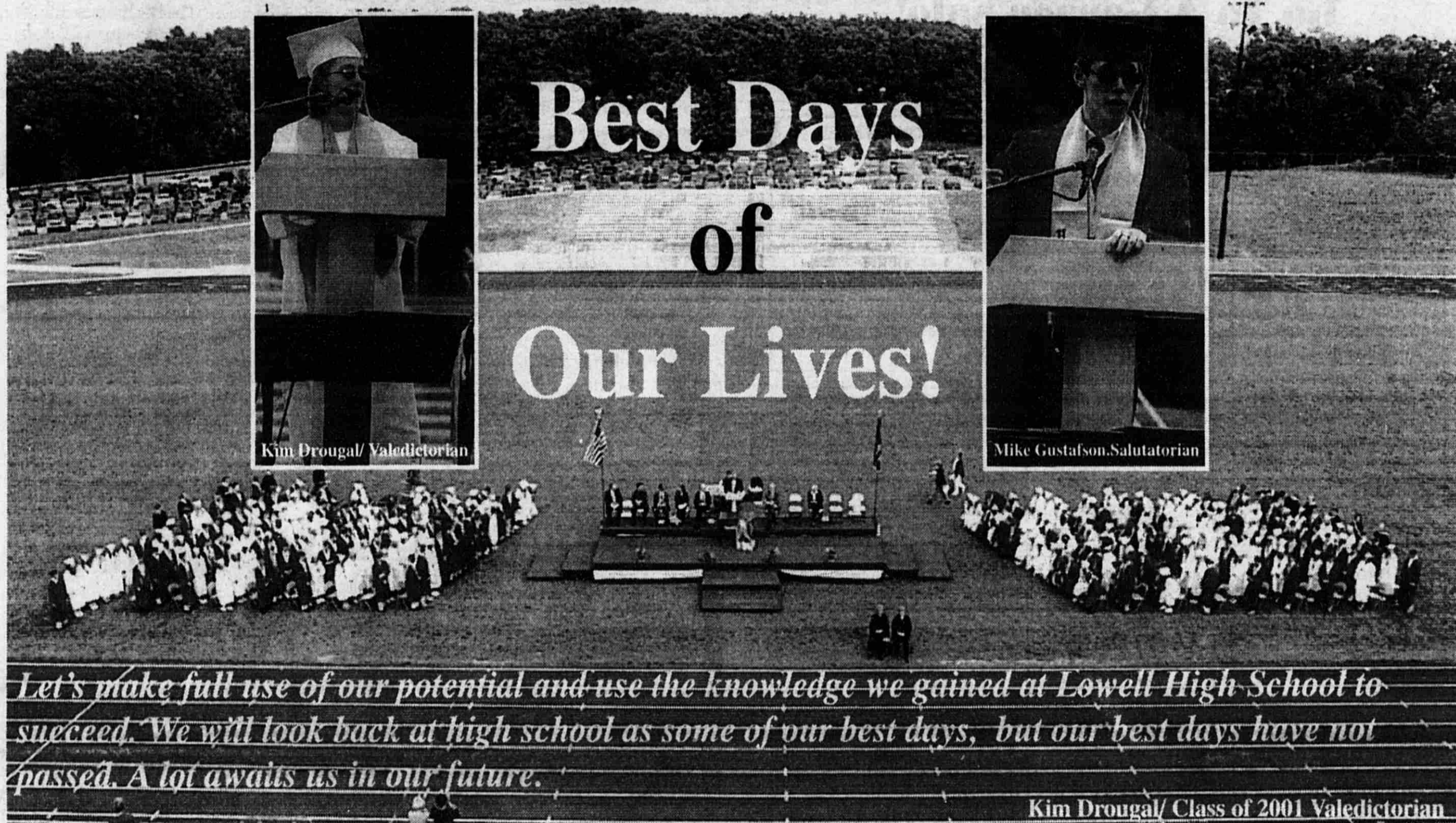


# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 35

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, June 6, 2001



Kim Drougal/Valedictorian

Mike Gustafson, Salutatorian

Kim Drougal/ Class of 2001 Valedictorian

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

Their best days have not yet passed, but Sunday's 123rd commencement is one the graduates from the 2001 Lowell High School class aren't likely to forget.

Prior to carrying out one final assignment, the 252 graduates were reminded of leadership, service, nurturing their dreams, truthfulness and daring themselves to do something they might not otherwise do.

"Let's make full use of our potential and use the knowledge we gained at Lowell High School to succeed," said class valedictorian, Kim Drougal. "We will look back at high

school as some of our best days, but our best days have not passed. A lot awaits us in our future."

Class salutatorian, Mike Gustafson shared a day from his journal which dated back to his freshman year.

It was a Michigan/Notre Dame football Saturday and Gustafson was watching the game with friends.

"As the game started, Troy (Gillan) suggested that every time there was a punt, one of us had to streak out to the mailbox and back," Gustafson recalled.

Succumbing to peer pressure, Gustafson took his friend up on the dare. "I wish our neighbors, driving down the road,

hadn't seen a scrawny kid dive into the bushes," Gustafson explained.

The class salutatorian encouraged fellow graduates to practice being truthful and to accept the everyday challenge and dare to something that they might not otherwise do.

Class president, Heather Posthumus compared her classmates to a garden of blooming dreams. "Each one of our gardens has been nurtured along the way by family and friends. After today, we start a new garden... challenge yourself and don't be afraid to grow exotic flowers."

Lowell High School principal, Scott Vashaw recognized the Class's Top 10, and presented John McKay and Andreea Iancu with the principal's award, which recognizes exemplary strength, fortitude and courage.

Also honored during the commencement were Foreign Exchange students Marta Garrido Alonso, Spain; Monika Baumanns, Germany; Juan Felipe Caicedo Chaux, Columbia; Laura Davalos, Mexico; Dimitar Minchev, Bulgaria; and Ilija Vadjon, Yugoslavia.

In his customary short address to graduates and parents, Lowell superintendent Bert Bleke shared a two-line poem - the first line was for the parents and line two was for the graduates.

"Quit your yakking and start packing; and never stop exploring," he said.

