



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF EVANSTON

THE INTERCOM

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2014

MANAGING STORMWATER:

Protecting Lake Michigan and Determining the Future NOW!

“Lake Michigan is an outstanding natural resource of global significance, under stress and in need of special attention.” This is how the *Lakewide Management Plan* (LAMP) for Lake Michigan captured the status of the lake in 2000.¹ A variety of sources for the stress and areas of specific concern were identified in the LAMP. Two of the major concerns centered on maintaining water quality for human consumption and for swimming beaches lining the lake.



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IS PART OF A GROUP OF SOLUTIONS FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT Both locally and nationally, municipalities of all sizes are employing green infrastructure as part of their solutions to stormwater pollution, flooding and sewage overflow problems. Green infrastructure facilitates or mimics natural processes that also recharge underground aquifers and maintain the natural balance of surface and ground water. The US EPA, state and

THE CHALLENGES FOR MANAGING STORMWATER RUNOFF INTO THE GREAT LAKES

As storms have become more intense, managing the larger volumes of stormwater has become increasingly complex. Stormwater runoff in urban areas is polluted, containing a wide variety of contaminants including fertilizers, toxic driveway sealants, motor oils, debris and domestic and wildlife waste. Since 1900, when the Chicago River was reversed, Cook County’s storm and waste water is channeled away from Lake Michigan to preserve the quality of our principal source of drinking water. However, during exceptionally intense storms the capacity of this approach is limited and, excess waste and stormwater in our area is discharged into Lake Michigan at Wilmette Harbor.

Large volumes of polluted stormwater runoff can adversely affect aquatic life, even in lakes as large as Lake Michigan. Sediment carries contamination and clouds the water. Excess nutrients from fertilizers promotes the overgrowth of algae. In turn, the decomposition from large algae blooms produces an imbalance of dissolved oxygen needed for other plants, microorganisms and animals to flourish. Polluted stormwater discharged near beaches carry high bacterial counts that can lead to beach closures. And, debris in stormwater can pose hazards to shore birds.

Lakewide Management Plans (LAMPS) are one of the achievements of the 1987 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) between the United States and Canada. This historic agreement committed the U.S. and Canada to address the water quality issues of the Great Lakes in a coordinated, joint fashion. LAMPS are intended to identify the critical pollutants that affect the beneficial uses of the lake and to develop strategies, recommendations, and policy options to restore those beneficial uses. Leagues in the states bordering Lake Michigan have been involved in study and advocacy on water quality issues for more than 40 years. The League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region is the umbrella organization for this work. This update on the Lake Michigan LAMP was prepared by members of the LWV-Lake Michigan Region, including members from the Wilmette, Winnetka-Northfield-Kenilworth, Glencoe and Glenview Leagues. For more information: www.lwvlmr.org. The complete Lake Michigan LAMP can be downloaded at: www.epa.gov/greatlakes/lakemich/

local governments now agree that green infrastructure approaches as described in the National Resources Defense Council Report, *Rooftops to Rivers*, play an important part of best practices for stormwater management. Available at:

www.nrdc.org/water/pollution/rooftops/contents.asp

GRAY INFRASTRUCTURE IS THE CENTRAL COMPONENT FOR MUNICIPALITIES AND REQUIRES PERMITS

Gray infrastructure consists of a network of pipes, pumps and storage systems used to transport waste and stormwater. Relatively new to our area are proposals to construct tunnels that will convey and discharge stormwater directly into Lake Michigan. Before permits are granted and construction can begin for these projects, communities are expected to demonstrate that they can meet existing water quality standards for healthy beach waters. The Illinois EPA (IEPA) has the responsibility for issuing the permit. When the permit application is published, numerous agencies and the public will have an opportunity to comment.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING FOR LAKE MICHIGAN BEACHES

Lake Michigan beaches and their coastal waters are highly valued resources. To ensure that waterquality conditions support

PRESIDENT'S LETTER: IT'S ABOUT COLLABORATION

Dear League Friends,

By the time you receive this edition of the Intercom, the long campaign season and Election Day will be history. It has been a busy Fall for those of us who spent time registering and advising voters as deputy registrars. The changes introduced this year by the Revisions to the Election Code brought possibly more innovations to the registration and voting process than we have ever experienced. For the spring elections the Board will be looking at ways to increase voter turnout and I invite you to think of what you might do in that regard. Perhaps you could take a neighbor to the polls or perhaps help someone request their "vote by mail" ballot. David Orr's website, www.cookcountyclerk.com, has all the useful links that will facilitate voters getting registered and casting their ballot.

