



THE VOTER

January President's Message Kitty Burcsu

Greetings and Happy New Year! I want to begin this president's message with a sincere thank you for your commitment and support of LWVMC in 2011. Your participation in activities and events, your volunteer involvement and your financial support are always needed and always appreciated. 2012 promises to be both exciting and challenging for LWVMC. After a short holiday break, League activities and events are once again in full swing, beginning with our Jan.10 Land Use Meeting. (See page 4) Jan. 25 is the date of the next dinner unit at the Spaghetti Warehouse where the program topic will be Human Trafficking. (See page 5) and Feb. 7 brings a discussion and update on Redistricting. (See page 4). In addition to these timely member and community programs, planning and fundraising will continue for Democracy in Action, the Nominating and Budget Committees will begin their tasks and the 4R Committee continues to explore and plan for the future of LWVMC. Winter hibernation is definitely not an option!

While we are energized by the new year and the potential it holds, we know there will be challenges and transitions too, especially as the 4R Committee completes its work and recommends changes that will increase our effectiveness and impact as an organization. I know our Board and members are up to the challenges of 2012 and will continue their hard work and support.

Best wishes to each of you and your families for a happy, healthy and peaceful new year.



The 2012 Year is all about you and your place in the MC League.

The way to make the MC League a productive, active League in your community is to join in the activities and find your place.

- Become aware of redistricting by attending the February meeting.
- Be a part of the Land Use position by reading VOTER articles.
- Take cookies to a League Board member. (They work very hard.)
- Help with Democracy In Action.
- Go to lunch with the lobbyist on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.
- Go to lunch with friends and tell them all that is happening in the MC League.
- Ask a member of the 4R Committee about its purpose and how you can help.
- Think good thoughts about your League.
- Plan to be a part of the phone bank for the 2012 elections.
- Join the Events committee and help plan upcoming meetings.
- Send articles into the VOTER.
- Help proof read the Voter Information Bulletin.
- Join the evening unit. You get to eat out.
- Join the morning unit. You get coffee.
- Organize another unit. A good way to meet other Leaguers and catch up on the issues.
- Become a board member.
- Find out what human trafficking is all about on January 25.

This is just the short list. The opportunities are there for you. Find your fit in the 2102 MC League.

- Call fellow League members and discuss what you can do for your League.

LWVMC 2012 Holiday Party



A holiday spectacular befitting
a productive 2011 League year.

Rafflemania, Silent and "Live" Auctions
Successful Fund Raisers
Lucy Buzzee, Holiday Committee

LWVMC's annual fundraising Holiday Party held on Sunday, December 4th was another success in many ways. \$3542 was raised from the "Rafflemania" along with the Silent and "Live" auctions, and all who were there and participated had a grand time.

The party was held at the beautiful Miranova home of **Nancy and Bob Brown**. Mimosas were served and the LWVMC Board of Trustees provided a variety of Brunch food. **Brent Taggart** served as the auctioneer extraordinaire complete with his humorous PowerPoint presentation, which is always topical and featured politicians and others who were separated at birth!

The committee (**Mary Kaul, Mim Brierley, Gloria Davis, Caroline Piper, Jan Patton, and David Buzzee**) was responsible for making phone calls and soliciting items for the raffles, as well as planning the party. Thank you to the committee as well as to all who contributed to the success of the event: **Nancy and Bob Brown, Brent Taggart**, and all of the members of the **Board of Trustees** for the delicious food. Also, we would like to thank **Kitty Burcsu**, who contributed the champagne for the Mimosas.



LWVMC Holiday Party, *continued*

Thank you to the following League members who contributed items for the raffles and auction: **Pat Larson (Chocolate mousse cake and hand-knitted items), Amy Pulles (Hand-sewn apron), Anne Nelson (Fresh Frazier fir wreath), David and Lucy Buzzee (Bicycle tuning and house concert), Esther Connors (Wexner Center of the Arts store gift certificate), Marilyn Huheey (Medical eye exam), Peg and Al Rosenfield (1900 Encyclopedia Britannica), Suzanne and Rich Fahey (Use of their home as a B & B in Santa Fe, NM), Gloria Davis (Hands On Fabric Art), and Beth Taggart's sister, Christina Havens (2 pairs of hand-made earrings).**

We want to thank all of the businesses that donated items or services to the League. Please remember these fine establishments who have supported LWVMC:

Angie Keiger (Massage Therapist)

Barcelona Restaurant

Bath and Body Works

Cachet Hair Styling

CAPA

Christine Graham (Massage Therapist)

Christina Havens (Jewelry)

Columbus Museum of Art

COSI

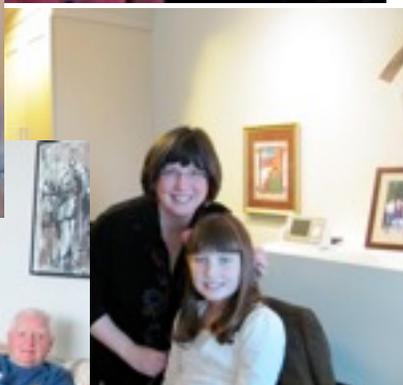
Deercreek State Park Lodge and Conference Center