Vashaw also recognized the school's maintenance and custodian crew, Lowell Athletic Boosters Club, Lowell athletic director, Barry Hobrila and the many volunteers who worked late into the night to assure that the stadium would be ready for graduation following the Division IV state track meet which was held at Lowell on Saturday. **More pictures, pg. 9**

## Williams addresses Spartans and state of college football

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

The opportunity to play in rivalry games with Notre Dame, Michigan, and Penn State attract a lot of high school seniors to Michigan State University.

Michigan State head football coach, Bobby Williams wants to change that.

"I don't want players to come here to play in those games, I want them to come here to win those games," he said.

Williams prepares for his second full season as the Spartans' head football coach.

"Summer is a busy time - it's a time to work on fundamental techniques and conditioning - becoming bigger, faster, stronger," Williams explained. "It's also a time to get excited about the upcoming season."

Factors which give reason for expectation include new, promising young players (e.g., Charles Rogers, Josh Shaw) and the return of junior running back T.J. Duckett. "T.J. is in the best shape he's been in," Williams said about his back who will



Michigan State football coach, Bobby Williams spoke to Lowell Rotarians on Wednesday.

get a look when All-American honors are handed out for the 2001 season. He also has an outside shot for Heisman Trophy consideration. "A lot of that will depend on how quick of a start T.J. gets off to," Williams explains.

Williams told a Lowell Rotary luncheon crowd on Wednesday that he believes the MSU football program is ready to take that next step in development.

The MSU coach noted that the first units on both sides of the ball have been solidified.

The one position that needs to be resolved is at quarterback. The Spartans have two-three players who Williams thinks can do the job.

"Last year I felt we showed that competitive spirit, but we were not able to finish," Williams said.

Prior to replacing Lou Saban for the 2000 Florida Citrus Bowl, Williams served as the MSU running backs coach (1990-99); Kansas receivers coach (three months - 1990); offensive backfield coach at Eastern Michigan University (1985-89); running backs and defensive backs coach at Ball State (1983-84); and a graduate

Williams, cont'd. pg. 8

## Inside The Ledger

Stagger Plays the Riverwalk Plaza,  
Page 22



















Lowell tennis coach Bonnie Wall stands with highly regarded national tennis coach Dennis VanderMeer.

## Wall to test what she learned at Lowell tennis programs

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

Roger and Bonnie Wall have never run a kids' summer tennis program before.

So naturally, they looked for advice. They got it from one of the country's eminent tennis instructors, Dennis VanderMeer.

They traveled down to Hiltonhead, South Carolina where Bonnie enrolled in two programs - Tennis University I (community tennis program on how to teach community tennis) and Tennis University III (a program on how to teach kids tennis).

"Originally I was only going to take the first one, but it was so good I enrolled in the teaching kids tennis program too," Bonnie Wall said.

The Lowell tennis coach left with certification from the United States Professional Tennis Registry. "We were tested on the court on each phase of the program," Wall explained. She was one of among roughly 25 instructors. "There were instructors representing 13 countries at this program," Wall added.

VanderMeer started his program, teaching people to teach tennis, 25 years ago. Wall will take what she learned from her six-day visit in Hilton Head and manage summer programs which begin June 18 and run through July 20.

The kids (ages 5-10) camp will run from 9-10 a.m. Monday through Thursday, one hour a day, for five weeks.

The cost is only \$40. "There will be no more than four kids on any one court at a time," Wall stresses.

The Lowell coach said the program will focus on a number of activities created to help kids learn how to grip a tennis racket as well as racket control.

Camps for kids (ages 7-12) will run from 9-10:30 a.m.; teenagers (13-18) will take the court from 10:30 a.m. until noon Monday through Thursday.

"In this camp we will break down the different strokes, teaching them in easy, thorough but precise steps. We will recognize errors in swings and provide non-threatening corrections," Wall said.

The low participation

price was made possible through a grant received through the Lowell Area Community Fund (Englehardt).

The adult summer tennis program will be offered from June 18 through July 20 every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6 until 7:30 p.m. There will be no more than six players on a court.

Wall will also offer an inner city play camp (optional) on Friday for ages 8-18 years old from Friday, June 22 through July 21.

Helping Wall run the camps will be her husband, Roger and Lowell student tennis players Ryan Phillips, Collin Vincent, Gavin Vincent, Katie Gunberg, Jenny Gunberg and Kristina Goulsh (Forest Hills).

## Bommarito, one of many closet artists, featured at LAAC's Celebrate Lowell

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

Mary Bommarito's fancy forart fed her decision to take a watercolor painting course, taught by Loretta Sailors,

through the Lowell Area Arts Council.

Bommarito took the course back in 1999. Not quite two years later, her work will be among the 30-plus artists featured in the "Celebrate

Lowell" exhibit at the Lowell Area Arts Council.

"I never imagined that I might someday share my work with others," Bommarito explained. She credits David Davis for help-

ing to push her in that direction. She also looks to him for critiquing her work.

"My family looks at my work, but they are not always real honest," Bommarito explained. "My husband tells me he has to sleep at night."

Bommarito's art tends to reflect landscapes and floral type work. The piece she is most fond of, however, is one that is more abstract. "I generally go toward realism." One of her pieces in the show, titled "Husk and Feathers," is not the detailed artwork she normally does. "I wouldn't say it's abstract - but it's different for me," she explained.

The exhibit, Celebrate Lowell, will feature visual art by local artists (ages 18 and older) from the Greater Lowell community, including the communities of Saranac, Alto and Ada.

In addition, the exhibition will present poetry, creative writing, and scripts written by children and adults

who participated in the Lowell Area Arts Council's creative writing contest.

Celebrate Lowell runs from June 5 through July 14 with a public reception on Sunday, June 10 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

"The artwork being displayed comes from people who don't do art all the time."

explained LAAC executive director, Loraine Smalligan. "The show gives these artists a chance to share ideas and network with one another."

The show also provides the Lowell Area Arts Council volunteer gallery committee with names of new artists and possible ideas for future shows.

## CITY OF LOWELL MECHANIC

The City of Lowell will be accepting resumes until June 15, 2001 for the position of Mechanic for the City of Lowell. Salary negotiable depending on experience.

