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## The Lowell Ledger <br> Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Volume 23, Issue 5
Wednesday, December 2, 1998


LHS SPORTS PARENT/PLAYER MEETING There will be an informational meeting for all Lowell High School winter athletes and their parents on Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB MEETING
The Athletic Boosters will hold their regular business meeting in the high school staff lounge on Monday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. Please come and help support our athletes.

SENIOR ALL-NIGHT PARTY PAYMENTS DUE
Payments for the Senior All-Night Party may be turned in to Deb Lonick at the high school cafeteria on Thurs., Dec. 3, and Fri., Dec. 4 , during lunch periods. Checks in installments of $\$ 25$ or the total amount of $\$ 100$ may be made out to Lowell Senior Parents.

SKI CLUB PACKAGES
Cannonsburg Ski Club packages are still available until the following dates: elementary (turn into the office) Dec. 3 (ages 8 \& older); middle school, Dec. 2; high school, Dec. 3.
Any questions or for more information, contact Robin Briggs, 897-9904, or Kathy Talus, 897-4125.

AMERICAN LEGION HOLIDAY POTLUCK
The Clark-Ellis American Legion and Auxiliary holiday family potluck will be held at 1 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6 at Schneider Manor. Meat and coffee will be furnished, bring a dish to pass and your own table service. The sponsor is Angeline Mulder.

LMS BAND CONCERT
The Lowell Middle School seventh and eighth grade holiday band concert will be held on Thursday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. in the middle school gym.

AUDITIONS FOR LAAC PLAY
Auditions for the Lowell Area Arts Council play Blithe Spirit by Noel Coward will be held Dec. 9,10 and 11 at the Arts

Main Street, cont'd. pg. 6


Edgar Trigger's "The Roaring 20 's" is a comedy
 about a family which looks at the fads and foibles of the time period when everybody was doing the Charleston, and The Flapper Girl reigned supreme. Jay Desmond returns home and announces his intentions to live with his sister Jessie, much to the chagrin of her husband Dexter. Jessie has other things on her mind, like who has deposited $\$ 10,000$ into her account. Her daughters think Mama has herself a sugar daddy. It's not until the final curtain audiences find out who Jessie's benefactor is. "The Roaring Twenties" is showing Dec. 3,4 and 5 at the Lowell High School Performing Arts Center. Shows start at 7 p.m. Tickets are $\$ 5$ for students, $\$ 6$ for adults, and tickets at the door are \$7. A dinner will be served by the Art and Drama Club from 6 until 6:30 p.m. before Saturday's closing performance. Pictured above, left to right, are: Annie McMahon (Della Dunning), Dara Anchors (Jessie Dunning), and Shanion Finnegan (Karen Dunning). Pictured to the left, left to right, are: Casey Parker (Cynthia Harwood) and McMahon.

Santa brings in holiday season and a sleigh full of activities


By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

Lowell's Christmas holiday celebration just got big-

## ger.

The Lowell Christmas parade will begin its annual march through Lowell at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5, followed by a day-long list of activities.
"We want to keep people right here in Lowell with festivities and fun," said Lowel Chamber of Commerce promotion publicist Liz Baker.

This year's parade is expected to have 50 -plus entries. "The deadline has passed but we usually get late entries in." The theme-this-year-is
"Christmas Around the World."

The parade route will begin on Howard Street (at Bushnell Elementary) and proceed east to Hudson, It will then go south to M-21, easton Main Street and north on

Jackson, ending at the Methodist Church.

