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Serving The Lowell Area for 100 Years

# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 18, Issue 36

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, July 20, 1994

## Resident disputes constitutionality of township ordinance

... I cancelled my plans in Detroit to campaign for Ehlers. I was representing him; therefore he should be fighting this battle with me, but his organization has chosen to duck for cover. G.M. ROSS

By Marc Popiolek  
Contributing Writer

The First Amendment guarantees an individual the freedom of speech, among other things. The battle over what that exactly entails has been fought over the years by some very influential people in many courts across the country. That argument has now made its way into Lowell Township.

Currently Lowell Township and Lowell resident G.M. Ross have a court date set in Kent County to discuss the legalities of the First Amendment as it pertains to a township ordinance.

In May 1993, the township made an amendment to its sign ordinance, making it illegal to display political signs on township property.

That ordinance will now be put to the test due to the township citing Ross with that violation.

According to Lowell Township Supervisor John Timpson,

Ross displayed political signs 300 feet from the township's polling place, the Township Hall, during November's election while promoting Congressman Vern Ehlers. Timpson said he asked Ross to remove the signs. Ross declined and Timpson was forced to write out his first citation as supervisor.

"We got complaints from residents who didn't like the signs near the polling station, so I asked Ross to remove them," said Timpson. "When he refused, I called the sheriff's department and had them review the citation. When they found it acceptable, I had them serve it to him."

The township's ordinance only allows the displaying of political signs on private property with the owner's consent. The punishment for this misdemeanor violation carries a minimum fine of \$100 to a maximum of \$500.

Ross contends that the ordinance is overbroad and denies his freedom under the United States Constitution's First Amendment, 14th Amendment, and Article 1, Section X of the state of Michigan's Constitution. Ross wants the township's ordinance stricken down by judicial review.

Judicial review is a process where a judge will review the township ordinance and determine if it is unconstitutional.

Timpson feels the township's polling station should be a neutral site for people to vote.

"It's not that I don't support his candidate; I voted for Ehlers myself. It's just that the public feels the polling station should remain neutral," said Timpson.

Timpson said this wasn't the first time Ross had displayed signs.

"In an election prior to November, we received complaints from the public about the signs," said Timpson. "However, in that case his signs were not within 300 feet of the

polls."

After being served with the citation, Ross was prepared to battle the township on the issue.

"I told their attorney that if they pushed the matter, I would not only defend my innocence, but I would also attack the constitutionality of the ordinance and that is where we are now," said Ross.

The township said it sought to settle the matter out of court, but Ross was not willing to pay the fine and send a letter apologizing for his actions, recognize the ordinance and obey the township's regulations.

Ross said he is only sorry for two things: A) the matter has gone this far in court, and B) the "Ehlers for Congress" organization has fled into the bushes.

Besides being upset with the township, Ross is not happy with the position his candidate has taken on the matter. Ross doesn't blame Ehlers himself -- only some of his organization's personnel.

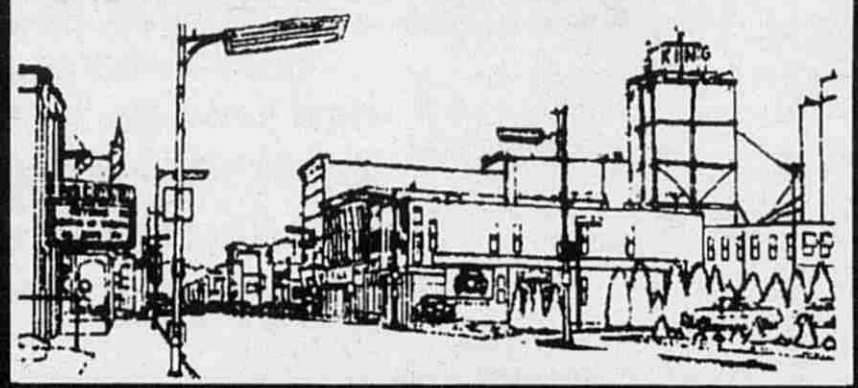
"I cancelled my plans in Detroit to campaign for Ehlers. I was representing him; therefore he should be fighting this battle with me, but his organization has chosen to duck for cover," said Ross.

The matter is scheduled to be heard in court on July 22. If Ross does not come out a winner in the matter, it doesn't mean he is done fighting.

