



# Newsletter

# March 2015

## **VILLAGE OF LANSING** *Incorporated 1974*

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

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 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, 7:00 PM

Board of Zoning Appeal Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday as needed; 7:30 PM

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## **COMMENTS FROM MAYOR DONALD HARTILL**

This winter the Village Department of Public Works staff has again taken care of the snow removal from the Village streets. This winter has been a real winter compared to last year and we have used more than 1000 tons of salt which is more than 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. Our new International truck has performed well and is much easier to drive than our old Sterling which will be sold at auction this summer.

The landscaping around the new Village Office was done last fall and hopefully all the plants have survived the cold winter. The new Village Office is working very well and the initial noise issues were resolved by moving the return for the heating and ventilation system from the hallway to behind the refrigerator in the kitchen. This broke up the resonant chamber that was formed by the hallway that was being driven by the air return.

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. 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.

The replacement of the water main that runs under Route 13 is finished and is being connected into our system. By boring under the roadway, traffic was not affected. It was a combined project with Bolton Point that saved both organizations more than \$160,000 each. The storm water sewer along the south side of Dart Drive was finished last fall. The water main along Bush Lane will be replaced this year and the roadway will be repaved along with shoulder widening similar to what was done for Dart Drive. 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.

A new traffic light will be installed at the intersection of North Triphammer Road and Craft Road this summer. This will relieve the stacking problem on Craft Road and will also help with regimenting southbound traffic on North Triphammer and make it much easier to get out of the Village driveway and Oakcrest Road. Part of the cost of the traffic light is being paid for with a generous grant from the Triad Foundation. Thank you.

We have completed the budget process for the coming fiscal year and have a proposed budget that will be presented at a public hearing scheduled for 7:35 pm on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The assessed value of the properties in the Village has increased by 1.2 % compared to last year. With the construction of the new Village Office our large capital construction projects are complete and we can look forward to steady-state funding. The proposed tax rate for this year is \$0.99 per thousand dollars assessment that yields a property tax levy that is 2 % above last year's. This is less than inflation for the items we have to buy so at some point we will have to make small increases in the tax rate to cover our expenses.

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.

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 their business.

Finally, Village elections for two Trustees and the Mayor will be held from noon to 9 pm on Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup> at the new Village Office (2405 N. Triphammer Road). I encourage you to vote.

Donald Hartill, Mayor

## **VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE**

### **Budget Public Hearing**

The Public Hearing on the proposed Village of Lansing Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 will be Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 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. \$1,821,487 in appropriations is proposed for the General Fund. The proposed General Tax Rate is \$0.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value. A special assessment of \$.04 per \$1,000 of assessed value and \$9.24 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 -Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Budget can also be found on 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.

## **Lansing Village Elections Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**

There will be a Village Election at the Village office on April 28<sup>th</sup> to elect a Mayor and two Trustees. Lynn Leopold will not be running again and we would like to thank her for her many years of service. She will definitely be missed as a Trustee! 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.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer

## **PLANNING BOARD NEWS**

The past six months have been slow for the Planning Board. I suppose we can blame it on the frozen weather. However, this did not hinder the progress of some previously approved projects, that you can see coming to conclusions i.e. Dairy One on Warren Road, the expansion of Bin-Optics on Brown Road, and the Gastroenterology/CMC building on the corner of Triphammer and Craft Roads.

The following are activities approved by the Planning Board that will have minor environmental impacts:

- Permit for a 140 s.f. addition to an existing garage at 109 Brook Drive. It will not impact the nearby stream.
- Change to Lansing Meadows PDA to give proper road frontage to BJ's Wholesale.
- Permit for a salt storage building on the Shops of Ithaca Mall lot behind the Ramada Inn, to be used on the Mall's parking lot during the winter snow season.
- Permit for a salt storage container in the east end of the Cayuga Mall parking lot.
- Permits for signs for two stores: D.S.W. shoe store at Shops on Ithaca Mall, and Advanced Auto Parts at Cayuga Mall.

The Village Comprehensive Plan update is nearing its final stages. I want to thank two Planning Board members, Lisa Schleelein and Deborah Dawson for their work in this important project. In conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan, the Planning Board is working on establishing a more specific Commercial Low Traffic District that will provide a buffer zone protecting the Village's residential areas that come near the higher traffic commercial areas. At the same time we will make it possible for commercial developers to bring in beneficial businesses.

