



# Shop Talk

Volume 61, Number 1  
 Summer 2009  
 Jeanne Davik, Editor  
[shoptalk@lwvelmhurst.org](mailto:shoptalk@lwvelmhurst.org)

## Elmhurst LWV Action Opportunities

### School Issues Exploration Committee

Over the past six months, Community Unit District 205 has done several things that have raised red flags with those of us who monitor local government activity and advocate for governmental transparency and accountability. The controversy surrounding the 162 S. York building is the most visible issue but there have been others including moving public meeting locations without notice, locking the public out of meetings, and financial concerns.

Item #1 of our 2009-2010 *Study, Support and Action Items* says that we will

*Monitor and report on activities of local government bodies and support and promote good governmental practices.*



Laura Kratz, president, Elmhurst LWV

On July 15, 2009, the Elmhurst LWV Board voted to take action under this position and look into the current issues that are causing so much acrimony in our community. A committee will begin meeting in the next few weeks to identify the issues of concern, set goals for the project, and determine criteria for analysis. The committee is slated to present its findings at our October general meeting.

### 2010 Census: Complete Count Committee

Volunteers are needed to assist the LWV with the area **Complete Count Committee** that will coordinate efforts to ensure as many people as possible fill out the census forms next year. An important focus initially will be to encourage local officials to be involved in their communities. The importance of this effort cannot be overstated. The new census numbers will be used for determining the number of Illinois Congressmen as well as federal and state money allotted to programs for our area.

Look for more info on "Complete Count" on page 6.

All League members are welcome to participate on either committee – or on both. Please contact Laura Kratz: [president@lwvelmhurst.org](mailto:president@lwvelmhurst.org) .

## Elmhurst Green Fest

**August 1, 2009 - Wilder Park, Elmhurst College, and Elmhurst Public Library**

9am - 3pm ◇ Wilder Park ◇ All Exhibits Open  
**Recycling Boutique** *Drop off your recyclables.*

9am - 3pm ◇ 168 N. Elm ◇  
**Green Concepts Home Garden Tour**

10am - 12pm ◇ **Family Bike Ride**

10am - 11:30am ◇ Illinois Hall - Schaible Science Center (Elmhurst College) ◇ **Expert Panel: Sustainability Starts at Home!**

10am - 11:00am ◇ Library Meeting Room 2  
**Composting - Building Your Garden from the Ground Up**

10:30am - 11:00am ◇ Library Children's Storytime Rm  
**Green Stories for Kids**

11am - 1:00pm ◇ Library Meeting Room 1 ◇  
**GreenFILE: How to Find Information on Issues Facing Our Planet**

12:30pm - 1:30pm ◇ Illinois Hall - Schaible Science Center (Elmhurst College) ◇  
**Vehicles Can Go Green**

1pm - 2pm ◇ Library Meeting Room 2 ◇  
**World Works - Understanding our Habitat!**

2pm - 3pm ◇ Elmhurst Public Library ◇  
**Green Roofs & Living Walls**

To learn more about the programs, speakers, and exhibitors, go to [www.elmhurstgreenfest.org](http://www.elmhurstgreenfest.org).

Look for more information on **Green Fest** and ideas for **Green Living** throughout this issue of *Shop Talk*.



## Elmhurst Green Fest

August 1, 2009 10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

The Cool Cities Coalition, which includes the League, Elmhurst College, Elmhurst Park District, and Elmhurst Public Library, is presenting the Second Annual Green Fest. This year there will be a greater variety of exhibitors from the Chicago area, especially those showcasing their "green products" such as solar attic fans, electric bikes, the newest hybrid cars, spray foam insulation, tankless water heaters, recycled glass counter tops, cleaning products, beauty products, and much more.

There will be speakers in Schaible Hall at Elmhurst College and at the Library. New this year is a **Recycling Boutique**. Various organizations will collect items to recycle, such as books for AAUW; blue jeans, eyeglasses, shoes, DVD's & VHS tapes for Elmhurst College. Please bring something to recycle, hopefully in your canvas tote bag from last year. Also, bring two empty 16-oz bottles to the Shaklee canopy. They will fill them with nontoxic, biodegradable window and general purpose cleaners for FREE.

This year's sponsors have been especially generous in view of the difficult economic times: Superior Ambulance, Elmhurst Rotary, J.C. Licht/Epcos Paint & Decorating, Paradise Robotics, Imperial Tankless, Working Bikes Cooperative, and eZeeBikeU.S.A, Inc. Community Bank of Elmhurst will again provide canvas tote bags for all fest-goers.

