

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 22

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, February 27, 2002



Funding Innovative Education

The Lowell Area Education Foundation officially announced the recipients of its innovative grant program. Pictured above are the Lowell Middle School teachers whose projects received funds. Making the presentation were Theresa Beachum, far left, and Barb Gillman, far right. Pictured between the foundation board members, from left to right, are: Julie Hillary, Sara Guile, Lynn Staal, Jane Bushell and Julie Niemela. The Foundation awarded 10 grants, totaling \$4,000.

Township to use portion of CDGB funds for handicap accessibility

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Lowell Charter Township trustee, Alyn Fletcher is elated that Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds will be used to improve the handicap accessibility at the township hall.

What he finds alarming is the unnecessary monetary amount required.

The township was informed that it would have to get an architect involved in the project, if it were going to comply with regulations and use CDBG funds.

It was Fletcher's opinion the cost could be cut in half by eliminating the involvement of an architect; rather the township would use monies of its own.

Township taxpayers, instead, will be fleeced to the tune of roughly \$8,000.

Fletcher, at hearing the news, was against going ahead with the project if it meant the cost would be doubled.

"I was opposed just

based on the principal of the thing," Fletcher said. "But I shouldn't stand in the way of something that will benefit other handicapped people."

Fletcher, disabled by rheumatoid arthritis, has been in a wheelchair since 1973.

"I'm happy that the doors and restrooms will be made more accessible for the handicapped," Fletcher said. "But not happy with the cost."

In order to get CDBG funds, the improvements must be certified by an architect.

"It makes sense in that it ensures things are done up to

code and eliminates things being done wrong and then having to be done over," Fletcher explains.

At the township's Feb. 21 meeting, the board approved the use of \$15,000 toward making the entrance doors and restroom doors more accessible.

The township will also spend \$5,000 to help pave the Lowell Senior Neighbor Center's parking lot; \$5,000 to help Lowell Area Historical Museum re-roof the Graham Building; and \$3,000 for the Hope Network/North Kent Transit Service.

Council to review changes for corner lots

By J.N. Boorsma Contributing Writer

If the Lowell City Council gives its OK Monday night, corner lot owners will find it easier to build and renovate their property.

In a unanimous vote, the Lowell Planning Commission approved a recommendation to change the city's current ordinance on corner lots. Currently, corner lots within the city have two front yards. A building's front yard is a least 30 feet from the right-of-way, according to the ordinance.

Corner Lots, cont'd, pg. 8

Sundry approaches planning commission with cluster development idea for Grindle property

By J.N. Boorsma Contributing Writer

In round two of its plans to develop a piece of property located on the city's east side, a developer came before the Lowell Planning Commission to discuss its options.

The planning commission suggested, however, that Sundry Development roll up its sleeves and do some homework to convince those who are not too sure about its future plans for the property at 751 Grindle.

"The burden is on you to convince us," said mayor, Jeanne Shores who attended the meeting. The topic was brought up by the developers for discussion purposes only. No formal public hearing was held and no action was taken.

City manager, David Pasquale said due to what Sundry was proposing, the group really needed to develop some conceptual drawings to give the council and the residents a visual idea of what the developers are considering.

At Monday night's meeting, Sundry representatives presented a plan to the Lowell Planning Commission to create a zoning district specifically for the 31 acres encompassing the Phillips and part of the Leeman properties. Under that zoning, Sundry representatives said they would like to develop the area into cluster housing, which would provide greater green space, but allow the group to build about 77 homes on the land.

Under the proposal, Les Cole, director of engineering for Sundry, said Sundry was looking at narrowing the roadways, which would help control speed and water run off and would like to decrease the front yard area to 25 feet, again to help with water run off. Decreasing the front yard area would mean less turf, which creates more water run off, Cole explained.

With that development, Cole said the company would be able to create a park, control speeds, control the number of houses, along with addressing the other "reasonable" concerns that residents have raised.

Originally, Sundry was seeking a rezoning of the property, but that was denied by the Lowell City Council at its meeting, Feb. 19. Several residents at-

tended that meeting as well as the January planning commission meeting when the issue was first presented to raise their objections to rezoning.

Cole said Sundry officials feel they could address many of the issues raised including the development of an entrance from Grindle Drive. Kevin Rude, also from Sundry, said through studying the area, it was discovered there was a private drive located below the proposed development that could be used as an entrance way for the parcel. He also noted there was a partial foundation of a home on that property which actually went on to the property Sundry wishes to develop. City staff indicated that nothing has been done on that home for quite some time.

Rude said the private drive does cause a problem for storm water drainage for the proposed development and Sundry would need the city's help to work issues out about the drive. Sundry also had other concerns as to how usable floor area (UFA)

is determined and issues about the foundation that are now on their property.

However, before those details can be worked out, the biggest hurdle facing the group is trying to demonstrate what they want to do with the property, said planning commission chairman, Jim Hall. The best the commission could offer was to try and meet with the city council to discuss Sundry's plans for the property and to bring a conceptual drawing of the area.

"You are asking the city to do something different," Pasquale said. "You need to take the extra steps to show them."

Pasquale said everyone could agree to such concepts as a park area, more green space, and even a conservatory area to buffer the development, but people also need to

Sundry, cont'd, pg. 8

Due to what Sundry is proposing, the group really needs to develop some conceptual drawings to give the council and the residents a visual idea of what the developers are considering.

Dave Pasquale
Lowell City Manager

INSIDE THE LEDGER



Gymnasts
4th in
League Meet,
Story, Page 11

OBITUARIES

BENJAMIN - Thelma N. Benjamin, aged 85, of Saranac, passed away February 25, 2002 in Ionia. She was born July 14, 1916 in Saranac, the daughter of Norman and Mattie (Middleton) Childs. She went on to marry Sherle Benjamin July 10, 1934 in Ionia who preceded her in death on December 6, 1992. She is survived by her son Donald and Carol Benjamin of Saranac; daughters Doris and Charles Austin of Saranac and Miriam and Foss White of Fenwick; 11 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by two brothers Harold and Murl. A funeral service was held Wednesday, Feb. 27 at Lake Funeral Home in Saranac with Rev. John Madvig officiating. Interment

Saranac Cemetery. Anyone wishing may make a memorial contribution to Saranac Community Church or Saranac Fire Department.

REXFORD - William "Bill" Henry Rexford went to be with the Lord on February 20, 2002 at the age of 65. He is survived by his wife of 45 years Kathryn "Kate"; his children Coralee Maggio, Rick and Linda Rexford, Don Rexford, Linda Rexford, and Amy and Eric Moore; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. A praise service with family and friends celebrated Bill's rich life on Sunday, February 24 at River of God Church, Grandville Center in Grandville. A family reception followed.

VANDERWARF - Ethel VanDerWarf, aged 87, of Ada, passed away peacefully on February 19, 2002. She was preceded in death by her husband Kenneth VanDerWarf in 1979. Ethel was born July 6, 1914, to Albert Myers and Veronica Flynn. Ethel had a wonderful sense of humor and her Irish wit was with her un-

SCHRODER - John Schroder, aged 61, of Alpharetta, Ga., passed away February 6, 2002 after an eight-month battle with lung cancer. After graduation from Lowell High School and Michigan Tech, he became a project engineer in Saturn and Apollo missions, followed by off-shore drilling and other technology related work. He was predeceased by his parents Wayne and Tillie Schroder, and sister Judy Wierenga. John is survived by his wife Kathy; children Erin Schroder, Julie Coiron, Wayne Schroder; four grandchildren; sisters Pat Canfield, Janet Hampson, Sue Leishman; niece Lori Canfield; nephews Greg and Mark Canfield.

til the end. She was one of Amway Corporation's first employees and was retired from her position as secretary in the manufacturing area. She was also a Charter member of the Amway Employees Credit Union and served several years on the board. She will be remembered best as a devoted and loving mother, grandmother and sister who cared most about her family. She is survived by her children Lee and Lori VanDerWarf of Greenville, Don and Sandy VanDerWarf and Jim and Katie Boggs all of Ada; brother Ed (Ellan) Myers of Ada; sisters Evelyn Roudabush of Lowell, Flora (Foster) Bishop of Ada; sister-in-law Doris Canfield of Lowell; 10 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson; many nieces and nephews. Mass of the Christian Burial was Friday at St. Patrick's Church in Parnell. Rev. Ronald Hutchinson, Celebrant. Interment Findlay Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of one's choice.

WYATT - Amy Jo (Amy Callier) Wyatt, aged 40, formerly of Lowell, passed away at her home in Hattiesburg, Mississippi on January 22, 2002. She was a graduate of Lowell High School who went on to become a registered nurse. She is survived by her son Justin Farmer, 9, who resides in Florida with his father. Cremation has taken place and the family will have a memorial service at Oakwood Cemetery, where she will be placed to rest. Her family and friends will sadly miss her.



Amy Jo Wyatt

Save taxpayers' dollars-end pet overpopulation

Did you know that you can help save lives and taxpayers' dollars simply by having one companion or feral animal spayed or neutered? Every six and one half seconds American shelter workers are forced to kill one homeless cat or dog. It costs taxpayers over \$1,000,000,000 each year to pick up, house, feed and ultimately destroy these pets.

Now for some good news. The Doris Day Animal Foundation created Spay Day USA (Feb. 26) as a national day of action to end pet overpopulation. Since 1995, humane Americans have been responsible for altering over one half million cats, dogs and other animals during Spay Day USA, saving millions of lives and taxpayer dollars.

If you don't have any animal companions, or if yours have already been altered, please consider sponsoring the spay or neuter of a friend's, co-worker's or relative's pet; or of a shelter animal awaiting adoption or a feral cat.

If you are on a low income and need financial assistance to pay for spay/neuter of your dog or cat, contact the Ionia County Humane Society at 527-9040.

- Facts about spay/neuter:
- Spaying and neutering are safe, simple surgeries that stop animals from breeding.
 - Females are spayed, males are neutered.
 - Animals as young as six weeks of age can be spayed or neutered.
 - It's just as important to neuter males as it is to spay females.
 - Spaying and neutering often eliminate undesirable behaviors such as fighting, spraying, or roaming.
 - Animals do not become less protective of their guardians as a result of being spayed or neutered.
 - Spaying and neutering are as vital to your pet's overall well-being as routine physical examinations, good nutrition, grooming, playtime and love.

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Frank Buckley
Assessor, Grattan Township

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Seed Treatments Not Holding Up to Corn Rootworm

Seed treatments have been touted as an easy, effective way to control corn rootworm and other yield-damaging pests in field corn. The premise for their use is that they eliminate the time and effort of using a soil insecticide at planting time.

However, University of Illinois entomologists and researchers at other Midwest land-grant universities recently conducted trials for two recent additions to the seed treatment lineup - ProShield technology with Force ST insecticide and Prescribe insecticide seed treatment - and found neither provided consistent, acceptable control of corn rootworm larvae.

In fact, University of Illinois root rating trials conducted at three sites in 2000 placed the average root rating for ProShield at 3.9 and Prescribe at 3.6. In the same trials, a T-band application of Lorsban* 15G granular insecticide provided an average root rating of 2.4.

A study conducted by Iowa State University in 2000 also demonstrated the superiority of conventional rootworm insecticides compared to seed treatments. ProShield and Prescribe permitted almost 6 to more than 7 times as much rootworm injury, respectively, compared to T-banded Lorsban 15G.

Lorsban 15G is the time-proven industry standard for controlling corn soil insects like rootworm, cutworms, grubs, seedcorn maggot and wireworm. Lorsban 15G outperforms seed treatments because it provides residual control and lasts longer during the growing season, which is vital in protecting corn from the intense corn rootworm feeding typically experienced throughout much of the Midwest.

In addition, the fungicidal activity found only in Lorsban 15G enhances corn seedling health, leading to improved stands, possible reductions in stalk rot and higher yields. Lorsban 15G also carries the "CAUTION" human hazard signal word - which allows for easy, safe handling - and is compatible with all commonly used herbicides.

To learn more about the benefits of Lorsban 15G, contact your local ag retailer.



Leslie Abbott
Sales Representative
Lawton

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MARCH

Lowell Community Calendar 2002

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
LAAC: West Michigan Regional Art Competition continues through March 23							
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
WWC: Maple Syrup Festival	WWC: Maple Syrup Festival	WWC: Maple Syrup Festival VEEN: Beginning Astronomy starts, (4-week class) 7:30-9:30PM	KDL: Friends of the Library Book Sale, 12 Noon-8:00PM	KDL: Friends of the Library Book Sale, 9:00-1:00PM LAAC: Theater (only), presenting "The Nerd" a comedy, 7:30PM at Larkin's Other Place (tickets \$6 & \$7)	FLPC: Pastel Workshop, 8:30-3:30PM LAAC: Dinner Theater, presenting "The Nerd", 6:30PM at Larkin's Other Place (tickets \$15)	1 LAHM: Early Settlers Activities Workshop for ages 8-12, 10:00AM-2:00PM at the Wittenbach Center WWC: Maple Syrup Festival	2
Great effort has been made to make sure these dates are accurate, however, we encourage you to call to confirm dates & times. Many programs require pre-registration, so call early to enjoy your community programs!							
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
LAAC: Dinner Theater, presenting "The Nerd", 1:00PM at Larkin's Other Place (tickets \$15)		KDL: Adult Book Discussion, 10:00AM KDL: Mother/Daughter Book Club, 6:30PM			LAS 1/2 Day K-5 LAAC: Dinner Theater, presenting "The Nerd", 6:30PM at Larkin's Other Place (tickets \$15)	NOTE: The Foodmobile is for all. Monthly products. FLOM: FoodMobile at Fairgrounds 10-Noon FLPC: Playing w/Paper Workshop, 8:30-3:30PM LAAC: Dinner Theater (see info on March 15) VEEN: Minor Planets, 7:30PM, Veen Observatory	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
St. Patrick's Day Palm Sunday	KDL (Alto): Spring Family Storytime, 6&< 10:30AM KDL (Lw): Spring Family Storytime, Ages 3-6, 1:30PM	KDL (Lw): Author Abigail Adams "Brought to Life", by Shirley Meyer in period costume & speech, 7:00PM. Free	FIRST DAY OF SPRING LACC: Business Breakfast Club, 7:30AM at the Lowell Area Arts Council. Free KDL (Alto): Spring Family Storytime, 6&< 1:30PM	KDL (Lw): Spring Family Storytime, Ages 3-6 10:30AM		EXPO will be held at the High School. LACC: Lowell Fire Dept. Pancake Breakfast, 7-11:00AM LACC: Lowell Community EXPO, 9:00-3:30PM LAAC: Final day-West Michigan Regional Competition	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
	KDL (Alto): Spring Family Storytime, 6&< 10:30AM KDL (Lw): Spring Family Storytime, Ages 3-6, 1:30PM		PLUMBER BEGINS KDL (Alto): Spring Family Storytime, 6&< 1:30PM	LAS SPRING BREAK	LAS SPRING BREAK		
31							
LAAC: Deadline for Fallasburg Festival Artist's Registration							

