

# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 11

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 20, 2000

## Water main project stalls, city decides not to grant extension

By J.N. Boorsma  
 Contributing Writer

The Lowell City Council gave a resounding "no" when the request was made of a construction company to extend the time it had to complete a water main project.

Representatives from the engineering company of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber came before the city council Monday night seeking an extension for Nagel Construction on the watermain project along Flat River. The construction company was asking for a 30-day extension, with a completion date of Jan. 30.

"I thought the city staff recognized that it was strongly stated by the city council last time that the current money and the scope of the work were not to exceed the original proposal," said Mayor Michael Blough.

Staff and Fishbeck representatives said, however, they felt there were some extending circumstances that might warrant an extension - this included the heavy snow and broken equipment.

"If they would have got-

ten out there in October, then perhaps this would not have happened," said council member, Jeanne Shores.

The contract for the watermain project was bidden out in June; Nagel had the lowest bid. In July, the construction company asked for a two-month extension from the original completion date of Oct. 30. The council granted the extension, which moved the completion date back to Dec. 30.

During work on the project a few weeks ago, which involves boring a hole under the river and pulling the pipe through, the project hit a snag. When Nagel workers tried to pull the pipe through, it got caught, forcing them to pull it back out. The company can now pro-

ceed in one of two ways: either redrill the existing hole or drill a new hole, said Steve Nichols, of Fishbeck.

Nagel Construction wanted to avoid working around the holidays and asked for an extension with the idea the project probably could be completed by Jan. 21.

The council, however, was not pleased, especially since an extension had already been granted, and decided to opt to enforce the current deadline of Dec. 30. This means Nagel would be assessed \$1,000 for liquidation damages per day starting Dec. 31 if the project is not completed.

"When this is done, it does create hard feelings between everyone," Nichols said.

## Township studies decriminalizing some ordinance violations

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
 Lowell Ledger Editor

With the ability to keep

all paid fines, the burden of proof on the local municipality lower, and the defendant no longer having the rights of an accused criminal, Lowell Charter Township is considering adopting an ordinance for municipal civil infractions and related fines.

The decriminalization of ordinance infractions would mean the defendant is not guilty of a crime; instead he/she is responsible for an infraction.

In a criminal misdemeanor matter, the defendant has to be found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

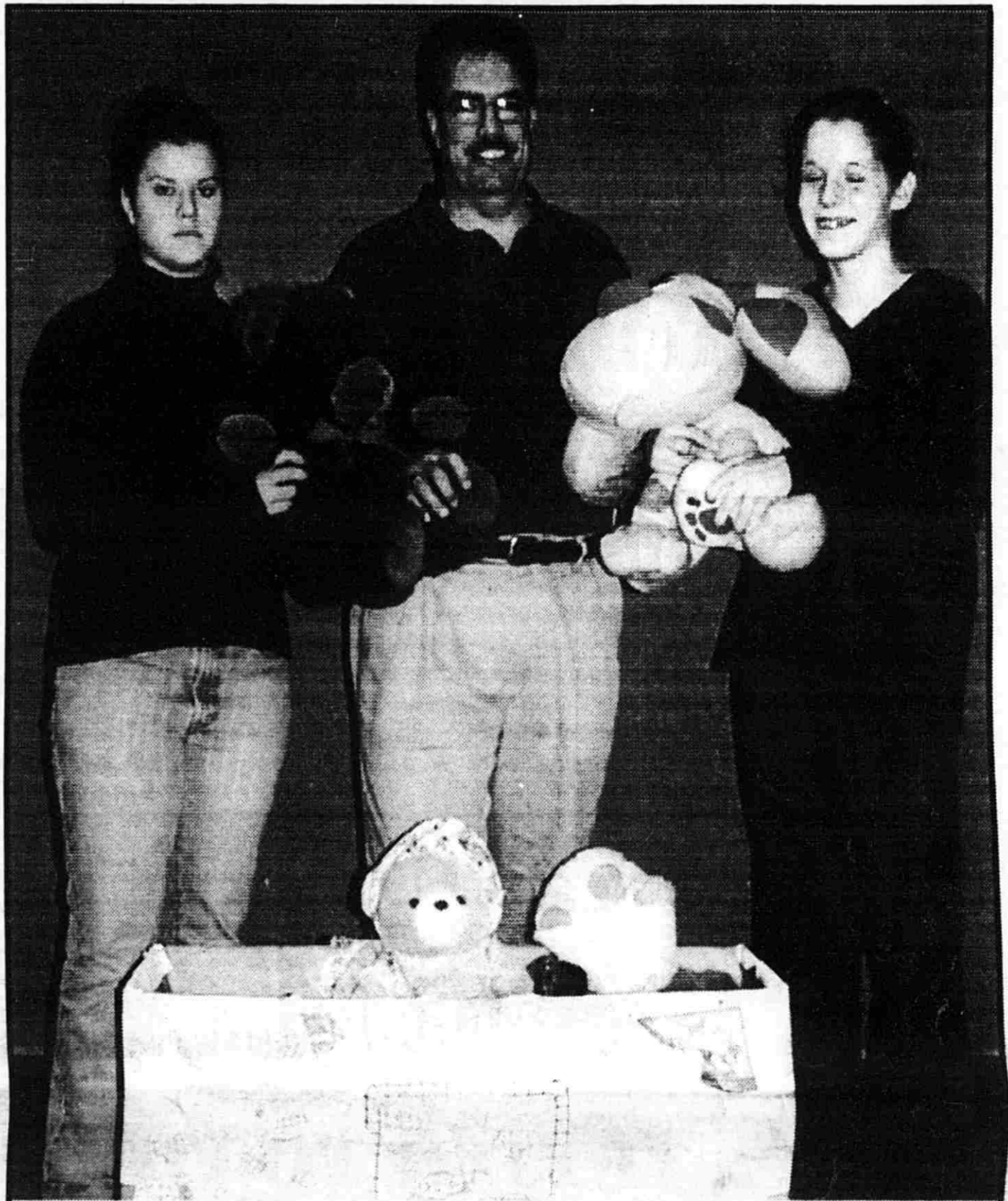
Under a municipal infraction, the supervisor or a designated officer issues the citation. The violator can then admit to the violation and pay the fine or deny the violation and have a hearing held.

During that hearing the defendant has to be found guilty by a preponderance of evidence. The outcome is decided by a judge and not a jury.

In an ordinance bureau (one person designated to issue a citation), the fixed rate the violator would pay would be kept by the township. In a criminal misdemeanor case, the township only keeps a share of the fine.

The township will review which ordinances it

Decriminalization,  
 cont'd. pg. 8



## BEAR HUGS

Children living through and dealing with a trauma in their life oftentimes can be comforted greatly by a hug. With that in mind, Lowell High School students Stefanie Bieber and Annie Didion instituted a "Hug-a-Bear" program at the school. "I got the idea from a story I saw in the newspaper. I thought it was a good idea - children having a bear to hug during bad times," Bieber said. "Annie and I would like to continue this program beyond the holidays." The program, which has collected stuffed bears over the last two months, presented Lowell police chief, Jim Valentine with a box full of bears on Friday (Dec. 15). "This sort of gift is ideal in helping young children, suffering through a trauma, get through an issue," Valentine said. "It is nice to be able to participate in such a program." The bears will be distributed by the Lowell Police and Lowell Area Fire departments.

## Former resident donates river frontage property to city

•••• The 20 acres was donated by Charles Thomas for future park development.

By J.N. Boorsma  
 Contributing Writer

The city of Lowell received an unusual gift at its Monday night council meeting: the donation of about 20 acres of property located next to the Grand River.

Former Lowell resident, Charles Thomas offered to donate 19.86 acres of river frontage property near the northeast intersection of the Division Street bridge and

Grand River Drive. In a unanimous vote Monday night, the council accepted his donation.

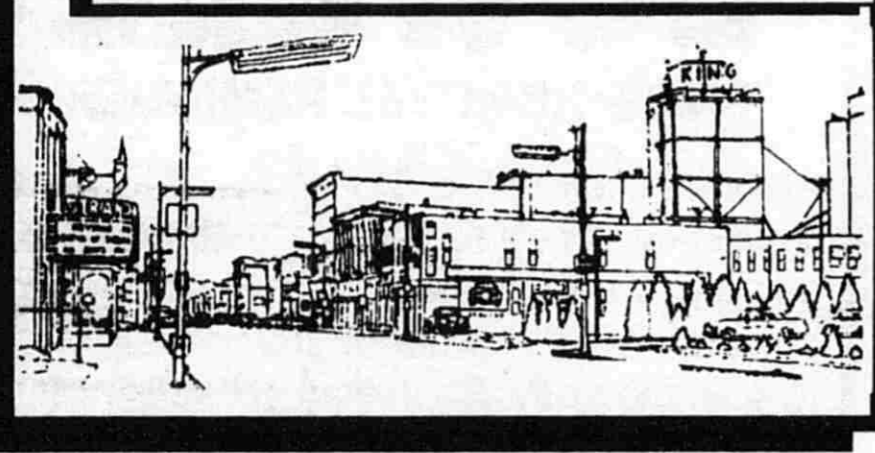
"After reviewing this, the committee saw a great opportunity that this property represents," said councilmember.

Don Green who also sits on the Parks and Recreation Committee.

The committee reviewed the donation and several of its

Donation, cont'd. pg. 8

## Along Main Street



### WINTER FAST PITCH CLINIC

The Lowell High School softball coaches will be holding a Winter Fast Pitch Clinic for all elementary and middle school girls interested in becoming a softball pitcher. The clinic will be held at Cherry Creek Elementary gym balcony on Thursdays, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25 and Feb. 1 and 8. Girls in grades 6 and under report at 6:00 p.m.; girls in grades 6-7 report at 7:00 p.m. Arrangements may be made for another time by calling the athletic office at 897-4442.

The cost is \$20 and includes the price of a T-shirt. Applications may be picked up at Lowell Middle, Cherry Creek, Alto and Bushnell schools.

### CHRISTMAS PARADES SHOWN ON LCTV

Lowell Christmas Parades of years past will be shown on channel 20 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on the following dates: Wednesday, Dec. 20, the year 1992; Thursday, Dec. 21 - 1993; Friday, Dec. 22 - 1995; Saturday, Dec. 23 - 1998; Sunday, Dec. 24 - 2000; and Monday, Dec. 25 - 2000.

### LIVE NATIVITY SCENE

The Lowell Wesleyan Church on Lincoln Lake, 10 blocks north of Main St., will host a live nativity on Wednesday, Dec. 20 and Thursday, Dec. 21 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. Hot chocolate and coffee will be served.

Main St., cont'd. pg. 8

## Inside The Ledger

# 2000

## A Year In Review, Pages 11-38

## OBITUARIES

**ANTAS** - Richard John Antas, aged 61, of Lowell, passed away Saturday, December 16, 2000. He is survived by his wife of 27 years Marilyn; children Barry Knooihuisen, Ionia, Carol (Paul) Goodwin, Trufant, Sandy (Craig) Rich, Lowell, and Debby Knooihuisen, Sand Lake; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Upon Rich's request private services were held by the fam-

ily. Interment St. Bontiface, Chicago.

**KUHTZ** - Agnes C. Kultz, aged 91, of Ionia, passed away December 14, 2000. She was greatly missed by her two daughters Joanne Kultz of Grand Rapids, Sue Kultz of Saranac; one son Lawrence (Shirley) Kultz of Texas; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. The funeral Mass was celebrated at SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church

in Ionia. Memorial contributions may be made to the Gerontology Network, 516 Cherry St., S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

**MILLER** - Lee Miller, Jr., aged 72, of Lowell, passed away December 16, 2000. He will be greatly missed by his wife of 47 years, Marian; his children Don (Margot) Miller, Carol Miller, Barb (Lloyd) Callihan; his grandchildren whom he dearly loved, Shanda, Angela, Amy, Mike, Emily, Joi, Katie, Kelsey and Jill; great-grandson Trevor. Funeral Services will be held Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the South Boston Bible Church, 6958 Kyser Rd., Rev. Ronald Tuinstra officiating. Interment Clarksville Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to South Boston Bible Church.

**NASH** - Michael J. Nash Jr., aged 47, of Saranac, passed away December 15, 2000 in Grand Rapids. He married Rosemary Stowe June 26, 1987. He is survived by his wife Rosemary Nash of Saranac; children Michael and Veronica Nash of Saranac; Miranda Nash and Rick Seelye of Clarksville, Daniel Nash of Saranac; stepchildren Jennifer Hall of Grand Rapids; Steven Hall of Grand Rapids; brothers, Walter and Brenda Nash of Saranac, Gerald Nash of Saranac, Dennis and Peggy Nash of Saranac, Kenneth and Michelle Nash of Saranac; granddaughter Madison Rose Nash; several nieces and nephews. Two sisters preceded him in death. Funeral Services will be held Tuesday at Galilee Baptist Church in Saranac with Rev. James Frank officiating. In-

terment Saranac Cemetery. Memorials to Saranac High School Athletic Department.

**TIMMERMAN** - Gilbert Leroy Timmerman, aged 60, of Sibley, Iowa, formerly of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly Friday, December 15, 2000. He is preceded in death by his infant grandson Jacob. Survived by his loving wife of 37 years, Irene; children Alan (Lisa) Timmerman of Columbus, OH, Leann (David) Be Vier of Lowell, Evan (Lisa) Timmerman of Lowell and Lisa Timmerman of Lowell; grandchildren Jessica, Chris, Jennifer, Jayce, Joshua and Devan; brothers Rev. Roger (Marilyn) Timmerman of Middleville and Al (Mareidith) Timmerman of Indianapolis; sister Carol Avery; and father and mother-in-law Jake and Anna Braaksma. Funeral Services will be held Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Calvary Christian Reformed Church of Lowell, 1151 W. Main, Pastor William Renkema officiating. Visitation Wednesday

at the church from 10-11 a.m. Memorials may be made to the Calvary Christian Reformed Church of Lowell.

**WARREN** - Jenna Rose Warren, born November 11, 2000, weighed 8 lbs., 20" long, passed away unexpectedly December 17, 2000. She was greeted in heaven by her great-grandfather Walter Marvin. Jenna is survived by her parents David and Donna; brothers Justin and Jordan Warren; sister Jessie King; grandparents Louis and Louise King of Lowell, Betty Warren of White Cloud, Bill and Kathy Warren of Wyoming, MI; aunts Dawn (David) Stiles, Pam (Mike) Rynearson; uncles Dan King, Mike, Bill (Marie), Brent and Doug (Lori) Warren. Funeral Services will be held Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the Christian Life Center, 3050 Alden Nash, Rev. Robert Holmes officiating. Interment Fairplains Cemetery. Interment Fairplains Cemetery.

**A Happy Holiday Season To All!**  
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### The Lowell Ledger (USPS 453-830)

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## A LETTER TO FRIENDS

To my friends and to the hearts of those who read this.

Two years ago, one of my friends, Jim Hale, was taken from this world. He was a man that I adored and we had a friendship that was very precious to my heart. When he passed away, my eyes were opened and I realized that I had failed so many people. I felt sick when I heard the news of Jim's death. Sick, because I had failed Jim by not sharing with him the good news of Jesus Christ. I also fell short of the expectations of God, my spiritual Father, as a Christian.

I wasn't sure if Jim had ever given his heart and faith to Jesus Christ. The thought of eternity without Jim, in Heaven, was heartbreaking. I had failed to tell Jim how awesome God is and that He sent his perfect Son, Jesus, to give us life. I could only hope that Jim had received the gift of eternal life, which comes from believing that the death of Jesus paid for our sins and provided admission to Heaven. With this belief, I'm persuaded of the following. God doesn't see our sins, which would exclude us from eternal life, but He sees the precious blood of Christ. Through our belief and trust, in Jesus' payment, we will live forever. Later, I learned that Jim did have a relationship and trust in Jesus, our Savior. This brought joy to my heart, knowing that I would see him again one day.

I continually think of all those, whom I have cared for, in my life. It's devastating realizing that I, as a servant of God, have failed many of you as a friend for the same reason. My eyes have not always been focused on the cross of Christ, but now I live a new life with Jesus. What an awesome life it is. I have never been happier in my life. This is because I have placed my relationship and trust, with my Lord and Savior, first in my life. It is amazing to think, that when God looks at those of us who have put our trust in Christ, He no longer sees our sins. Instead, He sees the perfect sinless one who sacrificed his life, Jesus. We are made righteous in God's eyes when we put our trust in Jesus Christ.

I don't know where all of you are in your spiritual life. My hope for those who do know Jesus as Lord of their lives, is that you desire to be Christ-like in your actions and words; letting God's light shine through you in this world of darkness. For those who have never put your trust in Jesus, I pray for a realization that God is seeking a personal relationship with you. My prayer also is that you will recognize the need for Jesus in your life. The Bible states that if we confess our sins to Jesus and believe that Jesus' death and resurrection was payment for our sins, we will enjoy never-ending life.

My sincere prayer is that God will touch the hearts of all who read this letter. God offers us this free gift of salvation, and it's up to us to either accept His gift or reject it. I hope that rejection of God's most precious gift is not your choice. For those of us who accept Jesus and desire a Godlike life, the following is true. We were doomed to death forever because of our sins. We allowed the devil and his ways to rule our lives. But God, because of His great love and mercy, has given us life with Christ that lasts forever. Nothing that we personally have done can get us to Heaven. By our simple and true belief in Jesus, God gives us the greatest gift of all. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can brag about it. As believers, we should strive to live a life that honors God, our Creator.

This letter is sent to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the most precious gift. It also is in memory of a beloved friend, Jim Hale, whose physical death has opened my eyes to the importance of sharing the amazing and precious gift of God. Please don't wait to accept this gift, which is Jesus Christ.

May God's awesome love for you fill your lives, through His Son Jesus. Join me in celebrating the true meaning and reason for our Christmas season.

Rebecca Pawloski Ward

## Financial aid night, Jan. 11

The Lowell High School counseling staff is sponsoring a financial aid night for students planning to attend college next fall. Juniors, seniors and their parents will be guided through the process of filing for and receiving financial assistance.

JoAnn Litton, assistant director of financial aid at Grand Valley State University, will simplify the sometimes confusing process of filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) applying for grants, scholarships and certain low interest loans. The FAFSA is the cornerstone upon which all financial aid is granted. This application is based upon both parent and student incomes and must arrive at the processor by Feb. 20.

Plan to attend this informative meeting Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. in the LPAC at Lowell High School.

## CITY OF LOWELL SNOW REMOVAL REMINDER

As referenced in the City of Lowell Code of Ordinance, Article II, Section 19-46 Sidewalks and areas to be cleared. (a) No occupant of any premises or owner of premises shall fail to keep the sidewalks in front of or adjacent to such premises or property clear of ice and/or snow, so far as to facilitate pedestrian use. Where there are no sidewalks, no such occupant or owner shall fail to clear a path free of snow and ice, when such a path will provide an extension of existing sidewalk on an adjacent property. (b) Whenever any snow or ice has fallen or accumulated, it shall be cleared within twenty-four (24) hours.

Section 19-47 Discarding snow and ice. (a) No person shall cause snow to be piled or discarded upon another premises or property without permission. (b) No person shall cause snow to be piled or discarded upon any public property, street right-of-way, or sidewalk so as to obstruct its normal use.

Any occupant or property owner that violates this ordinance will be fined.



Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk

## Donation provides a 10-year supply of plastic sheet resin

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

Lowell Middle School's industrial arts instructor, Ron Grody received a significant donation for his unique plastics program.

Shawn Eshragh, owner of Concept Industries, donated 15,000 pounds of plastic sheet resin to be used by LMS plastics students during the vacuum and thermal forming process. The company not only donated the sheet resin, but also delivered it to the middle school.

"This is enough plastic sheet resin to supply us for eight to 10 years," Grody explained. "It will have an impact and effect on thousands of students."

Grody has been instructing students in an LMS plastics program since 1973. The program exposes kids to plastics and how it is processed.

Plastics is one of the great career opportunities available to students, yet student exposure to the plastics industry at Lowell and other West Michigan schools is limited.

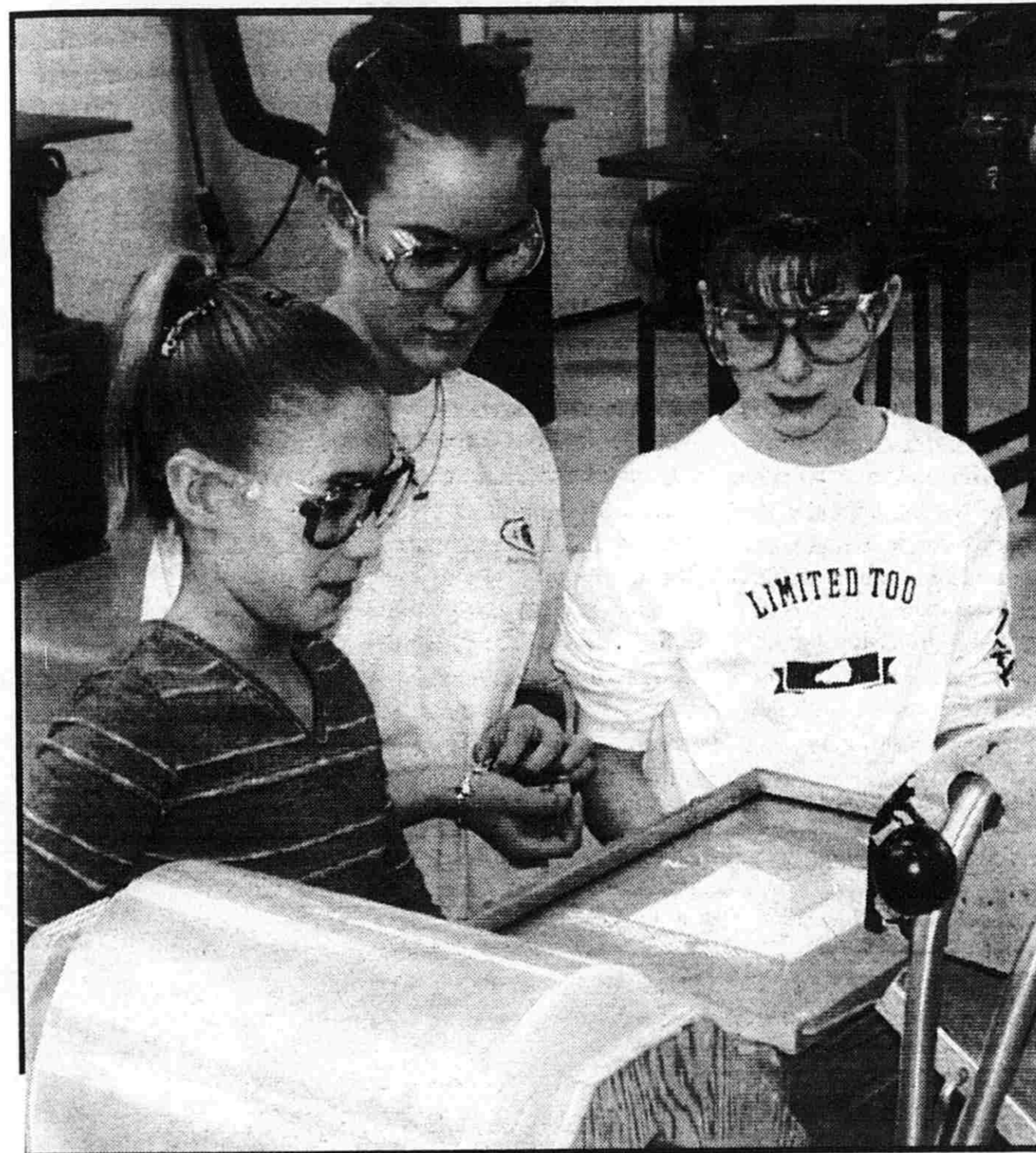
"It is a missing link in most high schools," said Grody. "Our middle school program is very unique and one of the better facilities at any middle school." The only other exposure students get to plastics is through the Skill Center, but that is a very limited number of students.

This is enough plastic sheet resin to supply us for eight to 10 years. It will have an impact and effect on thousands of students.

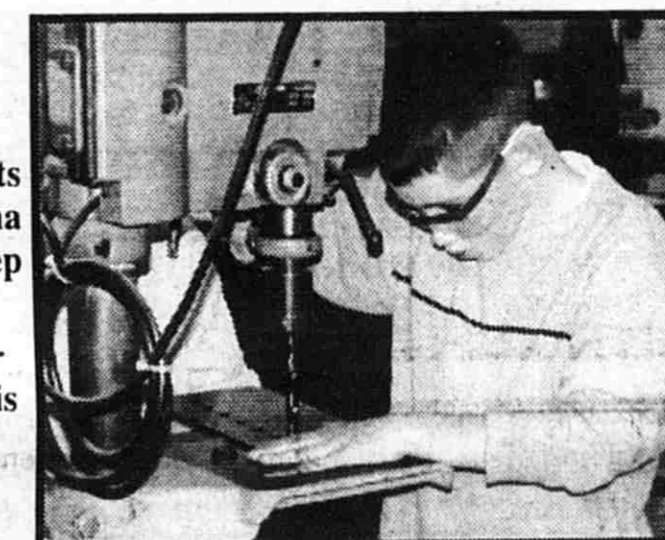
Ron Grody  
Middle School Industrial Art Instructor

Grody's nine-week program acquaints students with a little bit of everything. "When we're done, they have learned about plastics," he explained. "Mr. Eshragh's donation puts the emphasis where it should be. Without such donations we cannot do this program."

Companies donating to the plastics technology class at Lowell Middle School over the last three years are: Attwood, Amway, Display Pack, American Seating, Ashland Chemical Company, C & M Coating, Plastic Masters, Inc., Steel Tank & Fabricating Co., Inc. and Total Plastics, Inc.



Above, Ron Grody's plastics students (pictured left to right) Renee Dryer, Tabitha Grochowalski and Kalee Yonker take it step by step through the packaging process.



Right, Justin Harden drills holes in his tool holder.

## Healthy Living Is the Healing Remedy

### Lifestyle Seminar Series

LOCATION: Collins Elementary Gym,  
4368 Heather Lane (Forest Hill & M-21)

January 7, 3:00 - 5:00 PM

"None of These Diseases," by Dr. Bruce Hyde, MD

Bruce R. Hyde, MD serves as Medical and Lifestyle Director at the Battle Creek Lifestyle Health Center. Dr. Hyde is a 1986 graduate of Loma Linda University School of Medicine, emphasizing Lifestyle Medicine.

January 14, 3:00 - 5:00 PM

"Rx: Healthful Living is the Healing Remedy," by Dr. Bruce Hyde, MD

Dr. Hyde also served in the U.S. Air Force, in Emergency Medicine. Consistently for over 10 years, Lifestyle Medicine has been his underlying commitment in medical practice, resulting in the blessing of seeing so many restored to health. Dr. Hyde has a special interest in diabetes.

January 21, 3:00 - 5:00 PM

"In the World but Not of It - Overcoming Heavy

Metal Toxicity," by Jann Gentry Glander

Jann Gentry is the Vice President for Public Affairs at the Battle Creek Lifestyle Health Center. Jann's special field of health interest is in environmental toxicities. She has recovered from heavy metal poisoning using natural methods and is eager to share her story with others.

January 28, 3:00 - 5:00 PM

"Networking for a Healing Solution," Amiable blending of

traditional medicine & lifestyle medicine, by Tim Heischberg

Tim Heischberg serves as the Operations Manager at the Battle Creek Lifestyle Health Center in Battle Creek. He has a strong interest in nutrition, health, and natural remedies, spanning nearly two decades.

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# Reflections

Of Faith

Father George J. Fekete  
St. Mary Church

A five-year-old was showing his Christmas presents to his grandmother when she asked, "Did you get everything you wanted for Christmas?" The young boy thought for a moment before answering, "No, I didn't Grandma. But that's okay. It wasn't my birthday."

In five days it will be the birthday of the one we want to celebrate, our Savior Jesus Christ. In preparing a gift for Him let's stop and think. Jesus is the Son of God made flesh.

He became one of us to be our Savior. Father Charles Miller in his book, *Opening the Treasures* wrote: "What kind of God is this whose mission it is to accept suffering and death? Would any human do what Jesus did? Imagine that you are a millionaire. You have everything life can offer: money, prestige, power and pleasure. Would you be willing to give up all your money, surrender your prestige, abandon your power, and turn your back on pleasure? If you are willing to do all that,

you only begin in a remote fashion, to approach what the eternal Son of God did in becoming human and in willingly making Himself vulnerable to all human suffering."

Now that we know what Jesus did in saving us, can we begin to appreciate His love for each of us? His only motive for all that He did for us was love. If we would try to understand that love, then in

these "five more shopping days before Christmas," what gift will we have for Jesus? Do you want a cue from Jesus? He said, "He who obeys the commandments he has from me is the man who loves me." (John 14:21). How pleasing to Jesus would our gift of love, our efforts in obeying His commandments. God bless you.



## STUDENTS EXTEND GIVING HAND DURING HOLIDAY SEASON

Lowell Middle School student council and STAND (Students Taking a New Direction), a junior version of SADD (Students Against Drunk Drivers) collected gifts and money for the area needy. STAND collected gifts while the student council collected money (\$415), which was used to purchase gifts. The gifts were then delivered to the Flat River Outreach Ministries thrift shop. Pictured above, sitting, from left to right, are: Nikita Miles, Laura Maki, Gwyn Lammass; standing, from left to right, are: Steven LaFave, Katelynn Zuiderveen, Julie Hillary (student advisor), Elly Drain, Ryder Jones, Jodi Hutchinson, Kyleigh Gilliard, Karl Bouwhuis, Tony Ellis (student advisor), Kevin Eggebeen.

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# AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p><i>Join Us In Worship</i></p>		<p><b>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> Rev. William J. Renkema - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>
<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 Worship.....8:30 A.M. Coffee &amp; Fellowship Time.....9:30 A.M. Sunday School.....9:50 A.M. Worship.....11:00 A.M. Kids' Club (Wed.).....3:30 P.M. Dinner (Wed.).....5:30 P.M. REV. B. GORDON BARRY Nursery &amp; child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p><b>EVERGREEN MISSIONARY CHURCH</b> 10501 Settlemore • Ph. 897-7185 Sunday School.....9:45 A.M. Morning Worship.....11 A.M. Evening Service.....6:00 P.M. Prayer and Praise - Wed., 7:00 P.M. GLENN H. MARKS - Senior Pastor, 897-9110 STAN GERIG - Associate Pastor, 897-5894 ALL ARE WELCOME! (Barrier-Free)</p>	<p><b>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)</b> 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Pastor Jonathan Walker, Youth Pastor <b>SUNDAYS:</b> Worship Celebration: 8:30 &amp; 11 a.m. Sunday Night Alive: 6 p.m. <b>WEDNESDAYS:</b> Family Night: (for All Ages) 7 p.m.</p>
<p><b>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell &amp; Saranac on M-21 www.iserv.net/~goodshep Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Wednesday Evening.....7:00 P.M. Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p><b>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M. TIMOTHY E. HARMON, Minister Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>	<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.tbclowell.org Rev. Burland Messinger &amp; Rev. W. Les Taylor Sun. Worship Service: 9:30 A.M. &amp; 5:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/J.V.....Wed. 6:15 &amp; 7 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free A Family Friendly Fellowship</p>
<p><b>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH</b> Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648 Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>	<p><b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> (United Church of Christ) 404 North Hudson • 897-5906 First Service.....8:45 a.m. Worship and Church School.....10:00 A.M. Dr. Roger LaWarre.....Pastor Cindy Talcott.....Christian Ed Director Megan Culver.....Music Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided</p>	<p>do a wonderful job in working with our children to develop their musical talents and their ability to work together.</p> <p>Just think of the complexity of developing the excellence that we witnessed in Sunday's performance - so many different students with varying abilities, so many different instruments, so many different sounds, so many different parts to each musical score - all brought together through good teaching and plain old hard work by both teachers and students.</p> <p>It is wonderful to witness the journey of these youngsters from grade six when they first begin to play that musical instrument of choice to the point when they sit on the stage to perform for well over 800 people. This was not a magical transformation but years of effort and practice - nothing short than a life lesson.</p> <p>From the early squawks and squeaks for the youngsters' first efforts to the accomplished efforts of the symphonic band on a wintry Sunday, again we see the lessons of effort, cooperation, and excellence in teaching.</p>



## COLLEGE NEWS

Jeffrey S. Nethercot and Andrea N. Rickert, both of Lowell, have been named to the President's List for fall term at Northwood University. The announcement was made by Dr. David E. Fry, president of the university.

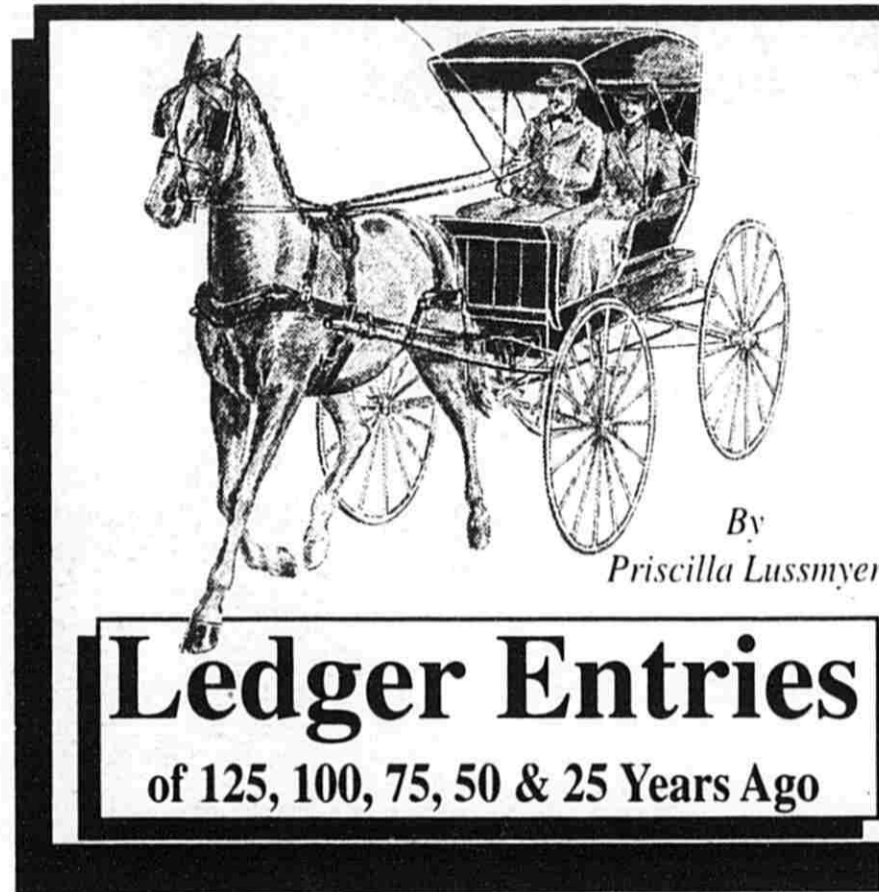
Nethercot is the son of Sharon Nethercot and Rickert is the daughter of Jeffery and Julie Rickert, all of Lowell.

To achieve President's List recognition, students must earn a 3.85 grade point on a 4.0 scale.

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

Northwood operates a residential campus in Michigan, Florida and Texas.

# Viewpoint . . .



### 125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL DECEMBER 22, 1875 THIS ISSUE IS MISSING. WE SUBSTITUTE DECEMBER 21, 1870.

The Lowell Cornet Band will play at the reunion of the 1st Michigan Infantry at Ionia today.

Cattle are dying after eating cornstalks; the cause is discovered to be smut.

A brakeman is injured when he fails to see the Ada railroad bridge in the dark and his head strikes the bridge timbers.

A nice snow Monday night.

The Grand Rapids sawmills are out of logs, and business, until spring.

### 100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER DECEMBER 20, 1900

S.P. Hicks is on the committee appointed by the GAR to inspect the Soldiers' Home in Grand Rapids. Everything is fine on the men's side, but the women have to walk outdoors in any weather to the dining hall, and the diet isn't the best for women.

The Christmas ads are plentiful, even in the "Home News" column.

School Notes tells where the four high school teachers will spend their two-week vacations.

The Village Council establishes an 8 o'clock curfew for children under 15, announced by ringing the fire bell.

The Vergennes Dancing Club will give one of its popular parties on Christmas Eve at Train's opera house. Supper 50 cents, dance 50 cents (includes care of horses).

### 75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO DECEMBER 17, 1925

Superior Furniture Co. proceeds with its expansion, including removal of billboards to make parking space.

The new power rooms of the Lowell Light & Power are ready, and the engine will be started for anyone who wants to see it running at the open house next Tuesday, says Supt. Frank McMahon.

President Coolidge's annual message to Congress is generally one of progress and prosperity.

Local news: Morris Kalward and family of West Lowell are enjoying their new radio, recently purchased.

Maurice Trumbull of Moseley is installing a Delco lighting system in his home.

### 50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER DECEMBER 21, 1950

The Christmas tree on Reservoir Hill can be seen from US-16 sometimes.

First-draft copies of the proposed first zoning and building code for Lowell are distributed to Council by Attorney Roger McMahon.

The high school band variety show last Thursday drew an audience of 300 and enthusiastic applause.

Civil defense committees are again being formed due to the Korean War. They are looking for the OCD pumps from World War II.

Statehood for Alaska and Hawaii won't make it for this session, says Rep. Ford.

### 25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER DECEMBER 18, 1975

Someone unknown fired four to six shots into the Lowell Police Department building on North Monroe about midnight a week ago. No one was in the office.

Dean Collins is appointed to City Council in place of Dr. Herbert Mueller, who resigned.

The students' smoking in the street problem appears to be solved, by the city allotting a vacant lot on Foreman Road next to the railroad tracks as a smoking area.

A new feature, "Meet the Merchants" opens with a story on Gary Laux, owner of the Lowell Cut Rate.

Steve Harrington, Lowell Schools naturalist, writes a column, "Lowell Outdoor Education." This one is about animal tracks.

## TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The entire Lowell community is truly blessed for many reasons. One of our most precious assets that we have enjoyed and relied upon for many years is the Lowell YMCA. Once heralded as "the smallest town in America with an operating YMCA," our proud community has been blessed with quality YMCA programs that have provided guidance and infrastructure to our children's future. As our YMCA works hard to meet the needs of the entire Lowell area, we need to remember that

volunteers and donations keep this asset strong.

The most important function of the annual Invest-in-Youth campaign is to raise funds to help families that normally couldn't afford programs for their children. Our YMCA has provided such assistance to nearly 1,500 children over the past four years. Additional funds are also necessary to help keep the cost of programs at a minimum and the quality at the high level that we have come to expect.

As the January campaign approaches, we would like to invite you to participate as a volunteer during this exciting year for our YMCA. The New Year brings additional YMCA contributions to our community such as the opening of the new Wellness Center and Teen Center. Also, the anticipated results of the Winfield Study bring visions of a full facility YMCA. If you are interested in helping continue this mission, please contact our executive director, Will Welsh at 897-8445 or

myself. There are many small tasks that can help make a difference for a family or a child in need.

If you are unable to provide some of your time, please be generous to the campaigner that may call on you. If you are not called upon, please consider contacting us to make a pledge toward this very important campaign. Your gift can also be apportioned quarterly or monthly and is fully tax deductible yet this tax year. Invest in the future of our children for they will be our leaders of tomorrow. Invest in the future of our community and a quality infrastructure built upon Christian principles - our YMCA.

Sincerely,

Rick Seese

2001 Invest-in-Youth Chair

974-4250

## Health

With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang & Kevin Miller

### OSTEOPOROSIS 2

Last week we discussed the significance of osteoporosis in our aging population. Direct costs of osteoporosis this year will exceed 14 billion dollars and are expected to climb to 64 billion dollars by the year 2025. After the age of 65, the incidence of hip fractures in white women is greater than the incidence of stroke, breast cancer, and diabetes.

Osteoporosis is diagnosed by having a simple bone density scan in your physician's office. If a diagnosis of osteoporosis is made, you may be a candidate for medications which have been shown to help build bone strength and prevent fractures.

Osteoporosis can be prevented by eating a well balanced diet, exercising and avoiding smoking. All postmenopausal women should get at least 1500 milligrams of calcium daily. A glass of milk contains about 125 milligrams of calcium. The typical American diet contains 600-800 milligrams of calcium. As such, calcium supplements will usually be required to achieve our goal of 1500 milligrams daily. Vitamin D at 400-800 milligrams should also be taken. This dose can often be found in multiple vitamins or in combination with calcium.

