

# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 24

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, March 31, 1999

## Bowne Township Planning Commission opposed to Landon rezoning request

••• The planning commission's unanimous decision not to recommend rezoning of 142 acres did nothing to deter the real estate firm's continued pursuit. Landon will now take its case to the county planning commission.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

If Sanford Green, vice president in charge of real estate for Landon Companies, is correct in saying, "Many good things require ample persuasion," then his argument for the merits of rezoning 142 acres of ag land to urban residential in Bowne Township needs more persuasion.

If the approximately 250 Bowne Township residents in attendance, at the planning commission's special meeting to consider rezoning 142 acres of ag land to urban residential, think the unanimous vote to deny recommending Landon Companies' request for rezoning to the township board has taken the fight out of the Landon Company, they are wrong.

The 142 acres, owned by township supervisor Christian Wenger, run from 92nd St. south along Tyler Creek to 100th St.; then east on 100th to the property line and north on the property line to 92nd St.

Green was not surprised by the opposition that faced him Thursday night. "We're committed to seeing our way through this administrative rezon-

ing process. We will give our best shot when we get to the end of the process," he said. "I believe strongly in what we're trying to do. It is a good thing. We're not ready to quit trying to persuade people."

Next up, in that process for the Southfield company, is a presentation to the county planning commission in an effort to attain its recommendation for rezoning. From there its fight goes back to the township board of supervisors.

In stating what he felt were merits for rezoning, Green explained that there is an acute need for affordable, quality housing for middle income people. "It will allow people to enjoy a beautiful piece of land," he said.

Bowne Township Planning Commission chairperson Pam Lucas said the onus was on Landon to convince the planning commission why it should not stick with the township's long-range land use plan which calls for the property to remain agricultural.

A township resident asked how this parcel of property is any different from the Section IV parcel (from 60th St. to 68th St.) which the township recently rezoned urban residential.



Bob Tolan, Bowne Township planning consultant, explains why he believes the 142 acres should not be rezoned. Landon's Sanford Green, second from right, chats with Joseph Katz, Landon public relations consultant.

"The township wanted to be in compliance because our ordinance did not allow for mobile home parks. Thus, we rezoned part of Section IV because the long-range land use plan for it is urban-residential," Lucas said.

Pete Siler served on the board of appeals during a three-year stretch in the late 70s when the township adopted a land use ordinance.

"It was so the uses within the district could work in harmony without being in direct competition," Siler explained. "The township

Rezoning, cont'd. pg. 8



## Renovations Look'n Good

Look Committee board member Barb Brown presents Gordie Barry, vice chairperson of the Flat River Outreach Ministries interim board, with a check for \$10,000. The monies will be used toward renovation of the building's exterior. To date, approximately \$50,000 has been spent on heating and plumbing, a new roof, electric and tree removal. Flat River Outreach Ministries has collected roughly \$55,000 in monetary donations and grants.

## April workshops result from leadership Lowell Nov. meeting

••• Grant writing basics and communication competence are just two of the six workshops being offered over a two-day period.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

To assure maximum use of the Lowell Area Community Fund grants, a Lowell Community Leadership Learning Initiative has been implemented.

Through this initiative, businesses, organizations, nonprofits and individuals are encouraged to take part in two workshops being offered in the month of April by the Lowell Area Community Fund and the Direction Center, a management resource for nonprofit organizations.

The idea of offering workshops, seminars and classes to increase the ability of individuals, organizations and community stems from Leadership Lowell's November (1998) meeting.

The workshops will be held on two Thursdays, April 22nd and 29th.

The cost is \$7 per person or \$25 per organization if it is sending more than three people.

The workshops will run from 6 until 9 p.m. with snacks and beverages available 30 minutes (5:30 p.m.) prior to the start of the workshops.

"This is a great opportunity to learn for a very small amount of money," said Bert Bleke, Lowell Area Community Fund advisory committee member. "These workshops are being taught by

Leadership, cont'd. pg. 8

INSIDE THE LEDGER  
Lowell Community  
Survey,  
Pages 27 & 28

# OBITUARIES

**ALBERT** - Irene Catherine Albert, aged 80, of Belding, passed away Wednesday, March 24, 1999, at Spectrum Health, East Campus. She was born December 10, 1918, in Parnell to Edward and Elizabeth Costello Finn. She graduated from St. Patrick's High School in Parnell, with the class of 1936. She was a member of St. Mary's Church, Mariam, the Altar Society, and a former member of Keene Township Election Board. She was married April 26, 1938, in St. Patrick's Church, Parnell, to Harold T. Albert and he preceded her in death in 1996. She was also preceded in death by one son Ted Albert in 1996; her parents; three sisters Pearl Zahm, Mary Hendershot and Ella Zahm; and two brothers Joseph and James Finn. She is survived by her children Connie and Kenneth Neil of Hastings, Richard and Jean Albert, James and Edna Albert, Lester and Barbara Albert, Carroll and Vickie Albert, and Bonnie Albert, all of Belding. She is also survived by 23 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; one sister Louise Dietrich of Marne; one brother Gerald Finn of Bradington, FL; sisters-in-law Helen Finn of Rockford, Virginia Albert of

Belding; brother and sisters-in-law Joe and Regina Albert of Bradington, FL. Robert and Mary Albert of Belding, James and Kate Byrne of Ionia. Mass of Christian Burial was held Saturday with Father Troy Nevins and Father George Darling officiating. Interment in St. Mary's Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Second Century, St. Joseph School, or the Carmelites of Parnell.

**BLAIN** - Irene E. Blain, aged 79, of Hastings, formerly of Middleville, went to be with her Lord March 24, 1999, after a courageous battle with pneumonia. She is survived by her daughter Margene (Steven) Blashkiw of Middleville; five grandchildren David Tagg, Debra (Tom) Tagg-Horgan, Bradley and Mark Blashkiw and Jody Blain; brother Vernon (Helen) Karrar of Lake Odessa; sister Margaret (Allen) Sinters of Lake Odessa; sister-in-law Dorothy Karrar of Hastings; step-mother Clarisse Karrar of Mulliken; step-sister Nellie Stadel of Lowell; half-brothers Arthur Karrar of IA and Harold Karrar of Lansing; half-sisters Maxine Wildman of Mulliken and Carolyn Wapiennick of Potterville; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Saturday. Memorial contributions to the Middleville First Baptist Church or Pennock Foundation.

**BUHLER** - Norwood W. Buhler, aged 84, of Byron Center, went to be with his Lord Sunday, March 28, 1999. He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Marguerite D. (nee Snyder); children Maxie L. (Dotte) Buhler, Keith G. (Janice) Buhler; five grandchildren; two great grandchildren; brothers Waldon and Loren Buhler; and several brothers and sisters-in-law. Norwood was a member of the Never Give Up Club for 23 years. Funeral Services were held Tuesday at the Byron Center Chapel of Cook Funeral Home. Memorial contributions to the Never Give Up Club.

**HILTON** - Edith M. Hilton, aged 86, of Belding, passed away Wednesday, March 24, 1999, at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing. She was born August 11, 1912, in Lambeth Ontario, Canada, to George and Emily Joyce Walters. She was a graduate of Belding High School with the class of 1931. She was employed at Vogues Laundromat for 10 years. She was married August 7, 1936, in Angola, IN, to James A. Hilton and he preceded her in death March 30, 1993. She was also preceded in death by her parents and two brothers Phillip and James Walters; and one sister Laura Frost. She is survived by her children Linda Biggs and fiance Richard Nezwiek of Lowell, Jan and Bob Mehney of Belding, JoAnn and Tim Stahl of Ionia, and Phil Hilton of Ionia. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; one sister-in-law Fern Walters of Sand Lake and one brother-in-law Dr. Carl Frost of Fremont. Funeral and Committal services were held Friday with Rev. Dick Woodward officiating. Interment in Vergennes Cemetery in Lowell. Memorials may be made to the Belding Football Boosters Club.

**LAWRENCE** - Willard C. Lawrence, aged 89, of Saranac, passed away on Thursday, March 25, 1999, at his home. He was born April 13, 1909, in Willshire, OH, the son of Clinton and Zorpha (Reed) Lawrence. He married Marion Pingry on January 25, 1930 and she preceded him in death on December 2, 1994. Surviving are his children Jackie (Fred) Cahoon of Lowell, Ralph (Alyce) Lawrence of Lowell, Larry (Fran) Lawrence of TN and Gary Lawrence of Grand Rapids; seven grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; brothers Thurl (Noreen) Lawrence of AZ, and Lamoile (Dorothy) Lawrence of IN; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his daughters Marilyn Jean and Marsha Annette Lawrence; brothers Cecil and Ralph Lawrence; sister Mildred Bowers. Funeral services were held Monday at the Koops Funeral Chapel, Clarksville, with Rev. Troy Rininger officiating. Interment in South Boston Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Ionia Area Hospice.

**MARRON (VANAT)** - Lucille A. Marron (Vanat), aged 95, of Lowell, died March 15, 1999. She was preceded in death by husband Matthew Marron and son Robert Marron. She will be greatly missed by her son, James M. Marron and wife Evelyn; daughter-in-law Cora Marron; grandchildren Michael (Mildred) Marron, Aubrey Marron, Kathleen (Jose) Arroyave, and Mary Ann Marron; great-grandchildren Marilyn Marron, Ryan Persha and Aurora Arroyave. She was born in Chicago in 1903, moved to Grand Rapids in 1942 and Wayland in 1943. In 1963, Lucille moved to Florida and returned to Michigan last June. She had a wonderful sense of humor and always had a smile for everyone. We would especially like to acknowledge friends Jerry Persha, Daniel and Terri Cleary, and Harriet and Gary Ross. We also wish to express our thanks to the Hospice nurses and home health aides for their care and concern. Memorial services were held at Graceland Mausoleum, on Saturday. Memorial contributions to Hospice of Greater Grand Rapids are suggested rather than flowers.

**McDONALD** - Mr. James McDonald, aged 56, passed away Friday, March 26, 1999, in Cambridge, OH. Survived by his parents John and Mary

McDonald of Alto; six sisters Sister Maryellen McDonald, Pastoral Minister of St. Charles/St. Henry Churches, Rosebush, Mt. Pleasant, Anne (Joe) Druke of Grandville, Theresa (Tom) Powers of Kalamazoo, Bernadette (Bob) Norris of Hastings, Martha (Terry) Cliff of Grand Rapids, Judy McDonald of Wyoming, several nieces and nephews. Mass of Christian Burial was offered Tuesday at Holy Family Catholic Church, Caledonia, Rev. Fr. David E. LeBlanc as celebrant. Interment St. Patrick Cemetery, Caledonia.

