



Newsletter October 2009

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 Village of Lansing's electronic newsletter! The Village Newsletter is currently published twice a year in March and October. 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@yahoo.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

A number of things have happened since my last letter to you. Our Department of Public Works, headed by John Courtney, has had a busy summer with a sewer main break behind the Shops at Ithaca that was caused by the failure of one of their storm water management drainage structures which was underneath our sewer line. The City of Ithaca immediately supplied a pump and a crew to install a bypass system around the break so that the repairs could be made. Several hundred thousand gallons of water from the fire hydrants at the Shops at Ithaca had to be used to flush the stream. The Shops at Ithaca paid for a significant fraction of the repairs. A few weeks ago there was a Bolton Point transmission main break in front of McDonalds that forced closure of the restaurant for the day and it required significant cleanup due to collateral damage from the main break. John and his crew, Bolton Point staff along with help from the Town of Ithaca had the line repaired by the next morning. This was on top of the usual lawn maintenance, roadside mowing, and paving, etc. They have done a great job.

Several residents have asked me recently why we repaved Cayuga Heights Road along with several other roads in the Village when they appeared to be in good shape. The answer is that by being proactive in maintaining the 17 miles of roadway in the Village we can avoid the structural failures of the roadways that are happening in our sister municipalities. Preventative maintenance is always cheaper in the long run than waiting for the infrastructure to fall apart and then rebuild it. The typical lifetime of roadways is between fifteen to twenty years and this means we have to do significant work on at least one mile of road each year to keep our roadways in a good safe condition.

One other change that has happened over the spring and summer is that the Village and the Town of Lansing have failed to reach an agreement on the cost of the snow removal contract that we have had since the early nineties. When the agreement was originally drawn up, the base price had no provision for inflation and was only adjusted according to the formula used by the County to determine the coming year's cost based on the cost performance of last year. This led to the Village getting a

progressively better deal over the years. Part of the justification for this was the fact that Villagers pay for one third of the cost of snow removal from the roadways in the Town for that portion of the Town that is outside the Village (more than \$348,000 in this year's Town budget) through the property tax levy imposed by the Town. The low cost of the snow removal contract with the Town was accepted in the past as a way of partially compensating for this inequity. With the significant budget problems in the Town that resulted in a 17% tax levy increase this past year, the Town decided that they had to recover the full cost of the snow removal to continue. This meant that the \$30,000 that the Village paid this past year would be \$73,810 this coming year. We have gone through a careful analysis of the actual costs of the snow removal and arrived at a figure of \$55,000. In the negotiations with the Town, the Village offered \$65,000, \$10,000 more than our estimated costs. The Town refused the offer. There are a number of reasons for the difference in cost estimates with the price of salt being the largest factor. The Town is paying a premium price compared to the delivered State Contract Price (more than \$10 per ton plus the cost of trucking to have the privilege of going to Cargill with their trucks to pick up the salt). Since we use around 1000 tons of salt on the Village roads each year, this alone amounts to more than \$14,000. As a result, our own Department of Public Works will be doing the snow removal from our roads this year.

To do the snow removal from our roads in an effective way, we have purchased a wing plow in addition to the front plow that came with our new heavy duty International dump truck. Both the International and our 1 ton Chevrolet dump truck with a front plow are equipped with salt spreaders. In addition, as a backup for our current equipment we recently purchased a 2004 Sterling heavy duty 10 wheel dump truck with a front snowplow and wing at the annual municipal equipment auction where we sold our older Caterpillar Backhoe. The truck is in excellent condition and belonged to the Town of Dryden so we know its history and its maintenance record. We have storage for around 400 tons of salt which will be delivered within the next few weeks as the first installment of our State contract for up to 1200 tons.

