



MUTUAL AID - Help from neighboring fire companies is an essential part of rural life. Lansing was aided Dec. 21 by Cayuga Heights (pictured above), Genoa, Locke and Moravia volunteer firefighters with EMS coverage provided by Bangs.

Historic Structure Destroyed In Blaze

Despite a last ditch interior effort by Lansing firefighters to beat back the flames, a pre-dawn fire Saturday, December 21 totally destroyed the Delaney family's home at the intersection of Auburn Road (Rte 34) and DeCamp Road..

On the scene before the first fire truck, volunteer Don Beckley entered the burning 200 year old former hotel to verify that everyone had escaped the blaze and ended up assisting Mrs. Delaney from the building. Beckley was later transported to the Cayuga Medical Center for smoke inhalation.

When Lansing Fire Chief Chris Burris arrived moments later, the entire second story was engaged. Because the front of the building was not yet involved, interior firefighters Scott Pronti, Dale Oplinger and Tom Dorward were sent in with a 2-inch line and self-contained breathing apparatus to try to make a "save."

Once inside, they crouched forward, pushing the fire backwards through several rooms. It was this defensive crouching posture that spared them when the closed door of an adjacent room blew in towards them with a flashover. (A "flashover" is the explosive-like self-combustion over superheated gases.)

"We were kneeling down when the flashover broke through," said Pronti, "and a swirling flame vortexed over our heads." The three fire-fighters followed the line to the door and exited.

During the 10-15 minutes the attack team was inside, the other fire-fighters had set up backup lines, started pumping water from the creek at Weeks and Locke Road, and transported the water to portable "ponds" set up outside the Delaney home.

Once the fashover occurred, firefighters went into a defensive mode to contain the fire from the outside. After evacuating an elderly lady from an adjacent mobile home, Cayuga Heights' aerial ladder kept a constant spray on the trailer to prevent the fire's spread.



Despite a thorough dousing, a "re-ignite" had to be extinguished two days later.

In addition to Mr. Beckley, two residents of the DeCamp Road home, Larry Walrad and a seven week-old infant, were examined at the scene. The infant was transported to the Cayuga Medical Center.

The cause of the 4:39 am fire is still under investigation by the Tompkins County Sheriff's Department.

Lansing fire-fighters at the scene included D. Beckley, C. Burris, R. Campbell, L. Creighton, H. Crozier, P. Dankert, T. Dorward, D. French, L. Geiger, B. George, K. Handrark, S. Hollister, M. Jerram, C. Katz, E. Marshall, P. Miller, D. Mix, T. Mix, T. Myers, L. Nalley, D. Oplinger, S. Pronti, C. Purcell, K. Schlochm, J. Shaff, Ray Sill, Rick Sill, T. Sill, J. Spencer, A. Sullivan, F. Towner and W. Thomas.



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Community Calendar

TOWN & COUNTY TAX COLLECTION BEGINS JAN. 3 AT TOWN HALL
Mon- Thurs from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm; Fridays 7:30 to noon

Thursday, January 2

Village of Lansing recycling day (moved from Wed. because of holiday)
Modified Wrestlers grapple at Groton at 4:30 pm
Indoor Soccer at the high school gym from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Friday, January 3

Cayuga Heights recycling day (set-out by 7:30 am)
Modified Basketball at Union Springs at 4:30 pm
Girls JV and Varsity Basketball at the Watkins Glen Tournament at 4:00 pm

Saturday, January 4

Girls JV & Varsity Basketball at Watkins Glen Tournament, time TBA
INAUGURAL VARSITY MEET for Indoor Track at SUNY Cortland at 9:00 am
Recreational Basketball at the high school gym from 9:00 to 11:00 am
Varsity Wrestlers at Trumansburg at 1:00 pm

Sunday, January 5

Monday, January 6

Town of Lansing recycling day
"Principal's Bag lunch" with DeWitt Middle School parents at noon
Senior Water Aerobics at Lansing High School pool, noon to 12:45
Modified Wrestling at Spencer-Van Etten at 4:30 pm
Open Swim in the high school pool from 6:30-8:30 pm
Indoor Soccer at the high school gymnasium from 7:00 to 8:30 pm
Lansing Village Board of trustees meets at 7:30 pm
PTSO PIP at the high school cafeteria from 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Tuesday, January 7

High School Shared decision-Making Team meets in the high school library at 6:30 am
Modified Wrestlers grapple at Spencer-Van Etten at 4:30 pm
Boys Varsity Swim meets Thomas A. Edison at home at 4:30 pm
Girls JV and Varsity Basketball plays Groton at home at 6:00 pm
Boys JV and Varsity Basketball plays at Groton at 6:00 pm
Lansing Fire District annual organizational meeting at Central Fire station at 7:00 pm

Wednesday, January 8

Senior Water Aerobics at Lansing High School pool, noon to 12:45
Varsity Wrestling tangles with Tioga at home at 7:00 pm
Lansing Town Board meets at 7:00 pm

NIGHTLY EXERCISE - Walk the halls at Lansing Middle School from 6:30-8:30 pm each night that school is in session.

Send your organization's events listings to the Lansing Community News
204 Wilson Road, Lansing, NY 14882-9065

The community calendar is sponsored this year by

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