



The League of Women Voters Of Weston

February, 2012

No. 143

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

Susan Fargo has announced that she won't be running for another term in the state Senate, after serving for 16 years representing a district that includes Bedford, Carlisle, Concord, Chelmsford, Lexington, Waltham, Lincoln and Weston. Susan has supported the League's positions in almost all cases, including banning smoking in public places, and, most recently, opposing casinos. We are grateful for her service, and hope she may be able to join us at our annual meeting in May for recognition.

Democrat Mike Barrett of Lexington had already announced that he was running for her seat, and today I heard that Weston Democrat Joe Mullen will run as well. Also, two Republicans, Sandi Martinez of Chelmsford and Greg Howes of Concord intend to compete for the seat. Hopefully, we will be able to set up candidates' forums in the fall to give voters an opportunity to hear all the candidates.

We had a very successful voter registration drive at the High School last week. Barbara Hill and Beth Keane helped Denise from the Town Clerk's office to enlist 30 new young voters.

Alice Peisch came to our January 21 Coffee Hour, braving a few inches of snow. We had a good attendance, and addressed a wide variety of topics, from a pending bill which would lower the mandatory minimum sentences for simple drug possession while increasing the penalties for repeaters of violent crimes, to a discussion of the fairness of tolls versus an increased gas tax.

Plans for the Fourth Annual Civics Bee continue to perk along. Joe Mullen, who was in our first bee, has agreed to join the team again. He will also share with the audience his experience as an elector in the 90s. High School social studies teacher Monny Cochran has found three High School students for the team: Katie Bui, Brendan Eappan and Sophia Wirth. We're pleased that they're all coming on board.

Moderator Wendy Spector has put together an advisory committee to help her consider the best way to conduct Town Meeting. She asked for volunteers (including a representative from the League), and eighteen people stepped forward to participate! Barbara Hill is representing the League, and you can find her article elsewhere in this Bulletin. Part of the task of the committee will be to attend town meetings in other towns to experience different approaches and practices. The committee expects its work to be completed in November, although some recommendations may be made before our May Town Meeting.

On Wednesday, April 25 the Weston League will co-sponsor with the Wayland and Sudbury Leagues an evening with Professor Gordon Martin. Professor Martin has written a book "Count Them One by One: Black Mississippians Fighting for the Right to Vote", about the struggles to end voting rights abuses for African-Americans in the south. He will also address some of the attempts that are currently being made in various states to curtail rights today, such as requiring a photo ID.

That same day, in the morning, the Massachusetts League will hold its annual Day on the Hill in Gardner Auditorium at the state house. This year's theme is "Money in Politics". After keynote speeches from well-known speakers on Beacon Hill, League specialists will outline the most important issues for League lobbying for the rest of the year.

CALENDAR MARCH - MAY 2012

March 6, Tuesday.....	MA Presidential Primary Methodist Church, St. Peter's And Westgate Church (see Page 10 of this Bulletin
March 12, Monday..... 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Auditorium	Town Caucus
March 13, Tuesday..... 9:15 a.m. , 87 Shady Hill Rd. (Barbara Flannery, 781-237-4878)	LWVW Board Meeting All members welcome!
March 25, Sunday..... 2:00-4:00 p.m., Wayland Middle School, Rte. 27/Rte. 30	2012 Civics Bee
April 25, Wednesday..... 7:30 p.m., Location TBA	Prof. Gordon Martin on voting rights and laws that threaten them
May 5, Saturday.....	LWVMA Council
May 5, Saturday..... Town Hall Auditorium	Town Election
May 12, Monday..... Weston High School Auditorium	Annual Town Meeting

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 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 LWVW board meeting was held at the home of Katherine Wolfthal on February 6. The board was joined by Karen Meslin and Bill Sandals.

Karen Meslin gave us a report on her progress in getting the High School opening time changed to a later hour. She has spoken with Cheryl Maloney, Anthony Parker, and the School Councils. The response has been positive so far. The athletic director must also be brought into these discussions.

Coffee Hour: The meeting on January 21 was with only Alice Peisch because of the bad weather. There was still a good turnout, and an interesting discussion. Michael Barrett, who will be running against Susan Fargo in the Democratic primary, attended the meeting.

