



LEEDS LETTER

NOVEMBER 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS 2016

NOVEMBER 6

Sunday, 3:30-5:30 pm

Village Holiday Lights

Volunteers needed to help put up lights at Mulberry Park. A fun way to make a contribution to the village. Kids and adults welcome. Hot chocolate provided! Meet at the entrance of the bike trail on Mulberry St.

NOVEMBER 8

Tuesday, 7:00-8:00

LCA Monthly Meeting

Leeds School teacher's lounge

NOVEMBER 8

Tuesday

Election Day - Vote!

NOVEMBER 12

Saturday, 2:00

Button It!

A talk by Lynne Zacek Bassett

Historic Northampton

Free and open to the public.

Hear about the Mill River Button Company which was located on Main Street in Leeds during the mid to late 1800s.

Leeds Civic Association

P.O. Box 114, Leeds, MA 01053

LeedsCivicAssoc@gmail.com

LeedsCivic.org

Robert's Hill Gets a New Trail - Heidi Stevens

The City of Northampton recently added 20 acres to the Roberts Hill Conservation Area. The Talon Trust property on Reservoir Road is now part of the conservation area. A new hiking trail has already been blazed, marked with upside down red triangles. The new trail creates an arcing half loop that traverses the newly acquired land. It connects on each end to the blue trail. The orange trail now extends all the way down to Reservoir Road, ending/starting across from the dam. The blazing work was done by the most dedicated trail blazer in the area, Dave Litterer of UMass. Dave has blazed trails in all of Amherst's conservation areas and much of Northampton's, including the previous blazing on Robert's Hill and trails on Saw Mill Hill. The Leeds Civic Association will be updating the Roberts Hill trail map in the next few months and will make it accessible on the LCA website, LeedsCivic.org.

More Shade in Leeds - Sue Carbin

Some of you may have read in the Gazette about the first shade-tree inventory the city of Northampton will soon be undertaking. Arborists from the Davey Resource Group will conduct an inventory and collect data on the health and size of the city's public shade trees. The group will also provide 2,000 planting spots for new trees. Using the collected data, the city's tree warden, Rich Parasiliti, will work with the Public Shade Tree Commission to develop the City's first urban forestry plan.

Because most of the shade trees on Leeds Main Street Green have been lost, the Leeds Civic Association has asked Rich Parasiliti if he could replace the trees and maybe even add a couple more on the Green. He felt that adding trees on the Green was a good idea and doable.

The LCA also asked for an assessment of the trees and vegetation on the bank leading up to the Rail Trail. Our goal is to have the unhealthy trees, brush and fallen deadwood removed and the area replanted with native vegetation. Rich Parasiliti will complete an assessment and report back with a planting plan for that area.

Drought and the Health of the River- Jason Johnson

The ongoing drought conditions are continuing to put stream ecosystems under serious stress. You may have noticed many of the tiny brooks usually gurgling and winding down hillsides are totally dry. While most of us think of springtime as the season for reproduction, for species like Eastern Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) fall is the time of year when they spawn. The female will build a nest in a riffle in the stream called a redd. She will excavate a shallow depression in the stream bed with her tail, flushing fine sediment from the sand and gravel. The eggs are deposited in the depression, fertilized by the male and covered with the gravel substrate that will allow flowing, well oxygenated water to circulate around them. They have to be placed where ice cannot penetrate the nest. Brook trout often make several redds, and a half pound brook trout can lay between 400-600 eggs. Depending on the water temperature the

eggs will incubate for about 120 days before hatching. The aelvins, as they are called are born with yolk sacs that they live off and provides time for them to develop until March or April when food becomes abundant. They will then leave the redd area and move to shallower water, where they are known as fry. The fry develop to become juveniles called parr because of the marks on the sides of their bodies. Over the next two years they will lose those markings and grow to become adults.

The stream environment is very sensitive to sudden changes; floods, water pollution, alteration of stream side vegetation or other cover can negatively affect local fish populations. These fish have adapted to these habitats since the last ice

age, but sudden alterations of water flow can be very detrimental to local populations. Lower than average water levels mean less habitat for spawning and rearing fish, increasing the sensitivity to change. So even though it may appear not a lot is going on, there is a lot happening beneath the waters surface. It's as important to be aware of the stream environment, and not do things to alter the flow or quality of the little water there is available for the creatures depending on it.



Eastern Brook Trout,
photo by Jason Johnson

Pumpkin Party - Leeds Community at its Best! - Heidi Stevens

WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF THE PARTY...

The Leeds Civic Association created supply lists, decided on voting categories and prizes. Advertising was designed, printed, posted and delivered. Pumpkin entry give-aways were ordered (LED flare copters and glow necklaces), logistical details were reviewed. A call for volunteers for food contributions and other help went out via neighbor to neighbor, the LCA newsletter, website, and email blasts.

ON THE EVE OF THE PARTY...

