

Our Town



AUTUMN 2024

Newsletter for the Town of Lansing

Issue 3

Town Offices:

Court

Judge John Howell
Judge Maura Kennedy-Smith
Melody Lombardo, Court Clerk
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:30am to 4:00pm

Highway Department

Mike Moseley, Highway Superintendent
Jamar Redmond, Deputy Highway Superintendent
Kevin May, Working Supervisor
Jenna Hoellerer, Highway Secretary
Hours: Monday-Friday, 6:00am to 2:00pm

Parks & Recreation

Patrick Tyrrell, Director of Parks & Recreation
Tyler Todd, Parks & Rec. MEO/Coordinator
Meggie Conley, Parks & Rec. Secretary
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:00am to 3:30pm
Friday, 7:00am to noon

Planning & Code Enforcement

John Zepko, Director of Planning/Code
Mason Molesso, Town Planner
Scott Russell, Zoning/Code/Fire Enforcement Officer
Heather Dries, Code Enforcement Officer
Kelly Geiger, Code/Planning Information Aide
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:30am to 12:30pm
Friday, 7:30am to noon
or by appointment

Supervisor's Office

Ruth Groff, Town Supervisor
Mary Ellen Albrecht, Bookkeeper
Jennifer Schenck, Accountant
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:30am to 4:00pm
Friday, 7:30am to noon

Town Clerk's Office

Debbie Munson, Town Clerk
Jessie Hall, Deputy Town Clerk
Ashley Workman, Town Clerk Aide
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:30am to 4:00pm
Friday, 7:30am to noon

www.lansingtown.com

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERVISOR



We are now in the fourth quarter of the year, and in the process of finalizing the 2025 budget, we are looking forward to the upcoming holidays. This year, with a substantially new Town Board, has been a year of challenges, learning, frustrations, accomplishments, successes, and some failures. We are understanding what it is that makes Lansing tick and the Town Board is finding its rhythm. We have high hopes for the next few years.

This quarterly newsletter is intended to share with you the news from not only the Town Board but from our staff, committees, and other resources around town, to keep you informed. The goal is to highlight accomplishments, provide updates on issues, announce upcoming topics, inform you of events in the community, and share community interest stories.

We welcome any comments about this newsletter so we may improve future issues, and we encourage you to submit community interest stories that highlight natural features in Lansing, or that shine the spotlight on any Lansing resident who deserves recognition for their accomplishments or dedication.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruth Groff".

Town Supervisor

Town Board

Ruth Groff, Town Supervisor
Joseph Wetmore, Board Member/Deputy Town Supervisor
Judy Drake, Board Member
Laurie Hemmings, Board Member
Christine Montague, Board Member

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HIGHER INTEREST EARNED

Late in the year of 2022, Debbie Munson, Town Clerk, and Jessie Hall, Deputy Town Clerk, expressed concern over the minimal amount of interest that has been earned on the millions of dollars of property taxes that are collected in January of each year. They set out to remedy that situation and came upon a local bank that offered a rate of more than 5% on all of the Town's bank accounts. This rate is competitive with NYCLASS (New York Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities Systems) which is a local government investment pool, and this local bank's rates are generally a fraction higher than NYCLASS. The Clerk's office moved their accounts over to this bank in 2023. Since then, the Town has moved all of its accounts over to this bank, and the result of that transition has reaped benefits for the town to the tune of nearly ten times the interest earned in prior years. Thanks to Debbie and Jessie for their efforts that resulted in a savings to the taxpayers of Lansing.

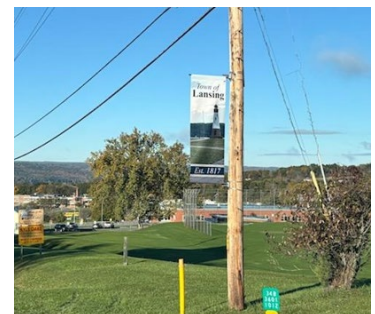
GOVERNOR HOCHUL SIGNED THE BILL

On April 17, 2024, the Town Board passed Resolution 24-105, which resolved that the Town of Lansing supports the naming of the NYS Route 34B bridge after Peter Wheeler. The Resolution was sent to Senator Lea Webb and Assemblymember Anna Kelles, as support for Assembly Bill A4914B. The Bill passed the Senate and Assembly on May 29, 2024, and was sent on to the Governor's office for signature. Governor Hochul signed the Bill on August 30, 2024. We have not as yet received word as to when the sign will be installed on the bridge.

GRANTS RECEIVED FOR GREENWAY

The Trails Working Group has been forging ahead with their efforts to bring a trail system to Lansing. Within the past few months, they have been successful in receiving three grants to assist with this endeavor.

- **\$50,000 from the Park Foundation for a Comprehensive Trails Plan.** The funds will be used to pay a consultant to work with the committee and certain town staff to develop a comprehensive plan, which will be a significant document for the Town to have when applying for grants to proceed with construction of the trails.
- **\$12,000 from the Tompkins County Tourism Capital Grant Program.** This grant will pay for a feasibility study and cost estimate for a yet to be determined first phase of the Greenway.
- **\$2,250 from Cornell Cooperative Extension for Beautification.** The grant was designated for pole banners along Lansing's main thoroughfare on the Route 34/34B corridor. Eight banners and hardware were purchased with these funds, and they were installed during the second week of October. You may notice them intermittently along the section of road from the Town Hall down to the school.



PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AT CROSSWALK

If you have been following the Town Board meetings, you know that on different occasions the topic of safety along Route 34/34B in front of Town Hall and the ballfields has been raised. There have been many accidents along the section of road, including one personal injury case that required a life flight to Syracuse. This particular stretch of road has been flagged in the County's Joint Safety Action Plan, and there have been numerous letters sent from residents and from the Town Board to the NYSDOT, asking that something be done to make it a safer road. It seems our requests have been answered. On September 26, 2024, we received a letter from the NYSDOT informing us that they have approved and will install a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon at the crosswalk.

Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons

What Are They?

Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons (RRFB) enhance safety by reducing the potential for crashes between vehicles and pedestrians at unsignalized locations. They consist of pedestrian safety signs with lights that, when activated, flash to attract motorists' attention.



Pedestrians:

- Choose an appropriate gap in traffic, and push the pedestrian button.
- The beacons will flash.
- Ensure that motorists have stopped before entering the crosswalk.
- Walk defensively as you cross to be sure all motorists are stopping.

Motorists:

- Look for pedestrians and bicyclists when approaching an RRFB, even when the beacons are dark.
- Always stop before the crosswalk. Never stop in or block a crosswalk.
- Wait for pedestrians and bicyclists to completely clear the lane before proceeding, regardless of whether or not lights are still flashing.

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY ROAD DEICER

The Highway Superintendent, Mike Moseley, has committed to switching to ClearLane deicer once the current supply of salt is depleted. ClearLane is a Cargill product that is a “pre-wet sodium chloride made from a patented liquid magnesium chloride formula and mixing process.” In the long-run, this product can provide environmental, fiscal, and safety advantages over rock salt.

- ClearLane adheres to the road better, resulting in less scatter. This translates to less product needed, which means less cost for the town, and less environmental impact.
- It contains a corrosion inhibitor, which hopefully will extend the life of the town’s fleet, as well as diminish the effect on automobiles on the road.
- This product is effective at much lower temperatures than rock salt. Salt is effective only to about 15°, where ClearLane is effective below zero, thus providing for safer roads in the winter, and fewer applications of deicer. Fewer applications means lower cost to the town and less impact on the environment.

STATUS UPDATES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW) CAMPUS

The project is in the final design development phase, which includes site plans (grading, stormwater, lighting, etc.), relocation of the salt barn, demolition of the cold storage and administration wings of the current building, and design of the new DPW building. The new building is being designed to include office spaces for the Highway Department and the Planning and Code Enforcement Department, as well as the garage for the Town’s truck fleet and equipment, and maintenance bays.

Colliers Engineering and Design (formerly Bergmann) and LeChase Construction are the organizations that the Town hired to develop these plans and estimates. The Lansing team for this project consists of the Highway Superintendent, Mike Moseley; the Town Supervisor, Ruth Groff; the Town Engineer, David Herrick; and the Town Counsel, Guy Krogh. The three organizations have been working diligently to ensure that costs are kept to a minimum while at the same time designing the building to allow for growth over the next fifty years, i.e. room for additional office space as the staff grows, and room for added equipment, if and when it is needed.

Over the next few months, the construction documents will be prepared and reconciled, and it is expected that by February the project will go out to bid. If this preliminary schedule is met, then it is anticipated that the project will be awarded in March, with ground-breaking in April.

This project has been years in the making, so it will be a step in the right direction to finally see this greatly needed project underway next year.

INTRODUCING TOWN BOARD MEMBERS

JUDY DRAKE, MEMBER

Judy Drake, just a girl who loves cows!



My life is like many others that grew up on a farm. We had a lot of fun outside the times of long days of hard work. It is the kind of life that creates a strong work ethic and a dedication to the community you live in. I was the 7th generation to grow up on our small farm on Buck Road. My parents, Ed and Dottie Munson, raised my 3 brothers (Bob, Will, and Jon) and I on a small dairy farm. We all went to Lansing schools and all still live in Lansing today. Running Creek Farm is no longer a dairy farm, but still active today as an organic crop farm producing food for cows.

My youth included being involved in 4-H by showing cows at fair, square dancing competitions at NYS fair, Tompkins County Dairy Princess Program, and working for my mom at Baskin Robbins (BR) ice cream at the mall. Through this I spent many years promoting and educating the community on the value of agriculture and sharing my love of cows.

After graduating from Rochester Institute of Technology in Business and Marketing, I assisted my mom for a few years with our BR store in Ithaca and one in Vestal. Doyle and I, in 1997, bought a few acres of the farmland from my parents. Doyle was able to work and live in the same community as he has worked for Cargill Salt for over 30 years. For many years he also assisted with the family crop farm by doing mechanical and field work. Living in Lansing allowed our children, Lizzy and Brandon, to grow up around an agricultural community, with a small school and lots of family and friends. Our joy was that our kids, who learned through 4-H and farmer friends how much time and work went into raising and showing cows and other animals at fair. Lizzy was able to follow in my footsteps and had the opportunity to be a Tompkins County Dairy Princess.

Why did I choose to apply and run for Town Board, you may ask. In 1996, I started my career with the Town of Ithaca doing human resources, risk management, and operations. At the time I had no idea how much I would love being involved in how a small municipality provides service for the community. I always desired to bring my work experience back to the community I lived in. I volunteered and served on the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Agriculture committee for many years. I also serve as the Treasurer for the Lansing Lions Club. In January I was appointed to a vacant seat on the Town Board, and now I would like to thank all the residents for electing me on November 5th to continue my role on the Town Board for 2025.

