

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 17

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Council looks at changing how city mayor is chosen

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

After the last city council meeting's election for mayor, councilmember, Jim Pfaller said he felt it was time to reconsider how the city's mayor is selected.

"I felt there was some division and positioning taking place," Pfaller said, adding that in the process it left everyone on the council in a difficult spot.

Pfaller said he would like to see the selection process taken out of the hands of the council and be given to the residents. He proposed the council consider changing the charter to read that the person seeking a four-year term who receives the most votes during an election would serve as mayor pro tem his/her first two years of his/her term and then would serve as mayor the last two years of his/her term.

In the event that the person was not able to fulfill his/

her term as mayor pro tem or mayor, the person who received the second highest number of votes would take the position.

Councilmember, Charles Myers felt the original intent of the charter was to let the selection of the mayor rely on the expertise and experience of the council. In elections, the incumbents are not always the favorites, which could eliminate a good candidate for mayor.

"While the process is uncomfortable, it works the best and I feel should be left the way it is," Myers said.

Mayor Jeanne Shores said she thought something should be done about the mayor selection process; councilmember, Dan Brubaker agreed, but had some concerns about the proposal presented by Pfaller.

"The person with the highest number of votes may not be the best person for mayor," Brubaker said, add-

ing that he would like time to review the proposal and put his legal expertise to flush it out.

Pfaller said he would like to discuss the proposal with the entire council (councilmember and former mayor, Mike Blough was absent from the meeting).

Because the change would be to the charter, city manager, David Pasquale said it would require a vote of the people. Brubaker asked how much it would cost to place the charter amendment on the upcoming fall ballot; city clerk, Betty Morlock explained she would have to review that, but being it is a governor election, it could be quite costly.

The council decided to table the matter until its Feb. 19 meeting so as to give time for Brubaker to work on the proposal and city staff time to collect information about putting the change on the 2002 ballot.

City opts for sidewalks along N. Hudson, considers new formula for sidewalk construction

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

A group of residents came forth at Monday night's council meeting to raise questions about how the city determines who pays for sidewalk and who doesn't.

The council was considering using Community Development Block Grant funds for sidewalk along the west side of North Hudson Street, from West Main to the city's north city limits, and on the south side of Foreman Road, from North Hudson to Lincoln Lake. The total cost of the project would be \$30,000, which would use most of the \$30,384.78 allocated to the city this year.

"I understand the feelings of the people," said councilmember, Jim Pfaller, who said he, too, had to put in sidewalk and the city later came in and put sidewalk along the rest of his street. Pfaller proposed that CDBG funds be used toward the North Kent Transit program and a portion toward a new

roof at the Graham building.

"I want the sidewalk too," said Evelyn Roudabush, of 961 N. Hudson. "I didn't come down here to stop the sidewalks; I just want everything done fairly."

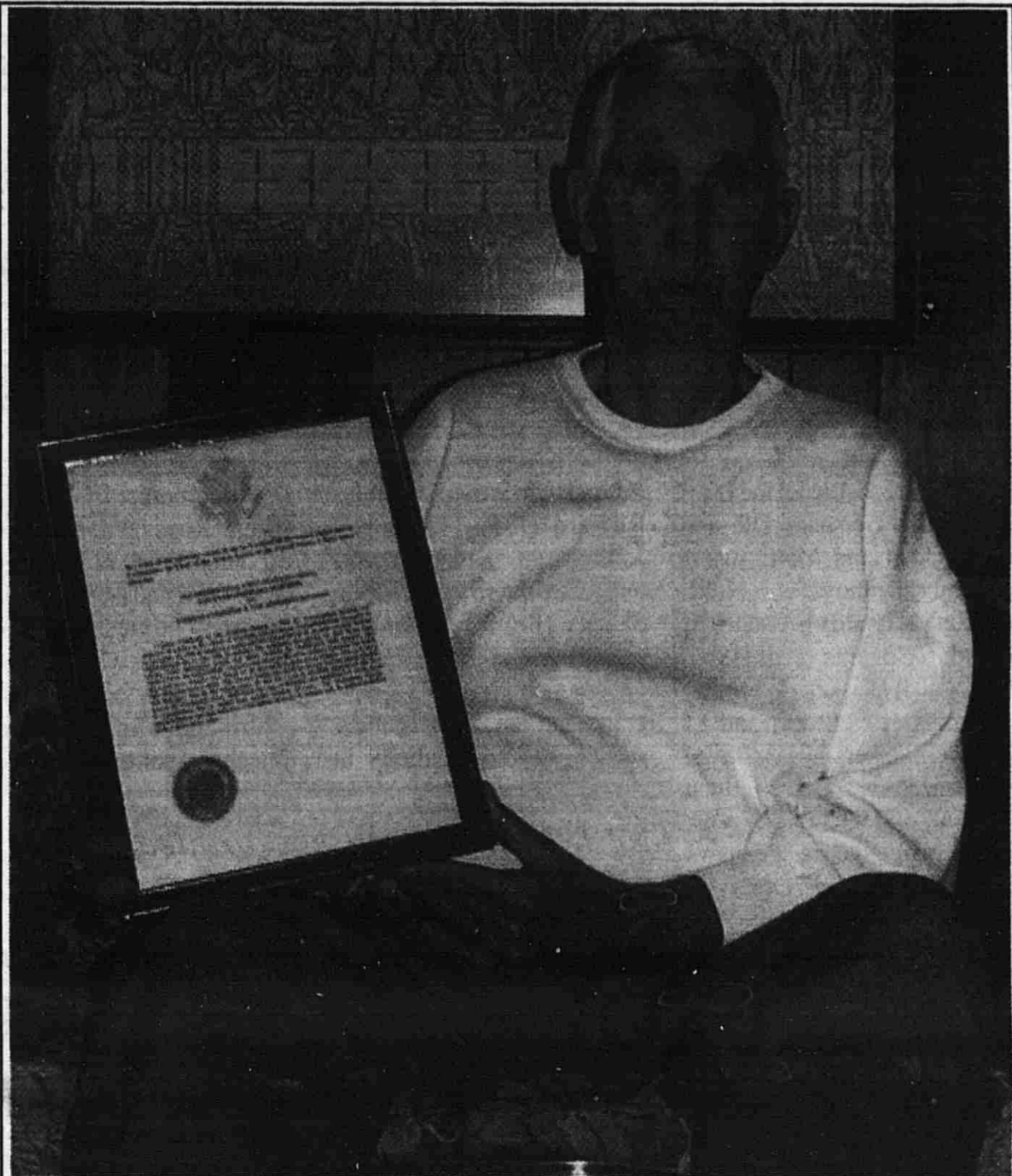
City manager, David Pasquale said the city decided on the sidewalks along N. Hudson because of public safety. Students from three schools currently walk along the road, creating a very dangerous situation.

