

LANSSING COMMUNITY NEWS

Serving the Town and Village of Lansing, Cayuga Heights, King Ferry & Genoa

"Not quite paradise, but a nice place to live."

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LOOKING WEST over Cayuga lake from Cargill's Portland Point salt mine.

Sewer Project Update:

Cargill Funds Cayuga Lake Study

By Matthew Shulman

Cargill, Inc. will finance the approximately \$8,800 cost of an independent, off-shore hydrologic research study of Cayuga Lake to assure the environmental integrity of the lake's water quality in the event the Town of Lansing decides to proceed with construction of a waste water collection system and treatment facility near Portland Point.

The Cazenovia-based engineering firm of Stearns and Wheler will study lake temperature stratification and water flow patterns. This data will be used by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to evaluate the dispersion of discharged, treated water from the proposed plant.

The DEC insists that any lake discharge be certain not to reduce the water quality at

the discharge point. This distinction is important because different parts of the lake currently have different levels of water quality.

The lake at the proposed discharge point is now of "AA" quality and is fit for use as drinking water. The Stearns and Wheler study will provide the data the DEC is seeking to confirm that this standard will be maintained. "We will be held to a higher standard than would be the case at the southern end of the lake," said Town Engineer David Herrick.

"Cargill's support of the project's research phase is greatly valued by the town," remarked Sewer Advisory Committee Chair Jeff Clark. "The information they're helping us get will go a long way to determining the technical viability of the project."

Top Mall-Walkers Stride 13,312.5 Miles "Just For The Health Of It"

Aerobic exercise for 20 minutes three times a week is an excellent way to keep limber and promote cardiovascular fitness, said Cayuga Medical Center inpatient rehabilitation unit manager Mary Beth Tierney, R.N. at the Pyramid Mall's 12th annual "Mall-Walkers" awards breakfast last Thursday morning.

Walking works all the major muscle groups and improves blood oxygenation and circulation without the dangers of high impact exercise, Tierney told the nearly 100 senior mall-walkers assembled in the food court to celebrate American Heart Month.

Vigorous activities, like walking, also help control weight, prevent and manage high blood pressure and boost energy levels. When done in a group setting, they also provide seniors with additional social contact which also contributes to their well-being.

Every week, about 200 members of the Mall Walkers Club use Pyramid Mall's 1/2 mile indoor walking course, said mall marketing director Rosalie Carpenter. The top mall-walkers for 1996 were Bernie and Janet Clark (1252.5 and 1140.5 miles, respectively) and Edward Roberts (1011.5 miles).

Thirty-seven mall-walkers received certificates from the Cayuga Medical Center for their faithful participation in the program. Lansing and Cayuga Heights residents Trisha Bailey, Donald Burns, Grace Bryant, Don DeLong, Archie Doty, Maxine Flynn, Bob & Jan Gibbs, Alice & Ricardo Humeraz, Pam Jenkins-Smiley, Elizabeth Packer, Helen Pai, Ken & Eloise Smith, Doreen Schriener, Ruth Story, Margaret



FITNESS & STROKE PREVENTION are positive outcomes of regular exercise, said Cayuga Medical Center inpatient rehab unit manager Mary Beth Tierney at Thursday's ceremony.

Tollinger and John VanDuren were among those recognized for their individual 1996 walking accomplishments ranging from 29 to over 1000 miles..

The Mall Walkers Club was begun 12 years ago through the joint efforts of Heart Mates, Inc., Pyramid Mall and the Cayuga Medical Center.

Special "heart healthy" recipes for the blueberry muffins and applesauce oatmeal coffee cake served at the ceremony are available by calling Cayuga medical center at 274-4498.

Timed Lights Unplug No. Triphammer Road Bottleneck

Motorists traveling along North Triphammer Road past the Route 13 overpass in the Village of Lansing may have noticed lately they are not being stopped by quite so many red lights.

In the past, it was common to be stopped by two or even three of those lights while traveling north- or south-bound through the four signal light system. The reason for this was that the two signal lights on the bridge and the two signal lights on either side of the overpass were not synchronized.

