

# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 28, Issue 13

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

## B&E Suspects Busted

••• After nearly an eight-month investigation, Lowell Police, in cooperation with the Kent County Sheriff's Department and the Ionia County Sheriff's Department arrested four young adults responsible for several break-ins mainly to businesses and outbuildings.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus *Lowell Ledger Editor*

The Lowell Police Department, working in conjunction with the Kent County Sheriff's Department and the Ionia County Sheriff's Department, has charged four individuals with numerous break-ins, larcenies, and a stolen auto.

An estimated \$30,000 in stolen property has been accounted for and/or recovered.

The crimes occurred in several locations throughout Kent and Ionia counties. The suspects are all young adults from the Lowell/Alto areas.

A total of 13 break-ins, four larcenies and one stolen auto have been cleared as a result of the investigation.

Arrested and released on felony charges of breaking and entering (counts) and released on bond were Jerry Joe Farr, 19, of Lowell; Ronald Alan Farr Jr., 19, of Lowell; Lane Edward Vickers, 21, of Lowell; and Jeffrey Douglas Kooiman, 18, of Alto.

All four suspects turned themselves in to Lowell Police Wednesday (Jan. 29) evening and were then released on bonds ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000 (10 percent). They were arraigned on Thursday (Jan. 30) in Cascade and Rockford district courts.

In related news, a 17 year old Lowell man, was arrested on one count of receiving and concealing stolen property (a one-year misdemeanor). He was released on a \$200 bond.

"The break in the cases began when Lowell Police Investigator, James Hinton began his investigation on a larceny of tires and wheels from a local car dealer," said Lowell Police Chief, Jim Valentine.

The break-ins began as early as late last summer.

During the course of his investigation, Hinton obtained information, leads and contacts with suspects involved in the numerous break-ins and larcenies. Statements of involvement were obtained, and stolen property was either recovered or turned in to the department.

The list of recovered items includes but is not limited to

car motors, four sets of four tires, Stihl chain saw, large amounts of construction and mechanical tools, air compressor, tool boxes, Cushman utility vehicles, bow and arrows, snowmobiles, Dodge pickup truck, three quads (four wheelers).

"Fortunately we have been able to recover much of the stolen property and have returned it to the owners," Hinton said.

"The investigation kept expanding with more and more of the crimes being cleared and property recovered as the investigation proceeded. The stolen vehicle recovered had been dismantled and parted out," Valentine explained.

In addition, the prosecutor's office is reviewing possible charges against three other individuals but their status is still pending.

Names are being withheld pending the arrest and formal arraignment of the suspects. All the individuals with pending charges are expected to be taken into custody soon, according to Valentine.

The incidents that occurred in Ionia County are pending review for possible charges in that venue.

The original investigation of tires and wheels from the Lowell dealership that led to the clearance of these crimes is still open with the property still missing. Anyone with information on this crime is asked to call the Lowell Police Department (897-7123) or Silent Observer (774-2345).



### City Selects Blazo's Park Entry

Lowell's Clare Blazo was recognized with a certificate of appreciation for naming Lowell's newest park "Upper Bridge Park." Presenting her with the certificate is Lowell Mayor, Jeanne Shores. Blazo's was one of 20 entries in the contest, to name the 19.86 city acres located near the intersection of South Division and Grand River Drive. Blazo arrived at her decision because the adjacent bridge to the property was called Upper Bridge.

### Looming cuts drive transportation directors to find funding alternatives

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
*Lowell Ledger Editor*

Feb. 14 is the date districts around the state expect to receive a broken arrow for Valentine's Day symbolizing funding shortcomings in Lansing.

In anticipation of forthcoming cuts in education, the Legislation Branch of Michigan Association of People Transportation has begun putting into place proposed programs to raise private dollars so that the transportation of 900,000 children across the state is not unduly affected.

A handful of these type programs were discussed by its board members at a Wednesday morning meeting in Lowell.

The board feels sure the money that is there now won't all be available in the future. "We're working to find ways within transportation to drive our way out of trouble," said Lowell transportation director, Larry Mikulski.

Ideas discussed were:

- The Einstein Program, a program whereby revenues are generated through districts displaying ads on school

buses (i.e., milk/Michigan Dairy Association).

- A vanity license plate program, in which plates would advertise who manufactured the bus (i.e., made by General Motors).

- A regional corporate purchasing program for school bus parts.

- A fleet management program whereby school districts with garages out-service their service to schools which do not have garages.

- Recycling with the department of motor vehicles. School districts would pur-

chase refurbished cars and trucks (with over 75,000 miles).

Such programs will require investigating legislation and getting the legislators' blessing.

"There are no laws saying these sort of things can't be done, but it's important to insure that legislation isn't drafted, prohibiting these type of programs," said Mikulski.

Lowell transportation director says the board intends to begin small, but also hopes

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Inside

The Lowell Ledger

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Center,  
Story Page 10

# OBITUARIES

**CASTLE** - Mr. Lawrence Earl Castle, aged 56, of Grant, died Thursday, January 30, 2003. Survived by wife Susan Castle of Grant; children Melinda Stewart of Newaygo, Sharlene Castle of Grant, Richard Castle of Grant, Cheri Acosta of Newaygo, Adam Fletcher of Armed Forces and Tina Zufelt; nine grandchildren; mother Irene and Steve

Bailey on Tuesday. Memorials to the family.

**COX** - William Dennis Cox, aged 86, of Comstock Park, formerly of Lowell, passed away at his home Monday, February 3, 2003. He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Ethel (Toots) Cox; parents, Grover and Margaret Culkin Cox; brothers Grover and Jack Cox; sister Betty Kelly; special nephew Mark Rittersdorf. He is survived by his brother James (Peggy) Cox of Jefferson City, MO; sister-in-law Alice (Al) Meyer of Las Vegas, NV; stepson Lt. Robert (Patricia) Pielin; grandchildren Eileen, Jerry, John, Patrick; several great-grandchildren; special niece and nephew and caregivers Colleen Mercer and Patrick Rittersdorf. The family would like to say a special thank you to St. Jude's Parish Grannies, Nannies and Sunshine Helpers for their loving care and support. He will be remembered by his family as a gentle man with a great sense of humor and knowledge. Memorial Mass will be offered Friday at 11 a.m. at St. Mary Church, 402 Amity St., Lowell, Rev. George J. Fekete, presiding. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made

to St. Mary's Building Fund. Arrangements by Roth-Gerst Funeral Home.

**HOUGH** - Bessie C. (Scott) Hough, aged 74, of Saranac, passed away due to accidental injuries January 29, 2003 in Grand Rapids. She was born April 16, 1928, in Lancaster, Pa., the daughter of J. Clyde and Bessie (Taylor) Rintz. She married Clifford Scott September 14, 1946, in Saranac, who preceded her in death February 2, 1995. She went on to marry Devine Hough September 11, 1997, who passed away January 27, 2003. She is survived by her son Michael and Connie Scott of Lowell; daughters Patricia and Ray Carigon of Saranac and

Cathleen Scott of Florida; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by one daughter Barbara, two brothers and two sisters. Cremation has taken place and a memorial service was held Saturday at Saranac Community Church with Rev. John Madvig officiating. Anyone wishing may make a memorial contribution in Bessie's memory to Saranac Fire Department 1st Responders, Commission on Aging or VFW Sheridan.

**HOUGH** - Devine Louis Hough, aged 76, of Saranac, passed away due to accidental injuries January 27, 2003, in Saranac. He was born May 31, 1926, in Lake Odessa, the

son of William and Alice (Mallison) Hough. He married Bessie Scott September 11, 1997 who passed away January 29, 2003. He was an Army Veteran of WWII, member of VFW of Sheridan and a driver for Commission on Aging. He is survived by several stepchildren, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; many nieces. Cremation has taken place and a memorial service was held Saturday at Saranac Community Church with Rev. John Madvig officiating. Anyone wishing may make a memorial contribution in Devine's memory to Saranac Fire Department 1st Responders, Commission on Aging, or VFW Sheridan.

## The Lowell Ledger (USPS 453-830)

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## Postal campaign teaches consumers to protect themselves

The Postal Inspection Service and the Consumer Advocate's Office have joined other federal, state, and local organizations, as well as national advocacy groups to launch the fifth annual National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW).

The U. S. Postal Service has taken this year's subject, Information Security, one step further by sending consumers the message, "Identify Theft - Safeguard Your Personal Information." This year's national campaign focuses on education consumers from becoming potential victims.

Every year, thousands of people and businesses are victimized by identity theft schemes. Consumers are being encouraged to be aware and be educated. Feb. 3-8 has been designated as the official week dedicated to promote consumer protection awareness efforts.

While it is impossible for consumers to protect themselves from every swindler, there are actions that can be taken to substantially minimize the risk of identity theft. Consumers can take the following steps:

- Promptly remove all mail from the mailbox after delivery.
- Never give personal information over the telephone, such as social security number, date of birth, mother's maiden name, credit card number, or bank personal identification (PIN) code, unless you initiated the phone call.
- Shred pre-approved credit card applications, credit card receipts, bills and other financial information you don't want before disposing in the trash or recycling bin.

Post Office, cont'd... pg. 3

# Are leftover seeds still good this year?

You're trying to put your seed and plant order together, and you're wondering if the seeds left over from last year's garden are still good. You don't want to buy more if these are all right, but you don't want to be disappointed if you rely on them and they're not.

How the seeds were stored may be the clue you're looking for, says Mary McLellan, Extension Master Gardener program coordinator at Michigan State University.

"If seeds have been stored in moisture - and vapor-proof

containers in a cool area, most seeds that were new last year will probably germinate just fine," she says. "Seeds such as tomato, carrot, pumpkin, kale, cucumber, Brussel sprouts and cabbage will still be viable for two or even three years if they're stored properly."

On the other hand, if seed packets were merely stuck in a box and set on a shelf in the garage or the mud room, where they were exposed to last summer's tropical heat and humidity, even long-lived seeds might not germinate well.

So what should you do? Gamble on the old seeds or buy new? How about conducting a home germination test on the leftover seed, McLellan suggests. Start by dampening as many paper towels as you have seed packets you want to test. Take 10 seeds from each packet and roll them in a moist paper towel, wrap rubber bands or twist ties around the towels to keep the seeds from falling out, and place each towel in a labeled plastic bag in a warm spot (75 -90 degrees F). The top of the refrigerator is usually a good place, especially if there are cupboards above it to hold in the heat it generates.

Under warm, moist conditions, most seeds that are going to germinate will do it in a week, McLellan observes. So, after a week, count the number of seeds in each paper towel that have sprouted and multiply by 10 to get a germination percentage for each lot. Any seed with a germination rate of 50 percent or below should probably be replaced, she adds. Higher rates suggest that the seed will probably be okay for this year, though you may want to plant it a little thicker than usual, just in case the germination rate outdoors is lower.

For a good harvest from your major crops, it would probably be wise to plant a mixture of new and old seed, she suggests. "If you know you need a certain quantity of snap beans or sweet corn or butternut squash or pickling cucumbers, buying a little extra fresh seed is pretty cheap insurance that the produce will be there when you're ready to preserve it," she concludes.

## Township developer to continue PUD discussion with township

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
 Lowell Ledger Editor

Ken Friedrich, 11337 52nd St., presented a preliminary site plan for a PUD to the Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission.

The plan calls for a total of 15 sites, a private road with two cul-de-sacs and open space.

Friedrich wants to develop the property as a residential PUD to allow for two-acre building sites.

The township adopted an Open Space PUD Ordinance in September 2002 which would control his development. The density of the development is controlled by what is allowed in the Land Use Master Plan - one lot for each four acres.

Section 3.7.4.A of the old PUD Ordinance identifies the "not to exceed" density, and not a minimum or allowed amount.

"According to the ordinance, the PUD does not have to tie into the four acres per split," Friedrich explained. The township resident said he is interested in pursuing a PUD development.

Friedrich also pointed out that the land is very hilly in places, there remains a deep gravel pit on the east side of the property, and he must complete property switches with a neighbor within his parcel.

Friedrich will continue discussion with the planning commission at the Feb. 10 meeting

## Post Office, cont'd... From Page 2

- Order a recent credit card report from the three major credit bureaus once a year to check for fraudulent activity or other discrepancies.
- Sign all new credit cards immediately upon receipt.
- Report all lost or stolen credit cards immediately.
- Use caution when you disclose account numbers, credit card numbers, or other personal financial data on any web site or online service location unless you receive a secured authentication key from the provider.

For more information, visit the Postal Inspection Service Web site at [www.usps.com/postalinspectors](http://www.usps.com/postalinspectors).

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 A child miseducated is a child lost.  
 \*\*\*  
 —John F. Kennedy

## LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
 PROBATE COURT  
 COUNTY OF KENT

SWARTZ, deceased  
 SSN: 385-38-6368

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
 Decedent's Estate

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:  
 The decedent, MARILYN SWARTZ, who lived at 136 Ivanhoe N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49546, died 1-17-03.

