

# Community Voices: Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

The Citizens Committee that the Town Board selected (for the Ambulance Advisory Committee) were from industry and population clusters (i.e. Cargill, Milliken Station, Louis Gossett Center, Lansing Central School, Woodsedge Apts, the Village of Lansing, etc.).

The comments and opinions from the group seemed to feel that the rescue Squad is providing adequate coverage for now. The squad is made up of trained Emergency Medical Technicians and do administer First Aid. They just can't transport patients to the hospital.

The Fire Chief was also on this committee and is an EMT and rides at times for Bang's Ambulance - as did the previous chief. The Chief provided the committee with response statistics, etc. The Chairman of the Fire Commission who lives in North Lansing was also on the committee and felt the Rescue Squad with Bangs backup was adequate. (Incidentally, the last Fire Commissioner from the "Commission" that voted to disband the ambulance service and send its certificate back to Albany is up for re-election Dec. 10th).

A couple of years ago, a sizeable citizens' group, with Paul Welch as chairman, tried to get the service back -- and we fell short. We couldn't find "housing" for the ambulance and the EMT staff! The firemen

would only allow it back at "central Station" for 6 months.

Once the service was dropped, many EMTs didn't keep up their training and lost their certification. We needed 25 or 30 EMTs for rotation and had only 10 or 12 - still do. It takes a year or more to get EMT certification.

We couldn't find funding for startup. Very frustrating! Most of us know that the need for our own service is still here. The chief's report in your 11-14-96 edition showed 66 percent of department calls were emergency medical services.

In denying a request to re-instate the ambulance service, dated Feb-10-95, Mr. Wronski, director of the NYS Department of Health EMS Program said in part. "This is the first time in my tenure in regional EMS that a certificate-of-need applicant was able to clearly identify a need, but was unable to provide the substance (plan) necessary to meet the needs identified."

So, Mr. Editor, if you can put a program that can bring back the ambulance service (that we were all so proud of) the community would be most grateful and, I believe, willing to help you.

**Lou Emmick**, member  
Ambulance Advisory Committee



John A. Rafferty, 74, of Sherwood Rd, Aurora, died Saturday, Nov. 23 at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester. John was born in King Ferry, the son of the late Leo and Cora Harvey Rafferty. He resided in southern Cayuga County all of his life.

He owned and operated a farm and was also a self-employed carpenter. He was a member of the Southern Cayuga Central School Board of Education for two terms and served as its president for two years.

John was a member and past president of the Aurora Rotary Club and was a recipient of Rotary International's Paul Harris Fellowship, a member of the Blue Bird Society and a former assessor and member of the Town Board of Ledyard.

He was a communicant of St. Patrick's Church of Aurora and was a lector and former member of the parish council.

John is survived by his wife, Mary Tierney Rafferty, two sons and one daughter, Michael J. Rafferty of Ft. Myers, Fla. Stephen A. Rafferty of Binghamton and Marcia A. Jackson of Schenectady. He also leaves behind six grandchildren, five brothers and two sisters as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Ruth E. Buck, 93, of 244 Buck Road died Ednesday evening at the home of her son Kip after an extended illness.

A lifelong county resident, she was born November 27, 1903 in Danby, the daughter of the late Arthur and Eva Keener Volbrecht. She had lived on Buck Road since her marriage to the late James A. Buck in May, 1923.

In addition to raising a family, Ruth helped operate the family dairy. She was a faithful member of the West Groton - East Lansing Church as well as a member of the Lansing Seniors, the Rebeccas and the North Lansing Order of the Eastern Stars.

She is survived by her daughter, Mrs. George (Harriette) Roykouff of Pulkaski and son Clifford (Kip) Buck of Lansing. She was predeceased by her husband James in 1989, son James in 1987 and grandchildren Keith (Sam) and Beth Buck, both in 1993.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday by Rev. John Terry with interment following in the North Lansing Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the West Groton - East Lansing Church or Hospicare.

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