



First Thursday Forum — December 13

Paul Volpe *AIA – Founding Principal and President of City Architecture*

“A New Era of Transportation for Livable Communities”

Paul Volpe, award-winning architect and president of City Architecture (www.cityarch.com), brings considerable experience as an urban designer, historical preservationist and city planner to the topic of transportation and livable communities. His forum presentation will focus on fully integrating all forms of transportation — cars, buses, rail, bicycle and pedestrian — in a balanced way.

Mr. Volpe notes, “Evolving public transportation, increasing costs to build and maintain roadway systems, rising gas prices and emerging concern for sustainability of our resources has motivated a necessary discussion on the way we plan and live. Programs such as the federal “Transportation for Livable Communities” initiative (TLCI) administered by NOACA, provide an energetic community-based forum to propose new ways to responsibly invest our precious public funding in transportation options.”

Several of Mr. Volpe’s current projects illustrate his involvement and expertise in new and innovative planning for a broad range of transportation choices. These projects include: the Cleveland Innerbelt and Reconstruction, Cleveland Lakefront West Project, University Arts and Retail District, TLCI Streetscape Plans for Lakewood Downtown, Euclid Downtown and the Heritage Lane/E105th Street Plan.



Paul Volpe has served and continues to serve on numerous boards including the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, the Congress for New Urbanism and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

**December 13, 2007 (First Thursday)
Trinity Commons at Trinity Cathedral
2230 Euclid Ave.**

7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

For more information, call 216-781-0555

The League-developed *Sprawl Gets Personal* school unit is now on the Web

Sprawl Gets Personal, Cuyahoga Area League's high school study unit on land use in Cuyahoga County is on the website now: www.lwvCuyahogaArea.org. Teachers will find an inventive array of materials that will bring a lesson alive by using what students know best — the environment they live in — to teach critical thinking, writing, and

speaking. The materials also lend themselves to uses outside the formal classroom. Check it out!

Sprawl Gets Personal is based on a book published by the League in 2000; an earlier version was published in hard copy in 1998.

Inside this issue

From The President
.... **page 2**

Opportunities
.... **page 2**

League Book
Group Begins
.... **page 2**

Of the people, by the
people and for the
people...
.... **page 3**

LWV Membership
Form
.... **page 3**

First Thursday Forum
Explores City Food
.... **page 4**

Courting Family
Solutions: The
Process Continues
.... **page 4**

Program Planning,
Study and Advocacy
.... **page 4**

Voter Service 2007
— A Spectacular
Success
.... **page 5**

LWV-CA Board and
email contacts
.... **page 5**

Calendar of Events
.... **Back Cover**

**Remember to
mail your LWV
renewal form and
immigration
questionnaire!**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Did you ever think about the time and passion that League members devote to Voter Service? Neither did I, until I read the report of the Voter Service Committee. Right now I am thinking about all of you and all of the years you have been doing this, and all of the hours in all of the years you have been doing this, and it staggers the imagination. Thank you! Thank you, not from me or from your fellow Leaguers. Thank you from all of the voters, young and old, who attended a candidate forum, read a voter guide, clicked on the website, called the office with a question, or watched candidates night on TV. How many thousands do you think that might be? I can't imagine.

Please, direct your attention to the article in this Voter about the Bay League's successful journey through League's Process (page 3). This is what Program Planning is all about! Take a look at your community. Is there a problem that League's Process can help solve? Develop a study proposal including issue and scope for approval at the Annual Meeting. Then, address that problem using the tools League gives us: Study, Consensus and Action. Sometimes it's fun. Most of the time it is challenging in ways we least expect. We are not always successful, but we are never successful if we don't try.

During this holiday season, please, give someone a Gift of League: a friend, a neighbor, an elderly aunt, a daughter or a son. Give it here at home or far away. If your gift is to be far away, call or e-mail the office 216-781-0555, lwvcuyarea@sbcglobal.net before December 10. We will find the address of the appropriate League for you. Won't they be surprised!

Finally, thank you all for your support and encouragement from myself, and all of the members of the Board. Have a joyous holiday season and if you travel, travel safely.

In League,

Lolly

OPPORTUNITIES

TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Board needs your advice if you are technology and/or internet savvy.

- ◆ How do we upgrade and make optimum use of the website?
- ◆ What features should we add that would be user friendly, cost effective and fill a need for our members and/or the public?
- ◆ Do we need a "service"? If so, which one?
- ◆ Is there "must have" technology? If so, where and how do we get it?

