



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 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Web Page Address: vlansing.org.

MARCH 2006

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

This year we have had a relatively mild winter up until a few weeks ago and the cold continues with a light snow falling as I look out my window on this 4th day of March. As we did last year, this winter we have used mostly salt to reduce the ice and snow on our roadways instead of the mix of sand and salt that we have used in years past. This has resulted in much less dirt and dust buildup along the edges of the roadways and certainly has cut down on dust in our neighborhoods. Our sister municipalities' roadways have suffered more damage than ours but we will be busy as soon as the weather warms and dries a bit repairing the damage to ours. 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 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 7:35 PM on April 3rd. It is likely that the proposed increase in the tax levy will be about 3% consistent with the increase of the consumer price index for the past year. Because of the significant increases in the assessed value of the properties in the Village last year, the tax rate will likely go down from the \$1.65 per thousand for last year. 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.

The North Triphammer Road reconstruction project will be starting up again as soon as the weather permits. There is an article from Fisher Associates, the design and construction management firm for the project, giving more details later in the Newsletter. As with last year, there will be notices posted on the Village website about construction activities and their effect on traffic. A weekly update on the project will also appear in the Ithaca Journal. As with last year, every effort will be made to keep traffic moving during the construction activities. We anticipate being able to maintain two-way traffic most of the time with only occasional alternating one-way traffic controlled by flaggers. We anticipate that the disruption

to traffic will be no worse than last year. The project will be completely finished, including all landscaping, etc. by the end of October.

The Board of Trustees and I have been working with the Town of Lansing on deciding on a route for the sewer transmission main from the proposed Town sewer district to the Cayuga Heights Waste Water Treatment Plant. After considerable discussion and research, two possible routes remain viable. A route along the east side of East Shore Drive (State Route 34) would serve the largest number of Village residents and is the Village's preferred route. A forced main along the east side of Cayuga Heights Road to Cedar Lane and then joining our existing gravity sewer line down Cedar Lane is the other possible route. Forced mains emptying into gravity sewer lines need to be carefully engineered to avoid odors because of the retention time in the forced main. We have been assured by the engineering consultants that this can be taken care of, however, concerns remain and will have to be resolved if this is the final route. The Town has adopted the Cayuga Heights Road route as their baseline design in order to finish the design and determine the total project cost so that the project can be put forward to the voters in the proposed sewer district in the Town. The added cost of the East Shore Drive route is estimated to be \$450,000 out of a total project cost of \$17,000,000. The increased cost is due to land acquisition costs for a pump station at the bottom of the hill and increased construction costs due to satisfying New York State Department of Transportation rules along state highways. The Village has commissioned a traffic study to determine the effectiveness of possible bypass routes during the three month construction time needed for the installation of the transmission main. The study report is due by March 20th and will be submitted to NYSDOT as part of an effort to lower the cost of this preferred route. The Village will continue to work with the Town to come to an agreement on the most effective route for the sewer transmission main.

Finally, Village elections for two Trustees will be held from noon to 9:00 PM on April 25th at the Fire Station on Oakcrest Road. Incumbents Frank Moore and John O'Neill will be seeking re-election. I encourage you to vote.

Donald Hartill
Mayor

LANSING OLDER ADULT PROGRAM (LOAP)

Spring is the long, awaited season - the birds are back and starting to sing, the days are getting longer, the air feels a bit warmer, the trees are budding - everything seems to be moving about and coming back to life. Many of our LOAP programs begin again in the Spring and here's what happening. The Decorative Art Class begins on Monday, April 3rd at 2:00 PM with Elnora Trainer and Barbara Hlywa. The class will feature a pen and ink design on canvas. The class meets for 8 consecutive weeks and is a favorite of many. The senior exercise class is held on Mondays and Thursdays at 9:15-9:45 AM in the Woodsedge Community Room. The class is lead by Marcia Larsen. You may join at any time and beginners are welcome. Ceramic classes convene twice a month at Woodsedge and are held on Fridays with Noni Krom. Please call Woodsedge Office Manager Pam at 533-4792 for details.

