



League of Women Voters Of Weston

November, 2019

No. 213

OPENING MESSAGE

Katty Chace

League of Women Voters of Weston

President..... Katty Chace
781-891-1087

Treasurer..... Tack Chace
781-891-1087

Membership..... Lenore Zug Lobel
781-789-3920

Bulletin Editor Katherine Wolfthal
781-891-9549

This LWV/Weston Newsletter is published monthly except June, July and August. The LWV is a nonpartisan political organization open to all citizens of voting age.

League of Women Voters of Weston
15 Conant Road, Weston MA 02493

VOTER INFORMATION

1-800-882-1649

League of Women Voters
of Massachusetts
133 Portland Street
Boston MA 02114
(617)523-2999

Submit articles
to Katherine Wolfthal by e-mail at
kate@weichi.com

I went last week with Katherine Wolfthal and new member Shirley Small-Rougeau to a talk by Middlesex Sheriff Peter Koutoujian sponsored by the Newton League of Women Voters in partnership with several other Leagues, including Weston. Sheriff Koutoujian (Photos on Page 3-4) was impressively enthusiastic, progressive and humane in describing his approach to corrections. He has instituted programs which recognize and treat addiction and mental illness among the incarcerated, as well as special programs for the youngest prisoners. He pioneered a program which serves the families of prisoners, and is now considering a program to serve the special needs of prisoners over the age of 55. He also mentioned a short-story book group for men on probation in which he has been involved recently, which also includes two judges and a corrections officer. He is currently serving as President of the Massachusetts Sheriff's Association. It was altogether a very encouraging presentation. Unfortunately, all women prisoners are sent to MCI (Massachusetts Correctional Institution) Framingham, where many of these enlightened programs are not available.

In late October, Representative Alice Peisch joined us at the library for a Saturday morning Coffee Hour (photos on Page 3). She spoke at length about the education bill crafted by the Education Committee, which she chairs. She was pleased to note that the bill, which will make considerably more money available to schools in less affluent cities and towns, was supported by her Senate counterpart, which considerably increased the chances that the entire legislature will support it. She said that this year, the focus in the legislature will be on transportation improvement, which should be appreciated by frustrated commuters, and other users of the T, the rails and the roads.

The Special Town Meeting on December 3rd at 7:00 at the High School has 13 articles on the warrant, the first 6 of which will be covered by a consent agenda, taken under a single vote unless otherwise requested. That means that the Selectmen hope and expect they will not be very controversial. Article 11 deals with appropriating funds

for the Josiah Smith Tavern construction project (see article on Pages 15-17) Article 12 addresses Community Choice Aggregation, which would authorize the Board of Selectmen to initiate the process of seeking to aggregate energy and contract for electric supply to decrease greenhouse gas emissions (see Page 13). Article 11 would amend the town's general by-laws to allow the Weston Police Department to perform fingerprint-based national criminal record checks in order to obtain certain licenses issued by the town.

Polling stations for Precincts 1 and 2 will be changed as of the next election, which is the Presidential Primary on March 3, 2020. Instead of voting at the Methodist Church on Route 117 and St. Peter's on Boston Post Road, both precincts

will now vote in the auditorium at Town Hall. This will offer elevator access, good parking, and simplicity of staffing by the Town Clerk's office. Also, I realized as one who works at the polls and is treated to cold drafts of March and November winds every time another voter opens the door to enter, more comfort.

For those of you who have not yet renewed your League membership, please take this opportunity to do so now with the membership form at the back of this Bulletin. Dues are still \$60 for an individual membership and \$85 for a household membership, a real bargain when you realize that when you join you become a member of the LVWUS and the LWVMA, as well as our local League.

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2019 - MARCH 2020

November 28, Thursday.....**THANKSGIVING**

December 3, Tuesday..... **Special Town Meeting**
7:00 p.m.

