

# Newsletter

## How can we stay warm, save money, use less fuel, and help the environment?

### *E n e r g y   F o r u m*

*By Beth Lowd*

**C**ome to an Energy Forum, an illustrated talk and discussion, Monday, Nov. 28, 7-9 p.m. at Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library. Handouts will detail steps citizens can take to save energy.

An Energy Action Plan for Newton will be the illustrated presentation by Dr. Halina Brown for the Newton Citizens' Commission on Energy, a Professor of Environmental Science and Policy at Clark University. Her talk will outline ways that the city, its businesses and institutions, and its citizens can reduce energy consumption, preserve natural resources, and save money.

The plan is a guide to action that we must take if we are to further reduce energy consumption and associated greenhouse gas emissions. Inherent in such actions are large financial, environmental and health benefits, including significant financial savings in city operations, reduced local air pollution, and an improved quality of life in Newton. By adopting and implementing the plan, Newton will also make a positive contribution to the international battle against global climate change.

Two goals of the plan are to reduce energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions in Newton by 2010: by 7%

overall below the base year 1998, and by 20% within the municipal sector.

The plan stresses that the city's leadership is key to success. It says the city must take a strong lead and aggressively pursue its goal, and use this success to mobilize the commercial, residential and institutional sectors to actively pursue the goals and objectives set out in the Energy Action Plan. To fully enable implementation, the commission recommends 1) redefining the role of the city's senior electrical engineer to energy officer; 2) establishing an energy investment fund to provide capital for energy efficiency projects in public facilities, and 3) expanding the role of the energy commission as advisors in the site plan approval process, guiding development toward high performance building standards.

Mayor David Cohen will open the meeting with some remarks describing steps Newton has taken to reduce energy use and related costs. Former alderman Brooke Lipsitt will moderate a public discussion of the plan.

The Energy Forum will be co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Newton, Green Decade Coalition, City of Newton, Newton Citizen's Commission on Energy, and Newton Free Library.

### INFORMATIONAL MEETING The Rotting Truth: Turning Waste into Resource

Wednesday, November 9, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.,  
SPEAKERS: Barbara Herson, Michele Davis and Katherine Gekas.

*see calendar for details*

*Bring your lunch!*

## LWVN Officers and Directors 2005-2006

### STEERING COMMITTEE

Bonnie Carter	617-969-0686
Amelia Koch	617-244-2647
Ann Grantham	617-964-0333
Sharyn Roberts	617-969-9588
Sue Rosenbaum Spokesperson	617-332-0306

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Study for Concurrence	Priscilla Leith	617-969-6837
Housing	Roberta Leviton	617-965-0016
Fair Districts	Beth Lowd	617-332-1978

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Legislative Specialist & Legislative Roundtable	Ruby Ajanee	617-243-9888
Local Action	Deb Crossley Co-chair	617-244-7597
Membership	Elaine Reisman Co-chair	617-244-6439
Topic Meetings	Pat Acton Linda Morrison	617-965-5572 617-332-6539
Recycling	Barbara Herson	617-964-7463
Web Site	Judy Jaffe	617-969-7427

### NEWSLETTER

Editor	Ann Grantham	617-964-0333
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The LWVN Newsletter is published nine times per year. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization open to all citizens of voting age. For more information about the League of Women Voters, call 617-964-0014.

PO Box 610207  
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617-964-0014

<http://www.lwvn.ma.lwvnet.org>

## Waiting on Newton North

Despite predictions that a new Newton North could be built by September 2009, School Committee Chair Ann Larner was more cautious at the League's October Informational Meeting. After the architect's contract is signed this fall, the School Committee will have to revisit its vision of the school, probably not before mid-winter.

The School Committee is responsible for decisions about the building's educational functions. Larner explained that, because of world events, the price of steel had increased beyond what the original plan had estimated.

Larner anticipates that the School Committee would have to cut down the size of the new high school to fit the budget.