Do you need a ride? The Lansing senior van is available to transport Lansing seniors to their various appointments. We have weekly grocery shopping trips. We try to transport seniors to doctor appointments if volunteers are available. If you have a need, please call the LOAP Bus Dispatcher Bea Davis at 533-4710 to arrange a ride. The senior van will try its best to assist you.

Are you in need of a warm lunch? FoodNet Senior Meal Program meets Monday - Friday at noon at Woodsedge Apartments. If you would like a warm, nutritious meal and the pleasure of meeting local seniors, you may call Site Manager Cathy Traver at 279-9146. You will need to make a meal reservation a day in advance.

There are many programs and services provided by the Lansing Older Adult Program. If you have questions, please call the Woodsedge Office at 533-4792 for further details. Information can be sent directly to your house. Spring is the time to get out again and enjoy the services that the community provides for you.

Marilyn Paradise
LOAP Program Coordinator

VILLAGE OFFICE BEAUTIFICATION

Special thank yous go out to neighboring property owner Mrs. Kim for her generous donation of bulbs and plants for the Village Office as well as to Trustee Lynn Leopold for planting them. A new flowerbed was constructed by the Highway Department personnel directly to the north of the front door of the Office. The plants and bulbs were planted in the fall in this new raised bed. Enjoy these flowers this spring, summer and fall and for years to come.

Carol Willard
Clerk, part-time

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

The Planning Board's main business since the last Newsletter has been the processing of Special Permit applications. Taughannock Aviation requested permission to construct a 27,000 sf hanger at the Ithaca-Tompkins Regional Airport on Warren Road. This hanger would replace an existing older hanger and would be used to house jet aircraft during the winter season. The permit was approved. Ithaca Suites, LLC was given conditional approval to construct a 70,700 sf 91 unit extended stay hotel on the site of the existing old Cinema 4 Theater Center adjacent to the Triphammer Shopping Center. The conditions of the approval focused on drainage, parking, landscaping and lighting issues. Greenstate Properties received conditional approval for the construction of an 8,000 sf building at 2432 North Triphammer Road for the Ithaca Cardiology Associates. Conditional issues are erosion and drainage, parking, lot lighting and required easements. Nextel Partners Inc was approved to install a telecommunications facility on the existing Marriott Hotel in the Business & Technology Park on Warren Road. The facility will consist of installing panel antennae flush mounted on the four corners of the existing building. Omnipoint Communications received a conditional approval to install a 44 ft. cell tower for T-Mobile on the McDonald's property on North Triphammer Road. The cell tower will be placed at the northwest corner of the parking lot and will mimic the existing light poles except for its height. Because of a deficiency in the required fall zone area, the applicant obtained a variance from the Village's Board of Zoning Appeals. Integrated Acquisitions & Development received approval of their request to amend a previously approved Special Permit in 2003. The amendment would construct a 33,400 sf office building at 9 Brown Road in the Business & Technology Park for Advion Biosciences. All of the conditions of approval for the original Special Permit, with the exception of those pertaining to the demolition of the existing building, were applied to the approval of the amendment.

Regarding Subdivision, Greenstate Properties received approval for a minor subdivision dividing a 2.64 acre lot into two conforming lots at 2432 North Triphammer Road. The Dart Estate at 89 Graham Road received approval for a minor subdivision which created one new lot and enlarged an existing and adjoining lot. The Planning Board approved a sketch plan review for a proposed 21 lot residential subdivision located along the east side of East Shore Drive north of 1510 East Shore Drive. The next step is the submission and review of the Preliminary Plat.

There is likely to be considerable building activity within the Village this Spring in addition to the resumption of the reconstruction of North Triphammer Road. The construction of a new office building at 2431 North Triphammer Road and one for the Avdion Biosciences at 9 Brown Road in the Business & Technology District should begin soon. The demolition of the Cinema Theater in Triphammer Mall and the subsequent construction of the Homewood Suites Hotel are also anticipated to begin this spring. The construction of the Regal Stadium Theater in Pyramid Mall and the installation of a T-Mobile cell tower on the McDonald's property are also scheduled to begin this year.

Ned Hickey
Planning Board Chairman

VILLAGE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Spring Brush Pick-Up

The Town of Lansing Highway Department will be providing a spring brush and limb pick-up on May 1st.

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. It also helps if thorny materials are separated from the rest.

