



# Newsletter

## March 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](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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### **COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR**

This winter the Village Department of Public Works staff has again taken care of the snow removal from the Village streets. It has been a more normal year than last year and we have used around 600 tons of salt which is near normal. Our equipment has performed well and from the comments I hear from the public our roadways have been well maintained.

John and his staff continue to enjoy the new garage facility and find it a great improvement to get into clean warm trucks to begin the snow plowing. It also allows our crew to leave salt in the trucks instead of having to spread salt until the trucks are empty so there is a savings here.

This year we will be constructing a new Village Office between North Triphammer Road and the present Village Office. The plans for the new office are posted on the Village website and will have new offices for the Clerk/Treasurer and the Code Enforcement Officer. There will be a large central meeting area for the various Board meetings along with an office for use by the Mayor and Chair of the Planning Board and an office for the Superintendent of Public Works. There will be a small kitchen and break area also. The building will have insulation that exceeds current NY State building standards and will be air-conditioned and will be heated by natural gas. The setback of the building will conform to our new standards for new buildings along North Triphammer like the Autodesk building. The estimated cost of the building is around \$1,000,000 and will be paid for using some money from our current budget with the remainder coming from our General Capital Reserve Fund.

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 re-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. We will be repaving around one and one half miles of Village roadways this summer and fall. Parts of Triphammer Road will be milled and resurfaced to maintain its performance in addition. The other rite of spring is the annual brush pickup by the Village crew. 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 coming construction season, we will be replacing part of our water main that runs under Route 13 by boring under the roadway so that traffic is not affected. The storm water sewer along Dart Drive that was started 2 years ago 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. There will be a new sidewalk constructed connecting from Triphammer Road, crossing the Mobil property and connecting to the Cayuga Mall. Completing this sidewalk will provide for a more walkable community. 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.

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 1<sup>st</sup>. The assessed value of the properties in the Village has increased by 5 % compared to last year. With the construction of the new Village Office our large capital construction projects will be complete and we can look forward to steady-state funding. The proposed tax rate for this year is \$1.01 per thousand dollars assessment that is 2 % above last year's tax rate of \$0.99. This is less than inflation for the items we have to buy.

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. Copies of the proposed budget are available as usual in the Village Office and it is posted on the Village website. The Village of Lansing continues to have one of the lowest tax rates in New York State for the services that we supply. Good fiscal management and out-sourcing as much of our needs as possible makes this all possible.

During the next several months the Village of Lansing will be updating its Comprehensive Plan that was last updated in 2005. We are seeking input for all of the constituents of the Village and will likely be participating in the telephone survey that is being planned by the Town of Lansing as part of their Comprehensive Plan update. We will be reaching out to our businesses to solicit their input along with the Village residents. We hope that the updated plan will be a useful guide to our planning during the next decade. 2014 will be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Village and we plan an appropriate celebration.

We would like to thank Richard Durst for his many years of service on the Planning Board. Richard will be leaving the Village and Jon Kanter will be filling his position. Best of luck to Richard!

I would urge all residents who are interested to attend our Board meetings so that their input can be heard as the Boards go about all of their business not just for issues that have generated a lot of interest.

Finally, Village elections for the Mayor and two Trustees will be held from noon to 9 pm on Tuesday April 23 at the Village Office (2405 N. Triphammer Road). I encourage you to vote.

Don Hartill, Mayor

## **VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE**

### **Budget Public Hearing**

The Public Hearing on the proposed Village of Lansing Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 will be Monday, April 1st at 7:35pm. Village residents attending the meeting have the right to provide written and oral comments. The aggregate salaries for the Board of Trustees are proposed in the amount of \$20,000, \$5,000 for each Trustee, and the salary for the Mayor is proposed in the amount of \$12,500. \$2,211,586 in appropriations is proposed for the General Fund. The proposed General Tax Rate is \$1.01 per \$1,000 of assessed value. A special assessment of \$.05 per \$1,000 of assessed value and \$10.38 per sewer unit is proposed for the Sewer Collector debt payment. Copies of the proposed budget may be inspected at the Village of Lansing Office during office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Budget can also be found at the top of the Village Webpage.

