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The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 7

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 1, 1999

Planning commission outlines guidelines for outdoor displays

Starting next year, new central business guidelines will require downtown merchants to remove and store any outside display items indoors during non-business hours.

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

Area merchants will enjoy the freedom of selling whatever they want in front of their stores and storing those items however they wish this year...but next year, the rules are going to change. At its last meeting, Nov.

22, the city of Lowell Planning Commission agreed upon some new guidelines for the general business district in regards to outdoor displays. "I think this is worth trying," said planning commissioner James Hall, who later added that business owners

need to be somewhat responsible for maintaining the front of their stores. "I think we should at the very least see how this goes," he said. The planning commission plans to present an ordinance amendment at its Jan. 24 meeting that will incorpo-

rate the new guidelines. In the central business district, which is the downtown area, the guidelines state non-merchandise, displays, or fixtures shall be located no closer than eight feet from the curb line or a tree; no fixtures or merchandise shall be located so as to

obstruct the movement of pedestrians along the sidewalk or obstruct the visibility of vehicles on the street; all merchandise, displays, and fixtures shall be removed and stored indoors during non-business hours; and the area devoted to such outdoor displays shall be located so as to

Guidelines, cont'd. pg. 8

Amendment would allow boarding/lodging houses

Boarding/lodging houses would be allowed as a special use in general business district.

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

Are you interested in having families visit but you don't really want them to stay at your home, and the nearest hotel is just too far? Well, the Lowell business district just might have a solution. At its Monday night meeting, the Lowell Planning Commission approved an ordinance amendment that would allow boarding and lodging houses in the

general business district. "This follows a request made in the area of East Main Street," said city manager, David Pasquale. The owner of the business had wanted to convert a store into a boarding house. Since the city had nothing on the books for boarding/lodging houses, the city planning commission had to create an amendment to allow such establishments to be in the general business district. "This follows in line with what you are looking for," Pasquale said. What the planning commission wanted was a way to control the boarding houses, which will be al-

Boarding/lodging, cont'd. pg. 8

Speed limit signs would give motorists adequate time to execute maneuvers

Kent County Road Commission agrees to speed limit, and advance reduce speed signs.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

A city review of the southwest quadrant of Riv-

erside Drive and Hunt Street has resulted in a request to have speed limit signs posted. "Upon my inspection, I discovered speed limit signs were missing in this area," said Lowell Police Chief Jim Valentine. "Because this area (in the city) is a residential district, and because of the 90 degree curves involved from Riverside to Hunt Street, the

speed limit should be posted at 25 miles per hour." Hunt Street and Riverside Drive to the city limits is maintained and controlled by the Kent County Road Commission. Kent County Road Commission traffic/safety engineer Tim Haagsma also agreed to post an advance, reduce speed sign, 500 feet

north of the city limits to warn motorists of the reduced speed. "I believe with the addition of the posted speed limit signs, drivers will be given adequate time to perceive, identify, and perform the necessary maneuver," Valentine explained. Lowell's chief of police

Riverside/Hunt, cont'd. pg. 8

Lowell's Christmas Parade Saturday

Patrons will be able to vote on their favorite decorated Christmas tree as part of the Christmas Tree Contest at the Riverwalk Plaza.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

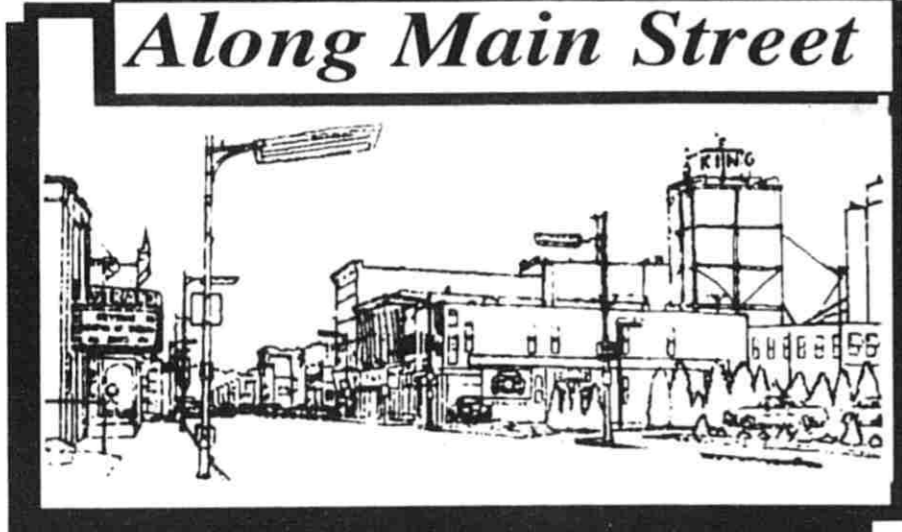
Nonprofit organizations and churches will display their tree decorating talents in the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce's first ever Christmas Tree Contest on Saturday at the Riverwalk Plaza. The chamber has purchased 20 trees and stands; 16 have been spoken for. The community is being asked to vote for its favorite tree. This can be done by putting a dollar in the box in front of the tree between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

middle school marching bands, and entries and floats from area churches, organizations and businesses. Following the parade, children may have their pictures taken with Santa in Santa Land, 222 W. Main St., from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. and 2:30 until 4 p.m. Pictures are \$3. Throughout the afternoon

Shotwell will perform their artwork on wood at the Riverwalk Plaza from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Grand Rapids Community College ice sculptor instructor Bob Schultz, along with some students, will demonstrate the art of ice sculpting from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

the Tree" activity at the Englehardt Public Library from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Children are asked to bring an ornament relating to their favorite storybook. The Flat River Snowmobile Club will be on the Riverwalk at 11:30 to raffle off a snowmobile, trailer and a \$200.

To help warm the chill of the winter season, roasted chestnuts and hot chocolate will be available on the plaza. The Lowell Christmas festivities are being sponsored by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and funded by the Lowell Downtown Development Association.



LOWELL ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB MEETING
The Lowell Area Schools Athletic Booster Club will hold its regular business meeting in the high school staff lounge on Monday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. Please come and help support our athletes.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HOLIDAY CONCERTS
The middle school band concerts will be held Thursday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. in the middle school gym.

CLASS OF 2000 BURGER KING NIGHT
The parents of the class of 2000 at Lowell High School are sponsoring a Burger King night on Dec. 10 from 4 to 8 p.m. Come eat and support their efforts to raise money for the senior all-nighter on May 25, 2000. Monies will be used to provide a safe, drug-free class trip.

FREE PRESCHOOL
The child psychology class at Lowell High School will be conducting a free preschool as a learning lab for children between the ages of 3 - 5 through Dec. 16. For more information or to register call Marsha LaHaye at 897-4125.