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

LEARNING WEB'S YOUTH PROGRAMS

Attention parents of middle and high school students! Is your child looking to do something fun, meaningful and different this spring or summer? Consider *The Learning Web's Summer Service Program* or *Career Exploration Program*. Funded by the Joint Youth Commission of Tompkins County, the award-winning Summer Service Program 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 their community. The Learning Web's Career Exploration Program offers Tompkins County youth ages 11-21 opportunities to gain hands-on experience in their career fields of interest.

This summer, the Learning Web will offer a six-week *Summer Service Program*, beginning the first week in July and running until mid August. Examples of past service projects for the Summer Service Program include playing with animals at the SPCA, creating Public Service Announcements for the radio, writing letters and collecting school supplies for children with AIDS in Africa, baking and serving cookies at Loaves and Fishes, painting a porch at the Red Cross Homeless Shelter, bowling with residents at Long View Nursing Home, and more.

The Learning Web's *Career Exploration Program* includes job tours, job shadowing, and paid and unpaid apprenticeships under the one-to-one guidance of adult mentors. Through this program, youth gain practical work experience, learn more about adult roles and responsibilities, and clarify their goals for future careers and schooling. Apprentices generally meet with their work-site mentors after school, approximately 3-10 hours a week. Youth undertake apprenticeships, tours and job shadowing in areas such as veterinary medicine, computer programming, engineering, cosmetology, auto repair, law, plant science, 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

VILLAGE WEB PAGE UPDATE

A few additions were made to the Village's web site at www.vlansing.org.

- A review of all activity in the Village for 2005.
- The Village final code is online; maps, zoning law, etc.

- A link to the Lansing Star, the Lansing online newspaper
- Latest articles on sewer plans from the Town through the Village
- The list of sex offenders in New York State, Lansing, and elsewhere
- New BZA members

and more. Stop by the page and review www.vlansing.org.

Larry Fresinski
Deputy Mayor

ASSESSMENT DEPARTMENT

As you know, this will be the first year for the Tri-Annual Re-evaluation process. The Director of Assessment will be determining a “Level of Assessment” for this year that will reflect the assessed value as a percentage of the current, true full market value. This process will involve the least amount of assessment changes. The intent is to maintain equity in the assessments so that everyone is at the same level. Assessments will be adjusted if an area or individual property is not at the determined “Level of Assessment”. This adjustment can occur through market changes in areas and individual properties where the market values are increasing/decreasing more rapidly than the majority of properties, and the intent is to bring these homes back to the same level of assessment. Changes in assessment will also be made due to physical changes that would affect the market value of the property, i.e. home updates, improvements, demolition, additions, etc. Please note that the level of assessment can change from year-to-year and the third year of the process will be to bring everyone up to 100% of market value.

The Assessment Department also encourages property owners to use our computer data base on the web at www.Tompkins-Co.org/assessment, (then Click: ImagemateOnline, Click Imagemate Basic) and/or visit our facilities at 128 E. Buffalo St. Please note that the web information is very limited and more extended analysis and information can be found using our facility programs.

Gary Bortz
Lansing Real Property Appraiser

NORTHEAST SENIORS UNIT

Time flies when you are having fun. The Northeast Senior Unit so far has had six good meetings with much fine food, good conversations and some interesting programs. We know that there are some seniors from the Village of Lansing who would like to join in on the fun. It is still not too late.

Citizens of the Village of Lansing, over the age of 60 are welcomed to become members of the Northeast Seniors Unit. As a member, you will meet new people, enjoy a varied menu and share some time together in fellowship. We are non-denominational and are open to all residents of the community.

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 at 302 St. Catherine Circle from 12 noon to 2:00 PM. for ten months of the year.

Our program includes a dish to pass (as well as a catered Holiday luncheon in December and a free chicken barbeque in June) followed by a variety of programs or presentations of interest. We have speakers presenting items of interest to seniors, travel videos and an occasional Bingo game.

Our yearly dues are minimal: \$5.00 for individual and \$7.00 per couple.

It is a nice group and we'd be delighted to have you join us. Just come to the meeting and we will sign you up.