Send resumes to  
Lowell City Hall  
Attn: Dan DesJarden  
301 E. Main St.  
Lowell, MI 49331



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED 2001-02 BUDGET AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS.**

DATE OF MEETING:	Monday, June 11, 2001
PLACE OF MEETING:	Runciman Administration Building Board Room - 300 High St., Lowell, MI
HOUR OF MEETING:	7:00 P.M.
TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE:	616-897-8415
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES ARE LOCATED AT:	Runciman Administration Building 300 High St., Lowell, MI 49331

A COPY OF THE PROPOSED 2001-02 BUDGET INCLUDING THE PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS AT:

Runciman Administration Building  
300 High St., Lowell, MI 49331

**PURPOSE OF MEETING:**  
Public discussion on the proposed 2001-02 budget. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. The Board may not adopt its proposed 2001-02 budget until after the public hearing.

Patrick Nugent  
Secretary, Board of Education of  
Lowell Area Schools

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*Along The Trails of The Wittenbach Center*

By Tammy DeBaar

Please stop by to hike our new trail addition. This trail will take you through a mossy, carpeted meadow, a ridge along the creek and back through the pines. Although there are trail maps available at the trailhead, they are not updated to include the new trail.

Mike Lincolnhol, a science teacher at the high school, used this as a class project. His students used aerial photos of the area, determined the terrain and where the trail should go, and built it themselves.

To find this trail, stay straight in the pines rather than turning right at the yellow diamond-shaped trail

markers. Look for the red reflectors and follow the trail as it loops out and back east to the main trail.

FYI...for those of you who are tired of the dandelions taking over your yard: Dandelions can be controlled by applying calcium and compost in the fall. A good source of calcium is gypsum or soft rock phosphate. Or, if you prefer, you can dig out the roots of the dandelions and brew dandelion coffee.

Another thought is to return the area to native grass

seedings...the county conservation district is a good source for native grasses and information about them.

Look for such seeds as Indian grass, big and little bluestem, and switch grass. These grasses are all native to Michigan and at the Wittenbach Center, we are practicing what we preach by planting the above list of Michigan grass seeds as well as native wildflower mixes.

Look for the new growth along the road in the next few weeks. The grasses you currently have in your lawn are likely European.

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Mi.A.E.Y.C. and Kent County 4-C

### IN THE SERVICE

Jason L. Simmer has joined the United States Army under the Delayed Entry program. The program gives young men and women the opportunity to delay entering active duty for up to one year.

The enlistment gives the new soldier the option to learn a new skill, travel and become eligible to receive as much as \$50,000 toward a college education. After completion of basic military training, soldiers receive advanced individual training in their career job specialty.

Simmer will report to Fort Knox, Ky., for basic training. He is the son of Clifford Fenlong of Lowell and Barbara J. Hendrick of Sheridan.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2001-5**

An Ordinance to designate an enforcing agency to discharge the responsibilities of the Township of Bowne under the provisions of the State Construction Code Act (Act 230 of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended.)

The Township of Bowne ordains:

Sec. 1. Agency Designated. Pursuant to the provisions of the Michigan Mechanical Code, in accordance with Act 230 of the Public Acts of 1992, as amended, the Building Official of the Township of Bowne is hereby designated as the enforcing agency to discharge the responsibilities of the Township of Bowne under Act 230 of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended, State of Michigan. The Township of Bowne assumes responsibility for the administration and enforcement of said Act throughout its corporate limits.

Sec. 2. All ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This ordinance shall be effective after legal publication and in accordance with provisions of the Act governing same.

Adopted May 21, 2001

This Ordinance duly Adopted on May 21, 2001 at a regular meeting of the Bowne Township Board and will become effective June 21, 2001.

Date: May 21, 2001 Sandra Kowalczyk, Clerk  
Bowne Township

Attest: Peter Gibson  
Bowne Township Supervisor

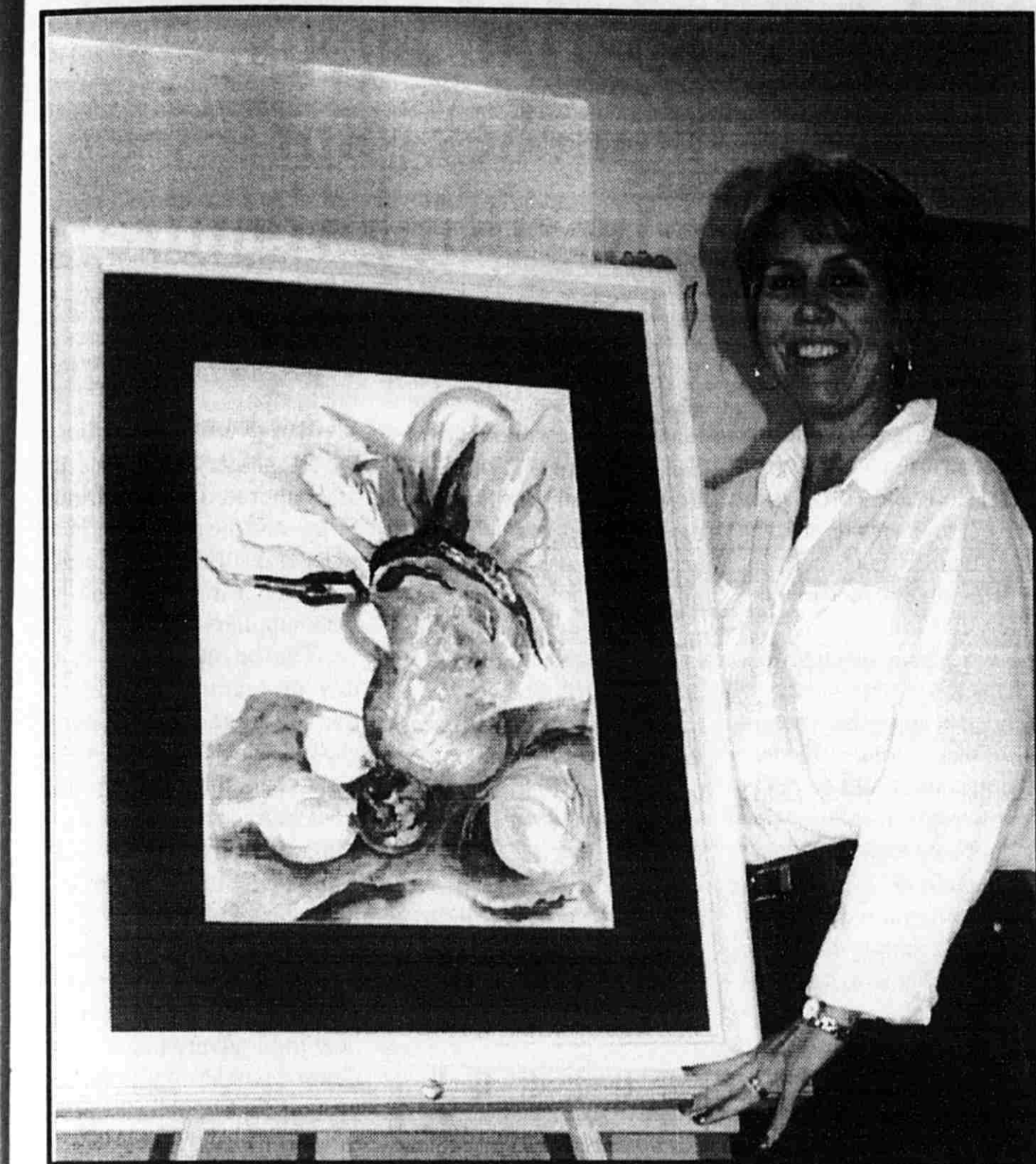
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Mary Bommarito's work can be viewed at the Lowell Area Arts Council's "Celebrate Lowell" show through July 14.

