



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

February 2011

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Community Forum

7 PM , February 8

Report on Benton County's Ten-Year Plan

To Address Issues Surrounding

Housing and Homelessness

Corvallis Public Library Meeting Room

645 NW Monroe Avenue

A year ago, the city and the county adopted a broad plan to address homelessness. It is now time to reflect on our progress. This forum is a report to the community on where we are and what is being planned.

Are we meeting our goals? See page 3

Speakers:

Julie Manning Co-chair, Ten-Year Plan Oversight Committee

Mitch Anderson Director, Benton County Health Department

Aleita Hass-Holcombe Chair, Corvallis Homeless Shelter Coalition

Kari Whitacre Development Director, Community Outreach

Moderator:

Dagmar Johnson League of Women Voters, Housing Policy Committee

Sponsored by LWV of Corvallis and Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

The League of Women Voters

is a nonpartisan political organization that—

- * encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government,
- * works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and
- * influences public policy through education and advocacy.



Legislature 2011 – Town Hall Meeting

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, 10 AM – NOON
Saturdays – February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4

Come to League's "Legislature 2011" Town Hall Meetings! Legislators invited to participate in the Town Hall Meetings are: Senator Frank Morse, and Representatives Sarah Gelser, Andy Olsen, and Jim Thompson.

February 5 Agenda:

10-11:30 AM – Legislators present individual overviews of the session, emphasizing budget and legislative process, then the meeting is open to audience questions.

11:30– NOON –Visit with your legislators one-on-one.

The organizational session of the 76th Legislature convened Monday, January 10, 2011.

The 76th regular session convenes on February 1. The Legislature's website is:

www.leg.state.or.us/



President's Corner — Annette Mills

Thanks to a very active and committed membership, there's always a lot going on in our League. But lately, we seem to be more active than ever! I'd like to share a few highlights with you:

Appeal to State Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) – Last fall, our League appealed to the Corvallis City Council regarding a decision by the Planning Commission to approve a proposed development at 53rd and Philomath known as the Creekside Center.

In testimony delivered on behalf of the League, I cited two elements of the plan – a multi-modal path through a wetland and two above-ground Stormwater detention facilities – that League believes should be eliminated since they are in conflict with the Comprehensive Plan, Land Development Code, and other city plans.

The City Council, however, upheld the Planning Commission's decision. After intense deliberation and evaluation, the League's Community Planning Committee recommended that we appeal this decision to LUBA, and our League board concurred. On January 10, our attorney filed a "Notice of Intent to Appeal."

It is important for the community to understand why we have taken this action. The wetlands in question have been deemed highly significant and worthy of protection. The League is not appealing the entire development; just those elements that we believe pose a threat to the integrity of the wetlands. We anticipate that this appeal will cost in the \$10,000 range, and we have authorized the expenditure of up to \$5,000. That means that we must raise the rest. Please take a look at Shelly Murphy's detailed report on page 3, and consider making a donation to support this very important cause.

Homelessness – Another issue of concern to our community is the plight of homeless persons in our midst. On Tuesday evening, February 8, we will be hosting a forum on Benton County's 10-year plan to reduce homelessness. Our Housing Committee, headed by Barbara Ross, has been working hard to put together an excellent panel that will report on how our community is doing. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to join us for this important program.

State Legislative Session – With programs and services in danger of being cut, we are keeping a close watch on what's happening at the state legislature. Thanks to Karen Nibler for putting together January's thought-provoking program, "How to Pay for What Citizens Want," featuring OSU's William Jaeger. Those of us who attended came away with a much better understanding of how Oregon's tax system is structured and what will be required to make it more sustainable.

Following this program, seven LWVC members (Kathy Conner, Paula Krane, Peggy Lynch, Annette Mills, Karen Nibler, Doris Waring, and Janet Wolf-Eshe) participated in the LWVOR's Legislative Process Day in Salem. We were treated to an excellent overview of how laws are made, how to stay abreast of proposed legislation via the internet, and what to expect during the 2011 legislative session. An impromptu presentation by State Legislators Sara Gelsler (D- Corvallis) and Vicki Berger (R- Salem) was a highlight of the day.

