



The League of Women Voters Of Weston

December, 2012

No. 150

OPENING MESSAGE

Katty Chace

Please take this opportunity to pay your dues for the year now, while it's on your mind. You can find a membership form in the back of this Bulletin.

I'm pleased that our new State Senator, Mike Barrett of Lexington, will be our guest at a coffee hour on Saturday, February 9 at 11:00 at the library. Mike is looking forward to meeting Weston residents, and hearing about our interests and concerns. I will ask him to tell us about himself, and highlight his legislative priorities for this legislative session. We have also invited State Representative Alice Peisch to attend.

Plans are humming for our 5th Annual Civics Bee on Sunday, March 3 at the Weston Community Center. We are looking for three adult team members to take on teams from Wayland and Sudbury, so please call me with any suggestions of people you think might enjoy participating. Questions this year will again be about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, but will also focus on the early (Colonial) history of the towns, in honor of Weston's 300th birthday celebration, and Wayland and Sudbury's 375th. Did you know that Wayland and Sudbury were once united as one town?

A Special Town Meeting took place on Monday, November 26. The start of the meeting was delayed for ten minutes until a quorum of 80 was achieved. (Interesting, since the quorum was raised from 40 to 80 at last May's Annual Town Meeting.) The articles passed quickly and without much debate. Article 7, which proposed a change in the zoning by-law pertaining to tear-downs on non-conforming lots, was passed over.

On Saturday, January 12, the celebration of Weston300 will be kicked off with a Winterfest on the Town Green, featuring skating (on the two newly-installed rinks), snowman-building contests, ice sculptures, cocoa and hot cider, and marshmallow roasting. It all sounds like great fun. Let's hope for no January thaw!

League of Women Voters of Weston

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

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

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

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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 by e-mail at
kate@weichi.com

**CALENDAR
DECEMBER 2012 – MAY 2013**

December 25, Tuesday..... CHRISTMAS

January 1, Tuesday.....NEW YEAR'S DAY

**January 8, Tuesday..... LWVW Board Meeting
9:15 a.m., 26 Love Lane
(Diana Chaplin, 781-893-6288) All members welcome**

**January 12, SaturdayWeston 300 Celebration
10:00 a.m., Town Green Winterfest**

**February 9, 2013, Saturday.....LWVW Coffee Hour
11:00-A.M. – 12:00 Noon
Community Room, Weston Public Library State Senator Mike Barrett**

**March 11, Monday..... Town Caucus
7:30 p.m., Weston Town Hall Auditorium**

**May 17-18, Friday-Saturday.....LWVMA Convention
Location TBA**

On December 5th Pam Fox officially resigned from the Weston Planning Board. Over her years of dedicated service on the Board, her objective viewpoint has been vital. She had an impressive way of finding middle ground in most every situation even when it appeared there was none. She will be greatly missed by future applicants and abutters.

So Pam, THANK YOU for 16 years of service on the Planning Board. May your legacy provide inspiration to those Board Members in the future who seek common ground among Weston neighbors!

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: susan.fargo@masenate.gov
Home: (781) 259-9623

State Representative 14th Norfolk District

The Honorable Alice Hanlon Peisch
(617) 722-2070
(781) 237-4719
State House, Room 473G
Boston MA 02133-1054
E-mail: alice.peisch@state.ma.us

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Kathleen Rousseau

The December meeting was held at the home of Kathleen Rousseau. We were pleased to have as our guests two Weston High School students who will be helping us out this year as a part of their political science class.

Coffee Hour: February 9 at the Library. We will be having a meeting with Mike Barrett (and perhaps Alice Peisch) to hear about the current issues on Beacon Hill.

The Civics Bee will be on March 3 with Professor Richard Alpert as our judge. The focus this year will be on local history as well as the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Weston is celebrating its 300th year, and Sudbury and Wayland will be celebrating their 375th next year. It will be held at the recreation department great room. We are looking for adults to be members of the team.

Town Meeting: The zoning by-law, question 7, was passed over. There was conflict between the zoning board and the planning board on this issue. Pam Fox has now stepped down from the Planning Board. Many on the LWV Board felt that there should not be a replacement appointed before the next town election.

