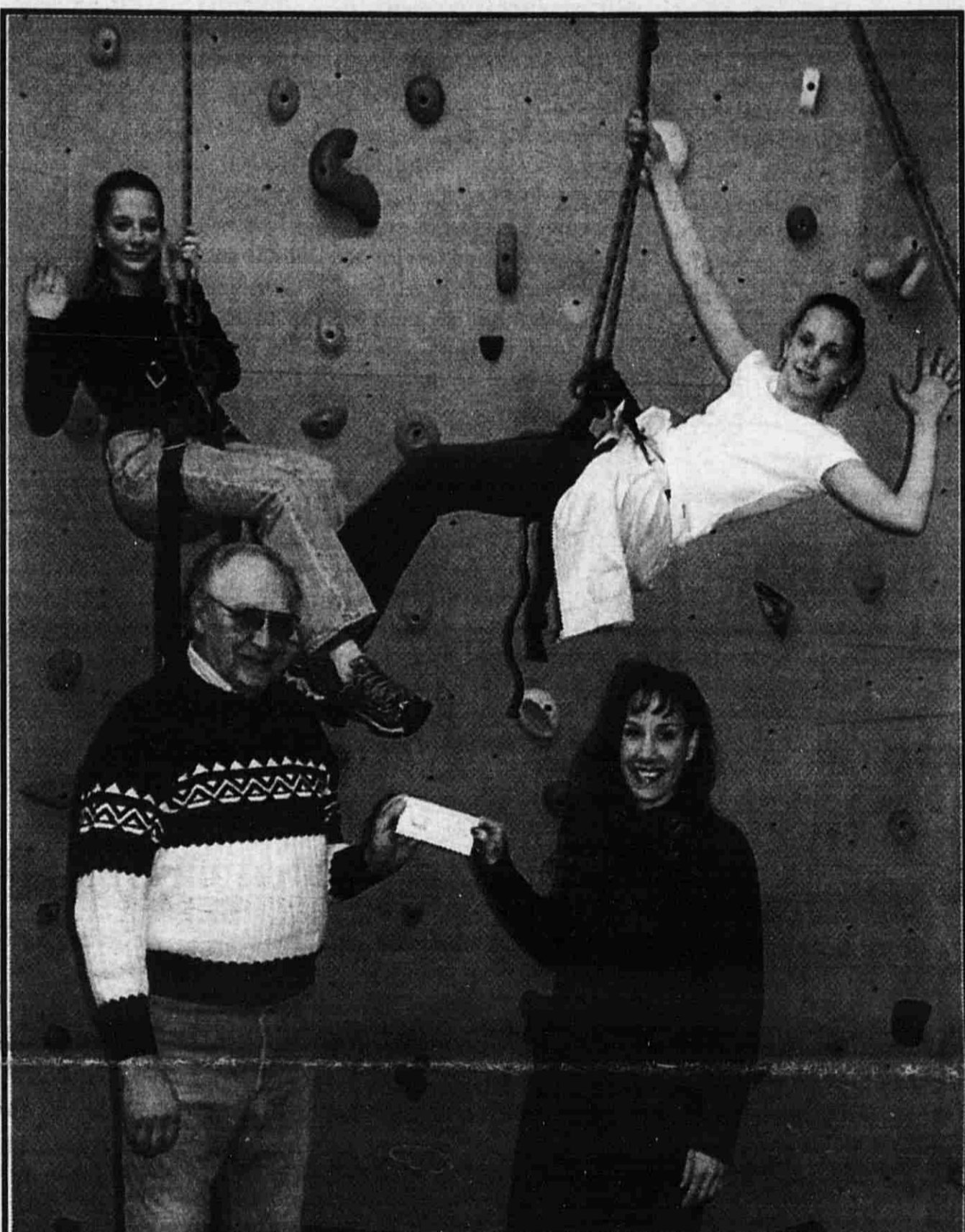


# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 26

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, March 27, 2002



## FUND TOTAL KEEPS CLIMBING

William Wood, Worshipful Master of Lowell Lodge #90 Free & Accepted Masons, presents a check for \$1,500 to YMCA's Marta Rozema, membership director, toward the YMCA's Invest In Youth program. Hoisted in the back, left to right, are wall climbers, Alyssa Speck and Paige Senters. Last year, Lowell's Invest In Youth program raised roughly \$48,000. This year's goal is \$55,000.

## Sundry's second attempt met with a cool reception from planning commission

By J.N. Boorsma  
Contributing Writer

A developer left frustrated from the Monday night Lowell Planning Commission meeting when the commission did not give him a thumbs up for a proposed development at 751 Grindle.

Sundry Development approached the planning commission with what its development, now called Highland Hills, would like if done under the current zoning (suburban residential) as compared to what it would like if granted an R1 zoning and allowed to put in cluster homes.

Under the suburban residential, Les Cole, representing the developer, said his company would only be able to develop about 39 homes, making it cost prohibitive for them to put in the water/sewer lines. Instead, the company would have to pretty much level the area to accommodate septic fields and drainage issues, he said.

Under the company's proposed plan, which would allow for 74 homes, however, the group would be able to maintain most of the natural beauty of the land, about 50 percent, while providing a play area for the residents' children in that community. Also, Cole said the roads would be narrower which would help with drainage and reduce speed, and would remain private. The company also proposed, per current residents wishes, not to have a second egress on Grindle Street.

However, the proposed plan, which did not meet the idea of what commissioners thought of as cluster housing, received a

less than enthusiastic response with questions about lot sizes and the second entrance. "We have another plan before us that looks like a subdivision," said chair, Jim Hall. "Do we want to consider it as suburban residential or something other than suburban residential for that property?"

The planning commission was uncertain with how to proceed on the matter and decided to table the issue; commissioners, Clark Jahnke, Al Mathews, and Elizabeth "B.J." Thompson voted against the table.

"I think it was interesting that with 39 houses, they had to level the lot," Thompson said during commissioner comments. "But with 74 houses, they could keep all the green space."

City manager, David Pasquale said both the suburban residential proposal and Sundry's 74-house proposal looked like a subdivision and would fall under the state's subdivision act. However, Sundry representatives said they were going to go under the site condominium act, which Pasquale said he would have to look at since the city has never had such a proposal. He believes even under the site condominium act, the developers would have to come before the planning commission for a review. Pasquale said the city can also require the developer to provide utility hook-up on either plan as well.

The planning commission will review Sundry's request on both proposals at its next meeting, April 29.

## Planning commission leaves everything as is with RV Ordinance

By J.N. Boorsma  
Contributing Writer

After five months of debate, the Lowell Planning Commission has decided not to change its current ordinance regarding the parking of recreational vehicles.

The issue came to a head several months ago when the city hired a zoning enforcement officer who, in turn, enforced the ordinance which did not allow recreational vehicles to be stored in homeowners' driveways. Several residents came to the planning commission and city council meetings in protest of the ordinance.

"They said they didn't know about it," said Lowell Planning Commission chair, Jim Hall, adding that ignorance is not an excuse.

The proposed ordinance, put together by commissioner, Deb Hinton, however, received a cool reception with

several of the commissioners saying they felt it was too restrictive.

