

The Bulletin

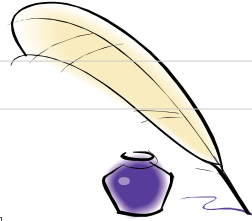
Westwood/Walpole League of Women Voters



Volume 5 Issue 3

November 2006

Page 1



Calendar of Events

Special points of interest:

- Calendar
- Domestic Violence program Recap
- Domestic Violence Action Diane DeVanna Donation
- Local Program in Walpole Healthy Home free from Toxins
- Affordable Housing- The Need
- Congressional Forum
- Voter Service Info
- Ballot Questions Information
- Holiday Party-Save the Date

Steering Committee

Chair: Shared by all Members

Bulletin Editor:

Jane Nash
781-769-1185

Jane.nash@comcast.net

Membership:

Marcia Hirshberg
781.326.8784

Hberg40@comcast.net

Publicity: Nan Crossland

Secretary: Jane Wojick

Treasurer: Cheryl Schiarizzi

Walpole Hazardous Waste:
Nancy Farris

Web Master: Kathy Zola

At Large: Phoebe Joseph
Rose Smith

*Welcome Back to Another Full Year Of League Events
Westwood-Walpole Steering Committee Adminstrates the Local League.*



*Election information is available at:
www.lwvwestwoodwalpole.org*

November

2nd—Congressional Candidates Forum —7:30pm
Norwood Town Hall corner of Washington and Nahatan
See page 6 for more

7th—General Election—**GET OUT THE VOTE!!**
Read about the Ballot Questions
see pages 8-10 for more

9th—SC meeting *All members are welcome to attend SC meetings.
Interested? Call Jane Nash 781-769-1185.*

13th—Local Program—Creating a Healthy Home
The speaker is Leise Jones
From the Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow/Clean Water Action
See page 4 for more

December

14th—Holiday Party
Karen Coffey's house
6:30pm
See page 11 for more



Happy Thanksgiving

The **Bulletin** is published ten times a year, September-June, by the League of Women Voters of Westwood/Walpole MA
Visit the **LWVMA** home page at www.lwvma.org and the **LWVUS** home page at www.lwv.org



Prevent Domestic Violence Meeting Recap

We are one of the few leagues that had a special event on Domestic Violence and has done so for the past 5 years. Unfortunately, these events are poorly attended. Only twelve persons were on hand at the Westwood Public library on October 12 to hear Layla D'Emilia-Shepherd, Esq. Director of Public Policy for Jane Doe Inc speak about the harm that domestic violence does to our families and ultimately to our country.

In her words, "The task we now face is continuing the work to redefine violence in the home as intolerable and illegal; to challenge the abuser's sense of entitlement to service and obedience, and to provide safety and support for those being abused."

Office Paul Connors of the Westwood Police Force talked to the group about what Westwood is doing to combat domestic violence.

Those attending spoke about what a worthwhile evening it was and how much they learned.

As part of our action against domestic violence the Westwood Walpole LWV has joined with Jane Doe Inc to inform our members about current legislation and how we can help get this legislation passed. We are encouraging all our members to buy and use the Domestic Violence stamp now available at your local post offices.

And as usual we will be supporting the Diane DeVanna Center. Please read the material on the next page and contribute.





Contribute to Dianne DeVanna Center and help defeat Domestic Violence

THE DIANNE DEVANNA CENTER

The Dianne DeVanna Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support and strengthen both individual family members and the family as a whole in order to significantly contribute to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The Center has established a lasting memorial to Dianne DeVanna through the development and implementation of programs in the area of public education, child and family support, and crisis intervention. The Center provides services to families who are currently receiving assistance from the Massachusetts Department of Social Services..



Dianne DeVanna

This is the child whose death at the hands of her parents caused the Dianne DeVanna Center to be established.

Each year the Westwood-Walpole League supports the Center with a contribution. In 2005 we raise over \$450.

This year we are asking for a contribution of \$25 a person. But all contributions no matter how small are most welcome.

