



LEEDS LETTER

MAY 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS 2016

MAY 10 LCA Meeting

Tuesday, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Leeds School teachers lounge
Come and share your ideas!

- Village wide tag sale
- Historical Walking Tour sign project
- Hotel Bridge sandwich party
- Chartpak dam partying prevention

MAY 29 Memorial Day Celebration

Sunday, 1:00 noon

Leeds Veteran Memorial Park on
Florence Street opposite the Leeds
School.

JUNE 11 Village Wide Tag Sale

Saturday, 9:00 noon

We're giving you all fair warning so you can begin to organize your yard sale treasures for the annual Leeds Tag Sale. Everyone can participate. A village wide tag sale draws more customers because it's convenient for shoppers to check out many sales within a short distance. The LCA will take care of the newspaper advertising, you take care of signs on your own roads and set up your stuff in your driveway, garage, or yard.

Leeds Civic Association

P.O. Box 114,
Leeds, MA 01053
leedscivassoc@gmail.com
www.leedscivic.org

Big volunteer turn out for Leeds litter pick up

Time to take notice of what *isn't* on Leeds road-sides. The soda and nip bottles, beer cans, plastic waste, styrofoam cups and to-go containers, pieces of house siding, old tires, debris and other trash that marred the beauty of the village are gone. Every Spring an effort is made by Leeds volunteers to clear the thoughtless disposal of other people's trash.

The volunteers listed below picked up nearly a dumpster's worth of trash on Saturday, April 30th and Don Willard's group picked up two truck loads on Sunday in the rain! Saturday's volunteers filled large black bags which they left on the roadsides they cleaned. Sue Carbin and Marc Freedman rounded up the bags into Sue's truck and hauled them to the DPW dumpster at Leeds School. Lynne Imre helped Sue sign people up in front of the PO.

Please take notice as you drive or walk along the following roads and trails and if you see any of these helpful folks around the village give them a hearty "thank you."

Driver & Trash Loader - Sue Carbin & Marc Freedman

Reservoir Rd - Bruce Walker, Rob Urbank, Tom Silliman & Arissa, Trish Reidy, Jason Johnson

River Rd - Chart Pak employees

Arch St & trail - Singwen Mientka and Pine Forest Northampton Ueshiro Karate Studio members

Spring & Dimock - Rondina family

Mulberry & Main - Margaret Aroj, Michael MacDonald

Lower Main Street - Jason Johnson

Florence, Bernache, Stowell, Heffernan Streets, Route 9, east side - Hodgson-Skantz family

Route 9, west side (E. Center to Scotti's, Look Restaurant to VA) - Heidi Stevens, Justin O'Connor

Chesterfield/Kennedy/Reservoir intersection - Fran & Wayne Thibault

Yankee Hill neighborhood - Kim Wojcik and Steve, a new resident to Beaver Brook Extension

Mill River dirt trail (north) - Alisa Klein, Amy Stamm

Mill River banks - Penny, Leo, Otto and Juni Geis,

Beaver Brook Conservation area on Rt 9 - Deb Jacobs

Sylvester Road and the intersection - Don Willard's group had 21 volunteers



Singwen Mientka and members of the Pine Forest Northampton Ueshiro Karate Studio



Some of Don Willard's volunteer group who picked up two truck loads of trash on Sunday.

Memorial Day Celebration-May 29 - Earl Meunier

The Leeds Memorial Day Celebration honoring our veterans will take place at 1:00 pm Sunday May 29th at the Leeds Veteran Memorial Park on Florence Street opposite the Leeds School. Activities will include a color guard, a wreath laying ceremony, the playing of Taps and reading of The Gettysburg Address by a Leeds Elementary student. Reverend David Whitely Chaplain at the VA medical Center will give the invocation. All are welcome and encouraged to come and show support and gratitude for veterans and their service to our country.

Nature's Classroom - Amy Quinn and Heidi Stevens

For the past 21 years Leeds Elementary fifth graders have been participating in the outdoor experiential educational program called Nature's Classroom. There are many Nature's Classroom camps in New England. Leeds School students go to the camp in Becket Massachusetts. The 1000 acre site has forest land, meadows and a lake – a living laboratory for curious young minds.

