



Newsletter October 2013

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

The Village Newsletter is currently published twice a year in March and October. The newsletter will be available on the redesigned Village website at www.vlansing.org. You can also sign up to receive notice of our publication by clicking on "Subscribe to Village Email" at the top of our home page. If you prefer to receive a paper copy just call the office to get added to the mailing list. Copies are also available at the Village Office. Spread the word to your neighbors about the newsletter!

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

As you have probably noticed there is a new building being constructed in front of the present Village Office. After a failed bidding process last fall, the project was rebid this spring resulting in Edger Enterprises as the winning general contractor. As you can see the construction is going rapidly and we expect to have the building finished by November 22nd. It will be a great improvement over our present office that shares the building with the Bolton Point main pumping station for our water. New higher capacity pumps were installed several years ago and this resulted in significantly higher noise and vibration levels when they were running. We have been able to survive by not running the pumps during business hours and during evening meetings but this is becoming more difficult because of operational issues with the water system. The present meeting room will be available for occasional use by the public and as the polling place for most Village residents. We plan a ribbon cutting and holiday party open house for the new office in December. More details will be on the Village website as we get closer to the date. The new office building is being paid for from our General Capital Reserve Fund and our current budget.



We now have the results from a survey of the residents of the Village that was carried out jointly with the Town of Lansing by the Survey Research Institute at Cornell University. Along with these results we have the statistical information from the last census and we are now in the process of putting this all together to update our Village Comprehensive Plan. We hope to complete this early next year.

The storm water project on the north side of Dart Drive is complete and there is now a safe walkway on the north side made by extending the pavement with clear markings. We plan to carry out a similar improvement on the south side of the road this coming construction season. We have resurfaced several other roadways in the Village this season as part of our long-term maintenance program.

August 5th when the rains came there was considerable damage to some of our newer roadways and in particular the road that goes down to the Bolton Point Intake Pump Station. This roadway is not a public highway but is owned by the Village and is part of our Greenway Trial System. It leads from the small parking area on Blackchin Road down to Poison Ivy Point on the lake that is part of the Village Park system. Most of the culverts were plugged by the rapid runoff and the water then washed out many sections of the road. After a week's worth of effort by our Department of Public Works (DPW) staff and many truckloads of gravel the roadway is now better than it was originally. During the event two of our DPW staff were on well-deserved vacations. Marty Moseley, our Code and Zoning Enforcement Officer, and John Courtney monitored all of our streams and helped stabilize the situation that night. In the morning, the most hazardous areas were taken care of including a section of sidewalk that had been undercut by the stream near Brook Drive. I even got to help with that by transporting gravel from our storage area near the Village Garage with our new Volvo frontend loader. John said my first tip of the load was a little shaky but the next ones were fine and that he would hire me as an operator. Driving that machine up and down North Triphammer Road generates a lot of respect from the other drivers.

The Village has recently purchased a 23 acre parcel between Dart Drive and Wood Thrush Hollow Road. This was the parcel where Better Housing of Ithaca and NRP proposed to build worker affordable housing on that led to considerable controversy. They dropped their purchase option in August and the Village made an offer that the current owners accepted. We expect to close on the property by the end of October. Our intention is to leave most of the parcel in a forever wild state and perhaps develop a portion of the eastern part as a playing field/recreational area similar to Dankert Park on the south side of Route 13.

Many residents ask me what they get for their taxes in a State that has one of the highest tax loads in the country. I thought using my property taxes as an example would help answer some of these questions. In New York we pay an income tax with a highest rate of 6%. In addition, there is the sales tax of 8% on all non-food purchases along with an assortment of business taxes here in Tompkins County. 4% of the 8% of sales tax goes to New York State and 3% goes to the County. The remaining 1% goes to the local government (Towns and Villages) where the purchase was made. In our case it is divided between the Town of Lansing and the Village based on population (about one third). This represents a little more than one third of the Village General Fund Budget income. Village property tax makes up another third and gross receipts tax on utilities makes up the remaining third of the income for the general fund.

