



Bulletin

September 2005

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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

I hope you had an enjoyable summer and are looking forward to an invigorating fall season. The League's fall includes two major events to mark on your calendar. The first is a social event, "Chocolate at the Lehman" on Oct. 20, 7:30 pm at the Lehman Art Gallery at Brooks campus in North Andover. This chocolate-tasting and art gallery viewing builds on last year's popular "Chocolate at the Addison." Current League members (active and inactive) and prospective League members are all welcome, so plan to join us and bring your civic-minded family, friends and neighbors.

The second major event is a forum on the Patriot Act to be held at the Rogers Center at Merrimack College on Wed, October 26. (Apologies for scheduling these two events so close to each other, but we had to work around many schedules.) Panelists include speakers from the US Attorney's MA office, the FBI's Boston office, the ACLU, and the MA Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee. The timeliness of the topic promises an intellectually stimulating evening. This forum is free and open to the public, so please help spread the word.

Are you looking for a way to get more involved with the LWV this year? The LWV's many projects always welcome more participants, so feel free to join anything that catches your interest. Our study groups for the year will be Affordable Housing chaired by Annette Nickerson, Invasive Plants chaired by Amy Janovsky, Sustainability & Natural Resources chaired by Joyce Ringleb, and Town Budgeting Process chaired by Lolli Sumberg. We have also started a Merrimack Valley Study Section, co-chaired by Carole Pelchat and Mary Marzec, to identify issues that concern all the communities of the Merrimack Valley.

All LWV meetings are open to all members and are a good way to meet people and find out what's going on without a major time commitment. Our monthly lunches at Panera's (Lunch & Conversation) are held on the 14th of the month (unless the 14th falls on a weekend and then it is held on the Friday before), board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, informal discussions are arranged throughout the year, and, last but not least, our study groups and action committees hold educational events throughout the year. Please attend any and all that interest you; it's a great way to meet your fellow concerned-citizens and learn something new!

Many thanks to the League members who put in countless hours over the summer to prepare for the upcoming LWV year. Carole Pelchat did a stellar job producing the LWV Handbook (which you should have received by now). Thanks to Diane Hender for arranging sponsorships for the Bulletin, and thanks to our Bulletin sponsors for sponsoring the LWV. Thanks to Stefani Goldshein for her work planning discussion topics for the year. Ginny Cascino stepped forward once again to do the annual audit; this important behind-the-scenes service is much appreciated. And thanks to Jennessa Durrani for producing this Bulletin, our mainstay of communication.

Please contact me at 978-474-0176 with any questions or suggestions you have for the League. Hope to see you soon!

Save the Date!

Patriot Act Forum
Wednesday, October 26th
Rogers Center
Merrimack College
7:00 p.m.

MA Legislative Action Update

By Carol Pelchat

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

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 Petrucci, 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). The joint session will be in the fall.

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**).

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. It is expected that the Governor's veto will be overridden.

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.

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.

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.

Continued on page 11

Andover Housing Partnership Committee

By: Joan Duff

Fall Town Meeting voters will be asked to vote on the Declaration of Trust for the Town of Andover Affordable Housing Trust. The Declaration of Trust describes the organizational structure and by-laws for the Trust and its Trustees. The commitment to create the Affordable Housing Trust was approved at the Spring Town Meeting, 2005. Town counsel advised that the structure and by-laws be put on the warrant article for approval at a subsequent Town Meeting.

Some of the topics included in the Declaration of Trust are:

- The Purpose
- Appointment and Tenure of Trustees
- Required Meetings
- Powers of the Trustees and Approval of Trustees Recommendations
- Funds Paid to the Trust

It is important to establish the Trust to ensure that money received by the Town, earmarked for affordability, has a specific Town account in which to be deposited. Currently, any money that may be received by the Town for affordable housing would be deposited into the Town's general account. Establishing the Trust will avoid both the necessity to transfer funds, as well as developing a process for and approval for transferring the funds.

