

# Village of Lansing Trustee Candidates' Statements

Two trustees and the mayor's chair are up for election on April 22 in the Village of Lansing municipal elections. Balloting will be at the Oakcrest Road Fire station from noon to 9:00pm.

Though the Community Party's three candidates are running unopposed, the Lansing Community News invited incumbent trustees Larry Fresinski and Audrey Kahin and Mayor Donald Hartill to share their visions for the village. The Trustee candidates' unedited statements follow; Mayor Hartill is out of town.

## Larry Fresinski Seeks Second Trustee Term

I have been a resident of Tompkins County for 27 years, a resident of the Village of Lansing for 10 years, and a trustee for the Village of Lansing since 1993. My interest in Village government started with a small but important set of objectives. I wanted to learn about local government, be involved in my community, and most of all, watch how our money is spent. I labeled myself as a "residential spy." I am happy to report that my service as a spy was not needed. Still, the other objectives have been met!

I have broadened my objectives to include enriching our lifestyles in the Village by enhancing our community's walkways, pathways, bikeways, green spaces, and roadways. I want to leverage our idle funds further and increase our communications methods to the residents through the use of technology. In addition, I'd like to complete the work with the Inter-municipal Cable Commission that will conclude with a franchise for the use of cable TV in the Village.

The walkway, pathway, bikeway, green space, and roadway enhancements may partially be completed through the North Triphammer Road Corridor Reconstruction Committee's (NTRCRC) work from 1996. It concluded with a recommendation to the Board of Trustees that was unanimously endorsed. As the chair of the committee, I had the honor of defending our plan along with our Mayor and engineers with the New



Larry Fresinski

York State Department of Transportation. That resulted in our plan being accepted for funding consideration. If funding is confirmed and residents agree, the Village will radically change North Triphammer Road from the bridge to Brook Drive allowing for 3 driving lanes, bikeways, sidewalks, and stop lights. The strategy is to meet Village objectives using external funding sources with an enhancement instead of a repair (which is sorely needed).

Through effective use of investment vehicles our idle funds can grow more rapidly which lowers our tax burden. As we ramp up our use of Email and the World Wide Web this year, we plan to get more information to and from residents using this fast and cost effective medium. Finally, we are working hard to complete the required cable franchise that stipulates what services Time Warner will and will not provide.

If my candidacy results in being elected, I expect to see these projects through their successful conclusion in this next term (NTRCRC will take longer).

## Audrey Kahin Seeks First Elected Term



Audrey Kahin

When I first came to live in Lansing in 1967, several years before the Village was created, it was still a largely rural area faced with many of the problems of uncontrolled development and urban sprawl. Formed to protect the character of the area, the Village of Lansing has developed into a unique community, where planning policies and zoning laws have effectively balanced the needs of residents with those of business and other interests, and the area's natural beauty has largely been preserved.

I served for about three years on the Village's Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) before being appointed in 1996 to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees created when Don Hartill replaced Ted Wixom as Mayor.

My involvement as a Trustee has focused on the issues with which the CAC is concerned: the Greenway plan, preserving the natural areas of the village, and improving pedestrian and biking paths. I hope to continue to work in this field to help make the Village a pleasant and livable environment for all its residents.

In addition, together with other local organizations, I will be working to develop ways of dealing specifically with the needs of the Village's growing number of senior citizens.

I would also like to help ensure that residents are aware of the major issues facing the Village before problems reach crisis pro-

portions, and that their views are heard in the deliberations of the various boards. An important step has been taken by Larry Fresinski in opening an internet connection for villagers to have easy access to officials and members of the Village boards, and the Lansing Community News is providing a useful information service for residents of both Town and Village. I hope we can also arrange for Village officials to have regular meetings with residents to discuss their concerns.

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