



The League of Women Voters Of Weston

September, 2010

No. 129

OPENING MESSAGE

Katty Chace

Now that the primary is over, we move into the final six weeks of campaigning before the election on Tuesday, November 2nd. In addition to the election of all the constitutional officers of Massachusetts and our state senator and state representative, there are also three ballot questions. Question 1 asks whether the voters want to remove the Massachusetts sales tax on alcoholic beverages and alcohol. Question 3 would reduce the state sales tax (which was 6.25% as of September 2009) to 3%, as of January 1, 2011.

Question 2 would repeal an existing state law that allows a qualified organization wishing to build government-subsidized housing that includes low-or moderate-income units to apply for a single comprehensive permit (known as a 40B) from a town's zoning board of appeals (ZBA), instead of separate permits from each local agency or board. This very complex question will be explored at a meeting sponsored jointly by the Wayland and Weston Leagues of Women Voters scheduled for Tuesday, October 26 in the evening at the Wayland Town Building at the intersection of Route 20 and Route 126 in Wayland.

The next board meeting of the Massachusetts state league is scheduled for Tuesday, September from 7-9 pm in the Community Room of the Weston Public Library. This is a terrific opportunity for local league members (and other interested citizens) to get an inside look at the operation of the state-wide organization and its concerns and plans, particularly during the political season.

We are currently trying to set up a candidate's event for Senator Susan Fargo and her challenger, Sandi Martinez. We would like to do this in cooperation with another local league (like Waltham or Sudbury) in order to make the time commitment more valuable for the candidates. Stay tuned. We'll keep you posted.

League of Women Voters of Weston

President..... Katty Chace
781-891-1087

Treasurer..... Kathie Strehle
508-358-8937

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781-235-9506

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781-790-1138

Bulletin..... Katherine Wolfthal
Editor 781-891-9549

This LWV/Weston Newsletter is published monthly except July and August. The LWV is a nonpartisan political organization open to all citizens of voting age.

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VOTER INFORMATION

1-800-882-1649

League of Women Voters
of Massachusetts
133 Portland Street
Boston MA 02114
(617)523-2999

Submit articles to Katherine Wolfthal in
typewritten hard copy or by e-mail to

kate@weichi.com

There is a Special Town Meeting scheduled for Monday, November 29th. The School Committee has asked if the League would be willing to host a coffee hour at the library in November to discuss the proposal to renovate or rebuild Field School. The board has indicated a willingness to do so, along with any other articles on the warrant that could benefit from some discussion and explanation.

This is the time of year to renew your membership in the League. You will find a membership form in this Bulletin, and we encourage you to send it to Rochelle today while it's on your mind. All of you are important to us in keeping the League vibrant and strong.

We will be participating in the Civics Bee again this winter (probably in March), competing against the Wayland and Sudbury Leagues. If you would like to get involved in either the planning process, or as a contestant, please get in touch with me at tackc@aol.com.



League of Women Voters of Weston
wishes to extend sincere thanks to the following Friends
and Sponsors who have generously given their support to our work.

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781 891 9110
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SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2010

September 28, Tuesday..... 7:00-9:00 P.M. , Weston Library y Community Room	Massachusetts State Board Meeting
October 12, Tuesday..... 9:15 A.M., 3 Winter St. (Barbara Fullerton, 781-893-7440)	LWVW Board Meeting (All members welcome)
October 26, Tuesday..... 7:00 P.M., Wayland Town Building	Discussion of Ballot Question #2 (40B Affordable Housing)
November 2, Tuesday..... 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.	Mass. State Election
November 9, Tuesday..... 9:15 A.M., 61 Beaver Rd. (Rochelle Nemrow, 781-790-1138)	LWVW Board Meeting (All members welcome)
November 29, Monday..... 7:30 P.M., Weston High School Auditorium	Special Town Meeting

URGENT REMINDER!!