Estrogen replacement at the time of menopause is very important in preventing osteoporosis. Unfortunately, there are some other risks and side effects with estrogen, so it is important that you discuss the risk/benefit ratio with your physician.

There are four newer medications now available for prevention and treatment of osteoporosis that have been

## Sharing The Vision

**BERT R. BLEKE**  
Lowell Schools  
Superintendent

It seems as if it were yesterday when my oldest daughter first started practicing her French horn. I'm sure most parents who have had the experience of their children learning to play an instrument hold the same fond memories of those first few screeching notes and cries of anguish. I always felt a small amount of jealousy for those parents whose children had decided upon the flute.

These warm memories were recalled this Sunday afternoon as I listened to our high school's annual holiday concert. The kids did a wonderful job. The auditorium was filled with appreciative parents and grandparents. It was a pleasant and rewarding way to spend several Sunday hours.

As I listened and watched the kids perform, looking so professional and so practiced, my thoughts retreated to my daughter's early playing days as well as my opportunities to watch the kids practice, day in and day out, as part of their school routine. It is in these practices so different from the Sunday performance that the real life lessons and learning takes place.

Our schools are blessed with three outstanding band instructors - Bob Rice, Kate Bredwell and Dale Latva - all who

## Letters, Letters, Letters, Letters...

The Lowell Ledger welcomes all "Letters to the Editor" for publication on its "Viewpoint" page. Letters can be typed or written. However, we ask that they do not exceed one written page or one typed, double-spaced page.

"Letters to the Editor" should be sent to the Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, P.O. Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331.

Editing may be necessary for space, clarity and to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy.

The Lowell Ledger thanks you in advance for your cooperation.

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL

For the Regular Meeting of **MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2000.**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Blough and the Clerk called Roll.

Present: Councilmembers Brubaker, Green, Myers, Shores and Mayor Blough.  
Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager David Pasquale, City Clerk Betty Morlock, Police Chief James Valentine, Assistant Finance Director/Investment Officer Charlene McNab and Planning Commission Chairman James Hall.

IT WAS MOVED BY SHORES and seconded by MYERS to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2000 regular meeting as written.

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

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

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

### BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (12/04/00)

GENERAL FUND .....	\$116,884.38
MAJOR STREET FUND .....	\$5.20
LOCAL STREET FUND .....	\$5.19
DDA FUND .....	\$118.87
AIRPORT FUND .....	\$45.81
WASTEWATER FUND .....	\$454.32
WATER FUND .....	\$5,063.30
EQUIPMENT FUND .....	\$698.19
CURRENT TAX FUND .....	\$2,239.06
LOOK FUND .....	\$2,500.00

**Item #1. ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT - PROHIBITION OF PARKING OF ALL VEHICLES OVER ONE TON IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS - RECOMMENDATION FROM PLANNING COMMISSION - ADOPT OR SET PUBLIC HEARING (12/18).** Police Chief Jim Valentine proposed an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance in order to help the department address a situation in town concerning the parking of a former school bus. He explained the Zoning Ordinance does not specifically address buses.

The legislation under consideration would not only address the current situation, but any unforeseen vehicles which may be over one ton rate of capacity which would be parked in a residential area.

City Manager Pasquale noted the Planning Commission held a public hearing on this at its meeting on November 27, 2000 and recommended adoption of the amendment.

IT WAS MOVED BY GREEN and seconded by MYERS to set a public hearing for December 18, 2000 to consider a Zoning Ordinance Amendment concerning the prohibition of parking all vehicles over one ton in residential areas.

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

**Item #2. LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS - COLLECTION OF SUMMER TAXES FOR 2001.** As in previous years, the Lowell Area Schools has requested that the City collect the summer property taxes for the district. As part of continuing resolution, the City collects LAS property taxes at no fee but is able to keep the interest earned during the bank deposit before distributing these monies.

Thus, City Manager Pasquale recommended the current policy for collecting summer taxes be maintained and resolution passed.

IT WAS MOVED BY GREEN and seconded by SHORES to pass the resolution concerning the collection of summer taxes for 2001 for the Lowell Area Schools.

Councilmember Green questioned the amount made on the interest. Assistant Finance Director/ Investment Officer Char McNab was unsure.

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

**Item #3. AUTHORIZATION OF \$165,000 LOAN FROM LOWELL LIGHT AND POWER TO CABLE TV.** As directed by the Council at its November 6, 2000 meeting, the Light and Power and Cable TV Boards have formally requested City Council authorization of a 7 year, \$165,000 loan from Light and Power to Cable TV initiating the digital cable system. The interest rate has been determined to be 5.47%, equal to Light and Power's investments in zero coupon and GNMA Bonds.

IT WAS MOVED BY GREEN and seconded by BRUBAKER to authorize the loan from Light and Power to Cable TV for purposes of discussion.

Councilmember Myers questioned if the interest rate was fixed for all seven years. City Manager Pasquale responded this was his understanding.

Councilmember Shores asked why no one from the Board was present at this meeting. Pasquale stated General Manager Tom Richards was unable to attend. Pasquale told him members of the Board should be present. Richards responded he would contact each of the Boardmembers and inform them of this meeting.

Councilmember Brubaker stated he attended the Light and Power and Cable TV Board meeting held on November 27, 2000. A letter was presented and approved by the Board during this time.

Myers stated the letter indicates the terms are equal to the first 36 months of interest only with the remaining principal on the interest due in 48 months. He questioned what the Board anticipated these payments to be. Blough responded that regarding the first 36 payments, this would be equivalent to 5.47% of the principal of \$165,000 per year for each of the first three years.

Shores clarified the loan had already been received. Pasquale responded in essence, yes it was initiated. Then this was brought to the Boards' attention that City Council authorization is needed.

Myers questioned if the decision made at this meeting would be retroactive back to when the cash transaction happened. Pasquale responded yes.

Mayor Blough asked if Brubaker believed the terms of the loan could be met. Brubaker responded the Board was very optimistic this could be accomplished. The digital cable services have grown and extensive marketing is being done. Brubaker felt this would be a profitable adventure for Cable TV.

Blough called for a vote regarding all those in favor of supporting the loan as outlined in the letter from Lowell Light and Power Board to City Council.

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

**Item #4. SIDEWALK WAIVER REQUESTS FOR PROPOSED NEW HOUSES AT 525 AND 545 NORTH STREET.** Greg Holwerda of Holwerda Builders is initiating construction of new homes at 525 and 545 North Street. During the application process for the building permit, he learned the City of Lowell requires new City sidewalks with the construction. After reviewing the situation, Holwerda is requesting a waiver. He felt the installation of City walks was inconsistent with what is seen in this part of town. Holwerda did mention the existing house on Jefferson has City walks and believed it made sense to extend the walk through parcel two to the north lot line. He stated it would be difficult to install a City sidewalk in this area and did not see it benefiting anyone.

IT WAS MOVED BY GREEN and seconded by MYERS to deny the sidewalk waiver for 525 and 545 North Street.

Councilmember Green stated he lives on a corner lot and has two sidewalks around his house, which does not lead anywhere. He explained a sidewalk master plan was just completed and there are sidewalks planned for most of town. Especially, in an area like this.

Councilmember Myers questioned if the homes had been sold. Holwerda responded no. Myers did not believe a financial burden would then be placed on Holwerda considering the homes have not yet been priced.

Myers believed a sidewalk was necessary in this area, especially around the curve.

Myers asked if there was a participation program in effect. Pasquale responded the City would pay 25% of the cost of the sidewalk.

Holwerda commented on the Jackson Street right of way and questioned what the future would hold for this corner. Pasquale explained the walk could be continued along North Street and then over to Jackson going south.

Holwerda stated there would be 155 lineal feet of sidewalk and it would be included in the plans.

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

Councilmember Shores felt this was an issue the City has struggled with over the years and believed the City needs to be consistent.

Holwerda noted there may need to be some retaining wall work on North Street. He inquired who he should correspond with regarding the walk. Pasquale responded Public Works Director, Dan DesJarden.

**Item #5. AUTHORIZATION OF AMENDING EMPLOYEE BENEFIT CAFETERIA PLAN TO INCLUDE FLEXIBLE SPENDING ARRANGEMENT FOR DEPENDENT CARE COVERAGE AND MEDICAL INSURANCE CO PAYMENTS.** Assistant Finance Director/ Investment Officer Charlene McNab explained the Flexible Spending Plan would provide tax savings to employees. The employees would be able to specify the amount they wish to set aside each year. This would be directed into their account and reimbursement on such items as prescription co-payments, doctor visits and dentist visits would be given on a monthly basis from the pre taxed dollars.

Councilmember Myers was familiar with this type of plan and has participated in one. He stated this is a great benefit for the employee. The plan requires the employee to estimate ahead of time how much money will be needed. He questioned what would happen at the end of the tax year, if there was money left over in the accounts. Myers explained the plan he had been involved with divided the left over money amongst its participants. McNab responded this could not be done. These proceeds would be provided to the City.

McNab explained the employees would have to estimate conservatively for at least the first year to determine how the program works. If an employee were to leave employment before the required amount of money had been deposited, the City would lose. Fortunately, there is not much employee turnover. McNab suggested there be a six-month waiting period before new employees receive this benefit.

Myers questioned what would happen to the residual at the end of the year. McNab responded the money would belong to the City. Because the City is a small organization, she believed close attention could be given and individuals notified when one has not spent much of their funds.

Councilmember Brubaker was familiar with the program. He explained this program is also good for the employer because it saves on Social Security and Medicare Taxes, which would otherwise have to be paid.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS and seconded by BRUBAKER to amend the Employee Benefit Cafeteria Plan to include flexible spending arrangement for dependent care coverage and medical insurance co-payments.

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

Pasquale noted Light and Power and Cable TV may also be interested.

**Item #6. CITIZEN COMMENTS.** Ivan Blough of 623 N. Jefferson spoke on behalf of the Lowell Showboat Board and noted the letter submitted by Showboat President Charles Myers as follows:

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Lowell Showboat has done much for the City since it has been in the community for the last 68 years. It has brought the City on the map, generated many stories and created much history. There have also been many people involved within the community. The boat was born in the depression period and allowed all individuals to become involved. The boat has also met some adversity along the way with the last problem involving financial problems.

Former Resident and City Councilmember Ray Quada was very much involved with the Showboat. Quada contacted him last February and inquired what could be done with the Showboat. After much discussion with Quada and many others, it was felt that the boat needed a new custodian and must get out of debt. In March, the two met again to discuss ideas and decided the debt must be taken care of first. With help from Huntington Bank and the Lowell Community Fund, they were able to satisfy every bill. It was then decided the City should be the great custodian. Each knew there would no longer be any big shows but questioned what the boat could do for its community. After speaking with the current administration and the Chamber of Commerce, it was decided the Chamber would control scheduling the events. Ivan Blough commented on how well the Chamber has done thus far with events.

If the City would accept the Showboat, the current Administration would be in the position of passing the boat on free and clear of debts and with all of its assets. Ivan Blough requested the City appoint the Chamber of Commerce to oversee and administrate the activities and events of the boat.

Ivan Blough mentioned the calliope in the Christmas Parade. He recommended it be bequeathed to the Lowell Historical Museum (formerly Lowell Area Historical Association).

IT WAS MOVED BY SHORES and seconded by BRUBAKER that the City accept the Lowell Showboat from the Showboat Board.

Mayor Blough summarized the discussion and stated in return for turning over the Showboat and its assets, the City would be responsible for the boat maintenance cost and insurance which is estimated to be approximately \$1,000 a year. The insurance would fall under the current City blanket policy or perhaps a special rider would need to be provided. Pasquale noted he had asked McNab to initiate investigations regarding insurance. The current liability policy limits boats to 25 feet in length. McNab stated the insurance company would look outside of their company for a carrier to cover the boat.

Blough noted the Chamber would coordinate and schedule all activities to take place on or around the boat. The Chamber will also serve as a maintenance watch dog and will alert the City as to what kind of maintenance needs to be performed.

The Showboat will be owned by the City of Lowell and thus owned by the taxing residents of Lowell. It will remain permanently docked at its existing location as a visible artifact for those who pass through the City. All other Showboat artifacts have been turned over to the museum for preservation and viewing. It has also been suggested the calliope be turned over immediately.

Ivan Blough spoke with the Museum Executive Director, Judy Straub, who indicated all involved parties should meet to determine whether it is turned over to the City or the City should bequest it. He noted there are different regulations to follow when bequeathing items to museums.

Pasquale suggested a document be drafted and signed by all involved parties stating the exact responsibilities of each party.

Mayor Blough confirmed the super structure, calliope and the small amount of money left from paying all the bills be assested over to the City and be dedicated toward the maintenance fund. Ivan Blough responded yes and noted he had a check in the amount of \$6,774.80 to give to the City, if the Council wishes to accept the boat and its assets.

Councilmember Green agreed with Pasquale and wanted to ensure there is a formal agreement with responsibilities listed. He believed the agreement should be between the City and Chamber of Commerce.

Councilmember Brubaker stated he and City Attorney Richard Wendt believed the Showboat Board should provide a simple bill of sale transferring the boat from the Showboat Corporation to the City.

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

Blough stated on behalf of the City the stewardship which has been shown by the Lowell Showboat Corporation is appreciated. Much time and effort has been given by all parties involved. Blough believed the Showboat is moving into its next phase and the City will be able to build on its past success.

Ivan Blough presented a check to Mayor Blough in the amount of \$6,774.40 to start on maintenance and to put into a fund where the Chamber can draw on it for maintenance.

Ivan Blough also presented a key to the boat and a Captain's hat to Mayor Blough.

**Item #7. COUNCIL COMMENTS.** Councilmember Brubaker commented on a study completed years ago involving the City and its residents. One of the findings indicated there was a very low level of volunteerism or community spirit. However, on Saturday, December 2, 2000 his findings were different. He noted there were many individuals who attended the parade and many who participated in the activities held throughout the day. He was very proud of the community and its participation. This is a thriving community.

Councilmember Myers questioned the coordination of both City Hall and Light and Power being closed at the same time over the holidays. City Manager Pasquale stated both were closed at the same time over Thanksgiving and believed Christmas is also the same.

Mayor Blough commented on the initiatives established from the Englehardt Fund. Three different types of committees were formed including one on land usage consisting of Lowell and Vergennes Townships, Lowell Area Schools and the City of Lowell. Also, establish a synergy between the municipalities and Lowell and Vergennes Townships relative to infra-structure and development of infrastructure. One of which is sewage treatment. This group, composed of himself, John Timpson, Tim Wittenbach and Bert Bleke, had an opportunity to meet on November 30, 2000 and discuss some organizational items such as meeting to discuss community wide issues. All four parties believed there were some issues concerning sewage treatment and traffic.

Blough explained permission is needed in order for him to represent the Council on such discussion. Not as policy, but rather to communicate with the two other jurisdictions and school relative to our interest.

The Committee has set forth two initiatives: (1) meet as a core guiding group periodically (pending approval on December 16, 2000 at the township hall) and (2) to establish joint Planning Commission meetings in which the three Commissions and a representative from the school district will meet to give specific charges. Such a committee has met approximately twice a year. These meetings were very open and informal providing much communication. This would not provide much action other than having good communication. One of the items they would suggest is for the three Planning Commissions to complete a group land use map.

Blough was hopeful to receive a consensus from this Board regarding such an activity. He also suggested the City host the first joint Planning Commission meeting during the month of January.

Brubaker noted when the Chamber did this plan they were granted \$3500 to have a firm prepare both the joint master land use plan and a joint zoning plan. He was unsure where the process stood, but stated the funds have been allocated and there should be something prepared. Blough stated they don't say there needs to be a separate land use map. But, simply the three Planning Commissions are wanted to either initiate and complete it or to obtain access to the output so they can become familiar with it. This is because the next steps down the road are once you understand what the current land use maps are, then to examine the areas of interest like sewage treatment, transportation and land usages across a wider area.

Blough stated he is asking for two items of support: (1) permission to participate as the Council's representative in this committee and (2) ask the Planning Commission to meet in a joint session with the other two Planning Commissions and a representative from the school district.

IT WAS MOVED BY BRUBAKER and seconded by GREEN to authorize Mayor Blough to represent the Council in discussions with the Lowell Area Schools and Lowell and Vergennes Townships to discuss the issues expressed. Further, the City should also charge our Planning Commission to meet with Lowell and Vergennes Townships Commissions and the school district to have a joint session in January to either assemble the joint land use map or if there already is one to review it and report back to Council.

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

**Item #8. MANAGER'S REPORT.** City Manager Pasquale reported on the following:

1. Work has been initiated for the river crossing at Lafayette and Riverside. There will be a change order number one. Basically, the City Council approved this at its last meeting but there is one additional item in the change order, which shows a substantial completion of December 30, 2000.

Council approval is needed.

IT WAS MOVED BY SHORES and seconded by GREEN to accept the change order of a completion date of December 30, 2000. A clean up date is scheduled in the spring.

Mayor Blough questioned if the change order would increase the amount of money. Pasquale responded no.

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

2. A number of meetings ago there was a maintenance agreement between the City and MDOT providing for maintenance of M-21. The Mayor and the City Clerk signed this. The resolution originally said City Manager and they are asking the resolution to state this.

IT WAS MOVED BY GREEN and seconded by MYERS to approve the MDOT M-21 maintenance contract resolution noting the Mayor and City Clerk signatures.

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

3. The following meetings minutes were provided:

- Parks and Recreation Commission meeting of October 14, 2000.
- Planning Commission meeting of October 23, 2000
- Lowell Light and Power Board meeting of October 30, 2000
- Lowell Cable Television meeting of October 30, 2000
- Downtown Historic District Commission meeting of November 8, 2000

3. A thank you letter to the City Council from the Lowell High School Equestrian Team for erecting "State Champion" signs at the City entrances was noted.

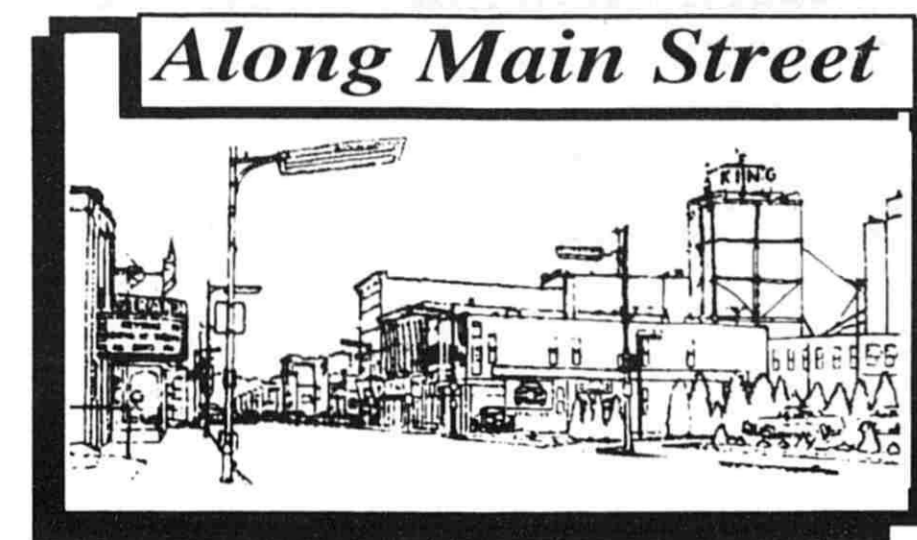
4. A letter was received from Claudya Muller, Director of the Kent District Library, informing the City of the upcoming KDL Master Plan.

5. Next May, the City will have a Mayor's Exchange with the City of Saugatuck.

IT WAS MOVED BY GREEN to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: Monday, December 18, 2000.

Michael K. Blough, Mayor  
Betty R. Morlock, Clerk



**YMCA CHRISTMAS BREAK FUN CLUB**  
Do you need a break while your kids are home for the holidays? Lowell YMCA Christmas Break Fun Club runs Dec. 22 thru Jan. 2. Lots of fun & field trips. For information call 897-8445.

**ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS FOR SALE**  
Need a last minute Christmas gift that will be enjoyed all year? Hahn Hardware has Entertainment Books to purchase (half off meals, half off entertainment, etc.). For sale by Lowell Women's Club - profit to go for high school scholarships.

## Fillman participates in program to develop leaders in science

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

The Regional Math and Science Center (RMSC) in collaboration with the Kent Intermediate School District (KISD) has initiated an in-depth, two-year program to develop Elementary Science Teacher leaders in school buildings.

The Science Research Project, conducted by the KISD, identified a building science leader as a key person in the building's effort to improve student performance in science. A group of 25 motivated elementary teachers were selected to develop skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to help their teacher colleagues and students make meaningful gains in science interest, understanding and achievement.

**Mike Fillman**  
Fifth-Grade Science Teacher

**FREE CARRIAGE RIDES**  
Take in the sights of Historic Downtown Lowell by carriage on Saturday, Dec. 23 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Rides leave from the King Milling parking lot.

**HOLIDAY CLOSINGS AT KDL BRANCHES**  
All 18 branches of Kent District Library will be closed Saturday, Dec. 23 - Monday, Dec. 25 for the Christmas holiday. All branches will also be closed for New Year's Day on Monday, Jan. 1.

## Donation, cont'd... From Page 1

members felt it could serve in a number of ways for recreational activities for the community. The area could be developed as a park, or something might be done in conjunction with the YMCA program, said Lowell city manager, David Pasquale. Pasquale said the property is not developable for residential or business use and that the city would lose about \$260 per year in taxes from the land.

## Decriminalization, cont'd... From Page 1

wants to decriminalize and await information from its lawyer on the pros and cons of creating an ordinance bureau, whether

**LACC CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS**  
The Chamber of Commerce will be closed the week of Dec. 25th and will re-open on Jan. 2, 2001.

**LUMINARY WALK AT WITTENBACH CENTER**  
The Lowell High School Environmental Club will be hosting a luminary walk at the Wittenbach Center on Saturday, Dec. 30 from 6-8 p.m. The Lowell community and surrounding area are invited to visit the center, walk, ski or snowshoe the trails of the Wege Natural Area. Rental is \$10 for snowshoes and \$5 for kids' snowshoes. Hot chocolate is \$1. This is a fundraiser for the Environmental Club.

said he was unaware whether the property had ever been developed or used for anything. The property originally was excess property from the old City Services Corp.

Mayor Michael Blough said the city has not had any problems in the area where the property is located. The addition of this 20 acres to the city's holdings of property means that the city owns about a mile of property around the Grand and Flat rivers.

the issuance of a citation can be delivered via certified mail and on whether there is a limit on the fines set.

# COMING EVENTS

Notices in The Ledger's "Coming Events" are free of charge to any nonprofit organization in the Lowell, Ada, Alto, and Saranac areas. 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 call 897-5015 for a recorded message. Guests are welcome.

**EVERY SECOND WED.:** G.F.W.C. Lowell Women's Club meets at 12 p.m. in the community room at Schneider Manor, 725 Bowes Rd.

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wants to decriminalize and await information from its lawyer on the pros and cons of creating an ordinance bureau, whether

said he was unaware whether the property had ever been developed or used for anything. The property originally was excess property from the old City Services Corp.

Mayor Michael Blough said the city has not had any problems in the area where the property is located. The addition of this 20 acres to the city's holdings of property means that the city owns about a mile of property around the Grand and Flat rivers.

the issuance of a citation can be delivered via certified mail and on whether there is a limit on the fines set.

of N. Washington St. Enjoy activities like hiking and camping and learn skills that can last a lifetime. For info call Terry Cavanaugh, 868-6481.

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

**TUES.:** Flat River Woodcarvers meet at LAAC from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. New members welcome.

**1ST TUES.:** Adults with AD/HD at Calvin College, 7-9 p.m. No cost. All welcome. For info, call Gary Engle at 897-6325 or 248-2423.

**1ST TUES.:** WINGS Parent Group meetings from 7:30 to 9 p.m., usually in Board Room at 300 High St. Business meetings are on odd months & program meetings on even months. Open to any interested parents.

**EVERY MON.:** Lowell High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Friends - meets from 7-8:30 p.m. in members' homes. See poster in high school cafeteria or call 676-1355 for details.

**SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH:** Fallasburg Historical Society holds its monthly board meeting in the meeting room of Englehardt Library at 7 p.m. Public invited.

**SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH:** The Lowell Board of Education meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Administration Building, former Runniman Elementary, 300 High Street.

**SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH:** The Bowne Township Historical Society holds its regular meetings at the Historical Museum at 84th and Alden Nash, 7:30 p.m.

**MON. OR TUES.:** Cub Scouts for boys in 1st - 5th grades, in Alto or in Lowell. Contact Terry Amidon at 897-8751 for more information.

**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 MON.:** V.F.W. Post #8303 meets at V.F.W. Clubroom, 307 E. Main St., Lowell, 7:30 p.m.

**EVERY MON.:** Boy Scout Troop 10210, for boys 11 & up or completing the 5th-grade, meet 7 to 8:30 p.m. during the school year in the Scout Cabin at the end

**WED.:** 8 p.m. ALANON meets at Lowell Congregational Church basement.

**EVERY WED.:** Rotary meets at noon at Lowell Masonic Temple.

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**EVERY 2ND THURS.:** N.A.R.F.E. meets 1:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton.

**EVERY SECOND THURS.:** Lowell V.F.W. Auxiliary #8303 meets at 3:30 p.m. at the V.F.W. Post, 307 W. Main St., Lowell.

**EVERY THIRD THURS.:** Parents Supporting Parents is a support group at Franciscan Life Process Center offering a variety of topics and discussion geared to parents of children all ages. Call 897-7842 for time.

**EVERY THIRD THURS.:** 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 THURS.:** LaLeche League of Ada, Cascade & Lowell meets at 6:30 p.m. for socializing; 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. Please call 752-7524 for more information.

**EVERY THURS. OF EVERY MONTH:** The Ada Historical Society meets at the Averill Historical Museum of Ada, 7144 Headley at 7 p.m.

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

**FOURTH THURS. OF EACH MONTH:** Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) meets at 7 a.m. in high school teachers' dining room for light breakfast. For information, call Kris Gallagher at 676-1355 or Linda Johnson 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.

**THURS., FRI., SAT. & SUN.:** Averill Historical Museum of Ada, 7144 Headley open 1 to 4 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.

**DEC. 25 to JAN. 2:** The Chamber of Commerce office will be closed.

**SAT., DEC. 30:** Environmental Club will host a luminary walk at Wittenbach Center (6-8 p.m.) Snowshoe rental: \$10/adults, \$5/ kids. Hot chocolate/\$1.

**WED. & THURS., DEC. 20 & 21:** Lowell Wesleyan Church, at 1188 Lincoln Lake Ave., will host a live nativity from 6:30 - 8 p.m. Coffee and hot chocolate will be served.

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## CITY OF LOWELL

### SNOW REMOVAL REMINDER

As referenced in the City of Lowell Code of Ordinance, Article II, Section 19-46 Sidewalks and areas to be cleared. (a) No occupant of any premises or owner of premises shall fail to keep the sidewalks in front of or adjacent to such premises or property clear of ice and/or snow, so far as to facilitate pedestrian use. Where there are no sidewalks, no such occupant or owner shall fail to clear a path free of snow and ice, when such a path will provide an extension of existing sidewalk on an adjacent property. (b) Whenever any snow or ice has fallen or accumulated, it shall be cleared within twenty-four (24) hours.

Section 19-47 Discarding snow and ice. (a) No person shall cause snow to be piled or discarded upon another premises or property without permission. (b) No person shall cause snow to be piled or discarded upon any public property, street right-of-way, or sidewalk so as to obstruct its normal use.

Any occupant or property owner that violates this ordinance will be fined.

Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

#### LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR 897-5949

<b>MON.:</b> 8:30 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.	<b>THURS.:</b> 9 a.m. Walk/shop the malls; 9:30 a.m. Crafts; 1 p.m. Euchre.
<b>TUES.:</b> 8:30 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall; 10:40 a.m. Armchair Exercise.	<b>FRI.:</b> 8:30 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.
<b>WED.:</b> 12:45 p.m. Shop at Family Fare.	

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>WED., DEC. 20:</b> 10 a.m. Advisory Council; 12:00 p.m. Christmas dinner and party.	<b>TUES., DEC. 26:</b> Center closed.
<b>THURS., DEC. 21:</b> 12:00 p.m. Dance, West Side Complex.	<b>WED., DEC. 27:</b> 8 a.m. Women's breakfast.
<b>MON., DEC. 25:</b> Merry Christmas!!! Center closed.	<b>FRI., DEC. 29:</b> 12:45 p.m. Grocery Bingo.

*(Dinner reservations should be made 3 working days in advance.)*

## Treat Yourself To A

Generations Gold Checking Account and We'll Treat you to a Holiday Ham

The Family Club

That's right! Open a new GenGold\* or GenGold Plus\* checking account at ICNB during December 2000 and you'll receive a delicious ham for your holiday feast! Call or visit any ICNB office for details...

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Belding Downtown: 794-1195  
Belding West: 794-0890  
Dexter: 527-1550  
Lowell: 897-6171  
Sunfield: 517-566-8025  
Southside: 527-9250  
Woodland: 367-4911

\* Minimum deposit to qualify for this offer is \$50.00.

## THE ULTIMATE OPEN AIR FLIGHT EXPERIENCE

Give a Gift of Adventure

Powered Parachute  
Introductory Flight Lessons  
Only \$35.00

Gift Certificates Available

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## 401(k) rollovers made easy

Edward Jones

Serving Individual Investors Since 1871

Call or stop by today  
Christopher J. Bouma  
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2050 W. Main, Suite D  
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987-9515  
www.edwardjones.com

## Which IRA is right for you?

Focused on planning for retirement? A traditional IRA or Roth IRA, each offering unique tax advantages, can help you build your retirement nest egg.

Need to finance a college education? An Education IRA can help you save for higher education expenses.

I can help you choose the IRA that's right for you.

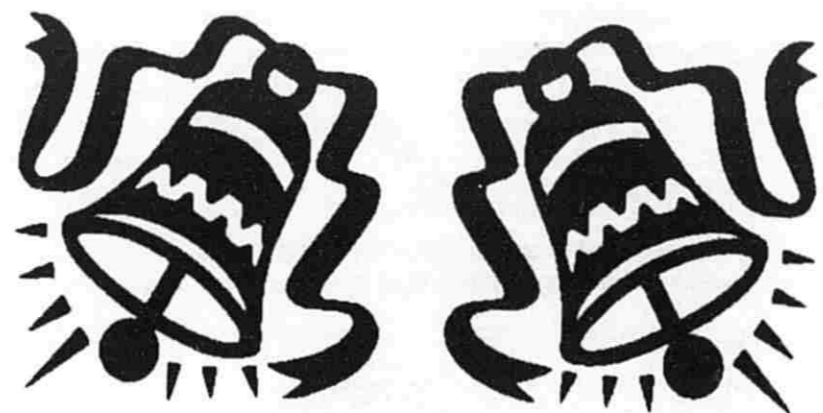
# Osteoporosis, cont'd...

From Page 5

shown in clinical studies to reduce the incidence of fractures. All of these medications will need to be taken on a long-term

basis, like cholesterol or blood pressure medications, to maintain bone strength.

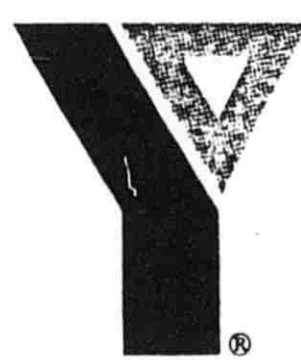
With our ability to detect osteoporosis early and more options for treatment, we can have a significant impact in reducing the cost, suffering and morbidity associated with osteoporosis.



## LOWELL YMCA WELLNESS & TEEN CENTER

# Opening January 1, 2001

on either side of Mancino's in Lowell  
1335 W. Main St.



### State-of-the-Art Adult Wellness Center features. . .

- Cybex Strength Training Equipment • Treadmills • Elliptical Trainers
- Recumbent Bikes • Total Body Trainers • Upright Bikes • Cardio Theater
- Airdynes • Supervised Kids Gym/Drop-In Nursery • Locker Rooms

### Teen Center features. . .

- Climbing Center • Mini Gym • Air Hockey, Foosball, Ping Pong, Bumper Pool
- Entertainment Center featuring a big screen TV, 27" TVs, VCRs, Nintendo 64
- Computer Center with 4 stations, each with access to the internet, appropriate software and printers. Homework/tutorial help available.

## Become a Charter Member of the Lowell YMCA

JOIN THE YMCA BEFORE JANUARY 31, 2001 AND RECEIVE YOUR FIRST MONTH FREE

Each new member will also receive a t-shirt!

	LOWELL
Family Membership	\$50/month
Adult Membership	\$35/month
Senior Family Membership	\$35/month
Senior Adult Membership	\$25/month
College Membership	\$23/month
Teen Membership	\$15/month



A YMCA Membership makes  
a great Christmas gift!

### GUEST PASS

Try us out!

Present this pass to use the new Fitness Center or Teen Center for FREE!

Name of Guest \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Staff on Duty \_\_\_\_\_

Please, no minors under age 16 in the Wellness Center without a parent or guardian present. Three free visits per person before January 31, 2001.

Guest pass valid January 1-31, 2001

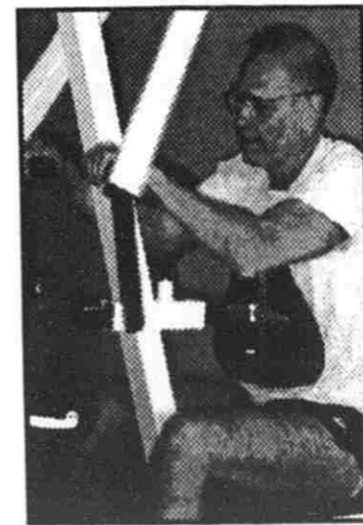
### ONE-TIME LOWELL JOINING FEE:

\$100 Family Membership • \$75 Adult Membership • \$50 College • \$25 Teen

Use the Guest Pass at right and check out our brand new facility between January 1-31 for FREE!

For more information call  
**897-8445**

**YMEMBERSHIP**  
We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.



# Out With The Old, In With The New



# 2000

NEW YEAR'S

# A YEAR IN REVIEW



# A LOOK BACK AT LOWELL THROUGH THE YEAR 2000

January 5, 2000

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.

John and Sherrie Muha quit their former jobs to devote their days to auto detailing work. The Lowell couple opens Top Notch Auto Detailing, 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.

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

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

Lowell fire chief Frank Martin says the cause 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 rafter structural damage.

Mike 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.

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 Historical Commission.

Lowell resident Nancy Miller dies from internal injuries incurred in a two-car accident at the intersection of Elm and Hudson streets.

January 12, 2000

For now, at least, the Lowell City Council gives a statement of support rather than an amendment to the zoning ordinance involving the requirement of hard surfaced driveways in residential districts.

That doesn't mean discussion won't linger. In fact, discussion continues as to whether the language in the zoning book and the city code book are in complete alignment with hard surfaced drive-

way requirements.

Department of Public Works director Dan DesJarden believes clarification is still needed. "One says up to the driveway approach, and the other says all park facilities, driveways shall have a hard surface."

Planning commission chairman Dan Brubaker believes the two books do work together, in that where one leaves off, the other picks up.

It was originally estimated \$42,992.80 was available to Lowell through the federal Community Development Block Grant funds. Tom Tilma, from the county community development office, however, stated funds up to \$60,000 may be available for the city's taking.

The CDBG funds would not be available to spend until July.

With the promise of additional funds, Lowell city manager Dave Pasquale adds the South Hudson water main project to the grant list.

The pending \$388,651 school district shortfall is approximately more than double what school officials predicted in July when the budget was put together, but it is \$200,000 less than what offi-

cial thought it would be after hiring several teachers to reduce class size and create or expand programs.

Assistant superintendent of finance and personnel, Connie Gillette said school officials guesstimated the district's revenue to be about \$23,315,351 with expenditures at approximately \$23,484,917. This would have left a deficit of about \$169,566.

A third passed, a third didn't and a third landed in the middle.

That is how Lowell High School juniors, who took the Michigan Educational Assessment Program's test for social studies, fared. Test results revealed what school officials were expecting.

"They compare to about the same as what the eighth graders scored," said Jim White, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

The results show that of the 215 juniors who took the MEAP's social studies test, about 30.2 percent met or exceeded the required outcomes with 33.5 percent failing it which, according to White, left about a third of the students in the middle.

Review, cont'd. pg. 14

## GIVE THE GIFT THAT KEEPS GIVING ALL YEAR ROUND!

Give them a gift subscription to

# The Lowell Ledger

Do you know someone who has everything? And you can never think of something to give them for Christmas? How about a subscription to the Lowell Ledger? It's a perfect gift!

Now it's easier than ever to play Santa. Just mail in the order form here. You can even be billed for it year after year. That way you will not have to think of new gifts for each Christmas!

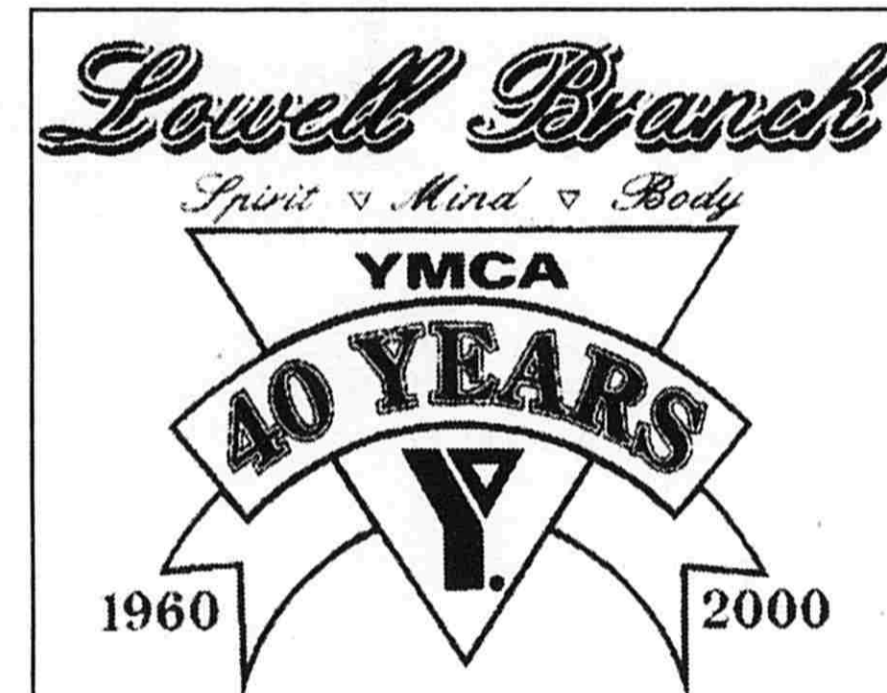
- Local News
- Lowell Area School News
- L.H.S. Sports
- Area Births
- Many Weekly Columns
- Classified and Display Advertising
- Service News
- College News
- Engagements
- Coming Events

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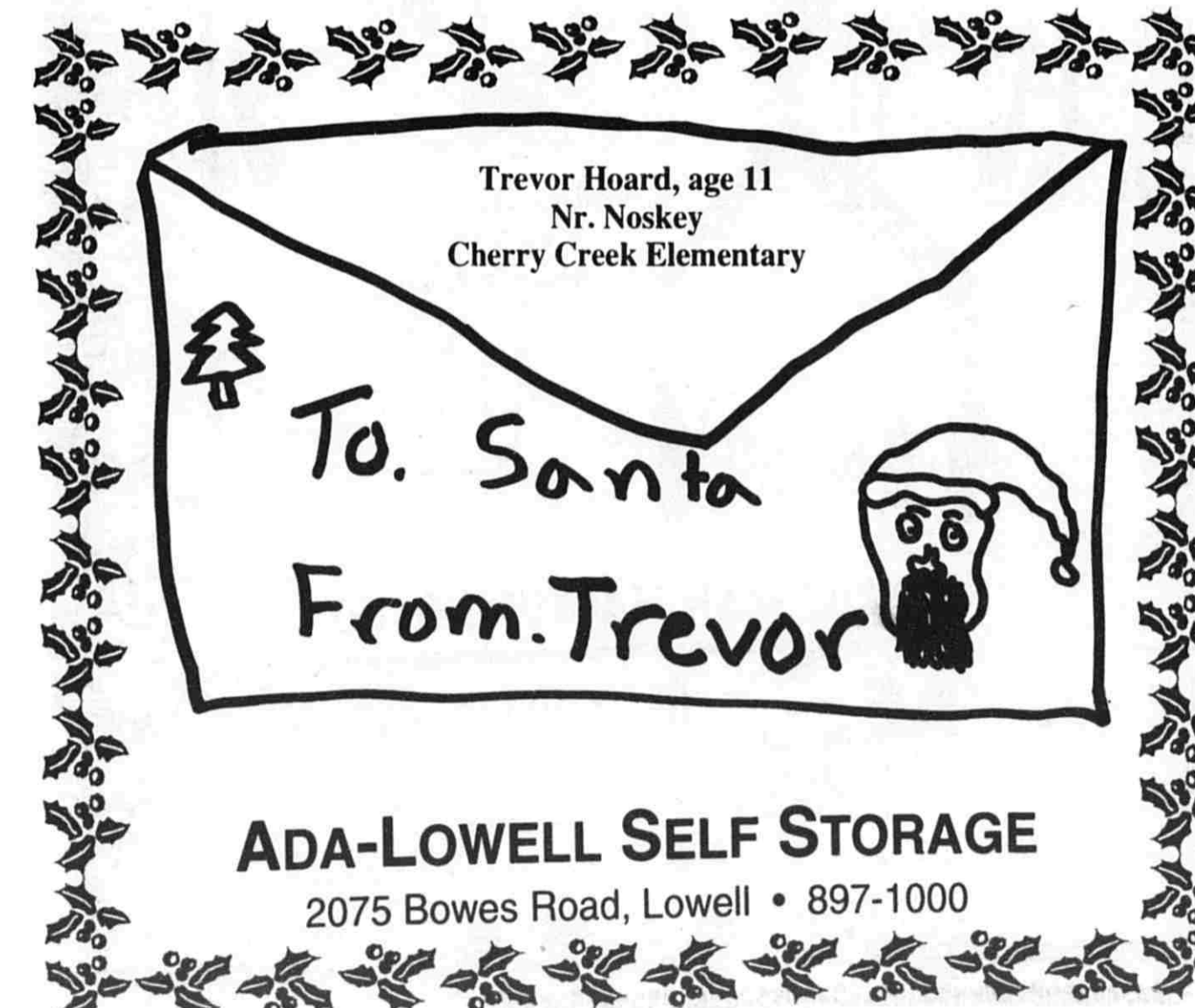
<p>Fill this side out for the person you are giving the subscription to</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p><input type="radio"/> In Kent County -1 year \$12.50</p> <p><input type="radio"/> In Kent County -2 years \$23.00</p>	<p>Fill this side out if you would like to be billed for the subscription each year</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>We also send the person you are giving the subscription to a Christmas card, letting them know that you have given them a gift subscription to the Lowell Ledger. Please let us know how you would like the card signed.</p>
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Seniors deduct \$1 from the above total

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!



