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The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 49

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, September 22, 1999



Becky and James Bosserd will deliver nearly 1,000 pumpkins to the Fallasburg Fall Festival this weekend. The two Lowell High School students began growing pumpkins in May.

Pumpkins, Anyone?

••• Fallasburg Fall Festival patrons will have plenty of opportunity to pick up a pumpkin over this weekend. James and Becky Bosserd made sure of that as they harvested close to 1,000 pumpkins for this year's festival.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Growing pumpkins is nothing new to Lowell High School students James and Becky Bosserd.

What is new for the young entrepreneurs is cashing in on their hard work.

In the past, the Bosserd

siblings have grown approximately 200 pumpkins and then dispersed them out to friends.

With their mother (Jane) acting as a liaison, her children proposed to the Lowell Area Arts Council that they grow pumpkins for this year's 31st annual Fallasburg Fall Festival at a discounted rate

so as to free money in the children's area budget for other uses.

The children's area will feature face, rock and pumpkin painting.

The LAAC paid \$400 last year for 800-1000 pumpkins.

The Bosserds have offered the LAAC the same

amount of pumpkins for its festival, plus deliver them to Fallasburg Park, all for \$200.

"Because the art council counts on profits from the festival to help fund its annual operations, it jumped at the chance to save a bit of money," said arts council spokesman Gary Eldridge.

As all first-year entrepreneurs, Bosserd did experience some setbacks.

The LAAC requested that the pumpkins be cantaloupe size.

"Some of ours got too big," James Bosserd said. Fearnot, the Bosserds' Uncle Dave and Aunt Pam, also pumpkin harvesters, filled in where their nephew and niece came up short.

The Bosserds admit that

Pumpkins, cont'd. pg. 8

School district and associations reach tentative agreements

I think both sides bargained in good faith and showed a willingness to compromise. It was a good process and I think the result is also good.

Bert Bleke
Lowell Area Schools Superintendent

The Lowell Area School District announced that it has come to a tentative one-year contract agreement with five school associations.

Terms of the agreements were not disclosed since the contract has not yet been ratified.

Connie Gillette, Lowell assistant superintendent for finance and personnel, said the board of education will be asked to ratify the agreements at the October board meeting.

Agreements were reached with the support staff (custodians, secretaries and paraprofessionals), mechanics, bus drivers, teachers, and the central office support staff.

Gillette said a recommendation will also be made for the administration.

The support staff and teachers union are represented by the Kent County Education Association.

Preliminary bargaining began last spring. Tentative agreements were reached with the mechanics and bus drivers in August.

Gillette said tentative agreements with the support staff

Contract, cont'd. pg. 8

Vergennes Twp. rejects pool; open to future talks on recreational opportunities

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Acknowledging the results from the survey it took, the Vergennes Township board unanimously rejected the community pool proposal.

In a separate vote, the board then voted 3-2 not to participate in a recreational district as it pertains to a community pool, but said it would entertain further discussion on other recreational opportunities.

Vergennes Township supervisor Tim Wittenbach and board trustee Susan Geiger-Hessler voted no on the second motion.

Township clerk Mari Stone, treasurer Jeanne Hoffman and trustee Mark Weber voted in favor of it.

The township sent out a two-question survey to its registered voters; 59 percent responded convincingly that they did not want their property taxes increased to pay for a community pool.

"The survey was done to find out what our voters thought," Stone explained.

Wittenbach said the board's decision was for Vergennes Township.

"Once each board gives its okay, then it becomes a vote of the entire school district," said Wittenbach.

Vergennes Township resident Justin Michael noted that voting to become part of the recreational district authority does not mean the township loses its set of rights.

