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The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 16

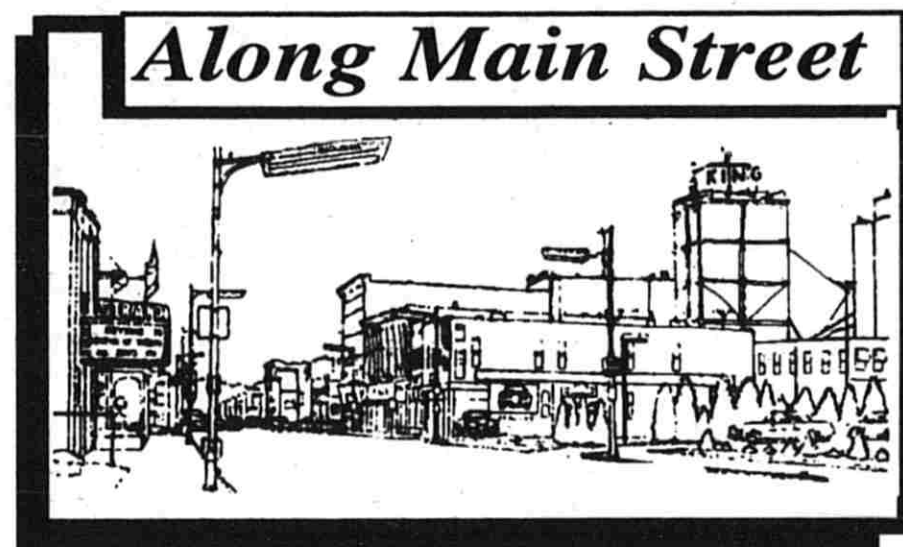
Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, February 19, 1997

Vergennes Township eyes citizens' committee for future road projects

By Marc Popielek
Contributing Writer

With many roads yet to be paved and residents expressing



interest in getting them paved, the Vergennes Township Board agreed to set up a citizens' road committee.

The committee, to consist of five or six residents, would provide recommendations to the board regarding which roads in the township are in need of paving.

It will be up to the committee to come up with a set of criteria from which roads can be prioritized in regards to importance.

Township clerk Mari Stone said her office is regularly bombarded with phone calls from citizens who want their road paved and want to know how to go about having the process completed.

The township hasn't set up guidelines as to who can be placed on the committee, although they want to limit the number of people to lessen confusion. Trustee Mark Weber

suggested the committee be made up of people who don't need road work performed.

"It will de-politicalize it," said Weber. "We would have more impartial recommendations if the people on the committee had no stake in the recommendation."

The committee could recommend road projects to the board, but the final decision on which roads would receive work would remain with the township board.

Among the issues which could be discussed by the committee is whether residents on certain streets would be willing to have special assessments on their property to pay for road projects the township is not in the position to fund, said Stone.

Residents interested in volunteering for a spot on the committee can contact the township office at 897-5671.

WINTER SMASH AT THE HIGH SCHOOL
Calling all teens grades six through 12 to the "Winter Smash" at Lowell High School on Saturday, Feb. 22 from 6 to 10 p.m.

There's a great lineup of entertainment including motivational speaker Jeff Grenell, music, open gym for basketball and volleyball, pizza and pop. The cost is \$5 per person. For more information call Marti Kelly, 897-6172.

LOWELL COMMUNITY POOL MEETING
The Lowell Community Pool committee will be hosting a community forum meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. at the Lowell Area Schools Administration Board Room.

Anyone interested in attending please call by Monday, Feb. 24 at 897-8445.

LOWELL LIGHT & POWER BOARD MEETING
The Lowell Light & Power Board meeting will be shown on LCTV, Channel 2 on February 24 and 25 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

EDUCATIONAL FORUM SHOWN ON LCTV
The Lowell Area Schools Educational Forum will be shown on LCTV, Channel 2 on February 19 through 23rd at 7 p.m.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER INTERVIEWS ON LCTV
School Board member replacement interviews will be shown on LCTV, Channel 2 on February 22 and 23 at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

SHOWBOAT ST. PATRICK'S DANCE
The Lowell Showboat St. Patrick's Dance will be held on Saturday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Larkin's Other Place. The Todd Nyson Band will perform at 8 p.m. There will be a \$5 cover charge.

ATTENTION BUSINESSES & ENTREPRENEURS
The all new Lowell Community Expo is coming May 10. The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce is accepting applications on a first-come basis. Don't delay and send your application in today.

If you need an application or information call Liz at 897-9161. Sponsored by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and Lowell Area Schools.

LAAC OFFERS AFTER SCHOOL SPECIAL
Instructor Sandy Bartlett returns to the Art Center to kick off the spring workshop series. Her basic classes for children eight to 12 remain ever popular as she begins an eight-week workshop March 5 and 6. Beginning students will meet at the Center studio on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Advanced students will meet Thursdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

All materials are furnished. Workshop fee is \$60 for LAAC members and \$65 for non-members. To register phone the Arts Center at 897-8545. Two scholarships are available. Mastercard/Visa welcome.

SENIOR CITIZEN APPRECIATION DAY
On Tuesday, March 25, a Senior Appreciation Day is being sponsored by FMB State Savings Bank and Lowell Senior Neighbors at Lowell Township Hall. Watch this space for more details.

Carroll and historic commission satisfied with end result

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

When Judd Carroll peers across Main Street from outside his current office location at 100 W. Main, he can see R.J. DeVries Construction busy at work.

"We're finally doing it," says the Lowell dentist.

Carroll is the first Lowell businessman to apply for a permit to change the front of a building (103 W. Main) since the creation of the Lowell Downtown Historic Commission.

"It probably took a little longer since I was the first one to go through the process," Carroll said. "The commission's intentions are in the right place. Someone is needed to maintain the look of the downtown."

The commission's charge is to safeguard the heritage of the city by preserving elements of the cultural, social, economic, political or architectural history.

Lowell Downtown Historic Commission follows the secretary of interior's standards for rehabilitation. P.A. 169 of 1970 provides legislation for cities to create historical districts.

"The commission will try to preserve each building for

what it is," said its chairman Steve Doyle. "We don't want buildings to be turned into some other era."

Some of the items brought forth by Carroll in his original plan were not compatible with what the commission is trying to do.

"There was good discussion and when we were all done, I think the commission and Carroll were satisfied," Doyle said. "Both sides worked hard."

The items in question from Carroll's original proposed drawing were the building's facade, new architectural features, and the relocation of the front doors.

The two sides reached an agreement which allows Carroll to move the doors to the front sides of the building. The proposed windows on the east and back sides will be in keeping with an aluminum mill finish to match the front windows.

The canvas awning on the front will extend straight off the building with no taper.

The facade will retain aluminum store-front glass the

Carroll, cont'd. pg. 8

Ionia County National Bank has heart in place for opening day

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Ionia County National Bank quietly opened its new branch at 2601 W. Main St. on Valentine's Day.

"Our target date for opening was the end of February. However, the construction came along faster than we anticipated, allowing us to open a couple of weeks earlier," Ionia County National Bank president James Fast said. "I guess you could say we had our heart in the right place."

Ionia County National Bank (ICNB) also serves clientele at offices located in Ionia, Belding and Woodland.

A progressive, growing and economically viable marketplace made Lowell an easy choice for the community's newest banking institution.

ICNB will provide a full array of financial services.

Bank, cont'd. pg. 8



Ionia County National Bank opened its doors Friday to the Lowell community. Pictured above: Pat Reinhardt (sitting) assists Charlie Doyle in opening up an account. Doyle was the bank's first customer. Standing, from left to right, are: Ionia County National Bank employees Janet Rudd and Jennifer Uphaus.

