



Bulletin

May 2006

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P.O. Box 514
Andover, Massachusetts 01810
www.LWV-Andovers.org

President: Peggy Kruse
Membership: Joan Duff
Editor: Jennessa Durrani

League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover

President's Letter

By Peggy Kruse

Spring is a busy time for the League, as we simultaneously put finishing touches on near-term events while also planning for the fall. This is our final Bulletin until September, but look for updates on the League website (www.lwv-andovers.org) and in your email.

Our last League discussion of the year is Conservation and Health in Andover. This informal discussion with Andover's two new department heads will be held on Th, May 11, 7:15 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library. The discussion could include arsenic and salt in the water, flu pandemic preparedness, wetlands and even geese. Bring your curiosity; this evening promises to cover a wide range of topics.

I encourage all League members to join us at the League's Annual Dinner on Wed, May 24. Details about this social and business affair are inside this newsletter. Thanks to Amy Janovsky for organizing it.

To increase the League's outreach in our communities, we are planning to have LWV tables at fairs in both Andover and N. Andover. We are looking for volunteers to help staff the tables; please contact me if you can help. In North Andover, the Sheep Shearing Festival will be held at the North Andover High School on Sun, May 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In Andover, the League's annual Know Your Town Fair, being held in conjunction with Andover Days, will be held in the Park on Sat, June 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Kudos to our warrant forum organizers: Stefani Goldshein in Andover and Susan Dennett in North Andover. The Andover forums were well-received, thanks to the research and presentations by Alix Driscoll, Diane Hender, Amy Janovsky and Stefani

Goldshein. The Andover members took a position against the article seeking repeal of the wetlands protection bylaw, and in favor of the money for conservation land and the creation of an audit committee. This Bulletin went to press before the North Andover meeting was held, so there is no report contained herein.

Membership renewal notices are going out this month. Please renew your dues as soon as possible, as LWV membership runs out in June. In the previous couple of years, we neglected to send out an early dues notice, resulting in renewal pleas still being made in December, a scenario we are hoping to avoid this year.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Tina Girdwood, has been hard at work and has filled most slots. The LWV board is a dedicated (and lively!) group; if you are interested, please call Tina as a few opportunities remain.

To round out our year, the League has a few social opportunities: Due to the success of our winter "Cocktails & Conversation," and for those for whom evening outings are more convenient than lunchtime outings, we have scheduled another "Cocktails & Conversation" for Weds, May 17, 6 pm, at Sal's in Lawrence, overlooking the Merrimack River (see details inside). Our monthly Lunch & Conversations will be held Fri, May 12 and Wed, June 14. These lunches will continue in the summer on the 14th of July and August, but be aware that vacations lower attendance, so you probably will be looking for a small group.

Another social opportunity involves a chance to honor Diane and Ray Hender before they move to Maine. Diane has held numerous League positions over the years, most recently serving as our VP Administration for several years. All of us who have had the pleasure of working with her are deeply appreciative of the tremendous energy and insight she brings to all she does. As Diane has been an integral part of many community organizations,

Continued on page 2

MA Legislative Action Update

By Carole Pelchat

As the Legislature will be meeting in joint session on May 10 to discuss and possibly vote on current petitions for constitution amendment or law. I have attempted to put together a brief presentation of the process.

An amendment to the Constitution may be proposed by a legislator or by an initiative petition. An amendment introduced by a member of either house is called a legislative substitute or legislative amendment; one introduced by initiative petition is called an initiative amendment.

An initiative petition, established by amendment article 48 of the Massachusetts Constitution, must be signed by 10 voters and submitted to the Attorney General by the first Wednesday in August before the assembly of the general court into which they are to be introduced. The Attorney General reviews the petition to determine that it meets the requirements for such a petition. If approved, it is filed with the Secretary of State by the following first Wednesday in September.

The Secretary of State provides sheets for obtaining signatures which include a "fair, concise summary" of the proposed amendment and the names and addresses of the original signers. The number of accredited signatures required for the initiative petition to be accepted must at minimum be equal to 3% of the entire vote cast for governor at the preceding state election. All signatures collected must be filed with local election officials by late November and then with the Secretary of State by the first Wednesday in December. If sufficient accredited signatures are gathered, the proposal is sent to the Legislature in January.

All petitions for amendment to the Constitution must be presented in joint session not later than the second Wednesday in May. They must go through two successive sessions of the Legislature. In other words, any proposed constitutional amendment submitted by August of 2005 could not appear on the ballot before November of 2008.