Our League's monthly Legislative Town Halls will give us a precious opportunity to keep up with what's happening at the state level. We hope you'll join us for the first Town Hall on Saturday, February 5. See you there!

LWV of Corvallis

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This bulletin, the newsletter of the *League of Women Voters of Corvallis*, is produced 10 times a year.

We welcome your input. If you have suggestions, story ideas, comments, or submissions for the Bulletin, contact Louise Marquering – lwvcLouise@AOL.com.

Submissions must be received no later than the 15th of the month.

Members subscribe through their dues. League membership is open to men and women of all ages.



Are We Meeting Our Goals? continued from p. 1

Benton County's 10-year Plan to Address Homelessness

Goals of the Plan

Goal 1 Prevent people from becoming homeless by supplying services that allow them to obtain housing or maintain their current housing status.

Goal 2 Expand, develop, and coordinate the supply of affordable housing for both the homeless and those at risk.

Goal 3 Increase the capacity of homeless persons for self-support through strategies that identify their risk of homelessness, their needs and access to appropriate housing with suitable supportive services.

Goal 4 Address the societal stigma about homelessness and create new advocates for prevention through education, awareness and community dialogue.

Goal 5 Create a system of data collection and community accountability to sustain homeless programs.



Community Planning Update

Creekside Center I & II Appeal

On November 15, 2010, the Corvallis City Council denied the LWV Corvallis appeal of a development called Creekside Center I and II located on the northwest corner of SW 53rd Street and Philomath Boulevard.

League did not oppose this entire proposal, only the parts that encroached on an area designated as Locally Significant and High Protected Proximate Wetland, and because it would result in damage to a rare forested wetland north of Dunawi Creek.

After the City's decision to go ahead with the development, the Community Planning Committee consulted with a land use attorney and, after much deliberation, decided to press our case further. On January 10th, with Board approval, we filed a Notice of Intent to Appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA).

Why does League think this case is so important? When wetlands are lost or degraded by land development, we lose the important ecological services that wetlands provide, most notably pollutant removal, flood attenuation, groundwater recharge, and wildlife habitat.

These services must often be replaced by costly water

treatment and flood control infrastructure.

The City was able to justify its approval of this development by granting variances to the Land Development Code standards by applying a system called *Minimum Assured Development Area (MADA)*. A formula is used to grant credits that allow development in areas where it would normally be precluded. Moreover, a number of discretionary decisions provided this applicant with additional MADA credits that resulted in more wetland encroachment.

This is a bold and expensive move by our League, but because we believe strongly in the intrinsic value of wetlands, we have decided that it is important for us to appeal the City Council's decision. Our attorney has given us a special rate but still estimates that the cost will be around \$10,000.

*The LWV of Corvallis has pledged \$5,000, and we are seeking donations to cover the remainder. **Checks made out to LWV Corvallis**, with **CREEKSIDE** on the memo line can be sent to LWV Corvallis, PO Box 1679, Corvallis, OR 97339-1679. *This is not a tax deductible donation.**



League Book Club – Monday, February 14, 2:30 PM

And The Pursuit of Happiness, by Maira Kalman

On Valentine's Day,

February 14th we'll talk about artist Maira Kalman's illustrated celebration of democracy, *And the Pursuit of Happiness*. Originally a 12-part series in the *New York Times*, the book or graphic novel has been called "interestingly quirky." Join us to share your thoughts. Copies of the book are available at the library or by calling Beth Thoennes or Corrine Gobeli.

Join us at Sunnyside Up at 2:30 PM February 14.

Please call or e-mail Corrine Gobeli to let her know if you will be attending.

