



Newsletter October 2011

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 prefer to receive a paper copy just call the office and Jodi will be happy to add you to the mailing list. Spread the word to your neighbors about the newsletter! They can sign up to receive notice of our publication by sending a blank message to vlansing-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

This winter the Village Department of Public Works staff has again be taking care of the snow removal from the Village streets. We are hoping for a milder winter than last year but to be prudent we are ordering the same quantity of salt, namely 1000 tons. Our equipment is in good shape so we are ready.

As you may have noticed, our new garage facility for all of our equipment is now finished. It will be a great benefit to John and his staff to get into clean warm trucks to begin the snow plowing this season. It is nice to have the construction finished so that equipment parking is not a problem like it was this past year.

We have been assured by NYSDOT that the southbound ramp from North Triphammer Road will be milled and paved before the end of the month. I know that this has been a source of frustration for our residents and visitors and I, like you, execute a complex route to avoid as many of the big pot holes as possible when using the ramp.

The other fall activity is the fall brush pickup by our DPW staff. The dates of the pickup and the guidelines appear later in the newsletter and I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity.

During this construction season, we are replacing around 900 feet of sanitary sewer main behind the Shops at Ithaca Mall to improve capacity to accommodate anticipated growth in the Northeastern part of the Village. The water main along Burdick Hill Road is being replaced this fall along with milling and repaving of the roadway. You may have noticed the large pile of dirt and stone on the East side of the intersection with Route 34. It was necessary to dig a large pit to be able to operate a drill to drill under Route 34 for a pipe that the replacement water main can pass through. In addition, we are replacing a section of water main along Cayuga Heights Road that has had a number of breaks during the past few years along with replacing the water main along Burdick Hill Road. The other water related project was the demolition of the Oakcrest Tank, long a Village landmark. This is part of a project to construct a new Village Office to be completed next year. The storm water sewer along Dart Drive that was started

last year will be completed this year and a sidewalk will be constructed along the north side of the roadway. The roadway will also be repaved as part of this project. In addition, there will be other small repaving projects in the Village. These projects are all part of our long-range infrastructure maintenance program. By carrying out these projects in a planned way, we avoid the serious failures that are very expensive to repair when they occur. As you can see from this list of projects, it has been a busy summer and early fall.

To understand the complexities of development of the three parcels of the former Dart property in the Northeast section of the Village, we have engaged the Tompkins County Planning Department to carry out a preliminary study to develop a request for proposals for an outside consultant to complete a detailed study of the area. The work of the planning department will be complete by early November and we hope to have the consultant selected and working in early to mid December with completion of the study early in 2012.

The Warren Road Sewer District in the Town of Lansing that connects into our sewer system is now complete. The final agreements with the Town are signed. 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.

I hope that you are enjoying the nice fall weather for the next few days and that we will have a mild winter.

Donald Hartill, Mayor

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

As we can all see the Lansing Meadows PDA has been well underway since the developers obtained financing this past spring. Their intentions are to open BJ's in early 2012. Special permits for that project, as well as the second portion of the PDA, the senior housing units, and wetlands/bird habitat are presently being finalized between the Village Planning Board and the developers, Triax Corp.

As part of the mandatory annual continuing education for the Planning Board, we were trained by two guest speakers, who are experts in the fields of Outdoor Lighting in Public Areas, and Storm Water Management.

With a great deal of research from our Code Enforcement Officer, Marty Moseley, and input from the Planning Board, as well as from the Village attorney, we were able to compose guidelines for Temporary Commercial Activities (TCA's). Some examples of TCA's are temporary outdoor sales in mall parking lots, circus, farmers' markets, etc. This will ensure that such activities not only benefit the sponsoring businesses, but will be in conjunction with the nature and character of our Village. A great deal of concern was given to traffic, noise, lighting and safety during these activities.

It has been a busy summer, with a number of high-energy Planning Board meetings, discussing the proposal for the affordable housing rental units on the 23-acre parcel of land between Wood Thrush Hollow Road and Dart Drive. At this time, this proposal still remains in the early stages of the process. These well-attended meetings resulted in interested parties on all sides of the issue having every opportunity to voice their concerns. Because of the complexity of this development the Village has decided to do a thorough review of this entire section of land, to determine the impact on adjoining parcels and neighborhoods. There are still unsolved issues (primarily developer's financing and public

road accesses) which need to be answered.

