



LEEDS LETTER

OCTOBER 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 13

LCA Meeting

Tuesday, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Leeds School teacher's lounge

OCTOBER 21

Candidate Forum

School Committee At-Large and City Councilor At-Large

Wednesday, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
JFK Community Room

OCTOBER 24

Pumpkin Party

Saturday, 4:30 - 9:00 pm
Corner of Upland and Chestnut

NOVEMBER 3

Election Day

NOVEMBER 10

LCA Meeting

Tuesday, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Leeds School teacher's lounge

Leeds Civic Association

P.O. Box 114,
Leeds, MA 01053
leedscivassoc@gmail.com
www.leedscivic.org



The Great Leeds' Pumpkin Party - OCTOBER 24

We want the good, the bad and the ugly! We want lots of pumpkins. We want the traditional and the unimaginable. We want pumpkins from the littlest of kids, bigger kids, teenagers and adults. The more the better. Help fill the party tables lined up along Chestnut Street on Saturday, October 24th. Bring one or more pumpkins and earn the right to bask in the glow!

Enjoy the entertaining pumpkin roll, music, crackling fire pit, delicious food and cider. This is a pretty fun event that the Leeds Civic Association has held annually for two decades. It's a celebration of and for the Leeds' community, so don't be shy, make your way down to the corner of Upland and Chestnut with a pumpkin in your arms on October 24th!

Carve or decorate a pumpkin and have a chance to win the raffle prize for your age group: Kids (age 6 and under), Youth (age 7-12), Teen (age 13-17), Adult (age 18 and up).

Drop off your pumpkin creations between 3:00 and 5:00 at the corner of Chestnut and Upland. Be sure to check in at the registration table because that's where you'll receive get your raffle ticket.

Kid's Pumpkin Roll (12 and under) starts at 4:30. A first and second prize will be awarded and the winner's names will be preserved for history's sake on the "winner's board" – a great honor that your child may choose to include on his or her college applications!

Homemade hot soups, baked potatoes with the fixins', warm cider, side dishes, and desserts will be available after the pumpkin roll.

Please sign up to contribute a food item by going to the LCA website, LeedsCivic.org and clicking on food sign-up graphic. It will bring you to the SignUp Genius link. For those who do not have internet access, you may contact Amy Quinn at 413-586-0283. If you are able to contribute a food item please label your serving utensils and bowls with your name which will make it so much easier to get them back to you if you accidentally leave them behind!

Deliver food between 4:30 -5:30. There will be several grills to keep the soups warm.

It's time to start deciding what to carve because the fun of October 24th is just around the corner. For inspiration check out past Pumpkin Party photos at: LeedsCivic.org.

Candidate Forum - Oct 21 - Penny Geis

Who will you vote for to make your city and school policy and budget decisions? Come get to know the candidates at a forum on Oct 21. From 7:00 - 9:00 pm, in the JFK Community Room.

WFCR will air it live, and NCTV will broadcast it both live and with re-runs, but there is no substitute for a face-to-face, in-person evaluation to get that informed gut reaction!

Four candidates are vying for two at-large seats on the School Committee and three are running for the two at-large seats on the City Council. The forum includes only these contested seats; your ballot will also include unopposed Ward 7 positions. The ward representatives are unopposed across the city, and are not included in this two-hour forum. All of the at-large candidates have agreed to be at the forum. Running for two seats on the City Council are Jesse Adams, Bill Dwight, and Marc Warner; for the two School Committee positions, Molly Burnham, Blue DuVal, Kari Nykorchuk, and Nathaniel Reade.

We need your questions! What do you want to know from these candidates? What do you care about? How should Council and School Committee members work together to balance the competing budgetary needs of the city and the schools? Send your questions to forum2015@comcast.org

The Leeds Civic Association is co-sponsoring the forum, together with the League of Women Voters, the Gazette, WHMP, NCTV and the Ward 3 Neighborhood Association. The League is taking the lead, and will be moderating the event. The live broadcast will begin at 7, so please arrive early enough to get settled before then.

