

# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 26

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

## Residents vote to stop officials' pay increase at Bowne Township annual meeting

Bowne Township residents used an annual meeting to rescind a board action that would have increased elected officials' pay by \$2,000 per year.

In its place, they voted to give officials a three percent wage increase.

The voting process used, however, was called into question.

The motion for a three percent wage increase was defeated in its first vote 7-6.

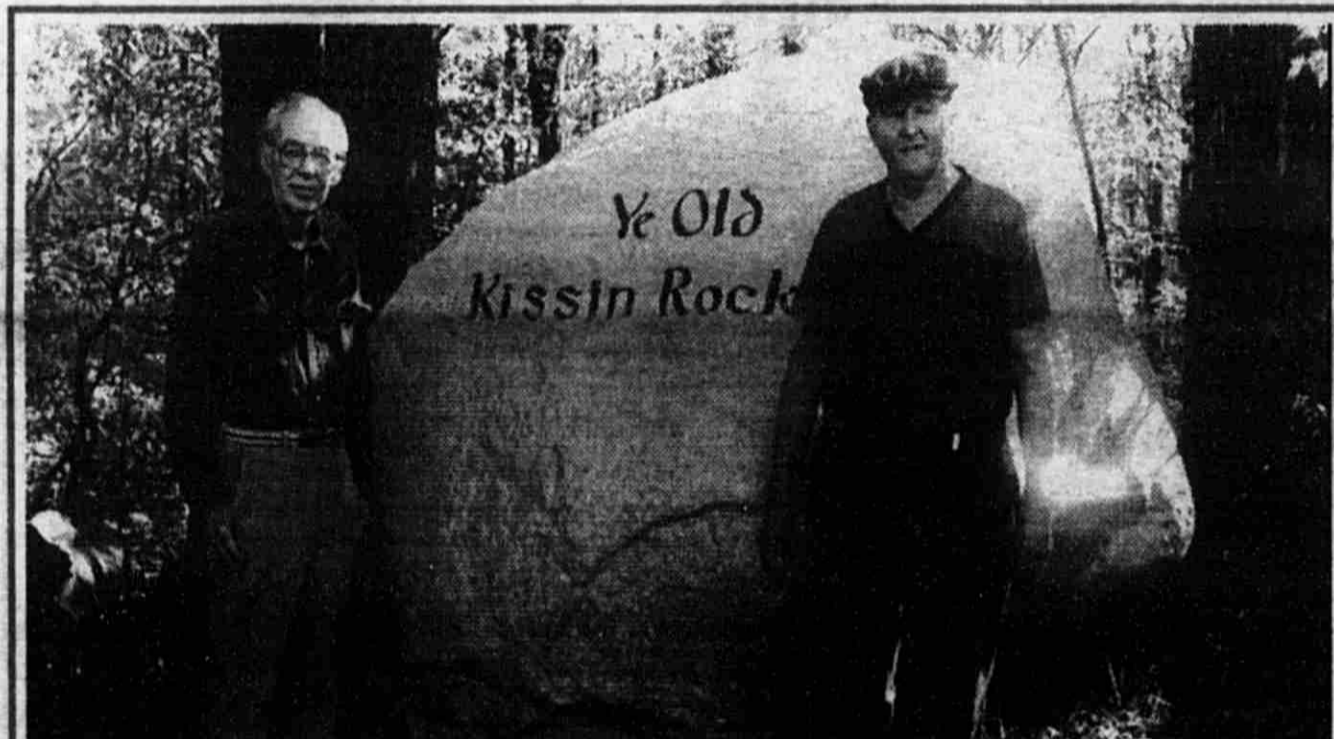
Before the motion was carried, it was decided that the vote wasn't valid because township officials, who sit on the board, had voted. The second go around on the three per-

cent increase for officials passed 6-5 without their vote.

"I was surprised by the opposition to the \$2,000 increase," said township clerk, Sandra Kowalczyk.

The township clerk does not believe the second vote is valid. "I am checking with the township attorney on whether officials should have been able to vote. If it is not valid, then the pay increase (\$2,000) which was budgeted for will stand," Kowalczyk explained.

The proposed wage hike by the township board would increase the supervisor's salary to \$16,530.92; the clerk's to \$22,898; and the treasurer's to \$20,797.



Jim Marron and Fred Talbot stand in front of a Lowell Township landmark - "Ye Old Kissing Rock." The residents recently cleaned up the rock's appearance.

## Residents' Appreciation: Rock Solid

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

It is the largest mineral in southern Lowell Township and possibly the most recognized landmark.

The Ye Old Kissing Rock has been given a make-over by township residents Jim Marron and Fred Talbot.

The rock which has been victim of numerous spray can creations was recently covered in a pearl gray with black lettering, in hopes of cleaning its besmudged appearance.

"When I moved her in 1959, it was such a beautiful stone. Someone (who remained anonymous) put lettering on it," Talbot explained. "Every time it began to flake off, this person would go back and re-letter it. Once this person passed away, that's when the graffiti experts moved in with their psychedelic art work. It was such a pretty stone I just wanted to clean it up."

Talbot put on a coat of paint, which has alithane mixed in with it. This enables any graffiti to be washed off.

The lettering on the rock was put on by Marron.

After completing their work on the rock, the two township residents asked the road commission if it would put up a cyclone fence around it. Their request was denied due to the precedent it would set.

"It is such a beautiful stone. My hope is that the younger residents grow to appreciate it as much as the older folks have," Talbot said.

## City continues fight for light at Monroe

Lowell's push for a city light at Monroe has been met with equal resistance by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

The city's push has been based on improved public safety.

"The city believes a light will break up traffic and make it easier for pedestrians to

