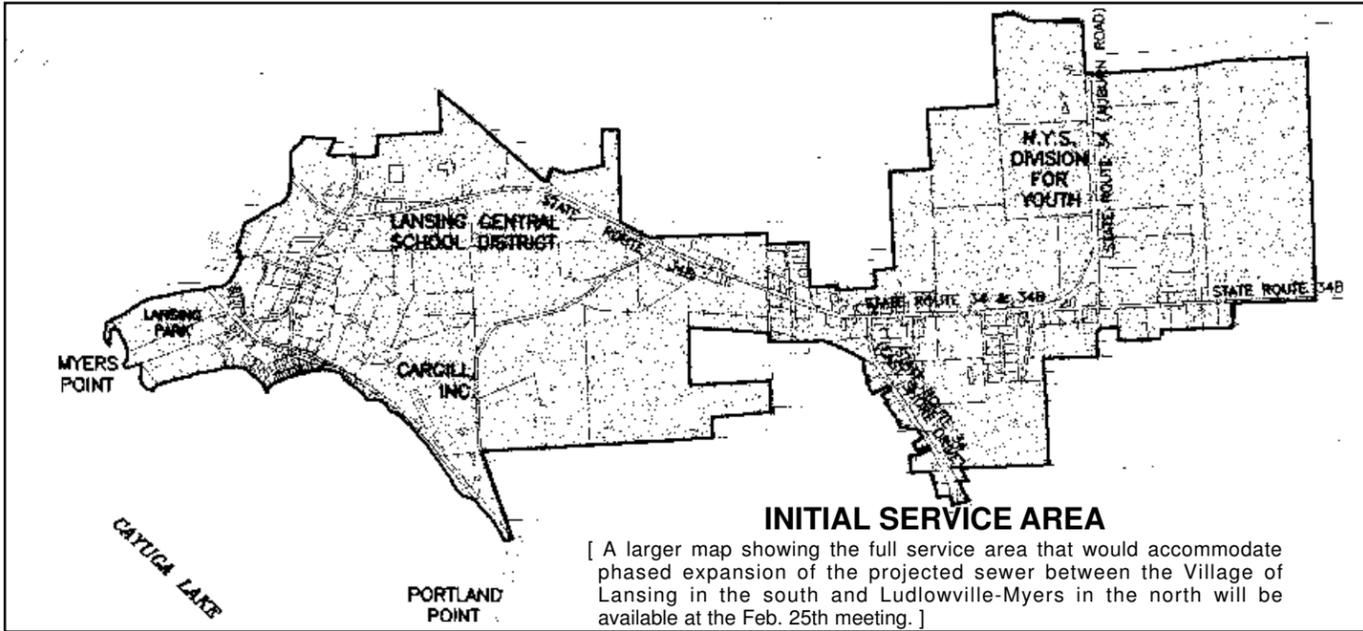


Sewer Committee Info Meeting Set For February 25th



INITIAL SERVICE AREA
 [A larger map showing the full service area that would accommodate phased expansion of the projected sewer between the Village of Lansing in the south and Ludlowville-Myers in the north will be available at the Feb. 25th meeting.]

are several considerations that could prevent collaboration.

First, some downtown leaders feel threatened by the economic growth in Lansing that a sewer connection might generate. Several Lansingites who've asked not to be named therefore think it important that any intermunicipal agreement contain guarantees that no party could unilaterally declare a moratorium on future sewer hookups.

It has also been voiced that the several municipalities that own the downtown plant don't want any outside use at rates other than full replacement cost. This could be an expensive proposition.

Finally, there's concern that the number of municipalities involved in negotiating a contract would draw out the process so long that Lansing might be better off to proceed on its own.

The Lansing Option

Though the \$7.77 million price tag for a Lansing system seems high, only \$2 million is accounted for by the treatment plant itself. The balance would be spent for the collector sewers and related expenses. Should the Sewer District choose either transmission option, it would have to construct one or more sewage collection points and pumping stations to "ship" wastewater to Cayuga Heights or Ithaca.

Though the cost of constructing a Lansing treatment plant would still be higher than the transmission options, thus far informal commitments of significant private sector contributions to the project may lower the net public cost to the point that a hometown option makes most sense.

In addition, grants and interest-free loans from Rural Development (the former Farmers' Home Administration), the State Revolving Fund and the recently passed State Environmental Bond Act are all being pursued to reduce, if not eliminate, users' capital costs.

A Concentrated Presentation

Complete documentation and a detailed description of the Sewer Committee's work and recommendations will be on tap on Feb. 25th. Again, the meeting will begin at 7:00 pm in the Lansing High School cafeteria.

Free Extension Class To Train Master Composters

Cayuga Heights and Lansing residents wanting to learn more about composting and then share their knowledge with others are invited to sign up for a free "Master Composting" class with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County.

Classes begin Thursday, February 13 and will run through Earth Day. Topics include waste management, yard and food composting, compost ecology and interactive teaching methods. Graduates will teach their skills to other individuals, groups and businesses.

