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The Lowell Ledger

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Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Food, fun and shopping follow Christmas Parade

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Food, fun and shopping await area residents following Saturday's annual Santa Claus Parade.

The theme for this year's parade is "Visions of Peace."

The Christmas festivities which follow the parade will provide opportunity to sample pastries, warm refreshments and other edible delights.

"After the parade we have a whole day of fun, food and shopping awaiting Lowell residents," said Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director, Liz Baker.

The Chamber is sponsoring "Pastries Around Lowell." Parade-goers will be able to stop in at the Chamber and taste their favorite cookies, pies and baked goods, prepared by area members.

Also featured at the Chamber office will be Lizzy's Chili and fresh gourmet coffee.



Along Riverwalk Plaza, residents will once again be treated to hot chocolate and hot dogs prepared by the Lowell Lions Club.

The parade will start at 10 a.m. from the Kent County 4-H fairgrounds and proceed north on Broadway to Main Street, then east on Main to Jackson.

Featured in the parade will be the Lowell High School and Middle School marching bands as well as entries and floats from area churches, organizations and businesses. As always, its main attraction will be a visit from Santa Claus.

The Kent County Youth 4-Her's are sponsoring a hearty breakfast of pancakes, sausage, eggs, coffee and hot chocolate from 8 a.m. until noon at the King Memorial Youth Center located at the fairgrounds. Santa will make a sneak appearance from 8 a.m. until 9:45 a.m.

Throughout the day many of the Lowell retailers will offer specials in their stores such as painting a Christmas pot, calligraphy and caricature drawings, as well as designer jewelry, a holiday wine sale and Christmas por-

traits. Along the way patrons can enjoy hot buttered popcorn, a winter warmup drink and a parade pita.

The Lowell Area Historical Museum will provide guided tours through historic downtown Lowell in horse drawn wagons. Rides will depart the King Milling parking lot at 11:30 a.m., noon, 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Flat River Snowmobile Club will sell raffle tickets for the Michigan Snowmobile Association Raffle from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on the Riverwalk. Tickets are just \$1 apiece or 11 for \$10.

The Lowell Jaycees will give children an opportunity to have their pictures taken with Santa at the former White Swan following the parade until 3 p.m. Cost is \$3.

Rudolph's craft workshop, sponsored by Lowell Area Schools "Tots on Track for School," will also be held at the White Swan. Children, ages two-nine, can make a Christmas craft from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The Lowell Area Arts Council will display its Christmas Poster contest entries and winners at the same location.

Bob Schultz, ice sculptor, and students from Grand Rapids Community College will demonstrate how to carve ice and create special sculptures of the Navy ship, "John Paul Jones" and symbols of Peace. They will begin sculpting after the parade and finish at 2 p.m.

Chainsaw artist, "Bearclaw Jack" will be back again with his many creations.

For more information call the Chamber office at 897-9161.

Widening Foreman/Hudson street intersection commission's immediate solution

By J.N. Boorsma Contributing Writer

After some discussion, the Lowell Planning Commission decided the only immediate solution to the truck traffic on Foreman Road was to widen the intersection at Foreman and Hudson.

At Monday night's meeting, the commission reviewed a proposal by Lowell Planning Commission chair, James Hall that suggested an alternate route for the truck traffic by directing it from Foreman Road to Gee Drive and then down the proposed Ridgeview Drive to M-21. The plan had many positives: one being it would pull traffic away from the residential area and discourage truck traffic through the main part of the suburban residential area on Gee Drive.

However, one of the biggest pitfalls Lowell city manager, David Pasquale said he could see right now was that there would be no light at Ridgeview and M-21, making it very difficult for trucks to turn left on M-21.

"One of the items we have made the residents aware of

is that no matter what we do, it will not end the truck traffic on Foreman Road," Pasquale said.

Keeping that in mind, the planning commission decided its opinion, to be forwarded to the Lowell City Council, shall be that an immediate solution to the problem such as widening the intersection of Foreman and Hudson should be sought with efforts being made for a long-term solution such as the route of Foreman to Gee to Ridgeview.

Even widening the intersection to address the safety concerns for the residents could be tricky, Pasquale said. The road itself is very narrow, about 49 and a half feet, with many of the houses very close to the road.

"In terms of noise, the closer you are to the road, the more you hear it," Pasquale said.

Police chief, Jim Valentine said while accident reports do not indicate any service truck/car accidents at the Foreman/Hudson intersection, the potential is there because the radius is not wide enough. Valentine said the same situation was occurring at Hudson and Main, but doesn't occur any more

since the radius has been increased.

The issue for the Foreman and Hudson intersection is traffic heading north. When making a turn, the trucks are forced to go up on the curb in order to make the turn, Pasquale explained. Traffic in the lanes also has to back up, creating potential accident situations. Valentine did report of one bus/car accident which was the result of the bus trying to back up to allow for a truck to turn with the bus hitting the car behind it.

Pasquale said information concerning the right of ways in that area has been turned over to the traffic engineer for further study and recommendations, which will be made to the city council.

Earlier this year, at the request of the residents living on Foreman Road, the city commissioned a traffic study of the Foreman and Hudson intersections. That study, done by Ed Swanson from Wade-Trim, said the truck traffic was not unusual for the road, but he did recommend widening the radius for the intersection.

Residents push forward a proposal with a more flexible ordinance

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

If a group of residents get their wish, Lowell city residents will be able to park their recreational vehicles in their driveways when in season.

Monday night, at the Lowell Planning Commission meeting, a group of residents presented their proposed changes to the current city ordinance which, at present, does not allow the parking of RVs, such as boats, trailers and motorhomes, in a homeowner's driveway.

Dwain Scheller, of 692 Birchwood Ct., spoke on behalf of the group and said the committee took a look at several ordinances including ones

from Cascade, Saranac, and Rockford. The committee proposed to make some changes to the city's current regulations by adding the words "when out of season" so the ordinance would read: "The overnight parking of any truck over one ton, trailer, boat, or recreational vehicle is prohibited on any street, in any community parking lot, or in any front yard. Parking or storage of any RV shall be placed within a completely enclosed building or located in the rear yard, or outside of a required side yard when out of season."

The ordinance would then state that RVs or vehicles for camping and summer use

would be out of season Dec. 1 to April 1. Winter use vehicles, such as snowmobiles, would be out of season April 1 to Dec. 1.

Provisions would be made for a resident to park an RV for a seven-day period when out of season by making a call to City Hall and getting a permit. The same would be allowed for an RV being used as living accommodations for visitors.

"We believe this solves a lot of problems," Scheller said. "Of course, we don't know what the ripple effect will be for other changes, but this would help a lot of people."

"When we reviewed this

with the committee, the person with the RV said 'Yeah, I'm going to store my boat or RV in the middle of winter' and the guy with the snowmobile doesn't want it out there when he is cutting his grass."

The planning commission plans to review the recommendations at its Dec. 10 work session, when the group will also discuss several other ordinance issues including front yard lot lines for a corner lot, fences, and design of asphalt requirements for driveways along with reviewing its Vision 2002.

However, right off the bat, several of the commissioners had concerns about

the proposed ordinance.

"I would like to see it limited to one recreational vehicle," said planning commissioner, Jim Pfaller. "My front lawn is huge and I could park a jet ski, motorhome,

boat, two airplanes, and still have room for a youth football game."

Planning commissioner, Deb Hinton said she was concerned about the seven-day pe-

RV Ordinance, cont'd. pg. 25

Inside The Ledger

A Network of Early
Childhood Educational
Opportunities Supplement,
Pages 9-20

OBITUARIES

FORD - Kenneth James Ford, aged 76, of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, formerly of Howard City, passed away November 16, 2001. He was preceded in death by his wife Marcella and his brothers Thomas, Russell, John and James. He is survived by his children Robert (Vicki) Sandoval of Newport Beach, CA, Patricia (Dave) Minnema, Barbara Mattix, Michael (Ellen) Ford, and Lori Williams all of Grand Rapids, Mary (Woody) Widmayer of Howard City, Timothy (Marsha) Ford of Sand Lake, Robert (Mary) Ford of Lowell, and their mother Velma Ford of Grand Rapids; 17 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; his

brother Joseph (Mary Jane), and sisters Evelyn (Bob) Hammond, Mary (Norb) Fisher and Dorothy Gridley, all of Grand Rapids; many nieces and nephews, and a number of special friends. Ken served in WWII aboard the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown. He retired from Michigan Plating and Stamping in 1967. Memorial services were held Monday at Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan or the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, 3000 Monroe N.W.

MONROE - Beth A. Monroe, aged 48, of Holland, for-

merly of Newaygo, passed away early Saturday morning, November 24, 2001, at her home. Beth was an outgoing person who made friends readily. She enjoyed gardening, doing yard work, caring for farm animals, and sewing and making crafts for family and friends. Beth was a very good mother and took great care to keeping track of her children. She drove school bus for Newaygo Public Schools, a job she started because of her love for Special Olympics. For several years Beth worked at Gerber Products as a safety coordinator. Beth is survived by her chil-

dren Catherine "Cathy Jo" Monroe of Hudsonville, and Duane "DJ" Monroe and his fiancée Amy VanDyke of Schoolcraft; her mother Mrs. Mary E. Meyers of Lowell; her brother and sisters Roger and Julie Meyers of Walker, Joan and Doug Broek of Wyoming, and Jane Meyers and Dawn Meyers both of Grandville; nieces and nephew Sarah Meyers, Ryan Meyers and Jessica Meyers; aunts, uncles and cousins. She was preceded in death by her father Jerry M. Meyers on April 30, 1998. The Mass of Christian Burial took place on Tuesday at St. Patrick's

Catholic Church in Parnell with The Rev. Phillip D. Nguyen as presider. Interment St. Patrick's Cemetery in Parnell. Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider Special Olympics or the Kandu Program.

