



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2018

LEEDS LETTER

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LEEDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION P.O. Box 114, Leeds, MA 01053 | LeedsCivicAssoc@gmail.com | LeedsCivic.org

LEEDS SCHOOL EMERGENCY RESPONSE MEETING

Tuesday, December 11th at 6:00 p.m. in the Leeds School Cafetorium

AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR NEIGHBORS OF LEEDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dear friends,

We are collaborating to reach out to the Leeds community to establish a plan with neighbors should the Leeds Elementary School ever be faced with a serious safety concern. This need stems from discussions happening in schools across the country on how best to react to an active shooter situation in school or on school grounds.

As you know, this is a tough topic to discuss with children because of the maturity level of the content, as well as the fear it incites. At the Leeds School, we have instructed our students to look to adults for direction and those directions may be, "run!" The obvious question is: run where?, and the obvious answer is: to safety. But where exactly is "safety?"

That is where you, neighbors, come in. We would like to invite you to become partners in the safety and well-being of the children. We envision that if an active shooter were to infiltrate our community, kids could run into the nearby neighborhood and knock on doors knowing that they are turning to safe locations and that they will be cared for until they can be safely reunited with their primary caregivers.

Please consider helping us to teach our students to trust our neighbors. Would you be willing to welcome strangers, whose average age is eight, into your homes and be willing to provide them with safety and a brief moment of social and emotional support?

Together, let's start this discussion between Leeds Elementary School and you: our neighbors. We look forward to a dialog on how to best meet this need that we hope will never arise. Please join us on Tuesday, December 11th at the Leeds School Cafeteria at 6:00 p.m. to plan with us.

With thanks,

Sal Canata, Principal, Leeds Elementary School
Alisa Klein, Ward 7 City Councilor

*****ECRWSS*****

**Local
Postal Customer**

LCA WINTER EVENTS

BEAVER BROOK GREENWAY WORK DAY

NOVEMBER 17, Saturday, 10:00 - 2:00

Park at the Corrosion Control Facility on Route 9

LEEDS SCHOOL EMERGENCY RESPONSE MEETING

DECEMBER 11, Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.

Leeds School Cafetorium

LCA MONTHLY MEETING

DECEMBER 4, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Leeds School teacher's lounge

BOOK READING

JANUARY 9, 7:00-8:15

Devil's Den to Licking Water, by John Sinton
Leeds School Music Room

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES PIZZA PARTY & RAFFLE

DATE- TBD (FEB OR MARCH)

Pumpkin Spice and Everything Nice!

Despite the threat of rain, Mother Nature "carved" out a few hours of dry weather for Leeds residents to gather for another fun pumpkin party! Thank you to those who volunteered their time, donated prizes or contributed food to make it a success! We would also like to thank Atkins Farm Country Market in Amherst for helping us procure 100 pumpkins for the pumpkin roll. In previous years Jim and Brenda Ryan collected pumpkins directly from local farmers before they were plowed under, thank you Brenda and Jim! This year, due to excessive rain and pumpkin rot, crops were scarce. Thankfully, Atkins generously provided the LCA with pumpkins at a reduced rate.

We had 49 pumpkins in the carving contest and about 70 kids participating in the pumpkin roll. The winners were as follows: Pumpkin Roll—1st place, Roan Steed; 2nd place, Lucas Gundersen. Pumpkin Carving—Most Gross, Roan Steed; Most Scary, Henry Woglom; Funniest, Clara Rondina; Best Classic, Finn Mias; Master Artist, Heidi Stevens; and Jim's Choice was pumpkin #1 carved by Sadie Mahon-Moore.

Devil's Den to Lickingwater: The Mill River Through Landscape and History

Book reading by local author, John Sinton - January 9, 7:00, Leeds School Music Room

Come meet John Sinton, author, historian, and proud "River Rat." John's presentation will focus on why our river area was a sacred and central place for the many tribes of the northeast. He'll show us how the Mill River area was an essential resource for early Anglo American settlers, and will talk about how it powered our first industrialists. John will connect for us how different peoples and cultures have shaped and been shaped by the Mill River and its environment. There will be a Q&A after the presentation.

More about John Sinton's new book: It tells the multifaceted tale of the Mill River in Western Massachusetts, from its emergence after the glaciers 20,000 years ago to the present. Little escapes Sinton's voracious historical appetite – the creation of the landscape, the disappearance and reappearance of native fish and animals, the Mill River as a Native American crossroads, the contrast between English and Native ways of managing the land, the transformations wrought by war, floods and industrial disasters, the extraordinary role of the Mill River in the Industrial Revolution, and exceptional personalities from Sachem Umpanchala to Calvin Coolidge: all this is told through the arc of the Mill River's history—be-

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loved, abused, diverted, and ultimately reclaimed as an integral part of the landscape.

