



League of Women Voters[®] of Falmouth Bulletin

March 2024

Steering Committee Report

Welcome, Falmouth League of Women Voters Members! As Janet mentioned last month, it’s an important election year for local, state, and national government. Each of our committees has been busy planning engaging public events over the next few months to educate and encourage public participation in government. If you are looking for a way to get involved or expand your current involvement, there is much from which to choose.

While you can read about each of these in depth in this bulletin, here are some highlights:

On March 21, the Legislative Committee will host our three state legislators for comments and discussion on some important bills including affordable housing, gun safety, facial recognition technology, end of life options/Death with Dignity, and a constitutional convention

- On April 24, the Voter Service Committee will host Candidate’s Night, where we will see and hear from candidates for local elections.
- On May 18, we hold our Annual Meeting at the Coonamessett Inn. A speaker is yet to be determined; our meeting will include electing new Board Members, approving last year’s Annual Meeting minutes, and remembering some of the dedicated members we lost over the past year.

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- The weekend of June 14, 15, and 16, during Arts Alive, the Voter Service Committee will host an event called “We the People.” The LWVF is focusing on the US Constitution, a quiz you can take that new citizens must pass, artwork from Falmouth High School students, voter registration, and more.

I will close with a shallow dive into “We the People,” the first three words of the US Constitution. When our Constitution was drafted, “We the People” was a radical idea that government derives its authority and legitimacy from the people themselves. It represents democracy at its finest. We, the members of the LWVF, are the People. Let’s do what we can to support the aspirational goal of our founders!

— **Meghan Hanawalt**
Second Vice President

Legislative Committee Report

On Thursday, March 21, the Legislative Committee will present a public program, “Meet Your State Legislators,” at 7:00 p.m. in the Hermann Room of the Falmouth Public Library. Senator Susan Moran, Representatives David Vieira and Dylan Fernandes are scheduled to attend. This will be an in-person program, which also can be viewed on FCTV Public Channel 6, fctv.org, Roku, and Apple TV.

The program is in three parts, beginning with a segment in which the legislators will be asked to express their views on various pieces of legislation. Then each will have an opportunity to speak about issues of their choosing. An opportunity for questions from the in-person audience will follow.

While the content of the second two segments will depend on the wishes of the speakers and the audience, we have an agenda that we hope to follow within the first segment. We expect to highlight four bills supported by the Massachusetts League. One would authorize municipalities to impose a tax on that part of the proceeds from the sale of property that exceeds a given sum; the funds would be used for affordable housing. Second, we plan to move to legislation related to firearms, where comprehensive bills are currently before the Massachusetts legislature. Our third bill relates to facial recognition technology and includes proposals pertaining to facial recognition evidence in criminal trials. The fourth bill is “death with dignity,” which would permit terminally ill individuals who expect to die within six months to bring about their own

death using prescribed medication but subject to rigid requirements that must be followed.

This part of our program will then move to a proposal on a bill we oppose. That bill is a move to convene a Constitutional Convention. Although we agree that it would be desirable to amend the Constitution to reverse the *Citizens United* case, we believe that convening a Constitutional Convention is too dangerous. The League believes proposed safeguards put in place during this procedure could still be insufficient to prevent a runaway convention.

The Legislative Committee hopes you can attend in person or view the program using the various options available.

— *Judith Ziss*

Chair, Legislative Committee

Save the Dates:

March 21

A Discussion With Our Legislators

*7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 21
at the Falmouth Public Library
Sponsored by the LWVF
Legislative Committee*

April 24

Candidates Night

*7:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 24
at the Falmouth Public Library
Sponsored by the Voter
Service Committee*

Observer Corps: EDIC Report



On a very rainy and blustery night, the Observer Corps reports were presented to about 11 attendees. A robust discussion covered multiple topics, including but not limited to: open available positions on EDIC, the Station Grill, the Main St. nursing home that is trying to move to workforce housing, and the proposed site near the Bus Depot for workforce housing. The next report reading will be in June, date TBD.

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.

EDIC's mission: **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 aspects of an agency or department.

The hot question in the public eye has been management of the bus station, and the relationship with the Station Grill café. Indeed, six of nine monthly meetings in 2023 ended in executive session, presumably to address the negotiations and legal aspects of that

problem. EDIC members and staff have been very discreet.