PRYS - Jessie Elizabeth Prys, aged 82, of Greenville, passed away November 21, 2001. She was preceded in death by her husband John. Mrs. Prys is survived by her children Roger (Rhonda) Wilson, Marjorie "Maggie" (Randy) Sorenson, Gary Prys; brother Frank Butler; grandchildren

Sarah, Matthew, Ruth and Zachary Chivell, Renee, Michael, Cory, Nicolas and Austin Wilson. She graduated from Central College in Pella, Iowa, in 1941, a teacher in the Lowell Area Schools from 1968 to 1980; a member of the First United Methodist Church of Lowell and a member of the church bell choir. A memorial service was held Tuesday at the First United Methodist Church of Lowell, Rev. Vance M. Dimmick, officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Methodist Children Home Society, 26645 W. 6 Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48240.

KDL mice quite lively over holiday season

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse... but at Kent District Library, the mice are quite lively! The Holiday Mice program will be coming to many branches in December. It features lots of merry mouse fun for children ages six and under. Kids enjoy stories like the *Mouse Before Christmas*, *Mouse's First Christmas*, *Christmas Mice*, and *If You Take a Mouse to the Movies*; listen to some festive mouse songs; make a mouse ornament or door hanger and play a holiday bow toss game.

The Englehardt Library will offer the program on Thurs-

day, Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m. The Alto Library will present it on Monday, Dec. 17 at 10:30 a.m. and also on Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 1:30 p.m.

Flu shots available at Grattan Township, Nov. 30



The Kent County Health Department will be giving flu shots at the township hall in Grattan Township from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 30. The hall is located on Old Belding Road, in Grattan, across from Grattan Academy.

The cost for the flu shot is \$15, or if you have Medicare, bring your card and Medicare will be billed directly. Patrons do not have to be a resident of Grattan Township. For more information call (616) 691-8450.

Nothing can be so perfect while we possess it as it will seem when remembered.
—Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

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Generally speaking, new store offers dollar deals

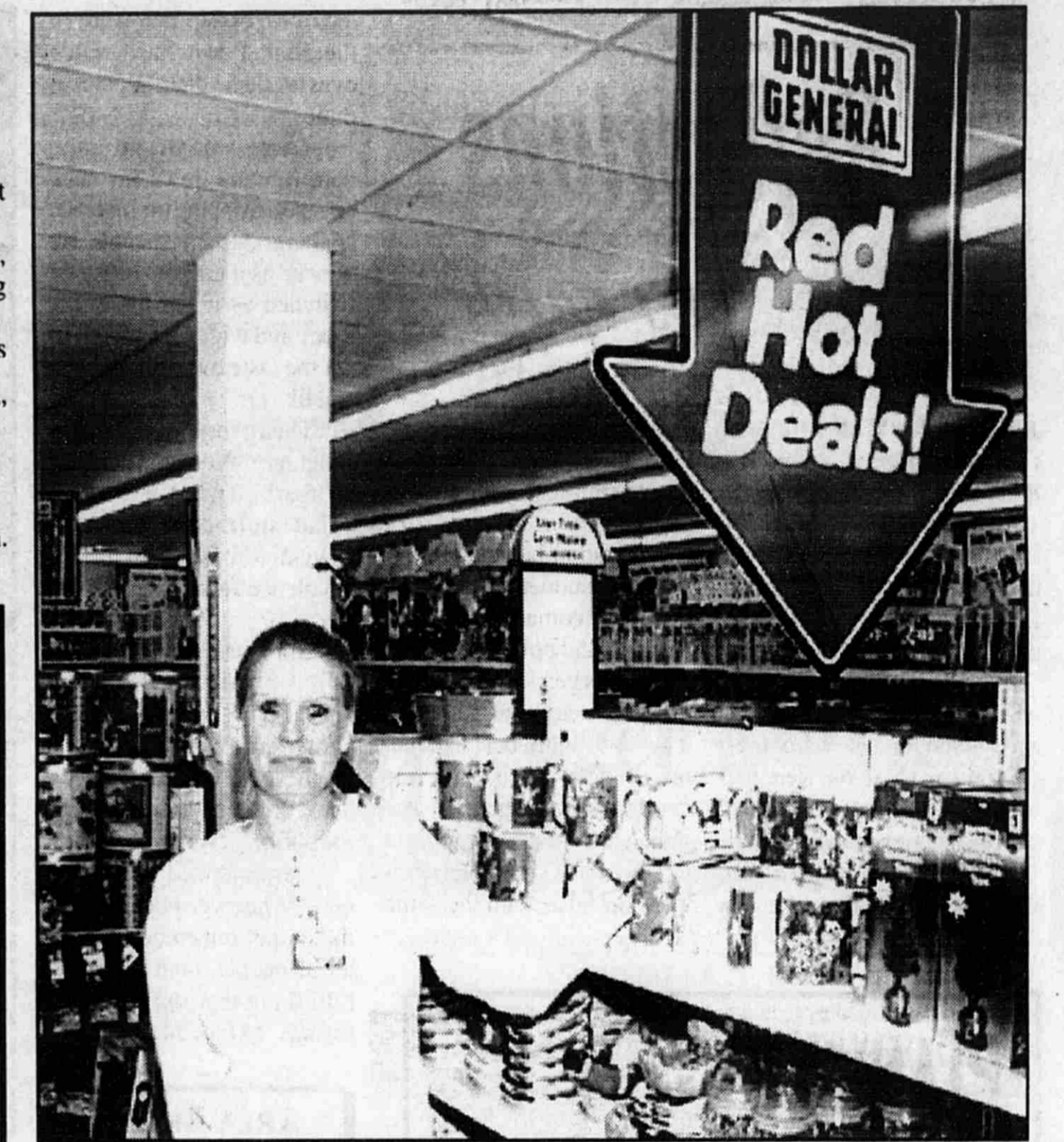
The opening of Dollar General on Oct. 5 has made a short trip even shorter for many east side Lowell residents.

"Dollar General stores are generally found in middle class areas," explains store manager, Sherri Newville. "We carry things which are needed on a week-to-week basis such as cleaning and personal hygiene items."

For some residents on the east side of Lowell, it means being able to walk to the store as opposed to driving to the west end of town.

"Dollar General is a nice clean store with brand names, good prices and friendly people," Newville said.

The chain store's corporate office is based out of Goodlettsville, TN. Dollar General employs six people, with all but one from Lowell. Store hours are from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Sunday.



Lowell's Sherri Newville is Dollar General's store manager.

10 YEARS LATER

••• City still waiting to learn if state will put in canoe launch.

By J.N. Boorsma Contributing Writer

Councilmember, Don Green isn't exactly sure what triggered his memory about the state putting in a canoe launch on the Flat River.

"It might have been my dad," he said. "He tends to bug me about it."

The event of the city transferring a parcel of land it owned near White's Bridge to the state for a canoe launch happened at the first council meeting Green attended as a city councilmember in January 1992.

Green, who steps down as a councilmember at the end of this year, suddenly began to wonder whatever happened to that project.

City manager, David Pasquale said he isn't quite sure, but made some inquiries

and discovered that the project apparently had just fallen through the cracks.

Pasquale said he talked to David Olson of the Department of Natural Resource's Plainwell office, which was the office in charge of the project. Olson told Pasquale that due to reorganization, the project didn't happen.

That reorganization included the development of a new DNR office in Grand Rapids, which was charged with taking care of the canoe launch.

Pasquale said he hadn't had a chance to talk to the head of the Grand Rapids' office yet, but was hoping to have some type of answer for Green as to the time frame before he left the council.

Canoe Launch, cont'd. pg. 4

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOV. 29: Margaret Gardner, Gail Thomet, Kelly Sauber, Scott Swanson, Tara Propst, NOV. 30: Jason Craig, Todd Ryder, Joe Kiczanski, April McClure-Cowan.

Bergy, Mary Alice Starkweather. DEC. 3: Chris Chambers, Chris Darby, Amanda Sterzick, Richard Kline. DEC. 4: Tennille Bryant, Autumn French, Casey French.

DEC. 1: Travis Briggs, Karolyn Batt, Deb Anchors, Denny Brenk II, Joyce Watrous. DEC. 2: Chelsey Treglia, Kari

Disease and Food Remedies

Lifestyle Health Seminar Series

Sunday, December 9
4:00 - 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Forest Hills Aquatic Center,
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Dr. Jeff Gates, DrPH serves as the Clinical Preventive Care Specialist for the Battle Creek Lifestyle Health Center, specializing in Environmental and Nutritional Medicine. These specialties in health care enable healing in a progressive dimension by seeking causative relationships for disease as a basis for healing.