It's time again to renew your membership to the Weston League of Women voters. We are fortunate to have a group of dedicated individuals who have kept the Weston chapter active and vibrant, but it is only through your continued support that our League can survive and flourish.

As a member, you'll receive our informative monthly bulletin about local issues. You'll also be a member of the state and national chapters, and will receive their newsletters and other educational materials. You can stay informed, know the issues and support the power of women's influence in politics.

Please complete and return the attached membership form with your check made payable to the League of Women Voters of Weston.

WHEN IT'S TIME FOR ACTION

President

President Barack H. Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20510
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

U.S. Senators

- The Honorable Scott Brown
2400 JFK Building
55 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203
(617)565-3170
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202)224-4543
No e-mail address currently available
- The Honorable John F. Kerry
One Bowdin Square, Tenth Floor
Boston, MA 02114
(617)565-8519
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202)224-2742
E-mail: john_kerry@kerry.senate.gov

U.S. Representative 7th District

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
(781)396-2900
(202)225-2836
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202)225-2836
<http://www.house.gov/markey>

Governor

Governor Deval Patrick
Office of the Governor
State House, Room 360
Boston MA 02133
(617)727-3600
E-mail: Goffice@state.ma.us

State Senator 5th Middlesex District

The Honorable Susan Fargo
(617)722-1572
State House, Room 505
Boston MA 02133-1054
E-mail: sfargo@senate.state.ma.us
Home: (781) 259-9623

State Representative 4th Norfolk District

The Honorable Alice Hanlon Peisch
(617)722-2320
(781)237-4719
State House, Room 26
Boston MA 02133-1054
E-mail: rep.alicepeisch@hou.state.ma.us

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Kathleen Rousseau
Secretary

The September meeting took place at the home of Katherine Wolfthal.

The treasurer has paid one-half of our per-member-payment to the LWVUS and one-quarter to the state LWV. These payments are based on our membership as of January last year. There are still many people who have not renewed their memberships for this year.

Sandi Martinez and Susan Fargo will be running for our state senate seat. They have not been enthusiastic about debating in Weston, but Katty will see if we can arrange a meeting in October. We would try to do this in cooperation with a neighboring town.

The LWV of Massachusetts is moving its board meetings around this year. One will take place at the Weston Library on Tuesday, September 28 at 7:00 p.m. LWV members are invited to attend.

We have been asked by the School Committee to hold a coffee hour to present its proposals to be presented at the Special Town Meeting in November. It was decided that we would hold a coffee hour, but it would include other warrant issues if appropriate.

Barbara Hill mentioned that the CPC may have a proposal to move an old barn to Lands Sake, but more information will be forthcoming.

There was a discussion of having an event to celebrate the League's 90th birthday. A talk on "Women in Weston" might be interesting. There is also an interesting movie about suffragettes, "Iron-Jawed Angles" that we could show. We have been offered the use of the Cardinal Spellman Stamp Museum for meetings. We will consider this for the future, but the library is more convenient. As an aside, Barbara Hill recommended the lecture series at the Stamp Museum.

The Weston Climate Group would like to have closer ties with the League. Katty will meet with Jane Danforth to talk about this. Barbara Fullerton would be interested in attending their

meetings.

There will probably be a Civics Bee again this year.



COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Barbara Hill

The Community Preservation Committee met for the first time since June, with a whole lot of new and exciting opportunities to consider. With Lenore Lobel's completion of her term, and her decision to devote her attention to other opportunities, we welcomed the newest "at large" member – Barry Tubman.

