The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 65

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 25, 2002

Foundation's innovative grant program creates brighter educational ideas

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

Each year the PALS program of Lowell's Future Farmers of America grows and nurtures strong friendships between high school and elementary students.

Through the efforts of LHS students, Heather Blough and Patti Leasure, a PALS Flowerbed Project will be planted in the spring. Much like the perennials they will grow, the project is expected to return for many years.

Through their FFA leadership class during seminar, Blough and Leasure learned of the availability of Kids' Bright Ideas grants offered through the Lowell Area Education Foundation.

"Our advisor, Mr. (John) Schut told us about the grant," Blough explained. "From there we put together a proposal. We thought the project would be fun to do and would help the kids learn more about agriculture and help them bond with us more."

Each high school FFA member mentors with their elementary pal (second through fifth grade).

Each pair will take part in the planting process and will have a certain task to perform, whether it's preparing the soil or planting the flowers. The expenses, mainly tools for planting and flowers, will be covered through the foundation's \$250 innovative grant.

Blough explains the project will allow time for the PALS to do something fun together while learning about the basics of gardening.

The proposed flowerbed will be 10 by 15 feet and will be constructed where the Wittenbach Center's two driveways connect.

Each year after the flowers are planted, PALS will come back and check the progress of their work.

The flowerbed can be a reminder to

each person involved and the community about growing friendships and what high school and elementary students working together can accomplish.

"The foundation committee was so impressed with the building representatives. They were so well prepared," said Barb Gillman, Lowell Area Education Foundation vice chairman of projects.

The idea for the Kids' Bright Ideas grants was derived through a discussion with foundation advisor, Glen Gerard. From there, Gillman and Teresa Beachum defined the criteria, age levels and what schools (high school, Unity High and middle school) would participate.

The grant idea was presented to the student bodies in late May, early June.

Other projects funded through the Lowell Area Education Foundation's Kids' Bright Ideas innovative grant program will include:

Roberta Bender's Interactive Shoulder project (\$250 grant). The interactive shoulder software will enable students to learn in-depth about the shoulder.

Amanda Kettel's sixth-grade mentoring program (\$250). The grant monies will be used to fund materials, prizes and equipment. The mentoring program will include all first- and sixth-grade students in the Lowell school district, providing the students with a hands-on character development program using the Lady Arrows Varsity Club members service leaders. The program hopes to reach over 600 students.

Katie Clements' running fun and efficient meetings project (\$250). The project calls for having a parliamentary procedure workshop that will be held at the high school. A local speaker will come in and lead a three-hour workshop on proper parliamentary procedure and how to run an effective meeting.

Innovative Ideas, cont'd pg. 39



City caps off one of its busiest years

By J.N. Boorsma Contributing Writer

The renovation of City Hall, the addition of a new police station, the reconstruction of N. Valley Vista Drive and N. Division Street, construction work on M-21, and the reroofing of the Foreman building are just some of the tasks completed this year by the city of Lowell.

The list was provided by Lowell city manager, David Pasquale at the city council's last meeting of 2002, held Dec. 16. In presenting the assessment for the year, Pasquale said that the list represented a group effort.

"It represents the work of a number of departments, staff, boards and commissions," he said.

Of course, the one which took front and center for 2002 was the start of the City Hall renovation project and the addition of the new police station. Work began in August and is expected to be completed by the middle of next year. "The project is just really moving along," Pasquale said, adding that it will be a big accomplishment for next year once the new facility is up and running.

If you hadn't noticed, the city did a lot of road work ... not only the Valley Vista Drive and N. Division Street

projects but extension of curb on the south side of Bowes Road from West Street to Valley Vista Drive. An eightinch water main was put in on Hunt Street from Lincoln Lake to Beech, and through Light and Power, there was construction of a new electrical substation and related improvements.

A cooperative effort with the Lowell and Vergennes townships brought a new pumper truck to the Lowell Fire Department.

The Downtown Development Authority, along with its parking lot work this year, also purchased .8 acres of property on the south side of

City Renovation, cont'd pg. 39

Inside

The Lowell Ledger

Lowell Wrestlers
Cruise Past
Northview, Story &
Pictures, Page 42



Santa's One-Stop Shop

Alto Elementary students had some time for some Christmas shopping of their own through the PTO's Santa Shop. It provided students a safe and inexpensive opportunity to shop for family and friends.

OBITUARIES

BROWN - Alison Nicole (Wintermute) Brown, born March 4, 1972, in Albion, Mich., died December 16, 2002, in Lowell.

The Lowell Ledger (USPS 453-830)

Published weekly for \$1250 a year in Kent County, \$1750 a year outside the county by the Lowell Ledger Publishing Company, 105 N. Broadway St., Lowell, MI 49331

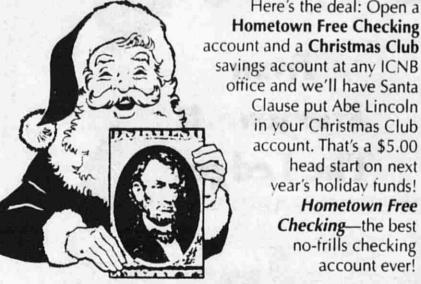
Roger K. Brown **Publisher**

Editor (616) 897-9261

Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI Published every Wednesday

POSTMASTER: Send address change to: The Lowell Ledger P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331

Two of your best friends are at ICNB!



savings account at any ICNB office and we'll have Santa Clause put Abe Lincoln in your Christmas Club account. That's a \$5.00 head start on next vear's holiday funds! Hometown Free Checking—the best

Here's the deal: Open a

Thad Kraus

no-frills checking account ever!

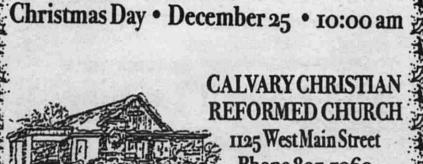
ICNB Hometown Banking Offices: 794-0890 .897-6171 ...527-9250 .(517) 566-8025 ..(269) 367-4911

Be Our Guest At Calvary Church

Come Experience The True Light Of The World This Christmas

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM "The Way To Bethlehem" Sunday • December 22 . 10 am

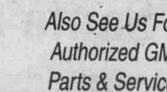
CHOIR CANTATA "He Is Born"



CHEVROLET. BUICK

1250 W. Main, Lowell 897-9294

BUICK' "It's All Good"





memorial contributions may be made toward funeral expenses and/or a trust fund for Alison's sons.

JANKOWSKI - Anna Jane Jankowski, aged 68, of Lowell passed away Wednesday, December 11, 2002. She is survived by her children Tim Jankowski, Cathy (Craig) Courts, Melissa (Brad) Stiles; grandchildren Blaine and Paige Courts, Nicholas and Logan Stiles; sister Jackie Guild; brother Jim (Fran) Page; niece Mary (Mark) Anderson. Funeral services were held at the Roth-Gerst Chapel, Pastor Roger LaWarre of the First Congregational Church of Lowell officiating. Interment Brown, Drew (Lisa) Brown of Lowell; sister-in-law Mary Oakwood Cemetery.

> VANSPRONSEN - Frances VanSpronsen, aged 89, devoted mother and grandmother, passed away on December 18, 2002, surrounded by her family; wife of the late John VanSpronsen. Surviving are her five children Neil (Carol) VanSpronsen of Ada, Cliff (Jackie) VanSpronsen of Lowell, John Jr. (Harriet) VanSpronsen of Hudsonville, Karl (Bonnie) VanSpronsen of Lowell and Nancy (Bob) Mulder of Lowell; 18 grandchildren: 36 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild. Funeral services were held Friday at Ada Christian Reformed Church. Rev. William D. Buursma officiating. Interment in Bailey Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to Visiting

Student financial aid night, Jan. 9 at LHS

counseling staff is sponsoring a financial aid night for Grand Valley State Universtudents planning to attend sity, will simplify the some-stone upon which all financial mative meeting Thursday, college next fall. Juniors, se- times confusing process of fillfiling for and receiving finan- (FAFSA) applying for grants, cial assistance.

JoAnn Litton, assistant scholarships and certain low director of financial aid at

The FAFSA is the corneraid is granted. This applica- Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. in the Lowell niors and their parents will be ing out the Free Application tion is based upon both parent Performing Arts Center at the guided through the process of for Federal Student Aid and student incomes and must high school.

arrive at the processor by Feb.

Plan to attend this infor-

Students may begin submitting financial aid forms Jan. 1

means one thing: Students who plan to start college next fall should begin working on financial aid. Experts at ACT offer student financial aid from federal programs. Students will the following information to help families find the resources they need to complete their financial aid paperwork.

She was preceded in death by her mother Barbara S. (Pesonen)

Owens and mother-in-law Sandra Brown. She is survived by

her husband Heath M. Brown Sr., sons Heath M. Brown Jr. and Reese E. Brown all of Lowell; father Rick (Eileen) Wintermute

of Tujunga, Calif.; Dennis (Jan) Owens of Coffeyville, Kan.,

David (Denise) Wixson of Albion; sisters Terri L. Wixson,

Erin M. Prescott; brothers Michael (Christina) Wixson, Kevin

R. Gonzalez, all of Albion; grandparents Elmer (Bernadine)

Pesonen of Albion, Olive Livingston of Homer, Mich., James

(Donna) Jensen of Coffeyville, Kan.; father-in-law William

Brown of Wellston, Mich.; brothers-in-law James (Tammy)

(Kenny) Sanders of Haskell, Okla.; a host of nieces, nephews,

aunts and uncles who adored her. Alison attended school in

Oklahoma, Kansas and Michigan. She graduated from Rogers

High School in Wyoming in the top five percent of her class

and was listed in the American Who's Who of Students. She

attended Grand Rapids Community College. She loved gar-

dening and devoted her life to her husband and sons. Alison

worked at D & W - Cascade for 12 years where she made many

wonderful friendships. Alison will be missed by everyone

whose life she touched. Funeral services were held Thursday

at the Roth-Gerst Chapel, Rev. Gordie Barry of First United

Methodist Church of Lowell, officiating. In lieu of flowers,

The most important form is the Free Application for but may also require students to fill out additional forms.

Commercial • Industrial • Residential

695 Lincoln Lake • Lowell, MI 49331

(616) 897-2017 • Fax (616) 897-2018

E-mail: lwolbers@ppc-electric.com

Newly decorated 1 & 2 bedroom unfurnished

apartments. Price includes heat, hot water, carport

decorator blinds, newer appliances and many fine

services. Small pet and short term lease possible.

Center Court Apartments Inc.

A Nice Place To Live

CALL US ABOUT OUR

DECEMBER RENTAL SPECIAL

The start of a new year is quickly approaching and that Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Beginning Jan. 1, students will be able to submit the form that determines eligibility for need family income statements from their 2002 earnings to complete the form. Colleges and universities use the FAFSA,

> Financial Aid tips from ACT: · Apply early for admission and financial aid.

· Check with your college to determine if other financial aid forms are required.

· Apply for scholarships and grants.

· Look into Work Study programs. · Surf the web for financial aid information.

Try these websites:

Financial Aid Need Estimator and financial aid information - www.act.org/fane

Free college scholarship search - www.collegenet.com The Financial Aid Information Page - www.finaid.org The Federal Government Financial Aid Page www.ed.gov/finaid.html

Free Application for Federal Student Aid www.fafsa.ed.gov

Scholarship scams - www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/edcams/ scholarship

For more financial aid specifics, visit your guidance counselor or visit www.act.org.

• • • • • • Happy 50th Anniversary ARLYN & RUTH WITHERELL **DECEMBER 25, 2002** FROM YOUR celebration CHILDREN ... **Eric & Denise** friends and family will Craig & Connie Mark &

A Great Selection Of Used Cars& **Trucks & New Car Trades**

Also See Us For Authorized GM Parts & Service



Living Consciously for Parents, Thursday, Jan. 9

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

By Karen Kerrigan

The big business of as-

bestos litigation is encroach-

ing upon the livelihood of

Michigan's small businesses.

few as 20 employees or less

are finding themselves mired

in this unending legal mo-

rass. The process is so broken

and unwieldy that those indi-

viduals who have contracted

illnesses through asbestos ex-

posure are not being helped.

Instead, funds are being par-

celed out to anyone who has

ever been exposed to asbes-

tos in any way-regardless of

whether or not they are sick.

filing claims against asbestos

manufacturers are entirely

healthy. They may or may not

have been exposed to asbes-

tos, yet they show no evi-

dence of asbestos-related dis-

eases. They are joining suits

to hedge against possible fu-

ture illnesses that may not be

covered due to statutes of limi-

tations. The result has been a

glut of filings, more than

200,000 cases pending today,

leading to a depletion of funds

set aside to deal with truly

sick individuals. In short, sick

people are not getting the level

of help they need, and healthy

people are receiving benefits

STATE OF MICHIGAN

PROBATE COURT

COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDI-

TORS

Decedent's Estate

FILE NO.: 02-174-770-

Estate of

BOBBIE JEAN

WASHINGTON

deceased

SSN: 424-62-9953

The majority of the people

Small companies with as

Would you like to share a meaningful discussion with your

children? Better understand their system of values? Parents will be provided the opportunity to learn the language on Thursday, Jan. 9 at Cherry Creek Elementary's Family Resource Center from 6:45 until 7:30 p.m.

Booming asbestos litigation threatens Michigan small businesses

with no guarantee of future bestos who, although cur-

assistance if they get sick later. rently healthy, does not want

24 months. They simply can- exposed, but hop on for the

not withstand the crushing fi- ride in hopes of some extra

With the pool of big cor- lecting only a fraction of the

Many simply elect to pay a The Supreme Court has

as peripheral participants in healthy claimants.

The avalanche of asbes-

tos litigation has forced more

than 50 companies into bank-

ruptcy, 14 of them in the last

nancial burden. That means

new sources of revenue are

being sought to maintain the

spicket of funds to carry a

growing load of financial

porate targets "drying up,"

smaller firms are now under

siege. They have been targeted

can't afford armies of law-

yers. In general, their insur-

ance coverage couldn't handle

the loss of a major lawsuit.

totally unmerited settlement

rather than risk losing a large-

scale lawsuit and going bank-

rupt. But still, there have been

casualties and the list is grow-

suits are "inventory claims"

even thousands of claimants.

These claims often include

only a handful of truly sick

asbestos victims. It's hard to

fault someone exposed to as-

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

The decedent, BOBBIE

JEAN WASHINGTON,

who lived at 5535

Pinebrook Avenue S.E.,

Kentwood, Michigan died

Creditors of the decedent

are notified that all claims

against the estate will be

forever barred unless

presented to TERI LYNN

WASHINGTON, named

personal representative

or proposed personal

representative, or to both

the probate court at 180

10-29-02.

LEGAL NOTICES

Many of the asbestos law-

Small business owners

this unending legal saga.

to be shut out by statutes of

limitations. Yet how do we

deal with the opportunists who

may or may not have been

Sadly, the current mess

means that thousands of as-

bestos-disease victims and

their survivors are being vic-

timized again. They are col-

settlements awarded because

the system cannot handle the

excessive load created by

Supreme Court of the United

States has condemned the as-

bestos litigation quagmire as

a problem that is beyond re-

pair by the judicial system.

strongly urged that Congress

pass legislation, setting up a

system outside the courts to

apply medical criteria to each

claim and screen out the

claims of people who are

act soon to create such a sys-

tem. An orderly system such

as this would restore order

and fairness to the asbestos

claims process. It would also

restore justice for those who

Ottawa Avenue N.W.,

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

and the named/proposed

personal representative

within 4 months after the

date of publication of this

3875 West River Drive

Comstock Park, MI 49321

TERI LYNN WASHING-

5363 Kimball Avenue

Kentwood, MI 49508

12-9-02

455-1329

notice.

(P10311)

784-5080

CRAIG AVERY

Hopefully Congress will

Not once, but twice the

The informational meeting will explain the "Living Consciously for Parents" class.

offering it to parents so that they can learn the language and start the process of meaningful and important discussions within the family and with their children," said Living Consciously's Jim Blodgett.

Living Consciously lessons provide tools, skills and that number will rise to over 500.

are truly ill and protect thou-

sands of small businesses

ing 70,000 small businesses.

many in Michigan. The num-

ber is 202-785-0238.

tims of the asbestos saga.

opportunity for students, parents and teachers to make positive changes in their lives. "This is done by gaining a better "As a new program with a unique language, we are understanding of ourselves and others," Blodgett said. "We learn how and why we make decisions, as well as the ways we

learn and use behavioral sabotage." Currently, there are over 300 kids in the program at Lowell Schools. With the addition of eighth-grade students in January,

"We have found that kids are excited about and want to talk meaningfully to their peers," Blodgett explained.

The Lowell program was first piloted in the fourth grade by Blodgett last year.

"This is not a quick fix, band-aid approach, but a longterm, communitywide effort," Blodgett explained.

The parent program will be 6, one-hour sessions between

from becoming the next vic-January and May. There will be no cost for the six sessions but manuals are Karen Kerrigan is chairavailable for \$25. These are the same manuals used by the

man of the Small Business Survival Committee based in Washington, D.C. represent-

The time and dates of the parent program have not yet been

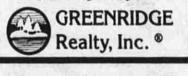
HEATING & COOLING Residential & Commercial

11589 92nd S.E. Alto, Michigan 49302

Residence: (616) 868-0494 • Fax: (616) 868-0495

It's time to plan a new Toareer BYTHISTIME NEXT MONTH! Invest in 1 week Pre-License training west in 2 weeks Career Develop. Invest in your future Invest in yourself

Time is passing you by Don't let time pass you by. career counselor today at 1-888-430-0634



MARK JOHNSON 6095-28th Street Ste. Grand Rapids, MI 49546 - 940-8181

YOU ALWAYS PROTECT THE ONES YOU LOVE

The security of life insurance, the smiles of your children, the help of your Farm Bureau Insurance agent. The best things in life are really pretty simple. Call today.

Making Your Future More Predictable FARM BUREAU . INSURANCE

Maplewood Square Apartments New-Upscale-Energy Efficient

All apartments on one level, laundry room, attached garage, covered porches, all appliances included. Now Available: One 2-bedroom & one 3-bedroom unit!

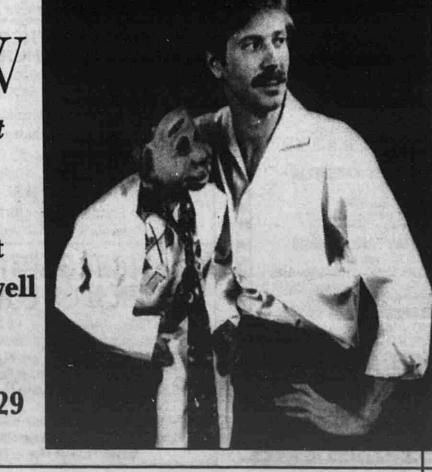
Contact: Michael Nosko at Maplewood Square Apartments • Ph: 616-682-1581



Ventriloquist & Artist

First Baptist **Church of Lowell**

SUNDAY, **DECEMBER 29** 11:00 A.M.



TO ALL CREDITORS: sonal representative TORS: The decedent, STATE OF MICHIGAN within 4 months after the STANLEY N. GARDNER. PROBATE COURT date of publication of this who lived at 11234 Ware **COUNTY OF IONIA**

NOTICE TO CREDI-TORS **Decedent's Estate**

FILE NO.: 02-228-DE

Estate of STANLEY N. GARDNER,

date of birth 4-8-1905

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDI-

Rd., Lowell, Michigan died 11-2-2002.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to DAVID O. NELSON, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 100 MAIN ST., IONIA, MICHI-

named/proposed per-

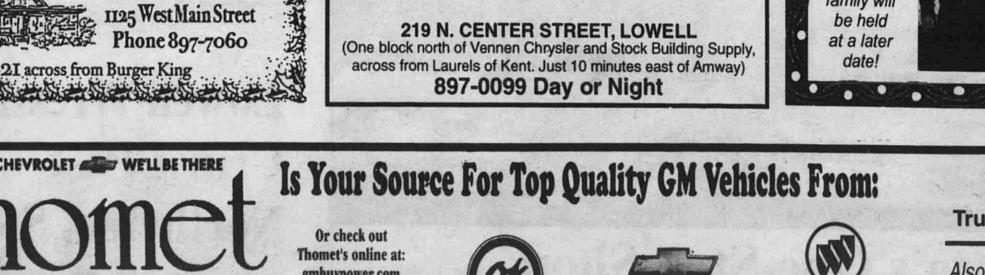
GAN 48846 and the

notice.

MICHAEL J. TUMMINO, (P21618) 311 East Main Lowell, MI 49331 616-897-6584

12-19-02

DAVID O. NELSON 11234 Ware Road Lowell, MI 49331



or email us at:

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER

DECEMBER 25, 1952

and Elmer Schaefer are retiring from their duties and the old

Peoples Party reorganizes to rev up participation in municipal

clerks are alerted for the senatorial Potter-Moody contest.

Village president Peter Speerstra and trustees Peter Mulder

The gubernatorial recount is cancelled in Michigan, but

There were 475 kids who showed up at the Strand Theatre

A map shows proposed extensions of water and sewer

Fourteen Lowell Telephone Girls (operators) have a final

Of Faith

the six days of creation

ming = the seven gifts of the

ing = the eight Beatitudes.

Spirit. (Gal.5:22)

the 10 Commandments.

the Apostles' Creed."

mas to all.

The seven swans a-swim-

The eight maids a-milk

The nine ladies dancing =

The 10 lords a-leaping =

The 11 pipers piping =

The 12 drummers

So, let us make song to-

Butch Landman, Kaitlyn Callihan.

DEC. 29: Amanda Martin, Donna Baker.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DEC. 28: Lisa Stormzand, C.J. Sokolowski, Matt Francisco.

DEC. 30: Stacy Klahn, Ben Hodges, Kyle Triplett, Joe Hunt,

Stacey Craig, Joshua Gee, Maliree Trierweiler, Matthew

JAN. 1: Tory Abel, Alice Hesche, Carolyn Yonker, John

DEC. 31: Marcie Page, Bill DeHaan, Charles Boerema

drumming=the 12 articles of

day and all year long as we

celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Savior, a most Blessed Christ-

the nine fruits of the Holy

(Gen.1)

Father George J. Fekete St. Mary Catholic Church

A priest friend recently shared the following with me: Holy Spirit (1Cor.12:8-11 & "We have all heard the song. The Twelve Days of Christmas. This song had its origin as a teaching tool to instruct young people in the meaning and content of the Christian faith back in the years 1558 to 1829 when Catholics were not permitted to practice the faith openly in England. The song The 11 faithful apostles. is an allegory.

The song goes, "On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me ..." The true love represents God, and the 'me' who receives these gifts is the Christian.

The Partridge in a pear tree = Jesus who died on a tree as God's gift.

The two turtle doves = the Old and New Testaments.

The three French hens = faith, hope and charity - gifts of the Holy Spirit. (1Cor. 13)

The four calling birds = DEC. 26: Margaret Gasper, Shay Hacker, Stephanie Newell, the four Gospels that sing the salvation won by Christ. DEC. 27: Helen Triplett, Mark Nyp, Linda Aksamitowski, The five golden rings =

Bible, the Pentateuch. The six geese a-laying =

the 1st five books of the

ADA-LOWELL 5

M-21 5 Minutes East of Amway H.Q. \$5.00 Kids all shows \$5.50 Students & Late Shows Fri & Sat COMFORTABLE DELUXE ROCKING CHAIR SEATS WITH CUP HOLDERS MOVIE GUIDE irst shows on Christmas will start after 2:55pm. ★ STARTS CHRISTMAS ★ CATCH ME IF YOU CAN (PG-13 WED 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 TH 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 SHOWTIMES 12/23 - 12/26 O LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS (PG-13) MON/TH 11:25, 2:55, 6:25 TUE 11:25, 2:55 VED 2:55, 6:25, 9:55 TWO WEEKS NOTICE MON/TH 12:20, 2:30, 4:50 TUE 12:20, 2:30, 4:50 WED 4:50, 7:00, 9:00 O WILD THORNBERRYS (PG

MON 11:00, 12:35, 2:10, 3:45

UE 11:00, 12:35, 2:10, 3:45,

TH 11:00, 12:35, 2:10, 3:45,

(PG-13) MON/TH 11:10, 1:3

MON 11:20, 1:45, 4:20, 6:45

UE 11:20, 1:45, 4:20 DRUMLINE (PG-13)

COUPON

FREE

20oz.DRINK

5:20, 6:55, 8:30

WED 3:45, 5:20, 6:55

4:00, 7:20, 9:30

MON 10:00 PM

VED/TH 9:00PM

5:20, 6:55 O MAID IN MANHATTAN

TUE 11:10, 1:30, 4:00

WED 4:00, 7:20, 9:30 STAR TREK: NEMESIS

City switches to Waste Management for solid waste removal

By J.N. Boorsma Contributing Writer

When residents look out their windows on trash day, they won't see the familiar Pitsch trucks ... but rather a maroon and white truck picking up their trash and recyclables.

The Lowell City Council unanimously voted, at Monday night's meeting, to reassign its solid waste, yard waste and recycling services from Pitsch to Waste Management of Michigan, Inc. The reason behind the move is that Pitsch recently sold its solid waste business to Waste Management.

City manager, David Pasquale said he was contacted by Waste Management and was assured the company would honor the current three-year contract which the city had just signed with Pitsch in October. According to that contract, residents pay 90 cents per bag for refuse removal; it will go up two cents a bag per year ending in 2005 at 94 cents a bag.

Curbside recycling is \$2.45 per resident per month, in-

creasing seven cents and ending at \$2.59 in 2005. Yard waste is 75 cents per bag, increasing three cents and ending at 81 cents in 2005.

The company will maintain the same schedule and route as Pitsch did. It will not enter the city before 7 a.m.

Waste Management is one of the largest waste haulers in the country. In West Michigan, it is based out of Wyoming with 70 trucks going to locations throughout Kent and Ottawa counties. It also has about 20 more trucks based in Holland and services the cities of Holland and Greenville.

Waste Management officials said the company currently services areas around Lowell and sees no problem entering the city. All Pitsch employees who worked on the solid waste collection will now become Waste Management employees.

Pasquale indicated Pitsch was the lowest bidder for the contract to come into the city. The company, which had been the city's waste hauler in the past, was awarded the new threeyear contract in October.

COLLEGE NEWS

Northwood University in is Miranda Reimann. Midland has announced its list of students who have made the dean's list for fall term.

From the Lowell area are Andrea Rickert and Ashley Rickert; from the Alto area

To achieve dean's list recognition, students must earn a 3.25 grade point on a 4.0 scale. up. Children can make lip balm, decorate treasure boxes and create magic wands.

The program, based on the series of books by J. K. Rowling, will be offered at the Alto branch on Saturday, Jan. 4 at 11:30 a.m. (647-3820); at the Englehardt branch on Saturday, Feb. 15 at 1 p.m. (647-3920).

Mother-Daughter Book Club at Englehardt branch

Mothers and daughters are invited to read the book A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Maggie Smith together for the Mother-Daughter Book Club at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 21 at the Englehardt library.

Coffee and refreshments will be offered at the book discussion. Copies of the featured book are available at the library's checkout desk.

For more information, contact the branch at 647-3920.

Sunday School

Evening Worship.

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: 10-10:30 AM

Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 9 PM

Religious Education, children to adults - call Brenda Berding 897-791

See Lowell Cable Ch. 49, EWTN for 24 hr. Catholic broadcasti

KDL News & Notes:

Libraries present Harry Potter's art school

Harry Potter fans are invited to make wizardly crafts at Harry Potter's Art School at libraries this winter. The art class is for ages six and

AREA BIRTHS

Steve and Kathie Malone of Lowell are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Aiden Patrick on November 27,

Welcoming Aiden home is big brother, Jack. Proud grandparents are Terry and Gerre Abel and Steve and Liz Malone, all of Lowell.

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. -Sir Richard Steele

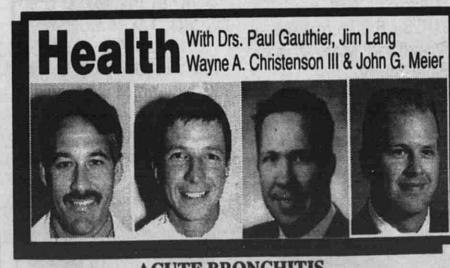
along with the crowd can be a costly journey. LEGAL CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL **EASE** Rev. William J. Renkema - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI 10:00 A. M. . 11:20 A.M. ..6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Jonathan David

DEAR JONATHAN: My mother died last month. I am the trustee of her trust which owns her home. The trust directs that I should sell the house upon my mother's death and that's what I intend on doing. However, until that happens, which could be several months from now, do I have any other responsibilities regarding the house?

JONATHAN SAYS: Yes. First of all, if the homeowner's insurance policy already doesn't name your mother's trust as the insured, then make sure you contact the homeowner's insurance agent and name the trust as the insured on the policy.

In addition, you should make sure that you properly maintain that property for the benefit of the trust beneficiaries. Further, within 90 days of the date of your mother's death, you are required to file with the city assessor's office a

rescission of the homestead exemption since that property no



ACUTE BRONCHITIS

Acute bronchitis is one of the most common respiratory

"Every time the barber has a brush with a man, he always comes out a head."

Viewpoint...

Priscilla Lussmyer

ledger Entries

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

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL

DECEMBER 26, 1877

Greenville is campaigning to be the county seat.

Financial Focus

EdwardJones

Serving Individual Investors Since 1871

With Christopher C. Godbold

torchlight furnished at night.

business all over the state.

The editor demands either that sidewalks be repaired, or

Many Jimcrax this week: "All the papers are discussing

Jonah just now. Spout away. It wasn't a whale, just the same."

"STEER CLEAR OF HERD MENTALITY"

what everyone else is doing. When the market is soaring, and

everyone is pouring money in, it seems to make sense to be

aggressive. Conversely, when we're in a long bear market, and

everyone around you seems to be selling their stocks, or just

sitting on the investment sidelines, then you probably feel

pressure to do the same. But in the investment world, going

As an investor it's easy to "follow the herd" and just do

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER **DECEMBER 25, 1902**

The editor says that last week's numerous spelling errors were the compositor's fault.

Four carloads of potatoes were shipped from Moseley last week, and George Frost went with them to keep fire.

Prosperity is hard on streetcar conductors, who have to Christmas party sponsored by the Board of Trade. make change for all the paper money.

James Anderson and John Meyers will open a feed mill and mains, and new rates to cover the cost are published. store next to the Lowell Specialty Co. factory.

The Boys' Union room has been repapered and painted and looks very neat.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO **DECEMBER 29, 1927**

The Santa Claus Girls fund reaches \$221, 50; \$150 was the

Kent County members of the Michigan State Bankers Association have a force of 45 armed guards, who will be on Tryouts Jan. 11. call whenever needed to protect banks.

The Ledger goes to cash-in-advance subscriptions.

The Vergennes Grange advertises Hot Music for its annual Colder weather is hoped for. Muddy roads are impeding Holiday Dance.

An article tells how to replace the acid in a radio battery.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER **DECEMBER 28, 1977**

Christmas party before the new dial system goes into effect.

Lowell trash service will shift from Pete's Disposal of Byron Center to D&H Rubbish Removal of Belding, come . The new Lowell Community Theater, sponsored by Low-

ell Area Arts Council, will present "Arsenic and Old Lace."

Buy your Lowell Landfill Permit (residents only) at City Hall in January

Lowell VFW Post 8303 sponsors several showings of a film on the Heimlich Maneuver which explains how to save choking victims.

The first week of January will be Amnesty Week for overdue library books and records.

people do this, overall prices can be pushed lower than would

"group think?" For starters, strive for objectivity. Evaluate a

stock on its own merits. Are its financial fundamentals strong?

That is, does it have a strong track record of earnings and a

manageable debt load? Is its management team solid? Do they

seem to have a clear vision of where they want to take the

business? How about the company's products? Are they

These are just some of the questions you should be asking

To get this kind of information, you may have to do some

about any stock you're considering. To make an informed

investment decision, you need to have a detailed understand-

digging. But you'll find it's worth the effort. The more you

know about your investments, the more comfortable you'll be

with them. You won't get this knowledge by "running with the

herd" - so you may have to blaze your own trail.

ing of the company and its prospects.

So, what can you do to avoid this type of investment

otherwise be the case.

or is it declining

Intuitively, you might feel that it's actually "safer" to act as others around you are acting. After all, you may reason, there's got to be some common rationale for investment behavior. Unfortunately, though, that's not the case. When the investing public acts in unison, two things are usually happen-

• Over-reaction to past stimuli - If masses of people make similar investment decisions, they're usually reacting to past stimuli, such as news of a "hot" market sector. At one time, these types of events may indeed have been highly relevant to competitive within their industry? Is the industry itself strong, investors. But what was true then may not be true now. Yesterday's hot sector may have cooled off today - and its prospects for tomorrow may look even worse.

· Decisions driven by emotions - You may have heard that "fear and greed drive the market." And that saying is usually true when you see huge run-ups or declines in stock prices. When the market is going up, greed can cause investors to keep buying and buying, under the mistaken belief that prices can keep moving higher indefinitely. As a result, stock prices are driven to unsupportable levels. On the other hand, investors afraid of losing money can cause them to sell their holdings at the wrong time, and then jump out of the market. When enough

longer serves as anyone's residence.

Finally, when it comes time to sell the property, you need to enter into all agreements as trustee of your mother's trust and not in your individual name. I also recommend that you meet with an attorney who has experience in transferring real estate from a trust to make sure that the trustee's deed is

prepared properly, and if you don't have one already, a certificate of trust existence and authority is prepared, which the title insurance company will require at the time of closing. It would also make sense to have that attorney review, or even prepare, the buy and sell agreement for the purchase and sale of the house prior to you executing the same on behalf of the

DEAR JONATHAN: My mother passed away several months ago. I have reason to believe that certain members of my family coerced my mother into giving them items of her personal property, as well as putting their names on some of her bank accounts, certificates of deposit, etc. - all to my exclusion. I won't go into the details here, but I have some evidence of this coercion. I also happen to know that some of the items of my mother's that were taken were supposed to go to me upon her death. What can I do?

JONATHAN SAYS: Based on the information you provided me, you might be able to establish that your other family ailments we see at this time of year. It is an inflammation of the lasts 10-14 days.

bronchial tubes that carry air into your lungs. Inflammation leads to swelling within the tubes and increased mucous production resulting in wheezing, coughing and shortness of following:

Acute bronchitis is usually due to a viral infection. Bacterial infections can also cause bronchitis but this is much less common. The viruses that cause acute bronchitis are usually the same ones that cause colds this time of year. The virus is cough up blood. spread by respiratory droplets when people cough or sneeze. You catch the infection by breathing in the virus. Usually antibiotics are not needed to treat acute bronchitis because they are not effective against a virus. Your body will fight off the infection. Your doctor may prescribe medication for coughing or wheezing. In acute bronchitis, coughing usually underlying chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

members unduly influenced your mother resulting in their receiving those items of personal property and having those bank accounts titled in their names. Under Michigan case law, you have to show the following in order to establish a cause of action for undue influence:

"To establish undue influence it must be shown that the grantor (in this case, your mother) was subjected to threats, misrepresentation, undue flattery, fraud, or physical or moral coercion sufficient to overpower volition, destroy free agency and impel the grantor to act against his/her inclination and free

In your case, if you are able to establish undue influence based on the standards set forth above, then you might have a case worth pursuing.

Another cause of action that might apply depending upon your mother's mental state at the time these transfers took place was one of mental capacity. Did your mother know what she was doing at the time she made those transfers?

There might also be other causes of action which may be applicable and worth pursuing.

I recommend that you meet with an attorney who is experienced in probate litigation who can fully examine the facts, as well as the evidence you say you have in your possession, and then make a determination as to whether you have a case worth pursuing.

Certain symptoms may indicate a more serious infection and you should see your physician if you experience the

• You have a fever over 100.4 that doesn't go down after

· You experience shortness of breath or chest pain.

· Your cough persists for more than two weeks or you

The above symptoms can be associated with pneumonia or other illnesses so your physician may recommend a chest Xray or other tests to make a definitive diagnosis. Antibiotics are usually prescribed if pneumonia is present. Antibiotics are also prescribed in patients that have bronchitis along with an

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY



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

Worship Time 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:50 a.m.

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21

www.goodshepherdlowell.org Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:00 A.M. 10:00 A.M.

Sunday Worship... (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible

FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. Burland Margesson & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service..9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. AWANA/JV Wed. 6:15 & 7 P.M. ontact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free

EVERGREEN MISSIONARY CHURCH 10501 Settlewood • Ph. 897-7185

Sunday School. Morning Worship Evening Service. ALL ARE WELCOME!

