



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.

<http://people.clarityconnect.com/webpages/vlansing>

Vlansing@clarityconnect.com

**OCTOBER
2000**

A BRIEF NOTE FROM THE MAYOR

Summer is over and hopefully our road reconstruction activities will be completed soon and with them a much better traffic flow in the affected areas. I would like to thank the residents in the areas involved for their patience throughout this period. We will be reconstructing or resurfacing about a half mile of roadway in the Village every year for the foreseeable future and we work very hard with the contractors to minimize the inconvenience to our residents and our visitors to the Village.

Our other infrastructure systems also are undergoing continuous maintenance and improvement. At the moment, the Village has no more sewer units available and the earliest that units would be available from the pending intermunicipal agreement is about one year from now. In the interim, our only possibility is to make further progress on reducing ground water and storm water infiltration into our sanitary sewer system. The exchange rate is three to one which translated into for every one thousand gallons per day reduction during wet periods, one sewer unit could be made available. We will be working very hard on this problem.

Speaking of infra-structure matters, I would like to remind our residents that they should review their insurance coverage to make sure that they are covered against damage that occurs due to water leaks, sewer backups, power-line failures, or the like. The Village's own liability insurance covering damage due to mishaps involving its systems comes into play only in the event of actual negligence. Unfortunately, individual homeowner's policies do not cover such hazards either, except by added endorsement. This added endorsement is available from most carriers at an annual cost of approximately \$25 and is usually limited to about \$5000. Many premium homeowner policies already contain this endorsement.

Progress continues on combining the Bolton Point, Cornell and City of Ithaca water systems into a single unit which will provide water at lower cost to the present customers of the three systems. I expect that the intermunicipal agreement will be in place by late fall. We are making good progress on a similar joint sewer system that will provide increased capacity to the Village and the Town of Lansing and improve the phosphorous removal capability of the Cayuga Heights and Ithaca Waste Water Treatment Plants. 7.5M\$ of State Funding has already been granted for this important project and we are applying for an additional 6.4M\$ of State Funding in the next few weeks. We should have an agreement in place before the end of 2000. The North Triphammer Road reconstruction project is still on track for a construction start in 2001. As drivers on North Triphammer Road may have noticed, new large poles are being placed to support five new traffic lights which will be fully synchronized and will include dedicated left turn arrows. They will be operational in early November and should ease traffic flow considerably. One of these lights will replace the four way stop at Graham Road.

On a sad note, the Village has lost two good friends since my last note to you. Nancy Bent passed away suddenly in the spring. Nancy was a very strong supporter of the Village and quietly and efficiently made the Village a much better place to live. Recently, Rita Smidt passed away after a brief illness. Rita probably more than anyone else was responsible for the formation of the Village. Although she never held office in the Village, she was the force that kept us going. Even during her illness, she wrote to the Board of Trustees expressing her concerns on traffic in the Village. We will miss both Nancy and Rita a great deal.

Donald Hartill
Mayor

NOTES FROM THE CLERK TREASURER

Taxes

Just a reminder that if you haven't paid your Village Taxes yet, they can still be paid in the Village Office until November 1st. After this date the taxes get turned over to the County. Seniors remember that if you qualify for a senior citizen exemption, you must reapply every year. Tompkins County Assessment Department sends applications to those that already claim the senior exemption at the end of December every year. Remember to return them to the T.C. Assessment Department by March 1st. If you are a veteran you may also be eligible for the veterans exemption on your Village Taxes. If you have your DD214 (discharge papers) you can register at the T.C. Assessment Department. If you don't have your papers then you can go to the Veterans Administration Office at Harris Hill to register.

Jodi Dake
Clerk/Treasurer

RECYCLING

Household Hazardous Waste: The D.E.P.O.T.

Tompkins County residents now have a place to bring their household hazardous wastes and products, such as paints, solvents, pesticides, herbicides, hobby chemicals, rechargeable and button cell batteries, fluorescent light tubes, crushed oil filters, used oil and antifreeze. The D.E.P.O.T. (which stands for Don't Empty Pollutants in Our Trash) will accept these types of materials.

The D.E.P.O.T. will be open all year and will also accept usable household products, such as paints, thinners, and cleaners, for the Product Exchange, which will enable anyone who is interested to obtain such products free of charge. Products must be in their original containers, clearly labeled, and must still be currently available and/or have not been banned from use.

To schedule an appointment to use the D.E.P.O.T., the Product Exchange, or for information about alternatives to hazardous products, please call 273-HHMW (4496).

Plastic Bags

It is important to remember that plastic bags should NOT be used when setting out recyclables.

