

Village of Lansing Newsletter

October 1997

Incorporated 1974

2405 North Triphammer Road * Ithaca, NY * 257-0424 * 257-3230 (fax)

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday. Thursday and Friday 9am - 1pm

A FEW BRIEF COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

As you may have noticed, we are adding a meeting room to the Village office to improve our efficiency and provide some much needed space. As part of the project, the bathroom has been brought up to current access requirements and we are changing the heating and ventilation system from electric baseboard heat and a window air conditioner to a central natural gas furnace and air conditioning system with an external condenser unit. Compared to present heating costs for electricity, the new system will pay for itself in less than ten years. Later this fall, we will be adding a new entranceway at the front of the office and replacing the present steel framed windows with modern insulating windows. With the new addition, for the first time we will be able to offer meeting space for up to thirty people to Village residents for appropriate functions. We expect to have the construction complete by mid-October so please drop by and see our new facility.

Most of our construction for water improvements and road maintenance and repair are nearing completion and as a result, patterns are returning to normal. Thank you for your patience, especially those residents who must use North Triphammer Road on a regular basis.

I encourage you to take advantage of the annual fall brush pick-up to keep Lansing a very liveable Village.

Donald Hartill
Mayor

NORTHEAST SENIOR CITIZENS

The Northeast Senior Citizens extend an invitation to residents of the Village of Lansing to join our unit. With the exception of this October, we regularly meet the second Monday of the month at St. Catherine of Siena Parish House at 12:30 PM for a dish-to-pass luncheon. Annual dues are \$4.00, \$6.00 for a couple. Our programs of interest to seniors include guest speakers, book reviews, musical entertainment, a special Holiday Dinner at a restaurant in December, and one or two day trips a year. Our members will again assist with the annual Flu Clinic at St. Catherine's on October 9th from 9:00 AM till noon.

A "Fall Foliage/Museum" trip to Sherrill NY is scheduled for October 7th. We shall have a tour of the Mansion House, the home of the original Oneida Community in the mid 1800's which is now a museum. Lunch will be served there. Time will be planned to shop at the Oneida Silversmiths Factory Store. Cost of the trip is \$20.00 For information about this trip or other activities, please call Co-Presidents Joyce Mueller (257-1198) or Helen Pai (257-4642) or Treasurer Margaret Neno (257-0448).

Beginning in November, the Northeast Unit Newsletter will be sent to Lansing Village seniors for three consecutive months with news of upcoming events. Anyone who becomes a member will continue to receive the Newsletter.

The Northeast Unit is very grateful to Mayor Don Hartill and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing for their financial support for the 1997-98 year. We hope that residents of the Village will take the opportunity to enjoy with other seniors the activities and fellowship of our group.

Joyce Mueller
Co-President

LANSING OLDER ADULTS PROGRAM (LOAP)

Lansing Older Adult Program is very pleased to co-sponsor Health Fare CE97 with Cayuga Medical Center on Wed., November 5th from 10 AM to 2 PM at All Saints Church Hall. Several exhibits, free demonstrations and health services with doctors speaking on the heart, diabetes, nutrition and health care proxies. Please join us on November 5th for information and services focusing on the older adult.

Classroom volunteers are needed at Lansing Elementary School. If interested, please contact Elaine Buchanan at 257-1917.

Senior water aerobics class will resume at the Lansing High School pool on Tuesdays beginning October 28. Call the Lansing Recreation Department, 533-7388, to register for class. Class fee will depend on the number of registrants.

Marilyn Paradise
LOAP Consultant

NOTARY SERVICES

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

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

During the summer months, a considerable amount of the Planning Board's time has been spent on reviewing a variety of plans.

Landscaping plans for both the CBORD's building expansion and the new Thornwood Corporate Center, both located in Cornell's Business and Technology Park, were recommended by the Conservation Advisory Council and approved by the Planning Board.

A proposal to amend the Human Health District's Planned Sign Area to include signs for the new facilities at the Convenient Care Center on Warren Road was submitted by the Cayuga Medical Center. The amendment will require that the signs be consistent in size and shape with those already approved for the Parkview Medical Center; but, will allow for differences in color and surface design. The amendment was recommended for approval to the Board of Trustees.

A Comprehensive Plan is being prepared for the Village by Rebecca Lubin of the Tompkins County Planning Department. When finally adopted by the Board of Trustees, it will replace the existing General Plan. Several chapters, in draft form, have been submitted to the Planning Board for review and comment. Additional chapter drafts are forthcoming and the Planning Board plans on completing its initial review in October.

The Conservation Advisory Council submitted a list of its concerns and its recommendations regarding safety issues in the major malls parking areas. The Planning Board is in the process of reviewing this list and developing a set of design guidelines for parking areas. The major focus of these guidelines will be on pedestrian safety and traffic circulation. When a draft is complete, copies will be sent to the mall owners/managers for review and comment.

Two special permits reviewed and approved are of particular interest. The first involves the construction of a third building in the Parkview Medical Center. The proposed building will be 13,000 square feet in size and will house two medical practices consisting of up to six doctors and twenty employees. The architectural design and landscaping will be consistent with the existing medical buildings. There is one lot remaining for development within the Parkview Medical Center.

The second special permit was for the long awaited Village Office expansion. The addition will add 700 square feet to the existing building which will be used mainly for a large room for meetings. This expansion will cause some relocation of parking areas.

