

# BULLETIN

League of Women Voters  
Arlington, Massachusetts

[www.lwva.com](http://www.lwva.com)

## January 2014

### LWVA Calendar

1/6	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Kim Haase's home, 88 Park Ave., Apt. 401. All members welcome. See page 2 for directions.
1/20	Monday 6 p.m.	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observance, Town Hall, 730 Mass. Ave. See page 3 for details.
	Thursday 3/20	Candidates' Night for the annual Town Election, at Town Hall, co-sponsored with Vision 2020. Volunteers needed! See page 6 for details.

### Town Election Calendar

2/7	Friday 5 p.m.	Deadline for Town Meeting Members who are candidates for re-election to give written notice to the Town Clerk (second floor of Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Ave.).
2/12	Wednesday 5 p.m.	Deadline for obtaining blank registration papers from the Town Clerk's Office.
2/14	Friday 5 p.m.	Deadline for submitting all nomination papers to the Town Clerk's Office for certification of signatures.
2/28	Friday 5 p.m.	Deadline for filing certified nomination papers with the Town Clerk.
3/14	Friday 8 p.m.	Last day to register to vote in the Town Election.
4/5	Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Town Election.
	Monday 4/28	Town Meeting begins.

Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski: Co-Presidents  
[CarolynMParsons@msn.com](mailto:CarolynMParsons@msn.com), [amolshzewski@gmail.com](mailto:amolshzewski@gmail.com)  
 Ann FitzGerald: Membership [AnnFitz@rcn.com](mailto:AnnFitz@rcn.com)

Kim Haase: Bulletin Editor [c.haase@comcast.net](mailto:c.haase@comcast.net)  
 Margaret Reiners: Bulletin Mailing [mlreiners@gmail.com](mailto:mlreiners@gmail.com)

## Co-President's Message

Dear League members and friends,

I am writing this the day after our second snow storm of the season. I am grateful that the weather cooperated for our annual holiday party. We enjoyed meeting and hearing from Deputy Town Manager Andrew Flanagan. Our potluck, as always, was great. Many thanks go to Joan and Jim Robbio, who once again, graciously hosted us.

Now that we are turning the page to a new year, it's time to start planning for our local election season. The warrant for annual Town Meeting is open until the last day of January. After that, races for candidates for town-wide office and town meeting will start gaining notice. The League will be organizing Candidates Night and compiling the Voters Guide. We will also be offering rides to the polls. Please get in touch with Elizabeth Thompson (see page 6 of this Bulletin) if you are interested in helping with any of these activities.

I wish you and your family a happy and healthy new year.

*Angela Olszewski*

***Directions to Kim Haase's home, 88 Park Ave., Apt. 401:***

88 Park Ave. is the Locke School Condominium building at the corner of Park Ave. and Paul Revere Rd., one block up the hill from Mass. Ave. You should be able to park on the opposite side of Paul Revere, or on Park Ave. or Davis Rd. The lot behind the building is for residents only.

The building entrance is on Paul Revere Road; push the button for Apt. 401 to be buzzed in.

**LWVA LEADERSHIP 2013–2014**

Carolyn Parsons, Co-President	781-646-9309
Angela Olszewski, Co-President	781-648-8649
Meredith Zona, Organization VP	781-648-2753
Patricia Muldoon, Action VP	781-648-1019
Joan Martin, Local Action VP	781-646-0752
Kathleen Colwell, Treasurer	781-646-4522
Anne Linn, Secretary	781-643-0356
Elizabeth Thompson, Voter Service	781-646-5942
Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Katharine Fennelly, Voters' Guide	781-648-1794
Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor	781-643-3429
Margaret Reiners, Bulletin Mailing	781-646-9611
Janice Bakey, Email Coordinator	781-643-4345
Phyllis Maddox, Webmistress	781-646-4362

The BULLETIN is published monthly except during the summer and December by the League of Women Voters of Arlington, PO Box 461, Arlington, MA 02476.



# **26th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance**

**Monday, January 20, 2014**

**Guest Speaker  
Dr. Peniel Joseph, Professor of History  
Tufts University**

**Music: Arlington High School Jazz Band  
And Madrigal Singers**

**Doors open at 6:45 p.m. in Town Hall.**


**Program begins at 7:30 p.m.**

**Robbins Memorial Town Hall  
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476**

*We will be collecting non-perishable goods for the Arlington Food Pantry.*

*A free-will offering will benefit public and nonprofit programs  
that further the goals of Dr. King.*

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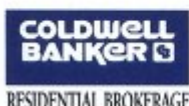
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## **Economic Development Planner Talks of Town's Future at Special LWVA Meeting**

*By Kim Haase*

Ted Fields, Arlington's new Economic Development Planner, spoke at a special meeting of the League of Women Voters of Arlington on November 14 at the home of Meredith Zona. He presented the ideas his office is currently working on and responded to comments and questions from LWVA members.

