

# The Lowell Ledger

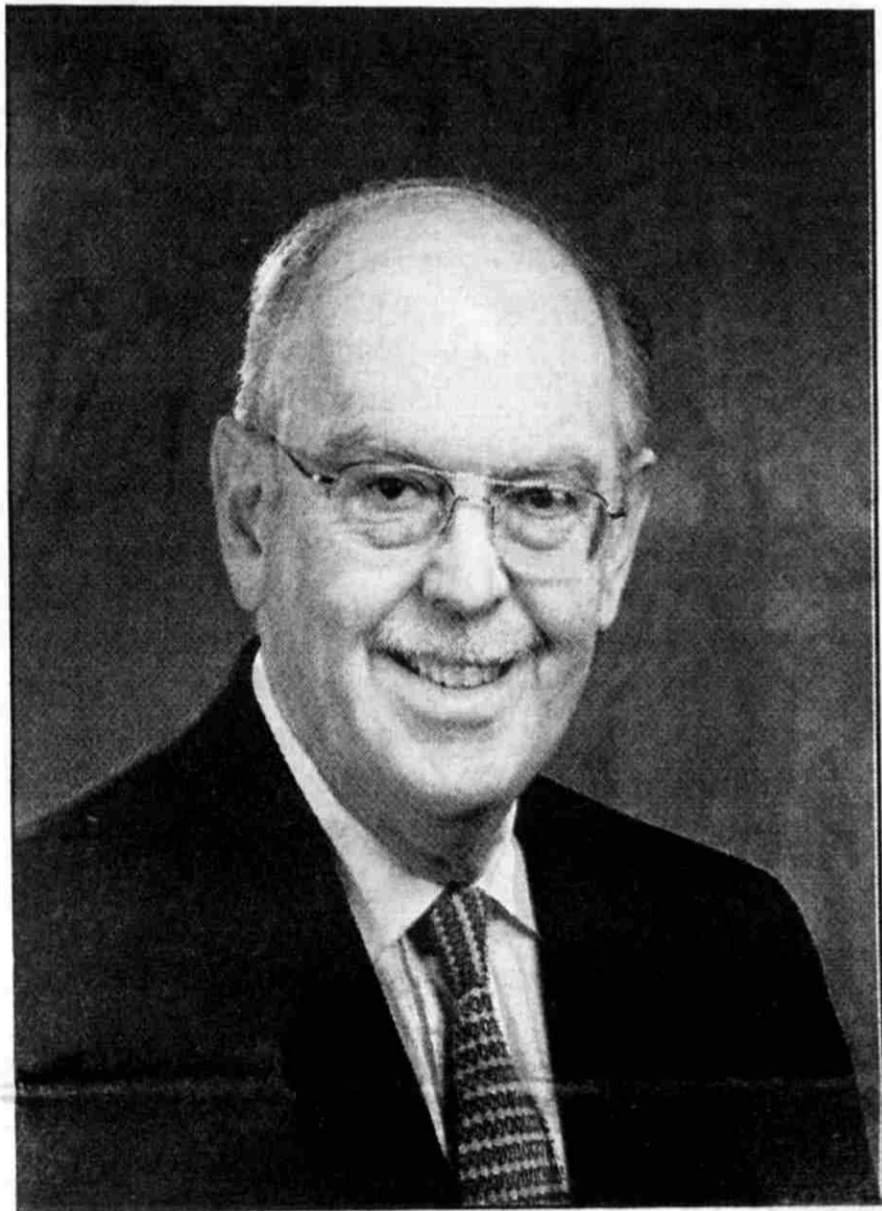
Volume 30 Issue 8

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Wednesday, December 31, 2003

## McPherson to speak in Lowell on experiences in Iraq

The speech, to be held at Lowell Performing Arts Center, will be open to the public Jan. 7



M. Peter McPherson

By Dan Schneider

Peter McPherson will return to his hometown Wednesday, Jan. 7 to give a speech about his experiences in Iraq over the summer.

McPherson, president of Michigan State University and a 1958 Lowell High School graduate, was in Iraq from May to late September of 2003. In April 2003, U.S. Treasury secretary, John Snow appointed McPherson the financial coordinator for the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance in Iraq.

In that capacity he served as the chief financial advisor

to Ambassador Paul Bremer, administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority. The CPA is the temporary governing body in Iraq. It will remain in place until Iraq becomes stable enough to set up its own government.

The tasks involved in rebuilding the Iraqi economy included establishing a central bank and banking system in Iraq, setting up an Iraqi finance ministry, and creating a single Iraqi currency.

It is expected that McPherson will talk about how these developments have progressed and about his own experiences in Iraq. The title of his speech is "Iraq, Now and Going Forward."

McPherson has a long history of leadership and advisory roles in United States international economic

policy. He served as Deputy Secretary of the Treasury during the Ronald Reagan administration. He also served as the administrator of the Agency for International Development during the Reagan administration. He was the Executive Vice President of the Bank of America, in charge of Third World debt negotiation.

The speech will take place in the Lowell Performing Arts Center at Lowell High School. The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, Lowell Rotary, Lowell Women's Club and Lowell Area Schools are sponsors of the event.

The idea to have McPherson speak in Lowell came from Betty Yeiter of the Lowell Women's Club. Yeiter taught McPherson in junior high. She discussed the idea

with McPherson's brother, Mac McPherson member of the Lowell Rotary Club.

Originally, the plan was for the speech to occur at a Women's Club or Rotary Club meeting. Mac McPherson and Yeiter decided, however, that the speech was of enough general interest to merit being open to the whole public.

The speech will begin at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person, free for K-12 students, and are available in advance at the Lowell Chamber of Commerce, Lowell High School, Bernard's Ace Hardware, Lowell branch Huntington Bank, Lowell branch Ionia County National Bank and Springrove Variety. Tickets will also be available at the door. Proceeds benefit the Lowell Education Foundation.

## Area outdoor maintenance partnership formed through cooperation

By J. Lobdell

Cleaning the parking lots is something that almost every municipality and school district eventually has to do. It was that thought which brought together three Lowell groups: the city of Lowell, Lowell Area Schools, and the Kent County Youth Fair.

The organizations began discussions about pooling their resources to help in the costs of parking lots and outdoor maintenance. A consideration of trying to get lower rental costs by coming together was one option; however, it was discovered that purchasing the equipment outright and storing it in the long run would save each organization on rental fees and time to get and bring back the equipment, said Lowell City Public Works director, Dan DesJarden who, with Lowell Area Schools Grounds/Maintenance supervisor, Tim Bergy, and Kent County Youth Fair president, Ron Wenger worked on the cooperative program for outdoor maintenance.

With no one wanting to hit their individual group for money on already tight budgets, the three decided to seek a grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund totaling \$49,800 to purchase the outdoor maintenance equipment. The items would be shared between the three groups.

Normally, LAAC does not grant requests that "lessen the burden of government, but it was that spirit of cooperation that caught the attention of the LAAC Board with the group approving the request, said city

Outdoor maintenance, cont'd., pg. 3

## LAAC "Janus" features clay and fiber in traditional/contemporary tactile art

By Dan Schneider

The illustration for the clay and fiber art show opening Jan. 6 at the Lowell Area Arts Council pretty much sums up what the show is all about.

It's a line drawing by Calvin College art student, Erin Bryant. The drawing shows woven fiber wrapped around a clay pot with two faces on it. That's also how many faces the Roman god, Janus had, and "Janus" is the name of the show at the Arts Council.

Janus was the same god for which the month of January was named. It's the god of the new year.

One of its faces is an old face looking backward toward antiquity and tradition. The other is a young face looking forward toward the contemporary scene and the future.

The backwards-forwards theme is one of the commonalities making fiber and clay art appropriate together in an art show. Pottery is a craft that goes back far into history, yet artists are still creating new things with it today. The same is true of fiber weaving and spinning.

This is among several similarities between the two crafts. "They both have a utilitarian and aesthetic aspect," Diane Vanderpol said.

Vanderpol is a spinner. Her work represents the traditional-contemporary dichotomy in textile art: she creates new work using a yarn winder from the 1600s.

"I think it's so cool that somebody used this prior to the revolutionary war and I'm still using it today," she said.

