

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 12

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, January 5, 2000

Blough appointed as Lowell's 10th mayor

••• By a vote of 3-2, Mike Blough was appointed to succeed former mayor, Bill Thompson, who stepped down from the city council after 16 years of service, four as mayor.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Mike Blough is quick to thank a wide variety of people in the Lowell community for their support over the years.

He has used that support to provide a wide variety of services to different aspects of the community including the city, the school and both townships.

On Monday night, Blough's work was recognized by the city council as it appointed him mayor.

Blough becomes Lowell's 10th mayor since the position was established in 1960. He succeeds Bill Thompson who filled the role for the past four years.

"I see the role of a mayor as providing a process of facilitation in bringing together the strengths of the community," Blough explained.

The lifelong resident says support from the community and council is needed for this to happen. "There needs to



Mike Blough: Lowell's new mayor.

be dialogue on issues. The council can provide the forum."

In outlining the challenges that face the community, Blough pointed to controlled growth, building a vibrant downtown community district and the type of envi-

ronment to raise families with the values they desire, and marketing aspects of the city.

Blough gave special emphasis to nurturing leadership potential in the Lowell community.

The Lowell resident has served 10 years on the city planning commission with six as its chairman, and the last two years on the city council. He has also participated in YMCA Vision 2000, Lowell Community Leadership Initiative and the Lowell Historic Commission.

Blough was nominated for the role as mayor by councilman Chuck Myers.

Councilwoman Jeanne Shores nominated Don Green. Blough received three of the five votes (Myers, Ray Quada and his own).

Green's votes came from Shores and himself.

Myers was appointed mayor pro tem. He was nominated by Blough and also supported by Quada.

Green nominated Shores. The mayoral and pro tem appointments are two-year terms.

Group hopes to weave a national trail through city of Lowell byways

••• North Country National Scenic Trail plan would use public lands. The group will outline its two proposals at a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting Saturday.

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

If all goes according to plan, the city of Lowell will have a national trail running through the city.

Representatives from the North Country National Scenic Trail approached the city council in December to present their plans to have the trail run through the city. "Is this the same trail that residents received letters on about four years ago?" questioned former mayor, Bill Thompson. "Yes," said Paula Wilbur, a Lowell resident who is working on the trail project through the North Country Trail Association.

The North Country Trail Association has been working in the Lowell area for the past 10 years. Because the association relies heavily on volunteers and donations of private and public lands, the process can sometimes be slow and tedious, Wilbur explained. An example of this would be in Lowell Charter Township, where the group was looking to take over some soon-to-be abandoned railroad tracks.

Through an agreement, CSX ended up purchasing the tracks, which has left the group almost back at square one in Lowell Township. "In the city of Lowell, we are planning to use primarily public lands,"

Wilbur said. "I have been set up to work with the Parks and Recreation Commission, which meets this Saturday."

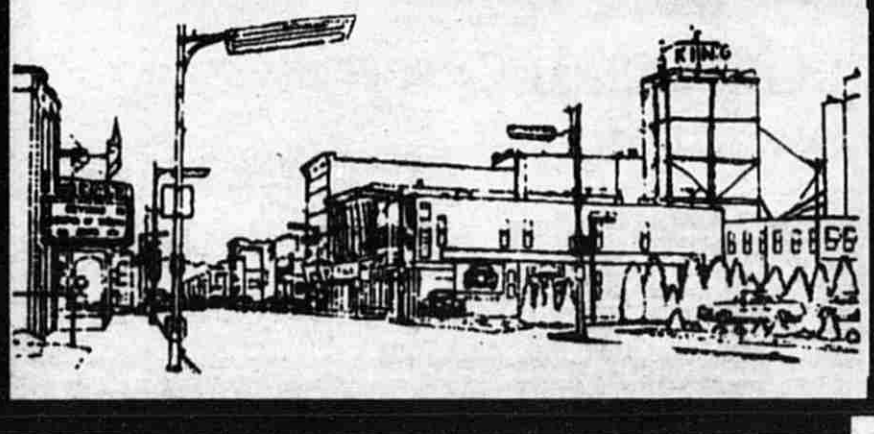
The group has two proposals to snake the trail through Lowell: The first is to follow Grand River Drive to Division; the second is to follow Grand River Drive to S. Hudson, then on to the fairgrounds to Main Street. "It would be nice to be able to use the fairgrounds because of the options of camping and the restaurants available," Wilbur said. "Of course, if you head down Division, there is Keiser's."

Wilbur said the group has no preference on which route to take. She hopes Saturday's meeting will give the association some direction to start the planning process.

The North Country Trail began as a U.S. Forest Service proposal in the mid-1960s. In 1968, Congress passed legislation creating the National Trails System. In 1980, Congress passed the necessary legislation and created the North Country National Scenic Trail which, when completed, will cover more than 4,000 miles in seven states (New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota). Michigan will have about 1,150 miles traveling from the Ohio/

Trail, cont'd. pg. 8

Along Main Street



SNOWMOBILE SAFETY TRAINING CLASS

A snowmobile safety training home study course is offered and classes will be held from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 8. It is held at the Flat River Snowmobile Clubhouse, 11841 Potters Rd., Lowell.

For more information phone 616-356-0505.

LMS PRESENTS "AIRLINE"

The Lowell Middle School eighth-grade drama class will present the hilarious comedy *Airline* on Tuesday, Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the middle school cafeteria at 750 Foreman.

The public is invited and admission is free.

FINANCIAL AID MEETING

A financial aid meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 13 at 7 p.m. at Lowell High School. This meeting is especially for parents of seniors. Come find out how to pay for your son's or daughter's college and how to fill out financial aid forms.

Main St., cont'd. pg. 8

Lowell to sponsor Household Hazardous Waste Day

••• The decision will enable residents to safely discard hazardous waste without harming the environment.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

In 1999, 16 Kent County governmental units helped sponsor Household Hazardous Waste Days.

That number will grow to at least 17 in 2000.

Dan DesJarden, Lowell's Department of Public Works director, says Lowell will help sponsor one in either April or May. Details have yet to be worked out.

"I have asked neighboring townships (Lowell, Vergennes and Ada) if they would like to participate,"

DesJarden explains.

Household Hazardous Waste Days give Kent County residents an opportunity to safely discard hazardous waste (e.g., oil base paint, paint thinner, solvents, insecticides, pesticides and corrosive and reactive acids) without harming the environment.

"The county has been doing this for about 12 years," says Kathy Babins, Kent County resource specialist. "The county provides the hauler and we ask that the governmental body help pay for the disposal and provide a location and personnel."

Residents looking to dispose of hazardous household waste are asked to make appointments with a drop-off at an identified site.

"We do it by appointment because of limited staffing,"

Babins explained.

Each hazardous waste day averages about 100 appointments.

Babins says the cost to haul away the hazardous waste is approximately 74 cents per pound.

I have asked neighboring townships (Lowell, Vergennes and Ada) if they would like to participate.

Dan DesJarden
DPW Director

INSIDE THE LEDGER

Lowell Woman Killed in Accident

Page 25

New business pays attention to detail

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

John Muha worked at a body shop by day and drove a tanker by night.

When he tired of that, he decided to start his own business. Muha, naturally, debated between opening up an auto detailing shop and a bakery.

"My thought was Lowell needed both and I had worked in a bakery and an auto detailing shop out of high school," Muha explained.

Muha and his wife Sherrie decided on the business venture in October of 1998.

John and Sherrie quit their jobs and devoted their days to detailing work while John continued driving a gas tanker in the evening.

That rigorous schedule continued for roughly five months until the auto detailing business took off, enabling Muha to quit his night job.

"I was a basket case in the beginning. We were going week by week," says Sherrie Muha. "It took about five months before things really started to go well."

Muhas were able to secure work with a couple of local car dealerships, and work from private parties began to escalate.

With the increase in work, space became an issue. "We

started out in our pole barn, but as business increased, more space was needed," John Muja explained.

The Lowell couple found that space at Showboat Automotive, 1450 W. Main.

Muha's business specializes in complete auto clean-up. This includes steam cleaning the engine; shampooing carpet, washing-buffing-waxing, pin stripping, windshield chip repair and replacement, interior cleaning and odor removal.

Top Notch Auto Detailing is open from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and open by appointment on Saturday.



John and Sherrie Muha, owners of Top Notch Detailers.

Legal Ease, continued....From Page 5

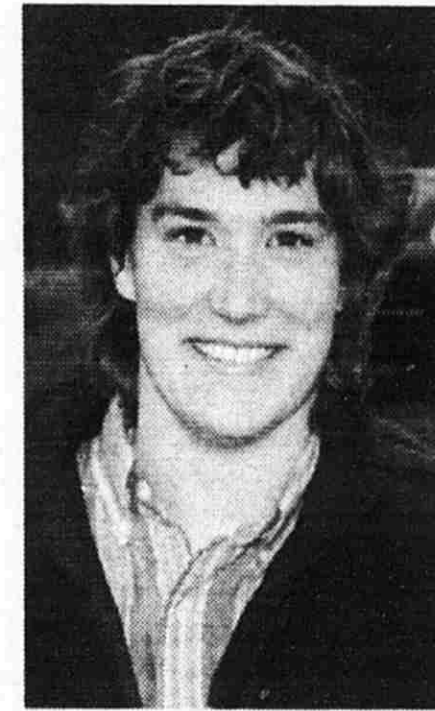
purpose of probate avoidance. A much better alternative is to set up a revocable living trust and transfer those assets to that trust while you are alive. Upon your death, the trust could require the Trustee to distribute your assets equally among your children after the payment of all debts, taxes and expenses. By utilizing this type of trust, not only do you continue to control the assets, but you make sure that those assets go to your children in equal shares without the interference of probate. Further, you don't have to rely on your daughter following through on your instructions to share those assets with her brothers and sisters.

I recommend that you meet with an estate planning attorney to discuss how a revocable living trust can both address your concerns regarding probate avoidance and make sure all of your children are treated equally in the division of your assets. Good luck.