FILE NO. 03-175-020-DE  
 Estate of MARILYN

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to ELIZABETH JEANSONNE, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

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 Mitchell Dykstra  
 Albert Folkersma  
 Christina Folkersma  
 Rachel Folkersma  
 Cory Fosburg  
 Paige Fosburg  
 Michael Geelhoed  
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 Cara Wilcox  
 Rachelle Wilcox  
 Kayla Williams  
 Kinsey Williams  
 Kourtney Wittenbach  
 Kyle Wittenbach  
 Marylou Yowais

# Reflections

## Of Faith

**Pastor Joe Fremer**  
Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church

"What the world needs now is love, sweet love." Some of you from my generation remember this Burt Bacharach song. Thirty years later, the sentiment is still sappy, but still true.

The search for love has left many people discouraged and battered, cynical survivors of a bad marriage, a bad love affair, a bad early childhood.

The problem isn't with love, it's with the lovers. We are first of all lovers of self. Our relationships are pursued on a self-serving basis. Even motherhood, once considered to be the most natural form of altruism, has become subject

as He loved us: unconditionally, and with no thought of reward. Remember your loved ones this Friday, but remember also the One who loves you perfectly!

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**FEBRUARY 6:** Donna Oesch, Reed Stormzand, Norm Johnson, Angie Blough.  
**FEBRUARY 7:** Margaret Peckham, Gordie Barry, Peggy Covert.  
**FEBRUARY 8:** Clare Krebs, Laurie Chambers, Maya Newhouse, Steve Estes.  
**FEBRUARY 9:** Tom Covell, Alan Ryder, Inga Weeks, Noah Newhouse, Allee Brenk, David Potter, "AJ" Alvin Davis Brenk II, Adrian Sterzick, Brady Foster, Dave VanKeulen.  
**FEBRUARY 10:** Richard Korb, Eric Kimble.  
**FEBRUARY 11:** Gladys Thorne.  
**FEBRUARY 12:** Peg Stanford, Kurt Roudabush, Travis Bergy.

### AREA BIRTHS

Bill and Pam Smyth (nee Miller) of Rockford are happy to announce the birth of their son, Eli William on January 20, 2003. Eli weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz. and measured 18 inches long. He was welcomed home by his brother Jacob and sister Sadie.

\*\*\*  
Live out your imagination, not your history.  
—Stephen Covey  
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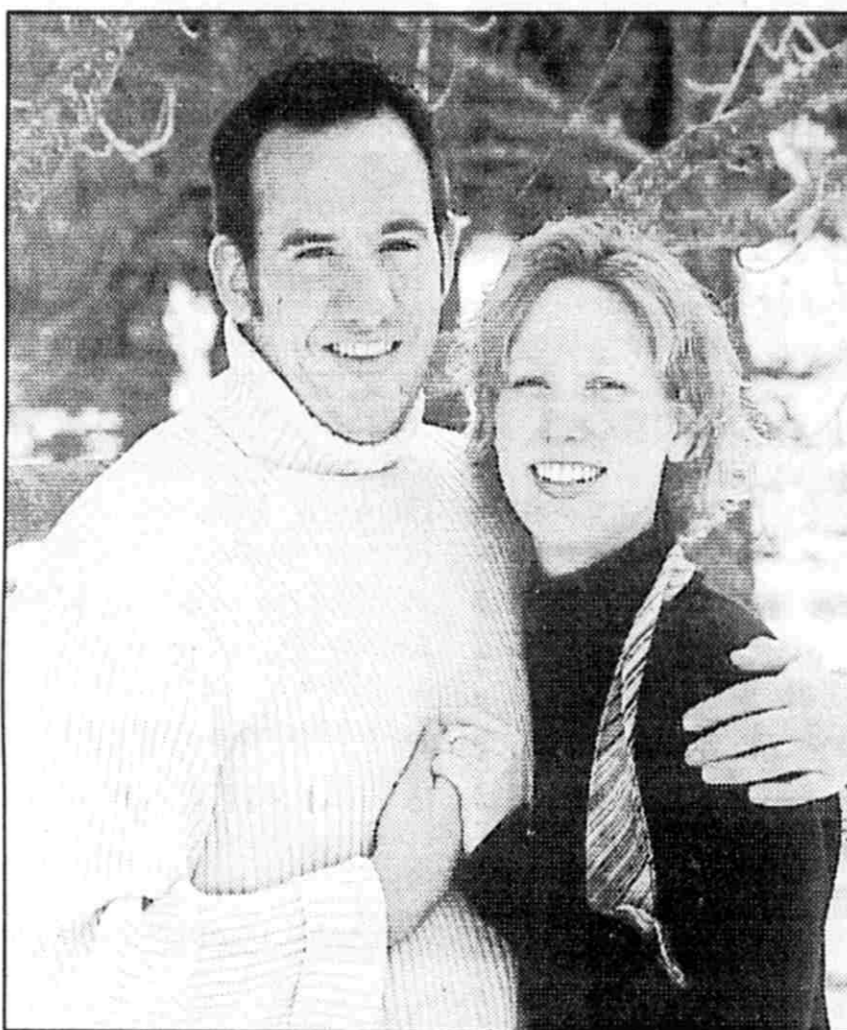
## Bittrick/Wunder

Brenda Kay Bittrick, of Grand Haven, and Douglas Scott Wunder, of Milwaukee, Wis., are pleased to announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Diana Bittrick of Lowell and Barry Bittrick of Ada. She is a graduate of Lowell High School and Western Michigan University in Education, and received her master's degree in Humanities from Central Michigan University. She currently teaches English at Grand Haven High School.

The future groom is the son of Jim and Carol Wunder of Escanaba, Mich. He is a graduate of Escanaba High School and is a boilermaker, currently employed by Boilermakers Local 107 out of Milwaukee.

Their wedding will take place on the beach in Escanaba on July 12, 2003.



## Griffin/Schutte

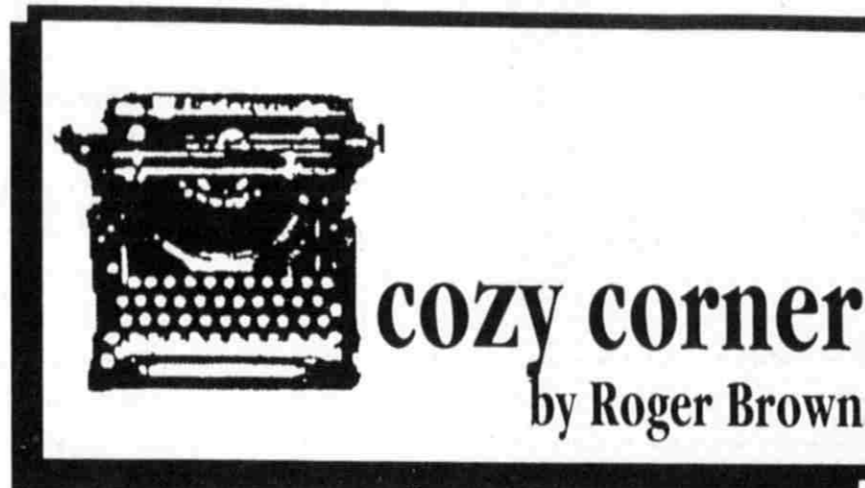
The parents of Sara Katherine Griffin and Mark Andrew Schutte would like to announce the engagement of their children.

The bride-to-be is a 1999 graduate of Saranac High School and is attending Grand Valley State University. Sara is the daughter of Kathy Griffin of Saranac and Charles Griffin of Clarksville.

The future groom is a 1996 graduate of Lowell High School and is also attending Grand Valley State University. Mark is the son of Sandy and Steve Schutte of Alto.

The couple will be exchanging vows on July 5, 2003.

# Viewpoint . . .



Two weeks ago this column featured my grandson, Boog. After writing the piece I was struck by my exclusive use of his nickname. I'm so comfortable with his Boog I don't even bother to explain that it is a nickname. It's easy to understand my comfort level. The little guy is four years old and I've called him Boog since before he was born. Yes, it's a good thing he turned out to be a boy. Though I call his sister Jim.

Nicknames are cool. Yes, they're sometimes cruel, but I think it's better to have a nickname among your peers, even if it's not flattering, than to be snubbed. For example, back in high school I answered to "Hulk" and "Fatman." Neither of these names could be considered flattering, though I much preferred them to Roger. Nobody called "The Hulk" Roger and got away with it.

I'm not sure if this is still the case with young males, but

back in my youth we never, ever called each other by our given name. If you didn't have a nickname you were called by your last name. If your last name was more than one syllable, it was hacked apart. Butcher was Butch. Hubbard became Hub. Jackson was Jax. And of course anybody with a "ski" at the end was just Ski.

The boys had nicknames for the girls as well, but rarely addressed them as such. The girls' nicknames were usually terribly unflattering or, in the case of the really good-looking ones, too flattering. We kept them to ourselves. Even 35 years later I will keep those nicknames quiet.

All the teachers, coaches and administrators were given nicknames. Again, the nicknames were not flattering and couldn't be used when addressing them. For example, our principal's last name was Norton. We called him "Rip-Snortin' Norton", or "Rip" for short. It would not have been a good career move in high school to be called into Mr. Norton's office and address him as "Rip."

Our nicknames weren't confined to the school. After school and ball practice, we hung out at the pool hall. There we ate burgers, played the jukebox, pinball and, of course, shot pool. There were card tables in the back where a perpetual cast of old retired guys played cards for chits good in trade at the pool hall. Going around the table I can still see their faces and recall their nicknames... Rockin' Robin, Bulldog, Superman, Dog-Killer, One-Armed-Bandit, etc. I'd be hard pressed to come up with their real names.

Among the boys, I can remember nicknames like Cow-boy, Spot, Speck, Bullet, Food Bins, Moose, Wart, Fruity, Monk and several I'd best not mention here.

In college, and then the Army, it was more of the same. Some old nicknames followed guys. The shortened last-name-only rule applied. And new criteria came into play. A guy's geographic origin could spawn a nickname like Tex or Frisco.

Then it all ended. With marriage, family and a job or business, the whole nickname thing just sort of faded away. Everybody goes by their given name. Some even insist on being addressed by the long version, like Jonathon, Matthew, Michael, Andrew, etc. I always resist this trend with the shorter John, Matt, Mike and Andy. The Hulk can get away with that stuff.

It seems sad that none of us go by those great old nicknames we had when we were young. I'd be hard pressed to think of a single person who has retained a nickname as their principle identity. My dad was one. He went by Brownie almost exclusively. Not many people even knew his real name was Dwight, and he liked it that way.

I guess I'm hoping this Boog thing sticks. He certainly has a good solid foundation with more than four years as Boog instead of... um... let me think... it's on the tip of my tongue... dog-gone it... I should know that... ah... um. Well, you'll just have to trust me - Boog is my grandson's nickname. He really does have a different name on his birth certificate. I just can't come up with it right now.

Bill Kerekes, retired from the post office, shows his well-kept workshop. His current project is building elaborate houses for purple martins.

The Lowell Sky Watch Observation Post will open Sunday at noon. There are almost enough volunteers to fill all two-hour time slots.

Adult First Aid classes will be held Tuesday evenings in the Ag room at the high school.

Postmaster George Hale says stamp and paper sales in 1952 broke all records by \$3000, total about \$40,000.

Kent County Civil Defense will have a blood-typing program here this month at the high school so all people can come in and have their blood type determined without charge.

### 25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER FEBRUARY 8, 1978

1977 winter taxes are due next Tuesday. Wednesday a four percent penalty will be added.

Roger Odell announces a public input session for the Vergennes Township Planning Commission. Land use will be the issue, including the Flat River Management and Protection Plan.

Grattan Township is granted almost \$4 million by EPA to replace septic systems around four lakes with a collector system.

The Detroit Lions will play a basketball game with Tri-River teachers here Friday.

Editor Roger Brown discusses living in the house with Thor, the yellow Labrador retriever, since he learned to jump the fence around his pen.

game handling? Field dressing and meat processing are important, especially when far from home. How will the meat, cape, and antlers be transported and at whose expense? What is the guide to hunter ratio and are the guides experienced and licensed?

Sometimes hunting licenses are not included in the deal. If not, find out if the license must be acquired through a lottery or can it be bought over the counter. A hunter safety certificate may be required to purchase a license.

More specific questions are in order if you get serious about booking a hunt. Learn about the terrain and weather that will be encountered. What level of physical condition will be required? Proper clothing can make or break a hunt, so seek advice on what to pack. The game pursued and the distance of a typical shot will dictate the firearm necessary to get the job done. Check with the outfitter, airlines, and custom officials about the specific regulations regarding the transportation of firearms.

