

The Lowell Ledger

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 9

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2004

Looking ahead...

"What are the goals for the city of Lowell in 2004?"



Jeanne Shores
 Mayor

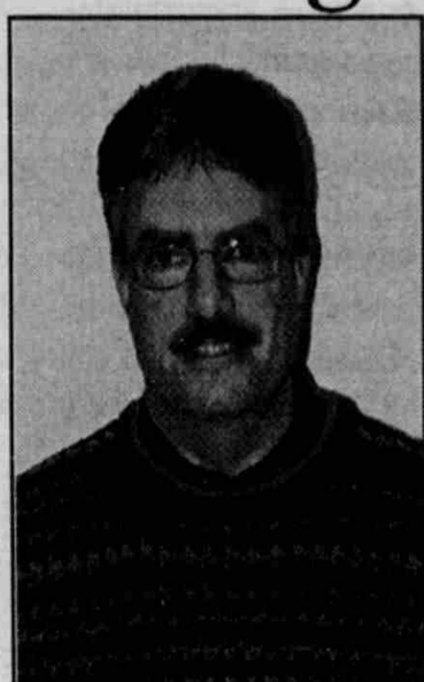
"I would like to bring some industry into town. I would like to see something in the Attwood building, something permanent."

Shores said she wants to encourage controlled growth in the city.

She said she was happy to see Jim Hodges returning to the city council.

She was also looking forward to a tractor supply company coming into the city.

"I feel that Lowell has done pretty well for the economic times," Shores said. "In the last year we've had a lot of successes and a lot of challenges but I think we faced the challenges with dignity and fairness. I think we did okay."



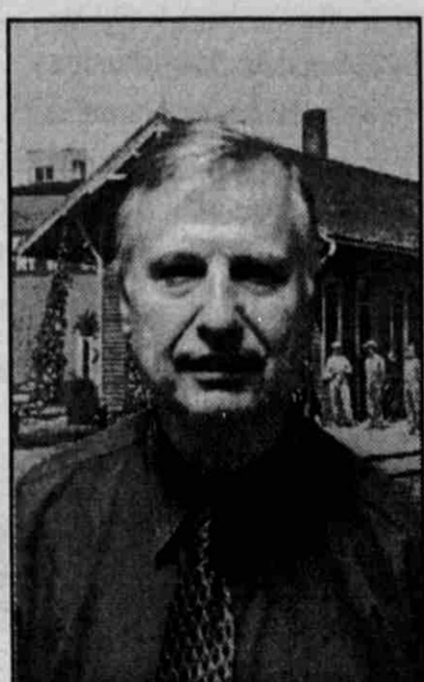
Jim Valentine
 Chief of Police

"The main thing would be just trying to maintain our department operations with the current funding constraints."

Valentine said he doesn't know if the city has recovered from the loss of manufacturing at the Attwood and Newell plants. He said state funding issues also put constraints on the city for the coming year.

Valentine is enthusiastic about areas of growth in the city, however. He said downtown is more active than he's ever seen it in 20 years of working in Lowell.

One of the things Valentine hopes the police department will offer in 2004 is a second series of citizens police academy classes.



Dave Pasquale
 City Manager

"The most important thing is to have a balanced budget. Our goal is to provide a better level of services while maintaining our same millage level. The problem is we're being challenged with less revenue sharing (from the state).

Pasquale said the city will be undertaking the reconstruction of Foreman Street this year.

Funding street repairs, he said, is among the city's priorities.

One of his personal goals for the year, he said, is "assisting in whatever ways I can in revenue development and for the inclusion and expansion of businesses and industries in the city."



Lorain Smalligan
 Executive Director
 Lowell Area Arts Council

"We always want to have more participation in our events. Probably our goal is to improve our tools for getting the word out about events." Smalligan said it is important to communicate to the public the nature of events, including why they are interesting and who was involved in their creation.

"We do outstanding activities and we want people to realize what we're doing and come check it out."

Smalligan also hopes to increase community involvement with the Arts Council this year. This means community input on events as well as volunteers helping to put them on.



Liz Baker
 Chamber of Commerce
 Executive Director

"Our merchant group is a committee inside the chamber and I think the goals for them would be to continue to improve communication between the city and business. Our marketing is the 'Secret is Out' campaign. We'll be continuing that but we're also looking for other ways (of marketing) and to expand that."

Baker said the chamber hopes to add membership benefits and improve the members-to-members advantage program. She says the chamber will try to seek out ways to help businesses find better options for employee health insurance costs.

Baker said the chamber will work to improve its web site this year. "We want our members to know we have one; we want them to use it."

She would like to see local businesses add links to the chamber web site from their web sites as well as expand the Lowell Community Expo and the Riverwalk Festival this year.

"As far as business in Lowell, our goal is always going to be 'how can we make Lowell a destination,'" Baker explained. "And not only that but how can we encourage our local community to shop and buy in Lowell."

Shores unanimously elected to second term as Lowell's mayor

By J. Lobdell
 Contributing Writer

Commenting on the challenges that have faced the city over the past year, council member Jeanne Shores was once again elected by her peers to serve as the city's mayor. The Lowell City Council chooses a mayor and mayor pro tem from its ranks which consists of five elected officials.

Councilman Charles Myers nominated Shores for the position and moved that the council cast a unanimous vote, which was approved by the council. While not planning to give a speech, Shores said the past two years as

mayor have been an interesting one, full of a lot of challenges that the council has "gotten through with dignity and fairness." She directed everyone's attention to the City Hall/police station building, which she noted was completed on time and on budget, adding that such challenges make one grow.

"As I said two years ago, it is not about me, it is not about the mayor, it is about the city," Shores said. To accomplish what needs to be done, the council needs to work as a team, she said, adding that "one is just as important as the other and I think we have a good team."

Shores has served on the council for the past 10 years,

the last two as mayor. Before that she was on the planning commission for 12 years. Her term is up in 2006. Myers, councilman Alan Mathews, and newly elected councilman James Hodges were sworn in before the Monday night council meeting.

Hodges, who takes former councilman Mike Blough's seat, served on the council from 1989 to 1997. Myers also was re-elected to serve as mayor pro tem, taking over the mayoral duties when Shores is unable to do so.

Council to consider block grant funds at next meeting

By J. Lobdell
 Contributing Writer

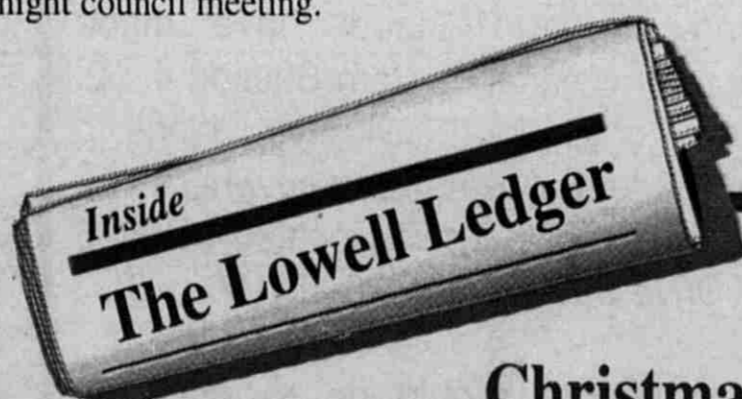
While the federal government hasn't set its budget yet, it is estimated the city of Lowell will be receiving around \$49,199 in community development block grant money.

CDBG funds come from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the purpose of housing and community development. The funds are allocated by Kent County. For the city of Lowell to receive its allocation in 2004-2005, it must submit a plan of action for the funds by Feb. 16. The council unanimously agreed to set a public hearing on the pro-

posed 2004-2005 grants at its next meeting, Tuesday, Jan. 20. (City offices are closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. day.)

City manager, David Pasquale is proposing that most of the funds, \$43,199, be allocated to the construction of a sidewalk on the south side of Foreman Road to Creekside Park. He is proposing that \$4,000 be allocated to the North Kent Transit, which provides rides for senior citizens and handicapped riders, and that \$2,000 be given to the Rockford Ambulance toward the purchase of \$30,000 in equipment for the automatic vehicle locators system.

Block grant funds, cont'd. pg. 8



Lowell's Historical Buildings...Page 3

Christmas Trees Recycled...Page 2

It's Family Links...Page 8

2004 Winter Sports Teams...Pages 9-12

OBITUARIES

COMODORE - Lottie May Comodore, aged 90, of Lowell, passed away January 1, 2004. She was preceded in death by her husband Ralph. She is survived by her daughter Lola Jane (Willard) Doty of Fenwick; brother Lyle Fullington of Lowell; three step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Monday at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, with Rev. Nathaniel Johnson of the Vergennes United Methodist Church officiating. Interment at Bailey Cemetery.

KUTCHEY - Grace M. Kutchey, aged 93, of Holland,

Wells and granddaughters Pamela Wells and Rene Alexander. She is survived by her children Marilyn Smith of Punta Gorda, FL, Carolyn (Carol) and Keith Anderson of Holland, Dorothy and Tom Bauer of 29 Palms, CA; 11 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; brother Arthur and Sally Bouchey of St. Johns; brothers-in-law Royal and Florence Rittersdorf of Belding, Robert and Ruby Rittersdorf of Lowell, Ronald and Jackie Rittersdorf of Parnell, James and Betty Rittersdorf of Grand Rapids; sister-in-law Sophie Rittersdorf of Grand Rapids. Funeral services were held Tuesday at Our Lady of the Lake Parish, with Fr. Phil Nguyen officiating. Burial Wednesday at 1 p.m. at St. Mary's Cemetery, Lowell. Memorial contributions may be given to Hospice of Holland or the American Cancer Society.

PENNINGA - Rachel Rose Penninga, aged 18, of

Clarksville, joyfully went to be with her Lord late Monday evening, December 29, 2003 following an automobile accident. Rachel graduated from Lowell High School in 2003 and was attending Grand Valley State University in the Honor's program. She was a 10-year cancer survivor. Most importantly, Rachel had a deep passion to bring her friends and acquaintances to the same knowledge she had of a full and rich life in the saving grace of her Savior, Jesus Christ. Rachel is survived by her parents, Paul and Ann Penninga; brothers and sister Andy, Bethany and PJ; grandparents Herm and Arlene Penninga; fiancée Marc Scaturro; and a multitude of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Her grandparents, Clarence and Thelma Werkema, preceded her in death. A celebration of Rachel's life was held on January 2 at the Ada Christian Reformed Church. Private interment at South Boston Cemetery. Memorial contributions

may be made to InterVarsity Christian Fellowship or M.O.S.E.S.

SPAULDING - William Marwood Spaulding, aged 91, passed away Wednesday, December 31, 2003. He was preceded in death by his wife Anna in 1994. He is survived by his children Donald Spaulding, Sr. of Alto, Barbara (Duane) Fisher of Saranac, Sandra (Glenn) Buckner of Grand Haven, Steven (Joyce) Spaulding Sr. of Gowen, Joyce (Gary Sr.) Callihan of Clarksville; step-brothers and sisters Robert (Linda) Spaulding, Bill (Lola) Spaulding, Clara (Ted) McKelvey, Helen (Richard) Holcomb; 13 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Monday at the O'Brien-Eggebeen-Gerst Chapel, Rev. Walter Winebrenner, officiating. Interment Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 300, Memphis, TN 38148 or Barry County Commission on Aging.

Recycling Christmas trees spares landfill space



Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states including Hawaii and Alaska.

By Dan Schneider

Christmas tree recycling at the Wittenbach Center on Vergennes last Saturday prevented more than 100 trees from going to landfills.

"This is more than we've ever had," Tammy DeBaar said. DeBaar is director of outdoor education for Lowell Area Schools at the center. She said on average, a Christmas tree takes up five to seven cubic feet of landfill space.

"Even on the low end of the estimate we're saving over 500 (cubic) feet from going in a landfill," DeBaar said. It took volunteers about two hours to shred 86 Christmas trees. Area pheasant farmers picked up the remainder of the trees for use as cover in their pheasant pens. The presence of cover helps prevent the birds from injuring each other.

