



April 2024 Newsletter

VILLAGE OF LANSING *Incorporated 1974*

2405 North Triphammer Road * Ithaca, NY 14850 *607- 257-0424 * (FAX) 607-257-3230

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 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

Board of Zoning Appeal Meeting: 3rd Tuesday as needed; 7:00 PM

Currently all meetings are being conducted in person and via Zoom. Meetings are posted on YouTube.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the Spring 2024 Village of Lansing newsletter. I hope everyone had a safe and warm winter. Winter months are the off season for Village construction projects, but it is almost always a busy season for our Village staff and board members. The financial health of our Village government is one of the best in the state, and our Village departments, staff, board members, and committee members are intensely engaged with making the Village a great place to live and work.

Our DPW staff worked diligently to keep our roads, streets, and sidewalks safe from winter snow and ice, so don't forget to thank John Courtney, Chris Zavaski, and Nick Dean when you see them out and about in the Village. They also responded to many water-line breaks over the winter and worked tirelessly to locate and successfully repair the breaks in all sorts of inclement weather to ensure that water supplies were restored as quickly as possible. In some of their quieter time, the DPW staff began building an equipment storage shed attached to our Village salt barn. Once it is complete, the storage shed will protect Village spare parts and materials from the weather and vandalism or theft.

Please note that there will be two major projects within the Village in the upcoming construction season. The Winter pause of the Cayuga Heights Road/East Shore Drive Sewer Benefit Area Project will be lifted, and the remaining project tasks will be completed as soon as Spring weather permits. Also, a new construction project for Dart Drive and Graham Road West (northern entrance to the Shops at Ithaca Mall and BJs) will begin in the Spring and continue into Summer. Please refer to the associated article(s) in this newsletter for more information about these projects.

Village government continues to run smoothly through the dedicated work by our Village Clerk/ Treasurer, Jodi Dake, who is the primary public interface for our governmental administration. Since our last newsletter, Jodi has supported a successful annual audit of Village finances, guided the Trustees through our 2024-25 budget, collected water/sewer-bill payments, and she has supported our Trustees with agendas, minutes, videoconference schedules, resolutions, and required filings with the State of New York. While performing all of these responsibilities, Jodi also researched a new phone system for the Village offices that adds new functionality at a lower cost to the Village.

The responsibilities of our code enforcement officer, Mike Scott, increased when he assumed responsibilities for Village fire inspections when our former fire inspector resigned from that position. He also is inspecting the components of the Village's stormwater mitigation system and to report his activity and findings to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. There are several new residential and commercial development projects proposed for the Village, and Mike is working with these developers and our Planning Board to advise and guide the projects through our Village Code requirements.

A major development project by the Cayuga Health System is opening to the public within the Shops at Ithaca Mall. This renovation of mall space has taken several years to transform a sizable portion of the mall, and it promises to revitalize the mall's economic health. Also, a new Taco Bell location is proposed for the old Pizza Hut location in Cayuga Mall at the corner of Route 13 and North Triphammer Road. Our Code Enforcement Officer and Planning Board members are in the preliminary stages of assisting the developers with the new restaurant.

Several committees are working on long-term improvements for the Village. Carolyn Greenwald is heading a committee of board members and community representatives to update the Village's 2015-2025 Comprehensive Plan. Our Greenway Committee is working on a Village Sidewalk Policy to plan and implement future sidewalk installations. And, CSC/CEC Task Force members are investigating clean-energy solutions for Village residents and business, and they are looking at initiatives to provide climate-change resiliency for the Village.

Please note these two important Spring dates. The Village will hold its 2024 election on **Tuesday, April 23rd from noon to 9PM**. Also, the 2024 Spring brush and limb pick-up will be provided by the Village and Town of Lansing Highway Departments on **Monday, April 29th**. Please refer to the associated article in this issue of the newsletter.

I wish everyone a beautiful Spring and a pleasant Summer of 2024.

Ronny Hardaway, Mayor

VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE

Limited Hours for Clerk/Treasurer's Office

Due to some family health issues, the Clerk/Treasurer will not be in the office on a regular basis. Mike Scott, Code & Zoning Officer may be able to help you. All payments can be left in the secure drop box inside the front door. If you leave a phone message or email the clerk she will get back to you. If you need notary services, the Town of Lansing Clerks can help you. Sorry for any inconvenience.

