



# 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 AM - 1:00 PM

Web Page Address: [vlansing.org](http://vlansing.org).

**OCTOBER 2007**

Board of Trustees' Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 7:30 PM

Planning Board Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday and last Tuesday, 7:30 PM

Board of Zoning Appeal Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday as needed; 7:30 PM

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## **COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR**

Fall is here and we are busy finishing up the last pieces of the road repairs, trail repairs, etc. before winter arrives. It has been an active summer with a number of roads in the Village repaved and shoulders improved. North Triphammer Road is finished except for a few minor items still remaining on the punch list. The plantings are establishing themselves and a few of the trees will have to be replaced under warrantee in the spring. We are still waiting for New York State Electric and Gas Corporation to install the wiring to re-power the lights on the bridge over Route 13. It has been very difficult to get their attention and we will continue to press them to complete this before winter. The other rite of Fall is the brush pickup. This year, the Town of Lansing crew will be helping the Village as they do during the spring pickup.

The dates of the pickup and the guidelines appear later in the Newsletter and I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity.

As you know, the Town of Lansing has placed their sewer project on hold. This means that the sewer line that would have been constructed along Cayuga Heights Road is also on hold. We are working with the Town to try to develop a preliminary plan that would be acceptable to DEC for a separate plant for the Town near Salt Point. This would eliminate the need for the transmission line that would have gone on the east side of Cayuga Heights Road if the original project were to be reactivated. What will happen to the Bond Act

Funding that was to pay for part of the original Town project is still an open question. The Village will continue to work with the Town to

help them provide limited sewer

service for the area north of the airport that includes their industrial park with its failing septic systems. The Town will construct a line along Warren Road to connect to our line that serves the US Post Office and the Sheriff's Department in

order to serve this new area.

Enjoy the great early fall weather that we have been having of late and I look forward to a mild winter.

Donald Hartill  
Mayor

## **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.

## **PLANNING BOARD NEWS**

There was an increase in business during the spring and summer months. This activity was in several different areas of Planning Board responsibility.

Mr. Edward Crossmore's subdivision of the Bolton Estate which would create 21 residential building lots on 128 acres on the west side of East Shore Drive received a conditional approval of the preliminary plat. The final plat is scheduled for review in October. Mr. Jeff Uotila has received final approval for the subdivision of his 7 acre parcel on Bush Lane. This parcel which is in the Medium Density Residential District will be divided into two 3+ acre parcels with frontage on Bush Lane.

Several Special Permits have also been approved. The Shops At Ithaca Mall received approval for the landscaping and parking lot design for the new Regal Theater. Mr. Gerald Cerand of 1510 East Shore Dr. is permitted to construct a patio on the west side of his residence. A Special Permit was required because the residence is located in the Unique Natural Area District as well as the Conservation Combining District. Mr. & Mrs. Chris Lee received approval for a home occupation permit to conduct a phone and internet educational consulting service in their residence at 23 Janivar Drive. Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Morgan's request to build an addition to their home at 6 Hemlock Lane which is in the Steep Slope Conservation District also received approval. An amendment to the Special Permit for the Arleo Eye Institute which would reduce the size of the permitted medical office building at the corner of Warren Rd. and Uptown Drive from 21,860 sf. to 7,500 sf. was also approved.

A request for the rezoning of 9 acres of land in the Business & Technology Park, located south of NYS Route 13 and north of the Convenient Care Center, to Human Health District was favorably reviewed by the Planning Board and forwarded to the Board of Trustees for their action. If approved, this would provide for the construction of three new medical office buildings which would provide office space for as many as 36 doctors and their staff.

During the past several months the Planning Board has invited several guest speakers to its meetings to speak on topics of interest to Planning Board members. The topics presented were "Porous Parking Lot

Surfaces" "Green Roofs & Walls" and "Empire Zones Within The Village". The presentations were informative and provided the opportunity for discussion and were in keeping with recent New York State legislation which requires that local Planning Board members receive four hours of training during each calendar year.