### **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.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer

## **CODE & ZONING DEPARTMENT**

With spring right around the corner 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 you might have. Also please remember to check/replace the batteries in all Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detectors.

Marty Moseley, Code & Zoning Officer

## **VILLAGE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

### **Brush Pick-Up**

Spring brush and limb pick-up will be provided by the Village and Town of Lansing Highway Departments on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Residents are asked to leave all materials near the roadside by 6:00 am 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. Please do not put out bags of yard waste. This pick up is only for limbs and brush.

John Courtney, Supt. of Public Works

## **PLANNING BOARD NEWS**

By now everyone has witnessed the flurry of construction activities taking place at Cayuga Mall. Remodeling of that mall was long overdue, but, once the Special Permit was granted by the Planning Board, it did not take long for the owners, Brixmor Properties, to start the project. New, colorful, eye appealing facades for three new tenants: Jo-Ann Fabrics, True Value-Agway, Party City and long-standing Rite Aid, are appearing as we speak. Grand openings should begin in the next 4 to 6 weeks.

Another project that did not let the winter weather slow its progress was the construction of our new Lansing firehouse on the site of the old one on Oakcrest Road. Its expanded size will house much larger equipment, which will provide quicker response times and increase safety for our Village. Crews should begin occupation prior to the summer.

The Timemon Holding Co. is prepared to develop Phase II of their property at 2432 Triphammer Road. Phase I is the location of Ithaca Cardiology Associates. Development of the entire parcel was given approval through a Special Permit back in April 2006. Due to the passage of years the developer was asked to come back before the Planning Board. Since the size, location, parking, and purpose remain exactly the same as approved in 2006, the Planning Board voted to reaffirm the earlier Special Permit. The 8,147 s.f. building will have the same look as the Ithaca Cardiology Associates (8,000 s.f.). Occupants of this new building will be primarily another medical profession and another low-impact professional office.

Via Public Hearing and a Special Permit, approval was given by the Planning Board for the final existing Commercial High Traffic District parcel in the Village. The owners of Triphammer Marketplace will construct a 3-story 43,000 s.f. mixed use building on the empty lot they own in between Homewood Suites and CFCU, on Cinema Drive. It will consist primarily of residential one bedroom apartments, with some two bedroom apartments (a total of 39 units), and two commercial components on the ground floor (retail/café/professional office). The intension is to attract graduate students, but not be exclusive.

Other activities brought before the Planning Board with minor environmental impacts:

- A number of short meetings were conducted with the owners of the Ithaca Mall, concerning the landscaping and buffering requirements for BJ's, previously approved by Special Permits. Because of practicality, aesthetics, and better protection from wildlife damage some minor changes were agreed upon by the P.B. and owners.
- After a Public Hearing the Shops at Ithaca Mall was granted a Special Permit to operate a Temporary Outdoor Flower Sale during this May and June in a tent in the mall parking lot.
- In order to streamline the process, the Village Code and Zoning Officer now has the administrative authority to grant approval for the renewal of any previously approved special permit for a Temporary Commercial Activity, as long as there are no major changes. An example of this would be the temporary used car sales occasionally taking place in the Ithaca Mall parking lot. Any major changes would require an appearance before the Planning Board, again.
- Approval was granted to Westview Partners, LLC to construct two residential single family homes on Sunpath Road, just off of Rt. 34.
- A few changes to the original Lansing Trails II plat were approved. Revisions to the conditions will put the developer, Ivar Jonson, in a position to allow construction process on Phase II of Lansing Trails II.

Additional information on any of the above topics can be found in the Planning Board Meeting Minutes section on the Village website: [www.vlansing.org](http://www.vlansing.org) . 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 BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

### **Lansing Village Elections Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

There will be a Village Election in Lansing on April 23 to elect two Trustees and a Mayor. Absentee ballot applications for the election are available at [www.votetompkins.com](http://www.votetompkins.com) . You can also stop by or call the Board of Elections to obtain the applications and ballots. The Board of Elections is located at 128 E. Buffalo Street, Ithaca, NY, and open M-F 8:30-4:30. For more information contact Commissioners Elizabeth W. Cree (R) or Stephen M. DeWitt (D) at 274-5522.

