

Newsletter October 2012

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.

Board of Trustees' Meetings: 1st and 3rd Monday, 7:30 PM Planning Board Meetings: 2nd Monday and last Tuesday, 7:30 PM Board of Zoning Appeal Meeting: 3rd Tuesday as needed; 7:30 PM

Welcome to the Village of Lansing's electronic newsletter! The Village Newsletter is currently published twice a year in March and October. The newsletter will be available on the Village website at www.vlansing.org If you prefer to receive a paper copy just call the office and Jodi will be happy to add you to the mailing list. Spread the word to your neighbors about the newsletter! They can sign up to receive notice of our publication by sending a blank message to yahoogroups.com.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

This fall and winter we are updating the Village Comprehensive Plan to keep the plan current. It was updated eight years ago and the new census has indicated small changes in both the population and the make up of the population of the Village. There have been some changes in our commercial sector and we have reconstructed North Triphammer Road that may also influence parts of the Comprehensive Plan. Although the usual period for updating Comprehensive Plans is every ten years we feel that it is worthwhile to carry it out early because of these changes.

As part of the Comprehensive Plan update process, we are seeking community input as broadly as possible and urge our residents to forward their ideas and concerns to Jodi Dake, our Clerk/Treasurer. This can be done either in person, by mail or by email. Her email address is clerk@vlansing.org. The current Comprehensive Plan is available in the Village Office and on the Village Website http://www.vlansing.org. I hope that everyone in the Village will contribute to the process.

The Village had hoped to begin construction of the new Village Hall this fall with completion next summer. It will be located between the present building and North Triphammer Road. The setback from the road will be the same as the newer commercial buildings along North Triphammer Road. Plans and renderings of the building are available in the Village Office. Unfortunately, the bids that we received exceeded our budget projection and our plan is now to review the design and rebid the project in the Spring.

NYSDOT repayed Route 13, the ramps and deck of the North Triphammer bridge this summer which is a great improvement. Currently, they are doing maintenance on the structure of the bridge that will last for the next couple of weeks. It is very nice to finally have the southbound on ramp repaired.

As usual, one of our fall activities is the fall brush pickup by our DPW staff. The dates of the pickup and the guidelines appear later in the newsletter and I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity.

During this past construction season, we replaced around 900 feet of sanitary sewer main behind the Shops at Ithaca Mall to improve capacity to accommodate anticipated growth in the Northeastern part of the Village. The water main along Burdick Hill Road was replaced. In addition, we have replaced a section of water main along Cayuga Heights Road. The storm water collector along Dart Drive that was started last year will be completed this year and a sidewalk as part of the roadway will be constructed along the north side of the roadway next year. The roadway will also be repaved as part of this project. In addition, there will be other small repaving projects in the Village. These projects are all part of our long-range infrastructure maintenance program. By carrying out these projects in a planned way, we avoid the serious failures that are very expensive to repair when they occur. As you can see from this list of projects, it has been a busy summer and early fall.

To understand the complexities of development of the three parcels of the former Dart property in the Northeast section of the Village, we engaged the firm of Barton and Loguidice to carry out a traffic study of that area of the Village. The study has been completed with members of each of the parties participating in developing the final recommendation. The study is available on the Village website.

The Warren Road Sewer District in the Town of Lansing that connects into our sewer system that was completed last year is now being extended to other properties in that region. There will be approximately 120 additional units bringing the total to around 240 units. In comparison the total number of units in the Village is about 2200.

I hope you are enjoyed the nice late summer early fall weather that we have had for the past several weeks and that we will have a mild winter.

Donald Hartill, Mayor

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

It has been a busy summer for the Planning Board, with special permits for various active projects, as well as preparation for possible future developments.

A Village Lighting Commission is now in place, with specific authority and guidelines for developers. They have to balance visibility safety with prevention of light pollution. The committee is composed of representatives from the Board of Trustee and Planning Boards, and the Department of Public Works.

Brixmore Properties, the owners of Cayuga Mall, are preparing to breathe new life into this shopping center. Since losing its anchor store, P&C, last year the western end of this mall has been left with one tenant, Rite Aid. Agreements for leases are being reached with three (3) new prospective occupants: Jo-Ann Fabrics, True Value, and Party City, in various, now empty, stores. Brixmore was granted a special permit to construct an outside sales/storage area for True Value, as well as new eye-appealing facades for the 3 new tenants and Rite Aid. The eastern end of this mall is thriving with Sumo restaurant, TJ Maxx, and Big Lots.