Candidates Night – The primary this fall is in early September, giving us little time for scheduling a candidates night. It would have to be either in August or in May or June. It was decided to try to plan an event for June, while school is still in session.

Voter registration will take place on February 7 at Weston High School.

We will offer to drive people to the polls for the presidential primary.

Weston 300 – The opening event will take place on January 12. There will be another event on the green with fireworks (if approved) in June, and a parade in the autumn. A raffle is planned to raise money for the events and for a permanent memorial. The Civics Bee will be held in Weston that year; perhaps it could emphasize Massachusetts' history and politics.

We have sent in our membership list to state and national. Our numbers are down again this year, although not by a lot.

Moderators' Advisory Committee: The League was asked to supply an ex-officio member to this committee. We had proposed Barbara Hill as a member of the committee

but she does not want to serve in an ex-officio capacity. Bill Sandals is a member of this committee, and he told us about his objections to such a group being formed without being voted in at Town Meeting. The town council has said that since it is an advisory committee this seems unnecessary. The role of the committee is to study how Town Meeting is run, compare ours to other towns, and to see if improvements could be made in our procedures. We had a lively discussion about the committee and its possible utility.

Civics Bee – Joe Mullin be a member of our adult team, but we still need two more adult participants. All those who have taken part in the Bee have enjoyed it.



The Town Clerk has issued two press releases concerning the reprecincting of polling places due to changes in the town's population. We publish them here for the information of our readers. Please see the chart on page 10 of this Bulletin for detailed information concerning the specific street addresses affected by these changes.

**TOWN OF WESTON
MASSACHUSETTS**

OFFICE OF TOWN CLERK

2011-2012 REPRECINCTED ADDRESSES

EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2011

Every ten years after the Federal Census is complete, precinct boundary lines are re-drawn to reflect changes in the Town's population and to anticipate the needs of the town's election system for the next decade.

According to the 2010 Federal Census Weston's population is 11, 261. The target number of people per precinct is 2,815. The law allows up to 5% (+/-) variance for the number of residents per precinct. Because there has been uneven growth over the years in sections of the town, we were required by law, to adjust the precinct lines town-wide to ensure that there is an even distribution of population across precincts.

The new precinct boundaries would allow voters in most areas to continue to go to the same polling places to cast their ballots as they have in the past. However some households are now in a new precinct. Below is a list of households affected by a precinct change. If your address is NOT on the attached list, your precinct/voting location is unaffected by reprecincting.

**TOWN OF WESTON
MASSACHUSETTS**

OFFICE OF TOWN CLERK

CHANGE IN LOCATION OF POLLING PLACE – PRECINCTS 3 & 4

Effective with the Presidential Primary on March 6, 2012, and until further notice, the polling place for Precincts 3 and 4 will be located at Westgate Church, 100 Winter Street. Winter Street is off Brown Street and South Avenue (Rt. 30) the church is across from Dickson Lane, south of the turnpike overpass.

The annual Town Election, held in May, will continue to take place at Town Hall in the Auditorium.

This change of polling location is due to construction at St. Demetrios Church.

If you have any questions, please call the Town Clerk's office at 781-786-5010.

The League of Women Voters of Weston
wishes to extend sincere thanks to the following Friends
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The Gift Gallery
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464 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA

Ogilvie's
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39 Warren Avenue, Weston, MA

Omni Foods Supermarkets
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21 Center Street, Weston, MA

Weston Travel Service
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COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT UPDATE

Barbara Hill

The Community Preservation Committee has started its cycle of evaluating and making recommendations on proposals for using Community Preservation Act Funds for projects in town. The CPC will be evaluating the following projects:

