

- 9. Streets too narrow. It must be considered wide enough for large fire trucks to maneuver.
- 10. Schools too close to town. Segregated land-use practices may confine education, religion and business to distinct zones.
- 11. Apartments above commercial space. They violate common "single use" provisions.
- 12. Sidewalk too narrow. Five feet is a typical requirement.
- 13. Group housing. In some places there are sharp limits on the number of unrelated people who may live together in a single dwelling unit.
- 14. Aesthetic deviance. Communities often have regulations governing the size of signs and sometimes even the size and style of lettering.

- 15. Too many buildings. In certain zones less than half and sometimes as little as one-fifth of the area may be occupied by structures.
- 16. Cupolas and steeples are not allowed. These are frequently ruled out by maximum-height restrictions.
- 17. No driveway. Individual dwellings may be required to have at least two off-street parking places.
- 18. Illegal fence. Ordinances often cover the permissible size and placement of fences in front yards.
- 19. No perpendicular signs allowed. Such signs are commonly deemed as intrusion or a menace.
- 20. Not allowed to run a business out of a house. Doctors, dentists, and gallery owners beware.
- 21. House too close to road. Setback rules bar too-snug relationships between residences and the sidewalk.



The goal is a long way off. In the meantime, new urbanists have an obligation to make communities as affordable as possible. One strategy is to build neighborhoods with diverse housing types including granny flats, courtyard cottages, small townhouses, and various types of rental units. Such neighborhoods—which new urbanists are good at designing—can serve people in all stages of life, an important goal of affordability.

Another group of people—on the lower rungs of the class ladder—aren't helped much by diversity of housing type, Hurley notes. To build truly mixed-income neighborhoods, she says, mechanisms like community land trusts can be implemented that provide permanent affordable housing for lower-income households by limiting appreciation on a certain amount of land.

Affordable living is not easy to achieve, but with transportation costs rising rapidly, it's a cause that new urbanists can contribute to with conviction.⁹ Reprinted with permission: NEW URBAN NEWS, July-August 2006.

Smart Growth, and Low-Impact and Transit-Oriented Development, and New Urbanism are the new watchwords in land-use planning. Many localities and developers are trying to make "towne centres," a part of New Urbanism, in the suburbs. This informal program offers some ideas toward evaluating these new concepts and encourage such changes yourself. Further, it is hoped that others of you with particular interests will be stimulated to provide program material for LWVFA members to share.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Thaddeus Herrick, *Fake Towns Rise, Offering Urban Life without the Grit*, WALL STREET JOURNAL, May 31, 2006, p. A1

² Herrick, op.cit.

³ Jane Jacobs, *THE DEATH AND LIFE OF GREAT AMERICAN CITIES*, Vintage books, 1961, p 3.

⁴ James A. Moore, and Julie Johnson, Center for Urban Transportation Research, TRANSPORTATION,

LAND USE AND SUSTAINABILITY, *Sustainable Community Design Principles*, p.5
www.fccdr.usf.edu/upload/projects/tlushtml/default.htm

⁵ Jan Gehl and Lars Gemzoe, ODE, Volume 3, Issue 5, June 2005 p. 36

⁶ Ray Oldenburg, *THE GREAT GOOD PLACE: CAFES, COFFEE SHOPS, BOOKSTORES, BARS, HAIR SALONS, AND OTHER HANGOUTS AT THE HEART OF A COMMUNITY*. Marlowe & Company, New York, 1989.

⁷ ODE, Volume 3, Issue 5, June 2005 p. 45

⁸ Eric Dumbaugh, *Safe Streets, Livable Streets*, JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION, Summer, 2005

www.planning.org/japa/pdf/JAPADumbaugh05.pdf

⁹ NEW URBAN NEWS, Vol. 1 No. 5 July-August 2006

¹⁰ Text and redrawn graphic from: James H. Kunstler, *Home from Nowhere*, ATLANTIC MONTHLY, September 1996

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Action Faction

Jane Hilder, Action Director
jc.hilder@verizon.net 703-960-6820

LWVVA identified three primary action priorities for the 2007 session of the General Assembly. They are: (1) Protection and preservation of natural resources; (2) Funding of a balanced transportation system; and (3) Progress in women's rights. Secondary action priorities include progress in election laws and in establishing a better system for reapportionment and redistricting.

Anne Sterling, LWVVA Legislative Coordinator, will be keeping these priorities and the positions on these issues at the forefront when she speaks with legislators and evaluates legislative initiatives. These are also important issues for members to raise when they have an opportunity to speak with their representatives.

At the December 4 Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting, the Audit Committee Report was accepted. Chairman Connolly was perturbed that the report was misrepresented, in his opinion, by coverage in *The Washington Post*, which highlighted fuel theft by county employees. He noted that the headline, "Widespread County Fuel Thefts Suspected in Fairfax," was particularly misleading.

He demanded a correction, which was printed on December 6. His objection was that there was evidence only two employees had been stealing fuel. Also, the revised estimate of the amount of fuel that would be saved by changes to employees' use of county pumps in 2006 was substantially lower than what was quoted in the article, 34,000 gallons rather than 75,000.