Our house on Cayuga Heights Road is assessed at \$260,000 and our taxes this past year were:

Ithaca City School District	\$3,899.28
Tompkins County	\$1,766.88
Town of Lansing	\$362.03
Lansing Fire District	\$244.27
Solid Waste Fee	\$112.00
Village of Lansing	<u>\$247.00</u>
Total	\$6,631.46

What do we get as property tax payers for each of these categories? The amount going to the Ithaca City School District provides the local support for our school system. In the case of Tompkins County it supports the County Health Department, Planning, Social Services, Highway Department, County Planning, etc. The County property tax represents more than half of the local share of the County budget with the 3% part of the sales tax making up the balance. The local share of the County budget is a little less than half of the total County budget with the balance coming from Federal and State aid. The Town of Lansing portion supports the Town justice system, the Town Parks, most of the Town Highway Department, animal control (dog licenses), the Town Government, and the Town Recreation Activities. As a village resident we get assistance with the spring brush pickup, access to the parks, the justice system and animal control from the Town. Our fire protection is provided by the Lansing Fire District which is a volunteer organization. The funds in this category pay for capital improvements (new buildings and equipment), training costs for the volunteers, gear for the volunteers, a modest retirement program and staff costs. The solid waste fee is self-explanatory. The Village of Lansing portion provides a portion of all the road maintenance and construction including snowplowing of the Village road system (~ 18 miles of roadway). It also provides for maintaining our Greenway trail system and our parks with Dankert Park being the largest one. A portion of the salaries of all five Village full time employees (our clerk/treasurer, code and zoning enforcement officer, and three department of public works personnel) and one part-time fire inspector are paid by these funds. Our department of public works also maintains our water and sewer infrastructure with capital improvements to these systems coming from surcharges on the use of these systems. I hope this gives you a little clearer picture of where your tax dollar goes and what you get for it.

Please look later in the newsletter for the dates of our annual fall brush pickup.

November 5th is Election Day and the two polling locations for Village residents will be the present Village Office and the Temple. There are two open seats for the Town of Lansing Board so please be sure to vote. I hope we will continue to have great fall weather and that the coming winter will be a mild one.

Donald Hartill, Mayor

VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE

Check Out Our New Website!!

Our website has gotten a makeover thanks to Village resident Ronny Hardaway's volunteer efforts! All the great information that was there before has been reorganized to be more user friendly. You can see the meeting agendas, read minutes from Board meetings, look at past newsletters, print off forms, find contact information for our staff, view our codification and much more. Please let us know what you think of our new website. We appreciate your feedback! We hope to have a Village Open House at our new Administration Building so watch the website for that information in December.

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

With Fall upon us, I would remind everyone that there are numerous scenarios in which a building permit would be needed, I would encourage individuals who are interested in additions, new construction, remodeling, installation of a solid fuel burning heating appliance, chimney or flue, installation of new heating equipment, decks, pools, etc. to visit the Village of Lansing Office at 2405 North Triphammer Road for any questions they might have. Unfortunately, some properties and buildings were affected by the recent flooding incident in the Village during the summer, it may be necessary for some of those buildings or properties to obtain a building permit. Also please remember to check/replace the batteries in all Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detectors.

Marty Moseley, Code & Zoning Officer

TOMPKINS COUNTY ASSESSMENT

*****STAR Registration Program*****

New legislation requires all homeowners receiving a Basic STAR exemption to register with the New York State Tax Department in order to receive the Basic STAR exemption for 2014 and subsequent years. On August 19, 2013 the New York State Tax Department sent a letter to all homeowners currently receiving the Basic STAR exemption with instructions on how to register.

This legislation does not affect the current school tax bill (2013).

This is part of a new initiative to protect New Yorkers against the cost of inappropriate or fraudulent STAR exemptions.

Senior Citizens receiving the Enhanced STAR are not affected by the new registration requirement. Seniors must, however, continue to apply annually with the Tompkins County Department of Assessment or participate in the Income Verification Program.

In Tompkins County there are approximately 20,000 property owners that need to re-register by December 31, 2013. (Including 433 in the Village of Lansing).