Cayuga Medical Center was granted a special permit to construct two additions and reconstruct/expand the parking lot at 2435 N. Triphammer Rd. These changes are necessary to expand medical procedures rooms, and improve access to the building for patients' safety. CMC shares this facility (formerly Ridley Book Bindery) with the Gastroenterology Associates.

The Lansing Fire District was granted a special permit to construct a new firehouse on their same

property on Oakcrest Rd. While larger than the previous building it will have architectural lines and colors to give it a more residential appearance. Construction should begin before the end of the year. Activities brought before the P. B. with minor environmental impacts:

- A minor subdivision of a piece of land into two lots, owned by Westview Partners, LLC, spanning Sun Path Rd. A variance was granted by the BZA due to the size non-conformance of one of the lots.
- Minor changes to the Lansing Meadows PDA were allowed in order for Arrowhead Ventures, LLC to substitute tree plantings to more deer-resistant species.
- Shops At Ithaca Mall was given a special permit to operate a second Temporary Outdoor Sale of pre-owned cars, similar to the sale they had in March.
- A special permit was granted to Marjorie Pryse to grow and process garden products and honey, to be sold at other farmer's market locations.

As the Village continues to grow and develop it is important that the Planning Board (with Board of Trustees involvement) insure that there is a smooth and gradual transition between our commercial and residential districts. An example of this consideration was the Lansing Meadows PDA, where we specified that the southeast end of Oakcrest Rd. (which previously was zoned commercial) would now be residential. Over the past few months the P.B. has had several informal discussions about our present uses in the Commercial Low Traffic District. The Board's intention is to be pro-active to any possible future development in this transitional district, and insure a comfortable atmosphere in our residential districts. Of course, if any changes occur there will be public hearings.

Additional information on any of the above topics can be found in the Planning Board Meeting Minutes section on the Village website. We welcome the Village public to attend our Planning Board meetings, which usually are held the second Monday and the last Tuesday of each month, 7:30 - 10:00pm.

Mario Tomei, Planning Board Chairman

VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE

Why is my Sewer Bill so High?

If you are connected to sewer you did not see a sewer unit charge on your 2012 Tax Bill. The billing method has been changed and it now appears on your Quarterly Water/Sewer Billing. The Village of Lansing (VOL) pays the Village of Cayuga Heights (VCH) for use of their sewer plant. In the past they charged a flat rate to each household. The VCH now charges on a consumption basis. The rate which the VOL has to pay VCH is \$3.22/1,000 gallons of water consumption. Last year the flat rate charge of \$165 per unit was added to your tax bill (SD324). This year you did not see that charge on your tax bill but instead you are now seeing it as part of your water/sewer bill.

A minimum water/sewer bill will be \$41 for water and \$41.70 for sewer (\$32.20 for VCH and \$9.50 the 30% surcharge to VOL). If you have a minimum bill you are actually paying \$36.20 less for sewer this year. Billing based on consumption is actually the fairest way to do it and we are glad that VCH has decided to make this change. If you have any additional questions you may call the Village office at 257-0424 ext. #1. Quarterly Water/Sewer Bills have gone out and are due by October 20th.

Notary Services

Notary public services are available free of charge to Village residents at the Village Office. Residents are asked to telephone the Village Office at 257-0424 to arrange a time for this service.

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. The application and instructions can be found on our webpage under Applications and Forms. You may also pick up an application at the Village Office or by calling the Village Office (257-0424) and requesting an application be mailed to you.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer

VILLAGE CODE & ZONING DEPARTMENT

In February the Village hired Brian Quadrozzi to perform Fire Inspections in the Village of Lansing. Brian is a welcomed and friendly addition to the Village team and continues to work with the local businesses and apartment owners to become compliant with the New York State Codes collection. If you would like to contact Brian please call (607) 257-0424 ext. #222.