## NEW PROGRAM for Safe Disposal of Medicines

The DuPage County Health Department, DuPage County, and the Illinois EPA are sponsoring a new program called **RxBBox - Disposing Meds Safely**.

Specially marked boxes are located at **POLICE STATIONS** in many towns, including Addison, Bloomingdale, Burr Ridge, Carol Stream, Glendale Heights, Lemont, Lisle, Schaumburg, Wheaton, Wood Dale as well as the DuPage County Sheriff's office in Wheaton.

Drop-offs can also be made at the permanent HHW site at Fire Station #4 in Naperville. Hours are Saturday and Sunday, 9 am - 2 pm.

### Important

To drop off medications, just empty the pills into a resealable plastic bag.

**Do not include pill bottles.**



If the medication is liquid, scratch or block out your information from the label and put the bottle in a resealable plastic bag.

For more details or questions, call the **POLICE STATIONS** in the listed towns.

## Great Decisions

### A look back to a fascinating topic

— Marilyn Thompson

In the month of May, for the first time that we're aware of, our topic was the **Arctic Ocean** and its future. It was a fascinating and revealing topic. As the Arctic glacial ice melts, activity in the area has increased.

The five nations with the greatest stakes in the Arctic — Russia, Canada, the U.S., Denmark, and Norway — are making new maps of the sea bed and staking out territory for exploration.



There are several types of valuable assets in the area: oil and gas, minerals and jewels, and fish and wild life. As more ice melts, it

will be easier to extract the riches of the Arctic, and the ecology will be more vulnerable to damage.

Another new issue will be the ability of ships to actually pass through the Arctic Ocean, east to west, and how these passages will be regulated. The 1994 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

regulates the rights of nations adjacent to their ocean shelves. UNCLOS has been ratified by 156 nations, *but not by the United States*. If we don't ratify UNCLOS, our rights to define our boundaries could be more easily disputed.

Finally, there is the possibility of terrorist infiltration through this "back door" to our continent, and how such incursions could be handled.

Our *Great Decisions* group had a very stimulating discussion and wanted to let our members know about this obscure but important issue that we are sure to be hearing more about in the future.

**This discussion group, which is open to all League members and their guests, meets the first Thursday of the month, 9:15 a.m., at the home of Barbara Swords.**

### Discussion topics for the remainder of 2009:

Sept. 3 - "Egypt: key ally in the Middle East." ch. 5

Oct. 1 - "Global food crisis." chapter 6

Nov. 5 - "Cuba on the verge." chapter 7

Dec. 3 - "Human rights in a new era: wars for peace." chapter 8

## 2009 Convention of the League of Women Voters of Illinois

Representatives from 34 Leagues and 2 ILO's (Inter-League Organizations) met for the LWVIL's 54<sup>th</sup> State Convention from June 12 – 14, 2009, in East Peoria, IL. The theme of the convention was "Everyone Counts ...On League and In League." Elmhurst delegates included **Laura Kratz, Donna Blue, Jan Vanek, Sue Williams, and Sue Whitworth**. LWVIL Board members from our League, **Jan Dorner** and **Jeanne Davik**, also attended.

### ■ Issues for Action and Study

The Illinois League's Action focus for 2009-2011 will be **Fiscal Policy and Tax Reform** (*which includes school funding and social services*) and **Campaign Finance and Ethics Reform**. A new Action item, **True Census Count 2010 & Redistricting Reform**, was also adopted. A committee will be formed to update the League's position on *recall* and *term limits*.

### ■ Will of the Convention

Three "Will of the Convention" motions were adopted. Delegates...

◇ Called for the Governor and the General Assembly of the State of Illinois to restore the state's fiscal health and to provide for Illinois' future.

◇ Urged the General Assembly to lower the campaign finance limits to the federal level and treat transfers and in-kind contributions from other candidates on the same basis.

◇ Urged the Governor to veto HB 182, a bill that would allow a person to carry concealed handguns into another person's home.

### ■ An Exceptional Award!

The LWVIL and Curie Metropolitan High School in Chicago have won a national award for their 2008 mock election program. The honor, bestowed by the National Student Parent Mock Election, is **a visit from an original printing of the Declaration of Independence** loaned by its owner, Hollywood producer Norman Lear. LWVIL is in the process of setting the date(s) and location of the visit.

### Membership Workshop — Jan Vanek

Starting a college unit was discussed as a recruitment tool. A student member from the University of Illinois made these recommendations: Keep dues at \$5.00; have an advisor from the community League, but let the student unit set their own priorities; and have the meetings on campus.

