

# League of Women Voters of Newton Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 2

March 2002

## Override Support Given by LWVN

by Amelia Koch

At the February meeting of the LWV board of directors, the Board voted to support the mayor's request for an \$11.5 million override of the tax limit set by proposition 2-1/2. Our ability to come to decisive action on this issue required a good deal of investigation and questioning of the state of city finances, and an understanding of how the city came to be in its current position.

In early December, President Amy Koch, Local Action Chair Deb Crossley and LWVN members Mary Adelstein and Andrea Kelley, joined to form a subcommittee to seek the information we needed. We began by interviewing key city officials regarding the organization of the city's budget, the basis for revenue and expense projections for the coming year, and how the city's reserve accounts are used to meet various contingencies. Although the mayor had not yet requested an override, and departments were still in the process of crafting their budgets, revenue projections were in.

The possibility of an override had already been discussed prominently in

### *Impact on an individual taxpayer*

Assessed Value	Annual Cost	Quarterly Tax Bill
\$100,000	\$70	\$17.50
200,000	140	35.00
300,000	210	52.50
400,000	280	70.00
500,000	350	87.50
600,000	420	105.00
700,000	490	122.50
800,000	560	140.00
900,000	630	157.50
1,000,000	700	175.00

the Newton Tab and in the Boston Globe West Weekly section, so we had a good idea of the questions that were being raised.

### • What is the city's current budget situation?

The city's current FY2002 budget is \$208 million (not including water and sewer charges). The major source of city revenue is property taxes, although in recent years state aid has been increasing as a percentage of the budget. New revenues for the 2002-2003 budget total \$4.9m.

### • Why is next year different?

Next year is different for a number of reasons. On the revenue side, State Aid, which has been growing rapidly in recent years (over 20% and nearly \$4m last year), will, at best, be the same next

*Continued on page 1*

## March is Alternatives to Pesticides Month in Newton

by Ellie Goldberg

On March 12 at Newton City Hall, Mayor David B. Cohen signed a proclamation endorsing GreenCAP's continuing campaign to reduce the use of pesticides. The proclamation, unanimously supported by the Newton Board of Aldermen, urges Newton residents to recognize the special vulnerabilities of children and to learn about alternatives to pesticides "to reduce threats to health and the contamination of the environment."

March 2002's educational and outreach activities are coordinated by GreenCAP, the Green Decade Coalition's Committee for Alternatives to Pesticides, and co-sponsored by a variety of environmental, health and conservation organizations.

GreenCAP's 2002 theme is "Say No to Pesticides. Give every child a healthy start, a healthy school and a healthy tomorrow."

### Upcoming Events and New Resources

#### Environmental Speaker Series

Monday, March 25, 7 p.m.

Main Library

The highlight of Alternatives to Pesticides Month will be Dr. Bernard Weiss' talk, "Pesticides: The Ongoing Experiment On Our Children. A Discussion for Parents, Citizens and Scientists" at the Newton Free Library. Bernard Weiss, PhD, is one of the nation's leading experts on the consequences of pesticide exposures, espe-

*Continued on page 3*

### WHAT'S INSIDE

Health Care Access .....	3
Spring Council .....	3
Jane Leighton award nominations ..	3
New Members Welcomed .....	5
CPA Committee members .....	5
Cable TV Awards .....	8