1. A proposal for up to \$542,000 for the creation of a Town Archives in the basement of Town Hall to protect and preserve historic Town documents and records. Previously a feasibility study was conducted using CPC Administrative Funds and the report was distributed identifying the options and recommendations from that study.
2. Brook School Apartments has submitted a proposal for up to \$3,534,000 towards the preservation and restoration of the Brook School Apartments, buildings A, B and C. Each of the buildings would have all of the windows replaced, Building A is in need of repointing, and each of the buildings will have its roof replaced. (A feasibility study of rebuilding the original gambrel roof on Building C, which burned in a fire, has not been completed, but if that is feasible, then that part of the Building C roof would not be repaired now, but would be repaired in a later project to incorporate that original restoration. There is some discussion about how much of this project can be funded from the cash flow from the Brook School Enterprise Fund. In addition, there is discussion of a further project addressing repointing of Buildings B and C, and whether an additional 6 units can be created under the gambrel roof (if feasible).
3. Town Manager submitted a proposal requesting approximately \$16,000 for support of community housing, which would be used for (a) a part time staff person for the Housing Partnership and Trust and (b) the second year of Weston's share of the costs of a Regional Housing Services Officer. Last year Weston joined with Bedford, Concord, Lexington, and Lincoln to make use of the Sudbury Regional Housing Service Office. This endeavor has been quite successful and the Massachusetts Municipal Association awarded its annual Kenneth E. Pickard Municipal Innovation Award to the six towns for this regional effort.
4. The Weston Historical Society has submitted a proposal for up to \$9,500 to be used for the cost of restoring and preserving historic artifacts so that they can be used as part of Weston's Tercentennial celebration. (The preparation of the display would be paid for with private donations, but the CPA funds, if approved, would pay for the historic preservation.)
5. The Conservation Commission has submitted a proposal for \$20,000 to be used towards preservation of open space fields
6. The Weston Field Steering Committee has renewed its request for funding of design fees for the restoration of fields at Gail Road and Weston High School (Fields 1 and 2) in the event that the CPA is amended to permit restoration of fields not purchased with CPA funds.
7. The Conservation Commission intends to submit a proposal for either the restoration or the removal of the dam at the Hobbs Field Pond, although the proposal is not quite ready to be submitted, as the ConsCom is waiting for a study of the dam and sediment, as well as a meeting to weigh the costs and benefits of these two approaches.

These proposals will be presented at a Public Hearing scheduled for March 26. I encourage you to come to the Public Hearing and to voice your thoughts on these projects. If the CPC votes to recommend a project, it is then presented to Town Meeting for its approval.

Following up on a prior Town Meeting appropriation, the house at 699 Boston Post Road has been sold, and the new owner has begun the restoration of the property, and in particular those exterior projects so that once those projects are complete, and the owner signs the

historic preservation restriction, he will receive the \$220,000 appropriated last November for this purpose!

See you on March 26th, I hope!



Town Meeting Advisory Committee Update, by Barbara Hill

On Wednesday, February 8, 2012, the first meeting was convened of an advisory committee that was formed at the suggestion of Wendy Spector, Moderator, for the purpose of making recommendations for her consideration. The Committee was a self-selected group of Weston residents, with ex officio (voting) representatives from the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, School Committee and League of Women Voters of Weston.

Tom Crane, Deputy Moderator (as appointed by Wendy Spector), convened the meeting and organized the volunteers and ex officio representatives. There were about 20 people who had either previously volunteered or came to the meeting. There was consensus on the Committee that everyone who had met one of those two criteria should be eligible for membership on the Committee.

Wendy Spector, ex officio (non-voting) member of the Committee, made some opening remarks about why she suggested the formation of this Committee: (1) how can we better prepare for

Town Meeting, (2) how can we encourage better attendance at Town Meeting, (3) what protocols will help balance open debate and moving Town Meeting along efficiently and (4) ways to prepare a moderator for encourage people to run and to prepare a new moderator.

The first meeting was largely spent with each of the attendees identifying their perspective and goals on what they hoped the Committee should accomplish. There was a wide range of concerns about the substantive state of our Town, as well as the conduct of Town Meeting. There seems to be consensus that Town Meeting is beloved, but flawed, perhaps necessarily so --- democracy is messy business.

The Committee voted Tom Crane as its Chair, and Alex Shimada-Brand as its Vice Chair. Beverly Foster volunteered to be the secretary. The second meeting of the Committee will be held next Wednesday, February 15th at 7 PM at the Town Hall.

