

The Bulletin

Westwood/Walpole League of Women Voters



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Calendar of Events

Special points of interest:

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- **Program Planning**

- **Studies:**
Affordable Housing
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-LWVM Annual
Online Student Essay
Contest
-Westwood Reads

- **Remembering America's
Presidents**

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

FEBRUARY

1st—SC meeting at Phoebe Joseph's. Starts at 7:30pm

8th— Program Planning at Marcia's House 6:30 This year League's will be looking at programs at the State Level. See page 2

**Note the change in Location from Jane Walsh's to Marcia's house.
Need more info or would like to help, call Marcia Hirshberg.**

March

TBA—SC meeting

—Fund Drive Ends

April

TBA—SC meeting

TBA—Westwood Candidate's Event

May and June

TBA—SC meetings

TBA—Walpole Candidate Event

TBA—Westwood and Walpole Town Meetings

TBA—Annual Meeting



Happy Valentine's Day

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

State Program Planning with Bread and Soup



What: State Program Planning lead by Marcia Hirshberg

Where: Marcia' House 40 Putting Lane (NOTE CHANGE)

When: Thursday, February 8th, 2007

Time: 6:30 (note earlier time than usual)

Refreshments: Bread and Soup provided by members

This is one of our most popular programs. Come and bring a friend.

We will be discussing LWVUS positions.

*For complete information on these positions go to
www.lwvma.org*

*Click on Member Resources in box at left
then click on items listed in box on right*

*For directions, to volunteer, to “read” positions, to provide
bread or soup,*

*or to get more information:
Call or email Marcia Hirshberg
Call—781-326-8784
Email—Hberg40@comcast.net*

Affordable Housing—Part 2



LWVM Affordable Housing Study: Part 2 Where It All Began: Some Historical Perspective

By Jane Nash, LWVM Affordable Housing Study Committee co-chair

The first article in this series focused on the need for affordable housing in Massachusetts. This article will focus on the legislation that controls zoning.

The basis for zoning and planning in the United States “was laid by two standard state enabling acts published by the U.S. Department of Commerce in the 1920s.”¹

The two enabling acts were called “A Standard State Zoning Enabling Act” (SZE) and “A Standard City Planning Enabling Act” (SCPEA). These were not federal legislation; rather the Commerce Department, under then Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, published them as models to be adopted by state legislatures to enable local governments to promote, in the words of the SZE, “the health, safety, morals, or general welfare of the community.”²

All 50 states eventually adopted the SZE, and it is still in effect, though modified, in many states.

Zoning in Massachusetts

The Massachusetts zoning enabling act is Chapter 40A,³ commonly called the Zoning Act. It was originally enacted in 1954, replaced in 1975 and amended several times since. It governs zoning throughout the Commonwealth.

Chapter 40A:

- provides for unified zoning throughout the State
- enables municipalities to create districts/zones to regulate how land is used
- gives municipalities the right to enforce their zoning laws
- requires the maintenance of a zoning map
- provides procedures for special permits and variances
- specifies public notification requirements.
- requires municipalities to establish a zoning board of appeals and sets up an appeals process

The law also limits the powers of zoning related to a variety of uses, including agriculture, educational and religious institutions and public service corporations, among other uses.

Critiques of Chapter 40A

Jeffery J. Trapani has written that “a government’s zoning laws reflect its concerns about the effect of development on its citizens, including how land should best be allotted, used, and preserved in the name of health, safety, and morality.”

However, many in the state criticize Chapter 40A, calling for changes to a number of its provisions:

- The so-called “grandfather clause,” which permits subdivisions into smaller lots along existing road ways to be subdivided by right without review by local planning boards.
- The requirement of a two-thirds majority vote to adopt or amend local zoning bylaws. Massachusetts is the only state with this requirement.
- Lack of consistency between local Master Plans and zoning regulations. Two-thirds of the states require consistency, but Massachusetts does not. This often causes Master Plans to be ignored.
- The lack of effective tools to permit local planning boards to raise affordable housing inventories.
- The fact that impact fees are not allowed. Approximately 60% of all development in the United States is subject to impact fees to offset the municipal service costs of growth. It is suggested that impact fees will lessen local resistance to new development projects.

Articles to follow will give specific information on the many Massachusetts laws that seek to encourage the development of affordable housing.

Sources:

Flint, Anthony, “Romney Urged to Overhaul Zoning Law.” *Boston Globe*, January 5, 2003.

“Legal Basis of Planning and Zoning.”
www.hingham-ma.com/document/Legal_Basis_of_Planning_and_Zoning.pdf

Olanoff, Steve (Member, Westwood Planning Board). Personal interview.