The Community Preservation Committee was pleased to welcome the majority of Weston's Housing Partnership to our meeting for a discussion and update on the status of Affordable Housing in Weston. As background, the Board of Selectmen had hired a housing consultant a few years ago, whose ultimate report suggested the creation of a Housing Partnership, a broad cross-section of Weston residents, working together to set some policies and preferences to find creative and appropriate solutions to preserve and increase Weston's affordable housing stock. The Partnership has been working hard for over 1 - 1/2 years to prepare a comprehensive review and evaluation of affordable housing in Weston, as well as policies and preferences in achieving an increase in that housing stock. (In addition a subcommittee of the Housing Partnership has been reviewing all 40B proposals to the Town.) Part of the Housing Partnership's evaluation includes the education and information gathering, such as their discussion with the Community Preservation Committee. The goal is to convince the related town organizations, and more importantly, the townspeople, to vote to create a Housing Trust (to be funded largely with Community Preservation Act money), which

would enable the Trustees to act more quickly with respect to opportunities to preserve or create additional affordable housing which may become available outside of the typical funding schedule. To quote Hugh Jones of the Housing Partnership, "What do we need to do to get the people of Weston to trust the Trust?"

The lengthy discussion among the participants was as much about gathering information for the Housing Partnership to consider (concerns raised, initial reactions, etc,) as it was about educating the Community Preservation Committee on its progress. The Partnership would like to be in a position to bring this to Town Meeting in May 2011, so it is important for them to get as much input as possible, and to educate the Town and its constituent groups about their mission. About 100 communities across the Commonwealth have adopted Housing Trusts, some with more success than others. Typically the Community Preservation Act receipts are the primary source of Housing Trust funding, so the Partnership recognizes and encourages the Community Preservation Committee input on this project.

After the discussion with the Housing Partnership, the Community Preservation Committee discussed the current requests for funding, which, if recommended by the Committee, would be brought to Special Town Meeting at the end of November. (Special Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday evening, November 29, 2010.) These items include an historic preservation restriction for a small house,



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circa 1707, on North Avenue, as well as some additional restoration work needed in connection with the Melone House (the bulk of which restoration was previously approved by Town Meeting and is nearly complete. Finally, there is an historic barn located on a private residence is hearing on all of the matters proposed for consideration at Special Town Meeting before the Community Preservation Committee votes on any of the proposals. The Public Hearing is scheduled for Monday October 18th at 7:30 pm at Town Hall, and interested people are encouraged to attend.

In addition, representatives from the Historic Commission updated the Committee on the

currently under demolition delay. The owners are willing to donate the barn to the town, if it can be moved to an appropriate location. It is not clear whether it would be cost effective to do this. There will be a public

status of the historic preservation restriction offered to the owner of 118 Conant Road (approved by last spring Town Meeting), which was refused. However, the property is currently being offered for sale "with a preservation restriction" drafted by the owner (but not recorded).



LOWER YOUR PESTICIDE EXPOSURE BY CHOOSING ORGANIC

Barbara Fullerton

The modern food industry applies multiple pesticides to fruits and vegetables during their production. The perfectly formed fruit without a blemish comes at a cost of the exposure to chemicals that are affecting our bodies in many yet undocumented ways.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has found that about 96% of a group of 5000 Americans tested have pesticides in their blood and urine.

The organization Environmental Working Group has produced a guide to the "Dirty Dozen" fruits and vegetables with the highest levels of pesticides. In contrast, they have also compiled the list of "Clean 15" with the lowest levels. The purpose of the guide was to help people identify ways of reducing their pesticide intake.

The guide was produced from the results of 89,000 tests for pesticides in produce between


2000 to 2008. One could predict from these results that eating five fruits and vegetables a day from the "Dirty Dozen" list will lead one to consume an average of ten pesticides, whereas eating from the "Clean 15" will expose one to only two pesticides daily.

There are likely to be many more chemical pesticides in people than we currently know about. That is because the pesticide companies are not required to test for the presence of their chemicals in people. There have been 215 pesticides found on fresh fruits and vegetables, but the CDC has only tested for the presence of 32 of them in Americans. None of the eight most commonly found pesticides on fruits and vegetables have been tested for their presence in people. The most common pesticides are found in apples, peaches, and strawberries, among others.