The program is free to Cayuga Heights and Lansing residents in exchange for community outreach. The last day to apply in Feb. 6th. Contact Veet Deha at 272-2292.

the proposed Sewer District. The other two options involve a District sewage collection and transmission system that would pump sewage to either the (a) Cayuga Heights or (b) Ithaca Area Water Treatment Plant.

The Sewer Committee has investigated all options. Each has distinct engineering, financial and political advantages and liabilities.

The Transmission Options

Whether the Town eventually opted for an intermunicipal wastewater treatment arrangement with the Village of Cayuga Heights or the Ithaca Area Wastewater Plant, it would be necessary to construct a gravity-based collection system that would "drain" sewage and other wastewater to one or more contained collection points -- most likely near Portland Point.

From the environmentally-protected collection point, the waste would be pumped through large underground transmission lines to either Cayuga Heights or Ithaca.

Linking transmission lines to Cayuga Heights presents both challenges and advantages. Though the Cayuga Heights plant is likely to be upgraded in the relatively near future, current studies on wastewater inflow and infiltration have revealed a shortage of precise data on both the volume and source of plant inflow within the Cayuga Heights and Village of Lansing catchment areas. Until this information can be defined more precisely, it will be difficult to design an expanded system that could also accommodate the Town of Lansing's 20 year need projections. The positive side of the equation is that capital costs of the sewage plant upgrade could be spread among three municipalities, as could portions of the upgraded sewage transmission pipeline system.

Pumping piped sewage to the Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Plant is no more difficult, from a technical point of view, than pumping to Cayuga Heights. Ithaca's advantage is that its system appears to have adequate treatment capacity to handle Lansing's initial needs. Despite this advantage, there

Gardening Classes To Begin At Bakers Acres

If you're frustrated because the snow's not deep enough to snowshoe on and it's still about five weeks too early to start next summer's tomato plants indoors, take heart.

Bakers Acres has planned some pre-planting therapy sessions to boost your knowledge and put some "spring" into those dormant green thumbs out there.

A one-day session on Saturday, Feb. 8 will teach herb cultivation and de-mystify the art of blending your own herbal teas. After learning how to seed, take cuttings and do root divisions (no math required), they'll ex-

plain how to harvest and blend herb teas.

On Saturday, March 22, the focus will be on outdoor shrub and tree pruning. After a demonstration lecture, they'll be hands-on experience outdoors with deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, hedges and fruit trees. Plan to dress warmly.

A day-long class on working with perennial plants will be held on Saturday, April 19. You'll learn about the advantages, special care, height, bloom time and soil preparation for dozens of varieties. There will also be instruction in basic design principles of for perennial gardens.

Participation in all of these classes is by pre-registration only. Contact Bakers Acres at 533-4653 for additional information.

(Continued from page 1)
 formational meeting. Before presenting its proposal, the committee will outline the need for sewage treatment in the town and review the three possible options for bringing sewage treatment to Lansing that its been considering.

What Areas Are Involved?

The 5,800 acre total planning area under consideration represents 16 percent of the Town of Lansing's total area (excluding the Village of Lansing which has its own strategy for sewage and wastewater treatment and disposal.) The planning area includes the hamlets of Myers, Ludlowville and South Lansing. It is approximately bounded on the south by Cherry Road, on the west by Cayuga Lake, on the east by the town's border with Dryden and Groton and on the north by Tompkins County Ag District No. 9.

The planning area was used to project wastewater flows 20 years into the future so that facilities built now could accommodate (or be expanded to accommodate) increased sewage flow without the need for expensive retrofits. (An example of this is the adequate sizing of collection pipes so expanded system use wouldn't require the capital and labor cost of relaying new pipeline.)

Properties within the planning area but outside the initial service area could be connected to the system by future collection sewers if and when the need develops.

The 1,630 acre initial service area contains about 28 percent of the total planning area. The initial service area includes the

hamlet of South Lansing, the N.Y.S. Division For Youth facilities (the boys' Louis Gossett Center and girls' Lansing Residential Center), a portion of the Kingdom Farm, the Myers Road neighborhood south of Salmon Creek, Ladoga Park, the Lansing Central Schools, the Lansing Town Park, Cargill, Inc. and Cayuga Crushed Stone.

Current and projected wastewater flow estimates within the initial service area were used to develop construction and maintenance cost estimates for local collection and transmission facilities.

According to a document being prepared for distribution at the Feb. 25th meeting, the boundaries of the initial service area reflect "existing land use patterns, future anticipated zoning plans, future development, ecological concerns for Cayuga Lake, Salmon Creek and other tributary streams and the 1994 Town of Lansing Comprehensive Plan."

"We believe the Phase I Sewer District does capture the most appropriate area for initial planning," concluded John Andersson, Director of the Tompkins County Health Department's Division of Environmental Health Services.

Sewage Treatment Options

Having defined the wastewater collection area, the Committee next examined three sewage collection and wastewater treatment options.

The first option is a collection and treatment system both owned and operated by

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