Pfaller's proposal failed

with the council voting instead to spend the money on the sidewalks, along with borrowing against future CDBG funds for the North Kent Transit program, \$4,000, and city's portion for the roof, \$10,000.

"I just want it known that I am not against the sidewalks, just against spending future money," Pfaller said, as he cast the only vote against the proposal, which passed 3-1.

Sidewalk, cont'd. pg. 8



Lowell's John Jones holds a plaque commemorating his battalion's seven-day battle in Luxembourg.

Heroic battalion's battle honored

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Not long after the Germans declared that the 9th Armored Division's artillery battalion had been defeated, it reappeared elsewhere, thus earning the name the "Phantom Division."

As members of that WWII battalion, Lowell's John Jones and the late Donald Yeiter reappeared in the vicinity of Waldbillig and Savelborn, Luxembourg.

During the battalion's stay from Dec. 16-22 of 1944, it repulsed constant and determined attacks by an entire German Division - outnumbered 5-to-1 with its infantry rifle companies surrounded most of the time.

Clerks, cooks, mechanics, drivers and others manned a 10,000-yard defensive line, supported by responsive and accurate fire of its artillery.

Yeiter, Jones and other members of the

battalion were cited for extraordinary heroism and gallantry in combat.

Jones, who served as a supply sergeant, was presented the citation by Betty Yeiter at a Rotary luncheon on Jan. 2.

"Don and I went in together, served in the same artillery battalion and came out together," Jones explained. "Our division was activated from 1942-45. Being in artillery, we were not on the front lines, we were stationed in back. There were several times when shells came in over the top, luckily only two people were hurt."

Yeiter's widow, Betty, who attended a 9th Armored Division Reunion last fall and received the citation, made a copy for Jones.

"I didn't know Betty was going to present that to me at the Rotary meeting. It's pretty special," Jones said.

Jones and his wife, Phyllis have been married for 56 years.

Design phase of City Hall/police station project drops another \$800,000 from budget

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

The City Hall/police station project will be below \$4.5 million from estimated costs made last fall.

Through some changes that included eliminating the ambulance bay area, squeezing the police station space, and leaving the second floor for future remodeling, Tom Smith of the design firm,

Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber, Inc., said his staff and the city staff were able to cut about \$800,000 from the cost of the project, bringing it in to about \$4,372,496.

Councilmember, Charles Myers asked about what Smith meant by "squeezing" the police station space; Smith said they were able to make some areas smaller and cut out the amount of space in the

hallway from the City Hall to the police station.

"We worked very closely with chief of police, Jim Valentine on that plan," Smith said.

