

NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF LEVERETT

www.leverett.ma.us

October 2014

Notes From Around Town

- Hope you had a memorable summer. If you have not signed up for phone and/or internet and are interested the sign-up form is in this *Newsletter*.
- The deadline to register to vote in the Nov. 4 Election is Oct. 15 from 2-4:00 pm and 7-8:00 pm at the Town Hall. You may also register any time before that date.
- **TAX BILLS HAVE NOT BEEN MAILED.**
VOLUNTARY PAYMENTS GLADLY ACCEPTED!
Mail check or pay online at leverett.ma.us. It's convenient, fast, secure, & free!

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINES:

1 December 2014 1 February 2015

Send news items and Black and Green chocolate with love notes 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

On the sunny morning of Sept. 4th a small group gathered to witness the start-up of solar power for the Public Safety Complex. It is great to now be providing renewable energy for a town building. Margie McGinnis, our town administrator, deserves a lot of credit for making this happen – she wrote the grant, did the follow-up, persevered in finding The Solar Store of Greenfield to install the solar panels and dealt with the myriad of details involved in making this happen.

The Select Board met with Margot Lacey, the new principal at LES, and had a productive conversation. We welcome Margot whole-heartedly and look forward to working with her.

We have been working with the fire department over the past several months to figure out what to do when several firefighters turn 65, which is the age that Mass General Law has determined that firefighters and police officers should retire. After some research it was determined that some towns have policies allowing firefighters that are not in the retirement system to continue to serve after 65 and that firefighters who are in the retirement system can continue to serve with a town meeting vote and special state legislation. The Board received a request from members of the department to adopt the “Over 65” policy enacted by Rockport (MA) a few years ago. The research was done and a similar policy put forth by the Board. The policy included a sign off that firefighters over 65 would not actively fight fires, would

take a physical, and sign a modified version of Rockport’s “hold harmless” agreement. Both Deputy Chief Stewart Olson and Fire Chief John Moruzzi submitted their resignations, to be effective when they are 65. At a subsequent meeting and upon Personnel Board recommendation, the “Over 65” policy was changed to allow them to stay as a firefighter if they pass the standard physical on an annual basis without signing any hold harmless agreement. Chief Moruzzi and Deputy Chief Olson have both written that they are willing to rescind their resignations.

I’m glad to report that the transfer station is fully staffed again and is again open on Wednesday evenings; we welcome the new employees and are grateful for their commitment to this job. There have been some complaints about a lack of civility on the part of some users of the transfer station. Please, everyone, be considerate of your neighbors! Also, the “Take It or Leave It” shed continues to be problematic. PLEASE do not leave anything that you wouldn’t take if you needed it – used toilet brushes, broken goods, filthy goods, and goods with missing parts rendering them useless are not things that people need. The taking should equal the leaving so that the volunteers who try to keep the shed in order aren’t overwhelmed. Thanks. It would be too bad to have to discontinue this option at the Transfer Station.

The RAWG (Regional Agreement Working Group) is finalizing its recommendations to the ALPS Regional School Committee concerning an amended regional agreement that would include the option of joining the region at a PreK-6 level as well as being in at the 7-12 level. It has been a complicated process which has seen a few delays for a number of reasons. Last spring there was a concern that Shutesbury might not vote for the assessment method that has been used by the region for many years, wherein each town is assessed the same amount for each student, based on a 5 year rolling average. If Shutesbury hadn’t passed the article on this assessment method at their spring town meeting the assessment would automatically revert to the “statutory” method which would have drastically increased the contribution required by Leverett; we would not have been able to pass the budget. Fortunately the Shutesbury Town Meeting passed the 5 year rolling average method unanimously, based on the formation of a committee to study various options for assessment. This committee is wrapping up its work. The assessment method is a key part of any regional agreement. There will be a lot more about this and other aspects of an

expanded region in the coming months. Hours of work have been put in to try and come up with recommendations that retain the positive features of local schools and ensure a viable long-term solution to the issue of sustainability.

Finally, don't believe everything that you read in the paper! If you have questions or concerns about anything you do read please come to a meeting or let us know. Thanks.