Make checks to DeVanna Center and send it to: LWV, Box 294, Westwood, MA 02090 or bring it to holiday party on the 14th of December at Karen Coffey's home.

What Do We Do?

The DeVanna Center provides home-based support services to families whose children are at risk of abuse and neglect through the following programs:

Parent Aide Program- Our Parent Aides are trained, professionally supervised individuals who assist parents under stress. By establishing a long-term, supportive relationship, our Parent Aides can help the parent to improve parenting skills, reduce stress and isolation, access community resources, and discover his/her own strengths.

Transportation Program- Our Transportation Program transports children, usually in foster care, to supervised visits with their parents, therapy, daycare, school, and other necessary appointments

Parent Education Program-The Parent Education Program is designed to help parents develop practical and personal coping skills. The demands of raising children can sometimes be overwhelming and parents may struggle with issues of discipline, communication, and encouragement. These classes help parents learn how to build a strong parent-child relationship as they develop their parenting skills.

1599 Washington Street, Braintree, MA 02184; Susan Nagle Executive Director 781-843-7010

November Program-Creating a Healthy Home



The League of Women Voters of Westwood/ Walpole
presents an open informational meeting on:

Topic: Creating a Healthy Home

Speaker: Leise Jones Toxic Campaign Organizer of CleanWater Action

Date/Time Monday November 13, 2006 7:30 pm

Place: Deacon Willard Lewis House on 33 West Street, Walpole

Toxic Chemicals in our Environment and in daily use in our homes and businesses contribute to chronic illnesses including cancers, asthma, learning and developmental disabilities, and birth defects. Synthetic chemicals are produced for use without adequate testing for their potential impact on our health. These chemicals build up in our bodies and in our air, water, food, and soils. Children are more vulnerable to toxins than adults, and their normal development can be disrupted by exposure causing permanent damage.

While the Food and Drug Administration requires that drugs be thoroughly tested before they are marketed, the government has allowed chemicals that can have equally powerful impacts on our health to be released into our air and water. Fewer than 10% of the approximately 80,000 chemicals licensed for use today produced in the largest quantities have undergone even a limited set of tests to assess their health effects on humans or our environment. Most tests only look for acute toxicity or cancer-causing properties. They do not assess potential harm to a child nervous system or impact on the developing human brain. Nor do they look at the cumulative effect of chemicals now found in the blood and urine of Americans. There is no pre-market safety testing or approval required for chemicals used in cosmetics, toys, clothing, carpets, cleaning supplies, or construction materials. Government usually takes action only after harm is proven and found to be widespread. Current policies focus on establishing acceptable levels of harm from toxins, rather than seeking to prevent harm in the first place. Corporations have often used their power to block protective action by our government. Lobbying groups for the chemical, plastics, and oil industries have great impact on government policies and action.

There are safer alternatives already available, and citizens need to require their use by companies. There is a whole new Green Chemistry industry that is looking for safe chemicals and processes for manufacturers and businesses. We need to understand and promote their use.

See www.healthytomorrow.org for more information.

Need more information contact Phoebe Joseph 508-668-7750



State Study on Affordable Housing

Affordable housing who needs it and why

The word affordable may conjure up images of low-income people, but the truth is that affordable housing is needed by the middle class as well. Healthy towns are diverse towns. In order to have a diverse town a variety of housing styles at all levels of incomes must be available. Most town's employees cannot afford to live in the town's where they are employed.

This excerpt from a working paper from the New England Public Policy Center entitled **The Lack of Affordable Housing in New England: How Big a Problem? Why Is It Growing? What Are We Doing About It?** By Alicia Sasser, Bo Zhao, and Darcy Rollins with an overview by Robert Tannenwald (May 2006) explains why.

“Although housing costs in greater Boston and elsewhere around the region have leveled off, affordable housing is still high on the public policy agenda in every New England state. A growing chorus of employers and policymakers are warning that the region's high cost of housing is now undermining its ability to attract and retain workers and business.