Following the parade, children can have their picture taken with Santa from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Larkin's Other Place while their par-
Christmas, cont'd, pg 6

## Inside the Ledger

## Name the Biggest Turkey, Page 15



ObITUARIES

COOK - C. Robert Cook, Church officiating. Arrangeaged 68 of Lowell. passed was preceded in death by $h$ is
wife Iren and son Robert
Cer larles. Survived by his chill Fettertoff



 chneider-Thomas of Alto- (Mark) Stangerall of Lowell:
mother-in-law
Netlie
Bowne United Methodist
Coughin of WI,

## The Lowell Ledger

 (USPS 453-830)
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 Lowell Ledger Publishing Company,105 N. Broadway St., Lowell, MI 49331
Roger K. Brown Thad Kraus $\underset{\text { Publisher }}{\text { (616) 897-9261 }}$ Editor Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell,

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## BOWNE TOWNSHIP

## PLANNING COMMISSION

 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED REZONING OF CERTAIN PROPERTY FROM R-R (RURAL RESIDENTIAL) TO U(URBAN RESIDENTIAL)Notice is hereby given that the Bowne
Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 10 1998, at $7: 30$ p.m. in the historic Township
Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash Avenue Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash Avenue Alto, Michigan, to hear public comment
regarding: 1) a proposed amendment to regarding: 1) a proposed amendment to
Article 8, U-R District to delete mobile home parks as a special land use in the U-R zoning district, and to add mobile home parks as a permitted use in the U-R zoning
district, and 2) a zoning map chang district, and 2) a zoning map change to
rezone the property indicated on the map below in Section 4 from the R-R district to the U-R district. The proposed zoning
amendment and zoning map change for the amendment and zoning map change for the
proposed rezoning may be inspected the proposed rezoning may be inspected at the
Township Hall on Wednesdays or Fridays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.
ber




Richard (Barbara) Carey of ORLOWSKI - Richard L
Lowell,Michael Mary) Carey
 TREASURER'S OFFICE TAX COLLECTION SCHEDULE The following schedule is for the December 1998 tax collection hours. The
Treasurer will be in to Treasurer will be in the township office
the purpose of tax collections 0 NLY.



Dec. 23 8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
NOTE: The last payment date in December
is Wednestay Dece is Wednesday, December 23. The township
office will be closed D. Office will be closed December 24
January 3 , 1999. January 3 , 1999 .
Taxes may be paid any day the Township
ofice is open tor Totice is open for business: Monday
Thursday $8: 00$ a.m. -5.00 me Thas $8: 00$ a.m. $5: 00$ p.m.
The Treasurer's normal business day is
Tuesday. If you have any questin concerening taxes, call the Township office
691-8950. 691-8450.

Charles R. Palazzolo, Treasurer

 called in to find any possible additional explosives at Lowel
HighSchool when the bomb went off in
the sey als they also responded to tome thenests. Yago has found people a
young as wo years and as old a s 56 .
 explosives around and parents were fascinated to walch Yago
them. The boys and
his stuff. There are 22 canine teams in Michigan, 12 of whic


We are a UPS pick up point. Bring your prepared
packages to our office \& UPS will pick them up here. Lowell Ledger/Buyers Guide 105 N. Broadway 897-9261

## GRATTAN TOWNSHIP


We're on our way to being one of the only fully
staffed nussing facities staffed nursing facilities in the Grand Rapids area! one of the top performers in the Long Term care industry with a $93 \%$ rating from the Health Care Administration of Michigan and an
ABOVE AVERAGE STATE SURVEY.
RN up to $\$ 17.20$ per hour LPN up to $\$ 14.25$ per hour
Currently we have the following open positions
1st shift RN/LPN (Part time)
1st shift CENA (Full time) 2nd shift RN/LPN (Part time) 2nd shift CENA (Full time)
CENA classes available!!!!! Please inquire at:
The LaURELS OF KENT
350 N. Center • Lowell, MI 4933 Phone 616-897-8473


Students eye health matters
Sheep eyes as part of the school's health curriculumy
It was a reat day as the Cherry Creek Elementary students actually saw the eye parts they
Kody Bisell contemplates his his. next cut. Bissell and other Cherry Creek students It was a great day as the Cherry Creek Elementary


Kits make dealing with emergency situations less troubling



Severe weather can cause even the best of drivers to find themselves in an emergency situation. Last winter, the Auto Club responded to more than 500,000 emergency road service requests from drivers having car troubles.