Members of the Lowell High School Environmental Club sawed the lower limbs from the trees. Tim Bergy, of the Lowell Area Schools Grounds and Maintenance Department, operated the tree shredder. L&A Rent-All provided the shredder. Jay Vezino and Ron Soules drove around and picked up trees for recycling.

The resulting woodchips will be enough to spread over the half-mile interpretive trail at the Wittenbach Center. The Lowell Music Ensemble played string music Saturday evening at the center. About 60 people came out for the performance and luminary walk through the woods.

The Lowell Ledger (USPS 453-830)

Published weekly for \$15⁰⁰ a year in Kent County, \$22⁰⁰ a year outside the county by the Lowell Ledger Publishing Company, 105 N. Broadway St., Lowell, MI 49331

ROGER K. BROWN.....PUBLISHER
JEANNE BOSS.....MANAGING EDITOR
DAN SCHNEIDER.....LEAD REPORTER
TONI BLOUGH.....COPY EDITOR
TAMMY JANOWIAK.....CLASSIFIEDS/ACCOUNTING
JAY VEZINO.....ADVERTISING SALES

(616) 897-9261

E-Mail: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI
Published every Wednesday
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Lowell Ledger
P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331
www.lowellbuyersguide.com

Many older buildings house Lowell's history

By Dan Schneider

In an ongoing series of articles *The Lowell Ledger* plans to document the history of some of the buildings that make up the aesthetic environment of Lowell.

Articles in the ongoing series will document the history of buildings not prominent to the public eye, examine some of the factors that have shaped the look of the city and surrounding area, and document the aesthetic properties of the city at various times during its history.

The term "aesthetic properties" encompasses not only the physical structures and the layout of the city. It also includes other visual impacts individuals or businesses have had on the city and its residents. This includes civic art and even newspaper advertising.

The brick two-story building located at 317 E. Main St., part of the Lowell Auto Body shop, is an example of a building not obvious to the unobservant eye.

The facade of 317 has been painted white and its windows covered over with plywood. These facts contribute to the structure's anonymity. The building has a history going back to before the turn of the 19th century.

It was originally constructed about 1890. As of 1918, according to a Sanborn map, the building was used as a blacksmith shop.

The Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, of New York City, sporadically published maps of cities listing businesses in the various buildings. Since they were published irregularly, Sanborn maps paint an incomplete picture of the history of occupants of any building.

In 1925, according to the Sanborn map, 317 was still a blacksmith shop. By 1929, however, it was listed as an auto sales and service shop.

Dr. Sadayoshi Omoto wrote a paper in July of 1981 about some of the historical buildings in Lowell. The paper confirmed that 317 was built as a blacksmith shop. Omoto writes that the building was already a car dealership in 1914, contradicting the Sanborn map.

Whichever source is correct—Omoto's paper or the Sanborn map—317 has a long history with automobiles. The building remained an auto service and sales center until 1954. In that year, according to Omoto's paper, Richard Bancroft bought the building, along with the adjacent 319, and it became the home of Lowell Engineering.

The company built automotive parts there until 1980 when it moved its operations to Alto. Lowell Auto Body moved into the space and has remained there since that time.

On Oct. 20, 1910, *The Ledger* reported on the construction of a building adjacent to 317 to the east:

Dr. J.P. Draper bought the lots east of the Masonic Hall block and will begin work immediately on the erection of a building suitable for a veterinary hospital, livery, and blacksmith shop for his own use... Until the new building is ready for business, Dr. Draper will be found at the old stand north of the Graham block.

Lowell Auto Body now uses this building, a brick structure with vertical wood siding, to house offices.

Lowell Engineering built a steel-frame structure on the site in 1974.



The building at 317 East Main Street at the end of the year 2003. The brick building has slightly arched windows reminiscent of the Italianate architecture style. The building has served a variety of purposes since it was built in about 1890, most related to automobiles.

To the west of 317, at the time 317 was built, there was a building that no longer exists today. The building was called the Music Hall at the end of the 19th century and the Masonic Hall at the beginning of the 20th—as in the *Ledger* article of October, 1910. It was condemned and torn down at the beginning of the 1970s.

The Lowell Masonic Lodge occupied the third floor of the building during much of the early 1900s. The building's owner in 1910 converted the second floor to apartments. Records related to the businesses on the first floor are somewhat scatter shot.

In 1893, A.B. Johnson advertised his store carrying "the finest line of groceries and fruits in town" in the "Music Hall Block." Between 1900 and 1920, records indicate the two storefronts of the building contained a five-cent theater, an auto sales and service shop, a storage warehouse, and a corset factory.

Lowell chamber provides January marketing workshop

The Lowell Chamber of Commerce will be presenting a special "know-how" workshop titled "7 Secrets to Improve Your Marketing and Get More Sales."

The workshop, scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 22, will run from 7:30-9:15 a.m. at the city of Lowell offices, 301 E. Main. Registration and breakfast will be held from 7:30 to 8 a.m.

The program will explore:

- How to Generate More Referrals
- Powerful Ways to Generate Repeat Business
- Proven Ways to Increase the Effectiveness of Your Marketing

Creative Ways to Stay in Touch with Clients and Prospects

The Psychology of Today's Customer and How to Use It to Win More Business

Tony Rubleski, of Captive Audience Advertising, is the workshop leader. He has extensive experience in sales, training, direct marketing and public relations. He will discuss key strategies from his upcoming book titled "Mind Capture."

"I can't think of a better way to start the New Year than to bring this program to our members and the business community," said Liz Baker,

Lowell Chamber of Commerce executive director. "I've seen Tony's program before and I'm confident that people will be amazed by the amount of business building information he shares with the audience. With his demanding schedule and the launch of his new book, we're very fortunate to bring him to our community."

The cost is \$15 for chamber members and \$35 for non-members.

Call 897-9161 to make your reservation or email info@lowellchamber.org.

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New Year... New Times...



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WORSHIP SERVICES:
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COMMON GROUNDS COFFEE HOUSE:
9:00 am and 10:15 am

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CHECK-IN
9:00 - 9:15AM & 10:45 - 11:00AM

Join us as we kick off a new series this
Sunday, January 11, 2004...
"You Say You Want a Resolution"

IMPACT: A Wesleyan Church
1070 North Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331
Phone: 897-8304
E-mail: info@impact-church.org

SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL DECEMBER 15, 2003, 7:30 P.M.

Minutes of the December 1, 2003 Regular Meeting were approved as written and bills and the accounts payable were approved.

The following motions were approved:

- Motion to approve the ordinance rezoning from C-3 General Business to R-3 Multiple Family Residential for the property located at the northwest corner of Valley Vista and Bowes Road.

Yea: Councilmembers Blough, Mathews, Myers and Mayor Shores.
Nay: Councilmember Pfaller.

- Motion to approve the collection of the summer property taxes for 2004 for Kent Intermediate School District.

- Motion to approve the purchase of the City Hall and Police Department ground sign from Digital Image Signs & Graphics of Lowell for \$2,000 with a blue background color similar to other City signs.

- Motion to approve the equipment letter agreement between the City, Lowell Area Schools and the Kent County Youth Fair.

- Motion to approve the listing of the 2004 City Council meeting dates.

- Motion to adjourn to Closed Session at 8:38 p.m. pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act to discuss pending litigation with City Attorney.

- Motion to return to open session at 8:58 p.m.

- Motion to adjourn at 8:59 p.m. The next Regularly Scheduled Meeting will be Monday, January 5, 2004.

Complete minutes are available at Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan.

Betty R. Morlock,
City Clerk
City of Lowell

Linda S. Regan, Clerk

Reflections Of Faith

Dean Bailey, pastor
Alto/Bowen Center United Methodist churches

The children worked diligently to make a clubhouse. They used scrap lumber, painted the outside and even wallpapered the inside. When the clubhouse was finished, they held a meeting to draw up rules for its use. They all agreed upon the following rules:

- (1) Nobody acts too big.
- (2) Nobody acts too small.
- (3) Everybody acts normal.

Pretty good rules... not bad at all. In fact, all of us would be well served if we kept them in mind as we enter a new year, accepting 2004 as a gift from God, a clubhouse in which we work and play and pray.

Many of us have a tendency to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think and thus act superior to those around us. We act "too big."

Others of us unnecessarily put ourselves down and thus sell ourselves short. We act "too small."

But what is acting "normal?" For followers of Christ, clues are found in the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the Sermon on the Mount, the Golden Rule—in acts of kindness and compassion. The clubhouse of our world and of the world would be much the better for that kind of "normal."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JAN. 9: Jordan Potter, Helena Guastavino.
JAN. 10: Mike Barnes, Mary Jo Vezino, Alvin D. Brenk I, Jared Felling.
JANUARY 11: Katie Plutschouw, Ian Blodger, Marian Guastavino.

JANUARY 12: Judy Ellison, Stuart Sauber, Mike Vezino.
JANUARY 13: Jake Sterzick, Stephen Rutherford.
JANUARY 14: Angie Nowak, Ryan Burns, Tim Yonker.

Have regular hours for work and play, make each day both useful and pleasant, and prove that you understand the worth of time by employing it well.
—Louisa May Alcott

AREA BIRTHS



Tim and Alicia Parker (Richmond) are happy to announce the birth of their second son, Brady Dayton. He was born on Friday, October 24, 2003 at 10:19 a.m. at Spectrum Health Butterworth Campus. Brady weighed 8 lbs. 15 oz. and measured 19 inches long. He is welcomed home by his big brother, Jaden.

Proud grandparents are Jerrold Richmond of Lowell and Merry Parker of Muskegon, and great-grandma Virginia Uzarski of Grand Rapids.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF IONIA

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

Estate of GREGORY ROBERT FORD
Date of Birth:
July 6, 1952

TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, GREGORY ROBERT FORD, who lived at 11350 Sayles Rd., Lowell, Michigan 49331 died September 25, 2003.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless

presented to NANCY FORD, named personal representative, or proposed personal representatives, or to both the probate court at 100 Main St., Ionia and the named/proposed personal representative, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
12/18/03

MARY L. BENEDICT
(P45285)
4519 Cascade Rd. S.E. Ste. 14
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
(616) 942-0020

NANCY FORD
11350 Sayles Rd.
Lowell, MI 49331

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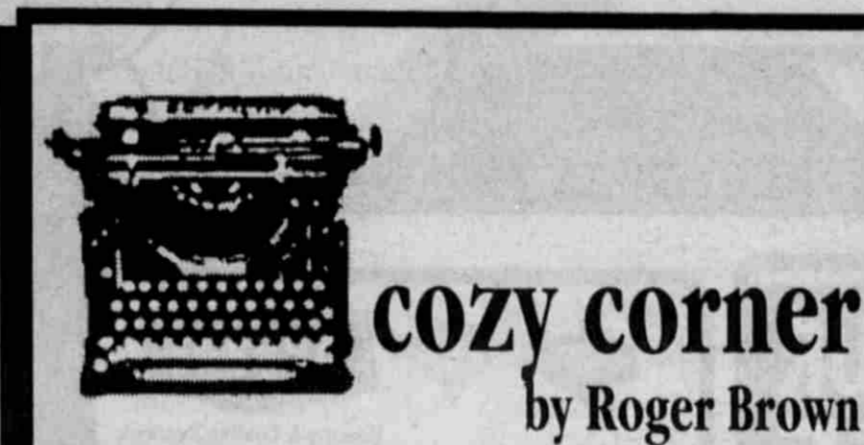
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Viewpoint



cozy corner
by Roger Brown

I'm sure it's a "guy thing," but I love nicknames. Take Ivan Rodriguez, for instance. Many of you are asking yourselves, "Who in the heck is that?" If I said "Pudge" Rodriguez, many of you would say, "Oh yeh, the Miami Marlins catcher who stood out in the 2003 World Series." See what a difference a good nickname can make. The operative word here is "good." There is such a thing as a bad nickname. Here's a little story.