Timing is perfect to establish the Trust, since the Town of Andover will get its first allocation of funds, which must be used to fund affordable housing efforts, from the North Shore HOME Consortium late this Fall. The North Shore HOME Consortium, which operates out of Peabody, distributes HUD funds to its 29 member communities on an annual basis. Each community's grant is determined by formula by HUD. Member communities must submit a proposal, which would enhance affordability in their communities, and the North Shore HOME Consortium must approve the proposal.

Additionally, the Trust is an appropriate receptacle for depositing equity, which would be gained if a buyer for an affordable unit cannot be found in 180 days. If the affordable unit is sold at market rate, for this reason, the equity of the unit does not go to the seller or to the bank, but back to the Town. Most of the affordable housing created in the 80's was rental, so we

have not had much experience in this area. However, many of the newer latest Chapter 40B projects are home ownership, so the opportunity to have a unit sell at market rate is greater than it has been in the past. Depositing the equity from the sale of that unit into the Trust allows the Town to pursue the purchase of another unit or to initiate another affordable housing project.

For further information regarding the Trust, please contact Joan Duff at (978) 685-3212 or email to jhduff@earthlink.net.

LWV Affordable Housing Study Group Public Forum: April 20, 2005

“New Paths to Affordable Housing in the Andovers”

By: Annette Nickerson

The third in our series of public forums on Affordable Housing was held on April 20 at North Andover Town Offices. The attendance was approximately 15; however, the cable broadcast was live and hopefully reached a wider audience. The speakers were informative and provided some new thoughts on the affordable housing issue. The program was rebroadcast on North Andover cable (channel 8). For additional information on rebroadcasts, contact Lisa Smith at North Andover cable access 978 687-6570. A DVD is available for Andover broadcast.

Speakers:

Jennessa Durrani: moderator; LWV Board Member

In addition to moderating the forum and providing introductory information on each speaker, Jennessa provided an overview of the Study Group's activities and summary report.

Heidi Griffin: North Andover Community Development Director

Heidi gave background information on North Andover's recognition of the affordable housing issue and the establishment of the North Andover Housing Commission and Housing Partnership Committee to develop strategies to improve the situation. The Department of Community Development is also working with the North Shore Home Consortium to identify use of \$200K available to North Andover. Heidi also discussed two proposed Town Meeting Warrant Articles to promote affordable housing: Massachusetts Chapter 44 to establish a Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund; and Zoning Bylaw changes to promote affordable housing via Planned Production Strategy.

Continued on page 11

Sustainability/Natural Resources Committee Update

By C. Joyce Ringleb

This has been a very busy time for the LWV's Sustainability group. I do believe we are making a difference with our efforts. Our summer started with the showing of "Thirst" at the North Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in North Andover on June 12, 2005. This was a very hot evening with thundershowers, but what a success! We had 35 people in attendance despite the weather. We enjoyed pizza and made many new friends. This was sponsored by LWV, People for the Environment and Unitarian Universalist Church of North Andover.

This summer I sent several emails to League members about environmental issues asking you to call your local Representatives. I want to thank those of you who took part in this because we did have success.

In July the Governor's veto on the TURI Safer Alternatives Analysis had been overridden. The House voted to override the Governor's veto with only four Representatives voting against it. The Senate voted unanimously in favor of overriding the veto. This means the Massachusetts Fiscal Year 2006 Budget will now include \$250,000 for an analysis of safer alternatives to five toxic chemicals. Congratulations to all for this victory—it has been an incredible team effort and your persistent calls to your legislators made all the difference.

Please thank your Rep./Senator for showing his/her commitment to protecting our health from toxic chemicals by co-signing a letter to leadership in support of funding for the TURI Safer Alternatives Analysis in the state budget.

At this time I would like to remind people to thank Senator Susan Tucker for being one of the sponsors for bills S-554 & H1392 An Act Relative to Mercury Reduction and Education. This bill will phase out the use of mercury-containing products and keep them out of incinerators, landfills and the environment.

