

The Lowell Ledger

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Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Flat growth and slowing economy keys in board's decision to put hold on all construction projects

By J.N. Boorsma Contributing Writer

After months of discussion and in light of the recent events in September, the Lowell Area Schools Board of Education has decided to delay any future construction projects.

A bond issue approved by voters two years ago included the development of a new elementary school and an addition to the high school. Both projects have been delayed for a year due to three reasons, according to Superintendent Bert Bleke. Those reasons are economics, political uncertainty, and flat student growth.

"This will certainly make some tight situations in the middle school so this decision does come with some sacrifice," said board member, Mark Blanding during discussion time. "It certainly was not an easy decision to make and one that several members changed their mind on a number of times."

Bleke said the national and especially the state economy have been slowing up over the past several months, which has a "very, very important impact" on the school. While the bond issue covers the costs of constructing buildings, it is the

general fund that covers the operation of a facility. A dip in the economy can easily affect that general fund, he said.

"There is a concern that there would not be the funds necessary for the educational programs," Bleke said, adding that the district is here for the students and that its main priority is to provide the educational programs for the students.

"Another huge impact is the flat enrollment," Bleke said. "At the same time as the bond issue two years ago, our enrollment dropped off."

Again, Bleke said the district points to the current state of the economy which seemed to be heading in a downward spin about two years ago.

Coupled with the recent international events, it leaves the district with a very uncertain financial future, he said.

"We are in a period of time where there is no precedent," Bleke said. "In previous years, war or war-like conditions seemed to help the economy. We could be in a situation that does the exact opposite and could be very damaging to the economy."

There were some silver linings to this decision. The first

is the district will suffer no penalties for delaying the projects. According to law, the district must spend up to 85 percent of its construction budget within the first five years before federal and state penalties kick in.

The second, noted by business manager, Connie Gillette, is that the district was able to lock in a six-percent rate. Most interest rates right now hover at about 2.9 percent.

"So while our general fund is not doing well in interest, our construction fund is fine," Gillette said.

Still the decision was not an easy one.

"When you have the public that allows you to do so and the money in the bank, it's hard to make such a decision," Bleke said.

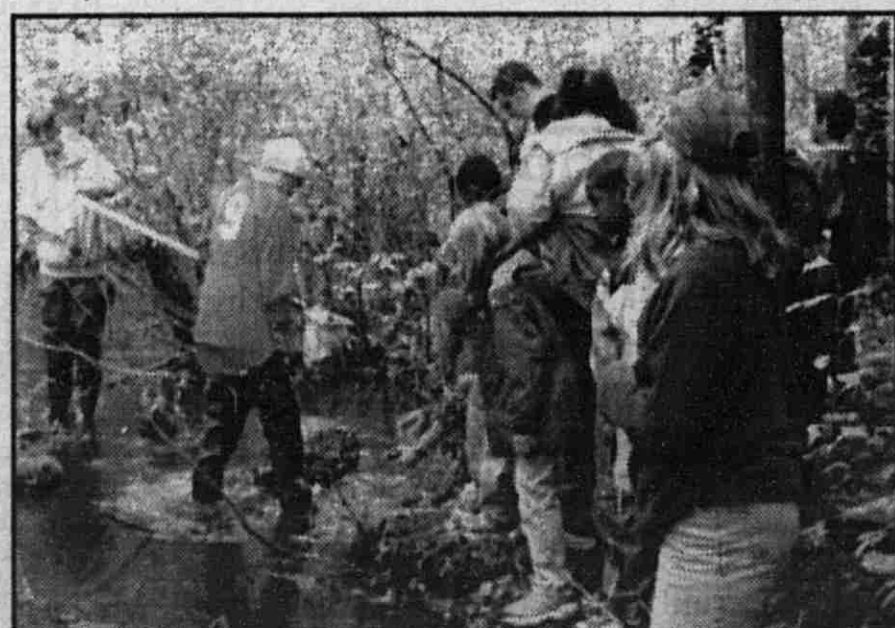
Board trustee, Jim Reagan said the district has to be good stewards to the taxpayers and with this decision is trying to maintain that level of trust.

The district has spent about \$3.6 million of the bond issue. This includes \$917,287.78 for a new gym and improvements at Alto Elementary; preliminary design work of the new elementary school, \$745,321.45; and middle school improvements including technology, \$709,907.51.

NATURE'S EDUCATION



St. Andrews teacher, Linda Schuheart looks at what a student found in the stream bed in the Wege Nature Area.



Lowell High School students work with fifth-graders from Alexander Elementary and St. Andrews schools on how to find creatures in the stream bed. The high school students use a net shaped like a D to bring the creatures out of the bed.

••• Learning about nature gives students a valuable lesson about their environment

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

"Do you notice anything different about these words?" Tammy DeBaar, director of the Wittenbach Center, asked a group of students as they moved through the property located on Vergennes Street.

It is a technique DeBaar uses to get students to see what is around them ... an important lesson for these students whose backgrounds are very diverse. The students in last week's program came from Grand Rapids' Alexander Elementary School and St. Andrews. And while the students were there to learn about hydrology and atmosphere as part of a larger program, they also got the chance to learn about each other.

"This was actually the result of a Globe training that Linda, Dave, Bob and I took earlier this year," DeBaar said. The people she referred to were representatives of the schools: Alexander Elementary, St. Andrews and Lowell.

Through that training, the teachers seemed to click and wanted to bring the opportu-

Nature, cont'd, pg. 19

Gillette prepares school board for state cuts

••• Lowell Area Schools braces for what could be a bad financial year.

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

Lowell Area Schools is facing the reality of a sluggish economy by prioritizing programs and preparing for some large cuts from the state.

At its Monday night regular board meeting at the Alto Elementary School, business manager, Connie Gillette gave the board a budget update on its 2001-2002 financial situation.

"We are in a good spot ... in that some districts have already had to make some major cuts and we haven't done that this year," Gillette said.

This, however, was about the only good news she had for the seven trustees.

The state has already cut funding for readiness programs with Lowell losing about \$50,000. Unconfirmed reports have stated that some or all of that funding may be restored, Gillette said.

The news didn't get much better as Gillette reported the state revenues for the district will be down and expenses will be up. The district hired

more staff this year, added extra programs, and installed a new sound system at the football stadium—all of which have affected the budget.

Foundation allowances appear to have been reinstated, but monies for such programs as At-Risk could easily be on the chopping block.

"Our categories [such as At Risk] are usually viewed as 'fluff' programming that we really don't need to run our regular educational programs," Gillette explained, adding that this type of funding is usually the first to go.

Gillette said she also has been told to expect a five to 10 percent cut in funding this year and/or next year. She is uncertain at this time whether the cuts will be made in one year or spread out over two. She reported earlier in the

meeting that schools' interest earnings were down due to the economy.

"With this in mind, we have started to do some threshold budgeting, where we prioritize what our most important programs are," she said, adding that the business staff is meeting with principals to discuss this process.

Gov. John Engler has moved his state Revenue Consensus Conference from January to October, which might bring more information on what school districts can expect in the future, Gillette said, adding that information from that conference may be out as early as November or December. Traditionally, the Lowell Area Schools Board of Education revises its budget a couple of times a year. They probably will do this in December.

Inside The Ledger

Homecoming
Pictures,
Page 16

OBITUARIES

ADAMS - Helen B. Adams, with the Lord and Boots into Heaven. Helen was a good friend, and served thousands hit the jackpot and is dancing

of us with a warm smile, a wry wit, and great food at the Green Parrot, the Lowell Showboat and Helen's Restaurants. Thanks, Helen, we love you! A Mass of Christian Burial was held October 4 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Lowell.

BOWDEN - Peggy Lynn (Witherell) Bowden, aged 50, of Lowell, died Sunday, October 7, 2001. She is survived by her husband of 17 years, Forrest; a son Jerry (Ann) Bellah; her parents Dossan and Marion Witherell; mother-in-law Sharon

Bowden; father-in-law Ken (Pam) Bowden; brother Terry (Sue) Witherell; sisters Merry Walker, Melody (David) Curtis, Michelle (Brad) Brigstock; grandchildren Samantha and Nicole Bellah. Mrs. Bowden was a member of the Moose Lodge of Lowell. Funeral services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, Lowell. Rev. Robert Holmes of Christian Life Center officiating. Interment South Boston Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the grandchildren's college fund.

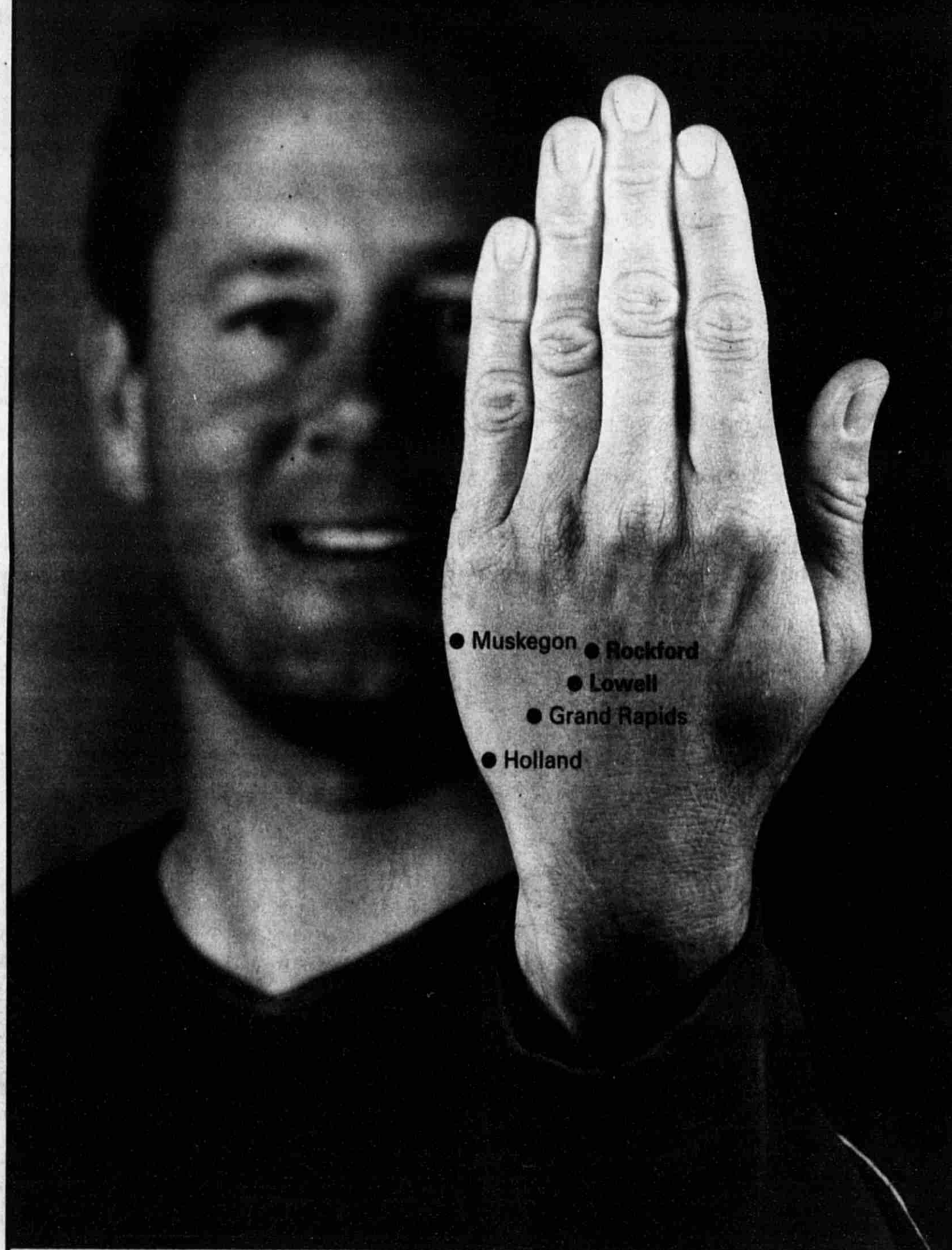
HUNTER - Mr. Willard (Bill) Hunter of Lakeland, Florida, died Sunday, September 30, 2001 at Carpenters Estates at the age of 88. Bill was born in Lowell on December 3, 1912. He moved to Florida in January 1979. He was a WWII veteran having served in the Iwo Jima area, in the navy. Bill was a life member of Lowell Moose Lodge #809 and also the V.F.W. He was employed by Cities Service Oil Co. and Amway Corp. He is survived by his wife Roxie, of 68 years, who lives in Lakeland, Fla.; also a brother Jack (Alice) Hunter and a niece Jacalyn (David) Gilliland, all of Ionia. Memorials may be made to: The Good Samaritan Fund at the Estates of Carpenters, 1001 Carpenters Way, Lakeland, FL 33809 or to a charity of one's choice. Cremation has taken place at Bill's request. Inurnment at Oakwood Cemetery, Lowell.

SNIEDER - Gilbert "Gib" Snieder, aged 77, of Lowell, died Sunday, October 7, 2001. He was born in Grant on October 13, 1924. He was preceded in death by his sister Gertrude Landheer and brothers Arthur Snieder and John Snieder. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Winnifred; sisters Connie

(John) Hesselink of Rudyard, MI, Marilyn Skrycki of Grand Rapids; brother Nelson (Bernice) VerStrate of Sand Lake; sisters-in-law Eunice Snieder, Carmen (Virgil) Roudabush and Margaret Peckham; brothers-in-law Joe Landheer, Lloyd (Betty) Powell and Dave (Fran) Powell; and many nieces and nephews. Mr. Snieder served in the U.S. Navy from 1942-1948, in the Battle of the Philippines in W.W.II. He was a member of the Lowell Moose Club and VFW. He worked at Steelcase for 20 years. Funeral services will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, Lowell, Rev. Gordie Barry of First United Methodist Church of Lowell officiating. Interment Graceland Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association or First United Methodist Church of Lowell.

