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# 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 eight-inch 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



## 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.

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# COMING EVENTS

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

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

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

**EVERY MON.:** Lowell High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Friends - meets from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in members' homes. Call 676-1355 for details.

**SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH:** Fallasburg Historical Society holds monthly board meeting at chamber office at 7 p.m. Public invited. 897-7161.

**SECOND MON. OF EACH 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 Historical Museum at 84th and Alden Nash, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

**FOURTH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH:** American Legion Clark-Ellis Post 152 at 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 1ST MON.:** V.F.W. Post #8303 (men only) meets at 7:00 p.m.

**EVERY MON.:** Boy Scout Troop 102: boys 11 & up or completing 5th-grade, meets 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Scout Cabin on N. Washington St. Call Terry 868-6481.

**1ST & 3RD TUES.:** Diabetic Support group meets at Schneider Manor Community Room at 9:30 a.m. ?'s call 897-2760.

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

**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 248-2423.

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

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

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

**EVERY 1ST & 3RD TUES.:** Lowell Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson St.

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

**EVERY 1ST TUES.:** Adults w/ AD/HD Issues Group meeting: Calvin College #206 of the Commons bldg. Connie 942-6887.

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

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

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

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

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

**EVERY WED.:** Lowell 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.

**EVERY FOURTH WED.:** 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 Sister Colleen F.S.E. at Franciscan Child Development Center, 897-7842.

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

**THURS.:** Weight Watchers at Lowell Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington, 5:30 & 7 p.m. Register 1/2 hr. before meetings. New members invited 1-800-651-6000.

**EVERY THURS.:** Saranac Area Musicians and Singers: Saranac High School, Choir - 6:30 p.m./ band - 7:30. Kathy 897-5981.

**EVERY THURS.:** Pottery classes at Franciscan Life Process Center from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. \$10/hour/ \$15 for two. 897-7842 for info.

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

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

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

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

**EVERY 3RD THURS.:** Rubber stamping group at Christian Life Center 6-9 p.m. Create cards, scrapbooks, etc. Share supplies. Call Dawn 862-8841.

**EVERY 3RD THURS.:** VFW #8303 Ladies Auxiliary: 3 p.m. at Schneider Manor Community Room.

**EVERY THIRD THURS.:** Parents Supporting Parents group at Franciscan Life Process Center: discussion 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, 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 support for pregnant & breastfeeding women. Nursing children welcome. Adachurch. Call 752-8300.

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

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

**SECOND SAT.:** Lowell Amateur Radio Club at Lowell High School 9 a.m. social gathering; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors the 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

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

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

**FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT SHOP HOURS:** Wed.-Fri.: 12-6 p.m.; Sat.: 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. 519 E. Main St. 897-2037.

**ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS:** Mon.-Wed., 12-8 p.m.; Thurs. - Fri.: 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.: 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. 200 N. Monroe St. Call 647-3920.

**LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL:** Open Tues., Wed. & Fri.: noon - 5 p.m.; Thurs.: noon - 7 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. 149 S. Hudson. Call 897-8545.

**DEC. 23 - JAN. 1:** Chamber of Commerce office will be closed during the holidays.

**THURS., JAN. 2:** School resumes: Lowell students.

**SAT., JAN. 4:** Luminary Walk, 5-7 p.m. at Wittenbach Agriscience Center; snow shoes available; guided hike; live music 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 fall. Juniors, seniors and their parents are welcome. Put on by Lowell High School counseling staff.

## CITY OF LOWELL 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. **THURS.:** 9 a.m. Walk/Shop at the Malls; 9:30 Crafts; 1 p.m. Euchre.

**TUES.:** 8:30 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall. 1 p.m. Bible Study.

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

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

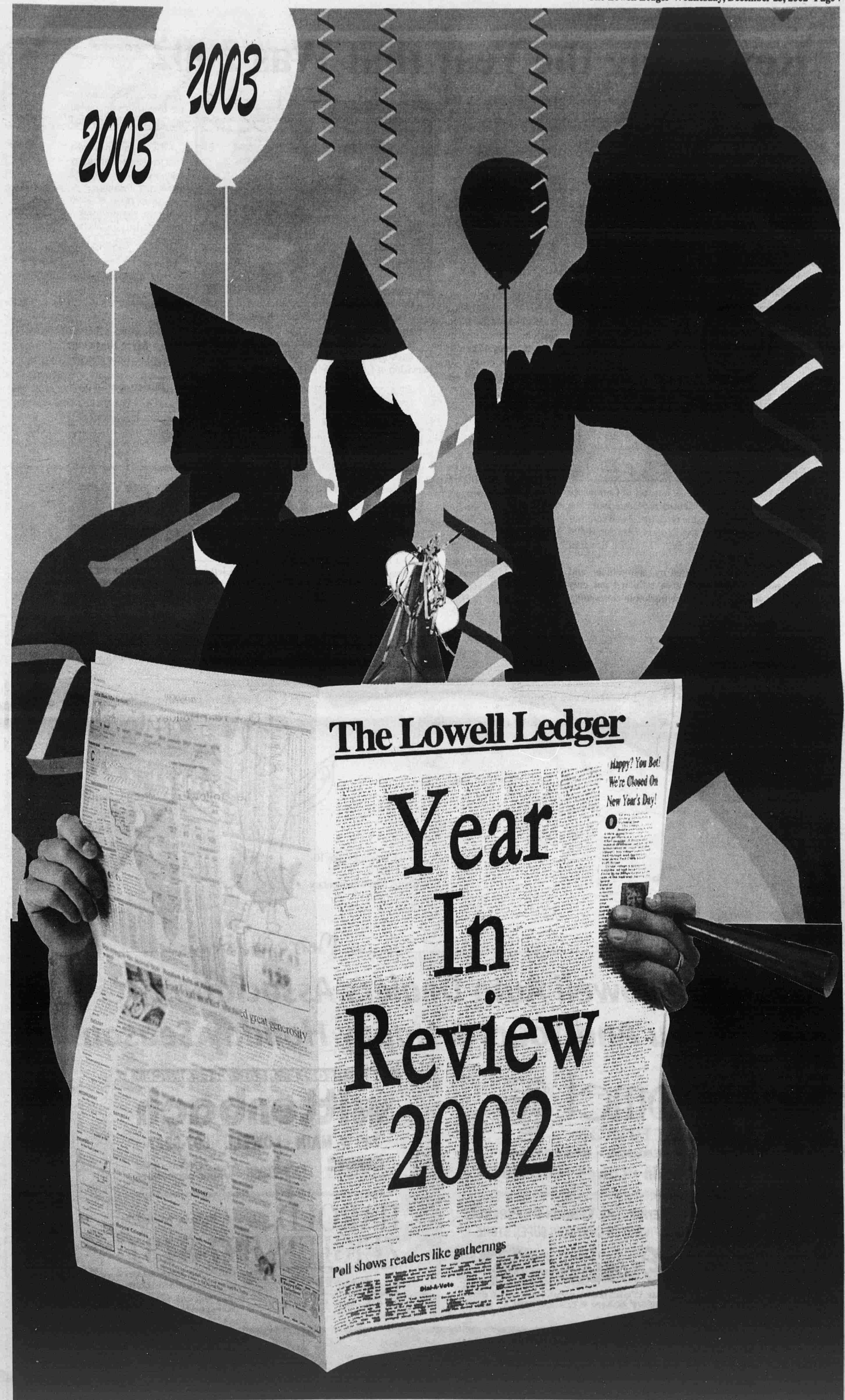
**WED., DEC. 25:** Center Closed. Merry Christmas!

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

**THURS., DEC. 26:** Center Closed.

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

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



# Reviewing the Year that Was 2002

January 2, 2002

There is the age-old philosophy that you never know what the answer will be until you ask.

At least for Lowell area resident, David Pedley who knew it couldn't hurt to ask if the city would help fund a new backboard system for the tennis program at the high school, where residents also play the sport.

While the city council did recognize that tennis is a life-long sport, the group expressed concern at funding something not directly within the city limits.

The Lowell City Council's 2002 meeting schedule will include the council meeting on Martin Luther King Day. The council traditionally meets the first and

third Mondays of the month, except in observance of holidays such as President's Day (this year Feb. 18) and Labor Day (this year Sept. 2) when it meets the Tuesday after. For the past several years, this included the council postponing its regular Monday night meeting in observance of Martin Luther King Day (this year Jan. 21).

Council member, 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 Planning Commission had a few loose ends to wrap up before the end of the year which included giving the OK for a law office to move to Main Street and setting a special meeting for a local church seeking a special use permit.

Tim Haynes came before the planning commission at a special meeting Dec. 17, seeking approval to move his law office to 617 W. Main St., the



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.

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

former residence of Mike and Kim Harding. Earlier, a local beauty salon had approached the planning commission about the same site.

The proposed budget for the 2002-03 Lowell Charter Township fiscal year (begins April 1) shows a little less than a five percent increase over the 2001-02 budget.

The proposed \$603,630 budget includes



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 West Michigan bowlers.

# 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 a \$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 all-important - the votes all count the same."

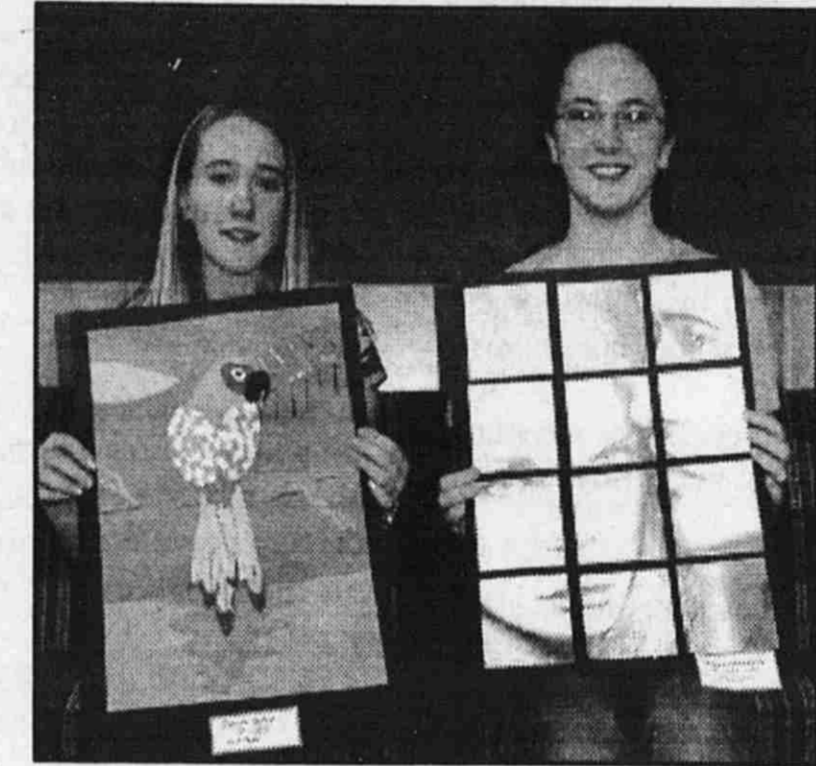
The longtime Lowell resident is beginning her ninth year as a member of the city council. She also

served on the city's planning commission for 12 years.

Lowell's 11th mayor since the position was first established in 1960 thanked family, friends and members of the council for their support. She recognized former mayor, Bill Thompson for encouraging her to serve in the community.

A recommendation by the local Officers Compensation Commission to make salary increase adjustments for the mayor and city councilmembers was turned down by the city council.

The recommendation would have increased compensation for 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 pastels, 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 position.

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

sum of \$720 to \$1,000 a year.

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

The last increase approved by the commission came on Dec. 11, 1991.

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

Through the cooperative effort of the city's Parks and Recreation Board and Kent County Youth Fair Board president, Ron Wenger, an outdoor skating rink has been put in at the park.

"There is skating from sun up until 10 at night," said Parks and Recreation Board chairman, Perry Beachum.

Open skating is reserved for Wednesdays from 6 until 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 2 until 5 p.m.

"The only stipulation we've made on its use is that hockey not be played

during these times," Beachum said.

January 16, 2002

The room once was a place where patrons went to pick up their children; now it's a place where bowlers will pick up their new bowling bag and ball.

Mike Horian's Pro Shop now occupies a 40-by-32 square foot room inside Lowell Lanes.

With the increasing number of bowlers due to the 41 winter leagues, there's a demand for the shop.

The pro shop is a dual venture between Horian and Lowell Lanes' owner, Jack Thomet.

All that stands between a bistro's realization of an outside cafe at 201 E. Main are the input and support of the Downtown Development Authority.

Greg Gilmore, of Gilmore Enterprises, received support from the city council to purchase city property, to square

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NOEL

Merry Christmas

Kait Cummings, age 10  
Mr. Fillman  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Elissa Lorentz, age 11  
Mr. Keglovitz  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**The Lowell Auto Dealers Association**  
Wish You And Yours A Happy Holiday Season

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Hannah Hodges, age 11  
Mr. Bredin  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**LOWELL YMCA**  
323 West Main, Lowell  
PHONE 897-8445

We build strong kids,  
strong families, strong communities.

**HAPPY Holidays**

TIS THE SEASON

And a pony, and a job...

I hate my job...

John W., age 11  
Mr. Bredin  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**James Reagan, D.D.S.**  
207 W. Main, Lowell, MI 49331  
Ph. 897-7179

# Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 9

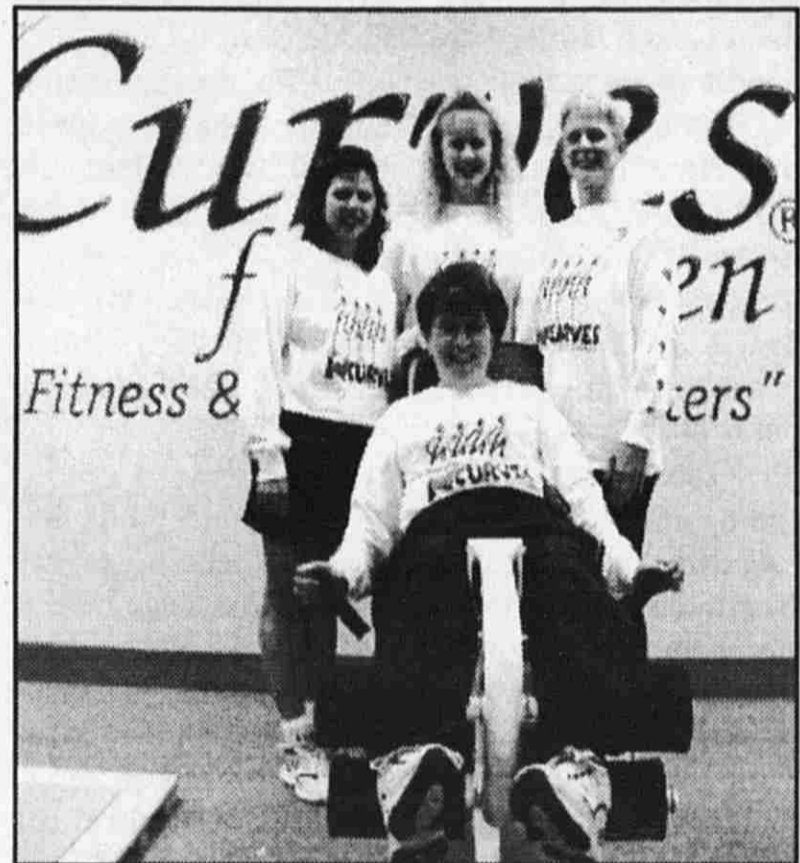
off its lot line and to attain an easement for an outdoor cafe for approximately 50 customers.