Main St., continued pg. 8

Parade	10 am	Main St.
Christmas Tree Contest	10 am to 4 pm	Riverwalk Plaza
Santa Land & Pictures \$3	11 am to 1 pm	222 W. Main St.
	2:30 to 4 pm	
Trim the Tree at Englehardt Library	11 am to 3 pm	Englehardt Library Community Room
Carriage Rides	11 am to 4 pm	King Milling Parking Lot
Snowmobile Raffle	11:30 am	Riverwalk Plaza
Angel Soup & Bake Sale	Following Parade	St. Mary's School
Chain Saw Sculpture	11 am to 4 pm	Riverwalk Plaza/Avery St.
Ice Sculpture	11 am to 1:30 pm	Riverwalk Plaza/Avery St.
Prairie Road Band	1 to 3 pm	On the Showboat
Hot Chocolate & Chestnuts	Throughout the day	Riverwalk Plaza
Christmas Carolers	Throughout the day	Main St.

Friends of the Library will host their annual Trim

INSIDE THE LEDGER

Kate Dernocoeur's Ethiopian Journey... The Second In a Four-Part Series, Page 22

OBITUARIES

BYRNE - Alvin E. Byrne, died Saturday, November 27, aged 90, of Grand Rapids, 1999 at Laurels of Kent in

These children achieved DENTAL HYGIENE EXCELLENCE For The Month of November 1999 DR. J.E. REAGAN 207 W. Main - Lowell 897-7179

- Hanna Boon, Matthew D'Agostino, Casey Delnick, Derrick Delnick, Gabe Delnick, Alexis Foster, Mallory Hines, Aaron Kastanek, Abbot Kastanek, Cody Kastanek, Jasmine Lillie, Jordan Lillie, Jenni Lupton, Jodi Lupton, Larinda Marker, Heather McQueen, Eric Mundt, Paul Mundt, Kimberly Noall, Kelsey Payne, Sarah Payne, Sara Poelstra, Stephanie Poelstra, Braden Quiggle, Lindsey Quiggle.

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- Raymond Seese, Caleb Shores, Kyle Stanford, Bryce Tulppo, Courtney Tulppo, Jessica Tulppo, Thomas Ward, Kourtney Wittenbach, Alex Carpenter.

Lowell. He was born July 2, 1909 in Grattan Twp., the son of Arthur and Emma Byrne. He is survived by three sisters, Leah Gerdeman of North Baltimore, Ohio, Florence (Dan) Kerwin of Grand Rapids, Arlene (Joe) Loughlin of Ionia; one brother, James and wife Catherine of Ionia; sister-in-law, Lena Allgeier of Grand Rapids; special friends and neighbors, Jerry and Marybeth Rardin and Harry Sakowski; several nieces and nephews. Al retired in July 1970 as Senior Process Engineer from General Motors after 41 years of service. Mass of Christian Burial was offered Tuesday at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church with Rev. John N. Wisneski as Celebrant. Interment in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Parnell. For those who wish, memorials may be made to Blessed Sacrament Church or Villa Elizabeth.

KENNEDY - John Edward Kennedy, aged 73, of Pensacola, Florida, died Monday, November 22, 1999. "Jack" was born in Windsor, Ontario, and grew up in Detroit. After serving in the Navy during WWI, he attended the University of Detroit, where he played tackle for the Titans and graduated with a degree in chemical engineering. He moved to Lowell in 1959 when his career as a chemical salesman led to a relationship with two young entrepreneurs from Ada. He was instrumental in the creation of Amway Manufacturing, which was later combined with Amway sales to form the Amway Corporation. He retired in 1969 at the age of 42, "two years later than my goal." After several more ventures, he retired in 1997 from Mold-Ex Rubber Co. He will be sorely missed. Daughters Margaret Mary Kennedy and Sheila Lynne (Chris) Soyka preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife Arlene Kennedy and daughter Heather Kennedy of Pensacola; son Fred (Cindy) Lowell and daughter Kathi (Tom) Vaughan of Brevard, NC, and Teri Herring of Gulf Port, MS; former wife Mary Kennedy; daughter Maureen Kissinger and son Kevin (Chris) Kennedy of Lowell; 16 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Per his instruction there was no service. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Molino Christian School, P.O. Box 356, Molino, FL 32577.

"Count Dracula" coming to PAC

Lowell High School will present Count Dracula, by Ted Tiller, on Dec. 2, 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lowell High School Performing Arts Center. Based on Bram Stoker's 19th century novel Dracula, this is a new, witty version of the classic story of a suave vampire whose passion is sinking his teeth into the throats of beautiful young women. Mina, his latest victim, is the ward of Dr. Seward in whose provincial insane asylum the terrifying action transpires. Her fiancé arrives from London, worried over her strange inertia and trancelike state. Equally concerned is Professor VanHelsing, specialist in rare maladies, who senses the supernatural at work. Added trouble comes from Sybil, Dr. Seward's demented, sherry-tipping sister, and from Renfield, a schizophrenic inmate in league with the vampire. But how to trap this ghoul who can transform himself into a bat, materialize from fog, dissolve in mist? Tickets are \$5 for students and seniors, and \$7 for adults.

The Lowell Ledger (USPS 453-830) Published weekly for \$12.00 a year in Kent County, \$17.00 a year outside the county by the Lowell Ledger Publishing Company, 105 N. Broadway St., Lowell, MI 49331 Roger K. Brown Publisher Thad Kraus Editor (616) 897-9261 Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI Published every Wednesday POSTMASTER: Send address change to: The Lowell Ledger P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331

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Alto third-graders first to reach 2,000

Alto's pop can project is helping to raise money to buy new playground equipment.

A student council poll, of Alto Elementary students, asked what the school needed most. Having more to do on the playground was the answer which popped up most. To ensure that happens, the student council devised a "2000 Before 2000" project to help raise money to buy new equipment. The council asked each grade level (2nd through 5th) to collect 2,000 pop cans before the year 2000. Alto's student council and student council advisor fourth-grade teacher Sharon Vensas announced that Alto's third graders were first to collect 2,000 cans. "There are no official prizes to be awarded. The reward is fame and glory," Vensas said. The friendly competition between grade levels had just a few rules: • Pop cans must be clean to be part of the grade level count. • Only 10 cans per student per day count for the grade level. "We want the students to take responsibility to count, wash and bring cans to school," Vensas explained. "We accept any large bags of cans brought in by adults, but will only count 10 cans for that child's grade level." The council is also accepting cash donations or store can receipts to be deposited in the playground fund. As of Monday, Alto third-grade classes had collected 2,040 cans; first-graders 938; second-graders 1,115; fourth-graders 1,740; and fifth-graders 1,037. The entire school had collected 6,877 pop cans. The student council project continues to Christmas break.