Weston High School Auditorium

December 10, Tuesday.....**LWVW Board Meeting**
56 Bogle St. **All Members Welcome**

(Kathy Rousseau, 781-235-6559)

December 25, Wednesday.....**CHRISTMAS**

January 1, Wednesday.....**NEW YEAR'S DAY**

March 3, Tuesday, 2020.....**Presidential Primary**
(Precincts 1 and 2 now vote at Town Hall) **(Super Tuesday)**

Extended Hours Expected



Coffee Hour at the Library with Alice Peisch

Representative Alice Peisch



Middlesex County Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian



Next Page: Pamphlet illustrating some of the programs introduced by the Middlesex Sheriff's Office under the leadership of Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian

Photographs by Katherine Wolfthal

LAW ENFORCEMENT & RESIDENTS NETWORKING (L.E.A.R.N.)

Law Enforcement And Residents Networking (L.E.A.R.N.) is an initiative of the Middlesex Sheriff's Office focused on educating and informing the public through collaboration, and engagement in dialogue around public safety matters.

L.E.A.R.N. officially launched in April 2016 with an initial focus around scam and fraud awareness.

R.A.D. PROGRAM

The Middlesex Sheriff's Office recently launched its Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) Program, with a goal of providing residents the opportunity to learn crucial self-defense tactics and techniques.

The Middlesex Sheriff's Office has instructors certified in both R.A.D. and radKIDS, and collaborates with local police departments to host classes.



THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

At the Middlesex Sheriff's Office, we believe community engagement, education and collaboration are crucial components to improving and maintaining public safety. To that end, the Middlesex Sheriff's Office offers a variety of programs aimed at promoting public safety through our Office of Community Affairs.

The Office of Community Affairs is responsible for overseeing a number of programs for community members of all ages. Community Affairs operates the Middlesex Sheriff's Office Youth Public Safety Academy (YPSA) for youngsters ages 8-12; serves as the main point of contact for the MSO's TRIAD and Law Enforcement And Residents Networking (L.E.A.R.N.) Programs.

We hope you will find the information in this brochure helpful and encourage you to reach out to us to learn more about ways we can partner with you or your organization.

Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian

MIDDLESEX SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Established in 1692, the Middlesex Sheriff's Office (MSO) is one of the oldest law enforcement agencies in the United States. Entrusted with full law enforcement capabilities, the MSO provides care, custody and control of both sentenced and pre-trial detainees. These functions are carried out at the Middlesex Jail & House of Correction in Billerica.

Dedication to public safety does not stop at the walls of the institution, however. The MSO makes available to the 54 cities and towns of Middlesex County any and all resources that may enhance public safety. We have forged partnerships with local, state and federal authorities to organize and ensure these resources are available whenever and wherever needed.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Ken Doucette
Director
978-495-7408

40 Brick Kiln Rd.,
Chelmsford, MA 01824

www.middlesexsheriff.org • @msosheriff

YOUTH PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY (YPSA)

Each summer, the Middlesex Sheriff's Office sponsors the Youth Public Safety Academy (YPSA) for 8-12 year-olds from communities across the county. YPSA is a week-long camp designed to expose our youngest citizens to role models in public safety – namely sheriff's officers, and their local police, fire, emergency medical services (EMS) personnel, as well as to teach them valuable life and safety lessons.

YPSA cadets participate in a series of activities throughout the camp – visiting with the local police and fire officials on community day and learning about fire safety hazards in our fire safety trailer. Cadets also learn how to make evacuation plans for emergency situations and participate in exercises designed to demonstrate the power and importance of teamwork during a visit to the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Billerica.

The Academy is run at the Middlesex Training Academy in Chelmsford, with transportation and lunch provided. YPSA runs for six, one-week sessions each summer.



Community Affairs

Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian

TRIAD PROGRAM

TRIAD is a program which brings together law enforcement, human service agencies and seniors to enhance public safety for local senior populations.