My goal as a Town Board member is to provide a balance of the importance of the rural and agricultural area in the north end of the town and the more suburban area of the south end. The town has grown in population and complexity over the past 30 years. With the addition of population brings the need to provide water and sewer infrastructure, while preserving the beautiful green space and great services like the parks and recreation programs. I hope to provide guidance in day-to-day operations, support and educate on the importance of good planning and zoning practices and keep the down-home feeling as friends and family gather to enjoy things like music in the park, boating on the lake, and chicken BBQs.

LAURIE HEMMINGS, MEMBER



My life has always been about returning to the Ithaca area. I was born in Ithaca at what was then the Tompkins County Hospital. My family moved to Maryland when I was three years old. I grew up on a small farm but returned to study at the Industrial and Labor Relations (ILR) School at Cornell University.

After I finished my degree, I worked for Sylvania, a lighting company. I held various jobs in human resources but moved into technology when eLearning was new. I travelled for work, teaching the new technology in many parts of the United States, Germany, China, Malaysia, and Mexico. I met people across the country and the world from many different cultures, but I learned that people everywhere share the same concerns for their family, their children, their livelihood, and their jobs.

Scott and I moved to Lansing in 2002. A few years later, he started teaching archeology at Ithaca college. Farming and music come together in our lives through the CRS Barn Studio. I continued to work remotely and travel. But after 19 years with Sylvania, the company was sold, and I was laid off. I took a temporary job working as a technical writer at Cornell Information Technologies, which blossomed into a new career in IT communications.

My daughter and I started karate at Lansing's local dojo, Cayuga Lake Seido Karate, about 10 years ago. Now, you can find me at the dojo most days of the week, either learning or teaching.

On the Town Board, I work to support Lansing's rural character, especially its farms and beautiful open spaces, its local businesses, and most importantly the people who live in our town. I want to improve our town communications and explore how technology can help us grow while preserving our community's character.

RUTH GROFF, TOWN SUPERVISOR



My life journey began in Alfred Station, NY, where my family lived on a small farm, raising chickens and growing corn. At the age of six, we relocated to Lexington, KY, where my high school years were filled with grand experiences as a member of a folk-dance troupe that performed around the state. Then college took me to Ohio where I earned my B.S. degree in accounting, married, had two children, and became a CPA.

As an Accountant, my 40-year career allowed me to become acquainted with a variety of industries and organizational types of diverse sizes, and to achieve high-level management positions. I even had a few teaching gigs along the way. A skill that I acquired with this extensive accounting background is the ability to easily adapt to systems and requirements that are unique to each industry, which, as it turns out, is quite helpful in my new position of Town Supervisor and Chief Budget Officer.

In 2001, my employer, Science Applications International Corp., moved Don and me to Houston, TX, which is where I learned that I do not tolerate heat, humidity, noise and light pollution, and one-hour commutes. So, in 2011, we moved to Lansing. The choice was the result of a desire to find an ideal place to spend the rest of our lives.

It turns out that Lansing is the perfect place for me, and I have not regretted this choice for even one second. On the other hand, Don, who assigned himself the title “Chief Trailing Spouse,” didn’t care for the cold, so we compromised and bought a pontoon boat for summer enjoyment. He loved that boat, and we spent many hours on the lake. One year we navigated the Erie Canal, starting at Myers Park, making our way all the way to Little Falls before turning around and heading home. The five-day trip through locks and along the Mohawk River was magical and the stories from that week are countless.

Lansing and the Finger Lakes region provide opportunities that I previously only dreamed of. I love to ride my bike wherever I can, go kayaking in the lakes, hike glorious trails, hang out with members of the Dragon Boat team (even though I haven’t paddled in ten years they still accept me as one of the family), volunteer at the History Center doing research for exhibits, and perform living history portrayals of Martha Van Rensselaer. Here, all of these things are possible, and without a one-hour commute!

Some say that I am following in the steps of my mother, and I suppose I am, although not intentionally. When she was a septuagenarian, my mother ran for the Town Board in Woodstock, NY, and won that seat handily. I can claim the same accomplishment, however, the similarities stop there, as I do not have a building named for me, my name is not in the U.S. Congressional Record, the town has not dedicated a day to me, and John Kennedy, Jr. never came to one of my birthday parties.

Even though I am not as accomplished as my mother, the good people of Lansing elected me anyway, and I am so honored to have the opportunity to serve the Town of Lansing with all its glorious attributes and wonderful residents. Lansing is the friendliest place I have ever lived. It is also the most beautiful and the healthiest, and I plan to work hard to keep it that way.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOTS

UNDERSTANDING THE TAX LEVY

The Town of Lansing has a Fund Balance Policy, as adopted with Resolution 16-91. This policy states the following:

The Town of Lansing has an important responsibility to its citizens to carefully account for public funds, to manage municipal finances wisely and to plan the adequate funding of services desired by the public, including the provision and maintenance of public facilities.