The Lowell YMCA announces it is throwing a year-long party to celebrate its 40 years in Lowell. Will Welsh, YMCA executive director, and his staff organize monthly activities for the Lowell community.



# Year-In-Review, continued.... From Page 13

Lowell's Rita Goggins, 1809 Alden Nash, wins a year's worth of free car washes from Lowell Water Works, 1941 W. Main.

of the U.S. Postal Service seeks a one-cent increase in the price of mailing first class letters.

The rate increase, from 33 to 34 cents, would take effect in 2001.

Stating that the master plan identifies M-21/Alden Nash as the best location for commercial development, the Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission approved rezoning 22 acres of township property from R-1 and R-3 to general commercial.

A Root-Lowell site plan proposal for a 70,000 square foot storage addition to the rear of its building at 1000 Foreman St. was unanimously approved by the Lowell Planning Commission at a special meeting.

Wieland asked the township board for its support in asking voters for an increase in millage on the Feb. 22 state presidential primary election ballot.

The KDL proposes an increase from .6431 mills to .93. For the owner of a \$100,000 home, that would mean an extra \$14.35 per year.

Lowell Charter Township contracts with Swanson and Associates to conduct a highway traffic study to determine if there is a need for a one-mile stretch of five-lane highway between Alden Nash and Cumberland to support any proposed commercial development.

January 26, 2000

The city will use the \$70,000 it has budgeted for the South Hudson project to get an earlier start on the Flat River water main project. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies will be used for the South Hudson water main construction from the railroad tracks to Grant Street.

Funds from the CDBG will not be available until July.

Councilman Ray Quada suggests that a subcommittee be formed to establish how



George Mickel takes the talents Grand Rapids taught the resident and puts them into practice toward the benefit of the Lowell community.

Through the cooperative efforts of the Chamber of Commerce (Liz Baker) and Lowell police chief Jim Valentine, Mickel is ready to embark on the establishment of an ambassador program.

The program will showcase the community through the creation of an information/awareness center and in developing and selling Lowell pride.

An indoor obstacle course became available in the midwest four weeks ago; it was available to Lowell High School students for testing on Wednesday.

Marine Staff Sgt. Ronald S. Olsen and Sgt. Carl Hilton challenged the competitiveness and fitness of all Lowell physical education students, from non-athletes to defending state champion wrestlers.

The obstacle course has made stops at carnivals and a Grand Rapids Griffins hockey game as well as other big events.

Lowell was the first high school stop for the indoor course.

The Lowell YMCA board approves a \$27,000 market research study to assess the potential for a new full-facility YMCA in Lowell.

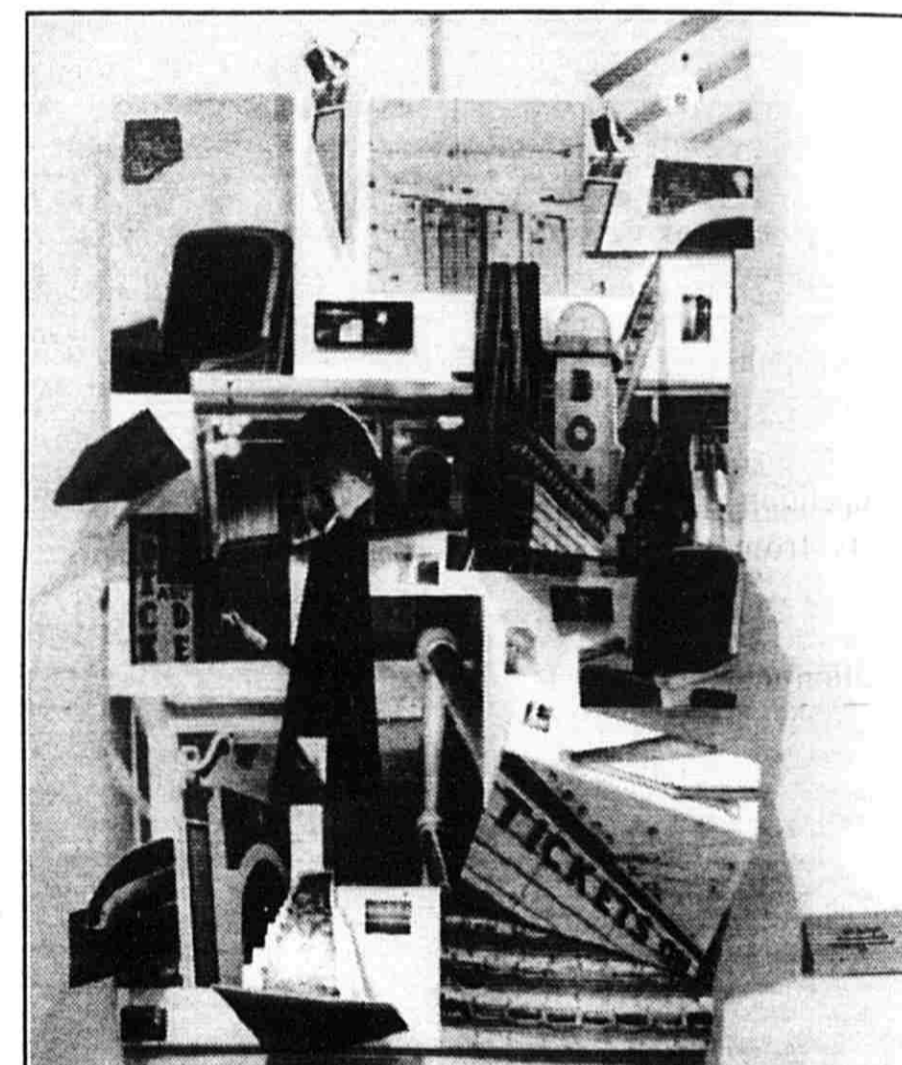
The approval is pending the Y's ability to attain grant money equal to one-third the cost of the study.

Review, cont'd. pg. 15



Frank Baker proudly served as a volunteer fireman in Lowell for 42 years (34 as fire chief).

Thus, it seemed fitting that Baker be transported to his final resting place in the 1946 Seagrave ... the same truck he rode in to respond to his first fire (Kroger Store) and the same day he joined the department. He retired from the department in October of 1988.



Lowell Area Arts Council's "Celebrate Lowell," a six-week exhibit, opens to the public. The intent of the exhibit is to give gallery time to Lowell amateur and professional artists who may not otherwise have considered showing their work.

the city may interest people in serving the community. That subcommittee was established by the council at the Jan. 18 meeting. A third member of the community will be appointed to join city councilmen Ray Quada and Don Green.

After roughly 14 years as a township planning commissioner, Tim Howard's record indicates he was right and that the time was right to step down from the commission.

Jonathan Smith is promoted to the full-time position of sports coordinator for the Lowell YMCA.

The Lowell resident will be directly responsible for supervising youth and adult sports on a day-to-day basis.

Clay Summers is promoted to the position of program director.

Merry Christmas!

Andrew Bewell, age 11  
Mrs. Schneider  
Alto Elementary

NOEL!

Metric Manufacturing Co.  
1001 Foreman  
Lowell  
897-5959

INGLEHARDT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Matthew Sheppard, a 14-year-old freshman in the Lowell School District, begins serving as the student representative on the Lowell City Council.

Merry Christmas!

To ... see you soon

Amanda Gilbert, age 10  
Mr. Hawkins  
Alto Elementary

OLD KENT  
2001 West Main, Lowell

# Year-In-Review, continued.... From Page 14

The study will be completed by the Windfield Consulting Group out of Atlanta, GA. It will also involve many community leaders.

It will be funded through the YMCA monies, the Englehardt Lowell Community fund and other area grants.

By week's end, a survey is sent out to the 3,300 Lowell Light & Power/Lowell Cable Television customers.

It will provide background information about digital cable, pay per view, and its parental programming controls and channel lockout capabilities

The survey will ask customers if adult entertainment pay per view channels should be removed from the system or whether the pay per view channels should remain on the system, allowing individuals the choice to watch, not watch or lock out the channels.

Customers will have 10 days to respond. The results of the survey will be reviewed by the Lowell Light and Power/Lowell Cable Board. It will then consider whether action should be taken or not.

Five Lowell High School art students are among the nearly 200 juniors and seniors honored at the 2000 Scholastic Art Award ceremony at the Kendall College of Art and Design.

The juried Scholastic Art competition is open to students from grades seven through 12 each year.

The awards provide recognition for young artists in their own communities at regional competitions.

Three Lowell High School art students received Silver Key awards: Nicole Ann Briggs, ceramics; Jamie Linkfield, sculpture; and

Ruthie VanderHart, painting. Honorable mention recognition was given to Stephanie Ellison and Skyler Willett.

February 2, 2000

Robert Ybarra, retail consultant for True Value, presents Bernard True Value Hardware owner Charlie Bernard with the President's Award. It represents Bernard's leadership in the hardware industry and the exemplary service provided to his customers.



To insure their daughters' safety and a brighter future, Qerim and Aneta Vrioni, of Tirana, Albania, spent their life's savings to get their daughters in a high school student exchange program which brought them to the United States. The love and generosity of a Lowell family has enabled Sheriana and Elona Vrioni to pursue a college education at Grand Rapids Community College.

Becky VanVleck's first grade class presented 25 coloring books and crayons to the children of Mel Trotter Ministries.

Rev. Bob Evans, Mel Trotter Ministries church relations, traveled to Bushnell Elementary on Friday to pick up the books. They will be distributed to less fortunate children. Unused pages from old coloring books brought

in by the first graders were used to create 25 new coloring books. Each student colored the back page of a book and wrote a short message to the child who would be receiving the book and crayons. The idea was that of first-grade parent Dawn Crook. The activity fit in with the classroom's compassion theme. Also helping to oversee the project was class parapro, Jodi Schaefer.

Lowell Charter Township trustees unanimously approved pay hikes for salaried

Liz Baker's role with the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce is expanded to that of executive director. In order to fill her newly formed full-time role, Baker vacates her part-time work with the Lowell Area Arts Council. She was employed there for three years.

Baker will help coordinate an Ambassador program that will promote the efforts of the Chamber board; increase the chamber's role as a welcoming tool to other businesses; draft a monthly newsletter; coordinate educational workshops for businesses; and help identify strategic marketing plans to develop growth.

Another goal of the Chamber is to move into its new office located on the Riverwalk Plaza.

February 9, 2000

As president of the Michigan Chapter of the Video Software Dealers Association (VSDA), Station Break Video owner Bruce Patrick fights for the right to rent adult videos.

"As an industry, adult videos are discussed a lot," Patrick said. "They are a way for smaller video rentals to compete with the national chains such as Blockbuster. For many, adult video rentals can represent 30 percent of their revenues."

Patrick notes that during the eight-month period, adult videos were responsible for roughly five percent of his revenue which is considerably lower than the average.

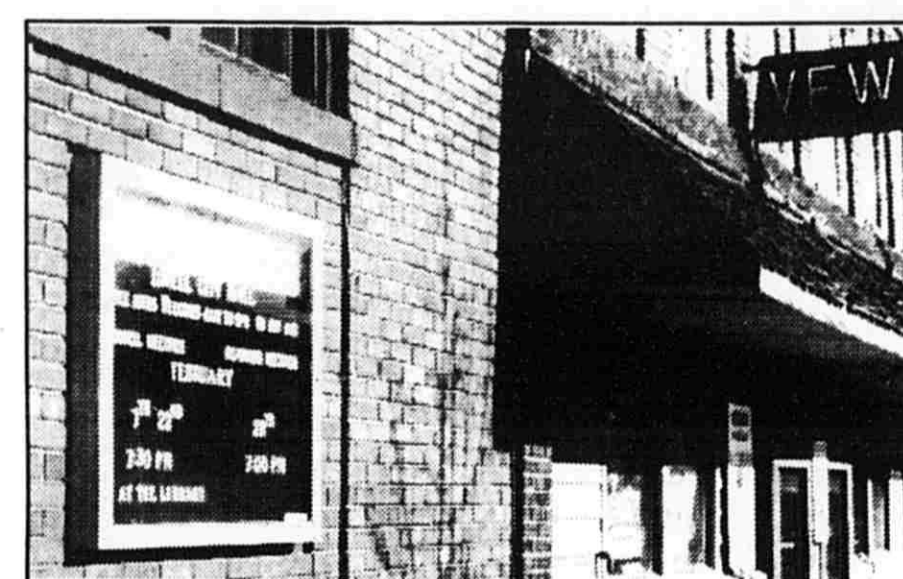
"I have five stores and prior to April had never carried that line of video, but have remained successful," Patrick said. "The families

elect officials - John Timpson, supervisor; Carol Wells, clerk; and Jean Huver, treasurer.

Their pay increases from \$16,254 to \$17,067.

The board also approved a five percent increase for township deputy clerk, Kathy Fremer; deputy treasurer, Jamie Condon; and receptionist, Rena Jett.

Review, cont'd. pg. 16



Then there was one! The city of Lowell and the VFW (Post 8303) reached an agreement on the sale of the VFW building, 307 E. Main, and parking lot following months of what were at times arduous negotiations.

The two sides agreed on a price tag of \$175,000. The terms of the contract allow for the VFW to use the facility rent-free for a year and continue to use the parking lot for six months; the city will pay closing costs.

Merry Christmas

Christmas

Daniel Stevens, age 10  
Mr. Noskey  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**HANN**  
**HARDWARE**

207 E. Main, Lowell 897-7501

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Kelsea Phillips, age 10  
Mrs. Pupel  
Cherry Creek Elementary

MODERN  
HOTOGRAPHICS

104 W. Main  
Lowell  
(616) 897-5606

merry Christmas

and a happy new year

Hannah Fleet, age 11  
Mr. Fillman  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Lowell Light & Power  
127 N. Broadway  
897-8402

Merry Christmas

EIE

Stephanie Kehoe, age 10  
Mrs. Pupel  
Cherry Creek Elementary

LARKIN'S  
FAMILY DINING

"The Other Place"

301 W. Main  
Lowell, MI  
897-5977

LOWELL • PH. 897-5977



# Year-In-Review, continued.... From Page 15



Members of the Alley Kats, pictured from left to right, are: Ella Thompson, Kay Fox, Vella Sanders and Erna Snedegar. This bowling team has a combined age of 331 years. That's an average of roughly 82 years per bowler.

Being listed on the National Register of Historic Places allows property owners of the district a 20 percent tax credit on any interior and exterior rehabilitation that meets the United States Secretary of Interior guidelines.

The state of Michigan created a tax credit for historic restoration late last year. It allows for a 25 percent tax credit. There is a three-year sunset provision on it.

Property owners in the district will therefore be able to take advantage of the 20 percent tax credit from the federal government plus an additional five percent from the state, totaling 25 percent.

option available to customers."

Stating it was a key element to economic development and revitalization of the historic downtown architecture, Historic District Commission chairman Steve Doyle announced the Lowell Historic District has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The designation, awarded by the National Park Service, Department of Interior, recognizes the significant historic architecture of the area and the role that Lowell's historic buildings played in the early development of a retail-shopping district.

better shape than most utilities its size.

Since mid-December, 150 Lowell Cable customers have been hooked up to digital cable ... another 15 are waiting.

Those numbers double demand projections.

Growing digital numbers and recently passed cable rate increases will help the company turn around its financial picture.

The 1998-99 cable audit revealed the company is losing six cents on every dollar. Holcomb is confident that will change with the rate adjustment and the digital programming package.

The cable company's debt, based on assets, is four times the size of Lowell Light & Power in terms of percentage (not money).

The rate increase should help accelerate long-term debt payment.

February 16, 2000

An agreement between Thornapple River Developers and Bowne Township calls for a \$17,000 sewer feasibility study.

Thornapple River Developers, which proposes putting in 400 trailers on a 90-acre site at the 11000 block of 64th St., west of Alden Nash,

Lowell Light & Power general manager Ron Holcomb notes that LL&P has no long-term debt; however, that will change ... possibly as soon as next year.

There is a need for a new substation and reconstruction of a distribution line.

While most utility companies earn 5.4 cents on every dollar, LL&P earns just two cents.

This means LL&P is operating on thinner margins. This needs to increase so LL&P can create capital to reinvest.

As to LL&P's side of the ledger, the general manager says the power company is in

will be responsible for the cost of the study.

Bowne Township officials are hoping that a third time is the charm.

The township asks registered voters to approve a one mill increase over a period of 10 years. The mill would provide \$77,737 in additional

watched one another grow and prosper over the last 47 years.

That growth will continue as both Lowell manufacturers are seeking tax abatements in connection with improving their facilities.

Root-Lowell's petition to establish an Industrial De-



With its new addition, Rupert's Drop is "where coffee is the dessert." Dan and Deb Pipe, owners of Rupert's Drop, open up a coffee shop at the same location (214 E. Main St.). It serves cappuccino, latte, espressos and herbal teas. The coffee shop will also offer cinnamon rolls, muffins and cookies from Jimmy's Grill.

revenues the first year. These revenues would be used for operating expenses.

As neighbors, Root-Lowell Mfg. Co. and Litehouse Inc. (Chadalee Farms) have

development District under Public Act 198 to qualify for property tax abatements was recently approved by the city. Litehouse, having already

Review, cont'd. pg. 17

# Year-In-Review, continued.... From Page 16

established a district, applies for an industrial tax abatement related to the purchase of new equipment for new products, improvement of quality, and treatment of water.

Mark Osburn was looking for the okay on a 30-foot approach from the centerline for his lot at 742 Grindle.

The city was looking to put the hard surfaced driveway issue behind it ... and in so doing, it has required Osburn to extend his approach 45 feet farther than he wanted, but considerably less than the ordinance requires.

"The ordinance says the driveway should be paved all the way to the house," said councilman Don Green. "Thus, 75 feet is a break from the requirement." It is 670 feet from the centerline to Osburn's house.

The creation of a pavement and sidewalk evaluation and management system using a Street-smart Windows-based program allows the city of Lowell to create and maintain a database of information relating to a system of roads.

"The key is that the Rowe streets and sidewalk master plan provides the city with an understanding of where our priorities are.

The city's cost for such a program is \$10,000. With the right software in place, the city will now be able to keep an updated awareness of where its sidewalk and street priorities are.

**Lowell School District's march toward a decision on how it can best address increased student enrollment grows nearer.**

**The board of education is slated to make a preliminary decision in April on what direction it will take.**

**The eight options presented to it by the demographics study committee have been narrowed to three, following input by the committee, administration and community members.**

**The foundation for choosing the options was based on maintaining the highest quality education standard, economic accountability, long-term thinking which will allow future boards to make sound educational decisions, and using a flexible approach so as not to overbuild and to build conservatively.**

Four Lowell High School student under-achievers learned while not feeling like they were learning and, in the process, won personalized computers.

Randy Bassin, a Lowell resident, sponsored a technology contest for Lowell, Grand Rapids Union and Grand Rapids Central students.

The contest charged each of the six groups of two students to potentially run through 24 million combinations of features in building blocks.

The students were allowed to spend a maximum of two hours a week for 12 weeks to accomplish the mission. Both teams of Lowell students did so three weeks early.

The experiential learning project helped students learn about the laws of nature.

February 23, 2000

Going ... going ... gone!

The old, dilapidated home run fence at Recreation Park will soon be but a distant memory.

A six foot high, 440 foot chain link fence will be its replacement.

Lowell's Parks and Recreation Commission proposed the fence be put in this spring.

Cedar Springs Fence has been contracted to do the work at a cost of \$4,156.74.

The funds will be allocated from the Lee Fund.

An easement purchase agreement with Noon Equipment owner Sam Noon, of 11930 Fulton, will enable Meijer to make certain improvements to handle the increased runoff flow from its property in a safe manner.

Improvements are not only needed when more storm water runoff is generated but also when there is potential damage to a neighboring property, according to the Kent County Drain Commission senior staff engineer, Dick Connel.

In order for Meijer to control the additional runoff, it needed a 50-foot easement from Noon, thus allowing the runoff to flow downstream approximately 1,300 feet to the river.

The official announcement was anticlimactic ... for most Lowell High School girls basketball fans knew Dee Crowley would succeed Ken Akers as the new Red Arrow coach.

Crowley replaces Akers who retired following the '99 season.

It is Crowley's first varsity coaching position. Crowley served as an assistant under Akers during the 1999 season. She has taught business in the district for the past two years.

Over the last three years, the artwork of area artists has been displayed at the Lowell Area Schools administration building. Through the efforts of the Lowell Area Arts Coalition, that will change this week.

Selected artwork from Lowell and Alto elementary schools, middle school, high school and St. Patrick will replace that of area artists.

"The idea is to have the showing in this building represent the artwork of all students from all levels," said Lowell Area Arts Center (LAAC) executive director Lorraine Smalligan.

The Lowell YMCA and Lowell Little League agree to restructure their T-ball and Little League programs to avoid overlapping each other.

Review, cont'd. pg. 18

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Alyssa Speck, age 11  
Mr. Fillman  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**Lowell Granite Co.**  
306 E. Main, Lowell • 897-7191

(Not really Santa)  
(Santa's Elf)

Lauren Wisneski, age 11  
Mrs. Young  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**MARTIN VREDENBURG, DDS**  
1150 N. HUDSON  
897-8429

Melissa Hawks, age 10  
Mrs. Young  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**ICNB** 897-6171  
Hometown Banking  
MEMBER FDIC

**Flat River ANTIQUE MALL**  
"Largest Antique Mall In Michigan"  
212 W. Main St. • Open 7 Days!  
PHONE (616) 897-5360

Joy to the World

Tricia Thuston, age 11  
Mrs. Fox  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Merry Christmas

Molly Seese, age 10  
Mrs. Fox  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**COUSINS'**  
Hallmark  
223 W. Main • Lowell • 897-5000

Merry Christmas

Kelsey Callihan, age 11  
Mrs. Schneider  
Alto Elementary

To: Kate, Kelsey and J. J.

Happy Holidays

Roger Chapman, Agency  
217 W. Main, Lowell  
Office (616) 897-9237

STATE FARM INSURANCE

Merry Christmas  
Ho! Ho!

Bob Wernet, age 11  
Mrs. Schneider  
Alto Elementary

**Animal Hospital & Pet Complex of Lowell**  
11610 E. Fulton, Lowell • 897-8484

# Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 17

The adopted proposal will allow the Little League organization to run all of the baseball and softball programs for boys and girls ages seven and up.

The YMCA will handle all of the T-ball programs for children ages four to six.

For the first time in eight-10 years, Vergennes Township will hold an Annual Meeting.

It will serve as a precursor to the November ballot in which voters will be asked if they favor the township holding such a meeting on an annual basis.

The annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 25.

An annual meeting is intended to provide opportunity for officials to report to citizens on board decisions and on progress or lack of it. Citizens are also given the opportunity to question and criticize elected officials. It is also an opportunity to review the budget.

Faber Inc. developer, Pete Faber got final approval for his 125-acre, 37-parcel development on the corner of Alden Nash and Lally.

The Carlson Farms site condo development will be filled with freestanding homes of a minimum of 1,200 square feet and will include 33 1/2 acres of open space which cannot be developed.

An Alto man is killed along Timpson Avenue, just south of 52nd St.

Victor Mast, 29, dies after being thrown from his snowmobile.

Mast, the driver, and passenger 17-year-old Jamie McCall were southbound on Timpson when Mast lost control of the snowmobile. It left the gravel road and hit some trees, ejecting both the driver

and passenger, according to the Kent County Sheriff's Department.

McCall was transported to Spectrum Health Downtown, listed in serious condition.

Hoping to get a quick fix to its money problems, officials from the Lowell Showboat approach the Lowell City Council requesting almost \$700 to cover insurance and bank loan payments.

Councilman Ray Quada has been working with the Lowell Showboat Board to help the organization eliminate its \$24,000 debt, which it has carried over the past seven years. The current bank debt is \$9,129.45.

It is a short-term answer to a bigger problem that will be solved in the next 30 days, according to Quada.

Showboat Board president Karen Hample said at this time she could not com-

ment on what was taking place to reduce the group's debt. She did mention, however, that the Showboat Board had hoped to turn over the Robert E. Lee Showboat to another group like the Lowell Chamber of Commerce. It was discovered the Chamber is not the same type of nonprofit group as the Showboat Board, which means a transfer could not take place.

Many people in the Lowell City Council's audience were expecting to hear a definite decision on what the council was going to do about adult programming on the Lowell Cable TV. Instead, they got another study.

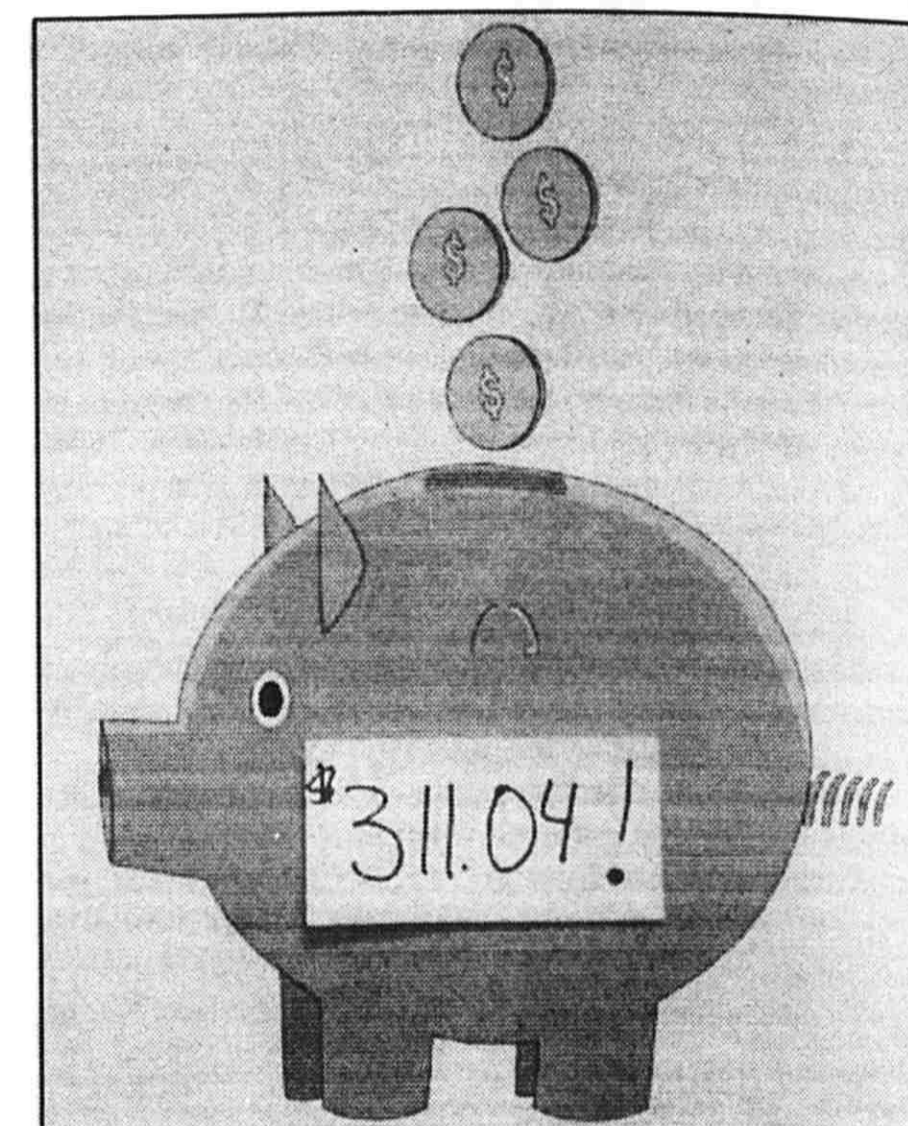
After almost an hour and a half of debate over how the adult channels arrived on Lowell Cable, whether they could be removed, and that the results of the survey indicated residents wanted the channels removed, the council unanimously decided to place a moratorium on the addition of any new adult cable channels and (if technically possible) any new pay-per-view customers for the existing channels. The moratorium would exist for about three months while Mayor Mike Blough and a councilmember put together a committee of nine people from the community to determine whether the city of Lowell should even be in the cable business.

initiate its own genealogy center would cost the Englehardt Library between \$350-\$400,000, according to Quada.

Mories for the center would be sought through the Englehardt Lowell Area Community Fund and other grant opportunities.

Stating health reasons, Carol Wieland has resigned from her position on the Kent District Library Board.

Wieland began serving in January of '98. Her term was



It's not how you start a race... it's how you finish. Mary Burton's third-grade Alto Elementary students are a prime example.

Burton's third-graders were the only class of 18 which did not bring in any change on day one of the student council's "Pennies for Patients" school project.

Three weeks later, at the project's end, it was the class, however, which collected the most change.

On the final day (Friday), their piggy bank read \$311.04 which clearly was the most change collected by any one class.

For their efforts, Little Caesar's Pizza, the sponsor of the fundraiser, will throw the class a pizza party.

Alto Elementary's 18 (K-5) classrooms collected \$1,835.37. With added donations from adults, the final total was \$2,075.85. The proceeds were donated to the Leukemia Society.

Region 4 covers the townships of Bowne, Lowell and Vergennes, and the city of Lowell.

A time line for a Lowell Charter Township decision over whether Randy Smith and Melissa Bilski, who sell irrigation systems from their home at 3210 Kissing Rock can stay or need to relocate, has been extended to Nov. 1.

Under the current ordinance, their business no longer qualifies as a home-based business occupation because it has outside employees.

Smith's special use request was turned down by the planning commission and that decision was upheld by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The township board disagreed, explaining it needs to look at the home-based business occupation and decide whether it should be amended. It has asked the township attorney to finalize his opinion on the matter and get back to the township board.

Each township paid \$3,000 for a survey and will pay \$14-\$15 per acre to have the spraying completed.

The half mill represents an additional \$43,397.39 to Lowell Township and approximately \$49,000 to Vergennes Township.

The Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan named Lowell junior center Amanda Stoutjesdyk to its honorable mention all state team.

The Red Arrow basketball player averaged 13 points and 10 rebounds during the 1999 season.

Understanding that future commercial developers will use Meijer as a measuring stick, Lowell Charter Township's Planning Commission moved slowly and carefully in reviewing plans for the 157,000 square foot store before approving a final site plan for Meijer.

The approval was contingent on final paper work agreement and certification from engineers for stormwater retention and drainage; also on any adjustment on the westerly drive and that the dedicated public road be aligned for the proposed development to the west of the Meijer site.

The cost to operate the

concession stand and its facilities.

Nate Schoen's search on-line for a marathon to run in will take him to a far away place.

He came upon the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society Marathon which is intended to help get people in shape and to raise awareness and funds in the fight against the deadly cancer.

The race is scheduled for Sunday, June 18 at 8 a.m. in Anchorage, AL.

While winding up its annual Invest In Youth campaign, the Lowell YMCA branch is also edging closer to its 2000 goal of raising \$47,000.

There are still a number of pledges out. If all who pledged last year repeat their pledge, Invest In Youth chairman Rick Seese says the 2000 campaign will be very close to its goal.

A point here or a point there in any one of four matches could have changed the outcome of Lowell's 26-23 victory in its semifinal wrestling match with Division II defending state champion Eaton Rapids.

# Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 18

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The evening was filled with activities both for children and their parents.

Cherry Creek and Bushnell elementary students celebrated the birthday of Theodore Geisel (alias Dr. Seuss) with families Thursday night.

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A point here or a point there in any one of four matches could have changed the outcome of Lowell's 34-33 loss to Lapeer West in the finals of the Division II state championship.

"So close, that's the nature of the beast," said Lowell wrestling coach Dave Strejcek.

The beast proved unkind to the Red Arrow club (35-6) making its second consecutive trip to the state finals.

"This loss stings a little more than last year's loss to Eaton Rapids," Strejcek said. "We saw ourselves at this spot all year. One more win

Review, cont'd. pg. 20

**Celebrate**  
The Birth Of Christ  
Joy to The World!  
Peace on Earth!

Kayleigh Cook, age 11  
Mr. Hawkins  
Alto Elementary

**ACE HARDWARE**  
1601 W. Main St.  
Lowell  
HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 8-8; Sat. 8-5; Sun. 10-3  
897-9490

**BERNARD'S**  
1601 W. MAIN

Merry Christmas

Brooke Luna, age 10  
Mrs. Melle  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**James Reagan, D.D.S.**  
207 W. Main, Lowell, MI 49331  
Ph. 897-7179

We wish you  
a Merry  
Christmas!

Andrea Kulhawik, age 10  
Mrs. Pupel  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**W.J. WHEELER**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

**BILL WHEELER**  
Certified Public Accountant  
103 Riverside Dr., Lowell • 897-7711

Fill the stockings

Alexis Strouse, age 11  
Mrs. Melle  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Cory M. Baerwalde,  
age 10 1/2  
Mr. MacDonald  
Alto Elementary

**Hooper Printing**  
(616) 897-6719  
FAX (616) 897-6460  
2125 Bowes Rd.  
Lowell, MI 49331

Fill the stockings

Alexis Strouse, age 11  
Mrs. Melle  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**L&A RENT-ALL**  
2401 W. Main, Lowell  
Ph. 897-8451  
"Serving The Lowell Area For Over 10 Years!"

Let it snow let it snow!!

Casie Pedley, age 11  
Mr. Fillman  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**L.A. TRIM**  
LOWELL, MICHIGAN

**897-6546**

# Year-In-Review, continued.... From Page 19

would have made the year complete."

Lowell got to the finals with a three-point win (26-23) over Eaton Rapids.

Their meeting in the semifinals was their third of the year. The Greyhounds had won each of the previous two contests by 14 and four points respectively.

Renee Brower became the first Lowell gymnast in four years to qualify for the state individual gymnastics tournament.

On Saturday, at the regional in East Kentwood, the senior handed in a splendid performance on the balance beam. Brower placed seventh overall in Division II with a score of 8.7. The top eight individual scores qualify for the state tournament in Hartland on Saturday.

Lowell placed ninth in a regional field of 16 teams. There are seven pool and three conference records set at the OK White/Rainbow I Conference meet Saturday in Zeeland.



The California based Richard's Institute of Education and Research is the sponsor of a program titled "Education Through Music." The Institute looks at music developmentally, modeling music learning after language learning. Lowell Elementary music teacher uses this approach at Bushnell Elementary.

The Forest Hills/Lowell swim team was responsible for four pool records and three of the conference records, en route to a fourth place finish.

March 15, 2000

"You never outgrow the need to set and meet goals," said Mike Scudder, a motivational and educational speaker on self-esteem, goal setting, hard work, persistence and determination with an emphasis on drug and alcohol prevention.

His motivational presentation was delivered while shooting free throws at all the Lowell Area Schools.

While speaking to students at Cherry Creek Elementary, the Las Vegas resident netted 198 of 200 free throws.

Scudder, who many believe is the best free throw shooter in the world, related true life stories and experiences in an effort to put students on the path to success in whatever area they may want to stress and emphasize.

Kooi Industrial Painting, of Grand Rapids, was awarded the contract of painting the filter tanks at Lowell's Water Treatment Plant.

Its bid of \$14,140 was less than half of the only other bid submitted.

Continued development along the Flat River is a key point of interest in the Lowell Planning Commission's "Blue Sky Project" recommendation to the city council.

"The planning commission would like to see the overall development of the boardwalk incorporate the inclusion of the amphitheater," said planning commissioner Jim Hall.



The challenge of initiating a conversation is as difficult a task for Lowell High School sophomore Adam Maynard as he may face in a school day.

When Family Fare customers hear Adam, an autistic student, initiate a salutation with "hi" or "have a good day," they smile and begin to understand why community based instruction instructor Keith Boeve raves about progress he has seen in the sophomore's vocational skills since starting in the program last July. "The progress Adam has made is incredible," Boeve says.

Autistic children normally don't want to initiate communication. Through Maynard's involvement in the community based instruction program, however, the Lowell student has been forced to start conversations with a simple "hi" or even "plastic or paper."

The Downtown Development Authority's plan took the development up to the amphitheater. "Some sort of development is needed for the amphitheater. It is a pretty ugly thing at this stage."

"We suggest that the development run through the amphitheater," Hall explained.

Review, cont'd. pg. 22

# JOY

Lyndsy Rolfe, age 10  
Mrs. Young  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**DURKEE LUMBER**  
ALTO, MICHIGAN • 868-6026  
HOURS: Monday thru Friday, 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12 noon

Happy Hanukkah

James C. Lang, D.O.  
Paul G. Gauthier, D.O.  
Kevin Miller, D.O.  
147 N. Center, Lowell • 897-9209

Nicole Baker, age 11  
Mr. Hawkins  
Alto Elementary

Merry Christmas

Adam, age 11  
Mr. Fillman  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**LOWELL YMCA**  
We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.  
323 West Main, Lowell  
PHONE 897-8445

Blank lined area for writing.

Bozo

Angel

Brecken Hendrick, age 11  
Mrs. Pupel  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Happy Hanukkah!

Alex Manion, age 10  
Mrs. Schneider  
Alto Elementary

Happy Holidays

Elizabeth Schlosser, age 11  
Mrs. Schneider  
Alto Elementary

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# Year-In Review, continued.... From Page 20

The planning commission asked that the city council refer its suggestion to the DDA board of directors for their consideration and inclusion into the master plan document and to develop an appropriate time schedule for the project.

Councilman Chuck Myers asked that Lowell city assessor, James Marfia provide the council with what the impact of granting the 12-year abatement to Litehouse, Inc. will be, beginning in the 2001 tax year.