Al DiGiacomo
Treasurer

VILLAGE BILLS

In the Village, we have many people that go away for extended periods of time. If you will be gone during a time when your water/sewer bill is due, it is possible to pay the bill in advance to avoid a late penalty. Water and sewer bills come out quarterly at the beginning of January, April, July and October. They are then due by the 20th of that month. The only problem that we may run into is that Bolton Points policy reads that if you do not read your meter for 3 consecutive quarters, they will shut the water off. However, Bolton Point can send your meter reading card to a different person and address at your request.

Your Village Tax Bill comes to you at the beginning of June and is due by July 1st. If you do not receive your bill, please call the office and we'll be happy to send you a copy. The tax bills cannot be paid in advance and, by law, you are responsible for making sure they are paid, even if you don't receive a bill. If you have an escrow for taxes, the bills are mailed directly to the bank coded on your bill. When the bank pays taxes on a property, the receipt is then sent to the property owner.

Jodi Dake
Clerk/Treasurer

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

OFFICE FOR THE AGING

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A new program, sponsored by the Tompkins County Office for the Aging in collaboration with Lifelong, has as its mission the goal of reaching 40 to 60 year olds and giving them unbiased information as they begin thinking about their possible future long-term care needs.

The concept of long-term care and its costs are not new to that age group because many have parents or other elderly relatives who need to pay for help with bathing, dressing, getting in and out of a chair, or other essential activities of daily living. What is new is that more and more people, especially those first Baby Boomers who are reaching 60, are beginning to think about how they will pay for future long-term care.

“Long-term care” is assistance that one may need over an extended period of time to manage, rather than cure, a chronic condition or to compensate for a limited ability to function. Despite the myth that Medicare or other health insurance will pick up the tab for home care, assisted living or nursing home care should they ever need it, the fact is the payment for that kind of care is usually our own responsibility. As a result, long-term care insurance has evolved as a way of transferring the risk of a long period of expensive care to an insurance company.

The Long Term Care Insurance Resources Center, recently opened at the Tompkins County Office for the Aging and at Lifelong with funding provided by New York State, are designed to help consumers sort through the myriad of options available to determine what is best for them. While long-term care insurance is an option being explored by many, it is

not the answer for everybody. Understanding long-term care and long-term care insurance is complicated and consumers need a place locally where they can go for objective, “no-sales pitch” information to help them make informed decisions about what is right for their unique situations.

The Centers offer trained long-term care counselors that will work one to one with consumers; educational materials that include consumer guides and checklists; public presentations about long-term care financing options including long-term care insurance, and how to go about choosing long-term care policies should you decide to explore that option; and group presentations to employee groups and professional organizations.

The next public workshops, entitled “Long Term Care Insurance: Is it Right for You?” will be held on Monday April 3rd from 7:00 – 8:30 PM and Saturday May 6th from 10:00 – 11:30 AM Pre-registration is required. To find out more information and/or to register, email dstoyell@tompkins-co.org or call 273-1511 or 274-5482.

Trina Schickel
Office for the Aging

TOMPKINS COUNTY SOLID WASTE DIVISION

The 2006 household hazardous waste collection days will be April 15th, May 20th, July 15th, August 19th, September 16th and November 18th from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM A Solid Waste Permit and a completed registration form is required. For more information about household hazardous waste collection, call 273-HHWM.

Beginning April 1st, curbside recycling and the Solid Waste Center's Drop-Off Area will be accepting all plastic BOTTLES #1-#7 and yogurt containers and margarine tubs.

On April 1st, the Recycling and Solid Waste Center Drop-Off Area will be accepting more types of electronic equipment, such as computers with or without monitors, laptops, peripherals, answering machines, test equipment, electric typewriters, medical equipment, televisions, VCR's, stereos, CE, cassette and 8-track players, fax machines, copiers, cell phones, phones and phone systems, communication equipment, pagers and radios. To get your questions answered, please call the Solid Waste Division Office at 273-6632.

Linnett Short
Communication/Administrative Coordinator

NORTH TRIPHAMMER ROAD ANOUNCEMENTS

Spring is just around the corner! Don't miss out on the latest status of the construction on North Triphammer Road. Make sure you're on the Email list to stay abreast of road schedules and more this Spring. Just send a blank Email message to vlansing-subscribe@yahooogroups.com and you won't miss a trick. The list is easy to get on and easy to get off, just like North Triphammer will be.