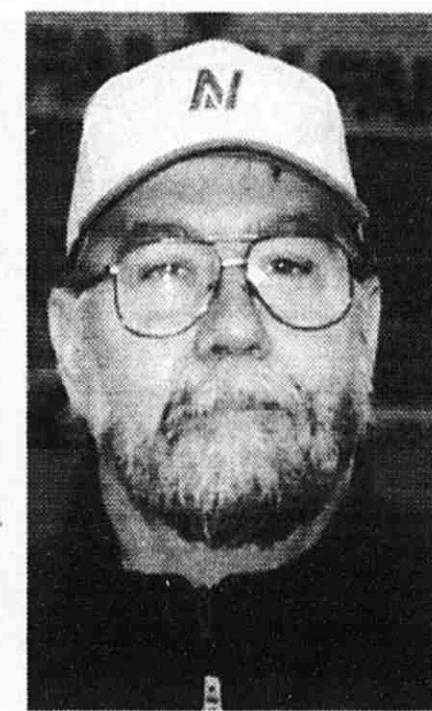
The information contained in this column is not to be construed as legal advice or legal representation and should not be relied upon as such. If legal advice or legal representation is desired, please consult with an attorney.

TOWN TALK

The 21st century arrived and there were no huge Y2K problems. Are you surprised, happy, relieved or walking around telling people "I told you so." Did you make a new millennium resolution?



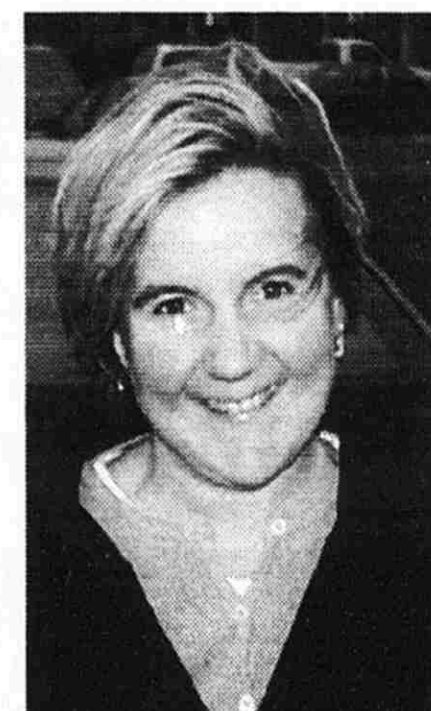
Dana Callihan
I am not surprised. I am a little disappointed there wasn't a little light flicker. I don't do resolutions. They don't work.



Gary Alsgaard
I am not surprised. We went into it prepared. We spent millions and billions of dollars so that we were prepared. I have no resolutions.



Sally Cooper
I knew nothing was going to happen. We tend to bring up situations that don't ever happen. My resolution is to have the best year possible.



Susan Pomper
I felt confident everything would be okay. So, I wasn't surprised. There was just too much hoopla about it. My resolution is to stop procrastinating.



Tami Stedman
At first, it was a big scare. I don't have a computer so I think I worried less. I did buy a few extra jugs of water. My resolution is to get my two-year-old boy potty-trained.



Richard Ayers
I'm not surprised. It was a lot of hype. My resolution was to make things better than last year.

Adversity is the first path to truth

—Lord Byron



Bonnie Roudabush
I am relieved. I don't have any resolutions.



Jeff Carlson
I didn't think anything would happen. People were well prepared in advance to prevent any catastrophic events from happening. Some people prepared for worse, but not in a radical way. My resolution is to be a better person and try to have a positive effect on others.

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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.

Trail, continued.... From Page 1

Michigan border through the upper peninsula into Wisconsin. Representatives said about 800 miles are completed and certified as part of the trail. In the Grand Rapids area, the only certified part is near the Rogue River in Cedar Springs. Wilbur

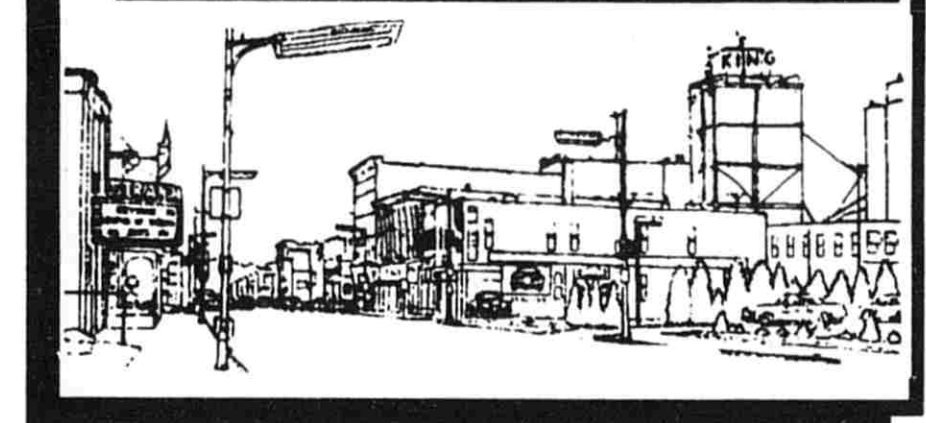
said the association plans to connect the Cedar Springs part to the Lowell area.

Currently, the group does have permission to use the State game area and Fallsburg Park, located in Vergennes Township. Wilbur said she did present their plans to Vergennes Monday night. The association, however, will be using mostly

private lands, so the group will not be working as closely with the township as it will with Lowell city officials. "We did want them to be aware of what was going on," she said.

For those interested in the project, they can contact the North Country Trail Association at 454-5506 or visit the group's website at www.northcountrytrail.com.

Along Main Street



SLIDE PRESENTATION OF TRIP TO ETHIOPIA

A slide and video presentation will be shown on Monday, Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. in the Lowell High School Performing Arts Center by Kate Democoeur who traveled to Ethiopia this past fall. It will benefit Lowell Area Youth Development. Refreshments will be served.

Structural damage minimal in Admiral fire

A small fire was contained to a small northwest room of the Admiral Petroleum building at 2001 W. Main.

The fire was reported at about 10:31 p.m. Wednesday (Dec. 29).

Lowell fire chief Frank Martin said the cause of the fire was a discarded cigarette in the smoking area.

There was a minimal amount of structural damage to the room and Martin said there was no other structural damage.

Ken Eaton, vice president of operations for Admiral Petroleum, said the company hopes to begin pumping gas again by the end of the week.

Fire, cont'd, pg. 24



Lowell Area Fire Department doused the flames of a fire in the northwest room of the Admiral station, preventing any significant structural damage.

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MONDAY - FRIDAY AFTERNOONS JANUARY 7, 2000 - JANUARY 13, 2000. BROADCAST CHANNELS, CABLE CHANNELS, PREMIUM CHANNELS. Includes channels like WWTM, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WTLJ, WKAR, WZWM, WZPX, FX, FAM, MTV, VH1, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, CNN2, NICK, A&E, FOXDT, TNT, TBS, DISN, TNN, TRAV, TLC, SCI FI, COM, TWC, HIST, AMC, H&G, LIFE, TOON D, MSNBC, CSPAN, EWTN, SHOW, HBO, TMC, MAX.

FRIDAY EVENING JANUARY 7, 2000. BROADCAST CHANNELS, CABLE CHANNELS, PREMIUM CHANNELS. Includes channels like WWTM, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WTLJ, WKAR, WZWM, WSYM, WZPX, FX, FAM, MTV, VH1, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, CNN2, NICK, A&E, FOXDT, TNT, TBS, DISN, TNN, TRAV, TLC, SCI FI, COM, TWC, HIST, AMC, H&G, LIFE, TOON D, MSNBC, CSPAN, EWTN, SHOW, HBO, TMC, MAX.

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MONDAY - FRIDAY LATENIGHT JANUARY 7, 2000 - JANUARY 13, 2000. Broadcast Channels, Cable Channels, Premium Channels.

SATURDAY MORNING JANUARY 8, 2000. Broadcast Channels, Cable Channels, Premium Channels.

SPORT HIGHLIGHTS

SOCCER FOXDT Sun. 5 p.m. English Premier League Soccer Teams to be Announced. (Taped) TRACK AND FIELD ESPN Sun. 3 p.m. Triathlon X-Terra Off-Road. From Maui, Hawaii. (Taped) WINTER SPORTS WOOD Sun. 3 p.m. Skiing Downhill Challenge. Skiing legends meet in a country against country competition to determine the top downhiller. (Taped) WOTV Sun. 4 p.m.; WOOD Sun. 4 p.m.; WLX Sun. 4 p.m. World Cup Skiing Nordic Combined. From Steamboat Springs, Colo. (Taped) ESPN Tue. 2:30 p.m. Skiing 1999 Disabled World Cup. From Breckenridge, Colo. (Taped) ESPN Tue. 3:30 p.m. Snowboarding Vans Triple Crown. (Taped) WRESTLING TNT Mon. 8 p.m. WCW Monday Nitro (Live) MISCELLANEOUS FOXDT Sat. 12 p.m. Motorcycle Racing Arenacross. From Des Moines, Iowa. (Taped) WGN Sun. 10:40 p.m. Instant Replay (Live)

