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The Lowell Ledger

Volume 21, Issue 23

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Ground is broken on the new \$1.298 million library

•••• The new library will be named after longtime Lowell resident and the library's major benefactor Harold Englehardt and his late wife Mildred.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Whether it was feeding hobos who came in on the train, or hiring people to do odd jobs to pay their light bills, Harold J. Englehardt has always derived a great deal of satisfaction from helping other people.

So it probably came as no surprise Tuesday morning when Chuck Myers announced that the new \$1.298 million library would be named, after its major benefactor, the Harold and Mildred Englehardt Library.

"This has been my life... really. I get a lot of satisfaction out of helping people," Englehardt said.

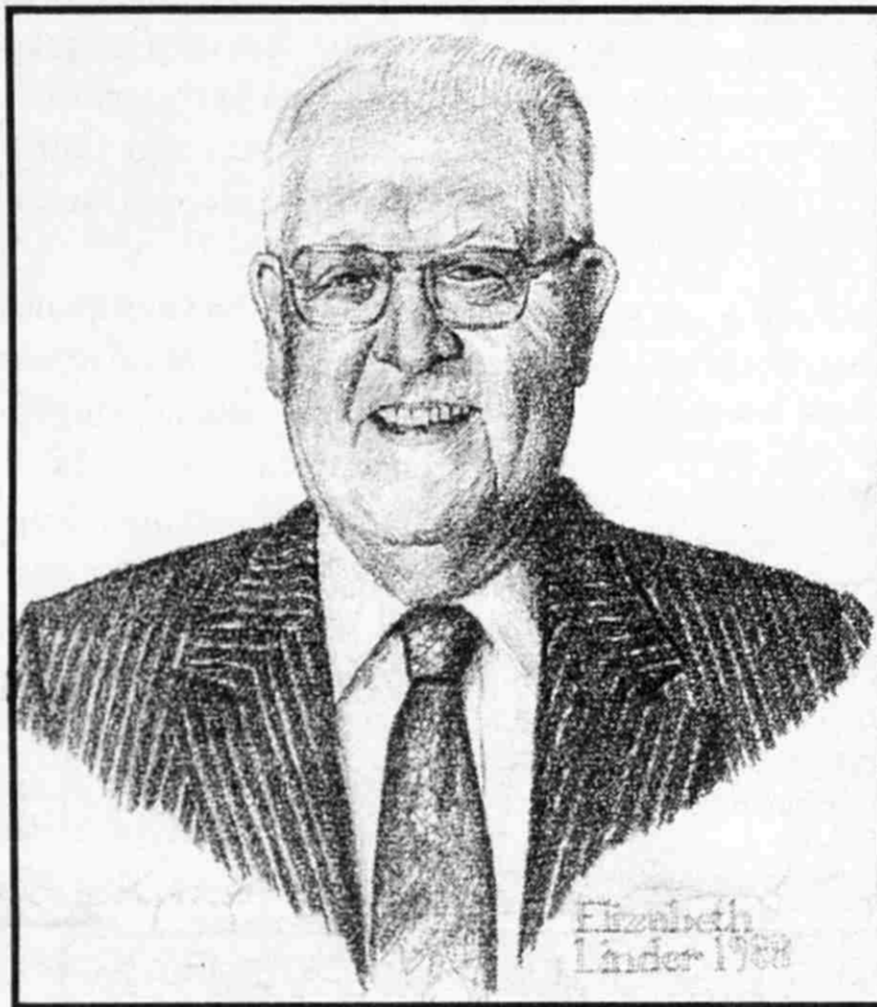
The construction on the new library could start as early as next week. The bid was awarded to Elmridge Construction at a cost of \$946,000 which was \$72,000 under the January 1996 estimate.

At the age of 95, Englehardt's days are not as full as they once were, something he regrets.

"Well, I still keep up with the market watching news. I would like to enjoy life the way I used to. I would like to be more involved, but I just can't anymore," Englehardt explains. "It is frustrating for me not to be involved - I feel like I have lost something."

What Englehardt can find satisfying and refreshing is knowing that his contribution toward the library will indirectly make him involved in the education of generations of students, adults and senior citizens.

"I have always been interested in education and college scholarships," Englehardt said. "A library helps educate people of all ages. We have to have education. We have to educate



Harold Englehardt

people so they can go out and make a living."

