



Newsletter

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.

MARCH 2007

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

Planning Board Meetings: 2nd Monday and last Tuesday, 7:30 PM

Board of Zoning Appeal Meeting: 3rd Tuesday as needed; 7:30 PM

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

Winter this year didn't begin until early February and on Valentine's Day the snow fell and a little still remains on the ground today as I write this on the airplane back to the US. Late yesterday afternoon in Geneva Switzerland as I was walking in the park along Lake Geneva, the pansies were out and the daffodils were just starting to bloom along with a few cherry trees. Spring can't be far behind in Lansing. Again this year, as we have for the past two years, we have used salt as our deicing material with no dust buildup making our spring street sweeping operation much easier. This year we have a much larger inventory of sidewalks to clear and I was able to help John Courtney, our Superintendent of Public Works, on the worst days by operating one of our pieces of snow removal equipment part time. We will be busy as soon as the weather warms and dries a bit repairing the usual winter damage to the roadways. Potholes 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 plants 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. The other rite of spring is the annual brush pickup by Town of Lansing crews. The dates of the pickup and the guidelines appear later in the Newsletter and I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity.

We are well into the budget process for the coming fiscal year with the Public Hearing scheduled for April 16th at 7:35 PM. This is later than usual because of the cancellation of our first meeting in April in recognition of Passover. It is likely that the proposed tax levy will decrease significantly this year because we have now finished the reconstruction of North Triphammer Road which was accomplished without bonding.

In addition to being able to significantly lower the tax levy, we are also able to lower the surcharge on the water and sewer bills from 50% to 30%, again to reflect the completion of the North Triphammer Road Reconstruction project. The assessed value of the properties in the Village have remained about the same as last year with the result that the tax rate will likely go down from the \$ 1.59 per thousand last year to something in the neighborhood of \$1.40. We expect

that next year we will revert back to the steady state with the tax levy increasing from this lower base at roughly the rate of inflation since the costs of the Village's needed supplies increase with inflation just like those required by you and I. 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.

Except for some minor landscaping and some finish work on the new stone walls that mark the entrance to several areas of the Village, the North Triphammer Road reconstruction project is finished. Approximately 75% of the funds for the project were provided by the Federal Highway Administration and by some Marchecelli New York State funding. The remaining 25% came from Village capital reserve funds that were accumulated from the general fund over the ten year design and construction period of the project. We were very pleased to receive the federal and state funds whose availability was first recognized by Kim Jacobs more than ten years ago when she was an engineer for T. G. Millers and worked tirelessly in getting the project started. The Village owes her a great deal of thanks. The reconstructed roadway with its bicycle lanes, separated sidewalks, new street lighting and new lane configurations has really transformed the Village. We now have a consistent and exciting image for residents and visitors alike.

The Board of Trustees has worked with the Town of Lansing to decide on a route for the sewer transmission main from the proposed Town sewer district to the Cayuga Heights Wastewater Treatment Plant. After considerable discussion and research, a forced main route along the east side of Cayuga Heights Road to our current gravity main running down Cedar Lane is now the agreed upon route. Discussions continue on the cost sharing of the new facilities with the Town, based on the projected use by both municipalities, and are nearing their final stages as the Town prepares to go for a permissive referendum sometime during late summer. Inquiries about constructing a separate treatment plant for the Town and perhaps northern parts of the Village continue with DEC with no resolution to date.

Finally, Village elections for two Trustees and the Mayor will be held from noon to 9 PM on Tuesday, April 24th.

Donald Hartill
Mayor

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. To qualify, please follow these procedures:

- Make application to enter the tree planting program before the tree is purchased. Applications may be picked up at the Village Office or by calling the Village Office (257-0424) and requesting an application be mailed to you.
- The location for the planted tree must be mutually agreed upon by the property owner and a representative of the Village prior to planting.
- Reimbursement shall take place upon presentation of a receipt from a recognized nursery and approval of the planted tree by a Village representative.

