



LEEDS LETTER

MAY 2017

UPCOMING LCA EVENTS

MAY 9

LCA Monthly meeting

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

MAY 28

Memorial Day Ceremony

Sunday, 1:00 pm
Memorial Park across from Leeds School

JUNE 10

Village Wide Tag Sale

Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to noon
Your driveway, garage, or yard

AUGUST 27

Ice Cream Social

Sunday, 4:00 pm
Leeds Main Street Green

UPCOMING RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES

Sponsored by Northampton DPW and held at Smith Vocational High School

MAY 13, 9AM - 1PM

Garden Pot Collection & Swap

Reusable rigid plastic and uncracked terracotta pots can be swapped or donated at the "Support our Schools Plant Sale." (No thin, crinkly plastic pots or seed packs.)

MAY 20, 9AM - NOON

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Florescent bulbs, oil paint, toxic, corrosive, caustic, flammable household products will be collected for safe disposal.

Preregistration is required by May 16.
Call 413-587-1570, extension 4306

LEEDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

Local to be Hero Honored at Leeds Memorial Day Ceremony - May 28, 1:00

Renee (Mac) LeVay, a life long resident of Leeds served in WWII as a paratrooper. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge, helping to defeat Germany in their last major offensive of that awful war. When Mac returned home from the war he married his Leeds' sweetheart, Annette Bachand, and raised three children. Mac was the very first custodian to work at Leeds Elementary School. In fact, in 1953, it was Mac who opened the doors for the first time to students and staff!

Did you know that the Veteran's Memorial was once located on the Leeds Main Street Green? It was Mac LeVay who took care of that Memorial, raising and lowering the flag, year after year. Unfortunately, the Green became a hang out for wild kids—graffiti and vandalism ensued, so Mac formed a committee with his brother Brad, a Korean War veteran, and other veterans of other wars to research and record the names of all Leeds residents who served their country. Working with the LCA and City Council they relocated an updated Memorial to the current location across from the Leeds School.

The 2017 Memorial Day Ceremony will have a special dedication by Brad LeVay to honor the service of his brother, Renee (Mac) LeVay. Please bring your family and join your Leeds neighbors to honor all who served our country so bravely. Jane Bowie, VA nurse, will be the speaker. There will also be a color guard and a wreath laying ceremony. Hope to see you on Sunday, May 28th!

A May Day in Leeds - Bits and Pieces

Our state flower, the Mayflower is in bloom...It's shy so look low on forest slopes for the tiny white flowers. Fishermen report good fishing from the Country Club up to the Haydenville line - stocking has taken place. Leeds Elementary students are doing weekly salamander observations along the same stretch. Our Haydenville neighbors have added a paved and railed exit off the bike path onto South Main Street. Meanwhile the River Road construction is nearly finished. Since Fall the road was closed but open to clever pedestrians. It looks great and was remarkable to see it built bit by bit, the old stone wall now a thing of the past.

The woods are being cleared and logged behind the old Berkshire Cable building (now CRD Metals) and the Sanatorium (now Highview of Northampton). Also, clearing continues along Reservoir and Chesterfield Roads. Speaking of Chesterfield Road, if you missed John Clapp's talk in February, get his book "Lost Village of Robert's Meadow", available at Collective Copies. Chesterfield Road of yore will vividly come to your mind, particularly where it meets Sylvester and Kennedy Roads.

Woodpeckers are hammering out their calls on dead trees and occasionally on gutters. Hardwood areas still lack leaves, so spotting the melodious Baltimore Oriole high up in the canopy is easy. There are ravens nesting up near the cell phone tower on Smith Voc's land opposite Scotty's. Speaking of Scotty's, is there ever NOT a line on a nice day? Meanwhile the Leeds Mart has been closed since August - mums the word on what to expect, but many Leeds locals are missing a Leeds meeting place.

An otter family has been seen at the Upper Reservoir, a fox family at Beaver Brook Loop, as well as a Fisher heard but seldom seen. Bear reports have been few but you know that will change. Still waiting for the Blue Heron to appear at the VA pond, beavers are quite active below the Hotel Bridge, and rabbits are EVERYWHERE!

Just an example of what you can see on an ordinary, everyday in Leeds.



MAYFLOWER

Massachusetts adopted the Mayflower as the official flower of the

Commonwealth in 1918. The fragrant, delicate mayflower (*Epigaea regens*) has been on the endangered list since 1925. Also known as ground laurel or trailing arbutus, mayflowers prefer sandy or rocky soil, under or near evergreens.

