

League of Women Voters[®] of Falmouth Bulletin

March 2022

Steering Committee Message

here is an old-fashioned curse: "May you live in interesting times." Well, here we are! War, Covid-19, climate degradation, inflation, yet another refugee/humanitarian crisis, and partisan politics roiling the path forward out of these dilemmas. Our work here at the League of Women Voters could not be more important.

We are making progress on Beacon Hill on a number of fronts: voting, energy, recycling, and pollution reduction. We continue to advocate for informed voter participation with Candidate's Night coming up and Observers reporting on the work of critical town committees. So much important work in this town is done by volunteer and appointed boards/committees, which we studied a few years ago.

We have made diversity, equity, and inclusion a priority in all our work, so that everyone has a place and a voice at the table. We can do more on this front by partnering with No Place for Hate and other groups who share these values. We are currently studying transportation resources, limitations, and opportunities so that we can advocate for positive change.

No single action is going to get us out of these interesting times, but small steps build to incremental change. Please participate as you are able by attending our events, calling your legislators, volunteering in the community, and most importantly, vote! Discuss the issues with friends and family, and make sure they vote, too!

—Richard Johnson

Natural Resources Chair

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Save the Date: Candidates Night Coming Up

Candidates Night for the May Town election will be held **Wednesday, April 27, 2022** starting promptly at 7 p.m. in the Hermann Room at the main library. The program will be a joint production of the Falmouth League and FCTV. The event will be broadcast live, then rebroadcast on FCTV 13 during the weeks leading up to the May 17 Town elections. Further information will appear in this publication next month.

Democracy begins on the home front. Please mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing you on April 27.

-Sylvia Sulkin
Acting Voter Service Chair

March Program: The Emancipator



Join us March 17 for a special meeting

Guest Speaker Amber Payne



Co-Editor of 🗯 Emancipator

Learn directly from Ms. Payne about The Boston Globe's initiative to "[reframe] the conversation on racial justice and equity to hasten the reality of an antiracist society." The Emancipator is a newsletter that revitalizes the concept of the abolitionist newspapers of the 19th century, updating it to cover contemporary issues and events.



You can read more about The Emancipator here: https://apps.bostonglobe.com/opinion/theemancipator



Join us for this program: Thursday, March 17, 7:00pm-8:30pm Falmouth Library, Hermann Room. In-person for up to 60. Masks suggested. You must register for an in-person spot.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/274524428957

or watch on ECTV channel 13 and on the ECTV website Live

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

No Place for Hate and Racial Justice Falmouth have extended an open invitation to all League members and their friends to attend one of their weekly Black Lives Matter silent vigils. All are welcome to kneel or stand for nine minutes and 29 seconds, at noon on Sundays on the Falmouth Village Green.

No Place for Hate-Falmouth (NPFH) is a community organization whose purpose is to build bridges, combat bias based on race, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and religion, and to promote respect for all people through advocacy and education.

Racial Justice Falmouth is another community or-

ganization whose mission is to investigate, understand and improve racial justice in our community through monthly dialogs around topics that address racial issues.

This local #BLM standout is a simple way to participate in a local action in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

For anyone interested in participating, please just show up or <a href="mailto:emailto

—Meghan Hanawalt



Legislative Committee

We have good news! The VOTES Act, making permanent most of the changes prompted by the Covid crisis, has been passed by both houses and is now before a Conference Committee to resolve one issue. The Senate, but not the House, authorized Same Day Registration. The LWVMA and other organizations are now seeking a compromise that would authorize Election Day registration. Under this compromise, which is supported by the Town Clerks Association, additional election personnel to handle registrations would not be required on each Early Voting Day but only on Election Day itself.

We encourage you to write to the six members of the Conference Committee as well as to our own legislators to support this compromise. These are the email addresses for the Conference Committee members and it comes with my apologies for two typos in a list I provided earlier to some members:

> Michael.Moran@mahouse.gov; Dan.Ryan@mahouse.gov, Shawn.Dooley@mahouse.gov, Barry.Finegold@masenate.gov, Cynthia.Creem@masenate.gov, Ryan.Fattman@masenate.gov.

