



# The League of Women Voters Of Weston

May, 2010

No. 127

## OPENING MESSAGE

Katty Chace

### League of Women Voters of Weston

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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.

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### VOTER INFORMATION

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

**kate@weichi.com**

**A**s the League year and the school year draw to a close, we're all watching the environmental disaster unfold in the Gulf of Mexico. At the moment, we can feel some optimism that the techniques they're using to staunch the bleeding might be working, but it remains to be seen what the long-term effects on the sea, its fauna and flora, the beaches and the fishing industry may be.

The Annual Town Meeting was completed in two nights last week, with few surprises. All the articles on the warrant passed, except for two that were passed over. Discussion was heated and passionate on Monday night, when the topic was the plan for wireless communication towers and posts. The theory was that it would help the town control the process of locating the towers if certain sites were designated for such use. However, a number of neighbors, especially those with young children in their households, feel very threatened by the possible health effects of cell towers in their neighborhoods. (See article on Page 7 of this Bulletin, on the health effects of cell-phone use.) At Wednesday's session, not surprisingly, the controversy was provided by discussion of the Case Estates, and whether we should stick with the original deal with Harvard, or go with the hybrid plan, which would mean less land for Weston, less money spent, and less thorough clean-up of the contaminated land. The discussion was thoughtful and thorough, and once again centered on the possible health effects down the road. It was the first time I can remember at Town meeting that our Board of Selectmen was not unanimous. Well-deserved thanks and accolades were paid to retiring Moderator Bob Buchanan.

Our Annual Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 26 at Sally Currier's at 170 Ridgeway Road, starting with wine and cheese, dessert and coffee at 7:15. At 8:00, our speaker will be Wendy Diotalevi, Director of the Weston Board of Health, speaking on a variety of Weston-related health topics, after which we will hold a brief business meeting. If you can join us,

please email me (at tackc@aol.com) so we can have a head count.

The Massachusetts state League's biennial Council meeting will be held on Saturday, May 22 at Lasell college in Newton. Decisions about budget and activities for the next year will be made by members. Many interesting speakers will be featured, including Suffolk county Sheriff Andrea Cabral and State Representative Sonia Chang-Diaz.

This is an election year for Massachusetts Governor and other constitutional officers, as well as State Senators and Representatives. We usually hold a Candidates' Forum for our local candidates between the Primary (on September 14) and the election in November. We have been asked to host a Forum before the Primary between Republican candidates for State Senator Eric Dahlburg and Sandra Martinez. We will be discussing at our June board meeting whether it's feasible to schedule such an event between and September Labor Day and September 14.



**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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**The Gift Gallery**  
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**MAY – SEPTEMBER 2010**

<b>May 22, Saturday.....</b> <b>11:00 A.M. , Lasell College,</b> <b>Newton, MA</b>	<b>Massachusetts LWV</b> <b>Council Meeting</b>
<b>May 26, Wednesday.....</b> <b>7:15 P.M., 170 Ridgeway Rd</b> <b>(Sally Currier, 781-235-9506)</b>	<b>LWVW Annual Meeting</b>
<b>June 4, Friday.....</b> <b>5:15 P.M., Town Green</b>	<b>Weston High School</b> <b>Graduation</b>
<b>June 7, Monday.....</b> <b>7:00 P.M., 155 Conant Rd</b> <b>(Katherine Wolfthal, 781-891-9549)</b>	<b>Joint Board Potluck</b> <b>Dinner Meeting</b>
<b>June 11-15.....</b> <b>Atlanta, Georgia</b>	<b>LWVW US National</b> <b>Convention</b>
<b>Monday, September 6.....</b>	<b>Labor Day</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 14.....</b> <b>7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M</b>	<b>MA Primary Elections</b>

**CARBON CRUNCH 2**  
**Katty Chace**

On Sunday, May 16, I attended a meeting to kick off Carbon Crunch 2, a town-wide competition to reduce our home heating costs in January and February 2011 sponsored by the Weston Climate Group. This follows last year's Carbon Crunch 1, which featured a similar competition to reduce electricity consumption. Forty-two households, organized into 10 teams, competed last year and achieved impressive reductions of about 16%. The Climate Group has invited the League and other town organizations to participate in this venture. **We're looking for a League member who would enjoy serving as liaison between the two organizations.** If you think you might be interested in doing this job, please contact me at [tackc@aol.com](mailto:tackc@aol.com)

## 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](mailto:john_kerry@kerry.senate.gov)

### U.S. Representative 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Goffice@state.ma.us)

### State Senator 5<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District

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

### State Representative 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:rep.alicepeisch@hou.state.ma.us)

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Kathleen Rousseau  
Secretary

The May meeting was held at the home of Diana Chaplin.