Englehardt was first approached by Myers about the library project and asked to help in the form of a donation.

The former president and CEO of FMB State Savings Bank was forthcoming with a generous gift of \$380,000 toward the library's construction.

Englehardt says he has always viewed money as a way of helping other people.

"I still feel that way. People think about money as a million dollar mansion, but what is that really? That is nothing - nothing of importance," Englehardt explains. "Helping people - that is important."

While there isn't one book or article that has greatly impacted Englehardt, he says he has always read business journals. "In the past I read a lot, but recently I have become somewhat handicapped by my vision. I read the Wall Street Journal on a daily basis and enjoy the financial magazines and publications."

The construction of the new library is expected to be completed in December. Myers said a dedication ceremony is being planned for January.

**** Pictures of Ground-breaking Ceremony, page 8

Price tag for water and sewer extension slows development and worries township officials

By Marc Popiolek
Contributing Writer

Lowell Charter Township officials received eye opening news about a proposed special assessment water and sewer district along M-21.

The news came in the form of cost figures, and decisions based on the news will most likely be made by business owners in the special assessment district.

Gary Voogt, of the engineering firm Moore & Bruggink, revealed to the township that extending water lines from the city limits to Curt Cowles' proposed apart-

ment complex would cost an estimated \$380,000.

However, that figure is low compared to the price tag of \$1 million for the extension of a sewer line to the property and a little beyond.

The price of the sewer plans includes almost \$400,000 for a larger pumping station.

The news has slowed down Cowles development until the township hears from business owners and they determine who and how the proposed projects would be funded.

"I don't think we can put

this to the people until we determine what financing method will be used," said trustee Alyn Fletcher. "We have to determine how and if the township can pay for this and if we can't, who will."

The township was presented with three funding options, one of which had the township picking up a percentage of the cost.

The other two methods include having business and property owners fund the total cost or having Cowles fund the entire project.

If Cowles did fund it, which is highly unlikely ac-

cording to Voogt, he would regain some of the cost when others hook up to the system.

Before the township board can decide funding issues, it will meet with planning commission members Thursday night to go over its options.

If the two boards agree to move forward with the plan, a special hearing will be conducted to hear "the will of the people."

"At first glance this seems insurmountable with the cost, but sooner or later we will have to face it," said township supervisor John Timpson.

Cowles, cont'd. pg. 8

New blood looks forward to giving back to community with historical appointments

By Marc Popiolek
Contributing Writer

Sensing a need for "new blood" in its historical commission, the Vergennes Township Board appointed Cyndi Dalga and Ron Rittersdorf to fulfill that need.

Earlier in the year the board searched for new members as a way of keeping the historical commission going, while also providing new insight to the township's vast history.

"We would like the historical commission to do more work on projects other than the Fallsburg district," said township clerk Mari Stone.

The appointments of Dalga and Rittersdorf seem to fit that order.

Both are new to township boards and both agreed to the appointments in order to give something back to their communities.

"I think this is an interesting township with so many

unique things," said Dalga. "I've been watching their historical commission since I moved here. I want to help maintain and preserve much of its history."

Dalga, who is employed by the Wyoming school district, plans to find out what the commission's goals are and to assist in any way possible.

"When we first moved here, four years ago, Jim Cook showed us the history of the area. There are so many unique things around us that I want to be a part of it," Dalga said.

Rittersdorf, who retired from the Ameritech Corp. one year ago, also wants to protect Vergennes' heritage.

"I don't know a lot about the historical commission except what it's done at Fallsburg, but I want to find out more," Rittersdorf said. "I wanted to get more involved in the community and this sounded like a great way of doing that."

The pair will serve on the commission until 1998.

DDA and city work to negate high bids as start of downtown renovation project nears

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

How does a Downtown Development Authority board look forward to phase II of a plan when the accepted bid on phase I comes in 30 percent over what was budgeted?

The Lowell DDA board received a July estimated cost for the project's first phase at \$856,000. The bid that was awarded to Nagel Construction came in at \$1.112 million.

Adding the cost of light fixtures, construction staking, inspection, engineering support/project management, Design Plus and tree gates, the sum of phase one totals \$1.358 million. The total proposed funding is \$1.56 million.

The decision to extend a 12-inch water main from Broadway to Jefferson heightened the scope of that portion of the project which originally called for the main to just run under the Main Street bridge.