We have already sent a letter on behalf of the Falmouth League.

More good news! The Driving Families Forward bill, which would authorize state driver's licenses for undocumented individuals, was passed by the House. We hope that this bill will be taken up by the Senate. And there is still hope for the Safe Communities Act in this session. You might have seen a newspaper article that a citizen's group has filed a lawsuit in the Supreme Judicial Court, arguing that the Barnstable County Sheriff's ICE contract is illegal because the power of a sheriff to enforce federal immigration law cannot be found in the Massachusetts Constitution, in state statures, or in the common law.

Civics Subcommittee

We, as a committee, believed our first step should

be to connect with the Falmouth schools to determine a way that we could work with them in regard to civics programs. To that end, Bob Haskell and I met with Mike Feeney, Social Studies Chair for grades 7-12, on February 17. He told us that last year in the high school, the civics project was left to the end of the year, which became a challenge when the students contacted outside sources and didn't hear back in time to complete the project. This year the school is planning to work on the civics projects in chunks during the school year, and it is hoped that this timing change will lead to a more satisfactory experience. Mr. Feeney was very pleased that a group of students successfully lobbied the Falmouth School Committee to bring large tables back into the cafeteria; he thinks this success will encourage students to believe in the governmental process.

Shortly before meeting with Mr. Feeney, we received a lengthy invitation for "Local League Participation in a New State-Wide Civics Celebration Project," along with links to other documents. One suggestion from the LWVMA is that local Leagues encourage and partner with schools to showcase student civics projects through a Civics Fair or cable TV interviews. We have forwarded this material to Mr. Feeney at his request. He was enthusiastic about the idea of a Civics Fair, possibly Cape-wide, but not for this year. FCTV presentations are also a possibility.

Some Committee members have already attended a Zoom program sponsored by this LWVMA group and we have signed up for several Civics Learning Week Sessions in March. When the Civics Subcommittee met on February 23, member Janet Lauer agreed to be the point person for contacts with the LWVMA. Janet also will keep the subcommittee members informed of what promises to be a virtual torrent of helpful information, some of which is intended for distribution to the schools.

—Judy Ziss
Legislative Committee Chair

Natural Resources

We have received the following from Launa Zimmaro of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts:

Please read the press release embedded below regarding our letter to the Governor urging his opposition to an outdated rule that would delay the introduction of clean, renewable energy into the regional market for generation capacity powering the electric grid. The LWVMA letter is linked at the end of the press release. You may have never heard of ISO NE, but the decisions made by that body impact all of us in NE and our ability to transition to clean energy as quickly and affordably as possible.

And on this topic, we invite you to register for the LWVMA and Elders Climate Action sponsored Zoom webinar about who controls the energy market in NE and other important information about our energy grid: <u>Barriers to Regional Decarbonization</u>: Wednesday March 23 @4:00PM, featuring Melissa Birdhcard, Regulatory Attorney for Power Grid Reform at the Acadia Center.

—Richard JohnsonNatural Resources Chair

March 1, 2022

Contact: Patricia Comfort pcomfort@lwvma.org
857-452-1712

The League of Women Votes of Massachusetts has issued a call to Governor Charlie Baker and his Administration to take a stand for state policy by opposing a two-year delay in letting clean energy compete at the regional level. A decision by the region's power grid operator, ISO-New England (ISO-NE), to delay eliminating a harmful rule called the Minimum Offer Price Rule (MOPR) that excludes state-sponsored clean energy like offshore wind from the regional market for generation capacity will hold back progress on state clean energy and climate policy, if accepted.

