

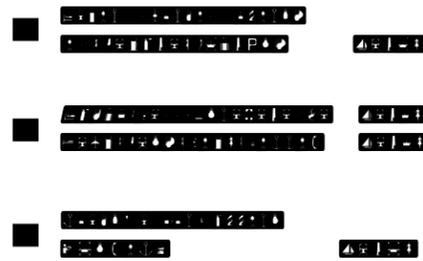
LANSGING COMMUNITY NEWS



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

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

March 6, 1997 ♦♦♦ Vol. II No. 10



Informational Meeting on Proposed So. Lansing Sewer District:

Residents Air Pros and Cons; Response Generally Favorable

A complete description of sewage collection and treatment options being considered by the Sewer Advisory Committee, including maps, appeared in the Dec. 12, issue of the Lansing Community News. Additional updates appeared in the Jan. 30 and Feb. 13 issues

By Matthew Shulman

Barely a year after the Town Board appointed an advisory committee to study the feasibility of a municipal sewer system for South Lansing, 120 Lansing residents attended last Tuesday's informational meeting at the high school cafeteria to hear, and ask questions, about a fully fleshed-out proposal.

As presented, the \$7.7 million treatment plant and initial service area would serve a crescent-shaped initial service area from the two state Division for Youth facilities and Kingdom Farm on Auburn Road through central South Lansing up 34-B to Cargill, the Lansing Central Schools and the Ladoga Park section of Myers. If approved by the Town Board, ground-breaking on the first phase of the project could take place in 1998.

The proposed plant would have enough capacity to support a larger planning area totalling nearly 20 percent of the town. This area stretches towards the airport and Village of Lansing line in the south and encompasses the balance of Myers, Ludlowville and the Sperry Lane area in the northwest.

The meeting began with committee members, engineers and state officials reviewing the technical, environmental and financial aspects of the proposed project and other options. Installation of a sewage pipeline to pump sewage to the Cayuga Heights



FINANCING OPTIONS - Allan Buddle of the NYS Environmental Facilities Corp. stands amidst residents describing grant, no-interest and low interest loans that are being pursued to finance the proposed \$7.7 South Lansing sewer project.

or Ithaca treatment plants is technically feasible, said Town Engineer David Herrick, but the net cost would likely be more than treating the sewage in our own plant.

NYS Environmental Facilities official Allan Buddle described the advisory committee's efforts to locate private sector funding, federal and state grant monies and federal and state no-interest and low-interest loans to reduce costs to residents.

A federal Rural Development grant of \$500,000 coupled to a \$25,000 loan appears favorable, said Buddle. Negotiations with private sector entities seem well on their way to yielding another \$3.5 million for the project. Once finalized, this contribution may help leverage additional grant funds.

Other loans and grants are being sought from the 1996 Clean Water/Air Bond Act,

the Appalachian Regional commission, HUD and the State Revolving Loan Fund, but were not included in calculating projected annual debt service.

Based on current information and assuming no expansion of the initial service area, the committee estimates that annual debt service per single family unit will be \$318 per year for 20 years, with an additional \$186 per year for operations and maintenance. Vacant lots would not be charged.

Residents' Reactions

Though the financial impact on users concerned several of the residents who spoke up during the lengthy question and answer session, a larger number of people living outside the initial service area's projected boundaries came to the meeting to learn how they might be included in the project.

"Why did we leave out close densely populated areas like Sharon Drive, Buck Road and north Myers Road?" asked Tom Ellis of Drake Road. "We could share a lot of the cost," said Franklin Lehr, of Peruville Road. "How difficult would it be to change (the boundary) lines?" queried Flo Pinney, as she expressed interest in extending sewage lines to a new enterprise at Portland Point.

"If it makes economic sense to add more units without increasing per unit costs, we will," said Sewer Advisory Committee Chair Jeff Clark. "The boundaries are flexible," concluded Town Attorney Richard John. "If you want to be included, send a petition to the Town Board."

Not everyone was supportive of the project. "The way my taxes are going, I don't want to see this town grow," commented Bert Hilliard of Auburn Road. "I don't really want sewer because of the cost," said Duane Ray of Atwater Road. Ray believes that any decision to go ahead with the project should be subject to a citizen referendum.

Whatever the final boundary lines, the initial area represents "the core of a good system that can be expanded as the need arises and as money permits," concluded Herrick. In any event, said co-moderator John Kaminsky, "we'll have a few more informal meetings; then at least one public hearing."

Meetings of the Sewer Advisory Committee are generally held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings at 8:00 am in the Community Center. Call Town Hall at 533-4142 to confirm any given meeting date.

