



# Newsletter

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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](http://vlansing.org).

**MARCH 2004**

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## **A NOTE FROM THE MAYOR**

It has been a long cold winter again this year. 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 batch 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. Local businesses will also be picking up roadside litter as part of the Adopt-A-Highway program. Another rite of spring is the annual brush pick-up. The dates of the pick-up and the guidelines appear later in the Newsletter and I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity.

We expect to begin construction of the Kline Road Bypass Sewer Line in the Village of Cayuga Heights in early June. We will finance this construction project and then recover the Bond Act portion after the Town of Lansing has completed their process of setting up a sewer district. When this construction is complete in July, there will be no more restrictions on available sewer units for the Village of Lansing. We will of course continue our aggressive pursuit of identifying and repairing leakage into our sewer collector system to limit the load on the sewage treatment plants.

We are well into the budget process for the coming fiscal year. I am happy to report that we do not face the double digit increases in the tax rate that some of our governmental organizations have enacted. The tax rate in the draft budget for the Village is the same as last year's rate of \$1.80 per thousand dollars of assessed value. Because of the increase in assessments last year which are used to calculate this years taxes, the amount collected from property taxes matches inflation for the past year. Over the years, the Village has systematically reduced its reliance on New York State financial aid so that budget reductions in Albany have only minor effects on Village finances.

We are actually about to begin construction on the North Triphammer Road Reconstruction Project. As I mentioned in our fall newsletter, the project was expanded to include the south intersection of North Triphammer road and Pyramid Drive. It has recently expanded again. Working closely with the New York State Department of Transportation, the Village has incorporated into the project an additional right turn lane on the NYS Route 13 southbound off ramp. The future dual right turns onto northbound North Triphammer Road will reduce the delays and the long line of vehicles that currently stack up on the NYS Route 13 off ramp during peak times. The additional time

needed for the design and approval of this project expansion and the previous addition of a second left turn lane from northbound North Triphammer Road to Pyramid Drive will move the project's construction start to this summer. This later start then means that it will require two construction seasons to complete the project.

The first construction activities you will notice this summer will be the relocation of the existing utilities along the corridor. One benefit of extending the construction to two seasons is that the construction activity will be less intensive allowing for better traffic flow through the corridor. The anticipated completion date for all construction is the Fall of 2005. A public open house will be scheduled once a contractor has been designated for the project and a detailed construction sequence has been developed with that contractor. With the expanded project scope and the significant increase in construction costs due to rising gas prices, the estimated project costs have exceeded the original budget. This increase has been partially offset by the Village obtaining an increase of \$600,000 in Federal monies for the project. With this, and the betterments to the project that must be paid for by the Village, the increase in the estimated project cost is below inflation over the period that we have been working on the project. We all look forward to the successful completion of this vital project.

Finally, Village elections are from noon to 9:00 P.M. on April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Station on Oakcrest Road and I encourage you to vote.

Donald Hartill  
Mayor

## **VILLAGE WEB PAGE**

### *Web Page*

Your Village web page is updated several times during the month. If you want to be informed of when changes are made, go to the web page [www.vlansing.org](http://www.vlansing.org), scroll to the bottom, and enter your Email address. You will then receive notification when the page is changed.

If you want to find some information within the Trustee of Board minutes, on the web page itself, or in the Zoning Laws, use the Search box at the top of the page. It will respond with all items on our web page that contain your words.

Larry Fresinski  
Deputy Mayor

## **HELP WANTED**

The Village of Lansing Highway Department of Public Works will soon have an opening for a seasonal general laborer, part-time in the spring with flexible hours, and full-time during the summer. A valid driver's license is necessary. Previous experience and knowledge of equipment preferred. The position pays \$10 per hour. If you are interested, please obtain and fill out an application at the Village Office.