Launa Zimmaro of LWV-MA said, "Governor Baker has set a bold path for clean energy but he must stand up at the regional level to protect our state policies. We call on Governor Baker to oppose a two-year delay in eliminating the harmful Minimum Offer Price Rule, which would hold back the future of clean energy in our state and prop up fossil fuels at the expense of clean resources like offshore wind." Specifically, the League calls on Governor Baker to file comments at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission asking that agency, which is ISO-NE's federal regulator, to direct ISO-NE to eliminate the MOPR immediately, without delay. Click here to read the letter to Governor Baker.

Observer Corps Report: EDIC

The Falmouth Economic Development & Industrial Corporation (EDIC) is the Town of Falmouth's primary agency responsible for creating and developing increased economic opportunities for both the present and the future.

Its stated mission is: "To attract, advocate and support economic vitality and seek to constantly improve the business climate in Falmouth."

It is important to remember that EDIC is, technically, a public non-profit corporation and not a town committee. In some respects it functions as a committee, though with occasional aspects of an agency or department.

The major organizational change in EDIC this year has been the departure of Mike DiGiano as executive director, succeeded in September by Wayne Lingafelter, who was chosen from a field of 27 applicants. Mr. Lingafelter appears to have taken up Mr. DiGiano's outstanding accomplishments with seamless continuity, partly due, no doubt, to the knowledgeable and efficient services of Lynne Broderick, administrative assistant.

The administrative staff prepares a packet for EDIC board members before each meeting. Members appear to be well prepared, which allows routine business to proceed in a rapid, orderly fashion. Agenda, minutes, and a director's report for each monthly meeting appear on the website, so thorough public records are available; however, Lingafelter appears to have discontinued DiGiano's director's reports. Probably due to cost, the EDIC website is very informative in some ways, and surprisingly out of date in others. A longstanding committee to examine EDIC's bylaws has lain dormant for several years, with occasional reminders that it needs to happen.

There has also been turnover in the membership of the EDIC board. With the departure of Paul Burke, Patti Haney, and Chris Simmler, there were three openings. Kevin Holmes filled the treasurer role, but the other two vacancies had been advertised for several months. At the time of the board meeting, these two positions were open. Upon Select Board approval, the only two applicants, Mark Lowenstein and Adrian Merryman, filled these two positions. EDIC board member Michael Galasso has said repeatedly that he would gladly step aside for an applicant who brings additional diversity to the Board. Two years ago it included two women. Now there are none.

Not surprisingly, the Covid-19 pandemic has had substantial impact on EDIC's activities. In support of small business survival, it has administered Community Development Block Grant funds, totaling nearly \$200,000, to 13 businesses. In managing EDIC's own internal finances, the budget has been held in tight rein, resulting in far smaller deficits than anticipated, and positive expectations going forward. Partly due to business slowdowns, some available subsidies for the OpenCape Main Street Gigabit Project remain unused. Redevelopment of the Technology Park has continued to stall. The small parcel there owned by EDIC has been approved for sale by Town Meeting, but the engineering studies necessary for easements, adequate access, and drainage have gone very slowly.

Despite those conditions, other projects proceed. Phase II of the Landfill Solar Array became operational in the fall, and began contributing monthly rent to the Town. Operations at the Falmouth Station on Depot Avenue evolve, requiring a chunk of staff time to manage maintenance as well as revenue sources. State funding supported creation of a master plan for the entire Station property and its relation to the surrounding area. The master plan proposes several development alternatives. Closer integration with the Shining Sea Bike Path and nearby parking have raised few questions to date, but the uses of the wooded parcel between the Station parking area and the adjacent neighborhoods are raising some controversy, especially the idea of building dense workforce housing in what is currently a shady, wooded glen. Managing upcoming

Continued on page 8

Observer Corps Report: Falmouth Public Library Board of Trustees

In spite of the difficulties this second year of Covid has posed for the Falmouth Public Library and its branches in East and North Falmouth, 2021 has been an impressively successful year. It has also been a year of important mandated milestones, significant innovations, important projects completed, and exciting new plans.

