



League of Women Voters[®] of Falmouth Bulletin

November 2022

Natural Resources

The Future of Wastewater Treatment in Falmouth

Falmouth’s coastal ponds and estuaries are subject to pollution from adjacent surface water runoff and septic system effluent. Approximately 11% of residences in Falmouth are on town sewer systems, with treatment facilities located in West Falmouth (main treatment plant), and the New Silver Beach facility on Williams Road in North Falmouth. The Massachusetts DEP has charged the town with reducing pollution in our waters; the Little Pond Sewer project was a response to that, as are the planned extension of sewerage to more of the Great Pond area.

There are limits to the volume that can be discharged from the Main Treatment Plant, and options for future expansion include other treatment plants, a deep-water outfall into the bay or sound, significant improvement to septic systems in order to avoid sewerage, and perhaps others. Each of these options has a price tag and time frame to be considered.

Please join a discussion of this topic on November 17 at 7 p.m. with the LWVF Natural Resource Committee and our panelists:

Amy Lowell, Wastewater Superintendent

Scott McGann, Health Agent

Eric Turkington, Chair of the Water Quality Management Committee

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Brian Baumgaertel, Director of the MA Alternative Septic System Test Center

Andrew Gottlieb, Executive Director of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod

The presentation will be in the Hermann Room of the Main Falmouth Library at 7 p.m. and will be broadcast live on FCTV Public Channel 13. Each panelist will speak to the topic briefly before a discussion among the panelists, followed by questions from the audience.

— ***Richard Johnson***



In Memoriam
***Olive
Beverly***

Steering Committee Report

A primary mission of the League of Women Voters is to educate voters so that they have the information to make informed decisions in the voting booth. That effort was very clear in October with Candidates Night at the High School Auditorium, sponsored by FCTV and the Falmouth League. Candidates for five contested offices responded to questions written by the Voter Services Committee and posed by WCAI's Kathryn Eident. Voters in the audience and watching on FCTV had a clear comparison among the candidates for each office, free of some of the campaign rhetoric that is emphasized in partisan venues. Candidates agreed on some points and diverged on others; it certainly helped clarify the choices this writer will make November 8.

Another great opportunity to learn about a critical issue took place in September, when Dr. Jane Scarborough addressed an audience in the Main branch of the Falmouth Public Library about *Moore v. Harper*, a case before the Supreme Court this session. This case will decide if a state Supreme Court can strike down a gerrymandered voting map approved by the state legislature. If the U.S. Supreme Court rules in favor of the legislature it will be well nigh impossible to change the partisan character of any given state or of their Congressional delegations. Those who attended this lecture will be watching the court decision closely.

A third opportunity to learn will take place on November 17 in the Hermann Room at the Main Branch of the Falmouth Public Library (broadcast live over FCTV13) when a panel of experts discusses the future of wastewater treatment in Falmouth, a topic that will affect every resident well into the future. How much more of the town must be sewered to save our coastal ponds and estuaries, and where is the treated wastewater to go? What are the best options for those of us not connected to the sewer to reduce our impact on groundwater pollution?

The Steering Committee urges all LWVF members to become more involved in these and other opportunities to be more informed about our government. FCTV televises a number of critical town Boards and

Committees: watch a few of these to learn about how the town is run. Even better, join the LWVF Observer Corps and report on the activities of a particular board or committee, so that all of us may be better informed.

— *Richard Johnson*

Volunteer Opportunity



Yes, you! Sitting there in your chair reading this Bulletin and thinking about what you still have to do today. We need you to THINK AHEAD instead, to the Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Falmouth. This meeting, the most important of the year, is scheduled to happen in May, 2023.

But it won't happen without you. It takes a village, remember: to choose a date, arrange a venue, plan refreshments, arrange for speakers, work up a schedule of events, send invitations, and more. If there are many of us working on this, no one will have too heavy a load of responsibility. So will you help?

What is the first step? Get in touch with annual meeting chair Maro Titus at marotitus@msn.com. Or call her at 917-991-8013 to volunteer. You'll be making a real contribution—to our League and to our town.

There's plenty of time before the meeting to get everything done. But the time to start planning is now! So please, pick up the phone or sit down to your keyboard and get in touch with Maro.

Civics Committee Report

Bob Haskell and I had a productive meeting with Social Studies Chair Michael Feeney on October 13. At the meeting we learned:

- Civics projects will be introduced in February and will end in May or June, with a total of 10 class periods devoted to the projects.
- Eighth and tenth graders will be doing projects.
- Emphasis will be on advocacy.
- Completed projects will be presented during class periods, with one or two outside visitors from the League or VIPS attending a class.
- Shortly before the projects are introduced, we and others will have the opportunity to attend a Clipper Time school program where we can publicize our availability in helping with the projects.
- A system is being developed through which students, whose ability to email outside sources is circumscribed, can safely solicit our help in facilitating such communications.

