



Bulletin

September 2009

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

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Membership: Paulette Zuena
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League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover

President's Letter

By Stefani Traina Goldshein

Welcome to fall and another year of exciting League projects. There are many ways to get involved in issues that interest you at the local and state and national levels.

Andover held a Special Town Meeting on August 31 to allow voters to decide whether to adopt local option excise taxes on meals and hotel/motel stays. If anyone doubts whether their vote counts, the meals tax article was defeated by **8 votes** (358 yes votes and 366 no votes). The vote to increase the hotel/motel tax to 6% was 404 in favor and 311 opposed. Compelling arguments were made on both sides of each article. Nearly 800 voters turned out on an August evening to have their voices heard. The Town's economic situation has worsened considerably and Andover will be holding its second Special Town Meeting on October 7. The tax rate cannot be set until town voters pass a balanced budget. Stay tuned for more information.

I am very pleased to announce that League member, Peggy Kruse, has been appointed to Andover's Finance Committee. We'll look forward to watching Peggy in action over the coming months.

Andover's Main Street project is wrapping up, just in time for the Andover Day celebration on Saturday, October 3rd. Heather Holman is once again coordinating the Know Your Town Fair. Nonprofit groups will have tables, and there will be many other activities, including sidewalk sales and musical performances on two different stages on Main Street. This community celebration promises to be another exciting collaboration of many different organizations in town. For information, contact Heather at Heather@HeatherHolman.com. The League will have a table and will be selling Pearl's Premium grass seed.

Looking back for a moment, many thanks go to the organizers of our May Annual Meeting: Joan Duff, Becci Backman, Sandy Gleed, and Amy Janovsky. It was an enjoyable and informative evening. Bob Given, the energy auditor, provided lots of helpful information about residential energy conservation. The Virginia Cole scholarship winner, Alexandra Hsu, a very impressive young

woman, shared her inspiring story about the reading project that she developed in a Lawrence elementary school. Alex will be studying at MIT this fall. We wish her the best as she embarks on her college career. Sandy Gleed organized an informal gathering at the North Andover Senior Center in late June to help spread the word about the League's role in the community. One new member joined that evening and others expressed interest in getting involved. Many thanks to Sandy for putting together the event. As she has said, even if one doesn't have time to get involved in specific projects, it's worth joining the League because of the information and resources it makes available to its members.

At the LWVMA Convention in May, members voted to re-study and update two League positions. A study of transportation and a study of home rule will be getting underway as League members step up to form study groups. Details can be found at <http://lwvma.org/homerulestudy.shtml> and <http://lwvma.org/studycommitteequestions.shtml>. I encourage you to think about joining a state study group. It's a great way to meet other people interested in issues that you care about. Even though it's a state-wide study, the group determines how to tackle the tasks most efficiently, so conference calls can be used to cut down on travel time. Studies are one of the best parts of the League and provide participants a great way to become more educated about issues.

The League is partnering with the town clerks in both towns to do outreach and publicity about the upcoming Census 2010. A dedicated committee has been working in Andover, and North Andover will be joining in the effort soon. Many thanks to Maureen Sundberg, Heather Holman, Molly Bicking, Randy Hanson and Claudia Bach for the time they have dedicated to this project. We look forward to rolling it out this fall.

We are once again offering Pearl's Premium grass seed as a fall fundraiser. See Amy's article and order form in this Bulletin. Amy has grass seed 'in stock' for those of you who want it right away for fall planting. Contact her at amy-janovsky@comcast.net for details.

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LWV GRASS SEED FUNDRAISER RETURNS!!

Pearl's Premium is available immediately by contacting Amy Janovsky to arrange for payment and pickup. There will also be seed available at the Know Your Town Fair during the Andover Day celebration on October 3rd.



The League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover is pleased to again offer a new grass seed blend called "Pearl's Premium Ultra Low Maintenance Lawn Seed" or "Pearl's Premium" for short.

Growing this blend of native, adaptive fescue grasses can save dramatic amounts of money, time, water and effort. It's also much safer for you, your family and pets, as it requires no fertilizer or pesticides to thrive. This grass grows 12 inch roots and is drought resistant, only needing watering when first planted. It crowds out weeds when grown to 3 inches, and stays green practically all year. Best of all, it grows slowly, so you'll only have to mow once a month. This is a fine-bladed, very soft deep green grass; perfect for lawns at your home or workplace. It can easily be used to overseed your existing lawn. A Pearl's Premium lawn increases point scores in all six categories of the US Green Building Council's LEED rating system. Jackson Madnick worked with a team of turf scientists for six years to perfect this blend of native and adaptive grasses.

