



# Newsletter

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## VILLAGE OF LANSING *Incorporated 1974*

2405 North Triphammer Road \* Ithaca, NY 14850 \* 257-0424 \* (FAX) 257-3230

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

Web Page Address: [vlansing.org](http://vlansing.org).

**March 2008**

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

Planning Board Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday and last Tuesday, 7:30 PM

Board of Zoning Appeal Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday as needed; 7:30 PM

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Welcome to the Village of Lansing's first electronic newsletter! The Village Newsletter is currently published twice a year in March and October. In the future the newsletter will be available on the Village website at [www.vlansing.org](http://www.vlansing.org). To make it more convenient, we have set up a system for you to receive notices of when the next newsletter is available and to be informed of important events in the Village. To be added to the Village Email list, please send a blank message to [vlansing-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:vlansing-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). This automatically subscribes you. If you have any comments or concerns please email the Village Clerk at [clerk@vlansing.org](mailto:clerk@vlansing.org) or call Jodi at the office at 257-0424.

## COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

Winter this year hasn't produced much snow but has given us some ice and freezing rain. This has required the use of significantly more salt to keep the roadways clear and even resulted in a local shortage of salt. A couple of times the Town of Lansing has had to use sand and gravel which will have to be cleaned up as we move into spring. Marian and I drove to Hilton Head Island, South Carolina for a short vacation last week. The flowers were in bloom and the flowering trees were almost past their peak. As we drove further north, the signs of spring began to fade and had disappeared by the time we got to Northern Pennsylvania. Hopefully, spring won't be too far behind here in Lansing. The last two Mondays have featured an early limb and brush pickup to help Village residents cope with the significant damage to trees and bushes caused by the ice storm of a couple of weeks ago. We will be busy, as soon as the weather warms and dries a bit, repairing the usual winter damage to the roadways. Pot holes will continue to be patched as soon as we hear about them and more permanent repairs will be carried out as soon as the asphalt batch plants open in the spring. Crack sealing and shoulder repairs along with street sweeping and re-striping will be carried out as soon as weather permits. The other rite of spring is the annual brush pickup by Town of Lansing and Village crews. The dates of the pickup and the guidelines appear later in the newsletter and I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity.

We have completed the budget process for the coming fiscal year and have a proposed budget that will be presented at a public hearing scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:35 pm. The assessed value of the properties in the Village has increased by 1.6% compared to last year so with a tax rate of \$1.40, the same as last year, the proposed property tax levy will increase by 1.6%. This is significantly less than other taxing entities in the

region and has been possible through careful management. We expect that next year we will remain in this steady state with the tax levy increasing at roughly the rate of inflation since the costs of the Village's needed supplies increase with inflation just like those required by you and I. Over the years, the Village has systematically reduced its reliance on New York State financial aid so that budget issues in Albany have only minor effects on Village finances.

The Village is only a few weeks away from the final acceptance of the North Triphammer Road Reconstruction Project. With that acceptance, it will end the twelve years that it has taken to realize this critical project for the Village. It has really changed the character of the Village in a very positive way and it has been a privilege to work with all the people who have made this happen. Thanks!

As I mentioned in my last newsletter article, the construction of the proposed sewer system for the Town of Lansing has been postponed indefinitely. In the meantime, the tenants of the small industrial park north of the airport have had increasing failures of their on-site disposal systems and have approached the Town to form a small sewer district that would be connected to the Village's sewerage transmission system. We have agreed to this and are in the process of working out the details before construction can begin. It will be a modest system that at most will amount to 120 units (~ 40,000 gallons per day) and can easily be accommodated by our transmission system. It continues the spirit of cooperation between the Town and the Village.

Donald Hartill, Mayor

## **PLANNING BOARD NEWS**

Several significant proposals were completed during the winter months. The review of the of the Crossmore subdivision on East Shore Drive which will consist of 21 building lots, two walking trails and other open space lands received final approval, with conditions, in October. Currently the applicant is resolving the Conditions of Approval which will result in the signing of the final plat and its filing in the Tompkins County Clerk's office.

A special permit was granted to GRM Properties, L.P. to construct a circular driveway and a curb cut for the house at 51 Dart Drive. Integrated Acquisitions & Development were granted two special permits for construction in the Human Health District on Warren Road. A request to construct a 2000 sq.ft. addition on the existing medical office building at 8 Brentwood Drive was approved.

