



# Bulletin

October 2005

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P.O. Box 514  
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www.LWV-Andovers.org

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## League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover

### President's Letter

By Peggy Kruse

I hope you can join us at the League's two major events this month. The first event is a membership social, "Chocolate at the Lehman," which will delight our senses with chocolate-tasting, wine and a tour of the Lehman Gallery's Mountains and Mountaineering photographic exhibit presented by the gallery director. As a bonus, we can meet new friends and catch up with old. I encourage all of you to join us at this event on Thursday evening, Oct. 20, at 7:30 p.m. Spouses and prospective League members are also welcome.

Our second major event explores changes to our society brought on by homeland security measures. The LWV of Andover/North Andover is sponsoring a forum, The Patriot Act – Balancing Public Safety and Civil Liberties, on Weds, Oct. 26, 7 p.m. at Merrimack College. This promises to be a fascinating evening with panelists from law enforcement (offices of the FBI and US Attorney for MA) and civil liberties (ACLU and MA Library Assoc.).

A recent national LWV study showed that most Americans lack in-depth knowledge of how homeland security measures affect them and others. This forum explores how the Patriot Act and homeland security measures affect the average citizen. Topics to be explored include: Are secret searches okay because innocent people have nothing to hide? Is racial profiling acceptable if terrorism is suspected? Are there appropriate checks and balances on the powers given by the Patriot Act? Does the potential to thwart another September 11th justify increased surveillance of citizens and foreigners? This forum is free and open to the general public, so please help spread the word to your neighborhood, work, other civic groups and email lists.

If you would like flyers to distribute, please contact me. I hope to see you there.

The state League's Fall Conference on Sat, Oct. 22 focuses on election reform issues being spearheaded by the state League. Among other initiatives, the state League has drafted legislation aimed at removing restrictions on absentee voting.

Thanks to Don Bishop and the League's Sustainability group for the informative "Playing It Safe on Fields" presentation and for organizing this month's talk on alternative energy on Mon, Oct. 3.

The state LWV's annual Phonathon Sun, Oct. 2, is an important League fundraiser. Thanks go to all contributors and to those volunteering their time on Oct. 2.

Last, but not least, everyone is welcome at our monthly Lunch & Conversation on Fri., Oct. 14, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. at Panera's.

#### SAVE THE DATE!

**Saturday, October 22, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts  
Citizen Education Fund  
*Presents*

Fall Conference 2005

**Empowering Voters: A Force for Change  
at the Burlington Marriott**

Featured Speakers:

**Gracia Hillman**

Chair, Election Assistance Commission

**Barbara Arnwine**

Executive Director, Lawyers'  
Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

## MA Legislative Action Update

By Carol Pelchat

*Note: Andover/North Andover Legislators are noted in bold.*

The LWWMA supports the following legislation:

**Senate #2034** - A petition for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to authorize the General Court to provide for absentee voting by any voter, has been reported on favorably by the joint committee on Election Laws (Senators Edward Augustus, Karen Spilka, Michael Morrissey, Andrea Nuciforo, **Steven Baddour**, and Scott Brown. Representatives Anthony Petruccelli, Demetrius Atsalis, Paul Kujawski, Geraldine Creedon, James Eldridge, Steven Walsh, Joseph Driscoll, Patrick Natale, Cleon Turner, Paul Frost, and Mary Rogeness) and a call for consideration in joint session has been adopted (5/9/05). Joint session scheduled for 8/24/05 was held and recessed until 9/14/05. This joint session was held and recessed until 5/10/06.

**Senate #444** - A petition for legislation relative to Election Day registration has been referred to the joint committee on Election Laws (see above). A Public Hearing was held on 7/19/05 and will be scheduled to be read in Executive Session in the fall.

**Senate #465** - A petition for legislation to ensure voting rights in the Commonwealth (including the right of employees to take time off from work to vote) was referred to the Committee on Election Laws (see above). A Public Hearing was held on 7/19/05 and will be scheduled to be read in Executive Session in the fall.

**Senate #2089** - A bill relative to financing the production of affordable housing on 6/13/05 was reported out of the joint committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets and was referred to the committee on Senate Ways and Means (Therese Murray, Steven Panagiotakos, Steven Tolman, Robert Antonioni, Stephen Brewer, Susan Fargo, Marc Pacheco, Pamela Resor, Dianne Wilkerson, Michael Morrissey, **Susan Tucker**, Harriette Chandler, Edward Augustus, Michael Knapik, Richard Tisei, and **Bruce Tarr**).