Larry Fresinski
Deputy Mayor

LANSING RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Spring Sports

Many programs are beginning in the very near future. Player registration forms for the youth LSP softball and youth LBP baseball are due before Monday March 27th. Registration forms are available on our web site

www.recreation.lansing.ny.us and are also available at the Parks & Recreation Office at the Lansing Town Hall.

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. LBP baseball is for all youth attending school who are 12 or younger on August 1, 2006. Participants in the LBP program are divided into 4 leagues typically by grade level and age.

Summer Recreation Programs

These look to be plentiful and will be listed in the booklet that will be ready for distribution around the second week of May. We are currently discussing several new programs. Many of the programs fill very quickly, so be on the look out for the booklet.

Music in the Park Concert Series

We will be having a series of musical concerts in Myers Park this summer. The concerts will be on THURSDAY evenings from 6:30-8:30 PM. The schedule to date looks like this:

- ◆ June 29, 6:30 PM
Sisters The Burns
- The Sisters Burns
- ◆ July 13, 6:30 PM
The Ithaca Concert Band
- ◆ July 13, 6:30 PM
Steve Southworth and the Rockabilly Rays
- ◆ July 20, 6:30 PM
The Ageless Jazz Band
- ◆ July 27, 6:30 PM
New Orleans ALLSTAR Jazz Band
- ◆ August 3, 6:00 PM
Joe Salzano
- ◆ August 10, 6:00 PM
Rubin Everidge and The SanAntones

Admission to the concerts is free but donations are always appreciated. So mark your calendars, bring lawn chairs and blankets, bring snacks or dinner, and plan to join us in the park for music by the lake.

Park Pavilions

The Town of Lansing Parks and Recreation Department is currently accepting reservations for spring/summer pavilion rentals. The Town has eight pavilions available for rental; seven are located at the lake front Town Park in Myers and one is located at the ballfield complex on Auburn Road.

Pavilions will accommodate from 100-250 people, depending on which pavilion is reserved. Rental fee is \$40 per day for smaller pavilions and \$60 per day for the larger pavilions. All pavilions have electric, water and have paved floors. A covered barbecue area is also available at the park in Myers. Reservations are on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information or to request reservation forms, contact Parks and Recreation at 533-7388 or stop in at the Parks & Recreation Office located in the Lansing Town Hall.

Season Boat Launch Permits

Myers Park season boat launching permits are now on sale at the Parks & Recreation Office located in the Lansing Town Hall. Resident rate is \$30; Sr. resident rate is \$20. Non-resident rate is \$50; and Sr. non-resident rate is \$40. A copy of the boat trailer registration is required at time of purchase.

Camping Changes Set For This Season

Advance reservations may be made to secure any sites 1 - 18. Camping reservations may be made by calling the Parks & Recreation Office at 533-7388.

Patrick Tyrell
Recreation Supervisor

ITHACA BREAST CANCER ALLIANCE (IBCA)

On Saturday, April 1st, the Ithaca Breast Cancer Alliance (IBCA) will hold their third annual Spin For Hope fundraiser at Courtside Racquet and Fitness Club to help support people in our area affected by breast cancer. This year, in addition to Courtside, Spin for Hope will be held at a second location, as well. People who are affiliated with Cornell (faculty, staff, or students) may participate in this great fundraising event at Cornell's Helen Newman Hall.

To join the fun on April 1st, participants pay a registration fee of \$10 per hour to spin at either location. In addition everyone is asked to get sponsors -- friends, family members, sorority sisters, and others -- to make a donation to IBCA in the participant's name. Prizes, donated by area stores, restaurants, and salons, will be awarded to those who raise the most money over the course of the day. Last year participants raised over \$4,000 to help support IBCA's free programs and services.

For those who don't know what spinning is all about, it is an indoor, stationary, group cycling activity that is lead by an instructor. During the spinning event, the instructor takes the class through a workout (ride) of about 45 minutes, telling them to sprint, ease up, or add resistance to simulate biking on various terrains and road conditions. On Saturday, April 1st, Courtside and Cornell will donate the space, spinning cycles, instructors, and free passes for the event.