**PUPEL** - Sheila M. Smith Pupel, aged 62, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, niece, cousin and friend, died at her home on March 21, 1999, after a valiant battle with cancer. Sheila was a graduate of Catholic Central High School and received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Aquinas College where she was a member of Kappa Gamma Pi Honor Society. Upon graduation, she taught microbiology lab at Aquinas and then taught science at Godwin Heights Junior High School before her marriage in 1960 to Daniel Pupel. Throughout her life, Sheila exemplified the Gospel message in her personal life and in her work with her parish Christian Service Commission, the RCIA program, Sacramental programs, and many social justice causes. She often accompanied Dan to matches and tournaments of the Forest Hills Central golf team and was affectionately called Mama Coach by the team members. Her courage, positive attitude and deep faith were an inspiration to all who knew her. Sheila's family was her treasure and her grandchildren were her special delight. She was fortified in her illness by the caring support of her many loving friends who eased her way to Heaven. Sheila was predeceased by her parents Andrew P. and Margaret Smith. She is survived by her devoted husband of 38 years, Daniel S. Pupel; her loving children Daniel Jr. and Deborah Derby of Portage, Margaret Mary and Douglas (Woody) Woodruff, Andrew and Ausma Pupel, Stephen and Diane Pupel, all of Grand Rapids; Ellen Pupel of Sunnyvale, CA; her eight precious grandchildren; her sister Mary Beth Walen; brothers A. Patrick Smith of Green Bay, WI, and Edward M. (Patricia) Smith; her sisters-in-law Evelyn Smith of Green Bay, WI, Eleanor Spicer, Evelyn Koskus, Virgie Merdzinski, Lorraine Pupel;

her aunt, Ellen McGavin and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Mass of Christian Burial was on Thursday at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Rev. James A. Chelich presiding. Interment St. Andrew Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Aquinas College McCarthy Golf Scholarship, Catholic Secondary Education Fund, St. Thomas Education Foundation, Hospice of Greater Grand Rapids. Arrangements by O'Brien Eggebeen, Gerst.

**SNYDER** - Leah R. Snyder, of Kalamazoo, passed away Monday, March 22, 1999. She was born June 7, 1915, to Sherman P. and Alice M. (Geib) Reynolds. She graduated from Lowell in 1933 and was a former member of Snow United Methodist Church where she was married to Clarence E. Snyder on May 29, 1940. She is survived by her husband of 59 years; two sons - Bruce (Joy) Snyder of Lawton, MI, and John Snyder of Three Rivers, MI; four granddaughters Sarah, Emily, Lisa and Laura; three sisters Lois (Merle) Aldrich of Mt. Pleasant, Sybil Robertson of Lowell and Alice Carol (John) Blanding of Lowell; brother-in-law Donald Snyder; sister-in-law Henrietta Thomas; several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Wednesday in Portage with Rev. Dr. James Morgan officiating. Interment Mt. Ever-Rest Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Snow United Methodist Church or Alzheimer's Association.

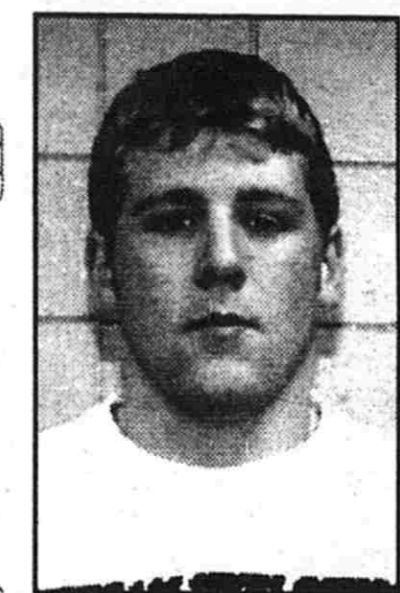
**TODD** - Mrs. Frances (Fran) Kay Todd, aged 55, of Alto, went to be with her Lord on Tuesday, March 23, 1999. She worked at the Post Office for 18 years. Mrs. Todd was preceded in death by her father David Townsend and brother John Townsend. She is survived by her husband Roger; children Micki and Alan Snyder, Rebecca Woodfield and special friend Michael Hardy; Peter and Marci Woodfield, Cole and Missy Todd; grandchildren Mary Frances Snyder, Amanda and Jeffery Todd; mother Mildred Townsend; brothers David and Alta Townsend, Jim and Ann Townsend, George and Barbara Townsend. Bill Townsend; granddops Tippy and Marion; and numerous nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Friday with Fr. James Kowalski as celebrant. Interment Whitneyville Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

# LOWELL POWERLIFTING TEAM

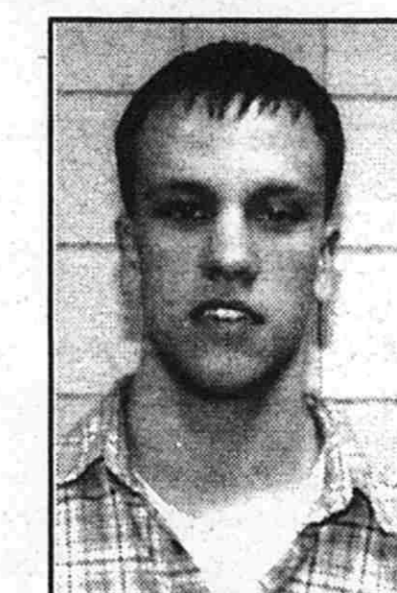
## National Tournament Competitors

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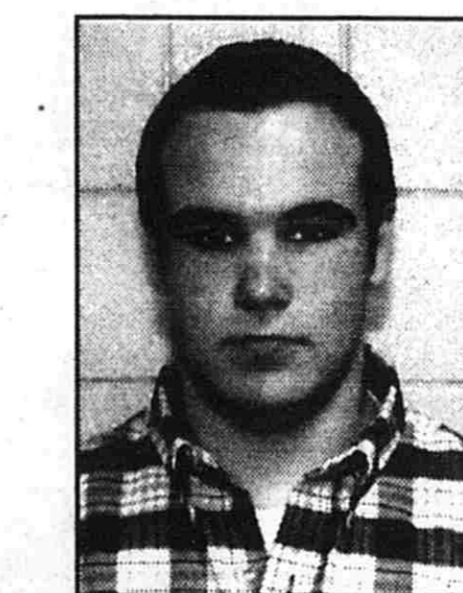
"Good Luck on Finishing A Great Season!"



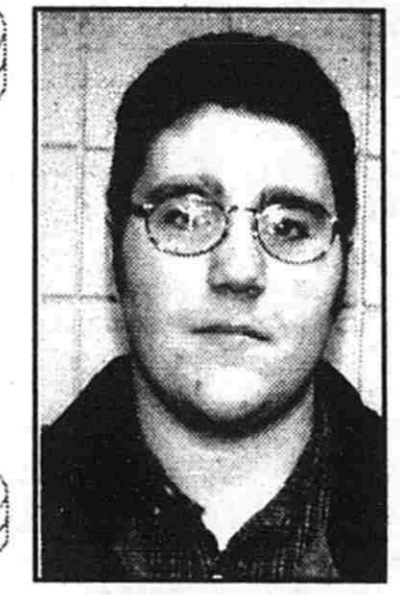
**Caleb Grummet**  
242 lbs. Jr



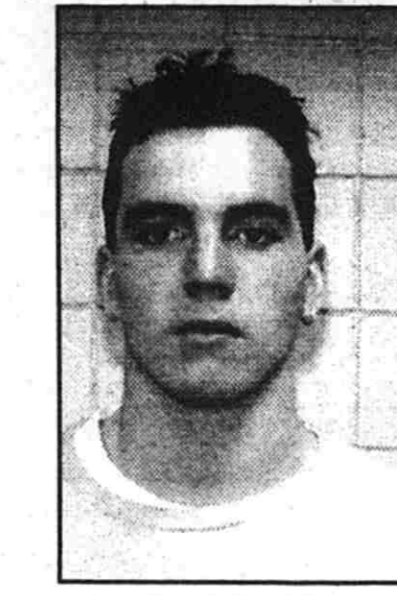
**Kurt Telman**  
148 lbs. So.



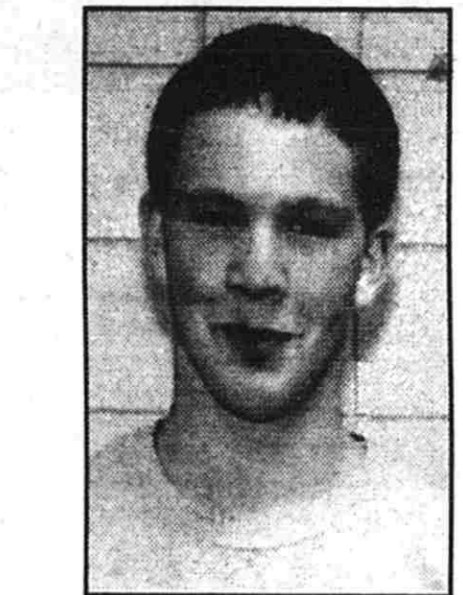
**Travis DeVoid**  
198 lbs. Fr.



**Jason Hill**  
SHW Fr.



**Matt Altoft**  
198 lbs. So.



**Neil Reibold**  
165 lbs. So.



**Kevin Craig**  
123 lbs. So.



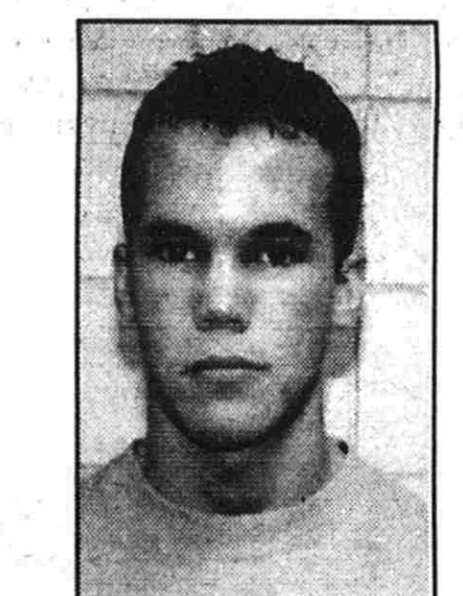
**Eric Stormzand**  
181 lbs. Fr.



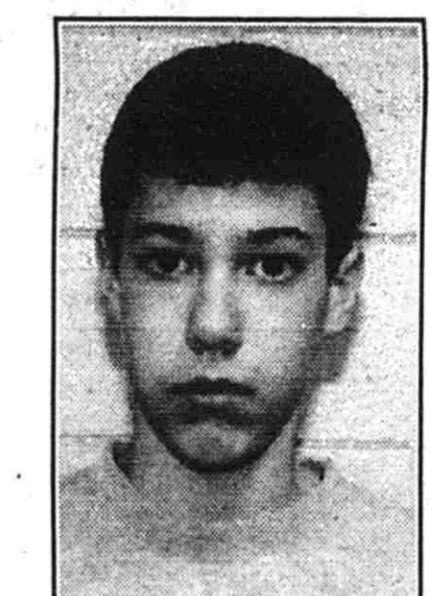
**Andy Curtis**  
220 lbs. So.