BASKETBALL TNT Fri. 8 p.m. NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Orlando Magic. From Orlando Arena in Orlando, Fla. (Live) TNT Fri. 10:30 p.m. NBA Basketball San Antonio Spurs at Phoenix Suns. From the America West Arena in Phoenix, (Live) WXMI Sat. 12 p.m. College Basketball Illinois at Wisconsin. (Live) WWMT Sat. 12 p.m.; WLNS Sat. 12 p.m. Women's College Basketball Purdue at Michigan. (Live) FOXDT Sat. 12:30 p.m. College Basketball Illinois at Wisconsin. (Live) ESPN Sat. 12:30 p.m. College Basketball Providence at Boston College. (Live) FOXDT Sat. 2 p.m. Women's College Basketball Baylor at Missouri. (Live) WWMT Sat. 2 p.m.; WLNS Sat. 2 p.m. Women's College Basketball Florida at Penn State. (Live) WXMI Sat. 2:30 p.m.; WLX Sat. 2:30 p.m. College Basketball Michigan at Purdue. (Live) ESPN Sat. 3 p.m. College Basketball Texas Christian at Southwest Missouri State. (Live) FOXDT Sat. 4 p.m. College Basketball Detroit at Loyola. (Live) WWMT Sat. 4 p.m.; WLNS Sat. 4 p.m. Women's College Basketball Connecticut at Tennessee. (Live) ESPN Sat. 5 p.m. College Basketball Missouri at Iowa State. (Live) HOCKEY FOXDT Fri. 7 p.m. College Hockey Michigan at Michigan State. (Live) FOXDT Sat. 7:30 p.m. NHL Hockey Mighty Ducks of Anaheim at Detroit Red Wings. From the Joe Louis Sports Arena in Detroit. (Live) FOXDT Tue. 7:30 p.m. NHL Hockey Detroit Red Wings at Montreal Canadiens. From the Molson Centre in Montreal. (Live) FOXDT Thu. 7 p.m. College Hockey Nebraska-Omaha at Michigan State. (Live) RODEO TNN Sun. 9 p.m. Championship Bull Riding Bud Light Cup Salt Lake. From Salt Lake City. (Taped) WTT Thu. 10 p.m. Championship Bull Riding PBR Bud Light Salt Lake City. From Salt Lake City. (Taped) SKATING LIFE Fri. 9 p.m. Figure Skating I.S.U. -- NHK Cup of Japan. From Japan. (Taped) TNN Fri. 9 p.m. RollerJam Nevada Hot Dice vs. Texas Rufflers. From Universal Studios Florida in Orlando, Fla. (Taped) TNN Fri. 10 p.m. RollerJam California Quakes vs. Illinois Riot. From Universal Studios Florida in Orlando, Fla. (Taped) WZZM Sun. 4 p.m. Figure Skating USFSA Winter Open. From Kennewick, Wash. (Taped)

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SATURDAY AFTERNOON JANUARY 8, 2000. Broadcast Channels, Cable Channels, Premium Channels.

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-4:30) and channel names (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.). It lists various TV programs such as 'Story of Hope', 'The Fifth Element', and 'The Shawshank Redemption'.

Advertisement for 'STRETCH YOUR ADVERTISING BUDGET' featuring cartoon characters and a large '\$50!' price tag.

SUNDAY MORNING JANUARY 9, 2000

Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and channel names (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.). It lists various TV programs such as 'Kickin' It', 'Wall Street Jrm', and 'Hour of Power'.

BROADCAST CHANNELS

Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and channel names (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.). It lists various TV programs such as 'The Babe Ruth Story' and 'The Exorcist'.

CABLE CHANNELS

Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and channel names (FX, FAM, MTV, etc.). It lists various TV programs such as 'Elvis', 'The Shawshank Redemption', and 'The Exorcist'.

PREMIUM CHANNELS

Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and channel names (SHOW, HBO, etc.). It lists various TV programs such as 'The Thin Red Line' and 'The Exorcist'.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON JANUARY 9, 2000

Table with columns for time slots (12:00-6:30) and channel names (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.). It lists various TV programs such as 'NFL Today' and 'College Basketball'.

BROADCAST CHANNELS

Table with columns for time slots (12:00-6:30) and channel names (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.). It lists various TV programs such as 'NFL Today' and 'College Basketball'.

CABLE CHANNELS

Table with columns for time slots (12:00-6:30) and channel names (FX, FAM, MTV, etc.). It lists various TV programs such as 'The Thin Red Line' and 'The Exorcist'.

PREMIUM CHANNELS

Table with columns for time slots (12:00-6:30) and channel names (SHOW, HBO, etc.). It lists various TV programs such as 'The Thin Red Line' and 'The Exorcist'.

SUNDAY EVENING / LATE NIGHT JANUARY 9, 2000. Broadcast Channels: WWMT, WOVY, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WLX, WTLJ, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, WZPX. Cable Channels: FX, FAM, MTV, VH1, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, CNN2, NICK, A&E, FOXDT, TNT, TBS, DISN, TNN, TRV, TLC, SCI-FI, COM, TWC, HIST, AMC, H&G, LIFE, TOON D, MSNBC, CSPAN, EWTV. Premium Channels: SHOW, HBO, TMC, MAX.

MONDAY EVENING JANUARY 10, 2000. Broadcast Channels: WWMT, WOVY, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WLX, WTLJ, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, WZPX. Cable Channels: FX, FAM, MTV, VH1, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, CNN2, NICK, A&E, FOXDT, TNT, TBS, DISN, TNN, TRV, TLC, SCI-FI, COM, TWC, HIST, AMC, H&G, LIFE, TOON D, MSNBC, CSPAN, EWTV. Premium Channels: SHOW, HBO, TMC, MAX.

LOWELL WATER WORKS. We have all new state of the art equipment and cleaning products to clean, protect & dry your vehicle. WIN FREE CAR WASHES. Bring in this coupon when you get your next wash & ENTER THE DRAWING FOR 1 YEAR OF FREE CAR WASHES!

STRETCH YOUR ADVERTISING BUDGET! RUN 1 AD IN THIS SPACE - 4 WEEKS Only \$50! Money Tight? PREUNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TUESDAY EVENING JANUARY 11, 2000. 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 channels (WVMT, WOV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy!, and various news and entertainment shows.

CABLE CHANNELS. Table listing cable channels and their respective programming, including FX, FAM, MTV, VH1, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, CNN2, NICK, A&E, FOXDT, TNT, TBS, DISN, TNM, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, COM, TWC, HIST, AMC, H&G, LIFE, TOON D, MSNBC, CSPAN, and EWTN.

PREMIUM CHANNELS

Table listing premium channels and their programming, including SHOW, HBO, TMC, and MAX, with details on shows like 'Maze', 'Beaches', 'A Few Good Men', and 'Animal Cop'.

WEDNESDAY EVENING JANUARY 12, 2000. 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 channels (WVMT, WOV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy!, and various news and entertainment shows.

CABLE CHANNELS. Table listing cable channels and their respective programming, including FX, FAM, MTV, VH1, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, CNN2, NICK, A&E, FOXDT, TNT, TBS, DISN, TNM, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, COM, TWC, HIST, AMC, H&G, LIFE, TOON D, MSNBC, CSPAN, and EWTN.

PREMIUM CHANNELS

Table listing premium channels and their programming, including SHOW, HBO, TMC, and MAX, with details on shows like 'Death of a Salesman', 'Anastasia', 'Worst Witch', and 'Snake Eyes'.

WITTENBACH advertisement for LUBE, OIL CHANGE, FILTER. Includes price \$17.95 and contact information for Aurora - Olds - Pontiac - GMC in Lowell.

apert's drop advertisement for art, books, beads, crystals, incense, crystal balls, tarot cards, coffee house. Includes address 214 E. Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331.

THURSDAY EVENING JANUARY 13, 2000. 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 channels (WVMT, WOVY, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like 'Wheel of Fortune', 'Jeopardy!', 'Diagnosis Murder', etc.

Thomet CHEVROLET BUICK. Is Your Source For Top Quality GM Vehicles From: CHEVY TRUCKS. A Great Selection Of Used Cars & Trucks & New Car Trades. Also see us for authorized GM parts & service.

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. We prefer such notices to be kept brief and to be submitted by mail, but will accept notices by phone at 897-9261.

EVERY MONTH: The Flat River Snowmobile Club meets at the clubhouse at 11841 Potters Rd. Just east of Montcalm Ave. To check meeting dates and times please call, 897-5015 for a recorded message. Guests are welcome.

SECOND SUNDAY EACH MONTH: 3:15 to 4:30 p.m., Family Council for the Laurels of Kent Nursing Home. This is a volunteer group formed to enhance the quality of life for all the residents. Interested persons are welcome to meet in the Activity Room, Wing 'C.'

FIRST MONDAY: Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) meets at the High School during lunch periods in the cafeteria for updates on coming events and information.

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. Everyone is welcome. Come enjoy crafts, food, free child care and new friends. For information call Meghan at 616-642-6748 or Trisha at 616-527-1333.

SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH: The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Administration Building located in the former Runciman Elementary, 300 High Street.

SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH: The Bowne Township Historical Society will hold its regular meetings at the Historical Museum at 84th and Alden Nash. The meeting is at 7:30 p.m.

FOURTH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH: American Legion Clark-Ellis Post 152 at Lowell V.F.W. Hall, 307 E. Main St. at 8 p.m.

EVERY 1ST MONDAY: V.F.W. Post 8303 meets at the V.F.W. Clubroom, 307 E. Main St. Lowell at 7:30 p.m.

EVERY MON.: Boy Scout Troop 102, for boys 11 & up or completing the 5th-

grade, will meet from 7 to 8:30 p.m. during the school year in the Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington Street. Enjoy activities like hiking and camping and learn skills that can last a lifetime. For more information call Terry Cavanaugh, 868-6481.

TUESDAYS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly Tops MI#372 meets every Tuesday evening at Key Heights Mobile Home Park Community Building. Weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m.

TUESDAYS: Flat River Woodcarvers are meeting at LAAC from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. New members welcome.

EVERY SECOND & FOURTH TUES.: Qua-Ke-Zik Sportsmen's Club meets, 8 p.m. at the Club building, 1400 Foreman Road, Lowell.

EVERY SECOND TUES.: Lowell Masonic Lodge regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Center, 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell. All Masons are welcome.

EVERY TUES.: Ladies Coffee Break Bible study. Free nursery and preschool story hour/crafts time. Calvary Christian Reformed Church across from Burger King, 10 to 11:15 a.m. For information call 897-6462 or 897-7555.

EVERY 1ST & 3RD TUESDAY: Lowell Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, South Hudson, Lowell.

EVERY 3RD TUES.: Parents of children with AD/HD Issues Group meeting at St. Lukes Lutheran Church, 32156 4 Mile NE (at 4 Mile and East Beline) at 7 p.m. For info., call Linda at 874-5662. Forteen group info, call Sarah 281-6588.

EVERY 1ST TUES.: Adults with AD/HD Issues Group meeting at Calvin College Rm. 206 of the Commons bldg. For information call Connie 942-6887.