Planning Board meetings are held on the second Monday and last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM. The public is always welcome.

Ned Hickey  
Planning Board Chairman

## **COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Have you ever been curious or wondered how the County or Village would respond in the case of an emergency? If so, you might be interested in perusing a copy of the Tompkins County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan which is available in the Village Office. In addition, the Village of Lansing adopted its own Emergency Management Plan. The best time to review the documents is Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday from 9-1 PM.

Phil Dankert  
Planning Board member

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

The library had a very successful summer reading program with over 100 youngsters participating in "Get a Clue", the New York State summer reading program. This fall from Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> the library will host "Mandala Musings", an art show featuring mandalas created by Lansing High School art students in honor of the Dali Lama's visit to Ithaca.

The Lansing Community Library Center is located at 27 Auburn Road in the Town of Lansing. Hours of operation are as follows:

Mon. 3-8 PM  
Tues. 9-noon, 6-8 PM  
Story Hour 10-11 AM  
Wed. 9-noon, 3-8 PM  
Thurs. 6-8 PM  
Fri. 9-noon  
Sat. 9-1 PM  
Sun. Closed

Bobbi Wasenko  
LCLC

## **LANSING PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

### *PARKS*

The Parks have enjoyed a very good summer season. A couple of highlights were the construction of the new "Bandstand" in Myers Park. Also, Myers Park was the host site for the first "Harbor Festival". Many Festival goers complimented the condition of the park and those comments came just one week after a very damaging storm left the park in shambles. We hope to continue the camping season into early October, weather permitting. Pavilions are also still available. At this point in the season, boat launching and entry to the park are available at no charge.

### *RECREATION*

The activity seasons are changing and several programs have started and several more are getting ready to start.

Youth Soccer for players in grades K-6 has started with over 200 players participating. Flag Football has also started and a large turn out of players allowed us to split into two teams. Our YFL small fry football program started practicing on August 20<sup>th</sup> with official games starting on September 16<sup>th</sup>. We have a JR and SR team that will compete in the 23 team league. Our teams will have a special treat in week 2 of the season when on Sunday September 23<sup>rd</sup> the games are scheduled to be played at Cornell's stadium. Our teams play a 7 game season ending on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Our Karate program started for the fall on September 10<sup>th</sup>. We are always looking for new members to add to this very popular program. Dates and times for all of our programs are listed on the respective registration forms. Soon, we will be circulating information about our Ski program. Early registration for this program is due on October 12<sup>th</sup> for the best pricing. This program has been extremely popular and will start on January 7<sup>th</sup> and will take place at Greek Peak for 6 consecutive Monday evenings. We usually send 5 bus loads of skiers and boarders. Registration forms for Youth Bowling will be coming out soon. This program is slated to start in October and takes place at the Bowl-O-Drome. Our Youth Gymnastics Program will start on November 9<sup>th</sup> and takes place at the Fingerlakes Gymnastics Academy.

Several adult programs will also be starting soon with additional information to follow. The Cardio Step Interval Class started September 10<sup>th</sup> and takes place at the Community Center on Mondays and Thursdays. New members are always welcome and encouraged for all of our adult programs. We also will be offering Coed Volleyball, Men's Basketball, Open Swim (adults only), Women's Volleyball and Women's Basketball.

Much more specific program information is available in our office (533-7388) and on our web page [www.lansingrec.com](http://www.lansingrec.com)

Steve Colt  
Recreation Director

## **COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

A beautiful start to fall, but some serious business to comment on...

### *ASSESSMENT*

This is the third and final year of our using less than 100% market-value assessment for real property in Tompkins County (we are now at 85%). I've heard virtually nothing from any residents about how this change has affected them, so I'll assume it has not created any problems. Next year will see a return to countywide full valuation, and with that return Tompkins County should once again be eligible for state aid of \$159,000 from the Office of Real Property Services for complying with full valuation, an amount equal to about 0.5% on the property tax (welcome revenue!).

