

# NEWSLETTER

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

JUNE 2013

Here are your elected officials for 2013:

**Assessors-** Thomas Mackza (3);

**Board of Health-** Michael Fair and Charles Dauchy (3);

**Constable-** James Lyons (3);

**Finance Committee-** Steve Nagy (3);

**Library Trustees-** Elaine Barkin and Georgie Schmidt (3);

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

**Planning Board-** Ken Kahn (5);

**School Committee-** \*Cheryl Bonica, \*Fenna Lee  
Bonsignore (1);

**Select Board-** Peter d'Errico (3);

**Town Clerk-** Lisa Stratford (3);

**Tree Warden-** W ill Stratford (1).

\* Sheila Hunter, who was elected at Town Meeting, chose not to take the position on the School Committee. At a joint meeting of the Select Board and School Committee Fenna and Cheryl were appointed to one-year terms.



## Notes From Around Town

• **Leverett resident Elaine Barkin, 100 on June 15!!** A former New Yorker, she has made her home in Leverett for 40 years. She just attended her 80<sup>th</sup> reunion at Smith College where she graduated and then went on to further her education earning an MSW. She was a licensed Social Worker who practiced in NY and MA. She was recently honored by the Women's Fund of Western MA for the Standing on Her Shoulder award for women over 70 who have made a significant difference in the lives of women.

• Thank you Terry Allen and mystery helpers for maintaining and sprucing the gardens at Town Hall. It looks beautiful.

• Thanks to all the gardeners who braved the cold and rain on Sat. May 25<sup>th</sup> to support the Leverett Historical Society annual plant and book sale. In spite of the less than ideal conditions we had a great time and raised \$600!

• The **Council on Aging** welcomes additional members. Call Jim Perkins at 367- 9520.

• The Harvest Festival will be held on October 19... stay tuned for details.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

**1 October 2013**

**1 December 2013**

Send news items and a stainless steel, commercial-grade, Board of Health approved kitchen to: Lisa Stratford P.O.Box 300, Leverett, MA 01054. Call 548-9150 for information and guidelines. Email: [townclerk@leverett.ma.us](mailto:townclerk@leverett.ma.us)

## FROM THE SELECT BOARD

Finances are always a concern for a municipality of any size. Small towns such as Leverett face different financial challenges than large towns and cities which can attract business and industry to shore up the tax base but have to fund larger departments. In Leverett the tax base is primarily residential with some income from personal property tax levied on the business equipment of the few businesses that we have in town. Since the latest recession, net revenues from the state have declined while state and federal mandates have not; thus the town is forced to cover more costs with property tax revenue. We have also been spending out of the free cash (money from cumulative budget surpluses) and stabilization funds (a reserve for capital expenditures such as trucks for the highway department, fire department and so on) instead of building them up. In 2003 free cash had a balance of \$659,008; after adjustments from expenditures approved at this year's Annual Town Meeting the balance in free cash is \$119,581. There is a similar story with stabilization. In 2005 the balance here was \$848,928; the current balance is \$331,400. It is not unusual for reserves to be spent down during hard times, but eventually these reserves need to be built up again. Although the economy is theoretically improving, we are not currently in a position to do this; in fact I just read in the newspaper that the state is cutting the reimbursements to the town for charter school funding for the coming year which is going to have a negative impact on both the elementary and regional school budgets.

On top of all this is the looming thundercloud of OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits) funding now being required by the state. These are funds basically for retiree health insurance which we now pay out "as we go"; this year that amount was roughly \$28,000. The state now wants municipalities to set aside a certain amount every year based on a formula that they have devised which tries to predict future obligations. According to their formula we should be putting \$376,655 (roughly the cost of our police and fire departments combined) into our OPEB Trust Fund to "catch up" plus \$122,109 for this year; we have \$30,145 in the OPEB trust fund at this point. Ultimately the state will decrease the bond rating of communities that haven't fully funded their OPEB Trust Funds which will cause an increase in borrowing costs. We can argue about the reasonableness of their requirement and calculations but at this point this is a

reality that has to be confronted. We will attempt in next year's budget to put some more money in to the OPEB trust; clearly budgets would have to be cut substantially and/or taxes will have to be raised substantially to fully fund retiree health insurance.