(Barrier-Free)

APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Sunday Services 10:00 A.M. at the Cherry Creek Elementary School 12675 Foreman Road, Lowell, MI 49331 CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES Pastor Robert L. Hubbard

Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com

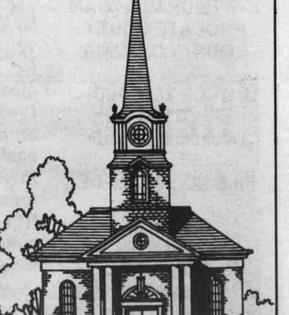
ALTON BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road

Sunday School .10:00 A.M. Morning Worship .11:00 A.M. **Evening Praise** .6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA. .7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study... ...7:00 P.M.

Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL **CHURCH OF LOWELL** (United Church of Christ) 404 North Hudson • 897-5906

Vorship and Church School Dr. Roger LaWarre. legan MacNaughton. . Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship



9:45 A.M. .11 A.M. .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

Stacy Peters, College & Twenties Worship: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Family Night: (For All Ages) 7 p.m. Generation Jacob Youth: 7 p.m.

LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

201 N. Washington • 897-8800 .9:30 A.M Sunday School. 10:50 A.M. Morning Worship Sunday Evening .6:00 P.M. Nednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M.

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

(Assembly of God)

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

Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor

Dave Noonon, Asst. Pastor

SUNDAYS:

WEDNESDAYS:

PASTOR TIM DESHAW Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance

.. Music Director

The state of the s

COMNGEVENTS

Notices in The Ledger's "Com- EVERY MON.: Boy Scout ing Events" are free of charge Troop 102: boys 11 & up or to any nonprofit organization completing 5th-grade. in the Lowell, Ada, Alto & Saranac areas. We prefer Scout Cabin on N. Washsuch notices to be kept brief and to be submitted by mail, but will accept notices by phone at 897-9261.

EVERY MONTH: Flat River Snowmobile Club meets at the clubhouse (11841 ?'s call 897-2760. Potters Rd.) east of Montcalm Ave. For dates call 897-5015. Guests wel-

EVERY OTHER SUN: Bldg. Weigh-ins 5:45 p.m. Single adults, ages 25-50 years, meet 4 - 5:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Lowell. Social time/ It. 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. Call 676-1355 for

SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH: Fallasburg Historical Society holds gram meetings/even mos. monthly board meeting at chamber office at 7 p.m. Public invited, 897-7161.

SECOND MON. OF EACH St. Mary School, 7:30 p.m. MONTH: The Lowell Board of Education meets at 7:00 p.m. in Administration Building, 300 High Street.

SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH: Bowne Township Historical Society holds its regular meeting at the Hisand Alden Nash, 7:30 p.m. S. Hudson St.

THIRD MON. OF THE MONTH: Lowell Showboat Garden Club meets at 7 Issues Group at St. Luke's ers: Saranac High School, p.m. in Fellowship Hall of Lutheran Church, 32156 Choir - 6:30 p.m./ band the Nazarene Church. For 4 Mile NE (& E. Beltline) 7 7:30. Kathy 897-5981.

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 Schneider Manor, Bldg. D, 725 Bowes Rd. 8 p.m.

1ST MONDAY OF THE MONTH: Diabetic Support group (7 p.m.) at 1st United Methodist Church dining room. ?'s call 897-2760.

THIRD MONDAY OF **EACH MONTH: Women** of the Moose business meeting at 7:30 p.m.

EVERY 1STMON.: V.F.W. Post #8303 (men only) meets at 7:00 p.m.

meets 7 - 8:30 p.m. at ington St. Call Terry 868-6481

1ST & 3RD TUES .: Diabetic Support group meets at Schneider Manor Community Room at 9:30 a.m.

TUES.: Take Off Pounds Sensibly Tops MI#372 meets Key Heights Mobile Home Park Community

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

1ST TUES.: Adults with AD/HD at Calvin College. 7-9 p.m. Free. Call Gary Engle at 897-6325 or 248-

1ST TUES .: WINGS Parent Group meets 7:30 - 9 p.m., in Board Room at 300 High St. Business meetings/odd mos; pro-

FOURTH TUES.: Knights of Columbus #7719 meets

EVERY SECOND TUES.: Lowell Masonic Lodge reg. meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Masonic Center, 119 Lincoln Lake.

EVERY 1ST & 3RD Church, 201 N. Washing- at Averill Historical Mu-TUES.: Lowell Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Look torical Museum at 84th Memorial Fire Station, 315 New members invited 1-

ents of children w/AD/HD Area Musicians and Singinfo. call Dave: 897-2533. p.m. Linda 874-5662; teen group:Sarah 281-6588.

> Adults w/ AD/HD Issues Group meeting: Calvin for two. 897-7842 for info. College #206 of the Com-942-6887.

EVERY OTHER WED .: denominational help for p.m. Families: \$10; indi-6:45-8:45 p.m. G.E.M.S. pregnant women / adoles- viduals \$3; ages 5-17 Girls Club - Calvary Chris- cents at the school: 11 a.m. \$1.50; members free. tian Reformed Church. -3 p.m.; Mondays: 5:30-8 p.m. 897-9393. Girls ages 8-13. 897-8694.

10501 Settlewood Dr. Chil- room. 897-1502 after 5. dren 4-7th grade. 897-5894 for details.

WED.: 8 p.m. ALANON meets at Lowell Congre-Church (Alden Nash). gational

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

EVERY WED.: "Peppers" (Sr. adults) at Franciscan Life Process Center: 1-3:30 p.m. \$10/wk. Transportation? Call Pat 897-7842.

Church of the Nazarene Caravan children's program, 7 p.m., 5-12 years. Call 897-8800 with ???'s.

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

Elderly volunteers needed for Intergenerational program w/school children from Lowell in activities.9:45-10:45 a.m. or 12:45 - 1:45 p.m. Call Sis-EVERY SECOND & ment Center, 897-7842.

> **EVERY FOURTH WED.:** Support group for Peripheral neuropathy meets at 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Grand Rapids.

ers at Lowell Nazarene ton, 5:30 & 7 p.m. Register 1/2 hr. before meetings. 800-651-6000.

classes at Franciscan Life Averill Historical Museum EVERY 1ST TUES: Process Center from 6:30 of Ada, 7144 Headley 1-4 - 8:30 p.m. \$10/hour/ \$15 p.m. By appt.: 676-9346.

> Mary's Pregnancy Crisis HOURS: - Tues., Sat. & Center, 402 Amity St., non- Sun.: 1-4 p.m.; Thurs., 1-8

EVERY WED.: Pioneer FIRST THURS.: 4-H THRIFT SHOP HOURS: Clubs 6:30-8 p.m. Ever- drama club meetings at Wed.-Fri.: 12-6 p.m.; Sat.: green Missionary Church, Lowell Middle School choir 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. 519 E.

> (7 p.m.) Bowne Center Fel- 8 p.m.; Thurs. - Fri.: 9:30 lowship Hall, 84th & M-50 a.m.-5p.m.; Sat.: 9:30 a.m.

EVERY 2ND THURS.: LOWELL AREA ARTS N.A.R.F.E. meets 1:30 COUNCIL: Open Tues., p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Wed. & Fri.: noon - 5 p.m.; Church, 2700 E. Fulton.

EVERY 3RD THURS.: Call 897-8545. Rubber stamping group at Christian Life Center 6-9 DEC. 23 - JAN. 1: Champ.m. Create cards, scrap- ber of Commerce office will books, etc. Share supplies. be closed during the holi-EVERY WED.: Lowell Call Dawn 862-8841.

> VFW #8303 Ladies Auxil- resumes: Lowell students. iary: 3 p.m. at Schneider

cussion for parents of children. Call 897-7842.

EVERY THIRD THURS.: Royal Arch Masons regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Lowell Masonic Center, 119 Lincoln Lake, EVERY FOURTH WED.: Lowell. Dinner: 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 ter Colleen F.S.E. at support for pregnant & Franciscan Child Develop- breastfeeding women Nursing children welcome. Ada church. Call 752-8300.

> SECOND THURS. OF EACH MONTH: Genealogy - Alto Family Tree Club at Alto Library 6:30 - 8 p.m.

SECOND SAT. OF EV-THURS.: Weight Watch- ERY MONTH: Ada Historical Society at 1 p.m. seum of Ada, 7144 Headley.

SECOND SAT.: Lowell Amateur Radio Club at EVERY 3RD TUES .: Par- EVERY THURS .: Saranac Lowell High School 9 a.m. social gathering; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors the 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

EVERY THURS.: Pottery EVERY FRI. & SAT.:

LOWELL AREA HISmons bldg. Connie EVERY THURS. - St. TORICAL MUSEUM

> FLAT RIVER OUT-REACH MINISTRIES Main St. 897-2037.

FIRST AND THIRD ENGLEHARDTLIBRARY THURS .: Alto Lions Club HOURS: Mon.- Wed., 12 -- 2:30 p.m. 200 N. Monroe St. Call 647-3920.

Thurs.: noon -7 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. 149 S. Hudson.

EVERY 3RD THURS.: THURS., JAN. 2: School

Manor Community Room. SAT., JAN. 4: Luminary fall. Juniors, seniors and Walk, 5-7 p.m. at EVERY THIRD THURS .: Wittenbach Agriscience Put on by Lowell High Parents Supporting Par- Center; snow shoes availents group at Franciscan able; guided hike; live music Life Process Center: dis- by Lowell Music Ensemble.

MON., JAN. 6: The Lowell Athletic Boosters meeting will be at 7 p.m. in the staff lounge at the high school.

WED., JAN. 8: LHS bands holiday concert at 7 p.m. in Performing Arts Center. Everyone is welcome to attend this free concert.

THURS., JAN. 9: Financial Aid night at 7 p.m. in the LPAC for students planning to attend college next their parents are welcome. School counseling staff

CITY OF **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The following offices will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24 and 25, 2002 in observance of the Christmas Holiday and Tuesday, December 31, 2002 and Wednesday, January 1, 2003 in observance of the New Year Holiday.

> **LOWELL LIGHT AND POWER** AND LOWELL CABLE VISION

The following offices will close on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24 and 25, 2002 in observance of the Christmas Holiday and Wednesday, January 1, 2003 in observance of the New Year Holiday.

LOWELL CITY HALL OFFICES, LOWELL POLICE OFFICES AND **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR 897-5949

MON.: 8:30 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall. TUES.: 8:30 a.m. Walk at

Shop at the Malls; 9:30 Crafts; 1 p.m. Euchre. Woodland Mall. 1 p.m. FRI .: 8:30 a.m. Walk at Bible Study.

Woodland Mall. SPECIAL EVENTS

WED., DEC. 25: Center Closed. Merry Christmas!

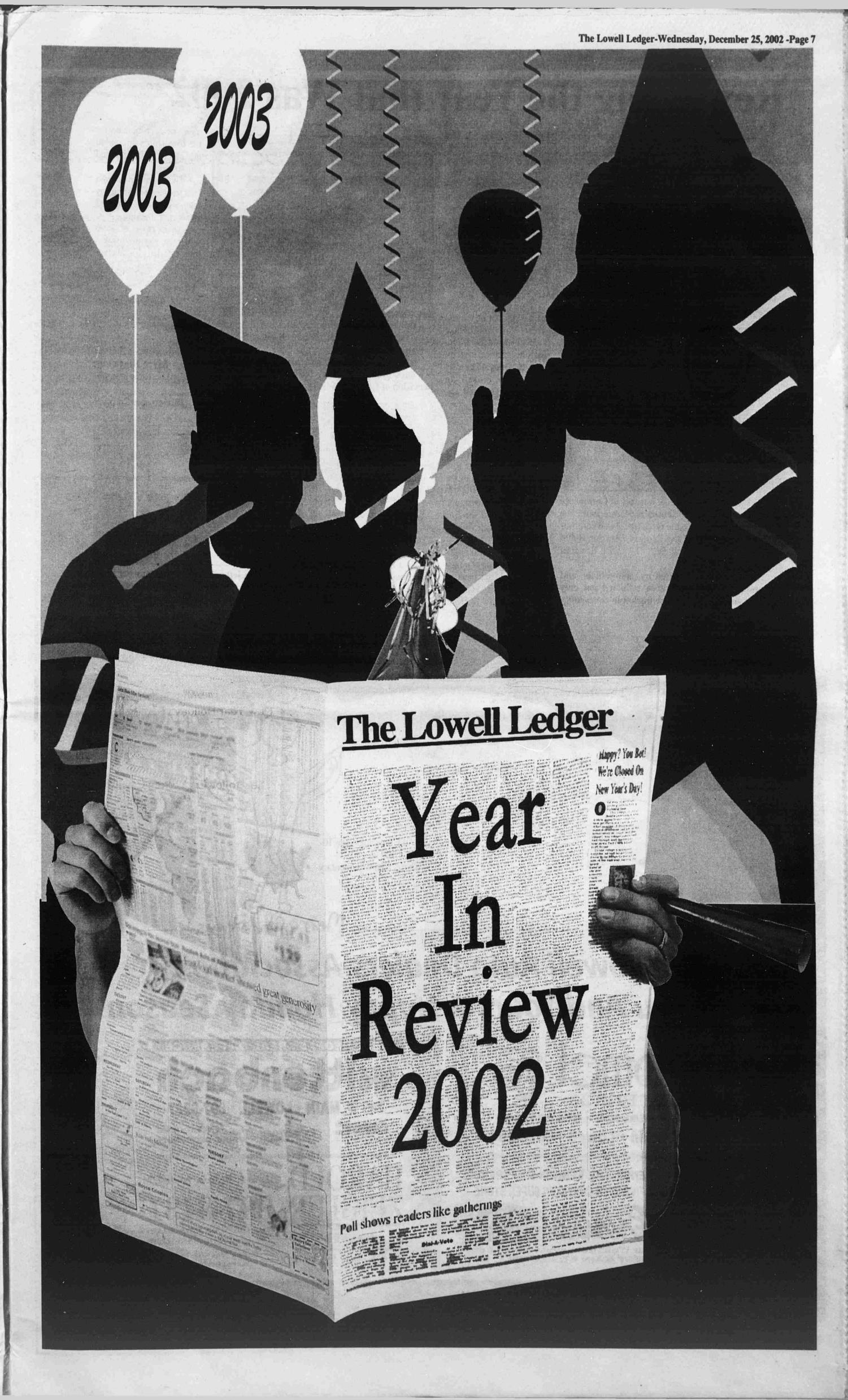
THURS.: 9 a.m. Walk

THURS., DEC. 26: Center Closed.

TUES., DEC. 31: 8 a.m. Women's Breakfast.

WED., JAN. 1, '03: Happy New Year!!!

FRI., DEC. 27: 12:45 p.m.



Reviewing the Year that Was 2002

January 2, 2002

There is the age-old be until you ask.

At least for Lowell area resident. David Pedley who knew it city would help fund a new backboard system for the council meeting on Martennis program at the tin Luther King Day. high school, where resi-

couldn't hurt to ask if the Council's 2002 meeting postponing its regular schedule will include the

dents also play the sport. ally meets the first and

CITY COUNT

Liz Baker, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director, presented a plaque from the American Red Cross to the Greater Lowell community for its support of the Liberty Disaster Relief Fund for victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist

attacks. The \$10,000 contributed by individuals and businesses in the Lowell area reflected not only personal generosity, but a remarkable community spirit.

While the city council third Mondays of the did recognize that tennis month, except in obseris a life-long sport, the vance of holidays such as philosophy that you never group expressed concern President's Day (this year know what the answer will at funding something not Feb. 18) and Labor Day directly within the city lim- (this year Sept. 2) when it meets the Tuesday after. For the past several years, The Lowell City this included the council Monday night meeting in

observance of Martin Luther King Day (this year The council tradition- Jan. 21).

Councilmember, Jeanne Shores raised the subject of moving the date back to Monday night, since the city offices are open that day. The city offices are closed on President's Day and Labor Day.

The Lowell City Plan- former residence of Mike ning Commission had a and Kim Harding. Earlier, few loose ends to wrap up a local beauty salon had before the end of the year approached the planning which included giving the commission about the OK for a law office to same site. move to Main Street and setting a special meeting a special use permit.

fore the planning commis-Dec. 17, seeking approval the 2001-02 budget. to move his law office to



David Johnson has enjoyed the short time he has spent as editor in chief of Lowell High School's newspaper The Point.

After taking last year off, high school students are back in the publishing business, under the supervision of Lowell English teacher, Jeff Larsen.



Mike Horian, left and Jack Thomet (owner Lowell Lanes), through a coordinated effort opened up Horian's Pro Shop in an effort to meet the needs of

The proposed budget for a local church seeking for the 2002-03 Lowell Charter Township fiscal Tim Haynes came be- year (begins April 1) shows a little less than a sion at a special meeting five percent increase over

The proposed 617 W. Main St., the \$603,630 budget includes West Michigan bowlers.

a five percent increase for the township's appointed and elected officials and employees.

The township board's four trustees will see a pay increase of \$3 (from \$63 to \$66 per meeting).

An increase of \$896 will raise the township's three salaried officials (supervisor, clerk and treasurer) from \$17,920 to \$18,816.

The total for all the increases will come to less than \$5,000.

Bids on phase II of the Grand River Riverfront Park project came in some-

Review, cont'd pg. 9

Kait Cummings, age 10 Cherry Creek Elementary Elissa Lorentz, age 11 Mr. Keglovitz The Lowell Auto Dealers Association Wish You And Yours A Happy Holiday Season REAL PEOPLE...REAL DIFFERENCE CHEVROLET BUICK 749 W. MAIN • LOWELL • 897-9227 SALES · SERVICE · SELECTION 1250 W. Main • Lowell • 897-9294 **COME EXPERIENCE THE VENNEN DIFFERENCE!** 11979 E. Fulton, Lowell, MI YOUR FIVE-STAR CHRYSLER SUPER STORE 00000 LOWELI

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 8

what higher than Lowell Charter Township projected.

The township anticipated the work costing approximately \$310,000. Much of that cost is being covered by the Lowell Area Community Fund (\$100,000)and \$199,000 state grant.

According to Lowell Township supervisor, John Timpson, the cost for phase II came in approximately \$60,000 higher than projected.

January 9, 2002

While proud and honored with her appointment as Lowell's first woman mayor, Jeanne Shores was clear that her role on the council as mayor of the city was no more important than that of the councilmembers.

"I don't believe the role of mayor is all-important. I believe the role of the council is what's allimportant - the votes all count the same."

The longtime Lowell resident is beginning her ninth year as a member of

served on the city's planning commission for 12 the local Officers Com-

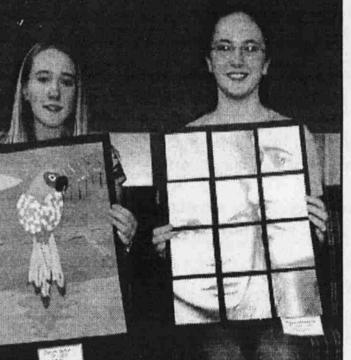
thanked family, friends and members of the council for their support. She Bill Thompson for encour-

community

pensation Commission to Lowell's 11th mayor make salary increase adsince the position was first justments for the mayor established in 1960 and city councilmembers was turned down by the

A recommendation by

The recommendation recognized former mayor, would have increased compensation for the aging her to serve in the mayor from \$30 to \$40 per meeting and a maxi-



Over 200 pieces of art were showcased during a week-long middle school art show at the Lowell Area Arts Council.

The work was that of sixth, seventh and eighth graders from Lowell and St. Patrick's.

The artwork included clay sculptures, oil pasthe city council. She also tels, acrylic paintings, pencil drawings, photo realism and coil pots.

For most, being a middle school coach is used as a stepping stone to a high school posi-

That's not been the case for Lowell's Julie Niemela - it's been a career choice.

"It's a fit that has always felt good. If it's not broken, why fix it?" explains Niemela, Middle School track coach (19 1/2 years). Michigan Inter-

scholastic Track Coaches Association honored Niemela for p.m. "being better" with its Coach-of-the-Year award. She was nominated by Talus.

mum of \$720 to \$1,000 a during these times,"

It was proposed that the councilmembers' pay be raised from \$25 to \$35 per meeting, to a maximum of \$625 to \$875 a

came on Dec. 11, 1991.

Instead of just strolling through Richards Park, many Lowell residents are now stopping to skate.

tive effort of the city's the 41 winter leagues. Parks and Recreation there's a demand for the Board and Kent County shop. Youth Fair Board president, Ron Wenger, an output in at the park.

"There is skating from sun up until 10 at night," Board chairman, Perry

from 6 until 9 p.m. and Sundays from 2 until 5

Beachum said.

January 16, 2002

The room once was a place where patrons went to pick up their children; The last increase ap- now it's a place where proved by the commission bowlers will pick up their new bowling bag and ball. Mike Horian's Pro

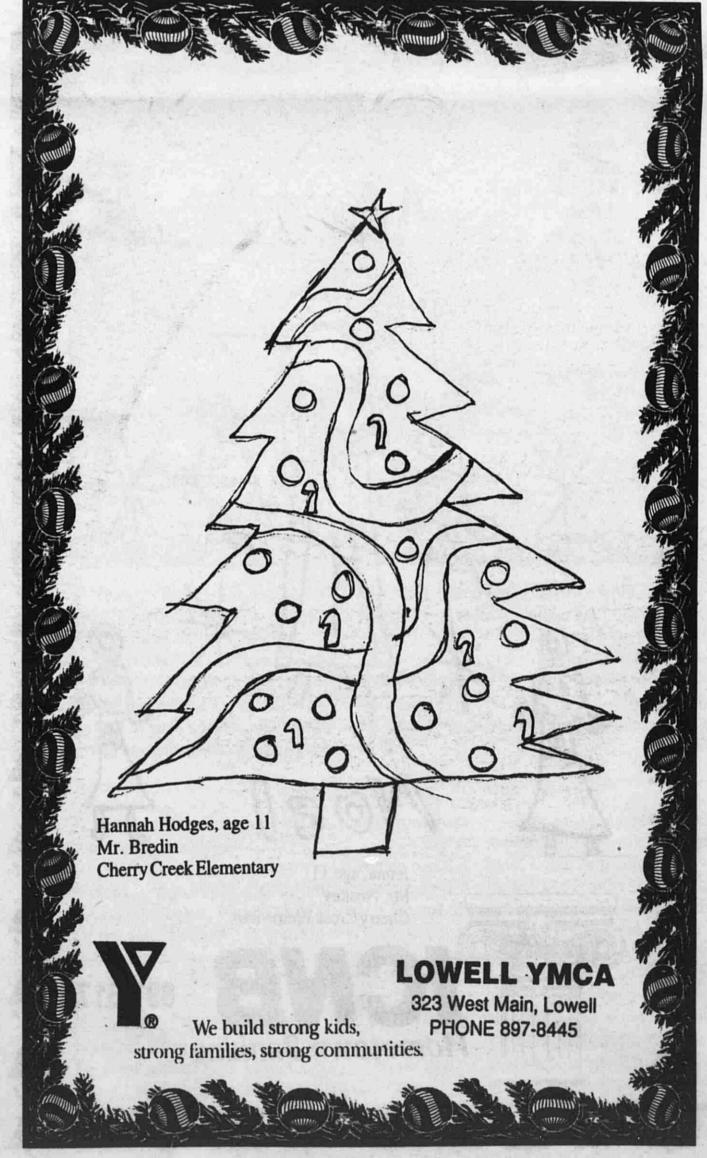
Shop now occupies a 40by-32 square foot room inside Lowell Lanes. With the increasing

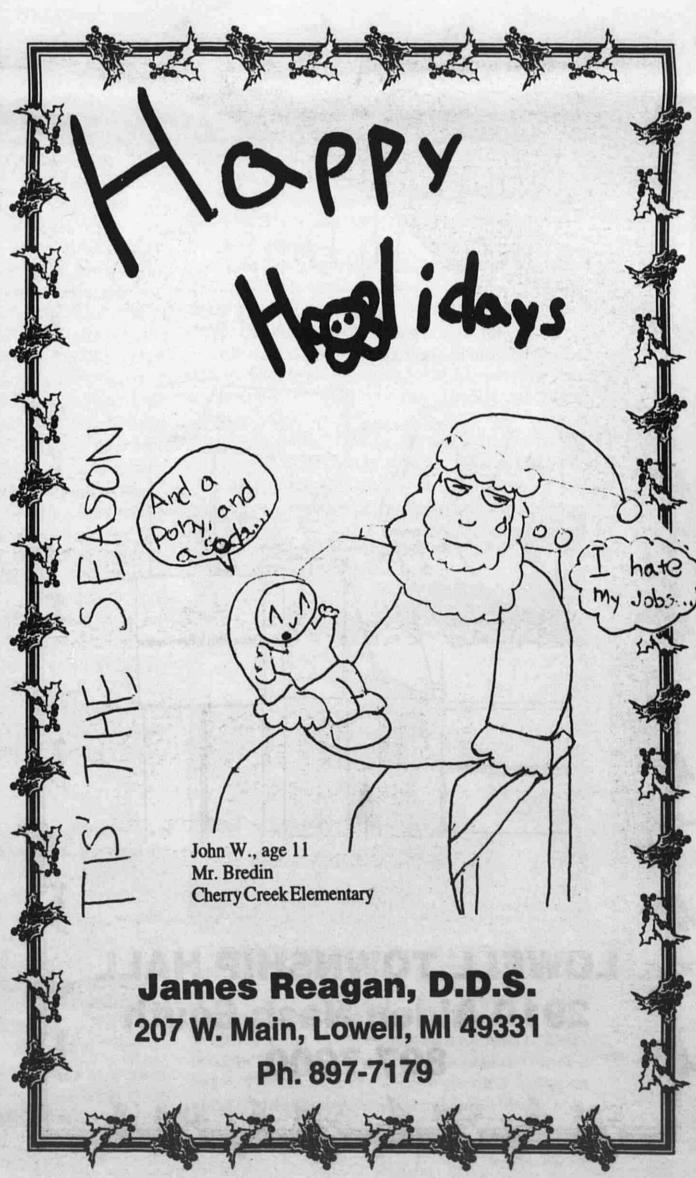
Through the coopera- number of bowlers due to The pro shop is a dual

venture between Horian door skating rink has been and Lowell Lanes' owner. Jack Thomet.

All that stands besaid Parks and Recreation tween a bistro's realization of an outside cafe at 201 E. Main are the input Open skating is re- and support of the Downserved for Wednesdays town Development Au-

Greg Gilmore, of Gilmore Enterprises, re-"The only stipulation ceived support from the we've made on its use is city council to purchase that hockey not be played city property, to square





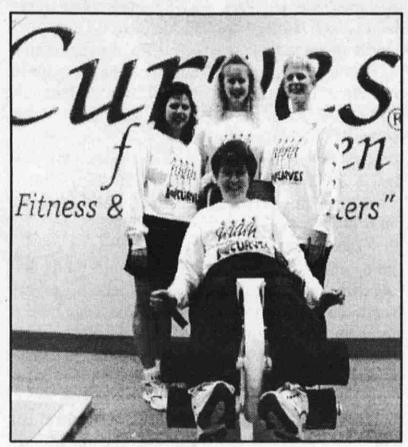
cafe for approximately 50 customers.

iron fence or something approved by the DDA, and it used to install 765 lineal feet of new sidewalk. will be removable.

extend the patio out 12 feet from the building, and 80 and handicapped riders. feet from the northwest corner to the southwest corner.

available to it in federal Community Development YMCA office). The cost to install a new roof is \$40,000. Block Grant (CDBG) funds beginning July 1.

Lowell city manager, Dave Pasquale recommends



women in the Lowell area Curves, a women's fitness and weight loss center, serves 250 women in the Lowell area.

lineal feet) on North Hudson Street's west side from The patio will be fully enclosed with a wrought- West Main to the north city limits. Funds will also be that," he explained.

Purchase of city property and an easement would North Kent Transit in providing rides for senior citizens

Another \$10,000 of the CDBG funds is tentatively to be allocated to assist with replacing the roof at the The city of Lowell will have in excess of \$30,000 Graham building (Lowell Area Historical Museum/

> Authority improvements, the boat launch was moved from Avery Street to just south of Unity High School.

> of-way, parking in the Riverwalk area is within the Lowell Area School's property.

from the school.

The documents were prepared by city attorney, Richard Wendt and reviewed by school board president, Peter Gustafson.

The city council approved a resolution accepting public parking and a sidewalk easement from Lowell Area Schools.

Laurie Summerfield and her neighbors attended the Lowell City Council meeting in search of a release for their frustration with a Shepard Drive housing develop-

The Shepard Drive residents went before the council wondering how they should deal with the situation. The result from a lengthy dialogue will bring forth

Curves opens its doors for the health conscious a meeting with Greg Holwerda, of Holwerda Builders, and Dan DesJarden, Department of Public Works director, to discuss a solution to their concerns and complaints. Following that meeting they will report back to the council.

Holwerda said he is trying to achieve a nice devel-

off its lot line and to attain an easement for an outdoor the funds be used to replace inadequate sidewalk (474 opment. "I was unaware of the problems with the cement trucks. I will talk to the sub-contractors about

> Lloyd Ritzema, of 829 Shepard Dr., raised con-Pasquale proposes that \$4,000 be used to assist cerns about the number of new curb cuts put in on the

> > With the realization that Michigan is experiencing a recession and with the prevailing wisdom coming from Lansing, the Lowell School District begins taking steps in preparation for the worst.

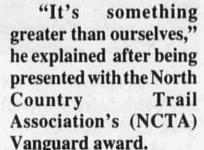
Since the inception of Proposal A, Michigan has As part of the summer Downtown Development gone from using property tax to sales tax to fund

Monies available for schools for the upcoming While the new site is within the High Street right- 2002-03 school year are reduced from what had been expected due to the recession.

Bert Bleke, Lowell Schools superintendent, and Thus, the city sought and received an easement Connie Gillette, assistant superintendent for finance and personnel, begin laying out a planning process

Review, cont'd pg. 11

Michigan's U.S. Sen. Carl Levin calls the 4,600- mile scenic trail now under construction a link to the nation and each other.



contributions in helping tor, Bob Papp.



with the progress of the

"Senator Levin has always been willing to The award is given come to events and raise to public officials who money for the trail," said have made significant NCTA executive direc-



Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 10

identifying reductions in next year's school budget.

Based on an anticipated freeze in its current student foundation grant and a loss in some or all of its categoricals (e.g., School Readiness program, At-Risk and small class size reduction), the Lowell School District could be staring at a \$1.5 million deficit budget next year. The comfort and encouragement provided by Lowell bus driver, Linda Barle, following an accident on Lincoln Lake Avenue near Heffron four days before Christmas, did not go unnoticed.

January 23, 2002

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

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

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

Yeiter, Jones and other members of the battalion were cited for extraordinary heroism and gallantry in

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

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

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

the patio area for the proposed bistro at 201 E. Main by Lowell Light and Power for the year was \$192,000.

property. He also would like to lease a portion of the Riverwalk, as in his original proposal, and inquired about an outdoor cafe ordinance, which the city currently does not have.

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

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

Concerned that bids may come in higher than expected on the spring road projects, the Lowell City Council approves a request to increase bonding for the projects to \$625,000.

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

Through some changes that included eliminating the ambulance bay area, squeezing the police station space, and leaving the second floor for future remodeling, Tom Smith of the design firm, Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber, Inc., said his staff and the city staff were able to cut about \$800,000 from the cost of the project, bringing it in at about \$4,372,496.

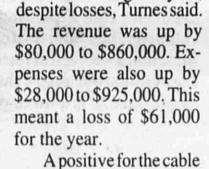
January 30, 2002

Once again the city demonstrates that it is a good steward of its citizens' money, receiving a clean bill

Representatives of the accounting firm, Biggs, Hausserman, Thompson and Dickinson presented its annual report to the city council.

From the audit, Biggs' representative, Joe Turnes said Light & Power had a good year with revenues Greg Gilmore goes before the DDA with his pro-increasing by \$47,000 to \$4,217,000. Expenses were up posal to purchase some city property that would extend by \$121,000 to \$4,188,000. The next revenue for

Lowell Cable Television also had a good year



company is that a \$3 increase for basic cable television was instituted in July of 2001, which should bring in about \$85,000 for the company next year. This should help to offset some of the losses, Turnes said, adding there will need to be monitoring of the expenses as well.

For the city's general fund, revenue and expenses stayed approximately the same with revenues around \$1,933,000 Nancy Heatley's Life Center Life Skills program instructs her EMI students through classroom projects on the hows of cooking, independent living, and expenses at about setting goals, communicating and getting along with others. The cooking part \$1,968,000. The net inhas been difficult due to a lack of equipment. The limited equipment has been come is about \$921,000, brought in from Heatley's home. That all changed on Thursday, Jan. 17 when which from the last year Heatley's request for funds to purchase cooking supplies was answered by the shows good improvement Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation. Through the foundation's innovaand good fiscal responsibility for the city.

12 feet from the building and 80 feet from the northwest corner to the southwest corner.

tive grant program, Heatley received \$400.

At the meeting, a majority of the DDA members did support selling Gilmore the city property and a majority did support leasing him some of the city's Riverwalk for the cafe. However, to appease everyone, Gilmore said he did agree to a one-year trial program.

After he got home and slept on the idea, he realized it wasn't going to work because it did not give the restaurant the security of having the outdoor seating available along with required handicap accessibility. To meet accessibility requirements, Gilmore would have to put a ramp on the front of the building.

Gilmore said he would like to propose that he purchase the piece of city property to square off his adopted?

Residents of Lowell identified five character traits in February 1997 which, if used as a guide in their daily lives, would help make Lowell a RICHR (acronym for richer) community in which to live.

The character traits were identified as respect, integrity, compassion, honesty and responsibility. Banners, reminding the community of these traits, can be found hung on poles in the downtown district, as well as displayed in businesses, governmental units and in all Lowell School District buildings.

Five years later, the question is asked: Are the character traits still leading a community in its daily, organizational, educational and business decisions, or is the community just dragging along the traits it



As aspiring doctors, Rachel Bender and Eric Hasso view their introduction to sports medicine as a precursory course for college. Both students have been surprised and heartened by the amount of hands-on educational training they've received. The pass-fail course is designed to peak the curiosity of students in sports medicine. The class instructs students about the anatomy and how it works; about muscles and bones and injuries related to them; how to tape ankles and knees, and reasons for taping; exercises for strengthening, and rehabilitation and treatments. The course is team-taught by Sellner and Lowell physical education teacher, Bob Rodenhouse.

February 6, 2002

Bruce Walter, on a great number of occasions, would wander off, and then a certain distinct whistle in the distance told him it was time to return.

"His wife, Anita (died in 1999) had a way of whistling to get Bruce to return," explained close friends, Roger and Rose Roberts.

Walter, 89, a longtime Lowell resident, died Wednesday (Jan.30)

"He was just a very kind man and a joy to be around," said Rose Roberts, "He loved to travel and meet people. Wherever Bruce went, he'd strike up

Along with his love of travel, he enjoyed gardening, golf, music, card playing (euchre and poker) and

Lowell's increase in the number of students qualifying for Michigan Merit Awards is reflective of a statewide trend.

Of the 258 Lowell High School students who graduated in 2001, and took the test, 56 percent or 144 met or exceeded Michigan standards in the four disciplines (math, reading, science, writing).

The number of high school students throughout the state qualifying for Michigan Merit Awards increased substantially in 2001, according to State treasurer, Douglas Roberts.

Students earned Merit Award Scholarships of \$2,500. The money can be used at any approved postsecondary educational institution.



Living in unsettling times, Mark Shellenbarger and his daughters, Megan and Brittney decided they'd do something about it. They created their own alien snow monster - one of peace and love. With Valentine's Day coming, his daughter, Brittney thought it was important that the monster have a heart. The creation of the snow monster began on Sunday afternoon and was completed in 90 minutes.



Lowell High School athletic trainer, Patty Selner, standing third from the right, co-teaches an introduction to sports medecine with LHS physical education teacher, Bob Rodenhouse. The class is taught during seminar; 15 students signed up for the class.

With the promise and approval of a \$100,000 matching grant from the Department of Natural Resources, Lowell Charter Township supervisor, John Timpson is ready to move ahead this spring with the second phase of the Grand River Riverfront Park project.

The grant money alone is not enough to cover the total cost (\$359,000) of phase II, therefore the township will use approximately \$100,000 out of excess revenues from its general fund.

The township has also put in for another grant from the Englehardt Lowell Area Community Fund, which would be used for the third and final phase. Thus far, the park project has received two grants from the fund totaling \$200,000.

The rebalancing of power supplies in the system to prevent overload was the resolution to Lowell Cable Television's transmission problems.

The winter storm that came through Lowell dropped eight-10 inches of snow and a thin layer of ice to gloss things over.

The result was residents' cable flickering on and off throughout much of the day, and city Lowell Light & Power customers being without power for roughly 45 minutes.

Showing no sign that it opposes selling a portion of city property adjacent to the proposed bistro location at 201 E. Main, the city will advertise and take bids on the property in question.

Greg Gilmore, of Gilmore Enterprises, told Lowell's City Council that purchasing the land to square off the lot line is a necessity.

"The success of the business is predicated on seating outdoors. Purchasing the property provides us with security of always having outdoor seating available and Care Network, 333 S. Center, inappropriately touched handicap accessibility," Gilmore explained.