How much is the deposit and what is the refund policy in case the trip must be canceled? Try to obtain references from hunters who have booked with the outfitter. Most outfitters have a list available, but contact someone of your choosing if possible.

Hunts in other states and foreign countries are expensive, so it pays to gather as much information as possible before committing to an outfitter. Conduct some independent research to get an idea of where the best hunting areas are located for your choice of game. Hunters who have hunted a particular game species are usually glad to talk about their experience and can provide reliable information.

Hunting far from home can provide an opportunity to explore unique places and meet interesting people. By doing some homework one can increase the chances of having an outstanding hunt.

By Priscilla Lussmyer

## Ledger Entries

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

### 125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL FEBRUARY 6, 1878

Beautiful spring weather. No sleighing yet, and flowers are blooming. The ice going into ice houses is thin.

Holes in the sidewalks have finally been planked over. There will be a full carload of leather-topped buggies sold at auction here Monday.

The Greenback Party convention will be held at Jackson tomorrow.

A huge snowstorm and gale along the east coast sinks many ships.

### 100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 5, 1903

The new Lowell Canning Co. stockhold meeting reports no dividends this first year, but valuable experience gained and \$5,000 in wages paid out.

## Health

With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang  
Wayne A. Christenson III & John G. Meier

### DERMATITIS

Dermatitis, or eczema, is an inflammation of the skin. It can occur from a variety of causes. The dry winter air typically makes this condition occur more commonly in the winter months. The skin typically appears reddened, itchy and possibly swollen. It is not contagious. It can appear anywhere, but most common areas include the folds in the elbows and behind the knees.

Avoiding dry skin is the easiest way to prevent or combat dermatitis. Use an unscented moisturizing soap such as Dove or Ivory. When bathing, use warm instead of hot water and limit yourself to 15 minutes. Use a moisturizing cream immediately after drying off. Eucerin or Aquaphor are excellent moisturizers. Using an antihistamine is useful when the itching is severe. At times, the only help will come in the form of a steroid cream such as hydrocortisone.

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### MOVIE GUIDE

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SHOWTIMES 2/03 - 2/06

FINAL DESTINATION 2 (R) 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50

DARKNESS FALLS (PG-13) 1:00, 3:10, 5:10, 7:20, 9:10

NATIONAL SECURITY (PG-13) 1:20, 3:30, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35

KANGAROO JACK (PG) 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:10, 9:30

GANGS OF NEW YORK (R) 11:45, 3:00, 6:10, 9:20

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

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Dave Noonon, Asst. Pastor  
Stacy Peters, College & Twenties  
Brian Baber, Youth Pastor

**SUNDAYS:**  
Worship: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAYS:**  
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Generation Jacob Youth: 7 p.m.

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Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M.  
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Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M.  
AWANA/J.V.....Wed. 6:15 & 7 P.M.  
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Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road  
897-5648

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

Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M.  
Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418  
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# Departures, changes lead to a new face heading up the Lowell Planning Commission

By J.N. Boorsma  
Contributing Writer

With little fanfare, Clark Jahnke took over the reins of the Lowell City Planning Commission.

Jahnke was elected by the commission as the new chair after former chairman, James Hall made an announcement in November that he would not be seeking re-election. Hall is still serving as a planning commissioner. Jahnke has been on the planning commission since 1995, helping to review a number of issues that have come before the commission.

As Jahnke took office, another planning commissioner, John Vander Wilp, announced that "Since my appointment, more and other demands have been made on my time. To continue to serve on the commission would not be in the best interest of all. With much regret, I feel that I must resign from this body."

Vander Wilp, who has been on the commission since 2000, follows the resignation of longtime planning commission member, Elizabeth (B.J.) Thompson, who announced that travel plans and other activities had made her decide to leave.

During the Sundry proposal, Vander Wilp had come under fire concerning his position on the project after revealing

he had been approached about developing his land. Vander Wilp never took the proposal up, nor was it pursued by the developers.

"We have been challenged with tough issues and have

come through with positive results for the community as a whole," Vander Wilp wrote in his letter to the planning commission. "Many times, in this process, we have had to discern fact from emotion."

## Alto Marine serves country with pride

Alto's Benjamin J. Van Ek is serving his country as part of the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment stationed in Okinawa, Japan. The Marines have successfully completed their training in the Republic of Korea and are now training at Camp Fuji in Japan.

Marine Pfc. Van Ek is an automatic rifleman for his battalion.

"I carry extra ammo and barrels for the automatic rifles," he said.

Van Ek is a part of Lima Company, which has detached from the battalion in support of Landing Force Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (LF CARAT) exercise in the Western Pacific. This multinational training exercise has given Van Ek a chance to learn many new things.

"I have learned a great deal of self-discipline and leadership skills that will also be very useful in the civilian world," said the one-year Marine Corps veteran.

Van Ek, a 2001 graduate of South Christian High School, is the son of Edwin and Judy Van Ek of Alto.



## ROTARIAN RECOGNITION

The picture shows members of the Lowell Rotary Club between the years of 1935-1940. The picture was taken in front of Richmonds' Cafe (Larkin's) where Rotary met for lunch and meetings. The Lowell Area Historical Museum is having a contest to see who in the area can name all of the members shown in the picture. The person who names the most will receive dinner for two at the newly opened Flat River Grill. The restaurant has graciously donated this prize to the winner. The contest will run until Feb. 15. In case of ties, the earliest postmark on the entry will be the winner. All entries should be sent to: Lowell Area Historical Museum, P.O. Box 81, Lowell, MI 49331.

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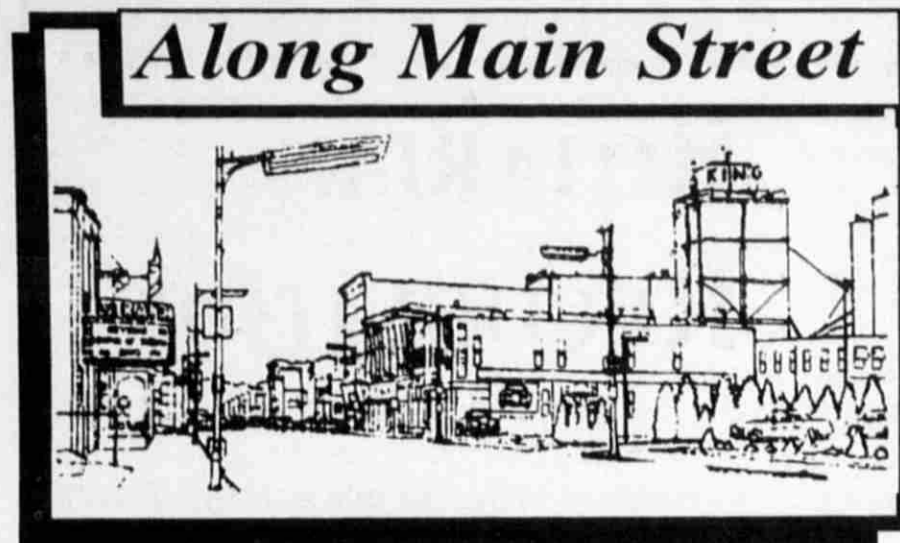
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**Along Main Street**

**"BACKGROUND ON THE MIDDLE EAST" PROGRAM**

Lowell Congregational Church is hosting "Background on the Middle East," presented by Steve Kampfschulte, social studies/history teacher at Lowell High School. It will be on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 9:30 a.m. The public is welcome to attend.

**ALUMNI HOCKEY GAME**

There will be an LHS alumni hockey game Saturday, Feb. 8 from 7-8:30 p.m. at Patterson Ice Center. All alumni are welcome.

**CHERRY CREEK CARNIVAL**

There will be a carnival at Cherry Creek Elementary on

Saturday, Feb. 8 from 12 - 3 p.m. Come join the fun, food, games and prizes.

**LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM WINTER PROGRAM**

"The Murder of Charlie Knapp" by Michael Tummino will be presented by the Lowell Area Historical Museum on Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. at Lowell Charter Township Hall. The free program is open to the public and light refreshments will be served.

**LHS STAFF/STUDENT VARIETY SHOW**

Lowell Performing Arts Center will be the location for the annual Lowell High School staff/student variety show on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m. Pre-sale tickets are available for \$4 in the high school office or by calling 897-9904. \$5 at the door.

**LOWELL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP**

What is happening to ethics in the workplace and in our organizations? Join us Thursday, Feb. 27 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. For registration form call the chamber at 897-9161.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT BLOOD DRIVE**

The Lowell Area Fire Department is sponsoring a blood drive for the Grand Valley Blood program on Wednesday, Feb. 19 from 2-7 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson St.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL**

The Wittenbach Center is looking for volunteers for the Maple Syrup Festival Feb. 28- March 2 to share their expertise. School groups on Friday; community groups on the weekend. Learn maple syrup collecting techniques. Call 987-1002 for information or to volunteer.

**SEEKING MUSICIANS**

The Lowell Showboat Summer Concert Series is seeking musicians for the 10-week concert series beginning June 12. If you or your group are interested, forward your CD/cass., a brief bio and group photo to Lowell Area Arts Council, P.O. Box 53, Lowell. Deadline is Feb. 28. Questions? Call 897-8545 or 897-9161.

**Deadline for ACT registration, March 7**

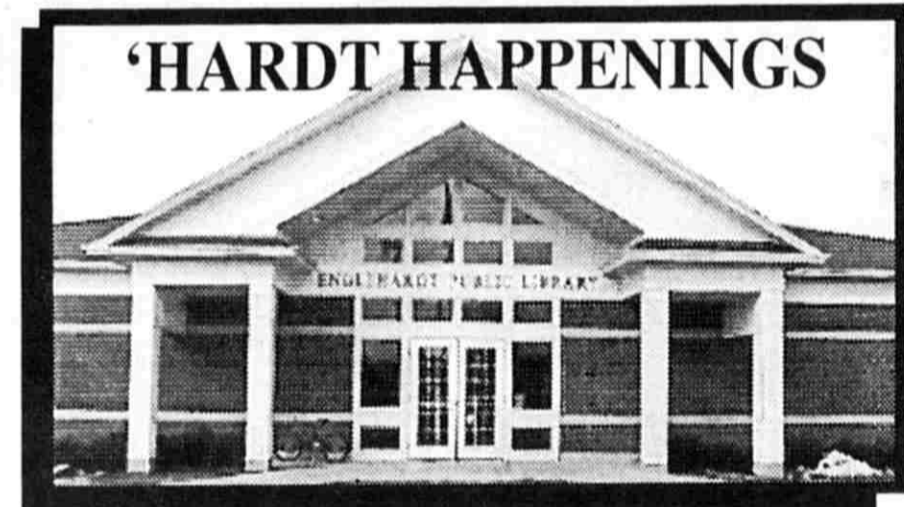
College-bound high school students can take the ACT Assessment on April 12, the next nationwide test date. Deadline for registration is March 7. Late registration postmark deadline is March 21 (an additional fee is required for late registration).

The ACT Assessment is an achievement test in English, reading, math and science which measures what students have learned in high school, and the skills required for success in

college. It is not an aptitude test. The test fee is \$25. Students who have already taken the ACT can take it again and try for a higher score. Those who take the exam more than once can report only their highest composite score to prospective colleges if they choose.

For more information, contact your high school guidance counselor or register online on ACT's website - [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).

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**'HARDT HAPPENINGS**

In honor of Legacy 2003, several branches of Kent District Library will host a Mother/Daughter Discussion and Tea during March, in observation of Women's History Month.

Mothers and daughters ages 12 and up are invited to read a book together for discussion. Copies are available at the library checkout desk or by calling.

The Englehardt branch program will be on Tuesday, March 18 at 7 p.m. (647-3920) and the Alto branch on Saturday, March 29 at noon (647-3820).

**Transportation, cont'd... From Page 1**

to have things in place by the October conference meeting so that these programs are ready for the 2003-04 school year.

How much of a savings can these programs generate for school districts is not clear, but for a school district (Lowell) which covers a 130 square mile radius and with a transportation budget of over \$1 million, no additional revenue or savings is too small.

*I don't believe in circumstances. The people who get in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and, if they can't find them, make them.*

George Bernard Shaw

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**Sharing The Vision**  
SHARI MILLER  
Lowell Schools Superintendent

As we plan for next school year, Lowell Area Schools and school districts across the state are working to include the various focus areas of two key legislative acts. The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, a federal legislative initiative, highlights several key areas including strong, ongoing academic growth for all students, highly qualified staff, annual testing and communications to parents and community. Every state will be required to test students in grades three through eight in reading and math. By 2007, students will also be tested in science. These tests will be used to help teachers and

principals identify areas where student need to improve and to work on classroom activities and interventions to improve student achievement.