Little is specifically known about the long-term effects of exposure to pesticides on adults and especially on children. The effects are thought to be greater in children and fetuses, however, since their bodies and brains are still developing. There is much evidence that with high rates of exposure, pesticides are harmful to farm workers, damage the environment, and are toxic to lab animals. Determining the risks of lower levels of pesticides in food is difficult, because many other


factors must be considered, such as lifestyle and genetic and environmental variables. It makes sense to be more cautious about something as basic as the food we eat, until the time when research can actually show which chemicals are safe and at what levels.

More information on food and pesticides can be found at the food web site for the Environmental Working Group (<http://www.foodnews.org>).



EWG'S SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO PESTICIDES™

DIRTY DOZEN™ <i>Buy These Organic</i>		CLEAN 15™ <i>Lowest in Pesticides</i>	
WORST	1 Celery	BEST	1 Onions
	2 Peaches		2 Avocado
	3 Strawberries		3 Sweet Corn
	4 Apples		4 Pineapple
	5 Blueberries		5 Mangos
	6 Nectarines		6 Sweet Peas
	7 Bell Peppers		7 Asparagus
	8 Spinach		8 Kiwi
	9 Cherries		9 Cabbage
	10 Kale/Collard Greens		10 Eggplant
	11 Potatoes		11 Cantaloupe
	12 Grapes (Imported)		12 Watermelon
			13 Grapefruit
			14 Sweet Potato
			15 Honeydew Melon

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Getting Real about Bullying

Robert Evans, Ed.D.

*Sponsored by the
League of Women Voters of Wellesley*

Wednesday, October 20, 2010

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

(Talk will begin at 7:30, discussion to follow)



St. Andrew's Church Parish Hall

79 Denton Road, Wellesley

Refreshments will be served.

- ⇒ After all the publicity about bullying and the passage of a new law, are we any closer to reducing the problem?
- ⇒ What truly constitutes bullying?
- ⇒ How much of it is normal?
- ⇒ How much is it a school problem, as opposed to a family and community problem?
- ⇒ What practical steps can make a positive difference?

Rob Evans will explore these and other issues and outline directions for coping.

*Dr. Evans is a clinical and organizational psychologist and the Executive Director of The Human Relations Service, Wellesley's private, non-profit community mental health agency serving children and families. A former high school and pre-school teacher, and a former child and family therapist, he has worked with schools and families for thirty-five years. He has consulted to over 1,400 schools, public and private, both in the U.S. and internationally, working with teachers, administrators, boards, and parents. He has consulted extensively to the schools in Wellesley since 1975. He is the author of many articles and three books: *Seven Secrets of The Savvy School Leader: A Guide to Surviving and Thriving*; *The Human Side of School Change*; and *Family Matters: How Schools Can Cope with The Crisis in Childrearing*.*



SELECTMEN CHOOSE NEW SPOT TO ACCESS TO 40-ACRE FIELD

Nina Danforth

“Wow- it’s really bustling here today!” a visitor quips as we stand in line to ring up our purchases at the Land’s Sake vegetable stand. On this first day of fall, the sun is shining on the beautifully designed flower beds, while corn, tomatoes and pumpkins are piled to overflowing on the benches. Groups of second graders skip happily along the road toward Alphabet Lane after a lively session on Plant Parts with the farm’s educators. As we watch the kids disappear from view with their teacher, I tell the visitor the driveway is about to change and the farm will soon have a whole new look.

private property, then take your chances on finding a spot to park. All that is about to change in November.

The Board of Selectmen, who control the “Municipal Purposes” land, have leased the mostly open acres to Land’s Sake since the land was purchased from Harvard in 1985. The Conservation Commission oversees the land maintenance issues for them, keeping an eye on tree and soil health. In 2006, when some contaminated soil was removed at the farm, the Selectmen were requested to move the driveway off private property, and over the ensuing four



Now celebrating its 30th year since incorporating as a non-profit community farm organization, Land’s Sake has grown in popularity as a place to find fresh organically grown produce, a fun outing for the family, or a quiet walk with your dog. But to drive there, you have to negotiate a difficult intersection in the middle of town, cross through

years, a committee to study the problem was appointed. Three new points of entry were suggested.

