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The Lowell Ledger

Volume 21, Issue 41

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, August 23, 1995

Lightning Strikes Twice

... A bolt of lightning destroyed a storage barn at 2251 W. Main and a church steeple early Thursday morning

By Thad Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Bill Walters was awakened early Thursday morning by the sound of a lightning bolt striking a storage barn that sits in back of Donald and Donna Gerard's house at 2251 W. Main St.

Walters, 80, who resides with Donald and Donna Gerard said he heard the crash and then everything shook.

"It was a terrible loud noise. The worst I've ever heard. It woke me up at around 5:15 a.m. Then I saw the fire," Walters said. "I wasn't sure if it had hit the house. I just wanted to get out of there."

Following the lightning strike, a fire ensued. With the telephone line dead, Walters drove to Crystal Flash where he called authorities and his grandson Phil Gerard.

Paul VanDyken, an employee at Family Fare, was walking from his car to the store when he saw the blaze to the west. "I told a fellow employee who then called 911," he said.

Fire chief Frank Martin added that by the time the fire department arrived on the scene, the storage barn was already fully involved.

The building, which was destroyed by the fire, was insured for \$16,800. Gerard said he had not determined the value of the contents inside, but estimated it to be at least \$10,000.

The Gerards, who have lived at 2251 W. Main for 35 years, said the storage barn had been there at least 40-45 years.

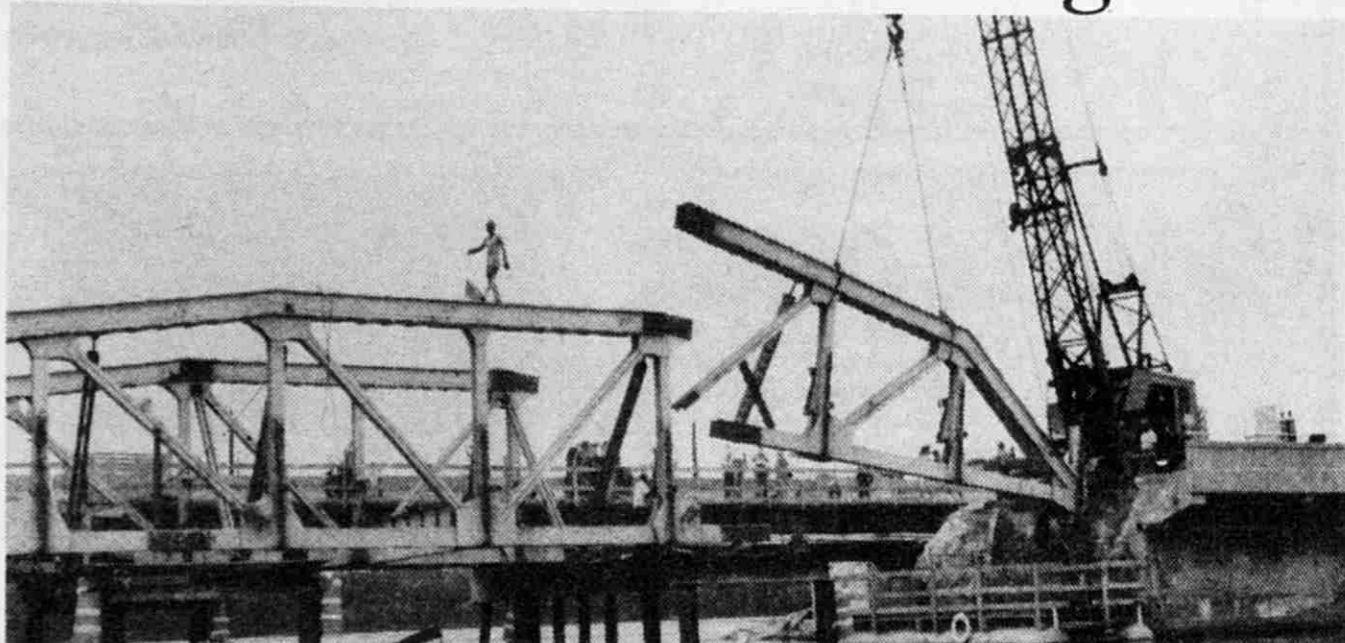
Items stored in the barn included tools, a row boat, a boat trailer, household goods that belonged to Walters and a lawn mower belonging to the First Baptist Church of Lowell.

