



Bulletin

February 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

Centers Study Consensus Units

By Lolli Sumberg

The Centers Study Committee met regularly through the fall and has gathered considerable information about facilities and services provided in the communities Andover compares itself to as well as a few others. Committee members have visited centers in some of those other communities and have interviewed Andover officials involved in the programs. The committee has also researched the relevant mandates for services to seniors and youth. The collected information will be presented at the upcoming Units.

The committee will emphasize that focus of Centers Study units to be held Saturday, February 12 and Tuesday, February 15 will be to form and update positions, not to debate the pros and cons of Andover’s currently proposed Senior and Youth Centers. Any articles on the Town Meeting Warrant that relate to those proposals will be discussed at the public Warrant Forum and Members’ Warrant Unit in April.

League Forum

Zoning in Your Neighborhood

Interested in how zoning affects the place you call home? Wonder who is watching over how our towns grow and change? Ever heard of “context sensitive” development or the Dover Amendment? Plan to attend the League’s forum on **Thursday, February 10, 7:00 p.m. at Andover Memorial Hall Library**. Andover planner, Steve Colyer, will be on hand, as well as planning board chair, Paul Salafia, Attorney Mark Johnson, and others. A brief overview of the planning process will be followed by discussion and questions from the audience. This event is free and open to the public.

– Stefani Traina Goldshein, VP Program/Action

The following are the Consensus Questions for the Centers Study Units. These are the questions to be addressed at our unit meetings. (See box below and calendar for time and location) The questions are purposely broad in scope. Their purpose is to agree on a new League

Centers Study Consensus Units

Without a “position” the League cannot act. Attend one of these units to participate in deciding our position on senior, youth and community centers:

Saturday, February 12 – 9:45 AM – Noon, Jane Anderson, 23 Granli Dr, Andover

Tuesday, February 15 – 9:45 AM – Noon, Phebe Miner, 42 School Street, Andover

position and possibly update an old one. They cover the forming of a position on a Senior Center and updating our current position on a Youth/Community Center, Section C, under Youth Services and Facilities page 20 in our Handbook.

Consensus Questions

1. Should the League support a center dedicated to the seniors?
2. Should the League support a center dedicated to the youth?
3. Should the League support a multiage community center?
4. Should the League continue to support our position on a youth/community center?

“A youth/community center that has structured and unstructured programs, has the capacity of sharing its space with all ages, and can be open during and after school hours, as well as on weekends and school vacations.”

5. Should consideration be given but not limited to, the size and location of Centers whether dedicated to the Youth, the Seniors or a multiage community?

President's Message

In addition to more daylight hours, February brings many opportunities for League members to become more actively involved. Whether you have an hour or two or many hours, whether you want to participate from home or get out and see people, the League has opportunities for all:

Voter service: Help with the upcoming local elections by precincting on Election Day or helping with the debates. Contact Diana Walsh (Andover), 978-689-3740, or Kathy Stevens (North Andover), 978-683-5522.

Affordable Housing: Help organize an upcoming forum on the status of affordable housing in North Andover. This is in preparation for a potential Town Meeting vote to invest \$600,000 from the Community Preservation Act funds in affordable housing. Contact Joan Duff, 978-685-3212.

Sustainability/Natural Resources: Help organize an organic lawn care workshop. Contact Joyce Ringleb, 978-475-3490.

Observer for a town board/committee: Attend the meetings, or watch on cable if it is one of the boards whose meetings are broadcast live. Report the board's discussion via a Bulletin article. Observers are great assets in helping the League decide if we want to take a position on any of the warrant articles. Observers needed for Andover and North Andover. We welcome Matthew Konjoian, who in this issue, joins us as Andover Select Board Observer. Contact Lolli Sumberg, 978-475-7455.

Essay contest judge: Have a few hours, but want to work from home at your own pace? Volunteer to judge

the "Making Democracy Work" student essay contest. Contact Suki Crowley, 617-523-2999.

Centers Study: Attend the Center Study meetings and help the League reach consensus on positions for senior, youth and community centers.

Zoning discussion: Attend the informal discussion about zoning issues on Feb. 10. Learn about Dover Amendment exemption from zoning bylaws for religious, educational and childcare developments, about other zoning issues, and how these zoning regulations affect our communities.