Erin Go Beethoven: Irish Folk Songs By Lansing Operatic Performers

Fourteen years ago, while an undergraduate music student, Steven Stull discovered some nearly forgotten German vinyl recordings of Ludwig von Beethoven's arrangements of Irish, Scottish, English and Welsh folk music at Oberlin College's musical library.

"Fie!" you're saying, "The Lansing Community News has lost track of the dates. We're still a month from April 1."

But, no. It's true. Lansing's young operatic baritone had stumbled across an intriguing footnote to musical history. Stull was fascinated by the seeming incongruity of Beethoven's re-scoring English language folk music at the beginning of the 1800s. As life often has it, Stull was off on an adventure in musical detection that finally led to the recent CD and cassette tape release of "The Pulse Of An Irishman" - a collection of Irish and Scottish songs arranged by Beethoven.

Stull's research revealed that in the eddies and back-currents of British history, a Scottish Arts patron, George Thomson, had become concerned that the traditional songs of the British Isles were being lost.

Thomson's concern may only have been musical, but the merger of Scotland into the United Kingdom in 1707 sparked Scottish resistance and rebellions against British rule in 1708, 1715 and 1745-46. Many early 18th century Scots feared British efforts to erase traditional Scottish culture.

Within this context, Thomson sought out the finest composers of his time, including Beethoven, to create new arrangements that might save his Scottish and Welsh traditional songs from oblivion. The great Scottish poet Robert Burns persuaded Thomson to do the same for Irish folk songs. Thomson



NOT YOUR ORDINARY DIVAS - Kimberly LaGraff and Linda Larson have Steve Stull, Timothy LeFebvre and Todd Geer jumping for joy that Stull produced a CD of Ludwig von Beethoven's early 19th century arrangements of Irish, and Scottish folk songs for his own No. Triphammer Road recording label.

agreed and Beethoven eventually arranged 57 pieces - including some with new texts by Burns.

Stull's recording offers a selection of 21 of these pieces, all sung in English to Beethoven's robust scoring and accompanied by piano, violin and cello. It is the premiere offering of the North Triphammer Road-based CRS Barn label.

Though the 35 year-old Stull is best known for his operatic work with the Ithaca Opera, Binghamton's Tri-Cities Opera and the Cooperstown Glimmerglass Opera com-

panies, he also performs regularly around the United States and abroad.

Though a trained classical operatic baritone, Stull has an eclectic bent. Pointing out that the 400 year-old operatic artform has thousands of works, he regrets that only 40-50 operas are performed with any regularity.

"Obviously, it's not all good and doesn't all need to be produced," said Stull from his porch overlooking the rear of Karl Butler's farm, "but, for me it's more interesting to see a lesser produced work than to view

"Carmen" for the 35th time.

Stull's CD fits neatly within this worldview. "Because Beethoven's folk scorings were arrangements rather than compositions, they drifted into obscurity," explained Stull. With his successful effort to re-familiarize modern audiences with these works, this almost forgotten aspect of Beethoven's life work may soon receive new appreciation.

Stull's career is evolving in two directions. On the one hand, he continues to perform classical opera and will be singing at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and in the Caribbean later this spring. At the same time, Stull's pursues his personal, and merrily creative, encounter with the muses.

His next CD, entitled "Opera Cowpokes: Grandkids of the Pioneers" is already in the works. Stull will produce classic western songs, such as "Home on the Range" and works by the Sons of the Pioneers, Gene Autry and Roy Rogers, in country and western arrangements performed by operatic singers. "If singers can handle the differences between Mozart and Wagner, they can sing country and western," says Stull.

Stull also hopes to set up sunset musical performances on a temporary stage by the pond behind the CRS barn and greenhouses where his parents produce organically-grown produce. "I'd like to do Oklahoma in the round," says Stull. "I imagine the audience moving around the stage set for different scenes."

And though Stull is far removed from the pioneers themselves, he's already dreaming about writing an American opera called *Frontier Justice* based on events that took place in Central New York in the 19th century.

Space Donated By T.G. Miller, P.C. Engineers & Surveyors

5th Annual CABIN FEVER FESTIVAL

An indoor family festival designed to overcome "Cabin Fever" by providing music, arts & crafts, jugglers, science experiments, clowns, rappelling, puzzles, a petting zoo, computers, magicians, an obstacle course, a fire truck, special activities for kids 4 and younger AND LOTS OF FOOD. Last year over 4,300 kids and adult friends spent a full day of fun together.

Saturday, March 8 ♦ Barton Hall at Cornell ♦ 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

All proceeds benefit the Ithaca Community Childcare Center ♦ Call 257-0200 to get your tickets today.