In order to provide the electric service necessary for future growth, Lowell Light & Power sought authorization for the issuance of bonds not to exceed \$6 million.

The bond funds will be used to undertake improvements which consist of land acquisition, construction of a sub station off Bowes Road, and installation of a transmission line and related improvements.

The last time the city had a water reliability study performed was 1988.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality recommends it be carried out every five years.

The Lowell City Council approved spending \$7,500 for Williams & Works to complete a study which would include reviewing present and projected water and fire suppression demands, capacity of water treatment plant and wells - noting any deficiencies.

Lowell residents with homes on a corner lot may soon find some relief in the ordinances while those owning recreational vehicles may have to wait a little longer.

The Lowell Planning Commission is working on two ordinances: one dealing with the front yard lot lines for corner lots in residential areas; the other on the storage of recreational vehicles on a homeowner's property.

February 13, 2002

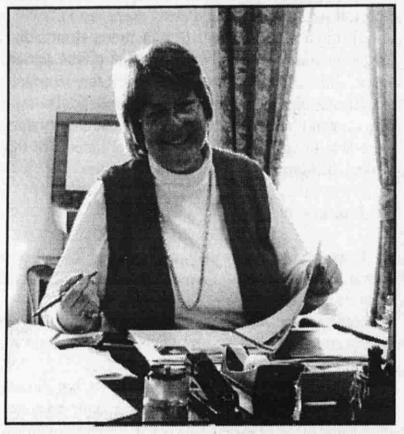
Robert Grooters Development wants Grand Rapids to extend its Renaissance Zone program to the suburbs Currently it is working with the city of Grand Rapids and Lowell Charter Township on establishing a Renaissance Zone on M-50 (near I-96) in the township.

The use of a tax-free zone in Lowell Township would be made possible through a transfer of township property (200 acres of undeveloped land) to the city.

The city of Grand Rapids started the Renaissance program in 1997, with its focus mainly in the urban core of Grand Rapids. It's been a tax incentive program for adding new areas.

It designates undeveloped property for 15 years with no local and state taxes for business, abating state and single business taxes, real and personal property could be ready for use by fall. and corporate city income taxes.

by Grooters in regards to attracting business to the region from outside the state.



Lowell Area Historical Museum board's decision to hire Judy Straub as the museum's executive will undertake this year. director was labeled as unopposed by board vice president, Dan Pipe. And rightly so. Straub, as a volunteer, has been instrumental in the push for a museum, a successful phase I capital campaign and the eventual opening of the museum. Her role, which began Jan. 2, is a three-day-a-week position.

A 35-year-old Lowell woman turned herself in to Lowell police Friday on charges she allegedly embezzled \$10-\$12,000 from the Lowell Wrestling Club.

A 27-year-old Wyoming man has been charged with criminal sexual conduct 2nd degree.

The felony charge alleges that an employee at Hope two vulnerable adults living at the home.



the 16th annual West Michigan Regional Competition (WMRC) at Lowell Area Arts Coun-

Mike Pelz, a

local artist, earned

Juror's Choice for

his "Disconnected

Youth/Young

Male Violence," at

A decision out of Lansing guarantees an increase in per pupil funding for Michigan schools in the 2002-03

The decision, welcome news for many, is being viewed with cautious optimism by Lowell assistant superintendent for finance and personnel, Connie

"While it maintains what the state aid bill proposed, we still have a budget crisis," Gillette said. "This decision takes money from one fiscal year and moves

it into a different fiscal year."

State superintendent, Tom Watkins called the move, "A short-term fix for a long-term problem."

What does it mean for the Lowell School District? It shrinks the projected 2002-03 deficit budget by a little more than half - from \$1.4 million to \$600,000.

What it won't change is the district's approach. "We will continue to be proactive and identify priorities in our budget and areas that may be cut if necessary," Gillette said. "The board will have to decide how much of a deficit budget it is willing to accept."

Lowell superintendent, Bert Bleke announces that existing urban zones but does not prohibit the city from he will make a recommendation to the school board at its March meeting to consider taking the high school addition project off hold.

With approval of the recommendation, the addition

"With the bid climate being as good as it is right The city of Grand Rapids was approached this year now, I just think the time is right to get tremendous value for our dollar," Bleke explained. "The addition can be built at a good cost with a low operating cost. There would be little addition to the day-to-day cost in the general fund."

The superintendent added the expansion would create a myriad of educational opportunities for kids and provide a variety of options to be considered.

February 20, 2002

Following a week afloat on a Caribbean cruise with his family, Charlie Jeffrey hit the ground running as Harold Zeigler Ford's newest general manager.

"This is home. Lowell is where my son goes to school, my family lives and where people know me by name," Jeffrey said in explaining why he took the job. "There's value in a familiar face and name."

After 16 years, Jeffrey says he also has a clue about the business and how it works.

Jeffrey spent 13 1/2 years at the Lowell dealership before leaving two 1/2 years ago to take a general manager position at Wayland Chevrolet.

While Jeffrey's rehiring is significant, it will not be the biggest change the 27-year-old Lowell dealership

In March, groundbreaking for a \$1 million facility renovation will take place. The proposed addition measures 86 by 70 feet. The face-lift will take a lengthy six to nine months to complete.

It may be the community project, supported by the Englehardt Lowell Area Community Fund, that is remembered for bringing all the governmental entities and the school district together toward one common

A \$25,000 grant to develop a master plan for a trail system connecting Lowell and Vergennes townships, the city of Lowell and Lowell Area Schools was awarded to the Lowell Area Recreational Authority.

Ideally, when all is completed, the trailway will be the link that connects Stoney Lakeside Park, Recreation Park, Creekside Park, Bushnell Elementary, Lowell Middle School, Cherry Creek Elementary, Lowell High School, the Wittenbach Center, Fallasburg Park area and the North Country Trail.



Success of the Combined Federal Campaign rests solely on the Tri-County-area post office employees' willingness to make donations to area and state charities. This year's campaign raised over \$244,500, a \$50,000 increase from last year. Lowell postal employees played a significant part in the success. Their donation tally for the 2002 fiscal year (started in September 2001) represented a 91 percent increase in giving with an average gift of \$242.67. For playing a significant part in the program, the Lowell Post Office was presented with the Eagle award.

Review, cont'd pg. 13

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 12

Lowell High School's Environmental Club takes its message on the road.

The club's 15 members educate and train Nancy Richter's fifth-grade Cherry Creek Elementary students on how to operate their own lunchroom recycling pro-

Don Morgan is not a Native American, but a recent business decision was a direct reflection of his admira- the township hall. tion for them.

vered their seniors," Morgan explained. "I think our society needs to do more of that."

Morgan, a partner in the Coda & Morgan accounting firm, has been practicing as a CPA in Grand Rapids for 25

Citing that senior citizens are not well serviced as a group, Morgan said his firm will do tax returns, as a community service.

February 27, 2002

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

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

placed but a fuse problem Kent Transit Service.

David Schrunk, age 10

"Personal Service

Since 1973"

Mon. thru Fri. 8-7;

Mrs. Schneider

Alto Elementary

stemming from it still exists. Lowell Cable also accounting software program, manned the head-end station Lowell Charter Township will

until midnight through the Olympics, to assure limited delay in getting the cable re-

Lowell Charter Township trustee, Alyn Fletcher is elated that Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds will be used to improve gram and four new Dell comthe handicap accessibility at puters to show for it.

What he finds alarming is "Native Americans re- the unnecessary monetary amount required The township was in-

formed it would have to get killing it an architect involved in the project, if it were going to comply with regulations and use CDBG funds.

It was Fletcher's opinion the cost could be cut in half by serve the city better to elimiof an architect; rather the gether. township would use monies of its own.

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

spend \$5,000 to help pave the to create an amendment to Lowell Senior Neighbor Center's parking lot; \$5,000 to help Lowell Area Historical Museum re-roof the Graham Building; and \$3,000 for The amplifier was re- the Hope Network/North

Instead of upgrading its switch to a new windowsbased program.

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

budgeted \$25,000 and hasn't to discuss its options. spent \$10,000, has a new pro-

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

After months of discussing and developing a Citizen's Committee, planning commission chairman, Jim Hall suggests that perhaps it would eliminating the involvement nate the RV ordinance all to-

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

Getting rid of the ordinance may be the answer. City manager, David Pasquale said The township will also the commission would have abolish the current ordinance. This would include a public hearing on the matter.

But before making any

ther digest information presented by the staff on the ordinance post 1995 and items presented by commission member, Al Mathews.

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

The planning commission suggested, however, that Sundry Development roll up its sleeves and do some homework to convince those who are not too sure about its fu-751 Grindle.

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

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

develop the area into cluster

housing, which would pro-

vide greater green space, but

allow the group to build about

With approval from the

Lowell City Council, corner

lot owners will find it easier

to build and renovate their

the ordinance. Because a cor-

ner lot has two front yards, it

A resounding cheer of ap-

surement on both sides.

The Lowell Planning

77 homes on the land.

opers are considering. Sundry representatives presented a plan to the Lowell Planning Commission to create a zoning district specifically for the 31 acres encompassing the Phillip's and part of the Leeman properties. Under that zoning, Sundry

decision, the planning commission decided to table the matter so members could fur- reps said they would like to

only seconds after the Lowell with each state getting at least City Council voted to leave a one. piece of property on the east side of the city as suburban residential.

Sundry Development Consulting had approached the city seeking a rezoning of the property at 751 Grindle for greater density, but after review, the Lowell Planning Commission decided to ex- Grand Rapids. pand the rezoning request to the area between High, James,

"If it ain't broken, don't ture plans for the property at fix it" was the general consensus of the Lowell City Council following its debate city's mayor is selected.

Grindle and Fun streets and

the city's east border.

According to the charter, the five members on the council and then voted on by those Shores was voted mayor, several of the council members felt uncomfortable with the process.

grade student at Lowell Middle School, has been named a local winner in the 33rd annual America & Me Essay Contest. It was sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance agent, Mark Johnson of

Megan Vaught, an eighth-

Vaughtreceives an award certificate for the achievement; her name will be engraved on a plaque for permanent display in the school.

After living in California for 28 years, Barbara Schmaltz is familiar with what on whether to change how the unplanned growth can do to an area.

She left California and the mayor is selected from resettled in her native Michigan, relocating to Lowell, because of family . . . because same members. During the the state simply had become recent mayor selection in "too crowded." Fourteen January in which Jeanne years later, she could see the growth potential for the Lowell area and her concerns led her to take a leadership class with the Lowell Chamber of



The combined efforts of Lowell Middle School's eighthgrade and Alto Elementary student councils raise a little over \$1,500 for DeVos Children's Hospital. During a twoweek fundraiser, titled "Penny Sabotage," Alto raised \$913.43; Lowell Middle School raised \$588.01.

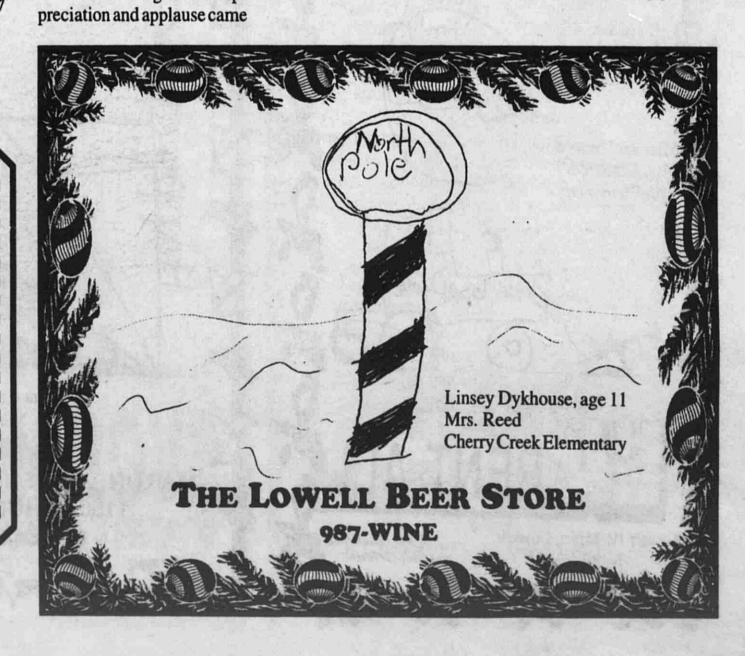
March 6, 2002

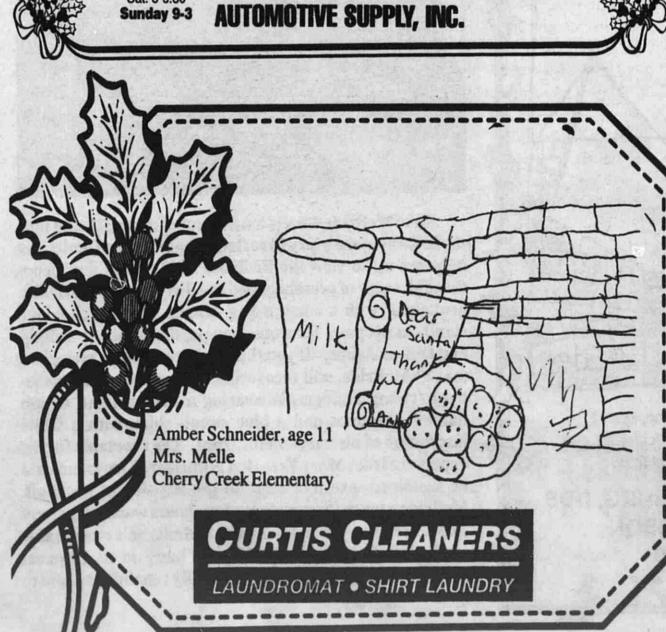
Commission approved a rec-Junior ommendation to change the Finnegan, of Alma College, city's current ordinance on is named a finalist for the prescorner lots. Currently, corner tigious Truman Scholarship. lots within the city have two This scholarship, awarded to front yards. A building's front those interested in a career in yard is at least 30 feet from public service, provides the right-of-way, according to \$3.000 for a winner's senior year of college, and an additional \$27,000 for two years must accommodate this meaof graduate study. Approximately 75-80 Truman Scholarships are awarded yearly,

Commerce. Her goal was to become a member of the Shannon Lowell Planning Commis-Schmaltz along with

David Rapp were sworn in at the planning commission's Feb. 25 meeting as the newest commission members to that board. They replace Jim Pfaller, who was elected to the Lowell City Council, and Trudy Cahoon, who resigned last year.

Review, cont'd pg. 14





1450 W. Main · Lowell, MI

897-9231

Auto Value

Dan Hagen's only concern when he approached the Lowell Planning Commission was whether the commission would agree to allow a third access route to the Lowell Plaza.

Hagen, of Decker Construction, presented a preliminary site plan to the planning commission to get the group's input on whether an access to Chatham from the property at 505 W. Main St. would be acceptable. By allowing the access point, it would reduce the green space property to about 40 percent of the property, he said.

The planning commission could see no problem with the access point to Chatham, and several of the commission members thought it was a good idea.

The driveway is part of a plan for the construction of an additional 5,400-squarefoot building on the property that would add about four to five retail spaces to the area. the strong regional field that

Purchasing a vehicle from Thomet Chevrolet was a new experience for Tom and Ilene Wright of Belding.

Their experience is one that car salesman. Charlie

| | Hannah Ritzema, age 10

Mrs. Schneider

LOWELL VISION CENTER

David G. Durkee, O.D.

2186 W. Main St., Lowell • 897-8486

Michael Underwood, 10

2401 W. Main, Lowell

Mrs. Schneider Alto Elementary Alto Elementary

Craig has shared with a multitude of customers - 2,500 and counting.

Saving their best for last, Lowell reset the school's gymnastics team-scoring record for a meet at the regional on Saturday.

Despite their effort, the host school placed seventh in gathered in Lowell. The Red Arrows finished

with 137.225 points. Red Arrow junior, Holly Plattner was Lowell's only

all-around state qualifier.

Melissa Neubecker and



A fury of falls enabled Lowell to pin down its first wrestling state championship Saturday at the Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. Having lost in the state finals in each of the last three years, there was no denying the Red Arrows of their fourth title try as they steamrolled through the tournament, with the crowning moment culminating in a 58-12 win over Middleville in an all West Michigan state final."There was never any doubt in our mind that we could do it," said Lowell senior heavyweight, Ben Vaught. "The emotion of this win is 10 times greater than the lows of losing the last three years. This was our goal and what we've worked so hard for."

Krystal White qualified for the state tournament in the floor exercise.

The city of Lowell will officially announce its intent to issue bonds involving the to it. City Hall and police station.

Lowell's City Council adopted a resolution authorizing publication of the intent and related action of bonds not exceeding \$4.8 million. The bonds are proposed to be sold by late spring.

The construction will cost 3.5 mills. The Downtown Development Authority will provide the equivalent of one mill, bringing the total mill increase down to 2.5 mills in the first year. The DDA would still have monies available to continue with other projects.

Greg Gilmore's bid to purchase a portion of city Riverwalk property (211 E. Main) is approved by the Lowell City Council, but not without assurances attached

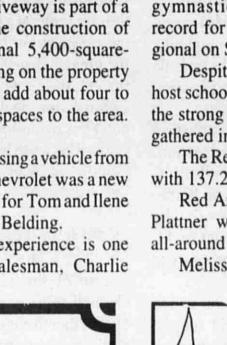
The city attached a covenant to the property. In the event Gilmore decides to resell the property at some point in time, the covenant will give the city the first right of refusal to purchase back the 12 by 90 foot parcel for \$1.

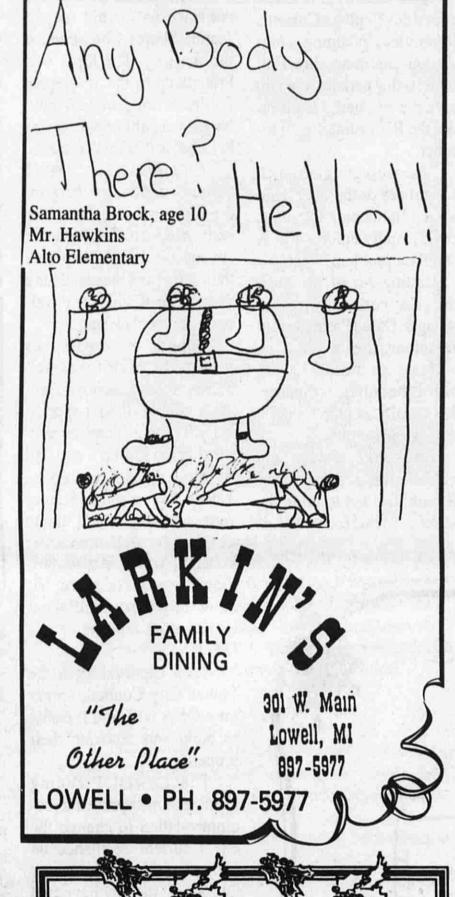
It will also require that Gilmore restore the property to the conditions consistent with the rest of the Riverwalk area at the time of the resale. Such restoration would be

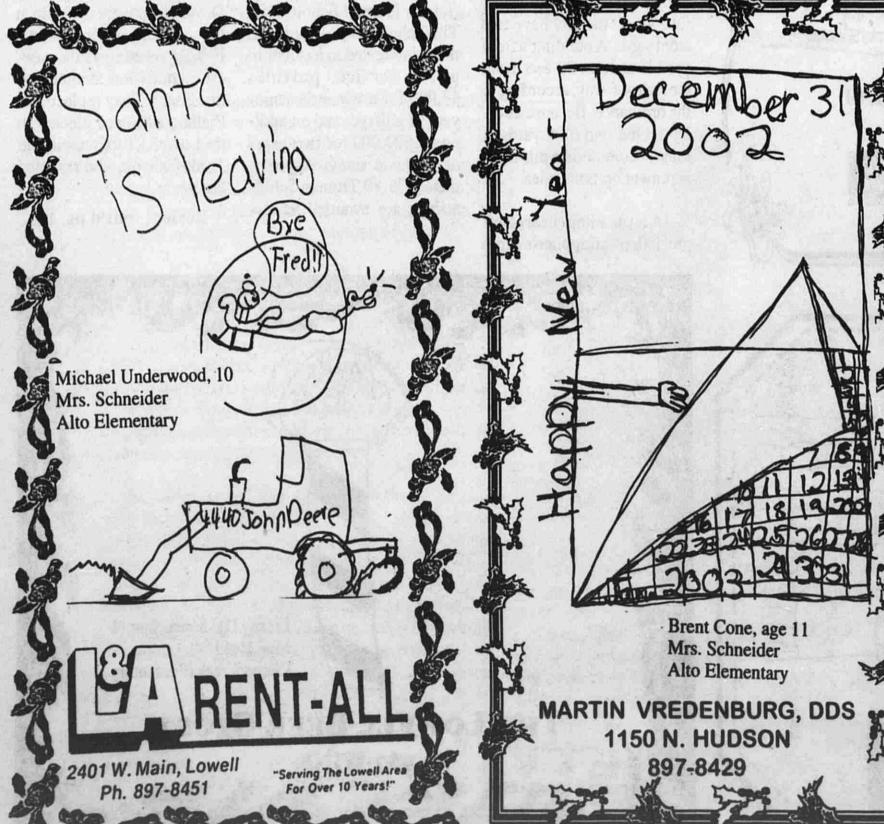
Review, cont'd. pg. 15



Mike McBride wheels himself out of room 312 and into the hallway at the Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Center. As he peers up to view the linoleum road ahead, and peers through a pair of eyes shrouded in a dirty green, a tall lanky gentleman with a camera bag draped over his shoulder stands in his path. He stops, pauses, thinks about smiling and then exclaims, "If you think you're taking a picture of me ..." McBride, still recovering from a near fatal horseback -riding accident, is wearing a pair of light, cotton flannel bottoms and a blue sweat- shirt, with a white inscription of his name on the front. The timetable for his departure from Mary Free Bed is unclear. X-rays indicate he sustained severe damage to the left side of his skull. McBride is taken through three-four hours worth of therapy a day. He can walk on his own but admits he's more stable on his feet if he has something to hang on to. Physical therapy will strengthen and eventually rehabilitate him to good health again.







Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 14

done to the satisfaction and approval of the presiding city council and Downtown Development Authority.

March 13, 2002

An increase in the ridership numbers brought North Kent Transit Service back before the Lowell City Council seeking a contract amendment.

The amendment, approved by the council, will increase the subsidy rate.

It will increase the rate paid by Lowell through its Community Development Block Grant funds for senior and handicapped riders from \$11.81 per ride to \$16.

Leslie Crowley is the first high school girls basketball player from this year's junior class to verbally accept a scholarship offer to play at the next level.

Named to the Detroit Free Press, Detroit News, AP and Basketball Coaches of Michigan all-state teams, Crowley, before the official November signing, makes a verbal commitment to attend the University of Michigan in the fall of 2003.



The last words of advice Lowell assistant gymnastics coach, Dan Vosovic gave to Holly Plattner before her second vault was, "Keep your head up and look for the landing." Plattner, Lowell gymnast, landed herself a Division II individual state championship on the vault Saturday at Rockford following a near perfect vault (pike). The fact the junior was able to land the pike was not surprising . . . the fact that it was the first time she's ever tried that vault in competition says something about the competitive fire that burns inside the diminutive Red Arrow. The highest score a gymnast can receive for the vault is 9.6. Plattner scored a 9.425. On her first vault, a tuck, she received a 9.3 from the judges.

Tom Hobbs will be able to forego introductions of a couple of the new recruits to the 2002 Indiana Tech soccer

Joining Hobbs, a 2001 Lowell High School graduate, will be fellow Red Arrows, Chris Cress and Zach Stauffer.

Both Lowell soccer players recently signed to play with Indiana Tech for the next four years.

A week earlier Lowell demonstrated beyond a doubt that it was the best wrestling team in Division II

At The Palace in Auburn Hills on Saturday, the individual parts that made up that team were showcased in the Division II Individual state wrestling meet.

The results were every bit as impressive.

The Red Arrows sent 10 wrestlers to the state meet - seven placed in the top 10. Lowell garnered three state champions, two runners-up, a

third- and a seventh-place finish.

Ian DeRath defended his 2001 state championship at 125

well as Brandon Kinney, 119.

Senior Ben Fleet (215) and Bobby Gingerich (140) were community members.

loss to place third. Kevin Frazier, a sophomore at 135 pounds, placed sev- executive director, Liz Baker.

Both Mike Nearing, 112 pounds, and J.J. Wilder, 160, were 1-2 but did not place.

Mike Forward, 170, was 0-2 and did not place.

Lowell Board of Education okays entering into the bidding process for the addition to the high school.

Lowell Area Schools' superintendent, Bert Bleke admitted that the recommendation represented a flip-flop in the original bond construction plan to first erect an elementary school at Murray Lake.

"To build an elementary school at this time would be more expensive and more costly to our general fund," Bleke explained. "I believe we can add additional seats to the high school without greatly impacting the yearly budget."

March 20, 2002

A recently completed drive for new and gently used books by the Lowell football team and the Lowell Lions Club will provide books for elementary children in the school

"I was read to a lot as a child and I read a lot to my children," said Lowell football coach, Noel Dean, "I guess you could say there is a passion there for children's literacy.' The football team and Lions Club collected over 1,000

books; slightly less than a third of them were new books. The drive also raised over \$500 which will be used to purchase books for the elementary schools' Weekly Reader program for children in need.

The books are distributed in March, national reading

month, putting the books in the hands of children.

Vergennes Township is the latest area municipality confronted with either fending off development advances by Landon Companies or working with the developer to create a high-end manufactured home community.

Vergennes represents the third area municipality which Landon has approached. It has been turned away by Bowne Township and is currently involved in a legal battle with Grattan Township. Cascade Township also fended off a manufactured home development (not Landon).

John Truscott, representing Landon Companies, goes before the Vergennes Township Planning Commission seeking to rezone the property at Vergennes and Lincoln Lake from R-A ro R-3 because of the high density nature of the project. Landon has an option on the property which is currently owned by Jim Cook Jr.

The sixth annual Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Community EXPO will provide a venue in which area resi-Freshman Joe Mendez, 103 pounds, won a state title as dents can leisurely gather information on a multitude of topics as well as drop off sports equipment for use by other

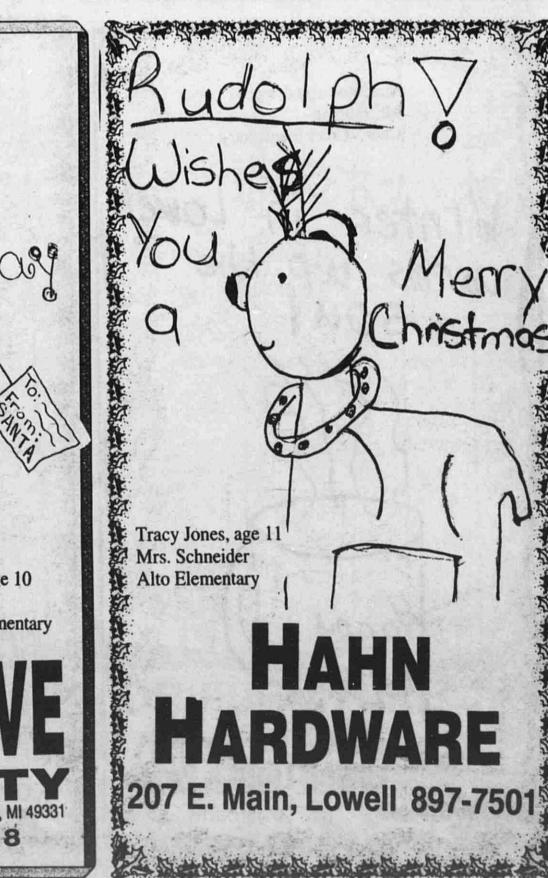
"The EXPO provides opportunity for the community to Ben Vaught, heavyweight, battled back from an opening increase its awareness of products and services provided and /or manufactured in the Greater Lowell area," said chamber

The opportunity will be enhanced March 23 as the event grows to 100 vendors (businesses, service groups, churches and government agencies)



Last year, children from the audience were selected to be part of the cast from the munchkin scene in Lowell High School's presentation of the "Wizard of Oz." Lowell play director, Tod Nyson planned a surprise for each of the six shows of this year's musical production "Cinderella." "I like to add a little surprise, a twist, for the audience," Nyson said. "This year, each night, a leader of the commu nity has been selected to participate in the play," Nyson explained. "The community leader will be the minister in the wedding scene at the end of the play."





Nearly three dozen kids stepped back in time as they participated in an Early Settler Workshop sponsored by the Lowell Area Historical Museum and the Wittenbach Agricultural Center.

The day included whittling, butter churning, candle-making and animal stalking activities. In addition to the organized activities, children got a first-hand look at early settler pelts, furs, toys and hats.

For lunch, they enjoyed a venison stew, corn bread and popcorn - all made over an open fire. Tableware included wooden bowls, pie tins, cake pans, forks and ceramic cups.

Following lunch, children were led in a discussion about the pioneer historic costumes, tableware and food.

Lowell City Council approves an amendment to the front yard lot lines for a corner lot.

After several meetings of review by the planning commission, a recommendation for the amended ordinance provides for a principal and secondary front yard lot line.

The principal is the narrowest of the two lot lines and requires the current setback. The secondary provides a setback one half of the principal front yard lot line.

Where the front yard lot lines are of equal length or not evident, the zoning administrator makes the determination.

March 27, 2002

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

Sundry Development approached the planning commission with what its development, now called Highland Hills, would like if done under the current zoning (suburban residential) as compared to what it would like if granted an R-1 zoning and allowed to put in cluster homes.

However, the proposed plan, which did not meet the idea of what commissioners thought of as cluster housing, received a less than enthusiastic response with questions about lot sizes and the second entrance.

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

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

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

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

The proposed ordinance, put together by commission member, Deb Hinton, however, receives a cool reception with

Max Stormzand, age 11 Cherry Creek Elementary Winter in Lowell warms up the soul, **Lowell Light & Power** Lovell Light & Power 127 N. Broadway 897-8402

several commission members saying it was too restrictive. Commission member, Clark Jahnke said he believed the

city was trying to create an ordinance that was enforceable, but within reason.

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

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

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

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

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



Cherry Creek Elementary students said "Yes" to the challenge of solving over 200 math problems. Students agreed to solve problems and collect pledges to aid St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in its research for cures and treatments of deadly children diseases. Over 200 math problems were solved at each grade level by the 218 Cherry Creek students (2nd-5th grades). The pledges garnered a little over \$12,700.

company hands out job applications.

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



Human Resources department," said Jason Smith, Newell Manufacturing union unit chairman. "The applications are for job openings with other companies." Last week's disbelief at 615 Chatham has turned to disgust a week later.

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

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



The sixth annual Lowell Community Expo provided patrons with an opportunity to meet with new businesses and network with all. The increasing number of participating vendors (105) suggests that the event is looked upon favorably and that its benefits are many for the businesses and organizations participating. With the increase, event coordinators were forced to use both gyms and the cafeteria as well as the hallway for vendor exhibits.

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

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

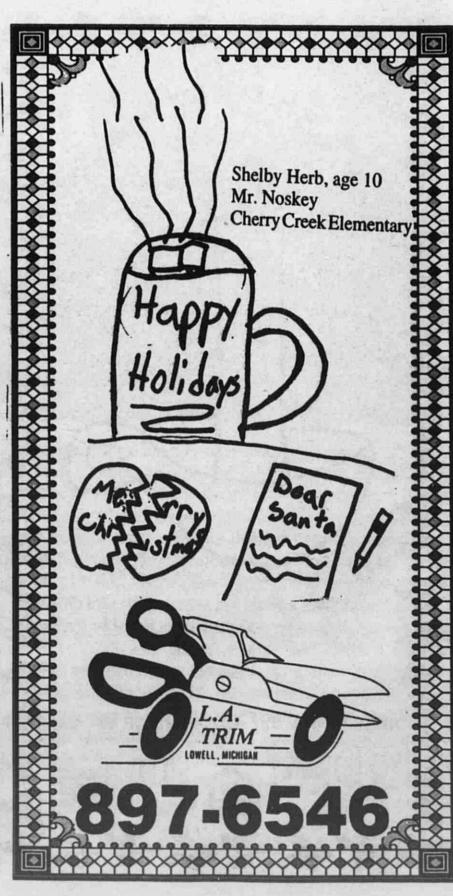
The Lowell team surpassed its own record. Lowell won 14 awards in the competition two years ago.

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

"The students must be commended for not only their Usually it's good news for the local economy when a ability, but their willingness to pry into and explore such challenging topics which are considered difficult at the college level," Kampfschulte explained.

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

Review, cont'd. pg. 17



Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 16

April 3, 2002



Inspired through their own victimization, Lowell Middle School eighth-graders Melissa Warners, Melissa Wright and Jamie Dryer decided to take action to help ensure that all students feel cared for, safe and valued."We just became sick of students making fun of other students," Dryer explained. "We've all been victims." The middle school trio took their concerns about gossip, rumor-spreading and unkind and unfair treatment by other students to middle school assistant principal, Cyndi Geiger. "I told them they had an opportunity and the power to bring about change through positive peer influence," Geiger said. "Students are more inclined to listen to them than to adults." The eighth-graders were offered a forum in which they could talk to their peers on the issue.

What do you do when you come to a fork in the road? Yogi Berra took it, as have Gary and Trisha Eldridge.

Gary Eldridge has created illustrations for leading corporations, financial institutions and magazines for over 26 years. He's created artwork using photographic images, which he reproduces on canvas via an alternative photo process, digital imaging and collage.

Trisha Eldridge's change in careers leads her husband to create a series of artwork inspired by her work as an energy healing practitioner.

is the human energy field? What are chakras? What is our spirit select which of two proposals it would use once an exact cost

and where does its guidance come from?" Eldridge explained. "I don't want to preach or convert anyone to my way of thinking."

The Lowell artist is still trying to figure that out himself. His hope is that when others see the artworks, they will ask themselves the same questions he's asked and ultimately find their own answers.

In what some call the toughest Science Olympiad regional in the country, Lowell High School students finished 10th in a field of 30.

It marked the 18th straight year Lowell has come home with a top 10 finish.

"Anytime you can finish in the top 10, you've done well," said Lowell High School science teacher, Rick White.

Lowell's top 10 finish included firsts in two events. David Johnson and Mark Kimberlin won in Polymer Detectives, and Johnson and Darcie Clements took top honors in Water

Gifts valued at roughly \$3,250 were formally accepted by he Lowell School District at its March board of education

Lowell Charter Township board trustees, Alyn Fletcher and Richard Huver will seek approval on a proposed community room rental draft agreement at its April 15 meeting.

The trustees presented a draft agreement in March for the rental of the community room. After discussion, it was decided that revisions needed to be made before it could be brought back to the board for approval.

The revisions Huver and Fletcher will address are on rental fees, and the number of times the facility can be rented out per year by one group.

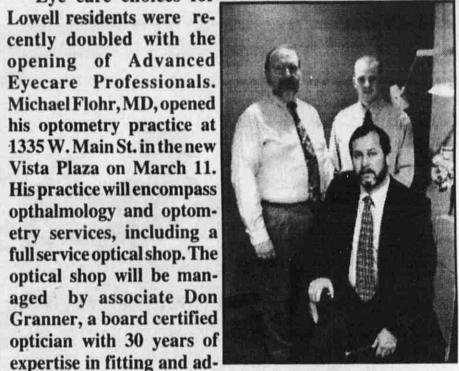
April 10, 2002

With the anticipated start of construction for the City Hall/ police station project slated to begin this summer, temporary quarters, for one year, were needed.

Lowell city manager, Dave Pasquale told the city council Monday night that Huntington Banks appears to be that temporary accommodation the city has sought.

"I find myself creating images that ask questions ... What The council agreed to enter into a proposed lease, and to

Eye care choices for Lowell residents were recently doubled with the opening of Advanced Eyecare Professionals. Michael Flohr, MD, opened his optometry practice at 1335 W. Main St. in the new Vista Plaza on March 11. His practice will encompass opthalmology and optometry services, including a full service optical shop. The optical shop will be managed by associate Don



justing frames, and making frame repairs. Flohr's colleague, Kyle Booher, OD, offers complete comprehensive eye care for all ages with primary focus on early detection

has been determined. Bids were received on April 2 for reconstructing Valley Vista and N. Division streets as well as providing curbing for a portion of Bowes Road.

The project was awarded to Shaler Excavating of Saranac. Shaler submitted a low bid of \$418,626.

Big Hat Rodeo Company, rodeo contractor, will provide all necessary equipment, livestock and personnel to conduct and promote a rodeo.