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Town of Weston Precinct Changes

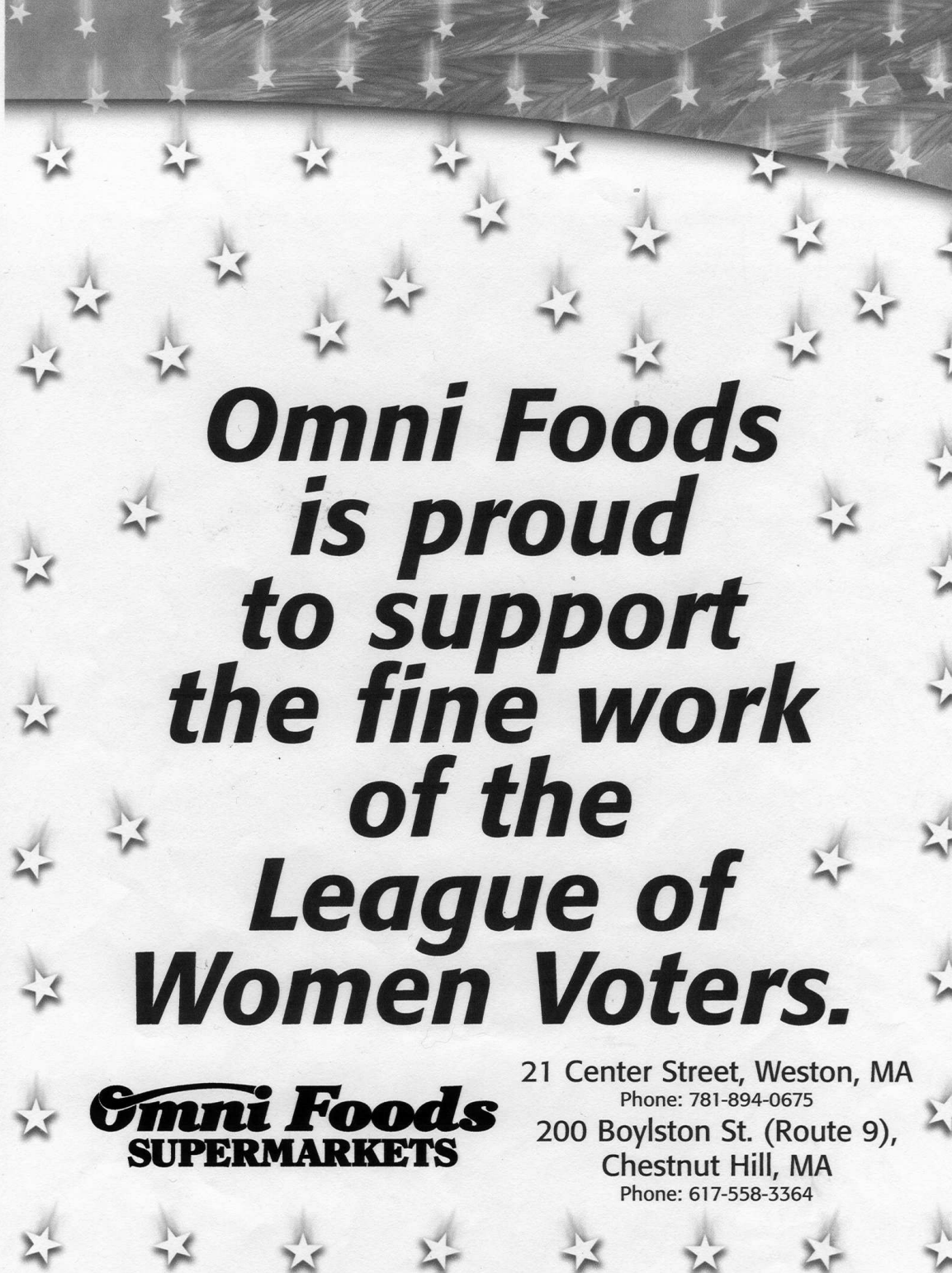
Street #	Street Name	Original Precinct	City/Town	New Precinct
206	CHURCH ST	1	WESTON	2
214	CHURCH ST	1	WESTON	2
357	CONANT RD	1	WESTON	2
365	CONANT RD	1	WESTON	2
367	CONANT RD	1	WESTON	2
373	CONANT RD	1	WESTON	2
381	CONANT RD	1	WESTON	2
407	CONANT RD	1	WESTON	2
409	CONANT RD	1	WESTON	2
25	GREEN LN	1	WESTON	2
2	HASTINGS RD	1	WESTON	2
4	HASTINGS RD	1	WESTON	2
6	HASTINGS RD	1	WESTON	2
1	HASTINGS RD	1	WESTON	2
5	HASTINGS RD	1	WESTON	2
7	HASTINGS RD	1	WESTON	2
9	HASTINGS RD	1	WESTON	2
11	HASTINGS RD	1	WESTON	2
15	HASTINGS RD	1	WESTON	2
110	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
114	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
118	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
126	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
134	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
146	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
154	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
158	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
160	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
166	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
170	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
176	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
190	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
256	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
260	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
266	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
270	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
272	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
276	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
306	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
336	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
348	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2

