
League of Women Voters of Newton

Newsletter

Volume 17, Issue 1

visit us online at www.lwvnewton.org

January/February 2011

League Program Planning

We have scheduled two meetings for this year's Program Planning; both meetings will take place in the Conference Room at NewTV, 23 Needham Street, Newton Highlands. The first meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 9, from 11:30am-1:30pm**, and the second meeting will be on **Thursday, February 10, from 7:00-9:00pm**. *Brown bag lunches or dinners are welcome; coffee and dessert will be served at both meetings. All members are invited to one or both meetings.*

At these two meetings, League members will plan for Newton's 2011-2012 program. The League uses the word "program" in a very specific way. According to the *Glossary of League Lingo* (see www.lwv.org), program consists of "selected governmental issues chosen by members at the local, state and national levels for study and action." We will also spend a short amount of time at each meeting discussing

priorities for the LWV Massachusetts program for 2011-2013.

At either meeting, you'll be able to learn about what we have been working on this year and recommend ideas and actions that you would like to see the League adopt for next year's program. Please bring your ideas to present to the group. If you would like a better understanding of how to present your proposal, please contact Ellen Glusman at info@lwvnewton.org.

The LWVN committee program proposals for 2011-2012 are on page 4. More information about both local and state program planning can be found on the LWVN website at www.lwvnewton.org.

Sidewalk Snow Ordinance Update

The sidewalk snow ordinance, now a two-year trial with an educational effort rather than tickets and fines, will be docketed for the Finance Committee, chaired by Ald. Lenny Gentile, on Valentine's Day, Monday, February 14.

However, Ald. Vicki Danberg intends to ask that it be held one more time. This will make the Finance vote Monday, February 28, and the full board vote on Monday, March 7.

Your cards and letters supporting the ordinance are critical.

You can reach all 24 aldermen via dolson@newtonma.gov. A copy to the TAB (gspector@cnc.com) would also be extremely helpful.

Aldermen have voiced concerns about the "burden" and "cost" this ordinance shifts to the residents. They need to hear from supporters that this burden is currently borne by the city's pedestrians: those who cannot afford a car, are too young/old to drive one, are visually impaired or navigate with a heavy wheelchair. Their costs are being shut-in, putting themselves in harm's way, or

Continued on page 2

OFFICERS &
DIRECTORS
2010-2011

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Gail Glick <i>Spokesperson</i>	617- 964-5252
Anne Borg <i>Operations, Communications, Acting Treasurer</i>	617-680-3763
Ellen Glusman <i>Chair of Chairs</i>	617-332-1738
Bonnie Carter <i>Clerk</i>	617-969-0686

DIRECTORS

Leslie Burg	617- 969-0361
Sandy Butzel	617-332-8021
Lucia Dolan	617-332-1893
Sue Flicop	617-232-2310
Lisa Mirabile	617-202-3718
Sharyn Roberts	617-969-9688
Carol Ann Shea	617-527-5139

Newsletter Editor:

Lisa Mirabile, 617-202-3718

For an audio version of this newsletter, call Anne Borg at 617-244-6366.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization. Regular membership is open to all citizens (men and women) of voting age; associate membership is open to young people and noncitizens. Your annual dues give you membership in local, state and national leagues.

For more information about the League of Women Voters, including information on joining us, call 617-383-4598 or visit www.lwvnewton.org.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education

Gail Glick
Sue Flicop

Elections Committee

Nancy Criscitiello
Ellen Glusman

Environmental Issues

Lucia Dolan
Alison Leary

Environmental Issues

Water Subcommittee

Priscilla Leith
Mary Adelstein

Housing

Leslie Burg
Carol Ann Shea

Land Use Study Committee

Andrea Kelley

Municipal Finance

open

CPC Readers

open

Archives

Ann Grantham
Linda Morrison

Fundraising

Open

Membership

Anne Borg
Sharyn Roberts

Nominating Committee

Ann Grantham

Newsletter & Website

Lisa Mirabile

Topic Meetings

Sue Flicop

Voters Service/Citizen Education

Bonnie Carter
Sharyn Roberts

LWVN Topic Meeting
Local and State Program Planning

Wednesday, February 9, 11:30am-1:30pm

AND

Thursday, February 10, 7:00-9:00pm

NewTV Conference Room, 23 Needham St, Newton Highlands

February Topic Meetings: Help LWVN decide on the work it will undertake during the 2011-2012 year! Our two annual Program Planning meetings both will be held in the NewTV Conference Room, 23 Needham Street in Newton Highlands. Please attend whichever meeting time is more convenient – no need to attend both! Feel free to bring your lunch or dinner with you...coffee/tea and light refreshments will be provided.

