

Help Your Youngster Learn The 4th & 5th Rs: Respect & Responsibility

Nationally known educator and developmental psychologist Thomas Lickona will be in for two days next week for a public lecture and a full day of in-service training for Lansing School District personnel on fostering moral development in everyday family life.

Lickona is director of the Center for the 4th and 5th Rs (Respect and Responsibility) at SUNY-Cortland and is the author of five books on moral development and character education. His work has been featured as cover story in the *New York Times Magazine* and he appeared on "Good Morning America," "The Larry King Live radio Show" and "Focus on the Family."

For the past two years, a team of Lansing teachers has participated in the Center's Summer Institute in Character Education.

Lickona's public presentation will be Thursday, January 30 at the Lansing High School auditorium from 7:30-9:00 pm, including a half hour for questions.

His talk will describe the stages of moral reasoning in childhood and adolescence and give real-life examples of "ten big ideas" to guide parents in the raising of good children. These ideas are:

- 1) Morality's core is respect for self and others.
- 2) Morality develops in stages.
- 3) Respect kids and acquire respect in return.



Dr. Thomas Lickona

- 4) Teach by example and reduce exposure to bad example.
- 5) Teach directly and pass on a moral and spiritual heritage.
- 6) Help kids learn to think.
- 7) Give kids real responsibilities.
- 8) Love kids.
- 9) Balance independence and control.
- 10) Foster character development & a happier family life at the same time.

'97 Boat Slip Renewal Forms Due Jan. 31st

Renewal forms for '96 boat slip holders must be returned with payment in order to guarantee slip retention for '97, said Lansing Parks Dept. director Steve Colt.

Any slips not renewed by Feb. 3 will be offered to those on the waiting list. Once everyone on the waiting list has been accommodated, any remaining slips will be offered to the general public.

For information, call Colt or Beverly French at 533-7388 during regular business hours.

RSVP Offers Free Tax Counseling

By Ray Buckley

For the past 15 years, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) has been providing free and confidential tax assistance to residents of Lansing and Tompkins County.

Initiated by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in 1970, the IRS trains counselors who agree not to accept donations, fees, tips or gifts. The counselors provide the voluntary service because they like the work; they enjoy meeting and helping people; they like mathematics; can follow directions; and (most of all) want to help neighbors solve problems.



The local tax assistance program is carried out at several sites by a corps of 20 counselors. The counselors must take a five-day course and pass an IRS exam on topics such as filing status, exemptions, income, adjustments, sale of stock, sale of home, pensions, social security and more.

Counselors can help people prepare personal income tax returns and small self-employment (business) taxpayers. Though most businesses need to do their own returns or see a professional tax preparer, counselors can help sole proprietors with no depreciation, no business use of home and business expenses less than \$2500.

While counseling for small businesses is very restricted, this isn't the case for individual and joint-filing taxpayers. Most individual taxpayers can be helped by RSVP volunteers and thousands have been helped in the last 15 years.

Counselors are also trained to help with New York State tax forms. Many taxpayers need only transfer Federal tax form data to

the proper state form. However, New York does have one tax provision and form (#214) which is unusual. In households with income less than \$18,000, taxpayers may be eligible for a real property tax credit. This credit is available to both homeowners and taxpayers who rent. The credit is available whether a taxpayer has to file an income tax return or not. Incidentally, one must file a New York State Income Tax form **IF** one files a Federal Income Tax form.

RSVP offers free tax counseling at the Lansing United Methodist Church, 32 Brickyard Hill Rd., on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 4:30 pm, by appointment, and at a number of sites in Ithaca. Call the church at 533-4070 to schedule an appointment.

Home visits for the homebound are also available. Call the church (533-4070), Margaret Neno (257-0448) or RSVP (277-4545) to set up a convenient time for free in-the-home tax counseling.

Whether preparing for a home visit or a visit to one of the tax counseling sites, taxpayers should bring all W-2 forms (statements of earnings), all 1099 forms (including Social Security, Pension, IRA statements, sale of stock, dividend, interest or capital gains distribution settlements); last year's Federal Income Tax form; last year's New York State Tax form, and all related forms. Taxpayers who are homeowners and eligible for NYS's Real Property Tax Credit should also bring along their school and town/county tax bills.



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