Through a special fundraising arrangement, the League is able to offer this grass seed without shipping charges, and will get to keep a significant portion of all sales to support our efforts. With so many communities facing water shortages, Pearl's Premium is receiving enthusiastic attention.

Planting Time is IMPORTANT: Fall is the ideal planting time for grass, usually from late August to early October. For planting information, go to www.PearlsPremium.com, the company's website

A note from Amy Janovsky:

I've gotten feedback from several people who tried this new Pearl's Premium grass seed blend this past spring. In several shady yards, the seed did very well. In sunny areas, like my yard, the results were mixed--I have a lot of weeds along with my new grass. I spoke with seed developer Jackson Madnick about this, and he offered the following feedback:

"Several factors made this a very tough year to start any new grass, even Pearl's Premium--last fall's heavy rains compacted the soil and new grass roots can't get through compacted soil, and April's 95-degree heat woke up the weed seeds 6 weeks early. Then we had record-breaking rain which boosted the weeds, so you're not alone in having a lot of weeds if you planted grass this spring. However, you can win the battle for a nice low maintenance lawn for next summer. Fall planting favors grass seed over weeds. Most weeds are now dormant. I recommend using a self-propelled core aerating machine on your lawn this fall--this will be a huge help in favoring grass over weeds. If you already have a good base of Pearl's Premium, cut the grass and weeds one inch high with a sharp blade so you don't damage your existing grass. If you're planting for the first time, use a dull mower and in one fell swoop cut as low as possible next to the soil to kill off the existing weedy lawn. Rake away the grass and weed clippings. You may want to hand-pull or use vinegar-based sprays on patches of tough perennial weeds. Then top spread 40 pounds of pellet lime per 1,000 sq feet, as needed to create a neutral pH. Next, heavily overseed with Pearl's Premium at 7-8 pounds per 1,000 sq feet. If possible, "nest" the seed in a 1/4-inch layer of mature organic compost to provide nutrients and soil microorganisms and help out compete weeds. Water every day it does not rain for the first month. By next summer the 3-4 inch high dense grass will shade out the annual weed seeds and keep them from sprouting. Soil temperatures in Andover are now ideal for planting--between 70 and 55 degrees F. Check our revised website, www.Pearlspremium.com, for more information on solving weed problems."

Channel 5's "Chronicle" features Pearl's Premium on Wednesday, September 9th at 7:30 pm, showing what a fall seeding of Pearl's Premium did to change a weedy lawn into an attractive low maintenance lawn with few weeds.

ORDER FORM

\$33 per 5 pound bag (Special LWV offer avoids \$9.60 shipping & handling, and includes state sales tax). Send this form and a check made out to League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover to LWV, 6 Snowberry Road, Andover, MA 01810. Orders can be picked up at 6 Snowberry Road, Andover. To arrange a pickup time, call Amy Janovsky at 978-475-8655 or email amy-janovsky@comcast.net.

Name _____ Phone _____
email _____ Address _____

Pearl's Premium comes in 5 pound bags that cover 1,000 square feet; or it can be seeded heavily for a thicker lawn and fewer weeds. Seeded heavily, approx. 1.5 bags or 7.5 pounds covers 1,000 sq. ft.

- ____ Number of 5 lb. bags of "Sunny" Mix for Sun to Partial Sun - (for full sun to 50% sun, covers 1000 square feet) at \$33 each
- ____ Number of 5 lb. bags of "Shady" Mix for Partial Sun to Shade - (for 50% sun to full shade, covers 1000 square feet) at \$33 each

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I am very pleased to introduce Paulette Zuena as our new Membership chair. If you haven't already renewed your membership in the League, we hope you will do it soon. Our fiscal year began on July 1st. Email reminders have been sent periodically to those who haven't paid. Many thanks to those of you who have renewed. Your dues and contributions help support our work.

In light of our limited budget, we have decided to go electronic this year, in order to save postage and printing costs and to streamline our operations. This includes the *Bulletin* and our Members' Handbook. The handbook will be posted online when it's completely updated. It will be divided into sections because our website can't handle huge documents, but we promise to make it user-friendly. Hang onto your handbook from last year and you will have most of the information already. We also have extras of last year's handbook and will be happy to supply you with one if you've already recycled your copy. Contact me at stef-traina@verizon.net. The directory of members information section will be mailed out to you to safeguard personal information. Please don't hesitate to send me an email if you have questions or comments about our new policy. Any and all feedback is welcome.