EVERY OTHER WED.: 6:45 - 8:45 p.m. G.E.M.S. Girls Club at Calvary Christian Reformed Church. All Girls ages 8 to 13 are welcome. Call 897-8694 for information.

WEDNESDAY: Rollaway Ltd. Senior Bowling, 1 p.m., 55 and over.

WEDNESDAYS: 8 p.m. ALANON meets at Lowell

Congregational Church basement.

FIRST WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH: Alzheimers Support Group meets at 6:30 p.m. at Cumberland Retirement Village. Phone 897-9310 for information.

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 FOURTH WEDNESDAY: Elderly volunteers needed to participate in the Intergenerational Program with school age children from Lowell in many different seasonal activities. Two times available: 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. or 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. Call Sister Colleen Ann Nagle, F.S.E. at the Franciscan Child Development Center, 897-7842.

EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY - 6:45-8:45 p.m. G.E.M.S. Girls Club at Calvary Christian Reformed Church. All girls ages 8 to 13 are welcome. Call 897-8694 for information.

THURSDAYS - Take Off Pounds Sensibly Tops MI, No. 333, Saranac, meets every Thursday evening at the Saranac Public Library. Weigh-ins at 6:45 p.m.

THURSDAYS: Weight Watchers meets in Lowell at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington, at 7 p.m. Registration is a half hour before meetings. New members are invited to join at any time. Questions? Call 1-800-651-6000.

EVERY THURS. - St. Mary's Pregnancy Crisis Center, 402 Amity St., non-denominational-help for pregnant women and adolescents at the school. From 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. and on Mondays from 5:30 - 8 p.m. Phone 897-9393.

FIRST THURSDAY : 4H drama club meeting. The club examines theater related topics, creative and personal development skills. Meetings held once a month at Lowell Middle School choir room. For more information call 897-1502 evenings after 5 p.m.

FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAY: The Alto Lions Club meets at Bowne Center Fellowship Hall, corner of 84th & M-50 (Alden Nash) at 7 p.m.

EVERY 2ND THURS.:

N.A.R.F.E. meets 1:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton.

EVERY SECOND THURSDAY: Lowell V.F.W. Auxiliary No. 8303 meets at 3:30 p.m. at the V.F.W. Post, 307 W. Main Street, Lowell.

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY: Royal Arch Masons regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Lowell Masonic Center, 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

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.

SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH: The Ada Historical Society meets at the Averill Historical Museum of Ada, 7144 Headley at 7 p.m.

THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH: Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) meets in the high school cafeteria during seminar time for planning sessions for activities.

THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH: West Michigan Parents of Murdered Children & Other Survivors of Homicide (POMC) meets at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1100 Lake Dr. SE, 7 p.m., Discovery Room. A group sharing meeting is usually alternated with a meeting with a special guest conducting a Q/A. Contact Danni Smith (616) 897-2544, Laura Aul (616) 689-6133, Anita Droog at Victim/Witness Unit (Hall of Justice) (616) 336-2856.

FOURTH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH: Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) meets at 7 a.m. in high school teachers dining room for a light breakfast. For information concerning FCA call Kris Gallagher at 897-4922.

EVERY SAT. Lowell Amateur Radio Club sponsors

the 145.270 - repeater which operates on a 24-hour basis. Also there is a Simplex Frequency 147.420 PL 186.2.

2ND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH: The Ada Historical Society meets in the Averill Historical Museum of Ada, 7144 Headley at 1 p.m.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS: Mon. & Wed., 1-8 p.m.; Tues. & Fri., 1-5 p.m.; Thurs. & Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

WOMEN OF THE MOOSE: Business meeting is held the third Monday of each month at 8 p.m.

SAT., JAN. 8: Snowmobile safety training home study course is offered and classes will be held from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at the Flat River Snowmobile Clubhouse, 11841 Potters Rd.

(South side of Potters Rd., 1/2 mile east of Kent-Ionia Co. line). For more information and to request materials write to: Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources (Law Enforcement Division) State Office Building, 6th Floor, 350 Ottawa N.W. Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or phone (616) 356-0505.

TUES., JAN. 11: The Lowell Middle School eighth-grade drama class will present the hilarious comedy Airline at 7:30 p.m. in the Middle School cafeteria. Admission is free.

MON., JAN. 31: A slide and video presentation will be shown at 7 p.m. in the Lowell High School Performing Arts Center by Kate Democoeur who traveled to Ethiopia this past fall. It is to benefit Lowell Area Youth Development. Refreshments will be served.

Creative Keepsakes 485 Pettis, Ada (Just east of Amway) 676-0808. RETAILING SCRAPBOOK SUPPLIES. Scrapbooks, Photo Albums, Punches, Acid Free Stickers, Corner Rounders, Stencils, Acid Free Die-cuts, Acid Free Paper, Other Misc. Items, Scissors, Acid Free Pens, Gift Certificates. BIRTHDAY PARTIES - Call For More Information MON, TUES, WED & FRI 9:30 A.M. TO 8 P.M. THURS 9:30 A.M. TO 5 P.M. SAT 10 A.M. TO 6 P.M.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR 897-5949. MON.: 8:30 a.m., Walking, Woodland Mall. Mon. Madness drawing: 12:00. TUES.: 8:30 a.m. Walking, Woodland Mall. Exercise 10:40 a.m. WED.: 12:40 p.m. Shop-ping at Family Fare. 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. Special Events WED., JAN. 5: 8 a.m., a.m., Advisory council. Men's breakfast. THURS., JAN. 20: 12:00 p.m. Dance - West Side Complex. TUES., JAN. 25: 10:50 a.m., Visit & lunch Oak Ridge Center. WED., JAN. 26: 8 a.m., Women's breakfast. FRI., JAN. 28: 12:40 p.m., Shopping at Greenville. WED., JAN. 19: 9:30 (Dinner reservations should be made 3 working days in advance)

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL

For the Regular Meeting of MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 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, Treasurer Suzanne Olin, Light and Power/Cable TV Boardmembers Charles Doyle and Norman Borgerson and Student Representative Matthew Shepperd.

IT WAS MOVED BY SHORES and seconded by BLOUGH that the minutes of the regular and closed sessions meeting of December 6, 1999 be approved as submitted.
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.
YEA: 5.
NAY: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (12/20/99)

GENERAL FUND	\$79,416.98
MAJOR STREET FUND	1,475.77
LOCAL STREET FUND	105.06
DDA FUND	1,489.24
CITY HALL CONSTRUCTION FUND	3,067.50
AIRPORT FUND	56.52
WASTEWATER FUND	5,345.53
WATER FUND	9,210.56
DATA PROCESSING FUND	454.14
EQUIPMENT FUND	31,832.89
CURRENT TAX FUND	1,594.72
LEE FUND	2,045.00

Mayor Pro Tem Green presented a plaque to Mayor Thompson. He mentioned Thompson ran for City Council sixteen years ago against his wife, Helen Thompson. Green said it has been a privilege to serve as a Councilmember with him for the last eight years and noted Thompson has been a great Councilmember and an excellent Mayor.

Green presented a plaque to Thompson which read the following:

From the City of Lowell presented to William F. Thompson

In tribute to sixteen years of service to the City of Lowell, acting as City Councilmember January, 1984 to December 1999, Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals from 1984 - 1996
Mayor Pro Tem from 1994 - 1995, Mayor from 1996 - 1999,
The Look Memorial Fund Committee member from 1996 - 1999,
Airport Board Member 1988.

Many thanks to your efforts in making Lowell a better community.

From the Lowell City Council
December 1999.

Mayor Thompson thanked the Council. He said he has enjoyed serving the community and believed this was a great way to find out how the community works. You learn much concerning such areas as the townships, how important it is to have good employees, City Manager, City Clerk and all other department heads which you would otherwise not know. He felt this, along with the taxpayers was what made the City. Thompson thanked everyone for allowing him the opportunity to serve for the City.

Item #1. KENT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT - COLLECTION OF SUMMER PROPERTY TAXES FOR 2000. As recently carried out in previous years, the Kent

Intermediate School District has requested the City collect the summer property taxes for the district. As part of a continuing resolution, the City collects the KISD's property taxes at no fee but is able to keep the interest earned during the bank deposit before distributing these monies.

IT WAS MOVED BY SHORES and seconded by GREEN to approve the continuing resolution to collect the 2000 summer property taxes for Kent Intermediate School District.
YEA: 5.
NAY: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
MOTION CARRIED.

Item #2. ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT - RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION - PUBLIC HEARINGS. At its November 22, 1999 meeting, the Planning Commission held public hearings on the following three zoning ordinance amendments and recommended each be adopted.

A. Provision of Boarding and Lodging Houses as a Special use in the General Business District.

The Planning Commission had for several months reviewed the issue of boarding and lodging houses as a special use in the C-3 General Business District. This was felt to be an appropriate measure in light of such proposed housing on East Main Street.

City Attorney Richard Wendt prepared a draft ordinance for Commission review. The ordinance defines a boarding or lodging house as well as provides for the special use.

Councilmember Blough questioned the following definition of a boarding house or lodging house: "A dwelling having one (1) or more kitchens and primarily used for the purpose of providing meals or lodging or both meals and lodging for compensation of any kind." Blough asked if a duplex would be considered a lodging or boarding house. Pasquale responded this had not been considered, but assumed the definition concerned a single dwelling unit which would provide lodging.

Blough questioned the purpose for the definition. Councilmember Myers responded a situation has occurred with the Denny's Tourist Homes. He said this issue had never been addressed in the Zoning Ordinance.

Blough clarified any such house or unit receiving compensation of any kind would be considered a special use and be reviewed by the Planning Commission. Pasquale responded yes and noted a public hearing would be held. He said appropriate site plans would have to be provided along with property owners within 300 feet being notified. At this time, the Planning Commission may also attach any appropriate conditions.

Councilmember Myers said Denny's fills a niche within the community in terms of offering single rooms to patrons staying for a long or short period of time. He noted some units have cooking facilities, but mostly consist of basic efficiency apartments with one room.

IT WAS MOVED BY BLOUGH and seconded by GREEN to amend the Zoning Ordinance allowing Boarding and Lodging Houses as a special use in the General Business District.
YEA: 5.
NAY: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
MOTION CARRIED.