VANDEN BOSCH - Mrs. Adeline VandenBosch, aged 93, went home to be with her Lord on Thursday, October 4, 2001. Mrs. VandenBosch was a member of Courtland-Oakfield United Methodist Church for over 60 years. Mrs. VandenBosch worked at the Grand Rapids Press for 25 years after retiring at age 65, retiring again at age 91. Preceding her in death was her husband Thomas VandenBosch. She is survived by her children Joan VandenBosch of Drummond Island and Lowell, Karen and Duane Postema of Grand Rapids and Jim and Christine VandenBosch of Ada; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; her twin sister Mrs. Marguerite Huizinga of Grand Rapids; nieces and nephews and their families. Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider the Memorial Fund at Courtland-Oakfield United Methodist Church. A family service was held Monday.

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Reflections Of Faith

Pastor Burland Margesson
First Baptist Church

Last week I attempted to draw your attention to the first three verses of Psalm two. Within those verses we could hear "the rage of the nations." There are sounds of rebellion and the actions of unrestrained hatred against all that is of God. It is not a pleasant sound, to say the least. In II Timothy 3:1 we read, "This know also that in the last days perilous or savage times will come."

Today, I would like to have you hear a second voice in this Psalm. It is the voice of the Father. He is described as "He who sits in the heavens shall laugh. The Lord shall hold them in derision. Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath ... I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion."

Note the imagery. God is seated. This suggests His throne of Sovereignty and authority. His laughter is not to be misinterpreted. It is a holy scorn against the unrestrained actions of the wicked and the evil. It does not mean that He is amused. It does not call into question His compassion and His mercies. What is being revealed is the futility of those who seek to frustrate or thwart the will of God unfolding through the ages.

Note the declaration of

the Father with reference to His Son and our Savior. "I have set My King upon My holy hill of Zion." Jesus Christ is the believer's King and His coming Lord. Jesus said when on trial before Pilate: "My Kingdom is not of this world!" Today, the heart of the believer is a part of His kingdom. In the future, He is coming to set up a universal kingdom. There will be no more war; there will be no more sin. He will reign supremely. That has been set in the councils of eternity and no force or power can hinder the realization of that accomplishment. Yes, these are very disturbing times. Many struggle with fears and anxieties very new to our nation and to the Church of Jesus Christ. Our strength and confidence is in the Person of our God and Savior and in the unfolding of His perfect will. You might turn to Romans eight and read the verses beginning at 28 and on through the remainder of the chapter.



United We Stand!

LAAC auditions for January performance

The Lowell Area Arts Council's Thebes Players are seeking actors for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* by Edward Albee. Public performances of this production will be at the Lowell Performing Arts Center on Thurs-

day, Jan. 24 - Sunday, Jan. 26, 2002.

This three-act play requires two males and two females. Auditions will take place at the Lowell Area Arts Council on Nov. 6-8 between

7-9 p.m. Call backs are on Nov. 9.

The play is about George, a professor at a small college, and his wife Martha who have just returned home, drunk from a Saturday night party. Martha announces, amidst general profanity, that she has invited a young couple - an opportunistic new professor at the college and his shatteringly naive new bride - to stop by for a

nightcap. When they arrive, the charade begins. The drinks flow and suddenly inhibitions melt. Underneath the edgy banter, which is cross-fired between both couples, lurks an undercurrent of tragedy and despair.

For more information and to borrow a script for review, call the Lowell Area Arts Council at 897-8545.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

OCT. 11: Susan Merriman, Ashley Hendrick.
OCT. 12: Neille Stephens.
OCT. 13: Adam Thaler, Joe VanLaan, Patrick Doyle, Gilbert Snieder, Emily J. Zengri.
OCT. 14: Jeanne Shores, Ericka Onan, Barb Erickson, Debra Duiven, Court Duiven, Kyle Hildenbrand, Kurt Telman.

Kinyon, Jim Watrous, Kelsey Callihan.
OCT. 15: Jamie Roth, Jason Roth, Elizabeth Raab, Mark Russell, Jan Lippert, Annie Oesch, Kevin Clouser, Frank Grudzinskas, Doug Felling.
OCT. 16: Angelo J. Zengri, Paula Blough.
OCT. 17: Collin Kaeb, Kurt Telman.

Super science at KDL Oct. 13

A fun-filled hour of science, for ages six and up, will feature hands-on experiments, informative presentations and take-home projects at some of the Kent District Libraries this fall.

branches will offer the program on Saturday, Oct. 13 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. respectively.

If you have any questions, call 784-2007.

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—Anna Eleanor Roosevelt

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TUES: Submarine sandwich or diced chicken BBQ on bun, dried fruit, tater tots.

WED: Cheesy pizza or sloppy joe on bun, peaches, green beans.

THURS: Chicken sticks & roll or beefy burrito w/nacho pieces, pineapple & mandarin oranges, fresh veggies & dip.

FRI: Half Day - Parent - teacher conferences.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Join Us In Worship

<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936</p> <p>Worship Sundays.....8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. Coffee Hour.....9:30 A.M. Sunday School.....9:50 A.M.</p> <p>REV. B. GORDON BARRY Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p>EVERGREEN MISSIONARY CHURCH 10501 Settlemood • Ph. 897-7185</p> <p>Sunday School.....9:45 A.M. Morning Worship.....11 A.M. Evening Service.....6:00 P.M.</p> <p>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>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery</p> <p>Robert W. Holmes, Pastor Jonathan Walker, Youth Pastor Jason Grear, Children & Young Adults</p> <p>SUNDAYS: Worship: 10:00 & 6 p.m.</p> <p>WEDNESDAYS: Family Night: (for All Ages) 7 p.m. Generation Jacob Youth: 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21</p> <p>www.iserv.net/~goodshep Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available)</p> <p>Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>
<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. Burland Margesson & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor</p> <p>Sun. Worship Service...9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/JV.....Wed. 6:15 & 7 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648</p> <p>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)</p> <p>Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>	<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington • 897-8800</p> <p>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.</p> <p>PASTOR TIM DESHAW Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 404 North Hudson • 897-5906</p> <p>Worship and Church School.....10:00 A.M. Dr. Roger LaWare.....Pastor Megan MacNaughton.....Music Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided</p> <p>Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>

Viewpoint

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

In the wake of the after math of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, many people around the country are talking about their feelings and comforting their children, but aren't quite sure how to proceed. For many, especially the victims of this terrible tragedy, the reality of what happened is only beginning to be felt. Fortunately, much good advice on this subject has been coming through the media.

On the day of the attack, our staff spoke with local radio station WION and called local school superintendents, churches, the sheriff's department, and local police departments to let the community know that we were nearby should students, employees, or citizens need our services.

In virtually any tragedy, talking to someone about one's feelings can be the healthiest route to pursue. Parents should encourage their children to talk and reassure them that everything will be done to keep them safe. An idea suggested by one of our therapists is to have parents engage younger children in drawing pictures, then discuss the drawings to clarify any fears or misunderstandings.

Parents, and adults in general, should also find someone to talk to about their own feelings. Good sources would include one's spouse, a best friend, parents, neighbor or clergy. Keeping feelings of anger, sadness, or fear to oneself can lead to stress and illness.

Ionia County Community Mental Health will be holding public forums to provide an opportunity for community members to come together to discuss their concerns about the Sept. 11 tragedy. One will be held Wednesday, Oct. 17 at the Commission on Aging in Ionia from 3-5 p.m. and again from 6-7:30 p.m. Another one will be held on Thursday, Oct. 18 at the River's Edge Drop-In Center in the Belding Mall from 3-5 p.m. and 6-7:30 p.m. Clinical psychologist Dr. Jeff Kieliszewski and I will be leading the forums.

If anyone is finding it difficult to talk about this terrible tragedy, please know that support is available. For more information, feel free to telephone Ionia County Community Mental Health at 761-3151. We are still nearby.

Sincerely,
Robert S. Lathers M.S.W.
Chief Executive Officer
Ionia County
Community
Mental Health



Ledger Entries of 125, 100, 75, 50 & 25 Years Ago

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL OCTOBER 11, 1876

"A true Reformer is the man who can put up the living room stove and not swear about it." Lowell mills are buying wheat at the rate of \$2,000 a day. The sidewalk on the west side of sprague's wagon shop looks like an elephant stepped on it.

The Ionia Light Guard sponsored an excursion to the Centennial exposition at Philadelphia. More than 2000 people went, plus the Saranac Cornet Band.

All the new books in the District Library are taken out every Saturday.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER OCTOBER 10, 1901;

This issue is missing, as well as every issue until May, 1902; we substitute columns from the first year Ledger Entries was published, 1987. 114 years October 13, 1887

With the increase in street lights, another man, D.V. Dennick, is hired to light and tend them.

Special railroad rates are offered every Friday to the Milwaukee Exposition. Hard winds last week blew ripening apples from the trees. Baseball season closed last week and American League champion St. Louis plays National League champion Detroit for the first World Championship. Detroit wins, 1-0.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO OCTOBER 14, 1926

The West Ward School is renamed "Perry School" and a stone marker with the name is placed on the school grounds. Miss Perry taught 38 years in Lowell schools. Lowell Literary Club arranges the ceremony, and the retiring teacher receives a lovely cedar chest from past and present pupils.

Supt. Gummer writes a weekly article for the Ledger. This week he reminds parents that no school-sponsored parties will go beyond 9 p.m. weekdays or 11 p.m. weekends, just in case their child comes in very late from a "school party."

The Graham Block was completed in 1869, according to the "Looking Way On Backward" column.

The Ionia County News is picked by the University of Illinois as the nation's best weekly paper.

The annual Radio Industries banquet arranges for soprano Mary Lewis' concert to be simultaneously broadcast from 46 stations, making her audience the largest yet, an estimated 15 million.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER OCT. 11, 1951

New Light & Power head Thomas Moore will have assistance from retiring Frank McMahon until next July in leading the ropes.

The Lowell High School band will join 95 other bands this Saturday at the third annual Band Day at U. of M., the biggest so far. The legendary William D. Revelli is the director.

Bruce Fase, Bob Grummet and Bill Vandermass are this week's featured footballers.

A new 20" television set (color TV optional) is \$329.95. Michigan Bell Telephone explains why operators say numbers that odd way: to keep similar-sounding numbers, such as five and nine, distinct, thus saving time.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER OCT. 14, 1976

Activity increases markedly at the Lowell City Airport, as Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music starts training missionary aviators.

High school students through rep Jim Pfaller request that the dress code allow shirts open to the third button rather than the second on account of warm weather.

An alert clerk at Eberhard's, and Cary Stiff's quick thinking at his two stores, Cary's and Gee's, send two sets of thieves to jail for several crimes.

Grand Valley State College will offer an evening course in Lowell, designed to develop clear and effective writing style.

Outdoor Education teacher, Steve Harrington writes his weekly column on Nature's preparations for winter.

Health With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang & Kevin Miller

ADHD

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD, ADHD) is a common condition diagnosed in school children. Children with ADHD usually present with hyperactivity and a lack of attention. They are impulsive and easily distracted. This often leads to trouble at school and at home.

Lack of attention usually manifests in the following ways:

- poor attention to details
- not listening when spoken to
- failure to complete tests
- easily distracted
- forgetful

Financial Focus

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CONVERTIBLES CAN EASE EFFECTS OF VOLATILITY

If you're concerned about the effects of market volatility on your portfolio, what can you do? Actually, you can do a lot. To begin with, you can diversify. If you own only one type of investment, such as growth stocks, you'll expose yourself to a significant degree of risk. Why? Because when a particular set of market circumstances negatively affects growth stocks, you'll have nothing else to take up the slack. But if you spread your investment dollars among a variety of asset classes — growth stocks, growth and income stocks, bonds, money market accounts, government securities — you will reduce the risk of a downturn hitting just one group.

Even within your diversified portfolio, you may want to consider some individual investments that have the potential of reducing the effects of volatility. One such investment is a "convertible" security, which can be either a convertible bond or a preferred stock.

Like other fixed-income investments, a convertible pays interest and principal payments. But there's also a key difference: If you own a convertible, you can turn it into shares of common stock — in other words, you can "convert" it.

This unique feature gives convertibles some interesting advantages. First and foremost, convertibles share the relative stability of fixed-income investments while simultaneously being exposed to the potential gains of the underlying stock. Convertible prices move in the same direction as the prices of the stocks into which they can be converted — and yet the convertibles are generally less volatile.

Convertibles also give you a certain degree of investment flexibility, because you can make money in different ways. You can either sell your convertible when its price goes up in the market or you can convert it to common stock and then either hold or sell the shares. Your decision will depend on your individual situation and needs, but just having the choice gives you greater control over your investment picture.

Before buying a convertible, you'll want to do your homework. That means you'll need to determine the quality of the business issuing the bond. Is it a good, strong, stable company? Will it have any trouble paying you back your principal and interest payments? In addition, just as you would with stocks, look for the potential for growth.

And here's something else to keep in mind: Although convertibles may be less volatile than their underlying stocks, that doesn't mean their price won't fluctuate. Also, a lot of convertibles are issued by more aggressive companies in turbulent sectors, such as technology and telecommunications. So, even if the company that issues the bond is run well, has a good business plan and produces a solid product line, it can still be susceptible to the winds of change that blow over an entire industry.

Ultimately, convertibles are not the simplest investment you could choose. Before you buy one, you need to know exactly how it works, what your options are and what sort of company you're loaning money to. But if you do your research carefully, you could find that the right convertibles could help smooth your drive through an unpredictable investment world.

LAAC Thebes Players present "Arsenic & Old Lace" Oct. 18-21

The October 2001 production of *Arsenic and Old Lace* by the LAAC Thebes Players is the 25th anniversary for this group.

The play, presented at the Lowell Performing Arts Center at Lowell High School, is one of the madcat black comedies of all time. Created by Joseph Kesselring, this theatre production is about an easy-going drama critic caught in a sticky situation

when he learns of his aunts' favorite pastime. Apparently the kind, sweet, lonely spinsters lure gentlemen to the house and serve them elderberry wine with a touch of arsenic. Even more devastating is that the women have been burying the bodies in the cellar!

Director is Brent Alles and co-producers are Debra Duiven and Jim Marron.

Dates and times for the comedy are Thursday, Oct. 18 at 8 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 19 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 20 at 3 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Oct. 21 at 3 p.m.

General admission is \$7; \$6 for LAAC members, students, and seniors. Tickets are available through the Lowell Area Arts Council at 149 S. Hudson, by calling 897-8545 or at the door.

KDL Notes and Reminders....

