



LEEDS LETTER

JUNE 2017

UPCOMING LCA EVENTS

JUNE 12

LCA Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, 7:00 pm
Leeds School Teacher's Lounge

JUNE 10

Village Wide Tag Sale

Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to noon
Your driveway, garage, or yard

June 22, 23, 24, 25

Leeds Outdoor Theatre Production, The Mill Project

7:30 pm
Leeds Main Street Green

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

Leeds Summer Movie Nights!

Dates to be determined.
Watch for postings around the village as well as on the the LCA website, leedscivic.org for the various annual classic Leeds summer movie nights!

AUGUST 4 & AUGUST 25

Two Bus Trips to Saratoga Horse Race Track and Casino

Meet at Leeds School at 7:00am
Bus returns to school at 8:30pm
Please see article on back page.

AUGUST 27

Ice Cream Social

Sunday, 4:00 pm
Leeds Main Street Green

The LeedsLetter

will be on holiday for July and August. More to come in September... Until then, enjoy your summer days!

LEEDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

THE MILL PROJECT



**JUNE 22-25
7:30PM
LEEDS VILLAGE
MAIN STREET
GREEN**

Outdoor Theatre Production in Leeds

June 22-25 at 7:30pm

The title is **The Mill Project** and the performance invites the audience to place themselves in history while imagining our shared future.

The Mill Project, presented by *Theatre Truck*, is an original new play featuring five local actors and was devised by the ensemble using historical research. The result is an exploration of the first generation of American women who worked away from home: their freedoms and exploitations, their strengths and the dangers they faced, and the expectations society held for them.

The play deconstructs the historical record, remembering women's experience of labor in the textile mills of nineteenth century New England through a "performance-collage" drawing on letters, newspapers, pamphlets and etiquette books. Woven in a tapestry of original music and movement, the play puts the "mill girls" of factory towns like Leeds into relationship with the experience of American women today. The rebellion of these early female communities against exploitation led to the early labor movement in the United States.

There will be four performances, June 22, 23, 24 and 25 at 7:30pm on the Leeds Common across from the historic Nonotuck silk mill. The audience is invited to bring a blanket or chair and a picnic in the tradition of outdoor Summer theatre. This performance is recommended for ages 14 and up. Parking is available in the Chartpak lot. In the event of heavy showers or storms, Rain Date Friday June 30.

Theatre Truck is a collaborative of multidisciplinary artists crafting mobile and site-specific performance, sustainably and playfully. Their inaugural production, *The Emily Dickinson Project* (2015), took place in the house and grounds of the poet's Amherst homestead. The *Water Project* (Immersive) took place in New Salem, MA last September and was set to live music.

Oh sing me the song of the Factory Girl! The honest and fair and true! — J.H. Warland, 1846

Tickets available at Brown Paper Tickets:

\$20 in advance, \$15 students/seniors in advance
\$25 cash only at the door, \$20 students/seniors at the door.
For more info contact: www.theTheatreTruck.com

Collage Art by Nancy Meagher

Village Wide Tag Sale- June 10, 8:00 am - noon

If you haven't cleared out your basement, barn, attic or closets, there's still time to do so. Set aside items to sell at the Leeds Village-Wide Tag Sale. Even if you have just a few things, it's nice to sit outside and enjoy your morning coffee or tea and talk to the neighbors who will come by looking for treasures or handy things they may need. An announcement will be placed in the Gazette and a big sign at the base of Florence Road at Route 9. If you plan to participate, place signs at intersections near your selling site. Hopefully the weather will be fair and comfortable and buyers and sellers will have much good luck!

A Tree to Remember - Heidi Stevens

During a mid-April windstorm an enormous double trunked red oak on Kennedy Road came crashing down. One trunk fell across the road and the other dropped in the opposite direction landing on the roadside right of way. The DPW cleared the massive tree to the side of the road where it awaited its' inevitable fate of being turned into nothing more than wood chips. Sad, after such a long life shading the area, so much history having passed by.



Kennedy Road resident, Matt Verson and his son counted the tree rings and estimated it to be approximately 150 years old. Matt and the LCA quickly hatched a plan to preserve a slab of the trunk so Leeds Elementary School students can use the tree rings and connect them to a historical time-line. The LCA presented the idea to the DPW and asked them to cut a thick slice of the trunk. Unfortunately, they could not get a solid slice because the inner portion of the trunk was soft. They did, however, cut a slice from one of the very large lower limbs. The cut slab is 3 feet, 6 inches in diameter and 8 inches thick and of very hefty weight. The slab (shown above) is in dry storage awaiting a summer belt sanding and sealing to make it last for many more years.

Audubon Road Improvements - Alisa Klein

Recently, the Mayor signed a contract for \$958,202 for Audubon Road reclamation beginning at the intersection of Reservoir and River Roads. Reclaiming means that the roadway will be mechanically ground, all existing layers of pavement will be removed, the road base will be graded and compacted before base and top courses of new pavement are installed, and any structures in the roadway will be adjusted and rebuilt if required. The expected repair life of a reclaimed road is typically 18-22 years. The work will be done in conjunction with water line replacement under the road to the Audubon Road tank and drainage improvements, including a box culvert replacement near Leeds center. The waterline and drainage work will precede the roadway reclaiming and repaving.

The DPW informs us that the contractor, Borges Construction Inc. of Ludlow, MA, will mobilize to the site in early June. The end date of the project is unknown at this point, but it will take the entire construction season (until mid-December) and final completion may not be until next spring. In general, one lane of traffic will be maintained and residents will always be provided access. That said, the road will need to be closed for the culvert crossing replacement near the center of Leeds, and a detour will be in place during that time. Periodic detours may also be required during water main construction at the intersection of Reservoir/River Roads and Mulberry Street.

Green Tip - Amy Stamm

Americans waste approximately 40% of our food at a cost of \$165 billion a year. About 33 million cars' worth of greenhouse gases are used to produce this wasted food. This is one and a half times more food than we wasted in the 1970s. Around the globe we waste enough food every year to feed a billion people. Fruits and vegetables are the most wasted foods, but other foods like meat have a higher impact when you waste them. If you throw out one hamburger, you waste the same amount of energy as a 90-minute shower. With farm season approaching, there are steps we can all take to conserve food. One is to cut and freeze fruits and vegetables that you can't immediately use or prepare meals to freeze. Another is to share your produce with your neighbors and donate extra food to the Northampton Survival Center. A third step is to plan meals and buy only what you need for those meals at the grocery store. In your refrigerator, you can move older items to the front to make room for newer items in the back. And eat leftovers!

Two Bus Trips to Saratoga Horse Race Track and Casino

The trips will be held on August 4 and August 25. The price \$40 ticket includes: The King Ward air-conditioned bus ride, general admission to racetrack, and a bus driver tip. The bus departs Leeds School at 7:15 am, arrives at the casino at 9:45am, departs for the racetrack at 11:15 am. Post-time is 1:00pm. Bring your lawn chair, beverage coolers (no glass), food and snacks. The group generally sits together on the lawn near Big Red Spring and your welcome to roam freely. The bus returns to Leeds School at 8:30pm. To register call Jim Mias at 584-1623. Repeat customers honored first. Tickets do go fast, so make your plans soon!

A Note from Don Willard's Litter Pickup Group

We had a great turnout on Earth Day....18 people. It was nice to see some new kids today contributing to the effort. We had a tow truck driver donate his truck with caution lights and Pete McLaughlin donated a dumpster. See you next year:)