Nonetheless, I have gleaned a few impressions from one or two occasions when Mr. Marcellino, the café proprietor, has appeared in the opening Public Comment part of the agenda. The founding and operation of the Station Grill has relied on hope and good intentions from the start. It became popular, but suffered serious setbacks from the Covid pandemic. Nonetheless, the café managed to create a loyal clientele, and Mr. Marcellino expanded parts of his offering at his own expense. When that failed to produce adequate income, he fell behind in rent, and accommodations were attempted, against the odds of highly seasonal patronage and marginally flexible terms of the leases: one between EDIC and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, and the other between EDIC and Mr. Marcellino, who had become increasingly distressed, even desperate. EDIC members were understanding up to a point, but no workable solution was identified. In December a confrontation occurred that involved calling the police to remove Mr. Marcellino from the public meeting, and the relationship was severed permanently. Again, these are personal, subjective remarks by this Observer.

At present, operation and maintenance of the Station has been reorganized to restrict the building access somewhat. A security system is in place and the interior of the

Continued on next page

Observer Corps: EDIC Report, cont.

building is now open 7 a.m. – 5:45 p.m. The vestibule is open from 5:30 p.m. until the last bus, around 9 p.m. These hours will increase as the bus routes change and the clocks move forward. A search is underway to identify a new, likely seasonal, food purveyor. Operation and maintenance of the Station occupies an outsize portion of staff time and attention.



Carol Chittenden, Observer Corps member for the EDIC.

In the meantime, regular EDIC functions and projects continue. Finances are carefully steered by the Treasurer, Kevin Holmes, and the Executive Director. After they drafted a new budget, they held a public meeting to preview and explain the draft. Failing additional sources of revenue, current assets allow for about four years of operations short of running a deficit. Some additional capital will be generated when the very lengthy project of selling Lot 21 in the Technology Park reaches fruition at last.

A significant staffing change occurred on January 1, when longtime administrative assistant Lynne Broderick retired, and Pamela Mullin succeeded her. Ms. Broderick finished her tenure with further significant improve-

ments to the website, and trained Ms. Mullin, for a smooth transition. Executive Director Wayne Lingafelter accomplishes vast amounts of highly detailed budgeting, planning, grant applications, correspondence, and meeting attendance.

Membership on the seven-member EDIC shifts as always. New members since the last report include Robert Mascali, Adrian Merryman and Colin Reed. There are two pending openings, and there is considerable effort and concern toward increasing diversity. Finding people with required expertise (commercial real estate and affordable housing) who also have the necessary time and energy has proved very challenging.

Open meeting rules are followed, and by and large, communication appears to be solid and cordial. There are many documents that necessarily pass back and forth between staff and board members. When documents are requested, staff have supplied copies. Board members appear to be well informed, and they are quick to ask probing questions. The chair keeps meeting agendas moving along, without stifling discussion.

Of the several ongoing projects, which are detailed on the EDIC website, progress is careful and thorough. The one (besides the station) that is most likely to require major attention over several years is that of developing workforce housing on the property adjacent to the bus station.

— ***Carol B. Chittenden***
Observer Corps

Observer Corps: Planning Board Report

The Falmouth Planning Board is composed of seven members elected by Falmouth registered voters, each for a term of three years. Charlotte Harris is the current chair and Patricia Kerfoot is vice-chair. The Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.; meetings are televised on channel 9.



Carol Rader, Observer Corps member for the Planning Board

The Board studies and makes recommendations on issues related to long-term town growth. It reviews site plan applications for specific homeowner projects, such as detached accessory apartments, as well as developer projects.

The Board also presents zoning articles for vote at Town Meeting. There was a public meeting January 9 on zoning bylaw amendments for spring 2024 Town Meeting. It focused on defining and modifying the Senior Care Retirement District.

The articles relating to the Mixed Residential and Commercial Overlay District (MRCOD) were withdrawn. The District was established at a 2021 Town Meeting. It says in Article 240-7.5G that “the planning board

under site plan review may approve a mixed-use development if it complies with certain provisions...” After many meetings with the project developer of 545 Main Street, the remodeling of the Royal Falmouth Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center was formally approved. It includes 71 rental units and a restaurant. Gary Street, the Falmouth Building Inspector, believes the project must go before the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for approval. The Planning Board is working to amend the article and present it at a future Town Meeting.

This February, the Planning Board sponsored a community meeting at the high school for public comment on this year’s updated Housing Production Plan. These plans are approved by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development for a five-year period; Falmouth’s plan was developed in December 2018. Its components are a summary of demographic and housing characteristics and trends, goals, and implementation of strategies.