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# Museum gets operational fund increase; city declines on opportunity to raise millage rate

By J.N. Boorsma Contributing Writer

The Lowell Area Historical Museum will get its increase in operational funds. City residents will not see an increase in their millage rate, but will see an increase in trash and yard waste bags.

At its Monday night meeting, the Lowell City Council approved a \$2.2 million budget for 2001-2002 after an hour-long discussion about changes to be made to the budget. The budget goes into effect July 1, 2001.

One area that received the most attention was the 400 percent increase in operational costs for the Lowell Area Historical Museum. Councilmember Chuck Myers said he would like to see that as a start up, costs with the museum eventually not relying on the city for the monies.

"You will have an opportunity to review this annually and can decide yes or no," said city manager, David Pasquale which, he added, holds true for any such operations that the city helps support e.g., Senior Center or Lowell Area Arts Council.

Councilmember Don Green said he did not have a prob-

lem with the amount as long as the city is contributing a "fair share" to the total.

"We do get a benefit with more people coming into the central business district," he said.

Mayor Mike Blough supported the increase as well, stating he felt with such strong backing from the city, it should encourage others to help maintain the museum in the community. The museum also provides a destination point for people, bringing those people into the community, he added.

Blough's concern centered on the Downtown Development Authority's contribution of \$132,000 to help cover the bond payments for the library and the City Hall/police station project. Blough said while appreciative of the offer, he wondered if that money could not be better served on other projects. He also wondered if the DDA was just delaying the inevitable, a millage increase to help cover projects for the city.

"I don't think we are facing the real needs of the infrastructure," Blough said, adding that he felt the city should look seriously at the roads.

Roads were an issue in the upcoming budget with the city deciding to bond for \$500,000 to reconstruct Valley Vista Drive from W. Main to Donna (\$261,860) and N. Division Street from E. Main to Grindle (\$230,796). Pasquale said the city's street funds would contribute about \$15,000 per year toward the payment of the bonds with the general fund picking up the rest of the table, approximately \$45,000.

Also on the possible chopping block was the sidewalk contribution the city gives to residents for putting in new or repairing sidewalks. Staff recommended keeping the program while Green said he could agree with that as long as the city developed a mandatory policy requiring sidewalks be put in or repaired when a home is sold. He thought by instituting that and eliminating the sidewalk contribution by next year would help to encourage residents to put sidewalk in.

"I don't know if anyone would believe us that we are really eliminating the contribution," Blough said, adding that while the program was intended for only five years, it has been

running the last six to eight.

Finally, to help with costs for trash removal, the staff recommended and the council agreed to raise the price of trash bags from \$6 to \$7 for a package of 10. Also yard waste bags would increase from \$5 to \$7 for a package of 20. Pasquale said the increase will hopefully encourage residents to recycle - that cost is paid entirely by the city.

## Spartan Foods launches joint advertising venture

On Sunday, June 3, grocery stores owned by Grand Rapids-based Spartan Stores, Inc. and its supplied stores launched a new, joint advertising venture that promises to bring a number of benefits to consumers, namely more advertised specials at lower prices.

On June 3, the familiar insert consumers are used to receiving in their local newspapers took a very different look in many communities throughout Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. Instead of advertising specials available in single, local grocery store, many of the inserts will carry information on specially priced items in two, three or

four area store. In some communities, the only noticeable change in the insert will be the design.

By advertising together, the 102 grocery stores owned and operated by Spartan Stores and the more than 350 independently owned stores it supplies, earn buying power with suppliers.

The buying power that this program gives allows Spartan Stores, Inc. to purchase products at lower prices and to pass those savings on to customers. Shoppers at some stores may also benefit from a greater number of items being offered.

Under the new program, Spartan Stores will design, produce and distribute the new joint advertising in addition to purchasing the newspaper space and broadcast time for the ads. This frees up personnel at participating stores to focus more time on customer service and store operations. The program also allows for the reallocation of dollars to store improvements or additional advertising.

By offering more sale items at lower prices, neighborhood markets will be able to compete more successfully. Individual store success helps to preserve locally owned, neighborhood grocery stores. Everybody wins.

The new Spartan Stores program is an important part of the company's larger strategy to strengthen the competitiveness of the neighborhood grocery store while developing its own highly successful retail stores.

Spartan Stores, Inc. has been supplying independently owned, neighborhood grocery stores with national brand and private-label products since its founding in 1917. In January 1999, Spartan Stores, Inc. began to develop its own retail network of stores. The company now owns and operates 102 neighborhood markets in Michigan and Ohio under the banners of Ashcraft's Markets, Family Fare Supermarkets, Food Town, Glen's Markets, Great Day Markets and Prevo's Family Markets. Spartan Stores also owns and operates 25 deep-discount drugstores in Michigan and Ohio.

Based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Spartan Stores, Inc. (Nasdaq:SPTN) owns and operates 127 supermarkets and deep-discount drugstores in Michigan and Ohio, including: Family Fare Supermarkets, Great Day Food Centers, Prevo's,

## Catholic Central bats Lowell around in district championship

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

Solid hitting by Catholic Central and a porous Lowell defensive effort spelled defeat for the Red Arrows in a Division II baseball district final at East Grand Rapids on Saturday.