Any questions about the STAR Registration can be directed to the New York State Tax Department at www.tax.ny.gov or 518-457-2036. If a property owner has misplaced their letter, there is a link at the above address to search for the STAR code that is needed to re-register.

Jay Franklin

VILLAGE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Brush Pick-Up

Fall brush and limb pick-up will be provided by the Village of Lansing Highway Department on Tuesday, October 15th. Residents are asked to leave up to one pick-up truck size load near the roadside by 7:00 am. 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. Please do not put out bags of yard waste. This pick up is only for limbs and brush. Residents, not contractors, may also take brush to the Town of Lansing Highway Department, located at 10 Town Barn Road, any time during the year.

John Courtney, Supt. of Public Works

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

The spring and summer seasons were rather quiet, as for major new projects for the Planning Board. It is satisfying to see the culmination of two very noticeable projects that were approved by our Board earlier this year. Thanks to Brixmor Properties breathing new life into Cayuga Mall, we now have new stores in the Village with vibrant appearances. Also, Timemon Holding Company has completed Phase II on their lot at 2432 N. Triphammer Rd., by adding another medical/office building that matches the Phase I building.

Ace Hardware opened in the Triphammer Marketplace in the early spring. The Village went for several years without a hardware store, but now has two quality stores in which to shop.

The Board spent several meetings reviewing its Commercial Low Traffic District. The purpose of this review was to insure a more gradual transition between the commercial and residential areas on the northern end of the Village. We will eventually be sending these recommendations to the Board of Trustees. Details of this can be found on the website, under Planning Board meeting minutes.

The Planning Board was actively involved with selecting topics for the telephone survey, to be used in updating the Village's (and Lansing Town's) Comprehensive Plans. Along with the Board of Trustees, we are all attempting to complete this update by the end of 2013.

The Town of Lansing Pathways Committee attended one of our Planning Board meetings to present their plans for walking trails, already in existence, or for future plans. We are also getting ready to update our own Greenway Plan in the Village. As these trails develop it makes sense to have them connect as they approach the Town/Village line. We appreciate this sharing of information from the Town and look forward to this cooperative project.

Other activities approved by the Planning Board with minor environmental impacts:

- a single family home on Burdick Hill Rd.
- construction of a pool at a home at 7 Leifs Way
- co-location of AT&T telecom equipment on existing tower at T.C. Safety Bldg. on Warren Rd.
- a single family home on Hemlock Lane, near a steep slopes area (will not affect slopes)
- convert a garage at existing single family home at 844 Cayuga Heights Rd. to an apartment

We welcome Deborah Dawson of Dart Drive, who was selected to be the Alternate member of the Planning Board.

Additional information on any of the above topics can be found in the Planning Board Meeting Minutes section on the Village website: Vlansing.org. 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, 7:30 - 10:00pm.

Mario Tomei, Planning Board Chairman

TOMPKINS COUNTY PLANNING

The Planning Department is beginning the process of updating the 2004 Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan. The first step is determining the scope of the updated plan and, as part of that process, we are conducting a survey of County residents, as well as people who work and do business in the County. We would like you to be a part of that important process.

Please participate in the web survey at tompkinscountyny.gov/compplan by no later than October 10th. It should only take a few minutes of your time. Also, encourage your family, friends and neighbors to fill out the survey. If you need a hard copy of the survey, it can be obtained by contacting the Planning Department. Please share the flyer with employees who do not have access to e-mail.

The County Comprehensive Plan sets County Policy in important areas of community concern and helps direct the activities of the Planning Department and partner agencies. Your participation in the survey will help make the plan responsive to community needs.

Joe Mareane, County Administrator & Ed Marx, Commissioner of Planning

TOMPKINS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

The Board of Elections is currently looking for Poll Site Inspectors and Managers. This is a great opportunity for folks interested in participating in the political process. Inspectors sign in voters and distribute ballots. Poll Site Managers open and close the voting machines and assist voters as needed.

New workers attend a paid training session and then are teamed up with experienced workers for the election.

For Primary Elections, Inspectors are paid \$100 for working 11:30 am – approx. 9:30 pm, and Poll Site Managers are paid \$130 for working 11 am – approx. 9:30 pm.