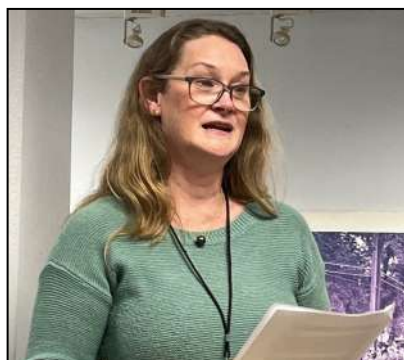
There was a neighborhood meeting on the Emerald House affordable housing project on 81 Davisville Road. There was much discussion and opposition. On September 11, the Select Board directed the staff to table the housing portion of the project due to issues identified by neighbors.

A two-story municipal police training facility at 81 Technology Park Drive was approved. Presently, training has to be done off-Cape.

Continued on next page

Observer Corps: Planning Board, cont.

The Bourne Rail Trail was also discussed. There is a 6.5-mile gap between the Cape Cod Canal Bike- way and the Shining Sea Bikeway, which the Friends of the Bourne Rail Trail would like to see closed with a “rail to trail” pathway. The Friends attended a Planning Board meeting to promote this “rail to trail” pathway. However, after discussion, the Board believed a “rail with trail,” i.e., a bike path parallel to the existing tracks, left more long-term options.



Meghan Palanza, Observer Corps chair.

The Planning Board also held a joint meeting with the Affordable Housing Committee to discuss the urgent need for an increase in the number of rental housing units and mid-price homes in Falmouth. Among the challenges to increasing the number of affordable housing units are the town parking regulations. There is a grant to study the issue.

All who come before the Board are met with consideration, helpful suggestions, and appreciation for the effort made to develop plans consistent with Falmouth's unique character.

**— Carol Rader
Observer Corps**

Voter Service Committee

The members of the Voter Service Committee are in the process of planning two major events: Candidates Night, to be held April 24 at the public library, and We The People, during the Arts Alive Falmouth weekend, June 14, 15, and 16.

Candidates Night will offer community residents an opportunity to meet their candidates for local office, to hear them speak about the reasons they are running for office, and how they will serve in the role they seek. The event is open to all and can be viewed on FCTV Public Channel 6, fctv.org, Roku, and Apple TV. You will learn specifics about the candidates’ thoughts and ideas and you will walk away with a clear idea for whom you will likely vote.

We The People, the Voter Service Committee's title for a booth at Arts Alive, will celebrate the meaning and importance of our United States Constitution, particularly as it relates to our right to vote. The event will include a display of local students’ artwork, provide an opportunity to register to vote, and, just for fun, a chance to take a quiz given to people who strive to become American citizens. Copies of the Constitution and postcards to send to family and friends as a reminder to get out and vote will be given out.

**—Felicia Bordick
Chair, Voter Service**

Women's History Month

To learn more about under-represented women in our history, turn to Liza Mundy's book *The Sisterhood: The Secret History of Women at the CIA*. Mundy chronicles the challenges women in this clandestine organization faced, for both recognition and promotion to responsible positions commensurate with their expertise, abilities, and intelligence.

She begins her Author Notes with these sentences: "The casual reader, even a close student of US history, would be forgiven for thinking that for most of its existence, only men worked at the Central Intelligence Agency. Not only that: very manly heterosexual men." Her book dispels this misconception by detailing the important role women played throughout the founding of the OSS (the precursor to the CIA) and in the Cold War-era in which the CIA played a prominent role. Women, often working in the background, were instrumental in the capture of the spy Aldrich Ames, and in warning about the dangers Al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden posed. Their warnings were voiced as early as the mid-1990s, yet they, and their warnings, were dismissed.

Mundy notes that female operatives have always existed, but independently, like Harriet Tubman, whom she describes as a "self-taught spy mistress and logistical genius [who] ran an extraordinary exfiltration network, evacuating slaves from the South and routing them to freedom under the noses of one of the most ruthless detection networks in the world: white slave-owners whose live-

lihoods and way life where at stake."

The author's main observation is that "It wasn't their sex appeal that made women good spies. Just the opposite, it was their inconspicuousness as well as their their social role" that contributed to their success.