I am currently wrapped up with one of my "Bob Vila's Evil Twin" projects. Part of this job involved pouring some concrete. A fair amount of concrete... ten yards to be exact. You may remember a recent "Evil Twin" project that required concrete. I ordered short, had to rush to the lumberyard for enough bag mix to finish. That's pretty much how my concrete jobs tend to go. As if concrete work isn't difficult enough, I have figured out a way to make things even more arduous.

This particular job had an added twist. Parts of the job site were up to 400 feet from where I could get a ready-mix truck. I did a bunch of calling and asking around. A concrete company finally put me in touch with the guy I needed to get the job done. I got a phone number and called... "Rusty."

Rusty's part in all of this was key. He has two concrete pumps and a helper. The idea was to pump concrete from the truck, to the second pump, then on out to the job. If you think that sounds like a recipe for trouble, you aren't alone.

Rusty seemed like a really nice guy on the phone. I described the job and he said, "No problem." This would be Rusty's attitude throughout our brief relationship... no problem.

Rusty agreed to stop and inspect the job the next day. He never showed. I called him that evening and he said he had been caught in traffic. We scheduled for the next day. He never showed. The water heater burst and flooded his house. When he missed a third appointment, his excuse was a job that had problems. He had to shovel a bunch of concrete and collapsed

on the couch when he got home. I was beginning to lose faith in my man Rusty.

Finally, on the fourth try he showed up to look at the job. He brought along his out-of-control three-year-old son. The kid could be a poster child for Ritalin. With a name like Rusty I expected a lanky redhead with longish hair and a beard. This rusty had regular old brown hair. At least it was brown where he wasn't balding or gray. I have no idea where the "Rusty" handle could have come from.

We toured the job and I tried to communicate my concerns. Rusty was totally distracted by his wild kid and kept muttering, "No problem. No problem."

Our meeting was on a Saturday. I was to make my final preparations over the weekend, call the concrete company on Monday and we were to pour first thing Tuesday. I scheduled the truck and called to confirm with Rusty. Everything was "no problem" until just as we were about to hang up. He suddenly remembered he had another job scheduled for early Tuesday. It's not like Rusty's company is a far-flung empire. It's him, a helper, two pickup trucks and two pumps. You would think scheduling would be "no problem."

Rusty said he would handle arrangements with the concrete company and would be at my job by 10:30. No problem. I alerted my volunteer neighbors and went to bed Monday with a bad feeling about the upcoming pour. The start time came and went. I called Rusty.

The contractor on the first job had figured short and they were waiting for a second concrete truck. We rescheduled for noon. That hour came and went. Traffic was the excuse now. The concrete truck was held up. I was pushed back to 1:00. My helpers went home for lunch. I was too nervous to think about food.

Long story short... they finally showed around two-thirty. Of course, it took awhile to hook all that hose together. Then we had a couple of clogs and a couple of blow-outs. It was pushing four by the time we were actually pumping. It is very, very dark by six. I'm not easily rattled. I was rattled.

Once everything was operational, the job went off with relatively few problems. We were cleaning up and everybody was drinking a cold beer when the sun went down. I paid Rusty and they all left.

Since my experience with Rusty, I have tried to figure out where and how he earned that nickname. I've come to the conclusion that it was once aspirational "Trusty" and somewhere along the way the "T" was omitted.



Ledger Entries
of 125, 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL
JANUARY 8, 1879

Senator M.R. Hine was in Lowell yesterday, on his way to Lansing. Vergennes has formed a Detective Association. The Boston Store will have a drawing for "\$100 worth of goods." A \$5 purchase is necessary. Ice harvesting has started. Prof. Cornell won a prize at Cannonsburg on New Year's Eve for the poorest dancing.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
JANUARY 7, 1904

The annual Farmers Institute will be held at the opera house next Wednesday and Thursday. Well-known speakers are provided by chairman L.J. Post. Rev. Nease has a large following for his Sunday evening series, "Stumbling Blocks to Religion."

The East Side Ladies Club invites their husbands to an afternoon of Pedro, followed by food and dancing into the evening.

Nine marriage licenses were applied for this first week of the year. Surveyors for the Grand Rapids and Ionia Electric Railroad are in town.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
AND THE ALTO SOLO JANUARY 10, 1929

Lowell High School is again accredited by U of M, but is instructed to look into consolidating elementary schools into larger buildings.

Village schools are open again for the first time since Dec. 13, when a flu epidemic closed them. Martin "Daddy" Dyke, 83, resigns his job as Perry School janitor. He was the oldest school janitor in Michigan.

E. R. Kniffin substitutes for Uncle Marcus' Cozy Corner, the editor is ill.

Marshal Fred Gramer has been clearing paths downtown with a shovel.

50 YEARS
THE LOWELL LEDGER
JANUARY 7, 1954

A. H. Stormzand, 30 years in the garage on Main St., sells the business to Don Slocum.

The skating rink will soon be ready in the 4-H Fair Exhibition building.

Bob Ellis and Bill Dawson will deliver new phone directories and pick up the old ones next Wednesday in Lowell. Oscar's Boys, Oscar Backstrom's 4-H group in Vergennes Township, has been organized. Peter McPherson, Bob Videan and Keith Blanding are the officers.

Dolores Combs is honored as an outstanding teacher in this week's "outstanding student" article.

25 YEARS
THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER
JANUARY 10, 1979

The East Beltline from Lake Drive to Cascade Rd. is closed for widening to four lanes.

A helicopter delivers two huge heating units through holes in the roof directly to their places at Attwood Corp.

The school board decides to do their own check on area conditions before declaring snow days. Record cold and snow closed all Kent County schools except East Grand Rapids last week.

Seventh grader Kevin Barrett wins first prize for his age group in a design competition by the Hot Rod Association of Michigan.

The library will start renting Super 8 mm sound films of 16 popular movies.

To The Editor

To The Editor and the residents of the Lowell School District.

Recently an accusation was made about the Lowell Area Schools Transportation Dept. After making a comparison of the transportation department from Lowell and Greenville, it was noted that Greenville's budget is a little under \$1.1 million while Lowell's is \$1.8 million. Both districts cover about the same number of square miles and have close to the same number of students.

Would a reasonable person conclude from these facts that Lowell's transportation dept. is mismanaged and hiding money in the budget to be used elsewhere? Dorann Truax, president of the LEA, did, and called the Grand Rapids Press to have them investigate. Is it mismanaged? Or are there other factors to consider?

To steal a line from Paul Harvey, let's look at "the rest of the story."

Both districts are approximately 130 square miles. Greenville's district is round, like a hamburger; Lowell's is shaped more like a hot dog. That's why Lowell buses travel 666,000 miles per year and Greenville's only 383,000 miles. Greenville transports 45 percent of their student body, that's 1,767 students on 19 buses. Lowell transports 66 percent,

that's about 800 more students per day. Because of the district's shape, Lowell needs 36 buses to do it. If Lowell used less buses, there would be a lot of students on the bus over an hour in the morning and again at night. That's not acceptable.

Greenville has a town population of 18,000 and a one mile "walk zone." Lowell's town population is 4,000 and no "walk zone." The city of Greenville has a public transportation system which a lot of students use to get to school and back.

Lowell's budget is nearly double Greenville's, but nearly double the buses, nearly double the miles, nearly double the drivers means higher costs for salaries, insurance, fuel, mechanics, tires, batteries, and so on.

If you only look at the total expense, it might make you wonder why. When you look at all the factors behind the total expense, you'll see that Lowell's transportation department is being run just fine.

We feel the accusations were made to focus attention elsewhere, to draw attention away from the unreasonable contract demands the LEA is making.

As individuals, we each have our own opinion about the Lowell/LEA contract dispute. A group, don't put us in the middle. Our contract was settled quite some time ago. By the way, we agreed to co-pay on our health insurance premiums.

John Williams, president
Shelly VanVeen,
vice president

Letters, Letters, Letters...

The Lowell Ledger welcomes all "Letters to the Editor" for publication on its "Viewpoint" page. Letters can be typed or written. However, we ask that they do not exceed 250 words.

"Letters to the Editor" should be sent to the Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, P.O. Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or emailed to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com. Letters must be signed and please include a phone number when emailing. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity and to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy.

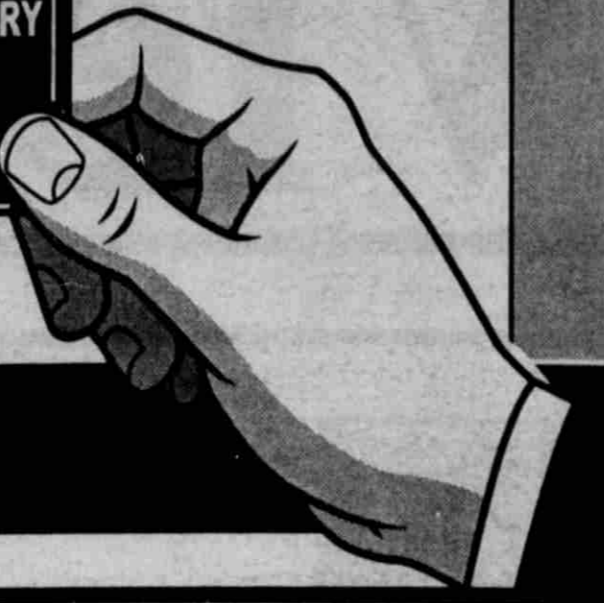
The Lowell Ledger thanks you in advance for your cooperation.

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Street improvements approved by council

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

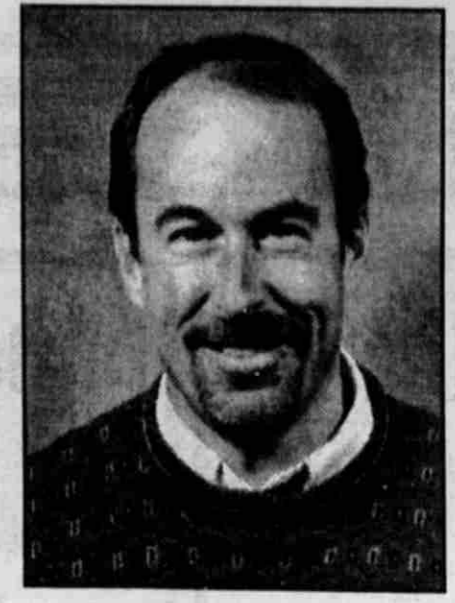
Ironing out the last of the details on an agreement with a local developer, the Lowell City Council may have paved the way for reconstruction of South Center and the development of Clarke Street.

area. Coming in at about \$162,463, the city will cover about half the cost of Center Street. The city will reconstruct Center Street from Bowes Road to Clarke Street with pavement at 27 feet and storm sewer, and curb and gutter.

The developer will be responsible for costs to install new watermain and sanitary sewer in Center and Clarke streets to serve its development. Convenient Construction Services will also install Clarke Street from Center to the centerline of West Street. Estimated costs for the Clarke Street project are around \$144,469 with no city participation.

Dave Austin of Williams and Works, the engineering company overseeing the project, said the streets will meet city standards with curb and gutter. Because it will be a public road, it has to meet those requirements, said city manager, David Pasquale.

BUSINESS MATTERS

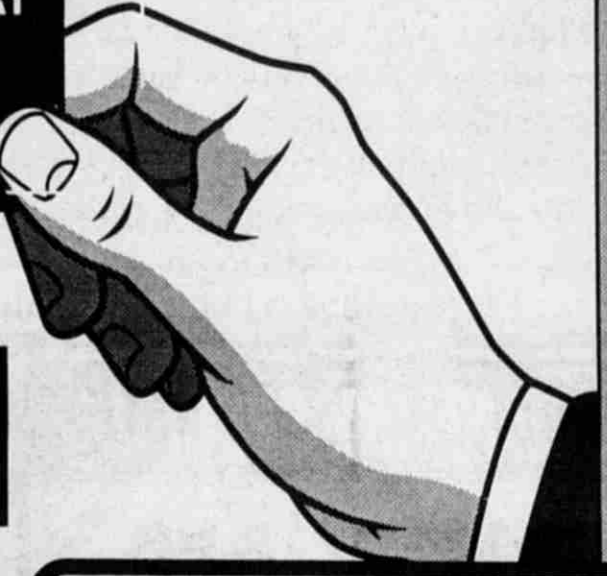


Greenridge Realty announced that Kim Schwacha received Realtor of the Month in December. This award recognizes Schwacha for his outstanding success and achievements.