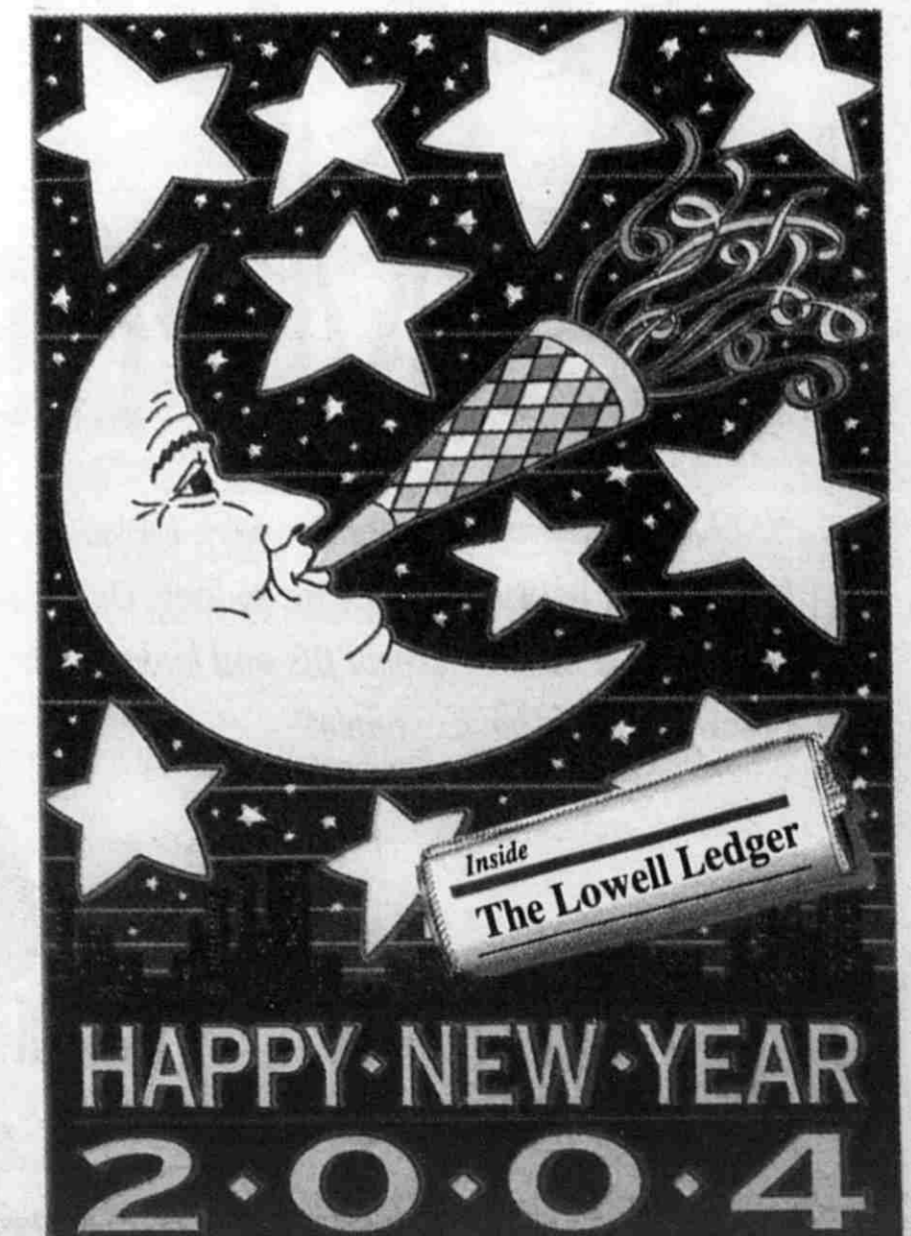
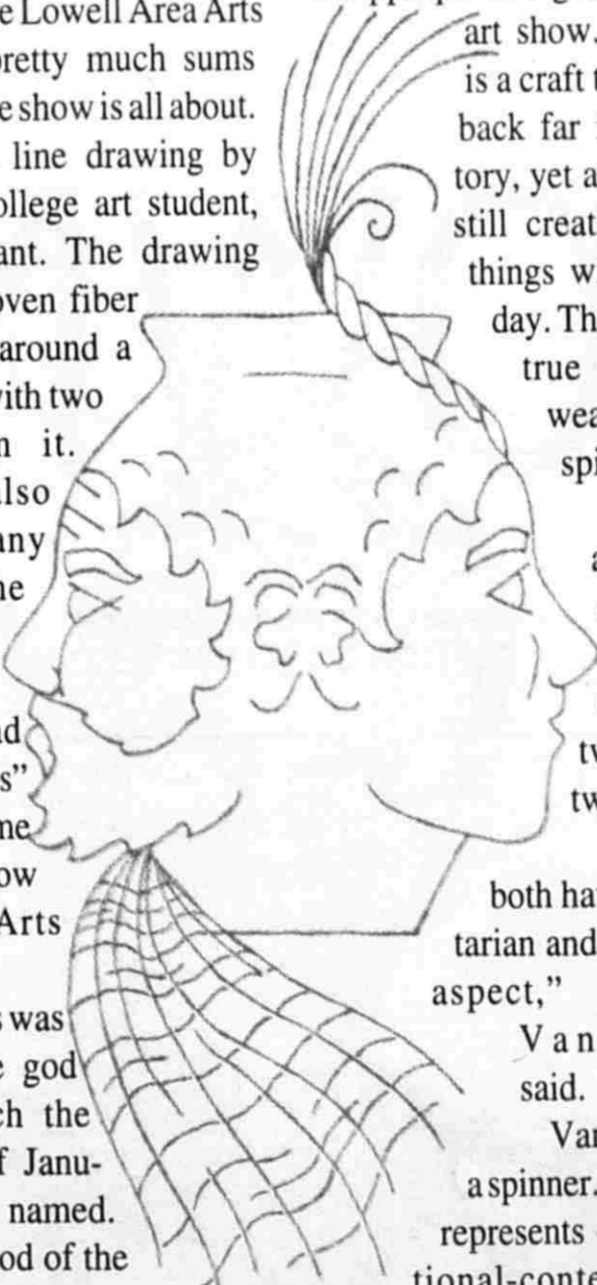
Vanderpol is a member of the Woodland Weavers and Spinners Guild. The guild formed more than 20 years ago. Members of the guild participating in the show will exhibit works ranging from rugs, which are utilitarian, to tapestries, which are more purely decorative.

Pottery includes functional vessels such as pots,

plates, vases and the like. It also includes work that is more sculptural or figurative in intent.

Pottery works by members of the West Michigan Potters Guild will be on display at the "Janus" show. The guild has been around for about 20 years.

LAAC art show cont'd., pg. 8



## OBITUARIES

**BABCOCK** - Erwin Babcock, aged 74, of Lowell, passed away December 29, 2003. He was preceded in death by his son Steve Babcock, sister Pearl Hall, step-daughter Mic and Harv Spangler and step-son Dan Larabee. He is survived by his wife Betty; children Shirley (Jim) Yeiter, Jeff (Denise) Babcock, Paul (Kristine) Babcock; step-children Babe (Rocky) Mann, Nancy (Glen) Dexter, Pat (Doug) Boggs, Jeff (Barb) Larabee, Kim DeWitt; 25 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; brothers Melvin (Roberta) Babcock, Lloyd (Wanda) Babcock. Visitation Thursday 6-9 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

**CHRISTOFF** - Dorothy Jean Christoff, aged 86, passed over to the loving arms of Jesus early Christmas Eve, while under Hospice care in Lantana, FL. Born and raised in Saranac, the daughter of Lee and Eva Lampkin, Dorothy lived in Lowell for nearly 60 years where she and her husband started the family business of Chadalee Farms. Their winter home was in Briny Breezes, FL, for many years. She was preceded in death by her first husband Clinton J. Christoff, her second husband John Hermistone, her grandson Ryan J. Christoff and her nephew Timothy Lampkin. She is survived by her sons Wendell (Helen) Christoff in Grand Rapids, Noel (Norma) Christoff in Montague; grandchildren Nathan, Angela, Erica and Stuart Christoff of Grand Rapids; sister Helen Anderson in Houston, Texas; brothers Richard (Adelle) Lampkin in Atlanta, GA, Dr. Chad (Peg) Lampkin in Grand

Cayman Island; many nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will be held later in the spring. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan, 1260 Ekhart NE, Grand Rapids MI 49503 or Hospice of Palm Beach Co., 5300 East Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33407.