INSIDE THE LEDGER

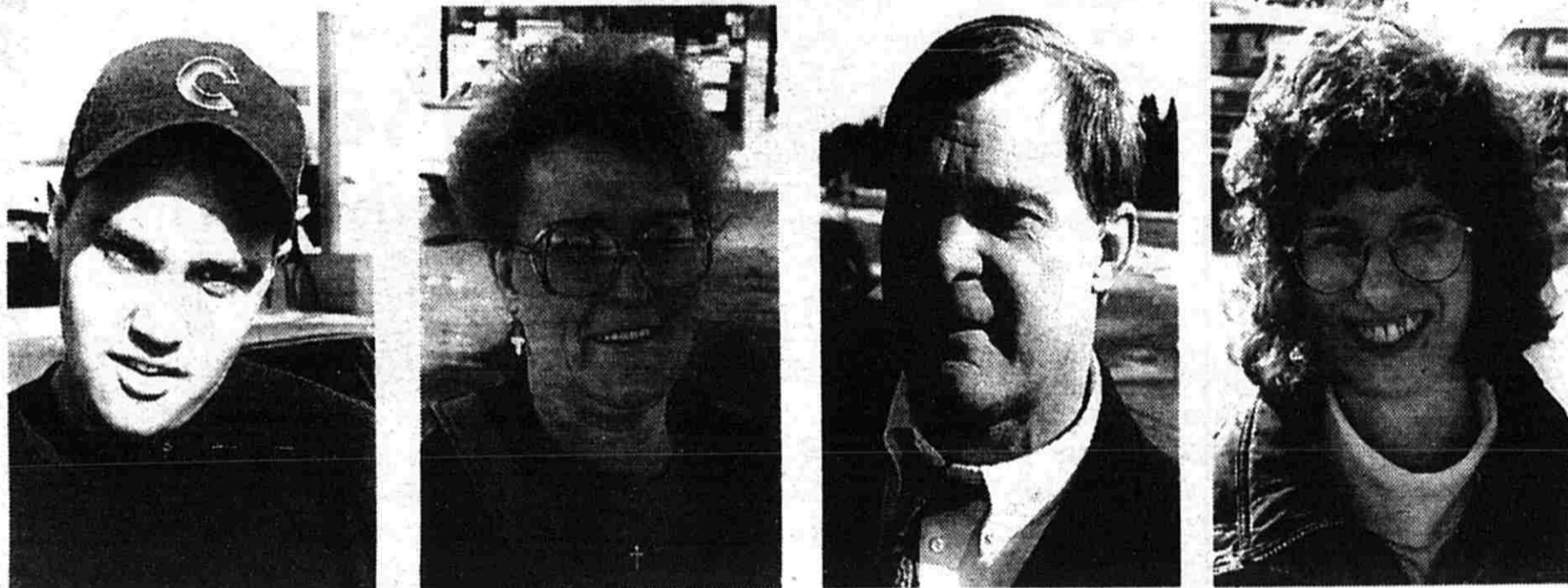
Community Expo, Pg. 21

Wrestlers Win District,
Pg. 22

ITM Warehouse Approved,
Pg. 28

TOWN TALK

Recently there has been talk of potential safety hazards when people talk on their cellular phones while driving. Do you think this is a problem and should laws be put into place to stop it?



Linda Phillips

My job requires me to be on the road a lot. People don't pay attention when using a phone in their car. Men are probably the worst. I see people changing lanes, and their speed fluctuates when talking on a phone and driving. I think drivers should be warned to be more cautious. I can see how phones are an asset to those who drive on the road every day.

Randall McConnell

I drive 30 miles from Ionia to Grand Rapids and see people talking on phones all the time. Talking on phones while a person is driving should not be allowed. Drivers don't pay attention. They should be outlawed like alcohol.

Dave Ward

It should be stopped. People don't pay attention and thus cause accidents.

Betty Wilson

It could be dangerous for all of us. I think I would favor prohibiting people from using cellular phones while they are driving.

Tom Edwards

No; I don't think it is a problem. I think there was an attempt to link phones with accidents, but what was shown is there is no real difference between talking on a phone or talking to someone sitting next to you in a car.

Ann Moger

I think some should be warned to be more cautious. If long calls are going to be made, people should pull off the road. I know it makes me nervous to be driving when I see others talking on the phone while they are driving.



Phyllis Melinn

I can see it being a problem. They should probably be prohibited or there should be stipulations.



Vivian Hoskins

People should not be allowed to use phones while they are driving. Phones serve as a distraction.

TOWNSHIP OF VERGENNES NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI, at 7:00 p.m. on March 3, 1997, to receive public comment on proposed amendments to the Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance, as follows:

DRIVEWAY SETBACK: It is proposed that Section 201.408B be amended to reduce the presently required 15-foot sideline distance to 10 feet for lots with a permitted width of 100 feet (R-2 and R-3 Districts).

FIRST-FLOOR LIVING SPACE: Presently the Ordinance requires 900 square feet of first floor living space for all types of housing units except, for a full two-story house, that size can be reduced to a minimum of 750 square feet. As this reduced size has not been used for many years, and as new construction now exceeds 900 square feet, Sections 201.306 and 201.311 are proposed for amendments that would require all types of dwellings to have a minimum of 900 square feet of first-floor living space, and that the Bulk Table (an outline of size and setbacks) be amended to reflect that change.

The exact wording for the proposed amendments can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Written comments will also be considered if received by the Township Clerk prior to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 3, 1997.

Rick Gillett
Chairman

TOWNSHIP OF VERGENNES NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 3, 1997, at 8:00 p.m., at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI, for the purpose of receiving public comment on proposed amendments to Section 201.426, Subdivision of Property, of the Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance.

Background: The Michigan Subdivision Control Act, P.A. 288 of 1967, has recently been substantially amended by the adoption of P.A. 591 of 1996, the Land Division Act. In order that the Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance can respond to these changes, certain amendments to Section 201.426 of the Ordinance will be required. In general, the recent changes in Michigan law will allow additional property splits of unplatted property than previously allowed under the process required in the 1967 Subdivision Control Act and in so doing will place some additional responsibilities on the Township.

The full wording of the proposed amendments can be reviewed at the Township Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Written comments will also be considered if received by the Township Clerk prior to 7:00 p.m. on March 3, 1997.

Rick Gillett
Chairman

TOWNSHIP OF VERGENNES NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI, at 7:00 p.m. on March 3, 1997, to receive public comment on an application from Focus Land Surveying, Inc., acting for Mark McWilliams, Grandville, MI, for preliminary approval for a proposed three parcel tract in the NW 1/4 of Section 26, Vergennes Township, located in the R-1 District on the north side of Burroughs Road and River Pine.

This tract would consist of three two-acre lots and will be developed under the Michigan Subdivision Control Act.

The application and site plan can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Written comments will also be considered if received by the Township Clerk prior to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 3, 1997.