This may be a good time to reintroduce everyone on the Planning Board. I am fortunate to have these fine people to work with: Phil Dankert, Maria Stycos, Lisa Schleelein, Deborah Dawson, and our Alternate, John Gillott. Their dedication is to make this Village a nice place to live, and work.

I cannot give enough accolades to our Code Enforcement Officer, Marty Moseley. He is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to the Village codes.

If you would like any additional information on any of the above topics please contact Marty Moseley at the Village 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

## CODE & ZONING DEPARTMENT

At the beginning of the January 2015 there have been numerous code changes that will most likely impact your construction plans for the coming year. Please stop by the Village Offices or call us to see if any of these new codes will impact your construction process, and I would like to remind everyone that there are numerous scenarios in which a building permit would be required.

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. On the Village website there is addition information and specifications for what is required for certain permits.

### VILLAGE OF LANSING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Building and Land Use Activity

From 1/1/2014 to 12/31/2014

<u>Type of Construction</u>	<u>Number of</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
Commercial Improvement	35	\$6,961,682.00
New Building - Office	1	\$2,624,000.00
New Single Family Residential	3	\$1,150,000.00
Residential Alteration	33	\$530,425.22
Demolition	6	\$107,500.00
New Building - Non-Residential	2	\$89,000.00
Mechanical	6	\$83,148.55
Site Improvement	6	\$55,000.00
Residential Accessory Building	4	\$22,749.42
Temporary Commercial Activity	15	\$0.00
Kiosk	1	\$0.00
<u>Change of Occupancy</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Totals	123	\$11,633,505.19

\*Also please remember to check/replace the batteries in all Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detectors.

## **STORMWATER**

Stormwater runoff is a main source of water pollution. Since stormwater runoff will eventually end up in Cayuga Lake, for this area, we ask the Village residents and business owners for help in decreasing the potential for pollutants. This is an important task since the Village and four other municipalities are provided drinking water from Cayuga Lake.

When stormwater flows to the drainage ways and drainage infrastructure, it picks up and mixes with what's there. That may include:

- Oil, grease, and automotive fluids
- Fertilizer and pesticides from gardens and homes
- Bacteria from pet waste and improperly maintained septic systems
- Soap from car washing
- Debris and litter

Many people assume that stormwater flows down storm drains and then to a treatment facility. That is almost never the case. It either flows directly into local waters or down storm drains, which channel it into local water bodies. By reducing or eliminating the above items the pollutants will not have the opportunity to enter into the Cayuga Lake, which will provide for many more years of enjoying and using the lake.

## **VILLAGE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

### **Brush Pick-Up**

Spring brush and limb pick-up will be provided by the Town of Lansing Highway Departments on May 4<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

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

### **Bolton Point, Growth, Capital Projects, and 2015 Water Rate Increase**

The 2015 Bolton Point component of your water rate is \$4.35/1000 gallons, an increase over 2014 of 6%. The Bolton Point component of water rates in the Bolton Point-Municipal Water System (BP-MWS) was increased from \$4.00/1000 gallons in 2014. The water and sewer surcharges will remain at 25%. This percentage is used to maintain the infrastructure in the Village.

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 inside the entry way to our new building. The Village of Lansing is part of the Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission (SCLIWC).

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

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).

## TOWN OF LANSING

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. The Thursday night Myers Park Concert Series will start on July 9<sup>th</sup> and end on August 20<sup>th</sup>. This is a beautiful park on Cayuga Lake! For Pavilion or Camping reservations please call the Town of Lansing Recreation Department at 533-7388.

### *LBP Baseball & LSP Softball*

It is time to register players for these programs. *The sign-up deadline is Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>.* This is very important because the registration number really drives everything from equipment to coaches to umpires and schedule. There are forms at the Town Recreation Office and they are also on their web page [www.lansingrec.com](http://www.lansingrec.com). Always feel free to call Steve Colt with any questions or email him at [Steve-lansingrec@twcny.rr.com](mailto:Steve-lansingrec@twcny.rr.com). All of the program details are listed on the registration forms.

**The Summer Recreation Program booklet** will be available in early May. Please give the Town a call if you are trying to plan your summer as they may already have program dates and would be glad to give you that information now.