KEY
FHS: Fallasburg Historical Society 897-7167
FLPC: Franciscan Life Process Center 897-7842
FLOM: Flat River Outreach Ministries 897-2037
KCYF: Kent County Youth Fair 897-6050
KDL: Lowell Library 897-9596
Alto Library 868-6038
LAAC: Lowell Area Arts Council 897-8545
LACC: Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce www.lowellchamber.org 897-9161
LAHM: Lowell Area Historical Museum 897-7688
VEEN: Veen Observatory www.graao.org 897-7065
WWC: Wittenbach Agriscience & Environmental Center/ Wege Natural Area 987-1002
YMCA: YMCA of Lowell 897-8445
LAS = Lowell Area Schools
Many events, programs and classes have detailed descriptions in the LLEAP Brochure (published quarterly). Please call 897-8545 for a brochure if you did not receive one in the Lowell Area Schools Directions Newsletter.
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APRIL

Lowell Community Calendar 2002

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	LAS SPRING BREAK 1	LAS SPRING BREAK 2	LAS SPRING BREAK 3	LAS SPRING BREAK 4	LAS SPRING BREAK 5	6
	KDL (Alto): Family Storytime, 6&< 10:30AM KDL (Alto): Millions of Cats: Fun cat crafts! All ages. 11:00AM KDL (Lw): Spring Family Storytime, Ages 3-6 1:30PM APRIL FOLK DAY	KDL (Lw): Yoko's Springtime Celebration. Japanese origami & food. All ages. 6:30PM	KDL (Alto): Millions of Cats: Fun cat crafts! All ages. 11:00AM KDL (Alto): Family Storytime, 6&< 1:30AM KDL (Alto): Kitten Shower. All ages. 4:00PM	KDL (Lw): Spring Family Storytime, Ages 3-6 10:30AM		KDL (Lw): Kitten Shower. You bring a gift-kitten food, collar, etc. Cat stones & games. All ages. 1:00 PM LAAC: Artist Gary Eldridge, "A Fork In The Road" exhibition opening. 6:30 PM
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS	LAS School Resumes KDL (Alto): Family Storytime, 6&< 10:30AM KDL (Lw): Spring Family Storytime, Ages 3-6, 1:30PM LAAC: Lowell Area Arts Council Spring Classes begin!		KDL (Alto): Family Storytime, 6&< 1:30PM KDL (Alto): Yoko's Springtime Celebration. Japanese origami & food. All ages. 4:00PM	KDL (Lw): Spring Family Storytime, Ages 3-6, 10:30AM LAAC: Tom Woodruff, "Illustration Art" workshop, 7:00PM at the Lowell Library.		KDL (Alto): Super Science Saturday. Ages 6&> 10:00 AM
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
LAAC: Tricia Eldridge, "Human Energy Field" workshop/lecture, 2:00PM (RSVP, \$35)		KDL (Lw): Michigan In The Civil War. Ages 12 & up, 7:00PM (Sponsored by the Friends of Englishard Library)	LACC: Business Breakfast Club, 7:30AM at Special FX Inc., 11390 E. Fulton, Free		LAAC: "Rockin' for the LAAC" (Lowell Area Arts Council), 7:00PM at Larkin's Other Place, \$10/\$15.	LAAC: "Rockin' for the LAAC" 7:00PM at LOP. VEEN: Visitor Night. 8:30-11:30PM ONLY if the sky is clear! Adults-\$2, ages 5-17, \$1. WWC: Women's Fly Fishing, 9-3PM, All ages.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		KDL (Lw): Pajama Storytime. Bedtime stories & nighttime fun! Ages 6 & under. 6:30PM	LAHM: Spring Historical Program at the Lowell Township Hall, 7:30PM, refreshments will be served. Free.		LACC: 2nd Annual Spirit of Community Celebration, 6:00PM, Dinner (\$15 per person); 8:00PM Awards Ceremony (Free) at Lowell High School	VEEN: Visitor Night. 8:30-11:30PM ONLY if the sky is clear! Adults-\$2, ages 5-17, \$1. Lupiter, Saturn, Full Moon featured!
28	29	30				

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Reflections Of Faith

Pastor Joe Fremer
Good Shepherd Lutheran

It was a wedding rehearsal, and we were practicing the vows. "Jeff," I said, "repeat after me: 'I, Jeff, in the presence of God and this assembly...' He began, "I, God, in the presence of..." and a puzzled look came over his face. The hooting and hollering around him hadn't even registered yet. I could see he was thinking. "Wait a minute, did I just say 'God'?"

The maid of honor quipped to the bride, "I told you he has a big ego." We all had a good laugh over his goof. (He got it right the next day, in spite of the big grins on the expectant faces of the attendants when his turn came.)

An honest mistake, but how telling! Ever since Adam and Eve listened to Satan and decided to become the master of their own fates, every child has come into this world as a God wannabe. From hungry infants demanding Mom's immediate services at four a.m., to whiny toddlers threatening to hold their breath if they don't get their way, to second-graders learning how to suck up to Teacher, to middle-schoolers playing Mom off Dad, to young adults currying favor with the boss for a promotion—we mean to rule!

All society manages to do is lay a thin veneer of civilization over our will to dominate others. It's there barely below the surface, and breaks out constantly despite the best efforts of the police and Miss Manners. It's a hereditary disease called "sin."

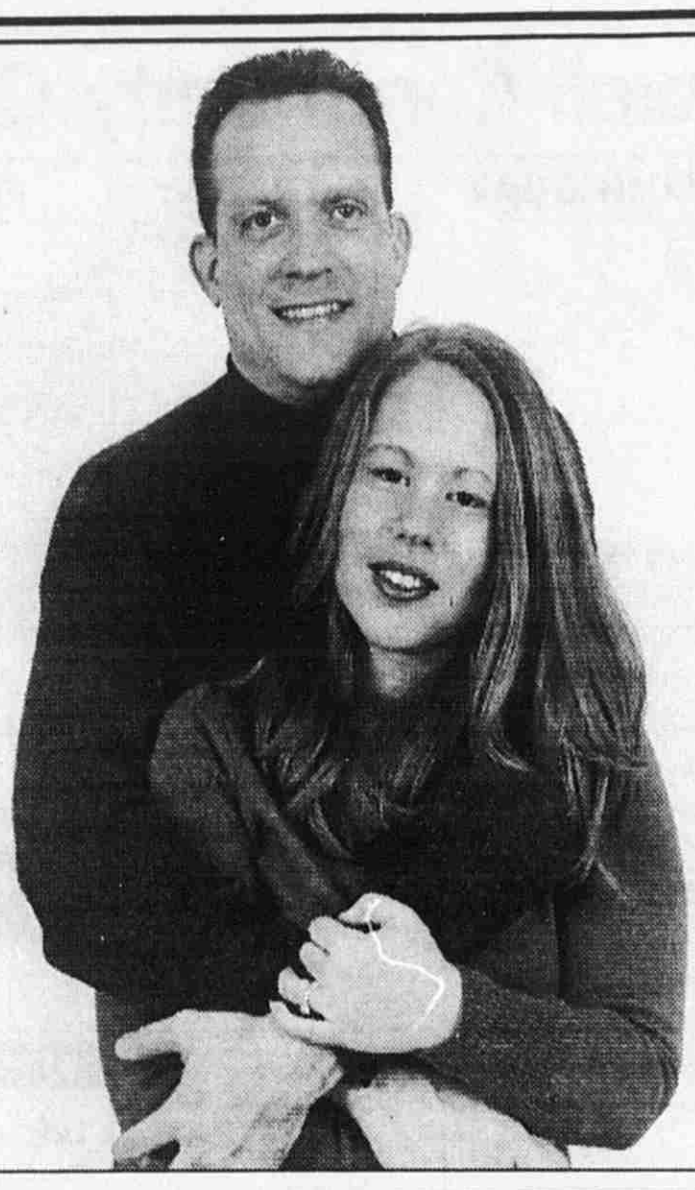
The symptoms? Crime, wars, domestic heartbreaks of all sorts... for thousands of years this seemed to be normal human behavior. Then came Jesus, the only son of Eve who didn't inherit the stain of sin. Although He was God, He didn't demand service, and told His followers to abandon their kingdoms and join the kingdom of God, saying, "The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

He loved us so much that He went to the cross to be executed for our rebellious nature. That act of ransom bought us out of the destructive compulsion to play God. Trusting in Him leads us to discover that real freedom can only be found when we stop trying to master ourselves and others, and turn our lives over to His loving authority. It brings healing and meaning to fractured, contentious, pointless lives.

More laws, more funding for the police, and values-based educational curricula are treatments for symptoms, but they don't touch the disease itself. We need to be forgiven. We need a way to lay down our arms and surrender to God. We need to cast our tin crowns at His feet. Jesus answers all those needs. Be honest-with you running your own life - has it really been that great? Give it up! Turn yourself in. Come home.

More laws, more funding for the police, and values-based educational curricula are treatments for symptoms, but they don't touch the disease itself. We need to be forgiven. We need a way to lay down our arms and surrender to God. We need to cast our tin crowns at His feet. Jesus answers all those needs. Be honest-with you running your own life - has it really been that great? Give it up! Turn yourself in. Come home.

Rice/Grace



Dianna Marie Rice of Lowell and Jeff Grace of Shepherd wish to announce their engagement. A wedding is being planned for July 13, 2002 at Fallsburg Park.

The future bride is the daughter of Robert and Leanna Rice of Lowell. Dianna is a 1996 graduate of Lowell High School and is currently a senior at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois. She will complete her degree in Early Childhood Education in June.

The prospective groom is the son of Jim Grace of Mecosta and Janice Coffman of Bedford, N.H. Jeff is a 1986 graduate of Shepherd High School. He received a bachelor's degree in Finance from Central Michigan University in 1990 and earned a master of science degree in Accounting from Western New England College in 1997. He is presently employed by Aon Corporation in Chicago.

The couple plans to reside in Chicago.

Viewpoint . . .



cozy corner by Roger Brown

In last week's column, we discussed the issue of cloning, specifically the cloning of cats. We discussed the moral and ethical problems confronting the science community, as cloning becomes a reality. After thoroughly analyzing the matter, I think most of us agree that we don't give a rat's butt, or even a cloned rat's butt, if scientists clone a few critters. Hey, everybody is entitled to a little fun now and again. Even mad

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

On Monday, March 4, the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in which it is being asked to consider rezoning a 90-acre parcel of land from R-1 to R-3 (the tract is near the southeast corner of Vergennes and Alden Nash). The applicant intends to build a "manufactured housing community" there. Note: the public hearing will be at Lowell High School Performing Arts Center—they're expecting a crowd.

I want to encourage fellow citizens to educate themselves about the ramifications of such a project. I have two points in particular:

First, some people may be unaware that an R-1 designation allows one housing unit per acre, and R-3 raises the density to three units per acre. On 90 acres, were the rezoning request to pass, hundreds of manufactured homes would be plopped down. That's a huge impact on a small, rural community.

Yes, the State mandates that each township have a place set aside for manufactured housing. (OK, let's call them by their familiar name: mobile home parks.) Vergennes Township specifically addressed this in its newly rewritten Master Plan. Mobile home parks are allowed in R-3. There is undeveloped R-3 acreage available in the township. Therefore, the Planning Commission is under no obligation to bend over backwards to accommodate these developers. They are free to seek out land already zoned R-3.

Second, many readers may not realize there's a highly inequitable taxation issue brewing here. Basically, property taxes on mobile home parks are a far cry from what the rest of us pay. Each unit pays only \$3/month in tax! This stems from a 42-year-old law enacted in 1959 when they really were "mobile home." Not anymore! Nowadays, although the current renditions of a "mobile home" may somehow be technically descendants of those models, it's hard to argue in good faith that they are essentially different from everyday houses.

From that pittance of a tax, only \$1 comes directly to the local area and 50 cents goes to the county. Not nearly what other citizens pay, and not nearly enough to cover the costs of a large influx of new residents.

Because of a powerful political lobby in Lansing, people living in manufactured housing communities do not pay what the rest of us pay for municipal services, local schools, roads, and other public services. This places an unfair burden on the rest of the citizens. Does anyone wish to let the developers benefit from a situation which breeds resentment against neighbors who come at an unfair price to the rest of us?

In January, the Vergennes Township Board of Trustees bravely passed an impressive resolution in support of legislation to appeal or substantially amend the Mobile Home Commission Act and how mobile home parks are taxed. I hope our legislators in Lansing are listening! I have nothing against the actual mobile homes. Many are quite lovely. But I do have a beef with the in-filling of large tracts of acreage when the end result is at my expense.

I hope the Vergennes Planning Commission will have the moral strength and courage to stand firm against yielding to this request by voting against the rezoning application. If the developers want to build a mobile home community here, it makes sense to let them follow our Master Plan and find acreage already designated as R-3 (and may it be a much smaller parcel!)

I encourage the community to learn about this issue. There's much more that would rattle any democratically-minded citizen. If nothing else, read the Vergennes Township resolution . . . it's a good starting point.

Sincerely,
Kate Democoeur, citizen

World Day of Prayer service, March 1

Clergy from seven local churches will lead the community in the World Day of Prayer service on Friday, March 1 at noon in the Englehardt Library community room.

The churches involved in leadership are Alto/Bowen Center United Methodist Church, Pastor Dominic Tommy; Calvary Christian Reformed Church, Pastor Bill Renkema; Christian Life Center, Pastor Bob Holmes; First Congregational UCC of Lowell, Pastor Roger LaWarre; First United Methodist Church of Lowell, Pastor Gordie Barry; Lowell

Church of the Nazarene, Pastor Tim DeShaw, and St. Mary Church, Fr. George Fekete.

The service is open to the community of Lowell. In addition to the service on Friday, an evening service of prayer will be held at Calvary Christian Reformed Church at 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 3. People will have the opportunity to join in prayers for the world, the nation and our local community.

Used book sale, March 6-7

The Friends of the Englehardt Library will bring out as many bargain-priced books as the library's community room will hold for its spring book sale.

The event will be Wednesday, March 6 from noon to 8 p.m. and Thursday, March 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 200 N. Monroe St.

Proceeds will benefit the Englehardt branch of the Kent District Library. For more information, call 897-9596.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY 28: Mark V. Ritzema, Connie Roth, Scott Denton, Claressa Guastavino.
MARCH 1: Barak Brown, Jill Callihan, Laura Christiansen.
MARCH 2: Mary Vezino, Roger MacNaughton, Anna Kline.
MARCH 3: Sarah Newell.
MARCH 4: Pat Fonger, Scott Vashaw, Bryce Tulppo, Patrick N. Johnson, Art Warning.
MARCH 5: Don Silvis, Goldie Clark, Bea Richardson.
MARCH 6: Pat Covell, Darlene McClure.

