



The League of Women Voters Of Weston

March, 2010

No. 125

OPENING MESSAGE

Katty Chace

League of Women Voters of Weston

President..... Katty Chace
781-891-1087

Treasurer..... Kathie Strehle
508-358-8937

Voter Service..... Sally Currier
781-235-9506

Membership..... Rochelle Nemrow
781-790-1138

Bulletin..... Katherine Wolfthal
Editor 781-891-9549

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.

League of Women Voters of Weston
15 Conant Road, Weston MA 02493

VOTER INFORMATION

1-800-882-1649

League of Women Voters
of Massachusetts
133 Portland Street
Boston MA 02114
(617)523-2999

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

kate@weichi.com

March has been a busy and exciting month for us: we had the successful Lyme Time program (written up elsewhere in this Bulletin) on March 2nd, and on Sunday, the 21st we will have our Second Annual Civics Bee at Country School at from 2:00 to 4:30 in the afternoon. Our team will once again consist of adults and students from the Middle and High Schools. Our very game adult volunteers this year are Marcy Dorna, Tony Nolan and Rip Hastings. They have all received study guides to bone up on the Constitution, Massachusetts state government and the women's suffrage movement. We're trying to make the contest fun and participatory for our team members and the audience, and hope for a large, enthusiastic audience to cheer us on against our worthy opponents Wayland and Sudbury. Please join us for an exciting afternoon.

The School Committee has asked us if we would sponsor a coffee hour in early May, which would give them an opportunity to share their vision for the school system, including, but not limited to, their proposed budget. We are happy to organize such a gathering, and we may include other issues that will be featured on the Town Meeting warrant and may deserve some extra attention from townspeople.

The Massachusetts League of Women Voters will sponsor its annual Day on the Hill on Wednesday, April 28th. This usually involves a stimulating panel discussion in the morning, followed by a presentation from various League specialists about which issues and legislation the League will be actively supporting and lobbying for during the current legislative session. Please check the announcement elsewhere in this Bulletin and let me know if you'd like to carpool to the event.

MARCH – JUNE 2010

| | |
|--|--|
| March 21, Sunday 2:00 – 4:30 P.M. Cafetorium at Country School, Alphabet Lane | Second Annual Wayland- Weston- Sudbury Civics Bee |
| April 13, Tuesday 9:15 A.M., 376 Glen Rd (Barbara Hill, 781-235-8861) | LWVW Board Meeting |
| April 28, Wednesday Gardner Auditorium State House | Day on the Hill |
| April 28, Wednesday 7:30 P.M., Location TBA | Candidates' Night |
| May 1, Saturday 11:00A.M. – 12:30 P.M. | LWVW Coffee Hour: School Vision and other Town Meeting topics |
| May 3, Monday Weston Town Hall | Town Budget Hearing |
| May 8, Saturday Weston Town Hall Auditorium | Town Elections |
| May 10, Monday 7:30 P.M., Weston High School Auditorium | Annual Town Meeting |
| May 22, Saturday Lasell College, Newton, MA | LWVWM Council |
| June 11-15 Atlanta, Georgia | LWVW US National 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: rep.alicepeisch@hou.state.ma.us

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Kathleen Rousseau
Secretary

The meeting was held on March 9, at the home of Katherine Wolfthal.

We have been asked to hold a forum to discuss the school budget. There was a discussion of whether such a presentation would reach more people than the ones currently planned by the School Committee. We will be holding a coffee to discuss warrant issues before Town Meeting, and that seems like the most appropriate forum for the School Committee to give a short presentation.

Town Caucus – Katty attended the caucus; it seems that there will be no contested races this year. Wendy Spector was nominated to become the Moderator. There is an opening on the Recreation Commission.

Lyme Time – About 55 people attended this event, not as many as had hoped. The meeting went well.

Civics Bee – March 21 – 2:00 p.m. at the Amy Potter Center.

A LWVM survey will be coming to all members.

The LWVM Council will be on May 2 at LaSalle College. We could have 5 delegates and others attending.

Day-on-the-Hill is on Wednesday, April 28

Candidate and Issues Night – April 28 at the High School Media Room – 7:15

CPC – There are some routine issues. There was a court ruling about using the money for recreation. There are a couple of preservation restrictions that people would like to offer. The public meeting is next Monday.

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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TOWN CAUCUS Katty Chace

No contests materialized from last Monday night's town Caucus, and only a few new faces. Wendy Spector was nominated as Town Moderator, to replace Bob Buchanan after his 20 years of service in that role. Carol Seto was nominated to fill a vacancy on the Planning Board, resulting from Gary Lee's mid-term resignation. And David Kominz and Maureen Ecker will become first-time Measurers of Lumber, joining incumbent David Bennett.

