



LEEDS LETTER

NOVEMBER 2017

UPCOMING 2017 EVENTS

NOVEMBER 26-Tentative date Holiday Lights

Sunday, late morning
Mulberry Street park, corner of Front Street and Mulberry Street, below the bus stop. The LCA is asking for volunteers to help string lights in the little garden park.

Contact Marc Freedman at:
774-219-4290 or
mfreedman65@gmail.com

DECEMBER 12 LCA Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
Leeds School Teacher's Lounge
Everyone is welcome to come!

Green Tip - Amy Stamm

The U.S. apparel industry is the biggest in the world. In 2015, the U.S. apparel market was valued at \$359 billion, which translates to an average of over \$1,000 per person. The market is projected to grow to \$385 billion by 2025. One way to do your small part in diminishing the vast waste of this market is to organize neighborhood clothing exchanges. People bring clothes that they no longer want and take new-to-them clothes that cost nothing. Whatever clothes are leftover at the end of the clothing exchange are donated to local thrift stores. Another benefit of clothing exchanges is that they bring people together for a fun social gathering.

LEEDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

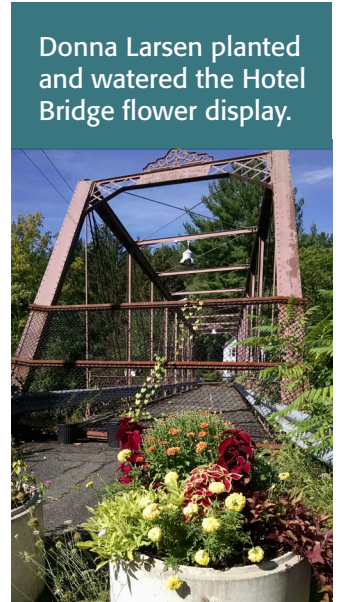
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LeedsCivic.org

Rooted in Leeds

As Autumn's colors fade and Winter's muted tones approach... We're thankful for the colorful memories! Please join the Leeds Civic Association in thanking these terrific volunteers for their talent and continual dedication to bringing extra vibrance and beauty to the village.



Lora Sandhusen is often spotted weeding and tending the lush Mulberry Street garden that abuts the bike path.



Donna Larsen planted and watered the Hotel Bridge flower display.



Nancy Yugalevich fills the large flower pot at the base of Florence Street.



Deb Jacobs works to keep weeds at bay at the Flood Memorial Garden on Main Street.

These individuals deserve a big round of applause for their efforts, which we passers-by are lucky to enjoy. Thank you!

No Couch Potatoes at 2017 Pumpkin Contest and Street Party! Heidi Stevens

The level of participation was off-the-charts... Fantastic! There was a grand total of 59 pumpkin entries! There isn't enough space to list all of the people who cooked a soup, baked a prize pie, made a dessert, but your contributions to the party made it a big success. It's wonderful to see new folks jumping in with something to share! And then there are the usual suspects who plan, plot, lift, deliver, and log and count the votes... which brings us to our WINNERS!! Kaia Masenior took 1st Place in the Pumpkin Roll and Will Send-McNalley claimed 2nd. The WINNER of the CLASSIC category was Clara Rondina. The WINNER of the FUNNY category was Kerry Chambers. The WINNER of the SCARY/GROSS category was Roan Steed. The WINNER of the MOST UNIQUE category was Audrey Quinn. Congratulations! You can see the winning pumpkins, other entries and scenes from the party and at leedscivic.org.

Wildlife blind takes form in Leeds - Matt Vernon

The Beaver Brook Greenway located in Leeds along Rt. 9 across from National Grid, has been undergoing some transformations this past season. First, the erection of an informational kiosk next to Northampton's Corrosion Control Facility, and secondly, a timber framed wildlife blind. As of this writing, the blind is under construction. Both of these projects are the result of the Beaver Brook Working Group receiving CPA funds to develop this 100 acre parcel for people to enjoy the unique natural setting found there. Although this was the site of a working farm about 40 years ago – it's main feature now is a bit of open water – frequented by birds and wildlife. The purpose of the blind is to allow for people to sit comfortably out of the weather, and afford a good viewing perspective of the water.

When the Beaver Brook Working Group first started discussing a blind, we thought it would be cool to keep our funds in the community and employ local tradespeople to show what they could do. Wally Halva at the Hampshire County Jail donated shop time and services by building the kiosk, and Joel Strate transported the kiosk. In April, Tom Jenkins of Westhampton felled the trees and dragged them to the landing with his oxen, Rock and Star. In August, Neil Godden of Goshen with his portable sawmill milled the logs into timbers and boards. A host of other folks participated by donating time or materials to the project including Dave Bowman for the roof boards, Goshen Stone for plinths and stair landing, Hathaway Construction for gravel, RK Miles for the metal roofing material. Underground Supply helped erect the structure, and Bob Marvel planed the floor boards.



The relationship between Tom Jenkins and his oxen, the way they silently moved the massive walnut, cherry, and locust logs through the forest, it was unassailable the special husbandry a teamster develops. The interest that the oxen took in their surroundings – nibbling on the emerging garlic mustard, tasting a twig here and there, was a reminder that animal traction is not just a blast from the past, but an invitation to ground oneself in the here and now.



To watch Neil Godden operate his mill on-site, visually scanning the logs and then physically working them with his hatchet and hewing axe to accommodate their natural features, was a testament to Neil's skill, taught from master to journeyman and apprentice down through the mists of time in ancient Europe. Later, the intricate layout of non-linear timbers, each weighing several hundred pounds that would later come together to within a 32nd of an inch - while a hardy volunteer crew held them overhead – all of this was a connection, to craft, community, and nature.



The objective now is safe parking off the road near the kiosk, and clearing some trails to avoid having to wade through the undergrowth. Picnic tables and a bench will follow next season, and some folks are working to clear invasive species, and rehabilitate the old farmstead garden that still provides a variety of blooms.



PHOTOS LEFT COLUMN: Star nibbles during a break, Tom Jenkins steers his oxen

PHOTOS THIS COLUMN: Neil Godden saws logs on-site, Volunteers after a hard day of heavy lifting and carpentry