



# ***Newsletter***

## ***March 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](http://vlansing.org).

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 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](http://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@yahoogroups.com](mailto:vlansing-subscribe@yahoogroups.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**

Winter this year has produced more snow than last year along with some ice and freezing rain. More salt has been used and with the increasing cost of salt we will be evaluating how much we actually need to use to do the job. 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 7:35 pm on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The assessed value of the properties in the Village has increased by 19% compared to last year. So, with a tax rate of \$1.21 compared to \$1.40 per thousand last year gives an increase of 2.9% in the tax levy. This is significantly less than inflation (3.9%) this past year and is significantly less than other taxing entities in the region, which has been made 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 has received the final acceptance of the North Triphammer Road Reconstruction Project in January of this year. With that acceptance, it ends the thirteen 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. This new district, the Warren Road Sewer District, has now been approved and construction will start this spring. We are in the process of negotiating the final agreements with the Town. 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.

Finally, Village elections for the Mayor and two Trustees will be held from noon to 9 pm on Tuesday April 28 at the Village of Lansing office, 2405 N. Triphammer Rd. I encourage you to vote.

Donald Hartill, Mayor

## **PLANNING BOARD NEWS**

During the past winter months the Planning Board received only one application for a special permit. This permit was requested by the YMCA and was for an addition to the second floor of the existing building and an improvement to the building entranceway. The second floor addition, 3300sq.ft, will provide space for a new Wellness Program that the YMCA will be initiating when the construction is completed. The Special Permit was approved with conditions.

In January a set of goals for the forth coming year were adopted by the Planning Board. These goals involve updating and clarifying the Village Zoning Law, developing a map of the Village walkways to include sidewalks and Greenway trails, developing and recommending a Stewardship Program to the Mayor and the Board of Trustees and continuing to invite guest speakers to our in-service training program.

The development of the Stewardship Program is well under way due to the efforts of member Carol Klepack. This program will focus on monitoring the physical condition of Village owned parcels of vacant land as well as conservation easements that the Village is responsible for. The broad goal of this program is the preservation and protection of these lands. An important component of this program is a group of volunteers who will do the actual inspections of the lands. This program has the support of the Mayor and the Board of Trustees and may begin on a very limited basis later this year.

The in-service training for members of the Planning Board also began in January with the visit by Mr. Tom Niederkorn, a Planning Consultant, who assisted the Village of Cayuga Heights in the development of the Kendal At Ithaca project. Mr. Niederkorn spoke on the process of a special land use technique known as a Planned Development Area. He referred to the Kendal At Ithaca as a large unit of development which is typical for a PDA or a PUD. Shannon Park is also an example of a PDA or PUD.

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

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

The Village of Lansing Elections will be held at the Village of Lansing Office on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm to 9:00pm. The two-year terms for Mayor Donald Hartill, Trustees Larry Fresinski and Lynn Leopold are all expiring. All three will be running again. Remember that 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.

### 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

Spring brush and limb pick-up will be provided by the Village and Town of Lansing Highway Departments the week of May 11<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.

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 not 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

## **NEW VILLAGE FIRE INSPECTOR**

In October the Village hired Mike Arthur to do Fire Inspections in the Village of Lansing. New York State has increased the standards for frequency and reporting of fire safety inspections. Mike is a welcome and friendly addition to the Village Team and looks forward to working with local businesses and apartment owners to meet the new requirements.

## **STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM-VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Over the years, the Village of Lansing has acquired a number of parcels of land, both large and small, which are mostly unidentified and unrecognized by even their closest neighbors. We feel that it is important to survey, mark, and protect these parcels so that residents are aware of them and so that these parcels can be put to the uses intended for them in the future. This is the heart of the Planning Board's Stewardship Proposal. And we see volunteers as vital to its success.

Some of these parcels have been acquired through the subdivision process and are intended for recreational purposes. In many cases the Village has not yet made the plans or the improvements that will be required in order for them to be useable for recreation. However, it is important for all of us to know where these parcels are and to share our vision with the Planning Board of how they might best be developed. Users of the trail running between Sevanna Park and Highgate Circle, and the one running from Wood Thrush Hollow Lane to Graham Road, as well as other trails and parks scattered throughout the Village will recognize the potential benefits of such parcels.