Dr. Marilyn Huheey (Medical Eye Exam)

Early Music Columbus

Giovanna's Hair Styling

Hands On Fabric Art



Jeannie Keller (Manicurist)

Mike Stanley (Guitarist and Entertainer)

North Market Merchants: (Market Blooms, Blues Creek Farm Meats, The Cook Store, Poultry and Game, Curds & Whey, The Fish Guys, Omega Artisan Bakery, Sarefino's, The Green Grocer, Belgium Waffle, Nida's Sushi, Clever Crow Pizza)

OSU Department of Theatre

Otterbein Theatre

The Peggy McConnell Arts Center of Worthington

ProMusica

The Refectory Restaurant

Rocco's Hair Design

Rose Bredl Florals and Gifts

Sawmill Creek Resort

Schoolhouse Farm

Shadowbox Cabaret

Westerville Symphony

MC League Activities

The year 2012 will provide a variety of opportunities for volunteers. Take time in 2012 to become more active with your League. To volunteer for any event call Amy, 614-837-1089 or vote@lwvcols.org.

Changing Land Uses: Issues and Solutions

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

6:30 p.m.

**Whetstone Branch of Columbus Metropolitan Library
3909 N. High St.**

What concerns do you have about your neighborhood? About changes in the region? Want to know more about what's going on in Metro Columbus with transfer of development rights? Watershed planning partnerships? Sustainable development? Land banks, and more? Panelists Vince Papsidero, Administrator of the Columbus Development Department Planning Division, and Chester R. Jourdan, Executive Director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, will examine current issues facing Columbus and the region, followed by a question and discussion period. Bring your questions and ideas and join the discussion.

The meeting, co-sponsored by LWVMC and the Columbus Metropolitan Library, will provide background for our May consensus on Regional Planning and Land Use. A 6:30 social period will precede the 7 p.m. panel.

Redistricting Confusion

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

7:00 PM

**Whetstone Branch of Columbus Metropolitan Library
3909 N. High St.**

Are you confused by the actions of the Ohio General Assembly (and the political parties) regarding redistricting in the last few months? If you are, you now have a chance to reduce your confusion. On February 7, 2012 the Educational Events Committee will present "Redistricting Confusion" at the Whetstone Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library, 3909 N. High Street, beginning at 7:00 PM. The session will be led by Ann Henkener, League of Women Voters of Ohio specialist on redistricting. Ann plans to "review the problems with our current system, point out how the 2011 redistricting was "exhibit A" of the problems, explain where we are now, explain League positions, and how the LWVO proposed reform addresses the problems." There will be plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion.

MC League Activities

Evening Unit

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Spaghetti Warehouse

397 West Broad Street Columbus, OH 43215

A dinner unit is a great time to meet up with League friends and become informed on the latest League issues. This month Erin Michel, League member and advocate to end human trafficking, will speak at 6pm. Parking is free, and the meeting is open to the public.

RSVP to Danielle Smith (daniellesmith5215@gmail.com or 419-937-8393) by January 23.

Begin the new year of 2010 by becoming active in a Metro Columbus League of Women Voters Dinner Unit. Bring a friend.

Freedom of Choice Ohio and
the National Council of Jewish Women, Columbus Section
invite you to join us in remembering the

39th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*.

This year, FOCO will host a screening of
When Abortion Was Illegal:

Untold Stories And a Discussion with Advocates and Providers

Tuesday, January 24th, 2012

The Gateway Film Center, 1550 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43201

6 PM Reception - Food/Cash Bar | 7 PM Film Screening

\$15 General Admission | \$10 Student Admission

Reservations are required.

Register by January 20.

For more information: 614-221-2594 FOCOOhio@gmail.com

Ohio State University's Knowlton School of Architecture presents
**Six Student Design Proposals for the old 3m Site
in the Weinland Park Area**

December 6 through January 31

Godman Guild

303 E. 6th Avenue

Visit this presentation for a better insight to the Land Use Committee's proposed local League position.

Committee Reports

Regional Planning and Land Use Committee

Economically Speaking
Mary Kaul, Land Use Committee

Did you know that Columbus is the 15th largest U.S. City and the third most-populous state capital? That two-thirds of all energy research is being done here at Battelle? That the area hosts 15 Fortune 1000 and six Fortune 500 companies, the nation's #1 zoo, and one of the largest concentrations of college students in the country? While studying Land Use in order to update LWVMC's present position, we decided that it would be interesting to take a side trip to see what Columbus is doing on a regional basis not only to strengthen patterns of growth with conservation of resources, but also to improve the region's economic viability.

Recognizing that no one organization can do it all is Columbus 2020--a 10-year vision on economic development that unites Columbus and more than 25 other governmental units, economic development organizations, nonprofit organizations, and over 500 community leaders to market the region's assets to the nation and global communities. Composing the region are eleven counties, and dozens of cities, villages and townships. Joining the group are leaders from such organizations as the Columbus Partnership, The Ohio State University, TechColumbus, the Columbus Chamber, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, and state and local governments.

Columbus 2020 is our region's integrated strategy of economic development, and as a combination of organizations, it is working.

