

LANSSING COMMUNITY NEWS



Serving the Town and Village of Lansing, Cayuga Heights, King Ferry & Genoa

"Not quite paradise, but a nice place to live."

Wednesday, April 30, 1997 ♦♦♦ Vol. II No. 18

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IT'S OFFICIAL!

3 Candidates For School Board

An election field that appeared, as recently as two weeks ago, to have as many as six to eight potential candidates will have three candidates on the May 21st ballot.

At the 4:30pm Monday, April 21st deadline, residents Norman Lin Davidson of Ridge Road & Townline Road, Donald Howell of Salmon Creek Road and James Tull of Dates Road had each filed valid nominating petitions with the district clerk. Each bore signatures from 25 qualified voters of the district and all have been declared official candidates for the Lansing Central School District's Board of Education.

The three candidates are seeking to fill the two three-year school board seats being vacated by retiring member Barbara Bills and vice-president Kathryn Miller.

Residents and voters will have the opportunity to hear and question the three candidates next Thursday, May 1st at a "Meet The Candidates" forum presented by the School Board in the Lansing High School cafeteria at 7:30pm.

In addition, all three candidates have been invited to submit a photo and a 400-450 word statements which will appear unedited in the May 7th issue of the Lansing Community News.

According to the School District, no petitions to get a special proposition on the May 21st ballot were received by the April 21st filing deadline.

Budget Discussion

District voters should soon be receiving a budget packet in the mail from the Lansing School Board containing a narrative description as well as spread-sheet presentations of the proposed 1997-98 budget.

A public presentation of the budget and question and answer session will be held as part of the Lansing School District's annual meeting on Tuesday, May 20 in the Middle School auditorium at 7:30 pm.

Voting Procedures

Voting on the 1997-98 budget and balloting to fill the two school board vacancies will take place on Wednesday, May 21 from 12:00pm through 9:00pm in the foyer of the

The Secret from Salmon Creek:

The Little Known Story of Rainbow Trout

While Salmon Creek anglers thrilled to an opening day harvest of 200-300 rainbows below Ludlowville Falls, few realized that rainbows were unknown to Native Americans or early settlers.

Rainbows, you see, are an exotic species first reared in from California's Sacramento River in the 1890s. They, and German browns, were introduced to try to compensate for the rapidly declining native brook trout that couldn't adapt to pressures of human settlement and agricultural practices.

Salmon Creek once boasted native brook trout and Atlantic salmon from Lake Ontario. However, settlers transformed woodlands to fields and generally removed streambank cover. Shifting land use from forests to field-based agriculture changed watershed environments and stream habitats.

Fields' reduced capacity to hold water produced faster runoffs during storms. The increased volume of water "scoured" the narrow streambed and washed away small gravel deposits that contained brook trout's prey. The runoff silt also filled in the tiny spaces in the gravel in which brook trout laid their eggs in the autumn, smothering many

Middle School Auditorium.

To vote in the school district election, one must be:

- A) A citizen of the United States;
- B) Eighteen year of age; and
- C) A resident of the Lansing Central School District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the day of voting.

Anyone who is uncertain of his or her voting eligibility status should contact the district offices for clarification at 533-4294 during regular business hours.

New Board

The current Board of Education will continue to meet and conduct school business through June of this year. The winners of the May 21st election will be installed at the Board's regular July meeting. This meeting will also serve as the Board of Education's annual organizational meeting at which time officers for the coming year will be chosen.

Next week's paper will contain detailed information about the coming addition and renovations to the Raymond S. Buckley Elementary School scheduled to begin this summer.

Go-Kart Proposal Upstages Zoning Ordinance Review At Town Board

By Matthew Shulman

A dozen or more So. Lansing residents crowded into Council chambers last Thursday evening to seek the Town Board's assistance in blocking a proposed Go-Kart track at the Conlon/Buck Road intersection that they feel will change the character of the neighborhood.

Spokesperson Pam Van Gelder presented the Board with a preliminary petition signed by 80 residents. Residents understood that there is no zoning but expressed something between amazement and chagrin that the town couldn't even force a SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review) to determine if the presumed noise and pollution would constitute a threat to health or property values.

"I expected some reaction," said Glenn Fenner, who has a day job and raises dairy replacement heifers and wishes to build a small track on a 100' x 200' section of his corner property, "but I thought we could talk." According to Fenner, not a single neighbor had stopped by to talk to him to learn the specifics of his proposal - either

before or since the Town Board meeting.