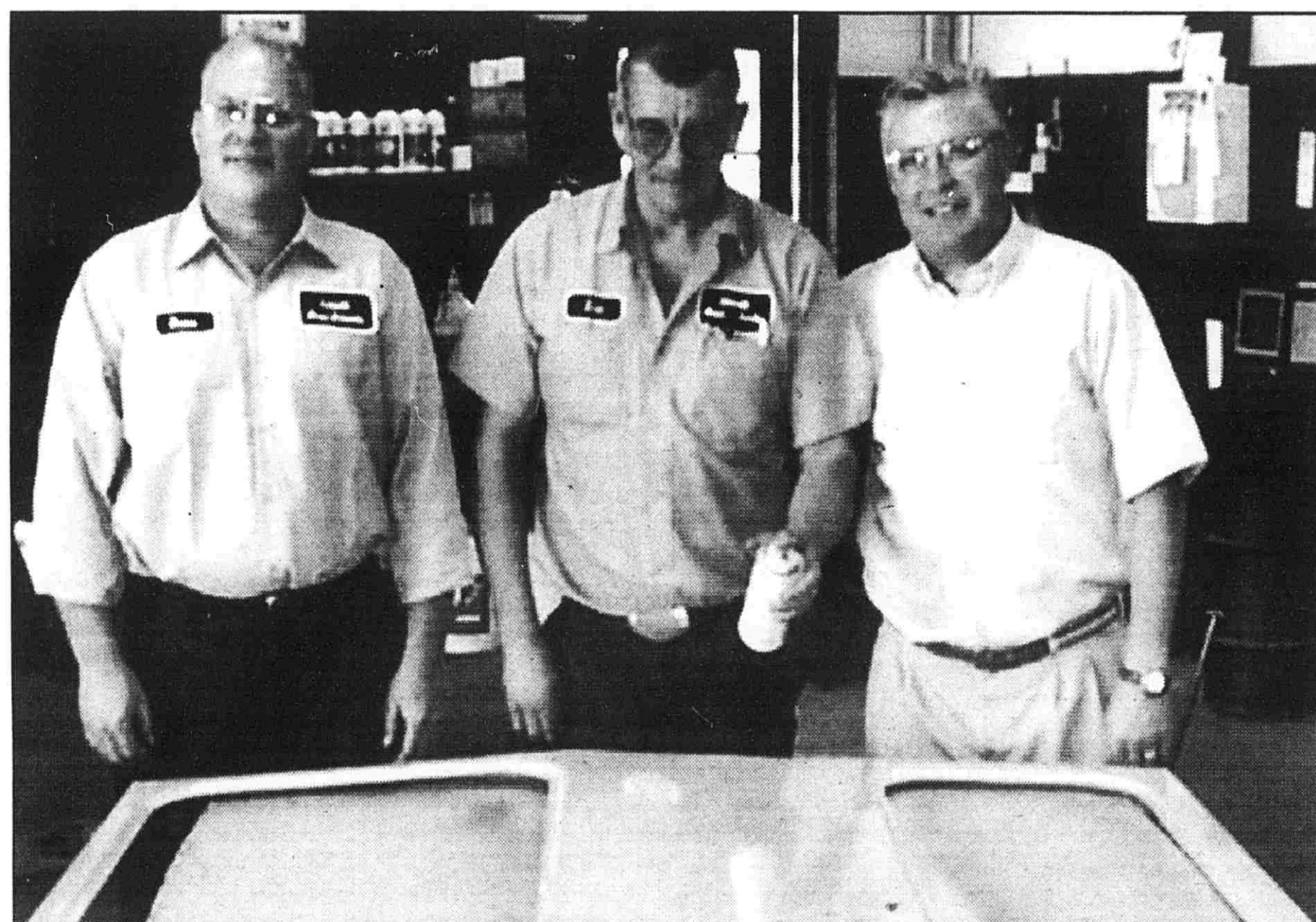
The contract has terms that would allow the township to discontinue before it ever got to a vote. "Before it goes to a vote of the district we (township) can say time out, the game is over."

Township, cont'd. pg. 8

INSIDE THE LEDGER

Fallasburg Village
Added to Register
Page 9

Only mark given Lowell buses is that of excellence



Pictured above, left to right, are: Lowell mechanics Duane Hamilton and Leo Bowen, and Lowell Schools transportation director Larry Mikulski.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The Lowell Area School District was one of 11 West Michigan districts that made it through a surprise inspection of its bus fleet without a red or yellow tag.

Of those 11 schools, only Forest Hills and Kentwood put a larger fleet of buses on the road each day.

None of Lowell's 47 buses were found to have a defect (e.g., bad windshield wiper) or needed to be taken off the road until repairs were made.

A district van also used to carry students passed the inspection of state police inspector Sharon VanCamp.

"I think the credit has to go to the drivers who turn in bus reports daily and obviously our mechanics who take care of the buses in a timely fashion," said Larry Mikulski, Lowell Schools transportation director.

Mikulski added that many schools who have as many or more buses on the road also employ more than two mechanics.

"I think that says a lot for our two mechanics," Mikulski explains. "They are insuring that Lowell is putting the safest buses possible on the road. That can't be said for all districts."

The district employs two mechanics, Duane Hamilton and Leo Bowen.

Last year, Lowell received one red tag (a bus that must be taken off the road for repair) and five yellow tags (buses that are usable but need repair).

In 1997, Lowell received six yellow tags and no red tags.

"This is the first year we've received a perfect evaluation," Mikulski said.

