



Newsletter

VILLAGE OF LANSING *Incorporated 1974*

2405 North Triphammer Road * Ithaca, NY 14850 * 257-0424 * (FAX) 257-3230 **OCTOBER 2003**

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Web Page

Address: vlansing.org

A NOTE FROM THE MAYOR

The crispness of fall is with us and with it, the preparations for the coming winter. Most of our roadway repairs are complete along with stripping and last minute pothole repair. The fall brush pickup by our Village crew will take place during late October and I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity. The dates of the pickup and the guidelines appear later in the newsletter.

Negotiations for sewer service for the Village continue with the intermunicipal organization and I continue to be optimistic that we are near the successful conclusion of this five plus year process. Because of the schedule of the environmental impact review process, actual construction of the first step, the Kline Road Bypass Sewer Line, will probably be delayed until spring. In the meantime, the Village will continue its vigorous pursuit of leaks into our sewer collection system with the currency being a 1000 gallon per day leak repaired is worth one sewer unit. Our repairs to our sewer lines in the northeast areas of the Village have resulted in stopping 40,000 gallons per day of ground water from entering the system. This will provide 40 more sewer units which we expect to receive before the end of October.

The design for the reconstruction of North Triphammer Road is progressing well. Since our last newsletter, we have received permission for the New York State Department of Transportation to supplement the project by including the southern portion of the intersection of North Triphammer Road and Pyramid Drive as part of the project. It will feature two dedicated left turn lanes into Pyramid Drive along with an additional south bound lane for access to southbound Route 13. This addition will significantly improve the traffic flow through this important intersection and extend the useful life of the bridge by many years. A more detailed description of this improvement appears later in the newsletter in the article by our engineering design consultants, Fisher Associates.

I look forward to writing the spring article for the newsletter after a mild and pleasant winter of 2003-2004.

Donald Hartill

Mayor

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

The advent of Spring brought increased activity for the Village Planning Board this year. This increase was in the area of subdivision review and also in Special Permits.

Three subdivisions are currently in different stages of the review process. Millcroft Subdivision is located between Craft Road and Bush Lane. It will consist of 49 single family homes when completed. The developer has received preliminary plat approval, with conditions, for 25 units to be built in two phases. Final plat approval should be received shortly and construction of the site should begin this Fall. The Hamlet, part of the Shannon Park Subdivision, has received approval of a sketch plan for the construction of 16 townhouse units. This will bring the total of townhouse units to 24 when completed. The next step is for the developer to submit a preliminary plat. Currently, the Planning Board is working with the developers and the residents of Lansing Trails to prepare a sketch plan for the development of the remaining 37 acres of that subdivision. It is anticipated that an application for the continuation of that cluster subdivision, together with a sketch plan, will be received shortly.

Four Special Permits were also processed during this period. Permit No. 1817 submitted by the Triad Foundation was for the construction of a 4,800 sf office building at 15 Ascot Place in the Guild Commercial Park on Craft Road. The permit was approved and the building is currently under construction. The Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission requested a Special Permit to construct a 7,600 sf addition to their building at 1402 East Shore Drive. The permit for additional space was approved and will be used mostly for offices. New York State Electric and Gas needed a Special Permit to construct an additional driveway for their substation on Substation Alley behind Triphammer Mall. The new driveway was needed to permit the replacement of 7 transformers with 5 larger ones. The driveway

will remain in order to provide access for maintenance. This permit was approved. Cornell Real Estate Department requested a permit to change the use of 1,300 sf of the building currently under construction at 35 Thornwood Drive to accommodate a food service business for the employees of the Business and Technology Park. The business will be a deli service to accommodate employees of the Business and Technology Park exclusively. There will be limited seating, parking and hours of operation. The permit was approved and the dissemination of advertising materials outside the Business & Technology Park is not permitted.

Other activities of the Planning Board during this period included a walking tour of the undeveloped acreage in Lansing Trails by the full Board; a public information session on April 29th regarding population, traffic, and roads in the Village's Northeast area between NYS Route 13 and Bush Lane; the appointment of two Board members as a core committee to work with Trowbridge & Wolf in the development of an Open Space Plan for the Village; and the attendance of two members at a Traffic Calming Seminar in Syracuse.

The Planning Board meets on the second Monday and last Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM and we always adjourn by 10:00 PM. I can be reached at 257-0865 or nedh35@earthlink.net.