All the rest of the nominated slate were incumbents seeking additional terms to those already served: Doug Gillespie for another 3 year term as Selectmen; Ed Heller, currently School Committee Chair; Sanjay Saini, having completed a partial term on the School Committee; Doris Sullivan and Barbara Coburn, each seeking an additional 3-year term as Library Trustee; David Mendelsohn for a 5-year term on the Planning

Board; Nick Guerina on the Board of Health; and Jannell Phillips as Commissioner of Trust Funds.

The Recreation Commission had two positions to fill, and incumbent Victoria Whalen was nominated to fill one 3-year term. The other vacancy, however, remains unspoken for, with no one being nominated to run for it. There are still a few days for someone to file papers with 60 signatures to run for either the vacancy on the Recreation Commission or to run against one of the other candidates already nominated. The deadline is 5:00 pm on Friday, March 19th.

Even if there are no contested races, the League still intends to hold its annual Candidates and Issues Night on Wednesday, April 28. Clearly, if there are no contested positions, more time will be spent discussing issues than candidates.



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COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Barbara Hill

Monday evening, March 15, the Community Preservation Committee held a Public Hearing on applications for uses of Community Preservation Act monies. The Community Preservation Committee voted to recommend the following projects at Town Meeting commencing May 10, 2010 for the fiscal year 2011, beginning July 1 of this year:

1. \$250,000 for a historic preservation restriction on the home and lot at 116-118 Conant Road. Constructed in 1747 and known as the John Walker House, this is one of approximately six homes from this period still in remarkably intact original condition. The easement would cover the home (with specifications as to what must be retained and where modernized additions could be added) and the lot that it overlooks just south of the home.
2. \$82,500 for design fees for the rehabilitation/restoration of the Gail Road recreation field and the HS Fields 1 & 2. Use of CPA funds for this project is contingent on passage of legislation to permit use of CPA funds for rehabilitation/restoration of recreational lands that were not originally acquired with CPA funds. If the legislation (pending in the Legislature) is not passed before Town Meeting, this warrant article will be passed over. There is also a separate article to amend the wording of prior Town Meeting recreation field CPA votes to conform the language relating to those

expenditures to the proposed new legislative language.

3. \$22,225 for Housing Staff support. Affordable Housing is the one category of CPA usage that permits spending on "support" and Weston has annually supported this type of expenditure to provide for a part time staff member.
4. \$20,000 for Fields Preservation. This is an annual request that provides funding for preservation of open space. The Conservation Commission intends to preserve the field at the corner of Glen and Wellesley Streets and to begin on the fields around the Community Gardens.

The Community Preservation fund in Weston has received to date, through surcharges and state matching, over \$22,000,000 dollars and is anticipated to have a balance on hand at the end of fiscal year 2010 (that is, June 30, 2010) of just over \$7,000,000. (This does not take into account outstanding bonding.) While we enjoyed 100% state matching of our surcharge receipts for a number of years, given the number of communities that have now adopted the CPA and the decreased state receipts (given the current economy), we now receive and anticipate lower state matches going forward. Nonetheless, we have been enormously fortunate in protecting open space, providing for additional affordable housing and protecting historic resources in Weston through the support of Town Meeting and the state match funding.





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CASINO GAMBLING: DEBATE IN WELLESLEY

Katty Chace

I attended an interesting exchange of ideas this afternoon in Wellesley at a forum arranged by State Representative Alice Peisch. Peisch started off the event by saying that the bill permitting slot machines at race tracks and two resort-style casinos in the state would probably come out of committee in about two weeks. The chances for passage of such a bill have increased, since now the governor, Senate President Therese Murray and Speaker Robert DeLeo now all favor such a proposal. Peisch didn't say whether she would favor such a proposal, although in the past her position was that if casinos were to be granted to Native American tribes anyway, she would prefer that the state be part of the rule-setting and profit-making process. At this point, the tribes appear to be out of the picture.

The debaters today were State Senator Susan Tucker (from Andover) and Gary Loveman, CEO of Harrah's and graduate of Harvard Business School. Mr. Loveman made the usual points about the fact that gambling is already taking place in Massachusetts, in the form of our "very aggressive" state lottery, Keno opportunities, and the availability of casino gambling at nearby

Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun in Connecticut, and that it would be in the state's best interest to accept that fact and keep the money gambled by Massachusetts residents here to benefit our state coffers. Senator Tucker mentioned the costs to the state of building infrastructure to support gambling enterprises, as well as costs of extra law enforcement, more court and imprisonment costs, and problems of increased gambling addiction on individuals and families.



Each side quoted studies that supported their views, with Mr. Loveman saying that only 1-3% of gamblers become addicted, and Senator Tucker maintaining that the number is much higher. Senator Tucker repeated that she has no desire to become the

"morality police", only the "tax policy regulator", and that casinos would not be a beneficial trade-off in terms of tax benefits. Mr. Loveman made the point that many states that have built casinos (Iowa, Indiana, New Orleans) have held referenda later to ask citizens if they want to keep their casinos, and no state has ever voted to do away with them.