Ross has recently asked for a 24-hour injunction to the township's ordinance to begin at midnight on August 2.

"The injunction is just a means to allow political lecturing on township property commensurate with the state legislation," said Ross. "However, I feel I have a very strong case against them and I will win."

### Along Main Street



#### COME JOIN THE CHORUS!

Lowell Showboat weekend is Fri. and Sat., Aug. 12 and 13! The Showboat Chorus has begun rehearsal for its performance those nights. The invitation remains open for many more members. There are now approximately 50 voices and they hope to "top out" at 65.

The next rehearsal is Thurs., July 21 from 7-8:45 p.m. at the Lowell Congregational Church, 404 N. Hudson, with choral director, Roger MacNaughton.

Please join! For more information, call Carol Briggs, 897-5501.

Note: Any choral member from last year who is unable to sing this year and would be willing to donate their costume, please call Carol Briggs.

#### PENNY AND CAN DRIVE

Put your jars of pennies and your bags of cans to work building a "Dream" playland.

The Creekside Park committee children will be visiting you on July 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Let them know how much you appreciate their efforts.

#### CLASS OF 1930 TO HOLD REUNION

The Lowell Class of 1930 will hold a 64th class reunion on Sat., July 30 at Keiser's Kitchen at noon.

The classes of 1929 and 1931 are also welcome to attend. Please contact Emma Herron at 897-7218 for reservations.

#### CREEKSIDE PARK MEETING

Find out how "You" can help build the "Dream" playland at the next Creekside Park meeting.

The meeting will be held Thursday, July 21 at 7 p.m. at the Lowell Burger King.

#### SUMMER TENNIS CAMP

Lowell High School tennis coaches Wendy Ackermann and Terry Abel will hold a summer tennis camp for sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students on Monday, July 18 through Thursday, July 21 from 6 until 7:30 p.m. at the tennis courts.

The cost to participate in the tennis summer camp is \$10. If you have any questions please call Wendy Ackermann at 455-

Main Street, cont'd., pg. 8

## This general practitioner - No ordinary "Doc"

... Friendly face to Lowell H.S. football program to remain on sidelines

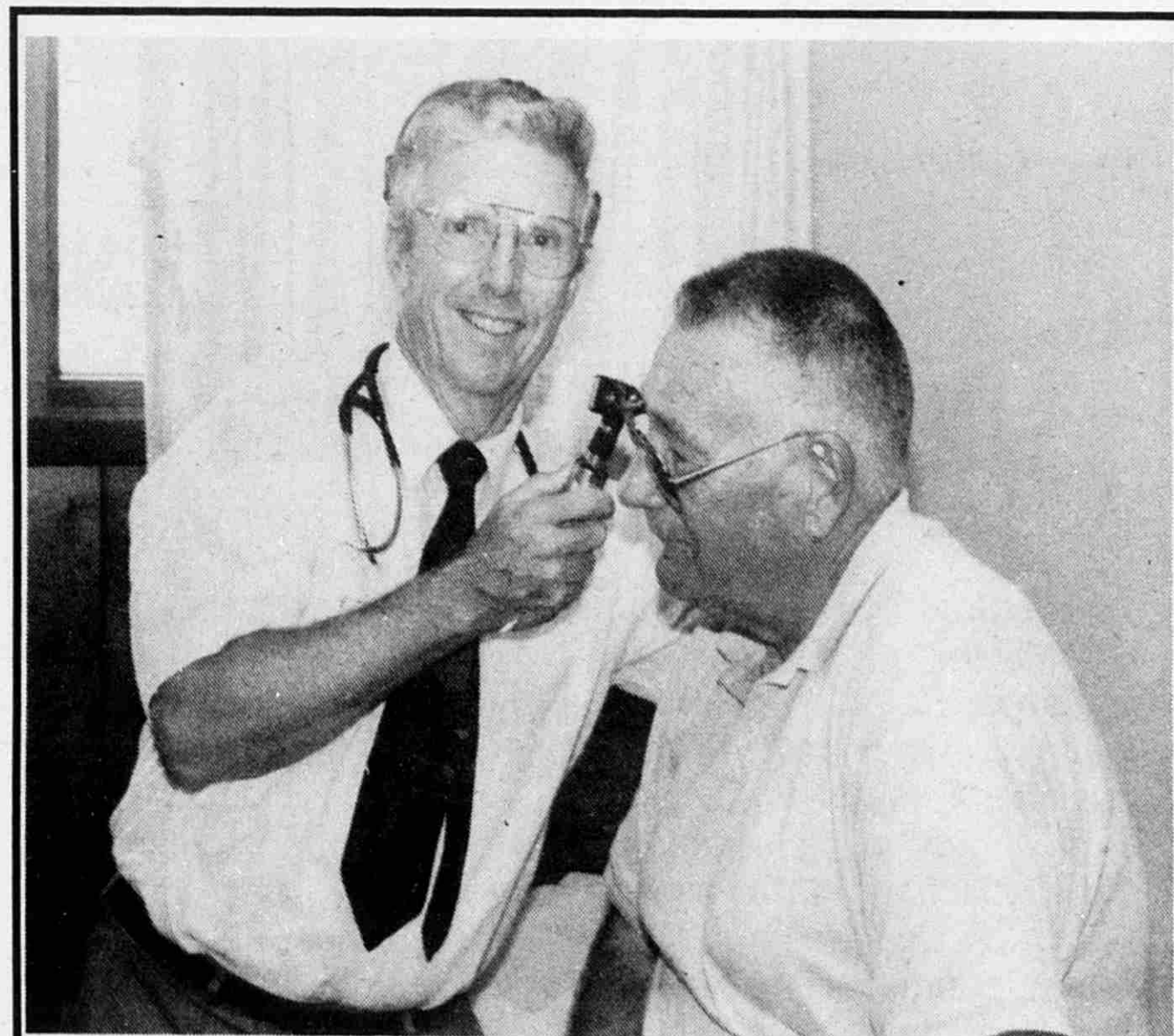
By Thad Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