**CONVERSE** - Helen Doris Converse, aged 81, of Lowell, passed away December 29, 2003. She was preceded in death by her husband Charles, sons Robert and Lewis Converse and daughter Shirley Converse. She is survived by her son George (Debbie) Converse; daughter Kae (Larry) Boss; six grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; sisters Vivian (Waldo) Holiday, Evelyn Watikunas. Helen will be sadly missed by her dog, Mattie. Helen retired from Root-Lowell in 1985 after 31 years of service. Services will be held Saturday at 11 a.m. at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, with Dr. Roger La Warre, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Lowell officiating. Visitation Friday 5-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

**FLETCHER** - Ona Mae Fletcher of Imlay City, formerly of Lowell, passed away December 27, 2003 at Medilodge of Yale nursing facility after a short illness. Ona was born on October 20, 1910, in Lowell, to Cassie and James Denton. She graduated from Lowell High School and married Clark D. Fletcher on January 23, 1937. She was a dedicated homemaker and mother, answered the phone for her husband's business, and was active in the First Congregational Church as a Sunday School teacher and Rebekkah member, Campfire Girls, and was a charter mem-

ber of the Lowell Showboat Garden Club. That activity brought her much joy in beautifying the city of Lowell and working in her own garden. She also enjoyed hand-painting Santa Claus cookies and art projects. She was an excellent listener and a compassionate humanitarian. Ona was preceded in death by her parents; brother Harold and sister-in-law Mildred Denton; husband Clark D. Fletcher; cousin Mildred Stauffer; life-long friend Mildred Lind. She leaves behind a daughter Marlene (Glenn) Zaetsch of Imlay City; grandson Kenneth Zaetsch of Flint; brother-in-law Alyn (Gladys) Fletcher of Lowell; sisters-in-law Barbara Rivette of Lowell, and Dorothy (Milford) Sible-Williamson of LaBelle, FL; nieces Mary Lou (Ron) Goodyke of Belding, Cheryl (Greg) Greening of Livonia, Kim (Kehl) Higgins of Lowell, Chris (Jerry) Lane of Stanford, Denise Kimmel of Panama City, FL; nephews David Davis of Lowell, Tom (Cheri) Davis of Lowell, Terry (Pam) Sible of Orlando, FL, Mark Fletcher of Rockford, and Doug (Shelly) Fletcher of Lowell. Funeral services were held Tuesday at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home. Memorials to Lowell Showboat Garden Club or to the family.

**GOLDNER** - Mr. Virgil A. Goldner, aged 91, went home to be with his Lord on Saturday morning, December 27, 2003. He was a member of Vergennes United Methodist Church and let everyone know he was ready to be with his Lord. He farmed, did maintenance, and worked for Michigan Bumper Co., was a member of the Grattan Twp. Fire Department and served as assistant fire chief, was a 4-H leader and member of the Michigan Milk Association. He is survived by his children

Daniel and Donna Goldner of Zephyrhills, FL, Marcia and Bob Hale of Rockford, Kathleen and Lloyd Flanagan of Lowell, and Virginia and Dennis Rokicki of Beulah; 22 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Mrs. Gerri Goldner of Grand Rapids; nieces and nephews; and special friend Delores Schoen. He was preceded in death by his wife Charlotte in 1991. The service was held Tuesday at Vergennes United Methodist Church, 10411 Bailey Dr. NE, Lowell, with Pastor Nathaniel Johnson officiating. Interment in Bailey Cemetery. Those planning an expression of sympathy may consider Vergennes United Methodist Church.

**JOHNSON** - Wayne E. Johnson Jr., formerly of Lowell, died December 26, 2003 in Prattville, Ala. A memorial service will be held Friday, January 2, 2004 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Cook Funeral Home, 2067 84th St. SW, Byron Center. 878-9744.

**PIPE** - Dr. L. Don Pipe, aged 68, of Coldwater, died Saturday, December 20, 2003 at his home. Don was born on May 26, 1935 in Grand Rapids to John and June (Quartel) Pipe. Dr. Pipe was a radiologist at the Community Health Center of Branch County from 1975 to 1992 and the Battle Creek Health System from 1965 to 1975, and 1992 until his retirement in 1998. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and enjoyed running and reading; he was also a veteran of the Vietnam War, serving in the U.S. Army. Dr. Pipe had lived in the Coldwater area since 1975 and was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church. He married Patty Teachout on December 11, 1975 in Bronson. He was preceded in death by his parents; his daughter Chris Stagg and his nephew Jason Pipe. Surviving are his wife Patty; sons Greg (Deb) Pipe of Hudsonville,

Jim Pipe of Phoenix, AZ, Kevin Pipe of Ann Arbor; daughters Sandy Pipe of Rogers City, Leslie (Max) Riesenhuber of McLean, VA; brothers Bob (Gerry) Pipe of Byron Center, Dave (Linda) Pipe of Gladstone, and Dick (Lee) Pipe of Alto; sisters Susan Pipe and Bette (Nelson) VanHorn, both of Palmetto, FL; grandchildren; many nieces and nephews. Funeral service was held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Coldwater, Pastor David Gruenhagen officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul Lutheran School in Coldwater.

**TATE** - Faire Mae Tate, aged 68, of Lowell, formerly of Centerville, Iowa, passed away December 28, 2003. She was preceded in death by her parents Michael and Victoria Maletta, her husband Wendall, sister Connie Sue Plum. She is survived by her children: son Michael (Donna) Tate of Wyoming; daughters Deidre, Jennifer Tate of Lowell, Sarah Tate, Linda (Bill) Timmers of Grand Rapids; brothers John Maletta, Jack (Ann) Shepard of Neb., Richard (Marilyn) Shepard, Wesley (Vivian) Shepard of Iowa, sisters Barbara (Charles) Owens of N.C., Maryann (George) McCloskey, Patricia Roe, Iva (Lannie) Doggett, Loretta (Jack) Dykes all of Iowa; brother-in-law Ron Plum; sister-in-law Willadene Hicks, both of Iowa; two grandchildren Leigh Anne (Gary) Stadt, Christopher; many nieces and nephews. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at St. Mary's Church, 402 Amity St., Lowell at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday with Rev. George Fekete presiding. Interment will be at St. Mary's Cemetery. Visitation Wednesday one hour prior to the service at church. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or the American Heart Association.

## Outdoor maintenance, continued...From Page 1

councilman, Chuck Myers, who also sits on the LAAC Board.

Even outgoing councilman, Mike Blough, at the last December meeting, who generally opposes seeking grant funds of items for which the city should be responsible, said the three groups should be commended for coming together to work on a common goal.

There was a small catch to the grant. The three groups needed to define who would be responsible for maintenance,

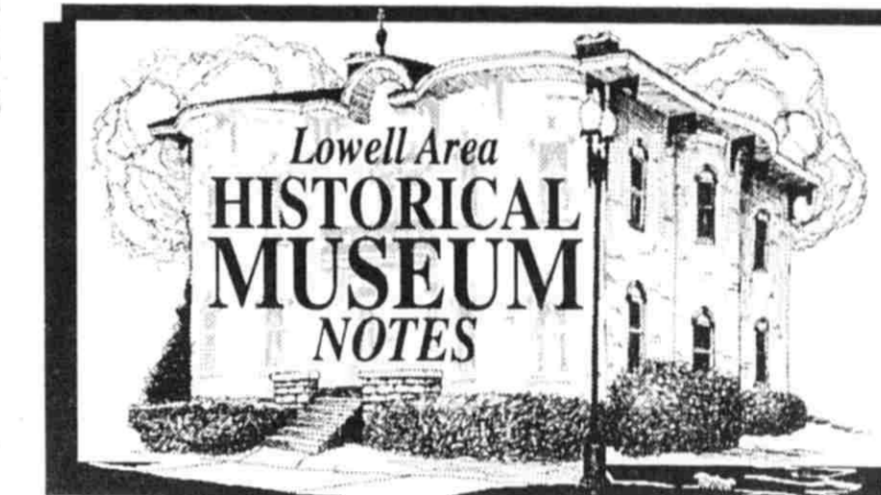
repair, and storage of the equipment which, in the long run, everyone felt was a necessity. City manager, David Pasquale said agreement sets up the partnership and helps define what is expected from everyone.

The agreement, put together by city attorney, Dick Wendt, has the Lowell Area Schools storing most of the items including the slit seeder, core aerator, top dresser, 75-gallon sprayer, nail drag, and lawn vacuum. The city will house the field and parking

lot steeper and parking lot sweeper. The fairgrounds will store the bush hog, and five-horsepower pressure washer. The cost of maintenance and upkeep will be shared. Damages will be taken care of by the organization responsible, according to the agreement. Each group will have access to the equipment; the group storing it will be responsible for training. Lowell

Charter and Vergennes townships may also request the equipment; however, the municipality in charge will operate it and could charge an operator fee.

The school board is expected to review and approve the agreement at its next meeting on Jan. 12, and the Kent County Youth Fair is also expected to approve the agreement at its next meeting.



## Local FFA students attend ag leadership conference in December

Lowell FFA members attended the Michigan Farm Bureau/FFA Ag Career and Leadership Conference in Mt. Pleasant during December.