A second permit was granted for the construction of a 17,000 square foot medical office building at 16 Brentwood Drive. This request generated considerable discussion among planning board members which focused on the single entrance to the Human Health District. The main concern is the need for an alternate entrance in case of an emergency and a blockage of the existing entrance. An immediate solution will be to widen the Arrowwood Drive entrance to allow emergency vehicles to by-pass any blockage. The Planning Board and Cornell Real Estate Department will hold further discussions on a long term solution to the problem of a single entrance to the Human Health District.

The Planning Board is in the process of revising its goals for 2008. The goal of clarifying and up-dating the existing regulations and application procedures is an on going goal. Additionally, the Village Lighting Plan is in the process of being revised and two new topics are being considered: Landscaping Guidelines for Commercial Development and Affordable Housing.

The winter months have provided an opportunity for guest speakers to visit with the Planning Board to provide

some In-Service Training. Mr. David Fernandez, Cayuga Landscape met with the Board and discussed some of the principles of landscape design, interpretation of symbols on a landscape plan and the selection of trees, shrubs and perennials for this area. This was a very worthwhile presentation. Mr. John Spence, Better Housing For Tompkins County, spoke at the Board's meeting on March 25th.

Planning Board meetings are held on the second Monday and last Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM. The public is always welcome.

Ned Hickey, Planning Board Chairman

**CODE & ZONING DEPARTMENT**

**VILLAGE OF LANSING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 2007**

Building and Land Use Activity

Type of Construction	Number of Permits	Total Value
New Building - Non-Residential	1	\$ 1,883,700.00
Commercial Improvement	28	\$ 1,608,253.00
New Single-Family Residence	9	\$ 2,494,000.00
Residential Alteration	13	\$ 303,083.00
Demolition	4	\$ 37,100.00
Site Improvement	3	\$ 184,500.00
Mechanical	6	\$ 224,344.00
Kiosk	2	\$ 0.00
Residential Accessory Building	1	\$ 1,900.00
Swimming Pool	0	\$ 0.00
Home Occupation	1	\$ 0.00
Temporary Commercial Activity	3	\$ 0.00
Change of Occupancy	11	\$ 0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>\$ 6,736,880.00</b>
Fees Collected .....		\$28,655.00
Certificates of Occupancy .....	34	
Fire and Safety Inspections .....	192	
Housing Maintenance Inspections.....	328	
Sign Permits .....	41	

Ben Curtis, Code & Zoning Officer

## VILLAGE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

### BRUSH PICK-UP

Spring brush and limb pick-up will be provided by the Village and Town of Lansing Highway Departments the week of May 5<sup>th</sup>. Residents are asked to leave all materials near the roadside by 6:00am 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. In the past we have limited the amount we would pick up to a pick up truck size load but, due to the ice storms that we have had this winter, we are waiving this.

John Courtney, Supt. of Public Works

## VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE

### ELECTIONS

The Village of Lansing Elections will be held at the Oakcrest Fire Station on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12:00pm to 9:00pm. The two-year terms for Trustees John O'Neil and Frank Moore are both expiring. Frank Moore will not be running for the Trustees position again. We would like to thank him for his many years of dedicated service to the Village of Lansing.

### NOTARY SERVICES

Notary public services are available free of charge to Village residents at the Village Office. Residents are asked to telephone the Village Office at 257-0424 to arrange a time for this service.

### STREET TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

The Street Tree Planting Program seeks to encourage the planting of shade trees along Village streets. The Village offers to reimburse homeowners 75% of the cost of a tree, up to a maximum of \$75 per tree. The application and instructions can be found on our webpage under Applications and Forms. You may also pick up an application at the Village Office or by calling the Village Office (257-0424) and requesting an application be mailed to you.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer

## TOMPKINS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) mandated that we replace our old lever-style mechanical voting machines. All the twists and turns and setbacks at the State and Federal level over the last few years might make a good reality TV show (Survivor: Voting Machine Island?). But we're finally moving forward.