Waste prevention

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Reducing and reusing will help make less waste that has to be either recycled or disposed, thus saving more resources overall. Remember to *Reduce* and *Reuse* first, then *Recycle*.

Linnett Warner
Admin. Assistant
Tompkins County Solid Waste Division

FIRE DISTRICT

Mark your calendars for the week of Oct. 8-14 which is Fire Prevention Week. During that week, the Great Escape is planned for Oct.

The new truck, which passed voter approval on May 23rd, should be arriving at the beginning of December. Fire District elections for one 5-year commissioner will be held on Tuesday, December 12th at the Central Fire Station, as well as the station on Oakcrest Road for Village residents from 4-9:00 P.M. Interested candidates must submit their names to Howard Cahalan, Fire District Secretary, at 80 Ridge Rd., Lansing (or PO Box 349, Lansing) so they are received by the Nov. 22nd deadline. Further details can be obtained by calling the Fire Department District Office at 533-4204.

Lansing Board of Fire Commissioners meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Central Fire

Station on Ridge Road at 7:30 PM and the public is welcome to attend.

Linda Beckwith
Fire District Clerk

NOTARY SERVICES

Notary public services are available free of charge to Village residents at the Village Office. The hours of the Notary are flexible, so please call to check on availability.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Brush Pick-Up

The Public Works Dept. will be providing a fall brush and limb pick-up in the Village the week of October 23rd.

Residents are asked to leave all materials near the roadside by 7:00 AM on *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 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.

Christmas Tree Removal

Mark your calendars for the Christmas tree pick-up on Jan. 8th.

Dennis Reinhart
Super. Of Public Works

VILLAGE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Village Web Page

The Village has its own web page at this address: <http://people.clarityconnect.com/webpages/vlansing>. Over the course of the last several months, we have added several items to the web page including:

Board of Trustees and Planning Board meeting minutes

Ithaca Newspapers: IthacaToday, The Ithaca Journal, and The IthacaTimes

EZgov.com

Track government in action, buy stamps, renew vehicle registration, pay parking tickets, and more.

NYS Board of Elections

Tompkins County Sports, Camps, Tournaments, Clinics, Schedules, Registrations, Scoreboards, Garage Sales, etc.

A new search capability at the bottom of the page which will help find any information on the web site.

We have had about 1300 people visit the web pages this calendar year so far. We encourage you to visit the web page and send your comments and suggestions to Vlansing@clarityconnect.com regarding your interest in having items changed or updated. Further, we encourage you to sign-up for the Village's Email list which allows messages to be sent by any group member to all the others. As construction begins on several projects starting soon, we'll send Email to those who have subscribed as to the status of the project and planned disruptions in traffic.

Email to the Village

General issues associated with the Village may be sent to the Email address: Vlansing@clarityconnect.com. If you have non-emergency items for our Department of Public Works, send Email to: vlansdpw@clarityconnect.com.

Larry Fresinski
Deputy Mayor

PYRAMID MALL

Fall Events

October	
14	<i>Readabout</i> 10 AM – 2 PM Volunteer readers and arts and craft stations around Mall to entertain kids while parents shop
28	<i>United Way Fundraiser</i> Haunted House in Penneys old auto center "Clip for the Cure" Haircuts \$10 at Regis to benefit Breast Cancer Research
	<i>Mall-Wide Trick or Treating</i>

31	5:30 – 7:30 PM
November	
3-5	<i>Girl Scout Cookie Sale</i>
4	<i>Chemistry Fair</i> 10 AM – 5 PM
7	<i>Visiting Nurse Service</i> 8:30 – 10:30 AM Free Blood Pressure Screening
16	<i>Salvation Army Kettle Kickoff</i>
24	<i>Santa's Arrival</i> 10 AM
December	
3	<i>Breakfast with Santa</i>
4	<i>Visiting Nurse Service</i> 8:30 – 10:30 AM Free Blood Pressure Screening

For additional information on current events happening at Pyramid Mall, check out their website at www.pyramidithaca.com. There you will find current events, a mall directory of current stores and ones that are coming soon, special sales, coupons to print out, and more!

Erin Eastman
Marketing Assistant

VILLAGE STREET TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

The Village has a commitment to the quality and beauty of the community. 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 may be obtained by calling the Village Office (257-0424) and requesting an application be mailed to you.

The location must be mutually agreed upon before planting.

Reimbursement shall take place upon presentation of a receipt from a recognized nursery and approval of the planted tree.

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.

Landowners may plant trees either in the fall or in the spring up to mid-May.