Participants from Lowell were **Dan Young, Patrick Doyle, Matt Smith, Mike Shinaberry, Kelly Foote and Marie Wade.**

The joint-sponsored conference exposed more than 170 potential agriculture leaders to an intensive instructional program on current agricultural issues. The two-day conference also provided the students with a comprehensive understanding of career opportunities in the agriculture industry.

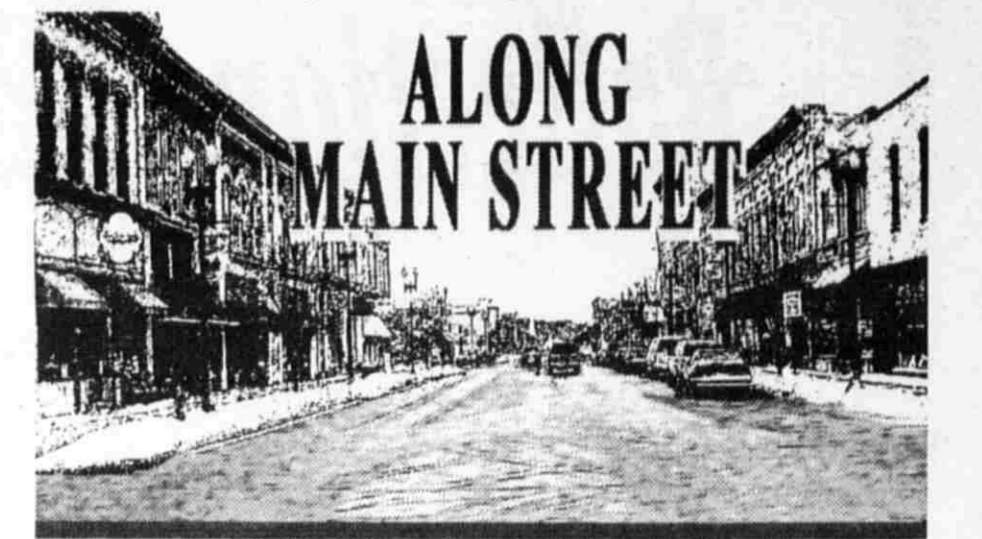
The Lowell Historical Museum and the Lowell Middle School Benjamin Morse Society will be presenting a program, titled "Lowell, Its People, and the Civil War" on Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Lowell Township Hall.

The history of Lowell Civil War hero, Benjamin Morse, winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor at the Battle of the Wilder-

ness, will be discussed. Following will be a question and answer period.

Anyone who has knowledge of or family history in Lowell's Civil War involvement is asked to attend and share their stories.

The program will be video taped and available at the museum to be shared with others and for future study.



### LOWELL WOMEN'S CLUB ...

Entertainment Books are available at Hahn Hardware and Huntington Bank, or by calling Marj (897-8107). To benefit LHS senior girls scholarship fund.

### CHRISTMAS TREE SHREDDING

The Wittenbach Center will offer a community event on Saturday, Jan. 3. Christmas tree shredding from 12-4 p.m. (pick up available in city/Eastgate, call Jay 897-1355); also a luminary walk from 4-6 p.m. (snowshoes available for rent). Live music by Lowell String Ensemble.

### FAST PITCH CLINIC

The LHS softball coaches will hold a fast pitch clinic at Riverside gym: grades 6/ under at 6 p.m.; grades 7-8, 7 p.m. Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29 & Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26. \$30 includes T-shirt. Applications at Lowell Middle School, Cherry Creek/ Alto/ Bushnell elementaries. Call Bob Rodenhouse at 897-4125 (school) or 245-4596.

### MURRAY LAKE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

All community members are invited to an open house for the new Murray Lake Elementary School (corner of Alden Nash NE & Lally) on Saturday, Jan. 17 from 1-3 p.m. Hosts include some of the future Murray Lake teachers and Family Links (Parent Club) members.

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## Following a few snow shoveling safety tips may help prevent tragedy

It's happened again. The storm comes and overnight, your driveway and sidewalk have disappeared. But before you head out to reclaim your pavement, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan corporate medical director, Dr. Tom Simmer wants you to know a few things ...

The average number of cardiac-related diagnoses in hospital emergency rooms per snowstorm day versus those on a non-snowstorm day increased by about 22 percent.

Who should think twice before heading out to shovel? Anyone who has:

- a personal or family history of heart disease
- already sustained a heart attack
- high blood pressure
- high cholesterol levels
- a history of smoking
- a history of inactivity
- a history of back problems
- recently eaten a large meal.

But, if you're healthy, active and still plan to tackle the snow, Dr. Simmer asks that you follow this important checklist:

- Avoid stimulants (i.e., caffeine and nicotine) that will raise your heart rate and cause blood vessels to constrict.
- Drink water to avoid dehydration.
- Dress in layers.
- Warm up and stretch your muscles before shoveling.
- Pick the right shovel. A smaller shovel will lessen the load you have while moving snow.
- Bend from the knees and tighten your stomach muscles as you lift the snow.
- Push the snow like a snowplow if it is too heavy.
- Remove heavy snow in two stages: Skim off the snow from the top, then remove the bottom layer.
- Try to remove snow soon after the storm. Powder snow is easier to shovel than the wet variety.
- Take it slow. Pace yourself and take breaks as needed.
- Wear a scarf or mask. Inhaling cold air may constrict arteries, decreasing your heart's supply of oxygen.
- Stop if your body feels pain or discomfort.

## Clarksville teen dies in early morning accident

By Dan Schneider

An early-morning car accident took the life of Rachel Rose Penninga of Clarksville, Tuesday.

The 18 year old was traveling eastbound on 52nd Street near Pratt Lake Ave. in Lowell Township just after midnight. Her Saturn crossed the centerline and ran off the left side of the road. The car

clipped a tree and rolled, crashing its top side into a tree.

Penninga was wearing a seatbelt. The factors causing the accident are still under investigation, however, alcohol has been determined to not be a factor.

Penninga, a 2003 graduate of Lowell High School, was currently attending Grand Valley State University.

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# Health



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

**CARPAL TUNNEL SYNDROME**

Carpal tunnel syndrome is a common malady seen in the family doctor's office. It is due to pressure on the median nerve of the wrist. People with carpal tunnel syndrome will experience numbness or tingling in the fingers of the affected hand. Some will experience an electric feeling or a pin and needle sensation in the middle fingers. Symptoms are usually worse at night. Often, symptoms will present while driving a car or using a computer keyboard.

The median nerve passes through a tunnel in the wrist surrounded by bones, tendons and ligaments. When the tendons or ligaments become inflamed, they swell and cause pressure on the median nerve resulting in symptoms.

Carpal tunnel syndrome is usually diagnosed by review of your symptoms and an examination of the wrist. Often-times an electrical test is performed on the nerves, called a nerve conduction test (NCT), that demonstrates damage to the nerve.

Splinting of the wrist may reduce the pressure on the median nerve and relieve symptoms. Sometimes anti-inflammatory medicines are prescribed to reduce swelling and pain.

Occasionally steroid injections into the carpal tunnel will reduce symptoms and provide significant relief.

If conservative measures fail, carpal tunnel surgery is recommended to provide long-term improvement. This is a relatively simple surgery, performed on an out-patient basis. The surgeon cuts the hand that covers the roof of the carpal tunnel, releasing the pressure within the tunnel.

## AAA members save with prescription discount card

With the cost of health care continuing to increase and no relief in sight, AAA has created a new benefit - AAA Prescription Savings - to help members battle the cost of staying healthy.

At more than 200 pharmacies with more than 52,000 locations nationwide, members can now present an AAA Prescription Savings card and receive an average of 20 per-

cent off the price of most prescription drugs not covered by insurance. Pharmacies include CVS, Eckerds, Walgreens, Rite Aid, Long's and Target, to name a few.

Savings will vary by drug with higher discounts available on many generic drugs, selected medications, high tech and injectable drugs, or medications ordered by phone or by mail for delivery.

"AAA Prescription Savings is easy to use and delivers reliable savings and safety checks for drug interactions with each prescription," said David D. Halbert, CEO of Advance PCS, which is administering the program. "It helps members stretch their prescription dollars."

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or download it from [www.aaa.com/prescriptions](http://www.aaa.com/prescriptions). Then fill out the card on the brochure with information from their AAA membership card. The card can be presented at participating pharmacies.

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# Featured Artist

## Tina Doorn

By Dan Schneider

Tina Doorn is a potter who lives in Lowell. She has been doing pottery for more than 30 years and for about the last seven has been pursuing it seriously as an art form.

These days, she said, she splits her time fairly evenly between more commonly known stoneware pottery and pottery fired with a Japanese process called Raku. In conventional stoneware pottery, the glazes fire into predictable colors on the pots. The Raku process yields different results.