2024-25 Village of Lansing Budget

The Trustees are currently in the process of establishing next year's budget. The Village budget year runs from June 1st to May 31st. The Trustees will finalize the proposed budget at the April 1st meeting and set a public hearing for April 15th at 7:35pm. Please feel free to attend the budget meetings and give your input. Once the 2024-25 Proposed Budget is set it will be on the Village website to review before the April 15th approval. The current proposal is to keep the tax rate the same as last year at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Planned DPW Projects will include the resurfacing of the greenway trails throughout some of the Village.

Also, the trail on the southside of Maguire's Cadillac/Nissan dealerships that connects four apartment complexes to the Village sidewalks will be resurfaced. Lansing Trails I and Votopka Road greenway trails will see some drainage work prior to the resurfacing of these trails.

The Village DPW Crew will supervise and assist a contractor on the remainder of the Lead Service line investigation throughout the Village. They will notify homeowners prior to excavating their service line at their curb box. (The curb box is an at-grade point of entry that allows water crews to close the valve in the event there is a broken line inside the residence or to assist a plumber who may need it shut down for interior construction.) Details of the 2024 Utility and Sidewalk Improvement Project for Dart Drive, Graham Road, and Graham Road West are under the Highway Department Report below.

Water /Sewer Rate Increases as of April 2024 Billing for Village Residents

In January 2024 SCLIWC raised their water rate from \$6.03 to \$6.33 per 1,000 gallons of water. Starting with your April bill the cost for 1,000 gallons of water has increased from \$9.65 to \$10.12 or a minimum of \$50.60. The Village of Cayuga Heights has also increased their sewer rate from \$6.00 to \$6.96/1,000 gal. Including the Village surcharge, the new sewer rate has increased from \$7.51 to \$8.54 per 1,000 gallons of water or a minimum of \$42.70. The Village water surcharge will increase from 60% to 70% with the July 2024 billing. We are seeing increased maintenance costs with aging infrastructure, and this is basically the only source of income for the Water Fund.

Water/Sewer Bills

Bolton Point implemented eBilling of Village of Lansing water and sewer bills. If you are interested in receiving your bill via email, please sign up at boltonpoint.org/ebilling. You may want to sign up for both email and mailed bills to start to make sure there are no issues with you receiving a bill electronically. At this time, you cannot pay your bill electronically. ***PLEASE NOTE: You must provide your account number to complete this registration. It is a two-step process and if you do not complete both you will not receive an email bill. If you have signed up and do not get an ebill please contact the office and I will help get the issue resolved.***

Village of Lansing Residents receive a bill quarterly at the beginning of January, April, July, and October. You will receive a postcard bill if you have not signed up for eBilling only. All water/sewer bills are due by the 20th of that month and can be either mailed in or you may bring your payment to the Village Office at 2405 N. Triphammer Road. There is a secure drop box inside the entry way to our administration building for you to drop off your payment anytime. The Village does not accept credit card payments. The Village of Lansing is part of the Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission (SCLIWC).

Village Meetings

Currently, all our meetings are being conducted in person and online via Zoom. If you are interested in attending a Board of Trustee meeting via Zoom, please contact Jodi at clerk@vlansing.org. If you would like to attend a Planning Board or BZA meeting, please contact Mike Scott at codeofficer2@vlansing.org. Our Trustee, Planning Board and Board of Zoning Appeals meetings are also available on our YouTube channel.

Village Sponsored Street Tree Planting Program

Village of Lansing residents can get reimbursed for up to two street trees per year up to \$100 each as part of the Street Tree Planting Program. The Tree Planting Application can be found under Applications and Forms on the Village website or in the brochure rack in the Village Office foyer.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer

VILLAGE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Spring Brush Pick-Up

Spring brush and limb pick-up will be provided by the Village and Town of Lansing Highway Departments on **Monday, April 29, 2024**. 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.

Village Approves Improvements for Dart Drive, Graham Road, and Graham Road West

The Village Trustees approved the 2024 Utility and Sidewalk Improvement bid for Dart Drive, Graham Road, and Graham Road West projects.

Dart Drive/Graham Road - Dart Drive will see 6,000 feet of 10-inch watermain replaced with little interruption to residents. With the high frequency of water main failures this will be a big relief for the Village of Lansing DPW and the residents affected in this area. Along with the watermain replacement, nearly 400-feet of sewer main replacement and repairs will take place. When the watermain and sewer improvements are complete, construction crews will install approximately 3800-feet of sidewalk and 14 LED streetlights on the north side of Dart Drive.