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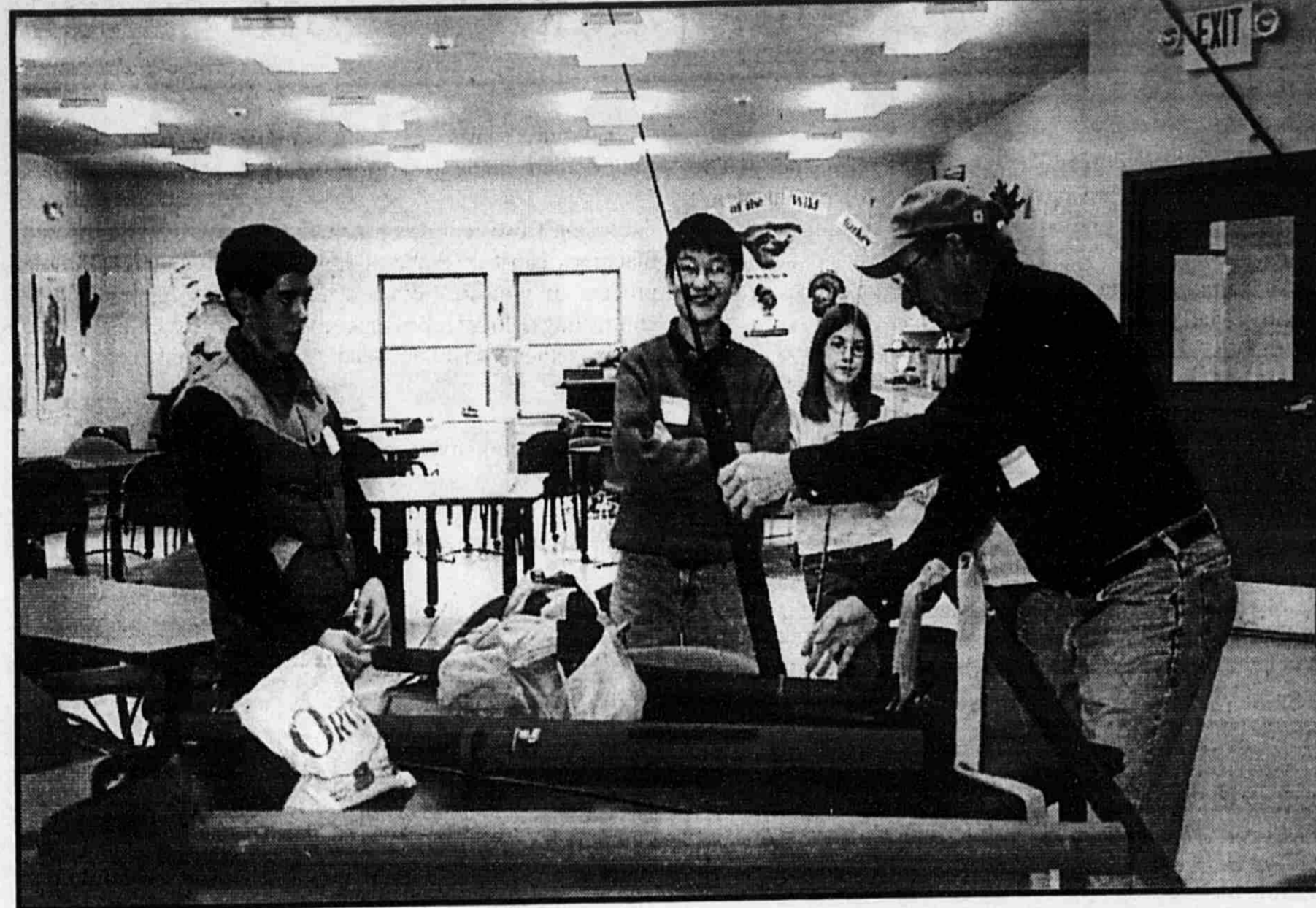
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CHECK YOUR FLY

The Lowell High School Junior Trout Unlimited Club will be holding a free fly tying seminar on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. until noon at the Wittenbach Agriscience Center and Wege Natural Area. The seminar is free. If you have any questions or need more information call Tammy at 987-1002.

Holiday do's and don'ts when sending packages and cards

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Since Christmas is Tuesday this year, Monday, Dec. 17 is projected to be the busiest mailing day of the year to postmark cards and letters.

To avoid the rush and to assure timely and safe delivery, post office patrons are encouraged to get an early jump on letters, cards and packages.

"The earlier the better," said Lowell postmaster, Gil Brown.

Because of the event on Sept. 11, and the ensuing heightened airline security, commercial airlines will not fly anything over a pound.

"They are limiting what they're accepting," Brown explained. "The U.S. Post Office has planes flying packages, but with commercial airlines limiting what they accept, we expect our planes to fill up fast."

Brown offered some tips for this year's holiday mailings:

• Print whenever possible. If it can't be read, it may not arrive at its destination.

• Use a return address. If it's been over a year since you've corresponded, a person may have moved. Use a pen that won't run or smear in the rain or snow.

• Do not use duct tape or string. "Post offices provide Priority Mail boxes free," Brown said.

• Put duplicate labels inside packages in case outer packages become unreadable.

• Any packages over a pound must be brought to the post office window. They must also have a return address.

• Foreign packages must have customs forms.

• To insure safe and timely delivery, send your holiday greeting cards and packages within the next week and a half.

• Express mail is available to most areas of the country. This method enables mail to get to its destination the next day.

• Don't use red, green or blue envelopes - automated machines can't read the addresses, slowing up the whole process. If you are going to do it anyway, at least use a contrasting color of ink to make them easier to read and bundle them together with rubber bands since they'll have to be sorted by hand anyway.

• Don't send anything that rattles, ticks or makes noise.

• When sending food, double-bag and use fresh goods and lots of Saran Wrap to help keep baked goods fresh.

• Gifts of alcohol are prohibited by federal law.

"Mailing cards and packages this holiday season will not be the same as it used to be," Brown concluded.

Snowmobile test given at Flat River Snowmobile Clubhouse

A home study snowmobile safety training course conducted by the Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division will be held at the Flat River Snowmobile Clubhouse, 11841 Potters Rd.

Testing for the snowmobile operators license is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 8 and Saturday, Jan. 12 from 9 a.m. until noon.

The class is required for operators between the ages of 12-17.

Testing will be conducted at the clubhouse. Students are

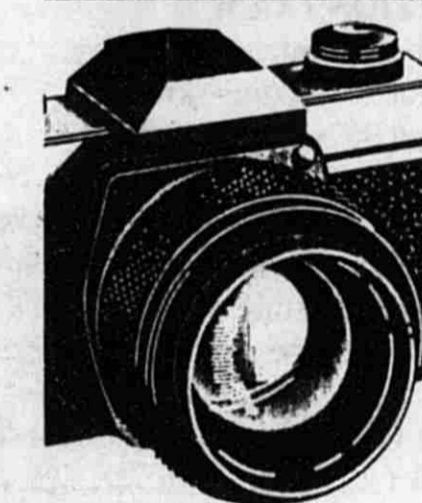
required to bring their study materials, registration form (filled out) and Social Security Number.

To request test and registration materials, write or telephone the following:

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division State Office Building, 6th Floor, 350 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, or call 616-356-0505.

No pre-registration is required and the class is free. For more information call 616-897-7398.

Attention All Coaches, Proud Parents, Athletes & Others Who Wish To Submit Photos In The Ledger...



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Along Main Street

COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTED

The Lowell Moose Recreational Center will be distributing the following items on Thursday, Nov. 29: Canned applesauce, canned red pitted cherries, dried cherries, frozen ham, powdered milk, rice; also cans of pears, potatoes, veg. and tomato soups and tomatoes.

COMMUNITY VESPERS SERVICE & LUMINARIES

Join the Lowell Area Ministerium Association on Friday, Nov. 30 at 6:30 p.m. on Riverwalk Plaza to pray for "Visions of Peace." Begin your holiday season in prayer and help light the Christmas season.

TROUT UNLIMITED JUNIOR FISHING CONSERVATION CLUB

The club will meet at the Wittenbach Center on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. - noon to fly tie, practice angling skills, fish and clean local rivers. Call Tammy at 987-1002 for info.

NEEDED: TOYS FOR TOTS

The Alto Girl Scouts will be walking in the Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 10 a.m. collecting toys for the Toys for Tots program. Your donation will be appreciated.

OPEN HOUSE AT LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBOR CENTER

Stop by and check out the newly remodeled Lowell Senior Neighbor Center and enjoy coffee, punch and cookies at their open house on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Many projects have been completed in the center at 314 S. Hudson St.

PARADE BREAKFAST

A breakfast of pancakes, sausage, eggs, coffee and hot chocolate with Good Ole' St. Nick will be served at the King Memorial Youth Center from 8 a.m. to noon.

SANTA PICTURES

Come and have breakfast with Santa before the parade at the King Youth Memorial Building on the fairgrounds Saturday, Dec. 1 from 8 to 9:45 a.m. OR get your picture taken after the parade at the former White Swan building on Riverwalk Plaza. Cost: \$3.

HISTORIC TOURS AND WAGON RIDES

Enjoy a horse drawn wagon ride Saturday, Dec. 1 and learn some history of Lowell. Tours will depart the King Milling parking lot at 11:30 a.m., noon, 12:30, 1:30, 2:00 and 2:30 p.m.

BAKE SALE IN THE CHAMBER OFFICE

Would you like to bake a goodie for the bake sale Saturday, Dec. 1 in the Chamber along Riverwalk Plaza? Call Linda or Darlene at 897-1140 for information.

DEADLINE FOR COMMUNITY FUND

The deadline to request funds from the Lowell Community Fund is Saturday, Dec. 1. Contact Bob Reagan at 897-7515 with any questions.

CHRISTMAS LUMINARY WALK ON WITTENBACH TRAILS

Bring your family to the Wittenbach Center on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 2-6 p.m. for a walk along the trails and some hot chocolate. Snowshoe rental is \$10/adults; \$5/child size.

FARM PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

The Wittenbach Center will have a farm photo display on

Dec. 1 from 9-6 p.m.; Dec. 2 and 8 from 10-2 p.m.; and Dec. 10 from 4-8 p.m. Photos are due, properly mounted, no later than Wed., Nov. 28 at 3 p.m. \$25 cash prize. Any questions, call Tammy at 987-1002.

FAMILY COUNCIL OF LAURELS OF KENT VOLUNTEER GROUP

Beginning on Sunday, Dec. 2, a volunteer group made up of Laurels of Kent residents' family members, guardians and concerned citizens will meet at 3 p.m. The purpose is to enhance the lives of residents and staff, promoting a more pleasant living and working environment in the home. The public is invited to attend.

ATHLETIC BOOSTERS MEETING

The Boosters meeting will take place in the high school staff lounge on Monday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m.

LOWELL AREA FIRE DEPT. BLOOD DRIVE

The Lowell Area Fire Department is sponsoring a blood drive for the Grand Valley Blood Program on Wednesday, Dec. 5 from 2-7 p.m. at the Look Memorial Fire Station located at 315 S. Hudson.

NATURE HOLIDAY CRAFT WORKSHOP

The craft workshop will be held at the Wittenbach Center on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 9 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$20; payment and registration required in advance. Call 987-1002.

ROGUE RIVER ARTISANS SHOW AND SALE

The 19th annual Rogue River Artisans Show will take place at Lowell High School (formerly at Deer Run) on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At least 75 designers/artists will be selling specialty items; a light breakfast and lunch will be available as well. \$1 admission is charged at the door with all proceeds going to the 2003 Lowell High School class.

Remember that nobody will ever get ahead of you as long as he is kicking you in the seat of the pants.

Walter Winchel

Join us for a special Christmas Celebration with Living Truth 2 Sunday, December 2, 2001 6:00 p.m.

