



The League of Women Voters Of Weston

March, 2011

No. 135

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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Submit articles to Katherine Wolfthal in
typewritten hard copy or by e-mail to

kate@weichi.com

Our 3rd Annual Civics Bee will take place on Sunday, April 3 at 2:00 pm at the Curtis Middle School at 22 Pratts Mill Road in Sudbury. This year's topics include The Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the Amendments to the Constitution, with special emphasis on the Supreme Court. Part of the fun of the Bee is the multi-age make-up of the teams, each town putting forth a team with three adults, three students from the High School and three from the Middle School. Our adult participants this year are Court Chilton, Ed Coburn and Beth Nolan. Please come out to cheer on Weston's team.

We have scheduled a Coffee Hour at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 9, with the School Committee presenting two important topics that will be on the Town Meeting agenda in May: the plans for the Field School facility and the building of renovated science laboratories at the High School. The event will take place at the High School Media Room (NOT at the Weston Library), so that we can have a tour of the site of the proposed renovations.

The Town Caucus took place at the Town Hall last Monday night. There was only one candidate nominated for each position, so once again we have no contests and therefore will not hold a Candidates' Night this spring. There are, however, several new faces on the slate, including Danielle Black to replace Marianne Rogers on the School Committee, Julie Panagakos filling Diana Coates's seat on the Board of Library Trustees, and David Kominz stepping up to take over the seat on the Board of Health being vacated by Carl Hirsch. In addition, three new people have been nominated to serve as measurers of lumber: Emily Hutchinson, Marianne Rogers and Michael Glynn. Other than that, all the incumbents are renominated for another term.

(continues on Page 3)

**CALENDAR
MARCH – MAY 2011**

March 18, Friday.....	Deadline for submission of Application and Documents for Affordable Housing Lottery
April 3, Sunday..... 2:00 p.m. Curtis Middle School, Pratts Mill Road, Sudbury	Third Annual Civics Bee
April 4, Monday..... 7:00 P.M. Weston Town Hall	Affordable Housing Lottery
April 9, Saturday..... 10:00 A.M. Weston High School Media Room	LWVW Coffee Hour School Committee Plans for Field School and H.S. Science Lab renovations
April 12, Tuesday..... 87 Shady Hill Rd (Barbara Flannery, 781-237-4878)	LWVW Board Meeting All members are welcome.
April 13, Wednesday..... 9:00a.m. – 12:00 State House, Boston	Day on the Hill
April 16-April 24.....	Weston Public Schools Spring Vacation
April 30, Saturday..... 11:00a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Community Room, Weston Public Library	LWVW Coffee Hour Weston Housing Trust, and other Town Meeting topics
May 7, Saturday..... 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Auditorium	Town Elections
May 9, Monday..... 7:30 p.m. Weston High School Auditorium	Annual Town Meeting
May 20-21, Friday and Saturday..... The Publick House, Sturbridge, MA	LWVMA Convention

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 Scott Brown
2400 JFK Building
55 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203
(617)565-3170
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202)224-4543
No e-mail address currently available

- 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: alice.peisch@mahouse.gov

(continued from page 1)

Last weekend, Katherine Wolfthal and I attended the Women's Health conference in Framingham sponsored by the Massachusetts League of Women Voters, as a fundraiser to earn Continuing Education Credits for nurses and social workers. The keynote speaker was Judy Norsigian, whose book "Our Bodies, Ourselves" has been translated into dozens of languages. Her topic was "The Impact of the Media on Women's Health", and one of her concerns was very young women having breast implants. Later, Dr. Cheryl Hamlin, an OB-GYN at Mount Auburn Hospital discussed "Disparities in Health Care: Access Limited by Culture, Language Barriers and Lack of Insurance". She focused on the infant mortality rate among different ethnic groups, including the fact that the rate among Hispanics is lower than among other groups, which she attributes to family support networks. Finally, Georgia Sassen, PhD. and Visiting Scholar at Brandeis spoke on mental health issues for women, emphasizing the importance of relationships in women's lives. Altogether, a very worthwhile and edifying forum.

On Saturday, April 30 at 11:00 we have scheduled another Coffee Hour, this one at the Library Community Room, to address various issues coming up on the Town Meeting warrant, including the creation of a Weston Affordable Housing Trust, a "stretch code" to help the town conserve energy, and other important issues. You can find more information about the Housing Trust and the "stretch code" elsewhere in this Bulletin.



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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.

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464 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA

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781 891 9110
483 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA

2011 CIVICS BEE

The date is fast approaching for the 3rd Annual Civics Bee between Weston, Wayland and Sudbury, to take place on Sunday, April 3 at 2:00 in Sudbury. Each team will consist of nine members. Court Chilton, Ed Coburn and Beth Nolan will be the adults on the Weston team. Social Studies teachers at Weston High School and Weston Middle School have selected students to complete the team. This event enables kids and adults to work together as equals, and fosters healthy competition among the three towns. This year's emphasis will be on the Supreme court, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The Weston Historical Society invites you to



Weston Public Library by Ray Doyle, early 1990s

An Evening with the Artists

featuring

**Ray Doyle Larry Grob
Deb Hickey Gene Mackles Jack Richardson**

Thursday, March 24
7:15 pm

Weston Public Library Community Room

In conjunction with the exhibition *Artists Look at Weston: Works from the Collection of the Weston Historical Society*
On display at the Weston Public Library through March 29

It's March

Welcome Spring

with a "NEW" treat.



