



Newsletter

October 2008

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.

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

Planning Board Meetings: 2nd Monday and last Tuesday, 7:30 PM

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

Welcome to the 2nd Village of Lansing's electronic newsletter! The Village Newsletter is currently published twice a year in March and October. We had a great response to our first electronic newsletter and are happy to say we will continue. The newsletter will be available on the Village website at www.vlansing.org. If you haven't already done so, please sign up to receive notice of our publication by sending a blank message to vlansing-subscribe@yahogroups.com. This automatically subscribes you. If you prefer to receive a paper copy just call the office and Jodi will be happy to add you to the mailing list.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

Fall is here and we are busy finishing up the last pieces of the road repairs, trail repairs, etc. before winter arrives. It has been an active summer with a number of roads in the Village repaved, shoulders improved and storm drains installed. Triphammer Road is finished except for the final paper work. The other rite of fall is the brush pickup. The dates of the pickup and the guidelines appear later in the newsletter and I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity.

As you know, the Town of Lansing has placed their sewer project on hold and they are negotiating with DEC to recover some of their engineering costs and the Kline Road Bypass cost from the Bond Act Funding. The Village paid for the Kline Road Bypass and if the Town receives the funds, it will be transferred to the Village. The Village is working with the Town to help them provide limited sewer service for the area north of the airport that includes their industrial park with its failing septic systems. A draft MOU for the project is currently being negotiated between the Village and the Town. The Town will construct a trunk line along Warren Road to connect to our line that serves the US Post Office and the Sheriff's Department in order to serve this new area.

Enjoy the great early fall weather that we have been having of late and I look forward to a mild winter.

Donald Hartill, Mayor

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

During the summer months the activities of the Planning Board tend to slow down and this year was no exception. Special Permits occupied most of the Board's time. An unusual number of permits were requested by residents whose properties include lands that are in both the Steep Slope and the Unique Natural Conservation District of the Zoning Law. The law requires that the Planning Board review the proposed actions will not cause undue harm to the environment. The Planning Board approved permits for the following properties in the Low Density Residential District:

- 25 Cedar Lane to demolish an existing sun room and shed addition and to construct in their place an addition of a deck to their residence.
- 52 Twins Glen Rd. to construct a single family house.
- 1 Pembroke Lane to construct an addition on the property.
- 100 Tyler Rd. to regrade their front lawn area to resolve a drainage problem and to construct a courtyard.

The Planning Board also approved the following special permits:

- An amendment to the permit for the Arleo Eye Institute permitting the addition of 22 parking places. The additional spaces were needed as a result of the recalculation of the number of staff employees.
- A home occupation permit was granted for the resident at 10 St. Joseph's Lane to conduct a computer repair service away from the residence.
- The Vineyard Church of Ithaca was granted a special permit to convert the retail space in the Small Mall at 23 Cinema Drive into a church space.

A Special Permit is required because the proposed conversion constitutes a change in category of use and will result in a change in the amount of off-street parking required. Due to the limited number of parking spaces in the Small Mall available to the Church's congregation, the Planning Board attached two Conditions of Approval to the Special Permit:

- 1) No on-street parking will be permitted at any time on Sheraton Drive, Cinema Drive and/or Uptown Road and enforcement of prohibition will be the responsibility of the Vineyard Church.
- 2) The Vineyard Church will provide the Planning Board with the number of parking spaces available at the Small Mall as well as the number of spaces available for its use off-site, the location of these spaces and the written authorization for their use.

The Planning Board continues to investigate the issue of Work Force Housing and recently had as a guest speaker, Betsy Darlington of the Finger Lakes Land who spoke on the topic of Land Stewardship. This topic generated considerable interest among Board members and will receive further attention. If any Village residents are interested in the Stewardship program call the Village Clerk and leave their phone number.

Planning Board meetings are held on the second Monday and last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM. On Monday, November 3rd there will be a joint meeting between the Planning Board and the Trustees. In Lieu of this meeting, the Planning Board will cancel their scheduled meeting on November 10th. The public is always welcome!

Ned Hickey, Planning Board Chairman

VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE

ADOPT A HIGHWAY PROGRAM

We are currently accepting applications for the Adopt a Highway Program. If you are interested in helping to keep our roadways clean please submit an Adopt-A-Highway application form. These forms can be found on our website under Applications & Forms. There is also a list of the different segments of road that are available for adoption. If you have any further questions please call the office.

ELECTIONS - CHANGE IN POLLING LOCATION

If you previously voted at the Oakcrest Fire Hall you will now be voting at the Village of Lansing Office at 2405 N. Triphammer Rd. When you come to vote enter at the side door of the village office. This door goes directly into the conference room where the machines will be set up. See you November 4th!

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

VILLAGE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

BRUSH PICK-UP

Fall brush and limb pick-up will be provided by the Village Highway Departments the week of October 20th. 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. The size of your brush pile is limited to a pick-up truck size load. Any more than that will be the resident's responsibility to dispose of.