Graham Road West - Graham Road West into the mall will also see some great improvements with sidewalks installed on north and south sides for access to the YMCA and Northeast Pediatrics facility. A few streetlights will be placed on the north side of Graham Road West between the walk and edge of the roadway.

Roadway Resurfacing and Striping - Once these projects are completed and if the weather still allows, all three roadways will see a new asphalt surface and roadway striping. If construction season ends without a satisfactory completion of the underground facilities, roadways will be surfaced in the spring of 2025.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Superintendent of Public Works, John Courtney. Also, there is a set of the projects' plans for public viewing at the Village office.

Cayuga Heights Road and East Shore Drive Sanitary Sewer Benefit Area Expansion Project

The Cayuga Heights Road and East Shore Drive Sanitary Sewer Benefit Area Expansion project will be wrapping up this Spring. The project consisted of approximately 14,000 feet of new sanitary sewer and two lift stations that connect the Town of Lansing Sewer District #1 to the Village of Lansing Cedar Lane Collection system.

The items to be completed for this project include the remainder of the service lines to properties, grading and seeding of disturbed soils, and the re-establishment of the roadside ditch on the east side of Cayuga Heights Road. Once these outstanding items are completed, the Village will have a contractor come in and grind out the trenched area and replace it with a binder asphalt and then resurface the entire roadway from Cayuga Heights Bridge to the intersection of East Shore Drive, and this will be followed up with new roadway striping.

Residents along this corridor may connect to this sewer main starting this Spring, and they are encouraged to reach out to contractors who will work with the Village Department of Public Works throughout the installation of their service line. A permit to connect to the new system must be obtained through the Village Office and, since the Village's wastewater is treated by Cayuga Heights Wastewater Treatment Plant, a permit is required through their office as well.

We appreciate the patience of residents and motorists along this major construction corridor. Encountering unexpectedly dense rock, the project's final steps have crawled to the finish line.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me by cellphone (607-280-4893) or email (dpw@vlansing.org).

John Courtney, Superintendent of Public Works

CODE & ZONING DEPARTMENT

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 new heating equipment, decks, pools, etc. to contact me at codeofficer2@vlansing.org for any questions you might have.

Homeowners and business owners, when a building permit is issued to you (or via your contractor), it is ultimately your responsibility to make sure project inspections are requested are completed. A list of required inspections are printed on the official building permit. Please make sure that your contractor has contacted me, especially at the conclusion of your project for a Certificate of Compliance.

Now that the snow has melted, I would like to remind our local businesses and homeowners to please help keep this Village beautiful by checking your property for garbage and debris that has collected through the winter.

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. If each of us helps a little, we all help a lot.

Also, please be aware that the NYS burn ban is now in effect through May 14th.

Michael Scott, Code & Zoning Officer

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

Over the past few months, the Planning Board continued to focus on the development of a Solar Law for the Village of Lansing. An initial draft of that law has been completed and passed along to the Board of Trustees for their review and comment. Once the Planning Board has had a chance to review their feedback, a joint meeting will be held to discuss what changes should be made. As always, this meeting will be open to the public. The Planning Board was also able to tour the new Cayuga Medical facility being built at the Shops at Ithaca Mall, which will begin opening this month.

Projects, Permits, and Approvals

The Beer Properties LLC plan to develop 40 acres of vacant land between Craft Road and Bush Lane (the former Millcroft Phase 2 development) was approved and should be moving forward once the weather is favorable.

Ongoing Projects

The Lansing Meadows project returned requesting an amendment to the conditions to their special permit. Previously, the Planning Board found this request to be a major change. After the required public hearing and discussion, the Planning Board approved the requested amendment with the inclusion of additional conditions.

Northeast Pediatrics, located at 10 Graham Road West, is proposing to construct additional parking spots at their facility to address parking concerns. The Planning Board has been working with them regarding access to the facility and the planting plan that will be required of this project as part of the Tree Law.

Now that the Tree Law is in place and has been put into effect on two different occasions, the Planning Board is reviewing the law and will be providing the Board of Trustees with recommendations for minor changes.