What can you do?

First, if you'd like to be on a list to attend a class in the spring, please let Mary Fran Buckley know (maryfran55@earthlink.net).

Second, as the projects progress and we learn that a student group is having trouble getting information from a specific person in the community — a gov-

ernment official, a committee chair, the head of an organization — be prepared for us to reach out to you if we think you know the person being contacted so you can explain the importance of the inquiry and the connection of the inquiry to civic engagement.

More generally, as the projects are about to begin, we hope to prepare an article in *The Falmouth Enterprise*, and to undertake other outreach activities. In that way, community members will know of these projects and of the need to encourage our young people to become active citizens.

The committee was also busy during the summer. The Needham League has prepared an Advocacy Guide for students, and invited other Leagues to adopt it, with necessary changes and with attribution. Eileen Mattingly, Mary Fran Buckley, and I accepted that invitation and have delivered a Falmouth-friendly draft of the Advocacy Guide to Michael Feeney. He was pleased with the Guide and thanked us. We want to have a few town government officials read it through for accuracy before we declare it finalized. That will be done after the November election.

—Judy Ziss

Observer Corps Report

The Observer Corps members have been working on an Excel spreadsheet that lists Town of Falmouth Boards and Committees, times of meetings, and as much data as possible to ensure our membership knows which Boards and Committees have vacancies, dates and times of meetings (by Zoom or in person or hybrid), and many other items that will go into our “at-a-glance” poster.

The Enterprise article, “Talking Trash,” mentioned that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee will be presenting its annual report to the Select Board; I

am calling Observers who may want to observe and report for the next available League Bulletin. The meeting date is November 7.

As a member of the Diversity, Equity, inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) committee, I will be working with the Observers to develop a strategy plan to incorporate DEIB-lens questions that can be applied to the Observer Corps Reports, which will be presented in February.

— Denise Morreale

Voter Services Report: Candidates Night

On October 19, the Voter Services Committee presented Candidates Night in partnership with FCTV 13. The program was broadcast live from the Falmouth High School Auditorium and will be rebroadcast in accordance with FCTV's schedule posted in *The Enterprise* and FCTV's Bulletin Board.



The event went off without a hitch despite a fair amount of advance concern about unruly partisanship between rival candidates and among their zealous supporters. Happily, with the exception of one candidate who declined to appear, the exchange of ideas among rivals was articulate and clear. The audience listened politely, applauded enthusiastically and took Moderator Kathryn Eident's warning against bad behavior to heart. Ms. Eident, shown at left, the host of WCAI's *Morning Edition*, gave the program an air of professional non-partisanship in asking the questions.

The VSC members who performed the various tasks involved in running an orderly Candidates Night did the Falmouth League proud. Everyone involved should be commended.

— *Sylvia Szulkin*

Debate Participants

Kathryn Eident, WCAI, Moderator

Barnstable County Sheriff

Donna Buckley
Tim Whelan

State Senate, Plymouth and Barnstable District

Susan Moran
Kari MacRae

State House of Representatives, 3rd Barnstable District

Kathleen Fox Alfano
David Vieira

Barnstable County District Attorney

Robert Galibois
Daniel Higgins

Barnstable County Commissioner

Ronald Bergstrom
(The other candidate, Ronald Beaty, Jr., did not participate.)

Barnstable County Sheriff



Donna Buckley



Tim Whelan

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Voter Services Report: Candidates Night, cont.

State Senate

County District Attorney



Kari MacRae



Susan Moran



Robert Galibois



Daniel Higgins

State House of Representatives

County Commissioner



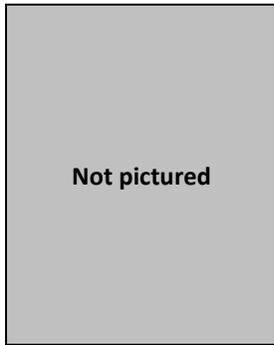
Kathy Fox Alfano



David Viera

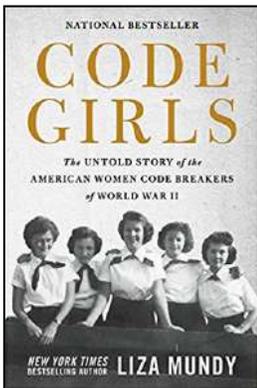


Ronald Bergstrom



Ronald Beaty, Jr.