Come get a great workout, check out Courtside or the Cornell Wellness Program and help a great cause at the same time! To register for a time slot at Courtside (between 8 AM and 1:00 PM) or Cornell (between 10 AM and 2:00 PM) call IBCA at 607-277-0960 or visit www.ibca.net and click on "Spin for Hope."

ICBA is also co-sponsoring a luncheon and roundtable discussion entitled "Breast Cancer and African-American Women". How is breast cancer different in women of color? What can we do as a community to improve our outcomes? This will be held on Saturday, April 29th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Fellowship Hall of the Calvary Baptist Church, 507 N. Albany Street. This event is co-sponsored by the Women's Ministry of the Calvary Baptist Church and the Ithaca Breast Cancer Alliance. [Free and open to the public.]

Peggy McKee
Associate Director

NORTH TRIPHAMMER ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

Construction will soon resume on the North Triphammer Road Reconstruction through the Village once the weather improves for good. Last year all of the existing underground and overhead utilities were relocated. Most of the new underground drainage pipes and structures were installed and on the north end of the project the roadway, curbing and

lighting were installed. This year will focus on completing the remainder of the project including the new curbing, roadway, sidewalk, landscaping and lighting. Also to be completed this year will be the installation of northbound dual-left turn lanes at Pyramid Drive which when completed will improve the efficiency of vehicles moving through the busy intersection. Once again, the construction crews will need to restrict traffic in areas to provide areas for construction activities and your attentiveness while driving through the construction zones is appreciated. Thanks to all residents, business owners and users along the road for their patience as we make this significant upgrade of the roadway corridor.

Rich Brauer
Fisher Associates

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 Republican Commissioner Elizabeth Cree at 274-5521 or Democratic Commissioner Stephen DeWitt at 274-5522.

Tom Paolangeli

A STAR OVER LANSING

Last January, The Lansing Star Online presented the Town of Lansing with... The Lansing Star. The publication named a star for Lansing in the URSA Major constellation, also known as the "Big Bear." This places it in the Northern sky near the "Big Dipper" so that residents can easily find their own town's new star.

"This community is filled with inspiring people in it that make you want to do and be better yourself," said Editor Dan Veaner in a prepared presentation. He presented Town Supervisor Steve Farkas and the Town Board with a certificate and star map from the International Star Registry. The certificate notes the name of the star, it's coordinates and the date of registration. The registration date is July 22, 2005 which is "coincidentally the date of the first weekly issue of our newspaper," Veaner said with a smile.

The publication also gave the Town a star map and stack of cards that tell how to find the star in Lansing's night sky. These cards are available at the Village Office, the Town Hall and the Ithaca ScienceCenter. They have also been given to Lansing Elementary School science teachers so kids can find their own town's star while studying astronomy.

A permanent informational Web page is being maintained on the publication's site at <http://www.lansingstar.com/thestar/>. A button has also been placed on each page in the Lansing Star that takes readers to the special page, which has star maps and instructions for finding the Lansing Star in the sky.

Dan Veaner
Editor, The Lansing Star Online

LANSING COMMUNITY LIBRARY CENTER (LCLC)

The Lansing Community Library Center is located at 27 Auburn Road in Lansing and has over 11,000 items to choose from. The hours of operation are

Monday 3-8 PM

Tuesday 9 AM-noon, 6-8 PM
Wednesday 9 AM-noon, 3-8 PM
Thursday 6-8 PM
Friday 9 AM-noon
Saturday 9 AM-1 PM

Children's Story Hour is every Friday from 10-10:30 AM for 2 year olds and 10:30-11:00 AM for 3 years and older.

We will again be hosting The New York State Summer Reading Program this year titled "Books: A Treasure". The summer reading programs are as follows:

Registration begins on Saturday, June 17th at 10 AM during our kick off event when we will host "Merry Mischief" Theatrical Magicians with Wayne and Marilyn Fuller.

Join us for our ending celebration on Saturday, August 26th at 10:00 AM with "Moreland the Magician". Books: A Treasure Magic Show

For more information call the library at 533-4939.

The library is in need of volunteers. If you are able to help out eight or more hours a month, please call the library at 533-4939.