Julie Shively, for the Select Board

Franklin County Solid Waste District

NEW KITCHEN COMPOST PAILS AVAILABLE!

The Franklin County Solid Waste District recently purchased "Sure-Close" kitchen compost pails. These 1.9-gallon pails are meant to collect food waste in the kitchen, and the materials then emptied into backyard or municipal compost bins. The lid latches securely and can be made to stay open for ease of use. The vented lid has pinholes that act as a filter (but with no expensive or hard-to-find filter); moisture can pass through the lid, which reduces odors. For more features, plus pictures of Sure-Close, visit: www.sure-close.com.

The kitchen pails are for sale to District residents for \$5 at 50 Miles St., Greenfield; call 772-2438 for hours or more info. Earth Machine outdoor compost bins are also for sale for \$45 at the District office and at Colrain, Orange, and Wendell transfer stations.

Municipal compost programs are available free to permit holders at the transfer stations in Leverett, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, and Whately.

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

WE NEED YOU!

There are vacancies on the Franklin Regional Planning Board (FRPB) and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee (CEDS). The FRPB is the policy group that oversees the activities of the Franklin Regional Council of Gov. Planning Dept. The FRPB meets monthly (except July and Aug). This year discussions will include transportation funding, FERC relicensing of the Northfield Mt. pumped storage facility, the proposed Kinder Moragn/TGP pipeline, renewable energy facilities and more.

The CEDS directs the vision of economic planning efforts in the region and will have access to a variety of speakers presenting information about projects, programs, and issues impacting the region's economy. The CEDS Com. meets quarterly. For more information please call Lisa at 548-9150. Thank you.

FALL "CLEAN SWEEP" BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

The District is holding its fall "Clean Sweep" bulky waste collection on **Saturday, October 18**, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Buckland Recreation Facility on Rt. 112 South, the Northfield Highway Garage, and the Whately Transfer Station.

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

NEW! Clean, dry textiles and books will be accepted for free recycling or reuse. Textiles must be CLEAN & DRY and contained inside a sturdy plastic bag. DO include clothing, accessories, linens that are torn, stained, with missing buttons or broken zippers, as damaged textiles can be recycled into insulation. Books can be of any condition except moldy or wet, and can be hardcover or paperback.

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

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

Community Preservation Commission

The CPC has funds available and is seeking proposals for the next funding cycle. If you have a proposal for opens space preservation, historic preservation, community housing or recreation, please consider applying. Application forms are available from the Town Hall or may be downloaded from the Town website at <http://leverett.ma.us>. Our application deadline is 1 December.

To encourage you to think of a project you might want to propose, we want to remind you about some of the projects that have been accomplished in our community with our CPC act funds. Details of these projects are available at Town Hall.

Open Space funds were used most recently to purchase 101 acres on Cave Hill Rd. for conservation. New hiking trails and a parking area have recently been added. Open Space and Recreation funds have been used to purchase a conservation restriction on parcels on Leverett

pond which include the Friendship Trail which goes along the shoreline from the channel inlet off Depot Rd. at the south end of the pond to Cider Mill Ln. In addition, Open Space funds were used to restore the weed-choked inlet channel and improve public access to the pond.

Historic Preservation funds have been used to restore the Town Hall including new clapboards and fresh paint. Restoration projects have been undertaken at Leverett cemeteries. Gravestones have been restored in the North Cemetery near the Public Safety Complex, and work on gravestones at the Moore's Corner Cemetery is underway, where the old metal fence has already been restored.

Community Housing funds have been used to fund the Leverett Affordable Housing Trust.

We hope these examples will inspire you to propose Leverett's next great project! The next CPC meeting is at 7:30 on November 5 at Town Hall when we will be glad to discuss proposals. If you have an idea for a proposal and would like an exploratory meeting before that, or to be on the agenda for a meeting, please call Danielle Barshak at 548-8139 or email Daniellebarshak@verizon.net
Danielle Barshak, Community Preservation Commission

TOWN OF LEVERETT IS A MEMBER OF THE CONNECT-CTY SYSTEM

Connect-CTY a Service to Enhance Emergency Outreach and Communication

The *Connect-CTY* service allows emergency and town officials to send and track personalized voice messages to residents in just minutes through a single phone call. The service requires no additional hardware; it can be used from any computer with internet access or telephone. This ensures that emergency officials as well as town officials can send out vital messages, such as severe weather, dam failure or public health warnings as well as school closing and community outreach.

