



Bulletin

April 2005

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P.O. Box 514
Andover, MA 01810

www.LWV-Andovers.org

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League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover

President's Letter

North Andover enjoyed a busy local election season with five candidates each for School Committee and Selectboard, and two candidates for a seat on the board of the Greater Lawrence Technical School. Kathy Stevens organized a

well-attended candidate debate, moderated by Marty Larsen. To increase the candidates' visibility to the voters, Kathy invited all candidates to submit a 250-word statement for the *lww-andovers* website *Elections* page. Six of the twelve North Andover candi-

dates took advantage of this offer. (In spite of having no opponents, two Andover candidates also posted statements to the League website.) Kathy and Marty also produced a televised forum about the proposed new Police Station to help voters decide how to vote on the debt exclusion override.

The spring holds a couple more North Andover based activities: On Wednesday, April 20, our Afford-

able Housing group is organizing a forum exploring the strategies Andover and North Andover are employing in their pursuit of affordable housing. This

timely forum should help North Andover voters understand the Town Meeting article proposing to allocate CPA money for Affordable Housing. Next up is a North Andover Women's Conference to be held at the Stevens Estate on Sunday, May 1. The LWV will have a table and offer a variety of information about League activi-

ties, including organic lawn care, the Fall statewide redistricting effort, and, of course, League membership.

Andover's candidate night, organized by Diana Walsh, was an informative affair. While there were no contests, the candidates voiced their

opinions on the hot-button issues facing the town, helping citizens learn where their elected officials stand. On April 14, the annual warrant forum will review the important articles on the Andover warrant. And please attend the mem-

bers' warrant forum April 15 to help the League decide whether we should take a position on any

"Making Democracy Work"

Faneuil Hall, Boston

LWVM student essay contest award ceremony

Sunday, April 10, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Free and open to the public

Teresa Heinz Kerry: Keynote Speaker

Q&A with the winners: Ellen Goodman

Paths to Affordable Housing in the Andovers
Town Offices, 120 Main Street, North Andover
April 20, 7:30 PM.

Andover Warrant

Public Warrant Forum

7:30 PM April 14

Andover Library

Members' Warrant Unit

10:00 AM-Noon April 15

Margot Bixby, 25 Abbot St.

Healthy Lawns & Landscapes

Saturday April 2 9:00 AM-12:30 PM

West Parish Church, Andover (see page 4)

articles, including the senior center.

Building on last year's success, the Organic Lawn and Garden Fair returns to West Parish Church in Andover April 2. Thanks to our Sustainability and Natural Resource group for organizing this useful event.

On Tuesday, April 5, we host an informal presentation on town spending habits presented by Al Robbat, an Andover resident and Tufts University chemistry professor. Assisted by Cynde Egan, Al compared various departmental budgets for our 16 comparable communities and will present the results of his statistical analyses.

Would you like to be a delegate from the ANA League to the state League Convention, May 13-14? Several workshops are planned, including *Effective Citizen Advocacy*, *Moderator Training*, and *Redistricting Reform*. We also encourage interested members, who may not want to attend the entire convention, to take the moderator training on Saturday, May 14, to discuss techniques for moderating public forums. Please contact me if you are interested in attending the convention or the training.

The state LWV is sponsoring an educational forum on *International Trafficking in Women* at UMass Boston on April 30 (see announcement, page 11). The purpose of the forum is to raise awareness about the issue of human trafficking, a practice in which people are lured to a foreign country with false promises and upon arrival forced to work, often under slave-like conditions.

On the national scene, the LWV has been a long-time supporter of Social Security and is advocating a "go-slow" approach to any changes. The following excerpt is from LWVUS president Kay Maxwell's letter to Congress: "Concerns have been raised that Social Security is in crisis and that Congress needs to act now. The League of Women Voters believes that both the perceived crisis and the proposed solutions need to be thoroughly examined and debated. We believe there is sufficient time to do so. The long-term challenges do not manifest themselves until the year 2042." League members are encouraged to let their elected officials know where they stand on this issue. - *Peggy Kruse*

Legislative Action

By Carole Pelchat

League members from across the State met Wednesday, March 23, for the annual Day on the Hill, at which

time several pieces of legislation and initiatives for the 2005 Legislative session were presented. Some of the bill numbers are for drafts and will change in the near future. (ed. note – full names and districts for elected officials named below can be found on the Massachusetts website www.mass.gov.)