A few years ago, Doorn modified her electric kiln so it could be fired by propane rather than electricity.

"The originators of the technique, the Japanese, fired with wood but in the United

States, it's usually gas, either natural gas or propane," Mary Doezema said.

Doezema is the director of the clay program at the Urban Institute for Contem-



porary Art (UICA) in Grand Rapids. She has known Doorn,

she said, for about eight years. "I got to know her because she was a student of mine and learned how to do pottery from me," Doezema said.

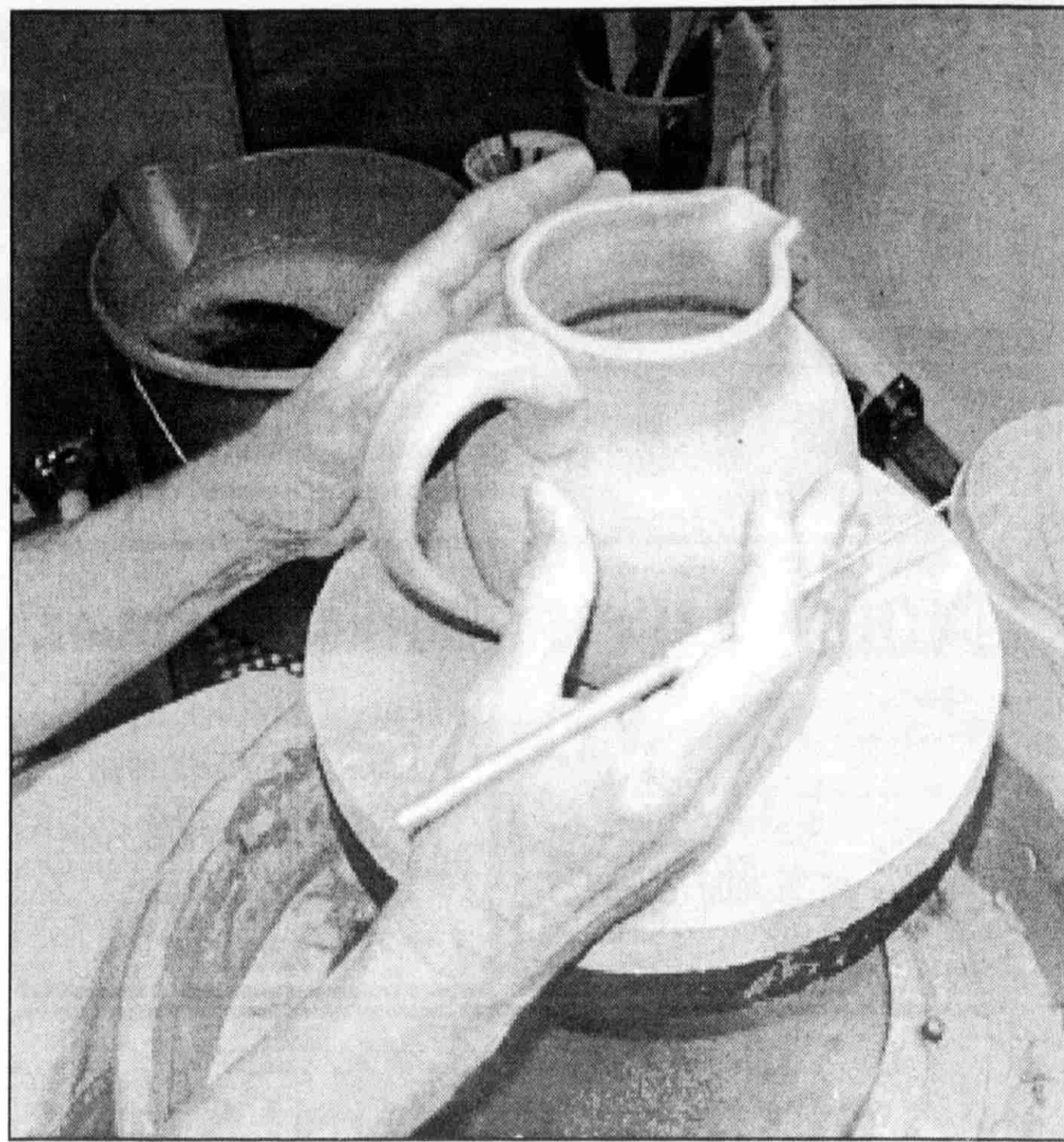
Doorn is also Doezema's assistant at the UICA. Doezema is a founding member of the West Michigan Pottery Guild, of which Doorn is also a member.

When she makes a Raku-fired pot, Doorn first glazes the piece and then fires it in the propane kiln until the glaze reaches its melting point. She grabs the pot with metal tongs and sticks it in a garbage can full of straw and white pine needles. White pine is the kind of tree she has growing in her back yard, which is where she does her Raku firing. Doorn believes the pine needles, more specifically their resin, affect the resulting colors.

The pot with the melting-point-hot-glaze, once placed in the garbage can, immediately sets everything in the can on fire.

"It's really kind of fun because there's a lot of fire and smoke and it's very unpredictable," she said. "You never know what you're going to get."

Unpredictable refers to the colors. The key is to get the pot quickly from the kiln to the garbage can. Fast-action pot movement gives oxygen in the air little time to permeate the surface of the glaze.



Tina Doorn's talented hands in the process of creating at the wheel.

The combustion resulting from the oxygen-starved glaze hitting the straw and pine needles draws out a metallic cast on the surface of the glaze and creates some wild colors.

Doorn makes her pots on the wheel, which is called throwing, and also hand forms pots out of slabs of clay-slab pots. She doesn't make coil pots, however, the kind formed by wrapping layer on layer of rolled clay.

"It's been fun to watch her work grow and come into its own," Doezema said of Doorn. "She has grown a lot in her technical skills... she's willing to explore new techniques and ideas."

New ideas in pottery typi-

cally include new shapes, new coloring techniques and new decorative elements.

As a child, Doezema frequently picked up stones along the shores of Lake Superior. These ended up influencing her aesthetic perspective on pottery.

"I strive to get that stony color with a lot of texture in my glazes," Doorn said.

Doorn took her first pottery classes as a student at Central Michigan University where she got her degree in speech therapy. It was after retiring from that profession that she began to get more deeply into pottery. She said

she goes to about eight shows a year, selling enough work to support her venture. She is currently clearing trees on her property to build an addition to her husband's workshop to house her own pottery studio. Up to now, she has done her work, except for Raku firing, at the Urban Clay Studio at the UICA.

Doorn's work is represented at the Chimera Design gallery in downtown Lowell. It will be among the pieces on display at the "Janus - Traditional and Contemporary Fiber and Clay" show opening Jan. 6 at the Lowell Area Arts Council.

## LAAC art show, continued...From Page 1

Another reason the artists and the Arts Council feel the two crafts work well together in a show is the tactile nature of the work's creation and perception. In both crafts, the artists' hands are very intermeshed with the materials. Texture is an important

visual aspect of the resulting work.

"We felt that the two really complimented each other tactually," LAAC executive director, Lorain Smalligan said.

Another reason for the show is more pragmatic, Smalligan said. The Arts Council had been wanting to do a pottery show for a long time but lacked the proper pedestals required to display such work. A recent grant

from the Look Memorial Fund allowed the LAAC to buy some pedestals. This left a lot of open space on the walls, however.

"We wanted to find another medium that would compliment the ceramics that we could hang up on the walls," Smalligan said.

Given the other similarities between the two crafts, textiles seemed to fit the bill.

The "Janus" show opens next Tuesday and runs

through Jan. 31 at the LAAC Gallery, 149 S. Hudson. There will be a reception to meet the artists Sunday, Jan. 11 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

In addition to the works on display, the exhibition will include hands-on activities and educational displays.

Margaret Jager will offer a children's class about creating felt on Jan. 10.

Gallery hours are Tuesday - Friday from 12-5 p.m. and Saturday from 1-4 p.m.

# Packets designed to help inform Lowell merchants

By J. Lobdell

Communication is key. It's a phrase we have all grown to know in the last decade and we have all seen what happens when the lines of communication are just not working.

Communication is the one area which Lowell merchants have felt is lacking when trying to set up a business or

maintain a current one. With that in mind, the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce sat down with merchants and city leaders and came up with a way it hopes will help potential and existing business owners find the information they need about the city.

"One of the frustrating areas was not knowing where to go or who to talk to," said Liz

Baker, director of the chamber of commerce. To help with that, a committee comprised of city officials, merchants and Baker put together a packet that would be available for business owners—new and existing.