Snow, continued from page 1

having to hire taxis to navigate a city with sidewalks blocked by snow.

Another concern is the city's plows putting snow on corners and making snow clearance from sidewalks difficult. You can help the city to do its job better, by calling 3-1-1 from your landline, 617-796-1000 from your cell, or using the 311 system online (www.ci.newton.ma.us).

Any questions? Email Newton Safe Sidewalks at newtonsidewalks@gmail.com.

Letter from the Leadership

February, 2011

This winter has certainly been a trial of snow and ice to all. Several League meetings have had to be cancelled due to snow, but hopefully the worst of the winter weather is behind us. We also hope that Punxsutawney Phil is correct and we have an early spring!

Local Program Planning

One of the most important things that Leagues do each year is to review our current program and activities and plan for next year. Our two Program Planning meetings are being held a little early this year. Please join us for either meeting next week, on Wednesday, February 9, from 11:30am-1:30pm, and on Thursday, February 10, from 7:00-9:00pm. Both meetings will be held at NewTV, 23 Needham St. If you have any questions about Program Planning, please email us at info@lwvnewton.org. You can find the list of committee proposals in this newsletter.

Election Workshop

Because this is a municipal election year, LWVN is bringing back the traditional League workshop for candidates: "Don't Just Stand There...Run!" If you are interested in helping with planning this workshop, please email Ellen (info@lwvnewton.org).

LWVN 75th Anniversary

LWVN's 75th anniversary is in May. Throughout our 75 years, LWVN has been an involved and vital part of our community. One way to continue for another 75 years is to bring in new, active members. Remember that membership growth is everyone's portfolio! Each of us can "gift" the League by recruiting one new member to join the League. Also, we are busy planning events to celebrate our anniversary year. Please email Anne (info@lwvnewton.org) if you can help!

Help Wanted!

We are looking for volunteers for the following committees; please email us if you can help:

- CPC Readers
- Municipal Finance
- Health Care

Don't forget to regularly check our website, www.lwvnewton.org, for updated news and information.

In League,

Gail, Ellen, Bonnie, and Anne
LWVN Leadership Team (info@lwvnewton.org)

LWVMA Presents:

Women's Health in the 21st Century: What We Need to Know

Saturday, March 5, 2011, 9:30am - 1:00pm

McPherson Hall in Medical Arts Building, MWMC, Framingham Campus
85 Lincoln St, Framingham
Snow Date: March 26, 2011

or

Saturday, March 12, 2011, 9:30am - 1:00pm

Wesley United Methodist Church
98 North Maple St, Hadley MA
Snow Date: April 2, 2011

For event schedule and directions, visit www.lwvma.org to download the full program.

LWVN Committee Program Proposals for 2011-2012

CPA/Observer Corps

Only one person has volunteered to commit time as a reader. In order to continue this service, we will need additional readers.

Education

Focus on one particular category: possibilities of incorporating into the NPS (Newton Public Schools) other diverse programs/structures. Interest in pursuing this topic grew out of the space/funding dilemma the NPS currently faces (and has faced for some years).

Specifically, the NPS has experienced fluctuating enrollment over the years (presently, it is on the rise); limited physical space for the expanding student population within the currently- configured neighborhood schools; and a financial structure that is unsustainable for current needs, let alone future needs. Thus, the Education Committee proposes to continue its exploration of structural options, in an open and inclusive manner, so as to identify ways to redress or overcome these challenges with the understanding that any feasible options must be cost-neutral and enhance learning.

As a first step, the Education Committee plans to survey parents, as well as other stakeholders; after evaluating the feedback, the Committee expects to utilize the results to foster open, public conversations.

Election Committee

- Sponsor "Don't Just Stand There - RUN!" workshop(s) for potential municipal election positions candidates.
- Coordinate with (new) Municipal Finance committee.
- Attend meetings of the Newton Election Commissioners.

Environmental Committee

Waste Reduction

- Continue our efforts to improve recycling rates and reduce trash in Newton.
- Work with the state league and local elected officials to expand the bottle bill and reduce plastic bag use.

Storm Water and Sewers

- Support an increase in the sewer and stormwater surcharge rates to levels adequate for repair and maintenance.
- Support prudent ways to encourage reduction of inflow into the sewers.
- Encourage low impact development.

Transportation

- Continue collaboration with Newton Safe Sidewalks and the Mayor's Transportation Advisory Committee.
- Begin education on urban transportation planning.