Carol Willard
Clerk, part-time

NORTHEAST SENIORS UNIT

Citizens of the Village of Lansing, over the age of 60 are welcomed to become members of the Northeast Seniors Unit. We are a unit of Lifelong (Tompkins County Senior Citizens Council) and have been in existence since 1988. We meet on the second Monday of the month at St. Catherine of Siena Hall from noon to 2 PM for 10 months of the year. We are non-denominational and are open to all residents of the community. Our yearly dues are minimal: \$5.00 for individual

and \$7.00 per couple. Our program includes a dish to pass followed by a program or presentation of interest. We have speakers presenting items of interest to seniors, Travel videos and an occasional Bingo Game. A monthly newsletter will notify you of the next month's activities.

It's a nice group and we'd be delighted to have you join us. Just come to the meeting and we will sign you up. Questions? Call our President Bob Dyer at 257-0756 or Al DiGiacomo, Treasurer at 257-0271.

Al DiGiacomo
Treasurer

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

The Tompkins County Board of Elections is looking for citizens who might be interested in working as Election Inspectors. Many people have found being involved in such a crucial way in our democratic process to be a very fulfilling and rewarding experience.

This year it will also be a bit more monetary rewarding, too. Inspector pay rises to \$100 for the Primary, and \$160 for the General Election. Inspectors will also be paid \$25 to attend mandatory training.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Cree, Republican Commissioner at 274-5521, or Stephen DeWitt, Democratic Commissioner at 274-5522. You can also view the Board's website at votetompkins.com, and near the bottom of the left hand column click on "Election Workers".

Tom Paolangeli
Board of Elections

LANSING COMMUNITY LIBRARY CENTER (LCLC)

The Lansing Community Library Center is pleased to announce the grand re-opening of its newly renovated and expanded building.

The public is invited to enjoy the new children's reading room, circulation area, main entrance, handicap accessible elevator and entrance, art exhibit area, book processing area and expanded area for library holdings. Of particular note is the lazure painting in the new main entrance of the library. The new art exhibit area is currently showcasing nine enlarged antique photos from Lansing's past and will be hung in the newly renovated art exhibit room along with hats similar to those in the photos. Two pictorial books showing the process of the building renovation will be on display. Also on display is the donated collection of Matt Christopher books.

The newly renovated and expanded Lansing Community Library Center will kick off its adult-programming this year with exceptional individuals.

On Wednesday, April 4th at 7 PM, LCLC will host Paul Hamill, Tompkins County poet laureate, and former Lansing resident. Paul Hamill's poetry publications include a chapbook, *Winter Mind* (Pudding House, 2003), a book, *The Year of Blue Snow: Northern Poems* (Mellen, 2001), and many poems in journals. A graduate of Boston College and Stanford, Paul lives in Ithaca with his wife Kris, and works as an administrator at Ithaca College.

On Wednesday, May 9th at 7 PM, LCLC will host internationally renowned author Tess Gerritsen. Tess is the author of many medical thrillers, which include *Life Support*, *Bloodstream*, *Gravity*, *The Surgeon*, *The Apprentice*, *The Sinner*, *Body Double* and *Vanish*. Critics around the world have praised her novels as "Scary and brilliant" (*Toronto Globe and Mail*), "Polished, riveting prose" (*Chicago Tribune*). *USA Today* says Tess is "tops in her genre". Having

received her medical degree in 1979, she turned to writing while on maternity leave, and now retired from medicine, she writes full time.

Please join us for these wonderful free adult-programming events. For more information, contact the Lansing Community Library Center at 533-4939 or Julie Berens at 533-7779.

The hours of operation for the library are:

- Monday 3-8 PM
- Tuesday 9 AM-12, 3-8 PM
- Wednesday 9 AM-12, 3-8 PM
- Thursday 6-8 PM
- Friday 9 AM-12
- Saturday 9AM-12

Children's story hour will resume soon.

Remember: When the flag is up the library is open!

Bobbi Wasenko
LCLC

LANSING OLDER ADULT PROGRAM (LOAP)

Many LOAP programs begin in the Spring. The Decorative Art Class begins on Monday April 16th from 2-3:30 PM with Elnora Trainer and Barbara Hlywa. The cost is \$1 per class. The senior Exercise Class is held on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:15-10 AM in the Woodsedge Community Room. This class is led by Marcia Larsen. The next class will begin on Monday April 16th and will cost \$10 for the five-week session. Please call 533-4792 for additional details.