Living Truth 2



Living Truth 2 is a husband and wife ministry team composed of Elroy and Tammie Kusters from Caro, Michigan. The two combined play many antique and contemporary instruments, including acoustic guitar, Appalachian dulcimer,

bass guitar, guitar zither, keyboard, mandolin guitar, marxophone, melodica, psaltery, recorder, soprano saxophone and wooden flute. They travel throughout Michigan presenting their ministry of music and occasional drama sketch in combination with their testimonies of a vital, growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

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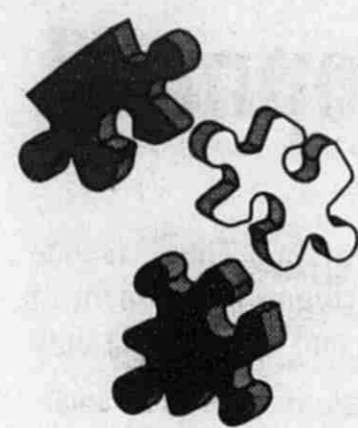


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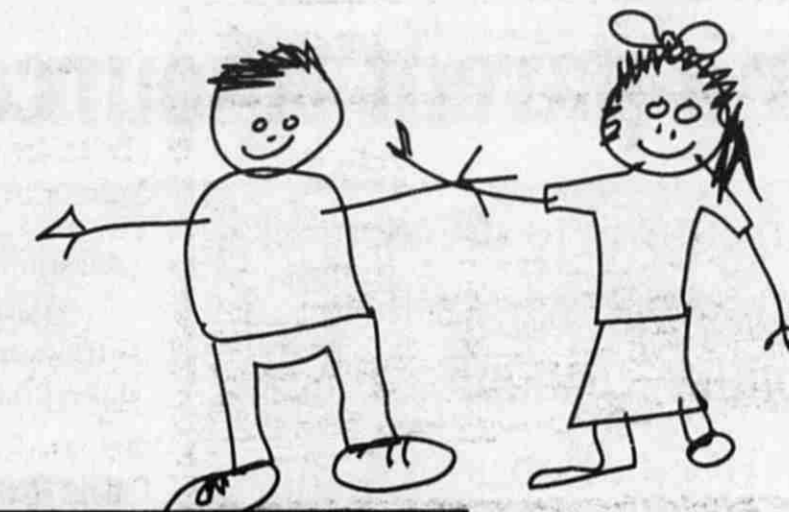
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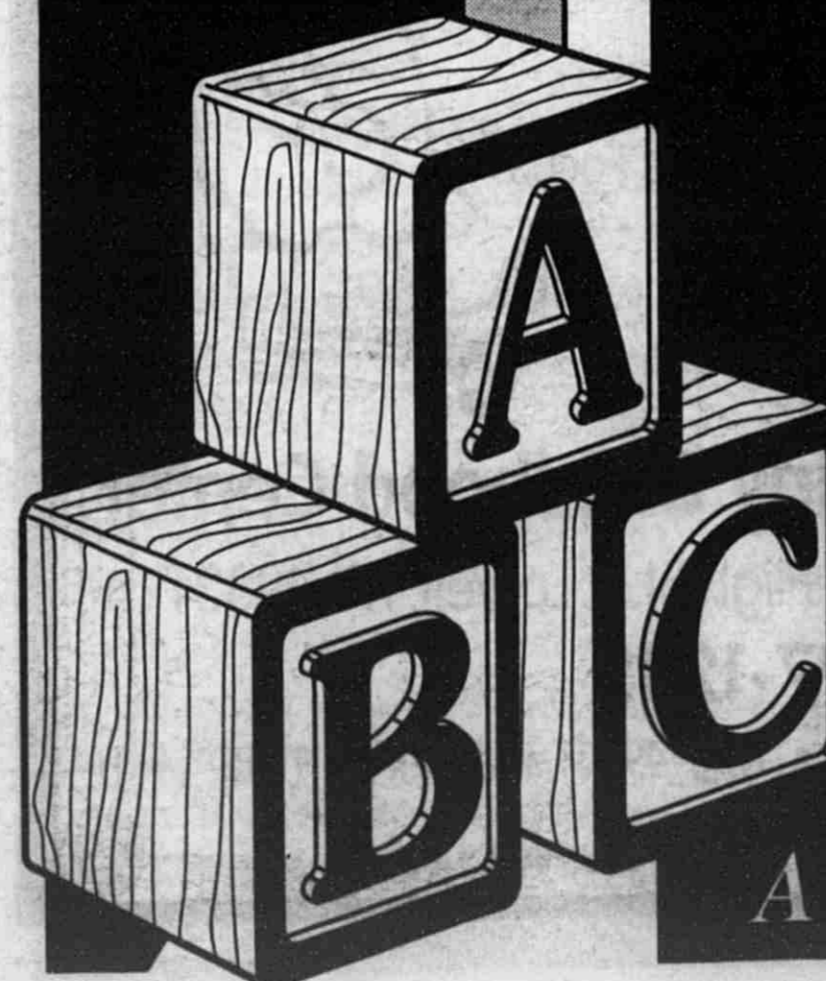


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Opportunities

A Supplement To The Lowell Ledger

Center a parent resource for information on child development

••• From discipline to divorce; brain development to potty training, Lowell's Family Resource Center covers the ABC's of child rearing.

By Jessica Cilley Contributing Writer

A main objective for Kathy Cole in the past four years has been to gather as much information about child rearing up to age five as she possibly can.

As the director of the Lowell TOTS on Track program, Cole's job is to provide a place where any parent with a

question about their child's development can find an answer. At the Family Resource Center, which doubles as Cole's office, any parent has access to free information that they can take home. Cole keeps the resources current, with almost

gets help from child focused organizations. These include different charities, as well as the Michigan Department of Education, the American Red Cross, and the Kent County Health Department.



Kathy Cole, director of Lowell TOTS on Track program.

Community working together enables thrift shop to meet goals.

••• Flat River Outreach Ministries community impact is measured through its ability to provide food, emergency service and operate a thrift shop.

By Jessica Cilley Contributing Writer

Thousands of people drive by the small, white "thrift shop" on the east side of Lowell every day. They may not know that this building has a big impact on the lives of people throughout Lowell.

The building, located at 519 E. Main St., was lovingly and painstakingly restored a few years ago. It opened in June 1999, and now houses the Flat River

Thrift Shop, cont'd. pg. 11

everything gathered since October 2000.

Cole's office is pleasantly decorated with wall-to-wall shelving; each shelf is stuffed with pamphlets, books, videos, games and more. Everything is organized and labeled, and is a feast for a parent hungry for any type of information on child rearing they can think of.

The information in the Family Resource Center covers everything from brain development to potty training. There are books that can be checked out on discipline, family issues like divorce, and other common issues any family might face.

Cole has gathered the information from many sources. She searches the Internet for the latest information and also

Since the Family Resource Center is a resource for all child-rearing needs, there is also free screening provided for any parent concerned about their child's development.

The screening takes place each April for any child who is at least two-and-a-half years old. It is intended for parents with concerns and also for low-income parents who are seeking placement in an income-based program.

"Each parent will be referred to a program that best meets their child's needs," explains Cole.

The Family Resource Center's goal is to reach each family that desires help or information. To get involved with TOTS or the Family Resource Center, call Cole at 897-1232.

For over a quarter of a century Franciscan Center has been a model for preschool education

By Jessica Cilley Contributing Writer

Just north of Lowell, there is a 280-acre farm that doubles as a preschool program for children. A woman named Mother Rita, who still works there almost every day, created it 26 years ago.

The Franciscan Life Process Center prides itself for its unique goal of teaching children by example. According to Charlie Knudstrup, a preschool teacher there, the Center focuses on "learning through play - how to get along with others, helping children to be as self-sufficient as possible by working out conflicts as they arise."

Since the Center is located on a working farm, there are many different activities that children can learn from each day. Classes are

split between learning on the farm and inside a classroom.

Daily activities include music, cooking, and art classes. During art time, the children are taught the process versus product art form. "They have to create their own art instead of following a pre-made model," says Knudstrup. Snacks are also provided.

When the children venture outside to the farm, they learn about the many animals that live there. These include pigs, sheep, cows, horses, chickens, goats, ducks and dogs.

This is especially exciting in the spring, when the baby animals are born. "Then," says Knudstrup, "we teach them how the animals are growing just like the children are."

The Center provides

many opportunities to experience nature. Children are often taken outside to see what happens in the woods with the changing seasons.

The Center's preschool program follows Lowell's school schedule. There are two half-day sessions each day of the week. Children can be on either a two-or-three-day schedule.

Morning or afternoon classes are available. During the school year, there are four sessions per week, totaling about 100 kids who can participate each year.

Each class has 24 children, and is taught by both Knudstrup and Suzanne Marne. There are also volunteers for each class. With Mother Rita coming in to teach Bible stories, this makes the teacher-to-student ratio

Franciscan, cont'd. pg. 14



Sister Rita, creator of the Franciscan Life Process Center preschool program, has worked in that program for 26 years.

Thrift Shop, cont'd... From Page 10

Outreach Ministries, a non-profit organization whose three goals are very simple.

Roger LaWarre, who chairs the Ministries' Board of Directors, refers to the goals as the "three prong program." The first is to get food for anyone who needs it.

The food pantry is located on the first floor of the Outreach building. It is supplied through donations made by

people in Lowell as well as businesses such as Family Fare.

Family Fare works with the program on a voucher system. Flat River Outreach pays for perishable items such as milk and eggs that people can obtain from Family Fare by using the vouchers provided by the Outreach Ministries.

The second prong is an emergency service that is pro-

vided for people in the community. This is a money-based system, where people in need can get money for health care or other emergencies.

LaWarre hopes to reach single parent families with small children through the emergency service. "We want to help them in their rough times, help them get back on

their way with dignity," he explains.

The thrift shop is the final part of the program, and is what people see when they pass by the building. The shop obtains clothing from members of the Lowell community.

With an annual budget estimated around \$70-80,000, it is clear that the Flat River Outreach Ministries is doing a large amount of business. The budget is based on how much is given back to people throughout Lowell.

