

BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts

www.lwva.com

November/December 2010

Calendar

11/2	Tuesday 7 am to 8 pm	State Election. For information about rides to the polls, see last page.
11/5	Friday noon to 1 pm	League Lunch with Nellie Aikenhead, Arlington Land Trust board member, at the ACMI Cable Studio, 85 Park Ave. See page 10 for details. All are welcome.
11/5	Friday 7 to 9 pm	Life in the Balance forum, "Troubled Waters, Part 2: Protecting Our Taps," at the Alcott School Auditorium, 93 Laurel Street, Concord. See page 7 for details.
11/8	Monday 7 pm	LWVA Board Meeting at Anne Linn's home, 7 Linden St. All members welcome. See page 2 for directions.
12/3	Friday noon to 1 pm	League Lunch with John Leone, Town Meeting Moderator, at the ACMI Cable Studio, 85 Park Ave. See page 10 for details. All are welcome.
12/9	Thursday 6 pm	Annual Holiday Party at Joan Robbio's home, 4 Bradley Rd., with guest speaker Adam Chapdelaine, Deputy Town Manager. See page 8 for details.

Farewell, Carma!

Our beloved Carma Forgie, a mainstay of the Arlington League and of the state League for many years, has moved to Chicago with her husband Jim. For those who'd like to keep in touch, her new address is

Carma Forgie
Montgomery Place
5550 South Shore Drive #1009
Chicago, IL 60637

Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski: Co-Presidents
CarolynMParsons@msn.com, amolszewski@gmail.com
Ann FitzGerald: Membership AnnFitz@rcn.com

Kim Haase: Bulletin Editor c.haase@comcast.net
Margaret Reiners: Bulletin Mailing mlreiners@gmail.com

Co-President's Message

Arlington is a politically active town. This is an understatement. I have already received an enquiry as to when Candidates Night will be in March as the Town Hall is being booked well in advance. I cannot understand how some towns of considerable size are able to have Town Meetings that last for only three or four sessions. In Arlington one article may be discussed for an entire evening.

I and other League members attended the forum at Arlington Town Hall last Wednesday evening, Oct. 27. This forum allowed Arlington residents to provide input on the future uses of the Busa land. Pat Lieberson's fine article on the next page has details.

The League will be providing rides to the polls on Election Day. The League thanks Marc Butler, Kathy Fennelly, Ann FitzGerald, Victoria Ford, Aki Hibbert, Pat Lieberson, Phyllis Maddox, Nancy Solomon, and Howard Winkler for volunteering to drive.

Please come to the League Lunch on Friday, Nov. 5, to hear the presentation by Nellie Aikenhead on the Arlington Land Trust and their quest to buy Elizabeth Island.

John Leone, Town Moderator, will be the speaker at the League Lunch on Dec. 3. His topic will be Town Meeting.

On a personal note, I expect to be a grandmother within the next few days. I cannot wait!

Carolyn Parsons

Directions to Anne Linn's home:

7 Linden Street is just off Park Avenue in Arlington Heights. If you are coming from Massachusetts Avenue, it is a left turn, just after Florence Avenue and before Oakland Avenue. If you are coming from Route 2, of course, it is a right turn just after Oakland Avenue.

It is the first house on Linden Street, on the right.

LWVA LEADERSHIP 2010-2011

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
Patricia Lieberson, Local Action VP	781-646-1987
Kathleen Colwell, Treasurer	781-646-4522
Anne Linn, Secretary	781-643-0356
Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Clarice Gordon, Publicity	781-648-0004
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.

Busa Land Use Committee Holds Hearing in Arlington

By Pat Lieberman

The Town of Lexington recently purchased the Busa farm property, which is located in Lexington but is adjacent to the Arlington Reservoir property in Arlington. In recent years the Busa family has operated the farm as a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) where people pay in advance to buy shares in the upcoming year's produce harvest. A number of families from Arlington have participated in the CSA. Lexington is leasing the land back to the Busas to continue farming until the town decides on its ultimate use.

Lexington has formed the Busa Land Use Committee to study and make recommendations for possible uses. The land was purchased with Community Preservation Act funds, so uses must be limited to affordable housing, recreation, conservation, or historic preservation. Conservation can include various types of open space, parks, cemeteries, and farming. The Committee has held several hearings for Lexington residents to express their wishes for the use of this land. It also met with Arlington officials and agreed to hold one hearing for Arlington residents to express their suggestions and concerns.