On August 4, 2005 I had the pleasure to present "Thirst" at Chin Maya Maruti Center to a group of youth and adults. The talk was about sustainability and what they can do to make a difference. It was a most pleasurable afternoon with about 30 people in attendance. I will be going back in the near future

and I would like to thank Madhu Sridhar for suggesting the talk on sustainability.

The North Andover trash transfer hearings are ongoing. I have attended five hearings to date. So far the Thomsons' engineer has testified and been cross examined by all parties; and their air expert has testified and is in the midst of being cross examined. The hearings will continue on the following dates: (all at 7pm) 9/6, 9/14, 9/26.

At present I am working with Edgewood residents to expand their recycling efforts. We had a meeting with their committee and may do a presentation to the group at large.

Please mark your calendars for our first big event this year "Playing It Safe on Fields". Please see the flyer on page 6 and distribute details to interested parties. With new fields going in we hope you will all come out for this event on September 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Recycling Update

By: C. Joyce Ringleb

The trend continues! Good job Andover! Residents are pitching in by NOT pitching out. Every little bit of effort to reduce waste makes a big difference when there are over 9000 of our households. For the third month in a row, Andover's trash tonnage was below the levels seen for the last three years. In May, June, and July, the tonnage was over 100 tons per month less than last year. You helped the town save more than \$40,000 in trash disposal fees. What are the reasons?

- A lot of homes are using 3 or 4 very full recycling bins every collection day.
- Compost bins, kitchen scrap buckets, and "grasscycling" have become popular.
- The "Zero Waste Day" was a success and will be repeated in North Andover in the fall and in Andover next spring (open to all residents).
- Reuse is getting easier with Earth911.org, Freecycle.org, "MVFreeStuffNetwork" at Yahoogroups.com and town-wide yard sales.

The goal for this year is 11,000 tons of trash per year, which will bring us down to the average for comparable towns in terms of trash generated per household. This means another 5% reduction. For each household that means reducing either 4 pounds per week or 200 pounds per year (one big yard sale). How are you going to get there? If you want more information, contact the Recycling Committee at www.andoverma.gov/recycle.

Sustainability/Natural Resources

The following **Table of Water Use** can help you determine how much water your family uses each day, and how much water you could save by retrofitting and adopting some water wise habits.

	Activity	Number of Times	Circumstances	Amount of Water Used	Total
Bathroom	Toilet	4 Flushes/day	ULV toilet	1.6 gal/flush	6 gal
			Conventional toilet	3.5-7 gal/flush	14-28 gal
	Shower	5 minutes 1x/day	Low-flow showerhead	2.5 gal/minute	12 gal
			Conventional showerhead	3-8 gal/minute	15-40 gal
	Shaving	Once/day	1 full basin	1 gal	1 gal
			Open tap	2-5 gal/minute	15-40 gal
Brushing teeth	Twice/day	Brush and rinse	1/4-1/2 gal	1/2-1 gal	
		Open tap	2-5 gal	4-10 gal	
Kitchen	Cooking	Washing Produce	1 full kitchen basin	1-2 gal	1-2 gal
			Open tap	5-10 gal	5-10 gal
	Dishwasher	Once/day Full Load	Short Cycle	8-13 gal	8-13 gal
			Standard Cycle	10-15 gal	10-15 gal
	Dishwashing by Hand	Once/Day	Full basin wash & rinse	5 gal	5 gal
Open tap			30 gal	30 gal	
Laundry	Once/2 Days	Front Loader	18-20 gal	18-20 gal	
		Conventional Top Loader	35-50 gal	35-50 gal	
Outdoor	Car Washing	Twice/Month	5 full, 2 gallon buckets	10 gal/wash	20 gal
			Hose with shut off nozzle	50 gal/wash	100 gal
	Lawn Watering	Kentucky bluegrass will need 1/2"-3/4" of water every 3rd day Turf-type tall fescue will need 1/2"-3/4" of water twice per week Buffalo grass will need 1/2"-3/4" of water every other week during hot, dry spells			

Playing It Safe on Fields
September 19, 2005
7:00 p.m.

