



Newsletter March 2020

VILLAGE OF LANSING *Incorporated 1974*

2405 North Triphammer Road * Ithaca, NY 14850

(607) 257-0424 * (FAX) 257-3230

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Web Page Address: www.vlansing.org.

Board of Trustees' Meetings: 1st and 3rd Monday, 7:30 PM

Planning Board Meetings: 2nd Monday and last Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Board of Zoning Appeal Meeting: 3rd Tuesday as needed; 7:30 PM

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR DONALD HARTILL

With the reporting of a second corona-19 case in Tompkins County associated with Ithaca College, it is here. In response to this and following the guidelines issued by Gov. Cuomo yesterday I have asked Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer and Mike Scott, Code & Zoning Officer to work alternate days and keep the Village Office locked. The lock box in the entrance way is available for bills, etc. They can be reached by phone or email to set up an appointment if necessary. For our Department of Public Works staff, I have sent Nolan and Chris home. John Courtney, Supt. Of Public Works, will continue to work. Staff not at the garage are on call in case of an emergency. John's cell number is posted on the garage entrance door for deliveries, etc. The doors will be locked at all times. This keeps one person available in the garage each day of the week and our equipment safe. If one of our staff becomes ill, we have backup in place from either the Town of Lansing, our contractors, or Bolton Point.

I urge everyone to follow the guidelines with respect to social distancing, hand washing and avoiding unnecessary travel, etc. Finally, we are a Village and with that in mind watch out for you neighbors if something doesn't seem right.

The budget process is well along and will be finalized at our April 6th meeting with the public hearing and final vote at our meeting on the 20th. We may be carrying this out by video conference depending on guidance from NYCOM.

All public meetings that were to be held in the Village Office in March are canceled. We appreciate the public's understanding during this challenging period of time.

The annual spring brush pickup is currently scheduled for May 4, 2020.

The Village election for two Trustees will be Tuesday, April 28, 2020.

Mayor Donald Hartill

HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

The Village of Lansing is looking for a Planning Board Member and a Board of Zoning Appeals Member and Alternate Member. If you are interesting in serving please contact the Village Clerk/Treasurer at 607-257-0424 ext. #2 or clerk@vlansing.org

VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE

Budget Public Hearing

Given the current situation, the Public Hearing on the proposed Village of Lansing Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 has not been officially scheduled. The plan is to set the public hearing on April 6th and have the Budget Public Hearing on April 20th. The proposed Budget is posted on the website. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact the office at 257-0424 ext.#2. Village residents have the right to provide written and oral comments. The aggregate salaries for the Board of Trustees are proposed in the amount of \$24,000, \$6,000 for each Trustee, and the salary for the Mayor is proposed in the amount of \$14,000. \$2,908,222 in appropriations is proposed for the General Fund. The proposed General Tax Rate will remain the same at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Water Bills

Village of Lansing Residents will receive a bill quarterly at the beginning of January, April, July, and October. All water/sewer bills are due by the 20th of that month and can be either mailed in or you may bring your payment to the Village Office at 2405 N. Triphammer Road. Due to the current situation with the Coronavirus, you will not be able to get into the office to make a payment. There is a secure drop box inside the entry way to our administration building if you want to drop your payment off. The Village of Lansing is part of the Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission (SCLIWC).

New Community Hall

The Community Room is in the old office building, to the east of our new building. The room is available for Villages residents to rent out. The Community Hall can be a room for a neighborhood meeting, a party, a small exercise class, etc. The details for the use of the Hall can be found on our website.

VILLAGE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Brush Pick-Up

Spring brush and limb pick-up will be provided by the Town and Village of Lansing Highway Departments on May 4th. Residents are asked to leave all materials near the roadside by 6:00 am Monday morning. To assist the work crews, all limbs and brush (up to 5 inches in diameter) should be piled with the cut ends facing the same direction. The limbs should be no longer than 6 feet in length. Also, the piles should not be tied, but should be left loose. Please do not put out bags of yard waste. This pick up is only for limbs and brush.