We welcome the opening of Mathnasium Learning Center, in the Tops Plaza on Triphammer Road.

During the Summer the Planning Board granted some special permits on activities considered to have minor environmental impacts:

- A. Construction of a single-family house at 49 Blackchin Blvd. with a minor, unaffected, section of steep slope.
- B. Fill and grade a small section of vacant land on Bush Lane, near a small stream.
- C. Clearance of overgrowth on Murray Estates near a small stream, at the corner of Oakcrest Road and Triphammer Road.
- D. Construction of a single-family house at 20 Esty Drive, which is near steep slopes.

Once again, we welcome the Village public to attend our Planning Board meetings, which usually are held the second Monday and the last Tuesday of each month, from 7:30 – 10:00pm.

Mario Tomei, Planning Board Chairman

VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE

Quarterly Water/Sewer Bills have gone out and are due by October 20th.

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 CODE & ZONING DEPARTMENT

As I alluded to in the spring newsletter, the 2010 New York State Codes have taken effect. One of the changes to the Code is a requirement for a re-roof permit (this would include having all roof coverings removed and re-install, new underlayment and shingles). A permit would not be required if a roof is being repaired, if a roof is being recovered with an additional layer of shingles (with a maximum of two layers per roof), or if a complete and separate roofing system, such as standing-seam metal roof system, that is designed to transmit the roof loads directly to the building's structural system and that does not rely on existing roofs and roof coverings for support would not require the removal of existing roof coverings.

Marty Moseley, Code & Zoning Officer

VILLAGE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Brush Pick-Up

Fall brush and limb pick-up will be provided by the Village of Lansing Highway Department the week of October 17th. 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

TRUSTEE LEOPOLD ON ILLCIT DISCHARGE

Illicit Discharges—What Are They and Why Should We Care?

In order to comply fully with the new EPA stormwater regulations, the Village of Lansing enacted a local stormwater law in 2010 that covers many types of construction activities in the Village as well as other activities that could potentially compromise the quality and quantity of stormwater entering Cayuga Lake. Municipalities around the south end of the lake have enacted their stormwater laws as well, taking an active role in controlling stormwater to prevent erosion and sedimentation.

Further, since silt, which is carried by stormwater, is not the only substance that can cause problems in the lake, we must now work to prevent illicit discharges of substances such as waste motor oil, fertilizers, pesticides, paint thinners, waste waters from commercial operations and the like, that are sometimes released into our waterways. The Village Board recently passed a local law, “Village of Lansing Illicit Discharges, Activities and Connections to Separate Storm Sewer System Law (Local Law 4 of 2011*)”, which prohibits intentional release of these materials from residential and commercial operations into the Village’s receiving waters.

While we strive in our Village operations to use good housekeeping methods for storing, using and disposing of toxic/hazardous materials, we also must work to prevent the public and businesses from discharging dangerous or otherwise polluting substances into Village waterways. In most cases, this means no dumping of waste oil, paint thinners, left-over pesticides, pet wastes, and the like into storm drains, ditches, or any other type of surface water conveyance. Disposing of these things properly is only common sense, but bad habits can die slowly. Some people who change their own motor oil let it out on the ground or dump it into a ditch, or rinse out paint containers and buckets, dumping the waste water into nearby ditches in hopes that perhaps it would “just go away”. Unfortunately, even small amounts of oil or gasoline can contaminate hundreds of thousands of gallons of clean water.

Businesses must also comply with the illicit discharge rules by not releasing contaminants into the storm or sanitary sewer systems. Commercial operations can result in many kinds of wastes, which must be properly disposed of according to sanitary codes and environmental laws. Examples of good housekeeping include properly using, storing and disposing of hazardous wastes through professional hazardous waste removal services (for businesses) or not discharging waste water from industrial washing operations into local waterways. Residents can dispose of household hazardous waste through the Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division’s Household Hazardous Waste collection days

(call 273-6632 or visit <http://www.recycletompkins.org/>). The Solid Waste Division also has many guidelines and suggestions about how to avoid disposing of harmful substances, and suggestions of alternatives to hazardous materials used in homes and businesses.