### *ROADS*

I've enjoyed the completing of the North Triphammer Road makeover in the Village, and appreciate the sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, human-scale street lights, and stone-work amenities. The Village used Fisher Associates for the analysis and design of that project, and our County Public Works Department has used the same firm on several projects over the years. Most recently the County Legislature voted to proceed with redoing Hanshaw Road, from Pleasant Grove Road west to the Dryden Town line (in the Village of Cayuga Heights and Town of Ithaca) - a different sort of road from North Triphammer. You may have noticed that I voted against this, and I want to explain that my negative vote was not because of the Fisher Associates design work (which I support) or the need for the project (the road deterioration and safety concerns are serious), but as a protest against lack of inclusion of coloring the paved shoulders - a technique I have come to believe is crucial for traffic calming. (It works because the width of the driving lanes appears narrower when the shoulders are a contrasting color.)

## *BUDGET*

Mid-September marks the start of our 2008 budget deliberations. Our County Administrator has presented for our consideration a tentative budget totaling \$72 million for our local share (i.e., supported by property tax, sales tax, and fund balances – the part over which we have some control) of a total \$148.5 million budget (which is supported by other revenue sources, too). This draft budget keeps the tax-levy increase to 2%, meeting the legislature's goal for the administrator, but it comes with some very important caveats. For example, it only funds current interest payments on two new self-funded capital projects (new Health Department Building and Ellis Hollow Road reconstruction), although our long-range capital plan postulates a 1% annual increase in property tax to deal with needed infrastructure maintenance and replacement). It also only provides one-time funding in several areas that we expect will continue to need funding in the future, funds no additional staff positions (although some are clearly needed due to increased work load), and draws down our fund balance that we had just begun to restore.

It is my belief and hope that my colleagues will see the wisdom of adding to this budget in a way that will position us better over the long haul and help us avoid big fluctuations in our future tax rates.

One piece of good news related to the budget is that the State cap on the rate of growth in the County share of Medicaid is working. For 2008 our mandated increase is "only" \$234,000, equivalent to a 0.66% tax rate increase, and accounting for 67% of DSS's \$350,000 total increase.

## *HEALTH INSURANCE*

We're all health-care consumers, affected not only by the increasing costs of pharmaceuticals and doctor visits, but especially by health insurance (assuming we can afford it). According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 10.7% of County residents are estimated to have no health insurance. All County employees are offered health insurance, but those costs to the county have been rising at more than double the rate of inflation for at least the last five years. In union negotiations we are currently seeking to jointly find a way to help control this escalation.

As has been reported in the Ithaca Journal, Tompkins County is part of the TC Council of Governments, and has received, on behalf of TCCoG, a State grant to pursue a project designed to reduce the cost of health insurance of municipal employees throughout Tompkins County by pooling our shared resources and needs. It will be several years before we will know if this can work. Meanwhile, we all are familiar with the Federal program of Medicare, which covers all "seniors" (as well as disabled persons and minors covered by Social Security). Medicare spends about 9% on administration, compared to private insurance, whose "gatekeeping" approach to administration combined with marketing and required profit margin take close to 30% of our health-care dollars. It is easy to see why a switch to a "single-payer" health system, where the Federal Government does the administration of billing and payments would save us millions. I am convinced we would all be better off if even New York State (let alone the Feds) were to have its own "single-payer" system, where all of us would be entitled to health care by the doctors and hospitals of our choice, without middlemen (insurance companies) acting as gatekeepers, second-guessing our physicians, and spending so much on advertising and redundant paperwork!

There is no reason for our health care to be tied to employment. There is no reason to worry about insurance companies going out of business—there is still life insurance, car insurance, home insurance, and business-succession insurance to be sold.

I consider this very much a County budget issue as well as an equity and "right to health care" one, and will be working for single-payer every opportunity I get.