Sitting on this general practitioner's office desk is a book entitled "Health Information for International Travel."

Normally one would ask why a general practitioner is reading a book on health information for international travel.

However, by now most of Donald Gerard's (M.D.) patients know the Lowell doctor of 34 years will be retiring at the end of the month. His early retirement plans include a two-week missionary stint in Zimbabwe, Africa. "I was reading up to see if I would need yellow fever shots. I was hoping I wouldn't," Gerard smiles. "They tend to make a person feel sick."

The Zimbabwe trip will be Gerard's second visit to Africa. He visited Kenya back in 1988 as part of a mission tour. "Their medical facilities are what we expected to see 30 years ago. It's sort of a shock at first. There are things



Dr. Donald Gerard will retire from his duties as a general practitioner in Lowell at the end of July following 34 years of service. Gerard plans on doing some international travel later this fall. Above, he prepares to examine Lowell wrestling coach Gary Rivers.

they can't treat because the specialist, technology and equipment are not available."

He used as an example a two-year-old girl he met in Kijabe who had a congenital heart defect. Because there was no proper place for surgery, the young girl died. "That was a pitiful sight."

Gerard, cont'd., pg. 8

### INSIDE THE LEDGER

Technology coordinator position a dream come true for MacDonald.  
Page 17

Council approves purchase of new street signs. Page 18









DAYTIME MORNING Broadcast Stations table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and station names (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.).

DAYTIME AFTERNOON Broadcast Stations table with columns for time slots (12:00-6:30) and station names (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.).

FRIDAY EVENING JULY 22, 1994 Broadcast Stations table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and station names (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.).

FRIDAY LATE NIGHT JULY 22, 1994 Broadcast Stations table with columns for time slots (12:00-4:30) and station names (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.).

SATURDAY MORNING JULY 23, 1994 Broadcast Stations table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and station names (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.).

SATURDAY AFTERNOON JULY 23, 1994 Broadcast Stations table with columns for time slots (12:00-6:30) and station names (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.).

SATURDAY EVENING JULY 23, 1994. Broadcast stations: 33 WWMT, 41 WOTV, 35 WGVU, 17 WXMI, 3 WOOD, 6 WLNS, 10 WILX, 23 WKAR, 13 WZZM, 17 WSYM. Cable stations: 17 TBS, 10 FAM, 20 NASH, 23 MTV, 24 USA, 25 DISC, 26 WGN, 28 ESPN, 29 CNN, 30 CNN2, 31 NICK, 32 A&E, 33 PASS, 34 TNT. Premium stations: 16 DISN, 18 HBO, 19 MAX.