It is important that we have accurate telephone and e-mail information; if your information has changed or if you're new to town you can log onto to the town's website www.leverett.ma.us on the left side click **Connect-CTY** then click **SIGNUP NOW** to enter your information. If you do not have internet access or are having trouble entering your information, please call 413-548-9402 and leave your information or e-mail me at assistant@leverett.ma.us and we will enter it manually. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Nagy at 413-548-9402.

Fire Department News

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

The department is still offering seniors, age 62 or older, free home inspection, house numbers and CO detectors. Please see the request form below. If you are not a senior, and have a disability and would like a house number, fill out the request and get it back to the department.

As we move into the fall season, it is time to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Did you know that smoke detectors are only good for 10 years and carbon monoxide for 7? Even if you push the button and the alarm sounds, it does not necessarily mean it is working properly. It is a small price to pay for your family's safety. Also, heating appliances should be serviced and chimneys cleaned to make sure they are safe to operate.

Respectfully, John Moruzzi

Senior SAFE Program

The Leverett Fire Department is pleased to announce the start of our Senior SAFE Program. A grant from the Department of Fire Services has made this program possible. The Senior SAFE program will be offering home safety inspections, which include checking smoke detectors, carbon monoxide alarms and cooking safety. The program will also offer house number signs and carbon monoxide alarms. If you are interested in any of these programs please fill out the form below and contact the Leverett Fire Department.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address _____

Please check the following you would be interested in:

Home inspection Free Carbon monoxide detector

House number sign

Please contact: The Leverett Fire Department 548-9225

Friends of the Library

On Thursday, October 30, the Friends will host their Annual Meeting. The evening begins at 6:30 with a "Thank You" reception for Lorna Rivers, outgoing board member. Lorna, the driving force behind our "new" building has been officially connected to the library for more than 20 years, serving first as Library Director, then as Friends' board president and most recently as vice president. She is retiring from formal connections with the library but promises to stay an active patron! Join us at 6:30 for cake to celebrate Lorna's service.

After a brief business meeting that evening at which we will elect officers for the coming two years*, we are

pleased and proud to present a book reading and signing by **Suzanne Strempek Shea**. Suzanne's latest book, *This is Paradise*, is the story of Mags Riordan and the medical clinic she established 10 years ago in Malawi in memory of her son. **Mags is currently visiting the valley from her home in the west of Ireland, and will be joining us in Leverett for this event.**

In other news, the Friends have been given a fund-raising challenge by a Leverett Library patron who prefers to remain anonymous. Our benefactor has pledged \$1000 if we can raise the equivalent amount for a special project. We have decided to accept this challenge with the hope to mount our projector from the community room ceiling and add speakers on the wall of the room. We feel this will greatly improve the audience experience for presentations, movies and other events that use the projection equipment. We hope you will join us in donating to this cause. Please send any donation for this project to: Friends of Leverett Library, Box 250, Leverett 01054, and mark your check: Special Community Room Project.

*If you are interested in serving on the Friends' board, please contact me at 548-9797 for more information.

D'Ann Kelty, president

BOOK READING and SIGNING

Suzanne Strempek Shea

"This Is Paradise" is the story of Ireland's **Mags Riordan** and the **Billy Riordan Memorial Clinic**, which she founded in Malawi in memory of her son. **Mags will join Suzanne for this event in Leverett.**

**Thursday, October 30, 6:30 pm
Leverett Library**

***The event is free and open to the public
Donations to the clinic will be gladly accepted***

***This event will begin with a short reception and
Friends of Leverett Library annual meeting.
Please join us in thanking outgoing Friends'
Board member Lorna Rivers.***

LEVERETT ENERGY UPDATE

In case you hadn't guessed, it was your concerned and active Energy Committee members who set up the "We-are-all-in-the-same-boat" display on the town green--complete with red canoe and exhortations to everyone to heed the message. We timed our reminder to coincide with what turned out to be an even larger and more diverse gathering in New York City for The People's March to Save Our Climate on September 21. Signs seen in the streets included: "THERE IS NO PLANet B"; "ACT AS IF YOU LIVE HERE"; "FOSSIL FOOLS"; and, (close to home), "NO [FRACKED GAS] PIPELINE."