Within Middlesex County, the Middlesex Sheriff's Office partners with officials in several communities – including Bedford, Billerica & Stoneham – in TRIADs. Each program is tailored to the specific needs of the population in that individual community.

In some communities, the focus of the TRIAD program may be more on scam and financial awareness, while in other communities the emphasis may be more on identifying fire hazards in the home or recognizing the signs of elder abuse.

SAFETYNET PROGRAM

The Middlesex Sheriff's Office has participated in the SafetyNet by LoJack™ Program since 2012. SafetyNet by LoJack™ is designed to assist public safety agencies in locating individuals with cognitive conditions such as Autism, Alzheimer's or Dementia, who have wandered off and are missing.

The SafetyNet by LoJack™ Service provides law enforcement and public safety agencies with training, equipment and proven technology to help them quickly find and rescue individuals with cognitive conditions.

www.middlesexsheriff.org • @msosheriff

CWHEN IT'S TIME FOR ACTION

President

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20510
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

U.S. Senators

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
(617) 565-3170
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-4543
Contact:

www.warren.senate.gov/?p=email_senator

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
617-565-8519
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2742

www.markey.senate.gov/contact.cfm

U.S. Representative 5th District

The Honorable Katherine Clark
1415 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2836

<http://katherineclark.house.gov/>

Governor

Governor Charlie Baker
Office of the Governor
State House, Room 280
Boston MA 02133
(617) 725-4005
<http://www.mass.gov/governor/constituent-services/contact-governor-office/>

State Senator 3rd Middlesex District

The Honorable Michael J. Barrett
(617) 722-1572
State House, Room 213A
Boston MA 02133-1054
E-mail: Mike.Barrett@masenate.gov

State Representative 14th Norfolk District

The Honorable Alice Hanlon Peisch
(617) 722-2070
State House, Room 473G
Boston MA 02133-1054
E-mail: alice.peisch@mahouse.gov

Weston Board of Selectmen

781-786-5020
Weston Town Hall, P.O. Box 378
11 Town House Rd.
Weston, MA 02493
E-mail: selectmen@westonmass.org

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Kathleen Rousseau

The November meeting was held at the home of Katherine Wolfthal.

We have paid for our website, which was updated this summer. More membership dues were collected

The Coffee Hour with Alice Peisch was quite well attended. She spoke a lot about the education bill, which is up for approval now. It contains more money for gateway cities. Transportation was the other major issue that was addressed.

Town Meeting: There are 13 articles in the warrant. One of them is on electricity aggregation. There have been, and will be, sessions to explain this is. Information is also on the town website.

State Ballot Questions: Signatures are now being taken to get these on the ballot. The Ranked-Choice voting question is for 2020. The issue of voting by incarcerated felons will not be taken up until 2022 because it requires a constitutional change.

Voter registration drives should take place in late January or early February. Katty has written to Marty Cochran (H.S. - U.S. history teacher) about letting the kids know about the deadline for registering for the primary. There should be a letter in the Town Crier also.

Tonight there will be a meeting with Sheriff Koutoujian in Waban at 7:00. This is sponsored by the Newton LWV along with others, including Weston. Katty, Katherine, and Shirley will be going.

Barbara Flannery and Katty went to Needham to see the suffrage play. This was a sell-out, about 400 people. Shirley knows the author of the play.

The Gillespie land 40B is going forward; others in court.

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Dr. Mario Gatti

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Senator Susan C. Fargo

1942 – 2019

The Weston League of Women Voters is saddened to learn of the death of Senator Susan Fargo, who represented our town for many years. She was elected to eight consecutive terms in the Massachusetts State Senate serving the 3rd Middlesex district (the 5th Middlesex district prior to 2003) from 1997-2012.

As Senator, Susan served as Chair of the Public Health Committee and Co-Chair of the Committee on Elderly Affairs. She was widely praised for her tireless work to ban smoking in the workplace, to increase access to affordable housing, to advance the circuit breaker bill that provides tax credits to many elderly, and to champion the health of women, including legislation that affirmed the rights of mothers to nurse their babies in public.

