

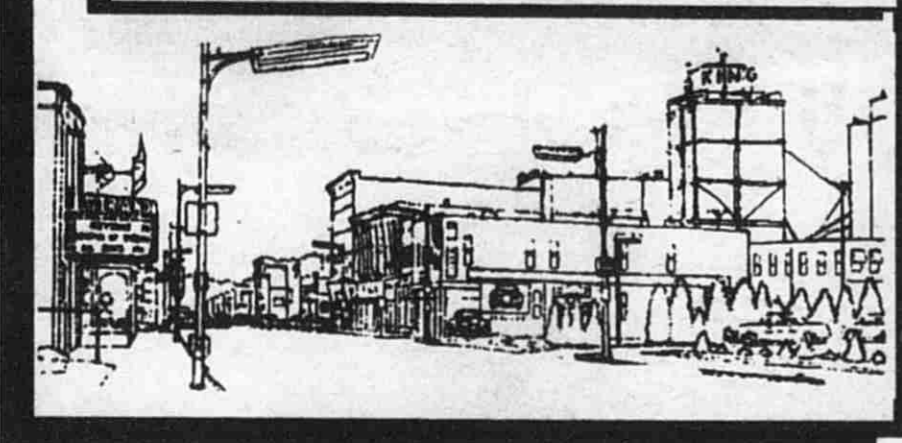
The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 5

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 2, 1998

Along Main Street



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

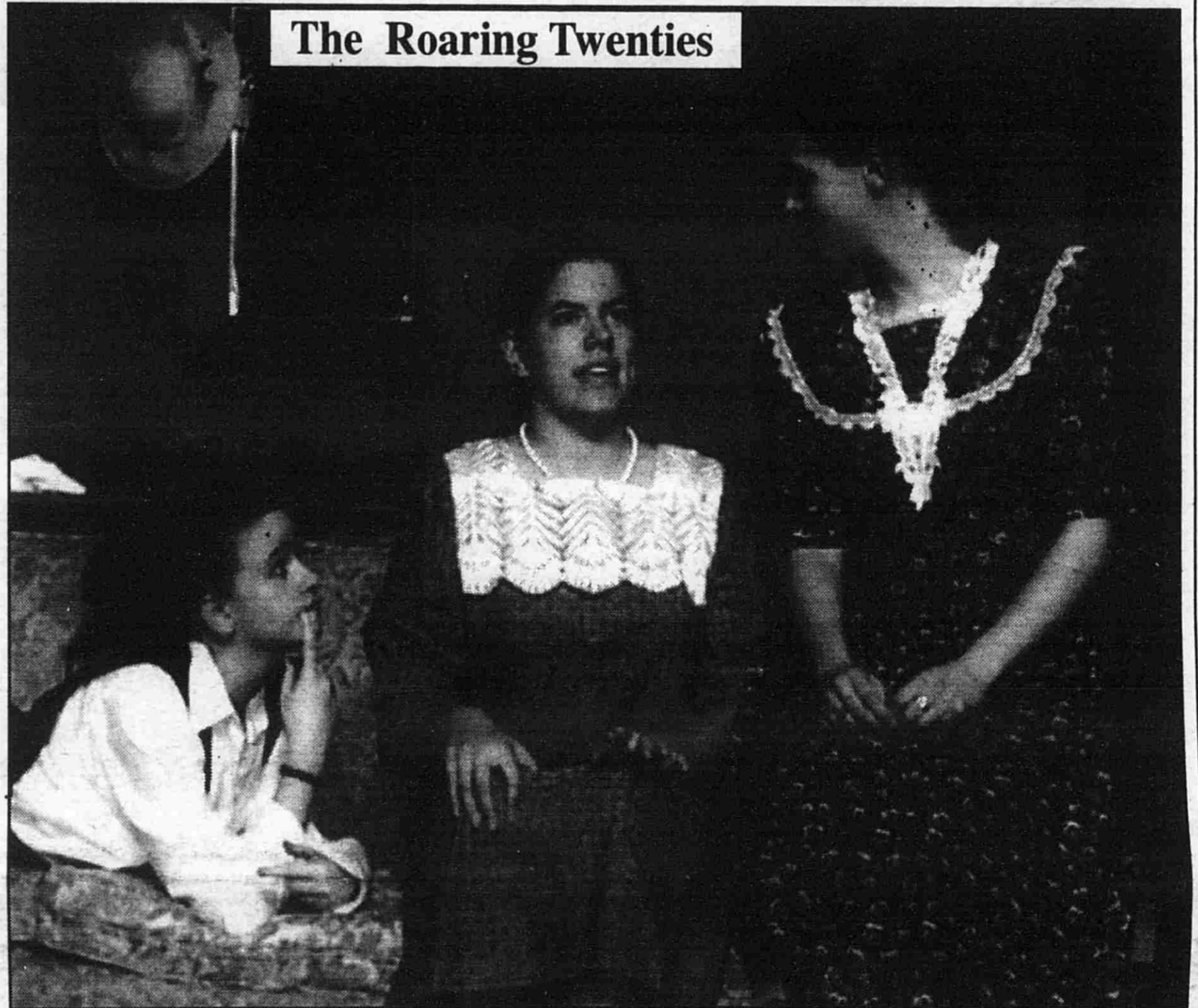
The Lowell Middle School seventh and eighth grade holiday band concert will be held on Thursday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. in the middle school gym.