Some residents in town are fine with raising taxes to support our schools, highway department, police department, fire department, library and town offices; for other residents these increases are a real financial burden; some residents, although they have the means to pay the increase every year, want to be sure that every effort is being made to rein in costs. The select board for the past few years has requested level-funded budgets from all town departments to avoid a Proposition 2 1/2 override vote which, would, if passed, would create a permanent increase in property taxes; so far this has been successful but it becomes increasingly difficult for departments as their costs rise. The school, especially, has some unpredictable costs related to state and federal mandates that can have a drastic influence on their budget; the school budget is also the most complex and thus more difficult to analyze. The select board has attempted to defray mandated costs by appealing to the Division of Local Mandates in the Office of the state Auditor to rule on new, unfunded mandates; we have had some success here and are willing to challenge even the smallest amount (the latest being the \$750 cost for software to calculate OPEB costs). Although these appeals help, the major mandated costs are not covered by the Local Mandate Law that was enacted with Proposition 2 1/2 in 1980 so we really cannot look for any relief here.

How can residents help? You can write, email, or call our legislators requesting adequate funding for mandated costs and a more realistic formula for OPEB. The financial picture for the town isn't great, but it is worse in other communities which have had to cut their funding for schools, highway, police and fire departments; we haven't had to do this although the argument can be made that level funding is in some ways a cut given inflation. If you have concerns about property taxes, now is the time to get involved. The carefree days of the financial boom have been gone for awhile and it is unclear when they might be coming back. With care and realistic expectations Leverett should be able to weather this storm and eventually the economic pendulum will start swinging in the other direction.

*Julie Shively, for the Select Board*

## **Leverett Scholarship Committee**

The Leverett Scholarship Committee last met in April, 2010, to review the applications received from the town's graduating seniors. After considering our criteria of connections to and residence in Leverett, financial need, academic performance, and community service, we were happy to select two recipients who shared the available

scholarship with \$600 awarded to each. Melissa Rennie is attending Eastern University in Pennsylvania and is studying to become a nurse. Gordon Kaufman, who had attended both ARHS and Greenfield Community College's Early Transitional Program, entered the UMASS in Amherst this past January and is looking to Hospitality Management as his major. Both recipients have shown themselves to be hard workers and deserving of Leverett's support.

Melissa and Gordon are our tenth and eleventh recipients of the scholarship. The committee met in May to consider a new group of applicants. Contributions by Leverett citizens have made these awards possible. The simplest way to contribute is using the check-off box on your real estate tax bill. If you use the auto-debit option, then it's easy as sending a note to Dee Ann Civello to debit your account for the amount desired, or you can send a check made payable to the Town of Leverett, indicating it is for the Scholarship Fund c/o Treasurer's Office, PO Box 300, Leverett 01054

Thanks to all who have contributed to this fund. I am sure the scholarship money is appreciated, and it serves as a vote of confidence for our graduates as they set off in their new direction. The committee always wishes we had more to give when the cost of education is so high.

I would like to remind all families of Leverett that we entertain applications from any students pursuing post-secondary education. The Committee will consider students attending community college, trade school, or traditional four-year college. Criteria to be considered when making awards: financial need; length of residence; service to the community; academic history; and career goals.

With thanks and appreciation,

*Leverett Scholarship & Education Committee*

*Stuart Warner, Chairperson [swarner@wnec.edu](mailto:swarner@wnec.edu),*

*Elaine Barker*

*Judy Weinthaler*

*Joan Godsey*

*Lisa Sullivan-Werner*

## **Free Stuff!**

The following equipment is available free to anyone who'd like to take it. Items will be available to look at and take (during open hours) at the Leverett Library until June 15.

- Micron electronics monitor
- HP LaserJet 4200n printer
- Epson LQ 570 printer
- E series Gates CPU
- Dell CPU with Windows Vista and Intel core 2
- Dell CPU with Windows Vista and Intel core 2
- Library donated laptop
- Library donated laptop
- Dell dimension 3000 CPU
- Dell monitor
- Gateway monitor
- Computer Scanner
- Uniden phone 5.8 GHz

**LEVERETT FIRE STUDY COMMITTEE  
WANTS YOU TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR  
FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DIAL 911 FROM  
LEVERETT?**

...a trained State Police Officer sitting in the red brick barracks on Route 2 in Shelburne will pick up the phone and quickly assess the nature of the emergency. These people are trained for this; your job is to answer their questions clearly.