Senator Augustus, Representative Petrocelli and others have drafted an amendment to the State Constitution to remove all conditions for absentee voting, which is a component of the League's Empowering Voters Project. Other components to this Project are composed of the following:

1. Amending current State law Chapter 54: Section 48 Information to Voters to mandate the posting of the Voters' Bill of Rights at every polling place in the state.

2. SD639 - a bill sponsored by Senator Creem to establish Election Day registration.

3. Proposing legislation to expand the potential pool of Election Day workers to include individuals not registered in the municipality where they are working, students aged 16 and 17, and municipal employees.

4. Changing the Mass General Laws governing the office of Director of the Elections Division and local and district elections administrators to remove any perception of bias in their administration of elections.

5. Proposing legislation that will amend Chapter 51, Section 57 to require the Secretary of the Commonwealth to post current voting lists on the web.

6. Supporting H2015, which creates guidelines to allow workers time off to vote.

7. Advocating for changes in voter registration that will make forms easily accessible.

8. Opposing H56/SD1088, which call for the expansion of voter identification requirements.

LWVMA also urges support for

1. S12 - a constitutional amendment filed by Senator Richard Moore that will create an independent, nonpartisan redistricting commission.

2. S755 - An Act to Establish the Massachusetts Health Care Trust, sponsored by Senator Tolman and Representative Hynes.

3. SD722/HD1590 - An Act Relative to Financing

Missing a Bulletin?

The Bulletin is posted on the LWV-A/NA website: www.lwv-andovers.org

the Production of Affordable Housing sponsored by Senator Chandler and Representative Honan.

4. SD1831/HD0993 - An Act Relative to Equitable Coverage in Annuity Policies sponsored by Senator Murray and Representatives Balser and Mariano (chair of the Insurance Committee).

5. SD580 - a bill to amend mandatory sentences for drug offenders to allow eligibility for parole sponsored by Senator Creem.

6. HD2465 - An Act Improving the Administration of the Judicial Branch sponsored by Representative Peisch.

7. HD3691/SD869 - An Act to Provide Timely Access to Emergency Contraception sponsored by Senator Resor and Representative Petersen.

8. H1209/S350 - An Act to Reform Education Financing sponsored by Senators Resor and Havern and Representative Hall.

LWVMA also continues to work with Common Cause, Mass Voters for Fair Elections, Mass VOTE and other organizations working toward the filing of a bill that will provide for the public financing of elections.

Affordable Housing

By Joan Duff

The Affordable Housing Study Group is sponsoring the third of its educational forums — Paths to Affordable Housing in the Andovers. The forum will be at the North Andover Town Offices, 120 Main Street, Selectman’s Room, Wednesday, April 20, 7:30 PM. Parking is available behind the building.

The forum’s objective is to discuss the strategies that Andover and North Andover are proposing or implement-

Lunch & Conversation Join us at Panera Thursday, April 14, 11:30 AM

ing in their pursuits to increase affordable housing in their communities.

Jennessa Durrani will moderate; committed speakers are:

Heidi Griffin, Director, Community Development North Andover

Christine Metzemaekers, Executive Director, Andover Housing Authority

Felipe Schwarz, North Andover Community Preservation Committee

Phillip DeMartino, Technical Assistance Program Coordinator, Office for Policy Development, Department of Housing and Community Development.

The panel will address several affordable housing issues, including an update of each town’s status in the 10 percent goal of affordable housing; a review of each town’s 40B projects and the impact of expiring use; an examination of DHCD’s “Planned Production Plan” (a planning tool under consideration by North Andover that allows for more local control over affordable housing); the Community Preservation Act (CPA), its contributions to affordable housing, and considerations for North Andover’s CPA funds; and the role of the Housing Authority in providing affordable housing and supporting programs.

For additional information, please call Annette Nickerson 978-685-6563 or Joan Duff at 978-685-3212.

LWV Andover/North Andover 2004-2005 MEMBERSHIP

___ \$55 Individual ___ \$60 Contributing ___ \$75 Sustaining ___ \$100 (and over) Patron

___ \$75 Household (2 persons in same household) ___ \$35 Senior Citizen (65 and over)

___ \$55 Associate Member (non-voting)

___ In addition to my membership, I’d like to make a contribution of \$ ___.

___ Enclosed is a separate check, my tax-deductible contribution of \$ ___ to the Education Fund.

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Address _____ Fax _____

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Thank you! Jennessa Durrani, Membership, 978-470-3290

Sustainability/Natural Resources

By C. Joyce Ringleb

The Andover Selectboard has voted Town compliance with state waste reduction mandates starting May 1, 2005. Please help us get the word out to your neighbors. This is an exciting event for all of us. We are on our way to trash reduction!

