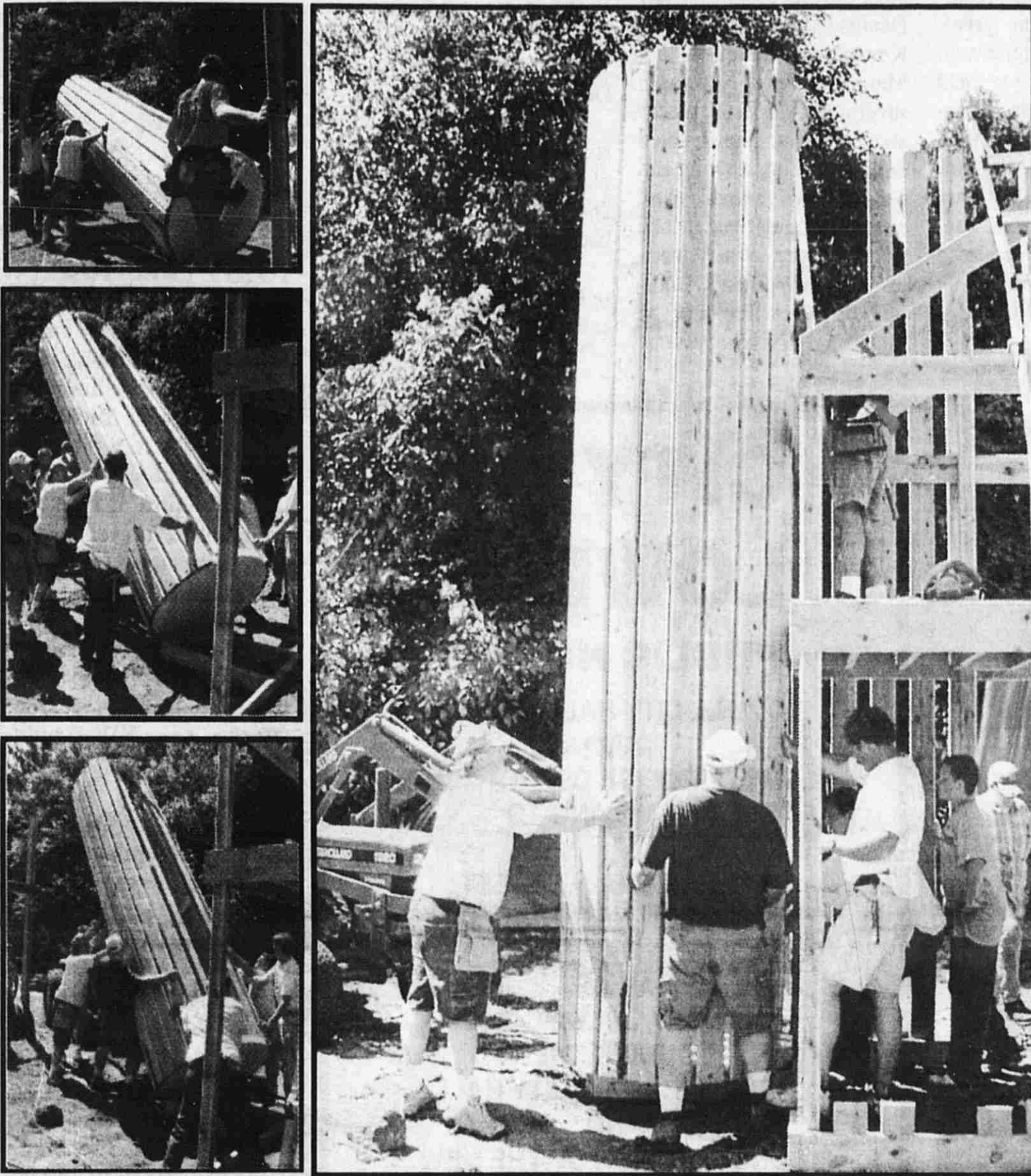


# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 42

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, July 17, 2002



## Nancy Hopkins Lowell's newest and most determined board president

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

For the first time in seven years someone other than Pete Gustafson presided over the Lowell School Board as its president.

Nancy Hopkins welcomed with open arms an opportunity to serve in that leadership role.

"I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve our students and community in this new role," said Hopkins, Lowell's new school board president. "I as well as this board, share a strong belief and determination to keep this district growing, improving and providing the best educational experience possible for our students."

In her previous three years on the board, Hopkins served two years as vice president and one as a board trustee.

"As president I think it is important to recognize the ability and talents of your fellow board members and to encourage them to contribute as much as they can," Hopkins explained.

The new president recognized the leadership and knowledge of her predecessor and former superintendent, Bert Bleke. However, she added that

the board will remain focused and committed and will continue to listen and respond.

"We have big responsibilities ahead of us, but we also have the ability to handle them successfully," Hopkins explains. "Working together - and always keeping what's best for the kids first - we can move Lowell Area Schools forward and realize even greater achievements and improvements."



Nancy Hopkins

Hopkins points to keeping the budget healthy, remaining fiscally responsible, and growth as constant issues facing the board.

"This board is clearly in tune with the growth of this district," Hopkins said. "It's important that we have well-defined planning options so we don't scramble to take care of growth issues."

Hopkins was voted board president by a 4-2 count. Mark Lessens was elected vice president while Jim Reagan will serve as treasurer and Pat Nugent will serve as secretary.

## A TODDLIN' SORT OF GROUND

The weather outside was beautiful and roughly 50 Alto volunteers took to the high ground at Colby Park to construct a playset for area children. Under the supervision of Learning Structures Community Built Programs, the volunteers erected the \$24,000 playset on Friday and Saturday. The funding for the structure was provided by the Alto/Bowne Township Downtown Development Authority. The silo (being erected above) is representative of the Alto agricultural community. The playground's train is representative of the railroad community. According to Alto librarian, Sandy Graham, the name Alto is derived from the Latin word altus, meaning high.

## Proposed cuts will provide funds for teaching staff additions

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

The highly anticipated proposed list of cuts for the 2002-03 school year was unveiled to the public Monday night.

While no one in the highly charged and publicized custodial area was laid off, two custodial positions, vacated due to retirement, were not filled.

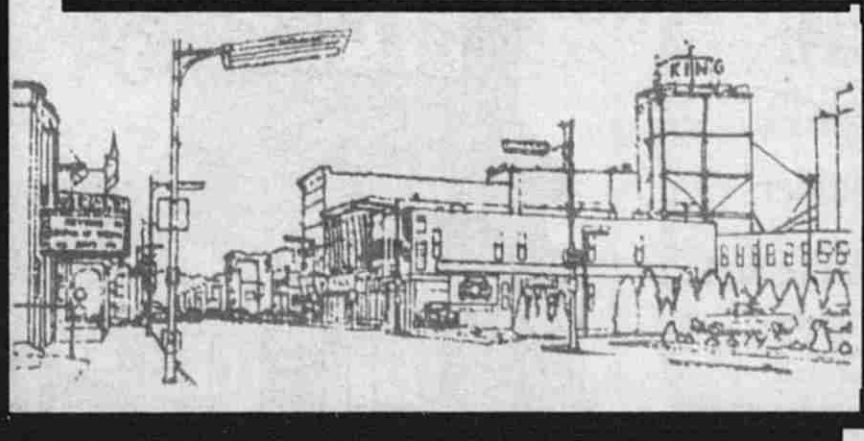
In all, the 25 cuts totaled \$524,000.

Gov. John Engler's decision to increase the student foundation grant to \$6,700 per student prevented cuts from running up to \$1.5 million.

Lowell assistant superintendent to finance and personnel, Connie Gillette noted that a "second list" of additional

Budget Cuts, cont'd. pg. 8

### Along Main Street



#### HOCKEY CAMP SIGN-UPS

The Lowell Hockey Club will host a hockey camp for players on July 16 and 17 at Standard Federal Ice Center. Times: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Mite - Pee Wee; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Junior varsity/varsity. The free camp is open to all hockey players from the Lowell/Caledonia area. Full safety equipment is required. Call Jim Blair (897-6436) for information or to register.

#### BLOOD DRIVE

The Lowell Area Fire Department will sponsor a blood

drive for the Grand Valley Blood program on Wednesday, July 17 from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Look Memorial Fire Station located at 315 S. Hudson.

#### SUMMER CONCERT SERIES CONTINUES ...

Stroll along the Riverwalk this Thursday, July 18 and enjoy an evening of Jazz! "New Odd Men Out" and "The Dave Collee Quartet w/Ginny Dusseau" will be entertaining from 7-9 p.m.

#### WORKSHOP ON PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS

Photographer Richard Williams will present a workshop on photographing flowers July 20 from 9-11 a.m. at Ball Softee Creme gardens. To register for this free workshop, contact the Lowell Area Arts Council at 897-8545.

#### FAIRGROUNDS - FOODMOBILE

The Foodmobile will be at the Fairgrounds Saturday, July 20 from 10 a.m. - noon. Bring your own box or bag. Distributed by Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc.

#### 5TH ANNUAL STREET MARKET DAYS

Street Market Days will be held in downtown Lowell on

Main Street, cont'd pg. 8



## OBITUARIES

**BOGGS** - John Manley Boggs, aged 82, of Saranac, passed away July 11, 2002. He was preceded in death by his daughter Patricia Glass and son Kelley Boggs. Mr. Boggs is survived by his wife of 62 years, Shirlene; children

Phyllis (Dean) Parsons of Ohio, Janice (Mike) Schuff of Tenn., John J. (Roxanne) Boggs of Grand Rapids, Jim (Katie) Boggs of Ada, Vanessa (Russ) Palmittier of Saranac, Ellen (Jim) Chernoby of Lowell, Kathy (Kevin) Smith of Lowell, Teresa (Russ) Phillips of Lowell, Bob (Janice) Boggs of Fla., Joann (Dale) Vandenburg of Comstock Park, Chuck Boggs of Saranac, Teddy Boggs of Ohio, Paul (Rosie) Boggs of Ohio, Royce Boggs of N.C.; sister Christine (Ed) Lutz; sister-in-law Helene Boggs; 34 grandchildren; 38 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild on the way. Funeral services were held Monday at First United Methodist Church of Lowell, Rev. Gordie Barry officiating. Interment Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens. Memorial contributions may be made to American Lung Association and First United Methodist Church of Lowell.

**SHARPE** - Linda Ann Sharpe (Bristol), aged 49, of Saranac, passed away Saturday, July 13, 2002. She was preceded in death by her parents Irwin "Red" and Nedra Bristol. Surviving are her husband of 26 years, Gordy; daughters Angie (Denny) Blough of Alto, Nikki (Toby) Haskins of Saranac; grandchildren Brandon, Kyle, Jordan and Taven. Also surviving are sisters Nancy (Rob) Tower of Alto, Terri Geldersma of Saranac; brothers Bob (Yvette) Bristol, Jim Bristol, Ted (Lori) Bristol, all of Lowell; brother-in-law Dennis (Melody) Sharpe of Kentwood; sister-in-law Marcia Meyer of Newaygo; several very special nieces and nephews. She devoted her life to being a loving and caring wife, mother, nani, sister, aunt and friend. Linda also belonged to the American Legion Women's Auxiliary of Alto. She will be greatly missed by everyone

who knew her. Funeral services will be held 1 p.m. Wednesday at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, Rev. Gordie Barry officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Greater Grand Rapids.

## Thebes Players seek actors

The Lowell Area Arts Council's Thebes Players are seeking actors for *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harlings. Performances for this dinner theatre production will be at Larkin's - The Other Place. Dates of the production are Oct. 24-27 and Nov. 1-3 with Jim Marron as director and Debra Duiven as producer.

This two-act play requires six females. Auditions will take place at the arts council Aug. 26 - 28 from 7-9 p.m. Call backs are on Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. For more information and to borrow a script for review, call 897-8545.

## LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 02-173-753-DE

Estate of  
JAMES CAROL  
CUSACK  
Deceased

TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, James Carol Cusack, who lived at 2168 Wildfield NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, died 02/20/02. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to RICHARD JOSEPH CUSACK, named personal representative, or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave. NW Grand Rapids, MI 49503, and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

SUSAN M. POTYRAJ  
(P46249)  
410 Bridge St. NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
(616) 454-4119

July 2, 2002

Richard Joseph  
Cusack  
445 Washington,  
P.O. Box 481  
Hubbardston, MI  
48845

# LOWELL COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

## Wednesday, July 17

Look Memorial Fire Station  
315 S. Hudson, Lowell

## 2 to 7 P.M.



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

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**SPEERSTRA INS. AGENCY**  
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**897-9259**

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Joel VanDeriet M.D.  
**897-8436**

**JAMES REAGAN, DDS**  
207 W. Main  
Lowell, Michigan  
**897-7179**

**ROTH-GERST FUNERAL HOME**  
305 N. Hudson  
Lowell, Michigan  
**897-7101**

**LOWELL LIGHT & POWER/CABLE**  
127 N. Broadway  
Lowell, Michigan  
**897-8405**

**STATE FARM INSURANCE**  
Roger Chapman  
217 W. Main  
Lowell, Michigan  
**897-9237**

**LOWELL FAMILY MEDICAL CENTER**  
Dr. Paul R. Gauthier, D.O.  
Dr. James C. Lang, D.O.  
Dr. John G. Meier D.O.  
Dr. Wayne A. Christenson D.O.  
**252-5600**

**THE CITY OF LOWELL**  
301 E. Main,  
Lowell, Michigan  
**897-8457**

**LOWELL GRANITE**  
306 E. Main  
Lowell, Michigan  
**897-7191**

**SHOWBOAT AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY INC.**  
1450 W. Main  
Lowell, Michigan  
**897-9231**

**ANIMAL HOSPITAL & PET COMPLEX OF LOWELL**  
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**897-8484**

**BUYERS GUIDE**  
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Tel. 616-874-0474

Website: www.davidtichelaar.com



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PIERSON-GIBBS HOMES, INC.

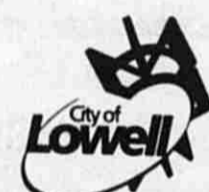


## CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

LOWELL CITY HALL OFFICES  
AND  
LOWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ARE MOVING TO

414 EAST MAIN STREET  
(HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK)

AS OF  
MONDAY, JULY 29, 2002  
DURING THE  
RENOVATION OF CITY HALL  
AND  
CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW  
POLICE STATION  
(Telephone numbers and mailing  
addresses will remain the same)



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PPC Electric started six years ago and sought their banking needs from ICNB. "Shane Husted delivers excellent customer service and always with a smile," said Lynn Wolbers. "He understands our business, works diligently to accommodate our financial needs, and is only a phone call away." Call Shane today at 897-6171 for all your business banking needs.



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- Business Checking
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- Merchant Credit Card Program
- Commercial Real Estate Loans

# Reflections

## Of Faith

Pastor Gordie Barry  
First United  
Methodist Church

How is your "look back to the basics" going since we shared last week? One week is not very long, but it is long enough to look at where we are and see where we need to go. God continues to call us back - back to be the people of God and to be what we have been created to be - in the image of God.

This image of God also includes the life around us as well. Do our life patterns, do our life decisions, do our life actions also reflect that image of God? Another way to look at it would be to think about someone following you. As they follow you and can listen to every word you say, and watch every action you make, would all your words and all your actions reveal the love of God and teach who God is?

This is not the time to wait. This is not the time to postpone any life decision you may be needing to make. This is the time for us to act and not be caught up in all that is going on around us. I share some more reflections of George Carlin for our thoughts and actions:

"We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom and hate too often. We've learned how to

make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life - not life to years.

We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor. We conquered outer space but not inner space ... we've learned to rush, but not to wait. We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less."

The challenge is before us.

The example of Jesus Christ is with us. And God's Holy Spirit is all around us ready to fill us like never before. We have all we need; now it is up to you and me to say, "Yes Lord, You are my Lord and my God. I receive the life you offer. I will cross any street to meet that neighbor. I will wait on you and for your guiding presence in my life. And finally, this life is too short and too precious for me to waste. I will never forget this wonderful gift of "life" here and now, as well as the eternal life you offer in Jesus' name.