Last newsletter we had anticipated being able to present residents with an outline of green energy options (Viridian, PEAR, HCOG, etc), but we recently came upon issues that will delay that report until the next newsletter. Keep in mind, however, that the state and private groups are falling over themselves to offer each household an array of green energy and energy-saving programs that work through our existing systems (WMECO, etc); these choices really will be available to all of you in the near future and several are especially impressive. Keeping track of all these details is a lot of work--work that your Energy Committee has taken on as a task on your behalf. We will have handouts and informational meetings as soon as we clearly and confidently can do so.

Finally--and visible for all to see--is one of the town's "greenest" accomplishments: the solar array installation at the Safety Complex. It was activated on September 4 and supplies energy for the Safety Complex. Admittedly, it's not the prettiest sight in town, but who ever saw an attractive power plant?

Meanwhile, here are the predictable-but-as-important-as-ever seasonal reminders of how YOU can be part of the worldwide effort to halt greenhouse gas emissions that are responsible for a potentially unlivable planet:

ASK: Do I/we really need to mow the *whole* lawn? Advice on creating butterfly sanctuaries and wildflower gardens or other innovative or productive ways to eliminate at least some of the CO2 etc created by lawn-mowing is as easy as calling 548-9737 (Portia) or 548-9281 (Shirley).

ALSO ASK: Which is better for me and the world? to rake my own leaves or blow them into order with an eardrum-damaging, emissions-spewing machine?

THINK COMPOST: If you're one of those making the extra effort to bring your compostable materials to the transfer station, BRAVO! If you have your own composting arrangement (CHEERS), remember for the best results in the spring to insert sturdy sticks into the pile before it freezes and pull them out when it's firm to allow oxygen into the pile to accelerate the process all winter.

DON'T FORGET to clean and check your heating system for greater efficiency.

CONSIDER getting a free energy audit of your home through MASS SAVE (866-527-7283; CET (800-238-1221, 413-586-7350, ext. 287).

Museum Musings

During the summer the Leverett family Museum raised almost \$4,000.00 for its Raise the Roof campaign. If you would like to help, our address is Leverett Historical Society, P.O. Box 57, Leverett, MA 01054. Please put "LFM" on the memo line.

A new DVD featuring John and Georgiana Foster, former residents, tells the history of Industrial activity in East Leverett and Roaring Brook in the mid-1800s. A copy is available at the Library. There are other DVD's there also revealing aspects of Leverett's history.

The Biggest Part of Grave Situation # 2 is DONE! Thanks to a group of wash and clean citizens, the gravestones at the Moore's Corner Cemetery all have clean faces! Repair work by Tamara Conde of New Salem is under way. We made carvings and words appear that had been hidden for years! Many old North Leverett and Moore's Corner family names are again legible! The volunteers included Lynn Hall, Dawn Marvin Ward, Sharon and Joe Raskevitz, Ray and Susan La Claire, Les and Terry Allen, Tanya Cushman, Diane Overstreet, John and Charlotte Abbott, Carol King and David Glazier, who kept the green area neat and clean. MANY THANKS to Silas Ball, who set up a tank for our water supply. That's right all it took (besides arm muscles, brushes and scrapers) was WATER. More water plaudits to John Abbott, who kept the tank filled!

LARGE THANK YOU to Charles Illicky of Long Hill Road for volunteering to replace some of the boards in the ramp and the porch—they look great!

The Leverett Family Museum has entered the world of the web by releasing a brand new website! The link, <http://leverettfamilymuseum.wordpress.com/> can be entered in your browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, etc.), and it will take you to this exciting site filled with information on and exhibits from the museum. The website consists of five main sections that contain either interesting historical material or information on how to get involved with the museum and all that it offers. We hope that this new website will educate citizens of Leverett and beyond as to our history and promote the cherishing of the museum as a place of fun, learning, and heritage.

all of the citizens, those serving in various town offices from Select Board to Historical Commission and Society, as well as interested residents and volunteers who give of their energy to keep our unique history alive. THANK YOU!

