

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 15, Issue 46

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, September 25, 1991

VOTERS SPEAK: District voters said "Yes" to Propositions I and II; School denied .55 additional mills and Headlee

In the largest voter turnout since 1983, Lowell Schools' train was not derailed, however it did lose a few freight cars.

"I'm pleased with the results, and I am glad our train is still on the track," Lowell Superintendent Fritz Esch said.

With roughly over a third of the voter population (3927) voting, district voters passed the 26.1 renewal millage by more than a 2-to-1 margin, 2,912-1,015. Voters also approved the renewal on the 1.4 mills for energy and maintenance for two years. There were 2,050 "yes" votes and 1,849 "no" votes.

The school lost in its effort to gain an additional .55 mills (Proposition II) for operation. The increase was to help recoup the monies lost because of the renewal defeat in June. The vote was 2,095 "no" votes and 1,796 "yes" votes.

Proposition III, the Headlee Override, was also voted down, 2,131 to 1,755.

The defeat of Proposition II and Proposition III means the school district will incur cuts in its budget, totaling approximately \$200,000 in 14 different areas.

The record high voter turnout count of 3,927 beats the old mark set back in 1983 (also a renewal vote) of 2,813.

At the Lowell Precinct:

- * Proposition I passed 1,545-472.
- * Proposition II was defeated 1,020-977.
- * Proposition III went down 1,052-941.
- * Proposition IV passed 1,092-907.

At the Bowne Township Precinct:

- * Proposition I passed 256-144.
- * Proposition II was defeated 261-138.
- * Proposition III was defeated 269-127.
- * Proposition IV was defeated 237-162.

At the Vergennes Township Precinct:

- * Proposition I passed 976-379.
- * Proposition II was defeated 739-602.
- * Proposition III was defeated 739-603.
- * Proposition IV passed 696-650.

Absentee Ballots:

- * Proposition I passed 135-20.
- * Proposition II passed 79-75.
- * Proposition III passed 84-71.
- * Proposition IV passed 100-55.

"I think people are fed up with property tax. This comes at a time when the economy is bad," Esch said. "It's a rewarding feeling to know that there were 600 citizens involved with this 'Keep the Doors' open campaign. The effort the citizens made was phenomenal."

The chairperson of the steering committee for the "Neighbors Who Care" was Jim Hodges. "I'm disappointed. My heart wanted all four propositions to pass. I'm very pleased with the turnout. We wanted the community to speak out and it did," he explains.

The district opened its doors this fall using only 9.9 county-allocated mills, down from 37.6 mills. The school has been meeting payments on its \$14 million budget by borrowing against an entire year's worth of state aid money - \$1.7 million.

Esch said the results were in tune of the campaign theme. "The vote tonight keeps the doors open," he said.

Board member, Ray Quada said the committee met the challenge and got people out to vote.

"I was surprised by the margin of defeat of the Headlee," Lowell Assistant Superintendent, Gary Kemp said. "I think the economy had a little bit to do with it, but not overwhelmingly. I also think the people passed the ones they thought we needed the most."

Committee public relations chairperson Bruce Boyce said he believed the message was out and that the defeat of Proposition II represents the people wanting the school to take some blame for the loss of funds in the June renewal vote.



CAKE CONTEST AT FALLASBURG

Across the Covered Bridge from Fallasburg Park, and up the hill: two days of fun, Saturday, Oct. 12 from 10-5 and Sunday, Oct. 13 from 10-5. The Cake Contest will be judged at 1 PM on Saturday. Cakes must be baked "from scratch" with old recipes and brought to the Cake Table at the Fallasburg Schoolhouse Museum by 12:30 Saturday. Pick up an entry form at the Antique Mall or Lambert's, or call 897-4306.

BICYCLE RODEO AT 4H FAIRGROUNDS

Rain or shine, the Kent Optimist Club and the Lowell Police Department will be sponsoring a bicycle rodeo in the Foreman building at the 4H fairgrounds, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 28th. Kindergarten through Eighth graders will be eligible to participate, with new bicycles awarded to those with the best score in four separate divisions. Only two-wheeled bicycles may be used with the riders being tested on several skills.

LOWELL HAS NEW ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

As of September 23, 1991, residents of the City of Lowell will have a new Animal Control officer. John Erickson has retired from his position and will be replaced by Ken Hall Jr. Ken can be reached at 897-9121. In the event he cannot be contacted call the Lowell Police Department at 897-7123.

STILL TIME FOR FUN!

Space still remains in the LAAC sponsored fall workshops. If you are interested in basket making, quilting, life drawing or children's after school drawing workshop, please call the Lowell Arts Council Center at 897-8545 for further information or to sign up.

