

# Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 8

October 2001

## New Law+Concerned Parents= Healthier Schools

Put Intelligent Pest Management on Your School Health and Safety Agenda

by Ellie Goldberg

In May, 2000, "An Act to Protect Children and Families From Harmful Pesticides" became Massachusetts law. The law promotes the health and safety of all school and daycare children in the Commonwealth by promoting measures to "pest proof" schools, restricting the use of pesticides, and requiring schools to notify parents and staff of pesticides used on school grounds.

As of NOVEMBER 1, 2001, the law requires all schools, daycare centers and school age child care programs to develop a written Pest Management Plan.

### Vote!

- Learn about the candidates- Attend the Candidate Forums
- School Committee - Oct. 11 7-9 pm at the Main Library
- Board of Aldermen - Oct. 23, 7:30 pm Hyde Community Center
- Remember to vote on November 6
- Look for the ballot question to vote for the Community Preservation Act (CPA)

### WHAT'S INSIDE

Class size to be reviewed .....	3
Election Commission .....	3
New Ward Lines .....	4
New League website .....	4
Poll help needed .....	5
Health Care Unit meetings .....	5

### Pesticides in Schools

Many people haven't given pest control in schools much thought. But if your school is like most schools, deferred maintenance, slow repairs, and poor housekeeping contribute to conditions that attract pests and allow them to thrive — open dumpsters, dirty carpets, leaky faucets and wet trash. The routine use of pesticides may be standard practice — inside and outside.

Here are some facts you should consider:

Pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides) are poisons, by design.

Children are especially vulnerable to the acute and long term effects of pesticide exposure and are exposed to pesticides where they live, play, and go to school.

Improving school maintenance, sanitation, and hygiene are more effective and economical pest proofing approaches than conventional chemical methods.

Become an IPM Ambassador.

Where to start:

The following free or low-cost resources can help you break the pesticide habit and bring the benefits of Intelligent Pest Management to your school. Parents can use them to support schools in the transition to an ecologically-sound prevention and child-safe pest control system.

- 1 Protecting Children from Toxic Pesticides: A Guide for Schools, Day Care Centers, and School-Age Child Care Programs in Massachusetts.

MASSPIRG's guide can help schools and daycare centers comply with the new law and the new record keeping and notification requirements. Learn common sense measures for pest proofing classrooms, school offices and cafeterias. [pirg.org/masspirg/enviro/cpa/guide.html](http://pirg.org/masspirg/enviro/cpa/guide.html)

- 2 Poisoned Schools: Invisible Threats, Visible Actions. Produced by the Child Proofing Our Communities Campaign, Center for Health, Environment and Justice. See chapters 7 - 9 for a "Gold Standard School IPM Policy." [www.childproofing.org/poisonedschoolsmain.html](http://www.childproofing.org/poisonedschoolsmain.html)

- 3 Integrated Pest Management for Schools: A How-to Manual. A step-by-step guide for school board members, administrators, principals, facility managers, and parents. Provides IPM policies, pest control contract guidelines, and other administrative systems for setting up an IPM system. Find strategies for 14 of the most common pests or problem sites in U.S. schools. [www.epa.gov/region09/toxic/pest/school/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/region09/toxic/pest/school/index.html)

- 4 "Integrated Pest Management in Schools: A Better Method." (Video, 12 minutes, \$6). A school pest control contractor and school operations

Continued on page 8

## LWVN Officers and Directors 2001-2002

### Officers

President	Amelia Koch	617244-2647
Vice Presidents		
Organization	Bonnie Carter	617969-0686
Program	Priscilla Leith	617969-6837
Treasurer	Andrea Kozinetz-Holtz	617964-6490
Recording Secretary	Ruth Neiberg	617969-9329
Corresponding Secretary	Deborah Hirsch	617965-1475

### Directors

Unit Coordinator	Pat Acton	617965-5572
Land Use Transportation	Anita Capeless	617969-9483
Local Action Co-Chair	Deb Crossley	617244-7597
Voters' Service	Sally Flynn	617965-6297
Voters' Service Chair	Ann Grantham	617964-0333
Publicity	Barbara Lietzke	617332-8630
Membership	Elaine Reisman	617244-6439
Local Action Co-Chair	Carol Ann Shea	617527-5139
Education	Beverly Spencer	617965-6365
Legislation and NewTV	Beth Wilkinson	617969-4443

### Newsletter

President	Amelia Koch	617244-2647
Editor	Andrea Kelley	617964-4609

### Committee Members

Deborah Hirsch	617965-1475
Liz Lieberman	617244-4402
Linda Morrison	617332-6539

The LWVN Newsletter is published nine times per year. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization open to all citizens of voting age. For more information about the League of Women Voters, call 964-0014.

