

Edison archivist to speak at historical society event

The author of the acclaimed new biography “Edison & the Rise of Innovation” will speak on Tuesday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the Bloomfield Civic Center, 84 Broad Street. (Entry is free.) Leonard DeGraff, archivist for the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in West Orange, will speak about his fresh look at history’s most prolific inventor. The book has drawn enough attention that another famous inventor, Bill Gates, has written its foreword.

DeGraff joined the National Park Service in 1991. Previously, he was on staff at the Thomas A. Edison Papers at Rutgers University. He will talk about Edison’s combination of scientific knowledge, well-equipped labs, talented collaborators, investment capital and the bit of showmanship that changed the way we develop new technologies.

DeGraff’s book chronicles Edison’s life and work, using rarely-seen historic photos, lab notebooks and advertising material. The well-known inventions — the phonograph, incandescent electric light and motion picture camera — are highlighted along with dozens of companies he created to manufacture and market them.

The presentation is sponsored by the Historical Society of Bloomfield. For information, visit www.hsob.org or call (973) 743-8844.