John Courtney, Supt. of Public Works

SOUTHERN CAYUGA LAKE INTERMUNICIPAL WATER COMMISSION

Water /Sewer Rate Increases as of April 2020 Billing for Village Residents

In January 2020 the SCLIWC raised their water rate from \$5.16 to \$5.41 and in February the Village increased their surcharge from 40% to 50%. The cost for 1,000 gallons of water is \$8.11. The Village of Cayuga Heights has also increased their sewer rate so the new sewer rate is \$5.70 per 1,000 gallons of water. The surcharge increase was necessary so that the Village can deal with aging infrastructure.

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

New projects and some updates since the September newsletter:

1. The Planning Board heard a request to incorporate Low Traffic Food and Beverage as an allowed use in the Commercial Low Traffic (CLT) District. This request was not granted as the CLT District abuts residential districts. However, after much discussion the Planning Board did vote unanimously to recommend to the Board of Trustees that the five parcels located on the eastern side of North Triphammer Road--from Graham Road south to the Cayuga Mall--be rezoned from CLT to Commercial Medium Traffic (CMT). It was felt that this change is appropriate as it aligns these parcels with the commercial district directly across the street on the western side of Triphammer. Low Traffic Food and Beverage is an allowed use in the CMT District. Because the CLT parcels north of Graham Road on Triphammer abut residential areas, a district change was not considered to be appropriate beyond this point.
2. The Board received a request for a Home Occupation. The request was denied as the use requested was not allowed in a residential district and there had been several neighbor complaints regarding activities at the site. However, the matter raised the question as to the need for regulations for Short Term Rentals (STRs). STR is an issue confronting municipalities nationwide. The Board solicited input from the public and continues discussion regarding regulation. The main concern is how to find a balance between allowing villagers to provide STRs, enhance their income, and yet protect the integrity of our neighborhoods. Please send any thoughts you would like to share with the Board regarding STRs to codeofficer2@vlansing.org
3. The Board approved a third Battery Energy Storage System at 20 Bomax Drive/TransAct.
4. A Special Permit was issued for a minor subdivision/residence on Burdick Hill Rd.
5. Beer Properties proposed a cluster subdivision project for the Millcroft property. The parcel is located between Janivar Drive and Millcroft Way. The project is for duplex housing and is an allowed use in the Medium Density Residential District. As of this writing, the proposal has not yet come back to the Planning Board pending a review of the wetlands on the Millcroft site by the US Army Corps of Engineers.
6. At year end, Solar Village Company made an informal presentation to the Board for solar homes to be built on a parcel between North Wood and Dart Drive. The formal proposal was finalized in the New Year. The project is to be completed in two phases and is for 43 single-family homes. The homes range in size from 850 sq. ft. to 1550 sq. ft. and are projected to be priced from \$275,000 to \$395,000. The homes will have integrated solar power and are designed for no annual heating or electric costs. The proposed development is clustered to preserve existing forest and wetlands. A spring start is planned.
7. The Board had presentations by Cornell students from City & Regional Planning, Architecture, and Landscape Architecture about short- and long-term vision plans for the Village malls. The presentations sparked some new ideas for the Board to consider as we continue a review of our Village Zoning.
8. The Shops at Ithaca Mall came to the Board in January with an informal presentation about a possible subdivision of the mall. However, to date the Board has not received any additional information.
9. Special Permits are in process for residences on Blackchin and Esty Drive

Some Updates on past projects:

- Maguire Nissan of Ithaca
 - Construction is now underway for the new Maguire Nissan showroom at 35 Cinema Drive and Uptown Road
- Lansing Meadows Planned Development Area/aka BJ's PDA
 - Four buildings (units 1-12) are visibly under construction with a scheduled commitment for completion by July 31, 2020. The two remaining buildings (units 13-18) are to be completed by December 31, 2020
- Cayuga Mall Revisions
 - Planet Fitness has relocated to the Cayuga Mall next to Big Lots with positive responses from its members
 - The Dollar Tree store next door has also opened
- General Planning Sessions
 - The Planning Board continues to discuss issues and policies surrounding development in the Village for possible recommendation to the Trustees for changes to the Village Code. Some of the topics are:
 - Possible use changes to current Districts
 - Short-term rental legislation
 - Sidewalks and walkways recommendations

This is my last newsletter as a Planning Board member. I have had the privilege to serve on the Planning Board for over 10 years. It has been wonderful to serve with so many smart committed people, often with differing opinions but working together as a team for the Village. During my tenure I have gained a real appreciation for the workings of municipal government, the impact a group can have at the local level, and how important it is to be involved in helping to shape the town where I live.

