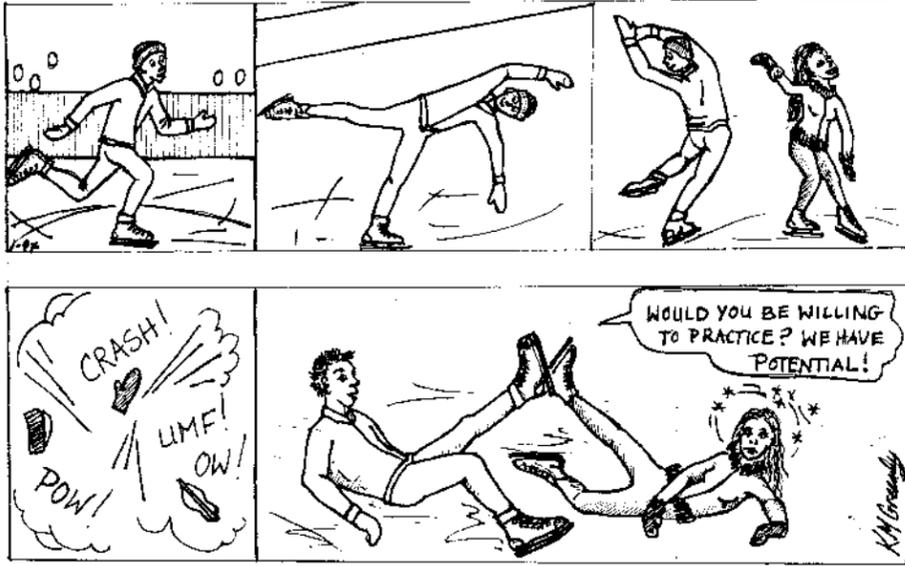


~ EVER HOPEFUL ~



Welcome, Katrina Greenley. Katrina will be sharing her cartoon impressions of Lansing life. If you have ideas, contact her at the [Lansing Community News](#).

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.

Community Panel To Advise Paper

It's been an interesting few months since the first issue of the [Lansing Community News](#) appeared in October. We hope we're remaining true to our goal of being an unpretentious community weekly that celebrates the small as well as large events that shape our lives. Our family thanks you for the positive reception.

Contrary to popular belief, we don't think it's possible (or even necessarily desirable) to be completely "objective" when covering important events.

Scribes follow instructions and copy what they're told to put down. Reporters, on the other hand, are expected to seek out and explain background information that helps the reader understand not only what's been said, but also what's been omitted; not only what has happened, but what might come to pass. This involves judgment.

Frankly, we think that reporters (like everyone else) are influenced in their judgments by prior experience and personal values. Once values become involved in making judgments, "objectivity" becomes relative.

For us, a better standard than "objectivity" for the [Lansing Community News](#) is "fairness." The risk, of course, is that the publication's notion of "fairness" may not coincide with the community's view.

That's why we've been thinking for some time about having a community advisory panel to provide us with a regular "reality check." Because we're as capable as anyone else of making errors in judgment (not to mention just plain "dumb" mistakes), we've wanted an independent "jury" that can give us a fair appraisal of our performance -- and the courage to acknowledge and correct our mistakes when we make them.

We wanted our community advisory panelists to reflect the mix of our readers -- by gender, geographical distribution, age, philosophy and occupational diversity. We sought advice on the composition of the panel from all over town (from Town Board members to Lansing Food Pantry consumers) and nobody was shy about giving us their advice.

We've picked seven folks (and will be adding a Lansing student in the very near future.) They've agreed to meet us every other month to let us know how we're doing ... and how the [Lansing Community News](#) could be doing a better job in the future.

So, please accept our thanks **Eileen Cundy, Steve White, Robyn Bentley, Richard Daly, Andy Sciarabba, Laurie Todd and Carol Willard.**

It's Time To Release The Zoning Proposal

When it received the final draft of the town zoning ordinance from the Lansing Planning Board late last autumn, the Town Board wisely decided to review the Planning Board's work before releasing the document for public comment. After all, it had taken the Planning Board several years of study to make its recommendations and the Town Board genuinely needed to carefully review the document and to get the town attorney's feedback.

However, as public reactions at last week's Lansing Forum open meeting on zoning demonstrated, there's some concern over the length of the internal review - particularly in the absence of any timetable for public discussion and input.

Even Planning Board members have some anxiety about the consequences of postponing the ordinance's release. Though the majority of the Planning Board hopes to see its recommendations accepted, they're unanimous in wanting the ultimate decision to be based on the merits of the regulations themselves, rather than on a knee-jerk reaction to the lengthy unavailability of the document.

Finally, with the Town Board now in the process of establishing a Town Hall Advisory Committee, it seems reasonable that townspeople have an opportunity to reflect on one serious proposal at a time.

Because all public regulations create both winners and losers, it's important that the broadest possible discussions take place. If there is some reason to continue to hold back the document, please share it with us. Otherwise, it's time to release the zoning proposal.

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
Woodside: 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.

Lansingville

The Lansingville Ladies Auxiliary is working together on several community service projects.

The lovely product of their recent quilting effort has gone to a family that recently lost their home to fire. The family also received a cash donation.

On January 13, Auxiliary members learned the finer points of silver polishing.

A public St. Valentine's Day dance will be held at the Lansingville Fire Hall on Ridge Road on Saturday, February 15.

The next Ladies' Auxiliary meeting will be held at the Fire Hall on Monday, February 10 at 7:00 pm

- Ruby Ferris

< Additional local news may be found on page 8 >

Lansing Station

Edna and John McNamara are off to Florida for the rest of the season. They leave their house in the capable hands of daughter Ann Mays and her ferocious watchdog, BJ.

Who should be sitting outside in the driveway having leisurely cups of coffee at 8:00 am on January 5th but Maxine Bowman and Edna McNamara. They said they were too hot to go in the house after their 3 1/2 mile power walk around the Lansing Station-Algerine-Ludlow Roads circuit.

I'm happy to report that Annette Finney tamed and adopted the fluffy tomcat (Max) that's been about the neighborhood.

- Donna Scott

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Whether you've got a son or daughter at college, a relative in another state, a neighbor working overseas or you're simply planning a snowbird's winter escape, a subscription to the [Lansing Community News](#) may be the best bet to stay in touch with our fair town. US rates are \$26/ 12 months, \$15/ 6 months & \$8.50/ 3 months. (Overseas rates are \$42/ 12 months; \$23/ 6 months; \$13/ 3 months.) Send this coupon with your check to [Lansing Community News, 204 Wilson Road, Lansing, NY 14882](#). The first issue is mailed the same week your check is received!

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