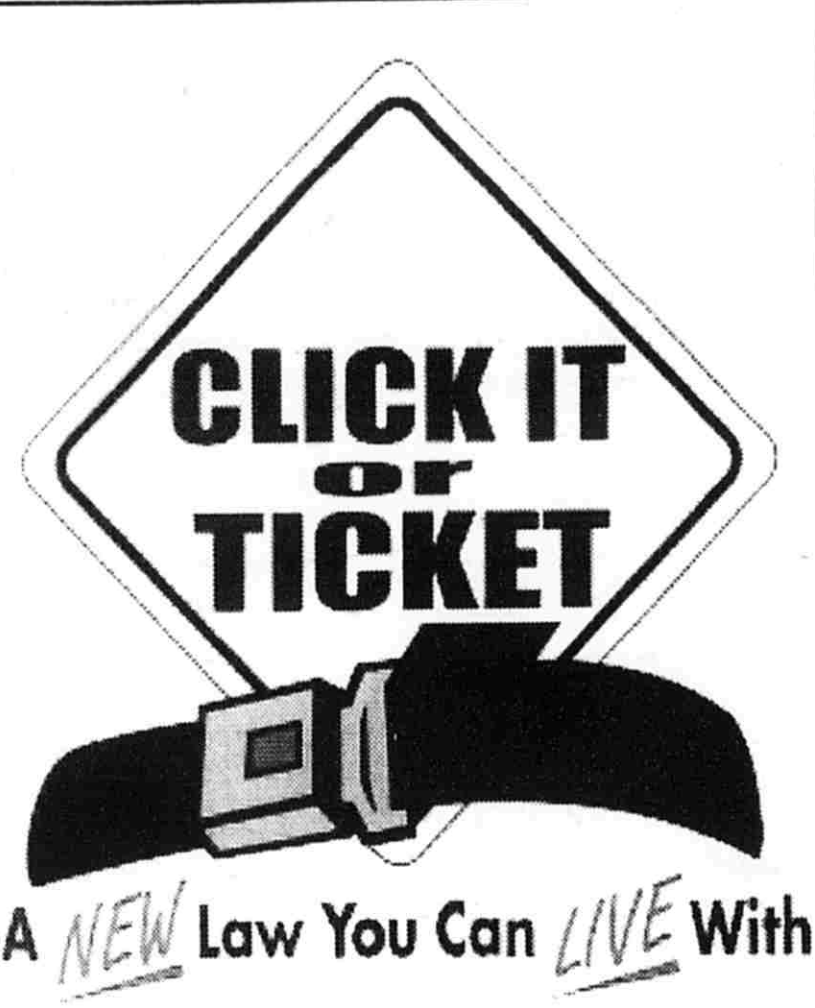
In granting the abatement to Litehouse, the city agreed to forgo \$26,500 in revenue over the next 12 years. Tax abatements are often viewed

as lost revenue to government municipalities. Marfia calls that a misnomer.

"Cities aren't really losing money. They are agreeing to forgo half of the assessed revenue value for a period of time (12 years)," Marfia states.

The city assessor says a 12-year abatement is pretty standard. "If a corporation meets all the requirements, there really isn't a basis for not giving them a tax abatement," Marfia explains.

Determining the community's interest to continue offering cable television in the Lowell community will be the charge, between now



For six years the law enforcement, medical, insurance and highway safety agencies worked for a mandatory seat belt law.

On March 10, their efforts are rewarded. A law, which requires drivers, passengers and children under 15 to wear seat belts, was passed.

The law also requires children under three to be in a child safety seat.

The fine levied for being pulled over for not wearing a seat belt is \$25, but after \$5 assessments are added for the Michigan justice training fund, highway safety assessment and secondary patrol and training assessment, the civil infraction will cost motorists \$40.

and May 1, of a recently appointed committee.

In reviewing a number of volunteer applications, Mayor Michael Blough said he selected a balanced cross section of the Lowell residency which included one representative from each entity served by the cable system outside the boundaries of Lowell.

The committee shall be empowered to call representatives of Lowell Cable and the city of Lowell to attend meetings and to provide information to the public about

Lowell's cable service and to conduct public hearings or focus studies to determine the community's interest in maintaining an acceptable cable television system.

Bill Stouffer's first state championship was in honor of his late coach, Gary Rivers.

Stouffer won his second consecutive individual state title Saturday at the Joe Louis Arena. He said afterwards, "This one was for the town. When people see me

wrestle, they think of Lowell and I also want them to think of good wrestling," Stouffer said.

Stouffer (215 pounds) completed his final year of high school wrestling with a second consecutive state championship.

Stouffer's record of 60-0 in 1999-00 sets a record for wins in a season. He completes his high school career with 206 varsity career victories - the most ever by a Lowell wrestler. He broke Dan Spicer's (1993-96) record of 164 wins.

Over the last two seasons Stouffer posted an amazing record of 114-1.

Lowell High School was host to the District 10 Band Festival with 16 groups performing at the Lowell site.

Among the groups were three bands from Lowell High School. The Lowell red band received a second division rating by the four judges.

The Lowell white band and the Lowell symphonic band each received a first-division rating.

The Lowell Board of Education may be a little closer to deciding how it will handle the district's overcrowding problem.

At its Monday night board meeting, Superintendent Bert Bleke said the board was narrowing down its options, intending to present a final plan in April or May.

"When we do present the final option we want to make sure it is a doable situation for the board," Bleke said.

A demographics committee had studied the district's overcrowding issues for two years. In February, the district held community forums

to talk to residents about their ideas and various options.

The Lowell Area School District will be a little smaller ... 28 acres to be exact.

At its Monday night board meeting, the Board of Education, in a 5-1 vote, decided to transfer 28 acres of land to the Forest Hills Public Schools. Most of the land is designated to become part of Seidman Park, where Forest Hills school officials plan to develop an environmental school.

The transfer moves the land from the Lowell Area School District to the Forest Hills School District. The land is not owned by the Lowell district; it was simply within the district's borders so if any houses were located there, the children from those homes would have attended Lowell Area Schools.

The land, located in Vergennes Township right next to Seidman Park, was removed from the tax rolls because it was deemed unbuildable for residential housing.

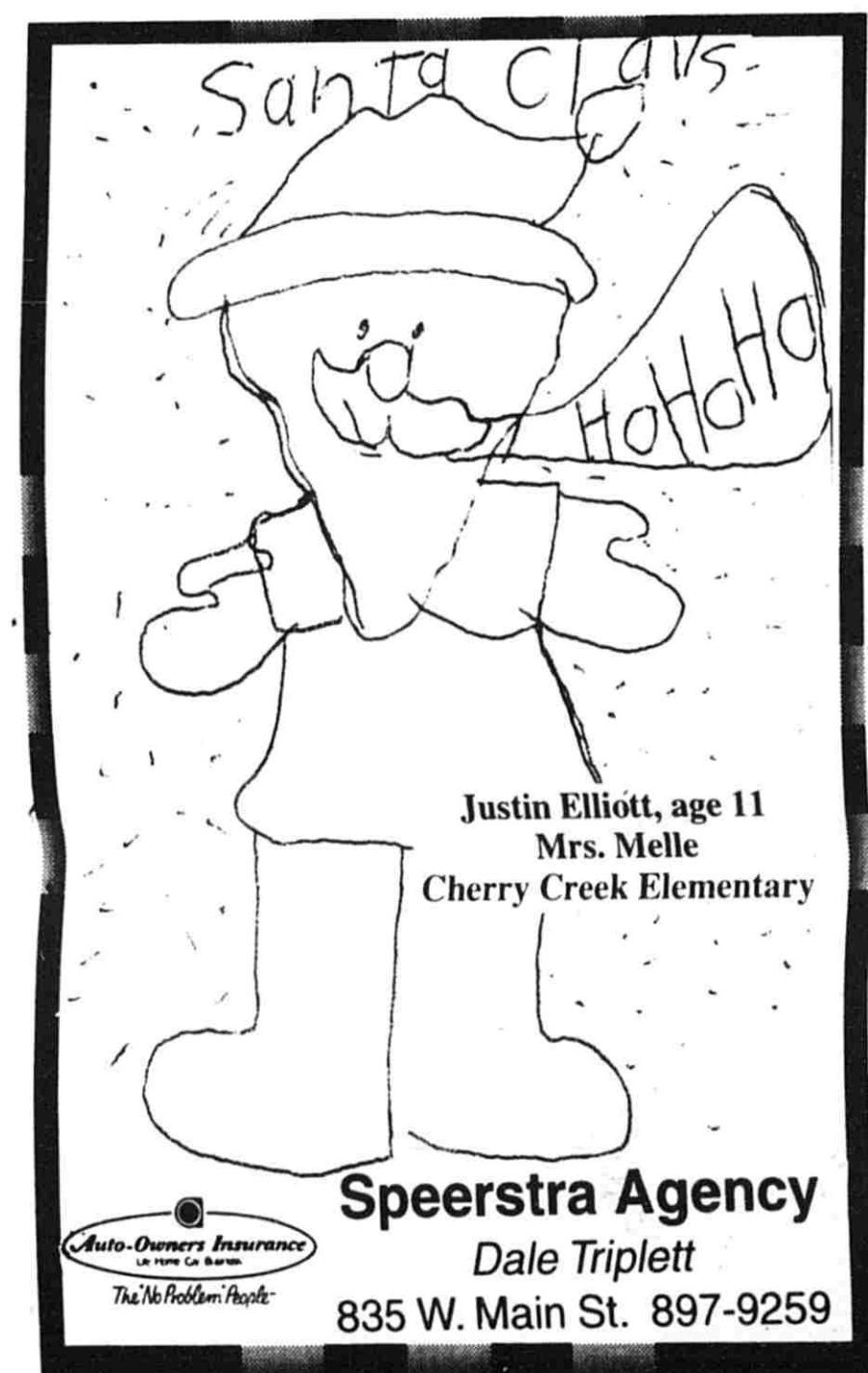
March 22, 2000

It appears the city of Lowell has been able to secure one of the last pieces of its puzzle in property for its proposed new City Hall/police station complex.

The board unanimously voted to sell to the city a portion of the Runciman property, 12,870 square feet, for \$12,000. T

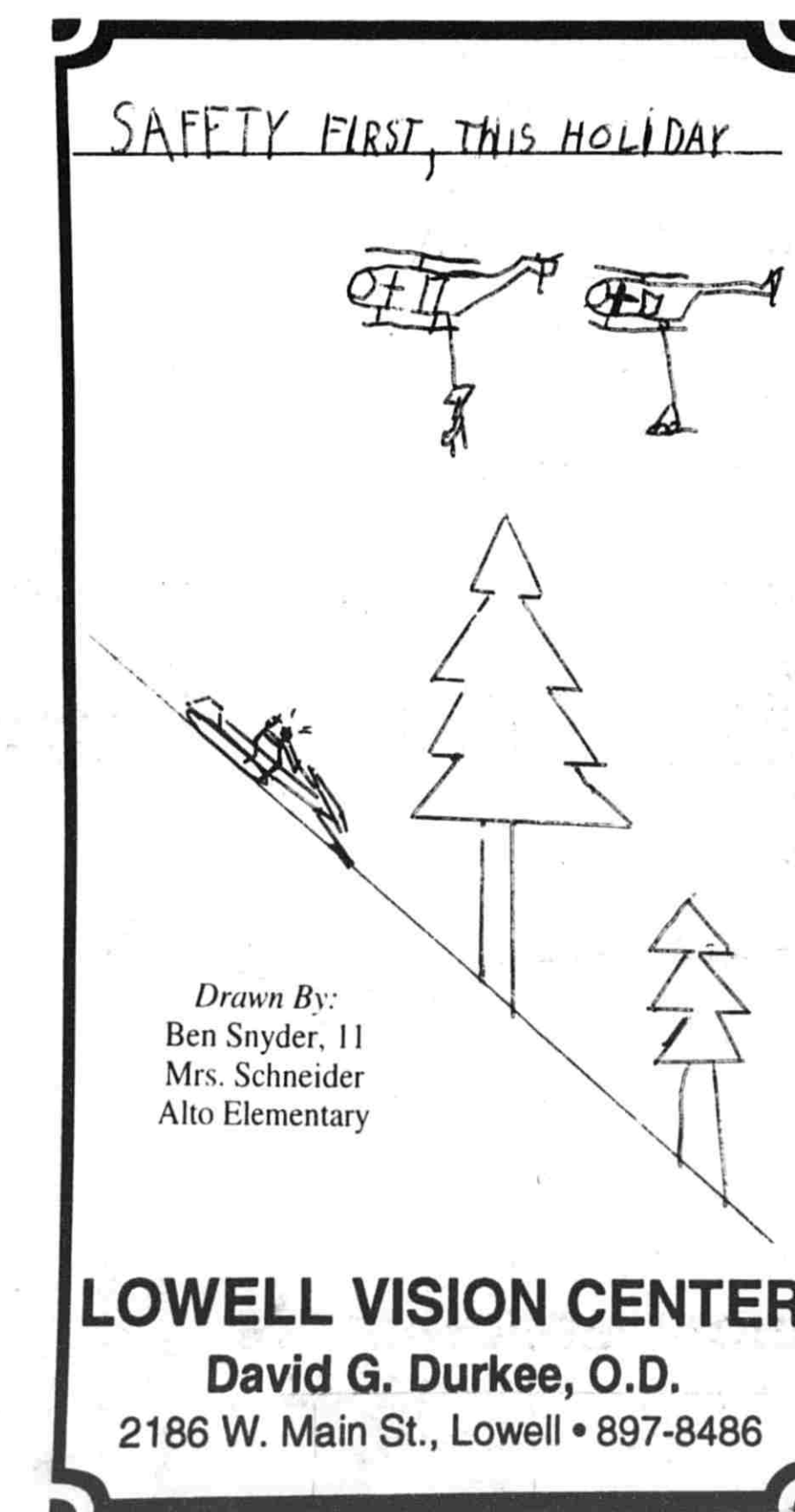
The Lowell FFA Chapter attends the 72nd Michigan FFA Convention March 6-8 at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts on Michi-

Review, cont'd, pg. 23



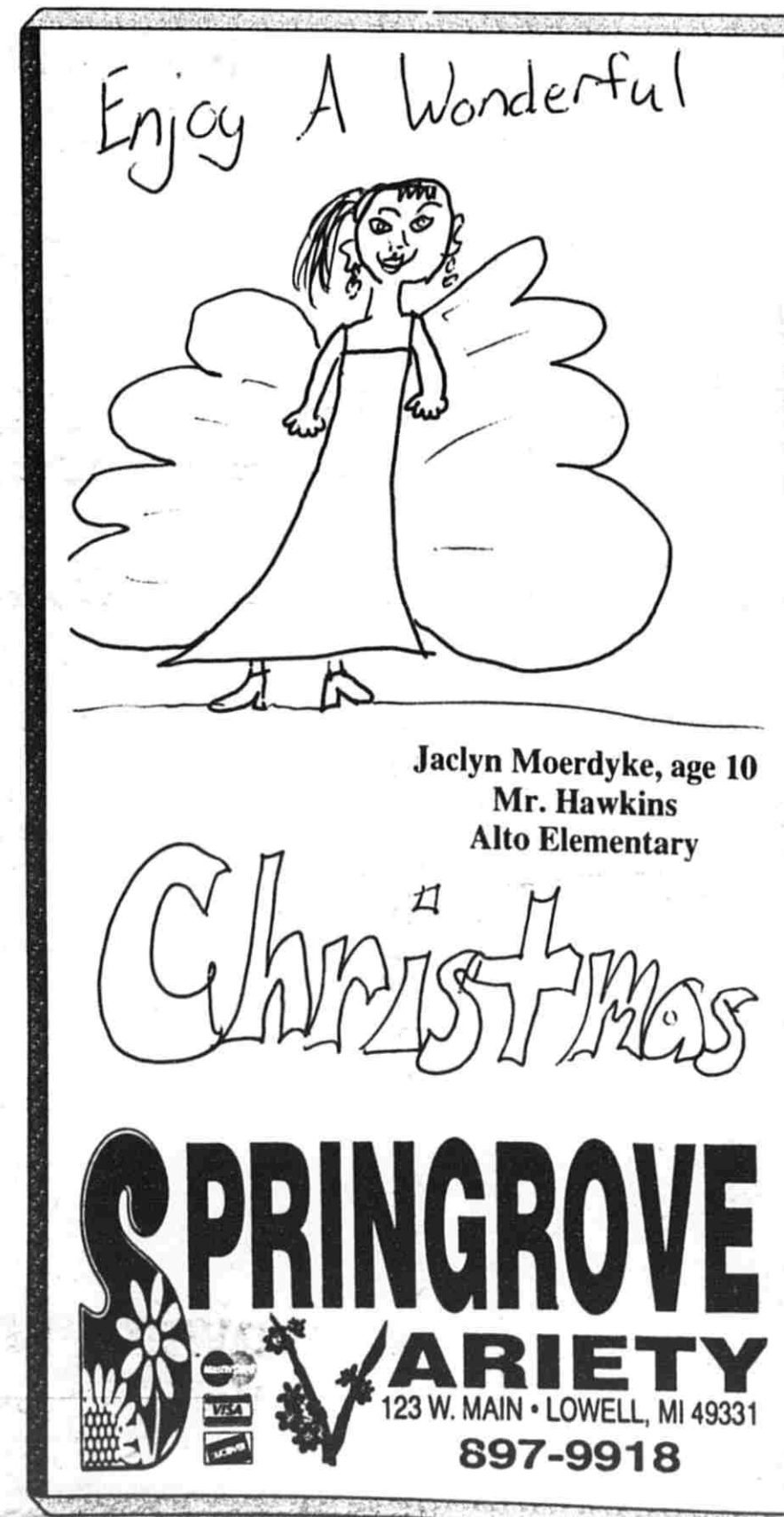
Justin Elliott, age 11 Mrs. Melle Cherry Creek Elementary

Speerstra Agency Dale Triplett 835 W. Main St. 897-9259



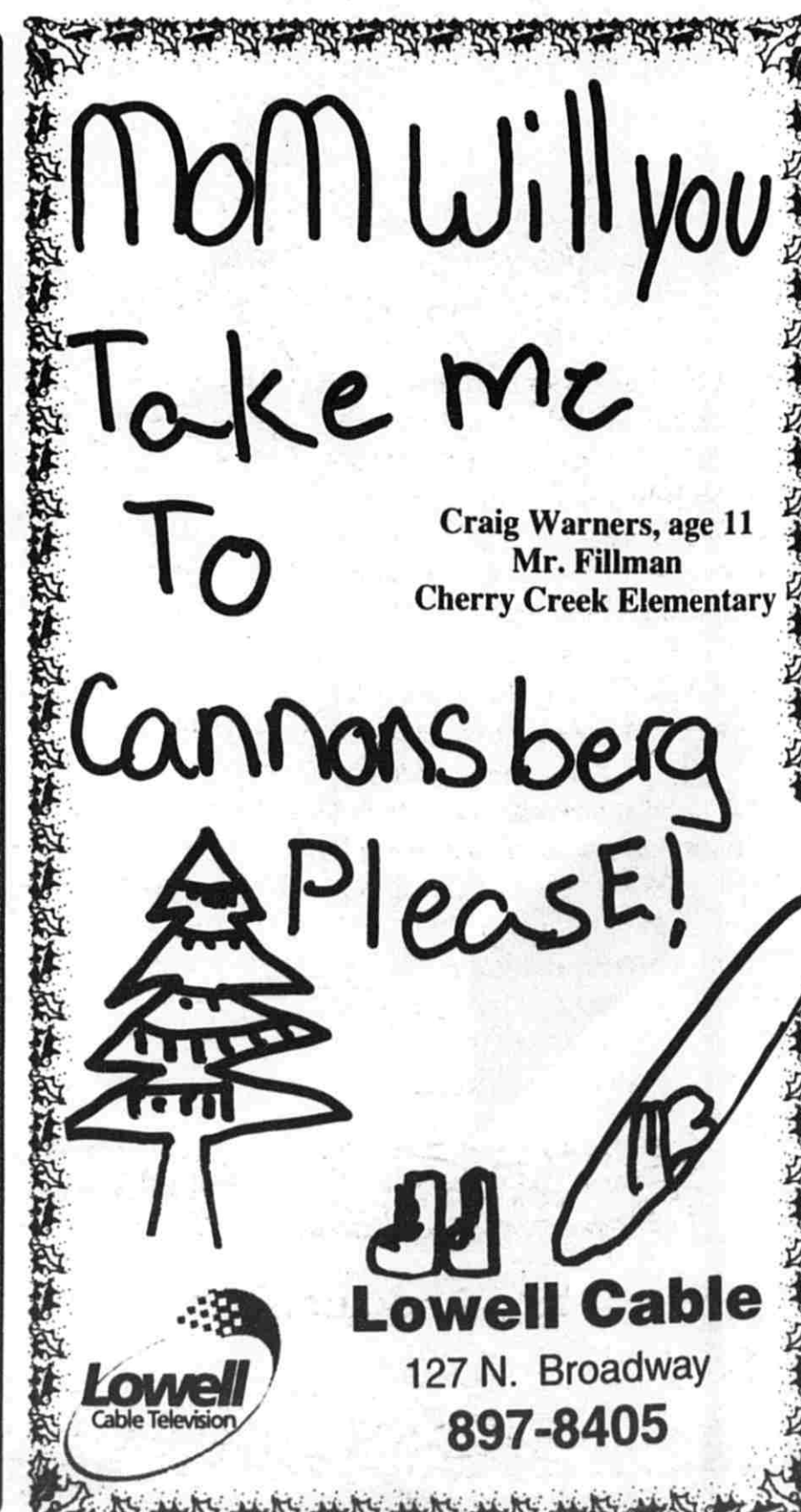
Drawn By: Ben Snyder, 11 Mrs. Schneider Alto Elementary

LOWELL VISION CENTER David G. Durkee, O.D. 2186 W. Main St., Lowell • 897-8486



Jaclyn Moerdyke, age 10 Mr. Hawkins Alto Elementary

SPRINGGROVE VARIETY 123 W. MAIN • LOWELL, MI 49331 897-9918



Craig Warners, age 11 Mr. Fillman Cherry Creek Elementary

Lowell Cable 127 N. Broadway 897-8405

# Year-In Review, continued.... From Page 22

gan State University's campus. The chapter was recognized for outstanding achievements, receiving a Superior Chapter Award.

Individual members were also recognized for their achievements through the organization.

Four members received their State Degrees, the highest honor an FFA member can receive from the State Association. Lowell Chapter's recipients were: Bradford Jackson, Aaron Kaeb, Benjamin Kaeb and Tom Oesch.

The first official public presentation of the Top 10 for the Class of 2000 was made Thursday night at the Lowell



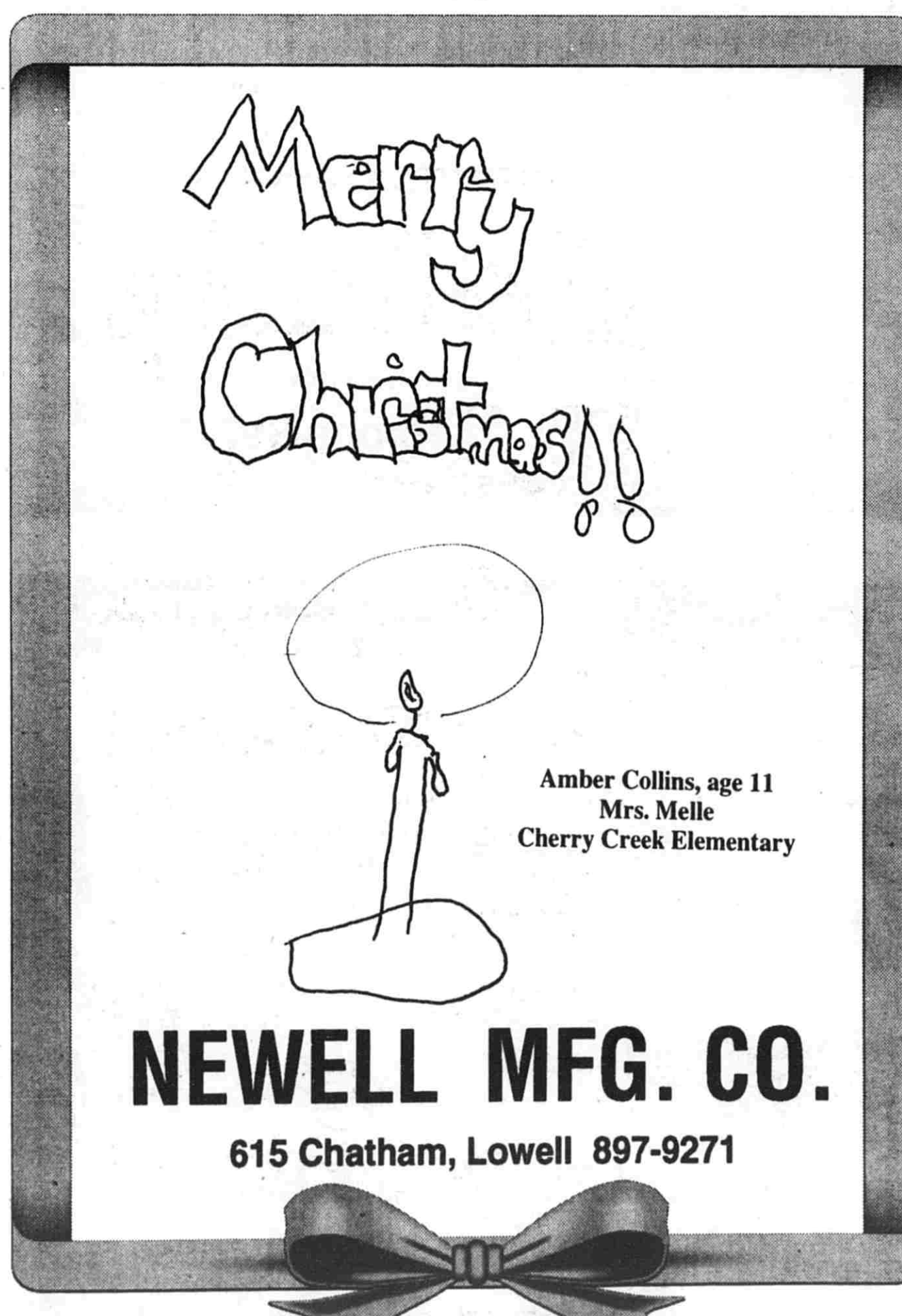
Senior Tabi Baker unwittingly doodled upon a canvas last September at Unity High School.

"I just started to draw a forest with a marker on the off white wall along the school's staircase," Baker explained.

The school, which the senior described as uptight, surprised Baker with its rather calm, lax reaction to her doodling.

Before the school could change its mind, Baker spent a Saturday sketching out the trees and inhabitants of her forest.

All of Baker's painting has been done with her fingers. She has used a pencil for the more detailed work.



Amber Collins, age 11 Mrs. Melle Cherry Creek Elementary

NEWELL MFG. CO. 615 Chatham, Lowell 897-9271

High School Academic Desert.

Along with announcing the top 10, the dessert also pays tribute to the top students academically in each class.

This year's top 10 students are the following: Bethany Fredline (valedictorian), Stephanie Ellison (salutatorian), Lindsey Thaler, Kelly Chapman, Elissa Kinney, Aaron Kaeb, Laurie Biener, Lindsay Perkins, Annie Zalokar and James Justifer.

Lowell Charter Township Supervisor John Timpson received approval from the township board to seek matching funds for Phase

II of the Riverfront Park project.

Timpson said the township will apply for \$150,000 from the Department of Natural Resources to help pay for the \$251,900 second phase. The application for the grant money is due March 30.

Phase II will include a rest room/picnic shelter, picnic tables, trash receptacles, grills, a playground, bench seating, a soccer field, running/cross-country/skiing trail and signs.

A core of Vergennes Township residents are ready to go to work... all they need is a tool box.

The purpose of the work is to help Vergennes Township retain its rural character - the overwhelming plea heard by township officials when the master plan was written a couple of years ago.

In January, a core group of residents gathered to discuss ways to preserve open land and still make it possible for individual land owners to develop their parcels of real estate as they wish.

The core of residents who met in January were Kate Dermocoeur, Rick Gillett, Pete Gustafson, Tim Howard, Bill Schreur and Marsha Wilcox.

March 29, 2000

Following a 12-year absence, hockey will return as a Lowell varsity sport in the 2000-01 school year.

Lowell's administration supported the request to reinstate hockey as a winter sport.

It said, however, the district could not provide the pro-

gram with any financial backing at this time.

"The administration did not feel it could fund a hockey program when at this time there are other programs of equal or greater value (e.g. elementary foreign language) not being funded.

Ron Pederson, juror of the 2000 West Michigan Regional Competition, noted that he is attracted to artwork that is visually clear, visually interesting, dynamically whole.

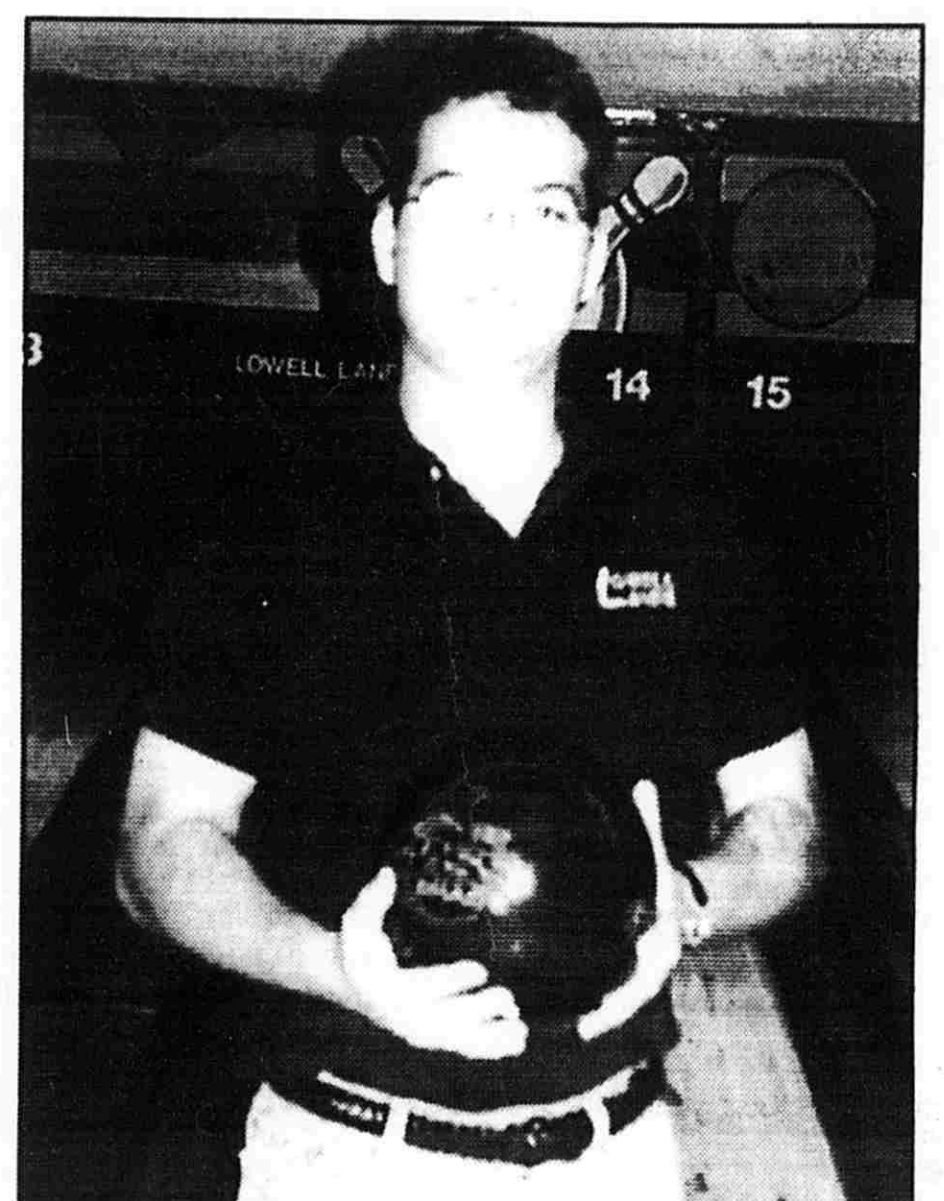
In part, that is why he awarded Molly Alicki Corriveau's "Sticks and Stones" piece with Best of Show.

Corriveau was one of 56 artists represented in the 14th annual competition at the Lowell Area Arts Council. The 71-piece exhibition will run through April 12.

Lowell High School Model United Nations students continue to reset the standard of excellence by which Hope College measures.

Lowell, for eight years the stick by which other schools have measured themselves, raises the bar as it took roughly a third of all awards presented at the Hope College Model United Nations Program.

Review, cont'd, pg. 24



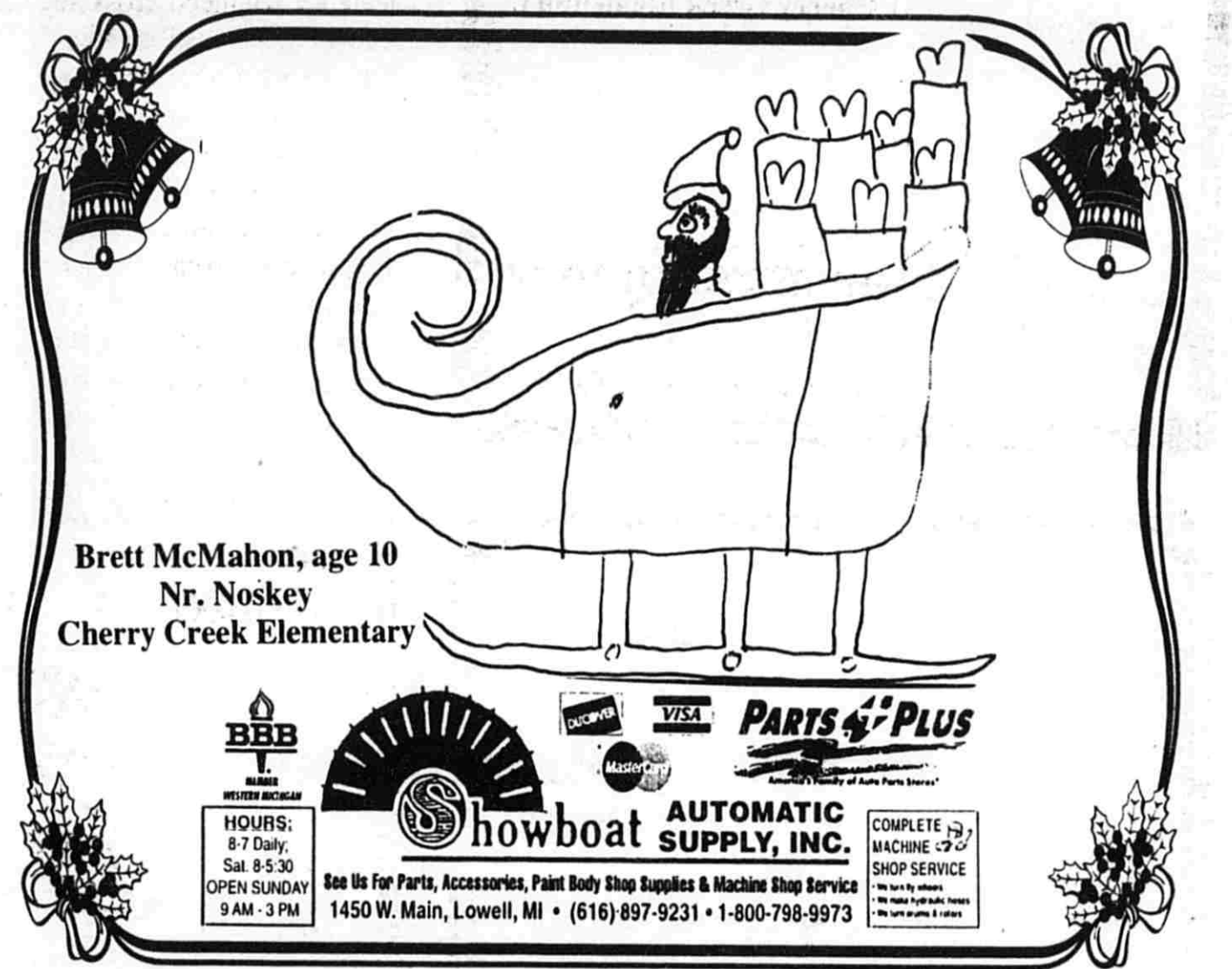
Mike Horian dared to bowl where few have bowled before.

The Lowell bowler rolled back-to-back 300 games in Lowell Lanes' Misfits League.

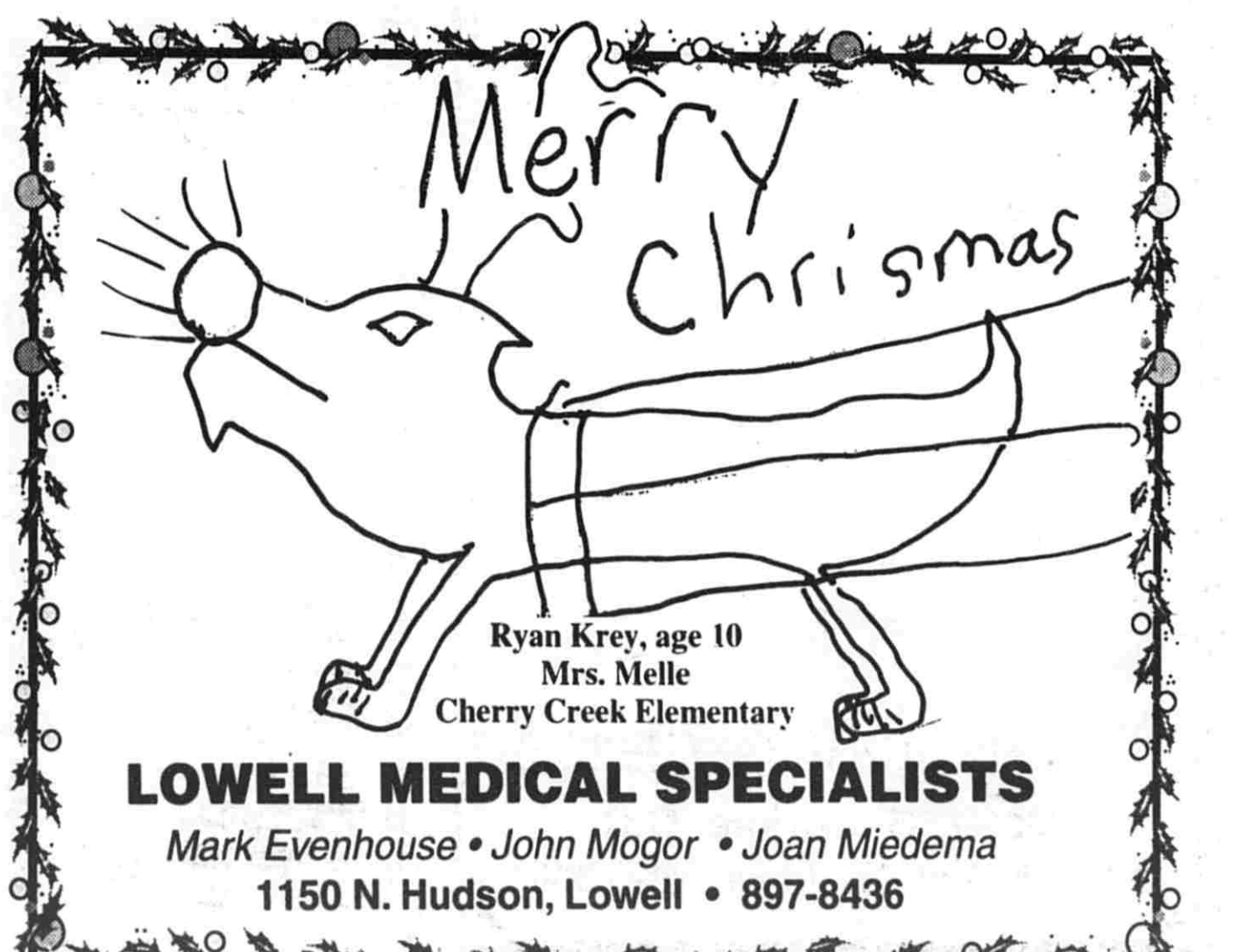
Horian said he knew he was in a groove from the start. He rolled a 258 in game one as he struck in all but two frames.

