



Newsletter October 2014

VILLAGE OF LANSING Incorporated 1974

2405 North Triphammer Road * Ithaca, NY 14850 * 257-0424 * (FAX) 257-3230

Clerk's Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Web Page Address: www.vlansing.org.

Board of Trustees' Meetings: 1st and 3rd Monday, 7:30 PM

Planning Board Meetings: 2nd Monday and last Tuesday, **7:00 PM** *New Time*

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 and is also available on the Village website. 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 in the foyer brochure rack. Spread the word to your neighbors about the newsletter!

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

Our summer construction season is winding down with over a mile of roadway resurfaced. The construction of the connector road in Lansing Trails is nearly complete and will be finished before the end of the month. The south side of Dart Drive storm water drainage system is now complete and the south side now has a bike lane/walkway like the north side making it much safer for biking and walking.



The landscaping around the new Village Office is making good progress with most of the plantings installed and the grass is finally starting to grow. We will be installing a new sign for meetings, etc. in

the next few months to complete the construction project. The old village office is going to become our records storage area so that all of these materials can be consolidated into one location.

The design for the new traffic signal at the intersection of North Triphammer Road and Craft Road is complete and right of way/construction easements are nearly finished. There is a six week construction time for the steel poles and we are hoping that the necessary paving can be done before asphalt plants close for the season. This would enable finishing the project before the end of the year.

S.C.L.I.W.C. has sent a proposed agreement to the five municipal members to change the water rate schedule for 2015. The rate that the Commission is proposing is a 6.7% increase from \$4.08 to \$4.35 per 1,000 gallons, subject to approval by all five member municipalities. In addition to the rate that the Commission sets, the Village of Lansing also has a surcharge that is added to maintain our portion of the water system. Currently, that surcharge is 25%. With the 25% surcharge the total water rate will be \$5.43 per 1,000 gallons.

The Village Board was expecting an increase closer to the rate of inflation and at their September 15th meeting tabled the decision until they could get an explanation of why it is a 6.7% increase. The Board revisited this issue on October 6th and approved the increase. If you are interested in the explanation of the increase it can be found on Bolton Point's webpage. Village residents will see this increase in their April 2015 bill.

One of the rites of fall is the brush pickup that is mentioned later in this newsletter. Be sure to take advantage of this to get rid of all those cuttings that have accumulated over the summer.

Finally, please be sure to vote on November 4.

Donald Hartill, Mayor

VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE

Village of Lansing Website- www.vlansing.org

Tax Glance Now Available on Our Website! In June we added a new link on our webpage that allows you to look up and print your tax bill. After a tax payment is posted to your tax bill you can also print a tax receipt directly from here. We hope this new service will make it more convenient for you to get your tax information. If you still have unpaid taxes, there is currently an 8% penalty due if paid by October 31st.

Important announcements are posted on our website. You can also 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.

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 ext.2 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 or at the Village Office.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

You may have noticed a few previously approved projects are in the process of being done: the Village Office building landscaping plan, the Gastroenterology/CMC building on the corner of Triphammer and Craft Roads, and the second Dairy One building on Warren Road. OK, I will say it for us, "I can't wait until they are done!"

The Al-Huda Islamic Center of Finger Lakes submitted a special permit application to construct an approximate 4,800 sq. ft. Religious Facility building on the empty lot at 112 Graham Rd. This meets all of the Village codes for land use. During the Public Hearing the Planning Board did the usual thorough review for any environmental impacts; including building heights, on-property parking requirements, stormwater management practices, and any additional traffic impact. We approved the request after determining all necessary conditions have been, or will be, met. A few neighbors' traffic and parking concerns will be monitored. Prior to building, a landscaping plan will be submitted to the Planning Board.

A special permit for an approximate 2,860 sq. ft. addition to the Bin-Optics existing building at 9 Brown Rd. has been approved. A few established trees will need to be removed, and replaced. But, for the most part, this expansion will incur minimal environmental impact.

A special permit proposal for a home occupation hair salon was denied, due to increased traffic safety issues and other environmental impacts in the Shannon Park neighborhood.

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

- Permit for a temporary outdoor used car sale at Cayuga Mall.
- Permit for temporary outdoor storage bins for Target store at Shops at Ithaca Mall.
- Permit to allow a farmer's market every Friday, May thru Nov, at the Triphammer Marketplace.
- Permit to allow Sprint to co-locate wireless equipment on the existing cellular tower behind the Cayuga Mall.

We wish to thank all those residents who listened to our request (in the Spring Village Newsletter) to help prevent shopping carts from leaving the retail areas and being abandoned in other areas of the village (especially the residential neighborhoods). Please continue the efforts to eliminate these hazards to children, walkers, and vehicular traffic. Thank you.