FALLASBURG FESTIVAL-SEPT. 28 and 29

The 23rd annual Fallasburg Fall Festival at Fallasburg Park, will be held September 28 and 29 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

Main St. cont'd. pg. 7

Planning Commission sets special meetings rate at \$250

Citizens wishing to use the special meeting fast track when dealing with the Lowell Planning Commission may need to pass goal first.

On the recommendation of the planning commission the City Council adopted an ordinance regarding special meetings. The amendment outlines

a need for a fee as well as a reason for the special meeting. The fee which was recommended by the Planning Commission and approved by the City Council, was set at \$250.

Planning Commission board member, Kevin Smith, stated that over the past few

years citizens have requested that the Commission meetings be held on dates other than those scheduled. "Hopefully, this will prevent the commission from running into multiple meetings," Smith said. "We're faced with peti-

tioners who want a more immediate response to a site plan review, when a scheduled meeting could take weeks."

The special meetings would require at least a quorum.



Do you mind? We're grazing

"Do you mind? We've just settled down for a family grazing." A heifer and two yearlings chose the south side of M-21 about one mile east of Lowell on Friday for a little grazing. Lowell police were called to the scene. It was not

known where the heifer and two steers came from. The horns on the heifer kept on-lookers and police a safe distance away.

FRIDAY

September 27
5:00 ITRA Modified Racing Luote World Nationals (R)
6:00 SportsCenter
6:15 MOVIE: Hale and Hayes A reformer padre and his new friend battle a sworn enemy in the South Pacific.

MORNING
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6:15 MOVIE: Hale and Hayes A reformer padre and his new friend battle a sworn enemy in the South Pacific.

3:00 On Stage (Stereo)
3:05 Andy Griffith
3:30 The Big Picture
3:35 Texas Connection (Stereo)
4:00 Wall Street Week (Stereo)
4:05 Step by Step (Stereo)
4:10 Off to the Races From Hazel Park.

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6:00 SportsCenter
6:15 MOVIE: Hale and Hayes A reformer padre and his new friend battle a sworn enemy in the South Pacific.

4:00 Home Shopping
4:05 News Overnight
4:10 News
4:15 Home Shopping
4:20 News
4:25 News
4:30 News
4:35 News
4:40 News
4:45 News
4:50 News

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FRIDAY cont.

4:55 News Overnight
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5:05 News
5:10 News
5:15 News
5:20 News
5:25 News
5:30 News
5:35 News
5:40 News
5:45 News
5:50 News

SATURDAY

September 28
9:00 Club MTV
9:05 Backyard America
9:10 Tom and Jerry Kids
9:15 Captain N & the Super Mario Brothers 3 (CC)

FRIDAY cont.

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10:00 News
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Hypnotist talks about losing weight and quitting smoking at Roll Away

If you have ever tried to stop smoking "cold turkey" or lose weight you know how painful it can be.

Now the people at Directional Consulting are offering a "painless way to quit smoking and lose weight."

Directional Consulting Institute has been instructing

and researching in the field of hypnosis for over 16 years, and one of their certified hypnotherapists will be the featured speaker at the Roll Away LTD Mon., Oct. 21st., 7 p.m. for DCI's quarterly stop-smoking, weight loss seminar.

"Some people spend hun-

dreds or even thousands of dollars on gadgets and gimmicks to help them stop smoking or lose weight", DCI explains, "but we have managed to keep our price down to \$50, and our students don't have to suffer when they throw their cigarettes away or during weight loss. Both Pro-

grams are included in the Fee of \$50. Hypnosis has been used to control pain and strengthen the will for generations. We have refined the technique so that smokers and dieters can use it as well."

DCI guarantees that they will work with their students till they reach their goal. "All

they have to lose is a little time and lots of weight and a lot of cigarettes."

For further information call 218 385-3404 NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.



Saint Patrick was born in Wales to a British mother and Roman father.

The Lowell Ledger

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893



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READ ALL ABOUT IT:

Blough and Thompson close the books as Lowell reading consultants

Asked what she wished for the Lowell reading program over the next five years, B.J. Thompson candidly responded, "I hope Lowell Schools can eliminate the reading consultant position. That will mean that all of our students are good readers and there would be no need for this position."

Thompson, a reading consultant and a teacher at the Lowell Middle School has decided to step aside after a lengthy 18-year tenure. "I wanted to retire while I was still able to do my job and while I was still in good health," Thompson said.