"How many complaints have we received since we started working on this?" asked commissioner, John VanderWilp. City clerk, Betty Morlock said she has not received any call-in complaints.

Commissioner, Clark Jahnke said he believed the city was trying to create an ordinance that was enforceable, but within reason.

"We know that what we have, from last year, is not practical," Jahnke said.

It appeared to be more practical, however, than the proposed alternative which only allowed for one recreational vehicle such as a motorhome, boat or quad to be parked in a driveway. It also defined dates as to when summer and winter vehicles would be permitted in front of a home.

Ordinance, cont'd pg. 10

## Initiative paves path for career focus

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

Needed: A system that creates well-marked "paths" of sequenced courses which provides both focus and direction to a student's learning experience.

Career Pathways connects students to post-secondary education and the world of work as well as prepare them for a goal-oriented future. It puts purpose to their learning.

Career Pathways used by Lowell Area Schools and recognized by the state are: arts and communication; business, management, marketing and technology; engineering/manufacturing and industrial technology; health sciences; human services and

natural resources and agriscience.

"Career Pathways was put in the Lowell curriculum three years ago," said Lowell High School counselor, Barb Pierce. "Lowell was one of the first schools in Kent County to provide a career pathway focus."

When the state board of education adopted the initiative three years ago, not all schools jumped aboard on a program that brings counselors, staff and the business community together to consistently and continuously work simultaneously to look at a student's ability and skills in terms of a career. Venues used to help facilitate this include job shadowing and mentorship.

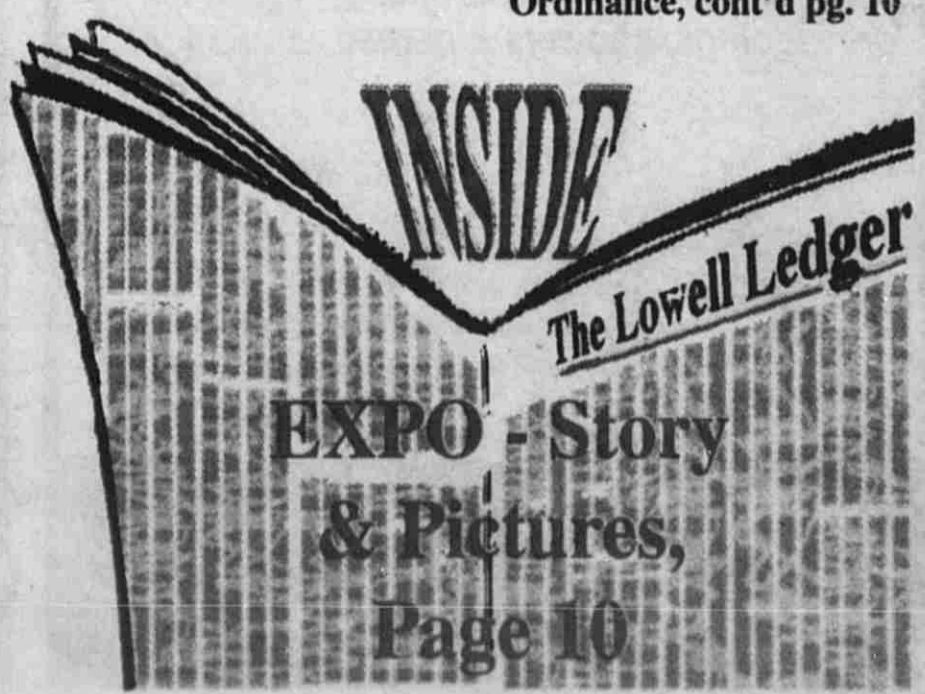
At the elementary level, the Career Pathways initiative

will be tied-in with discussion of careers in their units and field trips.

Elementary students will also be introduced to work-based skills: effective communicator, problem-solver, information user, appreciator of differences, dependable worker, team worker and conflict resolver.

At the middle school level, teachers will tie-in the discussion of careers in their classes; students will continue to develop work-based skills; receive career awareness opportunities based around individual strengths and interests and the Chapter 6 Pathways; eighth-graders will begin an educational development plan as part of high school orientation.

Career, cont'd. pg. 8



# OBITUARIES

**HOWLAND** - Mrs. Helen Wrubleski of Grand Rapids, passed away at Brookcrest Nursing Home on Thursday morning, March 21, 2002. She was preceded in death by her husband Clarence Howland in 1981. She is survived by her children Thomas (Carol) Howland of GA, Raymond (Gloria) Howland of Walker, MI, Edward (Jan) Howland of Wyoming, MI, John (Deb) Howland of Grand Rapids, David (Sharon) Howland of Sparta, Mary Whitcomb of Grand Rapids; 17 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson; her sister Mrs. Agnes Bunn of Fla.; her brother-in-law and sisters-in-law Robert and Elaine

(DeWaine) Strouse, Joann (Dick) Strouse, Donna (Butch) Welton, Dianne Wissman, Sandy (Larry) VanLoo and Fred (Carol) Wissman; 21 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; a sister-in-law Mable Strand; nieces and nephews in Sweden. Coming to America in 1929, he lived in Lowell for the past 59 years. Funeral Services were held Monday at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home with Rev. Gary Heim of the Blythefield Baptist Church officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice or the charity of one's choice.



1947, she graduated from Lowell High School and later went on to attend Western Michigan University and a secretarial school in California. Shirley and her siblings Barb (Curtis) and Tom (Richard) all worked in the cafe until it was sold in 1945. In the early 1950's, she was a Lowell telephone operator in the building that now is the home of the Lowell Antique Mall. In 1953, she married Frank C. Smith who co-owned Smith and Clemenz Used Car

Dealership for 25 years. In the late 60's and early 70's, she gave it, her family will remember her most for her sense of humor, love of education, gardening, her dogs, and over 20 years of dedication to her aging mother. Most of all she will be remembered for the wonderful mother, grandmother, sister and aunt that she was. Shirley is survived by her children Tom (Pat) Smith of Lowell, Gerry Smith of Lowell, Mark (Jill) Smith of Grand Rapids, Tonia (John) North of IN; grandchildren Travis Smith, Bonnie (Steve) Closson, Connie (Brian) Musser, JP, Jacob and Mackenzie North, Landon and Logan Smith. She is also survived by her brother Tom Richmond of CA, and sister Barbara Curtis of Lowell and Florida. Funeral services were held at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home with Rev. Gordie Barry of the First United Methodist Church officiating. Her brother Tom and daughter Tonia gave eulogies. Interment was at Oakwood Cemetery. Because of her love and dedication to Lowell's history, the family asks that any memorial contributions be made to the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

While the community may remember her for the years she gave it, her family will remember her most for her sense of humor, love of education, gardening, her dogs, and over 20 years of dedication to her aging mother. Most of all she will be remembered for the wonderful mother, grandmother, sister and aunt that she was. Shirley is survived by her children Tom (Pat) Smith of Lowell, Gerry Smith of Lowell, Mark (Jill) Smith of Grand Rapids, Tonia (John) North of IN; grandchildren Travis Smith, Bonnie (Steve) Closson, Connie (Brian) Musser, JP, Jacob and Mackenzie North, Landon and Logan Smith. She is also survived by her brother Tom Richmond of CA, and sister Barbara Curtis of Lowell and Florida. Funeral services were held at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home with Rev. Gordie Barry of the First United Methodist Church officiating. Her brother Tom and daughter Tonia gave eulogies. Interment was at Oakwood Cemetery. Because of her love and dedication to Lowell's history, the family asks that any memorial contributions be made to the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