As always, please contact me with any County concerns or ideas.

Dooley Kiefer (257-7453)

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

Attention parents of middle and high school students! Is your child or teen looking to do something fun and different this fall? Consider the Learning Web's Volunteer Community Service Project (VCSP) or the Community and Career Exploration and Apprenticeship Program (CCEAP). Sponsored by the Joint Youth Commission of Tompkins County, the VCSP is an award-winning program that 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 the greater community. The Learning Web's CCEAP program offers all youth who reside in Tompkins County (ages 11-21) opportunities to gain hands-on experience in their career fields of interest.

The Learning Web is pleased to offer the VCSP at DeWitt Middle School this fall and will offer the VCSP at Boynton Middle School in the spring. The VCSP at DeWitt will be on Wednesdays after school from October 3<sup>rd</sup> until December 12<sup>th</sup>. In the VCSP, youth take field trips to do service projects, play games and make new friends while learning team work and leadership skills as well as increasing their awareness of community and world issues.

In the past, youth in the VCSP have done a variety of fun projects. Examples include caring for animals at the SPCA, creating a public service announcement for the radio, organizing a benefit dinner for a national cancer organization, leading games for younger children at after-school programs and day camps, baking and serving cookies at Loaves and Fishes, painting a mural with youth at West Village Apartments, visiting with residents in local nursing homes, and more.

The Learning Web is also pleased to continue offering career exploration activities to middle and high school students through the Community and Career Exploration and Apprenticeship Program. The CCEAP program includes job tours, job shadowing, and paid and unpaid apprenticeships under the one-to-one guidance of adult mentors. Through CCEAP, 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 or on weekends for 3 to 10 hours a week. Youth have apprenticed in areas as varied as veterinary medicine, auto repair, particle physics, engineering, cosmetology, computer programming, law, child care and more.

Interested youth and parents should contact Sue at the Learning Web at 275-0122 or via email at [sue@learning-web.org](mailto:sue@learning-web.org) for more information.

Sue Schwartz  
Youth Works Coordinator

## **LANSING OLDER ADULT PROGRAM (LOAP)**

Lansing Housing Authority is dedicating a new garden at Woodsedge Apartments in memory of Bob Baker who was instrumental in the start-up of Woodsedge Apartments. This dedication is set for Saturday, October 27th. Also the 25th anniversary of Woodsedge Apartments will be celebrated.

Pam Bush  
Woodsedge Office Manager

## **TOMPKINS COUNTY SOLID WASTE**

If you are just moving into Tompkins County as a student or a new resident or if you have lived here for awhile, are you taking full advantages of the services offered by Tompkins County Solid Waste?

The Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division (TCSWMD) offers a variety of programs to help the people that live in Tompkins County and the businesses manage their waste in an environmentally responsible manner through reduction and recycling. As a result of these programs, the county achieved a waste diversion rate of 58%!

Many of you may be aware that we oversee the Recycling and Solid Waste Center (RSWC) where residents can bring curbside recyclables such as paper and containers, but did you know that you can also bring yard waste, scrap metal, and other types of materials to the RSWC? Additional items accepted for recycling include sneakers, clean textiles, fluorescent tubes, electronic wastes, batteries, and thermometers.

In addition, we offer six Household Hazardous Waste days every year where residents can make an appointment to drop off their unwanted hazardous wastes at the DEPOT.

Some of the other programs that TCSWMD helps fund are:

-Significant Elements

an architectural salvage warehouse

-ReBusiness Partners Program

TCSWMD will visit your business and give you a free waste assessment, information, report of findings, recycling bins, etc.

-Composting pilot program through Cayuga Compost and Master Composter education program

-Sciencenter Reinvention Station

-Computer reuse

Babbages and Computer All Stars

-Enforcement of illegal dumping

-Events, lesson plans, Go Green Initiative and public education - America Recycles Day, Earth Day, and tours as well as other educational presentations in the schools and at summer camps

-Finger Lakes Buy Green

a website to direct you in using environmentally safe products

-ReImagine Fashion

information on materials, clothing and local workshop events, fashion show made from reused items.