New Trash Reduction and Compliance Program

Beginning on May 1, in compliance with State law, Andover's trash collectors will leave behind any recyclables left out with the trash. Clean cardboard must be flattened and cut into pieces less than 2'x2'. Bring computers and TVs to an Electronics collection event.

Leaves will only be collected in approved bags on specified weeks (see the Recycling Calendar on the Town website). Compost leaves at home or take them to Bald Hill compost site. For appliances, call DPW for a list of commercial recyclers.

What is the goal?

- One goal is to reduce Andover's residential trash tonnage to a reasonable level. Recently, our trash has increased by an average of three percent per year, which is faster than our population. We generate 20-25 percent more trash per household than towns comparable to ours.
- Another goal is to keep the cost of trash disposal from growing faster than our property taxes can increase. With our new contract, the cost for every ton will increase 2-3 percent every year for the next five years. We, therefore, should try to ensure that our trash tonnage does not further increase.
- Our average trash per week per household is 55 pounds. If every household could reduce weekly trash by 10 percent or six pounds, we could save \$100,000 per year in disposal fees.

Why?

- Cardboard is valuable when recycled. The town is paid for recycled paper and cardboard. Recycling also avoids the cost of disposal as trash.
- State regulations ban waste hauler collection of recyclable items such as cardboard, recyclable paper, and recyclable bottles and cans.
- State regulations also ban collection of hazardous items, such as chemicals and CRTs, with the trash.
- Every ton recycled means tax money that is not "going up in smoke"!

What can I do?

- Reuse! Give away rather than throw away. See Andover's recycling website for many ideas, websites, email groups, and charities that *want* whatever you have to give away.
- Recycle! Andover residents do a good job of recycling newspapers! We can do *better* at recycling cardboard, office paper and junk mail.

Will the trash collectors open my trash bags?

No, but visible or obvious amounts of banned items will be left behind. Cardboard boxes should not be used to hold trash and will be left behind.

How will I know?

Items left will have a sticker explaining how to dispose properly:

Sorry, State law prohibits collecting recyclable items like these with your trash...

- Clean cardboard: Flatten & cut into 2' by 2' pieces.
- Computers & TVs: Bring to Electronics Collections.
- Leaves: Compost or take to Bald Hill compost site.
- Appliances: Call DPW for list of commercial recyclers.

For more information, call the DPW at 978-623-8350, ask for a calendar, or go to www.andoverma.gov/recycle

Recycling saves tax dollars and resources. Please help!

Our big event this year is our **Healthy Lawns and Landscapes**, April 2. Don't forget you can order your lawn care for the season at our workshop.

When properly maintained, the Cleanlawn program will:

- Reduce crabgrass and other weeds
- Improve soil structure and restore bioactivity
- Add organic matter into the soil
- Improve soil fertility in the root zone
- Promote resistance to heat and drought stress

Hope to see you all there and please don't forget to invite friends and neighbors.

Know Your Town

By Heather Moody Holman

Plans for the collaboration of the League Know Your Town Fair joining with The Andover Historic Society, the Andover Cultural Council and The Department of Community Services in celebrating Andover Day Saturday, June 11 are moving right along. We are looking into recent suggestions about video coverage and cable television broadcast of the event. This would give exhibitors an opportunity to speak about our organizations and show our displays. We plan to recruit local high school students for the filming and editing. The event, in the park in front of Andover's town offices, will begin at 10:00 AM and the exhibitors will be along the Bartlet and Chestnut street perimeter walks. There will be a \$10.00 fee to display information about a non-profit organization, and also an opportunity to sell wares and edibles, with the Board of Health's permission, for a \$35.00 fee. The day will also feature an antique auto show, a car raffle, local performing artists in the bandstand and possibly a concert at the conclusion. DCS will host amusements for children. Rain date is Sunday, June 12.

