

The Voter



Newsletter of
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF BOWLING GREEN OHIO
October 2016

PO Box 873 Bowling Green OH 43402 www.wcnet.org/~lwvbg

CANDIDATES FORUM

Sunday October 9, 2016

7-9:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church
1526 E Wooster, Bowling Green

With all the attention given to the race for US president/vice president, it can get lost in the shuffle that there are many races for Wood County officials, judgeships, and state and national legislators. Come and hear the 18 candidates in contested races introduce themselves and answer questions posed by audience members. In addition, most candidates in uncontested races will be in attendance and available for conversation before and after the Forum program. There will also be information on the two issues on the ballot in Bowling Green--the BG parks & recreation new levy and the Wood County Committee on Aging renewal levy.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served. Even if you plan to vote absentee or take advantage of in-person early voting, this Forum will give you the information you need to be an informed voter before early/absentee voting begins on October 12.

Doors will open at 6:30 and the program will run from 7-9 p.m.

Mark your calendars for

MOVIE NIGHT

Take a break after the election and join with fellow League members for a showing of the new film Suffragettes starring Meryl Streep. This showing is in partnership with Wood County Library and will be at the library. Details to follow.

CANDIDATES FORUM First United Methodist Church, Bowling Green
Doors open 6:30 p.m., program begins at 7:00. October 9, 2016

Notes from the President...

It's been awhile since I've checked in with members through our newsletter, so I thought I would get you up-to-date on some of LWVBG's recent activities. Once again, we are participating in National Voter Registration Day (September 27), but not as a single event. We have been and will continue to distribute voter information and offering registration forms for people. We are helping out with a voter registration/information table at Owens Community College next week, and I've put out information and registration forms at the BGSU library and on campus. Joyce Kepke and Sheilah Crowley did a voter information/registration program at Wood Lane Industries this week. I'm doing a non-partisan presentation for a student group on campus about how to research the candidates. LWV Ohio is doing a phone bank outreach to people who have been purged from the voter rolls and some of our members are helping with that. So we're trying to cover as many bases as we can.

Following our Membership brunch on September 24, our next big event will be our very popular Candidates Forum, to be held on Sunday October 9 at First United Methodist Church. Doors will open at 6:30 pm and the program will begin at 7:00. I know there's a presidential debate that evening, but this will be your best opportunity to meet and speak with "down-ballot" candidates running for local and state offices.

In November, we are planning a more casual social event--a Movie Night in partnership with Wood County Library featuring Suffragettes with Meryl Streep. I'm looking forward to seeing you there! Our year's activities will continue with the Holiday Tea in December, sponsored by the Perrysburg LWV. Watch for announcements as more information becomes available.

We're off to a great start this year!

Lee

OBSERVER REPORTS

Bowling Green City Council meeting September 6, 2016

reported by Jean Romans

The meeting started 5 minutes late due to 2 previous meetings that ran overtime. Bob McOmber was absent. Public recognition was given to Bob Midden for bicycle safety and Robin Short, police officer who is the DARE officer. Planning Director Heather Saylor announced the next community meeting for the Community Action Plan will be held on October 11. Parks & Recreation Director Kristin Otley commented that the pool is officially closed and the temperature today is in the mid 90s!

City Attorney Mike Marsh requested 3 readings on a moratorium regarding medical marijuana. Medical marijuana will become legal on September 8 but without any rules or regulations which the state was to have in place before Thursday. This leaves open the possibility that anyone could request a zoning permit to set up a pot shop without any regulation. There was a long and lively discussion but the resolution did not pass due to a dissenting vote from Gordon.

First readings were given to ordinances amending existing ordinances, and third reading to an ordinance amending existing ordinance regarding pre-employment medical exams and drug screening.

OBSERVER REPORTS (continued)

Bowling Green City Council meeting September 19, 2016

reported by Jean Romans

The meeting started on time and all members were present except Sandy Rowland who was excused. There was opportunity for public input but none was given. So and Amal Shaheen were presented the Honor Roll Award by the Human Relations Commission. Municipal Administrator Lori Tretter asked for patience with the new parking kiosk in the city parking lot off S Prospect. Parks & Recreation Director Kristin Otley reported on the campaign for the parks levy. Utilities Director Brian O'Connell reported that BG personnel helped Oberlin with windstorm damage. There were no reports from the Planning Director, City Attorney, or Public Works Director. Bob McOmber announced that he will not run for re-election at the conclusion of his term in 2017.

Legislation given first reading included 3 items dealing with financial & budget issues that were also given 2nd and 3rd reading and adopted, and first reading for an ordinance authorizing a contract or contracts for professional cleaning services for the Municipal Court Building. Given second readings were resolutions adopting & authorizing an amended BG Transit Drug & Alcohol Testing Policy; declaring the City-owned property at 215 W Wooster Street as open public space; imposing a temporary moratorium on medical marijuana cultivation, processing, and retail dispensary facilities within the city of Bowling Green; and ordinances amending other codified ordinances.

Bowling Green Board of Education meeting September 20, 2016

reported by Jean Romans

The meeting started on time and all members were present. There was opportunity for public input but none was given. Given special recognition was Sophia Kelly, Kenwood Elenemtry fifth grader, for being selected to participate in the 2017 All State Children's Chorus. Also recognized was Chloe Higgins, a top three finalist in the NFJ RUSH Kids Reporter Contest.

A special presentation was given by Great Lakes Biomedical on random drug testing. This is something BG Schools is considering. The Showcase Presentation was given by Kristi Krupp and Paula Williams on water quality studies of the Portage River by students partnering with multiple organizations.

The board approved leave requests, retirements, contract adjustments and supplemental contracts for teachers. They approved resignations, employment, and leave requests for support personnel. Under Other Personnel, the board approved employment of coaches and volunteer recognition for volunteer coaches for various sports, additional duties related to the spring musical, employment of an athletic trainer for hockey games. Toby Snow was hired as the new Director of transportation, replacing Carlton Schooley who retired. The board accepted a list of gifts, primarily books but also an AED for the football complex donated by the Rotary Club of BG, and a used trombone given to BG Bands. The board approved adding boys and girls lacrosse as a varsity sport. They approved a BGHS Drama Club retreat for September 23-24 and 10 FFA students to attend the National FFA Leadership Convention in Indianapolis IN from October 19-22.

Item of general interest: BG High School is looking into doing random drug testing. BGHS is one of 3 schools out of 15 in Wood County that does not currently do drug testing. There may be a public meeting following the October regular board meeting on this topic. The October board meeting will be held in the high school.