There is very little money that Outreach keeps for itself. Since all the help is on a vol-

unteer basis, the only bills that need to be paid are utilities.

Each year, in order to obtain more money to donate to families, a crop walk is held on the streets of Lowell. People gather together to combat hunger throughout the world.

Some of the money raised is given to people in Lowell; the rest helps the Church World Service.

It is clear to LaWarre that Flat River Outreach Ministries will be successful in reaching its goals. This is because of the help the program has received from people who

live in the surrounding Lowell area.

Since the program relies heavily on donations from those who live in Lowell, even small amounts of supplies are greatly appreciated. "I am really thankful for the number of volunteers and the generosity of people in Lowell. We are a community that works together," he explains.

Anyone in need can benefit from the Flat River Outreach Ministries. To contact the program, call 897-5906 to obtain information on where to go for help or where to donate goods that can help others in Lowell.

I am really thankful for the number of volunteers and the generosity of people in Lowell. We are a community that works together.

Roger LaWarre

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VFC provides state required immunizations for 11 diseases

By Jessica Cilley Contributing Writer

One of the more widely used services in the Lowell Health Department clinic are the immunizations that are provided free to any person who needs them.

The majority of the immunizations are given to infants, toddlers, and children just entering public schools. There are 11 total diseases covered by the immunizations given, and all are required by the state of Michigan.

The Health Department clinics participate in the federally funded Vaccines For Children (VFC) program. This program provides all childhood immunizations regardless of whether or not a family has health insurance.

Every child that needs vaccines is covered by VFC. In some cases, a family may have insurance, but it does not cover immunizations, while other families may be on Medicaid or other state assistance.

All a parent or guardian has to do is walk in to any clinic to get their child signed up for VFC.

The Lowell Health Department clinic offers walk-in immunizations on Wednesdays. The busiest immunization time for the clinic is in August because parents are trying to make sure that children have all school-required vaccines.

There are handouts on the immunizations and the diseases they protect against at the clinic for parents who want more information.

The clinic keeps records of who is using the free immunization program by asking each patient what kind of insurance they might have.

This is important in order to keep track of how much funding the state of Michigan needs to allot to its clinics.

The state of Michigan follows closely how many immunizations are given to children ages 19-35 months to ensure that children are getting the vaccines they need in each area of the state.

All shots are given by the registered nurses at the clinics, whose training and knowledge about immunizations are constantly being updated.

For more information on immunizations given at the Lowell clinic, call 897-5406.

Many parents have concerns about how a specific immunization will affect their child. Any question about immunizations can be answered by calling the Kent County Health Department at 336-2233.

It is very important to the state of Michigan that every child receive immunizations throughout childhood.

One immunization that often gets missed is the Tetanus shot, which is initially given between the ages of 11 and 12. This is a vaccine that needs to be administered every 10 years.

The state of Michigan stresses that a child's immunization record be presented and updated every time an immunization is given.

Move puts KCHD on the inside reaching out

By Jessica Cilley Contributing Writer

The Kent County Health Department has had a clinic in the Lowell area for at least 12 years. A lot of people might not know this because it was located outside of town.

"We want more people to take advantage of our help," says Bobbi Peacock, "so we are moving into town to be more accessible for the people in Lowell who need us."

Peacock is the Clinical Staff Supervisor for the Health Department clinics in Lowell, Sparta and Cedar Springs. She believes that the Lowell area clinic, in particular, hasn't been used to its capacity because of where it was located.

The clinic has moved from the Lowell Township Hall on Alden Nash to the First United Methodist Church on Main Street, right next to the Flat River Outreach Ministries.

The move has enabled the Lowell clinic to meet their growth demand. It is currently open only on Wednesdays, and the staff is ready and eager to help everyone who enters the clinic.

There are four main services that the Lowell clinic is able to provide, and all are free of charge and open to the public.

They involve immunizations, the WIC program, child health screening, and Public Health Nurse Counseling.

Licensed nurses with four-year medical degrees give all exams at the clinic.

The aim of the Public Health Nurse Counseling is to provide care, health education, referral, and counseling from a nursing perspective with a focus on wellness and preventive health care.

Any person can use the clinic's services. A nurse will try to give the best advice as to what steps a person should take about seeing a doctor. They can also provide referrals, should there be a need for one.

The Counseling program is not meant to take the place of a family physician. It is a walk-in program that is used to monitor health between doctor visits.

The three main services provided by a Public Health Nurse are blood pressure measurement, head lice screening, and pregnancy testing.

The Child Health Screening is for families who are not on Medicaid or who have insurance that does not cover well-child exams.

There are two appointments available each Wednesday.

The clinic exams include all developmental screenings that would be given by any pediatrician. The nurses at the clinic can also refer a family to a suitable pediatrician.

The clinic would like families to try to take two-week old infants to a family pediatrician. All infants are welcome at the clinic, but visits are preferred after a child is one month old. Children can be seen at the clinic until the age of 20.

"We want to be a one-stop shop for families seeking health promotion," explains Peacock.

Patients are asked about what kind of insurance, if any, they have. This is a state requirement and is only used in order to keep track of clinic usage throughout Michigan.

The Lowell Health Department clinic can be reached on Wednesdays at 897-5406. Call the Kent County Health Department at 336-3030 for any questions or concerns that need to be addressed when the Lowell clinic is not open.

Federally funded program provides "Head Start" for both child and parents

By Jessica Cilley Contributing Writer

Head Start, a federally funded program that started in 1965, has been in Lowell for about 10 years. It is a free preschool for families, with children ages three to four years, who meet the income guidelines... but it is not just a preschool program.

"We really, strongly try to promote family involvement," explains Linda DeRoos, Lowell's Head Start teacher.

When children enroll in Head Start, their parents get the opportunity to attend monthly meetings. During these meetings, which are held at the Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center, speakers are brought in to talk to parents about issues that concern parenting.

These issues include everything from positive discipline techniques to budgeting to low cost recipes/food preparation. Free child care is available at each meeting.

Along with a monthly parent meeting, there is an opportunity for one parent from each Head Start group to attend meetings at the Kent County Head Start office. This is called the Parent Policy Council. The parent helps to develop and approve policies that affect the Head Start program.

Head Start also offers Child Development Specialists for each child enrolled in the program. If any child displays a need for help in any developmental stage, Head Start works to get aid for that child.

The aid is provided by agencies involved with Head Start, and can only be used with parental consent.

There are also home visits during the summer for each family enrolled in the program. Since individual goals are established for each child, it is important that the teachers get to know the families of the children they will be working with.

Teachers in the Head Start program work one on one with every child. This enables them to recognize the strengths and weaknesses of children, and also to help teach any special needs child that may be enrolled in the program.

"We provide developmentally appropriate activities for children that promote their well-being and development," explains DeRoos.



Preschool children get a healthy start at Head Start. Children take a break in their morning activity for eggs, toast, fruit and a glass of milk.

Lowell Head Start has grown this year. In the past few years, Head Start met once a day, four times a week. This year, there are two sessions of Head Start per day, Monday through Thursday, due to the growing interest in Lowell's Head Start program.

DeRoos focuses on learning by play in her classes, which start around Labor Day and run through Memorial Day.

"The kids learn about getting along with others, washing hands, cleaning up after themselves, as well as learning math,

dramatic play, and sensory skills," says DeRoos.

Breakfast, lunch and a snack are provided for children every day. Transportation is also available for a child enrolled in Lowell Head Start who lives in Kent County.

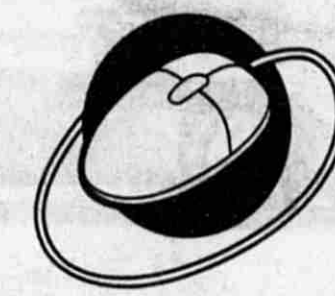
Enrollment usually takes place in the spring, but openings can occur throughout the year. Call Hope DeKorte, the Family Service coordinator, at 897-7920, for information on how to get involved with the program.

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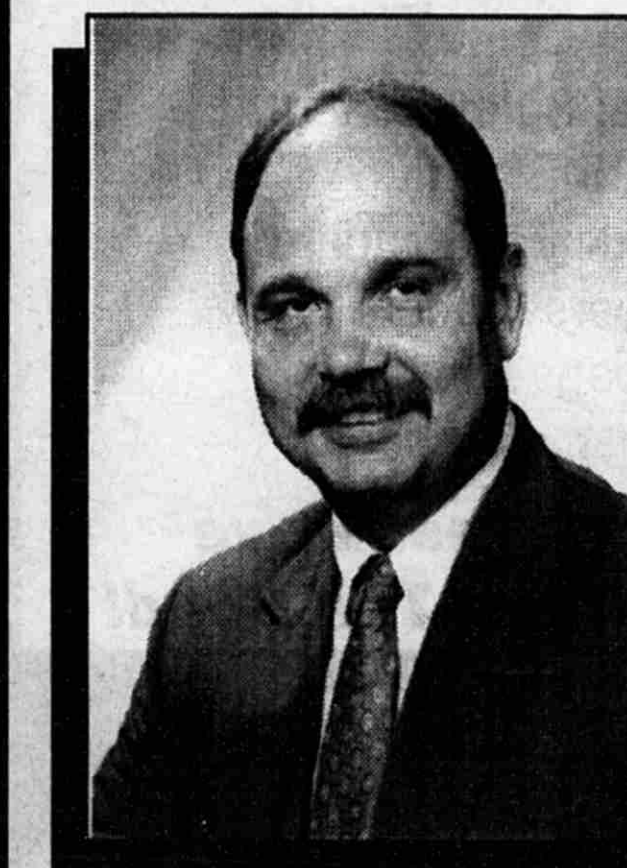
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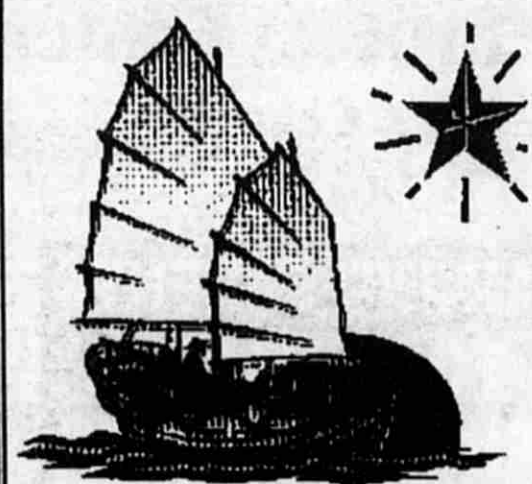
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Lowell Area Community Fund accepting grant proposals

••• Deadline for all proposals is no later than Dec. 28

The Lowell Area Community Fund is accepting grant proposals for its next grant round. All proposals must be postmarked no later than Dec. 28 in order to be considered.