Beautifully written and lavishly illustrated with maps, drawings and other images, Devil's Den to Lickingwater will serve as an exemplar for readers and authors of local and public history, proving that local history is a reflection of the larger world. Sinton's unique book is a delight for the eye, the intellect, and the heart.

Copies can be purchased at Collective Copies or at the book reading.

Beaver Brook Greenway Improvements

The Beaver Brook Greenway project has been a collaborative effort between the Leeds Civic Association and the Broad Brook Coalition and is funded by a grant from the Northampton Community Preservation Committee. A major achievement completed over the summer was the timber-framed wildlife blind overlooking Beaver Brook designed by Neil Godden and constructed with the help of LCA and BBC volunteers. Walking paths have been mowed and wood chips were used to cover them. Picnic tables built by a team at the Hampshire County Jail were placed in one of the cleared areas. Invasive plant control was done this fall, and interpretative signs describing natural history and human use of the area are being made and will be installed soon. An opening celebration of the parcel for public use is planned for Spring 2019.

Beaver Brook Greenway Work Day - November 17, 10:00 -2:00

Volunteers needed! The main tasks will be spreading wood chips onto the trails and clearing the path leading to the hay tedder on the southern portion of the property. You can park in the Corrosion Control Facility lot on the east side of Route 9 (between Leonard Street and National Grid). Please bring gloves, a rake and or shovel. (Rain date is November 18th.)

Holiday Lights

Thank you Tom Quinn and Jim Ryan for hanging the holiday lights at Mulberry Street Garden park. We enjoy the Hotel Bridge lights, too!

New Leeds Hats and Hotel Bridge Shirts for Sale

A new order of Leeds hats has arrived! We have a few Hotel Bridge T-shirts in stock. You can order online at LeedsCivic.org or to find out what size and color shirts are still available contact Heidi at: heidi@heidistevens.com, or call at 413-585-9923.

Beat the Winter Blues Pizza Party & Raffle (Feb or March, TBD)

Consider donating a gift basket, a gift certificate to a local shop, or your unwanted holiday gifts! This annual event is a real blast for Leeds families and it's also a fund-raiser for the LCA! Please, contact Heidi about donations: heidi@heidistevens.com.

WHAT LEEDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION WAS UP TO IN 2018:

- Hosted community open forum over issue of hunting on Leeds' conservation lands
- Hosted Annual LCA Pizza and Raffle Party
- Held Spring Litter Pick Up Day
- Purchased a new flag for Memorial Park
- Hosted Memorial Day Celebration at Memorial Park
- Awarded two Bradford Memorial - LCA educational scholarships
- Sponsored a Leeds Elementary student to attend Nature's Classroom
- Planted flowers in containers at Hotel Bridge's Main Street entrance
- Hosted Leeds Historical Signage event and signage tour for City officials and public
- Received Northampton Historical Commission award for Leeds historical signage
- Held art exhibit of Mill River Flood drawings by Nancy Meagher in Dimock Mansion
- Held Village Wide Tag Sale
- Continued the campaign to restore Hotel Bridge to a walking bridge
- Designed and printed Leeds hats and shirts as fund-raiser for Hotel Bridge
- Held on-site meeting with City officials to address summer abuse at dams and river
- Sponsored Saratoga Race Track summer bus trip
- Published six LCA newsletters, maintained the LCA website
- Held four Kid's Summer Outdoor Movie Nights
- Helped improve the trails in the Beaver Brook Greenway on Route 9
- Hosted Ice Cream Social with free Mt. Tom's Ice Cream
- Held Annual October Pumpkin Carving Contest Party
- Maintained plant containers at Mulberry Street Garden
- Advocated for a bike ramp to access Florence Street
- Member of the Veterans Council of Northampton
- Decorated Mulberry Street garden with holiday lights



PLEASE RENEW YOUR LCA MEMBERSHIP OR BECOME A NEW MEMBER FOR 2019!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

☐ I would like to receive my newsletter electronically.

☐ I would like my newsletter hand delivered.

☐ I would like my newsletter mailed (Include additional \$2.50 for postage.)

☐ I am interested in volunteering. Please contact me.

New

☐

Renew

☐

\$10 Family Yearly Membership

☐☐

\$25 Business Yearly Membership

(1 year LCA website advertising, please enclose business card)

Additional Donation \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Leeds Civic Association

Mail to: P.O. Box 114, Leeds, MA 01053

Or pay online at: LeedsCivic.org

Thank you! Your membership helps to keep our community connected!