Welcome to John Gillott as the new alternate member for the Planning Board. John is a long-time resident of the Village, living on Brook Way. Prior to retirement John was Chief Operating Officer for Ongweoweh Corp. on Warren Rd. At the same time, Deborah Dawson moved up from alternate to regular Planning Board member.

If you would like any additional information on any of the above topics please contact Marty Moseley at the Village of Lansing Office. 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 at 7pm.

Mario Tomei, Planning Board Chairman

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. To make it easier for you we have put our application forms on our website. 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

Fall brush and limb pick-up will be provided by the Village of Lansing Highway Department on Monday, October 13th. 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

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. #2. 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 Jodi at the Village Office.

VILLAGE TRUSTEES

A View From Here

I joined the Village of Lansing Board of Trustees in May of this year. It has been a wonderful experience for me to become a part of the leadership team. In my canvassing for the election, people admonished me to remember to be a Trustee for ALL of the Village. I am learning so much about Lansing, and about what it takes to deliver services thoughtfully and efficiently to everyone. I must say, I am very impressed. We have a first rate team of employees.

In my efforts to learn about our Village, I have come to realize how international we are. Many of the renters live in the apartment building properties along the South side. Many of these people are here because of Cornell University. I have been told that if you filter out speakers of English & Spanish, the three most commonly spoken languages in our Village are Korean, Mandarin, and Urdu. Many of these people have children with unique needs and gifts to share. We truly are a Global Village.

Our residents are about evenly divided between homeowners and renters. Many of the renters are only here for a short time, 2 years or less. There is also a core group of long term residents of the Village who just happen to live in the apartments. Some of them are retired and others are young professionals who prefer the convenience of apartment living. This is another group I am interested in reaching out to. I want to find out ways we can serve these people and to engage them to get involved.

In her book, *Lansing At The Crossroads*, Rita Schmidt stated that Lansing is a community which is governed by our neighbors. We are truly at a crossroads. We seek a new generation of our neighbors to step forwards and to take a turn at assuming roles in leadership. I look forward to being a part of this shift. We have no shortage of bright and talented people. The Village of Lansing truly is - the Switzerland of Tompkins County. I hope to be a part of the bright future we can all proudly share.

Gerry Monaghan, Trustee

Village of Lansing Possible Site for Scrap Recycling Drop Spot

Tompkins County Solid Waste (TCSW) in partnership with the Village of Lansing seeks to site a food scrap recycling drop spot in Lansing, to expand food scrap recycling options for residents. If final details get worked out, the new drop spot will operate in the parking area behind the old Village Office every Saturday beginning October 25, 2014. Hours of operation will be from 10 am to 1:00 pm, with staffing from 9:30am to 1:30pm for set-up and tear-down. In November, the drop spot will be re-evaluated to affirm winter hours. Staffing for the site is to be determined and will likely include two paid staff – one Drop Spot Coordinator and a Drop Spot Attendant. TCSW will provide staff training to ensure a consistent message across all drop spots.

If you know anyone interested in being a Drop Spot Attendant please contact Kat McCarthy at TCSW (273-6632). A Drop Spot Attendant would be responsible for the safe flow of vehicles and pedestrians on site. In order to ensure quality customer service, the attendant may be asked to provide outreach materials and information regarding food scraps recycling. Specific areas of accountability include productivity, safety, and smooth operation of the receiving and unloading process. There is a more complete job description available in the Village Office if you are interested or contact Kat.

Cayuga Compost will be providing data on the weight of food scraps recycled per collection. TCSW will provide outreach materials to be used at the site, and will promote the program through social media and communication efforts to target users in the village and town. Kick-off promotion will occur in advance of the first collection day, and will include reaching out to the Town, Village, and Rotary club, as well as tabling at a local grocery store.

Lynn Leopold, Trustee

VILLAGE DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

For the past 7 years, the Village of Lansing (VOL) Board of Trustees has annually approved a coordinated bow hunting program to reduce the size of the deer herd in the Village. Concerns by residents about Lyme disease, deer vehicle collisions, ecological damage (no forest regeneration) and damage to ornamental plantings prompted the initiation of this program in 2007. The number of participating landowners has steadily increased and now well over 30 landowners participate in the program.

For the past 7 years, the VOL has followed state rules about discharge distances and hunting seasons. Three years ago, the state established a Deer Management Focus Area (DMFA) in an area surrounding the Cornell campus. All properties in the VOL fall within the designated area. The DMFA was established to increase deer take by allowing hunters to take two antlerless deer per day and by establishing a 3-week winter hunting season during the last 3 weeks in January. 2014 is the third year that these regulations are in place and the success of this approach is being evaluated by the DEC.

