



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2019

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

Hotel Bridge Update - Karyn Nelson, LCA Board

Many of us pass by our beloved Hotel Bridge and wonder, "when will this historic bridge be restored to its past glory?" While we don't envision driving on the bridge, we see a future of walking to Roberts Hill, hosting a Sunday afternoon tea party, and stopping on our bikes to admire the fall foliage on the river.

With these thoughts in mind, the LCA is thrilled to announce that the City of Northampton has contracted with the engineering firm Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI) for work on Leeds' Hotel Bridge. GPI most recently designed repairs for the Clement Street bridge in Bay State Village. They will study the structural integrity of the bridge and determine what structural repairs are needed to stabilize the bridge for pedestrian and bicycle access. In addition, GPI will work to develop construction specifications, bid documents and an opinion of probable cost for this stabilization. As previous studies of the bridge were broad and focused on a more large scale rehabilitation including restoration of vehicular access, this particular strategy, a reopening to bicycles and pedestrians only, promises to be a workable but significant step towards making a lasting contribution to our beautiful landmark.

GPI's work is expected to last roughly six months, with anticipated construction alternatives and a cost estimate available in Spring 2020. Once construction details are actually specified, the City will be able to assess funding options and determine appropriate next steps.

The LCA is excited to see this next step towards bringing our vision to fruition. The LCA greatly appreciates the ongoing support of Mayor David Narkewicz and Public Works Director Donna LaScaleia.



Pumpkin Party 2019 - A really fun time! - Heidi Stevens

Hands down, party guests geared up the participation this year! We had 64 pumpkin entries! Well done! The food selection was top notch with 10 pots of hot soup and chili, plus lots of sides and desserts. Jason Johnson, Karyn Nelson and Linda Butler made pies for the prize winners. This annual party happens because of really kind and generous people. This year a huge thank you goes to Brenda and Jim Ryan who contributed so much to make it a success. They not only brought their signature loaded potatoes, their daughter found the pumpkins for the pumpkin roll. Brenda managed the roll which had 37 kids this year. The Ryans also helped haul tables and supplies to and from the party site! The usual LCA gang did their fair share. And, the phenominal Shawn Gunderson was our monster of ceremonies. Thank you to everyone who brought a pumpkin entry, contributed food, helped set up, or break down. Its always a big feat and a lot of fun! The pumpkin roll winners were: 1st place - Mykola Voyevodka, 2nd place - Parker Durrant-West. Congratulations!



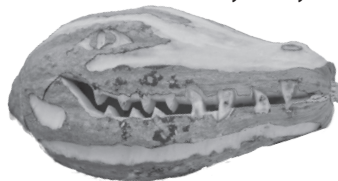
Classic
by Henry Waglon



Spooky
Stitches, by Elsie Baker



Funny
Self Portrait,
by David Rondina



Artistic - Tie!!!
Alligator Head, by Chris Steed
Mermaid, by Heidi Stevens



Gross
Unwell, by Ronan Steed

*******ECRWSS*******

**Local
Postal Customer**

LCA WINTER EVENTS

LCA Monthly Meeting
Tuesday December 10 at 7:00 p.m.
Leeds School teacher's lounge

LCA Monthly Meeting
LCA Board Elections
Tuesday, January 14 at 7:00 p.m.
Leeds School teacher's lounge

Beat the winter Blues Pizza Party & Raffle
Date- TBD (Feb or March)

LCA board elections rescheduled

LCA president Sue Carbin and LCA vice-president Heidi Stevens will both be stepping down. The LCA board election will be held during the January 14th LCA meeting (see above). We are looking forward to new people getting involved at some level with the LCA. The board is made up of nine people; president, vice president, treasurer, clerk, and five board members. We also rely on other Leeds volunteers to help us with the many projects we work on. Please see the flip side to read more about what the LCA does for the village and our community. We hope you find something that intrigues you and you choose to get involved!

Beat the Winter Blues Pizza Party & Raffle

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.

The last four Leeds History books for sale:

"LEEDS A Village Within The City of Northampton" By Robert Emrick. The self-published book covers the earliest beginnings of the village through 1941. Cost \$25 at leedscivic3@aol.com.



