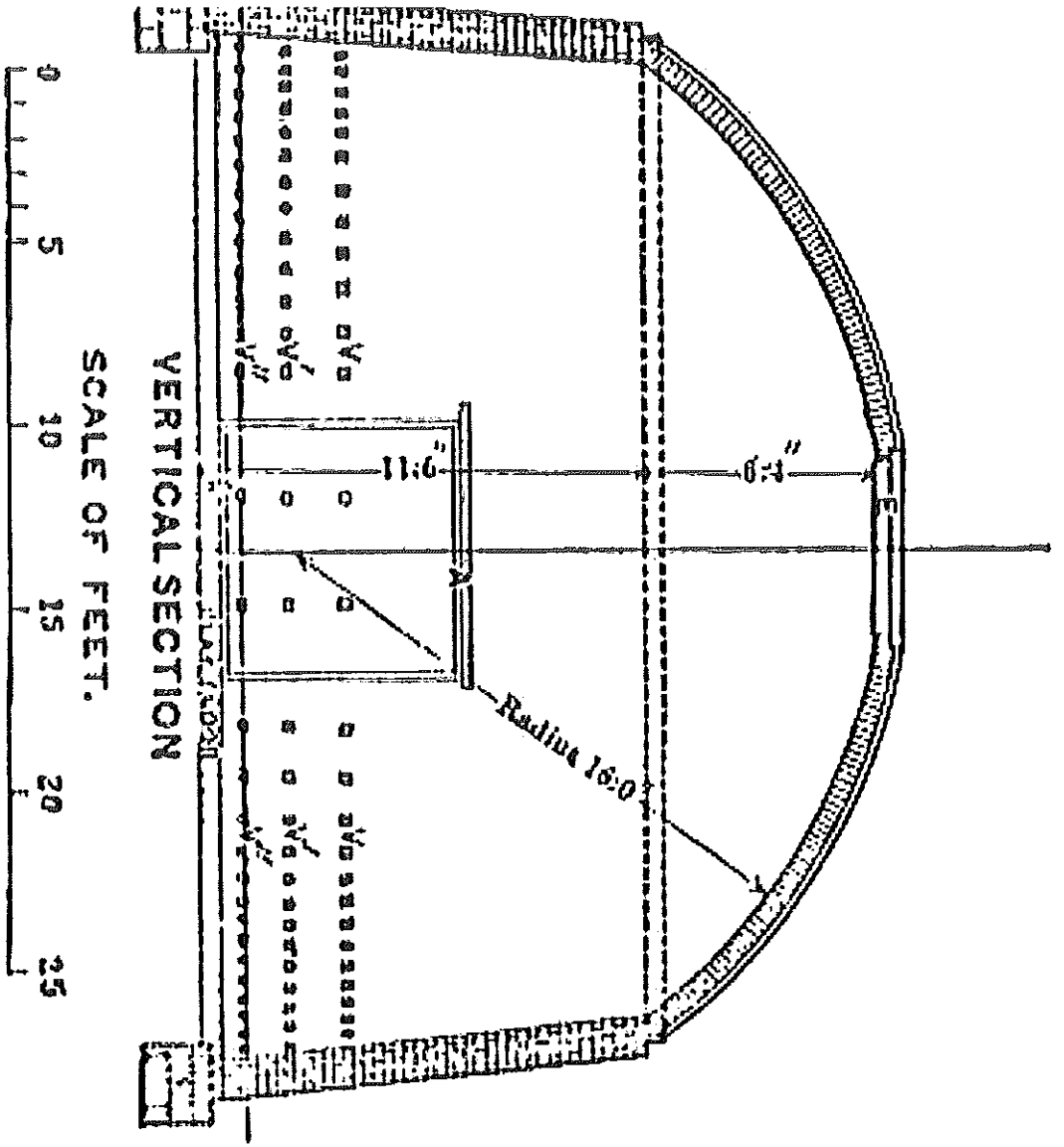


Image: 50-Cord Kiln. Eggleston, Thomas, "The Manufacture of Charcoal in Kilns, May 1879, Transactions of the American Institute of Mining Engineers vol. 8, p. 387

FUNDED BY
LEVERETT
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMISSION

PRESENTED BY
LEVERETT
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

250th Anniversary

The big day is almost here!! July 6 will be the 250th parade and barbecue. Here is some important information about the parade and barbecue:

Parade

The parade will start at 10:30 from the Depot Road/Long Hill intersection and end at Leverett Elementary. Parking for viewing the parade will be along Montague Road starting at the Safety Complex and heading towards Cave Hill on the East side of the road. There will be 2 school bus shuttles to bring people from the designated pickup areas along Montague Road to the main viewing area, which will be town center. The shuttles will start running at 9 AM with the last shuttle at 9:45 AM. There will be signs for shuttle stops and parking.