To find out more, visit our website at [recycletopkins.org](http://recycletopkins.org).

Linnett Short  
Communication and Administration Coordinator

## **DEER HUNT POSTPONED UNTIL 2008**

The Village and the proprietor of Murray Estates have been working out the details of a controlled bow hunt on that property in an effort to better manage the explosive growth of our deer herds. The most serious issues affecting the residents of the Village have been ironed out. It appears that more time is needed to resolve all the legal questions of enforcement against trespassers and liability issues. It has, therefore, been decided to postpone the hunt until next year, giving more time to establish parameters acceptable and fair to the Village and to Murray Estates. In the meantime, nuisance permits to individual landowners are still available for use.

The professional literature dealing with deer herds in the northeastern part of the US indicates that uncontrolled herds can increase at the rate of 20-40% per year, meaning that we will see ever more deer on our properties and on the roads. A couple of residents have suggested the use of contraceptive darts instead of hunting. Reports on this subject show that there is limited success with these darts in a controlled environment, however, the cost ranges up to \$1,000

per animal treated and the effect lasts only about 2 years. Several publications suggest that hunting is necessary to get the herd to a manageable size and then a sterilization program might be effective, although at considerable and ongoing cost to the municipality. Furthermore, the most promising product of this sort is not yet approved for use by the FDA.

I will continue to research the literature on deer herd management and relay information to the residents in future issues of this newsletter.

John O'Neill  
Trustee

## **VILLAGE OFFICE RAIN GARDEN**

Village residents driving by or coming to the Village Office may have noticed a new garden out in front this summer that is no ordinary flowerbed. Officially, it is a rain garden, a stormwater control structure designed to capture and slowly release runoff from heavy rains. Water flows from the driveway, an impermeable surface, into the garden, which was constructed rather like a large bathtub. Since stormwater often contains nutrients and pollutants picked up from the driveway and other sources up slope, once it enters the garden, it will be treated by natural filtering from the garden plants and then slowly seep out the far end of the garden into the lawn. The main function of the garden is to slow and treat rainwater, which often has enough force to erode the landscape, doing much damage to roads, driveways and other areas and carrying with it silt and other materials that eventually will get into Cayuga Lake. Rain gardens can be added to residential, commercial and public properties to add beauty, attract butterflies and birds, reduce flooding, and protect streams and lakes from pollutants.

The rain garden was planned and constructed with the expert guidance of Sharon Anderson, the Watershed Steward from the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, and paid for partially by a grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Also helping in a very big way with construction were Village Department of Public Works staff, John Courtney and Marty Moseley, as well as summer employee Chris Bishop. John deftly operated the backhoe, which was needed to remove soil and rocks from the site and to shape the basin. Once we were satisfied with the shape, we had to fill the basin with a mix of good topsoil and sand to provide proper absorption and slow release to the environment. Sharon provided the plants, some from her own rain garden and some from a local nursery. The rain garden plants were selected according to several criteria: ability to tolerate alternating saturation and dryness, color, form, hardiness, and deer resistance. Once a sketch of the plan was agreed upon, work began in early July and the garden was completed in about 1 week. Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners from around the state, who were at Cornell for a training program, volunteered with the initial planting, completing it in one day! Since then, we have had a few rainfalls of at least 1 inch or more and the garden appears to be performing very well.

Following the rain garden installation, Sharon gave a presentation at the Village Office to the public on the hows and whys of rain gardens. Both the garden and her presentation help the Village fulfill part of its stormwater compliance requirements under the new EPA stormwater regulations.

One rain garden cannot solve the problem of runoff, sedimentation and erosion, but we hope that using the Village's rain garden as an example, residents and businesses will install them on their own properties. They are both aesthetically pleasing and serve a very important function of reducing the erosional force of runoff. We can protect Cayuga Lake, one rain garden at a time!

