

The *VOTER*

VERY LATE December 2012/ VERY EARLY January 2013

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Happy Holidays from your local League of Women Voters...see you in 2013!



The VOTER

Bulletin of the League of Women Voters of Lawrence/Douglas County, Kansas
 PO Box 1072 • Lawrence KS 66044-1072

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

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League Calendar

Thu Jan 10 7:00 PM	LWV L/DC Board Meeting. <i>Plymouth Congregational Church, 945 Vermont St</i> All League members are invited to attend.
Sat Jan 19 4:00PM	Afternoon with our Legislators. <i>Home of Rita and Joe Spradlin.</i> This is a League members-only event; guests of League members are welcome.
Sat Jan 19 7:00PM	LWV L/DC Land Use Committee Meeting. <i>Community Mercantile, 901 Iowa St</i> All League members are invited to attend.
Wed Feb 13 9:00AM	State League Day at the Capitol. <i>Kansas Bar Association, 1200 SW Harrison St, Topeka</i> All League members are invited to attend.
Thu Feb 14 7:00 PM	LWV L/DC Board Meeting. <i>Plymouth Congregational Church, 945 Vermont St</i> All League members are invited to attend.
Feb 23	Deadline for nominations for Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award.
Sat Mar 2 10:00AM	Voter Education Coalition Candidate Fair. <i>Carnegie Building, 200 W Ninth St</i> Open to the public.
Sat Mar 9 11:30AM	Helen Fluker Award Luncheon. <i>Smith Center, Brandon Woods, 4730 Brandon Woods Ter</i> All League members are invited to attend.
Wed Mar 13 7:00 PM	Advance Voting Begins. <i>Lawrence City Commission and USD 497 Elections.</i>
Thu Mar 14 7:00 PM	LWV L/DC Board Meeting. <i>Plymouth Congregational Church, 945 Vermont St</i> All League members are invited to attend.

Message from the President

I'm now halfway through my shortened term as your President and feel great about everything the League has accomplished thus far, including:

- Registering 296 voters at over 30 events, including over 50 newly naturalized citizens as first-time voters, in anticipation of the November election, and the Lawrence Journal-World recognized our efforts with an editorial.
- Participating in several Voter Education Coalition events to introduce candidates for the 2012 elections to the community.
- Celebrating the first National Voter Registration Day with a proclamation from the Lawrence City Commission.
- Writing an op-ed about why the local races matter to every voter in Douglas County, which was published the week before the election.
- Acknowledging the 100th anniversary of the Kansas state constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote in the state of Kansas (eight years before the 19th national constitutional amendment in 1920!). We plan to celebrate that anniversary at our annual Afternoon with the Legislators in January.
- Providing an opportunity for citizens to attend a "City Hall Updates" presentation by City Manager, Dave Corliss.
- Beginning an examination of our local position on Low-Income Housing to determine if we need to re-study it and provide an update.
- Reaching concurrence with the state re-study of our position on state finance.
- Updating our social media outreach to increase our visibility.
- And, of course, providing feedback to local and state officials about various issues of concern.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to the accomplishments listed above and look forward to working with the membership during the next four months as we look ahead to the following events and opportunities:

- Continuing to re-study our local position on Low-Income Housing and determine if the position should be updated.
- Spending an afternoon with our newly elected state legislative delegation to discuss our joys

and concerns (I use that phrase loosely) with the 2013 agenda.

- Participating in the annual State League Day at the Capitol.
- Working with the Voter Education Coalition to provide opportunities to meet candidates running for Lawrence City Commission and USD 497 School Board positions.
- Continuing to work closely with the Douglas County Clerk's office regarding changes in the voter registration process beginning January 1st.
- Celebrating the Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government award winner with our annual luncheon.
- Attending the State League convention in April.
- Preparing for the annual Mabel Stucky Scholarship Award.
- And topping our year off with the annual meeting in April.

Please have a safe and happy holiday season. I hope to see many of you at the Afternoon with the Legislators on January 19th!

— Melinda Henderson, President

Highlights of November Board Meeting

Plymouth Congregational Church, 925 Vermont St
November 8, 2012, 7-9 p.m.

Present: Melinda Henderson (President), Milton Scott (Vice President), David Burress (President Elect), Marjorie Cole (Treasurer), Caleb Morse (Secretary); Directors: Bonnie Dunham, James Dunn, Sally Hayden, Cille King, Marlene Merrill. **Absent:** Margaret Arnold, Ruth Lichtwardt. **Others:** Members Marilyn Roy and Nancy Dunn.