Memorial Hall Library
Andover
Speaker: Don Bishop

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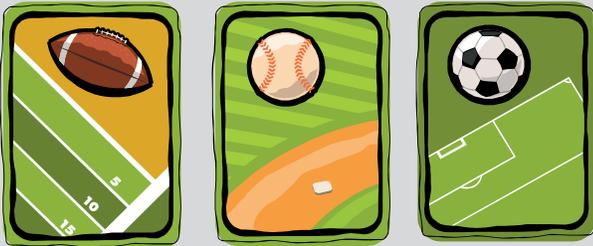
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An Educational Workshop

League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover & The Andover Water Department

Present



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Learn what you can do to ensure that playing fields in our towns are maintained as healthy landscapes for our children, neighbors, and pets.

Guest Speaker
Don Bishop
Northeast Organic Farming Association

Monday, September 19, 2005
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Memorial Hall Library
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Contact C. Joyce Ringleb 978.204.0771 for more information

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ANTHONY S. CONTE, DIRECTOR

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

Membership Dues Reminder

The 2005/2006 dues are now due. If you have not paid your dues, please send a check to the post office box, with the form below. If you are unsure if you have paid, please check the mailing label of this Bulletin to see your status or call: Joan Duff, Membership Chair at (978) 685-3212.

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

Invasive Plants Study Group

Amy Janovsky will chair a study group this fall on invasive plants. These species are displacing native plants and creating headaches for homeowners and parks departments alike. Using information from a variety of sources along with field observation around town, we will identify and observe several of the most aggressive species invading our towns. We will consider ways to inform members and others about the impact these plants are having on local wetlands, woodlands, and open spaces, as well as recommended strategies for their control. Come join us! For more information, please call Amy at (978)475-8655.

Join a state League Study?

The LWV of Massachusetts (the state-level LWV) is recruiting members for two new studies:

Affordable Housing

Goal: to evaluate legislation, regulations and programs in Massachusetts to determine their effectiveness in providing affordable housing and propose a new position through consensus or concurrence. The study may include, but is not limited to:

- Senior housing
- Effect of Chapter 40B, Massachusetts' Comprehensive Permit statute, on cities and towns
- "Smart growth" concepts

The LWVUS's position on Affordable Housing is online at www.lwv.org/elibrary/pub/impact/ImpactonIssues2004.pdf.

Fiscal Policy

This will be a restudy/update of fiscal policy positions and will start in 2006. The main goal is to evaluate the current status of the financing of local government services. The study may include, but is not limited to, so-called Proposition 2½, State Aid and property taxes. The LWVMA's current Fiscal Policy position is online www.lwvma.org/fiscalpolicy.shtml.

Working with a state League study committee has many rewards. These include researching and learning about an important public policy issue in depth, helping all League members understand the significance of these issues and the implications of various solutions, and meeting and working with other League members from across the state who are as interested in the issue as you are.

Contact Bernadette Buck (bbuck@lwvma.org or 617-523-2999) if you're interested in learning more about becoming a study committee member.

Observer Corps

Are you interested in learning more about how our town government functions?

We are still looking for observers for both of the Andover and North Andover Boards of Selectmen, Finance Committee, and School Committee. 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 for further information.

Foster Care Review

Massachusetts children in the custody of DSS, residing in substitute (i.e. foster) care must have their cases reviewed every six months by a three-member independent review panel. The panel includes a trained volunteer from the community - and the Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill areas really need more volunteers. After the DSS training, the basic commitment is flexible, but preferably a minimum of one day (1-3 reviews) a month for a year. The reviews are held during the day at DSS offices, are scheduled a month in advance, last up to 1 1/2 hours, the volunteer's day and time preferences are honored, and a \$5.00 per review stipend is available. For more information, contact Susan Maimone, Volunteer Coordinator at 800-423-2022 or 617-748-2283 or susan.maimone@state.ma.us. Interested candidates can also be connected with current volunteers from their community to ask questions about the program.