**SMITH** - On March 11, family and friends laid to rest longtime Lowell resident, Shirley Richmond Smith. Shirley was born on April 28, 1920, to Theron and Ruth Richmond who owned and operated Richmond's Cafe in the building which now houses Larkin's Saloon. In

*There is more to life than increasing its speed.*  
**Mahatma Gandhi**

## The Lowell Ledger (USPS 453-830)

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**THURSDAY RECYCLING PICKUP**  
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**VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**  
The residents of Vergennes Township will hold an Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 30, 2002, at 1:00 p.m. There will be opportunity for residents to comment on any issue regarding the state of the township. The 2002-03 budget will also be reviewed.  
The Annual Meeting will be held at the township offices located at the intersection of Bailey Drive and Parnell Road, address of 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI 49331.  
Mari C. Stone  
Vergennes Township Clerk

**SYNOPSIS GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING GRATTAN TOWNSHIP HALL March 11, 2002**  
MOTIONS APPROVED:  
• Motion to approve the agenda  
• Motion to approve Consent Agenda  
• Motion to approve February 11, 2002 minutes  
• Motion to approve February 18, 2002 minutes  
• Motion to approve February 25, 2002 minutes  
• Motion to approve clerks report - budget amendments, checks and payroll  
• Motion to close the public hearing  
• Motion to approve the resolution denying the Landon rezoning request for a manufactured housing community district on 200 acres near M-44 and Tiffany Avenue.  
• Motion to approve Sewer Ordinance Amendment resolution  
• Motion to continue lawn care with Royal Lawn Care without fertilizer and weed control  
• Motion to approve the new contracted rate per ride for the North Kent Transit  
• Motion to go into a closed session to discuss legal issues.  
• Motion to reconvene  
• Motion to adjourn  
• Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted by  
Gloria Burns, recording secretary

# APRIL

## Lowell Community Calendar 2002

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	KEY													
	LAS SPRING BREAK 1 KDL (Aho): Family Storytime, 6&<. 10:30AM (All Grow'n Up) KDL (Aho): Millions of Cats: Fun cat crafts! All ages. 11:00AM KDL (Lwi): Spring Family Storytime, Ages 3-6 1:30PM (Frogs)	LAS SPRING BREAK 2 KDL (Lwi): Yoko's Springtime Celebration. Japanese origami & food. All ages. 6:30PM	LAS SPRING BREAK 3 KDL (Aho): Family Storytime, 6&<. 1:30AM (All Grow'n Up) KDL (Aho): Kitten Shower. All ages. 4:00PM	LAS SPRING BREAK 4 KDL (Lwi): Spring Family Storytime, (Frogs) Ages 3-6. 10:30AM	LAS SPRING BREAK 5	KDL (Lwi): Kitten Shower. You bring a gift: food, collar, etc. Cat stories & games. All ages. 1:00PM WWC: Girl Scout Outdoor Adventurer Badge \$2.00 Pre-register, min. 10 scouts LAAC: Artist Gary Eldridge, "A Fork in the Road" exhibition opening. 6:30 PM	6 KDL (Aho): Super Science Saturday Ages 6&>. 10:00 AM WWC: Trout Unlimited Junior! Flyfishing & fishing. 9-2:00PM. Ages 12-18 Pre-registration req. Free! WWC: Survival Skills! 2:30-4:30PM. Ages 15+ Pre-registration req. Free!	FHS: 897-7167 Fallsburg Historical Society FLPC: 897-7842 Franciscan Life Process Center FROM: 897-5906 Flat River Outreach Ministries KCYF: 897-6050 Kent County Youth Fair KDL: 897-9596 Lowell 868-6038 Alto Kent District Library www.kdl.org LAAC: 897-8545 Lowell Area Arts Council LACC: 897-9161 Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce www.lowellchamber.org LAHM: 897-7688 Lowell Area Historical Museum www.lowellmuseum.org VEEN: 897-7065 Vein Observatory www.veen.org WVC: 987-1002 Wittenbach Agriscience & Environmental Ctr./Wege Natural Area YMCA: 897-8445 YMCA of Lowell www.gymca.org												
DAUGHTER SAVINGS BEGIN 7 LAAC: Tricia Eldridge, "Human Energy Field" workshop/lecture, 2:00PM (RSVP, \$35)	LAS SCHOOL RESUMES 8 KDL (Aho): Family Storytime, 6&<. 10:30AM (Babies Day) KDL (Lwi): Spring Family Storytime, Ages 3-6 1:30PM (Hippos) LAAC: Lowell Area Arts Council Spring Classes begin!	9	10 KDL (Aho): Family Storytime, 6&<. 1:30PM (Babies Day) KDL (Aho): Yoko's Springtime Celebration. Japanese origami & food. All ages. 4:00PM	11 KDL (Lwi): Family Storytime, Ages 3-6, 10:30AM Hippo LAAC: Tom Woodruff, "Illustration Art" workshop, 7:00PM at the Library LACC: Tax Law Changes Seminar, 6:00PM at the Chamber	12	13 WVC: Women's Fly Fishing/Flyfishing. 9-3:00PM. \$35 (pre-reg.) WVC: Trail Cleanup Day, 9-Noon. Please bring tools. Free hot drinks. 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 (Lupiter, Saturn, full Moon featured)	14 LAAC: "Rockin' for the LAAC" (Lowell Area Arts Council), 7:00PM at Larkin's Other Place, \$10/\$15. (You can catch "Rockin' for the LAAC" on both Friday & Saturday nights!)	15 KDL (Lwi): Michigan In The Civil War. Ages 12 & up. 7:00PM (Sponsored by the Friends of Englishard Library)	16 LACC: Business Breakfast Club, 7:30AM at Special FX Inc., 11390 E. Fulton, Free	17	18 LACC: Retirement Planning Options for Small Business Owners, Noon at the LAS Admin Bldg., 300 High St. Lunch provided.	19 LACC: 2nd Annual Spirit of Community Celebration, 6:00PM, Dinner \$15/ea, RSVP; 8:00PM Awards Ceremony (Free) at Lowell High School YMCA: Kids Night! 6:30-9:15PM, at Cherry Creek Elem. Ages K-12, Members-\$12, Non-\$15	20 VEEN: Visitor Night, 8:30-11:30PM ONLY if the sky is clear! Adults-\$2, ages 5-17, \$1 (Lupiter, Saturn, full Moon featured)	21	22	23 LAHM: Spring Program, "The Stories, Mysteries, & Characters That Dwell Within Oakwood Cemetery" 7:30PM, at the Lowell Township Hall. Refreshments will be served. Free.	24 LACC: Retirement Planning Options for Small Business Owners, Noon at the LAS Admin Bldg., 300 High St. Lunch provided.	25 LACC: 2nd Annual Spirit of Community Celebration, 6:00PM, Dinner \$15/ea, RSVP; 8:00PM Awards Ceremony (Free) at Lowell High School YMCA: Kids Night! 6:30-9:15PM, at Cherry Creek Elem. Ages K-12, Members-\$12, Non-\$15	26 VEEN: Visitor Night, 8:30-11:30PM ONLY if the sky is clear! Adults-\$2, ages 5-17, \$1 (Lupiter, Saturn, full Moon featured)	27 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!
28	29	30																		