There are financial contributions from public and private sources of \$30 million, non-job poaching agreements among Columbus and suburban cities, and an openness to new

continued on page 7

Regional Planning and Land Use Committee

Density
Ellen Haider, Land Use Committee

Some of our best and most all-American, picture-perfect small towns and urban neighborhoods (such as German Village and Victorian Village in Columbus) are filled with pretty houses and front porches, tidily packed at six or seven per acre--dense enough to support public transportation, yet spacious enough for comfort and privacy. An example of new density is Victorian Gate condominiums in the Short North: 160 homes on 3.2 acres with ground-floor businesses blending in with old three-story commercial buildings on High Street on the east side of the block and views of Goodale Park on the west side.

Today less than nineteen percent of Ohio households are made up of a married couple and kids. Seventy percent of Ohio households have no children under 18. Car use and ownership is falling among younger Americans. There is a need for housing options, particularly densely built urban apartments and condos.

Good density combines attractive buildings, transportation options, parks, plazas, and streets and sidewalks bustling with busy neighbors.

Ideally, a community will begin with a planning process to determine what citizens want. A zoning code then enforces the community plan. State law in Ohio does not define a "comprehensive plan", but courts have ruled that zoning maps can serve as plans. This dates back to 1926 when the U.S. Supreme Court rejected a developer's challenge to Euclid's code. "Euclidian" zoning is characterized by

continued on page 7

Committee Report, Economically Speaking continued from page 6

ideas. The organization's ten-year objectives are 150,000 jobs; raising the per capita income 30% by retaining, attracting and growing businesses; and, supporting civic and political infrastructures that enhance job creation.

Columbus 2020 is using marketing strategies that tout Columbus' safe, affordable quality of life, its cultural opportunities, its access to superior health care and higher education. Columbus 2020, partnering also with JobsOhio, intends to

focus the area's considerable strengths on gaining jobs and prosperity for Columbus and its regional neighbors.

Do you want to learn more? Hear from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and the Columbus City Planning Division at the Land Use meeting Tuesday, January 10, at 6:30 (refreshments) and 7 (program) in the evening at the Whetstone Library. Guests are welcome!

Committee Report, Density continued from page 6

separating various uses of land, with commercial businesses in one area and different residential zones in others. This in effect makes traditional downtowns and neighborhoods that mix commercial and residential uses illegal.

Sprawl has costs. When houses are further apart on larger lots, it requires more tax dollars to build and maintain pavement and utilities. It costs more money to travel to schools, stores and other amenities. It also results in a loss of farmland: Land that is easiest to develop tends to be the most productive for growing food.

Density has benefits. It allows for efficient use of land, delivery of services, ease of travel on foot and vibrant activity. It can also be crowded and cluttered if not designed properly. Elements of well-designed density include open space and parks, a mix of uses, a variety of building styles and sizes to accommodate different income levels and modes of transportation. It can be distinctive and varied rather than monotonous. It can accommodate people of all ages.

Clintonville is a good example of a 1920s Columbus neighborhood. It saw a twenty seven percent decrease in population between 1960 and 2000 while the number of households remained constant. Many older suburbs close to the city are in a similar situation. They must grow

up rather than out -- they must become more dense. They want to attract shops and restaurants, both to serve their residents and to boost their tax base.

In general, a neighborhood shopping strip needs 3,000 residents within three miles to be viable and a supermarket needs 40,000 people within three to six miles.

The Darby Watershed is an example of designing for rural density. A town center is planned near Broad Street that will accommodate most of the development in the area, leaving most of the land for conservation, recreation and agriculture.

Today there is an ample number of low-density single family communities. In a few years, there will be more sellers of such homes than buyers. At the same time, many people will be looking for a community that is more dense. Density can increase the local tax base while providing public services more cost-effectively. Density done right can make our cities more attractive and vibrant. It can preserve farmland and open space, providing us with food and recreation.

This information was taken from [Dense by Design: A Compact Guide to Compact Development](#). Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, c. 2010.

League Activities

Land Use General Meeting	Tuesday, Jan. 10	6:30 pm	Whetstone Library
39th Anniversary Roe v. Wade	Tuesday, Jan. 24	6:00 pm	Gateway Film Center
Dinner Unit	Wednesday, Jan. 25	5:30 pm	Spaghetti Warehouse
Redistricting Confusion	Tuesday, Feb. 7	7:00 pm	Whetstone Library
Morning Unit	Thursday, Feb. 16	9:30 am	Wesley Glen
Democracy In Action	Thursday, May 10	5:30 pm	Mid-Ohio Food Bank

Please Do Not Forget

The 4R Committee would like all members to complete a short survey.

There are four ways to participate in this survey:

1. By going online to www.surveymonkey.com/s/X5CG3FZ, (This link can also be found in the last League Update.)
2. By calling the League office at (614) 837-1089,
3. By phone with a committee member after January 15,
4. By mail for those without email addresses or internet access contact Amy, 614-837-1089.

League of Women Voters of
Metropolitan Columbus
P.O. Box 130
Blacklick, Ohio 43004-0130

614-837-1089
614-837-1263 fax