Carol Willard
Clerk, part-time

ASSESSMENT DEPARTMENT

Skip Hewitt, Real Property Appraiser who was responsibly assessing all real properties during the past three years in the Town and Village of Lansing has resigned from the Tompkins County Division of Assessment. Irene Kehoe, RPS and Certified Appraiser will be replacing him as of September 12, 2000. If you have any assessment related questions, you can contact Irene weekdays from 8 to 4 at 274-5517.

Valeria Coggin
Assistant Director
Division of Assessment

LANSING OLDER ADULT PROGRAM NEWS

The Lansing Older Adult Program (LOAP) continues its mission in striving to improve the quality of life for the older adult in Lansing. We provide educational and supportive services as well as activities and workshops for the senior community.

Please note the following schedule of events:

Fall Schedule of Events

Arts and Crafts Workshops are now in session on Mondays from 3-4:30 PM at Woodsedge. Session III features "Decorative Fabric Painting" with Barbara Hylwa and Elnora Hoaglin. A 4-week session, at a cost of \$1 per week, has a limited class size of 15 students. For additional information call Barbara Hylwa at 533-4626.

Fall Stretch and Exercise Class will begin in October on Wednesdays and Fridays at Woodsedge. For details, call Betty Ellis at 533-4792.

A Visual Impairment Workshop will be held on Wednesday, October 25th from 1-30-2:30 at Woodsedge. This event is free and open to the public.

Your comments and suggestions are always appreciated. Please send them to Marilyn Paradise, LOAP, c/o Woodsedge Apartments, Lansing, NY 14882.

Marilyn Paradise
LOAP Consultant

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

One year ago, the Planning Board reported that it was in the midst of reviewing three proposals for new developments along North Triphammer Road. Two of those proposals, Tops and McDonalds are nearing completion (Tops – Nov. ?, McDonalds – October) while Pyramid's redevelopment will probably begin in the spring of 2001.

If you travel along North Triphammer Road between Graham Road and Pyramid Drive, you may have noticed construction activities near these intersections. These activities involve the installation of new traffic signals at Graham Road and on Pyramid Drive at the entrance to the Ramada Inn. The existing traffic signals on North Triphammer Road at the intersection of Pyramid Drive, the on and off ramps of the bridge, and the signal for Triphammer Mall will be replaced before Tops will be permitted to open.

By comparison, the Planning Board's activities so far this year have been more routine. There have been three Special Permit approvals that are noteworthy. The first submitted by the Pyramid Corporation requested approval for the construction of a 135,000 square foot separate building in the northwest corner of their property. This proposal is included in the 150,000 square foot approval granted in December 1999. The tenant for this new building was identified by Pyramid as Home Depot. The Planning Board has approved this proposal but is still reviewing details of parking and traffic circulation.

The second proposal was an application by the Cornell Fingerlakes Credit Union (CFCU) to construct a facility on an empty lot at the corner of Sheraton and Cinema Drives. This bank branch would be 3,500 square foot and have four drive-up windows and an outside ATM. This facility would replace the CFCU Office in the Triphammer Mall; however, an ATM will still be available in the Triphammer Mall. Construction of this new facility will occur in 2001.

In January of this year, the Planning Board received a request from the YMCA to construct a 24,000 square foot addition consisting of a gymnasium, locker rooms, activity rooms and child care facilities on their existing building at 20 Graham Road West. Some renovations have already begun and will continue on into 2001.

New construction in the residential districts has been limited. The Planning Board approved three Special Permits; one for a minor addition to an existing residence, and two for new residences in the low density district off of Cayuga Heights Road.

The Planning Board is anticipating that a major construction proposal will be submitted by the Ornithology Laboratory in Sapsucker Woods. This extensive project involves the Town of Dryden, the Town of Ithaca, as well as the Village and will result in a new facility, new parking areas, and a realignment of the existing roads. The proposal is expected to be submitted sometime this fall.

Also, the Planning Board is in the process of reviewing a plan that identifies a process for implementing

walkways along the North Triphammer Road Commercial Corridor and the adjacent residential districts. The plan ties together existing walkways, walkways that are included in already approved plans, and identifies areas where walkways are needed in the future. The plan will be submitted for approval by the Board of Trustees in October.