**Cory Perdaris**  
132 lbs. So.



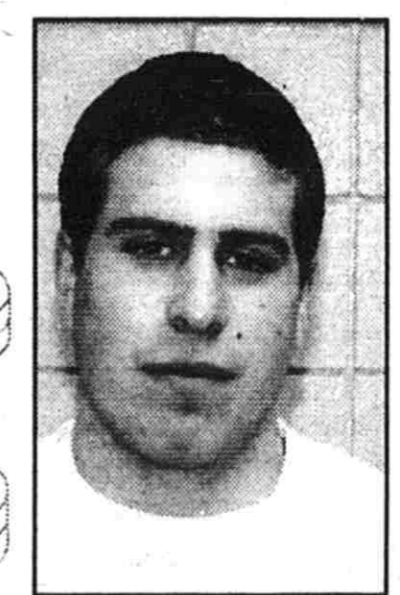
**Mike Dykstra**  
165 lbs. Jr.



**Zach Beechum**  
114 lbs. Fr.



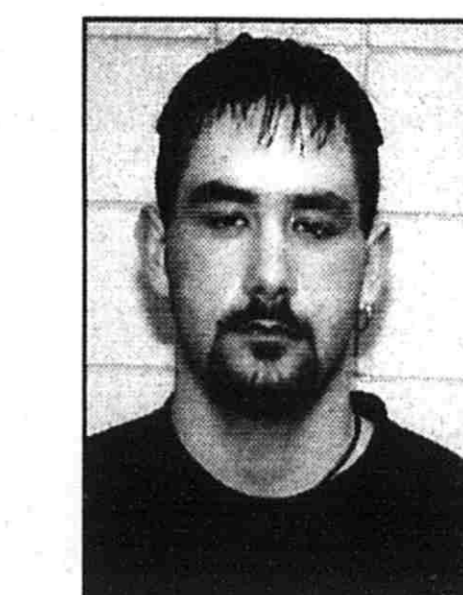
**Andy Nowak**  
198 lbs. Jr.



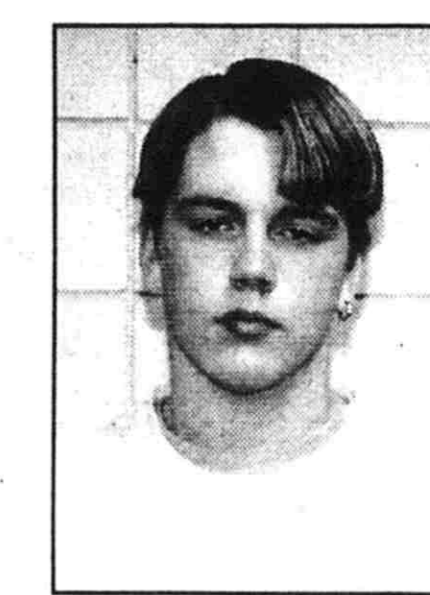
**Adam Tichelaar**  
165 lbs. Jr.



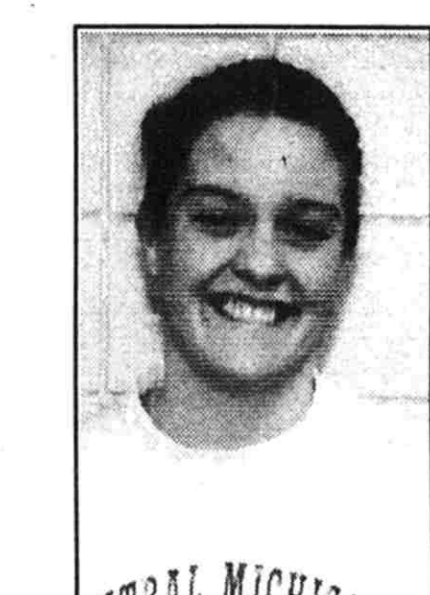
**Al Metternick**  
242 lbs. Fr



**Eric Yeiter**  
198 lbs. So.



**Kyle Sitzer**  
198 lbs. Fr.



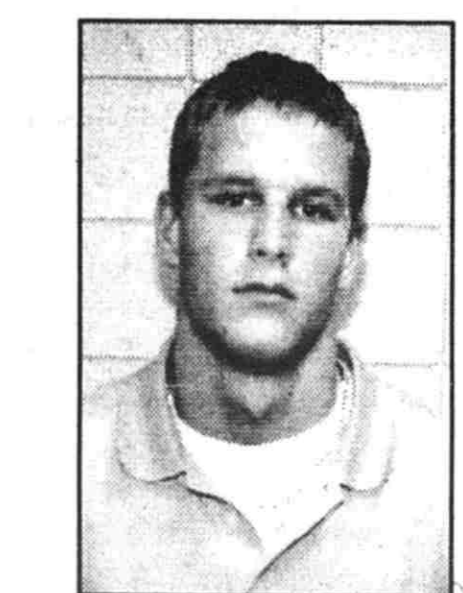
**Katie McPherson**  
women Jr.



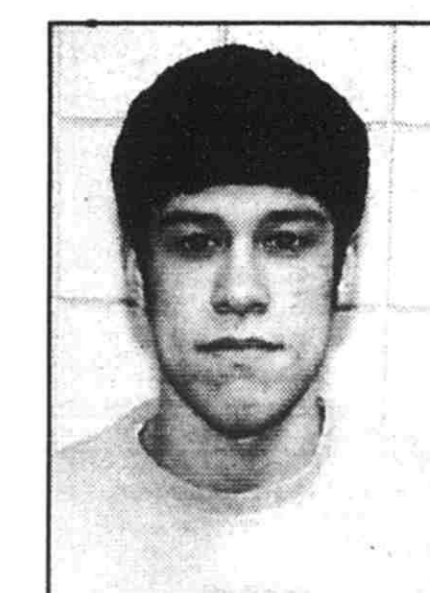
**Josh Brown**  
198 lbs. So.



**Heather Sterzick**  
women So.



**Ken Palcowski**  
181 lbs. So.



**Pat Mendez**  
132 lbs. Fr.



**Carl Stanford**  
148 lbs. Fr.

Goodrich	1st	
Montrose	1st	
Cedar Springs	JV - 1st	
Lowell	V - 2nd	JV - 1st
Comstock	JV - 1st	
Bendle	V - 1st	JV - 1st
States	Men - 4th	Women - 4th

Coached By: Jason Katt & Noel Dean  
Not Pictured: Bill Stouffer, Damian Omness & Brian Green

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# TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Comrades! Do you know where your Military Discharge or D.D. 214 is right now? Are you sure? But if you don't, go find it. (Right after you read this, of course!)

The VETERANS of FOREIGN WARS is frequently asked to help locate a discharge or D.D. 214 for the family of a deceased veteran. We can help and are glad to do this. BUT!!!! It can take a year or longer to get a copy of a discharge or D.D. 214 from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO, and that's only if they are supplied the required information and you were discharged after 1973. Vietnam war protesters burned many records. (last names H-O).

Let me tell you what you can't do without the proper

forms: You can't get a VA LOAN for a house. You can't get VA medical assistance. You can't get Veteran's Preference Points when you try to get a Government job. You can't get emergency financial assistance from the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund or the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Fund. You can't join the VFW or American Legion, DAV or any other veterans organization. You can't even get one of those veterans license plates from the State. And some day (like maybe after seeing "Saving Private Ryan") when you decide you really DO want those medals you laughed about while you were in the service? It's gonna be "Sorry about that!" (You know what I mean. Remember saying, "This medal and a dollar (or a nickel for you

really "old" comrades) will get you a cup of coffee?")

And, saddest of all, your family can't get any death benefits you might be entitled to. Be it a government grave marker for your final resting place, a military funeral or even be buried at a National Cemetery. "No tickes...no lawndley! So sorry, G.I.!"

Most families (widows, sons, daughters, etc) have no darned idea what your Service Number was or where/when you served. Heck, I'll bet many don't know even what branch of the military you were in and while you're alive, they don't really care. It's only when you're gone that it becomes important to them. (Heck! For the longest time my wife didn't think I was really in Vietnam because I wasn't a Marine like her brother. Gees!! The "jarhead" stuff infects even their families.)

Help them and yourself out while you still can. Locate your Military papers, make a bunch of photo copies and put

them in several SAFE places. A safe deposit box in a bank if you already have one. (It costs.) File them with the County Clerk. (This also costs.) VFW and Legion members should see to it that their Post Adjutant has a copy. (Shame on you if he doesn't already have a copy. There is NO cost for this.) Most importantly make sure your family knows where to find a copy when it becomes important to have one!

Can't find it? Ex-spouse has it and won't send it to you? (They can get in trouble with the Federal Government for doing that!) We can help. (No, not with the ex!!) We have the forms and the expertise to fill them out properly and help you obtain a copy of this most important document. Please do these things now while you are still alive to remember the details. And sit down with your family and tell them, so they remember, the part you played in helping to keep this great country of ours free. The VFW is about

remembering too. It's part of our Constitution.

Gordon E. Marshall, Commander  
Flat River Post 8303  
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Dear Editor:

I believe the Kent County Youth Fair Board has been very concerned about the youth exhibiting at the fair, and their animals.

I invite Miss Johnson and the public to attend the monthly fair board meetings, held the second Wednesday of each month. If you are more interested in the operation of this organization, these meetings will help you. Also, at the annual meeting, Fair Board directors are elected...this is your chance to run for a position and/or vote. These volunteers give hundreds of hours throughout the year planning and running the fair for the youth of Kent County.

This change affects all members in the livestock areas, not just horses. Those

have all the facts. Do you know what it costs to run the Kent County Youth Fair? Over \$110,000 a year, plus on-going improvement projects to make the fair better.

The date change for the Kent County Youth Fair was made in October, 1998, after much discussion during August and September. We are not the first fair to have a late date...there are other fairs held in late August and September. Whenever a fair is held, it will affect some members and their families' schedule.

Fair board stated at the October Kent County 4-H Awards banquet the date change, it has been published in the Kent County 4-H Express, and each enrolled family received a letter, which I have enclosed for the editor. There has been time allowed for families to make changes or decisions as to how this will affect them.

This change affects all members in the livestock areas, not just horses. Those

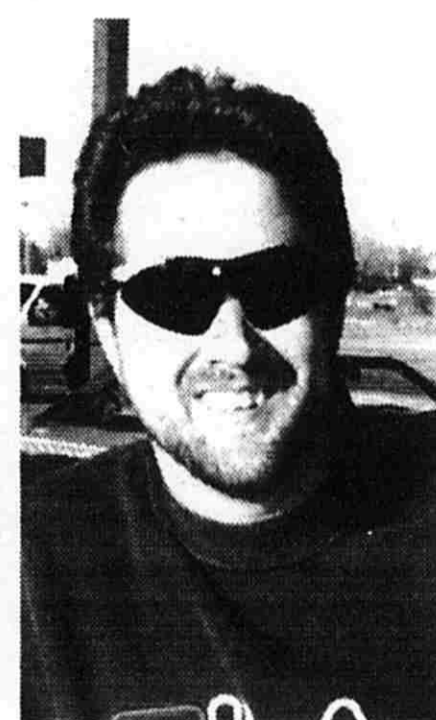
# TOWN TALK

## Do you think NATO can achieve its objective in Yugoslavia through air strikes - if not, do you favor the use of ground troops?



