



LEEDS LETTER

MARCH 2017

Annual Leeds Civic Association Party - Prize donations needed

The LCA's main fund raising party is just a few weeks away. Please take a look in your closets, attics and basements for potential prizes. It's a chance to re-gift your holiday gifts! New and gently used items that kids or adults would like are great. Handmade items and gift certificates are wonderful as well. The LCA is fortunate to have the Northampton Country Club as a community partner for this event. The NCC's new owners, Jim and Chrissy Cassagrande, are aware of the good work the LCA does in Leeds and have generously agreed to continue allowing the LCA to use the banquet space with no room fee. Thank you NCC!

You can drop Pizza Party donations off at 8 Upland Road on the side porch. Please call ahead: 585-9923. Thanks!

2017 UPCOMING EVENTS

The second Tuesday of each month Leeds Civic Association' volunteers meet to discuss what's happening in the village. Everyone is welcome to join in and share their ideas and concerns. If your new to Leeds or have lived here for years connecting with the LCA is a great way to become more involved with your community.

LCA Monthly Meeting MARCH 14

Tuesday, 7:00 - 8:00pm
Leeds School Teacher's Lounge

Some items on the agenda:
Pizza Party Planning
Spring Litter Clean-Up
Historical Signage Mounting
Crab Apple Pruning

MARCH 25

Saturday, 4:30 - 8:30 pm
**Beat the Winter Blues
Raffle and Pizza Party**
Northampton Country Club



LEEDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

LEEDS' BEAT THE WINTER BLUES PIZZA PARTY AND RAFFLE

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 4:30-8:30PM
NORTHAMPTON COUNTRY CLUB

LCA ADULT MEMBERS-\$5 | LCA MEMBERS' KIDS -\$3
NON-MEMBERS-\$10 | NON-MEMBERS' KIDS-\$5

ALL LEEDS RESIDENTS WELCOME!

**PRIZES
MUSIC
CASH BAR**

**PLEASE BRING
AN APPETIZER
OR DESSERT
TO SHARE!**





Photo by Amy Quinn

What a Hoot! - Amy Quinn

After a recent snowfall my daughter and I ventured out to play in the snow and to our surprise we witnessed a beautiful Barred Owl fly into the pines along our property. The owl, so stealth and majestic in its approach, silently found a perch about 30 feet up in one of the pine trees. He stayed quite a while and, as you can see from this photo we were able to capture, he appeared to be napping. He remained very still with his eyes closed.

We watched for some time in awe of this amazing sight. Shortly thereafter, a group of small birds began to frantically swarm around the area where the owl was perched, calling out to each other. This is apparently a behavior called "Mobbing" in which a species of prey groups together to attack or ward off a dangerous predator, usually in an effort to protect their young. This is often seen with birds, however, in this case it did not seem to make an impact. The owl stood his ground.

Owls are nocturnal birds and if you listen carefully at night you may hear their call. The Barred Owl is specifically known for its eight syllable hooting call that sounds like it is saying, "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for y'all?" Being nocturnal, it seemed strange to us that we would see an owl in flight during the day but we have since learned that the Barred Owl is one of the few owls that will venture out during the day to prey on small animals. This is especially true on very cold days when their prey are scurrying around themselves to find extra food. So the next time you are out, keep your eyes and ears open and you may just witness this beauty in person!

Local Author's Book Reading Review - Sue Carbin

On Wednesday, Feb. 8th, John Clapp read from his book, *The Lost Village of Robert's Meadow*. And what perfect timing it was. Between the light but annoying snow fall of Tuesday and the masterblaster of Thursday, Wednesday was a lovely dry evening which brought 40 plus of us out to hear about where Leeds really began.

Edwards Tavern, Allen's Tavern, the bark mill and tanning

factory, the Albany Turnpike toll road, Mosquito Hollow Road and the interesting cast of characters who lived and worked there were all alive again on Feb 8th. We saw pictures and maps and learned more than we ever knew about the process of tanning.

If you have any interest in Leeds history, I highly recommend that you pick up a copy of this book. You can purchase it directly from John by calling him at: 584-1703 or emailing to starlightllama@gmail.com. You can also purchase the book at Collective Copies while supplies last. John would like to thank everyone who came to his reading. He greatly appreciates the interest and support.

Though most of the buildings, save two, are gone John will be leading us on a walking tour of cellar holes along Mosquito Hollow Road in the Spring (which is just around the corner). Date and time to be determined.



Children's Tag Sale with Meaningful Purpose - Edna Greene

This picture was taken in the center of Leeds on September 1, 1955. Four local Leeds girls, Dianne Graham, Sharon Emrick, Susan Rogers and Margaret Heon went door to door, mostly up on Yankee Hill, collecting objects for their tag sale. Apparently there was a girl in Leeds with Polio at that time and they wanted to help. The money they collected by selling ice cold lemonade and other items (\$30.32) went to the local Polio fund. Thank you Joel Emrick and Edna Greene for sharing the photo and story.

In Next Issue - Updated Robert's Hill Trail Map

A new hiking trail has been blazed (marked with upside down red triangles) on the recently added 20 acres (the Talon Trust property). The new trail creates an arcing half loop that traverses the newly acquired land. It connects on each end to the blue trail. The orange trail now extends all the way down to Reservoir Road, ending/starting across from the dam. The blazing work was done by Dave Litterer of UMass. The trail map will also be available on the LCA website, LeedsCivic.org.