Please consider getting involved in Village government as a Planning Board member. This is an appointed position and members do receive a stipend. If you are interested in serving please contact the Village Clerk/Treasurer at 607-257-0424 ext. #2 or clerk@vlansing.org for more information; or come to observe a Planning Board meeting and talk to us personally.

As always, we invite all interested Villagers to come to Planning Board meetings. Meetings are held the second Monday and the last Tuesday of each month, 7:00 - 9:00pm (holidays may impact the schedule).

If you would like to receive an email with the upcoming Planning Board agendas that are sent out approximately four days in advance of a meeting, please contact Mike Scott at codeofficer2@vlansing.org to be added to the email distribution list. Alternatively, check the <https://vlansing.org/website> (Village Meetings icon) where you can find Board agendas and can catch up on past Planning Board activity by accessing the meeting minutes.

Lisa Schleelein, Planning Board Chair

VILLAGE TRUSTEE REPORTS

Village Joins NYSERDA's Climate Smart Communities Program

The Village of Lansing has joined the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program sponsored by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA.) A CSC Task Force was formed comprising Village officials, Village residents, and community liaisons. The task force will guide the Village government through ten categories of action steps with the goals of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and improving the Village's resilience to the harmful effects of GHG-exacerbated

climate change.

The task force is evaluating more than 120 action steps to determine each step's impact and feasibility for the Village government and community. After the evaluation stage, the task force will begin researching and implementing the chosen action steps. Each implemented action will produce documented evidence of completion and, after Village Trustee approval, the documentation will be submitted to the CSC Certification program for review and potential award of achievement points. Through the certification program, the Village can become a Clean Energy Community, with a self-developed, robust framework to guide our climate action.

The Village's CSC Task Force website sharing meetings, goals, and progress can be found at: <https://vlansing.org/climate-smart-communities/>. All meetings are open to the public.

Ronny Hardaway, Trustee and CSC Task Force Chair

TCCOG Forms New Subcommittees

At their January 27 meeting, the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) formed subcommittees for TCCOG members (other participants may be included.) There are four subcommittees: Energy and Climate Change, Water Quality, Public Transportation, and Emergency Services. Subcommittees will not have a budget from TCCOG, and county staff support will be limited to general announcements and posting information on the County website. Subcommittee meetings will alternate months with full TCCOG meetings:

- Subcommittee meetings: March, May, July, September, November
- Full TCCOG meetings: April, June, August, October, December

Subcommittees will develop a general understanding of what projects/policies/etc. are underway at both the County level as well as the municipality level. The planned deadline for this information is June 15, 2020. At the August 27 TCCOG meeting, subcommittees will present a set of planned goals along with a plan of action to accomplish those goals.

TCCOG is an association of local governments organized to provide a forum for discussion and negotiation leading to agreements for more efficient and fiscally responsible delivery of government services. The goals include expanding cooperation among taxing entities and resolving duplication of services, improving communication among local governments in Tompkins County and improving involvement with School Districts. The Village of Lansing has been a member since TCCOG's inception. TCCOG's county webpage can be found at: <http://tompkinscountyny.gov/tccog>.

Ronny Hardaway, Trustee and TCCOG representative

LANSING STAR

The Lansing Star Online is a great place to find out what's happening around Tompkins County. IthaCalendar is also a prominent part of <http://www.lansingstar.com>. Dan Veanor, Lansing Star Online Editor, attends most Village of Lansing Board meetings and continues to provide good coverage of both Town and Village of Lansing meetings.

VILLAGE GREENWAY-LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Greenway Committee Updates

New Park Signs and Benches

The Village Greenway Committee researched, selected, and placed orders for Village park benches and new park signs. The park benches arrived late last Fall and the new park signs arrived in February. All Village park signs will have the same design, so existing park signs will be replaced for consistent identification. The Village Department of Public Works plans to install the benches and signs during their upcoming Spring through Fall work cycles.