**Senate # 929** - A petition for legislation relative to drug mandatory minimum sentences was referred to the committee on The Judiciary (see above) on 1/26/05.

**House #876**- A petition relative to the administration of the Trial Court with reference to recommendations made by the Monan Committee was referred to the committee on The Judiciary (Senators Robert Creedon, **Steven Baddour**, Robert Antonioni, Thomas McGee, Cynthia Creem, and Brian Lees. Representatives Eugene O'Flaherty, Garrett Bradley, Kay Khan, Murphy, Michael Costello, Alice Peisch, John Keenan, Daniel Webster, and Lewis Evangelidis), and a public hearing was held on 6/28/05.

**Senate #350** - A petition for legislation to simplify and make more equitable the provisions of Chapter 70 relative to distribution of state aid and the requirements for spending by local governments was referred to the committee on Education (Senators Robert Antonioni, Edward Augustus, Dianne Wilkerson, Pamela Resor, Karen Spilka, and Scott Brown; Representatives Patricia Haddad, Geraldine Creedon, Douglas Petersen, Paul Kujawski, Stephen Le Duc, Alice Wolf, Robert Nyman, Matthew Patrick, Martha Walz, Jeffrey Perry, and Richard Ross) on 1/26/05, a Public Hearing was held on 6/2/05, and will be scheduled to be read in Executive Session in the fall.

**Senate # 2073** - A bill providing timely access to emergency contraception was enacted by the House and Senate and laid before the Governor on 7/25/05. The Governor vetoed the bill on that date. The House voted 131 to 19 in favor, the Senate 128 to 24 in favor. On 9/15/05 the Governor's veto was overridden in the Senate 37 to 0 and in the House 139 to 16.

**Senate #619** - A petition for legislation relative to equitable coverage for annuity policies was referred to the committee on Financial Services (Senators Andrea Nuciforo, Dianne Wilkerson, Mark Montigny, **Susan Tucker**, Stephen Buoniconti, and Scott Brown; Representatives Ronald Mariano, Robert Spellane, William Galvin, James Murphy, Peter Kocot, Robert Coughlin, Joyce Spiliotis, Joseph Driscoll, James Welch, Susan Gifford, and Daniel Webster) on 1/26/05.

**Senate #755** - A petition for legislation to establish the Massachusetts health care trust was referred to the committee on Health Care Financing (Senators Richard Moore, Steven Tolman, Susan Fargo, Harriette Chandler, Karen Spilka, **Susan Tucker**, and Scott Brown; Representatives Patricia Walrath, James Marzilli, Frank Hynes, James Fagan, Thomas Stanley, Christopher Fallon, James Leary, Robert Coughlin, John Scibak, Robert Hargraves, and Susan Gifford) on 1/26/05.

*Continued on page 11*

## MA Department of Agriculture to Ban Sale of 140 Invasive Plants—Requests Input

The Department of Agricultural Resources is proposing to ban/phase-out the importation and sale of more than 140 plants identified as either noxious and/or invasive in Massachusetts.

The list of plants is derived from:

- Federal Noxious Weed List <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/weeds/noxiousweedlist.txt>
- Invasive, Likely Invasive and Potentially Invasive Plants as identified by the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group (MIPAG).

MIPAG is a collaboration of government, industry and environmental organizations concerned with invasive plants. The MIPAG list is a product of scientific analysis, and represents the scientific consensus of groups and individuals with a broad range of perspectives on the subject of invasive plants.

A list of species proposed for ban/phase-out can be found at [www.mass.gov/agr](http://www.mass.gov/agr). Look on the right side of page, click on "DAR Seeks Comment on Invasive Plant Rule," then on the new page click on "Proposed Prohibited Plant List."

This list includes Japanese barberry, Burning Bush, honeysuckle, purple loosestrife, forget-me-nots, and a number of other common garden plants.

The proposed action consists of three basic components:

1. Under the proposed action, the Department would prohibit the importation of all listed plants into the Commonwealth as of January 1, 2006; and
2. All listed plants will be prohibited from sale, trade, distribution, and related activities within the Commonwealth as of January 1, 2006 with the exception of 12 species. These 12 species are commonly sold as ornamental plants. In order to minimize financial impacts on agricultural businesses in Massachusetts, the Department is proposing a phase-out period during which species currently within the commonwealth can be sold until:
  - a. January 1, 2007 for herbaceous species.
  - b. January 1, 2009 for woody species.The 12 species for which additional phase out times are proposed are clearly identified on the above mentioned list.
3. Finally, the Department proposes to allow the importation, sale, trade, and related activities of listed plants under permit when:

- a. There is a significant public benefit in doing so; and
- b. Where the risks posed by these species can be adequately controlled.