PO Box 610207  
Newton, MA 02461

# Brick by Brick

Time has begun to pass since the attack. For awhile it seemed to standstill. Daily lives on hold, hearts heavy, living on NPR and CNN, tears springing from the most surprising people were no longer able to surprise us. Will we always hereafter measure life Before and After? Life and democracy have begun to return to normal, the primary has been held in New York, quarreling is blooming again in the halls of Congress, and the LWVN is gathering questions for the Voters' Guide. Join us in sending the message to the world that our democracy is strong.

Reading the information from National, I came across a discussion about membership from a summary of Council 2001. "Adding new members are the bricks, which are held together by the mortar of our spirit, and without which there is no house of the League of Women Voters." I have begun to understand better what it takes to build from a new member into a League Activist, and it is no small job. There are the phone calls and invitations. There is the need to

partner with experienced League members; the process of finding ways small and large to help new members feel welcome and be involved without feeling overwhelmed; there is introducing them to "League" ways without making them afraid they'll do something wrong; there is encouragement and time and energy and great reward.

At the heart of each active new member is a friend, acquaintance, relative, or neighbor who asked him or her to join. It says in the materials from National that the League has done a survey and discovered that as current League members, we don't think we should need to ask people to join. We expect that people will be excited by our work and want to join. We need to ask!

So join me in building a strong League member by member, brick by brick, ask someone to a League event this month. There are lots of events to choose from, just check out the calendar in this issue.



**Eileen McNamara**, columnist for the Boston Globe, pointed out that there were more flags flying than votes cast in Boston at the preliminary election.

# Newton Election Commission and Department Making Changes

by Priscilla Leith

Responding to public criticism after the November 4 Presidential Election, and especially to continuous monitoring by LWVN, the Election Commission and its new Acting Executive Secretary have made changes in voting procedures and administration thereof.

Karen Griffey was named Acting Executive Secretary of the Commission. She began her job on August 6. She worked hard with the staff in the Election Commission office at City Hall to deal quickly and efficiently with many problems identified, and to remedy them. Poll workers received training in late August with a "power point" presentation; they were given check lists to use in preparing their polling places for election day. Members of the Commission, as well as Wardens, Clerks and Inspectors who served at the polls, observed and then evaluated the voting process and have made suggestions for further changes. Ms. Griffey and Election Commissioners David Mofenson (Chair), Frances Shaer, Fay Cohen, and Stephen Smith then met on September 20.

On September 11, despite shock at the tragic events of the day, voters in Newton went to the polls to cast ballot in the Preliminary election for School Committee (Ward 5) and Ward Aldermen (Wards 2 and 4). Participation was better than expected.

Performance of Wardens, Clerks, and Inspectors at the polling places will be reviewed, and some changes may be made.

Preliminary election returns were too slow, with physical delivery to City Hall between 9:30 pm and 11:30pm. The tally papers from the voting machines, and occasionally paper ballots, are traditionally delivered by poll workers after each precinct is closed down. Ms. Griffey will explore having the police officer at the polling place deliver the election returns in the future.

The Election Department trouble shooters, who respond to voting machine breakdowns, have no direct methods of communication with the Commission office at City Hall - e.g., cell phones, walkie-talkies. Ms. Griffey

will try to arrange something, so that the trouble shooters can speak directly with poll workers reporting the problems and then go to the polling place.

On November 6 the tallies from each precinct will be returned to room 222 at City Hall, where city workers will take them and post the results into computers. A matrix for cumulative returns has already been designed. It will be updated on the spot and made available to candidates and their supporters who wait in the aldermanic chambers next to room 222.

