



# League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Linn and Benton Counties

February 2009

The League and Corvallis-Benton County Public Library  
Bring you

## URBAN RENEWAL: FACT & FICTION Tuesday, February 10, 2009 7 PM

A Public Meeting to help citizens understand what an Urban Renewal District (URD) is, how it works, and how it is funded. An Urban Renewal District has been proposed for Corvallis and, in order to be created, it must be approved by voters.

### PROGRAM

#### How the URD Statute Works Statewide and its Impact on Revenue

**John C. Philips**—Oregon Department of Revenue Liaison  
to the Legislative Revenue Office

#### The Corvallis URD Proposal

**Mike Corwin**—Member of Sustaining the Heart of Corvallis PAC

#### URDs: Successes and Challenges

**Kate Porsche**—Urban Renewal Manager, City of Albany

**Bonnie Bettman**—Eugene City Councilor, retired

#### QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

**Peggy Lynch**, Moderator



(As the question and answer period is expected to be of interest to all and may be lengthy, we advise attendees **NOT** to park in the Library Parking Garage which closes at 9 PM.)

NOTE: A SPECIAL INVITATION

**League's 89<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party**

**6:30 PM, Library Meeting Room**

(prior to the Urban Renewal Meeting)

Come early and enjoy some birthday cake and honor our 50-year members.

Board of Directors  
2008-09

**President** Annette Mills  
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**Marilyn Koenitzer** Land Use  
**Louise Marquering** At-Large  
**Shelly Murphy** Membership  
**Karen Nibler** Social policy  
**Tanya Shively** Election Methods

**Off Board**  
**Diana Carsten** Local Food Study  
**Laura Evenson** Events  
**Liz Frenkel** Land Use  
**Corrine Gobeli** Water  
**Paula Krane** Bulletin Editor  
**Doris Waring** Events  
**Ann Brodie** Chair  
**Bettie Muckleston**  
**Barbara Ross** Nominating Committee

### Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, 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.

**LWV of Corvallis**

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The bulletin is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Corvallis and is produced 10 times a year. We welcome your comments, suggestions, story ideas and submissions. Contact Paula Krane. Submissions must be received no later than the Monday after the board meeting. Members subscribe through their dues. Membership is open to men and women of all ages.

**President's Column**

Amidst the challenges that confront our community and the world, it is an incredible time of hope and renewal. Our nation's new president has called upon all of us to "pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America. For everywhere we look, there is work to be done."

The League of Women Voters offers a wide range of opportunities for participating in "the remaking of America". Since 1920, the League has fought to improve our systems of government and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy. Our members do the hands-on work to safeguard democracy. A quick glance at our current activities is testimony to the service opportunities that the League provides.

During January, LWVC members Louise Marquering, Jo Anne Trow, and Sue Watson conducted interviews of our state legislators, using questions provided by the state League. Paula Krane, Kate Mathews, Mary Anne Nusrala, and Tanya Shively led us in lively consensus discussions aimed at two separate League study topics: the National Popular Vote (national study) and Election Methods (state study). Our Land Use Committee, chaired by Marilyn Koenitzer, prepared testimony to City Council on the Deer Run Park development. This committee has also been hard at work planning this month's program: an informational meeting on the proposed Urban Renewal District (URD). The URD will be put before the voters in May, so

**Annette Mills**

this is a particularly important event.

To determine whether or not the League will take a public stance on the URD, we have appointed an *ad hoc* committee chaired by Cyrel Gable. This committee will take an in-depth look at the URD proposal, explore the pros and cons, review the League's positions related to this issue, and make a recommendation to the board.

Beginning February 7<sup>th</sup> and continuing on the first Saturday of each month of the state legislative session, our League will host the popular town hall meetings that feature updates by our state senator and representatives. Peggy Lynch and Karen Nibler will once again serve as the moderators for these informative sessions.

Two LWVC study committees – Water Resources (Corrine Gobeli, chair) and Local Food (Diana Carsten, chair) – are hard at work preparing programs for March and April. And our Membership Committee, under the leadership of Shelly Murphy, continues to recruit and welcome new members.

