



LEEDS LETTER

MARCH-APRIL 2018

UPCOMING 2018 EVENTS

MARCH 20

LCA Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Leeds School Teacher's Lounge

Everyone is welcome to come!

MARCH 24

Community RePair

Saturday, 1:00-4:00 PM

Smith Voke parking lot

Northampton residents are invited to bring a household item in need of repair to this free Saturday afternoon event. Clothing, electric items, furniture, bicycles, and kitchen knives in need of sharpening are welcome.

APRIL 10

LCA Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Leeds School Teacher's Lounge

APRIL 21

Spring Litter Clean Up

Saturday, 8:00am - noon

Come to Leeds Post Office between 8:00 and 9:45am to get bags and sign up for a street or trail

Rain date-April 28

APRIL 28

Spring Reuse & Recycling Rally

Saturday, 9:00 - NOON

Smith Voke parking lot

Collecting: Pellet bags, clothing, bicycles, limited bulky rigid plastic items, and large blocks of white Styrofoam. Secure, on-site document shredding provided.

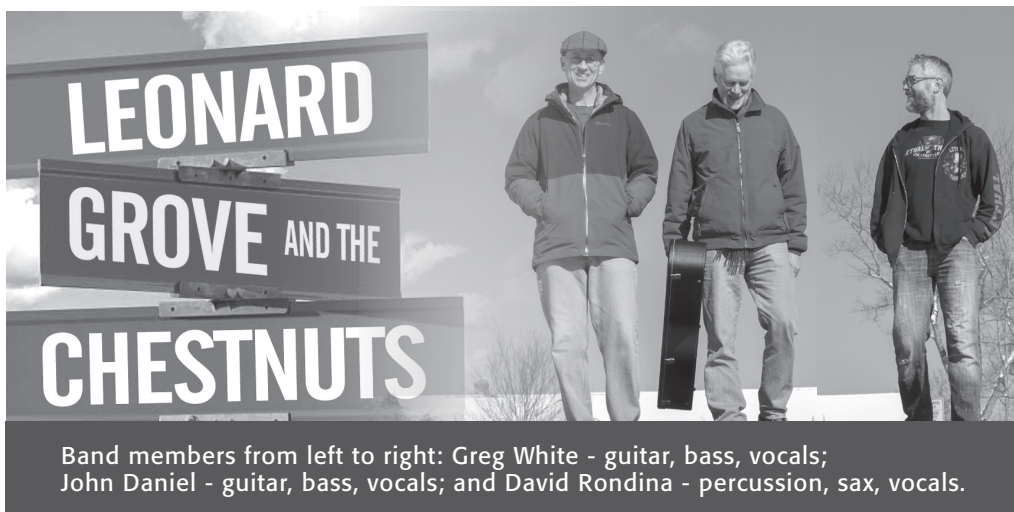
LEEDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 114, Leeds, MA 01053

LeedsCivicAssoc@gmail.com

LeedsCivic.org

NEW LEEDS BAND DEBUTS AT BREAD EUPHORIA!



Band members from left to right: Greg White - guitar, bass, vocals; John Daniel - guitar, bass, vocals; and David Rondina - percussion, sax, vocals.

LEONARD GROVE AND THE CHESTNUTS will be making their musical debut at Bread Euphoria on Saturday, March 24th. The band is made up of three guys from the Yankee Hill neighborhood. The band's name is taken from the streets they live on or next to. They started getting together a few years ago to play and sing for the sheer fun of it. Over time they decided that it would be fun to show the world - well, at least the community - what had come out of all those informal jam sessions.

Their repertoire is all over the map, basically songs they found they all liked. The tunes range from Cole Porter to Elvis to The Beach Boys to Al Green to Cyndi Lauper. Something for everybody! Details are at <https://www.facebook.com/events/391808461287027/>.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SPRING LITTER PICK-UP, APRIL 21, 8:00 -11:30 AM

This is an all-hands-on-deck event and the Leeds Civic Association makes it easy!

STEP 1. Stop by the Leeds Post Office between 8:45 and 9:30 on Saturday, April 21 to register for a location and get trash bags. Garden gloves are recommended

STEP 2. Go to your chosen location, fill your bags and leave them by the side of the road. The LCA will pick up the filled bags by 11:30 and bring them to the dumpster.

STEP 3. Go home or out and eat a nice lunch. You'll feel great for having chipped in!

LEEDS: THE LAND OF SURPRISE WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS - Cat Thomson, Nature Enthusiast

When it comes to wildlife sightings, there are certain animals that you just don't expect to see. You know they're around, but spotting them is so unlikely that you don't even try. Take moose, for example. You wouldn't be shocked to encounter one in Maine, but you'd be pretty surprised to stumble across one here in Leeds. Then you have the animals you're more or less guaranteed to see, or at least hear about: deer, turkeys, foxes, hawks, raccoons, and even the occasional bear. Until a couple years ago, this was the only substantial wildlife I ever expected to see. And I was OK with that because they're great.

But when we moved to Leeds, our natural world expanded to include animals I never thought I would see in my own neighborhood. My first surprise sighting was a weasel. I was walking along the bike path when this long, slender, ferret-faced critter popped up over the rocks, took one look at us, and scurried into a crevice. Another chance encounter was with an animal I'd never even heard of before—the American bittern, a member of the heron

family who I spied hunting peepers in a water retention area. In my own yard, I watched two magnificent male indigo buntings chase each other around for days. No doubt, there was a female nearby.