Bobbi Wasenko
LCLC

ITHACA NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES (INHS)

Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services' efforts to promote affordable housing in Tompkins County will get a big boost thanks to the award of a \$614,326 grant from NeighborWorks® America. NeighborWorks® America's grants are used to increase homeownership, produce and manage high quality rental housing, empower consumers through financial literacy education, and stem the tide of foreclosures that threaten neighborhoods and local economies. This is the largest grant that INHS has ever received and is a testament to the confidence that NeighborWork® America has in the effectiveness of INHS' programs.

Paul Mazarella, Executive Director of INHS, says: "Working families with modest incomes are facing enormous challenges in their efforts to find affordable housing in Tompkins County. The cost of both renting and buying a home is higher here than any other place in Central New York and is rising rapidly. High energy costs are compounding this already serious problem. INHS has developed effective solutions to these problems and we're striving to make them available to many more people."

INHS will use these funds to expand its homeowner energy conservation program throughout Tompkins County, participate in the development of the 128-unit Overlook at West Hill rental housing project, and support INHS programs to increase homeownership. The \$614,326 will help to leverage over \$8 million in new investment in affordable housing over the next year.

NeighborWorks®America provides major funding for its national network of 240 community development corporations representing all 50 states and Puerto Rico. INHS has been a member of the NeighborWorks® network of non-profit organizations since 1977 and is a leader in developing innovative solutions to difficult problems. The organizational performance standards for being a member of this network are very high. NeighborWorks® members must continually demonstrate strong planning, sound management, and concrete results in order to qualify for grant awards. The

\$614,326 award to INHS is the second largest grant awarded nationally this year from a pool of over \$21 million.

“Investment in affordable housing and community development represents an engine of economic and social wealth,” said NeighborWorks® America CEO Ken Wade. “Research shows that for every dollar spent on affordable housing, at least \$10 is returned in the form of increased equity to start a new business or pay for higher education, more stable neighborhoods, a stronger property and sales tax base, and an increased supply of quality homes.”

Kristin Hamill
277-4500
Ben Curtis
Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer

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.
- Any one property owner will be eligible for reimbursement of up to two trees in any year.
- Applicants will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Carol Willard
Clerk, part-time

YMCA

The YMCA offers many programs for youth and adults in the community. Some of the many programs are outlined in this article. For more information on these or other programs, call the YMCA at 257-0101 or visit their website at www.ithacaymca.com.

YHealth & Fitness

Workouts are held on Mondays and Fridays at 7:30 AM for adults. Also a Pilates class has been added for Saturday mornings at 10:30 AM. Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10:15 AM is reserved for a Building Strength class. These classes take place in the dance studio, and include stretching, chair exercises, and moderate strengthening routines. If you would rather dance, there are classes on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays at 9:00 AM. If learning fun, choreographed dances with good music sounds appealing, this class is for you! Classes are also offered for Aquasize which provide strength in the water which is gentler on the joints, along with animated social interaction.

Ysports

Weeknight sports are offered for adults who need to relieve stress after a long workday. Adult pick-up basketball continues year round on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6 – 8:00 PM in the college-sized gymnasium.

Also, on Tuesday and Thursday nights, there are 4 levels of racquetball leagues playing. Sessions are on-going throughout

the fall, winter and spring.

YYouth

For the preschool crowd, there is Gym and Swim; Gym and Swim Plus which includes an interactive music or arts and crafts segment; and Creative Dance. These are held on weekday mornings.

For the school-age after-school crew, there is Youth Karate; Jump Team; and Power Kids.

YChild Care

Child Care Programs are offered for school age children. These children have time for swimming, play structure entertainment, homework and quiet time, snacks, sports and the new Youth Enrichment Program offerings at 4:00 PM each day.

Frank Towner
Associate Executive Director

PYRAMID MALL

Upcoming Events

March 29	Job Fair Sponsored by I-100
April 2-9	First Annual Motorcycle Show featuring the first original Orange County chopper made will be on display
April 15	Radio Control Society
April 21-23	Sertoma Antique Show

Be on the lookout for other exciting events this spring. Keep up-to-date with events and new stores by looking at the Pyramid Mall website at www.pyramidithaca.com where valuable coupons can also be found.

Jeanne Hughes