Under *No Child Left Behind*, school districts are required to publish report cards, detailing the achievements of students. These report cards have been available to parents in Michigan for several years. Schools will also be required to achieve adequate yearly progress. This means that test scores will be used to determine if students are improving academically and target goals will be established. Schools not achieving adequate yearly progress will be placed upon an improvement plan and receive technical assistance. Public school choice will continue to be an option for parents with children in low achieving schools. Supplemental services will also be provided. At the end of the next twelve years, under *No Child Left Behind*, all students in all public schools across the nation will need to successfully demonstrate mastery of math and reading skills.

The state of Michigan has adopted *Education Yes! - a Yardstick for Excellent Schools*. This state legislation incorporates many of the aspects of *No Child Left Behind* and will result in each school receiving a letter grade based upon the school's ability to meet the established criteria. The primary

criterion used for measuring a school will be the statewide MEAP assessment. Other areas of review include parent involvement and communication, curriculum and assessments aligned with state standards, teacher quality and professional development as well as student attendance and dropout rate.

Many of the requirements of both *No Child Left Behind* and *Education Yes!* have already been adopted and are being implemented in the Lowell Area Schools. Continued emphasis will be placed upon reading to ensure that students are proficient readers by the end of third grade. Emphasis will also be placed upon vocabulary development and writing. The math curriculum K-12 will be aligned to assure that all Lowell students have a strong foundation in math. We will continue to analyze test data to identify areas where we can improve and to celebrate the successes of our students. We look forward to these opportunities for future growth and are committed to providing a solid foundation for all students in academics and in character development.

*Your comments about this concern or any issue would be greatly appreciated. Send to Shari Jo Miller, Lowell Area Schools, 300 High St., Lowell, MI 49331 or [smiller@lowell.k12.mi.us](mailto:smiller@lowell.k12.mi.us) (check out our Web page at [www.lowell.k12.mi.us](http://www.lowell.k12.mi.us) or call 897-8415.*

**IN THE SERVICE**

Air Force Airman Alicia M. Osborne has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Osborne, a 2002 graduate of Saranac High School, is the daughter of Gloria and Donald Ward of Lowell.

**Help promote literacy**  
The Kent County Literacy Council has scheduled an information session for prospective volunteer tutors on Thursday, Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. It will last one hour. The session allows persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors to find out more about the literacy program. There will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training following the session. Gaines Township Library, located at 421 68th St. SE in Grand Rapids, will offer the program. Registration is required. Call 245-7962.

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Seeking 1st, 2nd and 3rd shift part-time Resident Advocates to work in a residential program for adults with mental illness and/or developmental disabilities program located in Lowell. Responsibilities include intakes, discharges, development and implementation of treatment plans, medication distribution, and crisis intervention. Wages begin at \$8.65 per hour with a \$0.50 increase upon completion of orientation and training. \$0.50 shift differential on weekends. Excellent written and verbal communication skills are a must.  
If you are interested in gaining valuable Mental Health experience, send or fax your resume to or apply at  
HOPE: Network Behavioral Health Services, 1256 Walker Ave., NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
Fax (616) 235-1436.  
HOPE Network is an equal opportunity employer.

**Balloons & Gifts Store**  
**NOW OPEN ATTICS**  
We Have Baskets, Stuffed Animals, Beanie Babies, Etc.  
Place Your Order Early For VALENTINE'S DAY FEB. 14  
220 W. Main St. • Lowell  
PH# 291-0027  
MON-FRI: 9-6 • SAT: 9-3  
**We Deliver!**

**Free Healthy Seminar**  
Tuesday, February 11, 2003  
7:00 PM • Cascade Store  
Cascade Road at 28th Street  
**Slow Food**  
by Slow Cooking Expert, Amy Sherman  
Call 975-7555 for Reservations.  
Seating is Limited! • Reserve your spot today!  
Two Convenient Locations  
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**RESOLUTION Great New Home** Available January 1, 2003  
**TWO BEDROOM BALCONY APARTMENT**  
Subsidized housing, 2 person household. Annual income no less than \$18,082.00.  
Does not include deduction income i.e., minor child or daycare costs, etc.  
Heat, water, sewer, trash.  
If meet criteria contact:  
**BIRCHWOOD GARDENS APARTMENTS**  
Call Debbie at (616) 897-8049  
TDD # 1-800-649-3777  
765 Hunt St., Lowell  
Professionally Managed by... Medallion Management, Inc.



# 4 Health Wellness Center nurtures the whole person

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

One's social, emotional, spiritual and physical wellness are essential aspects in bringing quality to one's family life.

According to Lowell's Melissa Athmann, MA, LLPC, and Beverly Anderson, MSW, the focus of 4 Health Wellness Center, at 77 Bridge St. in Saranac, is to help individuals and families grow.

"Counseling is thought of as scary by many. We provide more than just counseling - we're here to help people grow and learn, and to educate them as to how they can get to know themselves better," Anderson explained.

4 Health Wellness Center has been the recipient of many

positive responses since opening in mid-December.

"While this (77 Bridge St.) is our home base, we still go to where the need is and where people can be most conveniently served," Athmann said.

Between Anderson and Athmann, the two provided similar family type services at the Franciscan Life Process Center for 15 years.

"All families go through different transitions in life," Athmann explained. "Even healthy families are not healthy 100 percent of the time, although they have a healthy model in place from which to build."

4 Health Wellness Center is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. until 4

p.m. and in the evenings and on Saturday by appointment.

Athmann and Anderson will hold an open house on Saturday, Feb. 8 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and on Sunday, Feb. 9 from 1 until 4 p.m.

The wellness center was opened in memory of Athmann's mother, Carol Mohnke.

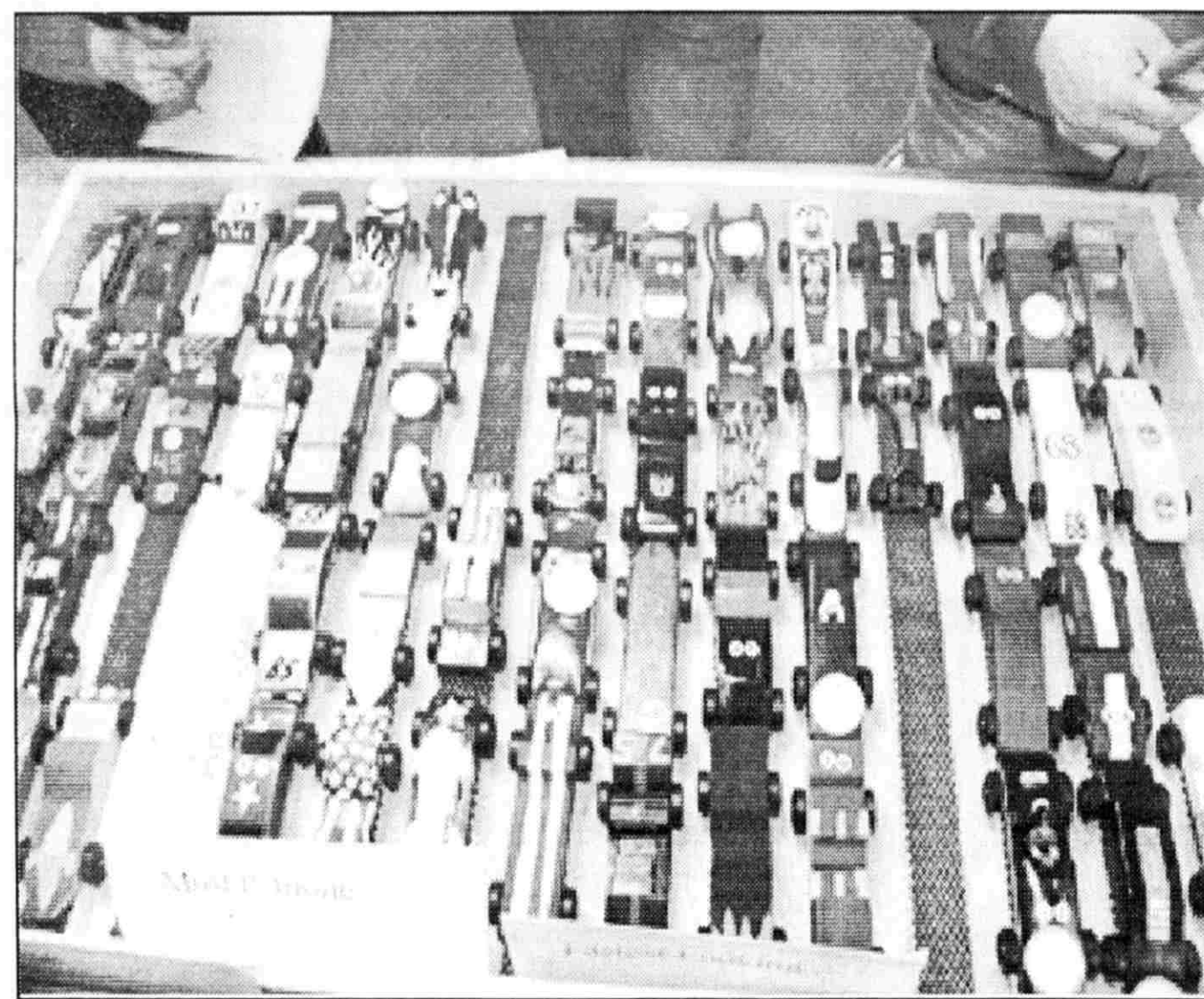
"My mother was an entrepreneur. She started her own catering/restaurant business," Athmann explained. "She told me that she thought one day I would start my own business."

After her mother passed away, Athmann began to think, "Why not?"

"Life is too short not to do what your passion is," Athmann concluded.

Melissa Athmann, seated, and Beverly Anderson opened 4 Health Wellness Center in mid-December at 77 Bridge St. in Saranac.

# Pinewood Derby packs in scouts for annual race day



Over 60 cars were entered at this year's Cub Scout Pinewood Derby. The race was held at Cherry Creek Elementary due to the large number of racers and spectators.



Emotions were running high as these three cars approach the finish line. Each scout raced eight times for a total of over 500 races.



Photos Courtesy, Bruce T. Doll

**FLAT RIVER ANTIQUE MALL**  
212 W. Main St. • Lowell, MI  
(616) 897-5360

**WINTER CLEARANCE SALE**  
Starts 6 PM, Friday, February 7  
through Sunday, February 16

**10 TO 20% OFF**  
*(except sale or firm)*

**SPECIAL MOONLIGHT MADNESS SALE**  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7**  
6 TO 11 PM • FOR 5 HOURS ONLY  
**TAKE AN ADDITIONAL 10% OFF!**

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 10-6 PM  
WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY: 10-8 PM

- Winners are:
- Tigers:
    - 3rd - Alexander Dlouhy
    - 2nd - Mike Blake
    - 1st - Keaton Pomper
  - Bears:
    - 3rd - Kevin Blanchard
    - 2nd - Reed Stormzand
    - 1st - Jacob Davenport
  - Webelos:
    - 3rd - Brian Welch
    - 2nd - Zachary Andrus
    - 1st - James Collins
  - 3rd - Matt Majistic
    - 2nd - Zach Rhodes
    - 1st - Ross Finnie

# 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.

**EVERY MONTH:** Flat River Snowmobile Club meets at 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 7-8:30 p.m. in members' homes. Call 676-1355 for details.

**SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH:** Fallsburg 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 MON. OF EACH MONTH:** American Legion Clark-Ellis Post 152 at Schneider Manor, Bldg. D, 725 Bowes Rd. 8 p.m.

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

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

**EVERY 1ST MON.:** V.F.W. Post #8303 meets at 7:00 p.m. (at Schneider Manor until further notice.)

**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.

**SECOND TUES.:** G.R. Chapter of the American Sewing Guild meets at Plainfield Senior Center, 5255 Grand River Dr. 6:30 social time; 7 p.m. program. Call Sandy at 285-0621.

**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.

**SECOND TUES.:** G.R. region of the Horseless Carriage Club meets 7 p.m. at old S&H Green Stamp storefront in Rogers Plaza. Anyone interested in historical autos welcome. Call Bob 891-2205 for more information.

**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 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. 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 upstairs.

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

**EVERY WED.:** "Peppers" (Sr. adults) at Franciscan Life Process Center: 1:30 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.:** 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 - 7 p.m./band: 7 - 8 p.m. 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. - 3 p.m.; Mondays: 5:30 - 8 p.m. 897-9393.

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

**FIRST AND THIRD THURS.:** Alto Lions Club meets at a new location: Annalaine's on S. Alden Nash at 7 p.m.

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

**EVERY 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 (until further notice).

**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. socializing; meeting 7 p.m. Mother-mother support for pregnant & breastfeeding women. Nursing children welcome. Ada church. Call 752-8300.

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

**SECOND SAT. OF 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 time; 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. 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.