Pam Bush
Woodsedge Office Manager

LANSING PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

LBP & LSP

Player registration forms for LSP youth softball and LBP youth baseball are due March 19th. Registration forms are available on our web site at www.lansingrec.com. Since this Newsletter will be delivered after the due date, those who would like to register youth should call the Recreation Department immediately at 533-7388.

LSP softball is for all youth in grades K-6. Participants are divided into four leagues. Membership of each league is determined primarily by grade: T-Ball – Grade K, Juniors - Grades 1 & 2; Minors – Grades 3 & 4; and Majors – Grades 5 & 6.

LBP baseball is for all youth attending school and are 12 or younger on August 1, 2007. Participants in the program are divided into 4 leagues typically by grade level and age: T-Ball – Grade K; International – Grades 1 & 2; National – Grades 3 & 4; and American – Grades 5 & 6.

The annual Spring Training Players Clinics for baseball players in grades 3-6 will be held on April 11th with Varsity Baseball Coach Ed Redmond and varsity players. The annual Spring Training Players Clinic for softball players will be

held on April 10th with Adam Heck and his varsity softball team. These are both great opportunities for our young players. Clinics start at 8:00 AM and end at noon. Forms will be available soon.

Other Upcoming Activities

Summer recreation programs again look to be plentiful and will be listed in the booklet that will be ready for distribution around the first week of May. Currently several new programs are being discussed. Many of the programs fill very quickly so be on the lookout for the booklet.

Music in the Park Concerts

There will be a series of musical concerts in Myers Park this summer. The concerts will be on Thursday evenings. The schedule to date looks like this:

- June 28, 6:30 PM
Ithaca Concert Band
- July 5, 6:30 PM
New Orleans All Star Jazz Band
- July 12, 6:30 PM
Ageless Jazz Band
- July 19, 6:30 PM
Symphonic Steel (Steel Drum Band)
- July 26, to be announced
- August 2, 6:00 PM
Joe Cavallaro's Dixieland Jazz Band
- August 9, 6:00 PM
Backtalk

Please feel free to give us a call at 533-7388, with any questions you may have regarding our programs.

Thank you for your continued support of our programs.

Patrick Tyrell
Recreation Supervisor

LANSING STAR

The Lansing Star (www.lansingstar.com) has made a change in how we charge for classified ads. We're not! We have launched an all-new interface so that readers can enter free classified ads of up to 500 characters long. While the ads appear in the Lansing Star, we have also launched a new Web site at www.TompkinsAds.com that will display the same ads, giving them more exposure throughout Tompkins County. The site is live now and accepting free ads.

After researching over a dozen existing on-line classified technologies, we decided to develop our own. Existing technologies were too computer-oriented and complicated. We wanted an interface that looks like traditional classified ads that would be simple to use. To create ads, you create a log-in name and password, and include your e-mail address. That address is hidden from readers but they can contact you using an on-line form that mails to it. That protects your privacy while allowing interested people to respond to your ad. You also include start and stop dates for your ads.

Eventually, the Star hopes to sell banner ads on the classified pages to pay for the service. To begin with, the site offers four categories of free ads: Homes, Auto, Employment and Items. The site is moderated so there is a slight delay while

ads are approved.

Dan Veaner
Editor

VILLAGE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Spring Brush Pick-Up

The Town of Lansing Highway Department will be providing a spring brush and limb pick-up the week of May 7th.

Residents are asked to leave all materials near the roadside by 6:00 A.M. *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 5 or 6 feet in length. Also, the piles should not be tied but should be left loose. Each household is limited to approximately one pick-up size load. Excessive amounts will not be picked up and will become the responsibility of the homeowner to see they are removed. Leaves and trash bags will not be picked up.

John Courtney
Supt. of Public Works

COUNTY LEGISLATURE

This month's column is a collection of information about several current County items.