Treasurer's report. Marjorie reported total income for Oct of \$605 (\$555 in dues, \$50 from one contribution); and expenses of \$1,115.76 (\$575 for contractual services, \$443.25 for the second quarter LWVK per member payment, \$58.66 for Voter Services, and \$38.85 for Administration). Net outflow was -\$510.76.

As of 1 Nov, balances in various accounts were as follows: Checking = \$1,897.20, Money Market = \$2,100.65 Stucky = \$6,369.62, Judiciary = \$593.58, Education Fund (LWV EF) = \$528.67 [A \$500 donation was made to the Education Fund. The second quarter pmp was paid Nov. 5, after acknowledgement of its receipt by LWVEF.]. The

Dues Scholarship fund (a subset of the General Fund) currently has \$190 available.

President's Report. Melinda's report presented several goals and objectives for the remainder of the League year, and what she had been doing to fulfill them. These included: Continue to work to streamline board meetings with written reports ahead of time; Increase visibility with social media and in representing the League to various officials and at various events; Budget and fundraise for the remainder of the fiscal year; Continue to think of ways to move the League forward in other ways.

Melinda had represented the League on election night, personally inviting several State House and Senate election winners to participate in our Afternoon with the Legislators. We discussed the possibility of inviting a few others, whose districts just enter small areas of the county and also the State Board of Education members who represent Douglas County. A suggestion to invite as guests the City and County Commissioners, as well, was nixed, due to provisions of the Kansas Open Meetings Law, which prohibits a quorum of elected boards from meeting outside public venues.

We need to budget creatively for several large items, including resolving the issue of how and how many paper copies of the Voter we mail, as well as funding travel to State Convention and National Council later in the year. Melinda suggested adding a Paypal account to our website to solicit contributions and will investigate that possibility.

Membership MLD Committee report. Bonnie reported that two new members joined in the last month (Pam Staab and Tom Harper), and that all new members were sent welcome letters. About 25 members attended the Brown Bag Lunch on October 13th at Fire Station 5. Speaker Mary Lindsay presented on "Corporate personhood: Is democracy for sale?" The next event was planned for November 12th at the Carnegie Library with City Manager David Corliss speaking on city projects and the budget.

We discussed creating new membership categories (supporting and sustaining), in addition to the present individual and household memberships, to accommodate those members who wish to contribute more than just enough to cover their PMPs.

LWVK reported that LWV L/DC had increased our membership by 5.2% between Jan 2011 and Jan 2012. This compared fairly well with other Leagues across the state; some saw a negative change.

Voter Services Committee report. Melinda reported on what she had done to increase League visibility in October, activities that included writing an op-ed about the election and how it affected everyone at the local level and giving an interview the previous Monday on KLWN about an article that appeared in the Lawrence Journal-World, which highlighted the 100th anniversary of the amendment to the state constitution that gave women the right to vote.

Cille will serve as League's representative to the Voter Education Coalition during the spring election cycle. Melinda reported successful preparation of voter guides. Only 3 candidates did not respond. The guides were posted as PDFs on our website, which got a lot of hits the last two weeks before the election (756 hits in the 3rd week of Oct, but 1445 the week after). She also entered all candidates and their responses into Vote 411, but since it was having such technical difficulties and the site was being remodeled on a daily basis, she did not publicize it too much.

Land Use Committee report. Marlene reported that she had attended the previous LUC meeting and the tough agenda included a proposed zoning category for truck stops which could occur in the future, and a new proposal for development for a sports complex at the junction of 6th St and the SLT. *(For the full report of the LUC meeting, please see Page 7.)*

Affordable Housing Study Committee report. James reported that one problem seems to be that there are lots of issues on the horizon with housing the elderly. These and other populations are not adequately addressed in our 1975 position. So, it seems that we need to include some language to cover these populations. Milton added that the people who attended the first meeting said they needed more information on what kind of housing is available. James and Milton will bring back more information at the December meeting.

LWVK report. James noted that the State Board was to meet on 17 Nov.

VOTER and Guest VOTER editors. Emily Pabst will produce the Nov Voter. Ruth Lichtwardt will produce the Dec Voter. Guest editors will produce future Voters based on Ruth's 2013 schedule.

Fundraising Letter. Bonnie will help Melinda write the fundraising letter; Marjorie will help formulate the list of recipients; Melinda will put out a call for help in stuffing the envelopes.

State Re-Study on State Finance Position. Marlene announced that the concurrence meeting would take place on 1 Dec, 10 am-12 pm, at Fire Station 4.