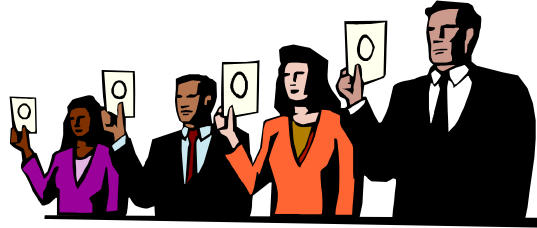
Owner-occupied housing is often not affordable, particularly in southern New England, and the problem is getting worse over time. In contrast, New England's rental housing is expensive relative to the rest of the nation, but incomes are high enough that rentals are still affordable to most New Englanders. However, the lack of affordable owner-occupied housing is a problem for both middle-income and very low income households. Households headed by young professionals can afford to purchase median homes in New England, but not as easily as they used to, and not as easily as in most rival metropolitan areas. At the same time, the very low-income are being squeezed by falling household incomes coupled with rapidly appreciating prices for houses at the lower end of the price distribution. Finally, fewer rental and owner-occupied units are actually available to the very low-income than in the past because households with higher incomes are moving down the housing distribution in order to secure shelter.”

A complete text of this working paper can be found at:

<http://www.bos.frb.org/economic/neppc/conferences/2006/housing/sasser052206.pdf>



Congressional Candidate's Forum-Norwood MA



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of NORWOOD

IS SPONSORING A CANDIDATES' FORUM

WHERE: Norwood Memorial Town Hall

WHEN: Thursday, November 2nd

7:30 p.m.

District 9 Congressional candidates will attend:

**Congressman Stephen F. Lynch
Jack E. Robinson**

**All County candidates in the upcoming election
have also been invited to attend.**

Come and hear the candidates' messages first hand.

**Please Contact Diane Jeffery, Vice-President at: 781-762-6026, if you
would like additional information.**



www.votinginfo.info

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts
brings you

www.votinginfo.info

One-stop nonpartisan voting info site



comprehensive - reliable - accurate

Email reminder service for elections and deadlines for voter registration

Voter registration Q &A

Absentee ballot information

Procedures at the polls

Important election dates

Ballot questions pro and con

Offices on the ballot for 2006

Voters' Bill of Rights

Voters' Bill of Responsibilities

Videos of Voting Procedures

How to be a poll worker

Electronic greeting cards reminding people to register to vote

**Empowering Massachusetts voters to become
informed and active citizens**



QUESTION ONE—PROS AND CONS

Sale of Wine by Food Stores

This proposed law would allow local licensing authorities to issue licenses for food stores to sell wine. The proposed law defines a “food store” as a retail vendor, such as a grocery store, supermarket, shop, club, outlet, or warehouse-type seller, that sells food to consumers to be eaten elsewhere (which must include meat, poultry, dairy products, eggs, fresh fruit and produce, and other specified items), and that may sell other items usually found in grocery stores. Holders of licenses to sell wine at food stores could sell wine either on its own or together with any other items they sell.

The licensing authorities in any city or town of up to 5000 residents could issue up to 5 licenses for food stores to sell wine. In cities or towns of over 5000 residents, one additional license could be issued for each additional 5000 residents (or fraction of 5000). No person or business could hold more than 10% of the total number of the licenses that could be issued under the proposed law. Such licenses would not be counted when applying the laws that limit the number of other kinds of alcoholic beverage licenses that may be issued or held. Any applicant for a license would have to be approved by the state Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission, and any individual applicant would have to be at least 21 years old and not have been convicted of a felony.

In issuing any licenses for food stores to sell wine, local licensing authorities would have to use the same procedures that apply to other licenses for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages. Except where the proposed law has different terms, the same laws that apply to issuance, renewal, suspension and termination of licenses for retail sales of alcoholic beverages which are not to be consumed on the seller’s premises, and that apply to the operations of holders of such licenses, would govern licenses to sell wine at food stores, and the operation of holders of such licenses. Local authorities could set fees for issuing and renewing such licenses.