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scientists. No, it's not the cloning of cats or sheep that has us concerned. It's the eventual cloning of humans that has everyone ready to grab a protest sign. Why is that? I think I have an answer.

My theory is based on the premise that we all instinctively know cloning is not going to be anything like Kinko's. That is, you aren't going to be able to go down to the strip mall, walk in, have yourself cloned and put it on your Visa. No, cloning in the foreseeable future is going to remain an expensive and intricate procedure that will be limited to exclusive laboratories. Our instincts begin to pose questions. Who gets access to cloning? Will you have to be rich? Will you have to be famous? Will you have to be beautiful? Will you have to be physically perfect? Will you have to be very intelligent?

Most of us don't qualify for any of the above, leaving us out of the cloning picture. That's why we're all against human cloning. We're simply jealous. I have surrendered to a few basic facts. One: Human cloning is inevitable. Two: It will happen sooner than we expect. Three: Given my bank account, looks, physique and I.Q., you aren't going to see a little Roger running around any time soon. Since I am out of the loop as a cloning candidate, I'm going to do what those who don't play the game do best. I'm going to make the rules.

Here is a partial list of cloning no-nos. As human cloning moves closer over the next few years, I'm sure I'll be able to add to this list. 1. If you have ever talked on a cell phone in a movie theatre, you can't be cloned. 2. If you have ever written a check in the express lane of a grocery store... forget it. 3. If you have more than one tattoo... no way. 4. If you were sober when you got that tattoo, you're off the list for a clone. 5. If you have worn a goatee for more than a year... sorry. 6. If you have pierced more than both ears and perhaps one other body part, you are not a cloning candidate. 7. If you have ever purposely tuned in to a daytime soap opera, we're not going to boost soaps' ratings by cloning you. 8. If you have ever purchased a book because Oprah told you to, you're checked off. 9. If you think anything advertised on TV is really going to give you washboard abs, one of you is enough.

10. If you have ever talked on a cell phone while in a

public restroom... nope. 11. If you have any kind of bogus handicap tag or plate on your vehicle and don't need at least a cane to get from your car to the store, get lost. 12. If you think increased bans on smoking in public places are an infringement on your rights... the tobacco companies don't need a new customer. 13. If you are a male, and have ever pierced anything (we don't care if you are Michael Jordan), you aren't going to get a clone. 14. If you have ever ordered a pay-per-view World Wrestling Federation event, you guessed it... no clone for you. 15. If you have ever talked on a cell phone in a restaurant, with people seated around you trying to enjoy their meal, there are enough of you already.

16. If you habitually drive without using your turn signal, no clone for you. 17. If you have one of those "I support our local police, or sheriff or state police" stickers in your rear window or bumper in a pathetic attempt to get out of a ticket... come on, you know you're not on the list for a clone. 18. If you have ever held up the line at a movie theatre ticket window by purchasing tickets with a charge card... sorry. 19. If you were caught up in the scandalous actions of the French judge in the recent Olympic pairs figure skating competition, you don't need a clone, you need help. 20. If you frequent fast food joints, yet persist on wearing exposed midriff fashions... no clone.

21. If you drive while talking on a cell phone... nope. 22. If you are over three and can name even one member of the Back Street Boys... you already know you are off the list. 23. If you own a cell phone, no chance for you. 24. If you blast through an intersection, hogging the last of the yellow light, while leaving one or more drivers waiting to make a left turn helplessly stranded under a now red light, we certainly don't want your clone out there doing the same thing. 25. If you have ever talked on a cell phone, even in the privacy of your own home... Just kidding, you can have a clone if you keep your cell phone conversations to yourself.

That is just a partial list. I could go on and on. I'm sure you readers could certainly add to it. Most of you would likely begin your list with anyone who writes a weekly humor column for the Lowell Ledger.

By Priscilla Lussmyer

Ledger Entries

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

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL FEBRUARY 28, 1877

The shade trees on Hudson Street just above the Congregational Church are declared off limits to tethering horses. They chew off the bark.

Solomon Lee of Vergennes loses a suit brought by the KL& NM Railroad for \$250 remaining unpaid subscription. The railroad changed gauges and failed to raise enough money to build, so Lee refused to pay the rest of his subscription. The case is going to the Supreme Court of Michigan.

U.S. military bands have their bass drums carried on small carts pulled by large dogs.

Among labor-saving devices for farming: sow seeds from horseback and save the expense of a seeder.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 28, 1902;

This issue is missing as well as every issue until May 1902; we substitute columns from the first year Ledger Entries was published, 1987-8.

114 YEARS MARCH 2, 1888

The editor opines that a Kent County Republican Club would be a fine thing.

The Chicago Burlington and Quincy RR and the Reading RR of Pennsylvania are both striking for higher wages for engineers and firemen. Samuel Gompers, head of the A.F. of L., is preparing support for the fellow union.

Congress is acting to increase pensions to disabled and deaf veterans to \$30 a month. They are also working on bills to outlaw polygamy, and to restrict immigration of Chinese laborers. And, by "a strict party vote," the House Committee

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 28, 1952

Michigan Bell Telephone Inc. is planning a switchover to dial phones in Lowell sometime in the next year or two.

Mr. and Mrs. George T. Johnson of Burroughs Rd. are general chairmen of the Red Cross drive for eastern Kent County (note: they're my parents, George and Dana).

Secretary of State Fred M. Alger Jr. will be the speaker at this week's annual Board of Trade banquet at the Masonic Temple.

Measles is spreading rapidly in Michigan. It is especially dangerous for young children, so parents should report to the doctor as soon as the child is exposed.

Planting pines and multiflora roses is urged as wildlife cover on farms. (Note: how things change - multiflora roses now are known as highly invasive weeds.)

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER MARCH 3, 1977

A new blackout exit for Parnell Avenue is scheduled to replace the present steep and curvy gravel exit. It will handle the expected increase in traffic from the new Eastgate development.

The Lowell High School Ecology Club plans newspaper collections every second month, to help finance activities.

The Senior Neighbors Center on Main Street celebrates its third anniversary.

The former Debonaire Shop is now the Beachum-Roth store for window, floor and wall coverings.

A public hearing will be held next week on several amendments to the traffic ordinance.

Short outages big headaches for Lowell Cable Television

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Intermittent, short duration cable outages have been the source of round-the-clock frustrations for the Lowell Cable Company.

The problems were initiated during the power outage caused when a head-end amplifier was fried during the recent ice storm.

The amplifier was replaced but a fuse problem stemming from it still exists.

"The fuse problem, caused by extra current draw, is

happening intermittently," explained Lowell Cable Television general manager, Tom Richards. "We're taking extraordinary measures. We're powering the system in a different way to reduce the chance of it happening again."

Lowell Cable also manned the head-end station until midnight through the Olympics. "That way we could assure limited delay in getting the cable restored," added Richards.

Cable Olympic Coverage Costly:

Lowell Cable Television's choice not to pay for additional

Olympic coverage on MSNBC came down to expense. "For the extra coverage NBC was offering and what they were charging, Lowell Cable did not think it was a fair exchange," Richards explained.

Cable carriers were asked to pay a couple of dollars more per subscriber for the duration of their contract and not just for the benefit of programming during the Olympics.

Lowell Cable Television (through its NCTA co-op membership) is currently under a nine-year contract with MSNBC.

March brings cable subscribers solar transit outages

For a few days each spring and fall, cable systems and others who receive television or data via satellite, experience brief interruptions known as solar transit outages.

This happens when the sun aligns perfectly behind the satellite as it is viewed from the earth station or (dish) antenna.

Beginning Friday, March 1 and ending Tuesday, March 5,

satellite receivers that deliver programming to Lowell Cable TV will experience these solar outages, once per day at varying times between 1 and 4 p.m.

During these outages, the radiation from the sun will gradually overpower the signal from the satellite. On satellite delivered programming, viewers will notice their picture will

have a gradual increase in noise (a snow-like sparkling) until the picture is lost altogether. After a few minutes, the picture will slowly reappear until it is back to normal.

This condition won't reappear until around October, when once again, the sun will be briefly realigned with the satellites and the satellites receive antennae here in West Michigan.



Marsha Roth (middle), director of the Lowell Senior Neighbors Center, accepts a check from the Lowell Area CROP Walk (World Church Services) for \$1,663. Standing with Roth, pictured to her right, are: Catherine Hulbert and Alice Baut. To Roth's left are Jo Visser and Pauline LaDue.



Jody Haybarker, right, and Margaret Gardner accept a check on behalf of the Flat River Outreach Ministries from the Lowell Area CROP Walk (Church World Services).

Plans underway for annual Lowell Area CROP Walk

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The kickoff rally for the eighth annual Lowell Area CROP Walk is slated for March 21.

The CROP walk is scheduled for May 5.

Over the last seven years the CROP Walk has raised a little over \$155,000. The funds have been shared locally with the

Lowell Area Senior Neighbors and the Flat River Outreach Ministries.

Last year's walk raised \$4,989.38 for Flat River Outreach Ministries and \$1,663.13 for the Lowell Senior Neighbors Center.

The Church World Service agency, which distributes the monies earmarked for outside the local communities, has used the funds to help in:

- providing trauma response training to New York City clergy and caregivers.
- providing food and shelter to uprooted Afghan families.
- responding to sectarian violence in Pakistan through support of church leaders and providing assistance to affected families.

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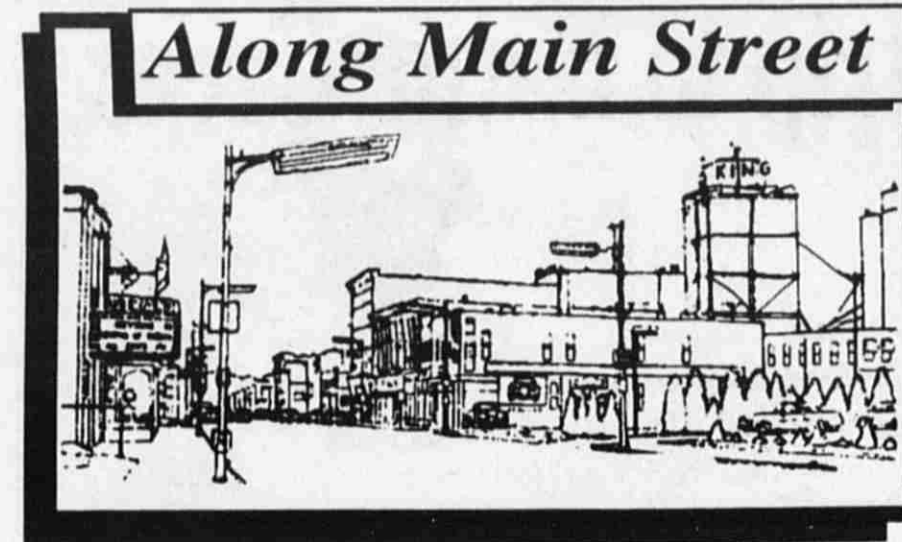
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is included. If you are interested in participating, call 897-7688; there are still a few openings.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB MEETING

The athletic boosters will hold their regular business meeting in the high school staff lounge on Monday, March 4 at 7 p.m. Please come and help support our athletes.

ENGLEHARDT USED BOOK SALE

Take time to browse in the Englehardt Library community room on March 6 from noon - 8 p.m. or March 7 from 9:30 - 1 p.m. Lots of used books (fiction, non-fiction, self-help, inspirational, children, etc.) will be available, sponsored by the Friends of Englehardt Library.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICES

The community of Lowell is invited to the World Day of Prayer services on Friday, March 1 at noon in the Englehardt Library community room. Clergy from seven churches will lead the service.

EARLY SETTLER ACTIVITIES WORKSHOP

Students, ages 8-12, can learn the art of candlemaking, buttermaking, tracking and wood whittling at the Wittenbach Center on Sat., March 2 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cost is \$5; lunch

UMPIRES TRAINING CLINIC

The Lowell YMCA will be conducting a free umpires training clinic on March 21 from 6-8 p.m. at Recreation Park. To umpire adult softball in 2002, you must be present. If you cannot attend, call the YMCA at 897-8445 ext. 705 before March 8. Registration forms to become a Michigan ASA umpire are available also.

PLAN NOW FOR THE CROP WALK

The Lowell area 8th annual crop walk rally will be at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main on Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m. If your group or organization would like to participate by walking or sponsoring a group at the crop walk on May 5, send a rep to this rally. For information call the church office at 897-5936.

Sundry, cont'd... From Page 1

see where the road might be and where the houses will be placed to get the "vision" of the property. Sundry officials requested an opportunity to meet with the city council. Pasquale said he would present the request to the council at its next meeting Monday night. Shores said a work session will probably have to be determined. The earliest date available, depending on the councilmembers' schedules, would be March 11. Shores noted that the neighbors would also be there, since they will want to know what is going on.

Rude said the company is planning to develop the property. He and representatives at the meeting felt what they were proposing was the best idea for the property since it would still provide a lot of nice green space and follow the Home Builders' Association's concept of "Smart Growth." The alternative, Rude said, might not be as nice and may require the company to flatten areas for the development.

Corner Lots, cont'd... From Page 1

Because a corner lot has two front yards, it must accommodate this measurement on both sides. Under the changes, however, a principal front lot line and a secondary lot line would be determined. The principal front lot line would be the shorter of the two front yard lot lines. Where the lot lines are of equal length, and/or the principal front lot line is not evident, the zoning administrator will determine which shall be the principal and the secondary. The secondary lot line will be one half of the principal front lot line.

For example, if a property has a principal front lot line of 30 feet, the secondary will be 15 feet, said city manager, David Pasquale. The planning commission held a public hearing on the matter with only one person, mayor, Jeanne Shores making any comment. "I'm glad to see this go through," Shores said, adding that she lived on a corner lot. The planning commission began looking at the front yard issue for corner lots after several variance requests came before the commission. The city council will review the ordinance change at its next meeting, March 4.

The gain in self-confidence of having accomplished a tiresome labor is immense.

—Arnold Bennett

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Vergennes Township Board has adopted an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance on February 18, 2002. This amendment shall be known as Ordinance 2002-2, a text amendment to Article III Section 201.308 and 201.311 of the Commercial District. A summary is as follows:

The amendment divides the current commercial uses into permitted uses and special uses, clarifies language detailing residential uses, adds language detailing commercial lot size and width, adds a requirement that applicants must create a landscaping plan and pave drives and parking areas, adds language for front of building construction materials, adds a building footprint square foot size maximum by right and larger sizes by special use permit, adds a Township Board modification section and updates the bulk table.

The complete text of Ordinance 2002-2 is on file at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671, and is available for public inspection during regular business hours.