Housing

- Work with UCHAN and other housing organizations in the City in support of increasing the stock of affordable housing in Newton as well as advocating for projects that promise good development in Newton.
- Work to promote the passage of a docket item that changes the number of square feet per unit dwelling required in our mixed-use districts (Needham Street) from 10,000 - which makes the inclusion of residential units improbable - to 1,200, which is in keeping with our other business districts and would make residential development in those districts feasible.

Municipal Finance

No committee in place for planning purposes.

2011 Green Decade Environmental Speaker Series

Film: "The Work of 1000"

Screening followed by panel with
Fitchburg Mayor Lisa Wong
CRWA's Bob Zimmerman and Rita Barron.

Monday, February 28, 2011 7:00 pm
Newton Free Library, Druker Auditorium

Join us for this screening of "The Work of 1000," which focuses on noted environmentalist Marion Stoddart, who began as a member of the local League of Women Voters, and became the force that brought the horribly polluted Nashua River back from the abyss. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion on leadership with Fitchburg Mayor Lisa Wong, Charles River Watershed's Bob Zimmerman, moderated by Lois Levin, LWVN member. Mayor Setti Warren will introduce the film, which illustrates that collaboration among environmental advocates and local government leaders is essential to protecting our natural resources and mitigating climate change.

Tea will be served at this event; please bring your own mug!

Co-sponsored by LWVN.

**Public Meeting on the Mixed-Use Task Force Amendment to
Newton's Comprehensive Plan**

By Leslie Burg

In June 2010, Mayor Setti Warren formed a Task Force to develop an amendment to Newton's 2007 Comprehensive Plan concerning mixed-use development in the City.

Mixed use projects usually include some combination of residential, retail, and business development, and can create wonderful places in which to work, live, shop, recreate, or visit. Such developments can epitomize "smart growth" and add vibrancy and interest to a community.

The Plan amendment articulates how mixed use centers should be located, programmed, and designed, with discussions about design, access and transportation, housing and finance, all in a mixed-use context. Most innovative is the process the amendment sets out for an early, collaborative review of potential impacts that would include all major stakeholders -- the City, the developer, and the community. The latter includes neighbors who are directly affected and interested residents from the broader community. Early collaborative impact review enables all voices to be heard in a non-adversarial, informed process that gives the community a role in shaping a proposed development. Nothing similar currently exists in Newton.

The Planning and Development Board will hold a public meeting on Thursday, February 24, at 7:30pm, at the Senior Center (345 Walnut St, Newtonville) to present the Mixed-Use Task Force amendment to Newton's Comprehensive Plan. After learning about the amendment, the program is designed to give residents an opportunity to express their views through participation in small group topic discussions about how to make the collaborative process most effective.

LWVN CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- | | | | |
|------------------|---|------------------|--|
| 9 th | Wed., 11:30am-1:30pm, LWVN Topic Meeting: Local Program Planning , NewTV, 23 Needham St. | 18 th | Fri., 9:00 am, LWVN Environmental Issues Committee meeting, Lucia Dolan's house. |
| 10 th | Thurs., 9:45-noon, LWVN Archives Morning , First Baptist Church Basement, Newton Centre. * | 24 th | Thurs., 9:45-noon, LWVN Archives Morning , First Baptist Church Basement, Newton Centre.* |
| 10 th | Thurs., 7:00pm-9:00pm, LWVN Topic Meeting: Local Program Planning , NewTV, 23 Needham St. | 28 th | Mon., 7-9:00pm, Green Decade 2011 Environmental Speaker Series Film Screening: "The Work of 1000," Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library. |
| 16 th | Wed., 9:45-noon, LWVN Archives Morning , First Baptist Church Basement, Newton Centre. * | | <i>* Please call Linda Morrison at 617-332-6539 if you are planning to attend.</i> |

→ *Don't forget to check our online calendar for any late-breaking changes!*

Keep up with the workings of the Board of Aldermen!

Read the *LWVN Docket Digest*, available each week at www.lwvnewton.org.

League of Women Voters of Newton

P O Box 610207
Newton, MA 02461
617-383-4598
www.lwvnewton.org
info@lwvnewton.org

WHAT'S INSIDE

League Program Planning.....	1
Sidewalk Snow Ordinance Update.....	1
Topic Meeting: Program Planning	2
Letter from the Leadership	3
Program Proposals for 2011-2012	4
Green Decade Film: "The Work of 1000"	5
Mixed-Use Task Force	5