

Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 7

August 2003

Candidates for the September 16 Preliminary Election

Alderman-at-Large, Ward 3

All voters can vote for two

- David M. Donahue
- Leonard Gentile
- Ted Hess-Mahan
- Jack N. Porter
- Paul D. Snyder

School Committee, Ward 6

All voters can vote for one

- Donna S. Cohen
- Leslie Schneider
- Patricia L. Kellogg

All candidates who will appear on the Preliminary Election Ballot on September 16 have been invited to participate in a forum to be held at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, August 26 at the Hyde Community Center, 90 Lincoln Street in Newton Highlands.

This public forum is being co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and NewTV. It will be videotaped for later cablecast on the access channels. (Watch the Newton TAB for the schedule or visit the website www.newtv.org.) The sponsors are providing this public service to give the candidates an opportunity to make their positions known and to help the voters make informed decisions at the polls. ■

Library Director Kathy Glick-Weil to Begin Series

By Ruth Neiberg

On September 10 the Unit Committee will be presenting the first meeting of the year. Designed to educate League members on timely topics, unit meetings are held monthly, usually in a member's home. The topic for September is the U.S.A P.A.T.R.I.O.T. Act. Our guest speaker will be Kathy Glick-Weil, Director of the Newton Free Library.

Special emphasis of this discussion will be on Section 215. Ms. Glick-Weil explains:

"Section 215 of the USA Patriot Act grants unprecedented authority to the FBI and other law enforcement agencies to obtain search warrants for library records by claiming that the desired records may be related to an ongoing terrorism investigation. It also includes a gag order provision prohibiting any person or institution served with a search warrant from disclosing to anyone other than an attorney what has taken place. Probable cause is not required to invoke this section of the Act. Library records of what patrons borrow are considered private in Massachusetts and almost every other state, and this Act puts people at risk for exercising their free speech rights to read, recommend, or discuss a book. It also threatens their ability to write a private e-mail or participate in a chat room."

Please join us to learn about this topic and to have the opportunity to become acquainted with the new Accu-Vote Optic Scan voting machines which will be in operation throughout Newton for the September 16 Preliminary Election.

I would like to thank Priscilla Leith for her willingness to be the topic coordinator for this meeting, Bonnie Carter for arranging to educate us on the new voting system, as well as Pat Acton, Rose Davis, and Bev Spencer for their invaluable contributions to the smooth functioning of the Unit Committee. Please join us, at my home, 72 Dalton Road Newton Centre, (617) 969-9329. The meeting goes from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Brown bag lunches are encouraged. ■



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Committee Members

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Liz Lieberman	617 244-4402
Linda Morrison	617 332-6539

The LWVN Newsletter is published nine times per year. The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization open to all citizens of voting age. For more information about the League of Women Voters, call 617-964-0014.

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www.newtoncitizens.com/LWV

The Lull Before the Storm

The lull before the storm is deceptive like the League in summer time when there's a whole lot of planning going on. A few contested seats will make the fall municipal election season lively. Dates are being set now for preliminary debates. Thank you to Bonnie Carter and Sue Rosenbaum. Unit meeting topics, locations, and speakers are being lined up for the fall. Thank you to Ruth Neiberg and her committee. The Education Committee has had many issues to discuss with education in the forefront at the local, state and national levels. Thank you, Jody Klein. The Environmental Issues Committee has also gotten off to an energetic start. Thank you, Deb Crossley and Linda Walden.

One of our new Board members, Beth Lowd, is also serving as the state league specialist on Campaign Finance and has already been responsible for generating a number of action alerts and requests for lobbying around the issue of Clean Elections. Our representatives tell us they often hear from very few constituents so even a few additional phone calls can make a difference to them. Email is the fastest way to communicate and therefore uses least amount of our precious volunteer time and is also the least expensive way to communicate. If you would be interested in receiving reminders when critical votes take place on issues of importance and you aren't already on our list let me know at akoch-lwvn@rcn.com and we will add you to our list.

As happy as I am with all we accomplish, I often find myself wishing that there were more of us with more time to share. While there are some excellent watchdog organizations out there, the League provides a unique voice due to our non-partisan independence and our deliberate and thorough study before taking positions on issues. There are so many issues we could be involved with and each year we do get a lot accomplished but there is so much more work to be done.

