

Village of Lansing

Newsletter

VILLAGE OF LANSING *Incorporated 1974*

2405 North Triphammer Road * Ithaca, NY 14850 * 257-0424 * (FAX) 257-3230 **APRIL 1999**

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

A SHORT NOTE FROM THE MAYOR

Audrey Kahin has been a Trustee since shortly after I became Mayor three years ago and has done an outstanding job looking after our Seniors program and overseeing our environmental concerns, especially Greenway issues. Because of a strong deadline on completion of her book on Southeast Asia, she resigned from the Board in early February so that she could travel to Southeast Asia to complete the final research for the book. We will miss her. Lynn Leopold has agreed to join the Board and is already working hard to complete Audrey's term which ends at the end of April.

At our meeting on March 15, the Board approved our preliminary budget and set the public hearing for the budget for 7:35 P.M. at the Village Board meeting on April 5. The budget anticipates completion of the Sheraton Drive sidewalk project, completion of the Uptown Road reconstruction, getting started on the North Triphammer Road reconstruction project and the Kline Road bypass which is the initial portion of the Regional Sewer Initiative. Pending agreement between all participants in this Initiative, we will finally have sewer permits. The budget calls for a 2% tax rate increase which is lower than inflation.

I would like to remind our residents of the upcoming Village Election on April 27. The Mayor's position and two Trustee positions are up for election. The polls are open from noon to 9:00 P.M. at Fire Station No. 5 on Oakcrest Road and ALL Village residents will cast their ballot at this site. I hope to see you at the polls.

Donald Hartill
Mayor

SENIOR QUESTIONNAIRE

Last November, the Village mailed 162 questionnaires to senior citizens in the Village to assess their needs. 64 people took the time to respond, with mobility their major concern. 54 individuals were drivers and 26 walked. Nevertheless, 25 expressed difficulty with transportation and many complained of inadequate pedestrian access and excessive traffic. They also found the buses too infrequent and bus stops too distant to be useful.

One third of the respondents were interested in subsidized activity at the Y and an equal number welcomed organized trips, although very few people indicated where they would like to be taken. Last summer, the Village tried to organize an outing to Taughannock Park for concerts as part of the services provided by the Intermunicipal Recreation Partnership but received very few responses. Seniors who would enjoy a trip to a distant mall this spring should please call Sorel at 272-3910 to indicate their interest.

Audrey Kahin
Sorel Gottfried

NOTARY SERVICES

Notary public services are available free of charge to Village residents at the Village Office.

VILLAGE COMMUNICATION

Village information, including this Newsletter and agendas for the Board of Trustee's meetings, can be obtained on our web page at <<http://www.clarityconnect.com/webpages/vlansing>>.

The Village is also accessible through E-mail at Vlansing@clarityconnect.com.

BOLTON POINT NEWS

In 1999, the Commission of Bolton Point will tend to our day-to-day responsibilities and make significant progress with some challenging tasks.

A 1970's era Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system (a collection of gauges, dials, recorders, switches, alarms, lights and circuitry) will be replaced in a phased project. The first phase is underway and is expected to be completed by spring 1999.

We have addressed our Y2K Challenge since mid-1998. We are confident that we will meet this challenge successfully. Look for our press release before summer.

Since 1996, our five municipalities, the City, and Cornell have studied and discussed integrating the three water systems. Integration will result in a reliable and redundant water supply system that will benefit all entities for the next fifty years. The cost to the consumer is expected to remain reasonable and significantly lower over the long-term than any "go-it-alone" alternative. Completion of a three-year integration plan is expected to begin by summer 1999.

A Consumer Confidence Report, as required by NYS, will be completed this year similar to the format that appeared in the Ithaca Journal on March 28, 1998 (a full-page notice). Beginning in 1999, a Consumer Confidence Report that meets the requirements of the USEPA is also required.

A Risk Management Plan is required due to our use of chlorine gas for disinfection. It will investigate the possible risks to our community of operating our gas chlorine feed system. The risk management plan is scheduled to be in place by the June 21, 1999 deadline.

New Chemical Bulk Storage regulations govern the delivery, storage and use of liquid chlorine, alum and caustic soda used in our water treatment process. Full compliance with these regulations is expected by the year-end deadline.

If you desire more information or have a question or concern, please contact us at 277-0660.

Kevin Kauffman, Exec. Dir.
Bolton Point

FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

Most people have some concerns about what will happen on Jan. 1, 2000 because of the publicity surrounding the Y2K problem. Will our fire trucks start? Will our fire fighting equipment work? Will our emergency medical equipment

function? Can we run the district and the department when the year 2000 arrives?

The answer to all these questions is YES. Our equipment has been checked out, especially the embedded computer systems that are coming on some new equipment. Our computer software has been upgraded to handle the year 2000 and the computer hardware upgrade will be completed by the time you read this newsletter. We had to upgrade our computer hardware because it wouldn't run the newer Y2K compatible software.