Attention All Coaches, Proud Parents, Athletes \& Others Who Wish To Submit Photos In The Ledger...

It is important that the subject's face not be shaded in order to print your photo clearly in the paper.
All group pictures should be taken
WITHOU caps, visors, etc.

Photos will no longer be accepted if faces are too dark.

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Human Resource Department • 3375 S. Division Ave. •Grand Rapids, Michigan 49548
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Judd T. Carroll, D.M.D.
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## Viewpoint



Flat River Outreach Ministries will distribute holiday baskets


Vergennes Township amends private road ordinance



Area Births

## ${ }^{\text {and }}$. silm



Most things in my life have come pretty much as a total surprise to me. In other words. Im not mutrect when was at atomat
planning ahead. Ihave friends who cant make move without
 when I get there. Next montont? Next week? Tomorrow? Forget
about it That's sll future shock. Ital Istarted with kindergarten. Things were cookin' along
pretty good. then one day they dressed me up and told mel was
 under me when I graduated from high school. Then it was out
of the house and off to college. Another surprise. One day I
woke up and I was in the arm. Presto chango, and I was
 Oever planned any of this stuff!
The list of life's surprices The list of life's surprises goes on, but the latest addition
has been this grandfather business. Madison caught me completely by surprise when she was born about a year and a half

 finger every chance she gets.
 her mom, dad, dog and soon to be be little brother. Angie, her
mom.my daughter...ass this sisood. She say the hounh of
Maddie and seeing each other every day is atotall trightenMaddii and Iseeing each otherevery day is atotally frighten-
ing concep. Must be $I$ ' m pretty good grandpa. spoil her


| Sharing |
| :--- |
| The Visian |
| $\substack{\text { PETER L.gustaFson } \\ \text { Board of Education President }}$ |

At Thanksgiving, our htoughts are often drawn back to the
Pilgrims who arived on our shores more than 350 years ago. America's public schools began with the Massachusets Puri-
tans in the middle of the 1 7 th century. The Puritans believed tans in the middle of the 17 th century. The Puritans believed
that families and churches were primarily responibe for
raising children. The schools had a morer limited focous: Teachraising children. The schools had a more limited focus: Teach-
ing the three R S-reading, writitng and arithmeti. $I$. was not
not ing the three R s s-reading, writing and arithmetic. It was not
untit the begning of this cenury that the role of public
education truly began to change.
 $\stackrel{\text { lion, }}{ }$ lunch programs.
 JONATHANSAYS: In Michigan, a guardian is a person in
charge of another person and is smpowerd to make personal

 same ereson acts as both yuardian and conservator of another
and his or her asses, and sometimes those roles are split.
The information contained in this column is oot to be
 not be relied upon as such. If legal advice or legy
tation is desired, please consult with a n attorey

## DEAR JONATHAN: What is the difference between a guarc

## Letters, Letters, Letters.

The Lowell Ledger welcomes all "Letters to the Editor"for publication on its "Viewpoin"" page. Letters can be typed or written. However, we ast that they do not exced one written page or one typed, double-spaced page.
"Letters to the Editor", hould be sent to the Lowell Ledger, 105 N. . Broad way, P.O. Box 122, , Editing may be necessary for space, clarity and to avoid obscenity,
The Lowell Ledger thanks you in advance for your cooperation.