1. End of Civil War events for 2015:

- April 12, 2015, Leverett Library – "Final two episodes of Ken Burns' *Civil War* & Reading from Watson (Moore's Corner family) Civil War Letters"

- The Historical Commission has slated the staged reading of Laura Harrington's critically acclaimed play *Hallowed Ground* for late Spring 2015, to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War (and the ongoing challenges of peace!). The production will be directed by award-winning filmmaker and director Liesel de Boor. Community auditions will be held in February, with further details about auditions available in early 2015.

2. **Cemetery Survey update** - Jackson Hill completed, database for all 13 cemeteries in creation; Plans to try for another (Mt. Hope) before winter. LHS surveyed Long Plain Cemetery and several private cemeteries in the 1990s; we will update. Both cemeteries that have received CPC funding (North on Montague Road in the center and Moore's Corner) are recently surveyed. We are looking for volunteers or interns to input info into our database. *Want to help with input or surveying in the cemeteries in the midst of dazzling fall colors? Call Susan at 413-367-2403.*

3. **National Register Historic Districts** (North, East Leverett and Moore's Corner) **Celebration** - Planning will begin this fall for a Spring 2015 event(s).

4. In the past 4 months the **LHC visited**: Tomb on Rattlesnake Gutter Road, North Leverett Sawmill, Moore's Corner School House, Leverett Crafts & Arts and Montague Road (North) Cemetery **for observation of properties that have received town CPC funds for restoration.**

5. Looking forward (hopefully) to the **LES 6th grade's participation in the Civil War study** again this year.

6. **Leverett Family Museum** reports a successful fundraising effort underway for maintenance and repairs. A new LFM website is in place and will soon go live with links to the LHS and Town websites. A successful workday was held on July 5th to clear overgrowth outside as well as collection documentation and maintenance inside!

Susan Mareneck, Chair - for LHC members Carole DeSanti, Randy TeVelde, Betsy Douglas, Lynn Hall, Silas Ball and Susan Lynton.

Leverett Historical Commission Update

As residents of a town rich with history, we are grateful to

UPDATE: Public Transportation in Leverett?

Fifteen townspeople responded to the transit survey in the June newsletter. Thank you. If you want another chance to respond, contact Roy Kimmel (rik@crocker.com, 548-9330).

There are two kinds of subsidized public bus transportation systems operating now in Leverett. One is a fixed bus route run by Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) that makes two daily round trips between Montague and UMASS along Route 63. Would-be riders have to flag down the bus. The other is a door-to-door, wheelchair-accessible van service for residents 60 years and over run by the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA). This service provides pick-up and drop-off rides for shopping and appointments, etc. in Hampshire and Hamden County, but not for similar trips to Franklin County sites (doctors, Bay State Franklin Medical Hospital, courthouse, jury duty etc.) because a DOT regulation prevents a town from belonging to two transit authorities.

One proposal is to get the Department of Transportation (DOT) to do away with that statute (contact Stephen.Kulik@mahouse.gov) and put in place a bus route that would service areas in town likely to be used by more townspeople. For example, the bus currently traveling along Route 63 could make a loop to a site in north Leverett and another to the center of town before returning to Route 63.

Other suggestions are welcomed; contact Roy Kimmel (see above) for any reason connected to this potentially important and ongoing issue for the town.

Assessors Update

The Board of Assessors is in the final stages of completing the triennial revaluation of real estate assessments. Massachusetts state law requires all real estate to be assessed at full market value, and further requires all cities and towns to bring their real estate valuations into line with the actual real estate market. In order to meet this requirement, we have analyzed all property sales in Leverett from January 2012 through December 2013, and adjusted our underlying assessment tables. The end result is an increase of approximately 2% town wide. Due to the variations in properties, the change in your assessment may be more or less than this figure.