"We weren't as sharp as we've been throughout the season. I think some of that had to do with playing just one game in the two weeks leading up to the district," said Lowell coach, Tim Antel. "You win championships by making no mistakes or just a very few. Central played well and hit the ball solidly all day."

The Cougars rapped out 12 hits as they scored runs in five of the first six innings. Catholic Central tallied three runs in the first, one in the third, two in the fourth, three in the fifth and three more in the sixth.

Lowell trailed 6-4 after four innings and scored a run in its half of the fifth to cut the deficit to one at 6-5. "We're right there going into the bottom of the fifth inning," Antel explained. "We just couldn't hold Central in."

Antel used four pitchers in trying to slow down the Cougar offensive. Dave Rozema, 4-3, started and Nick Kuzmin, Bill Harrison and Wade Gilchrist followed in relief.

Eric Gruber and Ken Vandenberg led Lowell at the plate with two hits apiece. Harrison was one-for-two with a sacrifice.

Lowell (19-10) advanced to the district final with an 8-7 win over East Grand Rapids in the district semifinal.

To do so, the Red Arrows survived some fielding mistakes and a gallant Pioneer comeback effort in the seventh inning. Lowell led 8-3, when East rallied for four runs in the seventh and had the tying run at second with one out.

Rozema was called in relief to put out the fire. The Red Arrow senior struck out both batters he faced to secure Lowell's win.

Brad Eldridge started and picked up his eighth win of the year. He walked one and struck out five.

Lowell trailed 2-1 entering the fifth inning before rallying for four runs in the fifth to take a 5-2 lead. The Red Arrows added three critical runs in the seventh to stretch their lead to 8-3.

Jake Baum was two-for-three at the plate with an RBI. Josh Brown knocked in two runs, finishing the season with 42 RBIs - a school record. Vandenberg was credited

Baseball, cont'd. pg. 20

# REGULAR SCHOOL ELECTION

## NOTICE OF REGULAR ELECTION OF THE ELECTORS OF LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS KENT AND IONIA COUNTIES, MICHIGAN TO BE HELD JUNE 11, 2001

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT: Please Take Notice that the regular election of the school district will be held on Monday, June 11, 2001.

THE POLLS OF ELECTION WILL OPEN AT 7 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING AND CLOSE AT 8 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING.

At the regular school election there will be elected one (1) member to the board of education of the district for a full term of four (4) years ending in 2005.

THE FOLLOWING PERSON HAS BEEN NOMINATED TO FILL SUCH VACANCY:

James E. Reagan

Write-in candidates must file a Declaration of Intent on or before 4 p.m. Friday, June 8, 2001.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT the following proposition will be submitted to the vote of the electors at the regular school election:

### OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL NON-HOMESTEAD AND NON-QUALIFIED AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY TAX

This millage will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of 18 mills against non-homestead and non-qualified agricultural property required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation guarantee.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, exempting therefrom homestead and qualified agricultural property as defined by law, in Lowell Area Schools, Kent and Ionia Counties, Michigan, be increased by 18 mills (\$18.00 on each \$1,000.00 of taxable valuation) for a period of 5 years, 2001 to 2005, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2001 is approximately \$2,300,000 (this is a renewal of millage which expired with the 2000 tax levy)?

### GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE REGULAR BIENNIAL ELECTION

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Regular Biennial Election of Grand Rapids Community College, Michigan, will be held at the same time and at the same voting places as the regular school election on Monday, June 11, 2001, and will be conducted by the same school officials for those electors of the Community College District residing in this school district.

At the Regular Biennial Election there will be elected two (2) members for the office of Community College District Trustee for full terms of six (6) years ending June 30, 2007.

THE FOLLOWING PERSONS HAVE BEEN NOMINATED TO FILL SUCH VACANCIES:

SIX-YEAR TERMS  
(VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 2)  
Margo Anderson Lynne Case Hernandez  
Terri A. Handlin John E. Romero  
Write-in candidates must file a Declaration of Intent on or before 4 p.m. Friday, June 8, 2001.

### THE VOTING PLACES ARE AS FOLLOWS: PRECINCT NO. 1

Voting Place: Runciman Elementary School, 300 High Street, Lowell, Michigan. The first precinct consists of the City of Lowell and those portions lying north of the centerline of Cascade Road in Cascade and Lowell Townships in Kent County, and Boston Township in Ionia County.

### PRECINCT NO. 2

Voting Place: Old Bowne Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash Road, Alto, Michigan. The second precinct consists of Bowne Township in Kent County and Campbell Township in Ionia County and those portions lying south of the centerline of Cascade Road in Cascade and Lowell Townships in Kent County, and Boston Township in Ionia County.

### PRECINCT NO. 3

Voting Place: Vergennes Township Hall, corner of Bailey Drive and Parnell Avenue in Vergennes Township. The third precinct consists of the Townships of Ada, Cannon, Grattan and Vergennes in Kent County, and Keene Township in Ionia County.

All school electors who are registered with the city or township clerk of the city or township in which they reside are eligible to vote at this election.

I, Kenneth D. Parrish, Treasurer of Kent County, Michigan, hereby certify that as of April 16, 2001, the records of this office indicate that the total of all voted increases over and above the tax limitation established by the Constitution of Michigan, in any local units of government affecting the taxable property located in Lowell Area Schools, Kent and Ionia Counties, Michigan, is as follows:

By Kent County:	.84 Mills	2001 to 2009 Incl.
	.25 Mills	2001 to 2005 Incl.
By Grattan Township:	1.00 Mills	2001 to 2003 Incl.
	.50 Mills	2001 to 2003 Incl.
By Ada Township:	.25 Mills	2001 Incl.
	1.25 Mills	2001 Incl.
	.25 Mills	2002 to 2006 Incl.
	.25 Mills	2002 to 2006 Incl.
	.125 Mills	2000 to 2004 Incl.
By Vergennes Township:	.50 Mills	2001 to 2002
By Cannon Township:	None	
By Bowne Township:	1.7911 Mills	2001 to 2008 Incl.
By the School District:	None	

Date: April 16, 2001  
Kenneth D. Parrish  
Treasurer, Kent County  
I, Nancy Hickey, Treasurer of Ionia County, Michigan, hereby certify that as of April 16, 2001, the records of this office indicate that the total of all voted increases over and above the tax limitation established by the Constitution of Michigan, in any local units of government affecting the taxable property located in Lowell Area Schools, Kent and Ionia Counties, Michigan, is as follows:

By Ionia County:	1.0000 Mill	Library Expires 2017
By Boston Township:	N.A.	
By Campbell Township:	1.5 Mill	Emergency Service Expires 2-31-01
	2.0 Mill	Fire Truck Expires 12-31-03
By Keene Township:	N.A.	
By the School District:	None	

Date: April 16, 2001  
Nancy Hickey  
Treasurer, Ionia County  
This Notice is given by order of the board of education,  
Pat Nugent  
Secretary, Board of Education

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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, JUNE 11, 2001 at 7:00 P.M.**

at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash S.E., Lowell.  
The following change of zoning will be considered:  
Mark and Earlina Velting have requested rezoning of property located at 12000 Cascade Road (PP# 41-20-28-200-007), Lowell, Michigan, from the current zoning classification of Agriculture (Ag1) to Light Industrial for the purpose of light industrial use.  
The original application and the township zoning map may be examined at the Township Hall during regular office hours. Please call 897-7600 for further information.  
  
Linda S. Regan, Clerk  
Lowell Charter Township

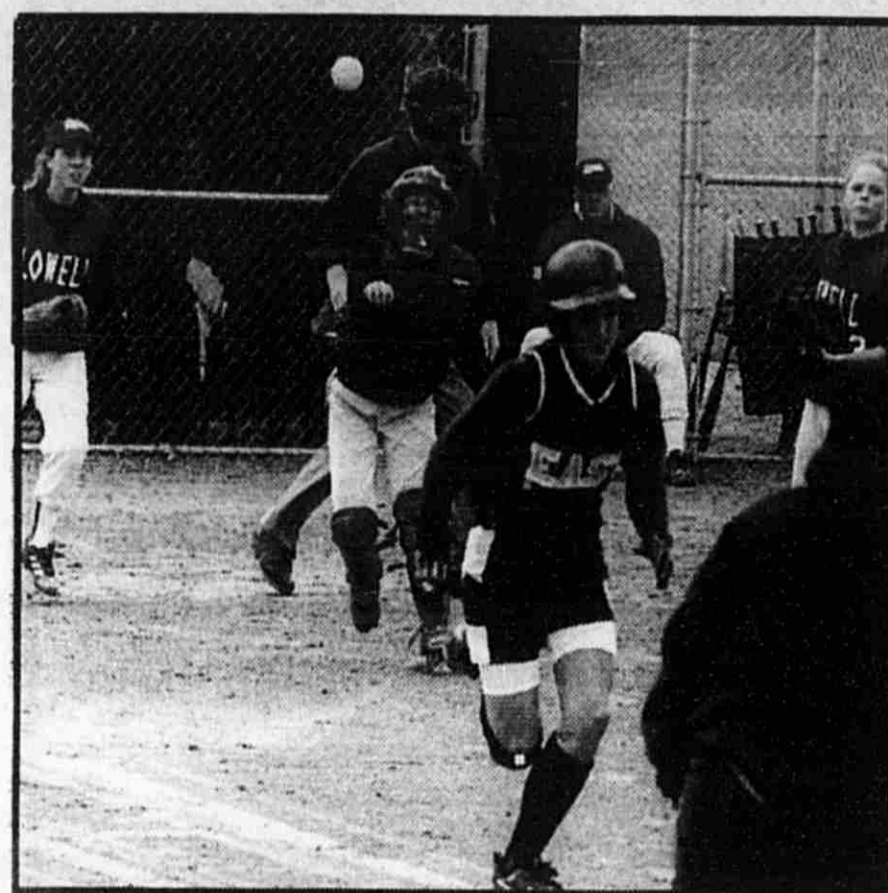
**Caledonia Sportsman's Club**  
100th Ave and Coldwater SE • 891-1168  
**STEAK DINNER**  
Sat., June 9 • 5:30 - 8:30 P.M.  
Adults \$9.00 Children \$4.50

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# Red Arrow girls stymied by Pioneer pitching



Kristi Anderson throws to first on a first-inning bunt attempt by a Pioneer.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

It was 2000 all over again for the Red Arrow softball team.

For a second consecutive season, Lowell beat up East Grand Rapids during the regular season only to suffer a disappointing loss to the Pioneers in the district semifinals.

East Grand Rapids' Ericka Seitz no-hit Red Arrow batters en route to a 2-0 win over Lowell.

Not unlike its 1-0 district win last year, the Pioneers scored all their runs in the first inning.

A passed ball on a strike out, a bunt, a couple of errant throws and an RBI single plated both Pioneer runs against Lacey Capen.

The Lowell starter pitched well enough to win. Capen allowed two runs on two hits. She retired 15 of the last 16 batters she faced. On most days that would be good enough for a win.

Lowell, however, could not solve Seitz. Other than walks in the first and third

innings, the Red Arrows did not have a base runner.

"I told the girls before the game they needed to play error-free softball and hit the ball," Lowell softball coach, Bob Rodenhouse explained. "We didn't do either today."

Lowell finished its season at 14-19. East Grand Rap-

ids lost to Catholic Central in the district final 6-0.

"East played error free and Seitz strikes out eight," Rodenhouse said. "They are much improved."

In leading up to the district, Lowell swept Lakewood (5-2, 4-2).

Amanda Eickhoff col-

lected five hits in the doubleheader.

Capen earned the win in game one and Jacque Benedict picked up the victory in game two.

Tara Kimble and Noelle Dewey each had two hits in game one and Jade Wilder recorded two hits in game two.

## Lowell soccer team edges Greenville; falls to Rangers in district final

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

Lowell girls soccer team needed some luck and big plays if it had any chance against perennial power, Forest Hills Central Saturday in the district final at Forest Hills Central.

The Red Arrows used a defensive alignment which called for four defensemen, five midfielders and one forward and they marked up on the Rangers' two best players.

"We were playing for a tie and trying to frustrate Central," said Lowell soccer coach, Ryan Conlan.

For the first 25 minutes, his Lowell club did a pretty good job. Then the Red Arrows were bitten by some bad luck.