Carol Willard  
Clerk, part-time

## **RECREATION PARTNERSHIP**

The Recreation Partnership and The Ithaca Youth Bureau invite you to SPRING INTO FUN 2004 with new offerings such as Mural Painting & Set Design and the Saturday Skate Sessions. You won't want to miss Mud Art II, The Adventure Continues! We are pleased to announce that in 2003 over 7,000 youth participated in programs sponsored by the Recreation Partnership, with three hundred eighty-three (383) participants from the Village of Lansing.

This coming year the Recreation Partnership and the Ithaca Youth Bureau will be faced with cut backs in funding due to the very difficult budget times. It is our goal to try to maintain as many programs as possible and to keep these programs affordable. You can help us with this difficult task by letting your Village representatives know what these programs mean to you and your family.

The Recreation Partnership celebrates their 10<sup>th</sup> year in 2004. With eleven municipalities, this unique alliance is one of the largest in the nation. Congratulations!

To find out more about the programs being offered this spring, contact the Ithaca Youth Bureau at 273-8364 or <http://www.cityofithaca.org/>.

Janet Beebe  
Trustee

## **PLANNING BOARD NEWS**

The Planning Board had a slight reduction in its activities during the winter which, hopefully, are behind us. Subdivisions and Special Permits continue to be the major topics on our agenda. An application for the subdivision of the Dart property north of Dart Drive, which created one lot of 5+ acres out of the 37 acres, was approved. Jim and Nancy Ross were granted a Special Permit to build a residence on the smaller parcel. A Special Permit was required because the building site was within 200 ft. of the centerline of a stream located in the Conservation Combining District. The Planning Board also approved a preliminary plat for the Hamlet which is located in Shannon Park. This plat will add 16 townhouses to the Hamlet area which currently includes the 8 townhouses approved back in the late 1980's. The Planning Board must still approve the final plat and forward the application to the Board of Trustees for final approval as part of the original Shannon Park Planned Development Area. A sketch plan has been received for a seven unit subdivision off of Bush Lane. This proposed subdivision is west of and adjacent to the recently approved Millcroft Subdivision which also fronts on Bush Lane. A new sketch plan for the Lansing Trails II Subdivision is anticipated in March following several work sessions with the developer, recommendations from the Planning Board, and input from neighbors and other members of the public. The major focus of the sketch plan will be its road design, traffic calming measures and required open space. The Planning Board plans to conduct a Public Information Session as part of the upcoming Lansing Trails II sketch plan review, with formal Public Hearings to follow as part of the preliminary and final subdivision review procedures. One additional Special Permit was approved for Kraig and Dolores Adler to build their new residence at 17 Cayuga Hills Rd. A Special Permit was required because the residence will be in an environmentally sensitive area and a Unique Natural Area. A subcommittee of the Planning Board is continuing to develop a Village Open Space Plan along with Trowbridge & Wolf consultants. Completion of the plan should be early this spring and a public information session will be held to review its findings and recommendations. On February 24<sup>th</sup>, a workshop was conducted by representatives of the L.E.A.P.E. Program (Locally Led Education and Action for Protecting the Environment) for Village Trustees, Planning Board Members, Superintendent of Public Works and concerned residents. The program focused on watershed management and non point source pollution control using a variety of resources to learn about watershed management and specific issues of non point source pollution. The Planning Board has also begun to evaluate the procedures it uses to review both special permit and subdivision applications. Under the guidance of the Village Attorney, the evaluation will focus on comparing and coordinating the current requirements provided for in the Village's local laws with applicable New York State statutory requirements, largely in an effort to simplify review procedures and timetables. The review will also allow the Planning Board to include, where appropriate, a public information session earlier in the Special Permit and subdivision review process. The Planning Board meets at 7:30 P.M. on the second Monday and the last Tuesday

of the month at the Village Office. The public is welcome to attend.

