



The League of Women Voters Of Weston

January, 2010

No. 123

OPENING MESSAGE

Katty Chace

League of Women Voters of Weston

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This LWV/Weston Newsletter is published monthly except July and August. The LWV is a nonpartisan political organization open to all citizens of voting age.

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It seems difficult these days to focus on anything except the disaster in Haiti. The devastation to the infrastructure makes it almost impossible for the rescuers and the medical people who are starting to trickle in to achieve their mission of serving the trapped and the injured. Reading the paper and listening to the radio and television seems unbearable, but focusing on normal life when so many are suffering seem disrespectful. Our board member Cat Laine, who is married to Weston native Peter Haas, and works with him at AIDG (Appropriate Infrastructure Development Group) is now in Haiti, where she spends much of her time under normal circumstances. She is safe, but her brother is among the missing. You can see an interview with her on Youtube (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYPZmsV_3Tc) and read the transcript of that interview elsewhere in this Bulletin. Our thoughts are with Cat, and we wish her a happy resolution to her fears.

We had a productive coffee hour last Saturday with Senator Susan Fargo and Representative Alice Peisch. They spoke of their pleasure with bills recently passed on consolidating transportation agencies and reforming the education structure. We also dwelt on the budget shortfall and the possibility of a casino proposal coming forth, now that the governor, the speaker of the House and the Senate president all support the concept. Peisch said that while the Chapter 70 funds to towns and cities may have to be cut in the next budget cycle, Weston and Wellesley get so little state aid that we would be less affected than most municipalities.

The courts handed down a decision on the Regis College proposal last week. You can find elsewhere in this Bulletin a press release from the neighborhood group that had been battling the proposed development of 330 units of "aging in place" units for the elderly.

We are continuing to make plans for our "Lyme Time" program regarding the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease. Barbara Fullerton, our environmental expert, has been engaging a panel that will include Constance Bean, former member of the Wayland Board of Health and author of a book on Lyme, Corinne Ertel, M.D., Weston pediatrician, and, hopefully, a member of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2 at 7:30 pm at the Amy Potter Room at the Middle School. We will be publicizing it widely, focusing on the school population, including pre-schools, garden clubs and medical offices in town. Lyme disease seems to be a growing problem in this area, and we expect widespread interest.

Our Second Annual Civics Bee with Wayland and Sudbury is materializing. Each town will put forth a

team of nine, including 3 adults, 3 middle-schoolers and 3 high-schoolers to answer questions about the Constitution, including the Bill of Rights and the Amendments. This year we will expand the scope to include material on state government, in light of the fact that this is a gubernatorial election year. Former School Committee member Tony Nolan has agreed to participate on Weston's team this year. If you would like to sign on, or suggest someone else whom you think would enjoy competing, please contact me (tackc@aol.com). The Civics Bee is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, March 21 from 2-4:30 at the Cafetorium at Country School.

We need to give the National League our final membership head count by February 1st, so please re-enlist this week if you haven't yet paid your dues (by sending \$55 to Rochelle Nemrow at 61 Beaver Road).

The League of Women Voters of Weston
wishes to extend sincere thanks to the following Friends
and Sponsors who have generously given their support to our work.

**Coldwell Banker Residential
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426 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA

**Daryl Christopher Salon
and Day Spa**
781 890 9211
at HealthPoint
84o Winter Street, Waltham, MA

Florentine Frames
781 647 1249
478 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA

The Gift Gallery
781 894 1633
464 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA

Ogilvie's
781 894 1265
39 Warren Avenue, Weston, MA

Omni Foods Supermarkets
781 894 0675
21 Center Street, Weston, MA

Weston Travel Service
781 891 9110
483 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA

CALENDAR
JANUARY – MARCH 2010

January 19, 2010, Tuesday.....	U.S. Senatorial Election
Methodist Church, St. Peter's and	
St. Demetrios churches	
February 9, Tuesday.....	LWVW Board Meeting
9:15 A.M., 56 Bogle St.	
(Kathy Rousseau, 781- 235-6559)	
March 2, Tuesday.....	Lyme Time program on
7:30 P.M., Weston Middle School	Prevention, Diagnosis
Amy Potter Room	and Treatment of
	Lyme Disease
March 8, Monday.....	Town Caucus
7:30 P.M., Weston Town Hall	
Auditorium	
March 9, Tuesday.....	LWVW Board Meeting
9:15 A.M., Location TBA	
March 21, Sunday.....	Civics Bee with
2:00 – 4:30 P.M.	Wayland and Sudbury
Country School Cafetorium	Leagues

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC)

is welcoming applications for funding of eligible projects in FY11. The CPC will make recommendations for funding of selected projects at the Annual Town Meeting on May 10, 2010. The deadline for applications is Monday, February 1, 2010. Please contact the CPC Administrator, Tracey Lembo, at 781 893-7320, ext. 338 for additional information, including guidelines and submission forms.