When we receive approval from the state, the proposed new assessments will be available for review at the Town Hall and Leverett Library. They will also be posted on the town's website (leverett.ma.us). These new assessed values will be used to determine the tax rate and thus individual tax bills for Fiscal Year 2015 [FY15] covering the period of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

Once the Massachusetts Department of Revenue grants preliminary approval, the assessors will be holding informal meetings where you may ask questions and

discuss your assessment. These meetings usually are held on Monday and Thursday afternoons and evenings, and by appointment.

You may also contact the assessors by: Phone: 413-548-4945; Mail: PO Box 300, 9 Montague Rd Leverett, MA 01054; Email assessors@leverett.ma.us.

Following the public comment period, we will submit the valuations, with any revisions, to the DOR for final approval. Once the values are approved, we will proceed to set the tax rate and mail the tax bills. The FY15 tax rate for Leverett cannot be determined until these new values are approved. As always, you have 30 days following the mailing of the tax bill to file for an abatement.

Rattlesnake Gutter Trust: Thanks and Volunteers Needed

After years of supervising the collection of recyclables at the Transfer Station for the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust **Les Allen** has decided to step down for health reasons. In the heat of summer and the frigid cold of winter he has been there nearly every Saturday and Sunday greeting town townspeople –new and old alike - with their contributions of bottles and cans. Apart from prying tabs off cans to go to the Shriners he has designed a complex sorting system (20 categories). Every two weeks he and others have taken a pickup truck load to redemption centers in Hadley and Greenfield. So trusted is his count of recyclables per bag that redemption attendants do not even bother to count. He also scours neighborhood liquor stores for empty beer boxes to be reconstructed for the next batch of empties. The Recycling Shed is largely Les's design and houses the treasured *arte refusé* collection rescued from the Take It or Leave Shed next door. For all this, for so many years, the Trust extends an immense THANK YOU to Les! And we also thank the town residents who bring us their recyclables.

Clearly a big hole has been left in our collection effort, which is an important source of funding for the Trust's projects. Les's "retirement" was preceded by John Field whose bad back has no longer permitted him to transport recyclables in his pickup. In short, we **need volunteers** to help out for a few hours on either Saturday or Sunday about once a month. If you have a pickup truck for transporting bottles and cans so much the better. It's a great way to meet the town and get a glimpse of Leverett's drinking habits. If interested please call Brooke Thomas at 548-9281.

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

Library News

Leverett Library, 75 Montague Rd. 548-9220

www.leverettlibrary.org

Library Hours:

Tuesday 3-8, Wednesday 10-3, Thursday 3-8, Saturday 10-3 Sunday 12-5 (closed Sundays Memorial Day to Labor Day).

Special Closings:

The library will be closed Sunday, October 11 for Columbus Day weekend; Wednesday, November 11 for Veterans' Day; and Thursday, November 26 for Thanksgiving.

Programs and Events

Kids/families :

S.T.E.A.M. Nearly thirty programs for children ages 3-6 will be offered over the course of the school year by the four SLEW public libraries (SLEW=Shutesbury, Leverett, Erving and Wendell). These programs are designed to promote an early understanding of, and enthusiasm for Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM). Leverett's programs will be run by Helen Ann Sephton of the Hitchcock Center for the Environment and Jean Daley, the *Lego Lady*. Programs are free and open to the public. Children need not be residents of the SLEW towns, but must be accompanied by a caregiver during the sessions. Upcoming in Leverett:

Thurs. Nov. 6 *Magnificent Magnets* 3:15 – 4:15

Thurs. Dec. 4 *Creative Construction* with the *Lego Lady* 3:15-4:15

For full schedule please check our website.

Story Hour: Preschoolers and their caregivers are invited to join us for music, books and crafts every Wednesday at 10:30 with Julie Stepanek of the Community Network for Children.

LEGO Club is back and we have even MORE bricks! Elementary school age children are invited to join us every month for some creative building fun. Please call or stop in to register. Upcoming dates: Thur. Oct. 23 and Nov. 21 from 3:15-4:30

Family Movie Night, Sunday Nov. 16 at 1:30 pm *Bears*, the acclaimed Disney Nature movie.

Adults:

Great Movies on the Big Screen.

