



LEEDS LETTER

SEPTEMBER 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS 2015

SEPTEMBER 15 Important Traffic Meeting

Tuesday, 4:00
Council Chambers
(in building behind City Hall)

SEPTEMBER 27 Leeds Ice Cream Social

Sunday, 3:00 start time
Main Street Village Green
Get a scoop or two of Mt
Tom's Ice cream!

OCTOBER 2 Movie Night

Friday, 7:30- **Monster House**
32 Upland Road backyard
Bring your chairs, jammies,
and blankets. Popcorn and
hot chocolate served!

OCTOBER 13 LCA Meeting

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

LATE OCTOBER School Committee Forum

Date, time and place TBD

OCTOBER 24 Pumpkin Party

4:00 - 9:00
Corner of Upland and
Chestnut

Leeds Civic Association

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More the merrier – More effective the result!

September 15, 4:00, City Council Chambers - Help slow down cars on Main Street

Many Leeds residents have expressed concerns about the speeding cars on Main Street in Leeds. Children walk this route to get to school, it has a narrow bridge, and poor sight lines at both the Arch Street intersection and Mulberry Street intersection. Often cars ignore the stop sign at Mulberry altogether. Thankfully, a traffic calming application was submitted last month by Main Street resident, Jason Johnson. On Tuesday, September 15th the Transportation and Parking Commission will consider and vote on the Leeds application (whether or not to undertake a traffic study).

Resident input is important!

- Bringing small children to the meeting and talking about their safety is effective.
- Your remarks can be as long as you like, but shorter rather than longer remarks are always appreciated by the Commissioners.
- The meeting begins at 4 pm with public comment.
You are welcome to speak then, but it is more effective if you can wait until the agenda item is announced.
- Application discussion is almost always first on the agenda so you don't have to wait long to hear the results of the vote.



Don't miss the last Movie Night of the season - Sept 18

Groups of 50-70 kids and grown ups have enjoyed this summer's five flicks shown on the big screen in the backyard of 32 Upland Road. There's not much that beats sitting under the stars, hearing crickets, breathing fresh air, being with a group of nice people and watching a movie AND eating fresh popped popcorn. The most recent Movie Night had a special visitor, Northampton Police Officer Jared Lavallo who was recently appointed to Leeds and Florence as an outreach officer, stopped by. He fit in perfectly and enjoyed meeting the Leeds movie goers.

The final movie of the season always pays tribute to Halloween, so on Friday October 2nd we will be watching **Monster House** at 7:30 pm in the backyard of 32 Upland Road, eating popcorn and sipping hot chocolate! Watch for posters–Don't miss out!

Ice Cream Social on the Leeds Green - Heidi Stevens

When my grandfather was a kid, he and his buddies paid close attention to the ice man's comings and goings. Large ice deliveries often meant ice cream making was happening. When the ice cream was ready for a big party in a fancy house it was stored on the back porches surrounded by the big ice chunks. Knowing this routine, Pop Pop and his buddies would lie in wait and be sure to get first dibs (sometimes even the whole container) of delicious homemade icecream. He loved icecream so much that as an adult he bought two huge freezers full of gallon containers from a shop going out of business. Ate every last spoonful too.

The Leeds Civic Association is making it easy for everyone to enjoy some delicious home made ice cream from Mt. Tom's. You won't have to lay in wait, just come down to the Main Street Village Green on Sunday, September 27th at 3:00. LCA members will be scooping up the good stuff. Bring your families and neighbors. The ice cream social starts at 3:00 sharp. Get it while it lasts!

The 2015 Mark & Patricia Bradford Memorial Fund Scholarship winners

The scholarships are given to students planning to continue their education by attending college, technical school or an apprenticeship program. Congratulations and best of luck to the award winners Nick Day, Kevin Rosa, Amber Montgomery, and Emma Hutchins, all from Northampton High School. Well done! And, thank you to Earl Munier and Red Green for continuing to manage the fund named for two Leeds residents who gave much to the community and lost their lives in an accident in Mexico several years ago. Mark Bradford was a former president of the Leeds Civic Association.

School Committee forum

There is an election on Tuesday, November 3rd! Well performing schools where students thrive are a great asset to the community. Leeds Civic Association is considering sponsoring a school committee candidate forum. If the forum gets off the ground, it will be held the fourth week in October, date and time to be determined based on candidate availability. More details to follow in the October newsletter. In the mean time, you might want to consider questions you would have the moderator ask the candidates.