## LWVN Officers and Directors 2001-2002

### Officers

President Amelia Koch 617244-2647

#### Vice Presidents

Organization Bonnie Carter 617969-0686

Program Priscilla Leith 617969-6837

Treasurer Andrea Kozinetz-Holtz 617964-6490

Recording Secretary Ruth Neiberg 617969-9329

Corresponding Secretary Deborah Hirsch 617965-1475

### Directors

Unit Coordinator Pat Acton 617965-5572

Land Use Transportation Anita Capeless 617969-9483

Local Action Co-Chair Deb Crossley 617244-7597

Voters' Service Sally Flynn 617965-6297

Voters' Service Chair Ann Grantham 617964-0333

Publicity Barbara Lietzke 617332-8630

Membership Elaine Reisman 617244-6439

Local Action Co-Chair Carol Ann Shea 617527-5139

Education Beverly Spencer 617965-6365

Legislation and NewTV Beth Wilkinson 617969-4443

### Newsletter

President Amelia Koch 617244-2647

Editor Andrea Kelley 617964-4609

### Committee Members

Deborah Hirsch 617965-1475

Liz Lieberman 617244-4402

Linda Morrison 617332-6539

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

PO Box 610207  
Newton, MA 02461  
617-964-0014

[www.tiac.net/users/unnewton/LWV](http://www.tiac.net/users/unnewton/LWV)

# PERSPECTIVE: Are You Crazy?

Dear Colleagues,

Recently, I had the opportunity to share my League experience with a non-League member. She listened intently as I recounted the League's 82 year history, the battles we have waged, the victories we have won, the tremendous work that our grassroots network does, and my own personal commitment to serve. She asked for further clarification on the role of League members. She was surprised to learn that we are all volunteers, juggling the responsibilities of family, career, and community activism.

I indicated that the League's mission and vision fuels our dedication and commitment. After I completed my passionate League colloquy, she said, "You do all of this for the love of the League, - are you crazy?". I took a moment to reflect. Am I crazy? Are we crazy? Why do we soldier on in the face of adversity to carry out the democratic principles of the League and of the country? In contemplating a response, once again I looked to our past. I found the remarks of Anna Lord Strauss to Convention delegates in 1948 most appropriate.

"Today too many people are confused and discouraged. In their discouragement some are seeking an easy answer to our perplexities, a panacea, appealing because of its simplicity. Others are returning to the patterns of the past, which is the cynicism, that is the currency of the unmoral. They illustrate two groups, those who run in too headlong a manner, and those who consider and do not run at all. We will always have in our society those who race ahead regardless of what may befall and the conservatives who hang back waiting to be shown the safe smooth path. What is needed most of all today, however, is citizens willing to build the road as they move toward their goal..."

Visionaries, who would right injustice, and make a difference in the world, are often thought to be crazy. Not because of any mental defect, but because they are dreamers. They have a vision of how the world can be. So, my answer to the question - are you crazy? Is yes. Yes I am. Vision and values drive my continued belief in the League of Women Voters and of these United States. Yes, I am crazy. But I am proud to be in good company with the suffragists, the abolitionists, the Freedom Riders, the ERA advocates, and the list goes on. They were all thought to be crazy, but look at the legacy they have left. Mrs. Strauss challenged Convention delegates "The demand of the hour is not only for a few inspired leaders..." but for us ALL. Does heeding that spirited call make us crazy, or just ahead of our time?

The League is facing many challenges, we must make hard choices, and we will change.

*Happy Birthday League! Believe!*

By the way, she joined the League.

Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, Ph.D.

President, LWVUS

# Health Care Access

by Barbara Sullivan, Chair, LWVMHealth Care Committee

On the recommendation of the state League Health Care Committee, the LWVM board has voted to endorse a Health Care Access Resolution (House Concurrent Resolution 99) in Congress. The Resolution has been filed by the Congressional Universal Health Care Task Force "to promote strategic planning in Congress and the nation on how to achieve affordable, high quality health care for all." The bill now has 40 co-sponsors, four of whom are Massachusetts congressmen- Frank, Tierney, Olver and Capuano.

Local League members are encouraged to contact their legislators who have not signed on and request that they become co-sponsors. Since the bill's supporters, the Health Care Access Campaign, are seeking to build grassroots support, local Leagues may also wish to sign on as endorsers of the bill.

For additional information on the bill and the campaign and how to become an endorser, you may access the [www.UHCAN.org](http://www.UHCAN.org) web site or call the LWVM office at 617-523-0881. ■

*League of Women Voters  
of Massachusetts*

**Council 2002**

## "THE LEAGUE TODAY"

Saturday, May 11, 2002

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Newton Holiday Inn

8:30 a.m. **Registration**

9:00 a.m. – **General Workshop**

10:30 a.m. "Who are we today?"