The next CPC Meeting is scheduled on Monday, January 25th at 7:30 at Town Hall.

WHEN IT'S TIME FOR ACTION

President

President Barack H. Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20510
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

U.S. Senators

- The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
2400 JFK Building
Boston, MA 02203

(617)565-3170
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202)224-4543
senator@kennedy.senate.gov

- The Honorable John F. Kerry
One Bowdin Square, Tenth Floor
Boston, MA 02114
(617)565-8519
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202)224-2742
E-mail: john_kerry@kerry.senate.gov

U.S. Representative 7th District

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
(781)396-2900
(202)225-2836
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202)225-2836
<http://www.house.gov/markey>

Governor

Governor Deval Patrick
Office of the Governor
State House, Room 360
Boston MA 02133
(617)727-3600
E-mail: Goffice@state.ma.us

State Senator 5th Middlesex District

The Honorable Susan Fargo
(617)722-1572
State House, Room 505
Boston MA 02133-1054
E-mail: sfargo@senate.state.ma.us
Home: (781) 259-9623

State Representative 4th Norfolk District

The Honorable Alice Hanlon Peisch
(617)722-2320
(781)237-4719
State House, Room 26
Boston MA 02133-1054
E-mail: rep.alicepeisch@hou.state.ma.us

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Kathleen Rousseau
Secretary

The board met on January 12 at the home of Beth Keane.

Treasurer's Report – We are keeping our heads above water thanks to Robin Coutts' fund-raising efforts; three full-page advertisers and four friends. Our dues received are close to what was budgeted.

Coffee Hour: January 9 – Alice Peisch and Susan Fargo focused on the education and transportation bills that were passed this year. Alice was pleased to get in a clause inserted into the transportation bill that would reserve the money from tolls for use only on the road on which they are collected. Pat Mohiuddin presented the court decision on the Regis development project to the group.

Lyme Disease Forum (Lyme Time) – Amy Potter Center on Tuesday, March 2. Corinne Ertel, a local pediatrician, and Constance Bean will speak. We will try to get someone from the Massachusetts Public Health department to take part. We will try to advertise through the garden clubs and schools. Flyers might be put up in doctor's offices. Katherine will produce a flyer. The nurses in all the local schools should be contacted. We should ask for it to be taped for local cable TV.

New members after February will have memberships going until June 2011.

Election day is January 19. Absentee voting at the Town Hall is closed at 5:00 p.m. Friday. We should inform our friends about the election and who the candidates are. Beth Keane wrote up a note to send. It would be a good idea to do this in the future as part of our educational program.

Civics Bee – Tony Nolan has agreed to be a member of the adult team; we need two more members.

(advertisement)



Health is Beauty

DARYL CHRISTOPHER SALON AND DAY SPA

A Note to the members of the League of Women Voters of Weston

From the very beginning, December 19th, 1979, Daryl Christopher has had one focus, to help our clients balance health and beauty. As pioneers in providing personalized services using products containing natural and organic ingredients, we were the first salon in Massachusetts recognized by the American Cancer Society for being smoke-free, aerosol-free and stress-free, awarded at the Massachusetts Statehouse.

We continue our quest to educate our clients on the importance for building a strong immune system by knowing the ingredients that we apply to our skin, our largest living organ, our scalp included. *When lipsticks are applied to the lips, the toxicity from its preservatives enters into our system within 5 seconds attacking our immune system*.

Making small changes in product choices can make a large difference in the quality of our life.

At Daryl Christopher, we enhance hair, skin, body and nails with non toxic products. Hair color, our specialty, is imported from Italy and contains 7 natural ingredients, our skincare line for facials, body treatments and body massage is organic, imported from Australia, our make-up is pure mineral to heal skin, even our nail polish is vegan, and non toxic. Our product choices are selected to promote good health, combined with a very talented award winning team of salon and spa professionals, we work together to help you to feel and look your best self yet.