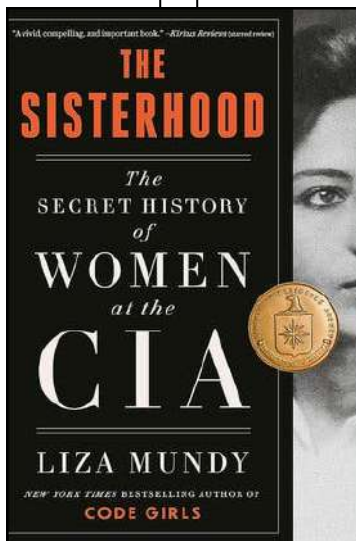
Mundy also notes that she "knew from experience that those whose contributions to history fall under the umbrella of intelligence are especially easy to overlook..." after she became intrigued with the story of the post-war CIA while writing her book,

Code Girls. Her final caveat about her book, *The Sisterhood*, is: "This book tells the story of one of the biggest transformations in CIA culture, for a male-dominated institution where women were seen as typists and sexual playthings to one where women propelled some of the agency's important successes."

Read it at your own peril! Mundy does not shirk from observing that "female spies took decades to earn the posts and exert the influence they deserved."

The Sisterhood not only gives overdue recognition to the many women who worked behind the scenes of the CIA, it chips away at the thin veneer that has somewhat protected the organization from prying eyes. She observes unflinchingly that "female spies took decades to earn the posts and exert the influence they deserved."

—Mary Fran Buckley
Publicity Co-Chair



HELP WANTED

As you can see from the previous pages, the work of the Observer Corps members is vitally important to the health and wellbeing of our town. But the League is sorely in need of volunteers to serve as observers for the following town organizations:

School Committee
 Solid Waste Advisory
 Water Quality Management
 Falmouth Housing Trust
 Affirmative Action
 Beach Committee
 Coastal Advisory
 Historical Commission

If you have expertise or interest in serving as an observer in one or more of these areas, please contact the chair of the Observer Corps, Meghan Palanza, at mmpalanza@gmail.com for more information.

Voting Information

The Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth has numerous links to give you all the information you need about voting at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/elections-and-voting.htm>. Here is a selection of links that may be of use to you or to someone you know:

How to Vote

[Find Upcoming Elections](#)

[How to Vote in a Primary](#)

[Vote as an Inactive Voter](#)

[Voter Identification Requirements](#)

[Find Accessibility Options for Voters with Disabilities](#)

[Contact Your Local Election Office](#)

Vote Before Election Day

[Vote by Mail](#)

[Vote Early](#)

[Vote Absentee](#)

[Find a Ballot Drop Box](#)

[Track Your Mail-in Ballot](#)

Vote On Election Day

[Find Your Polling Place](#)

[View a Sample Presidential Primary Ballot](#)

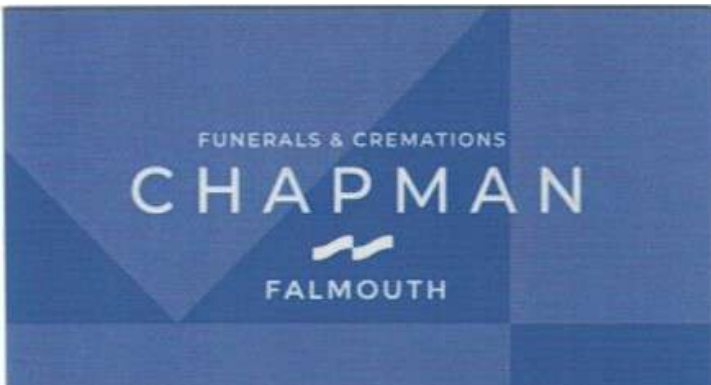
[Find Polling Hours](#)

[Provisional Ballots](#)