COLLEGE NEWS

Albion College student Melissa K. Peterson was selected to represent the student body on the 1999 homecoming court. Students were nominated by college organizations and then selected for the court through an interview process. Court members were chosen on the basis of campus involvement, service to others, scholarship and character. Peterson is a senior majoring in anthropology and sociology and women's studies and is a member of the Ford Institute for Public Policy and Service. She is the daughter of Kay E. O'Leary of Lowell and a graduate of Lowell High School. DEC. 1: Travis Briggs, Jack Fonger, Carolyn Batt, Deb Anchors, Denny Brenk II, Joyce Watrous. DEC. 2: Chelsey Treglia, Kari Bergy, Mary Alice Starkweather. DEC. 3: Chris Chambers, Chris Darby, Amanda Sterzick, Richard Kline. DEC. 4: Tennille Bryant. DEC. 5: DEC. 6: Katie Blough, Kristopher Vezino, Phil Seese, Christopher DeBold, Maria Blough. DEC. 7: Jennifer Berry.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- DEC. 1: Travis Briggs, Jack Fonger, Carolyn Batt, Deb Anchors, Denny Brenk II, Joyce Watrous. DEC. 2: Chelsey Treglia, Kari Bergy, Mary Alice Starkweather. DEC. 3: Chris Chambers, Chris Darby, Amanda Sterzick, Richard Kline. DEC. 4: Tennille Bryant. DEC. 5: DEC. 6: Katie Blough, Kristopher Vezino, Phil Seese, Christopher DeBold, Maria Blough. DEC. 7: Jennifer Berry.



Pictured around the 2000 pop can pyramid, left to right, kneeling, are Logan Wolfe and Cole Posthumus; standing, left to right, are Lauren Wolfe, Andrew Bailey, Heather Burger and Brittany Holst. Standing with the student council representatives is parent advisor and pop can pyramid engineer, DeeAnn Wilcox.

Lowell Light & Power will receive sealed Bids for construction of office renovations at their facility located at 127 North Broadway Street in Lowell, Michigan, until Tuesday, December 21, 1999, at 2:00 p.m. local time.

The project consists of furnishing all supplies, construction and placing in operation the renovations to office and related building areas and systems, as described in the project bidding documents (drawings and specifications) prepared by the project architect/engineer, Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. (FTC&H).

Bidding documents may be examined at the following locations after Tuesday, November 23, 1999, 2:00 p.m. local time:

- Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. 6090 East Fulton P.O. Box 211 Ada, Michigan 49301 (616) 676-2666 Builders & Traders Exchange Grand Rapids, Michigan F.W. Dodge Corporation Grand Rapids, Michigan Lowell Light & Power 127 North Broadway Street P.O. Box 229 Lowell, Michigan 49331 (616) 897-8402

Bidding Documents may be obtained at the office of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc., Ada, Michigan upon payment of a \$75 refundable deposit.

Mandatory prebid conference will be held on Friday, December 3, 1999, 2:00 p.m., local time at Lowell Light & Power, 127 North Broadway Street, Lowell, Michigan. Prospective bidders are required to attend and participate in the conference.

Are You Missing A Picture?? Maybe It's At The Buyers Guide/Ledger Office We will be cleaning out our files of photographs. ANY PHOTOS NOW IN OUR FILES WILL BE DISCARDED AT THE END OF THE YEAR. Also in order to keep pictures from piling up in the future, we are implementing a new policy. Anyone wanting their photographs returned after they have appeared in the Buyers Guide or Ledger must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or pick up the photo within 60 days of publication. After 60 days, photos will be discarded.

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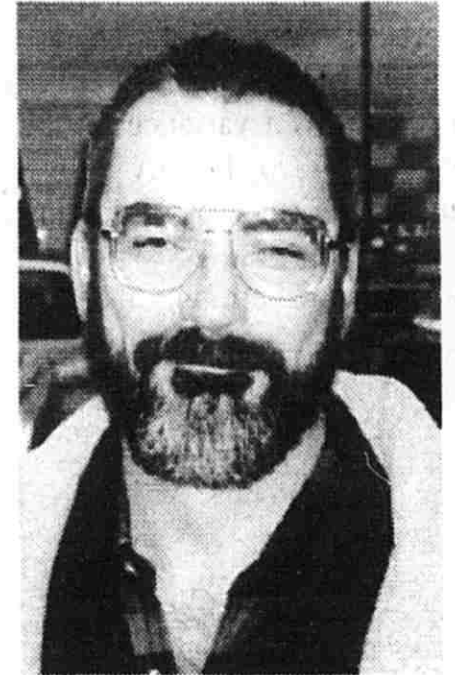
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TOWN TALK

Over the holidays many are tempted to overindulge when it comes to eating. To counter this some diet and exercise before the holidays; some pay close attention to what they eat during the holiday season and others wait 'til Jan. 1 and then diet and exercise to drop any excess weight they may have gained. What plan do you subscribe to?



Brian Zimmerman
I don't do anything differently. I eat like I normally eat. I hate that stuffed feeling.



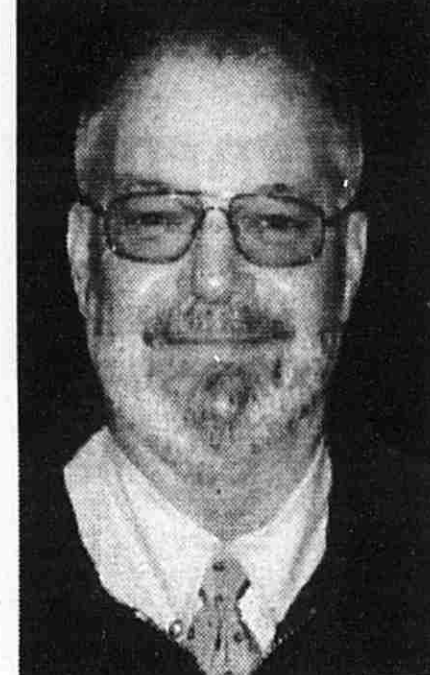
Dan Correll
None of them. I just eat normally



Beth McNaughton
I'm a nurse so I work most holidays. That helps me control what I eat.



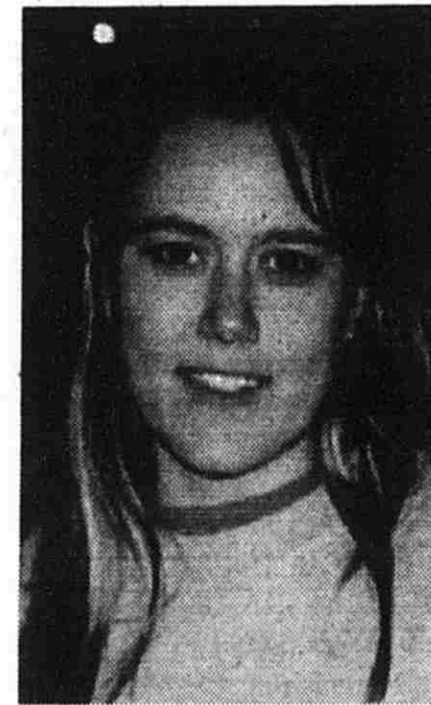
Danne Spielmaker
I enjoy the holidays as much as I can and then re-coup later.



Tim Hawkins
When I was younger I did not care... now I watch what I eat.



Barb Fountain
I watch myself and don't eat as much.



April Gilhoran
I don't eat the day before and then I eat as much as I want on the holiday. I also exercise.

Andy Sherman
I eat more over the holidays and then watch what I eat afterwards.

Mark Tucker
I stay consistent. I don't do anything more or less. I just keep on doing what I've been doing.

Local establishment makes headway toward changing locations

●●● Planning commission approves site plan and variance requests by Ron Potter, Main Street Pub owner.