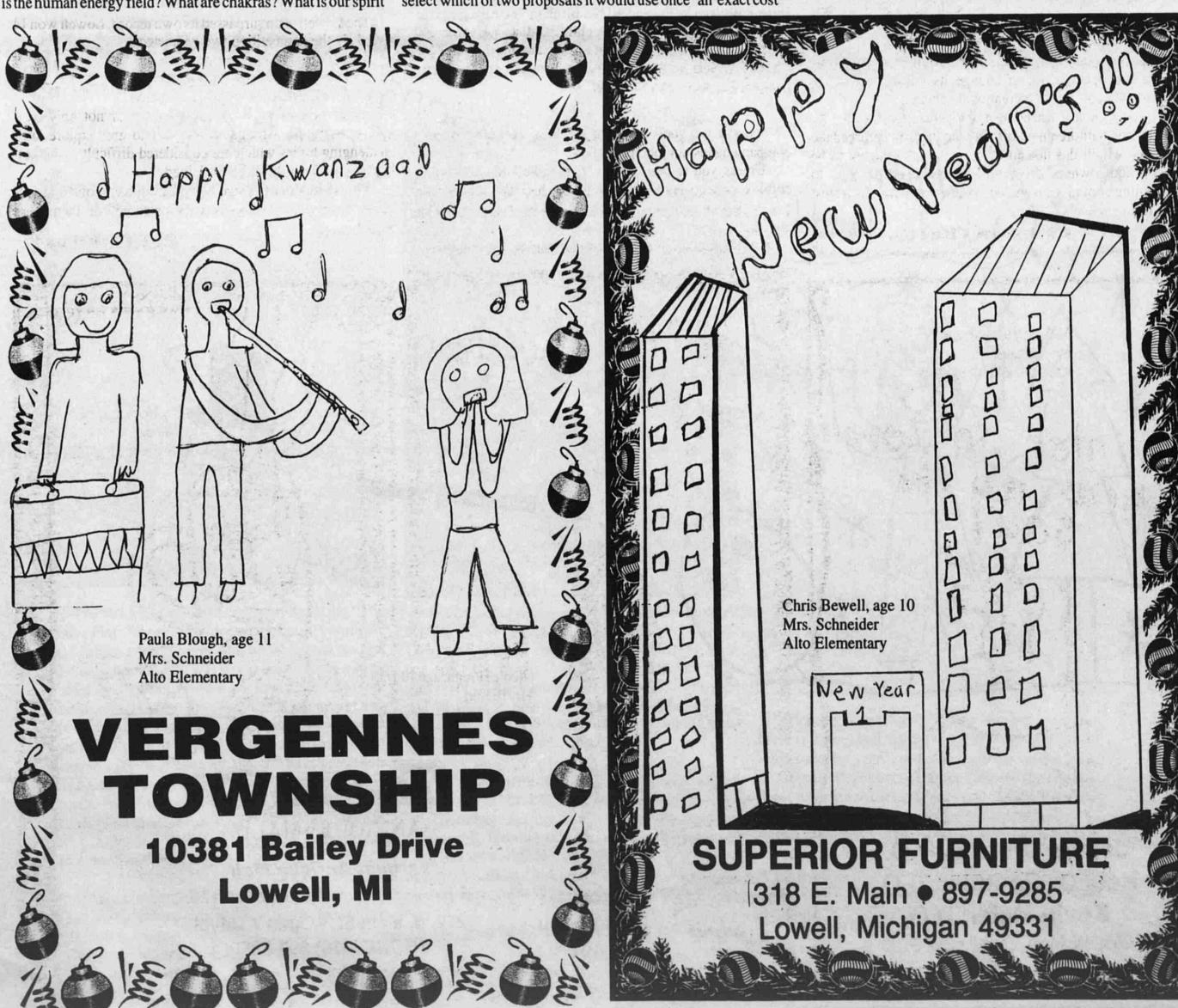
The Kent County Youth Fair will provide the venue.

Saladin Temple Shrine, sponsor of the event, contacted Kent County Youth Fair president, Ron Wenger, in regards to conducting a three-day professional rodeo on Aug. 16-18 at the fairgrounds.

In the course of the planning procedure, the topic of alcohol consumption at the event was discussed.

Alcohol will be allowed but only served at a supervised beer tent during specified hours. The plan is to operate the "beer tent" in part of the Foreman building.

The selling of alcohol will be done under a temporary



April 17, 2002



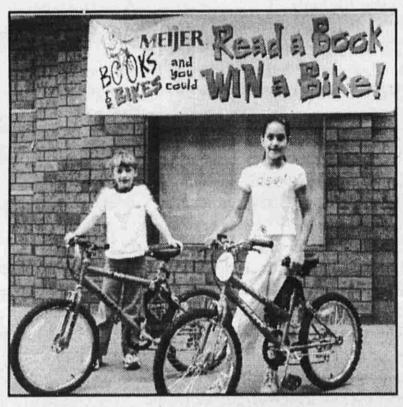
Ben Vaught really wanted to have a tuxedo show... instead his friends gave him a guitar. Vaught and a number of students gathered in Heather Kohtz' room during seminar on Friday for what was supposed to be a Dunhill Tuxedo Show. Well, at least that's what Vaught thought. The rest of the classmates were there to surprise the senior with a Dean Exotica RSE guitar."I feel so dumb right now," explained a disbelieving Vaught after Brad Eldridge presented him with the guitar. "I really appreciate this. This is awesome, but I really wanted to have a tuxedo show." Eldridge and roughly 50 other high school students who consider Vaught a friend made monetary donations totaling a little more than \$500 so they could surprise their friend."Ben is so nice and does so much for everybody," Eldridge explained. "He puts so much energy in giving back to others that we all felt we wanted to do something for him."

Lowell High School's Destination Imagination team placed third among the teams competing in the state competition at Central Michigan University over the weekend.

Of the 20 teams competing in their problem, Lowell earned a bronze medal, setting itself up as an alternate for the Global finals (international competi-

Rollaway's 24-hour annual Skate-a-Thon to benefit the Muscular Distrophy Association drew 60 area

In all, Rollaway kids raised \$5,025 for Jerry's kids.



Over 500 Cherry Creek Elementary students participated in the Whitecaps Reading Club, in recognition of National Reading Month. The students who successfully completed the club's requirements each received a voucher for two free reading. Whitecap Tickets. Skyler Nauta and Logan DeClercq, fared a little better. Their names were drawn from a box in a bicycle drawing sponsored by

Deciding that a straight forward approach was the best manner in which to handle the question, Lowell superintendent Bert Bleke broke the silence Friday when he confirmed his name was one of 38 on the list of those interested in the Grand Rapids Public Schools' superintendent position.

"It's a decision that had been growing on me for the last six weeks." Bleke said.

The search for a new Grand Rapids superintendent became necessary when Patricia Newby announced in January that she would leave at the end of this school

Despite failing to ensure resident protection and safety, a Lowell adult home will remain intact.

April 24, 2002

Trumpet Bear, the stuffed mascot of Scholastic Inc.'s Trumpet Book Club, came to visit Mary Bratt's first-grade students at Bushnell Elementary for a week (April 12-

The bear travels the country to various classrooms. Arriving at each classroom with a journal, teachers and children can



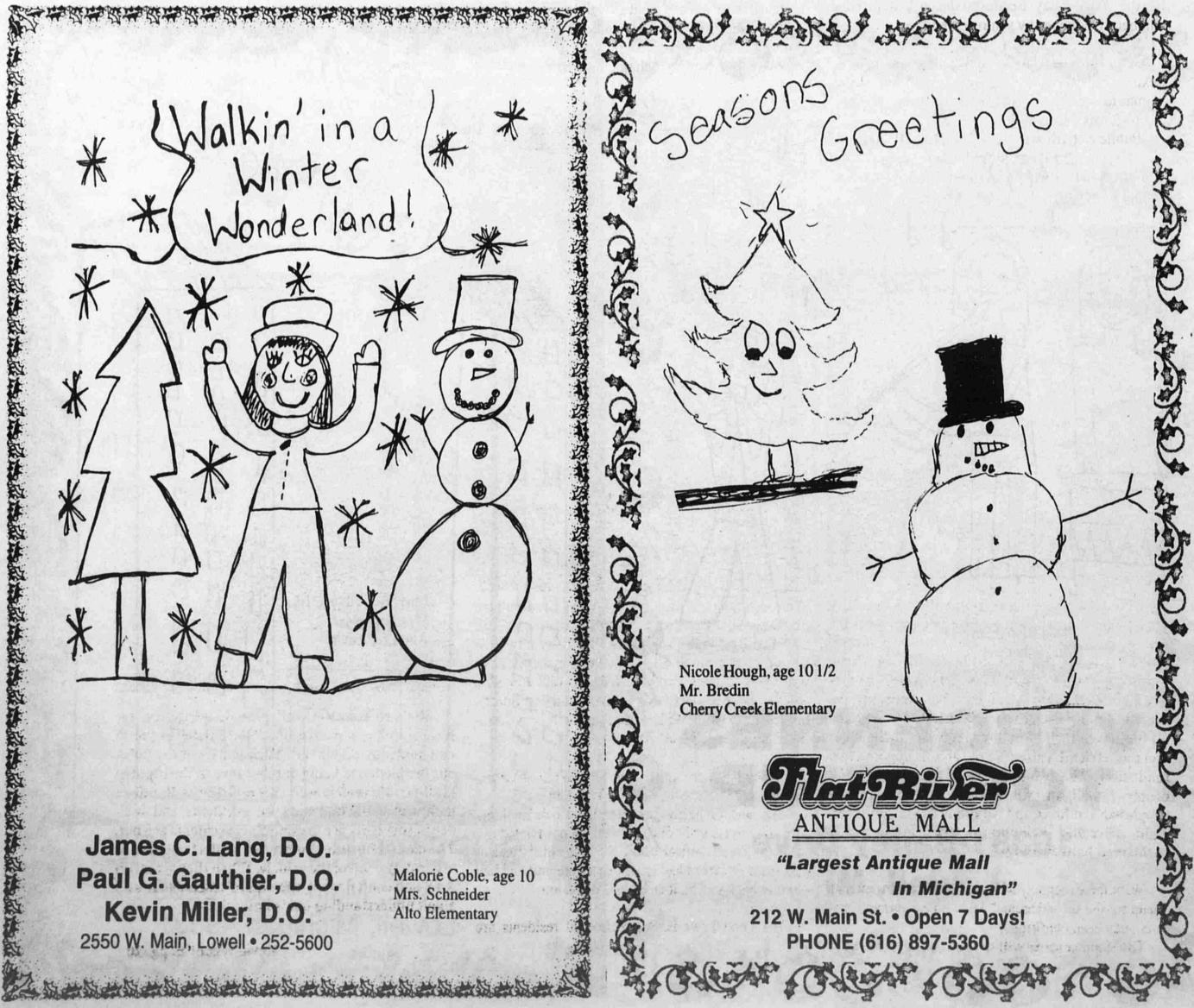
write entries and place photos for future classrooms

Trumpet Bear is designed to aid teachers in their efforts to combine teaching early reading skills with fun activities, thus encouraging kids to love

Graduation may be more than a month away, but Melissa Schloop and Shelby Tomczak's preparation may have already begun.

Schloop has earned the honors as the Class of 2002 valedictorian while Tomczak was named salutatorian. Schloop will attend Michigan Technological University in the fall where she will study biomedical

Review, cont'd. pg. 19

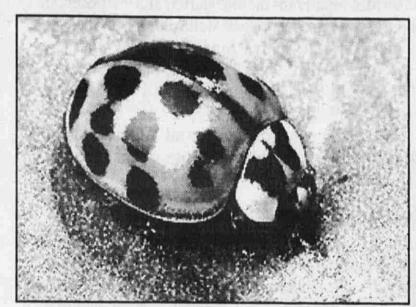


Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 18

engineering. Schloop, in four years at Lowell High School, built a 4.115 grade point average. The senior is the daughter of John and Julie Schloop.

Tomczak will attend Western Michigan University in the fall where she plans to study engineering. Tomczak has accumulated a grade point average of 4.060 in her four years at Lowell High School. The senior is the daughter of Roger and Kathy Tomczak.

Lowell High School principal, Scott Vashaw announced Lowell's Top 10 at the Academic Dessert.



Dealing with ladybugs in the house can be an emotional conundrum for many homeowners.

Ladybugs are one of the few insects they grew up with that they actually liked.

"On the other hand, fondness or not, people tend to get apprehensive when large numbers of any insect invade their space," according to Michigan State University Extension master gardener, Sandra Roelof.

For many West Michigan residents, the Asian Lady Beetles are wearing out their welcome - wishing the insect would "fly away home."

A population explosion began in 2000, and while it has slowed, the numbers are still large.

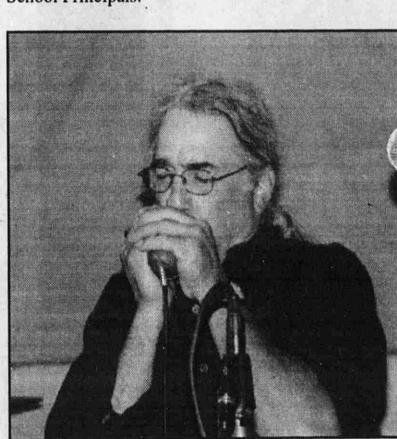
There were extremely large populations produced in 2000 all across the Great Lakes region. The reason for this is due to an enormous population explosion of the ladybugs' principal prey, the aphid.

Perfect weather conditions for aphid reproduction and survival during the summer as well as lots of food for the Asian Lady Beetle produced a tremendous number of ladybugs by summer's end.

A bill introduced by Michigan's Steven Ehardt, of Lexington, will enable schools to award honorary diplomas to veterans who did not graduate but joined the armed forces during WWII.

Public Act 181 was passed on Dec. 20, 2001.

"The idea has been kicked around a long time," said Jim Ballard of Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals.



The Rockin' for LAAC event at Larkin's "The Other Place" raised money and a whole lot more for arts in the Lowell area. The event raised several thousand dollars, but was not intended to be a huge fundraiser," said Lowell Area Arts Council executive director, Lorain Smalligan. "As important was the community awareness and visibility it provides for the arts council." Smalligan referred to the event more as a friend -raiser for the arts as opposed to a fundraiser. The two-night event drew nearly 350 people. Smalligan estimated that there were 120 people in attendance on Friday and 225 on Saturday night. Alive and Well and the Great Lakes bands performed both evenings.

With the exception of Aug. 8, the entertainment lineup for the second annual Showboat Summer Concerts has been confirmed.

The summer series will start a week later (June 13)

and run for 10 weeks, through Aug. 15.

All the concerts will be held on the Lowell Riverwalk with the exception of the July 4 show which will take place at the fairgrounds.

May 1, 2002

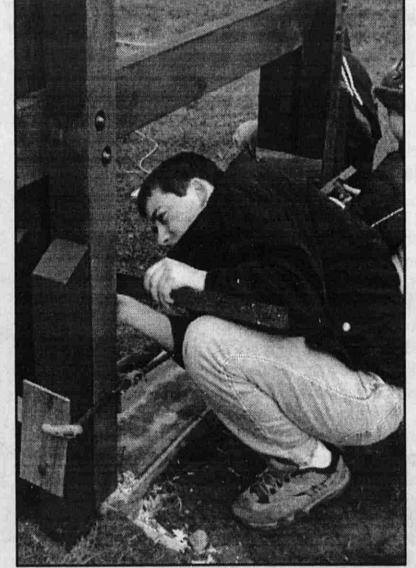
Stating "It's been a good run," Charlie Doyle announced he will not seek reappointment to the Lowell Light & Power/Cable TV Board.

Doyle was appointed in February of 1993 to take riders. the place of the late Ray Quada

Replacing Doyle will be former Lowell mayor and city councilman, Bill Thompson.



Bob Pfaller, presenter of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year award, raised the question: Do women always do things in pairs? The second annual Spirit of Community Celebration pro-flow. vided the answer. No! Four women in the Lowell community were honored for their dedication, volunteerism, devotion, sacrifice, time and talents. Tammy Beatson was honored with the Marsha Wilcox Community Service award and Fran Mendez received the Lowell Area Arts Council's Arty award; the Person of the Year award was bestowed upon Luanne Kaeb and Judy Straub. "All the individuals we honored along with property in front of it running on Main tonight have given us a great gift - their time, talent and a piece of their life. The community we live in is a better place because they have touched each of us in some way, often without us realizing it," Pfaller explained.



Scott Cooper of Boy Scout Troop 102 completed his Eagle Scout project Saturday near the historic Covered Bridge in Fallasburg Park. Helping Cooper erect the North Country Trail national park sign were fellow members of Troop 102. The sign will be used to post trail information for hikers, according to Paula Wilbur, manager of North Country Trail's Lowell trail.

A Sunday morning fire left \$38,000 in structural damage to TLC Leasing at 2401 W. Main.

The cause of the fire was determined to be smoking. according to Lowell police officer, James Hinton. The Lowell officer said a 20-year-old homeless man from Rockford had rented a storage unit and had

The good news is: Many Lowell residents are

recently begun using it as a place of shelter.

taking advantage of the North Kent Transit Service for rides to appointments in the Grand Rapids' area. The bad news is: It's going to cost the city more money to keep the program within its borders.

But for the Lowell City Council, there is no question about supporting a service that has been such a positive force for its residents.

"We do have quite a few riders," said councilmember, Mike Blough. "It seems like a creditable program and it is getting a lot of use and a lot of

In March, the council approved a rate increase of \$16 from \$11.81 per ride for the program. All the monies spent on the program come from the allocations made to the city from the Federal Development Block Grant program.

The proposed amount was increased to \$7,500 to assure the city it would be able to cover the costs for this

They haven't even begun to build and already a local strip mall has made changes to where its building should be.

David Hagen, of Decker Construction, found himself in front of the Lowell Planning Commission once again since the owners of the Lowell Plaza had decided to move the location of the plaza's addition. Originally the plans called for the addition to be a separate building running along Chatham. Now the building will be added on directly to the current building with parking being able to move freely through the lot.

"Visually there was a concern about the rear doors facing the residents, and snow removal," Hagen said, adding that by moving the building to its new location it turned a very restrictive parking situation into a better

The Lowell Planning Commission considers changing the zoning of a piece of property located at 751 Grindle. This time, however, it's the developer who is not so thrilled about the prospect.

The planning commission voted unanimously to hold a public hearing on rezoning the Grindle property, Street, from suburban residential to R-1 residential. This would allow for smaller lot sizes and house sizes. However, it wasn't exactly what the developer, Sundry Development had proposed.

Aaron Catlin of Freis and Vandenbrink Engineering, Inc., hired by Sundry for the development project, said the group was interested in having the property changed to an R-1 Planned Unit Development, giving the city the control it wanted in capping the number of houses to be developed on the land.

May 8, 2002



Richard Rondeau will provide all-terrain vehicle training and safety to 1,200 Michigan youth and adults by year's end. Michigan owns the dubious distinction of being number four in the country in all-terrain vehicle accidents and deaths. Rondeau makes a distinction between accidents and incidents. Incidents are preventable, accidents are not. The main thing is for youth and adults to be able to accurately control the vehicle. When they get on an ATV and can't do that, then there's an issue. It's all about understanding one's limitations.



For just under 34 years, Tom Stahr was a member of the educational labor force.

As of April 13th, his new position as uniserve director (employee advocate) channels his energy into an area of labor relations.

His new role also pulls him away from the West Michigan area. Stahr represents 800 Michigan Education Association (MEA) members in the northern Berrien County area.

Stahr's work in the Region IX area as an MEA member, an LEA (Lowell Education Association) representative and as president of Region IX, as well as a myriad of committees, recently earned him the Region IX internal distinguished service award.

It's the first time a person from the Lowell district \$82,893,796 to the general fund. has received the honor.

Three times Greg Gilmore's idea for a restaurant at 201 E. Main Street was delayed due to a lack of a quorum for a vote.

He finally got that vote; now Gilmore only awaits a liquor license and completion of the renovation work.

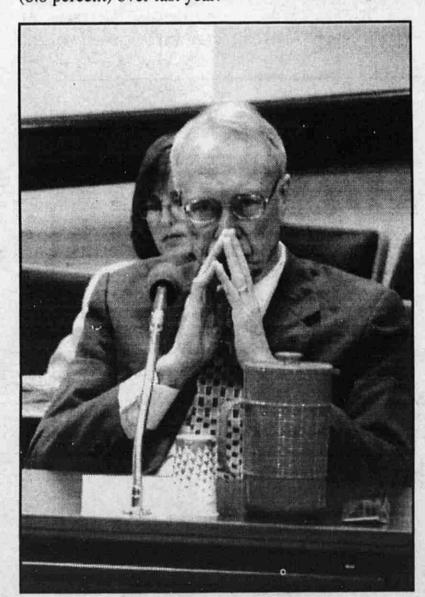
In March, the Lowell City Council agreed to sell a 12 by 90 foot parcel immediately west of Gilmore's property for \$1,000, subject to a deed restriction maintaining a similar business upon sale.

Councilmen Dan Brubaker and Jim Pfaller excused themselves from discussion and the vote, due to a conflict of interest.

Chuck Myers, Mike Blough and mayor, Jeanne Shores vote 3-0 in favor of leasing a portion of the Riverwalk to Gilmore.

Lowell's City Council got its first preliminary look at the proposed 2002-03 budget Monday night.

The general fund shows a taxable value of \$95,419,694 which represents a significant increase (6.8 percent) over last year.



Bert Bleke is one of six semifinalists interviewed last week for the Grand Rapids Public Schools superintendent position. On Saturday, the board announced that the Lowell superintendent would be one of three candidates scheduled for invitationonly sessions with staff and community leaders before a second public interview with the board. In search of heart, passion and leadership, it was Bleke's work over the past seven years at Lowell which helped earn him a spot in the final three. The other two candidates selected included A. Woodrow Carter from Bourbon, Kentucky and Larry Lewis from Austin, Texas.

May 15, 2002

city.of Lowell.

The Building Authority will be issuing approximately \$4.8 million in bonds, pushing Lowell to the \$14 million mark in a calendar year for tax exempt

Lowell has exceeded the \$10 million mark," said Lowell city manager, Dave Pasquale.

The city tax exempt bonds currently on the books are the \$4.8 million bond for the City Hall/police station; \$5-\$6 million bond for Lowell Light & Power's new sub-station and other distribution improvements; \$2.7 million bond for water revenue refund; and \$495,000 for street work on Valley Vista and N.

The preliminary review of the 2002-03 city of Lowell budget indicates a significant increase in the taxable value for a second straight year.

Lowell city manager, Dave Pasquale said in each of the last two years, the increase in taxable value more than doubled the rate of inflation.

The preliminary budget review for 2002-03 disclosed a taxable value of \$95,419,694, an increase of 6.8 percent over last year (2001-02).

Of that, \$12,525,898 will be allocated to the Downtown Development Authority, leaving

A year ago, the city of Lowell's budget showed a taxable value of \$89,356,145, an increase of 7.1 percent from the previous year.



Natalie Kent won three firsts and a second in the track portion of the O-K White Conference meet Friday night at Northview in helping Lowell win their second straight O-K White league champion-

Grand Rapids' board of education's fact-finding, discussion and deliberating part of its superintendent search ends with a visit to the Lowell School District to visit with non-certified staff, teachers, community leaders and parents, board members and administra-

For nearly six hours, board members probe what makes Bleke tick, attempting to uncover as much about the man and the way he does things as they could.

What they hear is plenty of praise, for Bleke's accomplishments in the Lowell School District, excitement for the opportunity that may be awarded to him because of it and a bittersweet realization that Thursday Lowell may be in the business of looking for a new superintendent.

There was barely time to celebrate a community achievement award from the state Department of History and Arts and Libraries when Lowell Area Historical Museum executive director, Judy Straub felt the rug from underneath her slipping away.

Straub learned that the city might defer funding in its 2002-03 year to the museum for operations.

"I am just sick over that information," Straub indicated. "It's significant because it comes one year after the museum is up and running."

Upon request, the city provided \$20,000 last year toward operations of the museum. During the previous four years, it had contributed \$5,000 a year.

May 22, 2002

The Lowell Area Historical Museum may still get funding from the city, depending on whether city staff and the Lowell City Council can find money in its tight 2002-03 budget.

While the final decision will not be made until the council's June 3 meeting, the council spent much of the This year is a historic and significant year for the meeting reviewing the budget and looking for ways to trim. None of the council members indicated that the trimming was being done specifically to help fund

At the request of the Lowell Area Historical Museum Board, the council dedicated \$20,000 from its "I believe this is the first time ever the city of 2001-02 budget to be given to the museum for operational costs. This year the money for the museum, as well as roof repairs for the fire station and the Foreman building, were proposed to be deferred. It is hoped the city can find alternative funding sources for these projects, said city manager, David Pasquale, indicating such possibilities as the Look Memorial Fund and the Lowell Community Fund.

Several members of the Lowell Area Historical Museum present their case in hopes of changing the council's mind.

When reviewing the Lowell City 2002-03 budget, the council could find little fat to trim from it.

As proposed by city manager, David Pasquale and city staff, the budget carefully considered almost \$2.5 million in expenditures for the city, which includes personnel, city services and maintenance.

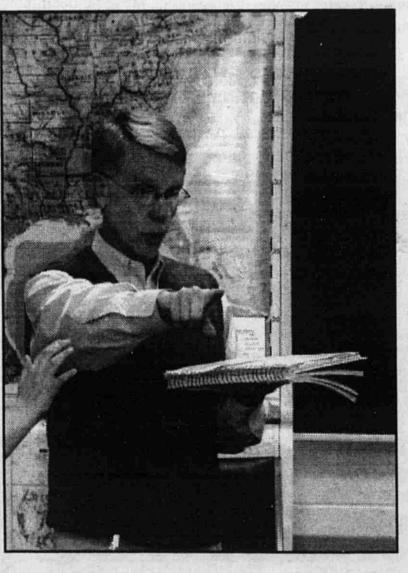
Impacting the budget this year were several items, Pasquale said. The first is the \$47,000 Library bond payment that was being picked up by the Downtown Development Authority. The city has four more payments, including the one in the proposed budget, to make before paying off the library building.

The city also saw its revenues from the state drop by about \$52,553 from last year to a proposed \$495,347 for the 2002-03 year.

Seeing no option that would address the residents living at or near the intersection of Foreman and Hudson, the Lowell City Council decided to table the matter for further discussion.

At its Monday night meeting, Dave Austin, of Williams and Works, presented a study of the intersection that in the end showed little could be done to address the concerns of the residents about truck traffic

Referring to it as the 29th Street of Lowell, Austin said that no matter what solution he offered, it would not prevent the trucks from jumping the curb or swinging into oncoming traffic to make a turn.



Following his retirement from teaching in June, Jim Blodgett will begin work as a consultant for "Living Consciously."

Living Consciously is a life skills system that goes beyond catchy phrases to provide tools for kids so as to better internalize life-coping skills.

Over his 25-year tenure at Lowell, Blodgett taught the second-, third-, fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grades.

By teaching at multiple grade levels, Blodgett was able to gather an overview of the schooling process, giving him an opportunity to see challenges at all

Whether or not the city and police offices will share space with Huntington Bank has been put on hold until the city receives bids for its upcoming City Hall/police

Review, cont'd pg. 21

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 20

City officials have been working to relocate the city offices and police department to Huntington Bank at 414 E. Main Street. Under the proposal, the city departments would utilize 4,830 square feet of the building with the bank still operating out of the remaining portion of the building.

As Bert Bleke begins his transition from Lowell Area Schools superintendent to Grand Rapids Public Schools' superintendent over the next six weeks, a familiar face will fill in as acting superintendent.

Jim White, a fixture in the Lowell School District for the past 30 years, will serve as acting superintendent as Bleke begins splitting his time between the two school districts.

When Bleke officially leaves on July 1, White will serve as acting superintendent until the board of education fills the position being vacated by Bleke.



Veronica (Ronnie Heether) Dawson's memories of the old Parnell Grocery Store are a little closer to home than most. For 18 years it was where her parents (Jim and Barbara Heether) and grand- (114). parents (William and Veronica Byrne) worked by day and where the family lived by night. The Heether family sold the store to Bob Grile 32 years ago. Grile moved in to the recently constructed new Parnell Grocery - all 3,500 square feet of it. It is located behind the old store. The old Parnell Grocery Store, built in the 1880's, was razed Monday.

To date, a little over \$23,000 has been collected through the Lowell Area CROP Walk. The eighth annual Lowell Area CROP Walk, which raises funds to fight world hunger, drew approximately 215 walkers. This year's grand marshals were Craig and Jody

Haybarker. A percentage of the funds collected will go to Lowell's Flat River Outreach Ministries and the Lowell Senior Neighbors Center.



May 29, 2002

While Leah Nawrocki was tracking her white blood cells from her hospital bed, her classmates were walking/jogging to Disney World a quarter mile at a time for the 10 year old.

Leah, diagnosed with acute lympho blastic leukemia on March 12, was separated from her classmates for nearly a month before returning to class on April 8.

In an effort to give Leah a sense of connectedness, her St. Patrick's classmates, in a show of solidarity, began their walk to Disney World

Using a quarter-mile track at the school, the fourthgraders began charting their weekly progress.

Eight weeks later, Tom Cichon's 22 fourth-grade students legged out 1,274 miles.

Each student received a certificate and a heart-felt applause from Leah and her parents, Joe and Amy Nawrocki.

Fourth-grader, Amanda Geldersma received a gift certificate to Toys R Us for legging out the most miles

Through the leadership of Cherry Creek principal, Maureen Dorough, the elementary school will undergo a structural change for enhanced learning and safety beginning with the 2002-03 school year.

The new concept will be made of four learning neighborhoods in which smaller teams, consisting of grades two through five, are established and contribute to the overall community of Cherry Creek.

"The idea is to create a smaller, more nurturing 'student-centered' culture allowing for relationshipbuilding among students, teachers and parents," Dorough explained.

The new concept is supported by studies which indicate a higher percentage of students, across all socioeconomic levels, are successful when they are a part of smaller, more intimate environments.

Each of the four learning neighborhoods will have a little over 200 children.

The concept will allow for vertical as well as horizontal team teaching.

Audrey Dykstra had hoped that someone would make the house at 310 Avery their home.

And up until a few weeks ago, it appeared that would be the case. However, Roger Cahoon, who was interested in moving the 1800s home, notified the city he is no longer interested, leaving the city with only one alternative - to demolish the house.

"We advertised it and didn't receive any interest other than from Roger Cahoon, who backed out," said city manager, David Pasquale. Cahoon did not give any reason for not moving the house.

With that, the Lowell City Council accepted a bid of \$6,350 from Pitsch Companies to demolish and remove the house.

After completing its new taxi way and lighting, the Lowell Airport Board has now turned its focus on improving its status with the state.

Jim Sowle, on behalf of the airport board, seeks and receives approval to use \$25,000 of a \$70,000 loan secured through the Aeronautics Bureau to survey and define the needs of the airport. The needs study would help the airport board determine what the Lowell Airport would need to accomplish to receive a general utilities status through the Michigan Aeronautics Com-

To gain the general utilities status, the Lowell Airport must complete three steps: the first being the study and Type A survey of the property that will identify every tree, determine boundaries, and map out elevations. The next part of the process will be to negotiate settlements for air easements, which could take one to two years, Sowle said. The last phase would be to implement what is necessary.

Everyone has a wish list of things they would like to accomplish over the next year or the next ten. The city of Lowell isn't much different in that respect . . . then again most people don't have projects around the million dollar mark either.

The Lowell City Council approved its Capital Improvements Plan for 2002-2007 which ranged from road repairs and the City Hall/police station project to airport improvements and a proposed outdoor skating

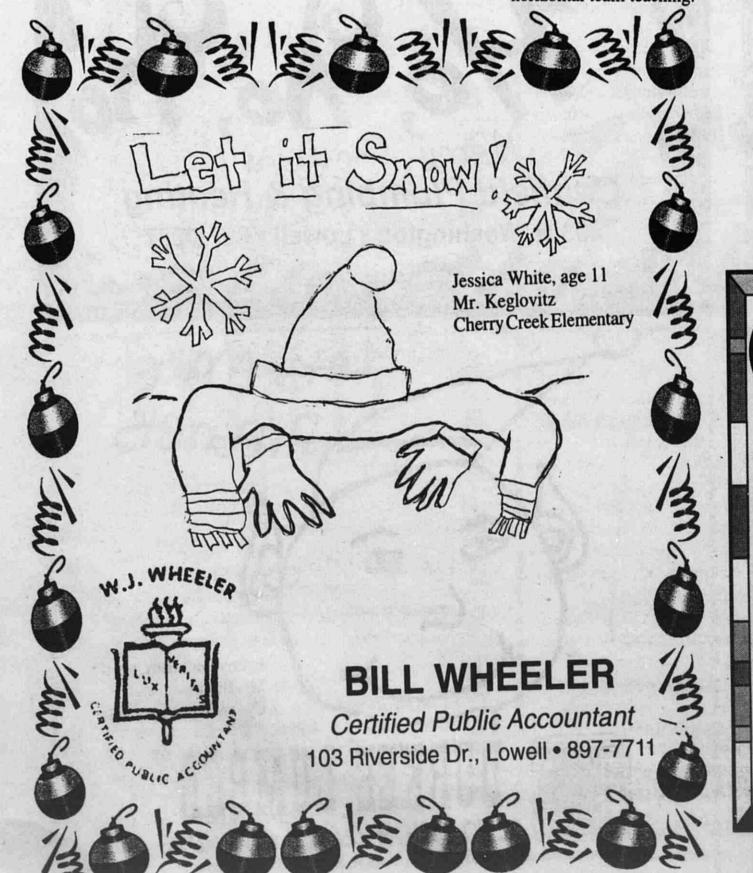
June 5, 2002

The Cooper Woodland Preserve will provide yet another natural area to be used by Lowell Area Schools and community.

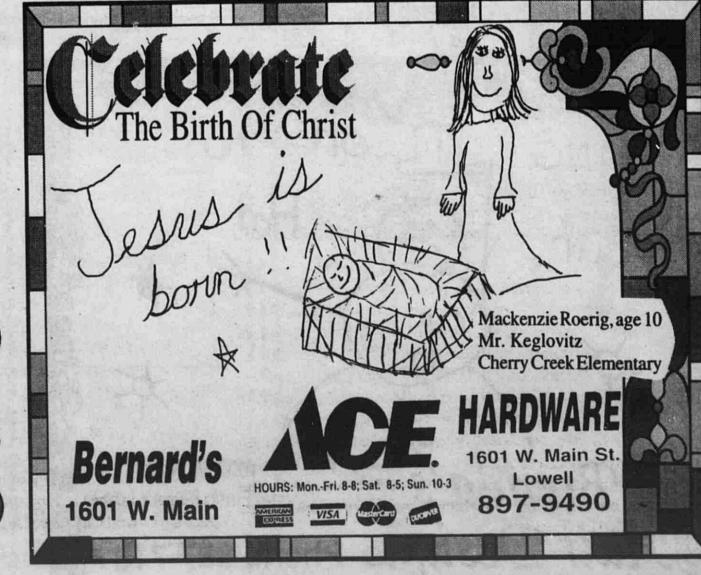
Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation on Thursday, June 6, will hold a dedication and ribbon-

cutting ceremony at the preserve from 5:30 until 6 p.m. Dick and Shirley Cooper donated 34.7 acres of land at the northeast corner of Alden Nash and Foreman

Review, cont'd. pg. 22



Merry Christmas!

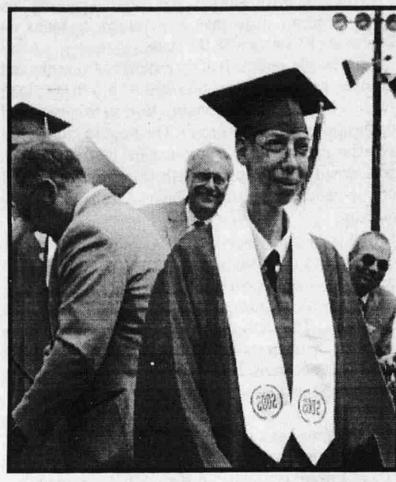


to the foundation for the purpose of preserving it in its present state. The foundation will lease the property to the school for wildlife education opportunities.

From 1927-30, Lowell's Elmer Layer dominated the local athletic scene like few who came before or

He was not only a four-sport athlete... Layer was a four-sport star. While his accomplishments spoke loudly of his talent, Layer shied away from the subject. "You can save the stories about me until I'm gone," was his common refrain.

Layer, one of Lowell's greatest athletes, died Sunday, May 26, 2002 at Cumberland Manor. He was 90 years old.



Lowell Schools' vision speaks of knowledge, skills and character.

The class of the 124th Lowell High School Commencement "is testimony that through their work, we have been successful," said Lowell High School principal, Scott Vashaw. "Collectively and individually this class has exhibited good character."

Along with knowledge, skills and character, the graduation ceremony celebrated "hip and fresh"; saluted strength, courage and fortitude; delivered laughter and gratitude and helped to shed a tear or two.

In his last address to a Lowell graduating class Superintendent Bert Bleke reminded graduates, "The future is yours to dream; and yours to determine."

In a special presentation, Vashaw recognized Tyler Duckett, Philip Moerdyke and Ryan Markel for their embodiment of strength, courage and fortitude. Moerdyke and Duckett are both cancer survivors.