Lynn Leopold  
Village Trustee

## **STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**



## Illicit discharges—What are they and why should we care?

In order to comply fully with the new EPA stormwater regulations, the Village of Lansing is working to complete a local stormwater law that will cover many types of construction activities in the Village as well as other activities that could compromise the quality and quantity of stormwater entering Cayuga Lake. Municipalities around the south end of the lake are working feverishly to complete their stormwater laws as well, and all are trying to take an active role in controlling stormwater to prevent erosion and sedimentation.

Further, since silt, which is carried by stormwater, is not the only substance that can cause problems in the lake, we must now be aware of and create plans to prevent illicit discharges, i.e., substances such as waste motor oil, fertilizers, pesticides, paint thinners, waste waters from commercial operations and the like, that are released into our waterways. The Village will be required to have in place a law that prevents the release of these materials as the result of Village operations, such as vehicle and building maintenance, caring for parks and lawns, and ditch-cleaning operations. While we strive to use good housekeeping methods for storing, using and disposing of such materials, we also must do what we can to prevent the public and businesses from discharging dangerous or otherwise polluting substances into Village waterways. In most cases, this means no dumping of waste oil, paint thinners, left-over pesticides, pet wastes, and the like into storm drains, ditches, or any other type of water conveyance. Disposing of these things properly is only common sense, but bad habits can die slowly. Some people who change their own motor oil let it out on the ground or dump it into a ditch, in hopes that perhaps it would “just go away”. Unfortunately, we now know that a small amount of oil or gasoline can contaminate hundreds of thousands of gallons of clean water.

Businesses must also comply with the illicit discharge rules by not releasing contaminants into the storm or sanitary sewer systems. Commercial operations can result in many kinds of wastes, which must be properly disposed of according to sanitary codes and environmental laws. Examples of good housekeeping include properly using, storing and disposing of hazardous wastes through professional hazardous waste removal services (for businesses) or not discharging waste water from industrial washing operations into local waterways. Residents can dispose of household hazardous waste through the Tompkins County’s Household Hazardous Waste collection days (call 273-6632 or visit <http://www.recycletompkins.org/>).

Village Highway staff have already participated in a training about Illicit Discharges, Detection and Elimination last spring, provided by the Stormwater Coalition of Tompkins County, of which the Village is a member. They will be watching for illicit discharges into Village waterways as they go around the Village on their regular work details. Such discharges may be subject to fines and other legal action, once the Village’s Illicit Discharge Law is in place by the end of 2007.

We should all care about what enters our waterways and eventually, Cayuga Lake. Being mindful of the value of the lake will help guide us to do the right thing when it comes to disposing of unwanted waste materials.

Lynn Leopold  
Village Trustee

## **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 for the planted tree must be mutually agreed upon by the property owner and a representative of the Village prior to planting.

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

Carol Willard  
Clerk, part-time

## **OFFICE FOR THE AGING**

The Weatherization Referral and Assistance Program (WRAP) of the Tompkins County Office for the Aging helps senior citizens with energy relief problems and home repairs. The WRAP program can assist income eligible seniors make energy efficient modifications to their homes. The WRAP program also addresses health and safety repairs, such as unsafe stairs and loose floor boards. The WRAP representative can talk with you, assess your weatherization needs, and help develop a plan to meet those needs. If you are experiencing a cold, drafty house in winter, or if you are concerned about the safety of your home, call to see if you qualify for WRAP. Anyone who is age 60 and older, a full-time County resident, and of limited income (the income guidelines follow those of the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) may qualify for the WRAP program. Please contact Gladys Brangman of the Tompkins County Office for the Aging at 274-5487 for further details.