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

A current Lowell bar has been able to clear some of the hurdles it needs to change owners and location. Ron Potter, owner of Kaptain Jack's, 916 W. Main, plans to sell his business to Lois Sherman, who in turn would like to expand the business and move it across the street to 901 W. Main. The new business would be the Main Street Restaurant/Lounge and Banquet Facility. In three separate votes, the Lowell Planning Commission unanimously approved a site plan and recommended two variance requests for the rear setback and number of parking spaces to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Originally the owners had two site plans they were proposing; the only difference being that the one required a variance for the rear setback.

"We want to have the parking in front because we like the public to come out into the light of traffic," Potter said. "Also as the police are driving back and forth on the street, they can see the lot from the road."

The building behind the property is an Erb Lumber warehouse, Potter said, adding that if the Main Street building were a little closer, it would not adversely affect the other business.

With safety issues in mind, the planning commission agreed having the business's parking lot in front would be better than in back.

However, city manager David Pasquale said there were several other issues city officials felt needed to be addressed before any site plan could be approved including landscaping, sidewalk on Center Street, parking lot landscaping, lighting, drainage, and screening for the apartments behind the building.

In addressing the sidewalk along Center Street, Potter said

he didn't really see the point of having one. It would stop and end on our property and would have no-where else to go, he said.

The planning commission agreed with that, but did state the business would have to put in sidewalk when the city deemed it necessary; Potter said he had no problem agreeing to that.

As for the other issues, the Planning Commission decided the business would need to follow the city's ordinance for frontage landscaping requirements which is one canopy tree and three deciduous shrubs for every 20 lineal feet. The business could count all trees and shrubs on the property to reach the needed 17 trees and 51 shrubs.

The planning commission approved the current site plan contingent that a new plan be given to Pasquale showing the lighting and drainage. The parking lot landscaping and screening for the apartments was waived.

Another issue was the number of parking spaces. At most, Sherman said she would have 130 people in the building at one time. According to the calculations, the business would

need 65 parking spaces. Under the proposed plan, the business had only 42 spaces.

"I do have an easement agreement with Erb Lumber to use their spaces," Potter said, which added another 23 spaces, but was still seven short of the number needed. "There is also plenty of street parking available."

The planning commission agreed to a variance on the parking spaces as long as Potter provided the city with a complete copy of the easement on the Erb Lumber parking spaces.

Potter does plan to sell his business to Sherman. Currently the two are working to get the liquor license transferred to Sherman. At its next meeting, the city council tabled consideration of a recommendation to the state's Liquor Control Commission of the transfer until it had more information. The council plans to revisit the liquor license transfer at its Dec. 6 meeting.

At its Dec. 20 meeting, the council, acting as the Zoning Board of Appeals, will take up the variance requests.

4-H club collects over 11,000 pennies for Guiding Light Mission

The members of Friends and Neighbors 4-H Club have collected pennies for the past year to purchase coffee for Guiding Light Mission.

As a community service project, the members enjoyed collecting, saving and rolling over 11,000 pennies.

The Guiding Light Mission serves over 80,000 cups of coffee each year and the coffee purchased by the 4-H members will help meet part of their needs.

For more information about the Kent County 4-H program, call 336-3265.



Front row, left to right, are: Rachel Penninga, Matt Francisco, Jake Baker, Steven Koning, Christian Koning and Courtney Baker; back row, left to right, are: Bethany Penninga and P.J. Penninga.

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Guidelines, cont'd.... From Page 1

plays shall be maintained in a safe, clean, and sanitary manner.

In the general business district, the guidelines state non-merchandise, displays, or fixtures shall be located no closer than 10 feet on any public right-of-way line and shall be maintained in a safe, clean, and sanitary manner; no fixtures or merchandise shall be located so as to obstruct the visibility of vehicles on the street; and merchandise shall be displayed after business hours within 10 feet from the front of the building.

Under the original proposal, businesses would have had to get a special use permit to be allowed to have an outdoor display. The planning commission, however, threw out the requirement primarily because of the cost, which is \$250.

"That seems pretty steep to me," said planning commission chair Daniel Brubaker.

"I can't see making every business owner come down and ask for a special use permit," said councilor Jeanne Shores,

who was attending the meeting as an observer.

Bob Ford, owner of Hahn Hardware, did raise the question of whether a downtown business owner would have the right to sell seasonal items like Christmas trees without being required to haul the trees into his store every evening.

"I don't want to stop the ordinance on this issue," Ford said. "I was on the committee and I think what we have here is really good. However, I am selling Christmas trees for the first time this year and I want to know if I will be able to do that next year. If I do, I can't be bringing the trees in every night. Maybe one or two, but not all of them."

Planning commissioner Elizabeth Thompson, who had received a lot of complaints from citizens about unsightly and dangerous sidewalks due to outside displays downtown, said she certainly didn't have a problem if a business wanted to sell Christmas trees.

Boarding/lodging, cont'd.... From Page 1

lowed in the general business district under a special use permit.

A boarding house or lodging house, as defined by the proposed ordinance, is a dwelling having one or more kitchens and is primarily used

for the purpose of providing meals/lodging for compensation of any kind. It would be allowed in the general business district by special use only, which requires a business owner to present plans to the planning commission for

approval of such an operation.

The planning commission held a public hearing on the proposed amendment and received little comment. With little discussion on the proposed change, the planning

commission unanimously voted to recommend the approval of the amendment to the Lowell City Council.

The city council will review the amendment change at its Dec. 6 meeting.

Riverside/Hunt, cont'd.... From Page 1

said there have been two accidents in the last two years at the Riverside/Hunt Street intersection. Dating back to

1980, there has been an average of one per year.

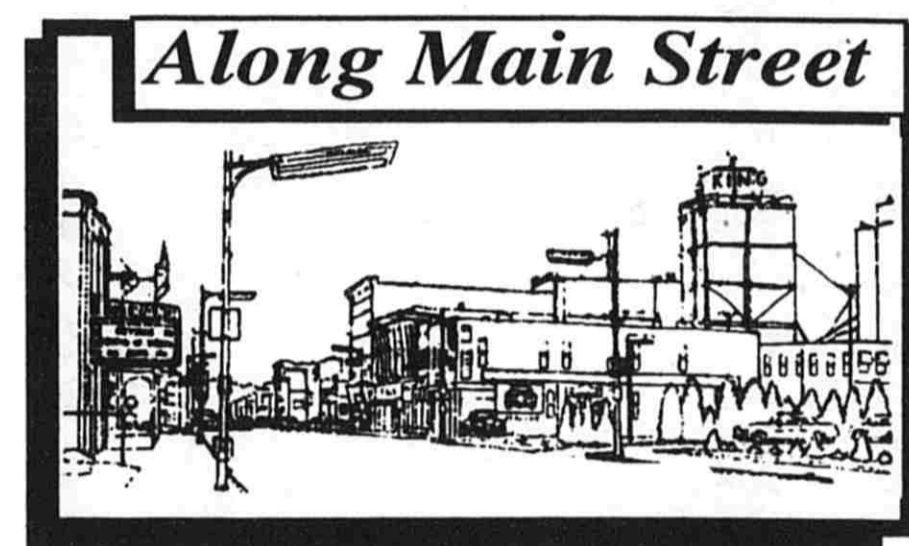
A Nov. 5 accident in which a southbound vehicle

failed to navigate the curve and struck a house located on the southwest corner of Riv-

erside Drive and Hunt Street brought proper traffic control signage into question.