The Department would anticipate that such a scenario might occur where someone chose to import listed plants for purposes such as research or education.

Please note that this action in no way impacts on existing plantings of any of the listed species, but is limited to the importation, sale, trade, distribution and related activities, of these plants.

### PUBLIC MEETING DATES AND COMMENT PROCESS

The public hearings were on Tuesday, 9/13 in Waltham and Thursday, 9/15 in Amherst, but the Department will be accepting written comments until close-of-business on September 30, 2005. Written comments should be submitted to:

Trevor Battle

Department of Agricultural Resources  
251 Causeway Street Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02114-2151

Or comments may be emailed to [Trevor.Battle@state.ma.us](mailto:Trevor.Battle@state.ma.us).

## Invasive Plants

By Amy Janovsky

Invasive plants are a hot topic in Massachusetts these days (see the proposed legislation described above). The New England Invasive Plant Group and the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE) are taking the lead in coordinating the exchange of information regarding effective control strategies. The following article, from the Boston Globe (9/22/05) gives the highlights of a two-day summit they organized in Framingham last week. Several hundred people attended, including scientists, staff from state, local and federal agencies, several native plant organizations and volunteers and gardeners.

[http://www.boston.com:80/yourlife/home/articles/2005/09/22/ne\\_states\\_are\\_declaring\\_war\\_on\\_harmful\\_non\\_native\\_plants](http://www.boston.com:80/yourlife/home/articles/2005/09/22/ne_states_are_declaring_war_on_harmful_non_native_plants)

If you're interested in learning more about invasive plants and the impacts they're having on our communities, come join our Invasive Plant Study Group on October 7th, 9:30 am, at Amy Janovsky's house (6 Snowberry Road, Andover). Please call 978-475-8655 for more information.

## Our Impact on the Coming Age of Alternative Energy

By C. Joyce Ringleb

On October 3, 2005 we have the great pleasure to present "Our Impact on the Coming Age of Alternative Energy." This event is open to the public and free of charge. It is being held at South Church in Andover at 7:15 PM.

Our guest speaker is League member Norman Viehmann. He is a manufacturing planning engineer who has been introducing computers and full management information systems to manufacturing job shops for more than thirty years. He has been active in the community since coming to Andover in 1957 and has recently pursued an interest in the issues surrounding the production of oil and natural gas and the conservation of energy.

### Our Impact on The Coming Age of Alternative Energy

There is a very real risk that total energy requirements will not be met by declining fossil fuel supplies before sufficient alternative energy sources are in place.

There is an astounding variety of alternative energy projects in various stages of research and development. Governments worldwide support some of these alternatives. Industry is pursuing far more. Petroleum professionals foresee a more imminent decline in the production of fossil fuel sourced energy than is accepted by the U.S. Department of Energy. Does it make a difference who is right?

Light is thrown on the question by 1.) reviewing the history of the technology of oil and gas exploration, the current status of fossil fuel exploration and discovery and production, 2.) reviewing the alternatives to fossil fuel energy and 3.) the projected market share and time required to bring each alternative to market.

Experiments with alternative energy lifestyles are now in progress in several new communities in Oregon and California. Short of initiating our own "failsafe" radical community, what can individuals do now to cushion the effect of a worldwide energy shortage ten to fifteen years down the road? Come explore alternative energy sources with us on October 3rd.

## Sustainability/Natural Resources Committee Update

By C. Joyce Ringleb

The Sustainability Committee held their first education workshop--"Playing it Safe on Fields" on Monday September 19, which was very informative and reviewed "It's the Law" Schools, Pesticides, and Massachusetts Law. The presentation was taped for future use.

Pesticides are classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as "any chemical designed to kill, repel, or mitigate a pest." Pesticides commonly found in schools include herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, termiticides and anti-microbials.

Our speaker, Don Bishop, spoke about your right to know about the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan. He discussed that prohibited pesticides are those known or considered likely to contain carcinogens and those containing inert ingredients of toxicological concern. For a pesticide to be used, it must be included in the school's outdoor IPM plan. No pesticide can be applied when children are within 150 feet of application (either indoor or outdoor), or are expected to enter for an eight-hour period. No pesticide can be used outdoors for purely aesthetic reasons; exceptions may only be made with prior written approval of the town's governing officials, (e.g. Selectmen).