# MAY

## Lowell Community Calendar 2002

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	KEY													
			1	2	3	4	FHS: 897-7167 Fallsburg Historical Society FLPC: 897-7842 Franciscan Life Process Center FROM: 897-5906 Flat River Outreach Ministries KCYF: 897-6050 Kent County Youth Fair KDL: 897-9596 Lowell 868-6038 Alto Kent District Library www.kdl.org LAAC: 897-8545 Lowell Area Arts Council LACC: 897-9161 Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce www.lowellchamber.org LAHM: 897-7688 Lowell Area Historical Museum www.lowellmuseum.org VEEN: 897-7065 Vein Observatory www.veen.org WVC: 987-1002 Wittenbach Agriscience & Environmental Ctr./Wege Natural Area YMCA: 897-8445 YMCA of Lowell www.gymca.org													
			8 LAAC: Lowell High School Student Art Exhibit - Opening Reception, 6:30-8:00PM at the Lowell Area Arts Council.	9 LACC: Long Term Care Seminar, 12:00 Noon at the Chamber. Lunch provided.	10	11 WVC: Family Day at the Wittenbach Center! Self-guided tours, hot drinks, nature books provided for your use. 11-3PM. All ages.	12	13 WVC: Master Gardener Work Day at the Wittenbach Center! Please pre-register.	14	15	16 LAAC: Youth Theatre "The Prince Who Wouldn't Talk", 7:00PM at Cherry Creek Elementary, FREE.	17 NOTE: The Foodmobile is for all. Mostly produce. FROM: FoodMobile at Fairgrounds. Bring your own bags. 10-Noon LAAC: "The Prince Who Wouldn't Talk", 3:00 & 7:00PM at Cherry Creek Elementary, FREE.	18 KDL (Lowell) Hero Orientation (New volunteers), 1:00PM, ages 11 & up.	19	20	21	22	23	24	25 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!
	26 NO SCHOOL Lowell Memorial Day Parade 10:00AM MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY	27	28 KDL (Lowell) Hero Orientation (New volunteers), 6:30PM, ages 11 & up.	29 KDL (Aho) Hero Orientation (New volunteers), 4:00PM, ages 11 & up.	30	31														

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 Directors Newsletter.  
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## Hatto/Fizer

Susan Lynn Hatto and Jason Michael Fizer, both of Lowell, are planning an April 6, 2002 wedding. The bride-to-be is a 1993 graduate of Belding High School and a 1999 graduate of Grand Valley State University with a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice. She is the daughter of Anita Hatto of Orleans and Dave Hatto of Belding. The future groom is a 1996 graduate of Lowell High School and currently attending Grand Rapids Community College. He is the son of Deb Hill and James Fizer, both of Lowell.

## COLLEGE NEWS

Christy Ennis will present a project at the 30th Conference on Senior Engineering Design Projects at Western Michigan University on Tuesday, April 16. A height measurement device for race car applications, a localized differential GPS system for the visually impaired, the evaluation and optimization of an engine for a hybrid electric vehicle, and the design of a new office work environment are among the projects that will be presented at the conference which runs from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Bernhard Center. Ennis, a 1997 graduate of Lowell High School, is the

daughter of James and Rose Ennis of Lowell. She plans to receive a bachelor's degree in Industrial Design in December 2002. Azusa Pacific University student Sarah E. Sper of Ada made the fall semester 2001 academic dean's list. To qualify for this honor, a student must have a 3.5 or better grade point average. Sper is a communication studies major, who is joined by 1,084 other students receiving the same tribute. Azusa Pacific, located near Los Angeles, is a comprehensive Christian, evangelical university with an enrollment of more than 6,800 students.

Grand Valley State University has recently named the students who were placed on the dean's list for the fall 2001 semester. The list includes those students who have maintained a 3.5 grade point average and been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits. Listed from the Lowell area are Laurie Biener, Michelle L. Bosscher, Erin P. Burgess, Anya A. Chamberlain, Brandy A. Fedewa, Candace A. Harper, Sunny A. Moyer, Jacob P. Nijse, Caleb L. O'Boyle, Jennifer K. Postema, Julie M. Postema, Heath L. Sabin, Julie M. Shortle, Kristin J. Sysma, Kaily S. Wittenbach and Annie M. Zalokar. From the Alto area are Brooke S. Berends, Matthew C. Bushman, Jennifer R. DeVormer, Patrick W. Gavin, Michael J. Gustad, David J. Kowalski, Donna Meekhof, Meghann J. Phillips, Kimberly M. VanSprange, Christine A. Welton and Courtney L. Wiersum.

Jonathan V. Den Houter, the son of Leonard and Kathryn Den Houter of Lowell, graduated from the University of Michigan with a major in English from the College of L.S. and A. (Literature, Science, and the Arts) in December of 2001. On March 17, 2002, he attended an Honors convocation for those who have received at 3.5 or higher two or more semesters.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MARCH 28: Amie Thaler, Aaron Kastanek.  
MARCH 29: John Ellison, Sandra VanWeelden, Judith Schafer Eiseaman, Laura Rasch, Carl Rasch, Robin Burns, Casey Yonker, Brianna Homrich.

### AREA BIRTHS

Mark and Lynn Droog are pleased to announce the arrival of their daughter, Ellery Erin. She was born March 5, 2002 and weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz. Ellery has a brother, Jesse and two sisters, Laura and Delaney. Her grandparents are Jim and Norma Peterson of Alto and Carol and the late Al Droog of Florida. Great-grandmothers are Agnes Wieland and Nellie VanderVeen.

# LHS' April Students of the Month

Five departments at Lowell High School have chosen a Student of the Month.

Each of these students have excelled in a different subject area to earn this recognition.

Teresa Leasure was selected by the Life Management Department. She is a senior and the daughter of Frank and Laura Leasure of Lowell. While a student at L.H.S., Leasure has been active in F.F.A. as both chapter and district vice president. She also has been the manager of the track team and has volunteered many hours as an athletic trainer. Her plans for next year are to attend G.R.C.C. to pursue a degree in Sports Medicine, Physical Therapy or Life Science. Her teacher nominator says she is a great student to have in class and is

cooperative and strives to do the best job possible.

Kristi Anderson was chosen by the Social Studies Department. Anderson is a senior and the daughter of Gordon and Deborah Anderson of Ada. Her extracurricular activities include Model U.N. and Women's Club. She is also employed at Dunhill Tuxedos. Anderson plans to attend Grand Valley State University next year.