The minutes were accepted with the change that DEET is the usual skin treatment for repelling ticks.

The treasurer reported that we have \$527 on hand. The room for the Civics Bee cost \$216, and there may be a few more expenses.

The wrap-up on the Civics Bee with the other towns agreed that it went well. It was suggested that there be a time limit for each question next time. Participants should have flyers to hand out to friends and family.

Town Election and Meeting: There was a concern about whether it is appropriate to combine all the override expenses into one ballot question. The only really controversial items were the wireless communication issue and the Case Estate's plan. The board had a discussion of the Case Estates issue.

Annual Meeting: Invitations have gone out to all members. Wendy Diotalevi (our Public Health Director) will be the speaker. Some topics that we will suggest she address are Lyme disease, asthma (a graph shows that Weston has a very high rate compared to neighboring towns), and health effect of wireless towers. (The Environmental Working Group did a study of cell phone emissions by brand.)

Alice Peisch did vote in favor of casinos, as did the whole legislature. This has not passed the Senate yet.

The Weston Climate Group will have Carbon Crunch Challenge II next year. This will be based on cutting down heating bills. They would like participation from other organizations. We would like a member to be our representative to this group.

The LWVMass Council will be held on May 22 at La Salle College. They are offering fascinating workshops, and a number of decisions for the state league must be made.

There was a long discussion the Weston Land Trust, what its purpose has been and how effective it has been. It will now be merged with the Forest and Trails organization.

Two new board members will join us next year, Barbara Flannery and Susan Gray.



**As a service to our members, we are publishing the following announcement**

**Weston Oil Buying Group sign-up**

*This program is not sponsored by the Town of Weston*

To all residents living in Weston who use heating oil for their homes or institutional buildings (as long as those buildings use residential heating oil) the Weston Oil Buying Group sign-up this year will run from May 1 to May 31, 2010, ONLY. ANY sign-ups outside of these dates will not be replied to.

Background: We are the Oil Buying Neighbors of Weston. We are 6 years old. The way in which we pursue home oil discounts is to band together and offer a group quote to a number of oil suppliers. We do this each year. There is no other organizational relationship among the neighbors and you are not legally obligated to participate in the final selection of a vendor, although we usually have 95% cooperation. It is essential the group stay together so that we can have the continuing leverage to get commercial-level bids.

Last year, we had over 90 neighbors accounting for over 130,000 gallons in our bid. This year it looks as if we will have significantly more neighbors who will be participating. If you decide to participate, we will send your name to this year's winning bidder who will be decided in a vote that all the neighbors will take when we complete the Request for Bid process. You will be solely responsible for signing a service contract with them, if you so decide. We only bid full service suppliers with a good credit record and who have not had major problems in the past that have been identified by our neighbors. Within this class of oil-delivery companies we try and get the lowest bid price we can.

Please understand that no one takes any compensation for this and each of us solely benefits from the group discounts like everyone else.

We will send you more details when we receive all your information, including your Weston address where you will take oil deliveries, an estimate of the amount of oil you require for one heating season, your phone number and your e-mail address.

If you are interested in joining our growing group of neighbors, please send the following to Jan-Charles Fine, at [jfprotm@aol.com](mailto:jfprotm@aol.com)

1. Your Weston address where you will take oil deliveries,
2. An estimate of the amount of oil you require for one heating season;
3. Your phone number; and
4. Your e-mail address.

We must receive all of these 4 pieces of information before we can include you in the group bid. You can get the oil estimate from your present oil supplier.



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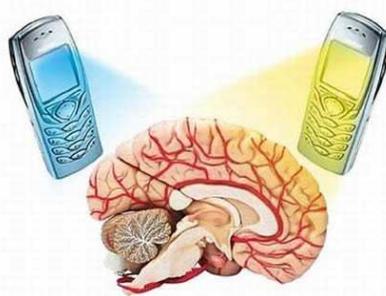
## CELL PHONE USE AND POSSIBLE HEALTH EFFECTS

Barbara Fullerton

The possible effect of cell phone use on long-term health is becoming a critical issue, especially since an estimated 4 billion people around the world use cell phones. Mobile phones send their signals by the use of electromagnetic radiation in the range of microwaves. The rate of absorption of the radiation is measured by the Specific Absorption Rate (SAR), whose maximum levels are set by government agencies (1). Several European governments have recommended practices to reduce the exposure to cell phone radiation, but the U.S. agencies, the FDA and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) have shown little concern about the possible risks in cell phone use. The FCC adopted standards 17 years ago that would allow 20 times more radiation to the head than to the remainder of the body, ignoring the fact that the brain may be more sensitive to radiation than other tissues of the body (2). In addition, the U.S. standards do not account for the difference in radiation effects when cell phones are used by children. Their smaller head size and thinner skull bones are factors that would lead to a greater absorption of radiation than in an adult (7).