Prior to any outdoor pesticide application, all parents, children and staff must receive standard written notification at least two working days in advance; the notification must be posted in a common area of the facility at least two working days before the outdoor application is to commence and at least 72 hours after the application. Treated areas will be posted with clear and conspicuous warning signs along the perimeter. Dylox (trichlorfon), grub control, is prohibited.

The Board of Health may grant a one-time emergency waiver if 1) the pest situation poses an immediate threat to human health, and 2) no viable alternatives to the use of chemical pesticides exist.

### Save the Date!

**Our Impact on the Coming Age of Alternative Energy**  
**Monday, October 3, 2005**  
**7:15 p.m.**  
**South Church, Andover**

## Alliance for Healthy Tomorrow 2005 Legislative Priority

### Support the Safer Alternatives Bill H-1286 & S-553 An Act for a Healthy Massachusetts: Safer Alternatives to Toxic Chemicals

**Sponsors: Senator Steven Tolman, Rep. Jay Kaufman (co-sponsored by 15 Senators & 56 Reps.)**

#### The Goals:

##### Protect Our Health

Scientific evidence increasingly indicates that a wide array of toxic chemicals in our everyday lives are contributing to an epidemic of chronic disease and disorders that include asthma, birth defects, cancers, developmental disabilities, diabetes, endometriosis, infertility, Parkinson's disease, and others. Yet many of these toxic chemicals can be replaced with safer alternatives. The Safer Alternatives bill establishes a unique program to promote these alternatives, thus helping to protect our health.

##### Develop a Healthy Economy

Choosing safer alternatives will not only help prevent widespread suffering, it will reduce the burden on our economy of preventable high health care and special education costs and lost productivity. Innovative industries and green chemistry can create the safer products and sustainable jobs that are increasingly demanded in today's economy. The European Union and other countries have already adopted more health protective requirements for products, and over 37% of Massachusetts trade is with the European Union's member states. This Safer Alternatives program will assist Massachusetts businesses in competing in the global marketplace.

#### What this Bill Does:

##### Expands TURA

This bill expands the successful Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA) program, which has demonstrated that reducing the use of toxic chemicals both protects health and saves businesses money. It builds upon TURA's proven pragmatic approach to helping MA industries by creating a comprehensive program to replace toxic chemicals with safer alternatives in consumer products and other businesses. It initially targets ten of the worst toxic chemicals in wide use in Massachusetts that are currently replaceable with feasible safer alternatives for many of their current uses. It provides technical and financial assistance to businesses to support implementation of safer alternatives.

##### Creates A Flexible Pragmatic Program

First an analysis is done to determine for each general type of use of the toxic chemical, (i.e. a type of product or industrial use) whether there are feasible safer alternatives. Then there are flexible choices:

- If there are feasible safer alternatives, businesses develop their own substitution plans and can either a) certify they are using a safer alternative, b) propose a different safer alternative (subject to review), or c) apply for a waiver showing that there is no safer alternative that is technically or economically feasible for that use.
- If there are not feasible safer alternatives, state agencies create research and development plans, but do not take regulatory action on that product or use.

#### Steps to the Safer Alternatives Program

The existing programs of the Toxics Use Reduction Act would continue for current TURA participants, which are the industrial users of large quantities of toxic chemicals. This legislation would expand the TURA program, utilizing the existing agencies established under TURA, the Office of Technical Assistance (OTA), the Toxics Use Reduction Institute at U- Mass Lowell (TURI) and the TURA Science Advisory Board to seek safer substitutes for toxic chemicals in consumer products and other businesses and institutions. For priority toxic chemicals, the steps to the substitution program would be:

- TURI conducts an alternatives assessment for the major uses of the priority toxic chemicals to determine whether there are feasible safer alternatives.
- Each alternatives assessment also identifies uses of the chemicals that do not currently have feasible safer alternatives available, and makes recommendations for research and development of such alternatives. Regulatory action is not taken on those uses.
- The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) creates a State Priorities Action Plan, which sets priorities for state agency action, giving priority to chemical uses that pose the greatest exposures to the public, or that are the easiest to replace with safer alternatives.
- EOEA operates a Business Transition Assistance Program to aid businesses in implementing safer alternatives, which will include technical assistance, grants and loans, and research and development, and utilizes private consortia, public-private partnerships and state universities.

