

“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



Bulletin

March 2005

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P.O. Box 514
Andover, MA 01810

www.LWV-Andovers.org

President: Peggy Kruse Membership: Jennessa Durrani Editor: Michael Frishman

League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover

Voter Service

By Diana Walsh

We are in our local election season and several events are on the calendar. In North Andover, all seats are contested. Kathy Stevens has organized a debate for March 3, to be broadcast live from the Selectboard meeting room in Town Hall. In Andover, where we have one candidate per race, we are providing two opportunities for the public to learn about those candidates. The Candidate Coffee will be Saturday, March 5, 9 AM - Noon at BankNorth. Voters can stop by to talk to the candidates. On Thursday, March 10, 7:00 PM at Memorial Hall Library we will have a Forum where the candidates will introduce themselves and answer questions. The event will be broadcast live on channel 8 for those who cannot attend in person.

The Voting Systems Study meetings last month were well attended and prompted lively discussion. The study materials were extensive and it was difficult to delve into the advantages and disadvantages of each system in depth given the amount of time we had. The consensus questions focused on how we viewed the ability of each sys-

tem to meet a set of criteria in terms of their importance to us, such as: does the system encourage minority representation, or should a majority vote (versus plurality) be required. The Tuesday and Saturday consensus meetings reached different conclusions about which criteria were most important. Both meetings reached consensus that encouraging high voter turnout and real discussion on issues were very important. However, on another issue, encouraging candidates to run, no consensus was reached; it was deemed very important at one consensus meeting, *(continued, page 2)*

Vote!
Town elections
Andover - March 22
N. Andover - March 29

Center Study Consensus Units

By Lolli Sumberg

The Center Study Consensus Units were held in February. Attendance was good, with a total of 25 members and 5 guests participating in very lively discussions at each unit. The discussion leaders were able to keep the meetings focused on forming and updating positions and away from the Articles that will be on Andover's April Town Meeting Warrant.

The consensus of both units was to adopt three new local positions relative to senior, youth and a multiage centers, with certain qualifications for each.

The proposed positions will be presented to the Board at their March 2 meeting. Approval by the Board is needed to finalize the consensus positions. The positions, if ap-

Healthy Lawns & Landscapes

Saturday April 2 9:00 AM-12:30 PM
West Parish Church, Andover (see page 5)

Kudos to the Centers Study Committee!

Great job gathering information and presenting it.
Lolli Sumberg, Chair; Michael Frishman, Nancy Gump,
Peggy Kruse, Jane Johnson, Nancy Mulvey

And many thanks to those who helped with units!

Hostesses: Jane Anderson and Phebe Miner
Discussion Leaders: Jackie Kovacs and Tina Girdwood
Recorders: Cynthia Barakatt and Amy Janovsky
- Susan Dennett, Unit Chair

proved, will then become official ones on which members may take action. The exact wording of each position will be in the April Bulletin.

I would like to express my thanks to all the committee members for their hard work researching and presenting this difficult and polarizing topic. And a special thanks to the discussion leaders, Tina Girdwood and Jackie Kovacs; without their control we would still be discussing points of debate. And thanks also to the recorders, Cynthia Barakatt and Amy Janovsky, for their clear and detailed reports which provided us with the notes for writing the positions. I cannot forget the hosts, Jane Anderson and Phebe Miner, for letting us use their homes and providing us with delicious goodies.

Andover Day

The League will join with the Andover Historical Society, the Andover Cultural Council and the Department of Community Services to celebrate Andover Day, Saturday, June 11 at 10:00 AM in the Park. There will be a nominal fee for groups and non-profits that want exhibit space, a slightly larger fee to sell wares and (with a Board of Health permit) edibles. The day will also feature an antique auto show, and a car raffle, local performing artists in the bandstand and possibly a concert at the conclusion. DCS will host amusements for children. Rain date (thank goodness) is Sunday, June 12. An initial notice to non-profits goes out soon; we welcome information and addresses for organizations you think we should invite. All volunteers who would enjoy being part of the publicity and communications are certainly welcome as well. Thanks in advance. Please email hholman@andoverliving.com, or call Heather Moody Holman at 978-500-0626.

Missing a Bulletin?