We invite you to visit us on the web at www.dchristopher.com

Thank you,
Angela Guido, Owner

We support the fine work of the League of Women Voters of Weston

** Toxicity in cosmetics and personal care products has been researched by Horst Rechelbacher, founder of Aveda and Intelligent Nutrients. This information was presented to the Health & Beauty Association Global Expo conference in NYC*

AN EYEWITNESS REPORT FROM HAITI

By the time this Bulletin reaches you, the following update will be several days old, but this is a unique eyewitness report from Catherine (Cat) Lainé, a Haitian-American and Board member of our own Weston League. She works alongside her husband Peter Haas, of Weston, the founder of [AIDG](#) (Appropriate Infrastructure Development Group), an organization that has made a significant difference to families in Haiti and other developing countries.

Cat was in Haiti with AIDG when the earthquake struck, and her brother is among the missing in Port-au-Prince. What follows is an update from the AIDG team, and an interview with Cat (accompanied by a transcript, as the interview itself may be hard to understand). Click on the link to play the video.

January 15, 2010

Dear AIDG Friends,

Here is a brief update on our activities in Haiti.

We have established an operations center in Cap-Haïtien with our partner SOIL to serve as a hub for coordinating volunteer efforts and supplies coming into the country, especially those coming in through the port of Cap-Haïtien and the Dominican Republic (one of the few open routes into Haiti these days).

Our presence in the north, away from the destruction zone, has allowed our communication and logistic abilities to continue relatively intact, which has been extremely useful in coordinating efforts on the ground with other partners and aid groups.

As an immediate priority, we are recruiting and mobilizing teams of engineers and other technical experts to directly support relief efforts of key partners. As I write this, we are preparing to send our first teams of engineers into Haiti to support the medical response efforts of Partners in Health, an organization that, as we previously noted, is having a significant impact here. We are particularly interested at this moment in placing French or Creole speaking civil and structural engineers. If you are, or know, an engineer that might be interested in volunteering in Haiti, please send a resume or CV to helphaiti@aidg.org.

AIDG will also be helping to coordinate the distribution of a large number of cookstoves in affected areas. Even before this week's disaster, AIDG was in discussions with several leading stove groups (including Prakti Design, WorldStove, and Trees Water People), and in fact had been planning to host these groups at a conference in Cap-Haïtien next week to strengthen our collaboration in Haiti.

Our focus has obviously shifted in the past couple days, and the group is now mobilizing very quickly to bring in as many stoves as possible, while at the same time developing local manufacturing capacity.

Aside from these immediate response priorities, we are also already hard at work developing a longer term strategy for supporting reconstruction efforts in Haiti, including a collaboration with our friends Architecture for Humanity to promote the development of low cost earthquake resistant housing. More details on this will follow in the coming weeks.

The AIDG Team
Cap-Haïtien, Haiti

P.S. Here is some AIDG media coverage from this week that you will find interesting:



AIDG's Catherine Laine, interviewed live from Haiti by Boing Boing's Xenii Jardin
<http://www.boingboing.net/2010/01/15/haiti-earthquake-upd.html>

COFFEE HOUR Barbara Fullerton

The LWV welcomed Senator Susan Fargo and Representative Alice Peisch to the monthly coffee hour on Sat., Jan. 9, 2010, where they reported on current issues at the Massachusetts State House.



The state transportation system and education in the state were the two major topics addressed by the legislators. Senator Fargo described the consolidation of all of the transportation services into one transportation department. The new Department of Transportation (DOT) includes the divisions of Highway, Transit, Aeronautics, and the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The Mass Turnpike Authority was folded into the Highway Division. Except for the Tobin Bridge, which became part of the DOT on Jan. 1, 2010, Massport will remain an independent agency, because of long-term bond issues. The main problem in the merger of the different agencies was that of unifying all of the health and pension plans for the different unions.

One point in the new transportation bill was for the tolls raised on the Mass Turnpike to be spent only on the maintenance of the Turnpike, and not on other roads. This has long been a complaint of Massachusetts citizens who use the western portion of the turnpike and whose tolls then went to fund the "Big Dig". The recent increase in the sales tax will cover some of the debt of the MBTA; this will also help the commuter rail service. Rep. Peisch noted that although many people opposed the proposal of the additional gas tax, which was ultimately dropped, the

increase in general sales tax could actually end up costing people more money.

Both Sen. Fargo and Rep. Peisch were happy about the education bill, which was designed to narrow the achievement gap by increasing the autonomy of superintendents and principals in making policy decisions for their schools, and cutting down the red tape in their implementation. The bill also allowed the increase in the number of charter schools in lower performing school systems. Charter schools are designed to be more innovative than can the general public schools, and to test new curriculum. The funding for the charter schools is controversial, however, since money for each student is taken from the school district in which the student resides, thereby further weakening the public school. The problem voiced by Sen. Fargo was that the administration of the charter schools and their financial expenditures are not open to scrutiny as they would be in a public school.