Markel, battling with inoperable cancer, was showered with a heartwarming standing ovation initiated by his classmates. "It was incredible. My classmates have been very supportive," he said afterwards.

Added Vashaw, "It was great to see just how much it meant to the class that Ryan was there."

An incumbent and two challengers will vie for two, four-year terms on the Lowell School Board at the Monday, June 10 Lowell Area Schools regular elec-

The two board seats up for election are currently held by board secretary, Pat Nugent (four years) and board president, Pete Gustafson.

Nugent will seek re-election while Gustafson will not, after serving eight years on the school board.

Challenging Nugent for one of the two seats will be Peter Haefner and James Van Buren.

A 17-year-old suspect from Lowell is arrested in Lowell Charter Township on charges of attempted kidnapping Kent County Sheriff Department patrol units re-

spond to an attempted kidnapping complaint on Burroughs Street, SE near Chloe (private street). A 10-year-old girl and her seven-year-old brother

were out near the street when the suspect stopped and exited the vehicle. According to the report, he approached the young boy, reached out and commented, "Get in the car." The

boy ran away crying and the girl left yelling for help.

sandwich-board-type signs should be allowed in the

Liz Baker, executive director for the Lowell Area

the city's sign ordinance, along with city manager, David Pasquale, said that could be difficult.

The problem lies in the fact that Hopkins and the city have spent several years getting businesses in compliance with the current sign ordinance. By relaxing the rules, Hopkins is concerned that things could get out of control quickly.

The local YMCA got the ball rolling for its capital campaign to raise money for the 43,460-square-foot building it plans to build at Stoney Lakeside Park.

Representatives from the YMCA and Parks Construction presented the Lowell Planning Commission a preliminary drawing of the building, which the commission approved pending review of a final site plan.

The building, according to city manager, David Pasquale, falls under the city's public facilities district. Under the ordinance, the building does meet the requirements for setbacks and parking. Missing from the preliminary plan was a landscaping schedule and lighting layout, Pasquale said.

"My problem with it is that basically it sliced in half the parcel down there, so that any activity on the west side, people will have to walk past the thing," said commission chair. Jim Hall, who was the only member to vote against the preliminary plans.

With less than four percent of its registered voters Review, cont'd. pg. 23

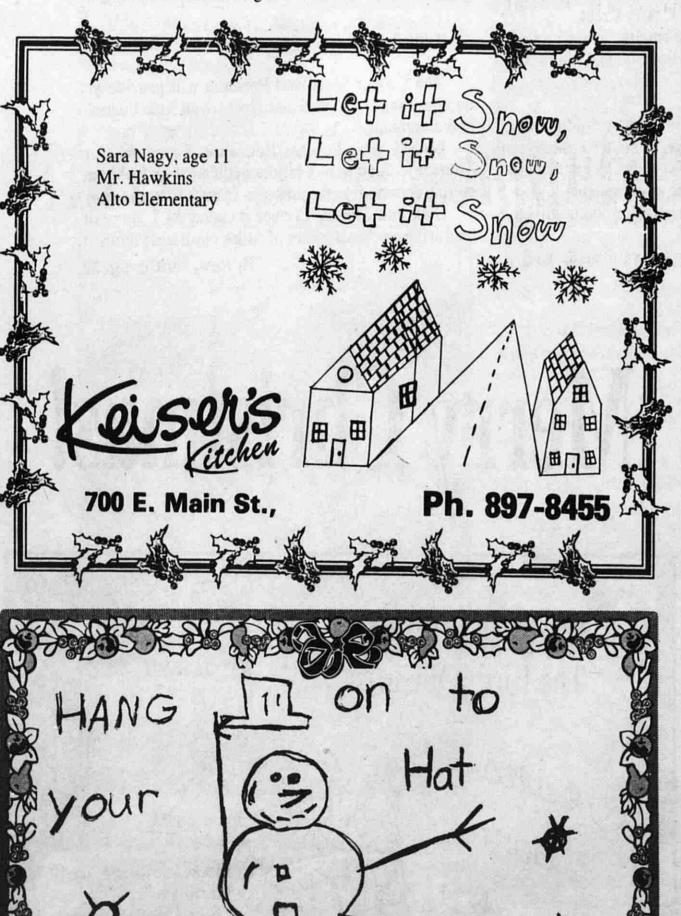
area looking nice.

Arguments are brewing over whether or not city's historic downtown.

Chamber of Commerce, approached the Lowell Planning Commission about relaxing the city's sign rules, thus allowing the downtown merchants to use sandwich-board signs. Baker came to the planning commission meeting at the encouragement of commission chair, Jim Hall, who said he objected to the "tacky" signs, but felt the chamber could police its own.

Zoning inspector, Doug Hopkins, who enforces

June 12, 2002



1002 W. Main

Phone 897-7131 %

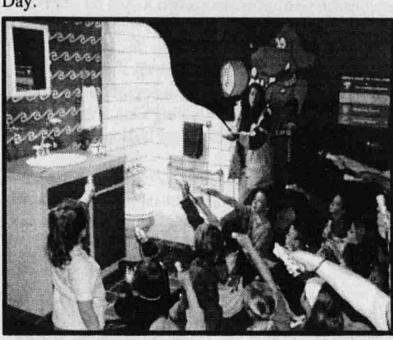
Crystal Flash Plaza • Lowell



Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 22

selected incumbent Pat Nugent and Peter Haefner to fill two seats on the board. Nugent received the largest number of votes with 387. Haefner garnered 314. Jim VanBuren received 105 votes and did not earn a board

Cherry Creek Elementary students are provided with an exciting look into space technology, aviation math and science during its Aerospace and Technology



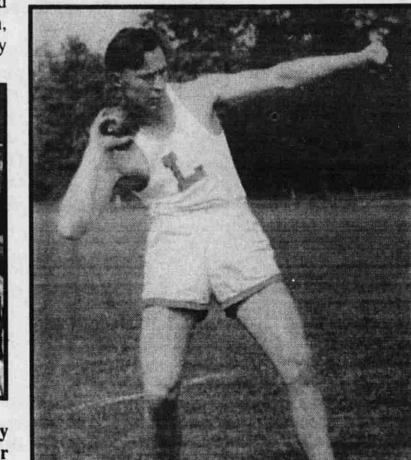
Second- and third- grade classes from Cherry Creek Elementary took on the challenge of ranger as they went through Lowe's safety adventure.

Lowell City Council votes 4-1 to construct the entire police station, the common lobby, both first and second floors of City Hall, the entire exterior and to replace its roof.

The Michigan Association of Agriscience Educators selected the Lowell Agriscience Program, under the direction of FFA advisor, John Schut, as the Outstanding Program for 2002. Lowell's program was selected as the state winner and forwarded to the national level for competition.

Travis Clement and Maria Wordelman were the top men's and women's runners in the eighth annual Cherry

After bending the ear of the Lowell Planning Commission to get its property rezoned residential, Sundry Development withdraws its request. Instead, it will begin working with the city staff and planning commission on developing a proposal which would involve zero lot lines.



From 1927-30, Lowell's Elmer Layer dominated the local athletic scene like few who came before or after him. Layer one of Lowell's greatest athletes, died Sunday May 26. He was 90 years old.

June 19, 2002

The first concert of the Lowell Showboat Sizzlin Summer Concerts of 2002 at the newly laid-out stage the group Fonmhor played in spite of less than perfect

After almost two hours of discussion, Sundry Development Co. got four of five waivers it was seeking to develop one of the city's last areas of suburban-residential property.

The price of mailing a First-Class letter will increase three cents on June 30 from 34 to 37 cents - about 45 cents a month for the average household.



Cooper Woodland Preserve, in its natural form is where future children and children's children will congregate for learning, training and nature walks.

"This natural preserve will provide wonderful opportunities for the community of Lowell," said Lowell superintendent, Bert Bleke as birds sang in the background, almost as if celebrating their protected and honored home.

The 34.7 acres, at the northeast corner of Alden Nash and Foreman, were donated to Lowell Area Education Association by Dick and Shirley Cooper.

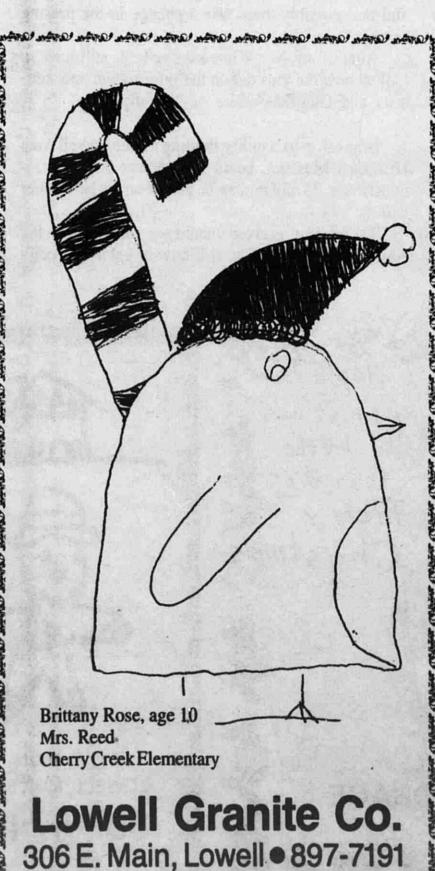
Carrie Wilson spent 40 days with Unity High School students working on storytelling and literature.

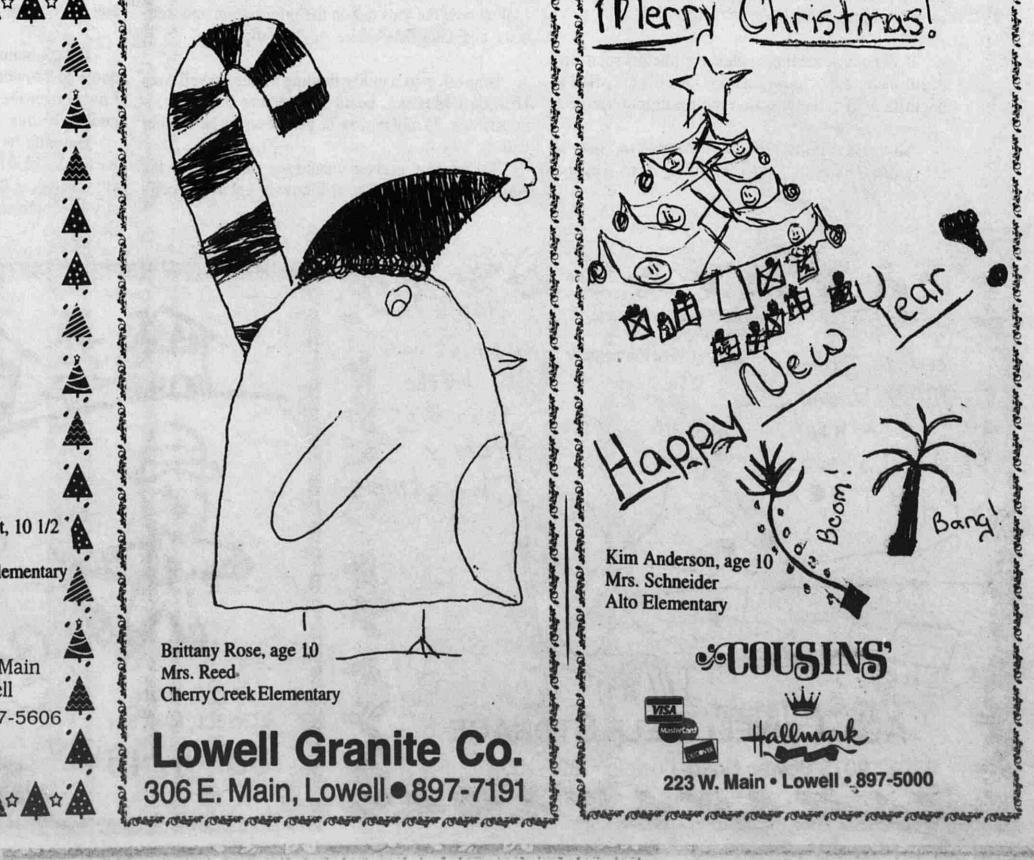
The students then took that knowledge and used it in producing a coloring and activity book telling the

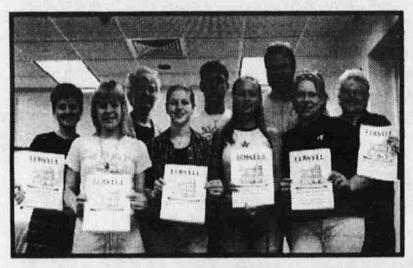
Review, cont'd. pg. 24

Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years!









Tom Woodruff, artist in residence, provided guidance for students throughout the project.

Students started the project in November of last year and completed the book two weeks ago. They were distributed to fourth-graders at Cherry Creek and Alto elementary schools. The books are also being sold at the Lowell Area Arts Council and the Lowell Area Historical Museum. Half of the proceeds will go to those two organizations with the other half being returned to Unity High School.

The Lowell City Council opts to take the Lowell Area Historical Museum operations money out of its fund balance for next year. The city provided the museum with \$20,000.

St. Mary's celebrates the opening of its new Parish Life Center, designed to provide a place where church members and the community can come together.

Business owners in the Lowell Historic District might just get a break from the city's sign ordinance. Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director, Liz Baker presents a plan to the Lowell Planning Commission with a proposed ordinance that would relax the sign rules in the business district, allowing for approved signage.

June 26, 2002

Outgoing Lowell school superintendent, Bert Bleke gets a send-off as he endures the pokes and jabs of a good-hearted roast in his honor. The event was a fundraiser for the Lowell Education Foundation but averages. was also intended as a "fun-raiser" at Bleke's expense.

The roast raised \$1,500 for the Lowell Area Education Foundation.

The past year for the city of Lowell is marked with lows: the loss of jobs from Newell Manufacturing and Attwood Corporation, and the highs: the moving forward with construction on a \$4.3 mill City Hall/police station project.

sharing his opinion with just about anyone. Beaker, the newest addition to Two Seasons greenhouse, is a wild gray jay found by a couple of good samaritans as they were traveling down M-21.

If all goes according to plan, contractors soon (end of July) could be converging on Lowell's City Hall to begin the \$4.3 mill renovation and construction project.

Almost a year after the city's efforts to enforce an old ordinance dealing with the parking of recreational

vehicles on residential property, the Lowell Planning Commission approves a new simplified version that now goes before the city council.

Harold Englehardt's Lowell Area Community Fund awards \$204,469 to a variety of local organizations, including the Lowell Senior Neighbors, Inc., (\$16,052).

July 3, 2002

Anya Maschenok will never forget her summer

In fact, there's a good chance it will be a more lasting memory for the Belarus (Russia) resident than she may realize at the young age of 10.

Maschenok is one of roughly 640 children brought over to the United States through the American Belarussian Relief Organization

(ABRO) for six weeks each summer to give their ied sociology because he bodies a rest from the country's contamination.

either directly or indirectly. Some of the children are orphans; some come the Lowell YMCA from small, highly contaminated villages; some have branch because he likes had medical conditions such as leukemia or thyroid it. The graduate started problems; and some deal with physical handicaps. his work with the YMCA Most arrive with suppressed immune systems.

The only thing consistent about state and county MEAP scores in reading, writing and social studies is and Leaders Club. their inconsistency.

Both the state and Kent Intermediate School District (KISD) saw averages drop in four of their six

Lowell, while incurring lower scores in fourth- and seventh-grade reading and fifth-grade writing, still maintained scores higher than the state and county

"Our scores still dropped proportionately like the state and county," said Lowell acting superintendent, James White.

The larger number of students taking the test, including special education students and those with limited English skills, is one reason being used to explain the lower scores statewide.

"Obviously when reading scores are down, that's a concern," said White.

As to why reading scores are down around the state, He's cute, fuzzy, and he certainly doesn't mind he speculates that the reading selections were tougher and that possibly there was a change in the passing

> After all of that, White says schools still have to look at how the kids did on the information and story tests, and determine where they had difficulty.

In an effort to stabilize funding for the Lowell Area Historical Museum, board of directors officially request that a .25 mill request be placed on the November good to be true.

The request received unanimous support from the council. The ballot issue will now be referred to city

attorney, Dick Wendt for wording.

The museum board asked that it be allowed input into the actual language that appears on the ballot.

Lowell High School sophomore David Roth's summer days are typical for a student his age: there are chores, having in the morning, then driver's training in the afternoon, and practice, lots and lots of practice, of archery in the evening.

Yes, archery. This quiet mild-mannered young man has earned himself somewhat of a reputation. This past June, in California, he earned a spot on the U.S. team for the World Archery Target Junior Championship in Nymburk, Czech Republic this August. And because of his high marks at the NAA Indoor competition. Roth is posed to capture an opportunity to train for a week at the Olympic Training Center in California, provided he wins at the Joad Nationals and the NAA National Outdoors.

Quite a busy summer for a Lowell teen who is learning to drive and helping out on the family farm located in Vergennes Township.

Justin Belgiano studliked it. The Detroit na-The children are all affected by the radiation, tive now works as a teen and sports director for on June 1. His position includes involvement in sports, the Teen Center



July 10, 2002

There is roughly a projected \$300,000 difference in the net incomes for Lowell Light & Power and Lowell Cable Television's 2002-03 budgets.

Yet, both will likely have to adjust rates in order to continue to provide a quality of life that is attractive to the residential district.

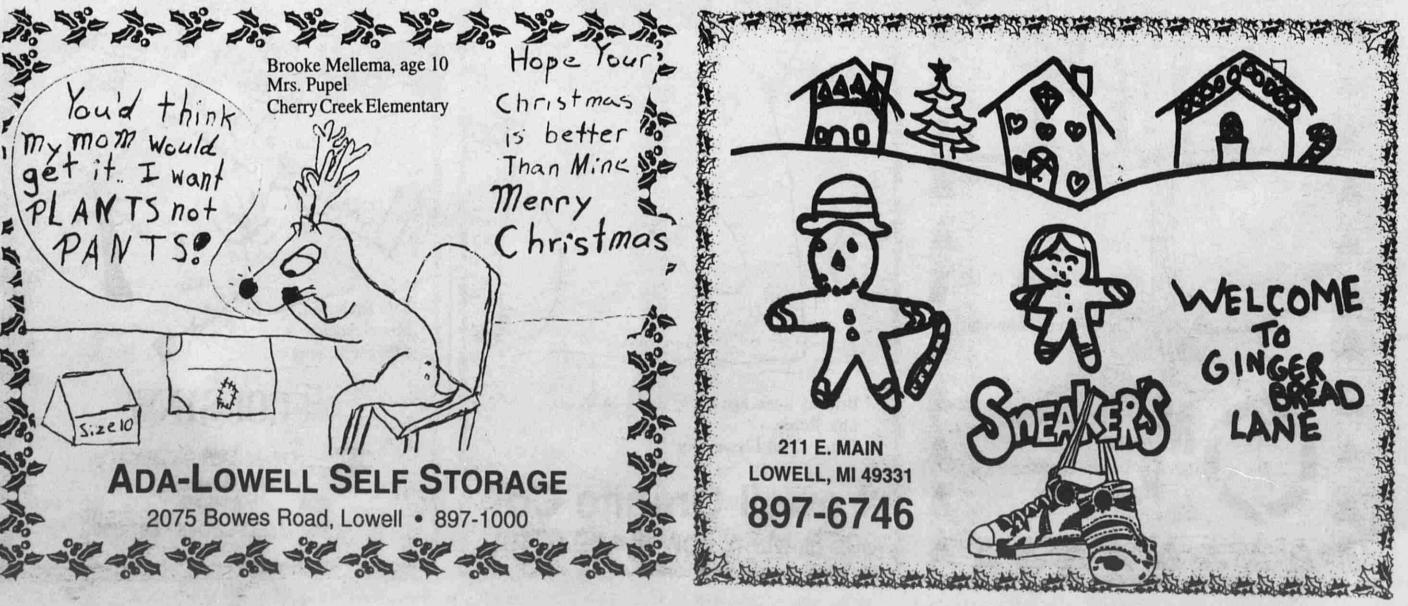
Not unlike Lowell Planning Commission's recommendation, Lowell City Council's approval of a variance request for a two-stall garage was also met with mixed reviews.

The planning commission recommended approval by a vote of 7-2. Minus two council members, the city supported the request by a vote of 2-1.

The request was forwarded by Edward Oracz, 1580 Faith Dr. The Lowell resident requested permission to build an attached garage to his house. The garage would be three feet from the north side yard lot line, where six feet is required.

For councilman Mike Blough, Rehmann Robson's quote to provide auditing services for the city of Lowell over the next three years seemed almost too

But after having his questions answered by Tom Richards, LL&P/Lowell Cable general manager, and city manager, Dave Pasquale, Blough supported the city's recommendation but not without some reserva-Review, cont'd. pg. 25



Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 24

meeting started as a sum-

mer picnic potluck.

As a charter member members when the airport's future was in question.

Brown submitted his resignation from the Lowell Airport board of directors, stating that he could no longer juggle his schedule to attend even a minimal number of meetings.

In a letter to the city, Brown, in a strong recommendation to the city, advocates Dwain Scheller be considered for his re- laugh when their mothers placement.

Lowell's YMCA has quietly moved from its of- joke that it was a meeting

Welsh and the rest of "Girls of Yesteryear." The of the Lowell Airport the Y staff began moving Board, Roger Brown re- its offices on June 1. With the exception of files and other small office items, the move is complete.

The move centralizes won the Junior Greco-Ro-YMCA functions to one location and will provide cost savings in staffing for operations.

July 17, 2002

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

"We used to laugh and

A parade, a con-

certs and a day-

long slate of activ

meeting herself. "I'm that

The group was orga-

nized in 1914 with Vera

ties highlighted

Lowell July 4

celebration.

fices of the past 40 years, for the old ladies,"

the Graham Building, to Benedict recalls. She's not

the site of its Wellness and laughing anymore ... no,

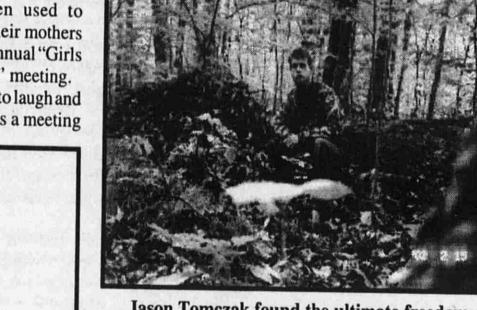
Teen centers at 1335 W. Benedict now attends the

tion" is not quite complete. Watts coining the name

In fact, if one looks old lady now."

closely, there are signs that

"operation office reloca-



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 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 brigthness of the stars at night, the sounds of the forest, the closer relationship with nature, and solving problems and better assessing life's priorities.

around the country.

Four members of Lowell's 2002 Division II a slugging percentage of were selected to Team resenting Lowell were Joe and on-base percentage ment in reading. Mendez, Brandon Kinney, Bobby Gingerich and J.J.

athlete's performance

tion. She batted .511 with

The junior tied An-Not always does an drea Rickert's (1999)

set single season records

for Lowell High School

meet with expectations. single season hit record of highly charged and publi-It did for Lowell short-

For the first time ever, Team Michigan National

man National Wrestling been a goal of mine since Championship. started playing," The event which was held in Enid, Okla., June 27-30 brought together my expectations." the creme de la creme of

high school wrestlers from

stop, Jacque Benedict, Benedict's .961 fieldhowever - the junior was ing percentage sheds light selected to first team Allthe best of them. "I'm very happy. It's

Benedict said. "I'm happy that I've been able to meet

Benedict's 2002 sta-

cation Department indicating some of their schools are not making Acting Lowell super- sided over the Lowell

tistics support her selec- been identified for improvement in one area."

state championship team .766. Benedict posted an adequate scores in science educational experience on-base percentage of while Cherry Creek was Michigan National. Rep- .657. Both her slugging cited for needing improve-

laid off, two custodial positions, vacated due to reon her ability to field with tirement, were not filled. In all, the 25 cuts to-

perintendent to finance

Gillette noted that a "sec-

cuts had been made in

(\$250,000) of the money

saved through the pro-

posed cuts announced by

Gillette will be used to

add new staff (e.g., two

high school teachers, part-

For the first time in

seven years someone other

than Pete Gustafson pre-

School Board as its presi-

Nancy Hopkins wel-

comed with open arms an

opportunity to serve in that

"I'm honored to have

our students and commu-

mination to keep this dis-

In her previous three

years on the board.

Hopkins served two years

Review. cont'd. pg. 26

leadership role.

cut to \$274,000.

A little less than half

cized custodial area was

taled \$524,000. Lowell assistant su-Lowell Area Chamber

of Commerce's first annual Golf Tournament and personnel, Connie carded a birdie. It gathered 30 four- ond list" of additional

somes for a day of golf, food and fun at the Deer case more cuts were nec-Run Golf Course. The event raised

\$1,200 which will be used toward the operation of the chamber office.

Superintendents at Rockford, Caledonia and West Ottawa public time speech therapist), schools dismissed a report lowering the net budget released by the State Edu-

ntendent, Jim White did not shrug off the fact that both Alto and Cherry Creek elementary schools also made that dubious list under current state stan-

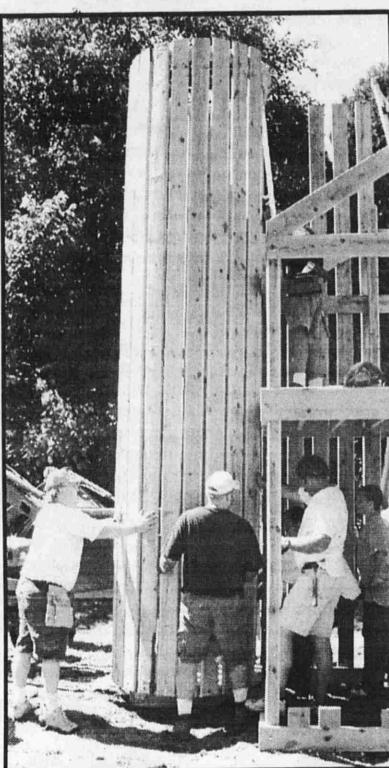
"Yes, you have to take the opportunity to serve the report seriously. We have to work to meet the nity in this new role," said requirements set," White Hopkins, Lowell's new explained. "I don't like the school board president. "I term failing. These are as well as this board share good schools which have a strong belief and detertrict growing, improving

Alto did not achieve and providing the best possible for our students."

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

While no one in the





The weather outside is beautiful and roughly 50 Alto volunteers took to the high ground at Colby Park to construct a playset for area children. 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.

as vice president and one as a board trustee.

July 24, 2002

Innovative learning opportunities as identified by students ... that is the charge behind Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation's "Kids' Bright Ideas" program.

Student representatives from the high school (Sarah Fitzpatrick and Tyler Nethercott), middle school (Brooke Liu) and Unity High (Chris Witherell) made introductory presentations at their respective buildings before the end of the 2001-02 school year.

The foundation ear- a reality in 2003. marked \$2,000 toward distribution of grants. There's a \$250 limit on each proposed project.

Area residents and commuters have their drive times returned to normal this week with a stretch of Lincoln Lake Road expected to be re-

The Kent County

Road Commission undertook the project of crushing, reshaping and repaving Lincoln Lake Road from Vergennes to McPherson (covering a little more than 11,000 feet) nearly two weeks ago. The cost of the road construction will cost the commission \$250,000.

Realignment of the O- Center following an acci-K Conference will become dent while vacationing at 25 years.

Lowell will be one of day. eight teams in the O-K White North Division. The ond- and third- degree Museum are used to gath-

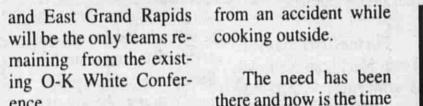
will be the only teams re- cooking outside. maining from the existing O-K White Confer-

Forest Hills Northern, Central and Hudsonville will all bump up to the O-K Red Metro.

The new alignment, however, reunites four members of the old Tri-River Conference (its last year was 1983) - Lowell, Sparta, Cedar Springs and Greenville.

ship residents will vote in November on whether to allow home-based businesses as a special use in agricultural zones.

Lowell Charter Township board trustee, Paula Blumm wants the board to take any possible steps to clear up existing confusion between homebased business and home occupation before the it seeks \$5.8 million, alelection.



The need has been there and now is the time for the Lowell Light and Power to meet it. The Lowell City

Council authorized the is-

suance of revenue bonds to the tune of \$5.8 million to cover improvements the Light and Power Company is making to the electric system. These improvements include the acquisition of Lowell Charter Town- land, construction of a substation, and installation of a transmission line and related facilities.

City attorney, Richard Wendt said the bonds would be paid off only through revenues earned by Lowell Light and Power and would have no impact on the city's general fund. Another fact about the bond is that though the project has

Alice Harralson was all smiles as she visited her

1942 classmates at their 60-year class reunion. Funny

thing is, Harralson went to Lowell High School just

one year (her senior year) but with the harvesting

of character, that anxiety of attending a new school,

was replaced by smiles. Wednesday's (July 17) gath-

ering brought 30 of the 72 class members together.

The unusually large reunion turnouts provide memo-

ries for the next five years ... until we meet again,"

come in around \$5.6 mil-

lion. The interest rate is

go out and seek the support of a .25 millage from operational costs of the museum. In a unanimous ommended that the museum seek the quarter mill

per \$1,000 taxable value, \$24,827, of which \$20,723 the museum the first year. with the remaining \$4,104 going to the Downtown of a couple close friends and a class filled with people Development Authority, which is according to state

> "Sometimes it's bet- signs ter to be lucky than good," said city attorney, Richard Wendt, who added this is what someone told him

seven percent, and the well during a recent sale tral Business district. bond will not exceed 26 years but, in reality, is for of bonds to fund the more than \$4 million City Hall/ The organizers of the and construction project Welsh incurred sec- Lowell Area Historical scheduled to start soon.

During the sale, which Red Arrows, Northview burns on his chest and face ering support. For months, took place on July 9, the



As a planning tool, the Regional Geographic Information System may be unsurpassed.

It has taken map data previously just on paper and transferred it to computer, leaving an abundance of information at the keyboards of 19 local governments.

Brian Berdamier, technical director for REGIS, an agency of the Grand Valley Metro Council, showcased how the system could efficiently work for local governmental units (Lowell Charter Township, Vergennes Township and the city of Lowell).

Hudson streets.

Now the group will \$33,762.21. city residents to cover the vote Monday night, the Lowell City Council recwhich would relieve the city budget of covering the school bus, Wood decided

\$20,000 for operational he had to do something which is about 25 cents would raise about would be earmarked for the students came from.

they combed the city in city saved almost \$35,000 support of opening up the on its first yearly bond paymuseum located on the ment. The payment went corner of Main and from \$297,642.71 to \$263,880.50, a savings of

> Todd Wood was driving on Bowes Road one day when he saw them - a group of school children huddled together in the

After thinking about the image of the 20-plus children waiting for the about it. So he started to The millage levy, talk about constructing a shelter for the students next to the entrance of Valley Vista, the mobile home park where many of

July 31, 2002

The city of Lowell Central Business district may get what it wants sandwich board-type

After some discussion, the commission members decided to have a final draft of a proposed when selling bonds for a ordinance to allow sandwich board or sidewalk And the city did very message signs in the Cen-

Under the proposed ordinance, the sign could police station renovation not be larger than 12 square feet per side for a single- or double-faced

Review, cont'd. pg. 27

The Holidays are always better with

Chelsea VanderPols, 11 Cherry Creek Elementary

Harralson said.

Lowell YMCA execu-

tive director Will Welsh

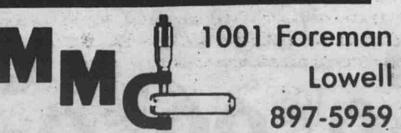
rests in Spectrum Health

Blodgett Campus' Burn

a cabin up north on Satur-

Chelsey Treglia, age 11 Mr. Fillman Cherry Creek Elementary

METRIC MANUFACTURING CO.





Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 26

sign. The height of the sign cannot exceed four feet and the width can be no more than three feet.

The signs cannot be lit nor anchored to an object. The sign must have enough weight to prevent it from moving in the wind, according to the proposed ordi-

To make certain that a developer can connect to the city's sanitary sewer system, the Lowell City Council unanimously approves to extend the lines.

The issue rose on the Sundry Development of the Phillips' property off Grindle. At the June 17 meeting, the council unanimously voted to have the development connect to the sanitary sewer lines. Later, however, it was discovered the development was outside of the 1,320 foot required distance for hook- up. The property was actually 1,575 feet from the closest line.

For resident Dwain Scheller, it has been an adventure, but one he wouldn't have wanted to miss.

Several months ago, Scheller was one of many city of Lowell residents who learned they were in violation of the city's storage of recreational vehicles ordinance - an ordinance they didn't even know existed and discovered to be way too restrictive to owners of such vehicles. After protesting, grabbing the ear of the Lowell Planning Commission and City Council, and then spending several months discussing the issue, Scheller was able to see a new, and what he felt was a compromise, ordinance accepted by the council in a unanimous vote.

It has enriched the head, hand, heart and health for a century of this country's youth. There are currently 226,000 young people in Michi

gan alone who are enrolled in 4-H. 4-H was the foundation from which the Kent County

Youth Fair was borne 68 years ago. While 4-H members make up roughly 90 percent of

the fair participants, independent groups such as FFA are visible at the week-long event.

on on on on on on

Animal Hospital & Pet

Complex of Lowell

11610 E. Fulton, Lowell • 897-8484

okokokokoko

event tent, the youth fair will celebrate 4-H's 100th as well as take appointments. birthday with cake and refreshments.

Kaily Gillan, age 11

Cherry Creek Elementary

Mrs. Reed



As bows from an arrow, Camp Fire members, when finished, each go their separate ways. Before they do, however, most leave with an appreciation for citizenship, family, community, outdoors and creative living. Lowell's Keri Jastifer recently completed her 13th year as a member of Camp Fire USA in a most auspicious way. The 2002 LHS graduate became the first West Michigan Camp Fire member in 18 years to earn the WoHeLo award (equivalent to the Eagle Scout).

A permit to build on a flood plain, which the Department of Environmental Quality originally rescinded, has now been approved.

Lowell Charter Township sought a permit for fill within the Grand River flood plain to accommodate a proposed 40 by 80 - foot shelter.

Eric Litts has been hired by Lowell Charter Township as its part-time assessor.

The appointment ends an eight-year relationship between the township and Kevin O'Malley.

Litts also works for the city of Grand Rapids. Lowell Charter Township superintendent, John Timpson On Thursday, Aug. 8, at the Lowell fairgrounds' said the new assessor will works nights and weekends,

> Lowell Area Schools Wittenbach Agri-science Center received the Region IV National Agriscience Center award. It was one of six in the country to receive such an award.

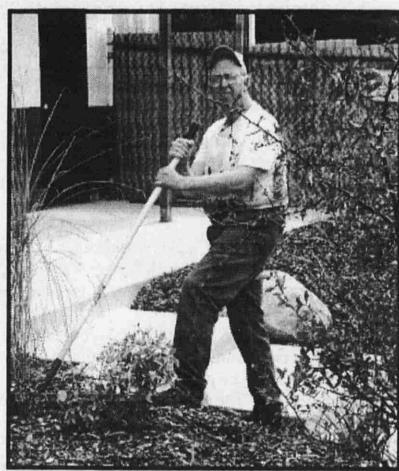
> The award was based on programs offered through the Wittenbach Center during the year and the credentials of the instructors (Tammy

DeBaar and John Schut) in the program.

In addition, Lowell's Trout Unlimited Junior Chapter recently received the Silver Trout award, being honored for its work in fishing education and conservation of water.

Lowell's Trout Unlimited Junior Chapter is sponsored by Schrem's West Michigan Trout Unlimited and focuses on stewardship and fishing ethics.

With the development of the first full year of the junior chapter, Schrem's has the second largest membership in the state of Michigan.



You've seen him but may not know him. He is one of the many hands who volunteer their work in the months leading up to the Kent County Youth Fair. The new landscaping around the King Memorial Youth Center, in part, is the product of many hours of labor by Lowell's Erwin Barton. Barton takes care of the flowers and trees at the fairgounds, sells truck raffle tickets at the Riverwalk during the Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts and just about every other odd job asked of him.

August 7, 2002

Santa Claus

is coming to

Lauren Smit, age 11

Mrs. Schneider

Alto Elementary

town!

For Lowell and many other area school districts, news that Detroit would receive a larger portion of the state's school Readiness funds meant that its allocation would be decreased.

Lowell received \$105,600 for the 2001-02 school year; in 2002-03 it will only receive \$62,700, representing a 41 percent cut.

Lowell assistant superintendent to finance and personnel, Connie Gillette made it clear that the district would find the funds needed to fund the Readiness

program.

"It's important because it targets the at-risk four-year-olds. It is important that we meet their needs," Gillette explained. "Yes, it means less for us, but the money is still being used for education of needy kids at risk."

It used to be, through rain, snow, sleet or hail. the U.S. mail carriers would prevail.