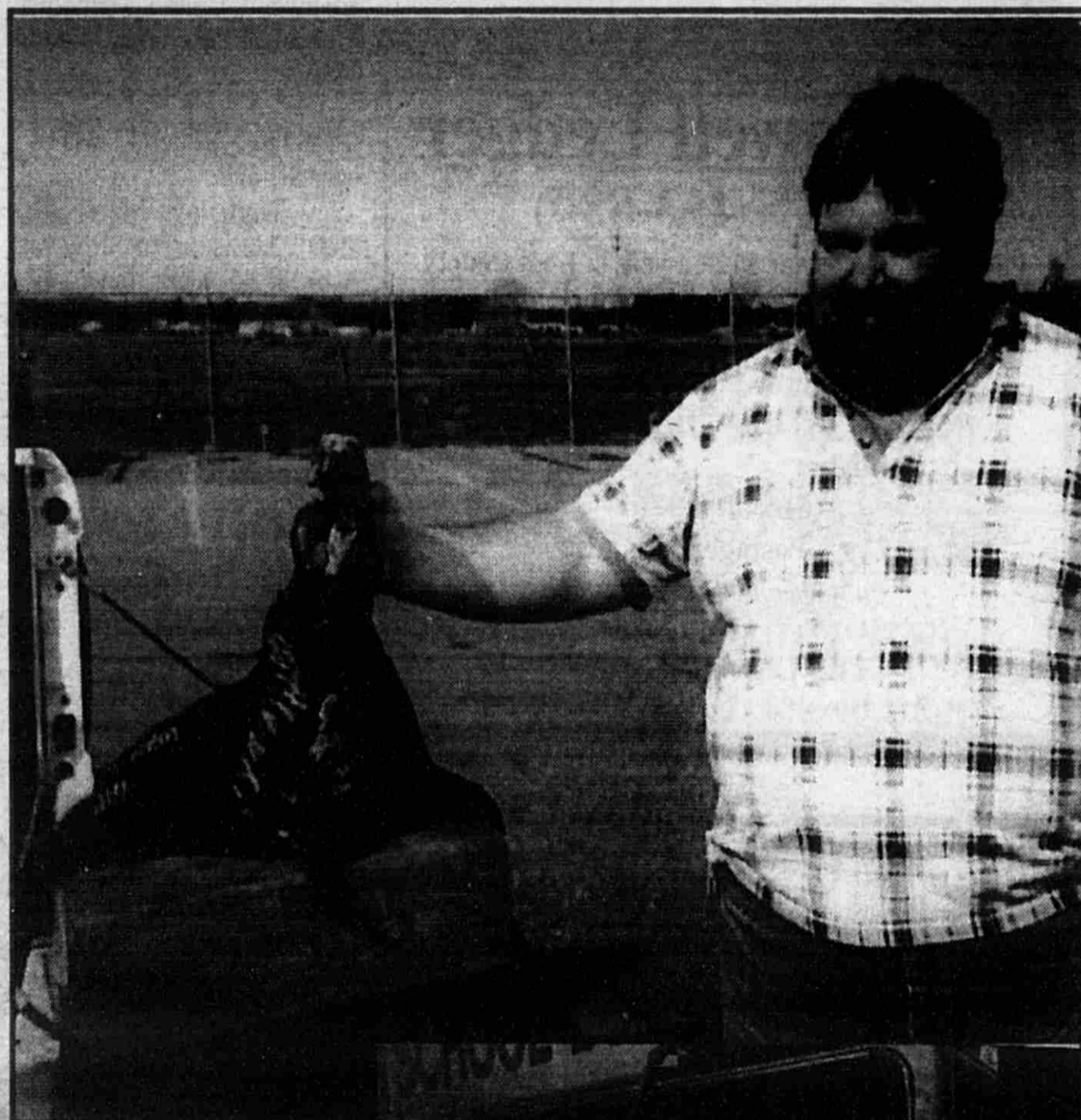
cross Main Street (M-21).

The reluctance on MDOT's part stems from M-21 being a major state thoroughfare and traffic counts not warranting a light.

Traffic counts were completed last year at Monroe, Washington and Jackson. Lowell Department of Public

Works director, Dan DesJarden said a second traffic count will be completed this year.

"We think Monroe is a prime location for a light," said Lowell city manager Dave Pasquale. "We're working with MDOT to have another traffic study done.



Howard Burton was driving this school bus to Grand Rapids to pick up Hope Network students; on his way he brushed up with a turkey ... this is one pick up he would have preferred not to make.

## Turkey in flight, lands in lap of bus driver

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

Howard Burton has never been on a turkey hunt, but he's not without a story.

In fact, his story rivals most. Burton, a Lowell bus driver for three years, was making a daily run to Hope Network to pick up some students.

He was heading west on M-21 near the Ada roadside park at Sargent when he saw a turkey come running out of some brush toward the road.

"I thought he was going to get hit by an eastbound car, but just before he reached the road, the turkey took flight," Burton explains... took flight right into the path of Burton's bus. "There wasn't anything I could do. He hit and came through my windshield right onto my lap," the Lowell bus driver said.

The glass from the shattered windshield and a flopping, kicking turkey



scratched the left side of Burton's face.

Traveling at a speed of 45-50 miles per hour, with his vision impaired by the turkey, Burton still managed to maintain control of the bus and steer it off the north side of the road.

"After I got the bus off the road and stopped, I threw the turkey off my lap/chest and into the stairwell of the bus," Burton said.

Cars behind him and approaching Burton from the west pulled off to call police and checked to make sure he was okay.

"The Kent County officer told me he couldn't believe Burton was able to steer the bus off the road without causing an incident with other vehicles," said Lowell transportation director, Larry Mikulski.

Turkey, cont'd. pg. 8

## Inside The Ledger



Lowell Buses Receive High Marks, Story Page 18

## OBITUARIES

**AUSTIN** - Mrs. Delia K. Austin, of Kalamazoo, died Friday evening March 30, 2001. Mrs. Austin was born April 15, 1902 in Lowell, Michigan a daughter of George B. and Rosa (Bieri) Kerr. She had been a Kalamazoo area resident most of her life and was a member of Oakwood United Methodist Church. She enjoyed mak-

ing crafts and crocheting afghans for several charities including the Michigan Bell Raffle, Pioneers of America, and the Beeper Ball for the Blind. She was predeceased in death by her husband, Charles P. Austin on April 15, 1964; and 13 brothers and sisters. She is survived by 2 daughters, Charlene Austin and Martha Austin both of

Kalamazoo; 4 sisters, Ann Haskins of Walhalla, MI, twins Elsie Maloney and Esther Staal both of Lowell, MI, and Selma (Russell) Dahl of Spring Lake, MI; and many nieces and nephews. Services will be held 1 o'clock Wednesday (today) from the Langeland Family Funeral Homes, Memorial Chapel, 622 S. Brudick St. with Pastor Suzanne Kornowski officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the chapel. Interment will be in Mt. Ever-Rest Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to the Oakwood United Methodist Church or the charity of your choice.

(Jackie), Jodi (Dan) Everitt; brother William Foster; sister, Lorna (Dave) Bigelow; nine grandchildren; four great grandchildren; special friend, Dan Braunschneider; many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Monday at the Alto, Methodist Church, Rev. Dominic Tommy officiating. Interment Merriman Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan. Arrangements by Roth-Gerst, Lowell

**GIBSON** - Clarence H. Gibson, aged 59, formerly of Lowell, passed away March 29, 2001. Clarence was born in Williamsburg, KY, on February 23, 1942, to Dave and Martha (Marcelle) Gibson. He moved to Michigan with his family in the 1960's and had lived in the Lowell area. Clarence had worked at Atwood Corporation for over 22 years until he left due to

health problems. He enjoyed living a simple life. He is survived by his son Hubert and Michelle Gibson of Belding; his grandchildren Justin, Kyle, Erin and Nathan; his sister Elsie Hamblin; and numerous nieces, nephews and other friends. Clarence was predeceased in death by his parents;

his wife Onnie; his daughter Connie; two sisters; three brothers. Funeral services were held at the Koops Funeral Chapel on Saturday. Burial was in Lakeside Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the donor's favorite charity.

### For kicks: Sign-up teens for Tae Kwon Do

Young adults interested in martial arts and fitness can get their kicks at Kent District Library presents Tae Kwon Do for Teens this spring.

The Alto Library will offer the program on Saturday, April 14 at 10 a.m. for ages 11 and up. Registration is required; call 868-6038.

Tae Kwon Do, the Korean martial art dating back over 2000 years, is known for its special kicking technique. Today, tae kwon do is practiced not only for self-defense, but also for physical and men-

tal health and self-improvement.

Grandmaster Jason Lee, who holds an Eighth Degree black belt and has 40 years of experience in a variety of martial arts, along with other instructors from the Jinmookwan Tae Kwon Do Academy in Kentwood, will teach some basic martial arts movements and explain how martial arts can help maintain physical health and well being.

For more information about the program, contact the Kent District Library at 784-2007.

In 1891, the first meeting of the Michigan Library Association is held.