*Continued on page 11*

# **The Patriot Act**

*Balancing Public Safety and Civil Liberties*

**A panel discussion with:**

**Kimberly Lynn**

**Chair, Intellectual Freedom Committee, Massachusetts Library Association**

**Thomas Powers**

**Assistant Special Agent in Charge, FBI Boston Division**

**Carol Rose**

**Executive Director, MA American Civil Liberties Union**

**Kimberly West**

**Assistant U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts, Anti-Terrorism Unit**

**Wednesday, October 26, 2005**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Rogers Center, Merrimack College,**

**315 Turnpike Street (Routes 114/125) North Andover**

**Free of Charge & Open to All**

**The League of Women Voters  
of Andover/North Andover**



## Chocolate at the Lehman

Bring a friend and join the LWV of Andover/North Andover for Chocolate at The Robert Lehman Art Center – the League’s second annual Membership event of Chocolate, Art and Networking. Sample elegant chocolate desserts and candies in a beautiful setting and gallery.

Thursday, October 20th, 2005, 7:30 p.m.

The Robert Lehman Art Center, Brooks School  
1160 Great Pond Road (Route 133), North Andover

Michael W. McCahill, Director of The Robert Lehman Art Center, will provide an informal presentation of the exhibit, the photographers and the photographic technique.

The exhibit, entitled Mountains and Mountaineering: The Photography of Vittorio Sella and Bradford Washburn, features photographs of Vittorio Sella, an eminent Italian mountain photographer of the late 1800s, who climbed peaks on three continents to record stunning views at the top of the world, and Bradford Washburn, an internationally renowned photographer, cartographer and expert on Alaska’s mountains and glaciers.

The Robert Lehman Art Center at Brooks School is both a wonderful exhibition space and a teaching facility. Designed as a distinct wing to the Henry Luce III Library, the gallery hosts four shows annually, which are all open to the public.

Kindly Respond by October 13th to Joan Duff (978) 685-3212  
jhduff@earthlink.net

Cost: \$5 suggested donation



© Bradford Washburn, courtesy Panopticon Gallery



© Fondazione Sella, courtesy Panopticon Gallery

## New Members

Please welcome the following new members of the LWV of Andover/North Andover:

Jilla Boulas, 2 Garfield Lane N., Andover, MA 01810  
Karla M. Kooken, 49 Bradstreet Road, North Andover, MA 01845

## LWV Andover/North Andover 2004-2005 MEMBERSHIP

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ 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

## Community Read Along

The 11th annual Community Read-Along happens the week of November 14th in Andover schools. Call Stefani at 978-470-3140 or e-mail her at [stefraina@comcast.net](mailto:stefraina@comcast.net) if you would like to be a reader.

## How to find the LWV group at Panera's

Considering joining the League Lunch & Conversation group at Panera's but not sure you'll recognize anyone? We generally end up with a group of six to ten people, but the table can start out, at 11:30 a.m., with only two or three people. We usually sit at tables against the wall on the right hand side, unless these tables are already occupied. The final clue is: look for the LWV logo on a canvas bag hanging from a chair and on a brochure laying on the table. You are also welcome to call Peggy Kruse, 978-474-0176, or another board member, to let us know you'll be joining us, and we'll look for you.

We always welcome new people to join us at lunch! The League Lunch & Conversations are held on the 14th of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Panera's in North Andover. If the 14th falls on a weekend, the lunch is held the Friday before.

## Community Notices

### Would you Like to Coach a Destination ImagiNation (DI) Team?

Destination ImagiNation (DI) is an extracurricular school-sponsored program that fosters creativity and problem solving. Andover schools are currently putting together its teams for the 2005-2006 school year. The teams work together in groups of 5-7 children, with the support of managers or coaches, solving a long-term problem and developing creative problem-solving strategies. The time commitment is approximately two hours a week from mid-October to mid-March.

To find out more about this exciting program, log on to the website below and/or plan to attend the DI Town Information Night DI on Wednesday, October 5th at Andover High School, 7:00 pm in the Cafe. DI is a parent-organized and run activity, but other committed adults are needed to ensure that all interested kids have the opportunity to participate. For more information or to volunteer, call coordinator Duane Lowenstein at (978)-470-1854 or visit <http://www.destinationimagination.org>.

## Observer Corps

We are still looking for observers for both of the Andover and North Andover Boards of Selectmen, Finance Committees, and School Committees. Becoming an observer is a great way to witness democracy in action. By informing fellow League members about the meetings through your reports, you are providing an invaluable service by helping others become better informed citizens. Your reports also contribute to the research the League conducts prior to the annual Warrant Forum before Andover and North Andover's Town Meetings. Please consider becoming an observer. You don't have to commit to an entire year. Contact Jennessa Durrani (978-470-3290) or [jennessa@celebratestudio.com](mailto:jennessa@celebratestudio.com) for further information.