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“LYME TIME” BRINGS OUT FIRST-HAND STORIES AND MEDICAL FACTS

Nina Danforth

The Weston League of Women Voters sponsored an in-depth program on the topic of Lyme Disease on the evening of March 2, 2010. A concerned audience of 50 heard three professionals with three very different viewpoints about the tick-born disease and its effect on residents of all ages. Many questions revealed the high level of alert in the community and a growing consciousness of the problems associated with undiagnosed and untreated Lyme.



Dr. Barbara Fullerton opens the program.

Conceived by League board member Dr. Barbara Fullerton of Weston, the evening was organized around the personal stories of Constance Bean, Wayland author of the book *Beating Lyme*, Dr. Corinne Ertel, a Weston Pediatric Physician, and Kurt Upham, owner of a landscaping company called “Oh DEER”. A fourth presenter, Wendy Diotalevi of the Weston Board of Health, was delayed by a job-related incident, and arrived only for some last-minute discussion.

A hush came over the audience as the first speaker made her way slowly to the front of the Amy Potter Center on a walker. Constance Bean described her condition as “persistent, long-term Lyme Disease” which unfortunately went undiagnosed for many months, though she continued to have recurring symptoms: joint aches, chills, fever, headaches, memory loss and inability to read and concentrate.

Bean’s story, as described in her new book (now available at Dragon Books in Weston Center), began with her discovery of a small dark spot on her hip. With the help of a magnifying glass, she could see the tiny black legs of a long-embedded deer tick. Dislodging the tick caused a deep red rash around the bite; she thinks the probing may have stimulated the bacterium, *Borrelia burgdorferi*. At Cape Cod Medical Center, doctors were loath to give Bean any extended treatment even though her symptoms persisted. Months lengthened into years as she was examined and tested by a total of 24 doctors.



Constance Bean recounts her experience.

“No one would call it Lyme Disease, only ‘Post-Lyme Syndrome’ or ‘arthritis’ - but I just knew it was still Lyme!” Bean has a Master’s in Public Health, has been a lecturer at Northeastern University and is a past member of the Wayland Board of Health.



The audience listens attentively as Dr. Ertel describes the symptoms and treatment of Lyme Disease.

Insurance companies, Bean believes, don't want to acknowledge the possibility that symptoms can continue from the same initial tick bite, and that the normal antibiotic dose of Doxycyclin might not be adequate to stop the progress of the disease. The states of Connecticut and New York have been more pro-active on researching Lyme Disease and acknowledging its many forms, but Massachusetts has lagged behind. Bean described trips to Beacon Hill for statehouse hearings on the subject. "Many of us came in wheelchairs," she added.

Dr. Ertel emphasized the need for calm when finding a tick on one's child, and the high probability that the tick did not transmit any harmful bacteria.

She described a common scenario: a frantic parent calls in on the emergency line after discovering their first tick on a child, and asks if they should come right in. If the initial redness goes away in a few days, most likely it is not Lyme. "Not all ticks carry the *Borellia spirochetes*" she said, "and not all ticks have managed to get in deep enough to have a blood meal. Just get tweezers and pull it out."



Dr. Corinne Ertel



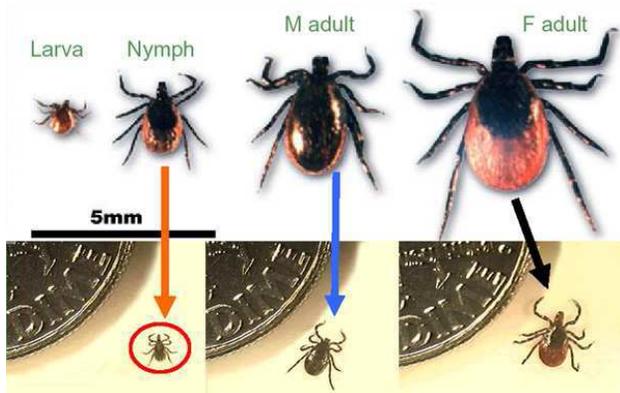
It takes around 24 hours for an infected tick to actually transfer the disease to a human, so tick-checks and showering can

(Courtesy photo)

help reduce the danger after a walk in the woods or fields. Deer ticks are identifiable by size and color: adults are the size of a sesame seed, and have a brighter orange color than dog ticks have. In the nymph stage (most active and agile), the tick looks more like a poppy seed. Wearing light

colored pants helps show ticks. A “bulls-eye” rash or spreading, persistent pink blush around the bite is the common indicator that your body is reacting to the bacterium, but about 20% of all those who get the disease report finding no rash. Dr. Ertel reported that one 16-month-old patient continued to be fussy and feverish for two weeks until a circular rash was found hidden in her scalp by specialists at Children’s Hospital. The child had been bitten behind the ear. The baby recovered completely in three days, after treatment with Amoxicillin. Persistence with one’s doctor was encouraged, as the disease and its various forms are still not always well understood and recognized by medical professionals.