After a long snowy winter
treat yourself to a new service,
one that will relax you,
make you feel special
and look amazing.

During the month of March,
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That can be used toward any services or products.
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PROPOSED WESTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

Affordable Housing in Weston

More moderate and affordable housing is necessary in Weston to accommodate the needs of Town employees, elderly residents, and others of moderate or limited means, who would like to remain in or become part of our community.

Weston Housing Partnership

In 2004, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) made the development of affordable and moderately priced ownership and rental housing a key priority for Weston. In 2008, the BOS appointed a Weston Housing Partnership (the Partnership), consisting of Town volunteers*, to create a strategic plan for increasing affordable housing, develop priorities and criteria for use in evaluating affordable housing proposals, and prepare for authorization by Town Meeting of a proposed Weston Affordable Housing Trust Fund (the Housing Trust).

The Partnership has proposed the creation of a Weston Affordable Housing Trust and developed *Priorities and Criteria* for affordable housing, which have been which have been unanimously endorsed by the BOS. This brochure has been prepared for the Weston community in anticipation of a proposal to be considered at the May 2011 Town meeting.

Purpose of the Housing Trust

The Massachusetts Municipal Affordable Housing Act (M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec. 55C, the Act), enacted in December 2004, authorizes the establishment, by local vote, of independent trust funds “to provide for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in municipalities for the benefit of low and moderate income households”. The Trust Fund

proposed by the Partnership will be able to take initiatives, respond to market opportunities and otherwise implement strategies, with advice from the BOS, the Partnership, and others, to increase affordable housing in Weston in a manner consistent with the Town’s interests.



Community Preservation funds are expected to be the principal funding source for the Housing Trust. The Trust will have authority to accept gifts, but the Town will retain overall control of Town funding for affordable housing through votes at Town Meetings. Affordable housing developments proposed or approved by the Housing Trust will continue to be subject to the same approval and permitting requirements that currently apply.

Operation of the Housing Trust

Trustees of the Housing Trust will be empowered to purchase or acquire and to lease, sell or transfer real or personal property, and, if necessary, borrow funds for those purposes. They will act for the Trust, and may hire staff to manage property. Meetings of the Housing Trust will be open to the public, and the Trustees will advise the Selectmen before making any significant financial commitment.

The Act requires at least five Trustees, including one Selectman. The BOS will appoint other individuals with background or interest in affordable housing to serve as Trustees. The Trustees will establish annual action plans with priorities and goals, and will comply with the *Priorities and Criteria* that have been proposed by the Partnership and approved by the BOS.

What You Can Do

Please attend information sessions to be scheduled for discussion of the proposed Housing

Trust and please vote at the May 2011 Town Meeting.

More information about the Housing Partnership and Housing Trust will be available on the Town

website, or at Town Hall through Noreen Stockman at 781-786-6062

[\(stockman.n@westonmass.org\)](mailto:stockman.n@westonmass.org)

Individuals interested in serving as Trustees of the Housing Trust may contact Noreen Stockman.



Current members of the Partnership are Hugh Jones, Chair, Steven Charlip, Polly Dickson, Shirley Dolans, Bill Kelsey, Rev. Steve Melius, Thalia (Buzzy) Price, Sarah Rhatigan and Nick Timperio.

* owned by Weston Affordable Housing Foundation, Inc.

March 2011



WESTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOUNDATION, Inc. announces:

Lottery for Rental of Two Affordable 3-bedroom Units

Important dates:

Wednesday, 9 March, 2011, 7:00 pm

Application Workshop
Weston Town Hall
11 Town House Road
Weston, MA

Friday, 18 March, 2011

Application and supporting documents must be postmarked by this date.

Monday, 4 April, 2011, 7:00 pm

Lottery
Weston Town Hall
11 Town House Road
Weston, MA

This is a newly constructed duplex at 23 - 25 Pine Street ready for occupancy. Rental only. Income limits and other restrictions apply. Please take an Application and Information Packet. Copies are available at the Weston Town Hall and the Weston Public Library.

If you have any questions, please call: 781-304-4544 and leave a message.

The background of the entire page is a stylized American flag. The top portion features horizontal stripes, while the rest of the page is filled with a pattern of white stars of varying sizes. The text is centered and set against this starry background.

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of the
League of
Women Voters.***

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21 Center Street,
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The League of Women Voters of Boston

cordially invites you to join us

March 23, 2011

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

University of Massachusetts Boston

100 William T. Morrissey

Boston, MA

for

Run, Women, Run!