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Kishor Shah

### **Ballardvale/Lowell Junction Traffic Management Task Force**

By Michael Frishman

The relocation of the DeMoulas warehouse to the area prompted the suggestion at the previous meeting that a courtesy letter be sent to Lowell Junction/Wilmington industrial park businesses that generate a lot of truck traffic. The letter will remind them that access to the area from the north is through Ballardvale, which is a residential area with relatively narrow streets and advisory signs that seek to direct trucks to alternate routes. It was also reported that both the Andover and Wilmington Planning departments have been asked that when new or existing businesses come in with building permit applications that the discussions include information about the TMO (traffic management organization) that seeks to in part reduce traffic in the residential parts of Ballardvale.

The task force needs to check that the sidewalk extension on River Street to Laconia Drive is in the Capital Improvement Project, and if appropriate be sure that if there are to be further delays that it is definitely included within the scope of necessary improvements when the Town takes over and begins work at the Reichhold property.

Press clippings about the funding for the Rte. 93 Junction interchange were distributed. The amount of the \$6.2 million in the new Federal Transportation Bill came as a surprise. The state highway people are scheduled to begin work on an Interchange Justification Report (IJR) by the end of the year, which will review the Mills Corp. proposals as well as other potential configurations. Hope was expressed that Andover, Tewksbury and Wilmington will work together on development plans for the area that potentially affect all three communities.

TMO promotions and recruiting of businesses continues. The recent surge in gas prices has resulted in more than 100 active car pools at Wyeth and a growing number at Gillette.

Parking and traffic problems on Andover Street in front of the Post Office for north bound traffic were noted and discussed. Drivers often make two U-turns or stop in the single lane causing traffic tie-ups or of more concern result in live waiting while a child runs across the street. The problem has gotten worse with the disappearance of mail boxes around town. Suggestions included looking into moving the sidewalk a bit to create some parking across from the Post Office, installing a mailbox

further up Andover Street near the playground where there is parking, or designating some spaces for patrons on Church Street. The committee will discuss this with the Town safety officer.

The next meeting will be 7:00 PM, November 9 in the Town Offices.

### **How Andover Works**

By Michael Frishman

Andover's second annual "Department Information Overview" held at the Andover library Wed., Sept. 21 included excellent 15 minute presentations by: Town Manager, School Superintendent, Police Chief, Director of Public Works, and the directors of Planning, Health, Conservation, and Building Department. A brief Q&A followed. The program was broadcast live and taped for Andover Channel 22; it will be rebroadcast regularly in the coming weeks.

### **Townwide PTO**

By Diane Hender

Meeting of September 16, 2005

Russell Nutrition Act: A provision of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act, signed by President Bush in June 2004, requires that districts receiving federal subsidies for their school lunch programs implement local wellness policies designed to address childhood obesity through nutrition education and the elimination of unhealthy choices within the schools. Dave Nichols, Health Education Coordinator for the Andover Public Schools, indicated that this community is ahead of many others in that a Community Health Advisory Team has been in existence for over a decade. This group of health and PE teachers, parents, and other citizens will serve as the steering committee in the creation of a comprehensive program. Public input is being solicited, and additional volunteers are wanted, for the development of a qualifying yet realistic plan, one that is not overly restrictive yet will build good lifetime habits. The first meeting will be held in the school administration offices on Wednesday, October 19, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. Interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Superintendent's State of the Schools: In her presentation, a preview of that given before the joint boards on September 21, Dr. Bach first reviewed her department's goals in the areas of

*Continued on page 11*

## Reproductive Choice

By Faith Johnson

Two major challenges face supporters of reproductive choice this fall - the changing Supreme Court and the refusal of Lester Crawford, executive director of the Federal Drug Administration, to allow the emergency contraceptive (EC) pill to be placed on the market.

Because John Roberts would replace Chief Justice William Rehnquist, a strong advocate for overturning Roe vs Wade, the balance of the court would not change a great deal. Therefore, the next nominee, who will replace Sandra Day O'Connor, will be crucial. Unless President Bush nominates someone who is considerably less conservative than Roberts to replace O'Connor, pro choice advocates will have a huge challenge in stemming the tide of initiatives that will limit access to abortion and contraception.