Of the 1,375 area buses inspected, 83 were found unsafe.

Canine friends invited to inaugural 5K bridge run/walk

••• The Covered Bridge Run will start at the Pavilion in Fallasburg Park, located on Fallasburg Park Drive, three miles north of Lowell.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The race registration fee is \$15 through Sept. 27 and \$18 after the 27th.

Runners and walkers may register the day of the race from 7 until 8:30 a.m. There is no shirt guarantee for race day registration.

Sponsors of the first Covered Bridge 5-K Run are King Milling, Animal Hospital & Pet Complex of Lowell, Luscious Landscapes, Harold Zeigler Ford, Thomet Chevrolet, Litehouse Incorporated, Ionia County National Bank, Mika Meyers Beckett & Jones PLC Attys, Cumberland Market, Todd Landman Car Company, Modern Printing, The Lowell Ledger and James Reagan DDS.

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dents their pet may have along the way.

The proceeds from the event will be donated to St. Mary's Pregnancy Center which is dedicated to providing a support network without charge to help lessen the trauma a woman may be experiencing from a distressing pregnancy.

The Covered Bridge Run will start at the Pavilion in Fallasburg Park, located on Fallasburg Park Drive, three miles north of Lowell.

Runners may pick up their packets the day (Oct. 1) before the race at the Animal Hospital and Pet Complex, 11610 E. Fulton, from 1 until 5 p.m.

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November 23.....Session 4: Team Building: Recruiting, Training, Evaluating & Retaining

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MONDAY - FRIDAY MORNINGS SEPTEMBER 24, 1999 - SEPTEMBER 30, 1999. Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and rows for broadcast channels (WVMT, WOTV, etc.) and cable channels (FX, FAM, etc.).

MONDAY - FRIDAY AFTERNOONS SEPTEMBER 24, 1999 - SEPTEMBER 30, 1999. Table with columns for time slots (12:00-6:30) and rows for broadcast channels (WVMT, WOTV, etc.) and cable channels (FX, FAM, etc.).

FRIDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 24, 1999. Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for broadcast channels (WVMT, WOTV, etc.) and cable channels (FX, FAM, etc.).

Dreamcatchers Photography. 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE. • Weddings • Environmental Portraiture • Special Occasion • Indoor & Outdoor Photography. Terry & Lori Huff. (616) 897-5880 or 240-9547.

MONDAY - FRIDAY LATE NIGHT SEPTEMBER 24, 1999 - SEPTEMBER 30, 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 Broadcast Channels (WVMT, WOTV, WGUV, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WTLJ, WKAR, WZZM, WWSN, WZPX) and Cable Channels (FX, FAM, MTV, VH1, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, CNN2, NICK, A&E, FOXDT, TNT, TBS, DISN, TNN, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, COM, TWC, HIST, AMC, H&G, LIFE, TOON D, MSNBC, CSPAN, EWTV) and Premium Channels (SHOW, HBO, TMC, MAX).

SATURDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 25, 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 Broadcast Channels (WVMT, WOTV, WGUV, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WTLJ, WKAR, WZZM, WWSN, WZPX) and Cable Channels (FX, FAM, MTV, VH1, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, CNN2, NICK, A&E, FOXDT, TNT, TBS, DISN, TNN, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, COM, TWC, HIST, AMC, H&G, LIFE, TOON D, MSNBC, CSPAN, EWTV) and Premium Channels (SHOW, HBO, TMC, MAX).

SPORT HIGHLIGHTS

RUGBY
FOXDT Fri. 1 p.m. Rugby Fox to the World Cup -- Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)

SKATING
TNN Fri. 9 p.m. Rollerjam Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)

TNN Fri. 10 p.m. Rollerjam
Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)

SOCCER
FOXDT Mon. 1 p.m. English Premier League Soccer Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)

TENNIS
FOXDT Tue. 2 a.m. Tennis Grand Slam Cup. From Munich, Germany. (Same-day Tape)
FOXDT Wed. 1 p.m. Tennis Grand Slam Cup. From Munich, Germany. (Same-day Tape)

EQUESTRIAN
ESPN Sun. 3 p.m. Equestrian American Cup. From Devon, Pa. (Taped)

FOOTBALL
ESPN Sat. 12 p.m. College Football Big Ten Game -- Teams to Be Announced. (Live)
WXMI Sat. 12 p.m. College Football Cincinnati at Ohio St. or Mich. at Illinois. (Live)
WOTV Sat. 3:30 p.m.; WZZM Sat. 3:30 p.m. College Football Regional Coverage -- Teams to Be Announced. (Live)
WVMT Sat. 3:30 p.m. College Football Regional Coverage -- Arkansas at Alabama, Florida at Kentucky or West Virginia at Syracuse. (Live)
WLNS Sat. 3:30 p.m. College Football Florida at Kentucky. (Live)
FOXDT Sat. 3:30 p.m. College Football Oklahoma at Louisville.