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**FOSTER** - Robert Louis Foster, Sr. aged 66, of Lowell died Thursday, March 29, 2001. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Jane; children, Robert Jr., (Genevieve), William (Ngoc-Suong), Scott

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**LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP REZONING HEARING**

PLEASE BE NOTIFIED that the Lowell Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on

MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2001  
AT 7:00 P.M.

at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash S.E., Lowell.

The following changes of zoning will be considered:  
Jacqueline Liversedge has requested rezoning of property located at 1408 Parnell Avenue S.E., Ada, Michigan from the current zoning classification of Rural Low Density Residential (R-1) to Planned Unit Development (PUD) for the purpose of development as single family homesites.

The original application and the township zoning map may be examined at the Township office during regular office hours. Please call 897-7600 for further information.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk  
Lowell Charter Township

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## BIRTHDAY WORTHY OF CELEBRATION

Staff and residents of Cumberland Retirement Village helped Crystal Jones celebrate her 103rd birthday on Tuesday, March 27. Jones has been a resident at Cumberland for the past nine years. She celebrated her birthday with her daughter-in-law, Virginia Jones; granddaughter, Carol (Jones) Oberg; and great-grandchildren, Zachary, Ian and Samantha Oberg. Jones has a grandson, David C. Jones and a niece, Mildred Stauffer, who live in Alto. Jones is the oldest of three daughters born to Peter and Charlotte Anderson. She was married to Charles W. Jones in 1925 and they lived in East Lansing for 17 years. They had one son, Lester. When Charles passed away, Crystal moved back to the Lowell area where she served as a legal secretary for an attorney. Jones is a member of the First Congregational Church and was a member of the "Cheerful Doers."

## Go Ahead and Donate... I D.A.R.E. Yah!

Recent donations, totaling \$3,500, by American Legion Post 152 and VFW Post 8302 helped bring the amount raised toward a truck for the Lowell Area School's D.A.R.E. program to just under \$6,000. Mike Willard, commander of the American Legion Post 152, left, and Gordon Marshall, commander of the VFW Post 8303, right, made check presentations to D.A.R.E. officer Steve Bukala. The American Legion made a donation of \$2,500 and the VFW wrote out a check for \$1,000. The D.A.R.E. program needs \$8,900 to fund a three-year lease. At the end of the three years, D.A.R.E. will purchase the black GMC Sonoma outright. The truck will be adorned with a red D.A.R.E. logo and the names of sponsors who made donations of \$500 or more will also be displayed on the truck.



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### McDuff visits Alto; mother-daughter book club April 17 at Englehardt Library

Dog lovers and Rosemary Wells' fans of all ages can "Meet McDuff," the irresistible Westie from the popular children's books at the Alto Library this April.

Two real West Highland White Terriers will play the part of McDuff in this program filled with stories, crafts and fun on Wednesday, April 11 at 1:30 p.m.

The McDuff book series includes *McDuff Moves In*, *McDuff Comes Home* and *McDuff's New Friends*. Wells has won numerous awards

and has given readers such unforgettable characters as Max and Ruby, Noisy Nora, and Yoko.

For more information contact the Alto Library at 868-6038.

The Englehardt Library invites mothers and their daughters, ages 12 and older, to read a book together for the Mother-Daughter Book Club on Tuesday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Mothers and daughters will gather at the library for coffee, refreshments and lots of good book talking. Copies of the book *Catherine, Called Birdy* by Karen Cushman are available at the library's check-out desk.

For more information on the library branches offering the book club and for featured titles, call the KDL at 784-2016 or the Englehardt Library at 897-9596.

### LAAC SEEKING YOUNG ACTORS

Auditions will take place at the Lowell Area Arts Council on April 9, 10 and 11 beginning at 7 p.m. for boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 12. Sue Bradford of the Thebes Players is seeking four boys and two girls for a science fiction fantasy, *Close Encounters with the Third Grade*. Performances will be at Lowell Middle School on June 1, 2 and 3. For information and to borrow a script, call 897-8545.

### ATHLETIC BOOSTERS MEETING

The Lowell Area Schools Athletic Booster Club meeting will be held on Monday, April 9 at 7 p.m. following spring break. Please come and help support our athletes.

### A NIGHT OF JAZZ

The Lowell Middle School and Lowell High School Jazz bands will present a night of jazz on Wednesday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lowell Performing Arts Center. Also featured will be the Michigan State University Jazz Octet. Cost is \$4 for adults and \$3 for students. Tickets may be purchased from any jazz band member, the high school or middle school offices, or at the door.

### SPRING ARTS CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

The Lowell Area Arts Council will be offering its spring visual art and theatre classes for children and adults from April 9 - June 4. To receive a listing of classes, call 897-8545.



### SWORN IN ...

Gil Brown was officially sworn in Monday as the Lowell Postmaster by Sylvia Taylor, the manager of post office operations in Grand Rapids. Pictured, from left to right, are: Taylor, Brown and his son Samuel.

## Open space committee offers wildlife habitat program

By Kate Dernocoeur

It's a pleasure for many people to attract various "critters" to their own back yards for viewing. A class on how to create wildlife habitat is offered Wednesday, April 11, by the Open Space Committee of Vergennes Township at the Wittenbach Center. 6:30-9:00 PM. It is free and open to the public.

The purpose of the workshop is to provide specifics on what landowners can do for wildlife. Participants will hear information on how to create food and cover for various wildlife, including birds, mammals, and beneficial insects. Knowing which grasses, shrubs, and trees are useful to our wildlife can assist landowners to retain and build habitat for wild animals in our area.

Workshop instructors are Tom Nederveld, Mark Sargent, and Bob Humphries. Nederveld, a resident of Grattan, is a retired wildlife biologist now working for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), providing information to private landowners who wish to benefit wildlife on their land. Sargent is a wildlife biologist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Division, in charge of the state's private land program. Humphries, a local resident, is also employed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). He will address ways for landowners to recognize and preserve habitat specifically for Karner Blue butterflies, an endangered species.

Neighbors are encouraged to attend this workshop to-

gether. Should neighbors choose to work together, they can help maintain wildlife corridors that go beyond individual property lines. Cooperative planting by neighbors will do much to enable freely-wandering wildlife to survive as the Vergennes Township area is developed in coming decades.

The Open Space Committee of Vergennes Township is a Board-approved, volunteer citizen committee dedicated to educating and informing citizens about the "toolbox" of methods which can play a role in preserving open space while still insuring landowner rights. It welcomes interested citizens from throughout the Lowell area to attend the April 11 program, free of charge.

### IN THE SERVICE

Aaron Stuart Ritzema has accepted appointment to West Point Military Academy.

He is the son of Dion and Cathy Ritzema of Arnold, MO, and will graduate from Seckman High School in Arnold on May 31, 2001. He will report to West Point on July 2nd.

The proud grandparents are Richard and Marian Stuart and Lloyd and Josephine Ritzema, all of Lowell.

Marine Corps Pfc. Dennis L. McClure, son of Darlene M. and Dennis M.

McClure of Lowell, recently completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego.

McClure successfully completed 12 weeks of training designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally.

McClure and fellow recruits began their training at 5 a.m., by running three miles and performing calisthenics. In addition to the physical conditioning program, McClure spent numerous hours in classroom and field assignments which included

learning first aid, uniform regulations, combat water survival, marksmanship, hand-to-hand combat and assorted weapons training. They performed close order drill and operated as a small infantry unit during field training.