The first General Court has 2 years to approve any measure. If approved by 25% of the legislators, it is then referred to the next elected Legislature. Amendments to the proposals may be made during the first General Court by a 3/4ths roll call vote. The second General Court may not amend the measure. If it is approved by 25% of the second General Court it is sent to the Clerk's office, where the results of the votes are certified.

The Secretary of State, upon certification of the signatures, then places the proposed amendment on the ballot for the next state election.

As mentioned in a previous report, all amendment proposals are given a number as they are received and are acted on in that order. The pending Constitutional Convention is expected to be tied up with an initiative petition to amend the Constitution to require state and local courts to license and recognize only those marriages that are between a man and a woman. While it will prohibit future same-sex marriages, it would allow continued recognition of prior same-sex marriages.



Please Join Us for
our second
COCKTAILS & CONVERSATION

Wednesday, May 17th from 6 to 8 p.m.

Sal's Pizza & Italian Restaurant
354 Merrimack Street, Lawrence

We'll be on the deck overlooking the
Merrimack River (weather permitting).
Great conversation guaranteed!

"Did you know..."

President's Letter: continued from page 1
and has served for the past three years as president of the Andover Historical Society, rather than holding our own League farewell event for Diane, we encourage League members to join the Historical Society's event on May 18 (see inside for details).

To conclude my last letter as League president, I would like to say to all: *Thanks! It's been fun!* When I ask some of my acquaintances to consider joining the League, I say that the League is a well-respected group that is committed to improving our communities through grassroots involvement, but I add that that's not the only reason to join. The best part of the League, I think, is the League members themselves. League members are the most interesting and involved people that anyone could hope to meet. Thanks to all of you for your part in making the League what it is today!

And finally, a huge thanks to the League board. You are a powerhouse board! I often said that my job as president was to be nimble enough on my feet to keep out of your way while you got your jobs done. We covered a lot of ground, had great discussions and laughed a lot. I look forward to continuing to work with you in future years!

LWV ANA Annual Meeting Agenda

May 24, 2006

6:00 p.m., Marland Place, Andover

6:00 - 6:30 Social
 6:30 - 7:30 Dinner
 7:15 Welcome – Peggy Kruse
 Introduction of Jinny Cole Scholarship winner

7:30 – 8:30 Business Meeting

- Appointment of a secretary
- Appointment of a parliamentarian
- Appointment of a reading committee

- President's Report – Peggy Kruse
- Treasurer's Report, Budget for 2006-2007 – Cynde Egan
- Membership Report – Joan Duff

- Re-adopt Local Positions – Stefani Traina Goldshein

- Concurrence: Proposed concurrence with Boxford/Middleton/ Topsfield LWV's Affordable Housing position – Annette Nickerson

- Adoption of proposed Local Programs for 2006-2007 - Stefani Traina Goldshein
 1. Town Budgeting Process (Study) – Lolli Sumberg
 2. Affordable Housing – (Action) – Annette Nickerson
 3. Sustainability & Natural Resources (Action) – Amy Janovsky
 4. Voter Service (Action) – Peggy Kruse & Kathy Stevens
 5. Merrimack Valley Study Section (Action) – Carole Pelchat
 6. Town Meeting (Monitor) – Lolli Sumberg
 7. Community Paths (Monitor) – Michael Frishman
 8. Reproductive Choice (Monitor) – Faith Johnson
 9. Master Plan (Monitor) – chair needed

- Report of the Nominating Committee – Tina Girdwood

- Other Business
 1. Recognition of those stepping down from the board – Jennessa Durrani

- Directions to the Board

Proposed 2006-2007 LWVA/NA

Board of Directors

By Tina Girwood, Nominating Committee Chair

Proposed Slate of Officers 2006-2007:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| President | Stefani Goldshein |
| VP-Administration | Joan Duff |
| VP- Program Action | Gail Mann |
| Secretary | Diana Walsh |
| Treasurer | Cynthia Egan |