The town is thinking of recodifying our general by-laws. We discussed the need for a committee to look at this to see how much needs changing. Are there by-laws that are unclear enough to lead to lawsuits?

We will start to put an article in every Bulletin about one aspect of town government. There is a need to encourage people to work on town boards. Could the applicants for town committees be described in the Town Crier so we know a little about them?

There will be a Moderator's Advisory Committee meeting to decide whether to accept a report that has been produced. Doug Gillespie has suggested appointing a new committee which will include a number of people who are currently on town boards, our LWV representative, and four open seats.



The Gift Gallery

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On Monday, December 10, the Weston Council on Aging hosted a forum on emergency services in Weston with Police Chief Steve Shaw and Fire Chief David Sores as presenters. Not surprisingly, much of their attention was focused on our recent experience with Hurricane Sandy. The biggest problem with the storm was not the discomfort and inconvenience many homes in town experienced without electricity for three days. Rather, it was the danger inherent with so many fallen trees that made it impossible to drive on any road from Route 20 up to route 117. Police and fire trucks had to reach the north side of town by driving through Waltham, since Church Street, Conant Road and Concord Road were all impassible. The policy is that the Weston Public Works Department can only remove fallen trees that are not in contact with

any fallen wires. Those trees must be left to NSTAR to deal with. Weston found NSTAR to be frustratingly unresponsive to Weston's dilemma. The fire department actually sited a fire truck up on 117 to act as an outpost, in case of any medical or fire emergencies.

The town did set up a shelter at the High School for people who couldn't deal with cold, dark houses and no way to cook food, but found very few people who took advantage of that resource. Next time a shelter is needed, the chiefs think they will set it up at the COA, which they believe would be more appealing to Weston's elderly population. Below you can find a list of emergency supplies that every household should keep on hand. The list was distributed by COA nurse Theresa Levinson.

72 Hour Emergency Stay-at-Home Supply Kit

Food & Water

Water: 1 gallon/person; extra water for pet
Food, three-day supply of non-perishable food and pet food
Non-electric can opener

Fuel & Lighting

Flashlight with extra batteries
Candles (long burning)
Matches
Hand/body warmers

Equipment

Radio with extra batteries or hand cranked
Plastic sheeting and duct tape
Whistle
Cell phone, car charger, Blackboard Connect

Personal Sanitation & Medication

First Aid kit
Hand sanitizer
Prescription medications, their original containers, and 3-day surplus supply

Personal Documents & Money

Important family documents such as insurance policies, identification and bank account records
Cash and change

Legal Documents

Wills, passports, contracts, deeds, vehicle titles, and phone #s, stocks/bonds.

Medical Documents

Medical & dental insurance numbers and phone #s
Medical device serial numbers and manufacturer phone #s
File of Life

Miscellaneous

Emergency contact list both in state and out of state
Specialty needs for elderly/infant/toddler
Deck of cards/small games/ books

** Update your kit every 6 months to make sure that: all food, water and medication are fresh, documents are up-to-date and batteries are working.*

Information for this list obtained www.medicalreservecorps.org;
www.redcross.org and www.ready.gov

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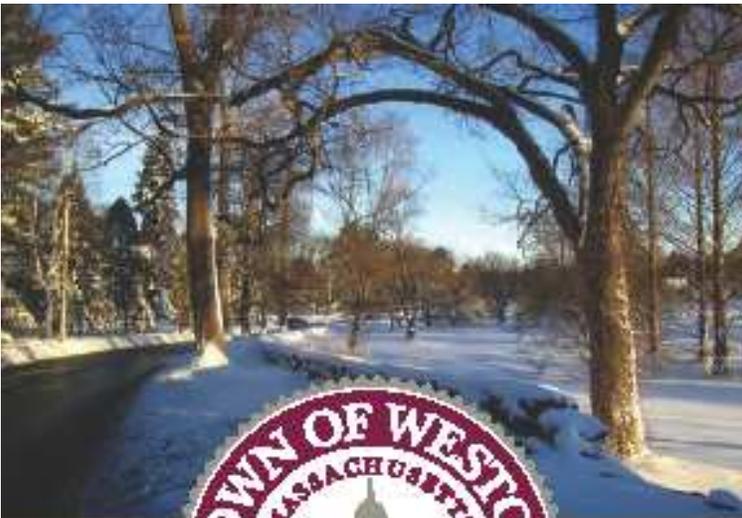
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Join the Celebration