Village Highway staff participated in a training about Illicit Discharges, Detection and Elimination, provided by the Stormwater Coalition of Tompkins County, of which the Village is a member. Our employees will be watching for illicit discharges into Village waterways as they go around the Village on their regular work details. Such discharges may be subject to fines and other legal action, spelled out in the Village's Illicit Discharge law, which went into effect on June 1, 2011. The new local law can be viewed on the Village's website: <http://www.Vlansing.org/>

We should all care about what enters our waterways and ultimately, Cayuga Lake. Being mindful of the value of the lake will help guide us to do the right thing when it comes to disposing of unwanted waste materials. Remember: We all live downstream!

* The new Local Law 4 (2011) may be found as an amendment to the Village of Lansing Code: Addition of Chapter 80 (entitled "Village of Lansing Illicit Discharges, Activities and Connections to Separate Storm Sewer System Law")

Lynn Leopold
Village Trustee

BOLTON POINT CUSTOMERS



Did you know you can enter your water reading on-line? The process is simple, easy and not only saves you time, but it also saves postage. Go to www.boltonpoint.org . Or you can call 607-277-0660 anytime. Updates can also be made to a phone number or e-mail address on your water/sewer account.

TOMPKINS COUNTY LEGISLATURE REPORT

So Now There Is A Tax Cap...

Three things come to mind as I ponder what to write about the County's grappling with a budget for 2012: (1) our county taxes account for about 20% of your property tax bills, (2) our County Administrator's recommended 5.4% tax-levy increase makes sense, and (3) New York State's tax cap does not make sense.

Last spring and summer Gov. Cuomo and state legislators all talked about enacting a tax cap combined with mandate relief. Last spring, when the county legislature gave our Administrator guidance before he prepared his recommended 2012 budget, we already knew that pensions and healthcare costs would be increasing well above inflation, and that just to continue our existing programs was estimated then to equate to about a 13% tax-levy increase. For 2012 each 1% tax-levy increase raises \$400,000. We asked our Administrator to do a two-step budget: first looking at what we could pay for under a tax cap and then what local services a 5.4% tax-levy increase would support. He has done that, and we are in the midst of a series of ten budget meetings to hear from and question our departments about needs and cuts.

By now you all know of the state-imposed “2% tax cap” – and that the much-touted “mandate relief” did not happen. Since counties are arms of state government in the sense that we must pay for and implement many state- mandated programs – particularly the “social safety net” ones (Medicaid, welfare, child care, pre-K special education, early intervention, etc.), we have to raise taxes to pay for them. We now know that Medicaid costs will go up about \$600,000 (a 1.5% levy increase all by itself), and since our employees must belong to the state common retirement system, that requires an additional \$700,000 (a 1.75% levy increase). Just those two items take us above the tax cap. Not only did the state omit mandate relief, but is also cut state aid, a net cut of \$800,000 (equal to a 2% levy increase).

A county must cover state mandates, and to do so can only raise revenues and/or cut its own existing local non-mandated programs such as road patrol, emergency response, highways, building maintenance, libraries, youth bureau, office for the aging. Our County Administrator’s recommended budget meets our 5.4% guideline, allows most programs and services to be maintained at some level, but also includes cuts that will hurt, such as less road maintenance, fewer library Sunday hours, reductions in some child welfare programs and preventive services.

When our County Administrator applied the state’s guidelines (available this fall) for adjustments to the cap, the actual cap for Tompkins County is 2.9%, which would allow us to raise \$41.8M, and means a 2012 increase of \$22 in the tax bill for the average home valued at \$160,000. At his 5.4% recommended tax-levy increase, we can raise \$42.8M, and the equivalent tax bill would increase just \$47.

It is our strong belief that the level of government that decides on a mandate (the state) should be the one to pay for it, rather than passing the cost on to a lower level of government and pretending it is fiscally responsible. At the county level we only have the relatively regressive property tax and sales tax available as tools to raise revenue, whereas the state has those plus the [theoretically] more progressive income tax to raise revenues from. This year the state refused to consider raising any income tax on the most wealthy taxpayers, instead appearing to be fiscally conservative by imposing a tax cap on counties, towns, cities, villages and school districts and giving us the option of over-riding the tax cap if at least 60% of those voting on the local budget choose to override it, making us look like “bad guys”.

At its Oct. 3 meeting our County Legislature adopted a local law giving us the option to override the tax cap. I don’t think we are being bad guys to choose to make use of that flexibility as we hear from constituents what is important to them.