Kim Schwacha

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Museum receives \$30,000 donation

Richard Bieri, left, and Fay Johnson, representing the Lowell American Legion, presented a check to Judy Straub and Jim Doyle of the Lowell Area Historical Museum last Tuesday. Part of the \$30,000 donation will be put toward the restoration of the west portion of the Graham building. A Victorian-period dining room, parlor and formal garden will be restored as well as two rooms for changing and traveling exhibits.

In addition to helping fund the restoration effort, the American Legion's donation will be used to create an exhibit on Lowell's involvement in wars throughout history. This is currently in a conceptual stage. Plans are to include a display of information and artifacts as well as a computer with a database of information on Lowell veterans. Visitors will be able to type the name of a veteran and view whatever pictures and information the museum has been able to compile on that person.

The museum is also undertaking the task of recording oral histories of veterans which will also become part of the exhibit.

Block grant, continued...From Page 1

Councilman, Jim Pfaller said he would rather see the amount on the Foreman Road sidewalk be allocated to helping extend Gee Drive. The city is currently working on a one million dollar project to reconstruct Gee Drive. Pfaller said if the money can help extend that another 200 feet, it should be put toward that instead of on a sidewalk that doesn't really lead to anywhere.

Pasquale said the intention was for sidewalk to be along Gee Drive with the proposed sidewalk on Foreman connecting that walkway to Hudson. Mayor Jeanne Shores said she could see where the

Foreman sidewalk would be used because it goes into the park.

Pfaller also questioned why the city was only giving \$4,000 to North Kent Transit, when every year the amount has to be increased to help accommodate demand. Pasquale said the low amount acts as an accounting system, explaining that when more money is needed, someone from the transit authority or the county comes and explains why. The council can increase the amount if it wants; however, the city has been able to receive funds from the county to help cover the cost overruns, Pasquale said.

Lastly, the request from Rockford Ambulance for locators to be placed in the vehicles. Operators manager, Matt McConnon said the locators would allow the company to map where a call came in and see that it gets the closest vehicle there fastest. "We hope to provide better service to the area," McConnon said, noting that the ambulance service has one truck in the Lowell area 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The council will review all of the requests and make a final decision on allocation at the Jan. 20 meeting.

It's Family Links...

By Dan Schneider

In an article in the Nov. 19, 2003 issue, The Ledger incorrectly called the Murray Lake Family Links group the "parent links" group. A concerned parent feared this may have caused confusion between the family links program and the PTO.

Seven years ago Lowell Area Schools switched from a Parent-Teacher Organization model of parent involvement to what it calls "family links."

The transition started at Bushnell Elementary. Now there are family links groups at all the Lowell schools except Alto elementary, which still uses the PTO set-up.

The family links program at LAS is based on research by the Center for Social Organization of Schools at Johns Hopkins University. The research identifies six basic types of family involvement

in education: parenting, communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision-making and collaborating with the community. The idea behind family links is to put all these aspects together in a single organization.

According to Kathy Cole, director of student development for LAS, there are two major differences between family links groups and PTOs. The first is the name. Cole said "Parent Teacher Organization" is not inclusive of all the family members involved in the education of a child in modern times.

"The word 'parent' is no longer the proper term because of the nature of families today," Cole said. "Family" is anybody who helps the academic support of a child."

She said that definition includes grandparents, aunts and uncles, and foster parents.

The other difference, and the primary advantage of the family links approach, Cole said, is the consolidation of parent involvement. Formerly, volunteers in the schools had to choose between the PTO, the volunteer group and Parents Involved with Teachers and Students (PITS) or risk spreading themselves too thin. PITS was actually an early attempt to integrate the Johns Hopkins model into the schools.

"We were finding that there were separate groups and

organizations in the school where we worked on different things and some of them overlapped," Cole said. "When resources are becoming more scarce, I think working together under the same umbrella is the key to success."

Dee McKendrick has been active in the Cherry Creek/Bushnell parent links group and is helping start the parent links at the new Murray Lake Elementary.

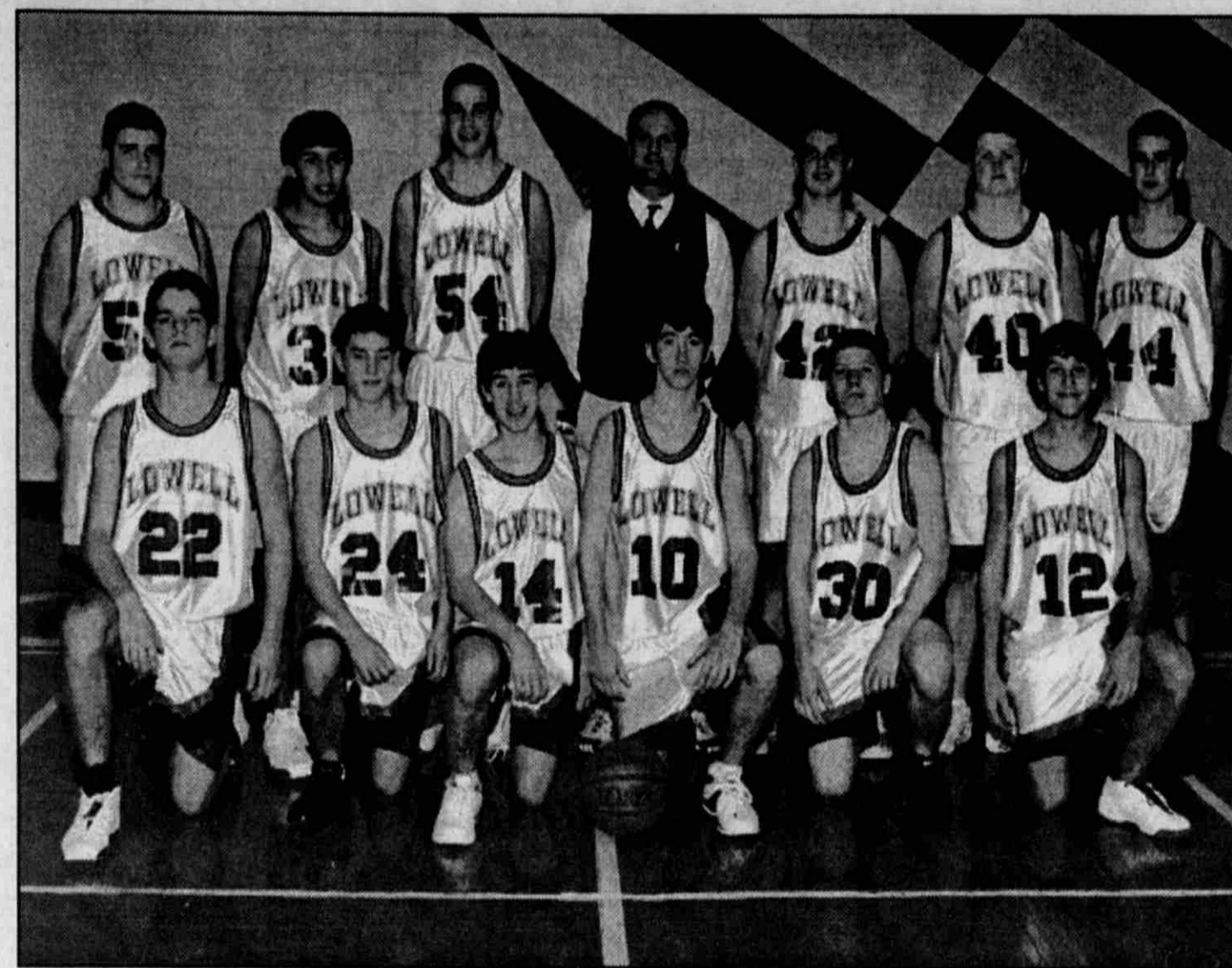
"I've seen volunteers in the schools skyrocket," she said. "I think it's because they know where to go. They don't need to decide which group to join."

"Now we're sort of a central clearinghouse for volunteers who come into the school."

McKendrick said the family links program has a broad enough range of involvement in the schools to accommodate volunteers with varying ability to commit time. She also said it is helpful for parents new to the school district to be able to approach one central group. Among other services, family links gives school tours to new parents.

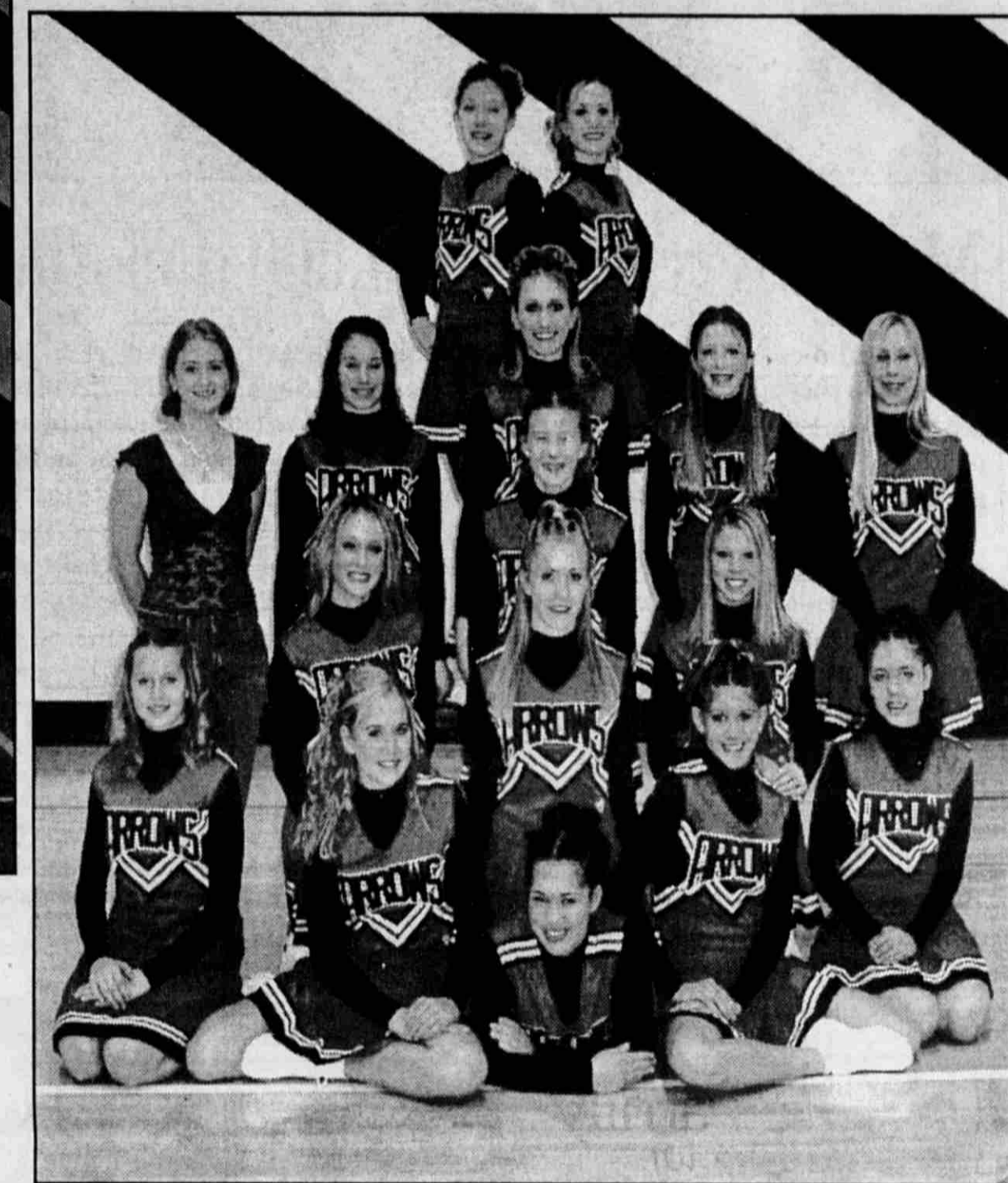
Family links groups are also involved in fundraising, providing volunteers for accelerated reading programs, putting on the family carnival and popcorn days. The program also helps finance and organize the fourth-grade biology trip and fifth-grade camp.