\*\*\*\*  
**You should always believe all you read in newspapers, as this makes them more interesting.**  
—Rose Macaulay

# Lowell's Family Fare taking part in "Food for Families" drive

Family Fare of Lowell, a participating Spartan Store, is part of the second annual "Food for Families" drive which began July 11 and will continue through July 23.

In partnership with All County Churches Emergency Support System (ACCESS) and WZZM 13, Spartan Stores will be collecting and distributing non-perishable food items through the Greater West Michigan area. Communities can donate non-perishable grocery items at their local participating Spartan stores.

"From store directors to the cashiers at the checkout counter and the associates who stock our grocery store shelves, Spartan Stores wants to do what they can to help families in need throughout West Michigan," said James B. Meyer, chairman, president and CEO of Spartan Stores, Inc. "Last year, we met our goal to collect 100,000 pounds of non-perishable food. This year, we have doubled the goal to 200,000 pounds. It is ambitious, but we believe, with the communities' help, it can be done."

Available at participating Spartan Stores are "Food for Families Care Bags," pre-packaged bags containing some of the items food pantries need the most. The bags sell for just \$5. Customers can purchase the bag(s) and then drop them in to the Food for Families barrel at the front of the store.

Based in Grand Rapids, Spartan Stores, Inc. owns and operates 100 supermarkets and 25 deep-discount drug stores in Michigan and Ohio, including: Ashcraft's Markets, Family Fare Supermarkets, Food Town, Glen's Markets, Great Day Food Centers, Prevo's Family Markets and the Pharm.

## KDL News and Notes:

### Teen Theater Program at Libraries

Big kids will be entertaining little kids in a unique and fun Teen Theater program at several libraries this summer. All ages are invited to enjoy the talents of KDL's accomplished teen actors as they perform a puppet show, skit or reader's theater.

The Englehardt branch will offer the program on Thursday, July 25 at 1:30 p.m. (647-3920) and the Alto branch will present on Monday, Aug. 5 at 10:30 a.m. (647-3820).

Teen Theater provides teenagers with an outlet for creative expression as they learn puppetry and acting skills, and to utilize their imagination and talents. It also

engages youth in helping others in their community by offering entertainment for younger children.

### Pet Show at Englehardt

Proud pet owners get a chance to show off their pets at Kent District Library's Pet Show. Every pet is a winner in this fun family event. Registration is required.

The Englehardt branch will offer the program on Saturday, July 27 at 11:30 a.m. Registration forms are available at the library or by calling 647-3920. This free program is part of Summer Reading Club 2002 which includes children, teens and families and runs through Aug. 3.

## Openings for LIVE's leadership training class

The Lowell Institute for Volunteer Excellence (LIVE) has openings for its leadership training class beginning Sept. 21. This is the third year for the Lowell Institute for Volunteer Excellence which trains community members on how to sharpen their leadership skills, learn more about the Lowell area, and expand understanding of community issues, organizations and volunteer opportunities. If interested in this eight-session program and would like to know more, please call Liz Baker at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce at 897-9161.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- JULY 18: Dianne Scanlon, Bette Phillips Haybarker.  
 JULY 19: Bob Elzinga, Samantha Mooney, Danielle Rittersdorf.  
 JULY 20: Cara Thaler, David Thaler III, Maureen Pawloski, Beth Berry.  
 JULY 21: Dara Anchors, Stephanie Wade, Carolyn Mercer, Jeff Gurney, Kelly Tulecki, Alexander Stiles.  
 JULY 22: Kelly Marie Roth, Laurie Fonger, Richard (Dick) Roth, Eric Shear, Noreen Myers.  
 JULY 23: Dave Fosburg, Nathan Swift, Heather Pretzel, Robert Jahnke.

# Viewpoint . . .



## cozy corner by Roger Brown

My daughter e-mailed an editorial to me a few days ago. Jim Caple, a senior writer for ESPN, wrote it. In the piece Caple took off on a recent decision by a Santa Monica (California... where else?) elementary school principal to ban playing tag at school. The principal cited potential injury and self-esteem problems with children playing the game. The principal stated that whoever was "it" could be considered a "victim." Caple went on a rant.

The article didn't stop with the ban on tag. Caple cited last year's ban on dodge ball by several schools. He brought up the common practice of sports with no scorekeeping and no winner or losers. He suggested we are nearing a time when we only let our kids play "tether." No, not tether ball, just a game where kids are tethered to a post so they won't get hurt.

He finally threw up his hands to the situation and conceded to the fact parents will continue to keep their kids doped up on Ritalin and let them waste away indoors playing Game-Boy and listening to Eminem.

He summed up his column with this sentence. "Of course, when the kids are all so fat, lazy and sensitive that they have to pay for two seats on Southwest Airlines, we may have to take further appropriate action by suing someone."

Did I laugh? What do you think? At 52 I'm officially an "old poop," and anything I did as a kid is infinitely better than the things kids are doing these days.

I don't know how old this Caple guy is, but in the editorial he mentioned a couple playground games he played as a kid. One game was called "smear." The other was "squish 'em." The titles alone are apt description, so I won't bore you with the details. Both games reminded me of a playground game we played at Saranac Elementary. Unlike Caple's games, our

game had a rather rhythmic, innocent, even idyllic sounding title. It was called "Pom-Pom Pullaway."

Everybody played the game. Boys and girls, younger kids and older kids, big kids and little kids... we all played... or else.

A tag version of the game wouldn't be too bad, but we played tackle... no pads. The game might be less injury prone if played on grass, but we insisted on the confines of two paved tennis courts. The nearest officials were teachers inside getting a nicotine fix before classes resumed.

Pom-Pom Pullaway went like this. One person was "it." How that person was chosen has been lost to time. The "it" person stood in the middle of the tennis courts as everyone else, perhaps 200 kids, lined up against one fence. The "it" yelled "Pom-Pom Pullaway" and everybody rushed for the other fence. "It" had to tackle as many as possible, perhaps one or two. They joined "it" in the middle and the process was repeated.

Eventually there were about 200 kids in the middle and only one or two to make the dash when "Pom-Pom Pullaway" was yelled in unison by the bloodthirsty throng. You can imagine the results. For the most part our injuries were minor.

One particular winter day, while playing the game in frozen conditions, Bob Davis came up limping severely after a rather brutal gang tackle in which I was involved. I had just moved to Saranac and didn't know anybody at the time. Despite the tackle, Davis would become one of my best friends.

Davis limped to a swing set and took a seat. We called him a crybaby but he wouldn't join back in the game. Eventually somebody went after a teacher. The teacher assessed the injury and told Davis to go home if he was hurt that bad. She went back to her cigarette. He dutifully limped several blocks to his home as we jeered and taunted from the playground. He showed up two days later in a full leg cast and crutches.

Saranac is a rather small school system and I pretty much know what became of the students I used to play "Pom-Pom Pullaway" with. I can assure you that none of them became brain surgeons or rocket scientists. Perhaps we should have been issued helmets prior to recess. As they say, those were the good old days.



By Priscilla Lussmyer

## Ledger Entries

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

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL  
JULY 18, 1877

The first cucumbers were brought in by O.O. Adams, and wheat should be ready soon. Excellent weather.

Two more patents applied for beside the fire escape: machine for dealing death-doses to potato bugs, by A.M. Elsworth, and an improved beehive by J.C. Train.

Severy's tin shop has moved next door to Foreman's enlarged harness shop on the bridge.

Frank at the reform club rooms sells the "Nicot," a good cigar advertised to be free of nicotine.

The "Chinese doctor" sold only four bottles of his patent medicine here last weekend.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER  
JULY 17, 1902:

This issue is missing; we substitute with July 20, 1888 "Lowell Past and Present" goes on with articles about the public schools, Foreman & Aldrich Meat Market, H. Nash Machine Shop, T.Z. Hazard Shoes and Boots, and Carpenter & Co. Millinery.

Detroit takes the lead in the pennant race for the first time this season.

Louis VanAmberg of Cascade is enjoined from cutting down any more telephone poles that the D&L Railroad planted on his property.

Democratic and Greenback Party conventions for county, district, state and national are going on for a month.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER  
AND THE ALTO SOLO JULY 21, 1927

Gov. Fred W. Green assures a Lowell delegation that M-21 will retain the route through Lowell, contrary to M.B. McPherson's proposal for a route north of the village.

Lowell physical education teacher, Bernice Friesner and Lowell coach, Ronald W. Finch get married. They will teach here again this year.

Common Council moves to widen Main Street by three feet on each side.

The Arrowhead Inn at Ada is raided for violation of Prohibition law.

The 13th Ionia Free Fair promises to be the greatest ever, with new buildings, auto polo, hippodrome acts and nightly fireworks.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER  
JULY 17, 1952

The 5000 seats in the grandstand sold out early for the 64 acts of Amateur Night.

Gubernatorial candidate Fred M. Alger will attend Showboat Tuesday night, Congressman Jerry Ford will be there Wednesday night. A hydrofoil will perform for the first time in Michigan in the pre-show, along with water skiers.

Howard Wells of Lowell and Omar Stahl of Clarksville brought in the first wheat to King Milling on Friday morning.

The National Convention in Chicago is broadcast on television for the first time, so many viewers are bleary-eyed from the late sessions.

The old South Ward school will be sold, proceeds to go into a sinking fund for other school buildings.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER  
JULY 21, 1977

The terrifying movie "Jaws," first a number-one bestseller book, will play at the Strand for a full week.

Attorney General Frank Kelley rules that schools may not legally set aside areas for students under 18 to smoke.

Lippert Pharmacies Inc. opens their new business offices in the refurbished Train Opera House at 202 W. Main.

Elwyn and Joe Hart break the record by bringing the first load of wheat to King Milling on July 5.

Ticket sales for Showboat next week, starring Pearl Bailey, are very brisk.

# AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

## Join Us In Worship

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
621 E. Main Street • 897-5936

**Summer Worship**  
8:30 & 10:00 A.M.

REV. B. GORDON BARRY  
Nursery & child care available at both services  
Barrier - Free Entrance

**EVERGREEN MISSIONARY CHURCH**  
10501 Settlewood • Ph. 897-7185

Sunday School ..... 9:45 A.M.  
Morning Worship ..... 11 A.M.  
Evening Service ..... 6:00 P.M.

Prayer and Praise - Wed., 7:00 P.M.  
GLENN H. MARKS - Senior Pastor, 897-9110  
STAN GERIG - Associate Pastor, 897-5894  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
(Barrier-Free)

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3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery

Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor  
Dave Noonan, Asst. Pastor  
Stacy Peters, College & Twenties

**SUNDAYS:**  
Worship: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAYS:**  
Family Night: (For All Ages) 7 p.m.  
Generation Jacob Youth: 7 p.m.

**CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
Rev. William J. Renkema - 897-7060  
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI

Morning Worship ..... 10:00 A.M.  
Sunday School ..... 11:20 A.M.  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 P.M.  
Nursery available at both services  
Barrier-Free

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Fr. George J. Fekete  
402 Amity St. • 897-9820  
www.stmary-lowell.com

Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM  
Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM  
Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM  
Saturday confessions: 10:10-10:30 AM  
Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 9 PM  
Religious Education, children to adults - call Brenda Berding 897-7915  
See Lowell Cable Ch. 49, EWTN for 24 hr. Catholic broadcasting

**LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
201 N. Washington • 897-8800

Sunday School ..... 9:30 A.M.  
Morning Worship ..... 10:50 A.M.  
Sunday Evening ..... 6:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Family Ministry ..... 7:00 P.M.

PASTOR TIM DESHAW  
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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
2275 West Main Street • 897-7168  
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Rev. Burland Margesson & Rev. W. Lee Taylor  
Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor

Sun. Worship Service, 9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.  
Sunday School Hour ..... 11:00 A.M.  
AWANA, Jr. Wed. 6:15 & 7 P.M.  
Contact Church Office For Prayers Meeting Times  
Nursery Provided • Barrier Free

**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT**

Kanon, Zeth & Darby Dean are pleased to announce the birth of the newest little Dean teammate

**DOAK MAXWELL DEAN**  
born JULY 2, 2002  
at 12:23 pm  
He weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz.  
and was 20 inches long.

**SWIMMER'S EAR**

Otitis Externa or "Swimmer's Ear" is a commonly seen ailment in the doctor's office during the summer months. Swimmer's ear is an infection of the outer ear canal and is generally caused from prolonged exposure to heat and moisture. The sensitive skin lining the ear canal is adversely affected by the water encountered in swimming and becomes susceptible to bacterial infection.

The signs and symptoms of swimmer's ear may develop within hours of prolonged swimming or as long as five days later. The earliest symptoms are itching in the canal and a feeling that the ear is "plugged." The canal initially becomes red and swollen, then the infection progresses to the point of yellow-green discharge which flows from the outer canal. In all but the mildest cases, pushing or pulling on the earlobe or other outer ear structures causes marked discomfort. In advance cases, the pain of swimmer's ear is intense, constant and aggravated by motion of the jaw or external ear.

Early treatment of swimmer's ear is very important. Treatment consists of meticulous cleansing of the external ear canal by your doctor, followed by the usage of antibacterial ear drops for 7-14 days, depending on the extent of the infection. Also of importance is the avoidance of any further contamination of the ear canal. Accordingly, your doctor will probably instruct you to use ear plugs while showering or swimming, at least during the time of treatment.

In summary, swimmer's ear is a common but potentially very painful outer ear infection, one which requires prompt evaluation and treatment in order to ensure a favorable outcome.

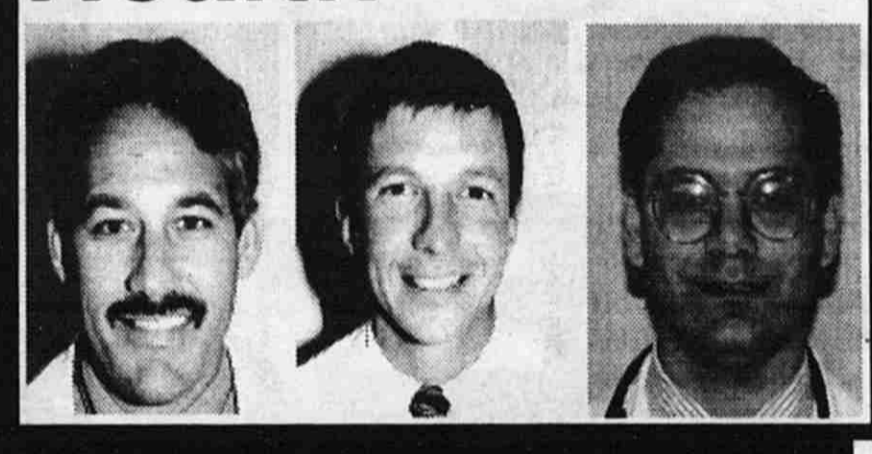
**PINCH ME**

Remarkably, another block of wild land in our community has been set aside so that future generations will be able to experience nature first-hand. The Cooper Woodland Preserve was dedicated in June. I hope we all realize the significance of this generous contribution to our natural heritage.

As inevitable development consumes more space, our opportunities for visiting natural areas are diminished. This is especially true for our youngsters. Private property and modern lifestyles make it unlikely that our children and grandchildren will wander through woods and fields as part of their regular daily activities. We have all heard stories about students having to walk great distances through snowy woods to get to school. Some of us actually did it, but those days are gone. Most children, today, live in an urban or suburban setting.

Proud parents are Noel and Jill Dean of Lowell

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



**SWIMMER'S EAR**

Otitis Externa or "Swimmer's Ear" is a commonly seen ailment in the doctor's office during the summer months. Swimmer's ear is an infection of the outer ear canal and is generally caused from prolonged exposure to heat and moisture. The sensitive skin lining the ear canal is adversely affected by the water encountered in swimming and becomes susceptible to bacterial infection.

**DOAK MAXWELL DEAN**  
born JULY 2, 2002  
at 12:23 pm  
He weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz.  
and was 20 inches long.