The last subject of my letter is water. As you probably have read in the Ithaca Journal, the City of Ithaca is considering getting water from Bolton Point instead of building a new water treatment plant and improving their current water source on Six Mile Creek. One of the questions has been whether the City should first be a customer and then become a member of Bolton Point at a later date. Only members of Bolton Point (two from each of the municipalities that own Bolton Point – the Towns of Dryden, Ithaca, and Lansing and the Villages of Cayuga Heights and Lansing) have a vote on all Commission matters. Recently, in a 6 to 4 vote the Commission voted to allow the City to join as an immediate member subject to a successful negotiation of the terms of membership. Why is it an advantage for the current members of Bolton Point to have the City as a member? The answer is that a municipal water system like Bolton Point is dominated by fixed costs and so producing more water reduces the costs to everyone. In Bolton Point's case, the current rate is \$2.58 per thousand gallons compared to a rate of \$1.83 if the City joins. For the total annual budget of Bolton Point which is currently 2.7 M\$, this would mean a savings of nearly 800 K\$ each year for our current customers. It will be to everyone's advantage if the City chooses to become a member of Bolton Point. Several of us are working very hard to make this a reality.

Remember the fall brush pickup as we get ready for what I hope will be mild winter and please be sure to vote in the election in November.

Donald Hartill, Mayor

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

Currently, there is considerable non-residential construction going on in the Village. The YMCA is adding additional space for a Wellness Center, Tops Plaza has adding a fueling center to its parking area and Triphammer Mall is reconfiguring its entrance way as part of the construction of a drive-thru window for a Kinney Drugs store in the existing empty retail space in the south end of the building. The latter two projects required traffic studies to ensure that they would not have a negative impact on existing traffic flows. Fisher Associates of Rochester, N.Y. performed the studies and the results indicated that there would not be any impact except for slight delays at the intersection of Sheraton Drive and North Triphammer Road. All three of these projects should be completed before the onset of the winter season. There were also developments in the Human Health District on Warren Road. The new Cayuga Medical Associates building was completed and is now open and there was a minor expansion of the parking area at 8 Brentwood Rd.

The Lansing Heights Subdivision at the end of Bomax Rd. received approval for an amendment to its subdivision plan. The amendment requested a change that would improve the water system. The change would also eliminate a proposed north-south road that would have connected the north & south ends of Nor Way. The eliminated roadway and some adjacent land will be donated to the Village and will be joined to the proposed parkland. Nancy Ross received approval for a one building lot subdivision of her land adjacent to Dart Drive. The lot will be known as the Kidney subdivision at 14 Dart Drive.

The Planning Board has spent part of each meeting reviewing parts of the Zoning Law for inconsistencies, clarifications and up-dating. The next step is to review our list of comments and where necessary refer changes to the Board of Trustees for approval. In addition to the benefit of having the law current, there was an educational benefit for all members of the Planning Board.

The Village has also benefited from the addition of a new Planning Board member who was appointed to the alternate member position. The Board welcomes Lisa Schleelein as its newest member.

The Planning Board meets at 7:30PM in the Village Hall on the second Monday and the last Tuesday of each month. The public is always welcome to attend.

Ned Hickey, Chair



A Tribute to Our Planning Board Chairman Edward Hickey

On September 14th, at the New York State Planning Federation Conference, Ned Hickey was presented with the John O. Cross Award. This award is given each year to an outstanding planning board chair. Many wonderful letters were submitted by area businesses that have worked with Ned in the past.

Ned Hickey has been actively involved here in Lansing even before it became a separate village in 1974. He was part of an ad hoc committee in the early 1970s that was formed to determine the advantages of creating a Village of Lansing from a section of the Town of Lansing. As one of the “founding fathers” of the Village he was on the Village Board of Trustees. The need for a Planning Board was determined as the Village began development expansion, and Ned was assigned as one of the first board members. He served in this position for eight years, while maintaining a full-time teaching position at Ithaca High School, as chairperson of the Social Sciences Department. When his replacement on the planning board resigned after several years the Village Mayor, at that time, asked him to come back to chair the Planning Board once again. He has maintained that position for the past 22 years.

Several major projects have occurred here in the Village during his tenure. The success of these projects was mainly due to his guidance. These include: construction of the Pyramid Mall, redesign and beautification of Triphammer Road, the on-going development of the Cornell Business and Technology Park at the Tompkins Regional Airport, and several other commercial buildings and residential neighborhoods that have made the Village of Lansing one of the fastest growing and most desirable areas in Tompkins County. Ned’s leadership capabilities and vast experience on the Planning Board have made him the voice of reason when it comes to advising the Board of Trustees and maintaining our zoning regulations. His feeling has always been, “Let’s help to make this progress happen, by assuring that it fits into our Village Comprehensive Plan.” He will be retiring in 2010 and receiving the John O. Cross Award is a wonderful cap to his more than 25 years of service to the Village of Lansing Boards. Thanks Ned!