To receive a grant application packet, call Kate Luckert, program officer, at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, 616-454-1751, or download an application from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation web site at www.grfoundation.org. You may also pick up an application at any of the following locations: Lowell Township Hall, Vergennes Township Hall, City Offices of Lowell,

Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, the Englehardt Public Library or any Lowell area school.

Application deadlines for 2002 are April 22, Aug. 26 and Dec. 30.

The Lowell Area Community Fund awards grants to tax-exempt, non-profit, charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation, represent an original start-up effort, are capital in nature, serve a broad segment of the community, yield substantial community benefit, and strengthen agency performance.

The LACF gives priority to projects that assure a healthy, dynamic community.

The Lowell Area Community Fund was established as a donor-advised fund at the Grand Rapids Community Founda-

tion in 1996 with a \$12.7 million bequest from Lowell resident, Harold Englehardt. A group of Lowell volunteers make up the fund's advisory committee and recommend grants from the fund to the Grand Rapids Community Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Today, the fund is valued at more than \$15 million. In the last fiscal year, ending June 30, 2001, community grants totaled \$711,446.50. Grants ranged from \$2,000 to establish the Ray Quada Community Tribute program to \$160,000 for a Lowell Y.M.C.A. community fitness and teen center.

The Grand Rapids Community Foundation, the oldest community foundation in Michigan, was founded in 1922. It continues to fund, initiate and lead programs that benefit the Grand Rapids area in the arts, community development, education, environment, health and human services.

Ferrellgas offers home energy tips for the winter

As winter approaches, the Employee-Owners of the Lowell Ferrellgas team want to remind local homeowners that now is the time to make sure their homes are ready for the cold months ahead.

To help homeowners prepare for winter, Ferrellgas is offering these simple suggestions to keep homes safe and warm, and energy bills down. These suggestions were compiled by Ferrellgas, the National Propane Gas Association, and the Propane Education & Research Council.

"Ferrellgas wants to do everything it can to help homeowners prepare for the winter months ahead and maximize their energy dollars in the process," said district manager, Steve Drake. "Home heating and water heating are the largest energy expenses in most homes, accounting for approximately two-thirds of energy bills during the colder months. These quick and easy steps can save local homeowners wear and tear on their appliances as well as money on their utility bills."

Heating systems need regular tune-ups. Have your heating system, including venting systems, checked annually

by your local propane supplier or other qualified service technician.

- Replace your furnace filter monthly.
- Keep your thermostat set at a constant comfort level - generally 68-70 degrees Fahrenheit - or consider installing a programmable thermostat to regulate your home's temperature when you are not there.
- Protect against drafts around windows and doors by caulking and weather stripping.
- Turn down your water heater from the standard 140 degrees Fahrenheit to 130 degrees Fahrenheit. This will help save more than 10 percent on your water-heating bill.
- Extend your water heater's life and increase energy efficient manufacturer's instructions for draining your water heater every six months to remove lime deposits and sediment.
- Install flow-restricting shower heads. You can reduce hot water usage by up to 50 percent without affecting shower pressure.
- Repair leaky faucets. A leak that fills a coffee cup in 10 minutes wastes 3,200 gallons of water a year.

To learn more about propane or any of Ferrellgas' products and services, call the Ferrellgas office at 897-9348 or visit the office at 12312 E. Fulton in Lowell.

Planning commission will seek funds for Fairground master plan

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

Growth has taken over the Kent County Youth Fair area with some city services such as fire, wastewater, Department of Public Works, and youth football having encroached upon the fair's property.

For that reason, and after discussions with Kent County Youth Fair director, Ron Wenger, Lowell Planning Commission chair, James Hall sought and received consensus support from the planning commission to seek funding from the Lowell Area Community Fund for the development of a master plan for the fairgrounds.

"Push has come to shove," Hall said, adding that because of these other needs, land has been added and deleted from the fairgrounds over the years.

From his knowledge, there has never been a master plan of the area, however city manager, David Pasquale said the Parks and Recreation Commission did do some planning for the grounds and he would forward that information to Hall.

"There is a nice piece of property located across from the fairgrounds on Bowes

Road that is connected by an underpass," Hall said, adding that the property could be an area for the fair to expand to.

The land happens to be owned by Dr. James Reagan and his wife.

"I did tell them that this might lead to something, and then it might mean nothing," Hall said.

Hall plans to write a grant proposal to the Lowell Area Community Fund for the funds to create the master plan.

Give a man health and a course to steer; and he'll never stop to trouble about whether he's happy or not.

—George Bernard Shaw

RV Ordinance, cont'd... From Page 1

rior for living accommodations, since someone might have a person staying longer than that. Planning commissioner, Dan Pipe raised concerns over a person who says they use their RV year-round. Planning commissioner, Clark Jahnke said he would like to hear from the zoning officers and police department on enforcement of the proposed issue by the Dec. 10 work session.

The issue of the RV ordinance came to a head when the city hired a zoning officer to enforce the regulations. Several residents attended last month's planning commission meeting, along with the following city council meeting to raise their concerns about the ordinance. At that time, planning commission chair, James Hall challenged the group to review the ordinance and make a recommendation for changes.

While the RV ordinance is under review, the city has suspended all activities of enforcement of the ordinance per a city council decision.

Too bad the only people who know how to run the country are busy driving cabs and cutting hair.

George Burns

Your Bundles of Joy Need A Bundle of Life Insurance

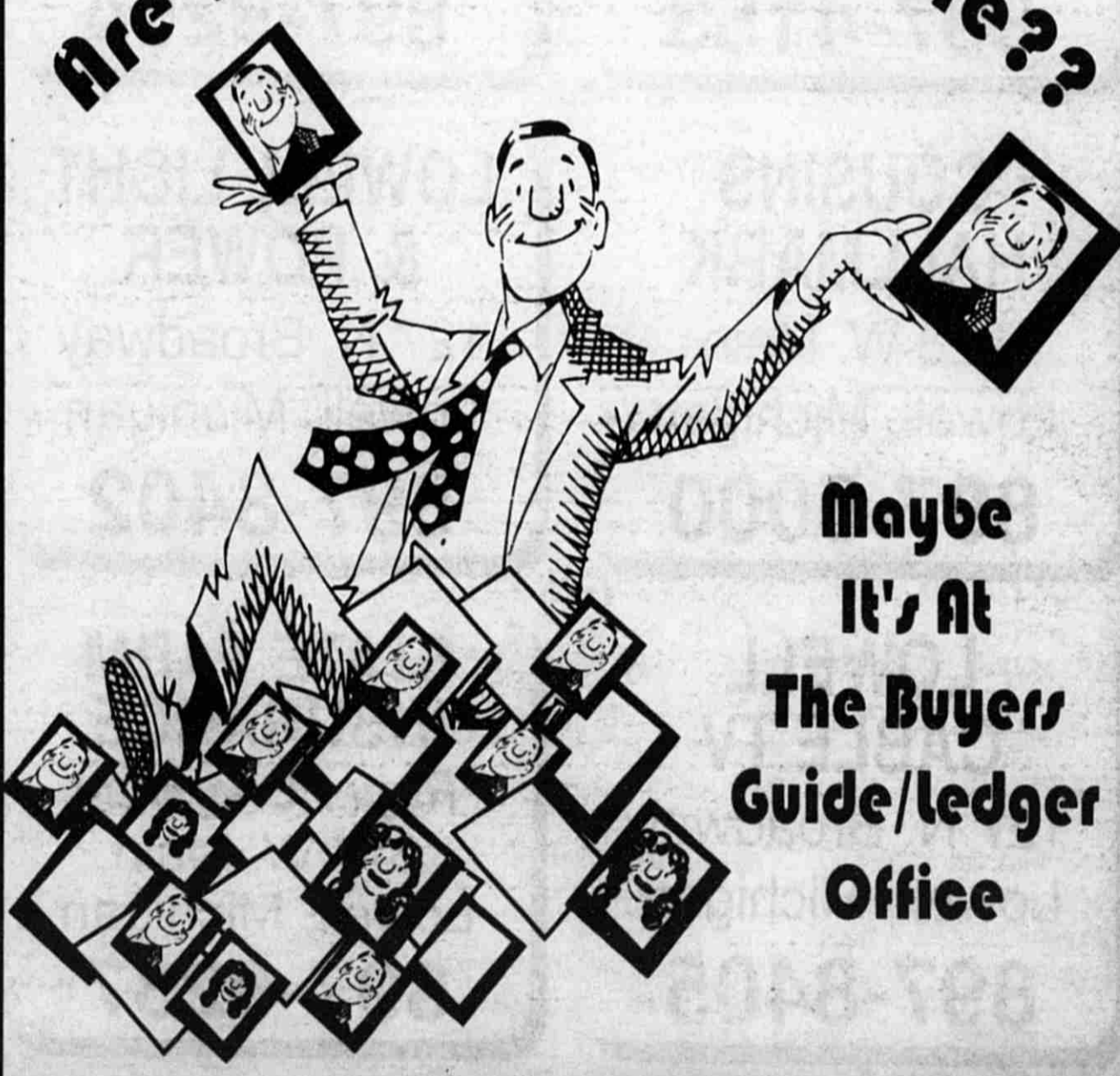
If you have kids, you need a big amount of life insurance. A term policy from Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company of Michigan provides the protection you need at a cost you can afford. Call today.



