

# Community Voices: Letters To The Editor

March 20, 1997

To the Editor,

I appreciate the coverage the Lansing Community News has given the proposed Lansing sewer district as I was not able to attend the public informational meeting (held) on February 25 about it.

My personal interest focuses on expense and practicality, at least as far as my property is concerned. Although my house is within the shaded primary sewer district on the maps I have seen, I feel it would be prohibitively expensive to run a connecting line 0.2 miles into the main line at Lake Shore Road. I also have neighbors who live much further back in the woods than I. My current sand-filter septic system was re-

placed 2-3 years ago and still has many years left in its expected service life. Any increased property value in my case would be essentially negligible.

I would like Mr. Clark and his Sewer Committee to address specifically how costs will be fairly apportioned in the Town's proposals. The funding for the project needs to come from the district's users, the costs being fairly and proportionately allocated according to relative benefit. From what I have read, there needs to be a finer classification of properties in the sewer district to allocate costs in an equitable manner.

- William T. Martin  
Lake Shore Road

Pastoral Column:

## The Empty Egg

By Rev. Alan St. George

One warm spring afternoon near Easter, a teacher gave a large plastic egg to each of her students. Then she sent them outside to find signs of life and put them in their egg.

Soon they returned. In one egg was a butterfly. In another an ant. Others contained flowers, twigs, blades of grass. But one egg had nothing in it.

Everyone knew whose egg it was - Joey's, a shy child with few friends. Some of the kids laughed at him. The teacher asked him why he had not put any signs of life in

his egg. He said quietly, "Because Jesus' tomb was empty." The boy knew and understood a profound truth - Easter is more than a celebration of nature's cycle of new life.

On the first Easter Sunday, the women who went to Jesus' tomb to finish anointing His body knew He was dead. They had seen Him die. They had watched as his body was placed in the tomb and the stone rolled into place to seal the grave. They were sure His body was in the tomb. But when they arrived, the body was gone. The stone had been removed. The tomb was empty.

What had happened? The body had not been stolen. There were no signs of a struggle with the Roman guards assigned to watch the tomb. The soldiers did not fall asleep. Fear would have kept them awake for the death penalty was given to any Roman guard that succumbed to sleep on his watch. The women were not imagining it. The tomb was empty because Jesus had risen from the dead.

Yes. Jesus is risen from the dead. It's a miracle far more wonderful and dramatic than the return of life in the spring. And most amazing of all, Jesus has promised us forgiveness, resurrection and eternal life to all who put their trust in Him. How do we know He has the power to do this?

The proof is an empty tomb.

Alan St. George is Pastor of Grace Baptist Church located on East Shore Drive in South Lansing.

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BIWEEKLY - Katrina's column will appear every two weeks through autumn.

By Katrina Greenly

Welcome to the growing season. If your property hasn't given you evidence of this fact, walk around your garden on a sunny day and look closely at the buds of the lilacs and the flowering quince. Push aside leftover leaves in your perennial beds and you'll find small tightly furled new shoots and new leaves of many plants waiting for a bit more warmth before displaying their obvious signs of welcome. You'll likely find columbine, sedum, primula, iris, centaurea and daylily - to name but a few.

Don't leave them bare to the cold yet! Patience. Several more weeks and you can rake them clean for good without feelings of guilt. Wait! Don't take the rodent protectors off your trees yet. This is the time of year that rodents are around in numbers and don't have much choice of greenery to eat. They like nothing better than to chew the bark of sap-swelling fruit trees. Wait another month for this chore.

What can you do on a sunny day? I know you're just fidgeting to get around the garden after a long winter. There are quite a few things to tend to at this time.

**Fertilize** - If you've young trees or shrubs you'd like to encourage, injured or old trees you wish to sustain or invigorate, or simply feel that there aren't enough growing stems to cut in a season, get down to your garden supply store for a big bag of 10-10-10 general fertilizer - and don't forget to follow the directions.

**MORE IS NOT BETTER** when it comes to commercial fertilizer. Excess fertilizer can act as a poison and kill feeder roots (which in turn may kill your plant) or it may simply make your soil become salty over time, which increases the incidence of drought stress for plants.

**Alter pH** - This is a controversial topic, but we must do it to some degree if we wish to grow plants that prefer acid or neutral soils for optimal growing.

The controversy is over the length of pH treatment effectiveness because soil pH is a very dynamic process. Though regular applications of altering substances such as

lime or ammonium sulfate can nudge soil pH in the desired direction, the soil's buffering elements will cause pH to creep back near its original state

If you have acid soil, application of lime to your lawn will increase its health and disease resistance. Watering in (or rain) soon after application is optimal. Acid loving plants such as blueberries, rhododendrons, azaleas, hollies, evergreens, dogwoods and others enjoy a yearly application of acid loving fertilizer (such as Hollytone). An additional treatment with composted manure and ammonium sulfate will also be helpful.

**Pruning** - The best time to prune most plants is at the onset of active growing. This is when it is motivated by warmth and moisture to repair and heal over wound sites and the immune defenses of trees and shrubs are in motion to protect against fungal and bacterial invaders. The only trees to prune later are "Bleeders" - those trees whose sap runs heavily in the spring: willows, maples and soft fruit trees.

Don't prune those roses until early May! Prune dead stubs back to a living branch and avoid cutting into the healthy bark as you do so.

Thin branches to remove those that are crossing and rubbing, those that are diseased (dip your pruning tool in a 10 percent bleach solution between cuts with diseased wood), and to simply open up the center of the plant for increased air circulation and light penetration.

That's enough advice for now. Don't do too much at first. Stretch regularly to guard against those early spring muscle pulls. (I've already ignored my own advice on that score).

Don't forget to stop and listen to the ecstatic birds; smell the first heavenly daffodils; and remind yourself that spring rains are here for a brighter purpose than aggravating your day.

Send in your gardening questions to Katrina Greenly. She lives in Ludlowville with husband John and son Tony and operates "By-Your-Side" landscape consulting.

Clayton J. Bradley, 85, formerly of Lansing died Wednesday, March 19 in the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina.

A lifelong Lansing resident, Bradley was born in Ludlowville on September 10, 1911, son of the late Thomas and Edna Sperry Bradley. He served in the United States Army in World War II. After service, he was president of Bradley Brothers' Fuel Oil Company in Myers until his retirement.

The Bradleys moved to North Carolina in 1969, but maintained close friendships in the Lansing community. He was a former member of the Lansing United Methodist Church and a founding member of the Lansing Lions Club.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Janet McKinley who died in 1982 and is survived by a sister, Laura Gasket, of Newlind, NC.

Funeral services were held Monday at the Lansing Funeral Home, the Rev. Marti Swords officiating. Internment will follow in Pine Grove Cemetery. Contributions in memory of Mt. Bradley may be made to the Lansing Lions Club, c/o President Kirk Shreve, 32 Auburn Road, Lansing.

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Donald L. Karn, 69, formerly of King Ferry, died Tuesday, March 18, 1997 at his North Fort Myers, Florida home.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Monday at Our Lady of the Lake Church, with the Rev. Paul J. Ryan officiating. Internment will be in Our Lady of the Lake Cemetery.

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