The master list of organizations will be available to members at the monthly Board meeting. We welcome edits and additions to the list for any not-for-profit organizations you think we should invite to make this the most diverse and inclusive event yet. All volunteers who would enjoy being part of the publicity and communications are certainly welcome as well. Thanks in advance. Please feel free to contact either Heather Moody Holman, 978-500-0626 or hholman@andoverliving.com, or Diane Hender, 978-470-0869 or dphender@comcast.net.

Local Program Planning

By Stefani Traina Goldshein

Calling all League members! Do you have a recommendation for a League study for next year? The Local Program Planning Committee sets the agenda for the League's activities for the next fiscal year. Timely issues will be considered for study; the board must give preliminary approval before a final vote is taken at Annual Meeting in May. If you have an idea for a League study, please contact Stefani Traina Goldshein at 978-470-3140 or steftraina@comcast.net. The meeting to discuss proposals will take place before the regular board meeting Wednesday, April 6, 7:00 PM, Diana Walsh, 23 Greybirch Rd. All members are welcome.

Town of Andover listserv If you would like to receive email announcements from the Town of Andover, sign up at <http://andoverma.gov/e-services/e-notices.php>.

Andover Warrant Forums

By Stefani Traina Goldshein

The League will host two Warrant Forums prior to Andover Town Meeting, one public, the other for members only. The public Warrant forum will be Thursday, April 14, 7:30 PM, Andover Memorial Hall Library. Selected Warrant articles will be discussed by a panel of League members. It is part of the League's mission to educate and inform the public on issues concerning the citizens of the town. A committee reviewed the April 2005 Warrant and chose articles that it felt, would be of interest to the citizens of Andover. In line with our positions as a nonpartisan organization, both the pros and cons of the articles will be explained. The topics this year include the Senior Center proposal, the NESWC Money, the Water Treatment Plant, School Security, Signage, Sewers, the Town Yard, Zoning Bylaw Amendments, including the Independent Living Residences and possibly, the Pay Display Parking article. The forum will be televised live and taped for rebroadcast on Channel 22.

The member forum will be Friday, April 15, 10-noon, at Margot Bixby, 25 Abbot St. League members at this meeting will decide whether the League will take a position on any of the Warrant articles.

Observer Reports

Andover Strategic Planning Task Force

By Diane Hender

March 9 Attending this first SPTF meeting in almost a year were Selectboard members John Hess, Mary Lyman, Brian Major, and Alex Vispoli; Finance Committee members Marge Bradshaw, Tom Fardy, Tim Felter, Ray Hender, Richard Howe, Joanne Marden, Mary O'Donoghue and Harold Wright; School Committee members Art Barber, Dick Collins, and Tony James, as well as Claudia Bach, Steve Bucuzzo, Charles Murnane, Brian Pattullo, Joe Piantedossi, Buzz Stapczynski, Tony Torrissi, and Bernie Tuttle.

Tony Torrissi reviewed the major line items in the proposed FY06 budget (pages 197-198), noting some adjustments:

Revenues

- No change in estimated new growth property tax of \$2



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million.

- Prop 2-1/2 debt exemption growth down slightly, by about \$50,000.
- State aid, per governor's released budget, remains the same.
- No change in enterprise fund and direct costs.
- No change to free cash, but watching current deficit accounts such as snow removal. (Some reimbursement, around \$200,000, expected from FEMA.)

Obligations

- Health insurance premiums based upon renewal contract.
- Out-of-district Special Education costs confirmed by school department.
- Debt service revisions due to refinancing, with bond issue expense down \$20,000.
- Slight increase in Human Resources allocation, from \$377,000 to \$386,000.

As a result of the above adjustments, available operating funds increased about \$14,000.

The primary purpose of the joint meeting was to consider possible tax, revenue, or other options for closing the gap of approximately \$827,000 between the Superintendent's preliminary school budget and the Town Manager's proposed combined budget for FY06. Presented for further exploration and discussion were:

- Adjusting the new growth factor. While last year's new growth was greater than projected, the FY06 number is believed to be conservative but realistic.
- Utilization of more free cash
- Utilization of stabilization fund
- It was agreed that a study should be done to determine the long range effect of using reserves for operating expenses. For how long is this sustainable? One year? Two years?
- How would the Town's bond rating be affected should a larger percentage of undesignated fund balances be used to balance the operating budget, and what might a downgrade mean financially?
- Elimination of selected CIP projects.
- If the CIP is level-funded from FY05, what projects could be dropped, and at what future cost?
- Hiring delay or freeze (versus cost of overtime to cover critical positions)
- Chance of additional state revenue
- Slim possibility of about \$300,000 in Chapter 70 allocation
- Override
- Use of all or part of NESWC refund

Also to be considered, on the expense side, are possible additional shortfalls due to collective bargaining agreements, increasing petroleum costs and potential FY05 operating

deficits.