The League is also starting to plan for next year. The Nominating Committee is looking for enthusiastic people who would like to join next year's board and help guide the League. To learn about available positions and their time commitments, please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee – Amy Janovsky, Carole Stanley Pelchat, Jennessa Durrani, Tina Girdwood and Joan Duff.

Many thanks to Diana Walsh for organizing the Voting Systems workshops, at which we gained insights, among others, about how voting systems can discourage negative campaigning. We also learned, through a vote-for-your-favorite-vegetable exercise, that League members *really* like tomatoes. The consensus results will be reported in a future Bulletin. Diana also organized the Running for Office workshop attended by four potential North Andover candidates and three from Andover. Thanks also to Diane Hender and Stefani Goldshein for a well-attended, informative discussion of issues relating to teen parties, drinking and parental liabilities.

– Peggy Kruse

Community Notice

**Curious about other cultures?
Enjoy languages?
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Host Families Needed: The American Field Service (AFS) cultural exchange program seeks local families to host foreign exchange students for academic year 2005-2006. Foreign students experience American culture by living with a family and studying at an American high school.

Opportunities for American Students: AFS also seeks American students to live abroad for summer and school year programs.

For further information, please contact: AFS District Representative, Ginny Cohen, 978-475-7153 or gfcohen@comcast.net.

Voter Service

By Diana Walsh

The Voting Systems Study informational sessions took place the week of January 17 with consensus units held during the week of January 24. If you are interested in this topic but were unable to attend any of these events, you can participate in the consensus process online. Log on to the state web site at lwvma.org, click on "Member Resources" to find your instructions. All material presented at the informational meetings is online as well.

Eight citizens attended the Running for Office Workshop held on January 12. Town Clerks Joyce Bradshaw (North Andover) and Randy Hanson (Andover) outlined local procedures and Dennis Kennedy from the state Office of Campaign and Political Finance reviewed state requirements for reporting. The event wrapped up with

Andover's newest Selectman, Alex Vispoli, relating his campaign experience.

It was a very interesting and informative workshop and I would like to thank the Town Clerks, Kennedy and Vispoli for participating and sharing their expertise. Let's hope it encourages citizens to run for office!

Looking ahead, we have Candidates Night in North Andover March 3, the Candidates Coffee in Andover March 5 and the debates in Andover March 10. Town elections will be held March 22 in Andover and March 29 in North Andover.

Sustainability/Natural Resources

By C. Joyce Ringleb

On January 10, the Sustainability Committee met and presented a background on the solid waste stabilization fund. We shared the information that was presented by the Board of Selectmen and recapped the meeting. (*See January bulletin for details.*) After discussion we wrote and submitted a letter to the editor that appeared in the January 20 Andover Townsman.

We are showing THIRST, a film about water management and conservation, January 30, 7:00 PM at Andover's South Church. We are co-sponsoring this event with the South Church Youth Ministry headed by Jonathan Drury. Following showing of the film, there will be a discussion led by Lawrence resident Jonathan Leavitt, of the Green Party and director of the Massachusetts Anti-Corporate Clearinghouse.

In addition to our Saturday, April 2, 9:00 AM, "Workshop on Composting and Total Lawn Care" at Andover's West Parish Church, Andover DCS is offering two lawn

Calling All Members Andover Warrant Forum Committee Needs You!

Learn more about the Articles at the annual Andover Town Meeting. The League strives to provide helpful, balanced information to voters through its annual Warrant Forum held at Andover Memorial Hall Library mid-April. It is a well attended public event open to all voters. To help with presentations or logistics or both, contact Lolli Sumberg, lollisumberg@comcast.net, 978-475-7455 or Stefani Goldshein 978-470-3140, stefraina@comcast.net. All members are welcome.

care and landscaping courses this Spring. Andover Superintendent of Parks and Grounds Randy Pickersgill's "Lawn Care" course will be March 23 at Andover High School; "Landscaping 101," meeting twice a week for six weeks at Andover High School, begins March 1. I will be working with Pickersgill and Health Director Everett Penny on inclusion of organic information and the Town Pesticide Policy in the presentation and I hope to have more information about Landscape instructor Anthony Marquis and his course for the March Bulletin.

