



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION

May 6th First Friday Forum on Green Waste

Lexington is evaluating the siting of an organic waste processing facility at the Hartwell Avenue Landfill that might make neighboring communities green with envy. Speakers at the League of Women Voters of Lexington's First Friday Forum on May 6 will describe green waste, how it's processed and why Lexington would embark on such a venture.

The speakers, Superintendent of Environmental Services Robert Beaudoin; Town Engineer John Livsey; Bruce Haskell of Camp, Dresser and McGee; and a representative from the Mass Department of Environmental Protection will also answer questions.

This is the eighth 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.

Election Day – Rides to the Polls

The League received two calls. One call was to inquire about the time the polls opened and the other was a request for a ride. The League would like to thank Liz Andrews and Diane Biglow for their assistance on election day.

Bulletin Editor: Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti – Nancor1106@gmail.com
Membership: Wendy Manz - wendy_manz@yahoo.com

LWVL Accepting Suggestions for 2011 – 2012 First Friday Topics

The League would like to encourage members to think about topics they would like to see presented during First Fridays next year. The League hosts 8 monthly first Fridays beginning in October. Please contact the League via e-mail at www.lwvlexington.org about any issues which you feel would be informative and interesting.

LWVL Annual Program Planning Meeting – April 21st

The annual program planning meeting is scheduled for 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Brookhaven. This is an opportunity for all members to come together and plan the LWVL program for next year - actions and studies we'd like to take.

Membership

The League of Women Voters of Lexington is always open to new members. If you know of someone who is interested in becoming a member, you can download a membership form from our website at www.lwvlexington.org or call 781-862-6435 and we'll be happy to send one.

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.

We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the May 2011 Bulletin, please send it to *Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti* at *Nancor1106@gmail.com* by April 23.

236th Anniversary of the Battle of Lexington - Patriots' Day Weekend Saturday, April 16th, 2011 - Monday, April 18, 2011

Activities include:

Saturday, April 16th:

12:00 Noon Parker's Revenge Re-enactment

Lexington Minutemen gather on the Lexington Battle Green to reenact the second call to arms from Captain Parker with additional dialogue from Reverend Jonas Clarke. Following this event the Minutemen will march to Parker's Revenge site on Route 2A near the Minuteman National Park Visitors Site for a reenactment. www.battleroad.org Free.

2:00 pm Gallery Talk: "Sowing the Seeds of Liberty: Lexington and the American Revolution"

National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Road. Get the inside scoop on the tendencies and tensions in Lexington before the British marched into town on April 19, 1775. Join Museum staff in an exploration of life in this small community where ordinary people took extraordinary actions and shaped history as a result. www.monh.org Free.

4:00 pm Tower Park Battle

Massachusetts Avenue opposite Pelham Road. www.battleroad.org Free

Sunday, April 17th:

8:00 pm "In Their Own Words"

Dramatic re-telling of the story of the Battle of Lexington. Pilgrim Congregational Church, Coolidge Avenue \$7 Adults/\$5 Child, call 781-862-1703 for tickets. www.lexingtonhistory.org

11:30 pm Paul Revere Ride Re-enactment

Hancock-Clarke House, 36 Hancock Street. Free

Patriots' Day, Monday, April 18th:

5:30 am "The Alarm," at the Old Belfry, Belfry Hill

Massachusetts Avenue at Clarke Street adjacent to the Battle Green
"Come ring the bell that sounded the Alarm that the British were coming" Free

5:45 am Reading of the Script by the Lexington Minute Men Company on the Battle Green. Free

6:00 am Reenactment of the Battle of Lexington on the Battle Green (Rain date: 4/23/11)

Massachusetts Avenue at Bedford Street. Free (Dress Rehearsal: Sunday 4/3/11, 2 p.m.)
www.lexingtonminutemen.com

6 - 10 am Pancake Breakfasts Sponsored by:

- Boy Scout Troop #160 at St. Brigid Church, 2001 Massachusetts Avenue.
- First Baptist Church of Lexington, 1580 Massachusetts Avenue (across from Police Station)
- Church of Our Redeemer, 6 Meriam Street (Massachusetts Ave@Meriam Street)