Ned Hickey  
Planning Board Chairman

### **LANSING COMMUNITY LIBRARY CENTER (LCLC)**

The Lansing Community Library Center at 27 Auburn Road in Lansing (a reading room of the Tompkins County Public Library, [TCPL]) will be celebrating their third anniversary this coming July. We have experienced much growth in the past three years and would like to thank our community members for their continued support. The library has a permanent collection of over 8,000 items. We have a rotating collection of picture books, books on tape, and large print books from the TCPL. LCLC can order books from the TCPL or the Finger Lakes Library. All such books are delivered to the LCLC on Tuesdays. Books taken out of TCPL can be returned at LCLC. They are returned to TCPL via courier on Tuesdays.

We have two public access computers with Road Runner high-speed Internet access. The LCLC will gratefully accept donations of audio books, DVDs, magazines (current issues) and videos. Unfortunately, we are not able to accept encyclopedias, Harlequin romance novels, Reader's Digest Condensed books and textbooks. We ask that you do not donate books that are torn, moldy, damaged, or have mildew.

This summer, we will be hosting the New York State Summer Reading Program "New York, Read, White and Blue". The kick-off program for the reading program will be on June 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M. with Beauty and the Beast Storytellers. The closing program will be on August 14<sup>th</sup> with singer and songwriter Tom Sieling. These programs are free and open to the public. (These programs are made possible in part with public funds from the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County/NYS Council on the Arts Decentralization Program.) This coming summer will see the continuation of the summer read-aloud for K-4<sup>th</sup> graders. The read-aloud will be led by Lansing teachers and librarians and will start on July 11<sup>th</sup>. It will occur regularly on Fridays at 11:30 A.M. during the months of July/August.

Our current hours of operation are Mondays 3:00-8:00 P.M., Tuesdays 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M., Wednesdays 3:00-8:00 P.M., Thursdays 6:00-8:00 P.M., Fridays 9:00 A.M.-noon, Saturdays 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Hours are subject to change. If the flag is out, we are open. Volunteers are always welcome. Please call the Library at 533-4939 for more information.

Bobbi Wasenko  
LCLC

### **YMCA**

New youth and fitness programs are currently being offered at the YMCA of Ithaca and Tompkins County. Registrations are being taken at the front desk for:

#### *Movement and Music*

Thursdays, 10:30-11:00 A.M.

Ages 18 months-3 years

Parents and children together experience movement to a variety of music types through various methods. Songs, dance and rhythm will be introduced.

#### *Gym & Swim*

Wednesdays, 10:15-11:00 A.M.

Ages 3-5 years

Children spend 45 minutes romping and playing activities in the gymnasium, followed by a ½ hour swim lesson.

### *Paint & Play*

Thursdays, 11:30-12:15 P.M.

Ages 3-5 years

Explore creativity through different media. Focusing on the process, not the end product. Class concludes expending energy in the Stay & Play room.

### *Floor Hockey*

Saturdays, 12:30-1:30 P.M.

Ages 4-8 years

Floor hockey is offered as a non-competitive, developmental program played in the gymnasium. Participants work on skills through drills and fun games.

### *Tai Chi*

Thursdays, 11:15-12:15 P.M.

Teenage through adult

A gentle mindful form of exercise that involves range of motion through flowing movements that stem from the core.

Frank Towner  
YMCA 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

## **OLD MAN WINTER'S GIFT TO SENIORS**

Sidewalks covered with ice and drifting snow makes life challenging, even for those who are young and able. For seniors in our community, winter can be long and difficult. Getting out of the house is sometimes impossible because of weather conditions. These are the times when many seniors would welcome a visit from a friendly volunteer.

**Project CARE**, an initiative of the Tompkins County Office for the Aging, seeks to match homebound seniors and their caregivers in our community. Volunteer may provide respite for a stressed caregiver or perhaps some help for a senior with some household chores or errands. Often seniors simply enjoy a friendly visit from a volunteer!