Beginning at the end of 2021, the agenda for each monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees has begun with the Falmouth Public Library mission statement: The Falmouth Public Library engages and empowers the community through its programs, services, and collections that inform, educate, and entertain. The dedicated work of the Trustees, Library Director Linda Collins, and Assistant Director Jennifer Woodward over this year surely reflects their adherence to the mission. The current 2021-2022 officers of the Board of Trustees are: Judith Fenwick, chair; Sylvia Szulkin vice-chair; Jennifer Alai, Secretary; Kathy Elder, Treasurer; Kathy Mount, Lindsay Hopewood, Buildings and Grounds; and new Board member Lucy Helfrich.

Among the mandated milestones met this year:

- creation of the 2021-22 Falmouth Public Library and Board of Trustees budgets
- creation of a new Five-Year Strategic Plan for 2022-2027
- first formal Trustee evaluation of Linda Collins,
 FPL Director since 2017

Other important achievements:

- seamlessly moving back and forth from limiting access to the libraries, to partial admission to check out materials, to limited in-person, socially distanced access, to back to more restricted access as the omicron variant appeared. Curbside delivery of requested materials had begun even before Covid first struck. Trustee meetings moved from Zoom to in-person back to Zoom over the course of the year.
- installing an OWL camera and enhanced audio to

- support remote participation at meetings
- providing more picnic tables on the lawn during the summer months for public use
- in-person meetings for the trustees, the head librarians, and interested observers at the East Falmouth and North Falmouth libraries, hosted by librarian Meg Borden, who is head of the staffs for both libraries and who work as one department unit. These visits helped all see and understand the crucial future needs of the two branches and to appreciate the innovative programs each offers its community.
- receipt of a charitable bequest of \$525,000 with no strings attached
- successful August and December holiday book sales, thanks to the Friends of the Library, which garnered \$58,000 and \$6000, each.
- continuing to honor special requests for use of the Library lawn for public functions
- adding an air purifier to the Friends Room, where donated books are culled for potential sale
- placing the Air Foil sculpture on the Library lawn after the long-term efforts of Trustee Kathy Mount and Linda Collins to make re-location a reality

Significant innovations:

- Planning the creation of a Tween Room (for 8- to 12-year-olds) adjacent to the Children's Room and securing necessary funding (\$23K) form the following: Board of Trustees \$10K, Support Fund \$10K, and Friends \$5K.
- Trustee Budget for 2022 to include funding for more Portuguese language books for children, funding for a feasibility study for a new East Falmouth library building (cost \$20K) and line-item funding (\$1000) for its outreach and special programs. The total Trustee budget will increase

Continued on next page

Observer Corps Report: Falmouth Public Library, cont.

from \$29K to \$54K, and will also include additional professional development funding for library staff

- hiring of a full-time Teen Librarian, Meg Krohn
- installing summer reading tents on the E. Falmouth Library lawn, funded by the Support Group
- Trustee donation to the Falmouth Village Association to support Movies Under the Stars in summer 2021

Ongoing Concerns: staffing problems because of Covid, retirements, and lack of affordable housing for prospective hires

In conclusion, all the above reflect the dedication of the Trustees and the Library staff to the thoughtful implementation of the goals stated in the mission statement. Falmouth should be immensely grateful that our libraries are in such capable hands.

—Marcia Easterling
Observer Corps

Observer Corps Report: EDIC, cont.

change decisions, and the communications around it, will occupy some of EDIC's attention in the coming two or three years.

EDIC members and staff continue to look outward toward opportunities for both new developments and ways to coordinate with other Town operations and plans. They appear to be alert to funding opportunities from state and federal sources, especially in the areas of technology and housing. Despite racial and gender uniformity, members have diverse views, and sometimes express them strongly, but courteously. Informative presentations from other organizations are a common occurrence at monthly meetings, and time is allowed for a certain amount of brainstorming. Members and staff appear to follow up on subcommittee assignments. Executive sessions are held in matters of personnel and contract decisions. In summary, EDIC is very active, functions well, faces some significant challenges, and is reasonably well equipped to improve.