On the Health and Human Services front, we engaged in the working group trying to keep Lakeside Nursing Home alive. The Health and Human Services Committee is also looking into raising the purchase age for cigarettes to 19, and the Environmental Health Division is developing its new drinking-water-well-permitting program.

Although on its face it seems obvious that if you raise to 19 years the age for cigarette purchase, it can only help cut down on youth smoking. But according to our Public Health Director there is really no evidence that such efforts are successful. The CDC stresses education and enforcement as the best means to reduce use of tobacco products among youth. Increasing the excise tax has also proven effective. Various grants supporting enforcement of age 18 limits, but not 19, and since persons can join the military at age 18, singling out that age may seem unfair. It is my understanding that a local law raising the purchase age to 19 is being drafted for consideration at the legislature, so if you wish to share your thoughts on this subject, please call me or drop me a line.

At the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee, we recently got the bad news that, as a result of New York State DOT's just-completed cost-benefit analysis, only one of our three bridge projects and none of our four road projects for the next two years got added to the State TIP (Transportation Improvement Plan). It is only by being on the TIP that we are eligible to receive state and federal funding. Since DOT's cost-benefit analysis takes the total estimated project cost and divides it by the number of persons who benefit, the most populated areas do best in scoring high. And since we are in a DOT region with Onondaga County and Syracuse, our projects have trouble competing. Add to this the fact that, unlike in previous rounds when the money requested was usually about twice the funding available, this year \$50 million was available, but requests totaled \$250 million.

In general, it seems that municipalities at all levels have deferred maintenance (often to help keep taxes down) and that is catching up with all of us. In addition, the federal (and state) highway systems, too, are approaching the end of useful life without major rebuilds. Major reconstruction is much more expensive than laying down or recycling a coat of pavement to prolong a road's life for a while. There is no easy or obvious solution to this growing problem. We hope DOT

recognizes the need to revise its cost-sharing analysis. But this situation will be haunting us for the foreseeable future.

It may be that when we plan county road reconstruction, as we are doing currently with parts of Hanshaw Road, Coddington Road, Ellis Hollow Road, and Warren Road, and neighborhoods affected by these plans feel strongly about sidewalks and/or bike lanes and/or lane and shoulder widths, and/or speed limits, truck traffic, and traffic calming, we as a county will not be able to afford to do what is right to do – especially if we are not “eligible” for federal and state funding. It may be that the towns or villages through which the county roads pass will need to consider whether they, too, should contribute to such projects to help deal with residents’ concerns.

Dooley Kiefer
County Board Representative

LEARNING WEB’S YOUTH

Attention parents of middle and high school students! Is your child or teen looking to do something fun and different this spring or summer? Consider the Learning Web’s Volunteer Community Service Project (VCSP) or the Career Exploration and Apprenticeship Program (CEAP). Sponsored by the Joint Youth Commission of Tompkins County, the VCSP is an award-winning program that offers middle school aged youth from the Town of Ithaca, Village of Cayuga Heights and the Village of Lansing the opportunity to do volunteer projects that benefit the greater community. The Learning Web’s CEAP program offers all youth who reside in Tompkins County (ages 11-21) opportunities to gain hands-on experience in their career fields of interest.

The Learning Web is pleased to offer the VCSP at Boynton Middle School this spring and a six-week version of the VCSP this summer called the Summer Service Program. The VCSP will be on Wednesdays after school at Boynton from March 7th until May 9th. The Summer Service Program will meet for two mornings a week for six weeks at St. Catherine of Sienna’s Rectory. In both programs, youth take field trips to do service projects, play games and make new friends while learning team work and leadership skills as well as increasing their awareness of community and world issues.

In the past, youth in the VCSP and SSP have done a variety of fun projects. Examples include caring for animals at the SPCA, creating a public service announcement for radio, organizing a benefit dinner for a national cancer organization, leading games for younger children at after school programs and day camps, baking and serving cookies at Loaves and Fishes, painting a mural with youth at West Village Apartments, visiting with residents in local nursing homes, and more.