Contact Lolly Jacobsen at 216-795-8400 or jacobsen.margaret@att.net for more information or to sign on.

IS "REGIONALISM" YOUR THING THESE DAYS?

A Regionalism Interest Group (RIG) is forming to learn about what vehicles for regional cooperation exist or might be needed. Hot topics such as Land Use, Economic Development, Environmental Protection, and Equal Opportunity cry for "regional" focus!

We'll take on the things League does best — governance issues and participant interests:

- ◆ Councils of Government?
- ◆ Regional planning entities like NOACA?
- ◆ Inter-City or City-County function-sharing (already happening)?
- ◆ County Charter movement (always on the list)?
- ◆ Expanding Port- or other Authorities?
- ◆ Tax-sharing programs (how can they work)?
- ◆ Other creative linkages? (you suggest it!)

We'll also check whether State Law provides the enabling statutes we need to encourage regional collaboration. We are not a Study Committee, but well-placed interviews and concerted snooping could lead to something serious in Y2008 or Y2009.

The TOPIC is HOT. The TIME is RIPE.
THINK REGIONALLY. Check out RIG now!
Contact Lynda Mayer at 216-371-5532 or lbmayer@earthlink.net for more information.

League Book Group Begins

The Book Group will meet Sunday, February 3, 2008 at 4:00 pm. Our first "read" is Al Gore's, *The Assault on Reason*. "Mr. Gore's larger goal in this book is to explain how the public sphere itself has evolved into a place hospitable to reason's enemies; to make us more aware of forces at work on our own minds; and to lead us to an understanding of what we can do...to restore the rule of reason....". When asked why he turned his attention away from the environment in this new book, Mr. Gore observed that this is the book he has always wanted to write, but

that it took a lifetime of experience to even begin.

Carol Gibson will host the Group at her Cleveland Heights home. Light refreshments will be served. Logistics for future meetings will be determined when we meet.

Please RSVP to: carolgibson65@hotmail.com or 216.932.8733. All who call will be sent directions. If you are interested in joining the Group but cannot attend on February 3rd, e-mail or call Wendy Deuring: wdeuring@yahoo.com or 216-295-1360.

Of the people, by the people and for the people...

The Bay Chapter spent the last year and a half in virtual travel from the 18th century to present day. In June, 2006, we began a research project (with CA permission) to identify an election process for our community that would better reflect the will of the people.

THE PROBLEM: Our city charter has no provision for a primary or runoff election in the event of multiple candidates for a single-seat office. As recently as the 2005 general election, we had five mayoral candidates, with the winner receiving less than a majority vote.

THE METHOD: Without detailing all, we reviewed writings of our country's founders, our City Charter and those of neighboring cities. We interviewed League and city officials in those cities, our own city officials and prior candidates, and conducted a random telephone survey of over 400 Bay residents. We researched alternative voting systems on the internet, contacted election experts, political science professors, university law schools, the Board of Elections, the Secretary of State's office and a number of statewide Leagues around the country.

A primary election was the best way, under current Ohio state law, to achieve majority representation in Bay Village. The majority of Bay residents believe in majority (there's that word again) rule, and wanted to vote on whether to add a primary election to our city charter. In June 2007, the Bay Chapter presented its findings to City Council. At a public meeting in July we made a PowerPoint presentation strongly recommending that a primary election charter amendment be placed on the November 6, 2007 ballot.

THE RESULT: Council agreed to pass an Ordinance and place a charter amendment ballot issue before the voters. The League then campaigned FOR primary elections, including a town hall meeting, a citywide mailing and yard signs. On November 6th, the majority of Bay voters passed Issue 15, adding a primary election, when necessary, to Bay's charter. We now have a safety net whenever there are more than two candidates for a city office, the winning candidates will have a majority vote, and the people will have majority representation!

With thanks to the League of Women Voters everywhere whose reputation, research and support assisted us, the Bay Chapter especially thanks Lolly Jacobsen, Kathy Woodbridge, Mary Warren and other CA officials who supported and encouraged this endeavor.

Bay Village Chapter LWV-CA Election Study Committee

Gerry Schreibman Mary Lou Jones
Barbara Ebright Joan Hirsh

Be sure to return your Immigration forms to the LWV-CA office. It is also available online at www.lwvCuyahogaArea.org. It's not too late!