Sylvia Taylor

No, I don't think through air strikes alone it can achieve its objective. I don't favor ground troops, but if NATO is to achieve its objective, I don't think there is any other choice.



Ed Krey

Neither, I don't favor war at all. No, air strikes won't do it and I am opposed to ground troops.



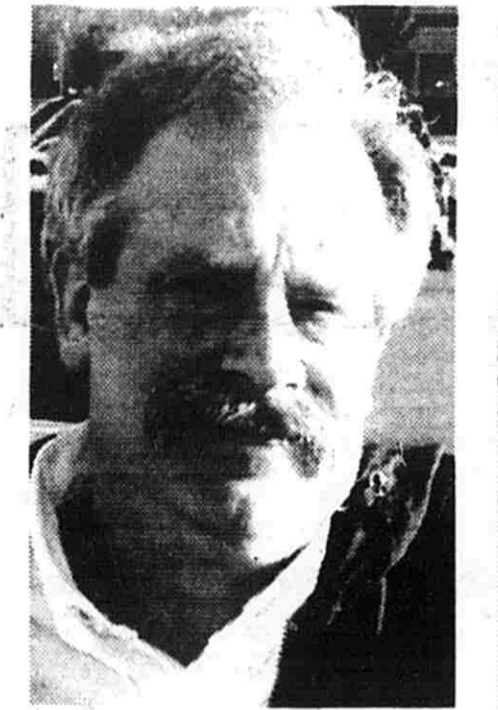
Susan Roberts

No, and I do not favor ground troops. I don't think the way to combat violence is with more violence. I do feel for those people. Ethnic cleansing makes me sick.



Steve Haley

No, air strikes alone won't do it. Yes, I favor ground troops. The killing over there needs to be stopped. NATO has the power to do that.



John Schneider

Air strikes alone can't do it. I am opposed to ground troops.



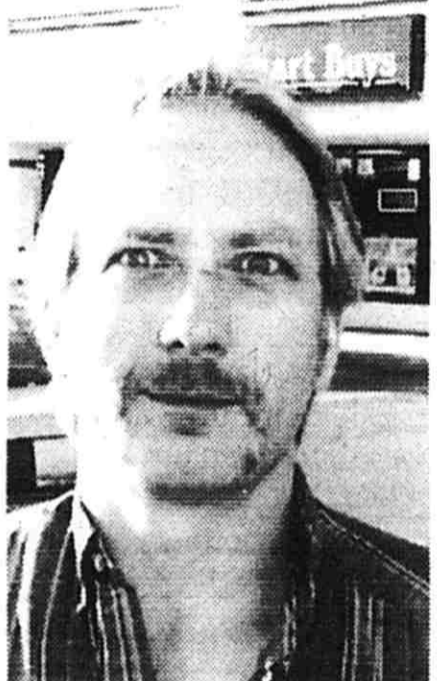
Dale McCall

I don't think with them, mountain air strikes can do it. I do not favor ground troops.



Mike Travis

No, NATO cannot achieve its objective through air strikes. I do not favor ground troops.



Ron Smith

No, NATO cannot achieve its objectives and I don't favor ground troops. It's probably our only solution though... what other alternatives are there?

## LHS students to study character, culture and careers

Lowell High School students will take a break from regular class schedules on Thursday to participate in LHS Teen Institute - Character, Culture and Careers. Throughout the day students will be attending five differ-

ent workshops. They are: Native American drum and dance, team building, look beyond the stereotypes and the power of words, drugs and alcohol, and career connections.

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# Sticky Business

•••• Cold nights and warm days are ideal for the maple syrup season. The process takes a huge amount of time, but the Sugar Bush operation hasn't minded time... it's been an annual event this time of year turning the sap into bubbly boiling maple syrup for nearly 100 years.

By Jeffrey Redmond  
Contributing Writer

Hidden away in a maple woods in Bowne Township, up from 100th St., where the boundaries of three separate school systems converge, is the Sugar Bush maple syrup enterprise. For any city dweller from Grand Rapids it's an amazing feat to use two feet, and trudge the mile there and back through the foot thick mud of the "trail," to get to where the process actually takes place. A hiker is certainly glad he or she wore boots.

Trudging past hundreds of tapped and pailed maple trees, one comes to the old wooden building at the end of the puddle-filled pathway. Constant steam billows out of the smoke stack, and piles of cut wood are neatly stacked for immediate use.

Inside, cousins Ron and Chris Wenger, the maple syrup men, are hard at work. Ron continues to feed the firewood chunks into an enormous wood stove, while Chris drives a team of horses and later a tractor to pull the wagon with the many pails of maple sap up to the structure.

There's no electricity, no telephone, and little to interrupt or disturb the natural process. The inside of the boiling-shed smells sweetly of wonderful maple sugar.

Long metal containers on top of the stove emit sauna bath amounts of steam, as the watery tree sap is poured into them, and then boiled away to leave only the thicker sugary maple syrup. Ron is kept constantly busy.

"I put in 14-15 hours a day, seven days a week, during sap season," he points out.

Between February and April of each year, the maple trees are at their peak sapping time. Cold and freezing nights and warmer 35-45° days, with lower atmospheric pressures, cause the sap to run. Each tree is tapped with a 5/16" hole, and a "spile" tube inserted 2 1/2" allows the watery sap to



Ron and Chris Wenger put in 14- to 15-hour days during sap season. For their efforts, they get anywhere from 350-440 gallons of maple syrup per year.

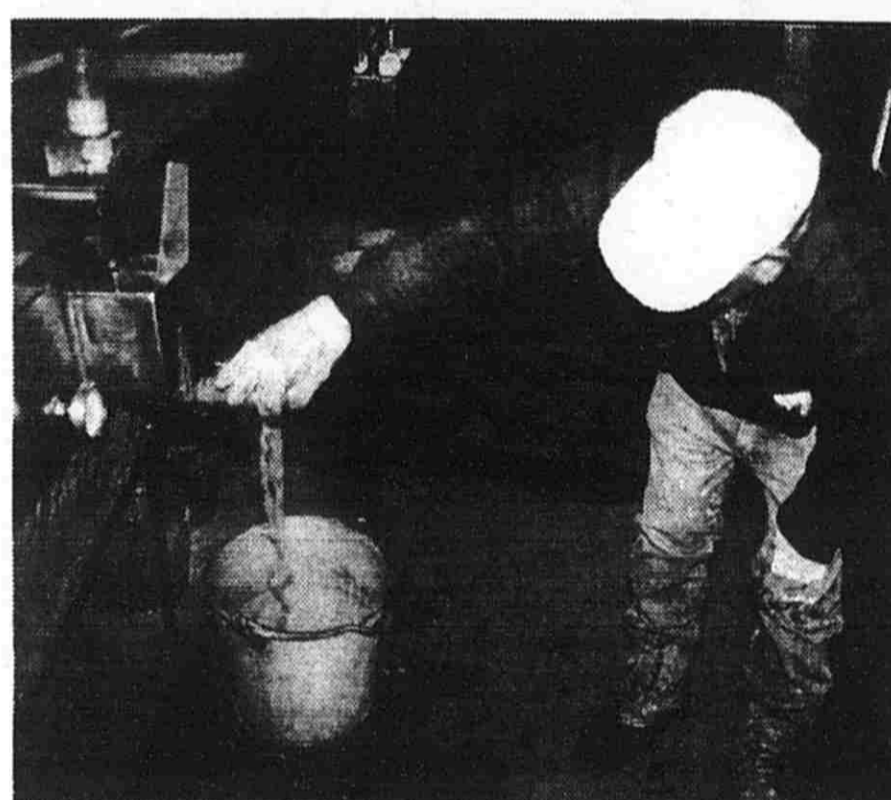
drip out, slowly but surely, into the pails.

Wengers' Sugar Bush operation has 1700 taps and pails on as many trees. Each tree can ooze out a gallon of sap per day. With constant filling of the wagon containers, up to 165 gallons of sap can be boiled each hour. But it takes 40 gallons of watery sap to make just one gallon of thick syrup.

"Only 2-2 1/2 percent is actually the maple sugar," Ron adds.

The containers are taken off the wagon and the sap is first poured into the outdoor storage tanks. From there it flows through a pipe to go into a pre-heater tank, and then into the stove boilers to get rid of all the water. The temperature at 212°F causes it to boil and steam and when, after several hours, raised to 219°F causes it to thicken and become dense enough to turn into syrup.

