

# Our Town

APRIL 2024



## Newsletter for the Town of Lansing

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### From the desk of the Supervisor

– Ruth Groff



2024 brings a fresh start to Lansing, with the majority of the town board, including me as the Supervisor, being new this year. If you followed the campaigns of these newly elected board members, then you know that communication was a major commitment made by all three of us. Now the time has come for the town board to make good on that promise, and as the new Supervisor, it is my responsibility to ensure that we do. This newsletter will be the first of many to come, in hopes of keeping Lansing residents informed.

Future issues of this newsletter will bring to you...

- The Supervisor's message regarding upcoming issues before the town board
- News from department heads and board members as it relates to actions around town
  - Programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department
  - Highway Department updates on road repairs, water and sewer upgrades, etc.
- Event schedules and links to community activities
- Highlights of natural features in Lansing
- Featured articles about staff, elected officials, and issues of interest

Bringing a newsletter to the residents of Lansing is a lofty goal, and delivering such a missive can be challenging, especially when considering the variety of information sources that the residents of our town expect. The results of a survey conducted last year revealed a medley of media sources that people rely upon for their information – mail, email, Lansing's website, social media, The Shopper, Ithaca Voice, Ithaca Times, and Tompkins Weekly.

### HOW DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE ISSUES OF THE LANSING NEWSLETTER?

**If by USPS mail** – please fill out the form below and send it to:

- Attn: Supervisor, P.O. Box 186, 29 Auburn Road, Lansing, NY 14882
- Or, send your address via email to [rgroff@lansingtown.com](mailto:rgroff@lansingtown.com), with subject line "Newsletter"

**If by Email** – provide your email at <https://www.lansingtown.com/stay-connected> and check the box for "Newsletter Updates"

Otherwise, if you choose neither, you will find the Lansing Newsletter on the town's website, and hard copies at Town Hall and other local establishments. Other options will be available for future publications. Tell your friends!

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*Fill out this form to receive copies of the newsletter via mail:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City State Zip Code

Mail this to P.O. Box 186, 29 Auburn Road, Lansing, NY 14882, or email this information to [rgroff@lansingtown.com](mailto:rgroff@lansingtown.com)

# Lansing Parks & Recreation



## Summer Programs

Summer Program registration is now open!  
Register at [lansingrec.recdesk.com](http://lansingrec.recdesk.com)

To register for adult exercise classes please  
call out office at 607-533-7388



## Parks/ Trails

The Town of Lansing has Two beautiful  
parks, Myers Park and Ludlowville  
Park, a nature preserve at Salt Point and  
a scenic trail way known as the  
Lansing Center Trail

## Camping and Pavilions



### Myers Park Campground:

There are 19 campsites at the Myers  
Park campground. Nightly fee is  
\$42/night for residents and \$46/night  
for non residents. Call 607-533-7388 to  
inquire, or book online.

### Reserve a Campsite:



### Pavilions:

The Town of Lansing has seven pavilions  
available for rent at Myers Park, One  
pavilion at Ludlowville Park, and one at  
the Town Ballfields. Call 607-533-7388 to  
inquire, or book online.

### Reserve a Pavilion:



## Music in the Park

Music in the Park is on Thursday  
nights at 6:30 at Myers Park  
(July 11th through August 22nd)  
Come out for food, drink, fun and  
great music!



## Lansing Community Center

The Lansing Community Center is a local  
event space used for hosting an array of  
programs such as exercise classes, group and  
club meetings, and camps. The building  
consists of two floors that can be rented  
separately or together depending on your  
event needs. Please call out office at  
607-533-7388 to inquire

## New Nature Preserve Opens in Mid-June

The Finger Lakes Land Trust plans to open a 223-acre nature preserve in the Town of Lansing by mid-June. Located about three miles north of the Lansing Central Schools on the western side of NYS Route 34B, the Sims-Jennings Preserve at Cayuga Cliffs will offer scenic overlooks, trails, and views of gorges, waterfalls, and Cayuga Lake. At the entrance will be a 14-car parking lot, interpretive signage, and eventually, a pollinator garden.

Andy Zepp, executive director of the Finger Lakes Land Trust, said the preserve is “extraordinary, in that it features more than four thousand feet of wooded bluff on the lake.” It also contains portions of two ecosystems that Tompkins County has designated Unique Natural Areas. Red cedar and pitch pine on dry ledges stand in contrast to the mature oak-maple hardwoods that dominate the ridge. The preserve lies directly across from Taughannock Point and thus safeguards eastern views from Taughannock State Park.

Conserving steep slopes, woodlands, and grasslands in this area will contribute significantly to the health of the lake, according to Zepp. The Land Trust plans to encourage grassland birds like Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks by mowing the fields on a schedule that will not disturb ground nests and by routing hiking trails along the field perimeter, near hedgerows.

The preserve’s name honors several long-time Lansing families. William Riley Sims, Jr. and Jean Lee Sims purchased the land in the early 1980s from the Jennings family, whom they wanted to recognize in the name of the preserve. The willingness of the Sims in 2021 to sell a portion of their land at a significant discount helped the Land Trust to afford the parcel. Subsequently, the Thompson family, which owned acreage along Ridge Road that was needed for preserve access, also chose to sell their land at a substantial discount. The preserve’s pollinator garden will be named in honor of the late John Thompson.

Grants from New York State and Tompkins County, plus generous donations by Lansing residents and many other supporters, have helped the Land Trust to complete the project. “We want to thank the Lansing community for the support that made this possible,” said Zepp.

Access to the preserve will be free, with the expectation that visitors will enjoy quiet recreation, including walking and cross-country skiing. Dogs should be leashed. No bicycles, motorized or remote-controlled vehicles, camping, swimming, collecting, or fires will be permitted. In short, leave only footprints; take only pictures.

By Carrie Koplinka-Loehr  
Former co-chair, Lansing Conservation Advisory Council



# TOWN OF LANSING

»————«  
ANNUAL BRUSH PICK UP  
BEGINS  
MONDAY, APRIL 29TH  
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## In order to assist our crews please:

- Pile brush/limbs at roadside before 6AM, Monday
- Pile loosely
- No plastic bags(paper bags are okay), ties, or leaves
- Branches are 8' in length or less
- Brush should be 8" in diameter or less
- No more than a 10 wheeler load

For questions:  
Call the Highway Department at 607-533-4328  
Monday-Friday 6AM-2PM



Brush pick up will take place for both  
Village and Town residents.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**Town Board** – Town Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 6:30 PM – **May 15 – June 26\* – July 17**

*\*June's meeting moved back a week due to the Juneteenth holiday*

**Planning Board** – Town Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, 6:30 PM – **May 20 – June 24 – July 22**

*\*May's meeting moved up a week due to the Memorial Day holiday*

**Zoning Board of Appeals** – Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 6:30 PM – **May 8 – June 12 – July 10**

**Conservation Advisory Council** – Town Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 6:30 PM – **May 1 – June 5 – July 3**

In memory of Doug Duke, 1962-2024, long time Lansing resident, former Town Board member, beloved coach of youth sports in Lansing.