We hope you will save the date for our fall membership event on Sunday, October 25 at the Andover Historical Society. We are planning a Sunday afternoon tea around a theme of the League's history in both towns. Heather Belson and Jennessa Durrani have graciously agreed to work with Paulette Zuena and me to plan this event. Details will follow soon.

The state League's annual Phonathon campaign will roll out after Labor Day with an email letter to members and an opportunity to donate online to help keep the Massachusetts League viable. Our League will receive 15% of all donations that are made during the Phonathon period. The state League's fundraising efforts were unsuccessful last year and left the LWVMA with dangerously low reserves. This year's campaign has a theme of '\$90 for 90' in anticipation of the LWVMA's 90th anniversary in May 2010. The goal is to raise \$90,000. I hope that you will be as generous as you can when you receive your email or letter. The League is a unique organization that provides essential services to voters.

At the national level, health care reform and climate change legislation continue to be debated. You can read position papers by going to www.lwv.org and clicking on those topics. We will be sending out Action Alerts from time to time, urging you to contact your state and national representatives about legislation the League supports. We hope you will take a moment to weigh in on these issues. Your emails, letter and telephone calls do make a difference.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

Find Out More About

NORTH ANDOVER / ANDOVER STAND FOR CHILDREN

Stand for Children is a grassroots education advocacy group working locally and at the state level to address issues facing our schools. Closing the achievement gap and improving the quality of education for *all* of our students will be a big part of our fall discussions and actions while we continue to stay involved with keeping the services and funding we have, finding sustainable, long-term funding for schools, and finding cost efficiencies so that more dollars are going toward direct instruction of children.

It is easy to become involved and can take as little or as much time as you are able to give. With tight budgets and a statewide achievement gap that is one of the worst in our country, now is the time to join us. Being a member of Stand is very rewarding as we are regularly informed, engaged, and taking action on behalf of our schools and our children.

Find out more about Stand for Children by visiting our website - www.stand.org/ma.

or

Join us at one of our Informational Coffees! Friday, September 25th at 10:30 AM at 78 Cheever Circle in Andover – RSVP to Paula Karl 978.470.0739 or pbkarl@comcast.net

Tuesday, October 6th at 7:00 PM at 13 Union Street in North Andover – RSVP to Heather McNeil 978.686.6717 or h_mcneil@hotmail.com

League launches a tree committee

By Chris Young

In the April 27, 1894 edition of the Andover Townsman, a nascent Andover Village Improvement Society ran this advertisement:

An effort is being made to form in Andover an organization, the object of which shall be the planting of shade trees, the protection of those already planted, the reclaiming and care of unsightly spots. No one who feels an interest in this work may be deterred from becoming a helper.

AVIS originally was a group of concerned citizens who raised a fuss when Andover's downtown looked shabby and trees were neglected. No need to tell you that AVIS eventually turned its attention to conservation and become a model for land preservation and forest conservation. But in Andover of 2009, a different kind of forest is demanding attention – our urban forest. Our street trees need our help.

Since December, 2008, a small group of us – basically members of the Environmental Action Committee of the LWV of Andover and North Andover and three Andover garden clubs – have been meeting to talk about the future of Andover's street trees. We call ourselves Friends of Andover Community Trees (FACT). Like our soul mates of 19th century Andover, FACT members are concerned about the health of our town's shade trees. And yes, we also want to plant more and a wider variety of trees. We are not as concerned about rapid industrial expansion as they were in 1894. Today, our focus is on the harmful effects of climate change, invasive species – both vegetative and insect – pollution, budget cuts and other concerns of the fast-moving, technology-driven 21st century.

Here is what we have done so far:

- FACT and the League celebrated Arbor Day with the sale of trees and environmentally superior grass seed on Main Street and a series of speakers in Memorial Hall Library.
- In April, Amy Janovsky invited environmentalist and writer, Peter Alsop, to speak at Phillips Academy about the Asian Longhorn Beetle which caused state and federal authorities to destroy over 12, 000 trees in Worcester. His talk was sponsored by PA's Speaking on Sustainability/ series.
- We attracted tree lovers to a public information meeting on June 30 and enlisted their support.
- We adopted a succinct mission statement: FACT's goal is to: Provide for the education and involvement of residents and town officials in maintaining and improving Andover's urban forest.

Our hope is to educate the town on the value and importance of Andover's street trees. As a first step in that direction, FACT will sponsor a tree workshop on Oct. 17 at Memorial Hall Library by

veteran arborist, Melissa LeVangie, owner of Trees New England. The cost of her talk is being covered by Andover Garden Club, Spade and Trowel Garden Club and Village Garden Club.

We invite your support on this new League-sponsored venture to make Andover a leafier, greener place to live.