Pooh Party at KDL Branches

This fall is the 75th anniversary of the original *Winnie the Pooh*. Children ages six and under can play Pin the Tail on Eeyore, Tigger's Bouncing Race and Pooh's Honey Pot Toss and then enjoy some nourishing nibbles from the Hundred Acre Woods.

The Alto branch will present the program on Monday, Oct. 15 at 10:30 a.m. and on Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 1:30 p.m. The Englehardt branch will offer the program on Monday, Oct. 29 at 1:30 p.m. and on Thursday, Nov. 1 at 10:30 a.m.

Winnie the Pooh, by A. A. Milne, was published on Oct. 14, 1926.

Homeschool Open House at Alto Library

The Kent District Library invites homeschool parents to learn what the library has to offer homeschool families with open houses at several branches this fall.

Alto Library will offer the program on Saturday, Oct. 13 at 11 a.m. The open house creates a forum to share information about homeschoolers' needs and educates parents about the library's resources. The program includes a tour, an introduction to their computers and a showcase of new materials.

To register for the program at the Alto branch, call 868-6038. For other locations and dates, call 784-2007.

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Lady Arrows Varsity Club formed at LHS

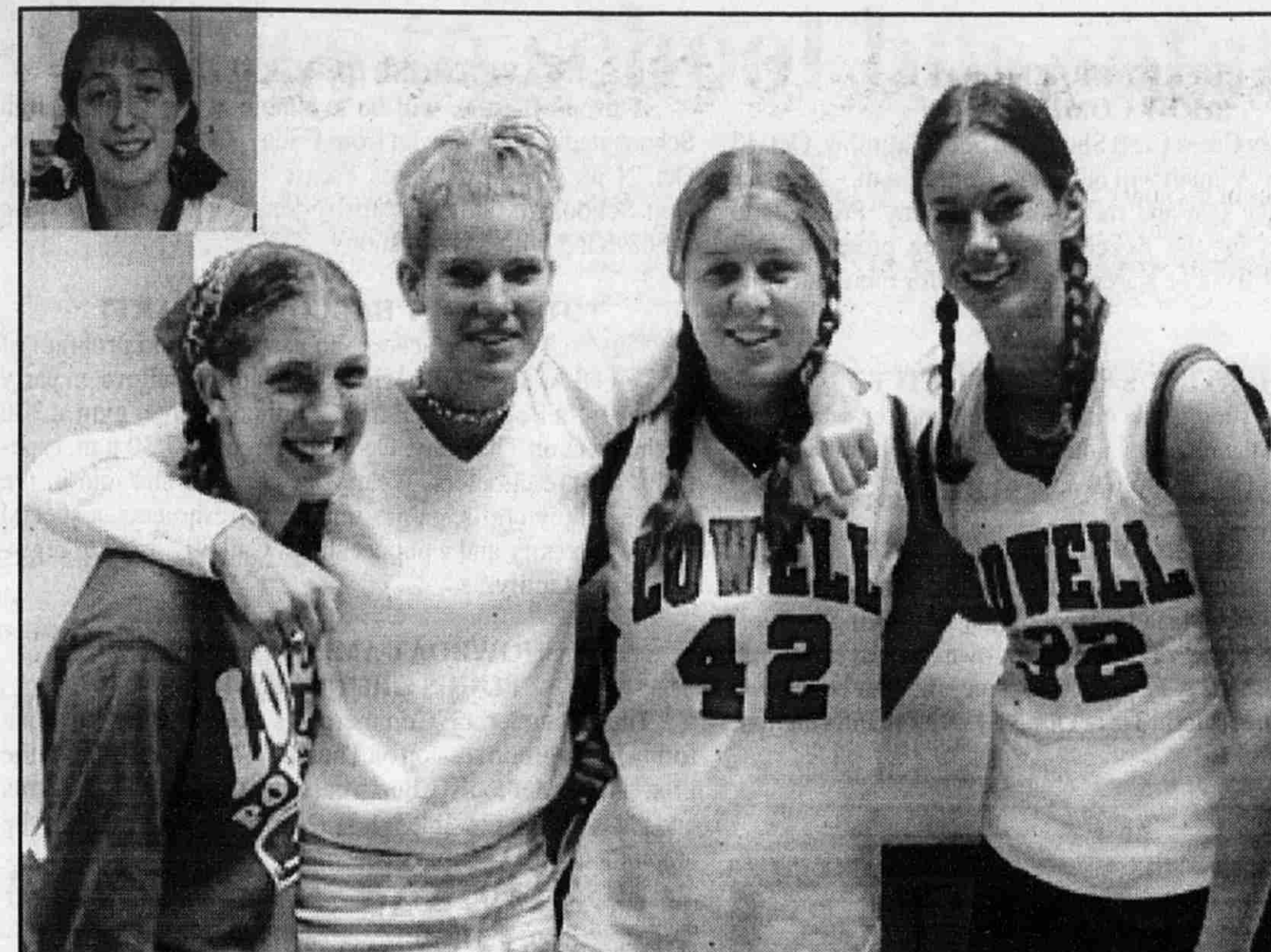
Under the leadership and supervision of Dee Crowley, Kathy Talus, Robin Briggs and Sheila Dubbink, a new club has recently been formed at the high school: The Lady Arrows Varsity Club.

Eligible for this club are the ladies who have earned a varsity letter, have good academic standing and demonstrate positive character traits. This is not the first year the high school has had such a varsity club. In the past, Sue Frasier has headed a varsity club.

This year's officers include: President Shelby Tomczak; vice president Noelle Dewey; secretary Leslie Crowley; treasurer Kelly Fitzpatrick; and historian Lisa Wojciakowski.

Plans for the upcoming year include a father/daughter dance, leadership promotion, and special luncheons. The club's mission is to provide and promote leadership, community service, mentoring for younger students and fitness opportunities as well as inform students and the community about the accomplishments of women involved in sporting competition.

Lady Arrows Varsity Club officers, pictured left to right, are Noelle Dewey, Lisa Wojciakowski, Shelby Tomczak and Leslie Crowley. Pictured in the upper left hand corner is Kelly Fitzpatrick.



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CHERRY CREEK CRAFT SHOW COMING SOON

The Cherry Creek Craft Show will be on Saturday, Oct. 13 from 9-3 p.m. A lunch will be served from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. as well as a bake sale and raffle during the day. Proceeds to Family Links for the Accelerated Reading program. Call Janine at 897-0835 or Karen at 897-9435 for more information.

HARVEST SALE IN THE CITY

Come and shop in the city of Lowell and see what's old and new with the retailers along Main Street Friday, Oct. 12 and Saturday, Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SCARECROW BUILDING CLINIC

Build a scarecrow on Saturday, Oct. 13 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Riverwalk Plaza to decorate our city. Bring a scarecrow already made or make your own. Prizes awarded; supplies furnished. A Festival of Scarecrows can be viewed along Main Street Oct. 13 thru Oct. 31. For more information, call Liz at 897-9161.

EXHIBITION JEEPERS CREEPERS

The Lowell Area Arts Council exhibition of Jeepers Creepers, a celebration of autumnal & Halloween delights, is on display at Huntington National Bank, 414 E. Main St. thru Nov. 6 during regular business hours.

SAVE THOSE NEWSPAPERS!!!

A drop-off truck will be available at the Lowell High School stadium parking lot from Friday, Oct. 19 thru Sunday, Oct. 21 for your newspapers. Please help support the Lowell High School girls softball team by donating yours! Call Lorrie at 868-6365 with any questions.

TOTS FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY

Tots on Track for School, an early childhood program of the Lowell Area Schools, will have a family Halloween party in the Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center gym at 300 High Street on Thursday, Oct. 25 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. especially for preschoolers. Wear your costume and join in the parade. Enjoy crafts, games, music, refreshments, a special Halloween story and a puppet show. Call 897-1232 to register; \$1 per family.

SHOWBOAT AMPHITHEATER FOCUS GROUP SESSION

The Chamber of Commerce is coordinating an open forum focus group session on Thursday, Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church basement. Bring your thoughts and ideas on any possible future renovations and usage of the amphitheater.

Lowell Area Schools receives a clean bill from its auditors

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

In a night of what seemed to be bad news about the budget and future construction projects, the Lowell Board of Education heard some good news from the district's auditors.

Phil Saurman, from the firm of Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter, presented the board with the audit for the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

Saurman said the district deserved high marks for getting itself ready for the audit in August. The fiscal year closes at the end of June. This means the business office is working in a timely fashion, providing accurate information, he said.

"What it means to you is the board is getting accurate, timely, and complete reports — that's what you want to have," Saurman explained.

The report was good, indicating that the district had about \$6.1 million in revenues last year. The fund balance saw a drop of \$600,000 to about \$3.2 million, which is 11 percent.

"We like to see a fund balance of about 10-15 percent, so you are in the lower end of that," Saurman said.

Overall, the audit found the district's records to be accurate and in good standing.

Saurman said that in the future, the district will be required to add in its fixed assets and start to take out depreciation on those assets, something governmental bodies have not had to do before.

Business manager, Connie Gillette said her staff is in the process of getting an inventory of all of the district's assets. Gillette said she is also working to learn what cost cut-off, \$1,000, \$5,000, there will be.

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YOUR TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF ARE WITHOUT CONTRACTS AGAIN!

WHY?

Two of our last three contracts have been very difficult. Today, except for Grand Rapids and Lowell, all Kent County school districts are settled. The lack of contracts takes a toll on everyone's energy and focus that should be directed toward education. Both the teachers and the support staff have petitioned the state for fact-finding. It is a non-binding process that will take months and will be very expensive for the district. Meanwhile, everyone loses.

THE ISSUES FOR THE TEACHERS

- The largest remaining issue involves special education kids. The State of Michigan is about to dump its rules on special education class sizes and caseloads to avoid being sued. The district seeks "flexibility." We believe that will mean bigger classes and less help for the kids who need the most help. We are asking that those same class sizes and caseloads be added to the contract. This costs nothing more to continue.
- We are also asking that team-taught classes with special and regular education kids be kept at a reasonable balance so that all kids benefit.

THE ISSUES FOR THE SUPPORT STAFF

- We are trying to keep the full-time jobs we have. To avoid paying benefits, the district is systematically eliminating these positions. We are losing good and dedicated people who need full-time work.
- The second issue is equal benefits for equal work. Our food service employees are denied the same benefits given to secretaries and paraprofessionals working the same amount of time.
- The final issue involves 13 neglected employees. The pay for these secretaries and maintenance workers ranks as low as 18 out of 20 in the county. All other employee groups rank higher. We are asking that they be brought to midpoint in the county over a two-year period.

A WAY TO END THE DISPUTE NOW!!

The police and fire employees have binding arbitration to settle their contract disputes. The antagonism is gone because a neutral outside expert resolves the issues. We can use a similar system if both the district and the employees agree. The Lowell support staff and teachers will agree to be bound to the recommendations in the fact-finding reports. We have enough faith in our issues to make this commitment. If the district believes in its positions, it should also agree to be bound by the fact-finding report. If the district agrees, this dispute will end today.

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held on **Monday, November 5, 2001 at 7:00 p.m., at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI** to consider proposed amendments to the Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance. A summary follows for a zoning map amendment and proposed coordinating language amendments throughout the ordinance pertaining to the Community Commercial and General Commercial District language.

Article IV:

Section 201.403 (D) and (E):

The proposed amendments are to modify the signs section to coordinate language with the Community Commercial and General Commercial District ordinance.

Section 201.413 (B)

The proposed amendments are to modify the screening and lighting section to coordinate language with the General Commercial District ordinance.

Section 201.413 (C)

The proposed amendments are to modify the screening and lighting section to add section (C) language to coordinate with the Community Commercial District ordinance.

Section 201.420

The proposed amendments are to modify the Residential Buffer Area section to coordinate language with the General Commercial and Community Commercial District ordinance.

Article III:

Section 201.311

The proposed amendments to the Bulk Table section are to add onto and coordinate the General Commercial and Community Commercial District requirements. Other parts of the Bulk Table are being modified for technical corrections and coordination with previously adopted amendments.

Section 201.302

The zoning ordinance map is proposed for amendment to create a new district area called Community Commercial and to change part of the current Commercial district to Community Commercial. These areas are at the northeast and northwest corners of Lincoln Lake Rd. and Vergennes St.

The complete text and map of the proposed ordinance amendments can be reviewed at the **Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, P.O. Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331- Phone: (616) 897-5671** [fax 897-5674]. Written and oral comments will be received until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Chairman or the Planning Coordinator at the Township offices. Comments may be emailed to the Planning Commission at: zoning@vergennewtp.org.

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

10 rules to school bus safety

School bus crashes and injuries in Michigan are on the rise. Both increased more than 17 percent from 1999 to 2000, with 1,616 accidents and 484 injuries last year.

This increased lack of safety is a cause for concern and follow-up, says Richard J. Miller, AAA Michigan Community Safety Services manager, although fatalities decreased from seven to five during this period. Children under the age of 16 represented 73 percent of injuries resulting from school bus crashes with pedestrians.

Learning the basics of school bus safety can help prevent unfortunate injuries and fatalities, says Miller. That's why the Auto Club supports the mission of National School Bus Safety Weeks, Oct. 14 - 27, which is dedicated to encouraging parents to discuss the "Ten Rules of School Bus Safety" with their children.

"We urge parents to become aware of these guidelines for school bus safety and make sure their children understand and follow them closely," says Miller. "Children must grasp the

importance of safety and avoid reckless behavior on or near school buses."

The Ten Rules of School Bus Safety

1. **Be on time.** To avoid accidents, students should be at the bus stop 5-10 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
 2. **Never run to or from the bus.** Young children, especially, should always walk across streets and to and from their school bus.
 3. **Stand back from the curb.** Wait for a ride at least 10 feet from where the bus will stop.
 4. **Don't push or shove.** Any aggressive activity can cause a child to slip under the bus and out of sight of the driver.
 5. **Stay in your seat.** There are two reasons for this: There are no seat belts and the padded seats work to protect passengers only when seated; moving about on the bus can distract the driver, contributing to a crash.
 6. **Don't yell or shout.** This can be distracting to drivers who take their eyes off the road to check on passengers.
 7. **Obey the driver.** Children should follow the directions of Michigan's experienced and highly trained school bus drivers.
 8. **Wait for the driver's signal before crossing.** Children should look in all directions and wait for the driver's signal to cross.
 9. **Cross at least 10 giant steps in front of the bus.** This is because a seated driver cannot see children in front of the bus until the students are 15-20 feet away.
 10. **Never crawl under the school bus.** If a paper, ball or backpack has gone under the bus, tell the driver so that he/she can retrieve it safely with the bus shut off and in no danger of running over a child.
- AAA Michigan also strongly recommends that drivers share responsibility for school bus safety.
- Drivers in this state are required to stop no closer than 20 feet from any school bus displaying red flashing lights, (except when there is a concrete wall, grass median or other barrier separating the direction of traffic flow), says Miller. Vehicles can proceed with caution when a school bus uses amber hazard lights to load or unload students.
- Last year, AAA Michigan conducted 383 school bus programs for 28,000 students and distributed 66,000 school bus education materials.