2008 LWV Calendars

Heights chapter still has some 2008 LWV calendars for sale for only \$7.00. These are great calendars with lots of big open space for writing in all your commitments. Please call Lois Gross at 216-321-9284 to place your order today!



LWV-CA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Not a League member? Here's your chance to join other citizens in encouraging active participation in government, better informed voters and responsible political campaigns. Membership is open to all citizens 18 years of age or older.

_____ \$58.00 for Annual Individual Membership _____ \$87.00 for Annual Household Membership (two persons)

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone (home) _____ (work) _____ E-mail _____

I would like to affiliate with the following Local Chapter(s) _____

Check here if you would prefer being considered a member at large

Clip this form and mail it along with your check to LWVCA, 50 Public Square #938, Cleveland OH 44113.

Please check those areas below in which you are most interested.

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voters' Services | <input type="checkbox"/> National issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Observing Government in Action | such as _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town Hall Meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> International issues | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local issues | such as _____ | _____ |
| such as _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> League | _____ |

First Thursday Forum Explores City Food *by Kathy Woodbridge* Brad Masi, New Agrarian Founder, discussed the Cityscape of the Future

"Everybody eats," says Brad Masi, founder of the New Agrarian Center at Oberlin and the November First Thursday Forum speaker. The New Agrarian Center is committed to building a stronger and more sustainable regional food system in Northeast Ohio--a food system that promotes health in the broadest sense of the word: healthy land, healthy communities, healthy individuals and a healthy economy. Masi describes it as a "social enterprise."

The Center addresses issues that impede access to healthy foods, works to build a sense of community in neighborhoods, promotes good land stewardship, and encourages the local economy. Cleveland is the first major city to have zoning laws for urban gardens thanks to Cleveland Councilman, Joe Cimperman. There are a variety of sites and types of gardens in the city-- container gardens, raised beds, asphalt gardens, etc.

Masi enumerated some startling US food facts



- ◆ the US imports more food than it exports; there are only a million farmers in America; Oberlin lost one in every three farms in the last decade; corn and soybean farming causes run off, soil erosion and uses great amounts of fossil fuel consumption in processing; the food in the supermarket has traveled an average of 3500 miles to get there.

- ◆ The Center brings food to the food "desert" — teaching residents how to grow, harvest, prepare and market what is produced. It works to promote a sense of community in the neighborhood, combat the dependence on fast food, encourage small business development and bring a sense of community and 'place' to the space. Its projects include City Fresh, the George Jones Farm & Nature Preserve and the Agrarian Learning Network. Check out the web site (www.gottheac.org) to learn more about the Center as well as 'chicken tractors' and 'compost socks'.

Courting Family Solutions: The Process Continues *by Roslyn Talerico*

Some of us may be ready for the concept of "one family, one judge," but apparently our judges are not, or so it seemed at the Forum on September 27th. We learned about the history of the Family Court movement in Ohio, and the Lorain County experience in creating such a court. We also heard about the problems people experience trying to resolve their problems when they find themselves in more than one court and before more than one judge.

We thank all of you who returned the survey. You too have a lot of ideas about how the system could be

changed to accommodate the people who come before these judges. The Juvenile Justice Committee will continue to gather information and we will schedule informational meetings in your neighborhoods. You too can begin to gather information.

Share with us the stories that relate to court experiences (without identifying the individual) that you know of. The Committee would like to hear from you.

Please send your information to Roslyn Talerico, Chair at 216-524-1813 or rrtalerico@adelphia.net.

Don't forget to renew your League membership! Use the form on page 3. Consider giving a gift of League. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Program Planning, Study and Advocacy *by Roslyn Talerico*

Program Planning is how League members identify issues of focus the coming year. Early next year you will be asked to respond to a questionnaire to determine what you think the League should study — at both the national and local levels — to make a difference in our country and in our communities. We look forward to receiving your ideas.

After study and consensus (such as we're doing now around immigration), the League develops positions for action. A study should result in member agreement that leads to action or advocacy at all levels of League.

Advocacy by League leadership is important,

but the voices of individual members are often just as important. How can we most effectively communicate with members about these issues, and also stay abreast ourselves with issues of concern to the League?

We need you to join our Cuyahoga Area Advocacy Committee. The Committee will explore how to assist individual League members to become effective advocates for League Program. We need your ideas and help.