10:40 a.m. – **Individual Workshops**

2:10 p.m. "Where are we going?"

### **Program and Action**

Voters Service and Citizen Education  
Communications and Public Relations  
Membership and Diversity

12:20 p.m. **Luncheon with  
Guest Speaker**

1:50 p.m. **Call to Order  
Plenary Session**

3:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

Watch for Council Registration  
Information and Details in  
March Presidents' Mail ■

## Jane Leighton Volunteer of the Year Committee Seeks Your Input

If you would like to recommend a  
League member for the  
Jane Leighton Volunteer of the Year  
Award, please send your  
suggestion to Amy Koch at  
[AKOCH@RISD.EDU](mailto:AKOCH@RISD.EDU)  
or call her at 617-244-2647. ■

## Pesticides

*Continued from page 1*

cially in children and the elderly. He is Professor of Environmental Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Rochester School of Medicine.

Dr. Weiss will address the questions: "What are the effects of toxic chemicals on our development and functioning throughout our life span? What are the ethics of using all of us as unknowing guinea pigs? What are the implications for government regulation and public policy? Are we doing enough to prevent asthma, behavioral and learning disorders, and cancer?"

**LAWN CARE SAFETY FLYER** Information about safe lawn care will reach every Newton resident when the City mails out the flyer, "Is your lawn a lush, green health hazard?" The information will alert residents about the hazards of pesticides and promote organic pesticide-free lawn care using such simple strategies as mowing high and watering deep.

**NEW HEALTHY LAWNS BROCHURE** Also the Newton Health Department and the Green Decade Coalition will distribute 4000 copies of the brochure "Healthy Lawns and Landscapes," a step-by-step organic lawn care guide. "The brochure was developed for the Massachusetts Pesticide Awareness Collaborative, in a project funded by the Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) at UMass/Lowell, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and Department of Environmental Protection."

The new Massachusetts-wide Collaborative is based on a model of collaboration between health departments and citizens pioneered in Newton and Marblehead. It started out as a project involving eight towns and has grown to involve over twenty-one towns in workshops, resource development and outreach efforts.

**ORGANIC GARDENING WORKSHOP** On Saturday, April 13 at 1 p.m., the Newton Free Library will host a free workshop on organic landscaping co-sponsored by the Northeast Organic Farming Association and GreenCAP.

**LIBRARY BIBLIOGRAPHY** The Newton Free Library has posted an extensive bibliography of newly acquired books on organic gardening and landscaping on its website along with an "Alternatives to Pesticides" bibliography of GreenCAP's favorite organic gardening titles.

**AWARD WINNING VIDEO** Since 1994, GreenCAP has been a clearinghouse for information on safe approaches to landscaping and pest control. GreenCAP's award winning video, "Newton Goes Green: Say No to Pesticides," is also in the Newton Free Library. It has been educating communities all over the United States about the hazards of pesticides and ecological approaches to landscaping and pest control. ■

## Committees - in - Action

### *E d u c a t i o n*

**Focus** Increasing high school enrollments, school financing, testing & standards

**Members** Nancy Crowley Anne Larner  
Deborah Hirsch Robin Maltz  
Andrea Kelley Beth Wilkinson  
Andrea Kozinetz

**Contact** Beverly Spencer 617965-6365  
Board Liaison

### *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** Joan Bates Ruth Nemzoff  
Marion Cowan Holly Gunner  
Anne Larner