For more information about classes about organic and pesticide free landscaping and lawn care go the University of Massachusetts web site www.massaggieseminars.org. Mass Aggie is presenting a series of seminars at Mass Bay Community College in Wellesley.

Teens, Parties & Parents

By Stefani Traina Goldshein

The League's panel discussion, co-sponsored with Andover C.A.R.E.S. and Parent to Parent on Thursday,

LWV Andover/North Andover 2004-2005 MEMBERSHIP

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

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Good Work

Thanks to all who helped put on the Voting Systems units in late January.

Hostesses: Joanne Marden, Marty Larson, Alix and Jack Driscoll, and Peggy Keck

Discussion Leaders: Kathy Stevens, Jan Burkholder, Diane Hender and Diane Huster

Recorders: Kathy Hess, Cindy Blandini and others who volunteered on the spot.

And a special thanks to Diana Walsh who presented the whole unit, and to Peggy Kruse, vote counter.

– Susan Dennett, Unit Chair

January 13, was well attended. A serious discussion of the criminal and civil liability that parents potentially face when underage drinking occurs in their homes, whether supervised or not, was sobering.

Bill Fahey, Andover Youth Services director, emphasized to parents the importance of connecting with and setting a good example for their children. Andover Detective Charles Heseltine was the first to reemphasize Fahey's remarks and recommended that parents set appropriate limits with their teens. Andover High track coach, Peter Comeau, spoke from the audience, and urged parents to be consistent when setting limits with their teens. While the comment was made several times that most teens are doing the right thing, the repeated message from the panel was that parents are responsible for knowing where and how teens are spending their free time.

Police Chief Brian Pattullo said the incidence of very large teen parties has dwindled slightly, and that fewer teen drivers are being charged with being intoxicated behind the wheel. However, the amount of alcohol consumption by teens does not appear to have diminished, and the age of the kids engaging in this risky behavior appears to be lower than ever. There have been at least two reported incidents involving alcohol and middle school students. It also appears that teens may be using "designated drivers," a concept which was never intended to enable or encourage underage drinking.

Assistant District Attorney Bill Melkonian and others described the risks of serving alcohol to minors in great detail. Parents can be held criminally liable and can be sued civilly if an incident goes awry and someone is seriously hurt.

The topics of prescription drug abuse, OxyContin, (and

Film League *League members are invited to take part in North Andover Cable's course:*

Community Producer: Learn to use North Andover CAM's fleet of professional-quality mini DV camcorders, microphones and portable accessories and to edit on the Basic Multimedia Edit Stations. **Basic Portable Equipment** meets for two nights - Session I: Mondays, January 31 & February 7, from 7PM to 9PM or Session II: Tuesdays, February 15 & 22, from 7PM to 9PM - Contact Joyce Ringleb for details: 978-475-3490 or cjringleb@comcast.net.

how it can pave the road to heroin abuse), were touched on, as well. The panel shared a lot of helpful information. Several topics were raised that merit further in-depth discussion. Many thanks go to Diane Hender for organizing this event.

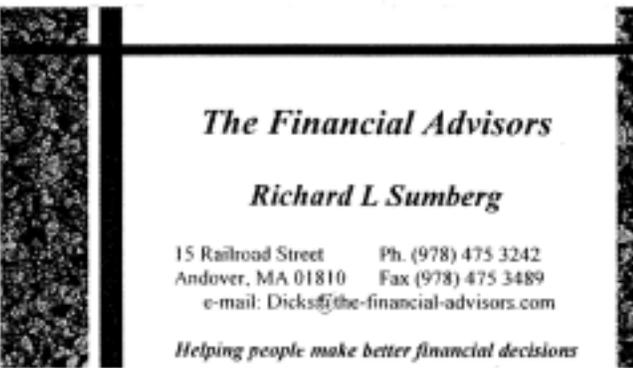
Reproductive Choice

By Faith Johnson

The Family Life Education Bill Supporters of abstinence only sexuality education are campaigning for more funding. They made tremendous gains during the first Bush administration. Our legislators need to know that comprehensive sexuality education has the support of their constituents. Comprehensive sexuality education has been proven to be effective in delaying sexual activity and in limiting the number of partners. Studies have not been completed on the effectiveness of abstinence only educa-

tion. A program with no proven results should receive no tax dollars.