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Kishor Shah

LWV Andover/North Andover Community Service Awards

Each spring, the LWV ANA presents three awards to high school students who show a commitment to community service. The 2005 award recipients were:

Jinny Cole Scholarship

(awarded to an Andover High senior)

Awardee: **Samantha Berger**, whom many 2005 Andover Town Meeting attendees may remember as a dynamic speaker for the AYS Youth Center, exhibits similar dedication to all the causes she believes in. Samantha is attending George Washington University in DC this fall.

The Jinny Cole Scholarship was set up a few years ago in memory of the League's own Virginia Cole. To sustain this scholarship in the face of lower than expected interest rates, we are soliciting further donations to the fund. If you would like to contribute, please send a check payable to "Andover Dollars for Scholars," noting on the check that the contribution is for the Virginia Cole Scholarship Fund, and mail it to Dollars for Scholars, PO Box 5052, Andover, MA 01810.

Andover Book Award

(awarded to an Andover High underclassman)

Christina Pierro: In the words of her guidance counselor, "She does it all!" In addition to numerous school volunteer activities, Christina interns for Rep. Marty Meehan and is a tour guide at the State House in Boston.

North Andover Book Award

(awarded to a N. Andover High underclassman)

Alexandra Davis: Alexandra's commitment to her community includes volunteering with the Special Olympics at the YMCA, registering voters at the High School, and working on school beautification projects.



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, October 22, 2005

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts
Citizen Education Fund

Presents

Fall Conference 2005
Empowering Voters:
A Force for Change

Burlington Marriott

Featured Speakers:

Gracia Hillman

Chair, Election Assistance Commission

Barbara Arnwine

Executive Director, Lawyers'
Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Know Your Town Fair, June 2005



Mary Beth Nason, Amy Janovsky, and Joanne Marden



Heather Moody Holman, Maxie Holman, and Amy Janovsky

New LWV MA Position on Voting Systems

This past year, the LWV Andover/North Andover, along with about 20 other local Leagues, participated in a Voting Systems study sponsored by the LWV of Massachusetts. The following consensus of all the participating local Leagues was adopted as the new state-level position of the LWV MA:

“Voting Systems (2005)

GOAL: Voting systems should be easy to use, administer and understand, encourage high voter turnout, encourage real discussion on issues, promote minority representation, and encourage candidates to run.

When electing someone to a single executive office at the state level, such as governor or attorney general, including primary and general elections, the voting system should require the winner to obtain a majority of the votes.

The League supports instant runoff voting. Cost and complexity make two-round runoff not acceptable.”

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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. A joint session was held on 5/11/05 and was recessed until 8/25/05.

Affordable Housing Study Group Forum, April 20, 2005: Continued from page 3

Christine Metzemaekers: Executive Director, Andover Housing Authority

Christine gave some history of the growth of community Housing Authorities starting in 1948 as housing for veterans. The current Andover Housing Authority consists of five commissioners (4 elected; 1 appointed). The Executive Director is hired by the Housing Authority but works under the direction of DHCD. The Housing Authority had developed a pilot escrow program to assist clients in transitioning out of public housing; however, the program has been discontinued. Another similar program may be developed but nothing definite at this time. The Andover Housing Authority has been very successful in working with the community (specifically, seniors and the Police Department) in the development of programs such as New Horizons for Youth.

The HUD Section 202 Supportive Housing Program for the Elderly supports financing the construction or acquisition of housing for low-income elderly and provides rent subsidies for the projects to make them affordable. The need for this type of housing was recognized in 2002 with the formation of the Andover Future Housing Program (a nonprofit subsidy of the Andover Housing Authority).

