



LEEDS LETTER

JUNE 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2014

LCA June Meeting

Tuesday, **June 10** 7:00 -8:00 pm
Leeds School teacher's lounge

- Sylvester Road clean-up
- Village-Wide Tag Sale
- Memorial Day recap
- Petition to implement traffic calming measures
- Block Party planning
- Midnight to Midnight recap

The next LCA meeting will be

Tuesday, **September 9th**
7:00 -8:00 pm
Leeds School teacher's lounge

Village Wide Tag Sale

Saturday, June 28th, 8:00am - noon
Rain or Shine

Saratoga Racetrack Bus Trip

Two Fridays: August 1 and August 29
Depart 7:00am
Return 8:30pm
See article on flip side for trip details!

Block Party

Saturday, September 13
Rain Date: Saturday, September 14
400pm -7:00pm
Main Street Village Green

Roberts Hill Trail Map (proposed)

Now available on the LCA website
for download in black and white or
color depending on your printer.

Leeds Civic Association
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leedscivassoc@gmail.com
www.leedscivic.org

Outreach for a Cleaner Leeds

In the seventies, radio and TV public service announcements reminded us over and over with the jingle, "Please, please don't be litterbug, cause every litter bit hurts." Leeds, like many places, gets its fair share of litterbits. We see it along the river, the bike trail and roadways—papers, plastic bottles, and one of the most offensive—dog poop conscientiously bagged, but left behind! Really, what was that person thinking? Dog owners should be picking up their dog's doo and taking the bag with them to dispose of properly. At the Clean Green Outreach held on the Main Street Village Green last month Karen Nelson came with her dog, Hamilton, who had two plastic bags tied to his collar. Karen explained that on walks she picks up Hamilton's poo and he gets to carry it home himself! Sharing ideas, friendly reminders, and the soon to be installed city ordinance signs at the Main Street Village Green should help keep Leeds clean.

Volunteers like Don Willard and his "Got Rock Racing" ATV group schedule a clean-up day every spring from Red Hen Farm down Sylvester to the intersection of Chesterfield and Kennedy roads picking up the winter litter. Other Leeds folks take a bag with them on their walks and pick up stray litterbits, put them in a trash can, then wash up at home. We no longer have that litterbug jingle on the airwaves, but we can all do our bit to help Leeds become litter free.

Mark & Patricia Bradford Fund Award recipients

THE LEEDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION-BRADFORD MEMORIAL FUND AWARD offered a total of \$600 in scholarships to three Northampton High School 2014 graduates. The scholarships are given to students planning to continue their education by attending college, technical school or an apprenticeship program. Congratulations and best of luck to the award winners: Emma Tacy and Rachael Morris of Leeds, and Lily Lashway of Florence. In addition to the student scholarships, Leeds Elementary School was awarded \$100 for general use.

Vacation Destination

In New England we're lucky to be a car drive away from the Green Mountains of Vermont and the ocean waters of New Hampshire or Maine. Even closer to home, we can choose from Mount Greylock or Cape Cod. But even closer—so close you can walk to it—our own neighborhood of Leeds.

Roberts' Hill offers views from its rocky ledges as satisfying as can be. Mays' foliage—greens too numerous to name—are apparent should you take the walk. The hidden trails beyond Beaver Brook—east and west of Route 9 offer such richness of trees, wildflowers and birds that we dare anyone to claim full knowledge. It'd take a lifetime or more to identify all that our local habitat has to offer. The trails, easy to get twisted around and about—but never lost.

Along our ever-present Mill River you might not find the vastness of oceans, the smell of salt or the deep sandy beaches, but we have a place that changes as rapidly as the tides. You can walk up one side and down the other from Haydenville to the Florence Meadows in about a half a day. Pools so deep—its over your head, then a

stream barely up to your ankle, shards of pottery, things of the past—maybe even a tumbled marble are there to find. No tides here but check out the surprising changes after a spring thaw, a quick moving thunderstorm or last weeks inches of rain. You'd be in awe. Rocks equivalent to sea shells in variety.

So as summer approaches, the worries of where to go, what to do, how much it costs—our own little place in the world—Leeds—has lots of answers. Its less than a car drive away, a few steps for most of us— check it out!