As an educator, author and storyteller, Hiroko Fujita preserves cultural roots and reinforces bonds between generations as she recants old tales, fables and stories of traditional Japanese families. Fujita and Oklahoma sto-

ryteller Fran Stallings are companions on a six-week U.S. spring tour of schools in California, Oklahoma, Texas, Indiana and Michigan.



Brett McMahon, age 10 Mr. Noskey Cherry Creek Elementary



Ryan Krey, age 10 Mrs. Melle Cherry Creek Elementary

LOWELL MEDICAL SPECIALISTS Mark Evenhouse • John Mogor • Joan Miedema 1150 N. Hudson, Lowell • 897-8436

# Year-In Review, continued... From Page 23

gan. They visited students at Alto Elementary.

Paul Legge is hired as Lowell's new varsity boys soccer coach.

Legge was a high caliber soccer player at all three levels, having played three years of varsity high school, two years at Lewis University and two years at Aquinas.

He earned all conference honors this year at Aquinas for a team which finished 19-3, was number one in the region and 16th in the nation.

Bob VanNoller, owner of Roll Away Family Fun Center at 805 E. Main, attains the Lowell Planning Commission's recommendation for a variance regarding lot size and the minimum number of parking spaces required for his proposed miniature golf course.

Lowell Charter Township voted to be a part of the Community Development Block Grant program again next year.

This year, the township received \$37,571.11. Of that, \$3,000 will pay the township's share of the Hope Network's North Kent Transit Service.

The remaining \$34,571.11 is being used to help pay for a topographical mapping of the flood plain.



The Everett and June Wittenbach Agricultural and Environmental Science Center is scheduled to begin in the spring.

The design and construction of the learning center is made possible through a \$200,000 gift from the Wittenbach's to the Lowell Area Education Foundation.

The donation just further enhances the educational imprint the Wittenbachs have had on the community. In 1992, they stepped forward and volunteered to sell 180 acres of their land for the development of the new state-of-the-art Lowell High School.

The new center will be located adjacent to a 60-acre parcel of property that is owned by the Land Conservancy Organization and has been designated forever by that group as a natural land preserve.

Pointing to safety and visual impact, the Lowell Area Arts Council seeks a variance recommendation from the Lowell Planning Commission.

The building, owned by King Milling, is located at

149 S. Hudson and zoned industrial.

The planning commission votes to recommend variances to install the permanent banner and a front yard setback for a porch.



This year's Lowell Community Expo, sponsored by the Chamber, Lowell Area Schools and Ionia County National Bank, spotlighted Lowell businesses, organizations, churches and area municipalities. The 88 exhibitors represented a four-year high. Of that total, 33 took part in the Expo for the first time.

It was a textbook deployment with the best possible results.

The use of Lowell Area Police Department's spike strips brings a high-speed car chase which began on U.S. 131 between Grand Rapids and Rockford to a controlled, non-deadly stop.

State police identified the

stolen car and began in pursuit on U.S. 131. The chase led them east on M-57, then south on Lincoln Lake.

Once on Lincoln Lake the Lowell Police Department was notified. Officers Trevor Slot and Sandy Lee were alerted and deployed spike strips just north of town near the airport.

The stolen vehicle, after riding over the spikes, traveled a quarter of a mile before coming to a stop.

April 5, 2000

Residents on Cumberland Ave. can expect to be affected a little when the Kent County Road Commission processes 40,000 cubic yards of gravel.

The road commission attains a special use permit from Vergennes Township to process and store gravel at the Helmus pit (east side of Cumberland and north of Foreman Street) and the Tower pit (north side of McPherson Street east of the Flat River). Both pits are owned by the road commission.

The proposed new Property Tax Administration System (PTAS) software is recognized as the "best of class."

Provided it has the participation of Grand Rapids and Wyoming city councils, it appears the system will also have strength in numbers.

Vergennes Township incurs an additional cost of \$3,224.94 per year over its 1998 PTAS software charges.

The new system will eliminate double entry currently being performed when the

Review, cont'd. pg. 25

# Year-In Review, continued... From Page 24

work of the local assessor and Bureau of Equalization is reconciled.



Start small and explore. That is the concept behind the creation of the Lowell Community Education Youth String Orchestra.

Twelve elementary students in grades one through five are learning and practicing their violins, violas and cellos.

Six of the students play violin, five the cello and one plays the viola.

"We're looking at it becoming an integral part of our music program," said James White, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. "The district needs to find out what kind of support there is and if there would be enough students to fill a class."

The Youth String Orchestra held its first practice on Sept. 27.

Ideally school administrators would like to see a total string program throughout all levels (elementary, middle school and high school) of Lowell Schools.

After two-and-a-half years of work from the demographics committee and input from community forums, it appears the Lowell School Board is ready to take the next step - making a final decision as to which option it will choose to deal with student growth.

The board will take another look at all three options at its April 10th meeting. A final decision from the board is not expected until May.

All the work and input the district has received by citizens indicates support for smaller, strategically placed neighborhood elementary schools.

The city seeks input from Lowell residents for an official name of the downtown plaza area.

Lowell residents are encouraged to submit their vote. They can choose between Riverwalk Plaza and Lafayette Plaza, or they can submit their own suggestion.

The third annual Roll Away Family Fun Center Muscular Dystrophy Association 24-hour skate-a-thon raises \$4,564.93.

Linda Regan is appointed to replace Carol Wells, who will leave the township at the end of May for York, Neb. She has served as township clerk for the past 33 years. This appointment is only good until November, then Regan will have to be elected.

April 12, 2000

The request of two communications towers to be placed in the city of Lowell has the city council wanting to establish a policy about such items.

AT&T and CenturyTel approached the city council about the possibility of being allowed to construct new communication towers within the city limits.

Betty Morlock has one more task to add to her list of things to do: order herself a new nameplate.

Lowell's City Council named Betty Morlock the city clerk. Morlock had served the past 12 years as deputy city clerk.

Lowell was one of the few remaining cities in Kent County whose city manager also served as its city clerk. Morlock said when she came to the city 12 years ago, it was one of her personal goals to one day serve as the city clerk.

The Lowell Area Arts Council got its wish and a little bit more from the Lowell City Council.

The nonprofit organization, seeking variances for a sign and for a new handicap ramp and porch from the Zoning Board of Appeals, got the two variances, the fee waived (because it is nonprofit) and authorization to construct in the right of way area.

Dick Edison, owner of Contract Assembly, proposes construction of an 11,000 square foot building on the west side of his property at 13565 Grand River.

The building will enable Contract Assembly to meet future business opportunities. Those opportunities could bring about a 20 percent increase in the number of employees.

Sid Haywood expresses his worries about the health risk that neighbors his property to the west. That health risk comes in the form of a 169-foot tower constructed by Consumers

Power approximately 20 years ago for its high power electrical lines.

Along with being a health risk, and an eyesore, Haywood said the tower has also hindered television reception. Since the township is not responsible for allowing the Consumers Power tower to be constructed, Haywood does not have any recourse through the township ordinance. Haywood also objected to the proposed construction of a 12 by 26 by 40 foot building.

Leonard DenHouter is given permission by the Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission for his proposed mining off of Alden Nash Avenue.

The planning commission, sensitive to the issue of dust created by such projects, spent a good measure of time discussing the best method to insure that the dust is controlled.

When discussion ended, it agreed to what DenHouter proposed - using an organic material made from tree sap. DenHouter said he anticipated having to apply two coats in the first year.

For a second consecutive year Lowell's Matt D'Agostino and his Vardar III teammates of the Little Caesars Premier Soccer League, win the Indoor National Tournament.

D'Agostino, 13, is a key defensive member, according to Dave Hicklin. "Matt had an outstanding tourney. He's quick and read the game very well."

April 19, 2000

Lowell Light & Power/ Lowell Cable Television is one of 54 businesses, colleges and organizations throughout the Greater Grand Rapids and Lakeshore areas which participates in the seventh annual West Michigan Science Festival.

Lowell Light & Power/Lowell Cable Television's \$440,000 renovation work at 127 N. Broadway which began in February is expected to be completed in mid-June.

Renovating the facility will expand it from a little less than 1,000 square feet to roughly 4,000 square feet.

The extra square footage will encompass his and her bathrooms, offices for all cable/light & power office staff, an engine and operations section, an employee break room, a newly designed lobby, and a handicapped accessible entrance.



Band officers Felicia Eshragh, Lindsay Perkins, Ryan Kremer, Leto McElveen, Jennifer Wisner and David Barry (president of the symphonic band) set out two years ago to commission someone to write a song for their graduating class and to celebrate Bob Rice's 27 years as LHS band director.

The musical score was put together by Steven Barton, a high school band director at Manchester High School in Midlothian, VA.

It is titled "Sagittarian Dances." Sagittarian is a person born under Sagittarius, the Archer, a zodiacal constellation, thus giving it a connection to the Red Arrows.

The premiere of "Sagittarian Dances" will be performed for the first time by the Lowell symphonic band at the Lowell High School Spring Concert.

Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation pays tribute to three new inductees for their spirit, generosity, vision and educational dedication at the fourth annual Tribute Tree program.

Honored at the ceremony are Helen Burch, Chris and Jill VanAntwerp, and June and the late Everett "Steve" Wittenbach.

Ralph Munger, who is the Region IX Michigan High School Football Coaches Association director and Rockford varsity football coach, was in attendance at the Lowell School Board meeting to present Lowell football coach Noel Dean with the inaugural Steve Spicer Memorial Team Leadership Award which recognizes outstanding community leadership within the state leaders program.

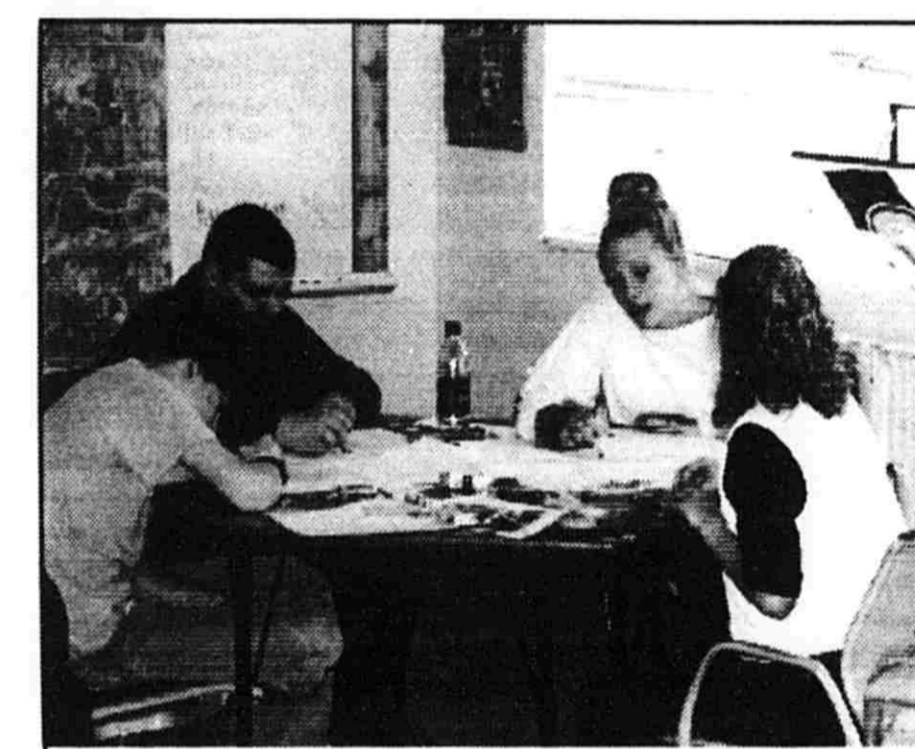
Dean was one of four coaches in the entire state to be honored with the award.

A revamped and improved Lowell schools website is up and running and accessible on the internet.



To watch and to hear Maria Meirelles play the piano is to understand passion, eloquence and style. Meirelles shared her brilliant style, tone and technique with the Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation's Tribute Tree guests.

Her 90-minute music performance brought to life the classical music of Bach, Beethoven, Gershwin, Villa-Lobos, Chopin and Liszt.



Open space, land use and development, farm land, the environment and ecology have been at the forefront of Tammy DeBaar's ecology class at Lowell's Unity High School.

Not only do they offer DeBaar information, but they've also exchanged ideas with Doug Hines, Meijer's Loss Prevention project developer; Jim Doyle, president of the Lowell Area Historical Association; and John Timpson, Lowell Charter Township supervisor.

The ecology class project challenges students to design an artificial community using a perspective other than their own. They must also show how their needs are being met, how they are affecting the environment, and if they are meeting the needs of others.

DeBaar's students have adopted a stream from below the railroad trestle to where the Grand and Flat rivers meet.

The revamped site (www.lowell.k12.mi.us) has 14 main pages and off that there are somewhere between 60-70 other pages website users can surf.

The business teacher says the website is another communication tool which can be used by staff, administration and the community.

Some of the information which can be currently found on the website includes MEAP results, a curriculum guide with full course descriptions, athletic handbook, student handbook, and accessibility to many e-mail links.

April 26, 2000

Renovation work to the King Memorial Youth Center building began with installation of a new roof a little over a year ago.

Today, all that remains to be completed is carpeting in the meeting room, cupboards and sinks in the kitchen, and the bathrooms.

"It's very gratifying that so many people got behind this project and helped us out," said Ron Wenger, president of Kent County Youth Fair Board. "It's by far the biggest project the fair board has ever done."

When all is said and done, the president says the final cost will be roughly \$175,000.

In terms of traffic flow, extending Ridgeview from Sibley to Gee Drive makes sense.

In terms of funding, there may not be enough cents. It would cost approximately \$250-\$350,000 to complete the road project which would increase traffic on Gee Drive, a road in dire need of an upgrade.

The Ridgeview extension would fall under the local road category. The funding sources available for it are the general fund and the Community Development Block Grant program.

The Gee Drive upgrade will cost approximately \$800,000.

Review, cont'd. pg. 26

Merry Christmas

JUST FOR YOU

Marshal Mooney, age 11  
Mrs. Melle  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**THE LOWELL BEER STORE**  
987-WINE

Seasons Greetings

Ashley VanderHeide, age 11  
Nr. Noskey  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**Brenda's Hair Designs**  
1002 W. Main  
Crystal Flash Plaza • Lowell  
Phone 897-7131

Help! I'm not a Reader!

Happy New Year

**SNEAKERS**

211 E. MAIN  
LOWELL, MI 49331  
897-6746

April Wolf, age 10  
Mr. Hawkins  
Alto Elementary

Happy New Year!!

Monica Vigil, age 11  
Mrs. Schneider  
Alto Elementary

**Canfield Plumbing & Heating**  
403 N. Washington • Lowell • 897-0887

# Year-In Review, continued.... From Page 25

It's not a question of whether these upgrades need to be done, but how the city will fund them. There are cost constraints. The Ridgeview extension would fall under the local road category. The funding sources available for it are the general fund and the Community Development Block Grant program.

In seeking variances regarding lot size and parking, Bob VanNoller, owner of Roll Away Family Fun Center, nearly got more than he was asking for.

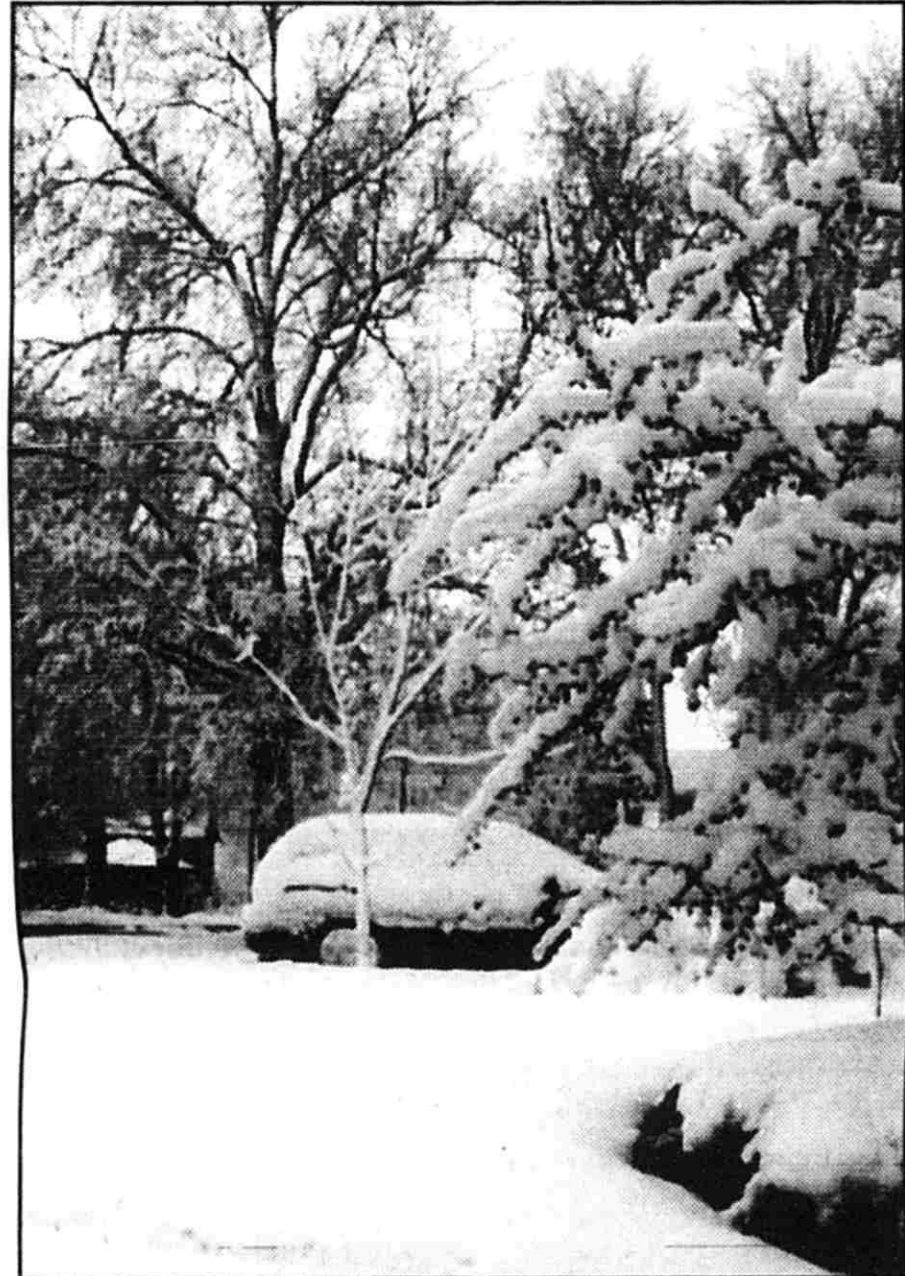
The Zoning Board of Appeals was not only set to grant both variances but was also ready to require VanNoller to install sidewalk on Avery and Grove streets... a requirement the Lowell Planning Commission had waived.

"Why am I being required to install sidewalks when it was waived for the proposed med center on Bowes Road and the new restaurant on Center Street?" VanNoller asked.

Councilman Ray Quada looked VanNoller in the eye and said, "That's a good question."

He then withdrew his request for requiring sidewalk from the motion.

The ZBA approved the two variances as recommended by the planning commission.



Lowellians return from Spring Break to find reality abt chilling. Waiting for them was a wet, heavy six-inch snowfall that blanketed the Lowell area.

The city of Lowell becomes the latest government agency to approve an agreement with Kent County to upgrade the Property Tax Administration System (PTAS).

The system handles the assessing and treasurer functions. The city would incur \$18,272.97 in development cost divided over six years or \$3,045.50 and \$6,015 in administrative costs for a total of \$9,061.36.

The benefits to the local units of government include fewer layers of county bureaucracy, more accountability to local units, one stop shopping for local property tax officials and better performance from a consolidated department.

As part of the Community Development Block Grant Program with Kent County, the city has supported the North Kent Transit system with its funds.

The city has allocated \$2000 to North Kent Transit to fund transportation needs of the elderly and handicapped for approximately five years.

Due to increased ridership, the Lowell City Council approved amendments to reflect increasing funds to the program.

The 1998-99 budget was changed to \$3,094.74 representing 204 rides (\$17.82 per ambulatory ride and \$782 per senior citizen ride).

The 1999-2000 budget was amended to reflect an increase from \$2,000 to \$4,000 based on increased ridership.

### May 3, 2000

The application of a tree sap substance at the entrance of an Alden Nash sand mining site does not appear to be working.

Lowell Charter Township supervisor John Timpson asked that the Kent County Road Commission spray an application of chloride on the shoulder of the Alden Nash entrance.

Over the past 45 years, the Heart of West Michigan United Way Lowell Community Fund has donated over \$140,000 to the Lowell community.

Robert Reagan, secretary/treasurer of the fund and a member of the organization for 45 years, said the community fund will distribute roughly \$16,000 back into the community

this year toward charitable, religious, scientific, literary or educational purposes.

In the initial year (1955), the Lowell Community Fund returned \$1,200 to Lowell from the United Way drive of Grand Rapids. It was divided between the Boy Scouts and the Lowell Lions Club swimming pool project.

Ron Holcomb, general manager for Lowell Light & Power/Lowell Cable Television, announces he will leave the company at the end of May.

Holcomb accepted a consulting manager position with Virchow Krause at its branch office in Clarksville, TN.

Steven Michael Morlock, 21, was killed in a fatal all-terrain vehicle accident late Friday night (April 28).

Kent County Sheriff's Department said Morlock was traveling southbound on Buttrick Ave. when his vehicle left the road and hit a tree, ejecting him and suffering fatal head injuries.

Morlock was not wearing a helmet. The accident was reported shortly before midnight. "Steve was rough around the edges. He lived one day at a time. He liked his freedom and didn't like to be contained," his mother explained.

Lowell seventh-grader Katie Serne was recognized as the 2000 Lowell and District VFW Youth Essay winner.

Serne's essay on how people can honor American veterans was celebrated Sunday in a short ceremony at the VFW Hall.

The honor earned her a VFW Post 8303 certificate along with a certificate and plaque from the district.

Her essay also earned her a \$250 cash reward (\$100 from the Lowell Post and Auxiliary and \$150 from the District) cash reward.

As directed by Lowell City Council in February, the citizen's advisory committee for the comprehensive review of Lowell Cable Television presented its findings and recommendations to the council Monday for consideration.

While not all parts of the recommendation were unanimously supported by committee members, three recommendations were made regarding the programming issue.

- It recommended that the Cable Television Board be directed to eliminate the Spice channel from the menu of LCTV offerings due to the singular sexual theme as exhibited by the sampled titles offered April 9-11. This recommendation was passed 9-0 by the committee.

- It recommended that the Hot Choices pay-per-view channel be maintained as an offering. The committee passed this recommendation 6-3.

- In a third recommendation, the committee asked that the city council direct the LCTV Board to develop a policy statement with regard to programming issues.

### May 10, 2000

A few years in the making, roughly \$120,000 and a new address, and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce has a new office, representative of a Lowell business community experiencing a revitalization.

Liz Baker, LACC executive director, opened the doors to the Chamber's new digs at 113 Riverwalk Plaza. For the past five years the Chamber has set up office at 526 E. Main.

The Lowell Middle School student council presented a check to Flat River Outreach Ministries' Jody Haybarker for \$250. The proceeds were raised through a dance prior to Spring Break. Pictured from left to right, are: Haybarker, Renee Catlin, Tom Eldridge, Kriste Warren and Stephanie Blanchard. The middle school student council teacher representative is eighth-grade teacher Julie Hillary.

Dave Clark, past commander of Clark-Ellis Post 152, American Legion, presented Roger LaWarre with a check for \$5,000 toward the operation of the Flat River Outreach Ministries building. The donation brings the American Legion contribution to \$10,000. The food pantry and emergency services portion of the building are scheduled to open within the week and the thrift shop section is slated to open by June 1.

The Lowell YMCA branch was one of 300 YMCAs nationwide to receive funds through the JC Penney After-School Initiative.

Lowell requested \$15,000 toward the support of its teen and after-school program. It was awarded \$5,500 in year one of the JC Penney Initiative.

This year's Invest In Youth campaign brings in a record-

setting \$50,021.81 in pledges, an increase of 20 percent over last year. The 1999 campaign raised \$42,000.

For the first time in seven years, the city of Lowell proposes a millage increase.

The proposed increase is for 1.5 mills, raising the total from 13.85 to 15.35. The additional 1.5 mills would generate \$125,130.67 in general fund revenue.

Based on the pledge sheets turned in at the sixth annual Lowell Area CROP Walk, treasurer Inge Whittemore believes the walk for hunger will set a new record for the second straight year.

The preliminary sheets handed in on May 7 totaled roughly \$22,000.

The efforts of 300 plus walkers may make the Lowell Area CROP Walk one of the top 100 in the country.

Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker, right, and chamber president Dale Triplett, left, announce that First Congregational Church of Lowell pastor, Dr. Roger LaWarre will be recognized with the annual LACC "Person of the Year" award on Thursday, May 25. The Person of the Year banquet is held in conjunction with the city's Mayor Exchange dinner at Deer Run Golf Club.

After years of study by the Demographics Task Force committee and months of discussion by the Lowell School Board, Bert Bleke, superintendent of Lowell Area Schools, recommended that the district take a conservative two-phase approach to a longer term problem.

Lowell voters will be asked to vote on a \$30 million bond issue this Sept. 26. Unlike most bonds, building will be done in two phases.

Phase I will cost between \$14.5 and \$15 million. It will build a 16-room, 400 student elementary school north of Lowell.

Phase II will also include upgrades to the Alto, Bushnell, Cherry Creek, Middle School, Unity High and Runciman facilities as well as the bus garage and \$2 million worth of improvements in the technology area.

Phase II will also cost \$15 million, but would be triggered by growth and need, so that residents wouldn't pay taxes on new construction until the district is sure it is needed. Phase II calls for a second new elementary building, eight additional classrooms at the high school and an addition to the cafeteria.

In a report from BETA structural engineer Ralph Moxley, Bert Bleke, superintendent of Lowell Schools, learned that the west wall of the Alto gym was structurally unsafe. In fact, a high wind could be capable of blowing it over.

The Lowell superintendent immediately ordered that the gym be emptied and cordoned off.

The cost is estimated at \$150,000. "We knew the wall was in need of repair but we didn't anticipate this," Bleke said.

In deciding what improvements should be included in Phase I of the bond issue, Bleke and the board ruled out hooking a 3,000 square foot multi-purpose room on to the south end of the Alto gym due to its cost.

Bleke hinted they may want to rethink that if it's going to cost \$150,000 to repair the wall.

### May 17, 2000



As a lasting tribute to Steve Wittenbach, his wife June and their family announced in March that June and her late husband would make a generous donation in the amount of \$200,000 toward the construction of the Wittenbach Agricultural and Environmental Science Center at 11700 Vergennes Rd. across from Lowell High School. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Saturday, May 6.

The facility, scheduled to open in September, will provide students and the entire community with a training and learning center for agricultural and environmental science. It will consist of classrooms as well as livestock and related-activities areas.

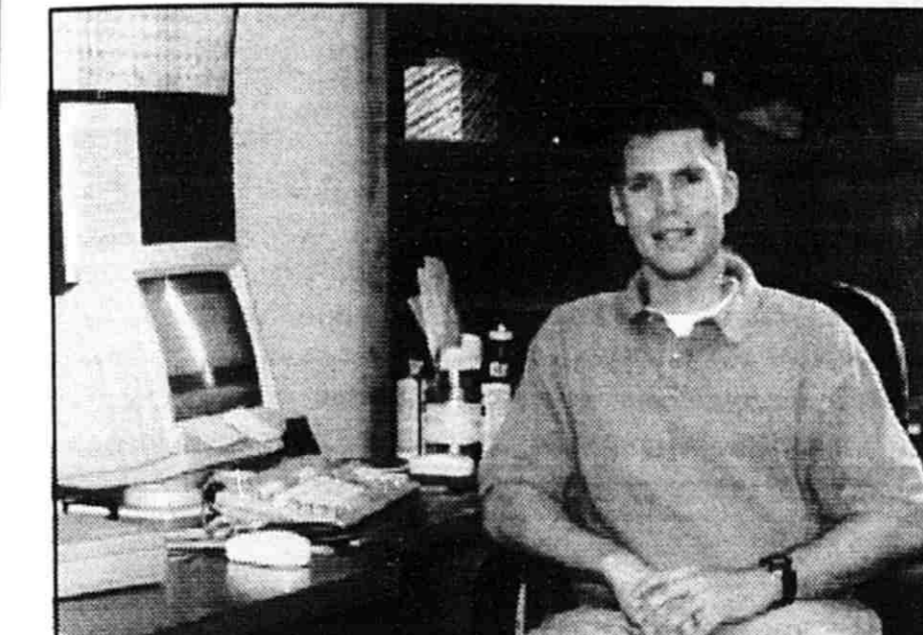
Congressman Vern Ehlers presented the Congressional Medal of Merit to Stephanie Ellison.

Ellison and other recipients were selected because they

# Year-In Review, continued.... From Page 26

have demonstrated exemplary citizenship and academic excellence during their high school careers.

They have also been leaders in the areas of peer respect, community service, school citizenship and extracurricular activities.



Andy Retberg has been hired as the YMCA's new community development director.

Diversified Pressure Clean, of Lowell, is contracted by Lowell's Department of Public Works to power wash, paint and replace screw caps on the DPW building. The cost will be \$4,723.

The cost to Vergennes Township to move forward with the project is \$6,071.

Vergennes Township applies to the Englehardt Lowell Area Community Fund for funds to start a worldwide web. The cost to Vergennes Township to move forward with the project is \$6,071.



Dave Himebaugh races against more than time and the field of 4,680-plus runners at the Old Kent Bank River Run. Himebaugh was literally running away - putting distance between himself and a September diagnosis following an accident which gave him little or no chance of surviving, let alone run again.

Himebaugh's self-prognosis for Saturday's 17th annual Old Kent Bank River Run was to finish in a half-way decent time. He stopped the clock in 2:05.13.

Along with running in his 17th consecutive Old Kent Run, Himebaugh surpassed another recovery marker when he returned to work at Amway plastics.

The highest honor that can be given to a U.S. elementary math teacher was bestowed on Lowell's Sue Beute.

Beute, an at-risk math teacher at Cherry Creek Elementary, was among 200 teachers selected for the 1999 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Each year, a national panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators recommends teachers to receive the Presidential Award - one elementary and one secondary math teacher, and one elementary and one secondary science teacher from each state and four jurisdictions.

Lowell Middle School 7th-grader Rebecca Batt won the Benjamin Morse Essay contest.

For her efforts Batt gets her trip to Springfield, Ill. in June paid for and she will also throw out the first pitch on Benjamin Morse Day at the Whitecaps game on Saturday, June 3.

The essay was a 500-word piece on the steps Batt will take to realize her personal goals in life.



Jean Driscoll had to overcome limitations imposed on her by others and herself before becoming a two-time Olympic silver medalist.

Her message of dream big and work hard helped Driscoll become the most dominating female elite wheelchair racer of all time.

The Wisconsin native added a ninth Old Kent Run victory to her list of accomplishments on Saturday. Driscoll finished the race in 1:10.23.

Lowell Middle School's seventh-grade language arts students spent a unit studying and appreciating differences - including physical differences, heard Driscoll's motivational speech the Friday prior to the Old Kent Bank River Run.

The city of Lowell approves the purchase of a 36" walk behind sweeper for the sidewalks (particularly downtown), parking lots, cleaning of dig works and snow removal in tight areas.

### May 24, 2000

Lowell students have benefited from numerous educational opportunities which have brought about a heightened awareness of things beyond their community.

While much of this opportunity and awareness can be traced to television and computers, Lowell's personalized link has been gifted and talented coordinator, Dottie Roth.

That will soon change. Roth announces that this, year 29, will be her final year in the Lowell School District.

"It's time for me to step aside," Roth explained. "It's time for someone else to take the program (gifted and talented) further than what I have."

Roth began putting together a gifted and talented program a little over four years ago. Since its inception, the program has provided additional educational opportunity for children who might not otherwise have received it in a regular classroom setting.



Dick Snyder, of 227 Segwun, was sitting on his couch Sunday afternoon when he heard a noise that sounded like thunder.

"I got up off my couch and went to the door just in time to see train cars come to rest in my front yard," Snyder said.

The lead car was about 50 feet from Snyder's front door.

The four decoupled boxcars were part of a storage block of boxcars (in excess of 100 stored) that got jarred into motion while some of the cars at the opposite end were being coupled. That, in combination with the grade, is how the runaway cars rolled down the track for approximately 1 mile at 30 m.p.h. before pushing a single car (sitting near the Grand River crossing) off the track and blocking traffic at Grand River and Segwun Sunday, according to CSX district superintendent Pete Sauve.

Part of the reason for the runaway cars, according to Sauve, was mechanical; the other reason is believed to be vandals releasing the brakes.

Holcher Rail Services, in Hammond, IN, rerailed the boxcars.

Whether or not AT&T will be allowed to construct a tower on Gee Drive is put on hold while the Lowell Planning Commission tries to get an ordinance put together regulating such items.

AT&T came before the planning commission to present a proposal to construct a 180-foot multi-carrier monopole at 2311 Gee Drive. This is property owned by the city where a water tower is currently located. The construction of the communications tower would have no effect on the water tower.

The planning commission decided, however, to defer its decision on the proposed communications tower since it currently was working on an ordinance change that would permit such towers to be placed in the city of Lowell.

When Kim Hoffman drove by the house at 203 N. Hudson St., she saw a perfect place for a bed and breakfast.

However, after preliminary discussions with city staff, Hoffman decided to scrap the idea.

"Every time I drove past it, though, it kept saying to me, 'Oh come on, Kim!'" she said.

After some urging by local business owners, including the owner of Roth-Gerst Funeral Home located next door to the property, Hoffman approaches the Lowell City Planning Commission about the possibility of having the property rezoned for a bed and breakfast.

Under the city's ordinance, bed and breakfasts are only allowed in areas zoned suburban residential and R-1 (single family residential) as a special land use.

### May 31, 2000

For 26 years as Lowell High School agri-science teacher and Future Farmers of America advisor, Pete Siler has established one of the state's finest and most respected programs. That can be said without doubt or dispute.

Siler will end his teaching tenure as he started it in 1974, on Aug. 1. During this span he has managed to touch and help kids from special needs to valedictorians; sons to fathers; students to teachers.

There are plenty of stories to go around about Siler being there to celebrate student accomplishments and to console them during a down time. "I have never said to a student you should win this or that. All I've ever said is do your best. I've been there to encourage them, hold their hands and get them started and then I've stood back and watched them with pride and satisfaction. I think the kids in turn have always represented the community in the best possible light."

With the news Pizza Hut is moving, business owner John "Bucky" Curtis looks to revamp his adjoining car wash business.

Curtis, who owns Curtis Cleaners and a car wash business at 1400 W. Main St., approaches the Lowell Planning Commission about reconstructing his car wash building to add two laser car wash bays where the existing Pizza Hut is located. The restaurant gave notice that it plans to move - to the same building where H&R Block and Subway are now located when its lease is up in August.

Curtis came before the planning commission to get some direction: take down the entire structure that houses both Pizza Hut and the car wash and replace it with a new building or just tear down the portion currently containing Pizza Hut.

Of the two options presented, the planning commission indicated it would perhaps be easier for Curtis to go with the second option of tearing down the Pizza Hut portion of the structure.

American Legion Post 152 Commander Mike Willard presents Lowell D.A.R.E. officer Christopher Hurst with a D.A.R.E. flag and a check for \$500. Officer Hurst is the D.A.R.E. instructor at the Lowell Middle School. Officer Steve Bukala is the D.A.R.E. instructor for the elementary schools.

Last year, for the first time, a collaborative program involving Lowell and Sigsbee elementary children was coordinated through the efforts of Franciscan Sister, Maura Behrenfeld F.S.E.

Throughout the school year, children share educational experiences and develop significant relationships in the areas of music, animals, land, art and science.

A year-ending get together was celebrated with outdoor activities (e.g., hikes and water balloon toss).

This year's program was sponsored through fundraising by the Franciscan Center, support from the Englehardt Lowell Area Community Fund and the schools (transportation).

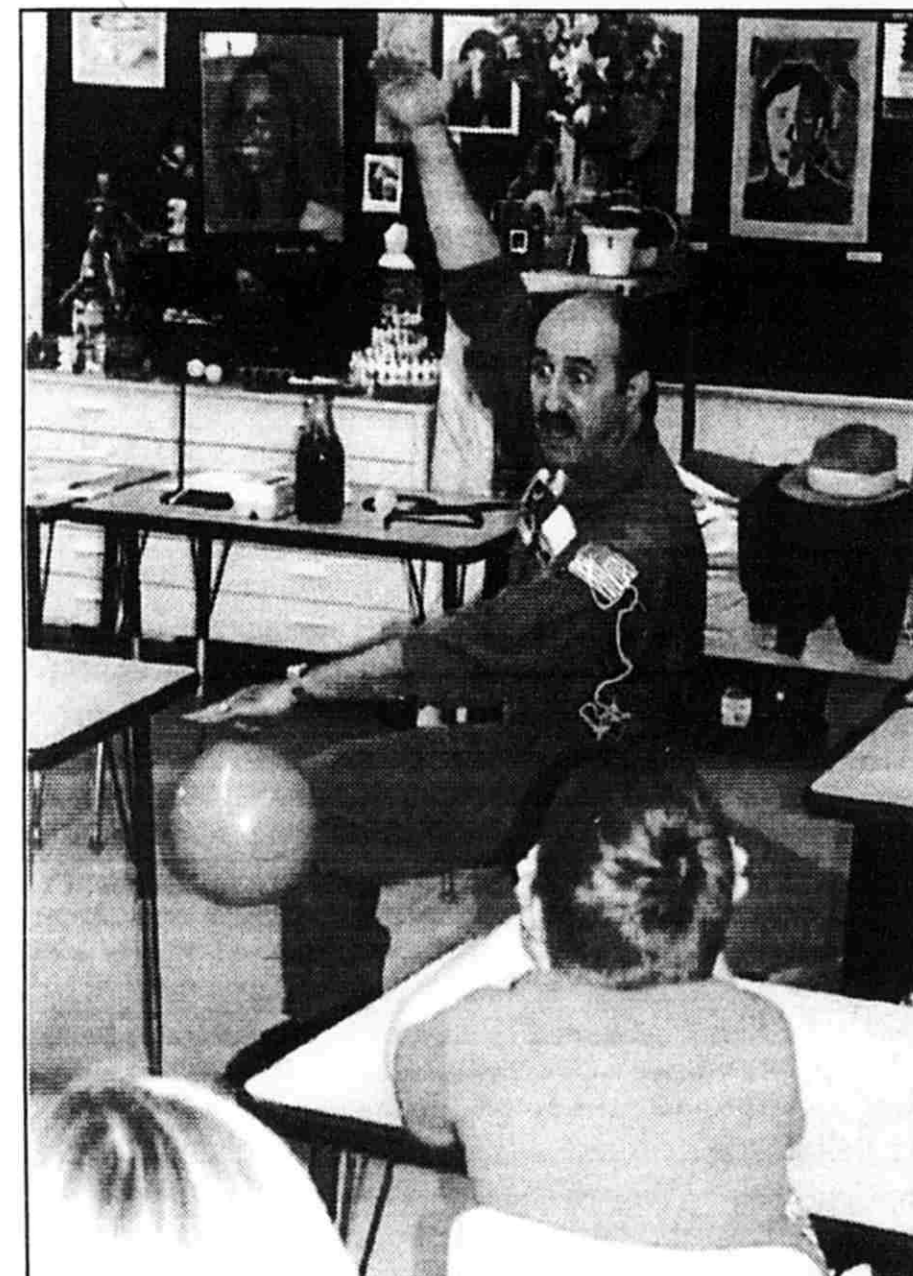
Maynard "Red" Barton joined his buddies on the Men's Senior Golf League for a few holes of golf and to celebrate his 95th birthday.

When Lowell High School senior Keith Valentine began his tenure as student council president, he talked about increasing the organization's community involvement.

# Year-In Review, continued.... From Page 27

Valentine did just that. The 1999-2000 student council president coordinated an Adopt-a-Road project, adopt a family, and food and blood drives.

Fame is fleeting ... Obscurity is forever. "Obscurity never looked so good," panned First Congregational Church of Lowell pastor, Roger LaWarre upon receiving the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year award. He earned the respect and admiration of the community



**Jerry Pahl, of Kalamazoo Air Zoo, talked to students about weight and mass which included a number of demonstrations.**

at large for his tireless work, dedication to community, family and church.