IF IT IS A FIRE, the Dispatcher will flip a switch that triggers a beeper worn by a Leverett Firefighter.

This alert will be issued three times over a few minutes until a Leverett Firefighter responds that he or she is en route to the fire station. The responding firefighters keep reporting back to Dispatch about the status of the local response. If no Leverett Firefighters are on hand (often the case during the daytime hours when our Call Firefighters are at work), the dispatcher will follow a specific protocol to trigger an appropriate Mutual Aid call. Depending on the emergency (structure fire, brush fire, chimney fire, car fire) this Mutual Aid signal will alert firefighters in neighboring towns (often where there are paid full-time Firefighters) in a specific sequence chosen by Leverett Chief John Moruzzi to assure the most rapid response.

IF IT IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY, the Dispatcher will page Leverett's Firefighters who are trained First Responders, order the ambulance, and bump the call to a second dispatcher who, again following a specific algorithm, will learn more about the symptoms, talk the caller through some first aid, and maintain an ongoing assessment. The Town recently renewed a contract with Amherst to continue the excellent ambulance coverage for Leverett. These days, about half of all calls to 911 from Leverett are medical emergencies, not fires -- another reason why local First Responders are so important for ill or injured residents in Town.

**IMPORTANT:** In Leverett, a 911 call from a cell phone will not go directly to Shelburne Falls and will delay response time – IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, USE A LAND LINE. Also, if you see an accident or a fire and must use a cell phone, pull over lest you drive out of range. (The Editors acknowledge the overall improbability of cell coverage in most of the town.)

THE LEVERETT FIRE STUDY COMMITTEE: has been meeting since January, 2013, to review current and future personnel needs of the Fire Department and to explore options for continued and improved service to the Town at a time when many senior officers on the volunteer force will be retiring soon. As loss of senior and experienced firefighters is a concern throughout the Valley, the Committee has been exploring enhanced cooperative agreements with neighboring towns and considering an expanded Leverett force with some full-

time coverage to assure consistent service and response times, particularly during the day.

Please see the Town website for postings of meetings at the Town Safety Complex. If you have questions for the Committee, please contact Judy Weinthal, chair (548-9869), Peter Reich (secretary), Dean Alfange, Barbara Tiner, (Community Members); Stewart Olsen, Deputy Chief, Steve Fleiner, (long serving Leverett firefighters).

**Broadband Committee Report**

Our project hit a bit of an unexpected bump in the road a few months ago. In January, we had sent out an Invitation For Bid (IFB) for the purposes of selecting a firm to build our network. After a protest was lodged by an unsuccessful bidder, the MA Attorney General took exception to some of the language in our bid package. We have altered the language in the IFB, and have again released the IFB. Responses are due on June 6<sup>th</sup>, and we expect to select the winning bidder shortly after that.

As with any construction project, we are required to have a “clerk of the works,” otherwise known as the “owner’s project manager.” For our network build, we have selected Tim Haas, Senior Network Engineer in the Telecom Division of Holyoke Gas & Electric as our project manager.

Mr. Haas, a lifelong resident of western Massachusetts, brings 23 years of telecommunications and networking experience to the Leverett project. His experience includes analysis, design, engineering, budgeting, implementation, debugging, maintenance and monitoring of networks, systems and applications using optical fiber, optical switching, Ethernet, wireless, IP and TDM technologies. Tim’s experience has already proved quite valuable as we reworked the above-noted IFB.

Prior to the actual construction starting, we need to work with both Verizon and Western MA Electric to ensure the utility poles will be ready for our network. The committee, largely through the extremely hard work of Richard Nathhorst, has been compiling a list of all poles in town as we prepare our applications with Verizon and WMECO for the “make ready” work that we expect will take place later this year. The make ready work is expected to be the longest single phase of the project.

