



LEEDS LETTER

SEPTEMBER 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2013

September LCA Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 10 @ 7:30
Leeds School Teacher's Lounge

Saturday Night Movies!

Keep your eyes peeled for LCA's posters of dates/times/movies which will be displayed throughout Leeds and on our website! Bring a blanket and drinks. Popcorn is always provided!

Leeds Block Party

Sunday, September 22
4:00 - 7:00 pm
Village Green at Main and Florence St.

Ward 7 City Council Candidate Forum

Candidates Alisa Klein and Gene Tacy
Date to be determined

Pumpkin Carving Festival

Date to be determined
October 26th or 27th
Details to come

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

Homemade Jam Trade at the Block Party

Yum! Who doesn't like homemade preserves! And when opened on a cold winter day the delicious bounty of summer comes rushing back. If you made pickles, jams or preserves this summer, please bring a labeled jar or two to the block party and swap it for something different. For those of you who don't make jams, you may be able to buy a jar of homemade. Jams and preserves will be displayed on the "Jam Table" until the trading begins at 5:30ish.

Everyone who brings a homemade jar of preserves will get a chance to win the *Energy Grab Bag*, a selection of useful and environment-friendly items.

LEEDS VILLAGE BLOCK PARTY

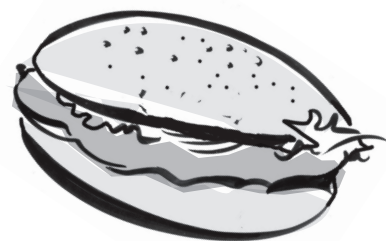


**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 22
4:00-7:00 PM**

**THE GREENSPACE AT
FLORENCE STREET AND
MAIN STREET, LEEDS**

FREE

**HAMBURGERS + HOTDOGS
DRINKS + MUSIC + GAMES**



BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE.

DON'T FORGET A LAWN CHAIR!

ALL LEEDS RESIDENTS ARE INVITED!

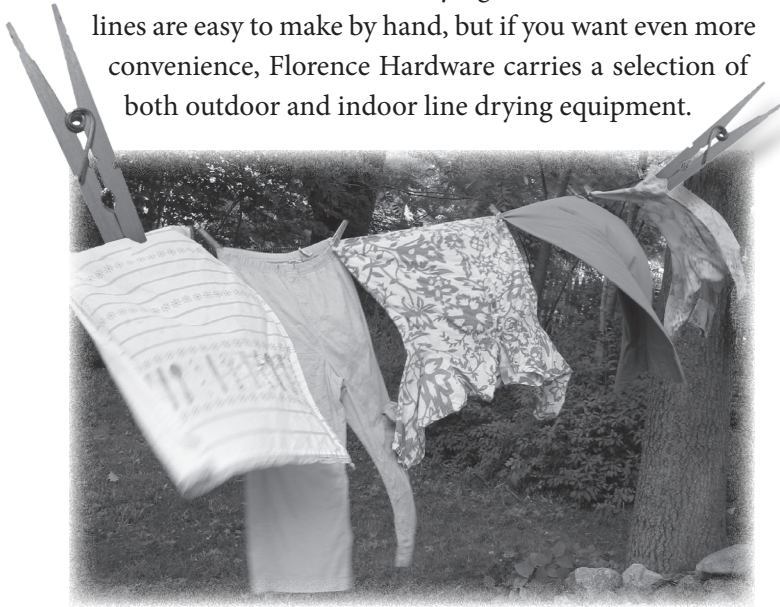


NEW

**BRING YOUR HOMEMADE JAMS,
PICKLES AND PRESERVES TO TRADE!**

Green Tip for Leeds by Amy Stamm

One way to stretch out the summer, save some money, and help the environment all at the same time is to dry your clothes outside on a clothesline. Clotheslines dry clothes using 100% solar and wind energy. Indoor clothes dryers use an average of 4kWh of energy and produce about 4 lbs. of carbon dioxide per cycle. That means that our Leeds neighborhood could save thousands of pounds of carbon dioxide from going into the environment even if a small number of households converted to line drying their clothes. Clotheslines are easy to make by hand, but if you want even more convenience, Florence Hardware carries a selection of both outdoor and indoor line drying equipment.



Award Winning Facility by Heidi Stevens

Caring for our seniors is important work whether done at home, out in the neighborhood, or in a care facility. The LCA and Linda Manor are reaching out to the community inviting you to share some time and something you like to do with the seniors who are convalescing in this excellent facility. Linda Manor won the coveted Gold Award from the American Health Association this year. Only 17 facilities nationwide have earned that distinction!

I spent several hours this summer visiting with a friend at Linda Manor. Walking down the halls, I was consistently met with smiles and greetings from the nursing, therapy, and service staff. The atmosphere was both relaxed and efficient. A distinct effort is made to make families and friends feel welcome and patients comfortable. Linda Manor would love to have volunteers from Leeds. They are looking for people to call bingo, take residents outside for walks, and next spring hope to create a garden.

If you can share an hour or so of your time with the folks at Linda Manor, I encourage you to contact:

Pam Hamberg, Activities Director phamberg@bhs1.org

Continued from July newsletter -

Gazette Series about Leeds,

By Alice Manning, 1975,

Leeds named for settlers English homeland

Many of the workers who had come from England to work in the mills stayed on to make their homes and became an important part of the community's everyday life. Among this group, there was an understanding man, Thomas Musgrove. He was president of the woolen mill and did much for the welfare of the villager and the improvement of the village. He realized that people were anxious to receive news from family and friends, and that traveling some four miles to the nearest post office was a real hardship. In 1849 he encouraged the citizens to petition the United States government for a local post office. To do this a proper name had to be given to the village.

Musgrove, who had come from Leeds, England, as had many other workers who came with him, was eager to have the village bear the name of the manufacturing town from which they came. The request for a post office to Leeds, Massachusetts was granted on May 27, 1850. Thomas Musgrove was appointed the first postmaster. Benjamin North, who had left the factory to manage the general store, had a new building constructed in 1843 to replace the one that had been destroyed by fire. His store, being the newest building in the village was chosen as the seat of operation for the new postal facility.

The post office was discontinued for nearly five years from September 7, 1858 to March 3, 1863. An item appearing in the Hampshire Gazette September 21, 1858 tells, "the post office at Leeds has been discontinued. The postmaster having resigned, and there being a dearth of "furriners" just now, may possibly be the cause of discontinuance." The Northampton Directory and Historical Register published by the Gazette Printing Company explains it this way: "In 1859, the Post Office was discontinued. The failure of the Woolen Manufacturing Co. and the consequent decline of business in the place rendered the Post Office unnecessary. It was, however, re-established in 1863."

Since that time the Leeds Post Office continued to serve the village through the boom, the depression, two world wars, and the village has continued to honor Musgrove and the other skilled workers who came from England by using the name, Leeds.

-to be continued in next newsletter