The Learning Web is also pleased to continue offering career exploration activities to middle and high school students through the CEAP program including job tours, job shadowing, and paid and unpaid apprenticeships under the one-to-one guidance of adult mentors. Through CEAP, youth gain practical work skills and experience, learn about adult roles and responsibilities and clarify their goals for future careers and schooling. Apprentices generally meet with their work-site mentors after school or on weekends for 3-10 hours a week. Youth have apprenticed in areas as varied as veterinary medicine, auto repair, particle physics, engineering, cosmetology, computer programming, law, child care and more.

Interested youth and parents should contact Sue at the Learning Web at 275-0122 or via email at sue@learning-web.org for more information.

Sue Schwartz
Youth Works Coordinator

New Programming

2007 has been one of our most productive years ever for delivering new programming to our members. So far this year, we have created a wealth of new programs including: Youth Raquetball Club, Adult Raquetball Ladder, Group Cycling, Tri-Training Class, 3-on-3 Basketball Tournaments, Adult 3-on-3 Tournament, Youth 3-on-3 League, Home-school Gym & Swim, Afternoon preschool swim lessons, and T-ball. We are very excited to be able to bring you this extensive lineup of new programming. Be sure to check our website at www.ithacaymca.com for details on these and other new programs for your family!

Spring Events

As spring approaches, we all look forward to taking coats off and feeling the warmth of the sun upon our skins once again. It is also a time for all those exciting outdoor activities that we have missed all winter! The YMCA is offering three major events this spring. The first event is Healthy Kids Day scheduled for Saturday, April 14th. The YMCA will host an event to be remembered! Activities include games and activities to help get kids moving, as well as educational information for parents on how to encourage their children to stay active. With the epidemic of obesity making the news regularly, it is ever more important to have all the knowledge available to keep your family happy and healthy! The YMCA, through its Activate America directive, is working every day to help, and Healthy Kids Day is a great event to celebrate our successes and further our goal of building strong kids, strong families, and strong communities.

The next major event is the 19th annual Tri-for-the-T Triathlon scheduled for May 6th. For years, this has been one of our most popular events, with hundreds of people swimming, running, and biking, all to benefit the YMCA of Ithaca and Tompkins County.

The last major event of the spring will be the annual Kids-to-Camp Golf Tournament on June 11th. Every year this function enables us to help dozens of children attend YMCA Camp Adventure that would otherwise be unable to afford it. The tournament will be held at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Course at Cornell University and will include a shotgun start, 18 holes of golf, lunch, dinner, prizes and much more.

Camp Adventure

It is that time of year to consider one of the YMCA's most well-known programs, Camp Adventure.

The name tells it all - 9 weeks of adventures and exploration for youth from ages 3-12 within our growing community. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy a half-day theme-based program, with fun being the central focus, while playing games, swimming, making crafts, playing musical instruments, and participating in age-appropriate play. Youth ages 5-12 participate in a full-day of fun including swimming, arts and crafts, sports and games, special visitors, trips to area parks, outdoor nature exploration, archery, and character development activities, just to name a few. Overnight family campouts are scheduled for the full-day program attendees as well.

The Camp Director and camp counselors are chosen with background and experience in camping and working with kids in a camp environment. The selections are carefully made to include individuals who recognize the special differences in a YMCA camp, which incorporates the character development attributes of honesty, caring, responsibility, and respect as a message within the daily activities.

Registrations are scheduled to begin at the end of April. Camp is designed for individual week registration to enable parents to work around the family's summer vacation plans.

For up-to-date details on these events and other programs, be sure to click on www.ithacaymca.com!

Frank Towner
Associate Executive Director

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.

Carol Willard
Clerk, part-time

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

During the winter months, the Planning Board has been busy processing three requests for subdivisions. The review of Mr. Crossmore's subdivision at Bolton Point is still under way as the Planning Board is waiting for additional information in order to complete the environmental review. It is anticipated that the additional information will be received shortly and that the review process will continue in April. This subdivision involves the establishment of 21 residential building lots on the 128 acre land parcel along the west side of NYS Route 34.

The Ross subdivision along the southwest side of Dart Road has also been delayed because of a need for additional information. This subdivision intends to create 6-8 residential building lots in a medium density residential zone.