## OUTDOORS

Web sites, books, and educational classes can provide volumes of knowledge about land, birds, animals, and plants, but to appreciate and understand our relationship with the earth, we must see, feel, smell, and hear that which makes up our natural world. We have that opportunity now and in the future.

Thanks to the generosity of individuals and the cooperation between organizations and government, we have, in our community, access to fields, woods, swamps, ponds, lakes, and streams as well as the creatures that inhabit those places. Only minutes from our homes we have township and county parks, established trails, protected natural areas, and state land where we can go to ski, hike, walk, learn, and just enjoy nature.

The plan is to connect the parks and natural areas around Lowell, that are not now linked, with a trail system. This trail network will motivate folks who might not otherwise get enough exercise to get outdoors and adopt a healthier lifestyle.

Hopefully, there will be more opportunities to preserve open areas before it is too late. We have a good start, but a lot more needs to be done and everyone can help. Look for opportunities to participate in developing and maintaining these special places. The organizations charged with the task of managing these natural resources can use your labor and skills to make the best of our good fortune.

Pinch me. Is all this really happening?

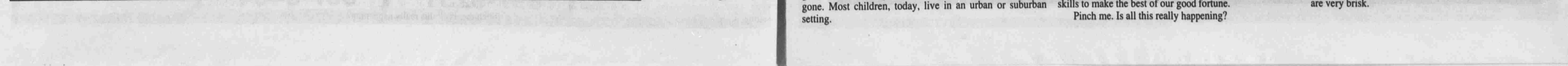
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Proud parents are Noel and Jill Dean of Lowell

**OUTDOORS**  
By Dave Stegehuis





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EXTRA!**

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 LHS Sports • Weddings •  
 Engagements • Births • News of  
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 Students & Those In The Armed  
 Forces • Honor Roll • Church  
 News • Several Weekly Columns  
**And Much, Much More!**

# The Lowell Ledger

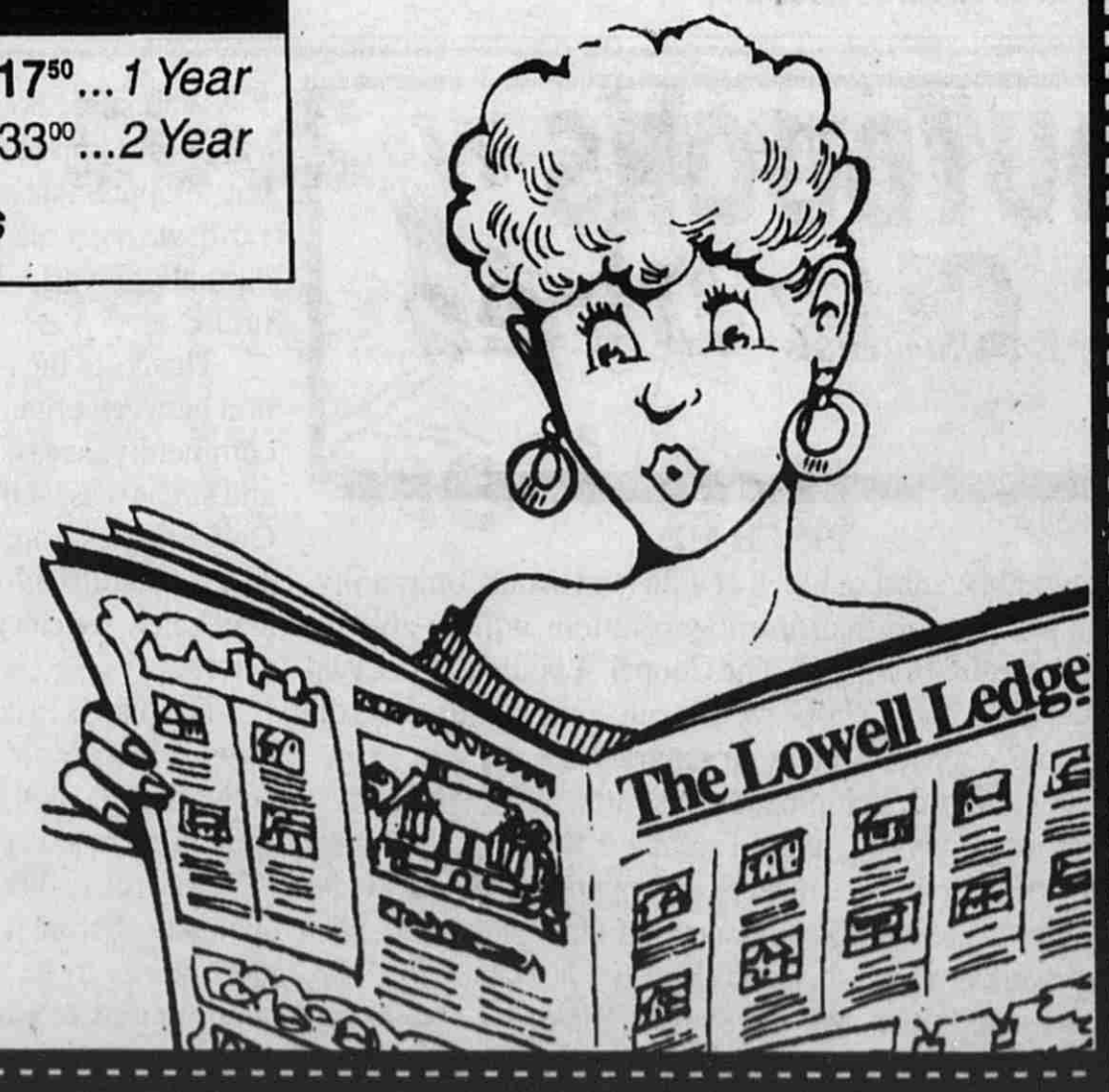
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## Financial Focus

**Edward Jones**  
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With Christopher C. Godbold

### Investment Opportunities Don't Stop at U.S. Border

Did you ever stop to consider where the everyday products you use come from? Whether you're watching television, talking on a cell phone, making coffee, driving a car, or performing dozens of other activities, you may be using goods that are manufactured outside the United States. As a consumer, you may find this mildly interesting. But as an investor, you've definitely got something to think about.

Although the fates and fortunes of U.S. companies dominate the business news, many foreign companies are good investment possibilities. But how do you find them? And is there anything special you need to know about buying shares of international stocks?

Actually, investing in foreign companies isn't really that difficult, as long as you keep a few things in mind:


- Know the risks involved. You can find solid investment opportunities in strong factors - including political instability, currency fluctuations, economic climate, foreign taxes and differences in financial reporting standards which can affect your stock holdings. While you may not be able to predict these events, you can at least factor them in when making your investment decisions.
- Diversify. When you own U.S. stocks, you need to diversify - and diversification is no less important when you invest internationally. That's why you may want to consider investing in mutual funds that own a variety of foreign stocks. You can choose a global stock fund which invests in stocks of companies located around the world, including the United States, or you can pick an international equity fund, which invests in securities of companies located in developing markets outside the United States, such as Japan, Western Europe, South America, etc. When it's time to choose a

particular global or international mutual fund, don't just settle for the first one you come across. Before you invest, compare a fund's management experience, investment philosophy and total expenses with other global or international funds.

- Focus on a company's fundamentals. When you invest in any stock - U.S. or foreign - you need to take a close look at the company's fundamentals. Is its management stable? Is the company well-positioned within its industry? Is the industry itself growing? When you can answer these types of questions, you'll be in a good position to make an informed investment decision.
- Don't "overweight" your portfolio with foreign investments. Foreign investments can be a valuable part of your diversified investment portfolio ... but they probably shouldn't make up too heavy a percentage of your overall holdings. Even if you've done your research on foreign stocks, they will always represent more of an "unknown" than U.S. stocks - and, in the investment world, the element of mystery is rarely a good thing.
- Finally, get help from an experienced investment professional. He or she can help guide you through the international investment scene - and hopefully make your journey a pleasant one.

## LEGAL EASE

By  
**Jonathan David**



**DEAR JONATHAN:**  
 Does it make any sense to engage in federal estate tax planning now when the estate tax is due to be repealed in eight years? My wife and I do not want to spend a lot of money now to create an estate plan for the purposes of

sheltering our estate from taxes when that expense could have been avoided by simply waiting until the estate taxes are repealed. What do you think?

**JONATHAN SAYS:**  
 First of all, under the current law the federal estate tax is

only due to be repealed for one year in 2010. If the repeal is not made permanent by Congress, then the federal estate tax comes back in 2011. In other words, unless you die in the year 2010, your estate, if it is large enough, will be subject to federal estate taxes.

Now, having said that, I think you would be better off to be proactive and engage in estate planning now rather than rely on a law that only repeals estate taxes for one year and is most likely to be changed anyway. Additionally, there are many non-tax planning issues that you should be concerned with and that can be addressed by implementing an estate plan.

These issues include:

- Who you want to receive your assets upon death: your spouse, children, grandchildren, friends charities, a combination thereof, etc.? If you do not put in writing who you want to receive your assets, then you will have no control as to what happens to those assets upon your death - this will be controlled by state law.
- Who you want to act as the personal representative of your estate? If you do not appoint someone in your will, then the court will appoint someone for you - again, this is something within your control if you take the time to implement a plan.
- Do you want your estate to be probated, or would you prefer to have your estate avoid being probated by setting up a living trust to hold

your assets during lifetime? If you create a living trust, then you will have to determine who you want to name as your successor trustees, as well as the beneficiaries of the trust assets.

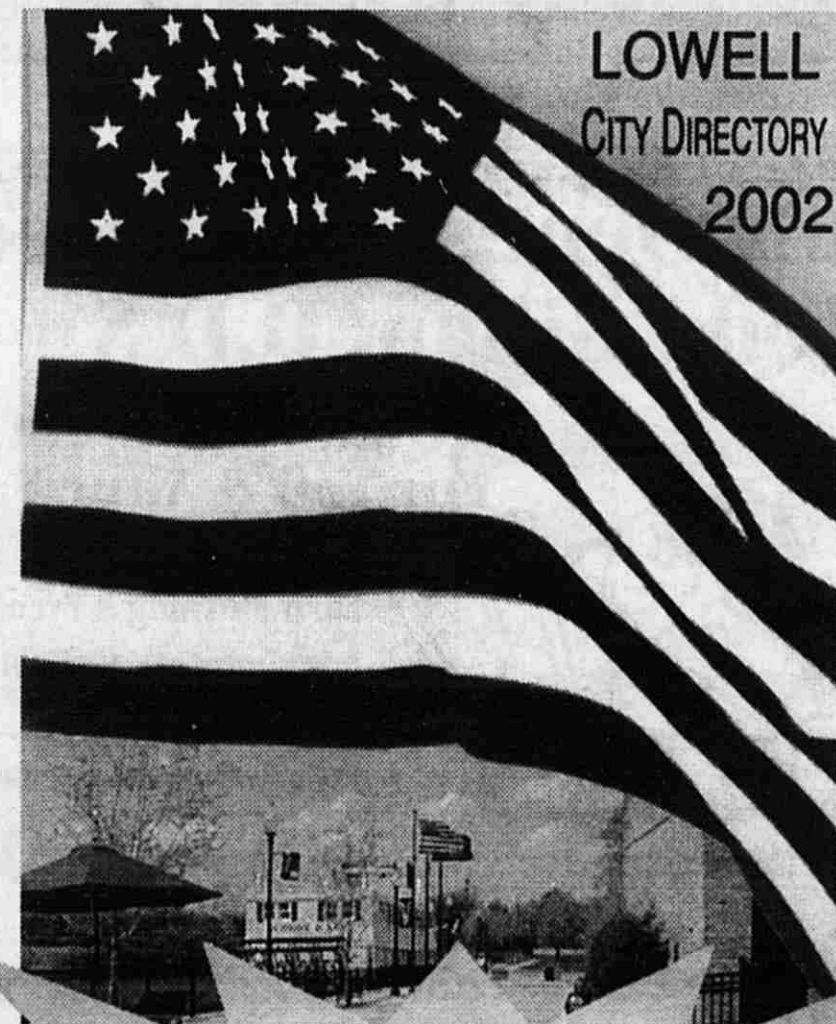
- If you become incapacitated during your lifetime, do you want to name an agent now who is able to act on your behalf to take care of your financial, personal and medical affairs, or do you want to leave it to the court to appoint a guardian and conservator on your behalf? If you want to control who is to act on your behalf, then you need to create a financial durable power of attorney and a health care power of attorney before you become incapacitated.

The above are just some of the non-tax issues that can be addressed by implementing an estate plan. Further, if

you have a taxable estate, by implementing an estate tax plan now, you and your spouse can shelter up to \$2,000,000 from federal estate taxes due to the \$1,000,000 unified credit exemption each of you are entitled to this year. This credit amount is due to go up to \$1,500,000 in 2004.

Doing nothing now in reliance of a law that is most likely to change, is a bad plan for the reasons stated above.


\*\*\*  
 The whole secret of life is to be interested in one thing profoundly and in a thousand other things well.  
 —Hugh Walpole  
 \*\*\*



## The New 2002 City Directories are Here!!!

If you don't receive one in your Buyers Guide in the next few weeks...  
 Stop at the Buyers Guide - Lowell Ledger Office and pick one up!

## Are You Missing A Picture??



**Maybe  
It's At  
The Buyers  
Guide/ledger  
Office**

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



Friday and Saturday, July 26 and 27 from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Call Linda at 897-1140 for an application form or information.

**THEATRE TROUPE COMING TO LPAC**  
A performance of one-acts and skits will be held on July 26 at 8 p.m. in the Lowell Performing Arts Center at the high school. Pleasant Company 10-actor troupe includes recent graduates of LHS who are showcasing their theatrical achievements. For information contact Lowell Area Arts Council at 897-8545.

## COLLEGE NEWS

More than 1,400 students earned degrees from Grand Valley State University in April, including 270 receiving master's degrees.

From the Lowell area are Anya A. Chamberlain, Candace A. Harper, Melissa M. Lorentz, Brian H. Thomas and Natasha J. Versluys.

From the Alto area are Kate E. Brillowsky, Nathan J. Gloss, Monica A. Muuse, Jennifer L. Smith and Kevin Wierenga.

# GARAGE SALE PAGE

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>MOVING SALE</b><br/>Help! 1st time moving after 45 years. Household items, tools, misc., tablesaw, out-board motor, 5 1/2 hp Evinrude with gas tank, July 18, 19 &amp; 20, 9-5 pm, 3245 Timpson Ave. bet. Grand River &amp; 36th.</p> | <p><b>ESTATE/MOVING SALE</b><br/>Fri., 7/19, Sat., 7/20, 10-6 p.m. 3432 Pratt Lake Ave. SE, Lowell. 30+ years, 3 generations of stuff. Trash to treasures. 2 miles E. of Alden Nash, off Cascade Rd.</p>                           | <p><b>MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE</b><br/>Thurs., July 18 and Fri., July 19, 9-5 p.m., Sat., July 20, 9-1 p.m. 10869 Bennett Rd.</p>   |
| <p><b>BIG YARD SALE</b><br/>Bone marrow fundrais-er for Pat Wierckz, 9421 Bluewater Hwy. Sat., July 20, 8-5 p.m.</p>  | <p><b>MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE/MOVING SALE</b><br/>One day only Saturday, July 20, 8-5 pm. 224 Maple St. behind Schneider Manor. Too much to mention including Nascar.</p>  | <p><b>HUGE 8 FAMILY SALE</b><br/>Clothing all sizes, men women &amp; children, jeans, furniture, toys, books, bikes, knick knacks, housewares. 1124 McCabe, July 18, 19 &amp; 20, 9-6pm.</p>  |
| <p><b>GARAGE SALE</b><br/>July 18, 8 to ? 5261 Kyser Road, off Grand River between Lowell and Saranac. Boys and girls infant clothes, toys and lots of miscellaneous items.</p>   | <p><b>GARAGE SALE</b><br/>Thurs., Fri., Sat. July 18, 19, 20, 9 to 5. Kids and adult clothing, shoes &amp; some knick knacks, handmade Cherry sofa table. Handmade shelves, 417 Hunt St. between Hudson &amp; Lincoln Lake Rd.</p> | <p><b>SEVEN SALES IN ONE</b><br/>Multi family means kids and adults clothes galore of every size! Furniture, household items, toys, too much to name! Friday &amp; Saturday from 8 am 'til sundown! 927 Lincoln Lake (in town).</p> |
| <p><b>4 FAMILY GARAGE SALE</b><br/>Everyone has been cleaning. Lots of stuff! 86 S. Center St., Saranac, July 19 &amp; 20, 8-5.</p>   | <p><b>GARAGE SALE</b><br/>One day only, Sat., July 20, 8-3 p.m. 222 S. Division, behind Keiser's. Baby clothes, car seat, gas stove, student desk and more.</p>  | <p><b>SALE AFTER THE MOVE!</b><br/>It's got to go if it hasn't been unpacked. 812 Lincoln Lake (Between Foreman &amp; Suffolk). Thurs. &amp; Fri., 'til 5 p.m. &amp; Sat. 'til 1 p.m.</p>   |

## LOWELL YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE SIGN-UPS

If you are interested in youth football, cheerleading, sign-ups are at Cherry Creek Elementary on July 27 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and on July 30, Aug. 1 and 8 from 6-8 p.m. New sign-ups are required to bring a copy of their birth certificate. Call 897-7896 with any questions. No late sign-ups allowed.