AUTO RACING
ESPN Fri. 8:30 p.m. Auto Racing NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series -- Las Vegas 250. From Las Vegas Motor Speedway. (Live)
TNN Sat. 1 p.m. Auto Racing NASCAR Grand National -- MBNA Gold 200. From Dover Downs International Speedway in Dover, Del. (Live)
FOXDT Sat. 1 p.m. Motorcycle Racing AMA Superbike. From Pikes Peak International Raceway in Fountain, Colo. (Taped)
TNN Sat. 9 p.m. Auto Racing World of Outlaws -- Channellock Fall Classic. From I-80 Speedway in Greenwood, Neb. (Live)
TNN Sun. 12:30 p.m. Auto Racing NASCAR Winston Cup -- MBNA Gold 400. From Dover Downs International Speedway in Dover, Del. (Live)
WOTV Sun. 4 p.m.; WZZM Sun. 4 p.m. Auto Racing CART FedEx Championship Series -- Grand Prix of Houston. From Houston. (Live)
FOXDT Sun. 4:30 p.m. Auto Racing FIA Formula One -- Luxembourg Grand Prix. From Nurburgring, Germany. (Same-day)

BICYCLING
ESPN Wed. 3 p.m. Cycling BMX National Jumping Contest. From Primm, Nev. (Taped)

BOXING
SHOW Fri. 8 p.m. Boxing William Joppy vs. Julio Cesar Green. William Joppy, WBA middleweight champion, defends his title against Julio Cesar Green; Keith Holmes, WBC middleweight champion, vs. Andrew Council; Shamba Mitchell, WBA junior welterweight champion, vs. Elio Ortiz. From Washington, D.C. (Live)
HBO Sat. 9:45 p.m. Boxing World Championship -- Shane Mosley vs. Wilfredo Rivera. Shane Mosley takes on Wilfredo Rivera. (Live)
FOXDT Sun. 7 p.m. Boxing Sunday Night Fights. (Taped)
FOXDT Wed. 7 p.m. Boxing Fight Night at the Great Western Forum. From Inglewood, Calif. (Taped)

RODEO
TNN Sun. 9 p.m. Championship Bull Riding Bullanza. From Reno, Nev. (Taped)

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SATURDAY AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 25, 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 Broadcast Channels (WVMT, WOTV, WGUV, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WTLJ, WKAR, WZZM, WWSN, WZPX) and Cable Channels (FX, FAM, MTV, VH1, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, CNN2, NICK, A&E, FOXDT, TNT, TBS, DISN, TNN, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, COM, TWC, HIST, AMC, H&G, LIFE, TOON D, MSNBC, CSPAN, EWTV) and Premium Channels (SHOW, HBO, TMC, MAX).

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-4:30) and broadcast channels (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.). It lists various TV programs and their descriptions for Saturday Evening/Late Night.

Advertisement for Wittenbach Lube, Oil Change, Filter. Includes the Wittenbach logo and text: 'LUBE, OIL CHANGE, FILTER \$17.95'. Also mentions 'Real People-Real Difference' and contact information for Aurora - Olds - Pontiac - GMC.

Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and broadcast channels (WVMT, WOTV, WGMV, etc.). It lists various TV programs and their descriptions for Sunday Morning and Sunday Afternoon.

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-4:30) and rows for various channels (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) under the heading 'SUNDAY EVENING / LATENIGHT' and 'SEPTEMBER 26, 1999'. Includes sub-sections for 'BROADCAST CHANNELS' and 'CABLE CHANNELS'.

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various channels (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) under the heading 'MONDAY EVENING' and 'SEPTEMBER 27, 1999'. Includes sub-sections for 'BROADCAST CHANNELS' and 'CABLE CHANNELS'.

Table with columns for time slots (6:00-11:30) and rows for various channels (SHOW, HBO, TMC, etc.) under the heading 'PREMIUM CHANNELS'.

Table with columns for time slots (6:00-11:30) and rows for various channels (SHOW, HBO, TMC, etc.) under the heading 'PREMIUM CHANNELS'.

Advertisement for Lowell Water Works. Text: 'We have all new state of the art equipment and cleaning products to clean, protect & dry your vehicle. Our new soft cloth equipment is saturated with soaps and water so your vehicle is gently pampered.' Includes phone number 978-452-1111 and address 1941 West Main • Lowell, MI 49331.