B. Hard surfaced access to Off-Street Parking Facilities. As discussed previously and in particular regarding the Mark Osburn variance, the issue of clarifying the Zoning Ordinance involving the requirement of hard surfaced driveways in residential districts had been reviewed.

The proposed amendment as prepared by City Attorney Richard Wendt specifies all access driveways and aprons must be hard surfaced with either asphalt or concrete and be properly drained.

Mark Osburn questioned where this was stated in the ordinance. Pasquale responded the amendment was drafted to provide clarification of wording. Mayor Thompson explained the amendment was proposed to help clear any confusion of how far back a drive should be paved.

Osburn said the confusion began when he was told he would be responsible for the easement. He was more confused than ever because he had been told the ordinance does not state a hard surfaced driveway must be installed. Pasquale responded this was incorrect and the amendment was only clarifying the ordinance.

Thompson said a question had been presented regarding the required amount of paved surface. The City has been dependent upon Public Works Director DesJarden to determine the length. The amendment was simply being presented in hope the same procedure can be accomplished for all drives throughout the City. Thompson said this is not a new requirement, but simply clarifying the length of pavement needed.

Thompson said this has always been in the ordinance. However, when an issue such as this occurs, the City will evaluate all questions and answers received from property owners and then re-evaluate the ordinance by either using the Planning Commission or through City Council.

Osburn said he never received any documentation from the City Attorney stating the language was in the ordinance. Pasquale said he would contact the City Attorney and request the documentation be mailed to Osburn.

Osburn believed it should be the property owner's decision whether or not the driveway should be paved. Thompson responded a gravel drive could affect the neighbors due to washouts and run off into the street. He said the purpose of an ordinance provides rules and regulations in which everyone can live together and resolve disputes. Osburn questioned if this was why surrounding property owners were notified of this issue. He asked if any complaints had been received. Thompson responded there were concerns regarding washout problems.

William Gardner of 901 Grindle questioned if this regulation affected the entire City. Pasquale responded yes. Blough said this pertains to all buildings erected, altered or extended after January 26, 1996. Pasquale noted if a resident has an existing house and has no plans for any additions, the drive would not have to be paved.

Blough questioned if a building was erected in January 1997 and does not comply with the ordinance, would the City ask the owner to pave the drive. Pasquale responded technically, this should have been paved. Blough inquired if it would be more appropriate to amend the ordinance with an effective date of January 3, 2000. Pasquale said this could be done.

Gardner said many property owners did not know this ordinance existed.

Blough questioned if this was a modification of the current ordinance. Pasquale responded yes, it is an amendment. Blough asked if there was a particular sentence which was altered and included the old effective date. He questioned if advice should be sought from the City Attorney regarding an effective date of January 2000. Pasquale responded the date could be eliminated.

Blough suggested the issue be tabled until clarification can be made regarding the effective date.

Councilmember Myers questioned how the Planning Commission had voted on the issue. Pasquale responded the Commission unanimously adopted the amendment.

Councilmember Green did not understand the matter of enforcing the issue so that the entire drive is paved. But agreed, if this became a safety issue.

IT WAS MOVED BY BLOUGH and seconded by GREEN to table the proposed zoning ordinance amendment regarding hard surfaced access to off-street parking facilities until further information is received regarding the effective date.
YEA: 5.
NAY: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
MOTION CARRIED.

C. Provision for Definitions of Body Shop and Vehicle Repair Facilities and Establishing as a Special use in the General Business District Vehicle Repair Facilities. In response to a discussion held at the October Planning Commission meeting, an ordinance amendment has been prepared by Chairman Daniel Brubaker which defines body shop and vehicle repair facilities, providing the latter as a special use in the General Business District. This proposal addressed a concern brought by Jack and Judy Gistingier in marketing their property located at 423 W. Main Street (J&J Variety).

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS and seconded by BLOUGH to approve the zoning ordinance amendment which defines body shops and vehicle repair facilities and allowing the latter to be established in the General Business District as a special use.
YEA: 5.
NAY: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Blough felt it was significant the first two ordinances be approved and documented in the order these were approved. He said Section 12.03 actually superseded the first ordinance amendment with action on the second.

Item #3. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

A. 901 W. Main - Main Street Banquet Center - variance for rear yard setback and off street parking involving new 4600 square foot facility - public hearing. At its November 22, 1999 meeting, the Planning Commission reviewed a site plan submitted by Lois Sherman to construct a 4600 square foot banquet facility at the northwest corner of N. Center and W. Main Streets. The plan was approved subject to contingencies involving frontage landscaping, detailing of lighting and drainage and providing a masonry trash enclosure. Two variances were also reviewed: a 24 foot rear yard setback where 35 feet is required and providing 58 parking spaces (sharing with Erb Lumber) where 65 spaces are necessary based on a 130 person maximum occupancy. The Commission recommended these be approved, based on these meeting the established criteria.

Boardmember Myers questioned if any precedence had ever been set concerning shared parking. Pasquale responded there have been situations in the past such as the movie theater parking area.

Boardmember Thompson questioned if an easement was recorded on the deed. Ron Potter (owner of the Main Street Pub) responded yes.

Myers questioned if the easement had been presented to Erb Lumber. Potter responded Erb Lumber is able to drive cars and light pickup trucks across the property line in order to access their own parking lot.

Myers asked if Potter was paying any financial consideration for the easement. Potter responded no. He said Erb Lumber has a strip of land which is 21 feet wide, approximately 50 feet in length which Erb can back up their cars. This area can not be accessed unless cars cross over into the parking lot currently owned by Potter. In exchange, Erb Lumber has allowed use of their parking lot after 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays, all day Sunday and after 5:00 p.m. every evening during the week. Myers assumed then an event would never be held prior to these time frames. Potter responded an event could be booked prior to these times. He said it happens to work out well he has rarely any parking during the daytime. Erb Lumber has none at night. Myers questioned if a lunch time event would create a problem for Erb. Potter responded Erb's parking would not be available for use during the day.

Myers asked if the old and new facilities would be open at the same time. Potter responded no. He also noted the liquor license is only good for one location.

Green questioned if any public comments had been received. Pasquale responded none.

IT WAS MOVED BY THOMPSON and seconded by GREEN to approve the variance request at 901 W. Main for Main Street Banquet Center regarding the rear yard setback of 24 feet where 35 feet is required and off-street parking of 58 spaces where 65 is necessary based on meeting the established criteria.
YEA: 5.
NAY: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
MOTION CARRIED.

Item #4. PRESENTATION REGARDING NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL. Paula Wilbur of the North Country Trail Association made a presentation to the Council regarding proposed trail routes through Lowell.

She said North Country Trail is national and overseen by the national park system. She explained this is primarily a foot trail, which does not allow motorized vehicles. A study was undertaken in 1994 to route the trail through Kent County. It has been recommended the trail travel through Lowell and Vergennes Townships and continue

north. She noted this is a 4,000-mile trail covering seven states.

The Association is currently working on implementing a plan to traverse through Lowell and asked if the Council would support this. Wilbur noted the trail has been established at Fun Street and continuing through the State Game Area and then toward Fallsburg Village.

Councilmember Myers questioned if the trails would be paved. Wilbur responded this would depend upon the location of the trail. Tom Larmond, an Association member, said the trail varies from place to place. He said part of the trail is currently running along some sidewalks and streets through the City of Battle Creek.

He mentioned there are funds available for the association to build bridges over wetlands and such other areas.

Larmond also said the possibility of using some streets and sidewalks for the trail system throughout Lowell is being reviewed. He said the trail would travel through the City, across the river and then head north.

Councilmember Blough asked if North Country Trail would eventually be connected to the Appalachian Trail. Larmond responded no. He noted there are approximately 12 trails similar to this throughout the country.

City Manager Pasquale suggested the Association attend the next Planning Commission meeting on January 24, 2000. Blough suggested they also attend the Parks and Recreation Commission.

IT WAS MOVED BY BLOUGH and seconded by GREEN to support a planning effort through the Parks and Recreation Commission and any other interested parties for North Country Trail to investigate an appropriate pathway through the City of Lowell.
YEA: 5.
NAY: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
MOTION CARRIED.

Myers suggested North Country Trail also contact the Chamber of Commerce.

Item #5. 1998-99 CITY AUDIT PRESENTATION. Virgil Biggs and Thomas Dickinson of Biggs, Hausserman, Thompson and Dickinson were present to discuss the audit of accounts and records for the City of Lowell. Dickinson reminded the Council Lowell Light and Power and Lowell Cable TV had been audited by a separate firm and a presentation of these funds is scheduled in January. Dickinson noted the firm's findings had been incorporated into the report.

Dickinson noted the issues of Y2K and said the City does have a contingency plan. Also, third parties were used to assist in replacing computers and software. He said there have been extensive testing within the City and feels very comfortable with the procedures taken.

Dickinson explained the major operations within the City of Lowell are the water and sewer funds. These are operated similar to a business, which are called enterprise funds. The intent of these funds is to charge for these services based on costs and expenditures. He said the City of Lowell, over time has used many bonds to finance expansions within these two funds. This requires the system revenues to be used to retire the debt. When comparing this to other municipalities, it is found that general obligation bonds may be used and retire their debt through a tax levy as well as using revenue bonds.

Dickinson said the audit provides an opinion of the funds. He stated no items came to their attention which warrant special disclosure or recognition.

He also noted the report must be in compliance with Federal and State requirements. The Federal requirements are minor due to the fact the Federal revenue was below the limit requiring additional procedures.

Dickinson pointed out the City's primary source of revenue comes from the Water, Sewer and General Funds. He explained the municipality operated 1999 fiscal year ending June 30, 1999 was almost equivalent funding as of June 1998. There was nothing unusual in the past year. He explained the tax revenue has increased approximately 2.6 percent. He noted the State shared revenues increased approximately 5.2 percent this year. Overall, revenues had increased approximately 3.3 percent and expenditures have increased 3.2 percent. As anticipated, the year-end fund balance was at a favorable \$733,660.