A YES VOTE— would create a new category of licenses for food stores to sell wine, and it would allow local licensing authorities to issue such licenses.

A NO VOTE— would make no change in the laws concerning the sale of wine.

PRO & CON ARGUMENTS FOR QUESTION 1

IN FAVOR: Today, consumers in 34 states can buy wine at grocery stores. But in Massachusetts, a 72-year-old law prevents most grocery stores from selling wine – and creates a virtual monopoly for package stores.

Voting “yes” on Question 1 will:

- Bring Massachusetts up to date, by giving cities and towns the local option to issue wine-only licenses to qualified grocery stores.
- Save consumers an estimated \$26 to \$36 million every year, by allowing more competition and consumer choice in wine sales.

The liquor lobby and its allies use scare tactics and false claims against this measure. The truth is, they just want to protect the current package store monopoly system.

Other states allow grocery stores to sell wine without any problems. There’s no legitimate reason why Massachusetts consumers shouldn’t be allowed to buy wine at their local grocery stores.

Vote “yes” for consumer choice and fair competition in wine sales.

Authored by:

YES on 1: Grocery Stores and Consumers for Fair Competition 31 Milk Street, Suite 518 Boston, MA 02109 (800) 817-3507 www.WineAtFoodStores.com **AGAINST:**

AGAINST: Today there are over 2800 licenses to sell wine, beer and liquor in Massachusetts. A “yes” vote on Question 1 would radically alter current law and would result in over 2800 more licenses to sell alcohol in Massachusetts with no funding for increased enforcement. This will increase underage youth’s access to alcohol, and research demonstrates that more alcohol outlets inevitably lead to increases in drinking related problems, and drunk driving fatalities.

Voters should also know voting “yes” would allow most convenience stores to sell wine, a controlled substance. Young people frequent convenience stores where alcohol could be more readily available for purchase. Also, store clerks in convenience stores do not have the training and experience that experienced package store owners have to stop an underage drinker from purchasing alcohol.

Existing law limits supermarkets and convenience stores to hold only three licenses to sell alcohol.

Vote “no” and keep this law.

Authored by:

Wine Merchants and Concerned Citizens for S.A.F.E.T.Y. (Stop Alcohol’s Further Extension to Youth) One Beacon Street, Suite 1320 Boston, MA 02108 (800) 955-0626 www.noonquestionone.com



QUESTION 2

Nomination of Candidates for Public Office

This proposed law would allow candidates for public office to be nominated by more than one political party or political designation, to have their names appear on the ballot once for each nomination, and to have their votes counted separately for each nomination but then added together to determine the winner of the election.

The proposed law would repeal an existing requirement that in order to appear on the state primary ballot as a candidate for a political party's nomination for certain offices, a person cannot have been enrolled in any other party during the preceding year. The requirement applies to candidates for nomination for statewide office, representative in Congress, governor's counselor, member of the state Legislature, district attorney, clerk of court, register of probate, register of deeds, county commissioner, sheriff, and county treasurer.

The proposed law would also allow any person to appear on the primary ballot as a candidate for a party's nomination for those offices if the party's state committee gave its written consent.

The proposed law would also repeal the existing requirement that in order to be nominated to appear as an unenrolled candidate on the state election ballot, or on any city or town ballot following a primary, a person cannot have been enrolled in any political party during the 90 days before the deadline for filing nomination papers.

The proposed law would provide that if a candidate were nominated by more than one party or political designation, instead of the candidate's name being printed on the ballot once, with the candidate allowed to choose the order in which the party or political designation names appear after the candidate's name, the candidate's name would appear multiple times, once for each nomination received. The candidate would decide the order in which the party or political designation nominations would appear, except that all parties would be listed before all political designations. The ballot would allow voters who vote for a candidate nominated by multiple parties or political designations to vote for that candidate under the party or political designation line of their choice.