Mill River Greenway Working Group

Ten Leeds residents have formed a working group to help shape the Leeds portion of an eventual greenway along the Mill River. Jason Johnson has agreed to serve as chair, so if you are interested in what happens along the river, please send your email address to Jason, so he can include you in meeting notices and other news of the group's work.

Like the rail trail, the Greenway would serve both pedestrians and bicyclists, but its goals and its pathway are largely different. The Greenway initiative aims to provide a richer experience for both walkers and bicyclists, to protect the Mill River watershed, preserve its cultural artifacts, enhance its biological health, and encourage appreciation for the rich history along the river.

One of the few places the Greenway and the rail trail would coincide would be in Leeds, between the intersection of the rail trail and Mulberry Street and where the proposed new rail trail extension would end in Haydenville at South Main Street. (River Rd becomes South Main Street in Haydenville.)

You can find a wealth of information about the project and the Mill River history at www.MillRiverGreenway.org. Contact Jason Johnson at cookjohnson@comcast.net.

Village Wide Tag Sale -June 28th

Everyone can participate with no advertising cost! The LCA will place a notice in the Gazette and Advocate advertising the Tag Sale. You have a couple of weeks to gather up items to sell. We just need to hope for a clear day and lots of customers. You are encouraged to place signs at the end of your street if you are planning to sell items. Good Luck!

Green Tip

An easy way to start eliminating waste is to take your own bags to the grocery store, so you don't use new bags every time you go shopping. In our local area a project called the BagShare Project brings people together to sew bags and donate them to stores in an effort to save resources and money. The Cummington Creamery, for example, has saved \$30,000 since 2007 by eliminating their use of disposable bags through the BagShare Project. In addition to supplying cloth bags to Serio's Market, Kidstuff, Cornucopia, Florence Hardware, and other stores, the Leeds chapter of the Bag-

Share Project is busily sewing bags so that the Northampton Tuesday farmers market can distribute them to their customers. If you would like to join this effort by either sewing or donating bags, please call Amy at 586-9123. If you have old tote bags or any other kind of reusable bags that you don't use, please consider donating them to the project.

Saratoga Racetrack and Casino Trips - 2014

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1 and FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

\$35.00 per person or \$60.00 per person if you sign up for both dates—but hurry—this trip sells out every year! Price includes KingWard Charter bus with bathroom, raffles on the way up, entry fee to racetrack and tip to driver. Things to bring: coolers, food and drinks (no glass) and lawn chairs. We usually stay as a group in the parklike setting, but you will have plenty of time to explore the Civil War era racetrack.

7:00am. - Bus departs from Leeds Elementary School

9:30am - Arrive at Casino for a two hour stop

11:30 - Bus heads to racetrack (1 mile away)

12:30 - Post time!

6:00pm - Bus departs Saratoga

8:30pm - Back home in Leeds

For more info call Jim Mias at 584-1623 or wave him down if you're out and about, or maybe catch him at Leeds Mart.

An Invitation to the Residents of Leeds from Ward 7 City Councilor Alisa Klein

In an attempt to keep you apprised of issues, concerns, events, and news that affect Ward 7, I've launched a listserv for us to share information and conduct discussions. The listserv has been up and running for five months now and includes:

- Updates on DPW and other repairs in our ward
- Updates about City ordinances that affect neighborhoods
- Invitations to informational meetings and public hearings
- Discussion about Ward 7 and City-wide issues.

Please consider subscribing. To do so, if you have a Yahoo email account, or are willing to open one, please go to the listserv homepage at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Ward7Northampton/info> and click on "Join Group."

If you don't have a Yahoo account, you can subscribe by sending a blank (empty) email to:

ward7northampton-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

And please feel free to call me with all questions and concerns.
586-9123 aklein@northamptonma.gov - Many thanks, Alisa

Kittens for Adoption

We are fostering 4 kittens and a sweet 2 year old mama cat. The kittens were born in Leeds in May and will be available for adoption (and the mother too!) in July; (adoption & fees through Dakin/Springfield). For more info, please email Pamela and Jeff at pccleeds@gmail.com.