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

Voter Service *cont'd* but not important at the other. The latter group reasoned that methods such as campaign finance reform could be used to encourage candidates to run; the voting system did not need to be altered to achieve this goal. We have submitted our consensus report to the State League and it will be incorporated into a state-wide report on the study to be published in the Spring.

President's Message

The end of January brings the annual LWV reckoning of membership numbers. I'm pleased to announce that, even after taking a hard line by dropping non-renewed members, the LWV Andover/North Andover still had an 8 percent growth in membership! We've surpassed the state League's 5 percent membership challenge and so qualify for a rebate from the state.

Congratulations to our membership chair, Jennessa Durrani, for her enthusiastic approach to recruiting and welcoming new members. Thanks also to all of you who recommended League membership to your friends. And welcome to our new members! We look forward to seeing you at our LWV events and welcome your ideas.

Local program planning The League's "program" is a list of studies and action items to which we devote our efforts for the year. It is now time to determine our program for next year. What studies would you like the LWV A/NA to undertake next year? Which of our positions ought we to take action on? Think about what you'd like to see the League do next year, and contact a board member or bring your ideas to our program planning meeting just prior to our April 6 board meeting.

Nominating Would you like to become more involved in the League? The League board always benefits from a mix of fresh ideas and continuity. If you are interested in joining the League board, please contact Amy Janovsky, 978-475-8655, or Carole Pelchat, 978-521-1074 to discuss the various positions.

Zoning forum Our informal zoning discussion, held on a dark and stormy night in the bowels of Memorial Hall Library, received rave reviews from the 15 intrepid souls who ventured out. On the subject of the Dover Amendment, we learned that towns can currently regulate only traffic and drainage for proposed religious and educational developments. Proposed changes to the law, submitted in a bill filed in the state legislature in December, include adding frontage, ingress/egress, drainage, landscaping and buffering, and traffic management to the

list of items that a town can regulate. We also learned that many local developers voluntarily undergo the regular planning review without invoking the Dover amendment. On the topic of cluster developments, we learned that clustered housing is thought to represent smart growth – it reduces town expenses by reducing road area, and it preserves open space. Developers know that planning boards like them, and so to encourage a favorable review, routinely propose them. After two hours of informative and congenial discussion, we had to bring the evening to a close when the library started turning out its lights. Thanks to our experts, Steve Colyer, Andover Director of Planning; Heidi Griffin, N. Andover Director of Community Development; Paul Salafia and Alberto Angles, chairs of the Planning Boards of Andover and North Andover, respectively; and Mark Johnson, real estate attorney.

Voting Systems study Thanks to Diana Walsh for organizing our participation in the statewide LWV study of voting systems. Our local League’s consensus will be merged with the results from other Leagues across the state to reach a final statewide position on this issue.

Centers Study: The consensus meetings on whether the LWV ANA supports senior, youth and/or community centers drew a good turnout from our members. Kudos to Lolli Sumberg for steering this study from its controversial beginning to its calm conclusion.

Elections March brings candidate nights and local elections; however, the election season is starkly different in our two towns. North Andover is in for a lively debate, with contested races for all open seats. Andover is in for a quieter race, without a single contested seat. For more information about the planned LWV events,

In Memoriam

The LWV of Andover/North Andover
mourns the passing of

Janyce Sagaser

1926 – 2005

long-time League member
who generously gave of her time and energy
throughout our communities

contact our voter service chairs: Kathy Stevens for North Andover and Diana Walsh for Andover.

In closing, we had a large turnout and fun discussion at the February Lunch & Conversation. I invite all of you who like to discuss issues with fellow Leaguers to join us at our next lunch, always the 14th. – *Peggy Kruse*

Legislative Action

By Carole Pelchat

LWVUS and LWVMA have both published alerts regarding the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The concern is that the 109th Congress has an increased number of members willing to vote to lift the current ban on drilling in the refuge that is likely to cause devastating effects in this fragile area, with little gain in energy independence. You are requested to contact your Senators and Representatives to oppose oil drilling in ANWR and to urge other concerned citizens to do the same.

LWVUS also has published an alert opposing S. 131 (the “Clear Skies” initiative), legislation felt to substantially weaken public health and environmental protections un-

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.