6 people were busy stringing colorful lights along Chestnut Ave. Thank you: Steve McDonough, Tom Quinn, Jim Mias, Penny Geis, David Rondina and his dad.

ON THE MORNING OF THE PARTY...

12 people were prepping the pumpkin roll course and party site.

(Loading up, transporting and setting up tables and grills, numbering 98 pumpkins). Thank you: Marc Freedman, Jason Johnson, Steve McDonough, David Rondina and family, Brenda and Jim Ryan, Justin O'Connor, and Tom and Amy Quinn.

SOMETIME ALONG THE WAY...

47 people in Leeds were busy carving a pumpkin entry to share. Thanks! Without you, it wouldn't be a pumpkin party.

1 person was carving the Lollipop Raffle Pumpkin.

Thank you Jaiden Marney

5 people were busy baking pies for prizes. Thank you: Nancy Cheevers, Jason Johnson (x3), Ananda Lennox, Tom Quinn and Chad Marney.

15 people were making a big pot of their favorite soup or chili to share.

Thanks: Julie Akeret, Joshua Birk, Sarah Casey, Leslie Chalmers, Ruth Ever, Marc Freedman, Jason Johnson, Alisa Klein and Amy Stamm, Susan Torrey, Steve McDonough, Carol Patterson, Alison Wood, Amy and Tom Quinn.

6 people were readying breads to share. Thank you: Leslie Skantz-Hodgson, Kevin Hale, Linda Butler, Kim Wojcik, Rachel Agoglia and Sarah Hines.

2 people baked dozens of potatoes with all the fix-ins to share.

Thank you Brenda and Jim Ryan.

11 people were preparing desserts to share. Thank you: Vin and Beth Perotta, Lynn Shumann-Hobbs, Greg and Tricia Reidy, Penny Geis, K. Chambers, Heather Punska, Pamela Cobb, Melissa Ratcliffe and Deb Jacobs.

1 person was prepping his play-list and equipment. Thank you Shawn Gunderson for being our Emcee.

DURING THE PARTY...

By the time 4:30 rolled around the party site was teeming with people, some eagerly awaiting the start of the pumpkin roll, some checking-in their pumpkins, some dropping off food contributions. Fifty-four kids rolled pumpkins hoping to win one of two prize gift cards to A to Z. The lucky winners were Lucas Tikkala-Cutler and Ryan Wade.

After the Pumpkin Roll, folks checked out the pumpkin entries, enjoyed the food and hot cider. As the warm night darkened and pumpkins lit up, voting began. Folks filled out ballots, choosing their favorite Funny, Gross, Scary, and Classic pumpkin. They also chose a favorite from the Master category, which was a special \$5 buy-in category for people who

really get into carving. Votes were logged into an Excel spread sheet for faster tallying (Thank you Amy Quinn for setting that up and Amy Stamm and Alisa Klien for logging in the votes of 90 people!) Thank you to Pamela Cobb for taking photos during the party, and thank you to anyone else who brought an item to share.

The winners in each category were called out and their pumpkins were brought up to the winners table to be ahhhhed over and applauded. Each winner chose a home-made pie to take home, the Master winner also won half of the buy-in dollars. The other half went to the Hotel Bridge Fund.

AFTER THE PARTY...

Many folks helped make swift work of breaking down the party. Tablecloths have already been washed and stored with the rest of the party supplies. Grills and tables have been returned to owners. The trash has been sorted and brought to the reclamation center. The lights are neatly coiled for the next LCA event (see article below). As you can see from reading the lists of people who contributed in some way, it takes participation to make a party successful. You also may take away from the lists that more than enough people are helping. That is not the case (note the same names listed multiple times.) We would love to have new volunteers! If you were unable to contribute, maybe next year you can carve out some time (pun intended) and join in!



2016 PUMPKIN CONTEST WINNERS



FUNNIEST
The Minion
by Penny Geis



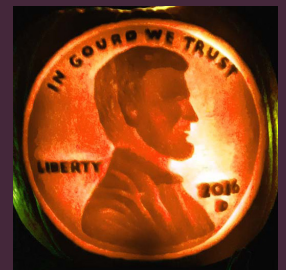
SCARIEST
Big Mouth
by Elsie Baker



MOST CLASSIC
Fire Eyes
by Mason Tait



GROSSEST
Pumpkin Pukes
by Audrey Quinn



MASTER
In Gourd We Trust
by Justin O'Connor

Volunteers Needed to Hang Holiday Lights at Mulberry Park

The lights at Mulberry Park are taken down at the end of the holiday season and every year need to go back up. We have learned not to wait until the weather turns too chilly. All age volunteers welcome, kids and adults. Hot chocolate provided! Stop by the entrance of the bike trail on Mulberry Street on Sunday, November 6th between 3:30-5:00. We usually cover the bushes on the hill and place strands in the trees. If you have hanging tools, please bring them along.