McClure and fellow recruits with The Crucible, a 54-hour team effort, problem solving evolution which culminated with an emotional ceremony in which the recruits were presented the Marine Corps Emblem and were addressed as "Marines" for the first time since boot camp began.

McClure is a 2000 graduate of Lowell High School.

### Clogging students receive certificates of achievement

Three Lowell residents received their certificates of achievement for completing an eight-week beginner course in clogging-an American step dance taught by The Thunder Floor Cloggers.

Earning certificates from the Community Education class at Lowell on March 12, were: Maruszka Hufstader, Kristin Hufstader and Donna Gerard all of Lowell; Barbara Verwys of Grand Rapids, Emily Buys of Clarksville, Imogene Kauffman of

Freeport, Shelley Hudson of Ada, and Ilene Chase of Saranac.

These cloggers are now continuing classes taught by Bob and Lynda Warner, Directors and Instructors of The Thunder Floor Cloggers based in Lake Odessa and are promoted to a beginner level. They join the group of high energy cloggers that cover an area from Marshall to White Cloud-Lansing to Grand Rapids.

On May 23rd a new 8

week beginner class will be held at The Thunder Floor Cloggers barn at 6pm for the advancement of this traditional dance and for the pleasure of those who participate in it.

Anyone interest in a beginner class or want to know of future classes please call Bob & Lynda Warner at 1-616-374-8205 or email tfcloggers@voyager.net or check out their web site at [HTTP://http://Thunderfloorcloggers.com](http://http://Thunderfloorcloggers.com)

**CW Conservatory Woods condominiums**

**Carefree Starting at \$135,000**

- 10 acres of woods • Convenient location
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- Close to shopping, restaurants, med center and theater
- Private, Secure, Maintenance-free lifestyle

**SMITH-DIAMOND Realty**

for information call **291-2668** Steven D. Hanson Dave Rapp

**CITY OF LOWELL LEAF PICK UP PROGRAM**

If your trash pick up is Monday or Tuesday, your leaf pick up days will be Tuesday, March 27th and April 3rd and 10th. If your trash pick up is Wednesday or Thursday, your leaf pick up will be on Wednesday, March 28th and April 4th and 11th.

Also, the Spring/Summer leaf pick up program will continue the first full week of each month on Tuesday and Wednesday from May to September!

**2001 SPRING LEAF PICKUP SCHEDULE**

**MONDAY-TUESDAY TRASH PICK UP**  
March 27, April 3 and 10, May 8, June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4

**WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY TRASH PICK UP**  
March 28, April 4, and 11, May 9, June 6, July 5, August 8 and September 5

**Are You Missing A Picture??**

**Maybe It's At The Buyers Guide/Ledger Office**

*Also in order to keep pictures from piling up in the future, we are implementing a new policy.*

Anyone wanting their photographs returned after they have appeared in the Buyers Guide or Ledger must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or pick up the photo within 60 days of publication. After 60 days, photos will be discarded.

**Calvary Christian Reformed Church**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US**

**CHURCH SERVICES:** Sunday mornings from 10:00 a.m., and evening at 6:00 p.m. There is a coffee fellowship time following the morning service.

**UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES:**

**April 8 :** Palm Sunday - 10 a.m. "Jesus Frees Us, Protects Us and Leads Us"

**April 13 :** Good Friday - 7:30 p.m. "The Blood of Jesus Washes Away Sins"

**April 15 :** Easter Sunday - 10:00 a.m.

"We Now Live Victorious Through Jesus God's Son"

**NURSERY:** Available at both Sunday services beginning 10 minutes prior to the services.

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:** Sunday mornings from 9:55 - 11:00 a.m. At the Education building. For children ages 3 through 2nd grade. Children worship through songs, Bible messages & art response. Call Jan: 897-7555

**EARTHQUAKE DISASTER RELIEF:** An International Aid drop box is located in the carport to the rear of the Educational Building at 1125 West Main. Items needed are: \*new blankets; \*new cloth diapers; \*soap - toothbrushes and many hygiene kits; \*school supplies. Call the church offices: 897-7060 or Wayne 897-6502.

**CYSTIC FIBROSIS "GREAT STRIDES"** Fundraiser held on May 19 in the church parking lot. Walkers, sponsors and helpers are needed. Call Pete: 897-7829

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**FUN:** JUNE 25 - 29 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. For ages 4 years - 6th grade. Mother's Class also available with Nursery provided. Call Sue - 868-0189.

The Pastor, Outreach Coordinator, and church members will gladly call on or assist visitors, the sick and those needing spiritual or material help. Worship Services can be seen on Lowell Cable TV - Tuesday-Friday at 10 a.m. Channel 2. Directions: On M-21 next to Erb Lumber - across from Burger King! Questions: Call the Church office - 897-7060

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616-527-1200

**Speerstra-Carr**  
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616-897-9259

**ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL**  
11610 E. Fulton St.

**Bruce Langlois, D.V.M.**  
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# Fuller's Warehouse Moving Sale!

We Are Moving Our Warehouse & Must Sell Off All of Our Overstocked Inventory!  
DISCOUNT PRICES THROUGHOUT THE STORE!

**PLUS! 2 YEAR FINANCING**  
**NO Down Payment NO Interest\***  
**Sale Starts Sat., March 31<sup>st</sup> 9am - 5pm**

Even Our Brand Names Like...  
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Flexsteel - Simmons  
And More Are All On Sale!

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BUNK BEDS & MORE....

Example:

Simmons Sofa - Reg. Sale Price \$849<sup>99</sup>  
Now Only \$399<sup>99</sup>

La-Z-Boy Recliner - Reg. Sale Price \$599<sup>99</sup>  
Now Only \$279<sup>00</sup>

Twin Mattress & Box Set - Reg. Sale Price \$199<sup>00</sup>  
Now Only \$99<sup>00</sup>

Cochrane Solid Oak Dining Room Trestle Table  
& 4 Chairs - Reg. Sale Price \$2,399<sup>99</sup>  
Now Only \$1,199<sup>99</sup>

We Must Accomplish Our Goal by April 15th!