This ordinance shall become effective eight (8) days after publication unless a notice of intent to file referendum is filed within such time and, if so, then these changes to the ordinance shall take effect at such time as is provided by MCLA 125.282 as amended.

Mari C. Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE BOARD OF REVIEW

The Board of Review of Bowne Township will meet at the Historic Township Hall - 8240 Alden Nash S.E., Alto on:

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2002

Between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Evening hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. will be by appointment only.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2002

Between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the tax roll and hearing all claims.

You may appeal your assessed valuation one of two ways: by letter addressed to the Bowne Township Supervisor and received by him prior to March 8 or by appearing in person on one of the dates the board of review meets.

The tentative real property assessment and assessment multiplier required by PA 165 of 1971 are:

Ratio - 50% Multiplier - 1.00

Peter F. Siler - Supervisor
Bowne Township

Lowell grapplers roll past Lakewood; earn trip to Battle Creek

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

For the seventh time in 10 years, the Lowell wrestling team has a tournament in Battle Creek at the state team wrestling tournament.

The invitation was extended following a convincing 48-18 win over Lakewood in the Division II regional final at Kenowa Hills.

Controlling tempo and momentum have always been a big part of Lakewood's wrestling success.

The Vikings ability to control tempo was mitigated before the regional team wrestling championship against Lowell ever started.

"Had we started the match at 130 instead of 171, I think we could have grabbed a few wins and built up some momentum," Lakewood coach, Bob Veitch explained. "Not that we would have won, but the score would have been closer. Our momentum was flattened by where we started."

What wasn't deflated got steamrolled by the heart of the Red Arrow lineup. Lowell won eight of the first 10 matches (171-135) with Kevin Frazier's 9-5 decision over Nathan Schoup (135) serving as the regional championship clincher.

"I'm tremendously pleased with where this team is at right now. The boys have spent so much time training and working toward this. They are in a groove right now - firing on all cylinders," Lowell wrestling coach, Dave Strejc said. "The key now is to continue to do what we've been doing all year. No major changes."

Based on what Veitch has seen of the Red Arrows, he's convinced Lowell's a clear favorite.

"I don't think there's anyone even close to Lowell. Unless Lowell comes down with ringworm or a fluke sickness," he says.

Of Lowell's 10 wins against the Vikings, four were via the pin. Recording pins were Mike Forward (171) at 54:17 of the third period against Ryan Terry; Ian DeRath (125) at 1:31 of the first period over Mike Ketchum; Mike Nearing (112) at 5:32 of the third period against Evan Terry; and Joe Mendez (103) at 2:37 of the second period against Scott Blocher.

Earning technical falls were Brandon Kinney (119) 26-11 over Ben Wickham; and Bobby Gingerich (140) 16-1 against Ryan Harmer.

Winning by decisions were Frazier; Ben Fleet (215), a 14-2 decision against Geoff O'Donnell; and Ben Vaught (HWT), a 7-1 decision over Juddy Wierck.

Lakewood's wins came at 189 when Matt Stowell decided Pieter Serme 3-2; Brandon Carpenter (145) pinned Jim Kelly at 1:10 of the first period; Tommy Pett (152) pinned Dan Lyman at 1:47 of the first period; and Aaron Stahl (130) decided Beau Wilder 12-6.

Lakewood (22-5), co-champions of the capital Circuit League, advanced to the finals with a 41-22 win against O-K Gold champion, Wyoming Park.

Lowell (34-4) advanced to the finals with a 72-6 win over Kenowa Hills.

The highlight of that match was Bobby Gingerich's pin over Matt Racalla at 2:59 of the second period. It was the junior's 100th career victory.

"It's a great feeling. You expect it to come your senior year. I'm pretty happy that it's come this soon," Gingerich explained. "The turning point in my season came at the Goodrich Invitational - I was named tournament MVP. That was a big confidence booster for me. I think the whole team is peaking."

Lowell wrestles next in the state quarter-final on Friday, March 1 at 7:45 p.m. in the Kellogg Arena.

Division II Regional Greenville

Nine Lowell wrestlers advance to the individual state tournament on March 9-10 from the Division II regional on Saturday.

The Red Arrows grabbed five firsts, three runners-up, and a third-place finish.

Winning regional championships were Brandon Kinney, Ian DeRath, Bobby Gingerich, Ben Fleet and Ben Vaught.

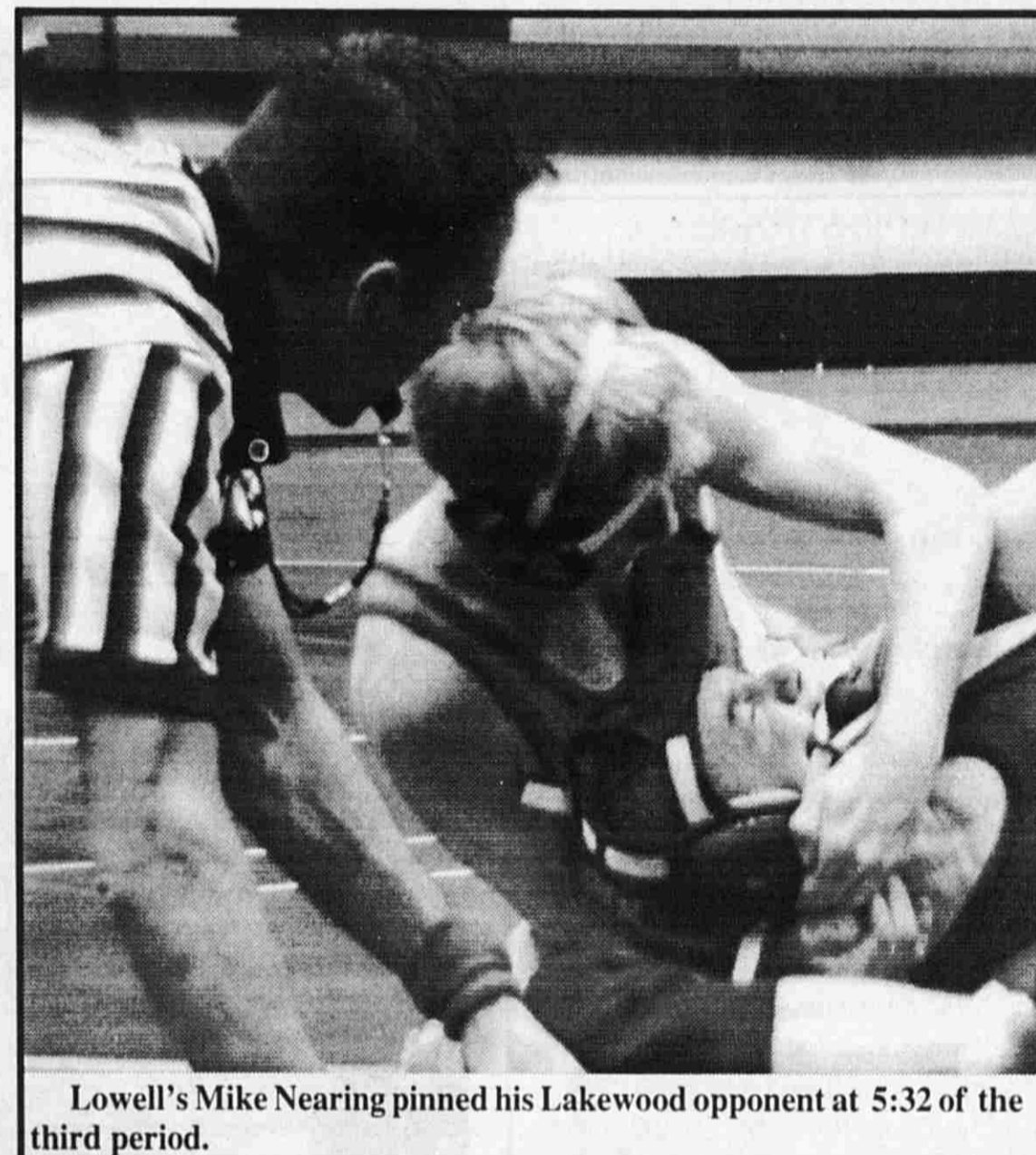
Kinney (119) major decisioned Sparta's Jason Brew 13-5; DeRath (125) major decisioned Ludington's Brandon Shinsky 20-8; Gingerich (140) defeated Lakewood's Brandon Carpenter 11-5; Fleet (215) decisioned Ludington's Phil Gable 10-5; and Vaught pinned Fremont's Adam Duga 3:01 of the second period.

Finishing second were Joe Mendez (103), Mike Nearing (112) and Kevin Frazier (135).

Mendez lost an 18-16 thriller to Ludington's Shane McEchrie.

Nearing lost to Middleville's Josh Bowerman 8-6.

Frazier was pinned in 19 seconds by Sparta's Keith Skrabis. In Lowell's only consolation match, Mike Forward recorded a 17-1 technical fall against Cadillac's Jason Merritt.

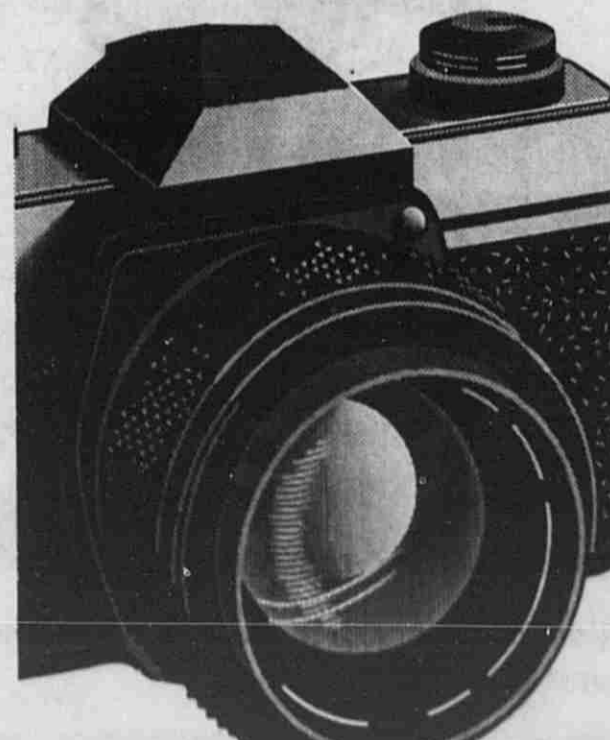


Lowell's Mike Nearing pinned his Lakewood opponent at 5:32 of the third period.



REGIONAL CHAMPIONS: Lowell recorded its fifth straight regional championship at Kenowa Hills Wednesday night. It was the 10th in the school's history.

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



It is important that the subject's face not be shaded in order to print your photo clearly in the paper.

All group pictures should be taken WITHOUT caps, visors, etc.

Photos will no longer be accepted if faces are too dark.

CITY OF LOWELL NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW

The Lowell City Board of Review will meet to receive and review the various Assessment Rolls for 2002 at City Hall on:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2002 AT 9:00 A.M.

A second meeting, for the purpose of hearing appeals and a continuation thereof, will be held at City Hall on:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2002 FROM 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M., AND 1:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. AND 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M., if necessary.

Appeals may be made by letter or on forms available at City Hall. Letters and/or forms must be submitted not later than March 8, 2002. A personal appearance is not required.

The following ratios and multipliers are expected for Real and Personal Property assessments:

Commercial Property	50.00%	1.0000
Industrial Property	50.00%	1.0000
Residential Property	50.00%	1.0000
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

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James Marfia, Assessor

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Lowell spikers battle valiantly in league meet defeats

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The steps are small and cannot be measured in wins and losses, but Lowell volleyball coach, Connie Black and assistant coach, Ken Dewey's message is clear. "Keep on holding on."

"We're seeing good things. The girls are playing a more complete game," Dewey explained. "They are just a few short steps from respect."

The Red Arrows' play at the O-K White conference meet supported Dewey's comments.

Lowell opened the double-elimination league meet against Forest Hills Northern (tournament run-up). The Red Arrows lost game one 15-4 and trailed by as many as seven before rallying to tie the Huskies 12-12 in game two.

Following a Northern timeout, the Huskies recorded three straight points to take the game (15-12) and match.

"They played a good match against Northern. The girls did a good job of covering attacks," Dewey said. "Their consistency comes from many repetitions and a good turnout for AAU play (outside of the regular) season."

Prior to Black's arrival, Lowell had very few AAU players. "Last year, we had three girls play AAU volleyball. This year we have a lot of freshmen and junior varsity players taking part," said Dewey.

In its second game of the day, Lowell was edged by East Grand Rapids 15-13, 15-13.

"It was a real duel. Either team could have won. I guess the fickle fingers of fate were with East. The game went back and forth. It was a tough loss, but we're happy with the effort," Dewey said.

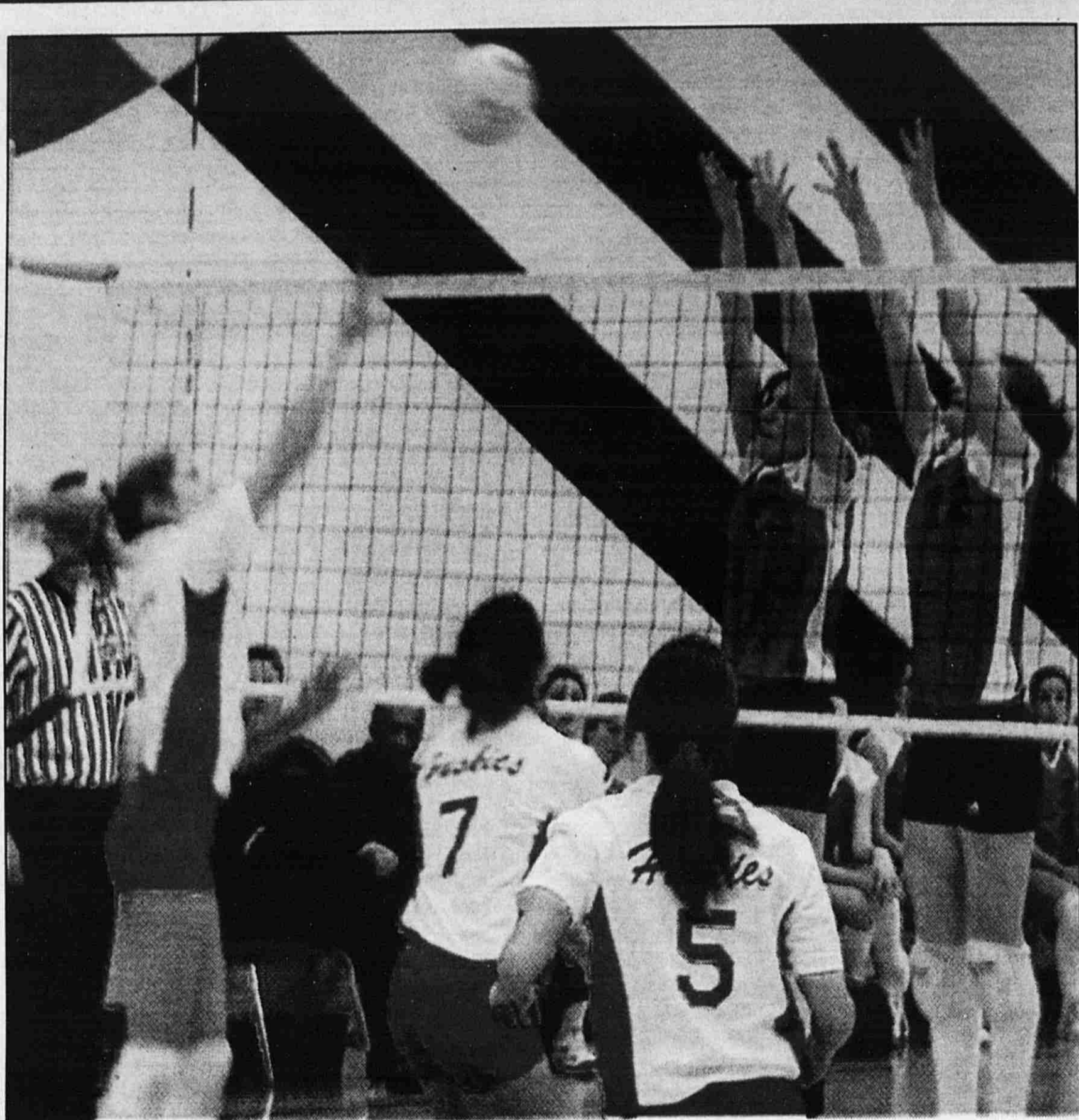
Lowell's team statistical leaders for the day were Courtney Phillips with four aces; and Katelyn Bush, 17 assists; Phillips and Heather Becker each tallied five kills.