The extension will add a critical improvement to the city water system. It will also add an additional \$203,000 to the \$54,000 originally budgeted for the water main work.

To offset this additional cost and to insure that there is enough DDA funds to complete phase II of the project in 1997, the city is proposing monetary help from four city funds. Lowell Light and Power will not only provide the labor for the installation of the light, it will also purchase the lights for the project.

"This is a one time opportunity to make significant improvements to the downtown," Lowell city manager Dave Pasquale said. "The city is committed to seeing that

DDA, cont'd. pg. 3

INSIDE THE LEDGER

Spring Sports Start, pgs. 19-24.

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Showboat status, pg. 9

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

FRIDAY LATE NIGHT APRIL 19, 1996 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30

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SATURDAY LATE NIGHT APRIL 20, 1996. 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.

SUNDAY MORNING APRIL 21, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (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) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

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MONDAY EVENING APRIL 22, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

TUESDAY LATE NIGHT APRIL 23, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (12:00-4:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

MONDAY LATE NIGHT APRIL 22, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (12:00-4:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

WEDNESDAY EVENING APRIL 24, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

TUESDAY EVENING APRIL 23, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

WEDNESDAY LATE NIGHT APRIL 24, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (12:00-4:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

Red Arrow softball team recovers from disasterous opener with much improved showing at the Belding Tournament

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The Red Arrow girls had hoped to celebrate the return of Bob Rodenhouse to the helm of the Lowell softball program with a season-opening win against Rockford.

The thoughts of an anticipated celebration never made it past the second inning as the Rams made it clear Lowell and Rodenhouse would have to wait until another day.

Rockford tallied 15 runs on six hits, and 11 walks in its first two at bats enroute to a 26-10 drubbing of the Red Arrows.

"I think three things contributed to the loss: We've only been able to practice inside; the girls didn't know what base to throw to in different situations; and Rockford smoked the ball," Rodenhouse said. "I also think the girls were a little nervous with this being the first game and with a new coach."

Despite disappointment in the manner in which his club lost, Rodenhouse was able to find a bright spot. "The girls hit the ball well and we did score 10 runs," he said. "Now we've got to cut down on the number of walks and play better defense."

After scoring five runs in the first inning and 10 in the second, Rockford tallied two more in the third, seven in the

fifth and two in the seventh.

Lowell scored its 10 runs in the fourth through sixth innings. The Red Arrows scored a single run in the fourth inning with seven in the fifth and two more in the sixth.

Laurie Barton was 2-for-3 at the plate with two runs batted in and scored three times.

Katie Rooker was also 2-for-3. She had an RBI and scored twice.

Amy Larabee started on the mound for Lowell. She was relieved by Lisa Murphy and Rooker.

Larabee gave up 13 runs on three hits over 1 1/3 innings, while walking 11 and striking out two batters.

Murphy went 4 2/3 innings, allowing 10 runs on 10 hits while walking three and striking out one.

Rooker pitched one inning, allowed two runs on one hit, walked two batters and struck out one.

Belding Tourney
Big Rapids 7
Lowell 6

Lowell 5
Belding 3

Three days of intense practice between its first and second game of the year did the Red Arrow softball team some good and it went a ways in cheering up their coach Bob Rodenhouse.

"Take away the first two innings of the Big Rapids game and the girls have a chance at winning both games," Rodenhouse said. "The girls showed a lot of improvement - now they just must continue to do so."

After falling behind Big Rapids 7-0 over the first two innings of play, Lowell rallied behind the super relief pitching of Jenny Miller.

The Red Arrows had a chance to tie the score at 7-7 in the seventh when Laurie Barton singled and then stole second. However, a groundout and a strikeout rubbed out the rally.