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12 mo. fin. w/app. credit



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\*with approved credit

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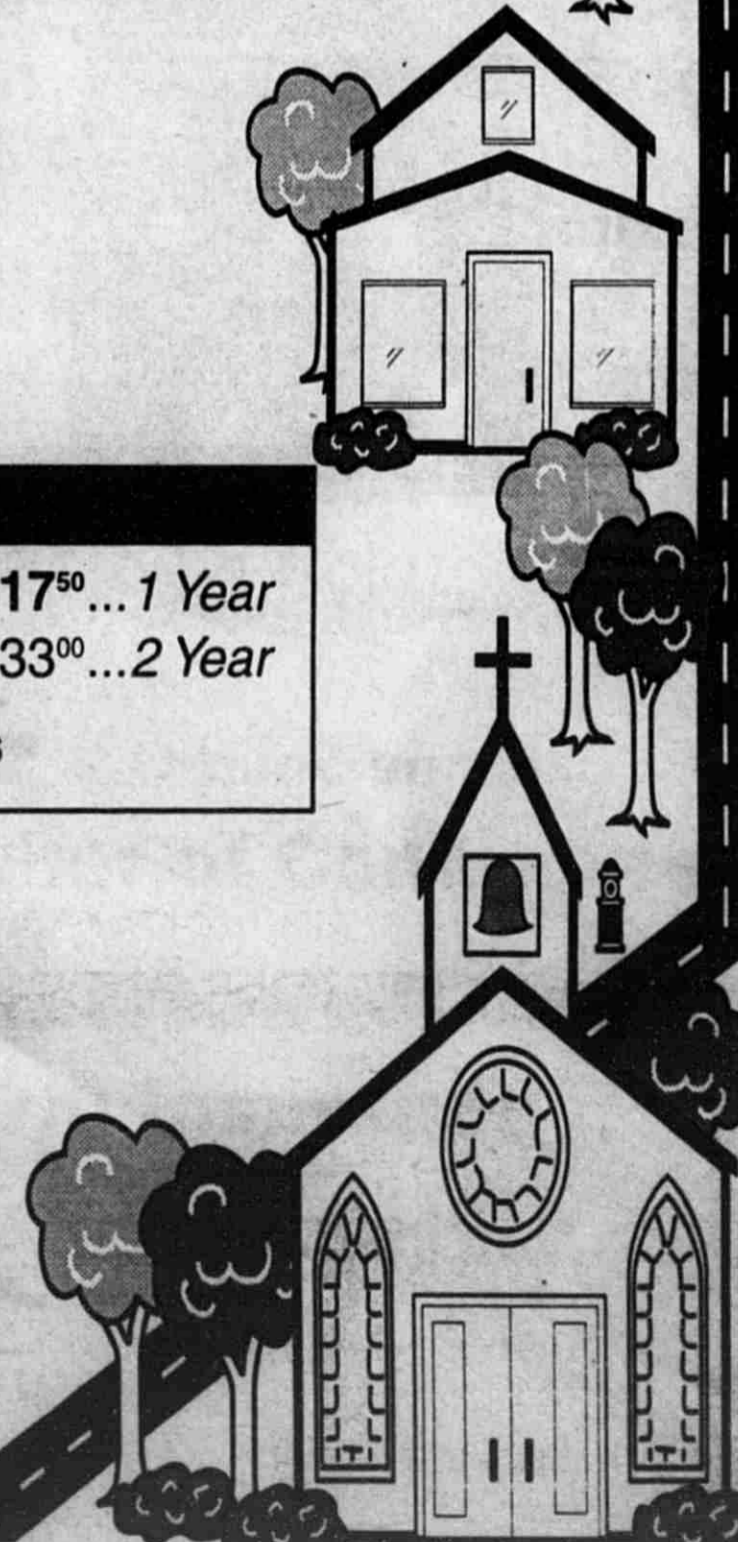
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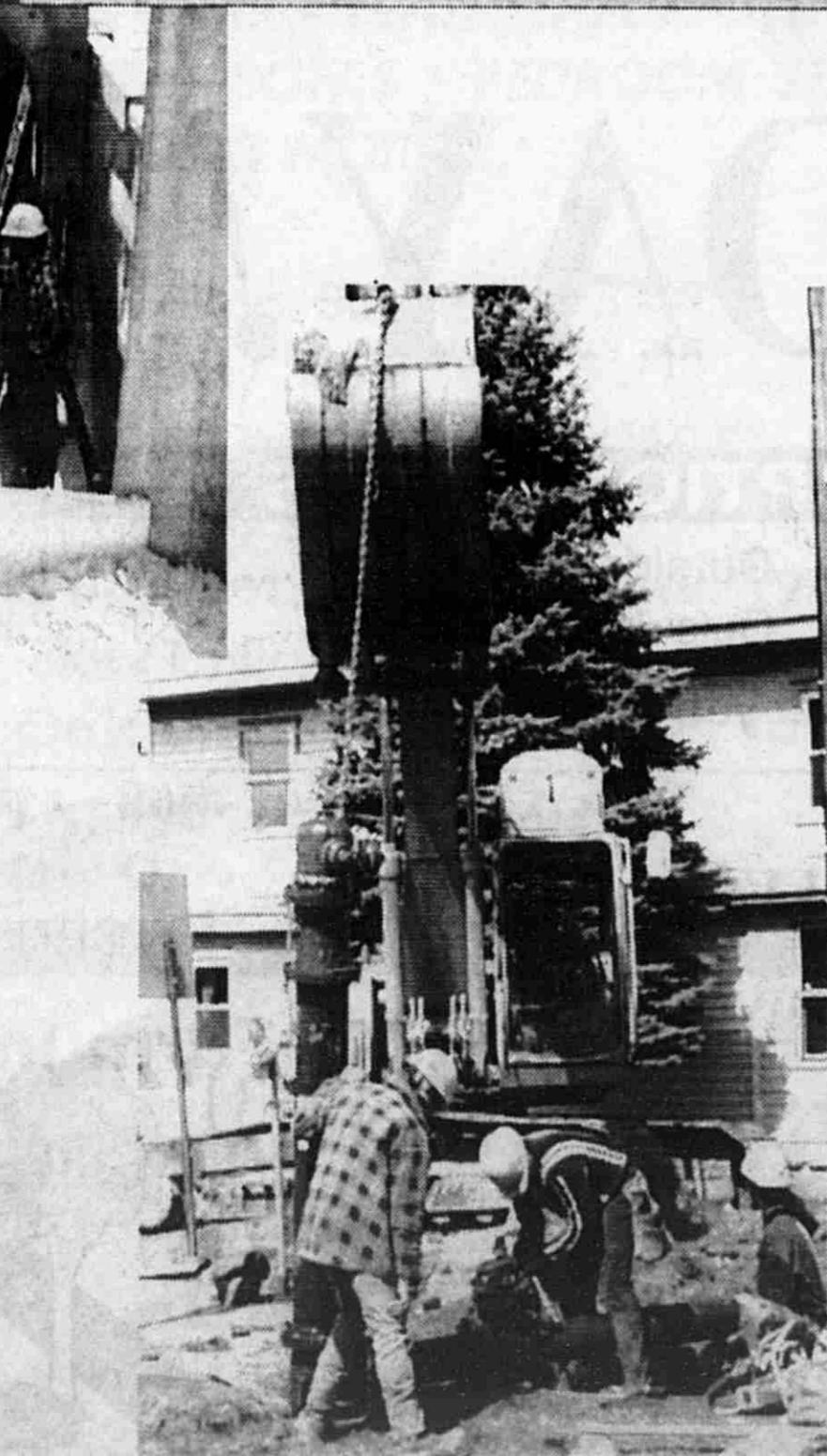
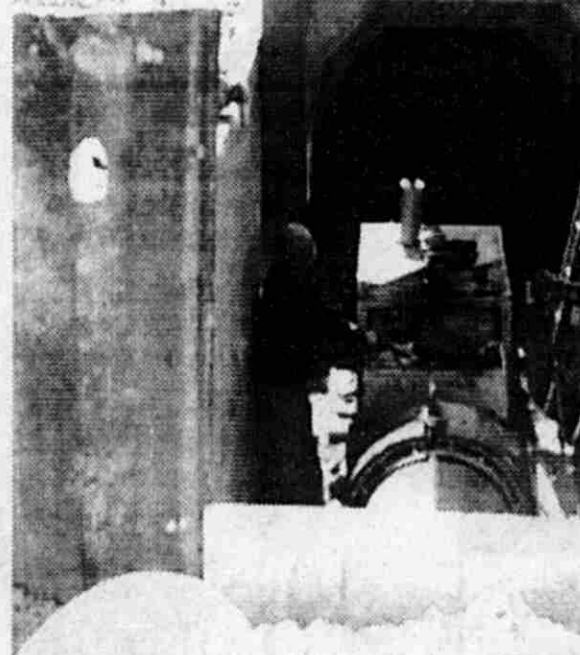
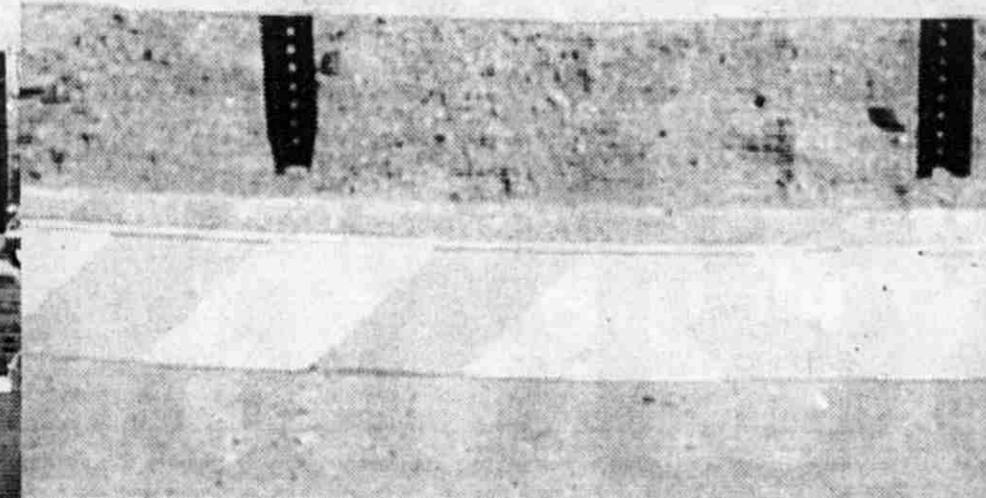
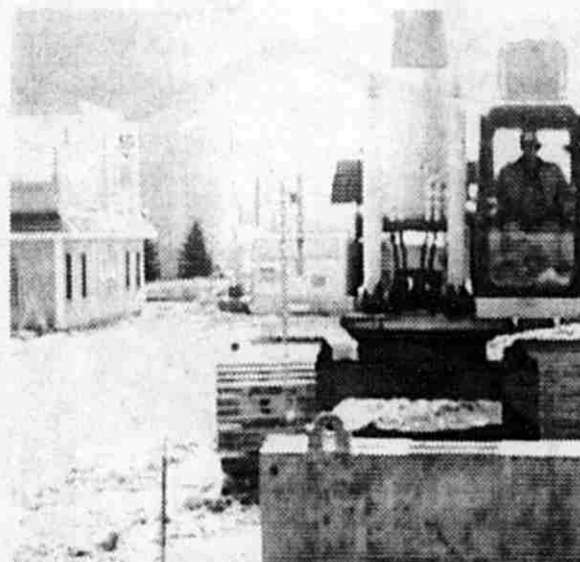
105 N. Broadway