Ned Hickey

Planning Board Chairman

TIME WARNER CABLE FRANCHISE FEE

The Village's franchise fee with Time Warner (TW) has been 1% of your cable bill (not Road Runner) for a number of years and has been increased to 3%. This fee is designed to cover the overhead incurred on the Village as a result of having the cable in our right-of-way. It offsets our attorney and code enforcement costs in dealing with TW and ensuring the terms of the new Franchise are being upheld. You should have received notice from TW that the fee increased. Unfortunately, when the new rate was put in place, the percentage ended up being 30% instead of 3%. Of course, this inflated your bill accordingly. You can make an adjustment on your bill or TW will adjust your next bill accordingly if you were one of the 800 families affected by this problem.

Larry Fresinski

Deputy Mayor

LANSING COMMUNITY LIBRARY CENTER (LCLC)

The LCLC is located in the Town of Lansing on Auburn Road (formerly the old Lansing Town Hall). You may borrow books (new releases, large-print, adult fiction, juvenile, etc.), videos, DVDs, and audio books from this library as well as request materials from the downtown library. To find out more about the LCLC, visit the Town of Lansing website at <http://www.lansingtown.com> and click onto the LCLC icon.

September 2003 Statistics

- ❖ 43 volunteers recorded 483 hours
- ❖ 11 individuals used the public computers 32 times for 1577 minutes
- ❖ 19 reading center loans were processed
- ❖ 2076 items were circulated (92.9% from LCLC collection)
- ❖ 28 toddlers and 21 pre-school children participated in story hour
- ❖ 33 new patrons for a total of 1316

New Hours for Oct.

Mon. 9AM-noon; 3PM-9 PM

Tues. 10AM-2PM

Wed. 9AM-noon; 3PM-9PM

Thurs. 6PM-9PM

Fri. 9AM-noon

Sat. 9AM-1PM

Lyle Wadell

Operations Committee Member

ASSESSMENT DEPARTMENT

As part of the Continual Equity Maintenance Program, initiated by the Tompkins County Department of Assessment in 1999, all properties within the Village of Lansing will be re-appraised in order to adjust their assessed value to make it equal to the market value of that property. It is the duty of the Department of Assessment to analyze trends within the real estate market and to adjust assessed values each and every year in order to keep them at 100% fair market value.

As a result of an increase in the real estate market, all properties within the Village of Lansing will be re-appraised from the public right of way. While some properties may receive a substantial increase, some properties may see a little increase or no increase at all. The amount of the change in assessment will depend strictly on how each individual property compares to similar properties that have sold recently within

the Village.

On or around February 1, 2004, the Department of Assessment will mail Preliminary Assessment Change Notices to all property owners whose value has changed since the 2003 Final Assessment Roll. At this time, an individual property owner may make an appointment with the Department of Assessment to present evidence regarding their property's market value if they feel the Preliminary Assessment value is not reflective of the current market value of the property. This information received by the professional appraisal staff of the Department of Assessment will be taken into consideration and if necessary, the property's assessment will be changed in order to reflect the 100% fair market value of that property.

On or around May 1, 2004, the Department of Assessment will mail official Change of Assessment Notices to all property owners whose value has changed since the 2003 Final Assessment.

Property owners are encouraged to call the Department of Assessment at 274-5517 or visit their website at <http://www.tompkins-co.org/assessment/> if they have any questions regarding the Program.

Jay Franklin

Assistant Dir. of Assessment

TOWN OF LANSING RECREATION DEPT.

Are you interested in getting out to exercise or meet new people? If so, you may be interested in programs currently offered by the Town of Lansing Recreation Department. Adult programs are planned and scheduled as follows: Men's Basketball; Women's Basketball and Volleyball; Coed Volleyball; and Senior Open Swim. Dates, times and additional information can be obtained at <http://www.recreation.lansing.ny.us/> or by calling the Recreation Department at 533-7388.

Steve Colt

Recreation Department

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.

TOMPKINS COUNTY SOLID WASTE DIVISION

Computer All Star Program

Computer All Stars is a community based computer reuse and recycling program for area young people. Sponsored by the Ithaca Youth Bureau, this program depends on donations of computer equipment for our young participants to practice and learn on. Participants build their own computer system to take home. They also help to get additional home computer packages ready for families in our community. This program attempts to close the gap created by the digital-divide.