Phillips, Jenny Wagner and Kim Huyser did not miss a serve in the four games.

Wagner and Huyser also did not commit a passing error. Lowell travels to Mt. Pleasant Saturday for district play. The Red Arrows, who drew a bye in the semifinals, will play the winner of St. Johns and Owosso.

"If the girls put four games together like they played in the conference meet, they have a chance to win the district," Dewey concluded.

Northern lost to Central in the finals.



Lowell's Kim Huyser and Courtney Phillips reach for the block in their conference meet opener against Forest Hills Northern.

Eagles answer Lowell's challenge, 60-45

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Oftentimes, basketball coaches belabor the point that the opening minutes of the second half are vital to the game's outcome.

In Lowell's 60-45 loss to Hudsonville Friday night, it was the final 30 seconds of the third quarter that proved decisive.

The Red Arrows had the ball, trailing 37-32 with 31 seconds on the third quarter clock.

A five second call on Lowell led to a chain of events which enabled Hudsonville to score five unanswered points and take a 42-32 lead into the fourth quarter.

The Eagles' Andrew Tanis netted a bucket; then following a Lowell missed shot, Kyle Trevino applied the dagger as he netted a three from the arc to end the quarter.

"We got some great defensive pressure, executed on offense and hit some key shots," said Hudsonville coach, Kevin Wolma. "It's a nice win for us. This is always a tough place for us to play - and that's a dangerous club."

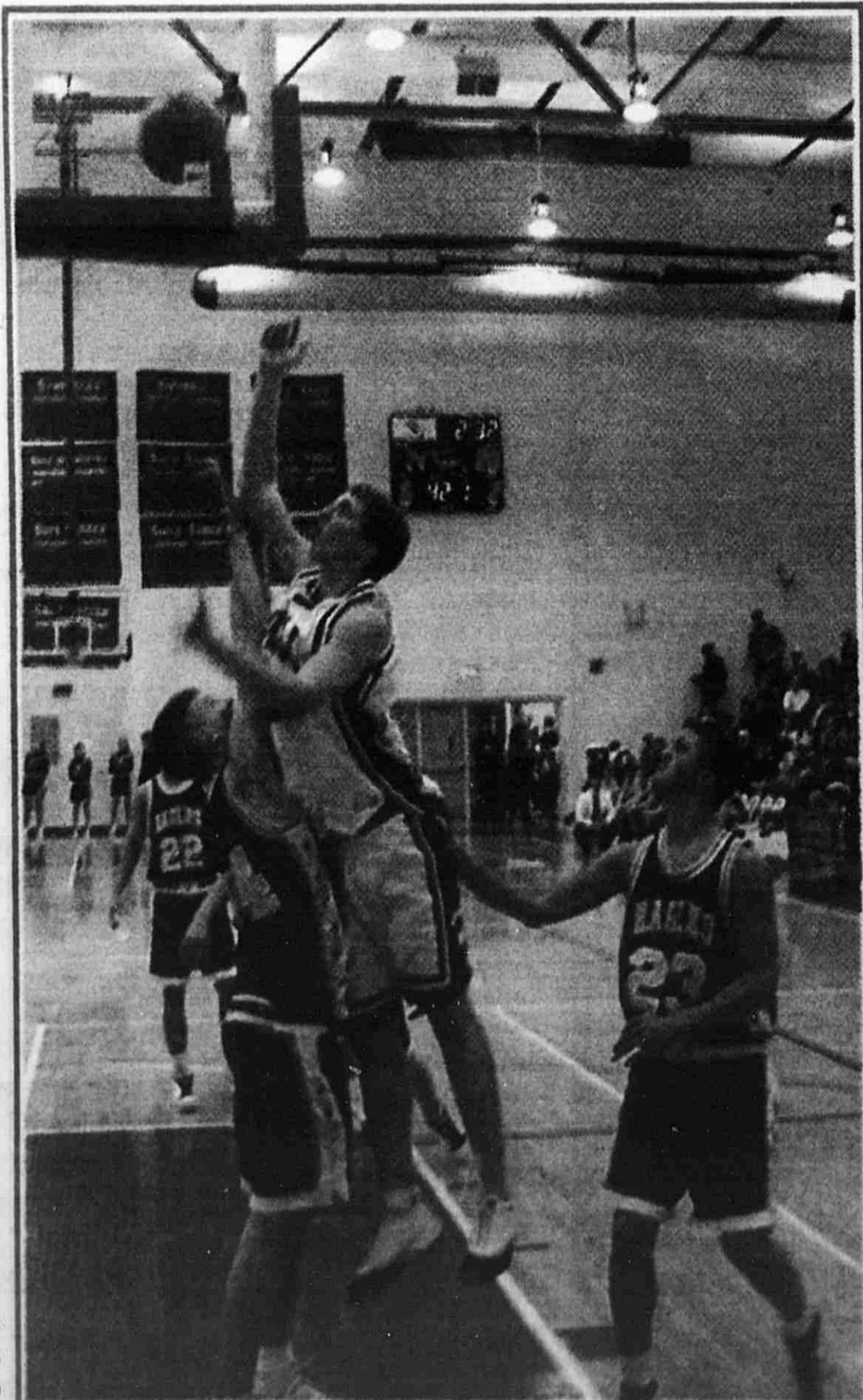
Lowell trailed 13-10 after one quarter and 26-18 at halftime. The Eagles outscored Lowell 34-27 in the second half.

Tanis led all scorers with 18 and Trevino added 10.

The win improved Hudsonville's league record to 6-5 and overall the Eagles are 6-11. "We haven't won a nonconference game all year," Wolma explained.

Lowell was led by Sam Oberlin's 13 points followed by Bill Harrison's 11; Landon Trierweiler netted nine.

"I'm disappointed for our seniors that they couldn't leave with a win," said Lowell basketball coach, Jeff McDonald. "Knowing that it's your last time to play on the home floor is a hard thing. Bill Harrison is the only senior to have basketball all four years. Every day he



Landon Trierweiler puts one in off the glass in first half action against Hudsonville.

Basketball, cont'd. pg. 11

O-K realignment concept addresses lengthy travel times

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

O-K Conference realignment, based on enrollment and geographic location, could happen possibly as soon as the 2003-04 school year.

League athletic directors began forming a realignment committee of representatives from all divisions, a year ago, to develop a plan.

For some, the call was long overdue.

"Over the past eight years there have been numerous calls for change of schools between divisions and concerns raised over growing travel distances," said Lowell athletic director, Barry Hobrta.

The concept is to align schools into tiers based on enrollment, then subdivide those tiers into divisions based on geography and competitiveness.

"There have been situations where students are taken out of school early to get to an event and arrive home after midnight due to the traveling time," said Zeeland athletic director, Stan Jesky. "Realignment will help establish rivalries between schools which are close together geographically." Thereby, reducing lengthy drive times within divisions.

Schools could be mandated, however, to schedule cross-over non-league games within their tier. So theoretically, Lowell could still be traveling to West Ottawa, Holland, Zeeland or Jenison.

The divisions would rotate years as to who would host the nonconference games.

Hobrta says the realignment concept would allow schools some flexibility to keep traditional non-conference teams on their schedule.

"If Lowell wants to use one of its nonconference football games to travel to Three Rivers, it still could," Hobrta explained.

A more likely scenario would be scheduling Lowell with

Realignment, cont'd. pg. 11

Red Arrow gymnasts place fourth at league meet

••• Holly Plattner crowned conference champion in the floor exercise.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

With their eye on Rockford, Lowell's gymnasts handed in one of their stronger performances of the year at the O-K Rainbow Conference meet Saturday in East Grand Rapids.

"We went into the meet with a legitimate shot at tying Rockford for third," said Lowell gymnastics coach, Michele DeHaan.

The Red Arrows' 135.6 push finished 1.67 points shy of the Rams' 138.175.

"It was a good score, but the girls must realize had they corrected some little things, it could have been better," DeHaan said.

Forest Hills Central won the meet, edging Holland 140.775-140.65. With the win, the Rangers and Dutch tied for first overall. Holland won the dual meet part of the season.

Following Rockford and Lowell were Kenowa Hills/

DeHaan said. "I was definitely pleased with their effort."

On the uneven bars, Plattner again led the way, this time, with a score of 8.75. She was followed by Neubecker 8.4; Dickerman 8.3; and White 8.0.

Central's Keller won the event with a score of 9.425.

Carisa Sayer led Lowell on the balance beam with a score of 8.65. White came off the beam with an 8.55 followed by Dickerman 8.2; and Plattner 8.15.

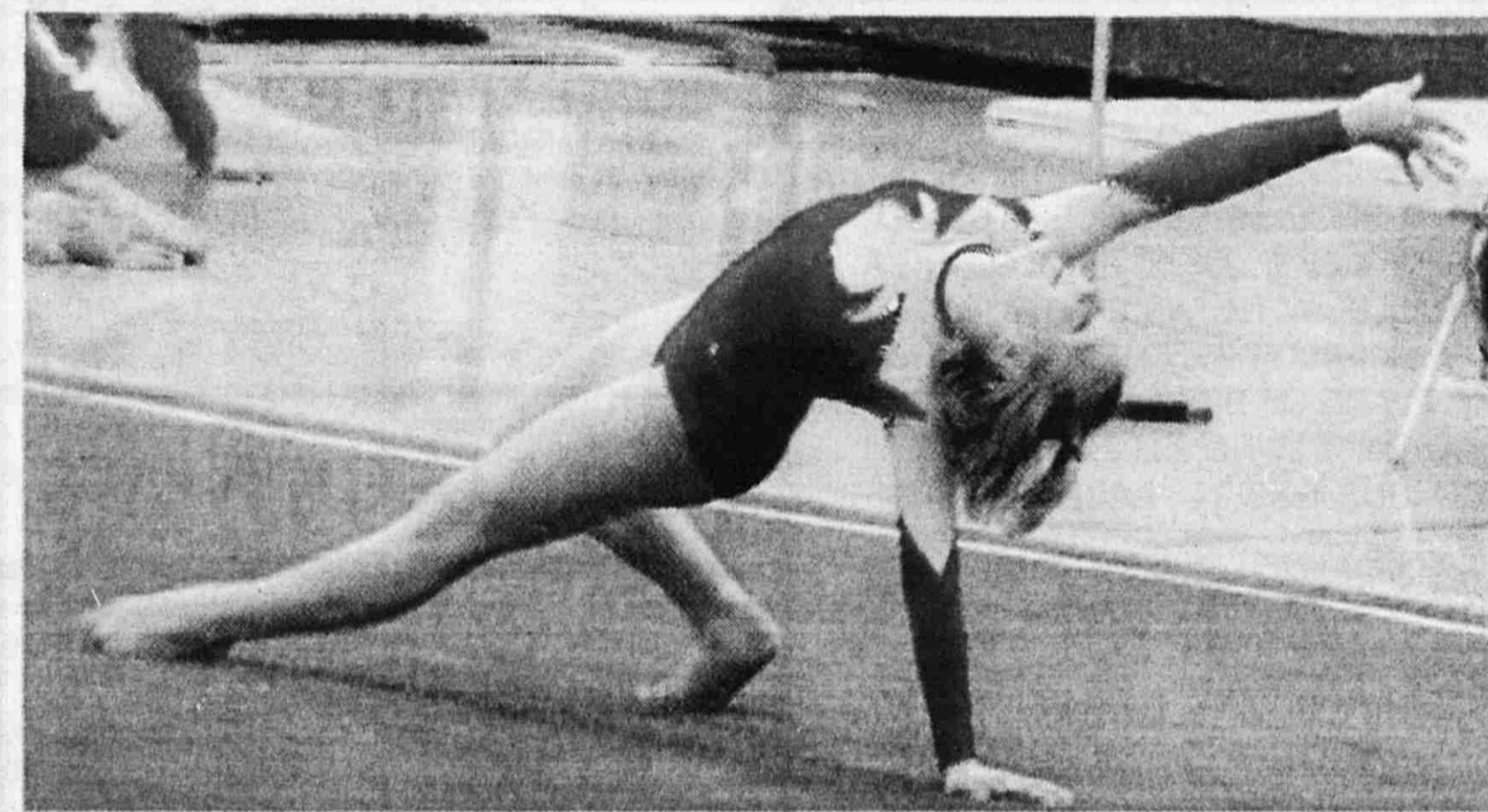
Denay Kippely, of Holland, was the balance beam conference champion with a mark of 9.425.

Lowell 136.675
Kenowa Hills 132.15

The Red Arrow girls set a team-scoring school record with their performance against the Knights.

Lowell was led by Melissa Neubecker's all-around score of 34.975.

"It was Melissa's best meet of the year," Lowell gymnas-



Holly Plattner's score of 9.35 earned top honors at Saturday's O-K Rainbow Conference meet in East Grand Rapids.

Grandville 131.4; East Kentwood 126.1; Mona Shores 125.125; East Grand Rapids 102.965.

Lowell finished the season fourth overall. They were 4-3 in league dual meets.

Holly Plattner, who placed in the top three in two of the four events, was fourth in the all-around.

