



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION

January 7th First Friday Forum – Affordable Housing Opportunities in Lexington

The First Friday League of Women Voters is showcasing the issue of affordable home ownership at its meeting on Friday, January 7, 2011, at 9:30 am in the Community Meeting Room at Cary Memorial Library.

The Housing and Planning Consultant, Karen Sunnarborg, will provide a presentation on work that the Lexington Housing Partnership has been pursuing during the past year on how Lexington might make more affordable housing opportunities available. The work included a survey of how other communities are helping young families purchase their first homes, particularly those who were raised in the communities and have been priced out of the housing market. The meeting will include a discussion on how Lexington might adapt these programs to suit local needs and priorities.

This is the fourth in a series of 2010-2011 First Friday Forums hosted by the League of Women Voters of Lexington to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. Coffee will be available at 9:30 a.m. and presentations will begin at 9:45 in the Community Meeting Room on the lower level of Cary Memorial Library, 1874 Massachusetts Avenue. The library is easily accessible by Lexpress and from the Minuteman Bikeway. For more information or to carpool, contact the League at 781-862-6435. All League forums are open to the public at no charge.

Membership Renewal Reminder

Renewal letters and forms were sent to League members in September and the response has been great. There is still time to send in your dues. If you've misplaced the form, you can download another from our website at www.lwvlexington.org or call 781-862-6435 and we'll be happy to send you another.

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Membership: Wendy Manz - wendy_manz@yahoo.com

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. March and Celebration

Lexington's CommUNITY Committee is proud to host the Eighteenth Annual CommUNITY commemoration honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Sunday, January 16th from 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. in Lexington. 2011 marks the 25th Anniversary of the first observance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a federal holiday observed by all 50 states.

The CommUNITY Commemoration begins at 1:30 p.m. with the traditional Unity Walk from the Lexington Battle Green to Cary Hall. The indoor program will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m. Participants are invited to join the walk and/or attend the program at Cary Hall, which is wheelchair accessible and will be open start at 1:30 p.m. Admission is free and all are welcome.

For more information contact Jill Smilow at 781-424-8775 or jillsvoice@yahoo.com

February 4th First Friday to Discuss Hartwell Avenue Zoning

A preview of the Transportation Management Overlay District Plan for the Hartwell Avenue area will be presented at the League of Women Voters of Lexington's First Friday Forum. Planning Board Chair Greg Zurlo and Town Planning Director Maryann McCall Taylor will describe the proposed infrastructure and regulations and participate in questions and discussion.

Lexington has limited commercial zones and the Town Zoning Bylaw prescribes the density or development permitted in each zone by setting a floor area ratio, or "FAR", the ration between buildable square footage and the size of the buildable lot. In 2009, to create useful businesses and additional tax revenue in the commercial zones, the Planning Board introduced an article increasing the Hartwell Avenue FAR from 1.5 to 3.5. Town Meeting approved the increased FAR with the understanding that the Planning Board would complete a Transportation Management Overlay District (TMOD) Plan for Hartwell Avenue. After spending more than a year drafting Site Plan Review Regulations and setting out infrastructure improvements to accommodate vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic in the area, the Board, in consultation with the Selectmen, voted to approve the Hartwell Avenue Plan which will be presented to the 2011 spring Town Meeting in the Planning Board's report.

For an excellent review of the history and present development on zoning on Hartwell Avenue, the League recommends Attorney Ed Grant's article in the December 16, 2010 *Lexington Minuteman*.

This is the fifth in a series of 2010-2011 First Friday Forums hosted by the League of women Voters of Lexington to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. Coffee will be available at 9:30 a.m. and presentations will begin at 9:45 a.m. in the Community Meeting Room on the lower level of Cary Memorial Library, 1874 Massachusetts Avenue. The library is easily accessible by Lexpress and from the Minuteman Bikeway. For more information or to carpool contact the League at 781-862-6435. All League forums are open to the public at no charge.

Town Election - March 7th

Are you interested in being a Town Meeting Member or candidate for town office? If so, there are some important dates that candidates need to remember.