There were about seventy people in the audience at the Arlington hearing, with 31 speaking. Thirty of those expressed a strong preference for keeping all of the land as open space, with 23 wanting some form of community farm included. It was suggested that farming could also be used as an educational resource for the area's schools. One person suggested a natural burial ground ("green cemetery") which could also be used as a park. Several spoke against housing and playing fields. They described how housing development, and playing fields to a lesser extent, would increase storm water runoff and pollution that would harm the natural ecosystem of the entire area. From the reservoir through the farm to Whipple Hill is now a wildlife corridor that includes a variety of animals and at least 191 species of birds. Already severe flooding in Arlington could be increased, and pollution could extend to other parts of the Mystic River watershed.

A member of Arlington's Transportation Advisory Committee discussed the importance of considering the transportation and parking needs of any uses being considered. He offered to assist the Lexington committee with resources that Arlington has developed to assess transportation needs and impact.

Going forward, the Busa Committee will meet with Lexington groups that will present proposals for housing, playing field, and community farm uses for the land. A site survey has just been completed, and they will study it to determine what the site would actually permit as uses. They hope to have recommendations ready for the next Lexington Town Meeting in March. They encouraged Arlington residents to go to www.lexingtonma.gov, then Boards & Committees, for more information, and you may send comments and suggestions to the Committee's email address, BusaLandComm@lexingtonma.gov.



True Value

WANAMAKER HARDWARE, INC.

**1298 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington Heights, MA 02476
(781) 643-1900**

Family owned and operated. Providing services to the community for 75 years.

- Sharpening Service
- Locks Re-keyed
- Lamps Repaired
- Aluminum Windows and Screens Repaired
- Glass Cutting
- Window Shades Cut
- Computerized Paint Mixing
- Gift Certificates
- Copier available

Specials and Coupons Online
www.truevalue.com/wanamaker

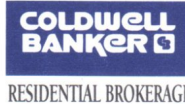


FITNESS FIRST

**Arlington's Neighborhood Health Club
Since 1982**

471 Mass. Ave. Arlington (781) 643-4300
Club Hours: M-F 5:30 am to 10 pm, S-S 8 am to 6 pm

NANCY N. SOLOMON, GRI
REALTOR®, Notary Public



(781) 648-6500 Business
(781) 648-9222 Fax
(781) 446-2658 Voice Mail
Nancy.Solomon@NEMoves.com

637 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

www.NewEnglandMoves.com



Owned And Operated By NRT LLC.



arlington children's center

17 irving street * arlington, ma * 02476

781 646 9307 www.arlingtonchildrenscenter.org

MEMBER AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY



Swanson
Jewelers Inc.

DAVID R. SWANSON
CERTIFIED GEMOLOGIST
APPRAISER

WWW.SWANSONJEWELERS.COM

717 MASSACHUSETTS AVE.
ARLINGTON, MASS. 02476
PHONE (781) 643-4209
FAX (781) 643-0977

LEONE & LEONE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

A GENERAL PRACTICE LAW FIRM EXPERIENCED
IN REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS
AND PROBATE MATTERS

ALSO CONCENTRATING IN:
CONDO CONVERSION - WILLS AND TRUSTS
ESTATE PLANNING - GUARDIANSHIPS
PROBATE MATTERS - BUSINESS LAW

DAVID A. LEONE
JOHN D. LEONE
SUZANNE M. LEONE

**637 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476**

(Tel) 781-648-2345 - (Fax) 781-648-2544
www.LeoneLaw.com - John@LeoneLaw.com

Initial Free Consultation for League Members

LWVMA Opposes Ballot Questions #1 and #3



Question #1 would repeal the state sales tax on alcoholic beverages.

Supporters say this tax puts an undue burden on alcohol sales and will cause sales to go to neighboring states. Opponents cite that the excise tax on wholesale liquor has not kept up with inflation and report that there has been no significant decrease in sales since the tax was imposed in 2009.

Question #3 would reduce the state sales tax on all goods from the present 6.25% to 3%.

Supporters state this would rein in overspending by the state, create jobs, and add needed funds to the taxpayer's wallet. The *Boston Globe* has reported that this would create a \$2.5 billion deficit in the state budget, impacting state services across the board. All four gubernatorial candidates oppose this initiative.

The League's goal is a state and local tax structure that will have an equitable impact on taxpayers and adequately support state services with consideration of the effect on the state and local economies.

The League supports the use of certain commonly accepted criteria in judging taxes, particularly equitability, economic effect, flexibility, ease and cost of collection and adequacy of yield; a greater reliance on state-collected taxes to reduce the burden on the property tax; an increase in revenue from the sales tax by broadening its base, continued provision for exemption of necessities such as food and medications, and clothing with a lower limit; and the broadening of the sales tax to include certain non-essential services sold to individuals when taxing those services would meet LWVMA criteria and when the greater burden would fall on those most able to pay.