The patio will be fully enclosed with a wrought-iron fence or something approved by the DDA, and it will be removable.

Purchase of city property and an easement would extend the patio out 12 feet from the building, and 80 feet from the northwest corner to the southwest corner.

The city of Lowell will have in excess of \$30,000 available to it in federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds beginning July 1.

Lowell city manager, Dave Pasquale recommends



Curves opens its doors for the health conscious women in the Lowell area Curves, a women's fitness and weight loss center, serves 250 women in the Lowell area.

the funds be used to replace inadequate sidewalk (474 lineal feet) on North Hudson Street's west side from West Main to the north city limits. Funds will also be used to install 765 lineal feet of new sidewalk.

Pasquale proposes that \$4,000 be used to assist North Kent Transit in providing rides for senior citizens and handicapped riders.

Another \$10,000 of the CDBG funds is tentatively to be allocated to assist with replacing the roof at the Graham building (Lowell Area Historical Museum/YMCA office). The cost to install a new roof is \$40,000.

As part of the summer Downtown Development Authority improvements, the boat launch was moved from Avery Street to just south of Unity High School. While the new site is within the High Street right-of-way, parking in the Riverwalk area is within the Lowell Area School's property.

Thus, the city sought and received an easement 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 development project.

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 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-

opment. "I was unaware of the problems with the cement trucks. I will talk to the sub-contractors about that," he explained.

Lloyd Ritzema, of 829 Shepard Dr., raised concerns about the number of new curb cuts put in on the street.

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 gone from using property tax to sales tax to fund education.

Monies available for schools for the upcoming 2002-03 school year are reduced from what had been expected due to the recession.

Bert Bleke, Lowell Schools superintendent, and 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.

"It's something greater than ourselves," he explained after being presented with the North Country Trail Association's (NCTA) Vanguard award.

The award is given to public officials who have made significant contributions in helping



with the progress of the trail.

"Senator Levin has always been willing to come to events and raise money for the trail," said NCTA executive director, Bob Papp.

# 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 categorical (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 combat.

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.

Greg Gilmore goes before the DDA with his proposal to purchase some city property that would extend the patio area for the proposed bistro at 201 E. Main by

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 from its auditors.

Representatives of the accounting firm, Biggs, Hauserman, 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 increasing by \$47,000 to \$4,217,000. Expenses were up by \$121,000 to \$4,188,000. The next revenue for Lowell Light and Power for the year was \$192,000.

Lowell Cable Television also had a good year, despite losses, Turnes said. The revenue was up by \$80,000 to \$860,000. Expenses were also up by \$28,000 to \$925,000. This meant a loss of \$61,000 for the year.

A positive for the cable 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 and expenses at about \$1,968,000. The net income is about \$921,000, which from the last year shows good improvement and good fiscal responsibility for the city.



Nancy Heatley's Life Center Life Skills program instructs her EMI students through classroom projects on the hows of cooking, independent living, setting goals, communicating and getting along with others. The cooking part has been difficult due to a lack of equipment. The limited equipment has been brought in from Heatley's home. That all changed on Thursday, Jan. 17 when Heatley's request for funds to purchase cooking supplies was answered by the Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation. Through the foundation's innovative grant program, Heatley received \$400.

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

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

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 adopted?



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 acquaintances."

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

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 post-secondary 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.

What? No Tree?  
Merry Christmas!

Joe McCorkle, age 11  
Mr. Hawkins  
Alto Elementary



Noel



Noel

Jenna, age 11  
Mr. Noskey  
Cherry Creek Elementary



**ICNB** 897-6171  
Hometown Banking

MEMBER FDIC

LOWELL TOWNSHIP HALL  
2910 Alden Nash South  
897-7600



# Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 13

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-square-foot building on the property that would add about four to five retail spaces to the area.

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

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 the strong regional field that 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.

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 to it.

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

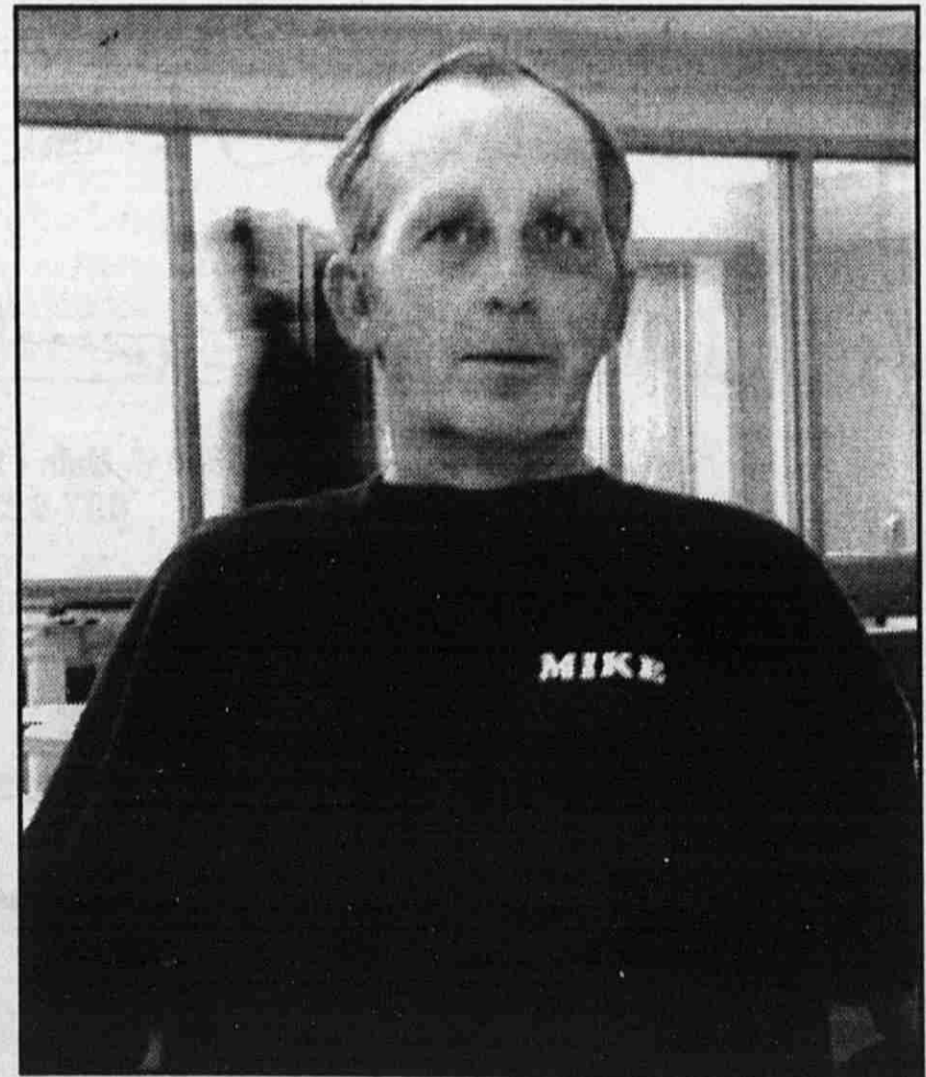
Lowell's City Council adopted a resolution authorizing publication of the intent and related action of bonds not exceeding \$4.8 million. The bonds are proposed to be sold by late spring.

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.

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 team.

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 pounds.

Freshman Joe Mendez, 103 pounds, won a state title as well as Brandon Kinney, 119.

Senior Ben Fleet (215) and Bobby Gingerich (140) were runners-up.

Ben Vaught, heavyweight, battled back from an opening loss to place third.

Kevin Frazier, a sophomore at 135 pounds, placed seventh.

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.

March 20, 2002

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."

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 district.

"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 to 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 residents can leisurely gather information on a multitude of topics as well as drop off sports equipment for use by other community members.

"The EXPO provides opportunity for the community to increase its awareness of products and services provided and/or manufactured in the Greater Lowell area," said chamber executive director, Liz Baker.

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 community 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."

Review, cont'd pg. 16

Hark! The

Hannah Ritzema, age 10  
Mrs. Schneider  
Alto Elementary

Harold Angels

**LOWELL VISION CENTER**  
David G. Durkee, O.D.  
2186 W. Main St., Lowell • 897-8486

Any Body  
There? Hello!!

Samantha Brock, age 10  
Mr. Hawkins  
Alto Elementary

**LARKIN'S**  
FAMILY DINING

"The Other Place"

301 W. Main  
Lowell, MI  
897-5977

LOWELL • PH. 897-5977

Santa is leaving  
Bye Fred!!

Michael Underwood, 10  
Mrs. Schneider  
Alto Elementary

**L&A RENT-ALL**

2401 W. Main, Lowell  
Ph. 897-8451

"Serving The Lowell Area For Over 10 Years!"

December 31  
2002

Happy New Year

Brent Cone, age 11  
Mrs. Schneider  
Alto Elementary

**MARTIN VRENBURG, DDS**  
1150 N. HUDSON  
897-8429

Let it shine! Let it shine! Let it shine!

Kayla Gildea, age 11  
Mrs. Young  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Connie Reedy 897-4915 • Office 897-0444

Happy Holiday

Kendra Rasch, age 10  
Mrs. Melle  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**SPRINGGROVE VARIETY**  
123 W. MAIN • LOWELL, MI 49331  
897-9918

Rudolph!

Wishes You a Merry Christmas

Tracy Jones, age 11  
Mrs. Schneider  
Alto Elementary

**HAHN HARDWARE**  
207 E. Main, Lowell 897-7501



# Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 15

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 space."

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

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 without 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 into 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.

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

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

"Applications are being spread around by the company's

Human Resources department," said Jason Smith, Newell Manufacturing union unit chairman. "The applications are for job openings with other companies."

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

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

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



The 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 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.

"I find myself creating images that ask questions... What is the human energy field? What are chakras? What is our spirit

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 Quality.

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

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.

The council agreed to enter into a proposed lease, and to select which of two proposals it would use once an exact cost

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.

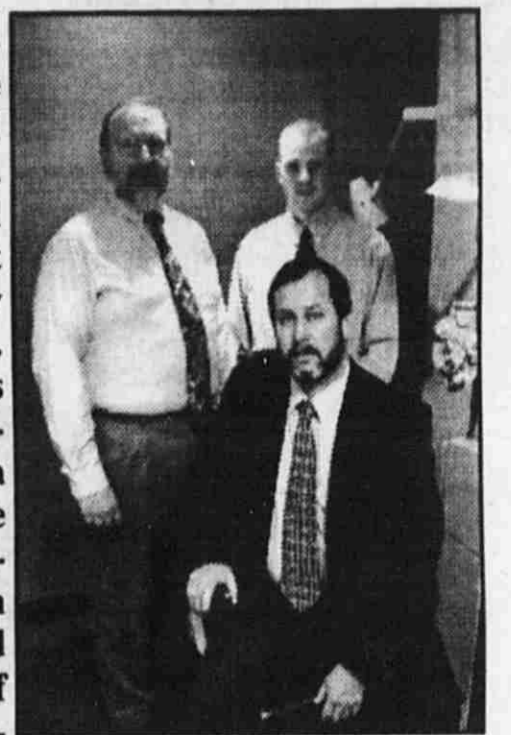
His practice will encompass ophthalmology and optometry services, including a

full service optical shop. The optical shop will be managed

by associate Don Granner, a board certified optician with 30 years of

expertise in fitting and adjusting 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 of disease.



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 permit.

cont'd. pg. 18

Max Stormzand, age 11  
Mr. Fillman  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Winter in Lowell  
warms up the  
soul

Happy  
Holidays

Lowell Light & Power  
127 N. Broadway  
897-8402

HAPPY holidays

Brad Johnston, age 11  
Mr. Bredin  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Lowell Cable  
127 N. Broadway  
897-8405

Shelby Herb, age 10  
Mr. Noskey  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Happy  
Holidays

Merry  
Christmas

Dear  
Santa

L.A.  
TRIM  
LOWELL, MICHIGAN

897-6546

Happy Kwanzaa!

Paula Blough, age 11  
Mrs. Schneider  
Alto Elementary

VERGENNES  
TOWNSHIP  
10381 Bailey Drive  
Lowell, MI

Happy  
New Year's

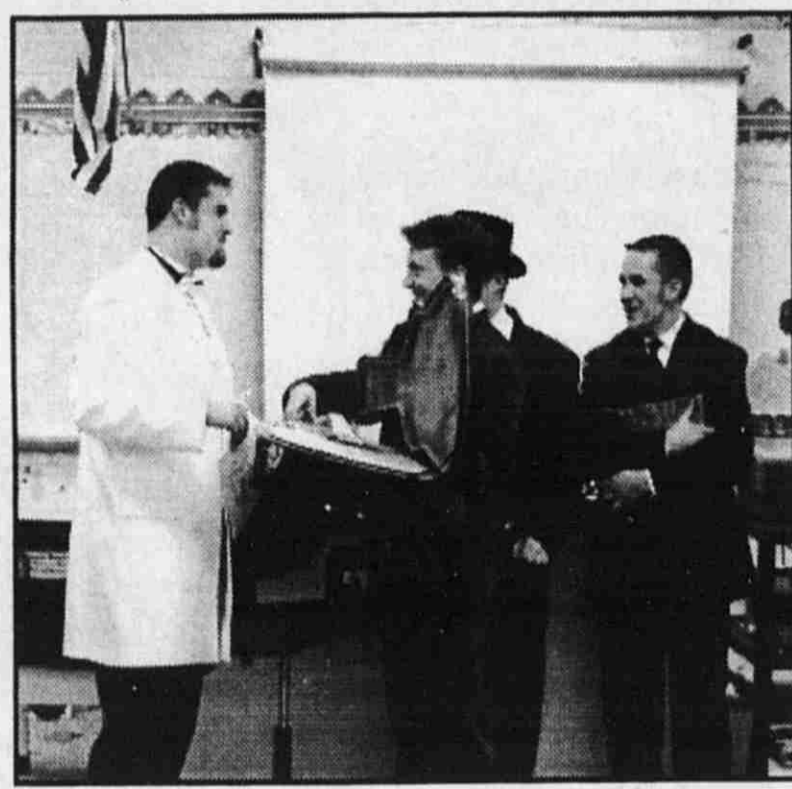
Chris Bewell, age 10  
Mrs. Schneider  
Alto Elementary

New Year

SUPERIOR FURNITURE  
318 E. Main • 897-9285  
Lowell, Michigan 49331

# Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 17

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."