New member orientation. Bonnie plans to send all new members a special invitation to our Afternoon with the Legislators event in January. New Member packets need to be made to distribute to our new members. *Any volunteers for that project?*

VOTER distribution method. David estimated that we can save at least \$1000 by emailing the VOTER as much as possible. A proposal is forthcoming.

Portfolios. David distributed a proposed set of Board Member Responsibilities that he had drawn up. We will review and discuss these at our next meeting.

Social media. Melinda noted that we have 67 Facebook likes and 336 Twitter followers, with lots of re-tweets.

submitted by Melinda Henderson, President

Voter Services Update

Voter Registration Events. We are waiting until after the new year to determine what our procedures will be regarding voter registration, due to the new “proof of citizenship” requirement that goes into effect January 1.

Voter Education Coalition. League is a member of the Voter Education Coalition, a local, non-partisan organization created to promote civil dialogue and broad participation of citizens and candidates through community forums.

The VEC has scheduled a Candidate Fair for the spring local elections for Saturday, March 2, 2013, 10am-noon, at the Carnegie Building.

Cille King will be the League’s representative to the VEC for the upcoming spring elections. Thank you, Cille.

Voter Guide. We will want to do Voter Guides for the spring elections. Any volunteers?

USD 497 Bond Issue. There will be a “no tax-increase” bond issue on the spring ballot. How do we feel about that? Do we want to take a position on it? If we do, we’ll need some volunteers to research it and see how it lines up with our position on funding education. If you’re interested in working on this project, please contact Cille at VoterServices@lawrenceleague.com.

submitted by Melinda Henderson, Chair, Voter Services

Changes in store for the VOTER

We had sort of a snafu with the production of the December VOTER. So this edition is the VERY LATE December/VERY EARLY January and the next VOTER will be published in February.

That said, The end has arrived. No, not 12/21/12 (which we all seemed to survive just fine), but close. At our December meeting, the board finalized the idea to try to “go green” beginning with the next VOTER and use email and our website as much as we can to distribute our monthly newsletter. We estimate that we can realize a potential savings of up to \$1700 annually if we do this. Currently, we print and mail to approximately 130 recipients...this has cost us an average of nearly \$200/month the past year.

I would like to see more of our fundraising profits go to meeting our goals of Voter Service/Citizen Education and Action and Advocacy and believe this is a step in the right direction toward meeting those goals.

All members with email addresses (everyone with an email address should be a member of our google groups list) will be contacted to find out if you need to receive a printed copy of the VOTER. All members without email will continue to receive a printed copy. Our goal is to pare down the entire list to around 50 printed and mailed copies per month.

submitted by Melinda Henderson, President

Afternoon with the Legislators January 19th

Rita and Joe Spradlin have graciously agreed to once again host our annual Afternoon with the Legislators this year. It will be from 4-6PM (approximately an hour after the end of the televised KU basketball game — away, at Texas). Douglas County is represented by 3 senators and 6 representatives. We hope all will be able to attend. We’ve invited State Board of Education members Janet Waugh and Carolyn Campbell to attend this year, as well.

(Per my concerns about personal security that was printed in the last VOTER: I take this very seriously, especially with print and social media. Therefore, no member’s telephone number, home address, or email address will be published in the VOTER or on our website. So watch your mail and email for more details, including the address where the event will be held.)

Adhering to tradition, Board members will provide the treats, but feel free to bring something to share if you'd like. We'll also be celebrating our 100th anniversary of Kansas Women's Suffrage (a little late, since the actual date was the day before elections in November and we were a little busy then) so we'll have a birthday cake to share, as well.

submitted by Melinda Henderson, President

Legislative e-Report Begins Again

Speaking of our legislators, Paul Johnson, LWVK's Legislative Liaison, submitted his first Legislative e-Report on December 18th. It was emailed to everyone on our Google Groups email list. Besides, balancing the state budget, Paul identified the following potential challenges for the 2013 legislature:

- Possible Attempt at Redistricting
- Immigration Reform
- Privatization of Medicaid – Kancare
- Water and the Environment
- Kansas Court Of Appeals Judicial Selection
- Children's Initiatives Fund
- Kansas Oil & Gas — horizontal drilling/fracking

We'll be sure to touch on as many of these issues as possible when we meet with our legislators on January 19th and also at State League Day at the Capitol on February 23rd.

Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award

Save the date! The LWV L/DC Board has approved the date of Saturday, March 9, 2013 for the Helen Fluker Award Luncheon, and the Smith Center at Brandon Woods has agreed to cater the luncheon again this year. We'll gather, pay for our meals and socialize with one another at 11:30 a.m., but lunch will be served at 12 noon.