Rachel Penninga was recognized by the Drama Department. Penninga is a junior and the daughter of Paul and Ann Penninga of Lowell. Penninga's extracurricular

activities include Youth Ambassadors, S.A.D.D., F.F.A. and the school musical. She is employed at Penninga Dairy Farm and volunteers at Spectrum Health Butterworth Campus. Her teacher nominator says she is a very conscientious student who strives to do her best in all things.

Aaron Benmark was selected by the Math Department. He is a sophomore and the son of Teresa and Rusty Benmark of Lowell. Benmark plays on the J.V. hockey team and in the jazz band. His favorite class is U.S. A.P. History. His teacher nominator says as a sophomore in calculus, he has consistently received top scores. He sets a standard of excellence that his classmates both respect and work to achieve.

Students of the Month, cont'd pg. 8



Students of the Month for April are: front row, left to right: Teresa Leasure, Kristi Anderson and Rachel Penninga; back row, left to right: Aaron Benmark and Brandon Lawrence.

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**USED SPORTS EQUIPMENT COLLECTED**

Those wishing to donate used sports equipment at the YMCA Wellness Center, 135 W. Main, will receive a tax donation form. The dates are March 28, 29 and 30 from 7 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Call Dan Stevens at 897-8445 with any questions.

**PHOTOS OF FIRES/FIRE TRUCKS NEEDED**

The Lowell Area Fire Department is looking for information or photos of fires or fire trucks to help with its history. Call Steven at 897-2889 if you can help.

**ATHLETIC BOOSTERS CLUB MEETING**

The regular business meeting for the athletic boosters will be held one week later on Monday, April 8 at 7 p.m. in the high school staff lounge due to spring break.

**ROCKIN' LAAC PATRONS**

The Lowell Area Arts Council fundraiser, "Rockin' for the LAAC," featuring members of several '60s and '70s Lowell high school bands (Alive & Well and the Great Lakes Band) is slated for April 19 & 20 at Larkin's - The Other Place. Guaranteed entrance into the event may only be secured with advanced patronage. For further information call Loraine at 897-8545.

\*\*\*  
A good listener is not only popular everywhere, but after a while he knows something.  
—Wilson Mizner  
\*\*\*

**Lowell Area COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN CALLING ALL PARENTS!!!**

**COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN PARENT MEETING FOR FALL OF 2002**

*Will be held at...*

**BUSHNELL ELEMENTARY**  
Tuesday, April 9, 2002  
OR  
**ALTO ELEMENTARY**  
Thursday, April 11, 2002

Sign up for Spring Student Visitation:  
6:00 - 6:25 PM  
Parent Meeting: 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Countdown to kindergarten packet is available

Call Bushnell Elementary - 897-8471  
Or Alto Elementary 868-6111  
Or visit the district website  
www.lowell.k12.mi.us

**Career, continued... From Page 1**

At the middle school level, teachers will tie-in the discussion of careers in their classes; students will continue to develop work-based skills; receive career awareness opportunities based around individual strengths and interests and the Chapter 6 Pathways; eighth-graders will begin an educational development plan as part of high school orientation.

There will be a tie-in to the high school students' discussion of careers in their units and field trips; development of work-based skills; career awareness opportunities based

around individual strengths and interests and the Career Pathways; and students will visit and update their educational development plan at least once a year.

The state has also attached career funds to the initiative for the purchase of programs.

"One of the reasons Lowell has been able to be on top of this initiative is because we have Pinky McPherson as a school to career coordinator," Pierce explained.

**Students of the Month, cont'd... From Page 7**

Brandon Lawrence was the choice of the Physical Education Department. He is a freshman and the son of Burt and Deb Lawrence of Lowell. His favorite classes are Math, Social

Studies and jazz band. His teacher nominator says he is being recognized for a great effort and positive attitude.

**Johnson receives All-American award**

Mark Johnson, LUTCF, local agent for Farm Bureau Insurance, has been named one of the company's top agents of the year for his outstanding record of sales and service.

Johnson earned the 2001 All American Award, recognizing him as one of the top agents in Michigan. The award indicates he is a leader in sales and client service, according to Larry Thomas, executive vice president of Farm Bureau Insurance.

"He is the kind of agent who does an outstanding job of servicing the community," Thomas said.

In addition, Johnson qualified to be a member of the prestigious Multi-Line Sales Council and was among the top 10 agents in the com-

pany in the category of Total New Premium. Farm Bureau Insurance,

one of the state's major insurers, has a statewide force of 400 agents serving more than 350,000 Michigan policy-holders.

**Kent District Library news:**

The Englehardt Library invites adult readers to get together for a friendly, informal discussion of the book, "The Ballard Series" by Sharyn McCrumb on Tuesday, April 9 at 10 a.m. Copies are available at the library's checkout desk at 200 N. Monroe St. or by calling 647-3920.

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#1

**Unanswered questions remain about Newell's closing**

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

Usually it's good news for the local economy when a company hands out job applications.

Unless you're one of the 125 Newell Manufacturing employees who learned a week ago that the 62-year-old Lowell-based company will be closing its doors within the next 4-8 weeks.

"Applications are being spread around by the company's human resources department," said Jason Smith, Newell Manufacturing union unit chairman. "The applications are for job openings with other companies."

Last week's disbelief at 615 Chatham has turned to disgust a week later.

"They (Facilitator Capital Fund) bought the company last August," Smith explains. "Eight months later they are shutting the doors and no one is sure of the reason why."

Smith and others, however, have their suspicions. "They've run down the company so much and haven't paid bills that now it's not even a buyable option because there's too much debt," Smith explained.

The Newell employee adds that the company, already doing 40 percent of a vendor's work, was offered 100 percent but did not take it.

"They made an investment and now eight months later, they've drained it down to nothing," Smith explained. "There was no hint that this was coming. They never let anybody locally know."

Smith said the work Newell does for its vendors will be distributed to other stamping facilities and to a company also owned by the Facilitator Capital Fund.

"Newell hasn't said anything to the city as to why," said Lowell city manager, Dave Pasquale.

In 1998, Newell added a 20,000 square foot addition and purchased new equipment. The Lowell company also received a 50 percent, 12-year tax abatement from the city. Over recent years, it had reported production to be strong.

**OUTDOORS**

By Dave Stegehuis

It has been several months since I received one of those calls that we all dread. A friend called to tell me that Jim had passed away. I really didn't know Jim that well. I only spent a short time with him over the last two years, but still I felt a great sadness and sense of loss. Jim was little more than half my age and it didn't seem fair that he should have been taken so soon.

Physically, Jim cut an impressive figure. His large frame and dark beard evoked the image of a northern Michigan lumberjack. His imposing physical presence, however, belied his soft spoken and gentle manner.

I first met Jim at the family cabin on a secluded Upper Peninsula lake. He was one of those people with whom you feel comfortable within minutes of meeting him. I quickly sensed a sincerity about him that invited confidence and trust which most of us must earn from others over time.

Jim spent much of his life in the outdoors. He could be found on a lake at any hour of the day or night, wading a gin-clear Upper Peninsula trout stream, trudging through edge tangle for upland game, or waiting out a whitetail deer on a hardwood ridge. The morning he died, he was preparing to go fishing with his dad and a close friend.

