

Water Surcharge Rate May Change

(Continued from page 1)

At that meeting, Marabella asked the Town Board to consider reducing NYSEG's surcharge from 60% to 25% in consideration of the utility's having paid the entire cost of extending 8 miles of water line up Route 34-B to Milliken Station. He said that this line had enabled many Lansing families to get needed water.

Board members were sympathetic to NYSEG's plight at the March 5 meeting (see Mar. 13 *Lansing Community News*) but were concerned about changing the rate structure for a single industrial user. At that time Town Attorney Richard John also spoke of the need for "a uniform policy for all industrial users."

At last week's meeting, the Board heard a proposal to raise the needed \$114,000 with a flat rate surcharge. Based on total metered consumption from 10/1/95 through 10/1/96, the flat rate surcharge alternative would be \$0.91 per thousand gallons. This works out to a 36% surcharge for all users, irrespective of the volume used.

According to calculations prepared by the town engineer, residential users' mini-

mum quarterly bills would rise by 8.6%, the average commercial/institutional user's bill would decline by 3.2% and the average industrial user's bill would decrease by 15.5%

Town Supervisor Jeanine Kirby said that, if passed April 16, the new rate will take effect with the July 1 billing. Councilman Herb Beckwith said he would not vote on the matter because he is a NYSEG employee.

The Town Board will use the time between now and its next meeting to consider the flat rate surcharge proposal and indicated its intention to act on April 16.

In other business, the Town Board asked Town attorney Richard Thaler (sitting in for the absent Rich John) if residents could initiate the referendum process on proposed town zoning or if the authority to decide on a referendum rests solely with the Board.

Thaler replied that only the Town Board can decide on holding a referendum. He then added his opinion that any decision to enact or reject zoning "needs public support." He suggested that the Town either hold a permissive referendum or demonstrate the existence of a public groundswell of support. "Doing nothing is not a viable option," he counselled.

LOAP Banquet May 3

All Lansing seniors, aged 62 and older, are reminded that the Lansing Older Adults Program (LOAP) will be holding its 24th Annual Spring Banquet at the Lansing United Methodist Church on Sat., May 3.

Registration begins at 10:30am and will be followed at 11:00 by the program honoring dedicated community volunteers as well as a full slate of entertainment. Lunch begins at 12:15pm.

The cost is \$4 per person and reservations are necessary. Call Alice Sharpsteen by April 25 at 533-3665. Please join us.

Woodsedge To Offer Defensive Driving and Arts & Crafts Classes

The three-class AARP defensive driving course **55 Alive** will be taught at Woodsedge Apartment on May 2, 9 and 16 at a cost of just \$8.00 per person. The course will be instructed by Norman Wheeler and is open to anyone over 50. Upon completion of the course, automobile insurance premiums may be reduced by 10 percent per year for the next three years.

The first four-week session of arts and crafts classes for seniors will be held from 9:00-10:30am on April 14, 21, 18 and May 5 at Woodsedge Apartments. Instructors Barbara Hlywa and Elnora Hoaglin are members of the National Society of Tole and Decorative Artists and the Southern Tier Decorative Arts Association.

The program is sponsored by the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County and the Lansing Housing Authority. Classes are open to the public, but are limited to eight students per session. Registration is \$4.00 per person.

For further information about either program, contact Joyce Henniger at 533-4792.

William L. Brown, Jr., 74, of 8 Oakcrest Road died Sunday evening, March 30 at Cayuga Medical Center.

Funeral arrangements are expected to be announced in May.

Lansing Youth Succumbs To Apparent Overdose

Alejandro Ferrer, 17, died unexpectedly on Monday, March 31 at Cayuga Medical Center after being found unconscious at his home by his father, Dr. Guillermo Ferrer.

Alex, as he was known, was a student at the Alternative Community School, where his death provoked an immediate outpouring of grieving amongst his 260 school mates. Because internment took place in Ferrer's native Venezuela last weekend, the date to hold a celebration of his life at Immaculate Conception will likely not be announced before the end of this week.

"Alex made so many contributions that we want to focus on his life rather than on the way he died," said ACS principal David Lehman. "There'll be time enough to look again at drug abuse issues after we've done some grieving and healing."

Helen Stark Lapham, 57, died April 3 after a long illness. A 25-year resident of Lansing, she loved ornithology and helped her mother run a bird banding station in Rhode Island for 30 years.

After graduate work at the London School of Economics, Ms. Lapham served with the Peace Corps in Liberia. She later conducted ornithological research in Venezuela for New York's Museum of Natural History.

Ms. Lapham also raised puppies for Canine Companions, played regularly at the Ithaca Bridge Club and supported a variety of feminist and environmental causes.

Lapham is survived by her mother, Elise Lapham, of Bloomfield, Conn, brother Peter of Phila., Pa and sister Penelope Lapham of Roseburg, Or.

Contributions in her memory may be sent to the Cayuga Bird Club c/o Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, 14850 or the Nature Conservancy, 1815 No. Lynn St., Arlington, Va. 22209.

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