Rick Gillett
Chairman

The Ledger TV LISTING MAGAZINE

| CHANNEL | SYMBOL |
|---------|--------------|
| 2 | LOCAL |
| 3 | WWMT-3 |
| 4 | WOTV-41 |
| 5 | WLLA-64 |
| 6 | WGVU-35 |
| 7 | WXMI-17 |
| 8 | WOOD-8 |
| 9 | WLNS-6 |
| 10 | WILX-10 |
| 11 | WTLJ-54 |
| 12 | WKAR-23 |
| 13 | WZZM-13 |
| 14 | DISNEY** |
| 15 | WSYM-47 |
| 16 | HBO** |
| 17 | WTBS |
| 18 | C-MAX** |
| 19 | FAM |
| 20 | FX |
| 21 | M-TV |
| 22 | LOCAL |
| 23 | USA |
| 24 | DISCOVERY |
| 25 | WGN |
| 26 | ESPN |
| 27 | CNN |
| 28 | HN |
| 29 | NICK |
| 30 | A&E |
| 31 | PASS |
| 32 | TNT |
| 33 | DOPLAR RADAR |
| 34 | EWTV |
| 35 | TNN |
| 36 | TRAVEL |
| 37 | LEARNING |
| 38 | SCI-FI |
| 39 | VH-1 |
| 40 | WEATHER |
| 41 | HISTORY |
| 42 | AMC |

* Denotes channels not appearing in the grids
** Denotes Premium Channels

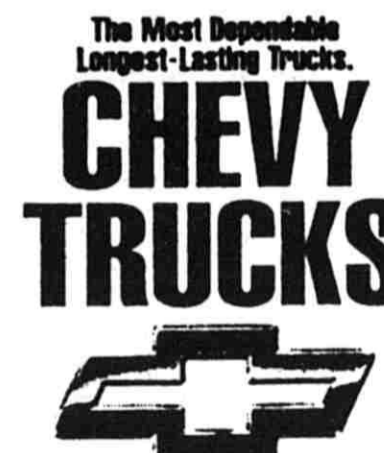


FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21 THRU FEBRUARY 27

Actor, comic and former late-night talk show host Arsenio Hall serves as co-host of the NAACP Image Awards, airing Thursday on Fox. The awards show is one of many programs on this week's schedule spotlighting African-Americans as Black History Month draws to a close.

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SATURDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 22, 1997. 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 (WVMT, WOVU, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, A&E, NICK, TNT, NASH, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, HIST, AMC, DISN, HBO, MAX).

SATURDAY LATE NIGHT FEBRUARY 22, 1997. 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 (WVMT, WOVU, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, A&E, NICK, TNT, NASH, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, HIST, AMC, DISN, HBO, MAX).

SUNDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 23, 1997. 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 (WVMT, WOVU, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, A&E, NICK, TNT, NASH, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, HIST, AMC, DISN, HBO, MAX).

SUNDAY AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 23, 1997. 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, 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOVU, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, A&E, NICK, TNT, NASH, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, HIST, AMC, DISN, HBO, MAX).

SUNDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 23, 1997. 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 (WVMT, WOVU, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, A&E, NICK, TNT, NASH, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, HIST, AMC, DISN, HBO, MAX).

SUNDAY LATE NIGHT FEBRUARY 23, 1997. 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 (WVMT, WOVU, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, A&E, NICK, TNT, NASH, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, HIST, AMC, DISN, HBO, MAX).

MONDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 24, 1997

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 (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, PASS, TNT, NASH, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, HIST, AMC, DISN, HBO, MAX) listing various programs.

MONDAY LATE NIGHT FEBRUARY 24, 1997

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 (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, PASS, TNT, NASH, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, HIST, AMC, DISN, HBO, MAX) listing various programs.

TUESDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 25, 1997

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 (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, PASS, TNT, NASH, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, HIST, AMC, DISN, HBO, MAX) listing various programs.

TUESDAY LATE NIGHT FEBRUARY 25, 1997

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 (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, PASS, TNT, NASH, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, HIST, AMC, DISN, HBO, MAX) listing various programs.

WEDNESDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 26, 1997

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 (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, PASS, TNT, NASH, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, HIST, AMC, DISN, HBO, MAX) listing various programs.

WEDNESDAY LATE NIGHT FEBRUARY 26, 1997

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 (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, PASS, TNT, NASH, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, HIST, AMC, DISN, HBO, MAX) listing various programs.

THURSDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 27, 1997. Broadcast stations and program listings for the evening.

THURSDAY LATE NIGHT FEBRUARY 27, 1997. Broadcast stations and program listings for late night.

So close, but..... Red Arrow volleyball team falls just short of Pioneers in three-set loss

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

While the Red Arrows' play continues to show marked improvement, its coach and players aren't interested in moral victories. "It is extremely tough to be playing better but not winning," Lowell volleyball coach Tammy DeVries said.

In an emotionally difficult three-set loss (11-15, 17-15, 13-15) to East Grand Rapids, the Red Arrows' defensive play was sharp and Lowell displayed more aggression with its attacks.

Lowell basketball team can't find the mark in league losses to Rangers and Wildcats

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

Conversions separated the Lowell boys' basketball team from Forest Hills Central and Northview.

The Red Arrows failed to convert on 17 opportunities from the foul line against the Rangers.

Lowell had the ball twice, down six with less than five minutes to play against the Wildcats, but couldn't convert the possessions into points.

Lowell lost to Central on Tuesday 74-54 and to Northview on Friday 65-50.

"The last three weeks we've struggled," said Lowell basketball coach Pete Bush. "However, part of that is we've had some injuries."

The injuries have come at the center position. Starting center Justin Balcer is out with a badly sprained thumb and backup center Nate Schoen is out with a shoulder injury.

"Without a center, it is difficult to defend," Bush said. Lowell came out a little sluggish against Northview, falling behind 21-8 after one quarter of play.

The Red Arrows stopped the bleeding in the second quarter, thanks to their defensive effort. Northview was still able to build a 34-19 half-time lead. "I felt fortunate we were only down 15," Bush said.

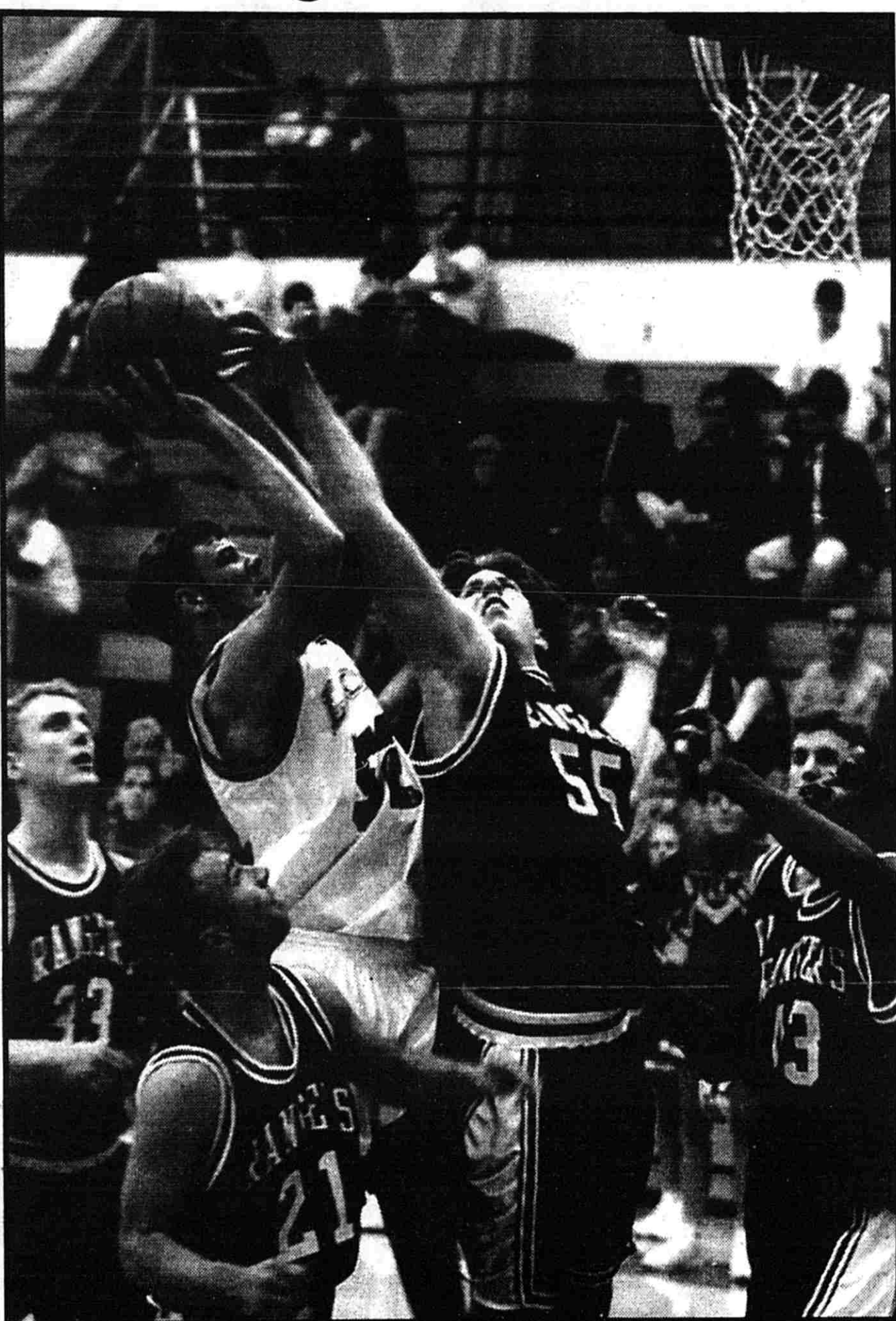
Bush's squad came out in the second half and for a 10-11 minute span played solid basketball against one of the league's better teams.

