



LEEDS LETTER

JUNE/JULY 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS 2016

JUNE 30, Thursday
Debate
City Councilor At-Large
7:30 - 9:00 pm
Northampton Senior Center

JULY 2, Saturday
Summer Movie Night
Zootopia 8:00 previews
Movie starts at sundown
32 Upland Road backyard
Bring your chairs, jammies, and blankets. Popcorn served!

JULY 7, Thursday
Primary Election
City Councilor At-Large
Polls open at 7:00 am
Polls close at 7:00pm
Ward 7 votes at Leeds Elementary

AUGUST 5, Friday
Saratoga Racetrack
Casino Trip
7:15am - 8:30pm
Please read article for details

AUGUST 7, Sunday
(Raindate August 14)
Ice Cream Social
4:30 at the Leeds Village Green
on Main Street.

Leeds Civic Association

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

Working Together to Address a Local Problem - Heidi Stevens

The Mill River is a beautiful resource in Leeds that many generations have enjoyed by walking the river's trails, fishing in the currents and taking cool dips in the summer. Going down to the river meant finding some peace and quiet and an appreciation of nature.

Chartpak Dam and the river front to the north have become a problem hot-spot. For the past several summers large numbers of people from all over (CT, NY, and other MA towns) come to the Leeds' section of the Mill River to jump off the dam and party on the shore. The complete disregard for the beauty of the area is measured by; the large volume of garbage left behind by these groups, including diapers and broken bottles; the noise decibels reached, either with boom boxes or shouts and screams; and the number of cars parked along Grove Ave and Main Street, sometimes even on people's lawns.

The LCA has been grappling with how to right the situation. Chartpak Dam is PRIVATE PROPERTY, owned by Chartpak, Inc. Part of the river front is conservation land, owned by the City of Northampton. People are allowed on the conservation land but are expected to behave responsibly and treat it with respect. Unfortunately, some users don't meet these expectations.

In May the LCA and Chartpak had a meeting with Northampton Police Captain John Cartledge, Officer Jared LaValle, Wayne Feiden of Northampton's Office of Planning and Sustainability, two managers of the Leeds Village Apartments, City Councilors Alisa Klein and Ryan O'Donnell, and some property owners to review and build upon efforts made last year to thwart the abusive activity along the river.

Clearly posted "No Trespassing" signs have again been put up at the dam site. We ask neighbors to continue to call the police (587-1100) when they hear loud partying at the dam, witness groups cooking, littering or drinking alcohol at the dam, along the river, or on the bike path. City ordinance signs are now posted at the entrances to the bike path giving the police the authority to cite people for breaking the laws. Chartpak and the police will continue to serve notices to those who trespass (last summer over 70 notices were given out). The Planning Department has offered to hire an off-duty officer for a special detail on two days to act as a presence on the trail and along the river in hopes of discouraging the large groups who day-camp and make the mess and noise. This collaborative community effort will most likely need to be sustained for several summers to see results. The goal is to encourage responsible use and behavior along the river—returning it to a place where people can see, hear, and fully enjoy the Mill River's natural beauty.

Saratoga Racetrack and Casino Trip - August 5

This annual excursion will be on August 5th. The \$40 price includes: King Ward air-conditioned bus ride, general admission to racetrack, bus drivers' tip and a few extra raffles with money prizes, if the trip sells out. 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. The bus will arrive back at Leeds School about 8:30pm.

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. Call Jim Mias at 584-1623 or see Neil or Sue at Leeds Mart. Repeat customers honored first. Tickets do go fast, so make your plans soon!

Green Tip - Amy Stamm

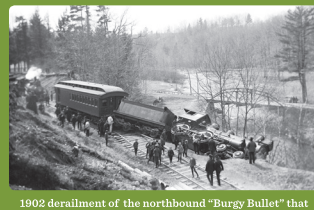
One way to save money and help the plants in your garden is by installing rain barrels at the downspouts of your gutters. Rain barrels provide a lot of benefits. First, rainwater is better for plants and soil than tap water because it is highly oxygenated and free of the salts, inorganic ions, and fluoride found in tap water. Rain barrels also reduce storm runoff pollution, which sends fertilizers, oil, pesticides, and contaminants into our rivers and lakes. In addition, capturing and reusing rain help reduce the amount of water that undergoes expensive and energy-intensive sewage treatments. Rain barrels can reduce your water bill by 1,300 gallons during the growing season when 40 percent of residential water use goes to gardening. If we all installed rain barrels, we could conserve a significant amount of water in the months when demand for it is highest.