Amelia Koch

Welcome New Member

Claire Sokoloff
41 Oxford Road
Newton Centre, MA 02459
617-527-2219
clasok@aol.com

School Department Creates Environmental Management Program

by Linda Walden, *Environmental Issues Chair*

The School Department has formed a District Environmental Management Team under the auspices of the Operations Department. The team has wide representation including: Custodial Union, Newton Teachers Association, Food Service, Career and Technical Education, Science and Fine Arts Departments, Health Department, Fire Department, Public Buildings, Department of Public Works, and Human Resources Department.

The Environmental Management Program is intended to deal with indoor air quality, chemical reduction and management, waste reduction and management, integrated pest management, and other environmental issues as needed. The stated goals of the program are to:

- Ensure a safe, healthy environment for students and staff
- Provide timely, effective systems for the school community to report and resolve concerns related to environmental issues such as: indoor air quality, integrated pest management, hazardous materials, and waste management.
- Involve departments and schools in development and implementation of the program.
- Provide resources and technical assistance to schools.
- Develop a long-term program to prevent environmental problems.

In the fall of 2003, each school will establish a school-based environmental team that will oversee and plan for environmental issues at the school location. Working with the district team, the school-based teams will: be trained to conduct investigations, prioritize findings and needs, develop recommendations for resources for training, supplies, and equipment; and develop long-term response and preparation plans for a variety of situations and issues. ■

PROSPECTIVE & NEW LEAGUE MEMBERS

You are invited to join us for social informational meetings about what is going on in Newton and the League.

Learn all about the
new voting system.

Get updates on the
Community Preservation Act.

Learn information about
School Renovations and
other Educational Issues.

Check our calendar for the September dates and times. If you would like an invitation sent to a friend contact Elaine Reisman at bresreis@comcast.net.

Help Wanted

NON-PARTISAN POWER

Join the Voter Service Team
for Fall Election Events

Call
Sue Rosenbaum 617 332-0306
or
Bonnie Carter 617-969-0686

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

- I would like to join the League of Women voters of Newton. Enclosed is my check for \$50 payable to LWVN.
- Lifetime membership \$1000**
- I would like to receive materials about the League.
- I would like to be contacted by a League member to talk about LWVN.

Mail this form (and your check, if joining) to:
Andrea Kozinetz Holtz at 8 Stoney Brae Road,
Newton Highlands, MA 02461

Committees - in - Action

E d u c a t i o n

Focus Renovations, increasing high school enrollments, school financing, testing & standards

Members Ann Grantham Robin Maltz
Susie Heyman Fran Osten
Andrea Kelley Beverly Spencer
Andrea Kozinetz Beth Wilkinson
Anne Lerner

Contact Jody Klein, Chair 617-552-7844

E n v i r o n m e n t a l I s s u e s

Focus Promoting source reduction, and recycling programs in municipal offices and public schools

Members Deb Crossley Robin Maltz
Katherine Gekas Rohna Shoul
Barbara Herson Sharyn Roberts
Beth Lowd

Contact Linda Walden, Chair 617-630-9538

H u m a n R i g h t s

Focus League outreach, relevance and support for the human rights of Newton's diverse populations

Members Sharon Balfour Susie Heyman
Jody Klein Linda Morrison

Contact Holly Gunner, Chair 617-964-0767

L o c a l A c t i o n

Contact Deb Crossley, Chair 617-244-7597

O B S E R V E R C O R P S

Community Preservation Committee AnnaMaria Abernathy
Deb Crossley
Jody Klein
Priscilla Leith

Election Commission Bonnie Carter
Nancy Criscitiello

Finance Committee Ruby Ajanee
Amelia Koch
Ben Weisbuch

Newton Citizen Commission on Energy Deb Crossley,
LWVN Representative

Parks and Recreation Commission Priscilla Leith

Zoning and Planning Committee, Board of Alderman Judy Jaffe

N o m i n a t i n g C o m m i t t e e
Members Nancy Crowley Deb Hirsch

Contact Fran Seasholes, Chair 617-969-5927

You may call committee contacts or a Board officer or director to learn more about current committee work. All are welcome to participate.