Carolyn Jane Blough, who

received the okay from her doctor to return to work after a lengthy illness, decided 26.7 years in the Lowell School System as a reading consultant, was long enough and it was time to enjoy other things in life.

"I decided I wanted to leave while I still liked the kids and enjoyed the staff I worked with," Blough said.

Staff, friends and family gathered at the Lowell Middle School on Thursday afternoon to say "Thank You" to the two Lowell School veterans for their dedicated service.

Thompson came to Lowell in 1972 from Miami, Fla. where she taught at a private

school. B.J. has taught and served as Lowell Middle School's reading consultant.

In her 18 years, Thompson has seen Lowell's MEAP scores rise considerably in the reading area. "If you treat reading with importance, the students will treat it that way too," she explains.

Thompson attended Northwestern University in Evanston, IL where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Speech. She continued on at Michigan State University where she earned her Masters Degree in Reading.

"I've enjoyed every minute of the 18 years I've spent at Lowell," Thompson said. "It's

been fun. I think Lowell is very much advanced in its educational approach and is headed in a positive direction."

Thompson's retirement plans include golf and travel.

Blough, a 1946 Lowell graduate, says the approach to reading has changed immensely over the years. "Back when I started at Lowell reading was phonics oriented. Today, education has taken a literature reading approach," Blough said. "There are a lot of different sources out there schools can use to teach reading. We use what we can, depending on where the child is."

Blough received her Masters Degree from Western Michigan University in 1976. She was vice president of the Michigan Reading Association

in 1987. In 1989 she was named president of the Michigan Reading Association. "I am very proud of that honor," Blough concedes.

Camp Fire informational meeting Oct. 3 at 7 p.m.

It is that time again to start thinking about your child joining a great organization. Camp Fire programs are developed to enrich your child's life. Your child will make new friends, go new places, have fun, learn to help others, make decisions and set goals.

Camp Fire will hold an informational meeting on

Thursday, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. in the Lowell Middle School Music Room. If you are unable to make it to the meeting, and you would like more information, call Kathy Gingerich at 897-6346.

Camp Fire for boys and girls is making a better world. Remember to "Save The Earth" and recycle!



B.J. Thompson talks with family and friends at the open-house retirement party held



Carolyn Jane Blough stands beside a display commemorating her 26.7 years in the Lowell School System.



Lowell Superintendent Fritz Esch presents B.J. Thompson, Middle School reading consultant, with a plaque for her 18-year tenure with Lowell Schools.



**LOWELL SCHOOLS
HOT LUNCH MENU**

Week of Sept. 30, 1991

MONDAY: Taco w/meat, cheese and lettuce, cornbread with honey, steamed peas or salad, assorted fruits or gelatin, milk.

TUESDAY: BREAKFAST FOR LUNCH. Fruit juice, French toast w/butter & syrup, scrambled egg or sausage, chilled fruits or honey glazed apples, milk.

WEDNESDAY: INSERVICE - NO LUNCHES - ONE HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS.

THURSDAY: Sub sandwiches, potato chips and pickles, baked beans or soup or salad, fruit or fruit crisp, milk.

FRIDAY: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes or rice and gravy, buttered mixed vegetables, biscuits with honey butter, gelatin with whip or fruit, milk.

There is also a 3rd choice everyday of a Chef Salad for students in the Middle and High Schools. Weekly Prepaid Lunches Welcome

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce would like to invite Lowell Area Residents to the Sixth Annual

Person of the Year Banquet

Thursday, October 10, 1991
at Deer Run Golf Club

A golf scramble will start at 11 a.m. For dinner reservations call 897-4172 or 897-9161. For golf call Sylvia at 897-9949. RSVP by Friday, October 4th.

ATTENTION:

Service Clubs, Associations, Non-profit Clubs...If you would like to use the Chamber Downtown Billboard, please call the Chamber at 897-9161. There are vacancies in October, January, February & March of 1992.

Membership Drive:


It is not too late to join for 1991. We need your input & membership. Please contact...

**LOWELL AREA
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**
P.O. Box 224,
Lowell, MI 49331

Membership Dues are suggested as follows:

Manufacturers	
1-25 employees	\$75.00/year
26-75 employees	\$150.00/year
76 employees or more	\$250.00/year
Professionals	
per Doctor, C.P.A. or Attorney	\$100.00/year
Retailers and Service	
1-5 employees	\$50.00/year
6-10 employees	\$100.00/year
11-25 employees	\$150.00/year
26 employees or more	\$250.00/year
Churches, Non-profit Organizations or Clubs Organization	\$50.00/year

Hope To See You At The Person of the Year Banquet and 4-Person Golf Scramble!



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