2004 LHS WINTER SPORTS TEAMS



FRESHMEN BASKETBALL

1st row: Travis Hippey, James Richardson, Garrison Fredline, Justin Harden, Billy Watikunas, Kory Stevens; 2nd row: Tylor Meppelink, Richard Martinus, Colin Rich, coach Bill McElroy, Evan Ormiston, Erin Bronkella, Tim Oberlin.



FRESHMEN CHEERLEADING

1st row: Kaylyn Koza, Kristen Wolfe, Brooke Liu, Tori Ruesink, Marissa Garza; 2nd row: Jamie Phillips, Stephanie Kempker, Stacey Janeschek; 3rd row: Lindsey Jousma; 4th row: coach Jessica John, Ashleigh Smit, Jesi Hook, Michelle Blancard Lisa Nugent; 5th row: Becky Osborne, Kasi Hanrahan.



FRESHMEN VOLLEYBALL

1st row: Jennifer Visser, Tiffany Whittington, Lindsey Hoogenboom; 2nd row: Karri Ort, Brittany Shellenbarger, Sam Lambert, Amanda Geelhoed, Katie Anderson; 3rd row: manager Sarah Brearley, Jessica Nelson, Lindsay Huver, Brittany Lyman, Cara Schloop, manager Stephanie Wade.

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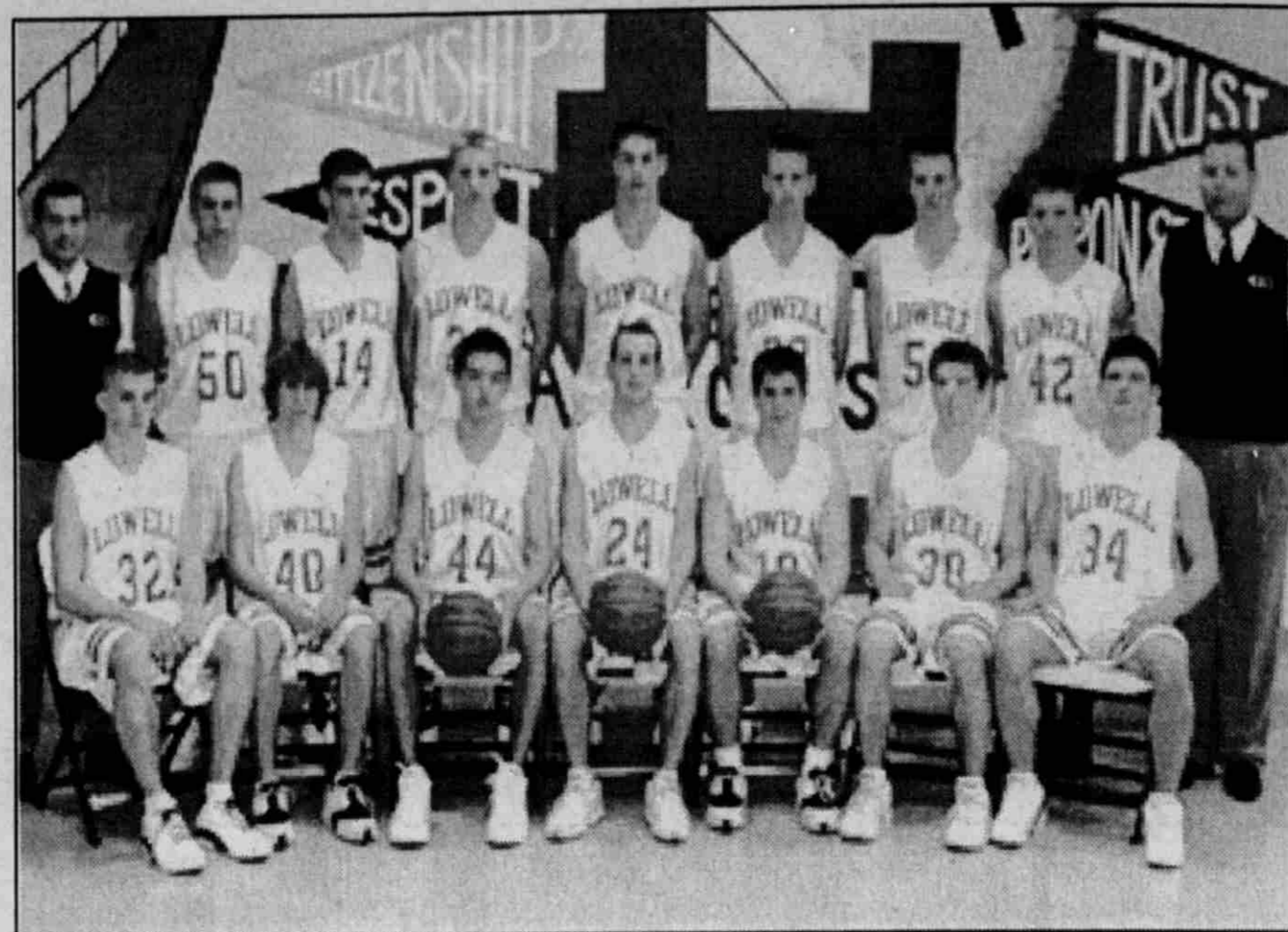


2004 WINTER SPORTS



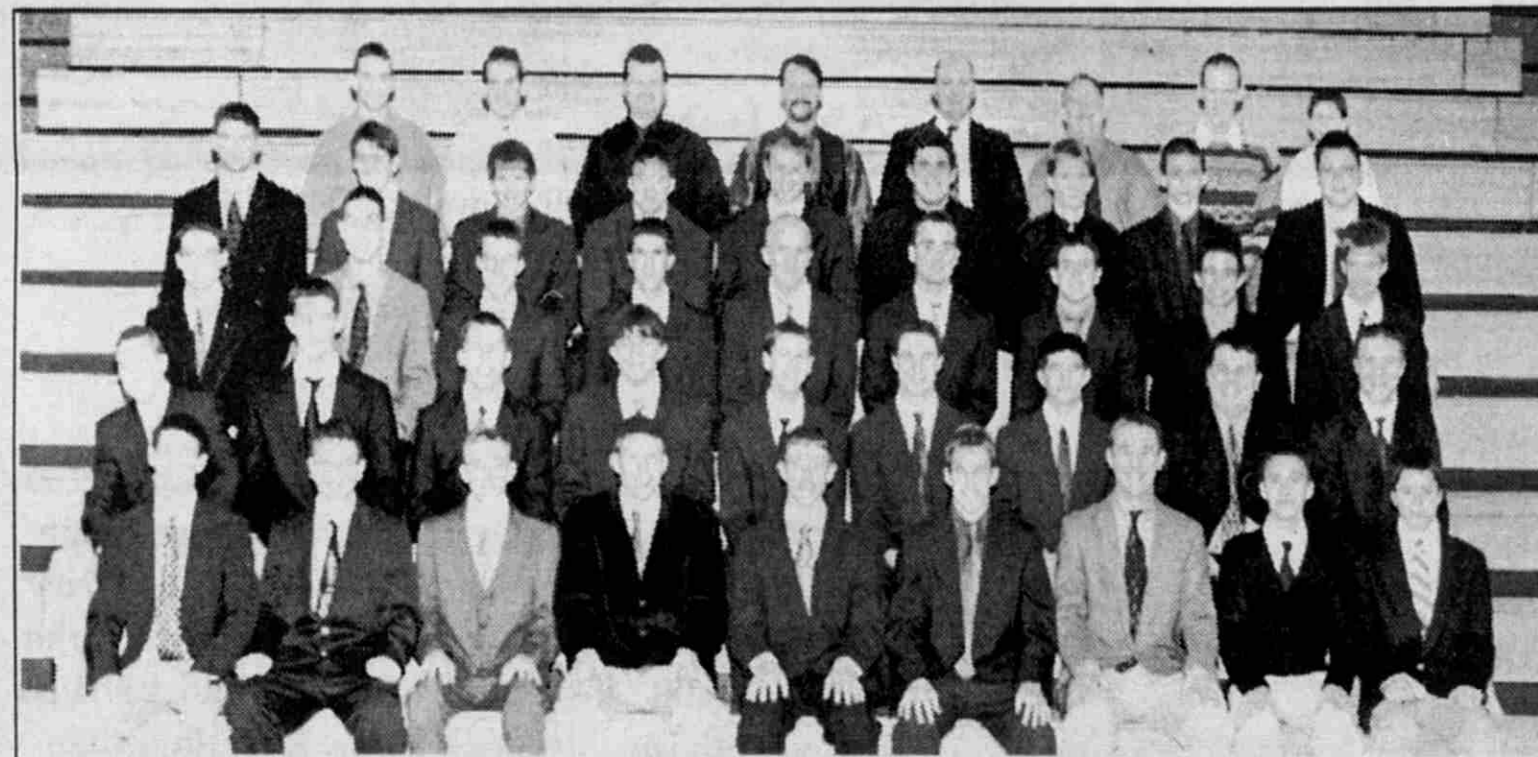
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VARSITY BASKETBALL

1st row: Chris Raimer, James Veinbergs, Andrew Min, Sam Oberlin, Shane Stokes, Kyle Krieg, Frank Mulder; 2nd row: coach Jeff McDonald, Dennis Smith, Ben Lemke, Kyle Rozema, Mike Koster, Kevin Gillman, Ryan Lane, Mike McElroy, asst. coach Dave VanKeulen.



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SWIM/DIVE TEAM

1st row: Jordan Nawrocki; 2nd row: Kelsey Lundstrom, Cara Teft, Danielle Ettinger, Allison Nugent, Derik Germond; 3rd row: Kyle VanderJagt, Kirsten VanderJagt, Mitch Solon; 4th row: Megan Shellenbarger, Jake Baker, coach Casey Lanser, Nick Duley, Corey Scudder.

2004 WINTER SPORTS



VARSITY HOCKEY

1st row: David Maylone; 2nd row: Kyle Austin, Aaron Benmark, Pat McMahon, David Blair, John Truszkowski, Josh John, Jay Ryan; 3rd row: Brandon John, Will Holland, Ted McCoy, Corey Kelly, coach Mike Ballard, Mike Baron, Dave Sweeney, Jon Christiansen, Jeff Moore.



GIRLS BOWLING

1st row: Kim Ward, Christina Kosbar, Lisa Brown; 2nd row: asst. coach Amanda Eickhoff, Carrie Crout, Jodi Hutchinson, Tiffany Blanchard, Rachel Nawrocki, coach Rocky Eickhoff.



GYMNASTICS

1st row: Leannah Seese, Kaylee Yonker; 2nd row: Kelli Kowalski, Danielle White, LynnAnn Bell, Amanda Vezino; 3rd row: Rebecca Underwood, coach Michele DeHaan, Jenna Dickerman, Amanda Rau, Tiffanie Curtis, Alicia Weeber, asst. coach Melissa Neubecker.



BOYS BOWLING

1st row: Jon Eickhoff; 2nd row: Sean Adriane, Matt Burton; 3rd row: Andy Benedict, Greg Sherman, Anthony Everitt; 4th row: Karl Bouwhuis, Jay Mathews, Jim Denney; 5th row: asst. coach Amanda Eickhoff, Wes Patnode, Kipp Heydenburg, Eric Horsford, coach Rocky Eickhoff.