The winner of the Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award will be honored on this occasion. Each year the Fluker Award honors a Douglas County resident who has shown outstanding leadership in promoting citizen participation in government. Check your February Voter for more information on the inspiration for this award and the nominating process.

A nomination form is included in this *VOTER* if you'd like to nominate someone. The deadline to receive nominations is February 23rd.

*submitted by Lee Ketzel, co-Chair,
Helen Fluker Award Committee*

Reaching Concurrence on State Finance Position

Saturday, December 1st, 10am, Fire Station #5

13 League members met for two hours on Saturday, December 1st to reach concurrence on the revised State Position on Finance. A lively discussion was led by Carol Jacobson (who co-chaired the State re-study and Marlene Merrill (who was a member of the State re-study committee). Several suggestions were made to tighten up and clarify the wording of the revised position and these suggestions will be submitted to the State League by the end of the year. We look forward to seeing how our new updated position will read.

Observer Report

Lawrence Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting
November 12, 2012, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Deborah Thompson, President; Fran Devlin, Secretary; Joan Golden, Treasurer; Ursula Minor, Chris Burger, David Vance. Absent: Terry Leibold. Library Staff: Brad Allen, Director; Kathleen Morgan, Library Foundation Director; Susan Brown, Marketing Director; Tom Davin, Kim Fletcher, Lynn Koenig, Amanda McConnell, Sherri Turner. Friends of the Library: Susan Craig Guests: John Wilkins, Gould Evans; Tracy Green, Dennis Odgers, BA Green; Elinor Tourtellot, League of Women Voters

Directors Report: Brad said the bids for the move would be opened tomorrow at 2:00, with a follow-up review and decision. He noted the success of the Banned Books Week trading card project. He said the option for a charging station for electric cars would be considered as an alternate bid in the construction project. John Wilkins noted that they have only awarded the garage bids that are critical to its construction. They will hold other bids until further along in the project after bids for the library itself have come in.

Foundation Report: Kathleen noted that Dr. Bob books have been renamed Dr. Bob Readers due to a copyright conflict. She has worked with the Friends to create a

joint Friends/Foundation annual giving letter which will go out soon. The Sara Paretsky after-hours fundraiser netted about \$20,000. After hours was a great success, making \$19,700.

Friends of Library Report: Susan Craig said the Friends Board had held some special meetings to plan their strategy during the upcoming move. They will store boxed books in a trailer parked in the loading dock area at 700 New Hampshire (the former Borders Building) rather than paying for off-site storage. Friends are hosting a staff salad luncheon on December 6. They will be holding a soup supper reception for volunteers in January. The spring sale will be at the fairgrounds in buildings 1 and 2, and use of the space was generously donated.

Renovation update:

- **Parking garage:** John Wilkins said the parking garage bids would be on the city commission agenda. The bids are under \$300,000. Construction work will start around December 13. Initial work will be on site utilities with excavation for the garage coming toward the end of December or early January. The upper level of the garage remains as an alternate bid to be funded by the city. Bids for that portion came in at \$850,000, under the \$1 million estimate.
- **Move:** Brad noted that the move will take place in January and the library will close for approximately 2 weeks. The staff will load books onto carts and the moving company will transport the carts, furniture and equipment to the former Borders Building.
- **Percent for Art:** John noted that Dierk Van Keppel and John Shreve were selected to be the artists for the Percent For Art project. They will be working with Gould Evans and the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission to further develop the project.
- **Logs to Literature:** The city approved the Logs to Literature concept which will give artisans an opportunity to use the trees removed from the library site. Pieces created from the trees will be auctioned off with proceeds donated to the Friends of the Library.
- **Electronic lockers vs. service window:** Brad outlined a proposal that would replace the drive-up pickup window with a locker system. There would still be a drive-up book drop. There was much discussion about how the process would work. The board decided to table the discussion until the next meeting and asked Brad and staff to prepare a document providing more detail about process.

6-month Library Director Evaluation: Chris and David were appointed to the committee to complete Brad's 6-month evaluation. The board will hold an executive session at the December meeting to discuss the evaluation as a group.

submitted by Elinor Tourtellot, League Observer

Observer Report

Complete Streets Meeting November 26, 2012

League member, Alan Black, attended a meeting of the Complete Streets Committee on November 26, 2012. Charlie Bryan of the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department is the organizer. The City has adopted a Complete Streets Policy.

The main topic of discussion was what form the Committee should take in the future. One idea is to have a small group officially created by the City, with its members appointed by the City Commission. It would make recommendations to the City Commission and staff. It might absorb the existing Bicycle Advisory Committee.

The other idea is to have a large non-profit organization open to any interested citizens. It could lobby the City on various proposals and issues and run advertisements. It could not include any members of the City staff.