This month, the LWVC Nominating Committee will be looking for volunteers to fill several key positions on our board. Please consider answering their call for service! Or volunteer for one of the committees mentioned above. Then, on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, come to the library and help us celebrate the League's 89<sup>th</sup> birthday – and pledge to be a part of national renewal during the challenging times before us.



## FIRST TOWN HALL MEETING FOR THE 75TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Saturday, February 7th  
10:00 —11:30 AM  
Corvallis Benton County  
Public Library  
Meeting Room  
Co-sponsored by  
the Library

Hear from our Legislators about what is happening in Salem.

## A Great Way to Make Money for the League



Are you wondering what to do with all that clothing and other items you no longer use? Why not take them to the OSU Thrift Shop, 144 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and consign them using the LWV Corvallis consignment number 1073. The Thrift Shop accepts clean, seasonal, functioning items. To check what they don't want, see <http://oregonstate.edu/groups/ousfolk/tsnotake.htm>. Call LWV Volunteer Miriam Miller 753-7261 to arrange for LWV consignment. Or you can go to the Thrift Shop during regular consignment hours and do it yourself. Consignment hours are Tues. - Thurs. 9:30 - 2, Fri. 9:30 - 12:30; Sat. 10 - 11 during the school year, and Tues.-Fri. 9:30 - 12:30 during the summer.

## SUSTAINABILITY COALITION LAUNCHES ACTION TEAMS

The Corvallis Sustainability Coalition is launching a dozen volunteer action teams to begin work on implementation of the Community Sustainability Action Plan that was presented to City Council and the community in December. The action plan is a long-range, visionary document that was developed in 2008 to meet the City Council's goal "to develop a community-wide sustainability initiative". The plan is the result of a landmark community process that revolved around three town hall meetings and involved hundreds of Corvallis citizens and thousands of volunteer hours.

The Coalition is organizing one action team for each of the twelve topic areas outlined in the plan: Community Inclusion, Economic Vitality, Education, Energy, Food, Health and Human Services, Housing, Land Use, Natural Areas and Wildlife, Transportation, Waste and Recycling, and Water. The Energy Action Team and Food Action Team were launched in December. The others will have their initial meetings in January and February.

The volunteers on each action team will review the plan's goals and strategies related to their

specific topic area and will discuss and select specific projects they can pursue to help move the community toward the long-term vision of sustainability. The action teams are open to any and all area residents who are interested in serving.

Leaders of the Sustainability Coalition emphasize that the action plan is a "living" document that will be amended over time. Additional town hall meetings will be held annually to provide residents an opportunity to suggest changes or additions to the plan. The first annual town hall meeting is scheduled for January 2010.



The Corvallis Sustainability Coalition was formed in January 2007, following a gathering of representatives of non-profit organizations, businesses, faith communities, educational institutions and government entities, all of whom agreed that they could be more effective through increased communication and collaboration. There are currently 137 coalition partner organizations, including the League of Women Voters of Corvallis. The mission of the Coalition is to promote an ecologically, economically, and socially healthy city and county.

## Water—Let's Use This Precious Resource Wisely!

By Eleanor Revelle (LWVIL and LWVUS Climate Change Task Force Member)

Water is an increasingly scarce resource. Many parts of the United States already face serious water shortages and even drought. Population growth and the changing climate are putting additional stresses on water supplies. Even in areas where water seems to be abundant, careful management of this precious resource is essential if we are to ensure a reliable supply for future generations.

Moreover, using water efficiently also saves energy. For most municipalities, the biggest use of electricity is associated with treating and distributing drinking water and then collecting, treating, and disposing of it after it has been used.

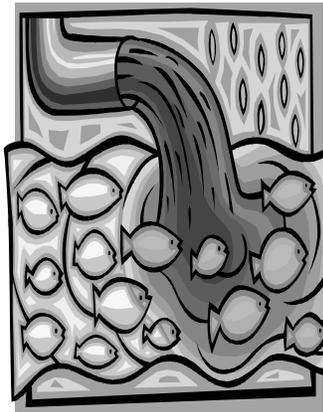
Water conservation is clearly an important component of sustainability. How can we, as individual consumers, help?