Advertisement for Lowell Water Works. Text: 'LOWELL WATER WORKS WIN FREE CAR WASHES! Bring in this coupon when you get your next wash & ENTER THE DRAWING FOR 1 YEAR OF FREE CAR WASHES!' Includes a coupon form with fields for NAME and PHONE.

Advertisement for Edward Jones. Text: '401(k) rollovers made easy. Call or stop by today. Christopher J. Bouma, Investment Representative, 2050 W. Main, Suite D, Lowell, MI 49331, 987-9515, www.edwardjones.com'.

Advertisement for IRA. Text: 'Which IRA is right for you? Focused on planning for retirement? A traditional IRA or Roth IRA, each offering unique tax advantages, can help you build your retirement nest egg. Need to finance a college education? An Education IRA can help you save for higher education expenses. I can help you choose the IRA that's right for you.'

TUESDAY EVENING

Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for various TV channels (WVMT, WOV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy!, and various news and entertainment shows.

CABLE CHANNELS

Table with columns for time slots and rows for various cable channels (FX, FAM, MTV, VH1, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, etc.) listing programs like M*A*S*H, The Simpsons, and various news and entertainment shows.

PREMIUM CHANNELS

Table with columns for time slots and rows for premium channels (SHOW, HBO, TMC, MAX) listing programs like "Bebe's Kids", "Phantoms", "Dead Man on Campus", etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING

SEPTEMBER 29, 1999

BROADCAST CHANNELS

Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for various TV channels (WVMT, WOV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy!, and various news and entertainment shows.

CABLE CHANNELS

Table with columns for time slots and rows for various cable channels (FX, FAM, MTV, VH1, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, etc.) listing programs like M*A*S*H, The Simpsons, and various news and entertainment shows.

PREMIUM CHANNELS

Table with columns for time slots and rows for premium channels (SHOW, HBO, TMC, MAX) listing programs like "Strange Justice", "Species III", "Hard Rain", etc.

Advertisement for 'CHECK OUT THE MONEY-SAVING ADS IN THE LOWELL LEDGER TV MAGAZINE' with a large graphic and text.

Advertisement for 'Touch of Country' featuring 'AFFORDABLE SOLID OAK FURNITURE' and '10% Off ALL TABLE LACE By Heritage Lane'.

Table with columns for THURSDAY EVENING, BROADCAST CHANNELS, and SEPTEMBER 30, 1999. Rows list various TV channels (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) and their programming schedules for different time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, etc.).

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL

For the Regular Meeting of TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1999. The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Thompson and the Clerk called the Roll.

Present: Councilmembers Blough, Green, Myers, Shores and Mayor Thompson. Absent: None. Also Present: City Manager David Pasquale, Deputy Clerk Betty Morlock, Police Chief James Valentine, Public Works Director Daniel DesJarden, Planning Commissioners Daniel Pipe and James Hall, Manager of Programming and Marketing Thomas Richards, General Manager of Lowell Light and Power/Cable TV Ronald Holcomb, Light and Power Board Member Norman Borgerson and Downtown Development Authority Boardmember James Reagan.

IT WAS MOVED BY SHORES and seconded by MYERS that the meeting minutes of the August 16, 1999 meeting be approved as written. YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY GREEN and seconded by MYERS that the bills and accounts payable be allowed and the warrants issued.

Councilmember Myers questioned the bill from the Holiday Inn in Marquette. Deputy Clerk Betty Morlock stated the bill was involving attendance at the Michigan Association of Clerks Conference. YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (09/07/99)

Table listing financial items and amounts: GENERAL FUND (\$108,547.08), MAJOR STREET FUND (327.91), LOCAL STREET FUND (474.67), DDA FUND (167.62), AIRPORT FUND (1,383.87), WASTEWATER FUND (34,053.90), WATER FUND (3,195.37), DATA PROCESSING FUND (3,248.76), EQUIPMENT FUND (1,150.39), CURRENT TAXES (216,776.55), LOOK FUND (3,000.00).

Item #1. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS A. 514 N. MONROE - DAVID KLEINPASTE - VARIANCE IN LOT COVERAGE TO ALLOW IN-GROUND SWIMMING POOL AND PATIO - PUBLIC HEARING. As noted at the last meeting, David Kleinpaste proposed to construct a swimming pool and patio at his residence located at 514 N. Monroe. Within the R-2 district, the 30% lot coverage as a maximum is allowed (Section 7.04).