"Central had a corner kick. It looked as though the ball hit the side of the net. Kelly (Fitzpatrick) lifted the net to grab the ball and that's when Central's players declared to the refs they had scored. Prior to that they had shown no emotion associated with a goal," Conlan said. "The refs then stepped in and



Becky Bosserd leads Lowell's attack upfield

Soccer, cont'd. pg. 21

## Baseball, cont'd... From Page 19

Lowell 6  
Creston 5

Brad Eldridge was sharp through four innings as Lowell finished its regular season with a non-conference win over the Polar Bears.

Dave Rozema and Josh Brown pitched two and one innings respectively in relief. Brown was also 2-for-4 with two RBI and a home run.

Rozema also collected two hits and knocked in a run. The Red Arrows tallied two runs in the third, one in the fourth, and three in the fifth. Creston scored their runs in the fifth (three) and sixth (two) innings.

### ORDINANCE NO. 2001-6

An Ordinance to designate an enforcing agency to discharge the responsibilities of the Township of Bowne under the provisions of the State Construction Code Act (Act 230 of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended.)

The Township of Bowne ordains:

Sec. 1. Agency Designated. Pursuant to the provisions of the Michigan Plumbing Code, in accordance with Act 230 of the Public Acts of 1992, as amended, the Building Official of the Township of Bowne is hereby designated as the enforcing agency to discharge the responsibilities of the Township of Bowne under Act 230 of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended, State of Michigan. The Township of Bowne assumes responsibility for the administration and enforcement of said Act throughout its corporate limits.

Sec. 2. All ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This ordinance shall be effective after legal publication and in accordance with provisions of the Act governing same.

Adopted May 21, 2001

This Ordinance duly Adopted on May 21, 2001 at a regular meeting of the Bowne Township Board and will become effective June 21, 2001.

Date: May 21, 2001

Sandra Kowalczyk, Clerk  
Bowne Township

Attest: Peter Gibson  
Bowne Township Supervisor

# Lowell's Ford third in state in high jump

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

Lowell girls track team finished out its season Saturday in the Division II State track meet at Forest Hills Northern.

Nine Lowell girls competed in the state meet, but only Kristi Ford placed. The senior was third in the high jump with a height of 5'4". It was her best finish at state, supplanting last year's fourth-place performance.

Ford finished second at the conference and regional meets leading up to the state finals.

"Kristi has had a great four years. She was our lead-

ing scorer this year. She competed, not only in the high jump, but also scored points for us in the shot put and discus." Lowell girls track coach, Kathy Talus said.

Ford set a school record in the high jump earlier this season when she cleared 5'6-1/4".

While Lowell did not place in any other events at the state meet, it did manage to record some season best times.

In the 1600-meter relay, Holly Plattner, Lisa Wojciakowski, Natalie Kent and Leslie Crowley stopped the clock in a time of 4:12.8.

The 800-meter relay team

just missed placing with a time of 1:47.7. Running for Lowell were Krystal White, Wojciakowski, Kent and Crowley.

White ran a personal best in the 300 hurdles, stopping the clock in 47.7.

White also competed in the 110 hurdles but did not make the finals.

Crowley also competed in the 400-meter run but did not place and Nicole Gillikin did not place in the pole vault. "Anytime you can per-

form at your best at the state meet, you've got to be happy," Talus said.

Earning OK White All Conference honors this year for Lowell were White, Kim Huyser, Gillikin, Wojciakowski, Kent, Crowley, Sandra Sturis, Plattner, Ford, Amanda Grochowalski and April Telman.

Mike Wierenga competed in the 400-meter run in the Division II boys track meet but did not place.

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Heading the Lowell Camp is Paul Legge. Paul is the Lowell varsity boys coach and LASSO director of coaches. In addition, Paul holds his NSCAA National Diploma and USSF 'D.'

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## Blues man, Jimmie Stagger steers concert series off to "Rock'n Start"

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

It had been nearly 10 years in between visits to the Showboat for Jimmie Stagger. The blues artist returned with a different band and a new CD Thursday night as he opened the 10-week Lowell Showboat Summer Concert Series.

"The last time I performed on the Showboat was at an all day blues-jazz festival (about 10 years ago)," Stagger explained. "It was a day filled with sunshine and rain."

The opening week of the concert series was missing sunshine but the cloudy skies and intermittent rain drops, however, did not deter roughly 150 Stagger/blues fans as they enjoyed two hours of music from the Grand Rapids artist. A number of songs came off his latest CD including the signature piece titled "Slim Jim."

"What separates this from my first CD is the music on this one is live (or live as it can be)," Stagger explained. "I wrote a lot of the music and lyrics."

Stagger was born and raised in Grand Rapids. "I've been playing and doing gigs in this area for 35 years. We've ventured out to New York City and other places, but no matter where you are, people just want to hear good music. If they're digging it - then it's a good time," he said.

The Stagger performance marked a new chapter in the Showboat's role in the Lowell community. Gordon Gould, who contracted the artists for the 10 weeks, called the next chapter "a natural and legitimate next step" for the Lowell landmark. As for the Stagger concert, "It's been a long time since the Showboat rocked in this manner," he said.

Those in attendance concurred with Gould.

"This type of venue is what the city envisioned five years ago. This is the way the Showboat should be utilized. It's nice to see the vision come to fruition," said Lowell mayor, Mike Blough.