**SAT., FEB. 8:** Join Steve Kampfschulte, social studies/history teacher at LHS, for the program "Background on the Middle East" at First Congregational Church at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

**SAT., FEB. 8:** LHS alumni hockey game from 7-8:30 p.m. at Patterson Ice Center. All hockey alumni are welcome.

**SAT., FEB. 8:** Cherry Creek Elementary carnival from 12-3 p.m. Games, food, fun and prizes.

**SAT., FEB. 8:** Free family fly tying workshop from 9-noon. RSVP to Tammy at the Wittenbach Center 987-1002. Limited space.

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

**LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR 897-5949**

**MON.:** 9:00 a.m. Walk/Shop at Woodland Mall.  
**TUES.:** 9:00 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall. 12:45 p.m. Bible Study.

**THURS.:** 9 a.m. Walk/Shop at the Malls; 9:30 Crafts; 1 p.m. Euchre.  
**FRI.:** 9:00 a.m. Walk/Shop at Woodland Mall.

**WED., FEB. 5:** 9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure; 9:40 a.m. Tour of Amway; 12:45 p.m. Shop at Lowell Meijer.

**THURS., FEB. 6:** 12 p.m. Noon Dance.  
**FRI., FEB. 7:** 12:45 p.m. Bingo.

**WED., FEB. 12:** 8:30 a.m. Co-ed Breakfast;

**WED. FEB. 12:** Lowell Area Historical Museum winter program "The Murder of Charlie Knapp" by Michael Tummino at 7 p.m. at Lowell Twp. Hall. Free admission; public welcome; light refreshments will be served.

**THURS., FEB. 13:** Lowell Freestyle sign-ups at Cherry Creek Elementary, 6-8 p.m. Bring copy of birth certificate. Cost: \$65.

**WED., FEB. 19:** Lowell Fire Dept. blood drive for Grand Valley Blood program, 2-7 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson.

**WED., FEB. 19:** Annual LHS staff/student variety show at LPAC at 7:30 p.m. Pre-sale tickets \$4; \$5 at the door. Call 897-9904.

**THURS., FEB. 27:** Ethics and diversity Lowell Leadership workshop at chamber from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call 897-9161 to register.

**FRI., FEB. 28:** Dallas Children's Theater production of "African Tales of Earth & Sky," 1 hr. musical at Lowell Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. Tickets available at LAAC 897-8545.

**SAT., MARCH 1:** Women's Retreat at Franciscan Life Process Center. Call 897-7842 for a brochure on this spiritual enrichment experience.

**THURS.:** 9 a.m. Walk/Shop at the Malls; 9:30 Crafts; 1 p.m. Euchre.  
**FRI.:** 9:00 a.m. Walk/Shop at Woodland Mall.

**MON.:** 9:00 a.m. Walk/Shop at Woodland Mall.  
**TUES.:** 9:00 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall. 12:45 p.m. Bible Study.

**THURS., FEB. 13:** 12:30 p.m. Lunch at Cafe in the Woods; Shop 1 hr. at Woodland Mall.  
**FRI., FEB. 14:** 12:45 p.m. Valentine Party.

**MON., FEB. 17:** 12:34 p.m. Syl Mosier Discussion.  
**TUES., FEB. 18:** 12:45 p.m. Bible Study.

**WED., FEB. 19:** 10 a.m. Advisory Council.  
**THURS., FEB. 20:** Noon Dance.

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL

For the Regular Meeting of **TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2003.**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Shores and the City Clerk called Roll.  
Present: Councilmembers Blough, Brubaker (arrived at 8:15 p.m.), Myers and Mayor Shores.  
Absent: Councilmember Pfaller.

Also Present: City Manager Dave Pasquale, City Clerk Betty Morlock, Police Chief Jim Valentine, Light and Power and Cable TV General Manager Tom Richards, Light and Power and Cable TV Boardmember Dave Austin and Lowell Airport Boardmembers Jim Serne and Kevin Vezino.

IT WAS MOVED BY BLOUGH and seconded by MYERS to excuse the absence of Councilmember Pfaller.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY BLOUGH and seconded by MYERS that the minutes of the January 6, 2003 regular meeting be approved as written.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS and seconded by BLOUGH that the bills and accounts payable be allowed and the warrants issued.

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

### BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (01/21/03)

GENERAL FUND .....	\$101,687.96
MAJOR STREET FUND .....	2,340.18
LOCAL STREET FUND .....	15,633.59
DDA FUND .....	4,508.28
CITY HALL CONSTRUCTION FUND ...	351,091.67
AIRPORT FUND .....	1,172.96
WASTEWATER FUND .....	7,693.43
WATER FUND .....	11,723.83
DATA PROCESSING FUND .....	168.75
EQUIPMENT FUND .....	1,531.27
CURRENT TAX FUND .....	354,026.01
LOOK FUND .....	23,809.00

**Item #1. PRESENTATION BY JILL MOORE, ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER.** Jill Moore stated she has been the Animal Control Officer for the City since November, 1995. Moore also indicated she works for Paws With A Cause. The City of Lowell has the highest number of participants as well as the largest success rate in the Paws program than any other jurisdiction in Kent County.

Moore covers 2.8 square miles which comprises the City of Lowell. Occasionally, she will travel outside the City limits to pick up cats. The dogs are kept at the old DPW garage before being turned over to the Humane Society or Kent County Animal Shelter. If the dog is wearing an ID tag, every effort is made to find the owner. If the animals appear to be trainable, they are placed in an adoption program through Kent County.

Moore stated she also handles complaints regarding barking dogs as well as cats and dogs at large. Most animal cruelty complaints are turned over to the Humane Society.

Wildlife complaints usually consist of raccoons and possums.

Licenses for dogs can be purchased at City Hall through March 1, 2003. Proof of rabies and neutering must be presented.

City Manager Pasquale asked who the public should contact with a complaint. Moore responded the Police Department.

Mayor Shores questioned the procedure of picking up one's dog from the Animal Shelter. Moore explained if the dog is licensed, there is a \$10 in pound fee for the first time. Further, a \$50 fee is charged the second time and a \$150 fee for the third time. Moore also noted there is a \$35 per night charge for an animal being held at the old DPW garage.

Councilmember Myers inquired about the length of the training program for PAWS. Moore responded the dogs are kept in a household for 14 months at which time they are then taken elsewhere for additional training.

Shores asked about the type of dogs used for the PAWS program. Moore responded mostly Labs and Golden Retrievers. Terriers are usually used as hearing dogs.

Mayor Shores thanked Moore for the report.

No further information was provided.

### Item #2. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

417 Howard - Candice and Chris Fieszar-Smith - variance to allow a 4 1/2 foot high front yard fence - set public hearing date (2/3). Candice and Chris Fieszar-Smith wish to install a 4 1/2 foot high fence in their required front yard located at 417 Howard. Under Section 4.07B., fences in the required front yard are limited to three feet in height. Thus, a variance has been requested.

IT WAS MOVED BY BLOUGH and seconded by SHORES to set a public hearing on February 3, 2003 to consider a front yard fence height variance at 417 Howard.

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

**Item #3. LOWELL LITTLE LEAGUE REQUEST - INSTALLING CHAIN LINK DUGOUTS AT EAST THREE FIELDS FOR CREEKSIDE PARK.** Ed Parks, President of the Lowell Little League, had requested permission to install six chain link dugouts for the east three fields at Creekside Park. The Little League will handle all costs.

The chain link fences around the players' benches are required for All Star and Team Tournament games, as well as adding a measure of safety.

City Manager Pasquale stated the Parks and Recreation Commission at its January 11, 2003 meeting reviewed the request and unanimously recommended this be approved.

Dan Stevens, Vice President of the Little League, had indicated this would give the teams a chance to play at home.

Councilmember Myers inquired about the cost. Pasquale responded the cost was not discussed at the Parks Commission, because the league will be undertaking all expenses. There is a possibility of this being an Eagle Scout project.

Myers believed this would be an improvement to the park as well as adding a safety factor.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS and seconded by BLOUGH to approve the Lowell Little League to install the chain link fences around the dugouts at Creekside Park for the east three fields with the League handling all expenses.

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

**Item #4. APPROVAL OF A GAMING LICENSE TO ALLOW A QUILT RAFFLE BY THE LOWELL WOMEN'S CLUB.** In order to have a raffle, a gaming license is necessary from the State of Michigan through the Bureau of State Lottery. The Women's Club needed to secure a resolution from the City Council recognizing the club as a nonprofit organization. The quilt will be raffled with a drawing planned for Wednesday, May 14, 2003.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS and seconded by BLOUGH to support a resolution to enable the Lowell Women's

Club to obtain a gaming license for the quilt raffle.

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

**Item #5. LOWELL CITY AIRPORT SIGN - REQUEST FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE.** Chairman of the Lowell Airport Board Jim Serne explained the Airport entrance sign needs to be replaced. The School of Missionary Aviation Technology (SMAT) has agreed to handle the foundation work, posts and the freestanding supports for the sign. The cost is estimated at \$3,200.

The estimate received on the sign was \$3,800. This is a double-sided sign of the same quality as the City signs.

Serne requested the City contribute half toward the cost of the sign.

City Manager Pasquale stated the total cost of the sign is \$7,000.

Councilmember Myers questioned the length of the City agreement with SMAT. Pasquale stated originally it was a 10-year agreement. He believed there was approximately 4 years left in the present agreement, which can be renewed.

Pasquale stated the City's contribution would come from allocations of the General Fund.

Mayor Shores stated the airport is very important to the community.

Councilmember Blough mentioned the airport is an asset to the City and SMAT has made a substantial investment to the facility.

IT WAS MOVED BY BLOUGH and seconded by MYERS to support the Airport Board recommendation of the purchase of the entrance sign from Carlson Design in the amount of \$7,000 with SMAT providing \$3,200 and the remaining \$3,800 be allocated jointly and equally between the Airport Fund and the City unallocated General Fund.

Myers asked if there was any insurance placed on the old sign. Serne responded no.

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

**Item #6. APPROVAL OF REVISED LOWELL CABLE TELEVISION RATES.** Lowell Light and Power and Cable TV General Manager, Tom Richards explained since the current rates were established, the license fees from the basic cable networks have increased by approximately \$1.44 per subscriber. The digital basic package has also increased by approximately \$1.20 per subscriber per month since original rates were established. The program license fees are direct costs to Lowell Cable TV, based on the number of subscribers.

The Light and Power/Cable TV Board has approved adjustments in the basic cable rate by \$1.50. This would increase the rate to \$28.30 per month. The Board also approved a digital basic rate increase of \$1.30 per month. The digital cable rates would then increase by \$14.25 per month.

Richards noted the competitive cable systems offering similar packages in the West Michigan area range \$40 - \$46 per month. The comparative rate for the digital basic rates ranges from \$10 and \$19 per month.

The Board has also recommended and approved a new charge to recover the additional costs when it is necessary to bury an underground cable service to a household. The installation cost was originally set for aerial installation of up to 125 feet to the home.

Mayor Shores questioned what determines the need for a cable to be buried. Richards explained this is necessary if there are underground utilities in the area.

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Councilmember Myers asked if the Board evaluated the High-Speed Internet service. Richards responded the Board believes the current rates are appropriate for this service.

City Manager Pasquale inquired regarding the rate of new customers. Richards responded it is stable at this time. An extension of the cable system is moving to the south and will reach areas such as Oak Hills Development as well as the development next to Meijer's.

Pasquale asked if the number of stations for Basic Cable had reached its maximum. Richards responded yes.

Shores noted the City remains \$12.30 under other Cable companies.

IT WAS MOVED BY BLOUGH and seconded by MYERS to support the Cable rate increases, as proposed. Further the underground installation fee is approved. Also, while the City wishes to encourage as much underground utility service as possible, it is not without a cost. The underground installation does have value relative to the service ability of the hookup.

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

Councilmember Brubaker arrived at 8:15 p.m.

**Item #7. PRESENTATION OF THE UNDERDRAIN STUDY FOR THE FAITH, CAROL LYNNE AND JAYNE ELLEN DRIVES AREA OF THE VALLEY VISTA SUBDIVISION.** Dave Austin of Williams and Works performed a tabletop study on the evaluation of the cause and potential solutions to residential basements leaking adjacent to Creekside Park. The areas included are along Carol Lynne, Jayne Ellen and Faith drives.

The study began by sending questionnaires to approximately 30 homes. The questionnaire was general in nature and asked the extent of the problem, when did it occur, how long has it occurred and the extent of the problems. This information was taken as well as existing plans from the initial subdivision drawings, the sanitary sewer plans and plans for Creekside Park. Based on this information, an analysis and conclusion were found.