SATURDAY LATE NIGHT JULY 23, 1994. Broadcast stations: 33 WWMT, 41 WOTV, 35 WGVU, 17 WXMI, 3 WOOD, 6 WLNS, 10 WILX, 23 WKAR, 13 WZZM, 17 WSYM. Cable stations: 17 TBS, 10 FAM, 20 NASH, 23 MTV, 24 USA, 25 DISC, 26 WGN, 28 ESPN, 29 CNN, 30 CNN2, 31 NICK, 32 A&E, 33 PASS, 34 TNT. Premium stations: 16 DISN, 18 HBO, 19 MAX.

SUNDAY MORNING JULY 24, 1994. Broadcast stations: 33 WWMT, 41 WOTV, 35 WGVU, 17 WXMI, 3 WOOD, 6 WLNS, 10 WILX, 23 WKAR, 13 WZZM, 17 WSYM. Cable stations: 17 TBS, 10 FAM, 20 NASH, 23 MTV, 24 USA, 25 DISC, 26 WGN, 28 ESPN, 29 CNN, 30 CNN2, 31 NICK, 32 A&E, 33 PASS, 34 TNT. Premium stations: 16 DISN, 18 HBO, 19 MAX.

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MONDAY EVENING JULY 25, 1994. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

MONDAY LATE NIGHT JULY 25, 1994. Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

TUESDAY EVENING JULY 26, 1994. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

TUESDAY LATE NIGHT JULY 26, 1994. Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

WEDNESDAY EVENING JULY 27, 1994. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

WEDNESDAY LATE NIGHT JULY 27, 1994. Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.



THURSDAY EVENING JULY 28, 1994. Broadcast stations: 33 WWMT, 47 WOTV, 35 WGVU, 17 WXMI, 8 WOOD, 8 WLNS, 10 WILX, 23 WKAR, 19 WZZM, 47 WSYM. Cable stations: 17 TBS, 10 FAM, 20 NASH, 23 MTV, 23 USA, 23 DISC, 23 WGN, 23 ESPN, 23 CNN, 23 CN2, 23 NICK, 23 A&E, 23 PASS, 23 TNT. Premium stations: 14 DISN, 10 HBO, 10 MAX.

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MacDonald's new position beats chasing rattlesnakes off the playground

By Thad Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

What possibly could be a Wyoming one-room schoolhouse and being named the technology coordinator for Lowell Schools have in common?

If you're Mark MacDonald, it's the fact that he's spent an awful lot of time preparing for both.

"Being named the technology coordinator is a dream come true sooner than I anticipated," MacDonald said. "I think I have a good grasp of what Lowell wants to grow toward and I'm happy to be a part of that."

The struggle that has come with the ever-growing technology field is whether the software should drive the hardware or the hardware drive the software.

MacDonald notes that Lowell has used its existing curriculum and desired software to make decisions about the hardware. "I believe Lowell has the right staff to meet its curriculum needs and that is our goal."

Much discussion over the past year has centered around what hardware should be used and which platform will better serve the students.

The technology coordinator said Lowell will use a mixture of both platforms - DOS/IBM and Macintosh.

"At the K-8 levels, it is easier to train staff and students in the Macintosh environment," MacDonald said. "Using Macintosh at K-8 levels will allow students to use the hardware sooner for its intended purpose."

He points out that the needs of students change at the 9-12 levels. "Students at these levels are more sophisticated learners and need more complex software in such areas as accounting," MacDonald said. "This software is more readily available in the DOS/IBM format. The needs of the students at grade

levels 9-12 are better served by IBM."

For this reason the high school is equipped with more IBM computers than Macintosh.

MacDonald will share his time between three big tasks: training staff members, integrating technology into classrooms and getting it all to work.

"This is a rather awesome responsibility. I've transformed a hobby into a profession - 3,000 kids in Lowell training to benefit. I think it's a heck of a deal for all of us," MacDonald said.

The adjustment for MacDonald won't be an easy one. He has spent the previous 13 years in the state of Wyoming (one-room schoolhouse) teaching students in grades K-7. The past eight years he has taught the learning disabled at the Lowell Middle School.

"I found teaching in a one-room schoolhouse very rewarding," MacDonald noted. "It also required a lot of preparation time."