He has been the spearhead and driving force behind Flat River Outreach Ministries and its efforts to bring food to those in need.

"I have been a partner with you (Lowell residents) in seeking a higher standard of community and in promoting common good," LaWarre explained. "People don't follow titles, they rally to courage. The people of Lowell have courage."

The communities of Whitehall and Lowell were brought together through Michigan's annual Mayor Exchange Day.

On a day in which municipalities share information, ideas and concerns, they also find common ground.

"One thing I learned is that water is an integral part of both Lowell and Whitehall," said Whitehall mayor, Norm Ullman. "With Lowell it's the Grand and Flat rivers. For us, it's White Lake and the White River."

A new district library is currently under construction in Whitehall. Many of the ideas that have been incorporated into Whitehall's library came from the Englehardt Library.

June 7, 2000

It was hard for the founders of the Lowell Area Select Soccer Organization to envision where the program would be in four years.

"I never envisioned this," said LASSO founder Chris Barlow. "It was hard to envision anything four years ago."

If it wasn't clear in 1996, the numbers show that there has been a growing interest in the game of soccer.

"Our first year we had 35 players try out - this year we anticipate 160-170 kids," Barlow said.

Helping Barlow form LASSO were Lou D'Agostino and Jeff Dickerman.

Chris Wenger's quest for a third, four-year term as Bowne Township supervisor will bring challenges from Kim Culbertson and Pete Siler at the Aug. 7 primary.

Drawn to the educational process and through encouragement of friends, Kate Dernocoeur will seek a first-term election on the Lowell School Board.

The two board seats up for election on June 12 are those of Mark Blanding and Norm Byrne. Blanding will seek reelection; Byrne, after serving 16 years on the board, will not run again.

With two seats open and only two candidates running, Dernocoeur's and Blanding's chances are favorable.



**Bruce Langlois travels with veterinarian and former host of Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom Stan Brock to Guyana, South America. He travels there as an agent for the Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock of Guyana. The mission is to blood test 500-plus head of cattle for foot and mouth disease.**

The percentage of satisfactory fourth-grade district scores in reading dipped from 77.8 percent last year to 64 percent this year.

Of the Alto fourth-graders taking the MEAP reading test, 64.8 percent scored satisfactorily. At Cherry Creek Elementary the number was 63.7 percent.

The Lowell district's seventh-grade reading scores also suffered a drop. This year 62.3 percent scored satisfactorily as opposed to 70.6 percent last year.

The Kent Intermediate School District average was 53.6 percent and state average was 48.4 percent.

Math MEAP scores at both the fourth- and seventh-grade levels remained pretty near the same.

At the fourth grade level, 86 percent scored satisfactorily as compared to 86.9 last year. The KISD average was 80.6 percent and the state average was 74.8 percent.

At the seventh-grade level, 83.9 percent scored satisfactorily as opposed to 88.4 percent last year. The KISD average was 68.3 percent and the state average was 62.8 percent.

With the filing deadline for nominating petitions past, Vergennes and Lowell township candidates have now begun preparing for the Aug. 7 primary.

While there is little or no opposition in Lowell Charter Township, the treasurer's and clerk's positions in Vergennes Township will be contested.

Jean Hoffman, who has served the past six years as treasurer, will be challenged by Errolyn Weeks.

Mari Stone, Vergennes Township clerk for the past six years, is being challenged in the primary by Vergennes Township board trustee Susan Geiger-Hessler.



**Beth Fredline's valedictorian address highlighted the 122nd Lowell High School Commencement in which 230 seniors received their diplomas.**

The first LHS commencement of the 21st century took place at Red Arrow Stadium.

Class of 2000 salutatorian Stephanie Ellison addressed her classmates about the roller coaster called life. She also called for appreciation of teachers, parents, and friends who have been there for them throughout.

Kristi Ford, a Red Arrow junior, places fourth in the high jump at the Division II girls state track meet in Grandville on Saturday.

She cleared 4'9", 4'11", 5'1" and 5'3" in her first attempts. Ford bowed out of the competition after missing all three jumps at 5'5".

The first MGB was built in 1925.

Twenty years after the last MGB came off the assembly line in 1980, the excitement, derived from a Sunday afternoon drive with the top down, is still as intoxicating to its owners as it was 75 years ago.

The Old Speckled Hen MGB Club, which formed 10 years ago, has roughly 225 members; approximately 40-60 participated in Sunday's Universal Motors Early Summer Picnic. Participants were mainly from the West Michigan area.

The weekend event was a gimmick rally which chal-

lenged participants to drive to a number of locations and figure out clues. They led to the final destination - Fallsburg Park, where all enjoyed a picnic.

June 14, 2000

Meijer agrees to pay \$350,000 (\$100,000 up front) so it can bring municipal water and sewer to its East Fulton location.

Two weeks ago the township reaches a similar agreement with Whispering Hills Associate developers Duane Gunnick, Ron DeVries and Andy Dykema.

The developers agreed to pay \$642,500 up front for municipal water and sewer for their housing (185 homes) and apartment (96) complexes.

The only cost township supervisor John Timpson believes the township might incur would be bonding for the public road which would connect the east side to the west side.



**Jan Upp's "Michigan in the Millennium" series is the focus of a two-month-long exhibition at the Lowell Area Arts Council from Friday, June 16 through Aug. 11.**

The LAAC is one of 12 locations around the state to host the exhibition of selected artworks.

"Michigan in the Millennium" is an artistic celebration of the wonders of the state of Michigan - from the completion of the millennium to the inception of another.

The entire series consists of 366 original watercolor paintings by Upp, each representing one day of the year 2000.

It took her two-and-a-half years to complete all of the watercolor paintings.

Dale Russell, 12 years old, was pulling weeds in his back yard when he noticed smoke inside the kitchen sliding door.

When he peered inside, he saw flames in the living room. He then proceeded to run to the neighbors to call 911, but no one was home. He went to the neighbors of the neighbors but no one was home. So he went to the neighbors of the neighbors of neighbors, but no one was home. Russell tried numerous houses along the way before Bruce Phillips answered his door at 1060 Grindle, roughly a half-mile from his home.

"The boy asked me to call 911 because his house was on fire," Phillips explained.

It is believed that the fire started in the living room near a recliner.

After roughly two years and countless numbers of volunteer work hours, the Flat River Outreach Ministries Thrift shop opened with little or no fanfare.

The thrift shop is for the entire community to use.

Review, cont'd. pg. 29



**Judy Ellison, Lowell Middle School secretary, retires from Lowell Schools after 25 years.**

Ellison came to the Lowell School District 25 years ago in search of a job, having spent the previous 17 years raising her three children (John, Garry and Christine).

She started her lengthy district tenure working with Rob Smith in continuing education (now community education) for two years.

She served as secretary to four middle school assistant principals (Art Bieri, Jim White, John Gabrion and Jim Harden); and three middle school principals Mike Matosz, Dave Burdette and Jim Harden.

# Year-In-Review, continued.... From Page 28

All of the clothes are clean and in good shape. Any clothing that comes in with spots on it is sent to Second Mile House.

The Flat River Outreach Ministries also has a food pantry, accessible for residents who have received a voucher from area ministers.

A Lowell Area Community Fund grant of \$40,000 to the Lowell Area Historical Association is one of 15 grants awarded, totaling \$226,000.

The monies allow LAHA to continue its work toward a community historical museum.

When completed, a cultural institute will have been created for Lowell. "To create and build historical exhibits is an expensive undertaking when done well," said Lowell Area Historical Association president Jim Doyle.

The Lowell Area Community Fund also granted Lowell Charter Township \$100,000 toward the development of Grand River Riverfront Park.



**Jim Minnema wins the sixth annual Cherry Creek Classic race. He finished the 3.1 mile race in 16:22.**

Maria Wordelman was the top woman runner. She finished with a time of 20:21.

Peter Persson was looking to participate in a race in the Grand Rapids area before flying home to Vienna, Austria.

His decision to run in the Cherry Creek Classic was based on a cross country telephone call he received from race coordinator Terry VanderWarf while staying in Los Angeles.

"I was in Los Angeles on a sabbatical when Terry called to answer some questions (which I left on his answering machine) I had about the Cherry Creek Classic race," Persson explained.

Two days prior to flying back home (Vienna), the pastor of a German speaking church in Vienna finished the 3.1 mile Cherry Creek Classic course in 23:13.

Norm Byrne steps down from the school board after 14 years. He is honored as a man of common sense, honesty and forthrightness while being a voice for all students especially the silent majority - those who needed help and support along the way.

In June of 1986, Byrne was appointed to the board to complete the term of Joe Murphy. Following those two years on the board, Byrne was elected to four terms in 1988, 1992 and 1996. He served nine years as a trustee and five as board secretary.

Ray Quada served with Byrne during four of those years. He was recognized with the Marsha Wilcox Community Service Award.

Only 151 registered voters took time to vote at the school election. That number represents three percent of the registered voters. The election cost the district \$4,300 or \$30.60 per voter.

Adding to already existing apathy was that the small number of candidates running for the board (2) matched the number of seats up for election.

Mark Blanding, incumbent, and Kate Dernocoeur earned four-year terms.

June 21, 2000

Tom Richards is named the new general manager of Lowell Light & Power/Lowell Cable Television.

He replaces Ron Holcomb who left the company at the end of May to take a consulting manager position with Virchow Krause in Clarksville, TN.

Richards has served as marketing/programming manager for LL&P and Lowell Cable Television for the past two years.

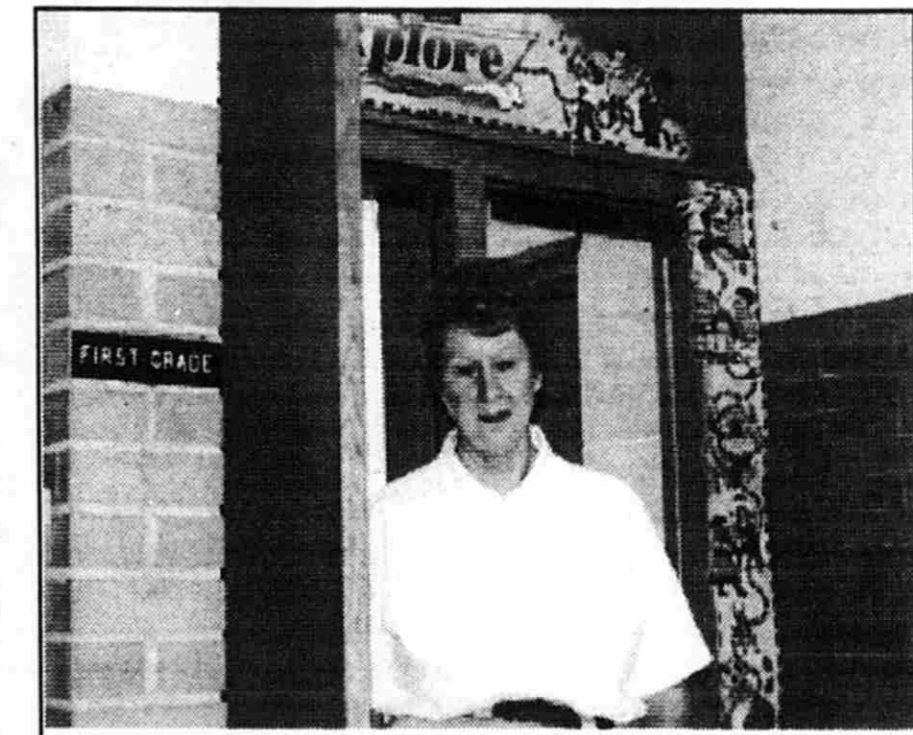
Everyday Mathematics, an elementary component of the University of Chicago School of Mathematics program, is designed to improve mathematics at all grade levels.

Its approach focuses more on thinking rather than on the age-old traditional drills of math skills.

Lowell at-risk math teacher Sue Beute sees the program changing the elementary math assessments. Students will be introduced sooner to different math concepts.

All but one Lowell fourth-grade teacher and a couple of

fifth-grade teachers used the new math program during the 1999-2000 school year.



**Norma Peterson, Alto first grade teacher, retires from Lowell Schools after a 32-year educational tenure.**

While many students return years later to express how lucky they feel to have been in her classroom, Peterson insisted she had been the lucky one.

"I feel lucky to have been paid for something I've enjoyed so much," Peterson said.

For the first time in 10 years, Lowell residents will be treated to a Lowell Area Fire Department water ball fight.

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce will host a slate of activities on Saturday, July 1 in celebration of the July 4th holiday.

Beckett magazine, the world's most trusted source in sports collecting, has something special in its monthly issues - a featured story on a supercollector of the month.

June's supercollector was Lowell's Bill Sanborn for his Grant Hill collection.

From day one, Sanborn's devotion to Hill has been intense, and for that reason alone, he has been given the nickname "Grantman" by his family and friends.

The Lowell resident's collection has expanded over the years. He has 700 cards along with Starting Lineup figures, posters, magazines and soda cans bearing Hill's likeness, and home and away Piston jerseys.



**A storm, producing high winds, was tracked from Bangor to Wayland and from Lowell to Shepherd. It downed trees in its path along 28th St. in Lowell Township. The National Weather Service identified the cause of damage as straight line winds.**

Alto Elementary students (80 first thru fifth-graders) raised \$3,870.21 for the American Heart Association through its semi-annual "Jump Rope for the Heart" program. Students collected pledges and then jumped rope for an entire recess period (30 minutes). Pictured front row, left to right, are: Harlei Holford, Mark Peterson and Paige Moran; back row, left to right, are: Brianna Richardson, Jacob Murray and Jonathan Bassin.

June 28, 2000

Belding's Kip Bower, his wife Diane and son Chase were the lucky winners of the St. Patrick's Explorer raffle.

Gifts totaling \$110,000 are presented to Lowell Charter Township for the purpose of helping the township develop its first park.

Township supervisor John Timpson said the township had received another \$100,000 from the Englehardt Fund, making a total of \$250,000 from the fund for the park located on Grand River Drive. The township also received \$10,000 from V-Tec Engineering, out of Grandville.

The V-Tec money would be used for a main building for the park to house supplies and for maintenance purposes.

As for the Englehardt Fund money, Timpson said about \$30,000 has been used for rebuilding and paving the entrance.

This project also includes improving the railroad crossing.

Lowell Branch YMCA's Andy Retberg, the new YMCA community development director, approaches Lowell Charter Township about the possibility of using the township hall as a site for wellness and fitness classes.

Lowell Charter Township residents can expect to pay a little bit more on their tax bill in July.

The township's new millage for gypsy moth spraying goes into effect in July. The half mill approved by voters in February should net the township about \$46,980.02, which is a little less than the estimated \$57,000 it will cost the township to spray.

The township paid about \$14-\$15 per acre to have Aquatic Consulting Service do the spraying (done in May.) This is the first year in a three-year program.

If all goes according to plan, middle school students may soon have a place of their own, specifically designed to offer fun and creative programs to fill that space of time.

The Lowell Branch YMCA receives a grant from JC Penney for \$5,500 with the idea of creating a teen center for middle school students.

The grant is for one year and is for use in an effort to develop some type of new after-school program for middle school students.

Thanks to a grant from the Englehardt Fund, the Lowell YMCA will be able to have the Winfield Consulting Group, which has done more than 400 surveys for various YMCAs, look into the building of a full facility that could include a gym, pool, and fitness center.

July 5, 2000

Bill Stouffer passes on an offer of a four-year scholarship to Michigan State University so he can wrestle at the club level for GVSU.

Laker coach Dave Mills made the two-time Lowell state champion a program priority.

Another pretty big decision which Stouffer didn't make, but is equally proud of, is his selection into the 19th annual Michigan High School Football Coaches Association All Star football game.

With two individual wrestling state championships, league and state football honors, Stouffer packed away one other pretty big high school distinction. He became just the second Lowell male athlete to letter in all 12 seasons during his four years in high school. Stouffer earned four letters in football, wrestling and track.

Michigan branch's National Leagues of Post Masters first bestowed its state "Postmaster of the Year" award in the early 1900s.

Its first recipient in the new century was Lowell postmaster, Sylvia Taylor.

The Lowell postmaster first joined the Postal Service in 1976. Taylor was appointed postmaster of Lowell in 1990.

Using the research-based University of Kansas writing strategies program, Lowell eighth-graders have scored at or near the top on the eighth-grade MEAP test in each of the last five years.

The Chicago Style math approach has enabled Lowell students to fair well on the MEAP math tests.

The MEAP test has not been as kind to Lowell in the science or social studies areas.

Of the eighth-graders taking the MEAP writing test, 93 percent passed, the highest mark in the Kent Intermediate School District.

At the fifth-grade level, 75.7 percent of the students scored at the highest level.

Lowell had double the number of fifth-grade students score at the highest level on the social studies test over a year ago - 30.1 percent passed at the highest level this year.

At the eighth-grade level, 34.8 percent of Lowell students passed the social studies MEAP test.

Lowell had 31.3 percent of its students pass the science test.

Of the students taking the fifth-grade science test, 57.8 percent passed.

Lowell's 1997-98 foreign exchange student Nils Driessen makes a return visit to Lowell.

A request by developers of Whispering Hills Apartments to have two parcels of land (11627 & 11729 Fulton) rezoned was met with murmurs of opposition from their neighbors, but with a cooperative spirit from the Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission.

The request brought forth by Ron DeVries, of Dykema Development Group, asked that two parcels (14 acres and 31 acres) be rezoned from R-1 to R-3. The intent is to develop the parcels with single family dwellings served by public water and sewer.

Neighbors of the 14-acre parcel opposed rezoning because it would allow the possibility of multi-family dwellings and

Review, cont'd. pg. 31

# Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 29

apartments, and would bring about too much density. They all felt R-2 would be a much better use.

The planning commission approved rezoning all of the 31-acre parcel to R-3 and all but 600 feet of the 14-acre parcel. The 600 feet which run from Cumberland Ave. east was rezoned R-2.

improvements to its facility at 2487 W. Main.

With the construction of a 15,000 square foot building and purchase-related equipment, Michigan Wire, which was incorporated in 1976, applied for an industrial tax abatement. Under the point system adopted by the city council, Michigan Wire qualifies for a 12-year tax abatement.

Church, Ionia County National Bank, Lowell's Water Treatment Plant, D&D Trucking, Lowell's Department of Public Works and the Lowell Area Fire Department were missing when employees arrived at work on Monday.



A local food processing company is the first to get hit with the city's new push on sidewalks.

Litehouse, Inc, 1400 Foreman Rd., approaches the Lowell Planning Commission about the construction of a new wastewater pretreatment system designed to help reduce the amount of fats and oils the company is putting in the city's sanitary sewer system.

The system, which will treat the plant's water before it is disposed into the city system, met with few questions from the Lowell Planning Commission other than why they were looking at the plans. After some discussion, it was concluded that because it was a new structure being placed on the property, the planning commission had to approve a site plan for it and with that, Litehouse would be required to put in sidewalk along Foreman Road to its property line. That line is believed to be on the other side of the creek ending just before Gee Drive.

In trying to complete the paperwork on its sale of property to the city, the school district learns it did not own all that it was selling.

An original survey of the property, completed in 1974 when it was deeded over to the school, indicates the property was the school's but that was incorrect because a second title was never created.

Thus, a recent title search indicates that 3,300 square feet of the 12,870 square foot parcel being sold to the city was still owned by Helen Koewers.

The school district received \$12,000 from the city; of that \$3,069 went to Koewers.

Snags in new accounting software have created difficulty in preparing true and accurate monthly financial reports needed to complete the 2000-01 Lowell Light & Power/Lowell Cable TV budgets.

The revised budget documents presented at the July 5 council meeting considered last year's expenditures and revenues as a comparison.

While they were the most reasoned and best projected at this time, they were well short of what the charter requires.

The budgets also give no proposed payment in lieu of taxes which is also a requirement stated in the city charter.



Tammy DeBaar is appointed director of outdoor education for the Wittenbach Agri-science Center.

Her friends told her she is a person who usually gets what she wants.

Deanna Anchors got what she wanted as she was selected for 104.5's Survivor-like contest "WSNX-Isle."

July 26, 2000

Voters will be asked to vote on a \$27.5 million, two-phase bond issue on Tuesday, Sept. 26.

The two-phase approach is designed to achieve several goals: provide adequate facilities for children when projected growth figures become reality; protect tax payers by building only when it is absolutely necessary; maximize current general fund budget by utilizing existing facilities to the fullest; provide excellence in both short-term planning (immediate needs) and long-term planning (projected district needs within range of 2-5 years).

The 1st annual Lowell Area Softball Tournament hosted by the Lowell YMCA raised \$1,500 for Fred Probst in his fight against cancer.

Lowell Charter Township's amendment to its private street ordinance allows for a grade increase as long as certain standards are met.

The change allows for grades up to eight percent. The previous limit was six on 100 feet of roadway.

The grade cannot obstruct the ability of emergency vehicles from reaching portions of a development.

August 2, 2000

With the bottom line being customer service, Spartan Stores, Inc. announced that beginning Aug. 13th, its Family Fare and Great Days grocery stores will be open on Sundays.

The decision will end 50 years of Sunday closings at Family Fare.

Spartan Stores, Inc. bought 13 West Michigan Family Fare stores and three Great Day stores (formerly family owned) in 1999.

The decision has received mixed reviews from employees.

Most have been favorable. The decision was viewed as necessary.

The decision meets the request the Family Fare chain has heard from its customers before. It is also one viewed as necessary to compete in an ever growing market.

Lowell parades will have some alterations made to their starting and ending points due to difficulty created in the ability to control and manage increased traffic.

With the tremendous increase in downtown traffic, the Lowell Chamber of Commerce and the Lowell Police Department have mapped out a condensed parade route which will make it easier to maintain and control, and less inconvenient for the motoring public.

LACC-sponsored parades will start at the fairgrounds and end at First United Methodist Church or vice versa.

Previously, many of the local parades have been staged at Richards Park or Bushnell Elementary School parking lot. Parade units are also asked to pay stricter adherence to not throwing candy from a float due to safety concerns.

A proposed condominium project behind Family Fare raises questions about the development of a new street in Lowell and improvements to Gee Drive.

Developer Steve Hanson presented Lowell Planning Commission with a proposal for a new townhouse development called Conservation Woods, located behind Family Fare. Originally, Hanson was proposing to construct about 60 to 70 two- and three-bedroom townhouses, to be sold as con-

Happy Noel

Everyone gets something

Ian Duiven, age 10  
Mrs. Young  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Maranda Ruegsegger, age 10  
Mr. Hawkins  
Alto Elementary

---

Breanna Elderkin, age 10  
Mr. Fillman  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Merry Christmas

Happy

Holidays

Brittany Litchfield, age 10  
Mrs. Schneider  
Alto Elementary

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The fireworks enjoyed by the Lowell community were cracklin'. The show was sponsored by the Laurels of Kent.

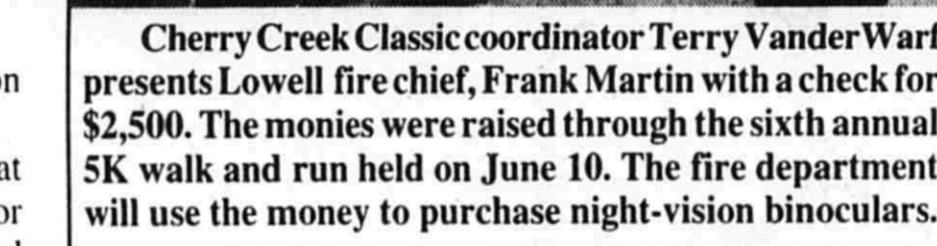
July 12, 2000

The issue of inadequate coverage for commercial wireless communications towers will finally be resolved.

The Lowell Planning Commission sends a proposed ordinance regulating the communications towers to the city council.

The ordinance calls for allowing towers in the suburban-residential, light industrial, industrial, and public facility districts by special land use permit.

Michigan Wire Processing Company is granted a tax abatement as a result of 1.018 million dollars worth of im-



Cherry Creek Classic coordinator Terry VanderWarf presents Lowell fire chief, Frank Martin with a check for \$2,500. The monies were raised through the sixth annual 5K walk and run held on June 10. The fire department will use the money to purchase night-vision binoculars.

Changing from the public sector to the private sector took some selling, but Chartwells' Lynne Kotarski, food director for Lowell Schools, has quieted the detractors and has sold the program.

In the first year under Chartwells' (Kotarski) direction, the Lowell School District has enjoyed a \$55,000 increase in lunch sales.

That pays for the \$35,000 Chartwells' administration fee and leaves an additional \$20,000 for the district.



The Fallsburg Covered Bridge Bike Tour attracts 125 riders and raises roughly \$1,000 for the Fallsburg Historical Society.

The winner of the Best Old Fashioned Cookie contest was Kirsten Tissue and her mother Kathy. They baked Cherry Chip cookies, a recipe left to them by Kirsten's great-grandmother.

July 19, 2000

For the second time in 10 years, a plethora of professionals will paddle canoes down a 225 mile stretch of the Grand River as part of Expedition 2000 on Sunday (July 23).

Seven Lowell businesses have their American flags stolen late Sunday night (July 9).

The flags hanging at Ball's Softee Creme, First Baptist



# Year-In-Review, continued.... From Page 31

miniums, on the 18-acre property located south of Gee Drive and west of Sibley.

A recent wetlands study on the property indicates there are more wetlands than developers thought. Hanson said because the study had just come back, he didn't really have anything prepared for the July 24 meeting. Hanson was seeking a special use permit since part of the property is zoned R-2 residential. To build multi-family housing in R-2, a developer must have a special use permit.

August 9, 2000

Richard Bryan made it clear months ago that his tenure of service as chairman of Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission was nearing its conclusion.

Bryan acted on that promise as he officially resigned from the post. He began serving on the planning commission in 1994. He took the role of chairman in 1998.

The township chairman had little to say about his years of service or his decision to resign. "I've enjoyed my time spent on the planning commission. I found it to be a rewarding experience," Bryan said.

Having had lead time to find a replacement, Lowell Charter Township supervisor, John Timpson recommended appointing Dennis Sanford as Bryan's replacement.

Lowell Charter Township Board's approval of a proposal that will allow home-based businesses up to three outside employees may be challenged through a referendum.

Gerald Persha, 12246 Grand River Dr., opposed the board's decision, stating that mixing use in AG-2 zoning is wrong.

"It opens AG-2 to the threat of commercialization," Persha explained. "The change in the ordinance is poorly written and it allows leeway for those who are persistent."

Persha made it clear that his next step, following the board's approval, will be a referendum. Once a letter of intent is filed, Persha will have 30 days to get 173 signatures on a petition. If successful, the home-based business ordinance will be shelved until it can be put on a ballot for a vote of the people.

The proposal passed 6-1.

Lowell Charter Township neighbors asked for protection from a 185-home development and they got it as approximately six acres were zoned from R-1 to R-2 which represents a strip of land running from Cumberland Ave. east.

This decision was based on the determination that the density in the western portion of this parcel was limited.

Developer Ron DeVries has no objection to rezoning a portion of the 14-acre parcel to R-2 as long as it does not adversely affect the development.

The remaining eight acres of this 14 acre parcel of land was rezoned from R-1 to R-3.

Another 31 acres of the Whispering Hills development was also rezoned from R-1 to R-3. This property is located behind properties at Cumberland and M-21.



Warm Up America is a not-for-profit organization that has inspired hundreds of thousands of volunteer knitters, crocheters, and assemblers to make more than 20,000 of the 49-square gift blankets.

The inspiration, derived from the program, traveled across Lake Michigan and captured the hearts of the Lowell Senior Neighbor Crafters.

The local group formed in 1997; to date it has completed 405 afghans.

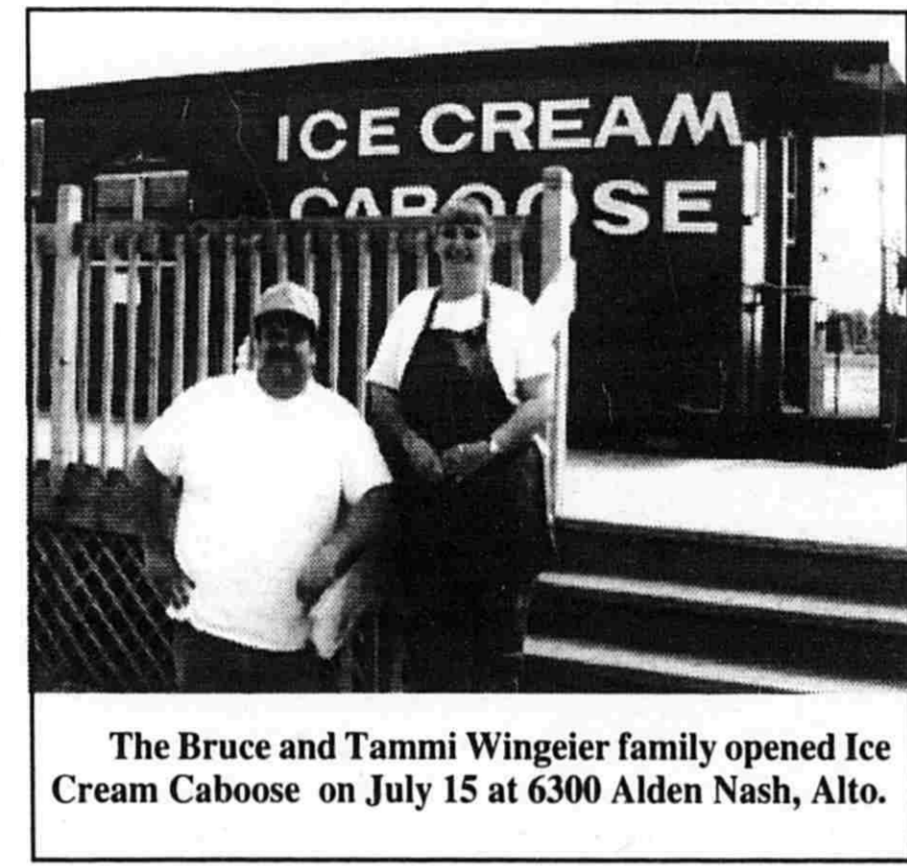
Pete Siler, less than two months after retiring from the Lowell School District, earns himself a four-year term as Bowne Township supervisor. He defeated incumbent Chris Wenger.

Incumbents Carlton Blough, Richard Huver and Alyn Fletcher earned four-year terms as Lowell Charter Township trustees.

Challenger Paula Blumm unseated incumbent Herb VanderBilt for the fourth and final spot.

In Vergennes Township, Mari Stone turned back challenger Susan Geiger-Hessler for the clerk's position; Jean Hoffman kept her treasurer's position while Al Baird and Vern Nauta earned trustee seats.

Vergennes supervisor Tim Wittenbach goes unchallenged in the August primary.



The Bruce and Tammi Wingeier family opened Ice Cream Caboose on July 15 at 6300 Alden Nash, Alto.

August 16, 2000

Cognizant of past performance, John Schut begins a new agri-science/FFA era in Lowell.

His vision is to expand what many already consider to be a model program. "I have high expectations. They certainly aren't any lower than what the Lowell community has come to expect," Schut said.

Schut was hired to replace Pete Siler, an agri-science teacher/FFA advisor who retired in June after 26 years in the Lowell School District.

Schut takes over the Lowell program after spending three years at Montague High School as its agri-science teacher/FFA advisor. The Hopkins native was an accomplished FFA member throughout his four years of high school.

He served two years ('92 and '93) as the state FFA president.

It's touted as the smallest show on earth, but it may very well be the largest miniature carnival and circus Kent County Youth Fair patrons have ever seen.

Fred Heckman's one-of-a-kind carnival features over 62 miniature rides, including a hand-crafted log ride with actual running water plus a fully animated circus. All of the rides were hand-built by Heckman.

The carnival/circus has over 3,000 people, many of which were created from micro soldiers. "I would go to dollar stores and buy a bag of 1,000 micro soldiers, snip off their guns and then hand paint them in bright festival/carnival colors.

For the first time in 50 years, Family Fare customers were able to shop on Sunday.

The opening of 13 West Michigan Family Fare stores ends a long-standing tradition of being closed on Sunday.

Public's response met with management's expectations, according to Lowell Family Fare store manager, Bob Teitsma.

A break in the store's policy is expected to be good for business.

Competition also played a role in the decision. In the main markets, stores which Family Fare competes against are open on Sunday. In Lowell, Family Fare has been the only grocery store in town for the past eight years.

That will change in the spring of 2001 when Meijer is slated to open. Family Fare's decision is expected to help it better compete against its future competitor.

Deanna Anchors survived her month-long stint as a member of 104.5's Survivor-like contest "WSNX-Isle." Surviving did not mean winning. The final tally on Friday had Anchors finishing second to her roommate Jason.

The 22-year-old Lowell resident tallied 888 votes, roughly 60 behind Jason's 946. Chad was third with 648.

The Lowell School Board ratified one-year contracts of its district employees Monday night.

Contracts were ratified for the Lowell Education Association, support staff, bus drivers, mechanics, central office support staff and non-certificated employees.

The total cost for district salary increases in the 2000-01 school year is \$595,000.

The Lowell Education Association was given a 2.98 percent increase plus a step increase for the upcoming school year. Support staff also garnered a 2.98 percent increase in their wages.

Bus drivers' salaries were increased by 2.2 percent while mechanics (two) received a 4 percent increase.

August 23, 2000

The Englehardt Library will be closed during Lowell's Riverwalk Festival.

After much discussion by the Lowell City Council, and talks between the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and the Kent District Library concerning bathroom facilities, the council decided to keep the facility closed for the day-long event. This was a decision the council had made at a meeting in July.

The council decides to uphold that decision after receiving a proposal from the chamber of commerce recommending that the library be closed the day of the festival and that the chamber bring in port-a-potties for the event but keep its facility open for handicap needs. Next year, the organization does plan to ask the facility to remain open and for the chamber to staff the area to help assure no misuse of the bathrooms.

Local residents will have the opportunity to help select a location for a potential new YMCA building.

Will Welsh, YMCA director, comes away with a couple of suggestions for a possible site for the new facility: Stoney Lakeside Park on Boves Road and the former Showboat amphitheater. The two sites are mentioned after Welsh approaches the Lowell Planning Commission and asks for recommendations. The Lowell Parks and Recreation Commission agreed with the Stoney Lakeside Park location.

After a return from their Canadian fishing trip, Phil and Luanne Swainson were going to continue their search for a new truck, replacing their '91 GMC truck.

A phone call from Kent County Youth Fair Board treasurer changed that.

The Cedar Springs couple bought five raffle tickets in April for a 2000 Chevrolet Silverado Pick Up with extended cab. One of those tickets was drawn Saturday (Aug. 12).

Alto Elementary's gymnasium/cafeteria will be ready for use by the first week in September.

Lowell Schools learned in May that the gym's west wall was structurally unsafe, forcing Alto students to eat their lunch in their classroom or the hallway.

The cost estimate for repair was \$200,000, approximately \$50,000 higher than originally thought, but considerably lower than the \$1 million price tag to remove and replace the whole thing.

Construction started July 24 with an estimated time for completion of eight weeks.

Former Lowell city manager, Ray Quada, 56, is seriously injured in a motorcycle accident.

Quada sustains a fractured skull in the accident and remains in Spectrum Health Downtown's intensive care unit.

Lowell YMCA executive director, Will Welsh comes before the township board requesting a potential two-three acre location in the township for a full potential 30,000-square foot YMCA.

With the continual growth of Lowell Charter Township, people are having to live closer and closer to one another.

Because of this, some people living in the R-1 district believe they need an added layer of protection against uses their neighbor now enjoys by right.

An amendment may change the ordinance so that uses by right may require a special use permit.

August 30, 2000

Former Lowell City Manager Ray Quada, 56, died Sunday, August 27 from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident on August 19.

Quada suffered a fractured skull in the accident and remained unconscious until the time of his death. Quada was alone on his motorcycle when he lost control at I-96 and U.S. 131 northbound. No other vehicles were involved.

As word of Quada's death filtered through the community, Lowell residents who knew him were deeply saddened by the news. A typical reaction came from Lowell School Board president, Pete Gustafson who described Quada as "tireless" in his dedication to the school district and the city of Lowell. "Ray cares about this community and has done a great deal to improve education and the quality of life in Lowell," Gustafson said.

For the first time in three attempts, Lowell Charter Township failed to qualify for Riverfront Park grant money from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Its most recent application was turned down because it failed to garner enough points.

Lowell Charter Township has until September to resubmit an application for a matching grant from the DNR.

Upon the passing of Bob Hahn, Lowell Rotary learned that the Rotarian left \$10,000 to the club so that a perpetual scholarship fund could be started.

Review, cont'd pg. 33

# Year-In-Review, continued.... From Page 32



Just when it was apparent the work at Amway was going to grind to a halt, Sharon Ellison found hope in a newspaper ad.

Hope led to good fortune which came in the form of a new job.

Ellison replaces Judy Ellison who served 25 years as Lowell Middle School secretary to the principal.

Since receiving that gift, the club donated \$5,000. "The goal was to build the Rotary Club of Lowell Community Scholarship Fund up to \$175,000.

Giant steps were taken toward that goal with recent contributions by fellow Rotarians.

King Doyle and his wife Marie, Wendall Christoff and his mother, an anonymous donor and Brian Doyle and his two sisters Dr. Louise Doyle Berasi and Sharon Doyle Hawkins, in honor of King and Marie, answered the offer with a donation of \$15,000 toward the scholarship fund, bringing the Rotary Club of Lowell Community Scholarship Fund to \$188,100.

Ken Akers enjoyed his interim administrative position so much last year that he decided to try a new one in 2000-01.

He filled in for Lowell Middle School assistant principal Mark Weber last year.

With Weber back and his health 100 percent, Akers was scheduled to return to the classroom where he had spent the past 30 years.

That changed when Akers accepted an offer by Maureen Dorrough, Cherry Creek Elementary principal, to fill the assistant principal role during Pam Hayes' maternity leave.

September 6, 2000

For the longest time the question has been, "When will the city ever construct Ridgeview Street?" (which adds another connector route to Gee Drive.)

The answer may be soon. A developer, Steve Hanson, presents plans to the Lowell Planning Commission for a condominium project south of Gee Drive and west of Sibley behind Family Fare. The project would include 54 townhouse units.

The city of Lowell certainly isn't smelling like day-old trash, but the lack of consistent garbage removal service has some residents up in arms.

At a regular city council meeting, resident and planning commissioner Clarke Jahnke added his name to the list of dissatisfied customers with Pitsch, which took over the city's rubbish removal services last October.

During public comment, Jahnke asked what the city was doing about the problem of trash being left out for several days before being picked up.



Jim Harden and Mark Weber switch roles. Harden, former principal, takes over the role of assistant principal and Weber now fills the role of Lowell Middle School principal.

The Lowell Planning Commission, at the recommendation of city manager, David Pasquale, decided to postpone any discussions on the parking lots to the designer, Pete Lazdins of Design Plus, could have time to make revisions to the plans that were discussed at a combined DDA and planning commission meeting August 24.

The Lowell Planning Commission unanimously decides to revise its ordinance to allow such businesses in light industrial and industrial zones.

