
League of Women Voters of Newton

Newsletter



Volume 20, Issue 2

visit us online at www.lwvnewton.org

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LWVN CALENDAR

[Click here to visit the LWVN's Calendar Page for details.](#)

Thursday, May 1, 7:30pm

ABCs of Zoning Relief for Housing Developments in Newton

Friday, May 9, 4:00pm

Environmental Issues Committee Meeting

Saturday, May 10, 10:00am

LWVMA Council - "Civility in Politics: Challenge to Good Government" at [Framingham State University](#).

Thursday, May 15, 7:30pm

LWVN Board Meeting

Sunday, May 18

LWVMA Day at Fenway Park

Thursday, May 22, 6:00pm

LWVN Annual Meeting

Friday, June 6-10

LWVUS National Convention, Dallas TX

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

<http://www.lwvnewton.org/calendar/>

→ Find us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/lwvnewton

Keep up with the workings of the Board of Aldermen!

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

Letter from the president

by Sue Flicop

Dear fellow LWVN members:

As we wrap up this year and look forward to a new Board and new events for 2014-15, I want to thank everyone who has volunteered in some way, whether it's been attending meetings and providing advice on LWVN activities, spending time at public events to represent the League, advocating for League positions, or planning meetings and forums. As a volunteer-based organization, LWVN absolutely needs your support and help to accomplish its mission each and every year.

We are so lucky in Newton that the League has many amazing and dedicated members—men and women who are deeply caring about the community and about issues that affect everyone. What I truly value most about the League is its generality; it is not dedicated to one particular subject that it prioritizes above all others. I appreciate that the League takes a bigger view of projects, proposals and ideas, looking at all the pros and cons, weighing them in equal measure and in response to current and future community needs. To me, this is the important role that the League plays in the community—it brings value to Newton and respect to the League.

While we are already planning events and forums for next year, we still need to wrap up work that has been ongoing. To that end, the Transportation Committee presented their research at the recent membership meeting, in support of concurrence with two proposed transportation policies. Unfortunately, we did not have the 25 members required by LWVN by-laws, and so this matter will be proposed and voted on at the Annual Meeting. Many thanks to Lois Levin, Andreae Downs and Alicia Bowman for their hard work on the presentation and the project.

In other news:

- LWVN archives will soon be housed at the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, thanks to the efforts of Linda Morrison and Ann Grantham. The library houses LWVMA archives, as well as those of several other Massachusetts Leagues.
- Thanks as well to Jo Corro, Bonnie Carter and Sheila Shulman for their efforts in pulling together mountains of material for the national LWV study on agriculture. The two meetings on the topic were well-attended and very interesting.
- Unfortunately, the League Day on the Hill for LWVMA had to be cancelled due to snow. Jo Corro and Lynn Scheller had worked with Deb Linder at Newton South High School to bring 42 South students to the event and to lunch with our state delegation afterwards. Sadly none of this happened, but we hope that all their hard work will come to fruition at next year's Day on the Hill.
- Looking forward to June, LWVN will sponsor a Civics Bee at Brown Middle School. Look for more info to come!
- Finally, planning for our Annual Meeting is underway. The meeting will be on Thursday, May 22nd at 6 p.m. Look for your invitation in the mail shortly and more information to come online.

Again, a heartfelt thanks to all of you who worked so hard this year. I look forward to seeing you all at Annual Meeting!

In League,

Sue Flicop

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The following is not an LWV meeting, but it is of possible interest!

What's a 40B? Find out May 1st!

The ABCs of Zoning Relief for Housing Developments in Newton: *A Residents' Guide to How Developers get Permits and how the Community can have its Say*

Thursday, May 1

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Newton City Hall

War Memorial Auditorium

- Ever wonder how real estate developers obtain permits for housing developments in Newton?
- Ever wonder what opportunities there are for community engagement?
- Would you like someone to demystify for you the basic process and some of the jargon – “*Special Permit Process*”, “*40B*”, “*Friendly 40B*”, “*ZBA*”, “*Local Initiative Program*”, “*Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance*”, “*SHI*” and “*HAC*”?

The Waban Area Council is pleased to organize an educational session on permitting for housing developments under Mass. Ch. 40B or Newton’s Special Permit laws. Come learn about the steps in the process and the opportunities for community engagement along the way. This educational session will consist of a panel presentation featuring housing officials from the City of Newton and other public officials and will be moderated by a Waban neighbor.

Panelists:

- Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development
- James Freas, Chief Planner, Long Range Planning
- Alderman Marcia Johnson, Chair of Zoning & Planning Committee
- Brooke Lipsitt, Zoning Board of Appeals
- Kathy Winters, Moderator, Neighbor and Member of the Waban Area Council

Sponsored by the Waban Area Council, www.wabanareacouncil.com

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on May 21

The annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast this year is on May 21 at 7:30 am at Boston College. The League has a table for its members, and we still have open seats. If you would like to attend, please contact info@lwvnewton.org or call our phone number, 617-383-4598, and it's on a first come, first served basis.

The Week of Earth Day April 22

Earth Day April 22 – it has come and gone, but the LWVMA wants us to send an email to the EPA to support carbon limits for new power plants. If you missed it, visit their “Take Action” at:

<http://hq-salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/5950/t/0/blastContent.jsp?email_blast_KEY=162939>.

Newton's "Recycle Sticker Project"

<p>Accepted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All paper & cardboard (not soiled with food)• Glass bottles & jars• Metal & aluminum cans, pie plates, trays, foil• Milk & juice cartons & juice boxes• Plastic bottles and food tubs• Detergent, shampoo & similar bottles <p>Thank you from the City of Newton, Waste Management, Whole Foods Market & Green Decade Newton</p>	<p>NOT Accepted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plastic bags – these jam the recycling processing equipment; bring back to the grocery store instead• Styrofoam, CFL light bulbs, rigid plastics (non-bottle) – take these to the Recycling Depot at Rumford Ave• Textiles – place in donation collection containers• Food scraps – compost these, if possible
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PEEL OFF & PLACE ON GREEN CART

Green Decade Newton, in collaboration with the City of Newton Department of Public Works, is seeking numerous volunteers (16 years and older) to walk in pairs around Newton's neighborhoods, while putting “recycling education stickers” onto all residential green bins during the spring and summer months. Maps will be provided and work will be conducted primarily in the morning hours. An image of the sticker is attached.

Please contact <info@greendecade.org> to volunteer for your day in the sun!



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