New revenues projected for FY06 are distributed among salary increases, step and track increases, and increasing health insurance costs.

Andover Selectboard, FinCom Budget Review

By Matthew Konjoian

The Selectboard and Finance Committee met in a series of joint budget review meetings to discuss the proposed FY2006 departmental budgets and any Warrant articles that would directly involve the various departments. What follows is a summary of the presentations by departmental officials.

March 2 Plant and Facilities - Joseph Piantedosi, Director of the Plant and Facilities Department, said that the budget would be increased \$140,692. The increase is due to maintenance costs. Many of these costs are coming from the aging of the town vehicle fleets, which need continuous maintenance. The department has also seen a gradual rise in fuel costs and a sharp rise in electricity expenses, also part of the increase in spending. Changes to this year's budget also include the elimination of a cemetery worker position and increasing the hours of a part-time janitor to cover vacancies. Piantedosi has also seen a high cost in

Nominating Committee

With the approach of the LWVA/NA Annual Meeting in May, the Nominating Committee is putting together a slate of officers for 2005-2006. The committee is seeking members who are interested getting more directly involved in the functions of the local League. There are many and diverse activities available. Please contact Carole Pelchat, 978-521-1074, to see how we can match up your interests with our needs.

building materials and an increase in fuel costs by 17 percent, heating costs by 30 percent and vehicle fleet costs by 15 percent. With these increases, he pointed out that various rental fees for vehicles and space would have to be restructured. In terms of future issues, the department will have to take a look at aging building and vehicle fleets. Thirteen town buildings are 37 or more years old and nine are 47 or more years old. Many of the town vehicles are also 10 or more years old.

The discussion also included Old Town Hall. Currently, the town spends about \$93,000 a year to maintain this building. Both boards looked into revising the fee schedule and finding ways to make it more attractive, particularly reaching out to the business community and non-residents. Se-

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lectman Ted Teichert also looked into encouraging more weeknight rentals, as current rental fees do not cover the Town's expenses. He also said that a comparison of fees and amenities to other area rental facilities should be done and he noted that the facility has significant drawbacks such as parking and overall appearance. The remainder of the time was devoted to discussing warrant articles including those for rooftop unit repairs, new vehicles, and ball field construction and reservation improvements.

March 7 Department of Public Works Jack Petkus, Director of Public Works, presented a budget with reductions in taxed-based divisions and an increase in water and sewer treatment. Taxed-based divisions included administration, transportation, roads and snow removal. These divisions would have a total reduction of 1.27 percent for a total of \$5,070,831. These reductions mainly come in snow removal where the department has stopped reimbursement of residents for damaged mailboxes and will only replace these with standard mailboxes. The department will do pre-storm road salting to make roads clearer and easier to plow during storms and leave snow in the middle of circles on cul-de-sacs.

The sewer department would see an increase of approximately 2 percent to \$2,021,314. Petkus attributes this to the necessity of using the sewage treatment plant in North Andover. The water division also saw an increase of 4.48 percent to \$3,832,110. Petkus praised the fact that although

it is an increase, the department has not had to raise water rates since 1994 and does not have to do this again this year.

Petkus acknowledged that while the Town over spent for snow removal this year, over the past 11 years the Town over spent in six years and was under budget in five years. He also pointed to marketing solid waste excess tonnage that saved the Town almost \$500,000 over the past three years and the recycling paper rebate which saved over \$100,000; he said the department will strive to continue savings in those areas.

Mary Lyman asked if we would be receiving reimbursement from the state for the cost accrued with cleanup during the January blizzard as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts deemed it a state emergency. Petkus replied by saying that reimbursement of up to \$200,000 would be coming from the state for the 72-hour emergency period. Ted Teichert expressed concern about the overtime rate for snow removal on Sundays and during the evening, especially in downtown Andover. Petkus said that this was necessary because businesses and residents doing business in downtown Andover expect this.

The session also discussed upcoming Town Meeting articles sponsored by DPW which include improvements in the water treatment plant, water distribution systems on North Main Street, sidewalk improvements on Moraine Street, a flood study in the Balmoral area and improvements



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to the Fish Brook pumping station.