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SCHOOL BUSES WITH OVERHEAD RED AND YELLOW LIGHTS

1. Yellow lights are flashing - prepare to stop.
2. Red lights are flashing - stop no closer than 20 feet from the bus.
3. Red lights turned off - proceed.

SCHOOL BUSES WITH OVERHEAD RED LIGHTS ONLY

1. Red lights are flashing and bus is moving - prepare to stop.
2. Red lights are flashing and bus is stopped - stop no closer than 20 feet from the bus.
3. When red lights are turned off - proceed with caution.

ALL SCHOOL BUSES

Yellow hazard warning lights are flashing - proceed with caution.

AAA Michigan

NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

An application for a Special Exception Use Permit will be considered at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Vergennes Township Board on October 15, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell.

Gordon Wilcox is requesting a special use permit to use existing Agricultural Buildings for rental storage. Rental storage is allowed as a special use with certain conditions under Section 201.304C(10), Rental Storage in RA, of the Vergennes Township Ordinance.

The complete application is available for review at the Township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., P.O. Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 during office hours of Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Call with questions at 616-897-5671, or fax to 616-897-5674. Written comments will be accepted if received by 7:00 p.m. October 15, 2001. Comments can also be emailed to: clerk@vergennewtp.org.

Mari C. Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell City Council will conduct public hearings at their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, October 15, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. at the Englehardt Public Library Community Room, 200 N. Monroe Street, Lowell, Michigan.

The purpose of said hearings would be to receive comments on the following:

- An Ordinance to amend Section 4.13 Non-Conforming Uses of Chapter 4 General Provisions, "a non-conforming residential structure may be increased as long as the parallel line of the structure does not encroach any closer than conditions that presently exist. By doing so, they may not create any new non-conformities on any other setback, requirements."
- To consider a Resolution to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission finding the issuance of a Class C liquor license would prevent further deterioration of the Development District and would promote economic growth within the District.

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

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk
616-897-8457



Memories are all that remain at 310 Avery

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

"Now be careful here, it goes down a little," said Audrey Dykstra as she makes her way from the dining room to the kitchen of her former residence, 310 Avery St.

Sure enough, as you make your way from the dining room to the kitchen, there appears to be about an inch and a half drop - just the right height for someone to stumble over.

Dykstra knows every little dip, turn, and corner of the house as well as she should, since she has lived there for more than eight decades - minus the time she

Audrey Dykstra moves from her home after eight decades. The city recently purchased the house and property as part of its expansion and renovation plans for the City Hall/ police station.

and her husband lived in an apartment in Grand Rapids. She easily admits that the familiarity has helped over the years as her eye sight has started to fail and her sense of balance is a little off.

But starting last week, she has a new home at the Grand Rapids' senior retirement Villa Maria - a place she moves through "at my own peril," she said with a little laugh. The furniture is more on the edges of the room versus the closeness of her old home, where she could catch her balance if need be.

The city purchased her home earlier this year. It was the last parcel needed for the construction of the new City Hall/police station project.

once with me in my sandbox and he brought me some sand toys."

The sandbox was at one time located at the side of the house, but has long since been removed. And now, so is much of the furniture and belongings that Dykstra once had. All that is left in the house are items from an estate sale she plans to have later this week.

But the memories whisper back. Dykstra recalls her grandfather telling his great stories in the living room and him singing old lumbering songs to her before she went to sleep. "I wished I had wrote those down, but I was only five years old at the time," she said.

Veterans Administration office and finally retired in 1972 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dykstra said she hasn't worked a day since.

Her grandmother died in 1954 and shortly after that she married Richard Dykstra, of the Grandville/Wyoming area in 1956. They lived in Grand Rapids and maintained the 310 Avery residence as a rental property.

"I never intended to come back," Dykstra said. "We had pretty good jobs and lived in an apartment."

But one day the renters moved and Dykstra found herself standing outside of the old house - estimated to have been built more than a hundred years ago - trying to decide what to do.

"I stood on one foot and then the other," she said, adding that it made sense to live in the house. Once back in, Dykstra said she never intended to leave.

"I always knew they wanted it," Dykstra said of the city's bid for the house and property. "After all, it was the only one left on the block. I kept putting them off and putting them off, but I knew one day. I was getting tired and I didn't like staying alone. Then again, I never expected to live this long."

She hopes someone will purchase and move the house, especially because of its long history. From her personal research, Dykstra said she figures the house was built some time in the 1880's. Before that period, abstracts indicate the parcel was broken into small strips of four feet and six feet. The Coons family was able to secure enough of the land to build a house, she said. The Fritz family bought the parcel and later sold it to Dykstra's grandparents in 1906.

I always knew they wanted it. After all, it was the only one left on the block. I kept putting them off and putting them off, but I knew one day. I was getting tired and I didn't like staying alone. Then again, I never expected to live this long.

Audrey Dykstra said of the city's bid for the house and property.

"I kept putting them off," Dykstra said. "The city just got a little ahead of me. I wish they could have waited longer."

She is not upset by the change, but rather accepts it as part of her lot in life, something she said she learned during the Depression. She has lived in the home since she was about two - it is her best estimate. Her mother died in 1916 and her father in 1917. She came to live with her grandparents, Edward C. and Harriett May Walker.

"I may have been here earlier than that," she said. "Mother apparently wasn't quite right after my birth. I can remember father coming

ing as valedictorian of her class in Lowell and how proud her grandparents were of her. She went on to Michigan State to study, thanks to a trust fund her father, an attorney, had established through insurance policies. But the stock market would crash and Dykstra returned home to an ill grandfather and a grandmother who could no longer take care of him.

She worked a number of jobs with her grandfather dying in 1934. Dykstra would eventually become a civil servant in 1947 when she joined the RFC (Reconstruction, Finance Corp.) When that office closed, she moved to the

Museum organizers move forward on capital campaign for second phase of project

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

Not letting the grass grow underneath their feet, organizers of the Lowell Area Historical Museum unveiled plans for the second phase of its project.

In September, the group opened the first part of the museum located in the historic Graham Building, 325 W. Main St. The current museum operates in half of the building, where Ernest Graham, the son of Robert and Emma Post Graham and founder of the architectural firm Graham, Anderson, Probst, and White, lived. His parents lived in the other half of the duplex, which currently houses the YMCA.

The good news for the museum is the YMCA plans to relocate, according to YMCA director, Will Welsh. The bad news is that it will be another three and a half years before that move takes place. Welsh said to a group of about 30 business owners and residents at a special preview of the museum and future plans.

Which is all right, according to museum organizers, since this will give the group time to raise the \$231,000 needed for the planning, design, and development of the second phase.

"Historical tourism is one of the fastest growing businesses," said Judy Straub, who is on the board of directors of the Lowell Area Historical Museum. "For every dollar spent on historical tourism, three dollars is returned in purchases made in the community."

It is the educational and cultural sense that people are looking for, something that the new museum aims to provide. Its current exhibits feature an Early History Room, Retailing and Industry Room, and the Showboat Room, all of which are packed with information related to the Lowell community.

It is the goal of the museum board to expand the current space to include a Victorian Period Room, allowing visitors the opportunity to see what the house, which was built in the 1800s, would

have looked like. Currently, visitors get a taste of that feel through the 1872 Period Entryway, decorated with hand-printed wallpaper and historic lighting. Tile from that period will be installed soon.

The proposed Victorian Period Room may give the museum an opportunity to host special events such as teas and other small gatherings.

"This of course depends on whether the furniture is ours or not," Straub said. "If it is borrowed, we will not be able to do this; however, if we own it, this gives us more control in doing that."

The second part of the proposed Phase II project would include a Changing Exhibit area. This would allow the museum to exhibit more of its collection along with traveling exhibits from

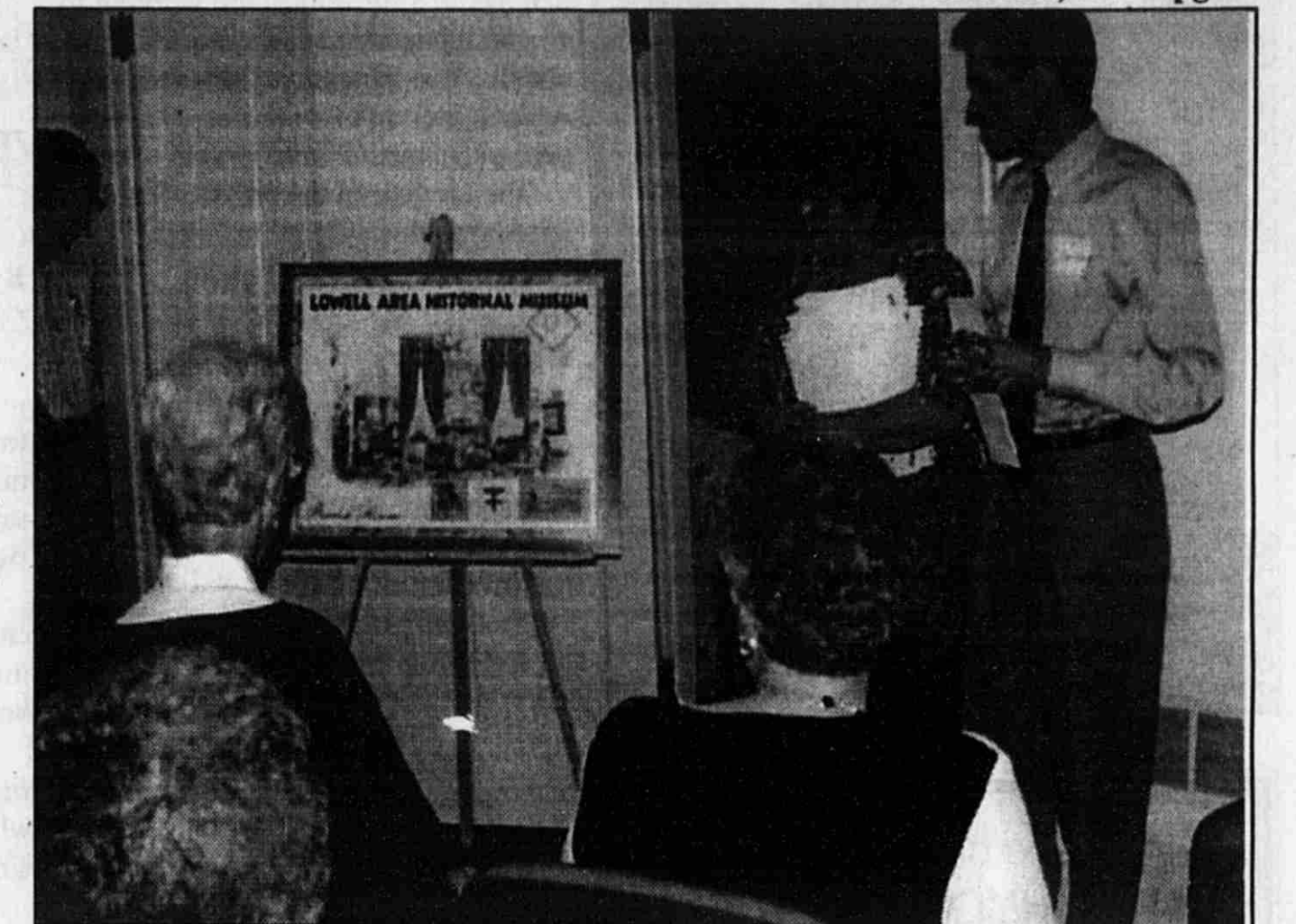
other museums.

"Recently, the Smithsonian partnered with

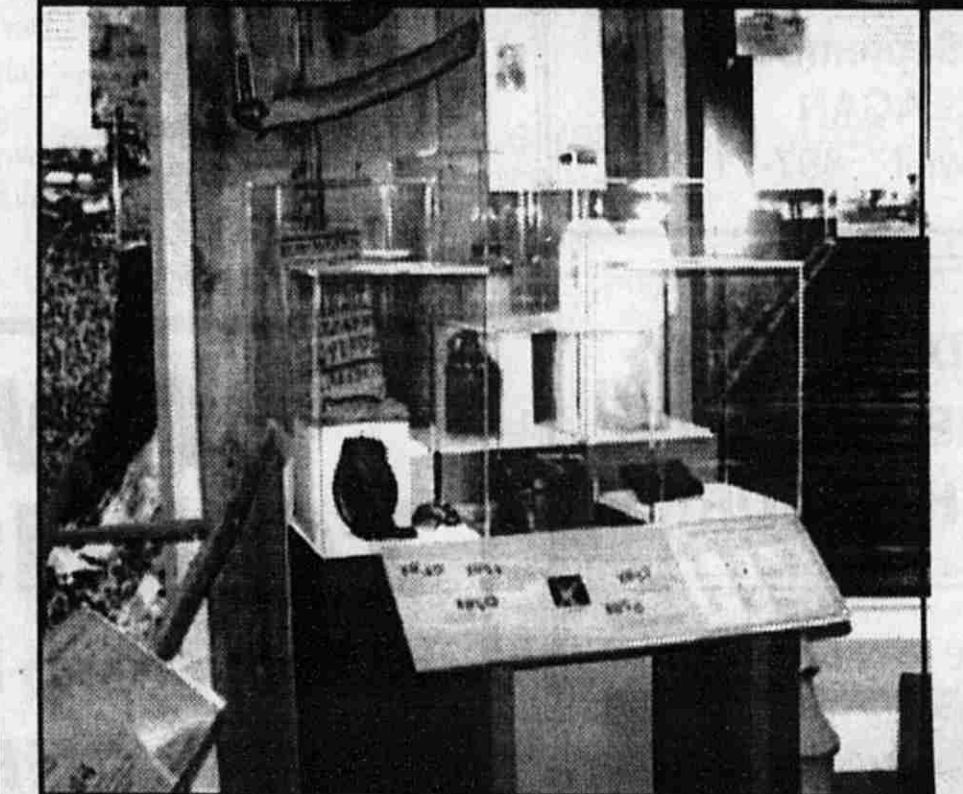
the Flat River Museum in Greenville and provided an exhibit on what type of prod-

ucts people 50 years ago thought would be here," said

Museum, cont'd pg. 12



Judy Straub and Jim Doyle, above, unveiled the future plans for the Lowell Area Historical Museum.