"I don't care if everybody sells Christmas trees as long as they keep the sidewalks clean," said Thompson. "They can line them all the way down the street and make us feel Christmasy."

For now, the planning commission decided it would keep the guidelines it had, which require downtown merchants to remove and store any outside display items indoors during non-business hours.



REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR YMCA BASKETBALL

Don't forget that the registration deadline for YMCA winter basketball grades 3 - 6 will be Wednesday, Dec. 1 by 5 p.m. Call the YMCA at 897-8445 or stop by at 323 W. Main St., Lowell.

ALL SCHOOL PLAY AT LPAC THIS WEEKEND

The all school play, "Count Dracula" by Ted Tiller will be performed at the Lowell High School Performing Arts Center at 11700 Vergennes on Dec. 2, 3, and 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Cost is \$5.00 for students and seniors, and \$7.00 for adults.

Did You Know?

(NAPS)—To find out about creating personalized calendars, visit the Web site at www.koolcalendars.com, or call (215) 443-7485.



The Adventures of Tom Sawyer was the first novel ever to be written on a typewriter.

ATTENTION DENNY'S DISPOSAL CUSTOMERS

IMPORTANT ROUTE CHANGE NOTICE

Effective Monday,
December 6, 1999

All carts in the city limits
of Lowell
will have a **MONDAY** pickup

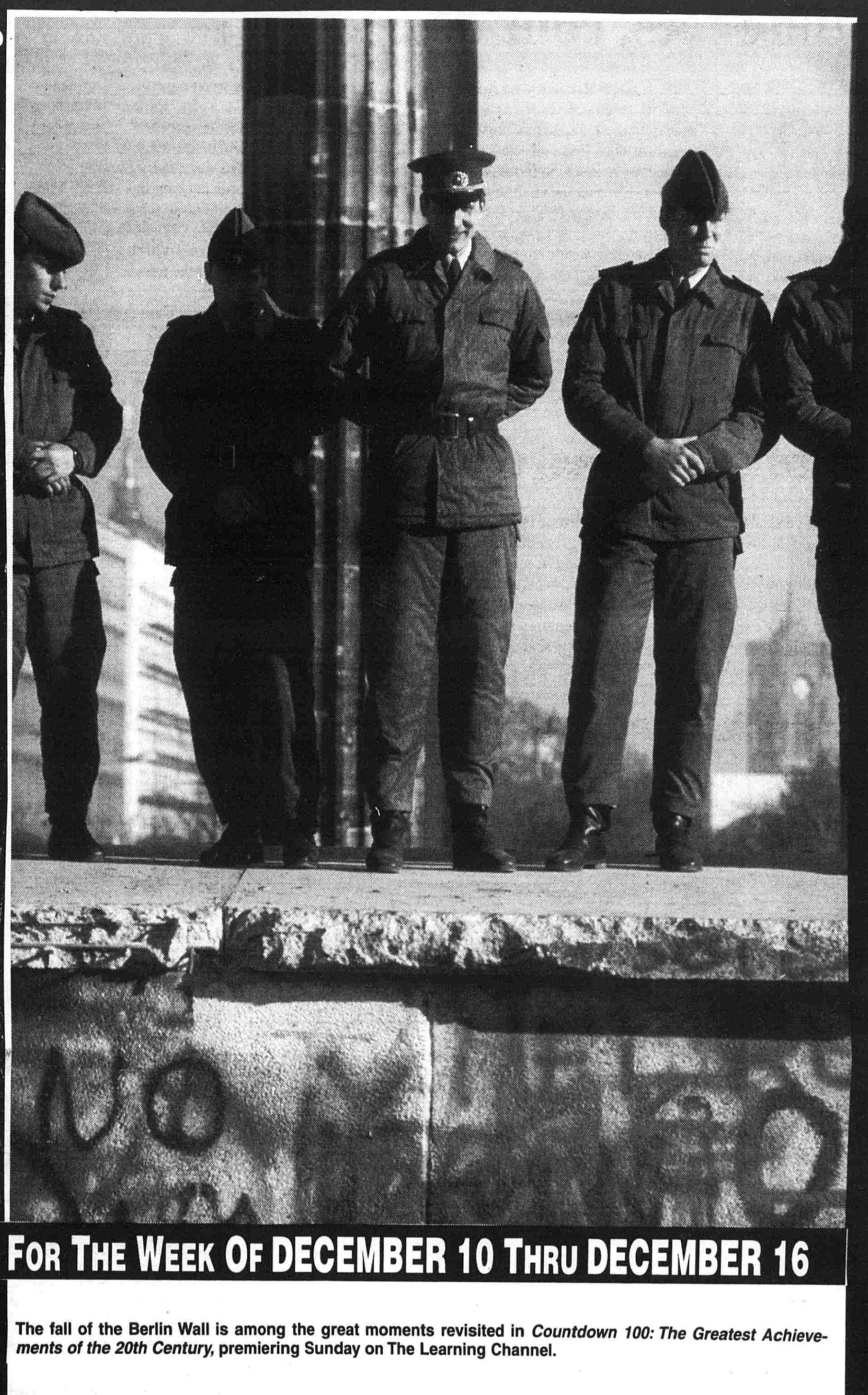
Please remember this is for
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Be sure to have
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CHANNEL	SYMBOL
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4	WOTV-41
5	FX
6	WGVU-35
7	WXMI-17
8	WOOD-8
9	WLNS-6
10	WILX-10
11	WTLJ-54
12	WKAR-23
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 DECEMBER 10 THRU DECEMBER 16

The fall of the Berlin Wall is among the great moments revisited in *Countdown 100: The Greatest Achievements of the 20th Century*, premiering Sunday on The Learning Channel.

Save Money with our multi-policy discount!

