



**Crystal Run
Village, Inc.**

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News

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The League of Women Voters (LWV) joined with the Wishes and Dreams self-advocacy group as sponsors of a voter registration drive on Wednesday, September 29th at the Crystal Run Village, Inc. main offices on Stony Ford Road in Middletown. The event was organized for residents and staff of the agency and local community members interested in registering for the first time and for those who may have moved since the last election

The registration drive was attended by Town of Wallkill Town Clerk Louisa Ingrassia, the town's election official, and Voting Machine Custodian Jay McClintock. For demonstration purposes they brought with them an actual voting machine so that registrants could become confident in the mechanical operation of the booth.

In a brief presentation, LWV representative Lynda Williford explained the nonpartisan role of the LWV and its interest in strengthening democracy by encouraging participation of all citizens in the process. "Voting is the chance to choose the decision makers and being involved is a way of communicating the things that are important to you," she said. "People with disabilities who vote represent the rich diversity of our communities."

According to Ben Clemens, an advisor for Wishes and Dreams, a primary goal of the self-advocacy group is to understand their civic responsibilities and extend opportunity to others. Wishes and Dreams is comprised of 24 people living in residences managed by Crystal Run Village, Inc., a human services agency providing services for the integration and empowerment of people with intellectual disabilities.

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