For four days following that incident we had the perfec

 Then we screwed things up. We stopped at the Haunted
Hamburge on our way back tophoni. We ead the dreaded
"Lady" as our waitress this time. Maddie was on her best behavior.
We told the waitress what had come of her little talk with
Maddie when we were there four days earier. She remem-
 bered talking to Maddie. The next thing we knew, hhe Cady
and Maddie were huggng, smiling and cxhanging isses. We
couldn't believe e it. Of course the whole concept of using the couldn't believe it of oforse the whole concept of using the
"Lady" as a tantrum deterrent was now lost forever. We had hessed up a really, really good thing.
That's my Maddie story. Like I said, I'm as surprised a



125 YEAR AGO IN THE
LOWELL WEEKLY JOURNAL - DECEMBER 3, 1873 retawell con
Mercurry stoo
The Capitol cornerstone will be laid at Lansing tomorrow. The Lowell National Bank is on firm footing. in spite

100 YEARS AGO IN THE LEDGER - DECEMBER 1,1898 Yet another survey to find the cheapestr railroad right-Of Grand Rapids Belding and Saginaw and will save $25-30$ miles Wistance between Greenville and Chicago. The one otrer fortutpager among five large ads. is of astor in another town who leaves ch More troops arab being sent off to Cuba. for post-war duty
Meanwhile controversy vera acquiring the Philippines contin

75 Years ago in the Lowell Ledger and ALTO SOLO - NOVEMBER 29,1923 A 21 -year-old clerk of the Alto Farmers State Bank pleads
guilty to emberzling 54,000 by juggling savings accounts. The Thanksgiving show at the Strand Thearre is "Pioneer
Trails", the Gold Rush of '49, with GOLD and MASSACRE


50 YEARS AGO IN THE LEDGER - DECEMBER 2, 1948 Officer Lafayette Tanner turns over a yearling buck deer
Lilled by a $C \& O$ train to the school for the hot luch progar Only the Grand River still produces commercial quantities of mussel shells for pearl buttons.
The American Legion Memoral Building Bowling Alle will open tomorrow evening to the public.
Gordon Frost has no luck deer-hunting his neighbor. Clayton Engle. shoots one on Frostits farm. 25 YEARS AGO IN THE LEDGER-SUBURBAN LIFE President Nixon and Gov. Milliken ask for gas station
closings on weeknds. 50 mph speed limits. cooler houses and
 This year schristmas parade will startat Thomet sand
to the Stare Savings Bank parking lot. where Santa will greel
the kids. Amie Deloof is in charse
He kids. Annie DeLoof is in charge.
Harold Engylearad soctage a Morgan Lake is burglarized


Christmas, continued.... From Page 1


Pratic, Inc. HEATING \& AIR CONDITIONING bryant SALES - SERVICE - INSTALLTION bryant. 1301 Bowes Rd., REDAIRS OF MOST MAKES AND MODELS UPGRADE \& REPLACEMENTS UPGMADE \& REPLACEMENTS
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IN-FLIOR HEATING SYSTEMS Estimates
AIR CONDITINING AIR CONDITIONING

## SYNOPSIS

REGULAR MEETING OF THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD November 16, 1998-7 p.m. MOTIONS APPROVED:
Minutes of the October 19, 1998 meeting samended
Treasurer's reportinvoices
Motion to table decision on amount to hermal imaging camera. Motions to approve spec mermits for Ron Rittersdorf for eoption use permits for Ron Rittersdorf for boat storage and Paul Wilco
hauling grain.

- Motion to approve the annual North Kent Transit Service contract in the amount of $\$ 2,000.00$ from Community Developmen Allocated funds.
Motion to change allocated amount of
pron comprehensive plan project from
community development block grant funds community development ble from $\$ 2,000.00$ to $\$ 2,859.00$. Motion to adopt Ordinance 98-9, an - Motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 21, 1998, at 7:00 p.m.