The job also required some odd, and somewhat dangerous, tasks. "I used to help chase rattlesnakes off the playground (prairie) so kids could go out for recess," MacDonald smiles.

The technology coordinator's computer interest began at Grand Rapids Junior College (now a community college) in 1979. "Back then it was a room full of machines with students waiting to try 'new toys' the school had purchased through a grant from the National Science Foundation for Education," MacDonald said. "Since then, that room has multiplied into the West Michigan Career Technical Center. Sometimes great programs have small, small, small beginnings."



Mark MacDonald, Lowell Schools' new technology coordinator, is keeping busy unpacking equipment at the new school.

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# Both Berrington & Clore carry musical talents beyond high school

As fall approaches, Lowell graduate Bob Berrington prepares for his first year at Grand Valley State University. While at GVSU, Berrington will work to combine his math and science skills with his love of music to forge a career in the world of audio engineering. He plans on earning a degree in electrical engineering and a minor in music. The music and band program at Lowell High School played a major role in Berrington's four years.

He took medals at solo and ensemble for six years and medaled on the state level one year. Berrington attended GVSU honors band in his sophomore, junior and senior years. He also represented Lowell by playing his french horn in the Boy's State marching band and orchestra at Michigan State University.



**Bob Berrington**  
Michigan State University.  
He has also played for his church in the brass ensemble.

Jeremy Clore's interest in music has wavered from nearly dropping out of band his freshman year to passionately pursuing a music career four years later.



Jeremy Clore

The 1993-94 LHS graduate will study music at Western Michigan University. He hopes to use that education to land himself in one of the most reputable drumlines in Michigan.

While he is unsure of which area of music he will study, he is sure that Lowell High School band leader Bob Rice is responsible for his continuing with music, and for his high school success in music. Clore has spent the summer touring with the Coachmen Drum and Bugle Corps. During his junior year in high school, Clore was accepted into the Grand Valley State University honors band.

Also during his junior year, an after-school jazz band evolved into a class. The class played music at basketball games, concerts and performed on the Showboat. While a senior, Clore's playing ability and leadership blossomed and his classmates recognized that by electing him president of the LHS band.

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#### Capitol Commentary, cont'd.

the least, it has been the most productive session I can remember. As a result, Governor Engler has been busy signing several pieces of legislation, all of which has a direct impact on the lives of all Michigan citizens. So in order to catch you up on what has been signed into law, this column will provide a brief summary of some of these new statutes.

#### Pain Management.

Last week, the governor signed a four-bill package of bills that recognizes important advances made in the health care profession. Designed to better inform patients, this new law will ensure the terminally ill have more options for pain and symptom management through education and hospice care.

In fact, it requires health maintenance organizations to offer coverage for hospice care and mandates certain health professionals to participate in continuing education and complete courses in pain and symptom management.

#### Repayment of the Veterans Trust Fund.

Under the general government budget for fiscal year 1994-95--signed last week--the state will pay back \$11.5 million it owes to the Veterans Trust Fund. The state started borrowing from the fund in 1976, taking a total of \$49 million. The state didn't pay back the loan in full until we passed the budget this year. This action was essential, as the trust fund has provided financial assistance to needy veterans and their children since 1946.

The Michigan Senate also passed a joint resolution that would offer state voters the opportunity to decide if the state can ever again dip into the trust fund. Senate Joint Resolution U is in House committee.

#### Home Invasion.

The governor also signed into law a bill that recognizes the sanctity of someone's home. This new law establishes two degrees of home invasion, which applies to breaking and entering into a home with the intent to commit larceny or a felony. Home invasion in the first degree occurs when an invader is armed or someone is home during the break-in. Home invasion in the second degree occurs when the invader is unarmed and no one is home during the break-in. Both offenses warrant up to 15 to 20 years in prison and fines as high as \$3,000 and \$5,000.

#### Sex Offenders.

Those convicted of certain sex offenses must register with a local law enforcement agency under a four-bill package signed into law by Governor Engler. Michigan joins 32 other states that have registration requirements. The new law requires a sex offender living in Michigan for two weeks or more to register. This applies to both past and future convictions, whether in or outside of Michigan. The requirement applies for 25 years following the first offense, and for life after a second conviction.

