



## Editorial Corner

- The editorial column of the Lansing Community News is available to all community members for the courteous expression of varying points of view.

## Your Town Highway Department

By Pete Larsen

The Town of Lansing Highway Department had a very busy and difficult year. Major flooding in January, May and November, coupled with the hard winter of 1995-96 with several major snow storms and lots of minor snow storms, contributed to our overly busy year.

The town now has 129 named roads totaling 90 miles which we maintain all year round. In addition to our roads, the highway department also does winter maintenance (plowing, sanding, salting) on 45 miles of county roads within the town and 15 miles of village roads. The county and village roads are serviced under a contract that runs year to year.

In addition to all the flood damage repairs, the highway crew completed the following road work in 1996:

- 8.71 miles - paved with hot or cold asphalt
- 12.50 miles - chip sealed with stone and oil
- 2.60 miles - converted from gravel to hard top (stone & oil) surface
- 11.30 miles - gravel roads graded, additional gravel added and stabilized with calcium chloride.
- 9,727 feet - center line subsurface drainage installed on roads to help stabilize road beds and allow water to flow away from the road.
- 2,077 feet - culvert pipes installed and replaced across and along side roads.

The culverts ranged in diameter from 15 inches to 120 inches.

- Cleaned over 6 miles of ditches.
- Rebuilt 210 feet concrete base of retaining wall in Salmon Creek just below Dug Road bridge.

- Replaced or repaired over 110 road signs.

In addition to road work, the crew also:

- Mined out in excess of 80,000 tons of gravel from the town's gravel bank used rebuilding town roads.

- Held the annual spring brush pickup in the town and village.
- Helped the parks department build the new ball field behind the town hall.
- Rebuilt the entryway and bathroom at the Community Center for handicap accessibility, enabling town court to be held there.
- Repaired water mains, curb boxes and valves within the town water system.

The highway crew will be cleaning the mouth of Salmon Creek, from the lake to the walk bridge, in December depending on the lake level. This will be a three year project as working in the creek can only be done from December 1- March 15.

### Plans for 1997

The town board has approved a highway budget approximately the same as 1996, so we hope to accomplish at least as much work as we have in 1996.

Winter is here so be sure to remember that vehicles can not be parked on roads or turn-arounds. Persons plowing driveways should not push snow across public roads, as the ridges of snow left in the road create a traffic hazard.

Feel free to call the highway department at 533-4328 between 6:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. during the winter with any questions or complaints.

## Heard Around Town

If you'd like to share the comings and goings of your corner of the world, contact the correspondent nearest you:

**East Lansing:** Lorraine Groat 533-4156

**King Ferry:** Joan Neill (315) 364-7784

**Lake Ridge:** Tricia Torrey 533-7269

**Ludlowville:** Wanda Brink (533-4672) and

**Lansing Station:** Donna Scott 533-7228

**Lansingville:** Ruby Ferris 533-4969

**South Lansing:** Joann Vliet 533-7043

**Katrina Greenley** (533-8892)

We would very much like to carry local news from Cayuga Heights, the Village of Lansing, Myers, North Lansing and Genoa. If you'd be interested in sharing the little pieces of information that bind a community together for one of these areas, please call Matthew at 533-7963.

### Lansing Station

Inquiring minds want to know: What is that white porcelain thing gleaming in the edge of Scott Bishop's woods? Yours truly discovered the truth the other day thanks to Cinnamon, who eagerly sniffed it out.

It seems that Scott dropped a medicine bottle in the toilet. Young Patrick later used the facilities, flushed and then ran to tell Dad that the john was plugged up. While Scott was plunging in vain, Patrick said, "I saw a little bottle in there a while ago..." Christopher, being ever helpful, agreed that he too had seen a bottle in the commode. Murphy's law was in effect that day because as Scott unseated the toilet and was shaking it upside down to dislodge the bottle, he broke the tank. So, the Bishops have an extra big stocking up on the mantle this year in hopes that Old Saint Nick will leave them a shiny new throne. I wonder what they are doing in the meantime...?

Lorrie and Ken Felch hosted another of their famous holiday potluck suppers where a good time was had by all— we all got stuffed! Besides his other retirement activities, Ken is carving redwood totem poles that can stay indoors or go outside.



These holiday neighborhood parties are great for gathering news. Leonore Neerbasch, Jim Bentkowski's wife, just established her own law firm. A '94 Cornell Law School graduate, Lenore has set up her practice on North Tioga Street in Ithaca. I'd like to thank Jim B. for being ever helpful when I can't get my lawn mower started.