We created a “right of entry” form that residents will need to fill out and return before the network is built to your home. These forms were sent out with the tax bills last fall. Signing this form permits the town to run fiber cable from the road to your home. Signing this form does not compel you to sign up for any service offered by our network; it simply allows the town to connect the network to your home. Declining to sign the form will not save you any money. As voted by the town last year, this network will be paid by an increase in our property taxes, and that cost will be shared by all of the town residents.

We have received a bit more than 500 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, 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%20of%20entry%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 about 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 are public meetings open to everyone, and the committee invites town residents to attend.

*Rob Brooks, for the Broadband Committee*



## LEVERETT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

At the last LHC meeting Susan Mareneck was voted new Chairperson by members Silas Ball, Carole DeSanti, Betsy Douglas, John Foster, Lynn Hall, Nan Niederlander, and Randy TeVelde. (Sue Nagy not present.) Susan has lived here for over 40 years and has shown an interest in Leverett history, particularly North Leverett where she lives in the Daniel Graves house.

On May 30, a meeting was held at the Leverett Library to review the new historic districts for North Leverett, Moore's Corner and East Leverett. Unfortunately, some residents in North Leverett did not receive letters informing them of the meeting and consequently that part of the historic district presentation will be postponed to a meeting in the fall.

Phil Bergen from the Massachusetts Historical Commission discussed the differences between the proposed National Register of Historic Districts that recognize only areas of historic interest such as Moore's Corner and East Leverett. These NRHD designations put no restrictions on private property owners.

Elizabeth Rairigh from the consultant Pioneer Valley Planning Commission then gave a power-point presentation highlighting the importance of these two late eighteenth and nineteenth century villages. The mills in the areas harnessed the falling water of the Sawmill River at Moore's Corner and the Roaring Brook in East Leverett. She showed slides of a variety of homes that demonstrated architecture in the Federal, Greek Revival,

and Queen Anne styles and emphasized the reasons MHC thinks these areas are worthy of recognition.

Moore's Corner and East Leverett will be reviewed by MHC in September and, following approval, will be sent to the National Park Service for final approval and listing in the National Register.

**HELP WANTED!!** The Leverett Historical Commission, with the assistance of current and former residents, students and teachers at the Leverett Elementary School and the Leverett Historical Society, is beginning to plan commemorations of the Civil War (now 150 years ago), and how Leverett was affected by it. The Commission hopes to work across the community to create a resource on our town's contribution to this conflict that changed the character of our nation. We are looking for any artifact or clue that will give a "Leverett face" to the Civil War, be it a gravestone, a product made in Leverett during that period, a building, mill site, piece of clothing, as well as documents and/or stories.

**Do you have any family records, letters, diaries, photographs or family tales that you would be willing to share with the Leverett community?** If so, please join us at the Historical Commission meeting on June 20, 2013, 7:00 pm at Town Hall or contact Susan Mareneck at 367-2403 or [susan.mareneck@gmail.com](mailto:susan.mareneck@gmail.com) with questions.

*Submitted by Betsy Douglas*

## BOARD OF HEALTH SEPTIC SYSTEM REGULATIONS –UPDATE PROPOSED – PUBLIC HEARING – JUNE 24, 2013

In 2006, the Board of Health approved and implemented substantial changes to the Town's 33 year old regulations governing on-site-sewage disposal (septic systems). Those changes allowed use of new, state-approved designs and technologies, including use of properly designed systems in fill, and simplified the approval process for most septic system repairs. The changes also added several design requirements beyond the state minimums intended to better protect Leverett's water resources and public health without depriving individuals of appropriate use of their properties.

As promised in 2006, the Board has considered the experience with the 2006 regulations and is now proposing several changes. One type of change is to clarify wording, simplify procedures, or eliminate provisions that are now covered in changes to the State regulations. Other changes come from suggestions by local septic system designers and installers, and from our Health Agent, to simplify installation or maintenance. The last type of change involves new requirements intended to assure long-term operation of the leaching system. None of the proposed changes is expected to change the potential approvability of any property, or to significantly increase the cost of a new or repaired septic system.

The full text of the 2006 regulations (Chapter 218 of the Leverett Code), showing the proposed changes, will be posted on the Board of Health section of the Town's website, <http://www.leverett.ma.us/content/board-health>.