This new law, combined with the anti-carjacking, truth-in-sentencing and home invasion legislation, will help to make Michigan a safer place to live.

*If you have any questions about these new laws or others, please feel free to call my office in Lansing at (517) 373-0797. Knowing the law and how it impacts you and your family is important.*

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# Change order to clear up Clore's driveway dilemma

**By Thad Kraus**  
*Lowell Ledger Editor*

John and Kris Clore aren't ready to die the cliff yet. But that's what they would have to do if they were to back out of their driveway.

The concept for the original design for the reservoir site access road project was to provide an acceptable slope for the construction traffic. This was accomplished. However, it was later determined that the slope is incompatible with the existing grade to Clore's driveway.

With the major construction complete, the road needs to be regraded so that Clore's driveway is accessible from the easement drive.

The cost to the city for this change order will be \$7,667. The work will be completed by Natgun.

John called me and said you can't believe what's happened. I saw what happened and I couldn't believe it," councilman Jim Hodges said. "The end of his driveway comes to a cliff." Hodges said the drop-off is about six feet.

The lower elevation grade was done so it could handle the heavy concrete trucks used when the ground storage tank was put in off Gee Drive. "As is, it is difficult to impossible for Clores to use the driveway," Hodges said. Raising the grade from the reservoir site access road to the ground storage tank off Gee Drive will allow Clores entrance to the road as a driveway, as was previously done before construction.

## Public hearing set for Jelsma side yard variance, Aug. 1

**By Thad Kraus**  
*Lowell Ledger Editor*

An incorrect mortgage survey will require David and Karin Jelsma to seek a side yard variance for their proposed garage addition. Jelsmas had proposed to construct a 12 by 24 foot garage addition to their home located at 702 N. Jefferson. It appeared that there was sufficient space to meet the six-foot-side yard requirement after reviewing the mortgage survey.

However, a recent land survey involving the adjoining property to the south revealed that the mortgage survey was incorrect. In order to build the addition as proposed, Jelsmas have requested a four-foot variance, leaving the additional two feet from the south side yard where six feet is required.

The variance petition is scheduled to be reviewed by the planning commission at its July 25 meeting. The Lowell City Council set a public hearing for Aug. 1.

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**SEPTEMBER 14th LAST DAY BEFORE PENALTIES**

After September 14 a one percent (1%) penalty is added. The first of each month thereafter another one percent is added. Taxes can be paid by mail. Use the enclosed self-addressed envelope. For receipt return both copies of tax bill with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Summer deferment forms for those qualifying are also available at the Township office. They should be filled out and returned by 9-14-94.

Sally C. Johnson  
Bowne Township Treasurer  
6059 Linfield Ave. SE  
Alto, MI 49302

### CITY OF LOWELL

Kent County, Michigan

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Lowell, Kent County, Michigan, has resolved its intention to make certain public improvements consisting of the construction of a sanitary sewer and watermain and related respective appurtenances along portions of Grove and High Streets to provide sanitary sewer service and water service (with respect to certain properties only) to adjacent properties (the "Improvements") in the City, has made its final determination of the special assessment district known as the Grove-High Streets Water and Sanitary Sewer Improvements Special Assessment District 94WSB ("SAD 94WSB") to consist of the following described lots and parcels of land and against which all or a portion of the cost of said Improvements shall be specially assessed:

Street Address	Permanent Parcel Number
801 High Street	41-20-01-151-025 (water & sewer)
805 High Street	41-20-01-151-015 (water & sewer)
809 High Street	41-20-01-151-016 (sewer)
810 High Street	41-20-01-151-010 (sewer)
186 Grove Street	41-20-01-153-013 (sewer)
224 Grove Street	41-20-01-153-007 (water & sewer)

2 acre building lots-\$21,900, \$2,000 down, \$195 monthly, 10.9% interest. Desirable Lowell Schools. Paved public road, underground electric and telephone, street lights. All lots have been approved for septic systems. Restrictions include 1100 sq. ft. for a ranch, two car attached garage to be included. Mobile homes, modulars, earth berm or existing homes are not allowed. Drive out and see! For a great building site, Call Ed Zaagman.