A celebration of Susan's life will be held on Saturday, November 23rd at 3pm at the First Parish Church, 4 Bedford Road, Lincoln. A private burial will be held at Lincoln Cemetery.



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3. Deter deer from your yard by using deer fencing or natural repellents. (Ask us about our natural deer repellents!) Deer can carry ticks near the home.
4. Keep playground equipment, decks, and patios away from yard edges and trees and place them in a sunny location, if possible.
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**COUNCIL ON AGING
LOCAL AND GLOBAL DISCUSSION GROUP**

BREXIT

Thursday, December 12, 1:15 p.m.

As of this writing, no one knows for sure where Brexit is going. Or when.

British lawmakers have approved the deal that Prime Minister Boris Johnson negotiated recently with the European Union, but have rejected his efforts to fast-track it.

Meanwhile, EU leaders are sending mixed messages. EU Council President Donald Tusk is asking leaders to give the U.K. until Jan. 31 after Johnson said he would pause his efforts to push a deal through by the end of October. Meantime, French officials don't see a justification for extending Brexit for more than a few days beyond the current Oct. 31 deadline.

Many EU officials want to avoid getting involved in what they regard as a domestic British issue, but are weary of spending so much time on the question

at the expense of the challenges faced elsewhere within the organization.

The Local and Global Discussion Group of the Weston Council on Aging plans to take up Brexit at its December 12 meeting. The event will be held from 1:15 to 3:00 pm in the Great Room of the CoA. The meeting is open to the public, with an emphasis on an interest in the issues and civil discussion around the table. Participants are invited to stay until 4 pm to continue their discussions on an informal basis.

Moderator will be Graham Atkin, a British-born resident of Lincoln.

For further information on this meeting or on the group in general, contact Paul Sullivan (781-893-5005; paulrsullivan@yahoo.com) or Susan Wagner(508-733-8810; susanwgnr@gmail.com).





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**ARTICLES ON THE WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2019, 7:00 P.M., WESTON HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

To see the complete Warrant, visit

[https://www.weston.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/ 12032019-5123](https://www.weston.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/12032019-5123)

Article 1. Appropriate for Water Line
Improvements - Fire Department

Article 2. Appropriate for Historical Surveys -
Historical Commission

Article 3. Appropriate for Emergency Mental
Health Response - Police Department

Article 4. Appropriate for Water Tank Study

Article 5. Appropriate for Land for Recreational
Use - Rail Trail Plant Buffer

Article 6. Petition for Special Legislation: Detail
Officers

Article 7 . Amend General By-laws - Select Board

Article 8. Amend Zoning By-laws: Applicability to
Lots on Scenic Roads

Article 9 . Amend Zoning By-laws - Transit-
Oriented Senior Development (Submitted by
Citizens' Petition)

Article 10. Transit-Oriented Senior Development
- Merriam/Hallett Hill (Submitted by Citizens'
Petition)

Article 11. Appropriate for Historic Resources -
Josiah Smith Tavern Construction Funds

Article 12 . Community Choice Aggregation

Article 13. Amend General By-laws: Civil
Fingerprinting



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Arte Salon | Spa is excited to announce that we are offering a new facial treatment. Known as the Sculptra Filler Facial, this treatment has been available for over 8 years in Korea, and has recently made it's debut in the US. You may have even read about the treatment when it was featured in an article in Harper's Bazaar last year!