The areas which continue to be monitored were the Water and Sewer Funds with the General Fund in good shape. Next year, there will be two bond issues.

Dickinson commented on City Treasurer/Finance Director Judy Noonon's retirement two years ago. He said Suzanne Olin, Charlene McNab and Vickie Videan have done a good job. He said the burden on the Treasurer's office can be intense at times.

Mayor Thompson said the City of Lowell appreciates the efforts of Biggs, Hausserman, Thompson and Dickinson.

Councilmember Myers also noted the delinquent personal property taxes have decreased from \$13,510 in 1998 to \$9,262 in 1999. He asked if there was any particular reason for this. Dickinson responded personal property statements are calculated by the business owner and frequently the individuals do not file the form. This then requires City Assessor James Marfa to estimate these costs high, if not filed. Suzanne Olin said she does all she can to collect these monies under State Tax Law.

Councilmember Blough asked how the delinquent tax receivables appear for municipality this size. Dickinson responded on the low side.

No further action was taken.

Item #6. TRAFFIC SIGNAL WARRANT ANALYSIS FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK NEAR MONROE AND MAIN STREETS. As mentioned at the last meeting, City staff had the opportunity to discuss with Joe Finch, Traffic and Safety Engineer of the Michigan Department of Transportation - Grand Rapids District, concerning the possibility of locating a traffic signal on the east side of M-21, particularly at Main and Monroe Streets. In order to determine whether this location or nearby intersections to the east meets MDOT warrants, an analysis is needed.

Ed Swanson of Wade-Trim, Inc. has had successful experience in dealing with MDOT in Lowell regarding M-21. The cost of such a study would be \$7,800 which would be allocated from the Major Street Fund.

Pasquale also noted a letter received from the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce stating their support for such an effort. Police Chief Valentine has also expressed his interest.

Valentine said because of all the development near the Riverwalk, there needs to be a way to interrupt vehicle traffic allowing pedestrians to cross. He said MDOT has completed one traffic study and found specific criteria had not been met.

Councilmember Myers questioned what the study would provide. Pasquale responded this would provide information to MDOT to determine if the City can qualify for a traffic light. Not only at Main and Monroe Streets, but the study would also review the Washington and Jefferson intersections.

Myers questioned if there were any other options to obtain a study. Pasquale responded an analysis must be done and provided to MDOT. Myers asked if Wade-Trim was the only source for a traffic study. Pasquale responded other firms can be contacted. Myers suggested other bids be sought.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS and seconded by BLOUGH to table the traffic signal warrant analysis for east M-21, until other proposals have been received.
YEA: 5.
NAY: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
MOTION CARRIED.

Item #7. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE AN OBLIGATION WITH THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY IN CONNECTION WITH AIRPORT LOAN FROM THE MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION. The Council had authorized at its December 6 meeting the Airport Board to apply for an \$80,000 loan from the Michigan Aeronautics Commission for improvements to the Lowell City Airport. A notice of intent to issue such an obligation must be filed with the Michigan Department of Treasury in order to proceed.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS and seconded by BLOUGH to support the resolution authorizing the filing of notice of intent to issue an obligation with the Michigan Department Of Treasury in connection with an \$80,000 airport improvements loan from the Michigan Aeronautics Commission.

Fire, cont'd.... From Page 8

All items on the shelves inside the station will have to be replaced.

"We'd like to get open as soon as we can," Eaton said. "We'll complete some repair work after we reopen."

The Lowell Fire Department was there approximately three hours. "It was a good save. We were able to contain the fire to the small room," Martin said.

Karen DeVries, owner of Showboat Video located in the

Admiral building, said her business just incurred smoke damage. "I think I will be open by the end of the week. My only concern was if it got hot enough inside to damage my computer."

You never know what is enough unless you know what is more than enough.

 —William Blake

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

YEA: 5.
 NAY: 0.
 ABSENT: 0
 MOTION CARRIED.

Item #8. APPROVAL OF 2000 CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATES. The following meeting dates were reviewed and considered for the year 2000.

January 3 18 (Tuesday)	July 5 (Wednesday) 17
February 7 22 (Tuesday)	August 7 21
March 6 20	September 5 (Tuesday) 18
April 10 24	October 2 16
May 1 15	November 6 20
June 5 19	December 4 18

IT WAS MOVED BY BLOUGH and seconded by MYERS to approve the 2000 City Council meeting dates as amended.

YEA: 5.
 NAY: 0.
 ABSENT: 0
 MOTION CARRIED.

Item #9. MONTHLY REPORTS. No comments were received.

Item #10. CITIZEN COMMENTS. Charles Doyle of 725 Bowes complimented Mayor Thompson on his years of service. He said he enjoyed serving on the Council with him and his father.

Police Chief Valentine presented a photograph to Mayor Thompson. Valentine said he appreciated the support given by Mayor Thompson to the City for the last 16 years.

Thompson said he grew up in Lowell and has grown to appreciate and admire the Police and Fire Departments.

Item #11. COUNCIL COMMENTS. Councilmember Shores wished Mayor Thompson good luck and said she would miss him. She also wished everyone Happy Holidays. Thompson said he has appreciated everything Shores has done for the City.

Councilmember Green thanked Thompson for his service to the community and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Green commented on the Digital Cable TV program recently established. He said a few months ago, there had been discussion concerning adult oriented broadcasting. He has a problem with this being offered to the community. He wanted the Council to suggest this type of programming not be offered.

Councilmember Myers said he has had the new digital cable system installed in his home and has counted 76 new available channels. Green said he did not have a problem with the digital cable system. He was referring to the two pay-for-view channels (Spice), which show X rated movies.

Myers said these types of programs are filtered on his cable system, and which does not allow this type of programming.

Green reminded the Council regarding the discussion

held in the past concerning these types of channels never be offered through the municipal system. Thompson said many residents throughout the community feel differently allowing this decision to be swayed.

Thompson asked Light and Power/Cable TV Boardmember Norman Borgerson if this type of programming automatically comes with the package. Borgerson responded it could be eliminated.

Shores questioned the reason for providing this type of programming. Borgerson responded there is a desire for this from the community. He said the concern is for the citizens and what they would like to have. Borgerson believes in the First Amendment and said he was against censorship. He said there was a significant difference between an open door along Main Street and what goes on behind closed doors in our homes.

Myers noted the need to separate Church from State in considering this issue.

Thompson recommended this item be tabled until it can be added to the agenda.

Pasquale said Lowell Light and Power and Cable TV Manager Ronald Holcomb should be available for the January 18, 2000 meeting.

Councilmember Blough said this is the recommendation given by the Board of Cable TV and Light and Power. He said if the Council continues to step over the Boards in which have appointed to handle situations then the Council undermines the structure of the volunteers and others. He believed this should be decided by the appointed Boards.

Myers suggested public input be received.

Green wanted the programming deleted until feedback has been received from the public.

Thompson agreed with Blough and said the responsibilities for Cable TV/Light and Power have been turned over the Board. Green said he did not disagree and did not mean to leave them out.

Myers felt if the programming was turned off, then this would be exactly what the Council would be doing to the Board. Green said he was simply asking for this request, not demanding it.

Green asked the Board to consider a moratorium until the issue has been discussed publicly. He said this type of program is available throughout the City at video stores and questioned why it had to be provided through Lowell Cable TV.

No further action was taken.

Myers thanked Thompson for his years of service and has enjoyed working with him. Blough agreed.

Blough commended the City Staff for providing water service at Richards Park. He recently spoke with Bruce Walter who had suggested the City start making ice for the rink. Blough questioned when this might be started. Pasquale was unsure. He said the staff was preparing for the project.

Green said there needs to be a little more snow before the area can be completely soaked down with water and freeze. He said Perry Beachum and Pastor Gordon Barry have been coordinating the project.

ITEM #12. MANAGER'S REPORT. City Manager Pasquale reported on the following:

1. 1999 has been a very productive year for the City. Among the accomplishments have been:

- completion of the West Main Street sidewalk project

- progress toward the City Hall - Police Station project in acquiring four needed parcels

- installation of a new computer software program of the City's accounting system

- adoption of City Charter amendments involving Planning Commission compensation and penalty date for unpaid property taxes

- completion of West Main Street reconstruction through the Michigan Department of Transportation

- City Council adoption of One Year Strategic Goals

- Adoption of new City logo

- Approval of management for Lowell Cable TV by Light and Power Superintendent

- Construction of second roof at 113 Lafayette (old NAPA building) and lease agreement with Chamber of Commerce for the structure

- Accepting donation of 4.2 acres abutting the confluence of the Grand and Flat Rivers from Mr. & Mrs. Donald Miller

- Issuance of 1.1 million dollar DDA Bond for further downtown improvement

- Approval of initiating a Street and Sidewalk Master Plan with Rowe Engineering.

2. The following meetings minutes were presented:

- Downtown Historic District Commission meetings of September 15 and October 6

- Downtown Development Authority meeting of November 18 and December 10

- Parks and Recreation Commission meeting of November 13

- Chamber of Commerce meeting of November 10

3. The Kent County Community Development Department stated that the City will have \$42,992.80 in Block Grant funds for the next fiscal year. Pasquale proposed that \$40,000 be allocated toward the river crossing water main project with the remaining to North Kent Transit.

4. Pasquale also stated he would miss Mayor Thompson greatly. He said it will seem different without him because he has been here ever since Pasquale started. Pasquale noted Thompson had interviewed him.

5. Pasquale also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Item #13. APPOINTMENTS. Mayor Thompson noted there was still an opening on the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Green said Mark Russell will be resigning from the Parks and Recreation Commission. He noted there would be an opening.

Mayor Thompson said he decided to pass on the decision of appointing an Elected Officers Compensation Commission to the new Council.

IT WAS MOVED BY GREEN to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: Monday, January 3, 2000

Mayor Bill Thompson
 David M. Pasquale, City Clerk

Lowell closes the gap; Eaton Rapids wins the trophy

... Red Arrows see benefits from technical adjustments in 31-28 loss to Greyhounds.

By **Thaddeus J. Kraus**
Lowell Ledger Editor

A tough early season schedule may make December one of the Lowell wrestling team remembers in March.