Gambling at racetracks and casinos may be coming up again as a source of revenue, according to Rep. Peisch, since the governor, the Senate president, and House speaker are all in favor. It is still not clear, however, whether this would yield much revenue in the depressed economy, and Sen. Fargo questioned whether the income that was generated in the state would actually stay here. She stated our economy is bolstered in large part by the state historical and cultural strengths, which have not received enough attention.



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of the
League of
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UPDATE ON REGIS COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT

Editor's Note: Opinions expressed in the following press release, issued by the "Stop Regis Overdevelopment" group (SRO), do not reflect or represent the views of the League of Women Voters of Weston.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --- January 8, 2010

LAND COURT RULES AGAINST REGIS COLLEGE WELLESLEY STREET PROJECT

Massachusetts Land Court Judge Alexander H. Sands III has issued a Summary Judgment ruling that the dominant purpose of the Regis College proposed Aging-in-Place project on a 30-acre parcel of land across from its campus on Wellesley Street is not an educational purpose protected under the Dover Amendment, and cannot circumvent Town of Weston Zoning regulations. The decision effectively bars Regis from pursuing the proposed development.

Nearly five years ago, Regis revealed its intention to build an immense, eight building, 362 unit, 750,000 square foot complex on its property, claiming that it would be an educational use and, therefore, not subject to Weston Zoning. The plan was strongly criticized and opposed by an overwhelming percentage of Weston residents and government officials.

In a 2005 decision, the Weston Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) denied Regis the zoning variances that would have been required to build the project. Regis appealed the ruling to the Land Court and also sought a ruling that it was exempt from Town zoning requirements under the Dover Amendment to the state Zoning Act. SRO members, who were abutters to the College, were granted the right by the Court to intervene in the litigation. With broad community financial support, a multi-year legal battle was pursued between Regis, the Town, and the SRO-support abutters.

The Land Court decision, issued on January 4, denied Regis College the right to build the Aging-in-Place facility, concluding that the concept of what is "educational" is broad but not infinitely elastic, and properly found that Regis's project stretched that concept beyond the breaking point. The undisputed facts showed that any educational components of the project were subordinate to – and dwarfed by -- the College's plan to develop elderly housing that would serve as a major source of revenue.

The Court squarely rejected Regis's argument that zoning protection under the Dover Amendment is warranted if a proposed use has some element of educational use. The Court recognized that education must be the "primary and dominant" purpose of a proposed use in order for that use to obtain protection under the Dover Amendment. In doing so, the Court relied on long-established and controlling legal precedent.

Commenting on the Court holding, SRO Steering Committee spokesman and Intervenor, Arnold Zenker, said that "from the outset, we believed this was the wrong project in the wrong place for the wrong reasons. It was clearly not an educational use of the vacant land as Regis insisted, but, instead, a blatant attempt to maximize its commercial value by trying to circumvent Wellesley Street single-family-use zoning. We are extremely gratified that Judge Sands concurred with our position, writing in his

opinion that 'the project's educational component seems subordinate to Regis's desire to provide elderly housing and/or a source of revenue for Regis.' Our battle was never against Regis College, but against an ill conceived, flawed real estate development plan."

The Land Court decision marked the culmination of a lengthy, complicated, and contentious battle at the trial court level between the opposing parties. "Hopefully," said SRO member, Bob

Hedges, "this is the end of it. Regis can now return to its core educational mission, and we, the people of Weston, can get on with our lives, confident that our town's environment and rural character will not be disrupted by this misguided, over-sized, and inappropriate development project."

CONTACTS:

Arnold Zenker -781-891-0313

Bob Hedges---781-899-8984

NEWS FROM THE CASE ESTATES

Notice of Case Estates Remediation Meeting: Thursday, December 17th

The following e-mail was received from the Town Manager's office:

From: "Zeytoonjian, Lisbeth"

Date: January 12, 2010 9:31:13 AM EST

Subject: Notice from Weston Town Manager- Harvard Reps Presentation/Alternative Remediation Concept at Town Hall on Thurs., Jan. 28, 7:00 p.m.

On Thursday, January 28, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall lower level conference room, representatives from Harvard will again present a proposed alternative remediation concept for contamination on the Case Estates land.