Syrup, cont'd, pg. 23



\*\*\*  
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—Walt Disney  
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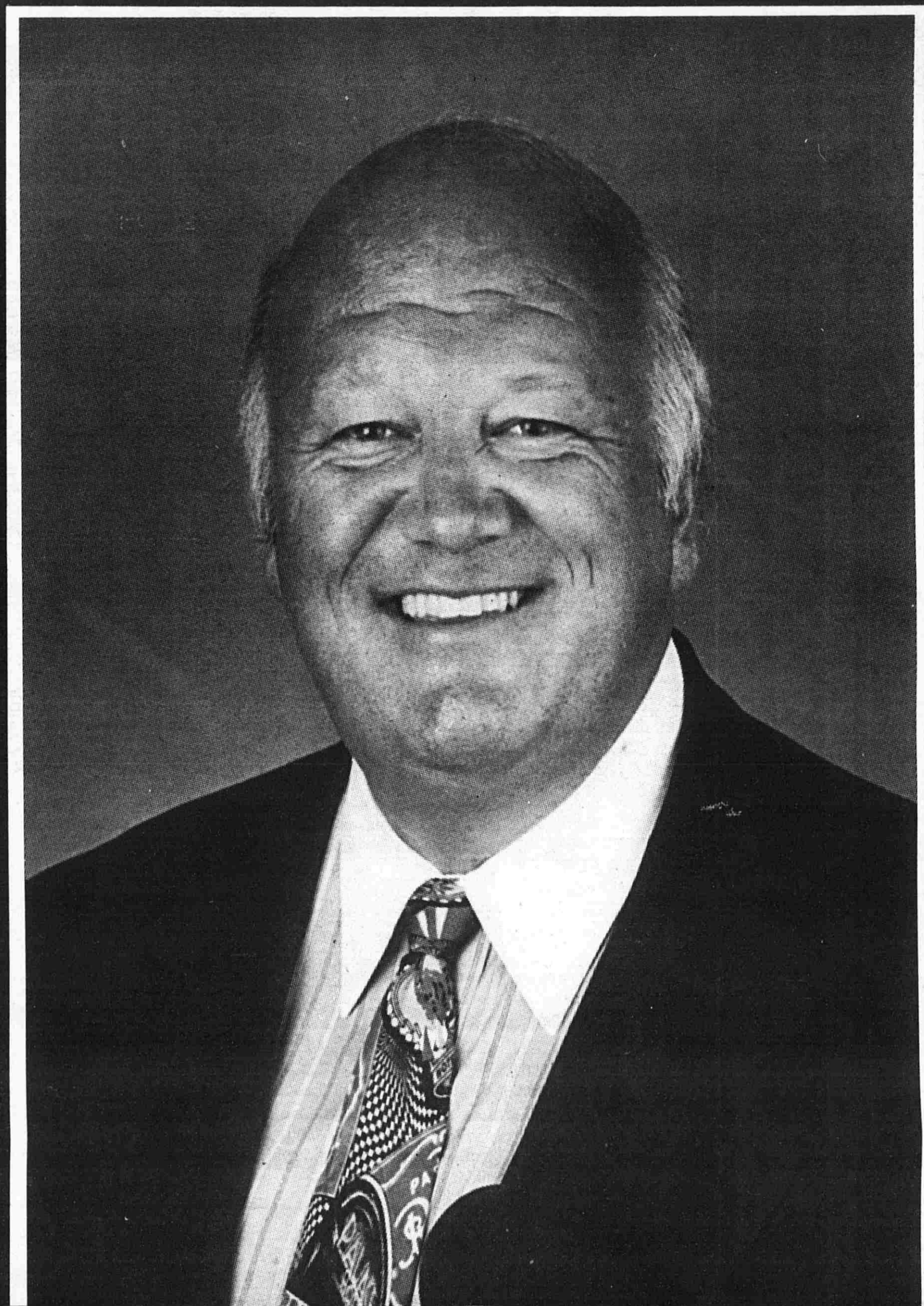
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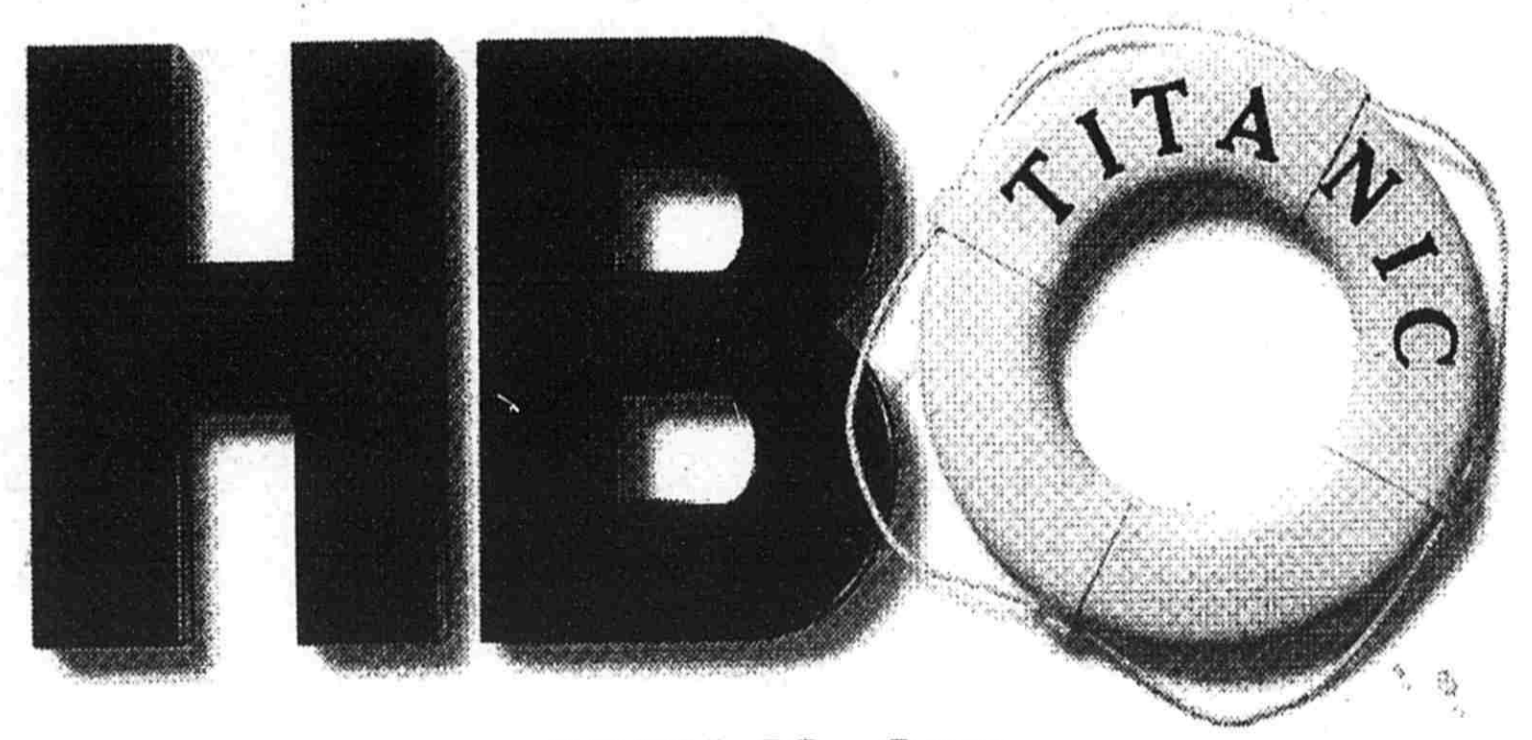
CHANNEL	SYMBOL
2	LOCAL
3	WVMT-3
4	WOTV-41
5	FX
6	WGVU-35
7	WXMI-17
8	WOOD-8
9	WLNS-6
10	WILX-10
11	WTLJ-54
12	WKAR-23
13	WZZM-13
14*	SHOWTIME
15	WSYM-47
16*	HBO
17*	THE MOVIE CHANNEL
18*	C-MAX
19	FAM
20	LOCAL PROG./WEATHER
21	MTV
22	VH-1
23	USA
24	DISCOVERY
25	WGN
26	ESPN
27	CNN
28	HN
29	NICK
30	A&E
31	FOX SPORTS
32	TNT
33	TBS
34	DISNEY
35	TNN
36	TRAVEL
37	LEARNING
38	SCI-FI
39	COMEDY CENTRAL
40	WEATHER
41	HISTORY
42	AMC
43	WZPX-43
44	HOME & GARDEN
45	LIFETIME
46	TOON DISNEY
47	MSNBC
48	C-SPAN
49	EWTN

\* Denotes Premium Channels



**FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 2 THRU APRIL 8**

ESPN baseball announcer Jon Miller is predicting some interesting pennant races this season, particularly in the National League. He can be heard calling the action at a Colorado Rockies-San Diego Padres matchup from Monterrey, Mexico, on Sunday, and a Milwaukee Brewers-St. Louis Cardinals game Monday.



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## PUBLIC NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
**PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENTS TO VERGENNES TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held on **Monday, April 5, 1999 at 7:00 P.M.**, at the **Vergennes Township Hall**, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI 49331 to consider four proposed amendments to the Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance.

The proposed amendments will:

- 1) Amend Section 201.304 (C), "R-A" Rural-Agricultural District, Special Exception Uses -- by adding "Licensed Day Care Facilities" as a new special exception use for the R-A District [a new Section 201.304 (C)(11)] with regulations and standards for granting approval.
- 2) Amend Section 201.403 (B), Accessory Buildings -- by providing for the location of Accessory Building in the front yard by right where specific standards are met.
- 3) Amend Section 201.403 (F)(3) Signs;

Exempt Signs for Home Occupations -- by revising the language so it is consistent with the sign requirements for Home Occupations and Home Based Business which require a maximum sign size of 4 square feet and other standards.

- 4) Delete Section 201.408 (B), Driveways -- by eliminating the adjoining lot setback requirement for driveways internal to any lot.

The complete text of the proposed ordinance amendments are on file in the offices of the Township Clerk at the **Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI 49331; Phone: (616) 897-5651 [fax 897-5674]**. Written and oral comments regarding the proposed amendments will be received until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Township Clerk, Chairperson or Secretary to the Planning Commission at the Township Offices. Reasonable accommodations can be provided without charge, including auxiliary aids and services as necessary. If you require special needs, please contact the Township Clerk, at the township offices at least 48 hours before the hearing to arrange for the accommodation.

Date: March 8, 1999

Richard Gillett, Chairperson  
 Vergennes Township Planning Commission

MONDAY - FRIDAY MORNINGS APRIL 2, 1999 - APRIL 8, 1999. Broadcast Channels: WWTM, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WLX, WTLJ, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, WZPX. Cable Channels: A&E, AMC, CNN, CNN2, COM, CSPAN, DISC, DISN, ESPN, EWTV, FAM, FOXDT, FX, H&G, HIST, LIFE, MSNBC, MTV, NICK, SCIFI, TBS, TLC, TNN, TNT, TOON D, TRAV, TWC, USA, WGN, VH1. Premium Channels: HBO, MAX, SHOW, TMC.

MONDAY - FRIDAY AFTERNOONS APRIL 2, 1999 - APRIL 8, 1999. Broadcast Channels: WWTM, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WLX, WTLJ, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, WZPX. Cable Channels: A&E, AMC, CNN, CNN2, COM, CSPAN, DISC, DISN, ESPN, EWTV, FAM, FOXDT, FX, H&G, HIST, LIFE, MSNBC, MTV, NICK, SCIFI, TBS, TLC, TNN, TNT, TOON D, TRAV, TWC, USA, WGN, VH1. Premium Channels: HBO, MAX, SHOW, TMC.

FRIDAY EVENING APRIL 2, 1999. Broadcast Channels: WWTM, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WLX, WTLJ, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, WZPX. Cable Channels: A&E, AMC, CNN, CNN2, COM, CSPAN, DISC, DISN, ESPN, EWTV, FAM, FOXDT, FX, H&G, HIST, LIFE, MSNBC, MTV, NICK, SCIFI, TBS, TLC, TNN, TNT, TOON D, TRAV, TWC, USA, WGN, VH1. Premium Channels: HBO, MAX, SHOW, TMC.

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MONDAY - FRIDAY LATENIGHT APRIL 2, 1999 - APRIL 8, 1999. 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 various channels (WBWT, WOTV, WGVI, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WTLJ, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, WZPX, CABLE CHANNELS, PREMIUM CHANNELS).

SATURDAY MORNING APRIL 3, 1999. 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 various channels (WBWT, WOTV, WGVI, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WTLJ, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, WZPX, CABLE CHANNELS, PREMIUM CHANNELS).

Advertisement for the movie Titanic. Features Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet. Text: 'NOTHING ON EARTH COULD COME BETWEEN THEM.' 'PREMIERES SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 8 PM ET/PT'. Includes HBO logo and phone number 897-8405.

SPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Sports highlights section. Categories include: AUTO RACING (NASCAR Late Model Twin 100s), SOCCER (English Premier League), TENNIS (Davis Cup), BASKETBALL (High School Roundball), BILLIARDS (Ultimate Nine-Ball Challenge), BOXING (Fight Time), GYMNASTICS (International Team Championships), HOCKEY (IHL Cleveland Lumberjacks), OUTDOORS (Fishing FLW Tour), RODEO (Championship Rodeo), WRESTLING (High School MHSAA), SKATING (Rollerjam), and MISCELLANEOUS (Swimming and Diving).