—Carol B. Chittenden
Observer Corps

IN MEMORIAM

Paulette Chapman Loomis

Anne L. Pomper

Thomas Stetson

Contact Information for Your Legislators

Senator Susan Moran 617-722-1330 Susan.Moran@masenate.gov

Representative David Vieira 617-722-2230 and press 5 David. Vieira@mahouse.gov

Representative Dylan Fernandes 617-722-2013 and press 3 Dylan.Fernandes@mahouse.gov

Treasurer's Report

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-Meghan Hanawalt

Treasurer

Expressions of Empowerment

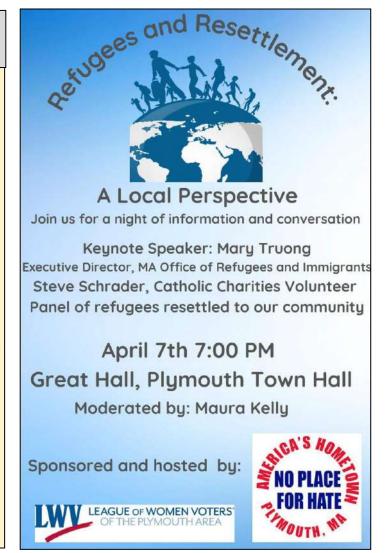
This new section of our monthly newsletter is intended to be thought-provoking and inspiring. Selfishly, I chose words from Gloria Steinem, one of my personal heroines as well as a fellow Smith alum. We hope you will find this new section a welcome addition, and if you have any feedback, please reach out to Maro Titus at marotitus@msn.com. Be empowered!

"Voting isn't the most we can do, but it's the least. The voting booth is the one place on earth where the least powerful and the most powerful are equal."

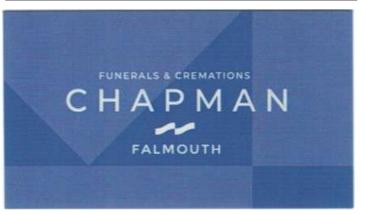
(From The Truth Will Set You Free, But First It Will Piss You Off! by Gloria Steinem)

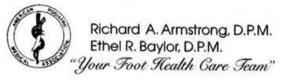
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-Maro Titus









Falmouth Podiatry

Homeport 342A Gifford Street Falmouth, MA 02540

508-540-5164 Fax: 508-540-5175



Natural Brush Clearing and Poison Ivy Control

Meghan Hanawalt, Goatherd info@getmygoatscapecod.com 774-521-8745 www.GetMyGoatsCapeCod.com

More Upcoming Events



LWV of the Cape Cod Area Invites You to a Zoom Webinar...!

Annual Legislative Meeting With our Legislators March 18, 2022 @ 9 am

Meet your Cape Cod and Islands legislators, online, and hear their observations of the 192nd state legislative session and their thoughts on some of the important bills that they and the Cape Cod League have worked on. Grab a cuppa and join us!

Senator Julian Cyr Senator Susan Moran
Cape and Islands Plymouth and Barnstable

Representative Timothy Whelan Representative Sarah Peake

1st Barnstable District 4th Barnstable District

Representative Kip Diggs Representative Steven Xiarhos

2nd Barnstable District 5th Barnstable District

Representative David Vieira

3rd Barnstable District

Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket
District

March 18, 2022, 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please click the link below on March 18 to join the webinar: https://tinyurl.com/yme8n7h4

More Upcoming Events, cont.



Inland Flooding...

Coming to Your Neighborhood?

What can you do as an individual? What can we do as a community?