Donna S. VanderClock

Town Manager

Town of Weston

P.O. Box 378

Weston, MA 02493

781-893-7320, ext. 305

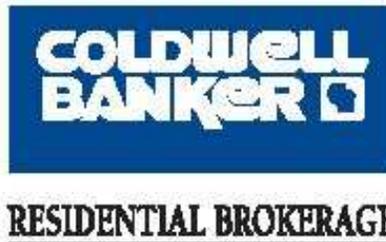
781-891-3697 (fax)

Town website: www.weston.org

Please look at the proposal Harvard presented on the town web site:

<http://weston.govoffice.com/vertical/Sites/%7B264E11B6-4A4A-4EC0-B631-35FE907B479E%7D/uploads/%7B2591212B-0A2C-46CF-96A1-B918E01998BF%7D.PDF>

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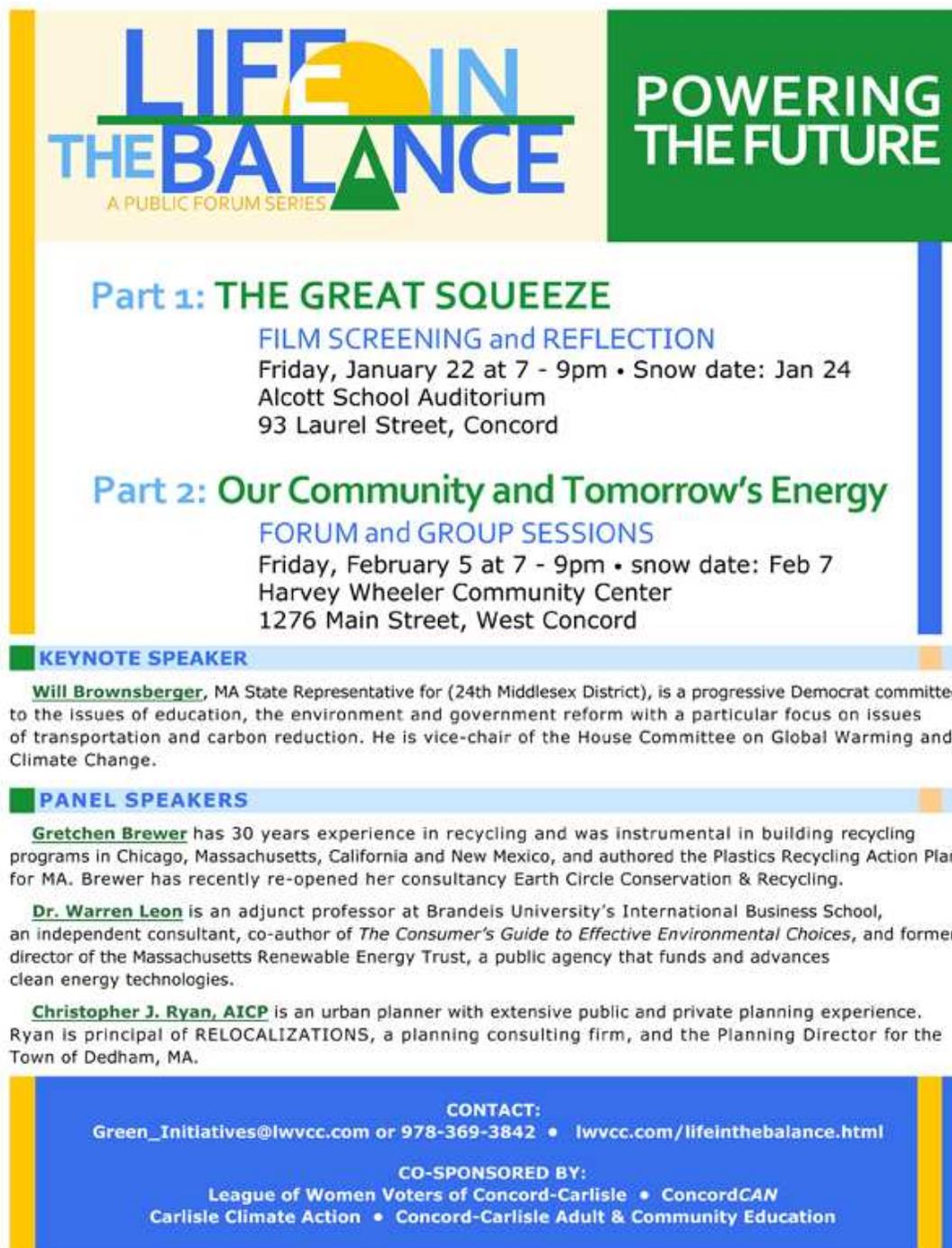
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THE CONCORD-CARLISLE LWV

invites us to attend their "Powering the Future" programs on January 22 and February 5.