Alan volunteered to serve on a small group that will discuss this matter and try to reach a conclusion. Some persons (Alan included) think it might be desirable to have both types of organization.

submitted by Alan Black, League Observer

Land Use Committee Highlights

November 2012 Meeting Saturday, November 10th, 7pm, 901 Iowa St.

The Land Use Committee met at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Mercantile on Saturday, November 10 to discuss planning issues on the next week's Planning Commission (PC) and City Commission (CC) agendas. The two main issues were the annexation and rezoning of the proposed recreation center, dubbed "Rock Chalk Park," that the City and the KU Endowment Association are currently planning. Also on the Agenda under "Miscellaneous" was the Long range Planning Work Program, the annual planning report, and proposed schedule for

next year. A third Miscellaneous item was introduced at the meeting to reconsider the commercial rezoning for the 140-acre tract west and north of the intersection between K-10 and 6th Street by the lawyer for the applicant, which project the CC abandoned when the new Rock Chalk Park proposal surfaced. In this current November meeting we sent two letters: one to the PC and one to the CC. The CC had the issue of considering the Recreation Center on its November 13 meeting—the one item on its Regular Agenda.

Background: For about a year the City had been considering creating a major sports recreation center of about 40 acres called the “Sports Village” as part of a 140 acre tract located immediately adjacent and north and west of 6th Street and the K-40 intersection. This north 40-acre tract was to be donated to the City by the owner and the southern 100 acres was to be zoned to a new privately-owned retail community commercial district, CC600, that would be intermediate in intensity between the Regional Shopping District and the CC400 District but conditioned here to limit its retail uses and size.

Item No. 2A and 2B, the annexation and rezoning to GPI (General Public and Institutional Use District). When the KU Endowment Association (KUEA) then came up with a new plan for a joint City-KU recreation center located immediately east of K-10 and north of the Mercato Shopping Center (currently undeveloped) the City Commission abandoned the original plan and rezoning for the Sports Village to turn its attention to the new proposal, now dubbed “Rock Chalk Park.” This new proposal surrounds the City-owned Baldwin Creek Park and, not including the park, would be a total of approximately 110 acres. According to two letters sent from the KUEA to the City attached to the CC November 13 Agenda, of the 90-acre southern tract there would be one approximately 5-acre parcel to be owned by the City for a new enclosed recreation center plus eight outdoor lighted tennis courts and 5 miles of trails. The remainder would be devoted to KU sports projects. The development of the entire project, including streets, parking and utilities, bidding and oversight would be done by “Bliss Sports” owned by Thomas Fritzel. Maintenance of the streets, accessways, landscaping, infrastructure (essentially most of the entire project) would be the responsibility of the City. Before the project would begin the City would pay the KUEA 25 million dollars.

Our letter to the PC regarded the rezoning of the 110 acres for the Rock Chalk Park and mainly concerned the environmental impacts of the project. Because the 110-

acre site is north of a small residential area wedged between it and the Mercato Shopping Center, we asked that rezoning be deferred until the December PC Agenda so that the Special Use Permit needed for this use (on the December PC agenda) be considered jointly with the rezoning in order to apply the needed conditions to lessen the impact on surrounding areas. We also asked that the residential land to the south be studied because it would act as a transitional area. In addition, the environmental effects of this sports center would need to be reduced as much as possible. Examples were the need to minimize the amount of impermeable surface, creating walking trails with natural surfaces rather than paving, preserving the trees, and avoiding structures and uses that would encroach on the stream and forest. OUTCOME: the PC approved the annexation and rezoning to GPI for the two Rock Chalk Park tracts without conditions.

Our second letter was to the City Commission on their consideration of the proposed Rock Chalk Park which was to be their main Agenda item the next day. We based our letter on the two letters sent to the City by the President of the KU Endowment Association (KUEA) which described their proposal for creating this joint City-KU project. Their first letter outlined their proposal and the separate roles of the City and the KUEA, as described above. Our concerns centered around the disparities in the City’s benefits and its obligations. Apparently KU would own and control most of the project, but the City would be responsible for maintaining it (and probably policing it); i.e., the streets, accessways, utilities, all other infrastructure, “all professional fees and services associated with improvements,” and landscaping. One of our concerns (among many) was that should the City assume the maintenance of these features, the construction standards and conformance to them would be critically important; i.e., the higher the standards, the less would be the maintenance costs.