Within the past six months all permit application forms have been updated, which can be found either at the Village Offices or online at www.vlansing.org. There are numerous scenarios in which a building permit would be needed, I would encourage individuals who are interested in additions, new construction, remolding, installation of a solid fuel burning heating appliance, chimney or flue, installation of new heating equipment, etc. to visit the Village of Lansing Office at 2405 North Triphammer Road for any questions they might have. Also please remember to check the batteries in all Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detectors.">Would provide the past of the past o

Marty Moseley, Code & Zoning Officer

VILLAGE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Brush Pick-Up

Fall brush and limb pick-up will be provided by the Village of Lansing Highway Department on Monday October 15th. Residents are asked to leave all materials near the roadside by 6:00am 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 6 feet in length. Also, the piles should not be tied but should be left loose.

You may also take your brush to the Town of Lansing Highway Department any time during the year. They also have a large pile of free woodchips that any Lansing Resident is allowed to go pick up for their personal use. Sorry, no private contractors. If you have any questions or need more information, please call the Town Highway Department at 533-4328.

John Courtney, Supt. of Public Works

TRUSTEE LEOPOLD ON ILLCIT DISCHARGE

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 enacted a local stormwater law in 2010 that covers many types of construction activities in the Village as well as

other activities that could potentially compromise the quality and quantity of stormwater entering Cayuga Lake. Municipalities around the south end of the lake have enacted their stormwater laws as well, taking 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 work to prevent illicit discharges of substances such as waste motor oil, fertilizers, pesticides, paint thinners, waste waters from commercial operations and the like, that are sometimes released into our waterways. The Village Board passed a local law in 2011, "Village of Lansing Illicit Discharges, Activities and Connections to Separate Storm Sewer System Law (Local Law 4 of 2011)", which prohibits intentional release of these materials from residential and commercial operations into the Village's receiving waters. Local Law 4 (2011) may be found in the Village of Lansing Code: Chapter 80 (entitled "Village of Lansing Illicit Discharges, Activities and Connections to Separate Storm Sewer System Law")

While we strive in our Village operations to use good housekeeping methods for storing, using and disposing of toxic/hazardous materials, we also must work 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 surface 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, or rinse out paint containers and buckets, dumping the waste water into nearby ditches in hopes that perhaps it would "just go away". Unfortunately, even small amounts 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 Solid Waste Management Division's Household Hazardous Waste collection days (call 273-6632 or visit http://www.recycletompkins.org/). The Solid Waste Division also has many guidelines and suggestions about how to avoid disposing of harmful substances, and suggestions of alternatives to hazardous materials used in homes and businesses.

Village Highway staff participated in a training about Illicit Discharges, Detection and Elimination, provided by the Stormwater Coalition of Tompkins County, of which the Village is a member. Our employees 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, spelled out in the Village's Illicit Discharge law, which went into effect on June 1, 2011.

We should all care about what enters our waterways and ultimately, 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. Remember: We all live downstream!

Lynn Leopold Village Trustee

BOLTON POINT CUSTOMERS

Did you know you can enter your water reading on-line? The process is simple, easy and not only saves you time, but it also saves postage. Go to **www.boltonpoint.org**. Or you can call 607-277-0660 anytime. Updates can also be made to a phone number or e-mail address on your water/sewer account.

HOUSING MARKET REPORT

Thank you to Elvina Amati of Warren Real Estate for submitting the following information...

Residential Sales in Tompkins County: 34 of a Year

	2010	2011	2012
Number of sales	529	502	555
Average Sales price,	\$216,000	\$213,000	\$218,000
Average Price/sq.ft,	\$118	\$115	\$116
Average Days on Market	131	142	139
Volume, Million \$\$	114.0	106.9	121.0

Existing Home Sales Improve, Prices Continue to Rise

The New York State housing market monthly sales reached 26 months high in August, with number of closed sales increasing by 8% compared to last August. Median sales price grew 4% and the number of pending sales increased by 13% compared to August 2011. (New York State Association of Realtors). Nation wide, number of closed sales hit 6 year high in July with median sales price 3.8% higher than year ago. (National Association of Realtors).

Homebuilding Plans on the Rise

Confidence among U.S. homebuilders climbed in August to the highest level in more than 5 years affirming the improvement in residential construction. The outlook appears to be brightening, but there is still much room for improvement. (National Association of Homebuilders).