This fall we will continue to use our old mechanical machines, but we will have one new Sequoia ImageCast machine in each poll site that can be used as a **ballot marking device (BMD)**. This feature allows a voter with disabilities to prepare and print a paper ballot without assistance. The machine can display the ballot in larger sizes, or it can read the ballot to a voter. The voter uses a special controller to navigate around the ballot and make choices. Once the voter has printed his ballot, it is inserted in an envelope, and will be counted that night. Though primarily intended to help voters with disabilities, *any* voter may chose to use the BMD; we do not ask for any "proof" of disability. We plan to hold special trainings so that each poll site will have at least one "expert" inspector who is familiar with the Ballot Marking Device.

In 2009 we have to stop using the old lever machines, and we will begin to use the **optical scanner** component of the ImageCast machine. Voters will now indicate their choices on a paper ballot, and then insert the ballot into an optical scanner that tabulates the vote. In the event of a tabulation problem, we could hand count the paper ballots. We'll hand count a certain percentage anyway to assure that everything is working correctly.

As we move into this new era of voting, we'd really like to find some new inspectors to help with the transition. We'd especially like to find people who are comfortable with very simple electronic technology. We have complete faith that our current inspectors can master the new equipment, but we also know that some will retire soon. If you're a registered Democrat or Republican, and would like to be involved in the election process, (and earn some money!), call the Board of Elections: 274-5522.

We will have plenty of training and demonstrations next year to familiarize voters and inspectors with the new voting machine. For more information and pictures of the new voting machine, go to [www.votetompkins.com](http://www.votetompkins.com).

Tom Paolangeli

## **REDUCING DEER-VEHICLE CRASHES**

The Village has instituted a Deer Management Program to address the problems associated with our ever-growing deer herds...problems such as de-forestation, deer-vehicle accidents, and Lyme disease. Here is an excerpted version of an article from the Cornell Extension Service focusing on vehicle accidents with deer, written by Paul Curtis of Cornell and James Hedlund of Highway Safety North.

“Many motorists and communities across North America are increasingly concerned about deer-vehicle crashes (DVCs). More than 1.5 million DVCs occurred in the United States in 2002, causing at least \$1.1 billion in vehicle damage and killing about 150 humans and at least 1.5 million deer. These numbers are rising every year with the continued increase in both deer numbers and motor vehicle traffic. (We are facing the same problem within the Village of Lansing.)

It is difficult to estimate numbers of deer, but there is clear evidence that populations have increased over the past century, especially over the last three decades. In New York, there were only about 20,000 deer in the early 1900s but about 1 million in the late 1990s.

The number of DVCs that occur nationwide is also difficult to estimate, but evidence indicates that they are increasing. Many people do not report DVCs to police. A 1990 telephone survey of home-owners in New York indicated that police were notified of about half, and insurance companies of less than half, of DVCs. Taking the underreporting to police into account, it was estimated that about 1.5 million DVCs occurred nationwide each year in the mid-1990s.

DVCs are seasonal: those involving white-tailed deer peak in October and November during the breeding season, and a secondary peak occurs in May and June as yearling deer disperse from their birth areas. DVCs occur predominantly in darkness, on high-speed, two-lane, rural roads, especially when forest cover is close to the roadway.

Aside from herd reduction, fencing is the only DVC prevention method that unquestionably is effective if applied properly, (however, the fencing option is not only prohibitively expensive but is typically very unattractive). State transportation department administrators rate herd management as potentially the most effective DVC control strategy, while state wildlife administrators rated it second only to fencing.

Two reports document how local deer herd management policies can affect DVCs:

- 1) After Princeton, New Jersey, passed a no-firearms-discharge ordinance in 1972, DVCs increased by 436 percent in 10 years, compared with no statistically significant change in two adjoining townships where deer hunting using fire-arms continued to be allowed. Princeton town officials then tried to reduce DVCs and other deer-related problems using whistles, reflectors, and increased bow-hunting, but DVCs continued to rise, to 167 in 1991 and 227 in 1992.
- 2) In Irondequoit, New York, a selective deer culling and bow hunting program was initiated in 1993. About 125 deer were removed in each of the next eight years. DVCs dropped from 227 in 1992 to about 100 annually in the late 1990s.”

The Village’s Deer Management Program is similar to the Irondequoit example and our hope is that we might also see a significant decrease in deer-vehicle accidents and be able to maintain our herds at a sustainable level.