The Baptist Church also lost the top half of its steeple and its organ computer system was taken out in the electrical storm.

"My father-in-law lost a lot of sentimental stuff. Most of his valuable items are stored in our basement," Gerard said.

The Gerards were not home at the time. They learned of the fire from their son who reached them at their second home in Muskegon.

New bridge adds to history and access in Fallasburg area



The new bridge from Belleville will give the Fallasburg area three historic bridges to compliment its historic buildings.

By Marc Popiolek
Contributing Writer

Vergennes Township's historic Fallasburg district will once again add to its impressive repertoire of historic artifacts.

A 70-year-old two-lane bridge from Belleville will be arriving soon to add historic

flavor to the area and open up Burroughs Road to nearby residents.

The move will complete a bridge swap which began one year ago.

Last year Vergennes sent their 89-year-old Burroughs bridge to Portland so it could be used as part of the state's Rail

to Trails project.

In return Vergennes received a bridge from Belleville and Belleville began construction on a new four-lane bridge to handle the ever-increasing traffic.

The dismantling of the Belleville bridge has begun

Bridge, cont'd., pg. 8

Which Way Do We Go?

... Vergennes Township urged its residents to mark their houses with street numbers for safety reasons. It also discussed making it a civil infraction to not have homes numbered.

By Marc Popiolek
Contributing Writer

Have you ever noticed cars wandering around aimlessly in Vergennes Township in an effort to locate a residence?

The sight is not all that uncommon as many of the residents don't have the numbers of their homes properly displayed for motorists.

The problem has caught the eye of Vergennes Township officials and it's become a concern.

Officials aren't concerned about everyday motorists locating homes, although they may differ in that opinion, but it does worry them when it comes to emergency situations.

"We have to let residents know that having their homes properly numbered can make a big difference in whether an emergency vehicle properly locates a house," said Vergennes Township Supervisor Jim Cook.

Cook and the township board discussed making it a civil infraction to not have a home numbered, but decided against it because of its enforceability.

"It would be hard to enforce informally across the township. But we need to get

people's attention regarding the situation," said Cook.

The board considered several ways of informing residences, but decided word of mouth may be its best bet.

"We can make it a provision in our occupancy permits, but we don't give out that many in a year," said planning commission member Gil Wise. "The best thing to do is probably put it in our township letters and let people know just how important it is to put numbers up."

Wise and the board said simply putting numbers on a house may not solve the problem.

A house that sits far off the road may not be seen, said Wise.