# ROAD RAGE

**K & R**  
Construction has been working on the South Hudson reconstruction project for roughly 10 days. The work will be completed by or before June 30. The work has forced southbound and northbound thru traffic on Hudson Street to use a detour route.



# LOWELL ROTARY CLUB SPRING AUCTION

## Friday, April 20, 2001

### Notos Banquet Center

6600 28th St. Grand Rapids, MI

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT: Habitat for Humanity Home**

**and The Lowell Rotary Scholarship Fund**

**Tickets: \$35 each or \$280 per Table**

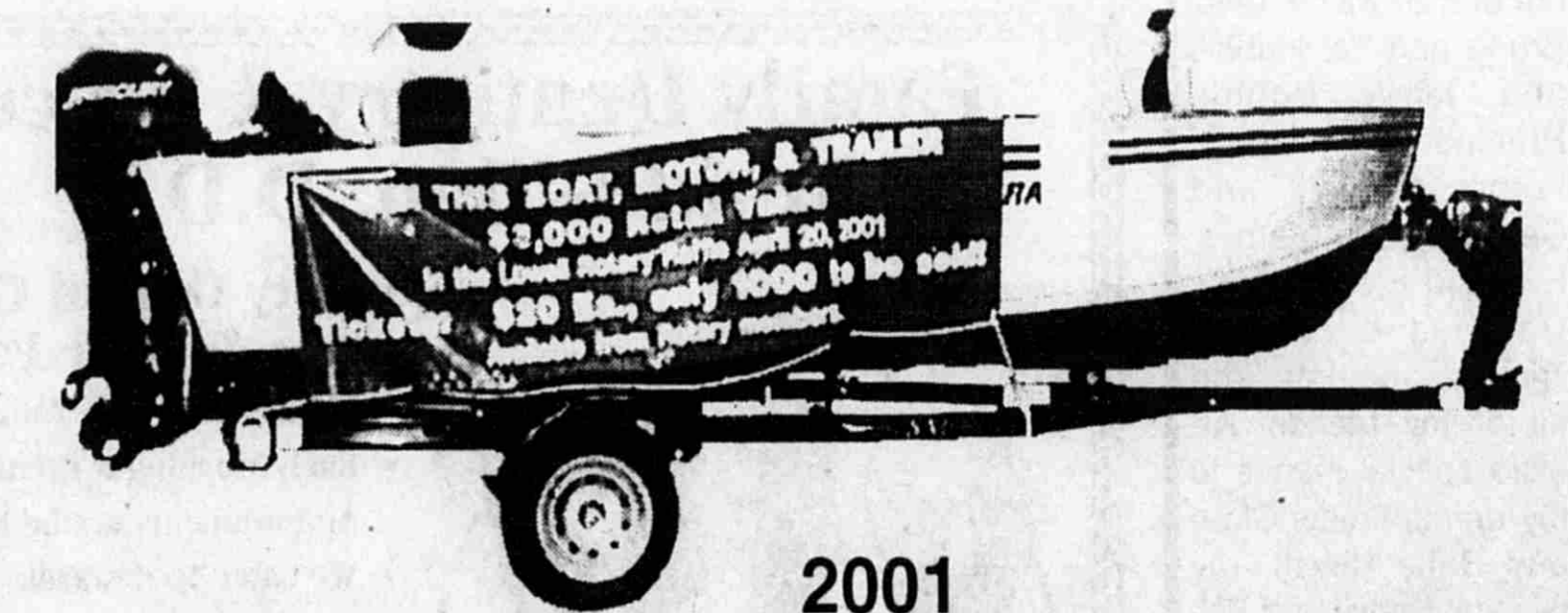
**Call 897-8457 or 897-5911 for Ticket Information**

*Auction Ticket Includes Dinner*

*Social Hour 6:30 pm*

*Dinner 7:30 pm*

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**Lowell Ledger/Buyers Guide**

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**J.B. Harrison Insurance**

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**Speerstra-Carr Insurance**

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**Lowell Chamber of Commerce**

113 Lafayette - Lowell

**State Farm Insurance**

217 W. Main - Lowell

# Inspection reveals quality bus fleet transports Lowell children



Lowell mechanics responsible for the high safety rating on the Lowell bus fleet, pictured, left to right, are: Duane Hamilton and Leo Bowen.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

For three years running, the Michigan State Police have been unable to detect a safety issue in Lowell Area Schools' 52-bus fleet.

