



RESCUE TOOL TRAINING - Cayuga Heights firefighter Jevon Garrett trains with the new hydraulic rescue tool obtained with community donations. The tool is used at vehicle accidents to extricate people who are trapped inside. It will be placed on the new rescue/Pumper that is scheduled to be delivered in February. The Cayuga Heights Fire department thanks all who supported this project.

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.



Guest Responds To Charter Review Committee's Advice

By Emery B. Guest

In response to the Charter Review Committee's recommendation to appoint the county sheriff, I say, "No."

As a resident of this county, I want to continue to have the opportunity to select the chief law enforcement officer of this county. The political process allows all registered voters of this county the opportunity to make a selection. At the same time, the voters have the ability to remove the sheriff if he's not responsive to the needs of the people. I believe voters have the ability and the good sense to select a candidate who has prior experience in law enforcement. Further, the move to appoint officials rather than to elect would appear that government is returning to a period known as "the Spoils Era."

The committee has stated that a sheriff would be selected through a non-partisan process. It is a good sales pitch, but I doubt that this could happen. People in power use their power to get what they want. An appointed sheriff would no longer serve the residents of the county; the sheriff would serve 15 board members and the county administrator. If the appointed sheriff did not respond to the board's directives, the appointed sheriff could be discharged even if the orders of the board were inconsistent with the common good of the residents of the county.

The committee states that the selection of a chief of police is made by a mayor or a municipal board, "often via a competitive civil service process." If the voters agree with the committee's report, the sheriff should be selected through the civil service process, rather than by the "voodoo" of back room politics. I would remind the committee that deputy sheriffs receive authority to enforce laws through the office of the sheriff. As a result, the sheriff needs a strong background in law enforcement so that he may oversee the staff and ensure that the laws are enforced and the public is protected. I agree there should be minimum requirements for the elected position of sheriff. The office of sheriff is an important one to the residents of the county. If the committee remembers the response to a questionnaire that was sent out to a number of community members, their priority was public safety. I believe the public would be better served if the minimum requirements were legislated at the state level.

The committee suggests that public cooperation could be much closer and that agencies need to put aside rivalry to combine efforts for the public good, whether it be in investigations, patrols or training. I believe that cooperation between law enforcement agencies in Tompkins County is already very good. Could they be improved in the future? Sure! A statement alleging a current lack of cooperation comes from misinformation on someone's part. Police agencies within the county have been sharing work loads, information, and working together to limit crime in this county. In the past, this agency has worked with, or provided assistance in some form to, all enforcement agencies in Tompkins County. The Sheriff's Department will continue to work with and assist other agencies when such assistance is requested.

The committee stated that city residents are not getting the police service for which they are paying. Historically, I believe the residents of the city made a conscious decision to provide their own police agency. As the Sheriff, I have jurisdiction throughout the county. Sheriff's Deputies make arrests for violations of the law that occur in their presence while passing through other agencies' jurisdictions and will continue to do so. However, we do not answer complaints or patrol streets where there is an established police agency unless there is a request to do so from the officer in charge of that jurisdiction. The Tompkins County Sheriff's Department will provide assistance wherever and whenever we are needed.

In closing, I believe the residents of this county will be better served by an elected sheriff who is more responsive to the needs of all residents of our county.

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 Torney 533-7269

Woodsedge: Marion Thompson 533-7824

Ludlowville: Wanda Brink (533-4672) and Katrina Greenley (533-8892)

Lansing Station: Donna Scott 533-7228

Lansingville: Ruby Ferris 533-4969

Central Fire Station: Jake

If you're from Cayuga Heights, the Village of Lansing, Myers, North Lansing or Genoa and would be interested in sharing local news, please call Matthew at 533-7963.

Woodsedge

Last Wednesday night about 30 people enjoyed an early evening ham and baked potato dinner at Woodsedge to honor Eileen Cundy for nearly sixteen years of service to our community as President of the Woodsedge Residents' Association.

Eileen received a plaque and the grateful appreciation of her friends and neighbors for her efforts for all of us ever since Woodsedge first opened its doors in 1981. She was also presented with an arrangement of carnations and a small sum of money as a token of appreciation. Eileen was very appreciative and there were more than a few moist eyes.

Because of Eileen's request to step down from the presidency of the association, twenty-two residents met on Decem-

ber 31 to discuss future governance at Woodsedge. A leadership committee of David Braid, Darlene Boyden and Grover Metzger was appointed for three months. They appointed four smaller committees which will help with the day to day operations at our residence. Marion Thompson was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer.

Marjorie Connolly returned to Woodsedge from a stay at the Kendall medical facility. She's doing very well. Naturally, we were glad to welcome her back.

We're all enjoying the short winter and just can't wait for spring. The gardeners have got their seed catalogues and are making their plans.

Marion Thompson



William A. Henniger, 69, of Lansing Station Road dies of a heart attack in Akron, Ohio on Sunday, January 12.

He was born May 10, 1928 in Doylestown, Ohio, son of the late Earl and Anna (Blacklock) Henniger.

He served as a paratrooper in Italy in World War II and in the Korean War before graduating from the University of Akron.

He worked at Ithaco, Inc. for 25 years as a Senior Design Engineer responsible for the attitude control system for NASA's "Nimbus" series of spacecraft (famous for discovering the Antarctic ozone hole).

He also participated on the Seasat (oceanographic research satellite), Hubbel space telescope, Compton Gamma Ray and other research projects.

He developed the first practical application of electromagnets to replace maneuvering rockets on earth orbiting spacecraft. This advance simplified spacecraft design by free-

ing them from fuel supply limitations making possible the long lifetime communication satellites we all depend on.

He was an enthusiastic golf and bridge player and an active member of the Lansing United Methodist Church for thirty years. He also belonged to the Lansing Lions.

Surviving him is his wife, Joyce, of 42 years; daughter Elizabeth (Steven) Davis of Reading, Pa.; son Gregory (Pamela) Henniger of Jupiter, Fla.; grandchildren Abigail Davis, Tyler Davis, Matthew Henniger, and Ashley Henniger. He is also survived by brothers Robert, of Port Clinton, Ohio, and Harold, of Canton, Ohio and by his sister Joanne Henniger of Akron, Ohio.

Memorial services will be held at the Lansing United Methodist Church on Feb. 1 at 11:00 am. Memorial contributions may be sent to the church's Memorial Fund.

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