Current exhibits at the museum include the Early History Room which features artifacts and information about the development of Lowell.

ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL

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Bruce Langlois, D.V.M.

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3rd Annual

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Questions? Call Linda at 676-1667

Forest Hills Aquatic Center
600 Forest Hills Ave - Between M-21 and Cascade Rd.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28
4:00 - 6:00 PM

Sponsored by Riverside Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventists

CITY OF LOWELL

FALL LEAF PICKUP PROGRAM

Starting the first full week of October, leaves will be picked up weekly. You must purchase leaf bags at the same locations as the trash bags:

City Hall Family Fare	Hahn Hardware Meijers
--------------------------	--------------------------

If your trash pickup is Monday or Tuesday, your leaf pickup day is Tuesday and if your pickup for trash is Wednesday or Thursday, your leaf pickup is Wednesday.

2001 FALL LEAF PICKUP SCHEDULE

MON-TUES TRASH PICKUP	WED-THURS TRASH PICKUP
October 2	October 3
October 9	October 10
October 16	October 17
October 23	October 24
October 30	October 31
November 6	November 7
November 13	November 14
November 20	November 21
November 27	November 28

BANK TELLERS

Ionia County National Bank is seeking two full-time Bank Tellers for our office in Lowell. This is an excellent career opportunity for individuals who are seeking a pleasant work environment with opportunity for advancement. The ideal candidate will possess excellent customer service skills; the ability to process paying and receiving transactions accurately; have an excellent attendance record; and have an ability and eagerness to learn.

ICNB offers an excellent fringe benefit package for full-time positions. It is complete with health, dental and vision insurance, 401 (k) and other paid benefits. All qualified candidates should stop by any of our locations to complete an application or submit their resume to:

Attn: Human Resources Director
Ionia County National Bank
302 W. Main St.
Ionia, MI 48846
Fax: 616-527-8734
EOE

GoPromo.com
3151 Breton Rd. - H
Grand Rapids, MI 49512
(616) 241-2611

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VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REFERENDUM ON BECOMING A CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Official certification has been received from the Michigan Secretary of State that the township of Vergennes has a population of 2000 or more according to the most recent United States census and is therefore eligible to be incorporated as a charter township under section 3a of the Charter Township Act, 1947 PA 359 (MCL 42.3a). The township board has the right to exercise one of three options concerning status as a charter township, as follows:

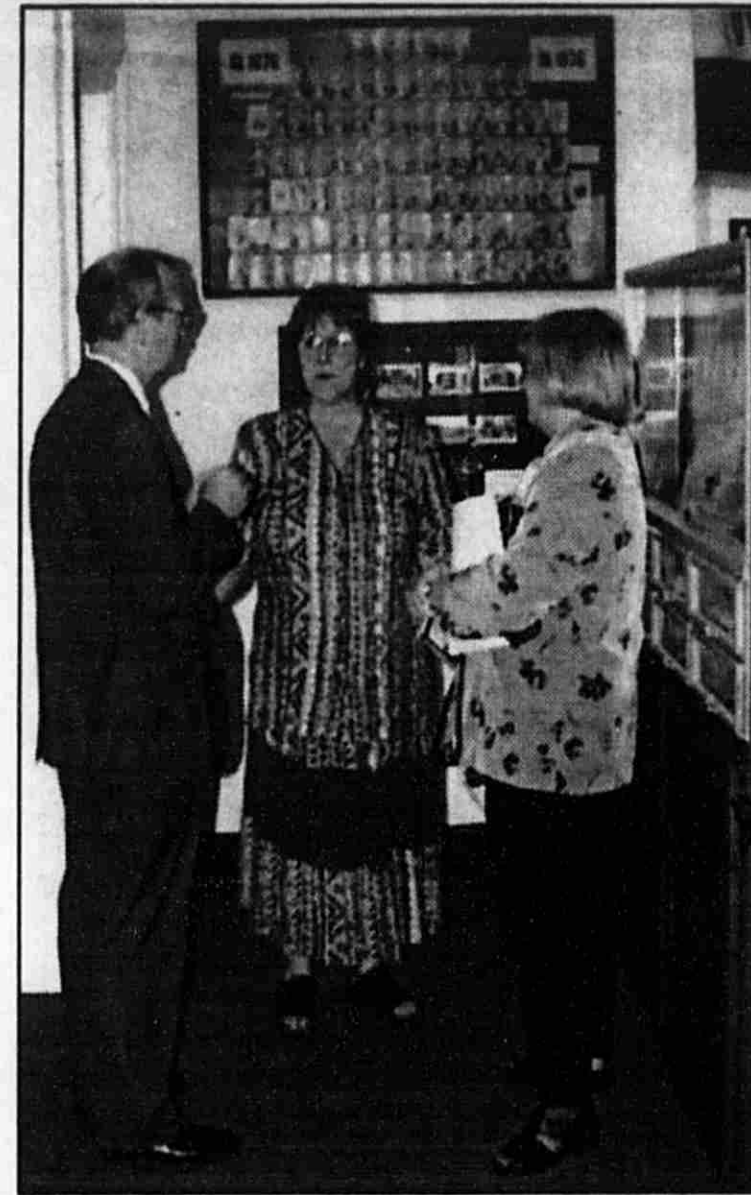
1. Adopt by majority vote a resolution opposed to incorporation as a charter township;
2. Adopt by majority vote a resolution of intent to approve incorporation as a charter township;
3. Adopt by majority vote a resolution to place before the electorate at the next regular or special township election the question of incorporation as a charter township.

In the event option 2 is adopted by the township board, the citizens of the township have the right to file a "Right to Referendum Petition." This petition must be filed within the 60 days which must lapse between passage of a resolution of the intent to incorporate and final passage of the resolution to incorporate as a charter township.

The petition shall follow, in general form, the nominating petition form as prescribed in the Michigan Election Law, and in the heading will indicate "Disagreement of Intent to Incorporate as a Charter Township." The petition must be signed by not less than 10% of the registered voters of the township based on the vote cast for all candidates for supervisor at the last election at which a supervisor was elected.

If the petition is successful, the question of incorporation will be placed on the ballot at the next general or special township election.

Mari C. Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk



Museum, cont'd... From Page 11

president, Jim Doyle, adding that the reason this exhibit came about was because the Flat River facility had a space to provide such exhibits.

Doyle said many large institutions such as the Smithsonian are working to bring exhibits to smaller venues like the Lowell Area Historical Museum. The key, however, in all of this is to have the space available, he said.

The last part of the project would be a gift shop, which brought a few chuckles from the audience. But, in reality, Doyle said a gift shop can help maintain the museum and is often a good source of revenue to the facility, while providing something that people can keep as a me-

Judy Straub talks to Jim and Bobbie White about the future development of the museum. The group is standing in the Retailing and Industry Room.

mento of their trip.

Currently the Lowell Area Historical Museum is accepting donations toward the second phase of the project. Such donations may be sent to the Lowell Area Historical Museum, P.O. Box

81, Lowell, Michigan, 49331. Other gifting programs are being considered and further details will be released at a later date.

Since its grand opening on Sept. 22, the museum has

had more than 400 visitors with numerous artifacts being donated to the museum, including the Lowell Ledger's donation of all its past copies of the publication.

Trout Unlimited Junior Chapter's first meeting Oct. 27

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

It is said Lowell area likes to break new ground - or in this case, it might be better to say, it doesn't hesitate to wade right in.

Recently, the first junior chapter of Trout Unlimited in the nation was formed right here in Lowell.

"It seemed like a natural fit," said Tammy DeBaar, who sits on the board of Trout Unlimited.

Trout Unlimited is a water conservation group that has some emphasis on fishing stewardship. The group works with students about water conservation along

with habitats. Because of the focus of working with children, DeBaar said the local chapter decided to form a junior chapter for children 12 to 18, not knowing that it would be the first such chapter in the nation.

So far, the new group has about 15 to 20 interested participants and is currently accepting members.

Those interested in making history as part of this new group can attend the first meeting set for Oct. 27, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Wittenbach Center, 11715

Vergennes Street. During this kick-off event, membership information will be provided along with opportunities for stewardship programs, fishing style lessons, information on what makes a good habitat for fish, and demonstrations on flyfishing skills.

To participate in the program, you need to RSVP to 987-1002 by Oct. 20. It is limited to the first 30 people.

Membership is not required to attend the kick-off event. Other meetings will be Dec. 1, Jan. 5, Feb. 2 and April 13.

Never attribute to malice what can be adequately explained by stupidity.

Nick Diamos

Family and friends are invited to join
KEITH & PHYLLIS SYPHER
as they celebrate their
50th Wedding Anniversary
at an **OPEN HOUSE**



SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 21
1-5 PM
at **Lowell**
Township Hall

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 102, 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 of N. Washington St. Enjoy activities like hiking and camping and learn skills

EVERY WED.: Pioneer Clubs 6:30-8 p.m. Evergreen Missionary Church, 10501 Settlewood Dr. Children ages 4 thru 7th grade. Call 897-5894 for details.

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

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

COMING EVENTS

Notes 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 SUN. THRU OCT. 21: Free admission to the Fallasburg one-room schoolhouse on Covered Bridge Rd. between Fallasburg Park Drive and McPherson/Potters Road. From 2 to 6 p.m.

EVERY MON.: Lowell High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Friends - meets from 7:30-8:30 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 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Building, former Runciman 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.

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

EVERY OTHER WED.: 6:45-8:45 p.m. G.E.M.S. Girls Club - Calvary Christian Reformed Church. Girls ages 8-13. 897-8694.

EVERY WED.: Pioneer Clubs 6:30-8 p.m. Evergreen Missionary Church, 10501 Settlewood Dr. Children ages 4 thru 7th grade. Call 897-5894 for details.

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

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

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 SECOND & FOURTH TUES.: Knights of Columbus #7719 meetings at St. Mary School, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

EVERY 3RD TUES.: Parents of children with AD/HD Issues Group meeting at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4 Mile NE (& E. Beltline) at 7 p.m. For info, call Linda at 874-5662. For teen group info., call Sarah 281-6588.

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

EVERY OTHER WED.: 6:45-8:45 p.m. G.E.M.S. Girls Club - Calvary Christian Reformed Church. Girls ages 8-13. 897-8694.

EVERY WED.: Pioneer Clubs 6:30-8 p.m. Evergreen Missionary Church, 10501 Settlewood Dr. Children ages 4 thru 7th grade. Call 897-5894 for details.

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

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

EVERY WED.: The "Peppers" (senior adults) meets at Franciscan Life Process Center from 1-3:30 p.m. \$10 per week to cover expenses. Transportation available. For information, call Pat at 897-7842.

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.

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

EVERY FOURTH WED.: Support group for Peripheral neuropathy meets at 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 2560 Lake Michigan Dr. N.W., Grand Rapids. Call 897-9794.

EVERY WED.: Overeaters Anonymous, 7:30 p.m. at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, 7495 Cascade Rd. (at 36th St.) No fees, no dues, no weigh-ins.

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

THURS.: Weight Watchers meets at Lowell Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington, at 5:30 and 7 p.m. Registration begins 1/2 hour before meetings. New members are invited to join at any time. Questions? Call 1-800-651-6000.

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

FIRST THURS.: 4-H drama club examines theater-related topics, creative and personal development skills. Meetings held at Lowell Middle School choir room. For information call 897-1502 after 5 p.m.

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

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

EVERY THURS.: The Saranac Community and Area Music Makers begin their new season at Saranac High School on Sept. 13. Choir: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Band: 7:30 - 8:15 p.m. Christmas Concert Dec. 1, 2. New members are invited to join! Call Kathy at 642-6316 or 897-5981 for information.

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-support group at Franciscan Life Process Center offers topics and discussion for 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. Located at a church in Ada. Please call 752-7524 for more information.

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

SECOND THURS. OF EACH MONTH: Genealogy - The Alto Family Tree Club meets at Alto Public Library from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

EVERY SECOND & LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH: James C. Veen Observatory (3308 Kissing Rock Rd.) Visitors Night from 9-11:30 p.m. if the night is clear. \$2 adults; \$1 children to 18. For info, call Starwatch at 897-7065.

SECOND SAT.: Lowell Amateur Radio Club meets at the west end of Lowell High School. 9 a.m. social gathering; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors the 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

THURS., OCT. 18: Noon Dance at West Side Complex.

EVERY FRI. & SAT.: Averill Historical Museum of Ada at 7144 Headley is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Open other times by appointment. Call 676-9346.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM HOURS: Tues., Sat. & Sun.: 1-4 p.m.; Thurs., 1-8 p.m. Families: \$5; adults: \$3; 5-17: \$1.50; free/members & under 5.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS: Mon.-Wed., 12 - 8 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri.: 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat.: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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

LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL: Open Tues., Wed. & Fri.: noon - 5 p.m.; Thurs.: noon - 7 p.m.; Sat.: 1-4 p.m. 149 S. Hudson.

WED., OCT. 10: Snow United Methodist Church at 3189 Snow Ave. SE will serve a family-style beef & pork dinner at 5:30 p.m. Adults \$7; ages 5-12 \$2.

FRI., OCT. 12: Cyclamen chapter #94 OES - annual meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Lowell Masonic Center. Election of officers and annual reports.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR 897-5949

MON.: 8:30 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.
TUES.: 8:30 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall; 10:30 a.m. Exercise.

THURS.: 9 a.m. Walk/Shop at the Malls; 9:30 a.m. Crafts; 1 p.m. Euchre.
FRI.: 8:30 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.