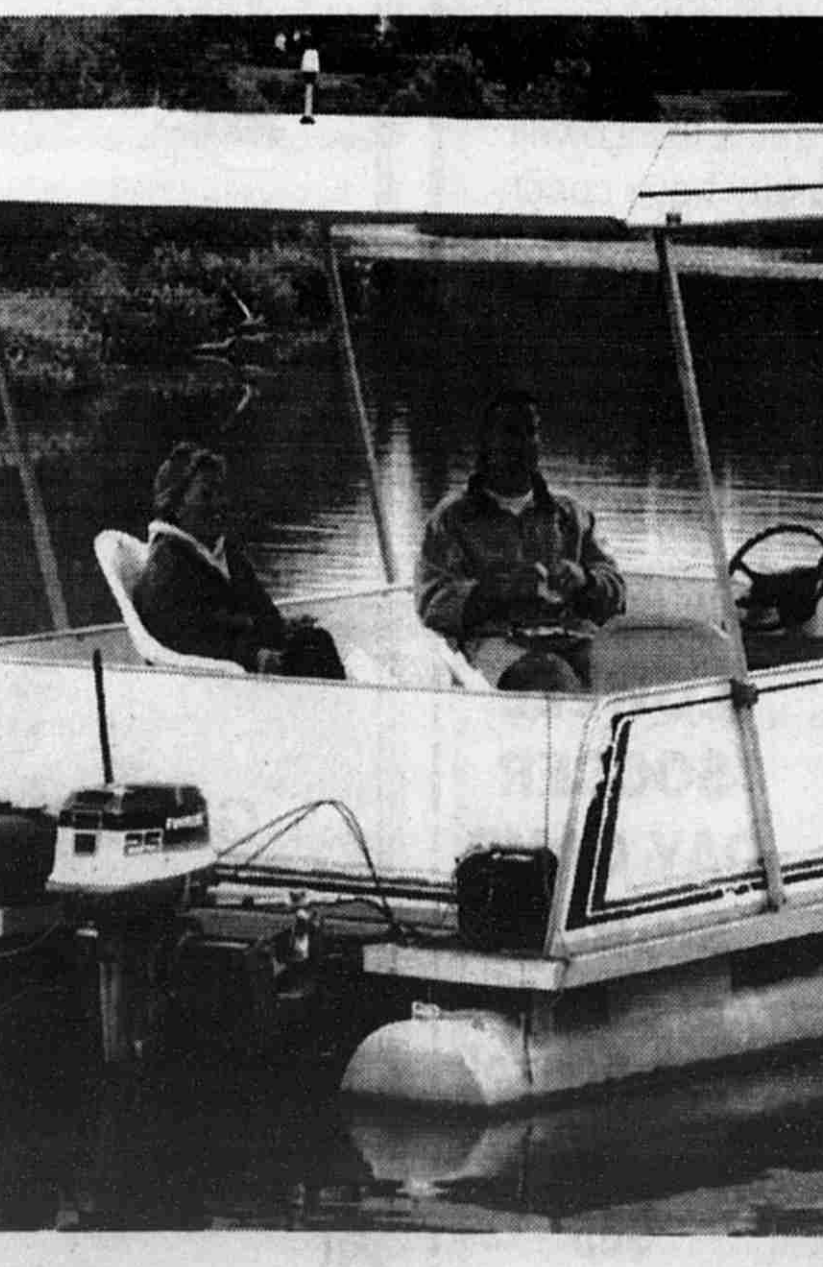
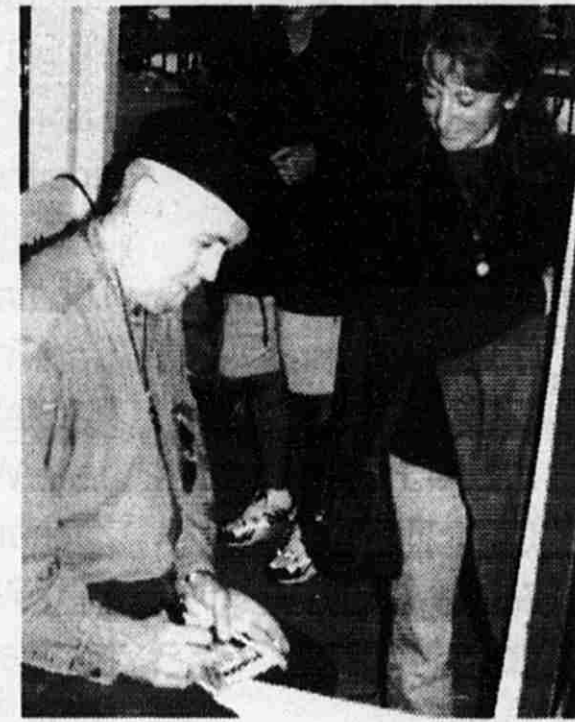
Jim Hall, planning commission chairman, who pushed for the Showboat to be moved closer to Main Street, called the opening week of the summer concert series "wonderful and long overdue."

"Having the Showboat here is a wonderful asset for the community. The setup here is much more inclusive. People feel like they are a part of it," Hall said. "I'm not sure what they paid Jimmy (Stagger), but it was money well spent."

Phil Gless, of Rockford, called the Riverwalk a great venue for the concert series. Lowell's Mark Reynolds added, "I love it and I'm looking forward to the other shows."

Ivan Blough called the evening a "great start" and "with some sunny nights, it will get even better."

The second concert in the summer series will feature the River City Jazz Ensemble. The show will start at 6:30 p.m. and run to 8:30.



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# Showboat concert features big band sounds of River City Jazz Ensemble

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

- Big band music will never die for it is the only true American music.

The River City Jazz Ensemble has been playing that big band sound for over 20 years.

The 12-piece band led by its founder, Henry Swart, will take Lowell Showboat Summer Concert Series patrons through two hours of swing, jazz, ballads, Broadway, polkas and even rock Thursday night at the Lowell Riverwalk Plaza. The two-hour concert begins at 6:30 p.m.

The band is accompanied by vocalist, Amy Forslund.



River City Jazz Ensemble

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"We enjoy the rich heritage of the many favorite dance tunes, and are always updating the music library to keep fresh with the many different sounds of today," Swart said.

While the ensemble is rep-

resentative of some of the best musicians in the area, none of its members are full-time musicians. They come from a broad spectrum of the community - from school teachers and pharmacists to church musicians and businessmen.

"We enjoy playing and entertaining," said Swart, whose big band playing days began in Battle Creek. "Myself and a buddy of mine used to travel to Battle Creek

every weekend to play in a big band. Gradually, as big bands became more and more popular, we decided to start our own band."

Ten years ago, The River City Jazz Ensemble played approximately 75 times a year; it has cut back to roughly 30.

"A lot of the players who started with me have left. They've been replaced with

younger musicians. I dare say that the band which will be playing on the Showboat is the best band I've had in the 20-plus years," Swart explained. "The band does a good job at what it does."

The River City Jazz Ensemble has played at receptions honoring Presidents Bush, Ford and Reagan, and it played at Gov. Engler's Inaugural Ball.

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<b>RAIN</b> Larkin's Other Place LOCATION: 391 W. Main Street	<b>AUGUST 2 - GRAND RIVER BIG BAND</b> <i>Big band music comes alive on the Showboat!</i>

The Lowell Showboat Summer Concert Series is located at the Riverwalk Plaza (east side of river) in historic downtown Lowell.  
For more information call 897-9161 or visit [www.lowellchamber.org](http://www.lowellchamber.org)

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