Mario Tomei, Planning Board Member

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.

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 and Town of Lansing Highway Departments the week of October 19th. 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.

You may also take your brush to the Town of Lansing Highway Department any time during the year. They also have a large pile of free woodchips that any Lansing Resident is allowed to go pick up for their personal use. Sorry, no private contractors. If you have any questions or need more information, please call the Town Highway Department at 533-4328.

John Courtney, Supt. of Public Works

FALL 2009 JYC PROGRAMS

JYC Programs are for middle school aged youth living in the Town of Ithaca and the Villages of Cayuga Heights and Lansing. These programs are free of charge and run by Program Manager Laura Smith who you can contact at lis257@cornell.edu with any questions, concerns, or requests for a form to register youth for the following programs:

Lunch Bunch- September 28-December 21, Mondays, lunch periods at Boynton M.S.

This program offers youth a time to try new foods, connect with new peers and me and to get some healthy exercise and is ideal for getting to know youth who are unavailable or hesitant to attend after school programs. As described on previous program reports, this in-school activity was very popular, and we are looking to continue it this year, hoping to attract younger JYC youth who are in their first year at Boynton. Special experiences that I hope to continue are introducing new foods that at first are met with "ew!" and later are the students' highlight of the program. Also, as long as the weather stays tolerable, allowing the participants to run around outside. Offering movement instead of desk-sitting is one of the strongest points of this program.

Primitive Pursuits- September 26-October 31 at Boynton, November 4-December 16 at DeWitt

Youth gain appreciation for wilderness and improve their skills in outdoor activities such as tracking and fire building. Community building through mutual encouragement will be crucial in the success of this program. Participants play games that rely on patience, observation and ability to move quietly through the woods. They will practice fire safety and create cords and other crafts out of natural materials, all with the aid of two experienced outdoor instructors.

Games and Challenges- Tuesdays, Sep 29-Oct 27 at DeWitt

This program is all about action, teamwork, and trying new things. Participants will play new games such as wallyball at the YMCA and go ice skating at Cass Park. They will also face the challenge of seemingly simple games such as Frisbee golf. This is a great program for youth to get moving and try new games in a non competitive environment.

Ceramics Club- Wednesdays, Sep 30-Oct 28 meets at DeWitt's office

This is an opportunity to develop a new skill and create personal masterpieces at Cornell University's Ceramics Studio. Participants will hand build both useful dishes and ornamental pieces, glaze their pieces to add personal flair, and leave the program with completed, colorful art.

Cultural Cooking- Tuesdays, Nov 3-Dec 15 meets in DeWitt's FCS Room

Group collaboration in the kitchen will be an important element of this program- they must help each other

measure accurately, problem shoot anything that may not go as planned, and encourage each other when faced with a difficult task. This group will create a variety of dishes from around the globe such as sushi, baking a cake from scratch and a classic West African dish eaten from a communal bowl.

LANSING COMMUNITY LIBRARY CENTER (LCLC)

Check out the Lansing Community Library's website at www.lansinglibrary.org for the latest information on upcoming art shows and public interest programs. Library hours are: Monday - Thursday, 9am-12pm and 3-8pm, Fridays, 9am-12pm, and Saturdays, 9am-1:00pm. The library is a wireless hotspot! If the flag is out, the library is open! For more information, call 533-4939.