### CALL FOR AUDITIONS

The Lowell Area Arts Council's Thebes Players are

## Budget Cuts, cont'd... From Page 1

cuts had been made in case additional cuts were necessary.

A little less than half (\$250,000) of the money saved through the proposed cuts announced by Gillette will be used to add new staff (e.g., two high school teachers, part-time speech therapist), lowering the net budget cut to \$274,000.

"Making cuts is difficult, but everybody worked together. We had a group of people working together who stepped up to the plate," Gillette explained.

Lowell, a district with buildings near or at capacity, will need to find room for additional students.

The district budgeted for an additional 30 students;

Gillette noted that the number of new students may be well over that number. The official count will come on the school year's third Wednesday.

The upside to additional students is with their arrival also comes additional dollars.

The cuts announced Monday night are for the upcoming school year. They will then be revisited to see if any or all can be reinstated for the following year... although Gillette remains nervous about what the 2003-04 school year may bring.

"We're still looking at difficult times for next year. We'll have to wait and see what the economy looks like," Gillette concluded.

seeking actors for "Steel Magnolias" to be held this fall at Larkin's - The Other Place. Auditions will be Aug. 26-28 from 7-9 p.m. at the arts council. To borrow a script or for information, call 897-8545.

### ART & THEATRE CLASSES COMING SOON

Contact the Lowell Area Arts Council at 897-8545 for a list of art and theatre classes for all ages to be offered beginning in mid-September.

## Budget Cuts for 2002-03

| Eliminate full time sub position  | Savings        |
|---|----------------|
| One less teacher @ Alto (small 1st grade moving to 2nd)                   | 18,000         |
| Cut field trips/charge students - all levels                              | 10,000         |
| No custodial subs for short-term absences                                 | 23,000         |
| No custodial overtime that can't be billed out                            | 41,000         |
| Eliminate 2 custodial positions (no replacement for retirements)          | 87,000         |
| Eliminate media cir paraprofessor time (m.s. & h.s.)                      | 10,000         |
| 2002 Utility Reduction  | 30,000         |
| Reduced conference attendance   | 20,000         |
| No subs for paraeds (except mandated or safety) or otc. ass't.            | 15,000         |
| Eliminate otc asst. @ middle school (4 hours)                             | 12,000         |
| Replace full time computer teacher w/2 lab technicians                    | 7,000          |
| Eliminate "Mr. Wizard" at elementaries                                    | 16,000         |
| Capital Outlay reductions   | 20,000         |
| Eliminate zero hour computer class  | 5,000          |
| Charge for m.s. & h.s. supplies (band, art, shop, etc. - additional revei | 10,000         |
| Eliminate h.s. lunchroom paraprofessors (2)                               | 19,000         |
| Eliminate contracted service for Occupational Therapy                     | 20,000         |
| Reduce legal fees   | 8,000          |
| Reduce board expenses   | 30,000         |
| Reduce executive administration expenses                                  | 12,000         |
| Reduce contracted services  | 10,000         |
| Reduce curriculum expenses  | 10,000         |
| Cooperative transportation with Forest Hills (eliminate 1 bus run)        | 17,000         |
| Central Office staffing reductions  | 12,000         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>524,000</b> |

Note: \*denotes cuts implemented for 2001-02 and continued for 2002-03

## Blumm appointed newest member of foundation board

The Lowell Education Foundation welcomed new board member, Paula Blumm at its July meeting.

Blumm has a long history of involvement with the Lowell Area Schools' parent groups. In 1996, she was named LAS Volunteer of the Year. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Alto Elementary Inside Out Classroom. Currently she serves as a trustee on the Lowell Township board, Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association board of directors, Michigan Alliance for Gifted Education board of directors, and the Michigan Women's Foundation Strategic Grants Committee. Blumm lives in Lowell Township with her husband, John and children, Joe and Alice.

The Lowell Education Foundation enriches educational opportunities for Lowell Area Schools' students by providing grant funding and resources to enhance programs and inspire innovative learning. Also serving on the Foundation board are Liz Baker, Noreen Balaam, Teresa Beachum, Melanie Brim, Dan Brubaker, Kate Democoeur, Barb Gillman, Tom Karas, Thad Kraus, Dave Thompson, Jim White and Marsha Wilcox.

### Family Dentistry & Braces

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## Junior shortstop first Red Arrow to earn all-state honors

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

Not always does an athlete's performance meet with expectations.

It did for Lowell softball shortstop Jacque Benedict, however... the junior was selected to first team All-State.

"I'm very happy. It's been a goal of mine since I started playing," Benedict said. "I'm happy that I've been able to meet my expectations."

## Lowell wrestlers well represented on Team Michigan National championship journey

For the first time ever, Team Michigan National won the Junior Greco-Roman National Wrestling Championship.

The event which was held in Enid, Okla., June 27-30 brought together the creme de la creme of high school wrestlers from around the country.

Four members of Lowell's 2002 Division II state championship team were selected to Team Michigan National. Representing Lowell were Joe Mendez, Brandon Kinney, Bobby Gingerich and J.J. Wilder.

"This is an elite team. To have four boys on it is huge. I'm very proud of them," said Lowell wrestling coach, Dave

Strejc who did not make the trip to Oklahoma.

The Lowell coach, however, will not only accompany but will coach the team at the Individual National Championship in Fargo, North Dakota, at the end of July.

Michigan defeated Minnesota 36-24 to claim its first ever Greco-Roman Junior National Duals title.

Representing the Red Arrows in the finals were Gingerich and Kinney.

Gingerich (145) posted a 13-3 technical superiority over Andy Quittschreiber.

Kinney lost his finals match though was able to

Benedict's 2002 statistics support her selection. She batted .511 with a slugging percentage of .766. Benedict posted an on-base percentage of .657. Both her slugging and on-base percentage set single season records for Lowell High School softball program.

The junior tied Andrea Rickert's (1999) single season hit record of 48.

Benedict's .961 fielding percentage sheds light on her ability to field with the best of them.

"It's difficult to compare players. Jacque hits the best of any player I've coached and she's doing it against better pitching," said Lowell softball coach, Bob Rodenhouse. "Her game awareness is also better than any player I've coached."

Prior to her all-state selection, Benedict received all district and all regional honors. She was also named to the O-K White all conference team.

Lowell played 32 games this past spring (high school season). This summer Benedict, when finished, will have played roughly 50 games.

"It's a lot of real competitive softball. But I love it,"

## Lowell YMCA '02 SUMMER ADULT SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Posted 7/15/2002

| MONDAY NIGHT CO-ED OPEN DIVISION | W  | L  |
|----------------------------------|----|----|
| Bowne Center UMC - champions     | 10 | 2  |
| Noon Equipment                   | 10 | 3  |
| Moose Lodge 809                  | 9  | 3  |
| Wrecker's Sports                 | 9  | 3  |
| Team GNS                         | 5  | 6  |
| Christian Life                   | 5  | 7  |
| 1st Congregational               | 2  | 9  |
| Nazarene Church                  | 1  | 10 |
| Paragon                          | 1  | 10 |

| WEDNESDAY MEN'S     | W  | L  |
|---------------------|----|----|
| Larkin's            | 10 | 0  |
| Sneaker's           | 8  | 3  |
| Preston's Prospects | 5  | 5  |
| Ball Busters        | 4  | 7  |
| Rook's Landscape    | 0  | 12 |

| FRIDAY MEN'S         | W  | L |
|----------------------|----|---|
| Everest Custom Homes | 10 | 1 |
| American Legion      | 7  | 3 |
| Mirage Inn           | 6  | 5 |
| Moose Lodge 809      | 4  | 7 |
| Ada Beef             | 4  | 7 |
| Jimmy's Lake Pump    | 1  | 9 |

## CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The parking lot directly behind (north) City Hall/Police Department will be closed permanently for demolition as of Sunday, July 21, 2002 at 5:00 p.m.

### ROLLAWAY FAMILY FUN CENTER

Presents The TOWNSHIP MINI-GOLF TOURNAMENT FINALISTS!

1<sup>st</sup> - Ann Schultz & Heidi Ford of Cumberland Retirement Village

2<sup>nd</sup> - Galaxy Signs & Awards

3<sup>rd</sup> - Special Events Bakery

A special thank you to Galaxy Signs & Awards for donating the individual trophies, to Liz Baker and the Lowell Chamber of Commerce for their support, and a big thank you to those who participated.

**Private parties available!**  
**Sign up your golf outing today!**

#### 897-0001

## Show Us Your Smile!

**JUNE SMILE OF THE MONTH:**

NAME:.....Jimmy McCallion

AGE:.....6 years old

BIRTHDAY.....11/2/95

HOBBIES.....Riding his bike & scooter, video games, fishing & swimming

**He receives a prize for his great checkup.**

### June "No Cavities" Club Members

|                       |                   |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Anthony Alderink      | Katherine Sprague | Lauren Ferguson   |
| Kiersten Ashenbremner | Madison Schram    | Tanner Owens      |
| Michael Sprague       | Jordan Boon       | Samantha Deiss    |
| Pierce Morris         | Dylan MacDougall  | Megan Loser       |
| Zachory Baum          | Brooke Fosburg    | Sara Weaver       |
| Delainey Ferguson     | Connor Bergin     | Kanon Dean        |
| Zeth Dean             |                   | Quinn Summerfield |
| Caitlin McCallion     |                   | Alex Johnson      |

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**Jazzin' Up on the Riverwalk**  
 The New Odd Men Out (left) features four young jazz musicians: Steve VandenBrink (piano), Karl Van Beekon (saxophone), Jon Wert (drums), and Matt Heredia (bass). Over the two years they have been playing together, The New Odd Men Out quartet has created a musical style of smooth, innovative jazz that is easy to listen to. "It's come along real nice. We all feed off each other and communicate really well. I think it's a neat experience that not everyone has," VandenBrink said.

The Dave Collie Quartet with Ginny Dusseau (below) includes Collie (bass), Tim Froncek (drums), Eric Thorne (piano), Bob Nixon (saxophone and flute) and Ginny Dusseau (vocalist). The group first began performing together in the summer of 1997. Its artistry and fresh approach to swing, blues, Latin jazz and classical standards have delighted audiences.



**IONIA FAIR** July 18-28  
**Grand Opening Night Special**  
 6 pm - 11:30 pm, July 18<sup>th</sup>  
 \$1 Admission \$1 Parking  
 \$10 Pay One Price Unlimited Carnival Rides

Twilight Parade 6:30 pm  
 "Everything's Red, White & Blue in 2002"  
 Helen Simon Grand Marshal  
 (Kick-off at Intersection of Adams & Kidd)

www.ioniafair.com • (616) 527-1310

**Sizzlin' Summer Concert is Thursday, July 18. The show starts at 7 p.m.**

**ADA-LOWELL 5**

M-21 5 Minutes East of Arroyo H.C. (14)  
 \$4.75 Kids all shows 897-FILM  
 \$5.00 DAILY Matinees 11:30am & Seniors  
 \$5.25 Students & Late Shows Fri & Sat  
 \$6.25 Evenings Mon-Thurs ALL SCREENS DIGITAL STEREO  
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**MOVIE GUIDE**



Steve Irwin

**SHOWTIMES 7/15 - 7/18**  
**CROCODILE HUNTER: COLLISION COURSE (PG)**  
 11:10, 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10  
**OMEN IN BLACK 2 (PG-13)**  
 11:00, 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 7:30, 9:20  
**OLIVE MIKE (PG)**  
 12:20, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00  
**POWERPUFF GIRLS (PG)**  
 11:00 AM  
**MR. DEEDS (PG-13)**  
 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:20, 9:30  
**MINORITY REPORT (PG-13)**  
 9:00  
**LILO & STITCH (PG)**  
 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:40, 9:40

**COUPON FREE 20oz. DRINK**  
 with \$1.50 (1/2 price) purchase of 46oz. bag of buttery popcorn  
 \*See restrictions on sides

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**Chamber golf outing raises \$1,200**

Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce's First annual Golf Tournament carded a birdie. It gathered 30 foursomes for a day of golf, food and fun at the Deer Run Golf Course. The event raised \$1,200 which will be used toward the operation of the Chamber office.

Prizes were awarded for low score, closest to the hole and longest drive for groups going out at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Winning prizes for the lowest foursome scores were Double R Ranch and Advanced Eyesore Professionals.

Roger Vander Mer and Andy Knapp won the closest to the hole contests. The longest drives were posted by John Griffioen and Angie Carlson.

Foursomes dined on hamburgers, chicken breasts, potato salad, baked beans and vegetables.

Sponsors for the tournament were Deer Run Golf Course, Fifth Third Bank, Speerstra Insurance Agency, Lowell Beer Store, Lowell YMCA, Regal Financial, Grand Valley Health Plan, Edward Jones Investment Company, Independent Bank, Gilmore Collection, Sneaker's, Double R Ranch, River Valley Credit Union, Galaxy Signs and Awards and the Lowell Area Fire Department.

The hearing will be held as follows:  
**WHEN: MONDAY, JULY 22, 2002**  
**TIME: 7:00 P.M.**  
**WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL**  
 2910 Alden Nash Avenue S.E.  
 Lowell, Michigan 49331

The proposed amendment is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue S.E., Lowell, Michigan 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday or by calling 897-7600.

Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission

**Ada man injured in M-21 motorcycle/car accident**



John Vago, an 18-year-old from Ada, was westbound when an eastbound car driven by Lowell's Joseph Garang failed to yield the right of way and turned into the path of Vago's bike. Vago was thrown from his bike onto the windshield of Garang's car before coming to rest on the pavement. The Ada man was transported to Metropolitan Hospital with non-serious injuries.

**Time hasn't passed up "Girls of Yesteryear"**

•••The Bowne club originated in 1914. Long-standing as well as new members will attend the annual meeting on Thursday, Sept. 12.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
 Lowell Ledger Editor

Gladys Benedict remembers how she and other children used to laugh when their mothers attended the annual "Girls of Yesteryear" meeting.

"We used to laugh and joke that it was a meeting for the old ladies," Benedict recalls. She's not laughing anymore... no, Benedict now attends the meeting herself. "I'm that old lady now."

The group was organized in 1914 with Vera Watts coining the name "Girls of Yesteryear." The meeting started as a summer picnic potluck.

Eventually through monies earned by serving 25 cent chicken dinners, the group built a first old Ladies Aid Hall (now museum). In later years, they met in the old Ladies Aid Hall and then in the new recreation building.

Anyone who grew up in the area was invited to the meeting held the second Thursday of September.