The Town Board recognizes that the maintenance of fund balance is essential to the preservation of the financial integrity of the town and is fiscally advantageous for both the Town and the Taxpayer in that it helps mitigate current and future risks and assists in ensuring stable tax rates. This policy will ensure the Town maintains adequate fund balance and reserves in the Town's General Fund and Highway Fund to provide the capacity to:

- *Ensure sufficient cash flow for daily financial requirements*
- *Guard against significant economic downturns*
- *Protect against unforeseen expenditures related to emergencies*
- *Maintain investment grade bond ratings*
- *Provide a framework to help guide budgetary decisions*

The Policy further states:

*In recognition of a sound fiscal policy and in order to stabilize and preserve the current credit rating of the Town, the Town Board affirms its commitment to make all reasonable efforts to maintain a responsible General and Highway Fund Balance and all Enterprise Funds at the end of each fiscal year. The unrestricted Fund Balance of each fund should be maintained at a minimum of **25% of current operating expenditures** and making sure to account for upcoming issues that may impact special districts.*

Unfortunately, the Townwide General Fund has steadily declined from 36% in 2019 to 16% in 2023, and the Townwide Highway Fund has likewise declined from 32% in 2019 to 13% in 2023. Because of the unprecedented increase in assessments, the Town Board opted to not increase the tax rate for 2025, which resulted in the inability to increase those fund balances for the coming year. We understand that these balances are not in accordance with the Town's policy, so the Town Supervisor/Chief Budget Officer has prepared a preliminary five-year forecast to set the plan for bringing the fund balances back up to the required minimum amounts within that five-year period.

The preliminary five-year forecast, as mentioned in the previous paragraph, will be reviewed and revised by the department heads and the Deputy Budget Officer before going to the Town Board for approval and adoption. At that point, the document will become available to the public.

FACTORS THAT AFFECT THE BUDGET AND FORECAST

AGING INFRASTRUCTURE: Lansing's buildings and water lines are on the decline due to age.



- The past couple of years have seen more water line breaks than usual, and although our Department of Public Works (DPW) has been able to repair each break, much of the system is nearing the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced. The cost to do this is in excess of \$2M.
- Likewise, the roofs of the community center and the old schoolhouse next to the Town Hall need to be replaced. They both are leaking badly enough that if we don't replace the roofs, the town will encounter even more cost to repair damage from the water. The cost for both roofs will be around \$150,000. This is included in the 2025 budget.
- The HVAC system at Town Hall is not working properly and costs thousands of dollars each year just to keep it functioning adequately. Consequently, it is time to replace the system with a more efficient and economical system. The cost is unknown at this time, but best estimates are nearly \$200,000. The Town is eligible for several green energy grants, and this project is included in the 2025 budget.



PARKS: Myers Park has been maintained as effectively as possible, however, the bathrooms there need to be replaced. The Town has been cutting this from the budget year after year in an attempt to keep the tax rate low. It is nearing the time when this cannot be postponed any longer. The last estimate for this nearly two years ago was \$400,000.

ROADS: The Town of Lansing currently owns 96 miles of roads, all of which need to be resurfaced periodically.



The state recommends a rotation period of ten years, which would mean that every year we resurface nearly 10 miles of road, at an average cost of \$136,000 per mile. Currently, we are resurfacing only half of that, about 5 miles per year. This has been a cost-saving measure that our Highway Department has used to keep costs down each year. However, it is the goal of the Highway Superintendent and the Town Board to get back on track with a more effective rotation schedule.

The portion of Ludlowville Road that provides a second route to and from the Lansing schools' campus was closed in 2021 due to a slope failure. To repair it will cost well over \$2M, which is currently not within reach of our budget as it stands now.



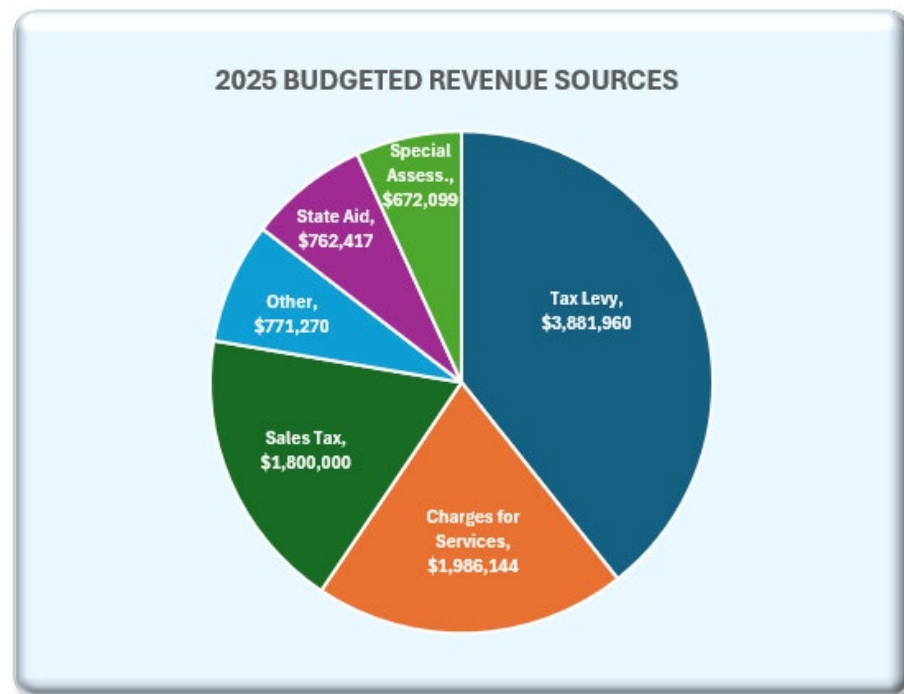
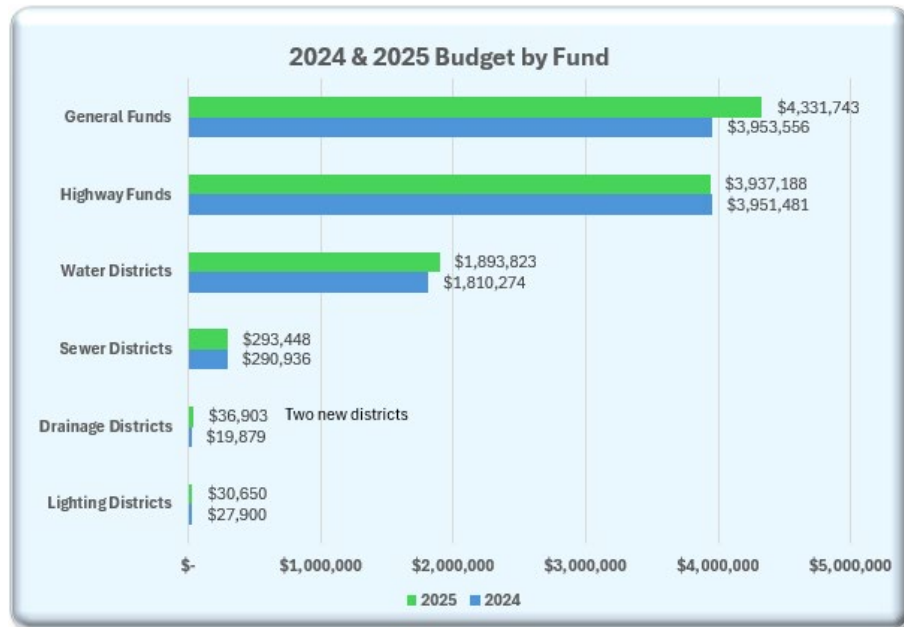
NEW DPW CAMPUS: The old Highway barn has outlived its useful life and no longer accommodates the growing town and staff. The Town is nearing the final stages of design and preparing for construction of the new campus starting early next year. The debt service on the \$22M bond will be due starting in 2026, which is just over \$1.2M/year.