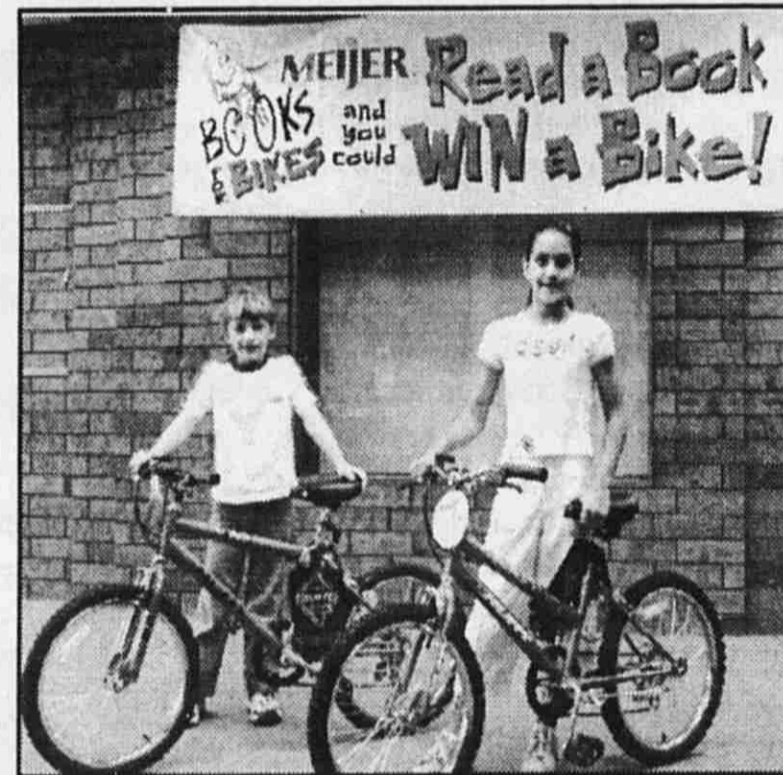
Lowell High School's Destination Imagination team placed third among the teams competing in the state

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 competition).

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

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 Whitecap Tickets. Skyler Nauta and Logan DeClercq, fared a little better. Their names were drawn from a box in a bicycle drawing sponsored by Meijer.

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 year.

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 12-19).

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 to see.

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

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

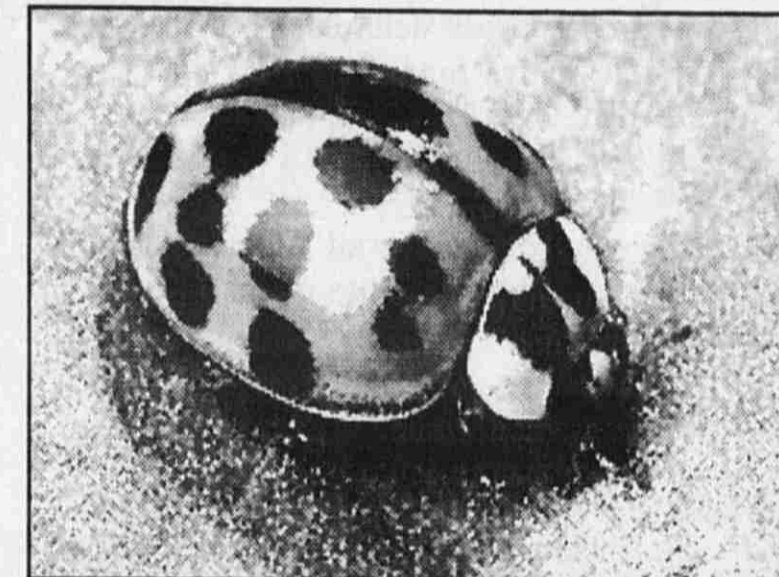
Review, cont'd. pg. 19

# 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.

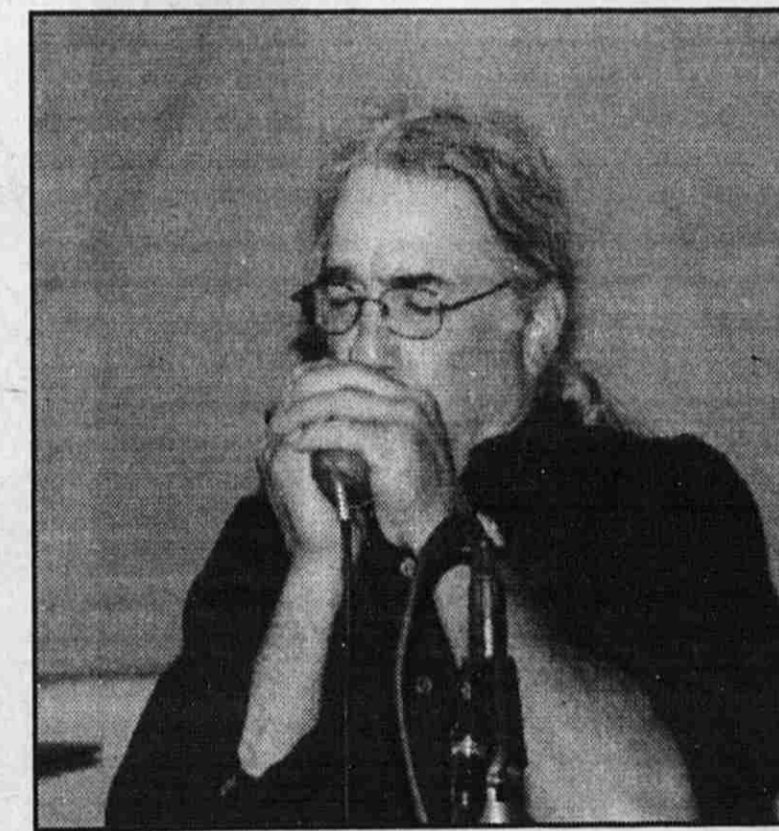
There were extremely large populations produced in 2000 all across the Great Lakes region. The reason for this is due to an enormous population explosion of the ladybugs' principal prey, the aphid.

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 the place of the late Ray Quadra.

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 provided 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 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 Fallsburg 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 recently begun using it as a place of shelter.

The good news is: Many Lowell residents are

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 riders."

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 year.

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 flow.

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, along with property in front of it running on Main 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.

Review, cont'd. pg. 20

Walkin' in a Winter Wonderland!

Nicole Hough, age 10 1/2  
Mr. Brudin  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Seasons Greetings

Nicole Hough, age 10 1/2  
Mr. Brudin  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Flat River

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James C. Lang, D.O.

Paul G. Gauthier, D.O.

Kevin Miller, D.O.

2550 W. Main, Lowell • 252-5600

Malorie Coble, age 10  
Mrs. Schneider  
Alto Elementary

# Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 19



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 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.

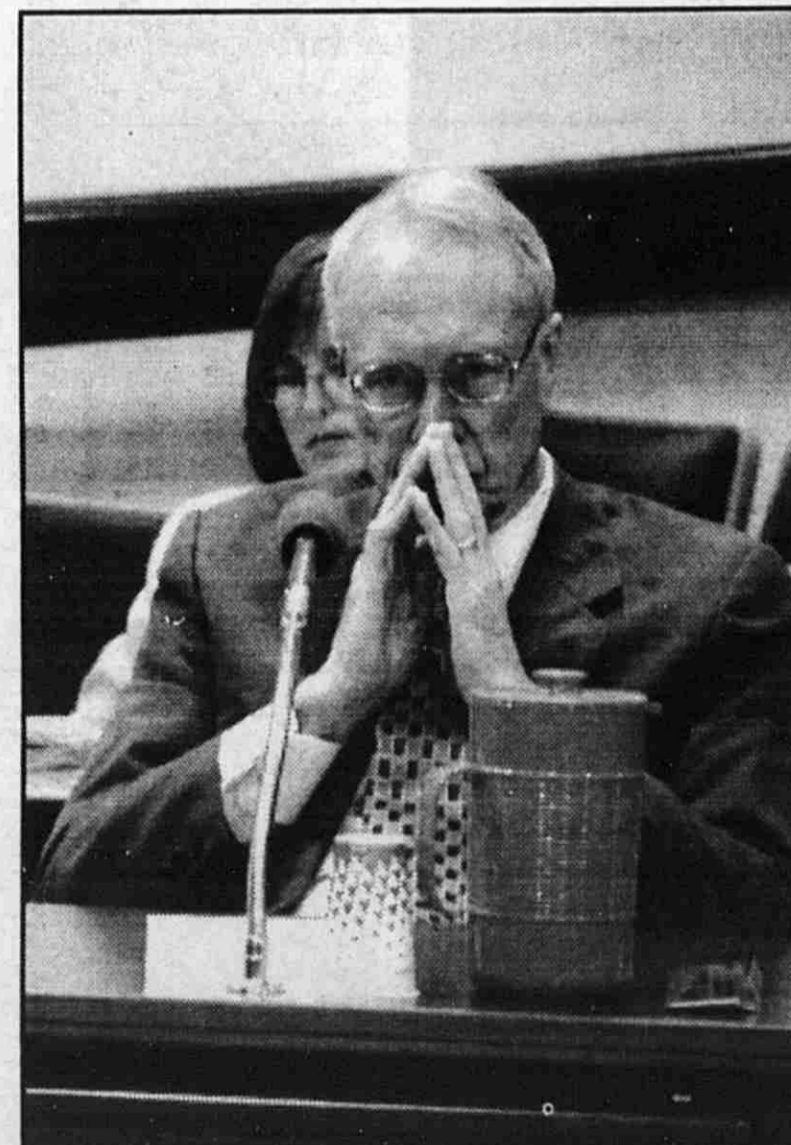
In March, the Lowell City Council agreed to sell a 12 by 90 foot parcel immediately west of Gilmore's property for \$1,000, subject to a deed restriction maintaining a similar business upon sale.

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 invitation-only 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

This year is a historic and significant year for the 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 bonds.

"I believe this is the first time ever the city of 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. Division.

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 \$82,893,796 to the general fund.

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 championship.

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 administrators.

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 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 museum programs.

At the request of the Lowell Area Historical Museum Board, the council dedicated \$20,000 from its 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.

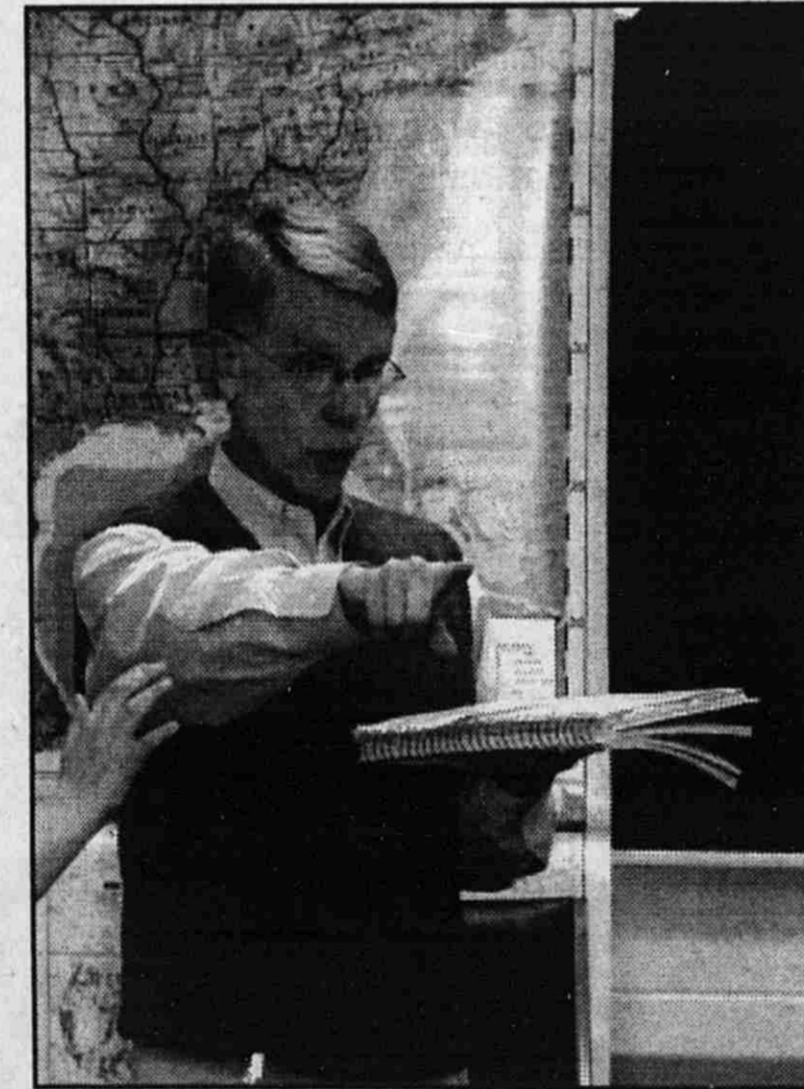
Impacting the budget this year were several items, Pasquale said. The first is the \$47,000 Library bond payment that was being picked up by the Downtown Development Authority. The city has four more payments, including the one in the proposed budget, to make before paying off the library building.

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 at that location.

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 levels.

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 station project.

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.



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 lymphoblastic 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 fourth-graders 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 (114).

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 relationship-building 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.