Volunteers are asked to visit once a week for about an hour or two. If you would like to share your time with a senior, call Trina Schickel at the Tompkins County Office for the Aging at 274-5491 for more information.

Trina Schickel  
Office for the Aging

## **LANSING OLDER ADULTS PROGRAM (LOAP) NEWS**

Spring is in the air for the Lansing Older Adults Program. We are pleased to announce some of our spring programs

and events and invite you to participate in them. Ceramic classes, led by Noni Krom, meet twice a month at Woodsedge. The class works on various ceramic projects according to the season. Exercise classes continue on Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 A.M. with Anita Marinaccio or Dolores Collins. This class is a great way to stretch and shape up for spring. The Spring Decorative Art Classes begin on Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup> with Elnora Hoaglin and Barbara Hlywa. These classes are the favorites of many and beginners are welcome. For more details, call Woodsedge at 533-4792.

The Annual LOAP Spring Banquet will be held on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Lansing United Methodist Church. A roast pork dinner will be served at noon and entertainment will be provided. Our honorees this year include Gladys Sweazy, Bob Baker, Connie Conlon and Bob Strum. Please join us as we gather for lunch to see friends and honor folks for their contributions to the Lansing community. Please call Betty Fedorka, Banquet Chair, at 533-7508 to make a reservation. It is LOAP's mission to provide programs of need and interest and to serve Lansing seniors.

Marilyn Paradise  
LOAP Consultant

## **VILLAGE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

### *Spring Brush Pick-Up*

The Public Works Dept. will be providing a spring brush and limb pick-up the week of May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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.

Dennis Reinhart  
Supt. of Public Works

## **PYRAMID MALL**

### *Calendar of Events*

#### April

3 9-11 AM Breakfast with Easter Bunny , \$.99 for Breakfast from Wendy's, Café Square

11 Mall closed

17 10 AM-6PM Ithaca Radio Control Society Show

23-25 Sertoma Antique Show, mallwide

#### May

1-2 Abate of NY, Motorcycle Awareness Table, Café Square

3-16 Ithaca High School Art Show, mallwide

26 10 AM-2PM Senior Health & Fitness Day, mallwide

#### June

6 Southern Tier Iris Show, Café Square

9 Ithaca/Cortland Job Fair, mallwide, sponsored by Citadel Communications

Angela LaPadula  
Marketing Assistant

## **LEARNING WEB'S YOUTH PROGRAMS**

*Youth Serve Community and Pursue Their Interests at The Learning Web!*

The Learning Web is pleased to offer the Volunteer Community Service Project (The VCSP) to Boynton Middle School sixth, seventh and eighth graders this spring semester of 2004. Funded by the Joint Youth Commission of Tompkins County, the group offers youth from the Town of Ithaca, the Village of Cayuga Heights, and the Village of Lansing the opportunity to participate in volunteer projects to benefit their community. The VCSP will meet at Boynton on Wednesdays after school from March through May. Service projects are determined by the youth's input.

Youth learn teamwork and leadership skills as well as increasing their awareness of issues facing the community and the world.

In the past, Boynton's VCSPers have done a variety of fun projects, including caring for animals at the Cortland SPCA, baking cookies for Loaves and Fishes, leading games at the Fall Creek After School Carnival, bowling with youth with developmental disabilities, renovating trails along Six Mile Creek, and more.

In addition, The Learning Web is pleased to continue offering career exploration activities including tours, job shadowing, and paid and unpaid apprenticeships under the one-to-one guidance of adult mentors to all youth ages 11-21.

Apprentices, guided by individually tailored learning agreements, regularly meet with their work-site mentors after school, approximately 3-12 hours a week. At-risk and economically disadvantaged youth may be eligible for paid apprenticeships. Youth have apprenticed in areas as varied as veterinary medicine, bike repair, plant science and ceramics. Interested students or parents should call Sue Schwartz at The Learning Web at 275-0122 or email Sue at [sue@learning-web.org](mailto:sue@learning-web.org). Interested students at Ithaca High School can also contact Sue during her office hours on Friday mornings between 11:00 and 1:45 in room H105.