At their August 23, 1999 meeting, the Planning Commission reviewed the following lot coverage calculations:

Table showing lot coverage calculations: Lot Size (4,448.00 s.f.), House, porch and garage (1,758.95 s.f. (20.82%)), With proposed swimming pool 512 s.f. (2,270.95 s.f. (26.88%)), With pool and patio 3,750 s.f. (5,089.95 s.f. (65.21 %)).

Lot coverage is defined as the percentage of the lot occupied by any building or structure, including accessory buildings. In reviewing the proposal, Zoning Administrator Sarah Wieland determined the patio was a structure. Thus, a variance had been requested.

The Planning Commission interpreted a patio is not a structure. Thus, the Commission recommended a variance not be required. Councilmember Myers verified the lot behind the residence was vacant. David Kleinpaste responded this was correct. Myers asked if he owned the lot. Kleinpaste said no.

Myers questioned if the Planning Commission had any concerns regarding storm water run off because of the proposed amount of cement around the pool. Planning Commissioner Hall responded planting areas would also be installed. He noted the Commission had difficulty determining why a pool and patio would be considered a structure. Hall believed lot coverage should only apply to the house, garage or other structures on the property, which take visual space. The Commission felt if the pool and patio

were to be considered a structure, then the driveway and sidewalk should also be considered a structure.

Mayor Thompson asked if the pool was going to be an inground or an above ground pool. Hall responded an inground pool. Thompson believed an inground pool should be considered a structure because of the cement walls constructed and all the requirements which must be met. Hall said the Commission is not stating it is not a structure. But, it is not a visual percentage of this space.

Councilmember Blough clarified the Commission did not believe the proposed patio area was a structure. He concurred with the Planning Commission and felt if the patio were to be considered a structure, then the driveway and sidewalk should also be a structure. Councilmember Green mentioned it would be a ground patio and not a deck. Kleinpaste responded this was correct.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS and seconded by BLOUGH to support the Planning Commission's recommendation to not consider the patio a structure and therefore no variance would be required for this project at 514 N. Monroe submitted by David Kleinpaste. YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

B. 743 GRINDLE - MARK OSBURN - VARIANCE FROM HARD SURFACED DRIVEWAY AND WAIVER REGARDING SIDEWALK REQUIREMENTS - SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE (9/20). Mark Osburn has proposed to construct a new house on a back lot (variance given) off of Grindle. Because of its location, a variance from Section 19.03B involving a hard surface driveway measured to the street is requested. Also, a waiver regarding the required sidewalk had been petitioned.

At their August 23, 1999 meeting, the Planning Commission reviewed both requests with the applicant. Based on not meeting criteria D, E and F, the Commission did not recommend the variance waiving a hard surfaced driveway be granted. However, the Commissioners did suggest the petitioner meet with DPW Director Dan DesJarden to determine the length of driveway pavement necessary to avoid washout onto Grindle.

In addition, the Planning Commission recommended a waiver be granted from the sidewalk requirement, since there are no nearby walks.

City Manager Pasquale stated it was strongly recommended the applicant work with DesJarden to determine if there is certain length of pavement that could be utilized as a compromise. Mayor Thompson was in agreement. He said the area has many drives which wash out onto paved areas.

IT WAS MOVED BY BLOUGH and seconded by THOMPSON to set a public hearing for 743 Grindle on September 20, 1999 to consider the variance request regarding a hard surface driveway and waiving the sidewalk requirement. YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #2. CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE APPROVING AMENDED DEVELOPMENT AND TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLANS OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND RESOLUTION AND AUTHORIZING A NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS - PUBLIC HEARING. City Manager Pasquale noted Chairman James Reagan (who has served in the position since 1992) of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) was present. As discussed previously, the Downtown Development Authority has expressed an interest to issue another TIFA bond issue to provide more improvements in the district, to 1.1 million dollars. As part of the process, the original Development and Tax Increment Financing Plan (approved in April, 1993) needed amendments to reflect a greater debt obligation (\$3,000,000) which includes an existing 1.3 million dollar bond, which currently the DDA is paying. There was an opportunity to bond 1.7 million dollars, but the DDA and City Attorney/ Bond Council Richard Wendt felt the issue should be conservative and be cut to 1.1 million dollars.

Myers suggested a flag or banner be placed in front of businesses to attract more customers. He said this could be done on Sundays and Holidays to indicate the businesses are open. Blough felt it would be difficult to regulate. He questioned during what special events would be allowed and whether the City Council would have to endorse it.