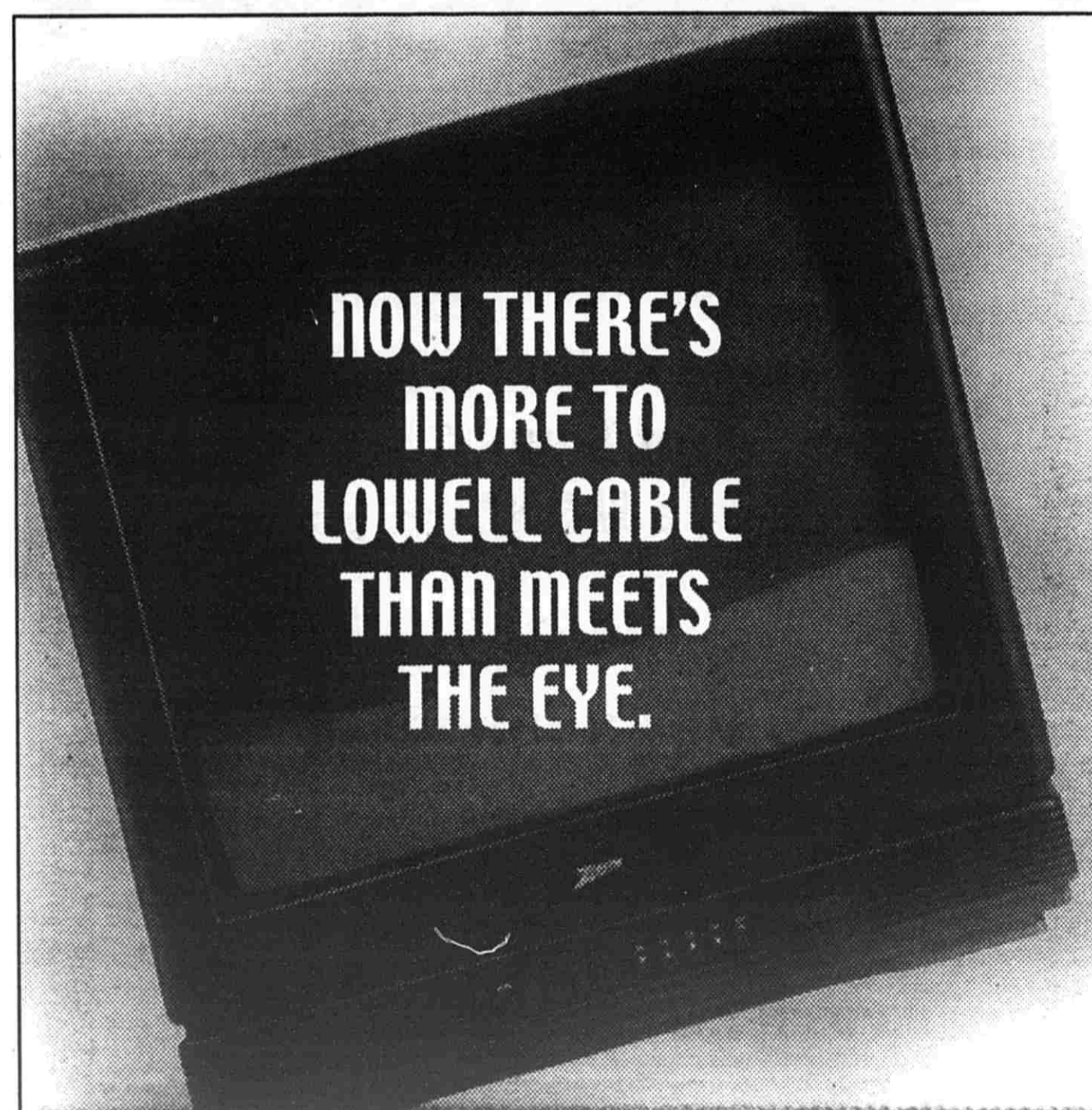
When you insure your car and home or mobile home with us, through Auto-Owners Insurance Company, we'll save you money with their multi-policy discount! Mature policyholders can earn even greater savings. Contact our agency today!



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Table with columns for MONDAY - FRIDAY MORNINGS and DECEMBER 3, 1999 - DECEMBER 9, 1999. Rows include Broadcast Channels (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.), Cable Channels (FX, FAM, MTV, etc.), and Premium Channels (SHOW, HBO, TMC, etc.).

Table with columns for MONDAY - FRIDAY AFTERNOONS and DECEMBER 3, 1999 - DECEMBER 9, 1999. Rows include Broadcast Channels (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.), Cable Channels (FX, FAM, MTV, etc.), and Premium Channels (SHOW, HBO, TMC, etc.).

Table with columns for FRIDAY EVENING and DECEMBER 3, 1999. Rows include Broadcast Channels (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.), Cable Channels (FX, FAM, MTV, etc.), and Premium Channels (SHOW, HBO, TMC, etc.).

Advertisement for Wittenbach Lube, Oil Change, Filter. Includes Goodwrench Service logo, pricing at \$17.95, and contact information for Aurora - Olds - Pontiac - GMC.

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-4:30) and rows for broadcast channels (WVMT, WOYT, WGVU, etc.) and premium channels (SHOW, HBO, TMC, etc.) for Saturday Evening/Late Night on December 4, 1999.

Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and rows for broadcast channels (WVMT, WOYT, WGVU, etc.) and premium channels (SHOW, HBO, TMC, etc.) for Sunday Morning on December 5, 1999.

Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and rows for broadcast channels (WVMT, WOYT, WGVU, etc.) and premium channels (SHOW, HBO, TMC, etc.) for Sunday Afternoon on December 5, 1999.

Advertisement for 'STRETCH YOUR ADVERTISING BUDGET In The Ledger TV Section For Only \$50!' featuring a cartoon character and promotional text.

Advertisement for 'STRETCH YOUR ADVERTISING BUDGET In The Ledger TV Section For Only \$50!' featuring a cartoon character and promotional text.

SUNDAY EVENING / LATE NIGHT DECEMBER 5, 1999. Broadcast Channels table with columns for time slots (7:00-4:30) and various TV channels (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.).

CABLE CHANNELS table with columns for time slots (6:00-11:00) and various cable channels (FX, FAM, MTV, etc.).

PREMIUM CHANNELS table with columns for time slots (6:00-11:00) and various premium channels (SHOW, HBO, TMC, etc.).

MONDAY EVENING DECEMBER 6, 1999. Broadcast Channels table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and various TV channels (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.).

PREMIUM CHANNELS table with columns for time slots (6:00-11:00) and various premium channels (SHOW, HBO, TMC, etc.).

LOWELL WATER WORKS 1941 West Main • Lowell, MI 49331. Advertisement for car washes and detailing services.

LOWELL WATER WORKS WIN FREE CAR WASHES. Advertisement for a car wash promotion.

Edward Jones 401(k) rollovers made easy. Advertisement for financial services.

TUESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 7, 1999. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for broadcast channels (WWMT, WOTV, WGVU, WXXI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WTLJ, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, WZPX) and cable channels (FX, FAM, MTV, VH1, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, CNN2, NICK, A&E, FOXDT, TNT, TBS, DISN, TN, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, COM, TWC, HIST, AMC, H&G, LIFE, TOON D, MSNBC, CSPAN, EWTN).

WEDNESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 8, 1999. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for broadcast channels (WWMT, WOTV, WGVU, WXXI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WTLJ, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, WZPX) and cable channels (FX, FAM, MTV, VH1, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, CNN2, NICK, A&E, FOXDT, TNT, TBS, DISN, TN, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, COM, TWC, HIST, AMC, H&G, LIFE, TOON D, MSNBC, CSPAN, EWTN).

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THURSDAY EVENING DECEMBER 9, 1999. 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 broadcast programs.

PREMIUM CHANNELS. Table listing premium cable channels and their corresponding programs.

COMING EVENTS

Notices in The Ledger's 'Coming Events' are free of charge to any non-profit organization in the Lowell, Ada, Alto, and Saranac area. EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY: G.F.W.C. Lowell Women's Club meets at noon in the community room at Schneider Manor, 725 Bowes Rd. EVERY SECOND TUESDAY: Ladies Coffee Break Bible study. Free nursery and preschool story hour/crafts time. EVERY THIRD THURSDAY: Royal Arch Masons regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Lowell Masonic Center, 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell.