**Contact** Holly Gunner, Chair 617964-0767

### *L a n d   U s e / T r a n s p o r t a t i o n*

**Focus** Interrelationship between land use and transportation and its effects on Newton & surrounding communities

**Members** AnnaMaria Abernathy  
Anita Capeless  
Carol Ann Shea  
Susie Heyman

**Contact** Anita Capeless 617969-9483

### *L o c a l   A c t i o n*

**Focus** Various local issues

**Members** In formation - all welcome

**Contact** Carol Ann Shea 617969-2121  
Deb Crossley 617244-7597  
Co-chairs

### *I n t e r n a t i o n a l   T r a d e*

**Focus** Study existing U.S. trade policies, and problems arising from a global economy

**Members** Priscilla Leith  
Fran Seasholes  
Mary Huse  
Linda Morrison

**Contact** Priscilla Leith 617969-6837

### *N o m i n a t i n g   C o m m i t t e e*

Barbara Sydney, Chair 617332-2160

### *N e w s l e t t e r*

**Members** Jane Leighton Liz Lieberman  
Deb Hirsch Linda Morrison

**Contact** Andrea Kelley 617964-4609

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

*Continued from page 1*

# Override Support

year as this year and may well fall below the current allocation. City estimates show a small drop in State Aid. Property taxes, by far Newton's largest revenue source, normally grow by 2 1/2 percent of the prior years tax base (this is an average) plus any new property, or "new growth", that comes on line. In recent years there have been several large new properties developed that added to the rolls - including Lasell Village and the Jordan Marsh complex on Grove Street. Lasell Village added over \$1,000,000 to the tax base. For FY2003 there are no major new property developments coming on line.

These changes in revenue growth are the major reasons why next year is different. However, there are also pressures on expenditures. Health care costs are rising by 15% next year and other benefit costs are rising as well. Salary contracts contain increases of between 3% and 4%. Special Education costs are increasing although the expectation is that those increases will moderate within the next few years. Newton is not alone in any of these concerns; all towns and cities are facing similar problems and many of the western suburbs are requesting or considering overrides of their own. In fact of the 32 cities and towns in west suburban Boston, only Newton, Norwood, and Waltham have had no override since Proposition 2 1/2 was passed, and most communities have passed more than one.

#### • What are the known costs going forward?

In our review we distinguished between those increases required to keep services at the current level versus those that would expand services. The increased cost necessary to keep services at the current level is \$13.1m. Of this, \$7.6m is salaries, \$3m represents benefit increases, and the rest is composed of increases in expenses such as utilities and contract services. Taken against the revenue projection of \$4.9m, this leaves the city with a shortfall of \$8.2m without taking into account any of the cuts that were made last year.

#### • Are there reserves available that could tide the city over a difficult year?

The simple answer to this question is that there are some reserves that could be used but they aren't enough to cover the shortfall, and using them would leave Newton with a reduced capacity to respond to unanticipated events such as hurricanes, floods, blizzards or terrorists attacks. Also, some of the reserves although not legally restricted (and many of the reserves are legally restricted) are already designated for a specific purpose. Examples of designated funds would include the fund set aside to pay workers compensation (\$1,100,000); the money beginning to accumulate in accordance with the city's plan to pay for the high school renovations (\$2,171,993); or the money received annually from the Boston Marathon normally used to renovate city parks (\$95,000).

One additional reserve that people often mention is "Free Cash" (\$5.4m this year) which is largely composed of budget surpluses from the prior year. Unfortunately "Free Cash" is over committed. Part of "Free Cash" is already included in next year's budget (\$1.7m). Part will be used to fund certain of the city's capital needs, e.g. roof repairs and replacements, (\$2.7m). The capital

<i>Shortfall if no override</i>			
	City	Schools	Total
New Money w/out override	\$1.45m	\$3.45m	\$4.9m
Required Increases:			
Salaries	2.50m	5.10m	7.6m
Benefits	1.40m	1.60m	3.0m
Known non-salary costs	0.60m	1.90m	2.5m
Cuts Necessary if No Override	-3.05m	-5.15m	-8.2m

*Continued on page 8*



# Community Preservation in Action

by Deb Crossley

AnnaMaria Abernathy observed the first meeting of the Newton Community Preservation Committee held in early March. Mayor Cohen presided as members were introduced, a large notebook of information on the law and relevant city programs and documents was distributed, and a general plan for meeting their charge was discussed. The committee has decided to meet twice per month to begin, and scheduled a series of meetings: March 21, Apr. 4, and Apr. 23, all at 7:30 PM in City Hall room 209. A member of the Planning Department will be present, and provide regular updates in their Friday report.

