

Heard Around Town



CORRESPONDENTS' BREAKFAST - Marion Thompson, Lorraine Groat, Wanda Brink, Donna Scott, Joan Neill, Tricia Torney, Katrina & John (with Tony) Greenly (clockwise from left) and Ruby Ferris (not in photo) met March 8 to plan their future columns for "Heard About Town." [Jake sent his regrets.]

North 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 Greenly (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 or Genoa and would like to share local news, please call Matthew at 533-7963.

Lansing Seniors

This spring day of March 12, brought ninety-nine Lansing Seniors to Lansing United Methodist Church for good fellowship, as well as good food. Spring was the theme, with table decorations of pussy-willows and greenery.

During the absence of our regular chairpersons, Rick and Alice Humerez, who are vacationing in Bolivia, the reins were taken over by Maxine Flynn who presided over meeting with her usual aplomb.

Guest entertainers, brothers, Jim and Al Boyce from Marathon, and Clair Lamphere from McGraw, tickled our funny bones with humorous jokes and sweetened our ears with beautiful music and songs and a bit of saw-playing. It was another pleasurable day for Lansing Seniors.

Reminder: The Lansing Seniors motorcoach will leave from the Methodist Church on March 27 at 9:15 am for fun at the "Old Barn" in Williamstown, NY.

- Ruby Ferris.

Editorial Corner

- The "editorial corner" is available to all community members for the courteous expression of varying points of view and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Lansing Community News.

Aurora Masons Celebrate 200 Years

The Scipio Masonic Lodge in Aurora invites the public to a celebration this Saturday, March 22, 1997 ... exactly 200 years to the day from the signing of the Lodge Charter by Robert R. Livingston, then Grand Master of Masons and Chancellor of the State of New York.

The charter was requested in 1775, only six years after the first settler arrived and even before any formal church was established. Freemasonry came to America with the first colonists. It came to Southern Cayuga County with the first pioneer settlers who had become familiar with the area while serving in Gen. Sullivan's army.

The Masonic building in Aurora is almost unique in the Nation. In 1994 the Lodge celebrated the 175th anniversary of the 1819 cornerstone laying ceremony by then Grand Master and Governor, DeWitt Clinton. Freemasonry played an important role in the formation of our Country and in the development of the area.

Freemasonry grew out of the actual, or "operative" masons who built cathedrals throughout Europe. As that industry declined, the guilds began accepting honorary, or "accepted," members. Contemporary masons are taught that we also are builders, not of physical edifices, but of individual character. Masonic lessons teach that we cannot build a better society without improving its individual building blocks. This is best done by adhering to moral values that have stood the test of time.

The March 22 celebration begins with tours of the building and memorabilia from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM. A buffet luncheon will be served. At 1:00 PM, a program at the Morgan Opera House (across from the Post Office) will include a lecture by Dr. Steven C. Bullock, Professor of History at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Bullock, a non-mason, recently published, *Revolutionary Brotherhood: Freemasonry and the Transformation of the American Social Order*. Mr. William Moore, Director of the Robert R. Livingston Library and Museum, will speak and show slides of historically significant Masonic buildings.

At the Morgan Opera House at 2:30 PM, the American Lodge of Research will sponsor a program of papers presented by area authors. These papers will deal with the history of the area.

A reception and banquet will be held at the Wells College Summer Center. The speaker is Earle J. Hino, Jr., Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York.

The public is invited to any or all parts of the celebration. Reservations are required for the evening banquet. Contact Scott Mathieson at 315-364-7325.

- George Peter, Historian, Scipio Masonic Lodge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

March 12, 1997

Dear Editor,

On March 6, 1997, the Budget Committee of the Tompkins County Board of Representatives voted to change the fund balance for Tompkins County from 5% to 10% of total appropriations.

If approved by the entire Board of Reps, this change would take effect in fiscal year 1998. I was the sole committee member who voted against this major policy change. Why should Tompkins County taxpayers care about this issue? Quite simply, the change means that additional millions in taxpayer money would be funneled into the fund balance instead of returned, in the form of property tax relief, to Tompkins County taxpayers.

Early this fall, Tompkins County Board of Representatives will begin to deliberate a budget for 1998. An increase in fund balance from 5% to 10% would increase this 1998 budget approximately 4.5 million dollars.

The fund balance exists to: 1) protect Tompkins County's credit rating; 2) provide funds in the event of extreme emergencies; and 3) reduce the need for county borrowing in anticipation of tax revenue. A 5% fund balance is fiscally responsible and, in the past, has been sufficient to meet County needs.

On March 18, this major budget policy change will be on the agenda for consideration by the full Tompkins County Board of

Representatives. A Tompkins County Board decision to increase the fund balance from 5% to 10% is particularly relevant given the fact that in fiscal 1996 Tompkins County had a 12.2 million dollar balance.

I believe that this fiscal policy issue needs to be aired publicly prior to the March 18 vote. In addition, the County Board of Representatives should be trying to reduce total appropriations so we do not finish another fiscal year with another 12+ million dollar balance. For these reasons, I have written this letter.

Tom Todd - District 6, Lansing

March 13, 1997

Dear Editor,

Last night's dress rehearsal of "The Music Man" at the Middle School Auditorium was far more than an opportunity for Lansing's senior citizens to have an inexpensive (read, "free") night's entertainment -- It was good theater.

Many of us have been going to high school musicals for years, so it's no surprise that we liked the play. Yet, it's hard to believe that the two leads' singing their love song "Til There Was You" on the little footbridge could actually give me the kind of goosebumps I haven't had since I heard Frank Sinatra sing many years ago.

Thank you to all the children and supportive parents and community members.

- Eileen Cundy

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