



The League of Women Voters Washington County

December 2006, January 2007, VOL. 53, ISSUE 5

CALENDAR

December 11, Monday, Board Meeting at Joyce Hale's, 285 W. Cleburn 6:30 p.m.

December 13, Wednesday, Monthly Member Meeting. "Affordable Housing," a discussion of this issue as a component of Smart Growth in Washington County, 11:30 a.m., Taste of Thai Restaurant off the Fayetteville Square. Please contact Joyce Hale at 527-2777 if you plan to attend so that the restaurant has an approximate number to serve. (Information below)

January 14, Sunday, Board Meeting at Joyce Hale's, 285 W. Cleburn 4:00 p.m.

January 17, Wednesday, Monthly Membership Meeting. "Beaver Lake: Regulation, Rights and Development," in the series on Smart Growth, Fayetteville Library, 11:30 a.m. Bring a sack lunch. (See article below)

FROM LIBBY'S DESK

I hope those of you who have sent us your e-mail successfully received the first *Voter* on-line in November. If this method of communication is acceptable, we can save printing and postage costs. Of course we will provide hard copies of the newsletter to our donors and to any members for whom we do not have an e-mail address.

We have started our programs on this year's theme, "Smart Growth." At our November membership meeting, Karen Rollett-Crocker and Ethan Inlander presented the GPS system used to identify areas worthy of conservation in and around Washington County. As our city grows, the need to identify areas to preserve becomes critical. The mapping program and the evaluation criteria used to select properties were explained. The GPS program developed is attracting interest from other areas of the state as a means of planning for land preservation. The meeting on a stormy night was well attended, and thanks are due to Karen and Ethan.

We are combining the December and January issues of the *Voter*, so please mark your calendars with the dates of the programs listed above. Smart Growth is our theme, and interesting programs are being planned for the coming months.

Finally, best wishes for a happy holiday. Several of us who were involved in the Ukrainian program invited for Thanksgiving dinner the three Ukrainian students at the

University of Arkansas who helped us with the Ukrainian delegation. Our League has made new friends in these students, who we hope will take the concept of citizen involvement in government back to the Ukraine.

BROOKS-HUMMEL NATURE RESERVE PROJECT

The Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association has negotiated an option-to-buy on an undeveloped property. The fourteen acres lie between the Evelyn Hill Shopping Center, First United Presbyterian Church, and Lake Lucille. After prioritizing potential preservation sites, this property ranked at the top of the selection criteria developed by FNHA. A total of \$495,000 must be raised by February 28, 2007. The piece is unusually diverse regarding tree and plant varieties, terrain, and aquatic features. Its close proximity to development could provide valuable connections to Fayetteville's trail system. A financial plan seeks to raise one-fourth from neighborhood property owners, one-fourth from the community, and half from the City. Those interested in supporting the project or learning more may contact Hugh Kincaid at 443-2504.

DECEMBER PROGRAM – LUNCH RESERVATIONS – RSVP NEEDED

The December 13th program will be at A Taste of Tai, 31 E. Center Street. To help expedite service and allow more program time, please choose in advance one of the following menu choices:

Mixed Vegetables (Pork, stir-fried mixed vegetables with Thai Sauce and rice)

Pad Woon Sen (Chicken, stir fried crystal bean noodles, vegetables, and salad)

House Fried Rice (Beef, broccoli, cabbage, carrots & peas, and green onions with soup)

Cost of meal is \$6.25 plus drink and tip. Contact Joyce Hale by **Dec. 11** to give your menu choice. Call 527-2777 (please leave information on answering machine if not at home or email joyhale43@sbcglobal.net).

JANUARY PROGRAM - BEAVER LAKE: Regulations, Rights, and Development

Beaver Lake water quality concerns continue to grab the headlines as pressure from rapid growth brings controversy to lake management. Amy Wilson, Director of Public Affairs of the Beaver Water District, will show a twelve-minute film of the lake's history and management. Other speakers will discuss development, property rights, watershed controls, and new sewage treatment systems. The program will take place at the Blair Library at 11:30, Jan. 17, 2007. Bring a sack lunch.

ENVY AWARD REPORT

LWVWC's nomination of the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association has culminated in their being named as one of the top five 2006 Arkansas Environmental Stewardship Awards selected by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. While the top winner was The Scott County Organization to Protect the Environment (see http://www.adeq.state.ar.us/poa/envy_award/envy_award.asp for details and the other named winners), FNHA's accomplishments were highly praised at a Nov. 4th luncheon for the Arkansas Watershed Advisory Group Conference in Fayetteville.