At the March 21 meeting the committee will first elect a chair, and there will be a presentation and discussion of affordable housing in Newton. Each of the following three meetings will be devoted to presentations and discussions of the other three areas addressed by the Act: open space, recreation, historic preservation. Attendance is open to the public: members of the Friends of Community Preservation, and the League will be there.

It is the first business of the CP committee to gather information and assess needs in the community. Citizens and citizen organizations have already begun to approach members of the committee with their ideas for using community preservation funds. Committee members are as follows:

## Organizational Representatives

Conservation Commission: Eric Reenstierna (3 years).  
 Planning & Development Board: Glenn Vanaman (1 year).  
 Housing Authority: Jeffrey Sacks, 45 Old Colony Road (3 years).  
 Historical Commission: Charles McMillan (2 years).  
 Parks and Recreation Commission: Robert Platt (2 years).

## Mayoral Appointments

Wards 1 & 2, (open space): Setti Warren (3 yr term).  
 Wards 3 & 4, (historic preservation): Claudia Sauermann Wu (2yr).  
 Wards 5 & 6, (recreation): Douglas Dickson (one yr).  
 Wards 7 & 8, (affordable housing): Hallie Pinta (one yr).

Call Deb Crossley, 617-244-7597, if you would like to observe these meetings for the League and/or become a member of the CP Friends; you will receive regular updates and notices. ■

# See How We Grow!

Welcome to our newest members:

**Ora Gladstone**

209 Derby Street West Newton 02465  
 617-630-9050 gladstone@brandeis.edu

**James Broderick**

21 Groveland St. Auburndale 02466  
 617-332-3465 formosush@rcn.com

**Susan Taylor**

128 Avalon Road Waban 02468  
 617-928-1542 suzime@erols.com

**Anne O'Hearne**

30 Woodhaven Road Waban 02468  
 617-965-9293 a.ohearne@worldnet.att.net

**Judy Schnee**

18 Priscilla Road Chestnut Hill 02467  
 617-527-7468 msjs@dna.mail.com

**Josie Greene**

49 Kenwood Ave. Newton Centre 02459  
 617-969-3880 gbajbg@mediaone.net

**Janet Stearns**

44 Pine St. West Newton 02465  
 617-559-9987 jstearns@bost.rc.com

**Dorrit Gloss**

125B Seminary Ave. Apt 227  
 Newton 02466  
 617-969-4347

**Steffi Karp**

290 Woodcliff Road Newton 02461  
 617-527-2815

## Easy ways to participate and to help us grow even more.

- Read the newsletter
- Attend a meeting
- Bring someone with you to an event
- Talk about league issues and encourage others to join
- Host a meeting ■

## 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

**PRISCILLA M.  
LEITH, MBA**

162 Islington Road  
Newton, MA 02466  
617.969.6837

**ACCOUNTING AND  
INCOME TAX  
SERVICES**

*for Individuals and  
Non-Profit Organizations*  
Free Consults by Appointment



**JOHN T. BURNS  
INSURANCE  
AGENCY, INC.**

803 Washington Street  
Newtonville  
617-332-1840



Linda E. Bottary  
Branch Manager

Fleet  
Newton Highlands Office  
1160 Walnut Street  
Newton, Massachusetts 02461  
617-964-2756 Fax: 617-964-8704



The Ground Round Restaurant  
1 First Avenue  
Needham, MA  
(617)444-6360

# KICKSPACE INC.

*Cabinetry and Complements For Any Space*

Kaya Cinar, Owner (617) 527-8788  
225 California Street (617) 527-7780 Fax  
Newton, MA 02458

# Pagéo

*Fine Jewelry*

*Samantha Baker*

843 Beacon Street  
Newton Centre, MA 02459  
(617) 964-4940  
Fax (617) 965-4866

General  
Contractors



**CUSTOM  
BUILDING  
SOLUTIONS INC.**

Custom  
Renovations  
& Additions  
New Homes

PO Box 620301  
Newton Lower Falls, MA 02462  
617-964-5964 Phone  
781-659-6586 Fax

**Treat Yourself to a Beautiful  
Smile with State-of-the-Art  
In-Office Teeth Whitening**

**RODMAN K. SHALE**

D.M.D.