If you would like to work with the Advocacy Committee, call or Email Roslyn Talerico (216-524-1813 or rrtalerico@adelphia.net)

Voter Service 2007 — A Spectacular Success!

Our thanks to each of the 92 Cuyahoga Area League Volunteers whose dedication and commitment made the Education Fund's Voter's Guide 2007 project a spectacular success!

You did it again! Ninety-two Cuyahoga Area Leaguers turned out to register voters, publish and deliver Voter Guides and conduct Candidate Forums during the fall 2007 election season. A \$10,000 grant from an anonymous family foundation to the LWV Cuyahoga Area Education Fund, gave us the necessary funds to publish and distribute 30,000 Municipal Voters Guides for 13 communities; Beachwood, Faiview Park, Parma, Lakewood, Rocky River, Seven Hills, Parma.

Prepare! and Anticipate! are the watchwords of successful voter service. Prior to the "Season", candidates' night moderators met to review and refine the finer points of running candidate forums. Several experienced moderators shared anecdotes for handling unexpected problems. Their wisdom provided us with techniques that proved successful. This fall we reached voters in 14 communities with 10 Candidate Forums: Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills; Cleveland Heights and University Heights; Bay Village; Fairview Park; Chagrin Falls; South Euclid and Lyndhurst; Rocky River; East Cleveland; and Newburgh Heights. Several of the Candidate Forums were cablecast in the local communities.

The Voter Service Committee thanks you, **ALL 92 OF YOU**. We couldn't have done it without you. Special thanks to Mary Jarmusch for another outstanding performance as webmaster. Our voter information was up and accurate in plenty of time to serve voters in all 59 Cuyahoga County communities.

KUDOS TO....

Virginia Aventi	Alison Hall
Alice Bader	Gloria Hardington
Maryann Barnes	Kate Hawley
Conda Boyd	Kay Heylman
Helen Brinick	Joan Hirsh
Madeline Brookshire	Margie Hirsh
Nancy Calcott	Sally Huges
Mary Jane Cariens	Lolly Jacobsen
Madeline Carr	Gale Jacobsohn
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Wendy Duering	Janet Kershaw
Sally Ebling	Lisa Knall
Barbara Ebright	Kathy Kolcaba
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Calendar of Events

LWV CUYAHOGA AREA CHAPTER HOLIDAY EVENTS

OTHER EVENTS

Dec. 4 **Bay Village at Wild Mango**
6:30 pm
Self-host, separate checks

Dec. 11 **Lakewood**
Hostess: Anna Marie Chick

Dec. 12 **Westlake/ North Olmsted**
Hostess: Carole Koscielny
12 pm

THE LWV-CA OFFICES ARE CLOSED IN DECEMBER

Upcoming Dates to save or watch for:

Mar. 1 **First Thursday Forum**

Apr. 3 **First Thursday Forum**

May 10 **Annual Meeting**

Dec. 5 **LWV Cleveland Education Fund** presents
A Safer, More Compassionate World
Wilson Ray Huhn, McDowell Professor of Law,
University of Akron: the constitutionality of
current policy on detainment of suspected
terrorists.
6:00 pm
Maxine Goodman Levin College
of Urban Affairs, first floor atrium
Reservations: 216-781-8375 by Dec. 3

Dec. 13 **First Thursday Forum: A New Era of
Transportation for Livable Communities**
presented by Paul Volpe
7:00 p.m.
Trinity Commons, 2230 Euclid Avenue

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

CA COMMUNITIES

- Bay Village
- Beachwood
- Bedford
- Bedford Heights
- Bentleyville
- Brecksville
- Broadview Heights
- Brooklyn
- Brooklyn Heights
- Chagrin Falls Township
- Chagrin Falls Village
- East Cleveland
- Cleveland Heights
- Cuyahoga Heights
- Fairview Park
- Garfield Heights
- Gates Mills
- Glenwillow
- Highland Heights
- Highland Hills
- Hunting Valley
- Lakewood
- Linndale
- Lyndhurst
- Maple Heights
- Mayfield Heights
- Mayfield Village
- Moreland Hills Village
- Newburg Heights Village
- North Olmsted
- North Randall
- North Royalton
- Oakwood
- Orange
- Parma
- Parma Heights
- Pepper Pike
- Richmond Heights
- Rocky River
- Seven Hills
- Solon
- South Euclid
- University Heights
- Valley View
- Walton Hills
- Warrensville Heights
- Westlake
- Woodmere

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-
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