Now, it seems, the European Paper Wasp needs to be added to that little ditty.

The new threat to the safe delivery of mail arrived from Europe about 20 years ago and settled in Massachusetts. From there, the insects moved through New York, sometime during the past decade, and have now spread through the Midwest, including locations in Michigan.

The wasps gather and nest in concealed cavities such as a hollow tube and bushes located in fields.

Lowell postal carriers have opened up mailboxes only to have these wasps come flying out at them.

Long-time Ionia Fair recipe contestant, Karen Jelsma continued her successful ways, earning two

The Lowell resident won the Herb Ox Bouillon Comfort Food contest for her Pineapple Cashew Chicken dish. The top prize earned her \$300.

Jelsma also took a first in the Pillsbury Refrigerated Pie Crust Championship with her patriotic pie made with blueberries and cherries. She was awarded \$125 and a silver pie server for her effort.

Lowell's Candice Bowne took third place in the Herb Ox Bouillon Food contest with her hearty Shepherd's Pie.

Based on participation, name the top two high school summer sports camps in Lowell.

Okay, everyone correctly guessed football, but how many chose tennis?

Yes, tennis

A five-week summer tennis session, organized by Lowell High School tennis coach Bonnie Wall and her husband, Roger drew 130 kids, ranging in age from five

"Surprised? Yes, Roger and I are surprised somewhat, but it is exciting to see the enthusiasm and enjoyment the kids are getting out of playing tennis," Bonnie Wall said. "The other exciting thing about it is that many of the kids who participated last year returned again this year."

That indicates not only are they learning the game of tennis, but the kids are also having fun.

Rockford/Lowell Ambulance's newest member to its fleet is truly unlike any other in the state.

The new ambulance, which was put into service on Thursday, is manufactured by American LaFrance on a Freightline chassis with a Mercedes-Benz power

The cost was a couple thousand dollars less than the ambulances currently in service. It is also more fuel

The Sprinter 3500 SHC will get 20 miles per gallon, while the current one gets 10-12.



Ron Dawson, 818 E. Main, was jolted from sleep when he heard a "kaboom" coming from his roof. "It shook the house," Dawson recalls. The lightning storm, which rumbled through West Michigan late Thursday evening, dropped part of a tree located on Dawson's property line. "The tree sits on half of my property and half of my neighbors," Dawson said. "Now, my half is gone." The portion of the tree fallen by the storm landed on Dawson's roof, creating a bridge from the property line to his house. It fell on top of the kitchen area, but did not bust through the roof.

Richard Craig, Craig Architects, Inc., believes his concept of development for the three-story portion of Flat River Antique Mall is a good one.

"I think it's a good project, but I don't know what the market for it is in Lowell," Craig said.

The architect's development plan for 202-206 W Main includes retail use on the first floor, with loft condominiums on the second and third floors.

The M-21 curb and gutter storm sewer project between Valley Vista and West streets will not be your standard summer endeavor.

During the course of the project review, the state of Michigan determined that the project site could possibly contain significant archaeological artifacts or features.

Therefore, an archaeologist must be utilized during the course of construction to determine if any artifacts exist.



For the third time in less than six months, Lowell incurred bad economic news with the announcement of another business closing. Spartan Stores will close the economically-under-performing Family Fare store in early September. Family Fare has leased the 27,000 square foot building at 2153 W. Main St. since opening in 1987. The news of the grocery store's closing comes on the heels of Newell Manufacturing closing its doors and Attwood eliminating its plastic injection molding business. Spartan Stores spokeswoman, Jeanne Norcross said the 52 Family Fare employees in Lowell would be offered opportunities to work at other Spartan owned grocery stores.

City of Lowell has contracted Andrews Cultural Resources of Fountain, Mich., to perform the task. The cost for the service is \$4,230, which will be reduced to \$3,250 if no artifacts are found.

Lowell's Jacob Gould, 10, was trolling on the Grand River for walleye with his father, Ryan, on Sunday when he hooked a 42-inch, 23-pound catfish on his 5 1/2 foot bass rod.

With the help of his ather, it took 15-20 minutes to land the catfish Jacob and his dad kept the fish alive in a

large cooler so that pictures could be taken. The catfish was re-

leased back into the river

two hours later at the same location it was caught. Jacob said he released it so he could "catch it again when it got bigger."

August 14, 2002

A superintendent search which began back in late May reached the chosen six Monday night. Lowell Area Schools Board of Education selected

six candidates for interviews Sept. 3-5 from a file of 30 applications received.

The list also appears to have something for everybody: a woman, a non-traditional candidate, and an outof-state candidate.

The six candidates chosen for an interview are:

Shari Jo Miller: Deputy Superintendent for Instruction and Operations for the Lansing School District.

Michael W. Radke, Ph.D.: Director of Certification & Research for the American Board of Emergency Medicine, East Lansing.

Schools in Rochester, Minnesota.

Mark Shellinger: Superintendent of Rochester Public

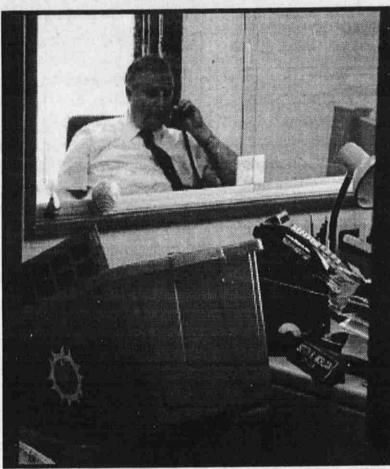
Tyrus R. Wessell Jr.: Middle School Principal at East Grand Rapids.

Michael R. Lindley: Superintendent of New Buffalo Area Schools.

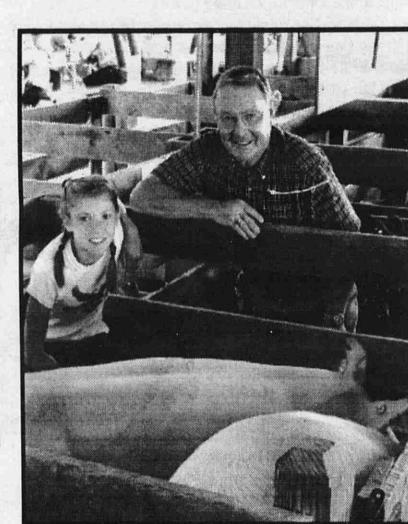
Robert C. Currie: Superintendent of Marshall Public

The Lowell cross country team returns from a week-long intense training in the trails and dunes of Ludington State Park.

Throughout the week, the team participated in up to three workouts each day.



Friday (Aug. 9) was moving day for Lowell City Hall, as staffers and the entire police department pulled up stakes to make way for a year-long renovation of the 93-year-old building. The relocation to 414 E. Main will make Huntington in Lowell quite possibly the safest bank in the country. Recent consolidation of the bank's clerical services freed up enough space to make room for the city's temporary



The judge cited good length, muscle tone, terrific hams and the look of a well-finished market hog as reasons for naming Harley, Lisa Johnson's white pig, the grand champion of all breeds. Johnson, 12, however, couldn't help but think there must have been some magic in that wooden cane she used to guide Harley around Reath Barn."It's the same lucky cane my grandfather (Dale Johnson) used when he showed his gilt (young female swine) in the fair," Johnson explained. Dale Johnson was 12 (1943) when, with his gilt, he won first place and grand champion of all breeds at the Kent County 4-H Youth Fair. Her grandfather was there again on Monday and Tuesday when Lisa won the market hog class and grand champion, and then added the title of super grand champion.

Some called it "Pope-Fest," while others called it "Popestock," but officially it was known as World Youth Day, 2002.

Young people from nearly 200 countries gathered in downtown Toronto, Canada, not to greet a rock star, but to cheer on the 82-year-old leader of the Roman Catholic Church.

Cross-cultural dialogue added to the impact of the event, which enabled the youth to see that even though they came from remote corners of the globe, they are united in their beliefs.

"He focused on the theme of World Youth Day and encouraged the youth to become 'salt of the earth and light of the world.' He meant that as young people, full of energy and enthusiasm, they should work to A

Review, cont'd. pg. 29

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 28

spread the love of Christ to the entire world," said Erin Doyle, one of 10 local teens to attend World Youth

Over \$1,200 was lost in corporate duck sales last year due to vandalism.

Liz Baker, Chamber of Commerce executive director, took her plight to the Lowell City Council asking for its permission to mount the ducks higher on the light poles with plastic zip ties.

"We're hoping this will discourage vandals," Baker

Ducks were mounted on flag poles last year and inserted into the existing holders located on the cement sidewalk in the downtown area, and dug into the ground on the east and west sides of town.

"Installation of the ducks went smoothly; however, because they were not mounted securely, they were easily taken by pranksters," Baker explained.

Twelve ducks and several poles were taken.

August 21, 2002



A retrospective exhibition of artworks created by nationally acclaimed Lowell artist, Oren Sayles "Jack" Frost opens at the Lowell Area Arts Coun-

The "Touch of Frost" exhibition includes his work from different eras of his life:

· Artwork created while studying at Michigan State University.

 Commercial graphic artworks commissioned by corporations while employed as creative supervisor for the International Department of the J. Walter Thompson Company.

• Political campaign images created as owner of answers. Jack Frost Design in Washington D.C.

 Fine art paintings created in 1980's and 90's. Frost was a 1935 graduate of Lowell High School and earned a degree from Michigan State University in 1939 before carrying out a five-year stint in the U.S. Army.

As its name indicates, Bowne Township Historical Society is a gatherer and keeper of information and pictures documenting its area's rich history.

Bowne Township Historical Society and its president, Sally Johnson work to get the information and pictures into safe storage, so it can be preserved.

"We recently purchased a computer and are now working to raise funds to purchase new software so that we can record all our inventory and burn pictures onto CDs," Johnson explained.

Debbie Rashid has been the assessor in Vergennes Township for the past six years.

Soon Rashid may be applying her craft in Lowell Charter Township as well.

The Cascade Township resident went before the Lowell Charter Township Board Monday night to provide background and to answer any questions the board may have about her.

Rashid is a level three assessor.

Neal Kraay, vice president of development Leasure Living Management, goes before the Lowell Charter Township Board asking for help so it can connect to the water system.

Josh Spratt, age 10

Cherry Creek Elementary

Mr. Jacobus

Leasure Living Management, which operates Cumberland Manor, requested that the township pay the special water assessment and it would then reimburse the township over a 10-year period.

It was met with less than a favorable response from the township board.

"Why should we use private dollars for one enterprise?" questioned board trustee, Richard Huver.

They came seeking answers to why they were experiencing sewer backups, and many of those Lowell residents left feeling like they still were searching for

A group of Lowell residents came to the Aug. 5 city council meeting raising questions about sewer backups and why their claims for reimbursement for damages were denied by the city's insurance company. After almost an hour of citizens' comments, the group is directed to set up a meeting with Department of Public Works director, Dan DesJarden to discuss specific issues and to help build better communication between the residents and the city.

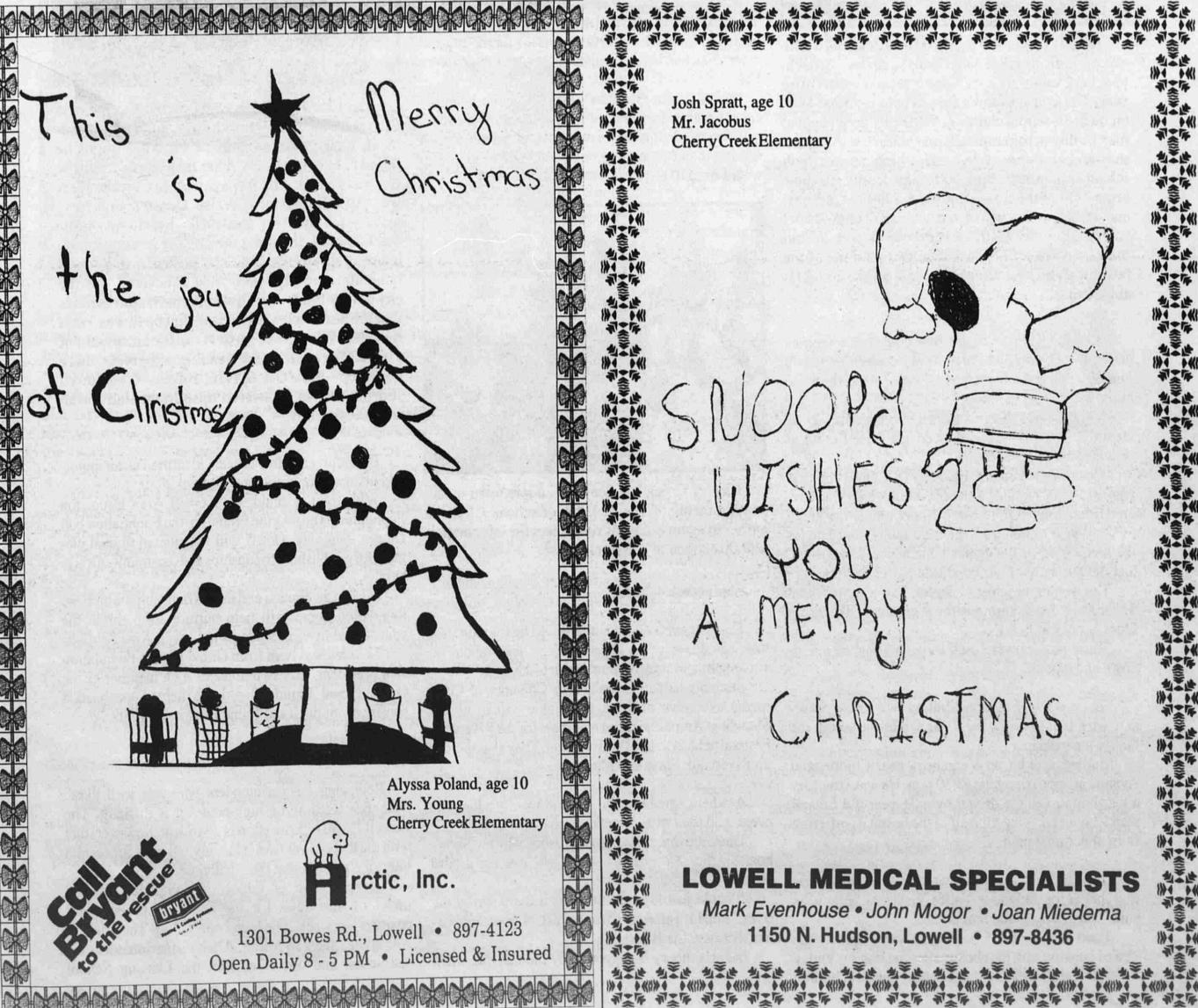
Many of the residents, however, believed the city should be responsible for covering the damages to their property that occurred when the city's sewer backed up earlier this year; in some cases, that backup happened repeatedly over several months. Donna Street area said they would like to know exactly who is responsible for the mess in their basements.

Clerk Betty Morlock has a deputy clerk. Treasurer Suzanne Olin has a deputy treasurer. Even the mayor, Jeanne Shores has a mayor pro tem. But who covers the city manager David Pasquale's position when he is either unavailable or on vacation?

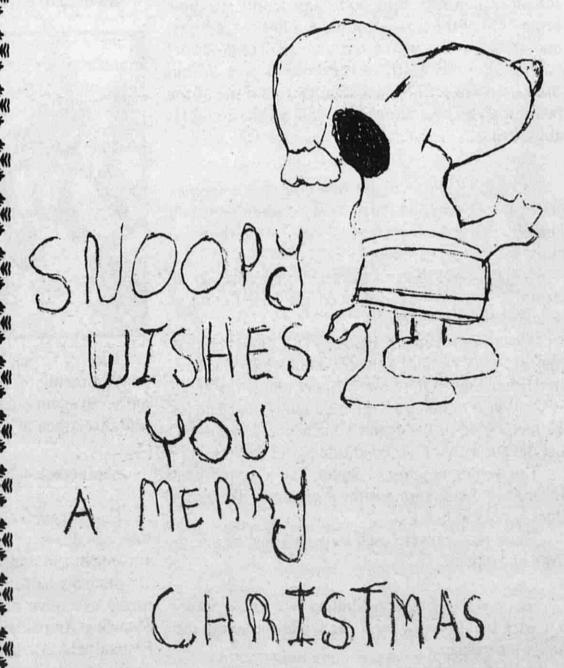
As of the end of August, that position fell to Lowell city police chief, Jim Valentine who was named by the city council to also serve as assistant city manager.

This position will include assisting and advising in overall management of city operations, directing the execution of major special projects, and serving as city manager in his absence.

Review, cont'd pg. 30



anilla anilla anilla anilla anilla anilla anilla anilla anilla



LOWELL MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

Mark Evenhouse • John Mogor • Joan Miedema 1150 N. Hudson, Lowell • 897-8436

A local firm eyeing to create retail space and apartments and/or offices was awarded the old VFW

The council unanimously voted to accept the bid of \$45,500 from Architectural Building Restoration, Inc., for the building located at 307 E. Main Street. The city purchased the building and the parking lot from the local VFW so as to expand its parking lot which is part of the current City Hall/police station project. It was the intention of the city to resell the building.

Department of Public Works director, Dan DesJarden said Mark Batchelor from the company made an alternative offer to repair the brick wall located next to Lowell Auto Body and Tummino & Tummino P.C. The company had made a bid in July of \$57,375, but explained it is willing to do the work for \$45,500, said city manager, Dave Pasquale. This amounts to basically a swap of the building for the brick

The council agreed to the exchange: First, the council accepted the \$45,500 bid for the building from the company; then in a second motion, accepted the price tag of \$45,500 to do the brick work on the wall.

As for the old VFW Hall, the company stated in its proposal it planned to restore the front and back brick, replace windows, and open the storefront on the lower level. The large stove would be donated to the Lowell Area Fire Department.

August 28, 2002



A study conducted by Myvesta, a financial health center, indicates that Americans spent less on backto-school shopping sprees for a second consecutive year. The average family spends between \$500-\$600 on back-to-school clothing. While the dollars spent may be down, the emphasis on comfort, self-expression and clothing style remain high among high school students."I think style is probably the most important of the three. But it's not like there is just one style for the whole school," said high school student, Jeremy Goff. "Everybody is free to find their own style." The senior adds that none of the fashion styles are outrageous and all are comfortable fitting.

If you've pulled into the Lowell Senior Neighbors driveway recently, you may have noticed that newly poured cement has taken away any of the dust and

If you've had lunch at the senior neighbors center recently, you may have noticed the added comfort provided by the new chairs.

Cost for the cement driveway (\$12,000) and new chairs (\$4,000) totaled \$16,000, a bill which was covered by the Englehardt Lowell Area Community Fund

Last year a grant from the community fund paid for the renovation of the center's kitchen and bathroom, and the purchase of air conditioning for the house.

The senior neighbors center has also received \$10,000 in funds through the Vergennes Township block grant fund.

Those monies were used for a new rug, new windows and paint.

Ten-year-old Brandon Malling was killed Saturday after being struck by a car while retrieving the family's newspaper.

Malling was hit on Vergennes near Cumberland Avenue at approximately 12:30 p.m. He was struck by a westbound vehicle driven by a 31-year-old Lowell man who was driving himself to the hospital, suffering from abdominal pain.

The efforts of a good Samaritan to construct a bus stop shelter for students at Valley Vista may "die on the vine," according to the Samaritan.

Todd Wood, of 925 S. Hudson, came up with the idea of constructing the shelter after passing by Valley Vista Dr. on Bowes Road and seeing several children

standing in the rain waiting for the school bus. He presented his idea to the Lowell Planning Commission last month and quickly got support for it with people volunteering, along with estimates on materials. Wood even got a letter of support from Larry Mikulski, director of transportation and operations for Lowell Area Schools, who stated the district picks up about 25 to 32 students at the stop.

Unless Chateau Communities gives its okay or the city becomes proactive in the project, Wood said he does not know whether it will be completed.

Wood says without some action soon he didn't know if he could keep the momentum of the project going, much less commit any more time himself which means his good idea may just remain that . . . a

A sandwich board, a stand-alone sign, or a flag/ pennant: Downtown merchants may soon be able to put one of these up to attract passersby to their businesses.

The Lowell Planning Commission unanimously voted to move forward on a sign ordinance for the central business district, first proposed by Lowell Chamber of Commerce executive director, Liz Baker.

The new ordinance would allow business owners in the central or historic business district to use ground signs, sandwich board-type signs, or flags/pennants to help advertise sales, or publicize that business is open. The owner would have a choice of one, with the sign not being larger than 12 square feet, no greater than four feet in height and three feet in width.

There appears to be a little glitch concerning requirements as to who has to pave their driveways in the city of Lowell.

After doing some research, city manager, David Pasquale said staff could not find any reference requiring a homeowner to pave his driveway when constructing a new garage.

Pasquale explained that when building a house, it is required that the homeowner have sidewalk put in and the driveway paved; nothing is required for new construction on a garage.

"I think this is quite necessary in the city where you have paved driveways and then others that are washing out in the street which become an issue for the city and other residents," said planning commission chair, James

With that in mind, the planning commission decided to move forward and look at changing the ordinance to require that any new construction, including a teardown and rebuilding, would mean the driveway would need to be paved.



Cherry Creek Elementary's doors open to 860 smiling facing on the first day of school. Children gathered around parent volunteers for information and directions to classrooms.

September 4, 2002

Keith Boeve's Community Based Instruction class took advantage of an opportunity to learn about involvement and pride in one's own town.

Students helped Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director, Liz Baker clean up the Showboat Amphitheatre in readiness for the Riverwalk Festival held on Labor Day weekend. They also spruced up Riverwalk Plaza and Main Street.

Aesthetics are beautiful, the community adores the event, and the artists love the exposure.

Those are three pretty good reasons why the Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts will live for a third

"People just love the setting on the lawn by the river," said Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director, Liz Baker,

Baker's theory is supported by the fact that when

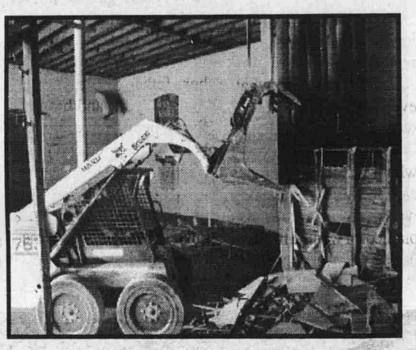


The Kelly Miller Circus, celebrating its 64th year, performs two shows at the Lowell Fairgrounds.

weather permitted, and the music style was to the public's liking, the summer event drew capacity crowds of 700 people.

The event's charge from year one was to offer an awareness of diverse musical styles to the Lowell

"We will continue to do that, but will focus in on the handful that bring in the largest crowds," said Lorain Smalligan, executive director of the Lowell Area Arts



City Hall was constructed in 1909. So, when the City Hall walls fell prey to the renovation movement, many were anxious to see what might be found behind the walls. What they learned was the city was prompt with its payments to Chicago Electric. Rick Rutherford, Walsh Construction foreman, came across a postcard which was postmarked 1907, thanking the city for its recent payment of an electric bill. The postcard was found lying atop the city vault. Also uncovered was the city's City Bank checkbook. A check stub denotes that the last check written from that book was dated Nov. 30, 1907 to M.B. Austrio Co. for an amount of \$161.65 For contractors' reading enjoyment, there was a copy of the Oct. 6, 1916, edition of the Lowell Journal. It was uncovered upstairs behind a wall near the balcony.

Breakfast has always been identified as an important element to a student's school day.

With food in mind, the Lowell Area Education Foundation is hoping the Friends of the Foundation Fall Dinner, Saturday, Oct. 5 will become an annual element for establishing friendships and community aware-

It's that awareness and those friendships which the foundation hopes will help nurture and enrich the educational lives of students in Lowell Area Schools.

The idea was born from Grand Rapids Foundation vice president, Dave Thompson. As a member of the Opera Grand Rapids Board, he helped establish a similar event in Grand Rapids six/seven years ago.

September 11, 2002

Replacing a superintendent who was well liked, well respected and a high achiever is difficult. The Lowell Board of Education is confident, however, that with the three candidates it has invited back for second interviews, it has met that challenge.

Lowell Board of Education completed its first round of interviews for the Lowell superintendent position last week. The board announced Thursday it will invite Shari Jo Miller, deputy superintendent for instruction and operation with the Lansing School

Review, cont'd. pg. 31

ter second anniversary cel- credits the company and lars to put in sewer and more clearly defined the

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 30

ter with Lowell Middle

College of Art and De-

sign, together with Lowell

Middle School art teacher,

Theresa Wasciuk and

Wittenbach Center direc-

tor, Tammy DeBaar cre-

ated a multi-media nature

setting inside the atrium

of the center. Eighth grade

students created paper

mache' animals to incor-

school art program,

Walters designed two per-

manent sculptures for

placement on the premises

in the Wege Natural Area.

most memorable Monday

in the Lowell School Dis-

It (Sept. 23) will be a

Along with the middle

porate into the setting.

School art students.

ebration.



Marie DenHouter began singing and playing the guitar at the age of 15. She's now 87 and is still playing the guitar and singing. DenHouter was one of 21 friends of Dot Lacic who attended Lacic's annual tea party.It's more than just a tea party though ... it's a fashion show. The guests are all attired in early 18th century dress and many modeled jewelry.

District; Tyrus R. Wessell, principal East Grand Rapids Middle School; and Robert C. Currie, assistant superintendent for instruction at Marshall Public Schools, back for a second week of interviews.

ing for some guidance and received it ... and now she's willing to do whatever it takes to make it

camping Memorial Day a feat her father accom- School. weekend," Wilson explained. "I wanted my own massage and nutrition business."

Sapna Patel's hike up Mt. Kilimanjaro encompassed a myriad of weather conditions and a few health issues.

served as a backdrop to trict. the 13 year old successfully reaching her destina-Kim Wilson was look- tion - the 19,340 foot sum-Patel, partnered with

> her father Subodh (Pat), mother Jyoti, and brother with another vote as to plished 50 years ago. The plished from the Tanzania

Those challenges only

At a special meeting, the Lowell Board of Education is scheduled to announce its selection of a new superintendent.

It will follow that vote Suraj spent six days climb- whether to commence with Construction of the

only difference this time new school has been dewas that it was accom- layed over the last couple



Haunting images and heartfelt expressions of sorrow authored by the events of 9/11 are remembered in a special exhibit commemorating its anniversary at the Gerald R. Ford Museum. "9/11: Messages from the World, them. Images of Ground Zero" made its national debut in West Michigan on Aug. 31. Award-winning photographer Joel Meyerowitz, under the auspices of the Museum of the City of New York, had unequaled access to Ground Zero shortly after the twin towers collapsed. Through large format images, Meyerowitz documents the painful work of rescue, recovery, demolition, and excavation at the World Trade Center site.

for guidance and a sign to voyage from the Kenya rollment. confirm it if that was what side she was supposed to do.

with her children, she learned of a vacant com- was born from watching mercial building in Lowell from another mom. As IMAX theater. well as available, it was affordable.

sign along with the conother mother," Wilson 11.

The Greenville resident, with the support of her husband, Scott, opened "More Than Massage" (across the street from Little Caesar's) on Tuesday (Sept. 3).

She threw in a prayer side; Pat initially did his of years due to a flat en-

For his eighth-grade Recently, on a bus trip daughter, repeating what her father did as a youth

one-year anniversary of 9- a complimentary car wash pairs. versation I had with the 11 on Wednesday, Sept. provided by Wendell

Students' reflection at hour in the parking lot. Bob the higher grade levels will be more involved than at the elementary levels.

Sculptures created by Carole Walters were dedi- Litehouse campaign coor- city's west end. cated Friday at the dinator, reports that con-Wittenbach Agri-science tributions increased 15 and Environmental Cen- percent over last year and about half a million dol-

September 18, 2002

incentives to employees to the movie "Everest" at the show appreciation for their support to United Way. Christoff during lunch

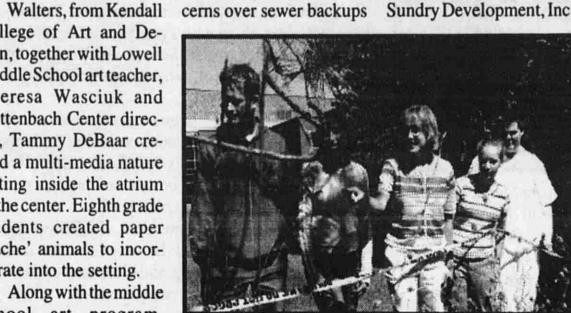
Anderson of the Research and Development Department received his free car wash on Monday, Sept. 16. Linda DesJarden,

dency program at the ceners.

In light of the con-

its employees for their con- water lines to its property, They were created as tinued support to improve a developer comes before they do not appear to have part of an artist-in-resi- the quality of life for oth- the Lowell City Council

cerns over sewer backups Sundry Development, Inc.



Through their participation in the All American Wilderness Leadership School, Becky Lecurra and Heather Kohtz stuffed their backpacks full of experiential learning ideas and additional teaching resources. Participation in the 10-day environmental wilderness conference in Jackson, Wyoming, at the Bridgertetan National Forest was made possible through a Safari Club International grant. Both Lowell High School science teachers earned a \$1,000 grant plus travel expenses; they received college credit through Colorado State University. Kohtz be better than what they and Lecurra plan to share the resources and infor- are. mation gained from the conference with fellow science teachers. They will also make a presentation to years been reviewed with the Lowell School Board.

in the city of Lowell and made this presentation entire 90,000 linear feet of small number of houses to sewer lines over the next support. The request dents who preceded them. three years.

The plan was pre- ern portion of its property sented by Department of at 751 Grindle (Phillips' port about bi-weekly to construct nine homes. sewer backups, he began to investigate the possibility of having the city's entire sewer line cleaned and televised after discussions with residents. Currently the city has portions of the lines televised, but not a video recording of all of

The cost for such a project would be about \$35,400 each year for three years with the city tackling about a third of its sewer lines each year. Des Jarden proposed going with a company called Pollution Control Services which placed the lowest bid out of three companies at \$1.18 per linear foot to Litehouse, Inc. offers clean and televise the

He proposed that about \$45,000 would be begins eight weeks of grouped into four catego-This year, each employee needed annually to cover workshops focusing on the ries as opposed to three in All five of Lowell making a contribution was the program along with needs and concerns of previous years. Those stu-"I took that to be a Area Schools reflect on the entered into a drawing for making any necessary reteens for district parents. dents whose scores were

> months of discussion, a reads quite well of Lowcommittee will report its ell, according to the three findings to the Lowell candidates vying for the only the students in the top Planning Commission district's chief office. about a developer's project to construct homes on the

seeking a waiver from city Representatives from

candidates' school dis-They'd been to the Alto Festival almost every year that they could

candidates and their style,

provided much separation.

In a 4-3 split decision,

the board chose to make

site visits to all three of the

remember. Ocean Moore and her younger sister, Mariah turned the most recent Alto Festival (22nd) into

one they will never forget. Ocean Moore, a freshman at Lowell High School, won the title of Miss Alto while Mariah, eight years old, was

crowned Little Miss Alto. It is the first time in the history of the pageant sisters have won.

Caution: Recently released math and science test scores may appear to

Or ... Had previous the same criteria, they may have been just as high.

Jim White, Lowell as-"Ibegan writing down ing the second highest the construction of the new recent changes in the state seeking relief from put- sistant superintendent for what I wanted to do while mountain in the world . . . Murray Lake Elementary law, Lowell City Council ting in sewer and water curriculum and instrucdecides to move forward lines, stating the cost was tion, is quite sure this on a plan to check the city's simply too much for the year's students are not that much smarter than the stu-

> "The reason test scores are so much higher in math and science this year has Public Works director, property) where the de- to do with the way the new Dan DesJarden. In his re- velopment company plans tests were scored," White



Lowell's 70 & Older slow pitch softball team The Sportsmen captured the National Softball Players Association Championship in Plano, Texas. The club, coached by Ivan Blough, overcame a 10-1 deficit in the championship game against Oklahoma in pulling out a 20-13 win. The Sportsmen used a 15run fourth inning to turn the tables on its Oklahoma

Lowell Middle School

speaks only to the north-

As told by students and categories were labeled After almost two staff, the story is clear and

What remains unclear proficient. is the direction the Lowell Board of Education is steering, following a sec- reflective of the total num-Claiming it would cost ond week of interviews. While the interviews

category were deemed White suggests that the top category was not ber of students doing well.

Test results were

grouped into the top two

three categories were used,

In prior years, when

proficient/passing.

September 25, 2002



Layla Boggs was returning from Meijer with some picture frames for the apartment wall of her three-yearold daughter, Hailey.

"We were gone about an hour. We went to Family Dollar and then to Meijer," Boggs said.

The Lowell mother and daughter, heading home, were stopped at the corner of Valley Vista and Deborah where they learned their Lowell One Apartment was on

The fire started in the apartment below Boggs' Lowell fire chief, Frank Martin said the fire started underneath a bed. The source of the fire is undetermined at this time.

The call went out to the Lowell Fire Department at approximately 6:30 p.m.; Martin said the response team was on the scene in four minutes. "By the time we got there, however, the flames were already coming through the roof," he said.

With funding being too tenuous an issue to say "yes" to REGIS now, Paula Blumm doesn't want the Lowell Charter Township Board to say "no" either.

"I want to look for some alternative ways of buying into the Regional Geographic Information System, she explained. "I want the townships to keep the issue of REGIS alive."

Since the REGIS buy-in idea has not gone before the Lowell City Council, the city has not yet decided if it is in or not. Lowell city manager, Dave Pasquale said it probably won't go before the council for a couple of

Blumm proposed that the three governmental agencies (city and two townships) write a grant to the Englehardt Lowell Area Community Fund to cover the participation and operation fees for three years.

If that is accepted and the plan is finalized, the townships and the city could get involved in the program as early as next March.

Sara Poelstra describes her involvement with the Benjamin Morse Society as an opportunity to learn and understand what happened before she was born.

"To learn about the Civil War and the presidents, I found all of that very interesting," Poelstra said.

The seventh grader wasn't the only one. She was one of about 80 students who took a trip to Gettysburg feet. this summer.

It's the largest contingent of students to take part in the summer trip since its beginning in 1996.

Lowell Middle School students traveled to Gettysburg to visit the Civil War battlefield sites, President Dwight D. Eisenhower's home, the Gettysburg not open. Museum, and Hershey Park in Hershey, Pa.

The Benjamin Morse Society, however, is more than just a summer trip.

With the inception of the school club, Lowell Middle School history teacher, Jack Misner has been able to capture the attention of students through the study of American history.

There were 11 meetings after school. Students met every Wednesday for approximately an hour. The meetings led up to the trip in June. This year they focused on Gettysburg which served to increase students' devotion in understanding why those who fought were willing to give their last full measure of devotion.

Following a weekend summer visit to Lowell, Shari Jo Miller and her husband, Ned, both left with the same impression.

"Lowell felt like home to both of us," Miller said Following a Monday night announcement by the Lowell Board of Education, the school district of nearly 4.000 students will now be Miller's new home.

Miller, in a unanimous vote (7-0), was offered and accepted the position of superintendent of the Lowell School District.

Miller comes to Lowell, having spent the last nine months as deputy superintendent for instruction and

operations in the Lansing School District. Prior to that, she spent roughly 1 1/2 years as the associate superintendent for student achievement in Lansing.

The search process for a superintendent started last May following the announcement that Miller's predecessor, Bert Bleke was leaving Lowell to take the Grand Rapids' superintendent position.

Miller was selected from an original field of 29 applicants. She, along with Tyrus Wessell Jr., principal East Grand Rapids Middle School, and Robert Currie, Marshall superintendent, were the three finalists.

With the arrival of a large number of new kids this year, and with the student count exceeding the highest projections put forth, the Lowell School Board votes unanimously to begin the construction process on the new Murray Lake Elementary School.

Lowell's acting superintendent, Jim White said it will take two years to build; however, the district has already paid for the property, and blueprints of the new building have already been completed.

More than a year and several changes later, a developer will once again try to have the zoning changed on a parcel on which he is hoping to build 52 single-

Sundry Development, Inc., which has been working to develop the Highland Hills project located at 751 Grindle, will move forward to seek a rezoning and Planned Unit Development request all at once for the south end of the property known as the Leeman property. The company is planning to construct 52 singlefamily homes, which fall outside of the 31 allowed in the current zoning of the suburban residential property.

Les Cole, a Sundry representative, said at the meeting that his company would prefer to go for the zoning change followed by the PUD request to show in good faith that the company has plans to move forward with the project as intended. Lowell Planning Commission also recommended the company follow this procedure since the other direction would be to seek a variance, and commission members were not sure Sundry would meet all of the qualifications for a vari-

With little fanfare and even less public comment, Lowell Planning Commission unanimously recommends changes to the sign ordinance allowing sandwich-type signs in the city's central business district.

The planning commission has been considering the changes ever since a request was made by chamber director, Liz Baker, on behalf of the central business owners. The owners contended that such signage would help attract potential buyers to their stores.