A Public Hearing to present the proposed revisions and receive comments will be held on June 24, 2013, at 7:30 PM on the second floor of Town Hall, Montague Road, Leverett, MA. The hearing will also be advertised in the Greenfield Recorder and Daily Hampshire Gazette. Comments from the public, in writing or at the hearing, will be considered by the Board.

*Charles Dauchy, Board of Health*

## Library News

Leverett Library, 75 Montague Rd. 548-9220  
[www.leverettlibrary.org](http://www.leverettlibrary.org)

### Library Hours

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

\*Thursday 3-8 \*Saturday 10-3

The Library is closed on Sundays from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Special Closings: Thurs. July 4; and Labor Day weekend, Aug. 31 & Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Upcoming Events:

*June 12, 1:30 -2:30pm.* Summer Reading kick-off party. Come for music and snacks and to get your summer read-a-thon packet. Students will collect pledges from friends and family for books they read over the summer to raise money for the school library. The End of Summer Reading party will be held on Tues. Aug. 27th at the Leverett Public Library. Questions? Contact Susan Wells LES, Librarian ([wells@leverettschool.org](mailto:wells@leverettschool.org)), or Ashley Blais, Leverett Librarian (413-548-9220), [leverettlibrary.org](http://leverettlibrary.org).

*June 13, 7pm.* Learn the basics of Permaculture Gardening with Llani Davidson, cofounder of Broadfork Permaculture in Montague. Davidson is a certified permaculture teacher and designer with over 10 years of gardening experience.

*Thursday evenings, July 11-August 15, 7 to 8 p.m.* Join us for **Music on the Patio**. Enjoy local musicians outdoors on the beautiful library patio (indoors if raining). Bring a lawn chair if you have one. July 11: Quebecois music with Le Coin Volant; July 18 Blues music with Dennis Shapson; July 25 TBA; Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> Jazz with Masala; Aug 8 folksongs with Michael Orlen; Aug 15 folk music with Austin & Elliott.

*July 30, 6:30-7:30pm.* Julie Anne Collier of Wingmasters will visit with 5 different Birds of Prey. Come learn about owls and raptors, and see these beautiful birds right up close.

Look for information on an Adult Summer Reading program, details coming soon.

Summer is a wonderful time to borrow our [museum and state parks passes](#). Also, free “[Weed and Read](#)” [Fitness Program](#): The perennial garden encircling the patio behind the library always needs weeding. Spend 10 minutes and feel good! Ask to use our bucket, digger, and trowel.

Art Exhibits: Don't miss Bill Rathbun's beautiful paintings of local scenes on display through June. July & Aug. come view an exhibit from the youth Multi Arts program in Amherst.

[Thank you](#) to The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for all their hard work on the June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> library celebrations. And thank you to all the A-B-C auction donors and bidders; the funds raised will help the Friends group help the library.

*Ashley Blais, Library Director*

## LIBRARY ANNIVERSARY THANKS

Many months ago the Friends of Leverett Library and the Board of Trustees decided to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our “new” building with some memorable events. We did that on June 1 and 2, and the efforts that went into the celebrations are now past, leaving only great memories and the daunting task of thanking all who worked so hard to plan and oversee the festivities.

The library building was the culmination of the support of the town and the toil of many. The same is true of the anniversary. Special thanks to my organizing committee team: Georgie Schmid (co-chair), Jenny Martinez Nocito, Joan Godsey and Fenna Lee Bonsignore. Many more were involved in the children's games on Saturday afternoon—in the heat and sun. Thanks to you all. The auction committee, ably led by Lorna Rivers, included Judy Hobart, Joanne Mully, Fenna Lee Bonsignore and auction specialist and auctioneer extraordinaire Sandy Corcoran. Their efforts were enormous as was the success of the night. Almost all of the auction items were provided by Leverett residents, including some of our most special artists. You know we are grateful. Special thanks to Rich Brazeau and Steve Kulik for their kind words on Sunday and a loud shout-out to the wonderful Leverett Community Chorus and their fearless leader Anne Louise White. The chorus came out of their summer hiatus just to take part in the day's fun.

