



# LEEDS LETTER

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2018

## UPCOMING 2018 EVENTS

### FEBRUARY 13

#### LCA Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Leeds School Teacher's Lounge

Everyone is welcome to come!

### MARCH 3

#### BEAT THE WINTER BLUES PIZZA AND RAFFLE PARTY

Saturday, 4:30-8:30 pm

Northampton Country Club

LCA members

\$5 Adult, \$3 Children age 5-12  
(max \$ 20 per household)

Non LCA members

\$10 - Adults, \$5 - Children age 5-12  
(max \$ 40 per household)

#### Green Tip - Amy Stamm

One creative, sweet, ecological, and literary movement that our neighborhood has joined is the Little Free Library movement. It all started when Tom Quinn saw a story about the movement on 60 Minutes and did more research about it on the website, <https://littlefreelibrary.org/>. Tom then used his mad carpentry skills to weatherproof a beautiful bird feeder that the late Leeds resident Dean Williams had made for Tom's father George. He and Amy Quinn then installed the new neighborhood library in front of their house on Upland Road. Ever since then, the neighborhood has shared hundreds of books as part of this international green reuse system.

#### LEEDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 114, Leeds, MA 01053

LeedsCivicAssoc@gmail.com

LeedsCivic.org

#### "Beat the Winter Blues"

##### Pizza Party - March 3

If the frigid temps of January have kept you indoors and out of touch, this party will be a welcome outing for you and your family. All Leeds residents are welcome! The pizza party has been a Leeds tradition for close to twenty years. All ages seem to get a kick out of it. It's a time to socialize, laugh, eat and drink with friends and neighbors, and maybe win raffle item or two.

The Leeds Civic Association is putting out the request for raffle prize donations. Was there a holiday gift that got tucked away in your closet, cabinet or garage? It might make a perfect raffle prize! Gently used and new items are welcome. Please contact Heidi Stevens at 585-9923 or [heidi@heidistevens.com](mailto:heidi@heidistevens.com) to arrange for pick up or to drop off your donation.

#### Recap-Community Meeting to expand Hunting on Conservation Land

On December 19th, over 100 people attended the community meeting in the Leeds School cafetorium to learn about the City's proposal to expand hunting to two conservation areas in Leeds and allow for expanded types of hunting in a third conservation area. A presentation by Northampton's Director of Planning and Sustainability, Wayne Feiden, was followed by a public comment period. A summary of the comments shared will be presented to the City's Conservation Commission and Planning Board as neighbors continue to weigh in and advocate both for and against the proposal. To view a taping of the meeting, go to: <http://northamptontv.org/community-meeting-on-hunting-in-conservation-areas-12-19-17/>.



#### Working the Neighborhood - Heidi Stevens

My door bell rang one December morning and there stood three neighborhood kids offering their shoveling services for a very reasonable price. Faced with their rosy cheeked optimism and wide grins, each holding a different colored shovel, how could I possibly refuse? (Besides my oatmeal was almost ready!) I had every intention of helping them, but by the time I had finished my breakfast, the door bell dinged and all three proudly announced they had finished. I feel so lucky to live in a place where kids do this kind of thing and do it with such enthusiasm and spirit!

From left to right: Noah Senn-McMally, Lars Wathne, Will Senn-McNally

**BEAT THE WINTER BLUES**

**PIZZA PARTY**

**march 3, 2018 • 4:30 - 8:30 pm**

**NORTHAMPTON COUNTRY CLUB**

**Free Pizza • Raffle Prizes • Adult's Cash Bar • Music**

**Free Drinks for Kids • Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share!**



## Leeds Students Visit Neighborhood Construction Site

- Roxanne Nieman, 5th Grade Teacher, Leeds Elementary School

While the November weather was still warm, 17 of Leeds Elementary School fifth-graders took a walking field trip to two nearby residential construction sites at the end of Grove Avenue. Their mission was to view first-hand, how and why structures stand up, following their STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) integrated studies. Students were in awe of the towering structures they toured and returned to the classroom with the “Hey, I can do that, too!” attitude that made concrete what they had only practiced in class.

Beforehand though, the 10 and 11-year olds learned and applied vocabulary used in professional construction principles: compression, tension, gravity, environmental effects on structures, integration of design, measurement and problem-solving. Students built straw and toothpick structures based on hand-sketched designs and understandings. Decidedly, students were ready after working with flimsy materials that often collapsed, to see a real-world application of construction theories where wood and concrete replaced straws and toothpicks.

New to the local school this year, parent Bucky Sparkle, saw the curriculum connection and invited Ms. Nieman’s class to tour the in-progress homes at the end of Grove Avenue in Leeds. Local builder, Stephen Yoshen, explained to the group that Elizabeth Slade’s home was being developed through “stick building” (which is how most homes are built), stick-by-stick out of wood. Next door, the Sparkle house is being built by a modular company that specializes in high-efficiency, eco-conscious homes. That structure will be built in four box-like modules, driven to the job site from Vermont, lifted by crane, then bolted together on top of the concrete foundation already in place. Students were amazed that the Lego-looking foam blocks (tied with steel and then filled with concrete to make double-insulated basement walls), were so light in weight, and amused that they fit together as game pieces. The Sparkles hope to invite the neighborhood and class to watch when the crane finally delivers the structure. After viewing the dynamite blast video that cleared the area for building, and enjoying the walking tour, the offer to return is generating great enthusiasm.



In December, the group’s engineering studies led to a hands-on design project in collaboration with Rocky Mariani-Prall, Northampton District Technology Integrationist, to great success after trial runs. Students planned, designed, and built two functional furniture carts now used to transport 3-D printers for Leeds School children, K through 5. Students designed logos on Tinkercad and built craft-stick prototypes, then started drilling into birch wood with power tools.



To culminate the STEAM project, Ms. Nieman’s class again asked the essential question: “Why and how do structures stand up?” Fifth-graders constructed solid Graham Cracker Houses of their own design, using crackers as walls and triangular supports (as they witnessed in our walking tour), and caulked gaps with Royal Icing. The highlight was in their pride for working hard and designing a magnificent creation, and of course, also in their joy in taking it home.

## A new way from Leeds to Hadley

Did you know that you can now reach the second largest river in New England from Leeds on the continuous bike trail? The recently completed tunnel beneath the AmTrack tracks along King Street and behind McDonalds now allows for that.

Starting on the Haydenville/Leeds town line go along the Mill River with it’s various dams, passing Look Park and continuing by the round-about and skirting downtown Florence. Go by Meadow Brook and the back of Stop and Shop. Cross King Street and through to the new tunnel. It’s a short hop from the tracks, by the Montessori school and Coke plant and on to Damon Road. Crossing the bridge is a must – over our mighty Connecticut River and on to the farm fields of Hadley where the sun shines a bit longer at the end of the day in winter– just 7 miles or so from Leeds!