Jim wasn't concerned about bagging a big buck or how many fish he caught. If he ran short of space in his boat, he would give up his seat so another could go fishing. One evening when sitting by the campfire, we eventually realized that Jim was gone. Later in the darkness outside the dancing firelight, we could hear the steady cadence of a paddle breaking the still surface of the lake and then a scraping sound as the keel of a canoe slid gently onto the rocky shore.

Jim was returning without any fish—he usually released most that he caught. He just loved being out there. Sometimes he would disappear into the tranquil woodlands that surround the pristine lakes and streams of the central Upper Peninsula. Hours later, he would return and excitedly describe his chance encounter with the resident beaver or the eagle that nests in the tall pine on a remote lake that is accessible only on foot. He just loved being out there.

For me, Jim's legacy is the realization that it doesn't matter if you catch fish or bag game. The important thing is appreciating the experience and being thankful for just being out there. In the future when I become discouraged because I am not seeing game or I can't get the fish to bite, I will remember Jim and be satisfied and grateful for just being out there.

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# Expo's growth expands opportunity for networking

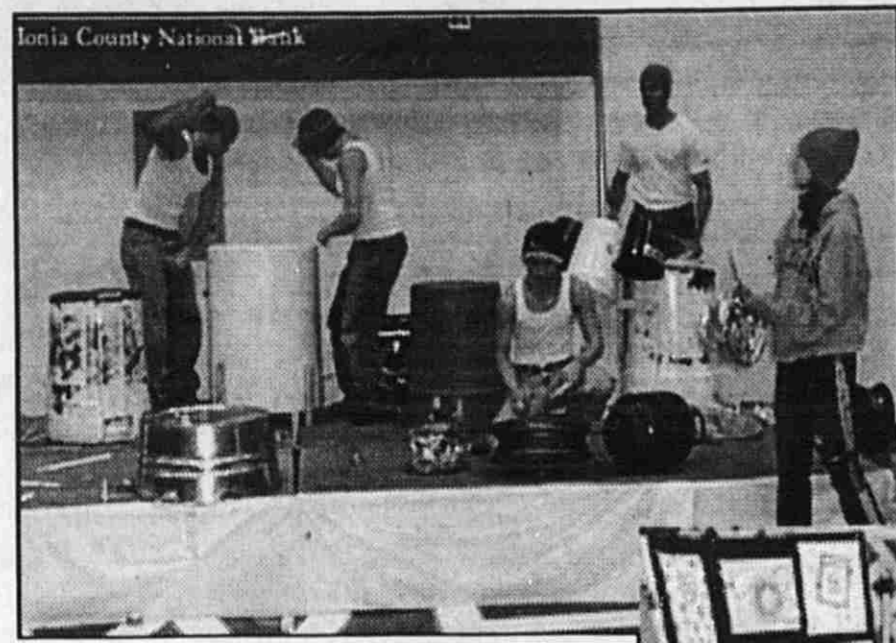
By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

The sixth annual Lowell Community Expo provided patrons with an opportunity to meet with new businesses and network with all.

The increasing number of participating vendors (105) suggests that the event is looked upon favorably and that its benefits are many for the businesses and organizations participating.

With the increase, event coordinators were forced to use both gyms and the cafeteria as well as the hallway for vendor exhibits.

In extending the area for exhibitors, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director, Liz Baker says traffic flow is important.



"I think traffic met all expectations but, because exhibitors were more spread out and not as compact, traffic may not have appeared as heavy," Baker explained.

Areas in which Baker would like to improve for the 2003 Expo include better signage inside to direct the flow of traffic, sound system improvements and provide a parking lot for vendors.

"All the vendors, though, were very pleased with the exposure and leads that come from this event," said Baker.

Any comments or suggestions for next year's Expo may be e-mailed to Baker at info@lowellchamber.org.



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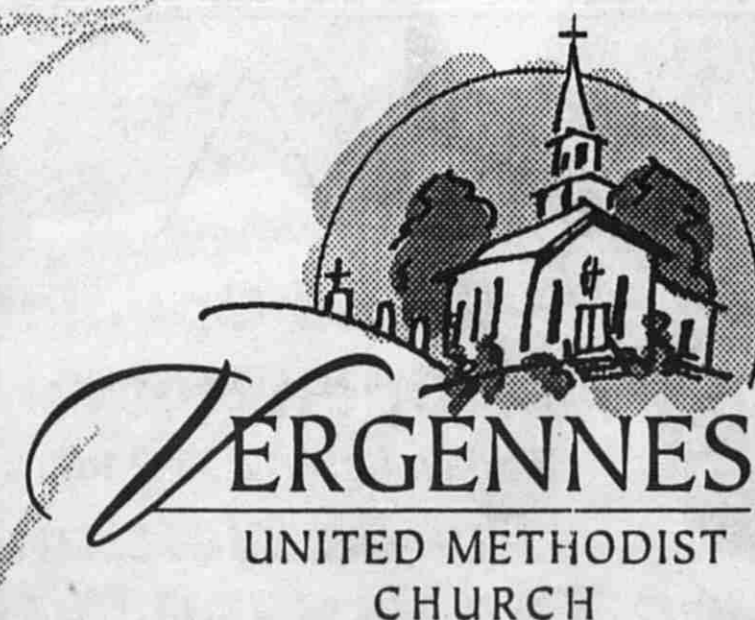
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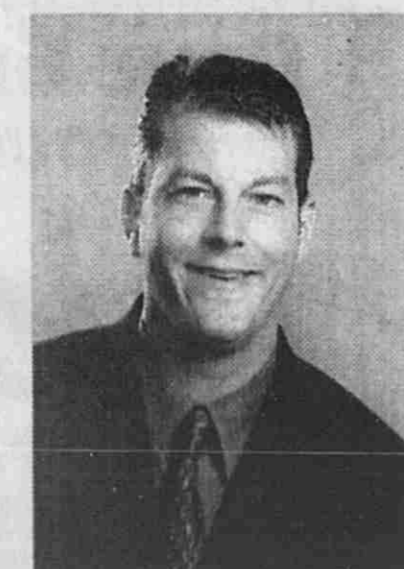
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# Lowell students a model of success at Hope College

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

For the eighth time in 10 years, Lowell High School's Model United Nations students earned the highest number of awards among the schools participating.