SPECIAL EVENTS
WED., OCT. 10: 10 a.m. Advisory Council; 10:20 Shop @ Family Fare; Noon Movie "Annie."

THURS., OCT. 11: 11 a.m. Farmer's Market, lunch out, Children's Museum.
FRI., OCT. 12: 9:15 Lansing Princess Boat and Color Tour, dinner \$27 plus van.

MON., OCT. 15: Noon, Lunch w/Lowell business people group #1 as guests; 12:40 cribbage.
TUES., OCT. 16: 12:40 p.m. Shop at Ionia K-Mart & Dollar Stores.

WED., OCT. 17: 10:45 Shop @ Family Fare; 12:40 p.m. Speaker at Center, "Long-term care."

THURS., OCT. 18: Noon Dance at West Side Complex.

WED., OCT. 17: 10:45 Shop @ Family Fare; 12:40 p.m. Speaker at Center, "Long-term care."

THURS., OCT. 18: Noon Dance at West Side Complex.

SAT., OCT. 13: Cherry Creek Craft Show, 9-3 p.m. Lunch served from 11-2 p.m. Proceeds: Family Links for Accelerated Reading program.

SAT., OCT. 13: Scarecrow Building Clinic at Riverwalk Plaza 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Call Liz at the chamber 897-9161 for information.

TUES., OCT. 16: AD/HD in Early Childhood, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 4 Mile and E. Beltline, 7-9 p.m. Call Gary Engle at 897-6325.

WED., OCT. 17: Vergennes Twp. community ed. evening at Wittenbach Center, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Topic: Protecting & Preserving Our Water Resources. Call 897-5671.

TUES., OCT. 23: Harvest Dinner at 1st United Methodist Church, 5-7 p.m. Adults: \$7; children 6-12: \$3.50; 5 & under free. Take-outs available 5:30-7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Tickets at church office and door.

SAT., OCT. 27: Cyclamen chapter #94 OES invites family and friends to Open Installation of officers at 2 p.m. in Lowell Masonic Center.

SUN., OCT. 28: Did you turn your clocks back???

MON., OCT. 29: Noon, Lunch w/Lowell business people, group #2 as guests.

TUES., OCT. 30: 12:40 p.m. Shop Grand Rapids Meijer's and Aldi's.

WED., OCT. 31: 8 a.m. Women's breakfast. Happy Halloween!!!

These children achieved
DENTAL HYGIENE EXCELLENCE
For The Month of September 2001
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207 W. Main - Lowell 897-7179

Danielle Anchors
Garrett Anderson
Leah Brogger
Cody Chambers
Hannah Churches
Katherine Clark
Chelsea Comdure
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Kason Cook
Kayleigh Cook
Taylor Cook
Travis Cook
Heather Dimmick
Maggie Doane
Tyler Doane
Brandi Eggleston
Mackenzie Fox
Sydney Fox
Blake Hayes
Kenny Hayes
Daniel McQueen
Tara McQueen

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a pound of cure.
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CLEANING?**

Julie Niewiadomski
Joseph O'Connor
Rhianna Peterson
Jace Thomas
David Welch
Jacob Welch
Susannah Welch
Brian Welch, Jr.
Kelli Woolworth

Experience is not what happens to you; it is what you do with what happens to you.
—Aldous Huxley

BOWNE TOWNSHIP
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2001
BOWNE TOWNSHIP HISTORIC HALL
8240 Alden Nash S.E.
Alto, MI 49302

AT WHICH TIME AND PLACE THE FOLLOWING REQUEST WILL BE HEARD:
Nancy Murphy is requesting a variance of Article 3.02 (b) to construct an accessory building in a front yard.

Written comments concerning this issue should be received prior to the hearing and addressed to:

Don Rynkowski, Sec. ZBA
P.O. Box 35
Alto, Michigan 49302-0035

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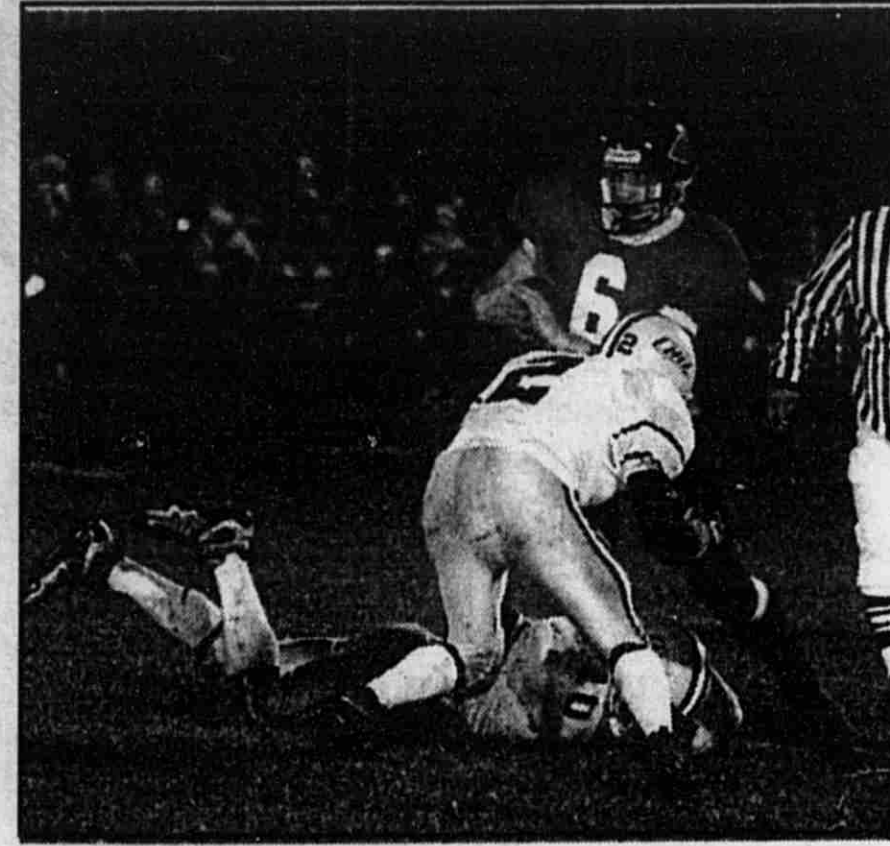
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Owner licensed and insured. Serving the area since 1984

Get Ready for Winter!



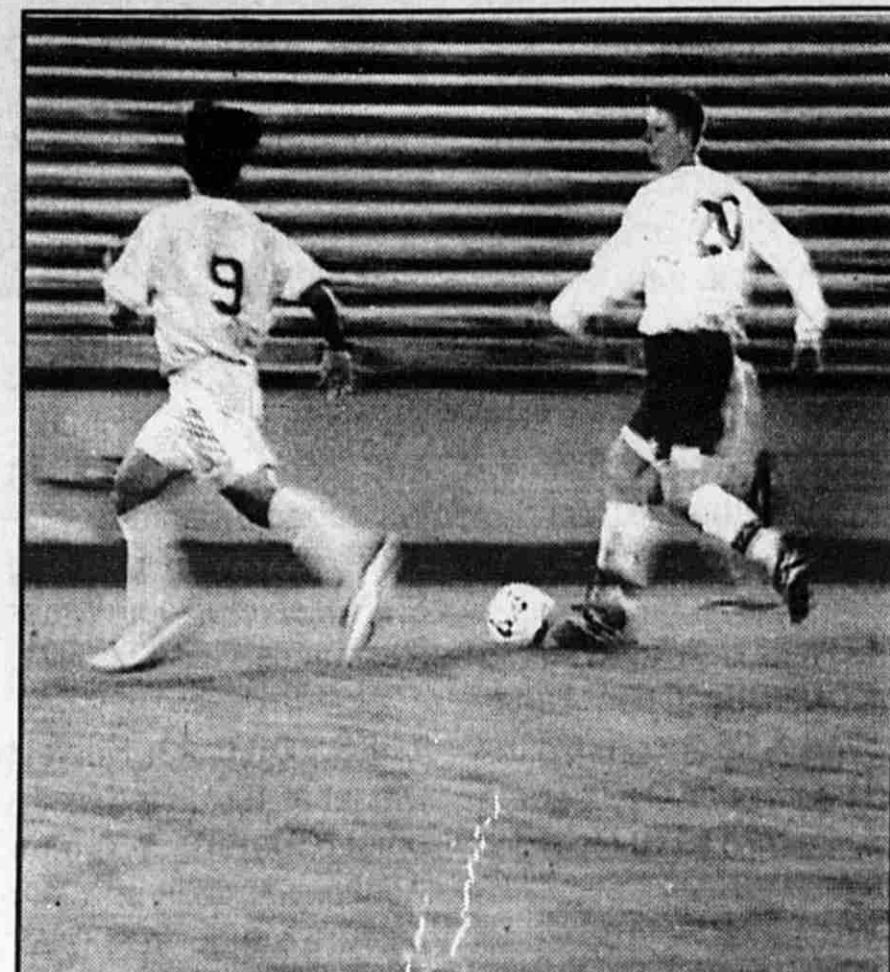
Lowell Blasts Zeeland

Four first-half touchdowns and a 16-yard field goal by Craig Carpenter powered the Red Arrows to a 35-0 homecoming win Friday night at Red Arrow Stadium. All of Lowell's touchdowns came on either runs or passes of 40 or more yards.

Travis DeVoid got Lowell on the scoreboard in the first quarter with a 60-yard touchdown burst. Mark Catlin made it 14-0 later in the opening quarter on a 71-yard scamper.

In the second quarter, Catlin connected with Brad Eldridge on a 62-yard touchdown pass and with Bill Harrison on a 43-yard scoring strike. Sandwiched between the two scoring passes was Carpenter's field goal.

Picture Courtesy Skye Fisher



Red Arrows kick Chix

Lowell posted an important O-K White Conference win against Zeeland on Thursday. The Red Arrow soccer team creased the net three times in Lowell's 3-2 win. Photo Courtesy Skye Fisher



Red Arrow Roundup

Lowell Girls Win 10th

Lowell girls basketball team earned its 10th win in 11 tries as it buried an undermanned Hudsonville team 37-17. The Red Arrows led 10-4 after one quarter of play and 18-6 at half. Lowell outscored Hudsonville 19-11 in the second half. Kendra Gallert led all Lowell scorers with 12 points (4 three's). Leslie Crowley and Kelly Fitzpatrick netted six points apiece while Becky Bossard tallied five.

Lowell JV Girls Defeat Eagles

Leading scorers for the night were Devon Collins with 15 points and Larinda Marker shooting 12. The halftime score

showed an imposing Red Arrows' lead of 36-13. "The win was rewarding because the whole team participated and worked together to clench the victory," said Lowell coach, Roxanne Gallert.

Other scorers included Heather McQueen (10), Amy Oberlin (10), Kristen Lee (4), Amanda Grochowalski (2), Ashley VanEck (2) and Ashley Kehoe (1).

Freshman Improve Record 7-0

The frosh Red Arrow football team beat Zeeland Thursday night to move its record to 7-0. They are 5-0 in the OK White Conference.

Ryan Esbaugh opened the scoring on the first play from scrimmage with a 70-yard touchdown run. Esbaugh also had scoring runs of 15, 6 and 14 yards.

Quarterback Mike Koster passed 58 yards to Matt Meppelink for a score and later Koster ran in for a 38-yard score.

The first half ended with Lowell leading 34-7. The second half proved more defensive with Lowell scoring twice - once on an Esbaugh run and another after Kyle VanderLaan jumped on a Meppelink fumble in the Chix end zone.

The final score read Lowell 49, Zeeland 14. Next up for the frosh is a home game against Hudsonville.

JV Football Team Loses to Zeeland

Things started rough last Thursday for the Lowell junior varsity football team as Zeeland returned the opening kickoff for a 7-0 early lead.

Being held up within Zeeland's 20-yard line, the halftime score stood at 7-0.

The Red Arrows came out hard in the third quarter with quarterback, Chris Curtis capping a long drive with an option keep for a touchdown. The score stood at 7-6.

Zeeland came back and scored on another drive with three minutes to play, giving Lowell one more chance which they did not convert. The Chix went home with a 13-6 victory. This Thursday the JV team hosts Hudsonville.

8th Grade Girls Red Team wins three

The girls eighth grade red team defeated East Grand Rapids 29-18 with Nicole Shepard leading the way with 11 points. Brook VanEck chipped in seven.

Shepard and Melissa Telman scored 10 and 6 respectively as Lowell beat Kenowa 25-16. The girls improved their record to 5-0 by defeating a tough Northview team 33-27.

Congratulations



Pvt. Heather Sterzick successfully completed basic training for the United States Army at Fort Jackson, South Carolina on September 13, 2001. She received a Commanding General's Award for Excellence in High Army Physical Fitness Test Score.

Heather is a Lowell High School graduate. She enjoyed training and competing with high school women's power lifting teams and Cascade Power House. She is going through her Advanced Individual Training for Air Traffic Control at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Her new address is: Pvt. Sterzick, Heather A. Co. 1-13th AVN. REGT. CMR#3 Box 7794 Ft. Rucker, AL 36362

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Students and staff dedicate the new gym at Alto Elementary

By J.N.Boorsma
Contributing Writer

It was the gym that wasn't going to be built.

However, the parents of Alto Elementary School rolled up their sleeves and proceeded to convince the Lowell Area Schools - especially Superintendent Bert Bleke - the need for a facility in that school.

Their efforts were honored Monday when current and former students and staff along with Board of Education members and Bleke dedicated the new 4,000-square-foot facility.

"The parents of Alto were really instrumental in helping to convince everyone of the need for a new gym," said physical education teacher, Bill Stouffer, who has been

given credit by Bleke as leading the charge for the new facility.

The monies for the gym came from the recent bond millage, and Bleke easily admitted to all who were there that it was an original part of the construction plans.

"You all need to go home and thank your parents for their willingness to help with this project," Bleke said, during the twenty-minute ceremony that included representatives of the classes coming up and cutting a yellow "caution" tape.

Among the new features of the gym is a rubberized surface designed for inside play. The gym also has adjustable glass back basketball hoops and two volleyball courts.

"This really is so much

better for the kids," Stouffer said during an interview after the dedication. "This gives the kids extra room to do our activities."

