

# Heard Around Town

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**Ludlowville:** Wanda Brink (533-4672) and Katrina Greenly (533-8892)

**Lansing Station:** Donna Scott 533-7228  
**Lansingville:** Ruby Ferris 533-4969  
**Central Fire Station:** Jake

## North Lansing

Ken and Letha Henry became the proud grand parents of a new grand daughter Emily Lynne Johnson, born at 5:01, May 11th (Mother's Day!!) at the Highland Hospital in Rochester. Emily's grand parents are Heather (Henry) and Michael Johnson. They live in Batavia with Emily's 2 year old brother Brian.

The Henrys also are proud parents of Malissa, who graduated from Sunny Brockport, on Saturday, May 17 with a B.S.

degree in Business Administration. Malissa, a graduate of Lansing also lives in Brockport.

Gaylord and Joyce Besemer have returned to the North Lansing community from their winter home in Ocala, Florida. Gaylord continues to busy himself with his wonderful wood carvings of duck decoys and Joyce will be seen gardening with her lovely flowers. Nice to have you folks back.

- Lorraine Groat

## Lansing Seniors

Over 100 Lansing Seniors met on May 14 at the Lansing United Methodist Church for good fellowship and food.

Pastor Carolyn Byrne of the Varna Church presented an excellent slide show about Israel. She's made several trips there and was able to give a glowing account of the places she visited during her travels.

Lansing's own *Singing, Swinging*

*Sweethearts* are finishing a year of extensive travel and entertaining throughout the area to neighboring senior units and nursing homes. This talented and colorful group has brought much joy to these places.

The next meeting of the Lansing Seniors will be June 11 at the Lansing Town Park on the lakefront in Myers.

- Ruby Ferris

## Lansingville Fire Auxiliary

May 12 was a festive occasion at the Lansingville Fire hall when a sizeable number of current Auxiliary members gathered with Charter members to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Lansingville Fire Auxiliary in 1957.

It was a delightful evening of reminiscing about the "old days" and the struggles the group went through to raise funds to equip the original Lansingville Hall. The entire evening was a banquet of fond memories where all could greet old friends and acquaintances. Good family times and parties in the original building in Lansingville were remembered. Letters were read from members who now make their homes in far-away places.

Speaking of banquets, the tables were beautiful and sported teapot vases brimming

with spring flowers. A gourmet dinner was served by present auxiliary members. There was even a special birthday cake for Andra Benson's and Eileen Cundy's birthdays.

Mary Sutphin and Esther Mitchell were honored with gift certificates for being continuous members for 40 years. Humorous skits were presented and stories were told.

Good times with good friends pass all too quickly, but it will be an evening long remembered.

The next meeting of the Lansingville Fire Auxiliary will be held on Monday, June 9 at the Fire Hall on Ridge Road. The program will begin at 3:00pm with an Afgan Show and be followed with a dish-to-pass picnic at 6:30pm.

- Ruby Ferris



**UNCOVERED BRIDGE** - While excavating to install a second culvert under Bower Road, the town crew discovered the remains of a 12 foot wide concrete box bridge that had been buried when the original road was improved long before highway department records were kept. No treasure or skeletons were found.

## 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.

## Tobacco: 417,000 Deaths Annually And Some Newspapers Still Accept Such Advertising

According to the US Office of Technology Assessment, smoking-related illnesses were responsible for **1 in 5** US deaths in 1990. These 417,000 deaths were far greater than the combined total of deaths from automobile and other accidents, AIDS, suicide and homicide.

Economic impacts of over \$56 Billion are paid by families and companies that pay for "experience ratings" when buying health insurance and life insurance; are paid by taxpayers who finance public research and pay for the care of indigent sufferers; and are paid at the workplace in lost productivity and higher anxiety for those who have to assume the duties of their sick colleagues.

So, why are we on a "high horse" about newspapers accepting tobacco advertising? It's a legal product, isn't it? Advertisers should have the right to market legal products, shouldn't they?

Let's accept (for the sake of argument) that cigarette-makers once believed that they were producing a benign product. Even if true, this has not been the case for many decades.

Even as you read this, tobacco companies are reluctantly acknowledging that their own studies indicate that tobacco provokes cancer, is often addictive and that industry statements made to the contrary for decades are now "inoperative." These same companies now declare themselves good citizens and are offering a compensatory package worth billions *IF* Congress gives them immunity from future lawsuits.

### What does all this have to do with newspapers taking tobacco advertising?

One of the more exciting aspects of publishing even the tiniest American newspaper or magazine is the Constitutionally-protected right to publish virtually any editorial or advertising content without censorship or restraint.


But we're foolish enough to believe that rights confer responsibilities.

Putting aside supermarket tabloids that "sell" stories about three-headed babies or the Captain of the Titanic recently being found adrift in a lifeboat, most newspapers have both profit-making and public service missions.

It is hard to imagine a serious newspaper anywhere in New York State accepting an advertisement from an extremist organization (even though the group's right to express itself is protected by our Constitution). They impose self restraint even though doing so means less revenue. So why do they continue to accept advertising for tobacco (a legal product) when the publishers are thoroughly familiar with the suffering its products cause to our families and community.




It's a free country and publishers may accept, or reject, such advertising as they choose. But if newspapers' editorials are built on the presumption of public service, perhaps their advertising policies should be consistent with this goal.



The Lansing Community News joins the Ithaca Child, the Herald Examiner and Hour Town as a Tompkins County "Smoke Free" publication.



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