Proposed Slate of Directors 2006-2007:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Bulletin Editor | Jennessa Durrani |
| Handbook Editor | Carole Pelchat |
| Publicity | Cynthia Egan |
| Legislative Action | Carole Pelchat |
| Meetings Coordinator | Joyce Ringleb |
| Membership | TBD |
| Nominating Committee Chair | Ellen Marcus |
| Nominating Committee | Carole Pelchat |
| | Lois Karfunkel |
| | Annette Nickerson |
| Units | Susan Dennett |
| Voter Service/Andover | Peggy Kruse |
| | Carol Baffi-Dugan |
| Voter Service/North Andover | Kathy Stevens |
| | Karla Kooken |
| Community Read-Along | Sondra Finegold |
| Know Your Town Fair | Heather Holman |
| Andover Warrant Forum | Becci Backman |

Study/Action/Monitor chairs:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Town Budgeting Process | Lolli Sumberg |
| Affordable Housing | Annette Nickerson |
| Sustainability/Natural Resources | Amy Janovsky |
| Merrimack Valley Section | Carole Pelchat |
| Town Meeting Monitor | Lolli Sumberg |
| Community Paths | Michael Frishman |
| Reproductive Choice | Faith Johnson |

2006-2007 Proposed Budget

by Cynde Egan

| LWV A/NA Budget | 2003/2004 Actual | 2004/2005 Actual | 2005/2006 Plan | 2006/07 Budget |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| INCOME | | | | |
| current | | | | |
| prepaid | | | | |
| Member Dues | 7,170 | 7,370 | 7,390 | 7300 |
| current | | | | |
| prepaid | | | | |
| Member Contributions | 335 | 350 | 282 | 300 |
| Non-Member Contributions | 500 | 150 | 150 | 0 |
| Education Fund Contributions | 130 | 100 | 50 | 150 |
| General Fundraising | 0 | 760 | 150 | 0 |
| Sponsorships | 845 | 1,535 | 1,300 | 1365 |
| Phon-a-thon | 435 | 446 | 400 | 425 |
| Interest | 119 | 98 | 100 | 200 |
| Other | 303 | 402 | 100 | 100 |
| Nat'l Education Fund | 180 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| KYT Fair | 0 | 1,185 | 150 | 150 |
| Earned Income Subtotal | 10,016 | 12,396 | 10,072 | 9,990 |
| Council/Convention Savings | 0 | 0 | 646 | 646 |
| Retained Earnings from FY05 | 0 | 0 | 1,000 | 1000 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 10,016 | 12,396 | 11,618 | 11,536.00 |
| Expenses: | | | | |
| Operating Expenses | | | | |
| General Supplies | 77 | 138 | 100 | 100 |
| P.O. Box/Permit | 208 | 406 | 302 | 573 |
| Bulletin Printing | 1,477 | 1,410 | 1,500 | 1600 |
| Communications (Website) | 381 | 335 | 160 | 160 |
| Fundraising | 0 | 37 | 100 | 50 |
| LWV Publications | 0 | 0 | 50 | 50 |
| Membership | 55 | 442 | 150 | 50 |
| Hospitality/Meetings | 0 | 725 | 175 | 400 |
| Convention/Council | 466 | 570 | 750 | 500 |
| Workshops | 0 | 75 | 75 | 75 |
| Member Scholarship | 0 | 0 | 100 | 100 |
| Membership Books Printing | 312 | 348 | 400 | 400 |
| Other | 19 | 250 | 50 | 50 |
| Operational Expense Subtotal | 2,995 | 4,736 | 3,912 | 4,108 |
| Fixed Expenses: | | | | |
| Annual Fee (Comm MA) | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| State PMP | 3,099 | 2,691 | 2,691 | 2,680 |
| National PMP | 3,125 | 2,767 | 2,800 | 2,733 |
| Fixed Expenses Subtotal | 6,239 | 5,473 | 5,506 | 5,428 |
| Program Expenses | | | | |
| Read-Along | 84 | 56 | 100 | 100 |
| Sustainability/Nat Resource | 265 | 302 | 400 | 200 |
| Affordable Housing | 0 | 0 | 150 | 150 |
| Voter Services | 0 | 55 | 100 | 100 |
| KYT Fair | 225 | 978 | 150 | 150 |
| Videotaping | 0 | 0 | 200 | 200 |
| Town Budget Study | 0 | 0 | 100 | 100 |
| Special Program | 0 | 0 | 1,000 | 1000 |
| Program Expenses Subtotal | 574 | 1,391 | 2,200 | 2000 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 9,808 | 11,601 | 11,618 | 11,536 |
| NET INCOME | 209 | 794 | 0 | 0 |

Affordable Housing Concurrence

Statement for concurrence with Boxford/Topsfield/Middleton League

The LWV of Andover/North Andover supports affordable housing in our communities and sees a need for housing for low and moderate-income families, the disabled and the elderly. It supports surveys and education of residents about housing needs, as well as working with pro-housing groups, housing experts and developers to increase the supply of affordable housing units.