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 grandparents (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.

Let it Snow!

Jessica White, age 11  
Mr. Keglovitz  
Cherry Creek Elementary

W.J. WHEELER  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

BILL WHEELER  
Certified Public Accountant  
103 Riverside Dr., Lowell • 897-7711

# Merry Christmas!

Celebrate The Birth Of Christ

Jesus is born

Mackenzie Roerig, age 10  
Mr. Keglovitz  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Bernard's ACE HARDWARE  
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897-9490

HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 8-8; Sat. 8-5; Sun. 10-3

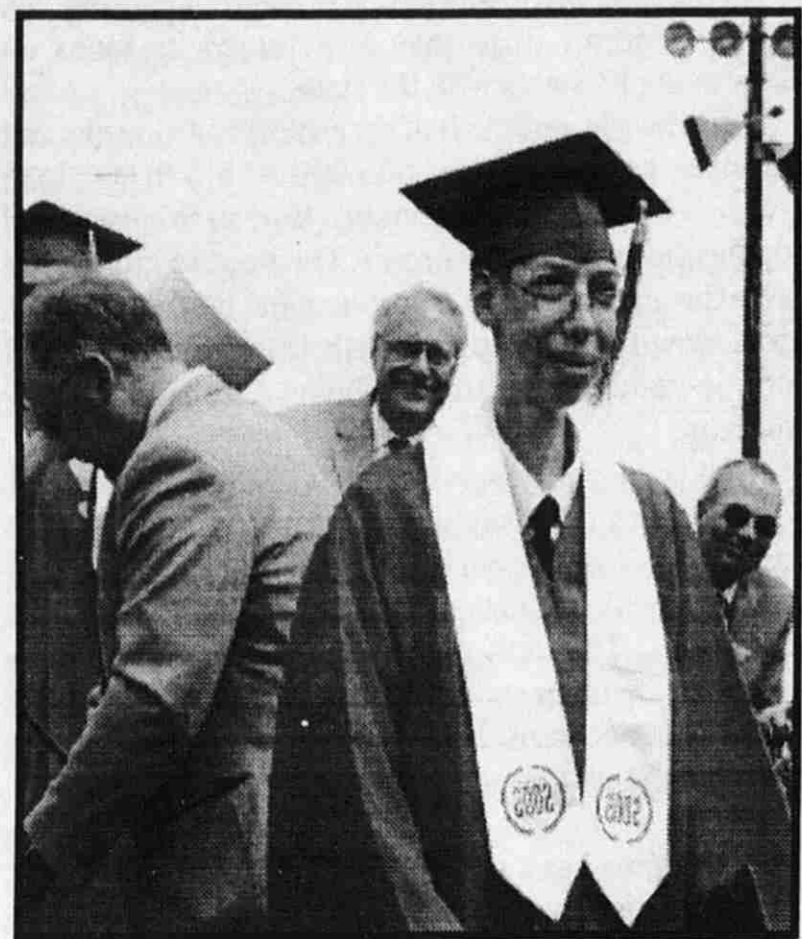
# Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 21

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 after him.

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 Washaw. "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, Washaw 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 Washaw, "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 election.

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 respond 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.

Businesses in the downtown historic district are trying to attract customers; the city is trying to keep the

area looking nice.

Arguments are brewing over whether or not sandwich-board-type signs should be allowed in the city's historic downtown.

Liz Baker, executive director for the Lowell Area 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 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 Stony 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.

June 12, 2002

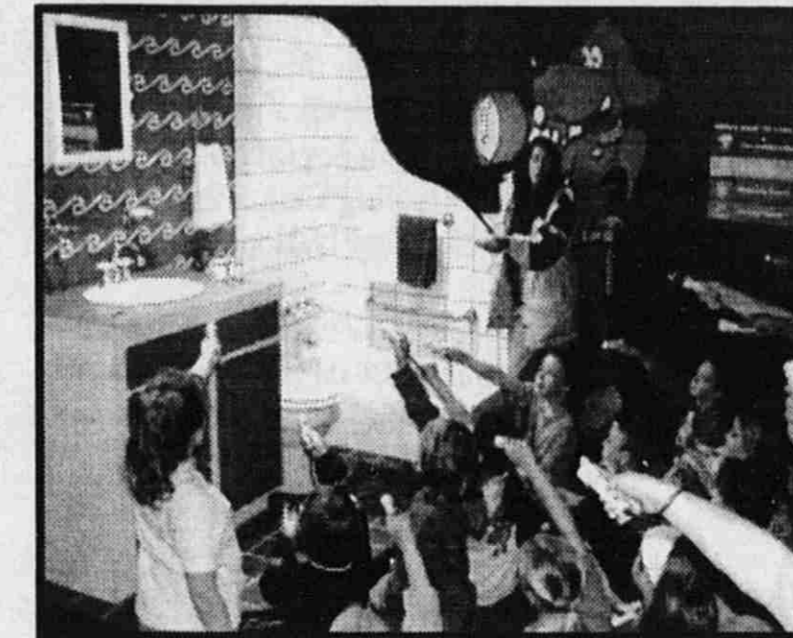
With less than four percent of its registered voters coming to the polls, the Lowell Area School District

Review, cont'd. pg. 23

# 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 seat.

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



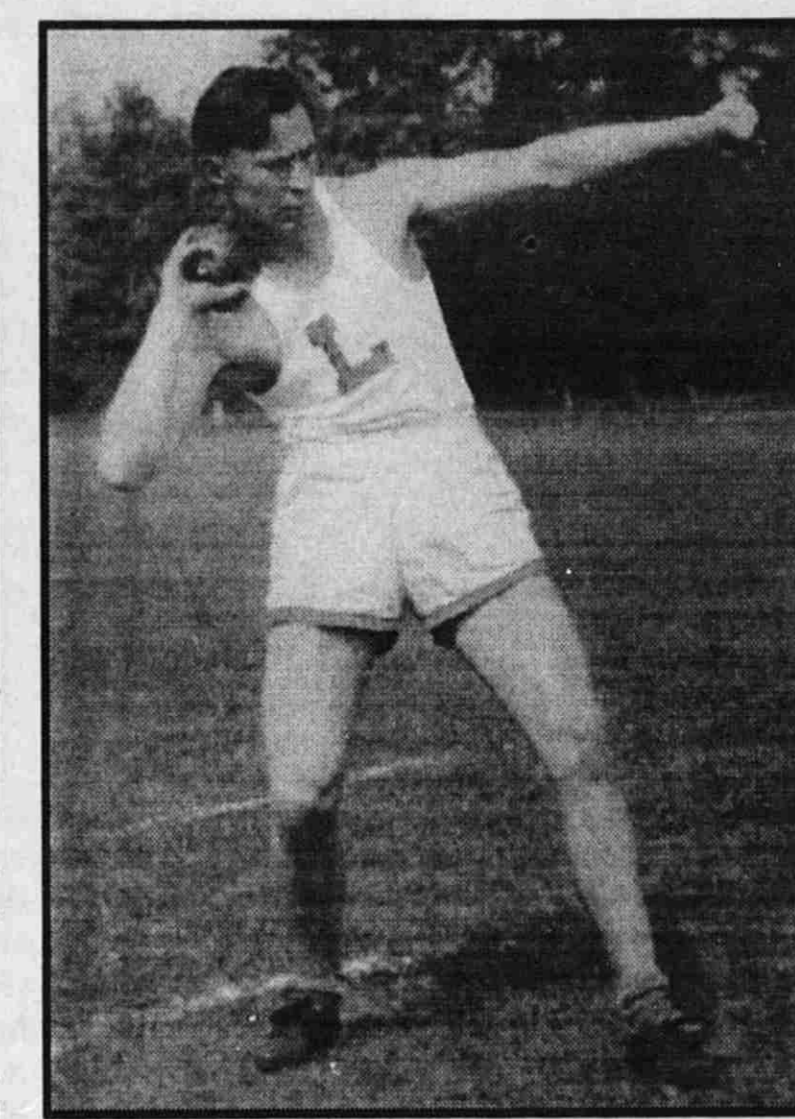
Second- and third-grade classes from Cherry Creek Elementary took on the challenge of ranger as they went through Lowe's safety adventure.

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 Creek Classic.

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 and concert area on the River walk seemed to be a spring garden of multi-colored umbrellas. Members of the group Fomnhor played in spite of less than perfect weather.

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 story of Lowell.

Review, cont'd. pg. 24

Let it Snow,  
Let it Snow,  
Let it Snow

Sara Nagy, age 11  
Mr. Hawkins  
Alto Elementary

**Keiser's Kitchen**  
700 E. Main St., Ph. 897-8455

Ho, Ho, Ho  
Merry Christmas!!  
**Canfield Plumbing & Heating**  
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Linnea Rash, age 10  
Mrs. Pupel  
Cherry Creek Elementary

HANG on to  
your Hat

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Lets make  
presnets

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Britny Peckham, age 11  
Mr. Bredin  
Cherry Creek Elementary

# Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years!

Ariel DeWeerd, 10 1/2  
Mrs. Reed  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**MODERN PHOTOGRAPHICS**  
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Lowell  
(616) 897-5606

Brittany Rose, age 10  
Mrs. Reed  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**Lowell Granite Co.**  
306 E. Main, Lowell • 897-7191

Kim Anderson, age 10  
Mrs. Schneider  
Alto Elementary

**COUSINS' Hallmark**  
223 W. Main • Lowell • 897-5000

Merry Christmas!  
Happy New Year!  
Boom! Bang!

# Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 23



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 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.

He's cute, fuzzy, and he certainly doesn't mind 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 vacation.

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 bodies a rest from the country's contamination.

The children are all affected by the radiation, either directly or indirectly.

Some of the children are orphans; some come from small, highly contaminated villages; some have had medical conditions such as leukemia or thyroid problems; and some deal with physical handicaps. Most arrive with suppressed immune systems.

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

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

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

"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 speculates that the reading selections were tougher and that possibly there was a change in the passing scores.

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 ballot.

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.

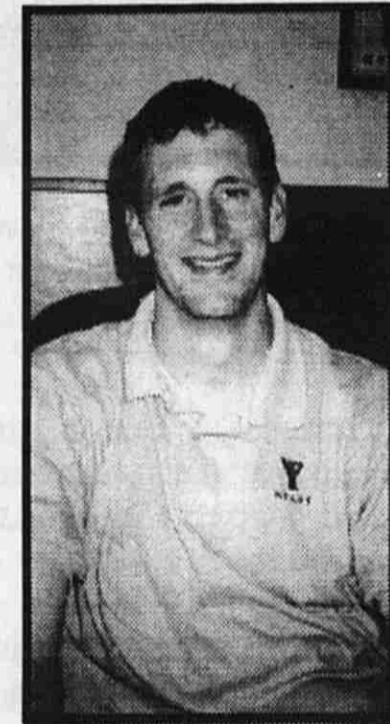
Lowell High School sophomore David Roth's summer days are typical for a student his age: there are chores, haying in the morning, then driver's training in the afternoon, and practice, lots and lots of practice, of archery in the evening.

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 poised 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 studied sociology because he liked it. The Detroit native now works as a teen and sports director for the Lowell YMCA branch because he likes it. The graduate started his work with the YMCA on June 1. His position includes involvement in sports, the Teen Center and Leaders Club.



### 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 good to be true.

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 reservation.

Review, cont'd. pg. 25

# Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 24

As a charter member of the Lowell Airport Board, Roger Brown remembers 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 Dwan Scheller be considered for his replacement.

Lowell's YMCA has quietly moved from its of-

Welsh and the rest of the Y staff began moving its offices on June 1. With the exception of files and other small office items, the move is complete.

The move centralizes 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 laugh when their mothers attended the annual "Girls of Yesteryear" meeting.

"We used to laugh and joke that it was a meeting

"Girls of Yesteryear." The meeting started as a summer picnic potluck.

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

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



Jason Tomczak found the ultimate freedom of timelessness in Schoolcraft County's Gernfask 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 brightness 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 state championship team were selected to Team Michigan National. Representing Lowell were Joe Mendez, Brandon Kinney, Bobby Gingerich and J.J. Wilder.

Not always does an athlete's performance

meet with expectations.

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

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

Benedict's 2002 sta-

single season hit record of 48.

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

Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce's first annual Golf Tournament carded a birdie.

It gathered 30 foursomes for a day of golf, food and fun at the Deer Run Golf Course.

The event raised \$1,200 which will be used toward the operation of the chamber office.

Superintendents at Rockford, Caledonia and West Ottawa public schools dismissed a report released by the State Education Department indicating some of their schools are not making progress.

Acting Lowell superintendent, Jim White did not shrug off the fact that both Alto and Cherry Creek elementary schools also made that dubious list under current state standards.

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

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

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

While no one in the

highly charged and publicized custodial area was laid off, two custodial positions, vacated due to retirement, were not filled. In all, the 25 cuts totaled \$524,000.

Lowell assistant superintendent to finance and personnel, Connie Gillette noted that a "second list" of additional cuts had been made in case more cuts were necessary.

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

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

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

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

In her previous three years on the board, Hopkins served two years

Review, cont'd. pg. 26

Hope you Christmas is better Than Mine Merry Christmas

You'd think my mom would get it. I want PLANTS not PANTS!

Brooke Mellema, age 10 Mrs. Pupel Cherry Creek Elementary

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SNEAKERS

'Tis The Season

Hailey DeGrote, age 11  
Mr. Bredin  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**Roger Chapman Agency**  
217 W. Main, Lowell  
Office (616) 897-9237

O Holy Night!

Jillian O'Haire, age 11  
Mr. Jacobus  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**Speestra Agency**  
Dale Triplett  
835 W. Main St. 897-9259

Cassandra Koster, age 10  
Mr. Bredin  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**Speestra Agency**  
Dale Triplett  
835 W. Main St. 897-9259

# Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 25



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 earmarked \$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 reopened.

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 road commission \$250,000.

Realignment of the O-K Conference will become a reality in 2003.

Lowell will be one of eight teams in the O-K White North Division. The Red Arrows, Northwick

and East Grand Rapids will be the only teams remaining from the existing O-K White Conference.

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.

Lowell Charter Township 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 home-based business and home occupation before the election.



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 a couple close friends and a class filled with people of character, that anxiety of attending a new school, was replaced by smiles. Wednesday's (July 17) gathering brought 30 of the 72 class members together. The unusually large reunion turnouts provide memories for the next five years... until we meet again," Harralson said.