Monday March 14 7:00pm

Please Register Here:

https://tinyurl.com/LWV-InlandFlooding





Panel

MODERATOR

Joanne Zygmunt

Planner, Old Colony Planning Council

Zachary Zobel

Scientist, Woodwell Climate Research Center

Joe "Flood" Rossi

Flood Insurance Expert

Jonathan Beder

Director, Plymouth Public Works Department

David Gould

Director, Plymouth Department of Marine and Environmental Affairs

Chris Horvath

Director, Plymouth Emergency Management

Wampanoag Art at the Falmouth Art Center

As Richard Johnson notes in this month's Steering Committee report: "We have made diversity, equity, and inclusion a priority in all our work, so that everyone has a place and a voice at the table." Meghan Hanawalt has invited all of us to participate in the Sunday morning Black Lives Matter silent protest. Diversity is all around us, if we only take the time to look, acknowledge, and understand those we may consider "other."

We recommend a visit to the Falmouth Art Center's "Dawnland Inspirations" exhibit of Mashpee Wampanoag art. As Paula Peters, the curator and tribe member, explains: "This work of contemporary Mashpee Wampanoag artists exhibits a diversity in subject, style, and medium but is connected by a common cultural theme and inspiration that comes from their Dawnland heritage. Bringing it all together for this show is a celebration of that heritage in distinctly unique styles of each artist."

This exhibit continues until March 28; the Art Center is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., and Sunday 1 - 4 p.m. There is no admission charge.

-Mary Fran Buckley

Top right: "Wampanoag Powwow" by Natasha Frye. Bottom: Pottery by Ramona Peters (also known as Nosapocket); hand-carved mountain lion pipe and beaver club both by Hartman Deetz; oil painting installation called "Sand Castles" by Robert Peters.

Be sure to look for the exhibit scheduled for June entitled "A Celebration of Difference: Cape Cod Diversity, My/Our Roots, Past Meets Present." For details go to www.falmouthart.org.





Wampanoag Art at the Falmouth Art Center, cont.



Clockwise from left: A monumental blue whale superimposed on a map of Mashpee by Nelson Andrews, Jr. "Robert's Rules of Order" painted on salvaged doors by Robert Peters. Handwoven wool hanging "Eastern People" by Emma Mills Brennan. Oil painting "Regalias" by Natasha Frye.







LWVF Board of Directors 2021-2022

Steering Committee

First Vice-President, Joan Boyer

Steering Committee Chair

Second Vice-President Maggie Sweasy
Secretary Marcia Easterling
Natural Resources Richard Johnson
Membership Misty Niemeyer

Treasurer Meghan Hanawalt
Bulletin Editors Mary Fran Buckley

Eileen Mattingly

Legislative Judith Ziss

Observer Corps Denise Morreale Publicity Olivann Hobbie

Voter Service Sylvia Szulkin, Acting

At Large Lynne Rozsa
At Large Maro Titus
Board Moderator Joanne Voorhis

Off-Board Specialists

Social Media Penelope Duby Webmaster Joan Boyer

Historian Jacqueline Webster

LWVF Friends 2022

Barbara Douglass
Christina Jacobi
Maria Moniz
Robert and Barbara Schneider
Freddy Valois

Member Event Calendar (All meetings will be on Zoom until further notice.)

Thursday, League meeting. Guest speaker

March 17 Amber Payne. 7:00 p.m.

Hermann Room, Falmouth Library

Tuesday, Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

March 22

Tuesday, Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

April 26

Wednesday, Candidates Night

April 27 7:00 p.m.

Hermann Room, Falmouth Library

Join the League of Women Voters: Democracy in Action!

You do not have to be a resident of Falmouth to join. Membership dues are \$50 for an individual membership and \$25 for an additional household member.

If you wish to join the League, send your check made out to the address at left. Include your name, mailing address, and phone number.



Contact us:

League of Women Voters of Falmouth P.O. Box 450 Falmouth, MA 02541

Email: FalmouthLWV@gmail.com

Website: www.lwvf.org

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/

LWVofFalmouthMA/

Submissions for the next issue of the LWVF Bulletin are due on April 5, 2022. Please send copy, photos, and other material to both of these addresses:

maryfran55@earthlink.net

eileenmattingly@yahoo.com