Additionally, added improvements include extension of the riverwalk, utility improvements, lighting, street, parking lot and sidewalk improvements, as well as site improvements related to the renovation and expansion of the City Hall/Police Station, renovation and resale of buildings.

The DDA Board approved the amendments at their July 22, 1999 meeting and unanimously recommended approval. At this time, the Council should consider an ordinance adopting the plan amendments and a resolution authorizing a notice of intent to issue bonds.

Reagan stated it was good to have a joint meeting and wished to continue to meet once in a while. He stated the DDA is trying to prevent buildings from deteriorating and have set aside monies to help business owners. Regan noted the continued development on the west end of town has helped.

IT WAS MOVED BY SHORES and seconded by GREEN to approve the amended Development and Tax Increment Financing Plans as proposed of the Downtown Development Authority and Resolution and authorizing a notice of intent to issue bonds. YEA: Councilmembers Blough, Green, Myers, Shores and Mayor Thompson. NAY: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #3. DEMOLITION OF 213 N. MONROE - CONSIDERATION OF BIDS. As part of the City Hall renovation and Police Station expansion project, a rental house located at 213 N. Monroe was recently purchased by the City for a 50 car parking lot. Bids have been secured for the demolition and clearance of the structure as follows:

Table listing demolition and clearance costs: Pitsch Companies (Grand Rapids) \$5,200; Demolition and Dumpsters, Inc. (Grand Rapids) \$6,200.

Pasquale recommended the Council award the demolition project of 213 N. Monroe to Pitsch Companies in the amount of \$5,200 allocated from the Building Authority bond.

Councilmember Myers asked if any local bids were received. DPW Director DesJarden said contact was made with a local contractor who no longer provides this type of service.

IT WAS MOVED BY GREEN and seconded by MYERS to hire Pitsch Companies to remove the house located at 213 N. Monroe for \$5,200. YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

DesJarden stated he would attempt to have the project completed before winter.

Item #4. DISCUSSION AND REVIEW - DISPLAY OF GOODS ON DOWNTOWN SIDEWALKS. Through recent enforcement of the zoning ordinance, discussions have been held between City staff and merchants regarding display of sale items on downtown sidewalks. The zoning ordinance prohibits this as noted in Section 11.02 D. within the Central Business District, stating providing goods within retail stores must be within a completely enclosed building. The merchants wanted an opportunity to talk with the Council to determine if some alterations can be made. None of the merchants were in attendance at the Council meeting.

Mayor Thompson stated he would be in favor of displays placed on sidewalks, if these were presented in an attractive manner. Councilmember Myers felt it would be difficult to regulate. He would support merchandise on sidewalks during special events, but not on a continual basis. Councilmember Blough questioned if the ordinance currently precludes a sidewalk sale. Pasquale responded the ordinance states providing goods within retail stores must be within a completely enclosed building. Sidewalk sales were not mentioned.

Myers suggested a flag or banner be placed in front of businesses to attract more customers. He said this could be done on Sundays and Holidays to indicate the businesses are open. Blough felt it would be difficult to regulate. He questioned during what special events would be allowed and whether the City Council would have to endorse it. City Council Proceedings, continued, pg. 24

Advertisement for Thomet Chevrolet Buick. Text includes: 'Is Your Source For Top Quality GM Vehicles From:', 'A Great Selection Of Used Cars & Trucks & New Car Trades', 'Also see us for authorized GM parts & service'. Images include Chevrolet logo and GM Parts logo.

Leadership initiative hones in on communication and organizational effectiveness

Leadership Lowell will offer two series titled "Organizations that Work" and "Communication and Organizational Effectiveness" during the months of October and November.

Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The second in a series of leadership initiatives will concentrate on organizations that work and communication and organizational effectiveness.

Direction Center (a management resource for nonprofit organizations) and the Lowell Area Community Fund advisory committee will present two separate series tailored to meet specific needs of profit and nonprofit organizations.

The two series will be presented during the months of October and November on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 until 9 p.m.

The workshops were developed from discussion at a community wide meeting last fall with the Lowell Area Community Fund advisory committee and the steering committee for the Lowell Leadership Learning Concept.

Series one titled "Organizations that Work" will offer four sessions:

- Best Practices: Benchmarks for excellence - Oct. 5.

- Capacity Building: Marketing and development - Oct. 19.
- Leadership: Board/staff roles and responsibilities - Nov. 2.
- Measuring Outcomes: Communication impact - Nov. 16.

"This is a way to help the community at a minimum cost to individuals and organizations to improve both profit and nonprofit organizations," said Bert Bleke, a member of the Lowell Community Fund Advisory Committee.