2011 CANDIDATE DEADLINES

DATE-EVENT

Monday, Jan. 10, 2011 5:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m. - Deadline to file with Town Clerk; Incumbent Town Meeting Members
Friday, Jan. 14, 2011	5:00 p.m. - Deadline to Obtain Blank Nomination Papers: New Candidates – All Offices
Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2011	5:00 p.m. – Deadline to Submit Signed Nomination Papers to Board of Registrars/Town Clerk for Certification
Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2011	5:00 p.m. – Deadline for Candidates to Withdraw

For more information go to <http://www.lexingtonma.gov/townclerk/nominationpapers.cfm>

Question & Answer Evening with Lexington's State Legislators

Lexington's representatives to the State Legislature, Senators Susan Fargo and Ken Donnelly and Representatives Jay Kaufman and Thomas Stanley, will be answering your questions at a Q&A forum on Wednesday, February 9 at Cary Hall, 1605 Massachusetts Avenue. The snow date is February 10. The forum is scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Lexington, the Lexington Town Meeting Members Association, The Lexington Minuteman and The Colonial Times, and moderated by Lexington Town Meeting Moderator Deborah Brown, this will be an opportunity for citizens to directly ask questions of their representatives.

There is no admission charge and the public is encouraged to attend. For further information, call the League of Women Voters at 781-862-6435.

We Remember

At a time in the '80s when fewer women worked outside their homes, the Lexington League's board meetings were held in the mornings, and Janet Hurley provided a low cost babysitting service so that women with young children could attend. We were sorry to note that Janet passed away in December.

OBSERVER CORPS INVITATION

League Volunteer Opportunity

The League always needs people to observe local town board and committee meetings. If you'd like to learn more about how Lexington operates, volunteer to be a League observer. You can either attend meetings in person or watch from home and write up a brief summary of the proceedings for the Bulletin. It's okay if you can't cover every meeting. We welcome occasional reports, as well.

We currently need observers for the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and School Committee. If you have a particular area of interest, or can recommend someone, contact Pat Costello at patcostello@rcn.com.

These reports are crucial to keeping League members informed. Please consider volunteering your time.

LWVMA NEWS AND INFORMATION

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts wants to hear from you! This past election season underscored for all of us how much our communities need the League. The Strategic Planning Committee and the state board of directors are working to serve members and communities better and your feedback is essential. Please join us to share what you believe are the key areas the League should work on, what you like and want continued, and what you feel needs improving.

We will be holding a series of "town hall" meetings across Massachusetts to hear directly from members about the issues they are concerned about. There are two formats we will use, an online option and a face-to-face option. Some LWVL board members will be attending the closest session at 6:00 p.m. in Natick on Tuesday, January 11. To carpool, call 781-862-6435.

If you can't attend one of the sessions in person, consider participating in one of the online forums scheduled on January 5, 7pm to 8:30pm, January 6, 7pm – 8:30pm or January 13, 7pm – 8:30pm.

For more information, please feel free to contact the state Office at 617-523-2999 or Terry Yoffie at lvwmaspc@yahoo.com

LWVUS PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Thank you for all your dedicated support this past year - our 90th anniversary year. Without your commitment, the League of Women Voters could not continue our mission to make democracy work.

We came together in 2010 to educate thousands of voters nationwide, expand our outreach to young voters, and ramp up voter protection efforts to ensure that all eligible voters could vote. We made a difference for health care reform, ethics in government, money in elections, climate change, judicial diversity and many other issues.

In the coming months, we will be redoubling our efforts as we continue to make government more accountable and transparent to its citizens, and we'll be counting on your support to help achieve these goals.

You are an important part of the citizenry that makes our work possible as we fight to be heard over the rabble of special interests. Because of you, we recommit ourselves every day to make our voice heard and get the work done.

We have a busy year ahead of us but with your help and the strength of our supporters across the country, I know we can achieve anything.

Thank you so much and have a happy new year.

All the best,

Elisabeth MacNamara
President, LWVUS
www.lwv.org

We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the January 2011 Bulletin, please send it to *Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti* at *Nancor1106@gmail.com* by December 22.

Dates to Save:

January 7 LWVL First Friday Forum

February 4 LWVL First Friday Forum

February 9 Question & Answer Evening with Lexington's State Legislators

March 2 LWVL Candidates Night

March 7 Town Election



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