VARSITY CHEERLEADING

1st row: Stephanie Blanchard, Lisa Roth, Caitlyn Hanrahan, Kati Capps, Heather Essich, Amanda Craig; 2nd row: Leslie Koehn, Katie Sullivan, Jamie Zoodsma, Renee Catlin; 3rd row: Sarah McCarrick, Julie Dunn, Nicole Swift, Jenna White, Katie Callihan, Suzy Richardson, Amanda Roberts; 4th row: Kyleigh Gilliard, Alyssa Rash, Tiffany Wilkins.



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Michael J. Tummino Jr., P.C.
311 E. Main
897-5931

Lowell Family Medical Ctr.
• Paul R. Gauthier D.O. • Jim Lang
• Wayne A. Christenson • John Meier
2550 W. Main
252-5600

2004 WINTER SPORTS

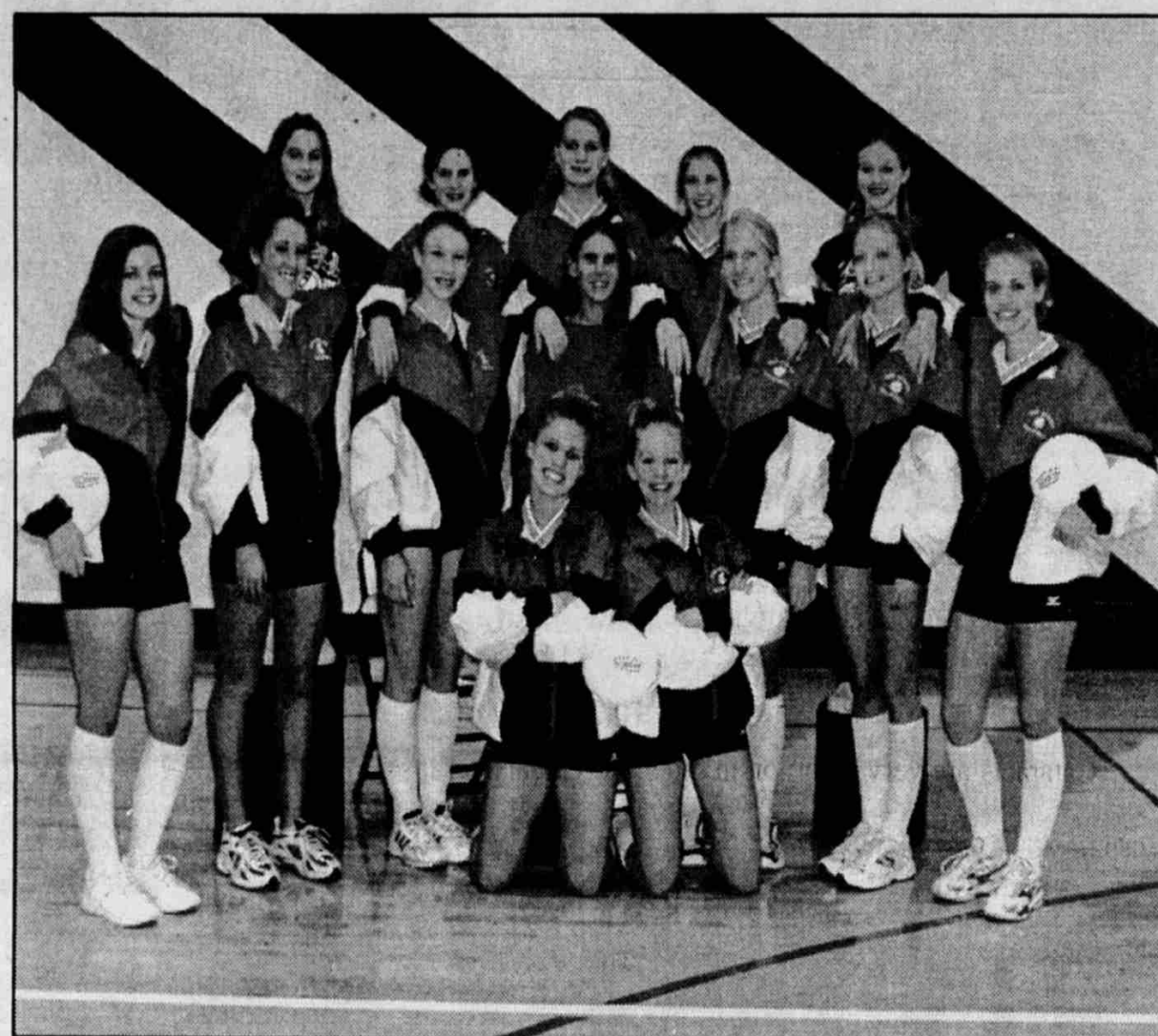
JV BASKETBALL

1st row: manager Hannah Kinney, manager Becky DeLiefde, asst. coach Scott Pullen, manager Kayleigh VanKeulen, coach Dave VanKeulen, manager Matias Burmicky; 2nd row: Austin Lancaster, Brett Hobrla, Andrew Happie, Casey Randolph, Brad Shea, Jordan Hill, Matthew Rozema, David VanKeulen; 3rd row: Kory Anderson, Ryan Converse, Cory Jones, Ben Hanson, Josh Hettinga, Devin Kyllonen.



JV CHEERLEADING

1st row: Jenna Mitchell, Liz Loyd, Ashley Stebbins, Alyssa Stebbins; 2nd row: Danielle Anchors, Kelsey Brenk, Angelica Williams, Cassandra Wildey, Lindsey Skinner; 3rd row: Coach Angela Titcombe, Emily Lemke, Sheila Walling, Nikita Miles, coach Lindsey Glashower.



JV VOLLEYBALL

1st row: Kaitlyn Brower, Laura Maki; 2nd row: Becky Myers, Chelsea Wolbers, Malley Cahoon, Coach Bry Cahoon, Jenny Zoodsma, Amanda Schneider, Sarah Lessens; 3rd row: Manager Taylor Schumacher, Ashley Spencer, Taryn Schumacher, Lisa Johnson, manager Heather Burger.

Trailway now accepting donations

By Dan Schneider

A new account will allow donors to contribute toward the development of the Lowell Community Trailway.

The Lowell Area Recreation Authority, a volunteer group working to create the trail, has set up an account for tax-deductible donations. The city of Lowell is administering the temporary account, which will allow the LARA to take in donations while it seeks to become a nonprofit organization.

"We're making an application to the Lowell Area Community Fund to establish the Lowell Area Recreation Authority as a nonprofit organization," Perry Beachum said. "In the meantime, we did have some people who were interested in making donations to see this project move forward."

Beachum is a volunteer with the LARA and the chairman of the Lowell Parks and Recreation Department. He said the group is looking to fund itself entirely through private donations, foundations and matching grants.

The applied-for grant would cover the legal costs of becoming a nonprofit entity through Public Act 156 of 1917. Being a nonprofit entity would allow the LARA to seek funding from the state and other sources.

"At this time we're not trying for a millage or anything like that," Beachum said.

LARA envisions a non-motorized trail connecting schools and downtown Lowell with points of interest in the Lowell area. This includes Lowell city parks as well as parks in Lowell and Vergennes townships.

Vergennes Township clerk, Mari Stone, who is handling much of the communication for the trail project, said a likely starting point for trail construction would be on the high school property. That section would run from the Wittenbach Center to the south end of Red Arrow Stadium.

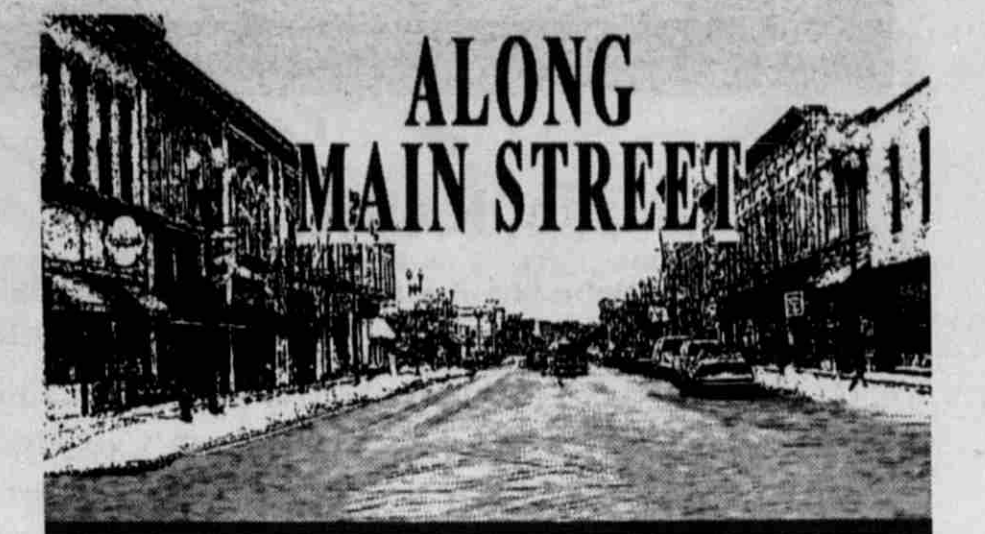
"It's a real simple first step," Stone said. "Once people use it and get excited about extending it, it will snowball from there."

The group completed a master plan for the trail early last year. Phase one of the plan will build on the trail of the high school property. That section of trail would be available for use for cross country practice. The next section would link with the Wege property to the east portion of Alden Nash, and go through

the Cooper Woodland Preserve. By the end of phase one, the trail will extend through downtown Lowell, cross the Grand River via a bridge to be constructed for the trail, and end up in Grand River Riverfront Park in Lowell Township.

Tax-deductible donations to the trailway can be made at City Hall during regular business hours. Donations can also be made through the mail slot at the Vergennes Township offices, located at the corner of Bailey and Parnell. The mail slot is accessible 24 hours a day. Envelopes should be marked "Trail."

More information about the Lowell Community Trail is available at the website www.lowellaretrailway.org.



INSIDE IRAQ W/M. PETER MCPHERSON

Come to the Lowell Performing Arts Center (high school) on Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 6 p.m. and hear M. Peter McPherson, Michigan State University president, talk on his stay in Iraq this past year. Admission: \$5 adults; free: students K-12. Tickets at Bernard's Ace Hardware, Huntington Bank, Ionia County National Bank, Chamber of Commerce, Lowell High School and Springrove Variety. Proceeds benefit Lowell Education Foundation.

FOODMOBILE - FREE FOOD

The Foodmobile will be at the 4-H Fairgrounds, Foreman Building, on S. Broadway this Saturday, Jan. 10 from 10 - 11 a.m. or until the food is gone. Bring your own box or bag. This food (mostly produce) is available to anyone. Distributed by Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. www.flatriveroutreachministries.org.

LITTLE LEAGUE MEETS ...

Beginning Wednesday, Jan. 14, the Lowell Little League will hold its monthly meeting at the chamber of commerce building (113 Riverwalk Plaza) promptly at 6 p.m.

LOCAL FOOD BANK NEEDS ...

Flat River Outreach Ministries food pantry is in need of spaghetti sauce, crackers and boxed potatoes. Any help with this is greatly appreciated.

NEEDED: USED SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Gently used sports equipment is being collected to distribute to needy kids as an 8th grade class project. Any kind of equipment will be accepted. Drop off location: Lowell YMCA Fitness Center. Call Ethan Drain at 897-5640 or Ken Hayes at 897-2699 with any questions.

MURRAY LAKE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

The community is 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.

ART CLASSES & WORKSHOPS AT LAAC

A wide variety of arts classes will be available for all ages at the Lowell Area Arts Council this winter. For information call 897-8545, visit their website at www.lowellartscouncil.org or stop by at 149 S. Hudson.

Health

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

CATARACTS

A cataract is a clouding of the lens in the eye. The lens is a clear disc-shaped structure behind the pupil. The lens focuses light on the retina at the back of the eye which sends a signal to the brain allowing us to see.