And then, one snowy morning down at the lovely Beaver Brook, I happened upon one of those animals I never expected to see. I was walking along the path when, in addition to the usual tinkling and swirling sounds of the brook, I heard a curious “bloop.” There, floating toward me, was what looked like a river otter. What? No. As I was convincing myself it must be a beaver, two more came rolling and bobbing down behind her. Wide-eyed, I watched as they climbed onto the far side and chased each other, doing all those adorable things otters do. One of the them slid down the bank directly in front of me, looked me square in the eyes, and panicked. He jumped in the water with the others soon to follow. The two smaller ones disappeared while the bigger one (most likely the mother) made sure to scold me on her way by, and then vanished under the surface.

Cat Thomson is pretty sure she missed her calling as a wildlife biologist, but she now combines her passion for nature with her professional editing and writing skills to share her thoughts with anyone who will listen. She loves talking critters (plants too!), so if you see her around town and you've got a story to tell, don't hesitate to chat her up!

GREEN TIP - Amy Stamm

Installing a solar system is one of the greenest, most economically sound actions you can take. Although solar systems generally pay for themselves in approximately ten years, after which point your electricity is completely free, many people think they can't afford to purchase such systems. A majority of these people decide to lease a solar system from a company, but the long-term financial benefits of owning your own system far outweigh leasing, according to Consumer Reports. That's where Mass Solar Loans come in. On top of the 30% federal tax credit and \$1,000 Massachusetts tax credit you receive when you purchase a solar system, income-qualified individuals and families can receive further discounts on solar systems. If your income falls below 80% of the state medium income, a Mass Solar Loan will reduce the principal on your loan by 30% (up to \$10,500). If your income falls below 120% of the state medium income, you qualify for a 10% principal reduction (up to \$3,500). A chart laying out these income levels by household size can be found at <http://files.masscec.com/solar-loan/MassSolarLoanFlier.pdf>. PV Squared (413-772-8788) is a worker-owned solar cooperative based in Greenfield, and they, like other solar companies, take you through the whole process, including providing a free site visit and estimate, and filling out all necessary paperwork for you when you take out a loan to purchase a solar system.

LEEDS PIZZA PARTY- A TRADITION - Heidi Stevens

My favorite thing about the annual Leeds Pizza Party is that it brings single folks, families, new and old residents, retirees and kids together under one roof – it's an event where everyone feels welcome and has good fun. . . And it still has the same vibe as it did 19 years ago.

My kids, now young men, were lucky to be raised with the Leeds Pizza Party as part of their childhood. To see new families with young kids enjoying the same experience that my kids looked forward to and relished is wonderful.

The anticipation of finding out who wins which prize continues

to be hilarious entertainment as Dana Collins, and Jim Mias, with his merry band of kid helpers, easily keep the crowd laughing.

A few things pop out about Leeds folks based on the prizes that drew the most tickets. For instance, this year we know:

Leeds folks have a sweet tooth! - The local (East Center Street) Bill's Bees Honey basket and chubby cookie jar filled with Lora Sandhusen's home-made cookies, which smelled amazing even with the lid taped closed, was a favorite. The Dunkin' Donuts \$25 gift certificate was also tantalizing for many.

Leeds folks appreciate art from near and far - Dick Carnes' color photographs of water cascading over Hoxie Dam, and the Peruvian and Ecuadorian woven wall hangings that Norma Adler donated were very popular items.

Leeds folks take care of their things - Two lucky winners will be getting a free oil change at Leeds' new business on River Road, David's Auto. Another winner will be getting \$25 worth of items at Florence Hardware.

Unique and thoughtful prizes also drew attention like the Massachusetts shaped cutting board, Vietnamese paper art, and a salt stone light. Kids went in big for the snow board, exercise ball, Barbie camper and art set. Some lucky dog will be pampered with treats from the doggie basket prize, and a neighborhood cat will be enjoying some new toys and accessories.

Leeds Civic would like to thank Chrissy Casagrande for the use of the Northampton Country Club, free of charge. To everyone who donated wonderful prizes and/or brought appetizers and desserts, thank you! It's no wonder that our city councilor at-large, Ryan O'Donnell said, that out of all the neighborhoods in the city, Leeds parties are in a class of their own!

ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Students planning to further their education by attending trade school, community college, or university are eligible for the Mark and Patricia Bradford Memorial Fund Scholarship.

Mark Bradford was a former president of the Leeds Civic Association. He and his wife, Patricia, contributed immensely to the Leeds community.

Scholarship applications are now available at the Northampton High School Guidance Office.

Leeds Hats for Sale



Stonewashed, canvas baseball caps with adjustable metal clasp

Gray • Blue • Green

\$20 each - Proceeds go to the Hotel Bridge Restoration Fund

Reserve hats at LeedsCivic.org

To arrange for pick-up, contact Heidi at:

heidistevens.com, or 585-9923

TO SEE A COLOR PHOTO OF THE HATS GO TO LEEDSCIVIC.ORG