STAFFING NEEDS: As the Town continues to grow, and as more and more unfunded mandates are imposed on municipalities, staffing needs are expanding. The Planning & Code Enforcement Department will need to hire an additional person within the next year or so, just to be able to manage solar projects and to administer state mandates around stormwater. Currently the Director of Parks and Recreation is managing most of the IT needs, including the website, as well as acting as the facilities manager. It is expected that in the not-too-distant future the Town will need to hire an IT specialist, as well as a Facilities Manager, in order to relieve the pressure from the Director Parks and Recreation, and to facilitate growing demands in both of those areas.

OVERVIEW OF THE 2025 BUDGET

- ❖ Cost of supplies and contracts increased by 6%
- ❖ Labor costs and employee benefits increased by 5% due to cost-of-living increases, the hike in minimum wage, and adjustments for employees moving to new steps based on years of employment
- ❖ Health insurance premiums increased by 14% for 2025, and are expected to increase by 12% in 2026
- ❖ The first interest payment is expected for the Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) for the DPW facility pre-construction costs. That payment was budgeted for \$68,500 for 2025.
- ❖ \$150,000 was budgeted for the repair of the roofs on the community center and the old schoolhouse (see explanation on previous page)



The final 2025 budget will not be posted until late November, but you will be able to find that budget at this site: <https://www.lansingtown.com/town-board/page/budgets-auds-audits>

LANSING TOWN DEPARTMENTS

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: TIPS FOR THE WINTER

With the weather starting to change, please keep in mind the different rules and regulations regarding certain aspects of Town Roads.

✓ Don't Crowd the Snowplow

Plow trucks are operated by one person, and travel at 30 MPH or slower when plowing and/or salting the road. This helps ensure that salt being dispersed stays in the driving lanes and does not scatter off the road. We use salt as efficiently and effectively as possible to keep roads safe and minimize our environmental impact.

Snowplows are big and have many blind spots. A plow truck loaded with salt can weigh more than 30 tons. Their size and weight make them difficult to maneuver or stop quickly. Trucks that are actively plowing can kick up clouds of snow that reduce visibility for nearby motorists.

For these reasons, motorists should never pass snowplows. Stay well behind a plow – several car lengths – where the road is freshly plowed. It's the safest place to drive.

✓ Parking on Town Roads

No standing or parking is permitted upon any roadway during any snow event. No standing or parking is permitted upon any roadway after any snow event until the completion of town snow removal operations. Any vehicle found to be in violation shall be subject to citation or ticketing and/or removal or immediate towing. For a full copy of the Town's Snow Ordinance policy, please visit <https://www.lansingtown.com/highway/page/snow-ordinance>.

✓ Plowing Driveways, Clearing Sidewalks

With winter kicking in, comes the need to shovel, plow or blow the sidewalks and driveways. The Lansing Highway Department would like to remind the public that blowing or plowing snow into or across the street can be dangerous and is illegal. Article 1219 of New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL) prohibits anyone from putting on public roads "any substance likely to injure any person, animal or vehicle"which includes snow.

✓ Mailboxes

Mailboxes shall be installed according to United States Postal Service guidelines. The distance from the edge of pavement to the front of the mailbox shall be 6" to 12" with a 43" clearance to the bottom of the mailbox or structure support arm.

Property owners assume the responsibility of proper placement and ensuring the wooden, metal or plastic post and arm are free from rot, breakage or deterioration and are in a structurally sound condition.