**General • Restorative  
Cosmetic • Dentistry**

232 Boylston Street, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467  
Tel (617) 969-8558 Fax (617) 969-7172

**For all  
your  
banking  
needs.**

**LOCAL, &  
PROUD OF IT!**



**AUBURNDALE CO-OPERATIVE BANK**  
The Village Bank™

Auburndale 307 Auburn Street (617) 527-6090  
Newtonville 332 Walnut Street (617) 558-7063  
Wayland 62 Boston Post Road (508) 358-5136

FDIC/SIF



NYCE





**Garden City Homes, Inc**  
324 Walnut St.  
Newton, Massachusetts  
**Business (617) 969-2121**  
Fax (617) 527-2973

**Carol Ann Shea**  
Owner Broker

*Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated*

**VETERANS TAXI**  
TRANSPORTATION

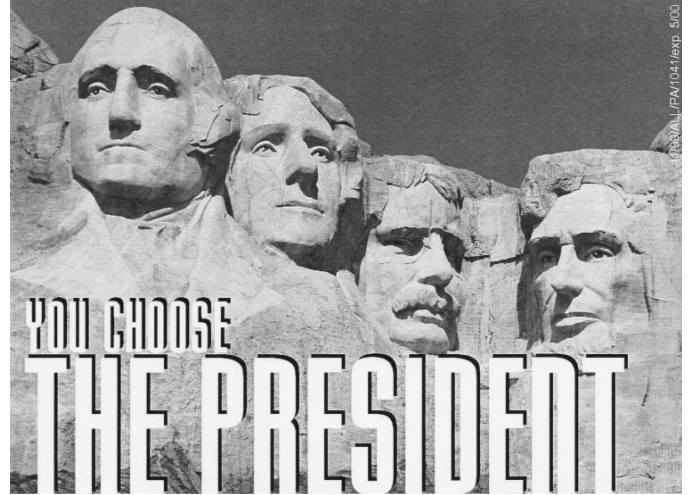
Everywhere You Want To Be.  
*Now Accepting*



So... Don't Leave Home Without Us.

Call

**OPEN 24 HOURS 527-0300**



WHY NOT YOUR PHONE, CABLE AND INTERNET SERVICE?

**1-800-RING-RCN**

**WWW.RCN.COM**



A BETTER CHOICE IN PHONE,  
CABLE AND INTERNET SERVICE.



V A N T A G E   G R A P H I C S

Commercial Printing

Direct Mail • Brochures • Newsletters • Publications

[sales@vangraph.com](mailto:sales@vangraph.com)