COLLABORATION: joining with others to achieve a goal, accomplish a task.

There is always strength in numbers; as organized women we have always known that. We look for indications of success for any venture when we see how many people are involved and how many people are affected by a given action.

We are becoming experts at collaborating. In the voter registration process we collaborated with other non-profits in both training registrars and in preparing to register voters. The many organizations who register voters is testament to both how important it is to have citizens who are prepared to vote, and to how organizations with a wide variety of social missions find voter registration a way to serve their members and community.

MORE COLLABORATIONS: We have joined in this past year with other organizations for several important events. In January we collaborated with Delta Sigma Theta sorority; the YWCA of Evanston and the North Shore; and the Evanston-North Shore NAACP to present a panel discussion on the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, which struck down important provisions of Voting Rights Act. We have also worked closely over the past year with the Frances Willard Historical Association and the Evanston History Center to commemorate and celebrate the 175th birthday of Frances Willard. Together with members of the Willard Association and the Women's History Project we rode our bicycles in honor of Frances in the 4th of July Parade. We collaborated with other North Shore Leagues to present the Fine/Myalls candidate forum in September. In October we once again worked with other North Shore Leagues to present a forum on managing storm water and protecting Lake Michigan. We are currently working with the committee planning the International Women's Day event for 2015, which includes members of the Woman's Club of Evanston, the YWCA, Northwestern University, the Willard House and the Evanston History Center.

Lastly, it is my privilege to tell you that the NAACP honored the League of Women Voters of Evanston with their 2014 Community Action Award. Karen Hunt, long-time member and past LWVE president, was also honored by the NAACP for her community involvement. Special congratulations to Karen! George Mitchell, President of the NAACP Evanston/North Shore Branch said this in announcing the award:

The League has been selected because of your devotion to various community efforts, initiatives and voter registration efforts. The NAACP has identified voting rights and political representation as one of the five 21st Century Game Changers.

The award is for all of you. Congratulations to each of you as members who keep us strong and for all you do to promote good citizenship!

Cate

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2014-2015 ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Cate Whitcomb
VP Membership	Casey Christensen
Treasurer	Betty Hayford
Secretary	Joan Lakebrink

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Voter Service – Registration
Mary Morris

Voter Service – Forums
Jennifer O'Neil

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THE INTERCOM

November—December 2014

THE INTERCOM is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters® of Evanston

@ We have a new email address
LWVEvanston@gmail.com



"LIKE" LWVE
ON FACEBOOK

LEAGUE LUNCHEON FEATURES VIRTUAL TOUR OF SCULPTURE PARK

– by Elizabeth Kinney



Find Charger I and II, by Ted Gall, in Section 2 of the park.

On October 23, 2014, Valerie Krejcie, Evanston League member and past President, spoke at our luncheon meeting about the Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park and her work as a volunteer docent. The park is located on the east side of McCormick Boulevard between Dempster Street and Touhy Avenue in Skokie. It is adjacent to the north channel of the Chicago River. The park is open all year and admission is free.

The land on which the park is located is owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. The Village of Skokie maintains the property and a not-for-profit corporation is responsible for the sculptures. Some of the sculptures come from the Lewis C. Weinberg Biennial Sculpture Competition. The Competition was established by the family of Lewis C. Weinberg, who served as President of the Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park Board of Directors for many years until his death in November 2008. Prior to his participation on the Board, Weinberg was for many years CEO of Fel-Pro, a local company widely known for its progressive



Second Breath, by Maurice Blik, can be found in Section I of the park.

management. His interest in sculpture was such that he employed a full-time sculptor in residence. Some of the sculptures were donated by Mr. Weinberg to establish the park. Winners of the annual competition have their sculptures displayed in the park for a period of time.

While there are about 60 sculptures in the park, Valerie selected 25 to show and discuss with us. Some of the sculptures have stories



Valerie Krejcie presenting the slide show on the Sculpture Park.

connected to them, such as “Pater Familias” by Lincoln Shatz which had two tipped chairs and a wire tornado and concerns a father and son in business together. Most are made of steel so as to withstand winter. Some are whimsical, such as “Dragon Tree of Maintenance” by Bob Rivera which has hanging yard tools, like a rake. Others are quite serious, such as “Second Breath” by Maurice Blik which shows a Holocaust survivor getting a second chance at life. Valerie suggests walking all the way around each sculpture to get a full perspective on the work.