Consequently, we included many questions in our letter to the CC concerning several features of the KUEA proposal that we felt were not adequately answered, such as: what happens to the northwestern vacant and unplanned 19 acres; will the City continue to own Baldwin Creek Park and what happens to it (the park protects the stream); what construction standards will be required for the streets and accessways; will the City have veto power over the construction standards; will the City-appointed “construction monitor” have veto power; will all construction have to meet City codes and standards, and how will this be determined and en-

forced? OUTCOME: the CC approved continued consideration of this project.

Miscellaneous Item 3 was the one additional unexpected item on the Planning Commission Agenda. This was a verbal request by the lawyer for the owner of the previously-considered Sports Village and 100-acre commercial site which the city had returned to the Planning Commission for reconsideration after essentially abandoning the Sports Village proposal. Horizon 2020 had originally designated this area for industrial use. The 140-acre property had not been officially changed from this original status by the CC, and therefore maintained that designation. The lawyer's appeal to the PC was to ask the CC to re-send the 140-acre tract to the PC for reconsideration. OUTCOME: the PC voted in favor of this request 5-4. (The CC may or may not respond.)

submitted by Betty Lichtwardt, LUC member

Land Use Committee Highlights

December 2012 Meeting

Saturday, December 8th, 7pm, 901 Iowa St.

The December Land Use Committee met as usual at the Merc, on Saturday, the 8th at 7:00 p.m.

Two items of note were discussed at the meeting, which was also attended by a resident from the Diamondhead neighborhood.

ITEM NO 4C: SPECIAL USE PERMIT (SUP), RECREATION CENTER; W. 6TH ST & K-10 HWY:

"Consider a Special Use Permit and Institutional Development Plan for development of General Entertainment and Spectator Sports, Active Recreation, and Outdoor and Participant Sports & Recreation uses on approximately 90 acres located in the NE quadrant of the intersection of W. 6th St/Hwy 40 & Kansas Hwy 10 (K-10)."

We wrote a letter to the Planning Commission (PC) about the development and management arrangements which, in addition to sporting programs, would also be open to special events. Because the use schedule for the Rock Chalk Park, except for the City-owned Recreation Center, would be in the hands of a private entity, possibly for profit, we anticipated that the special events might take precedence over the sports activities. Some of our concerns included:

If an amphitheater is constructed, it should not be in the city-owned Baldwin Creek Park.

Some special event uses listed in the SUP could be very damaging and disruptive to the natural outdoor area and we asked that these types of events not be included in the SUP. These events included: "Racing and vehicle exhibitions: BMX and Motorcross (*or motocross*) racing, truck and tractor pulls, etc." These types of events could be very destructive, especially motocross racing.

These additional event uses were being left for the City Commission (CC) to decide. Although not a required process, we asked that these be referred to the PC for advice first.

Last, we asked for a condition that the Parks and Recreation Department be responsible for creating the trails to be included in the Baldwin Creek Park, and that they be walking trails with a natural surface rather than multi-purpose and paved.

We also attached the letter that we had sent to the City Commission on November 13 regarding the proposed Rock Chalk Park. Our letter was a list of questions concerning the arrangements that had been described in the two letters from the University of Kansas Endowment Association regarding their proposal for its development.

OUTCOME: The Planning Commission voted 6-3 to accept the SUP without modification and forward it on to the City Commission. We'll be in touch with the City Commission about our concerns.

The second issue(s) we discussed and wrote a letter on were three items related to the proposed LANGSTON HEIGHTS ADDITION (north and east of Langston Hughes Elementary School):

ITEM NO 5A: PRELIMINARY PLAT, ITEM NO 5B: Z-12-00229 UR (Urban Reserve) District to RM12D (Multi-Dwelling Residential) District; 8.333 acres, ITEM NO 5D: Z-12-00232 UR (Urban Reserve) District to RM12 (Multi-Dwelling Residential) District; 10.025 acres

Our main concern was the effect this multiple family housing would have on the future development of the adjacent vacant land to the south of this tract. If multiple family developed to the north, we believed it predictable that this land also would become multiple family and not attractive for families with children. Because of the proximity that these two tracts have to Langston Hughes Elementary School, we believed that this would be very poor urban planning and a serious waste of potential that these two properties would have to reduce automobile use and utilize these valuable areas for encouraging families to live within walking distance to the school.

We also expressed our reasoning that this type of poor urban planning is not uncommon in Lawrence because some serious deficiencies in our Land Development Code lead to the interpretation of our Comprehensive Plan (CP), *Horizon 2020*. For example:

- The multiple family districts do not specify housing type.
- The only distinction in our (CP) in the designation of residential areas is based on density (number of living units per acre). Because of the long-standing interpretation of our CP, it is possible to allow all types of multiple family units from tall apartments to duplexes in order to achieve the gross densities that are typical for detached single family housing. Therefore, the density designation in our CP is not an appropriate prediction of use.