About 50 percent more room than the old gym, which will now serve as the school cafeteria. Stouffer said that area was all right for the younger students, however for the older students, space was at a premium. Alto Elementary houses kindergarten through fifth grade.

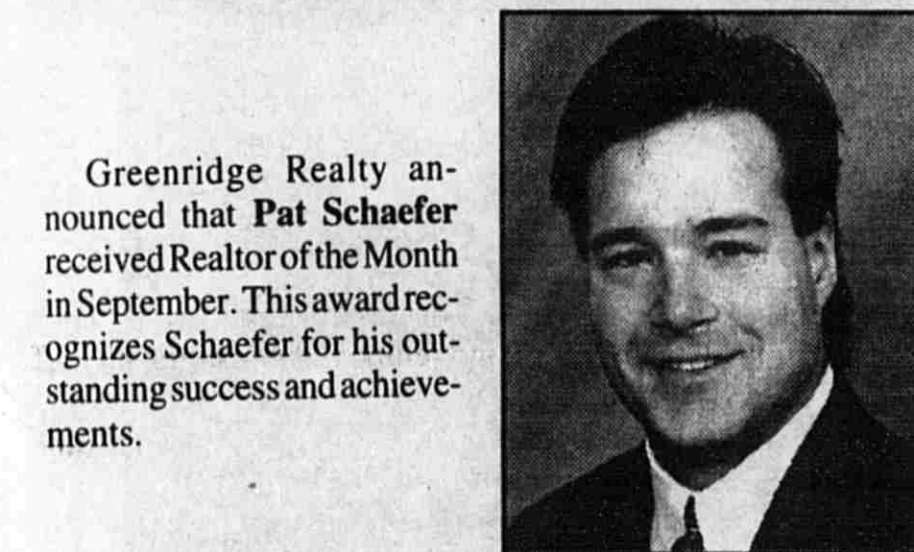
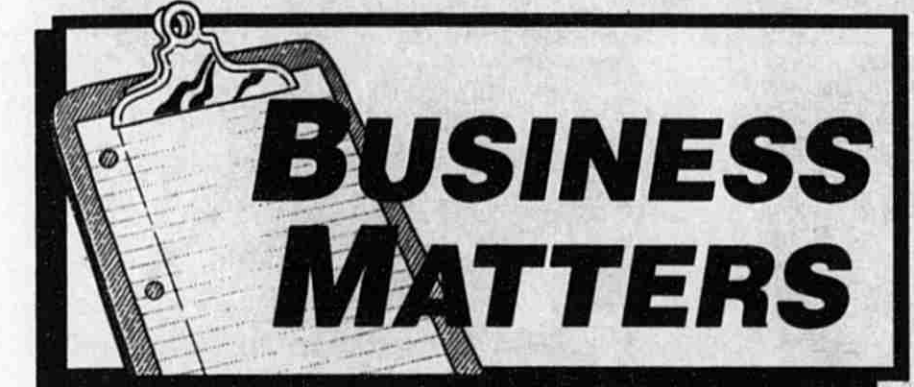
"It is a great addition to the whole Alto Elementary School and to the Lowell Area School District," Stouffer said.

The facility will be open for public use and anyone interested should contact the school.

And it didn't take long for the Alto students to get on the new floor. Mrs. Bolhuis's second grade class was making its way down for P.E. as the last of the honored guests made their way out of the new facility.



Alto students and physical education teacher, Bill Stouffer officially open Alto's new gym by cutting the ribbon.



Books given to Cherry Creek

Cherry Creek Elementary School was the beneficiary of some new books this month.

The Lowell Board of Education unanimously accepted the donation of some children's books from Al and Linda Halbeisen to the Cherry Creek Elementary library.

The books are valued at \$50.

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12:45, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20
GLASS HOUSE (PG-13)
11:45, 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:25
ZOO LANDER (PG-13)
1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:40, 9:45
DON'T SAY A WORD (R)
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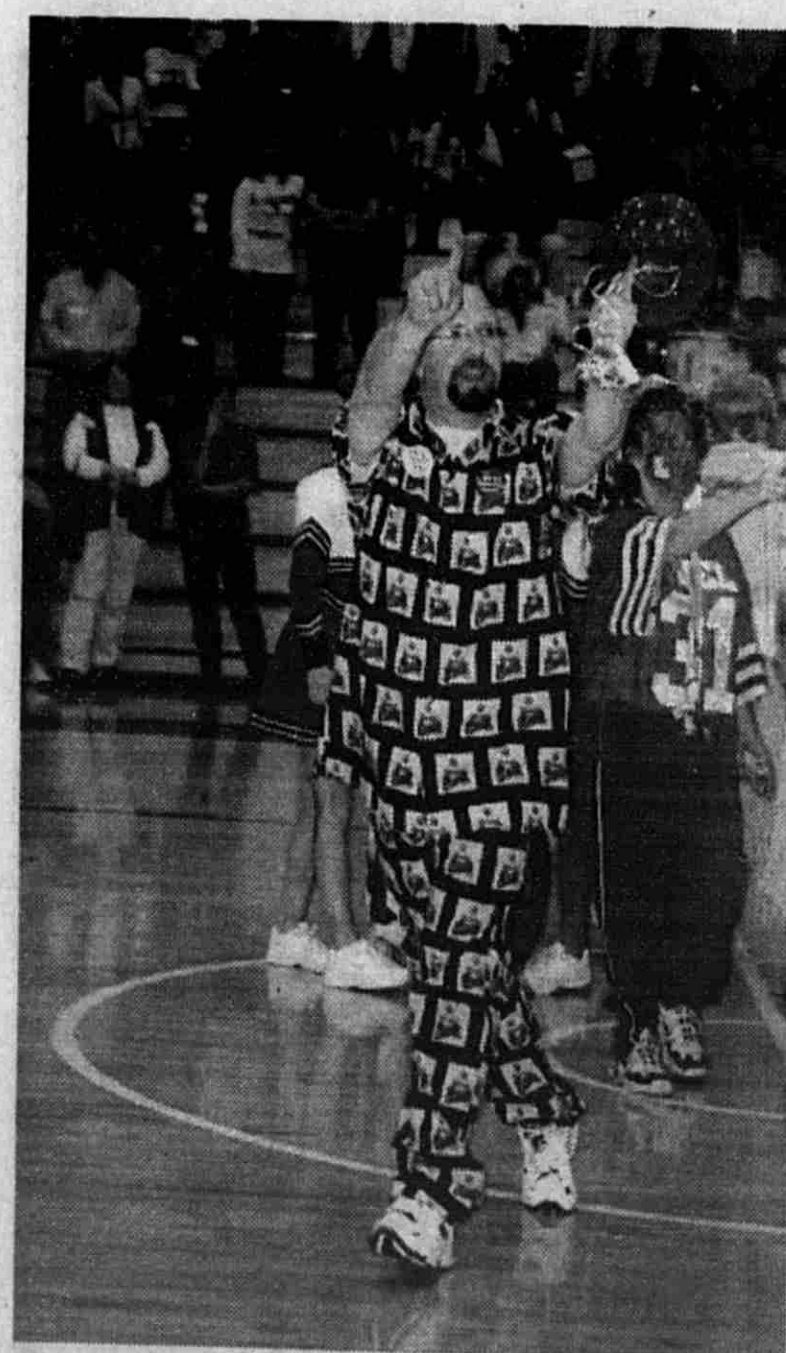
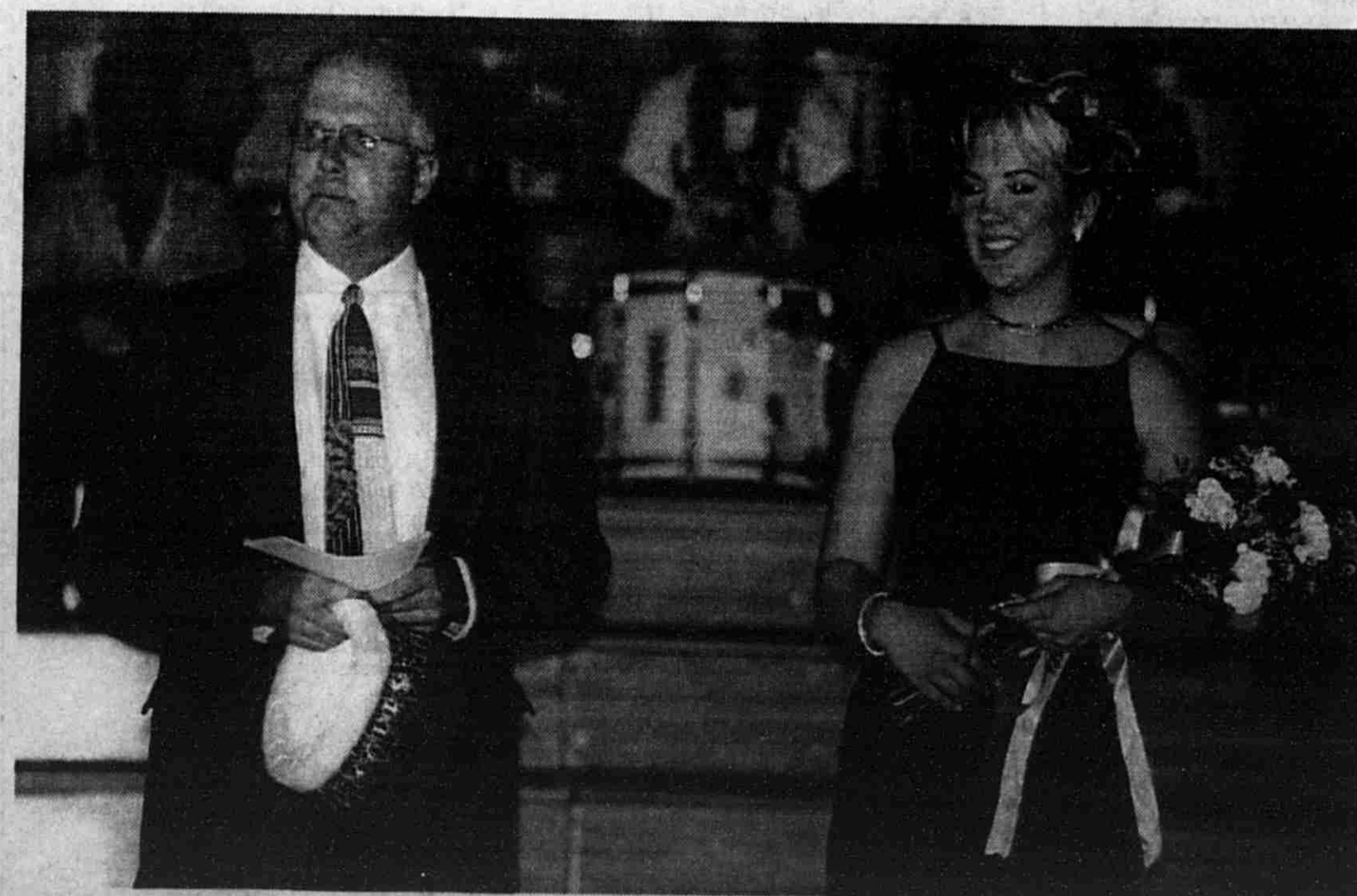
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Pictured above, the 2001 Homecoming court, front row, left to right, are: Matt Barry, Brandon Bouwkamp, Jack Whitman, Travis DeVoid, Matthew Foster, Zach Horan and Ryan Esbaugh; back row are: Kelsey Scheider, Rachel Swift, Megan Liszewski, Molly Kirsch, Ben Vaught (King), Brittany Huisman (Queen), Katie Lum, Renee Catlin and Rebekah Woods.



Pictures Courtesy Skye Fisher



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NOW HIRING - McDonald's Express of Ada is looking to hire 2-3 people who can work 2-3 evenings until 11 p.m. Starting rate \$6.50/hr. Apply at the store or call 676-9727 ask for Jill.

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FOR SALE - 1996 Dodge Grand Caravan SE, 1 owner, excellent condition, loaded! \$6,700. Call 897-6436.

FOR SALE - 2 bedroom, mobile home, Key Heights. Family room w/fireplace, central air, covered deck, appliances, needs some floor work. \$3,500. Call 897-4362, leave message.

FOR SALE - Never worn, Napa leather black, size large, pant coat, paid \$600 will sell for \$200; White Pendleton pant coat, size 14, \$50; extra large hip length Mink jacket, paid \$1,500 will sell for \$200. Disability keeps me from wearing these. Call Jean 897-7144.

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IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM
In loving memory of our wife, mother, grandmother, Carol Wieland, who passed away one year ago on October 13, 2000. Loved, missed & remembered by her family.

Lowell's MEAP scores hold no hidden surprises for district

By J.N. Boorsma Contributing Writer

This year's MEAP scores provided little news to the district with scores generally showing improvement. Assistant superintendent of curriculum, Jim White presented the Lowell Board of Education a brief overview of how the district did. He also offered the reminder that when looking at MEAP scores, the district needs to consider a five-year period and not just a single year's score.

First up were the high school scores. The state does not provide completed calculated scores of high school testing until after that particular class has graduated. The reason is that the students who do not pass a certain test can retake it twice before graduation and receive accreditation for that test on the student's diploma. The Lowell staff calculated the scores for 2001.

Even with those calculated scores, the district was able to see how its students were performing. On the math test, 80 percent of the students passed, and this area has seen steady improvement over the past five years. The same with the reading test, with 77.3 percent of the students passing, and the science test, with 66.9 percent passing. The writing portion also saw good scores, with 79.1 percent passing.

Where the high school students fell short was in the social studies portion. Only 35.4 percent of the students passed; however, White pointed out that traditionally scores in this category since the test was created two years ago have been low.

"We see these low scores all through the system, which is an indication that this could be more of a testing problem than a teaching issue," he said.

Last year's fourth graders showed a continued improvement on reading, with 90 percent passing. About 78 percent of the students passed the reading test, showing a study growth in that area.

However, the science portion for fifth-graders did not go as well with only 50 percent passing the test. This portion has shown a steady decline over the past few years.

"With these numbers we don't just want to look pretty, but we want to do something with it," White said, adding that staff has already begun to look at the science curriculum and determine if the outcomes are what is expected for the students.

The fifth-graders also did not fair well on the social studies test, with only 25 percent passing. White pointed out that Forest Hills had only 55 percent who passed with the entire

KISD having 24 percent pass. The state average was 19, all of which shows that again this could be a testing issue, he said.