John O’Neill, Trustee

## **LANSING RECREATION**

### ***Lansing Parks & Recreation Upcoming Events***

#### **Summer Recreation Programs**

Programs will be plentiful and will be listed in the booklet that will be ready for distribution around the second week of May. We are currently discussing several new programs. Many of the programs fill very quickly, so be on the look out for it. There will be booklets available in the Village Office also.

#### **Music in the Park Concert Series**

We will be having a series of musical concerts in Myers Park this summer. The concerts will be on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 PM. The schedule to date looks like this:

- July 26-6:30 – New Orleans All-Star Jazz Band
- July 3 – 6:30 – Steve Southworth and The Rockabilly Rays
- July 10 – 6:30 – Lone Ranger with Dee Specker
- July 17 – 6:30 – The Ageless Jazz Band
- July 24 – 6:30 – The Balktalk Band
- July 31 – 6:30 – Aaron Kelly
- August 7 – 6:00 – Kip & Rich

Admission to the concerts is free; donations will be appreciated. So mark your calendars and plan to join us in the park for music by the lake.

#### **Park Pavilions**

The Town of Lansing Parks and Recreation Department is currently accepting reservations for spring/summer pavilion rentals. The Town has 8 pavilions available for rental; 7 are located at the lake front Town Park in Myers and one is located at the ball field complex on Auburn Road. Pavilions will accommodate from 100-250 people, depending on which pavilion is reserved. Rental fee is \$40 per day for smaller pavilions and \$60 per day for the larger pavilions. All pavilions have electric, water and have paved floors. A covered barbecue area is also available at the park in Myers. Payment may now be made by master/visa card or check as usual. Reservations are on a first come, first served basis. For more information or to request reservation forms, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 533-7388 or stop in their office at the Town Hall, 29 Auburn Road, Lansing.

### **Season Boat Launch Permits**

Myers Park season boat launching permits are now on sale at the Parks & Recreation office located in the Lansing Town Hall. Resident rate is \$30; Sr. resident rate is \$20. Non-resident rate is \$50; Sr. non-resident rate is \$40. A copy of the boat trailer registration is required at time of purchase.

### **Camping at Myers Park.**

Advance reservations may be made to secure any sites 1 - 19. Camping reservations may be made by calling the Parks & Recreation Department office 533-7388. The per night fee is \$20 and reservations are made by using your credit card.

Steve Colt, Town of Lansing Recreation Director

### **LANSING COMMUNITY LIBRARY CENTER (LCLC)**

Help beat cabin fever with a trip to The Lansing Community Library. Staffed by friendly, knowledgeable volunteers, the newly renovated space is well-stocked with books, including a large selection of audio books and large-type print, DVD's, videos, and magazines. Hop on a computer and surf the internet or catch up on email; the library now has a computer for public use as well as internet access. Check out the Lansing Community Library's new website at [www.lansinglibrary.org](http://www.lansinglibrary.org) for the latest information on upcoming art shows and public interest programs. Library hours are: Mondays, 3-8 PM, Tuesdays, 9AM-12, 6-8PM, Wednesdays, 9Am-12, 3-8PM, Thursdays, 6-8PM, Fridays, 9-noon, and Saturdays, 9AM-1:00. If the flag is out, the library is open! For more information, call 533-4939.

Dawn Kleeschulte

### **COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Energy is very much on your County government's agenda this year: 2008 is the target date for achieving our 2002-adopted goal of reducing county government's greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions by 20% compared to a 1998 base year; during 2008 the County Planning Department is focused on developing an Energy Element to add to the County Comprehensive Plan; and with oil-based fuels and highway materials at an all-time cost high, 2008 is a year to struggle with keeping our multi-year highway maintenance program on track.

The County Planning Department has begun work to develop the Energy Element missing from the 2004 Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan. This will involve research into major issues (e.g., emissions from burning of fossil fuels; the advent of "peak oil"), existing conditions, and local, regional, state and national trends. Research will include much reading, identifying the data sources and persons to interview, and garnering public input about what energy issues are seen as important locally. After this there will be brainstorming policies and actions that can be effective on the local level. These ideas will then be presented at a public meeting. A Steering Committee has been formed from Planning Commissioner Marx's Planning Advisory Board to review questions for interviews and focus groups and the format and goals of public meetings, and to discuss the "Energy and Greenhouse-gas Element" for the Comprehensive Plan.