### Saving Water Indoors

Indoor water usage in a typical single family home in the United States is about 70 gallons per person per day. But fixing leaks, installing water-efficient plumbing fixtures, and changing some everyday habits can reduce water usage significantly to around 45 gallons/person/day.

#### Fix those Leaks

- Leaks account for about 13 percent of the water used in a typical home. A slowly dripping faucet or a toilet that keeps "running" can waste thousands of gallons of water a year. To check for leaks, read the water meter before and after a two-hour period in which no water is being used. After the test period, if the meter has a higher reading, there is probably a leak.



### Buy Water-Saving Fixtures, Appliances

- Toilets are typically the greatest water user in the house, accounting for more than one-quarter of the total used in a home each day. Replacing an older 3.5-gallons-per-flush (gpf) toilet with a 1.6-gpf, low-flush model will save at least 10 gallons of water/per person/day. New lower-flow dual-flush toilets will cut usage even further. By reducing water bills, newer toilets pay for themselves in just a few years.\*
- Replacing older showerheads with low-flow fixtures and installing low-flow aerators in existing faucets are both low-cost ways to save water. And by cutting the demand for hot water, this step will result in energy savings as well.
- Water-efficient dishwashers and clothes washers also help save water—and energy.

### Turn Off the Tap

- A few small changes in everyday habits can result in significant water savings. Turn off the tap while brushing teeth and save well over 1000 gallons/person/year. Take a five-minute shower (12.5 gallons of water with a new showerhead) instead of a bath and save 20-30 gallons each time.

### Conserving Water Outside

In urbanized areas, roads, rooftops and parking lots cover much of the landscape and prevent rainwater from soaking into the ground and replenishing groundwater. Rainwater runoff flows instead into the storm sewer system, picking up pesticides, fertilizers, oil and other pollutants as it makes its way to local rivers, lakes and bays.

An additional problem confronts older municipalities with combined sewer systems. In these systems, storm water and sanitary wastes are collected in the same pipe and then treated together before being discharged. During periods of heavy rainfall or snowmelt, the volume of water can exceed the capacity of the system, and the excess wastewater is discharged directly into nearby waterways.

## Green Infrastructure

A new approach to stormwater management uses natural systems to absorb and filter rainwater and make use of it where it falls. It treats rainwater as an asset rather than a waste product.

- Using permeable paving for driveways and parking areas allows rainwater to seep into the ground, thus recharging groundwater and reducing stormwater runoff.
- Rainwater can be "harvested"—collected as it runs off the roof and stored in rain barrels or a cistern for future landscape irrigation. Benefits include lower water bills, less waste of precious drinking water, reduced demand on the municipal water system and increased groundwater recharge.
- Replacing lawn areas with natural landscaping will save water and energy as well as benefit the natural environment. Lawn maintenance is water intensive—some 30 percent of our water is used to irrigate lawns—and lawnmowers cause five percent of the nation's air pollution. Native plants, on the other hand, help reduce runoff and minimize the need for watering. They do not need fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides. And they provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies and beneficial insects.

\* The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has launched a new program, WaterSense ([www.epa.gov/watersense/](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/)), to help consumers identify products and programs that meet tough water-efficiency and performance criteria. High-

efficiency toilets are the first product to display the new WaterSense label, signaling that the fixture has been independently certified by a third party to confirm that it meets the EPA criteria.

### Online Resources for Additional Information

The California Urban Water Conservation Council's H<sub>2</sub>OUSE tour ([www.h2ouse.org/index.cfm](http://www.h2ouse.org/index.cfm)) provides detailed advice to help consumers save water at home, both indoors and outside.