Send checks payable to: **LWV OF ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER:**

Membership, P.O. Box 514, Andover, MA 01810

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____ Areas of Interest _____

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

Affordable Housing Forum
**“New Paths to Affordable Housing
in the Andovers”**

Wednesday, April 20, 7:30 PM

Town Hall, 120 Main Street, North Andover

Topics to be discussed

- Current 40B projects and progress toward ten percent goal
- Expiring use issues
- DHCD “Planned Production Regulation”: development of community plans to allow more local control of affordable housing activities
- Andover/North Andover Community Development plans/goals
- North Andover Community Preservation Act (CPA) plans for Affordable Housing

Forum panel

- Heidi Griffin: North Andover Director of Community Development
 - Christine Metzemaekers: Director of Andover Housing Authority Elderly Housing; Federal 202 Program
 - Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) Consultant DHCD’s Planned Production Regulation under MGL Chapter 40B
 - Felipe Schwarz: North Andover Community Preservation Committee CPA Funding for Affordable Housing
-

der the Clean Air Act. S. 131 delays deadlines for meeting public health soot and smog standards, eliminates current health protections for mercury and other toxic air pollutants, repeals air quality safeguards for communities, prohibits downwind states from pursuing any pollution reductions from power plants in upwind states before 2012, repeals haze requirements for power plants in national parks and wilderness areas and allows new sources of pollution built over 30 miles from these areas to ignore their adverse impact, and continues to allow continued increase of carbon dioxide emissions. The bill was introduced in the Senate January 24 and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works, where a hearing was held February 2. (Members: Baucus, D MO, Bond-R MO, Boxer-D CA, Carper-D DE, Chafee-R RI, Clinton-D NY, DeMint- R SC, Injofe-R OK, Isakson-R GA, Jeffords-I VT, Lautenberg-D NJ, Lieberman-D CT, Murkowski-R AL, Obama-D IL, Thune-R SD, Vitter-R LA, Voinovich-R OH, Warner-R VA.)

LWVUS President, Kay Maxwell, sent a letter to Members of Congress February 17 expressing the Leagues concern over proposals to privatize the Social Security System. She noted that the League supported the passage of the Social Security Act in 1930. Further, in 1980 the League determined in a study of US fiscal policy that the federal government has a role in funding and providing for old-age survivors, disability and health insurance and that participation in such insurance should be mandatory and coverage universal. She stated the LWVUS believes that current status of the Social Security System and proposed solutions need to be thoroughly examined and debated before major changes are made. If Congress determines that changes in Social Security are needed, she added, reasonable and moderate adjustments are available and diverting money to private accounts could hasten the insolvency of the fund.

Reproductive Rights

By Faith Johnson

Two Congressional initiatives are serious challenges to reproductive rights. Republican leadership in the Senate is threatening to eliminate the filibuster in order to assure affirmation of President Bush’s nominees to the federal courts. In the last Senate, several nominees were not confirmed because of alleged very conservative records. Senate Democrats have given notice that they will continue to block confirmation of extremists. Senate Republican leadership has the power to eliminate the filibuster option and may attempt to do so. Without the filibuster, which requires 60 votes for closure, the nominees can be confirmed by majority vote. Our senators need to know they have our support in using a filibuster to block inappropriate nominees.

The Fetal Pain Awareness Bill (S51 and HR 356) has been reintroduced. In language insulting to women as moral decision makers, the bill mandates a lecture for a doctor to give to a woman about fetal pain at 20 weeks gestation and thereafter. Researchers do not agree that fetal pain is a reality. Supporters of choice want a woman to have full and accurate information, at every stage of fetal development so that she can make a responsible decision. However, mandating a doctor’s lecture does not respect the doctor or the woman. Abortions at that stage of pregnancy are usually to protect the health of the woman, or when the fetus has serious life threatening problems. Such decisions deserve accurate information specific to the pa-

Day On The Hill

By Ronna Markel

March 23, the Annual Massachusetts League of Women Voters Day on Beacon Hill is rapidly approaching. The theme this year is "Beyond Election 2004: Every Voice Heard, Every Vote Counted."

Registration and a light breakfast in the Nurses' Hall is at 9 AM. The program starts at 10 AM in Gardner Auditorium. Invited speakers include Governor Mitt Romney, Secretary of the Commonwealth, William Francis Galvin, and Speaker of the House, Salvatore DiMasi. Additionally, LWVM Program Specialists will provide updates on current legislation of interest to the League. At noon, the Andover/North Andover League will meet and lunch with our local state elected officials. Invited guests include Senators Sue Tucker and Bruce Tarr, and Representatives Barry Finegold, Barbara L'Italien and David Torrisi.

tient and not a mandated lecture.