The School Committee will have to weigh initial costs against operating costs in the long term, Larner said. For instance, it is more expensive to pay for students to attend an outside vocational program for several years than to build them facilities. Other future savings could be in the energy and water bills.

*Andreae Downs, Informational Meeting Attendee*

## Fair Districts Petition Drive

THANK YOU to all who have been collecting signatures for the Fair Districts petition drive. We have not reached our goal yet, so please persevere!

IMPORTANT: Please turn in all out-of-town petitions to the boxes by November 16. Turn in all Newton forms by Monday, Nov. 21st. Alternatively; mail them by the 16th directly to the address on the front bottom corner of the petitions.

*Beth Lowd, Fair Districts for Fair Elections*

## Voters Service Season

This is one of those odd years, er, I mean odd-numbered years when municipal elections are held. And Sharyn Roberts has done a bang-up job with Voters Service. She planned and organized six debates for candidates in contested races. Three debates were held on October 16 and three on October 23. She was assisted by a team of volunteers—thanks to all of you! AnnaMaria Abernathy, Bonnie Carter, Deb Crossley, Ann Grantham, Andrea Kelley, Ingrid Kefauver, Jody Klein, Amelia Koch, Tami Roberts, Sue Rosenbaum, Rohna Shoul, and Lois Smith.

Thanks to the moderators: Mona Schwartz of the Brookline LWV and Joan Craig of the Natick LWV. The debates were held in the NewTV studio and videotaped for playback on the Red channel. ([www.newtv.org](http://www.newtv.org)). Thanks to NewTV for co-sponsoring!

The other Voters Service project was the Voters Guide. Sharyn sent a questionnaire to all 42 candidates. Their responses were published in the TAB on November 2. We hope that Voters Service activities under Sharyn's leadership helps voters make informed decisions at the polls! Bonnie Carter

## Phonathon

Thanks to those who participated in the LWVMA phonathon on Monday, October 23 and Tuesday, October 24 at Coldwell Bankers in Newton Center. They had the pleasure of speaking with old and new friends—all League supporters. It was a fruitful way to raise money for the state and local Leagues. We salute you! – Pat Acton, Bonnie Carter, Louise Hauser, Barbara Herson, Amelia Koch, Barbara Lietzke, Sharyn Roberts, and Allison Stoner. ■

*In Memoriam*  
**MARGARET JERNIGAN 1925-2005**  
Public Health Nurse & LWVN Member

OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH HER HUSBAND,  
CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

*Local Action*

Andrew Stern, Chairperson  
Newton Community Preservation Committee

Michael Kruse, Director  
Planning & Development Department

Bob Engler, Chairperson  
Newton Housing Partnership

Newton City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Ave  
Newton Centre, MA 02459

October 19, 2005

Dear Committee Members:

As you know, the League of Women Voters of Newton strongly supports the creation of accessory apartments in Newton to increase affordable housing without new construction, ensure such housing is not concentrated in any one neighborhood, and to help keep current residents in their homes.

We understand that in considering the accessory apartment proposal submitted for the 2005 round of CPA funding the applicants have agreed to several compromises. We wish to address one of these – the proposal to income restrict the owner.

We feel this is an unnecessary restriction. If an owner is willing to designate a portion of her property as affordable, does it matter what the owner earns? As it stands, homeowners who create accessory apartments most likely will want to rent them out to people they already know and trust. The income restrictions on tenants will probably discourage many possible applicants already. To also put restrictions on the income of the owner will severely limit your pool of applicants, probably to the point where no one will apply.

Given that this is a PILOT program with only enough funds for at most three apartments, we strongly urge that you approve it without restrictions on owner income.

Yours truly,  
Susan Rosenbaum  
LWVN Steering Committee

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to join the League of Women voters of Newton. Enclosed is my check for \$55 payable to LWVN.
- Lifetime membership \$1000**
- I would like to receive materials about the League.
- I would like to be contacted by a League member to talk about LWVN.