The subdivision was constructed in the early 1970's. At the time, the sewers were installed prior to the homes being constructed. The soil borings in the construction plans show a very high groundwater table. In some areas, it was as high as three feet from the surface and tapered down to eight or nine feet continuing south. The sewers were installed with adjacent underdrains in order to keep the water out of the sanitary sewer. The homes were a variety of styles. Most included a poured basement. The questionnaires indicated nine homes had experienced or are currently experiencing a problem.

The general nature of the problem is during extended periods of rain, heavy spring thaws and in some instances the sprinkling of Creekside Park soccer fields, water is coming into the basements. One individual indicated when Cherry Creek rises, so does the water in his sump pump. There is a tremendous amount of ground water coming in the area. Some of the basements were constructed poorly.

Williams and Works reviewed the area as well as the park. Groundwater levels from soil borings were found to be as high as three feet from the surface and as low as 12 feet. The groundwater appeared to be higher at the north end of the neighborhood. The firm's conclusion is the area is naturally high in groundwater and was at the time the homes were built.

In 1986, Creekside Park was established. The soccer fields are adjacent to the homes on Carol Lynne and a few on Faith Drive. According to the plans provided and conversation with City staff, some grading took place on the soccer fields to allow appropriate drainage. In addition, swails were created through the park to help direct the drainage flow away from the fields toward natural drainage areas.

Underground sprinkling was added to the soccer field

area and one baseball diamond in 2002. The sprinklers are fed by old City wells, which operate at about sixty gallons per minute with approximately 80 pounds of pressure. In examining the sprinkler specifications and well information, it was calculated each of these zones, when operating, generates about a quarter inch of water over the area. Austin explained it is not correct to take each zone and say a quarter inch of water is placed in each zone. The zones are sprinkled at different times.

A similar case was brought forward on Robert Jayne. An underdrain was placed behind approximately nine homes. The underdrain consisted of a twelve-inch pipe, which was then connected to the existing storm sewer. No problems have been reported.

When the homes were built, it does not appear attempts were made by the builders to take care of the ground water. It appears the problem has been around for some time. However, some individuals felt the problem increased after the addition of Creekside Park. Williams and Works does not believe the improvements to the park nor the sprinkling would add a significant amount of change in the water situation which would impact these homes.

Austin stated this was a tabletop study. The firm did not go out and drill observation wells in the back yards to examine water levels. But given all the other evidence, it does not appear this is the main issue.

The first solution is to do nothing. If nothing is done, these individuals will continue with the problems. While some have learned to live with the problem, there is concern about the resale value of their homes.

The second solution would be to take care of the problem on site. One homeowner indicated an underdrain had been installed in the perimeter of their basement. The water is collected and travels to the sump pump and is pumped out. As a result, there have been no problems. This solution is accomplished by proceeding around the inside of the house at the intersection of the foundation and basement wall. The concrete is cut and an underdrain is placed. One can also have an underdrain placed outside of the house along the exterior of the foundation. The costs range anywhere from \$5,000 to \$15,000 depending on the extent and whether the work is done inside or outside the dwelling.

The last solution involves providing an underdrain which would be placed off the properties on City property in the park area. There are two alternatives of this. One way would serve the homes on Jayne Ellen, Carol Lynne and connect to an existing storm sewer. However, there are limitations. During high groundwater situations, the basements which were built into the groundwater are being saturated and water is getting through cracks in the wall. If the groundwater is moving, it would be intercepted by the underdrain and lower the groundwater table, taking it to the influence of the basement. In order for this to be done, the underdrain has to be deep enough to get below the basement. If the underdrain is too deep, it won't be able to drain to an existing storm sewer without being pumped. Therefore, an alternative was found where it appears there is an existing storm sewer so the underdrain can still be deep enough and tied into the storm sewer. This alternative would involve pumping the water. However, Austin did not recommend this. The pumps would run continuously.

Another alternative would be to tie into the Roberta Jayne system. This has the added benefit of placing an underdrain behind the individuals on Faith Drive.

Austin could not guarantee installing an underdrain, at a depth which would allow existing gravity, would take care of the problem.

A cost estimate showed \$7,600 per lot served (23 in total) in the first example while approximately \$6,200 (for 30 lots) on the larger example. These were approximately \$167,000 for the first and \$187,000 for the larger project.

Mayor Shores stated this has been an ongoing problem.

Dan Duram of 1450 Carol Lynne Drive stated there is a

storm sewer near the entrance of the park on Carol Lynne Drive, which holds groundwater all the time. Duram said until the sprinkler system was turned on he only had water in his basement when it rained heavy or during the spring thaws. Now, he has constant water.

Marilyn Branham of 280 Roberta Jayne mentioned she has lived in the area since 1978. She started to have water problems in 1981. She had much work done within the inside of her basement to try and fix the problem. Branham stated much of her problem seemed to deal with clay.

Gaylord Easton of 651 Birchwood Ct. commented on the groundwater at the NE corner of Alden Nash and Gee Drive. He questioned what would happen when Gee Drive is repaired. Austin responded no engineering work has been done on Gee Drive at this time. However, the proposal includes total reconstruction of Gee Drive, which would include curb, gutter and storm sewer. The run off from the road would be collected in the storm sewer.

Councilmember Brubaker asked if a review of the culvert had been done. Austin responded it is an open drain. The water is dissipated and returns back into the ground.

Austin stated 30 letters were sent out, with 17 responses and nine indicated a problem.

Brubaker asked if there would be any further investigation which may yield a solution which does not cost as much per parcel as these solutions presented. Austin responded the City would spend tens of thousands of dollars at the next level of investigation. Austin stated they could monitor the wells.

Austin said the topography could be reviewed to determine if the culverts are deep enough or if the storm water off of the parking lots is excessive.

Brubaker was unsure what could be done about the high groundwater, except for doing the very expensive solution. But he did want to know if the City was contributing to the problem.

Councilmember Blough stated this is a high water area and the problem has existed well before the park was established. If installing an underdrain is considered, then there is an investment which has to be funded again.

Eileen Beach of 530 Carol Lynne questioned how the underdrain issue on Roberta Jayne was any different than on Carol Lynne. Pasquale stated the biggest problem the City is dealing with for an underdrain is the cost. The project would be approximately \$160,000 which the City has not budgeted. The Roberta Jayne problem was much easier to fix because the underdrain could run straight north to south. The current situation involves a much larger area with many twists and turns.

Duram inquired if Federal or State funds were available. Pasquale responded the only funds available would be from the Community Development Block Grant. Currently, there is approximately \$24,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds, which could be spent. This would be approximately one-eighth of what would be needed for the underdrain.

Branham commented the Roberta Jayne project was made much easier, due to the existing drain on Sibley which was able to be tapped.

Myers believed the project was cost prohibitive. He did not see a direction to take.

Blough did not see any point in investing additional funds on studies at this time.

Brubaker did not believe a Special Assessment District would be appropriate in any event. The assessment would have to show that value is being added to these homes. If individuals are not having this problem with their basements, they are not going to want to pay to have the underdrain installed. Brubaker also agreed it was cost prohibitive at this point. However, Brubaker was not convinced the creation of the park, poor design or sprin-

## Berkey to discuss and sign book at Englehardt

Rick Berkey (voice of the West Michigan White Caps) will be autographing his murder mystery novel, "Morning Drive" at the Englehardt Public Library on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Berkey will discuss the writing of his murder mystery novel set in Grand Rapids and revolving around the radio industry.

For every book that is purchased during the signing, Berkey will donate \$3 to Lowell Middle School's Benjamin Morse Society.



## Lowell Little Leaguers get new fence

By J.N. Boersma Contributing Writer

For the first time, Little League watchers will be sitting behind the fence at Creekside Park.

The Lowell City Council, at its last January meeting, gave permission for the Lowell Little League to install six chain link dugouts for the east three fields at Creekside Park. The primary reason behind the move is to give Lowell Little League teams a home field advantage, especially during tournaments.

This is something the group has not had before, since the

playing area does not meet the regulations with the dugouts, said city manager, David Pasquale.

"It is an improvement to our park as well as a safety feature," said councilman, Charles Myers, who made the motion to allow the Little League group to install the fences.

The cost for the fences would be the sole responsibility of the Lowell Little League. Pasquale mentioned he had heard talk that the project could be an Eagle Scout assignment.

The Parks and Recs Commission had already given its approval to the plan at an earlier meeting.

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

klings has not somehow exuberated the problem. Austin stated the two actions could be undertaken to provide more information being to survey the park area and storm sewer structures directly adjacent to the area. The second issue discussed would be investigation in the Spring, when the sprinklers are running as to what the impact may be. This would be accomplished through placement of observation wells.

Pasquale asked if there would be any validity in looking at splitting the project. Austin responded this would have to work from the low end up.

IT WAS MOVED BY BRUBAKER and seconded by MYERS to ask for estimates on further drainage studies of the Faith, Carol Lynne and Jayne Ellen drives area, including a survey of the park. (This may tell the City if the design of the park or the current drainage system or sprinkling is exacerbating the problem with basements flooding in homes adjacent to the park.)

Blough explained by voting yes for this, the Council would reject the conclusions made by the current report. He read "contributions to the groundwater level from construction to Creekside Park is estimated to be insignificant to the groundwater problem." Blough believed the estimated \$5,000 which would be used to continue studying the problem could be used toward the design to further the underdrain. He questioned when the City is faced with inconclusive information, continued investment of dollars to study the problem is pursued.

Austin stated their opinion is based on available existing information which is the proposal received in the initial study.

YEA: 2. (Councilmembers Brubaker and Myers).  
NAY: 2. (Councilmember Blough and Mayor Shores).  
ABSENT: 1.

TIE VOTE.  
MOTION DEFEATED.

No further action was taken.

**Item #8. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT - 2003 - 2004 ALLOCATIONS OF FUNDS - PUBLIC HEARING.** Kent Council has informed the City that an estimated \$24,701.78 in Federal Community Development Block Grant Funds is available for various community projects beginning July 1, 2003.

Previously, it was mentioned utilizing funds for the underdrain project. But, the grant would only cover a small portion of the project.

Rather, City Manager Pasquale recommended the following projects for allocation:

- North Hudson Street (eastside) and Foreman Road (north side) sidewalks  
CDBG - \$20,701.78
- North Kent Transit assistance for senior citizens and handicapped riders  
CDBG - \$4,000.00

Councilmember Myers stated the Council has reviewed the issue of sidewalks leading to the schools. He believed this was a reasonable project for use of the funds. Also, historically, monies have been used toward the North Kent Transit. It is a good program.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS and seconded by BLOUGH to allocate the 2003 - 2004 Community Development Block Grant Funds toward the North Hudson Street and Foreman Road sidewalk project and the North Kent Transit assistance program as proposed.

YEA: 4.  
NAY: 0.  
ABSENT: 1.  
MOTION CARRIED.

**Item #9. PROPOSED ORDINANCE INCLUDING SEWER BACKUP AND OVERFLOW CLAIM REPORTING PROCEDURES TO WATER AND SEWER DISPOSAL SERVICE CHAPTER, CODE OF ORDINANCES - PUBLIC HEARING.** City Manager Pasquale explained this is an ordinance, which would amend to the City Code of Ordinances, including sewer backup and overflow claim-reporting procedures. This would be in accordance with state statutory provisions found in Act 222 of 2001. The ordinance designates the City Clerk as the person with whom sewer claims are to be filed.

Councilmember Brubaker stated this sets up a more formal procedure by which the City can follow in the event of a claim.

Marilyn Branham of 280 Roberta Jayne asked if definitions would be included as part of the ordinance. Brubaker stated the section indicates the terms are defined herein as they are in Act 222. Branham believed it would be helpful if a "defect" could be defined.

Branham referred to the packet, which would be presented to citizens when reporting a problem. She wanted to see some guidelines for the citizens as to what they could do to address the problem and clean it up.

Peter VanderHorst of 920 Beech had a problem with some of the definitions. There are some which are not defined in PA 222 such as the City knew or the existence of reasonable diligence should have been regarding the defect.

VanderHorst also referred to the paragraph in PA 222 regarding connections from the service main.

He also asked what the purpose was of placing this in the City Ordinance as PA 222.

Brubaker referred to the idea of including the definitions of Act 222 and thought this may be appropriate. He also commented on the possibility of adding a provision stating a packet of information would go to individuals who file a claim. This could be placed in the ordinance or it could be issued as a City policy. Brubaker noted Public Works Director Dan DesJarden is currently working on such a packet. He also stated it would be wise to include health information in the packet.

In terms of the sentences that VanderHorst commented on, this language is taken from the act. As cases develop, these terms will take on the meaning for the Act. He did not see this as expanding or contracting any potential liability of this City.

Branham stated the definition concerning 50% was found in Public Act 170, 1964.

Councilmember Blough inquired if there have been other municipalities which have adopted ordinances similar to

this. Brubaker responded several did shortly after the act was passed.

Brubaker suggested the ordinance be brought back to City Attorney Richard Wendt for the inclusion of definitions.