Finally, as of Sept 27, the voting place for Ward 4/precinct 3 on November 6 is the Peirce Elementary School on Temple St, West Newton rather than Winslow Hall at Lasell College in Auburndale. The City was not able to make arrangements to use Winslow Hall for November 6. The permanent polling place will probably be another location within 4/3 where the city can make longterm arrangements. ■

**Demonstrate your patriotism - Vote!**

## Education Committee to Look at Class Size

by Beverly Spencer

While the Education Committee will continue to monitor the progress of the high school renovation progress and be aware of any changes that will impact the MCAS testing process, the committee's main focus this fall is the preparations for a class size forum to be held in early January. By mid to late October we hope to have a speaker confirmed for the event. Our efforts are directed at finding a speaker who will summarize the research that has been done on the effects of class size, give an overview of the issues that are impacted as classes grow larger, and perhaps suggest approaches a system can take to deal

with these issues when budget requirements dictate that classes must grow larger.

We plan to provide a facilitator and, following the speaker, present a panel made up of teachers from the three educational levels as well as a counselor and/or a staff person from special education. We may also have a graduate student who is working on class size research. The format is likely to be a panel discussion, after which each panelist will briefly discuss his/her experience. The teachers might address ways that they deal with larger classes and the problems they face with them, as well as methods they may use to make larger

classes work as well as possible. The counselor or special ed person may talk about what happens as classes grow, numbers of students on IEPs grow, etc. and also address the impact of large classes on different types of students.

Once we have the speaker, we will be determining a site for the forum, getting together the panel, and making all other necessary preparations for the event.

We welcome additional help and input as we move forward with plans for the forum. If you are interested in becoming involved with this event specifically, or in working with this committee in general, please contact Beverly Spencer, 617-965-6365. ■

## Committees - in - Action

### *E d u c a t i o n*

Focus Increasing high school enrollments, school financing, testing & standards

Members Nancy Crowley Anne Larner  
Deborah Hirsch Robin Maltz  
Andrea Kelley Beth Wilkinson  
Andrea Kozinetz

Contact Beverly Spencer 617965-6365  
Board Liaison

### *H u m a n R i g h t s*

Focus League outreach, relevance and support for the human rights of Newton's diverse populations

Members Joan Bates Ruth Nemzoff  
Marion Cowan Wand Persimmon  
Holly Gunner Dorothy Reece  
Lilly Jefferson Jeanne White  
Anne Larner

Contact Holly Gunner, Chair 617964-0767

### *L a n d U s e / T r a n s p o r t a t i o n*

Focus Interrelationship between land use and transportation and its effects on Newton & surrounding communities

Members AnnaMaria Abernathy  
Anita Capeless  
Carol Ann Shea  
Susie Heyman

Contact Anita Capeless 617969-9483

### *L o c a l A c t i o n*

Focus Various local issues

Members In formation - all welcome

Contact Carol Ann Shea 617969-2121  
Deb Crossley 617244-7597  
Co-chairs

### *N e w s l e t t e r*

Members Jane Leighton Liz Lieberman  
Deb Hirsch Linda Morrison

Contact Andrea Kelley 617964-4609

You may call committee contact or a Board officer or director to learn more about current committee work. All are welcome to participate.

## New Newton Ward Lines Approved

*by Priscilla Leith, Vice President for Program*

Efforts to challenge the residency qualifications of Alderman Kenneth Parker as a candidate for re-election to Alderman-at-Large, Ward 6 in Newton have evidently ended with certification of the ward and precinct boundaries approved by the Newton Board of Aldermen on July 19.

The Local Election Districts Review Commission of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts approved the new lines re-districting the City's wards and precincts on September 6, 2001. In a letter signed by Secretary of State William F. Galvin, Bradley Jones and Jason P. Queenin, who comprise the 3-member Commission, the Board of Aldermen has been told that the plan it approved - which switches several hundred voters from Ward 6 to Ward 5 and vice versa - "meets the requirements of Mass. General Laws chapter 54, section 6, and is otherwise consistent with law and has thus been approved by the Commission."

The effective date of the new lines is December 31, 2001. ■

## Visit the NEW revised LWV Newton website!

The Newton LWV website NEW "Issues for Action" section highlights information on priority local action items.

This section now features a three page Q&A on the Community Preservation Act and what it would mean to implement the CPA in Newton. The Newton LWV supports a "Yes" vote on the November 6 referendum placed on the ballot by unanimous vote of our Board of Aldermen.