Lowell YMCA executive director Will Welsh rests in Spectrum Health Bloodgett Campus' Burn Center following an accident while vacationing at a cabin up north on Saturday.

Welsh incurred second- and third-degree burns on his chest and face

from an accident while cooking outside.

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 issuance 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 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 it seeks \$5.8 million, although the project has



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).

they combed the city in support of opening up the museum located on the corner of Main and Hudson streets.

Now the group will go out and seek the support of a .25 millage from city residents to cover the operational costs of the museum. In a unanimous vote Monday night, the Lowell City Council recommended that the museum seek the quarter mill which would relieve the city budget of covering the \$20,000 for operational purposes.

Todd Wood was driving on Boves Road one day when he saw them - a group of school children huddled together in the rain. After thinking about the image of the 20-plus children waiting for the school bus, Wood decided he had to do something about it. So he started to talk about constructing a shelter for the students next to the entrance of Valley Vista, the mobile home park where many of the students came from.

July 31, 2002

The city of Lowell Central Business district may get what it wants - sandwich board-type signs.

After some discussion, the commission members decided to have a final draft of a proposed ordinance to allow sandwich board or sidewalk message signs in the Central Business district.

Under the proposed ordinance, the sign could not be larger than 12 square feet per side for a single- or double-faced

Review, cont'd. pg. 27

"Sometimes it's better to be lucky than good," said city attorney, Richard Wendt, who added this is what someone told him when selling bonds for a project.

And the city did very well during a recent sale of bonds to fund the more than \$4 million City Hall/ police station renovation and construction project scheduled to start soon.

During the sale, which took place on July 9, the

come in around \$5.6 million. The interest rate is seven percent, and the bond will not exceed 26 years but, in reality, is for 25 years.

The organizers of the Lowell Area Historical Museum are used to gathering support. For months,

Chelsea VanderPols, 11 Mr. Fillman Cherry Creek Elementary

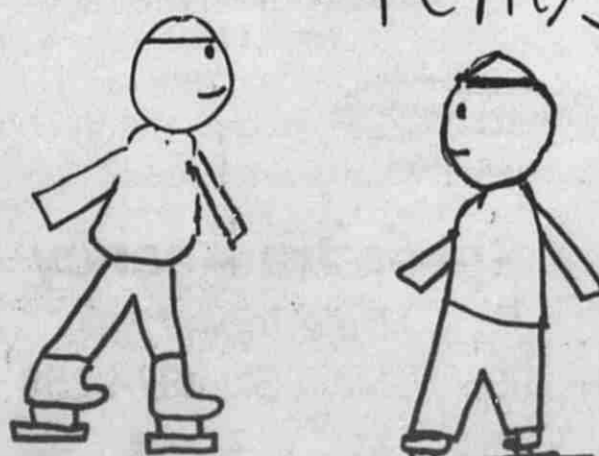
Chelsey Treglia, age 11 Mr. Fillman Cherry Creek Elementary



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# 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 ordinance.

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.

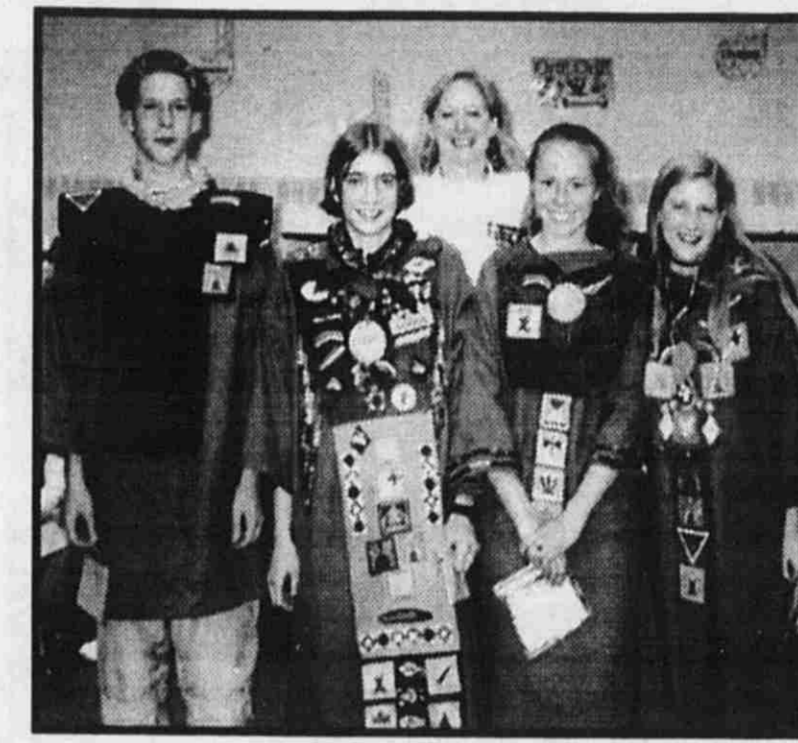
Several months ago, Scheller was one of many city of Lowell residents who learned they were in violation of the city's storage of recreational vehicles ordinance - an ordinance they didn't even know existed and discovered to be way too restrictive to owners of such vehicles. After protesting, grabbing 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 Michigan 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 Thursday, Aug. 8, at the Lowell fairgrounds' event tent, the youth fair will celebrate 4-H's 100th birthday with cake and refreshments.



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 said the new assessor will work nights and weekends, as well as take appointments.

Lowell Area Schools' Wittenbach Agri-science Center received the Region IV National Agri-science Center award. It was one of six in the country to receive such an award.

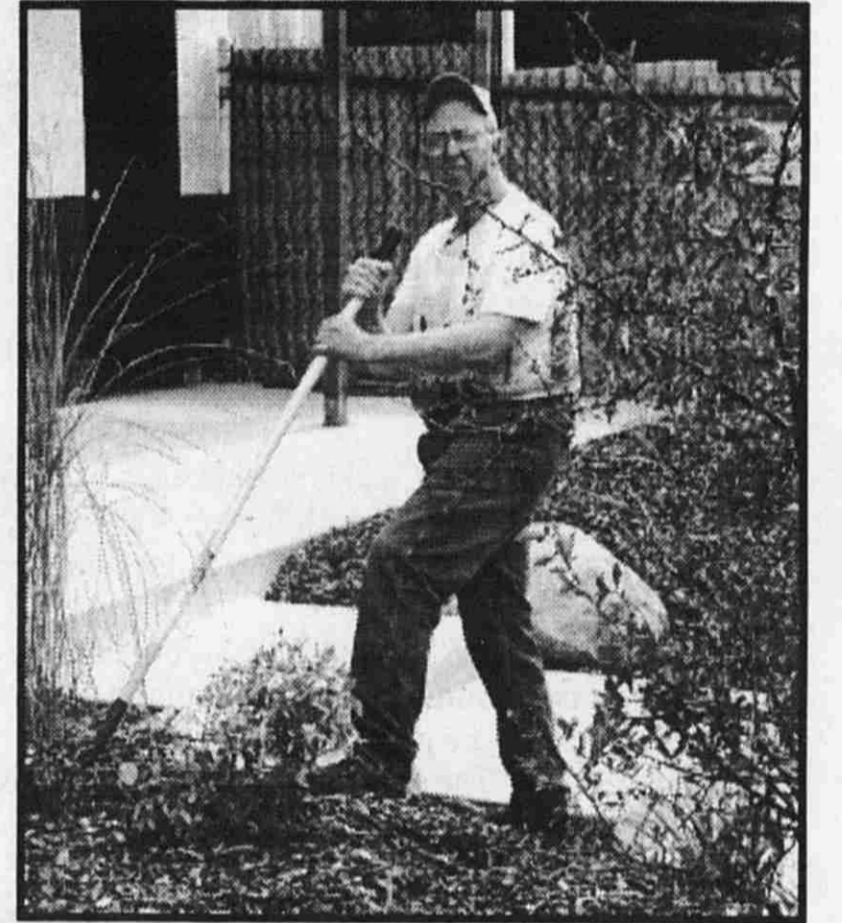
The award was based on programs offered through the Wittenbach Center during the year and the credentials of the instructors (Tammy

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 fairgrounds, 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

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.

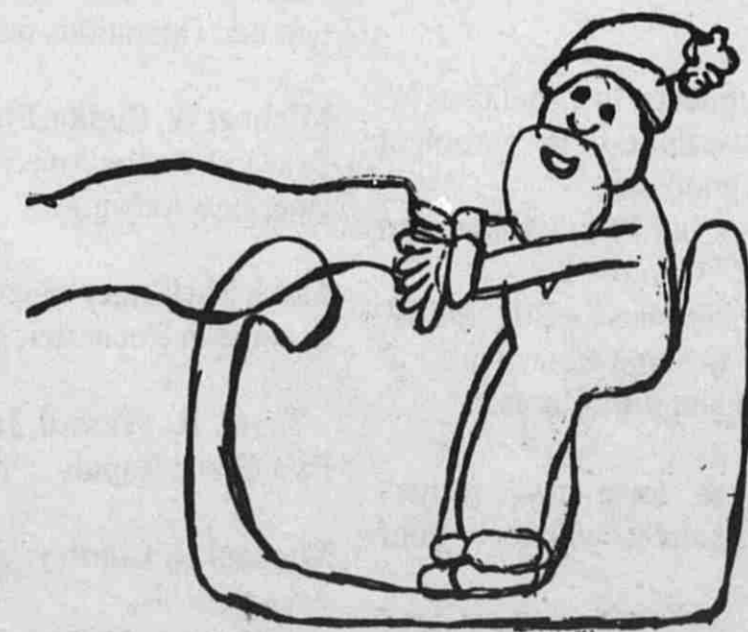
Now, it seems, the European Paper Wasp needs to be added to that little ditty.

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.

Review, cont'd. pg. 28

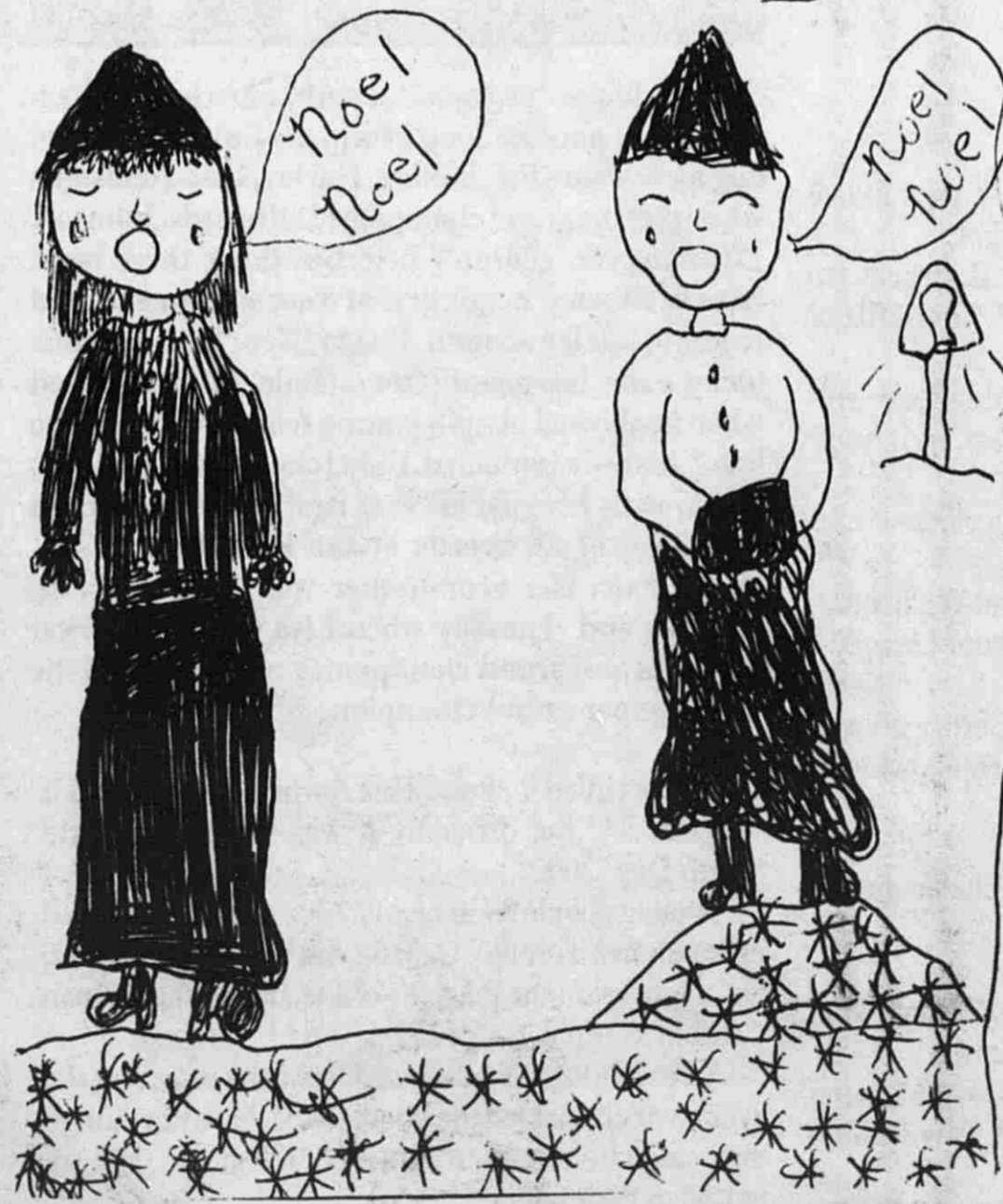
## Santa Claus is coming to town!



Lauren Smit, age 11 Mrs. Schneider Alto Elementary

## Christmas Caroling

Kaily Gillan, age 11 Mrs. Reed Cherry Creek Elementary



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## Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 27

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 firsts.

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 to 18.

"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 train.

The cost was a couple thousand dollars less than the ambulances currently in service. It is also more fuel efficient.

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 father, 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 released 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 out-of-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.