SATURDAY AFTERNOON APRIL 3, 1999. 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 various channels (WBWT, WOTV, WGVI, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WTLJ, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, WZPX, CABLE CHANNELS, PREMIUM CHANNELS).



SATURDAY EVENING / LATE NIGHT APRIL 3, 1999

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-4:30) and rows for various TV channels (WVMT, WOV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like 'Kickin' It', 'Against Odds', 'Lawrence Welk Show'.

CABLE CHANNELS

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-4:30) and rows for various cable channels (A&E, AMC, CNN, etc.) listing programs like 'Mysteries of the Bible', 'Young Sherlock Holmes', 'The Sopranos'.

SUNDAY MORNING APRIL 4, 1999

Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (WVMT, WOV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like 'Kickin' It', 'Against Odds', 'Lawrence Welk Show'.

CABLE CHANNELS

Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and rows for various cable channels (A&E, AMC, CNN, etc.) listing programs like 'The Sopranos', 'The X-Files', 'The Simpsons'.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON APRIL 4, 1999

Table with columns for time slots (12:00-6:30) and rows for various TV channels (WVMT, WOV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like 'Story of Moses', 'Snowboarding: UnValley '99'.

CABLE CHANNELS

Table with columns for time slots (12:00-6:30) and rows for various cable channels (A&E, AMC, CNN, etc.) listing programs like 'Mysteries of the Bible', 'The Sopranos', 'The X-Files'.

Small Banana Boat \$2.25 and Large Banana Boat \$3.00 advertisement for Ball's Softee Creme Ice Cream, 503 E. Main, Lowell.

SUNDAY EVENING / LATENIGHT APRIL 4, 1999

Table of broadcast channels for Sunday Evening/Latenight on April 4, 1999. Columns include time slots (7:00-4:30) and channel names (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.).

CABLE CHANNELS

Table of cable channels for Sunday Evening/Latenight on April 4, 1999. Columns include channel names (A&E, AMC, CNN, etc.) and program titles.

PREMIUM CHANNELS

Table of premium channels for Sunday Evening/Latenight on April 4, 1999. Columns include channel names (HBO, MAX, SHOW, TMC) and program titles.

MONDAY EVENING APRIL 5, 1999

Table of broadcast channels for Monday Evening on April 5, 1999. Columns include time slots (7:00-11:30) and channel names (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.).

CABLE CHANNELS

Table of cable channels for Monday Evening on April 5, 1999. Columns include channel names (A&E, AMC, CNN, etc.) and program titles.

PREMIUM CHANNELS

Table of premium channels for Monday Evening on April 5, 1999. Columns include channel names (HBO, MAX, SHOW, TMC) and program titles.

Advertisement for Rookies Sports Cards Plus, featuring trading cards, sports memorabilia, and comic books. Includes contact information for 106 W. Main, Lowell.

Advertisement for Wittenbach, featuring GM Goodwrench Service Plus and a variety of vehicles including Aurora, Olds, Pontiac, and GMC.

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and broadcast channels (WVMT, WOVU, etc.). Includes sections for BROADCAST CHANNELS, CABLE CHANNELS, and PREMIUM CHANNELS.

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and broadcast channels (WVMT, WOVU, etc.). Includes sections for BROADCAST CHANNELS, CABLE CHANNELS, and PREMIUM CHANNELS.

Advertisement for 'WIDE ASSORTMENT OF EASTER & SPRING FLOWERS' featuring hydrangeas, tulips, and callalilies. Includes contact info for M&M Floral Baskets of Treats.

Advertisement for 'White Swan Coffeehouse & Gifts' featuring acoustic classical guitar and specialty drinks. Includes contact info for David Lundman.





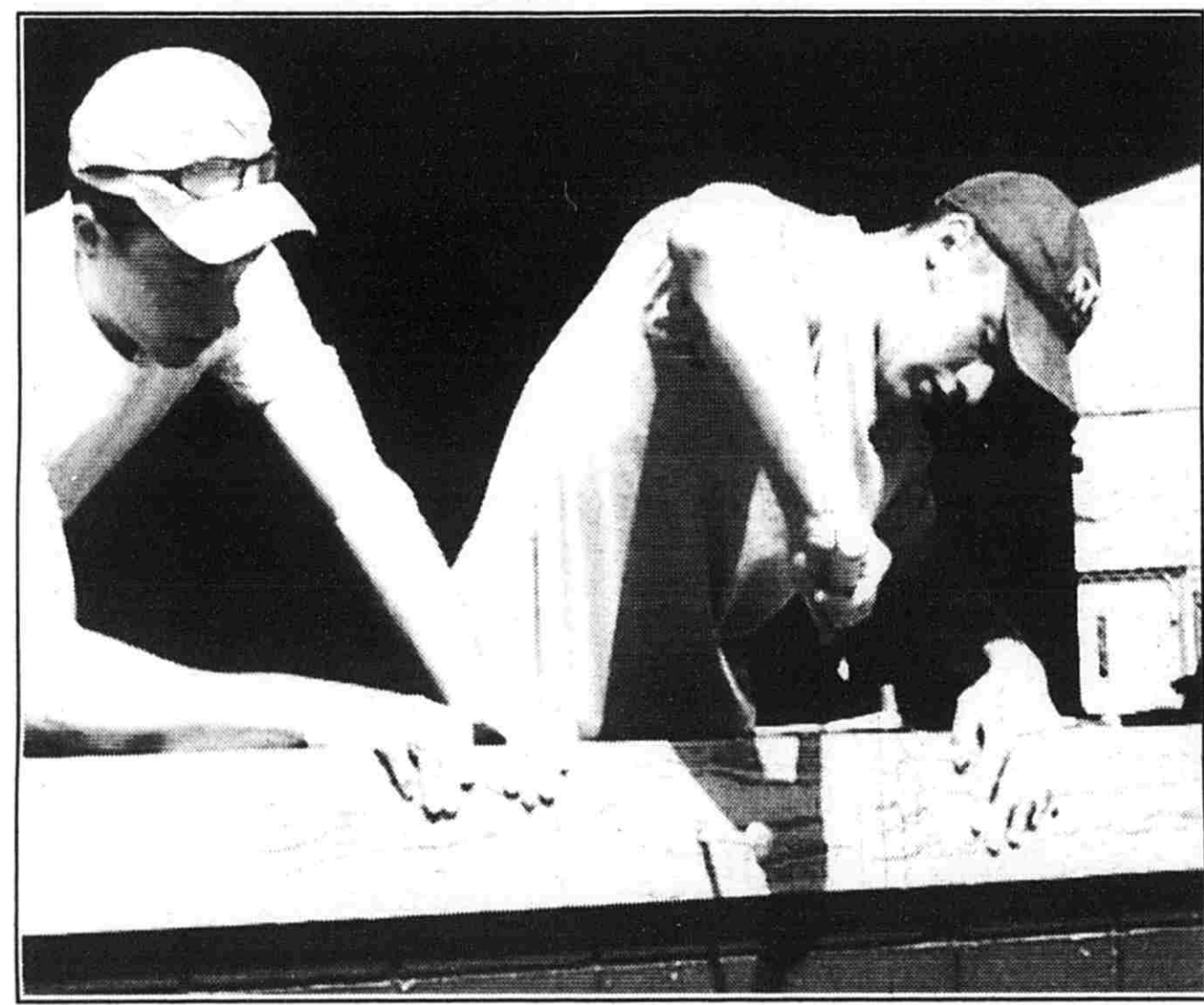


# LHS players help renovate their field of dreams

Lowell High School baseball players, parents and coaches spent much of their Saturday working on and refurbishing the Bancroft baseball field. Work began about 9:30 a.m. and wrapped up about 6 p.m. Tasks attended to included edging the warning track and infield, painting dugouts, and renovating the concession stand. Bill Brown, Lowell volunteer assistant junior varsity baseball coach, said accomplishing all tasks required a commitment to the program by the players. All the equipment needed to do the work was donated. Some players, coaches and parents will leave on Thursday for Gulf Shores, Alabama. Their spring break will be spent practicing and enjoying the warm weather and sites.



Trevor Land, Andy Penninga, Keith Kemen and Tom Dawson (from left to right) shoveled the dirt and sod which piled up throughout the edging process.



Jim Gilchrist and Andy Graham, left, were busy refurbishing the Lowell High School baseball concession stand counter at Bancroft Field.



Tom Dawson, left, helped with edging the diamond infield.

## Freestyle wrestling season underway

The Lowell Freestyle Wrestling Club began its season on March 20. The Freestyle Club serves as a feeder program for the high school wrestling team. Participants ages 4 and up compete in area tournaments and have the potential to compete in a state tournament at the end of the season.

Below are the results for the past two weeks.

March 19, against Northview, Group 4: Jake Brower, second (Roman Greco).

March 20, against Northview: Group 0: Jared Williams, first; Group 1: Keith Williams, first; Jacob Lynema, third; Luke Brower, third; Group 4: Jake Brower, second.

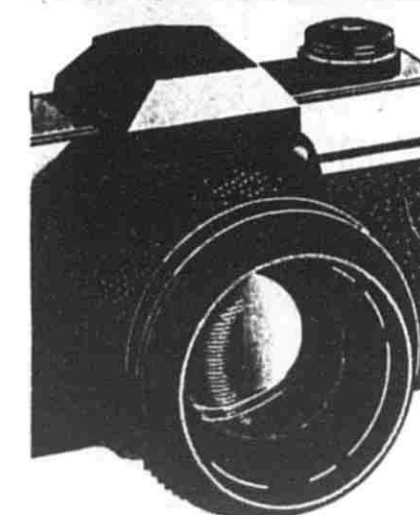
March 20, against Grandville: Group 0: Matthew Misak, first; Chadwick Hoard, first; Matthew Kyllonen, fourth; Group 1: Jacob Gould, third; Group 2: Ben Canfield, second; Brandon Jahnke, third; Cody Toomey, third; Edward Parks, fourth; Andy Oesch, fourth; Group 3: Brock Graham, first; Josiah Hull, first; Alex Carpenter, first; Ryan Karasiewicz, second; Josh Meyers, third; Matt Dood, fourth; Group 4: Joe Mendez, first, Sean Alger, second; Noah Scooby, second; AJ Oesch, fourth.

March 27, against Byron Center: Group 0: Jared Williams, second; Group 2: Matt Burton, first; Group 3: Phillip Burton, first.

Against Lakewood: Group 0: Jacob Murray, second; Group 3: Alex Carpenter, first.

Against Sparta: Group 2: Cody Toomey, third; Robert Karasiewicz, first; Group 3: Josiah Hull, first; Ryan Karasiewicz, second.

## 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 WITHOUT caps, visors, etc.

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

## COLLEGE NEWS

**Geoffrey Barbour**, a graduate of Lowell High School, was recently named to the perfect attendance list at ITT Technical Institute, Grand Rapids.