The Tompkins County Office for the Aging needs volunteers to assist homebound senior citizens through the Project CARE Program. Volunteers typically visit an individual once a week for about 1-2 hours, depending upon need. Seniors may have one or more of the following types of needs: companionship, assistance with laundry or light housekeeping, errands, grocery shopping, light yard work or respite for a caregiver. Respite might involve staying with the senior in order that the caregiver might go out or have some time off from the responsibilities of caregiving. Volunteers should be good listeners and enjoy the company of seniors. For more information about Project CARE, please contact Trina Schickel of the Office for the Aging at 274-5491.

The Tompkins County Office for the Aging will be holding a Public Hearing and Senior Citizen's Fair on Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, with registration beginning at 9:30 AM at Titus Towers. Seniors, agency representatives and interested community members are invited to attend. The Public Hearing is a chance for people to tell the Office for the Aging about any issue or concerns they have about services for seniors in Tompkins County, and to give comment on the proposed plan of work for 2008.

Following the Public Hearing, a Senior Citizen's Fair is planned, including presentations on Diabetes Management, Saving Energy and Green Living for Older Adults, What You Should Know About Cancer Screening, and "Please Try It" display of handy adaptive equipment. At noon, Foodnet will serve lunch to all Senior Fair attendees. The fair is free and open to Tompkins County seniors, although seating is limited and pre-registration is required. Please call Danielle Conte at 274-5490 to RSVP.

Trina Schickel/Danielle Conte  
Office for the Aging

## **CAYUGA LAKE WATERSHED NETWORK**

Copies of the publication Smart Steps for Clean Water are available in the Village Office for those who are interested. This publication was written by the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network.

Carol Willard  
Clerk, part-time

## **NORTHEAST SENIORS UNIT**

Citizens of the Village over the age of 60 are welcomed to become members of the Northeast Seniors unit. Come once a month to meet new people, enjoy a varied menu and share some time together in fellowship.

Northeast Seniors Unit is a unit of Lifelong (Tompkins County Senior Citizens Council) and have been in existence since 1988. We meet on the second Monday of the month at St. Catherine of Siena Hall at 302 St. Catherine Circle from noon to 2 PM for 10 months of the year. We are non-denominational and are open to all residents of the community. Yearly dues are \$7.00 for an individual and \$10.00 for a couple although 85 and older is free.

Our program includes a dish-to-pass (as well as a catered Holiday luncheon in December and a free chicken BBQ in June) followed by a program or presentation of interest. Varied programs have included speakers presenting items of interest to seniors, travel videos and an occasional game of Bingo.

It is a nice group and we would be delighted to have you join us. Just come to the meeting and we will sign you up. If you have any questions, call our President Bob Dyer at 257-0756.

Al DiGiacomo  
Treasurer

## **YMCA**

### *Preschool Classes*

Get ready for new preschool classes! In addition to our popular creative movement class for 2-4 year olds, we have added three new classes for ages 3-5. In YMCA Fit Kids, children participate in group games, movement, strength, and coordination. YMCA Adventure Kids is designed to let children explore the outdoor world while creating a craft or story. YMCA Creative Kids is an art focused class with activities including water color, finger paints, clay and more. Please see the front desk for the schedule of class times and to register for these classes.

### *Swim Lessons Expanded*

Due to the overwhelming popularity of our YMCA swim lesson program for both youth and adults, we are happy to be able to expand our offerings this fall. We will be offering Friday lessons as well as Tuesday and Thursday lessons for pre-school classes. Due to popular request, we are also offering adult lessons on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:15 PM. For better swimmer, be sure to also check out either our Youth Swim Team or Masters Swim Team programs which offer multiple levels to allow you to swim with participants of similar skills as well as outstanding workouts, stroke correction, and drills from coaches with years of experience.

For up-to-date details on these and other programs, be sure to click on [www.ithacaymca.com](http://www.ithacaymca.com)!