The Red Arrows finished the month at 9-4. Their only losses came to the number one team in Division I (Forest Hills Central) and the number one team in Division II (Eaton Rapids). Lowell lost twice to both clubs.

"We're going to be better for that struggle and journey," Lowell wrestling coach Dave Strejc said.

Over the two-week holiday stretch, Lowell wrestled Eaton Rapids for the second time this season. The Red Arrows lost by 14 in their first meeting. On Thursday, Lowell was on the short end of a 31-28 score.

"The boys are beginning to see the benefits of some of the technical adjustments we've been working on," Strejc said. "We must keep doing what we're doing."

Some may have questioned what those adjustments were following the Greyhounds' 19-0 start in the championship of the Tate and Marge Frederick Team Invitational at Grandville High School.

Eaton Rapids won the first five matches before Lowell broke through.

Red Arrow Dan Rottier, 135 pounds, dominated Matt Cataline in posting an 18-7 win.

Caleb O'Boyle, 140, followed that with a 12-4 decision over Matt Chapman, cutting Lowell's deficit to 19-8.

Trailing 5-0, Brent Lyons came through with a pin against Mike Wilson at 1:37 of the first period, pulling Lowell to within five of the Greyhounds, at 19-14.

Tom Oesch, 152 pounds, dwindled the deficit to two with a 5-2 decision over Tony Cataline.

Eaton Rapids stopped the Red Arrow run with Chris Haidel's 6-5 decision against Doug Ford at 160 pounds.

Lowell trailed 22-17 when Matt Oesch, 171 pounds, technical failed. Nate Hendrickson 18-2. "It's the best I've seen Matt wrestle. He looked great. He's beginning to build up some endurance," Strejc said.

Eaton Rapids grabbed a 25-22 lead when John Dickerson decided Ben Fleet 9-5 at 189 pounds.

Bill Stouffer, 215 pounds, gave Lowell its first lead (28-25) of the match with a pin against Matt Sutton at 1:44 of the

first period.

T. J. Robinson, however, was too much for Lowell heavy-weight Ben Vaught as he pinned the Red Arrow in 1:22 of the first period.

In the early matches, Jeremy Goff, 103, lost a 13-5 decision to Jesse Beal; Bobby Gingerich, 112, lost 9-6 to Austin Carmody; John McKay, 119, lost 11-9 in overtime to Josh Boyd; John Mendez, 125, lost in an injury default to Jeffrey Chapman; and J.J. Wilder, 135 pounds, was major decisioned by Matt Cataline 18-7.

"Gingerich looked outstanding against Carmody," Strejc said. "Bobby was pinned in their first match earlier in the year."

Lowell advanced to the finals with a 47-21 win over Lansing Eastern and a 29-21 win over Grandville.

"Grandville was a tough match. We were ahead five going into the heavyweight match," Strejc said.

Vaught came through for Lowell with an 8-3 decision. "There were a lot of close matches. The matches we won, I thought we were in control. However, I thought Grandville outwrestled us in the third period and made things tight," Strejc explained.

Lowell wrestles Northview on Thursday and then travels to Hastings on Saturday for an individual invitational.

Consistency missing in Red Arrow volleyball team's play

... Lowell spikers have played near .500 ball, consistency in play could improve that dramatically, according to volleyball coach Kristen Ference.

By **Thaddeus J. Kraus**
Lowell Ledger Editor

How does Lowell volleyball coach Kristen Ference spell inconsistency?

400 as in Lowell's 8-12 record after two season-opening invitationals.

Lowell was 4-4 at the Creston Invitational and 5-7 at the WMVOA.

"I know we have the skill to be much better," Ference said. "Right now, we're inconsistent. One game it's there

and the next game it isn't."

Lowell was 1-5 in its first six games at the WMVOA and 5-1 over the last six games.

"Our serve receiving and movement was not very good in our first three matches," Ference explained. "It was greatly improved in our last three matches."

Lowell lost 4-15, 3-15 to St. Louis. It split with East Grand Rapids 15-8, 2-15 and then lost to Holland Christian 5-15, 2-15.

The Red Arrows found their game against Grand Rapids Christian with wins of 15-12, 15-7.

Lowell then doubled up Ottawa Hills 15-10, 15-10 before losing a pair to Grand Rapids Union 7-15, 11-15.

"Our passing and movement in the last three matches was much better," Ference said. "Our setting was much more consistent."

Sunny Moyer led Lowell with assists and the setter tallied 42 of them.

Amanda Stoutjesdyk led Lowell in blocks with 10 while Angie Schmidt and Jenny Williams each added five.

Stoutjesdyk also led the club with aces as she and Moyer recorded seven apiece.

Stoutjesdyk was responsible for a team-high 19 kills. Maggie Wisner contributed with nine and Williams and Schmidt each had six.

Ference recognized Abbey Goff, Schmidt and Jodi Seif for leading the team in digs. She also commended the defensive play of Sarah Happie.

Lowell opens its league schedule on Thursday against Northview.

Red Arrow hockey team defeats Northview; loses to South Christian

The Lowell junior varsity hockey team lost to South Christian and defeated the Wildcats from Northview over the holiday break to move their record to 3-8 overall.

The Red Arrows struggled with penalties and missed offensive chances the entire game against South Christian, a divisional opponent. Lowell's Eric Bailey tied the score at the 9:37 mark of the first period but that would be the only time the Red Arrows would hit the back of the net the rest of the game. The Sailors added one more goal in the first period and two in the second to finish out the scoring.

"It was disappointing for our team because we have played well against this team in the past and we just couldn't get anything going this time offensively," said head coach Paul Jacobus. "South Christian is a much improved team and I give them a lot of credit."

The Red Arrows got back into the winning column on New Year's Day by defeating the Northview Wildcats by a score of 6-2 in a non-league game. With only two penalties the whole game, Lowell finally was able to get into an offensive rhythm. Things didn't start out well, however, as the Wildcats scored with just less than a minute into the game.

Lowell stuck to its game plan, though, and Bailey finally opened the scoring for the Red Arrows at the 3:51 mark of the first period on an assist from linemate Andi Larisch. Cha followed Bailey's goal only 30 seconds later with one of his own on an assist from Daniel Woods.

Following a scoreless second period, the Red Arrows erupted for four goals in the third period. Eric Austin, Woods, Jordan Schaefer and Larisch all found the back of the net on assists from Bailey, Josh Baker, Bryan Posthumus and Tom Fick, respectively.

"The kids really did a fantastic job in all parts of the game," explained Jacobus. "The kids have worked very hard and it's nice to see everything finally come together again."

Another bright spot for Lowell was the play of first-year backup goalie Robert Latvia who held the Wildcats scoreless in the second period.

The Lowell junior varsity hockey team is a cooperative program with Caledonia.

Lowell woman killed in Hudson Street crash

By **Thaddeus J. Kraus**
Lowell Ledger Editor

A Lowell woman died early Tuesday morning from internal injuries incurred in a two-car accident Monday night at the intersection of Elm and Hudson streets.

Nancy Miller, 55, of Lowell, was pronounced dead at 4:15 a.m. Tuesday.

Miller was westbound on Elm St. when she stopped at the Elm/Hudson intersection and attempted to turn south onto Hudson.

Her four-door Corsica was struck in the driver's side doors by a northbound vehicle driven by 24-year-old

Greenville resident Trevor Stutting at 6:20 p.m. Monday, according to the Lowell Police report.

Miller, had to be extricated from her vehicle. Lowell Ambulance transported Miller to Spectrum Health Downtown.

The accident remains under investigation. Fault of the accident had not yet been determined, according to Lowell patrol officer James Hinton.

Alcohol was not involved and both drivers were wearing their seat belts.



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BLACK BELT SELF-DEFENSE INSTRUCTOR NEEDED - for youth ages 5-15, part-time eves. 891-4445.

HELP WANTED - Due to a large increase in business, local company must expand operations & fill 13 full-time permanent positions to start at \$540/week! Since there are several positions to fill & company will train the inexperienced, job descriptions, hours, pay scales, profit-sharing, benefits, etc. will be discussed at a one-on-one interview. No 3rd shift. For appointment call 243-9131.

HOMEMAKER TO MONEYMAKER - Local office of a national organization needs 2 full-time, career-minded persons willing to work hard. We offer training. Potential first-year earnings in excess of \$24,000. Call Craig Sanborn at Westdale Better Homes & Gardens, 942-2300.

ARE YOU CONNECTED? - Internet users wanted! \$350-\$800 a week. 888-310-1488. www.lifedreams.net

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GENERAL OFFICE POSITION - Local office has an opening. Duties include customer service, telephones, some typing. Full-time needed. Will train right personality. Hourly rate is \$7.50-\$8.00. Please respond to: OFFICE HELP c/o. The Buyers Guide, PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331. No Phone Calls.

DAYCARE ASSISTANT NEEDED - part-time. Must love children, have child care experience w/references & like to have fun. Call Carrie at 897-6386 for immediate consideration.

APARTMENT MANAGER NEEDED - for a 48 unit complex in Lowell. Detail oriented person to run office. Free rent & salary along with benefits. For more information call 517-339-5161.

'95 WINDSTAR FOR SALE/TRADE - V6, loaded, 87K. 897-4220 before 8 p.m.

MORRISON LAKE - Breathtaking lakefront home, 3 season porch, great room, oak kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, MFU & 2 car garage. \$229,900. CENTURY 21 Pearson-Cook, 791-8900, Denise Essich, 397-6062. MOR9DESSI-C.

FOR SALE - 1 electric stove & 1 gas stove. Both in good shape. Call 897-5413.

CAR HAULER/TRAILER FOR SALE - 1989, Tandem axle, ramps, electric brakes. Sits low, can push car on it. Was used for race car. \$700 or make offer. Call 940-1856. (Cascade area).

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Be sure to check out the school lunch menu in this issue of the Ledger.

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PERSONALS

HAPPILY MARRIED COUPLE - eager to adopt newborn to share our love & home. 800-288-2819, code 62.