<http://www.harpersbazaar.com/beauty/skin-care/a21229/filler-facial-sculptra/>

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COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION IN WESTON

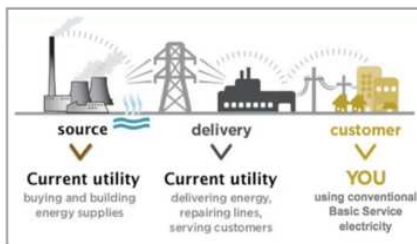


Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

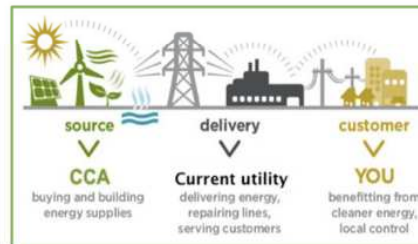
CCA is a process governed by MA law that allows communities to bundle their electricity needs and use their aggregate buying power to secure different options for energy supply contracts. These options typically include better prices and/or cleaner energy than the current utility provides.

- ➡ By aggregating demand, communities gain leverage to negotiate **better and more stable rates**
- ➡ By sourcing green power, communities can significantly **reduce their carbon footprint**

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With CCA:



How can we bring CCA to Weston? It starts with voting **YES** on Article 12!



CCA: A vetted, regulated process at no cost to the town

- CCA is not new: 148 MA towns have implemented it, including 30+ that are sourcing a higher % of renewables than their former utility
- CCA is a regulated, 18-21 month process:
 1. Town Meeting approval => **VOTE YES ON ARTICLE 12**
 2. Town hires an energy broker
 3. Broker develops plan with the town and MA Department of Energy Resources
 4. Board of Selectmen approves plan
 5. DPU reviews and approves plan
 6. Broker issues RFP for competitive supplier
 7. Town selects competitive supplier
- There are **no costs to the town and no obligations to proceed** at any point

CCA in practice: a seamless transition providing choices without obligations

- Switching to CCA is **seamless** for residents and small businesses
- The sourcing of power is different, however, **delivery, billing and repair stay the same**
- CCA programs typically offer 3 options:
 1. **Default**: >14% renewables, similar or lower rate (vs. current utility)
 2. **Premium**: 'opt-up' to 100% renewables, higher rate
 3. **Basic**: 'opt-down' to 14% renewables, cheaper rate
- Current MA CCA contracts **have saved residents money** at the default rate
- Residents are not required to participate and can switch between CCA options or **opt out any time at no cost**

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INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED JOSIAH SMITH TAVERN RENOVATION

To be voted on at the December 3 Special Town Meeting



FRIENDS OF JOSIAH SMITH TAVERN

What Are We Voting For at Town Meeting?

Construction funds to make the building habitable and code-compliant.

- The building is not permitted for human occupancy. The Tavern has been officially condemned.
- There is no insulation, fire protection, adequate fire egress, or on-site parking.
- The waste disposal system does not comply with the health code.
- The Tavern has no plumbing, toilet facilities, or handicapped accessibility, and has only minimal heat.
- The Barn framing is structurally compromised.
- The Barn is subject to mold and mildew.
- The Barn kitchen and toilet facilities are inadequate and do not meet commercial standards.



Josiah Smith Tavern: A Time Line

- 1756: Josiah Smith purchases the land from Joseph Bigelow Jr.
- 1757: Original five-bay section of the tavern is constructed.
- 1782: Death of Josiah Smith. His son Joel Smith (1749-1817) takes over as landlord.
- c. 1805: Approximate date for addition of east rooms and meeting hall (ballroom).
- 1817: Death of Joel Smith. His son-in-law, George Washington Pierce, takes over as landlord.
- 1828: Purchase by "Col" Russell Wood of Taunton. J. T. Macomber is acting landlord.
- 1838: Russell Wood sells to Josiah Warren. The tavern business ends.
- 1842: Josiah Warren sells to brothers Marshall and John Jones.
- 1901: Theodore Jones, son of John Jones, deeds one undivided third of the house and eleven acres to his daughters Alice and Ellen.
- 1947: Death of Alice Elizabeth Jones
- 1950: Death of Ellen Marion Jones
- 1950-51: SPNEA (Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, now Historic New England) inherits the property and leases it to the town for a 20-year renewable period.
- 1952-53: Renovation includes removal a section of the porch on the original five-bay section and restoration of the original front door and first floor windows. Two rooms are renovated for the Women's Community League Children's Exchange.
- 1972: The Weston Historical Commission asks the selectmen to change the sign at the Jones House to read Josiah Smith Tavern and requests organizations using the building to refer to it by that name.
- Mid-1970s: The Women's Community League renovates the barn for its headquarters.
- 1983: SPNEA sells the property to the town for \$48,542 and transfers the \$97,084 endowment to the town.
- 2007: The exterior is restored at an approximate cost of \$670,000, using Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds approved May 2004 and May 2006.