**Mark Shellinger:** Superintendent of Rochester Public Schools in Rochester, Minnesota.

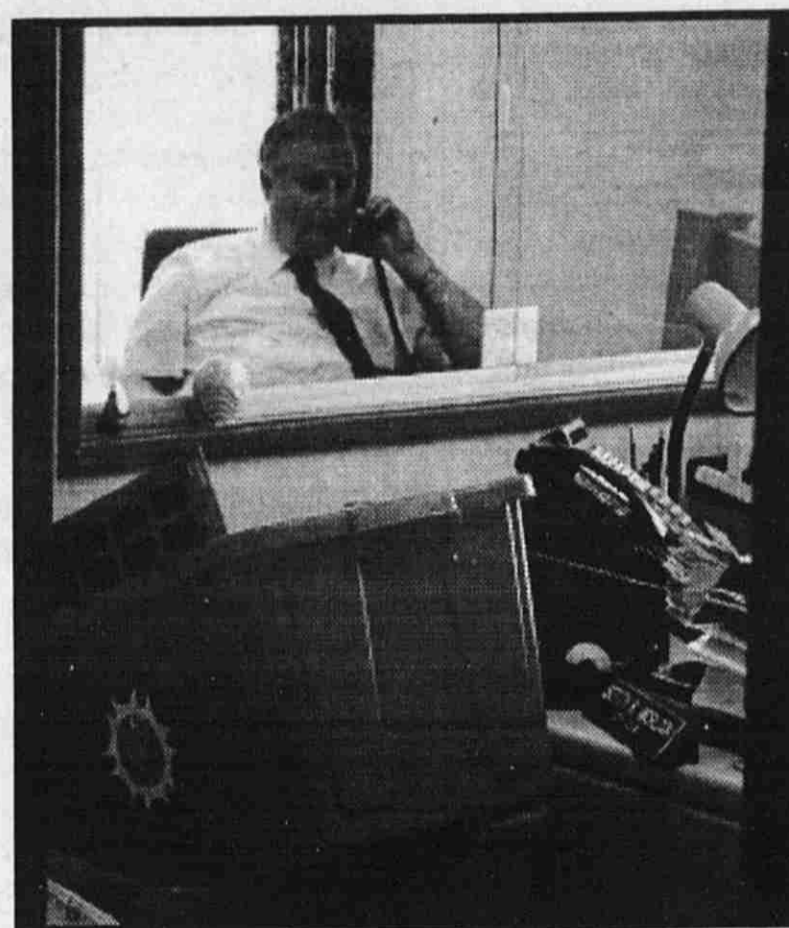
**Tyrus R. Wessell Jr.:** Middle School Principal at East Grand Rapids.

**Michael R. Lindley:** Superintendent of New Buffalo Area Schools.

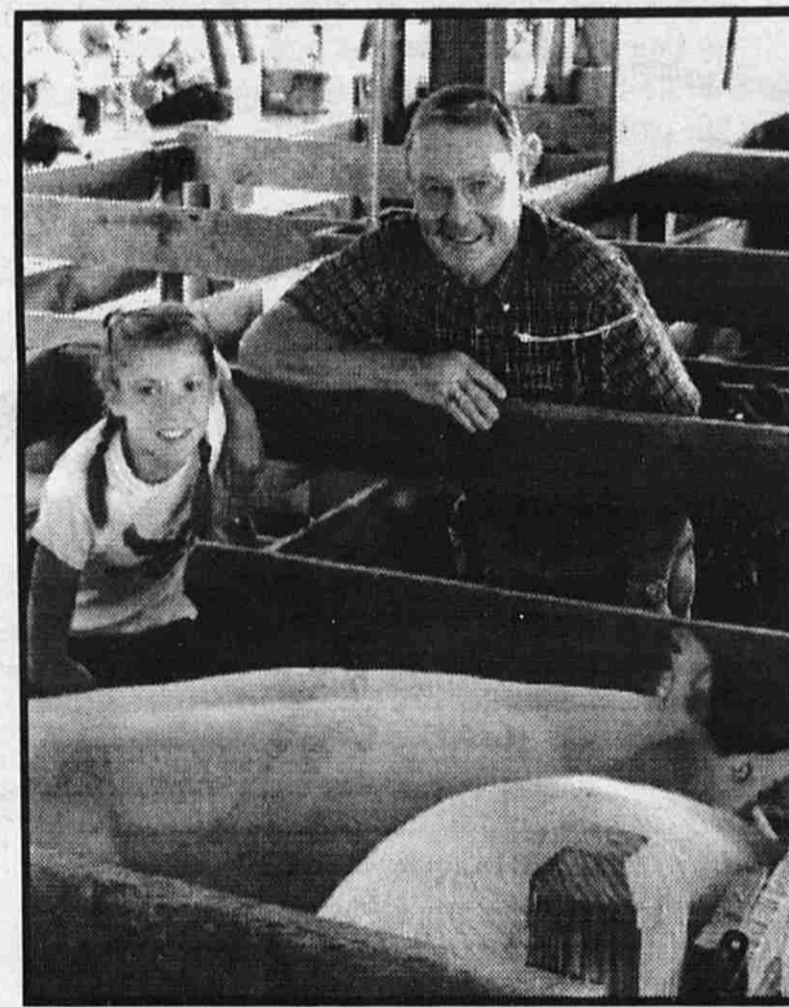
**Robert C. Currie:** Superintendent of Marshall Public Schools.

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 office.



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 "Popstock," 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

## 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 Day.

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 said.

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 Slayes "Jack" Frost opens at the Lowell Area Arts Council.

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 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 at Leisure Living Management, goes before the Lowell Charter Township Board asking for help so it can connect to the water system.

Leisure 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 answers.

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

This is the joy of Christmas

Merry Christmas

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Mrs. Young  
Cherry Creek Elementary

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Review, cont'd. pg. 29

## Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 29

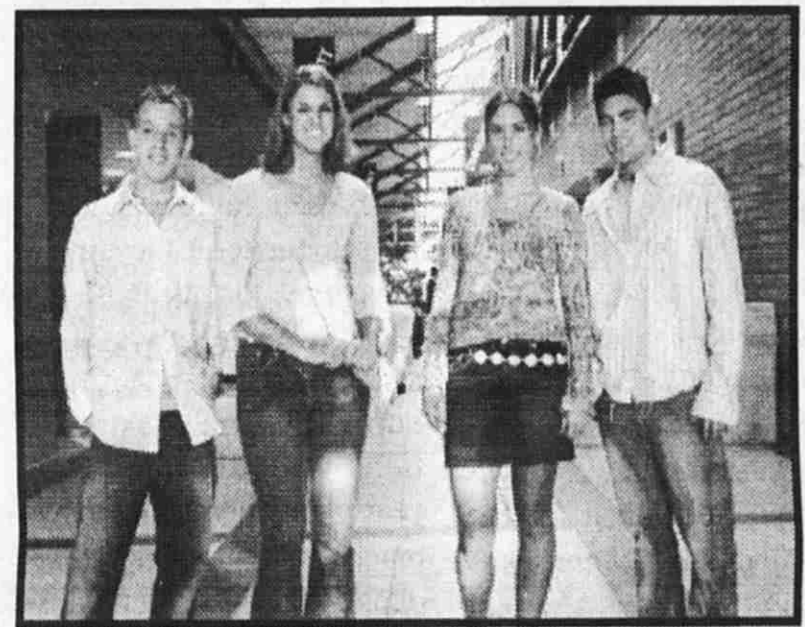
A local firm eyeing to create retail space and apartments and/or offices was awarded the old VFW Hall.

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 work.

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 back-to-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 bumps.

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 moneys 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 good idea.

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 Hall.

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 faces 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 year.

"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

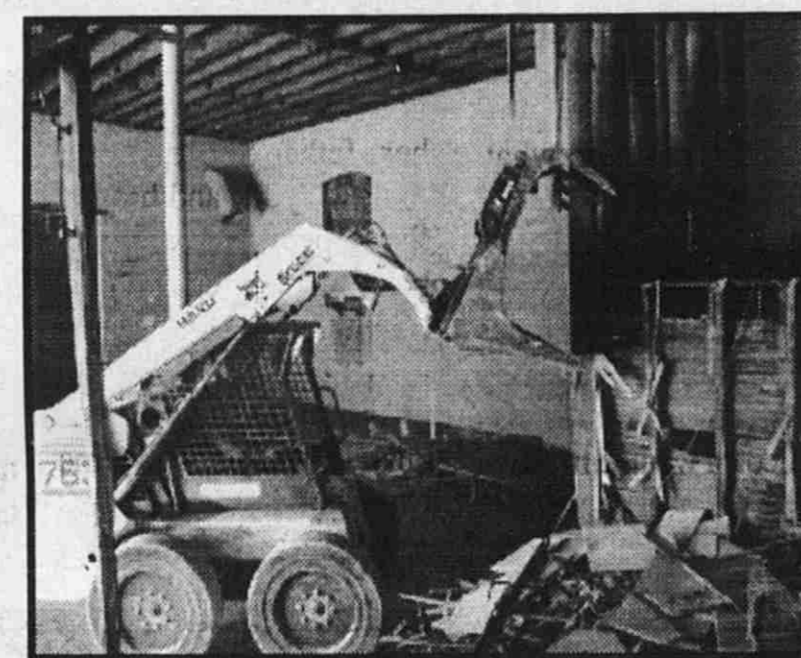


The Kelly Miller Circus, celebrating its 64th year, performs two shows at the Lowell Fairgrounds.

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 community.

"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 Council.



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 awareness.

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

## Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 30



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 Lalic who attended Lalic'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.

Those challenges only served as a backdrop to the 13 year old successfully reaching her destination - the 19,340 foot summit.

Kim Wilson was looking for some guidance and received it... and now she's willing to do whatever it takes to make it work.

"I began writing down what I wanted to do while camping Memorial Day weekend," Wilson explained. "I wanted my own message and nutrition business."



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, 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 unequalled 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.

She threw in a prayer for guidance and a sign to confirm it if that was what she was supposed to do.

Recently, on a bus trip with her children, she learned of a vacant commercial building in Lowell from another mom. As well as available, it was affordable.

"I took that to be a sign along with the conversation I had with the other mother," Wilson said.

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).

Sculptures created by Carole Walters were dedicated Friday at the Wittenbach Agri-science and Environmental Cen-

ter second anniversary celebration.

They were created as part of an artist-in-residency program at the center with Lowell Middle School art students.

Walters, from Kendall College of Art and Design, together with Lowell Middle School art teacher, Theresa Wasciuk and Wittenbach Center director, Tammy DeBaar created a multi-media nature setting inside the atrium of the center. Eighth grade students created paper mache' animals to incorporate into the setting.

Along with the middle school art program, Walters designed two permanent sculptures for placement on the premises in the Wege Natural Area.

It (Sept. 23) will be a most memorable Monday in the Lowell School District.

At a special meeting, the Lowell Board of Education is scheduled to announce its selection of a new superintendent.

It will follow that vote with another vote as to whether to commence with the construction of the new Murray Lake Elementary School.

Construction of the new school has been delayed over the last couple

credits the company and its employees for their continued support to improve the quality of life for others.

In light of the concerns over sewer backups



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 Bridgetetan 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 and Lecurra plan to share the resources and information gained from the conference with fellow science teachers. They will also make a presentation to the Lowell School Board.

in the city of Lowell and recent changes in the state law, Lowell City Council decides to move forward on a plan to check the city's entire 90,000 linear feet of sewer lines over the next three years.

The plan was presented by Department of Public Works director, Dan DesJarden. In his report about bi-weekly 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 them.

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. DesJarden 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 clean and televise the sewer lines.

He proposed that about \$45,000 would be needed annually to cover the program along with making any necessary repairs.

After almost two months of discussion, a committee will report its findings to the Lowell Planning Commission about a developer's project to construct homes on the city's west end.

Claiming it would cost about half a million dol-

lars to put in sewer and water lines to its property, a developer comes before the Lowell City Council seeking a waiver from city utilities.

Representatives from Sundry Development, Inc.

more clearly defined the candidates and their style, they do not appear to have provided much separation.

In a 4-3 split decision, the board chose to make site visits to all three of the candidates' school districts.

They'd been to the Alto Festival almost every year that they could 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.

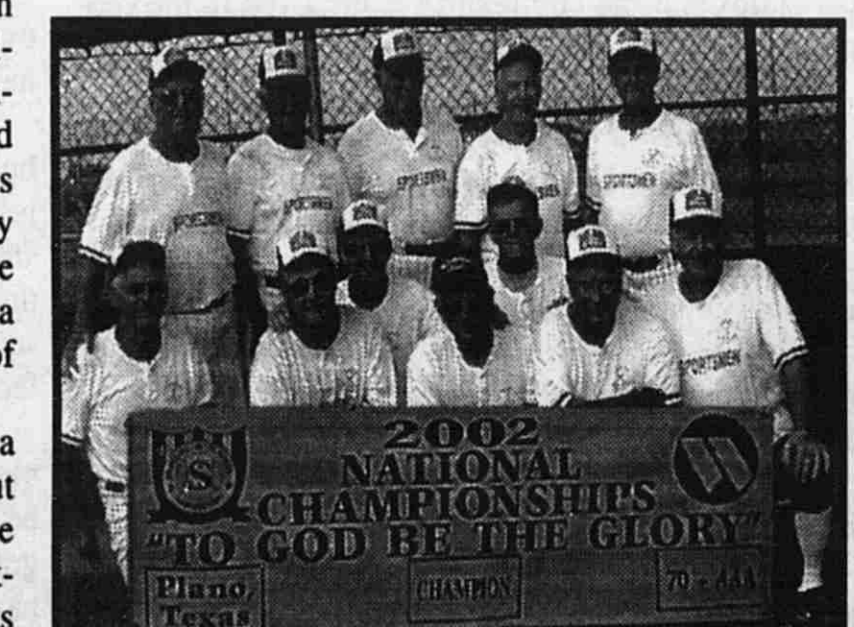
It is the first time in the history of the pageant sisters have won.

Caution: Recently released math and science test scores may appear to be better than what they are.

Or... Had previous years been reviewed with the same criteria, they may have been just as high.

Jim White, Lowell assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, is quite sure this year's students are not that much smarter than the students who preceded them.

"The reason test scores are so much higher in math and science this year has to do with the way the new tests were scored," White said.



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 15-run fourth inning to turn the tables on its Oklahoma opponent.

Lowell Middle School begins eight weeks of workshops focusing on the needs and concerns of teens for district parents.

As told by students and staff, the story is clear and reads quite well of Lowell, according to the three candidates vying for the district's chief office.

What remains unclear is the direction the Lowell Board of Education is steering, following a second week of interviews.