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Are You Missing A Picture??



Maybe It's At The Buyers Guide/Ledger Office

Also in order to keep pictures from piling up in the future, we are implementing a new policy. Anyone wanting their photographs returned after they have appeared in the Buyers Guide or Ledger must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or pick up the photo within 60 days of publication. After 60 days, photos will be discarded.

AD-3056-2 (11/00)

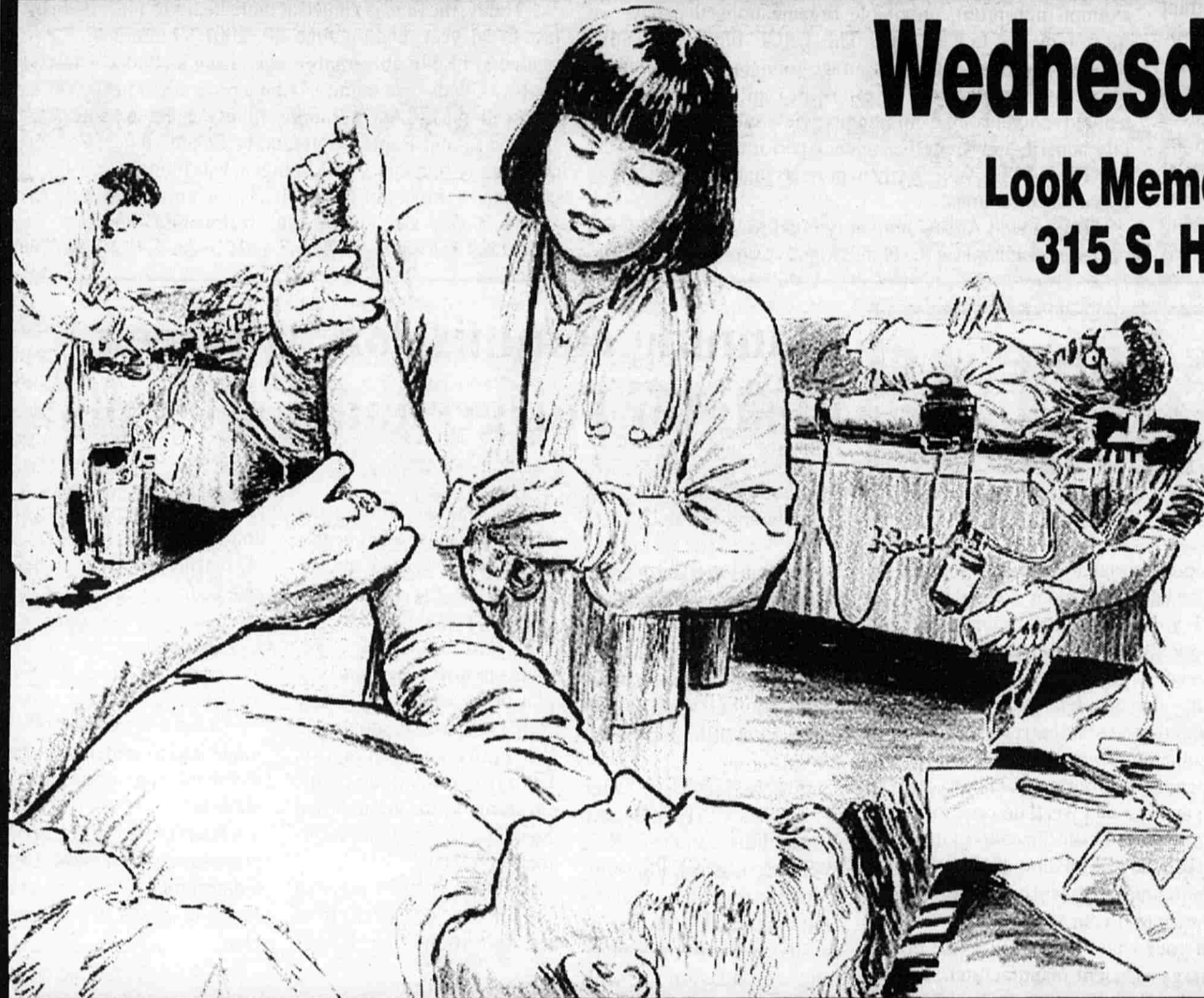
LOWELL COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, Dec. 5

Look Memorial Fire Station
315 S. Hudson, Lowell

2 to 7 P.M.

Sponsored
by the
Lowell Area Fire
Department and
Grand Valley
Blood Program...



This Message Sponsored By These Lowell Businesses & Professionals...

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105 N. Broadway
Lowell, Michigan
897-9555

Holiday Savings in The Lowell Ledger CLASSIFIEDS



HELP WANTED

SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIANS & BUS DRIVERS - Lowell Area Schools is seeking dependable, hard-working applicants for substitute custodian & bus drivers. Pay rates range from \$9.50 to \$14.85 an hour. Apply in writing by 12/5/01 to Lowell Area Schools, Connie Gillette, 300 High Street, Lowell, MI 49331.

OWN A COMPUTER? - Put it to work! \$500-\$7,000 PT/FT. Free booklet. RUALeader.com. 616-752-8346.

HELP WANTED - Part-time waitress. Apply at Backwater Cafe, 109 Riverside Dr., Lowell, between 1 & 3 p.m.

DRIVERS - Make the money you deserve. Call today, start tomorrow! 2 wk. CDL program gives you money! Stability! Benefits! Call NOW 1-800-380-0610.

FOR SALE

DIRECTV - mini-satellite dish, \$29.99 w/FREE install! We beat all advertised prices. Call 1-800-459-7357. K-20.

KING AMISH LOG BED - Mattress set w/head, footboard. Bought new, never used. 2 months old. Cost \$1,200, sell \$250. 1-517-626-7089.

NEWLY REMODELED MOBILE HOME - with expansion, in Key Heights. 3 bdrm, 2 baths, all appliances, price reduced for quick sale. 897-8406.

CARPET, CARPET! - Commercial loop, \$2.99 sq. yd.; Berber carpet, \$4.99 sq. yd.; plush carpet, \$6.99 sq. yd. New not used; several colors. Call Jeff 616-795-3000.

FOR SALE - 1978 Ford van, 302, auto., runs and drives well. \$500. Call 616-642-6063.

FOR SALE - 1986 GMC 3/4 ton pickup 4X4, great shape, runs great, many new parts, \$3,500 obo. Call after 4 pm. 942-7608.

FOR SALE - 5 hp mini bike, runs good, \$300.00; also 1990 Plymouth Voyager, runs and looks good, needs transmission work. \$200.00. Call (616)691-8238.

NORDIC TRACK PRO - Excellent condition \$200.00. Call 897-9136.

'98 FORD WINDSTAR - 3.0, PW/PL, ABS, cruise & tilt, 81K, \$8,500. Call 897-3097.

NEW IDEA 323 - single row corn picker, new condition, \$2,500; Farmall BN, \$1,500, restorable condition. 616-642-6160.

FOR SALE - Washer & elec. dryer, Sears Kenmore, heavy duty, super capacity plus quiet pack. Fairly new. \$400/pair; Broyhill queen sofa sleeper & matching love seat, \$300. Call 868-6580 or 987-9381.

1999 DODGE DAKOTA CLUB CAB - 4x4, SLT, black, Magnum 5.2L V8 engine, PW, PL & mirrors, fog lamps, dual air bags, CD & keyless entry. Only 19,000 miles. \$17,500. 987-9314.

'96 BUICK LESABRE LIMITED - leather, new tires, all power, 66,000 miles. \$8,500. Call 897-8014.

QUEEN LOG BED - Amish cedar bed w/luxury firm mattress. 2 months old. Cost \$900, sell \$185. 1-517-626-7089.

SALES

RUMMAGE/CRAFT SALE - 10411 Bailey Dr., Vergennes UMC, Dec. 7 & 8, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Proceeds benefit Haiti Mission Trip.

GARAGE/MOVING SALE - Lots of Christmas items. 5375 Montcalm, bet. 28th & 36th St. 2 miles South of Lowell. Sun., Dec. 2, 10-5 p.m.

SALE CANCELLED! AUCTION NOTICE - Contents of storage unit #10 belonging to Jim & Luanne Mowrer will take place 10 a.m. on Dec. 1, 2001 at 9817 36th St., Lowell, MI. Landman Storage Co, 897-5743.

FOR RENT

SPRING BREAK - Time share, anywhere USA, sleeps up to 8. Call 989-732-2136, eves.

FOR RENT - Roommate to share rent & utilities. Fully furnished 2 bedroom spacious duplex in Lowell, close to downtown. Averages \$80 per week. Call 897-2771 & leave message.

FOR RENT - Lowell area, Murray Lake waterfront, 2 bedroom ranch, \$795/month. Call 616-785-0903.

CHRISTMAS WEEK - (Dec. 23-30) Condo, Orlando, Florida, sleeps 8. \$600. Call 989-732-2136 eves.

WANTED

NEED NOW PLEASE - Small room to board indoor kitten for a few months. I'll water, feed, walk daily. 897-5854/201-0995 pager.

PRIVATE ROAD REQUESTS BIDS - for snow removal. Call 8 9 7 - 2 7 6 1 or frankm1064@aol.com.

RETIRED PROFESSIONAL COUPLE NEEDS - apartment, flat or duplex w/sunny windows. Minimum: 1 bedroom w/larger LR/kitchen. Clean. Storage/outdoor garden a plus. Canary & indoor kitten. Can do lawns/snow. 897-5854/201-0995 pager.

BUYING OLD COINS FOR FAIR PRICES - Call 897-9879 for details, ask for Chris.

EVENTS

Mrs. Claus Annual BAZAAR AND CRAFT SHOW - 150 booths. Saturday, December 1st, 9-4, Ionia Middle School, Union St./M-21, East of M-66. Breakfast, lunch, snacks available. FREE Admission. Door Prizes all day. Sponsored by Ionia County Commission on Aging.

A CHRISTMAS ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR - will be held at West Catholic High School, 1801 Bristol NW, Grand Rapids, Sat., Dec. 1, 9-3 p.m. 75¢ admission, 180 booths! Raffle - luncheon, poinsettia & bake sale. Proceeds to go toward "Project Falcon."