March 9 Elder Services The discussion at this session focused around the Warrant Article for the proposed Senior Center to be built next to Doherty Middle School as well as follow up articles that would have to be passed to make the construction and jurisdiction possible. Donald Robb and Marlies Zammuto, heads of the Senior Center Task Force, said that the project had several strong points that would benefit the community, the neighborhood and ease several concerns about financing the center. The center is estimated to cost \$7,650,000 and that the figure is 95 percent accurate. Selectman Alex Vispoli was concerned about keeping this figure in check but Robb responded by saying that the Task Force by no means has a crystal ball but will do its best to stay as within that amount. He also added that the figure includes all new furnishings and supplies; Elder Services plans, however, to use some furnishings from the old center which will ease costs.

In the presentation, Robb said that he has met with the local neighborhood and that they are satisfied with the current construction plans and this was before they decided to move the site further away from residential areas. In terms of the community the project would ease morning traffic at the student drop at Doherty Middle School as well as add a parking lot of 59 spaces.

Overall, representatives from the task force said that the project is critical because it would add space that would allow for specialized projects. These include a multipurpose room, fitness room, arts and crafts center and a game room. The current center only has one large room for these different activities and this does not meet the needs of the senior population. Construction time for the project will be approximately 13 months beginning in the fall with a scheduled completion date in the spring or summer of 2007.

In addition, the articles that were discussed included the land transfer to transfer the control of the land from the schools to the town and easements needed to bring the utilities for the center across school property as well as the exemption from zoning bylaws.

The evening concluded with a presentation of the FY2006 budget by Kathy Urquhart, Acting Director of Elder Services. Among the highlights of the budget are an increase in salaries and an increase in food and auto fuel due to an expansion of the Meals on Wheels program. In her brief presentation, she stressed that 1/3 of Andover residents will be over the age of 60 in the not too distant future and the town government really needed to take it into consideration when reviewing the state of elder services. Among the accomplishments she stressed the healthy living program and the voluntary donation meals program. Regarding the meals program, she pointed out that most seniors would not accept a meal without paying for it.


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March 16 Public Safety This session consisted of separate presentations by the chiefs of the police and fire departments. Police Chief Brian Patullo reported 32,245 calls over the past fiscal year and this statistic was up three percent. Of these calls, 462 were arrests, 5447 were motor vehicle citations and 13,749 were parking tickets. Currently he has 52 staff with 37 patrolmen. He currently has only 30 sworn patrolmen on staff as three are injured in the line of duty (ILD), three are on military leave and one is a recent academy graduate. This has left many of his shifts short staffed and has forced him to shift officers from specialty operations such as D.A.R.E. to cover patrol shifts. While he is saving money by shifting officers as opposed to hiring to fill shifts he acknowledged that he still has to pay overtime and hopes to get a full staff as soon as possible. He also said that there will be an increase in salaries but not staffing increases for the coming year and he will be working with a \$580,000 budget increase.

In response to the staffing shortages, Lyman acknowledged that two of the ILD officers were involved in motorcycle accidents and questioned whether the Department is looking into motorcycle safety to prevent accidents and such future leaves of absence. Patullo responded by saying they are taking this matter seriously and looking into all safety issues with motorcycle use. In particular, they are focusing on restricted use of these vehicles on patrol.

Chief Patullo also updated the Selectboard on his position on the town Warrant Article for the parking system and responded to the concerns that citizens have been raising about the "pay and display" system. He pointed out the visitors services attendant program which has been very successful in helping visitors to downtown Andover navigate the parking system. He also added that maintaining two pay stations would cost less than upkeep for 160 parking meters. In terms of expanding the program, he wants to add these types of meters to the library parking lot as well as possibly add it to the Shawsheen Square commuter lot as many that use this lot are from out of town. Board Members Alex Vispoli and Mary Lyman questioned Patullo on the complaints regarding the pay and display system. These include walking back and forth from cars as well as inclement weather. Patullo responded by saying that if one were to go shopping at a mall the walk would be longer and that these meters would be easier to shovel out in inclement weather. Fire Chief Charles Murnane made the second public safety presentation. He reported that he too has had staffing issues and that on the day of the meeting he was at 100 percent staff level though he has had to deal with short staff over the past year. Among the issues he discussed was the possibility of outsourcing town ambulance services to private carriers. Murnane's position on this was that it hinders the emergency rescue process, as the department would

lose total control over this if ambulance service were to be outsourced. Additionally he pointed out that the town would not receive any revenue despite doing the first response work. Chief Murnane also discussed what he was looking for in the CIP public safety article and he is looking for a new truck and a new rescue ladder.