Editor's Note: The League's position against Question #2, the repeal of the Affordable Housing Law, can be found on page 5 of the September Bulletin and on the LWVMA web site.

DISCLOSE Act Rejected

From the National League

Despite all our efforts, especially the hard work by the Leagues of Women Voters of Maine and Massachusetts, the DISCLOSE Act failed by a 59-39 vote. The League lobbied to support the Act, which would have partially restored transparency to U.S. elections by requiring disclosure of corporate and union spending in candidate elections.

The League of Women Voters of Maine's event to encourage their Senators to support the bill received wide coverage from national press and press in Maine. The League issued a statement; sent a letter to the full Senate; and sent a letter with coalition partners to Senators Snowe and Collins of Maine and Brown of Massachusetts, urging them to support the DISCLOSE Act. We focused on these three Senators' crucial votes, but they didn't come through.

The fight continues as we expect the legislation to be brought to the Senate again in a lame-duck session after the November elections.



Arlington Community Media Inc.

***Arlington's
Community
Television
Station***

**Salutes the
League of
Women Voters**

**781-777-1115
85 Park Avenue**

**www.ACMI.tv
Arlington, MA 02476**

*To advertise in the Bulletin,
call or email Kim Haase
781-643-3429, c.haase@comcast.net*

LAKOTA BAKERY



781 646-0121

Tuesday-Friday
8:30 am - 8:00 pm

Monday & Saturday
10:00 am - 6:00 pm

1375 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

lakotabakery.com



Life in the Balance: Troubled Waters “Protecting Our Taps” Forum Nov. 5

By Erin Pastuszewski, LWV of Concord-Carlisle

Many people wonder where their water comes from, how safe it is, and whether the supply is threatened. Learn about these and other water topics at the next Life in the Balance program, **Troubled Waters, Part 2: Protecting Our Taps**, on Friday, November 5, 7:00-9:00 p.m., at the Alcott School Auditorium, 93 Laurel Street, Concord, MA. The forum will explore issues that affect the availability and quality of our water supply, and actions we can take to address those issues.

“Protecting Our Taps” will feature keynote speaker Ruth Caplan, National Campaign Coordinator for the Alliance for Democracy’s Defending Water for Life Campaign and past chair of the national Sierra Club’s Water Privatization Task Force. Our two panelists are Alan Cathcart, Water & Sewer Superintendent, Town of Concord; and Valerie Lane, President of ValiantLane LLC, an environmental and management consulting firm. Other experts will be in the audience that evening. After a short Q&A period, forum attendees may participate in Action Group sessions to discuss the issues and consider local responses.

Troubled Waters, Part 1 was an October screening of **“Tapped,”** an award-winning documentary about the control, use and safety of our water and issues raised by the manufacture of bottled water. The film (www.tappedthemovie.com) is available through your local library.

Life in the Balance: Troubled Waters is co-sponsored by the Alliance for Democracy, North Bridge chapter; Carlisle Climate Action; ConcordCAN (Concord Climate Action Network); and the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle.

Life in the Balance encourages people to learn, connect and act on climate change issues. All forums are free and open to all. Last year’s forums were Let’s Talk Trash, Food for Thought and Powering the Future. For more information, visit <http://lwwcc.org/lifeinthebalance.html>, email TroubledWaters@lwwcc.org, call 978-254-1598, or contact ConcordCAN at Concordclimate@yahoo.com or 978-369-6305.



Join Us at LWVA's Holiday Party!

Thursday, December 9
6:00 - 9:00 pm
Joan Robbio's Home

Mark your calendars now for the Arlington League's annual holiday potluck party!

Appetizers and drinks will be served at 6:00,
and the main course will start at 6:30.

This year our featured guest speaker will be Arlington's Deputy Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine.

Friends and family members are welcome.

Directions to Joan Robbio's house, 4 Bradley Road:

Leaving Arlington Center via Mystic Street (Route 3), take a left onto Ridge St. Bear right at the island rotary. Take the third right after the rotary onto Winchester Rd., then the fourth right onto Bradley Rd. Joan's home is the third house on the right.

Please let Meredith Zona know by December 4th if you can attend and what dish you would like to bring. If you need a ride, please tell Meredith and we'll make arrangements. Call her at 781-648-2753 or e-mail mzona@fstinc.com.

Arlington Meeting Considers Water Issues

By Pat Lieberson

Sustainable Arlington and Arlington EcoFest presented a program on the present and future of water in Arlington on October 21. The purpose of this meeting was to get the public involved in identifying problems and working out solutions. The evening began with the opportunity to examine displays about six different aspects of water issues. Arlington Selectman Clarissa Rowe, a member of the Tri Community Still Water Flooding Working Group (Arlington, Belmont, Cambridge), State Representative Will Brownsberger, and Beth Meserve of the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) spoke about current water problems in our area and what is being done about some of them. There was a short film showing a boat trip down the length of the Mystic River.