Growth and Affordable Housing Luncheon

Wednesday, December 13

December's program will examine the larger issue of affordable housing in Northwest Arkansas through a case study of a partnership between the Benton County Habitat for Humanity and the University of Arkansas Community Design Center that will result in an affordable, environmentally-friendly neighborhood. Aaron Gabriel, Assistant Director for the Community Design Center, will share the details of this award-winning project, which incorporated the following elements:

Parks, Not Pipes

Habitat Trails is an eco-friendly affordable neighborhood development consisting of 17 Habitat for Humanity homes. The development incorporates a range of conservation planning strategies supportive of unit clustering that preserves more than one third of the site as open space. Developed land, including new park space for the City of Rogers, is designed to work in accord with the site's existing hydrological drainage, catchment, and recharge patterns. Stormwater runoff generated by new development will be retained and treated through a contiguous network of bioswales, infiltration trenches, stormwater gardens, sediment filter strips, and a constructed wet meadow. This exceeds the minimum requirement to simply detain runoff with little treatment capability. The integration of a constructed treatment landscape with open space substitutes an ecologically-based stormwater management system for the expensive curb-gutter-pipe solution in civil infrastructure. Water is treated as a resource rather than a hazard.

Maximizing Ecological and Urban Services

Ecological stormwater management solutions are more effective than civil solutions based on economic, environmental, and social measures. While curb-gutter-pipe systems transport and concentrate runoff problems elsewhere, ecologically-based solutions use landscape to absorb and treat runoff *in-situ* at half the cost. Ecological management solutions enhance water quality beyond the minimum detention requirements, dissipate peak flows to prevent flooding, provide erosion and sediment control, while being less prone to the failures common in civil runoff catchment infrastructure. The collateral benefits of ecological solutions include enhanced neighborhood aesthetics, additional passive recreational assets, and provision for wildlife habitat. Contrary to civil “pipe and pond” solutions that separate ecological and urban services, the street is integrated with the landscape to become part of a larger watershed solution.

“Green” Streets

Streets are designed as landscapes to calm vehicular traffic and serve stormwater management functions. Their dimensions follow “skinny street” programs for residential areas recommended by the Congress for New Urbanism and implemented by municipalities nationwide. By decreasing street widths and installing pervious materials like grasscrete for parking strips, green streets minimize costly, impervious pavement while dampening unsafe motorist speeds (width is the major variable effecting speed, not geometry—curved or straight). Especially for children and around city parks, residential streets can once again be safe and attractive for pedestrian activity without inhibiting emergency vehicle access. Elimination of raised curbs, gutters, and pipes in conventional runoff catchment infrastructure relieves the city of a significant maintenance obligation, allowing a contiguous system of rainwater gardens and bioswales along right-of-ways to absorb and treat runoff. Vegetated stormwater landscapes project a unique neighborhood character and visually link house porches and street. Since all homes feature a generous porch, setbacks are minimized to facilitate opportunities for neighborly interaction. Low-impact residential development not only achieves affordability, but also allows for creative project design that stewards first-time buyers in all aspects of responsible home ownership. This also becomes a model for achieving high quality residential development.

A similar project is being considered through a partnership between the Washington County Habitat for Humanity and the Community Design Center

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE 11/27/06

WELCOME!!

Membership renewals and new members:

Lois & Harry Alward, Jess Barr, Wanda Belzung, Jo Bennett, Jana Britton, Mary Burton, Judith Carey, Betty Davis, Mary Dillard, Lynn Donald Carver, Genie Donovan, Sharon Echols, Patsy Ferritor, Mary Fitzpatrick, Helena Gadison, Brenda & Robert Gullett, Joyce & Jay Hale, Bobbye Hay, Patricia Hensman, Carol House, Liz & Les Howick, Jan Judy, Sally & Jean Kelley, Sami Long Kopelman, Georgia Kunze, Bettie Lu Lancaster, Anne Harris LaRew, Sarah & Robert Leflar, Carolyn Madison, Nancy McCartney, Karen & Justin Minkel, Kerry Mueller & Dave Hunter, Mary Bess Mulhollan, Jeanine & Steve Neuse, Linda Nicometo, Aimee Papazian, Janine Parry & Bill Schreckhise, Tim Penhallegon, Anne Prichard, Linda Ralston, Felicia Reed, Cephus Richard III, Fran Roberts, Karen Rollet-Crocker, Anne Rosso, Trudy & Tom Scott, Jane & Jim Scroggs, Mary Alice & Phil Serafini, William Shuman, Rachel Skoney, Lindsley & Steve Smith, Betty Solis, Wanda Stephens, Jimmy Stewart, Brenda Thiel, Shawna Thorup, Janice Torbett, Kay Trumbo-Havens, Gene Tweraser, Virginia Ulick, Harriet Vernon, Martha & Mike Ward, Alice Webb, Libby Wheeler, Marion Wyckoff.

If your name does not appear in this list, please call Carolyn Madison, 530-1111, or send your \$35 dues payment to LWVWC, PO Box 4, Fayetteville, 72702

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OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

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