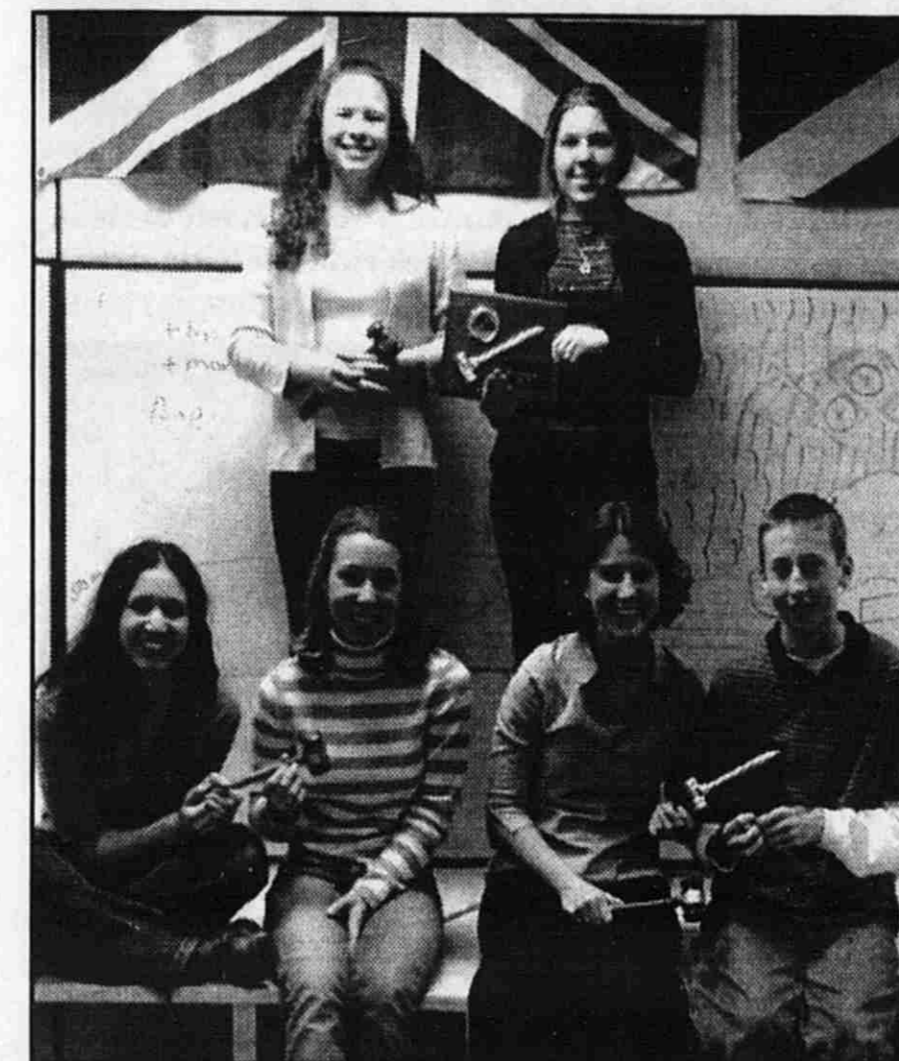
Every year, Lowell raises the bar; 2002 was no different. "This was big. I'm not sure we'll ever see what these kids did, accomplished again," said Lowell's Model U.N. director, Steve Kampfschulte.

The Lowell team surpassed its own record. Lowell won 14 awards in the competition two years ago.

Three weeks ago at Hope College, Lowell broke that record, earning 19 awards. That represents roughly 40 percent of the awards available at the competition.

"The students must be commended for not only their ability, but their willingness to pry into and explore such challenging topics which are considered difficult at the college level," Kampfschulte explained.

This year, the Hope College Model U.N. program hosted 45 high schools from four states. Nearly 1,000 students participated - 57 of them were from Lowell.



Lowell High School students competing in Economic and Social Council, front row, left to right, are: Lena Dhayni, Katie Hettinga, Erin Weber and Eric Gillman; back row, left to right, are: Kristi Anderson and Jaimey Sadlak.



Lowell High School students competing in International Court of Justice, left to right, are: Eric Moulten, Cori Drenth and David Blair. Model U.N. pictures continued page 12.

"We feel our students have gained an insightful appreciation and knowledge of the problems facing the world around them along with a better understanding of the role the United States plays in regards to these issues," Kampfschulte explained.

The breakdown of awards earned by Lowell students is as follows:  
Introductory General Assembly (Globalization/Human Rights):

Melody Democoeur and Mandy Gunberg (overall) were second; Paul Mundt and Kevin Gillman (Human Rights) were second and Abbie Debiak and Elise Wisneski (Human Rights) were third.

Advanced General Assembly (Terrorism/Aids Crisis and Global Health):

Brandon Bouwkamp, Vanessa Beddows, Christie Getz and Tory O'Haire (Resolution Drafting) earned a first as did Sean Mandle and Paul Schellenberger (Terrorism) and Tory O'Haire and Christie Getz (Aids Crisis and Global Health). Tony Robinson, Courtney Perkins, Steve Sper and Tony Pedley (Drafting) placed third; Katie Lum and Bryan

Posthumus (Terrorism) placed fourth; and Shelby Tomzak, Kelsey Scheider, Chris Cress and Craig Myers (overall) finished fifth.

Economic and Social Council (International Narcotics Trade/Debt Crisis):

Kristi Anderson and Jaimey Sadlak, first; Kristi Anderson (overall), first; Erin Weber and Eric Gillman (overall), second; and Erin Weber (Debt Crisis), third.

Security Council:

Todd Drenth and Matt Hansen (Caspian Sea Crisis), first; Zach Stauffer and Matt Horan (Sudan Crisis), second; Jeremy Goff and Matt Tomko (Columbia Crisis), second; and Dan Thaler and Mike Kinney (Afghan Crisis), third.

International Court of Justice:

Cori Drenth and Eric Moulten (Representing Taiwan), second.

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THE ANNUAL MEETING  
WILL BE HELD ON:  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2002  
7:00 P.M.

HISTORIC TOWNSHIP HALL  
8240 ALDEN NASH SE  
ALTO, MI 49302

A budget shall be submitted for consideration.

Citizens attending the hearing have the right to provide written and oral comments and ask questions concerning the entire budget.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

A copy of the entire proposed budget shall be available for public inspection at the Bowne Township Office (historic hall) Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk  
Bowne Township Clerk

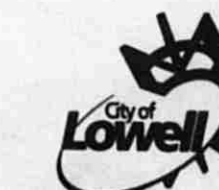
## CITY OF LOWELL

### PUBLIC NOTICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Lowell Light and Power and Lowell Cable TV offices will be closed Friday, March 29, 2002 in observance of Good Friday.

The City of Lowell's Department of Public Works will be closed at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, March 29, 2002 in observance of Good Friday.

The Lowell City Hall and Police Department offices will close at 12:00 noon on Friday, March 29, 2002 in observance of Good Friday.



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# Sum total of students' work - mathematically impressive

## ••• Work of Cherry Creek students adds up for St. Jude Children's Hospital.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

Cherry Creek Elementary students said "Yes" to the challenge of solving over 200 math problems.

Students agreed to solve problems and collect pledges to aid St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in its research for cures and treatments of deadly children diseases.

Over 200 math problems were solved at each grade level by the 218 Cherry Creek students (2nd-5th grades). The pledges garnered a little over \$12,700.

"I knew our students would respond to this challenge, but never did I think they would collect over \$12,000," said Math-A-Thon chairperson and 5th-grade teacher, Brent Noskey. "I think Sept. 11 has opened the hearts of a lot of people including the students here at Cherry Creek."

Students who raised \$35 or more will receive a Math-A-Thon T-shirt and a free pass to Six Flags. Those earning \$75 or more will receive a T-shirt and pass plus a duffle bag.