If a mailbox that is properly installed and initially in good repair is damaged by a Town vehicle/equipment, the Town will replace or repair it upon timely notification being given to the Lansing Highway Department. Repairs requiring a new mailbox will be made using a standard aluminum mailbox.

Newspaper boxes should follow the same requirements for mailboxes and should not be placed under the mailbox due to the clearance requirements.

Continued on page 13

✓ Seasonal Limited Use Highways

A friendly reminder that Seasonal limited use highways are not maintained from the first day of December until the first day of April. Any snow and ice removal and maintenance is suspended during this time.

✓ See and Be Seen: Recommendations for Pedestrians on the Roadway

Make eye contact with the driver, make sure the driver sees you. If you won't be able to see the drivers, make double-sure they see you. Yes, it's the driver's responsibility to see you, but if they don't, it's your life. To boost your visibility, wear bright colors and wear a safety vest with lights or reflectors. If you are on the roadway at dawn, dusk, or when it is dark out, take a headlamp or flashlight along for extra shine/visibility.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE: TIPS FOR PAYING TAX AND WATER BILLS

607-533-4142

Deborah K. Munson, Town Clerk

Jessie Hall, Deputy Town Clerk

Monday – Thursday – 7:30am - 4pm

Friday – 7:30am – Noon

WATER/SEWER BILLS: Billed quarterly (February, May, August, November)

The next water and sewer bills will be mailed on October 31, 2024. Payments are due by November 25, 2024.

PROPERTY TAX BILL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

The 2025 Town & County tax bills will be mailed by our office at the end of December. Please be sure your information is up to date. If you have moved, changed your mailing address or paid off your mortgage, please contact our office (607-533-4142) or the Tompkins County Assessment Department (607-274-5517) to report any updates.

Q: How and where do I pay my tax bill?

A: Checks payable to: Lansing Receiver of Taxes

(Including a valid telephone number ensures we can contact you if needed)

- **In person payments:** Accepted at the Lansing Town Clerk's Office at 29 Auburn Road, Lansing during our business hours. Checks, cash and credit cards (convenience fee applies) are accepted at the counter. There is also a 24-hour drop box located in the foyer of the Town Hall entrance.
- **By Mail:** Lansing Receiver of Taxes
Attn: Deborah K. Munson
PO Box 186
Lansing, NY 14882

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- **Online (convenience fee applies):** www.lansingtown.com > Departments (top right) > Town Clerk's Office > Taxes (blue box on right) > TaxGlance Lookup - Access your Town & County Taxes (second option on left) > Select link Access your Town & County Taxes > Select year from dropdown menu (2025) > Continue > Fill in single search criteria > Click View to print or pay your bill.

Q: I never received my bill, or received it late; do I still have to pay the penalty?

A: Yes, it is the responsibility of the property owner to know when taxes are due and payable. Failure to mail a statement or the failure of a property owner to receive a statement will not affect the validity of the taxes or interest prescribed by law (New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 922). In addition, neither the Receiver of Taxes nor any other official has legal authority to waive statutory interest charges. Interest charges are fixed by the Real Property Tax Law.

Q: May I pay my taxes in installments?

A: Yes. See your bill for the installment amounts.

First installment plus surcharge:	Second installment:
Payable to: Lansing Receiver of Taxes Pay by: January 31st	Payable to: Tompkins County Finance (125 E Court Street, Ithaca, NY 14850. Phone: 607-274-5545) Pay by: July 1st

Q: If I mail my payment on the due date, do I have to pay a penalty?

A: Yes, unless the envelope is officially postmarked (see chart below). Otherwise, tax payments are considered paid on the date they are received in our office. No town official or employee can waive the interest (Op. New York State Comptroller 68-626). See the New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 925 for further detail on mailing payment.

Type of Postmark	Valid Postmark?
United States Postmark	Yes. <i>Note: Taxpayer must request official postmark from post office employee</i>
Privately Metered Mail	No, taxes are paid upon receipt.
Electronic Transaction Initiated by Taxpayer and Mailed by Bank Using Privately Metered Mail	No, even if the taxpayer initiated during the interest-free period. The bank payment mailed by the bank is subject to the postmark rule. "Bill pay" payments do not have postmarks and are considered paid upon receipt.
Foreign Postmark	No, taxes are paid upon receipt.

- **Taxes in Escrow**

Many residents have their taxes in escrow with lending institutions. In this case, the homeowner will not receive a bill. However, a receipt will be sent once the payment has been processed. In the event that a resident receives a bill that should have gone to the bank, it is still the responsibility of the bank to call for that bill. If the bill should have gone to the homeowner, but went to the bank, it is the homeowner's responsibility to know the taxes are due. Please call our office immediately and we will issue you a duplicate bill. Failure to mail a bill or the failure of a property owner to receive a bill will not affect the validity of the taxes or penalty prescribed by law (New York State Real Property Tax Law 922).

Continued on page 15

If you feel you should have received a bill, but have not during the first week of January, please contact the Town Clerk's office at (607) 533-4142 for a duplicate bill, or to view your bill electronically, visit www.lansingtown.com > Departments (top right) > Town Clerk's Office > Taxes (blue box on right) > TaxGlance Lookup - Access your Town & County Taxes (second option on left) > Select link Access your Town & County Taxes > Select year from drop down menu (2025) > Continue > Fill in single search criteria > Click View to open and print.