Dooley Kiefer, District 10, T.C. Legislature

REPORT FROM TOWN OF LANSING RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Youth & Adult Recreation Programs Starting

The Town of Lansing Department of Parks and Recreation is currently accepting registrations for several recreation programs that will start soon or are ongoing.

Horse Riding & Handling Camp – This program is set to start on October 12 and is open to any Middle School or Elementary students. The program takes place at Flying High Farm after school on Wednesdays for Middle School and Tuesdays for Elementary School students.

Youth Gymnastics – This program will start on November 4th and takes place Fridays afterschool at Fingerlakes Gymnastics Academy. Bus transportation is provided and is for students in grades K-4th. This is a great introductory program in an excellent facility. Sign up for this one soon!

Open Bowling – This program is for students in grades 3 – 8 starting November 7th and takes place on Mondays at the Bowl-O-Drome after school and bus transportation is provided.

Ski Program – The Ski program is for students in grades K – 12 and the early discount date to purchase the program pass is October 15th.

Adult programs that are on-going include Adult Open Swim, Cardio Step & Strength Class, AM Strength & Stretch and Karate classes for adults and students.

Much additional specific information regarding each program is located on the registration forms. Call the Recreation office with questions 533-7388 or email Steve-lansingrec@twcny.rr.com Forms are also available at www.lansingrec.com

Steve Colt, Town of Lansing Park & Recreation Director

TOMPKINS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

New Poll Sites for General Election

Tompkins County voters should be aware that some poll sites have changed since last year's General Election. Most of these changes were made so that voters will have more room and privacy as they fill out and vote their ballot. This year's General Election will take place on November 8. Poll sites will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Links to maps of the new sites can be found on the homepage of the Tompkins County Board of Elections, www.votetompkins.com. Voters can then access maps that allow them to print out exact directions to their poll site. Voters at other poll sites can also get maps and directions by following the links "For Voters" and then "Where Do I Vote?"

The Town of Lansing District 5 and 7, who went to the Crash Fire and Rescue Building, will now go to the Ithaca Reform Temple, 2550 N. Triphammer Rd.

The Board of Elections is located at 128 E. Buffalo Street, open M-F 8:30 – 4:30. For more information contact Commissioners Elizabeth W. Cree(R) or Stephen M. DeWitt(D) at 607-274-5522.

Tom M. Paolangeli

TOMPKINS COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

New Recycling Guidelines – You Can Now Recycle More!

Taking another step toward making it easier for residents to recycle, Tompkins County is now accepting new types of materials for recycling, right at the curb. Single stream recycling, adopted this spring, enabled residents to mix recyclable paper, glass, metal, and plastics all in one bin. Now, under the County's new Recycling Guidelines, residents can also include new types of items in the bin, to be accepted for recycling.

These new items include:

- Plastics marked #1 through #7, including bottles, tubs, & carry out containers
- Small rigid plastics, such as
 - Flower pots
 - Small plastic toys

- Ice cube trays
- Dish drainers
- Tupperware®

(Small rigid plastics collected curbside must be no larger than a 5-gallon bucket.)

“Take a closer look at what you are putting in the trash because now it most likely can be recycled,” says Kat McCarthy, Waste Reduction and Recycling Specialist from Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division. “We are working to help you reduce waste. One way to accomplish this is by adding to what you can put in your recycling bin.”

For an electronic copy of the new Recycling Guidelines (including helpful pictures showing what’s accepted), please visit the County’s Solid Waste Management Division website at www.recycletompkins.org.

Single Stream Recycling: Paper and Containers...Mix it up!

Also remember that, as part of Single Stream Recycling, you may use a *larger recycling container*. The larger recycling container you purchase at a retail outlet can be up to 40 gallons in size, weigh up to 40 pounds when full, and must be clearly marked with an “R”. “R” decals are available for free at the Solid Waste Management Division office, the Drop-off Area of the Recycling and Solid Waste Center, Village of Lansing office, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, and the customer service desk of the Ithaca Wegmans. If you use a bin labeled with an “R” decal, please make sure your decal faces the road, so that the collector can identify your material as recycling.