As for our GHG-emission reduction target, during the 2006 GHG-emission inventory update the 1998 baseline figures were revisited using updated methodology, which recalculated waste and energy-use figures and added highway vehicles to the inventory. This resulted in an increase in the 1998 baseline emissions, from 6847 tons of "carbon dioxide" to 7408 tons. Actually, GHG emission is given in eCO<sub>2</sub> units – carbon dioxide equivalents, to which, e.g., nitrogen oxides and methane, are converted. Using these new figures, we

recognized we might not meet our 20% reduction goal. So, in the budget the Legislature adopted for 2008, we added a new \$50,000 line, to be used only to pay the additional cost of purchasing hybrid vehicles instead of conventional ones. Departments must apply for such supplemental funding, and a decision will be based not only on fuel efficiency (mpg) and GHG emissions for that vehicle, but also on whether the requested vehicle is appropriate to that department's intended use (e.g., don't buy a four-wheel drive vehicle for low-mileage in-town use).

Also as part of the emission-reduction effort, by mid-summer this year we should have a report on our first full year of savings from our contract with Johnson Controls that resulted in replacing various equipment with more energy-efficient items (from light bulbs and movement sensors to boilers and generators and other HVAC components).

Most recently, at the March 18 Legislature meeting, we unanimously supported proclaiming 8 to 9 pm on Saturday, March 29, "Earth Hour 2008". This is a global effort in which municipalities, institutions, businesses, and individuals worldwide will turn off lights and other electrical appliances not in critical use, to demonstrate support for action on climate change. San Francisco and Chicago are among U.S. cities participating in this year's event. The County is pleased and excited to be part of the second annual Earth Hour. The proclamation urges all residents, businesses, institutions, and governments to participate in this symbolic act to demonstrate support for combating global warming, the gravest threat our planet has faced. I hope Lansing readers will feel inspired to participate! More information about Earth Hour 2008 can be found at the program's web site at <http://www.earthhour.org/> If you have questions about Earth Hour 2008, please contact Legislator Kiefer at 257-7453.

Dooley Kiefer, County Board of Representatives

## **TOMPKINS COUNTY SOLID WASTE**

### **Looking Ahead at 2008 – Reducing Waste in Tompkins County!**

January marked not only the beginning of the calendar year but also the beginning of new programs for the Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division (TCSWMD). This is a time for TCSWMD to set goals, look forward to the months ahead. The 2008-year promises to be full of innovation, public education, and outreach focused on the 4Rs, reduce, reuse, recycle, and rebuy.

#### **Reduce:**

Waste Reduction remains a top priority for TCSWMD. The County Solid Waste Manager has set a 75% waste reduction goal by the year 2015. At Tompkins County's current waste reduction rate of 58% (2007), which exceeds the statewide goal of 40%, this vision is well within reach. There are many ways for residents and businesses to take advantage of our programs. The Household Hazardous Waste DEPOT provides County households and qualified small businesses with a permanent site where certain household hazardous waste can be taken for proper management. In fact, this site is open for collection 6 days a year.

TCSWMD also provides assistance to County businesses and institutions, through the ReBusiness Partners Program, to help increase recycling, reduce waste, and increase green purchasing. For example, TCSWMD has been working with Cayuga Compost, a food and organic waste collection and composting service, to collect and transport compostable material to be processed into high quality soil amendments. This benefits the environment by diverting useful material from landfills. Currently the program focuses on restaurants, institutions, and schools.

Tompkins County schools, with TCSWMD's assistance, are getting involved on the waste reduction front through the Go Green Initiative Program (GGI). The GGI program provides a template for



schools to adopt, adapt and implement 5 guidelines, **Generate** compost, **Recycle**, **Educate**, **Evaluate**, and **Nationalize** principals of responsible consumption. These schools are particularly working with TCSWMD to have effective recycling and compost collection programs.

### **Reuse:**

TCSWMD has been working with other non-profit organizations including Historic Ithaca and Cornell Cooperative Extension to develop a local Reuse Center that will divert materials from the waste stream, and support the local economy by creating jobs and providing valuable goods at affordable prices. Development of the Center will occur throughout the year, with a targeted opening this fall.