With the help of the Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division, the City of Ithaca and local generosity, we have increased enrollment, secured better quality donations of much needed computer equipment, placed computers in many local homes and taken the All Stars Program in a direction that better serves the local community.

We are currently accepting donations of Pentium 166 or newer computers in good working condition, working computers, monitors and working printers. Volunteers can help with the repair and upgrade process, work with our young participants, or both. Families in Tompkins County requesting a computer for their homes are welcome to apply.

After School Computer Program

During the school year, the Ithaca Youth Bureau also offers a program to Tompkins County residents aged 10-19 on Monday through Thursdays from 2:30 to 5:30 PM. Participants will learn how to repair and up-grade computers and may then build their own to take home. Other computers are built for more families in Tompkins County. Donated computers are diagnosed, repaired and up-graded by swapping hard drives, adding sound cards, video cards or CD-ROM drives, and putting in more memory.

For information, applications, or to make a donation, please contact Marty Schreiber, phone – 273-8364X157, FAX – 273-2817, email – martys@cityofithaca.org.

Linnett Warner

Communication and Administration Coordinator

SEEKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR INTERESTED IN LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES?

Water Resources Council (WRC)

The WRC has vacancies for representatives of the general public (at-large seats), business and industry, municipal government, and environment. Since 1997, the WRC has provided the County Legislature with recommendations and guidance for managing water resources within the County. The WRC membership framework, with representatives from a diverse array of stakeholders interests, makes it uniquely positioned to consider water resources from within the environment and economic contexts. Activities of the WRC include development of a

proposal to assess significant groundwater resources in Tompkins County; re-evaluation of County water resources programs to ensure holistic watershed-base approach; application of grants to achieve local water resources goals; and developing partnerships with local, region, and state agencies and organizations to foster more productive management of local water resources.

Environmental Management Council (EMC)

Since 1971, the EMC has been Tompkins County government's official citizen advisory board on local environmental issues. The EMC is recruiting new members and invites you to apply for a membership on the Council. Our membership is diverse, including citizens with a variety of interests and backgrounds. The common bond is a commitment to the environment and energy to devote.

The primary role of the EMC is to identify problems, propose priorities and promote coordination in the development and management of the County's natural resources. The EMC works on topics based on the environmental needs of the community.

Some recent projects include: Pesticide Neighbor Notification; Energy; Local Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; 2000 Unique Natural Areas Inventory; and Environmental Review of Projects.

Membership in these organizations is open to all residents of Tompkins County and is a great opportunity for citizens to provide input into the decisions that are made about the local environment. For more information about the EMC and/or the WRC, or to receive an application form, please contact the Tompkins County Planning Department at 274-5560, or pick up an application at 121 E. Court Street. The deadline for receipt of the applications is October 24.

Tompkins County Planning Dept.

LANSING OLDER ADULTS PROGRAM (LOAP) NEWS

For LOAP, fall brings a return of our regular programs with our seniors and instructors. We have added a few new programs and kept the favorites. As always, these programs are intended for ALL Lansing seniors and we welcome your participation.

Anita Marinaccio introduces weight training for seniors as a new variation to the Exercise/Stretch Classes that are held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:30 AM at Woodsedge. Bob Dolan leads the Intro to Computer Classes while Jo Dolan teaches Computer Greeting Cards. Noni Krom teaches a Thanksgiving project and will continue with monthly classes. Barbara Hlywa and Elnora Trainer return once again to teach the ever-popular Landscape Art on canvas. Beginners are welcome. Landscape Art meets for 8 consecutive Mondays. These classes are provided for your benefit. Please try to attend. Call the Woodsedge Office at 533-4792 for further details.

Marilyn Paradise
LOAP Consultant

VILLAGE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Fall Brush Pick-Up

The Public Works Dept. will be providing a fall brush and limb pick-up the week of October 27th.

Residents are asked to leave all materials near the roadside by 7:00 AM *Monday* morning. To assist the work crews, all limbs and brush (up to five inches in diameter) should be piled with the cut ends facing the same direction. 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 amount 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.

Christmas Tree Pickup

Christmas trees will be picked up the week of January 12th. All Christmas trees must be near the roadside by 7 AM *Monday* morning as the Highway Department will make *one* pick-up collection around the Village streets and roads.