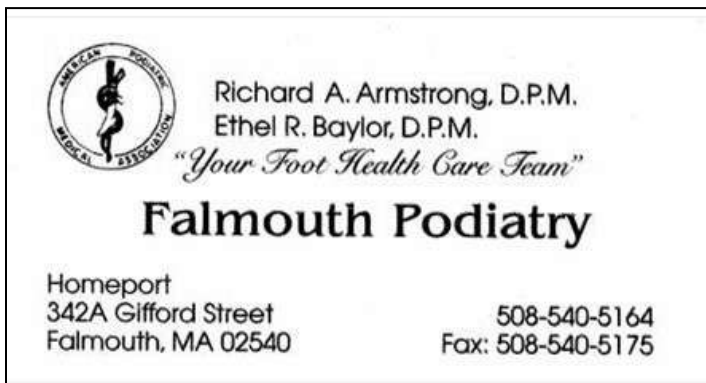



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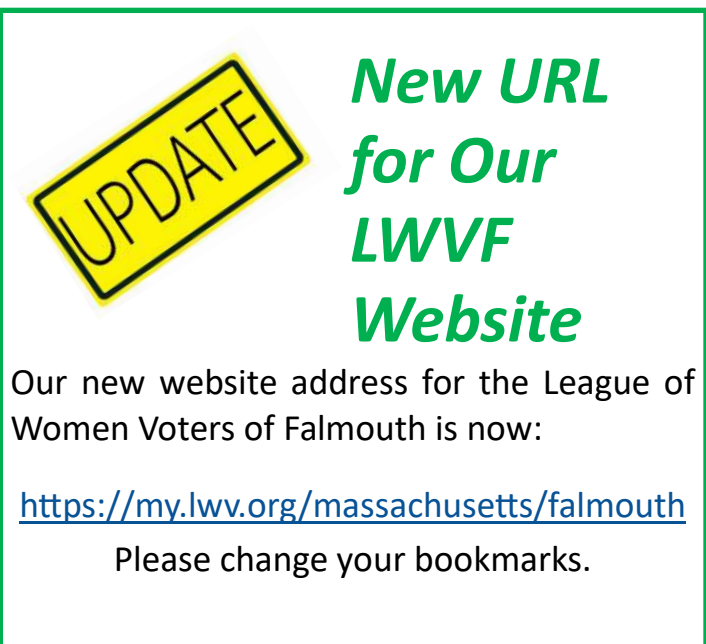
FUNERALS & CREMATIONS
CHAPMAN
 FALMOUTH



 Richard A. Armstrong, D.P.M.
 Ethel R. Baylor, D.P.M.
"Your Foot Health Care Team"
Falmouth Podiatry

Homeport
 342A Gifford Street
 Falmouth, MA 02540

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



 **New URL
 for Our
 LWVF
 Website**

Our new website address for the League of Women Voters of Falmouth is now:
<https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/falmouth>
 Please change your bookmarks.

Make your voice heard today!

**Contact Information
for Your Legislators**

**(Be sure to include your name, address,
and phone number when writing.)**

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

Congressman Bill Keating
508-771-6868
Info.keating@mail.house.gov

Letters to the Editor

The Falmouth Enterprise

Letters can be mailed to 50 Depot Avenue, Falmouth, MA 02540 or e-mailed directly to the editor at paradise@capenews.net.
General contact email:
newsroom@capenews.net.

The Cape Cod Times

Email to letters@capecodonline.com or mail to Letters, Cape Cod Times, 319 Main St., Hyannis, MA 02601.

The Boston Globe

Send an e-mail to letter@globe.com or mail to Letters to the Editor, The Boston Globe, PO Box 55819, Boston, MA 02205.

LWVF Board of Directors 2023-2024

Board Members

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Second Vice-President	Meghan Hanawalt*
Secretary	Richard Johnson*
Treasurer	Joan Boyer
Legislative	Judith Ziss
Natural Resources	Richard Johnson, Kathy Mortenson, Denise Morreale, John Carroll, Sally Palmer
Voter Services	Felicia Bordick and Chinna Mapp*
Spokesperson	Sylvia Szulkin*
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Membership	Misty Niemeyer
Observer Corps	Meghan Palanza
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At-Large	Karen Epstein
Annual Meeting	Position Open

Off-Board Specialists

Historian	Kathy Mortenson
Social Media	Penny Duby
Email Communication	Kathy Mortenson
Webmaster	Gayle Simundza

Nominating Committee

Chair:	Stephanie Miele
Off Board:	Kathy Mortenson, Olivia White
Board members:	Karen Epstein, Misty Niemeyer

*Member of Steering Committee

Meeting and Event Calendar

March 8, 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	International Women’s Day Breakfast
March 21, 7 p.m.	Legislative committee - Discussion with Legislators, Falmouth Public Library
March 26, 7 p.m.	Board meeting (Zoom)
April 23, 7 p.m.	Board meeting (Zoom)
April 24, 7 p.m.	Candidates Night, Hermann Room, Falmouth Library (Voter Services)

Contact us:

Falmouth, MA 02541

Email: FalmouthLWV@gmail.com

Website: <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/falmouth>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVofFalmouthMA/>

Join the League of Women Voters: Democracy in Action!

You do not have to be a resident of Falmouth to join. Membership dues are \$55 for an individual membership and \$25 for an additional household member. A discounted rate is available for students.

If you wish to join the League, send your check made out to the address in the “Contact us” box above. Include your name, mailing address, and phone number. You may also join online through our website at <https://my.lwv.org/>



Submissions for the April issue of the LWVF Bulletin are due on April 1, 2024. Please send copy, photos, and other material to both of these addresses:

maryfran55@earthlink.net
eileenmattingly@yahoo.com