Traffic Study approved for Main Street

On Tuesday, September 15th the Transportation and Parking Commission voted to undertake a traffic study on Main Street in Leeds. Thank you to the folks who attended the meeting and spoke out for the need to place Main Street in the cue for a traffic study.

Rock solid Ice Cream Social - Heidi Stevens

Literally. . . when the ice cream arrived promptly for the start of the ice cream social it was as hard as a rock—barely could the servers scrape a paper thin sliver from the surface. Mt Tom's, being thoughtful, had placed our ten gallons of ice cream in a deep freeze for a few hours. The upside of the super hard ice cream was that it allowed folks to show just how patient they really are. The weather was beautiful, the ice cream was free, and everyone was smiling. The servers got an arm, wrist and hand workout. Plenty of adults and even a few kids chipped in to scoop and natural rhythm of teamwork developed. Four flavors were served throughout the two hour event. Between 75-100 people proved their passion for ice cream by stopping by and enjoying a cup or cone of Mt Tom's best. Thanks to all the servers for muscling out the scoops and to everyone for joining us at the event.

Wise use of natural resources - Amy Stamm

Pope Francis's recent encyclical calls on all of us to use fewer resources and be gentler on the world's natural resources. One easy way to do this is to avoid drinking bottled water. Because municipal regulations are far stricter than industry regulations, tap water is healthier than bottled water, despite what advertisers

tell you. And you can save thousands of dollars simply by drinking healthier tap water. The average cost of a bottle of water is \$1.45. To drink eight glasses of tap water a day costs about \$.49 per year. The same amount of bottled water costs between \$1,400 and \$4,500. The total cost of our monthly water bills if tap water cost the same as the cheapest water bottle would be \$9,000. Americans use about 50 billion plastic water bottles a year, and each of those bottles takes 1,000 years to biodegrade. As a result, over 2 million tons of discarded water bottles crowd U.S. landfills. If we all avoid drinking bottled water, we will save all of the resources used in producing plastic bottles and transporting water across long distance, which will make the Pope and our earth happy.

Launching a Leeds Kid's Craft Club

During the last week of summer Heidi Stevens and Amy Stamm led a pilot kids' craft workshop. Five Leeds kids participated in the two-day workshop, making mosaic mirrors with an extensive palette of colored pottery shards and mini tiles. Day 1 of the workshop was artistically thoughtful. Day 2 was wonderfully messy. After arranging and securing their tiles, the kids decided that black grout would make the colors "pop." They spread grout between the mosaic pieces, then wiped the color mosaic surface clean using damp cloths. Everyone went home with a beautiful ready-to-hang art piece.



Maren's Mosaic Mirror

Based on the success of their mosaics workshop, Heidi and Amy are putting together a weekend series of three holiday-themed craft workshops designed for kids ages 6 and up. All materials will be provided, and 10% of the proceeds will go to the Hotel Bridge Restoration Fund. Sign up for an individual class or take all three. If you sign up by November 7th, individual sessions are \$35, and the series of three workshops is \$75. Space is limited, so reserve a spot early. After November 7th, individual classes will be \$40 and the series of three will be \$100. Workshops will take place at 8 Upland Road. Contact Heidi or Amy for more info and to reserve a space:

Heidi - 585-9923, heidistevens.com

Amy: 586-9123, stammad@yahoo.com

Friday, November 20
4:00 - 6:00 pm

Dipping beeswax candles and *stringing fresh California bay leaf & nut mini garlands

Saturday November 21
9:00am - 12:00 pm

Collaging bookmarks, framed scenes, and/or birthday calendars

Sunday November 22
2:00 - 5:00 pm

Making holiday poppers, garlands, handcrafted bows, and printing wrapping paper

* depending on availability of fresh Bay