Could this be done at Elmhurst College? If a benefactor would donate the difference between the regular \$30 student dues and \$5 —and do this for ten students — that would help. U of I only had 5 student members so if we could get 10 at Elmhurst College, that would be a good start.

### Presidents' Workshop — Laura Kratz

Local League presidents met for networking and an update on resources available to our Leagues, presented by outgoing LWVIL President Paula Lawson with input from incoming President Nancy Marcus.



Nancy Marcus, New  
LWVIL President

LWVIL and LWVUS resources were identified including planning timelines, office staff contact information, and ideas for programs and fundraising activities. Paula confirmed that Leagues may invite the public to join or donate to the local League at our candidate forums.

Presidents were encouraged to delegate tasks to a wide range of members to encourage local League involvement. By concentrating on a few areas during the course of a term, presidents can avoid burnout and the League is more likely to be successful than if efforts are spread too thin.

During the networking sessions, the DuPage County League presidents agreed to work together to resolve the DuPage ILO issue (*whether to restore the ILO as it was or to develop a new working relationship/structure*). We also made plans to work together on the DuPage census.

### Workshop: Engaging our Members

— Sue Williams

This workshop focused on engaging our members and growing our league membership. A few important keys:

- League research indicates that the most important way to build membership at the local level is to have league members actively ... **ASK others to join.**
- Be visible. Host interesting programs, have a "hot topics" lunch, sponsor events, have a positive impact on a community issue, work with other groups within the community and have fun social events.

The Elmhurst League does many things right; however, the meeting reminded us that we are all responsible for membership. **Invite a friend, neighbor or new member of our community to an LWV event.** If you are interested in a "hot topic," there are others in our community that would be interested as well. Let us know what your "hot topic" is!

## Workshop on Campaign Finance

— Donna Blue

The Campaign Finance workshop was presented by **David Morrison** of the **Illinois Campaign for Political Reform**. The presentation focused on the weaknesses in HB7. (*HB = House Bill*)

Contribution limits in the bill do not limit contributions from one source, are extremely high (36-72 times federal limits), and are based on the calendar year rather than the election cycle.



Candidates can set up multiple committees with different limits. As the candidates maximize each committee's funds, they can set up another committee and maximize the funds in it. This can be repeated for up to four committees. The next year the process can be repeated.

The bill would not take effect until 2011, and the study by the Commission on Judicial Election Finance (public finance) is not due until 2012.

The bill would not take effect until 2011, and the study by the Commission on Judicial Election Finance (public finance) is not due until 2012.

Under the bill's provision on **recall**, it is likely no one would ever be recalled. Also, it would apply only to the Governor.

To place a **constitutional amendment** on the ballot, a petition signed by 8% of voters in the last election is required. **Recall** under this bill requires 15% of voters in the last election (about 650,000 signatures) in 150 days, amounting to about 4,000 valid names per day.

Furthermore, at least 100 names from at least 25 counties are required, as are signatures from 20 sitting house members and 10 senate members with no more than half from any one party.

Another issue discussed was the insufficient resources of the State Board of Elections.

### Green Tips

Looking to save gas? Empty out your car of unnecessary items. The extra weight burns more gas.

Keep tires inflated. Slow down; accelerate slower; and slowly decrease speed when approaching an intersection.

Planning on purchasing new items for your home or a car? Go to <http://www.energystar.gov> and check out tax credits for energy efficient items.

## Workshop on Tax & Ethics Reform

—Sue Whitworth

Jim Nolan from the Institute on Government Reform presented a workshop on tax and ethics reform. Jim explained various taxes such as property and income and how they relate to the State of Illinois budget. Not as much focus was placed on reform in this workshop, which was disappointing.

Handouts were provided that laid out the state's General Funds spending. This was broken down by various departments and the percentage of funds used by each. **Nearly half of the general funds are used on elementary/secondary education and medical assistance.**

Jim pointed out that the 8 billion dollar deficit could be aided by a 2% increase in property tax which would bring in approximately \$6 billion. Another \$1 billion might be seen if a 3-5% tax was placed on services such as hair salons and car repairs.

The Elmhurst League was one of 13 local Leagues to receive a **"Spotlight on League Achievement"** award at Convention. In the category of Website/Communication, our League was commended for the inclusion on our website of an embedded video of our **Candidate Forum** as well as a comprehensive **Voters Guide**.