LIFE IN THE BALANCE
A PUBLIC FORUM SERIES

POWERING THE FUTURE

Part 1: THE GREAT SQUEEZE
FILM SCREENING and REFLECTION
Friday, January 22 at 7 - 9pm • Snow date: Jan 24
Alcott School Auditorium
93 Laurel Street, Concord

Part 2: Our Community and Tomorrow's Energy
FORUM and GROUP SESSIONS
Friday, February 5 at 7 - 9pm • snow date: Feb 7
Harvey Wheeler Community Center
1276 Main Street, West Concord

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Will Brownsberger, MA State Representative for (24th Middlesex District), is a progressive Democrat committed to the issues of education, the environment and government reform with a particular focus on issues of transportation and carbon reduction. He is vice-chair of the House Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change.

PANEL SPEAKERS

Gretchen Brewer has 30 years experience in recycling and was instrumental in building recycling programs in Chicago, Massachusetts, California and New Mexico, and authored the Plastics Recycling Action Plan for MA. Brewer has recently re-opened her consultancy Earth Circle Conservation & Recycling.

Dr. Warren Leon is an adjunct professor at Brandeis University's International Business School, an independent consultant, co-author of *The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices*, and former director of the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust, a public agency that funds and advances clean energy technologies.

Christopher J. Ryan, AICP is an urban planner with extensive public and private planning experience. Ryan is principal of RELOCALIZATIONS, a planning consulting firm, and the Planning Director for the Town of Dedham, MA.

CONTACT:
Green_Initiatives@lwvcc.com or 978-369-3842 • lwvcc.com/lifeinthebalance.html

CO-SPONSORED BY:
League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle • ConcordCAN
Carlisle Climate Action • Concord-Carlisle Adult & Community Education

For more information: <http://lwvcc.com/lifeinthebalance.html>; Green_Initiatives@lwvcc.com; 978-369-3842. The Life in the Balance series is co-sponsored by LWV of Concord-Carlisle, ConcordCAN, Carlisle Climate Action and C-C Adult & Community Education.

OBSERVER CORPS
Jean Thurston

WESTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

January 13, 2010

1. Austin Cribben – Mr. Cribben met with the Selectmen to ask that a stockade fence in front of his house be repaired. The Selectmen will view the fence, which has been shown to be in the public way.

2. Permanent Building members came to ask that they clarify their instructions as to a report due 1/27. They are asked to determine the cost of repair/renovations necessary to allow the Old Library to be used for office, retail type uses – NOT for a restaurant.

3. Reorganization of Assistant Town Manager position. Town Manager, Donna VanderClock announced that David Williams is leaving to take a position in Framingham. This is a good time to reorganize the position, which will bring the configuration closer to the recommendation of the Committee on Town Government. The current Human Resources Director will become Asst. Town Manager and a Finance Director will be hired.

4. FY11 Recommended Budget & Revenue Projection

Town Manager Donna VanderClock presented the Proposed Budget & Financing plan for FY11. The goals are to deliver current levels of service, to address increased demand for services in certain areas and to plan for the town's future financial stability by adding to reserves. It does

not ask for an override, however there will be requests for exemption of certain items. The budget does not include cost-of-living increases but only those increases under contracts and step increases. Estimated revenue is at an increase of 3.1% due, in part to new construction in town and despite a decrease of over 13% in state aid-cherry sheet.

The budget includes estimated increases of school costs of 1.9% and unclassified (largely health insurance costs) of 6.9% and other lesser amounts in other categories. New budget requests include 2 civilian dispatchers for the fire department, an assistant library director, COA transportation services, electricity increases for the new DPW facility, and a shared Veterans' Services Officer.

\$2.2 million of so-called Free Cash will be used, leaving \$750,000 for emergencies, \$250,000 will be added to the Stabilization Fund. An additional \$200,000 will be added to the Middlesex Retirement stabilization fund and \$60,000 will be put in the Post Employment Benefits reserve.

At this time the town does not know the revenue from State Aid and the costs of Minuteman Voc-Tech assessment, the amount of debt exclusion and new requests.

5. CPA requests are for additional support for the Housing Partnership and for document preservation.

6. Executive Session (exemption 3 – collective bargaining strategy)