## **TRUSTEES**

### **Adopt-a-Highway Program**

The Village of Lansing has been a partner in the Adopt-a-Highway Program in Tompkins County and has at least one Village group that has been picking up debris and litter from one of our local roads. We would welcome others in the Village to volunteer their time and effort to help keep our roads and streets clear of litter and other unsightly debris.

Now that the snows of winter have melted away, we find what the winter winds and human carelessness left us along our roadways. The litter is there for all to see and it's not a pretty sight. Short of taking on the full responsibility of one linear mile of roadway, each of us can help keep the Village looking good simply by picking up along our own property lines, being mindful of safety issues, of course. If each landowner in the Village were willing to pick up litter a few times a year, say spring and late fall, it would help immensely in sprucing up the Village of Lansing.

For more information about our Adopt-a-Highway program, you can visit the Village website at: [www.vlansing.org](http://www.vlansing.org) , where you will find the Adopt-a-Highway guidelines, road list, application forms and other relevant information under **Applications & Forms**. Our Department of Public Works will provide all the necessary equipment and trash bags for teams who want to participate. The expectation is that a team would go out twice a year to pick up trash.

As they say in the Keep America Beautiful campaign, "every litter bit helps!" Help us keep our village beautiful.

Lynn Leopold, Trustee

### **Way2Go**

Way2Go is a program of the Cornell Cooperative Extension, helps people consider the many different ways to get around, overcome transportation barriers, and make alternative transportation choices. They have many options, including these helping cars servicing:

FISH (Friends in Service Helping) – Call 866-255-6545 to request a volunteer driver for seniors or people with disabilities for healthcare related trips within Tompkins County.

RED (Retired Education) – e-mail [retirededucatorsdrive@gmail.com](mailto:retirededucatorsdrive@gmail.com) or call Way2Go at 277-2292 to request a volunteer ride to school related meetings or events as available.

Zimride Tompkins – [Zimride.com/Tompkins](http://Zimride.com/Tompkins) finds matches for sharing rides, from one-time trips or to regular commutes. Post your trip as a rider/drive to find rideshares.

GADABOUT – Call 273-1878 to reserve a ride or get information on rides for seniors or people with disabilities.

Of course, you can also call TCAT at 277-7433 for current bus routes and schedules and to learn all about the pre-paid fare card. You can call **Way2Go** at 272-2292 or visit them at [Way2Go.org](http://Way2Go.org)

John O’Neill

## **TOWN OF LANSING**

### **Recreation Department**

As a Village of Lansing resident you are also part of the Town of Lansing and are able to enroll in Town of Lansing Recreation Programs and get into Myers Park for free. Village of Lansing residents are eligible for a FREE Myers Park ADMISSION pass. All you need to do is stop into the Town of Lansing Recreation Office and provide your name address and license number. This is a beautiful park on Cayuga Lake! For Pavilion or Camping reservations please call the Town of Lansing Recreation Department at 533-7388. For more information on Lansing Recreation programs visit their web site at [www.lansingrec.com](http://www.lansingrec.com)

### **Lansing Farmers’ Market**

The best kept secret in Lansing may well be the Lansing Farmers’ Market. The market will be kicking off its fourth season on Saturday, June 15. It will run every Saturday from 10am to 1pm, June 15<sup>th</sup> through mid-October. The market hosts 15+ vendors selling everything from organic vegetables to flowers, from honey to baked goods, from potted plants to salsa, from jewelry to quilts and much more. This year we will have some new vendors which will be adding a different “flavor” to the market. Located adjacent to the Lansing Town Hall and Lansing Library, there is plenty of free and convenient parking. Spend a Saturday morning in Lansing. Take a hike on the new Lansing Trail, take a book out of the Lansing Library, pull up a picnic table at the market and listen to some live music then take a stroll through the market booths. If you’re in a rush and just want to make a quick stop for some fresh veggies, that’s OK too. For more information and a list of events or to become a vendor visit our web site at: [www.lansingfarmersmarket.com](http://www.lansingfarmersmarket.com) Remember, buy local and support your neighborhood farms.