Please take a look - and feel free to forward the information to your Newton friends, before the NOV 6 election. You can access this site directly:

[www.tiac.net/users/uunewton/LWV/index.html](http://www.tiac.net/users/uunewton/LWV/index.html)

Or, go to your browser, and search: League of Women Voters of MA, which also will list the Newton LWV site. ■

## 2002 LWV Calendars Are Here

Order now, while they last! It's the calendar some of us can't do without... no frills, no pictures and lots of writing space for each day of the month. Date of special interest to LWV members are noted.

Calendars are 8 1/2" X 11" on card stock with punched holes and a silk hanging cord for wall use. They are printed by the LWV of St. Louis, MO. Please send a check made out to Priscilla Leith for \$3.50 per calendar, and mail to her at 162 Islington Rd., Newton 02466.

Calendars will be mailed to you or personally delivered. All profits after costs benefit LWVN. ■

**Show your patriotism - Vote!**

# Unit Meetings on Health Care

by Priscilla Leith

League members and guests will have an opportunity to hear League specialists talk about the current status of health care legislation in Massachusetts and in the Congress during Unit Meetings scheduled for November.

Beth Wilkinson, LWVN Legislative Director, will speak about activity at the state level. Cynthia Krane, who serves on the LWVM Health Care Committee, and others will provide information on the national level.

The Daytime Unit will meet from 11:30am to 1:30 pm on Wednesday, November 14 at the home of

Barbara Lietzke, 83 Kirkstall Rd, Newtonville; the Evening Unit will meet on Tuesday, November 13 at 7:15 pm at the home of Pat Acton, 48 Miller Rd., Newton Centre. Please contact Pat Acton (617-965-5572) for further information.

The national and state Leagues of Women Voters have both been active for almost 10 years in efforts to improve the quality and coverage of health care.

## January Units to Obtain Consensus on State Education Reform

The Newton League will participate in a statewide League consensus on Education Reform at meetings to be

held from January 7-10, 2002 - one in the daytime and one in the evening, concluding a study that began in 1999. League members are being asked to discuss specific questions (see below) and respond to them by mid-March. The State Board will examine the returns, determine the areas of agreement and/or disagreement, and formulate summary statements that express Massachusetts LWV members' position on this topic. The LWVM positions will be implemented by legislative action or working with various state agencies.

Please contact Priscilla Leith at 617-969-6837 to help with these meetings.

## Consensus Questions

### 1. Should there be statewide curriculum standards for Massachusetts students?

- If yes, how should such standards be developed? Should the standards be developed to set minimum standards only, or should they also be used to raise the level of academic performance for all students? What latitude, if any, should individual school districts have in using the standards? What should be the role of the local community?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of statewide curriculum standards?

### 2. How should the performance of students and districts be measured?

- What is the role of standardized tests, (for example, the MCAS, Stanford, CAT, or Iowa tests) in assessing student and district performance relative to meeting the curriculum standards?
- What other measures could school districts use to assess their curriculum and student and school performance? What is the role of alternate forms of assessment such as "portfolios" in determining student performance?
- Should meeting the state standards be a requirement for graduation from high school and/or for admission to state colleges and universities? If yes, what criteria should be used by a school district to establish that a student has met the state standard?

### 3. If state standards have not been met, what actions should be taken by the state, the district, and the student to provide a remedy? ■

## Stringers and Poll Drivers Needed

by Bonnie Carter

Short-term volunteer commitment to gather election results at the polling places on Tuesday, November 6 to report to NewTV. Be there at 8 pm when the polls close and add up the numbers, then phone or take them to NewTV. Training is available. Leave a message on the LWV phone, 617-964-0014, if you would like to participate. Give your name, phone number and polling place.

Also, call that number if you would be willing to give rides to the polls on November 6.

Many thanks! ■

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I would like to join the League of Women voters of Newton. Enclosed is my check for \$50 payable to LWVN.
- ☐ **Lifetime membership \$1000**
- ☐ I would like to receive materials about the League.
- ☐ I would like to be contacted by a League member to talk about LWVN.