Friends of Andover
Community Trees
(FACT)

Friends of Andover Community Trees (FACT)
will sponsor a workshop
on
Saturday, Oct 17 at
10:00 a.m. at Memorial
Hall Library.

Arborist, Melissa
LeVangie will discuss
current threats to our ur-
ban forest and care of
ailing trees, followed by
Q & A.

KYTF 2009

By Heather Moody Holman

Plans are underway for **Andover Days – Welcome back to Main Street!** Saturday, October 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Our League's Know Your Town Fair will collaborate with the Andover Business Center Association (ABCA), the Andover Cultural Council and Andover Historical Society, and the Town of Andover Planning Department. Andover Days has evolved each year in a new way and this year the ABCA has made a quantum leap, bringing in heavy corporate sponsorship for the event. There will be professional bands on a huge stage and River 92.5 FM will be helping promote the event. The Town of Andover Planning Department will have a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new sidewalks and road work. Fashion shows on Main Street by your local boutiques, dance performances by your local dance schools, a Psychic Fair, a pumpkin roll up Main Street, an apple pie contest, belly dancer performance and sidewalk sales in downtown Andover are planned.

Know Your Town Fair should have an excellent location on Park and Barnard Streets next to Old Town Hall. The mission of the KYTF is to give nonprofit organizations an opportunity to network and engage townspeople in learning more about their organizations, and to promote the organizations' upcoming activities. Some have also gained new members from past KYTF events. Invitations have been sent with registration details to past participants. If you or someone you know would like to consider joining us this year the nonprofit participant fee is \$20.00. (It is also not too late for a business to participate. I have the ABCA contacts for interested parties).

The Know Your Town Fair will run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tents are not required but an organization may bring one they own. Calls for more information are welcome at 978-500-0626 or email to Heather@HeatherHolman.com

LWV Membership Report

by Paulette Zuena, Membership Chair

- Members paid through June 2009 133
- Members paid through June 2010 79
- 59% renewal YTD

The League extends a warm welcome to new North Andover members Maura Flaherty, 98 Fuller Rd. N. Andover, 978-681-9974, mef1@comcast.net, and Dale Lewis, 200 Vest Way, N. Andover, 978-689-0611, dalelewis@comcast.net.

In reviewing our membership renewals and applications, it's clear we all have some work to do. As of September 1 only 59% of our members have renewed their memberships this year. That leaves us with only 79 current members when there are so many critical local and national issues to be decided. I encourage those of you who have not yet renewed your membership to do so as soon as possible. IAnd spread the word about this wonderful organization. Enthusiasm is contagious--share yours and your rewarding experiences with your friends. Invite them to a forum, coffee or meeting to learn more about the League...call, email, or follow them on Twitter or Facebook. Together we can accomplish much. You can reach me at paulette@PauletteZuena.com or 978-482-3900.

LWV Andover/North Andover Membership

_____ \$55 Basic Member _____ \$60 Contributing Member _____ \$75 Sustaining _____ \$75 Household Dues
(2+ persons in same household)
_____ \$100+ Patron _____ \$35 Senior Citizen (65 and over) _____ \$35 Student (under 24 yrs. old)

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

_____ Enclosed is a separate check containing my tax-deductible contribution of \$_____ payable to the Education Fund

Send checks payable to: **LWV OF ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER**, Membership, P.O. Box 514, Andover MA 01810

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

Thank You! Paulette Zuena, paulette@PauletteZuena.com 978.482.3900

Schedule of Events

October

Date	Time	Location	Event
Saturday, October 3	10:00-1:00pm	Main Street Andover, MA 01810	Know Your Town Fair. For information contact Heather@HeatherHolman.com .
Wednesday, October 7	9:15am	11 Lavender Hill Lane Andover, MA 01810	Board Meeting. All members welcome.
Wednesday, October 7	7pm	Collins Center	Andover Special Town Meeting.
Wednesday, October 14	11:30am-1pm	Panera Bread Rtes 133 & 114 N. Andover	Lunch & Conversation.
Saturday, October 17,	10am	Memorial Hall Library	Tree Workshop with arborist Melissa LeVangie.
Sunday, October 25	2:00-5:00 p.m.	Andover Historical Society 97 Main Street Andover,	Fall Membership Event.
Wednesday, November 4	7:15pm	12 Greybirch Road Andover,	Board Meeting. All members welcome.
Friday, November 13	11:30am-1pm	Panera Bread Rtes 133 & 114 N. Andover	Lunch & Conversation.
Monday, November 16 Friday, November 20		Andover Schools	Community Read-Along Week.

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