For the General Election Inspectors are paid \$160 (5:30 am – approx. 9:30 pm) and the Poll Site Managers are paid \$190 (5:00 am – approx. 9:30 pm).

The trainings are throughout the summer and fall. You may sign up by calling the Board of Elections at 607-274-5521.

Remember to get out and vote on November 6th from 6am to 9pm. Contact the Board of Elections for absentee ballots. More information can be found at www.votetompkins.com

Tom M. Paolangeli

JOINT YOUTH COMMISSION

This summer was a busy summer for Middle School and High School age Youth residing in the Village of Lansing, Town of Ithaca, and Village of Cayuga Heights. Youth from our community experienced first-time supervised summer employment at the Coddington Road Community Center in the Counselors in Training Program as well as a pre-employment training curriculum. Youth from our community obtained first time supervised employment up to 100 hours through the Cooperative Extension in a variety of developed jobs sites. Youth in our community also learned about and did actual community service as part of the Summer Service Learning Program offered by the Learning Web. All three of these programs are focused on providing youth with a great foundation for their future, a first time employment or service experience and are sponsored by the Joint Youth Commission. Our Village and Town Youth benefit from the funding provided by The Village of Lansing to operate these programs and the JYC is proud to offer these to Village Residents. The Learning Web and Cooperative Extension RYS also offer opportunities for youth development and enrichment through after school and lunchtime activities throughout the school year as well. Please contact any of these programs as an interested youth or parent.

Henriette Bulmer
Village of Lansing, Joint Youth Commission

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.

Water Bills are mailed out quarterly on the 1st and are due by the 20th. (January, April, July, October) If you know you will be out of town when your water bill comes you may pay in advance. A credit will show on your account and this will help to avoid late fees. If you have any questions about payments please call the Village of Lansing at 257-0424 ext.#1. Bolton Point creates the water/sewer bills but payments are made to the Village of Lansing.

The Village Clerk/Treasurer understands that life gets in the way and occasionally we forget to pay our bill. If this happens you may come to a Board of Trustees meeting and ask to have your late fee waived. The Board is the only one authorized to waive late fees. If you plan to attend a Board meeting for this reason please contact the clerk and she will help you get the information you need to present to the Board.

REPORT FROM TOWN OF LANSING RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Recreation Programs that will be starting soon are skiing, open bowling, gymnastics, indoor youth soccer and youth basketball. Additional information and specifics are available at the Town Recreation web page www.lansingrec.com or email Steve-lansingrec@twcnny.rr.com or call the office at 533-7388.

Steve Colt, Town of Lansing Park & Recreation Director

TRUSTEE O'NEILL

AVRE (Association for Vision Rehabilitation and Employment, Inc.)

AVRE has been assisting blind and visually impaired residents of South Central New York since 1926. AVRE partners with many local, state and national organizations including school districts, employers and Office for the Aging. They work with infants through seniors in the acquisition of learning, working and living skills to manage loss of vision. They recently became the regional center for assisted technology training in 13 counties, including Tompkins County, under a contract with the New York State Commission for the Blind. Visit our website at www.avreus.org or call (607) 724-2428.

John O'Neill

YMCA

The Ithaca YMCA is hosting a motorcycle benefit ride on Saturday, October 12, 2013 to raise money for our Open Doors Scholarship Program. This program allows the Y to focus on its main goal of building stronger communities through Youth Development, Healthy Living, & Social Responsibility.

"The Wild Ride" will take riders through 4 state forests and parks surrounding the Ithaca area and cover about 60 miles. The benefit ride will end with a barbecue at the Y Wilderness property on Route 79. Riders will traverse a variety of paved roads and about 6 miles of seasonal gravel roads. The ride is designed for participants to see the spectacular wild areas surrounding our community and the mid-October date of the ride should provide peak viewing of the fall foliage as well. Contact the YMCA for ride schedule.