The cost will be \$7 per individual per session or \$25 per series (four sessions) per organization. The cost for both series is \$40 (up to four people) per organization.

Series two is titled "Communication and Organizational Effectiveness." The four sessions are:

- Interpersonal communication and conflict management - Oct. 12.
- Organizational Communication: Analysis and planning - Oct. 26.
- Public Relations: Upside and down, inside and out - Nov. 9.
- Team Building: Recruiting, training, evaluating and retraining - Nov. 23.

The workshops will be held at Lowell High School.

The Lowell Community Leadership Initiative became a reality because the estate of Harold J. Englehardt, through the Grand Rapids Foundation, left the community of Lowell funding for art and culture, community development, education, environment, and health and social needs.

"It's educational opportunities for the community from the Lowell Area Community Fund," Bleke concluded.

City will fall back on other options if not able to secure property

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The city has stated from the beginning that it did not want acquisition of property for the City Hall/police station project to affect people's lives, buildings or homes.

Having finalized deals on five of the seven properties pertaining to the City Hall and police station project, the city has stuck to its word.

The city is hopeful that it can add two more properties to that list over the next three weeks.

The only two properties which remain are the Audrey Dykstra property at 310 Avery St. and the VFW building and parking lot.

Mayor Bill Thompson and councilman Mike Blough have held discussions with the VFW and made an offer.

Thompson said the city now awaits its response.

The mayor, however made it clear that whatever the VFW's decision is, he would like to see the city move ahead. "I would like the city to keep the process moving," Thompson said.

The mayor added that the project can be completed with the two remaining properties or with just the five already finalized.

"With the growth of the downtown, it is important to keep the City Hall/police station project going," Thompson said.

Without the two remaining properties, it is likely that the City Hall and police station would have to be separate buildings.

"I think we need to do what is most equitable and functional for our needs," councilman Chuck Myers explained.

Blough reminded people that while the city is honed in on the current City Hall/police station depiction, there are other options that maybe the city should review.

Those options include splitting the police station away from City Hall.

As part of its project design plan, Fishbeck, Thompson Carr & Huber provided the city with multiple options.

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Just For Lowell Community Learners

From The Lowell Area Community Fund

SERIES I

Best Practices: Benchmarks For Excellence • Oct. 5
Identify key indicators to a healthy organization and learn to assess the health of your organization.
Presenter: Crystal January/Direction Center

Capacity Building: Marketing & Development • Oct. 19
Learn the key to successful marketing and development.
Presenter: Sandi Frost Parrish/Monaghan & Associates

Leadership: Board/Staff Roles & Responsibilities • Nov. 2
Increase the energy and efficiency of your organization through the effective use of human resources.
Presenter: Dave Medema/Direction Center

Measuring Outcomes: Communicating Impact • Nov. 16
Discover how to measure and communicate the impact of your organization and its services.
Presenter: Cheryl Endres

SERIES II

Interpersonal Communication & Conflict Management • Oct. 12
Addresses the fundamental communication concepts that are instrumental in creating an open and productive communication climate in all types of interpersonal relationships.

Organizational Communication: Analysis & Planning • Oct. 26
A discovery of how communication can shape and reshape the experiences and realities of those in the organization. This information will apply to all types of groups and organizations - from large companies to civic groups.

Public Relations: Upside & Down, Inside & Out • Nov. 9
At this session, participants will understand the differences between an internal and external audience and how to create messages that appeal to both, while delivering the desired message.

Team Building: Recruiting, Training, Evaluating & Retaining • Nov. 23
As a very interactive presentation, this session will teach members how to take a group of people and create a team.

Don't Forget!
WE WANT TO KNOW IF YOU'RE COMING!
Please send* in the registration form or fax your form to 451-4390 to reserve your spot! You may also e-mail: januarcr@river.it.gvsu.edu
Snacks and beverages will be served at 5:30 and the sessions will begin promptly at 6:00.
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*Attend one series or both
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The Choice Is Yours - The Price Is Right!

We look forward to seeing you there!

This is an opportunity that you and your organization cannot afford to say "no" to!

Cost: \$7 per individual per session OR \$25 per series (or 4 sessions) per organization; \$40 for both series (up to 4 people) per organization

NAME(s) _____

ORGANIZATION _____

PHONE _____

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Lowell Leadership Initiative Registration Form

I WILL ATTEND:

(please check all that apply)

Series I **Series II**

Oct. 5 Oct. 12

Oct. 19 Oct. 26

Nov. 2 Nov. 9

Nov. 16 Nov. 23

Please make checks payable to:
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