A minor subdivision was requested by Mr. Ralph Varn for his property along the east side of North Triphammer Road at the northern boundary line of the Village of Lansing. The existing property will be divided into two residential building lots in this medium density zone. This request was approved at the Planning Board's February 27th meeting.

The Planning Board recently completed its' review of the 1994 Greenway Plan and with the assistance of the Tompkins County Planning Department produced an updated document which will be added to the existing Plan. The update focused mainly on adding the trails, sidewalks and parks which were proposed in the original plan and have now been completed.

Mrs. Doris Brown, a long time and important member, of the Planning Board resigned on December 31, 2006. Doris has served on the Board since 1982 and made significant contributions to the Board's deliberations. We thank her for her many years of dedicated service.

Currently there is a vacancy on the Planning Board. Mr. Mario Tomei, Alternate Member, has replaced Mrs. Brown which creates a vacancy for an Alternate Member. If you have an interest, please contact Ned Hickey or the Village Clerk.

Ned Hickey
Planning Board Chairman

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

We all enjoy the beauty of deer moving quietly through the soft light of dawn or a misty dusk. It gives us much pleasure to see spotted fawns in the Spring. How lovely to observe these gentle creatures grazing in a sun-dappled forest glade. However, as T. Williams states in an article on the subject, "The US whitetail population is out of control. Not only are deer starving by the thousands, they're laying waste to entire ecosystems." In our area of New York, the population of

deer has not reached the thousands, however, in 2002 the Cayuga Heights Deer Project estimated that there were 80-90 deer per square mile at that time. There are certainly more now in 2007.

Deer at these densities do extensive damage to gardens, trees, ornamental plantings, natural vegetation and agricultural crops. Our own Carl Leopold, Scientist Emeritus at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, has reported a loss of one-third of flowering native species on his ten-acre woodlot in the Village. Others have noted the loss of young tree growth in our wooded lands ... young trees needed to replace older ones which inevitably die off.

Deer cause an increase in the frequency of automobile and truck accidents, either when a driver hits a deer or has an accident when swerving to avoid one. The financial cost alone in the State of New York exceeds \$1 billion annually.

More importantly, deer are part of a cycle of biological connects that leads to Lyme disease in humans: bacteria (*Borelia burgdorferi*) → field and woodland mice and birds → deer ticks → deer (or humans) → deer ticks → mice and birds, etc. It is likely that humans are a dead end in the highest evidence of Lyme disease in the United States. Twenty-eight cases were reported in Tompkins County between 1997 and 2001. The Centers for Disease Control suspects the incidence in New York may be ten times higher than reported.

Carl Leopold points out that, “Managing deer on any scale – backyard to forest – is complex. Management solutions must be ecologically and socially acceptable and at a cost to both humans and deer that is sustainable. There are no simple solutions to this dilemma...”

Quoting again from T. Williams, “No species in North America has been more grotesquely mismanaged than deer. (It began with early settlers against cougars and wolves, the main predators of deer. This behavior flabbergasted the Indians. After much arguing and theorizing, they concluded it was a symptom of insanity.”

Your Board of Trustees has begun working with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to develop effective methods to restore some sanity to this situation. More information will become available as a Deer Management Program is developed. If you would like to learn more about DEC research and policies regarding deer control, go to <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwvr/wildlife/deer/>

This article is based upon remarks from a DRAFT Report for the “DRAFT Report for the Town Board (Town of Ithaca), revised Sep 2004” and Carl Leopold’s article “The Beast in My Forest”.

John O’Neill
Trustee

TOMPKINS COUNTY SOLID WASTE

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Dates

County residents and qualified small businesses may dispose of selected hazardous materials at the D.E.P.O.T (Don’t Empty your Pollutants in Our Trash). Those interested must call 273-HHWM (4496) for sign-up instructions. The dates are as follows: April 21, May 19, July 21, August 18, September 15 and November 17.

Finger Lakes Buy Green!

Buying green helps promote our environment and local economy. A web site (FingerLakesbuygreen.org) has been created through a partnership between Sustainable Tompkins and Tompkins County Solid Waste Management. Questions and comments should be made to Kat McCarthy at 273-6632.