*BBQ tickets are available for guests or non-riders to join us at the Y Wilderness property. Registration form and map and can be found on our website at www.ithacaymca.com or at the YMCA front desk. The ride is \$30.00 per bike and driver including BBQ, \$10.00 for additional passenger, \$10.00 Wild Ride shirts (size guarantee, register by Sept 30. We encourage you to ride the route before the event. Route signs will be posted at every corner and there will be a lead bike and follow bike. Someone will also be driving a truck to help if anyone breaks down. Speed limits will be followed.

Last year your YMCA provided 2,043 children, families and individuals with financial aid totaling \$117,000. Money raised from the ride will help sustain this valuable program.

Thank you for your interest and continuing support.

Wild Ride Committee

RAIN DATE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

YMCA of Ithaca & Tompkins County

50 Graham Road West, Ithaca, NY 14850

607.257.0101 ~ www.ithacaymca.com ~ info@ithacaymca.com

HOUSING MARKET REPORT

Thank you to Elvina Amati of Warren Real Estate for submitting the following real estate updates:

Tompkins County residential sales, year-to-date (Jan 1 - Sept 27)

	2011	2012	2013
Number of sales	492	557	575
Average price, \$	219,000	213,000	226,000

Price/sq.ft, \$	118	117	124
Days on Market	143	143	138
Volume, Million \$	103.0	118.4	129.8

New York Home Prices Rise for 9 Consecutive Months - Robust buyer activity across New York State throughout the year resulted in a 12% increase in a statewide median prices compared to 2012.

Hottest Home Trends in 2013 -

Outdoor living rooms and screened porches - with fire pits, curtains, TV, audio

Outdoor kitchens - from simple grill to elaborate built-in cook's stations

Vegetable gardens - tomatoes, garlic, and herbs are most popular

Hand-crafted elements - reclaimed rustic wood, pottery, and anything else you can create with your own hands.

TOMPKINS COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Safe Medication Drop Box Program Expanded Throughout Tompkins County

The Coalition for Safe Medication Disposal has announced that its “Med Return” Drop Box program, initiated last September, is now expanded to nine locations in Tompkins County, making it even easier for people to safely and securely dispose of expired or unneeded household medications.

The first “Med Return” drop box, located at the Tompkins County Sheriff’s, Public Safety Building on Warren Road, has received heavy use since it was installed last September. Now boxes are available, as well, at eight other secure locations around the county.

“With nine drop boxes open year-round throughout the county, disposing of unwanted household medications is now easier than ever,” notes Ed Gottlieb, pre-treatment coordinator at the Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Facility, and chair of the Coalition, which has sponsored drug take-back events each year. “Please make clearing out your medicine cabinet a regular activity!”

Locations and hours, along with disposal guidelines, also are posted at the Coalition’s web page at www.healthyouth.org, and the information is available by calling 2-1-1. What can and cannot be placed in the box is also posted at each drop box location. “Prescription medications in the home are a major risk for accidental poisonings and are the primary source for the drugs most commonly abused by teens,” Gottlieb adds. “The medications collected for safe disposal can no longer contribute to these problems. By removing these medications from our homes, I think we have likely prevented at least one overdose or kept one teen from dangerously experimenting with drug abuse. The collected medications will also never become a contaminant of our waterways or water supply. As the Pretreatment Coordinator at the Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Facility, this was my initial motivation to get involved in this effort. I am thrilled to see how responsive the community has been to the cause of safely disposing of unwanted medications.”

Contact: Ed Gottlieb, 273-8381.

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 266-8392
johnoneil5@aol.com
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke 272-4029
patithaca@aol.com
Trustee Julie Baker 257-2474
jakbaker@gmail.com

BZA Acting Chair Mary Sirois 257-1035
Planning Bd. Chairman Mario Tomei 257-1921
Planning Board Phil Dankert
Jon Kanter
Lisa Schleelein
Maria Stycos
Deborah Dawson (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
Asst. Supt. of Public Works Adam LaLonde 257-6280
MEO Nolan Hatfield 257-6280
Electrical Inspector Floyd Ferris 592-5829
Fire Inspector Brian Quadrozzi 257-0424
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 cell-280-4893

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. Tom Reed
Gateway Center Building
401 East State Street
Ithaca, NY 14850