"It's a real homecoming," says member, Donna Johnson. "The ladies of the Bowne

Methodist Church (Women's Society of Christian Service) fixed a lunch for us and for quite a few years, we would have about 60 women attending. Presently, there are about 40 who attend."

Former Bowne area residents return from Grand Rapids, Detroit, Sparta, Hastings and Lowell, to name a few.

The first ladies of the group were from pioneer families from this area like the Bouldards, Bergys, Porritts, Wingeiers, Thomas, Thompsons, Bentons, Smiths, Flynns, Johnsons and Nash.

These settlers have all passed away now, leaving a second generation to take over and continue the tradition.

Today, the meeting consists of lunch, a program honoring those who have passed away, and catching up on the lives of one another.

This year, the 88th meeting of the "Girls of Yesteryear" will be held on Thursday, Sept. 12.

"The ladies have always loved gathering together," Johnson said. "We've met for 88 years and are headed for 100."

**Deadline approaches for state holiday tree search**

With only a handful of months remaining until the lighting of the 2002 state holiday tree, the Department of Management and Budget will conclude its search for a tree on Aug. 15. A tradition since 1987, the holiday tree search is conducted by the state of Michigan and the Michigan Association of Timbermen.

The search is open to any individual or organization who would like to join in the holiday spirit by contributing a tree to decorate the front lawn of the state capitol building. In order to be considered, the tree must meet specific qualifications. It must be a spruce, fir or Douglas fir, be at least 65 feet tall; have a maximum crown diameter of 30 feet and a trunk diameter of no more than 30 inches; be reasonably close to roads so that trucks can transport it; and be available at no charge.

Anyone wishing to enter the holiday tree search should send information, including a contact person and telephone number, the location and specific information regarding the tree and, if possible, a photo of the tree, by Aug. 15 to: Holiday Tree Selection/State of Michigan/ Department of Management and Budget/ P.O. Box 30026; Lansing, Michigan 48909.

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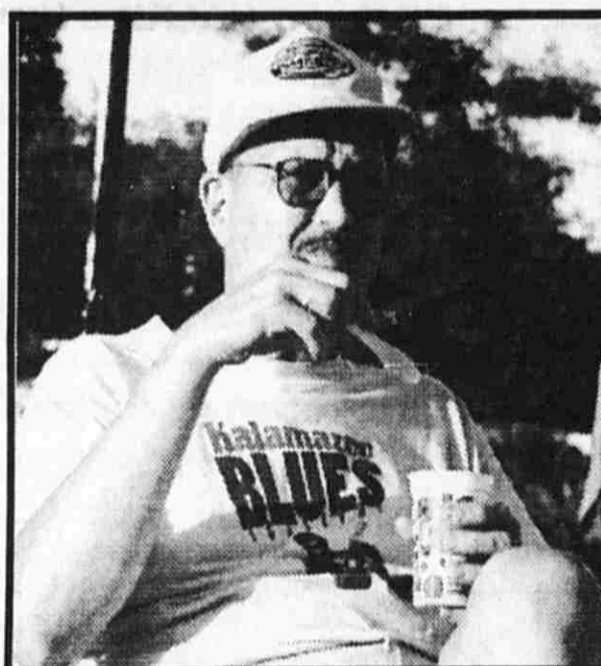
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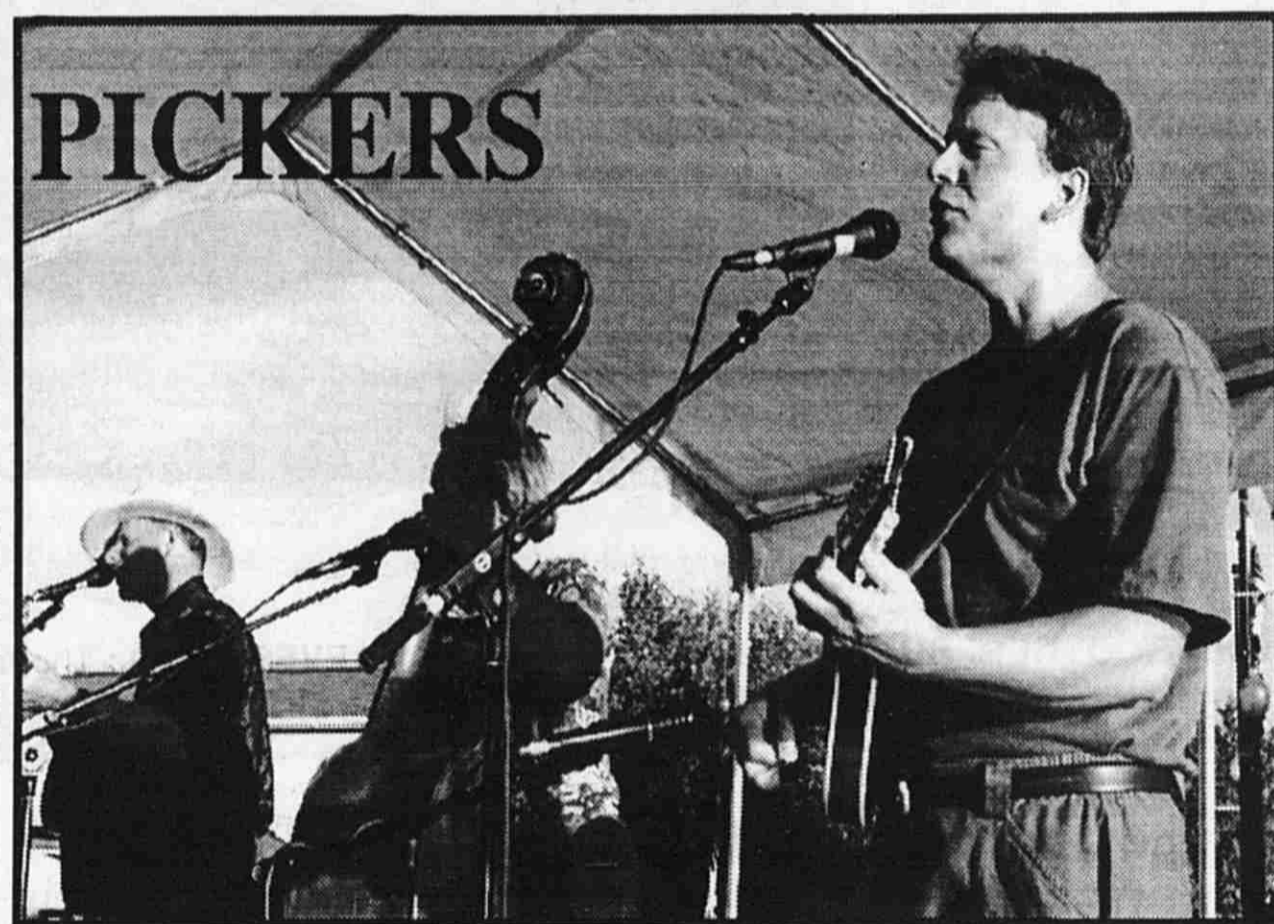
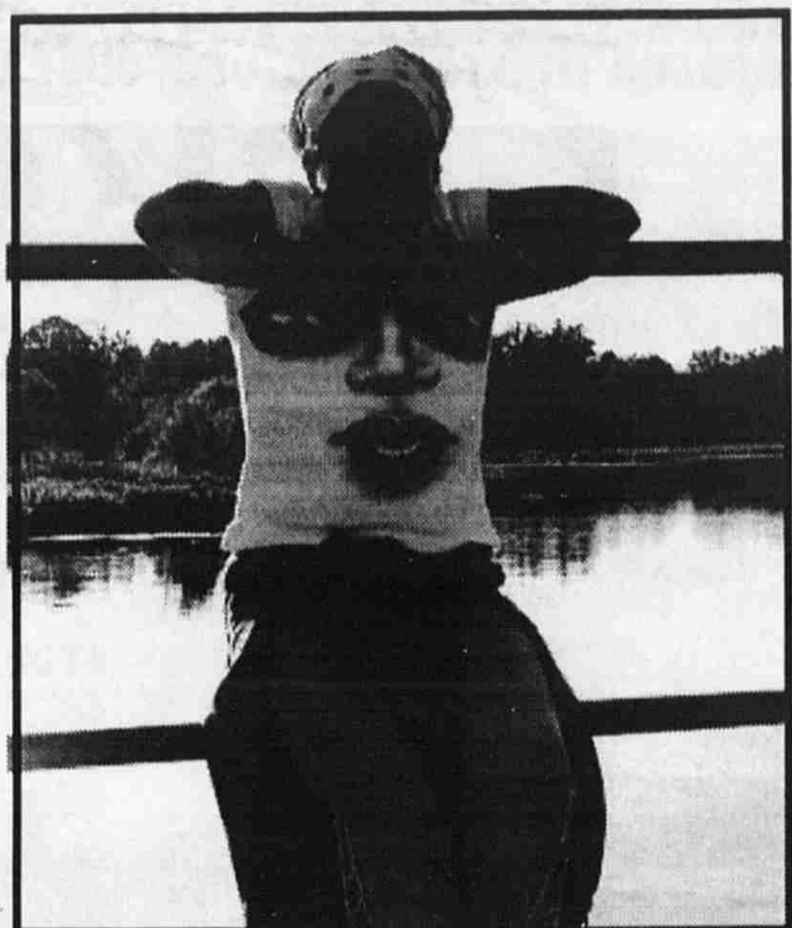
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## RAISIN PICKERS



The music flowed effortlessly from swing to ballad, from fast to furious, from traditional bluegrass and classical ballads to old-time swing and jazz. A crowd of roughly 500 showed up for Thursday's Raisin Pickers summer concert on the Riverwalk. The concert marked the halfway point of the Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series.



# COMING EVENTS

Notices in The Ledger's "Coming Events" are free of charge to any nonprofit organization in the Lowell, Ada, Alto, and Saranac areas. We prefer such notices to be kept brief and to be submitted by mail, but will accept notices by phone at 897-9261.

**EVERY MONTH:** The Flat River Snowmobile Club meets at the clubhouse (11841 Potters Rd.) east of Montcalm Ave. For dates and times call 897-5015. Guests are welcome.

**1ST SUN. OF EACH MON.:** Family Council of Laurels of Kent volunteer group meets at 3 p.m. to discuss enhancing the lives of residents & staff, promoting more pleasant living and working environment. Public invited.

**EVERY OTHER SUN:** Single adults, ages 25-50 years, meet 4 - 5:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Lowell. Social time/lt. Bible study. Call Mark 897-8642 or Tammy 897-0872.

**EVERY MON.:** Lowell High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Friends - meets from 7-8:30 p.m. in members' homes. See poster in high school cafeteria or call 676-1355 for details.

**SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH:** Needlecraft Day at Grattan Twp. Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd., 1 p.m. following senior meal. Come knit & crochet or learn the craft. Call Lana at 691-8450 for info.

**SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH:** Fallasburg Historical Society holds monthly board meeting at Chamber office at 7 p.m. Public invited.

**SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH:** The Lowell Board of Education meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Building, former Runciman Elementary, 300 High Street.

**SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH:** The Bowne Township Historical Society holds its regular meetings at the Historical Museum at 84th and Alden Nash, 7:30 p.m.

**SECOND MON. OF THE MONTH:** Lowell Showboat Garden Club meets at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Nazarene Church. Info. call Dave : 897-2533.

**MON. OR TUES.:** Cub Scouts for boys in 1st - 5th grades, Alto or Lowell. Call Terry Amidon at 897-8751.

**FOURTH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH:** American Legion Clark-Ellis Post 152 at Lowell V.F.W. Hall, 307 E. Main St. at 8 p.m.

**EVERY 1ST MON.:** V.F.W. Post #8303 (men only) meets at V.F.W. Clubroom, 307 E. Main St., Lowell, 7:00 p.m.

**EVERY MON.:** Boy Scout Troop 102, for boys 11 & up or completing the 5th grade, meets 7 - 8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin on N. Washington St. Enjoy hiking/camping. Call Terry Cavanaugh, 868-6481.

**TUES.:** Take Off Pounds Sensibly Tops MI#372 meets at Key Heights Mobile Home Park Community Building. Weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m.

**TUES.:** Walking-exercise program at 9 a.m. in Grattan Twp. Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd. No charge. Call Lana 691-8450 for info.

**TUES.:** Flat River Woodcarvers meet at LAAC 6:30-8:30 p.m. New members welcome.

**TUES., WED, THURS.:** Ionia County Literacy Council, free help with learning English: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at SS Peter & Paul Catholic School, High St., Ionia. Call 527-2345 or 897-7020.

**1ST TUES.:** Adults with AD/HD at Calvin College, 7-9 p.m. No cost. All welcome. For info. call Gary Engle at 897-6325 or 248-2423.

**1ST TUES.:** WINGS Parent Group meetings 7:30 to 9 p.m., in Board Room at 300 High St. Business meetings/odd months; program meetings/even months. Open to all.

**EVERY SECOND & FOURTH TUES.:** Knights of Columbus #7719 meets St. Mary School, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**EVERY WED.:** The "Peppers" (senior adults) meets at Franciscan Life Process Center from 1-3:30 p.m. \$10 per week. Transportation available. Call Pat at 897-7842.

**EVERY SECOND WED.:** Kent County Youth Fair Board meets at 7:30 p.m. at King Memorial Youth Center at the Fairgrounds. Call 897-6050.

**EVERY SECOND WED.:** Grand Rapids Machine Knitters Club meets at Kentwood Library, 4799 Kalamazoo Ave. - 1 p.m. Sara Coates 365-1247 or Bette Frieswyk 949-8655.

**EVERY SECOND WED.:** G.F.W.C. Lowell Women's Club meets at noon in community room at Schneider Manor, 725 Bowes Rd.

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

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

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

**THURS.:** Weight Watchers at Lowell Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington, 5:30 & 7 p.m. Registration begins 1/2 hour before meetings. New

members invited 1-800-651-6000.

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

**FIRST THURS.:** 4-H drama club meetings at Lowell Middle School choir room. 897-1502 after 5 p.m.

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

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

**EVERY 2ND THURS.:** VFW #8303 Ladies Auxiliary meets at 3 p.m. at VFW Clubroom, 307 E. Main. No Bingo.

**EVERY THIRD THURS.:** Parents Supporting Parents-support group at Franciscan Life Process Center offers topics/ discussion for parents of children all ages. 897-7842.

**EVERY THIRD THURS.:** Royal Arch Masons regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Lowell Masonic Center, 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

**EVERY THIRD THURS.:** LaLeche League of Ada, Cascade & Lowell 6:30 p.m. for socializing; meeting 7 p.m. Mother to mother support for pregnant & breastfeeding women. Nursing children welcome. Ada church. Call 752-8300.

**THIRD FRI.:** All players & listeners: Join Nick & Patti at The New Riverview, M-21 E. of Lowell, for a "Folk Music" session, 7:30 p.m. - ? Call 897-0099 Nick or 897-9948 Lyle.

**FRI.:** Walking-exercise program 9 a.m. in Grattan Twp. Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd. No charge. Call Lana 691-8450 for info.

**SECOND SAT. OF EVERY MONTH:** Ada Historical Society meets 1 p.m. at Averill Historical Museum of Ada 7144 Headley.

**SECOND SAT.:** Lowell Amateur Radio Club @ Lowell High School 9 a.m.

social gathering; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors the 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

**EVERY FRI. & SAT.:** Averill Historical Museum of Ada, 7144 Headley 1 to 4 p.m. or by appt. Call 676-9346.

**LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM HOURS:** Tues., Sat. & Sun.: 1-4 p.m.; Thurs., 1-8 p.m. Families: \$10; individuals \$3; ages 5-17 \$1.50; members free.

**FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT SHOP HOURS:** Wed., Thurs. & Fri.: 12-6 p.m.; Sat.: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 897-2037. Gift certificates.

**ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS:** Mon. - Wed., 12-8 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri.: 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat.: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Call 647-3920.

**WOMEN OF THE MOOSE:** Business meeting 3rd Monday at 7:30 p.m.

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

**WED., JULY 17:** Lowell Area Fire Dept. is sponsoring a blood drive for Grand Valley Blood program, 2-7 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson.