Steve Colt, Town Of Lansing Recreation Director

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

### **Do You Live in the Doughnut?**

Most people don't know it but the City of Ithaca is surrounded by a "doughnut" of municipalities who have joined forces to provide free/donation-based youth programs. The Town of Ithaca, Town of Caroline, Village of Lansing, and the Village of Cayuga Heights have come together to form the Joint Youth Commission to oversee programs for middle school youth from these areas. DeWitt Middle School and Boynton Middle School have programs especially for youth in the Joint Commission area. Programs are free with a suggested donation of \$10-\$30 for programs that generally run nine weeks.

At Boynton, there are three after school programs for kids in the JYC area. **Magic Mondays** is for those who love games, especially the card game Magic: The Gathering. Tuesdays is a **Global Cooking** for kids interested in learning about healthy nutrition, and recipes from around the world. Wednesdays is a **Girls Group** for girls only to do an array of fun things from DIY spa days, dance parties, and fashion shows, to field trips to cool places around the area. Wednesdays at lunchtime there is also a group called Lego Lunches for kids who want to build with Legos and other mini-engineering feats. DeWitt has its own schedule of JYC focused programs which can soon be found on <http://ccetompkins.org/4h/rural-youth-services>

If you want to sign your kid up for one of these free programs contact the JYC program manager Aislyn Colgan at [acc332@cornell.edu](mailto:acc332@cornell.edu); call 272-2292 ext. 221 or look for posters near Boynton's main office.

## LANSING STAR

The Lansing Star Online is 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 Veanor, Lansing Star Online Editor, attends most Village of Lansing Board meetings and has good coverage of both Town and Village of Lansing meetings.

## HOUSING REPORT

Residential sales in Tompkins County, Year-to-Date

	2013	2014	2015
Number of sales	139	101	110
Avg. sales price, \$	197,000	208,000	204,000
Avg. price/sq.ft, \$	109	113	117
Avg. days on market	168	147	149
Volume, Million \$	27.5	21.0	22.4

Real Estate Market in 2015 – Mixed and dynamic

According to the forecast from National Association of Realtors, compared to year 2014 –

\*the number of sales will increase by about 8% as more buyers enter the market with clear believe that both, mortgage interest rates and prices will continue to rise

\*home prices will gain 4-5% because of low inventory and improved employment opportunities with most dynamic markets in Des Moines (Iowa), Atlanta, and Boston

\*mortgage rates will begin to increase by the summer and will end the year at about 5%

\*home affordability index will decrease by 5-10% based on home appreciation and increased mortgage interest rates. The decline will be somewhat offset by increasing income.

Elvina highly recommends an all-inclusive house-related website [WWW.HOUSELOGIC.COM](http://WWW.HOUSELOGIC.COM)

It has valuable information on any home improvements/maintenance, and repair (with a lot of DIY projects), yard care, green living, home protection, and even taxes and financing.

Thank you Elvina Amati for providing us with this information.

## DON'T MISS AN ISSUE

The Village Newsletter is currently published twice a year in March and October. The newsletter is available on the Village website at [www.vlansing.org](http://www.vlansing.org). You can also sign up to receive notice of our publication by clicking on “Subscribe to Village Mail List” 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!

## Check Out Our New Landscaping!



A new sign will be installed soon to better display meeting information.

## 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 Sirois  
Planning Bd. Chairman Mario Tomei 257-1921

## VILLAGE EMPLOYEES

**With the new phone system all can be reached at their extension when calling 257-0424**

Clerk/Treasurer Jodi Dake ext. #221  
Code Enf. /Zoning Officer Marty Moseley ext. #223  
Supt. of Public Works John Courtney ext. #224  
Asst. Supt. of PW Adam LaLonde ext. #225  
MEO Nolan Hatfield ext. #225  
Fire Inspector Brian Quadrozzi ext. #222  
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  
257-0424, 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.....Michael J Sigler  
Tompkins County Board of Representatives, District 10.....Dooley Kiefer  
Tompkins County Environmental Management Council..... John Dennis  
Tompkins County Joint Youth Commission.....Henriette Bullmer

## STATE AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

N.Y. State Senator Mike Nozzolio (R) 54th State Senate District 188 State St., Rm 503, Capital Bldg. 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 89 W. Market St. Corning, NY 14830

# Happy Spring!