



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2012

Upcoming Events for 2012

Pizza Party - March 24, 3:00-7:00pm
Beaver Brook Golf Clubhouse, North on Rt
9 just past Bread Euphoria

Earth Day Celebration
APRIL 21, Sat., 9:00-11:00
(rain date, April 22)

Bike for the Bridge - MAY 20, Sunday
(rain date, May 27)

Memorial Day Ceremony - MAY 27

Village Tag Sale - A Saturday in JUNE

Saturday Night Movies - JUNE, JUL, AUG
Gather at the green on Main Street

Saratoga Bus Trips - JULY 27, AUG 24

Ice Cream Socials AUGUST
(date to be decided)

Dinner on the Bridge - SEPTEMBER 1
Labor Day Weekend (rain date, Sept 2)

Block Party - SEPTEMBER, Sunday
(date to be decided)

History Night - NOVEMBER 13, Tues.

Holiday Lights - NOVEMBER 25, Sun.



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.

Spring Fling Pizza Party Saturday, MARCH 24, 3:00 – 7:00pm

It's that time again to celebrate the end of long nights, cold days and woolen undies by joining your friends and neighbors for the annual Leeds Pizza Party. This year the event will be held at the Beaver Brook Country Club on Rte 9 in Haydenville. There will be music, food, raffles and a few new twists so be sure to mark the date on your calendar. Ticket prices are reasonable for individuals and families with discounts for LCA members. Come prepared to laugh, dance and munch a welcome to the spring season.

Leeds Hotel Bridge Bike Ride Is Back!!!

The Leeds Civic Association is starting to plan for its Third Annual Leeds Hotel Bridge Bike Ride to benefit the preservation of our beloved Hotel Bridge. As in past years there will be multiple route options, as well as, maps and food for the riders. The date for the ride is May 20, 2012, and since we learned our lesson sitting in the downpour last year, we have scheduled the rain date to be May 27, 2012. Keep an eye out for more information about this fun event!

Traffic Issues Discussed

Laura Hanson, Traffic Engineer of the N'ton DPW, met with twenty Leeds residents, mainly from Yankee Hill, to discuss creative measures for calming traffic. Trouble spots in the area caused by fast cornering, absence of crosswalks and lack of signage were identified. Laura gathered feedback on possible uses of fees set aside by the developer of the Beaver Brook / Chestnut Ave Extension project to address traffic impacts generated by the future residents of the development. The DPW staff will meet in April with the N'ton Transportation and Parking Commission to discuss recommended measures. A follow-up meeting hosted by the LCA to discuss the recommendations that come from the T & P Commission will be scheduled. For more information contact Jim Montgomery of Grove Ave.

Earth Day: Clean-up, Spruce-up Leeds Saturday, APRIL 21, 9:00–11:00

To commemorate Earth Day this year the Leeds Civic Association (LCA) will be organizing not only the traditional litter patrols but also teams of friends and families to spruce up our various little parks and green pockets around the village. We'll need volunteers to plant flowers and shrubs and help with general clean up chores. Please join us for this healthy and satisfying community effort. For more information contact leedscivic@gmail.com

Leeds Rail Trail Updates

You may have noticed the new mini-oil derrick at the rail trail intersection near the Mulberry St Park. Come spring, a display with a map of the trail and a short history of Leeds village will be fastened to this stand to alert travelers they are passing through a special place called Leeds.

Headed down towards Look Park just past St Catherine's Church and Alternative Recycling, there's a steep slope that leads to a small parcel of land along the Mill River that was recently deeded to the City in lieu of past taxes. This spring a team of engineering students from Smith College along with the DPW will design an accessible path from the Rail Trail to this parcel that will allow easier access to Main St. and the Hotel Bridge. The team will be looking for input to their design from Leeds residents and Trail users. Once the design and cost estimates are concluded the more difficult piece of securing funds for the project will begin. The design team will discuss their preliminary work at the upcoming meeting on March 13.

History Notes: Frank Parker, Flood Survivor

My memories of Frank Parker are of an old man sitting on his porch at 16 Upland Road with his dog, Bakki, who we were told was a German war dog. Bakki would always chase passersby although now I'm told by Red Green if you put your hand up the dog would stop. No one told me that at the time and I didn't dilly dally when I went by their house.

What makes Mr. Parker interesting is that he was just 7 years old and living with his family in the village center when the flood of 1874 came and destroyed most of the center of Leeds. As the Mill River started rising Frank's father told them to stay in the house assuming it wasn't that bad, but shortly after he realized his mistake and had the whole family move to the knoll and escape the flood. The irony of this was their house was one of the few that survived. Mr. Parker lived to be 94 and his memory of that day was very vivid.

Frank Parker, came to Leeds at the age of 5 from Connecticut, worked 40 years at the Corticelli Mills and died in 1961. If you want to know more about Mr Parker, you can go to Forbes Library and look up in the Gazette microfilm the dates Aug 26, 1953 and Dec 4, 1957 (the later has a picture of Mr. Parker and Bakki which I think my grandfather took). - Joel Emrick

Leeds Business Profile

The Leeds' Mart is probably one of our little village's most accommodating public spots. A good cup of coffee, breakfast sandwich, gallon of milk or small talk with friends, it all starts with the congenial owner himself, Neil Patel. So whether it's that million dollar lottery ticket, (his biggest so far was \$100,000 winner) or that pound of baloney for school lunches tomorrow (deli prices as cheap as anyone around), the Leeds' Mart has a little something for everyone.

Born in Central Africa, with extended family roots in India and a Northampton High graduate, Neil is the father of four-year-old Prem, year old Amar and husband to Amisha. Who would have imagined that a family man from three continents would run a rallying-around point for so many Leeds, Florence and hill town folk? During Neil's eight years of ownership, the Leeds' Mart has also generously contributed to Leeds civic activities including space for event posters, raffle donations, ice, deli products and more.

A big change is on the horizon though as the new building owners have decided not to renew the lease for the Leeds Mart as of February, 2013. So stop on by the Leeds Mart over the next few months and spend some time with Neil Patel, one of Leeds' finest businessmen. - Jim Mias

The Mark and Patricia Bradford Memorial Fund

Soon-to-be 2012 graduates of Smith Vocational H.S. and Northampton H.S. are encouraged to apply for the Bradford Scholarship. This award goes to a Leeds resident who has a desire to continue their education at college or advanced vocational training. Application requirements and paperwork can be obtained through the school's Guidance offices. Contact Richard Greene (584 5525) or Earl Meunier (584-8858) with questions about the Bradford Memorial Fund.

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All LCA memberships expired on
December 1, 2011. If you have not yet
renewed, please consider doing so now.
If you have already renewed, THANK YOU!
It is your financial support that makes
events possible.