As the departure day nears, excitement and anticipation grow. Sleeping bags, flashlights, bug spray, warm clothes and clothes for rainy weather are packed (Learning happens in all weather at Nature's Classroom!) Buses are loaded, parents wave goodbye and the adventure begins. Students bunk in large winterized cabins with a couple dozen fellow students. Teacher chaperones have adjoining rooms. Hearty meals are enjoyed and kids clean up after themselves.

The four day, three night excursion to Nature's Classroom offers a unique learning experience for young people. Students participate in activities that are fun but also educational. They gain an understanding of the complexity of the natural world and are able to apply what they learn in hands on experiences. The field group activities promote teamwork, the setting of goals, decision making and problem solving. Kids engage in environmental sustainability, community building, community service and group cohesiveness during the day and evening activities. Science, math, humanities, and history are explored by observing and interacting with nature. Kids also have the opportunity to choose from different special interest topics/activities.

Leeds School is fortunate to go to Nature's Classroom early in the school year (November) because the experience establishes a bond amongst the fifth graders which enhances their learning throughout the year. Parents agree that the trip to Nature's Classroom, being away from home and family, a first for some children, offers kids a taste of independence, builds self-confidence and fosters responsibility for their own learning.

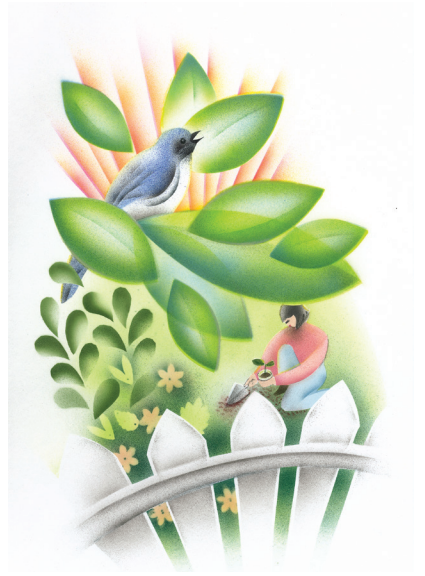
The tuition per student to Nature's Classroom is not cheap. The fifth grade Spaghetti Supper held every Spring is a fund-raiser to help reduce the cost for the following year's fifth grade families and provide scholarships so that every fifth grader who wishes to attend Nature's Classroom has the opportunity. The LCA was pleased to donate \$300 to sponsor a Leeds Elementary School student for the November 2016 Nature's Classroom trip. If you are interested in learning more about Nature's Classroom visit, http://www.naturesclassroom.org/nc_what.htm

Flower Bouquet Share

Adrienne Bashista is starting a wee flower farm and will have bouquet shares for sale, as well as a flower stand on the road at 198 Sylvester Road starting at the end of May. For the same price of a conventional arrangement from a florist you can get 4 local, fresh, and generous bouquets over 4 weeks! The cost for the "Mother's Day" CSA share is \$60 for 4 weeks. Adrienne will communicate with folks who buy a share to figure out the most convenient pick-up for them. If you have questions please call Adrienne at 413 570-5966.

Green Tip - Amy Stamm

During this gardening season, one way to benefit all the creatures that live in Leeds is to make a commitment to using organic gardening practices. Organic practices work on the principle of nurturing the soil, not individual plants, through techniques or systems found in nature. By interspersing different kinds of plants, planting native species, and amending the soil with compost, which you can make for free out of yard and food scraps, you can create a yard environment that's safe for all of us. Hundreds of scientific studies have confirmed that pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides, including Roundup and other mainstream brands marketed as safe, cause serious immune, hormonal, and neurological damage and harm our groundwater. These chemicals kill beneficial insects, as well as harmful ones, and they have been implicated in the massive decline in populations of bats and bees, our plants' main pollinators.



Seth Mias Catering Comes to Leeds - Heidi Stevens

The talented chef and entrepreneur, Seth Mias, will be moving his successful catering business to the Look Restaurant building on Route 9. Seth purchased the building in April and will be making major renovations throughout the summer to get the space in order for some serious cooking! He is hoping to have the business moved in by September. Seth's catering business has won the Advocate Best of the Valley Readers Choice Award for seven consecutive years, 2009-2015!

Many of us were sorry to see Look Restaurant close, but to have a thriving business operating rather than a vacant building is a big plus for the community. A bonus is to have a business owned by someone who was raised in Leeds and cares about the village.

Soon the chocolate dipped strawberry logo of Seth Mias Catering will be hanging in front of his place. We wish him the best of luck in his new location.