League President, Melinda Henderson, spoke to these items at the Planning Commission, stressing that this type of planning eliminates the essential predictability that homeowners need to be able to have confidence in the stability and future of their neighborhoods when they make the substantial investment for living in a community. It tends to reduce the trust needed for a growing and thriving city to attract new residents. Additionally, the future of our city depends on good urban planning, of which this is not an example.

We felt that the Diamondhead residents had a good handle on the traffic flow problems that would be created by this development: basically high density neighborhood traffic would have to exit through a low-density residential neighborhood to reach an arterial, rather than the reverse. They asked for a one-month deferral to try to work something out with the developer (League supported the deferral). **OUTCOME:** the PC granted the deferral.

submitted by Melinda Henderson, LUC member

State League Day at the Capitol

League Day at the Capitol is set for Feb 13, 2013 at the same site as last year — the Kansas Bar Association in Topeka — from 9am-2:30pm. We'll invite our legislators to lunch at noon (the state league will cover the cost of legislators' lunch). The price for members and other guests is being determined but is estimated to be around \$25 for the day and includes morning continental breakfast, lunch and the other parts of the event. Speakers will be announced later.

If you're interested in attending, please contact Melinda at: league@sunflower.com.

Update on Review of Local Position on Low-Income Housing

Background: League decided to review its position on Low-Income Housing as an outcome from the 2012 Annual Meeting in April. This position was approved in 1975 and updated in May 2004 and supports:

- Housing for low-income households in Lawrence and Douglas County
- A representative Housing Authority analyze low- and moderate-income housing needs and plans to meet them
- City conservation policies and housing rehabilitation assistance in older neighborhoods.

On September 8, 2012, Board Member James Dunn facilitated the first meeting (open to the public) which reviewed this policy. Local expert, Margene Swarts, from the City of Lawrence Development Services Department, educated attendees on the issues surrounding this position. Ms. Swarts addressed the city's role and what the community has done in the area of affordable housing in Lawrence, including: 1) the city utilizes funds to support community agencies in this effort, 2) the city supports programs through funding that provide rental assistance to low-income groups, 3) the city has a weatherization program to assist households that meet required income guidelines. The Development Services Department works with entities in the community that focus on ways the city meets the housing needs of the community.

Review and Study Status: In addition to the aspects of the League position already cited, we will sponsor a series of meetings (again, open to the public) that highlight these key components of our position:

- Compulsory periodic inspection of all rental units
- A truly minimum housing code that is periodically reviewed
- Some method of inspection to ensure that all residential properties, when ownership is transferred, are in conformance with the minimum housing code.

In January (date, time, place TBA) we will review the topic of rental property inspections with Code Enforcement Manager, Brian Jimenez, which is timely as the

Lawrence City Commission has been addressing this issue recently. Additionally, the city will hold a public forum at 4pm on January 7th at City Hall to discuss expansion of their rental licensing and inspection program.

In February (date, time, place TBA) we will have a follow-up program on the various affordable housing programs available in the community. Discussion from the September meeting prompted questions about what types of affordable housing programs exist in Lawrence and the funding sources for those programs. Following is a list of those programs and funding sources to use as background information as we continue to review our policy:

Public Housing Programs in Lawrence:

Family Housing Units: Edgewood Homes and other scattered sites: 218

Elderly Housing Units: Babcock Place and Peterson Acres I and II: 153

Multi-Family: Clinton Place: 58

Tenant-Based Programs in Lawrence:

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Programs: 732 total voucher units allocated

Home Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA): 60

TBRA Programs (estimated):

Building Independence: 4

Supportive Housing Program: 6

Total: 1231

Other Housing Providers in Lawrence and their Designation (2009 source):

ARO Independent Living (Disabled): 20

Cottonwood Estates I (Disabled): 3

Cottonwood Estates II (Disabled): 6

Prairie Commons (Elderly): 128

Prairie Ridge Place Apartments: 100

Tenants to Homeowners (Disabled): 15

Vermont Towers (Elderly/Disabled): 60

Westgate Apartments (Family): 72

Wyndam Place (Elderly): 54

Laurel Glen Apartments (Family): 88

Total: 546

Other Housing Providers in Douglas County and their Designation (2009 source):

Baldwin City:

Baldwin City Villas (Elderly): 32

Firetree Villas (Elderly): 12

Silvertree Retirement Village (Elderly): 4

Vintage Park (Elderly): 32

Eudora:

Pine Crest I (Elderly): 40

Pine Crest II (Elderly): 36

Pine Crest III (Elderly): 36

Total Douglas County: 192

submitted by Milton Scott, LWV L/DC Vice-President

Is it time for a national conversation on gun control and mental health?