"We played well during that stretch of the second half," Bush said. During that period Lowell outscored Northview 24-15 and found itself in a game with approximately five minutes to play.

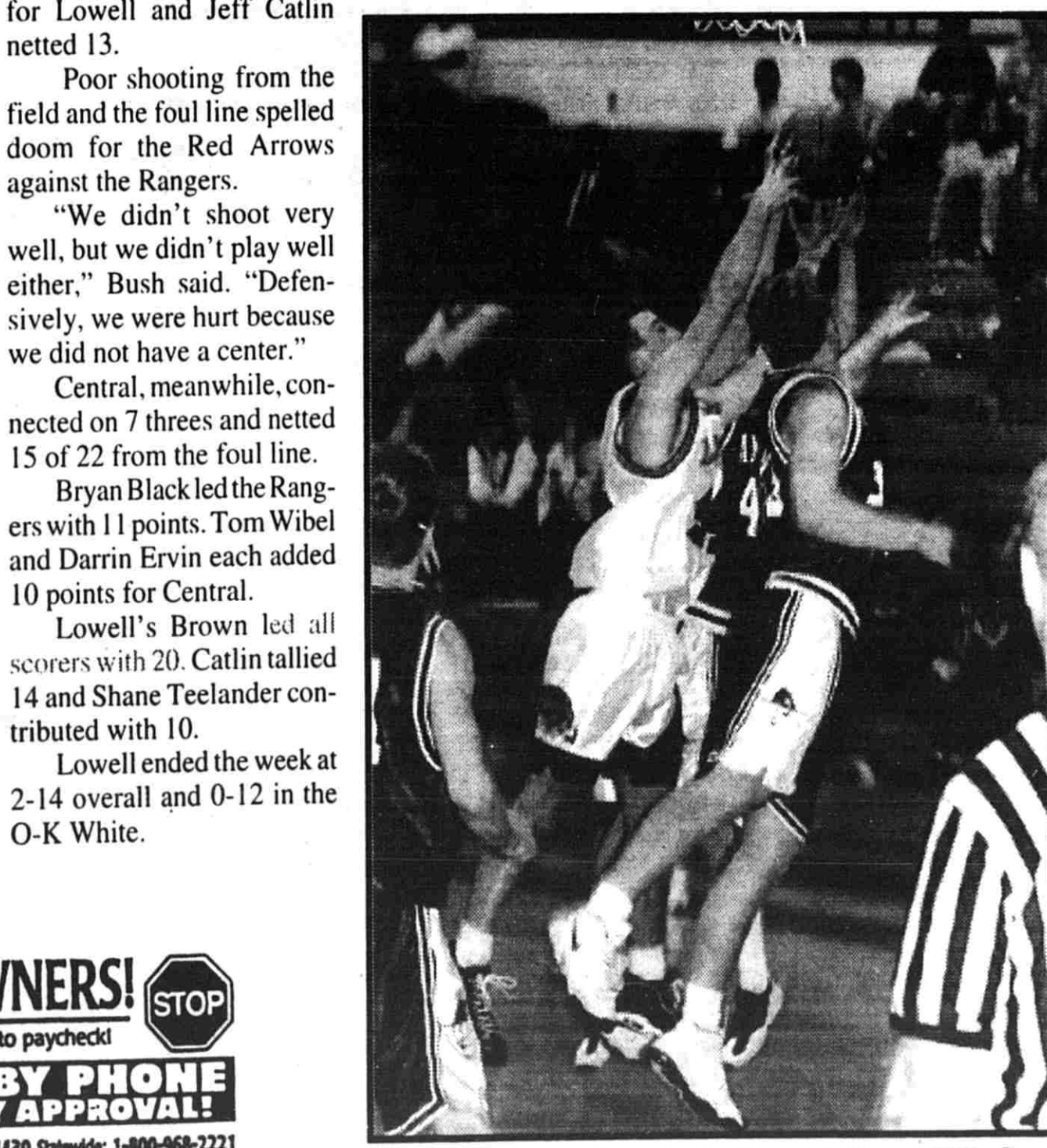
"We had a couple of possessions when we were down six but could not convert," Bush said. "After that, Northview took control."

The Wildcats converted on 10 of 14 foul shots in posting their eighth league win against four defeats. Northview is 11-5 overall.

Mike Hopping led Northview with 13 points. Kevin Brown scored 21



Kevin Brown attempts to shoot over his Ranger defender.



Lowell's Aaron Brander battles with Forest Hills Central players for the rebound.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE MORTGAGE SALE

Default has occurred in the conditions of a mortgage made by Frank George Pauli, Jr. and Julia Pauli, husband and wife, Mortgagees, to Whitcomb & Keller Mortgage Co., an Indiana Corporation, dated December 10, 1976 and recorded on December 15, 1976 in Liber 1859, Page 766, Kent County Records; assigned by mesne assignment to Millikin Mortgage Co., dated March 18, 1981 and recorded March 19, 1981 in Liber 2010, Page 1297, Kent County Records; assigned by mesne assignment to Midland Mortgage Corp. dated September 12, 1988 and recorded on October 7, 1988 in Liber 2409, Page 1246, Kent County Records; assigned by mesne assignment to Secretary of Veterans Affairs, an officer of the United States, on June 15, 1995 and recorded June 23, 1995 in Liber 3664, Page 447, Kent County Records. By reason of such default, the undersigned elects to declare the entire amount unpaid of said mortgage due and payable forthwith.

Pursuant to Public Act No. 104, Public Acts of 1971, (MSA 27A3240(3)) the redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of the foreclosure sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be thirty (30) days from the date of such sale. The premises covered by said mortgage is situated in the city of Grand Rapids, County of Kent, State of Michigan, and more fully described as:

Lot 156 of Powers Pine Addition No. 1 to City of Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan according to the recorded Plat thereof.

At the date of this notice there is claimed to be due, for principal and interest on said mortgage, the sum of twenty-four thousand four hundred twenty-two and 41/100 dollars (\$24,422.41). No suit or proceeding at law has been instituted to cover the debt secured by said mortgage or any part thereof.

Dated: 2-19-97 James W. Batchelor (P25500) RUSSELL & BATCHELOR 161 Ottawa Ave., N.W., Suite 411-S Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2705

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Hours highlighted in planning commission summation

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

"It is thorough and impressive," said Lowell city councilman Jim Hodges in commenting on a year-end report submitted by Lowell Planning Commission chairman Michael Blough. "Then again, I expect nothing less coming from Mike Blough."