May 2008: Town Meeting approves a special act authorizing the Board of Selectmen to grant a liquor license for the JST. (Approved again at Weston Town Election in May 2009.) In May 2008, voters also approved design fees for the first JST/Old Library reuse proposal, proposed by the Josiah Smith Tavern and Old Library Committee.

November 2009: Special Town Meeting votes down additional design funds for the first proposal, ending work on the JST/OL plan.

November 2013: Special Town Meeting rejects zoning change needed for proposal by Urbanica, a development company.

2015: The Friends of the Josiah Smith Tavern is formed as a 501c3 non-profit organization with a mission of preserving and maintaining the tavern. The Friends will lease the building from the town.

May 2017: Town Meeting approves CPA funds for design fees for the Friends proposal: a restaurant in the barn and connector and space for three community non-profits in the main building: Weston Historical Society, Women's Community League, and Weston Forest and Trail Association.

December 3, 2019: Special Town Meeting will vote on the use of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds for the construction cost of restoring the Josiah Smith Tavern.

Important Architectural Features of the Josiah Smith Tavern

The tavern was built in two stages—1757 (west five bays) and c. 1805 (east two bays).

First Floor

- * original front entrance and tight-turn-around staircase
- * first-floor keeping room where cooking took place—note the bake oven.
- * Georgian style paneling in the original two front rooms and keeping room. Compare this to the Federal style mantels in the front room of the addition and the second floor ballroom

Second Floor

- * high curved ceiling of the “ballroom.” This room, part of the addition, was used at times for town meetings, private schools, and social events and later divided into bedrooms for the Jones sisters
- * graining on the doors in the upstairs hall between the two original front bedrooms

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League of Women Voters of Weston MEMBERSHIP FORM 2019-2020

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, political organization, which encourages informed and active participation in all levels of government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We serve the local community in many ways:

- Sponsor Candidates and Issues nights before elections
- Provide voter information and conduct voter-registration drives
- Encourage voter participation with banners and rides to the polls
- Study local, state and national issues and hold open meetings
- Act upon carefully considered positions by lobbying and circulating petitions
- Publish a "Know Your Town" booklet
- Train members to be active and involved citizens.

Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30. As a Weston member, you also belong to and receive publications from the State and National Leagues.

Name _____ Date _____ Address _____
_____ Phone _____
Email _____ Check one: ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

I enclose a check made payable to **The League of Women Voters of Weston*** for:

- \$60 Individual Membership (covers required local dues to the State and National Leagues)
- \$85 Family Membership (two individuals in the same household) Name of second household member: _____

Any contributions above and beyond regular dues are greatly appreciated and assist our local league in providing more services and offsetting our operating expenses.

\$_____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

☐ \$_____ LWV Education Fund (Tax-deductible contribution made payable by separate check to the LWV Education Fund)

Return form to: Katty Chace, 15 Conant Rd., Weston, MA 02493

Do you know a friend who might be interested in joining the League of Women Voters?

Name, address & phone _____

* It is the policy of the LWV of Weston that no resident shall be refused participation in the League because of inability to pay. If a hardship preventing payment of dues exists, please contact Katty Chace at 781-790-1087.