## Workshop on the New Media

— Jan Vanek

In this workshop, we learned that the younger generation gets its political information from websites and shows such as the *Daily Show* with Jon Stewart. It was recommended that Leagues use the new social networking options as enhancements to PR releases. Developing a working relationship with the local press is also important.

The types of *social networking include Facebook (adults), MySpace (kids), Twitter, and blogs*. Several LWVs have *Facebook* pages, and the State League does as well. Blogs present the problem of control and preventing "cranks" from using it.

Guidelines for using social networking:

- Establish the objectives.
- Know your audience and their web capabilities. Create or link to interesting content.
- Interact with others by sharing, responding and commenting.
- Keep it fresh (the hardest to do)
- Pay attention to trends and be able to keep up with new technology.

## Membership Dues:

A reminder that our League year is from June 1 until May 31, and your **dues were due on June 1**. If you have not sent in your membership form and annual dues, please do so today.

You can pay dues online by credit card, or you can print out and mail in our online membership form. Go to [www.lwvelmhurst.org](http://www.lwvelmhurst.org) and click on **Join LWV**.

Questions? Contact Sue Williams, our Membership chair: [membership@lwvelmhurst.org](mailto:membership@lwvelmhurst.org). Check your Directory for her phone number.

Join the League of Women Voters of Illinois for a Special Presentation of the NPR news quiz show.



**Thursday, Sept. 17,  
7 pm**  
Chase Bank Auditorium  
10 South Dearborn, Chicago  
**Tickets: \$60.00**  
(includes reception)

To order tickets by phone,  
call 312-939-5935, ext. 37.

You can also go to the IL League website,  
[www.lwvil.org](http://www.lwvil.org) where you can order online  
or print a mail-in registration form.

## Workshop: Handling Hostile Crowds — Laura Kratz

This workshop focused on a **recent public forum on Gun Violence Prevention** presented by the Wheaton and other DuPage LWV's and a local high school affiliate. Although the intended purpose had been to discuss the LWV positions favoring strong firearm ownership regulations with area high school students, the program was billed as a public forum on gun laws. The National Rifle Association (NRA) learned of the meeting and rallied a large contingent of members, many from out of state, to voice their opposition to all such legislation.

From the beginning, the NRA members, clad in matching outfits, shouted objections at the speakers. As the evening wore on, they became more strident and aggressive. Audience members reported it was impossible to hear some speakers because of the NRA outbursts.



The forum moderator, a League issues specialist on gun violence prevention, was particularly upset during the question and answer session when she received written questions that looked more like threats to her personal safety than serious policy debate. By the end of the meeting, the League members and student organizers, concerned that the confrontation could continue in the parking lot, waited for the NRA group to leave before departing themselves.

Workshop participants suggested a variety of things that could have helped avoid a confrontational situation of this magnitude. First, a clear description of the program and its purpose should have been articulated to the public. The term "public forum" implies that all sides will be equally considered. The public tends to view the League's nonpartisan policy as universal, pertaining to issues as well as to candidates and political parties. It is the League's responsibility to clarify the scope and goals of a particular event.

Second, since the target audience was area high school students, the organizers could have limited their publicity to area high school communities. The city hall location also added to the perception that the program was intended for the general public.

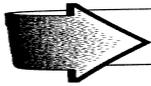
Although the event organizers had hired a police officer to help keep order in the meeting, he and two uniformed colleagues who dropped in did nothing to help enforce the good behavior the League expects of forum audiences. The workshop participants said they believe that all forum officials, both paid and volunteer, should have a clear authority to enforce forum rules and be willing to carry them out on their own or when asked to do so.

For the Q&A session, index cards were distributed for the audience's written questions, collected, and given to "question screeners" who sorted them and passed them to the moderator. The NRA members claimed their questions were being ignored and accused the forum organizers of denying them the opportunity to present their side. Many Leagues now use "question sorters," the most experienced of which know how to summarize topics and present the moderator with a question that covers the issue without insulting anyone.

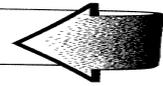
On a final note, it was noted that students who came to learn about the issue told organizers the NRA's behavior at the forum persuaded them that strict firearm ownership regulations are necessary for community safety.

### Green Note:

Elmhurst's ordinance on composting only allows for yard waste composting. If you support composting of your food scraps as well, call your Aldermen and ask for the ordinance to be changed. Note also that the Library is hosting a Master Gardener from the University of Illinois to speak at Green Fest on **Composting: Building Your Garden from Ground UP.**



## Complete Count for the 2010 Census



Jan Dorner and Jan Vanek

The Illinois state League has received a grant from the Joyce Foundation to work with counties and municipalities to make sure everyone is counted. (And once the Census is complete, to work on redistricting.)