**Ed ZAGMAN** 455-2220  
REALTOR

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#### EXHIBIT C

### CITY OF LOWELL

Kent County, Michigan

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Lowell will hold a public hearing on the 1st day of August, 1994, at 7:30 p.m., local time, at the City Hall located at 301 E. Main Street in said City to review the special assessment roll and to hear and consider any objections thereto.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Grove-High Streets Water and Sanitary Sewer Improvements Special Assessment District Roll No. 94WSB as prepared has been submitted to the City Council and is on file with the City Clerk for public examination.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a person must either appear and object at the public hearing or submit a letter of appearance and objection to the City prior to the public hearing in order to protect his/her right to appeal the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. In order to appeal a special assessment the record owner of land must file a written appeal with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within thirty (30) days after confirmation of the special assessment roll.

This notice was authorized by the City Council of the City of Lowell.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

David M. Pasquale, City Manager  
301 East Main Street  
Lowell, Michigan 49331  
Telephone: (616) 897-8457

Dated: July 18, 1994

David M. Pasquale  
City Clerk

### NEW 2 ACRE BUILDING LOTS

ALTO WAY DR. SE, Alto  
(N. off 84th SE between Timpson & Alden Nash)

2 acre building lots-\$21,900, \$2,000 down, \$195 monthly, 10.9% interest. Desirable Lowell Schools. Paved public road, underground electric and telephone, street lights. All lots have been approved for septic systems. Restrictions include 1100 sq. ft. for a ranch, two car attached garage to be included. Mobile homes, modulars, earth berm or existing homes are not allowed. Drive out and see! For a great building site, Call Ed Zaagman.

**Ed ZAGMAN** 455-2220  
REALTOR



# Municipalities say local preference inhibits free & open competition

By Thad Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

Should local business be given preference in a local governmental bid process?

That is a question that has visited the Lowell City Council for the second time in three years.

Public purchasing is completed in one of two ways - through a bid process or through a negotiated procurement.

Through the bid process, the lowest responsive bid is accepted.

In a negotiated procurement, bids are evaluated on price and other factors which may not always lead to accepting the low bid.

Keith Friese, President of the Michigan Publishers Purchasing Officers Association, used legal service as an example of when this process is used.

"If the city ordinance provides that the low bid be taken, then I believe the city is obligated morally to do so," Friese said. "Not to, I believe, inhibits free and open compe-

tion. It may also be a basis for a suit against the city."

Most ordinances state the low bid or what is in the best interest of the city. This clause serves as a protection against suits. Jane Parks, purchasing agent for the city of Battle Creek, said the bigger problem cities face is defining what local is -- how long does someone have to be in town to be considered local?

There are a few cities which give local preference. Friese said this is done if a local bid is within a certain percentage of the lowest bid.

The Michigan Publishers Purchasing Officers Association has adopted a resolution in opposition to local preference. The National Institute of Government Purchasing has also established a stand in opposition to local preference. "Our association adopted the resolution because it felt local preference inhibited free and open competition and was more expensive to local taxpayers," Friese said.

He added that he also believes local bidders have an inherent advantage to outside

bidders. "As an example, in construction, logistics and travel expenses are less than someone coming in from outside a city," Friese stated.

Darryl Kuiper, of Vennen Chrysler, Dodge, Plymouth, Jeep Eagle Inc., agrees that points made opposing local preference have validity but he questions whether they show sensitivity.

"If our councilmen were business owners, they would understand why the process being used is not always fair," Kuiper said.

The Lowell Area Car Dealers Association's past president added that not only do the four local car dealers represent a larger tax base in the community, but they also provide funds for Lowell fire, Lowell police, the Lowell Area Arts Council, Lowell Showboat, the Moose Lodge and many other local entities on an annual basis.

Thomet Chevrolet's Stu Thomet raised the question - what if a councilman was to purchase an air conditioning unit locally even if the price was slightly higher? "I know

I would," Thomet said. "I believe most residents in this community would. If we push residents to do business in town, shouldn't the city?"

Lowell City Manager Dave Pasquale says the city does keep most of its business local. "Check the two hardware stores or any number of businesses in town," he said.

Harold Zeigler Ford's Ron Russell said he understands the need for competition. "Our motivation to get bids is not profit. It's more of a pride thing. It's the opportunity to participate in a community project," said Russell. "I think the current bid process may be penny wise, but I also believe it is dollar foolish."