The Planning Board meets at 7:30 PM on the second Monday and the last Tuesday of each month. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Ned Hickey
Chairman

REPORT OF COUNTY BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES

1998 County Budget

By the time you read this, the County Board will be deep into deliberations on the 1998 County

budget. I have placed a copy of the three volumes of information we are working with -- one describing the programs and services the County provides, one detailing ongoing department and program budgets, and one summarizing costs and detailing additional spending being requested by staff ("over-target requests") -- in the Village of Lansing office for your use. November 12th is the tentative date for the budget hearing. As always, call or write me with questions, concerns or ideas.

Electric Deregulation

Deregulation of the electric generating industry is coming to New York State; the large investor-owned utilities (including NYSEG) will each have the services they supply "unbundled", with transmission and distribution continuing to be government regulated, but with generation and sales of electricity open to competition. This year, in response to these coming changes, the Tompkins County Board of Representatives established a special committee -- the Electric Power Committee, composed of Board members and local business representatives -- to investigate what if anything the county could do to help ensure lower electric rates for county residents, businesses, and nonprofit organizations.

On July 31, NYSEG released the outline of a proposed settlement it has reached with the Public Service Commission staff in the ongoing deregulation case. This negotiated settlement is still subject to review by an Administrative Law Judge, who will issue a recommended decision to the Public Service Commission, which must ultimately accept, modify, or reject it. Under the proposed settlement, very large electricity users (average on-peak demand of 500KW) -- many of which have already cut special deals on rates with NYSEG -- will get a break on rates, 25% lower over 5 years (5% per year). But the settlement does nothing for small businesses or for residents, whose rates will be frozen for 5 years at their present high levels (i.e., no real reduction, just the elimination of planned increases).

There are several other major problems with the proposed NYSEG settlement, but let's focus on rate reductions. Can and should County government act to help the small individual electric customer? We are considering the possibility of acting as a central purchasing agent on behalf of any county residents, businesses, etc. that are small purchasers, to combine their purchasing power so that together we all may qualify for reduced rates on the newly open competitive market.

This would be a new endeavor for county government -- but under the new climate of electric deregulation such a service becomes not unlike providing a municipal water supply, or even roads and bridges -- something done better collectively for individuals through government than by individuals for themselves (economy of scale comes into play). And we are not alone in considering this initiative. In fact, we have joined forces with Tioga County to explore this aggregation, and we recently met with several other surrounding counties to share information. I believe that if we can help County residents to reduce their electric bills, this can only help both taxpayers and the local economy.

I would be very interested in your thoughts on this matter.

Dooley Kiefer
District # 10
Representative
257-7453

VILLAGE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Brush Pick-Up

The Village of Lansing will be providing a fall brush and limb pick-up in the Village on Monday, October 20th.

Residents are asked to leave all materials near the roadside by 7:00 AM on that date. 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. There will be another pick-up in the spring.

Mulching Chips

After October 20th, wood chips for mulching are available to residents. The chips will be located on the south side of the highway barn behind the Village Office.

Christmas Tree Removal

Also, mark your calendars for the Christmas tree pick-up on January 12th, 1998.

Dennis Reinhart
Super. Of Public Works

TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Town of Lansing Highway Department had a very busy summer. With the good weather that was enjoyed most of the summer, we were able to complete all of the work that we had budgeted to do, plus some maintenance type work that had been carried over from 1996.

The work finished in 1997 consisted of the following:

- paving 9 roads with hot asphalt
- paving 9 roads with cold asphalt
- stone/oiling 17 roads
- installing center line weepers for drainage on 3 roads (2.5 miles)
- rebuilding from the base up on one major intersection

- building-up/widening 3 roads with gravel to make a stronger base for heavier traffic use
- completing 2 major drainage projects
- continuing normal maintenance such as ditch cleaning, pot hole repairing, etc.

We have started the process of hauling materials (sand and de-icing salt) in for winter maintenance and will begin to get the equipment ready for winter plowing and material spreading. Normally, four weeks is needed to convert the equipment over for winter operation.

Please remember that vehicles should not be parked on the roads during the winter months. Parked cars slow down the snow removal effort and create a traffic hazard for other people.

Pete Larson
Highway Superintendent

PYRAMID MALL NEWS

Pyramid Mall has many exciting events planned for the month of October.

Oct. 4	Regis Hairstylists <i>Clip for the Cure</i> haircuts \$10 to benefit breast cancer research 10AM - 5 PM
Oct. 9	Lansing Fire Department Display 5PM - 9 PM
Oct. 11	Spencer Gifts Halloween Fashion Show 2PM Cafe Square Sunburst Beauty Pageant 6 PM Cafe Square
Oct. 23-25	Quaker State Medical Services Flu Shots 10 AM - 6 PM
Oct. 31	Trick or Treating 5:30 PM - 7 PM

Pyramid Mall is also pleased to announce the following new management team members: Elizabeth Cropf (Marketing Director), Todd Poludniak (Specialty Leasing Representative) and Joe Hope (Marketing Intern).

Jim Tull
Manager

VILLAGE COMMUNICATION

Village information, including this Newsletter, can be obtained on our World Wide Web page

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

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

Comments to: Vlansing@ClarityConnect.com

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