If a voter voted for the same candidate for the same office on multiple party or political designation lines, the ballot would remain valid but would be counted as a single vote for the candidate on a line without a party or political designation. If voting technology allowed, voting machines would be required to prevent a voter from voting more than the number of times permitted for any one office.

The proposed law would provide that if a candidate received votes under more than one party or political designation, the votes would be combined for purposes of determining whether the candidate had won the election. The total number of votes each candidate received under each party or political designation would be recorded. Election officials would announce and record both the aggregate totals and the total by party or political designation.

The proposed law would allow a political party to obtain official recognition if its candidate had obtained at least 3% of the vote for any statewide office at either of the two most recent state elections, instead of at only the most recent state election as under current law.

The proposed law would allow a person nominated as a candidate for any state, city or town office to withdraw his name from nomination within six days after any party's primary election for that office, whether or not the person sought nomination or was nominated in that primary. Any candidate who withdrew from an election could not be listed on the ballot for that election, regardless of whether the candidate received multiple nominations.

The proposed law states that if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

A YES VOTE —would allow a candidate for public office to be nominated for the same office by more than one political party or political designation at the same election.

A NO VOTE — would make no change in the laws concerning nomination of candidates for public office.



QUESTION 3

Family Child Care Providers

This proposed law would allow licensed and other authorized providers of child care in private homes under the state's subsidized child care system to bargain collectively with the relevant state agencies about all terms and conditions of the provision of child care services under the state's child care assistance program and its regulations.

Under the proposed law, these family child care providers who provide state-subsidized child care would not be considered public employees, but if 30% of the providers gave written authorization for an employee organization to be their exclusive representative in collective bargaining, the state Labor Relations Commission would hold a secret mail ballot election on whether to certify that organization as the exclusive representative. Parts of the state's public employee labor relations law and regulations would apply to the election and collective bargaining processes.

The proposed law would not authorize providers to engage in a strike or other refusal to deliver child care services.

An exclusive representative, if certified, could then communicate with providers to develop and present a proposal to the state agencies concerning the terms and conditions of child care provider services.

The proposed law would then require the parties to negotiate in good faith to try to reach a binding agreement. If the agreed-upon terms and conditions required changes in existing regulations, the state agencies could not finally agree to the terms until they completed the required procedures for changing regulations and any cost items agreed to by the parties had been approved by the state Legislature. If any actions taken under the proposed law required spending state funds, that spending would be subject to appropriation by the Legislature. Any complaint that one of the parties was refusing to negotiate in good faith could be

An exclusive representative could collect a fee from providers for the costs of representing them.

An exclusive representative could be decertified under Commission regulations and procedures if certain conditions were met. The Commission could not accept a decertification petition for at least 2 years after the first exclusive representative was certified, and any such petition would have to be supported by 50% or more of the total number of providers. The Commission would then hold a secret mail ballot election for the providers to vote on whether to decertify the exclusive representative.

The proposed law states that activities carried out under it would be exempt from federal anti-trust laws. The proposed law states that if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

A YES VOTE— would allow licensed and other authorized providers of child care in private homes under the state's subsidized child care system to bargain collectively with the state.

A NO VOTE— would make no change in the laws concerning licensed and other authorized family child care providers.

HEADS UP: Mark Your Calendar

HOLIDAY PARTY

COME JOIN WITH FELLOW LEAGUERS FOR:

GREAT FOOD

GREAT CONVERSATION



Date: Thursday December 14, 2006

Place: Karen Coffey's House

Time: 6:30pm

As usual our senators, representatives, and local officials will be invited.

This is one our most popular events. SO—

Mark your Calendars

Come!! Bring your favorite appetizer

Have the wonderful opportunity of meeting with fellow Leaguers in a purely social atmosphere.

Rsvp to Jane Nash ([jane.nash @Comcast.net](mailto:jane.nash@Comcast.net)) so that Karen will have an idea of the number of people to expect.

Questions? Need a ride? Call 781-769-1185