Russell added, "As part of the Lowell community, we've always tried to step up and help, and I guess I would like reciprocal consideration for us."

Parks completed a local preference study in 1990 of cities comparable in size. Of the 17 who responded, only two had local preference.

Cadillac gives local preference if within two percent. The city of Jackson gives preference to women or minority-owned businesses.

Ironically, cities who allow for local preference are not allowed federal funding. However, the Federal Government will provide federal funding for cities which have minority/women-owned business preferences.

Besides inhibiting free competition and placing an extra financial burden on taxpayers, Parks added that local preference does not provide any additional value.

"There isn't a city that has the best of everything. There

aren't enough businesses in every town to provide competition in all areas. If you don't think prices will rise when there is a lack of competition, you're crazy," Parks said.

FMB State Savings vice president Pete Kubacki says the relationship between the local bank and the city has been a good one.

"We have a difficult time lending at a fixed rate for the length of time that the city wants to borrow (10-20 years). We can be more competitive when the maturity range on bonds is 5-7 years," Kubacki said. "We're limited to the number of long range fixed rate loans we can supply."

Even the wisest among men welcome people who bring money more than those who take it away.  
—G. C. Lichtenberg

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<b>BOWNE TOWNSHIP</b>	
<b>ALTO DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT</b>	
<b>JUNE 1994</b>	
<b>Hi-Fi Account</b>	
Beginning Balance:	\$210,240.50
Summer Taxes	\$
Winter Taxes	\$
Interest Earned June	\$ N/A
Total Income:	\$ N/A
Disbursements:	
Transferred to General Checking	\$
Bank Charges	\$
Total Disbursements:	\$
Ending Balance:	\$210,240.50
<b>General Checking Account</b>	
Beginning Balance:	\$6,562.14
Transferred from Hi-Fi Account	\$
Disbursements:	
Operating:	
Publishing - Lowell Ledger	\$
Administrative - Postage	\$ 29.00
Munger Store	\$
Accounting	\$
Projects:	
Munger Store Utilities	\$ 13.06
Downtown Design Plan - Prog.	\$
Total Disbursements:	\$ 42.06
Ending Balance - General Account	\$6,520.08
Ending Balance - Hi-Fi & General	\$216,760.58
Connie Vaughan, Treas.	

<b>BOWNE TOWNSHIP</b>	
<b>ALTO DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT</b>	
<b>MAY 1994</b>	
<b>Hi-Fi Account</b>	
Beginning Balance:	\$209,688.99
Summer Taxes	\$
Winter Taxes	\$
Interest Earned May	\$ 551.51
Total Income:	\$ 551.51
Disbursements:	
Transferred to General Checking	\$
Bank Charges	\$
Total Disbursements:	\$
Ending Balance:	\$210,240.50
<b>General Checking Account</b>	
Beginning Balance:	\$6,562.14
Transferred from Hi-Fi Account	\$
Disbursements:	
Operating:	
Publishing - Lowell Ledger	\$
Administrative	\$
Munger Store	\$
Accounting	\$
Projects:	
Munger Store	\$
Downtown Design Plan - Prog.	\$
Total Disbursements:	\$
Ending Balance - General Account	\$6,562.14
Ending Balance - Hi-Fi & General	\$216,802.64
Connie Vaughan, Treas.	

<b>BOWNE TOWNSHIP</b>	
<b>ALTO DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT</b>	
<b>APRIL 1994</b>	
<b>Hi-Fi Account</b>	
Beginning Balance:	\$208,653.80
Summer Taxes	\$
Winter Taxes	\$
Interest Earned March-April	\$1,035.19
Total Income:	\$1,035.19
Disbursements:	
Transferred to General Checking	\$
Bank Charges	\$
Total Disbursements:	\$
Ending Balance:	\$209,688.99
<b>General Checking Account</b>	
Beginning Balance:	\$6,722.29
Transferred from Hi-Fi Account	\$
Disbursements:	
Operating:	
Publishing - Lowell Ledger	\$
Administrative	\$
Munger Store	\$ 160.15
Accounting	\$
Projects:	
Munger Store	\$
Downtown Design Plan - Prog.	\$
Total Disbursements:	\$ 160.15
Ending Balance - General Account	\$6,562.14
Ending Balance - Hi-Fi & General	\$216,251.13
Connie Vaughan, Treas.	