Repeal of the Federal Refusal Clause In November, Congress passed an omnibus spending bill for fiscal year 2005 that included a federal refusal clause, a broad measure that will drastically expand restrictions on reproductive health care. It will allow the federal government to prohibit federal, state, and local agencies from requiring doctors, hospitals, health plans and other health care entities to provide abortion services or referrals. Previously, anti-choice legislators introduced a similar refusal clause as a free standing bill. It did not pass. However, the pressure to pass the spending bill enabled the clause to pass. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) said the provision is "an extraordinary sneak attack on women's health and a disgraceful display of ideology over health." Senator Bill Frist (R-TN) promised Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) that he would



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

allow her to introduce a bill to repeal the clause this spring. We need to be sure that Bill Frist keeps his promise.

Appointment of Judges Both Massachusetts senators have been firm in their refusal to affirm the appointments of judges whose records fail to demonstrate their commitment to upholding the rights of women to control their reproductive lives. They will both need our encouragement to continue their strong support. The pressure to fill vacancies will be extraordinary in this Senate.

State Issues On the state level a comprehensive health education bill will be considered by the legislature. It would require that comprehensive sexuality education be included in the core curriculum. If this bill is passed, abstinence only curricula would not be taught in our public schools.

The Emergency Contraceptive Bill will be refiled in the state legislature. The bill will require emergency personnel at facilities receiving federal aid to inform rape victims about emergency contraceptives and write a prescription if the woman requests it. It would also allow doctors and pharmacists to enter into collaborative agreements enabling emergency contraceptives to be sold over the counter. State legislators need to hear from constituents now.

Observer Corps

Andover Selectmen

By Matthew Konjoian

January 19 Town Treasurer Dave Reilly presented the Board with a bid for bond refunding. This refunding would reduce the interest rate from just over 5 percent to 3.11 percent and would replace \$9,370,000 in current debt.

Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski presented the list of warrant articles for the upcoming Town Meeting. Among these articles that generated some discussion included petitioning the state legislature to create a Solid Waste and Recycling Trust Fund for the Town of Andover. This fund would include proceeds from sale of recyclables, the balance of the Tip Fee Stabilization Fund and funds received from the dissolution of the North East Solid Waste Committee. Town Meeting votes would be needed to autho-

size expenditures from the fund; a two-third's vote would be required to use the funds other than for solid waste.

The Board heard public opinion on the re-appointment of Stapczynski and a presentation from the manager himself on this matter. In his presentation, he pointed to the accomplishments over his 15 years as Andover Town Manager. These included meeting citizens, town employees and volunteers during the 1990 construction of Penguin Park and seeing the enthusiasm that the town has doing projects such as this. He also pointed to the creation of Andover Youth Services in 1994, the expansion of the curbside recycling program and the launching of a web site in 1996. He also added that during his term he has seen the completion of a public safety center as well as construction and renovation of schools. He presented his vision for the future of the town which includes space needs, transportation housing and personnel initiatives. In his presentation he emphasized that the citizens always value the quality of life in a town no matter how much technology or industry it might have to offer.

The Board also heard public input on Stapczynski. Citizens spoke in support of him saying that he had successfully implemented the policy set by the Board of Selectmen and that he is a strong advocate for the town. Citizens also acknowledged he was a strong supporter of business especially when many town governments have tense relations with local businesses. He was also described as honest, positive and a good fit for the town and its people. The Board's February 7 agenda will have time for additional public input; they hope to vote on the reappointment at their Feb. 14 meeting.

Andover Townwide PTO

by Diane Hender

January 14 Debra Silberstein presented the communications plan for the School Committee that she and Christopher Smith prepared with input from a small committee of community representatives. The goal was to create "a dynamic and comprehensive communications plan that ensures collaboration and partnership between the Andover Public Schools and the Andover Community." Specific objectives are: continuous open and honest dialogue; improved and more efficient avenues for access to information; engagement of the community in discussion on meaningful and substantive educational issues.