O b s e r v e r C o r p

Report on the Newton Parks and Recreation Department

By Priscilla Leith, LWVN Observer

This report encompasses the March, April, May and June 2003 meetings of the Commission and includes regular reports given at each meeting by Fran Towle, the Commissioner of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Members of the Commission: James Mahoney, W2 (Chair); Jennie DeVito, W1; Peter Johnson, W3; Francis Rice, W4; Walter Bernheimer, W5; Andrew Stern, W6 (Vice Chair); Gwen Fineberg, W7; and Robert Platt, W8.

At the May meeting only four Commission members attended, so there was no quorum and no official business was conducted.

Continued on page 5

THE NEWTON ENERGY UPDATE BULLETIN

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The Newton Citizens Commission on Energy
 and
The Newton Planning and Development Department

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 THE LIBRARY, CITY HALL OR
 THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Observer Corp Notes Continued from page 4

Newton Parks and Recreation Department

Skate Park Committee Update

The Skate Park Committee, chaired by Ward 6 Commissioner Walter Bernheimer, released its report on January 27 at the Park and Recreation Commission meeting. This was a comprehensive survey that found 3,000 to 4,000 potential users who live in Newton and asked the Mayor to make a determination whether to use public or private funds for a feasibility study. The motion stipulated that if private funds are used the study is to be under the control of the Newton Parks and Recreation Commission. The mayor responded urging the group to seek private donations for the study. Two proposals have been received, one from Camp, Dresser, McKee (\$13-14,000) and one from Marion Pressley Associates (\$21,000). The proposals are an effort to find out how much the Committee will need to raise to get on with the project. The potential sites are Cabot Playground, Newton Highlands Playground and Warren Playground. The Skate Park Committee chose the low bidder and is now discussing how to do the fundraising.

Albemarle Playground Outdoor Community Classroom

In November, 2002, the Albemarle Playground Project Committee, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, submitted a proposal to the Newton Community Preservation Committee requesting \$87,135 to create an outdoor classroom/park on the south portion of the Russell Halloran Sports and Recreation Complex along Albemarle Rd in Newtonville. It is adjacent to the tot lot behind Horace Mann School which was accidentally bulldozed by a city contractor last year and which the city has pledged to rebuild. The APPC proposal contains a gazebo, benches, a sundial and a weather station and is designed to serve disabled persons, children, and senior citizens. (There is an elderly housing complex nearby on Watertown St.) This proposal meets the need for more "passive recreation" in this area.

The proposal was referred to the Parks and Recreation because it contained the structure of the gazebo being placed on recreation land. At the April 28th meeting the Parks and Recreation Commission voted to approve the concept of the Albemarle Project subject to the completion of a blueprint for the Community Classroom itself that meets the specifications established by the 1993 policy – *Procedures for Alteration of Lands for Private Organizations on Recreation Lands*. Both items are on the agenda of the June 26 Conservation Commission meeting. Time factors may mean that neither project can be started until September, 2003.

There is some sentiment that a Master Plan for the entire Russell Halloran Recreation Complex should be completed before any project is built, including the Outdoor Community Classroom and perhaps reconstruction of the tot lot. No agreement was reached as to who will develop such a plan and how it will be paid for. The Commission will research the master plans of the parks and recreation lands of other cities/towns of comparable size and discuss it further in September.

Both projects also need to get the approval of the Conservation Commission due to the removal of earth and the proximity to the brook that runs along the east edge of the site.

Other Business

- Millenium Park went out to bid in May, estimated cost being \$318,000. Completion expected in June, 2004.
- The Newton Recreation Department will have a website.
- Permit was granted for St. Mary of Carmen Carnival in July after much discussion of regulations governing it and how they will be enforced.
- New Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance Derek Mannion holds a degree in forestry, and has experience in horticulture and golf course maintenance.
- Docks for Crystal Lake went out for bid and may be in place by the end of the season.
- Fee increases ahead for Recreation Department Programs. These and other cost cutting measures will help raise \$50,000 more to balance the department budget.