The Lansing Fire District is installing an emergency power generator at the Central Fire Station on Ridge Road. This emergency power generator will provide electric power to maintain our main building, fire equipment, radios, heat and light for those times when the regular power is interrupted. The generator is powered by natural gas and is quickly convertible to propane if natural gas service should fail. The main purpose for installing this emergency generator is the potential for a devastating ice storm or other natural disaster that would leave Lansing without power and without any emergency shelter that can be kept warm in cold weather. It will also be of assistance in the event that the experts are wrong and we don't have electric power on Jan. 1, 2000.

Also, if you would like to review the Lansing Fire District Financial Report dated December 31, 1998 it is on file at the Village Office.

If you have any questions about these issues or the Lansing Fire District in general, remember that our Board of Fire Commissioners meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Central Fire Station on Ridge Road at 7:30 P.M. and the public is welcome to attend.

George J. Gesslein
Fire Commissioner

GERIATRIC SERVICES

Cayuga Medical Center is pleased to announce that on March 1 they will begin offering outpatient Geriatric Psychiatry services at the Convenient Care Center location on Warren Road. The program will include individual and group counseling for seniors who are having difficulty dealing with many of the transitions and changes that occur as a part of the aging process. The purpose of the program is to offer support services for the many older adults in our community who are dealing with normal life transitions that often result in loss and grief.

Karen Miller, M.D. Cayuga Medical Center's Psychiatrist and Tina Gohar, a certified social worker who specializes in working with seniors, will coordinate the program. Referrals for outpatient psychiatric services can come from the primary care physician, family, friends, or from the patient themselves.

For more information, please contact Tina Gohar at 274-4011.

Susan Hassett, V.P.
Cayuga Medical Center

LANSING OLDER ADULTS PROGRAM (LOAP)

LOAP was pleased to learn that it has been awarded a 1999 New York State Decentralization Grant through the Tompkins County Community Arts Partnership. This grant supports the Creative Arts Workshops that LOAP will offer again this year. In March, a computer awareness course entitled "Where to Find the On Button" was taught by JoAnn Mancini at the Lansing High School. In April, Barbara Hlywa and Elnora Hoaglin will begin art classes at Woodsedge. The starting dates will be announced in the LOAP April newsletter.

The Annual Spring Banquet will be held on Saturday, May 1 at the Lansing United Methodist Church for all Lansing seniors. We will enjoy the entertainment of the Cayuga Chimes. Betty Fedorka will be taking reservations and you may call her at 533-7508.

A special thank you to Marian Thompson as LOAP's dedicated Bus Dispatcher and the many devoted drivers who enable our seniors to reach their destinations. We welcome Clara Andrews to our list of drivers and thank her for joining our forces. Also Cindy Wright (daughter-in-law of Iva Wright at Woodsedge) for offering to help with one-day trips. We will keep you posted to where the van is going!

Marilyn Paradise
LOAP Consultant

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Town of Lansing will be providing brush and limb pick-up in the Village the week of May 3rd.

Residents are asked to leave all materials near the roadside by 6:00 A.M. on Monday, May 3. To assist the work crews, all limbs and brush (up to six 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. Each household is limited to approximately one pick-up size load. Proper disposal of large amounts from major brush clearing projects is through a tree service or landscaper. Leaves and trash in bags will not be picked up.

Dennis Reinhart
Super. Of Public Works

REPORT FROM STATE POLICE

At the April 6, 1998 Board meeting Joe Vitale, Sergeant from the State Police came to discuss what the State Police are doing in our area and to find out Village concerns. He stated there are 24 Troopers, 6 Sergeants and 4 investigators. There were three main things which he wanted to discuss with the Board of Trustees:

1. Community Policing Program

The main focus is on the malls. The Federal government gave the NYS Police a \$4 million grant to be used state wide to computerize, which frees up the Troopers from all the paperwork so that they could do "old time police work". The main thing they are trying to do is to get out in the community, provide individual contact, and find out what our community needs. In December, they opened an office at the Pyramid Mall so that they don't have to drive offenders all the way to Dryden for processing. Most larceny in the County is in Lansing due to all of the shoplifting in the shopping areas. The State Police are also focusing on the Village of Lansing because the Village does not have its own police force.

2. Local Law # 3

This law allows the State Police to run radar and prosecute people going over the 20 M.P.H. speed limit on the mall properties. The Malls that have requested coverage so far are Lansing Village Place, Triphammer Mall and the Pyramid Mall.

3. 911 Service

911 Service started on August 1, 1997. This allows the closest local police, Sheriff or State Trooper car to respond. It is working very well.

Joe Vitale stated that the State Troopers give out 500-600 tickets a month in Tompkins County. The Sheriff can loan a Speed Checker Device to the State Troopers and the Village could call to arrange to have it located somewhere in the Village. A follow-up return by Mr. Vitale will be forthcoming.

Audrey Kahin
Former Trustee

TOWN OF LANSING RECREATION DEPT.

The Town of Lansing Parks and Recreation Department is currently accepting reservations for pavilion rentals. The town has 6 pavilions available for rental; 5 are located at the Town Park in Myers and 1 is located at the ball fields on Auburn Road.