The Mystic River Watershed covers 76 square miles, beginning with the Aberjona River in Reading, through the Mystic Lakes into the Mystic River, flowing eventually into Boston Harbor. There are 22 towns and 44 lakes and ponds within this watershed. Arlington contains part or all of seven bodies of water; the two Mystic Lakes, Mystic River, Mill Brook, Alewife Brook, Arlington Reservoir and Spy Pond. The most pressing current problems for Arlington identified by the speakers and audience members were flooding, pollution, especially in Mill Brook, Alewife Brook, and to a lesser extent, the Mystic River, and silting and vegetative growth in Spy Pond.

During the latter half of the meeting the audience broke into six groups representing the six display topics and were asked to discuss problems and suggest possible solutions relevant to their topic.

The comments in the group reports included:

The Seven Water Bodies – There is a need to develop ways to get the public interested and involved in solving water problems.

Storm Water – There is an increased amount of storm water due to development and the increased amount of impermeable surfaces included. This is not taken into consideration when estimating costs of development. Solutions could include requiring use of permeable surface materials in public and private construction or reconstruction, and the use of rain gardens and planting more trees to mitigate flooding.

Pollution – MyRWA is monitoring pollution in several Arlington water bodies, including Mill Brook, Alewife Brook and the Mystic River. The major sources of pollution are sanitary sewer overflows (SSO's), combined sewer overflows (CSO's) and stormwater run-off. Solutions require major repairs or reconstruction of water infrastructure by state or local governments that are very expensive. Unless enough citizens demand that these expenditures become a priority these problems will persist for a long time. The public should be educated about the effects of putting dangerous materials such as paint or motor oil into storm drains. Arlington is beginning a process of identifying illegal storm sewer connections.

(Continued on next page)

Arlington Water Meeting (Continued)

Water Use and Conservation – The Town should do more to encourage conservation by the public and encourage landscapers to use “green practices” in their work.

Public Water Supply – The public needs to be educated about their water supply. Where does it come from and how does it get to their homes? How safe is it? What can they do at home to conserve water?

Climate Change – How do people in Arlington affect climate? What will climate change do to Arlington? There needs to be a public outcry to get politicians to do anything about climate change.

To learn more about water in Arlington and the Mystic River watershed, and to get involved in the discussion about problems and solutions, go to sustainablearlington.org, mysticriver.org (Mystic River Watershed Assoc.), and fomr.org (Friends of the Mystic River).

Friday Lunches to Feature Land Trust and Town Meeting

Nellie Aikenhead, an Arlington resident and board member of the Arlington Land Trust, will be our speaker at the League Lunch on Friday, November 5, at 12 noon. The lunch will take place at the cable studio run by Arlington Community Media, Inc. (ACMI) at 85 Park Avenue.

Ms. Aikenhead, who holds a graduate degree in Environmental Science, managed complex land conservation projects for the Trust for Public Land for 14 years. Last year she left TPL to provide conservation-related consulting services to towns, land trusts, and private landowners. In addition, Nellie holds a real estate license and works on residential sales and purchase with a creative, locally owned firm - Avenue3 Real Estate. Ms. Aikenhead will focus her presentation on the Arlington Land Trust, a local non-profit conservation group formed in 1999, and the Trust's current effort to raise funds for and protect Elizabeth Island, an Arlington gem located in the center of Spy Pond.

On Friday, December 3, John Leone, Moderator of Arlington's Town Meeting will be our speaker, and Town Meeting will be his subject.

Bring your own brown-bag lunch and beverage at noon. We'll have a brief informal lunch, followed by the taping, where our speaker will give a presentation and then answer questions. The taping will last about half an hour.

We welcome new members at all times.
Contact Ann FitzGerald, annfitz@rcn.com, if you have any questions.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARLINGTON
Membership Application/Renewal Form

Fiscal Year runs from April 1 to March 31

Name _____ Precinct _____ Date _____
Address _____ Zip _____ Occupation _____
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: Kathy Colwell, 60 Claremont Ave., Arlington, MA 02476

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 Phonothon
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 Tuesdays)
Conservation Commission (1st & 3rd Thurs.)
Housing Authority

SKILLS LEAGUE COULD DRAW ON

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

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

The State Election is

Tuesday, November 2

The League will provide volunteer drivers from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to take voters who otherwise are unable to get to the polls.

**Those who need a ride should give Carolyn Parsons a call at
(781) 646-9309.**

Thank you to all our volunteer drivers!

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010

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