Earth Day Trail Work - Steve McDonough

Thanks to everyone that helped with the Beaver Brook Loop area trail clean up on Earth Day! We were able to finish the 'outer loop' from the retention pond to connect to the existing trails down by Beaver Brook. We also started the 'inner loop' and made some good progress there. Feel free to bring some shears when you are checking them out and cut back any overhanging vegetation. There are definitely parts of the existing trails that could use a bit of trimming as well.

Thanks again to Steven, Melina, Ian, Melissa, Henry, Violet (via baby carrier!), Isaac, Otto, Ethan, Nelson, and Tanya!

Earth Day Roadside Work

We had cool dry weather for the LCA Earth Day litter pick up. A hearty THANK YOU to the people listed for helping clean up our roadsides and trails on Earth Day!

Penny and Nelson Geis
River trail north of Mulberry

Fran and Wayne Thibault
Upper Chesterfield Road

Alan Verson, Judy Leeds
Kennedy Road

Margie Riddle
Arch and Main Street

Rob Ubank
Look Park Trail

Joanne Kelliher
Audubon Road

Red Greene
River Road

Tom Quinn, Sue Carbin
Picking up full bags with the truck

Amy Stamm, Alisa Klein
Yankee Hill and River Road

Deb Jacobs and Laura Sandhusen
Rt 9 north of Leonard Street

Heidi Stevens, Justin and Nick O'Connor
Rt 9 south of Seth Mias' place

**Don Willard and
Rock Racing Group**
Sylvester Rd, and intersection of Sylvester,
Chesterfield and Reservoir Roads

Henry Canby, Bruce Walker, Bob Riddle
Reservoir Road

Litter Pick Up Made Easy - Heidi Stevens

My husband, Justin made litter pickup sticks for us to use during the Leeds Earth Day clean up. They are very easy to make and work great on paper, plastic, and even cans! Here is how he did it:

- 1) Remove the head of a 3 or 4 inch nail with a hacksaw.
- 2) Drill a hole in the base of a 3 foot long, 1 inch diameter wood dowel making a snug fit for the nail.
- 3) Put some wood glue in the hole and insert the flat side of the nail into the drilled hole.
- 4) Let dry and you're ready to pick up litter!

Green Tip - Amy Stamm

Disposable containers are everywhere. Look around you, and you will see Styrofoam coffee cups, plastic silverware, and paper take-out boxes. One way you can save both money and the environment when you eat out at a restaurant is to pack your own reusable take-out containers to carry your leftovers. Another way to save resources while eating out is to tell the waiter to stop refilling your water when you are done drinking. If you buy coffee every day, bring a reusable travel mug, and you will save hundreds of paper or Styrofoam cups a year. Remember, geek is chic now, so you may think you look foolish, but you really look cool when you bring your own containers!

Attention High School Seniors!!

Applications for the continuing education grant, **Marc and Patricia Bradford Award**, may be picked up at the guidance office of Northampton High School. All students living in Northampton who plan to enrich themselves post graduation by attending a trade school, community college, or university are eligible.

Village Wide Tag Sale- June 10, 8:00 - noon

This annual LCA tag sale takes place all over Leeds. The LCA will post an announcement in the Gazette and put a big sign at the base of Florence Road at Route 9. If you will be a participating vendor, place additional signs at the intersections near where you will be selling. This is a very fun Saturday event. Local kids ride their bikes from sale to sale and "Out of Leeds" buyers come because of the convenience of so many sellers in one area.

Renewed Commitments to Stop Dam and River Trail Abuse

The LCA, Northampton Police, Chartpak, Planning Department, and City Councilor Alisa Klein have come together to renew efforts to help head off 2017 summer noise and garbage at the Chartpak Dam, Cooks Dam, the bike trail and trails along the river. The LCA, Planning and Chartpak will fund the hiring of off-duty NPD officers on certain days again this season as they were considered to be very effective last summer.

We ask you and your neighbors to call the police at 587-1100 when you hear shouts and loud noises along the river and trails. Our neighborhood coordination with the NPD worked really well last summer. They appreciate our efforts and are ready and happy to help. The NPD operators are kind and efficient. Don't be shy! Call! We want people to respect private property, conservation land and abide by the City ordinances so everyone can enjoy the area.

Shade in Leeds

Rich Parasiliti and the Public Shade Tree Commission have designated the Leeds Green as an area where two new shade trees will be planted. We don't yet have a planting date, but the new trees will most likely be Sycamores.

ENVOY

Go, little book, and wish to all
Flowers in the garden, meat in the hall
A bin of wine, a spice of wit
A house with lawns enclosing it
A living river by the door
A nightingale in every Sycamore!
- Robert Louis Stevenson

A FEW SYCAMORE FACTS

- They are one of the oldest trees
- Seeds fly like helicopters
- They grow up to 60-100 feet
- Native Americans made canoes from Sycamore trunks