Under current law, said Town Attorney Richard John, there is no zoning to restrict use. Code enforcement officer George Totman told the petitioners that unless there's a subdivision, a request for a building permit or food sold on the premises a property owner can do what he or she wants with his land.

Fenner, who listened quietly in Council chambers during the heated discussion, told the Lansing Community News that in spite of rumors about race cars, stock cars and other projects that are being attributed to him, he just wants to put up a small track that will handle 6 Go-Karts. He said he plans to pave the track to keep down dust and put up fencing until a living hedge can grow to protect neighbors from noise.

"They're not racing carts," he said. "They've got good mufflers and won't be louder than lawnmowers." Fenner hopes to operate from May 1 to October 1 for approximately 6 hours on Saturday and Sunday and for up to 4 hours several weekdays a week.

Because one person's rose is another's thorn, some neighbors don't want to experience living near the Go-Karts before registering a protest.

"This is our community," Claudia DeLorme told the Board members, "and we're not going to let this (neighborhood) go down the toilet."

Town Supervisor Jeanine Kirby said that the Board is reviewing a proposed zoning ordinance (which was supposed to be on the agenda, but was displaced by the Buck Road contingent), but that in the meantime can't do anything to block a legal use in an unzoned part of town. She suggested that the residents check if there are any deed restrictions on the land.

When asked about deed restrictions, former land owner Clifford Buck said none exist. "I sold the land; he's paying the taxes," said Buck. "He has the privilege of doing what he can to make a living."

"I have a breeding farm," Wilson Road resident Kathy Miller told the Board, "and now all of a sudden my plans may be threatened by the constant noise."

Residents asked about hurrying zoning through and questioned whether concerns about traffic, parking, safety, noise, air pollution or anything could get the town to take some action. "How can you say we have no rights?" asked a bewildered and angry Van Gelder. "We have no one to help us," added Susan Miller. "You (the Board) have to move this along."

The Board responded by asking attorney John to research whether any legal avenue exists to force a SEQR. "As far as we know," said Councilman Herb Beckwith, "we don't have legal standing."

As it's not evident that the town has any legal grounds to initiate a SEQR or launch any other project review process in the absence of zoning, John suggested that public nuisance laws might be an option if the residents wanted to pool resources to hire an attorney. It is not clear, however, that nuisance laws can be applied prior to the occurrence of a presumed nuisance.

Sitting at his kitchen table the next day, Fenner reflected with sadness, "They want to get lawyers and no one has asked...no one has called or stopped by to ask."

Fenner still believes in the project and
(Continued on page 8)



DUG ROAD BRIDGE - Can anyone identify the time when this photo of the old span over Salmon Creek was taken? (If the mystery person who left this photo in our mailbox has other Lansing views, we'd be honored to reprint them.)



HARVEST - Two Binghamton anglers show off their Salmon Creek rainbows

eggs over the winter. Finally, cutting the forest canopy along streambeds raised water temperatures, further stressing the heat-sensitive brook trout.

With agriculture a major 19th century industry, early aquatic biologists sought alternate fishery resources. They first imported brown trout which are much more tolerant of warm water. But this species (like the brook trout) spawns in the fall and its eggs did not survive over-winter siltation in large enough numbers.

By 1900, rainbows were imported to

Central New York in hopes that this spring spawning variety would do better. Rainbows spread through the Finger Lakes, but limited rearing areas kept wild populations low.

In 1985, the DEC began stocking tributaries, including Salmon Creek. Eggs from wild rainbows taken in the Cayuga Inlet are hatched in Bath, NY and released when they get to 1 1/4 - 1 1/2 inches long. About 20,000 fingerlings are annually released on Salmon Creek above the Ludlowville barrier falls. After descending to the lake for 3-4 years, they return to Salmon Creek around March 15 for a 3-4 week spawning period. (Recent genetic research shows that rainbows are related to Chinook and Pacific Salmon and seems to explain their migratory heritage which leads them to return to the stream in which they're released.)

Approximately 60% of the annual trout harvest occurs in the two week period between the opening of fishing season and the time the trout return to Cayuga Lake. As Salmon Creek releases have a clipped adipose fin, it's possible to confirm that about 2/3 of the harvested rainbows come from the DEC restocking program.

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