Most importantly, the state, through an act of the legislature signed by Governor Cuomo into law in early spring 2014, has changed the discharge distance rules for bow and cross bow users. While previously discharge was prohibited within 500 feet of an occupied dwelling (unless occupants waive this restriction), the new rules now establish the discharge distance as 150 feet for bows, and 250 feet for crossbows, but retain the 500 feet for guns. The VOL Board of Trustees has recently adopted these new state rules for the coordinated bow hunting in the VOL, but only bows are legal hunting implements in the VOL at the present time (no cross bows or guns are allowed). This rule change will allow use of areas on approved properties previously off limits due to discharge distance requirements.

The deer take in the VOL has been about 50-70 animals per year in the last few seasons. This has been accomplished with 10-20 approved responsible and dedicated hunters each season. We have conducted these operations safely and without incidents and all venison has been donated for human consumption. Deer numbers, according to reports by residents and the number of reported deer-vehicle collisions, are greatly reduced. We are monitoring the ecological success as well, but it appears that more efforts need to be expanded to further reduce the deer numbers in the Village to address Lyme disease concerns and ecological damage. New research conducted for over a decade in Connecticut, has established a clear link between deer numbers, tick numbers, Lyme disease incidence in ticks, and the reported Lyme disease in residents. A culling program reducing the deer herd to 5-8 animals per square kilometer reduced tick numbers by 80%, Lyme disease incidence in ticks by 80% and the incidence of Lyme disease in residents by 80%. The long suspected effect of mice, other rodents and small mammals was of no importance and the core feature was low deer abundance – nothing else mattered. Similar work has been done in Indiana.

There is a long ways to go to achieve these numbers in the VOL. But with efforts by surrounding communities and at Cornell University, we may have a chance of succeeding in the VOL as well. If you are interested to obtain more information about the VOL bow hunting program or want to become a participating landowner, please contact the Village Clerk and we will get in touch with you to discuss opportunities.

We are guests in the Village, each landowner retains full control over any activity on their properties and we operate with a very limited number of hunters that are all interviewed and approved before becoming eligible. But it is also important to recognize that all properties and hunters have to be approved by the Board of Trustees, and the hunting coordinators. You cannot approve individuals to

hunt on your own property who are not part of the coordinated bow hunting program. Ask the Village Clerk for clarifications should you have any questions. You will be asked to sign some paperwork. We have greatly curtailed illegal use of properties by unethical hunters wanting to take advantage of the large deer numbers and secluded woodlots in the VOL. If you have any questions whether an individual is part of the VOL program if someone knocks on your door to ask for permission to hunt, contact the Village Clerk. If that person does not hand you a piece of paper to sign if your land is targeted for hunting or deer retrieval, please be suspicious, ask for contact information, and ask for confirmation from the Village Clerk. The 2014-15 hunting season dates are as follows: October 1st to December 16th 2014, and January 10th to January 31st 2015.

Bernd Blossey, Bow Hunting Coordinator

TAX FREEZE

You may hear of the Tax Freeze and wonder what it is all about. Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature enacted the Property Tax Freeze Credit as part of the 2014-2015 State Budget. The law provides a Freeze Credit to qualified homeowners. To qualify, a homeowner must be eligible for the School Tax Relief (STAR) property tax exemption. Commercial properties are not eligible. For the Village to qualify we would have to limit any increase in our tax levy to a property tax cap set by State law and develop and implement a Government Efficiency Plan determined to be compliant by the New York State Division of Budget.

The new law encourages local governments and school districts to generate long-term tax relief for New York State taxpayers sharing services; consolidating or merging; and demonstrating and implementing operational efficiencies. One of the problems is the look back period only goes back to 2012. For municipalities like ours that has been sharing services long before that, we don't get any credit. This program is only in affect for two years.

The Village of Lansing decided at the October 6th meeting to ignore the Tax Freeze because they don't want to cut services. As reported by NYCOM, the average refund for Villages will be under \$10. Deferred maintenance would cost you even more in the long run. The Board, along with many other municipalities, doesn't think it is worth it to cut services just so some of our residents can get a small amount of money back in their pocket.

TOWN OF LANSING RECREATION DEPARTMENT

As a Town and Village resident you are eligible to sign up for upcoming programs. Below are some of the programs being offered.

ADULT PROGRAMS

- Introduction to Oil Painting – Wednesday afternoons at the Lansing Community Center 11 AM – 2 PM.
- Cooking – Coming Back to the Whole Food Kitchen – Wednesday evenings at the Community Center 5:30 – 7:30 PM,
- Adult Open Swim – Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 – 1:15 at the Lansing HS Pool.
- Adult COED Volleyball: Tuesday evenings in the Middle School Gym from 7:30 – 9:30 PM.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Ski Program – grades K – 12 with the biggest early discount due by October 15th. Our ski night is Wednesday.
- “Jump Around” – bounce house fun after school on Thursdays. Grades K – 4.
- Horse Riding & Handling Camp – Tuesdays at Flying High Farm.
- Bowling Program – grades 3 – 8 after school on Mondays.