John Courtney, Supt. of Public Works

MANAGING BRUSH AND YARD WASTE

Last month, we were witness to some powerful windstorms that brought down a large amount of woody debris in many Village yards. We certainly had our share at our property, though luckily we lost no major trees. The Village does provide two regular brush pick-ups each year, one in the spring and the other in the fall, so the task of getting rid of yard waste is somewhat alleviated by this service. How else can we manage that stuff, along with all the yard waste—the branches, twigs and other unwanted plant materials that accumulate over a growing season—in a way that is environmentally responsible and low-impact?

One alternative for residents with enough space is to create brush piles from small limbs and woody plant trimmings that can provide a benefit to wildlife, notably, small mammals and birds. Birds will often seek shelter from winter storms or high winds in brush piles when there is not enough shelter provided elsewhere.

One can create a brush pile by carefully arranging sticks and stems in a dome-shaped fashion, thus making open spaces beneath and inside the pile that animals can use for shelter and refuge. A brush pile can be tucked into a hedgerow between properties, or perhaps at the back of a garden where it is not very noticeable. As brush piles age, they collapse, but you can keep adding to them over time, thus ridding yourself of the plant material while doing a good turn for small creatures on your property.

My brush piles are scattered throughout my property, providing shelter for rabbits, chipmunks, chickadees, titmice, turkeys on occasion, Carolina wrens, juncos, Mourning doves, White-throated sparrows, Song sparrows and many other species. I'm always surprised by how many small animals use the brush piles, and many migrating birds use them in the fall and spring when they are on the move. One spring, we even had a Mallard hen nesting under one of our brush piles, hatching out a dozen ducklings in total privacy.

The green waste from your yard, such as grass clippings (which are far better left on the lawn than hauled away), weeds and other green plant stuff can also be piled in an inconspicuous place to rot in true composting fashion. Cornell Cooperative Extension has a Master Composter program that provides wonderful assistance to residents in our community, demonstrating the many ways of composting green waste so that it ceases to be a "disposal" problem, and which can provide a finished product to use on your gardens. It's Nature's original recycling process. Call CCE at 272-2292 for more information.

Reducing the amount of brush at the curbside means less work for Village and Town staff, fewer truckloads to drive long distances, and less gasoline burned, hence fewer greenhouse gases emitted. Brush that is collected must be stored somewhere to await shredding, a costly process since large-scale grinders must be rented and staged to grind the woody waste material. The end result, of course, is nice wood mulch, but that comes at a cost to us all. Next time you trim your bushes or trees or find that the wind left your yard littered with sticks and twigs, try brush piles. The critters will thank you!

Lynn Leopold, Trustee

NATIONAL FEDERAL FLOOD INSURANCE (FEMA)

The Village of Lansing is now a participant in the NFIP (effective July, 2008). Residents of the Village of Lansing are now able to purchase flood insurance up to the limits under the Regular Phase of the program. However, there is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance coverage goes into effect.

For single-family dwellings, the building coverage limit is \$250,000, and the contents coverage is limit is \$100,000. Renters can also protect their belonging by purchasing contents coverage. For commercial properties, the building and contents limits are both \$500,000.

If you need additional assistance or information, please contact
William Nechaman, CFM of the NFIP State Coordinator
NY Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233
T: (518) 402-8146.
E: wsnechman@gw.dec.state.ny.us

John O'Neill, Trustee

LANSING COMMUNITY LIBRARY CENTER (LCLC)

Check out the Lansing Community Library's new website at 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

TOMPKINS COUNTY SOLID WASTE "Go Green Initiative" Wins National Recognition

Tompkins County is being honored as the nation's first-ever Go Green County of the Year, in recognition of the Solid Waste Management Division's innovation and success with its Go Green Initiative program through area schools. The award will be presented October 18 at a Go Green summit in Syracuse.

The local Go Green Initiative (GGI) program, adapting principles of the national GGI movement, was initiated by the Solid Waste Management Division a few years ago. The program unites parents, students, teachers, staff and administrators to create a culture of environmental responsibility in schools throughout Tompkins County.

Linnett Short, communications and administrative coordinator at the Solid Waste Management Division, calls the Go Green Initiative a national effort to "GREEN" schools, the acronym "GREEN" standing for Generate compost, Recycle, Educate, Evaluate, and Nationalize principles of responsible consumption. Currently, about half of Tompkins County schools participate in the program, with the hope that the program will be extended countywide by the end of the year.

National Go Green Initiative founder Jill Buck says she is "very, very proud" of the County's commitment to make Go Green an integral part of its composting and recycling programs, and she hopes it will serve as an example to other county environmental and solid waste coordinators across the nation. "We've seen schools registering in Tompkins County all year long on a very regular and consistent basis," Buck observes. "We believe that this is because of your county's commitment to make the Go Green Initiative part of your plan and process."