A REWARD IS BEING OFFERED - for the safe return of items "Borrowed" from a Christmas display at lot 68 in Valley Vista Village MHP on Wed., Dec. 29 between 12 noon & 10 p.m. Items are greatly missed by the family & anyone who has enjoyed our display. No questions will be asked provided items are not damaged. Thank you in advance.

CARD OF THANKS

CARD OF THANKS
The family of Orion J. Thaler is most grateful for the many expressions of sympathy at the time of his death. The flowers, cards, memorial contributions, physical presence and hugs all helped make the loss easier to bear. Many, many thanks to you.

CARD OF THANKS

The family of Wayne (Doug) Brainard wishes to express their sincere thanks for the cards, flowers, thoughts, and prayers for Doug during his recent illness. A special thanks to the Saranac Emergency Unit, Ionia Emergency Unit and the Emergency room staff at Ionia County Memorial Hospital, all of your efforts are very much appreciated. Thanks also to the Lowell VFW Ladies Auxiliary for providing a wonderful luncheon after the funeral. We thank everyone for helping us through this difficult time.

Judith Brainard, Christopher & Bobbi Brainard & family; Alberto & Pamela Pacheco & family; Thomas Caniff & family; Karl & Mary Schnicke.

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IN MEMORIAM

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Lowell Middle School presents *Airline* January 11

The Lowell Middle School eighth-grade drama class will present the comedy *Airline* on Tuesday, Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m.

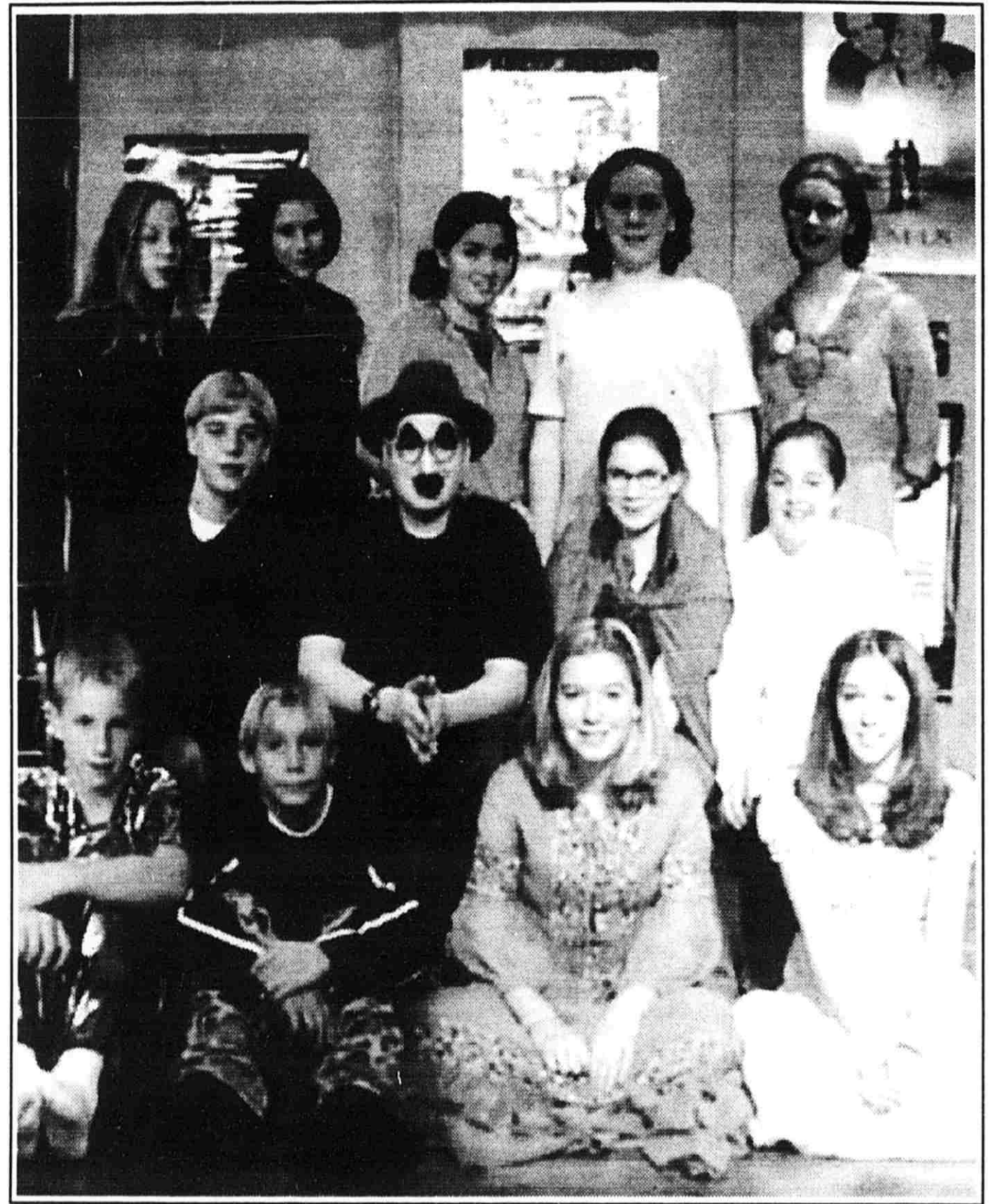
The play is about those highly regarded individuals responsible for transporting travelers by flight. It is also about some remarkably odd and trusting characters who put their lives at the mercy of these "experts."

Unfortunately, the *Go Bananas Airline* staff only have expertise in raising the art of incompetence to a new high. The results are hilarious.


The public is invited to the Tuesday evening performance which will take place in the middle school cafeteria at 750 Foreman. Admission is free.



Cast members, from left to right, first row, are: Justin Bogdanik, Karlee Perez and Ami Alexander; middle row, left to right, are: Kristen Lee, Sara Swab, Angela Wood and Jared Felling; back row, left to right, are: Kriste Warren, Dustin Pedley, Brian Randolph, Renee Catlin and Kelly Umlauf.



Cast members, from left to right, front row, are: Kyle Rozema, Chris Parker, Jenny Emser and Stephanie Blanchard; middle row, left to right, are: Chris Witherell, Bryan Hoekstra, Allison Bault and Ashley VanEck; back row, left to right, are: Lindsey Sherman, Heather Sain, Dawn Tetterton, Katie Huver and Megan Shellenbarger. Not pictured are Liz Brower and Chris Rozman.




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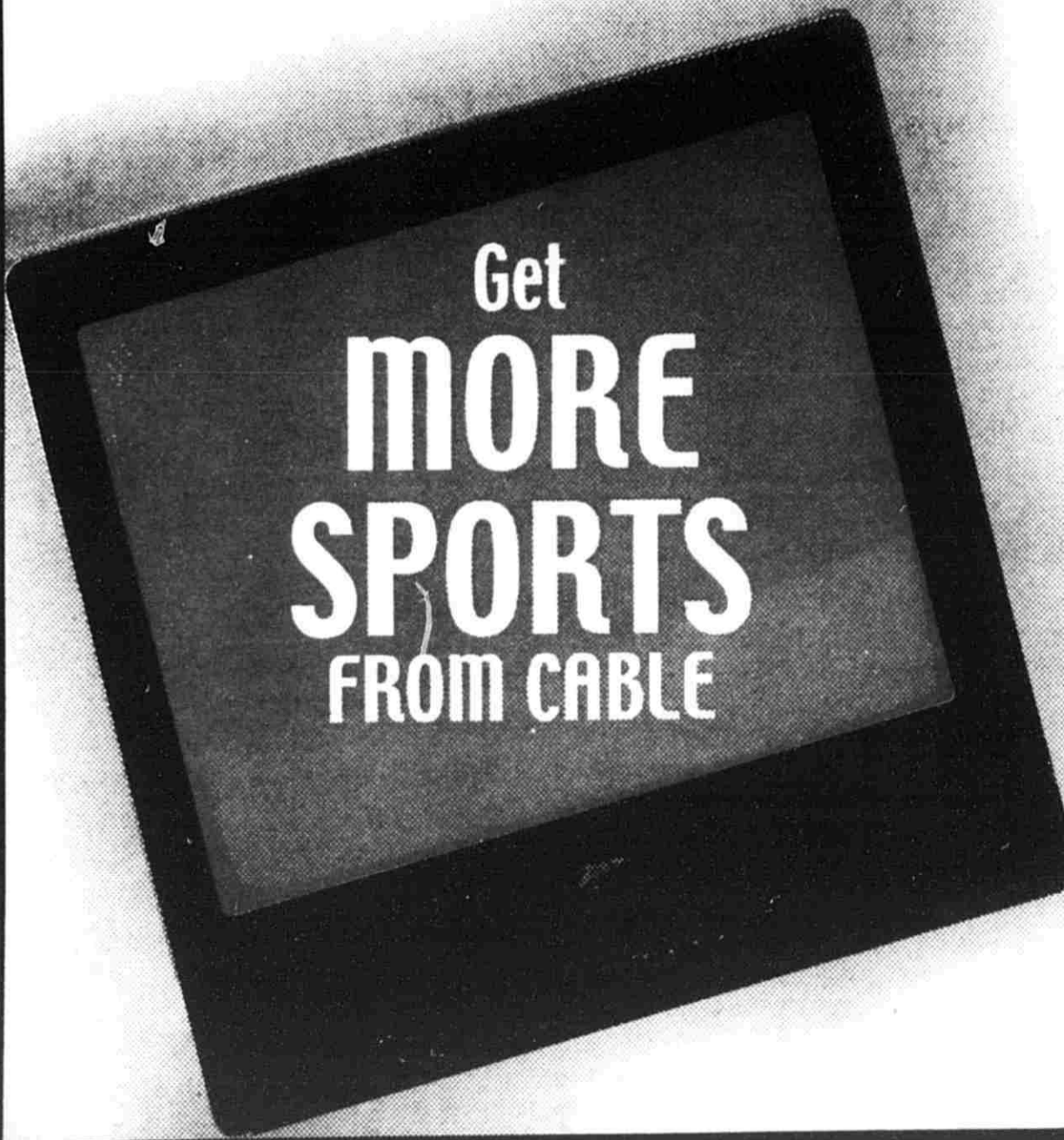
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