

**REPORT ON SOUTHSIDE CIVIC ACTIVITIES**  
*for*  
**League of Women Voters from Pam Went**

There are two activities for active, engaged citizens that League of Women Voters members may wish to be aware of.

The first is an ongoing book and discussion group called the *Engaged Citizens Book Group*. It is led by Mary Dumas, a local mediator, facilitator and the program coordinator for Leadership Whatcom. For the past 20 years Mary Dumas has been assisting individuals and organizations in making constructive use of conflict and change. Mary is most interested in assuring that diverse perspectives are engaged in building lasting solutions. The group started in October and meets the third Wednesday of the month at noon in the lower level of Village Books. One need not have attended from the beginning. Each month the discussion is informed by a new book that Mary has selected to broaden our perspectives. More information is available through Village Books.

The second is a workshop offered by Leadership Whatcom and called *Out of the Armchair and Off the Soapbox*. The event takes place Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. The topic was selected to provide community members an opportunity to discuss when the public should be involved in the government's work and how people can be most effective when they do. Participants will receive a toolkit of skills and resources to support productive discussions on local "hot topic" issues. The event is free however pre-registration is required. Call 715-1061 or email [info@whatcomcoalition.org](mailto:info@whatcomcoalition.org).