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

The Roaring Twenties



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 Shannon 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



Lowell's annual Christmas parade begins Saturday at 10 a.m. at Bushnell Elementary.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
 Lowell Ledger Editor

Lowell's Christmas holiday celebration just got bigger.

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 Lowell 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, east on 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

DAYTIME MORNING

Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like 'This Morning', 'Good Morning America', 'Sesame Street'.

DAYTIME AFTERNOON

Table with columns for time slots (12:00-6:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like 'Oprah Winfrey', 'The Today Show', 'The Dick Cavett Show'.

FRIDAY EVENING DECEMBER 4, 1998

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like 'Jeopardy!', 'Walker, Texas Ranger', 'Nash Bridges'.

FRIDAY LATE NIGHT DECEMBER 4, 1998

Table with columns for time slots (12:00-4:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like 'Star Trek: The Next Generation', 'Late Late Show', 'The Tonight Show'.

SATURDAY MORNING DECEMBER 5, 1998

Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like 'Cartoon Network', 'Nickelodeon', 'PBS Kids'.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON DECEMBER 5, 1998

Table with columns for time slots (12:00-6:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like 'College Football', 'NBA Basketball', 'Wrestling'.

SATURDAY EVENING DECEMBER 5, 1998

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SUNDAY MORNING DECEMBER 6, 1998

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, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WZZM, DISN, TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CN, NICK, A&E, FSD, TNT, NASH, TLC, SCIFI, COM, HIST, AMC, H&G, LIFE, HBO, MAX) listing various programs and movies.

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Vergennes Township approaches city on water and sewer partnerships

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Times are a changin'. Back in the early 90s 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 further relations in terms of land, water and sewer usage. Vergennes Planning Commission addressed the idea of possible water and sewer agreements with the Lowell Planning Commission.

"Vergennes is interested in seeing if there is a possibility of the township partnering in with the Lowell Township 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 to 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 meet 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 Brubaker 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 over 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 number of 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 township'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.

Wolschlager said the food booth will hook into existing utilities. The booth will have no storm sewer impact, require no asphalt and has sufficient parking.

Badge of Citizenship



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.

WEDDINGS WEDDINGS WEDDINGS WEDDINGS WEDDINGS

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FISH FRY

LOWELL MASONIC TEMPLE

Sat., Dec. 5

119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell

Adults...\$7.00
Children 6-10...\$4.25
Under 6 FREE

Public Welcome!
Includes pie & drink! • No tipping - ever!