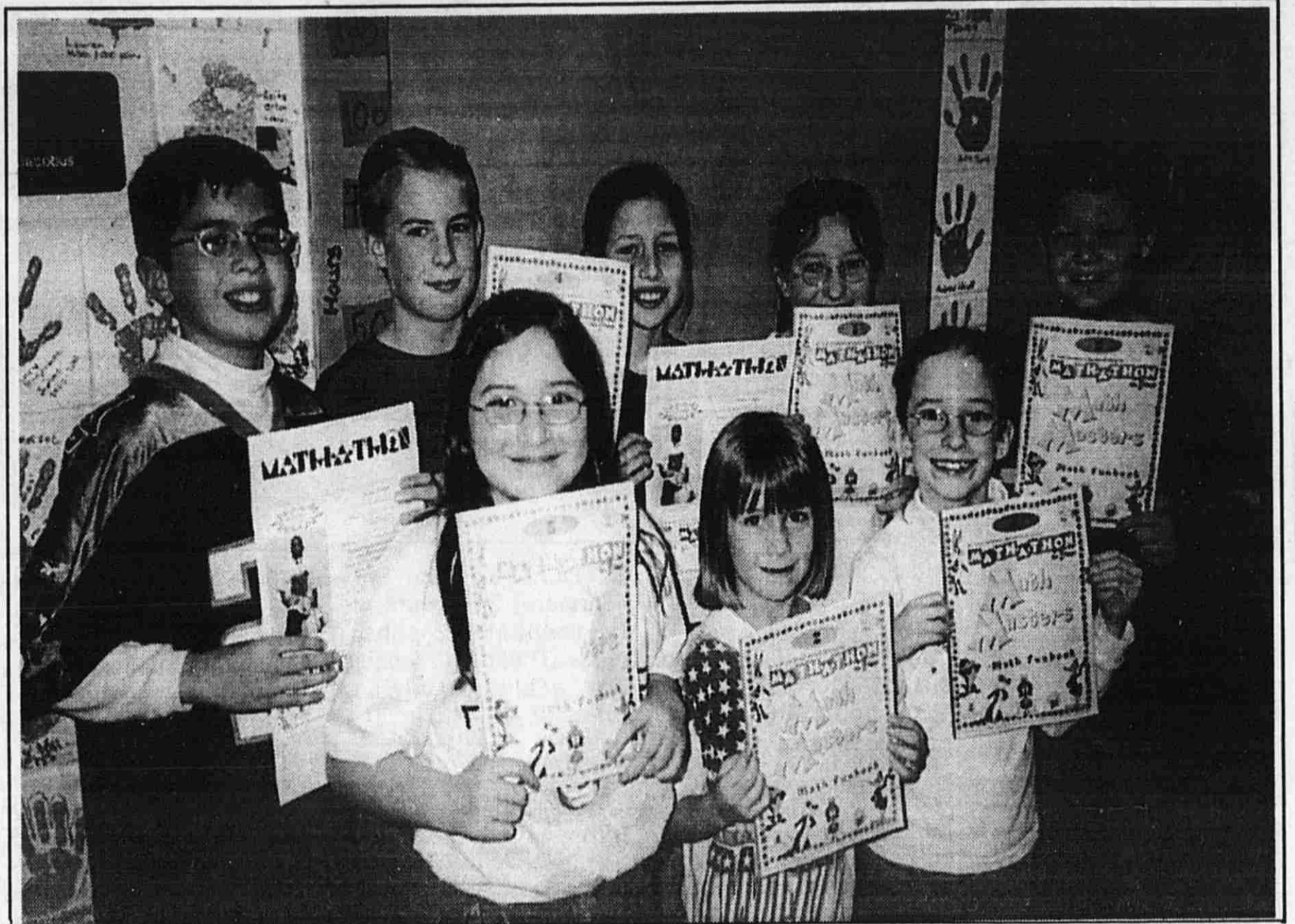
There were over 150 Cherry Creek students who raised over \$75.

Thomas Jeffrey won a CD player for being the top fundraiser; he collected \$250.

The Math-A-Thon is one of the largest annual St. Jude fundraisers. Each year approximately 12,000 schools participate in the program, which brings in roughly \$23 million a year.

"Individual school donations raise anywhere from \$200 to \$15,000," explained Kim Harrell, a St. Jude volunteer service representative from her Albany, Ind. office. "What Cherry Creek has done is amazing. They are one of our elite schools."

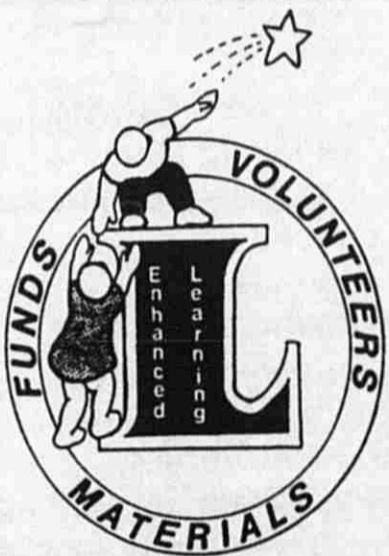
In a year in which Cherry Creek has more than tripled its previous high (\$4,049.29), Harrell says the Sept. 11 tragedy has had an opposite effect nationally. "It hasn't been a real high decline, but there has been a short decline in the monies raised this year."



Pictured are eight of the 218 Math-A-Thon participants from Cherry Creek. Back row, left to right, are: Brandon Lee, Danny Lane, Sydney Burrows, Kayleigh Page and Gus Geldersma. Front row, left to right, are: Elena Brubaker, Sammy Kooiman and Marie Dollar.

*Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.*

**Thomas Edison**



## Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation 2002 Tribute Tree Celebration

### The Tribute Tree is a way for...

- ...Friends and community members to honor individuals who have helped improve the Lowell School System
- ...Graduating and reunion classes to honor a favorite teacher or class member
- ...Booster clubs and sports teams to honor a coach or player
- ...A family to honor a member who is or was a teacher
- ...Faculty and staff to honor retiring colleagues
- ...Student organizations to honor their sponsoring teachers.

**When you give, the memories will last forever.**

When you dedicate a brass leaf on our tribute tree to someone, you're ensuring that their contribution to your life and the lives of others will never be forgotten.

With your contribution of \$400 or more, you not only honor someone who made a difference...you make exciting learning opportunities possible for children in Lowell today. When completely filled, the Tribute Tree will have generated an endowment of \$160,000, the proceeds of which will be used to fund extraordinary learning opportunities in Lowell Schools.



*This tree is located at the entrance of the Performing Arts Center at Lowell High School*

Learning Is Growing!

### Celebrate with us!

Friday, April 26, 2002 at 6:00 p.m., the Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation will hold a banquet to honor the year's new "leaves."

We are interested in dedicating a leaf on the Lowell Area Schools Foundation's Tribute Tree, and supporting extraordinary learning in the Lowell schools. Please contact us about the size and lettering options.

Our Name/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Person/Organization being honored: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe briefly this person's contribution/dedication to the Lowell Area Schools:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

By April 19, 2002, return this section to:  
**LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS EDUCATION FOUNDATION**  
300 High Street  
Lowell, Michigan 49331