Local Program Planning

By Stefani Traina Goldshein, VP Program/Action

The following local program planning items were discussed at our 3/29/06 local program planning meeting and recommended by the board at our 4/5/06 board meeting. The membership will vote at Annual Meeting (5/24/06) to adopt the following list of local program and action and monitor items. Suggestions for League activities for next year may be introduced at Annual Meeting, as well. There will be sign-up sheets at Annual Meeting and every League member is encouraged and welcome to get involved. It's a great way to contribute to our communities.

Program

- Town Budgeting Process (Study) – Lolli Sumberg, Chair – The committee will continue the review of the budget process in both Andover and North Andover. The main focus will be the limits of Proposition 2 ½ on town government. Some topics to be considered are general overrides, debt exclusions, trash fees options, the funds entitled Cash Reserve, Free Cash, Stabilization Fund and Rainy Day Fund, Enterprise Funds, leading to an informational forum.

Priority Action Items

- Affordable Housing (Action) – Annette Nickerson, Chair – The Affordable Housing Study Group proposes to continue to provide education regarding the importance of affordable housing through informational meetings/forums; and will encourage local officials to support affordable housing initiatives. The programs could include (but not be limited to) investigations of how zoning regulations like Chapter 40B (comprehensive permit) and Chapter 40R (smart growth) affect our towns. We could also learn about the affordable housing activities of other Leagues. Particular emphasis

will be placed on North Andover, which is not yet in compliance with the 40B 10 percent goal; however, there will also be focus on Andover to maintain its current level of affordable housing which is in excess of the 10 percent goal, and to increase its supply of affordable housing.

- Sustainability & Natural Resources (Action) – Amy Janovsky, Chair – The Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee will continue to inform about and advocate for building sustainable communities. We will educate officials and the public about issues including water quality and conservation and advocate for reduced pesticide use.
- Voter Service (Action) – Peggy Kruse, Carol Baffi-Dugan, Andover, Kathy Stevens, Karla Kookan, North Andover-Encourage citizen participation in local government by sponsoring educational events such as Candidate Debates, precincting, and voter registration.
- Merrimack Valley (Action) – Carole Stanley Pelchat, Chair - Encourage League membership among Merrimack Valley residents; focus on issues such as Voter Service.

Items to Monitor

- Town Meeting (Monitor) – Lolli Sumberg, Chair – Hold the annual Town Meeting warrant forum to educate voters on the issues. Monitor Town Meeting to ensure a productive and respectful meeting that encourages citizen participation.
- Community Paths (Monitor) – Michael Frishman
- Reproductive Choice (Monitor) – Faith Johnson Monitor the public policy aspects of reproductive choice and support continued protection in this area.
- Master Plan (Monitor) – Chair TBA - Monitor the updating of the Andover master plan and the use of the North Andover master plan. (Note: this effort does not have a chairperson, and will not proceed if no chair has come forward before our Handbook goes to print in August).

Be sure to bring along this month's newsletter and your yellow member's handbook to the Annual Meeting so you can reference the Agenda, Slate of Officers, Budget, Local Program Planning, etc.

ZERO WASTE DAY and SHRED-FEST!

Make a donation, and get space in your closets!

All donations go to organizations that donate, reuse, or recycle these items.
No dumpster on site. Charities have the right to refuse items. Please be prepared to take them home.

May 6th 9am-12

Far end of Brickstone Square parking lot, Andover (York Street, Off Rt. 133)

To ask questions or volunteer help, please contact CDann681@aol.com



Clothing, Sneakers, Baby Clothes– please bring in bags

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| YES, sneakers, athletic shoes | NO sneakers with metal cleats |
| YES, baby clothes and toys | NO “exersaucers” |
| YES, pants, shirts, skirts, suits | NO aluminum frame backpacks |



Small Household Items and Toys–

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| YES, dishes | NO large furniture , appliances |
| YES, tables, lamps | NO candles |
| YES, leftover containers | NO mattresses |
| YES, rugs in good condition | NO sport/exercise equipment |



Bicycles – No heavy rust, \$5 donation requested

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| YES mens, womens bikes | NO heavily rusted bikes |
|------------------------|-------------------------|