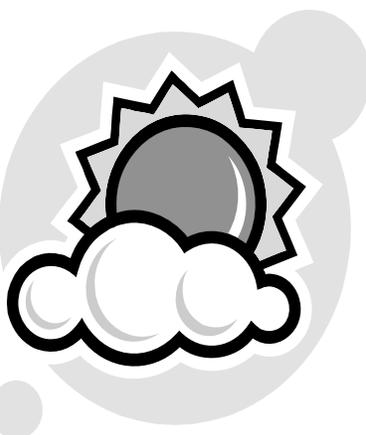
The EPA's green infrastructure Web site ([cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?programid=298](http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?programid=298)) discusses a variety of water management techniques, including porous pavement, rain gardens, green roofs, rain barrels and cisterns, and much more.

The Green Infrastructure Project of the Chicago-based Center for Neighborhood Technology promotes green solutions to stormwater management. Its Green Values Stormwater Toolbox ([greenvalues.cnt.org/](http://greenvalues.cnt.org/)) includes a stormwater calculator to help users assess the impact of various green interventions for their property.

Water saving tips, a home water scorecard and a variety of other resources can be found at Water: Use It Wisely ([www.wateruseitwisely.com/index.shtml](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/index.shtml)).

**Produced by the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force**

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## Membership

Patty McClintock will host a new member reception on Thursday, February 12th from 3 to 5 PM. Special invitations will go out to all new and returning members. The membership committee invites Leaguers to come, get acquainted, and share your enthusiasm about League. Call 752-5435 for location.



**Welcome!**

On February 1st, LWVUS issues a membership tally for the 2008-2009 League year. We have 163 members including 16 national members and 2 student members. Last year we had a count of 147. Asking people to join is working. Keep it up!

## February 14<sup>th</sup> Is the League's Birthday - 89 Years of a Great Idea

From the spirit of the suffrage movement and the shock of the First World War came a great idea - that a nonpartisan civic organization could provide the education and experience the public needed to assure the success of democracy. The League of Women Voters was founded on that idea.



In her address to the National American Woman Suffrage Association's (NAWSA) 50th convention in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1919, President Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the creation of a league of women voters to "finish the fight" and aid in the reconstruction of the nation.

And so a League of Women Voters was formed within NAWSA, composed of the organizations in the states where woman suffrage had already been attained.

The next year, on February 14, 1920, six months before the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution was ratified, the League was formally organized in Chicago as the National League of Women Voters. Catt

described the purpose of the new organization:

*"The League of Women Voters is not to dissolve any present organization but to unite all existing organizations of women who believe in its principles. It is not to lure women from partisanship but to combine them in an effort for legislation which will protect coming movements, which we cannot even foretell, from suffering the untoward conditions which have hindered for so long the coming of equal suffrage. Are the women of the United States big enough to see their opportunity?"*

While the League's programs, priorities and procedures have changed over the years to meet changing times, a League pamphlet written in 1919 describes with remarkable accuracy its basic aims today. "The organization has three purposes: to foster education in citizenship, to promote forums and public discussion of civic reforms and to support needed legislation."

**COME CELEBRATE THE LEAGUE'S BIRTHDAY AT 6:30 ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10<sup>th</sup> AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.** (Prior to the meeting on urban renewal). We'll be serving birthday cake and recognizing two members, **Clara Shoemaker** and **Jean Nath** for their 50 years in League! They join Marge Chilcote, Louise Ferrell, Kitty MacPherson and Jean Marvell as Honorary 50 Year Members.



## A Time to Read



February 9th, the book club will meet at 2:30 p.m. at Ruth Gallagher's to talk about Lee Smith's, *The Last Girls*. This novel about a reunion of women 35 years after their memorable raft trip down the Mississippi, won the Southern Book Critics Circle Award and was both a *New York Times* best seller and a *Good Morning America* pick. Smith, whose first novel was published in 1968 two years after her college graduation, has been lauded for her realistic, honest, often edgy, yet humorous depictions of southern women. For background information, check out her website and that of her husband, essayist, Hal Crowther.

## Urban Agriculture in Corvallis

The LWVC's Local Food Study Committee has been exploring existing and potential food-related programs in our area. This month's focus is community gardens. Several years back there were two community gardens in Corvallis, one at Sunset Park run by Sue Dominguez of Benton County OSU Extension and the other at Avery Park. The Sunset garden was moved to Starker Arts Park and named Dunawi. These gardens were divided into individual plots tended by people who wanted healthy fresh produce for their table. Oversight is by the Corvallis Environmental Center.