Township clerk Mari Stone said numbers should be

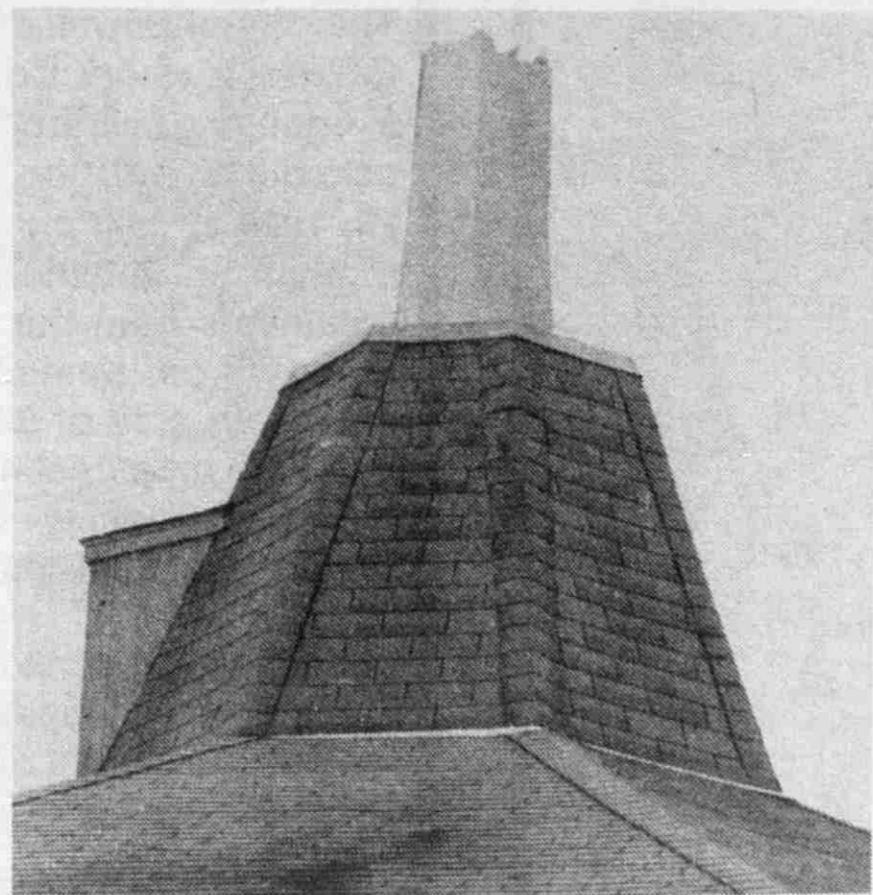
posted at the most visible part of the property access. She said residents can put up a pole or sign with house numbers, or paint them on a large stone. "Anything just as long as vehicles can see them at the point of entrance," she said.

Wise and the board want home owners to realize that having numbers near the road may not only assist the home owner, but their neighbors as well.

"If you have too many homes without numbers, there is no way an emergency vehicle can figure out where they need to go," said Wise. "If at least a couple of homes have numbers, then the vehicle will have a better idea of where they are at and need to go."



Above, Donald Gerard, right, with father-in-law Bill Walters, look over the rubble made of Gerard's storage barn by the electrical storm Thursday morning. Right, lightning also struck down the steeple at the First Baptist Church of Lowell.



INSIDE THE LEDGER

YMCA receives grant, pg. 19

Blues basks in the heat, pg. 18

Riverwalk Festival grows closer,
pg. 20

OBITUARIES

ALEXANDER - Yvonne Kathleen Alexander, aged 75, of Lowell, died August 19, 1995. She was preceded in death by her husband, Maurice. She is survived by her daughters Norann and Arnold DeLoof of Lowell, Mary and Richard McLouth of Muskegon; eight grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was offered Monday at St. Mary's Church, Rev. George J. Fekete presider. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the

Gerontology Network of West Michigan, 516 Cherry SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

FRANCIS - Charlotte Lynn Francis, aged 39, of Fremont, passed away Monday, August 14, 1995 at Gerber Memorial Health Services. She was born on April 27, 1956 in Fremont to William and Phyllis Francis. She had worked for the Gerber Life Insurance Company for over 19 years and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Fremont. She is survived by her mother

Phyllis M. Francis of Mohave Valley, AZ; sisters Rebecca A. Francis of Columbia, MO, Mrs. Doug (Cindy) Bowman of Muskegon; brothers Timothy A. (Belinda) Francis of Morgan City, LA, Richard C. Francis of Columbia, MO, Chris W. (Kathy) Francis of Lowell; grandmother Charlotte L. Francis of Corunna, MI; four nieces, four nephews; special friends, Karen Hull and Kathryn Hansen of Fremont. Her father William preceded her death in 1988. The Funeral Service was held Thursday at First Baptist Church of Fremont. Interment Maple Grove Cemetery. Memorial contributions: Fremont Area Foundation for Newway County Hospice or

Bibles International.