Such signs were not allowed in any area of the city's business district. The new changes would allow business owners in the district to place one sandwich board, stand alone, or flag/pennant sign in the front area of their business. The sign cannot be greater than 12 square feet per side and the height cannot exceed four

The signs cannot be anchored to the building, but must be able to withstand the wind. They also have to be in line with the city's current flag poles and tree grates, and cannot block the sidewalk or create a safety hazard. The signs must be taken in when the business is

Changes in residential home construction as well as new driveway pavement requirements may be coming down the pike very soon.

Lowell Planning Commission considers two sets of changes to the city's ordinance: one deals with lot sizes and home sizes; the other with when a driveway has to be paved.

For the past several months, commission member, John VanderWilp has been reviewing the city's requirements for the R-1 residential district and the suburban residential district. He made some changes to his They were spread all over the board. recommendation in an effort to make the verbiage "less technical," he said.

VanderWilp proposed that in the R-1 district, lot sizes be about 9,750 square feet with a minimum lot width of 75 feet. In the suburban residential, he recommended lot sizes go down to 23,000 square feet with a 125-square foot minimum for lot width. VanderWilp to 917. said this would put the city more in line with surround-

He also recommended that a single level home in both districts be a minimum of 1,200 square feet with homes of two or more levels a minimum of 800 square lesson teachers and parents can teach their children. feet on the first floor and a minimum of 1,400 total. This would be for the dwelling foot print or livable space, but

would not include garage areas, which follow the building code, according to building inspector, Doug Hopkins.

October 2, 2002

Exposing children to a more diverse scope of celebrations has been met with a broad swipe of criticism from parents.

"The idea of changing the parties other than Halloween was in name only, according to Cherry Creek Elementary principal, Maureen Dorough.

In putting forth the proposal, Dorough said she made too many assumptions and should have used more avenues to communicate the plan.

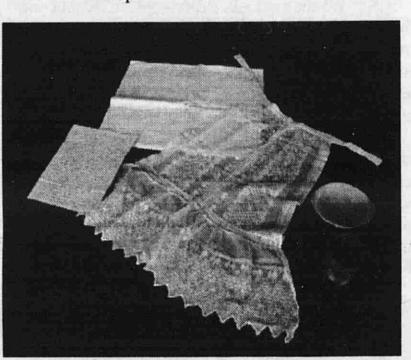
Talk of change initiated over the last year (2001-02) when Cherry Creek Elementary administrators looked at the Halloween party.

For the ninth time in four years, Lowell High School is left to mourn the death of a student(s).

"This is the most difficult thing to deal with," said Lowell acting superintendent, Jim White, standing outside the high school Thursday morning.

News came late Wednesday night/early Thursday morning of the accident. "I received a call at 2:30 a.m. Thursday," said Lowell High School principal, Scott Vashaw. "Our building has been hit hard with student deaths over the last number of years."

This phone call was concerning the fatal accident of Keith Krey and Brett Taylor who perished in a headon collision along Alden Nash Ave. north of 36th St. in Lowell Township.



The children of Hazel K. Stocking Kropf made a donation to the Lowell Area Historical Museum just as their mother had inscribed on the box on May 15, 1975.

"She had a lot of faith," said Lowell Area Historical Museum executive director, Judy Straub, in reference to the memo which was written 26 years before Lowell became home to its own museum.

The Kropf family are descendents of Rix Robinson, the first white man to settle (1821) in West Michigan. Robinson succeeded Madame LaFromboise as an Indian trader. He continued the business until 1834.

The gifts included an Indian bowl, carved out of a knot of a tree, which belonged to Ruby Robinson Sherman, Rix's sister.

The bowl and an Indian armband were given to Clarinda Robinson from the Indians.

There was also an apron and a homespun linen (1810) given to the museum including a letter dated Aug. 31, 1849, from Rix Robinson to his nephew, Samuel D. Robinson about the death of his dad.

Lowell incurred the fourth highest gain in student enrollment among West Michigan area schools.

The fourth Wednesday school counts were released on Sept. 25. Lowell student enrollment jumped 119 students

from 3,826 to 3,945. No single building took the brunt of the increase.

Alto Elementary jumped from 352 to 396 students,

an increase of 44. Bushnell Elementary went from 468 to 458.

Cherry Creek Elementary saw its student enrollment shoot up to 858 from 840 while the Lowell Middle School only saw an increase of five students - from 912

October 9, 2002

Bus safety may very well be the most important The state of Michigan thought so when it supported

Review, cont'd. pg. 33

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 32

a proclamation making Oct. 21-25 Safe School Week. It will be used to help heighten bus safety awareness of students and adults.

"It forces us to provide information that tells people what to do and what not to do in and around buses," said Lowell transportation director, Larry Mikulski.

One week a year hardly seems like enough, but Mikulski calls it a start.

For those who attended the retirement open house for Mike McBride, it was about being grateful for the service, smiles, laughter and packages the longtime U.P.S. driver has delivered to Lowell over a 27-year

Through the coordinating efforts of Vicki VanderWarf of King Milling, and Sherri Hildenbrand of Optech, an open house was held at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce in honor of McBride.

Dedicated athletes, work ethic and good coaching have changed the perception of Lowell athletics over the last eight years.

"There has been a change in perception. A belief has been built that Lowell can be successful," said Barry Hobrla, Lowell athletic director.

been greater than now. For the first time ever in one season, Lowell has

Never has recognition of Lowell's athletic success

three teams ranked in the top 10 of the state. Girls basketball team (11-0) is ranked second in Class A; the football team (4-1) is ranked third in Division II, and the soccer team (11-0-2) is also ranked third in Division II.

With cold weather approaching, the need for food and financial assistance grows within the Lowell

Flat River Outreach Ministries' charge was recently lifted on the wings of the Kent Radio Aeromodelers (KRAM) third annual charity fly-in.

The event raised \$3,534 for the Flat River Outreach Ministries program. In addition, it also collected half a pickup load of toiletry items.

KRAM is an R/C (remote controlled) aircraft flying club which has been in existence for nearly 30

The event, with 75-80 aircraft present, drew roughly 200 spectators. It was co-chaired by Matt Rose and Troy McClannahan.

The Lowell Area Historical Museum Board has scheduled 19 power point presentations between now and the November election to local organizations.

The presentations are to help promote support for a one-quarter mill to ensure continuous funding for the operations of the museum. The quarter mill being requested represents three

cents a day, 21 cents a week or \$10.78 per year over the next 10 years. The city currently levies 15.83 mills against tax-

payers. If the museum millage is approved, it would increase to 16.08. An estimated \$24,300 will be raised through the

millage proposal - \$20,900 of that will be used for museum operations and \$3,400 for the Downtown Development Authority toward improvement and maintenance of the downtown district.

The debate over school parties in Lowell appears to be over for at least this year.

The Lowell School Board, after studying information presented to it at a special board meeting on Thursday, Sept. 26, and discussing the issue at a workshop Monday night, recommended to acting superintendent Jim White that Valentine's Day and Christmas parties proceed as they have in past years.

"How the activities will be handled will change from room to room. Each teacher will make that decision," said Lowell board trustee, Kate Dernocoeur.

As for Halloween, the board recommended there be costumes but no parade, and that classroom activities continue as in the past. The board also suggested that the Fall Harvest Celebration, after much thought and Nov. 2. planning, still take place on Oct. 24.

intendent, the number of women school chiefs in the Kent Intermediate School District (KISD) climbed to "Typically over the last five-six years, that number has held steady," said KISD communication director,

With the hiring of Shari Jo Miller as Lowell super-

Ron Koehler. Of those three, Darlene Dongvillo (Grandville) is an acting interim superintendent. Miller, who officially



Over 500 people turn out for the Lowell Area Education Foundation's Friends of the Foundation Fall Dinners performance of the Wonderful Wonderettes.

starts Oct. 28, and Dr. Mary Leiker (Kentwood) are the only two permanent women superintendents in place in the KISD which is made up of 20 public school districts.

Recognizing a dearth of women superintendents, the KISD superintendents formed a diversity committee to work on developing more diversity for students and to look and recognize the need for and appreciating diversity in school administrators.

Statistics show, nationally, there are fewer women dustry - agriculture. superintendents than men.

"The reason for that is women have not held as many central office positions as men," Miller explained.

October 16, 2002

Valley Vista subdivision will receive the first phase of sewer line maintenance (televising and jetting of

The tentative date for its start is Monday, Oct. 21.

Lowell Light & Power customers will incur a 5.8 percent overall rate increase beginning Oct. 17. This is an average rate increase for the number of

different customer types and classes. "Some may be higher than that and some may be Sky" is a reflection of the LAAC's new stage of being

lower, but the average is 5.8," said Lowell Light & Power general manager, Tom Richards. LL& P anticipates that a 5.5 percent increase will also be needed in each of the next two years. Those

increases will be reviewed each year and could be less or more than the 5.5 percent. The three-year projected increase is 16.8 percent. The increase is needed to ensure rates will collect sufficient revenues for the utility to remain financially

The two hottest tickets in West Michigan on an

October Saturday are normally reserved for Michigan/ Michigan State football Based on the Spartans' 44-16 loss to Iowa Satur-

dislodged MSU from that perch. The hottest chili ticket Saturday was Dave and Lee Ann Abel's White Chili. It received top honors from the

panel of four judges. Dave and Lee Ann's effort earned them two tickets to the Detroit Lions Thanksgiving Day game against New England.

Pitsch Companies was awarded a three-year contract with the city of Lowell.

The solid waste, recycling and yard waste contract will run through 2005. Pitsch wrestled the contract away from Sunset

Robert Harlings' "Steel Magnolias" is showcased by the Lowell Area Arts Council's Thebes Players at

Waste three years ago (1999).

Larkin's Other Place. Under the direction of Jim Marron, the LAAC will offer both dinner and the play from Thursday, Oct. 24 thru Saturday, Oct. 26 and Friday, Nov. 1 and Saturday,

The play will be co-produced by Debra Duiven and Community actors with roles in the play include

Susan Veenema, Molly McGuire, Pasquale, Shannon Combs, Sally McAlpine and Judy Wills.

Lowell Area Arts Council and the Franciscan Life Process Center partner together to present "Breaking Boundaries with Pencil."

The unique exhibition legitimizes pencil artwork as

a fine arts medium and showcases pencil drawings that exhibit a variety of expressions.

Shari Jo Miller was offered and accepted the position of Lowell superintendent on Monday, Sept.

Four weeks later, the Lowell School Board and its new superintendent agreed to the terms of a

Lowell's school board approved a three-year deal worth \$120,000 a year at the October board meeting Monday night.



October 23, 2002

Preserving prime unique farmland in Kent County with the consent and permission of the landowners . . .

That is the charge behind the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program, an economic and conservation tool to protect valuable farmland that is economically important to Michigan's second largest in-

The voluntary program compensates owners of agricultural property for their willingness to accept a permanent deed restriction on their land, thus limiting future development of the land for non-agricultural

It targets economic, environmental and social ben-

efits while enhancing the quality of life and viability of rural and urban communities through the voluntary protection of valuable Kent County farmland. Lowell Area Schools and the Lowell and Alto

communities will be aflutter with gigantic butterfly sculptures created as part of Lowell Area Arts Council's 25th anniversary celebration - "Art Attack." The council's art project titled "More Than 25 in the

after 25 years of integrating the arts into the Greater Lowell community The \$118,500 project will be funded in part with a \$30,000 grant, and a \$10,000 challenge grant (individual gifts will be matched one-to-one, up to a total of

Community Fund (LACF). Lowell Area Arts Council's grant was one of nine, totaling \$153,950, recommended by the LACF advisory committee and approved by the Grand Rapids

\$10,000) from Harold Englehardt's Lowell Area



A meeting of 40 state police and post commanders at the Look Memorial Fire Station was an opportunity for many to view the new state police helicopter.Based at the Capital City Airport in Lansing, the \$5.4 million twin engine helicopter was flown to Lowell on Thursday by Captain Dan Smith of the special operations division. The helicopter enables the division to fly over water. "What normally took four-five hours because we couldn't go over water now takes two hours," said Smith. "It's a beautiful piece of equipment."

Individual and Family Lowell YMCA Wellness Center members have been given the opportunity to pamper themselves during a September and October promotion campaign

Approximately 120 Wellness Center members took advantage of free massages from Professional Touch Massage Therapy; hand massages from Sandra Fizer, and a free Mary Kay consultation from Cathy Dykstra.

The YMCA has also used the months of September and October to promote new membership by offering \$50 off the joining fee for adult and family memberships only.

The 2002 annual CROP Hunger Walk raised over

The 8th annual hunger walk garnered 200 partici-

The total number of dollars pledged places the Lowell CROP Hunger Walk at 99 out of the approximately 2000 National CROP walks across North America.

Locally, Senior Neighbors will receive over \$1,700 and Flat River Outreach Ministries will receive \$5,296.

Stating it really had no grounds to go against the recommendation of the Lowell Township Planning Commission, the Lowell Charter Township board voted to deny Bill Hedlund and Magic Real Estate's rezoning

Hedlund was at the meeting asking that the township board approve his request to rezone property located at 10451 Cascade Rd. from prime agriculture to rural agriculture.

Prime agriculture restricts non-farm residents while rural agriculture allows homes to be built on a minimum of four-acre lots.

Planning commission secretary, Dave Simmonds said while the property contains overgrown pine trees, it has not been demonstrated that the land cannot be used for agricultural purposes.

A Gowen man was killed in a two-car accident on Fallasburg Drive NE.

A vehicle, driven by David Minaker who was southbound on Fallasburg Drive, crossed the centerline, striking a northbound vehicle driven by Scott DeWitt, 29, of Lowell.

Both vehicles separated with Minaker's vehicle leaving the roadway and striking a tree. The 1991 Acura split in two and Minaker was ejected from the vehicle.

Minaker was pronounced dead at the scene. DeWitt was uninjured.

October 30, 2002

Lowell was one of less than a handful of schools in the Kent Intermediate School District to enjoy moderate increases across the board on its MEAP scores.

The scores, while just a snapshot in time, provided a "feel good" result. Appropriate approaches as teaching core areas the

way MEAP would measure was identified as a key.

Lowell girls basketball team recovered from its one-point loss to East Grand Rapids with two wins. Which begs the question - how will the Red Arrows

(14-2, 7-1) recover from their victories over Forest Hills Northern and Northview?

You say what? Yes, in the process of defeating the Huskies 52-36 and surviving Northview 36-33, the Red Arrows likely lost the services of their point guard, Kendra Gallert for the remainder of the season due to a knee injury.



Rick Fyan isn't sure what it is, but he wishes it would go away and leave his family alone. For the second time in two years, Fyan, his wife, Michelle and their children Kathy (11), Denise (8) and Fred (7) have had to escape a fire at their home at 318 Lincoln Lake Ave. Lowell Fire Capt. Steve Noall said the fire started in the garage located in back of the house. A year ago an electrical fire which started in the kitchen gutted the house.

For the third time in as many years, Lowell (16-2-2) won a district soccer title.

The 3-2 win over Caledonia did not come without increasing the heart palpitations of its third-year coach, Paul Legge.

"These boys are going to give me a heart attack. I swear they are doing it on purpose. They know I'm having trouble sleeping and that I'm having headaches," Legge said as he grabbed at his chest. "But they had the ability to pull it off. They got the result."

rived at Alto Elementary Monday morning, no door. differently than most of the 400 members of the student body - by school bus. Miller's first day on her new job started on bus 01-C. The superintendent was picked up at the Lowell bus garage and dropped off roughly 45 minutes later at Alto Elementary. Her "bus buddies" were prepared, as Arrows placed fifth a year ago; 16th two years ago and they and bus driver, Tracy Dean, designed and



district. Students were holding another sign outside Alto Elementary when Miller arrived around 8:45

A proposed planned unit development for the Leeman property will make its way to the Lowell City

The Lowell Planning Commission, in an 8-1 vote, approved recommending the Highland Hills project, located at 751 Grindle Drive, for a PUD with an R-1 rezoning attached to the project. The property is currently zoned suburban residential (SR). The new zoning would allow for 52 proposed single-family homes on the property versus about 31 under the SR zoning.

The city learned a lesson over the past couple of months: If you fill in a floodplain area, you have to make up for it some place else.

And city staff tried to do just that by altering the city's boat launch at Stoney Lakeside Park and creating a new floodplain for the one it filled in for the City Hall/ police station project.



Gail Parker thought her Lowell Equestrian program had its "Golden Moment" two years ago. Then came Sunday at the Michigan State Fairgrounds in Detroit in the Class C Division state championship. Lowell entered the final day in seventh place before mounting a most remarkable comeback in winning its first ever Class C Division state championship. Lowell won a Class A Division state championship two years ago.

The bad news: the estimated cost for reroofing two of the city's buildings is almost \$65,000; the good news s the city will pay about one-sixth of the cost.

City manager, David Pasquale, at the city council's regular Monday night meeting, said through grants from both the Look Memorial Fund and Lowell Area Community Fund, it appears the city will be able to repair the roofs at the city's fire station and the Foreman building. Both of these projects had been removed from the city's 2002-2003 budget due to a tight fiscal year.

November 6, 2002

As a way to commemorate the need for peace in the world, Lowell Area Girl Scouts donate a peace pole to the Wittenbach Center.

The peace pole was placed in Wittenbach's labyrinth garden.

Members of St. Mary's Girls Club passed on bitesize Snickers, Paydays, Milky Ways and Tootsie Rolls in favor of canned vegetables, fruits, meats and other nonperishable items.

These Halloween treats, which filled their bags and boxes, will assist the effort of the Flat River Outreach Ministries to aid the area needy.

On Halloween night, 25 of the 35 members of the

Lowell's new superintendent Shari Miller ar- St. Mary's Girls Club spent two hours going door-to-

For a second consecutive year, the Red Arrow girls cross country team garnered a top five finish in the state finals at the Michigan International Speedway. Lowell was fourth in the 30-team Division II field. The Red 18th three years ago.

November 13, 2002

Jenny Gunberg's game face is camouflaged in plain

The diminutive Lowell senior athlete's everyday face is her game face.

Don't mistake that for a lack of competitive fire ... her abilities belie that.

She is one of the top tennis and golf players in the

Gunberg, the golfer, placed second in the league meet last year.

Gunberg, the tennis player, has helped transform the Red Arrow girls tennis program from a struggling team to an ascending one.

Where do kids with BMX bikes jump when they don't have a track, everywhere as the Lowell City Council was reminded.

A half dozen young Lowell boys identified construction sites, businesses, cemeteries and most other places where there are objects to jump.

The youth attended the council meeting with Lowell YMCA executive director Will Welsh looking for support from the city council.

No hurdles were placed in front of them. The council voted in favor of a structured area at the identified Stoney Lakeside Park location contingent on a exit point if a time comes when there is not support for the track; there is an annual evaluation and that all insurance requirements are met.

A change order in the amount of a little over \$59,000 was approved by the Lowell City Council Monday night, but not without some scrutiny.

As Lowell councilman Mike Blough noted, "change orders always cost the city money."

It may have been an area resident running for governor, or the four ballot proposals or, in some cases, the local ballot issues ... whatever the reason, large numbers of Lowell and Vergennes township and city voters found their way to the polls on Nov. 5.

In Vergennes Township, 66 percent (1,661 out of 2,509) of the registered voters exercised their right to

Lowell Charter Township residents, along with the Posthumus factor, were pulled in by the home-based business referendum. Of the 2,000 registered township voters, 1,408 cast

their votes (62 percent). The city enjoyed a 49. 8 percent (1,327 of 2,663)

voter turnout on election day.



Alto Girl Scouts are collecting toys and books to be distributed by the Flat River Outreach Ministries this holiday season. Those pictured to the left, standing, are: Kendra Merriman, Samantha Moody and MacKenzie Fox. Pictured to the right, standing, are: Carissa Paiz, Kylie Jean, Kristin Reid and Cassie Rybicki. To the left, seated, are: Chloe Aalsburg and Danielle Bagin; to the right, seated, are: Laura Droog and Brianna Thomet.

Lowell Charter Township residents said no to the possibility of a special use permit for home based

The controversial issue gathered a lot of discussion and debate in the months leading up to the November election, but in the end, township residents voted down the referendum by 95 votes, 1017-922.

Review, cont'd pg. 35

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 34

Sixth-grader Cody Grimm was the first Lowell Middle School recipient of the Meijer "Dignity and Respect Award.'

Grimm was nominated by his peers for being a good, helpful and caring citizen.

For the honor, Grimm received a certificate and a \$25 gift card from Meijer.

Meijer will honor one Lowell Middle School row Stadium. student each month.

Students from seven high schools participated in the first ever Extreme LAAC/LHS Film & Video Production seminar.

The all-day event took place on Friday at Lowell High School. Speakers covered topics from editing and composition to script writing.

The seminar and group discussions centered on video production. It was organized through the combined efforts of the Lowell Area Arts Council and Lowell High School and gave students a taste of the many different aspects of film and video production.

Marla Mesler will paint on anything she can find. That's okay, because for nine years Christmas Through Lowell patrons buy whatever she paints or to McDonald's for lunch on Thursday, Nov. 7. draws on.

"Christmas items sell. They are a lot of work but a lot of fun," Mesler explained. They also help Mesler cover her Christmas expenses.

Mesler's items are unusual in that they are not on your everyday canvasses. Many of her paintings will be found on barrel slats and old window screens.

The small pen and ink drawings are more conventionally displayed in small picture frames.

Bids were taken in the construction of the new elementary school on Oct. 30.

The Lowell School Board accepted 30 bids as presented at its Nov. 4 night meeting. In all, the district received 174 bids on the \$10.023 million construction

tentatively scheduled for March of 2003 with the open- The company employs about 130 people. ing slated for the 2004-05 school year.

Eight gifts totaling over \$3,000 were accepted into the Lowell School District at Monday night's board of education meeting.

November 20, 2002



Ron Schell has only missed deer hunting season's opening day once since the age of 12.Schell first experienced the rush of opening day as a 12 year old growing up in New Castle, Pa. "In Pennsylvania you can shoot a gun at the age of 12, unlike Michigan where you have to be 14," he explains. "I missed my buck that day." His first buck would not come until pretty much been routine since then ... as has been his preparation. Three years ago, Schell was the second hunter to the Ledger office for the annual Lowell Ledger First Buck Contest. History did not repeat itself Friday morning, as an excited Schell was the first hunter in (7:40 a.m.). A little over two hours later he returned with his second buck.

It will be remembered as the double pass sequence that shuffled Lowell into the Division II state football High School. semifinals for the first time in school history.

Lowell, on the shoulders of all-state performer Mark Catlin and a stellar big play performance by its defensive unit, defeated Hudsonville in the Region II regional championship 22-13 Friday night at Red Ar-

On fourth and five from the Hudsonville eightyard line on a play action pass, Catlin rolled to his left and threw a pass that was deflected. The crafty quarterback caught the deflected ball and then had the presence of mind to avoid a tackler and find the fourth option (J.J. Wilder) in the front corner of the end zone.

Referee Randy Johnson said both of Catlin's passes were thrown from behind the line of scrimmage, mak- her last. ing the play legal.

The Alto Fall Fundraiser collected a little over \$8,000 in revenue from a two-week sales event in

Students were asked to sell Christmas decorations and wrapping. Those who sold a minimum of 12 items had their names placed in a drawing for a limousine ride

Russ Stoffers wasn't the quickest in landing a buck on opening day, but there's not a hunter in West Michigan who wouldn't trade places with him. Stoffers, who was hunting south of Lowell Friday afternoon, shot an 18-point, 150-pound (dressed) buck. From 125 yards out, Stoffers dropped the buck with his 12-gauge.

While the future of many manufacturing companies is still hanging in the balance, one Lowell company is adding more than a million dollars worth of

Root-Lowell Mfg. Co., 100 Foreman Rd., sought a tax abatement from the city on \$1.1 million worth of equipment, most of which has been installed in the factory. Earlier the company had gotten an abatement Groundbreaking for the new elementary school is for about a 7,000-square-foot addition to its building.

> The developers called it intrinsic; the neighbors called it intrusive. In the end, the developers won.

The Lowell City Council holds a public hearing on Sundry's plans to develop approximately 35 acres at 751 Grindle Drive, known as the Leeman property. The group sought and got, in a 3-2 vote, an R-1 zoning with a Planned Unit Development attached. The motion clearly stated it was of the understanding that Sundry would be expected to go back to the planning commission to work out the issues of the PUD. The new zoning would allow for the 52 proposed single-family homes on the property versus about 31 under the SR zoning.

In the scheme of the overall project, \$950 isn't a large amount, but for the Lowell City Council, the question becomes who is really responsible for it.

The amount in question comes from the summer

The alert, sharp and dexterous Alice Baut celebrates her 100th birth-



road projects that improved several city streets including Bowes, Valley Vista, N. Division and High as well as watermain improvements along Hunt Street. The overall project came in at \$459,255.34, about \$40,000 from the estimated cost.

Most of that estimated cost came from additions after relocating to Michigan in 1976. They have the council made to the project. The \$950 was the result of extended rental of the barricades and signage put on N. Division. Shaler Excavating, Inc. rented the signs while waiting for Ameritech to vacate existing power poles so the work could be completed.

November 27, 2002

A recent high school student survey conducted by the school newspaper revealed that 72 percent of the

students gave high marks to the food served at Lowell

"That's a better approval rating than our presidents' get," notes Lynne Kotarski, director of Chartwells' dining services at Lowell Area Schools.

Kotarski and her 27 employees serve 2,500 students a day, a number that continues to grow with each passing year.

She is a familiar face on the Lowell Planning Commission with her sharp comments and wit, and has certainly given the chairman, Jim Hall a run for his money ... even if it was just playful banter.

Elizabeth "B.J." Thompson ended the November commission meeting with her announcement that it was

November 27, 2002

Heart of West Michigan United Way has introduced 2-1-1, a new three-digit telephone number that will connect individuals to thousands of health and human service programs in Kent County.

Currently, Michigan is one of only 17 states in the country to implement the simplified 2-1-1. Kent County is among the first in the state to add this number.

She is a familiar face on the Lowell Planning Commission with her sharp comments and wit, and has certainly given the chairman, Jim Hall a run for his money ... even if it was just playful banter.

Elizabeth "B.J." Thompson ended the November commission meeting with her announcement that it was her last.

"I have enjoyed serving this commission," read Lowell city manager, David Pasquale from Thompson's resignation letter. "I have decided to step down. Due to health issues and traveling, I don't feel I could attend the meetings."

Hall said Thompson would be missed. She has been on the commission for 15 years.



In September, Leslie Crowley will venture away from home, embarking on one of life's most exciting experiences - college.

She is hopeful that her time at the University of Michigan will also include participating in a lifelong love - basketball.

Crowley, with her teammates and family watching, signed a letter of intent on Wednesday to play college basketball at Michigan. She will do so through the aid of a four-year basketball scholarship from the Big Ten

How much a part basketball plays in Crowley's college future will depend on the success of an experimental surgery she will undergo on Dec. 31.

The surgery is to replace cartilage tissue in her knee which didn't grow back following surgery in June of

With family watching, Lowell's Jacque Benedict signs her letter of intent to play softball for Central Michigan University next fall. Pictured, seated, left to right, are: Ronda, Jacque and Ray Benedict; back row are: Andrew, Art and Gladys Benedict.

A tough, balanced, good defensive basketball team won a Class A district championship at Rockford Friday night.

"This district championship is most rewarding because it represents and emphasizes team basketball," said Lowell girls basketball coach, Dee Crowley. "There were a ton of doubters out there when we lost Leslie

had no clue.

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 35

Asked whether or not he was cognizant of his

"I have a short memory. I forget my mistakes in

It was his play on Friday which will provide

In 1989, Mill Coleman (DeWitt) set a Michigan

Lowell's senior quarterback shattered that 13-

Lowell held the War-

record-setting performance, Mark Catlin said he

a hurry, and I put my good plays behind me," Catlin

long-lasting memories for the large contingent of

Red Arrow fans who witnessed Catlin's perfor-

High School Athletic Association state final record

year-old mark with 411 yards of total offense Friday

in the Red Arrows' 31-14 Division II State final

victory over Birmingham Brother Rice. It was

for single game total offense with 297 yards.

Lowell's first state football championship.

tice and during games to yards total rushing.

Showboat.

When it comes to de-

step aside and just watch

and listen.

well," Dean said.

Lowell's success was evi-

dent again in the Red Ar-

rows' 31-14 title win over

Birmingham Brother Rice.

mance at the Pontiac Silverdome.

(Crowley) and then Kendra (Gallert), but these girls showed tonight that they are tough and they are going to compete."

Lowell defeated Forest Hills Central 48-40 in the district final.

As a young, wide-eyed youth, Noel Dean made his first trip to the Pontiac Silverdome.

Following Lowell's 31-14 semifinal Division II win over Davison Saturday, Dean and his Red Arrows will make their first trip to the dome.

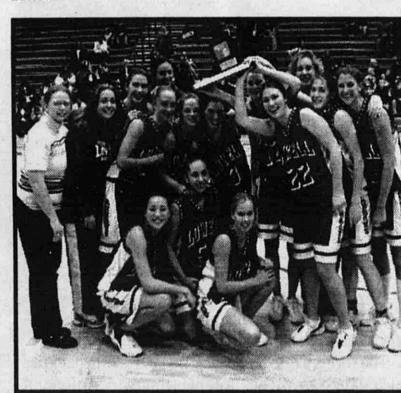
December 4, 2002

Hoping to create clearer guidelines on construction in the suburban residential and residential zones, the Lowell Planning Commission has set a public hearing on changes to its ordinance.

The commission unanimously decides to have a public hearing at its next meeting for the new requirements developed by commissioner, John VanderWilp. VanderWilp spent the past several months working on the requirements.

The Lowell Planning Commission took its first gander at a new open space preservation ordinance that is now mandated by state statute.

The commission reviewed the document, prepared by councilman, Dan Brubaker, for the first time, at its Monday night meeting. Brubaker said the purpose of the act is to allow clustering of homes in certain districts. The only district that falls under the requirement would be the city's suburban residential



The Class A regional final at Forest Hills Northern was where Lowell's memorable but bittersweet and injury-plagued season was supposed to end.

The mighty "Big Reds" from Muskegon, undefeated and ranked third in the state in Class A, would surely show these Red Arrows the door as they danced their way into the state quarterfinals.

To quote ESPN's Lee Corso, "Not So Fast." Muskegon entered the game known as the "Big Reds" because of the school nickname and its impressive play. It was the team dressed in red, though, which played big as it authored the biggest tournament upset this post-season.

Lowell, 21-3, overcame a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit to stun Muskegon (24-1) 45-36.

township also adopt an Board meeting, the bot-Open Space Preservation tom line remained nearly Ordinance.

Lowell Charter Town posed zoning ordinance amendment for open space preservation within the township.

The current snapshot ship Planning Commis- of the school budget shows years. sion approved the pro- the district will deficit spend in the amount of \$314, 848.

With the volatile state of a school budget, change torical



Harold Zeigler opened up his first Ford dealership 27 years ago.

He returned to that site on Tuesday (Nov. 26) as he helped celebrate the grand opening of the new \$1 million facility renovation in Lowell following a lengthy nine-month construction project.

The new look of Lowell's Ford dealership is similar to Harold Zeigler Ford's Elkhart, Ind., dealership and to the Chrysler dealership in precious with the unique fense, Lowell football riors' top rusher, Anthony coach, Noel Dean has been Jackson to 39 yards and

smart enough both in prac- Birmingham to just 100 guard and an Okemos quently than that. "Defense is all about creating confidence third-quarter burst to side- Lowell assistant su-He can do that because through repetition and line the determination, in-Coach Katt does a marvel- tegrity and character of ous job with that," Dean what has become known explained. "He organizes as Lowell girls basketball.

our kids in a way that they The Red Arrows, who defense. I tell you they every hurdle in their path ter," she explains. I make sure I treat him have confidence because this year, could not stop they know where the ball the inside play of Jennifer Katt's influence on is going most of the time Smith-Dewey and the pebefore the ball is snapped." rimeter exploits of Farai Chiwocha as Okemos de-Lowell Area Chamber feated Lowell 63-46 in the of Commerce's "Magic of Michigan High School Christmas" celebration Athletic Quarterfinals at will include a tall fish Lansing Eastern.

> A large mouth bass Contingent on receivsculpture created by ing its \$850 reimburse-Bearclaw Jack (alias, Jack ment from SBC-Eppinga), weighing Ameritech for expenses roughly 250 pounds, is on incurred by Shaler Excadisplay in front of the vating of additional traffic sign rentals, the city of The large mouth bass Lowell agrees to make its was carved for a client in final payment of \$850 to Chicago, but when com- Shaler to close out the N.

> a better fit on the Flat Holwerda Builders and the city agreed to swap Between the three small parcels of property coaches, they have a com- on Shepard Drive as part bined 69 years of coach- of a housing development.

pleted Eppinga felt it was Division Street project.

ing football at Lowell High It was later discovered, however, that Holwerda's For Mark Russell, Rob parcel is owned by the of dealerships in new specialty toy shop, McCormick and Bill city. The parcel is needed Greenville, Ionia and Low- Sand Castle Riverside Ingraham, after nearly a for access to the property. ell, believes successful car LLC. quarter of a century at

Lowell, it has always been bid process, Holwerda was about the next game. The awarded the parcel for a recently hired Lowell's feedback she's received Division 2 title game was sum of \$10 with the city Kim Foster to run his deal- from her customers. the ultimate next game. retaining any utility rights. ership at 2399 W. Main. December 11, 2002

Although Lowell in revenues and expendi- ell store ... someone with a Charter Township already tures from the time the familiar face and who is has an Open Space PUD budget was adopted prior involved in the commu- It is just the third in West Ordinance that was to July 1 and the amended nity. adopted, the state of Michi-budget presented Monday

It took an all-state for- occurs from day to day, ward, an outstanding point often- times more fre-

says the goal is to present an amended budget at year-end that is in the coach and I'm lucky to are prepared to play great have had an answer for black. "The bigger the bet-

Politics isn't the only



As part of celebrating 25 years of growth, the Lowell Area Arts Council has embarked on a public program in collaboration with Lowell Area Schools utilizing the beauty of the butterfly.

The butterfly art project has also served as an extension of the curriculum via teaching children about migration, symmetry and the life cycle.

Participating in the public art program, during the month of November, were first-, second-, thirdand fifth-grade classrooms from Alto.

This explains why he for the amount of positive

thing that's local.

Through an advertised dealerships are local too.

With all the changes one local running his Low-

Foster fills the bill. The

Cathy Staffeld has Randy Merren, owner contained the size of her The same can't be said

Staffeld is pleased but Merren wanted some- also surprised by the overwhelming reaction.

The specialty toy shop opened on Friday, Dec. 6. Michigan.

gan mandates that the night at the Lowell School Lowell resident is the president of the Lowell Athletic Boosters Club and has lived and worked in the community for seven

December 18, 2002

Renovation of old hisbuildings oftentimes uncovers the unusual.