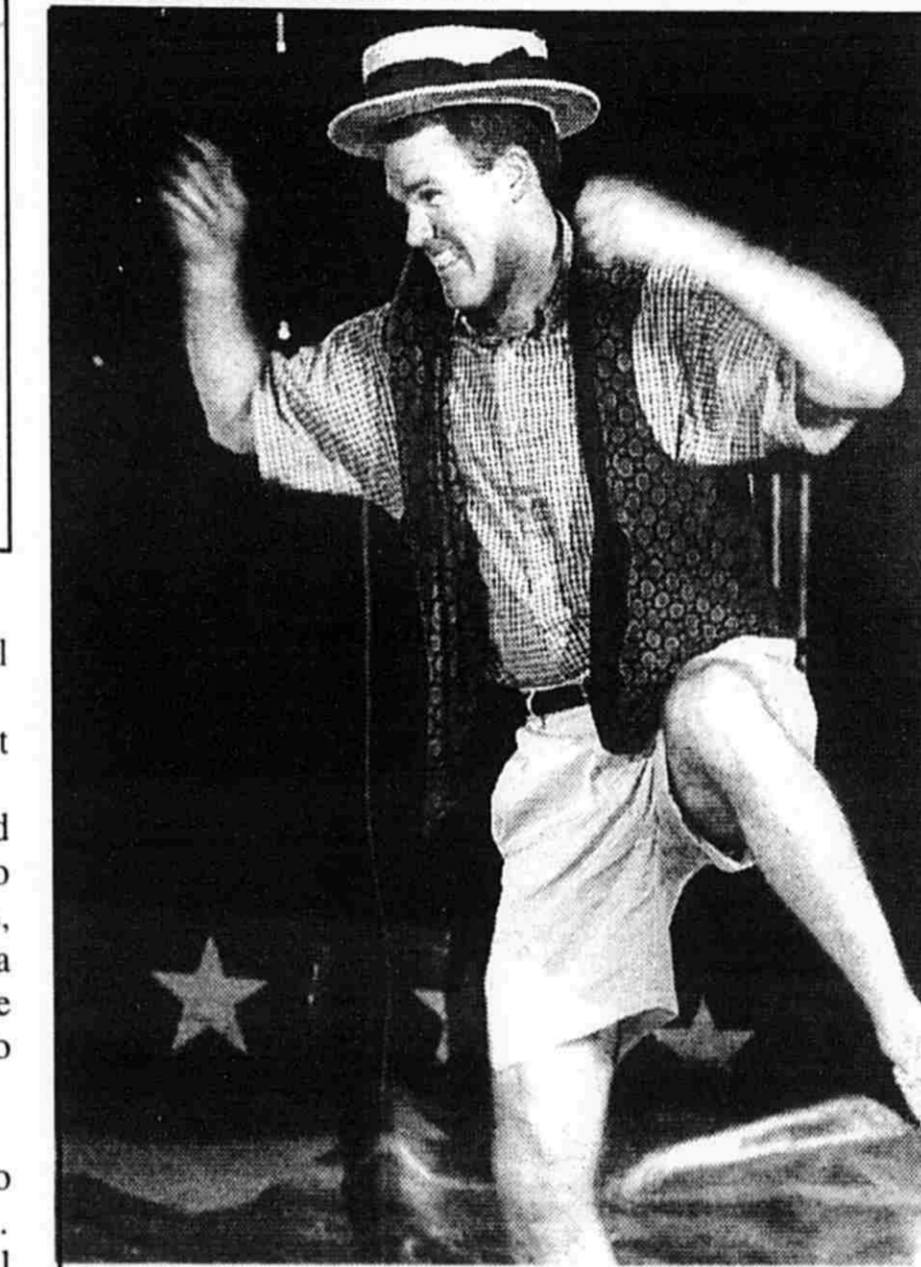
With little discussion, the Lowell Planning Commission passed on a revised wireless communications tower ordinance to the Lowell City Council.

The changes include a setback regulation equal to the

height of the tower, a radius of one mile between towers, and the elimination of towers being a monopole design only. The commission did leave in that wireless towers would be allowed in the suburban residential area.

The reason for this is that by excluding this area, too many areas of the city were being eliminated.

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Lowell's Steve Doyle joined the circus for a day. Doyle took part in the Kelly Miller Circus, which was sponsored and brought to Lowell by the Lowell Lions Club

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Very few of the kids Grandma Evelyn works with at Lincoln Developmental Center in Grand Rapids can walk, and fewer can speak.

They all, however, understand the love and comfort she brings to their lives each week.

Evelyn Knapp, of Lowell, begins her 17th year in the Kent County Foster Grandparent program. She spends 20 hours a week with special needs children (severely mentally and physically impaired).

The 81-year-old volunteer, who retired from Eberhard's in 1983, works four days a week, five hours a day from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Knapp, however, begins her commute a little before seven, arriving at Lincoln around 7:15 a.m. (to avoid Amway traffic).

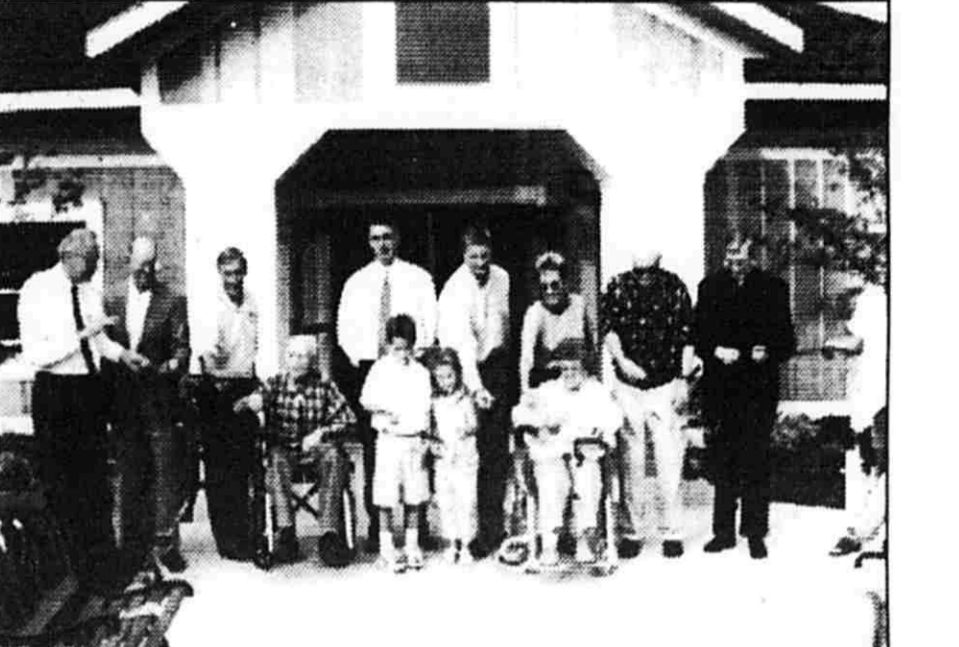
Lowell Area Arts Council last receives state grant funds for the arts in 1991.

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Review, cont'd pg. 34

September 13, 2000

Englehardt Library is not yet five years old and the city has discovered that the paint on the wood exterior is peeling. The city allocates \$7,400 from the library budget to preserve the wood.



The official dedication ceremony of the Wittenbach Agri-Science Center and the Wege Natural Area is held. Dignitaries such as Peter Wege, Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus, Bishop Rose and June Wittenbach were in attendance.

Bruce Walter wins the annual Riverwalk Festival duck race. Instead of having his money on one of eight horses, he had a few bucks on one of roughly 5,000 ducks.

The \$500 purse that came with a winning duck will be donated to one of Walter's favorite charities.

Roger MacNaughton has a little dance in his step these days.

It has to do with the musical artist's just released CD titled "Summer Dance."

It is a 14-song collection of original jazz and contemporary compositions.



Tractors, ranging from the early 1930's to late '50's, are deployed like lawn ornaments between Keith Feldman's house and the building in which they are stored.

Each tractor has a different story, shape and size. They all have the same controls, but each one requires a certain combination of touch and feel to get them started. It may be how "one holds their mouth when trying to start it," according to Feldman.

The collection was borne through his father's (Lyman Feldman) 1949 Farmall "C" tractor.

His father also contributed a late 1950 tractor to the collection.

Feldman, his father and partner Vercel Bovee (father-in-law) began their collection in 1993. It has grown from the two his father purchased 50-60 years ago to a fleet of 20.

September 20, 2000

LIVE, a program developed through the Lowell Leadership committee, is designed to promote volunteer excellence in the Lowell community.

The Lowell Leadership committee sponsors 15 people to attend six classes over a six-month period from which they will develop and enhance their communication, board membership, public and media relations, and problem-solving skills, as well as their ability to work with difficult people.

Lowell TOTS program director Kathy Cole, who has facilitated district committee meetings in the area of character education, and superintendent Bert Bleke are asked to speak in a break-out seminar at Grand Valley State University on the success of Lowell's community-wide character education effort.

Lowell Area Arts Council last receives state grant funds for the arts in 1991.

Lowell Area Arts Council last receives state grant funds for the arts in 1991.

Review, cont'd pg. 34

# Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 33

Nine years later, the LAAC celebrates its return to the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs' winners list.

LAAC executive director Lorain Smalligan said the \$57,200 awarded to the agency enables the council to talk about "what we can do" as opposed to "what we could do if we had funding."

The grant recognizes the LAAC's impact on a predominantly rural community.

In a September issue of Sports Illustrated, Lowell High School's football program is featured in an editorial project titled "TeamWork." It is sponsored by Ford Super Crew.

It features high school athletic teams across the country who not only have athletic success but have shown involvement in their communities.

Sports Illustrated started this project in March and has featured a boys or girls athletic team from around the country every third week.

After a lengthy discussion on suburban-residential as a special use, setback distances and tower height, Lowell City Council approved a motion by a vote of 3-1 to eliminate suburban residential from the amendment, limit tower height to 250 feet and setbacks in permissible districts to one-half the tower height.

The only descending vote came from Lowell mayor Mike Blough. He felt that there needed to be a fixed distance on setback and that the height should be limited. The motion only addressed one of those concerns.

Lowell Planning Commission chairman, Daniel Brubaker is appointed by the city council to fill a vacant city council seat.

Brubaker will serve in that seat until the Monday following the November 2001 city election.

At that election, the remainder of the term (two years) will be decided.

Brubaker fills the vacancy created by the untimely death of Ray Quada.

## September 27, 2000

A delay in the application for a state loan will push back the paving of a proposed Lowell Airport taxiway until spring.

Airport manager Jim Sowle said the approval of the loan application to the state is expected to come in November. The amount of the loan will be between \$80-\$90,000.

Provided the state loan goes through, the School of Missionary Aviation Technology will contribute \$10,000.

Judith Tummino has always been an artist at heart. It's just over the last three years that the Lowell resident has shifted her professional focus to just art.

The Lowell Area Arts Council is presenting oil paintings by Tummino at Huntington National Bank through Oct. 10.

Her paintings show Tummino's love of form as perceived in different kinds of light.

Representatives from Lowell, Ada, and Grattan townships take part in a Grand Valley Metro Council subregional.

The purpose of the focus group was to provide an opportunity for a relaxed conversation about issues of mutual concern and interest.

Lowell YMCA executive director, Will Welsh announced that the local branch will open a Teen Adventure Center and a Community Fitness Center in January of 2001.

These facilities will utilize space in the strip mall behind Rite Aid near Mancino's.

The proposed facilities are in response to a community need to provide teens with safe, structured activities.

YMCA's effort is in collaboration with the Lowell ministerium and Lowell Schools.

Beginning in January, Kent District Library will expand the hours of the Englehardt and Alto public libraries.

The KDL board approves a proposal for increased hours on Thursday.

Englehardt Library's hours will increase from 36 to 44 hours per week.

Alto's hours will increase from 25 to 32.

None of the residents who spoke at a Vergennes Township public hearing found the idea of having 157 acres of R-1 land rezoned to R-3 very palatable.

The only thing discussed that may have discouraged them more is the fact that the state requires the township designate an area that permits manufactured housing.

For the fourth time in three weeks, Lowell police receive reports of a male suspect exposing himself to a young girl.

## October 4, 2000

Jack Fonger, aged 82, died Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2000. With the exception of the four years he spent in WW II,

Fonger lived in Lowell his entire life.

The Lowell resident opened the Lowell Beer Store in 1941 and operated it until 1968 when he sold the store to George King in partnership with Gary Laux.

Fonger worked at the Lowell Post Office from 1959 until 1977.

Fonger served as a village trustee from 1953-60; city councilman from 1960-61 and 1980-93; Mayor pro tem from 1984-87 and 1992-93. He also served on the Lowell Light & Power Board from 1964-76.

Lowell High School applies to the Federal Communications Commission for a low power (100 watts) radio station.

It took six years, but Lowell is now home to one of the top 100 CROP Walks in the country.

The sixth annual Lowell Hunger CROP Walk raised a little over \$29,000, earning it the distinction.

Gary Gilbert, general manager, of Metric Manufacturing, is presented with a certificate recognizing the company's support of the National Guard.



As part of a national observance, Lowell Light & Power celebrates Public Power Week, Oct. 1-7, along with more than 2,000 other electric utilities whose communities provide their citizens with electricity on a not-for-profit basis.

The Lowell Area Historical Association announced that Lowell will soon have its first museum, to be called the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

"Preserving Our River of History Campaign" will work to raise \$200,000 to establish the museum in the historic Graham building, located at the corner of Main and Hudson streets.

The museum is slated to open in September of 2001. It will display history and artifacts from the Lowell area as well as provide programs of historical interest.

Lowell Rotary Club president Tony Asselta announced that the organization will sponsor the construction of a house on James Street in the spring of 2001.

Through a collaborative effort with Habitat for Humanity, Lowell Rotary will build a two-bedroom home valued at \$65,000. Rotary will provide the first \$40,000 with the remainder coming through grants received by Habitat for Humanity.

Moments after Hope Ayers' westbound car ('99 Toyota Corolla) left the road (M-21, just west of Cumberland) Thursday night, it burst into flames.

Ayers, 21, suffered lacerations to her head and face and also complained of pain in her foot.

Ayers, resting in serious condition in Spectrum Health Downtown, was saved from certain death by Ionia passers-by Chad Wakeley and his mother Trudy.

The Downtown District Authority boundaries will now include Recreation Park.

While the DDA Board did not have any project in mind, it believes it is a good idea to have the park in the downtown district.

The council had tabled the issue on amendments to the Downtown District and the Development and Tax Increment Financing plans for the DDA until it could confirm if the Showboat Amphitheatre property was also included in the district.

Dave Pasquale, Lowell city manager, confirmed that the entire Showboat Amphitheatre property is within the district.

Jeffrey Trigg is arraigned on eight counts as a sexual delinquent and one count of home invasion third degree in the 63rd District Court in Cascade.

He confessed to Lowell police after being brought in for an interview.

A background check on the suspect revealed that he had been arrested several times for indecent exposure and for window peeping while living in Mississippi.

## October 11, 2000

An inquiry into developing a parcel as residential Planned Unit Development (PUD) has Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission studying and researching its own ordinance.

The development of Oak Hills Estates subdivision raises a number of questions regarding PUDs:

What zoning districts are they permitted; what density level is allowed; what is the required road frontage; and what is a floating zone?

While Lowell Area Schools' final student count is in line with the demographics committee's projections, the final count is a little less than what was budgeted for by the school district.

Lowell budgeted for 50 new students; it got 36. That means it budgeted for \$84,000 more in student aid allowance than what it will receive.

Connie Gillette, assistant superintendent of finance and personnel, said the district will have to amend its budget to make up the difference.

Steven G. Peters' steel sculpture titled "The Warrior Within" won best 3-D at the West Michigan Regional competition.

It was the warrior within Peters which enabled him to rise above a callously discarded commentary of an undergraduate professor and begin to create a body of work that expresses his own passage through life.

The body of steel-welded work began with an installation in southern Illinois. "It signified my passage from graduate studies into the professional world," Peters said.

The idea of natural healing has always been an interest of Meghan Johnston's.

The clinical massage therapist, a graduate from Blue Heron Academy of Arts and Science, is certified in anatomy, physiology, kinesiology, physiotherapy, and therapeutic modalities.

Johnston is the newest staff member at Doctors Chiropractic, 11827 Fulton St.

Sue Sutherland asks her U.S. Government students to take an hour outside of class and get involved in something government-related.

"I decided that in an election year, it would be good to get them involved. Many of them have taken the idea and run with it," Sutherland said.

Kevin Klahn, a junior, chose to draft up a petition for a traffic light at the Vergennes/Lincoln Lake intersection.

His petition gathered the names of 130 residents. It wasn't the determining factor in the Kent County Road Commission's decision to install a "stop and go" traffic signal... but it was one more request to consider when completing its warrant study at the intersection.



The Michigan Interscholastic Horseman's Association state champion has resided on the east side in each of the last 25 years.

That changed when the Lowell Equestrian team hoisted the championship trophy above their heads on the floor of the colosseum. Lowell became only the eighth school in 26 years to win the Class A Division State Equestrian Championship.

Grants totaling \$268,910 to the Lowell community from the Lowell Area Community Fund (Harold Englehardt) were approved Monday.

Nearly half of the money (\$160,000) will be used to open a new YMCA community fitness center and teen adventure center. The facilities will utilize space in the strip mall behind Rite Aid near Mancino's.

Half of that funding \$80,000 will be made available immediately, with the remainder contingent on demonstrating that all teens will have equal access to the facility and on making a broader fund development plan. The entire project is expected to cost \$365,000.

# Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 34

## October 18, 2000

The OK White adopts a resolution to ban noisemakers for high school sporting events beginning in 2001.

The incessant tooting of kazooos and foghorns have some Lowell fans pleading that it be stopped now.

That policy has already been implemented in the OK Red.

By a vote of 5-0-1, the Lowell Board of Education passes a resolution asking its constituency to consider voting "no" on Proposal I.

There were five "yes" votes and one abstention by board secretary, Pat Nugent.

The resolution stated that the complex and confusing proposal is detrimental to public education and could leave a lasting negative impact on Lowell Area Schools.



Kurt Parks, owner of Parks Construction Services and a Lowell YMCA branch board member, presents Y executive director, Will Welsh with a check for \$25,000.

City and school meetings and other community events are being video recorded with a youthful eye... thanks to the genesis of Lowell High School's video production class offerings which have drawn the interest of 45 students.

The class requires each student to complete 20 hours outside of school attaining video tapings of community activities and meetings.

The new video production technology also allows for students to generate school announcements on the classroom monitors.

"Harvey" is the sixth Lowell Area Arts Council play Sue Bradford has directed.

This marks the 23rd year the LAAC has presented a community play. "Harvey" is, however, the 24th play it has performed (two in one year).

Lowell varsity cheerleaders, staff and mothers took part in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure of breast cancer in Grand Rapids.

Breast cancer affects one in every eight women.

## October 25, 2000

Grand River Riverfront Park in Lowell Township hasn't been open to the public six months and it's clear that more parking space is necessary.

The Downtown Development Authority's (DDA) renovation of three downtown parking lots will commence in the spring of 2001.

The DDA gives its approval to Fishbeck Thompson Carr and Huber to complete project engineering drawings not to exceed \$39,500.

A delay in the arrival of flu serum has created a panic among West Michigan vaccine-seekers.

"The unavailability has created a panic. I'm not sure it's necessary. I think it has more to do with supply and demand," said Grand Valley Health Plan communications coordinator, Julie Bernock.

Lowell School District employees and some Lowell residents (312 total) got their flu shots.

Because the Grand Valley Clinic does not accept payment through Medicare Part B, local residents who relocate to Florida for the winter, in the past, have waited until arriving in Florida so they can go to a clinic that does.

Due to the shortage this year, Florida commuters are trying to get the flu shot wherever they can whether they can use Medicare Part B or not.

It can't be seen, smelled or tasted but radon resides in nearly one out of every 15 homes in the U.S.

Radon, a radioactive gas, comes from the natural decay of uranium that can be found in nearly all soils. It typically moves up through the ground to the air above and into your home through cracks and other holes in the foundation.

Radon can be a problem in schools and workplaces, as well.

The quickest way to test is with short-term tests. They

remain in your home four-seven days. The city of Lowell as well as Vergennes and Lowell townships are handing out these radon test kits.

The ink was barely dry on the city of Lowell's new ordinance covering communications towers but the race is on as to where the first one will be located.

The winner, by a nose, is CenturyTel, which receives approval from the Lowell Planning Commission to co-exist on the Lowell Cable TV tower. The tower would be extended from 20 feet to 183 feet and would allow for CenturyTel and another carrier to be on the tower.

A parcel of land located behind Family Fare is developed the way the developer had hoped.

The Lowell Planning Commission approves a site plan and special use permit for the development of Conservatory Woods which will be located on about 18 acres.

The approval came despite the objections of several residents and the presentation of a petition in opposition to the special use permit which would allow developer Steve Hanson to put up 35 condominiums on the north end of the property.

In a 5-2 vote, the planning commission approved the special use permit. In a 7-0 vote, the commission approved the site plan for the project.

The Lowell Planning Commission has added a new face to its group.

Jim Pfaller is sworn in as the newest member of the planning commission. Pfaller replaces Dan Brubaker who was recently appointed to the Lowell City Council taking former councilmember Ray Quada's place. Pfaller will finish out Brubaker's appointment which ends in 2002.

Harold Englehardt's original \$12.7 million philanthropic bequest in 1997 has grown to \$17.7 million in 2000.

The Lowell Area Community Fund advisory committee and the Grand Rapids Community Foundation present a report to the community regarding the Lowell Area Community Fund's activities over the last three years.

The donor-advised fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation has approved 71 grants from its inception to 2000, totaling \$1.77 million.

The vision and purpose of the fund is to honor Englehardt's wishes by seeking community cooperation and participation in a number of areas that create and promote a healthy, dynamic community.

It didn't take the Lowell Ministerial Association long to support a project charged with working with the youth.

The idea, after all, is something the association has been talking about for a number of years.

At its October meeting, the association (made up of 11 members) decided on a pledge of \$30,000 over the next three years to the YMCA for teen/fitness centers.

Polls have shown voters are having trouble getting excited over either of the two presidential candidates.

Michigan voters, however, are displaying plenty of fury when the subject turns to Proposal I and Proposal II.

The city of Lowell will consider Root-Lowell for a 12-year tax abatement.

Root-Lowell, an assembler of pressurized sprayers primarily used in commercial and lawn and garden applications, applied for an industrial tax abatement related to the construction of a 70,000 square foot addition and related equipment.

Advances in technology make it necessary to upgrade the Lowell Police Department computer system.

The conversion from AS/400 to LAN Communication will cost \$3,202.04.

A 25-mile stretch of Western Michigan Snowmobile Council's (WMSC) snowmobile trail is closed due to urban encroachment.

"With more people from the city moving out to the country, and farm land being sold and split up, it has become impossible to maintain a continuous trail from Deer Run Golf Course north," said WMSC grant coordinator and Flat River Snowmobile Club treasurer, Brad Potter.

There are two parcels on which the council couldn't renew leases. One land owner just didn't want snowmobiles on the property anymore and the other parcel was purchased by a developer.



The sixth-grade classes of Gordon Vandenberg, Betty Brink and Lynne Staal fill 155 bags of leaves in a two-and-a-half hour period as part of their "Rake & Run" community service project.

This is the second year middle school sixth-graders have raked the yards of elderly area residents. Names of residents were provided by the ministers in Lowell.

Lowell's football team wins its first district crown with a 38-8 victory over Greenville.

A proposed re-rating of the Wastewater Treatment facility would bring additional capacity for the city and Lowell Charter Township.

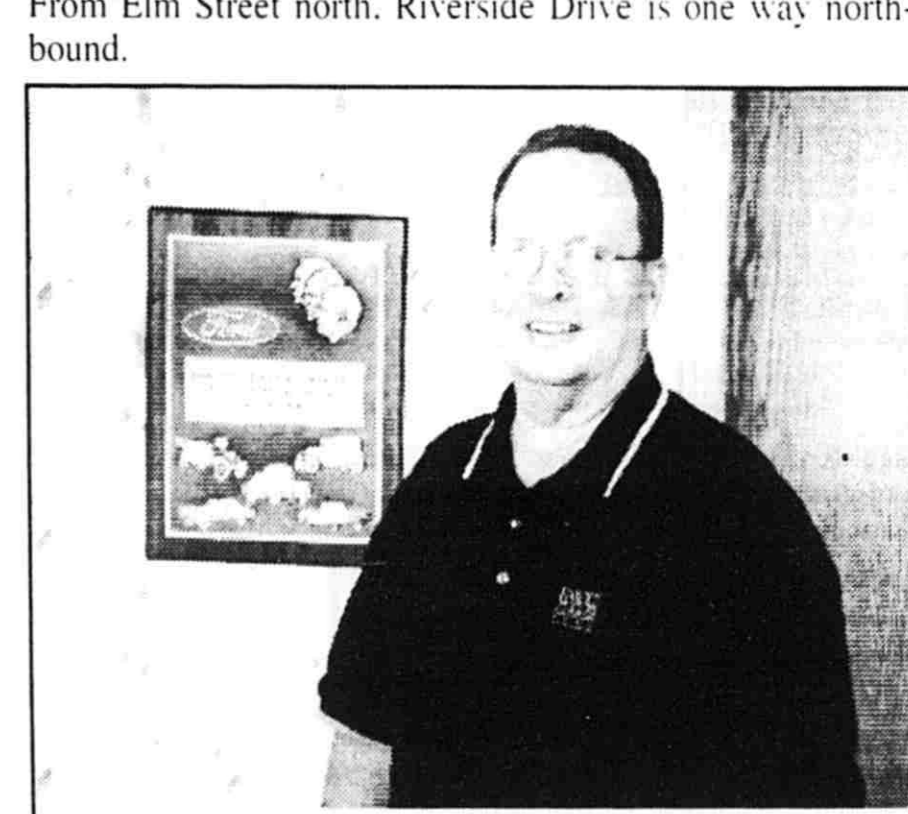
The approval of the city council, however, is delayed until the council can determine whether the township's increase is in terms of a fixed number of gallons or 18 percent of the total capacity.

There could be a change in traffic direction on Broadway Street.

Not all of Broadway - just the north section between Chatham and Elm streets, which includes the junction of Riverside Drive.

The request, presented by Lowell police chief, Jim Valentine and Department of Public Works director, Dan DeJarden is approved Monday night by the Lowell City Council.

"Broadway becomes one way southbound at Chatham. From Elm Street north, Riverside Drive is one way northbound.



Harold Zeigler Ford celebrates 25 years of doing business in the Lowell community. Pictured above is Ron Russell, vice president and general manager.

Lowell clinched shares of the O-K White Conference girls basketball title.

Lowell defeated Hudsonville (1-18) 54-28.

"We're very excited to get to the top of the league. Winning the conference was a goal we set at the beginning of the year along with getting more than 15 wins," said coach Dee Crowley.

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Lowell has a series of big plays early, but Flint Powers' series of big plays late proved to be the difference as the Chargers put an end to Lowell's perfect season with a come-from-behind 24-14 win, advancing them to the state semifinal against East Lansing.

While the men are seeking to bag a few bucks, the women will search out creative holiday gift ideas for the fast approaching Christmas season.

The 9th annual Christmas Through Lowell opens. This year, patrons will be able to shop at 23 homes and six businesses for hundreds of hand-crafted items made by over 50 local artists.

The Lowell School District will be one of at least 296 Michigan district litigants in Durant III.

This continues a four-year saga between school districts and the state. The Durant III litigants claim that while the state

# Year-In-Review, continued.... From Page 35

has given the appearance of complying with its special education obligation - it has not.

It will cost the district \$3-\$4,000 to be a litigant in Durant III. Litigation is currently at the court of appeals level.

November 22, 2000



Adam Tichelaar was out 15 minutes and he'd already begun to feel the chill in the air of Michigan's opening day for firearm deer hunting.

The mind's first excursion from the chill, however, would warm things up for him. It came in the form of a 130 pound, four-point buck and won him the Lowell Ledger's "First Buck" contest.

Lowell's school board approved salary increases for 15 district administrators Monday night.

The sum total of the salary increases is \$44,000 which represents about a four percent increase in the 2000-01 budget.

Kent County Road Commission transportation planner, Roger Belknap said construction of phase II of the Grand

River Drive bike path will begin in 2001 at a cost of \$1 million. Phase II will run from Snow Ave. to Bewell.

The road commission is asking for a \$350,000 matching enhancement grant for phase III which will run from Bewell to Division, according to Belknap. If approval for the grant comes in the spring of 2001, Belknap said phase III would start in 2002. The total cost of phase III is estimated at \$700,000.



The dean of active Lowell businessmen celebrates his 35th year in October.

Gary Laux, owner of Gary's Country Meats, came to Lowell in 1965. He bought Lowell Cut Rate, a meat market originally started by G.R. "Butch" Thompson in 1947, known then as Sanitary Market.

Kenowa Hills girls basketball team defeats Lowell 43-38 in the district finals.

The Red Arrows end the season with a record of 18-5.

All of the homes which participated in the ninth annual Christmas Through Lowell had that holiday look.

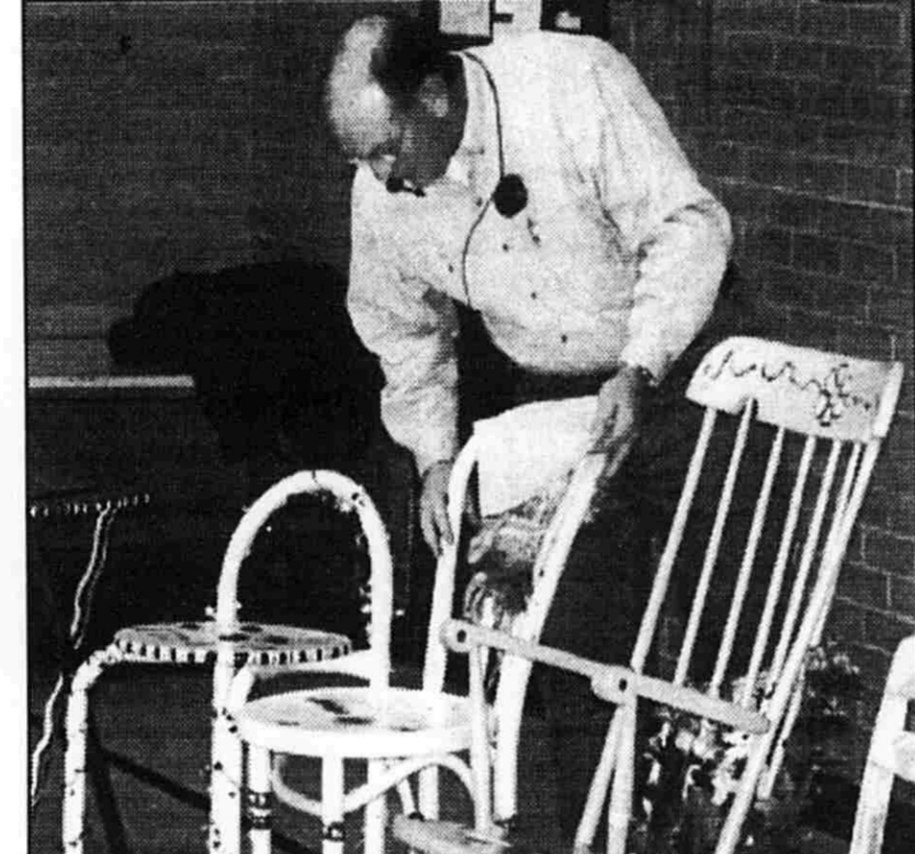
Joy's Angels enhanced the look with that holiday aroma which comes from baking cookies.

The effort at 11579 Foreman raised a little over \$3,500 for

the American Cancer Society to help win the battle to cure cancer.

It was the first year that Joy's Angels participated in Christmas Through Lowell.

Coordinator Jody Haybarker said she heard nothing but good things from patrons and local artists. Over 1,000 people took part in the event.



Feeble, old and tired chairs, night stands and tables were transformed into conversational pop/folk art furniture by Anna Marie Beduhn's fifth grade art classes.

Beduhn combed yard/garage sales and auctions this past spring and summer for "junkie dollar items that could be used for recycled art," she explained.

The students, in groups of three, began working on their artistic recycled furniture renovations during the second week of school. Their work was completed two weeks ago. On Tuesday (Nov. 14), 29 pieces are auctioned off by auctioneer, Jim Cook Jr.

The auction raised \$716. The proceeds are used towards a special fifth-grade art experience: field trip, artist-in-residence or a special project depending on the funds needed.

Review, cont'd pg. 37

# Year-In-Review, continued.... From Page 36

The home venue for the 2000-01 Lowell High School gymnastics meets was changed by 3,500 flips.

In all, gymnasts raised \$6,002 by flipping during a one-hour period. These funds, along with \$4,600 received from the athletic boosters club, are used to purchase mats, and a new set of uneven bars, vault and beam.

Cherry Creek Elementary is one of just 43 Grand Rapids Area elementary schools selected to participate in the Grand Rapids Symphony's Artists-In-Residence program.

The program seeks to provide a well-rounded, long-term musical experience on three levels: attending orchestra concerts, meeting and talking with orchestra musicians, and hands-on exposure to instruments.

The city of Lowell supports a motion to pay for a re-rating study of its wastewater treatment plant in its entirety.

The re-rating of the plant may result in an increased loading capacity by 100-150,000 gallons per day.

Earth Tech will perform the study for a cost of \$8,600.

A proposed three percent increase in the rate structure of Hope Network's North Kent Transit will actually save

the city of Lowell \$109. The agreement will involve one rate of \$11.81 per ride for both ambulatory and wheelchair users, simplifying the rate structure for subsidy.

An industrial tax abatement related to the construction of a 70,000 square foot building addition and related equipment was approved by the Lowell City Council Monday night.

The approval of the application qualifies Root-Lowell for 12 years of abatement under the point system adopted by the council.

November 29, 2000

Gilda's Club was the dream of Gilda Radner, Saturday Night Live comedienne to create a place where men, women and children could come together to learn and live with cancer.

While facing ovarian cancer, Radner wanted to live life to its fullest. Radner lost her battle with cancer in 1989. Gilda's Club exists to help provide that opportunity for others and is locally funded.

Fans, friends and family continue to work to fulfill Radner's dream.

Through a community service project, Kathy Talus and Marsha LaHaye's health and life management classes raised \$1,968 for the

Grand Rapids Gilda's Club. The student effort is funding "showers" for Gilda. The money was raised by taking pledges over a one-week period.

LaHaye's life management class is purchasing kitchen supplies and Talus' health class is buying arts and crafts materials and toys for Noogieland, a kids program and play area.

The Lowell YMCA raises approximately 56 percent of its construction fund total for the teen and fitness centers since October.

Its effort is boosted by a \$10,000 donation from the Helen Look Daley Fund.

Over the last seven years, the Look committee has committed \$40,000 a year for five years toward the Englehardt Library and \$20,000 to the Lowell Area Ambulance Fund.

To date, the YMCA has raised \$205,000. Of that, Englehardt Fund donated \$160,000, the Lowell Ministerium Association, \$30,000; Lowell Rotary, \$5,000; and Look, \$10,000.

Absent a varsity hockey program for 13 years, Lowell made a return to the ice in grand style against Ottawa Hills.

Charlene Geldersma, 40,

is killed when upon returning home sometime after 10:15 p.m. Thanksgiving eve, she lost control of her vehicle (2000 Pontiac Montana) on her three-quarter mile driveway at 12465 McPherson St. NE, near Alden Nash Ave.

According to Kent County deputy Don Munn, Geldersma's vehicle left the drive and struck a large rock before landing in the pond.

December 6, 2000

Lowell's Josh Brown, Ken Palcowski, Chris Rittersdorf, Mark Catlin, Brandon Biggs, Nate Borth, Neil Reimbold, and Pete Van Laan were named to the OK White all-conference football team. Matt Jackson earned a spot on the league's honorable mention team.

Earning all-area team honors were Catlin, Biggs and Brown. Palcowski and Reimbold made second team all area and Borth was named as honorable mention.

All-state honors were bestowed upon Palcowski, Brown and Catlin.

All-conference soccer honors are awarded to Lowell's Ryan Phillips and Zach Stauffer. Jake Billingsley was bestowed with honorable mention accolades.

Five Red Arrows earned all district honors. They were Billingsley, Stauffer, Phillips, Tom Hobbs and Sam Oberlin.

All region honors were given to Billingsley, Stauffer and Phillips as well as named to the third team all-state.

Not in agreement with city attorney Richard Wendt's interpretation of the wastewater agreement between it and the city, Lowell Charter Township seeks its own legal opinion.

Wendt indicated the Wastewater Treatment Plant agreement with the township is based on a gallons per day capacity.

The township believes the agreement is for 18 percent of the design capacity.

Support from the Wittenbach Center and the Lots of Growth program through the MSU Extension office may provide the elderly and handicapped with their own community garden come spring.

Lowell resident Raquel Clark's quest to gain funding for a community garden will not be necessary, following an announcement that the Wittenbach Center will provide the land.

With the Showboat free of debt and in good repair, Ivan Blough and members

of the Lowell Showboat II Board presented the boat and its assets to the city of Lowell.

Last spring, the Showboat Board elected a new board of directors, charged with the challenge of paying off its debt and dissolving the Lowell Showboat Corporation II.

December 13, 2000

Upon reconsideration, the city of Lowell has determined that using the directional bore method to install a Flat River water main crossing would be preferable to the open cut method.

Lowell police chief, Jim Valentine called it cleaning up legislation.

In this case, the legislation had to do with a city ordinance dealing with whether all vehicles (including buses) over one ton are prohibited from parking in residential areas.

Lowell Area Historical Museum (LAHM) capital campaign seeks to raise a total of \$456,000 over two phases.

The Lowell Area Community Fund has granted LAHM an additional \$20,000, bringing the total funds raised to \$145,900.

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Mr. MacDonald  
Alto Elementary

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Alexander W. Brock, age 10 1/2  
Mr. MacDonald  
Alto Elementary

**Let it SNOW**  
Alexander W. Brock, age 10 1/2  
Mr. MacDonald  
Alto Elementary

**Let it SNOW**  
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## Financial Focus

With Christopher J. Bouma

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### Don't Let Your Portfolio Get "Cash Strapped"

During the prolonged bull market we've enjoyed for most of the past several years, many people have grown to like stocks. In fact, some investors have filled their portfolios with them—often crowding out "cash" instruments, such as money market funds. In their minds, cash is simply taking up valuable portfolio space that could be going to stocks.

Is that an appropriate attitude to have? Not really. By having a reasonable amount of cash in your portfolio, you get two important benefits: income and opportunity.

Let's look at income first. Many people may not realize it, but money market funds are not all the same. By doing your homework, possibly with the help of an investment representative, you can find money market funds that offer reasonably good rates of return—enough to provide you with a level of

income that can be quite beneficial.

Now, let's look at the other benefit: opportunity. Through much of the '90s, we had a surging market, with stock prices climbing to unprecedented levels. The good times lasted so long that some investors have never experienced a lengthy downturn. Yet, as the last several months have shown, stocks do indeed go down as well as up. And that's why you need cash in your portfolio—to take advantage of the buying opportunities that arise when stock prices drop.

You may wonder why you'd want to invest in stocks whose prices have declined. Shouldn't you avoid stocks that fall in price? Not so. A stock can experience a temporary decline for many reasons—lackluster earnings reports, short-term product difficulties, negative business environment. When these factors are transitory in nature, they have the power to temporarily dampen the stock price of an otherwise sound company. And sometimes, the market itself can become overpriced—and ripe for a "correction."

In either case—individual stock difficulties or a general market decline—nobody can predict how long the price will stay low. It could be three days, or it could be three months. But, however long it lasts, this "down time" can be a window of opportunity for investors—at least those with cash on hand.

How much cash should you keep in your portfolio? There's really no one right answer for everyone. First, you need enough to cover living expenses and emergencies. Second, if you're considering adding stocks to your portfolio, you'll want to make sure you have enough cash on hand to take

The Lowell Ledger-Wednesday, December 20, 2000 -Page 39  
advantage of buying opportunities. At the same time, there's definitely an "outer limit" where too much cash becomes superfluous.

Your investment representative can help you find the right balance for yourself. But, in any case, try to avoid having your cash level at "zero." When opportunity knocks, you want to be able to answer the door.

## In Memoriam



In loving memory of a dear son  
and brother Michael Horsley  
Who passed away 5 years ago,  
Dec. 24, 1995

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Mother, Sisters and Brothers

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# OUTDOORS

By Dave Stegehuis



SKI THE BACKCOUNTRY

The winter landscape in Michigan can look pretty bleak when viewed through a windshield while driving down the expressway in a snow storm, or even from the couch during half-time. Low temperatures and a brisk wind can make the walk across a parking lot a bit uncomfortable. A very attractive option at this time of the year is to hole up in front of the TV.

On the other hand, there is a place where jack pines gently bend under a blanket of fresh snow. Birds busily tend to their task of seeking out buds and bugs on the leafless trees and bushes. Tracks in the snow record the adventures of deer, rabbits, and squirrels as they go about making a living in the snow shrouded landscape. Ice framed creeks wind through cedar swamps where the stillness is broken only by the sound of water running around snow capped rocks. The screech of a red tailed hawk echoes through the forest as the stately bird glides on a strong north wind against a brilliant blue sky.

Where in the world is this winter wonderland? It could be just outside your back door or at least within a short walk or drive. One of the best ways to experience the beauty of a Michigan winter is on cross country skis.