JONES - Chester C. Jones, aged 84, of Lowell, died August 20, 1995. He is survived by his children, Darlene Gard of Wyoming, Arlene and Gordon Newell, Ray and Sharon Jones; sister Mildred Stauffer all of Lowell; sister-in-law Doris Jones; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Chester was a member of the Lowell Moose Lodge #809, where he earned his Fellowship Degree. Funeral Services will be held Wednesday (today), 1 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, Rev. Gordon Barry of First United Methodist Church of Lowell officiating. Interment

Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

MERCER - William Robert (Bob) Mercer, aged 63, of Lowell died unexpectedly August 20, 1995. He is survived by his wife of 40 years Dorothy Jean; sons Mitchell Lee (Debra) of Ada, Gregory Alan (Sherry) of Six Lakes, MI, Joey Scott (Sally) of Belding; daughter Laurie Jean (Terry) Mercer-Colquhoun of MS; 12 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brother Gale Chapman; aunt Ruth Hall of IN. Bob was preceded in death by his mother Martha Chapman of Mesick, MI. He was also a member of Carpenters Local 335 for 35 years.

WUBBEN - Dorothy L. Wubben, aged 74, of Lowell, died Sunday, August 20, 1995. She is survived by her husband Melvin; children Richard (Sharon) Treviso, Larry Belden, all of Lowell; sister Helen (Ted) Harvey of OK; six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren. Funeral Services will be held Wednesday (today) at 10 a.m. at the Roth-Gerst Chapel, Rev. William Dobson of Whitneyville Bible Church officiating. Interment Riverview Cemetery, St. Joseph, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to Kent County Humane Society.

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Welcome

Dr. Mark Evenhouse and Dr. John Mogor would like to welcome **DR. JOAN MIEDEMA** into their practice at Lowell Medical Specialists, P.C.



Dr. Miedema grew up in the Chicago area and started her career in medicine as an ICU nurse. Her educational background includes a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Michigan. She was a nurse for 8 years. She then went on to pre-med at Loyola University in Chicago and Rush Medical School also in Chicago. She did her residency at the University of Minnesota and is board eligible in both Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. She looks forward to starting work in Lowell September 1st. She will be accepting new and present patients from the practice.

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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Lowell Planning Commission-Citizen Advisory Committee will conduct a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, August 28, 1995 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall, 301 E. Main St., for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on a rezoning request from Kamminga Development to rezone an area of 9360 square feet north of Sibley on parcel 41-20-03-326-020 from R-2 (Two Family Residential) to R-3 (Residential and Apartment).

Interested persons may submit written comments or appear in person at City Hall, 301 E. Main, Lowell, MI 49331.

Betty R. Morlock
Deputy City Clerk

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DAYTIME MORNING 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30 7:00 7:30 8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30

DAYTIME AFTERNOON 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30

FRIDAY EVENING AUGUST 25, 1995 7:00 7:30 8:00 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30

FRIDAY LATE NIGHT AUGUST 25, 1995 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30

SATURDAY MORNING AUGUST 26, 1995 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30 7:00 7:30 8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30

SATURDAY AFTERNOON AUGUST 26, 1995 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30

SATURDAY EVENING AUGUST 26, 1995. Broadcast stations: WMTT, WOVU, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM. Cable stations: TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, PASS, TNT, NASH, SCIFI. Premium stations: DISN, HBO, MAX.

SATURDAY LATE NIGHT AUGUST 26, 1995. Broadcast stations: WMTT, WOVU, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM. Cable stations: TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, PASS, TNT, NASH, SCIFI. Premium stations: DISN, HBO, MAX.

SUNDAY MORNING AUGUST 27, 1995. Broadcast stations: WMTT, WOVU, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM. Cable stations: TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, PASS, TNT, NASH, SCIFI. Premium stations: DISN, HBO, MAX.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON AUGUST 27, 1995. Broadcast stations: WMTT, WOVU, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM. Cable stations: TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, PASS, TNT, NASH, SCIFI. Premium stations: DISN, HBO, MAX.

SUNDAY EVENING AUGUST 27, 1995. Broadcast stations: WMTT, WOVU, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM. Cable stations: TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, PASS, TNT, NASH, SCIFI. Premium stations: DISN, HBO, MAX.

SUNDAY LATE NIGHT AUGUST 27, 1995. Broadcast stations: WMTT, WOVU, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM. Cable stations: TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, PASS, TNT, NASH, SCIFI. Premium stations: DISN, HBO, MAX.