TOMPKINS COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING

North East Senior Citizens Group

Citizens of the Village of Lansing, over the age of 60 are welcomed to become members of the North East Seniors Group. As a member, you will meet new people, enjoy a varied menu of home cooked food and share some time together in fellowship. We are non denominational and are open to all the residents of the community. We are a unit of Lifelong; (Tompkins County Senior Citizens Council) and have been in existence since 1988. We meet on the second Monday of the month at St.Catherine of Siena Parish hall at 302 St.Catherine Circle from 12 noon till 2PM for 10 months of the year. Our program includes a dish to pass (as well as a catered Holiday luncheon in December and a free chicken BBQ in June) followed by a program of interest. The programs are varied. We have speakers presenting items of interest to seniors, travel videos and an occasional Bingo game. Our dish to pass luncheons are always good, delicious and varied. You will need to bring your own table service and a main dish, salad or dessert to pass that will feed ten people. Our annual dues are minimal. \$7.00 for individuals and \$10.00 for couples. A monthly news letter will notify you of the next month's activities It's a nice group and we would be delighted to have you join us. Just come to the meeting and we will make you a member. Questions? Call Bob Dyer 257 0756

TOMPKINS COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Environmentally Preferred Procurement Resource Guide Available Online

Tompkins County, NY, Oct. 1, 09 – Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division (TCSWMD) would like to announce that the Tompkins County Environmentally Preferred Procurement (EPP) Resource Guide can now be viewed online at www.fingerlakesbuygreen.com/content/show/guide. The goal of this guide is to expand the purchase of products that are made with recycled content or that feature other environmentally preferred qualities.

While this guide was originally designed for County departments, individual agencies interested in using this guide are also welcome to do so. The guide offers product descriptions, green attributes, and supplier information about a variety of products including paper and non-paper office supplies, office furniture and equipment, packaging materials, disposable dinnerware supplies, cleaning and janitorial supplies, highway materials, vehicle and automotive materials, and building and construction materials. For more information, Contact: TCSWMD 273-6632

FingerLakesBuyGreen.org is the first guide to green purchasing in Tompkins County. This online resource gives businesses and consumers information about buying products that protect our health

and environment. Featured products include Office Supplies, Cleaning Supplies, Maintenance Supplies, and Yard and Garden Supplies. This website has been created through a partnership between Sustainable Tompkins and TCSWMD. www.fingerlakesbuygreen.org

Stephanie Egan-Engels, TCSWM Communications Assistant

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (NYSDEC)

Information about household hazardous waste collections can be accessed at <http://www.dec.state.ny.gov/chemical/8780.html>.

YMCA

Ithaca and Tompkins County YMCA celebrates 141 years!

We do not feel 141 years old! It is true that the Ithaca Y is one of the oldest YMCA's in the country and shares the proud heritage of all YMCA's as being the largest volunteer-run provider of childcare in the country. Our YMCA has a respected history of support to youth and families in Ithaca and Tompkins County. The first YMCA in North America was established in Boston in 1852. Earliest records of the Ithaca Y relate that their first meeting was held in the reading room of the Cornell public library on November 23, 1868. Since then, our Y has had many milestones:

- * 1889-1907 YMCA programs were organized in many locations throughout Ithaca
- * July 1, 1907 Date of purchase of the Buffalo Street property,
- * October 12, 1907 Dedication of the new YMCA facility,
- * 1910 Establishment of the first resident camp,
- * 1930-1940 YMCA had renowned wrestling and basketball teams
- * September 1943 The Y housed the USO during WWII
- * 1947 Camp Adventure was established
- * October 11, 1951 International Management Council (IMC) was formed
- * 1966 NY Giants and Pittsburgh Steelers football game was held to raise funds for a new facility
- * May, 1978 The Buffalo St Facility was destroyed by fire
- * October, 1982 New facility on Graham Road opens
- * January, 2002 YMCA expands to include new gym, fitness, and youth locker rooms

Fall, 2009 the future of community health is the YMCA Health and Wellness center!

"You are going to like the way you feel" at the YMCA Health and Wellness center. The center will open this fall and is perfectly positioned to serve the seasoned athlete as well as the beginner health seeker seeking improvement to their quality of life through a health and wellness program. The Y now has over 5,000 members and serves about 10,000 people every year. The facilities include five racquetball courts, two swimming pools, dance studio, cardio and fitness areas, weight room, three on site childcare areas, five locker rooms, and a college sized gym! We offer over 42 classes in health and wellness, 84 swim classes for infants to adults, 6 youth sports programs, 2 swim teams, a racquetball league, pick up basketball and volleyball, to name a few.