Increase in Spending on Home Improvements

Home improvement retailer Home Depot Inc is also benefiting. The Atlanta-based company reported second quarter profit that topped analyst's estimates and raised it's forecast for profit this year as customers spend more on remodeling projects. (www.bloomberg.com/news).

TOMPKINS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Remember to get out and vote on November 6th from 6am to 9pm. Contact the Board of Elections for absentee ballots. More information can be found at www.votetompkins.com

Tom M. Paolangeli

REPORT FROM TOWN OF LANSING RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Youth and Adult Recreation Programs Starting Soon!

The Town of Lansing Recreation Department is currently accepting registration forms for the following programs:

- **Ski Program** Is for students in grades K 12 and takes place on Monday evenings starting January 7th. Register before October 13th for early discount. Ski Program information meeting open to all at the Lansing Town Hall October 10th at 6:30 PM.
- **Bowling Program** For students in grades 3 8 and takes place on Monday's after school starting October 29th through December 10th.
- **Gymnastics** For students in grades K 4 on Friday's after school starting November 2 and takes place at Fingerlakes Gymnastics Academy.
- Adult Open Swim Takes place at the Lansing High School pool on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting October 2nd from 11:30 12:15.
- Adult fitness classes are ongoing and offered mornings and evenings at the Town Hall campus.

Additional information and specifics are available on each registration form. Please see our web page www.lansingrec.com or email Steve-lansingrec@twcny.rr.com or call the office at 533-7388.

Steve Colt, Town of Lansing Park & Recreation Director

TOMPKINS COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Tire Collection Day

When: Saturday, October 13th, 2012 from 9am to 1pm.

Where: Lansing Highway Dept. 10 Town Barn Rd.

All car, light truck and small agricultural tires will be collected for \$2.00 each.

Tractor trailer tires will be collected for \$3.00 each.

All NY State Residents are welcome.

Cleaner Greener Southern Tier Plan.

We're pleased to announce our second round of public meetings for the Cleaner Greener Southern Tier Plan. We would like your help to review and prioritize the long-term implementation plan and short-term actions proposed for our region. The action plan includes realistic policies, programs and projects to help achieve energy and greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability goals. These are the building blocks of the long-term regional sustainability plan, which will be completed later this Fall.

We are holding 3 public workshops across the Southern Tier; please attend the one most convenient to you.

- Corning: Tuesday, 10/09, 6:30pm-8:30pm

 Three Rivers Development Corp, 114 Pine Street, Suite 201, Corning
- Chenango: Wednesday, 10/10, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Chenango Town Hall, 1529 State Route 12, Binghamton

Ithaca: Thursday, 10/11, 6:30pm-8:30pm
 Tompkins County Public Library, Borg Warner West rm, 101 East Green St, Ithaca

The draft implementation and action plans is available on the **Cleaner Greener Southern Tier Plan website** at www.cleanergreenersoutherntier.org, If you can't make it to the workshops, there will be interactive exercises available on the website from October 5th-21st to review and prioritize the actions proposed for the Southern Tier. You can also review the **Regional Sustainability Goals Report** and the **Sustainability Indicator Inventory** on the website.

About the Cleaner Greener Southern Tier Plan

The Cleaner Greener Southern Tier Plan is underway, and the workshops and website are key means of gathering your input on this process to develop a regional sustainability plan for the Southern Tier that reflects local feedback. Residents, businesses, and institutions from Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, and Tompkins counties are all invited to participate in the development of this plan that will establish regional goals and identify implementation actions that will enable the Southern Tier region to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

This Cleaner Greener Southern Tier Plan was awarded \$1,000,000.00 by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to develop a regional sustainability vision and goals that will provide a map to a sustainable future for the Southern Tier and identify actions needed to achieve that future. The Plan will result in several products:

- A regional baseline inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and energy use, and an assessment of natural resource and economic assets, liabilities, and opportunities.
- Regional sustainability targets on topics such as energy supply, transportation, waste and water management, land use, livable communities, climate change adaptation, economic development, and governance.
- A sustainability plan with both a short-term action strategy and a long-term implementation plan to achieve the regional targets and goals.
- A priority list of projects that the region has selected as candidates for NYSERDA

funding in the next phase of this program.

<u>Please distribute this announcement</u> to your colleagues, friends, neighbors, relevant newsletters, and other groups that you think might be interested in participating.

