

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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School Board Elections:

Bills & Miller Give Up Seats

School Board Vice-President Kathy Miller and board member Barbara Bills have advised the Lansing Board of Education that they will not be seeking re-election when their terms expire later this year.

Contacted at their homes, Miller and Bills confirmed their decisions and expressed the hope that interested district residents would consider serving the district's children as school board members.

Miller has taken a position in the Virology Department at Cornell and Bills wants to be free to travel with her husband beginning next year. Though Bills will no longer be a voting board member, she will remain on the board's corporate development committee to raise supplemental private sector funds for the school.

The process for filling the two forthcoming vacancies begins April 4th when nominating petitions may be picked up at the district offices. Potential candidates must carry petitions and garner at least 60 signatures from eligible voters living within the Lansing School District. Completed petitions must be turned in at the district offices no later than April 21.

The Lansing School District's annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 20 with voting on the budget and school board candidates to follow on Wednesday, May 21.

Details about special propositions will be in next week's Lansing Community News and the April School District Bulletin.

Highway Dept. Completes Flood Control Work

By Matthew Shulman

From mid-December through the end of February, working as manpower availability and the weather permitted, the Lansing Town crew removed approximately 45,000 tons of gravel from Salmon Creek between its mouth at Cayuga Lake and the Myers Road footbridge.

The work was conducted under permits from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to eliminate creek clogging that contributes to peak flooding and to minimize erosion caused when the creek overflows its usual channels.

"We wanted to minimize natural resource damages as much as possible and let the town accomplish its goals," said DEC aquatic biologist Cliff Creech. The DEC reviewed the potential destabilization that might affect small organisms that are at the base of the food chain; looked at unusual siltation patterns that might result from the dredging process; and verified that there would be no direct impact on the spawning of different species. Based on this information, the DEC permit set strict parameters governing the depth of dredging within Salmon Creek.

"We had to work carefully and watch for shifts in the lake level," said Highway Superintendent Pete Larsen. Operationally, this meant that the Lansing town crew could not dredge Salmon Creek any further down than 379 feet above sea level. Using established benchmarks on the railroad bridge, the crew took regular sightings to assure compliance and the DEC verified their work.

The result of the town crew's work is clearly visible with a 12-20 foot high mini-



TOPSIDE - Lansing Highway Superintendent Pete Larsen stands atop some 45,000 tons of gravel removed from Salmon Creek between the mouth of the creek upstream to the footbridge. This past winter in an effort to increase stream velocity and minimize flood damage to low-lying areas.

mountain of gravel piled on land formerly owned by International Salt and now part of the DEC's UC-Point land. "Though the land may look level to the casual observer," said Larsen pointing to a barely perceptible ridge sloping slightly towards the lake in front of the pile of gravel, "the gravel is actually above the 100-year flood line." This, too, was a DEC requirement.

Though the town undertook the project

to minimize flooding, the gravel became an unexpected bonus that more than offset project costs.

With bank-run gravel now going for \$2.50/ton FOB on county bid, the \$25,000 manpower and equipment pricetag to extract the 45,000 tons of gravel works out to about \$0.55 per ton. Even including the cost of trucking the gravel to final end-use sites, the town ends up saving \$1 to \$1.50 per ton.

Northeast Students Learn About The Movement Of Life

Dance the movement of molten magma as it proceeds through the Earth's crust towards eruption. Dance the physical effects of gravity, inertia and resistance on an object moving through space. Dance the miraculous mechanics of the human body with every simple hop or skip.

Dance. The word commonly evokes an aesthetic artistic endeavor, but the Phyllis Rose Dance Company specializes in dance and movement programs for school-aged children that liberate the analytical as well as the creative side of the human mind.

"People understand that dancing can tap into a person's interior feelings," said visiting dancer Marie McKinney, of the Bahamas. However, many are amazed to discover that dance can also strengthen linguistic and logical skills through patterned manipulations of space, rhythm and movement.

Last week the five-person Phyllis Rose Dance Company spent four days performing, teaching and encouraging Northeast Elementary School students in the choreography and grace of body movement through dance. The company started Monday afternoon with dance performances for the Northeast students. Technical training in movement, rhythm and choreography followed on Tuesday and Wednesday that empowered the second and fourth grade classes to perform Thursday for the student bodies at the Northeast Elementary and the DeWitt Middle Schools.

"This is the best school I've ever been to," said McKinney. "The students, faculty and staff worked together as a group. Every child, including those with serious challenges, was treated with accepting respect."



RHYTHM OF LIFE - Kyle Roco and students in Mrs. Hall's 5th grade class performed for the rest of the Northeast Elementary School on Thursday, March 13 after receiving several days' training by the Phyllis Rose Dance Company.

"It's not just multi-culturalism at Northeast," explained Irish dancer Miriam Bird, of Dublin. "The kids here are learning to accept differences on every level. Working with them has been the best experience during my three years of working in this country."

Becoming familiar with intercultural differences in movement is like acquiring a foreign language, smiled Mexican dancer Gerardo Espinosa. "By virtue of my accent, the way I move and my looks, I teach diversity that goes beyond tolerance to integra-

tion and acceptance. Respect is most important," he concluded.

"The school trusted us enough not only to let us teach dance, but to demand respectful self-discipline from all the students," said dancer Michael Taylor, of Los Angeles. "The children accepted our goals and expectations and behaved quietly as they learned their stage positions and the choreography of the dance," added company director Rose. Their attentiveness and seriousness surpassed the most optimistic hopes of PTA vice-president Therese Arsenault.

Teacher Training

The dance company also conducted a teachers' dance and movement workshop on Tuesday afternoon for faculty from schools across Tompkins County interested in incorporating dance in the general academic curriculum.

The dancers provided videos, music tapes, written information and hands-on training to show the teachers how to use dance for teaching any subject matter area. "We want to help the youngsters use the power of the arts to learn about science, math, history and culture," said Rose.

One exercise involved the use of choreographed movements to demonstrate the physical aspects of chemistry's gas laws. Dance permits the integration of speech, repetition, sound, movement, mental imagery, touch and sight in a unified experience that is more reinforcing than any single element, said McKinney. She explained that her work is based on Harvard Professor Harold Gardiner's research on cognitive acquisition.

But beyond such pedagogic theories is a simpler rationale for incorporating dance in school curriculums: the students discover themselves. Rose believes that schools don't teach children about their bodies until it's too late. "Learning the beauty and power of our bodies is almost a bulwark against all types of abuse," she maintains. "When children learn just what they can accomplish with themselves, they respect their bodies."

None said it better than one 2nd grader who finished his performance with awe. "I didn't know I was such a good dancer," he said.



Tom
Brocough
says,

**"SAVINGS OF HUNDREDS, EVEN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS!
In all my years, I've never seen anything this BIG!
Don't Miss Out!"**

For More Details, Turn Now To Page 4