EVERY SECOND MONDAY: Attention mothers of preschoolers. MOPS meetings are held at Saranac Community Church, 125 S. Bridge St. Cost is \$3 and meetings are from 9:45 a.m. - noon. EVERY THIRD THURSDAY: Laleche League of Ada, Cascade & Lowell meets at 6:30 p.m. for socializing with meeting at 7 p.m. Mother to mother support for pregnant & breastfeeding women. NURSING CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. OUR CURRENT LOCATION IS A CHURCH IN ADA. CALL JANET 897-6845 OR REBECCA, 897-6734 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES. LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR 897-5949. MON.: 8:30 a.m., Walking, Woodland Mall. TUES.: 8:30 a.m., Walking, Woodland Mall. WED.: 12:45 p.m., Shopping assistance. THURS.: 9 a.m., Walk and shop Woodland Mall; 9:30 a.m., Crafts; 1 p.m., Euchre. FRI.: 8:30 a.m., Walking, Woodland Mall.

Through the Black Gorge: The Blue Nile adventure continues...

Editor's Note: This is the second in a four-part series on Kate Dernocoeur's journey down the Blue Nile. The Vergennes Township resident spent five weeks rafting through 475 miles on the Blue Nile River.

Sunday, September 26 (River Day #7): After resupply at Godjam Bridge, we are now without Kassa, our armed guard. Zelalem and Ephrem do not speak Oromo (the tribal language prominent in this area), so we are a changed band of nomads. Tomorrow we will shoot through the first seriously difficult



Ethiopian homes are round and thatched, often with livestock sharing the doorstep, like this donkey, and often even indoors.

baboons, herons, and eagles — and now hippos. And always more crocs — and the landscape! Majestic and surprisingly filled yet empty. People often call "Salaam! Salaam!" ("Hello! Hello!") from the banks.

Monday, September 27 (River Day #8): This area is swathed in fog this morning and the distant mountains are peeking in and out. There are several baboons silhouetted in the tree on the ridge above us. The full moon is now behind me, and moonrise last night was just stunning. It's a damp, Cape Cod-like morning. There, you'd be hearing the foghorns wail. Here, there's nothing but the river — always the river — the doves, and the rustling of our awakening camp.

All the clothing is becoming nasty simply because we've been out here now for two weeks tomorrow. It's important to try to keep clean. When a clear tributary comes along, we scatter and avert eyes and wash. As the nature of the river changes to more hazards, more bugs, and more heat, and we're out here for more time, it'll be interesting to observe whether the group's steady behaviors persist. I think they will; this is a very experienced group.

Tuesday, September 28th (River Day #9): Total river km: 305. We went 40 km into the Black Gorge yesterday. This is the passageway, the main constriction of these incredible waters that stream from virtually all of north and part of western Ethiopia. We'll definitely scout out some of our routes today.

Wednesday, September 29 (River Day #10): A relaxed start today because a) we have two days to go only 30 km to the resupply, b) there's nice exploring here, and c) I'm ordered to go easy on my wrenched back. I did it hefting bags up a steep bank from the boats.

Yesterday, we saw three really elegant kudu [striped elk-like animals], at dusk, just across from here. Yesterday was also a major Ethiopian holiday, "Meskal," which celebrates the end of rainy season. Villages burn incense trees made of the meskal tree formed into crosses. In Addis Ababa, two million people will gather in Meskal Square. Religious leaders dance, and every church chimes in. People feast, and send cards — it's a big day.

It was also the day I shot my first rapids ever. It was as if I was baptized by the Abay Wenz, the Grandfather River. I was utterly doused by a great breaking wave when Bruce put our boat into the crux of the rapid. We named it "Meskal Rapids." Then came a couple of rapids that got everyone's

Blue Nile Journey, cont'd.... Page 23

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stretch, so I'll have my first taste of the potentially harmful nature of the river.

But I cannot dwell on what is yet to come. For now, it is enough to simply drift with the river, watching for monkeys,

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NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW
DECEMBER 14, 1999
NOTICE OF CORRECTED PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT
ACT 14 OF 1985, being Section 211.53(b) of General Property Tax Laws, provides for correction of clerical errors and due to a mutual mistake of fact with respect to assessment roll figures, upon verification of the local assessing officer and approval by the Board of Review at a meeting called for that purpose, on Tuesday following the Second Monday in December at 9:00 a.m.
On December 14, 1999, a meeting will be called for this purpose at 9:00 a.m. in the Vergennes Township Hall to conduct business as provided for in Section 211.53 (b), Michigan Compiled Laws.
Mari Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

Blue Nile Journey, cont'd.... From Page 22

attention — our weight was needed [to keep the boat from flipping] in one big wave — I love throwing my weight around! It was just under a rock projection that looked like a closed hand with one finger pointed to the sky — even had a fingernail on it! Mike Speaks decided to call the white water "Finger of Fate Rapids." After lunch came three more cataracts that we decided to call "Meskalito."

Thursday, September 30 (River Day #11): This is an incredible event. Our passage through the Black Gorge is nearly complete — just 30 km 'til tomorrow's resupply at Gumare Bridge. The rapids have been fun, but kind, nothing overwhelming even for a beginner like me. It remains in my mind what a grace-of-God event this is, in addition to some outstanding skill, experience, preparation, and timing. To see that this river — so awe-inspiring as we see it now — can and regularly does rise 20 or 30 feet higher than it is right now is truly one of the most impressive things I've ever seen, or ever will. It can lay down 20 feet of silt sediment in every inlet, and it leaves what I call "tree tinsel" and "driftwood felt" in mangled heaps in many places.

I'm well aware, too, that we still have two weeks of river travel yet to do, and that so much potential exists for this adventure to become altered.

Friday, October 1 (River Day #12): Today we'll float to the Gumare Bridge for our last resupply. "Gumare" is Oromo for "hippopotamus." After that, we will be in basically virgin territory, and we're not positive that the natives will be all that glad to see us. The tribal people have historically suffered a lot of

discrimination by whites. They are likely to be quite reserved, distrusting, or outright hostile.

Saturday, October 2 (River Day #13): Now around 8:30 am and we've all returned to our tents to wait out the rain. Breakfast was amazing. Mike Speaks put together omelletes with diced onion, tomato, green pepper and cheese on a sputtery fire with a badly warped and bent griddle. Bruce did toast, there was fresh grapefruit and oranges — all in the rain. That seems the nature of this expedition: extremely strong and experienced people showing their skills. It's my job to keep us as sound as possible. The casualty count is rising, though. As I predicted, it's the little things — foot fungus that makes your feet feel like they've been sandpapered and then placed on hot coals. Mike Borcik is laid out — said he felt better this morning but then he dove back to bed after being up a half hour. Bruce went to bed early last night, not feeling good. Speaks is Speaks — he's just entering his element as things get tougher. But his shoulder hurts, and he said it's never hurt before.