Mari C. Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

Center, 149 S. Hudson St. at 7 p.m.
Preview scripts max be obtained Preview script may ye obtained at the center for a small
deposit. The play requireses wo women ages and four womenen and one man an of various manes. Peerfor-
mances will beathe eerforming Arst Centerin mid mances will be ath the Pet
Jim Marron will direct BLOOD DRIVE
The Lowell Fire Station is sponsoring a Grand Valley
Blood Program blood drive on Wednesday, Dec. 16 from 3to Tp.m. at the Look Memorial Fire Station. Dec. 16 from 3 to d... From Page 1

chestnuts as a holiday appe
tizerwhile elisenind Chist


## PERFORMANCE

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choices to a handful of mutual funds offered by a bank or insurance company. We offer every mutual fund, stock and bond available.
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Strauss \& Co., Inc. Registered Investment Advisors

LOWELL HOCKEY ALUMNI The Lowell hockey program will host an alumni game at
Michigan National ce Center Dec. 27 from 10 to $11: 30 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. If you are a former Lowell hockey player and are interested in
playing, please contact Paul Whale, $897-0103$ or $J$ Iim Blai playing, plea
$897-6436$.
PARENTS OF SENIORS -GET THOSE PICS IN:
PARENTS OF SENORS-GET THOSE PICS IN:
Pictures are neded of your high school seniors for the
 may be dropped off a t the high school office or media center.


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V
en you buy your life insurance from us through AutoOwners Insurance, you'll receive special discounts on your home, mobile home or car insurance. We'll save you money. As an indeyendent Auto Owners agent, we take great interest in you - as well as your home and car. W are specialists in insuring people
and the things they own.

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| (3) WWMT Animal Rescue Paid Program |  |  |  |  |  | News |  | Cas Sews Sturray Morning EE) |  |  |  |  |  |
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SATURDAY AFTERNOON DECEMBER 5, 1998



SUNDAY MORNING DECEMBER 6， 1998

| EROADCAST STATIONS | $6: 00$ | $6: 30$ | $7: 00$ | $7: 30$ | $8: 00$ | $8: 30$ | $9: 00$ | $9: 30$ | $10: 00$ | $10: 30$ | $11: 00$ | $11: 30$ |
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| SUNDAY AFTERNOON |  |  | DECEMBER 6， 1998 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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- Area Births
- College News
- Engagements
- Coming Events

Advertising

## Vergennes Township approaches city on water and sewer partnerships


#### Abstract

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor


Times are a changin
Back in the early 90 s when Lowell Charter Township was discussing water and sewer agreements with the city of Lowell, Vergennes Township was not interested.

With changes being brought on by growth, that has shifted. Vergennes Township officials approached the city about exploring fu
ter and sewer usage.
Vergennes Plannin
Vergennes Planning Commission addressed the idea of possible water and sewer agreements with the Lowell Planning Commission.
orgennes is interested in seeing if there is a possibility of the township partnering in with the Lowell Tow and city agreement," said Vergennes Township chairman, Rick Gillette
While interested in continuing discussions, Lowell city manager Dave Pasquale said the wastewater plant is near capacity and a utility study is in the process of being completed o determine the necessity for plant expansion.
"Expansion of the plant would take a few years," Pasquale said.

Through its agreement with the city, Lowell Township purchased its use of 17 percent of capacity.

The discussions have been spurred on by Vergennes Township's review of Rich Bieri's light industrial proposal at
the end of Godfrey Street. This proposal brought about issues of future development and public utilities.
The property slopes from north to south, thus a public septic system would be installed at the opposite end of where it might eventually hookup to city utilities.
"It makes sense to come to the south end where the hookup is," Vergennes Township planning commissioner Bob Pfaller said.

There are Vergennes Township businesses (IBM and Fairchild) which are direct water and sewer customers. They pay double rates, according to Pasquale.

The Lowell city manager said further exploration would determine what type of agreement there would be and under what circumstances.

Planning Commission split on suburban residential variance

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor
The Lowell Planning Commission vote was split as to whether Mark Osburn should be allowed a variance so that a residence in back of his property at 741 Grindle can be built. With suburban residential zoning. 165 feet of width is required for each lot.

Because of the present topography of the lot and current structures, the property needs to be split east and west - not north and south.