At this time Dunawi flourishes under the expert hand of Sue Dominguez. She also manages the Westside Community Church community garden which has just had its first year. Calvin Community Church started a community garden around four years ago. A group in south Corvallis would like to start a community garden at the old campground site at Willamette Park. Parks and Rec have a site list and are writing grants for strategic plan development.

What has changed is the awareness of increasing hunger in our community so that groups and individuals are growing vegetables for the food banks and soup kitchens. The Youth Garden at Dunawi has done this for some years, but now they are joined by the master gardeners and many individuals. The master gardeners also constructed raised beds at Community Outreach. A problem is that this produce is seasonal.



The Food Action Team of the Sustainability Coalition is considering starting a Victory Gardens program in Corvallis. Since 1993 in Olympia, WA GRuB (Garden Raised Bounty) has been building 100 free raised-bed gardens per year in the backyards of low-income residents, empowering them to grow food right at home. Growing Gardens in Portland was founded in 1996 with a mission to promote food gardening for improved nutrition, health, and self-reliance while enhancing the quality of life of individuals and communities. Hundreds of volunteers are organized to build organic, raised bed vegetable gardens in backyards, front yards, side yards and even on balconies. Low income households are supported for three years with seeds, plants,

classes, mentors and more. Gardeners learn all about growing, preparing and preserving healthful food while respecting the health of the environment. More recently Victory Gardens for All, started by Charlotte Anthony in Eugene, installs a fully operational garden, complete with healthy seedlings, for \$50. The homeowner agrees to help with three more gardens. The aim is to create 10,000 new vegetable gardens in Lane County.

None of our community gardens use pesticides, nor will Victory Gardens. Sue Dominguez has soil tested and remediates as necessary at the start of the season to ensure good growing conditions. Growing healthy food is a way to make ends meet, improve personal health, and to help the community.

The League maintains a list serve for meeting announcements and action alerts. If you are not receiving these and wish to receive these emails please send your email address to [kranep@peak.org](mailto:kranep@peak.org).



You can also receive the *Legislative Report*, the LWVOR action team's weekly report on the 2009 Legislative Session. This is available in an email format or for a fee, a hardcopy can be mailed. If you are not receiving this by email, you can sign up online via the homepage [www.lwvor.org](http://www.lwvor.org) website, by emailing Rebecca at [lwvor@lwvor.org](mailto:lwvor@lwvor.org) or by calling the office at (503)581-5722.

The LWV of Corvallis has been fortunate to have the Corvallis-Benton County Library co-sponsor public forums this last year that were held in the main meeting room. Carol Klamkin, on the library staff, scheduled meetings and helped in publicizing them, for which we are most grateful.

**Thanks**



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**Dates  
 To  
 Remember**

- February 7—Town Hall
- February 9—LWV Corvallis Book Club
- February 10—Urban Renewal
- February 12—New Member Reception
- February 14—Happy Birthday  
State of Oregon and LWV
- February 20—Board Meeting
- March 7—Town Hall
- March 9—LWV Corvallis Book Club
- March 10—General Meeting—Water
- March 17—LWVOR Day at the Legislature
- March 20—Board Meeting
- April 4—Town Hall
- May 15 –17 LWVOR Convention—Medford

**Join The League**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City, Zip+ 4 digits** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ \$52 individual membership
- \_\_\_ \$78 household membership
- \_\_\_ \$26 student membership
- \_\_\_ Contribution\*
- \_\_\_ I'm a new member! Please call.
- \_\_\_ I'm renewing my membership.
- \_\_\_ I want to join but dues are prohibitive. Contact us  
about a scholarship.
- \_\_\_ I'm interested in working with LWVC this year.
- \_\_\_ Please call.

Membership in LWV Corvallis is open to men and women of all ages.

The membership year begins in October. Please make checks payable to the LWV Corvallis and mail to: LWV Corvallis, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 1679, Corvallis, OR 97339-1679.

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

\*Preferred