**FRI., JULY 19:** Meet the artists at LAAC 7-8:30 p.m. Call 897-8545 to register.

**DON'T MISS THE SHOWBOAT SIZZLIN' SUMMER CONCERT - THURSDAY EVENING AT RIVERWALK PLAZA FROM 7-9 P.M. IT'S A NIGHT OF JAZZ!!!**

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

#### LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR 897-5949

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

**TUES.:** 8:30 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall. **FRI.:** 8:30 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**WED., JULY 17:** 10 a.m. Advisory Council; 12 p.m. Movie: Blue Hawaii.

**THURS., JULY 18:** 12:45 p.m. Meijer Gardens sculpture and carriage ride, \$6.

**FRI., JULY 19:** 12 p.m. Birthday Celebration, Bingo.

**MON., JULY 22:** 12:45 p.m. Alton Bible Church.

**TUES., JULY 23:** 12:45 p.m. Ice Cream Social 50¢; 12:45 p.m. Shop Family Fare.

**WED., JULY 24:** 12:45 p.m. Lunch at Woodland Mall - Cafe in the Woods.

**THURS., JULY 25:** 12 p.m. Dance at West Side Complex.

**FRI., JULY 26:** 12:45 pm. Shop G. R. Meijer and Farmers' Market.

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# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL

For the Regular Meeting of **MONDAY, JULY 1, 2002.**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Shores and the City Clerk called Roll.

Present: Councilmembers Blough, Brubaker, and Mayor Shores.

Absent: Councilmember Myers and Pfaller.  
Also Present: City Manager David Pasquale, City Clerk Betty Morlock, Public Works Director Dan DesJarden, Police Chief Jim Valentine, Planning Commission Chairman Jim Hall, Light and Power and Cable TV General Manager Tom Richards, Light and Power and Cable TV Boardmembers Norm Borgerson and Bill Thompson, Administrative Manager Mary Sawka and Lowell Area Historical Museum Boardmember Jim Doyle.

IT WAS MOVED BY BLOUGH and seconded by BRUBAKER to excuse the absence of Councilmembers Myers and Pfaller.  
YEA: 3.  
NAY: 0.  
ABSENT: 2.  
MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY BRUBAKER and seconded by BLOUGH that the minutes of the June 17, 2002 regular and closed session meetings as well as the special meeting of June 24 be approved as written.  
YEA: 3.  
NAY: 0.  
ABSENT: 2.  
MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY BRUBAKER and seconded by BLOUGH that the bills and accounts payable be allowed and the warrants issued.  
YEA: 3.  
NAY: 0.  
ABSENT: 2.  
MOTION CARRIED.

| BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (07/01/02) |              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| GENERAL FUND                          | \$210,427.10 |
| MAJOR STREET FUND                     | 523.80       |
| LOCAL STREET FUND                     | 8,134.33     |
| DDA FUND                              | 7,502.63     |
| CITY HALL CONSTRUCTION FUND           | 6,350.00     |
| AIRPORT FUND                          | 125.00       |
| WASTEWATER FUND                       | 29,543.69    |
| WATER FUND                            | 24,064.19    |
| EQUIPMENT FUND                        | 860.37       |
| CURRENT TAX FUND                      | 2,209.25     |
| LEE FUND                              | 700.00       |

**Item #1. RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STORAGE IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 4.16 - RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION - ADOPT OR SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE (7/15).** City Manager Pasquale noted the Planning Commission had spent several months reviewing this issue. Citizen input had been utilized as well as the Commissioners. The ordinance presented was brought before a public hearing on June 24, 2002. No comments were received from the public. The Commission unanimously recommended approval.

City Manager Pasquale read the following changes into record:

### SECTION 4.16 RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STORAGE IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS.

Licensed and operable recreational vehicles may be stored or parked in Residential Districts, provided the following regulations are complied with:

A. Recreational vehicles may be stored or parked to the rear of the front building line of the primary structure.

B. Recreational vehicles may be stored or parked in a driveway not less than ten (10) feet from the front lot line.

C. Recreational vehicles may be used for temporary occupancy for one (1) period not to exceed nine (9) consecutive days during any six (6) consecutive calendar months as long as they are otherwise in compliance with this Section 4.16.

Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect ten days after it, or a summary thereof, as permitted by law, is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City.

IT WAS MOVED BY BRUBAKER and seconded by BLOUGH to set a public hearing for July 15, 2002.

Councilmember Blough believed it would be best to receive as much publicity as possible and suggested a public hearing be held. Many comments have been received over the last couple of months.

Councilmember Brubaker had concerns about Section C, which states "may be used for temporary occupancy for one (1) period not to exceed nine (9) consecutive days during any six (6) consecutive calendar months as long as they are otherwise in compliance with this Section 4.16".

Mayor Shores explained Section C would allow individuals to have a motor home in their drive for guests for a period of nine days per year.  
YEA: 3.  
NAY: 0.  
ABSENT: 2.  
MOTION CARRIED.

### Item #2. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS.

1580 Faith Drive - Edward Oracz - side yard variance for constructing an attached garage - public hearing. At its June 24, 2002 meeting, the Planning Commission reviewed the variance request and recommended this be granted on a vote of 7 to 2 based on the criteria statements for a side yard variance at 1580 Faith allowing a 3 foot setback rather than 6 feet for an attached garage. Oracz explained he wish to construct a 24' x 30' attached two stall garage.

Zoning Board Chairman Brubaker noted Zoning Boardmember Myers could not be present, but did send correspondence stating his support for the side yard variance request. Myers based his opinion on the property abutting City park property. He believed it was unlikely the abutting property would exchange owners in the future.

Zoning Boardmember Shores agreed with Myers, stating the property would probably remain park property.

Zoning Boardmember Blough was interested in the criteria statements under which the variance was supported.

Brubaker reviewed the criteria as follows:

A. There must be exceptional or extraordinary circumstances or conditions that apply to the property in question that do not apply generally to other properties in the same zoning district, which can include the shape or the specific property or topographic conditions, other extraordinary situation on the land, building or structure or by reason of the use or development of the property immediately adjoining the property in question, the literal enforcement of the requirements of this Ordinance would involve practical difficulties.

The applicant has noted the two-stall garage, which is close to the property line, would border the Creekside Park soccer fields. There are no other buildings or structures in the area.

B. The condition or situation of the specific piece of property for which the variance is sought is not of so general or recurrent a nature as to make reasonably practical the formulation of a general regulation for such conditions or situations.

The applicant has noted there are no other neighbors or structures which would border the property line or likely in the future.

Brubaker stated he did not believe there were other residents in a similar situation. This does seem to be unique because of how the house is positioned with respect to the soccer fields.

C. The variance is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of a substantial property right similar to that possessed by other properties in the same zoning district and in the vicinity. The possibility of increased financial return shall not of itself be deemed sufficient to warrant a variance.

The applicant has noted he wanted to build a structure,

which would enable him to store at least two vehicles and protecting these from the elements.

D. The variance will not be significantly detrimental to adjacent property and the surrounding neighborhood.

The applicant notes the adjoining property is Creekside Park's soccer fields. There is already an 8-foot fence separating the properties.

E. The variance will not impair the intent and purpose of the Ordinance.

The applicant notes the intent of the ordinance is to keep space between structures for safety reasons. However, in this case there is no concern.

F. The immediate practical difficulty causing the need for the variance request was not created by any action of the applicant.

The applicant notes when the house was built, the builder did not leave enough room to build an attached two-stall garage 6 feet from the property line.

IT WAS MOVED BY SHORES and seconded by BLOUGH to grant the 3-foot side yard variance for constructing an attached garage at 1580 Faith Drive.

Blough noted the vote was not unanimous from the Planning Commission.

Shirl Oracz stated she did not understand the criteria questions. Blough explained the Planning Commission tends to review from a planning viewpoint.

Blough stated the Planning Commission did not add any comments included with the variance request. If the Planning Commission, by majority, had felt there were some other unusual circumstances which were reoccurring in nature and would help support the case, then he would have looked for this kind of support.

As pointed out by Brubaker, there were a couple of questions, such as did this situation exist when the property was bought or was it changed after the property was purchased which the owner could not control.

Blough inquired if a one-stall garage could be built.

Shores believed a two-stall garage would provide more room to store items.

Brubaker felt the property was unique because of the direction it faces and the fact it would be nearly impossible to access the backyard to store items.

Brubaker stated he would be in favor of granting the variance because of the unique situation of the building as it sits on the property in relation to the soccer fields.  
YEA: 2. (Boardmembers Brubaker and Mayor Shores)  
NAY: 1. (Boardmember Blough)  
ABSENT: 2. (Boardmembers Myers and Pfaller)  
MOTION CARRIED.

**Item #3. AUDITING SERVICES CONTRACT 2002 - 2004.** Requests for proposals were sent to four auditing firms to provide services covering three fiscal years for the City, Light and Power and Cable TV. An analysis of each proposal was carried out as follows:

|       | Virshaw Krause (Madison, WI) | Biggs Hausserman (Saranac) | Plante Moran (Benton Harbor, East Lansing, GR) | Rehmann Robson (Grand Rapids) |
|-------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Cost: |                              |                            |  |                               |
| 2002  |                              |                            |  |                               |
| City  | \$34,000.                    | \$19,600.                  | \$18,500.                                      | \$9,500.                      |
| L&P   | 8,600.                       | 8,600.                     | 8,500.   | 3,750.                        |
| Cable | 4,000.                       | 6,400.                     | 6,000.   | 2,750.                        |
| 2003  |                              |                            |  |                               |
| City  | \$43,000.                    | \$20,400.                  | \$19,000.                                      | \$9,500.                      |
| L&P   | 9,000.                       | 8,900.                     | 8,750.   | 3,750.                        |
| Cable | 4,200.                       | 6,700.                     | 6,200.   | 2,750.                        |
| 2004  |                              |                            |  |                               |
| City  | \$45,200.                    | \$21,100.                  | \$19,500.                                      | \$9,500.                      |
| L&P   | 9,500.                       | 9,200.                     | 9,000.   | 3,750.                        |
| Cable | 4,400.                       | 7,000.                     | 6,400.   | 2,750.                        |

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

| Staff Assigned City | Partners 2 Manager 1 Senior Acct 1 | Partners 1 Senior Auditor 1 Staff Auditor 1 | Partners 2 Associate 1 Manager 1 | Partners 2 Audit Manager 2 Staff Auditor 1 |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|
| L&P/Cable           | Partners 3 Senior Acct 2           | Same  | Same                             | Same                                       |

| Water Rate Calculations | 2002     | 2003           | 2004     |
|-------------------------|----------|----------------|----------|
|                         | \$1,500. | \$2,000-2,600. | \$1,900. |
|                         | 1,650.   | 2,000-2,700.   | 1,950.   |
|                         | 1,800.   | 2,000-2,850.   | 2,000.   |

Each firm has an excellent reputation and is capable of carrying out the audits as specified. Based on the costs submitted, as well as reference checks, the City, Light and Power and Cable TV staffs recommended the Council approve an auditing contract covering 2002-2004 to Rehmann Robson and Company of Grand Rapids.

Light and Power and Cable TV Manager Tom Richards believed Virshaw Krause, Plante Moran and Rehmann Robson met all of the requirements.

Councilmember Brubaker stated Biggs Hausserman has done a great job in the past and appreciated their assistance. However, this will save the City a substantial amount of money. Brubaker stated Rehmann Robson works with many municipalities and does a great job.

Councilmember Blough questioned the large discrepancies in the costs. Pasquale noted all firms were reviewing the same information.

Blough believed when one has done business with a vendor for a long period of time, you become very familiar with one another. Blough suggested the idea of an outside vendor providing a bid and not having an exact understanding of what is in the RFP. This would create very strict management. Blough wanted to ensure the City receives the same kind of services as in the past.

Richards believed so. He stated both Plante Moran and Rehmann Robson requested copies of the prior audits. They are very familiar with the expected end result. Both companies have a great amount of experience with similar communities and utilities.

Blough was concerned the appearance of the audit would be different, making it much more difficult to analyze from year to year. Pasquale stated previous audits would need to be reviewed. Every auditor presents a preliminary report which will be presented as well as a staff review. Pasquale noted the audit would be presented in the City's usual format.

Blough inquired if City staff would have to spend more time with new auditors. Pasquale responded no. He noted Biggs Hausserman has had numerous new individual accountants. The transition has always worked very well.

Brubaker asked if Richards believed Rehmann Robson was up to the standards for Light and Power and Cable TV. Richards responded yes. The company has already audited Collins, South Haven and Hillsdale. Each are operating under the FERC accounting system.

IT WAS MOVED BY BRUBAKER and seconded by BLOUGH to approve an auditing contract for the City, Light and Power and Cable TV accounts covering 2002 - 2004 for Rehmann Robson with the price schedule presented.

YEA: 3.  
NAY: 0.  
ABSENT: 2.  
MOTION CARRIED.

**Item #4. SUNDRY DEVELOPMENT - PHILLIPS PROPERTY - SANITARY SEWER ISSUE.** At its June 17, 2002 City Council meeting, the Councilmembers determined that sanitary sewer is required for the Sundry development off Grindle. During the meeting, DPW Director Dan DesJarden noted the distance from the nearest manhole to the site was 1,245 feet. Under the Subdivision Control Act, sanitary sewer (as well as water) is required when within 1,320 feet from the development boundary (Sec. 20-24) (b)(1).

But, the distance was remeasured on June 19 and found to be 1,575 feet after recalibrating the measuring wheel.

Public Works Director Dan DesJarden agreed with these numbers.

Councilmember Blough requested the amount it would cost to extend sewer be presented at the next Council meeting.

The issue was tabled until the July 15, 2002 meeting.

**Item #5. REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF THE 2002 - 2003 LIGHT AND POWER AND CABLE TV BUDGETS AND UPDATE REGARDING NEW SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION.** Lowell Light and Power/Cable TV General Manager Tom Richards explained the property for the substation on Bowes Road was acquired and secured in April and the site work began in May. The transformers, which are the key elements for the substation, were delivered and set in early June. Each had been tested and were ready for service as soon as the remainder of the substation is completed.

The switchgear, which is the second largest element and roughly the size of a small mobile home, will be set in place very soon.

Richards anticipated the substation to be completed within the month of July. The transmission line had been delayed for several reasons. First, pending the final land acquisition and security of the site for the substation while the transmission costs and engineering not completed. Also, there were two unreliable cost estimates from Consumers Energy to construct the line. Both, with some difficulty have been resolved.

Currently, Light and Power is working on resolving some ownership issues of the transmission. This will affect the ability to use tax exempt bonding for the cost of the project.

Progress on the transmission line has now resumed. The right of way and easement work should be completed within the next 60 days at which time construction can begin. Consumers Energy had estimated between five and six months to complete the construction of the transmission line in order to energize the substation. Light and Power should be ready to energize in early spring and connect to the first of several circuits, which will serve in the City. The transition to move the rest of the City circuits to the new substation will take place over the next three to four years. This involves changing over some of the distribution circuits from the current voltage of approximately 4,000 volts to a higher more efficient voltage of close to 13,000 volts.

Richards referred to the Light and Power/Cable TV budgets. The Board held a special meeting on June 27, 2002 at which time both budgets were approved.

The Light and Power budget was approved as an interim document because it will be affected by some very uncertain items. After the bond issue is finally structured and sold, with the debt service expense known, it will be factored into the budget. The cost of services study, which is currently underway, should be completed within the next six to eight weeks. Cost of service basically analyzes all aspects of the business and determines what the actual cost of providing the various services are. This will evaluate these items based upon the recent history and experience and assist in determining the actual cost recovery needs. Based upon the findings, there will be some recommendations for rate adjustments, which will take into account for the debt service and costs of the service study.

Richards noted he would return to the Council after the Board has adopted the proposed rates.