While most of these folks were “behind the scenes,” there are a few who were truly unseen in the preparation for the events. Thanks very much to Frank Martinez Nocito and David Henion for the beautiful and tasty cakes, to John Field for his generosity in providing the tent, to the family of Jeff and Jennifer Field for their help in setting up the tent in the scorching heat. And last, but certainly not least, a most sincere thanks to Jeff Glazier, library custodian. Jeff spent many hours leading up to the anniversary weekend making sure that the building looked its best. His painting, polishing, cleaning, and great care are obvious to anyone who takes a good look at the building—we are so fortunate to have him.

*D'Ann Kilty, Friends of the Library*

## Update from the RSDPB

The Regional School District Planning Board (RSDPB) continues work on a draft PK-6 regional agreement to be presented at Town Meetings in Leverett, Pelham and Amherst in fall 2013. Sections of the draft agreement are being developed by a set of sub-committees and will be consolidated into an initial draft for legal review. The full RSDPB board will meet to review and finalize the draft on Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be open to the public with the date, time and location posted in each town. Following the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting we will be planning town forums over the summer and into the fall, gathering feedback for refinements to the draft and ensuring that questions are answered.

*Ann Delano, Kip Fonsh and Julie Shively for the Leverett RSDPB*

### Thank you!!!

*Edie Field, Joanne Mully, Judy Ricker, and sometimes others...*

for helping to fold and staple the Newsletter! Sorry for the paper cuts and blistered fingers.

## COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) can provide funding for open space preservation, affordable housing, historic preservation, or recreation. If you would like more information on Community Preservation in Massachusetts, the Community Preservation Coalition has a web site at <http://www.communitypreservation.org>. with information about the Community Preservation Act (CPA) and the many projects that towns across the state have completed with these funds. The Leverett [Community Preservation Report and Plan for 2013](#) has information about the history and current status of Community Preservation locally. You can read it in the CPC notebook at Town Hall or on the Town website at <http://leverett.ma.us/content/community-preservation-committee>.

At the April 27, 2013, Town Meeting, voters appropriated funding for two new projects from Community Preservation Act funds. Watch for these projects to unfold:

1.) \$17,000.00 for Leverett Elementary School to improve the Preschool Playground by acquiring a climbing structure to replace the wooden structure that was dismantled due to age, replacing the decaying split rail fence that encloses the playground, and purchasing a now-required cover for the sandbox.

2.) \$2,500.00 to the Leverett Conservation Commission for the Leverett Trails Committee, for materials for two bridges to be built by local volunteers, members of the

Leverett Trails Committee, and the Town Highway Department in the Bill Rivers Conservation Area behind the school and library.

At the recommendation of the CPC, Town Meeting also rescinded a previous article which appropriated \$5,500.00 from Community Preservation funds to acquire a 9.37 acre parcel of land. Years ago, Rattlesnake Gutter Trust agreed on a price for this parcel, but before the purchase could take place, the seller died. The original proponents of this purchase no longer wanted to pursue this small isolated parcel. The money will return to the fund from which it was appropriated, and be freed up for future projects.

The CPC has funds available and is seeking proposals for the next funding cycle. Application forms are available at Town Hall or on the Town Hall website above. The new application deadline is November 25 which will allow proposals to be described in the December Newsletter. The next CPC meeting will be at 7:30 Wednesday, October 2, at Town Hall. Danielle Barshak is the new CPC Chairperson. If you have questions about submitting a proposal you can email her at [daniellebarshak@verizon.net](mailto:daniellebarshak@verizon.net) or call her at 413-548-8139. *Laurel S. Kahn for the Community Preservation Committee*

## The Leverett Energy Committee

We thank all of you who returned our questionnaire; your responses will be incorporated into future plans. We are considering ways to create a solar coop in town or a "Solarize Leverett" project similar to the one Montague recently completed. Finally, a summertime reminder: Please continue to connect your private activities with global issues by finding ways to mow your lawn less often and less of it and give line-drying your laundry a try. These gestures bring benefits to all of us. Committee meetings will resume in the fall.