HERE ARE EXAMPLES OF LCA PROJECTS, INITIATIVES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERING

Bringing you information - We host candidate forums, book readings by local authors, and community presentations by city officials. If there are new City policies or funding for projects that effect Leeds, we want you to be informed and have an opportunity to weigh in. The LCA publishes a newsletter to keep you informed on village news. Please send your articles (funny, poetic, serious or silly, historical or newsworthy) to heidi@heidistevens.com.

Partnering with local groups, city departments, and individuals to improve the natural spaces in Leeds
The LCA recently partnered with the working group from Broad Brook Coalition to develop the new Beaver Brook Greenway Conservation Area off of Haydenville Road. A few LCA members worked to create trails, design interpretive signage, and host the 2019 grand opening. The LCA will continue to help maintain the BBG trails. We also partnered with David Litterer of UMass to reblaze the trails on Robert's Hill and create a detailed trail map (available for download at LeedsCivic.org). We continue to help maintain the RH trails. The LCA is the steward of our conservation areas! If you would like to volunteer for any Leeds trail work, please contact, Jason Johnson at cookjohnson@comcast.net.

Special projects that benefit the village - The new bench along the bike path at Mulberry park was purchased by the LCA this year. Nearby is one of the eight, award winning, historical signs that are posted around the village. The signage project was a two year LCA volunteer effort. We hope to do the same for Robert's Meadow! Leeds historical tour signage maps are available at LeedsCivic.org. If you have an idea that you would like to propose and help manage, please come to one of our monthly meetings, held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 in the Leeds School teacher's lounge.

Landscaping Leeds - Mulberry Street Garden is lovely in the spring and summer thanks to Lora Sanhusen's talent and generous volunteer time. The Crabapple trees are trimmed and healthy because of LCA volunteer, Matt Verson's expertise. The LCA would like to do more to keep our village looking its best. We need new volunteers to maintain the flower planters at Hotel Bridge throughout the spring and summer, people to weed the Flood Memorial pocket park, and around the iron stairs off Front Street. If you can help with any landscaping maintenance, please contact LeedsCivic.org.

Cleaning up Leeds - Opportunities abound! The Mill River trails, unfortunately, are abused in the summer and are cleaned by just a few volunteers. We could use a few more hands with this summertime task. Please contact heidi@heidistevens.com if you can help. Another clean-up opportunity would be to participate in LCA's Spring Litter Pick-up held in April. Please watch for notices and posters for this event.

Advocating for the Hotel Bridge to be restored to a walking bridge - This has been an ongoing focus for the LCA for many years. We have made two presentations to the DPW and one to the Mayor. We have hosted several bike-ride fundraisers, designed and produced merchandise (hats, T-shirts, note cards and coffee mugs), and all profits from the annual Pizza Party go the Hotel Bridge Fund. These efforts and your support of them are greatly appreciated. We look forward to one day walking across the historic bridge!

Supporting educational opportunities - Bradford Memorial Scholarships are awarded each year by the LCA to highschool students choosing to continue their education. This year, a special travel scholarship was awarded to NHS student, Mary Greene for a two week *Global Glimpse* cultural immersion trip to Ecuador. The LCA also sponsors a fifth grade Leeds Elementary student to attend Nature's Classroom.

Hosting community parties and gatherings - Each year, the LCA hosts the Memorial Day Celebration at Memorial Park. The "Pumpkin Carving Contest" and the "Beat the Winter Blues Pizza Party" have been a recurring event for over 20 years! The LCA Ice Cream Social and David Rondina's backyard films for kids are summer favorites. The LCA annual village-wide tag sale is held in June. Please watch for posters and newsletter announcements for these events. We could use a few new party planner volunteers!

HELP THE LCA CONTINUE ITS MISSION.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER SOME OF YOUR TIME AND TALENT FOR THE COMMUNITY!

PLEASE RENEW YOUR LCA MEMBERSHIP OR BECOME A NEW MEMBER FOR 2020!

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

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\$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!

**WARD 7
Candidates
FORUM**

BOOK READING

Lost Village of Roberts Meadow
by Local Author, John Clapp

Wednesday
February 8, 2017
7:00pm - 8:15pm
Leeds School Music Room

John will reveal the little known history of the small village of Robert's Meadow that was located on Kennedy, Sylvester and Chesterfield roads. John will read selected parts from his book, discussing some of the early history, industries and characters that inhabited this small community.