Planning Board meetings are held the second Monday and last Tuesday of each month, from 7pm to 9pm. In addition to attending in-person or virtually, you can also watch the recordings of our meetings on YouTube.

Mike Baker, Planning Board Chair

VILLAGE TRUSTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Plan to be Updated

The fundamental document that drives the future direction of our Village is the Village's Comprehensive Plan. New York State's zoning enabling statutes require that zoning laws be adopted in accordance with a comprehensive plan. Thus, the comprehensive plan provides the backbone for our local laws. The comprehensive plan is the culmination of a planning process that establishes the official land use policy of the Village and presents goals and a vision for the future that guides official decision-making.

Our current comprehensive plan expires in 2025 so it is time to form a committee to update our current plan. I will be heading up this committee, along with a member of the Planning Board. The planning process will include public outreach and input. Participation can be either as a committee member, as a contributing member of the review team looking at a particular issue such as land use regulations, transportation, housing, the mall's future, infrastructure, homelessness, and or recreation and greenspaces,

or as an interviewee. The committee hopes to meet with all interested Villagers who want to share their thoughts and opinions.

If anyone would like to participate please email me at cbgreenwald@gmail.com.

Carolyn Greenwald, Deputy Mayor

2024 Village Election

The Village will hold its 2024 election for trustees on Tuesday, April 23rd from noon to 9PM. There will be two candidates for trustee on the ballot: incumbent **Susan Ainslie** and newcomer **Kathleen Yen**. The polling station for the election is in the Village Community Room located in the building east of the Village offices. Please take a few minutes and drop by to cast your votes for our candidates.

Invitation to Zoom with The Mayor

Members of the public are invited to register to meet with Mayor Hardaway via a Zoom conference every Wednesday afternoon between 2 -4 pm. This meeting is an informal, “open-door” meeting in which each registrant may speak or ask questions about any Village-related topic. If a registrant raises a topic or question that the mayor cannot discuss or answer, they will be informed before or during the meeting. Please visit the Meet with the Mayor page and click on the “Meet with the Mayor” registration link: vlansing.org/meet-with-the-mayor.

Greenway Committee Update

The Village of Lansing Greenway Committee is developing a sidewalks and walkways policy to propose to the Board of Trustees. The purpose of the policy is to establish guidelines and regulations for the planning, maintenance, use, and safety of sidewalks and walkways within the Village. The policy will establish a sidewalks and walkways plan to identify the location and schedule for Village of Lansing sidewalk installations, and it will propose listing and monitoring each sidewalk project in a capital improvement plan.

The committee also revised the Village’s Greenway Google Map to reflect current sidewalks and pathways using Google Map layers that can be switched on and off by the user. A new map layer was added to show future, high-priority sidewalks within the Village. The Google Map link is available on the following webpage: vlansing.org/maps/

CCE Beautification Grant Awarded to Village

The Village applied for, and was awarded, a Municipal Beautification Grant of up to \$2,500 to be used toward the purchase of bulb plantings at three Village municipal parks. The Village is required to match the grant one-to-one with paid or volunteer labor to implement and maintain the bulb-plantings project. The proposed projects will enhance the Village parks by planting naturalizing bulbs such as daffodils in Marian Hartill Park, Ned Hickey Park, and Shannon Park. The Beautification Program funds are administered by Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Tompkins County (CCETC).

CSC-CEC Task Force Update

The CSC-CEC task force meets monthly to review and plan for Village actions related to NYSERDA’s Climate Smart Communities and Clean Energy Communities programs. Currently, the task force is assessing Village actions to enhance community resilience to climate change including: a climate vulnerability assessment, policies for climate resilience, a climate adaptation plan, heat emergency plan, shade structures policy, cooling centers, conservation of natural areas, source water protection, water conservation and reuse, and water-smart landscaping.

Safe Streets for All Status Report

Village representatives met with Cambridge Analytics consultants on March 27th to provide input into the Tompkins County Safety Action Plan. Mayor Ronny Hardaway, Deputy Mayor Carolyn Greenwald, and DPW Superintendent John Courtney provided a list of local roads, streets, and intersections that might

benefit from future government grants. The Village recommendations will be a subset of the entire Safety Action Plan’s proposal that will be submitted to the federal government in 2025.

The proposed Safety Action Plan will gather and document potential projects in the participating Tompkins County jurisdictions to support a significant reduction or elimination of roadway fatalities and serious injuries involving various road users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, personal conveyance and micro-mobility users, motorists, and commercial operators, within a suggested timeframe.