Dennis Reinhart

Supt. of Public Works

NORTHEAST SENIORS

The Northeast Senior Citizens Unit meets once a month for a dish-to-pass luncheon at St. Catherine of Siena Parish Center on Hanshaw Road. Programs of interest are also held following the luncheon. Membership dues are \$5 per person or \$7 per couple, but if you are over 85, membership is free.

The Northeast Senior Citizens Unit is in need of new people to join and fill key positions. If you are interested, please attend any meeting or contact a current member. Hope to hear from you!

Janet Kline

257-2089

Editor of Northeast Seniors Unit Newsletter

PYRAMID MALL

Come and visit out new stores! Recent additions to our center include Victoria Secret, Subway, and Bon-Ton Home. We have many

upcoming events including:

Upcoming Events

- 10/8 Ithaca/Cortland Job Fair
- 10/14 Salvation Army Kettle Kick-Off, noon
- 10/19-12/7 Share the Wealth (clothing donation)
- 10/21 Mallwide Trick-or-Treating, 5:30-7PM
- 11/28 Santa's Arrival, 10AM
- 12/1-22 SPCA Off-Site Adoption
- 12/7 Breakfast with Santa, 7-9AM

Girl Scout cookie sales will be going on throughout November and be on the lookout for many holiday performances and gift wrapping stations throughout the mall in December.

Keep up to date with events and new stores by looking on the Pyramid Mall website at <http://www.pyramidithaca.com>. Valuable store coupons can also be found on the website.

Angela LaPadula

Marketing Assistant

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 school year? Consider the Learning Web's Volunteer Community Service Project (VCSP) or Career Exploration Program. Funded by the Joint Youth Commission of Tompkins County, the VCSP 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 fall, the VCSP will be offered to Dewitt students and will meet Tuesdays after school at Dewitt from October 14 to December 16. This spring, the VCSP will be offered to Boynton students and will meet once a week after school at Boynton, from early March to mid May. Examples of past VCSP projects include: creating and leading games for the Fall Creek After School Carnival, playing with animals at the SPCA, baking and serving cookies at Loaves and Fishes, playing BINGO with residents at Oak Hill Manor, gardening at the Ithaca Children's Garden, 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 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, 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: sue@learning-web.org for more information.

Sue Schwartz

Youth Works Coordinator

KEEPING INFORMED

Some of the information in this Newsletter has already been sent to residents' E-mail. The Village has a secure method for any resident to E-mail all the members of the E-mail list by E-mailing vlansing@yahoogroups.com. This is not just for Village officers. Suppose you need some information from your neighbors, would like to create a neighborhood association or watch, request help with a project, or find a babysitter, etc. You can use the list. Join the list to receive the information anyone sends. Just send an E-mail message to vlansing-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. No message or subject is required. The amount of traffic on the list has been very small; 1-2 messages per month and no SPAM is allowed. The Village will use this list when the North Triphammer Road reconstruction project begins in the Spring of 2004.

Larry Fresinski

Deputy 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 must be mutually agreed upon by the property owner and a representative of the Village before planting.
- Reimbursement shall take place upon presentation of a receipt from a recognized nursery and approval of the planted tree by a Village

representative.

- Trees may be planted in the fall.
- 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-served basis.

Carol Willard
Clerk, part-time

FLOATING CLASSROOM ON CAYUGA LAKE

The Floating Classroom, a project of the Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization's Education committee, has been having a very successful first season, which will finish at the end of October. So far, there have been 20 trips on the lake, aboard the Haendel, the Floating Classroom vessel. A wide variety of groups have participated in the pilot season, including Wells College, BOCES, Immaculate Conception School, Boynton Middle School, Cornell's CAU camp program, George Jr. Republic, Paleontological Research Institute, and Cornell Cooperative Extension Ag. and Environmental Education staff. Several other school groups are scheduled to sail during October. To date, nearly 220 people have participated in the Floating Classroom, learning many aspects in hands-on activities of our priceless aquatic resources in the Cayuga Lake Watershed.

The Floating Classroom committee has been hard at work for the past two years, under the able direction of Karin Harjes, outgoing Chair. Tasks include: developing the classroom, writing grants for future funding, and exploring possible partnerships with other educational institutions with the idea of making the project a permanent part of the Cayuga Lake experience for local residents and students. Currently, the Floating Classroom is anticipating a portion of a grant being submitted by the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation Office for education and outreach on the issue of storm water management, which will become a feature of the Floating Classroom curriculum, available to all municipalities in Tompkins County.