The interim budget anticipates sales growth in the number of kilowatt-hours, as well as the number of services, which are being serviced at the current rates. It also includes projected expenses, not including the debt service. Light and Power had projected expenses and revenues based upon what is currently known and what can fairly and accurately be predicted. The revenue increases projected for the next year over the current year are \$234,000 overall. Light and Power has been actually expecting some expense reductions which will total an estimated \$83,000. Under these assumptions, there is a projected fiscal year net income of \$357,000 or a net increase of \$316,000 over the past year.

Councilmember Brubaker stated the uncollectable account expense had increased. He asked if action has been taken to try and collect these monies. Richards responded this amount has actually been reduced from the previous year. The 2000 - 2001 amount was \$11,000. The current projected fiscal year had been reduced to \$2,800. Steps were taken with late payment fees and

strict policies have been established with the customers, which in turn has driven the expense down over the years.

Brubaker also questioned the amount for office supplies and expense. He asked what was included. Richards responded office supplies and expenses includes not only office supplies, but utility payments for water, gas and telephone, membership fees for organizations including the American Public Power Association, Michigan Public Power agency and the Michigan Municipal Electric Association. Also included is the maintenance for computer hardware and software with various subscriptions. A significant amount of the money was from computer hardware and software. Once work with the high speed internet service began in November, some internal upgrades had needed to be done. There were some significant issues, which had to be resolved, both through software/hardware, for support services and hourly labor.

Brubaker questioned the conferences and special meeting expenses. He noted this has decreased slightly. He asked what type of conferences and meetings are being attended. Richards responded two new Boardmembers have been added. Because it is a very involved business, monies have been budgeted so those Boardmembers could attend conferences and training sessions which would assist them in their governing of Light and Power. Richards stated the Michigan Municipal Electric Association holds its meetings twice annually in Michigan. The American Public Power Agency holds an annual meeting which has been in Orlando, Washington DC and most recently in Dallas. There are also conferences or educational workshops specifically for new Boardmembers.

Councilmember Blough questioned if the number projected for the cost in lieu of taxes for 2002 - 2003 matches what was expected. City Manager Pasquale stated it is very close. Richards noted because it is a percentage of revenue, a similar percentage projection has been made based upon the projections. However, this is an interim budget and these projections may change.

Blough inquired what Light and Power uses to project the revenues on sales. Richards responded recent experience has been used. There have been many issues resolved with the billing and accounting system. Richards was fortunate to have almost 11 months of actual data with which to analyze the current year and project for the future year. Also, account projections were taken based upon the number of new properties which are being developed for residential. There was a lesser assumption on new commercial accounts. In the past year, there has actually been a 15% increase in commercial revenue.

Blough questioned the sales revenue projection. Richards responded the cost services study would greatly help. It will determine per kilowatt-hour or per average commercial customer and how much revenue it takes involved in serving a customer.

IT WAS MOVED BY BRUBAKER and seconded by BLOUGH to approve the 2002 - 2003 interim budget for Lowell Light and Power as presented.

YEA: 3.  
NAY: 0.  
ABSENT: 2.  
MOTION CARRIED.

Richards stated the Lowell Cable TV budget was reviewed and approved by the Board on June 27, 2002. There has been some extraordinary expenses the past year, including the return path activation for the two way digital service involving high speed internet. Also, High Speed Internet Startup expenses, which includes building the accounting and customer information systems for those, as well as a more complex accounting.

Lowell Cable TV was somewhat below expectations for revenue growth in the past year. Richards believed this had to do with not having as much reliable information available at the time the projections were made. These are conservative projections which show increasing revenues both through growth of subscribers, as well as rates. Richards mentioned rates because this was the first year with a full 12 months at the current basic cable rate. There were also some new services, including the high speed internet which has already yielded approximately \$21,000 in new revenue in just eight months as well as digital services. It is also expected to reduce some expenses and holding the overall expense growth to \$37,000. With a combination of those, there would be



## Good schools held accountable when it comes to making progress

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

Superintendents at Rockford, Caledonia and West Ottawa public schools dis-

missed a report released by the State Education Department indicating some of their schools were not making progress.

Acting Lowell superin-

tendent Jim White did not shrug off the fact that both Alto and Cherry Creek elementary schools also given that dubious distinction. "Yes, you have to take the report

seriously. We have to work to meet the requirements set," White explained. "I don't like the term failing. These are good schools which have been identified for improvement in one area."

Alto did not achieve adequate scores in science while Cherry Creek was cited for needing improvement in reading.

Michigan had the highest number of schools on the list. The number is inflated because of the high standards set by the state in 1997.

Michigan utilizes four core subjects for recording progress. It also requires that 75 percent of the students in schools receiving Title I dollars pass MEAP's reading, math, writing and science tests.

Most other states only put the emphasis on the subjects they were required to math and reading. There were 1,513 Michigan middle and elementary schools identified by the U.S. Education Department. Discussion has started on

whether or not Michigan should lower its standards to be placed in line with other states.

"No, I do not think we should lower our standards. I think other states should add science and writing. There is nothing wrong with using all academic areas," White said.

Schools identified on the list and receiving Title I dollars in the fall will have to offer choice or supplemental services.

Title I provides financial assistance to schools that provide for students in need of remedial assistance. Funding is based on free and reduced lunches.

"Every state sets its own criteria for its test. Every state does not administer the same test," White explained.

A number of the schools identified on the list are recipients of the Blue Ribbon School award and are accredited.

"The MEAP is one measurement used to judge whether a school is doing

well or not. Blue Ribbon looks at a number of bits of information to determine how well a school is doing as does the accreditation process," White says.

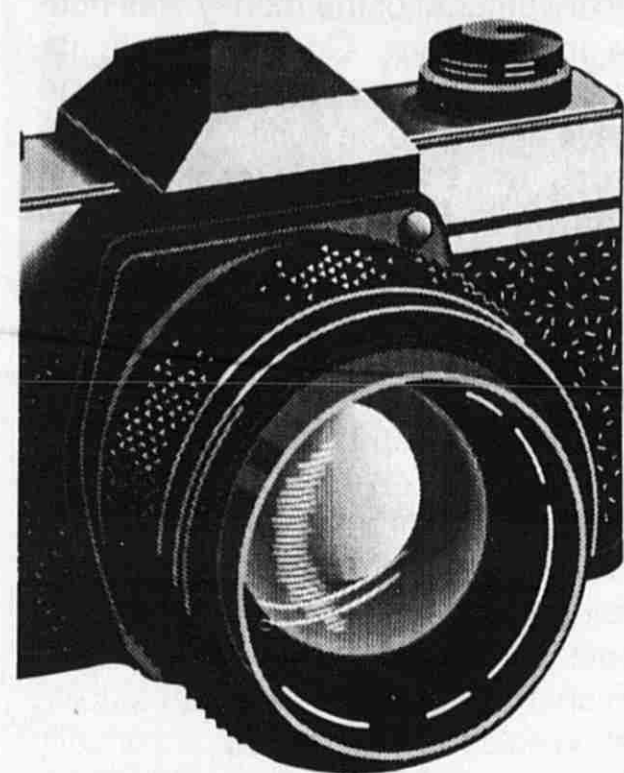
Lowell Schools' newly drafted vision focuses on a balanced approach as it measures character, knowledge and skills of a student.

"It's important to know where you're soft and to make sure you know how you're going to improve," White said.

Schools have begun work now in preparation for President Bush's law known as "No Child Left Behind."

White does not anticipate a lot of student movement. "One reason being there are only two schools in the district for parents to choose from (Alto and Cherry Creek) and the other reason is I think most parents in this district believe they are good schools."

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## CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

a resulting net income of just under \$50,000 for the year. Richards did not feel this was adequate. Therefore, other services will be reviewed. At the same time, while the Light and Power rates are being analyzed, some costs of services will be reviewed and some rate adjustment may be recommended for Cable TV.

Mayor Shores inquired if the Cable budget was firm. Richards responded yes, he did not see any unknown factors, which would make any significant changes.

Brubaker asked if the cost of service analysis is broken down to analogue digital and internet or are these all lumped together. Richards responded no. Cable tries to ensure each service is paying its own way.

Brubaker questioned how the digital cable is doing. Richards believed money is being made. Increases have been made in the basic digital and there seems to be a predictable percentage of what digital customers will choose and what kind of add-on premium channels there will be.

Brubaker reviewed the total sales revenue being projected. There seems to be an increase between the prior 12-month actual and the 2002 - 2003. Richards responded it is \$121,000 increase from what was projected from the current year to the new year. The bulk comes from analogue sales revenue.

Brubaker inquired what the boundaries were of the Cable TV service. Richards responded the boundaries are those areas which can be reached and have an adequate density of homes to where the installation expense can be recovered. The only other boundary would be when they run into another cable system is encountered.

Brubaker questioned how far north the service goes. Richards responded to north to Vergennes, south to 28th Street, west as far as Grand River Estates and east to Montcalm Road.

Shores inquired how long the internet service has been available. Richards responded the first customer was hooked up in November.

IT WAS MOVED BY BLOUGH and seconded by BRUBAKER to approve the 2002 - 2003 Lowell Cable TV Budget as presented.

YEA: 3.  
NAY: 0.  
ABSENT: 2.  
MOTION CARRIED.

Item #6. **LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM REQUEST FOR .25 MILLS INVOLVING OPERATION - REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION.** As discussed by the

Council, the Lowell Area Historical Museum was asked to provide a formal request for consideration by the City Council to allow a .25 mill allocation to be placed on the November ballot.

City Manager Pasquale read the following letter into record:

At the Council meeting of June 3, 2002, the Council suggested that the Lowell Area Historical Museum make a .25 mill tax request in an effort to stabilize its operational funding. This letter is the museum's formal request that a proposal be placed on the November ballot asking for .25 mills.

The museum's Board of Directors has approved the request. Should the Council approve this request, the museum would like to have input into the actual language, which would appear on the ballot. Also, please let us know of any required deadlines for approval of ballot language. On behalf of the Museum and its membership, we thank you for the continuing support of our efforts to preserve and promote Lowell Area History.

James M. Doyle  
President

Judy Straub  
Executive Director

IT WAS MOVED BY BLOUGH and seconded by BRUBAKER to place the Lowell Area Historical Museum millage issue on the November ballot and that it be referred to City Attorney for exact wording and back to the City Council for approval.

Brubaker wanted the City Attorney to consult with the Board on the language so the Board gets a chance to review.

YEA: 3.  
NAY: 0.  
ABSENT: 2.  
MOTION CARRIED.

Item #7. **CITIZEN COMMENTS.** Les Cole of Sundry Development inquired regarding setting a date for the Work Session meeting between representatives of the Planning Commission, City Council and Sundry for a review of a proposed Planned Unit Development in the Highland Hills area.

A tentative date was sent for July 8, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Cole indicated Sundry would begin removing some trees on the property for the development. Various permits for

the property have been provided.

Pasquale stated final approval on the private street is needed before any footings are placed.

Item #8. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.** No comments were received.

Item #9. **MANAGER'S REPORT.** City Manager Pasquale reported on the following:

- The following meetings minutes were provided:
  - Building Authority meeting of February 28, 2002
  - Grand Valley Metro Council - Transportation Policy Committee meeting of May 15, 2002
  - Planning Commission meetings of May 28 and June 10, 2002

2. At its June 8, 2002 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended the City accept the \$5,000 bequest from the Bruce Walter Estate for an ice skating rink and further recommended investigation involving options and costs for the rink be performed.

3. The City Offices will be closed on Independence Day, Thursday, July 4. Fireworks will take place as well as other scheduled activities on this day.

4. A letter of resignation from Roger Brown as a member of the Airport Board. Roger is a charter member of the Board having served since March 1988. He has been a driving force for improvements to the Airport and will be greatly missed.

Mayor Shores noted Brown recommended Dwain Scheller take his place. Airport Manager Jim Sowle and Jim Serne were also in agreement.

Item #10. **APPOINTMENTS.**

IT WAS MOVED BY BRUBAKER and seconded by BLOUGH to appoint Dwain Scheller to the Airport Board expiring on January 1, 2003.

Shores noted all boards are filled at this time.

Shores thanked Roger Brown for his many years of service.

IT WAS MOVED BY BLOUGH to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

DATED APPROVED: Monday, July 15, 2002.

C. Jeanne Shores, Mayor  
Betty R. Morlock, Clerk

## Lowell Area Community Fund accepting grant applications

The Lowell Area Community Fund is accepting grant proposals for its next grant round, slated for the October board meeting. All proposals must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on Aug. 26 in order to be considered.

To receive a grant application form, contact Kate Luckert, program officer, at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, 454-1751 or download an application from the G.R. Community Foundation web site at [www.grfoundation.org](http://www.grfoundation.org). You may also pick up an application at any of the following locations: Lowell Township Hall, Vergennes Township Hall, City Offices of Lowell, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, Englehardt Public Library or any Lowell area school. The final application deadline for 2002 is Dec. 30.

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

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

The Lowell Area Community Fund was established as a

donor-advised fund at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation in 1996 with a \$12.7 million bequest from Lowell resident, Harold Englehardt. Current members of the advisory committee are John Darling, Norris, Peme & French partner; Kate Democoeur, freelance journalist; Sandy Graham, Alto branch manager for Kent District Library; Charles Myers, Huntington Banks vice president; David Pasquale, Lowell city manager; and Scott Vashaw, Lowell High School principal. The advisory committee recommends grants from the fund to the Grand Rapids Community Foundation's Board of Trustees.

The seat held by Bert Bleke as Lowell Area Schools superintendent will be vacant until his successor is named. Upon his departure as superintendent and LACF advisor, Bleke made an honorary \$1,000 grant to the Wittenbach Center of Lowell Area Schools. The center was established with generous support from the Wittenbach family, Peter Wege, the Cridler family, and the Englehardt family. The supporting families hoped the center would assure that future generations never forget the meaning of and the connection between agriculture and ecology.

Today, the LACF is valued at more than \$15 million; community grants have totaled \$3.1 million since its incep-

tion. Recent grants include \$77,149 to improve school readiness through the TOTS on Track for School program at Lowell Area Schools; \$16,052 to support independent living for seniors through the Lowell Senior Neighbors Center; and \$4,300 to promote family literacy through Discovery Packs at the local libraries.