Fields, who in the past worked in Framingham, Waltham, and Newton, has the following primary goals:

- To enhance the value of Arlington's community property and businesses
- To foster economic development
- To help local decision makers make good planning decisions
- To plan the future of the Town's commercial districts (primarily Massachusetts Avenue and Broadway)

His primary focus is to protect Arlington's commercial properties, preserving and increasing their value to residents. He is trying to prevent the conversion of more of the Town's relatively few commercial properties to residential use, allowing for some mixed-use development (with retail on the ground floor and apartments on upper floors, for example).

To achieve the Town's development goals, Fields is engaging in activities like the following:

- Helping Arlington Center and Arlington Heights business owners organize into groups to advocate on issues that concern them
- Helping the Chamber of Commerce increase the number of street festivals
- Reviving the First Lights celebration to inaugurate the holiday season along Mass. Ave.
- Starting a website for economic development to provide information to both businesses and shoppers
- Working with arts organizations to increase the presence of artistic and cultural events in the Town centers, helping artists organize themselves to contribute to the Town's street life, and encouraging the development of more gallery space
- Encouraging the addition of new commercial tenants to complement existing ones
- Encouraging the development of "co-working spaces", similar to incubators, to allow small businesses to share common facilities
- Encouraging clean-technology companies to locate in Arlington
- Working with the comprehensive master planning process to allow for more interesting commercial centers to attract businesses
- Improving parking by increasing the efficiency of existing lots, adding satellite ones where possible, and improving signage to make the lots easier to find (putting signs a block away from the lots, for example)
- Encouraging alternative transportation such as bicycles
- Encouraging development that makes it easy for residents to work near home or at home
- Improving the appearance of storefronts (the Selectmen have requested this)

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Looking Ahead to 2014 Local Candidates' Night – Want to Help?

By Elizabeth Thompson, Voter Service Chair

When you settle down all cozy in your comfy slippers to enjoy a January storm, you might think for a few minutes about how you can help your local League. Please call or email Elizabeth Thompson if you would like to put your name on a list of potential helpers at the March 20, 2014 local Candidates' Night for any of the following tasks:

- Voter's Guide for *Arlington Advocate*
- Press release
- Postcard invitations to TMM candidates
- Bulletin Article for March — request for CN Helpers
- Invitation letters to candidates for Town offices
- Write broadcast script for moderator
- Review draft script
- Timers for candidate presentations
- Review questions to ask candidates
- Greeters
- Pre- and post-event setup and cleanup

Elizabeth Thompson, Voter Service Chair  
 elizw.thompson@gmail.com  
 781-646-5942



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**Ted Fields (Continued from page 5)**

Fields then responded to questions from attendees. Among the information that emerged was the following:

- Bus shuttles between parts of Town (like Lexpress) are just beginning to be discussed.
- The next step in the master planning process is a baseline report on existing conditions, which is now being drafted. After that will be a draft vision statement, followed by a draft set of general goals, from which more specific ones will grow.
- Regional planning opportunities are limited, but the Town is trying to work collaboratively with other towns where possible.
- Brick sidewalks are still a concern, though the Senior Center brick surface is now anchored in concrete to make it firmer.
- They are looking into low-cost ways to improve Broadway Plaza by removing the raised structures to create a more traditional plaza.
- They are working on increasing tourism to historical sites such as the Jason Russell House and the Old Schwamb Mill, and on increasing the focus on the Uncle Sam legacy.
- Cohousing is difficult if not impossible with current zoning laws and lack of available space, but the master plan will likely lead to modernization of the zoning laws.

Many thanks to Meredith Zona for hosting the event.

Ted Fields, Economic Development Planner, at the special meeting on November 14.

*Photo by Phyllis Maddox*



## LWVA Holiday Party Welcomes Deputy Town Manager

*By Kim Haase*

The LWVA's annual Holiday Party filled Joan and Jim Robbio's hospitable living room on December 12 to enjoy a delicious pot-luck dinner and to hear from Andrew Flanagan, who has served as Arlington's Deputy Town Manager since May 2012.