Mail this form (and your check, if joining) to:  
Andrea Kozinetz Holtz at 8 Stoney Brae Road,  
Newton Highlands, MA 02461

**PRISCILLA M.  
LEITH, MBA**

162 Islington Road  
Newton, MA 02466  
617.969.6837

**ACCOUNTING AND  
INCOME TAX  
SERVICES**

*for Individuals and  
Non-Profit Organizations*

Free Consults by Appointment



**JOHN T. BURNS  
INSURANCE  
AGENCY, INC.**

803 Washington Street  
Newtonville  
617-332-1840



Linda E. Bottary  
Branch Manager

Fleet  
Newton Highlands Office  
1160 Walnut Street  
Newton, Massachusetts 02461  
617-964-2756 Fax: 617-964-8704



The Ground Round Restaurant  
1 First Avenue  
Needham, MA  
(617)444-6360

# KICKSPACE INC.

*Cabinetry and Complements For Any Space*

Kaya Cinar, Owner (617) 527-8788  
225 California Street (617) 527-7780 Fax  
Newton, MA 02458

# Pagéo

*Fine Jewelry*

*Samantha Baker*

843 Beacon Street  
Newton Centre, MA 02459  
(617) 964-4940  
Fax (617) 965-4866

General  
Contractors



**CUSTOM  
BUILDING  
SOLUTIONS INC.**

Custom  
Renovations  
& Additions  
New Homes

PO Box 620301  
Newton Lower Falls, MA 02462  
617-964-5964 Phone  
781-659-6586 Fax

**Treat Yourself to a Beautiful  
Smile with State-of-the-Art  
In-Office Teeth Whitening**

**RODMAN K. SHALE**

D.M.D.

**General • Restorative  
Cosmetic • Dentistry**

232 Boylston Street, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467  
Tel (617) 969-8558 Fax (617) 969-7172

**For all  
your  
banking  
needs.**

**LOCAL, &  
PROUD OF IT!**



**AUBURNDALE CO-OPERATIVE BANK  
The Village Bank™**

Auburndale 307 Auburn Street (617) 527-6090  
Newtonville 332 Walnut Street (617) 558-7063  
Wayland 62 Boston Post Road (508) 358-5136

FDIC/SIF



NYCE





**Garden City Homes, Inc**  
324 Walnut St.  
Newton, Massachusetts  
**Business (617) 969-2121**  
Fax (617) 527-2973

**Carol Ann Shea**  
Owner Broker

*Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated*

**VETERANS  
TAXI**  
TRANSPORTATION

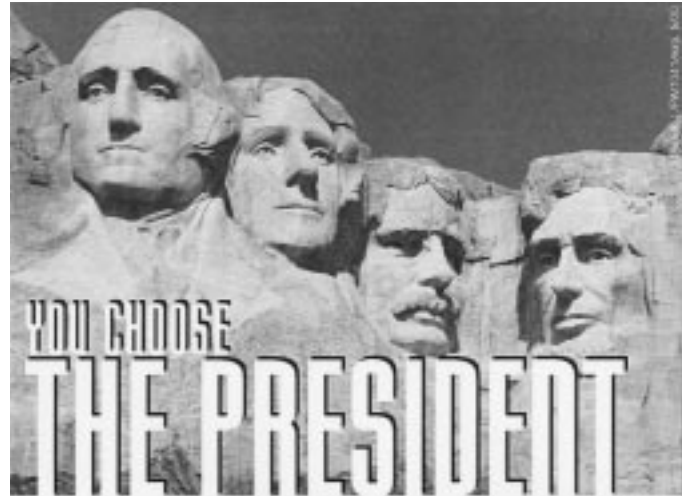
Everywhere You Want To Be.  
*Now Accepting*



So... Don't Leave Home Without Us.

Call

**OPEN 24 HOURS 527-0300**



WHY NOT YOUR PHONE, CABLE AND INTERNET SERVICE?

**1-800-RING-RCN**

**WWW.RCN.COM**



A BETTER CHOICE IN PHONE,  
CABLE AND INTERNET SERVICE.