7:30 am Sunrise Youth Parade

Starting at Munroe Cemetery driveway, proceeding west along Massachusetts Avenue through Lexington center onto the Battle Green. Free

8:15 am Ceremonies at the Battle Green, Massachusetts Avenue at Bedford Street. Free

9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am - “First Shot! The Day the Revolution Began”

Orientation film about Lexington shown on the hour. Questions and answer session with reenactors following the film. \$3 Adults/\$1 Child Lexington Venue, 1794 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington Center

10:00 am Lexington Lions Club 97th Annual Five-Mile Road Race

Starting/ending on Massachusetts Avenue at the Battle Green. www.lexingtonlions.org

10:15 am Lexington Minute Men Company/DAR Memorial Decoration

On the Battle Green – Massachusetts Avenue at Bedford Street. Free

11:00 am USS Lexington Memorial Ceremonies at the Visitors Center

1875 Massachusetts Avenue, adjacent to the Buckman Tavern. www.lexingtonlions.org Free

11:15 am Concert of Patriotic Music

Presented by the Hancock Church Bell Choir, Hancock Church, 1912 Massachusetts Avenue \$3 admission. For more information, call (781) 862-4220

12:30 pm Float Judging on Massachusetts Avenue in East Lexington. Free.

1:00 pm Paul Revere Arrives at the Battle Green on Horseback

Greeted by the Board of Selectmen and the Lexington Minute Men Company. Free

2:00 pm Patriots’ Day Afternoon Parade

Starting at Massachusetts Avenue and Maple Street in East Lexington, proceeding west along Massachusetts Avenue through Lexington Center, right onto Bedford Street, left onto Harrington Road to Massachusetts Avenue left onto Worthen Road ending at the Town Pool Parking Lot. Free

2:45 pm Parade Arrives at Minute Man Statue in Lexington Center

**Recorded information line: (781) 862-0500 x704 www.lexingtonma.gov
Schedule is subject to change rev 03/11**

LWVMA Save the Dates

Day on the Hill, April 13, 2011

Gardner Auditorium, the State House

9:30 a.m. Registration
10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Program

Featured Speakers:

Senator James Eldridge

on Corporate Political Responsibility

Senator Stanley Rosenberg

Co-chair of Special Joint Committee on Redistricting
And

News from League Program Specialists

ANNUAL CONVENTION MAY 20, 21, 2011

WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Publick House, Sturbridge, MA

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Friday, May 20

11:30 a.m. Registration
12 - 1:45 p.m. Lunch
2 - 3:30 p.m. Workshops: Discussion of The Strategic Plan
4 - 5:30 p.m. First Plenary Session
7 - 8:30 p.m. Banquet

Saturday, May 21

9:00 a.m. Registration
9:30 - 10:15 Discussion of the Nonpartisan Role of the League
10:30 - 11:45 Workshops:
- Membership Recruitment & Leadership,
- Finances & Fundraising,
- Presidents Council,
- Strategic Planning
12 - 1:45 p.m. Lunch
2 - 4 p.m. Second Plenary Session

lwwma@lwwma.org

LWVUS NEWS AND INFORMATION

Continuing to Make History!

March is Women's History Month, and we've been celebrating! After all, the League's roots and long history are woven into U.S. women's history. So, as we applaud the advances women have made, we remain focused on our mission – strengthening our democratic system and increasing the public's participation –and our current concerns, – protecting voters' rights; fighting for the Clean Air Act; and preserving the gains from one-year old health care reform law, the Affordable Care Act.

We want to hear from you, too. Let us know your thoughts on our Facebook page and blog.

Elizabeth MacNamara
President, LWVUS

Voter Protection

Through the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) project, the League continues to battle new barriers to voting in state legislatures across the country. Leagues are working in seventeen states that have voter photo ID (VPID) bills moving in their legislature. To date we believe we have been able to stop legislation in AR, CO, IA, NM and VA. The greatest threats for passage in the next few weeks include OH, TX, KS and SC with prospects for ID laws in MO, MT, NH, PA, RI, TN, and WI increasing. State Leagues have been working diligently in pushing back these efforts. It's hard to believe that in this time of budgetary crisis and joblessness, legislatures are focused on creating new government programs that will not only cost millions of dollars to enact but also take away people's voting rights.

