



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2012

Upcoming Events for 2012

Saturday Night Movies

JULY, AUG

(Gather at the green on Main Street)

Saratoga Bus Trips

AUG 3, AUG 24, Fridays

Dinner on the Bridge

SEPTEMBER 1, Saturday

Labor Day Weekend

(rain date, Sept 2)

Block Party

SEPTEMBER 9, Sunday

(rain date Sept 8)

History Night

NOVEMBER 13, Tuesday

Holiday Lights at Park

NOVEMBER 25, Saturday

(rain date Nov. 26)

*Visit the Leeds Civic Association on the web for event details
www.leedscivic.org*

Have an idea for an event you'd like to do?...We would love to hear it! Come to the next LCA meeting on Tues, March 13 at 7pm in the teacher's lounge at Leeds School and tell us about it.

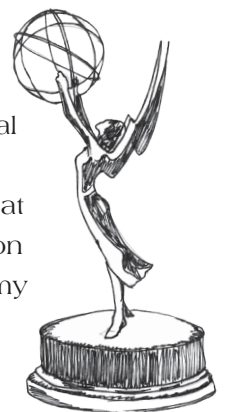


Bus Trip to Saratoga, N.Y.

Jim Mias of Grove Ave will be coordinating a bus trip to beautiful Saratoga, N.Y. on Friday August 3. (postponed from the original date of July 24). The group will leave Leeds Grammar school at 8:00 am, arriving at Saratoga about 10:30 am. The first stop will be at the Casino for about an hour and then on to the spacious park in plenty of time for the first race at 1:00 pm. Picnicking is encouraged as coolers, lawn chairs and food are allowed into park (no glass). The bus will depart immediately after the last race and should arrive back to Leeds by 9:00 pm. The full price of \$35.00 includes the bus trip (a/c and bathroom - King Ward), tip to driver, raffles on the bus and admission to the park. For more information on Saratoga and the famous Race Course visit <http://www.saratoga.com>. Call Jim Mias at 584-1623 for more details. Saratoga trips have a tendency to sell out fast.

Emmy Award for Leeds Neighbor

Julie Akeret of Grove Avenue, an independent producer/director of Akeret Films, was awarded a Regional Emmy in the Outstanding Cultural/Historical Program category for her work on the documentary "Theatre on the Edge: Growing Art and Community at Double Edge Theatre." The award was presented on June 2at the 35th Annual Boston/New England Emmy Awards Ceremony from the Boston/New England Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS). Congratulations Julie and thanks for bringing a little piece of Hollywood to Leeds!





Saturday Night Movies

Free Children's movies will once again be provided by the LCA three times this summer thanks to the efforts of David Rondina of Upland Road. Keep your eyes posted for the movie titles and start times for these days and locations **SATURDAY, JULY 7** on Upland Rd., **SATURDAY, JULY 28** on the village green on Main St and, **SATURDAY, AUG 11** on Upland Rd.

State Police Barracks in Leeds

By Joel Emrick

A little known chapter in the history of Leeds was when the MA. State Police Barracks (Troop B) was stationed in the Shepard House which lies between the Grove Hill mansion and the Grammar School. In the early 1920s the State Police were based in the Armory on King Street but were forced to relocate due to the expansion of the National Guard which needed more of the Armory building. The decision to move the barracks in May of 1923 to the Shepard House was partly made due to the existence of a big barn behind the house where the troopers could keep their horses and motorcycles.

On March 28th, 1931 a fire started in the barn. Due to the low water pressure on the hill and the nature of the old wooden structure, the barn didn't stand a chance. Even though fire trucks from Leeds and Florence arrived promptly their efforts were limited by this lack of pressure. By the time the "Seagrave", the only good fire truck in the city, showed up from Northampton the barn was a complete loss. My father was seventeen at that time and told of running to the barn with others and dragging some of the motorcycles out of the barn. Unfortunately, the four horses were stabled in the back of the barn where the fire started and they all perished. Two patrolmen, Sergeant John Barnacle and State Trooper Edward McColgan, received bad burns trying to get to the animals. The barracks (the Shepard house) was spared only because they had just cut the tall grass that was between the barn and the house. Some believe that if it hadn't been cut recently the house might also have been lost. In the summer of 1931, Troop B moved to their present location near Laurel Park in Northampton, but for 8 years we had the State police in Leeds.

Leeds Business Profile

Since 1961, the Look Restaurant has been satisfying both local and travelling diners with its home cooked meals and friendly service. Just a few minutes from Look Park, its location on Route 9 between Williamsburg and Florence is ideally suited for people who need a quick meal to go or friends hoping to catch up with each other over a coffee at the counter. The Look prides itself on their house specialties including homemade clam chowder, specialty sandwiches, various sized charburgers, home baked breads, and the always fresh pies and desserts.

Mike Cronin, the current owner, purchased the diner in 1992 and has maintained the family atmosphere, reasonable prices and Americana décor that has made the Look a Leeds landmark. Whether it's a big or small breakfast or a satisfying lunch, the Look Restaurant has a booth or a counter stool waiting for you.

Bradford Scholarship Winners Announced

Three senior students from Northampton H.S, Torsten Johnson, Abby Lieberman and Deanna Peterson, were awarded scholarships to continue their education by the Bradford Memorial Trust. The Trust also provided smaller \$100 awards to JFK and the Leeds Grammar School for their general fund. The Bradford Memorial Fund was established in 1993 to acknowledge the civic efforts of Leeds residents Mark and Patricia Bradford who died suddenly in Mexico while on vacation. The Trust has provided approximately \$20,000 in educational scholarships and donations and will be celebrating its 20th anniversary this January. For more information on this unique Leeds charity, a component of the Leeds Civic Association, contact Richard Greene at 585-5525.

LCA Thank You Corner

A special thanks to Chartpak of River Road for allowing the use of their parking lot and electricity for the 3rd annual Bike for the Bridge event on May 20, to Joel Emrick and friends for clearing the 100 year old iron staircase at the Mulberry Street park and finally, a patriotic tip of the hat to Red Greene and Earl Meunier for diligently placing and removing the approximately 50 flags to the telephone poles throughout the village for the Memorial Day weekend.