MONDAY EVENING AUGUST 28, 1995. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 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 AUGUST 28, 1995. 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 AUGUST 29, 1995. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 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 AUGUST 29, 1995. 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 AUGUST 30, 1995. 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 AUGUST 30, 1995. 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.



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Riverside building

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★ NEW DAWN ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL ★

Runciman building

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GED TESTING - Lowell Community Education is a GED Testing site. If you are enrolled in one of our classes, GED testing is FREE. For more information, call Marge at 897-8434.

SENIOR CITIZENS - Join us for a HALLOWEEN LUNCH and special program. Cost is just the price of a school lunch. Date is Tuesday, October 24 (note change). Call Marge at 897-8434 to register!

GOLDEN AGE CARDS - If you are at least 60 years of age and retired, get a Golden Age Card by calling 897-8434 for an application. It is useful for discounts and for free admission to school athletic events.

COLLEGE CLASSES (Riverside building) - Both Davenport College and Grand Rapids Community College offer college classes in the Riverside building. Please call the college for information.

★ ENRICHMENT/LEISURE-TIME CLASSES & ACTIVITIES ★

SANCHIN-RYU KARATE

Junior Karate, Women's Self-Defense, and Open Family Karate - (for all ages). One-hour or two-hour classes. Classes meet each Monday evening, beginning September 11, 1995, 7:00 PM, in the Riverside Community Ed. building. You may call to register, or come to the first session.

(Flyers will be sent home from school)

★ ATHLETES IN MOTION ★

(A safety awareness & self-defense program for children & teens)

Alto Elementary School, beginning Tuesday, September 12, 1995, 6:30 PM. Runciman Community Building, beginning Thursday, September 14, 1995, 6:30 PM.

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★ SPRING BREAK FAMILY TRIP! ★

What an opportunity to spend quality time with your child! Tuesday, April 2, 1996, travel with us by deluxe motorcoach to Chicago to visit the Sears Tower and the Museum of Science & Industry. Cost is \$57 per adult and \$52 per child. Juice and rolls will be provided on route. (Lunch and a stop for quick supper is on your own). Games and prizes will be offered on the bus; a movie will be shown on the way home. Space is limited; call for details, 897-8434.

KENT CAREER/TECHNICAL CENTER

Registration for adult non-graduates begins August 14. Classes are FREE to non-grads and earn credits towards a diploma! Open registration begins August 21.