Town of Weston Precinct Changes

Street #	Street Name	Original Precinct	City/Town	New Precinct
360	NORTH AVE	1	WESTON	2
108	VILES ST	1	WESTON	2
126	VILES ST	1	WESTON	2
128	VILES ST	1	WESTON	2
130	VILES ST	1	WESTON	2
134	VILES ST	1	WESTON	2
102	WELLESLEY ST	2	WESTON	3
91	WELLESLEY ST	3	WESTON	2
89	WELLESLEY ST	3	WESTON	2
0	WELLESLEY ST	3	WESTON	2
375	HIGHLAND ST	3	WESTON	4
385	HIGHLAND ST	3	WESTON	4
365	HIGHLAND ST	3	WESTON	4
405	HIGHLAND ST	3	WESTON	4
355	HIGHLAND ST	3	WESTON	4
345	HIGHLAND ST	3	WESTON	4
126	PINE ST	3	WESTON	4
118	PINE ST	3	WESTON	4
98	PINE ST	3	WESTON	4
88	PINE ST	3	WESTON	4
78	PINE ST	3	WESTON	4
68	PINE ST	3	WESTON	4
60	PINE ST	3	WESTON	4
52	PINE ST	3	WESTON	4
44	PINE ST	3	WESTON	4
36	PINE ST	3	WESTON	4
28	PINE ST	3	WESTON	4
18	PINE ST	3	WESTON	4
8	PINE ST	3	WESTON	4
669	SOUTH AVE	3	WESTON	4
637	SOUTH AVE	3	WESTON	4
625	SOUTH AVE	3	WESTON	4
621	SOUTH AVE	3	WESTON	4
613	SOUTH AVE	3	WESTON	4
605	SOUTH AVE	3	WESTON	4
597	SOUTH AVE	3	WESTON	4
589	SOUTH AVE	3	WESTON	4
400	SOUTH AVE	3	WESTON	4
15	WINTER ST	3	WESTON	4
10	WINTER ST	3	WESTON	4
3	WINTER ST	3	WESTON	4

Town of Weston Precinct Changes

Street #	Street Name	Original Precinct	City/Town	New Precinct
10	PRESCOTT LN	4	WESTON	2
4	PRESCOTT LN	4	WESTON	2
7	PRESCOTT LN	4	WESTON	2
5	PRESCOTT LN	4	WESTON	2
1	PRESCOTT LN	4	WESTON	2
335	WELLESLEY ST	4	WESTON	3
337	WELLESLEY ST	4	WESTON	3
339	WELLESLEY ST	4	WESTON	3
8	HASTINGS RD	1	WESTON	2
10	HITCHING POST LN	1	WESTON	2
12	HITCHING POST LN	1	WESTON	2
14	HITCHING POST LN	1	WESTON	2
4	LOWER FIELD RD	1	WESTON	2
7	LOWER FIELD RD	1	WESTON	2
11	LOWER FIELD RD	1	WESTON	2
19	LOWER FIELD RD	1	WESTON	2
1	DELETED ST	2	WESTON	1
10	CUTTER'S BLUFF	3	WESTON	2

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 on a dark background. The text is centered and written in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font.

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League of Women Voters of Weston

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2011-2012

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.