The idea is that the packet would provide information from the city, particularly for those who wish to start or ex-

and a business, Baker explained, adding that the packets would be available at City Hall as well as at the chamber office. The packet contains a flow chart directing a new business owner where to go for information if in the city's historic district or outside of it.

Businesses located in the city's historic district have a

few extra steps to go through, i.e., approval by the city's historic district commission for exterior improvements and signage. If outside of the district, a business owner would contact the city's building inspector and then go to the city's planning commission.

The packet also contains information on what is and the function of the city council, planning commission, downtown historic commission, and Downtown Development Authority, along with contacts for each group.

Another benefit of the packet is a list of city officials and phone numbers, and hours of City Hall. In this list, Baker said it was decided to keep the information as basic as possible so that the packets don't have to be updated a number of times.

Financial incentives and maps of the area will be the last items of the packet. The maps are to give business owners an idea of where they are looking and what is around them, Baker said. Along with the packets, the information centers would have a current city ordinance book available and information on how to obtain a copy of the ordinance book.

Baker said the committee felt this was a way to help encourage growth in Lowell and to help current business owners find the sources they need as well.



## Volleyball teams cookin' for charity

The girls volleyball teams—freshman, junior varsity and varsity—are pictured after spending all day Dec. 22 making pies. The girls made enough apple pies to fill the orders they took for their fundraiser throughout December. They made an additional 200 pies which they donated to Flat River Outreach Ministries in Lowell, and Mel Trotter Ministries and God's Kitchen in Grand Rapids. For those still interested in buying a pie to bake or freeze, there are still some available at Keiser's, 703 E. Main.

## Girl Scouts to start selling those cookies Jan. 15

Girl Scouts in Kent and surrounding counties will be selling everyone's favorite Girl Scout cookies from Jan. 15 - April 13.

Through this activity Girl Scouts learn to set goals and

develop a plan for reaching these goals and gain firsthand experience in handling money, taking orders, tallying sales and arranging for deliveries. Each box is just \$3. Pro-

ceeds go to local Girl Scout troops and provide funding for Girl Scout programs that teach girls skills in self-esteem, leadership, teamwork, and community service.

If you would like to order cookies and don't have a Girl Scout contact, call 784-3341 or 1-800-442-1401.

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

At a session of said Court held in the Courthouse, City of Grand Rapids, Kent County, MI on NOVEMBER 10, 2003. PRESENT: G. PATRICK HILLARY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

This cause having come before this Court on Plaintiff's Ex Parte Motion for Entry of Order for Service by Publication (MCR 2.106) and Payment of Publication Costs, (MCR 2.002 (F)), and the Court being fully advised;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Kent County pay the publication costs incurred by Plaintiff pursuant to MCR 2.002 (F).

G. PATRICK HILLARY Circuit Court Judge

DANIEL L. BLAUW PLC DANIEL L. BLAUW (P37283) 1515 Michigan St. N.E. Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (616) 336-5098

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SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE (PG-13) 11:10, 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30  
LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING (PG-13) 1:00, 6:05, 9:55  
MONA LISA SMILE (PG-13) 11:00, 1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20

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# LEGAL EASE

By Jonathan David



**DEAR JONATHAN:** After my mother died, I was told by her lawyer that I had to file her original will with the county probate court even though there was no probate estate. I don't understand. If there is no probate, why do I have to file the will?

**JONATHAN SAYS:** Because Michigan law requires it. Even when there is no probate estate, Michigan law requires that the decedent's last will and testament be filed with the court within a reasonable period of time after the decedent's death. What you should do is simply send (or hand deliver) your mother's original will to the court, advise them of her date of death and that there is no probate estate.

**DEAR JONATHAN:** I remember a few years ago when my father died that we had to publish notice of his death to allow creditors to have an opportunity to file claims against the estate. I remember the lawyer at that time telling us that if my father had set up a trust and had moved all of his assets into that trust prior to death, then no probate would have been required and we could have also avoided having to publish that notice. I followed that lawyer's advice for my mother and made sure that she set up a trust and moved her assets into that trust so that her estate would not have to be probated upon her death. Now that she has died, I am told that I still have to publish a notice to creditors. I thought that if there was a trust in effect and there is no probate estate, that that notice would not be necessary. Could you please explain?

**JONATHAN SAYS:** Sure. There was a law change in April of 2000. Prior to that time, a notice to creditors only had to be given when there was a probate estate; if there was no probate estate, then that notice was not necessary. In April of 2000, Michigan's Estates and Protected Individuals Code (EPIC) took effect, and that law requires that a notice to creditors be published in those cases where there is no probate estate, but there is a revocable living trust.

*The information contained in this column is not to be construed as legal advice or legal representation and should not be relied upon as such. If legal advice or legal representation is desired, please consult with an attorney.*



## 'HARDT HAPPENINGS

**SNOW PEOPLE**  
Snowmen, those favorite "flaky" folk, will be the topic of the Kent District Library this cold season. The whole family is welcome to join in on singing silly snowmen songs, hearing snowy stories and enjoying snowman crafts.

The Englehardt branch will offer this program on Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 6:30 p.m. Registration is required. Call 647-3920.

**MEETING OF FRIENDS**  
The Friends of the Englehardt Library will hold a meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 20 at the library, 200 N. Monroe at 10 a.m. Members are invited to attend and consider the year ahead. The Friends group conducts book sales and other fundraisers to help purchase books and pay for programs. It is open to adults and participation level is at one's discretion.

For more information, call 647-3920.

## Free non-alcoholic drink booklet

Party planners face the difficult task of serving drinks that help make the occasion festive, but keep alcohol consumption under control.

The Auto Club Group has published its traditional holiday helper, The Great Pretenders Party Guide, a booklet of nonalcoholic drink recipes from beverage experts.

The recipe booklet is available free to anyone - churches, schools, businesses and other organizations as long as they last.

"AAA offers The Great Pretenders Party Guide to help hosts monitor and moderate alcohol consumption," said Richard J. Miller, manager of Community Safety Services for AAA Michigan.

"Pretenders Guide recipes can be tasty options for guests who prefer not to drink any alcohol. As the party begins to wind down, hosts may stop serving alcoholic drinks entirely and offer nonalcoholic substitutes from the Pretenders Guide."

The guide offers 14 drink recipes and useful information about the effect alcohol consumption.

Free copies are available at all AAA Michigan service branches or may be ordered by calling 800-AAA-MICH (222-6424) toll free.

## Season under way for all-Lowell swim and dive team

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell Red Arrows swim team is 50-50 in several respects this year.

Coach Casey Lanser said the 14-member team has seven experienced swimmers on the roster. The other seven are new.

Last year, Lowell swam on a cooperative team with

Forest Hills Central. That has changed this year. Forest Hills Central joined with Forest Hills Northern, leaving Lowell to fill its roster on its own.

There aren't enough swimmers at Lowell High School for separate boys' and girls' teams, so this year the Red Arrow swim team is mixed. There are seven boys and seven girls on the team.

MHSAA rules allow girls to compete during boys' swim season but not the other way around.

The team practices at the Forest Hills aquatics center.

Team captain Luke Baker is among the experienced swimmers on the team. The senior has been on the swim team all four years of high school.

"He's a good butterflyer and a good spring freestyler," Lanser said.

Jordan Nawrocki is the other team captain, with experience swimming the butterfly.

This is Lanser's first year coaching a high school swim team. Assistant coach Jim Davis coaches the three girls

who compete in the diving events.

The team has been practicing since Nov. 24. They recently took third place in a tri-meet at Creston High School in Grand Rapids against the Polar Bears and the Godwin Heights High School Wolverines.

"We lost the meet but we

found a place to start from and we'll go from there," Lanser said.

He said some of the experienced swimmers on the team were sick for that meet. It was also the first competitive meet for some of the team.

Their next meet will be at Union High School in Grand Rapids on Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

## Positive start for varsity volleyball at Creston invitational

By Dan Schneider

The Red Arrow varsity volleyball squad played its way to a second-place finish at the Creston Invitational to start the season.

On Saturday, Dec. 13, the team took first place in its pool, defeating Hamilton, Wayland, West Catholic and Creston. In the quarterfinals, it beat the Reeths Puffer Rockets 25-15 and 25-21.

The Arrows defeated the South Haven Rams 25-24 and 25-19 in the semifinal. They lost their final two matches against the Lakewood Vikings 25-15 to take second place overall.

"It was an incredible step for Lowell volleyball," Lowell varsity coach, Gigi Peal said. "We definitely won because of our defense."

Last Saturday at the West Michigan Volleyball Officials Association Tournament, the Red Arrows took third place in their pool. This put them in the silver division where they beat the Grand Rapids Catholic Central Cougars in three games, losing the first 15-8, but winning the next two 15-7 and 15-13. They lost to the Hamilton Hawkeyes in the

semifinals, 15-11 and 15-9, to take third place in the silver division.