The report shows that the commission met for a total of 19 hours and 28 minutes over 11 meetings. Not included in the tally were two work sessions, two joint planning commission meetings, training seminar attendance as well as subcommittee meetings and preparation time.

"I think the summation shows how much time conscientious people devote to the planning commission," Blough said.

Vergennes Township discusses guidelines for farm building rentals

By Marc Popiolek
Contributing Writer

Members of the Vergennes Township Planning Commission and farming community have reached an agreement on the uses of farm buildings for storage purposes.

The commission is hoping to enact an ordinance which

"There are devoted people willing to sacrifice a portion of their time so that Lowell can have an active planning process."

The commission acted on numerous variance and rezoning requests during 1996. They were:

- Seven setback variance requests. The requests were initiated by petitioners in both central/general business and residential districts.

- Two height variance requests for fencing in a defined front yard.

- Three requests (R-2 to C-3, two sites; R-3 to C-3, one site) regarding zoned residential parcels adjacent to CBD properties.

Blough said the summary provides the city council with

trends that may exist in building setback variances and zoning recommendations.

"These trends serve as indicators to examine if we see a continuation through the years," Blough said.

Achievements highlighted by Blough included an updated capital improvements plan; adoption of planning commission by laws; the review of 14 site plans; review of historic district study; and working with the council and Downtown Development Authority to support the development of a program to extend city sidewalks in the general business district over the next two years.

Blough said he felt a summation of facts highlighting the year's activities was needed. "It's a recap of activities. It is a state of planning for the city of Lowell."

will control the use of such buildings and sought input from existing farmers.

"We're trying to solicit everyone's opinion to make sure what we come up with is fair," said commission member Mark Weber.

The commission and farmers have yet to agree on a proposed ordinance on the existence of off-site businesses, but

agreed on wording for a farm building rental ordinance.

The commission has yet to adopt the ordinance and hasn't set a time in which that will be done.

However, it has agreed that the ordinance will allow the rental of existing farm buildings for storage as long as the buildings were used for agricultural purposes in the past.

"We don't want people putting up pole barns not intended for farming practices and then renting them out," said Weber.

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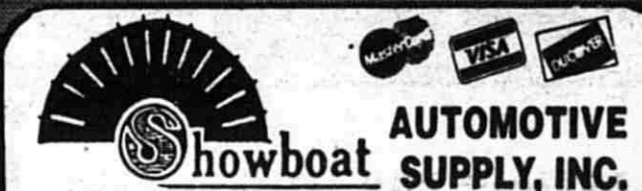
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Vergennes Township "re-ups" with transit system despite little interest

By Marc Popiolek
Contributing Writer

Despite using less than \$100 of a possible \$1,000, the Vergennes Township Board agreed to renew its commitment to the North Kent Transit System.

Last month the township allocated its annual Community Development Block Grant funds, but decided against providing funds to the county-wide transit system because

there was so little use by local residents.

The transit company provides transportation to elderly or handicapped individuals at a minimal fee for those municipalities who agree to provide funds. Nearly all of the transit company's funds are provided through CDBG funding.

After talking with transit officials, the township agreed to allocate \$500 from last year's CDBG funds to the system. "This prevents them from having a hole in their system,"

said township clerk Mari Stone.

Stone pointed out that the money allocated is the remainder from last year's allocation and no new funds will be used from this year's funds.

Since the township did not use its full \$1,000 allotment from last year, the remaining funds (\$400) will be placed back in their CDBG account and rolled over to next year, according to Stone.

Expo provides community opportunity to promote Lowell

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

It's a marketing/promotion plan - that fits all. Lowell Community Expo '97 provides a dynamic, exciting and fast-growing community in West Michigan with an opportunity to showcase itself.

It also provides an opportunity for area businesses to promote what they can do and offer.

"The idea for the Expo came from the marketing subcommittee as part of the school's Education and Business Plan,"

said Lowell Chamber of Commerce spokeswoman Liz Baker. "It's been on the back burner for a while. I felt, with the renovation of the downtown, now was a good time to start showcasing Lowell."

Baker said the Expo will try to encourage the community to come and see what's available and present itself to human resource departments as a community that should be seriously considered by relocators.

Expo '97, slated for Saturday, May 10, will begin at 10 a.m. and run until 5 p.m.

Lowell High School will host the Expo. Booth space will be available both indoors and out, with

inside space limited to the first 50 exhibitors who register. The cost to rent a booth is \$25 for chamber members and \$40 for non-chamber members.

Guided tours of the Lowell community will be given in school buses. Sites along the tour will include the new Englehardt Library, the newly renovated downtown, Lowell Township's new office, city water facilities, Ionia County National Bank, Chadalee Farms and other industries.

"It's a great opportunity for local businesses to market products and/or services," Baker said. "It's also an opportunity for others to find out why choosing Lowell as a place to live, raise a family, work, shop and educate their children is a smart move."

Lowell Area Schools DIRECTIONS

February 1997



CHARACTER COUNTS!

On Thursday, January 30, 1997, approximately 180 Lowell citizens identified the following character traits as the most significant traits that the district and community should develop. Over the upcoming months, our schools and, we hope, our community organizations will begin to develop ways in which these traits can play an increasingly significant role in each of our lives.

THE COMMUNITY OF LOWELL VALUES:

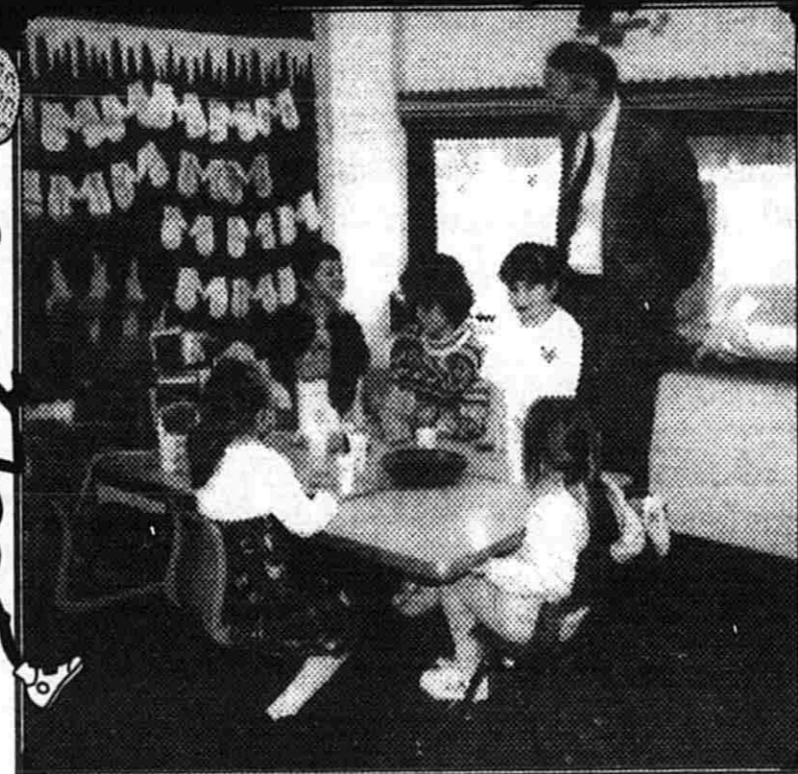
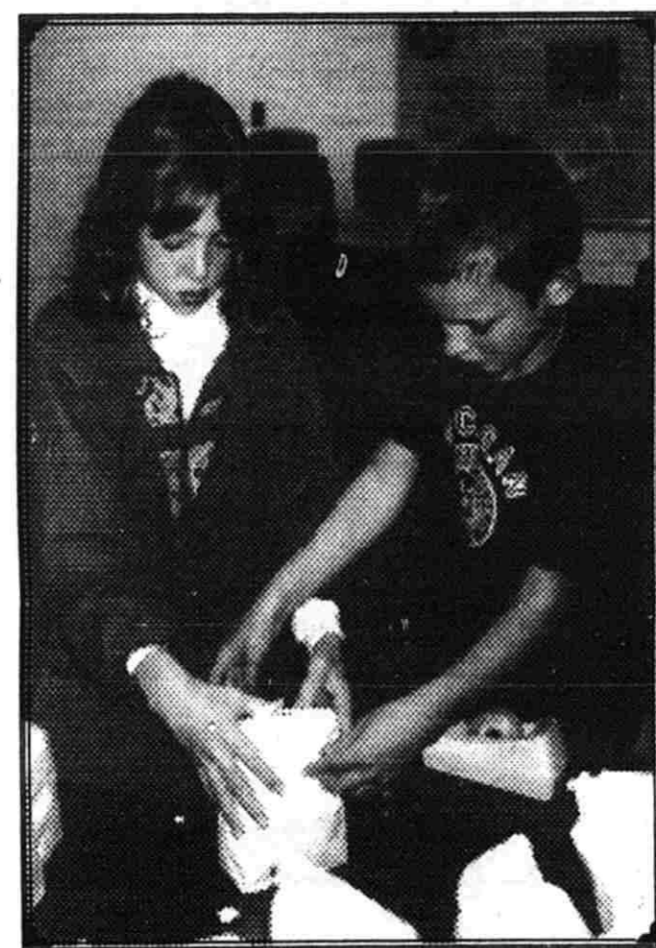
1. Responsibility
2. Respect
3. Integrity
4. Compassion
5. Honesty