Whether or not this bill becomes law, it has succeeded in two ways. Public opinion has been affected by the term "fetal pain" even though fetal pain is still disputed by researchers. The emotion it evokes makes it difficult for many people to question the accuracy of the claim. Secondly, the bill has split pro-choice organizations. Some are supporting it because they fear that it will politicize the issue in the same way the term "partial birth abortion" succeeded in doing.

Supporters of reproductive rights need to express faith that women are able to make their own moral decisions and doctors need to be able to share information that is relevant to the decision.

As Massachusetts continues the discussion of stem cell research, it is important to be aware that reproductive rights could be influenced by the way fetal life is defined. More on this at another time.

Sustainability/Natural Resources

By C. Joyce Ringleb

The Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee, the Andover Water Department and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection will co-sponsor "Healthy Lawns and Landscapes," a free workshop, Saturday, April 2 at West Parish Church, Andover, 9:00AM - 12:30 PM. Ann McGovern of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection will speak about

Yes, I want to attend Day on the Hill, March 23

Name: _____

Address _____

Telephone Number: _____

Please check one: I need a ride. I can drive.

Other

I can help with preparations for lunch. Yes or No. Send to Ronna Markell, 60 Chestnut St, Andover, MA 01810

A group of A/NA League members plans to carpool to the State House. If you have never attended a Day on the Hill, please consider joining us. It is a great way to experience the League at the state level – and talk with local League members on the ride in and back.

If you wish to attend, or have questions, please contact Ronna Markell by e-mail at ronnam@comcast.net, or 978-474-9966, or complete and mail the form above.

simple techniques you can use in your own yard to create conditions that help life in and beyond your yard to thrive – you can be part of the solution to pollution. Materials will be provided for volunteers who wish to promote sustainable landscaping in their neighborhoods. All attendees will receive special gifts from our vendors as well as door prizes. Refreshments will be served.

The vendor list includes:

Kevin Berube, *Totally Organic*

David Knodel, *Leahy Organic Lawn Care* (vendor)

Adaela McLaughlin, of *Peaceful Valley Gardens* (landscape design, garden establishment and tending, native habitat restoration)

Michael Murray, of *Organic Soil Solutions* (how to correct the chemical, physical and biological imbalances in the soil to provide a healthy environment for grass)

Rita Wollming, *The Herb Farmacy*, (herb and antique flower plants)

Trash in North Andover

By Susan Dennett

The proposed trash transfer station located on Holt Rd. in North Andover, on the same road off Rte. 125 as the Wheelabrator incinerator and down the road from the Haverhill incinerator, is still in the permitting phase. The Thomsons (TBI) have submitted a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) to EOEPA (Executive Office of Environmental Affairs) for review by MEPA (Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency). It is now at the



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DEP level, which usually rubber stamps MEPA's conclusions, and leaves it up to the local Board of Health to go through the expensive and time-consuming process of reviewing it. If Board of Health denies the application, the proponents likely will appeal the ruling, as they did in 1997, which means more cost to the town. Many citizens have written in objection to the DEIR and they and an attorney for People for the Environment have written to ask that it be rejected and that a supplemental DEIR (SDEIR) be submitted. After MEPA reviews the plan it will go before the North Andover Board of Health.

The following (from a report prepared for the Sustainability Committee) summarizes what People for the Environment cited in a letter to Secretary Ellen Roy Herzfelder, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, as significant omissions in the DEIR report:

The DEIR fails to "provide the information needed for DEP to review the proponents Site Suitability, Site Assignment, and Authorization to Operate a Large Handling Facility" on the following issues:

Undue concentration: Our area has more than its fair share of trash handling facilities. In a judgment by the Supreme Court in 2000, the court agreed with the North Andover Board of Health ruling in 1997 that this plant would result in an unreasonable concentration of facilities in the area, including Lawrence, which has been declared an Environmental Justice area.

Depth to Groundwater: There is no data given on maximum groundwater levels in relation to existing ground surface levels. A lot of water will be used in a misting system, which is vaguely alluded to and might have a large effect on groundwater.