Lynn Leopold
Floating Classroom Comm. Chair

TIME WARNER CABLE AND ROAD RUNNER

For those Village residents who have both Time Warner Cable and Road Runner services, you may wish to pay them in a single bill. Time Warner has agreed to provide this service. Just call their office at 272-3456 and ask. They will co-terminate the bills making them due on the same day, so there will be a month of adjustment.

Larry Fresinski
Deputy Mayor

HUNTING WITHIN THE VILLAGE

Hunting for deer or small game with a gun is not allowed anywhere in the Village unless the person holds a currently valid license from the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation and is visibly identified as a Wildlife Control Officer. Additional requirements must be adhered to prior to the shoot. On the other hand, bow hunting is allowed in a specific area and with specific guidelines. The area must be located to the west of North Triphammer Road, to the north of Oakcrest Road, to the east of Cayuga Heights Road and NYS Route 34B, and to the south of Burdick Hill Road. Hunting in this area must be approved by the Board of Trustees and is limited to specific regulations: the bow must be "hand powered"; no more than two persons are permitted at any given time; discharge of such bows may occur only during two hours following daybreak and two hours preceding dusk; arrows must be marked with red tape or paint; discharge in the area must not be visible from any public road; vehicles must be parked out of view of the public road; discharge may not occur within 500 feet of any property boundary; and adjacent property owners must be notified of dates and time of discharge.

If you should see illegal activity, notify the Tompkins County Sheriff's Department at 272-2444. State the problem and request they dispatch an officer to the site.

Carol Willard
Clerk, part-time

OFFICE FOR THE AGING

Helping Hands for Seniors in Tompkins County

Project CARE, a program of the Tompkins County Office for the Aging, is currently assisting about 90 seniors in our community. Volunteers are providing companionship, help with errands, light housekeeping or yard work, as well as respite to relieve the heavy burden of caregiving for a caregiver.

The many Project CARE volunteers who give so generously of their time and energy, make it possible for frail, elderly individuals to maintain their independence in their own homes. These volunteers often are part of a host of people who provide services to seniors and sometimes they are the *only* friendly face a senior may encounter in a week's time!

If you are a senior who could use a little help from a volunteer, please call Trina Schickel at the Tompkins County Office for the Aging at

274-5491. If you are a person that is interested in sharing your time and talents with a senior, please call Trina. She will be happy to talk with you about either option.

Trina Schickel
Office for the Aging

REPORT OF COUNTY BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES

Gambling in Tompkins County

Residents of Tompkins County, like those of all other New York counties, are bombarded daily with the news of what the “winning numbers” are. Local radio, TV and newspapers alike report the Pick 3, Win 4, Take 5 and Mega-Millions; convenience stores advertise lotto, bars offer quick draw, etc. These are legalized gambling “games” promoted by New York State, and from which the State derives revenue. The State also licenses casinos and allows “charity” bingo, etc. as a way for churches and other non-profits to make money. We are surrounded by ads and opportunities tempting us all to gamble, including persons who may become addicted to gambling. And on top of all this, betting on sporting events – although not legal in this state – is very common (think office pools).

Where does off-track betting (OTB) on horse races fit in? New York State is home to a large horse-breeding industry and the racetracks in the State as well as the industry itself are regulated by the State. Betting on such races used to be accomplished through neighborhood bookies, local entrepreneurs who ran their businesses to meet local demand. In the early 1970s, New York State decided to regulate off-track betting, too, by establishing regional OTB Corporations. Law and regulations clearly spell out how much of the money bet (“the handle”) goes to support the thoroughbred horse industry, how much to the state and counties, and how much to the winning bettors (currently 85%). Tompkins County was “assigned to the Catskill Region OTB Corporation.