IT WAS MOVED BY BRUBAKER and seconded by BLOUGH to table the issue until February 3, 2003 and ask City Attorney Richard Wendt to add the appropriate definitions from Public Act 222.

YEA: 4.  
NAY: 0.  
ABSENT: 1.  
MOTION CARRIED.

**Item #10. SANITARY SEWER AND STORM WATER BACKUPS - PROGRESS REPORT.** Public Works Director Dan DesJarden reported there have been no sewer backups or complaints since the last meeting.

**Item #11. MONTHLY REPORTS.** Councilmember Myers stated there was a supplement added to the Police Report. This was interesting reading. He appreciated Chief Valentine's effort.

**Item #12. CITIZEN COMMENTS.** No comments were received.

**Item #13. COUNCIL COMMENTS.** Councilmember Brubaker apologized for his tardiness. He had another meeting to attend.

Mayor Shores stated the work has begun on the skating rink in Richards Park.

**Item #14. MANAGER'S REPORT.** City Manager Pasquale reported on the following:

1. The following board and commission meeting minutes was provided:

- Airport Board meeting of December 3, 2002
- Parks and Recreation meeting of December 14, 2002
- Chamber of Commerce meeting of December 20, 2002
- Lowell Light and Power Board meeting of November 25, 2002
- Lowell Cable TV Board meeting of November 25, 2002
- Grand Valley Metro Council-Transportation Policy Committee meeting of November 20, 2002

2. A meeting regarding the Federal Surface Transportation Program - Small Urban Program and Lowell's participation will be held on Wednesday, January 22, 7 p.m. at the Library.

3. As requested by Council, a Streets Improvements Plan was provided.

**Item #15. APPOINTMENTS.** By General Consensus, the Council agreed to reappoint Jim Myaard to the Airport Board with a term expiring January 1, 2006.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS to adjourn at 10:08 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: Monday, February 3, 2003

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

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### FIXED ANNUITY MAY HELP FILL RETIREMENT PLANNING GAPS

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Fixed annuities are not for all of the people all of the time. But, under the right circumstances, they could prove valuable to you.

Before we look at when a fixed annuity may be appropriate, let's see what it is. Basically, a fixed annuity is a contract with an insurance company. The insurer guar-

### SYNOPSIS

#### REGULAR MEETING OF THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD January 20, 2003 - 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of the December 16, 2002 Regular Meeting and list of invoices approved.

Guest Speaker Perry Beachum gave a presentation on the proposed Lowell Community Trail.

A Public Hearing was held regarding a nursery and landscaping Home Based Business.

Motions approved:

- Motion to approve, with conditions, application for a Home Based Business Special Use Permit by Terry Horigan for a nursery and landscape business

- Motion to approve a Construction Permit form for Site Condominium Developments

- Motion to adopt Ordinance 2003-1, adding language to the Industrial District pertaining to multi-tenant uses

- Motion to set Annual Meeting date - Saturday, March 29, 2003, 1:00 p.m. at the Township Hall

- Motion to program Community Development Block Grant funds of \$3,500 to Hope Network and \$2,000 for Lowell/Rockford Ambulance

- Motion to approve adoption of the 2000 Edition of the National Fire Code subject to further proceedings

- Motion to appoint Roger Bowen to the Construction Board of Review

- Motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting February 17, 2003

Complete minutes are available on the township web site at [www.vergennestwp.org](http://www.vergennestwp.org), or at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell.

Mari Stone,  
Vergennes Township Clerk

means you will be penalized if you withdraw all or part of your money before the surrender period ends. Some fixed annuities let you withdraw a certain amount such as 10 percent each year - without penalty. Whenever you withdraw money, you'll pay taxes on the accumulated earnings; if you're younger than 59 1/2, you may also have to pay a 10 percent IRS penalty on the earnings.

That, in a nutshell, is a fixed annuity. Is it right for you? It depends on your individual situation. In general, you may want to "max out" on your traditional or Roth IRA and 401(k) before you invest in a fixed annuity. Why? For one thing, your IRA and 401(k) provide you with a wide range of investment options; you can choose the ones that best suit your risk tolerance and need for growth. Furthermore, IRA's and 401(k)'s offer some features that you can't get in an annuity. For example, you can take out a loan from your 401(k) and pay yourself back on a repayment schedule that's convenient for you.

Once you have put all you can into your IRA and 401(k), and you still want to put more tax-deferred money away for retirement, then you might want to look more closely at a fixed annuity. Besides tax deferral, you'll get a couple of key advantages. First, you can put a lot of money into a fixed annuity; there are no contributions' limits, unless the annuity is held within a qualified retirement plan, such as a 401(k) or an IRA. And second, you'll know how much

you're going to earn over the course of your contract. Finally, if you think your tax bracket will drop during your retirement years, you'll reap the full benefits of the annuity's tax deferral.

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## We Care About Your Future!

### VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ADOPTION

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that at the regularly scheduled meeting of January 20, 2003, the Vergennes Township Board adopted Ordinance 2003-1, an amendment to the Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance. The following is a summary:

**Chapter 3/Article III Zoning Districts: Section 201.309 (B) (C) (F) Industrial District**  
The amendment adds language to allow multi-tenant buildings in the Industrial District that are under 10,000 square feet as permitted uses, and over 10,000 square feet as special uses.

The complete text of the ordinance amendment can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671, or on the Township website at [www.vergennestwp.org](http://www.vergennestwp.org). This ordinance takes effect 8 days after publication.

Mari Stone  
Vergennes Township Clerk



## STATE FARM INSURANCE • Chapman Agency RECOGNIZES THIS SEMESTER'S HONOR ROLL STUDENTS

### Lowell Middle School Honor Roll 2<sup>nd</sup> MARKING PERIOD

#### SIXTH GRADE

Rachael Abel  
Olivia Abram  
Randy Adams  
Thomas Alberts, Jr.  
Christen Baerwalde  
Nicole Bailey  
Kayla Barr  
Garrett Beaman  
Thomas Beddows  
Dakota Bergy  
Amanda Beswick  
Philip Bieri  
Christopher Bilski  
Nolan Blair  
Courtney Blanchard  
Laura Blanton  
Ian Blodger  
Torsten Boss  
Erin Brechbiel  
Andrew Brim  
Zachariah Bronkema  
Cheyenne Brown  
Nicholas Brown  
Elena Brubaker  
Dakota Bunn  
Heather Burger  
Sydney Burrows  
Aaron Christensen  
Linnea Churches  
Andrea Coffey  
Nicholas Comdure  
Alexandra Cooley  
Rachel Copeyon  
Allison Crumbach  
Kimberly DeBold  
Matthew Dec  
Aleicia DeCenzo  
Logan DeClercq  
Zachary Denault  
Taylor Deshaw  
Marcos DeShone  
Joshua Drake  
Dylan Dues  
Kristin Dunn  
Chelsea Dyer  
Meagan Eaton  
Kirstin Eickhoff  
Gabriel Elliott  
Lance Fargo  
Joshua Faulkner  
Katherine Fetterhoff  
James Flanagan  
Thomas Fleet  
Rachel Folkersma  
Mark Ford  
Krista Foster  
Sage Fox  
Kyle Galbreath  
Kristina Garza  
Ashley Gaskin  
Augustus Geldersma  
Miranda Grimm  
Lauren Gurd  
Nicole Halbeisen  
Shaun Hale  
Amber Halford  
Melissa Harris  
Lauren Heemstra  
Alexandra Herb  
Timothy Hetta  
Flynn Hoag  
Ashley Hoekstra  
Brittany Holst  
Brian Hook  
Sheryl Huber  
Lindsay Hyatt  
Audra Hysell  
Thomas Jeffrey  
Jeffrey Johnson  
Stephanie Johnson  
Britney Kaminski

Kylee Karas  
Cody Kastanek  
Autumn Kaufman  
McKenzie Keith  
Richelle Kimble  
Katie Krolewicz  
Jeffrey Kropf  
Daniel Lane  
Jillian Lane  
Anthony Lawrence  
Brandon Lee  
Melissa Lessens  
Sarah Light  
Craig Loetz  
Samuel Long  
Stephen Maier  
Morgan Marchido  
Ashley McFaden  
Alisha McGlamery  
Jacob McVey  
Nicholas McVey  
Desirae Mertz  
Jessica Meyers  
Patrick Misner  
Michael Mockerman  
Kayla Mohr  
Sierra Moore  
Joel Morgan  
Delnay Morris  
Nicholas Myaard  
Kyle Nanzer  
Trisha Nauta  
Ashleigh Nelson  
Kirsten Nelson  
Morgan Nelson  
Kyle Nichol  
Robert Nichols  
James Nordman  
David O'Connor  
Samantha Perrin  
Ryan Persha  
Eric Petersen  
Brandy Phillips  
Kara Rasch  
Rena Reed  
Jessica Rehl  
Yadira Reyes  
Kirk Roerig  
Hannah Ross  
Kacie Roth  
Matthew Roth  
Matthew Schloop  
Taylor Schumacher  
Katie Sefton  
Melissa Slater  
Jesse Smoes  
Samantha Snyder  
Katelyn Sorenson  
Damian Spielmaker  
Brooke Spoelman  
Justin Stallings  
Kayla Stanford  
Zachary Stephens  
David Stevens  
Kelsey Stickney  
Anna Stoliker  
Matthew Strawser  
Hannah Strzyzewski  
Brittney Sturgeon  
Sara Tarchala  
Marin Tawney  
Jacob Theisen  
Brandon Thomas  
Allison Thompson  
Elizabeth Timpson  
Cody Toomey  
Jesse VandenBosch  
Joshua VanderKlok  
Patricia VanGessel  
Chelsea VanNoord  
Cassidy Venneman  
Ryan Verdon

Jessica Vincent  
Rachel Vogel  
Rachel Walendzik  
David Walker  
Donald Ward  
Kameron Weakley  
KC West  
Megan Whinery  
Ashley Whittington  
Katherine Wilder  
Megan Willemstein  
Erin Williams  
Kelly Wingeier  
Lauren Wolfe  
Jonathan Woods  
Benjamin Zoodsma  
John Zoulek  
Linzy Zylstra

#### SEVENTH GRADE

Nicholas Abdo  
Cory Baerwalde  
Nicole Baker  
Tanya Baker  
Zachary Baum  
Travis Bergy  
Andrew Bewell  
Rochelle Bieri  
Justin Boss  
Bobbi Botsford  
Christine Bottrall  
Eric Bouwhuis  
Nicole Braden  
Logan Brenk  
Alexander Brock  
Kyle Brubaker  
Breanna Bueche  
Alyssa Buikema  
Renee' Buist  
Joshua Burns  
Kelsey Callihan  
Benjamin Canfield  
Stephanie Cantrell  
Cody Chambers  
Brittany Clark  
Kathryn Collins  
Kayleigh Cook  
Jennifer Cooper  
Cody James Dalton  
Andrew Davis  
Corbin Debiak  
Devin DeCator  
Crystal Dietz  
Samantha Dilling  
Ethan Drain  
Jesse Droog  
Anthony Dubbink  
Ian Duiven  
Ian Durkee  
James Dyer  
Brent Eggebeen  
Joshua Faulkner  
Joshua Ferris  
Kelsea Fillingham  
Jordan Strah  
Corey Fitzpatrick  
Hannah Fleet  
Andrew Gerig  
Jeanette Griner  
Cory Hagerman  
Alexander Harrington  
Chelsea Harrison  
Mikhaila Hart  
Melissa Hawks  
Kenneth Hayes  
Luke Haynes  
Jesse Herrera  
Carla Heshner  
Tarin Hippey  
Trevor Hoard  
Joshua Hobla

Jasmine Holliman  
Catherine Howard  
Jennifer Humphries  
Leah Jelsma  
Heather Jousma  
Stephanie Kehoe  
Rebecca Kempker  
Troy Kerr  
Kimberly Kline  
Katie Kruse  
Andrew Kuhn  
Andrea Kulhawik  
Matthew Kurtz  
Drew Kyllonen  
Nickolas Lachniet  
Patricia Lawrence  
Brittany Litchfield  
Ian Lowande  
Gabrielle MacDonald  
Kathryn Manszewski  
Frances Mayeroff  
Brett McMahon  
Jane McNaughton  
Christopher Miller  
Kayla Mohr  
Zachary Mis  
Ellen Mork  
Sarah Mosher  
Samantha Mundt  
Zachary Mundwiler  
Ashley Nawrocki  
Hannah Dalton  
Kristin Nagy  
Ashley Nawrocki  
Seth Nawrocki  
Lauren Nelson  
Casie Pedley  
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Ross Plooster  
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Corrine Bieber  
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Haley Briggs  
Rachel Brinks  
Brittany Bueche  
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## Lowell gymnasts just shy at Rockford and Kenowa Hills

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

A strong overall performance by Rockford combined with Lowell's disappointing performance in the floor exercise added up to a 138.75-136.65 victory for the Rams.