Cross country skiing gets a person into areas that he or she might not explore in the summer because of heat, bugs, and thick foliage. You can cover a lot of ground skiing because it is so much fun you don't realize how far you have traveled. It also provides great exercise at a time of the year when a lot of us tend to hibernate.


There are hundreds of miles of marked trails throughout Michigan. Great trails can be found in city and county parks,

national forests, state forests, and private resorts. A trail atlas, which includes trail maps and descriptions of over three hundred trails in Michigan, is available at most book stores. Trails designated for cross country skiing usually have a map posted at the trail head. Most of these trails will have several loops that vary in length and degree of difficulty. You can choose a trail that suits your schedule and comfort level. All private, and many trails on public land, have machine-set tracks for your skis to follow.

Most public trails are free or suggest a donation. Trail passes cost from three to ten dollars at managed areas and resorts. Not a bad deal when you consider the cost of other kinds of entertainment and recreation.

You will need skis, of course, boots, and a set of poles. Instead of running out and buying all this stuff, it would be a good idea to rent it and find out if you want to do it again before making an investment. Many ski areas rent equipment and also give lessons in fundamentals. Sometimes ski areas offer free lessons and occasionally free trail passes to beginning skiers. Cross country skiing is not difficult to learn, so the lessons are short and to the point. Knowing proper technique will greatly enhance your enjoyment of the sport.

People of all ages can ski, so don't think that you're too old. I see a lot of gray hair on the trails. Families with young children can make a great outing of a day in the country. You can slip out for an hour to ski close to home or travel hundreds of miles in the Great Lakes state to explore new vistas in our winter wonderland.

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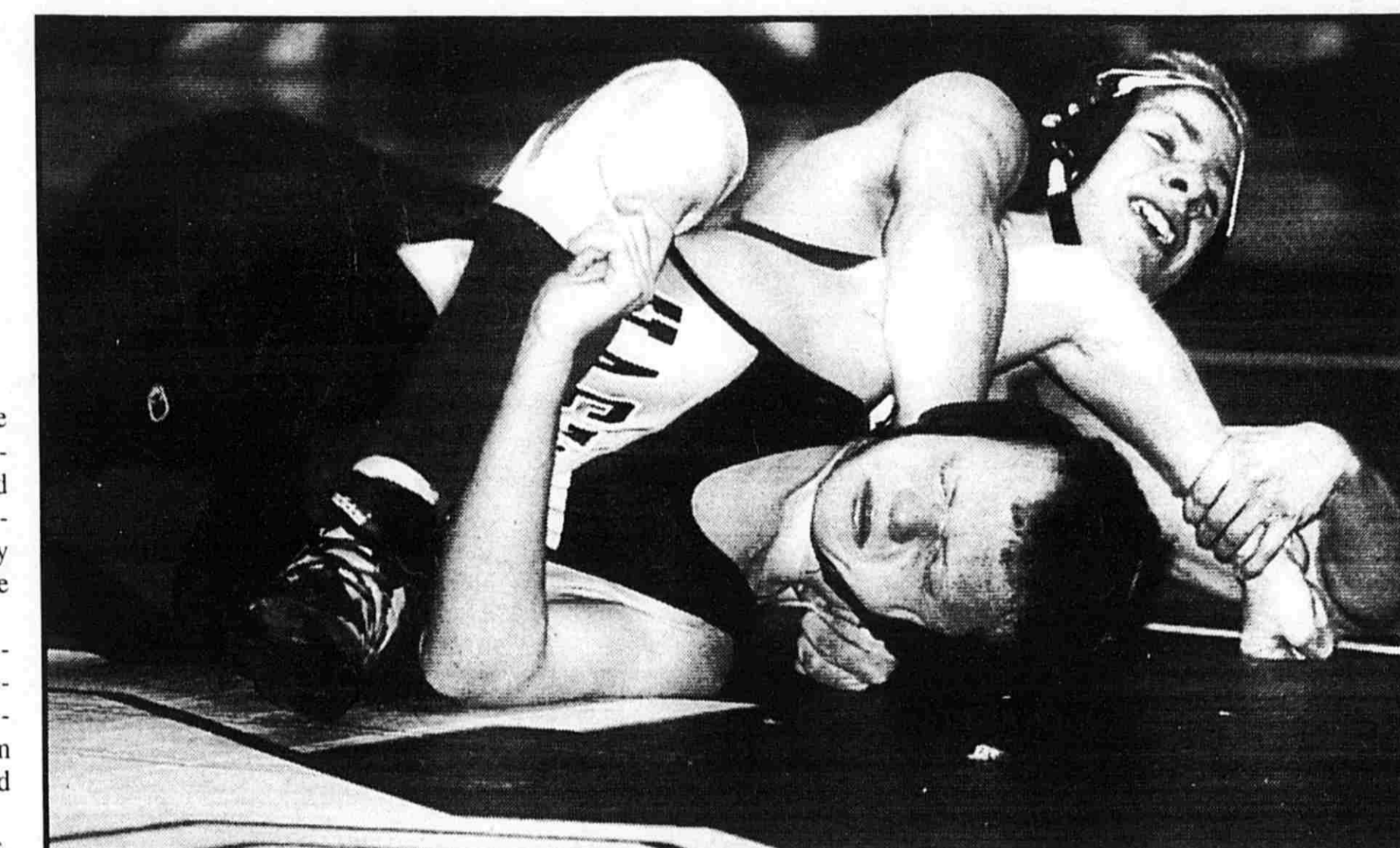
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# Red Arrows dominant in league-opening win

••• Lowell posted seven pins in its win over Hastings.



Lowell's Ian DeRath works toward a third-period pin against Hastings' Dan Cary.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
 Lowell Ledger Editor

The 61-12 score did not indicate it, but Lowell wrestling coach, Dave Strejc detected it.

"I thought we were a little sluggish on the mat tonight," Strejc said. "It didn't feel like we won by that much. Hastings came out and scrapped against us. They didn't show us any respect. I like that approach."

Lowell won 12 of 14 matches, recording seven pins along the way.

"This is the first time all year we've been bulldogged," said Hastings' coach, Mike Goggins.

Hastings came into the match with a tournament win at Wyoming Park, a second at Ionia and dual wins over Mona Shores and Holland.

"I wish we could have been more competitive. Lowell is obviously a very good wrestling team," Goggins explained. "They are definitely a big favorite to win the conference."

Lowell, a club still working on some early season fine-tuning, benefited from well-known performances from John McKay, Pieter Serne and Michael Forward.

McKay, 125 pounds, pinned Chris Brown at 1:27 of the first period. "John was probably the sharpest wrestler out there tonight," Strejc said.

Serne, 189, served up a 13-3 major decision against the Saxons' R.J. Williams. "Pieter did a dynamite job," Strejc said.

Forward, 171, major decided Rob Baker 12-0.

"Mike keeps getting better. He's coming along," Strejc explained.

There were other Red Arrows who posted pins: Ian DeRath, 112, stuck Dan Cary at 5:19 of the third period; John Mendez, 135, pinned Matt Lipstraw at 3:34 of the

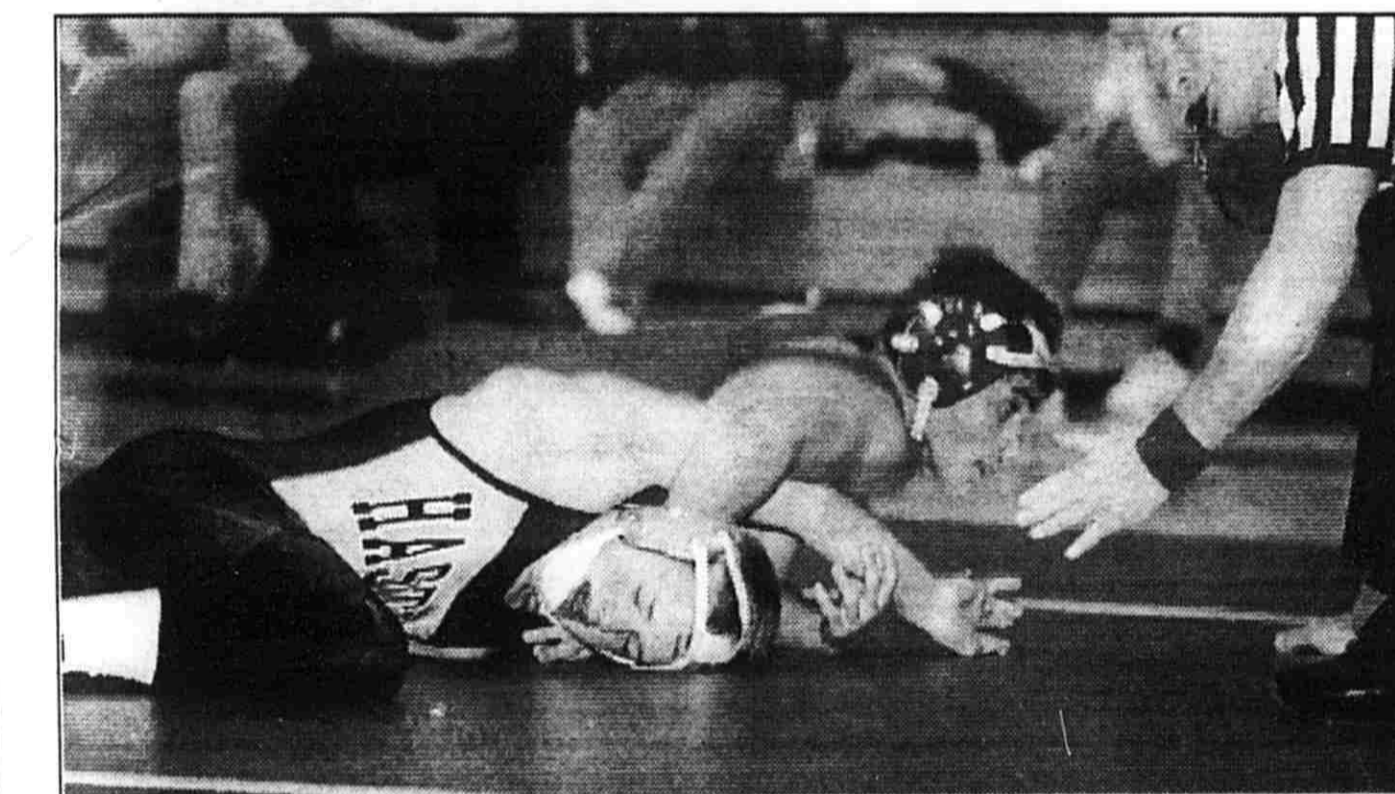
second period; Caleb O'Boyle, 140, pinned Dan Blair at 1:15 of the first period; Pete VanLaan, 152, pinned Lucas Waters at 5:34 of the third period; Ben Fleet, 215, pinned Jake Friddle at 3:34 of the second period; and Ben Vaught, HWT, pinned

Mike Keiffer, at 5:04 of the third period.

In other matches, Ian Kinney, 112, technical failed Ryan Ferguson 21-4; Kevin Fraser, 130, decisioned Scott Redman 6-3; and Matt Oesch, 160, defeated Pat Stephens 14-7.


Red Arrows' David Kropf, 103, and J.J. Wilder, 145, were both pinned by their Saxon counterparts.

Lowell travels to Grandville on Thursday, Dec. 28 for the Bulldogs' annual holiday tournament.



'Amend'-ing the Saxons' Way!

Lowell's John Mendez recorded a pin against Matt Lipstraw at 3:34 in the second period.

**Red Arrow Roundup**  


# Lowell skates past Wayland; ties Northview

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
 Lowell Ledger Editor

Lowell's hockey team has worked hard; the payoff was an impressive 6-3 win over Wayland.

Six different Red Arrows found the Knights' net as Lowell scored a single goal in the first period, two in the second and three more in the third en route to the victory.

"The boys played very well. Our passing was much better, our positioning was good, and I was real pleased with the way we moved the puck around. That enabled us to control the puck and keep possession of it in the offensive zone."

Lowell grabbed a first-period 1-0 lead when Chad Rau, with an assist from Jordan Terrell, creased the Wayland net. The Knights tied the score at 1-1 early in the second period. Lowell answered twice with a minute span a little over halfway through the second period.

Rau and Brad Maxlow assisted Matt Horan on Lowell's second goal at the 6:56 mark of the second period.

A half minute later Eric Austin netted the Red Arrows' third goal with assists from Ryan Hopkins and Chad Maxlow. Wayland cut Lowell's lead to one at 3-2 with its second goal of the game at the 13:03 mark of the third period.

Goals, however by Brad Maxlow, Bryan Posthumus and Chris Rybicki, secured Lowell's third win of the year.

Maxlow was assisted by Austin and Horan; Posthumus' goal was assisted by Erik Hays and Austin while Rybicki was helped by Hopkins.

The Red Arrows' win in part was the result of clean, crisp play. "It was a nice, good clean hockey game," Jacobus concurred.

The boys played very well. Our passing was much better, our positioning was good, and I was real pleased with the way we moved the puck around. That enabled us to control the puck and keep possession of it in the offensive zone.

Paul Jacobus

## Lowell 2 Northview 2

Squandered third-period scoring opportunities forced Lowell to settle for a tie with the Wildcats.

"We had three or four scoring chances in the third period but it just didn't happen for us," Lowell hockey coach Paul Jacobus said. "We played good hockey and got some good goal tending in both games (Jay Blair/Wayland) and Jeremy Stein/Northview).

Brad Maxlow tied the score at 1-1 late in the first period off an assist from Erik Hays.

Lowell (3-5-1) trailed 2-1 in the third when Chad Rau broke through and shot one past the Northview goalie.

"We scrambled. We lost two defensemen during the game and had to move a couple forwards into their spots," Jacobus said.

Josh Baker, defenseman, struggled with a bad back and Bryan Posthumus had to leave the game with a cut nose which required eight stitches.

"It was a good weekend for us. We're improving in all parts of the game and I think the boys can see that," Jacobus said.

Southside Arena was the site of Lowell's 8-1 non-conference loss to Wayland. The Red Arrows' only score came from Dustin Hofert on a breakaway.

Sunday night's game was played at home vs. the Lansing Fury. Two early goals were scored by Lansing. Lowell's David Maylone answered when he weaved between two defenders and scored unassisted on a beautiful top shelf wrist shot.

The second period looked to be a scoreless one until Lowell's Brandon John passed the puck to brother Josh, this power play goal came with only two seconds left in the period and tied the game at two goals apiece.

Those two goals were the end of the Red Arrows' scoring, and the final outcome was in Lansing's favor 6-2.

Grandville shut out Lowell 3-0 on Saturday. The Red Arrows suffered a 12-2 loss to Reeths Puffer on Sunday at the Michigan National Ice Center. Lowell's goals were netted by Dustin Hofert.

Lowell travels to Lansing on Friday to battle with Okemos at the Arc Ice Arena at 8:30 p.m. On Saturday, Lowell will faceoff against Holt at the Summit Ice Arena; game time is 6:30 p.m.



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# Lowell's "big time" rally falls short at the buzzer in loss to EGR

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

A double digit advantage on the boards nearly helped Lowell boys basketball team rebound from a 20-point fourth-quarter deficit at East Grand Rapids Friday night.

Landon Trierweiler's base line three-point jumper bounced off the rim as time elapsed in the Red Arrows' 55-52 loss to the Pioneers.

The shot to send the game into overtime nearly capped a miraculous comeback by Lowell.

The Red Arrows trailed 51-31 with six minutes remaining on the fourth quarter clock.

Lowell outscored East 9-0 over the next three-and-a-half minutes, cutting the deficit to 11 at 51-40. Over the following two-and-a-half minutes, the Red Arrows rallied behind a 10-1 run, cutting the Pioneer lead to two at 52-50 following a Troy Gillan lay-up off a turnover.

"We got caught up in their tempo," said EGR coach, Scott Tompkins. "Our play got hurried. Give Lowell credit - they got down but did not quit and kept coming after us and we didn't handle their pressure well."

While Lowell's pressure helped to change the game's tempo, Tompkins felt Lowell's work on the boards was also critical. "I was concerned about their double-digit rebounding advantage at halftime when we were up 19 (35-16)."

Lowell coach, Pete Bush pointed to his club's lack of intensity in the game's opening minutes. "I told the boys in the locker room that this is an O-K White basketball game and unless they match the home team's intensity, the game will get ugly early," Bush said.

The Red Arrows executed and were able to get out in transition over the final eight minutes of play. "I was pleased with our execution toward the end, but obviously we don't want to be in that situation where we're having to overcome large deficits."

Lowell was outscored 18-8 in the first quarter, 17-8 in the second quarter. The two teams swapped buckets (13-13) in the third quarter with Lowell outscoring East 23-7 over the final eight minutes.

"Our defense allowed them to get good shots in the first half, and they hit them," Bush said.

The Pioneers netted 14 of 25 first half shots. Lowell

connected on just six of 20 attempts.

Creston 34  
Lowell 33

Kevin Jackson sank a game-winning shot with seven seconds remaining to lift the Polar Bears past the Red Arrows.

Lowell took a 23-19 advantage into the final quarter of play, but Creston outscored the Red Arrows 15-10 over the final eight minutes.

Andy Curtis led all Lowell scorers with 12 points Brad Koetsier finished with 10.

James Vanees led Creston with eight points.

Lowell 49  
Lakewood 34

The Red Arrows were led by a freshman and sophomore in their season-opening non-conference win over the Vikings.

A Sam Oberlin three-point shot at the buzzer gave Lowell an 18-17 halftime lead.

The Red Arrows, behind the offensive play of Oberlin and Landon Trierweiler, pulled away in the second half, outscoring Lakewood 31-17 over the final 16 minutes.

Sam Oberlin pulls up for a jumper from the wing against East.

Trierweiler and Oberlin both netted a team-high 10 points. Troy Gillan, Bill Harrison, Andy Curtis and Brad Koetsier all chipped in with six points each.

Lowell outrebounded Lakewood 36-19. Curtis was the leader of the boards with 10.

Lowell's Andy Curtis muscled up a shot with two Pioneer defenders offering up resistance.



## A PRIZED WINTER

Flat River Snowmobile Club president Mark Sellner presents a new Arctic Cat ZL 550 Snowmobile to Charles Vogel. The Lowell resident was the winner of the club's third annual snowmobile raffle.

Vogel also won a 10-foot R&R Northern lite trailer to transport the snowmobile.

The club sold 874 of the 1,000 tickets printed. The drawing was held at noon on Dec. 2 following the Christmas Parade.

Jack Hayes, of Conklin, was the second prize winner of a snowmobile trailer and the \$200 third prize went to Bob Whitelow of Kalamazoo.

Proceeds from the raffle will go toward the club's operating expenses.

"A tip of the hat to all the people who assisted us with sales and to those who purchased tickets," said Flat River Snowmobile Club treasurer, Bradley Potter.

## HOLIDAY CHOIR CONCERT

A 47 member Lowell High School Ladies Ensemble and a 66 member Concert Choir filled the Lowell Performing Arts Center with some sounds of the season on Thursday evening, Dec. 14. Some of the renditions included Jeff Borders' "Keep the Candle Burning," Ruth Schram's "A Friend In Winter," Audrey Snyder's "The Lights of Christmas," David Foster's "Grown Up Christmas List," and "The Man With The Bag."



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- EMPEROR'S NEW GROOVE (G) 1:00, 2:45, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30
- NOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (PG) 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 7:10, 9:20
- PROOF OF LIFE (R) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
- UNBREAKABLE (PG-13) 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35

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## LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
17th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ORDER FOR SERVICE  
BY PUBLICATION/  
POSTING AND NOTICE  
OF ACTION

CASE NO. 00-09690-DM

Plaintiff name:  
JULIAN MENDEZ  
652 36th Street, S.W.  
Apt. #101  
Wyoming, MI 49509

JOHN R. JACKSON  
(P-45183)  
3501 Lake Eastbrook  
Blvd., S.E.  
Suite 114  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
956-5008

To: LEESA MENDEZ

IT IS ORDERED:

1. You are being sued by plaintiff in this court to obtain a divorce. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before JANUARY 18, 2001. If you fail to do so, a default judgment 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.

NOV. 28, 2000

PATRICIA D. GARDNER  
Judge



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Kentwood, MI 49512

# Schedules, tasks, expectations can all build holiday stress

By Kathryn DenHouter, Ph.D.

The holidays are upon us and images of peace, love and harmony are popping up everywhere. From mistletoe to Menorahs, we are reminded that 'tis the season of great joy and good feelings. But is it?

Whether you celebrate St. Nicholas Eve, Kwanza, Winter Solstice, Hanukkah, Christmas, St. Lucia Day, Boxing Day, or New Year's, holidays are occasions for celebration, but they are also stressful. Holidays offer opportunities for gathering with family, connecting with friends, and participating in tradition - all potential sources of joy and satisfaction. However, family tensions, overcrowded schedules, endless lists of tasks and unfulfilled expectations can leave you feeling stressed out.

The anticipation and planning for festive events is all a part of this exciting time of year, yet there are a few things you can consider doing that may lessen the most stressful aspects of the next few weeks. These suggestions will help you feel more in control:

Be realistic. Social expectations are a huge source of stress for many people. The holiday season is not a happy time for everyone. And not everyone feels in a partying mood all the time. Yet just about everyone feels compelled to look and feel merry during the holidays. This is a form of social pressure

that can be very stressful, especially if you happen to be in an emotional down cycle at the time. Often, people believe something is wrong with them if they don't feel merry or if they aren't in a celebratory mood. Or they become angry and frustrated when their own expectations of how the holidays are "supposed to be celebrated" don't get realized. Watch out for these and other unrealistic expectations. They're a common cause of holiday stress for many, many people.

Acknowledge your feelings. If you've recently had a loss in the family or are separated from loved ones, realize that it's normal to feel sadness and grief. There is room for these feelings to be present, even if you choose not to express them.

Seek support. Take advantage of social support. If you're feeling isolated or down, seek out community, religious, or social services that can provide you with support and companionship. You might also think about volunteering at a community or religious function. This can be a way to lift your spirits and make new acquaintances.

Let go of the past. Don't be disappointed if your holidays are not like they used to be. Life brings changes. Each holiday season is different and can be enjoyed in its own way. Don't set yourself up for sadness by thinking everything has to be just like the "good old days." Look toward the future.

Set differences aside. Try to accept family members as

they are. Leave old grievances or discussions about differences until a more appropriate time.

Budget. Before you go shopping, decide how much money you can afford to spend on gifts and other items, and then stick to your budget. You might also consider giving gifts that can't be bought - your time, sharing of memories or an item you made yourself. Try to be less materialistic.

Plan ahead. Develop a calendar of specific days for shopping, baking, visiting friends and other events. Don't plan more than you can comfortably accomplish, and schedule time for some solitude and relaxation. If you're feeling stressed and overburdened, discuss sharing responsibilities with other family members or friends. You might also consider buying some food items instead of making them all yourself.

Don't abandon healthful habits. Don't feel pressured to eat or drink more than you're accustomed to just because it's the holiday season. Before attending social events, decide how much and what types of foods and beverages you should consume. Get plenty of sleep and if you're healthy, schedule time for exercise. Not only will exercise help fend off extra pounds, it will make you feel more refreshed and less fatigued.

Ask for help. You don't need to do it all or be it all. Look for people or services that can give you support. You can easily do twice as much with the help of others. But that means you need to ask for their help. Don't expect others to be able to read your mind. Know yourself well enough to recognize when you need help. It is the foolish - and stressed - person who tries to do it all alone.

## ALONG THE TRAILS OF THE WITTENBACH CENTER

By Tammy DeBaar

As you walk the trails, which are, by the way, open all the time, please pause to take in the beauty and smells of the red pine and white pine forests, planted so many years ago. I would like to share with you some Christmas traditions related to the Evergreen Tree. Many traditions you may have heard revolve around the ancient religious practices of using the evergreen to symbolize life in the dead of winter, but let's take a look at a few other traditions.

The Cherokee Tribe of North America shares this myth: Two brothers, Manitou (the good brother) and O-Kee

(the bad brother) fought constantly. Manitou was the stronger of the two. Manitou planted a forest in which he planned to put peaceful and happy beings. O-Kee darted through the clouds and his wicked laughter sounded as thunder. Manitou planted flowers and other beautiful plants, but O-Kee snuck around to each in the dark of the night and touched the leaves with thorns. In the morning, the plants were found with teardrops of dew on their sorrowing leaves and petals. Mankind was then created. O-Kee came to Manitou with a handful of leaves as his contribution for human beings. "Oak leaves will make strong warriors. Maple leaves will curl graceful on the water and be good fishermen. Women will be graceful like the poplar leaves." Manitou accepted O-Kee's gift, but the people gifted with O-Kee's leaves were frail and never

satisfied or content. Their hearts changed with every gust of thought. Manitou called all of the "leaf people" to offer a tribute of gratitude. The poplars, oaks and maples shed their leaves in amber and flame for all they owed to the Creator, but the pines, hemlocks, spruces, firs and cedars had been poisoned by O-Kee's anger and evil thoughts. "We owe you nothing" was their reply. "We have weathered the winter alone and owe you nothing." They stood alone in their selfishness and came to watch the beautiful colors of sacrifice made every year by the other trees. They then cried out, "We too want to possess bright branches and leaves to fall to the earth like molting feathers."

It was too late. When the winters pass through, the evergreens are left alone with their needles, crying out with their dark green robes, never knowing the colorful glory of their brother trees.

A German Tale of the First Christmas Tree.

Martin Luther was walking home through a pine forest. It was a beautiful starry night and he paused for a moment to take in the beauty

of the stars glowing through the evergreen needles. Their fragrance reminded him of incense and from where he stood, it seemed as though the thousands of stars had settled in their branches. He proceeded to cut a tiny tree and took it home where he decorated it with tiny candles in metal holders to share the experience with his children. The tree then became a tradition for his family for all of the years to come, and many other families around the world.

The Old Pine is Blessed: of unknown origin. King Herod's law forced Joseph, Mary and the Christ child to flee, crept inside a hollow pine tree in which had lowered its branches for protection until Herod's soldiers had passed. When morning came, the Christ child raised his arms and blessed the old pine. It is said that if you cut a small pine cone lengthwise, you can still see the imprint of His hand.

These tales were shared to me by a Jewish woman, fascinated by the tradition of the Christmas tree. (Sheryl Ann Karas in "The Solstice Evergreen").



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## TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on January 15, 2001 at 7:00 p.m., the Planning Commission of the Township of Grattan will hold a public hearing at the Grattan Academy Charter School, 12047 Old Belding Road, N.E., within the Township, concerning the application of Landon Holdings, Inc. for an ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance of the Township of Grattan so as to rezone the following described lands in Grattan Township, Kent County, Michigan, from the A Agricultural District to the MHC Manufactured Housing Community District:

Parcel 1: The West 490 feet of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 7, Town 8 North, Range 9 West, except the South 148.5 feet of the East 275.5 feet and except that part of the remainder lying Southerly of the Northerly line of Highway M-44 relocated.

Parcel 2: The Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 7, Town 8 North, Range 9 West, except the East 120.5 feet of the West 610.5 feet of the South 148.5 feet and except the West 490 feet thereof.

Parcel 3: That part of the Southwest fractional 1/4 of Section 7, Town 8 North, Range 9 West, described as: Commencing at the West 1/4 corner; thence North 89 degrees 53'52" East along the East and West 1/4 line 1239.80 feet; thence South 1 degree 34 minutes 35 seconds East 349.0 feet; thence North 89 degrees 53 minutes 52 seconds East to the East line of the West fractional 1/2, Southwest fractional 1/4; thence Southerly along said East line to the North line of Belding Road (130 feet wide) thence West along said North line to East line of West 1003 feet of Southwest fractional 1/4; thence North along said East line to North line of South 260 feet of Southwest fractional 1/4; thence West along said North line to East line of West 695 feet of Southwest fractional 1/4; thence South

parallel with West section line to the North line of said road; thence Westerly along said North line to West section line; thence North to beginning.

Parcel 4: The West 660 feet of the South 2310 feet of the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 7, Town 8 North, Range 9 West.

Parcel 5: The West 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of the Southwest fractional 1/4 of Section 7, Town 8 North, Range 9 West, except the North 349.0 feet thereof. Also the Southeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of the Southwest fractional 1/4 and also the South 3/4 of the West 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4, Section 7, Town 8 North, Range 9 West.

Parcel 6: That part of the East 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 18, Town 8 North, Range 9 West, lying Northerly of the Northerly line of Highway M-44 relocated.

Parcel 7: The North 394 feet of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 18, Town 8 North, Range 9 West; also that part of the West 100 feet of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of said section, lying Northerly of the Northerly line of Highway M-44 relocated, except the North 394 feet.

The proposed text of the amending ordinance is on file and may be examined at the offices of the Grattan Township Clerk, 12050 Old Belding Road, Belding, Michigan 48809. All interested persons may attend the public hearing and be heard concerning the proposed amending ordinance.

Dated: December 13, 2000

PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN

### SYNOPSIS GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING GRATTAN TOWNSHIP HALL DECEMBER 11, 2000 • 7 p.m.

MOTIONS APPROVED:

Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of #4 under old business, fire department tanker, and #3 under new business, resolutions.

Motion to approve the consent agenda

Motion to rescind term limits

Motion to approve a resolution to approve the bid submitted by West Shore Fire, Incorporated for a new tanker truck

Motion to approve a resolution to authorize the expenditure for the new fire department tanker

Motion to approve the committee appointments as outlined

Motion to appoint Cliff Bloom, Al Berry and Barb Poulias to the Planning Commission for a three-year term.

Motion to increase the number of people on the zoning board of appeals by two to seven members.

Motion to appoint Jim Fues to the ZBA

Motion to reappoint Tom Nedervelt to the ZBA

Motion to appoint Michelle Francisco to the ZBA

Motion to appoint Lisa Sostecke to the ZBA

Motion to appoint George Poulias as an alternate on the ZBA

Motion to appoint Pat Mooney as an alternate on the ZBA

Motion to approve a resolution supporting anti-nepotism with amendments

Motion to appoint George Smith III and Mike Kramer to the fire department

Motion to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Colleen Smith, recording secretary

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Come - Celebrate Christmas With Us  
Bring Your Families And Friends  
We Will Receive God's Gift Of Christmas Together.  
Candlelight Worship Services:  
December 24th - Christmas Eve  
• 7:00 P.M. • 9:30 P.M. • 11:15 P.M.  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL  
621 East Main St.  
Call our church office if you have any questions  
897-5936

## LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE

The Lowell Township office hours for the holidays are as follows:

Mon., Dec. 25, 2000	CLOSED
Tues., Dec. 26, 2000	CLOSED
Wed., Dec. 27, 2000	CLOSED
(Kent County Health Clinic)	8:30 - 11:30 a.m. 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 28, 2000	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 29, 2000	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Mon., Jan. 1, 2001	CLOSED
Tues., Jan. 2, 2001	CLOSED
Wed., Jan. 3, 2001	CLOSED
(Kent County Health Clinic)	8:30 - 11:30 a.m. 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thurs., Jan. 4, 2001	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 5, 2001	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## LOWELL SCHOOL BOARD BRIEFS

Meeting of Dec. 13, 2000 (Rescheduled from Dec. 11, 2000)

**18 MILL RENEWAL** - Connie Gillette updated the Board on the plans for the 18 mill renewal that expires in June of 2001. The renewal of this millage will be brought to the voters at the annual election to be held on June 11, 2001.

**BOND FOLLOW-UP** - Jim White discussed with the Board the ongoing planning as a result of the successful bond issue.

**ACTION ITEMS** - Accepted the following gifts:

- Alto Lions Club donation of books valued at \$1,300 to be used for the Alto Elementary reading program.
- Shawn Eshragh of Concept Industries donation of 15,000 lbs. of plastic to be used by the Middle School plastics class.

- Paula Doane donation of infant items valued at \$52 to be used by the TOTS Program.
- Priscilla Lussmyer donation of color printer and bass clarinet solo sheet music valued at \$75 to be used where needed.

Approved the purchase of 5 buses from Hoekstra Truck Equipment Company for the 2001-2002 school year. Adopted Board policy #8130 entitled "Searches of Lockers and Students."

**CONSENT ITEMS** -

- Approved the following payment of bills:

GENERAL FUND	\$1,057,111.82
SCHOOL SERVICES FUND	
A. Food Service Fund	\$68,685.00
B. Athletic Fund	\$65,568.95
2000 BUILDING & SITE FUND	\$174,057.67
TRUST & AGENCY FUND	\$21,628.87
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$1,000.00
ENERGY & MAINTENANCE	\$10,833.81

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** - Bert Bleke wished the Board, staff and community a safe and happy holiday.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

Regular Board Meeting  
Mon. January 8, 2001 - 7:30 p.m.  
Runciman Admin. Bldg. - Board Room  
visit our web page at [www.lowell.k12.mi.us](http://www.lowell.k12.mi.us)

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## SEASON'S GREETINGS

Look for Holiday bargains in the Lowell Ledger

# Classifieds

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- HELP WANTED
- HELP WANTED
- FOR SALE
- WANTED
- SERVICES

**HELP WANTED - DRIVER** - CDLB drivers needed. Looking for dependable, customer service oriented person w/chauffer's CDLB, or CDLA license, full time and part time. Benefits (full time), good working environment, also hiring nights and weekends. Call 248-7729.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** - Candidate needed for Cascade office. Must be comfortable using Word Perfect 6.0 & performing general office duties. Pay will range between \$9-11/hour. For immediate consideration, call Manpower today, 897-0050. EOE.

**HAIR STYLIST** - \$1,000 sign on bonus. Cascade, full, part-time or temporary. Guaranteed wage, commission, benefits. No Sundays. 949-9332 or 874-7660.

**COMPUTER, INTERNET PEOPLE WANTED TO WORK ONLINE** - \$125-\$175 hr. Full training, vacations, bonuses & incentives. Bilinguals also needed. 49 countries. RUaLeader.com. 616-752-8346.

**WANT A FLEXIBLE LIFESTYLE** - with opportunity to earn a good income? Think about real estate. Call Craig Sanborn at Westdales Cascade office 616/942-2300 ext. 533.

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** - needed. Experience required. Please send resume to Dr. James E. Reagan, 207 W. Main St., Lowell MI 49331 or call 616-897-7179.

**PART TIME EVENING CLEANING** - in the Lowell area. Must have own transportation. Call 1-888-458-9378.

**HELP WANTED - DRIVER** - CDLB drivers needed. Looking for dependable, customer service oriented person w/chauffer's CDLB, or CDLA license, full time and part time. Benefits (full time), good working environment, also hiring nights and weekends. Call 248-7729.

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**TRY A CLASSIFIED TO SELL YOUR 'JUNK'**

**FOR SALE**

**FIREWOOD FOR SALE** - 3 year seasoned hardwood, full cord, \$120; face cord, \$40. Delivered. Call 897-9667 or 293-4647.

**ISUZU 1990 IMPULSE** - excellent mechanical condition, needs a little body work. \$2,400 obo. Call 897-0099.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

**SHELTIES** - Beautiful intelligent pups, \$300; also Border collies, \$350. Baird Farm, Lowell 897-9081.

**GOLDEN OAK ANTIQUE TABLE** - & 3 pressed back chairs, exc. condition, \$475; file cabinet, \$20; sm. antique dresser, \$45; kids Leggo table, \$20. Call 868-6788.

**FOR SALE - 1996 Dodge Intrepid**, loaded, CD changer, air, power everything, including moonroof, 88,000 highway miles, regularly maintained. Asking \$8,500. Call 616-527-6008 days, 616-527-3784 nights, ask for David.

**KING LOG BED** - 4 post w/mattress. Never used. Includes frame. (2 mos. old.) Cost \$1800, sell \$450/best. 517-227-0006.

**ROCK BOTTOM PRICES!!** - 3 repossessed arch type steel buildings. One is new, 25x30, 30x40. Take over payments. No reasonable offer refused. Call today 1-800-222-6335.

**SLEIGH BED** - Curved wood head, rear board. Includes "firm" orthopedic mattress (queen) bought new, never used. Was \$1260, sell \$350/best. 517-227-0006.

**GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT** - Pre-paid phone cards by Mr. Phonecard. \$25 - 192 minutes or \$10 - 77 minutes. Hahn Hardware.

**COLORFUL QUILT** - needs loving hands to repair & restitch for Christmas giving \$15; kids giant floor pillows 4x4, \$25 each. Toys for the preschool set. 987-9484.

**CHILDREN'S BUS STOP HUT** - with skylights & door w/window, \$500; 9x12 custom wool carpet in blush tones, \$500; oversized durrie rug, pale blue, \$500; elegant wall mirror w/wood frame, \$100. 987-9484.

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**DIRECTV** - mini-satellite dish. \$69.99 with free installation, new subscribers only. Call 1-800-459-7357, K-20.

**QUEEN RUSTIC LOG BED** - Cedar 4 post bed w/pillowtop mattress. Bought 2 mos. ago, never used. Cost \$1600, sell \$375. Call 517-227-0006.

**FOR RENT**

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**FOR RENT** - 1 bedroom apartment in Ionia. Newly remodeled, trash & water included. \$400 per month plus deposit & utilities. 616-642-0274.

**FOR RENT** - 1 & 2 bedroom apartments available. Call about our SPECIAL Center Court Apartments. 219 N. Center Apt. A, Lowell 616-897-0099.

**APARTMENT FOR RENT** - in Saranac, upper 1 bedroom, \$400 a month includes utilities. Call 897-8348.

**LAND WANTED** - 2 to 40 acres. Call 676-1089.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**IN MEMORIAM**  
 In loving memory of Glenn Rickert who passed away 9 years ago on December 23, 1991. Loved and missed by his wife Marie; children Marilyn & Larry Cahoon, Shirley Weeks; grandchildren & great-grandchildren.

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# City reminds residents to keep sidewalks clear

By J.N. Boorsma  
Contributing Writer

"Let it snow. Let it snow. Let it snow."

And that is exactly what mother nature has been doing the past few weeks, leaving a lot of people wondering what to do with all this snow.

Lowell requires residents to keep the sidewalk along their property cleared for pedestrians, a not too easy task when the snow keeps falling

and the trucks keep plowing.

"Everybody needs to be patient," said Lowell Police Chief Jim Valentine. "The pedestrians need to keep in mind what those who are keeping their sidewalks clear are going through, and the property owners need to keep in mind what the pedestrians are going through."

Valentine estimated that last Tuesday, his department received three or four complaints about W. Main Street

and after the big snowfall last week, received a couple more about that street along with three or four for various residential sidewalks. Officers do go out to inform property owners of their responsibilities to keep the sidewalks clear, Valentine said, adding that under the current situation of snowfalls every three to four days, it's hard to make sure the property owner complaints in 24 hours.

Then there are the snow-

plows, which push the sometimes heavy wet snow back onto the sidewalks from the streets. In some cases, such as W. Main, these plows really don't have any place to put it other than back onto the sidewalks and people's driveways.

"We have gotten some complaints from people that we are plowing the snow into their driveways," said Dan DesJarden, director of the city's Public Works Department. "However, it is winter."

And at this point, it doesn't look like old man winter is going to give residents, and city officials, any relief, too soon. The area already has surpassed last winter's 54.2 snow total (as reported by WZZM TV-13) and there is more to come.

With people running out of places to put the white fluffy stuff, some have resorted to pushing it into the street ... a huge "no, no" that not only goes against the city

ordinance but state law.

"I know it's occurring, but it has not hampered the snowplows," Valentine said, adding that the department has not received any complaints about snow being pushed into the streets. If it came up, the department would handle it on a complaint-by-complaint basis.

"If someone pushes a lot of snow out into the street, it could be a driving hazard," he said. "If it freezes, it could hurt the plows."

For now, Valentine said the Lowell Police Department will stay focused on the issue of keeping sidewalks clear with special emphasis on the W. Main Street area, where there is little room for pedestrians to walk.

"I've walked that area myself around Thanksgiving when it was icy," Valentine said. "There is not a lot of

room for pedestrians."

Another reason the police department is focused on the W. Main area is because of the heavy traffic and low visibility created during a storm.

DesJarden also had another area of concern, especially for parents - snowpiles.

"We see children playing in the snowpiles along the road and would remind parents to keep them away," he said. "We don't know if they have tunnels in there or not, but they should stay away from the banks."

In the meantime, all that anyone can do until spring is hunker down and keep shoveling.

"It's a lot of snow," said Lowell city manager, David Pasquale. "All we can do is just keep with it. It's a major task for everyone."



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