Upcoming books:

March 14	<i>Every Man Dies Alone</i> , Hans Fallada
April 11	<i>Mr. Rosenblum Dreams in English</i> , Natasha Solomons;
May 9	<i>Father Joe: The Man Who Saved My Soul</i> , Tony Hendra;
June 13	Meet to select 2011-2012 books



League's Grapefruit-Orange Fundraiser A Success

A note from Kate Mathews, who led the fundraising efforts:

We finished up our fundraiser successfully around Christmas, selling 404 boxes.

I would like to thank the following helpers:

Unloading Jan Bottjer Alvin Eshe Louise Marquering Chris Mathews Janet Wolf-Eshe

Delivering Boxes

Laney Bardeen	Marcia Cutler	Joyce Loper	Jo Overton
Sheryl Bernard	Alvin Eshe	Louise Marquering	JoAnne & Cliff Trow
Pat and Norm Bishop	Liz & Bob Frenkel	Kathie Merriam	Doris & Dick Waring
Jan Bottjer	Ruth & Tom Gallagher	Shelly Murphy	Janet Wolf Eshe
Ann Brodie	Paula Krane	Jean Nath	
Caroline Brumley	Craig & Nancy Leman	Karen Nibler	



Marjorie Chilcote – May 11, 1924–January 4, 2011

Marjorie Chilcote, longtime (more than 50 years) League member, died Tuesday, January 4, 2011, at her home.

Marj was especially active in the Corvallis League in the 1960s and 1970s. She and other Leaguers played an important role in getting the old jail closed. They also advocated strongly on behalf of the League for the establishment of Community Corrections programs. Although she wasn't active in League in the last few years, she was always interested in the League's activities and followed them carefully.

Her upbeat attitude and friendly smile are remembered well by all who knew her. She will be greatly missed.



February 15: Application Deadline for League Grants

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis has unrestricted memorial funds that may be used by League members for League projects, pending review by the Special Funds Review committee and approval by the LWVC board. Applications are received twice a year, in February and October. *The application deadline is February 15 for project start-up in May.*

Guidelines and application forms are available upon request and can be downloaded from our website—www.lwv.corvallis.or.us. Submit your application to President Annette Mills, to be forwarded to the Review Committee.



Climate Change: It's a fact – and action at all levels is needed

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 2010 tied for the warmest year on record.

Consider these facts:

- The combined global land and ocean temperature over the year averaged 1.12 degrees Fahrenheit above the 20th-century average, effectively tying the previous record set in 2005.
- Last year marked the 34th consecutive year that Earth's temperatures were above normal.
- The year was the wettest on record, a trend scientists say is due to the greater warmth fueling heavier rainstorms.
- A two-month heat wave in Russia fanned massive firestorms and hotter-than-normal conditions across the Arctic, central Asia and Africa.

People around the world are already experiencing the impacts of climate change. For the past several years, the LWVUS has made addressing climate change one of their highest priorities. Unfortunately, Congress has failed to pass major legislation that addresses the current and future impacts of climate change.

But there is nothing stopping us from taking action as individuals and as a community. Our League's new Climate Change Committee is in the process of planning the March program on climate change, as well as reviewing the climate change resources that have been developed by LWVUS for use at the local level.

If you would like to be part of this important effort, please contact Shelly Murphy at shellym@peak.org or 541-754-1184.

Leaguers: Consider serving on a City Board or Commission

The City of Corvallis has 21 Advisory Boards and Commissions that:

- Involve citizens directly in their local government in ways that impact the future of our community, and
- Provide the City Council with timely input on important issues

The League's Community Planning Committee is especially interested in having a League member on the *Committee for Citizen Involvement (CCI)*. This committee has vacancies.

The primary objective of the CCI is to facilitate citizen involvement in all phases of land use planning and decision making. Oregon State Land Use Planning Goal #1 requires all cities to establish an officially-recognized CCI. The CCI meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7 PM.



