



LEEDS LETTER

LCA | P.O. Box 114, Leeds, MA 01053 | LeedsCivicAssoc@gmail.com | LeedsCivic.org MAY-JUNE 2019

OUT WITH THE OLD (ROTTEN BENCH) IN WITH THE NEW (HANDSOME BENCH)

The LCA has ordered a new bench to replace the unusable, rotted one that had been along the bike path near Mulberry Street Garden since the 1980s. The new bench is made of Douglas fir and has cast iron legs and arm rests. It's a handsome bench made to last. The DPW will be installing it at the base of the iron stairs that lead up to Front Street sometime in June. Thank you DPW!



NEW BENCH



LOCATION



BENCH VIEW

GREEN TIP - CSAS by Amy Stamm

We are lucky to have a number of CSAs, or Community Supported Agriculture, in our immediate area. When you're a member of a CSA, you purchase a "crop share" and then throughout the season receive beautiful vegetables every week. CSAs benefit our community in several ways. Farmers are able to plan and use their resources more efficiently through this shareholder system. Eliminating the middleman gives farmers a bigger share of profits and saves shareholders money by eliminating packaging, transportation, marketing, and sales labor. And eliminating packaging means that nothing goes into the landfill. Shorter routes from farmers to their customers save transportation and refrigeration emissions and counteract global warming. Since our local CSAs are organic, they do not produce groundwater pollution from fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides, so they don't damage fish populations, river ecosystems, or our drinking water sources. Eating organic CSA produce, furthermore, lengthens our life and saves us medical expenses because picking vegetables when they're ripe packs in the nutrients, not to mention the flavor.

ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER

The old, tattered flag waving from its pole at Mulberry Street garden was barely hanging on – in desperate need of replacement. However, before a new flag could be hoisted, the crabapple trees had to be pruned. Matt Verson, naturalist and tree expert, once again helped out, cutting branches back to a healthier shape (for the flag and the trees). Jason Johnson and Heidi Stevens assisted with the lower trims. Leeds now has a new flag to catch the breeze.

THE CONUNDRUM

Crossing this river is a terrible slog.
Who do they think I am, a frog?!
No, I am but a dainty coyote,
Who can't get over without a floaty.
Oh wait, I'll just use this log!

BACKYARD DRAMA

Fat little squirrel on a jaunty spree.
A fox! Uh oh, I'd better make for that tree!
I climb so high,
But my goodness he's sly!
I've met an end that I did not foresee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 13

LCA Monthly Meeting

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

MAY 16 (Rain Date - May 21)

Beaver Brook Greenway Garlic Mustard Pull work day

Thursday, 4:00 - 7:00 PM
Come for as long as you are able.
Haydenville Rd (Route 9), across from
National Grid Park in Corrosion Control
Facility parking lot

MAY 26

Leeds Memorial Day Celebration

Sunday, 1:00 PM at the Veterans
Memorial Park across from Leeds
School

JUNE 11

Last LCA Meeting (until sept)

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

JUNE 15 (Rain Date - June 16)

Village-Wide Tag Sale

Saturday, 8:00 am - 12 noon
Your driveway, yard barn or garage!

JUNE 22 (Rain Date - June 23)

Grand Opening Beaver Brook Greenway-Leeds

Sunday, 10:00 - 12:00
Haydenville Rd (Route 9), across from
National Grid Park in Corrosion Control
Facility parking lot

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

The next *Leeds Letter* will be the
September-October issue.

LIMERICKS by Cat Thomson

Nature enthusiast Cat
Thomson enjoys writing
limericks about her wildlife
tracking and sightings in the
Beaver Brook area of Leeds.

20th CONSECUTIVE LCA SPRING LITTER PICK-UP - by Heidi Stevens

Over the years loads of Leeds families have participated in this annual LCA work day. Why do they do it? Some parents use it to model community engagement and respect for the environment. I know young people now heading off to college who regularly participated in this annual clean-up day when they were young. Some dedicated adults have participated in almost every litter pick up day. Leeds hats off to you! Picking up trail and roadside trash is not an awful activity if you have the right mindset. Being outside, walking along, chatting, occasionally looking to where you just cleaned up and seeing the difference you've made is satisfying. This year, my husband, Justin, and I had a friendly competition with our neighbors, Jon and Deb Dietrich, who were also cleaning along Route 9 – which team would find the most nip bottles? It turned out to be very close. Together the two teams picked up a total of 264 nip bottles in a one mile stretch along Route 9. And, that doesn't count the pints! My favorite piece of trash found was a simple note written on small white note paper. It said "Throw Away!" The rest of the pad was found near by. Thank you to all the volunteers!!

