



LEEDS LETTER

NOVEMBER 2012

Upcoming Events 2012

History Night

NOVEMBER 16, Friday @7:00pm
Leeds School music room

Holiday Lights at Park

DEC 1, Saturday (rain date Dec 2)
Meet at base of Front St (the little park near bus shelter).

November LCA Meeting

Tuesday, November 13 @7:30
Leeds School Teacher's Lounge



Leeds Recipe of the Season

Saltine Things, Recipe by Amy

1/2 saltines or matzah

1c butter

1c brown sugar

12 oz. chocolate chips

1c chopped nuts or crushed Heath Bars

A drop of vanilla

Preheat oven to 450. Line two cookie sheets with tin foil. Place saltines in single layer with no space between. Melt butter and sugar. Boil until mixture coats a spoon (3-5 min.) Pour over saltines. Bake for 2 minutes. Remove from the oven when it starts to bubble. Sprinkle with chocolate chips. Return to oven for 1 minute and then spread chocolate to cover. Sprinkle with chopped nuts. Cool completely in fridge. Break into pieces and enjoy!

History Night with Joel:

Ever wonder why Leeds is called Leeds? Why, when and who named our village? Learn this and many more amusing tales about Leeds from long ago. Join your neighbors for this interesting Autumn gathering at the Leeds School music room, Nov. 16th @7:00 pm. Talk will be led by Leeds resident, Joel Emrick.

Carving up a Storm...The Great Leeds Pumpkin Contest!

A woman walked up to her stoop cradling in her arms some new purchase. She was overheard saying to her neighbor, "Look at this gourd, doesn't it look just like a RAT?" A boy walking home from Leeds School was overheard saying to his buddy, "This is the first year I get to carve!" The anticipation was building for the Great Leeds Pumpkin Contest which was held on the clear moonlit night of October 27th.

The new venue at Upland and Chestnut was ideal for the large gathering of Leeds folk who really know how to get into the spirit of Halloween. Cheering kids followed their pumpkins down the hill to see if theirs crossed the finish line first. Neighbors young and old criss-crossed the roadside pumpkin gallery to take in the creativity on display by our community and vote for their favorites. They saw four pumpkins transformed into a punk rock band, a space alien, a discoteque, a Las Vegas Elvis Presley, a gorilla face, a *Good Night Moon* Mouse House that offered a view through the window to a fully furnished room with a happy mouse family munching on gummy bears and enjoying the glow of a working fireplace! One pumpkin was turned into a gorgeous full lipped lady with an autumn leaf hairdo, another an upside down pig face, five carved pumpkins stacked became a totem pole while eight in a row spelled out "Frankenstorm."

Pumpkin party revellers enjoyed homemade soups, baked potatoes with the fixins' and other treats while listening to Shawn Gundersen's line up of spooky tunes and comic banter.

Jim Montgomery of Grove Avenue won first prize for his delightful mousehouse and went home with the coveted rosemary apple pie baked by Ananda Lennox. The adorable trick-or-treating ghost with glowing eyes and mouth, and carrying a tiny pumpkin filled with candy corn was made by Anna Rosen and won first prize in the youth contest. Each and every pumpkin carved, decorated and displayed was oohed and ahhhed over...including the RAT!

A complete list of pumpkin winners and photographs can be seen at www.leedscivic.org. Thanks to the many helping hands and pumpkin carvers for making this event so fun!

Open Vice President Seat! **Would you like to be the VP of the LCA?**

We are looking for someone who is interested in helping with the Leeds Civic Association. There is a position of Vice-President available on the Board of Directors. If you want to help with neighborhood happenings in Leeds and can spare an evening once a month, this is the job for you! We all help to get the news out, the parties planned, the fundraisers organized, and we all smile while it's happening. So please join this group of great people making Leeds a better village to live in!

Next LCA Meeting

Tuesday, November 13 @ 7:30
Leeds School Teacher's Lounge

Holiday Lighting to include Opportunity for Giving



The Holiday Lights will be shining in Leeds on December 1st....with your help! We are looking for volunteers to help string the lights on Mulberry Street and across the Hotel Bridge. This year the LCA would like to include some giving to others and believes the Lighting of Leeds provides a wonderful opportunity to begin the act of giving. These elves of Leeds are only in the "thinking stages" and are hoping that some members can help come up with ideas for donating. Contact us with your ideas and please let us know if you can come out to help!

Something to Consider...Bike Trail Maintenance

Leeds Civic Association is looking for members' feedback on the topic of trail maintenance in Leeds. Currently the LCA sponsors a "Clean Up Day" in early spring. The DPW has inquired about working out an "Adopt-A-Trail Program" which may include more routine maintenance throughout the year. The topic was discussed at the last LCA meeting and it was decided that at this time we do not have enough volunteers to take on the program. The Board wants to survey members' opinions as to whether anyone would like to volunteer more time to trail maintenance or is the current spring clean up sufficient in maintaining our trail. Please contact us at leedscivic@gmail.com or come to the next LCA meeting November 13th at Leeds Elementary at 7:30 p.m.

My Grandfather PART TWO by Joel Emrick

Photographer

My grandfather took his first picture in 1907 – a photo of his siblings - with a one dollar brownie box camera. From that point on, until the early 60's, he took numerous pictures and won many photo contests. One of his favorite subjects was the beloved village of Leeds and its residents. Not only were his pictures featured in *Yankee Magazine*, but they were included in the book *Yankee* published as well.

As a photographer he was ahead of his time. Since color film was not available, he took a class through the mail to learn how to colorize his black and white images. He also developed his own photos, but unlike professional services at the time, he developed his photos overnight. In fact, the state police would bring their pictures to him so they could have them to bring to court the next day.

He was meticulous in his record keeping - he had all of his pictures indexed, with every negative in a pouch attached to a 3x5 index card with the index number, date, picture subject, and camera settings.

Years ago, I donated most of his pictures to the Forbes Library. You can find them in the Special Collection area under the "Robert Emrick Collection."

Historian

I would say Bob Emrick was the authority on Leeds history. I cannot imagine anyone else knowing more. When he wrote his book there was no internet or computers to find information. He had to look up everything in books or old newspapers. I don't even think Forbes library had microfilm back then. He would talk to older residents to get their stories and cut out articles from local newspapers on anything happening in Leeds or the surrounding towns. He didn't get his driver's license until he was 68, so he either walked or took the bus to get his information.

Side note: Jim Parson, a very well-known local historian, wanted to write a book on Leeds. When I showed him my grandfather's book, *Leeds, a Village Within the City of Northampton*, he said there was no need for him to write one because all the information was already there. Instead he helped edit my grandfather's book for publication.