Online Survey to Improve the ITCTC Long-Range Transportation Plan

The Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council (ITCTC) has developed an online survey to gather information for the update of the Long-Range Transportation Plan for Tompkins County. The plan covers the 20-year period through 2045 and will develop a common vision for the future of transportation in Tompkins County. The plan addresses many forms of surface transportation – cars, freight, transit, inter-city buses, bicycles, walking, shared transportation (bike share, car share) and rail.

The online survey and other information on the Long-Range Transportation Plan update can be found on the ITCTC web site: tompkinscountyny.gov/itctc/lrtpupdate. Please take a few minutes to provide your input. The ITCTC will accept survey submissions and public comments through October 2024.

Village Partners with Solar Farms NY for Clean Energy Agreement

The Village of Lansing has become a clean energy partner with Solar Farms New York to help our residents or businesses save money (up to 5%) on your monthly electricity costs and to support our local community. Here is how it works once you enroll: (1) the solar farms in New York generate power from the sun, (2) clean solar power is delivered into the local utility grid, and (3) you receive discounted solar credits, applied directly to your utility bill.

If you are interested, enroll today at SolarFarmsNY.com using promo code **VOLNY** and Solar Farms New York will donate \$100 to the Village of Lansing for each new enrollment. For questions, call (855) 685-4657 or visit SolarFarmsNY.com/FAQ to learn more.

Please note: If you are already enrolled in community solar, remain with your current program to avoid any disruption to your monthly savings, and check back later when the Solar Farms New York solar farms go live in late 2024.

Ronny Hardaway, Mayor

TOMPKINS COUNTY RECYCLING

Tompkins County offers a single stream curbside recycling program. 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. There are also copies available in our brochure rack in the Village Office vestibule, which is always open.

The Village of Lansing is a Food Scrap Recycling Drop Spot. On Saturdays from 10:00am-1:00pm Lansing residents can bring their food scraps to the parking lot behind the Village Office at 2405 N. Triphammer Road. Food scraps can include meat, bones and dairy and paper towels and napkins. You can also pick up compost containers and bags for free at the Drop Spot or at the Solid Waste Office. Bags are also available in the office during business hours.

LANSING RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Scan to see what the Town has to offer Village Residents.



Camping/Pavilion Reservations:



Recreation Program Registrations:



VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Mayor Ronny Hardaway 607-351-8042
ronny.hardaway@gmail.com
 Deputy Mayor Carolynn Greenwald 607-227-6122
cbgreenwald@gmail.com
 Trustee Susan Ainslie 607-592-2592
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 Trustee Drew Riedl 847-641-0876
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 Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer 607-229-3000
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 Planning Bd. Chairman-Mike Baker 607-592-4083
bakerm82@gmail.com
 BZA Chair-Lynn Leopold 607-273-3457

VILLAGE EMPLOYEES

***All employees can be reached at their extension when calling the Village at 607-257-0424**

Clerk/Treasurer	Jodi Dake	ext. #2
Code /Zoning Officer	Michael Scott	ext. #3
Supt. of Public Works	John Courtney	ext. #4
MEO	Nick Dean & Chris Zavaski	
Fire Inspector	Mike Scott	ext. #3
Electrical Inspector	Floyd Ferris	607-592-5829
Village Accountant		
Insero & Company		607- 272-4444
Village Attorney	Natalie French	607-277-6611
Village Engineers	TG Mille	607-272-6477
Engineering Consultant	Brent Cross	

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

John Courtney, Superintendent of Public Works
 607- 257-0424 ext. #4 or cell 607-280-4893

VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES

Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission.....Ronny Hardaway & Don Hartill
 Tompkins County Board of Representatives, District 6.....Michael J Sigler
 Tompkins County Board of Representatives, District 10.....Deborah Dawson
 Tompkins County Environmental Management Council.....John Dennis
 Tompkins County Joint Youth Commission Wolfgang Bullmer
 Tompkins County Recreation Partnership.....Drew Riedl
 Tompkins County Youth Services Board.....Susan Ainslie
 Tompkins County Council of Government-TCCOG.....Ronny Hardaway & Carolynn Greenwald
 Tompkins County Water Resource Council.....Lynn Leopold

STATE AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

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