



# LEEDS LETTER

MARCH 2015

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2015

### MARCH 10 LCA Meeting

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

- Pizza Party
- Mulberry Park tree trimming
- Spring Litter clean up
- Workin' Bridges site visit

### MARCH 14

#### Beat the Winter Blues Pizza & Raffle Party

Saturday, 4:00 - 7:00 pm  
Northampton Country Club

### MARCH 26

#### Bike path 'spur' design presentation by Smith College engineering students

Thursday, 7:00 - 9:00 pm  
Leeds School Community Room

### Pizza Party Time - Heidi Stevens

Mark your calendars - March 14th is the party date. The hours are from 4:00 - 8:00pm. The LCA hosts this annual event to bring much needed heat into the community during the long, cold winter...and this particular winter, with its frigid temps and endless shoveling of snow, we find that we are more than ready for warmth. The party will be held in the Northampton Country Club and there will be a cash bar. If you have never attended the pizza party - it is a blast! If you come every year, you already know that you will be entertained, laugh a lot, most likely go home with a few raffle prizes, meet new people and catch up with neighbors. Our Master of Ceremonies this year will be Jim Mias and Dana Collins will be the music man.

"Beat the Winter Blues Pizza Party" is for everyone in the Leeds community; children, seniors, and those in between are all welcome. In fact, this year we have a few guests coming from the Leeds facility, Highview of Northampton. They will be mingling in their wheel chairs, joining us at tables, and adding their joy and wisdom to the event. The LCA has an important reminder to parents of young ones (and medium ones): Keep in mind that you must mind your children in the Country Club. If parents want to let loose; perhaps, consider bringing a baby sitter along. Like we said...everyone is welcome!

You are encouraged to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Admission - LCA members \$5 adult / \$3 child, Non-members \$10 adult/ \$5 children. If you are not an LCA member, no problem, you can join at the party for \$10 per family...and save on admission fee!

A few interesting prizes collected so far are: a practically new light weight, easy to use rowing machine, a slack line which is a strong strap that when secured between two trees is a flexible balance beam...(very cool and very fun once you get the hang of it), gorgeous etched velvet handbags and scarves, and wine baskets. Check out your closets, basements, and attics to see if there is something in there that another adult or child might like and make use of. We'll continue to collect prizes up to March 12th. You can contact Heidi at 585-9923, or [heidi@heidistevens.com](mailto:heidi@heidistevens.com) about prize drop offs or pick up requests.

### Smith student engineers present bike path spur plan to Leeds residents, March 26th - Sara Mercier

A group of three engineering students at Smith College have been working all year on a senior capstone project designing a rail trail spur attaching to the existing Rail Trail from Hotel Bridge on Main Street in Leeds. The group is working with the Northampton DPW and Office of Planning and Sustainability. The goal of the project is to provide trail users with a safe, easy, and direct way to access Main Street and, once the Hotel Bridge is reopened, eventually to the recreational areas on the other side of the Mill



River. The path is being designed for maximum user axis and will adhere to all standards from the Americans with Disabilities Act. The group will be presenting the new spur design, showing slides, and fielding any questions you all may have on March 26th from 7:00-9:00 in the Leeds School Music Room.

### **Nature event on a driveway** - John Daniel

After seeing a flash of brown through the window, I discovered this large fellow standing over the inert form of an unfortunate rabbit. When I tried to take his picture there, he flew up into a nearby tree where he posed for this picture and waited for me to go away. Whenever he got some privacy he returned to his meal, leaving me a small but gory mess to dispose of by the end of the afternoon.

We think he might be a Rough-legged Hawk, a species that lives in the arctic and sub-arctic most of the year, descending to the balmy climes of northern U.S. for the winter months. Rough-legged Hawks are one of three American raptors to have feathered legs to the toes.

### **Treasures from the Mill River** - Heidi Stevens

Chris Bennett of Granby is an avid fisherman and tries his luck in dozens of Western Massachusetts streams and rivers. One of his favorite spots is the Mill River in Leeds where he catches brown trout, rainbows and groupies. About 20 years ago, Chris was fly fishing his way north of Beaver Brook navigating around a large branch jutting from the river's edge. As he cleared the branch and neared the shore, his gator toe caught on something sticking up from the sandy bottom. He nudged it out a bit and saw a loop of metal. Pulling it from the sand and mud he realized he had caught a very old brass cup. At just 2 inches tall and 3 inches wide the cup is fairly heavy. It has a thin lip at top, a seamed bottom and a smooth welded handle. He thinks the cup could be 150 years old or more. It makes one wonder who was the craftsman-could it have been made by a worker at the Brassworks? Did it land in the river as a result of the Mill River Flood of 1874? Maybe it was a traveler's shaving mug that slipped from its owners rucksack? Whatever its origins, it sat in the river for a long time and then rested on Chris Bennett's window sill for over 20 years. After reading last summer's Hotel Bridge Gazette article and learning more about Mill River history, Chris offered the cup to the LCA. We hope to keep the cup at the Williamsburg Historical Society building until we establish a more local space for our found treasures from the Mill River.

### **Green Tip** - Amy Stamm

It's hard to believe that spring is right around the corner, and with spring comes spring cleaning and home renovations. If you clean out your shed and have building supplies that you want to get rid of, you can bring them to EcoBuilding Bargains at 83 Warwick Street in Springfield, MA or call them up at 413-788-6900 to schedule a time for them to come and pick up



*Rough-legged Hawk perches in tree beside the Daniel's Grove Ave driveway*

your materials. If you need building materials for a project – lumber, tiles, a bathtub, doors, radiators, light fixtures, you name it – you can purchase salvaged and other inexpensive materials from EcoBuilding Bargains. Their whole goal is to help people keep building materials out of the waste stream by helping people to reuse them. They will even come to help clear away old building materials when a home is being renovated. This can save you a lot of money in disposal fees. EcoBuilding Bargains also offers an array of energy saving products like LED lightbulbs. Check them out at <http://ecobuildingbargains.org/>.

### **Please send your Leeds stories to:**

#### **Leeds Civic Association**

LeedsCivicAssoc@gmail.com

[www.leedscivic.org](http://www.leedscivic.org)

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