If you would like to contact the project staff, please email them at info@cleanergreenersoutherntier.org or contact local Planning Team members directly: Leslie Schill, Tompkins County, lschill@tompkins-co.org, (607) 274-5560 Marcia Weber, Southern Tier Central RPDB, weber@stny.rr.com, (607) 962-5092 Erik Miller, Southern Tier East RPDB, director.steny@gmail.com, (607) 724-1327



YMCA HOSTS NEW SCARECROW SCAMPER 5K AND FUN RUN

The YMCA of Ithaca and Tompkins County is hosting the First Annual 5K Scarecrow Scamper and Monster Mile Run Run/Walk on October 27, 2012 at the Cornell Plantations. We are actively seeking partner organizations that can serve as event sponsors.

This family-oriented event is being held in collaboration with Cornell Sorority Pi Beta Phi, and will feature a one mile walk/run through the pathways of the Cornell

Plantations, and a 5K race that will begin by the pond and loop twice around the road in the Plantations. This event will be held with the Halloween holiday in mind: participants are encouraged to wear costumes and will receive pumpkins and gourds for prizes! We are confident that we will attract a good number of children and adults as participants for both races.

We invite anyone and everyone to come and join the fun, any and all ages. Those interested may sign up on-line at www.ithacaymca.com, or register at the YMCA Front Desk Welcome Center. As an alternative, we invite everyone to join us as a sponsor and partner with us in an effort to provide much-needed services to our community through the YMCA Scholarship Fund.

If you have any questions about the race or available sponsorship opportunities, please don't hesitate to contact Laurie Cuomo or Teresa Morehouse at the Y at 257-0101, via email, or stop by the Y on Graham Road West, Ithaca, adjacent to the Shops at Ithaca Mall. We look forward to everyone's participation in promoting healthy, active living, and sponsoring a fun, positive event for our entire community.

Visit the YMCA facility at Graham Road West, Ithaca, NY 14850, www.ithacaymca.com, call (607) 257-0101, or email: info@ithacaymca.com.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE EMPLOYEES

Donald Hartill Clerk/Treasurer Jodi Dake Mayor 272-7671 257-0424 Code Enf. /Zoning Officer DLH13@cornell.edu Marty Moseley 257-8363 Lynn Leopold Supt. of Public Works John Courtney Deputy Mayor 273-3457 257-6280 LynnBird58@yahoo.com Asst. Supt. of Public Works Adam LaLonde 257-6280 Trustee John O'Neill 266-8392 **MEO** Nolan Hatfield 257-6280

johnoneil5@aol.com Electrical Inspector Floyd Ferris 592-5829

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke 272-4029
patithaca@aol.com Village Accountant

Trustee Julie Baker 257-2474 Ciaschi Dietershagen Little & Mickelson 272-4444

jakbaker@gmail.com Village Attorney

Jon Kanter (alt.)

BZA Acting Chair Mary Sirois 257-1035 Barney Grossman Dubow & Marcus 273-6841 Village Engineers TG Millers 272-6477

Planning Bd. Chairman Mario Tomei 257-1921 Engineering Consultant Brent Cross

Planning Board Phil Dankert Engineering Consultant Brent Cross

Richard Durst
Lisa Schleelein
Maria Stycos

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

John Courtney, Superintendent of Public Works 257-6280, Ext. 224 or cell-280-4893

VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES

Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission	Donald Hartill, Michael Newman
Tompkins County Board of Representatives, District 6	Pat Pryor
Tompkins County Board of Representatives, District 10	Dooley Kiefer
Tompkins County Environmental Management Council	John Dennis

STATE AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

N.Y. State Senator Mike Nozzolio (R)
54th State Senate District
412 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

N.Y. State Assembly Barbara Lifton (D)
125th State Assembly District
106 E. Court St.
Ithaca, NY 14850

Albany, NY 12247 Ithaca, NY 14850 (518)455-2366 (607)277-8030

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D)U.S. Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand (D)U.S. Rep. Richard L. Hanna322 Hart Senate Office Bldg.478 Russell Senate Office Bldg.127 Cannon House Office Bldg.Washington, D.C. 20510Washington, D.C. 20510Washington, D.C. 20515(202)224-6542(202)224-4451Cortland office-(607)756-2470

Have a Great Fall!