Northampton Police step it up for Leeds this summer - H. Stevens

Early in the summer, Leeds Civic Association board members, Northampton Police Chief Jody Kasper, Police Officer Adam Van Buskirk, Ward 7 City Councilor Alisa Klein, Mill River Greenway Initiative Leeds Chairman Jason Johnson, and Chartpak owners met to address the excessive river crowds, noise, garbage, and illegally parked cars. The meeting's intent was to determine what each of us could do to curb the abuse which, unfortunately for Leeds residents, has grown each summer.

As a result of the meeting, Chief Kasper and the Northampton Police Department immediately stepped up efforts. NPD officers responded to the dam area approximately 30 times for complaints of trespassers and parking issues. They issued parking tickets, trespassed eight people, and placed one person into protective custody. One male fishing was given a verbal warning. NO PARKING signs were posted in the Arch Street area and officers cleared cars and wrote parking tickets there as well. The officers not only responded to calls, but checked the dam area regularly, often simply reminding people that it is private property and they are not allowed to jump and swim there.

Leeds Civic Association hopes to work closely with the Planning Department and Conservation Commission this winter to address the abusive behavior taking place further upstream on conservation land.

Hotel Bridge summer update - H. Stevens

Julie Bowers of Workin' Bridges, the iron bridge restoration outfit that performed a March 2015 site visit and submitted a scope of work report on Hotel Bridge, has done further research on lifting Hotel Bridge to the parking lot across Main Street to make the repairs on land. Bowers contacted the utility companies over the

summer to determine what actions might be feasible. Her findings to date follow: Moving electric, cable, and phone is doable. The big hinderance is that there is a Columbia Gas service line that runs across the south side of the bridge deck. The line carries gas to Water Street customers. Rerouting the line would be expensive (Columbia gas pays the city for use of resources). Temporary piles to hold the gas line in place while the bridge is moved would be expensive as well. Unfortunately, in order to move Hotel Bridge to land it would require two 500 ton cranes, and dollies, not the smaller crane that Julie used for the quote given at the June 1st community meeting. The conclusion drawn is that it is not a feasible alternative to move the bridge to the parking lot for repairs.

Julie is currently seeking further information from the engineering firm, Stantec Associates, that ran the original load capacity numbers on the bridge. Stantec used heavy tonnage to determine the load capacity. Workin' Bridges would like them to rerun the load capacity using more realistic pedestrian only weight figures. Just a few days ago Paul Duquette of Stantec responded to Julie's inquiries and said he will be conferring with his structural and legal team to see if they can change a recommendation with new data. If they are able to rerun the data, fewer repairs will have to be done in order to make the bridge safe for pedestrians. Of course the City, as owners of the bridge, would have to support the plan.

Caring for Leeds Gardens - H. Stevens

On my way down Main Street a few weeks ago, I saw a woman half stooped in the Flood Memorial Park. Her bright yellow hands caught my eye. They were encased in yellow rubber gloves which overlapped her long sleeves. It was Deb Jacobs of Grove Avenue, attacking the poison ivy that beleaguers the edges of the park. It is certainly a thoroughly nasty job that must be done periodically. A fresh pile of mulch was set to one side which Deb had requested from the DPW. No one asked Deb to do this. She simply cares enough about the garden and the Leeds community to help out in this way.

Mulberry Garden at the base of Front Street where it meets Mulberry also requires seasonal maintenance. I often see Lora Sandhusen, of East Center Street, half hidden by the lilly leaves, weeding and tending to the beautiful garden. No one schedules Laura to tend the garden, she just goes down with her supplies and does the work. The efforts made by these two women help to make our village a more lovely place to live.

There are always projects that need attending. Leeds Civic Association and the Leeds Mill River Greenway Initiative are gathering names of people who might be interested in making the edges of the Mill River in Leeds less fraught with invasive species. Working to make a healthier and more accessible river is time well spent. Clearing trails is needed in the early Spring, and the crab apple trees at Mulberry Garden will need more pruning in late winter.

In the *Health* section of the September 8th Gazette there was an article which cited medical evidence suggesting that volunteering is good for your health. And, can actually add years to your life!