The census will serve as a snapshot of diversity – a blueprint for future public policy decisions including redistricting. These are important in Illinois, Elmhurst, and other DuPage County communities. Everyone must be counted. Locally the City receives money from the state based on per capita numbers.

The form of only 10 questions will be mailed in February 2010 for return in April. The census only collects the numbers and ethnicity of those living in the U.S. and its territories, not citizenship. The census information cannot be shared with any other agencies.

Recently Jan Dorner attended a **meeting of Leagues from DuPage County concerning DuPage's lack of interest in forming a Complete Count Committee.**

(Actually, it is County Board Chairman Schillerstrom's lack of interest.) LWVIL's True Census Count Project Manager, Mary Schaafsma, facilitated the meeting. Also attending were Maryam Judar and an intern from the Citizen Advocacy Center.

A Complete Count Committee is a team of community

leaders who come together at the invitation of elected officials to develop outreach plans to their constituents to make sure that everyone in a community understands the importance of participating and returning the Census 2010 questionnaire. The League of Women Voters of Illinois is encouraging the Governor to create a Complete Count Committee. This hasn't happened yet. He is obviously dealing with many issues, but **the loss of one, if not two, Congressional seats could happen to our state** as well as the loss of funding for many who may not be counted.

The result of the meeting was that the DuPage LWV's and the CAC would form a Complete Count Committee. This committee will work to identify potential members/partners who will join the committee. While the CAC will do the heavy lifting on gathering information, all should try to identify a good range of participants. Groups and/or names identified so far include DuPage United and Darlene Ruscetti, Superintendent of the DuPage Regional Office of Education, as well as elected officials.

The Planning Group (League and CAC plus any others recruited for this purpose) will meet again during the last week of July 2009.

## Health Care Reform

The LWVUS Lobby Corps is now lobbying the House of Representatives, asking them to support the newly introduced **H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009.**

This act provides quality affordable health care for all Americans and controls health care cost growth. Key provisions of the bill include:

**I. COVERAGE AND CHOICE** It protects current coverage – allowing individuals to keep the insurance they have if they like it – and preserves choice of doctors, hospitals, and health plans. It achieves these reforms through:

★ **A Health Insurance Exchange.** The new Health Insurance Exchange creates a transparent and functional marketplace for individuals and small employers to comparison shop among private and public insurers. It works with state insurance departments to set and enforce insurance reforms and consumer protections, facilitates enrollment, and administers affordability credits to help low- and middle-income individuals and families purchase insurance.

★ **A public health insurance option.** One of the many choices of health insurance within the health insurance Exchange is a public health insurance option. The public option will operate on a level playing field. It will be subject to the same market reforms

and consumer protections as other private plans in the Exchange, and it will be self-sustaining – financed only by its premiums.

★ **Guaranteed coverage and insurance market reforms.** Insurance companies will no longer be able to engage in discriminatory practices that enable them to refuse to sell or renew policies today due to an individual's health status. In addition, they can no longer exclude coverage of treatments for pre-existing health conditions.

★ **Essential benefits.** A new independent Advisory Committee with practicing providers and other health care experts, chaired by the Surgeon General, will recommend a benefit package based on standards set in the law. The basic package will include preventive services with no cost-sharing, mental health services, oral health and vision for children, and caps the amount of money a person or family spends on covered services in a year.

**II. AFFORDABILITY** To ensure that all Americans have affordable health coverage the bill:

★ **Provides sliding scale affordability credits.** The affordability credits will be available to low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The credits are most generous for those who are just above the proposed new Medicaid eligibility levels; the credits decline with income and are completely phased out

*Continued on page 7*

when income reaches 400 percent of the federal poverty level (\$43,000 for an individual or \$88,000 for a family of four).

★ **Caps annual out-of-pocket spending.** All new policies will cap annual out-of-pocket spending to prevent bankruptcies from medical expenses.

★ **Increased competition:** The creation of the Health Insurance Exchange and the inclusion of a public health insurance option will make health insurance more affordable by opening many market areas in our country to new competition.

★ **Expands Medicaid.** Individuals and families with incomes at or below 133 percent of the federal poverty level will be eligible for an expanded and improved Medicaid program.