Saturday JAN 12	Sunday JAN 13	Weston 300 Commemoration and Winterfest
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WESTON 300 COMMEMORATION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2013

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

WESTON HIGH SCHOOL

444 WELLESLEY STREET, WESTON

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

RECEPTION AT THE WESTON TOWN HALL

The Town of Weston was incorporated on January 12, 1713. To commemorate this occasion, the Weston 300 Committee is hosting the Weston 300 Commemoration in the Weston High School on Saturday, January 12, 2013. This official kick-off of the tercentennial year will be celebrated with a reading of the Town Proclamation, historical re-enactments, and musical performances.

WESTON 300 WINTERFEST

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12 & SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2013

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

WESTON TOWN GREEN

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

This two-day event at the Town Green will be a sparkling Winter Wonderland, with lots of activities for children and families to enjoy! There will be a free skating rink erected on the Town Green for skaters of all ages, ice sculptures, games, snowman building competitions, sleigh rides, hot cider, delicious wintry snacks, tours of the First Parish Church and an ice skating performance by the Boston Skating Club.



Weston 300 | 20 Alphabet Lane | Weston, MA 02493
Phone: 781-786-6275 Email: weston300@westonmass.org
www.Weston300.org



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WESTON TOWN MEETING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Jean Thurston

After sixteen meetings and eleven months, the committee held its last meeting on Dec.12, 2012, approved its report and voted to disband. The committee was requested by the moderator, Wendy Spector to consider four questions:

- Is there a better way to prepare citizens to vote on the issues?
- Is there a way to encourage people to go to the polls and attend town meeting?
- Are there protocols during TM that can balance the need to hear a range of opinions and to make timely progress on the issues at hand?
- Finally, can the office of the Moderator be modified to encourage candidates to run and to prepare new Moderators for their role?

The committee was self-selected and represented diverse backgrounds and opinions, which made for lively discussions. A final report was approved with all but one member signing on, and with two minority reports.

The Moderator attended many of the meetings and has already implemented a number of the recommendations from the committee. The final report will be available on the website.

One of the recommendations is for the Selectmen to appoint a committee to further study ways to improve Town Meeting. This has been done, although the members (from several town committees and with four at-large members) have not yet been appointed.

Most committee members believe that Town Meeting functions well, but there is substantial room for improvement.

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League of Women Voters of Weston

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2012-2013

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, political organization, which encourages informed and active participation in all levels of government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We serve the local community in many ways:

- Sponsor Candidates and Issues nights before elections
- Provide voter information and conduct voter-registration drives
- Encourage voter participation with banners and rides to the polls
- Study local, state and national issues and hold open meetings
- Act upon carefully considered positions by lobbying and circulating petitions
- Publish a "Know Your Town" booklet
- Train members to be active and involved citizens.

Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30. As a Weston member, you also belong to and receive publications from the State and National Leagues.

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
Email _____

Check one: Renewal New Member

I enclose a check made payable to **The League of Women Voters of Weston*** for:

\$60 Individual Membership (covers required local dues to the State and National Leagues)

\$75 Family Membership (two individuals in the same household)

Name of second household member: _____

\$50 Basic Membership

\$ _____ Additional Contribution (Any contributions above and beyond regular dues are greatly appreciated and assist our local league in providing more services and offsetting our operating expenses.)

\$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

.....

\$ _____ LWV Education Fund (Tax-deductible contribution made payable by separate check to the LWV Education Fund)

Return form to: Rochelle Nemrow, 61 Beaver Rd., Weston, MA 02493

Do you know a friend who might be interested in joining the League of Women Voters?

Name, address & phone _____

* It is the policy of the LWV of Weston that no resident shall be refused participation in the League because of inability to pay. If a hardship preventing payment of dues exists, please contact Katty Chace at 781-790-1087.