

Heard Around Town

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King Ferry: Joan Neill (315) 364-7784
Lake Ridge: Tricia Torney 533-7269
Woodsedge: Marion Thompson 533-7824
Lansing Station: Donna Scott 533-7228
Lansingville: Ruby Ferris 533-4969
Central Fire Station: Jake
Ludlowville: Wanda Brink (533-4672) and Katrina Greenly (533-8892)



Photo: STAFF

GOOD BYE, EYESORE!! Dick Pinney takes another whack at the remains of the Portland Cement Company silos. The 90 year-old lakefront manufacturing plant was abandoned 40 years ago. We'll tell you what's coming very, very soon.

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.

Making Up Our Own Minds

Quite a few folks have called the paper in the past week asking when Aline and I were planning to publish our editorial endorsements for the Lansing School Board elections.

We don't, and won't, endorse candidates.

There are a variety of mass communication theories that explain how information moves in communities; how media can confer status and influence behavior; and how some categories of "influentials" (including media) are more effective at persuasion than others.

Beware! Persuasion that results from an exchange of ideas between individuals is different from manipulation.

Aline and I won't issue endorsements because we believe that the fact that we publish a newspaper doesn't automatically mean that we're gifted with greater insight than mere voters.

Sure, we have opinions. And anyone foolish enough to want to know what we think about any topic need only ask. But we will not use the paper as a platform to push our views. They're worth no more and no less than anyone else's. If we have an overwhelming need to express our personal opinions, we'll use the "Letters to the Editor" column like everyone else.

Our editorial opinion is that each of us must take responsibility for his or her own vote. Inform yourselves. Go beyond the candidates' general rhetoric; call the candidates for clarification, if need be. Decide for yourself what differences, if any, separate the candidates and choose which one best represents your philosophy and goals.

Our system is based on the novel idea that the collective wisdom of individual voters' decisions results in the best government.

It's called democracy... and (Aline and I believe) it shouldn't be surrendered to editorial endorsements.



like, is not their first and only job. All of these firefighters have daily jobs that support their families. When the alert tones sound, they leave their jobs, if they can, to go to wherever they are needed. It is actually these jobs that help to make them more valuable in certain situations. How, you ask? By using their everyday work knowledge to make an otherwise out-of-control situation, a little more controllable.

Let's take the recent chimney fire on Stormy View Road. The house had a fireplace insert that we needed to remove to get to the fire that was burning behind it. It also had more than one chimney pipe running through the house into a central chimney. The chimney itself had a plate that needed to be removed to get to the flue. All of these items together or by themselves are not major problems for almost any fire department. In time, each situation would have been handled and the fire put out. We were fortunate that day to have a firefighter on the crew that was also a carpenter. His many years of firefighting, coupled with his construction experience, enabled him to quickly recognize each of the items. He pointed them out and helped us to understand them, allowing the fire to be quickly extinguished, with very little damage to the house. He helped the thankful owner to understand what had happened and what he needed to do to correct it.

It is people like Rick Sill, and a long list of others, that volunteer their time and expertise to make your volunteer fire department better and our lives a little easier. They do it without pay, other than the satisfaction and occasional "thank you" that they get, just like the nice person that made me the blanket. They only ask for your support, so they can be there when you need them. So the next time you see a firefighter, give him or her a friendly wave. And if you see me, a dog bone and a pat on the head will do. Until next month, take care.

- Jake

Well, yet again I find myself struggling to find the time to bring everyone up to date on what's been going on. I've even been too busy to send out a long overdue "THANK YOU," to the nice person that took the time to make me my very own blanket. It has my name on it and matches the station colors. Anyone who has seen it can tell you just how nice it is. While I was laying on it one day, I thought to myself how special and talented that person had to be to take his or her own time to make something for me. Not for money, but just because he/she wanted to. It occurred to me that this person had many of the same qualities as the firefighters that proudly and voluntarily protect all of us. It is these qualities and the people that come with them that I'd like to tell you about in this issue.

Have you ever wondered how the fire department is staffed or where the people come from when you call for help. I have often heard visitors at the station ask some of the firefighters, "When are you on duty?," "How long are your shifts?," or "How many of you are at the station during the day." One firefighter answered it best when he said "We may not be here at the station, but we are on call 24 hours, 7 days a week." Can you imagine working everyday, all day, for NOTHING? Well, it's not quite that bad, but being a firefighter, as much as some of them would

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