Plattner was the conference champion in the floor exercise with a score of 9.35, finishing ahead of Rockford's Danielle Couturier (9.275).

Lowell's other floor scores were Krystal White 8.6; Jenna Dickerman 8.55 and Melissa Neubecker 8.35.

Plattner placed third on the vault with a mark of 9.2. Forest Hills' Lindsay Orgeck and Christy Keller tied for first with 9.4's.

"The difference was Holly wasn't able to stick either of her landings," DeHaan said.

Other Red Arrow vault scores were recorded by Neubecker 8.8; White 8.4; and Carmen Datema 8.25.

"The girls were emotionally drained following the meet."

tics coach, Michele DeHaan said. "Her beam routine ran five seconds too long, which prevented her from scoring her first-ever nine on the beam."

Balance Beam	Uneven Bars
Melissa Neubecker 8.9	Plattner 8.7
Carisa Sayer 8.3	Neubecker 8.3
Brianna Kinney 8.15	White 8.3
Krystal White 7.9	Jenna Dickerman 8.35
Vault	Floor
Holly Plattner 9.05	Neubecker 9.175
Neubecker 8.6	Plattner 9.15
White 8.3	White 8.95
Nicole Gillikin 8.0	Dickerman 8.55

Basketball, cont'd... From Page 10

has come in and given a great effort. He and the other seniors (Nick Onan and Zach Beachum) have endured a lot of frustrating losses."

Wayland 67
Lowell 59

During a two-minute span of the third quarter, Wayland "shot the lights out" as they outscored Lowell 25-15 en route to a nine-point win.

"I was happy with the way we played. We shot better than we have all year with the exception of the East game," said Lowell coach, Jeff McDonald. "There was a two-minute stretch where Wayland hit everything they threw up."

Despite the Wildcats' hot shooting, Lowell had the ball with a chance to tie late in the game but missed a layup attempt.

Sam Oberlin led the Red Arrows with 19, Landon Trierweiler added 12 and Andy McQueen tallied 10.

Wayland's Steve Siphema led all scorers with 22 points.

District Draw

Lowell opens the district against Ionia on Tuesday, March 5 at Greenville.

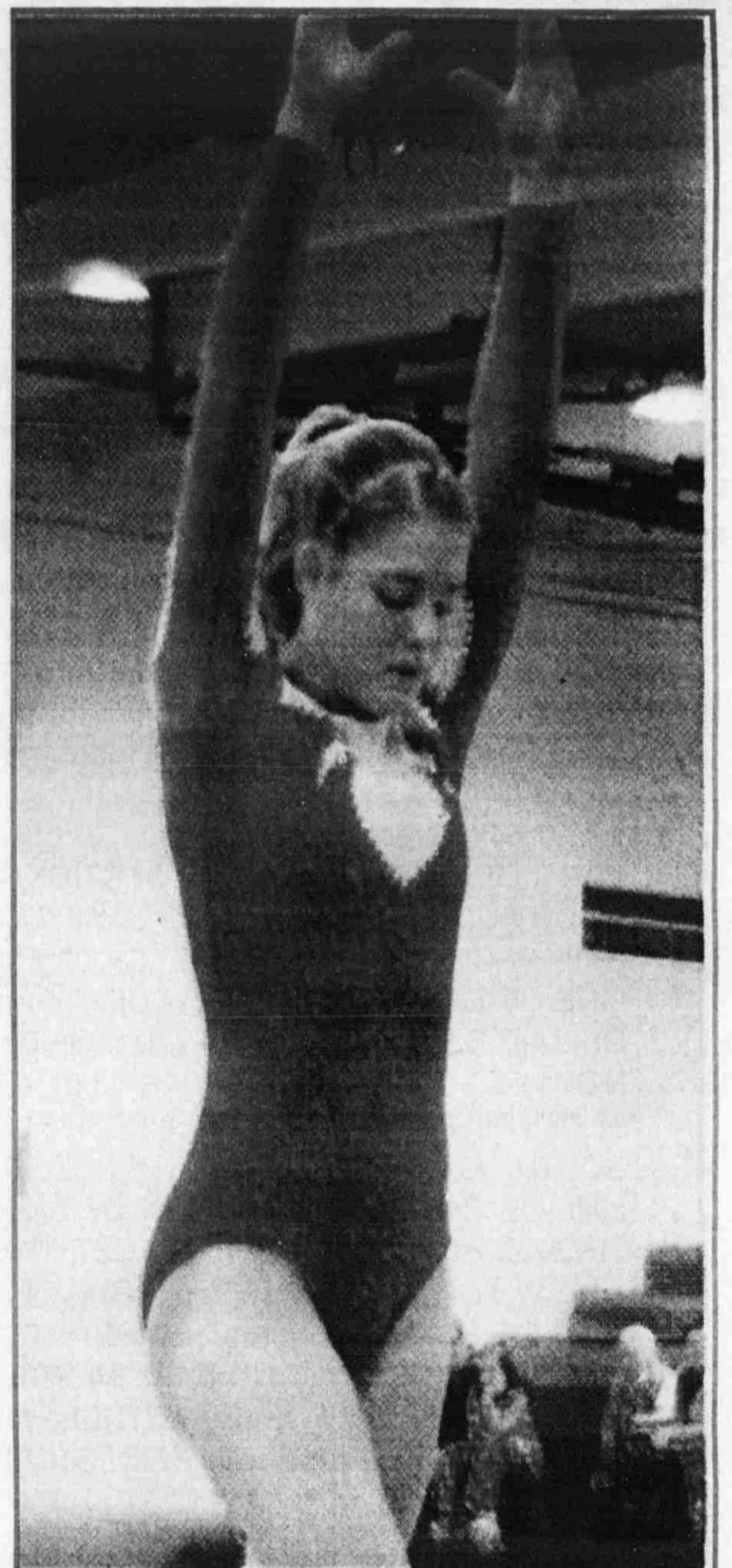
The winner will play Forest Hills Central on Thursday, March 7.

In the other half of the bracket, Greenville plays Rockford on Monday, March 4 with the winner playing Forest Hills Northern on Wednesday, March 6.

All district games are at 7 p.m.

I was happy with the way we played. We shot better than we have all year with the exception of the East game. There was a two-minute stretch where Wayland hit everything they threw up.

Jeff McDonald
Lowell Boys Basketball Coach



Krystal White had a little something to smile about after earning an 8.3 on the uneven bars.

Realignment, cont'd... From Page 10

Greenville or Ionia to fill the nonconference slot.

The proposed concept calls for reviewing the enrollments turned in to the Michigan High School Athletic Association in February of the even school years allowing for revisions to be made during the odd years.

"I don't believe there will be huge changes," Jesky explains. "It's not going to be crazy with schools moving from tier to tier. The cutoffs are set at natural breaks."

According to Jesky, Rockford and East Kentwood are the only two schools with enrollments out of wack with other schools.

Both schools have enrollments between 2,200-2,400.

"All the other larger schools are around 1,300. They are a little nervous about possibly having to play in the same division as schools almost twice their size," Jesky said. "The best thing that could happen for this realignment concept would be for Rockford and East Kentwood high schools to split."

O-K Conference Realignment positive effects on Lowell:

1. Travel time and transportation costs cut.
2. Don't have to search for outside opponents; increasing rivalries and revenues.
3. Provides opportunity for success in areas where Lowell has had little.

O-K Conference Realignment negative effects on Lowell:

1. Travel increases as well as travel costs.
 2. Compete against larger schools, making it more difficult to be competitive.
 3. Loss of traditional rivalries.
- The realignment concept goes before the school boards in March. If passed by three-quarters of the boards, the committee would then begin working on a plan for realignment.

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Council decides to leave mayoral selection process alone

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

"If it ain't broken, don't fix it" was the general consensus of the Lowell City Council Tuesday night following its debate on whether to change how the city's mayor is selected.

According to the charter, the mayor is selected from the five members on the council and then voted on by those same members. During the recent mayoral selection in January in which Jeanne Shores was voted mayor, several of the council members felt uncomfortable with the process.

Councilman, Jim Pfaller proposed, he said for the purpose of discussion, that the person receiving the most votes would serve as mayor pro tem for the first two years and then mayor the last two years of the four-year term. After review, however, the council decided it was not in favor of such a move.

"I can't agree with this," said councilman Mike Blough,

who served as mayor the previous two years. He said it equated the process of selecting the mayor to a club succession. Blough explained he would be in favor of expanding the board to seven or nine and letting the populous directly select a mayor.

"This way people could campaign for the position, give their vision and let the populous vote," Blough said.

Councilman Charles Myers said he felt a person needed to have time on the council before becoming mayor.

Myers said, "I'll be honest - in this last election I learned I can't beat a woman and I can't beat someone born and raised here, but some day I'd like to be mayor."

Being the incumbent does at times pose some heavy hurdles during an election; this could also reduce his chances of serving as mayor under the proposed system, Myers said.

Councilman Dan Brubaker said he could see some squaring off taking place against councilmembers during election

time, along with voting patterns changing to assure that a certain person be elected mayor. Another concern he had on the proposal was what would happen if a person were not able to fill their term.

Mayor Jeanne Shores felt it would at least give everyone the chance, who wanted it, to be mayor. She also pointed out that the city was not a strong mayoral government, but a city manager government.

"The mayor could be as involved as he or she wanted to be, and the council will still function and the city work will still get done," Shores said.

In the end, the council decided it would drop the issue of changing the mayor selection process for now.

City clerk, Betty Morlock said after some investigation, she discovered the city would have been able to put the change on the ballot this fall without any additional costs. Additional charges are only applied when it is a special election, she said.

"Earth & Sky" topic the focus of forum

By Kate Dernocoeur

Have you ever stopped on a cloudless night to stare at the beautiful, starry heavens? They are so incredible in the country! But our "countryside" is eroding, and the night skies are vulnerable. To hear about light pollution and how to preserve night skies, plan to come to Wittenbach Center for a free-of-charge presentation Wednesday, March 13 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

To balance the program, the topic of native plants and how to recognize and preserve them will also be addressed.

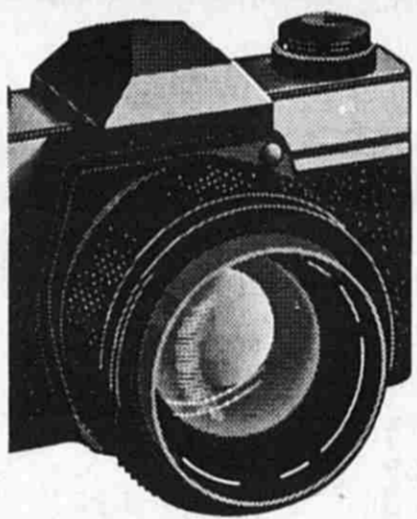
The program, hosted by the Open Space Citizen Committee of Vergennes Township, is titled "Earth & Sky," and

promises to be worth the trip. Two representatives from Veen Observatory, Ed Ketterer and Sandy Caras, will explain solutions to light pollution. Dave Warners, a professor in the science department at Calvin College, will describe native plants and how to preserve them while controlling plants that threaten native species.

The mission of the Open Space Citizen Committee of Vergennes Township is to promote protection of the township's rural character, open spaces and natural areas, while respecting property rights and enhancing property value.

For more information, contact the Vergennes Township office at 897-5671.

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



It is important that the subject's face not be shaded in order to print your photo clearly in the paper.

All group pictures should be taken WITHOUT caps, visors, etc.

Photos will no longer be accepted if faces are too dark.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOWNE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ZONING ORDINANCE TO ADD PROFESSIONAL OFFICES AS A USE ALLOWED BY RIGHT IN THE C-2 COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

Public notice is hereby given that the Bowne Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 21, 2002 at 7:30 p.m., in the Historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, Alto, Michigan, to hear public comments regarding a proposed amendment to Section 12.02 of the Zoning Ordinance to add professional offices of doctors, lawyers, architects, dentists, engineers, chiropractors, real estate, insurance, financial services and other similar professions, as a use allowed by right in the C-2 Commercial District.

The proposed amendment may be examined at the Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash, Alto, Michigan, on Wednesdays or Fridays between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Date: February 22, 2002

Sandra Kowalczyk, Clerk
Bowne Township

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public notice is hereby given that the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be conducting their regular scheduled meeting and holding public hearings on Monday March 4, 2002 at 7:00 PM at the Lowell High School Auditorium, 11700 Vergennes, Lowell Michigan 49331, to accept public comment on the following applications:

An application from Pete Faber of Ada MI has been submitted for Phase II of Carlson Farms PUD Site Condominium development located at Lally and Alden Nash in the SE quarter of section 4. This application is for the purpose of constructing a private road, final PUD and site condominium review approval and to construct one model home.

A rezoning application from Landon Holding Inc of Bloomfield Hills MI has been submitted to amend the zoning ordinance map to rezone the following described property from Rural Agriculture (R-A) to Special Residential (R-3): The property consists of about 99 acres in an L-shape with frontage on Vergennes and Alden Nash in the NW quarter of section 34. The application is for the purpose of developing the property for a manufactured home community.

The Planning Commission proposes a text amendment to the zoning ordinance for Article IV General and Special Regulations Section 201.434 to add a height exception section for church spires up to 85 feet tall.

The application for the proposed zoning map and text ordinance amendments and private road PUD application is on file at the Vergennes Township Hall and may be inspected during regular office hours between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays. Public comment will be accepted at the public hearing and written comments received by mail, in person or in the mail slot located at the office entrance will also be considered if received prior to 3:00 PM on March 4, 2002. Comments may also be emailed to zoning@vergennewtp.org.

The school suggests meeting attendees park in the west parking lot and use the west entrance to the high school auditorium.

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

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LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2002

at 7:00 p.m. at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash, S.E.

Jayne Reedy and Rick Seese have made application for a variance from Section 4.1.2 to allow for a 25' front setback where 50' is required for property located at 2575 Gasey Rose (PP #41-20-12-300-043).

Written comments should be received by Tuesday, March 5, 2002 and can be mailed to: Lowell Charter Township, Attn: Zoning Board of Appeals, 2910 Alden Nash S.E., Lowell, MI 49331.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE

BOARD OF REVIEW THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF VERGENNES TOWNSHIP WILL MEET AT THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP HALL 10381 BAILEY DRIVE LOWELL, MI, 49331

ON MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2002 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and also on TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2002 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the tax roll and hearing all claims.

You may appeal your assessed valuation one of two ways:

To appear at the Board of Review, call 897-5671 on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for an appointment to appear in person.

By letter addressed to: Vergennes Township Assessor P.O. Box 208 Lowell, MI 49331-0208

Mari Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

LEGAL EASE

By Jonathan David

DEAR JONATHAN: My wife and I split time between two states. We also own real estate in each state. Which state is considered to be our residence if we were to die? Is this something that we determine, or is the determination made based on which state we spend most of our time in, where most of our assets are located, etc.?