Philip DeMartino: DCHD Technical Assistance Program Coordinator

Phil presented background information as an introduction to the Planned Production Program under Chapter 40B. During 1997-1998 there was a "renaissance" of 40B applications in response to high housing costs. As a result, towns were overwhelmed by applications and in general there was a negative public response to "affordable housing." In order to encourage towns to develop a positive strategy towards the 10 percent goal, the Planned Production Regulation was proposed and

implemented under Chapter 40B to allow for more local control. In order to participate in this program, a community must create a plan that details a strategy to make steady progress in the production of affordable housing that is consistent with Chapter 40B regulations but provides flexibility in achieving the 10 percent target. The community must produce a minimum of .75% of year round housing units within one year to be in compliance. Upon approval of the plan by DHCD and compliance, the town's ZBA will have more flexibility in denying comprehensive permits.

Felipe Schwarz: North Andover Community Preservation Committee

Felipe provided an overview of the Community Preservation Act in Massachusetts: currently adopted by 75 communities; \$132M appropriated (as of January 2005); more than 630 housing units created; more than 4,300 acres of open space protected.

CPA status in North Andover: There is \$648,400 in the affordable housing reserve. As of January 2005 there were no applications for the use of these funds; however, the following projects are now in process:

- Development of Planned Production Plan (for DCHD approval)
- First Time Homebuyer's Program

It is expected that the establishment of North Andover's Housing Partnership Committee, working with the Community Development Department, as well as an approved Planned Production Plan, will put the community in a strong position to move forward

Save the Date!

The Sustainability/Natural Resources Study Group Presents ENERGY'S FUTURE

**Monday, October 3rd
7:00 p.m.**

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Letter from the Editor

I would like to first take a moment to thank Michael Frishman for his many years of hard work and diligence as the Bulletin Editor.

As you may have noticed as you peruse this issue of the Bulletin that we've made a few changes in hopes of taking this information rich publication and making it even easier to reference. Pages has been dedicated to study groups, forums, call to action, etc. in hopes that you are able to hone in on the information that most suits your interest. In this issue, we have dedicated pages for:

Legislative Action
Affordable Housing
Sustainability/Natural Resources
Membership
Call for Action
Community News
Voting Systems

These will be augmented in the coming months with reports from the Observer Corps, new study groups, and additional special events.

As the new editor, I see this publication as an evolving one and hope that you feel comfortable in giving me feedback on layout, content, and ease of use. To do so, feel free to contact me at:

jennessa@celebratestudio.com
978.470.3290

I'm looking forward to working with each of you in the coming year to make this great publication even better. You should also all know that you are welcome to submit articles regarding relevant topics of interest to our membership. So use the contact information above to submit articles, calendar items, upcoming events, etc.

The deadline for the next publication is Friday, September 16th.

Jennessa Durrani, Bulletin Editor

jennessa durrani
creative director



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Calendar of Events

		Time	Type of Meeting	Description	Address
September	7	7:15 p.m.	Board Meeting	September Board Meeting	Andover Water Treatment Plant Rt. 133, Andover
	14	11:30 a.m.	Lunch & Conversation	Monthly Lunch Gathering	Panera Bread Rt. 133 and Rt. 114, N. Andover
	14	7:30 p.m.	Affordable Housing	Study Group Meeting	Joan Duff's Home 12 Greybirch Road, Andover
	16		Deadline	Bulletin Submissions Due	jennessa@celebratestudio.com
	19	7:00 p.m.	Sustainability	Playing It Safe on Fields	Memorial Hall Library Elm Square, Andover
October	3	7:15 p.m.	Sustainability	Energy's Future	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
	14	11:30 a.m.	Lunch & Conversation	Monthly Lunch Gathering	Panera Bread Rt. 133 and Rt. 114, N. Andover
	14		Deadline	Bulletin Submissions	jennessa@celebratestudio.com
	20	7:30 p.m.	Membership Event	Chocolate at the Lehman	Brooks School 1160 Great Pond Road (Rt. 133), N. Andover
	26	7:00 p.m.	Forum	Patriot Act	Rogers Center at Merrimack College



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