## **EAST SHORE FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS OPENING NIGHT IS MAY 3<sup>rd</sup>!**

Call Town of Lansing for more details.

## **YMCA UPCOMING EVENT**

The YMCA of Ithaca, located right here in our Village, has many Summer Programs planned for 2013. For more details on these programs and more please contact the YMCA or go to their website at [www.ithacaymca.com](http://www.ithacaymca.com). Listed below are some of the programs they are offering this summer.

- YMCA Camp Adventure Program (Full-Day):
- YMCA Counselor-in-Training (CIT) Program:
- Wilderness Camp Program (Full-Day):
- Summer Blast Pre-K Package (partial days):

Other upcoming events include Healthy Kids Day on April 13<sup>th</sup>, The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Tri-for-the-Y Triathlon on May 5<sup>th</sup> and the Annual YMCA Kionix Kids-to Camp Golf Tornamnet on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Teresa Morehouse, YMCA Associate Executive Director

## **SOUTHERN CAYUGA LAKE INTERMUNICIPAL WATER COMMISSION**

### **Increase In April Water Bills**

The Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission has increased its wholesale rate to its five member municipalities, which are the Towns of Dryden, Ithaca, and Lansing; and the Villages of Cayuga Heights and Lansing. The rate increase is from \$3.15 per 1000 gallons to \$4.00 per 1000 gallons. This increase is necessitated by the escalating costs of operation and maintenance and the need to replace key infrastructure components in order to ensure an uninterrupted supply of water to all customers in the Bolton Point Water System. The retail water rate charged to customers in each of the member municipalities will be determined by the individual municipality's requirements to maintain and upgrade their own water distribution systems. The Village of Lansing Surcharge has been lowered to 25% or \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons. For more information, please contact Jack Rueckheim, Bolton Point General Manager, at 607-277-0660

Village of Lansing Residents will receive a bill quarterly at the beginning of January, April, July and October. All water/sewer bills are due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of that month and can be either mailed in or you may bring your payment to the Village Office at 2405 N. Triphammer Rd. If you would like to drop a payment off after hours there is a drop box next to the front door. The Village of Lansing is part of the Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission (SCLIWC).

## **LANSING STAR**

The Lansing Star Online has built an events calendar at <http://www.ithacalendar.com> . Any events you want the public to know about can be entered there for free. It is a moderated calendar, so events may take about a day before they show up. It's also a great place to find out what's happening around Tompkins County. IthaCalendar is also a prominent part of <http://www.lansingstar.com>, as is our local weather site, <http://www.icathaweather.net>. Dan Veaner, Lansing Star Online Editor, attends most Village of Lansing Board meetings and has good coverage of both Town and Village of Lansing meetings. Check it out!

## **OFFICE FOR THE AGING**

Are you wondering about services for senior citizens? From questions about Medicare, to concerns about an older relative, the staff at the Tompkins County Office for the Aging can help you. The Tompkins County Office for the Aging offers information on a wide variety of services for senior citizens and their caregivers. If our office cannot help you, we can refer you to others who can help. Please call the Tompkins County Office for the Aging at 274-5482, or visit us on the web at [www.tompkins-co.org/cofa](http://www.tompkins-co.org/cofa)

Katrina Schickel

## **TOMPKINS COUNTY SINGLE STREAM CURBSIDE RECYCLING**

Single stream recycling collection allows Tompkins County residents to mix recyclable paper, plastic, aluminum cans and glass in one bin. This method of recycling collection is more convenient for residents and reduces litter. Single stream recycling collection began at the curb, Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Scheduled recycling collection days and times for Tompkins County residents will not change in 2011. The recycling calendar is available at the Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division office, Recycling and Solid Waste Center at the Drop-off Area, and online at [www.recycletompkins.org](http://www.recycletompkins.org).