"The girls showed at Creston that if they show up to play, they have it in them to be a tough team," Peal said. "Saturday they didn't show up mentally to play."

At the WMVOA Tournament, the games were played with sideout scoring. In

sideout scoring, only the serving team can score points, and games are played up to 15. The Creston Invitational was played with rally scoring. Rally-scored games are played up to 25 and a team does not need the serve to score a point.

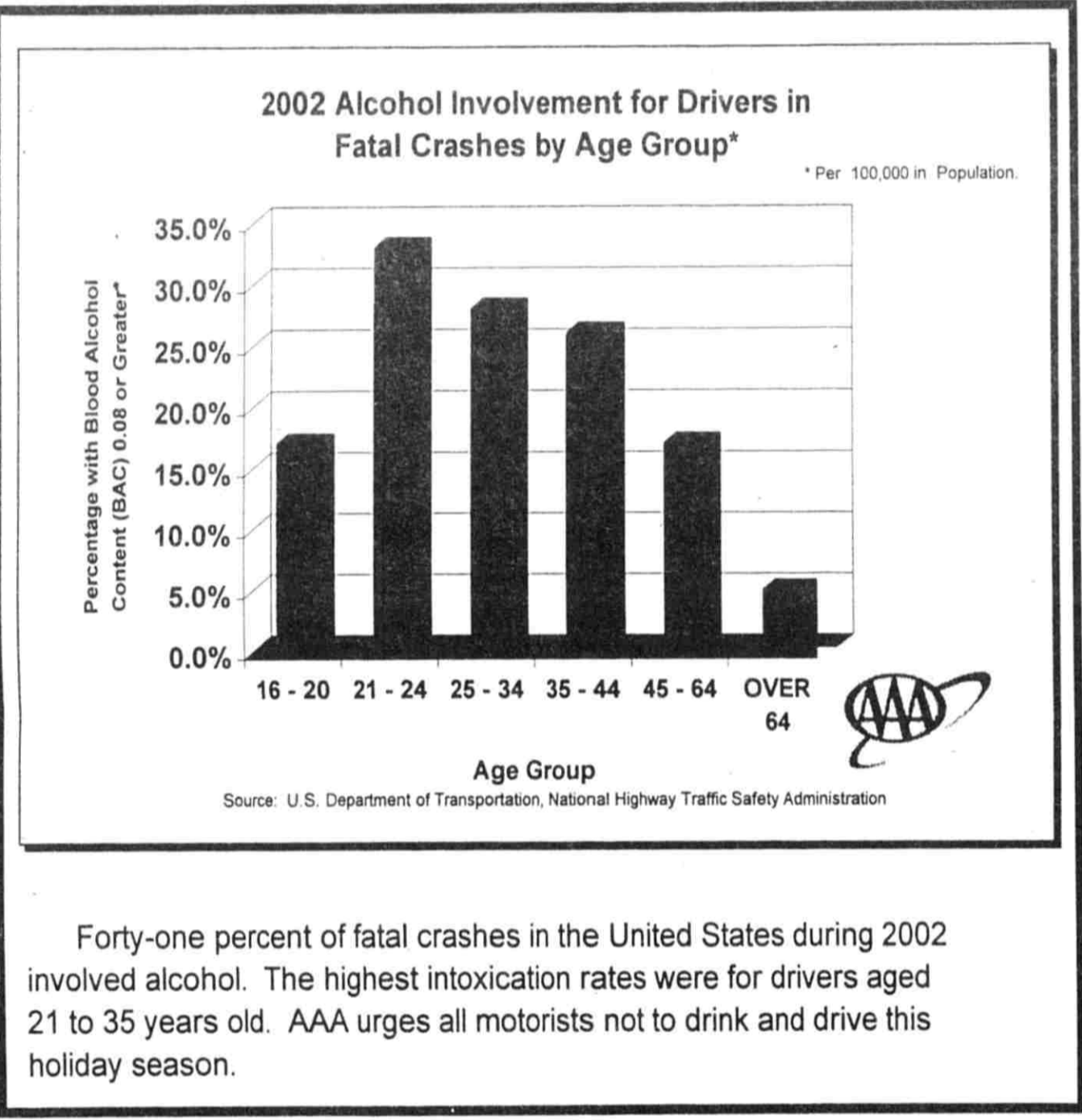
Peal said most tournaments this year will be scored using rally scoring. The dual volleyball matches will continue to use sideout scoring this year.

The 13-player volleyball squad has six seniors, but Peal says it is a young team. Several of the starting players, including setter Taylor

Verdon, are juniors or sophomores. Peal is looking to Verdon and middle hitter Heather Becker, a three-year varsity senior, to provide leadership for the team.

"I think people will see through this season that the girls have put in a lot of hard work and we're taking some steps in the right direction to get where we want to be," Peal said.

The next tournament for the Arrows will be Saturday at Byron Center. They open conference play Jan. 8 at East Grand Rapids.



Forty-one percent of fatal crashes in the United States during 2002 involved alcohol. The highest intoxication rates were for drivers aged 21 to 35 years old. AAA urges all motorists not to drink and drive this holiday season.

## HELP YOUR PARTY GUESTS STAY SAFELY SOBER

- Always serve filling food.
- Have nonalcoholic drinks available.
- Don't rush to refill glasses.
- Be alert to guests who are drinking heavily, and find ways to slow them down.

Cut off the alcohol two hours before the party ends.



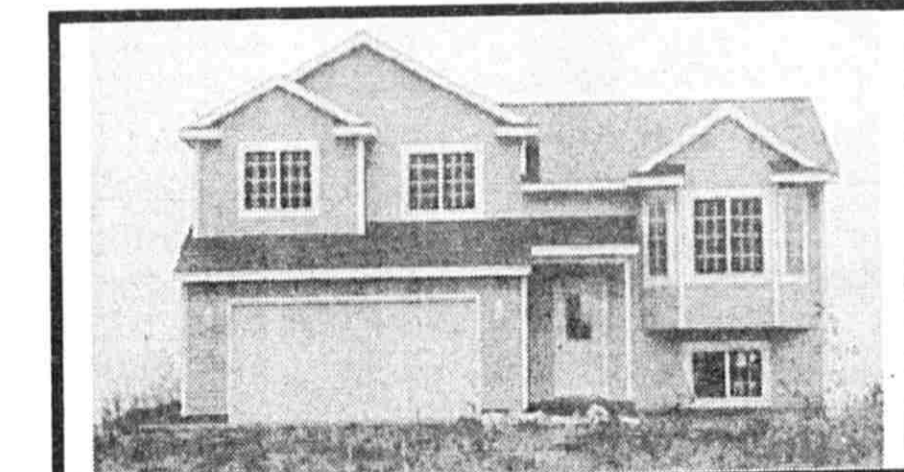
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## VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE

### 2004 MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings are held at the Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Dr., at 7:00 p.m. For further information, phone 897-5671, or for a calendar of these and other events visit the township website at [www.vergennestwp.org](http://www.vergennestwp.org).

### THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2004 ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

January 19	July 19
February 16	August 16
March 8	September 20
April 19	October 18
May 17	November 15
June 21	December 20

### THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR 2004 ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

January 5	July 5
February 2	(August) July 26
March 1	September 13
April 12	October 4
May 3	November 1
June 7	December 6

The Zoning Board of Appeals meet as required or requested.

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WOOD FOR SALE - Dry wood \$120 cord delivered; 70% dry \$90 cord delivered; \$45.00 a rick delivered. Call 691-8216 ask for Ed.

MATTRESS/BOX SPRING SALE - \$49/set. Queen, full or twin, factory new, delivery available. Dennis Distributing 989-224-4822.

FOR SALE - Snowboard Burton Punch 142 snowboard w/Burton bag, Burton fully adjustable performance bindings; Burton size 7 boots & Giro helmet, new \$700, asking \$375 obo. Also size 10 boots by Lamar. 897-7462.

MATTRESS SETS - Brand names, all new. No recycles or foam rejects. Pillowtop & plush air chamber & memory foam, twins & fulls, \$95; queens, \$115; kings, \$195 & up. 682-4767 or 293-6160. Can deliver.

RAMADA INN BUY-OUT - Clean, sanitized mattress sets, w/frames. Most sizes, 20 sets. \$49 up. Dennis Distributing 989-224-4822.

LONELY HOME - 1st \$1000 gets it! 3 bedroom, 2 bath ready to move in. We finance. No payments until after April 1st. Call 1-800-615-1224.