Since mobile phones have been in use for less than two decades, earlier scientific studies have not had enough data on which to determine whether long-term use of the devices will lead to cancer or other health effects. In 2003, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that there were no cancer risks from the use of cell phones, although their data was drawn from people who had only used the phones for three years. Since then, more studies have accumulated, but the results are still inconclusive.

The detailed analysis of all the medical research reports is beyond the scope of this article, but a



few words are in order. Some recent studies have reported correlations between cell phone use and brain tumors, salivary gland tumors, and migraine headaches and vertigo (2). Within the last week, the results of the long-awaited World Health Organization study of the link between cell phones and brain cancer were made public. This analysis of 13,000 cell phone users over ten years found more inconclusive results, but the suggestion of a link demanded further investigation (3).

The methodologies of all previous studies, however, as well as the WHO study, need to be examined more carefully. This is because these are retrospective investigations which rely on people's memories of how much time they used their phones, which side of the head it was used on, and other important details (4). The comparisons were done between cell phone users who had developed cancer (or other health problem) and control users who had not. Individuals may be biased in their interest in the outcome of the study which can skew their memories of cell phone use.

What is needed is a prospective study that will gather the use data over time correlated with any emerging health problems. There is a plan, the Cohort Study on Mobile Communications (COSMOS), to follow at least 250,000 Europeans for up to 30 years and to link cell phone use with cancer and neurological disease. They will enroll people 18 to 69 years of age, and gather data from their phone bills, health records, and questionnaires. Since many health problems, including cancer, take a long time to develop, some effects may be seen in the long-term use data (8).

Given that we still don't know conclusively whether cell phone radiation causes cancer or other health problems, many government agencies and environmental groups are advising people to take precautions in their use of cell phones and to limit their exposure to cell phone emissions.

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) has evaluated most of the phones currently available for their levels of radiation and advises that you purchase the phone with the lowest emissions. New phones emit much less radiation than older models, but many models with lots of features, such as **Motorola's Droid, Blackberry Bold 9700, LG Chocolate Touch and HTC Nexus One by Google** emit the highest legal levels of radiation (5). Companies, however, are not required to reveal the emission levels when you are in the store purchasing a phone.

Other recommendations by the EWG to limit your emission exposure (6):

1. Use a headset or speaker which reduces the radiation to your head.
2. Hold your phone away from your body during use.
3. Use texting when possible.
4. Avoid using the phone when the signal is poor (fewer bars). The phone needs to emit stronger radiation to transmit the signal to the cell tower.
5. Limit children's phone use.



Resources:

1. Wikipedia. Mobile phone radiation and health. (Enter subject into Google to link to Wikipedia discussion page.)
2. Environmental Working Group, 2009. Cell phone radiation. Science review on cancer risks and children's health.  
<http://www.ewg.org/cellphone-radiation>
3. Kelland, K. Reuters, May 16, 2010. WHO study has no clear answer on phones and cancer.  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE64F1MV20100516>
4. Kelland, K. Reuters, May 16, 2010. Cell phone cancer study shows problems with method.  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE64F1N020100516>
5. Environmental Working Group, 2010. New cell phones in 2010: Some push cell phone radiation limit.  
<http://ewg.org/cellphoneradiation/newecellphonesin2010>
6. Environmental Working Group, 2010. EWG's guide to reduce cell phone radiation exposure.  
<http://www.ewg.org/cellphoneradiation/8-Safety-Tips>
7. Wiart, J., et al., 2008. Analysis of RF exposure in the head tissues of children and adults. Phys. Med. Biol. 53(13): 3681-95.
8. Holton and Prophan. Apr. 22, 2010. Biggest study on cellphone health effects launched.  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE63L1ZD20100422>

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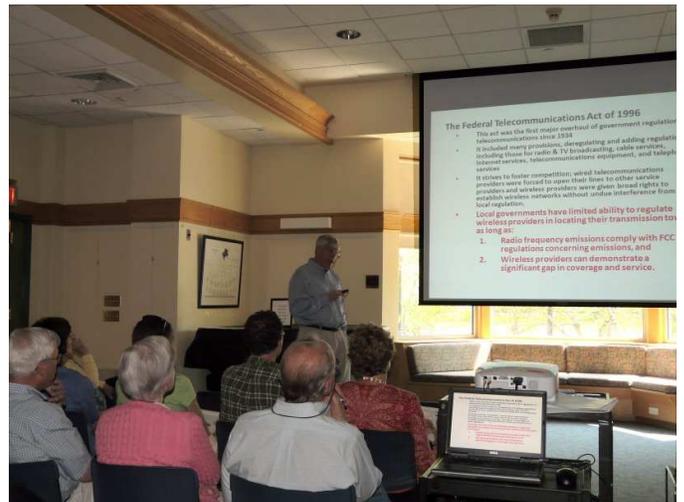
## MAY 1 COFFEE HOUR Katty Chace