GIRLS - Charity Doll Fair/Sale, Dec. 1st. 1 to 4 p.m. Bring your doll to a doll gift shop. Unique handmade items for your dollhouse or 18" doll. Silent auctions for an American Girl doll bed plus more. Games and refreshments. All proceeds to aid orphaned children in Peru. 9112 Five Mile Rd., Ada, 1 mile West of St. Pat's.

FREE

FREE KITTENS & CATS - Some spade, 8 weeks to 3 years. Leave message at 616-642-3746.

SERVICES

HANDYMAN SERVICE - Accepting small jobs, maker of cabinets/furniture. Order now. Jerry (616) 901-2541.

LICENSED DAY CARE HOME - will sit for children while parents go Christmas shopping or to parties. Also for New Years Eve. Call 897-5635, can leave a message.

DAYCARE HAS 1 OPENING - 2 1/2 years & up. Lowell buses in area. Reasonable rates. 897-5635.

ALTO BAR - Now serving breakfast & lunch, specials all week. 8-11 breakfast, 11-2 lunch. Mon.-Fri. Sat. breakfast 8-12.

CASH - for land contracts. Jim 752-7826.

SERVICES

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

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

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

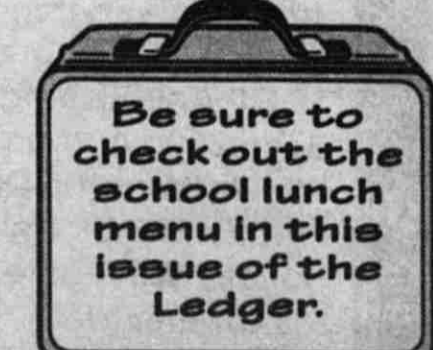
RUSE'S TREE FARM - Choose & cut. Fri., 3 p.m. - dark; Sat & Sun., 10 a.m. - dark. 64th St., Alto. E. off Alden Nash.

DIAMONDS & GEMSTONES - Save money on certified diamonds. Any shape & size. Gemstones of all kinds. 14kt gold jewelry. Cliff Yankovich, GIA Diamonds graduate. 822-3552.

DISCOUNT MANUFACTURED HOMES - Repossessed, late model homes, offered at discounted prices. Some fixer uppers available also. Gain equity now, bank motivated, all offers considered. Call for list. Home America, Dave Covert, 800-365-8232.

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

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

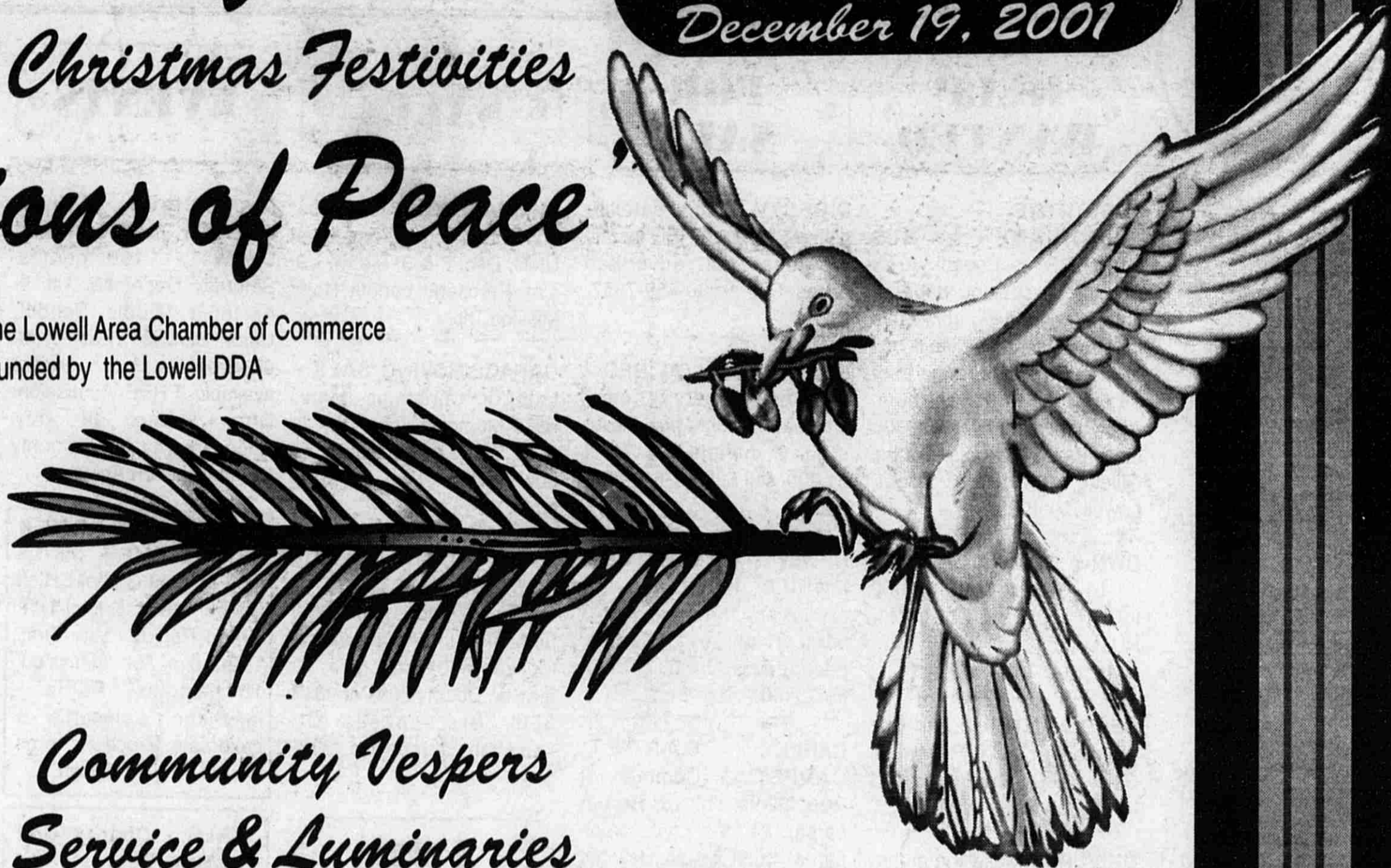


WE SHIP UPS AT THE LOWELL LEDGER

Join us for the Lowell Christmas Festivities "Visions of Peace"

Activities Scheduled For:
November 30 thru
December 19, 2001

Sponsored by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce
& Funded by the Lowell DDA



Community Vespers Service & Luminaries

Friday, November 30 • 6:30 pm on the Riverwalk Plaza

Sponsored by Lowell Area Ministerium Association

CARRIAGE RIDES
By Top Hat Carriage
WEDNESDAYS:
Dec. 5, 12 & 19 • 4-7 PM
SUNDAYS:
Dec. 9 & 16 • 2-5 PM



**BEFORE THE PARADE ON SATURDAY
BREAKFAST AT THE KING YOUTH MEMORIAL CENTER
8 AM TO 12 PM AT THE FAIRGROUNDS**

VISITS & PICTURES BEFORE THE PARADE \$3 • 8 AM TO 9:45 AM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1 RIVERWALK PLAZA ACTIVITIES

Santa Parade - Main St. (LACC)	10 am	Historic Main St.
Historic Tours & Draft Horse Drawn Wagon Rides	11:30; noon; 12:30; 1:30; 2:00 & 2:30	Leave King Milling Lot
Santa Visits & Pictures (\$3 - Lowell Jaycees)	11:30 am - 3 pm	Formerly White Swan
Christmas Poster Display (LAAC)	11 am - 3 pm	Formerly White Swan
Rudolph's Craft Workshop (Children 2-8) Tots on Track	11 am - 3 pm	Formerly White Swan
Pastries Around Lowell Bake Sale & Lizzy's Chili & Gourmet Coffee	10 am - 3 pm	Chamber Building
Michigan Snowmobile Assoc. Raffle (Tickets \$1 or 11/\$10)	10 am - 3 pm	Riverwalk Plaza
Flat River Snowmobile Club		
Holiday Wreath Sale	10 am - 3 pm	Riverwalk Plaza
Fallasburg Historical Society		
Ice Sculpture	10 am - 2 pm	Riverwalk
Bob Schultz & Students of G.R.C.C.		
Christmas Cocoa & Hot Dogs	10:00 am - 3 pm	Riverwalk
Lowell Lions Club		

VISIT WITH SANTA

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5
Springrove Variety
123 W. Main • 5:30 - 7 PM
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12
Cousin's Hallmark
223 W. Main • 5:30 - 7 PM

SANTA PAWS & PICTURES

Wed., Dec. 19 at
Animal Hospital &
Pet Complex of Lowell
11610 E. Fulton
5:30 to 7 PM

MORE SATURDAY, DEC. 1 ACTIVITIES ALONG HISTORIC MAIN STREET:

ALL DAY:

Decorate Your Christmas Pot -
\$3 & Paint Free.....The Pottery Palace
10% Off Mall-wide.....Flat River Antique Mall
(excludes Sale Or Firm Items)
10% Off Everything In Store.....Michael's Farm Market
(except For Produce)
\$5 Off Any Fishing Pole Or Combo.....Back Alley Bait
Bacon 20c A Pound Off.....Gary's Meat Market
Winter Warm-up Drink.....Larkin's
Parade Pita of Ham & Cheese.....Keiser's Kitchen
Holiday Wine Sale.....Lowell Beer Store
5% Off Electrical
Extension Cords & Adapters.....Hahn Hardware

FROM 10 AM - 3 PM:

Calligraphy by Jeanne Lariel.....Touch of Country
Be Pleasantly Surprised.....The Dam Store
Hot Buttered Popcorn.....Springrove Variety
Gabe Hernandez, Caricature Artist.....Cousin's Hallmark
Christmas Theme Portrait.....Modern Photography

FROM 11 AM - 3 PM:

Jewelry Designer Christine Darnell.....Rare Finds

1 PM:

LHS String EnsembleDream Pieces