The Village of Lansing received a tremendous gift of land from Audrey Edelman a few years ago and no decisions have been made about how it will be used or preserved. But it is the Planning Board's feeling that residents should be aware of this land in order to help shape its future. The Village will also be receiving a conservation easement in the near future in a Unique Natural Area of fragile soil and steep slopes. The owners of the parcels which include Conservation Easement land will receive substantial tax reductions because of the stipulation that this land not be disturbed. How are they to know the boundaries of the easement unless we mark them? And how are we, as holders of the conservation easement, to know that land owners haven't cut down trees to improve their view or otherwise disturbed this protected area? We need a Stewardship Program to achieve both these purposes.

The Planning Board would like to gather a group of volunteers, each willing to be responsible for a particular property and to do a variety of tasks for that property. As the Village gets surveys of its holdings, it will be necessary to post the boundaries with small aluminum signs. These boundaries should be walked and checked at least once a year, signs replaced as necessary, and any incursions into the property noted and reported to the Code Enforcement Officer. Stewards with time, energy, and vision, could propose improvements to the Planning Board, or pick up trash. You may have other ideas about what you would like to do as a steward, and the Planning Board would be open to discussing your ideas.

This project will be coordinated by Carol Klepack of the Planning Board. Please contact her with your interest at [cklepac1@twcny.rr.com](mailto:cklepac1@twcny.rr.com)

Carol Klepack, Planning Board member

## **FINGER LAKES REUSE, INC.**

On November 12, 2008, The ReUse Center opened its doors to the public. Located between JoAnn Fabrics and The Rose Restaurant at Triphammer Mall, The Reuse Center is open 7 days a week. Hours are Monday through Saturday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm and Sunday 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Discover gently-used furniture, housewares, and building materials at very affordable prices. There is something for everyone at The ReUse Center!

Finger Lakes ReUse, Inc. (FLR) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing community, economy, and environment through reuse. FLR was incorporated as a non-profit in 2007 after years of effort by volunteer workgroups and recycling advocates. Among others, Executive Director Diane Cohen and Operations Supervisor Ivan Yalanzhi have worked diligently to ensure the success of the retail store. The active board boasts representation from local educational institutions, Tompkins County Solid Waste, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, and the preservation community. The ReUse Center project is the first of the nonprofit's programs to begin operations. A Deconstruction Service to dismantle residential houses as an alternative to demolition, will begin in the spring, processing and packaging on-site used house parts and building materials for resale through the ReUse Center. Educational programs on reusing materials, as well as job training and development programs are planned.

Donations of items to sell continue to arrive daily. Hopes for the future include finding a much larger warehouse and store in the area, continuing to pay staff a 'living wage', and diverting hundreds of tons of re-usable materials from the landfill to new life.

The ReUse Center is now accepting clean, quality used and surplus building materials, furniture, housewares, electronics, art and school supplies, and much more. Materials must be clean, complete, and in good working condition. All donations are tax deductible. Please see the donation acceptance guidelines at [www.fingerlakesreuse.org](http://www.fingerlakesreuse.org) and call (607) 257-9699 if you have something you'd like to donate.

Proceeds from the sales of used materials will help Finger Lakes ReUse to develop educational programming, create quality job training and provide "green collar" job opportunities. As a result, everyone in the community will be able to enjoy and partake in the services offered by Finger Lakes ReUse.



## LANSING COMMUNITY LIBRARY CENTER (LCLC)

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

## TOMPKINS COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING

### **New York Prescription Saver Program**

Effective April 1, 2009, the New York Prescription Saver Program will provide enrolled individuals a pharmacy discount card sponsored by New York State. The program offers discounts on prescription drugs to New York residents who have limited incomes, and are disabled or between the ages of 50 and 64.

New York residents are eligible if they are not already receiving Medicaid and are:

- Either age 50 up to 65, or persons with a disability who have been determined disabled by the Social Security Administration; AND
- Have annual household income less than \$35,000 (single) or \$50,000 (married).

Savings will vary depending on the quality, type and brand of the drug purchased. In general, individuals eligible for the program can expect savings of about 30-40% off generic drugs, and at least 25% off the full retail price of brands.



