



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION

FIRST FRIDAY RECAP – DECEMBER 4, 2015

LEXINGTON'S DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SEES WINTER COMING!

On Friday, Dec. 4, 2015 Bill Hadley, Director of Public Works, and David Pinsonneault, Manager of Operations, came to tell us about public works' preparations for winter. Bill showed a film about the work of public works: "Public Works Makes Things Happen", produced by the New England chapter of the American Public Works Association.



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Click on the following links to see the film (it just may bring out your may bring out your inner child!!):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQ4eyYJEoww>

<http://www.lexingtonma.gov/public-works>

(Danvers, Beverly, and Boston were the town/cities in the film.) Also attached is a separate PDF file with more information regarding Bill's presentation.

Bill also used a power point presentation to explain how his department plans for, and works to plow and remove snow from our roads and sidewalks. Department responsibilities includes not only roads, but also 3 municipal lots, and 9 schools to keep open, trash pick-up, and the health and safety of his staff. He also said last winter was particularly challenging not only because snow removal was important, but there were over 20 water main breaks that occurred during storms that had to be repaired immediately. (We thought we had it challenging, to get to places!)

He also spoke about the DPW's other duties including keeping public buildings open and preparing for the annual Patriot's Day celebrations, a well-loved town annual tradition.

Lexington Public Works is also the 9th agency to be accredited by the APWA, American Public Works Association and Bill helped to bring this about because of the Department's professionalism and credited each and every department employee for bringing a sense of responsibility, pride, and integrity every day to do their job. "We have all bought in." he said.

Both Bill and David also expressed their gratitude for the new facility and thanked the taxpayers for an efficient and safe place to work.

Bill also said he will officially retire on March 26, 2016. He said it was a difficult decision because he really loves his job. He has been with the department since 1976 and said it was a difficult decision because he really loves his job. One woman thanked him, saying that her husband and she decided to stay in town because of the high quality public works department, and the high quality of the library. Wendy Manz presented Bill with a poinsettia plant, as an early thank you gift.

The League wishes to thank Bill for his professionalism and endless hours of service he has brought to the Town during his 40-year career. Good luck and happy retirement!

This was the third in the series of 2015-2016 First Friday programs hosted by the League of Women Voters of Lexington. The League's Forums can also be accessed on demand via LexMedia.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!!!

**LWVL JANUARY FIRST FRIDAY
JANUARY 8, 2016**

“From the Ground Up: How a group of concerned Lexington residents built *Lex Eat Together*, a weekly dinner in Lexington for anyone in need of a nutritious meal or companionship.”

Many people in Lexington may not be aware of the financial difficulties some of their neighbors may face. But according to 2012 CityData statistics, approximately 1,200 people in Lexington live below the poverty line and another 3,000 people live between the poverty line and the 'heating assistance' level. *Lex Eat Together* is a new community meal project designed to help individuals and families dealing with financial hardship and social isolation. The weekly meals are served at The Church of our Redeemer in Lexington.

Panelists will include George Murnaghan, a long-time lay officer at the Church of our Redeemer and one of the founders of *Lex Eat Together*, and Ivan Basch, a board member of Food Link, an Arlington-based food rescue organization that collects over 1,000 pounds of fresh food from retailers **every day** to distribute to local agencies servicing people in need.

From the nuts and bolts of recipe planning and food procurement to outreach efforts in the community, the story of how *Lex Eat Together* came to be is an interesting one.

This presentation will be the fourth in our series of 2015-2016 monthly First Friday Forums hosted by the League of Women Voters of Lexington to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. For more information, contact the League at lwvlexington@gmail.com. All League Forums are free and open to the public.

LWVLEXINGTON FEBRUARY FIRST FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2016

UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2015 UPDATE

Lexington resident Anne Kelly, a Senior Program Director of Ceres, Policy and BICEP Program, attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2015, and will tell us what happened in Paris.

What is Ceres? <https://www.ceres.org/about-us/who-we-are> Ceres is an advocate for sustainability leadership. Ceres mobilizes a powerful network of investors, companies and public interest groups to accelerate and expand the adoption of sustainable business practices and solutions to build a healthy global economy. The mission is to mobilize investor and business leadership to build a thriving, sustainable global economy.

Founded by a small group of investors in 1989 in response to the Exxon Valdez oil spill, Ceres has been working for more than 20 years to weave sustainable strategies and practices into the fabric and decision-making of companies, investors and other key economic players http://unfccc.int/meetings/paris_nov_2015/meeting/8926.php United Nations Climate Change Conference - November 2015.

This presentation will be the fifth in our series of 2015-2016 monthly First Friday Forums hosted by the League of Women Voters of Lexington to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. For more information, contact the League at lwvlexington@gmail.com. All League Forums are free and open to the public.

LWVLEXINGTON January Volunteer Opportunity Phonathon

Help support the State League by joining other Lexington league members either Wednesday, January 13 or Thursday, January 14 at the Community Center 6:30 to 8:45 pm. Bring your charged cell phone. Let [Ingrid Klimoff](#) know which night you'll make calls.

Please get your contribution into the state League [LWVMA](#) by year end. The Lexington League receives 15% of your contribution.

Thank you!

The League is Looking for Volunteers For Rides to the Polls

The League is looking for volunteers to provide rides to the polls when town-wide elections and state and national elections are held. If interested, and to get more information, contact the League via e-mail at lwvlexington@gmail.com to get more information.

RENEW YOUR LWVL LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP!

Thank you to members who've renewed their memberships. If you haven't already done so for 2015-2016, please do so by returning the form you received in the mail or renew your membership via the web at www.lwvlexington.org

If you have a friend or neighbor who may be interested in joining the League as a new member, please encourage them to do so at this time.

