



LEEDS LETTER

MARCH-APRIL 2019

WIND IN THE WHITE by Woody Rhodes

The 24 hour wind storm on February 25 rattled a few nerves in and about Leeds. Icy cold air and up to 60 mile an hour winds seemed to peak about 3:30pm. Justin O'Connor was making coffee and looking out his kitchen window at that moment when the big white pine on the corner of Upland and Grove went down in one long, sort of drawn out way—landing almost straight down the middle of Upland Road. No one got hurt, kids from Leeds school had earlier passed by. Within 3 hours the DPW guys with the big machinery, cut up, shoveled, crunched, lifted and relocated the part of the trunk and branches that landed in the road. The massive tree, now resting by the side of the road is a curiosity piece for a bit. But where it broke, exposed now but not so much noticed holds a story started well over a decade ago.

The white pine was big then, but in a heavy snow storm, lost it's first major limb—by far the largest on the tree. The lost branch had loomed out and over Upland Road. When it ripped off, it tore down and left a big scar, tight to the bark of the tree but a different color and texture. The joke among a few was of saintly visions, faces from the past seen in the scar. It was easy to imagine, the scar was so perfectly exposed toward the road— it was hard to miss.

Gradually, squirrels chewed on this soft wood, bugs of all sorts, and birds after the bugs. The face-like scar started being eaten away by time and appetites. Deeper and deeper until honey bees found a lease they couldn't refuse. Huge hives year after year. So big that other hives spun off of it. One giant – in transit hive– spending all day across the street. Bears, who sensed a great deal, could never get at it, due to the angle of the trunk and the inwardly warp of the hives entrance, though they surely tried. You may have seen this scene played out.

After the last hive was gone, squirrels moved in, subletting in a way this ready made home with wax coated walls. That tree was so adaptable, so accommodating, such a good neighbor.

So now there lies the tree. Check out the breaking point, if there is still time. The big hole now faces away from the road, so go on the yard and feel the inside of the bee hive/squirrel home. Sometimes we take 'em for granted, but this one was hard to miss. Hope you all have a tree that has a history.

BANDING TOGETHER FOR LEEDS

Leonard Grove and the Chestnuts would like to thank Leeds for supporting them in their musical endeavors. A faithful contingent of devout fans makes for a fun evening of merry making, with more to come. The latest gig at Bread Euphoria brought in truck loads of "bread", so those donations are being given back to the community at large. \$71 for the Leeds bridge! Join us next time. - Lenny and the boys

THE LCA SEEKS NEW PEOPLE!

There will be 2-3 Leeds Civic Association board positions opening soon. After so many years, some who have steadfastly run the show, so to speak, are ready to pass the torch to new people. The LCA needs your participation, so it can continue to carry out its mission – advancing the quality of life in the village, and helping citizens to stay connected and informed. The Leeds Civic Association is here to stay .. if YOU get involved. Board elections will be held in November. The next monthly meeting is Tuesday, April 9th at 7:00pm in the Leeds school teacher's lounge. Please come and share your thoughts and ideas !



UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 9 LCA Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, 7:00 PM
Leeds School Teacher's Lounge

APRIL or MAY Leeds Spring Litter Pick Up

Date to be determined

APRIL 27 City Councilor for Ward 7 Meeting

Saturday, April 27, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Community Room
JFK Middle School,
100 Bridge Road, Florence

LEEDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

LeedsCivic.org

LEEDS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HEADING TO ECUADOR



My name is Mary Greene and I live on Water Street. I am a Junior at Northampton High School (NHS). This summer I will be traveling to Ecuador for two weeks with Global Glimpse, a leadership program offered by NHS. I was fortunate enough to be selected to attend this service trip and represent my school. This program will afford me the opportunity to travel and learn about the developing world. I

know this experience will help me to grow as a person and help others in need.

When I heard about the opportunity to travel to and learn about the developing world with Global Glimpse, I knew that my knowledge would grow indefinitely this summer and I'd be a stronger candidate for college next fall. I will be able to meet leaders in Ecuador and the people living there to learn about their world. I will be doing community service to help complete a project of need identified by the Ecuadorians. I know it will be very different from my home, but I am eager to see other areas of the world and how other people live. I know that studying the developing world by living there will be a great way for me to grow, learn and connect with ideas that have only existed in the classroom for me until now. I have studied 4 years of Spanish which will serve me well during my stay and allow me to further learn how to communicate effectively in a language other than my own. While I am in Ecuador, I will also have the opportunity to teach English which enables me to give back to a community that will be giving me an invaluable lesson.

I am reaching out to my community to help me fund-raise for my trip. I need to raise \$3,249.00 by May 1st. I am proud to say that due to the generosity of my neighbors who have supported me thus far with my can and bottle drive I am halfway to meeting my goal. The Leeds community support has been amazing! You can continue to help by contacting me at mgreene1635@gmail.com if you would like to donate your cans and bottles for redemption. I can come pick them up at your home or you can drop them off in my driveway at 30 Water Street. If you would like to make a donation to this cause, I can accept cash or a check made out to "Global Glimpse" with my name, "Mary Greene, Northampton High School" in the memo line. All donations are tax-deductible and I can provide you with a receipt if you would like one. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank my Leeds community who has already helped me by donating thousands of cans/bottles or with monetary donations. Your support has been overwhelming and a reminder to me of what a great neighborhood I have had the opportunity to grow up in. When I get to Ecuador I will help others as you have all helped me. Thank you for helping me to reach my goal to achieve this once in a lifetime experience.

CITY COUNCILOR FOR WARD 7 MEETING!

Saturday, April 27 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. - Community Room
JFK Middle School, 100 Bridge Road, Florence

Our current Ward 7 City Councilor, Alisa Klein, has announced she won't be running for a fourth term on the City Council. There will be a meeting for all Ward 7 residents interested in running for the term beginning in 2020 and for residents interested in hearing from potential candidates.

Please come to this meeting:

- If you're thinking you might want to run for Ward 7 City Councilor for the term beginning 2020
- If you'd like to talk to Ward 7 residents who are considering running for Ward 7 City Councilor
- To share your ideas about what you hope for in a Ward 7 City Councilor and for Ward 7

This will be a meeting for people who may be considering running for City Council to begin talking about their intention and vision for their candidacy and campaign. It is not a debate between the candidates or a time for endorsements of particular candidates. It will be an opportunity for the people who are considering running to share information about themselves and hear from members of the Ward 7 community about their ideas for Ward 7. For more information, or if you're someone who is considering a run for office, please contact: Barbara Goldin, barbaradiamond@rcn.com

TURNING YOUR YARD INTO A MEADOW By Amy Stamm

Residents of the United States have turned 24 million acres of land into lawns. As suburban development continues to spread, wildlife habitat continues to dwindle. Lawns tend to be made up of non-native turf grasses, and to maintain them people tend to use enormous amounts of water, fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides, gasoline, and labor. Lawns stifle biodiversity and contribute to water and air pollution. To eliminate all that, consider making your yard a meadow. Turning your lawn into a meadow with native vegetation can provide food habitat for some of the wildlife that has been displaced by our suburban yards. Perennial meadows consist of grasses, wildflowers, and plants native to this area and usually take 2-3 years to get established. Once established, they are virtually maintenance- and expense-free, so you can save hours and hours of labor (no more lawn mowing!) over the spring and summer seasons and use those hours to enjoy all the new wildlife celebrating life in your new meadow. For more information on how to create a backyard meadow, go to <https://conservationtools.org/guides/151-from-lawn-to-meadow>.