V A N T A G E   G R A P H I C S

Commercial Printing

Direct Mail • Brochures • Newsletters • Publications

sales@vangraph.com

617.796.9900

Stephen P. DesRoche, P.L.S.  
President

NEPONSET VALLEY SURVEY ASSOCIATES, INC.  
Land Surveyors & Civil Engineers

Phone: 617-472-4867

Fax: 617-472-2682

Beeper: 781-649-0664

95 White Street

Quincy, MA 02169

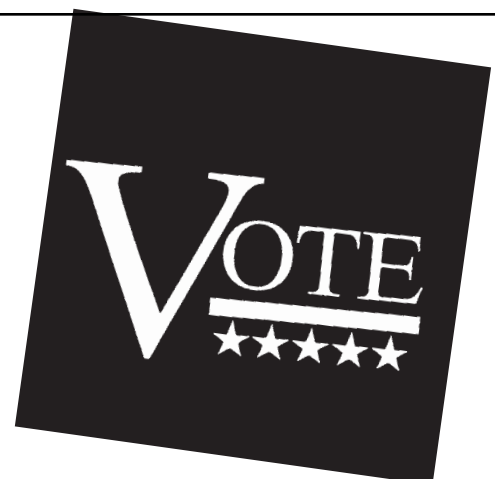
**BYGGMEISTER, INC.**

KITCHENS • BATHS • ADDITIONS • DECKS



Paul Eldrenkamp  
617 254-7673

*Our politics may lean to the left,  
but our work... NEVER!*





## LWVN CALENDAR

### October

- 2 Tuesday a.m. 9:30 am New and Prospective Members- Social and informational meeting with an update on issues of local concern, home of Robin Maltz, 20 Chatham Rd. N. Highlands
- 3 Wed. LWVN Board meeting 7:15 pm at Sally Flynn's, 33 Whitney Road, Newtonville, call Amy Koch at 617-244-2647 if planning to attend .
- 10 Wednesday, Daytime Unit Meeting 11:30am - 1:30pm. Newton Election Procedures and Problems, @ Nancy Crowley's, 77 Kirkstall Rd. Newtonville, call Priscilla Leith 617-969-6837 for info.
- 10 Wednesday 7:15 pm Membership meeting, Social and informational meeting with an update on issues of local concern, home of Elaine Reisman, 28 Fairway Drive, W. Newton
- 11 Thursday, 7-9 pm School Committee Candidates Forum, Newton Main Library, Drucker Auditorium, co-sponsored by PTO Council, call Ann Grantham at 617-964-0333 or Bonnie Carter at 617-969-0686.
- 13 Saturday, LWV of MA Fall Conference, 9 am-3 pm, topic: Restoring Public Confidence in Elections, Minuteman Regional High School, Lexington, call Amy Koch 617-244-2647
- 14 Sunday, Harvest Fair, 12-5 LWVN table, Newton Centre Green

- 15,16 Mon. and Tues. 5:30-9 pm, LWVM Phonothon, AG Edwards, Newton Lower Falls
- 17 Wed. 6:30-9:00 pm. LWVN Working Board meeting. Location tba.
- 23 Tuesday, Aldermanic Candidates Forum, 7:30 pm, Hyde Community Center, N. Highlands
- 24 Wed. Newton TAB publishes Voters' Guide

### November *Vote!*

- 6 Tuesday ELECTION DAY- *Vote!*
- 7 Wed. LWVN Board meeting 7:15 pm, Location tba.
- 13 Tue. 7:30 pm Evening Unit meeting, Topic: "Update on State and National Health Care Legislation" at Sandy Butzel's, 237 Mill Street, Newtonville
- 14 Wed. Daytime Unit. 11:30 - 1:30 pm. Topic: "Update on State and National Health Care Legislation", at Barbara Lletzke's, 83 Kirkstall Road, Newtonville
- 28 Wed. 6:30-9:30pm. LWVN Working Board meeting. Location tba.

#### NEWTON LEGISLATIVE ROUNDTABLE

airs on Channel 10 (the blue channel)  
on AT&T Broadband on:

Mondays	1:30 pm, 5:30 pm, 10:30 pm
Tuesdays	3 am, 5:30 am, 9 am, 1:30 pm, 5:30 pm, 10:30 pm
Wednesdays	3 am, 5:30 am, 9 am

## Pest Management

*Continued from page one*

manager demonstrate practical steps and best practices. Produced by the Chicago non-profit Safer Pest Control Project with a grant from the US EPA Region 5. [www.spcpweb.org](http://www.spcpweb.org)

- 5 Pest Control in the School Environment: Adopting Integrated Pest Management, 1993. Office of Pesticide Programs, US Environmental Protection Agency. [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

For more information or to borrow these resources, contact Ellie Goldberg, Co-chair GreenCAP, the Committee for Alternatives to Pesticides of the Green Decade Coalition/Newton (617) 965-1995

[www.greendecade.org](http://www.greendecade.org) ■

**Do the  
patriotic thing -**

*Vote!*

League of Women Voters of Newton

Non-Profit  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Boston, MA  
Permit No. 54,686

PO Box 610207  
Newton, MA 02461