It's a tradition from which Larry Mikulski, Lowell transportation supervisor, derives a great deal of pride. "Some schools use the inspection as a way to find out what is wrong with their buses. Our mechanics make sure things are right. They don't wait for someone to tell them that something is wrong," Mikulski says.

Lowell buses are constantly being scrutinized through a program set up by former school mechanic, John Schneider. On a daily basis, items such as lights, tires and fluids are inspected. Every 3,000 miles all buses are put through an overall inspection. "This inspection covers everything," Mikulski explains.

During the summer, mechanics search for things that are not looked for during regular inspections (e.g., peeling paint, cracked engine heads). The work of bus mechanics Duane Hamilton and Leo Bowen has not gone unnoticed by the Lowell Board of Education and Lowell Superintendent Bert Bleke.

"The board and I appreciated the fact we can be confident that our buses are in tiptop condition when they are out on the road. Not only is it a safety issue, but also a financial issue. Our buses last longer, thus there's more money for kids," Bleke said.

Mikulski is most impressed by the fact that the district has two mechanics to look over 52 buses - a ratio of one mechanic for every 26 buses.

"That's incredible. There are districts with more buses, but they also have more mechanics," Mikulski said. As an example, the transportation supervisor notes that Forest Hills has 104 buses but employs six mechanics, a ratio of one mechanic for every 17 buses.

Three years ago, inspectors could not find a thing wrong with any of the buses. Lowell has received one yellow tag in each of the last two years (a flat tire and a cracked leaf spring).

A yellow tag indicates a minor problem was found and needs to be fixed. A red tag indicates something serious has been found and the bus can't move until it is fixed.

"This indicates we're not putting buses on the road which are unsafe," Mikulski concluded.

# Spring is Here! Clean out your closets - place an ad in the Classifieds

**SERVICES**    **HELP WANTED**    **HELP WANTED**    **WANTED**    **FOR SALE**    **FOR SALE**

**CHRISTOPHER'S TREE/SHRUB SERVICE** - removals, proper pruning, spring cleanups, brush chipping. Since 1975. Free estimates. 868-1614.

**DOG & CAT GROOMING** - Located in Fallsburg Park. Full service, small or large dogs & cats. Evening appointments available. Call anytime. Pickup available for shut ins. Senior discount 15%. Call 794-9614.

**TOWING - Servicing Lowell & surrounding areas.** Flat bed & wrecker, Tire changes, Jump starts, Lock outs, 24 Hr. service. Call Lincoln Lake Autos 897-9040.

**NEWSLETTER ASSISTANT** - Use MS Publisher to create electronic pages of national, 40pg quarterly newsletter under direction of editor. Create graphics and ads. Gather information. Help with general production. Adjust digital photos for reproduction. Compile and submit to printer according to established deadlines. Stipend of \$250/issue. We prefer that work be done in our casual office in downtown Lowell, but other arrangements can be made. To apply, send a description of your skills and experience to: North Country Trail Association, 229 E. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331. Open until filled.

**WORK FROM HOME!** - Growing company needs help! \$250-\$500+ per week. Fun! Easy! Will train! No experience needed. Set your own hours. Call 616-752-8346 RealLeader.com.

**ATTENTION** - Now hiring, \$500/week to start. New hires can qualify for \$1500 production bonus. Growing West Michigan company is now accepting applications for immediate permanent work. For a one-on-one interview call 616-243-9132. No 3rd shift is available.

**LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT** - Motivated and hard-working individuals sought for mowing, landscaping, and pruning crews. Seasonal and full-time positions available, offering excellent job satisfaction, wages and benefits. Call David at Hilbrands Landscape Management (616)942-9591.

**PT EVENING CLEANING** - in the Lowell area. Must have own transportation. Call 1-888-458-9378.

**NEED FINANCING** - for that car, truck or ATV? Call Independent Bank's 24-hour EZ Loan By Phone number to apply for a loan! Call 1-877-535-0765.

**ASSEMBLY** - Long term assignment in the Lowell area. Hours 8pm-6am. Great Pay. Drug free environment. Call Cindy at 616-957-0603.

**ROOMMATE/HOUSE RENTAL OPTION** - for Lowell resident. Looking for adult non-smoker. No pets. Call 897-5941.

**ACREAGE LOTS** - Ranging in size from 3.81 acres to 18 acres. Several wooded lots. Perked. Land contracts available. West of Ionia. M-21 to Bellamy Road - N. on Bellamy to sign. Corner of Bellamy & Bradford Roads. For further information, please call eves, ask for Phil, 616-367-4900.

**FOR SALE** - Yamaha CLP Clavinova. Like new condition, includes bench & disk orchestra module DOM, 30 voice box with 99 different voices. Must be seen to appreciate. Call 897-9524 if interested.

**FOR SALE** - Lazy Boy couch & matching loveseat. Neutral color, excellent condition. Call 897-9524 if interested.

**FOR SALE** - 1985 Camero parts car, \$300 obo.; 1972 Evinrude snowmobile needs recoil, \$75 obo. Call 897-8786.

**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 & weekends. Call 248-7729.

**GRAND RAPIDS AREA** - concrete sawing and drilling firm now accepting applications for full time and seasonal positions. Construction or mechanical background a plus. Must have food driving record. Pre-employment physical required. Union wages including Pension, Health Care and Vacation. Send resume: Attn: Steve, 443 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or call 616-451-2886. EOE.

**HELP WANTED** - Near the Middle School we need a student to deliver the Grand Rapids Press. Approximate delivery time is 30 minutes daily. Profit around \$100.00 a month. Call 897-5793 to apply or leave message.

**QUICKBOOKS BOOKKEEPING SERVICE** - and advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.

**QUALITY COLLISION REPAIRS** - Let Bob's Body Shop repair your vehicle to factory specifications, using their new electronic measuring machine along with expert paint matching. Rental cars available while yours is being fixed. Call 897-9040 for details.

**BED & BREAKFAST** - McGee Homestead. Gracious accommodations for your out-of-town guests. Call 616-897-8142 or www.iserv.net/~mcgeebb.

**DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED?** - Don't get sucked into \$100-\$300 evaluation fees... NEVER charge for your record evaluation & consultation! Driver's license RESTORATION: \$1,000 inc. all filing fees. AND FREE consultation & evaluation of your case. Have a question? Call Attorney Martin Mead 616-235-0330.

**FREE SALES**

**GARAGE SALE** - Fri., April 6th & Sat., April 7th, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Women's clothing size 1-8; men's large; furniture, electronics, bikes, etc. 1001 N. Washington, Lowell.

**EASTGATE GRAND SLAM** - Sat, May 5.

**MULTI FAMILY GARAGE SALE** - Rivertop Dr. 8 am - 4 pm. Thurs & Fri.

**GARAGE SALE** - 150 S. Center. Fri., April 6th, 9-5 p.m. Small microwave, milk glass, old records, old fur cape, costume jewelry, misc.

**FREE**

**NOTICE!** FREE FERTILIZER! - Local septic service needs suitable farm land to recycle septage at Agronomic rates. Great soil builder & cash income for the farmer. Call 897-3050, 24 hrs.

**FREE KITTENS** - Various sizes, colors & hair lengths. Please leave a message at 642-3746.

**LOST**

**LOST DOG** - Sheltie, looks like miniature collie. Nervous, not aggressive, 11 years old. Brown & white. Last seen 3/19 at McCabe & 3 Mile. Blue collar, name is Winnie. 874-1885.