While the interviews

Review, cont'd pg. 32

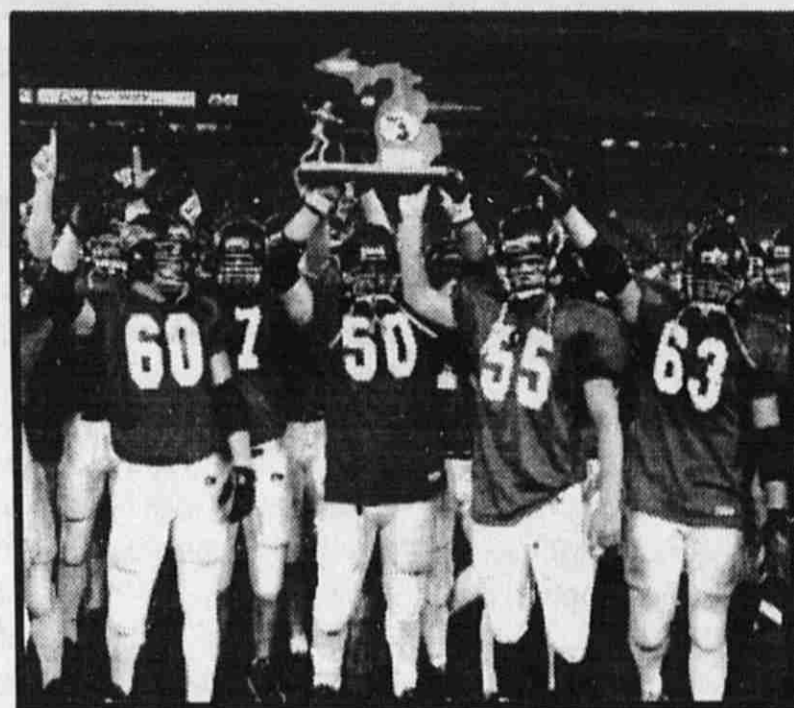






# Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 35

(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.

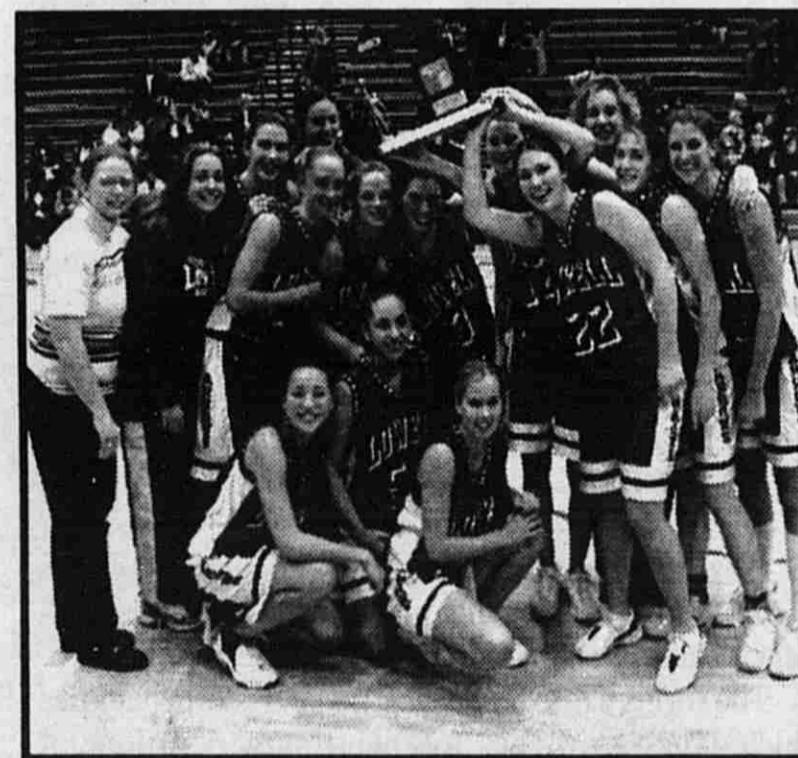
December 4, 2002

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 zone.



The Class A regional final at Forest Hills North 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.

gan mandates that the township also adopt an Open Space Preservation Ordinance.

Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission approved the proposed zoning ordinance amendment for open space preservation within the township.



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 Plainwell.

It took an all-state forward, an outstanding point guard and an Okemos third-quarter burst to sideline the determination, integrity and character of what has become known as Lowell girls basketball.

The Red Arrows, who have had an answer for every hurdle in their path this year, could not stop the inside play of Jennifer Smith-Dewey and the perimeter exploits of Farai Chiwocha as Okemos defeated Lowell 63-46 in the Michigan High School Athletic Quarterfinals at Lansing Eastern.

Contingent on receiving its \$850 reimbursement from SBC-Ameritech for expenses incurred by Shaler Excavating of additional traffic sign rentals, the city of Lowell agrees to make its final payment of \$850 to Shaler to close out the N. Division Street project.

Holwerda Builders and the city agreed to swap small parcels of property on Shepard Drive as part of a housing development.

It was later discovered, however, that Holwerda's parcel is owned by the city. The parcel is needed for access to the property. Through an advertised bid process, Holwerda was awarded the parcel for a sum of \$10 with the city retaining any utility rights.

With all the changes in revenues and expenditures from the time the budget was adopted prior to July 1 and the amended budget presented Monday

night at the Lowell School Board meeting, the bottom line remained nearly the same.

The current snapshot of the school budget shows the district will deficit spend in the amount of \$314, 848.

With the volatile state of a school budget, change

Lowell resident is the president of the Lowell Athletic Boosters Club and has lived and worked in the community for seven years.

December 18, 2002

Renovation of old historical buildings 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 things."

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 precious with the unique while providing a venue in which untold artists can sell their work.

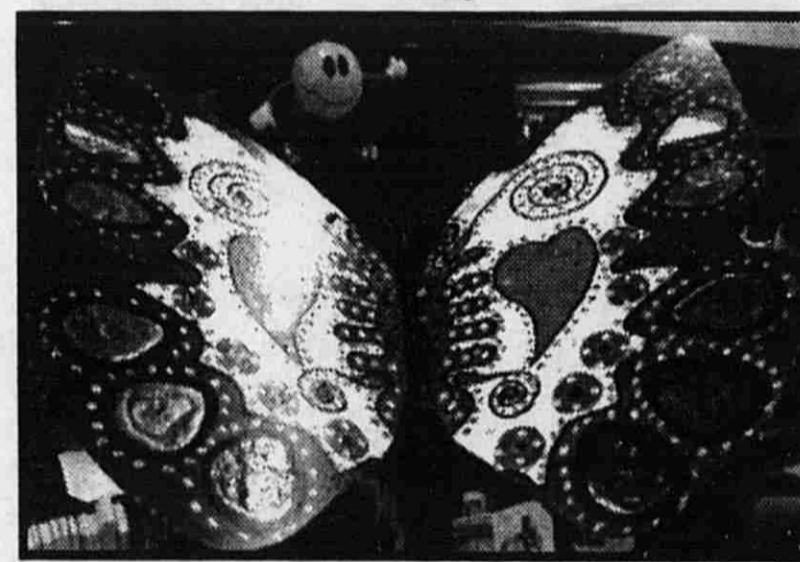
Chimera offers precious and semi-precious gemstones, unusual gemstones along with handmade jewelry - much of which is done with pearls.

The new business also offers the practical - jewelry and watch repair, watch battery replacement, and pearl restringing.

occurs from day to day, often-times more frequently than that.

Lowell assistant superintendent to finance and personnel, Connie Gillette says the goal is to present an amended budget at year-end that is in the black. "The bigger the better," she explains.

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-, third- and fifth-grade classrooms from Alto.

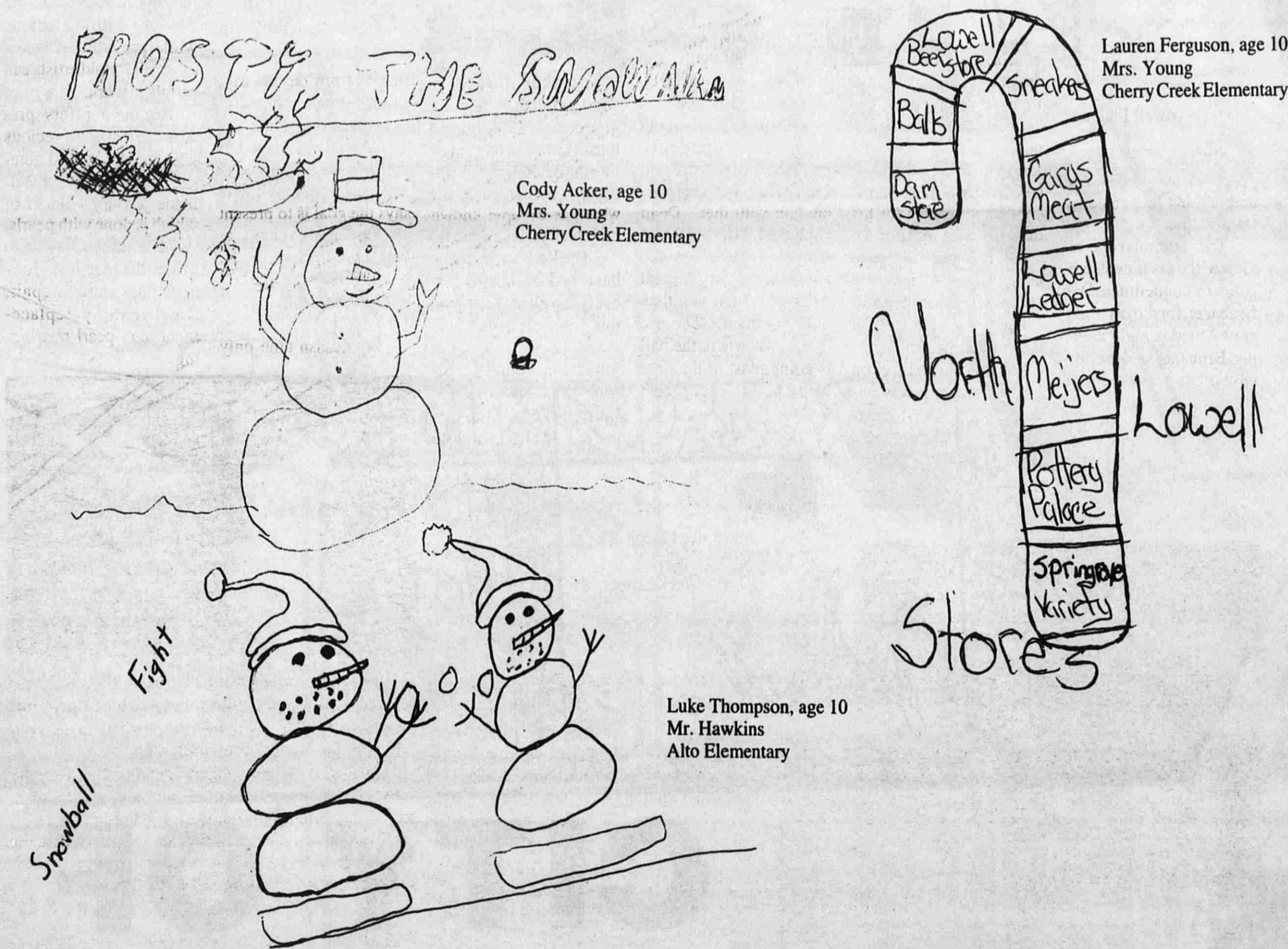
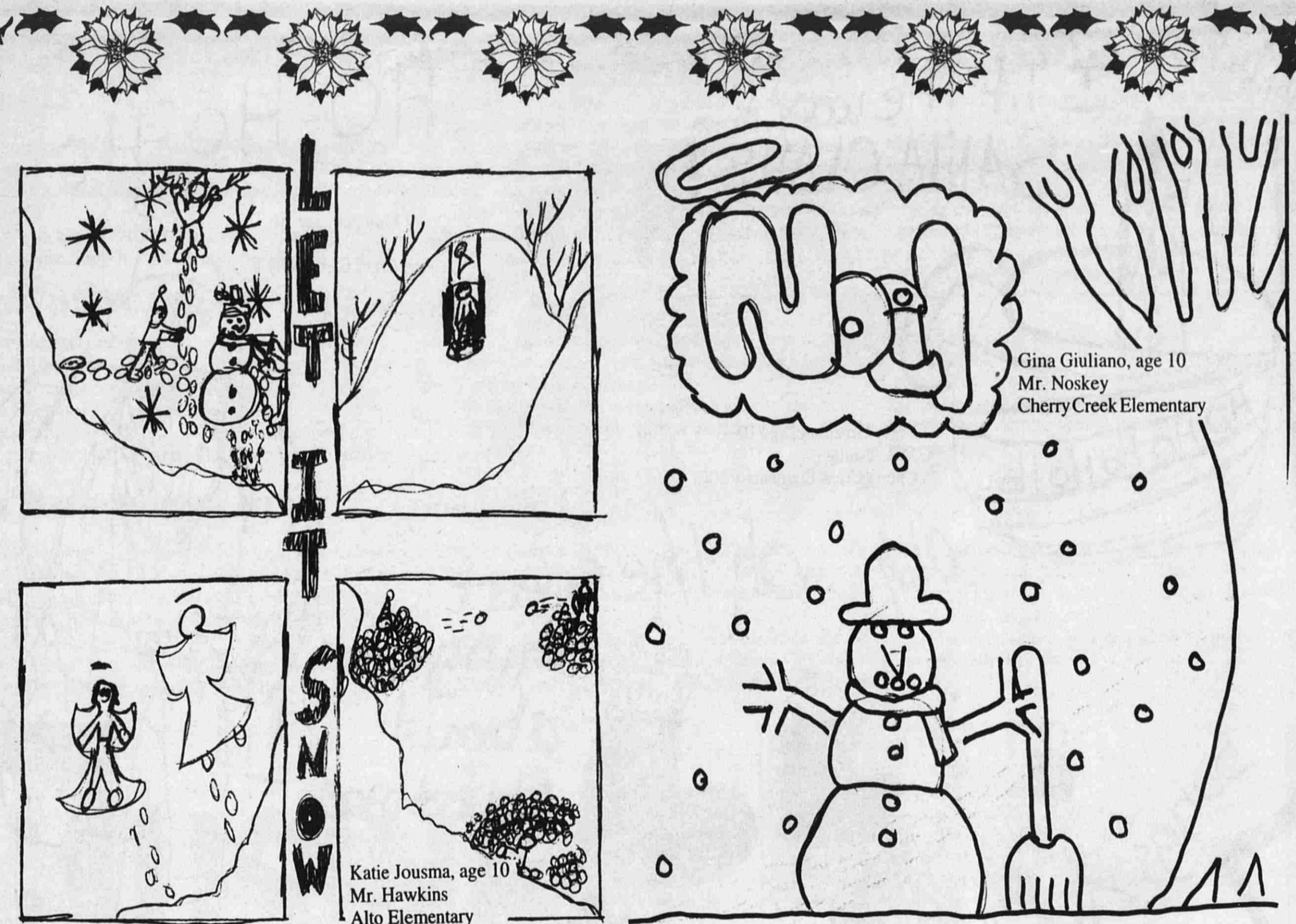
thing that's local.