The EC pill holds promise of greatly reducing the number of unplanned pregnancies. A special committee of the FDA has strongly affirmed its safety. However, Lester Crawford, the Executive Director of the FDA, has again delayed the release of the pill. Crawford, whose nomination was delayed until he promised a decision on EC by September 1st, has resorted to a claim that because of "unique regulatory issues," he could not release EC at this time. (EC would require a prescription for girls under 17, but would be available to those over 17 without prescription.) Because of that decision, Susan Wood, Assistant Commissioner for Women's Health in the FDA, resigned, saying, "I can no longer serve as staff when scientific and clinical evidence, fully evaluated and recommended for approval by the professional staff here, has been overruled." Letters to Crawford are important at this time. He needs to know the extent of the discontent over his decision.

Meanwhile, the Massachusetts legislature, overturning the veto of the governor, has voted to make EC available to women in this state. The state bill enables pharmacists to enter into a voluntary collaborative agreement with a doctor that would allow women to purchase EC without a prescription. It is worthy of note that Governor Romney stated that his veto was based on consultation with doctors who affirmed that EC is an abortifacient. Actually, only a very small minority of doctors take that position. EC does not cause an abortion, it prevents pregnancy.



## American Field Service

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Senior Financial Advisor

## **Legislative Update: Continued from page 2**

**Senate #12** - A petition for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to establish an independent redistricting commission and criteria for redistricting was referred to the committee on Election Laws (see above). It was reported adversely by the Senate and House on 5/2/05. A order calling for consideration in joint session was adopted by the Senate and House on 5/9/05. Joint session scheduled for 8/24/05 was held and recessed until 9/14/05. This joint session was held and recessed until 5/10/06.

**Senate #2144** - A bill relative to responsible welfare reform was reported to the committee on Children and Families and was reported favorably by that committee on 7/5/05. It was then referred to the committee on Senate Ways and Means (see above) on that date.

The LWVMA opposes the following legislation:

**Senate #442** - A bill requiring photo identification for the delivery of a ballot. A Public Hearing on **Senate #442** was held on 6/7/05.

**House #56** - A bill requiring voters to furnish identification. These bills were referred to the committee on Election Laws (see above) On 1/26/05.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Sustainability/Natural Resources: Continued from page 5**

An Innovative Industries Investment Plan is developed by EOE and the Executive Office of Economic Development and submitted to the legislature to guide further investment.

- The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) sets deadlines by which companies must implement safer alternatives, based on state priorities. The deadlines shall also take into account the costs of the transition and the availability of assistance for substitution.
- Businesses and other users make their own substitution plans and choices and can apply for waivers if safer alternatives are not economically or technically feasible.
- Funds are raised through fees on toxic chemicals for an expanded Toxics Use Reduction Act Dedicated Fund to create the Business Assistance Transition Program, research and development programs, TURI alternatives assessments,

and to cover regulatory costs.

- The program would initially apply to ten priority toxic chemicals and then more would be added. The first ten priorities are: lead, formaldehyde, trichloroethylene (TCE), perchloroethylene (Perc), dioxins and furans, hexavalent chromium, organophosphate pesticides, polybrominated phenyl ethers (PBDEs), di-(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP), 2,4, dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4, D).

The Safer Alternatives program under TURA would combine technical and financial assistance to businesses to help them switch to safer alternatives, with flexible options for business innovation and implementation, and clear deadlines for action that create a level playing field for all businesses.

Massachusetts can lead the way on technological innovation, globally competitive businesses, and the protection of workers, communities and consumers! For more information contact the Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow 617-338-8131, info@healthytomorrow.org.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Town Wide PTO: Continued from page 9**

Student Achievement, Educator Quality, Finances/Budget, and Communications & Action Planning. She then summarized progress in each area during the 2004-2005 school year.

Progress in the area of Student Achievement included the balanced literacy program, a revised Social Studies curriculum, implementation of a new middle school math program, successful piloting of expeditionary learning at Wood Hill Middle School, development of an engineering/technology pilot program for the middle schools, and revision of the emergency management plan. Inauguration of a Merrimack Valley recruitment fair, as well as implementation of a new induction and mentoring process, administration succession plans, and wellness initiatives addressed Educator Quality. While committed to operating within budgetary restraints, the School Department also is committed to restoring critical programs and services that were cut in recent years. The first phase of rebuilding in FY06 included funding elementary health teachers and reading and learning specialists, a middle school librarian and health teacher, and stipends for track coaches, a scheduler, and the program advisors at the high school. (Track is the only no-cut sport at AHS and over 300 students now participate. Additional coaches were essential to ensure adequate supervision and, without them, the program would have severely reduced.) To improve local understand-

*Continued on page 13*

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## Townwide PTO: Continued from page 11

ing and enhance insight into the broader scope of education in Massachusetts, the department has expanded its outreach to stakeholders throughout the community, and administrators have become more involved in activities at the state level.