Air Quality impacts: No information was given about projected emissions of particulate matter from Construction and Demolition debris or of background status of the particulates in the area.

Other required permits: No mention was noted of the Underground Injection Control Permit required for roof runoff to the ground.

No health studies: The DEIR minimizes health impacts and does not mention any health studies on asthma or any other environmentally related diseases in the area.

Traffic requirement: If trucks are restricted from using Rte. 125 during peak PM hours, where will the proponent direct those trucks and how many trucks would be involved? There are also inconsistencies in the DEIR of traffic counts and estimates of future truck traffic.

Signal coordination: The need for traffic signals was not addressed.

Litter on highways: The DEIR only talks about Holt Rd. and does not mention Rtes. 125, 133, and 114, Mass. Ave, Sutton St. and Barker St.

Groundwater flow direction: Insufficient documentation is presented on this, and uses only two wells, not three in their analysis.

Other deficiencies of the DEIR:

Not “fully enclosed”: Though the plant is continually referred to as a “fully enclosed building”, the number of trucks entering and exiting during the hours of operation mean that doors will be opening at least every two minutes, not counting the time the doors go up or down. This affects the assumptions about noise and dust from grinding, vermin control, truck fumes, bird hazard to aircraft and odors from “putrescible” waste from both Commercial Solid Waste and Construction and Demolition waste, and odors from degrading gypsum wallboard in C&D waste. In my view, this amounts to a plant with two or three wind tunnels that will be in effect twelve hours a day, 365 days a year.

Enough Water? The DEIR states that the plant will need only 450 gallons per day (gpd) from North Andover and

**Lunch & Conversation
Join us at Panera
Monday, March 14, 11:30 AM**

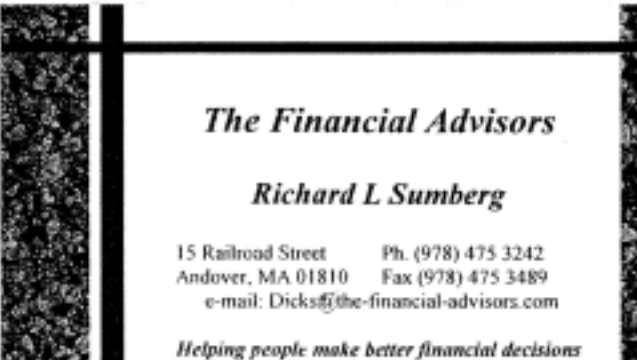
does not take into account the needs of a misting system. The ENF decision estimates that the plant will use 1,250 gpd. This amounts to 164,250 gallons of water used per year.

Size: The proponents have claimed that the maximum tonnage per day will be 650 tons. However with this current application the size of the proposed plant has doubled, possibly allowing for a future increase in tonnage.

Zoning: North Andover zoning bylaws do not seem to allow the siting of a trash transfer station, because it is not a “resource recovery facility.” The proponent needs to provide legal opinion on why this is a permitted use.

Nighttime Hours: The plant will remain open until 6 PM, the dinner hour for many. Will the facility close promptly at 6 and trucks in line be turned away, and will processing cease?

Fire: The plant presents a tremendous risk of fire with



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possible hazardous materials burning. This is a potential threat that most fire departments are not equipped to handle. All scenarios should be reviewed and plans developed to handle such a situation.

OSHA: A detailed analysis of expected dust emissions and concentrations in the facility should be included to protect worker safety.

Observer Corps

Andover Selectboard/Finance Committee

By Matthew Konjoian

February 9 The Selectboard and Finance Committee held the first of several planned joint meetings to begin review of the proposed FY 2006 recommended budget and the warrant articles for the 2005 Annual Town Meeting. The members adopted a schedule of one or two departmental budget reviews at each meeting that will include input from representatives from the departments. Finance Committee Chair Joanne Marden stressed that creating this schedule was important to allow representatives ample time to prepare presentations. The session devoted to school budget will include members of the School Committee.


Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski also pointed out

several possible reductions in the upcoming budget. He said that with a projected increase in costs for health care of as much as 50 percent, there could be a reduction in the health care that can be offered and that departments need to look into options such as privatization as well as reduction in services. He acknowledged that service demands and the cost of living are not decreasing. Marden suggested that both boards should hold a session that would look at the increases and how they can be included in this and future town budgets.