Growing up in a family of firefighters in Winthrop, Flanagan told us, he had intended to follow the family profession. However, he studied public administration in college just at the time Winthrop was moving to a Town Manager system, became fascinated by issues of town governance, and was hired as Deputy Town Manager in his home town as soon as he graduated. He soon moved on to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), focusing on regionalization of municipal services, and then took a position in Newburyport, which has a strong mayor system, working on budget development.

Flanagan's primary responsibility as Deputy Town Manager is architecting the operating and capital budgets, since Arlington (unlike most towns its size) has no chief financial officer (CFO). His role is to create the budget, get it approved, and then manage it, working with many other Town officials to do so.

He plays a role in other projects as well:

- Commuting from out of town, he noticed that the entrances to Town were somewhat dilapidated and is working on an Arlington Gateway Initiative, a public/private effort to improve these areas.
- He works on the Town's collective bargaining agreements, although no activity is expected till after FY 2015.
- He serves as backup to Adam Chapdelaine, the Town Manager, when needed.
- He works on projects to use resources more efficiently, such as working with Bedford on a regional energy efficiency project, and improving the efficiency of the Town's street lights.

Flanagan went on to answer questions from attendees on topics that included the following:

- **A typical day:** On this day, for example, while working on the budget (which is due January 15), he met for 6 hours with the Comptroller, Ruth Lewis, and then with the Arlington Public Schools CFO, Diane Johnson. Managing the budget for a \$150 million organization with 15 department heads presents financial challenges every day, including emergencies (for example, the July 2012 microburst in East Arlington, which had a huge impact).
- **The snowplowing budget:** The budget is \$670K per year. The budget is minimal because it cannot be decreased; snow is the only item that we are allowed to overrun and then take out of tax revenue. Last year, we spent \$1.4 million and took it out of the following year's taxes. The previous year, we stayed within the appropriation.

*(Continued on next page)*



## Andrew Flanagan (Continued)

- **Working with an elected treasurer and financial staff:** Flanagan has an excellent relationship with the Treasurer (Steve Gilligan), but neither is required to do what the other requests. We are the largest town in the state with an elected Treasurer. In theory, the Treasurer and Comptroller should be in one department. However, attempts to create a coordinated Finance Department have not succeeded.
- **Master Plan process and human vs. physical resources:** He is working with MAPC to look into future needs for changing demographics, including an aging population, and is working closely with the Health and Human Services Department and the Council on Aging.
- **Brick walkways:** There was a long discussion of this topic. The Town is exploring plans to replace the Senior Center driveway with another surface.
- **Shared services:** The state decision some time ago to abolish county government and rely on towns stunted regionalization. The Town is working with MAPC to explore possibilities such as animal control, a regional lockup, large equipment, and COA vans. Currently we share a weights and measures official with Belmont and an energy division with Bedford. Both Andrew and Adam are huge advocates of sharing and foresee a greater need in this area, for example in emergency dispatching (Public Safety Answering Points, PSAPs). Massachusetts has 268 PSAPs, while California has 4 and Maryland has 26. Arlington spends \$1 million a year on this. There has been some talk of regional power companies, as on the Cape, but it would require legislative help. Combining four town health departments has been discussed but has not worked out for the time being.
- **Long-range trends:** They do not foresee a deficit until 2019-2020, based on tax projections and minimal growth in state aid. Moving Town health insurance to GIC has saved a great deal. School enrollment is growing, and the High School needs rebuilding.
- **What keeps you up at night:** Budget season is stressful; it's a very detailed and complex process working with departments and the Finance Committee, and preparing for Town Meeting. However, Arlington is a very rewarding community to work for.

Ann FitzGerald and co-host Joan Robbio with Andrew Flanagan, Deputy Town Manager, at the Holiday Party December 12.

*Photo by Phyllis Maddox*



## **The LWVA Thanks Lenore and Howard Winkler**

*By Janice Bakey*

We wish Lenore and Howard Winkler well in their new home in Lexington. And although they are only ten minutes away, we will miss their daily presence.

Lenore and Howard lived long and productive years in Arlington. While raising their three children, they were actively involved in the public schools, the Arlington Civil Rights Committee, Fair Housing laws, and the Arlington Housing Corporation. Throughout all the years, they have promoted clean and transparent government.

Many people may easily recall Howard's longtime public service as a Trustee of the Arlington Historical Society, as treasurer and director of the Middlesex Canal Association, and as a forty-year Town Meeting Member, the last of which included his efforts at successfully passing Affirmative Action articles in hiring for public construction projects.