Frank Towner  
Associate Executive Director

## **ASSESSMENT DEPARTMENT**

Applications for the 2007 state property tax rebate have been mailed to homeowners in Tompkins County. Homeowners should have received a packet from the State Department of Taxation and Finance that included information needed to complete the application. That information will include a special "STAR code" that identifies a homeowner's specific property. The packet also contains instructions for filing the application online or through the mail. The deadline for applying is November 30<sup>th</sup>. Rebate checks are in addition to school tax exceptions homeowners

receive through the STAR program. Seniors 65 or older who receive the Enhanced STAR exemption do not have to apply for their rebate, Their checks have already been mailed.

The state department has updated information on its web site, [www.nystax.gov](http://www.nystax.gov), and created a special hotline at 1-877-6-STAR-NY (1-877-678-2769) for STAR calls. Questions can also be answered by the Assessment Department.

Irene Kehoe  
Assessment Department

## **VILLAGE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

### *Fall Brush Pick-Up*

The Town of Lansing Highway Department will be providing a fall brush and limb pick-up the week of Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Residents are asked to leave all materials near the roadside by 6:00 A.M. *Monday* morning. To assist the work crews, all limbs and brush (up to 5 inches in diameter) should be piled with the cut ends facing the same direction. The limbs should be no longer than 5 or 6 feet in length. Also, the piles should not be tied but should be left loose. 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.

### *Parking on Village Streets*

It will soon be winter and the plows will be making the rounds throughout the Village streets and roads. To assist the crews, it is important to remember that no vehicles are to be parked on Village roadways between 2 AM and 6 AM. The law states that vehicles parked on the roadways during a snowstorm, flood, fire or other public emergency may be removed by the Village of Lansing. After removal, the Village may store or cause such vehicle to be stored in a suitable place at the expense of the owner.

### *Planting over Water/Sewer Lines*

Homeowners must take caution when planting over water and sewer lines. Should the Village need to access the lines for repairs or replacements, the Village will not be responsible for plantings which are in the public ROW or easements although care will be taken to restore the area. Sewer cleanout covers and water curb boxes should also remain exposed for ease of access in case of emergencies. Any questions, call the Highway Department at 257-6280, Ext. 224.

John Courtney  
Supt. of Public Works

## **LANSING STAR**

This month saw a milestone for the Lansing Star when the number of clicks on individual articles topped a half million. This prompted us to see what some of the top articles of all time are and we found that "About Lansing" is the number one page of all times with more than 5500 hits. The Lansing Authors page, which lists books by Lansing residents was next with almost 4500 hits.

We have also launched two new Web sites that we hope will be a handy reference for local residents. The first is [ithacaWeather.net](http://ithacaWeather.net), a site devoted to the local weather. The second site is [ithacaBiz.com](http://ithacaBiz.com), a local business directory. The site offers free listings of any Tompkins County business, as well as premium listings with more information, logos, and Web site links.

Meanwhile we have been busy tweaking the look and feel of the Lansing Star to try to make the articles and information you want easier to find. We are always looking for advertisers so we can continue to bring “All the News from Home” to Lansing readers. Check us out at [www.lansingstar.com](http://www.lansingstar.com)

Dan Veaner  
Editor

## **BICYCLE LAWS**

Bicycling can be a healthy, economical, environmentally-friendly mode of transportation and recreation. However, it can also be dangerous.

It is the responsibility of each bicycle user to know and follow the New York State Vehicle and Traffic (V & T) Law whenever operating a bicycle on roads or bicycle paths.

Bicyclists are required to follow the same laws and rules of the road as motorists. This includes riding on the right side of the road as well as obeying traffic signs and signals. Other actions or “missing actions” on the part of the bicyclist that can cause crashes are:

- Entering a road from a driveway or other entrance point without slowing or stopping for traffic
- Riding into an intersection without obeying stop or yield signs or traffic signals
- Riding on sidewalks where this is prohibited
- Crossing driveways without observing traffic
- Riding at night without lights
- Turning without signaling or looking for traffic
- Attempting to pass a motorist at a roadway junction.

Carol Willard  
Clerk, part-time