Cataracts are very common in older individuals because the lens gradually becomes cloudy as we age. Cataracts are usually diagnosed by examination with an ophthalmoscope by your eye care provider or physician.

Risk factors for development of cataracts are age, diabetes, smoking, alcohol use, exposure to bright sun light, eye injury and steroid medications.

Symptoms of cataracts include a blurring or dim vision, difficulty seeing at night, seeing halos around lights, sensitivity to glare and needing brighter light to read.

Once cataracts become significant enough to interfere with your activities of daily living, your physician will usually refer you to an ophthalmologist for surgical removal. This is usually done on an outpatient basis with sedation and local anesthesia.

There are more than 1.5 million cataract surgeries performed in the U.S. yearly with at least a 98 percent success ratio. During cataract surgery the clouded lens will be removed, usually followed by implantation of an artificial lens within the eye.

For more information on cataracts and cataract surgery you can contact the American Academy of Ophthalmology at 415-561-8500 or at www.aao.org.



A celebration of Junie B. Jones and her series of books will be held at several branches of the Kent District Library during the winter.

The books are about a young girl and her experience going to school for the first time. Children, ages six and

up, are invited to party at the library with games and crafts. Registration is required.

The Alto branch will offer the program on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 4 p.m. (647-3820); the Englehardt branch on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m. (647-3920).

LAS VARSITY WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

All games begin at 7:30 p.m. * Indicates a home game

1/9	Kenowa Hills	2/10	East Grand Rapids
1/13	Thornapple Kellogg*	2/13	Kenowa Hills*
1/16	Northview	2/17	St. Johns
1/23	Greenville*	2/20	Northview*
1/27	Ionia	2/27	Greenville
1/30	Unity Christian	3/2	Unity Christian*
2/3	Cedar Springs*	3/5	Gold Crossover Game*
2/6	Sparta	3/8	District @ Rockford Time TBA

BOYS VARSITY WRESTLING

* Indicates a home game

1/8	East Grand Rapids (7 p.m.)*	2/5	Unity Christian (7 p.m.)
1/10	Michigan Duals (8:30 a.m.)	2/7	Goodrich Tournament (9:30 a.m.)
1/15	Kenowa Hills (7 p.m.)	2/11	Gold Crossover Match (7 p.m.)*
1/17	Gary Rivers Invitational (9 a.m.)*	2/14	Conference (TBA)*
1/22	Northview (7 p.m.)	2/19	Team District (TBA)*
1/29	Greenville (7 p.m.)*	2/21	Ind. District @ Mona Shores (TBA)

GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

* Indicates a home game

1/8	East Grand Rapids (7:30 p.m.)	2/9	Allendale (6 p.m.)
1/10	Portland Invitational (9 a.m.)	2/9	Belding (6 p.m.)
1/12	Creston (6 p.m.)*	2/12	Cedar Springs (7:30 p.m.)*
1/12	Godwin Heights (6 p.m.)*	2/19	Sparta (7:30 p.m.)
1/15	Kenowa Hills (7:30 p.m.)*	2/23	Gold Crossover Tour. (7:30 p.m.)*
1/22	Northview (7:30 p.m.)*	2/28	Conf. @ Kenowa Hills (TBA)
1/29	Greenville (7:30 p.m.)	3/1	Coopersville (6 p.m.)*
1/31	Belding Invitational (9 a.m.)	3/1	Grandville (6 p.m.)*
2/2	Ionia (6 p.m.)	3/1	Zeeland (6 p.m.)*
2/2	Thornapple Kellogg (6 p.m.)	3/6	District @ Owosso (TBA)
2/5	Unity Christian (7:30 p.m.)*		

GIRLS VARSITY GYMNASTICS

* Indicates a home game
All home games are in the Aux. gym @ high school

1/7	Mona Shores (7 p.m.)*	1/31	Kenowa Hills Invitational (10 a.m.)
1/10	Rockford Invitational (TBA)	2/2	Rockford (7 p.m.)*
1/14	East Kentwood (7 p.m.)	2/11	Holland (7 p.m.)
1/21	Forest Hills Central (7 p.m.)	2/18	Kenowa Hills (7 p.m.)
1/24	Mona Shores Invitational (10 a.m.)	2/21	Conference (TBA)* Main Gym
1/28	East Grand Rapids (7 p.m.)*	3/6	Regional (TBA)*

BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY

All Home Games are at Standard Federal Ice Center * Indicates a home game

1/9	Wayland (9 p.m.)*	1/23	South Christian (7 p.m.)	2/6	Holt (TBA)
1/10	Holt (7 p.m.)*	1/28	West Catholic (8 p.m.)	2/7	South Christian (7 p.m.)*
1/16	E. Lansing H.S. (9 p.m.)*	1/30	Wayland (7 p.m.)	2/11	Grand Haven (8 p.m.)
1/17	West Ottawa (7 p.m.)	1/31	Jenison (7 p.m.)*	2/21	Forest Hills Northern (5 p.m.)*
1/19	Grand Rapids Central (8 p.m.)	1/31	G.R. Christian (9 p.m.)	3/1	Regional Tournament (TBA)*

BOYS VARSITY SWIMMING

* Indicates a home game
Games begin at 6:30 unless noted

1/13	Union
1/20	West Catholic
1/24	Wayland Invitational (TBA)
1/29	Byron Center (TBA)
2/5	Northview
2/12	Unity Christian (TBA)
2/19	Wayland (6 p.m.)
2/26	Godwin Heights

THE BATTERS BOX Baseball and Softball Training Program

The place for personal instruction in hitting, fielding, & pitching



- Learn the proper fundamentals in the preseason.
- Training performed by area High School coaches.
- Group rates available

5060 Cascade Rd. (Just west of the Cascade & Spaulding corner)
874-1785 Call for more information about the program.

Go
RED ARROWS!

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James Reagan D.D.S.
207 W. Main
897-7179

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Plumbing & Heating
411 E. Main
897--0887

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.

SUNDAYS: Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 12-5 p.m. Call Larry at 754-7104. Public welcome.

EVERY MON.: LHS Fellowship of Christian Athletes & Friends, 7-8:30 p.m. in members' homes. 676-1355.

THIRD MON. OF EACH MONTH: Fallasburg Historical Society board meetings at chamber or Fallasburg, 7 p.m. All invited. 897-7161 for info.

SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH: Lowell Board of Education meets 7:00 p.m. in Administration Building, 300 High Street.

SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH: Bowne Township Historical Society meeting at Historical Museum, 84th and Alden Nash, 7:30 p.m.

THIRD MON. OF THE MONTH: Lowell Showboat Garden Club, 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall of Nazarene Church. Call Dave, 897-2533.

MON. OR TUES.: Cub Scouts, boys in 1st - 5th grades, Alto or Lowell. Call school for more info.

FOURTH MON. OF EACH MONTH: Clark-Ellis American Legion Post 152, 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30.

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

EVERY 1ST MON.: V.F.W. Post #8303, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. at 7 p.m.

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

1ST & 3RD TUES.: Diabetic Support group, 9:30 a.m. at Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers ... because mothering matters. 9:15-11:30 a.m. at Impact, a Wesleyan Church, 1070 N. Hudson. Call 897-8304 for details.

SECOND TUES.: G.R. Chapter of the American Sewing Guild, D.W. Richardson Center, 5255 Grand River Dr. 6:30 social time; 7 p.m. program. Sandy, 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, LAAC, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

1ST TUES.: Adults with AD/HD at Calvin College, 7-9 p.m. Call Gary Engle at 897-6325 or 248-2423.

SECOND & FOURTH TUES.: Saranac Needlers, needleart/quilting bee meets 5-8:30 p.m. at 4 Health Wellness Center in Saranac. For all or part time; all are invited. Contact Bev or Melissa, 642-6466 for info. A light dinner will be provided.

SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH: Lowell Board of Education meets 7:00 p.m. in Administration Building, 300 High Street.

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

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

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

EVERY THIRD TUES.: Saranac Scrappers, scrapbooking/journaling group meets at 4 Health Wellness Center, Saranac, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Bev or Melissa, 642-6466.

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

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

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

EVERY WED.: Rotary meets at noon at Lowell Masonic Temple, 119 Lincoln Lake Ave.

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

EVERY WED.: Lowell Church of the Nazarene Caravan children's program at 7 p.m., ages 5-12 years. Call 897-8800 with any questions.

WEDNESDAYS: Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 6-10 p.m. Call Larry 754-7104. Public welcome.

EVERY SECOND WED.: Kent County Youth Fair Woodcarvers, LAAC, 6:30-8:30 p.m., King Memorial Youth Center at Fairgrounds. 897-6050.

EVERY SECOND WED.: Lowell Women's Club, noon in community room at Schneider Manor, 725 Bowes Rd.

EVERY FOURTH WED.: Elderly volunteers needed for Intergenerational program w/school children in activities. 9:45-10:45 a.m. or 12:45 - 1:45 p.m. Sister Colleen F.S.E. 897-7842.

EVERY SECOND WED.: Support group for Peripheral Neuropathy, 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Catholic Church, Grand Rapids. Dorothy 897-9794. Jan. 14: guest speaker Sharon Vermuelen, reflexologist.

THURS.: Weight Watchers at Lowell Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St. 5:30 p.m. Register 1/2 hr. before the meeting. For info., 800-651-6000.

EVERY SECOND THURS.: Loyal Order of the Moose, men's general meeting at 7:30 p.m. -? All members in good standing are invited to attend.

THURS.: Saranac Area Musicians and Singers at Saranac H.S. Band Room. Choir: 6-7 p.m./band: 7-8. Kathy Maatman 897-5981.

EVERY THURS.: Pottery classes at Franciscan Life Process Center, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call 897-7842.

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 meeting, Lowell Middle School choir room. Call 897-1502 after 5 p.m.

FIRST AND THIRD THURS.: Alto Lions Club at Annalaine's on S. Alden Nash Ave. at 7 p.m.

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

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

EVERY 3RD THURS.: VFW #8303 Ladies Auxiliary, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. at 3 p.m.

EVERY THIRD THURS.: Parents Supporting Parents group, Franciscan Life Process Center. 897-7842.

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

EVERY THIRD THURS.: LaLeche League of Ada, Cascade, Lowell 6:30 p.m. socializing; meeting 7 p.m. Support for pregnant & breastfeeding women/nursing children welcome. Ada church. 752-8300.

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

SECOND SATURDAY: Ada Historical Society at 10:30 a.m., Averill Historical Museum, 7144 Headley, Ada.

SECOND SAT.: Lowell Amateur Radio Club, Lowell Airport, 730 Lincoln Lake NE. 9 a.m. social time; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

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

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM OPEN-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. Call 897-2037.

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

LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL: Tues. Wed. & Fri.: 12 - 5 p.m. Thurs.: 12 - 7 p.m. Sat., 1-4 p.m. 149 S. Hudson. 897-8545.

LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS: (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs: 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues./Fri: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 & 8-9 p.m.; Sat./Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m.; (NA) Mon./Thurs., 6-7:30 p.m. 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

SAT., JAN. 10: Foodmobile, free food at 4-H Fairgrounds, S. Broadway, 10-11 a.m. or until food is gone. Bring your own box or bag; mostly produce. Distributed by Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc.

WED., JAN. 14: Little League meetings will now be held monthly at Lowell Chamber of Commerce building promptly at 6 p.m.

SAT., JAN. 17: Murray Lake Elementary School open house, 1-3 p.m. for the community. See the progress, visit with future teachers and meet Family Links members.

THURS., JAN. 22: Know-how workshop on improving your marketing, 7:30 - 9:15 a.m. at city of Lowell offices, 301 E. Main St. Registration is required. Call Liz at 897-9161.