OIL AND SEWERAGE AND TRASH, ON MY!

Misconnected drainpipes, illegally dumped trash, a failing septic system, and used motor oil dumped on the ground have a lot in common. Grouped together as “illicit discharges”, all of these can send pollution to our waterways. While trash dumped in a roadside ditch is an eyesore as well as a hazard, most illicit discharges are invisible. The Stormwater Coalition of Tompkins County, of which the Watershed Network is a member, has an ambitious plan to bring these problems to light. The aim is to have these often hidden sources of contamination identified and then eliminated. The two companion steps are jointly referred to as Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE).

Whatever gets washed or dumped into a storm drain or roadside drainage ditch goes untreated to a nearby waterway. Chemicals, trash, and disease-causing organisms (such as viruses and bacteria) flow directly to a tributary that then flows to Cayuga Lake. These pollutants can enter the food chain harming fish, other aquatic life and people’s health.

Stormwater regulations define an illicit discharge as "any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer that is not composed entirely of stormwater." A few discharges such as from fire fighting activities are exempt. So what isn’t exempt? Picture a pipe sticking out of the side of a creek bank dripping with green antifreeze or paint thinner someone dumped into the storm drain on an urban street. Consider a septic tank that has failed and allows sewage to seep into the lake. Imagine the floor drain from a business that is piped to a roadside ditch, and the resident who tosses a bag of stinky trash along the side of a rural lane. Think about a leaking municipal sewer line spewing underground near a pipe or ditch that is part of the stormwater drainage system. All of these, and more, are illicit discharges that need to be eliminated once they are found.

The Stormwater Coalition of Tompkins County is working to help municipalities comply with New York State’s new stormwater regulations. One portion of the regulations requires an IDDE program. Through the winter and spring, a series of programs will train volunteers, municipal officials and agency staff to ferret out illicit discharges. Other communities working with IDDE have found pipe connections accidentally crossed during construction and building floor drains that are so old no one remembered to where they drain. Often the offenders don’t even know there is a problem and therefore the approach will be focused on education and correction.

You can help by supporting your community’s efforts to control and correct illicit discharges. In the warmer weather, join the Watershed Network on stream and shoreline cleanups. Maintain the septic system, if you have one, and properly dispose of household trash. Hazardous materials such as excess paint, paint thinner, motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides or other common household chemicals should not be poured down storm drains or on the ground. Many should not be dumped down household drains either, even if you are connected to a municipal water treatment facility. For information on disposal, contact the Tompkins County Solid Waste Division (273-6632) to see what can safely be disposed of in our community.

The *Pledge for Clean Water* is a community-wide effort to protect water resources in Tompkins County. It’s free and easy for anyone to participate. By visiting the interactive website at www.cleanwaterpledge.org, one can learn about stormwater pollution and select specific actions to be undertaken to keep our lakes, streams and drinking water clean. Participants residing in Tompkins County will receive a magnet bearing the *Pledge for Clean Water* logo, made possible by the Stormwater Coalition of Tompkins County. All participants in the *Pledge for Clean Water* will receive from the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network a complimentary publication.

ITHACA BREAST CANCER ALLIANCE (IBCA)

When Your Mother has Breast Cancer

Your 70 year old mother just called to tell you that she's been diagnosed with breast cancer. She seems to be taking the news rather well, but you want to jump in and help. But how?

A significant number of the people who call and visit the Ithaca Breast Cancer Alliance (IBCA) do so for advice on how they can help a loved one with breast cancer. Since older women are the population at greatest risk for breast cancer, we often hear from their daughters and sons. While every diagnosis of breast cancer is somewhat different and every family is certainly different, there are some do's and don't's that we usually recommend

Situations become more complex when the mother has an underlying mental illness such as depression, or if she has Alzheimer's Disease or other cognitive impairment. For example, your mother might say that she doesn't want treatment, but you suspect that she would want treatment if she weren't depressed. For these situations, involve your mother's primary care provider for advice and/or to help diagnose and treat the underlying conditions.

What's most important for a daughter or son in dealing with a mother's breast cancer is simply to be present for her. Be available when she wants to talk, and reassure her that you support her in the choices she makes. This can be difficult because so many of us are accustomed to trying to fix things and we tend to focus too much on the fix and not enough on the person.