### **Recycling:**

As awareness about the 4Rs increases, so does the demand to recycle in settings beyond the home or work, such as community events. The Solid Waste Management Division plans to increase public awareness at these events. In the past, little support has been provided for recycling at community events, making it a challenge.

TCSWMD is currently moving ahead with a request for proposals to implement Single Stream recycling with the anticipation to increase the volume of materials diverted from landfills. Residents and businesses of Tompkins County will find recycling preparation easier as all recyclable items will go in one larger recycling bin.

While this is important it is also valuable to strengthen the accessibility and education about the collection of recyclables already being collected. There is still a lot to recover from Tompkins County's waste stream. And don't forget, RECYCLING is MANDATORY in Tompkins County.

### **Rebuy:**

The Finger Lakes Buy Green website, [www.fingerlakesbuygreen.org](http://www.fingerlakesbuygreen.org), is an online resource that gives consumers – both residents and businesses, information about buying products that protect our health and the environment – closing the loop of the recycling cycle. It lists a sampling of locally available products, including office supplies, cleaning supplies, and yard and garden supplies with maintenance supplies appearing this summer.

Recently, the Finger Lakes Environmentally Preferred Procurement Consortium (FLEPPC) was formed in partnership with TCSWMD to promote environmental preferred products and stimulate economic vitality of the region through the use of the consortium's significant collective purchasing power. While the consortium partners expect to leverage lower acquisition costs for key commodities they each purchase, committing to procure environmentally preferred products also strengthens the markets for these items, supports local suppliers, and encourages the development of "green" manufacturing within the region and creates a demand for the goods we are recycling.

While residents and businesses have seen an increase in many of TCSWMD's services this encourages waste reduction and ensures quality services and innovative programs offered to the community alike. Thanks for being part of our community efforts to reduce waste and stay tuned for updates about these specific programs in the months ahead. For more information about Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division's programs visit [www.recycletompkins.org](http://www.recycletompkins.org).

Contact: Linnett Short, Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division, 273-6632, [Lshort@tompkins-co.org](mailto:Lshort@tompkins-co.org)

## **JOINT YOUTH COMMISSION YOUTH PROGRAMS**

The Joint Youth Commission is excited to report that in 2007, 596 youth from the Town of Ithaca, Villages of Cayuga Heights and Lansing participated in programs recommended by the Joint Youth Commission. Over 100 of these youth took part in employment readiness workshops, were matched to job sites or became employed. Programs are open to all youth living in these communities.

Your modest investment of tax monies brings in matching County and State funds. These combined funds provide opportunities for our youth to participate in programs that are purposefully designed to meet the developmental needs of youth and to build a set of core assets and competencies needed to participate successfully in adolescence and adult life.

In 2008 the following agencies will provide programs: The Learning Web, Cornell Cooperative Extension Rural Youth Services, Coddington Road Community Center, Town of Ithaca Work Initiative, and Work Force New York.

The Joint Youth Commission, with representation from each municipality, is responsible for needs assessment, review of proposed programs and recommendation of programs to meet the needs of youth. JYC Commission is committed to:

- Advocating for all youth between the ages of 0-17.
- Improving program access for all youth.
- Increasing awareness to youth and their families of program options.
- Developing programs in the following areas:
  - Employment Readiness skills
  - Youth Employment
  - Community Service opportunities.
- Promoting youth involvement in the planning of programs.
- Monitoring funded programs to assure that the focus is youth development and meets the identified needs of our youth.

Members of the Youth Commission are:

Lorraine Moran - Town of Ithaca

Diane Jayne - Town of Ithaca

Sandra Gittelman - Village of Cayuga Heights.

Diane Schmidt - Village of Lansing

Sandie Grooms - Business

There are openings for a representative from the Town and Village of Lansing

If you are interested please call a current member or the Town of Ithaca at 273-1721

## **2008 Spring and Summer programs:**

### **Coddington Road Community Center**

Counselor in Training, Morning Camp for youth ages 5-10, Camp for middle school age youth. Contact Anne Morrissette 277-1434

### **Cornell Cooperative Extension**

Spring workshops include, Primitive Pursuits, learn primitive skills such as bow making, shelter building and fire safety. The art of Comics and more mid March through April. Summer programs not yet decided. Contact Monica Van Fleet 272-2292 ext 225 [mms39@cornell.edu](mailto:mms39@cornell.edu)