My Email address may be shared with State and National LWV

**Mail this form (and your check, if joining) to:  
Andrea Kozinetz Holtz at 8 Stoney Brae Road,  
Newton Highlands, MA 02461**

## Committees - in - Action

### Local Action

Contact: Andreae Downs, Chair 617-969-7123

### Observers

#### COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Andreae Downs Amelia Koch  
Andrea Kelley Priscilla Leith

#### ELECTION COMMISSION

Nancy Criscitiello

#### ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Martha Richmond

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE, BOARD OF ALDERMAN

Ruby Ajanee Amelia Koch

#### NEWTON FREE LIBRARY BOARD

Mary Adelstein

#### NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION

Priscilla Leith

### Representatives

#### NEWTON CITIZEN COMMISSION ON ENERGY

Deb Crossley, LWVN Representative

#### SUSTAINABLE NEWTON COMMITTEE

Sharyn Roberts, LWVN Representative

### Committees

#### CPC LEAGUE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Focus *To follow the process of the granting of Community Preservations funds.*

#### Members

Anna Maria Abernathy Jody Klein  
Barbara Bix Myra Tattenbaum  
Deb Crossley

Contact Andreae Downs, Chair 617-969-7123

#### ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

Focus *Promoting source reduction and recycling programs in municipal offices and public schools*

#### Members

Deb Crossley Robin Maltz  
Katherine Gekas Sharyn Roberts  
Barbara Herson Heather Tausig  
Beth Lowd Linda Walden

Contact Martha Richmond 617-244-2076

#### LWVN MASTER PLAN

#### CONCURRENCE COMMITTEE

Focus *A study to support a Master Plan for all public open spaces, parks and recreational facilities in the City of Newton.*

#### Members

Carol Bock Andreae Downs  
Sheila Butts Andrea Kelley  
Doug Dickson

Contact Priscilla Leith, Chair 617-969-6837

•••

Feel free to call committee contacts or a Board officer or director to learn more.

## Parks and Recreation Commission Update

Priscilla Leith, Andrea Kelley and Bonnie Carter, Observers

This report covers items discussed at the

June 20, Sept 15, Sept 19, and Sept 28 meetings.

Myra Tattenbaum, LWVN member, was appointed to the Ward 8 seat in September. The Ward 7 seat remains empty.

**Nahanton Park** The proposal by Bayer and Waltham Chemical for treatment of ticks at Nahanton Park was withdrawn. Doug Dickson, Chair of the Newton Advisory Committee on Integrated Pest Management briefed the Commission on June 20 on how IPM functions and the background of this proposal. Citing the city's IPM Policy (1977) and the proposed application to use pesticides on public property, Dickson used a hypothetical case of a request being received to kill poison ivy that was deemed a serious problem in a city park or open space. "The approach is to leave it, post a note of caution, if it's not hurting anyone. But if it's in an area with a lot of pedestrian traffic or it's climbing up a public building or in a school yard, ... treat it" he said. The proposal may come back for consideration in Spring, 2006.

**Angino Farm** The Parks and Recreation Commission is mandated by ordinance to appoint one of its members to the Angino Farm Commission. So far there is nobody able and willing to accept such an appointment. The Law Dept. has ruled that it must be a regular member of the Parks and Rec Commission, not an Alternate Commissioner.

**Policy for Events on Parks and Rec Land** Staff came to discuss an emerging problem with damage when outside groups are granted permission to hold events, usually fundraising activities, on parks and recreation land. The events are getting more complicated - carnivals, rides, tents. There has been damage to turf and irrigation systems. The Commission will come up with a policy to grant permits, which may include deposits and/or insurance coverage.