JONATHAN SAYS: This is a good and an important question to ask because if you have not established a clear domicile prior to death, then both states may attempt to declare that you are domiciled in their state for purposes of its tax laws. Obviously, this could have a devastating impact on you from a tax perspective.

An obvious first step to establish domicile is to acquire a physical residence. If you only had one residence, this would not be an issue. But since you have a residence in each state, then you have to look beyond the homes themselves to determine your correct place of domicile. Typically, the state where your first residence is located would be deemed to be your domicile unless it can be established that your new residence is your primary residence and that it should be deemed to be your domicile.

In order to determine domicile, you should consider taking the following steps:

1. File a declaration of domicile.
2. Maintain as much physical presence within the state of your preferred domicile as possible.
3. On any documents or forms that require you to indicate your residence, always list the residence you deem to be your domicile. These types of documents include credit cards, deeds, leases, social security applications, contracts, etc.
4. Register to vote.
5. File local tax returns.
6. If available, file a home-stead exemption in the state of domicile.
7. Execute a new will and other estate planning documents reciting the residence as your domicile.
8. Maintain your principal banking activities in your state of domicile.
9. Change your mailing address.
10. Establish church and/or religious affiliations in your state of domicile.
11. Join professional organizations.
12. Obtain a driver's license and automobile license plates in your state of domicile.

In addition to the above, you should consider doing the following in that state which is not considered to be where you are domiciled:

1. Remove your name from voter rolls.
2. Surrender your driver's license in that state.
3. Avoid carrying on business in that state.
4. Terminate any home-stead exemption available in that state.
5. Terminate and/or cancel club memberships or memberships in other professional organizations.
6. Terminate your membership in a church or synagogue which is domiciled in that state.
7. Change your mailing address.
8. Close bank accounts, brokerage accounts, etc. in that state.

I recommend that you meet with an estate planning attorney in your preferred state of domicile to review what I have discussed herein and to determine if anything else (or different) should be done to establish domicile. At the same time, you should seriously consider updating your estate planning documents under that state's laws.

Health

With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang & Kevin Miller

Smoking Cessation

The stories of agonizing attempts to quit smoking are so common that many people who do smoke think that an attempt is guaranteed to fail. Cold turkey, chewing gum, eating mints and, most recently, using patches or inhalers are common methods to quit... but quitting smoking is a multifaceted endeavor.

The process has to involve not only escaping the nicotine addiction but must also address the associated behaviors. First, to quit smoking, a person must be ready, even dedicated, for

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The Lowell Ledger-Wednesday, February 27, 2002-Page 15

any hope of success. Next, the behaviors that lead to smoking must be identified; some people smoke when they talk on the phone or drive in the car, some only smoke when they go out to restaurants. Whatever the behaviors that encourage smoking, they must be modified to lessen the chance that old habits will continue. Lastly, the addiction to nicotine must be broken. Continuing addiction by other means through patches or inhalers only serves to prolong the physical dependence.

Several years ago an antidepressant medication was found to assist breaking the physical and psychological addiction to nicotine. The medication is taken twice a day and usually maintained for three to six months. Success varies but for those committed to quitting smoking this addition to the steps described above can make the difference. The medicine must be prescribed by a physician for the purpose of quitting smoking and success monitored to judge duration of use, but success can be enhanced with this approach.

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE

The Vergennes Township Board will hold a public hearing for comment on the proposed 2002-03 budget during the March meeting of the board at 7:00 p.m. on March 11, 2002. The board meets at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI 49331.

Copies of the proposed budget are available at the Township Hall on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mari C. Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

The Lowell Area Arts Council

Thebes Players

presents

The Nerd

LARKIN'S OTHER PLACE

301 E. Main St (downtown Lowell)

PRODUCTION DATES	RESERVED SEATING
Theatre production only - tickets \$6 / \$7 Thursday, March 7 at 7:30pm	Advanced Tickets only LAAC 149 S. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-8545
Dinner and Theatre - tickets \$20 Friday, March 8 & 15 at 6:30pm Saturday, March 9 & 16 at 6:30pm Sunday, March 10 at 1:00pm	



LAAC Presents "The Nerd"

The Lowell Area Arts Council's Thebes Players will present "The Nerd" in a dinner theatre production at Larkin's Other Place. The production is scheduled for March 8, 9, 15 and 16 beginning at 6:30 p.m. and for Sunday, March 10 beginning at 1 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$20. The LAAC will also offer a performance without dinner on Thursday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for this performance are \$6 and \$7. Pictured from left to right, are: Jim Hodges, Jamie Christians, Denise Mingerink and Dean Borth.

Planning Commission questions if RV ordinance is really necessary

The Lowell Planning Commission continues to review the city's RV ordinance and is now considering even killing it.

After months of discussing and developing a Citizen's Committee, planning commission chairman, Jim Hall suggested at the Monday night planning commission meeting that perhaps it would serve the city better to just eliminate the RV ordinance all together.

"Are we putting too much burden back on the city?" Hall asked. "In the past six years, nobody really enforced it. Is it really a problem?"

Getting rid of the ordinance may be the answer. City manager, David Pasquale said the commission would have to create an amendment to abolish the current ordinance. This would include a public hearing on the matter.

But before making any decision, the planning commission decided to table the matter so members could further digest information presented by the staff on the ordinance post 1995 and items presented by commissioner, Al Mathews.

Mathews, who was on vacation in Florida, wrote a letter with a few suggestions: recreational vehicles must be stored to the rear of the front building line of the primary structure; recreational vehicles stored in residential districts must be

RV Ordinance, cont'd. pg. 18

Possibilities

You've worked hard for it. You've worked hard on it too. Now, isn't it time the land you own began working for you? To learn more about unlocking the potential in your property, please contact Jay Hobbs today at 616.676.4043

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LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE BOARD OF REVIEW

THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP WILL MEET AT THE LOWELL TOWNSHIP HALL 2910 ALDEN NASH, SE ON MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2002 between the hours of 9 a.m. - 12 Noon and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.; also on **TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2002** between the hours of 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the tax roll and hearing all claims. You may appeal your assessed valuation one of two ways:

- 1) By letter addressed to the Lowell Charter Township Supervisor and received by him prior to March 11, 2002; or
- 2) By phoning the Township Hall (897-7600) for an appointment to appear in person.

The tentative Real Property assessment ratio and assessment multiplier required by P.A. 165 of 1971 are
Ratio - 50% Multiplier - 1.00

Linda S. Regan, Clerk
Lowell Charter Township

SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD

February 18, 2002 - 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of the January 21, 2002 Regular Meeting Accepted as Read
Motions Approved:

- Motion to approve 2002 Road Commission work orders for minor construction and Burroughs Road paving
- Motion to award lawn care contracts to Rake, Inc. for township hall, and to Luscious Landscapes for township cemeteries for a two year period
- Motion to approve Community Development/North Kent Transit service contract for 2002
- Motion to approve Ordinance 2002-2, amending Commercial District Language
- Motion to request Planning Commission to evaluate 50' rear setback requirement in R2 and R3
- Motion to Adjourn at 8:05 PM. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting March 11, 2002

Complete minutes are available on the township web site at www.vergennestwp.org, or at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell.

Mari Stone,
Vergennes Township Clerk

TOWNSHIP OF GRATTA

COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the Township of Grattan will hold a public hearing on March 6, 2002 at 7:00 p.m., at the Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Road, within the Township, concerning the application of Michael and Lisa Passero for a special land use so as to permit an outdoor recreational use and facilities consisting of a horse stable and horse riding arena to be available in part for public use for handicapped and therapeutic riding and related purposes, together with accessory uses, including off-street parking area, proposed for lands located generally at 7763 Lessiter Avenue, and legally described as follows:

The South 1450.2 feet of the West 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4; Government Lot 5 and also the South 130 feet of Government Lot 3, all in Section 4, Town 8 North, Range 9 West, Grattan Township, Kent County, Michigan.

All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment upon the requested special land use. Written comments may be submitted to the Township office, 12050 Old Belding Road, Belding, Michigan 48809, up to the time of the public hearing.

Date: February 22, 2002

PLANNING COMMISSION
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GRATTA

Financial Focus

Edward Jones
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With Christopher C. Godbold

When Rates Fall, Evaluate Fixed Income Investments

If you own a business and need to take out loans, you've probably been happy to see interest rates fall, as they've done for the past couple of years. And the same is true if you've applied for a mortgage or refinanced your home. But if you're an investor, the story is a bit more complex.

If you bought a bond a few years ago, then you shouldn't be sorry that rates have fallen. That's because, all things being equal, the value of your bond has risen; it's worth more to investors because it offers a higher interest rate than what's currently available on the market. So, if you were to sell your bond on the secondary market, you would typically be able to receive a price that's higher than the face value.

On the other hand, if you happen to invest in mortgage-based securities - such as those issued by Ginnie Mae (the Government National Mortgage Association) or Fannie Mae (the Federal National Mortgage Association) - you may be looking at a slightly different picture. When interest rates drop and many people refinance their mortgages, investments based on those mortgages will reflect the rates at which new loans are made. Therefore, you are more likely to receive some of your principal back sooner than expected, which may improve your return but reduce the potential for price appreciation. Of course, this is a major reason why these types of securities generally pay higher interest rates than treasury bonds.

Thus far, we've looked at fixed-income investments that you may already own. But what if you want to buy one now? If you'd like to supplement your current income with interest payments from a bond, today's lower rates are not particularly welcome news. However, bonds still provide good income in the form of regular interest payments, and you can expect high-quality bonds to repay their principal at maturity. In addition, bonds can help you diversify your portfolio - and diversification is always a key to long-term investment success.

Still, there are steps you can take to help control your income, even in a low-rate environment. For example, when purchasing a bond, you may want to get one with a longer maturity (more than 10 years). Usually - but not always - longer-term bonds pay higher rates than shorter-term ones. However, you'll have to keep in mind that longer-term bonds carry a greater interest-rate risk - the possibility that rising rates will reduce the value of your bond.

Ultimately, you'll want to look at your entire fixed-income portfolio from time to time to see if it still meets your long-term objectives. You may want to make some adjustments, depending on your need for income and your overall portfolio diversification. Before you make any drastic changes, though, remember that you're investing for the long term - and you should not make wholesale changes based on short-term interest rate predictions or market movements.

JV ickers skate past West Ottawa

The Red Arrow Junior Varsity hockey team got back on the winning track this weekend with an 8-5 victory over West Ottawa.

Corey Kelly was the dominant force for the Lowell/Caledonia cooperative team with 6 of the Red Arrows' goals. Assisting Kelly were Brandon John (4), Andy Smith, Jeff Moore and Ted McCoy. McCoy and Pat McMahon each added goals to round out the offensive effort for the Red Arrows.

With a record of 11-5-3, the Red Arrows are now one point behind the league-leading Muskegon Crusaders with three games remaining in the regular season.

The JV Red Arrows will take on Kenowa Hills at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 28 at Walker Arena; Okemos at 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 2 at Kentwood and Forest Hills Northern on Sunday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m. at Standard Federal Ice Center.

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If I can help you, or a friend or associate, find or sell a home, land or investment property, please call me at 949-6980 extension 27, 1-800-800-3915 extension 27 or my mobile at 460-6634. I welcome the opportunity to help you.

Thank you in advance,
Peter Smith

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Council sides with residents; turns down rezoning request

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

A resounding cheer of appreciation and applause came only seconds after the Lowell City Council voted to leave a piece of property on the east side of the city as suburban residential.

Sundry Development Consulting had approached the city seeking a rezoning of the property at 751 Grindle for greater density, but after review, the Lowell Planning Commission decided to expand the rezoning request to the area between High, James, Grindle and Fun streets and the city's east border.

Sundry was hoping the rezoning would be changed from suburban residential, which requires 35,000 square foot lots with 1,500 square foot homes to R-2, which requires 8,200 square feet of land with 1,000 square foot homes. The planning commission voted against such a proposal at its January meeting, recommending instead that the land be rezoned to R-1, which allowed for 9,750 square feet of land and 1,500 square foot homes.

Just like the January planning commission meeting, several residents from the area came out in opposition to the rezoning, citing traffic concerns on Grindle, storm water runoff, and wetlands.

"Oftentimes, I come to

these meetings and hear of homeowners who didn't do their homework," said Dan DesJarden, who lives at 1155 E. Main St. and serves as the city's director of Public Works. DesJarden said he did his homework and when he was considering purchasing his property, he knew the area was suburban residential and expected the property around would be developed that way.

DesJarden also presented the city council with information on what would need to be done to the roads in that area to accommodate the traffic; he estimated approximately a million dollars of work - not including utilities and sidewalks.

In the end, the council agreed with the residents, stating that without a concrete plan in hand as to how the property was going to be developed, they could not just rezone the land.

"There are a lot of issues that I'm not sure are feasible for this type of plan," said councilman, Dan Brubaker. "Without something definite in front of me, I don't think I can vote for this."

Brubaker's concerns centered on the number of homes that could be built if the property were rezoned. In R-1, it would be 116 homes; in R-2, 138 homes, as calculated by councilman, Jim Pfaller. Left as is, only 32 homes could be built.

"After having walked the property, there is a lot of land that is not developable," said mayor, Jeanne Shores, as well as several of the councilmembers, residents and Sundry representatives who walked the property in question. Shores said her other concern was the traffic on Grindle which would happen no matter what the developer tried to do to prevent it.

Councilman, Charles Myers, who lives near the corner of Main and James streets, said he wasn't certain the money generated for the new project, approximately \$67,000 in taxes for the city according to the developer, would be enough to help with the road work needed.

Impact on the land and traffic were also reasons councilman, Mike Blough said he could not support rezoning the property. He pointed out, however, the city is "once again struggling with this property."

Several councilmembers said they might be interested in a planned unit development (PUD) if proposed. At one time the area did have a PUD presented for it, which took about a year and a half to put together.

Howard Acheson, whose mother-in-law owned the property and has been trying to sell it for several years, expressed his frustration in working out a way to sell the

property and settle the estate. "When I was here last time, you suggested I have a developer look at it developing the area," Acheson said, adding that he feels he has done everything the city has asked.

Brubaker commented that while he too likes the aesthetics of keeping the land the way it is, there are property rights allowing an owner to develop land. All the councilmembers said they realized the property would

eventually be developed. Many of the residents said they too realized that, but would like it if the land were developed according to the rules they were required to follow.

RV Ordinance, cont'd... From Page 16

maintained and kept in good repair; recreational vehicles that are licensed and in good repair may be parked in driveways as long as they do not interfere with the sight line of the roadway they front; and recreational vehicles may be used for secondary housing for one 7-day period every six months.

These suggestions follow along the lines of what the Citizen's Committee put together. Dwain Scheller, who

was on the Citizen's Committee, said he liked it when things were kept simple. He felt residents should not be charged a fee to park a recreational vehicle on their property.