Pavilions will accommodate from 100 - 250 people, depending on which pavilion is reserved. Rental fee is \$30 per day for smaller pavilions and \$50 per day for the larger pavilions. A covered barbeque 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 the Parks and Recreation Department at 533-7388 or stop in their office at the Town Hall, 29 Auburn Road.

Summer recreation programs are currently being planned. Lansing Youth Services has planned a summer filled with programs to help students (ages 10 - 14) explore different career opportunities and adventures. There will be plenty of field trips, workshops and lots of hand-on activities. Further details and forms for these programs, as well as other programs and camps, will be available at the Village Office.

Beverly French
Recreation Department

THE LEARNING WEB

The Learning Web will be offering its Volunteer Community Service Project (VCSP) to DeWitt Middle School seventh and eighth graders this spring semester. 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 group will meet after school at DeWitt on Thursdays from March to June.

Some examples of last year's DeWitt VCSP projects include: holding a school dance as a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity and the local Red Cross Emergency Shelter; playing Bingo with residents of the Reconstruction Home; seasonal cleaning at the Farm Sanctuary; and more.

Interested students or parents should call Jen Johnson at the Learning Web at 275-0122 for more information.

Jen Johnson
Youth Works Coordinator

HOMEBUYER'S CLASS

The Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services (INHS) is offering a seminar for first time homebuyers in the Ithaca area. The course will teach you:

- How the home buying process works
- How to assess and enhance your credit worthiness
- Where to find special financing

to make your monthly housing payments lower

- Where and how to find a beautiful and affordable home

The next course will be a 4 hour seminar at BOCES on Saturday, May 1 from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. The cost is \$36. For further information and registration, please call INHS at 277-4500.

Ann DiPetta
Homebuyer Edu. Coordinator
INHS

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

The Planning Board took up their work in 1999 with several important items that carried over from the work program of the previous year.

The Board continued to consider a proposal by Bill Cooke Imports that they be allowed to join the Planned Sign Area (PSA) of Bishop's Small Mall. The purpose of a PSA is that it is coordinated to cover an entire area, in this case the contiguous area occupied by Bishop's Small Mall and Bill Cooke Imports.

The plan must result in a more desirable environment than would be possible through the strict application of the other articles of the Sign Law, including aspects of public safety, coordinated identification, easy and pleasant communication to customers, clients and other users of goods and services offered within the PSA.

The inclusion of Bill Cooke Imports

into the PSA covering Bishop's Small Mall would accomplish an overall aesthetic improvement to the area which would be to the Village's advantage. It would also satisfy the intent of the PSA provisions of the Sign Law.

Mr. Cooke, in addition to the visual improvements made to his buildings, offered a landscape plan which made his property more compatible with the landscaping already approved for Bishops PSA.

In addition, as part of his contribution to the PSA, Mr. Cooke agreed to remove a very large freestanding sign, which would greatly improve the visual impact of the whole area.

The Planning Board also coordinated the preliminary work for the new Green Space Advisory Council, which, when fully operational, will advise the Planning Board on matters pertaining to improvement and preservation of the environmental quality within the village.

This would include, although not limited to: acquiring and maintaining open space, parks and recreation areas; planting and landscaping in buffer zones and along the roadsides in commercial and residential districts; the maintenance of village walkways and bikeways; and matters concerned with the implementation of the Village's Greenway Plan.

The Planning Board developed an application and a covering letter, which was signed by our Mayor and was sent to appropriate applicants. To date, we have received several promising candidates who are presently being evaluated by the Planning Board, prior to being recommended to the Mayor and the Board of Trustees. We need additional candidates

and the Planning Board strongly urges any Village resident who would be interested in serving on this most important Council to contact the Village Office at 257-0424 and speak to Mrs. Jodi Dake, our Village Clerk/Treasurer.

The Planning Board also assisted the Mayor and the Board of Trustees with the finalization of the Village of Lansing's new Comprehensive Plan, something all Village officials have been working on for over a year.

A Public Hearing was held on the Comprehensive Plan on Dec. 7 and was attended by a large group of Village residents. Comments on the plan, both pro and con were collected and reviewed by the Planning Board. Most of the input of the public as expressed at the Public Hearing was incorporated.

As of this date, the Plan is being finalized and most of the work now concerns editorial and stylistic changes. The final document approved by the Mayor and the Board of Trustees should be available for the public by March 15. The public is urged to stop by the Village Office and examine the reference copy.

Finally, in anticipation of the changes that will be made to upgrade and improve that portion of North Triphammer Road which runs through the commercial district in the village (when approved Federal highway funds are released), the Planning Board is looking into the possibility of finding funds to hire a Planning Consultant. This consultant will make suggestions that the Planning Board could consider under our present Zoning Law, to improve the lifestyle and safety of its residents and those who come to visit us on a daily basis.

The Planning Board meets the second Monday and last Tuesday of each month at the Sylvia Smith Conference Room in the Village Office at 2405 North Triphammer Road. Meetings start at 7:30 P.M. and the public is invited to attend and participate.

Steven Halevy
Acting Chairman

Comments to: Vlansing@ClarityConnect.com
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