### **Youth Employment Project**

Town of Ithaca for JYC youth. Work skills, job development, employment stipends, volunteer opportunities youth employment networking. Year round Programs. Contact: Marnie Kirchgessner 273-1721 ext. 136 [mkirchgessner@town.Ithaca.ny.us](mailto:mkirchgessner@town.Ithaca.ny.us)

## **Tompkins Workforce New York**

Tompkins Workforce New York will offer two Customer Service Sessions for 16 students each; one series in April/May and one in late August. The sessions will include the following topics: customer service excellence, communication styles, diversity, interpersonal skills, teamwork, conflict resolution, and time management. We will also highlight the most effective job search tips and techniques for teens. For information about dates of the workshop please call Workforce NY at 607-272-7570 extension 169.

## **Learning Web**

The Learning Web's Community and Career Exploration and Apprenticeship Program

Is your teen looking for fun, hands-on, "real world" experiences to help them prepare for a future career? Does your middle school student like to have fun and help others? Then CCEAP may be just what you're looking for! Through CCEAP, middle and high school students do job-shadowing, apprenticeships, career tours and more based on their specific interests. Middle school students make friends, have fun and help their community through the CCEAP community service programs. This summer, youth ages 11-14 are invited to join the six weeks Summer Service Program. For more information please Contact Sue Schwartz at 275-0122 or by email at [Sue@learning-web.com](mailto:Sue@learning-web.com).

## **LIFELONG**

### **My Medicare Matters Navigator Classes—What Are They?**

Lifelong is excited to be one of the first 150 My Medicare Matters Navigator Project sites in the United States. The My Medicare Matters Navigator Project helps seniors and caregivers assess their personal situation, understand their choices, compare plan options and make decisions to promote the health and financial situation that most benefits them. To this end, guides or Navigators as they are called, provide internet training regarding five Medicare related web sites. The goal of the Navigator Project is to help people feel comfortable using the Internet for Medicare education. The web sites visited during the My Medicare Matters Navigator classes are:

1. The <http://www.kff.org/medicare/7067/index.cfm> web site provides an excellent introduction to Medicare. This Kaiser Family Foundation site provides a comprehensive yet concise overview of Medicare presented in simple, easy-to-understand language. The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-partisan source of facts, information, and analysis for policymakers, the media, the health care community, and the public.
2. The [www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov) web site is the U.S. government's web site for Medicare consumers. There is information here that is not available elsewhere.
3. The [www.MyMedicareMatters.org](http://www.MyMedicareMatters.org) web site is a consumer friendly site that focuses on Medicare prescription drug coverage and has lots of information for and about the needs of low income Medicare beneficiaries. The National Council on Aging supports this site.
4. The [www.MyMedicare.gov](http://www.MyMedicare.gov) web site is a part of the curriculum because registered users can access unique personalized information about their own use of Medicare benefits. Since this U.S. Government web site contains personally identified information, you must register on the site and receive a password in the mail in order to access your information.
5. The [www.BenefitsCheckUp.org](http://www.BenefitsCheckUp.org) web site is the nation's most comprehensive web-based service to screen for benefits programs for seniors, especially those with limited income and resources.

These five web sites offer a wealth of information about Medicare and the Navigator classes offer you guidance on how to use the sites to access this information. For specific class dates and to register, Call Lifelong, 273-1511

### COULD YOU USE LIFELONG'S CHECK IT! PROGRAM?

Lifelong's Modified Check It! Program has proved useful to Tompkins County residents since 2005. Trained, volunteer Check It! counselors visit clients in their own homes to assist them with financial management details such as making sure monthly bills are mailed out promptly, assisting with setting up automatic withdrawals for some periodic payments, and reconciling monthly accounts. Modified Check It! costs \$15.00 per month.

Referrals to Check It! have come not only from clients themselves who may have physical difficulties and require a bit of assistance, but also from caregivers who live out of state and require supplemental help with care giving for their Tompkins County residents, and even from local banking institutions.

When the need arises, Check It! counselors work closely with professionals from the Department of Social Services and the County Office For the Aging in order to make sure that the Check It! client's overall living situation is safe. All conversations among Check It! clients and counselors are held in the utmost confidence.