★ **Improves Medicare.** Senior citizens and people with disabilities will benefit from provisions that fill the donut hole over time in the Part D drug program, eliminate cost-sharing for preventive services, improve the low-income subsidy programs in Medicare, fix physician payments, and make other program improvements.

**III. SHARED RESPONSIBILITY** The bill creates shared responsibility among individuals, employers and government to ensure that all Americans have affordable coverage of essential health benefits.

★ **Individual responsibility.** Except in cases of hardship, individuals will be responsible for obtaining and maintaining health insurance coverage.

★ **Employer responsibility.** Employers will have the option of providing health insurance coverage for their workers or contributing funds on their behalf.

★ **Assistance for small employers.** The smallest businesses (payroll that does not exceed \$250,000) are exempt from the employer responsibility requirement.

★ **Government responsibility.** The government is responsible for ensuring that every American can afford quality health insurance, through the new affordability credits, insurance reforms, consumer protections, and improvements to Medicare and Medicaid.

**IV. PREVENTION AND WELLNESS** Prevention and wellness measures of the bill include:

- Expansion of Community Health Centers;
- Prohibition of cost-sharing for preventive services;
- Creation of community-based programs to deliver prevention and wellness services;
- A focus on community-based programs and new data collection efforts to better identify and address racial, ethnic, regional and other health disparities;
- Funds to strengthen state, local, tribal and territorial public health departments and programs.

**V. WORKFORCE INVESTMENTS** The bill expands the health care workforce through:

- Increased funding for the National Health Service Corp;
- More training of primary care doctors and an

expansion of the pipeline of individuals going into health professions;

- Greater support for workforce diversity;
- Expansion of scholarships and loans for individuals in needed professions and shortage areas;

**VI. CONTROLLING COSTS** Investing in health care through stronger prevention and wellness measures, increasing access to primary care, health care delivery system reform, the Health Insurance Exchange and the public health insurance option, improvements in payment accuracy and reforms to Medicare and Medicaid will all help slow the growth of health care costs over time.

★ **Modernization and improvement of Medicare.**

The bill implements major delivery system reform in Medicare to reward efficient provision of health care, rolling out innovative concepts such as accountable care organizations, medical homes, and bundling of acute and post-acute provider payments. New payment incentives aim to decrease preventable hospital readmissions. The bill improves the Medicare Part D program by creating new consumer protections for Medicare Advantage Plans, eliminating the “donut hole” and improving low-income subsidy programs, so that Medicare is affordable for all seniors and other eligible individuals. A centerpiece of the proposal is a complete reform of the flawed physician payment mechanism in Medicare (the so-called sustainable growth rate or “SGR” formula).

★ **Innovation and delivery reform through the public health insurance option.** The public health insurance option will be empowered to implement innovative delivery reform initiatives so that it is a nimble purchaser of health care and gets more value for each health care dollar. It will be provided the flexibility to implement value-based purchasing, accountable care organizations, medical homes, and bundled payments.

★ **Improving payment accuracy and eliminating overpayments.** The bill eliminates overpayments to Medicare Advantage plans and improves payment accuracy for numerous other providers.

★ **Preventing waste, fraud and abuse.** New tools will be provided to combat waste, fraud and abuse within the entire health care system. Within Medicare, new authorities allow for pre-enrollment screening of providers and suppliers, permit designation of certain areas as being at elevated risk of fraud to implement enhanced oversight, and require compliance programs of providers and suppliers.

★ **Administrative simplification.** The bill will simplify the paperwork burden that adds tremendous costs and hassles for patients, providers, and businesses today.

SUMMARY PREPARED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS, ENERGY AND COMMERCE, AND EDUCATION AND LABOR JULY 14, 2009.

It was further shortened to fit into the available space. — Editor

## Upcoming League Events:

August 1, 10 am - 3 pm: Elmhurst **Green Fest**  
Wilder Park, Elmhurst College, and Elmhurst Public Library

August 17: Registration due for *Wait Wait Don't Tell Me*, LWVIL event

September 3, 9:15 am: **Great Decisions** Discussion Group — Egypt  
Home of Barbara Swords

September 17, 7 pm: LWVIL fundraiser: ***Wait Wait, Don't Tell Me***  
Chase Auditorium, 10 S. Dearborn, Chicago.

September 24, 7 pm: LWV Elmhurst Monthly Meeting — **The Public's Right to Know** —  
Elmhurst Public Library



LWV Elmhurst  
P.O. Box 12  
Elmhurst, IL 60126  
Visit us online at  
[www.lwvelmhurst.org](http://www.lwvelmhurst.org)