At 10 AM for the start of the parade, Montague Road will be closed from town center to the Safety Complex and Depot Road from the Amherst/Depot intersection to town center. After the parade, all will re-open, but Montague Road will be one way going North.

This information will be on the Leverett Police Department's Facebook page.

People in the parade will receive information early June via email or regular mail about the plan for the morning. Briefly, vehicles/drivers are to arrive by 8:30 AM and those who are passengers in vehicles or on floats or those who are walking can arrive by 9:30 AM. Parking for parade participants will be along the section of Depot Road that goes to 63 and in a field off Depot.

After the parade, the shuttles will be available until the end of the barbecue, which is 5 PM. They will be bringing people back to cars parked on Montague Road (where parade viewers parked) and Depot Road (where parade participants parked).

Parking behind Town Hall will be reserved for the elderly and disabled.

Plan ahead to join people you know at their homes to view the parade if they live along the parade route.

Barbecue

Barbecue tickets need to be pre-ordered and the deadline is June 8. See the order form in this newsletter or on the 250th website. <https://www.leverett.ma.us/g/96/250th-Celebration>

We are giving priority for the 12:30 seating to those in the parade, past and present Selectboard members and elderly or disabled people. Any remaining seats will be on a first come, first served basis. If you are not in one of these groups, you will be notified as to which barbecue seating to show up for (12:30 or 2:30).

We have decided not to mail tickets and instead they will be at the barbecue for pickup when you get in line to eat.

Bring cash with you to buy beer or ice cream.

Leverett resident Brian Boyles will be the barbecue DJ and Lori Lynn Hoffer will do face painting from 1-2:30 PM. If anyone wants to bring cornhole or other small lawn games, that would make the day even more fun!

Please be aware that we are using all compostable plates, cups, forks, etc. at the barbecue. We aim to have as close to a zero-waste event as possible. There will be a designated compost bin for both tableware and food.

Parking for the barbecue will be along one side of Montague Road. The parking lot at the school will be reserved parking for elderly and disabled. The parking lot at the Safety Complex will be reserved for large parade vehicles.

We are still looking for volunteers to help at the parade and barbecue! Email celebrateleverett250@gmail.com

Keep your eyes out for the **Leverett Story Booth** and the **Story Scroll**, which will be popping up at events. Be sure to stop by to tell a tale or make your mark on these 250th memory gatherers! We can also meet you where you are and give you the opportunity to commemorate our 250th with your memories and share your stories. Contact Kathleen Lafferty (548-9906; roaringmtn@aol.com) for more info.

An additional 250th event will be "***Embodied History: Conversations with Workers in Leverett's Charcoal Industry, a Video Premiere***" on September 14, 2024 from 1-3 PM in the Leverett Library Community Room. This event is presented by the Leverett Historical Commission and made possible through Leverett Community Preservation Act funding.



Ticket Order Form
Leverett 250th Anniversary
Post-Parade Barbecue
July 6, 2024

Hello Leverett residents, family, friends and town employees,

The 250th Anniversary Committee and the Barbecue Committee invite you to join us in celebrating our great town! We will kick off July 6, 2024 with a **PARADE** at 10am and followed by 2 seatings for a **BARBECUE**, put on with the help of Andrew Garlo, the owner of Bub's Bar-B-Q.

Barbecue seatings are at 12:30 and 2:30. Parade participants and viewers, elderly and disabled residents and past and present Selectboard members are encouraged to reserve tickets for the 12:30 seating.

Handicapped parking will be available and there will be accessible accommodations.

The deadline for purchasing tickets is June 8, 2024. Please mail this order form and a check payable to the Town of Leverett to: Leverett 250th Anniversary Committee, P.O. Box 300, Leverett, MA 01054. Questions? Email celebrateleverett250@gmail.com or call Maureen 413-475-4304.

BARBECUE MENU AND PRICING

Meal choices:	Quantity:	Quantity for the entire order (2 sides per person):
Half chicken + 2 sides	\$20 _____	baked potato_____
Quarter chicken +2 sides	\$15 _____	corn_____
Chicken breast and + 2 sides	\$10 _____	baked beans_____
Veggie burger + 2 sides	\$15 _____	coleslaw_____

Water, soda and beer will be available and Flayvors of Cook Farm will be selling ice cream.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address to mail tickets _____

_____ Please check here if you plan to be in the parade, are elderly or disabled or a current or past Select Board member and would like to be seated at 12:30.

The barbecue is co-sponsored by the 250th Anniversary Committee and the Leverett Selectboard
<https://www.leverett.ma.us/g/96/250th-Celebration>