**617.796.9900**

Stephen P. DesRoche, P.L.S.  
President

NEPONSET VALLEY SURVEY ASSOCIATES, INC.  
Land Surveyors & Civil Engineers

Phone: 617-472-4867  
Fax: 617-472-2682  
Beeper: 781-649-0664

95 White Street  
Quincy, MA 02169

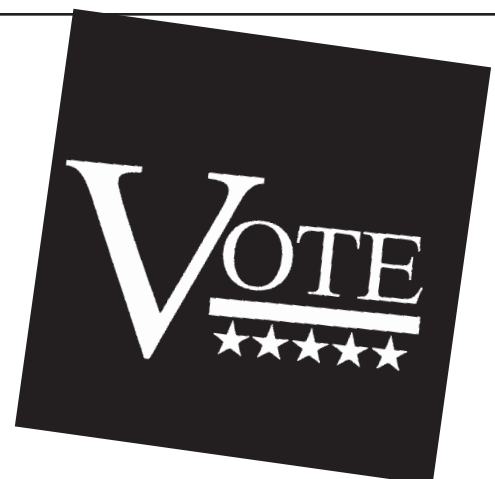
**BYGGMEISTER, INC.**

KITCHENS • BATHS • ADDITIONS • DECKS



Paul Eldrenkamp  
617 254-7673

*Our politics may lean to the left,  
but our work... NEVER!*



## LWVN CALENDAR

### March

- 20 Wed. Local Program Planning,  
7:30 pm at Crowley,  
77 Kirkstall Rd. Newtonville
- 25 Monday, 7 p.m., GreenCAP presents  
"Pesticides, the Ongoing Experiment  
On Our Children: A Discussion For  
Parents, Citizens and Scientists."  
@ Newton Free Library,
- 27 Thursday Working Board Meeting  
6:30 p.m. @ Carter, 177 Homer St.,  
N. Centre

### April

- 13 Sat. Organic Gardening Workshop,  
1 pm at Newton Free Library,  
co-sponsored by GreenCAP
- 30 Tues. Special Election for Ward  
Alderman Ward 8 and Proposition 2  
1/2 Override

### May

- 5 Sunday, LWVM Online Student Essay  
Awards ceremony, Fanueil Hall, Boston
- 11 Sat. 8:30 am-3:30 pm, LWVM Spring  
Council, Newton Holiday Inn
- 13 Tues. 7 pm, Perspectives on Criminal  
Justice Policies, Newton Free Library,  
Druker Auditorium, Panelists:  
Sen. Cynthia Creem, D.A. Martha  
Coakely, Judge Dyanne Klein,  
co-sponsored by LWVN
- 14 Tuesday, LWVN Annual Meeting,  
Save the Date!  
\* Newton Legislative Roundtable airs  
on Channel 10 (the blue channel) on  
AT&T Broadband on:  
Mondays 1:30 pm, 5:30 pm, 10:30 pm  
Tuesdays 3 am, 5:30 am, 9 am,  
1:30 pm, 5:30 pm, 10:30 pm  
Wednesdays 3 am, 5:30 am, 9 am

## Cable Awards for the League

Deb Crossley and her camera-man son James attended the recent NewTV Annual Meeting and awards night. It was conducted like a mini night at the Oscars, complete with film clips, 'and the winner is...', thank you speeches and lucite awards for the big winners! About 65 people crammed into the studio on Lincoln Street, which is the largest audience in several years for this event.

### TWO LWVNEWTON SHOWS WON CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARDS:

- \* Ward 2 Candidates' forum, submitted by Bonnie Carter, Ann Grantham as LWVN Producer. A clip of LWVM President Dona Kemp hosting was shown.
- \* Legislative Roundtable, submitted by producer Mike Padden, named Deb Crossley and Beth Wilkinson as LWV Producers. The specific submission made was for the October 2002 show where Crossley discussed constituent concerns post 9/11 with Reps. Balser and Kahn.

*Congratulations to everyone involved! ■*

## Override Support

*continued from page 3*

allocation is well short of what is needed. The remainder (\$1m) provides a "rainy day" fund in case of an extra snowy winter or emergencies such as the overtime firefighters incurred during the Thompsonville fire. It would be possible to use more "Free Cash" to fill the budget gap but inadvisable. In fact, it would be a "best practice", in our opinion, if the city did not rely on the prior years Free Cash to fund the next years budget.

Management of the city budget is prudent, and the city's AAA Bond rating is predicated on such prudence. Although the city should always look for opportunities to improve and become more efficient, much of this has been achieved over the last twenty years, and we see no way within the existing budget structure to make up for a gap of this size. There is a clear need for an override if we are to maintain the level of city services and school programs we have currently, and begin to address some small program needs. We invite you to join on us on April 30th at your local polling place to vote yes. For more information from the override campaign's perspective, visit their website: [keepnewtonsafeandstrong.org](http://keepnewtonsafeandstrong.org). ■

League of Women Voters of Newton

Non-Profit  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Boston, MA  
Permit No. 54,686

PO Box 610207  
Newton, MA 02461  
617-964-0014  
[www.tiac.net/users/unnewton/LWV](http://www.tiac.net/users/unnewton/LWV)