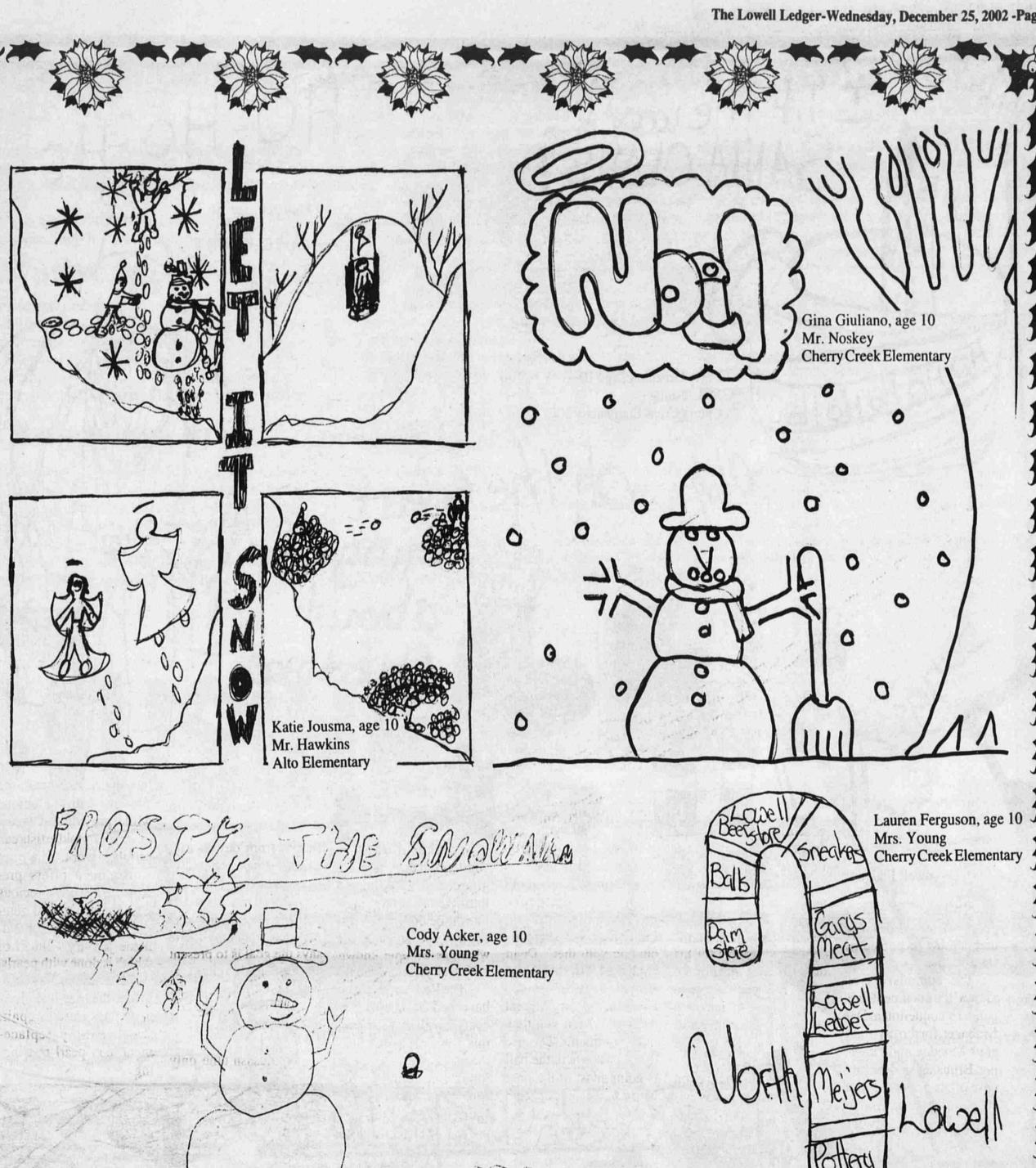
"All of the old buildings have their different twists ... some more than others," said Rick Davis, City Hall/police station project manager of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber. "We anticipated finding items and encountering some of the unusual ways they did

Ron Rowe, project superintendent of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, notes that it is a little over five months into the project and things are still on schedule for completion in July (2003).

Chimera Design mixes the practical with the impractical and the while providing a venue in which untold artists can sell their work.

Chimera offers precious and semi-precious gemstones, unusual gemstones along with handmade jewelry - much of which is done with pearls.

The new business also offers the practical - jewelry and watch repair, watch battery replacement, and pearl restring-



The Lowell Ledger

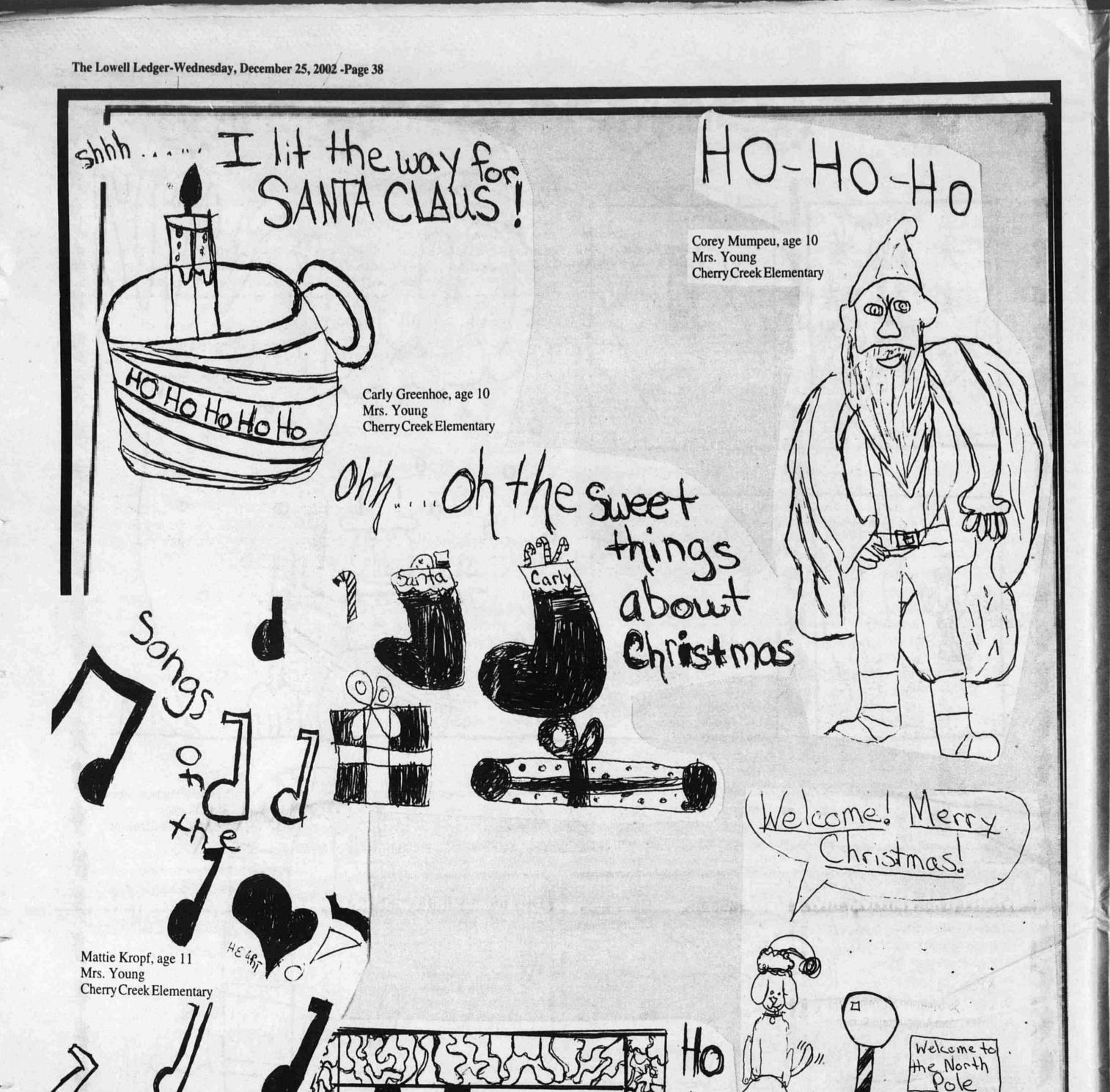
Luke Thompson, age 10

Mr. Hawkins

Alto Elementary

105 N. Broadway • Lowell, MI 897-9261

资在在在在在在在在在在在在在在



Mercedes Mason, age 11

Cherry Creek Elementary

Mrs. Young

CITY OF LOWELL

Nichelle Ortowski, age 11

Mr. Hawkins

Alto Elementary

301 E. MAIN STREET LOWELL, MICHIGAN 897-8457

Council decides to observe Martin Luther King Day

By J.N. Boorsma Contributing Writer

In a unanimous decision Monday night, the Lowell City Council voted to return to its former meeting schedule which recognized Presidents' Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Labor Day.

open that day. Mayor Jeanne Shores said at that time, she felt that since the offices were open, the council should have its meeting. This year, several of the councilmembers wanted to recognize the day and push the meeting back to the following

"I didn't realize it at the time, but if we hadn't had a Last year, the council voted to maintain its regular meeting meeting, there were several programs that I would have liked on Martin Luther King Jr. Day because the city offices were to attend that day," said councilman, Dan Brubaker.

The council's meeting schedule will be the first and third Mondays of the month, except for Presidents' Day (Jan. 22), Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Feb. 17), and Labor Day (Sept. 1). On those weeks, the meetings have been moved to the following Tuesday.

City manager, David Pasquale, with council agreement, recommended the council move its first meeting in April to March 31 so as to avoid a conflict with spring break. Pasquale said this means the council will have three meetings in March.

Innovative Ideas, cont'd... From Page 1

Tony Dubbink and Josh Hobrla received a \$250 grant for uplift their performance on screen and enable them to accua Lowell Middle School golf program. It will mark the first rately depict the battle, allowing them to obtain a false arm, time ever for such a program. The money will be used to buy fake blood and some costumes. course time and pay for an instructor.

Joshua Middleton and Tony Robinson received a \$50 grant for their Beowulf project. The funds will be used to

"The whole committee is pleased with what we received," Gillman said. "Many of the projects were creative and will affect more than a small group of students."

Gillman added that the student reaction and talk amongst one another have been great. The foundation received nine applications for the first round of grants. With all the talk, Gillman believes the second round of grants will produce

City Renovation, cont'd... From Page 1

Kent Street between Washington and Monroe from the Mid and the Look Memorial Fire Station. Both projects had been Michigan Railroad. The lot will become a parking lot for the cut from the city's budget; monies from the Look Memorial eventual expansion of the Superior Furniture Company. Also Fund and the Lowell Area Community Fund, however, made there was construction of a dumpster enclosure in the chamber the reroofing possible. of commerce parking lot.

were completed were the reroofing of the Foreman Building what direction the city is headed. At this time, he couldn't say

Two items not expected to be done this year but which city plans to start the budgeting process earlier this year to see

if there would need to be cuts, but "like other cities, we are keeping an eye on the budget." Pasquale added, how the budget goes next year will be a big accomplishment for 2003.

"It's hard to judge if 2002 was the busiest year for the A tight budget is a concern for next year. Pasquale said the city," Pasquale said as he summed up the year. "It certainly was one of the busiest."



Rich's Service Co. **Used Appliance Sales & Service** Insured* 20 years experience

Washer* Dryers* Refrigerators* Garbage Disposals* Stoves RICH CURTIS

(616) 897-5686 209 E. Main St. **Lowell, MI 49331**

BILL WHEELER

Certified Public

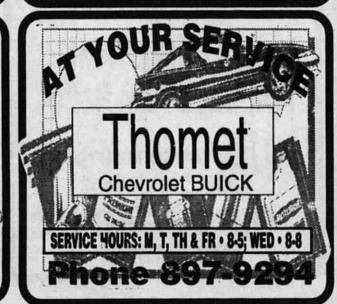
Accountant

616-897-771

103 Riverside Dr.

Lowell, Michigan

W.J. WHEELER MICHIGAN



Your "Close to Home" Rehab Center

first choice is to be closer to home. Choose The Laurels in Lowell.

LAURELS OF KENT

Call us at 897-8473

for information on how

Medicare can cover your rehab stay

350 N. Center • Lowell, MI 49331

• Post hip fracture rehab • Stroke Rehab • Balance Training • Home Reentry Program

How can you stay closer to your family, friends and home when needing inpatient rehabilitation care

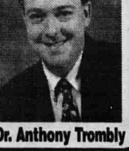
or transitional care between hospital and home? State to your doctor or hospital personnel that your

The Laurels of Kent Comprehensive Rehab Programs Include:

Auto-Owners Insurance Speerstra Agency Lowell, MI 49331 897-9259 (800)804-3322

☐ Numb Hands/Arms Sports Injuries ☐ Work Injuries See a Specialist and See Results! 897-4999

DOCTORS **CHIROPRACTIC**



Dr. Anthony Trombly

PREVIEW

JERRY HALE

PROPERTIES.COM

or 1-800-515-7763 Jerry is a full-time professional who will serve

JB HARRISON INSURANCE AGENCY COMPETITIVE AUTO RATES





Judy Harrison



REMAX SunQuest Peter Smith, Realtor

Call For Immediate,

Professional, Committed Service (616) 949-6980 Ext. 27 • (800) 800-3915 Ext. 27

(616) 460-6634 Cell www.realtybypetersmith.com



THRIFT SHOP CHRISTMAS HOURS

The Flat River Outreach Ministries Thrift Shop will be open Tuesday, Dec. 24 from 12 - 4 p.m. and closed on Christmas Day. It will reopen Dec. 26 and 27 from 12 - 6 p.m. and Dec. 28 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

FOODMOBILE COMING TO FAIRGROUNDS

The Foodmobile will be at the 4-H Fairgrounds, Foreman Building on S. Broadway on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2003 from 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. or until the food is gone. Bring your own box or bag. This food (mostly produce) is available to anyone. Distributed by Flat River Outreach Ministries.

LIBRARY BRANCHES' HOLIDAY HOURS

Library branches will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 25 and resume regular open hours on Thursday, Dec. 26. They will also be closed at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31 as well as New Year's Day on Jan. 1.

CHAMBER OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce will be closed from Dec. 23 - Jan. 1, 2003.

LUMINARY WALK AT WITTENBACH CENTER There will be a guided luminary walk on Saturday, Jan. 4

rom 5-7 p.m. at the Wittenbach Center. Rent snowshoes! \$10 adults, \$5 kids. The HS Environmental Club will provide Christmas tree shredding from noon - 4 p.m. and there will be live music by Lowell Music Ensemble.

ATHLETIC BOOSTERS REGULAR MEETING The Lowell Athletic Boosters meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. in the staff lounge at the high school.

VOLUNTEER DOCENT TRAINING

The Lowell Area Historical Museum is conducting a Volunteer Docent Training on Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. at the museum (corner of Hudson and Main streets). If you are interested in learning more about Lowell area history while providing a much needed service, please call Judy Straub at

SNOWMOBILER TRAIL MAPS

The West Michigan Trail System is marked and ready to ride. The Trailhead is Deer Run Golf Course where maps are available as well as at other sites along the trail. For more information call Flat River Snowmobile Club at 897-5015.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT JAN. 9 IN LPAC

The counseling staff at Lowell High School will have a financial aid night Thursday, Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center for students planning to attend college next fall. Juniors, seniors and their parents are welcome.

Laws are like sausages, it is better not to see them made.

Otto van Bismark

BINESS

ADVERTISE As Low as \$750

Call 807 000 **LEDGER BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

DIRECTORY



11930 E. Fulton (M-21) Lowell, MI 49331

inc.

Lumber and Building Materials

868-6026

6071 Depot St. Alto, MI

MIKA MEYERS BECKETT & JONES PLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Telecommunications Consultant

Phone 616-897-2045

NexTel 616-262-6102

Email: hpett@basiccom.com

Fax 616-647-4001

117 West Main Street Lowell, MI 49331

Ross A. Leisman Daniel C. Brubaker

(616) 897-3111

MASSAGE

★ New Patients Only ★ Certified Massage

Therapist ★ Doctor Supervised

Auto Injury, Neck And Back Pain Relief

All Insurance Accepted DOCTORS CHIROPRACTIC 897-4999

(HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING

 New Homes
 Replacements Upgrades • Conversions Etc.



1301 Bowes Rd., Lowell, MI 49331 Phone 897-4123



Great Rates! Great Results!

Service

Changes

REBASIC NEXTEL Diamond Dealer RE/MEX. · Considering a move? HERBERT PETT Interest rates are at an all-time low

I can show you how to get return on your monthly payment. Own your own home tomorrow. Larry Slotsema Realtor®

Advertise in This space The Lowell Ledger **BUSINESS DIRECTORY** 24 Hour Towing Flat Bed & Road Service Jump Starts

Lock Outs

Lincoln Lake Auto's Cell #446-5909

Fishing For A Great Advertising Bargain?

AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY O

This space in The Lowell Ledger **BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

City cleans a third of its sewer lines in first phase

By J.N. Boorsma Contributing Writer

and cleaned.

It will be about four years before residents in the Valley Vista area can expect the

director, Dan DesJarden announced the city was able to complete the entire area of Valley Vista before the

The city was able to clean about 13,383 feet of pipe as well as televise it for future the pipe cleaned, about 1,482 At the Lowell City Counfeet involved having roots cut cil meeting Monday night, out of the system. About 425 Department of Public Works joints were pressure tested with 288 joints failing the test and having to be regrouted.

to clean the city's sewer lines about \$7,000 was used for river, and the third year ev-

sewer lines to be rechecked reference, DesJarden said. Of Street, and then try to com-

The total cost of the

\$20,000 which was set aside project was \$22,965 of which railroad tracks and west of the money should go a little bit

and Center streets to Main allocates for the project is plete everything west of the railroad tracks next year. He

year, he hopes to clean and televise everything east of the pipes.

erything east of the river. Of DesJarden said the plan course, DesJarden said that is is for the city to work on West provided the money the city

each of those sections. said that would complete one ing to plan, DesJarden exthird of the city's sewer line. pects in four years the city will return to the Valley Vista During the following

further because you are not having to do the amount of repairs," DesJarden said, adding at that time the city should see how the cleaning process enough to cover the cost for is affecting the wastewater treatment plant. The process Ideally, if all goes accord- is helping to seal up the joints

so that groundwater is not getting into the system. area to clean and recheck the city has gone through an extensive cleaning and repair of "By the fourth year, that its sewer lines. The city coun-

cil decided to move ahead with the project, despite a tight budget, because of residents' complaints about the sewage backing up into their After the meeting, Des Jarden said the testing did discover a break in the line

This is the first time the

have affected the sewer backup in those homes. The claims for those homes have been resubmitted to the city's insurance company. DesJarden said the city also went ahead and had the line on Beech Street checked and

on Donna Street that could

Gymnastics' youth are served cleaned since there had also The future of Lowell gym- nastics coach, Michele but most of all have fun." been reported backups there.

nastics was on display Thurs- DeHaan. day night at the Lowell High School scrimmage.

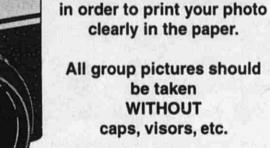
"These girls have come up through the program and first time they have comare now involved in the Low-

five through eight.

peted," DeHaan explained.

ell Area Community Educa- "Most of the girls were nertion gymnastics program," vous. I stressed to them to use said Lowell High School gym- it as a learning experience, Kaylee Yonker. Attention All Coaches, Proud Parents,

Athletes & Others Who Wish To Submit Photos In The Ledger... It is important that the



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

HAPPY 16TH

BIRTHDAY!

Fall Home Savings

ONE BEDROOM

APARTMENT

up to 2 person household

\$19,051 minimum income

1st floor, central court scene

30% gross annual income

\$440.00 month

plus electric (phone/cable if chosen)

BIRCHWOOD GARDENS

APARTMENTS

Call Debbie at (616) 897-8049

TDD # 1-800-649-3777

Professionally Managed by...

Medallion Management, Inc.

765 Hunt St., Lowell

MET THAT I AND STORY OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR

Love Mom & Dad,

Kelsey & Jill

subject's face not be shaded

Competing in the gym-The 10 girls are in grades nastics performance were Alexis Balczak, Kayleigh

"The scrimmage was the Jahnke, Cassandra Koster, Andrea Coffey, Richelle Kimble, Sara Tarchala, Tiffanie Curtis, Danielle White, Amanda Vezino and Each of the junior Ar-

> rows was matched up with an LHS gymnastics team member. "We called them gym buddies, sort of like a mentor," DeHaan said. The varsity gymnasts

have worked with their gym buddy every week for the past seven weeks, helping to prepare them for their performance. The girls competed on the beam and vault; two of the girls also performed on the uneven bars.



Week of 1/2 - 1/3 **ELEMENTARY**

MON: Holiday vacation

UES: Holiday vacation

WED: Happy New Year's

THURS: Chicken patty on bun or fish nuggets with breadstick, pears, Calif. blend vegetables.

RI: Mini corndogs or chicken gravy over noodles, breadstick, apricots & cherries, green

In Memory Of Mike Bergy Who Passed Away One Year Ago, December 26, 2001 If You See This Cutie December 26 Wish Her A



If Tears Could Build A Stairway

If tears could build a stairway And memories were a lane We would walk right up to heaven And bring you back again. No farewell words were spoken No time to say good-bye You were gone before we knew it And only God knows why. Our hearts still ache in sadness And secret tears still flow What it meant to lose you No one can ever know. But now we know you want us To mourn for you no more To remember all the happy times Life still has much in store. Since you'll never be forgotten We pledge to you today A hallowed place within our hearts

Lovingly Missed By, Your Wife, Susan, And Children, Travis & Blake

Is where you'll always stay.

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

DIGNITY & RESPECT

Lowell Middle School sixth-grader, Rachelle Kimble

is presented with the Meijer Dignity and Respect award

at the December board of education meeting. Pictured

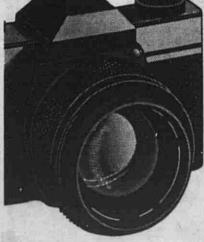
above, from left to right, are: Linda Warren, Lowell

Middle School Principal, Kimble, and Rose Adams,

Meijer public relations coordinator.

Lowell gymnastics coach, Michele DeHaan works with

Danielle White on the balance beam.



ubject's face not be shaded in order to print your photo clearly in the paper.

be taken WITHOUT caps, visors, etc.

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

It is important that the All group pictures should

Lowell wrestlers too much for Northview

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

or no drama, Troy Pitsch's him for the end of the year. "I and Brandon Kinney's six need to work on setting up minutes in the circled square better and being a little more were a holiday treat for wres- aggressive and physical," tling fans.

In their second meeting in less than a week, Kinney, 125 pounds, prevailed 4-3. Wildcats were Pete Serne the identical winning score (189) and Ryan Esbaugh he posted at Howell six days (215). earlier.

"Troy has good positioning and it's tough to clear his hands," Kinney said afterwards. "It's always a privi- Strejc. lege to wrestle good wrestlers. It prepares me for the the freestyle program, but did Mitchell Fassen; and Ryan end of the season."

one of 11 Red Arrow wins in was impressed with what he 11-0. Lowell's 52-15 romp past saw from the sophomore. "I

easy. Pitsch said matches In a match filled with little against Kinney help prepare Pitsch said.

> Making their 2002-03 wrestling debuts against the

"They are going to need a few weeks on the mat to get David Kropf, 119 pounds, 9into wrestling shape," said

was really impressed with his While losing is never balance," Strejc said.

> Esbaugh recorded a pin at 4:21 of the third period against Robbie Stinson.

"Our lineup is beginning to take form and people can begin to see what it's going to look like," said Strejc.

Other Red Arrows to register pins were Beau Wilder, 135 pounds, 5:08; J. J. Wilder, 160, 2:50; and Joe Mendez, 112, 3:11. Posting decisions were

8 against Nate Basel; Braton Lowell wrestling coach, Dave Fredline, 152, 10-6 over Randy VanderMolen; Ryan Esbaugh came up through Dykhouse, 171, 10-6 against not wrestle his freshman year. Karasiewicz, 130, major Kinney's decision was Lowell's coach, nonetheless, decisioned Maurice Hayes, feit.

Lowell will make its an-

Wildcats' frontline the difference in win over Red Arrows

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

A 12-4 run to end the third quarter and start the fourth put Lowell in position to rally past Northview Friday night.

a 58-50 O-K White victory at and stop it." Lowell Friday night.

"Jason is an awesome mid range shooter," said The medium range shoot- Northview basketball coach, ing of senior Jason DeBruin Mike Kapustka."I told the enabled the Wildcats to kids that Lowell would make

ANIMAL HOSPITAL

OF LOWELL

11610 E. Fulton St.

Bruce Langlois, D.V.M.

FAMILY PET PRACTICE

New Year's Eve 2002

DEER RUN GOLF COURSE

Doors Open at 7 PM - Limited Seating

\$10 Tickets Available At Greenridge Realty In Lowell

Beginning Monday, Dec. 16

PAR ENES TES PRESION

The Great Lakes Band

Evenings & Saturday Hours Available

Early Drop Off & House Calls

24 Hour Emergency Service

Science Diet Pet Foods

Boarding & Grooming

Seen The Same Day

Call 897-8484

Sick or Injured Animals

Complimentary Snacks -

A La Carte

Hors D'oeuvres -

Cash Bar

Mid-Life Crisis Was

The Opening Act For

Blood, Sweat & Tears

At Last Summer's

Cannonsburg Festival

weather the storm en route to a run and we'd have to step up

DeBruin netted six of his stopped the run, but it stifled 12 points in the final eight Lowell's top offensive threat in Sam Oberlin. The Red Arrow guard tallied a season low three points. Oberlin's first bucket from the floor came it's been.

with 4:35 to play in the game. "I switched off Zac

(Huizing) and Josh (Robach) on him. They are our defensive specialists. They are both Northview not only hard nose, quick players," Kapustka said. "They did a

> Lowell's defense, meanwhile, was a shadow of what at 38-25.

tremendous job on him."

"We didn't play with that same grit on defense that we have in the first three games." good job of taking away penetration. Tonight we gave up penetration. That wasn't Red

Arrow defense."

Northview scored a dozen points on drives to the bucket in the first half.

The Wildcats led 18-12 after one quarter and 34-25 at halftime. Northview's biggest lead came in the third quarter

"We didn't play real well defensively against East Friday night, but this is a big win for us," Kapustka said. "It's said Lowell coach, Jeff the best Lowell team we've faced since I've been coaching here. Coach McDonald has done a great job."

Zobro led Northview with 14 points each.

Mike Koster led all Lowell scorers with 10 points. Landon Trierweiler netted nine and Andy McQueen contributed with eight points. The win improved

Northview to 3-1 overall and 1-1 in the conference. The loss, Lowell's first of the year, drops the Red

1 in the league. Lowell travels to Middleville on Friday, Dec.

Family Dentistry & Braces Todd Gillan, D.D.S.

James VanRees and Tony



(across from Family Fare Shopping Plaza)

Quality Dental Care For You & Your Family

We Welcome New Patients

Early Morning & Evening

Appointments Available • We Cater To Cowards

• Free Evaluation For Braces

897-8491

2186 W. Main • Lowell We want to be your other family doctor!

NOW OPEN



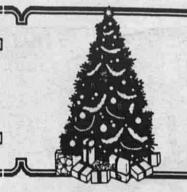
 FedEx • UPS • Packaging • Mailbox Rentals • \$1.00 Off Shipping

 3 Months Free Mailbox Rental with One Year Paid Rental.

Offer Valid through December 31st. Bring this ad in. One transaction per customer.



6749 E. Fulton St. Suite B • Ada, MI 49301 682-0300



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE ENTIRE LEDGER STAFF!

SERVICES

DOG & CAT GROOMING Sr. Discounts & Grooming Plans Available. Evening & Appointments Available. 10 minutes north of Lowell. 616-794-9614.

BOOKKEEPING SERVICE - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-

REMOVAL Uhen Construction 299-

TOWING - Servicing Lowell & surrounding areas. Flat bed & wrecker, Tire changes. Jump starts, Lock outs, 24 Hr. service. Call Lincoln Lake Autos 446-5909.

CLEANING BY KAREN bonded. 897-4010.

BRENDA B'S LICENSED CHRISTIAN DAY CARE has full or part-time openings. Food program. Please call 987-9351

BREAKFAST Homestead www.iserv.net/~mcgeebb.

Call 897-4290.

DUCED! - Queen, full, twin, (brand new), \$37 each, frames \$20. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.

FOR

REMODELING? - Adding an addition or fixing that old roof? We also do siding. windows, kitchens & baths, ceramic tile, pole barns, decks, concrete, water-CHERRY SLEIGHBED scapes & much more. Call Gorgeous, solid wood. bronze trim. Bought, never Contracting, Inc. Licensed & used, cost \$700, sell \$195/ Insured. One call does it all. best. 989-227-2986.

made, new mattress set. GRANT PROGRAMS Cost \$1,000, sell \$185, Call AMERIDREAM, HART, NEHEMIAH - 3 nonprofits will gift up to 7% to purchase your next home. No income restrictions. Call geous honey oatmeal, 50 Michelle at CTX (616) 464- yards, still on roll (bought, 1348/(800) 282-0325, ext. never used), new \$600, sell

tunity Lender. INFANT AND TODDLER CHILD CARE OPENINGS - Call the Lowell YMCA Child Development Center at 897-4371.

DIRECTV - mini-satellite dish, 1 receiver for \$1 or 2 receivers for \$19.99 w/free install. Local channels available. We beat all advertised prices. New subscribers only. Call for details. 1-800-405-9824 K-

313 for more info. CTX is

an Equal Housing Oppor-

Call Gary 299-6989.

FOR

GUN CASE - Holds 23 guns, 6' long, 6' high; sliding glass doors w/ locking cabinets. Made out of oak, a nice piece of furniture. Paid \$1,000 will take \$400. Call 897-

Redman, 28x56, 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Sale priced \$27,999. Great condition. Call North Harbor Homes, 1-800-824-9811.

1/2 acres, Vergennes TURED HOMES - Repos-Twp., Lowell Schools. \$43,900. Call 897-0544. MATTRESS PRICES RE-

QUEEN LOG BED - Amish

\$225. 517-204-0600.

MAPLE BUNK BEDS - 10 sets only. Can be separated, comes with mattresses. \$79 till gone. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-

WASHER, DRYER, RE- LOWELL 1 APARTMENTS - serviced, warranteed month of December, (Whirlpool), \$67 each. \$99.00 Deposit. Come Dennis Distributing, 989- check out our newly reno-224-4822.

Bellamy Rd & Bradford, Ionia. We have 1 parcel left. Enterprise Dr., Lot K. For further information call Phil, 616-367-4900.

Hwy. Like new on 3 wooded acres. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2-stall garage, large kitchen & utility room. Includes all appliances: stove, fridge, dishwasher, washer/dryer & air cond. Over 1300 sq. ft. 100% financing, \$690/ month. Only \$109,900. Call Herb 897-1438 ext. 2.

FOR SALE BY OWNER - 3 DISCOUNT MANUFACoffered at discount prices. Double and single wides. Some like new. Some fixer uppers. Financing available. All offers considered. North Harbor Homes 800-824-9811.

FOR

PILLOWTOP MATTRESS 1986 REDMOND EMPIRE SET - Plush top, firm in -14X703 bedroom, 1 bath, middle, queen, \$175 & washer, dryer, stove, rekings \$275. Still in plastic, frigerator, dishwasher & cost \$800. Call 517-719- central air. 8X12 storage shed and 8X8 deck, newer windows. Has to go! \$4,000 obo. Call 691-8292 leave

> BED - Vinyl covered, (clean). Good for quest room, has frame, headboard, \$88. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY - Land, 1-80 acres, w/shed, barn or other outbuildings. 446-

- Move In Special for the vated 2 bedroom apts. Rent 897-7135. Equal Opportunity Housing.

bedroom trailers \$1,000 \$1,050 to move in. No dogs please. \$400 - \$420 per mo. Call 813-8041 or 616-754-

NEED WEDDING INVITATIONS? STOP BY & CHECK OUT ONE OF OUR CARLSON CRAFT BOOKS!

Many styles to choose from in many different price ranges! Lowell Ledger 105 N. Broadway 897-9261

HELP

HELP WANTED - Fun and enthusiastic people needed to fill part-time positions at the Lowell YMCA Child Development Center. Positions available include cook and teacher aides. Wages based on education and experience. Apply in person at: YMCA Child Dev. Center 404 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331.

REQUIREMENTS: pneu-

matic and electrical repair

experience, 7-10 years

previous assembly line

maintenance, and ability to

work under strict time con-

straints necessary. To be

considered you must be

able to represent the com-

pany in a professional man-

ner and work well with oth-

ers. We offer a competitive

benefits package. If you

quirements, please submit

your resume to: Root-

Lowell Manufacturing Co.,

1000 Foreman Rd., P.O.

Box 289, Lowell, MI

49331-0289 or e-mail your

ssemrau@rlflomaster.com

LOCAL APARTMENT

COMMUNITY - is accept-

ing applications for a full-

time cleaning person. Must

be dependable and self-

motivated. Must be able to

work independently. Hous-

ing may be available. Call

897-7135 or 642-6830.

Equal Opportunity Em-

ployer.

MAINTENANCE MANwe have you in our AGER - We have an immediate opening in our Main-Sadly missed by tenance Department for the wife Marie. above position. This perchildren, son is responsible for the grandchildren and maintenance of our assemgreat-grandchildren bly line equipment. Some building and grounds maintenance may be required.

keepsake,

IN MEMORY OF MIKE BERGY

MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM -

In loving memory

of our dear husband,

father and grandfather

passed away

December 23, 1991.

Your memory is our

with which we never

God has you in His keep-

Glenn Rickert who

who died one year ago December 26, 2001 You left us so suddenly, one year ago, And the world seems so different since you've been

The life and love you can never be replaced

There is a void within no one else could ever

The tears still flow and thoughts of you still come rushing to

our minds. But listening to our there is still a treasure

that you left behind. Even with your passing, your spirit fills our

Even though we may be lonely, we will never be alone Thoughts of you will al-

ways light up our lives Dad and Mom, Tim, Teri, Kari, Tom, Brenda, Dakota, Tana

WE SHIP UPS AT THE LEDGERI





Brandon Kinney decisioned Troy Pitsch 4-3 in Lowell's 52-15 win over Northview.

Bobby Gingerich (145) both without three starters because be better down the road."

won their matches via the for- of injuries," said Northview coach, B.J. Schroder. "We're nual trek to Grandville (Sat-"We lost eight starters going to be better down the urday, Dec. 28) over the Kevin Frazier (140) and from last year's team and are road. Lowell is also going to Christmas holiday break.

PAYROLL

Driveways, roofs, sidewalks, etc. Reasonable rates. Call

1249.

Too busy? Too tired? No problem! Residentail & commercial cleaning. Insured &

Gracious accommodations for your out-of-town guests.

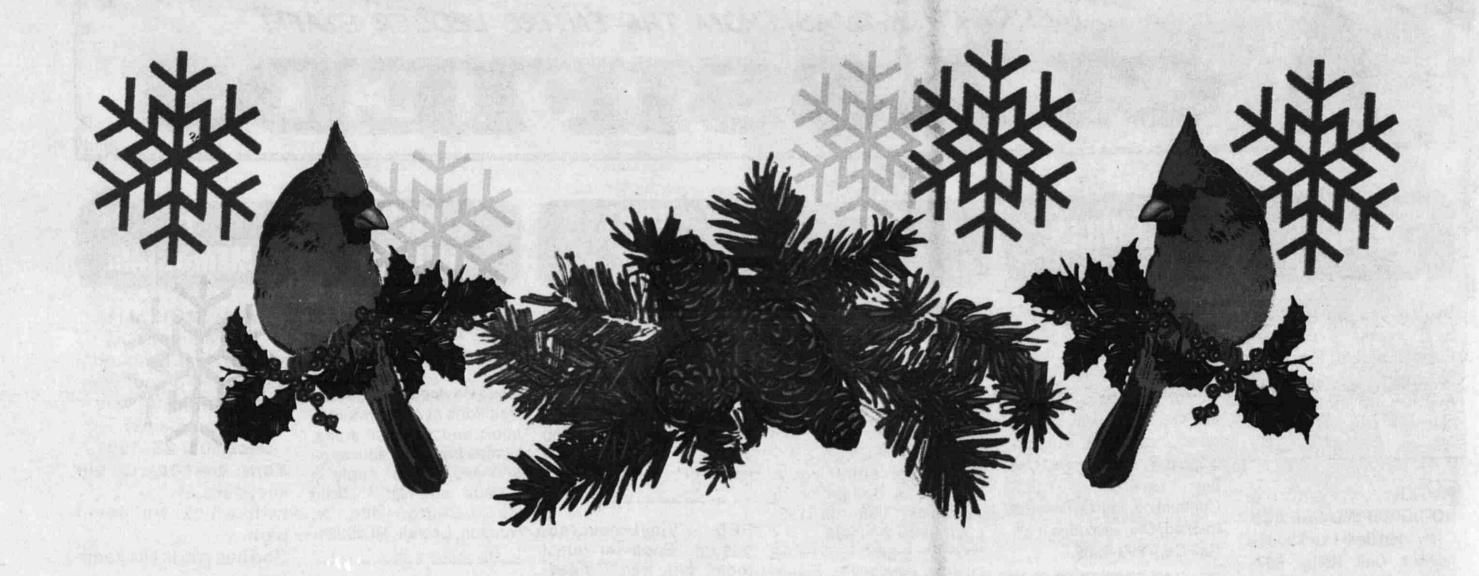
> RESIDENTIAL PLUMBER Service or new construction, reasonable rates. Call 897-2575.

HORSESHOEING & HOOF TRIMMING - Serving the Greater Kent/Ionia County area with 15 years of professional, full-time experience

> **PLEASE** NOTE:

In order to advertise

daycare or babysitting, the State requires a license number on file at the newspaper. If you do not have a daycare license, we cannot place an ad for you. If you are a teenager willing to do babysitting you can run an ad, but must state you are a teenager.



The beauty of nature. The company of family and friends.



What precious gifts this season brings.



Wishing you a wonderful holiday season.



On Any **Service Call!** VALID FROM 1/10/2003

THRU 1/31/2003



SAVE \$150°°

On New **Furnace Or AC**

VALID FROM 1/10/2003 THRU 1/31/2003



SAVE \$350°°

On New Furnace & AC Package with Puron AC

VALID FROM 1/10/2003 THRU 1/31/2003



SAVE \$250°°

> On 90I **Furnace!**

VALID FROM 1/10/2003 THRU 1/31/2003







Owner Licensed • Insured • Free Estimates. Serving The Area Since 1984

1301 Bowes Rd. Lowell, MI 49331 (behind McDonald's)

897-4123 OF TOLL FREE 866-81

www.heatingcoolingonline.com • e-mail: info@heatingcoolingonline.com