VISITING THE PARK

Whether as a solitary walker or with a group tour, the Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park is a beautiful setting in which to appreciate the coming-together of art and nature. Docent-led tours are given on the last Sunday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Each tour lasts about one hour and covers one of the four sections. (Signs are posted on McCormick Blvd. on tour Sundays.) Parking is available in three locations: in the center of Section 1(Dempster to Main), in the center of Section 4 (Howard to Touhy) and at the Rowing Center site just east of the channel at Oakton Street. Visit the park website for more information and to see photos of all the sculptures:

www.sculpturepark.org

AREA LEAGUES SPONSOR CANDIDATES FORUM

– by Jennifer O’Neil

More than 100 voters were in attendance Saturday, September 27th at the Wilmette Village Hall to hear 17th District State Representative candidates Laura Fine (D) and Kathy Myalls (R) share their views on a variety of issues. In a lively session, the candidates responded to questions covering such state issues as a proposed increase in the minimum wage, pension reform, redistricting, term limits, and the new handgun concealed carry law, among others. They disagreed on many issues, especially statewide economic issues, including debt and property taxes, and the level of government needed to fix the state’s major problems.



Laura Fine responds to a question as Kathy Myalls looks on.

Photo: Kevin Tanaka/ Sun Times Media



Kate Julian and Jody Wilson sort and prepare questions for the candidates. Photo: Jennifer O’Neil/ LWVE

The forum was a good example of the continuing tradition of the League of Women Voters to offer the community a fair and informative opportunity to hear candidates before going to the polls.

Evanston League member Sue Calder lent her considerable experience to the candidate forum as moderator. Other LWVE members who volunteered their services included Kate Julian, Karen Hunt, and Jody Wilson.

The forum was sponsored by the Evanston, Wilmette, and Glenview Leagues. The 17th District covers parts of Evanston, Glenview, Golf, Morton Grove, Northbrook, Skokie, and Wilmette.

OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE: A RICH RESOURCE

– by Betty Hayford

On Saturday, October 20, Margaret Lee, President of Oakton Community College, spoke to area Leagues on “The Role of Oakton Community College in Serving the Community.” Throughout her presentation on the Skokie campus of the college, she emphasized the mission of the college as the community’s college, dedicated to excellence in teaching and learning; as a community of learners, providing education and training throughout a lifetime; and as a changing community recognizing that change is inevitable and education must be for the future.

President Lee described the vital role that community colleges play in Illinois and throughout the United States, and the programs Oakton offers to serve its wide range of students with different goals and needs. She explained how the college partners with business and industry to prepare students for careers, and also offers degree programs for students wishing to transfer to four-year colleges.

The college deals with financial challenges, working to keep

tuition low. Property taxes provide major funding, especially since the state does not pay the share outlined in community college legislation. The college is very environmentally conscious, which reduces costs as well as protecting the environment.

President Lee emphasized that the college helps its students succeed in their personal goals by providing close support, with small classes in addition to orientation and advising programs. This spring, OCC started a collaboration with Evanston Township High School and the Youth Job Center to offer an automotive service and repair career pathways program that has already helped Evanston youth find employment in the field.

President Lee will be retiring from OCC in June 2015 after twenty years as president. In 2013 she was honored for outstanding leadership by the Illinois Community College Trustees Association. She has a Masters Degree and a PhD in English from the University of Chicago. Her presentation reflected the high level of achievement of both her presidency and the college.

MANAGING STORMWATER *continued from page 1*

safe and healthy recreation, bacterial counts are conducted in water samples at public beaches from May through September. Beaches with a history of exceeding approved limits are considered impaired and are monitored more frequently. The Illinois Department of Public Health and the beach management authorities use these monitoring data to determine when to put swim bans in place.

Concentrations of Escherichia Coli (*E. coli*), which is a common bacterial component of human and wildlife fecal matter, are used as the indicator of contamination. Elevated concentrations of *E. coli* indicate that many microorganisms, nutrients that support their replication and other pollutants are very likely to exceed healthy limits. Stormwater is a primary vehicle for introducing *E-coli* into the lake. In July of 2013, based on a study conducted by the Illinois EPA called Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), all of the beaches in Illinois were found to be impaired.

MANAGING STORMWATER/PROTECTING THE LAKE – WHAT’S THE SOLUTION? Two primary causes of lake pollution are the release of raw sewage from combined sewer overflows and stormwater runoff. Retaining water on the land through green infrastructure practices helps to prevent the overloading of water treatment plants and local flooding. Diverting excess stormwater to local waterways is another viable solution provided measures have been taken to avoid introducing unacceptable contamination into the receiving waters.