The newly chosen route will take you through the wall opposite the Case House, through a grassy knoll toward a rectangular parking area, 60x150

feet, where bluebird boxes now await a move to a quieter spot. Many thought the route too invasive in such a pastoral sweep of open land, and preferred a low swale near the stop sign, where vehicles would be less noticeable. However, this “Olmstedian” idea was rejected by the Chief of Police who worried about rushing commuters who might not see the farm entrance as they bomb down Newton Street.

Another interesting idea came in the form of a rotary recommended by the study committee. Traffic would flow more smoothly through the intersection at Case Corner, they argued, and the new farm entrance could be carefully coordinated with that newly paved circle. They produced a simple but professional plan on paper using GIS and had many of us convinced that this was the most sensible and sustainable solution to be proposed in a long time. Just imagine, no long

lines on Wellesley Street backing up to Regis, and no police detail needed on weekday mornings!

The Selectmen chose to put off the rotary decision for a few more years, and deferred to the Police Chief’s choice of location. Today, the Town Engineer put the final touches on the contract documents and drove stakes in the ground so contractors could see the configuration. The winning bidder will install the new road and parking lot in November, stockpile the rich topsoil and use it to re-vegetate the current access road.

So, take a walk! I urged my new acquaintance at the farm stand. Enjoy the sweep of this remarkable public land, the children’s gardens, the curving flower beds and the assorted scarecrows which will occupy the greensward through October. Then watch for change.



OBSERVER CORPS

Selectmen, Monday, Sept 13, 2010

Jean Thurston

1. Request for Connection to MWRA sewer in Wellesley

Harvey Boshart’s property is partly in Weston and partly in Wellesley. His request was forwarded to the Planning Board.

2. and 3. NSTAR electric hearing

Approved for Riverside Rd and 101 Wellesley St.

4. Statement of Interest to the MSBA – Green Repairs Program

5. Approve Refunding of bonds issued in 2001

Of an original bonding of \$17.5million, \$2,075,000 remains. Most of the funds were used for the Middle School. The estimated rate is 2% to 2.5% and will save about \$1.8 million.

6. Formation of Tercentennial Committee

Pam Fox, President of Weston Historical Society spoke of the need to begin planning for the celebration which will be in two years. Many town organizations

should be involved. She proposed that the Selectmen appoint a Steering Committee to begin the process. The Selectmen will advertise for interested people.

7. Request for Tractor Crossings

The Conservation Commission asks for two signs at Merriam St. and two signs at Concord Rd. Approved.

8. Draft RFP for Consultant – Josiah Smith Tavern/Old Library

This would be to develop public consensus for the use of these buildings. Estimated cost is \$25K to \$30K (about \$12K is already available) and the report would be due in Feb.

9. Boston Properties Traffic Mitigation Fund – Request from Planning Board

The transfer of \$9,700 is requested to study possible traffic light at Rolling Lane or Summer Street. Approved

10. Memorandum of Agreement with Weston Firefighters' Assoc., Inc.

An injured firefighter has used up all his sick leave and vacation and this agreement would allow the Chief to use him for light duty as he sees fit.

11. Amendment to GIC Agreement for Health Reimbursement Arrangement

This has been approved by the employees and the unions. Approved.

12. New Business

The Selectmen declined to join the Greater Boston Tourism Region and decided to remain in the Metrowest Region

CONSERVATION COMMISSION Robin Peakes Coutts

Chairman of the Conservation Commission, Brian Donahue, is Professor of American Environmental Studies at Brandeis University and has included sections of Weston's Forests for their important "Suburban Ecology Project". This interesting project was explained at a recent Conservation Commission Meeting, and in a recent Globe article.