*Encouraging women to run for elective office
in local, state and county government.*

Moderator

Dr. Carol Hardy-Fanta, Director,
The Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy

Panelists:

Former Mayor and City Councilor E. Denise Simmons, Cambridge
State Senator Katherine Clark, Melrose
Sheriff Andrea Cabral, Suffolk County
Representative Gloria Fox, Suffolk County, Boston

Closing remarks

Associate Professor Reyes Coll-Tellechea, Hispanic Studies.
University of Massachusetts Boston

Sponsored by:

The Hispanic Studies Program, University of Massachusetts Boston

League of Women Voters of Boston

The Women's Studies Program, University of Massachusetts Boston

The Center for Women in Politics and Policy

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WWW.UMASS Boston: Parking and Transportation
Parking at Beacons Lot

STRETCH CODE ON TOWN MEETING WARRANT

A warrant article coming up at Town Meeting calls for acceptance of the Stretch Code, an upgraded building code required for Weston to become a Green Community. Beefing up our construction --and especially insulation-- requirements for new homes and significant renovations or additions assures long term savings for home owners, more comfortable houses, and a softer carbon footprint, according to Roy Chatalbash, a LEED accredited professional.

The Massachusetts Green Communities Act of 2008 requires the MA Board of Building Regulations & Standards (BBRS) to revise the State's building energy code every three years. That means our building codes will be upgraded

periodically in any case, especially for energy efficiency.

Massachusetts recently adopted the 2009 version of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) effective 2/5/11 for commercial and 7/1/11 for residential buildings. The Stretch Code is an optional amendment to this base code which calls for 20% or greater energy efficiency.

Adopting the code also meets one qualification for state grants we can use to boost the efficiency of our school and municipal buildings.

The Weston Climate Group vigorously endorses this code, noting that many communities, large and small, have already signed on.

Messages from the Town

Please note that most Town and School Departments have new telephone numbers. The new numbers are posted on the Town's website at www.weston.org.

The Town Moderator, Wendy Spector, has requested publication of the announcements on the following pages.



TOWN OF WESTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION VACANCY

The Town of Weston has one opening on the Conservation Commission to fill a vacancy due to a resignation. The Commission is made up of seven members that meet every other Tuesday evening. The Conservation Commission is responsible for the protection and management of Weston's natural resources and the administration of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. While the Commission is responsible for a substantial amount of conservation land in Town, private organizations such as Land's Sake, Inc. and the Weston Forest and Trail Association provide significant assistance in maintaining this land.

Interested residents should email a letter of interest by April 20, 2011 to selectmen@westonmass.org or by mail to the Board of Selectmen, P.O. Box 378, Weston, MA 02493.



TOWN OF WESTON

Public Transportation Advisory Committee

The Board of Selectmen would like to hear from Weston residents wishing to serve on the Town's newly created Public Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC). This Committee is tasked with evaluating current services, identifying opportunities and unmet needs, and providing recommendations to the Board of Selectmen, Weston's MBTA Advisory Board Representative, and Weston's Metro-West Regional Transit Authority Representative.

The PTAC shall consist of at least five Weston residents with an interest in public transportation. The Town's MBTA Advisory Board Representative and MWRTA Board Member shall both serve as ex-officio members of the committee. The committee should report at least twice each year to the Board of Selectmen.

Weston residents who would like to be considered should email a letter of interest with background information, to selectmen@westonmass.org or by mail to the Weston Board of Selectmen, Post Office Box 378, Weston, MA 02493 by April 20, 2011.



TOWN OF WESTON

PRESERVATION RESTRICTION COMMITTEE VACANCY

The Town of Weston has two openings on the Preservation Restriction Committee. The Committee is made up of three members who are responsible for advising the Historical Commission on the management of preservation restrictions accepted by the Town of Weston and preliminary drafting of new restrictions for the Town's acceptance. Interested candidates should be familiar with legal language and have a basic knowledge of historic buildings. Members are appointed to serve three-year terms. An attorney is preferred to fill each vacancy, but other legal experience would be considered.

Weston residents who would like to be considered should email a letter of interest with background information to selectmen@westonmass.org or by mail to the Weston Board of Selectmen, Post Office Box 378, Weston, MA 02493 by April 20, 2011.

Town of Weston

Agricultural Commission Vacancy

The Town of Weston has two openings on the Agricultural Commission. The Commission consists of up to seven members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The Commission administers the Town's Farm Preservation By-law. Activities of the Commission include but are not limited to the following: encouraging the continued pursuit of agriculture in Weston; promoting agricultural-based economic opportunities in Town; mediating, advocating, educating and/or negotiating on farming issues; working for preservation of prime agricultural lands; and pursuing all initiatives appropriate to retaining farming in Weston. Interested candidates should be substantially engaged in the pursuit of agriculture, or have related interests. Members are appointed to serve three-year terms.

Weston residents who would like to be considered should email a letter of interest with background information to selectmen@westonmass.org or by mail to the Weston Board of Selectmen, Post Office Box 378, Weston, MA 02493 by April 20, 2011.