Specific CCI activities include:

- Providing information to citizens regarding opportunities to become involved in land use processes and decisions
- Developing educational materials to promote greater understanding of land use issues and
- Evaluating programs and procedures used to promote citizen involvement in land use planning.

Consider serving your community in this important way. *You are eligible to serve on an advisory board or commission if you reside in Corvallis or within Corvallis' Urban Growth Boundary, or if you are employed or self-employed full time in Corvallis. You can apply to serve using the online commission application on the city site:*

www.ci.corvallis.or.us/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=2507&Itemid=706



CORVALLIS
sustainability
COALITION

SUSTAINABILITY FAIR & TOWN HALL 2011

Wednesday, March 9

5 -9 PM – CH2M Hill Alumni Center, OSU

Register TODAY – Space Is Limited!

All Corvallis area residents are invited to attend the Sustainability Fair and Town Hall Meeting, Wednesday, March 9, at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center, 725 SW 26th Street on the OSU campus. Don't miss out on one of our community's most important events of 2011!

Plan to arrive at 5 PM for the Sustainability Fair, which will feature exhibits by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition's partner organizations and action teams. Come and learn about the wide variety of efforts that are already under way to create a sustainable community. Food, music, prizes, and informative displays promise to make this a lively and engaging event.

At 7 PM, we'll gather in the ballroom for the Town Hall Meeting, where the focus will be on the sustainability efforts of the whole community. Participants will be invited to engage in a community conversation about how we're doing and what else needs to happen to accelerate our efforts to become a thriving, sustainable city and county.

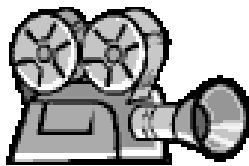
Event organizers plan a highly interactive program, which will demonstrate sustainability by analyzing event features such as energy and water use, waste generation, and refreshments that are primarily local.

Help make the Sustainability Fair and Town Hall Meeting a model event by doing the following:

- **Use energy-efficient transportation** – Walk, bike, carpool, or take the bus to the event. Bike racks are on the north side of the Alumni Center and on the northwest side of LaSells Stewart Center. For bus routes, see www.corvallistransit.com.
- **Leave no trace** – Bring only recyclable, compostable, or reusable items with you to the event. (Example: Bring your own water bottle or mug.)
- **Turn trash to treasure** – Place recyclable and compostable items in the proper receptacles. We will have staffed recycling stations.

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis is a member of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, a network of 185 organizations in Corvallis and Benton County that are working together to accelerate the development of a sustainable community. The Coalition includes non-profits, businesses, government agencies, educational institutions, and faith-based organizations – all working on different aspects of sustainability.

We strongly encourage on-line registration at – www.sustainablecorvallis.org.



7th Annual Eco-Film Festival

February 4, 11, 19, 25 - 7:30 PM

Festival films will be of particular interest to League members. All shows begin at 7:30 PM. Friday night films will be shown at the Oddfellows Hall, 223 SW 2nd Street (above New Morning Bakery). The Saturday film will be shown at LaSells Stewart Center as part of the Spring Creek Project's Oceans Symposium on Feb. 18 and 19.

Friday, Feb 4: *Fresh* – Celebrates the farmers, thinkers, and business people across America who are re-inventing our food system.

Friday, Feb 11: *Riverwebs* – A true story about life, death, science and streams by local filmmaker Jeremy Monroe. Dave Eckert's 5-minute video, *Oak Creek: Journey of an Ancient Stream*, will also be shown.

Saturday, Feb 19: *A Sea Change* – The journey of a retired history teacher on his quest to discover what is happening to the world's oceans.

Friday, Feb 25: *Addicted to Plastic* – Reveals the history and worldwide scope of plastics pollution, investigates its toxicity and explores solutions.

Admission is free, with \$5 suggested donation and/or canned goods. Sponsored by the Corvallis Environmental Center, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, and Corvallis Oddfellows.