**CPA Applications for 2005, Future Procedure** At the September 19 meeting, the Commission heard requests from 6 groups asking for Parks and Recreation Commission to co-sponsor CPA proposals, due October 1. The Commission discussed the backlog of requests, due in part to their not meeting in July or August. They voted to set a June 1 deadline for proponents to submit any proposals or ideas that need Parks and Recreation as a co-sponsor beginning in 2006.

**Park Assessment and Development Planning & Evaluation** An inventory of Newton parks, playgrounds, playfields, their facilities, and their needs, is being used as a context for approving proposals for 2005 round of Community Preservation funding requests. It is a "work in progress" and will continue to be revised. Note that it does not include any areas under School Dept. jurisdiction.

### Requests for co-sponsorship approved on October 19:

**Newton Highlands Playground-Whitmore Tot Lot**, located off Route 9 along Dedham Street. Paul Green presented plan for new equipment for tot lot and re-designed park.

Green's request for \$45,000 of \$52,415 total cost. The Parks and Rec Commission designated this playground its #1 priority and called for a Master Plan for the entire Playground for \$60,000.

**Stearns and Pelligrini Parks** Presented by the Planning Dept. and CDBG Nonantum Advisory Committee. Request for \$1.49M for Phase 1, of \$1.635M. Stearns is located at Jasset and Watertown Streets; Pelligrini, 11 Hawthorne St.

Continued on page 7

# 2006 Applications for Newton CPA Funding

The Community Preservation Committee received 10 applications by its Oct. 3 deadline requesting over \$4 million from the CPA's roughly \$4 million in 2006 funds. Some applications, such as the Crafts Street Stable and the Health Building, are revisions of applications from the 2005 round. Others, like the Homebuyer Assistance Program, are requesting additional CPA funds after an initial, successful pilot program.

Some 2005 applications, notably the Accessory Apartment Incentive Program, have been heard but not yet approved for that cycle of funding. It should also be noted that funding requests for planning and community housing can come in at any time during the year.

Proposal	Applicant	Category(ies)	Funding Requested	Total Cost	Percent of Total Cost
Artificial turf for Newton South HS	NEWTURF Mayor Cohen, NPS	Open Space Recreation	\$2,995,000 bonded over 10 years or ca. \$350,000/yr	\$2,995,000	100%
Crafts Street Stable Exterior Building Historic Preservation Study	Department of Public Buildings, DPW	Historic preservation	\$60,000	\$506,190	12%
Newton Health Department Building Improvements	Dept. of Public Buildings, Health Department	Historic preservation	\$20,750	\$154,240	13%
Brigham Community House	Brigham Community House	Historic preservation Recreation	\$419,000	\$419,000	100%
Newton Homebuyer Assistance Program	City of Newton, Housing Office, Planning and Development	Community housing	\$1,052,500	\$1,242,500	85%
Renovations to Central Corridor of Albemarle Park	Friends of Albemarle, Parks & Recreation Playground Project at Albemarle	Open Space Recreation	\$60,000	\$60,000	100%
Peirce School Historic Restoration	Peirce School Associates	Historic Preservation Community Housing	\$399,825	\$526,300	76%
Bowen Park Initiative	Newton School Department, Bowen Elementary	Open space? Recreation?	\$181,840	\$233,820	78%
Stearns & Pellegrini Parks	Parks & Recreation CDBG Nonantum Advisory Committee, Planning & Development	Recreation	\$1,490,000	\$1,635,000	91%
<b>TOTAL: 10</b>			<b>\$4,033,915</b>		

*Nb: The CPA has roughly \$4 million to spend in fiscal 2006 ■*



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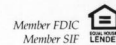
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but our work...NEVER!*

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# Election Dates

**Municipal Election Day**  
Tuesday, November 8, 2005



## Think Green... Save Trees!

### Receive your Newsletter earlier!

The Newsletter is a communication tool for our Newton League. Communication needs to be timely and for several years our Newsletter has been arriving at a snail's pace. This edition has been mailed to you First Class. We trust that you are learning about all the activities coming up in the month of November and have time to make plans to participate.

