

Beacon Hill Byline by Mary Rogeness

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### **Finding the Missing Link**

Connections and bonds will bring us together, and Longmeadow now has a new LINK to strengthen those bonds. During the month of May, there are several, important dates to put on your calendar. The first date to remember is Sunday, May 6th, which is an informational meeting for voters. The Annual Town Meeting is on Tuesday, May 8th at 7:30p.m. at the High School and the Town Election is on Tuesday, May 22nd at, the Community House.

LINK is working to involve all townspeople in those events.

The Longmeadow Information Network for Kids, better known as LINK, has just published their 4th issue of the LINK LETTER. Vital, information concerning our schools, and our children's future has been printed in this new format starting last fall. This group fills a void that existed in our town. A dedicated group of parents has joined to improve communication within our school system. LINK's mission is to work toward improving and strengthening communication about school issues among the Town of Longmeadow's elected and appointed representatives, School Committee, PTO and PAC leadership and the Longmeadow community.

A special gathering to "Meet the Candidates" will be held on Sunday, May 6th at the Community House from 4:00-5:30 p.m. There are three candidates running for two spots on the School Committee. There will also be a new selectman to fill the spot that Arlene Miller is vacating.

This year, and every year, it is vital that residents attend the town meeting. We need a 2/3 vote to pass a motion that will enable us to begin the town-approved elementary school renovations earlier than expected. The roofs at Blueberry Hill and Wolf Swamp need replacement. It may be pennywise and pound foolish to pay for all of that expense now out of our own pockets. If the renovation work were started soon, the roof expense would be covered as part of the bigger project. We will receive partial state reimbursement later. The plan is to move the fifth graders back into the elementary schools to make more room in the middle schools. We need to look at the big picture.

Our schools are priceless and will prepare our children for the future. The LINK organization wants to bring the town together. Parents, grandparents and residents of all ages know how important the schools are in this community. Remember that we are only as strong as our weakest link.

Would you like to help? We are lucky to have these parents coordinating this admirable effort. Please call them with questions, concerns or information that should be circulated. The four chairpersons are Melinda Cropsey, Ellen McKenna, Janine McVay and Robin Rabideau.