Randy Merren, owner of dealerships in Greenville, Ionia and Lowell, believes successful car dealerships are local too.

This explains why he recently hired Lowell's Kim Foster to run his dealership at 2399 W. Main.

Merren wanted someone local running his Lowell store ... someone with a familiar face and who is involved in the community.

Foster fills the bill. The



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Corey Mumpcu, age 10  
Mrs. Young  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Carly Greenhoe, age 10  
Mrs. Young  
Cherry Creek Elementary

ohh... Oh the sweet things about Christmas

Songs of the Heart

Mattie Kropf, age 11  
Mrs. Young  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Mercedes Mason, age 11  
Mrs. Young  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Nichelle Ortowski, age 11  
Mr. Hawkins  
Alto Elementary

Ho Ho Ho!

Welcome! Merry Christmas!

Welcome to the North Pole

# CITY OF LOWELL

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## 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.

Last year, the council voted to maintain its regular meeting on Martin Luther King Jr. Day because the city offices were

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 Tuesday.

"I didn't realize it at the time, but if we hadn't had a meeting, there were several programs that I would have liked 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 Hobla received a \$250 grant for a Lowell Middle School golf program. It will mark the first time ever for such a program. The money will be used to buy 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

uplift their performance on screen and enable them to accurately depict the battle, allowing them to obtain a false arm, fake blood and some costumes.

"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 even more.

## City Renovation, cont'd... From Page 1

Kent Street between Washington and Monroe from the Mid Michigan Railroad. The lot will become a parking lot for the eventual expansion of the Superior Furniture Company. Also there was construction of a dumpster enclosure in the chamber of commerce parking lot.

Two items not expected to be done this year but which were completed were the reroofing of the Foreman Building

and the Look Memorial Fire Station. Both projects had been cut from the city's budget; monies from the Look Memorial Fund and the Lowell Area Community Fund, however, made the reroofing possible.

A tight budget is a concern for next year. Pasquale said the city plans to start the budgeting process earlier this year to see what direction the city is headed. At this time, he couldn't say

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 city," Pasquale said as he summed up the year. "It certainly was one of the busiest."

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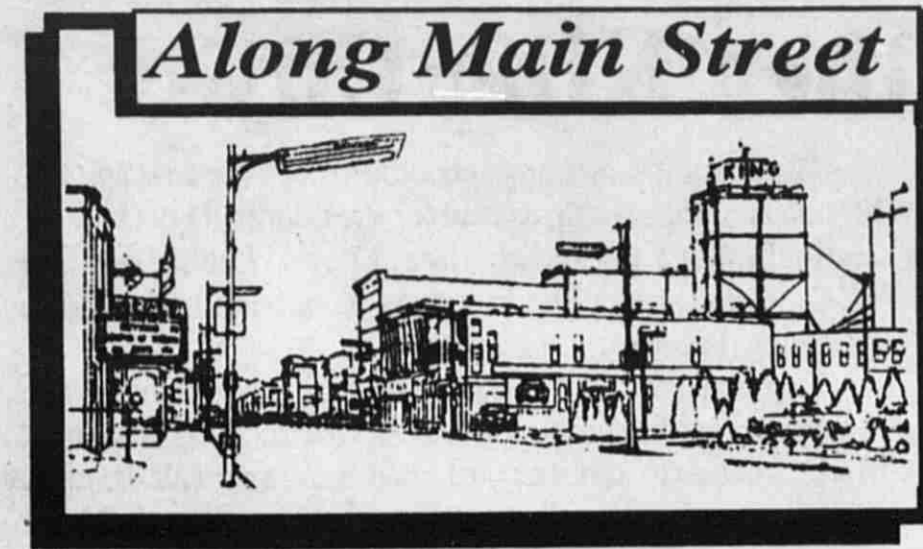
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**THRIFT SHOP CHRISTMAS HOURS**  
 The Flat River Outreach Ministries Thrift Shop will be open Tuesday, Dec. 24 from 12 - 4 p.m. and closed on Christmas Day. It will reopen Dec. 26 and 27 from 12 - 6 p.m. and Dec. 28 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**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 from 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 897-7688.

**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.

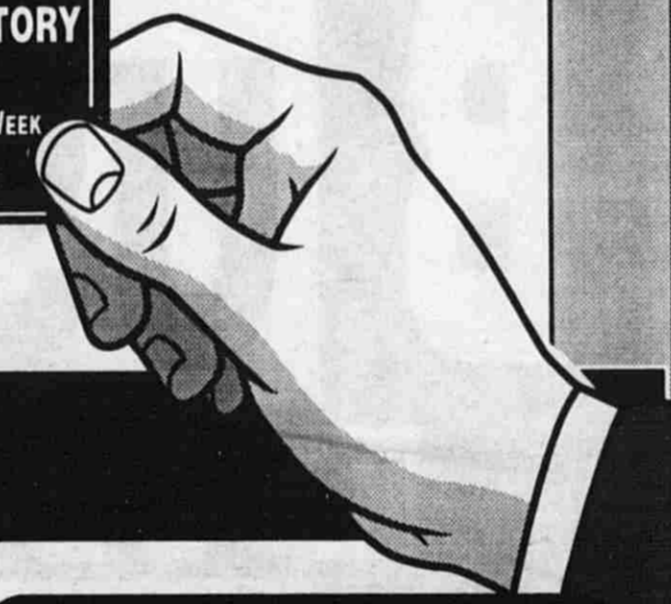
**FINANCIAL AID NIGHT JAN. 9 IN LPAC**  
 The counseling staff at Lowell High School will have a financial aid night Thursday, Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center for students planning to attend college next fall. Juniors, seniors and their parents are welcome.

*Laws are like sausages, it is better not to see them made.*

Otto van Bismark

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## City cleans a third of its sewer lines in first phase

By J.N. Boorsma  
 Contributing Writer

It will be about four years before residents in the Valley Vista area can expect the sewer lines to be rechecked and cleaned.

At the Lowell City Council meeting Monday night, Department of Public Works director, Dan DesJarden announced the city was able to complete the entire area of Valley Vista before the

\$20,000 which was set aside to clean the city's sewer lines ran out.

The city was able to clean about 13,383 feet of pipe as well as televising it for future reference, DesJarden said. Of the pipe cleaned, about 1,482 feet involved having roots cut out of the system. About 425 joints were pressure tested with 288 joints failing the test and having to be regrouted.

The total cost of the project was \$22,965 of which about \$7,000 was used for repairs.

DesJarden said the plan is for the city to work on West and Center streets to Main Street, and then try to complete everything west of the railroad tracks next year. He said that would complete one third of the city's sewer line.

During the following year, he hopes to clean and televisive everything east of the

money should go a little bit 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 is affecting the wastewater treatment plant. The process is helping to seal up the joints so that groundwater is not getting into the system.

This is the first time the city has gone through an extensive cleaning and repair of its sewer lines. The city council decided to move ahead with the project, despite a tight budget, because of residents' complaints about the sewage backing up into their homes.

After the meeting, DesJarden said the testing did discover a break in the line on Donna Street that could 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 cleaned since there had also been reported backups there.

## Gymnastics' youth are served

The future of Lowell gymnastics was on display Thursday night at the Lowell High School scrimmage.

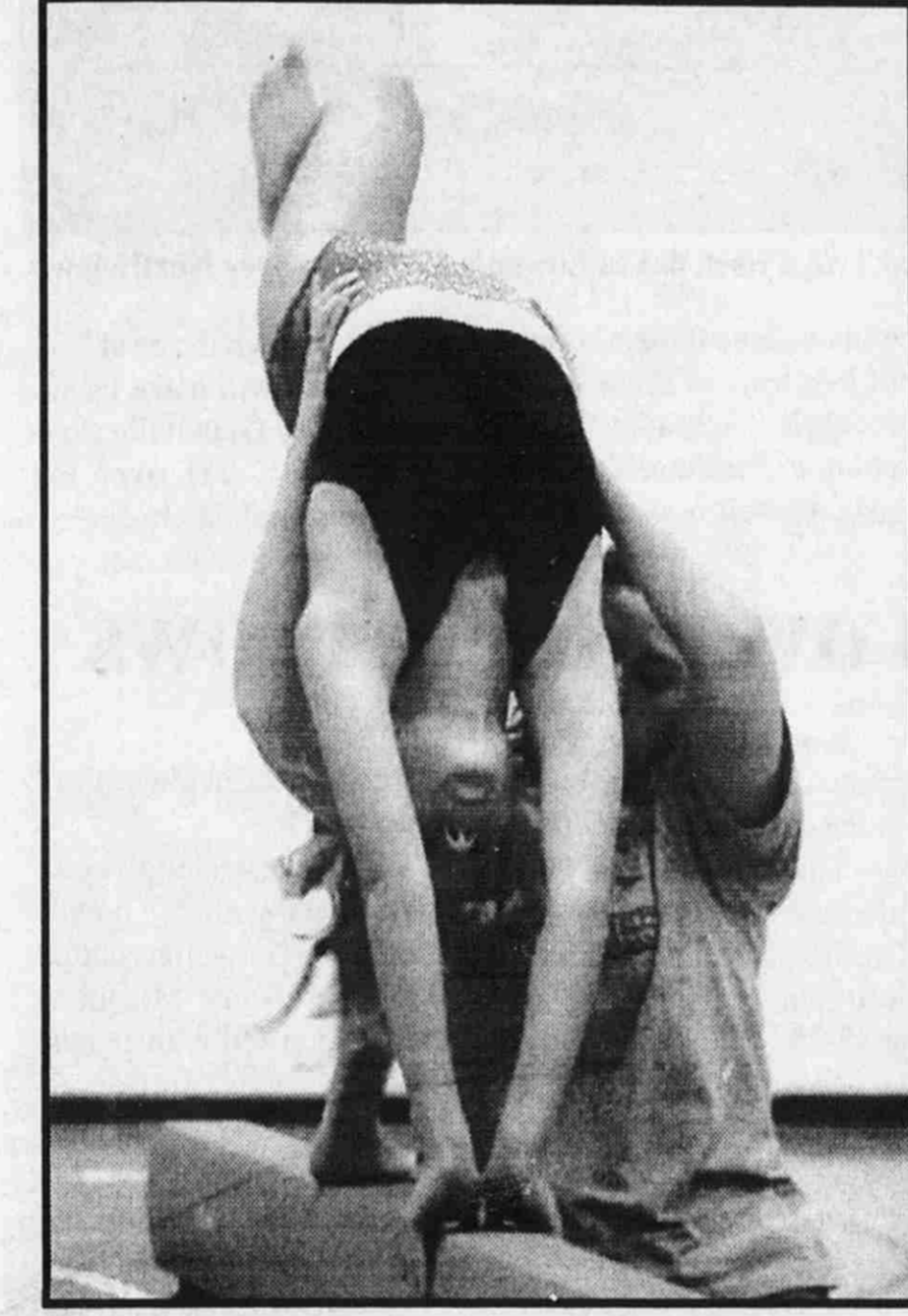
"These girls have come up through the program and are now involved in the Lowell Area Community Education gymnastics program," said Lowell High School gymnastics coach, Michele DeHaan.

The 10 girls are in grades five through eight.

"The scrimmage was the first time they have competed," DeHaan explained. "Most of the girls were nervous. I stressed to them to use it as a learning experience."

Each of the junior Arrows 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.



Lowell gymnastics coach, Michele DeHaan works with Danielle White on the balance beam.

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

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

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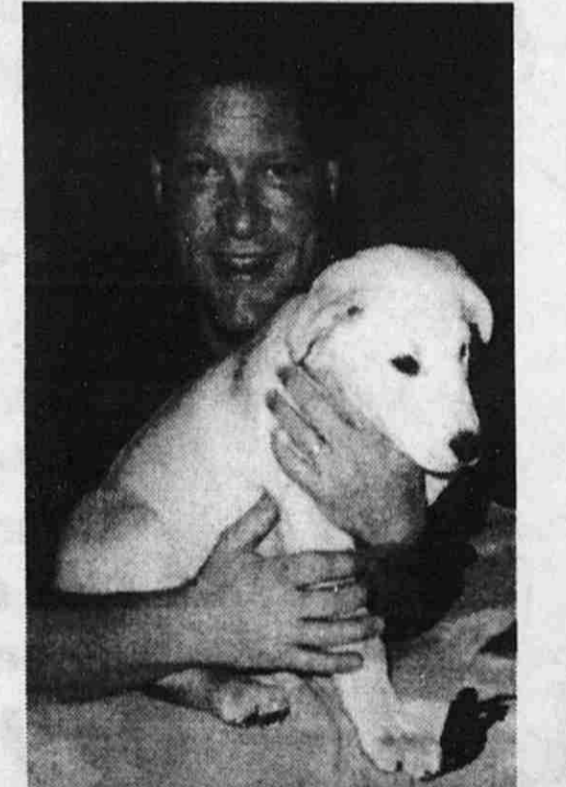


**DIGNITY & RESPECT**

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.

If You See This Cutie December 26 Wish Her A **HAPPY 16<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!**  
 Love Mom & Dad,  
 Kelsey & Jill

### In Memory Of Mike Bergy Who Passed Away One Year Ago, December 26, 2001



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 And only God knows why.  
 Our hearts still ache in sadness  
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 But now we know you want us  
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 Week of 1/2 - 1/3

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TUES: Holiday vacation

WED: Happy New Year's 2003!!!

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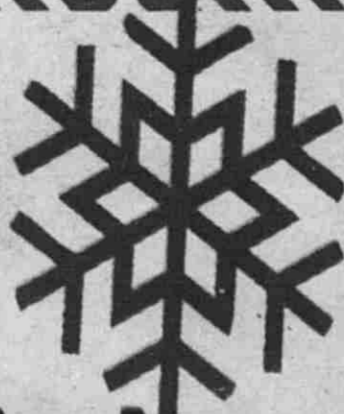
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