Everyone was glad to hear that Tadja and Pablo Hopman's gray kitty came back home. Yours truly found out that one of those "stray cats" she has been feeding on the front porch is none other than Butternut Hranek, the big mooch. I have been feeding a real stray, though; a nice, shy black cat with extra toes on his front feet who lives under the porch. So, if anyone feels the urge to help out, leave a bag of cat food by the front door... Other news at #535: Yours truly won a beautiful eight-foot Douglas fir Christmas tree in a raffle at Cayuga Landscape. It's up and decorated and smells wonderful.

Cindy Lion, who recently completed her PhD in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell, is now working in ILR Extension teaching a graduate level course in group dynamics for extramural students. These students work full-time jobs and go to school too. Congratulations, Cindy!

Bill Bishop mentioned that he didn't plow my driveway the last time it snowed because he had to hurry around to plow all his other customers before the snow melted. The college "kids" are heading back home for the holidays: Mike Clark is making the long journey from Cortland and Matt Jones is returning from Penn State via his girlfriend's house, so Mary and Tom aren't sure when they will see him.

Kate Brown and Kate Hranek were candy flutes in the Dec. 19 production of "The Nutcracker" at the Middle School. Ask Ed Vallye about the interesting afternoon he had trying to tow his big boat with Ron Bowman's borrowed motor...

So, here we are, having the second lake flood of the year. The weather people tell us that this was the wettest year since records have been kept! The Canal Corporation folks tell me that they get more complaints when the water is too low than when it is too high.

- Donna Scott

### King Ferry

I'd like to report that someone here won the lottery, but they didn't. In fact, things are moving along at one of those typically slow wintry paces. Most of the area farmers have gotten in the corn and we are ready to hunker down for another winter. The elementary and high schools were fighting the flu, but with everyone home for the holidays, I suppose this crisis will pass, too.

On a warmer note, congratulations to Jeremy Thayer who graduated Dec. 20 from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde park, NY. Seems like a fair chunk of the King Ferry-Genoa neighborhood was there to see him graduate including very proud grandparents Ruth & Mickey Turo, mom Jackie, dad Phil, aunt Ellen, great aunt Judy, sister Teresa, brother Brian and more. Jeremy will start his culinary career down in the Florida keys right after the holidays. We all wish you well.

Best wishes for a long and happy marriage to Joe Mead and Brenda Campbell. Both work at the Southern Cayuga school district and are active in the King Ferry Fire Dept. and Instant Aid in Poplar Ridge. Steve (also a King Ferry fireman) and Tiara May are still waiting for baby May to arrive.

The King Ferry Fire Department Auxiliary just held elections. Doris Reynold is president, Joan Bancroft is vice-president, Sharon Marshall is treasurer and Beverly Sheils is historian.

The King ferry Fire Department has been busy with a few planned barn fires. It keeps the group prepared for real emergencies and gets rid of a few old, dilapidated buildings. We probably don't say often enough how much we appreciate the efforts of these volunteers upon whom the community depends when unexpected emergencies arrive.

'Tis the season to be jolly. Many of the area groups got together to celebrate the season and to spend time with friends, such as the Aurora rotary, the King Ferry Fire Department & Auxiliary, the Black Rock Artisans' Guild and more. The West Genoa Church at the "five corners" put together and delivered "Cheer Boxes" to individuals and families in the area.

Mike Quigley is home from the Navy for the holidays. Jeremy Dingy is back from an apprenticeship in Florida and is now looking for a college to settle into. (How was your visit to Alfred, Jeremy?).

Many area college students are back, including Sarah Signor, Matt Ferrari, Tim Johnson, Micah Spiwak, Andy Horchler, Andy Cook, Barb Schmidt, Rebecca Neill, Christy Abbott, Michelle Turek, Michelle Kilcer... Well, anyway, a whole bunch of students are back to share in this season of sharing.

### "Just Four Fun"

If you like to sing, to prepare special music, to perform, and you like to do it just for fun, why not find a few brothers and sisters who like to do the same and put together a barbershop quartet, just like Martha Alexander, Judy Davis, Marge Van Benschoten and Karen Spiero?

These four singing dynamos, and accompanist Connie Wilbur, sing contemporary, gospel and traditional barbershop-style music. During their first appearance about six weeks ago, the group was still looking for the "right" name. By the time the group came back to King Ferry to harmonize holiday tunes for the Aurora Rotary's Christmas party, the quixotic quartet was sporting its new identity; "Just Four Fun."

Harmony and a little hi-jinx thrown in make this quartet a delightful musical experience. Did I mention the name of the group?

- Joan Neill



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Icons: car, person, house, etc.

M-T-W-F: 9 to 5:30  
Th: 9 to 7  
Sat: 9 to 1



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