### For those of you who live green, we have another option.

Join our LWVNSaveTrees listserv and you will receive an electronic message to view the Newsletter as soon as it is posted on our website. It's your choice. Continue to receive a printed copy in the first class mail or send a blank e-mail to:

[LWVNSaveTrees-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:LWVNSaveTrees-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)  
and save trees. ■

*Continued from page 2*

## Parks and Recreation Committee

The Proposal includes design costs, safety surface under play equipment, tennis and basketball courts, pedestrian access, and parking lot improvements. The Commission had questions, but agreed to co-sponsor.

**Albemarle Central Corridor**, presented by Friends of Albemarle. Request for \$60,000 of \$60,000 for design (Phase 1), with \$400,000-\$500,000 construction costs later. Based on a plan by Judy Kokesh to reconstruct the footbridge over Cheesecake Brook, create a pedestrian connection across the Albemarle fields where F.A. Day Middle school students walk to and from the bus loading area, improve entry to Day, clean up south portion of Avery Woods, and more. The Parks and Recreation Commission agreed to co-sponsor.

Three requests were found to be on school land and the committee suggested the proposals be taken to the School Committee for co-sponsorship. They were: Williams School "Intergenerational Outdoor Community Classroom", Bowen Park Initiative and the Newton South High School Turf "Infield Synthetic Turf Feasibility Study".

FYI: The School Committee voted to co-sponsor the Williams and Newton South proposal. ■

## LWVN CALENDAR

### November

3 Thursday, 7:00 pm **LWVN Master Plan Concurrence Committee** meeting at the home of Priscilla Leith, 162 Islington Rd., Auburndale. Light Supper. R.S.V.P. to Priscilla at [islpris@comcast.net](mailto:islpris@comcast.net) or 617-969-6837.

8 Tuesday, **Municipal Election Day**, Polls Open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Newton Highlands Neighborhood Council Election Day**, Polls Open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m., NewTV conference room, 90 Lincoln St, Newton Highlands.

9 Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., **Informational Meeting**, Speakers Barbara Herson, Michele Davis and Katherine Gekas, at the home of Sandy Butzel, 237 Mill St., Newtonville, 617-332-8021. Brown Bagging encouraged.

7:15 p.m. **Board Meeting** at the home of Beth Lowd, 38 Hobart Rd. Newton Centre, 617-332-1978. Chair, Bonnie Carter.

14 Monday, 7:30 p.m., **Local Action Committee** meeting at the home of Andreae Downs, 854 Chestnut St., 617-969-7123.

17 Thursday, 6:30 p.m. **Working Board/Potluck** meeting at the home of Ann Grantham, 46 East Side Pkwy, Newtonville, 617-964-0333. Chair, Ann Grantham

28 Monday, 7:30 p.m. **LWVN Environmental Committee/Green Decade Forum**, Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library. Contact Martha Richmond, 617-244-2076.

14 Wednesday, 7:15 p.m., **Board Meeting** at the home of Andrea Kozinetz-Holtz, 8 Stony Brae road, Newton Highlands, 617-964-6490, Chair- Ann Grantham

15 Thursday, 7:30 pm, **Local Action Committee** meeting at the home of AnnaMaria Abernathy, 45 Islington Rd. 617-244-3447.

### December

1 Thursday, 6:30 p.m., **Working Board/Potluck** meeting at the home of Ann Grantham, 46 East Side Parkway, Newtonville, 617-964-0333. Chair - Ann Grantham

11 Sunday, **Holiday Party** for All Members and Friends, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the home of Bill and Andrea Kelley, 28 Putnam Street, W. Newton, 617-964-4609. Please bring finger foods.

You're Invited  
*Annual  
Holiday Party*  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11



### Legislative Roundtable



For current schedule log on to [www.newtv.org](http://www.newtv.org)

### League of Women Voters of Newton

PO Box 610207

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