## CLIMATE SMART & CLIMATE READY

Sustainable Tompkins would like you to join them April 18-21 in Ithaca and Cortland for a major regional conference on making our communities more climate friendly and climate resilient. Under the leadership of Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton, a coalition of Cortland and Tompkins County nonprofits, colleges, businesses, youth groups, and local governments has formed to support ongoing planning and action on climate mitigation and adaptation.

The Climate Smart & Climate Ready conference will focus on how our local governments, institutions, residents and businesses can both lower fossil carbon emissions and prepare for multiple impacts of a turbulent climate regime. Sustainable Tompkins has taken on responsibility for planning and coordinating the conference. The keynote speaker, independent journalist and author **Mark Hertsgaard**, has covered politics, culture and the environment for twenty years for leading outlets around the world

To find out more go to <http://climatesmartclimateready.org>



Sustainable Tompkins  
109 S. Albany St., Ithaca, NY 14850  
607-216-1552

## HOUSING REPORT

### Residential Real Estate Sales in Ithaca Area in Spring of Each Year

	2011	2012	2013
Number of sales	100	132	117
Av. Sales price, \$	185,000	168,000	207,000
Av. Price/sq.ft, \$	99	100	111
Days on market	188	191	182
Volume, M \$\$	18.5	22.2	24.2

### Housing Recovery Gains Strength in First Quarter of 2013

\*Asking price is up 5% nation-wide compared to a year ago, and number of homes sold in January is nearly 30% higher than in January 2012 (Census Bureau Report).

\*93% of Millennial generation renters plan to buy a house (American Dream Survey)

\*Delinquency and foreclosures are at lowest rate in the last four years (Trulia.com)

\*Investors are making major moves to capitalize on today's opportunity. Bloomberg News reports how Blackstone Group, the largest US private real estate owners, sped up it's purchases of houses trying to beat out fast rising prices (Trulia.com)

Thank you Elvina Amati for providing us with this information.



# Joint Youth Commission



Representing the  
Village of Cayuga Heights, Town of Ithaca, &  
Village of Lansing

If you want to make a difference in the lives of young people this opportunity is for you!

The mission of the Joint Youth Commission is to recommend policies, plans and procedures to the sponsoring municipalities to enable the development, implementation and coordination of effective programs that meet the recreational and development needs of youth.

**At this time we have a vacancy  
on our commission from Village of Lansing.**

Our meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.  
Meetings do not exceed two hours and are located at the Ithaca Town Hall.

Interested in learning more?

Please call our County Liaison Amie Hendrix at 274-5310 or  
[ahendrix@tompkins-co.org](mailto:ahendrix@tompkins-co.org).



## VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Mayor Don Hartill 272-7671  
[DLH13@cornell.edu](mailto:DLH13@cornell.edu)  
Deputy Mayor Lynn Leopold 273-3457  
[LynnBird58@yahoo.com](mailto:LynnBird58@yahoo.com)  
Trustee John O'Neill 266-8392  
[johnoneil5@aol.com](mailto:johnoneil5@aol.com)  
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke 272-4029  
[patithaca@aol.com](mailto:patithaca@aol.com)  
Trustee Julie Baker 257-2474  
[jakbaker@gmail.com](mailto:jakbaker@gmail.com)  
  
BZA Acting Chair Mary Sirosis  
Planning Bd. Chairman Mario Tomei 257-1921

## VILLAGE EMPLOYEES

Clerk/Treasurer Jodi Dake 257-0424  
Code Enf. /Zoning Officer Marty Moseley 257-8363  
Supt. of Public Works John Courtney 257-6280  
Laborer Adam LaLonde 257-6280  
Nolan Hatfield 257-6280  
Fire Inspector Brian Quadrozzi 257-0424  
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 cell 280-4893

### VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES

Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission.....Don 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  
(Opens May 2, 2013)

# Happy Spring!