Example Park Sign

Greenway Plan Review

The Greenway Committee will meet this Spring to review the Villages' Greenway Plan to determine if any updates are required to the plan. Should any updates be requested or required, the committee will draft the proposed changes to the plan and submit them to the Board of Trustees for review and approval. Once the date and time for the plan's review are finalized, they will be announced in the "Village News" area on the Village website's home page. All Greenway Committee meetings are open to the public.

Ronny Hardaway, Trustee and Greenway Committee Chair

TOMPKINS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

County issues large and small have understandably taken a back seat to the many issues raised by our need to respond to Covid-19. The pandemic has an impact on every aspect of County operations, but the most significant impact is on our County Health Department, which is our local "mission control" for monitoring and protecting the public's health. For detailed information and answers to frequently asked questions, please visit the department's Covid-19 webpage at [2019 Novel Coronavirus | www.tompkinscountyny.gov](https://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/2019-Novel-Coronavirus)

As I write this, we have two confirmed cases of the virus, but if experience elsewhere is a teacher, we will definitely have more. Right now, self-quarantine is the best thing you can do for your and your family's health, and as a caring and responsible act towards your neighbors and the larger County community. As you've probably heard and read elsewhere, we are engaged in a nationwide "social distancing" exercise in order to "flatten the curve" of demand on our health system. In local terms, I am told that there are no more than 25 ICU beds and 15 respirators here in Tompkins County, so slowing the spread of the virus is essential to all of us.

I know that this situation is uncertain, and I wish I had the answers that would alleviate your understandable anxieties. Sadly, I don't. I do know that experts at every level of government are working on our behalf, and they share information as it becomes available. In addition to the County's website above, you may find helpful information at the CDC's website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> , and at the NYS Department of Health's website at [Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/covid-19/).

As always, you can reach me at ddawson@tompkins-co.org.

Stay home, wash your hands, and stay well!

Deborah Dawson, Tompkins County Legislator, District 10

DON'T MISS AN ISSUE

The Village Newsletter is currently published twice a year in March and October. The newsletter is available on the Village website at www.vlansing.org. You can also sign up to receive notice of our publication by clicking on "Subscribe to Village Mail List" at the top of our home page. If you prefer to receive a paper copy just call the office to get added to the mailing list. Copies are also available at the Village Office. Spread the word to your neighbors about the newsletter!

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Mayor Don Hartill DLH13@cornell.edu	272-7671
Deputy Mayor Ronny Hardaway rjhardaway@yahoo.com	351-8042
Trustee John O'Neill johnoneil5@aol.com	266-8392
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke patithaca@aol.com	272-4029
Trustee Randy Smith rsmith@incodema.com	592-7969
BZA Chair-Lynn Leopold	273-3457
Planning Bd. Chairman-Lisa Schleelein	272-4280

VILLAGE EMPLOYEES

***All can be reached at their extension when calling 257-0424**

Clerk/Treasurer	Jodi Dake	ext. #221
Clerk Part Time	Tina FreeLove	
Code /Zoning Officer	Michael Scott	ext. #223
Supt. of Public Works	John Courtney	ext. #224
MEO Nolan Hatfield & Chris Zavaski		ext. #225
Fire Inspector	Brian Quadrozzi	ext. #222
Electrical Inspector	Floyd Ferris	592-5829
Village Accountant		
Ciaschi Dietershagen Little & Mickelson		272-4444
Village Attorney		
Barney Grossman Dubow & Troy		273-6841
Village Engineers	TG Millers	272-6477
Engineering Consultant	Brent Cross	

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

John Courtney, Superintendent of Public Works
257-0424, Ext. 224 or cell 280-4893

VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES

Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission.....	Don Hartill, Michael Newman
Tompkins County Board of Representatives, District 6.....	Michael J Sigler
Tompkins County Board of Representatives, District 10.....	Deborah Dawson
Tompkins County Environmental Management Council.....	John Dennis
Tompkins County Joint Youth Commission.....	Ronny Hardaway
Tompkins County Council of Government-TCCOG.....	Ronny Hardaway, Patricia O'Rourke

STATE AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

N.Y. State Senator Pamela Helming (R)
54th State Senate District
409 Legislative Office Bldg.
Albany, NY 12247
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N.Y. State Assembly Barbara Lifton (D)
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