## Union #28 Community Network for Children



201 Wendell Road, New Salem  
(978) 544-5157

Coordinator, Gillian Budine,  
budine@erving.com

The *Community Network for Children (CNC)* program is funded through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant. The CNC supports all families with children from birth through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in our school union. Some programs for families include: weekly playgroups and story hours; parent/guardian workshops and events; opportunities to meet other families in our community; support in accessing child care and information regarding assistance paying for child care; information about children's development; new baby gift bags and home visits; and newsletters with current programs and events. Our local CNC council assists in the oversight of the grant funds. If you are interested in being on our mailing list to receive the newsletters, please call or email Gillian Budine, Coordinator, (978) 544-5157 or Budine@erving.com. You can also access information at our website: <http://sites.google.com/site/communitynetworkforchildren/> or find us on Facebook at "Community Network for Children."

Playgroups and story hours happen weekly and are intended for children 0-5 years of age. Come and enjoy time with your child(ren) and other families and caregivers from your community! See below for more information about all of the playgroups and story hours in our school union:

### SHUTESBURY STORY HOUR

Location: MN Spear Memorial Library, 10 Cooleyville Road, Shutesbury  
Day and Time: Mondays, 10:00-11:00am  
Last day: June 24<sup>th</sup>. CNC sponsored story hour begins again on September 9<sup>th</sup>.  
Summer session sponsored by Friends of the MN Spear Memorial Library: July 1 – August 26.

### WENDELL PLAYGROUP

Location: Wendell Free Library, 7 Wendell Depot Road, Wendell  
Day and Time: Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30am  
Last day: June 26  
Summer session: July 10<sup>th</sup> – August 21. Begins again on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

### LEVERETT STORY HOUR

Location: Leverett Public Library, 75 Montague Road, Leverett  
Day and Time: Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30am  
Last day: June 26.  
Summer session: July 10<sup>th</sup> – August 21. Begins again on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

## SUMMER PLAYGROUP AT NORTHFIELD MOUNTAIN RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Location: 99 Millers Falls Road, Northfield  
Day and Time: Fridays, July 12 – August 23, 10am-12pm.

FREE. Meet up with friends and enjoy some outdoor time this summer! We will take strolls on the trails, work on art projects, play with water and other sensory materials and notice nature with the help of the playgroup facilitator and other special guests. Best for children 0-8 years old. Open to the public. No registration necessary.

*Please be in touch to register for these programs, if you need more information or to be put on our mailing list!*

## Rattlesnake Gutter Trust 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party, Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>

Please join us to celebrate!

Why? The Rattlesnake Gutter Trust is 25 years old!

What? Short (5 minute) Annual Meeting

Festivities and Food

Walks around the East Leverett Meadow (and beyond)

When? Sunday, June 9, 2-4 PM

Where? Backyard of 42 Cushman Road

And if it's raining? Annual meeting, food, and festivities will be held inside.

Everybody Welcome!

## THANK YOU FROM THE LEVERETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY

To honor the memory of Michele Leaf, a former Leverett parent and beloved community member, the Leaf Fund was established in 2008. Each year Michelle's book group generously gives a donation of \$100.00 to the Leverett School Library. Michele loved living in the beautiful environs of Leverett and was fond of outdoor activities. The book group has requested that the donation be used to purchase books related to the outdoors and outdoor activities. Bookplates will be placed in the chosen books. We wish to thank the book group members: Judi, Linda, Jeannie, Rhea, Beth, and Pat, for contributing to our school library as a way of remembering Michelle. For this year's donation, the following titles from "Life Cycles" series have been purchased in her honor:

Acorn to Oak

Egg to Penguin

Puppy to Dog

Fry to Sea Horse

Egg to Bee

Snakelet to Snake



**LEVERETT RESIDENT**

**LEVERETT, MA 01054**

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

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**APPLICATION FOR A 2013 DOG LICENSE**

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ or New \_\_\_\_\_ license

Name of owner \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of dog \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_

Male (\$10.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Neutered Male (\$5.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Female (\$10.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Spayed female (\$5.00) \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed the following:

- A check payable to Town of Leverett
- Proof of rabies immunization
- Proof of spaying (if newly licensed)
- A **business-size self-addressed stamped envelope**

Send to: Town Clerk, Box 300, Leverett 01054. Documents will be returned with license.

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