Individuals, pharmacies and organizations can learn more about the Prescription Saver Program on the web and individuals can also submit their enrollment application on the website or download an application to submit through the mail. The New York Prescription Saver Program information and enrollment information is available at: <http://nyprescriptionsaver.fhsc.com>. Call 1-800-788-6917 for assistance if needed. You will receive a discount card within two weeks after your application is approved. You may use the card at any of the participating pharmacies.

## YMCA

### **Ithaca YMCA Holds Annual Healthy Days for Kids and Seniors**

Ithaca YMCA celebrates healthy living for all ages with two events designed to help keep health in the forefront of everyone's minds. Thursday, April 9, 2009 will be Healthy Senior Day with free admission for seniors [60 and over] from 6:00 a.m. till 3:00p.m. Seniors can take classes and participate in a health assessment in the gym by our health and wellness director, Laurie Cuomo. From 11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m., Laurie has planned a variety of functional training activities and will have fitness stations throughout the gym that will assess your balance, strength, posture, flexibility, and more.

YMCA professional instructors will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about your health, and help you improve the quality of your everyday life. If you are a health seeker looking to do what's right for your spirit, mind, and body this is the event for you!

The Ithaca and Tompkins County YMCA in cooperation with other children's health facilities, organizations, and businesses are joining in celebrating Healthy Kids Day. The annual Healthy Kids Day is on Saturday, April 4, 2009 with free admission for children up to age 17 all day from 7:30 a.m to 8:00 p.m. Children and families are encouraged to participate in the facility activities all day for free and are invited to the Healthy activity and nutrition extravaganza. All kids up to 17 years will have a chance to interact with the children's health organizations, and business representatives at different activity and healthy snack stations in the gym. Activities, projects, and snacks will take place from 10:00 am to 1:00 p.m. Activities may include something as simple as decorating a water cup for your daily water consumption to shooting hoops with your friends, brother, sister, mom, dad, aunt, uncle, or grandma! All activities will be fun and easy to do. In addition the first 50 kids in the gym receive a Healthy Kids T-shirt.

Children's organizations and business that would like to participate please call Frank Towner at the Ithaca YMCA 257-0101

Join your friends and family at the YMCA:

Healthy Senior Day: Thursday, April 9 2009...free admission 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with functional training activities from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Healthy snacks and beverages will be provided at 1:00 p.m.

Healthy Kids Day Saturday, April 4 2009...free admission for children up to age 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Children under 13 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Extravaganza for all children from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m. healthy snacks, beverages, and activities

## **Triathlon**

- YMCA Triathlon Class - Members only 12 week training program February 9 - May 3rd, 2009, that leads up to participation in the YMCA Tri for the Y on May 3rd, 2009. For more information contact Laurie Cuomo [lcuomo@ithacaymca.com](mailto:lcuomo@ithacaymca.com)
- 21st Tri for the Y annual Triathlon. Always held the first Sunday in May for the earliest start to the triathlon season. The Ithaca and Tompkins County YMCA Tri is designed to be an all around event for the beginner to the seasoned athlete. The distances are a 400 yard swim, 15 mile bike ride, and a 5 mile run. The event is well staffed by volunteers with a safety team, lap counters for the pool, corner guards and all the high carbohydrates and fruit you can eat. There are volunteer positions for all ages . Please call the YMCA today 257-0101

## **Kionix YMCA**

Kids to Camp Golf outing, Monday June 8 2009 at Cornell's Robert Trent Jones Golf Course. The event raises money to support scholarships for summer camp.

The camp will has over 700 children participate and about 30% are scholarshipped. The event begins at 11:00 am with a full lunch, a round of golf with refreshments on the course, an after play reception with food, prizes, and gifts for all golfers. The game is a captain and mate format with carts for everyone and the cost is \$220.00 per team. Sponsors, players, prizes, gifts and volunteers are needed Call Frank Towner at the YMCA 257-0101

## **Camp Adventure**

Camp Adventure summer camp begins June 29 through August 28 and has nine separate weeks for children ages 3 to 12 years. There is a full day program for 6 to 12 years and a half day program for 3 to 5 years. The staff is outstanding and directed by Krista Gillette. The program will fill up fast and you will need to sign up at the YMCA Graham Rd West. We will have theme weeks and overnight camp outs. Your summer is not complete without a great summer camp experience.

Frank Towner