Follow Up

The following items came up and were approved at the July 14, 2003 meeting of the Board of Aldermen:

- \$30,000 appropriated from the Marathon receipts to purchase new playground equipment, replacing worn, defective or unsafe playground equipment throughout the city. It includes equipment for the Albemarle tot lot behind Horace Mann School.
- \$99,931 appropriated for costs of the Albemarle Community Classroom from CPA money. ■

PRISCILLA M. LEITH, MBA

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Memo

To: Members of the League of Women Voters of Newton

From: Nancy Johnson
Supervisor, Reference Department
Newton Free Library

*Did you know we have
subscribed to the
State House News Service?*

The State House News Service provides comprehensive information and updates about events on Beacon Hill. Weekly advances provide a look at what's expected to make news in the week ahead and why. Daily schedules show what's slated for the governor, Legislature and agencies. Editor's advisories indicate what the News Service is covering that day and what's making news at the State House. The News Service produces gavel-to-gavel coverage of every action taken and every speech given on the floor of the House and Senate. Also included are press releases, weekly news recaps, feature stories, archives of news coverage back to 1986, and archives of press releases back to 1997.

It is available in the library only (look under "Magazine and Newspapers" and then click on "State House News Service").

Perhaps Newton League of Women Voters members would really be interested in consulting this service. Next time you are in the library take a look!

LWVN CALENDAR

August

- 13 Wednesday, Newsletter Deadline, 6:00 p.m. Working Board Meeting, 7:15 p.m. August Board Meeting at the home of Jody Klein, 15 Newell Rd., Auburndale, 617-355-4767
- 21 Thursday, 1:00 p.m., Environmental Issues Committee at the home of Linda Walden, 39 Rokeby Rd., Waban, 617-630-9538
- 25 Monday, 7:00 p.m., New Voting System Demonstration, Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library, presented by the Newton Election Commission.
- 26 Tuesday, 7:15 p.m., Candidate's Forum for September Preliminary Election, Hyde Community Center, Co-sponsored with NewTV
- 27 Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Last day and hour to register to Vote in the September Preliminary Election, City Hall
- 28 Thursday, 12:00 p.m., New Voting System Demonstration, Newton Senior Center, presented by the Newton Election Commission

September

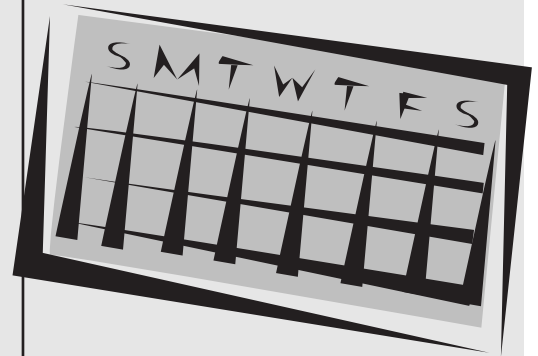
- 8 Monday, 12:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m., Education Committee Meeting at the home of Andrea Kozinetz, 8 Stoney Brae Rd., Newton Highlands, 617-964-6490
- 10 Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30:pm, Unit Meeting, USA P.A.T.R.I.O.T. Act, at the home of Ruth Neiberg, 72 Dalton Rd., Newton Centre, 617-969-9329 Brown-bag lunches encouraged.

6:30 p.m. Working Board Meeting/ Newsletter Deadline
- 16 Tuesday, 7:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m., Preliminary Municipal Election Day
- 17 Wednesday, 9:30 -11:30 a.m, New Member Meeting at the home of Robin Maltz, 20 Chatham Rd., Newton Highlands, RSVP 617-969-1554
- 18 Thursday, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., New Member Meeting at the home of Elaine Reisman, 28 Fairway Dr., West Newton, RSVP 617-244-6439
- 24 Wednesday, 7:15 p.m., September Board Meeting at the home of Pat Acton, 48 Miller Rd., Newton Centre, 617- 965- 5572

October

- 8 Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m., Unit Meeting, Education Issues, at the home of Fiora Houteling, 15 Bullough Park, Newtonville, 617-969-7764 Brown-bag lunches encouraged.
- 15 Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Last day and hour to register to vote in the November Municipal Election, City Hall

6:30 p.m. Working Board Meeting/ Newsletter Deadline
- 25 Saturday, LWVMA Fall Conference
- 29 Wednesday, 7:15 p.m., October Board Meeting



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