Supervisor Kauffman felt the county needed to put some controls on applications for additions that were, in fact, tear downs and new houses constructed on old foundations with old utility connections. These were sometimes built by unlicensed contractors and being sold as new houses with the new owners liable for fixing building code violations.

In other action, the Supervisors authorized a loan to assist the purchase of Sunset Park Apartments in Mason District, to preserve them as affordable housing. That brings to 1358 the number of affordable units preserved by the "penny for affordable housing."



Where We Live

Unlike many developed countries, the U.S. keeps growing. We are also moving south and west. But compared with China or India, the nation is a vast prairie. 80% of the U.S. population lives in a metropolitan area. The top five are: **1.** New York City (pop. 18,747,300). **2.** Los Angeles (pop. 12,923,500). **3.** Chicago (pop. 9,443,400). **4.** Philadelphia (pop. 5,823,200). **5.** Dallas-Fort Worth (pop. 5,819,500).

The entire state of Wyoming (pop. 509,300) has fewer people than the Harrisburg, PA., metro area. Loving County, Texas, is the least populated county in the lower 48 states with 62 residents. Alaska is the most sparsely populated state with 1 person per square mile; New Jersey is the most densely populated state with 1,134 people per square mile.

The U.S. population is younger and more colorful because of the continued arrival of immigrants and their higher-than-average birthrates. Of the 100 million Americans who will join us in the next 37 years, half will be immigrants or their children.

In the next few decades, 97% of the world's population growth will occur in the developing world; the U.S. is the largest developed country in the world that is still growing at a healthy clip. That matters, strategically, economically, and politically, as developed countries try to maintain their services,

Source: Gibbs, Nancy. *Time*, "Where We Live." 10/30/06

A Greener Way to Dress

Bamboo: the stuff of floors, furniture... and now, fashion. Five years ago, Chinese engineers learned how to break down the fibers and spin them into thread. Now bamboo is sprouting up in dozens of products, from sheets (from \$40) to baby suits for (\$22). The fabric is incredibly soft-and earth-friendly, too, because it doesn't require pesticides or fertilizers. Conventionally grown cotton takes a third of a pound of farm chemicals to produce a single T shirt, according to sustainablecotton.org.

Source: Underwood, Anne. *Newsweek*, 12/04/06.



Domestic Violence Committee Report

Barbara Nuñez 703-451-7238

At the December meeting of the Domestic Violence Prevention Policy Coordinating Council (DVPPCC), three projects were discussed:

1. Community Based Advocacy Program

This program will be established physically at the Fairfax court house but be staffed by the Police Department. After looking at gaps in services this need was identified. It would bring together systems advocates, non-profit and non-government DV service organizations, law enforcement, forensic medical professionals, civil legal attorneys, and community based organizations. The goal is to respond to the unique circumstances of each case and individual needs of the victim. More specifically they will provide on-going support and targeted assistance through protective orders and criminal court processes to ensure safety for victims. The cost of the program is \$82,000 plus which includes salary, benefits, training, and will be part of the Police Budget which the County Executive may include in his budget.

2. Supervised Visitation Center

Another item discussed was the location for a supervised visitation center. Over 6,000 visitation petitions are heard every year in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court but there is no safe and suitable location for these visits to occur. The location under discussion would be at the court house which could provide a safe location. At present, exchanges occur at fast food places or other locations throughout the county. Other jurisdictions such as Stafford and Spotsylvania County are moving ahead in this regard. Other places like Delaware, Colorado, and DC, have these programs already in place. Look for a budget proposal in the next Fairfax County budget.

3. Legal Service of Northern Virginia Grant

The third item is a proposal for a grant by Legal Service Northern Virginia, Foundation for Appropriate and Immediate Temporary Help (FAITH), and the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC) have joined together to address the legal

and social services needs of domestic victims who are immigrants from Asian and Muslim countries. They applied for a grant to train attorneys to assist victims. They feel the number of victims without representation in court is unacceptable and they are training attorneys to represent these victims in court. Their goals are to provide (1) comprehensive civil legal service to victims, (2) recruitment, training, and coordination of pro bono civil legal assistance, and (3) collaborative community efforts among DV service programs to understand better DV issues. They need more attorneys to help victims in court.



How We Vote

The past two presidential elections have been remarkably close. But because elections in the U.S. are winner-take-all, finishing second by one vote is the same as losing by a million. Thus the misleading red state/blue state entered the American lexicon as a catchphrase for what divides us. But does it really mean anything?

About three-quarters of voting-age Americans are registered to vote, but many don't bother on Election Day. In 2004, the highest proportion of eligible voters since 1992 turned out, but that was only 64%, compared with 60% in 2000. Turnout is even lower for off-year elections like the one coming Nov. 7.

A new Pew survey looks at who votes and who doesn't: 35% of adult Americans are **regular voters**. They are registered and always vote.

20% are **intermittent voters**. They are registered but don't always vote. 23% are **rare voters**. They are registered but seldom vote. 22% are not registered to vote.