Stormwater management solutions are complicated and caution is needed to make sure that our efforts to solve one problem do not create another. These are serious issues that will affect communities now and for future generations. We need to get this right. The future is being determined now.

SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL READING

TMDL Development for Lake Michigan Beaches:

<http://tinyurl.com/naqneag>

Helping to Keep Lake Michigan Beaches Safe for Swimming:

<http://tinyurl.com/n6adnb4>

After the Storm, A Citizen’s Guide to Understanding Stormwater: <http://tinyurl.com/mdjhnee>

Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan:

www.epa.gov/glnpo/michigan.html

Total Maximum Daily Load: A Citizen’s Guide for Achieving Water Quality: <http://tinyurl.com/n4g9em2>

Illinois EPA TMDLs: <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/tmdl>

Illinois EPA Stormwater Permitting: <http://tinyurl.com/pyjzyc>

US EPA Stormwater Permitting: <http://tinyurl.com/mwh8tfv>

Green Infrastructure to Help Manage Stormwater:

<http://www.epa.gov/greeninfrastructure>

¹ The plan, published in 2000 and facilitated by the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), was developed by a collaborative effort of Lake Michigan states, the academic community, scientific federal agencies, lake-area tribal nations, and nongovernmental organizations.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

As of November 7, there were 162 members of the Evanston League with 25 members who still need to renew for this year. If you are one of those who has not renewed, we are still sending you the Intercom but it is a costly thing to do without your dues being paid. Please renew today if you are one of the 25 by visiting www.lwve.org and clicking on the membership link to get the form.



LWV was a presence at non-profit day at the Evanston Farmer’s Market on September 20. We distributed information about LWVE and signed up new members.

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Elizabeth Pinter, Marie Honore, Steve Perkin,
Doris Graber, Carolyn Gifford & Beverly Rose

Our holiday reception is set for Thursday, December 4 at 6:30 PM at the John Evans Center on the Northwestern campus. Everyone should “stay tuned” for more information. The program is going to feature mother and daughter League members. We will be collecting contributions of towels and toiletries for the YWCA women’s shelter as we did last year. Casey Christensen, *VP of Membership* 847.204.4688 or casey208@comcast.net



MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

PUBLIC SERVICE CHALLENGE GET INSPIRED. GET INFORMED. GET ELECTED.



– by Cate Whitcomb

Once again this year a group of organizations convened by Leadership Evanston at the Evanston Community Foundation, is sponsoring a day-long program to provide information about how to run a campaign, and how to be a good elected official. **The Public Service Challenge** will be presented on **Saturday, December 6** from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm at the District 65 Hill Education Center, 1500 McDaniel in Evanston. There will be a registration fee of \$25.

Several seats will be open next April on the District 65, District 202 and Oakton Community College boards. If you are interested in running for one of these positions this is the ideal workshop to prepare for that campaign. Petitions must be filed by December 22. For more information about the April election calendar, visit the County Clerk's website at: www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections/2015elections

LWVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13 11:45 am
Luncheon at King Home Briefing on Downtown Evanston.
RSVP: LWVEvanston@gmail.com or 847-859-7883
Cost \$20. More information in article below.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4 6:30 pm
New Members Reception See Membership News page 5.

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2015 - January Luncheon
Jim Kenney will discuss The Political Landscape–2015, in the Crystal Ballroom at the **Merion**.

All programs are free unless otherwise noted.
Information 847-866-7844 or www.lwve.org
and click on link to Calendar.

You Won't Want to Miss

THE 2015 LWV EDUCATION FUND DINNER!

We have a DATE: **SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2015**

We have a PLACE: **UNITARIAN CHURCH of Evanston**

We have a PLAN: **"LAUGH ALONG WITH THE LEAGUE"**
as we take a look at the lighter side of civic engagement with:

MeOW – Northwestern's student improv group

MUDLARK THEATER COMPANY – Evanston's own children's theater company

ILLINOIS SENATE PRESIDENT JOHN CULLERTON –
yes, he has a sense of humor and he will share it with us!

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a new take on an enduring League tradition: a community dinner to support our nonpartisan voter education and service activities.