POPCORN EXPRESS

Students from the classrooms of Mrs. Kinnucan and Ms. VanBelois are providing Cherry Creek Elementary with a lot of popcorn from their service learning project, Popcorn Express. Popcorn Express, in cooperation with the PTO, has been selling popcorn for a quarter to the building teachers, administrators and fellow students every other Friday.

Popcorn Express has provided Mrs. Kinnucan's and Ms. VanBelois' students with opportunities to improve both academic and life skills while working within and assisting their community, Cherry Creek Elementary. The students participated in filling out job applications, gathering references and interviewing for their positions at Popcorn Express. Some job positions you will find the students actively participating in at Popcorn Express include advertising their product, scooping and bagging popcorn, counting and sorting money, graphing sales, delivering, and clean-up crew.



While making peanut butter, Alto kindergartners study the history of peanuts. They learned that the first Americans planted them and President Jimmy Carter had a peanut farm too.

Parent helper Mrs. Hoag shared her peanut butter machine for the project while Superintendent Bleke looks on.

PAJAMA GAME

Lowell Senior High School proudly announces that the spring musical for 1997 will be "The Pajama Game." Auditions for the show were held the week of February 10. Show dates are Thursday, May 1, Friday May 2 and Saturday, May 3. Mark your calendar to be there.

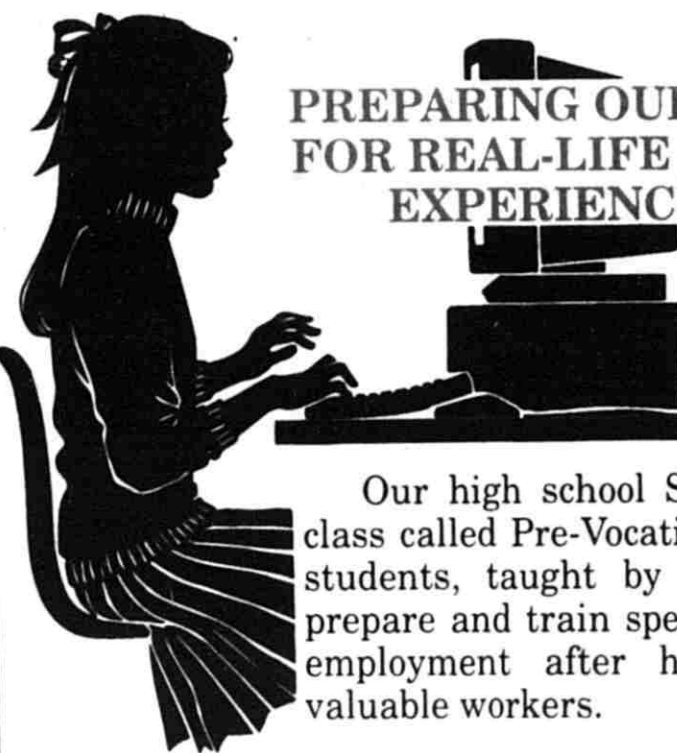
The show is under the direction of: Kathy Wheeler; vocal direction, Paul Balaam; orchestra direction, Bob Rice; and choreography, Laurie Summerfield. Watch for cast announcements in the next issue of Directions.

STATEMENT ON READING: LHS

To improve their reading, LHS students are urged to develop active reading strategies. Through thinking and note-taking while reading fiction, students are asked to look for the main characters, the conflict, and the outcome which leads to the author's theme.

Active reading of non-fiction includes noting main points and supporting points. Active reading teaches students to be aware as they read and increases comprehension. These strategies can be applied in all curricular areas.

PREPARING OUR KIDS FOR REAL-LIFE WORK EXPERIENCES



Our high school Special Education Dept. has a special class called Pre-Vocational Training Class. It is a class of 12 students, taught by Keith Boeve, and its purpose is to prepare and train special education students in how to seek employment after high school graduation and become valuable workers.

The students spend three days per week in the classroom, learning about:

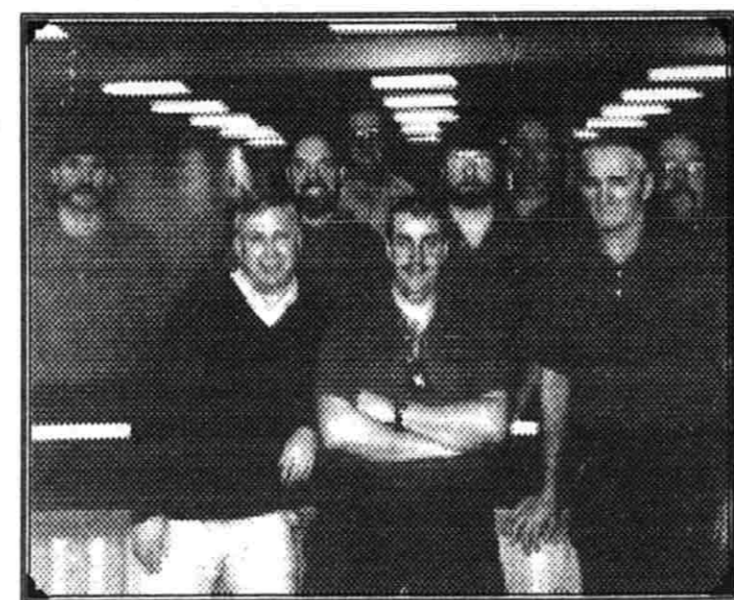
- Writing resumes • How to conduct yourself at an interview
- Developing good job behaviors • Job and employment expectations
- Job-related skills

Two days a week students are transported by school staff to an actual job location for approximately two hours. On the job site, students observe and get an idea of what it would be like to work in that particular job. The on-site experience is an introduction to future vocational training and sometimes students actually get a chance to "try their hand" at a particular job. The program duration is 10-12 weeks, and the following Lowell businesses participate:

- Mancino's • Bushnell Elementary • Middle School Maintenance
 - High School Maintenance • Cumberland Manor • Lowell Ledger
 - Springrove Variety • Franciscan Life Process Center • Laurels of Kent
- Our school is fortunate to have a community which is willing to help train our students as they look forward to graduation and job placement.