**FOR SALE**

PROPERTY FOR SALE - 2.2 acre lots for sale. M-21 to Hayes Rd., Muir, North 1/4 mile. Lots are on West Side of road. Look for signs. For more information call eves 269-367-4900. Phil Bishop.

APPLIANCES - Maytag, Whirlpool, GE, washers, dryers, refrigerators, over 100 in stock from \$59. Dennis Distributing 989-224-4822.

WESLO CADENCE 930 TREADMILL - Power incline, thumb pulse, digital distance, time, calories & speed. \$125 obo. Call 897-8428.

CHERRY SLEIGH BED - Queen w/pillowtop mattress set. Bought, never used, sell \$175. 517-626-7089.

FOR SALE - 6' commercial freezer, \$75; older commercial air compressor, \$100; 2 table saws, \$50 each; antique bedroom set, \$250; baby cradle, \$20; brown wicker dressing table, \$20; 42" round crocheted table cloth, \$55; 1998 Ford Taurus, \$5,500. Call 897-0639.

BEDROOM SET - Complete bed, dresser, mirror, chest, night stand and brand new mattress. Never used. Full \$600; queen \$650. Call 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.

PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET - New in plastic, queen \$135; king \$185. 517-719-8062.

TV STAND UNIT - \$20; 5 cushion blue sectional couch with pull out bed, blue \$150; queen size water bed, \$75. Everything for \$230. Call 897-9440.

AMISH QUEEN LOG BED - w/pillowtop mattress set. Bought, never used. Still in plastic. Sell \$125. 989-227-2986.

MUST SELL BY OWNER - Lake access country setting. Immediate occupancy. All appliances included. \$0 down. 3 bdrm, 2 bath, with master suite. Call 616-291-2994.

LOWELL BEER STORE - Over 30 different micro brews to choose from. Weekly beer specials - this week Bud & Bud Light 18 pks, \$12.99. Also many different wines & liquors available. Keg orders are welcome.

FOR SALE - 1996 Oldsmobile Achieva, 3100 motor, white, runs good, over 100K miles, CD player. \$2,200 obo. Call 616-821-3652.

AIR BED - Selecta comfort, firmness for each of you. Dual chambers, wireless remote, never used. Cost \$1400, sell \$600. Call 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.

BERBER CARPET - Beautiful oatmeal color, 40 sq. yards. Bought, never used, still in plastic. Cost \$600, sell \$195/best. 517-719-0451.

LEDGER OFFICE HOURS:  
MON. - THURS. 8-5  
FRI. 8-4  
SAT. & SUN. CLOSED  
We have a Drop Box/Mail Slot in the Door Closest to the Post Office

**CLASSIFIEDS TO PLACE AN AD**

In Person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell

By Mail: PO BOX 128, Lowell, MI 49331

By Phone: 616-897-9261

By Fax: 616-897-4809

By Email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com

**DEADLINE MONDAYS AT 5 PM**



**Classified ad rates:**

15 words...\$1

each additional word 10¢

**Bold or Box \$1 each**

**The Lowell Ledger**

Phone: 616-897-9261

Fax: 616-897-4809

**FOR RENT**

FOR RENT - 1 & 2 bedroom trailers \$1,000 - \$1,050 to move in. No dogs please. \$400 - \$420 per mo. plus 1/2 mo. rent deposit. Call 813-8041 or 616-754-0276.

1 & 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS - Small pets welcome. 897-0099.

FOR RENT - large 1 bedroom apartment in town. Carport, washer/dryer hookup, cable TV, heat, electric, water, lawn care all included, \$500/month lease, deposit, no pets. Phone 299-7463.

FOR RENT - 1 bedroom duplex with garage. New building, country setting, 1 mile south of Lowell, \$550 a month. Available now. Call 682-0138.

WINTER SPECIALS - Starting at \$595 for 1 & 2 bedroom apartments with garage & opener, washer & dryer hookups. Stoneridge Apartments, located just west of Meijer. www.wmpmonline.com, phone toll free 1-866-363-5430, hours vary - call for appt. Bring in ad & pay no application fee!

**HELP WANTED**

HOLIDAY BONUSES! EXPANDING - Local company looking for men and women to fill 27 full time permanent positions. No experience necessary; we train. Must start immediately. \$1,600 per month. Phone 245-7400.

DELIVERY DRIVER - CDL-B drivers needed. Looking for dependable customer service oriented person w/ chauffers CDL-B, CDL-A license. Good working environment. Also hiring nights/weekends. 616-248-7729.

WEDDING INVITATIONS Available at Lowell Litho 105 N. Broadway, Lowell

Stop by & Check out a book! 4 books to choose from. Wide variety of invitations & prices.

JOHN DEBIAK HORSESHOEING & HOOF TRIMMING - Serving the Greater Kent/Lonia County area with 15 years of professional, full-time experience. Call 897-4290.

PLUMBER - Experienced. Residential, Service or New Construction. Reasonable rates. Call 897-2575.

HANDYMAN JOBS WANTED - Specializes in small engine repair, welding & fabricating wood projects. Can fix or build most anything. Call 897-6932 after 4 p.m.

**HOURS**

Mon. - Thurs. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Closed Sat. & Sun.

**HOW TO CONTACT US**

Phone: 616-897-9261

Fax: 616-897-4809

email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

105 N. Broadway, PO Box 128 Lowell, MI 49331

**Lowell Ledger**



# FARO'S ITALIAN

## CONVENIENT HOURS

MON-TUES-WED-THURS: 11 AM - 10 PM • FRIDAY: 11 AM - 12 AM  
 • SATURDAY: 11 AM - 11 PM • SUNDAY: 4 PM - 10 PM

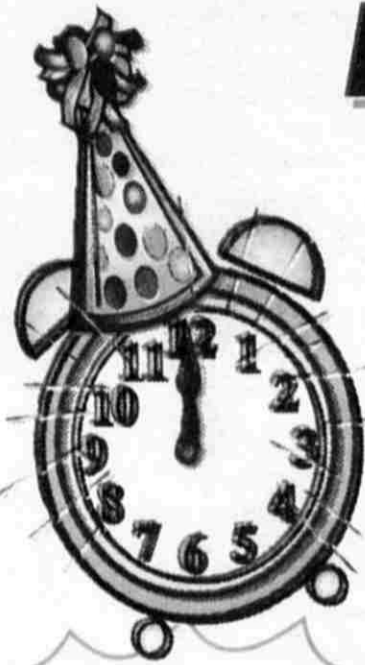


# Pizza-ah!

1004 W. Main • Lowell

## 897-5917

**YES!  
WE  
DELIVER!  
GIVE US  
A CALL!**



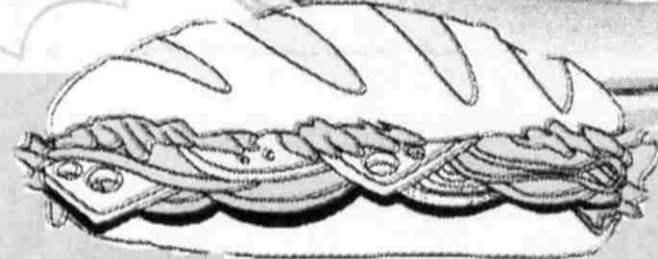
## HOLIDAY HOURS

**New Year's Eve  
till 10:00**

**CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY**



**We Now have Diced  
All-White Chicken Meat  
For Your Next Pizza!**



## SPECIALS

**NO COUPON NEEDED!**

GOOD THRU 1-14-04

MONDAY THRU THURSDAY

**BUY 1 PIZZA get second 1/2 off!**

**BUY 1 SUB get second 1/2 off!**

PICKUP ONLY • EXCLUDES ALL OTHER SPECIALS OR COUPONS



The staff at Faro's Pizza would like to thank all of you for your patronage throughout the year.

**Best wishes for a  
Happy New Year!**

### FARO'S COUPON

**2 LARGE PIZZAS**

14 inch with cheese & 8 toppings, including: 100% mozzarella cheese, pepperoni, ham, green peppers, mushroom, onions, Italian sausage, bacon, ground beef.

**\$19<sup>99</sup>** + Tax

Extra Cheese \$1.50

Pick up orders only. Offer good with coupon only. Excludes all other specials, discounts or free offers. Good at Faro's Italian pizza. Expires 1-14-04

### FARO'S COUPON

**\$3 OFF ANY SIZE PIZZA**

Good Anytime **PICK UP ONLY!**

Not good with any other offers. Coupon Good at Faro's Italian Pizza. Expires 1-14-04

### FARO'S COUPON

**\$2 OFF DELIVERY**  
\$10 Minimum

Not good with any other offers. Coupon Good at Faro's Italian Pizza. Expires 1-14-04