

Next LWV land-use forum to focus on water quality

The next public forum in the League of Women Voters of Sussex County Land-Use Series will address relationships between land use and water quality. The session is scheduled for 10 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 13, in Sussex County Council Chamber on The Circle, Georgetown.

This session will provide background on a number of hot issues facing the county, including sources and solutions for pollution in the Inland Bays and Nanticoke River watersheds, how the state pollution control strategy could help clean up those watersheds, pros and cons of ocean outfall vs. spray irrigation, and the role of the Sussex Conservation District in addressing these issues.

“With recent reports on the seriously deteriorating condition of the Inland Bays and federal focus on cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay, affected by the Nanticoke River watershed, development issues affect the entire county. This forum will allow us to better understand how land use decisions affect these watersheds,” said League President Esther Shelton.

Panelists include Dr. Katherine Bunting-Howarth, director of the Division of Water Resources at the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC); A. Scott Andres, senior scientist-hydrogeologist with the Delaware Geological Survey; and Lester Stillson, retiring state operations manager at the U.S. Department of Agriculture office in Dover.

Prior to being appointed director of Water Resources in June 2008, Bunting-Howarth, who has a law degree with a certificate in environmental and natural resource law, worked at DNREC on a variety of issues related to water quality.

Andres has worked, published and presented on a variety of ground and surface water projects and issues as a hydrogeologist with the Delaware Geological Survey since 1984.

Stillson has recently retired from his position as the state operations manager for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Delaware. During the forum his focus will be on federal and district technical and financial assistance to the agricultural sector and its relation to water quality.

For more details, directions or membership information contact Esther Shelton at 645-1797 or eshelton01@comcast.net; or visit the LWV website at sussexlwv.org. Future sessions in the land-use series include:

- Transportation, Housing and Land Use at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 10 in the Beebe Medical Arts Building, Rt. 24, Rehoboth
- Land Use and the Environment at 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 10, in Sussex County

Council Chambers, Georgetown

- Quality of Life and Smart Growth at 1 p.m., Wednesday, April 14, in the Beebe Medical Arts Building.