- Tax Exemptions**

Applications for veteran, disability, senior citizen, or STAR are due by March 1. For further information, please call the Tompkins County Assessment Department at 607-274-5517.

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT: FUN FACTS

Some fun facts about Myers Park:

Myers Park Visitorship Estimates

Year	Monthly (May-September)		Annual Visit-Days		
	Cars/Month	Visitors/Month	Total Visits	Non-Resident	Out of County
Gate	4,500	9,000	54,000	21,600	<i>Not Available</i>
Camp			3,400	340	<i>Not Available</i>
Boat Slips			3,744	1,310	<i>Not Available</i>
Boat Ramp			9,264	3,706	<i>Not Available</i>
Boat Drydock			1,296	816	<i>Not Available</i>
Kayak Racks			1,440	518	<i>Not Available</i>
Camp Sites			5,400	5,130	<i>Not Available</i>
Paddle-n-More			4,050	3,726	365
		TOTALS	82,594	37,147	365
				45%	0.4%

Myers Park Facts & Figures

- Myers Park hosts 7 concerts per year with an average of 250 non-resident cars, which is estimated to be 40% of the total attendance
- Other Park events include a car show, dog show, (2) 5K races, Veteran's Watch Fire & Suicide Prevention Walk
- Non-resident visitorship at events averages 50% of the total attendance
- The seven park pavilions accommodate a total of 700 people, 1,400 to 2,100 people per weekend. Gate numbers include pavilion guests
- The park also hosts Paddle-n-More which attracts visitors for rentals as well as their Wind-n-Waves Camp
- The above numbers do not include visitorship to the adjacent Salt Point Nature Preserve or Lansing Harbor Marina

COURT: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

From Lansing Town Court

Submitted by Town Justice Maura Kennedy-Smith, soon to be Tompkins County Judge

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Every October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month highlights the ongoing problem of domestic violence in our communities. In New York State, local town courts play a critical role in addressing domestic violence, often serving as the first line of support in ensuring safety for victims.

Lansing Town Court handles dozens of domestic violence cases every year. The town justices' duties range from issuing orders of protection to presiding over criminal charges. Victims can seek immediate protection by requesting a temporary order of protection (TOP), which restrains the abuser from contact. The accessibility of town courts, including our off-hours Centralized Arraignment Part in Tompkins County, ensures that victims have a place to turn when seeking safety.

Tompkins County has domestic violence liaisons and victim assistance programs to help survivors navigate the legal system and secure resources such as counseling, housing, and legal aid. Defendants accused of domestic violence are entitled to counsel and are often represented through the Tompkins County Assigned Counsel Program. The judge's role in presiding over domestic violence cases is to ensure fairness, accountability, and safety for victims and the community. Sentencing options include jail time and restitution, but also probation and the requirement that the offender complete services such as the Emerge Program offered by Tompkins Whole Health, and/or substance use or mental health treatment when appropriate.

As Domestic Violence Awareness Month comes to a close, it is crucial for community members to understand the vital role our local courts play. Raising awareness about the resources available can empower victims to seek help and hold abusers accountable.

If you or someone you know has experienced intimate partner violence or coercive power and control, the Advocacy Center of Tompkins County can help. Contact them at (607) 277-5000 or <https://www.actompkins.org>

COMMITTEES AND COMMUNITY

LANSING FIRE DEPARTMENT, THANK YOU!

The Town of Lansing owes a huge debt of gratitude to the Lansing Fire Department and all the other departments that assisted with the efforts to contain the brush fires on East Shore Drive on Friday, November 1. The coordination with multiple municipalities was well orchestrated to prevent what could've been a disastrous situation. The fact that no one was harmed, and no homes were damaged by the fire, is a great testament to the training and experience of all the fire fighters and first responders. We thank you and commend you for your bravery and dedication to your community. To quote Joseph Wetmore, Deputy Town Supervisor, "there is no better reminder than this that we are a part of a larger community. Thank you again to the brave fire fighters, first responders, and all who prevented a greater tragedy."

A special thank you to all the fire departments that were on the scene, lending a hand: Lansing, Cayuga Heights, Ithaca, Etna, Dryden, Freeville, Groton, Newfield, Danby, West Danby, Enfield, Trumansburg, Varna, McLean, Locke, and Ithaca Airport Fire Rescue. Other agencies on the scene included NY State Police, Tompkins County Sheriff, Cayuga Heights Police Department, NYS Forest Rangers, and the Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response, Tompkins County EMS, and Bangs Ambulance. A thank you goes out to those fire departments that backfilled for the departments that were on the scene: Homer, Virgil, and Genoa.

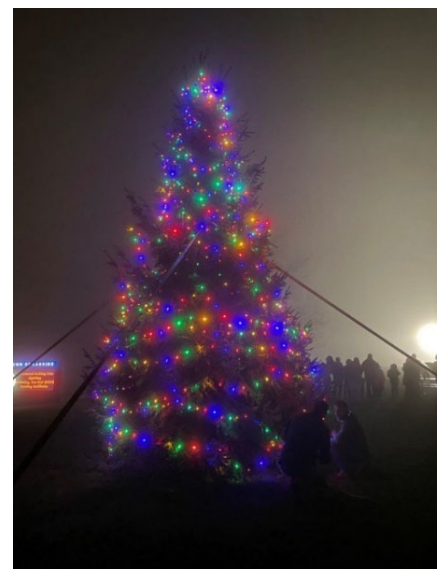
There is one more agency that we need to thank for their efforts during this event, the Village of Lansing DPW. They managed to repair the water main break at Pembroke Lane by coordinating with the fire departments as to the timing of the repair so as not to create any backflow, which would've initiated a boil water advisory.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone for a job well done.