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Operations Supervisor: Larry Mikulski
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Bushnell Elementary: Kamm Carpenter & Larry Wenger
Cherry Creek Elementary: Todd Lenneman, Dave Vaught & Jim Zywicki
Lowell Middle School: Dan Shores, Dick Heyn, Jody Mercer and Scott Rollins
Lowell Senior High School: Brian Drake, Walt Batt, Diana Williams, Jim Hodges, Don Kermeen and John Schneider
Runciman/Riverside: Bill Childs and Ken Gregersen
Maintenance: Ed Hull and Don Lasby **Grounds:** Tim Bergy

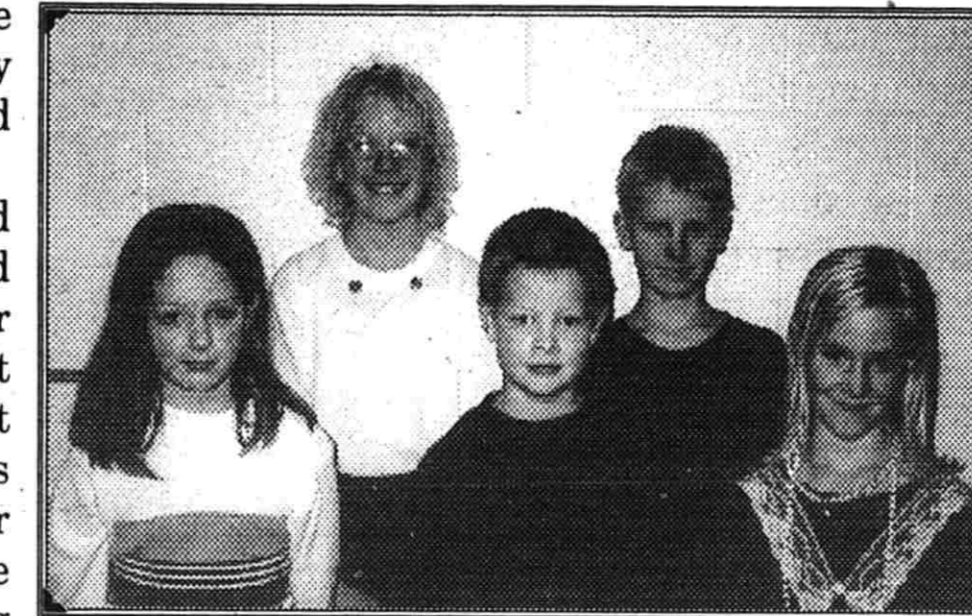
ELEMENTARY STUDENTS COMPETE IN MATH & CURRENT EVENTS

Students at Alto and Cherry Creek have been competing in a couple of events sponsored by the National Science Olympiad organization. Under the direction of Mrs. Roth, Gifted & Talented Director, the students meet once a month to solve math problems. The top scores are sent in as team scores to compete with other schools, while the local students will use their scores to win medals and certificates. After three meets, the fifth-grade top scorer is Jacqueline Vos at Alto; the fourth-grade top scorers are Elise Wisnieski and Jon Walker of Cherry Creek and Drew Morrison of Alto.

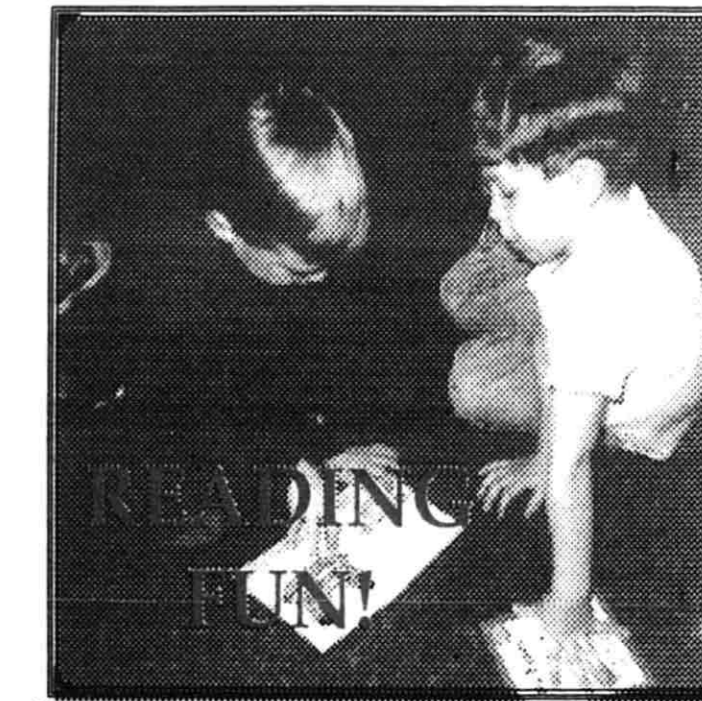
The second and third graders have competed in one meet in January. Top scorers for second grade are Scott Beatson and Stephanie Kempker of Alto and Genevieve Kendall of Cherry Creek. Top scorers for third grade are Andrew Hopkins of Cherry Creek and Austin Blough and Nicole Gless of Alto.

Cherry Creek fourth and fifth graders have also competed in Current Events in November and January. Results have not come in from the most recent event but the fifth graders ranked 12th in the nation after the first meet. They were determined to raise that ranking this month.

The students have responded well to the challenge, with many of them remarking that they like it because it makes them think.



Alto Math Club High Scorers, back row, left to right: Jacqueline Vos and Drew Morrison; front row, left to right: Nicole Gless, Scott Beatson and Stephanie Kempker.



First-grade readers from Mrs. Wood's room meet every week to read to Mrs. Burd's kindergarten friends. The best way to become a reader is to read, so these first graders are on their way to being wonderful readers. From left to right: Jeremy Drake and Drew Kyllonen.

LOWELL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER EVENTS

PRESENT LAUGHTER

"Present Laughter" will be on stage on February 27, 28 and March 1. On March 1, two performances will be presented by Lowell High School Drama Club. A matinee is scheduled for 2 p.m. with all other programs beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be available on February 20 by calling the Lowell Performing Arts Center office at 897-4449. They will also be on sale at the door prior to each performance.

BAND FESTIVAL

Lowell High School will again host a regional band festival on March 6. Last year, 16 bands performed from 8:00 in the morning to around 5:00 in the afternoon. The public is welcome to attend any of the programs but entry to the auditorium will be limited to between band performances only.

SPRING CONCERT

On March 18, Bushnell Elementary will hold a Spring Concert. This is the first year for this activity which should be a real treat with over 200 students participating. Time of this event will be determined shortly. Call the Lowell Performing Arts Center phone line for more information at 897-4449.

ACADEMIC TRACK

The Lowell Middle School is hosting the regional Academic Track again this year. It will be held at the High School on March 24. There will be over 200 middle school students using their talents and skills.

100's DAY

Students in Mrs. Hayden's first grade work on various ways to count to 100.

This activity was one of many which Bushnell first graders took part in as a means of recognizing 100's Day, the one hundredth day of school.



SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

Parents should listen to radio stations: WCUZ, WGRD, WJFM, WKTH, WLAV, WLHT, WOOD, OR WZZM-TV when the weather is bad. Every effort will be made to have the notice of school closings on the air by 6:45 AM.

LHS NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY RECOGNIZED

On February 3, at the Salvation Army's Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, the Lowell High School National Honor Society was recognized for its fundraising efforts. Each year the National Honor Society joins the holiday bell-ringing volunteer force to encourage the citizens of Lowell to donate time to help the disadvantaged.

Their efforts and the generosity of the citizens of Lowell resulted in a collection that exceeded that of any youth group of a similar size in the county.