Y members participate in a variety of programs and activities that improve their families' well being. Becoming active is critical to their success, and the use of two swimming pools, gymnasium, fitness equipment, racquetball, cardiovascular equipment, and dance studio, along with childcare and afterschool programs supports their efforts. The Wellness Center addition will provide space for education, testing, and support for individuals who are concerned about their health.

We invite the community to celebrate our 141st Anniversary throughout the week of November 2nd - 8th. Members and friends can join in the fun all week as we celebrate spirit week. To show Y spirit, a "color of the day" will be worn within departments, signifying the YMCA character colors –

Monday, blue = Honesty
Tuesday, red = Caring
Wednesday, yellow = Respect
Thursday, green = Responsibility
Friday, rainbow.

There will be family activities, a senior luncheon during the week [days and times TBD], and prizes for participating. We will conduct tours all week and waive the \$30.00 joiners fee for new sign ups.

Saturday, November 7th and Sunday, November 8th will be our annual fall "**Open House**" with free admission, and tours all day both days. Healthy food will be provided all day Saturday. All community members are invited to the celebration and we want you to "**like the way you feel**", so become a part of the Y and get activated!

Looking ahead.... Please join us for the annual Winter Open House on January 16, 2010. Details on line at www.ithacaymca.com

The YMCA of Ithaca and Tompkins County
We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities!
607-257-0101
Frank Towner

CAYUGA LAKE FLOATING CLASSROOM PROJECT

floatingclassroom.blogspot.com

"Engaging Peoples of All Ages in the Future of Cayuga Lake"

Greetings, Friends of the Floating Classroom!

Fall is here, and so is your semi-monthly Floating Classroom update. This note is being forwarded to you because you provided your email to us at some point in the past. Please let us know if you would like to be removed from this list!

Thanks to our many local sponsors, we have a busy month ahead of us. Students from Boynton, South Seneca, Seneca Falls, Southern Cayuga and Trumansburg will be cruising in the coming weeks. Our winter "Trout In the Classroom" program is also set to kick into high gear at many area schools. Check out our blog (floatingclassroom.blogspot.com) to find out what's happening. Or, better yet, join us for a Sunday eco-cruise. We have a great line-up planned for October!

Bill Foster
"The Floating Classroom Guy"

Sunday Eco-Cruises, October 2009

October 4 – Mini-Sub Launch!

Cornell's Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) team will launch their mini-sub, Nova, from the M/V Haendel. We will create video transects from shallow to deeper waters, to determine how far into the lake rooting plants growing. Hands-on sampling activities to assess sunlight penetration and collect plant samples! 4:00pm-6:00pm, from the Ithaca Boating Center.

October 11 - Art-Cruise with Camille Doucet

Focus on the fall colors with informal lakescape drawing class. Camille's instructional focus will be pastel techniques, and is suitable for beginners, as well as more accomplished artists. Materials will be provided as needed. 4:00pm-6:00pm, from the Ithaca Boating Center.

October 18 – Global Warming and Cayuga Lake

Join Margaret McCasland, of the international Climate Project for a look at how global climate change may impact Cayuga Lake. Assist with monitoring activities to assess the future changes in our lake ecology. *EARLIER TIME: 2:00pm-4:00pm from the Ithaca Farmers Market!*

October 25 – Last Cruise of 2009!

Join the crew of the Floating Classroom for one last fall lake assessment. Enjoy some hot cider, lake legends and who know what else?? *EARLIER TIME: 2:00pm-4:00pm from the Ithaca Farmers Market!*

Cruises are all-weather and sail from the Ithaca Boating Center dock on Old Taughannock Blvd. A \$5-\$10 donation is suggested to help support educational scholarships. For details and advance registration, email floatingclassroom.blogspot.com, or call (607) 697-0166. Space is limited!

The Cayuga Lake Floating Classroom hosts camps, eco-cruises and other programs aboard Tiohero Tours' M/V Haendel. The Project is sponsored by individuals, communities, businesses and organizations around Cayuga Lake, and provides lake access and education for all residents.

Lynn Leopold, Trustee