Osburn proposes a 33 -foot wide easement for access, well short of the 165. The other lot would be 303.5 feet in width. The property is being split east and west due to a natural drain.
"There is an orientation limit of what he can do with a second home. It cannot be split so the homes are side by side,"
city manager Dave Pasquale said. "The primary use of the property is being maintained... the width is in question."

The first motion was for a variance approval with the stipulation that safety vehicles be able to get in and out for emergencies and that the driveway be paved. That motion died due to lack of support.

A second motion to deny the variance because it does not eet review standard points B \& C drew a split decision (3-3). The Zoning Board of Appeals will now decide on the variance at the Dec. 21 city council meeting.

Commissioner Jim Hall, who motioned for denial of the variance, noted the commission was arguing how the criteria applied - not whether to apply the criteria.
"You can have all the compassion, but review or rejection should be based on standards approved by the city council and planning commission," Hall said.

Lowell Planning Commission chairman Dan Brubake said the lots are large but don't have much width.

Reasons given in support of granting a variance included A problem with drainage on the south end of the property

- The shape of the parcel;

It can't be split into north and south parcels, although there is enough space to meet requirement of two lots; and -They don't see how it is a detriment to the neighborhood/ adjoining properties.

Commissioners not in favor of the variance said it does not meet all the standards approved by the planning commission and city council.

A public hearing will be set at the Dec. 7 city council meeting. The issue will then go before the Zoning Board of Appeals on Dec. 21.

## To avoid delay, Vergennes Township declines CDBG monies

By Thaddeus J. Kraus

Lowell Ledger Editor

The prospect of waiting an indefinite amount of time so that a federal review could be completed did not meet with Vergennes Township's immediate needs.

The township declined $\$ 13,000$ in Community Development Block Grant Funds toward completion of barrier-free parking/access and restroom facilities, at Vergennes Township Hall due to the federal government's request for a review of the township hall.

The review was requested because the historic building is ver 50 years old and there is the possibility it could be considered for the National Registrar of Historic Places.
In making a determination, a history of the area would have to be reviewed, a timeline of the building's use would have to be drawn up, and plans would have to be drawn up for the building's two separate uses.

The hall was built in the early 1800's but has been renovated a numberof times since then, according to Vergennes Township clerk Mari Stone.

The review could take anywhere from six months to two years," Stone explained

Vergennes Township, instead, will pay for the project out of its general fund so it can be completed now.

As a result, the federal government which allocated $\$ 20,000$ of the $\$ 28,500$ in 1997-98 toward the completion of the ownship's comprehensive plan said it would also cover the township's share ( $\$ 8,500$ ) of the cost.

## Lowell's Knights cookin' now, commission supports food booth project

By Thaddeus J. Kraus

Lowell Ledger Editor

With support from the city Parks and Recreation Committee and the Kent County Youth Fair Board, the Lowell Knights of Columbus received approval for the construction of a food booth.
The 1,024 square foot pole barn-type building will meet the Class A restaurant code, enabling it to serve food on the weekends at horse shows as well as for other activities throughout the year.
"It's a lot of work putting in and taking down a booth every time you want to do something at the fairgrounds," said


Lowell Knights of Columbus' Elgin Wolschlager.
When the Knights of Columbus is not using the booth, the youth fair board and others will have an opportunity to utilize the structure


Second-year Webelos from Lowell Cub Scout Pack 3188, in an effort to earn their citizenship badge, attended the Nov. 3 Lowell City Council meeting and met with Lowell mayor Bill Thompson to discuss city government Pictured above, front row, left to right, are: Brad Amidon, Austin Blough, Randy Frye, Jon Latva, Kyle Austin, Brian Fry; second row, left to right, are: Jordan Ickes, Kevin Vanderwulp, Cory Ruisink, Chad Drenth, Nathan Clements and Jonathan Riddle. Pictured in back is Mayor Thompson.