In recognition of their volunteer efforts, the Lowell High School group was presented with a trophy at the banquet. President Aaron Skidmore accepted on behalf of the society.

ACTIVE PARENTING CLASSES

Parenting education groups are flourishing as never before. The demand for information, skills and support relating to this important and difficult job is increasing at an incredible rate. Schools, churches and synagogues, mental health centers and a host of professionals and paraprofessionals are joining an ever-growing network of parenting educators.

Why?

- Society has changed so much in the past 30 years that the need for new parenting skills has become imperative.
- The old autocratic approach seems to foster rebellion in modern children.
- The newer permissive style also has been found wanting.
- Parents want something that works!
- With so much mobility, the informal parenting education of the extended family is missing.
- Parenting has become recognized as a skill and, like any skill, it can be improved.
- As one mother put it, "Kids don't come with instructions."

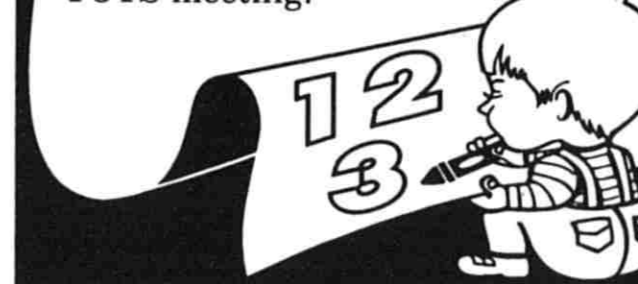
We are pleased to offer our first Active Parenting Course which consists of 6 two-hour sessions beginning in March. The class nights are: March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 15 & 22 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Cherry Creek Elementary. If interested, please call Maureen Dorrough or Jackie Schnackenberg at 897-9257. Spaces are limited so call today!

TOTS ON TRACK FOR SCHOOL (TOTS)

Our kick-off meeting for a newly formed preschool parents' group was a huge success. There were about 15 people in attendance at Runciman in the Board of Education room. The speaker, Linda Huppert, works at Michigan Family Resources with parents and teachers who deal with preschoolers.

She enlightened the group with tips on discipline which included the many points of the philosophy for "1,2,3 Magic" and "Discipline with Love and Logic."

Watch for our next meeting in March, "Growing Up Healthy." All parents of children age five and under are invited to attend any TOTS meeting.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education meets the second Monday of each month (except April which will be the third Monday). All people are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings which are held in the Administration Building (Runciman, 300 High St.) beginning at 7:30 pm.

BOARD MEMBERS

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Marsha Wilcox.....President | Pete Gustafson.....Vice President |
| Norm Byrne.....Secretary | Jack Lane.....Treasurer |
| Ann Mulder.....Trustee | Ellen McClain.....Trustee |
| Mark Blanding.....Trustee | |

ITM's warehouse receives final blessing from Vergennes officials

By Marc Popiolek
Contributing Writer

ITM Corporation has received final site plan approval from the Vergennes Township Board and can now begin construction plans.

"They want to start construction as soon as the weather breaks," said Gil Wise, a consultant for the board.

ITM's request was recommended to the board from the planning commission following an informal and formal hearing that provided a set of guidelines for the project to be accepted.

Among the provisions was a limitation of employees and the paving of a second access road.

ITM will construct a 100,000 square foot warehouse in the Lincoln Lake Industrial District, of which 75,000 square feet will be used for storing products. The other 25,000 square feet will provide light manufacturing space.

The maximum employee count at the new facility will be 30 people over three shifts.

The building will never be 100 percent production, but rather mostly warehouse as ITM is required to keep one week of inventory on hand for "just in time" shipping to its custom-

ers, according to research performed by the architectural firm, Winkelmann Associates.

Traffic to and from the site is estimated at 19 trucks per day, roughly one truck every half hour.

In addition, a private road along the west property line will be improved to provide Consumer's Power access to their new

substation and to ease traffic on Lincoln Lake, according to Wise.

The site will be served by wells and septic systems.

ITM has discussed a third phase to their project, which includes offices, but Vergennes officials said another phase will depend on sewage improvements to the surrounding area.

"Winter Smash" provides students with alternatives

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Students who attend Winter Smash, a teen night at Lowell High School, will be presented with striking alternatives to negative behavior.

Winter Smash is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 22 from six until 10 p.m. The cost will be \$5 per person.

Jeff Grenell, a youth evangelist, will present a positive alternative to negative behavior. He will speak to students about issues facing them in school and in their families.

"His message will show kids there is hope and they can accomplish and achieve," said coordinator of the event Marti Kelly, who also serves as youth director for Christian Life Center. "Society has changed kids' needs haven't. They still


need people to listen to them and still want to feel important."

Area churches and the YMCA have all been involved in setting up the evening of fast-paced activity for Lowell youths.

Both high school gyms will be open for basketball and volleyball, and pizza and pop will be provided.

"Our hope is this will give students positive ways to make choices," Kelly said. "Kids don't always know the consequences of their actions. Then they get into their 20's and wish they hadn't done all that stuff."

Punctuality is the thief of time.
—Oscar Wilde




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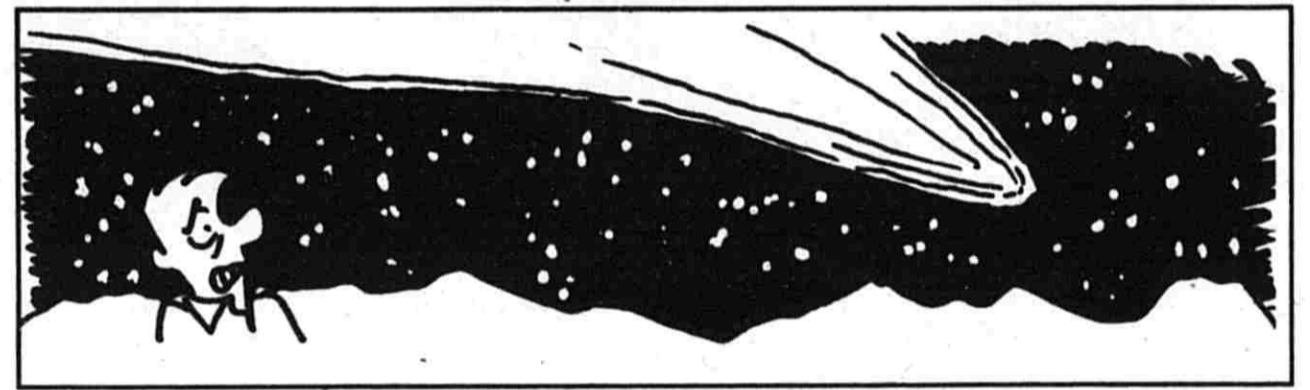
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PUBLIC NOTICE

KEENE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Keene Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 4, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. to receive public comment on:

- 1) A request by Jeanne VanderSloot and Edwin and Doris Roth to rezone approximately 40 acres from Low Density Residential to Agricultural Residential property located at 855 S. Whites Bridge Rd. and the adjoining lot, Lowell, MI.
- 2) An ordinance be implemented regarding the Construction of Accessory buildings. Said Ordinance reads as follows: Accessory buildings shall be stick-built or the equivalent new building construction. No mobile home, tank, junk object, or salvage materials, trailer, vehicle or similar items shall be utilized as an accessory building or storage structure; provided, however, that such requirement shall not be applicable to bona fide agricultural storage or activities, or to tool sheds or similar temporary storage structures utilized pursuant of the construction of a building, so long as the period of construction does not exceed one (1) year.

The Rezoning Request and the Keene Township Zoning Ordinance and maps are available for public inspection at the Township Hall during regular office hours. Please call 642-9809 for further information.

Mary Benedict
Chairman