Books, CDs, DVDs – please bring in boxes

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| YES, hardcover and paperback, <i>and</i> encyclopedias | |
| YES, CDs, DVDs, videos, videogames, <i>and</i> LPs | |
| YES, audiobooks | NO magazines |



Linens – please bring in bags or boxes

- | |
|--------------------------------------------|
| YES, towels in any condition |
| YES, sheets in any condition |
| YES, blankets, bedspreads in any condition |



Good Building Materials

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| YES, cabinets, sturdy doors | NO hollow core doors |
| YES, double-paned windows | NO appliances |
| YES, kitchen/bath fixtures | NO sinks (at the moment) |

Personal Papers to be shredded

- | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| YES, bank statements, tax forms in boxes or bags, up to 3 boxes |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|

Moving towards zero waste, one donation at a time!

For more reuse and recycling information, go to www.cleanup.org (Earth's 911)

Membership

It's Time to Renew Your Membership!

Annual meeting is coming up quickly and so is our effort to renew our memberships. As we have in the past, we will be accepting members' checks for membership renewal at annual meeting. Paying at annual meeting helps defray the cost of mailing reminders.

Or, please feel free to use the form below and mail your checks to LWV of Andover/North Andover, P.O. Box 514, Andover, MA. Thank you for your support and commitment to the LWV of Andover/North Andover.

LWV Andover/North Andover MEMBERSHIP

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

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

_____ \$35 Student (Under 24 years old)

_____ 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! Joan Duff, Membership, 978.685.3212

Town Issues

Public Discussion Forum

Rt. 93 Lowell Junction Interchange Task Force

Tuesday May 2 & Thursday May 11

7:00 pm

Andover Safety Center

The Town of Andover Lowell Junction Interchange Task Force is hosting two public discussions to solicit public input on the proposed I93 Lowell Junction Interchange between the existing I93 Exit #41 and Exit #42. The construction of this interchange will be the largest public roadway project proposed in Andover in the last 50 years. The final design will have impact on Andover's environment, economic development, tax base and local traffic patterns for many years to come. The Town of Andover has only until June 1, 2006 to make our voices heard to State and Federal authorities overseeing the project.



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MON, TUES, WED, SAT 9-5 • THURS. & FRI 9-8
CLOSED SUNDAY

Upcoming Events

Please join us for the inaugural

Andover Heritage Award

honoring

Diane & Ray Hender

Thursday, May 18, 2006, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury Street, Andover

Cocktail reception with hors d'oeuvres and desserts.

Complimentary wine will be available 6:30-7:30

Reception tickets are \$20 each

*The Henders have asked that proceeds from the event be dedicated to the
"Blanchard House and Collections Preservation Fund."*

Donations can be made to the Fund via cash, check or credit card.

*Please make checks out to Andover Historical Society-Andover Heritage Award
and mail to 97 Main Street, Andover, MA 01810.*

Tickets can be purchased in advance by mail or by phone.

Please call 978-475-2236 for tickets, Fund donations and further information.

Annual Meeting & Hybrid Potluck

By Amy Janovsky

Annual Dinner will be held on Wednesday, May 24th, at Marland Place in Andover from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Social hour starts at 6:00 followed by dinner and the business meeting. By popular demand, we're trying something new this year--a hybrid potluck.

You have two choices:

1. Bring a potluck items from the following categories:
 - Appetizer
 - Salad
 - Vegetable/Side Dish
 - Dessert
2. Contribute \$10 in advance toward catered main dishes. For this option you must get your \$10 to Amy Janovsky by WEDNESDAY, MAY 17th.

Potluck Reservation Form

To help us with an accurate headcount and planning, please email your plans to amy-janovsky@comcast.net by Wednesday, May 17th.

Name _____ Number attending _____

I plan to bring a potluck item: _____

OR

I am enclosing \$10 toward a catered main dish. Mail to:

Amy Janovsky
6 Snowberry Road
Andover, Massachusetts 01810

Sponsorship

by Peggy Kruse

Would you like to be a Bulletin sponsor? Do you know a business owner who would like to have a sponsorship business card in the League Bulletin? We offer two levels of sponsorship, a \$75-level for a business card-size ad (3.75" x 2.25") and a \$150-level for a double-size ad (3.75" x 4.50"). The sponsors' ads are included in the ten Bulletin issues produced each year. To become a sponsor, please submit your copy for a sponsorship ad, along with a check for either \$75 or \$150 payable to "LWV-ANA," to LWV Andover/North Andover, PO Box 514, Andover, MA 01810. To ensure recognition of your support in the September issue, we would appreciate hearing from you by August 1, 2006.