Because there were no contested offices for local election this year, we decided to fold our usual Candidates' Night into a May 1 Coffee Hour to preview Town Meeting issues and a presentation by School Superintendent and School Committee members about current school achievements and issues. We were joined by candidates Wendy Specter (Moderator), Ed Heller

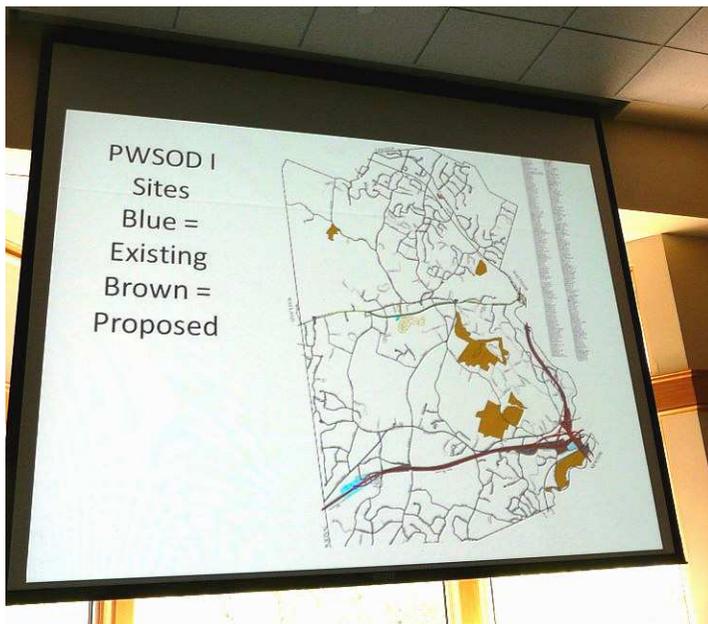
(School Committee) and Lucy Bradley (Recreation Commission). Many thanks to Selectman Michael Harrity for leading us through an explanation of some of the more complex Town Meeting issues, including the purchase of the Case Estates, the plan for wireless communication towers and the illicit disposal of storm water.



A variety of goodies greets attendees at the League's Saturday Coffee Hours



Above: To a capacity audience, Selectman Michael Harrity explains the Federal Telecommunications Act and its implications for Weston.



A map of one of Weston's two Wireless Overlay Districts

*Photographs by Katherine Wolfthal*



Harrity explains the Hybrid Remediation Concept proposed for the Case Estates. This proposal was passed by Town Meeting the following Wednesday.



DARYL CHRISTOPHER WELLNESS SALON AND DAY SPA  
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## WESTON MEDIA CENTER



Weston Media Center airs a day-long schedule of television programs focusing on local news and topics of interest. Gloria Cole, Executive Director of the Weston Media Center, would like to make sure the town is aware of these programs. In the belief that these programs may be of interest to many of our League members, she has asked us to share the following schedule with our readers.

Weston Media Center, Inc. is Weston's non-profit public, educational and government access TV station broadcasting on Comcast Channel 9 and Verizon Channels 41 & 45.

### Our program schedule for May 22 through May 29 follows.

12:00-7:00 AM	Planning Board Meetings of May 5 & 19	8:56PM	Marta Greenwood Invitation
7:00 AM	Allegiance - The Legend of Isaac Jones - Interviews	9:00 PM	Weston on the Hill with Rep. Alice Peisch - May 2010
8:00 AM	Memorial Day 2009	9:40PM	Girl Scouts Recycle Revolution Segments
9:05 AM	Weston on the Hill with Rep. Alice Peisch - May 2010	10:00PM	Weston Tourists in Japan
9:40 AM	Girl Scouts Recycle Revolution Segments	10:35PM	Allegiance - The Legend of Isaac Jones - Interviews
10:00 AM	Lyme Time - League of Women Voter Public Health Presentation	11:31PM	Marta Greenwood Invitation
12:10PM	WHS Orchestra and Chorus POPS 2010	11:35PM	Coop Loop
1:42 PM	Marta Greenwood Invitation		
1:45 PM	Memorial Day 2009		
3:00 PM	WHS Band POPS 2010		
3:55PM	Marta Greenwood Invitation		
4:00PM	"How Cooking Made Us Human" Library Author Series featuring Weston's Dr. Richard Wrangham		
5:20PM	String Fling 2010 - Weston Schools String Players in Concert		
6:00PM	Military History Lecture		
7:35PM	Weston Public Schools Report Card - "2010 Trends in Education"		

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Gloria Cole  
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