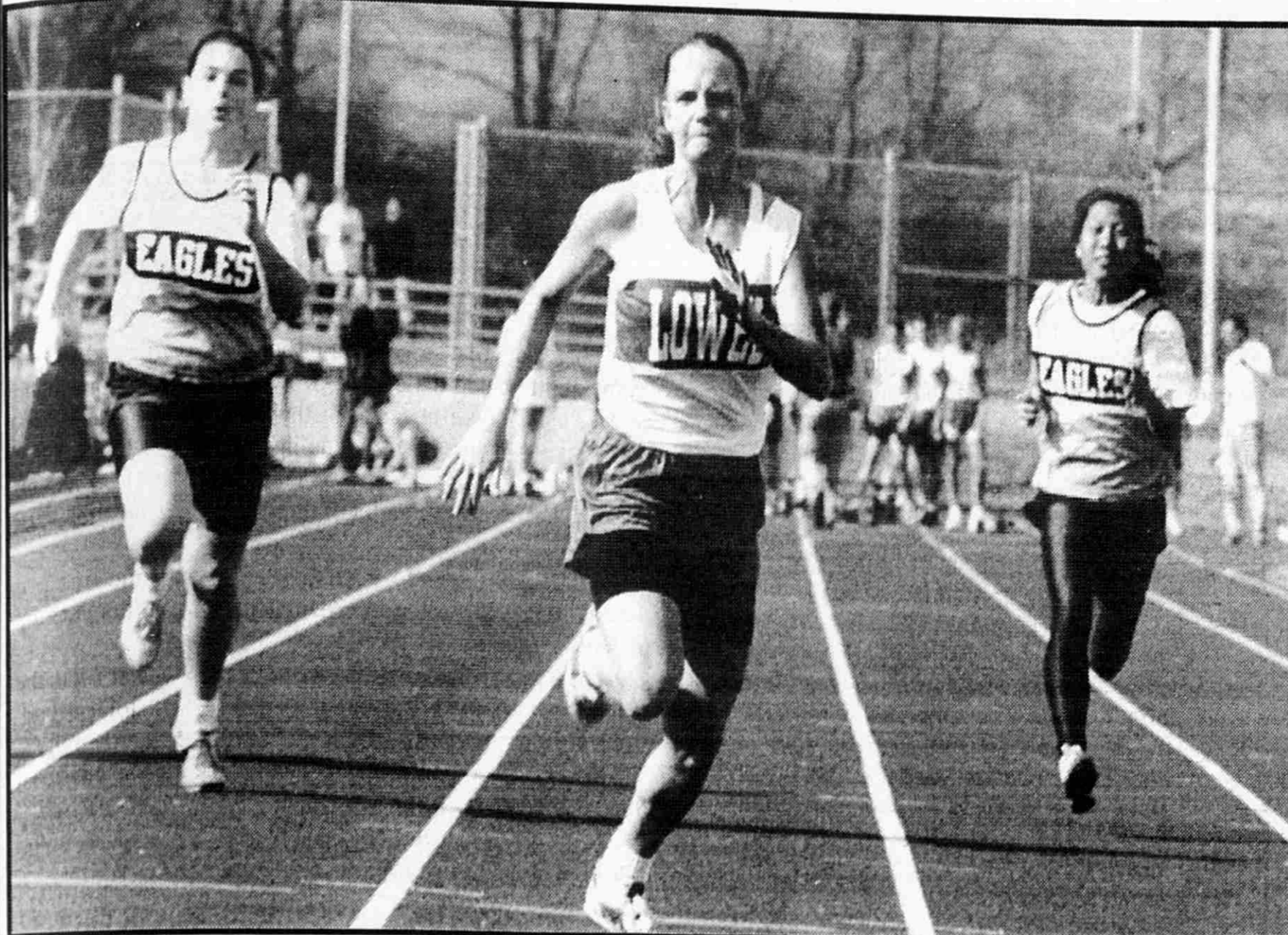
"Miller did a great job of throwing strikes. She gave us a chance to come back and win the game," Rodenhouse said.

Trailing 7-0, Lowell chipped away with two runs in the fourth on a two-run single by Shannon Laux.

Softball, cont'd., pg. 24

Red Arrow girl thinclads open with win against defending co-champion

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor



Lowell's Dawn Burrows brought it home ahead of the pack in the 100-meter dash.

Lowell girls' track coach Kathy Talus called its 71-57 win over defending co-champion Hudsonville a great way to start the O-K White conference season.

What made it great in the coach's eyes was the fact that the same middle distance events which Lowell got hurt in last year keyed its victory against the Eagles.

A sweep in the 400-meter run broke a 39-39 tie with the Eagles and catapulted Lowell to a 48-39 advantage, one it would never relinquish.

"We're better in the middle distances this year," Talus said. "Sweeping the 400 was a big key surprise."