Stapczynski also pointed at the library as an area of potential funding reduction. He proposed that funding in this area may include closing the facility on Sundays but members of both boards expressed concern that this action would jeopardize state funding. He replied by saying that he is not advocating this and he is looking at a range of options for the library.

The Warrant Article discussion included one that would transfer the land where the proposed Senior Center would be built from the School Committee to the Selectmen as it is not an educational facility.

Other articles that generated discussion included a proposed traffic light at the entrance to Raytheon as it would likely involve both company officials and state authorities



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as the light would affect multiple roads including traffic exiting route 93. In discussing an article that examine the ongoing flooding and drainage problems on streets near the Shawsheen River, officials said it would be critical to get support from several departments as this project would involve the work of several experts. The article that would create a solid waste trust fund using the money from the dissolution of the North East Solid Waste Committee was discussed. The Town Manager said this article would only create a fund and not be used to appropriate any monies, which can only be done by vote of Town Meeting.

Andover School Committee

By Diane Hender

February 15 Chairman Tony James announced that a tentative agreement had been reached with the Andover Education Association. While “pleased with the agreement,” he declined further comment until the proposed settlement has been ratified by the AEA membership.

Superintendent Claudia Bach and consulting business manager Bernie Tuttle presented the school department’s preliminary budget of \$51,500,000. The Town Manager’s recommended budget allocation for school spending is \$50,673,467. The largest expense item is salaries at \$40,906,039; \$5,167,948 of the \$10,593,961 in other expenses is for out-of-district Special Education. In her remarks, Dr. Bach noted that, in compliance with direction from the School Committee, her budget was designed to fund level services and, to do so, relies heavily on fees for services that the district is not required to provide.

A significant portion of the Contingency/Compensation (\$1,064,868 vs. \$84,867 for FY05) item represents the administration estimate of the cost of the lowest salary option on the bargaining table. The rise in the Teaching account (\$29,078,255 to \$30,410,004) represents contractual step & track and longevity increases. Also, the FY06 budget figures for the salary accounts include an estimate of 0-2% for FY05 for the unpaid settlement. Health insurance costs are included in the overall Town budget, except for those incurred on behalf of employees paid through fee or grant-funded programs.

Technology expenses show a \$100,000 increase, reflecting the allocation of all the costs for laptop batteries, etc. to the expense budget rather than split between the budget and the CIP. The total for new textbook adoptions, at \$100,000, is now in the CIP. Replacement books are still an expense item at \$75,053 that reflects the reallocation.

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www.andoverliving.com

The \$100,000 item for transportation of homeless students residing in Andover has been eliminated. The state no longer contracts with Andover hotels, and no expenditure is anticipated for FY06.

Other changes from the FY05 budget include:

- \$10,000 for updating the School Committee policy book;
- \$35,000 for a .4 FTE business administrator;
- \$84,744 for two additional classroom teachers needed to stay within class size guidelines;
- \$78,700 for 5 Special Education instructional assistants;
- \$63,438 for bus transportation, the net total after fees for the second year of the contract;
- \$58,599 for projected utility increases (off-set by the \$50,000 Food Services has been asked to absorb with a fifteen cent increase in the cost of lunches);
- \$13,225 for projected increase in Medicare charges;
- \$239,847 for projected additional costs for out-of-district tuition.

In addition to fees already published elsewhere, there is a middle school activity fee of \$75/individual/year which is paid directly to the schools and is used to fund the stipends for teachers serving as advisors for after school clubs and activities. The amount collected does not cover the expense, and is supplemented by PAC funds.

Not funded in the preliminary budget are the requests presented by the individual elementary school councils, including MCAS remediation, reading teachers, and an adjustment counselor, nor are any of the programs and services cut over the past three years – including health education, physical education, and guidance counselors – restored as requested by the middle school and high school councils.

The complete budget presentation is available on www.aps1.net.

Andover Townwide PTO

By Diane Hender

February 11 Moderator Christy Pappas introduced the agenda by commenting that the FY06 budget challenges are not unique to the current year. She cited the knowledge and integrity of the Town's elected officials, adding that they do seek input and feedback from their constituents, and they do take it seriously.