Melesse, our new armed guard, is getting a miserable start! At least it was sunny for the resupply yesterday. We encountered our first Oromo tribesmen yesterday

after the resupply. They met us with their spears in hands, but were friendly. They knew

huge cultural exchange in which they touched my hair and I touched theirs, they convey that my hair could grow to my waist, but that I cut it. They were amazed! [Their hair grew only about 1/8 inch, and they had no body hair — an adaptation, no doubt, to their hot equatorial environment.] I danced with the women and they loved it — as did I.

After the duwa concert, someone played the drum and they sang an enchanting song, with soft foot movements, in perfect unison, the men in a circle by the drum, the women behind.

How can I adequately express the beauty and sheer wonder of this day? Some

Melesse! There were 12 men and one 15-year-old married girl. She was lovely, with the scarified face and three-inch pieces of bamboo through each ear. These people are a complete change from the more Arabic appearance of the high-country Ethiopians — very black, Nilotic, prominent nose and lips. They had been planting cotton, and were heading off on their two-hour walk back to their village.

Sunday, October 3 (River Day #14): Whata day! We floated to a village where they gave us a full concert with what they call "duwa" — horns of all sizes made of gourds and bamboo. There was a friendly competition with the upstream village, and it was all-out cacophony!! There must have been more than 40 men blowing their duwas to a deafening degree. We arrived there at 11 and left at 3 — it was a

It was also the day I shot my first rapids ever. It was as if I was baptized by the Abay Wenz, the Grandfather River. I was utterly doused by a great breaking wave when Bruce put our boat into the crux of the rapid. We named it "Meskal Rapids." Then came a couple of rapids that got everyone's attention — our weight was needed [to keep the boat from flipping] in one big wave — I love throwing my weight around! It was just under a rock projection that looked like a closed hand with one finger pointed to the sky — even had a fingernail on it! Mike Speaks decided to call the white water "Finger of Fate Rapids." After lunch came three more cataracts that we decided to call "Meskalito."

Kate Dernocoeur

No legacy is as rich as honesty.
—Shakespeare

LEGAL NOTICES
STATE OF MICHIGAN 43RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION/ POSTING AND NOTICE OF ACTION
CASE NO. 99-235-DM
Courthouse, 110 N. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031
(616) 445-4416
(Plaintiff) **ROBERT CHRISTOPHER CONNER**
208 South Street
Cassopolis, MI 49031
(Defendant) **DALEYNN ANN CONNER**
5686 Buchanan S.W.
Wyoming, MI 49548

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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

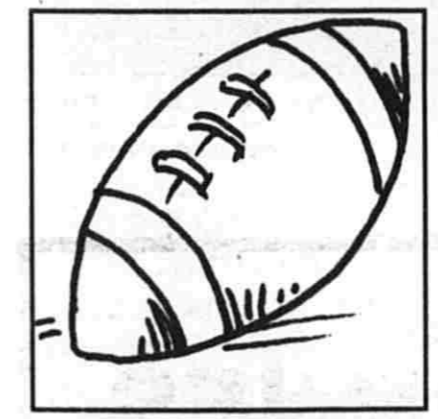
The Lowell City Council, acting as the Zoning Board of Appeals, will conduct a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, December 6, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. at the Englehardt Public Library Community Room, 200 N. Monroe Street, Lowell, Michigan.

The purpose of said hearing will be to receive comments on the following variance request:

406 Foreman - Dolores Alexander petitioned to construct a four-foot high fence in her front yard at the southwest corner of N. Hudson and Foreman. Under Section 4.07B of the Zoning Ordinance, fences in the required front yard (first 30 feet) must be no higher than 3 feet.

Interested persons may submit comments to Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street prior to the meeting or appear in person at Englehardt Public Library.

TO: DALEYNN ANN CONNER
IT IS ORDERED:
1. You are being sued by plaintiff in this court to answer or take such other action as may be permitted by law in the above divorce action. If you fail to do so, a default judgement may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.
2. A copy of this order shall be published once each week in the Lowell Ledger for three consecutive weeks, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.
3. A copy of this order shall be sent to DALEYNN ANN CONNER at the last known address by registered mail, return receipt requested, before the date of last publication, and the affidavit of mailing shall be filed with this court.



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105 N. Broadway
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SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD
NOVEMBER 15, 1999 - 7:00 P.M.
Motions Approved:
• Minutes of October 18, 1999 meeting
• Treasurer's Report/Invoices, including Williams & Works Comprehensive Plan
• Motion to grant preliminary approval to Carlson Farms as a planned unit development
• Motion to return proposed unclassified uses ordinance amendment to the Planning Commission for reconsideration of districts in which to allow
• Motion to table consideration of proposed private road ordinance amendments
• Motion to approve additional office hours and a raise in salary of \$3,000.00 to the Zoning Administrator
• Motion to adjourn at 9:17 p.m.
Mari C. Stone,
Vergennes Township Clerk



LUMINARIES
6 PM
 December
 12 & 19

PARADE
Dec. 4 - 10AM
 Bushnell School
 along Main St.

DON'T FORGET
 Decorate by
 December 1!

**Hot Chocolate & Chestnuts
 on the Riverwalk
 Throughout the Day**

DECEMBER 4

Christmas Tree Contest.....10 am - 4 pm.....Riverwalk Plaza
 Trim The Tree at Englehardt Library... 11am to 3 pm.....Community Room
 Snowmobile Raffle..... 11:30 am.....Riverwalk Plaza
 Angel Soup & Bake Sale.....Following Parade.....St. Mary's School
 Chain Saw Sculpture..... 11am - 4 pm.....Riverwalk Plaza/Avery St.
 Ice Sculpture..... 11am to 1:30 pm.....Riverwalk Plaza/Avery St.
PRAIRIE ROAD BAND 1 TO 3 PM.....Riverwalk Plaza on the Showboat
 Count Dracula.....7:30 pm..... Lowell Performing Arts Ctr.

DECEMBER 11

Christmas in Historic
 Fallasburg Village 5 to 9 pm
 Bridge & Village

DECEMBER 17

Holiday Tea "Victorian Charm" 1 pm
 Englehardt Library -Community Room

DECEMBER 18

Saranac Community Grp.
 Christmas Concert..7 pm
 Lowell Performing Arts Center


 Top Hat
 Carriage Service
**CARRIAGE
 RIDES**
 12/4 • 11 am - 4 pm
 12/11 • Noon - 3 PM
 12/12 • 2 PM - 5 PM
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KIDS!
Visit With Santa!
222 W. Main
Santa Land
& Pictures
\$3.00
December 4:
 from 11 AM - 1 PM & 2:30 - 4 PM
December 11 & 18:
 NOON - 3 PM

SCHOOL CONCERTS

December 8
HIGH SCHOOL BAND CONCERT • 7 PM • Lowell Performing Arts Center
 December 9
MIDDLE SCHOOL (7th & 8th grd.) BAND CONCERT • 7 PM • In The Middle School Gym
 December 10
CHERRY CREEK (5th grd.) "Song For Winter" • 1:30 PM • Lowell Performing Arts Center
 December 15
MIDDLE SCHOOL (7th & 8th grd.) CHOIR CONCERT • 7 PM • In The Middle School Gym
 December 16
HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR CONCERT • 7 PM • In The Lowell Performing Arts Center