Over the past year, the Planning Board has also been working toward developing design guidelines for the Village's Commercial Low Traffic zone, particularly along North Triphammer Road. These design guidelines will help ensure that development (and redevelopment) in this central area of our village will be attractive, will be connected in a safe and efficient manner for automobile, bicycle and pedestrian circulation, and will function well with the redeveloped North Triphammer Road. The Planning Board has retained a local planning and consulting firm, Trowbridge and Wolf, to assist them in developing design guidelines, in collaboration with a "focus group" made up of residents of the Village of Lansing as well as business owners and land owners. The Planning Board anticipates that the design guidelines will be complete by the end of this year or within a few months of that date – well in advance of the reconstruction of North Triphammer Road which is slated to begin in the summer of 2001. Please call Carol Klepack, a member of the Planning Board, at 257-8310 for more information about this project.

The Planning Board meets the second Monday and last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. in the Village Office. Agendas are posted on community bulletin boards and are available on the internet. We invite all Village residents to attend and participate in our meetings.

Ned Hickey
Chairman

NORTHEAST SENIORS

The Northeast Seniors met on June 12th at St. Catherine of Siena Parish Hall for a delicious chicken barbeque dinner prepared by Baker's Acres, and supplemented by salads and desserts from our members.

New 2000-2001 officers are Co-Chairs Helen Carlson, Elaine Nelson and Martje Baldini; Co-Secretaries Beverly and Ernest Schaufler; and Treasurer Al DiGiacomo. Sylvia Regrut will also continue as the Sunshine Chair.

The popular watercolor class instructed by Ron Walters continues to meet on Wednesdays at 1:30 P.M. If you are interested in joining this class, call Ray Fox at 272-6867.

This summer we held meetings in July and August. Both meetings were well attended. At the July meeting, we had a mixer to get better acquainted. In August, we all enjoyed Bingo led by Ray Fox, Bob Dyer and Mary Kovacs.

In September, we had a luncheon cruise on the MV Manhattan. The food was delicious and everyone had a good time, even though the day was overcast.

On October 10th, Ray Fox will show slides on Thailand.

On November 13th, an officer from the Cayuga Heights Police Department will speak on Safety for Seniors.

Mary Kovacs will chair the Flu Clinic on November 9th at St. Catherine's of Siena Parish Hall. She needs 12 volunteers, so give her a call.

The Northeast Senior Citizen's Unit of the Tompkins County Senior Council includes areas of the Town of Lansing, Village of Lansing, Village of Cayuga Heights, the northeast portion of the Town of Ithaca, and part of the Town of Dryden. In addition, some members come from other areas. Anyone interested in joining should call Al DiGiacomo at 257-0271. Dues are \$5 for a single and \$7 for a couple. We meet every month on the 2nd Monday at St. Catherine's of Siena Parish Hall. Each meeting is a delicious dish-to-pass lunch which turns out to be a main meal.

Helen Carlson
Elaine Nelson
Martje Baldini
Co-Chairs

LEARNING WEB

Youth Serve Community and Pursue Their Interests at the Learning Web!

The Learning Web will be offering its Volunteer Community Service Project (VCSP) to Dewitt Middle School seventh and eighth graders this fall semester of 2000. 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 at Dewitt School on Thursdays after school from October through December.

Last year, Dewitt's VCSP's top project was a fundraiser to benefit the SPCA in which the young people made crafts and held a craft sale at Pyramid Mall. Examples of service from Dewitt's VCSP in previous years include painting a community center, preparing and serving food at Loaves and Fishes, building a brick courtyard, playing Bingo with residents of the Reconstruction Home, 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 at the Learning Web at 275-0122 or Email Sue at sue@learning-web.org. Interested students at Ithaca High School can also contact Sue during her office hours on Wednesday mornings between 10:45 and noon in D16A

Sue Schwartz
Youth Works Coordinator

TOWN OF LANSING RECREATION DEPT.

The Town Park at Myers has closed operations for the season. The boat launch and campground will re-open approximately May 15th. Waterfront swimming will re-open the end of June.

The Recreation Department is currently accepting registrations for fall and winter programs for adults and youth. Adult programs include open swim for seniors, beginning and advanced woodworking classes, men's basketball, women's basketball, women's volleyball, co-ed volleyball, and indoor soccer. Youth programs include gymnastics and introduction to competitive swimming. Other programs are in the planning stages.

The Recreation Department also runs a ski program at Greek Peak. This program is open to all students in grades 3 through 12 and to K-2 students whose parents accompany and ski with them. The program runs on Monday afternoons beginning in January and transportation is provided. The department is able to offer special prices on ski packages and season passes for both children and adults who participate in the program.

For information on any of these programs, call the Rec. Department at 533-7388.

Beverly French/
Steve Colt
Recreation Department

VILLAGE BEAUTIFICATION

Just a reminder to dog owners and dog walkers throughout the Village that others would appreciate it if you would clean up after your animals.