Hotel Bridge, 1880 Pratt Iron Through Truss, Leeds



Northbound Trolley Car on River Road, 1904, Leeds



1902 derailment of the northbound "Burgu Bullet" that offered passenger service between Northampton and Williamsburg from 1868 to 1962



Silk Mill, circa 1940, Mulberry Street, Leeds

Historical Mini Signs on Rail Trail in Leeds - Heidi Stevens

In late Autumn when the leaves have fallen from the trees Hotel Bridge can be seen clearly from a certain spot on the bike path. Mounted on the railing at that spot is an 8 x 10 inch historical sign depicting the Hotel Bridge in the late 1800s. Another photo sign showing the 1904 electric trolley car heading north on River Road is now on the railing at the Beaver Brook arch bridge where River Road is visible across the river. The Burgu Bullet train accident sign will be mounted on a new railing this summer at the Haydenville town line, exactly where the 1902 derailment occurred. A fourth photo sign showing the Mulberry Street silk mill in the 1940s will be mounted on a post at the site where the photo was taken. We (LCA) hope you enjoy seeing these reminders of Leeds history as you walk and ride on the trail. You may also notice more color along the trail side this summer. Leeds Civic volunteers planted five pounds of wild flower seeds!

More Green Space for Leeds - Sue Carbin

The Office of Planning and Sustainability has applied for and received Community Preservation Act funds for purchase of the Talon property on Reservoir Road in Leeds. However, some of the community funding part is still needed (\$10,000 as of now).

The Talon Property on Reservoir Road abuts the Robert's Hill Conservation Area and City of Northampton Water Shed property. This new acquisition will increase accessibility to the Robert's Hill network of trails and will also promote use of the extensive trail network and recreational opportunities within the nearby Saw Mill and Mineral Hills recreation areas. Any amount you can contribute is greatly appreciated. Please send donations (checks made out to City of Northampton) to: Wayne Feiden, Office of Planning & Sustainability, 210 Main St, Room 11, Northampton, MA 01060.

Girls on the Run - Sylvie and Sadie Mahon-Moore

Girls on the Run isn't just about running. It's about running, making friends, having better social skills, setting boundaries, and loving yourself. At our schools, we and many other girls from Western Massachusetts practiced running and setting goals for ourselves for the upcoming 5k (3.107 miles) at Holyoke Community College.

Each Monday and Wednesday for ten weeks at JFK, I, Sylvie, ran at least thirty minutes. Then, all of the other girls and I played an activity that had to do with things like keeping your boundaries, where we either ran to "comfort zone", "stretch zone", or "danger zone", after we had been given a scenario. Sometimes we played tag, too.

At every Girls On The Run practice, we were asked questions like, "Where do you think you helped someone most last week or during the weekend?", and we would go to either brain, heart, social, body, or spirit, to see where we helped that person the most. Then we were given assignments to do over the weekend that had to do with the brain, heart, social, body, and spirit questions. Maybe we had to find someone who was having a hard time with one of those characteristics.

Girls On The Run really helped me understand that there is always someone to help you, and that there are a lot of girls who share similar

interests with me, and I am also better at setting goals for myself. All of this practice really helped me through the 5k, which was fun since everyone seemed to be together, making me feel like there is always going to be someone at my side, and we got to decorate our hair with colorful hair spray and face paint.

I loved this program and I hope I can do it next year!!!



Girls on the Run
helps girls set their pace
That pace is to be
a good friend and peer
to have the right friends
(not the wrong)
to learn your boundaries.

For ten weeks I, Sadie, practiced all of those things mentioned in the poem above. On Mondays and Thursdays, we practiced at Leeds, on the bike path, and in Look Park. We set a goal of 20 or so minutes of running (to make sure that we didn't get too exhausted) and then the rest of the time we talked, did skits about the day's theme, played tag, and ate and ate and ate. (The coaches spent a small fortune on delicious snacks that we ate in a matter of minutes—YUM!).

About 5 weeks in, my group and I worked on our community impact project. We had a bake/book/lemonade sale to raise money for Cancer Connection and children affected by cancer. We made and hung up signs at Leeds Elementary to get people to come to our bake/book/lemonade sale. Some people baked, some people collected books, some people brought lemonade, and everyone helped contribute. We raised and donated \$178.00!

The 5K was tough, but I finished and got a medal at the end. Many parents contributed, cheering their kids, other kids, and everyone on. My mommy and daddy contributed very much. Mommy was a coach and my running buddy, and Daddy was a great cheerleader.

Leeds' Memorial Day Ceremony

It is a simple and moving thirty minute ceremony honoring our nation's fallen soldiers. It is held every year at Veterans Memorial Park across from Leeds School. In addition to the invocation, color guard, playing of taps, and the thoughtful words offered by the Mayor and guest speakers, students from Leeds Elementary School contribute every year to the ceremony.

This year, Audrey Quinn and Lilly Goldsmith read The Gettysburg Address, and Jamie Horton led the Pledge of Allegiance. The students were brilliant and we thank them for their time and clear voices.

Next year, when planning your family activities for the long Memorial Day weekend, please consider including this short outdoor ceremony into your weekend schedule. Attending is a way for people of all ages to show appreciation and honor those who gave their lives for our country.

The LEEDSLETTER will be on August Holiday! Have a great Summer!