City manager, David Pasquale said the city already has spent about \$704,625 in property acquisition with a \$500,000 bond paying for most of that, and the rest to be

City Hall, cont'd. pg. 8

INSIDE THE LEDGER

Lowell LMS Students'
Art Displayed in
LAAC Show,
Page 14

OBITUARIES

CAVANAGH - Rupert Reed Cavanagh, aged 89, passed away January 18, 2002. He is survived by his daughter

Deborah Hart Vandawater of Grand Rapids, her mother June Hart of Saranac, son-in-law Paul Vandawater of Lowell; grandchildren Leah (Jason) Simons of Grand Rapids, Stephenie (Timothy) Karsies of Lowell, Kristin

Hutfilz of Lowell; great-grandchildren Bailey Sha, Hallee Reid, Andie Renee, Hunter Alex Zander, AhnaBella Grace, Alexander Parker Reed; cousin Walton Cavanagh. Funeral services were held Monday at Cumberland Manor, Pastor V. Glenn Smith officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Love & Action c/o Day Star Ministries, 2220 3 Mile Rd., Grand Rapids, MI 49505.

UMW, member of the American Legion Auxiliary (Clark-Ellis Post 152), Fallasburg Historical Society, Vergennes Club and Card Club for 55 years; she also volunteered for Flat River Outreach Ministries. Funeral Services were held Tuesday at First United Methodist Church of Lowell, Rev. Gordie Barry officiating. Interment Bowne Center Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church of Lowell.

WWII on Okinawa, and worked for 36 years on the CSX Railroads. James was greatly loved by his family and friends and will be dearly missed. Mass of the Christian Burial was celebrated Saturday at Holy Family Catholic Church, Caledonia, with Rev. Paul A. Milanowski, celebrant. Interment Resurrection Cemetery, Memorial contributions may be made to Mercy Amicare Hospice, 7985 Mackinaw Trail Dr., Cadillac, MI 49061 and Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan, P.O. Box 8804, Kentwood, MI 49518.

LASAUJSKY - Elsie F. Lasausky, aged 73, of Lowell, passed away January 19, 2002. She was preceded in death by her husband James. Mrs. Lasausky is survived by her children Deb (Kurt) Beimers of Lowell, Rose (Dan) Evans of Saranac, Penny (Jim) Oswald of Lowell, Warren Judson of Canada, Jill Bloomquist of Holland; sisters Rose (Wayne) Smith of Canada, Mary (Charles) Craig of Canada; eight grandchildren; one great-grandson. Following her wishes, there will be no service. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of one's choice.

ELLIS - Doris Ellis, aged 81, lifelong resident of Lowell, went to be with the Lord unexpectedly on Friday, January 18, 2002. She joins her husband Robert E. Ellis who preceded her in death in 1991. Surviving are her children and grandchildren Patricia (Phil) VanDuinen of Ada and their daughters, Katy (fiance Eric Phelps), Amy and Jamie (Mark) Wiley; Nancy Roth of Lowell and daughter Ryan; Joe (Randi) Ellis of Ft. Wayne, IN and their children Eric, Sean and Kristin; Diane (Joe) Rinard of Gresham, OR and sons Josh and Matt; sisters Donna Demovic of Novi, Lillian (Herald) Bosscher of Cedar Springs and Helen O'Neil of Muskegon; brother John (Deb) Stormzand of Lowell; sisters-in-law Joyce Stormzand of Lowell, Joan (Sonny) Siciliano of Irons; also many nieces, nephews and special friends. Doris was a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church of Lowell (bell choir and

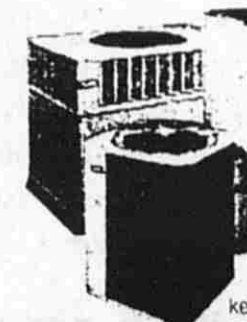
In these times we fight for ideas, and newspapers are our fortresses.
Heinrich Heine

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In Loving Memory Of ALDEN HAMILTON

A year without you is so long, But my love for you will always be strong. I wish you were here to laugh, love and kiss. Oh, these things I truly miss. Our souls will always be together, Now and forever. Alden, I miss you so much. Love you with all my heart.
Lindsay

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- Noelle Dewey

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Barb Curtis

PERSONALS

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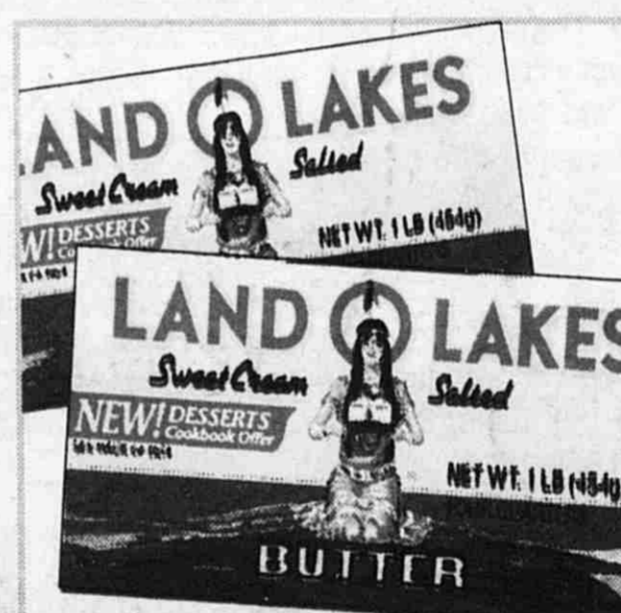
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