Selectman Lyman inquired about a recent study in the Boston Globe regarding fire response times and that despite Andover being the second largest town in Massachusetts she was displeased that we had slow response times. Murnane defended the response rate saying that the average time, five minutes, is adequate for a town this size but the department is making every effort to reduce response times.

Andover Townwide PTO

by Diane Hender

March 11 Senior Center - Don Robb spoke on behalf of the Senior Center Planning Task Force, presenting the plans for a new facility and reviewing the relevant Town Meeting warrant articles. Concern was expressed regarding the “restrictive” nomenclature, and Don offered assurance that it would be a public facility; all municipal buildings can be used for ancillary purposes. Other construction-related issues

include area congestion, physical safety of DMS students, and security checks of workers. When asked about the financial impact of such a large project at this time of budgetary constraints, particularly within the schools, Don suggested that the two constituencies (parents & seniors) combine forces in support of excellence in *all* Town programs and services, including the restoration of school programs. **School Department Budget** - AHS PAC board members Tom Brady, Diane Costagliola, Ellen Travers, and Andrea Zaimes met with Town Moderator Jim Doherty on March 10 for about two hours. They came away believing that he understands their concerns and is supportive of the schools.

In response to a query whether they wanted the roll-back of fees to the FY05 levels or the restoration of programs and services, it became clear that the group seeks to achieve both. They also are looking for “transparency and accountability” in discussions of the Town budget.

Snow Days – Superintendent Bach noted that the sidewalks are plowed in accordance with a priority list developed by the school department and that, with only two machines, it can take up to two weeks for all to be cleared. She urged parents to keep children at home, even on days when schools are open, if they don’t believe it is safe for them to walk.

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Presents

US Foreign Policy and its Impact on Women: International Trafficking in Women

**UMass Boston, Healey Library
Saturday, April 30, 8:30 a.m-12:30 p.m.**

To carpool, call Peggy Kruse, 978-474-0176

Keynote Speakers

Laura J. Lederer, JD

**Senior Advisor on Trafficking in Persons to the
Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Paula J. Dobriansky**

Mark Zuckerman, JD, Assistant U.S. Attorney

Andrea Stillman, Connecticut State Senator

Panelists

Elizabeth Hopper, Ph.D., Associate Director / Program Coordinator at Project Reach

Dr. Wendy Chapkis, University of Southern Maine

Dr. Sealing Cheng, Wellesley College and Columbia University

Joe and Brigitte Collins, Maiti Nepal

League of Women Voters Andover/North Andover Calendar

APRIL

- Sat 2 Healthy Lawns & Landscapes – 9:00 –12:30, West Parish Church, Andover
 Tue 5 Comparing town spending in MA communities – 7:00 PM, Andover Library
 Wed 6 Local Program Planning Meeting – 7:00 PM, Board Meeting – 8:00 PM, Diana Walsh, 23 Greybirch Rd, Andover
 Wed 13 May Bulletin Deadline (email frishma@comcast.net)
 Thu 14 Lunch and Conversation – 11:30 AM Panera’s (Rte 133 & 125)
 Thu 14 Public Warrant Forum – 7:30 PM, Andover Library
 Fri 15 Members’ Warrant Unit – 10:00 – Noon, Margo Bixby, 25 Abbot St., Andover
 Wed 20 New Paths to Affordable Housing in the Andovers – 7:30 PM, Town Hall, 120 Main Street, North Andover
 MonTue 25&26 Andover Town Meeting – Andover High School

MAY

- Sun 1 North Andover Women’s Conference – 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Stevens Estate
 Wed 4 Board Meeting – 9:15 AM, Cynde Egan, 197 Shawsheen Road, Andover
 Mon 9 North Andover Town Meeting
 Fri 13 Lunch and Conversation – 11:30 AM Panera’s (Rte 133 & 125)
 FriSat 13-14 LWVM State Convention, Wyndham, Westborough
 Wed 18 Annual Meeting – 6:00 PM, Marland Place, Srevens Street, Andover

League of Women Voters Andover/North Andover

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*"Walk together, talk together all you people of the earth.
 Then and only then, shall we have peace."*



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