In a radio interview September 19, coordinator Short, Stephanie Egan, and Kat McCarthy of the Solid Waste Management Division talked about the County's Go Green program to a nationwide audience on the web site www.voiceamerica.com, where a pod cast of the interview is available for download.

Ms. Short says any school interested in GGI should contact her. The next step is a 20-minute presentation at the school, followed by a free school waste assessment, with recycling bins and other materials provided. Once the school has its first Go Green team meeting, the Division supports half of the school's composting costs.

To find out more about the County's Go Green Initiative, contact Linnett Short at the Solid Waste Management Division at 273-6632. To listen to the pod cast, go to: <http://www.modavox.com/voiceamericacms/WebModules/HostModaview.aspx?ShowId=848&BroadcastId=37473&ScheduleTime=9&Flag=1>).

Linnett Short, Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division

NORTH EAST SENIORS

Village residents that are over the age of 60 are invited to become a member of the North East Seniors Unit. Join them once a month to meet new people, enjoy a varied menu, and enjoy some time together in fellowship. The North East Seniors Unit is a unit of Lifelong (Tompkins County Senior Citizens Council.) They are non-denominational and are open to all residents of the community.

North East Seniors meet on the second Monday of the month from 12:00 noon till 2:00pm at St. Catherine of Siena Parish Hall at 302 St. Catherine Circle. The program includes a dish to pass luncheon, as well as a catered Christmas luncheon in December and a free Chicken BBQ in June, followed by a short program or presentation of interest. The dues are \$7.00 for individual and \$10.00 for couples. Age 80 and over are free. It's a nice group and they would be delighted to have you join them! If you have any questions please call the president Bob Dyer at 257-0756.

LIFELONG

FITNESS OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH LIFELONG

EnhanceFitness: This evidence-based exercise program helps participants at all levels of fitness become more active, energized, and empowered to sustain independent lives. Classes focus on stretching, flexibility, balance, low impact aerobics, strength training exercises, and deep breathing exercises. All are welcome to attend, no registration required. Fee: suggested donation of \$0-3

Classes take place:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:30AM at Lifelong, 119 West Court Street, Ithaca, NY 14850 (instructor Sue Karn)

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9AM at Juniper Manor I, 24 Elm St. Trumansburg, NY (instructor Mary Bouchard)

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10:15AM at Mecklenburg Fire Hall, McIntire Road (instructor Sue Karn)

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10:30AM at Titus Towers 800 South Plain St. Ithaca, NY (instructor: Janet Johnson) **classes are free for Titus Towers residents**

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 2PM at McGraw House Annex, 211 S. Geneva St., Ithaca (instructor Sue Karn)



Chair Yoga: Build your practice of yoga by developing simple chair yoga techniques through a combination of body postures, deep relaxation, breath control, and a concentrated focus on the deeper self.

Classes take place:

Wednesdays at 10:30AM at St. Catherine's of Siena Parish Hall, Room 3 at 302 St. Catherine Circle, Ithaca, NY (instructor Roz LoPinto)

Fridays at 10:00AM at Lifelong 119 W. Court St. Ithaca, NY (instructor Roz LoPinto)

Tai Chi: Promotes balance control, flexibility and cardiovascular fitness and reduces the risk of falls in elderly patients. Also, has been shown to reduce pain, stress and anxiety.

Classes take place:

Fridays at 11:30AM at Lifelong, 119 West Court St. Ithaca, NY (instructor John Burger)



Strength Training: Basic strength training moves with light weights. These exercises increase strength, balance, blood circulation, and energy levels. All are welcome to attend, no registration required. Fee: suggested donation of \$0-3

Classes take place:

Mondays at 12:30PM at Lifelong, 119 West Court St. Ithaca, NY (instructor Debbie Bosanko)

Thursday at 12:30PM at Lifelong, 119 West Court St. Ithaca, NY (instructor Debbie Bosanko)

Fridays at 9:30AM at St. Catherine's of Siena Parish Hall, Room 3 at 302 St. Catherine Circle, Ithaca NY (instructor Debbie Bosanko)



Lifelong also offers Music Appreciation classes every Monday. These classes are taught by Caren Morgan. If you enjoy listening to music, this is for you! On December 17th Dr. Martin Ginsburg will present Jewish Composers-Two Great Converters, Mendelssohn and Mahler. For additional information contact Lifelong at 273-1511

Jillian Pendleton
Tompkins County Program Director, Lifelong

YMCA

ACTIVATE-A-FRIEND

The YMCA of Ithaca and Tompkins County has committed to participate in the new national YMCA initiative "Activate America". They are working with many other YMCAs to fight the growing obesity epidemic that is threatening the future of our youth. From November 1-21, 2008 members of the YMCA are invited to bring up to three guests with them each time they workout at the YMCA. The guests attend for free when they come with a friend and member of the Y.

Frank Towner