The landowner’s point of view was taken by Upham, who described himself as “passionate” about deer and their role as hosts of the deer ticks. In his business, he sprays with garlic, “Cedarcide,” and chemical insecticides such as Permethrin. He advises clearing the edges of properties to remove leaves and brush, where ticks thrive in moist shade. Installing a path or 1-foot wide strip of gravel can help dry out around gardens and make the area less hospitable to ticks. Removing bird feeders in spring was suggested as a way to discourage chipmunks and mice, other tick hosts. “Winter, when the temps are below 40 degrees, is the only time when ticks are inactive,” he said.



One audience question for Mr. Upham dealt with Weston’s No Hunting policy. A resident commented that he watched a herd of deer

parade one by one through his yard near the Campion Center. “10, 20, 25, I couldn’t even count them all! Now isn’t there any way this town would allow a yearly hunt to cull the population?”



Kurt Upham, owner of “Oh Deer”, a company specializing in deer control and deterrence.

There were other interesting questions posed that had no definitive answers. Why do deer ticks seem to be increasing dramatically, whereas dog ticks are fewer? Why do so many people have to travel to Connecticut to see specialists for their continuing symptoms? What research is being done now, and where are the results being made public?

The Weston League of Women Voters is not just about voting and not just for women, say members. The group will continue to educate the community on a variety of issues through free programs such as “Lyme Time,” and urges anyone who would like to support their work to become a member or make a donation. The website is www.westonlwg.org

Photographs by Katherine Wolfthal



2010 LWVMA ANNUAL DAY ON THE HILL

Getting Around in Massachusetts



A PANEL DISCUSSION ON TRANSPORTATION

Wednesday, April 28, 2010
Massachusetts State House, Boston

Agenda - Gardner Auditorium

- 9:00am Registration- Gardner Auditorium
- 9:30am Panel Presentation - Q&A follows
- 11:00am LWVMA Legislative Updates
- 12:00pm Adjourn to Lobby State Legislators

The Panel will:

- Explore a re-organization of the Mass. Dept. of Transportation.
- Examine the financing, the environmental impact and the balance of public and private modalities in all areas of transportation in the state.
- Educate League members in advance of the LWVMA Re-study of our 1973 Transportation position.

League Specialists will:

- Report on key legislation and LWVMA action priorities for the current legislative session.
- Answer all your program related questions.

Parking in the Boston Common Garage or take the T via Green Line Park Street Station

For more information visit www.lwvma.org, call (617) 523-2999, or email lwvma@lwvma.org.

OBSERVER CORPS
Jean Thurston

SELECTMEN'S MEETING – Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010

1. Cultural Council Candidates

Two candidates were interviewed – Audrey Pepper, former gallery owner, consultant and member of art juries, and Carmenelisa Perez-Kudzma, who has experience in grant applications and an interest in literature. Ms. Pepper suggested setting up a system for mentoring local artists. Open discussion of the candidates and the appointment of one will take place at the next Selectmen's meeting.

2. Historical Commission – Old Library

Marisa Morra and other members of the Commission submitted a detailed report indicating strong support for retaining the building that included letters from a range of experts also urging retention and reuse of the building.

3. Fire and Police Chiefs

a. FY11 Budget

The Chiefs recommended the hiring of two new dispatchers to be located at the Fire Dept. This will allow two highly trained firefighters to be freed up to respond to calls. Currently one firefighter on each shift is the dispatcher. Hiring two more dispatchers in the future will free up all firefighters on each shift to respond.

b. Joint Dispatch

Plans are underway to purchase equipment that will allow joint dispatchers for Fire and Police.

c. Regional Dispatch Study

A regional dispatch system is also being considered.

WESTON COUNCIL ON AGING
GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP 2010

Thursdays, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20, from 1:30- 3:00 pm.

Great Decisions is the name of a briefing book and a program to engage citizens in learning about the world. This discussion group offers the opportunity to learn in depth about the global challenges that affect our lives in a myriad of ways.

We invite you to join Foreign Policy Association discussion group 2010 to look at eight topics: Special Envoys, Kenya & R2P, Global Crime, U.S. China Security Relations, Global Financial Crisis, Russia and its Neighbors, The Persian Gulf, and Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution.

We welcome participants of all ages.

If you are interested in "looking beyond the headlines", please call the COA at 781-893-0154 for more information and to sign up.

Fee: \$25 for the briefing book