State League's Oral History Project

The 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in Oregon will be in February 2012. To prepare for this anniversary and to update our history of the League, the state League has asked all local Leagues to consider their own histories. It's time to begin interviewing long-term members, those with knowledge of the League's unique history.

Would you like to be a part of this project?

Interview one or several of our Corvallis League members, using the questionnaire designed by the state League. It will facilitate and lend consistency to our interviews, although we don't need to limit ourselves to them. The interviews may include questions about significant life events, educational experiences, and memorable influences.

Say yes to an interview! Jog your own memory by thinking about your League life. *Starters:* How long have you been a member? To what Leagues have you belonged and when? What or who motivated you to join the League? What were your League activities? What

League member impressed you? What have you learned from your League experiences? What state or national conventions have you attended? How has League impacted your personal life? Why should anyone join the League today? We may record your interview and take a photo, with your permission.

FYI: State League organizational histories were published in 1980 and 1995. These are available on the Internet at www.lwvor.org/history.htm, and one is in the Corvallis Library—324.623 MOORE.

More information, including the questionnaire is on the League's website: www.lwvor.org/documents/VoterWinter10-11.htm#LETTER.BLOCK20. The state League would like as many interviews as possible by January 2012, so we need to get started now. Our history is valuable!

If you enjoy chatting with League friends and value all they have done in our League, please call or e-mail Louise Marquering (lwvc@aol.com) soon – we're eager to get started collecting memories!



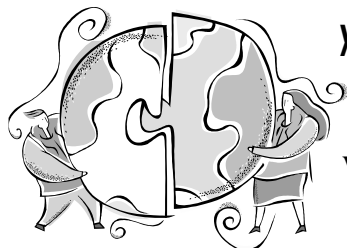
Want a bulletin by e-mail?

If you'd like to get your LWV bulletin by e-mail, please let Louise Marquering know at LWVCLouise@AOL.com.

It will come in your e-mail as a pdf (as the January bulletin was sent to all in the post-holiday time-crunch).

You'll still get the mailed copy, but may find it convenient to get an e-mail copy first.

Note: The bulletin as a pdf is always available on the League's Internet site, www.lwv.corvallis.or.us/newsletters.php, but would come to your personal e-mail a little sooner.



You're Invited . . . The LWV offers in-depth information on current issues for our immediate area, our state and our nation. Join with others who are studying current, serious issues that have an impact on us. Become a member! Be an ACTIVE member! We DO have more strength when we work together!

– Janet Wolf-Eshe, Membership Chair



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League Calendar
February

- Sat 5** Legislative Town Hall, Library
- Tue 8** *General Meeting* "Homelessness," 7 PM
- Fri 11** Board Meeting, 10 AM
- Mon 14** League Book Club, 2:30 PM
 Birthdays: LWV – 91 years
 and State of Oregon – 152 years

March

- Sat 5** Legislative Town Hall, Library
- Tue 8** *General Meeting* Climate Change 7 PM
- Wed 9** Sustainability Fair, Town Hall, 5-9 PM
- Fri 11** Board Meeting, 10 AM
- Mon 14** League Book Club, 2:30 PM
- Mon 28** State Convention Registration due

Join the League!

Name _____

Address *City, Zip+4 digits* _____

Phone _____

Email _____

____ \$55 individual membership ____ \$82.50 household

____ \$27.50 student ____ Renewal ____ Contribution*

I would like to be considered:

Active _____ **Inactive Member / Supporter** _____

I first joined the League in (*year*) _____ (*place*) _____

What special skills/talents/interests would you like to share with the League?

LWV's membership year begins in October.

Make checks payable to the LWV of Corvallis and mail to:

LWV of Corvallis, Attn: Membership

P.O. Box 1679, Corvallis, OR 97339-1679

* Regular dues are not tax-deductible. However, contributions to the *LWVUS Education Fund*, paid with a separate check, are deductible.