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

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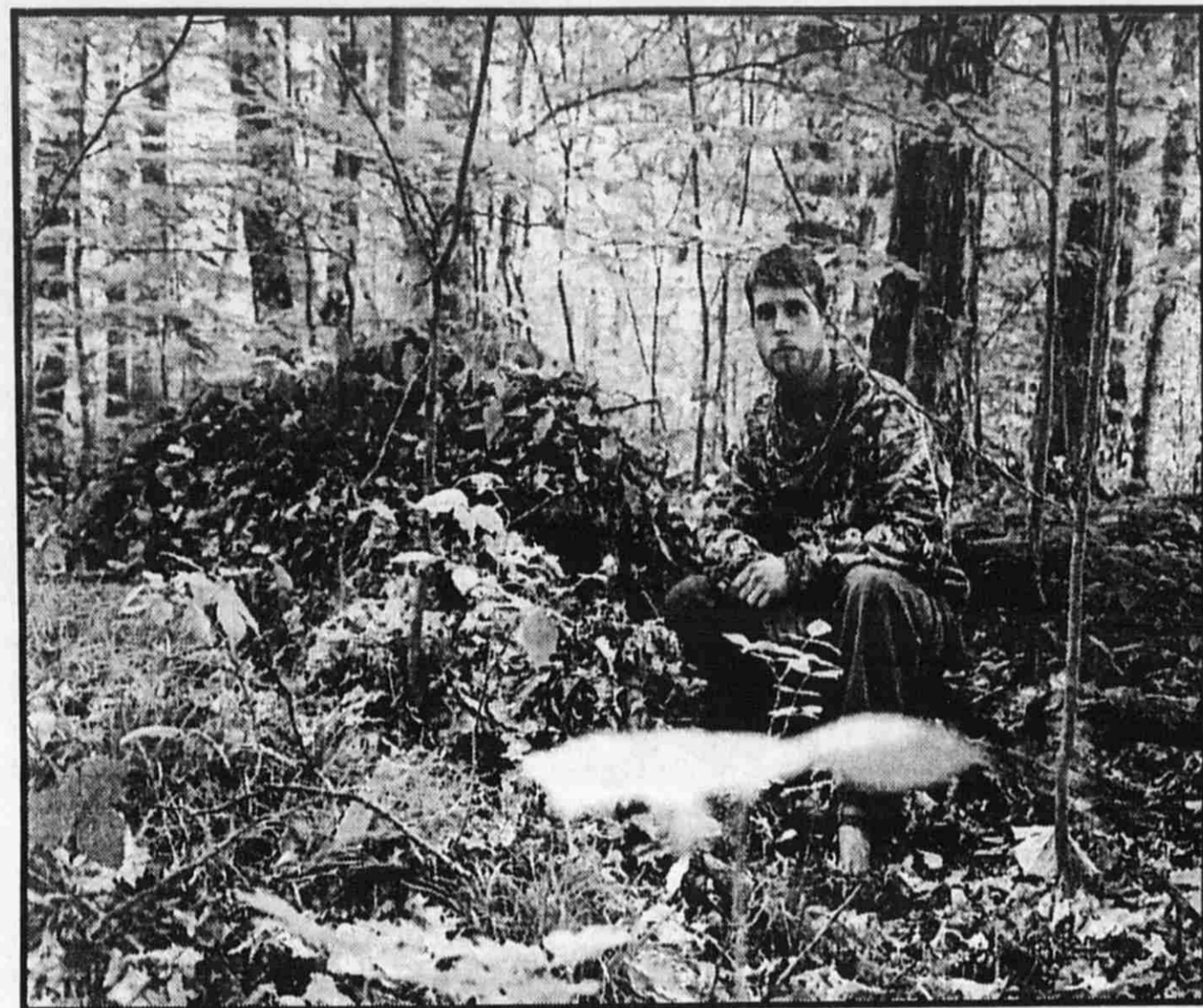
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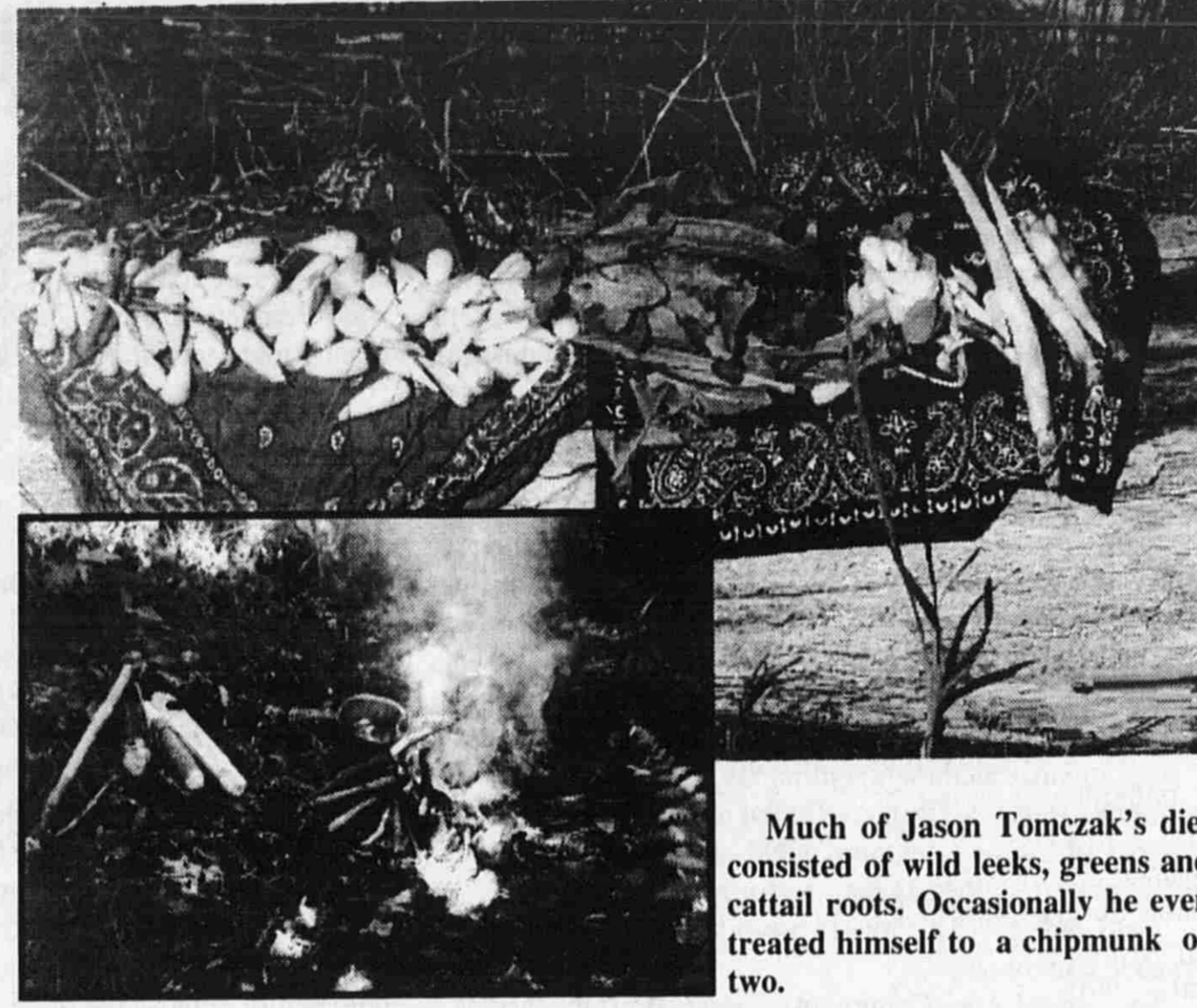
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Jason Tomczak snaps a shot of himself sitting in front of the leaf hut he constructed on day one of his 28-day stay in the wilderness of Germfask in the Upper Peninsula.



Much of Jason Tomczak's diet consisted of wild leeks, greens and cattail roots. Occasionally he even treated himself to a chipmunk or two.

## Tomczak doesn't cheat himself during four-week expedition in wilderness

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

Jason Tomczak found the ultimate freedom of timelessness in Schoolcraft County's Germfask located in the central part of the Upper Peninsula.

His discovery allowed him to experience an intimate stay with nature during his four-week inward journey of the wilderness sounds, sights and spirit.

"It was not what I anticipated," Tomczak explained. "It wasn't defined by the great confrontation with animals, or the big hunt for food. No, it was the celebration of the minute little things.

It was the brightness of the stars at night, the sounds of the forest, the closer relationship with nature, solving problems and better assessing life's priorities. It was dealing with the stresses of the cold and wet, and the intensity of the mosquitoes.

"The mosquitoes were terrible. The sound of the mosquitoes buzzing at night would sometimes drown out the sounds of the other animals," Tomczak explained.

Items tucked away in the Lowell resident's backpack included a friction fire starter, canteen, wool pants and stocking cap, knife and a water purifier. And at the request of his

father, he also took mosquito netting for his head and spray.

Why spend 28 days in the wilderness with little more than the clothes on your back? Tomczak is studying wildlife education (fisheries and wildlife) at Michigan State University. He's also participated in a New Jersey native skills class. That explains some of it. The rest deals with aesthetic reasons, the nurturing of a closer relationship with nature and the knowledge and experience Tomczak gained of nature's ecology.

The MSU student wasn't there to disturb nature but rather to experience and to live as one with it. He saw a lot of porcupines, a few fresh bear tracks and heard the cry of wolves.

In an effort to enhance his chances of walking closer with the wildlife, Tomczak made the journey barefoot.

"Being barefoot the whole time wasn't difficult; the mental part of being out there by myself for 28 days was most difficult. That and staying motivated and keeping a positive attitude," Tomczak says.

There were many times the MSU student wanted to quit and go home. "It was my will power, not wanting to cheat myself, and the disappointment I knew I'd feel if I quit that kept me going," he said. "I also read words of encouragement that my friends and family wrote in my journal before I left."

## Local FFA members attend leadership conference



Pictured, left to right, are FFA members Pieter Serne and Ruthanne Oesch along with Brady Fritz, a staff member at the summer leadership conference in Washington D.C.

Pieter Serne and Ruthanne Oesch, members of the Lowell FFA Chapter, attended the 2002 Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) June 25-29 in the nation's capital. The conference is an activity of the National FFA Organization in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education.

The week-long program, of which there are seven, helps FFA members build their leadership skills while preparing for roles in their chapters, communities and future careers. They attend workshop sessions on persuasive communication, character leadership and building relationships, and participate in discussions on citizenship.

Students also increase their understanding of the nation's heritage with visits to Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, the Jefferson, Lincoln and Roosevelt memorials, as well as other historic sights in Washington, D.C.

A highlight of the week was a visit to the office of Senator Carl Levin of Michigan.

The National FFA Organization coordinates WLC, which attracts participants from across the country. This summer, more than 2,300 FFA members will attend one of the conference's sessions. Visit [www.ffa.org/wlc](http://www.ffa.org/wlc) for more information about WLC.

His diet consisted of greens (e.g., cattails, bulrush, leek (similar to an onion), frog legs and chipmunk.

"Mostly, I ate plants. While nutritious, they don't have a lot of flavor," Tomczak explains. "The only time I thought about being hungry was that last week when I knew I was close to going home. I missed the greasy food."

Once a week he strayed to civilization to call his parents and let them know everything was all right.

"Living with earth this time of year requires understanding the principles of shelter, knowledge of plants and animals, and friction fire skills," Tomczak explained. "My hope is to use my experience to bring people closer to nature and to hold more native skill workshops."

## Wrestling, cont'd...

From Page 9

record team points for the club during the match.

In Greco-Roman wrestling, a style in which only upper body holds and throws are allowed to be executed, a wrestler's team will earn a team point in a loss if that wrestler scored in the match.

"In Greco it's all upper body which takes away from the attacks you can use," Kinney explains. "In a way, that makes it tougher, but it has helped me with the upper body stuff such as positioning and throws."

Kinney was 6-2 in the Greco team tournament and 6-1 in freestyle.

Team Michigan National placed third in the freestyle tourney.

Gingerich finished 3-1 in Greco and was 5-0 in freestyle in his first year on the junior dual team. His only loss came in the semifinals to an All-American senior from California.

"Everyone on our team is an all state wrestler, so if you want to make the team, you have to wrestle year round to have a chance," Gingerich said.

This summer, the Lowell senior has also participated in the Western Junior National Regional Championship and the Ironman National Championships.

Wrestling at 160 pounds, J.J. Wilder finished at 1-3 in Greco and 5-6 in the freestyle tournament. The Red Arrows wrestled a national champion three times.

"I wrestled the national champion at 152 and 160 pounds. They were pretty aggressive. They bloodied my nose and forehead a couple of times," Wilder said. "I got beat up, but I also beat some guys I wasn't supposed to."

Mendez was 1-0 in Greco and 11-0 in freestyle. The sophomore also wrestled in the 15-16-year-old division in the Cadet National Championship.

"Our boys wrestle in a bevy of tournaments over the summer," Strejcek said. The tournaments include the Ironman Championships and wrestling events in Pennsylvania, Mt. Pleasant and Las Vegas.

The state of Minnesota had won the Greco-Roman Junior National Dual Championship six times going into its meeting with Michigan in Enid. For a few moments, it appeared the Big Red Storm would make it seven.

Minnesota raved out to a 14-2 lead after four bouts, but Michigan won eight out of the next 10 matches to seal the win.

Michigan becomes just the fourth state to win the Greco-Roman crown.

Michigan strung together five straight wins through the heart of its lineup (middle weights) in rallying to win.

Michigan also captured the Raleigh Hoover Award, given to the team which exhibits the best sportsmanship.

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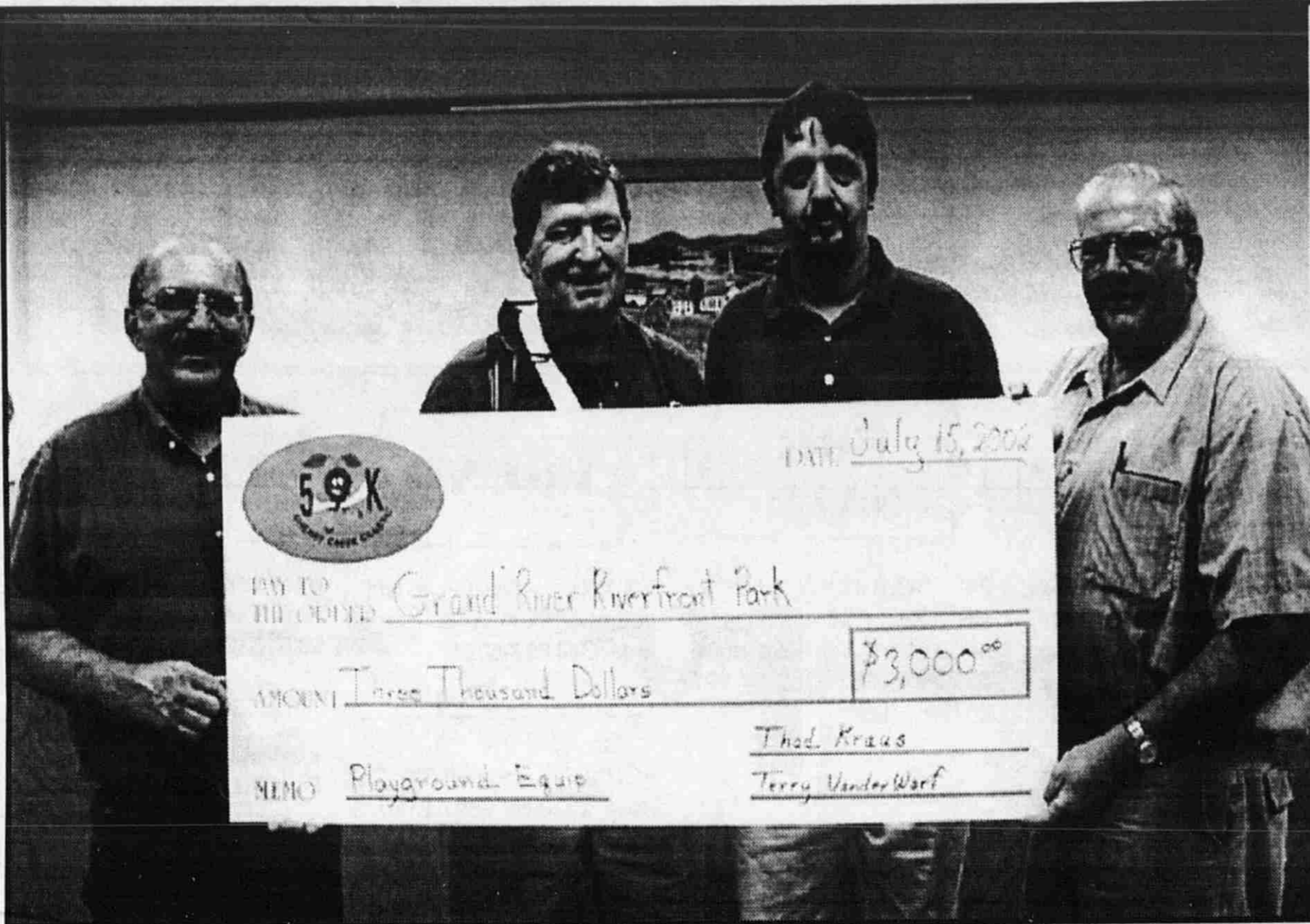
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Cherry Creek Classic coordinators, Terry VanderWarf, left, and Thad Kraus, second from right, presented a check for \$3,000 from the eighth annual Cherry Creek 5K run/walk to Lowell Charter Township supervisor, John Timpson and board trustee, Richard Huver, right, at Monday night's township board meeting. The money will be used to help purchase equipment for the playground at Grand River Riverfront Park. This year's race gathered 190 participants. During the last eight years, \$19,500 has been raised and donated back to the Lowell community.

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