The fifth-graders took a dip in the writing portion as well, with only 66 percent passing, only a hair above the KISD average of about 65 percent.

There was good news in the middle scores as the seventh-graders once again did well on the reading test: 77 percent passed, and writing test, 90 percent passed. The eighth-graders stumbled on the science test with only 31 percent passing. The district has not seen much growth in that area over the past five years, according to the charts. The same straight-line growth happened with the eighth-grade social studies test, with 33 percent of the students passing, on a step above the state average of 30 and the KISD average of 29.

The eighth-graders did well on the writing test, 88 percent, which seems to be the area that Lowell is most improving. White said the district has even had the highest scores in the state for its writing.

"It is interesting to note that a district may do well in one area, but not in another," he said, adding that no district did particularly well on all the tests.

Schools use the MEAP scores to help determine how well it's teaching, according to state and national standards. Students who do well on these test can receive scholarship funds.

Public Power: An American tradition that works

By Debbie Deane

When you think of democracy, what images come to mind? Maybe it's the American flag blowing gently in the wind or perhaps it's the sound of our national anthem at a ball game. Whatever the image, democracy - representative government by the people - is a basic right each one of us holds sacred.

Here in Lowell, we can add another image of democracy: your publicly owned electric utility. You may not think of the Lowell Light and Power office at 127 N. Broadway as a symbol of democracy, but indeed it is.

Back in 1896, our citizens empowered themselves economically by choosing - based on citizen election - to establish this public power system. They believed local ownership and control would ensure lower rates, and that consumers would receive better services. They also believed that a community-owned electric system would be a mainstay of community prosperity. Since Lowell Light & Power serves the interests of the community, not stockholders, every citizen has an opportunity to help make decisions about electric service.

"Public Power Week (Oct. 7-13) celebrates the benefits of community-owned utilities," said Tom Richards, general manager of Lowell Light & Power. "Our electric utility operates to

benefit the entire community, as well as providing safe, reliable power and high-quality customer services at competitive rates."

As a small token of our appreciation, we invite you to come by the office at 127 N. Broadway for free safety covers for your wall outlets and other small gifts of appreciation. Also the Lowell City Council, city manager, Dave Pasquale and Lowell mayor, Michael Blough honored third and fourth grade students for their winning entries in the Lowell Light and Power 2002 Safety & Conservation Art Contest. Over the

Nature, cont'd... From Page 1

next 12 months you can stop by the office to see first-hand this rotating art exhibit.

Please join us along with our city leaders in proclaiming Oct. 7-13, the 15th annual "Public Power Week." Lowell is one of 2,000 communities across the country with a publicly-owned electric utility. We're proud of what we've built together and we hope that if you have any questions or comments about your electric service, you will allow us the opportunity to be of service. Please call us at 897-8402.

benefit of interacting with different students to their own school, DeBaar said. There were some hurdles: Grand Rapids currently doesn't have busing, which meant the center had to help with transportation to get the students there.

Once there, the students seemed to meld together as Lowell High School students showed the fifth-graders from Alexander and St. Andrews how to find specimens in the stream. Other activities included making clouds along with the type of equipment the students will use in the Globe project.

Globe.gov is an opportunity for students to collect data about hydrology (water) and the atmosphere, and enter their findings into the computer. Those results are shared with

hundreds of other schools as well as with scientists using that data for research.

"We could do Globe by ourselves," DeBaar said. "That certainly is not a problem. However, having the opportunity to share and interact with other students from completely different backgrounds was what this was all about."

For those who came, there was the added benefit of seeing a place like the Wittenbach Center.

"This is certainly one heck of a facility," said David Tummelson, a fifth-grade teacher at Alexander School.

As for the students, well, they certainly couldn't wait to get their feet wet and hands dirty learning about science with some new friends.

CONTINUED...

CLASSIFIEDS

SALES **SALES** **CARD OF THANKS** **EVENTS** **EVENTS** **SERVICES**

LIVING ESTATE SALE - 310 Avery St., Lowell, behind City Hall. Thurs., Oct. 11, 9-5 p.m. & Fri., Oct. 12, 9-1 p.m. Sofa, occasional tables, lamps, full maple bedroom set, twin bed, record player, records, curio shelf, mirrors, elec. range, portable dishwasher, refrig, washer, dryer, small appliances, kitchenware, dishes, books, vacuum, drapes & curtains. Antiques include: cane seat chairs, glassware, flo blue, cut glass & more. Sale by Marimar, 616-794-2423. Audrey Dykstra, owner.

GARAGE SALE - Oct. 12, 9 to dusk, 506 Lafayette, E. of Flat River. Dress, casual, shoes & boots, wool coats, dresses, suits, sweaters, hats, etc. Children's clothes too!! Lots of other great things for home & garage.

FALL GARAGE SALE - Bedding, books, clothing, toys, Nascar items & more. Fri., Oct. 12th 9-6. Sat., Oct. 13th 8-2 pm only. 11133 Foreman SE.

GARAGE SALE - Sat., Oct. 13, 9-5 pm, 1064 Riverside Dr. Almost toilet w/seat; prehung left-hand door (exterior) white 36x78 6 1/2 Jam w/hardware, also misc. items. 897-9583.

CARD OF THANKS
The family of Jessie Hunt extends their heartfelt thanks to Rev. Robert Holmes & Rev. Jonathon Walker for their comforting words, and the ladies from Christian Life Center and Saranac Foods for the wonderful luncheon they prepared. We want to thank Lowell Schools, the pallbearers and also our many friends and family for the cards, flowers and food that was brought in. Your kind expressions of sympathy and friendship will always be in our memories. Joey & Carol Hunt, Joey Jr., Tiffany, Clinton & Dorothy; Harold & Mattie; Shirley & Don.

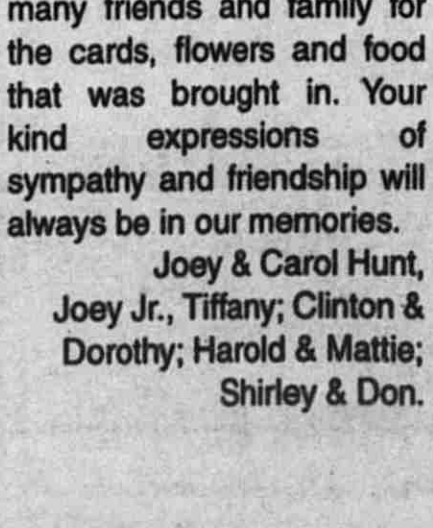
BAD HABITS BEGIN EARLY
- Come to the YMCA-JC Penney Lights on Afterschool alliance open house at Cherry Creek Elementary & see the Lowell YMCA child care in action. The public is invited to this event as many positive & constructive programs within the community will be highlighted. Please join us, let your kids glaze a ceramic tile, play while you enjoy a hot bowl of soup & educate yourself about the alternative to your children going home to an empty house. Thurs., Oct. 11, 3-6. YMCA entrance, Cherry Creek Elementary. We hope to see you there. Call Chris at 897-2688 w/any questions.

WELCOME ALL DEER HUNTERS - Big Buck Contest, Nov. 15, 16 & 17. See Alto Bar, buffet starting 5 a.m. - 9 & 11-2 p.m. Thurs. - Sat.

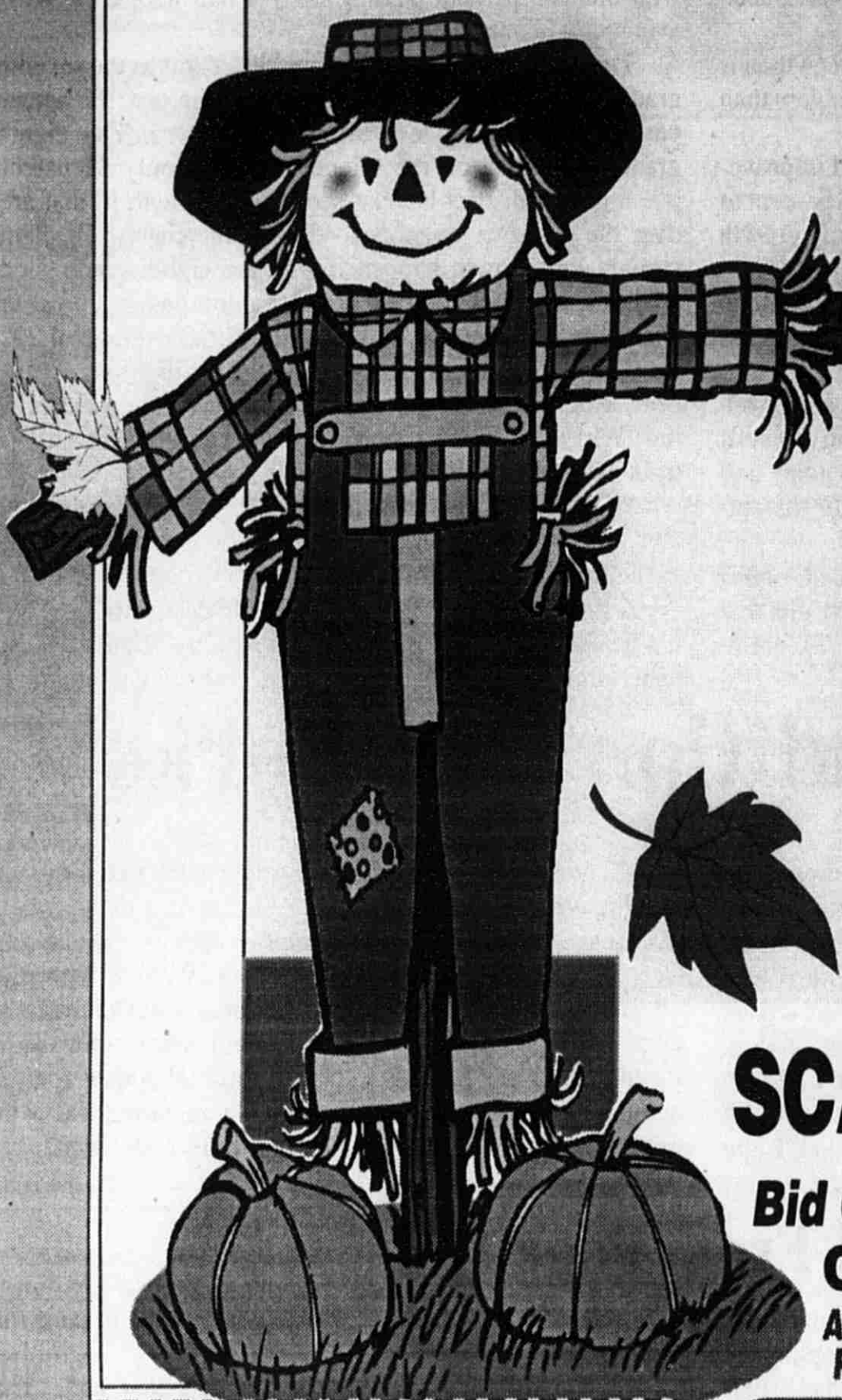
EUCHRE TOURNAMENT - Friday, Oct. 12, 7 p.m. until ??? at Tritown Conservation Club, Dunn Rd. off from 6 Mile. Cost \$5 per person. Snacks provided and beverages available.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS - We provide a variety of home improvements, including but not limited to painting, siding, drywall, suspended ceilings, yard work. Call us first for prompt, affordable and quality service. Accurate Advancements (616) 225-9224.

CLASSIFIEDS FOR AS LITTLE AS \$1?
It's true! 15 words for \$1 and each additional word is only 10 cents! Call the Lowell Ledger to find out how! 897-9261!



Lowell Main St. Retailers Present...



HARVEST SALE

OCTOBER 12TH & 13TH • 9 AM TO 5 PM

& Festival Of SCARECROWS

OCTOBER 13TH - 31ST



SCARECROW SILENT AUCTION


Bid On Your Favorite Winner!

OCT. 13 - OCT. 20!

All funds raised will benefit the Flat River Outreach Ministries

TOUCH OF COUNTRY
96 W. MAIN ST.

HOURS: MON. & WED • 10 AM - 7PM; TUES, THURS. & FRI 10 AM - 5:30 PM & SAT. 10 AM - 4 PM

THE DAM STORE
115 W. MAIN ST.  897-7326
This Ad Entitles You To **20% Off** ANYTHING IN THE STORE
OFFER EXPIRES 10-31-01

Come Help Us Decorate The City Of Lowell!
BUILD A SCARECROW FOR MAIN STREET!

Scarecrow Building Clinic
OCTOBER 13
10 AM TO 1 PM
Riverwalk Plaza by the Showboat

10 winners will be chosen and prizes awarded!

Rare Finds
Fine Reproductions, Unique Accessories
SALE UP TO 50%
209 E. MAIN • 897-1383

HAHN HARDWARE
207 E. Main
897-7501
\$1 OFF ANY RAKE

SPRINGGROVE VARIETY
123 W. MAIN • LOWELL, MI 49331
897-9918
SIDEWALK FULL OF VALUES!

The Pottery Palace
A Painting Pottery & Art Studio
Great For Birthdays, Bridal Showers, Baby Showers, Private Parties And Fundraisers
Call Us For More Information
616-897-8887
209 W. Main

Dream Pieces
Home or Office Special Furnishings
219 West Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331
616-897-4311
In Historic Downtown Lowell

Touch of Country
96 W. Main • Lowell
616-897-0329
10% Off STOREWIDE
*EXCLUDES PRIOR SALES & COUPONS EXPIRES 10/13/01

FLAT RIVER ANTIQUE MALL
Open 7 Days A Week
Cafe on Premises
212 W. Main • 897-5360
Check Out Our October Sales!

Keiser's 700 E. MAIN LOWELL
DAILY SPECIALS
"A Family Tradition Since 1945"
HOURS:
Monday - Saturday.....5:30 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Sunday.....8:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.
TAKE-OUT ORDERS PHONE 897-8455

Fall Sales
20-40% Off  **DECORATIVE BROOMS \$2**
Inside
COUSINS'
HALLMARK
223 W. Main • 897-5000

Also participating: Lowell Bed & Linen & The Book About Sponsored By The Lowell Area Chamber Of Commerce • 897-9161