Responsible for the sweep were Melissa Sobie, first, 1:08.75; Amber Helsel, second, 1:09.35; and Cindy Briggs, third, 1:09.67.

Another pleasing result that came from the league-opening meet was the performance of Julie Wisner. "Julie came on at the end of the season last year. She's started this year right

Girls' track, cont'd., pg. 24

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Sidewalk discussion leaves council with a different view

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Councilman Jim Hodges noted that if polled, the council probably had five different opinions to go with the responsibility of providing sidewalk on Foreman and Elm.

Nearly 90 minutes after discussion ended on the issue of establishing a special assessment district for Elm Street and Foreman Road, the council had one voice. It clearly stated that it would delay establishing a special assessment district to give time for discussion between council members, volunteer residents from the affected areas, police chief Jim Valentine and a representative from Triple A.

"I see this issue from a different view because of comments from the residents here tonight," said Lowell mayor Bill Thompson. "I still believe the council has a responsibility to provide a safe route from which children can get from school to home."

What was clear to everyone concerned is that the sidewalk issue is not cut and dry.

Is special assessment the best way to fund a city sidewalk improvement project?

Foreman resident Dave Austin suggested that possibly the council should bond for the money to create routes for children to use and have the entire community pay for new sidewalk. The money would be used to create a pool that would also finance the upgrade of existing sidewalk.

Lowell city manager Dave Pasquale noted that the cost to finance such a program is not known.

Is the Foreman and Elm area used most frequently by children?

"If there is a need for sidewalk, why not start with Elizabeth and Howard where more children walk," Ken Akers suggested. "Let's put it where the most children will use it."

Akers added that years ago, sidewalks were put in on the south side of streets for a couple of reasons: Utilities were on the north side, and sidewalks therefore could be put further off the road on the south side thus making it more safe for children.

"I don't think sidewalks are needed on the north side of Foreman. I also think sidewalks would create more of a hazard," Akers said.

Councilman Chuck Myers noted that in surveying Foreman Road, children currently have to zig zag from side to side if they are to walk on sidewalk.

"If traffic and speed are a problem on Foreman, how often do we want children crossing the street so they can get to a sidewalk?" Myers asked.

If a sidewalk is constructed on the north side of Foreman, where the majority of houses are, residents backing out of their driveways would be presented with an additional safety risk.

Councilman Don Green said he originally thought the idea of a network of sidewalks was necessary. "I think the idea of a study is not a bad idea. I'd hate to back away from our sidewalk program, but I'd also hate to spend money in an improper way."

Myers said the foot traffic in the Foreman area is not as much as he would have thought. "However, there is a lot of vehicle traffic," he said.

Thompson asked if the school could be asked to map out where it sees the most school children traffic. He felt this would be a way to help map out a safe route for children.

Myers also noted that the planning commission has used new construction as an opportunity to have sidewalk installed. It is also a requirement for new homes being built. "This way there is not a problem as to whether a sidewalk will fit," he explained.

Dale Latva, a resident at Riverside and Foreman, said there is not a lot of walking traffic on Foreman. "I hope we do not destroy the aesthetics of residential property so it can be said that every street in Lowell has a sidewalk."

Lowell resident Bud Acheson said he counted the kids walking to school between 8:30 and 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, April 10. "I counted 11 walking to the west and one walking to the east. In the afternoon between 2:30 and 3:15 p.m., I counted 15 children."

Austin agreed that currently there isn't much walking traffic on Foreman, but if his wife was at the meeting she would note that someday after many of the current residents have moved on, there may be a high volume of kid traffic on Foreman.

LMS gets North Central accreditation

North Central Association (NCA) accreditation has been extended through the 1995-1996 school year to the Lowell Middle School. This action was taken at the NCA's annual meeting in Chicago on March 27.

"Along with hosting periodic on-site evaluations by a visiting team of educators, each NCA school is accredited on the basis of an annual

report on conditions in the school and on such supplementary information as the Commission on Schools requests," Principal Jim Harden explained. "The continued accreditation means that the conditions for effective education exist in the school."

The North Central Association is the largest of the country's regional accrediting agencies. It is a voluntary

coalition of over 7,000 schools and over 1,000 colleges and universities in the nineteen-state region of the central United States. The Association works with schools to improve the quality of education through a continuous process of accreditation and evaluation. NCA currently accredits 959 schools in Michigan.

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