Health care providers will naturally focus on your mother's cancer. As a family member, you have the opportunity and privilege of focusing on her as a person. It's the best gift you'll ever give her.

Bob Ritter
Associate Director

LIFELONG

Lifelong is committed to promoting wellness in later life. Join in these community wellness activities.

Health & Wellness Opportunities

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- ◆ **Blood Pressure Screening**
Come get your blood pressure screening for free.
- ◆ **Enhance Fitness**
This low-cost, evidence-based exercise program helps older adults at all levels of fitness become more active, energized, and empowered to sustain independent lives. Classes focus on stretching, flexibility, balance, low impact aerobics, and strength training exercises.
- ◆ **Tai Chi**
Tai Chi is low impact and incorporates gentle movement and meditative attention that improves overall health and immune function.
- ◆ **Chair Yoga Class**
Weekly yoga class that concentrates on physical health, flexibility and mental well-being. Beginners are welcome and no experience is needed.
- ◆ **Strength Training**
Come join us for a group exercise class that focuses on increasing strength and endurance.

◆ Enhance Fitness Dance Classes

International Folk Dancing, Scottish Dancing , Hip Hop for Seniors, Country Couples & Line Dancing, and Square, Round, Line, & Polka classes are offered.

Community Walk Itinerary

Following is the list of scheduled walks:

April 5 th	Game Farm Trail
April 10 th	Cayuga Waterfront Trail
April 19 th	Longview
April 24 th	Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary
May 3 rd	Cornell Plantations Arboretum
May 8 th	Upper Buttermilk
May 15 th	South Hill Rec. Way - Burns Road
May 24 th	Taughannock Falls State Park & Picnic
May 29 th	Kendal
May 31 st	Ithaca Festival Parade
June 5 th	Beebe Lake

Funding for the walk program is provided in part through partnership with Tompkins County Office for the Aging. For additional information, call Lifelong at 273-1511.

Joshua Eberle
Program Director

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Mayor	Donald Hartill 272-7671 DLH13@cornell.edu
Deputy Mayor	Larry Fresinski 257-7076 LF10@cornell.edu
Trustee	John O'Neill 266-7306 johnoneillati@cs.com
Trustee	Lynn Leopold 273-3457 LynnBird58@yahoo.com
Trustee	Franklin Moore 273-0966 FKM1@cornell.edu
BZA Acting Chair	Mary Sirois
Planning Bd. Chairman	Edward Hickey 257-0865

VILLAGE EMPLOYEES

Clerk/Treasurer	Jodi Dake 257-0424
Clerk, part-time	Carol Willard 257-0424
Code Enf./Zoning Officer	Ben Curtis 257-8363
Supt. of Public Works	John Courtney 257-6280
Motor Equip. Operator	257-6280
Village Accountant	Ciaschi Dietershagen Little & Mickelson 272-4444
Village Attorney	Barney Grossman
Village Engineers	Dubow & Marcus 273-6841 TG Millers 272-6477
Engineering Consultant	Brent Cross

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

John Courtney, Superintendent of Public Works
6 AM – 4 PM, M-F (257-6280); Other times (849-4970)

VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES

Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission.....Donald Hartill, H. Michael Newman
Tompkins County Board of Representatives, District 6.....Michael Sigler
Tompkins County Board of Representatives, District 10.....Dooley Kiefer
Tompkins County Environmental Management Council..... John Dennis
Tompkins County Planning Federation.....Edward Hickey

STATE AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

N.Y. State Senator Mike Nozzolio (R)	N.Y. State Assembly Barbara Lifton (D)	
54th State Senate District	125th State Assembly District	
902 Legislative Office Building	106 E. Court St.	
Albany, NY 12247	Ithaca, NY 14850	
U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D)	U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D)	U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (D)
229 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.	476 Russell Senate Office Bldg.	2246 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20510	Washington, D.C. 20510	Washington, D.C. 20515

Village of Lansing
2405 N. Triphammer Rd.
Ithaca, NY 14850