Sue Schwartz  
Youth Works Coordinator

## **ELECTIONS**

Upcoming Village elections are scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup>. There are two Trustees positions open. These positions are currently held by Janet Beebe and Franklin Moore. Unfortunately, Janet Beebe will not be seeking re-election. The polls are open from noon to 9:00 P.M. at Fire Station No. 5 on Oakcrest Road and ALL Village registered voters will cast their ballots at the same location.

Carol Willard  
Clerk, part-time

## **TOMPKINS COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

*Community Invited to Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan Open House*

Tompkins County is in the process of developing a comprehensive plan. The Comprehensive Plan will help guide the County in decisions that influence development, involve inter-governmental participation, and affect the quality of life in neighborhoods and communities. It will provide a framework to address community goals in a proactive and coordinated manner.

Community participation is a vital component of this process. Public meetings and Open Houses will be held throughout the County during April and May. The Comprehensive Plan Open House in Lansing will be held on Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 3:00-7:00 P.M. in the Lansing Town Hall. This is an opportunity for the public to review the preliminary draft of the plan, view key maps and information, and discuss the plan in an informal setting with planning department staff. Following the Open House, there will be a public meeting at 7:00 P.M. A second public meeting will be held at the Village Office on Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M. These meeting, which will include a brief presentation on the plan, are designed to give the general public, as well as municipal board members, an opportunity to comment on the plan and contribute ideas for the final draft.

To find out more about other meeting dates, or for more information on the plan, please visit the website of Tompkins County Planning Department at <http://www.tompkins-co.org/planning/compplan>.

Crystal Buck  
Planner

## 2004 WATER RATE CHANGE

Water Billed In	Rate
2004	2.713/1,000 gallons
2003	2.381/1,000 gallons

The 2004 water rate represents a 13.94 percent increase over 2003 rates. The largest increases that affected the rate change are increased costs for personnel salaries, electricity, natural gas, insurance, and payments to the NY State Retirement System. It should be noted that the 2003 water rate was the lowest rate charged in 25 years. The 2004 rate simply returns us to the rate that was charged in 1999.

For further information you can check out the detailed Village of Lansing rate listed at <http://www.boltonpoint.org/Billing/VLbill.htm>.

Larry Parlett  
Bolton Point

## STREET TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

The Street Tree Planing 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.

- 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

## **TOWN OF LANSING RECREATION DEPT.**

### *Park Pavilions*

The Town of Lansing Parks and Recreation Department is currently accepting reservations for spring/summer pavilion rentals. The Town has 8 pavilions available for rental; 7 are located at the lake front Town Park in Myers and 1 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 \$35 per day for smaller pavilions and \$55 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 served basis. For more information or to request reservation forms, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 533-7388 or stop in their office at the Town Hall, 29 Auburn Road, Lansing.

### *Music in the Park*

Bring your dinner, coolers and lawn chairs and enjoy pleasant Thursday evenings on the lake at Myers Park listening to some great bands.

The schedule will include:

July 1, 6:30 P.M.

Backtalk

(Motown, Jazz, Rhythm & Blues, Rock 'n Roll)

July 8, 6:30 P.M.

Cornerstone

(Bluegrass)

July 15; 6:30 P.M.

Ruben Everidge and the San Antones

July 22; 6:30 P.M.

The Ageless Jazz Band

(Big Band Music)

July 29; 6:30 P.M.

The Ithaca Concert Band

August 5, 6:00 P.M.

Steve Southworth and the Rockabilly Rays

August 12; 6:00 P.M.

Sons of Pitches  
(A Capella Sensation)  
bad weather date is August 13

Admission is free but donations are always appreciated. Go out, relax, and enjoy Thursday evenings this summer with neighbors and friends.

Steve Colt  
Recreation Department