Voting participation increases with age and income, but it also has a *strong correlation* with a person's community ties and attitudes. Top five reasons people don't register to vote: No time....19% Recently moved.....17% Don't care about politics...14% No confidence in government.....12% Not a U.S. citizen.....7%

Source: Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Based on telephone interviews with 1,804 adult Americans.

If we judge of love by its usual effects, it resembles hatred more than friendship.

La Rochefoucauld

Unit Meeting Locations - Topic: Land Use

Members and visitors may attend any meeting convenient for them. At print time the locations were correct, *please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend.* Some meetings at restaurants need reservations.

Monday, February 12	Wednesday, February 14	Thursday, February 8
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1:30 pm Greenspring Vill. (GSV)
 Hunters Crossing Craft Room
 Spring Village Drive, Springfield
 Call Jane 703-569-0079 for info.

9:30 am Fairfax Station (FXS)
 7902 Bracksford Ct., Fairfax Station
 Call Lois 703-690-0908 for info.

9:00 am Reston Day (RD)
 2271 Cedar Cove Ct., Reston
 Call Barbara 703-620-0349 for info.

Tuesday, February 13

9:45 am Annandale/Barcroft (AB)
 Mason District Governmental Center
 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale
 Call Emily 703-346-9684 for info.

9:30 am Hollin Hills Day (HHD)
 Mount Vernon District Gov. Center
 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria
 Call Gail 703-360-6561 for info.

9:15 am Fairfax City Day (FXD)
 3133 Singleton Circle, Fairfax
 Call Jeanne 703-591-4580 for info.

12:30 pm McLean (McL)
 McLean Community Center, Rm # 2
 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean
 Call Anne 703-448-6626 for info.

9:30 am Vienna Day (VID)
 Not meeting - attending other units
 Call Fran at 703-591-8328 for info.

9:30 am Springfield (SPF)
 Packard Center (Lg. Conf. Rm.)
 4026 Hummer Rd, Annandale
 Call Nancy 703-256-6570 or
 Peg 703-256-9420 for info.

7:45 pm Vienna Evening (VE)
 1835 S. Boniface Street, Vienna
 Call Gail 703-281-1143 for info.

12:00 Chantilly/Herndon (CHD)
 Sully District Governmental Center
 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Centerville
 Call Olga 703-815-1897 for info.

7:45 pm Hollin Hills Eve. (HHE)
 8305 Brewster Road, Alexandria
 Call Anne 703-780-1773 for info.

6:15 pm Dinner Unit (DU)
 Yen Cheng Rest. Main Street Center
 9992 Main Street, Fairfax
 Call Pier 703-256-1019 for info.

Saturday, February 10

7:30 pm Reston Evening (RE)
 Reston Museum, 1639 Washington
 Plaza, Lake Anne Village Center
 Call Therese 703-471-6364 for info.

9:30 am Pr. William Area (PWA)
 Day & Evening Units Combined
 Government Center McCoart Building
 Prince William Parkway, Manassas
 Call Sheila 703-492-4574 for info.

Mapping a Disease

In 1854, Dr. John Snow's map of the incidences of cholera in London showed a cluster of cases around a particular water pump-- a source of the outbreak. It was proof that sometimes the answer to the question "Why?" can come from solving a different puzzle: "Where?" Now two research groups have published new "cancer atlases." They show graphically that while the "risk of getting cancer is higher in the developed world....cancers in the developing world are more fatal." Like Snow's London water pump, many of these causes, having been located, can be eradicated.

Source: Mummolo, Jonathan. Newsweek, 8/24/06.



March Unit Meetings Topic

Airports Up-Date



The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)
4026 Hummer Road, Suite #214 Annandale, VA 22003-2403
703-658-9150. E-mail: lwfva@ecoisp.com

Time Sensitive Material

**The LWVFA Bulletin ©
February, 2007**

**Sherry Zachry, President
Lavinia S. Voss, Editor**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, regional and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen of voting age, male or female, may become a member.



-----fill-in all information and cut-off -----

LWVFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Current member dues thru **June 30, 2008**. Check all that apply: Individual \$50 ____ Sustaining Member \$75 ____ Advocate Member \$100 ____ Household (2 persons—1 *Bulletin*) \$75 ____ New ____ Renewal ____ Reinstate ____ Donation ____ Subsidy ____ Student ____ Coll. Attending ____ Enrolled full/part-time student—half individual dues. *We value membership—a subsidy fund is available, to use it, ✓ subsidy line and include whatever you can afford.* Dues are **not** tax deductible. Tax deductible donations must be on a separate check made payable to LWVFA Ed. Fund.

Please Print Clearly!

Name _____ Unit _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ E-Mail _____

Please mail your check and completed application to: LWVFA 4026 Hummer Rd. Suite 214, Annandale, VA 22003-2403

Thank you for checking off your interests:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fx. Cnty Govt. | <input type="checkbox"/> Voting Procedures | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (write-in below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Libraries | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Judicial Systems | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Problems | |