In order to be named to the perfect attendance list, a student must have zero absences for all classes taken during the quarter. Barbour plans to graduate with an Associate's Degree in Computer-Aided Drafting Technology.

The Grand Rapids ITT Technical Institute is operated by Indianapolis-based ITT Educational Services, Inc. (ESI), providing education to more than 25,000 students through its ITT Technical Institutes. Founded in 1968, ESI is one of the largest publicly-traded higher education systems in the country, operating 67 ITT Technical Institutes in 27 states. Established in 1979, the Grand Rapids ITT Technical Institute offers educational programs in Electronics Engineering Technology and Computer Aided Drafting to 380 students.

**Brad Holtz** of Lowell and **Holly Byars** of Alto have been named to the dean's list for winter term at Northwood University. The announcement was made by Timothy G. Nash, Acting Academic Dean of the university.

Holtz is the son of Bill Holtz of Lowell.

Byars is the daughter of Dale and Lois Byars of Alto. To achieve dean's list recognition, students must earn a

3.0 grade point on a 4.0 scale.

**Jeffrey Nethercot** of Lowell has been named to the president's list for winter term at Northwood University. The announcement was made by Dr. David E. Fry, president of the university.

Nethercot is the son of Sharon Nethercot of Lowell. To achieve president's list recognition, students must earn a 3.85 grade point on a 4.0 scale.

Northwood University is a private, accredited university specializing in managerial and entrepreneurial education offering two and four year degrees in a variety of enterprise fields. The university's executive and full-time MBA programs make Northwood's free market-based degree offerings in management and entrepreneurship the most complete anywhere. The university emphasizes the importance of free enterprise and is dedicated to the preservation of the free market and the important relationship between business and the arts.

Northwood operates a residential campus in Michigan, Florida, and Texas; the Margaret Chase Smith Library in Skowhegan, Maine; over 30 University College outreach centers and locations throughout the United States; and international study programs abroad, principally in Europe.

**Sean Bernard Ellison** and **David Dean VanderMeulen** of Lowell

were among a total of 987 students who achieved placement on the winter quarter dean's list at Michigan Technological University by earning a grade point of 3.5 or higher.

Dr. Martha Janners, dean of students, reported that 219 students earned straight "A" averages of 4.00.

**Cadet George G. Rollins, III**, son of Mr. and Mrs. George G. Rollins, Jr. of Lowell, will be listed in the 1999 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges*. This edition will include the names of a total of 17 students from Valley Forge Military College (VFMC) who have been selected as national outstanding campus leaders.

Campus nomination committees and editors of the annual directory have included

the names of these students based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success.

They join an elite group of students from more than 1,800 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and several foreign nations.

Outstanding students have been honored in this annual directory since it was first published in 1966.

VFMC is a two-year transfer college established in 1935 with a distinguished history of providing opportunities for personal growth in academics, character, self-discipline and leadership to all students. The student body is comprised of approximately 220 students from 26 states and 21 countries around the world.

## TO THE EDITOR

members have had to make decisions as to the affect and how they will handle it. If horses are getting stiff, or could get stiff...your concerns need to be taken up with the Kent County 4-H Horse Leaders' Association. If there are two days planned that the horses won't be shown, then the schedule was made by that committee, not the Kent County Youth Fair Board.

You mention exercise space...the fair board does not own the land on which the fair is held - that is leased from the city of Lowell. The fair board does own the buildings. If you

have suggestions for the football field, which is used by other youth groups in the fall and spring, you would need to discuss them with City Hall. Horses would tear up the sod.

To close, the Kent County Youth Fair Board has had and continues to have an early release policy that is looked at on an individual request for need. Remember, other exhibitors have school the following week and they have had to make adjustments.

Cindy Koning  
Kent County 4-H  
Leader

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**ANONYMOUS CONSUMER RESEARCHERS NEEDED** - \$7-\$12 per job. Apply on the internet - www.ecom.ca

**'92 CHEVY ASTRO VAN EXT** - 8 pass., pow. windows/locks & seat, AM/FM cassette, great condition, \$5,200. Call 897-8279.

**ADA TOWNSHIP INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVAL & CRAFT SHOW** - established 60+ years. Craft booths, \$30; 12x12 grassy area, juried. 10-3 p.m. July 3, located M-21 (Fulton) across from Amway flag display. Over 5,000 in attendance. Call Linda, 682-8359.

**AIRLINE TICKETS** - at farewar prices. Any city-no fee. Call Carol for details. 957-8964.

**MASTERMAID** - You won't believe our low daily/spring cleaning rate compared to other cleaning companies. Residential - commercial - insured - bonded. Call 336-1343.

**HELP WANTED** - Caregiver for 9 ladies in adult foster care home. Must be able to cook & be very caring. 897-5874.

**CENA's, MA's & LPN's NEEDED** - for Windsor Manor's extended care dementia center, assisted living care for the elderly. Full & part-time for all 3 shifts. Please call Marcia VanSolkema at 954-2662.

**FOR SALE** - 1998 Chevy Cavalier, 4 door, 18,000 miles, ext. warranty, auto/air, cassette. For more info call 987-9344 a.m. or leave message.

**DIRECTV** - Mini satellite dish. Installation & 1st. 3 months programming free with purchase. \$149.99. Call 1-800-459-7357.

**IF YOU HAVE A FEW EXTRA HOURS A WEEK AND WOULD LIKE TO GET PAID FOR THEM, THEN WE HAVE THE JOB FOR YOU!** - We need someone to work in our honey bottling business, competitive wages & flexible hours, must be efficient and have your own transportation, reply to P.O. Box F, Ada, MI 49301.

**WANTED** - experienced fiberglass technicians. Wages to compensate experience. Full package of benefits available. Call 897-7719.

**FOR SALE** - 1995 Dodge Avenger ES, fully loaded, 62,000 miles, mint condition, new brakes & tires, \$13,000. Call 987-9344 a.m. or leave message.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE** For Michael W. Potter, April 17, 1999, 11 a.m. First United Methodist Church, Lowell.

**CAROUSEL CHILD CARE** - has openings for ages 2 & over. Call Barb for an interview. 897-6954.

**STEEL BUILDINGS** - never put up. 40x30 was \$6,212, will sell for \$3,497, 50x86 was \$17,690, will sell for \$8,970. Chuck 1-800-320-2340.

**TEACHER / CHILDCARE AIDES** - The Lowell YMCA is seeking responsible, dependable people interested in working with children. Immediate openings in our School Age and Preschool Childcare Centers. Experience &/or education are helpful but not necessary. We offer competitive wages. Call Penny or Teri at 897-4371 for more information.

**RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT** - Samuel Mancino's Italian Eatery, 1335 W. Main, Lowell, is prepared to hire qualified individual with strong leadership skills in restaurant management/food service industry. This growing franchise offers a competitive salary, benefits, management training, advancement opportunities, flexible schedule & a positive team-oriented work environment. Interested & qualified individuals are invited to stop by & arrange an interview w/the franchise owner today!

**2 FERRETS FOR SALE** - w/cage & accessories, \$250 obo. Call for more info. 897-6176.

**WANTED**

**ARCH TYPE STEEL BUILDINGS** - Finance company repossessed 3 buildings. 2 never assembled. Unbelievable discounts. Ready now for immediate delivery. 20x26, 25x32, 30x40. Call today 1-800-222-6335.

**"ABOUT YOU"** - Professional career testing & guidance, promotes college & job success. Susan Bosold M.S., M.A. 285-1302. \$10 off mention this ad, until 5/1/99.

**JANITOR** - Are you interested in janitorial work? Manpower has the position for you! We are now seeking a plant janitor for a Lowell area company. Duties include: sweeping floors, emptying trash & general cleaning duties. Heavy lifting may be necessary. First shift opening at \$7.00 per hour to start with a possibility for permanent hire and pay increase after only 90 days. If interested call Manpower today. APPLY TODAY, WORK TOMORROW! Manpower, 505-D West Main, 897-0050.

**FOR RENT** - 3 bedroom house in Lowell with possible option. 713 Washington, 897-9357.

**FOR SALE** - Lowell 4 bedroom older home. Large rooms. New electric furnace, plumbing & water heater. Large lot & deck. \$82,000. Call 897-9357.q

**HAPPY 60TH BIRTHDAY** Maxine Post & Grandma. We love you! Jim & Barb; Tom, Jamie & Krysten; Scott & Shawna

**DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED?** - Driver's license RESTORATION \$700 inc. all filing fees. FREE consultation & evaluation of your case. Have a question? Call Attorney Martin Mead, (616) 235-0330, 9-5 Mon-Fri.

**NEED WEDDING INVITATIONS? STOP BY & CHECK OUT ONE OF OUR CARLSON CRAFT BOOKS!** Many styles to choose from in many different price ranges! Place your order with Tammy & receive 20% off your total order! Lowell Ledger 105 N. Broadway 897-9261

**APARTMENT FOR RENT** - South of Lowell, 2 bedroom, washer/dryer, available May 1. 897-7684.

**FOR RENT** - 3 bedroom house in Lowell with possible option. 713 Washington, 897-9357.

**Lowell Moose Annual EASTER EGG HUNT**  
Creekside Park Saturday, April 3

10:30 • 1-2 Yrs.  
11:30 • 3-4 Yrs.  
12:30 • 5, 6 & 7 Yrs.  
1:30 • 8, 9 & 10 Yrs.

7,000 Eggs, Prizes, Refreshments & fun!

Join Herbie the Clown, Easter Bunny & Moose

**LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS**

**NO SCHOOL APRIL 2-9**  
Spring Recess  
School resumes: Monday, April 12

## LOWELL COMMUNITY SURVEY 1999, continued...

- OTHER COMMUNITY RECREATION NEEDS**
7. Would you support the Community Recreation Authority constructing and maintaining additional athletic fields for soccer, softball, football and baseball?  
 Definitely yes      Probably yes      Probably no      Definitely no      Don't know
8. Would you support the Community Recreation Authority constructing and maintaining a 10-mile asphalt bike path?  
 Definitely yes      Probably yes      Probably no      Definitely no      Don't know
9. Would you support the Community Recreation Authority constructing and maintaining an indoor ice arena?  
 Definitely yes      Probably yes      Probably no      Definitely no      Don't know

Again, this survey is to assist the Lowell area community in its coordinated long-term planning. In addition to the community recreation needs, there may be additional school facility needs because of the continued growing enrollment in our schools.