Kat McCarthy, Waste Reduction and Recycling Specialist
Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division
Phone: 607-273-6632 Fax: 607-275-0000
kmccarthy@tompkins-co.org

Please join Tompkins County and ReCommunity in celebrating the "Re-Opening" of the Recycling and Solid Waste Center on Friday, October 7th, 2011 at 8:30 am. Learn about the new features of our facility that will make it much easier to recycle more materials and move our community closer to our 75% waste diversion goal by the end of 2015. We look forward to taking you on a tour of the Center.

Barbara Eckstrom, Solid Waste Manager



TAKE A STEP TO SAVE MONEY AND ENERGY

Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County
Fiscal Agent for GYGB-Tompkins Coalition
615 Willow Ave., Ithaca, NY, 14850
Ph: 607-272-2292, Fax: 607-272-7088
www.ccetompkins.org/energy FEID # 16-6072897

We need **YOU** to help the ***Get Your GreenBack - Tompkins!*** County-wide campaign inspire all 42,000 households and every business in Tompkins County to take tangible steps to save money in the areas of **Food, Energy, Transportation, and Waste** while building community and a resilient future for ALL residents. *Including you!*

How? On Sat., October 29, to officially kick off the *Get Your GreenBack Tompkins!* campaign, 600 volunteers from the Cornell Public Service Center's Into the Streets program will help distribute up to 7,000 bags to City of Ithaca residents and 5,000 to residents in other Tompkins' communities, including ours. Community volunteers are needed.

The bags will contain CFLs and ideas for GreenBack steps to take in regards to local food, transportation, and waste, in addition to information about energy upgrades for homes.

Through this action alone, if all 12,000 homes installed the CFLs from their energy packet, \$667,000 would be saved over time & 8.30 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions would be avoided, helping ***Tompkins County reach our goal of reducing 80% of green house gas emissions from the baseline 2008 emissions by 2050.***

Fall 2011 - Jan. 2013: Planning for a county-wide energy efficiency campaign since Oct. '10 has resulted in Get Your GreenBack Tompkins! - a campaign to reach every household in Tompkins County with the message of energy savings through 4 sectors: Residential energy consumption, transportation, food and waste. Over 40 organizations are committed to participate in the campaign in the next 16 months, and to support initiatives that are already happening in Tompkins County. We will help members of the community save money, create jobs, support local businesses, and promote energy efficiency in regards to food, transportation, heating, electricity, and waste.

Michael Koplinka-Loehr, Senior Energy Management Coordinator, mak11@cornell.edu, 607-592-7650

Have a Great Fall!

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Mayor Donald Hartill 272-7671
DLH13@cornell.edu

Deputy Mayor Lynn Leopold 273-3457
LynnBird58@yahoo.com

Trustee John O'Neill 266-7306
johnoneillati@cs.com

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke 272-4029
patithaca@aol.com

Trustee Julie Baker 257-2474
jbaker@atc-nycorp.com

BZA Acting Chair Mary Sirois 257-1035

Planning Bd. Chairman Mario Tomei 257-1921

Planning Board Phil Dankert
Richard Durst
Lisa Schleelein
Maria Stycos
Jon Kanter (alt.)

VILLAGE EMPLOYEES

Clerk/Treasurer Jodi Dake 257-0424

Code Enf. /Zoning Officer Marty Moseley 257-8363

Supt. of Public Works John Courtney 257-6280

MEO's Nolan Hatfield 257-6280
Adam LaLonde 257-6280

Electrical Inspector Floyd Ferris 592-5829

Village Accountant
Ciaschi Dietershagen Little & Mickelson 272-4444

Village Attorney
Barney Grossman Dubow & Marcus 273-6841

Village Engineers TG Millers 272-6477

Engineering Consultant Brent Cross

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

John Courtney, Superintendent of Public Works
257-6280, Ext. 224 or 849-4970

VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES

Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission.....Donald Hartill, Michael Newman

Tompkins County Board of Representatives, District 6.....Pat Pryor

Tompkins County Board of Representatives, District 10.....Dooley Kiefer

Tompkins County Environmental Management Council..... John Dennis

STATE AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

N.Y. State Senator Mike Nozzolio (R)
54th State Senate District
412 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247
(518)455-2366

N.Y. State Assembly Barbara Lifton (D)
125th State Assembly District
106 E. Court St.
Ithaca, NY 14850
(607)277-8030

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D)
322 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202)224-6542

U.S. Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand (D)
478 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202)224-4451

U.S. Rep. Richard L. Hanna
127 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
Cortland office-(607)756-2470