CLASS	DAY	START DATE	TUITION FEE	TIME	WEEKS
AGRICULTURAL					
* Floral Design I	M	9/11	\$150	6-10 PM	15
	R	9/7	\$150	6-10 PM	15
	T	9/5	\$150	6-10 PM	15
*Floral Design II	W	9/6	\$150	6-10 PM	15
*Floral Design III	W	9/6	\$100	6-10 PM	15
Landscape Design I	W	9/6	\$100	6-10 PM	15
Plant Identification	T	9/5	\$100	6-10 PM	15
BUSINESS					
Accounting I	M	9/11	\$100	6-10 PM	15
Banking-Teller Training	T	9/5	\$100	6-10 PM	15
Entrepreneurship-Establishing A Small Business	M	9/11	\$75	6-10 PM	12
Keyboard Skills	M&W	9/6	\$125	6-9:30 PM	8 1/2
	M&W	11/8	\$125	6-9:30 PM	7 1/2
Legal Secretarial	R	9/7	\$100	6-10 PM	15
Lotus 1-2-3	M&W	9/6	\$125	6-10 PM	8 1/2
Medical Secretarial	T	9/5	\$100	6-10 PM	15
Peachtree	T&R	11/7	\$125	6-9:30 PM	7 1/2
Platinum	T&R	9/5	\$125	6-9:30 PM	8 1/2
Windows 3.1	M&W	9/6	\$125	6-9:30 PM	8 1/2
	M&W	11/8	\$125	6-9:30 PM	7 1/2
	T&R	9/5	\$125	6-9:30 PM	8 1/2
	T&R	11/7	\$125	6-9:30 PM	7 1/2
Word Perfect/6.0 Windows	M&W	9/6	\$125	6-9:30 PM	8 1/2
	M&W	11/8	\$125	6-9:30 PM	7 1/2
Works For Windows	M&W	9/6	\$125	6-9:30 PM	8 1/2
	M&W	11/8	\$125	6-9:30 PM	7 1/2
	T&R	9/5	\$125	6-9:30 PM	8 1/2
	T&R	11/7	\$125	6-9:30 PM	7 1/2
BUILDING & HOME MAINTENANCE & SERVICES					
Residential Const.-Plumbing	R	9/7	\$100	6-10 PM	15
CONSTRUCTION TRADES					
Residential Const.-Finishing	M	9/11	\$100	6-10 PM	15
Residential Const.-Roughing	T	9/5	\$100	6-10 PM	15
Residential Maintenance	W	9/6	\$75	6:30-8:30 PM	10
GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS					
Commercial Photography I	T	9/5	\$100	6-10 PM	15
Graphic Design I (Pagemaker)	M&W	9/6	\$125	6-9:30 PM	8 1/2
	M&W	11/8	\$125	6-9:30 PM	7 1/2
HEALTH OCCUPATIONS					
* Graduate Nurse Aide	T&R	9/5	\$100	5-10 PM	8 1/2
	T&R	11/7	\$100	5-10 PM	8 1/2
HOME AND COMMERCIAL SERVICE					
Culinary Arts-Introduction	M	9/11	\$100	6-10 PM	15
INDUSTRIAL/MECHANICAL					
Auto Mechanics-Brakes	R	9/7	\$100	6-10 PM	15
Auto Mechanics-Transmissions	W	9/6	\$100	6-10 PM	15
Auto Mechanics-Tune-Up/ Electrical	T	9/5	\$100	6-10 PM	15
Heating - Burner Service	T	9/5	\$100	6-10 PM	15
Machining I	M	9/11	\$100	6-10 PM	15
Machining II	W	9/6	\$100	6-10 PM	15
Machining - CNC	W	9/6	\$100	6-10 PM	15
*Professional Auto Body I	M	9/11	\$150	6-10 PM	15
	W	9/6	\$150	6-10 PM	15
	R	9/8	\$150	6-10 PM	15
Refrigeration I	M	9/11	\$125	6-10 PM	15
Small Engine Repair	M	9/11	\$100	6-10 PM	15
	R	9/7	\$100	6-10 PM	15
TECHNICAL					
Drafting-CAD/Advanced Rel. 13 Windows/DOS	M&W	9/6	\$125	6-9:30 PM	8 1/2
Drafting-CAD/Basic Rel. 13 Windows/DOS	T&R	9/5	\$125	6-9:30 PM	8 1/2
Drafting-CAD/Intermediate Rel. 13 Windows/DOS	T&R	11/7	\$125	6-9:30 PM	7 1/2
	M&W	11/8	\$125	6-9:30 PM	7 1/2
Electronics	T	9/5	\$100	6-10 PM	15
Plastic Technology	M&W	9/6	\$125	6:30-9:30 PM	10

Registration for classes will be held at your local Community Education offices or the Kent Career/Technical Center. Please check the listing located in your school district office.

*Limited enrollment is available in this program. Please contact your local community education office to register.

Most courses will require additional supply and/or textbook charges.

TUITION BUSINESS & INDUSTRY CERTIFICATE CLASSES
Schedule of Classes

CLASS	DAY	START DATE	TUITION FEE	TIME	WEEKS
Apartment Repair	T&R	9/26	\$125	6:30-9 PM	6
Blueprint	T&R	9/26	\$110	3-5 PM	4
CNC Router	T&R	9/26	\$250	3-5 PM	12
Drafting-CAD/Upgrade Rel. 13 Windows/DOS	T&R	9/26	\$145	3-5:30 PM	6
NEC 1993-Journeyman	R	9/28	\$165	6-9 PM	8
NEC 1993-Masters	M	9/25	\$195	6-9 PM	10

**TUNE IN TO LOWELL...
THERE'S NO BETTER PLACE TO LEARN!**