It's not too late to join our planning committee. Contact Helen Gagel, hcgagel@comcast.net or Patrick Keenan-Devlin, keenan.devlin@gmail.com

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON: DOWNTOWN EVANSTON BRIEFING



– by Betty Hayford

On November 13, LWVE members will turn their attention to Downtown Evanston, a public-private partnership committed to supporting businesses in central Evanston and making the area attractive for shoppers, diners and residents. Annie Coakley, Executive Director of Downtown Evanston, will explain how her organization works with its member businesses and with City of Evanston Economic Development Division to coordinate efforts to support a thriving retail and restaurant environment. This event will be at the King Home, 1555 Oak Avenue, starting at 11:45 am.

The Monthly Program Committee is planning events for the spring. Members who have suggestions for topics should contact Elizabeth Kinney at 847-866-9430 or dkinney56@gmail.com.

LWVE OBSERVER CORPS COVERS BROAD RANGE

– by Betty Hayford

League observers are our “eyes and ears” at the City Council and its standing committees, which set policy and direction for the City. If you’d like to learn the nitty-gritty of local government, being an observer is a great way to start. Call Jessica Feldman, Observer Chair, at 847-864-2199 for more information. Here’s a summary of what our observers saw since the last issue of the **Intercom**.

FALL IS BUDGET SEASON AT EVANSTON CITY COUNCIL as the aldermen will be examining and approving the city manager’s proposed FY 2015 budget. The LWVE Observer Corps is on hand at these important meetings and will prepare reports for LWVE members to review on the web site. The Local Government group meets monthly to identify issues that arise in meetings of Council and the key committees – Administration and Public Works, Planning and Development, Human Services, Economic Development and Rules. Periodically, discussion and analysis suggest that the League may want to gather more information and advocate for its relevant positions.

Budget decisions are important because in addition to setting spending levels for the coming year, they reflect strategic planning and goal setting. The budget process illustrates how the City invests in infrastructure and human capital in order to preserve the quality of life that Evanston residents expect. Budget meetings show how Council members work with each other and with city staff to make Evanston livable and vibrant. Observing meetings throughout the year helps LWVE identify government trends and shape League positions.

ONE IMPORTANT TOPIC RECENTLY DISCUSSED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE (which is made up of all nine aldermen and the Mayor) is the operation of the more than 30 boards, committees and commissions that advise city government. In 2009 LWVE partnered with the City to review the work of Boards and Commissions. We prepared a report that addressed strengthening the activities of these bodies, as well as a handbook for members of boards, commissions and committees. In September, the Rules Committee considered how the League’s report had been implemented, whether training of new members is sufficient, and whether there should be better communication between the City Council and members of boards and commissions. A working group of LWVE local government Observers has written to the Mayor and the Council to encourage this effort and to offer assistance in making this element of Evanston government more effective.

ANOTHER OBSERVER QUESTION is how the City Economic Development Division sets priorities for investing city funds and evaluates the impact of various types of assistance. A group has looked more closely at the extensive material on the city web site, attended Economic Development Division meetings, and met with Johanna Nyden, Economic Development Division Manager. It has been gratifying to learn that substantial information is available about the various ways that city funds are used to retain existing Evanston businesses, attract new business, create new jobs and prepare residents for the workplace. Our November luncheon speaker, Annie Coakley, Executive Director of Downtown Evanston, will address some of these issues at her presentation on November 13.

Observing meetings of government bodies and discussing developments with colleagues is an effective way of learning how those bodies function, and gaining insights into how the League can assist or influence them. New Observers are always welcome and League members are invited to join the local government group that usually meets on the third Friday morning of each month. More information about any of these activities can be provided by Jessie Feldman, Sue Brenner, or other Observers.



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Join us at an informal coffee to learn more.



Tommi Ferguson, Executive Director

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HELP EVANSTON LEAGUE CONSERVE RESOURCES

If you would prefer to receive the **INTERCOM** only on the internet, as a link to our LWVE website, please email **LWVEPresident@gmail.com** or call the League office at 847-859-7883 and leave a message telling us to stop sending you a printed copy. It will help us be more eco-friendly and reduce printing and mailing costs!



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2100 Ridge Avenue in Evanston, IL 60201

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2014

Managing Stormwater	1
Letter from the President	2
LWVE Board	2
Virtual Tour of Sculpture Park	3
Candidates Forum	4
Oakton Community College	4
Membership News	5
Mission Statement	5
Public Service Challenge	6
Downtown Evanston Briefing	6
2015 Education Fund Benefit	6
Calendar of Events	6
Observer Report	7

Community Banking At Its Best



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