Among proposed initiatives and improvements are:

- reformatting of school committee meetings with one each month devoted to general business and



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one to substantive and critical education issues; limit of one executive session per month; continue live broadcast and also rebroadcast later

- annual “state of the schools” report
- expanded use of proactive communications: website; email newsletter; cable TV
- increased interaction with PTOs, PACs, and school councils, as well as with business and non-profit communities
- Saturday morning public hours
- consistent, district-wide method for students and parents to obtain school-related information
- engage community in meaningful discussion of tools and skills needed to succeed in today’s global economy and variables that impact student achievement
- investigation of performance based pay or bonus incentives
- creation of a talent bank for task force and sub-committee use (to be developed by Art Barber).

Miscellaneous

Finance Committee members Tim Felter, Richard Howe, and Mary O’Donoghue will work on the FY06 budget with the school department.

Ann Weld (Bancroft PTO) asked how much it would cost to restore programs and services cut over the last three years. She commented that newer families in the

schools don’t realize what has been lost in terms of high school electives, health education, physical education, fine arts, media centers, etc.

Claudia Bach noted that the school improvement plan presented by the elementary councils stressed class size, not restoration of programs, and even suggested that the midpoint be lowered. That cost is estimated at \$500,000, plus additional classroom space.

Andrea Zaines (West Middle School) raised the issue of activity fees: How are they collected? Are club advisors checking, especially for participation in before-school and weekend/vacation activities?

Concern was expressed by many regarding inconsistencies in security at the various schools, and the absence of information for the parent community. Apparently previous requests for information have been denied. The school and police departments were urged to at least establish procedures for parents to get their children in the event of an incident. They fear that the lack of this information could lead to major confusion and panic.

The West Middle School PAC hosted an open meeting January 20 to present an overview of the budget process and the role of parents, an update on teacher contracts, and a discussion of suggested uses for the NESWC \$2.6 million.

Next meeting: Friday, February 11, 9:30 AM; agenda to include school improvement plans and FY06 budget.



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LWVM is currently recruiting Committee members for the newly formed Redistricting Reform Committee. Requirements for the position include membership in the League, keen interest in the area and a desire to put into practice League lobbying opportunities. The time commitment is attending the regularly scheduled meetings. The rest of the time is up to the individual. If you are interested, please contact Cathy Dowd, LWVM Redistricting Specialist, at 617-523-2999 or via email at cdowd@lwwma.org

Or fill out this form & return it to the League office at
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Local League _____

Thank you for your interest!!

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts'

Day on the Hill

Wednesday, March 23, State House, Boston

9:00 a.m. Registration & Reception – Nurses' Hall

Invite your legislators to join us for a light breakfast – and the chance to talk with you, with League members from across the state, and with our program Specialists.

10:00 – 12:30 Program – Gardner Auditorium

Beyond Election 2004:

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Governor Mitt Romney

Featured Speakers

Speaker of the House Salvatore F. DiMasi

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin

League of Women Voters Andover/North Andover Calendar

FEBRUARY

- Wed 2 Board Meeting – 7:15 PM, Joan Duff, 12 Greybirch Road, Andover
- Thu 10 **Zoning Forum – 7:00 PM, Andover Library**
- Sat 12 **Centers Study Consensus Unit – 9:45 AM – Noon, Jane Anderson, 23 Granli Dr, Andover**
- Mon 14 Lunch and Conversation – 11:30 AM Panera’s (Rte 133 & 125)
- Tue 15 **Centers Study Consensus Unit – 9:45 AM – Noon, Phebe Miner, 42 School Street, Andover**
- Wed 16 March Bulletin Deadline (email frishma@comcast.net)

MARCH

- Wed 2 Board Meeting – 9:15 AM, Joyce Ringleb, 5 Sweetbriar Lane, Andover
- Thu 3 North Andover Candidate Forum – 7:00 – 8:00 PM, North Andover Cable
- 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, State House Boston
- Wed 23 April Bulletin Deadline (email frishma@comcast.net)
- Tue 29 North Andover Town Election

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