



LEEDS LETTER

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2020

UPCOMING 2020 EVENTS

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES PIZZA AND RAFFLE PARTY

FEBRUARY 9
SUNDAY, 4:00-8:00 P.M.
Florence VFW

LCA MONTHLY MEETING

FEBRUARY 11
TUESDAY, 7:00 P.M.
Leeds School Teacher's Lounge
Everyone is welcome to come!

TOWN HALL MEETING PROPOSITION 2½ OVERRIDE Discussion with Mayor Narkewicz

FEBRUARY 24
MONDAY, 7:00 P.M.
Leeds School Cafeteria

LEEDS CONSERVATION AREA

Leeds Neighbors,
Please support the efforts
of the City to expand
our Leeds conservation
areas. The 44 acre parcel
is located between the
bike path and Rt. 9 north
adjacent to the Beaver
Brook Conservation area.
Due to the property's
connection with the other
conservation areas, it is
critically important as a
wildlife corridor. For more
information and to donate:
<https://tinyurl.com/uze4jn2>

LEEDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 114, Leeds, MA 01053
LeedsCivicAssoc@gmail.com
LeedsCivic.org

Leeds' 2020
"Beat the Winter Blues"
**pizza+raffle
party**
A fund-raiser for
the Hotel Bridge and
Beaver Brook
Conservation Area
sunday, february 9
4:00 - 8:00 pm at the Florence VFW



18 Meadow Street, Florence, 1st floor



MC Jim Mias and DJ Dana Collins

Pizza • Raffle Prizes • Cash Bar • Family Fun



LCA members, adult - \$10 / kids ages 5 to 12 - \$3

Non-members, adult - \$15 / kids ages 5 to 12 - \$5

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!

Beat the Winter Blues Pizza Party

Liven your spirits, catch up on the local Leeds buzz, imbibe a bit and break pizza crust with neighbors. Laughing is guaranteed and winning a raffle prize or two is a real possibility! Proceeds benefit the Hotel Bridge restoration and the Beaver Brook Conservation Area! Please come and support the LCA's efforts!

NOTE: Unfortunately, the VFW 2nd floor is NOT wheelchair accessible :(

New LCA Officers and a New Board Member!

Penny Geis will be serving as LCA president and Jason Johnson is the new vice president. Marc Freedman remains as secretary and Karen Nelson remains as Treasurer. Board members include; Sue Carbin, Steve McDonough, Earl Munier, David Rondina and Tom Quinn.

Through the Windowpane - By Cub Reporter

December 18th, 6 p.m. Home alone, my sidekick at work, an already dark night with a white snowpacked ground and no wind, no noise – until I hear “tink, tink, tink” right behind my head. “That freakin squirrel,” I mumble pathetically to myself. It’s the rascal that goes after the birdfeeder outside the window, so I crop my hands to the glass for a better look. I think “Geeze it’s dark out there.” I open the window quickly to give the squirrel a “what for” and I see that the blackness out there is a big black bear!

I saw upclose his furry shoulder... and the stench...Whoa!! So you probably guessed it – I shut the window-like quick! I turned on Christmas lights that happened to be by his head and watched him eat and eat, just feet away from me. He was the biggest bear I’d seen. His back was toward me so I opened the window again and watched him until he was done eating, watched him amble off like a ghost into the darkness. That night, this bear got chased, and barked at by lots of dogs on Yankee Hill. A number of folks have their own stories to tell about his ventures.

His tracks could be followed for the next 10 days, the snow was nice and crusty. My sidekick and I followed tracks along the bike path, along the Mill River path and through the bigger woods on both sides of Beaver Brook. We bushwhacked to a rocky cave like area and were convinced the big guy was in there. How carefully we tread! He had left big diarrhea-like poops with tons of half digested seeds from ours and other bird feeders.

We took down our feeder after that – but then decided “day time only.” Well, even that became forgotten by our careless-carefree natures. On January 2, another dark and still night, at nearly the same hour, me and my sidekick heard a “tink, tink, tink.” at the windowpane. And now she knows I didn’t lie!

Changing Climate - By Linda Butler

On a bitter cold night in January of 2017, Lora Sandhusen (hero of the Mulberry Street Garden) invited a few friends to gather in her warm kitchen on East Center Street to talk about the climate crisis. Thus was born the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Citizens’ Climate Lobby. CCL is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots organization focused on creating national policies to address the climate emergency.

CCL has made a big difference in my life over the past three years. It has helped me educate myself about climate change and taught me, along with thousands of other CCL

members, how to go about getting effective and equitable proposals passed by Congress and signed into law.

Our group gets together on the second Wednesday of the month from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. in the basement of the Unitarian Society at 120 Main Street in Northampton. Every meeting brings newcomers, looking for answers to their questions about the climate crisis, looking for hope in the face of ever-worsening threats, and looking for ways they can help. All are welcome. I leave every meeting feeling re-charged and re-committed.

Our CCL chapter helped persuade Congressman Jim McGovern to co-sponsor the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 (the EICDA), a CCL-inspired bill. It lays out a plan that is recognized by both climate scientists and economists as an essential step to preserve a livable world.

The EICDA would reduce carbon emissions, spur the transition to clean energy sources, create jobs, and provide dividends to households across the country. These dividends would protect low- and middle-income Americans from shouldering too much of the burden of cleaning up the mess created by carbon pollution.

Want to learn more? Go to www.citizensclimatelobby.org. Or come to a meeting. If you see us tabling at some event in the Valley, come say hello. Or we can come to you: If you’d like us to give a talk to a local group that you belong to, email Lora at lorasandhusen@gmail.com or me at ButlerESL@gmail.com.

Green Tip - By Amy Stamm

Electric vehicles (EVs) reduce driving emissions by more than half, when compared to conventional vehicles. While a typical EV produces 4,815 pounds of CO₂-equivalent emissions annually, a gasoline-powered car produces 11,435. That means that in its lifetime, a conventional car will spew 66,000 more pounds of carbon pollution than an EV. EVs also save money, an average of \$750-\$1,200 a year in fuel costs. Over the lifetime of the vehicle, EV drivers use 6,100 fewer gallons of gasoline and save \$13,000 on fuel costs.

Now there’s even more reason to purchase an electric car. The Massachusetts Energy Consumer Alliance has created a great incentive program to motivate people to purchase green vehicles when they need a new car. In addition to a federal tax credit of up to \$7,500 and a Massachusetts tax credit of up to \$2,500 (for a total of \$10,000) for electric or hybrid vehicles, the Mass. Energy Consumer Alliance has collaborated with select car dealers to offer additional discounts, in the range of \$2,500 to \$6,500, on electric and hybrid vehicles. That means that you can save up to \$16,500 on a new super-efficient car. Go to their website to see all the deals: <https://www.massenergy.org/drivegreen>, or sign up for one of their electric car test driving days, and then join the revolution!