**5 ACRE & 3 ACRE PARCELS AVAILABLE** - partially wooded, stream, beautiful building sites. Saranac School District. Nash Rd. Please call M-F, after 5 p.m. 616-642-0117.

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*It is so easy to place an ad! Call today!*

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**CARD OF THANKS**

On March 21, I was involved in a serious car accident while attending college in Flint. I really appreciate the amount of support my family and I received from everyone. I would like to give special thanks to the people who went out of their way to help. Bruce and Val Hubble and family, Bonnie Phillips and Doug, Kerry, Becky and Casey Kyser, James, Eva and Elsie Carey, Dale and Nancy Triplett, Zigmonts and all of my friends. An extra special thanks to my grandparents Clare and Betty Hewitt, my parents Nancy and Bill, Mike and Vicky and my lady Lisa Lou, thanks for everything.

Mike Rekeny Jr.

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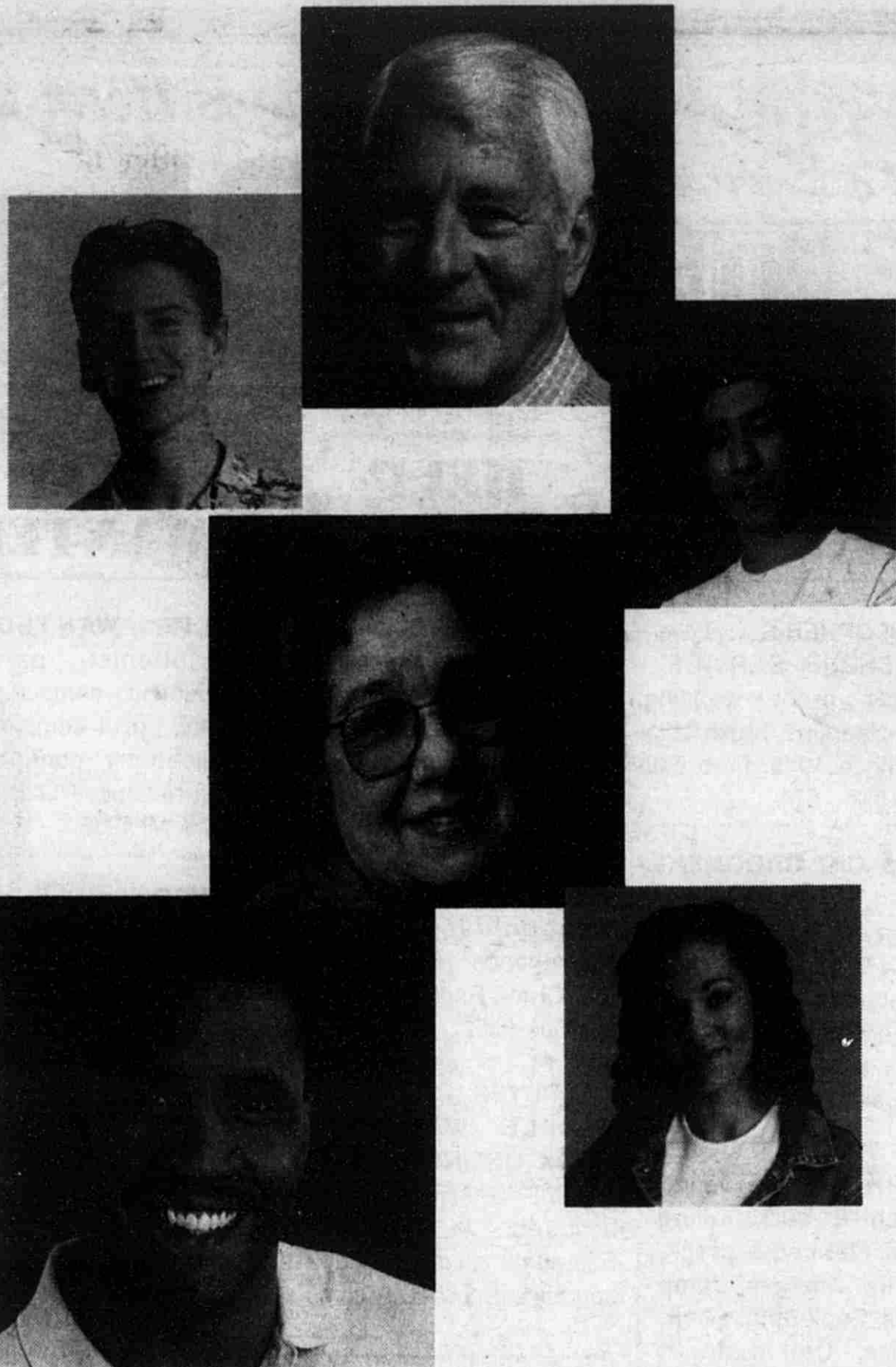
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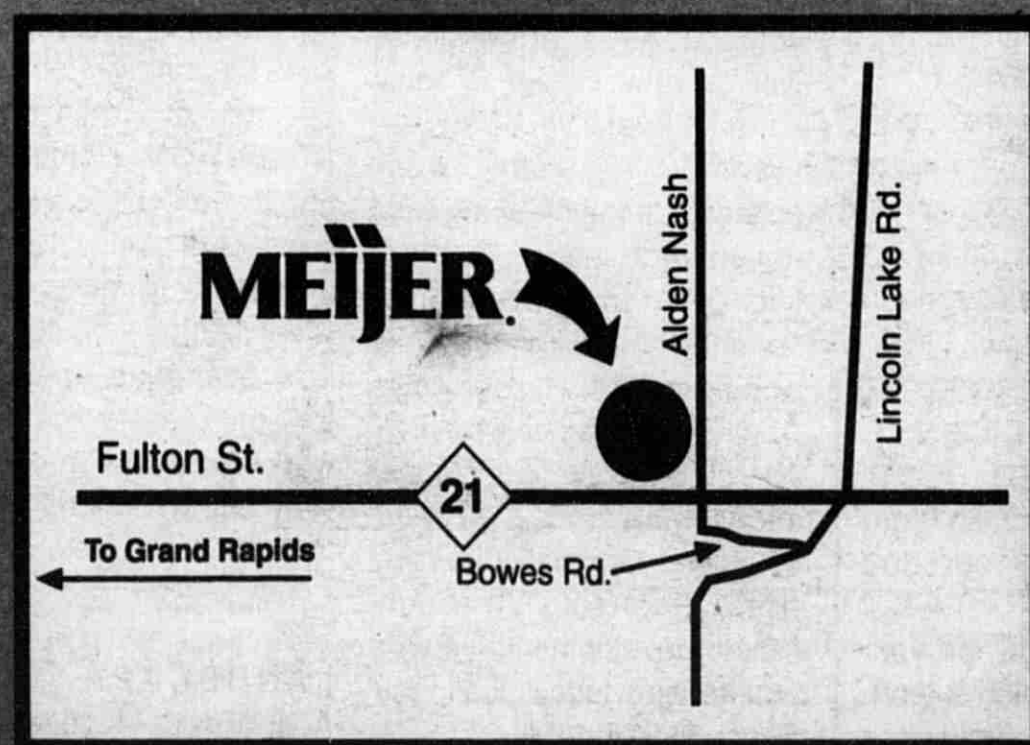
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