Excerpts from the Globe article:

In addition to developing scientific data on the town's wooded lands, the project also provides local high school students with the opportunity to assist in environmental research.

The project, which began early last year, is primarily focused in Weston, though Donahue

said he has also done some work at Walden Woods in Concord. Donahue noted that he would be interested in expanding into other areas in Concord and Waltham.

Donahue said that this research can have important effects nationwide.

"A lot of people live in these kinds of suburban environments like Weston," Donahue said. "This provides us with ecological research to show how these communities function. It's something definitely worth knowing about, and helps us as a society, as a whole."

Long-term monitoring of Weston's forests is one of the most important aspects of the project's work.



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Donahue, Brandeis professor Dan Perlman, and research assistant Emily Silver took an inventory of the 1,200 acres of woodlands in Weston, and used GPS technology to map out more than 100 20-by-20-meter plots. Each of the plots will be revisited in two- to five-year intervals to measure any changes, from soil characteristics to the forest floor's vegetation species.

"The inventory is the first step in what is a much longer project," Silver said, with important advantages for Weston. "Having the inventory leads to better informed forest management practices. Moving forward, the town can know what volume of wood they have for wood products, among other things. It will really help with the town's land management decisions."

Another facet of the research involves the town's effort, starting in 2008, to control the spread of the hemlock woolly adelgid by applying pesticides to infected trees. The project has set up 22 plots, both in treated and untreated areas, to measure how well the pesticides have worked on the nonnative insect.

The town sees the project as a critical asset in shaping land management decisions.

"Programs like the suburban ecology project will provide important data to help us better

understand Weston's present-day forest," said Michele Grzenda, the town's conservation agent. "This information will then help the Conservation Commission make scientifically sound and sustainable forest management decisions well into the future. Not only will the program benefit Weston, but it will also provide baseline information that could assist other towns who wish to promote active and passive forest management."

One of the more unusual aspects of the project is its involvement with local schools. Silver said that last year she took groups from Weston High and the regional Minuteman Career & Technical High School into the woods to teach them about the project and its importance. By collecting data on hemlock trees, for example, the students have been contributing to the project's inquiry while learning research techniques, she said.

According to Silver, these class trips also add an important dynamic to the community. "Bringing these groups out here really expands the education programs with the town and surrounding towns," said Silver.

Link to Suburban Ecology Project's Website:
<http://www.brandeis.edu/programs/environmental/sep/research/index.html>



League of Women Voters of Weston

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2010-2011

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, political organization, which encourages informed and active participation in all levels of government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We serve the local community in many ways:

- Sponsor Candidates and Issues nights before elections
- Provide voter information and conduct voter-registration drives
- Encourage voter participation with banners and rides to the polls
- Study local, state and national issues and hold open meetings
- Act upon carefully considered positions by lobbying and circulating petitions
- Publish a "Know Your Town" booklet
- Train members to be active and involved citizens.

Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30. As a Weston member, you also belong to and receive publications from the State and National Leagues.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Check one: Renewal New Member

I enclose a check made payable to **The League of Women Voters of Weston*** for:

\$60 Individual Membership (covers required local dues to the State and National Leagues)

\$75 Family Membership (two individuals in the same household)

Name of second household member: _____

\$50 Basic Membership

\$ _____ Additional Contribution (Any contributions above and beyond regular dues are greatly appreciated and assist our local league in providing more services and offsetting our operating expenses.)

\$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

.....
 \$ _____ LWV Education Fund (Tax-deductible contribution made payable by separate check to the LWV Education Fund)

Return form to: Rochelle Nemrow, 61 Beaver Rd., Weston, MA 02493

Do you know a friend who might be interested in joining the League of Women Voters?
Name, address & phone _____

* It is the policy of the LWV of Weston that no resident shall be refused participation in the League because of inability to pay. If a hardship preventing payment of dues exists, please contact Katty Chace at 781-790-1087.