KCA

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Joan N. Cohen
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Senior Vice President

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Secretary Douglas Foy

Registration and Reservation Form
May 20, 2006
Quincy Marriott

NETSMARTZ

by Peggy Kruse

On April 11, Ray Tode, Technology Director of the Andover Public Schools, gave a talk to representatives from numerous town organizations about internet safety. I attended as the LWV's representative. While the focus of the talk was geared towards adolescent safety, much of what was discussed can be extrapolated to all age groups, as the web is used to victimize people of all ages.

The NetSmartz program is designed to raise awareness of how children can be taken advantage of on the web and to suggest ways that children and parents can reduce their risk. The NetSmartz website, www.netsmartz.org, has a wealth of information, including several video clips showing misuse of the web, such as:

- 1) A seemingly anonymous online rating system used by some students at an unnamed high school to rate other high school students. The comments were then emailed to the whole school. One of the raters, full of regret at the fall-out from his actions, says "I never would have said those things to someone's face. Once you put something online, you can never get it back."
- 2) Another NetSmartz video clip demonstrates how, in only 20 minutes, an online predator who finds a student's screen name in a chat room was able to figure out her full name, her parents' and brother's name, her address and phone number, what time she came home from school, when her mother arrived home from work, and directions to her house. The point being made by NetSmartz is that while the student was careful not to leave all this information in one place, she still posted enough in scattered locations to enable a determined predator to uncover them.

How can a stranger get your child's screen name? Joining a chat room is one way. Another method is when one of your child's friends trades his or her buddy list with someone else. Ray Tode said that a new status symbol is the length of your buddy list, leading kids to exchange buddy lists. As buddy lists get passed on, a stranger could access them and could pose as one of your kid's buddies.

Ray Tode had suggestions for parents to minimize their child's exposure to internet predators:

- Talk to your child about the internet dangers and concepts.
- Set up rules in your house, such as where they can go online and how long they can stay online.
- Keep the computer in a common room, never have it in the child's bedroom or in a room by itself.
- Boost the "history" on the web browser to 99 days and check it to see what sites your child is visiting.
- Don't punish your child by taking the computer away, but talk to them about the dangers. His exception to this rule is if the child erases the "history" on the web browser.
- Look at the NetSmartz website, www.netsmartz.org, with your child.

The Andover schools are moving towards providing email accounts to all students. They'll buy monitoring software to screen for certain four-letter and other words. If detected, the email will be forwarded to the homeroom teacher or an administrator.

The school district currently has website filters that screen websites before allowing them to display on school computers. For example, there is a filter that monitors for skin-tone to cut out nudity. The filters catch about 95% of undesirable content, but they are not perfect.

In 1999, one in five online 10-17 year olds had received a sexual solicitation online. Of these, 25% told a parent. One aim of Ray Tode's presentation, and the NetSmartz program, is to increase communication between parents and children, to increase the percentage of children who report unwanted solicitations. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children has set up a Cyber Tipline to report online sexual solicitations: 1-800-843-5678. This information will be passed to the local police. An alternative is to call the local police directly.

NetSmartz was created by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

LWV MA Convention

The topic of the LWV MA Council on Sat, May 20 is "It's Your Environment: Take Charge!" If you'd like to join a carpool with other LWV ANA members, please contact Peggy Kruse or Stefani Goldshein.

Historic Preservation Is Sustainable Economic Development

Alan S. Manoian, Principal
Form First Urban Strategies, Inc.
by Diane Hender

A municipal planner by profession and historic preservationist by default, Alan Manoian addressed the 26th Annual Memorial Lecture of the Andover Historical Society on April 11, 2006. He talked about the prototype for new urbanism and smart growth, the traditional New England mill village, as a model sustainable economic development throughout the country. Why? These mixed use communities were/are compact and walkable, offering diverse services in a safe and comfortable environment with access to public transportation. According to Mr. Manoian, the challenge in duplicating them today is the now-typical zoning codes, in use over the past 50+ years, which separate homes from retail and service businesses, from schools, from recreation, from places of worship, which exacerbate economic and environmental woes, and which lead to the destruction of many historic buildings that, were it not for such restrictions as off-street parking requirements, might be saved through adaptive reuse.