The bridge lights are operated and maintained by the New York State Department of Transportation while two lights by the Triphammer Mall and the Cayuga mall are operated and maintained by the Village of Lansing.

Efforts to deal with the problem were launched in 1989. Village and NYS engineers figured out an appropriate timing sequence to improve traffic flow, but the technology of the existing signal controllers on the state-owned lights wouldn't allow the change. When the state engineer retired, the project lost momentum and no solution was implemented.

When the signal controllers on the state lights failed twice within several weeks last year, Village Superintendent of Public Works Dennis Reinhart appealed to the NYS Department of Transportation to replace the antiquated signal controllers and to work with the Village to synchronize the state and

village traffic lights.

The state agreed, and last fall traffic flow studies were undertaken at all of the intersections by the Village and the State. Using this data, a timing and phasing plan was generated for the whole signal system. This is a time-based coordination plan which allows different length phases for different times of the day.

Since the largest volume of traffic in the morning is inbound from the Town of Lansing, preferential timing is given to southbound vehicles. No preference is given during the midday hours since the flow is about equal in both directions. Northbound traffic has the advantage in the afternoon rush hours. Vehicles entering and exiting Route 13 and the shopping malls are also accounted for in this plan. The only disruption of the timing occurs when a pedestrian signal is activated. The time for that phase is then made up over the next several sequences until that intersection is back in synch with the other signals.

The time-based control system was installed and tested, and on January 24th, the synchronized four light system went into service.

While motorists may enjoy reduced delays through this area during most of the year, the synchronized signal system will still not be able to accommodate the huge influx of traffic during the holiday shopping seasons, and the annual traffic jams can still be expected.

Bailey Indicted & Arraigned On 8 Felony Counts; \$500 Cash Bail Set

Following his Feb. 4 indictment by the Tompkins County Grand Jury on eight felony counts of rape and sexual abuse and on one misdemeanor count of endangering the welfare of a 12 year-old child, Lester Bailey was arraigned Feb. 7 before County Judge William Barrett and released on \$500 cash bail.

Bailey was arrested Dec. 11 after Lansing school authorities brought their concerns to the county's Child Protective Services unit. After his initial arraignment, Bailey was held in Tompkins and Schuyler County jails until his Dec. 17 preliminary hearing before Judge William Burin in Lansing Town Court. Since his arrest, Bailey has been on investigatory suspension from the Ithaca Police Department.

Under NYS criminal procedure, the victim would have been required to testify on the felony charges at the Preliminary Hearing in order for bail to be set on those charges, explained Burin. Because the District Attorney's office had not completed evidentiary analysis and wanted to spare the victim from testifying, the prosecution requested (and Judge Burin set) bail on the misdemeanor charge at \$500. Bailey was released on his own recognizance (free signature bail) on the felony charges. "I don't know where the Ithaca Journal keeps coming up with a 'bail review' (for the Dec. 17 hearing)," said Burin last Saturday morning. It was a Preliminary Hearing.

According to reports in Saturday's daily newspaper about Friday's post-indictment arraignment, assistant District Attorney April Smith requested that Bailey's bail be

set at \$10,000 on the felony charges due to semen analysis evidence that had not been available at the Dec. 17 hearing. She was also reported justifying her request for high bail based on Bailey's current out-of-town address. Judge Barrett denied Smith's request and maintained bail at \$500.

Contacted at his office Saturday morning, Tompkins County District Attorney George Dentes could not recall if equivalent bail had ever been set for similar felony rape charges. "The seriousness of a crime is relevant to bail, but that it's not necessary that a high bail be set," he continued. "People are presumed innocent." Whether the initial \$500 bail was set on the multiple rape charges or single misdemeanor charge is irrelevant, he said. "The charge is not the sole test for bail and the defendant's lawyer can argue that his client has appeared when called," Dentes concluded.

"Normally, bail probably would have been higher, but each case is different," commented Tompkins County Sheriff Emory Guest. "Bail is not a punishment, but a guarantor of appearance," he explained. "The decision is ultimately the judge's."

Efforts to reach Judge Barrett over the weekend were unsuccessful.

No. Lansing Auxiliary
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Sunday, Feb. 16
8:30-11:30 am
North Lansing Firehall



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