In this letter calling on President Obama to remedy dysfunction at the Federal Election Commission, the League and its partners urged him to nominate five new commissioners to fix the continuing meltdown.

Clean Air Defense

The League spoke out in support of the EPA-proposed Mercury and Air Toxics Standard: "This long overdue...critically important action...will save 17,000 American lives and prevent 120,000 asthma attacks."

Take action now to support Clean Air! The House of Representatives is expected to consider legislation that would permanently block the EPA from regulating harmful carbon pollution. Urging opposition, the League sent a letter to the entire House and joined with coalition partners in a letter to the House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman and Ranking Member, while the League's volunteer Lobby Corps visited select members of the House. At the grassroots, Leagues' letters to the editor, published in their local and state newspapers, urge continued support of the Clean Air Act.

On the international front, the League, in a letter, urged Senate leaders of the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Subcommittee to support appropriations for international investments to address the causes and consequences of a changing climate.

Health Care Defense

One year ago last week the Affordable Care Act became law! Already, some provisions of the law are making a difference: Current beneficiaries of this historic Act are children with pre-existing conditions, young adults to age 26 who can now stay on their parents' health plans

and those whose coverage had lifetime limits. We laud those states that have started important groundwork for implementing provisions of the complex Act. As for those states working to overturn the law through court action and members of Congress intent on repealing, defunding, and simply whittling away at the law, our fight continues. Going backwards is not an option, and the anticipated financial and human cost of such a move, as noted here, is indeed great.

Money in Elections

Late last month, the League and its coalition partners filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in support of Arizona's public financing law. Oral arguments in the case, *McComish v. Bennett*, were held this week.

Redistricting

Leagues Take Charge to Impact Redistricting: Leagues across the country are working to promote a more transparent and fair redistricting process in 2011. Last week, the Virginia League hosted a special event to announce winners of the Virginia College and University Redistricting Competition, in which student teams from 13 Virginia colleges produced maps of new districts in an effort to promote public participation and awareness about the impact of redistricting. In Florida, the League is active in leading the diverse Fair Districts Florida coalition that is urging state leaders to properly implement the new state redistricting rules overwhelmingly approved by Florida voters last year. Learn more by visiting our redistricting page.

Congressional Ethics

Concerned over the stalled ethics investigation, the League and coalition partners sent a letter to the House Committee on Ethics leadership asking when the inquiry into possible ethics violations by Representative Maxine Waters will be resumed and completed. Read the media coverage in Roll Call, Washington Post, TPMuckraker and The Hill.

Openness in Government

As noted on the League's blog, the LWVEF co-hosted the 6th annual Sunshine Week national panel discussion with experts from inside and outside government, who presented a thoughtful assessment of transparency at the federal level. Webcast live and later broadcast on C-SPAN, "The Road Forward on Open Government" is available here.

The Quest For A More Diverse Judiciary

At this month's "League Day at the Capital," the League of Women Voters of Kansas held a press conference to highlight key successes of the state-wide education campaign, "Quest for a More Diverse Judiciary." The event featured Professor Jeffrey Jackson, Washburn University, and Kansas Supreme Court Chief Justice Lawton Nussurt. See the media coverage here.

Promoting Global Democracy

The League's latest group of American Legislative Fellows recently returned from Colombia where they met with a variety of officials at all levels of government, members of civil society, and the press. Read about their 10-day experience here.

LWVUS – www.lwv.org

Dates to Save:

April 13 **LWVMA Day on the Hill**

April 21 **Program Planning at Brookhaven**

May 6 **LWVL First Friday Forum**

May 20, 21 **LWVMA Annual Convention**

June 2 **Annual Meeting at the Depot with local author E. Ashley Rooney as speaker.**



League of Women Voters of Lexington
P. O. Box 233
Lexington, MA 02420-0003