Barbara Wait, Wood Hill, relayed a request from School Committee candidate David Samuels for permis-

sion to contact each of the PTO/PAC presidents in order to attend a pre-election meeting. There was some discussion as to whether it was necessary to extend an invitation to incumbent Christopher Smith if he does not make a similar request (Smith has since withdrawn from the ballot –Ed.).

Christy also mentioned that Candy Dann would be getting in touch with each school regarding a recycling poster contest.

In my role as a representative of the Andover Business Center Association, I outlined a proposed showcase of student art to be hosted by various downtown businesses. It would be an extension of the annual show sponsored by the Andover Historical Society for visual art created by high school students. The reception for this show, scheduled for mid-April through May, will be held on the evening of Thursday, May 5, and the business community plan open houses that night.

Denise Bordonaro, president of the Andona Society, explained that her organization is re-evaluating their civic events – the babysitting course and spring fling for middle school students – to determine in what ways they can provide additional support. Ellen Travers, Andover High School, suggested sponsorship of a safe driving school for high school students; Andrea Zaines, West Middle School, recommended a wellness fair in the absence of a health curriculum for elementary and middle school students. Barbara Wait asked about the return of the extracurricular track and field event for 4th and 5th grade students, as well as a “training” program for middle school students.

Requests by representatives of the Andover Education Association to speak before the various PTOs and PACs were discussed. Several different approaches have been taken by the schools. At High Plain and Shawsheen, the AEA spoke only before the board. Andover High School has asked them to come before a public meeting, and invited the School Committee to be present. It was reported that, during the session at Doherty, the prepared presentation was interrupted frequently for questions. Only about six parents were present, but were thought to be supportive in theory, though unhappy with tactics being used and greatly concerned about fees, program and service cuts, work to rule, possible strike, etc. Also reported was the AEA concern that Townwide PTO meets during the day when teacher representation isn't practical. Another reported concern, this specific to the elementary and middle school teachers, is that there would be layoffs and

bumping if the proposal to have high school teachers pick up one additional teaching block each year is approved. The bargaining process structure, it was noted, can result in misinformation and misconceptions among teachers, parents, and the community at large. Dr. Bach expressed her concern that some people might not be able to see individual teachers apart from AEA actions. She also reiterated that, while it has not been an issue, teachers are expected to continue any non-contractual activities such as writing recommendations and attending open houses, which they routinely have performed.

Dr. Bach's presentation of the preliminary budget (see School Committee report for details) resulted in lively discussion of the significantly increased fees and the absence of any restoration of programs and services cut over the past few years.

Membership

By Jennessa Durrani

Do you now someone who is interested in becoming a member? Join now and membership is paid through June 2006!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

Tony & Connie James
15 Wethersfield Drive
Andover, MA 01810
978-247-8980

Betty Singleton
14 Elysian Drive
Andover, MA 01810
978-475-0248

Sharon Saline
5 Forbes Lane
Andover, MA 01810
978-470-0978
ridiculoussalt@aol.com

Martha Briggs
4 Peppercorn Lane
Andover, MA 01810
978-749-2729
marthabriggs@comcast.net

Linda Salzman
132 Holt Road, Andover
978-409-1215
lindasalzman@comcast.net

League of Women Voters Andover/North Andover Calendar

MARCH

- Wed 2 Board Meeting – 7:15 PM, (*Note Time Change*) Joyce Ringleb, 5 Sweetbriar Lane, Andover
- Thu 3 North Andover Candidate Forum – 7:00 – 8:00 PM, Town Hall, 120 Main Street, North Andover
- Sat 5 Andover Candidate Coffee – 9:30 AM-Noon, Banknorth, Main St., Andover
- Thu 10 Andover Candidate Debate – 7:00 PM, Andover Library
- Mon 14 Lunch and Conversation – 11:30 AM Panera’s (Rte 133 & 125)
- Tue 22 Andover Town Election
- Wed 23 LWVM Day on the Hill, 9:00 AM – Noon, followed by lunch, State House Boston
- Wed 23 April Bulletin Deadline (email frishma@comcast.net)
- Tue 29 North Andover Town Election

APRIL

- Sat 2 Healthy Lawns & Landscapes – 9:00 –12:30, West Parish Church, Andover
- Wed 6 Local Program Planning Meeting – 7:00 PM, Board Meeting – 8:00 PM, Diana Walsh, 23 Greymbirch 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 – TBA
- 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

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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