Some areas to be addressed in the next two years are the restoration of the second weekly physical education class for elementary school students, and the reduction and/or elimination of fees for transportation, athletics and other extracurricular activities. Dr. Bach also noted that planned expenditure for textbooks and academic software in the FY06 budget is about 50% of that which is needed to maintain progress toward state standards.

With funding from Plant & Facilities, a consultant was engaged to work with the space needs study group in developing projections. Several years ago it was supposed that, after the so-called "bubble" passed through the system, overall enrollments would decline. That has not been the case and, since 1997, there has been steady growth with a net increase from 5628 students in October 1997 to 6172 in 2005. Currently, the school experiencing the most significant growth is Andover High where there now are 1815 students (in a building nominally designed to accommodate 1700), an increase of 411 from 1997. The total number of elementary school students is up by 100, while the total middle school enrollment is up slightly – 1408 versus 1444.

Special distinctions bestowed upon the district in the last year included the Vanguard Award presented by Insight, the Massachusetts Department of Education's Compass Award, the Outperformers' Design Award from Standard & Poors, and Expansion Management Magazine's Gold Medal.

Business Administrator: As the new business administrator, Evan Katz is in position to easily question the whys of staffing and other budget decisions, to help clarify priorities, and to get the most value for each dollar. For the coming budget planning cycle, he sees projecting health insurance and utility costs as the greatest challenge and estimates that \$1.5 million of the overall town operating budget increase (\$4-\$5 million) could be required for additional fuel and insurance expenditures.

Youth Center: Peg Campbell of the Andover Youth Foundation reported that her group has \$3.2 million of the \$4 million anticipated cost of a redesigned facility, and will break ground

in June 2006. Due to building cost increases, the design was reformatted, but the revised plan allows for gradual expansion and for the addition of a connected facility should a community center eventually be required. Although willing to wait until after the special Town Meeting vote on the proposed senior center, members of AYF chose to proceed with their plans when the Town declined to grant an extension of their contract. Their board didn't want to derail the seniors, but neither did they wish to lose that time for their fundraising efforts.

Tracy Callahan, a member of the Senior Center Task Force, commented that towns with joint centers generally are without other resources for elders and youth, such as the "Y" and DCS. She also remarked that neither site – Bartlet Street and Chandler Road – is large enough to accommodate the space needs of both groups.

School Committee: Each regular meeting of the School Committee will be rebroadcast twice on Channel 10. Also in the area of communication, members have been assigned to attend PTO/PAC meetings as follows: Barber – South and Townwide; Collins – AHS, West Middle, West Elementary, Sanborn; James – Doherty and Bancroft; Samuels – AHS and Wood Hill; and Silberstein – High Plain and Shawsheen.



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# Calendar of Events

	Time	Type of Meeting	Description	Address	
October	3	7:15 p.m.	Sustainability	Our Impact on the Coming Age of Alternative Energy	South Church 41 Central Street, Andover
	5	9:15 a.m.	Board Meeting	October Board Meeting	Jennessa Durrani's Home 3 Lowell Junction Road, Andover
	7	9:30 a.m.	Invasive Plants	Monthly Study Group	Amy Janovsky's Home 6 Snowberry Road, Andover
	14	11:30 a.m.	Lunch & Conversation	Monthly Lunch Gathering	Panera Bread Rt. 133 and Rt. 114, N. Andover
	19	7:30 p.m.	Affordable Housing	Monthly Study Group	Joyce & Willard Robinson's Home 191 Summer Street, Andover
	20	7:30 p.m.	Membership Event	Chocolate at the Lehman	Brooks School 1160 Great Pond Road (Rt. 133), N. Andover
	22	9:30 -3:00 p.m.	LWV MA Fall Conference	Empowering Voters	Burlington Marriott
	26	7:00 p.m.	Forum	Patriot Act	Rogers Center at Merrimack College
November	2	7:15 p.m.	Board Meeting	November Board Meeting	Peggy Kruse's Home 145 Argilla Road, Andover
	9	7:00 p.m.	Informal Discussion	No Child Left Behind Act	Memorial Hall Library Elm Square, Andover
	14	11:30 a.m.	Lunch & Conversation	Monthly Lunch Gathering	Panera Bread Rt. 133 and Rt. 114, N. Andover
	14	Week of	Community Read-Along	Community Read-Along	Andover Schools



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