"It's my property, I already pay taxes, I don't need to pay a fee," Scheller said.

The committee's proposal stated that recreational vehicles would not be parked in the front yard; only one recreational vehicle would be

allowed per lot or parcel; recreational vehicles out of season would be parked in an enclosed building or the rear yard; and the vehicles would be owned, leased, or rented by the property owners.

Hall asked commissioners to prepare their thoughts on what has been presented so they could review all of it at the commission's next meeting, scheduled for March 25.

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NOT A SPECIALIST

Lowell Township saves money with accounting software switch

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Instead of upgrading its accounting software program, Lowell Charter Township will switch to a new windows-based program.

It will cost less than half the amount originally budgeted to upgrade the old software program and hardware.

The program was recommended by its neighbor to the north, Vergennes Township. Lowell Township which budgeted \$25,000 and hasn't spent \$10,000, has a new program and four new Dell computers to show for it.

Three of the township's

old computers will be donated locally. Linda Regan, Lowell Township clerk, said Fund Balance, the software program the township had been using, would have cost \$23,000 to upgrade. Our

Town took care of the township needs for substantially less.

Through the three-month transition, the township is running both sets of books through Fund Balance and Our Town.

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It's Time To Think About Spring Cleaning!

CLASSIFIED

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QUEEN PLYUSH PILLOWTOP - floor display, mattress set, \$250. Still in plastic. Also full & king. F/O cherry sleigh bed, \$300; F/O Canopy bed, \$100; frames \$45; assorted head/foot boards. All new. 682-4767/293-7430.

FOR SALE - Female German Shepherd, 8 months old, has had all shots. Great with kids. Asking \$200; Large dog cage, asking \$50. Call 897-2611.

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KING LOG BED - Amish, cedar post, mattress set (in plastic, never used). Paid \$1,200, sacrifice \$195. Call 517-626-7089.

'85 FORD 300 - 6 cyl. \$100 obo. Must sell. '89 Ford, 4 wheel drive, tranny, \$75. Must sell. Call 897-2118.

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FOR SALE - 10086 French Dr. Lowell Schools, 2 1/2 acres, only 3 yrs. old. 3 bedroom+, 1 1/2 baths, 2,100 sq. ft. w/ pool & deck. Slider to deck & cathedral ceilings. 5 miles to schools & town. \$155,000. By owner: Mike or Lori 897-7770.

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WOODY'S VACS FOR SALE - Used vacs, \$45 & up. Call 897-7585.

TIRES - 31x265 Wild Cat, brand new, 80% tread, only ran 1 summer on Chevy rims, \$200; 35x17 1/2 Mickey Thompson's on polished aluminum rims, brand new, \$900. Call 897-6081 or 897-2178.

1990 POLARIS INDY TRAIL 500 SNOWMOBILE - excellent shape; also '98 Triton XL trailer, wishbone tongue, \$1600/both obo. Call 897-4318.

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WANTED - Old farm tractors, running or parts. Call 481-7937.

WANTED - Old folk guitar, Gibson, Martin, etc. 897-9624.

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LOST

LOST - Small female tiger kitten, she had on a purple collar. Lincoln Lake/Foreman Rd area. Call 633-7430.

\$100 REWARD - Man's watch, gold color, older style, metal clasp watch band. Lost Sat., Feb. 23, possibly at Ada-Lowell 5 or Hunan Garden. Sentimental Value! 897-9932.

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SALES

GIANT USED BOOK SALE - Sat. March 2. Many older editions, 7 A.M. - 3 P.M. Freeport Community Center.

ARTS & CRAFTS SALE - Fri. & Sat., March 1 & 2. American Girl/Angelina Ballerina style clothes, gemstone jewelry, junk, jean vests & more. Centerpointe Mall (formerly Eastbrook), 28th & E. Beltline. Fall sale, Oct. 25 & 26. 616-457-4372.

IT'S IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

EXTRA!!! The Lowell Ledger EXTRA!!!
IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM - In loving memory of my husband, father and grandfather Lynn Gardner who passed away seventeen years ago March 1, 1985. Always loved & remembered. Margaret L. Gardner & family.

EXTRA!!! The Lowell Ledger EXTRA!!!
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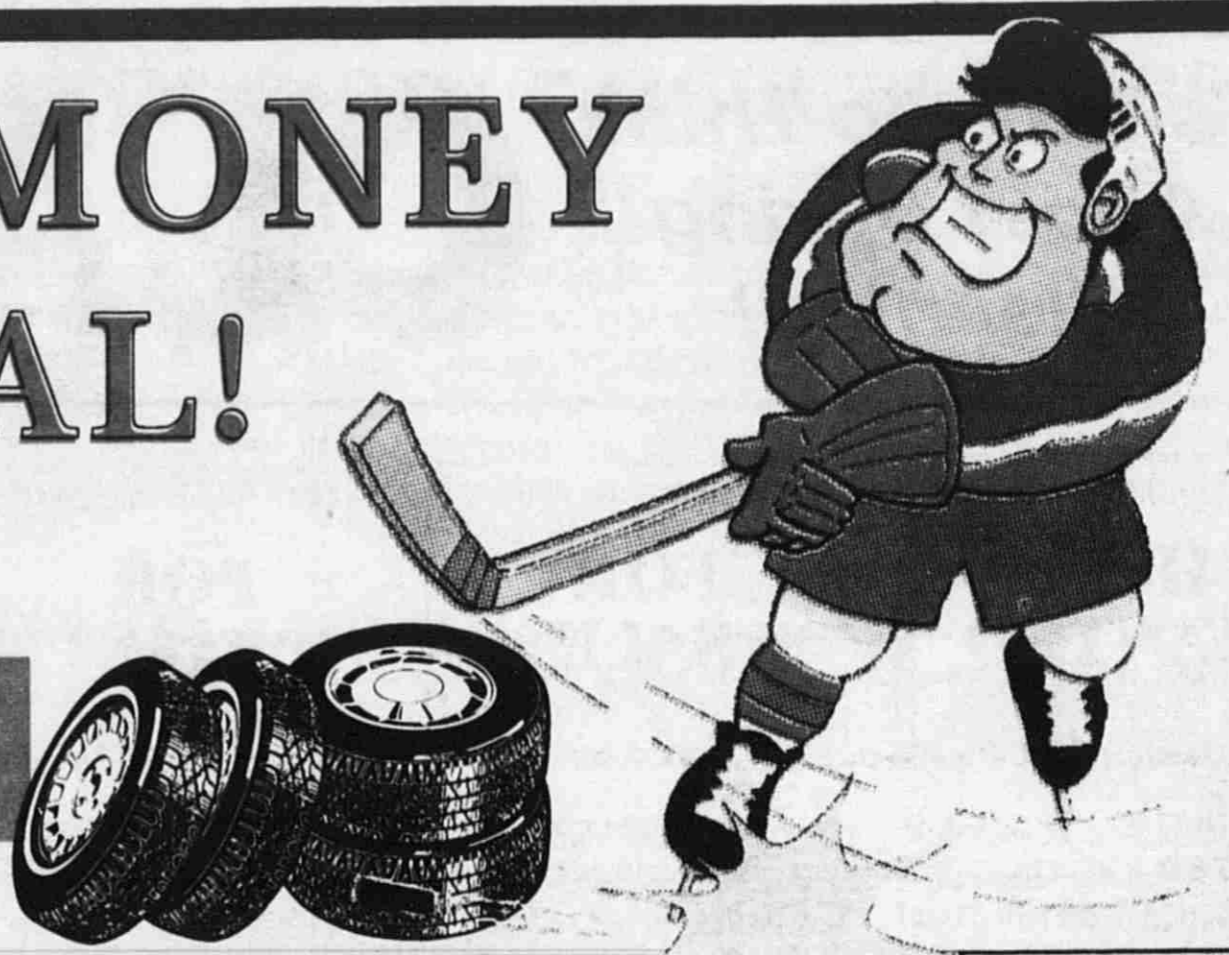
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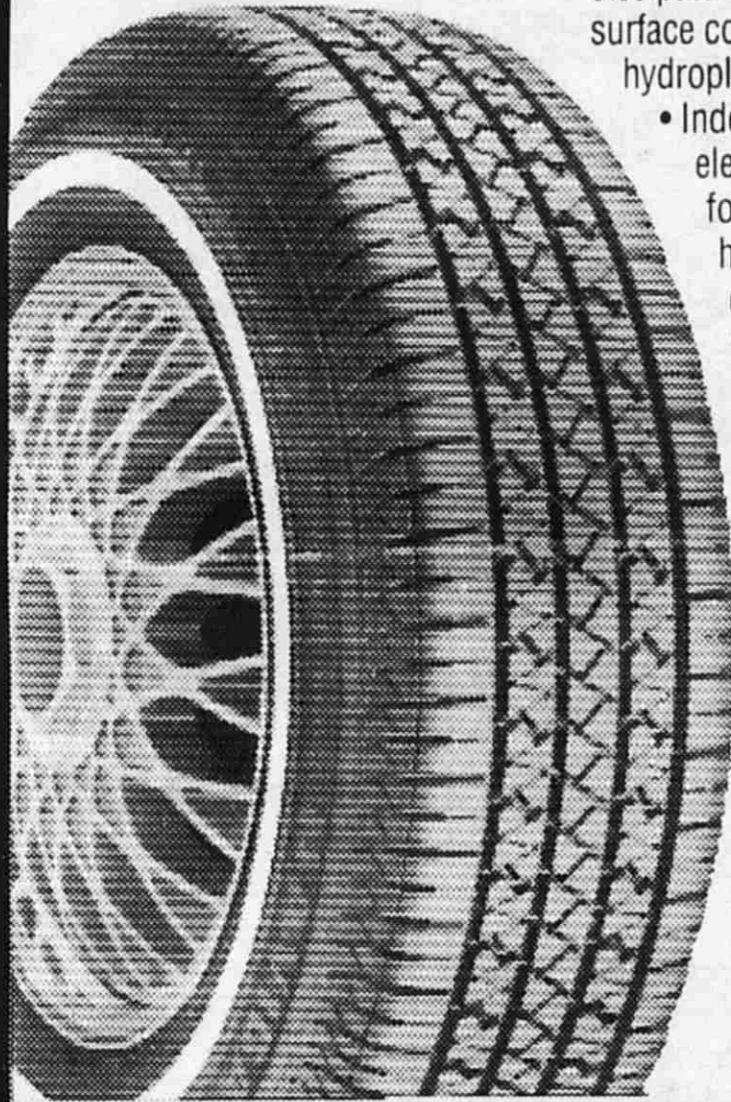
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- "S" speed-rated* for a blend of handling and ride comfort
- Circumferential grooves help dissipate water for improved surface contact and reduced hydroplaning
- Independently isolated tread elements are interlocked for superb traction and handling in wet and dry conditions
- Optimized rubber distribution combined with alternating shoulder slots offers smooth, quiet control

* Kelly-Springfield does not recommend use of any of its products in excess of legal speed limits.

P155/80R13 79S.....	\$49.70
P205/75R14 95S.....	\$64.45
P175/70R13 82S.....	\$53.82
P175/70R14 84S.....	\$53.60
P215/70R15 97S.....	\$69.35
P175/65R14 81S.....	\$54.65
P205/65R15 92S.....	\$63.72
P215/65R14 91S.....	\$68.88
P215/60R14 94S.....	\$80.55
P225/60R15 97S.....	\$83.36



KELLY TIRES

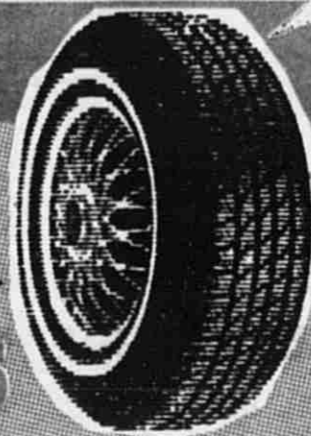
EXPLORER

ALL SEASON STEEL BELTED RADIAL

\$34²⁵

P165/80R13

- 40,000 mile limited warranty by Kelly
- Isolated tread elements, full-slotting and blading provide superior all-season traction
- Two steel belts stabilize tread for good handling and grip



P175/80R13.....	\$35.25
P185/80R13.....	\$37.25
P185/75R14.....	\$38.25
P195/75R14.....	\$41.25
P205/75R14.....	\$43.25
P205/75R15.....	\$45.25
P215/75R15.....	\$47.25
P225/75R15.....	\$49.25
P235/75R15.....	\$50.25

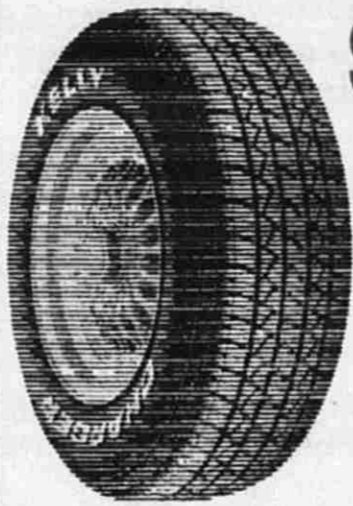
KELLY TIRES

CHARGER SR 60 SERIES PERFORMANCE STEEL-BELTED RADIAL

\$61¹⁷
P205/60R13 86S

- 50,000 mile limited warranty by Kelly
- "S" speed rated for sustained speeds up to 112 mph*
- Low profile, wide tread and straighter sidewalls for more responsive handling

* Kelly-Springfield does not recommend use of any of its products in excess of legal speed limits.



RAISED WHITE LETTERS

P215/60R14 91S.....	\$63.40
P225/60R14 94S.....	\$66.63
P235/60R14 96S.....	\$70.27
P245/60R14 98S.....	\$75.84
P235/60R15 98S.....	\$72.00
P245/60R15 100S.....	\$75.24
P255/60R15 102S.....	\$79.60
P275/60R15 107S.....	\$85.72
BLACKWALL	
P185/60R14 82S.....	\$55.30
P195/60R14 85S.....	\$55.67
P195/60R15 87S.....	\$57.90
P205/60R15 90S.....	\$59.64
P215/60R15 93S.....	\$62.99
P225/60R15 95S.....	\$64.68
P215/60R16 94S.....	\$74.27
P225/60R16 97S.....	\$78.01

KELLY TIRES

Safari AWR PREMIUM ALL-TERRAIN STEEL-BELTED LIGHT TRUCK RADIAL

\$68⁹⁴ P205

P215.....	\$72.64
P225.....	\$76.39
P235.....	\$80.02
P26515.....	\$83.75
LT215.....	\$96.83
P22516.....	\$77.20
P24516.....	\$79.16
LT23515.....	\$97.76
P22516.....	\$71.80
LT22516.....	\$99.72



- 40,000 mile limited warranty
- Unique tread block elements deliver all-terrain, all-weather traction

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