10. If we told you that three to five years from today, the growing student enrollment in Lowell's public schools may require building new school facilities, how would you then personally vote on a community pool bond issue and operating millage for the same Option A described above, which includes a basic swimming pool plus a second small warm water pool to better serve babies, toddlers and senior citizens?  
 Definitely yes      Probably yes      Probably no      Definitely no      Don't know
11. Similarly, if we told you that three to five years from today, the growing student enrollment in Lowell's public schools may require building new school facilities, how would you then personally vote on a community pool bond issue and operating millage for the same Option B described above, which includes a basic swimming pool plus second small warm water pool plus a community center?  
 Definitely yes      Probably yes      Probably no      Definitely no      Don't know

**OPTIONS TO MANAGE GROWING STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN LOWELL'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS:**  
 The continued growth in the Lowell area is reflected in the growing enrollment in Lowell Area Schools. The School Board is challenged with having enough space to accommodate this growing enrollment. A study committee has identified three ways to increase facility capacity in the Lowell Area School system. The School Board would like to know what you think of each of the following options.

- Option A:** Change the traditional school year calendar by using our existing school facilities more days per year and/or more hours per day. As one example of altering the school calendar, our students would go to school for three of four 12-week quarters. Students will still have the 182 days of school as they do now, but some students would be attending school during the traditional summer break weeks. This option will delay the need for construction of new school facilities.
- Option B:** Rather than change the current school calendar, add on to our existing schools with more classrooms and other space as needed.
- Option C:** Neither change the school calendar nor increase the size of our existing schools by adding on to them, but rather build a new school.

1. How do you feel about Option A (change the school calendar) to accommodate more students?  
 Strongly support      Support      Oppose      Strongly oppose      Don't know
2. How do you feel about Option B (add on to existing schools) to accommodate more students?  
 Strongly support      Support      Oppose      Strongly oppose      Don't know
3. How do you feel about Option C (build a new school) to accommodate more students?  
 Strongly support      Support      Oppose      Strongly oppose      Don't know
4. Suppose that the Lowell area community approves a community swimming pool, raising your property taxes. Which of the above three school options do you like best to accommodate more students? Option A (change the school calendar) Option B (add on to existing schools) Option C (build a new school) Don't know

5. Now, instead suppose that the Lowell area community does **not** approve a community swimming pool. Now, which of the above three school options do you like best to accommodate more students?  
 Option A (change the school calendar)      Option B (add on to existing schools)      Option C (build a new school)      Don't know
6. If you would be paying additional property taxes for a community pool, would that cause you to vote "no," where you may otherwise vote "yes," against any school bond issue for constructing school facilities (either adding on or building a new school) in the future?  
 Paying for a new pool would **definitely** cause me to vote "no" against any school bond issue for new school facilities  
 Paying for a new pool would **probably** cause me to vote "no" against any school bond issue for new school facilities  
 Paying for a new pool would **not influence** how I would vote on any school bond issue  
 Don't know

7. From the following list, please rank the three most important (with 1 being most important, 2 second most important and 3 third most important) factors to improve education in the Lowell Area School district.
- Higher academic standards
  - Stricter classroom discipline
  - More parent involvement in the schools
  - More money for school programs
  - More professional development for teachers and staff
  - Changes in curriculum
  - Additional school facilities
  - Smaller class sizes
  - Safer schools
  - More emphasis on preparing students for the workplace
  - More emphasis on character development
  - Other
  - Don't know

8. Please grade Lowell Area Schools with an A, B, C, D or F:

	A	B	C	D	F	don't know
(a) Lowell's elementary schools						
(b) Lowell's middle school						
(c) Lowell High School						
(d) Lowell Area Schools in total						

- DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR FAMILY:**
9. First, do you have children presently attending Lowell Area Schools?  
 Yes      No
10. If yes, at which schools? (circle as many as apply)  
 Alto Elementary      Lowell Middle School      Lowell High School  
 Bushnell Elementary      Cherry Creek Elementary      Unity/New Dawn

11. Do you have any children attending private school or a charter school or being home schooled? 12. Have you ever had children who attended Lowell Area Schools?  
 No      Yes, home schooled      Yes, private school      Yes, charter school      Yes      No
13. Do you currently have pre-school age children?  
 Yes      No
14. How long have you lived in the Lowell school district?  
 Less than 1 year      1-5 yrs      6-10 yrs      11-15 yrs      More than 15 yrs

**IN CLOSING:**  
 Do you have any other comments about community recreation needs and facilities in the Lowell area or about Lowell Area Schools?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you! Your answers will provide valuable assistance to a coordinated long-term planning in our Lowell area community. All information and questions in this survey are based on current available information. If circumstances change, options and costs listed in this survey may also change.



# LOWELL COMMUNITY SURVEY 1999

A community group has been studying the concept of a community pool for several years. In an effort to obtain input, it has composed a community survey. You are encouraged to complete the following survey. The results will be studied and used to determine the future of the community pool issue.

The deadline for returning the survey is Monday, April 26.

Completed surveys should be mailed to:  
COMMUNITY SURVEY 1999

Lowell Area Community Fund • 300 High St. • Lowell, MI 49331

## LOWELL AREA'S COMMUNITY RECREATION

1. First, where is your residence? (please circle)

City of Lowell	Lowell Charter Township	Vergennes Township	Ada Township	Cascade Township	Keene Township
Boston Township	Bowne Township	Campbell Township	Cannon Township	Grattan Township	

The City of Lowell, Lowell Township, Vergennes Township and Lowell Area Schools have worked together to study the community recreation and facility needs. After examining these needs, including family, young children, school age children, senior citizens and the general public, and reviewing other community recreation operations in Michigan, the following option is being considered:

A Community Recreation Authority would be created by legal contract involving the City of Lowell, Lowell Township, Vergennes Township and the Lowell Area School district. The purpose of this authority would be to run a comprehensive community recreation program. Without a Community Recreation Authority, it is not possible for any Lowell area municipality or the Lowell Area School district to finance operation and maintenance of recreational facilities such as a community swimming pool. The Community Recreation Authority is thus a vehicle for the larger Lowell area community to work together to create a common recreation program. In addition, the recreational authority and community swimming pool will receive financial help from the Lowell Area Community Fund (Englehardt money). Members of the Governing Board of this new Community Recreation Authority would be comprised of equal representation from the City of Lowell, Lowell Township and Vergennes Township.

2. Do you support creating this new Lowell Area Community Recreation Authority to manage and finance operations and maintenance of recreation facilities such as a community swimming pool and community athletic fields?

Definitely yes      Probably yes      Probably no      Definitely no      Don't know

## COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL

The need for a Community Recreation Authority is best demonstrated with the operation of a community swimming pool. Again, after examining the needs of various members of our community and reviewing architect specifications and cost estimates and related financing, this committee of Lowell area citizens and municipal officials has studied several community swimming pool options. Several options have been eliminated, either due to cost or the pool configuration did not meet community needs. Options still being considered are:

**Option A:** Build a community swimming pool and recreation center at Lowell Middle School because of its central location and lowest possible cost of operation. There will actually be two swimming areas to serve all members of our Lowell area communities. One swimming area is an 8-lane pool, 25-yards long to serve open swim, swim instruction and exercise classes (for both the general public via the community recreation/education program and Lowell students as part of their physical education curriculum), and competitive swim meets for school teams and local club teams. The second swimming area is a smaller warmer water swimming pool to especially serve babies, toddlers and senior citizens. This Option A with two swimming areas would cost approximately \$6.4 million to build and \$350,000 to annually operate and maintain (mostly for staffing and utilities).

**Option B:** Add a community center to Option A that includes an 1,800-square foot community room for meetings and community learning classes. This community center will especially serve senior citizens. This Option B with two swimming areas plus a community center would cost approximately \$6.9 million to build and \$375,000 to annually operate and maintain.

The bond financing costs for the construction will be levied on all property owners in the entire Lowell Area School district. The operating and maintenance costs are financed by operating millages levied only on property owners in the City of Lowell, Lowell Township and Vergennes Township (the three municipalities who comprise the Community Recreation Authority). Additionally, fees will be slightly higher for nonschool sponsored events and programs of the swimming pool and community center for residents of Ada, Boston, Bowne, Campbell, Cannon, Cascade, Grattan or Keene townships.

The estimated additional yearly expense to Lowell area property owners for financing construction and annual operations for these two options is summarized below.

{Residents only of the City of Lowell, Lowell Township or Vergennes Township} Please review the following table summarizing the estimated additional average yearly expense to Lowell area property owners for these two community swimming pool options. This annual expense includes both the financing costs from a 30-year bond issue (levied on property owners in the entire Lowell Area School district) to construct a new community swimming pool facility plus the operating and maintenance costs from operating millages levied by the City of Lowell, Lowell Township and Vergennes Township upon their property owners

Residents only of the City of Lowell, Lowell Township or Vergennes Township	Option A: (swimming pools only)	Option B: (swimming pools plus community center)
Total estimated mills for both bond-financing and operating costs	1.03 mills	1.07 mills
<b>Added cost to property owners:</b>		
for \$50,000 home	\$ 26	\$ 27
for \$100,000 home	\$ 52	\$ 54
for \$200,000 home	\$103	\$107

{Residents only of Ada, Boston, Bowne, Campbell, Cannon, Cascade, Grattan or Keene Townships} Please review the following table summarizing the estimated additional average yearly expense to Lowell area property owners for these two community swimming pool options. This annual expense includes only the financing costs from a 30-year bond issue (levied on property owners in the entire Lowell Area School district) to construct a new community swimming pool facility. The Community Recreation Authority is limited to the City of Lowell, Lowell Township and Vergennes Township, so therefore annual operating and maintenance costs are to be paid only by residents of those municipalities by operating millages levied upon their property.

Residents only of Ada, Boston, Bowne, Campbell, Cannon, Cascade, Grattan or Keene townships	Option A: (swimming pools only)	Option B: (swimming pools plus community center)
Total estimated mills for bond financing costs	0.36 mills	0.40 mills
<b>Added cost to property owners:</b>		
for \$50,000 home	\$9	\$10
for \$100,000 home	\$18	\$20
for \$200,000 home	\$36	\$40

Please Note: It is possible that the Recreation Authority could consist of the entire school district. If this occurs, the cost for the residents of the City of Lowell, Vergennes and Lowell townships would be slightly lower, and the cost for all other township residents in the school district would be slightly higher.

3. How would you personally vote on a bond issue and operating millage for Option A, which includes a basic swimming pool plus a second smaller warm water pool to better serve babies, toddlers and senior citizens?

Definitely yes      Probably yes      Probably no      Definitely no      Don't know

4. How would you personally vote on a bond issue and operating millage for Option B, which includes a basic swimming pool plus second smaller warm water pool plus a community center?

Definitely yes      Probably yes      Probably no      Definitely no      Don't know

5. Please  which of these two community swimming pool options do you like best? \_\_\_\_\_ Option A: Swimming pools only (basic pool plus second smaller warm water pool)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Option B: Swimming pools plus community center \_\_\_\_\_ Neither \_\_\_\_\_ Don't know

6. If you responded "probably or definitely no" to either of Questions 3 or 4 or if you responded "neither" to Question 6, why would you vote "no"? ( as many as apply)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Community swimming pool not needed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Smaller warm water pool not needed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Community center not needed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Too expensive
- \_\_\_\_\_ Don't want to pay any more property taxes for anything
- \_\_\_\_\_ Don't like idea of Community Recreation Authority
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_