Lenore worked most of the time behind the scenes in many of the same causes, so some people may not recall her involvement or her very public efforts to make the Arlington Housing Authority (AHA) a more open and transparent operation. She worked tirelessly in efforts to see the AHA become more welcoming to minorities. She even ran for a seat as a Housing Commissioner. Although she lost that race and any desire to be in the public light, Lenore continued her work with others for clean government and making Arlington a welcoming place for all people.

Those of us who may have worked with Lenore or Howard, or who became active in later years, owe both of them a huge debt of gratitude. Lenore and Howard helped build the base in which later efforts have continued to be successful in welcoming minorities and others to their new home in Arlington and in making Arlington's government more open and transparent.

To an amazing couple, thank you!

We welcome new members and renewals. Thank you for your support.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARLINGTON Membership Application/Renewal Form

\*\*Fiscal Year runs from April 1 to March 31\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Precinct \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
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Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please indicate if you do NOT want your contact information sent to Arlington League members

\_\_\_\_\_ Basic Membership Dues..... \$50
\_\_\_\_\_ 2nd member in household ..... \$23
\_\_\_\_\_ Student (full-time) ..... \$20
\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to help the LWV in Arlington, add \$ \_\_\_\_\_
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If \$50 is a hardship, please pay what you can and let us know that this is your dues payment.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: League of Women Voters of Arlington
MAIL TO: Ann FitzGerald, 162 Summer St., Unit 1, Arlington, MA 02474

\*\*\*\*\*

Please check areas of interest and activity even if you can't be actively involved THIS year.

SPECIAL LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

- Join the Board. Position: \_\_\_\_\_
Action: phone calls letters \_\_\_\_\_
Bulletin: mailing soliciting ads \_\_\_\_\_
Membership \_\_\_\_\_
Nominating Committee \_\_\_\_\_
Publicity Writer \_\_\_\_\_
Voter Service: Rides to the polls \_\_\_\_\_
Candidates Night \_\_\_\_\_
Voters' Guide \_\_\_\_\_
Attend State League's Phonathon \_\_\_\_\_
Be a discussion leader at local meetings \_\_\_\_\_
Fundraising activities \_\_\_\_\_
Offer meeting refreshments \_\_\_\_\_
Post fliers and deliver brochures \_\_\_\_\_
Host a meeting in my home \_\_\_\_\_
Monitor elections for nonprofit organizations \_\_\_\_\_

FOLLOW ISSUES, KEEP LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY INFORMED

- Congress/Presidency/Election Process \_\_\_\_\_
Discrimination/Equal Employment/Civil Rights \_\_\_\_\_
Education/Child Care \_\_\_\_\_
Environment/Recycling \_\_\_\_\_
Health Care \_\_\_\_\_
Justice/Courts/Prisons \_\_\_\_\_
Land Use \_\_\_\_\_
Taxation/Budgets/Deficits \_\_\_\_\_
Transportation/Urban Policy \_\_\_\_\_
Voting Rights \_\_\_\_\_
Warrant Articles Review \_\_\_\_\_
Welfare Policies/Basic Human Needs \_\_\_\_\_
Women's Issues \_\_\_\_\_
Zoning/Community Development/Land Use \_\_\_\_\_

OBSERVE AT TOWN BOARD MEETINGS\*

- Selectmen (Mondays) \_\_\_\_\_
Redevelopment Board (Mondays) \_\_\_\_\_
School Committee (2nd & 4th Thursdays) \_\_\_\_\_
Conservation Commission (1st & 3rd Thurs.) \_\_\_\_\_
Housing Authority \_\_\_\_\_

SKILLS LEAGUE COULD DRAW ON

- Computer database \_\_\_\_\_ Fundraising \_\_\_\_\_
Graphic design \_\_\_\_\_ Writing articles \_\_\_\_\_
Desktop publishing \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_
Web site maintenance \_\_\_\_\_
Membership development \_\_\_\_\_
Moderating meetings \_\_\_\_\_

BEST TIME TO CALL YOU: (for phone tree reminders) Call before \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock

\*Some of these can be seen on cable TV

# **Rides to the Polls: Thanks to our Volunteers!**

The LWVA provided 6 rides to the polls for the December 10 special Congressional election.

Many thanks to our volunteer drivers: Janice Bakey, Kathy Fennelly, Ann FitzGerald, Vicki Ford, Joseph Kesselman, and Carolyn Parsons.

After this busy election year, we have a break until the Town Election on April 5.

*By Phyllis Maddox*

**January 2014**

**League of Women Voters of Arlington  
Post Office Box 461  
Arlington, MA 02476**