In light of the recent tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut, we have updated our website to provide a link to the League's national position on gun control. There has been an active discussion on the National Leader's List about what League can do, centering around three main issues: gun control, mental health and a culture of violence. Reading our positions is a start:

[LWV National Position on Gun Control:](http://lww.org/content/gun-control)
<http://lww.org/content/gun-control>

[LWV National Position on Health Care](http://www.lww.org/content/health-care)
(includes mental health):
<http://www.lww.org/content/health-care>

Additionally, LWV President, Elisabeth McNamara, issued this statement on December 20th:

[Looking Ahead in Troubled Times:](http://lww.org/blog/looking-ahead-troubled-times)
<http://lww.org/blog/looking-ahead-troubled-times>

We await more direction from National after the first of the year. If you're interested in League addressing this issue at our local level, please contact Melinda at: league@sunflower.com and let her know how you'd like to help facilitate some action locally.

Thank you for your contribution!

Many of you reading this edition of the *VOTER* have received our annual fundraising campaign letter in the mail. **A BIG THANK YOU YOU** to everyone who has contributed thus far. After paying state and national per-member-payments from our dues, we only realize a profit of \$6.00 per individual member (\$5.75 per household member) to contribute to all of our expenses throughout the year and have to rely heavily on fundraising to balance our budget. That's why our fundraising drive is so important. If you haven't contributed yet, but would like to, you can use the form at the end of this *VOTER*.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LAWRENCE/DOUGLAS COUNTY

Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award Nomination Form

Name of Nominee _____

Title/Organization (if applicable): _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Nominating Criteria:

The nominee must be a Douglas County resident over age 18, and their efforts (volunteer or as an extension of their work duties) must have promoted improvement in government. They could have accomplished this in a variety of ways, such as attempting to increase citizen participation in government; educating the public about an issue; working toward more “open” government; or otherwise being involved in ways which represent the principles that lead to better political decision-making.

Please indicate below or attach a statement explaining why you feel this nominee should be considered for the Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award. Please feel free to attach up to three additional sheets to this form.

Your Name _____

Title/Organization (if applicable) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

*Please date and sign the form and return to Helen Fluker Award Selection Committee • LWV L/DC • PO Box 1072 • Lawrence KS by **February 22, 2013**. If you prefer to email your nomination, please send to FlukerAward@lawrenceleague.com. Thank you.*

Date _____ Signature _____

(this page intentionally left blank for use for the Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award nomination)

Make a Difference – Join/Support the League!

Complete form, enclose check made out to LWV L/DC, and mail to LWV L/DC • PO Box 1072 • Lawrence KS 66044

(Please note: new or renewed memberships after September 30, 2012 are valid through March 31, 2014)

Our dues support the National and State Leagues as follows: \$31 National and \$18 State per member. Total: \$49/member.

Our local League retains only \$6 from Individual membership dues and \$5.75 each for Household membership dues.

Date _____ _____ New member _____ Renewing member
 _____ Individual Membership (\$55) _____ Household Membership (\$85) _____ *Student Membership (\$20)
 *University student enrolled at least part time in an accredited institution.

_____ I'm interested in joining the League...please send me information on financial aid available for membership.

_____ I have enclosed a contribution of \$ _____ to help sponsor a League membership.

_____ I have enclosed a contribution of \$ _____ for the League General Fund.

_____ I have enclosed a contribution of \$ _____ for the League Education Fund*

**This contribution is tax-deductible*

_____ I am not a member, but would like to support the League with my contribution as indicated above.

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

As a League member, I would like to help support League activities by participating as follows:

General Membership Meetings

- ___ Set up and/or tear down
- ___ Hospitality (provide coffee/tea/dessert)
- ___ Taking notes/writing up report of meeting

Promotion of League to our Community

- ___ Public speaking
- ___ Attend community events as League representative
- ___ Observer corps (attend/report on government meetings)

Membership

- ___ Recruitment
- ___ Mentor/follow-up with new members
- ___ Provide a ride to a fellow member
- ___ Phone members without internet access about special updates

___ Help with research for League studies on issues

___ Serve on the Board of Directors

Voter Services

- ___ Register voters
- ___ Help with voter education/special events

I have the following skills:

- ___ Editing articles/reports
- ___ Database management
- ___ Proficient in Microsoft Word / Excel / Quickbooks
- ___ Website/Social Media design/management

My interests include: _____