Communities no longer can afford to spread out. The economic ramifications of suburban sprawl affect every taxpayer. As residential areas are established farther from the center of town, the needs for more infrastructure and services - roads, traffic signals, schools, recreation areas, police presence, fire stations, etc. - increase, and the concurrent rise in municipal expenses cannot be sustained easily through property and other taxes. Suburban sprawl also necessitates the multi-car family, leads to residential areas with little human presence during the day, and seems to eliminate the old-fashioned interactions and sense of safety and welcome found in compact neighborhoods. And, as Mr. Manoian described them, the corridors through the suburbs to downtown often are ugly roadways lined with fast food joints, auto dealerships, and strip malls.

Mr. Manoian remarked that urban centers now are being repopulated by 55+ residents who no longer want the responsibility for maintenance of a house and yard but who want to be in an active cultural and social scene, and by 20-somethings who are not ready for the economic and time demands of single-home ownership. He said that the best downtowns begin with an evening scene – dining and cultural events- followed by tourism and good shopping. The historic preservation of the

urban form is the attraction, and historic preservation is about growth management. Not so long ago, if one were to say that one lived in an urban center, the hearer most likely would think “disadvantaged.” That no longer is so, and many mixed use urban areas have been revitalized. The downside of gentrification can be the displacement of lower income residents, which led Mr. Manoian to comment that zoning really is more about separation of classes than uses.

Alan Manoian is an advocate of form based zoning, which he describes as prescriptive rather than proscriptive, or at least a combination of both. He believes that historic buildings should not be viewed individually but as a part of a group of complex, spatial definers of streets. How should a street look? Form based zoning would not define what isn't wanted, but would offer a general form of building for a given area and would provide a graphic illustrated approach rather legal text. Existing structures would serve as patterns for new construction, thus helping to retain the character of the community.

Mr. Manoian views historic preservation as good business, and investment in an old downtown as a fiscally conservative form of development. Retailers should not view their businesses as competing with the big malls, but as unique establishments offering quality goods and services with personalized, customized, specialized, and knowledgeable staff. Consumers are looking for respect, and these smaller businesses can benefit significantly from a “good experience” economy. Healthy downtowns offer that good experience through character, ease of pedestrian movement, spontaneity, and business growth and diversity; they also offer economic strength for the overall community. The major threat is national chains which seek out recovered downtowns with high end demographics. (More information on form based zoning can be found at www.form-basedcodes.org and the Form Based Institute.)

Mr. Manoian urged his audience to protect the great asset which is Andover's downtown, to view it as a unified operation, and to develop and adhere to a master plan developed specifically for the downtown.

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Calendar of Events

| | | | Time | Type of Meeting | Description | Address |
|------|----|----|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| May | 3 | W | 7:15 p.m. | Board Meeting | May Board Meeting | Diane Hender's Home 6 Millstone Circle, Andover |
| | 11 | Th | 7:15 p.m. | Conservation & Health in Andover | Discussion with the New Department Heads | Memorial Hall Library Andover |
| | 12 | F | 11:30 a.m. | Lunch & Conversation | Monthly Lunch Gathering | Panera Bread Rt. 133 and Rt. 114, N. Andover |
| | 17 | W | 6-8:00 p.m. | Cocktails & Conversation | Social Gathering | Sal's 345 Merrimack Street, Lawrence |
| | 21 | Su | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Sheep Shearing Festival | Showcase of Community Groups | North Andover High School 430 Osgood Street, North Andover |
| | 24 | W | 6:00 p.m. | Annual Meeting | Social Gathering, Dinner & Annual Meeting | Marland Place 15 Stevens Street, Andover |
| June | 5 | M | 7:00 p.m. | North Andover Town Meeting | Voting on Warrant Articles | North Andover High School 430 Osgood Street |
| | 7 | W | 9:15 a.m. | Board Meeting | June Board Meeting | Diana Walsh's Home 23 Greybirch Road, Andover |
| | 10 | S | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Andover Days/Know Your Town Fair | Showcase of Community Groups | The Park Andover |
| | 14 | W | 11:30 a.m. | Lunch & Conversation | Monthly Lunch Gathering | Panera Bread Rt. 133 and Rt. 114, N. Andover |



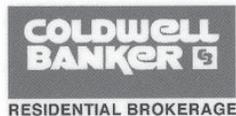
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