Thank you!

Watch the League's Forums on Demand

If there is a League of Women Voters of Lexington's First Friday Forum that you've missed or would like to see again, log onto <http://www.lexmedia.org/ondemand.html> and scroll down to "League of Women Voters" under Categories.

The League is Looking for Volunteers

The League is looking for volunteers to fill position openings it has. If interested, contact the League at 781-307-3116 for more information.

LWVMA

Public Records, Sex Education Bills Halfway through Legislature

Two bills that LWVMA is supporting, one to improve access to public records and one to require comprehensive sex education in the state, passed their first hurdles Nov. 18, just before the legislature adjourned for its winter recess.

The public records access bill, now numbered H. 3858, passed the House with two amendments. The first amendment allows record access officers to withhold documents if the requester has not paid bills from previous requests. The second establishes a study commission to look at exemptions, including the legislative, judiciary, and executive exclusion as well as other ways the legislature can be more open and transparent.

The Massachusetts Freedom of Information Act Coalition, which includes LWVMA, will be working to strengthen the bill that the House passed when it comes up in the Senate, possibly in January.

An Act relative to healthy youth, the sex education bill, now numbered S.2062, passed the Senate and was sent to the House Ways & Means Committee which will have to bring it to the House floor for a vote. The bill would require schools to provide students with comprehensive, inclusive, age-appropriate and medically-accurate information about their health.

LWVMA testimony on these two bills is available [here](#).

Carbon Pricing Campaign Enters Next Phase

Many thanks to the seventeen League members from across the state who helped fill the hearing room at the State House on October 27 in an impressive show of support for putting a price on carbon. LWVMA Environmental Specialist, Launa Zimmaro, provided oral testimony in favor of carbon pricing legislation, stating that LWV members are “mothers and grandmothers from legislators’ districts and across the country who are deeply concerned about the world we are leaving the next generation and who are

looking to the people they elect to take positive action.” Advocates are gearing up for the next phase of the campaign – [building public support through media coverage](#) and [regional public forums](#).

LWVMA members can support passage of carbon pricing legislation by contacting their representatives by phone, email, or by scheduling in-person, in-district meetings with their representatives, as well as through letters to the editor and hosting public forums in their towns. For a general explanation of carbon pricing, go to [Carbon Pricing Basics](#).

Find out more about carbon pricing [here](#). To find out how you and your local League can help this campaign or host a member or public forum, contact Launa Zimmaro lzimmero@lwwma.org.

LWVUS

[2015 was a banner year for voters thanks to all of you](#). This year is almost behind us and before us is another presidential election year. While the primary competition for a spot on the top of party tickets has already begun, Election 2016 will decide so much more than who becomes the next president. This will be the first presidential election

since the Supreme Court gutted key provisions of the Voting Rights Act. Who turns out to vote next year will be critical to who gets elected at all levels of government. The LWVUS is keenly aware of that fact and at [our event last month at the Library of Congress](#), we focused on more than the transition in leadership at the national office. We also announced the general outline of our plans for Election 2016.

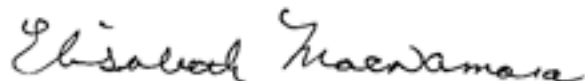
Essentially, we plan to build on the work we have done across the organization for the past five years. In order to insure that every eligible voter has free and fair access to the polls, we must commit as an organization to growing the vote, protecting the vote and empowering the vote. We aim to grow the vote by [registering voters](#), especially in communities that need our help the most; to [protect the vote](#) by working at all levels of government to insure equal access to the polls for every eligible voter; and to empower voters with nonpartisan information employing all our various platforms, from [VOTE411.org](#) to [voter guides](#) and [candidate events](#).

Obviously, the national office cannot do this alone. But we are all LWVUS and it will take all of us working together to accomplish this mission. To give us all something to reach for, we propose an ambitious set of goals: to register a quarter of a million new voters and to reach six million voters with our information. We may not meet those goals, then again, we may exceed them. Measuring our success will depend on our determination to create and take advantage of as many opportunities to report and record our success as we can manage. To help Leagues achieve their goals, we will be using the League Update as the chief mechanism for sharing training opportunities, resources and templates.

One easy and obvious means of measurement is by using online resources as much as possible. Another less obvious approach is to be very intentional about looking for means to measure. Many Leagues work with local cable and network television to present candidate forums and debates, ensuring that those debates are recorded and posted online could be part of the contract that we enter with the provider as could getting a report regarding the number of live viewers. Our partners who share our information through their networks are also a means by which we can measure our success. Collecting and data-basing allowable information from completed voter registration cards before you turn them in to your local elections official is a wonderful measure of success.

The election next year will be critical in so many ways and the League's work is as relevant as it ever has been. Voters today don't need less education. Election officials don't need fewer partners. Our democracy doesn't need fewer advocates. I am excited to see us all come together to ensure that Election 2016 is a success for voters and for the League as well.

In League,



Elisabeth MacNamara
League of Women Voters

We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the January 2016 Bulletin, please send it to *Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti* at Nancor1106@gmail.com by December 31, 2015.

Dates to Save:

January 8 LWVL January First Friday, “From the Ground Up: How a group of concerned residents built *Lex Eat Together*, a weekly dinner in Lexington for anyone in need if a nutritious meal or companionship”, 9:30 a.m., Cary Memorial Library Meeting Room, Lexington

February 5 LWVL February First Friday, “United Nations Climate Change Conference 2015 Update”, 9:30 a.m., Cary Memorial Library Meeting Room, Lexington



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