"The difference tonight is that our girls finally put a whole meet together," said Rockford gymnastics coach, Anna Ellerbroek. "It seems like every meet, we shine in one event and fall apart in another. Tonight, we shined in all four events."

The Red Arrows, meanwhile, dipped just a little where they usually shine a lot.

"I don't know-there were just more mistakes in our floor exercises than what we normally have," said Lowell gymnastics coach, Michele DeHaan.

The Red Arrows were also without the services of Krystal White on the balance beam and in the floor exercise.

"I'm not sure having Krystal in those two events changes the outcome. It may have made it closer," DeHaan said.

Lowell outpointed Rockford on the vault and the balance beam.

Holly Plattner's 9.5 on the vault took top honors. Melissa Neubecker, fourth overall, recorded an 8.8. White tallied an 8.65, and Carmen Datema and Nicole Gillikin each scored 8.3.

Emily Elliott handed in Rockford's top score on the vault with a 9.25.

A well executed aerial cartwheel propelled Plattner to a 9.4 on the balance beam. "Holly had a strong performance on the beam tonight. She's been pretty consistent with that aerial cartwheel in competition," DeHaan explained.



Carmen Datema pauses for just a moment during her floor exercise routine.

Lowell also counted scores from Neubecker (8.7), Jenna Dickerman (8.25) and Kim Hoogewind 8.15.

Danielle Couturier led Rockford in the event with a 9.0. Plattner's 9.0 was Lowell's top score in the floor exercise. Neubecker tallied an 8.8 followed by Dickerman 8.65 and Rebecca Underwood 8.4.

Couturier was the top Ram gymnast with a score of 9.3. Dickerman posted Lowell's best score on the uneven bars with a mark of 8.25, followed by Neubecker 8.15, Plattner 8.0 and White 7.65.

Couturier led all Ram gymnasts with a score of 8.7. The loss dropped Lowell to 2-2 in the O-K Rainbow.

#### Kenowa Hills Inv'tl

Two years ago Lowell gymnasts fell a tenth-of-a-point shy of a top three finish at Kenowa Hills Invitational.

On Saturday, the Red Arrows felt the pain again, as Lowell was a quarter-of-a-point shy of a top three finish.

"It's frustrating because the top three teams take home trophies," said Lowell gymnastics coach, Michele DeHaan.

Lowell's fate was decided in the day's final exercise, the balance beam. "If we have a good day on the beam, the girls finish second. We didn't do as well as we have been doing on the beam," DeHaan said.

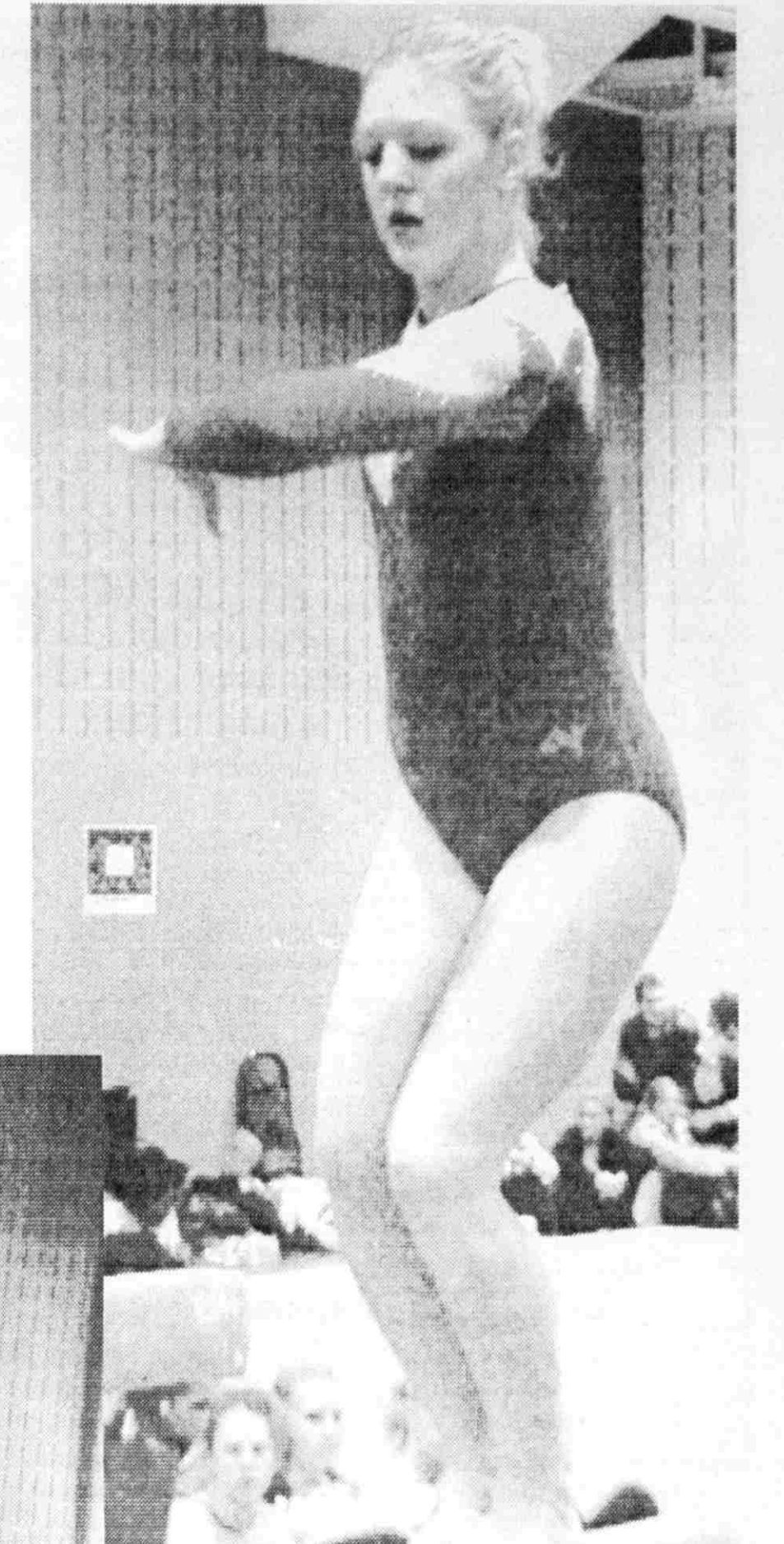
Melissa Neubecker was the top performer on the beam with a mark of 8.7.

The Red Arrows, however, found success on the uneven bars. All four Red Arrow scores finished in the top eight. Holly Plattner led the way with a season-high score of 8.55.

"The girls had an excellent day on the uneven bars. It (33) was one of our best team scores of the season," DeHaan said.

Three Red Arrow gymnasts scored 9.0 or higher in the floor exercise.

"It was the first time Melissa (Neubecker) scored a nine this year in the floor exercise," DeHaan said.



Holly Plattner recorded a 9.4 on the balance beam in Lowell's narrow defeat at Rockford Wednesday night.



Melissa Neubecker works on balance during her beam exercise Wednesday night.

#### Kenowa Hills Invitational Results:

##### Vault

- Holly Plattner 9.125
7. Krystal White 8.35
8. Melissa Neubecker 8.325
- Nicole Gillikin 7.95

##### Uneven Bars

- Plattner 8.55
- Neubecker 8.25
- White 8.15
- Jenna Dickerman 8.05

##### Balance Beam

- Neubecker 8.7
- Plattner 8.1
- Rebecca Underwood 8.0
- Carisa Sayer 7.8

##### Floor Exercise

- Plattner 9.4
- White 9.05
- Neubecker 9.0
- Dickerman 8.75

## JV icers defeat S. Christian

The Lowell/Caledonia Red Arrow junior varsity team skated past South Christian 3-1.

Following a scoreless first period, the Sailors put one on the scoreboard to take a 1-0 lead.

The Red Arrows answered as Austin DeClercq assisted by Ryan Bolt tied the game at 1-1.

The Red Arrows scored again in the second period with a goal by Will Holland (assisted by Kyle Austin and Cory Kowalski).

The Sailors tied the game at 2-2 with 4:28 remaining in the contest.

Lowell scored the game-winning goal with only 47 seconds left in the contest. Chase Groll (assist Kyle Gruz) got the winning goal.

Kowalski had an excellent night in goal, including an assist.

The rest of the Red Arrow offense: Kyle Baker, Austin McGregor, Nick Truszkowski, Jon Christiansen and Aaron Benmark provided strong backchecking and forechecking.

The defensemen: Jeff Moore, David Sweeney, Tim Kelly, Jon Latva, Groll and Mark Cerajewski kept the game in the Sailors' zone and provided excellent support to Kowalski.

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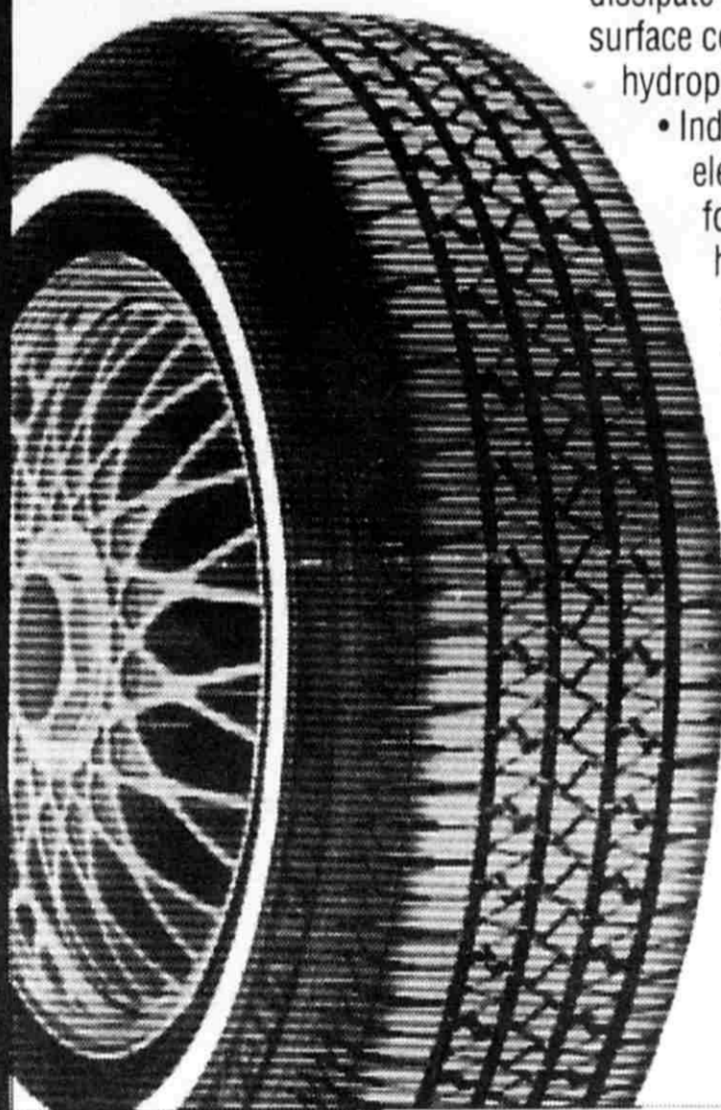
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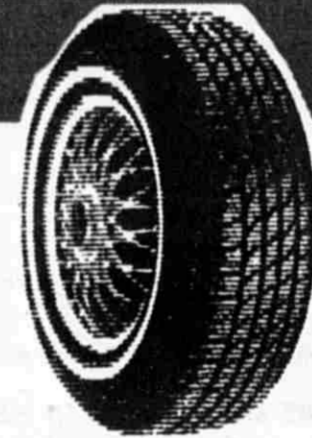


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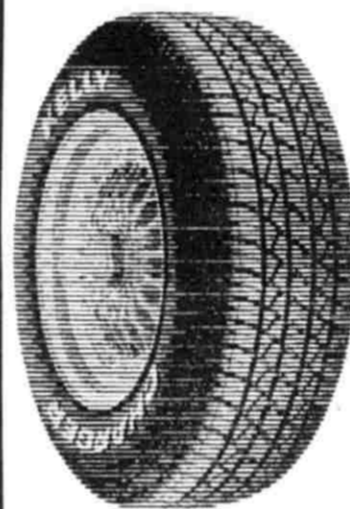


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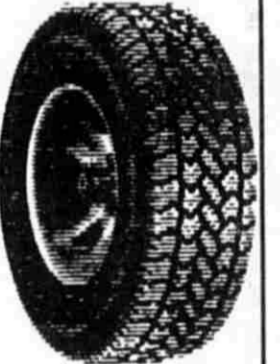
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