OUR 2019 VOLUNTEER LITTER BRIGADE

AUDUBON - Joanne Kelliher

ARCH ST - Marge and Bob Riddle

CHESTERFIELD RD - Maiore Family

FLORENCE STREET - Anna Brunelle and David Berson

KENNEDY RD - Judy Leeds, Matt Verson

LOOK PARK TRAIL - Rob Urbank

MULBERRY AND MAIN - Jenna Recuber, Anna and David

BELOW CHARTPAK DAM - Penny Geis

RESERVOIR RD - Bruce Walker, Jason Johnson

SPRING STREET AND DIMOCK - Rondina Family

ROUTE 9 - Mias's to Look Park - Heidi Stevens, Justin O'Connor

ROUTE 9 - East Center to Scotti's - Deb and Jon Dietrich

YANKEE HILL - Alisa Klein and Amy Stamm

TRUCK HAULERS - Sue Carbin and Tom Quinn

GRAND OPENING - BEAVER BROOK GREENWAY IN LEEDS

SUNDAY, JUNE 22 AT 10:00 (Rain Date - June 23)

You are all invited to the official opening of the Beaver Brook Greenway located on the east side of Haydenville Road (Route 9) across from National Grid. Even if you've already checked out the area and the cool wildlife blind, there will be more to see at the June 22nd opening. Permanent, colorful and informative interpretive signs will be located along the trails highlighting points of interest. From the custom made wildlife blind you can look to Beaver Brook and perhaps spot a great heron, otter, or wood duck. Enjoy lemonade and cookies at the picnic table area.

The City of Northampton purchased the strip of land in 2010. In the past few years it has been rehabilitated by the Broad Brook Coalition and Leeds Civic Association

volunteers. The project has been funded by a Community Preservation Act grant. We hope you, your friends, and your families explore this new little jewel in Leeds.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

PULLING GARLIC MUSTARD AT BEAVER BROOK GREENWAY

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 4:00 - 7 PM. (Rain date: Tuesday, May 21)

Garlic mustard comes out like butter – it's easy! Come and pull for as long as you can! Beaver Brook Greenway, Haydenville Road (Route 9). Park in the Corrosion Control Facility parking lot. Wear gloves and long sleeves and pants.

IF YOU CAN'T BEAT THEM–

EAT THEM! by Jason Johnson, Steve McDonough

GARLIC MUSTARD LEAF PESTO

3 cups packed fresh garlic mustard leaves

1 cup parsley (optional)

3-4 large garlic cloves

1/3 cup pine nuts or walnuts, lightly toasted (optional)

1/3 cup olive oil

1/3 cup Parmesan

Salt and pepper to taste

Blend in a food processor to desired consistency, adding more olive oil as needed.

PICKLED KNOTWEED

Picking while knotweed shoots are young is recommended so they are not fibrous and chewy.

1 cup water

1 cup apple cider vinegar

1 tablespoon kosher salt

2 tablespoons sugar

9 dried chiles

3 peeled cloves of garlic

1 1/2 cups Japanese knotweed (sliced into rounds)

In a saucepan combine the water, cider vinegar, kosher salt, and sugar. Whisk together over medium heat to dissolve. Then let the brine simmer for 2 to 3 minutes. Remove from the heat and let it cool. In 3 sterile jars, add 3 chilis, clove garlic, and other spices as desired. Slice Knotweed stems in 1/2 inch rounds and fill jars. Fill jars with brine allowing 1/2 inch of headspace and seal the jars. Once they cool, place in refrigerator for at least 24 hours before eating!

LEEDS MEMORIAL DAY

The Annual Leeds Memorial Day Celebration will take place on Sunday, May 26th at 1:00pm at the Veterans Memorial Park across from Leeds School. Activities will include a color guard from the V.F.W. Post 8006, a wreath laying ceremony, and the playing of taps. There will also be a reading of the Gettysburg Address by a Leeds Elementary School student.