The Tompkins County legislature, after several months of discussion, recently voted to establish OTB in Tompkins County. Our decision is subject to permissive referendum, which means that residents can petition to have the issue voted on at a general election, providing they get the necessary number of signatures within a 45-day time limit. A group of citizens is undertaking such a petitioning effort. This has happened twice before in Tompkins County – 12 years ago, and 12 years before that. Each time, OTB has been voted down. What is different now? Besides the fact that there has been turnover in who lives in Tompkins County and who is on the County legislature, we are now surrounded by a proliferation of types of legalized games of chance. Betting on horses is a fairly specialized form of gambling, requiring familiarity with horses’ past performances, track biases, jockey and trainer skills, etc. With the easy availability of myriad quick ways to gamble, one does not usually find persons not specifically interested in horses using OTB parlors. Attending horse races and going to OTB parlors to watch and ply one’s skill betting is best characterized as a form of recreation.

At present, we know that many Tompkins County residents pursue this form of recreation by traveling to neighboring counties such as Cortland, Cayuga, Tioga and Broome, all of which have OTB facilities – and all of which benefit from the betting revenues provided by Tompkins County residents that would otherwise come to Tompkins County. OTB is the only form of legalized gambling that by law provides revenues to counties. Only New York State benefits from Quick Draw, NYS Lotto (earmarked for education), Pick 10, Take 5, midday and evening Win 4, midday and evening numbers (Pick 3), scratch-off cards with many different “games”, and multi-state MegaMillions – all of which are readily available throughout Tompkins County.

We have been given a conservative estimate that Tompkins County would receive \$200,000 - \$300,000 annually from joining OTB. We do not desire to promote gambling, but rather simply to receive our share of the revenue from the existing Catskill OTB Corporation.

To a great extent, I share the concerns of many residents about the harm that gambling can cause; at best it is a voluntary tax; at worst it may become an addiction – and it may appeal most to those who can afford it least. However, we investigated many allegations about what having an OTB facility might mean – and found no evidence that they attract criminals, that public safety costs go up, etc. We have been told by the Catskill Corporation that they do very little advertising – in contrast to the daily bombardment touting easy games of chance. I have recently, on two occasions, visited the Cortland OTB facility. I did not see young persons there – mainly fewer than two dozen older men, most of whom seemed quite well versed in the details of horse racing. I think persons may be projecting their worries about gambling in general onto off-track betting, which thereby gets a bum rap. Based on the research County staff has done, I believe it appropriate for Tompkins County to join Catskill OTB and receive the existing revenues already generated by some substantial number of our residents.

Dooley Kiefer

District No. 10 Rep.

257-5453

NORTH TRIPHAMMER ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE

The Village is pleased to announce that after working closely with the New York State Department of Transportation that the North Triphammer Road project has been extended to include the widening of the road from the Route 13 Bridge to Pyramid Drive. This section of road carries over 25,000 vehicles a day and experiences traffic congestion on a daily basis. The widening of the roadway between the Route 13 Bridge and Pyramid Drive will include:

- Adding a second northbound exclusive left turn lane.
- Extending the northbound right turn lane.

- Extending the southbound right turn lane.

The widening of the road will help reduce congestion until sometime in the future when the Route 13 Bridge needs to be reconstructed and can be widened. Additionally, the section of the road from the Route 13 Bridge to Sevanna Park Road will be resurfaced.

Engineers are currently updating the preliminary designs and plans for the extended project limits. A final Public Open House prior to final design and construction will be scheduled and announced for sometime in the next two months. Engineers will be on hand at the Open House to answer questions about the project and to obtain public input on the design. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in April of 2004 and be completed by December 2004.

Rich Bauer

Consultant

OPEN SPACE

The Planning Board is interested in investigating ways to preserve some of our shrinking open space in the Village. A committee charged with the task has been working with the firm of Trowbridge and Wolf. In order to take stock of our assets, detailed maps have been prepared indicating the Village's open space under categories such as unique natural area (as marked on the County map), agricultural land, wooded areas, wetlands, points of architectural or historical interest and landmark viewsheds. The maps also indicate our greenway, recreation areas and parks. Other communities have designed new guidelines to protect their open space and guide development. Noteworthy is the town of Pittsford, NY. The committee and Kathryn Wolf will present their maps and their findings on what other communities are doing to preserve their rural character and open space, at the Planning Board's meeting on October 13th.

Maria Stycos

Planning Board Member

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

Continued

The Planning Board will be placing the Vision Statement and Goals and Recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan on the Village of Lansing website on November 1st for public review and comment. Interested residents of the village may send their comments via the Internet to clerkpt@vlansing.org. A public info meeting will be held at the Village Office on Tuesday, November 25th.

Ned Hickey

Planning Board Chairman