EVENTS COMMITTEE: HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

The Lansing Events Committee has scheduled the **Holiday Tree Lighting for December 7**. Festivities will be at the **Lansing ball fields**, with the **lighting to be around 6:30 p.m.** We have plenty of guests lined up, including Santa, Frosty, and the Grinch! Check our Facebook page for up-to-date information at Lansing Events Committee Inc, as well as our website at lansingeventscommittee.com

Interested in donating? We will need cookies, hot chocolate mix, napkins, hot cups, and candy canes. Let us know at lansingevents2018@gmail.com.



LANSING NON-PIPES ALTERNATIVES (NPA) PROGRAM

Prepared by Siobhan Hull
Cornell Cooperative Extension

Town residents who currently heat their homes with natural gas and are interested in converting to electric heat pumps are eligible for significant financial incentives through the **Lansing Non-Pipes Alternatives (NPA) program**. This is *in addition* to available statewide incentives.

Operated by NYSEG, the NPA program was developed to help resolve gas reliability issues and support the energy needs of Lansing residents and businesses. The program includes a residential heat pump initiative, which offers substantial incentives for residents of Lansing and the surrounding areas to install air source or ground source (geothermal) heat pumps, as well as heat pump hot water heaters. The exact incentive amount is unique to each building and the size of its current gas system, but you can visit earthsensitive.com to receive an estimate and register for a free site visit with a technician.

In addition to residential incentives, the NPA program also supports other community efforts to reduce gas use. NYSEG committed \$9 million to a portfolio of local projects, which includes the installation of a geothermal system at the Cornell Child Care Center and energy efficient upgrades at the Lansing Middle School. Both projects are expected to be completed this year and will contribute to reducing the gas load in Lansing and the surrounding area.

You can learn more about the Lansing NPA program by visiting ccetompkins.org/npa, or by contacting Siobhan Hull from Cornell Cooperative Extension at smh372@cornell.edu or 607-272-2292 x192.



OPEN POSITIONS ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Have you ever wanted to give back to the community you live in, but weren't sure how to get involved? There are regular and alternate positions anticipated on the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Advisory Council, and Ethics Board.

A regular member is a full voting member with a full term. An alternate member is a one-year term and is a great way to see how a board works, and the level of time commitment needed.

PLANNING BOARD consists of seven regular members and two alternate members. The Planning Board is charged with reviewing subdivision plats, site plans and special use permits, and advises the Town Board in matters pertaining to land use regulation, studies, or reports. Members receive a small stipend. Meetings are generally held at 6:30 pm on the fourth Monday of the month.

3 vacancies: (1) 7-year term and (2) 1-year terms

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS consists of five regular members and one alternate member. The Zoning Board of Appeals is a board that is charged with considering requests for relief from the zoning regulations (i.e. variance requests) and making interpretations of the zoning code. Members receive a small stipend. Meetings are generally held at 6:30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month.

2 vacancies: (1) 5-year term and (1) 1-year term

*** Some knowledge of the application of municipal law or other rules and regulations is helpful but not required.*

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL is looking for residents to advise in the development, management, and protection of its natural and scenic resources. The council engages both the Town Board and Planning Board to make sure our community's environmental concerns are heard. Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

4 vacancies: (4) 2-year terms

ETHICS BOARD meets once a year to review the Town's Ethics Policy and the Ethic's Disclosure Forms submitted by elected and appointed officials. If an ethics complaint is filed with the Town, the Ethics Board would meet to investigate the complaint and make a determination.

2 vacancies: (2) 5-year terms

Members of all these committees must be Town of Lansing residents.

Interested individuals are encouraged to attend meetings to familiarize themselves with the work of these boards.

Please contact the Town Clerk's office at 607-533-4142 or via email at townclerk@lansingtown.com with any questions.

Applications are available here <https://lfweb.tompkins-co.org/Forms/TOLBCApplication>

Applications are due by November 30th

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Town Board – Town Hall, 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 PM – **Nov. 20 – Dec. 18 – Jan. 15, 2025**

Planning Board – Town Hall, 4th Monday, 6:30 PM – **Nov. 25 – Dec. 23 – Jan. 27, 2025**

Zoning Board of Appeals – Town Hall, 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 PM – **Nov. 13 – Dec. 11 – Jan. 8, 2025**

Conservation Advisory Council – Town Hall, 1st Wednesday, 6:30 PM – **Nov. 6 – Dec. 4 – Jan. TBD**

HOW DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE ISSUES OF THE LANSING NEWSLETTER?

If by USPS mail – please fill out the form below and send it to:

- Attn: Town Supervisor, P.O. Box 186, Lansing, NY 14882
- Or, send your address via email to rgroff@lansingtown.com, with subject line “Newsletter”

If by Email – provide your email at <https://www.lansingtown.com/stay-connected> and check the box for “Newsletter Updates”

Otherwise, if you choose neither, you will find the **Lansing Newsletter on the town’s website**, and hard copies at **Town Hall and other local establishments**. Other options will be available for future publications. Tell your friends!

Fill out this form to receive copies of the newsletter via USPS mail:

.....
Name _____

Postal Address _____
Street Address City State Zip Code

Mail this to P.O. Box 186, Lansing, NY 14882, or email your information to rgroff@lansingtown.com