Join us one Friday night every month for a free movie night. To get on the mailing list please call. Upcoming movie nights through December:

Friday October 24 at 7:30 pm *To Kill A Mockingbird*

Friday November 14 at 7:30 pm *Crossing Delancy*

Friday December 12 at 7:30 *Six Degrees of Separation*

In November local author Cammie McGovern will talk about her new young adult book, *Say What You Will*. If you loved *The Fault in Our Stars* and *Eleanor and Park* you will love this story.

Art in the Community Room:

October *Arts Eggs*: whimsical takes on the great works of art by Macaylla Silver in November-December.

If you are homebound and need help selecting and/or picking up materials please call, we have volunteers ready to help.

To sign up for email reminders of library events please stop in, call or email us.

Hope to see you soon at the library.

Ashley Blais, Library Director

Leverett Trails Committee

Botanical Print Workshop

The Charm is in the Detail: Botanical Print Making with Leonore Alaniz

Saturday, October 11, 2-4 PM. Walk to collect materials and learn about Nature Printing. (Rain date October 12, noon-1:30) Meet at the 4-H Forest parking lot, across from #42 Shutesbury Road, Leverett (free).

Sunday, October 12, 2-4 PM. Printmaking with natural materials, Leverett Crafts & Arts, 13 Montague Road, Leverett (\$10 materials fee, \$26 for family of 4). Limited to 16 individuals. To register, L.Alaniz, P.O. Box 7, Leverett, MA 01054.

Co-sponsored by the Leverett Trails Committee and Leverett Crafts & Arts. More information at www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org or fliers in the Leverett Library.

Walks on the Cave Hill Conservation Area

Saturday, October 18 at 1, 2, and 3 PM

Sunday, October 19, also at 1, 2, and 3 PM

Park in the new parking lot, or in the Peace Pagoda lower parking lot. (Maps in the Leverett Library or at www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org)

Work Days

Saturday, October 18, 9 AM until done.

Building the 2nd Bridge to the Bill Rivers Conservation Area

More information, www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org or Leverett ConCom (548-1022 x3)

Sunday, November 2, 1 PM. (Rain date, Sunday, November 9)

Trail Maintenance on the East Leverett Trails

Bring you clippers and gloves. More information and maps at www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org or Leverett ConCom (548-1022 x3)

Winter Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing

See the December issue of this newsletter!

The Leverett Trails Committee is co-sponsored by the Leverett Conservation Commission and the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust.

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TOWN OF LEVERETT
October 2014 **NEWSLETTER**
LEVERETT, MA 01054

LEVERETT RESIDENT

LEVERETT, MA 01054

Treasurer/Collector

FISCAL 2015 PROPERTY TAX BILLS have **NOT** been sent. They should be in the mail by mid-November. Once bills are mailed, you will have 30 days to pay (at least half the amount) without penalty, but please remember *it is always the responsibility of the taxpayer to be sure payment is received timely, regardless of when or IF a bill is received*. If you own property and didn't get a bill, contact the Collector's office. Allow at least 3-4 days when mailing payment. DO NOT MAIL THE BILL ON THE DUE DATE, as a postmark is ***not*** considered timely payment. *If you are making a "Due-Date payment," bring it directly to the Collector's Office*. You can also sign up for **DIRECT PAYMENT**, pay online at leverett.ma.us, or drop off payment in box at back entrance of Town Hall. Office hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Sat: 2:30 – 9:30pm; (**HOURS MAY VARY**)

so call ahead **548-9666** or email treasurercollector@leverett.ma.us. If you need a receipt, please come during office hours or leave a stamped, self-addressed envelope in the Collector's mailbox. Please do not interrupt other Town Hall staff for tax payments/receipts.

VOLUNTARY CHECK OFF: The Tax Relief Fund provides aid to homeowners over 60 or disabled persons (any age) of low income for the purpose of defraying a portion of their property tax. If you think you may qualify, call or email the Collector to request an application. The fund is particularly low this year, so please consider sending a donation now or when you pay your tax bill. Donations can either be made to the Tax Relief Fund or to a specific tax bill. Thank you for your support

Don't forget to:

- Presubscribe for phone and internet to get a free month! Form enclosed
- Go to the Harvest Festival and 6th grade lasagna dinner on Oct. 18! Information enclosed

- Plant garlic