Russell, Esq., Joel S. “Massachusetts Land-Use Laws – Time for a Change.”
www.planning.org/PEL/commentary/masslaws.htm

Trapani, Jeffrey J. “Revising Massachusetts’ Chapter 40A: Guiding The Development of the Commonwealth Under the Principles of Smart Growth.” *Environmental Advocacy Solo Project*, April 23, 2003.
www.nesl.edu/csr/articles/smartgrowth.pdf

¹ www.planning.org/growingsmart/enablingacts.htm?project

² www.planning.org/growingsmart/pdf/SZENablingAct1926.pdf

³ Text of Chapter 40A can be found at:
www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/gl-40a-toc.htm

Mark Your Calendar—Westwood Reads



Westwood Reads 2007

The Library will launch its third community wide reading program in March 2007. The book chosen for the 2007 event is *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Copies of this popular American novel are available at the Library and through the Minuteman Library Network.

Program opportunities will include book discussions, presentations by Fitzgerald scholars, and jazz performances to reflect the novel's Roaring Twenties setting. Support for this program comes from the Friends of the Westwood Public Library and the Westwood Board of Library Trustees.

The Westwood Reads inaugural event will feature Mike Monaghan's jazz group with Brad Hatfield on piano. The performance will take place on Sunday, March 4 at 2:00pm at the Main Library.

For an update list of programs visit the web site at www.westwoodlibrary.org

Useful Internet sites on *Gatsby* and Fitzgerald

Fitzgerald, brief biography: <http://people.brandeis.edu/~teuber/fitzgeraldbio.html>

Fitzgerald, life and career:

<http://www.simonsays.com/content/destination.cfm?tab=1&pid=349245&agid=13>

Gatsby, a beginner's guide: <http://www.geocities.com/BourbonStreet/3844/>

Gatsby, reader's questions: <http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/dept/history/lavender/gatsby.html>

University of South Carolina Fitzgerald Centenary site: <http://www.sc.edu/fitzgerald/index.html>

DATES AND HELP NEED FOR ANNUAL ONLINE STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Citizen Education Fund
presents

8th Annual Online Student Essay Contest
for Massachusetts grades 4-12

Go to www.lwvma.org for essay questions, rules & prize info
Contest Deadline is **March 16, 2007**

Sign up to be a judge for the Essay Contest
Any League member can be a judge.
All work done through emailing; no meetings required!
To sign up, send an email to judges@lwvma.org.

Save the Date: Essay Contest Awards Event
Sunday, April 29, 2007 | Faneuil Hall, Boston

Questions? Contact the League at lwvma@lwvma.org or 617.523.2999.



JUDGES WANTED



FOR OUR 8th ANNUAL ONLINE STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

*no meetings *no mailings *on your schedule

*runs thru March 2007

*all judging and communications happen via email

PLEASE EMAIL THE STATE LEAGUE AT judges@lwvma.org

TO INDICATE YOUR INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING.

Remember the President of the United States 1789-2007

- 01 [Washington, George](#) (1789-1797)
- 02 Adams, John (1797-801)
- 03 [Jefferson, Thomas](#) (1801-1809)
- 04 Madison, James (1809-1817)
- 05 Monroe, James (1817-1825)
- 06 Adams, John Quincy (1825-1829)
- 07 Jackson, Andrew (1829-1837)
- 08 Van Buren, Martin (1837-841)
- 09 Harrison, William Henry (1841)
- 10 Tyler, John (1841-1845)
- 11 Polk, James Knox (1845-1849)
- 12 Taylor, Zachary (1849-1850)
- 13 Fillmore, Millard (1850-1853)
- 14 Pierce, Franklin (1853-1857)
- 15 Buchanan, James (1857-1861)
- 16 [Lincoln, Abraham](#) (1861-1865)
- 17 Johnson, Andrew (1865-1869)
- 18 Grant, Ulysses S. (1869-1877)
- 19 Hayes, Rutherford Birchard (1877-1881)
- 20 Garfield, James Abram (1881)
- 21 Arthur, Chester Alan (1881-1885)
- 22 Cleveland, Grover (1885-1889)
- 23 Harrison, Benjamin (1889-1893)
- 24 Cleveland, Grover (1893-1897)
- 25 McKinley, William (1897-1901)
- 26 Roosevelt, Theodore (1901-1909)
- 27 Taft, William Howard (1909-1913)
- 28 Wilson, Woodrow (1913-1921)
- 29 Harding, Warren Gamaliel (1921-1923)
- 30 Coolidge, Calvin (1923-1929)
- 31 Hoover, Herbert Clark (1929-1933)
- 32 Roosevelt, Franklin Delano (1933-1945)
- 33 Truman, Harry (1945-1953)
- 34 Eisenhower, Dwight David (1953-1961)
- 35 [Kennedy, John Fitzgerald](#) (1961-1963)
- 36 Johnson, Lyndon Baines (1963-1969)
- 37 Nixon, Richard Milhous (1969-1974)
- 38 Ford, Gerald Rudolph (1974-1977)
- 39 Carter, James Earl Jr. (1977-1981)
- 40 Reagan, Ronald Wilson (1981-1989)
- 41 Bush, George Herbert Walker (1989-1993)
- 42 Clinton, William Jefferson (1993-2001)
- 43 [Bush, George Walker](#) (2001-present)



Remembering
All our Presidents



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