All of the specific details for these programs are located on the respective registration forms. PLEASE call with questions 533-7388 or email Steve-lansingrec@twcnny.rr.com or scolt@lcsd.k12.ny.us

Forms are located at the Town Hall or on the web page- www.lansingrec.com

Steve Colt, Town of Lansing Park & Recreation Director

YMCA

The YMCA offers many programs. Below is a list of some of their events. You May contact the YMCA for more details on each program.

- CPR for The Professional Rescuer & Health Care Provider: Classes Planned for October 7th & 8th and December 9th & 10th from 6-9pm.
- YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program: Tuesdays, Fall, 2014 - Contact Laurie Cuomo, Health & Wellness Director, at luomo@ithacaymca.com
- Tai Chi with John Burger - Mondays & Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. - Seniors admitted for \$1 on Thursdays!
- Middle & High School Basketball-the Y's offering a skills and drills program for middle school and high school athletes who are looking to improve their game
- Competitive Basketball 5v5 Open Run Weds & Fridays 6:00-9:00 pm
- Youth Sports SATurdays: Drills, skills, games, and fun for our youth
- Bitty Kickball - for Parent & Child to learn and play together - ages 3-5 - 9:30 a.m.
- Youth Soccer - Age groups 5-8 and 9-12 - 10:30 a.m.
- Youth Basketball - Age groups 5-8 and 9-12 - 11:30 a.m.
- Swim Lessons: For ages 6 months and up
- Aquacize & Aqua Zumba: Check website for hours and times
- Ping Pong Club - Sundays at 1:00-3:00 p.m. - beginning October 19
- NEW!* Badminton - Sundays at 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the gym
- Workshop: Freeloading Librarians- Thursday, October 16 - 11:00-1:00
- Boot camp Challenge- Saturday, September 27, 2:00-5:00 p.m.
- Zumba Halloween Bash! Sunday, October 26, 12:00-2:00 p.m.!
- Halloween Family Fun Night: Friday, October 24, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Free to Y members!
- Red Cross Blood Drive – Friday, November 14, 11:30-4:30 p.m.
- Thanksgiving Dish-to-Pass for our After-School Programs! Friday, November 21, 6:00
- Kids' Night In – Holiday Celebration: Friday, December 12, 6:00-8:30

Olympic Marathon Swimmer, ALEX MEYER, will be at the Y on October 25 to tell his motivational story at 3:00 pm, followed by open water techniques in the Y pool at 4:00 pm. Suggested donation is \$10 per person or \$100 per team. An Ithaca YMCA & United Way of Tompkins County joint fundraising event. Visit the website to register, as clinic space is limited.

ASK THE Y...if you are eligible for a 10% discount at your employer! The Y collaborates with dozens of corporations and organizations to offer this special discount! If you have a special talent or topic of interest that would be enlightening to our membership, please contact Teresa Morehouse at tmorehouse@ithacaymca.com.

YMCA of Ithaca & Tompkins County
50 Graham Road West, Ithaca, NY 14850
607.257.0101 ~ www.ithacaymca.com ~ info@ithacaymca.com

HOUSING MARKET REPORT

RESIDENTIAL SALES IN TOMPKINS COUNTY, YEAR-TO-DATE

	2012	2013	2014
Number of sales	552	578	525
Av. Sales Price, \$	223,000	226,000	238,000
Av. Price/Sq. Ft, \$	115	123	127
Av. Days on Market	145	14	125
Volume, Million \$	117.7	130.4	125.1

New Poll: New Yorkers Feel Positive About Real Estate

According to Siena Research Institute's (www.siena.edu/sri) latest study:

1. **UPSTATE New York IS A LEADER with highest positive feeling scores in the State followed by New York City suburbs.**
2. **THE FUTURE LOOKS EVEN BRIGHTER – residents expect even more strength in the housing market a year from now.**
3. **SELLERS SENTIMENT FINALLY REBOUNDED from the depths of recession. Current and future readings on selling were all positive and mostly above scores measuring sentiment on buying homes.**

“Overall, New Yorker’s assessment of the Real Estate Market remains strong and expectations are for further growth in property values. The sentiment is that once again the real estate market is solid and secure”

said DON LEVY, the Research Institute Director.

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

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 Gerry Monaghan 257-2367
gmonaghan22@yahoo.com

BZA Acting Chair Mary Sirois 257-1035
Planning Bd. Chairman Mario Tomei 257-1921
Planning Board Phil Dankert
Lisa Schleelein
Maria Stycos
Deborah Dawson

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