Using Full Service Check It! requires a directed power of attorney giving Lifelong limited authority to act. The hourly fee for Full Service Check It! includes a complete financial housecleaning (review of all accounts, debts etc); monthly bill paying; insurance submissions; application for government benefits; and full accounting of finances.

Contact Sarah Jane Blake at Lifelong, 273-1511, for more details regarding the Check It! program.

The Check It! Program is replicated with permission from Lifespan in Rochester, NY. The Tompkins Trust Company, The United Way and the Tompkins County Foundation have contributed funds in support of the Check It! Program at Lifelong.

Sarah Jane Blake  
Tompkins County HICAP Coordinator, Lifelong

## YMCA

### HEALTHY KIDS DAY

Healthy Kids Day is a national celebration of kids and this year will include the family as an integral part of a healthy kid's life. The Y will offer free admission all day, with special Healthy Family Home activities from 12 noon to 1pm in the YMCA gymnasium. Prizes and healthy food will be served at 1pm. YMCA Healthy Family Home is being developed to help families across America improve their home environments to adopt healthier habits. Aligning with the YMCA mission of supporting health in spirit, mind, and body for all and promoting the belief that healthy children come from healthy families, the program focuses on a holistic approach by helping families integrate regular physical activity with healthy food choices and building healthy strong relationships. The core pillars we will concentrate on at Healthy Kids Day will be "Play Every Day", "Connect as a Family" and "Making Healthy Nutritional Choices". We will have volunteer-led activities that include bowling, ping pong, basketball, Frisbee, hula hoop, and a simple game of catch. Kids and family members will be playing together and have an activity card stamped at each activity site to be placed in a drawing for prizes to be awarded at the healthy food luncheon. There will be information provided outlining volunteer opportunities at the Y and in the community. Healthy food will be provided at 1:00pm when door prizes will

be awarded. The first 50 children to arrive with their family member and /or members will receive a free Healthy Kids Day T-shirt.

### HEALTHY SENIORS DAY

Join us Thursday, April 10 for Healthy Senior Day. Take classes and participate in the Healthy Senior fitness assessment in the gym. The facility is open to Senior Guests until 3pm. From 11:00 - 1:00, join us in a variety of functional training activities for a healthier you! We will have stations throughout the gym that will assess your balance, strength, posture, flexibility and more. YMCA instructors and professionals will be on hand to help you through these activities. The activities are fun, and will be suited to your abilities. Walk away with information on how to improve the quality of your everyday life. Healthy snacks and beverages will be provided. This event is open to YMCA members and guests.

### GET READY FOR SUMMER WITH Y SWIM LESSONS

The Y offers a huge variety of swim lessons. For infants and toddlers age 6- 36 months, we offer SKIP classes where the parent and child enter the water together to help the child learn water adjustment and basic swimming skills. For ages 3-5, we offer four different levels encompassing every skill level. For ages 6 and up, we have lessons designed beginner level covers those with little or no swimming background, while the intermediate and advanced levels offer coaching on how to make your stroke better and more efficient. There is something for everyone in Y Swim Lessons, regardless of age or skill level!

Frank Towner

### LANSING STAR

One of the problems we are faced with at the Lansing Star is the strange way our community is broken up. Not only is the Town of Lansing, including the Village, split into five different ZIP codes (Lansing, Ithaca, Groton, Freeville, and Locke), but the Village is in the Ithaca School District while most of the Town is in the Lansing School District. Don't even get me started on telephone exchanges!

The Star is a mom and pop business, owned and operated by a Lansing couple. Unfortunately we don't have enough reporters to cover everything we want to cover. Lansing is a vital community with lots of news every week. We've done a good job of covering Village politics, government, and business. But one area we'd love to be able to highlight more is kids.

We do fill in areas we can't cover personally with reports from volunteer writers. So periodically I like to offer the opportunity to parents who may want to try their hand at writing about these areas where we are spread too thinly. Village of Lansing kids in Ithaca schools and sports definitely fall into that category, and they deserve to get recognition for their achievements there.

We're always happy for Village news of any kind, and continue to make the Village part of our regular beat. But if you want to try your hand at reporting, we are thrilled to be able to focus on these areas that we just don't have staff to cover. If interested email [editor@lansingstar.com](mailto:editor@lansingstar.com). A brief explanation of our writing guidelines is at <http://www.lansingstar.com/news>

Dan Veaner  
Editor, Lansing Star Online