Veterans Day Reading



Every year, veterans are celebrated on November 11 — never the closest Monday, but on the actual day that commemorates the end of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). For many, the image of a veteran is a man in uniform who faithfully served his country. However, that is only part of the history of those who served.

From as far back as the Revolutionary War, women have served as nurses. During World War II, in 1942, the Army created the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAACS), the Navy created the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES), and the Coast Guard created their own women’s unit, the SPARs. None of these women served in combat; their role was to free men for combat.

One group of women who served has gone unrecognized for years: those who were recruited to break enemy codes during WWII. Author Liza Mundy recounts their major contributions in her book,

Continued on next page

Alternative Gift Market

The Alternative Gift Market is back this year—and will be “live” at St. Barnabas, on the village green in Falmouth, November 12 and 13. The committee is excited! For folks not able to attend in person, the Market will be online November 14 until the 20th: alternativegiftmarketcapecod.org.

The Alternative Gift Market is sponsored by seven local houses of worship. The committee includes members from each sponsoring congregation. We carefully vet each charitable organization, checking their status with Charity Navigator. We study their audited financial reports to ensure that the bulk of the money collected goes to the organization’s programming, and not to PR or salaries.

Each year, 20 organizations are selected for the market, drawn from local, national, and international charitable organizations. This year, the Market concentrated on smaller organizations with small budgets, and on organizations that work toward meeting a great need.

Should you attend the market, each of the organizations will have its own table with members of the organization, or volunteers, who can explain the mission and goals, and answer any questions market-goers may have. Attendees select the organizations to which they plan to donate and then at the end, make one payment. Donations are processed through Unitarian Universalist Fellowship; donors names are not sent to the organizations.

Online, there is a list of the 20 organizations, with a brief description of the work they do. Quarter-page notes to include with a holiday, birthday or “whatever” celebration card can be downloaded, letting the recipients know that a gift in their name has been made to a particular organization.

With the financial support of the seven churches and the volunteers involved, organizations receive 100% of the donations; each organization receives a check for the total amount raised. Join us, and give the world a gift of hope!

—Mary Fran Buckley

Veterans Day Reading, cont.

Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II. Although these women were in their early 20s, they were always known as “girls.”

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor brought home the fact that a first-rate code breaking operation was needed immediately. Where to go for personnel? Mundy writes that the “Department of Labor noted that adult civilians would not be sufficient to stock an economy bereft of its male workers.... Already it was clear that educated women would be needed for the broader war effort.” For intelligence gathering and code breaking, the ideal recruits would be college educated, “ideally women who had pursued a rigid liberal arts education that encompassed foreign languages as well as science and math.” The Navy recruited women from the Seven Sisters colleges, the Army recruited women from teachers colleges. Ann White, a senior at Wellesley, remembered she was asked two questions: “Did she enjoy crossword puzzles, and was she engaged to be married.”

The women who were selected were sworn to secrecy, underwent rigorous training in cryptanalysis. If questioned, they could only say they were studying communications. Mundy notes that “the recruitment of these American women—and the fact that women were behind some of the most significant individual code-breaking triumphs of the war—was one of the best-kept secrets of the conflict. The military and strategic importance of their work was enormous.” More than ten thousand women served as code breakers over the course of the war, all sworn to absolute secrecy. Even after the war, these code-breakers could not divulge their role in the U.S. victory.

On this Veterans Day, remember the men who served, but don’t forget the WAACs, WAVEs, SPARs, Rosie Riveters, and women code breakers, all of whom answered the call to serve their country. And for a really good read, check out Liza Mundy’s book!

—Mary Fran Buckley



**Give the world a
gift of hope . . .**

**Shop for family and friends,
Donate to a worthy cause!**

2022 ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

**Saturday, Nov. 12 and Sunday, Nov. 13
Saint Barnabas Church Hall, 11 - 3
91 Main Street, Falmouth**

***Browse at Fair Trade tables and 20 local,
national & global charitable organizations***

ONLINE shopping Nov.14–20

VISIT www.alternativegiftmarketcapecod.org

Sponsored by: Church of the Messiah of Woods Hole, Falmouth Jewish Congregation, First Congregational Church of Falmouth, John Wesley United Methodist Church, Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth, Waquoit Congregational Church

Some Thoughts on Voting

Our American heritage is threatened as much by our own indifference as it is by the most unscrupulous office or by the most powerful foreign threat. The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter.

—Dwight Eisenhower

"We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."

—Thomas Jefferson

"The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democracy."

— John Lewis



Contact Information for Your Legislators

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Representative David Vieira

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Congressman Bill Keating

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