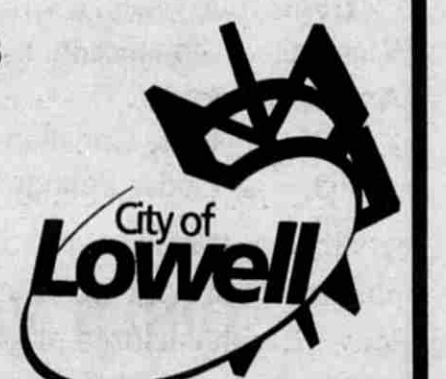
MON. & TUES., JAN. 26 & 27: Friends of the Englehardt Library mid-winter book sale. Great selection of winter reads. Call 647-3920 for hours.

FEB. 15 - MARCH 20: West Michigan Regional Competition. Call for artists - juried competition. Deadline for two entries: Feb. 5-7. Call LAAC at 897-8545 or email info@lowellartsCouncil.org.

TUES., FEB. 17: Lowell Historical Museum program on American Civil War in conjunction with Lowell Middle School Benjamin Morse Society. Public welcome to Lowell Township Hall, 7 p.m.

2004 CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATES AT LOWELL CITY HALL CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS SECOND FLOOR 301 EAST MAIN ST.

- January - 5 & 20 (Tuesday)
- February - 2 & 17 (Tuesday)
- March - 1, 15 & 29 (Springbreak)
- April - 19
- May - 3 & 17
- June - 7 & 21
- July - 6 (Tuesday) & 19
- August - 2 & 16
- September - 7 (Tuesday) & 20
- October - 4 & 18
- November - 1 & 15
- December - 6 & 20



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR
897-5949

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

Sharing The Vision

Nancy Hopkins, President
Board of Education

The Lowell community can be grateful for the efforts of many talented and dedicated people toward our children's education in Lowell Area Schools. We know that this great work will continue every day.

As parents, teachers and a community, the common core of our work is the education of our children today so that they are well qualified for the workforce of tomorrow. We know that their success as learners today is important to their future success in life.

To help ensure that success, teamwork is needed. The board of education is committed to extend and deepen relationships within our district, and expand innovative partnerships with area organizations, professionals and other community-based groups. Not only does teamwork bring diverse groups and individuals together, it encourages interaction, discussion and dialogue among those who have the most invested in the success of our students.

A shared purpose of building teamwork will result in higher student achievement and continued excellence in education in Lowell schools. Focusing on meeting the ever-growing needs of our students will benefit their educational experience, better prepare them for life after graduation, and profoundly impact life in our community.

The board of education will continue to serve the school and local communities. Key to shared continuing success will be collaboration among all involved with our children's education in creating and sustaining a learning environment and educational opportunities that benefit both students and the community.



FALL ALL-CONFERENCE ATHLETES 2003

Pictured, 1st row, from left to right: Mandy Gunberg (girls tennis), Matt D'Agostino (boys soccer), Kendra Gallert (girls basketball), Devon Collins (girls basketball), Abbie Debiak (girls cross country); 2nd row: Frank Mulder (football), Luke Tomczak (boys golf), Shane Stokes (boys soccer), Amy Oberlin (girls basketball), Sarah Swab (girls cross country); 3rd row: Matt Scheider (boys golf), Scott Riddle (boys cross country), Steve Ellison (boys cross country), Jeff McPherson (football), Ed Zigmont (football); 4th row: Sam Oberlin (boys soccer) Josh Anderson (boys soccer), Mike Koster (football).

Donation extends holiday cheer to August fair participants

The Kent County Fair along with Jules & Beck Combined Shows are making a donation they hope will extend holiday cheer into next year. Children from Kent Cooperative Extension Services will receive a gift certificate for unlimited rides at this year's Kent County Youth Fair, held Aug. 9-14, here in Lowell.

The Kent County Fair will feature all of Jules & Beck Combined Shows' fun and thrilling rides, allowing kids to go gangbusters for the new eight-story gondola ferris wheel or experience music mania on the fast and furious Music Fest.

The donation, to be used by 100 area children, is valued at \$1,500.

FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

The Knights of Columbus from St. Mary's Parish in Lowell will be sponsoring a FREE-THROW CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

WHEN:
SATURDAY, JAN. 17 • 12:30 PM
Sign-Ups start at 12:15 - Sign up at the event.

WHERE:
CHERRY CREEK ELEMENTARY GYM

WHO:
ALL BOYS & GIRLS AGES 9 TO 14

WHAT: FREE THROW COMPETITION!
Each contestant shoots 15 free throws
WINNERS WILL RECEIVE TROPHIES AND ADVANCE TO THE DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP!

The Knights of Columbus is an international Catholic family fraternal service organization with more than 1.6 million members in more than 12,000 local councils. Last year, Knights donated 57 million volunteer hours and \$116 million to charitable and benevolent causes, sponsoring projects to benefit their church, councils, communities, families and youth.

Questions? Call Brent Noskey... 897-4982

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Lowell Nazarene Church • 201 N. Washington
Thursday - 5:30 p.m.

Meetings also in Ada, Cascade and more!

Offer expires 1/31/04. Valid Only in area 044. ©2004 Weight Watchers International, Inc., owner of the WEIGHT WATCHERS trademark. All rights reserved.

January Students of the Month

Lowell High School is pleased to announce its January Students of the Month. These students were chosen by different departments because of their outstanding achievements in that particular area.

The Physical Education Department chose Luke Tomczak, a senior. He is the son of Roger and Kathy Tomczak of Lowell. Tomczak plays golf and baseball for LHS and has been captain of the golf team for two years. In addition, he is employed at Arnie's and Boston Market. His teacher nominator says he is a great person who always does his best and respects teachers and classmates.

The Math Department is honoring Ashley Kehoe, a senior. She is the daughter of Dan and Cathy Kehoe of Lowell. Kehoe's extracurricular activities include baseball, softball, National Honor Society, Lowell Women's Club and Project Pals. In addition, she is a member of the Alton Bible Church Worship team and is employed at Rite Aid Pharmacy. Kehoe plans to attend Grand Valley State University next year, eventually pursuing a medical degree. Her teacher nominator says she is a great person and a pleasure to have in class. She

also has shown a high level of responsibility for her own learning.

The English Department selected Matthew Geldersma, a senior. He is the son of Steve and Cindy Geldersma of Lowell. Geldersma is employed at the Grattan General Store and plans to attend Michigan Technological University next year. His teacher nominator says he is an incredible reader and does an incredible job of interpreting literature. He is very good at combining technology in the projects he does for novel class.

The Business Department chose Matt Scheider, a senior. He is the son of Mike and Marcia Scheider of Lowell. Scheider is active at LHS as co-captain of the golf team for two years, baseball, Business Professionals of America and National Honor Society. He is also employed at Subway. Scheider plans to attend college next year, at either Albion College or Olivet College. His teacher nominator says he has done a great job taking charge in the Spirit Store. He is usually the first one to take the initiative to get new products tagged and inventoried. Scheider has also displayed leadership and accountability as a member of Business Professionals of America and in his accounting class.



Pictured, bottom row, left to right: Luke Tomczak and Matthew Geldersma; top row, Matt Scheider and Ashley Kehoe

Thin ice remains a danger on area lakes

With forecasts of colder weather and potential heavy snowfall over the next few days, thin ice remains a danger on our inland lakes. Deputy Don Hamilton of the Kent County Sheriff Department Marine Unit wants all the outdoor enthusiasts to be aware of the thickness of ice

necessary to sustain certain weights.

As a general guideline, three inches of ice is required for an adult person. For a few people fishing in the same general area upon a lake, you should have four inches. Snowmobiles generally require at least five inches of ice

thickness. Operating a motor vehicle upon the ice is never recommended.

Ice does not have uniform thickness, and frequent checks are necessary as you move across the lake. Use of a personal flotation device can add a measure of safety. Don't venture out on the ice without

letting family or friends know where you're going to be. Fishing with a companion is always safer. Pull heavy additional equipment behind you to spread out the weight.

Snow will insulate the formation of ice and may not be as thick under a layer of snow. Try to learn more about the lakes that you are going out onto. Many have natural springs or inlets where the ice will not form as quickly as other areas of the lake.

Enthusiasm moves the world.
—J. Balfour

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CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
SHOWTIMES 1/05 - 1/08
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN (PG) 1:25, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20
PETER PAN (PG) 11:30, 1:50, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00
SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE (PG-13) 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30
LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING (PG-13) 12:00, 4:00, 8:00
MONA LISA SMILE (PG-13) 1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20

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Gymnastics team tests its mettle in E. Lansing

By Dan Schneider

The Red Arrow gymnastics team opened its season last Saturday at the East Lansing Invitational.

The Grand Ledge Comets won the invitational with a team combined score of 144.55. The Lowell gymnasts' team score of 123.8 was good enough for fifth place out of a field of nine.

The Arrows finished just behind East Lansing High School, whose team score was 125.4.

It was the first competitive meet for several gymnasts on the team. Of the 11 girls on the Red Arrow gymnastics team, five are freshmen.

"Last year we graduated eight seniors," coach Michele DeHaan said.

The team has no seniors this year. Its captains are juniors Jenna Dickerman and Amanda Rau. With eight seniors on the team last year, this year's sophomores had little opportunity to compete as freshmen. This year will be an awakening for those gymnasts.

"Now they get to compete all the time and be in the spotlight and that's going to be a surprise for them," DeHaan said.

Depending on the meet, six or seven gymnasts are allowed to compete in each of

the four events. The top four score for the team.

"The freshmen will have to fight hard to get a spot," DeHaan said.

In the vault event Saturday, the top four for Lowell were Jenna Dickerman (8.7), LynnAnn Bell (8.2), Amanda Rau (8.05), and Kelli Kowalski (7.85). Dickerman took fourth place overall at the invitational in vault.

Lowell's top four on the uneven bars were Dickerman (8.1), Bell (7.65), Rau (6.35) and Rebecca Underwood (5.1). Dickerman placed ninth overall.

On the balance beam, Lowell's top four were

Dickerman (8.4), Underwood (8.0), Bell (7.1) and Rau (7.05). Dickerman was eighth overall.

For the floor exercise, Lowell's top four were Dickerman (8.8), Underwood (8.6), Rau (8.1), and Bell

(7.75). Dickerman was fourth overall; Underwood was seventh.

The Red Arrow gymnasts start their conference competition at home tonight at 7 o'clock against the Sailors from Mona Shores.

On Saturday they travel to the Rockford Invitational.

Lowell's gymnastics conference consists of Muskegon, Holland, Forest Hills, East Kentwood, Kenowa Hills, East Grand Rapids, Rockford and Lowell.

Volleyball wins 4-2 at Byron

By Dan Schneider

Lowell High School's varsity girls' volleyball team won four games Saturday before losing to the host at the Byron Center Tournament.

The Red Arrows finished second in their first pool and then first in their second.

This pitted them against Thornapple Kellogg in the first round of the tournament. The Arrows beat the Trojans in two games, 15-5 and 15-8.

Lowell lost to the Bulldogs from Byron Center High School in the second round. The Bulldogs took the first game in that match-up, 15-10. Lowell won the second, 15-4. Then Byron Center ended Lowell's day with a 15-10 win.

Byron Center went on to win the tournament.

The Red Arrows got their first look at a conference opponent for the season. They defeated Unity Christian 15-9 and 16-14.

"We got to see some different schools we usually don't see," said varsity coach, Gigi Peal.

Peal explained the team was hampered by illness.

"We had some kids out and not playing and some kids who had not practiced all week from sickness," Peal said. "Some kids had to step up and play positions that they hadn't played before."

Senior middle hitter Heather Becker had 32 kills on the day. She also had 13 blocks.

Junior middle hitter Amy Oberlin had 24 kills.

Sophomore middle hitter Kristin Johnson had 22 kills.

Junior setter Taylor Verdon had 96 assists and 37 service points. Of the service points, seven were aces.

Peal was not happy with the team's overall serving performance, however.

"We did not serve well this weekend at all, so that really hurt us," Peal said. "As a team we served just over 50

percent, which is just not acceptable at a varsity level."

Serving percentage is the percent of serves that are playable by the opponent. Peal said the team is usually a strong-serving team.

The Red Arrow volleyball team has a rigorous week ahead of it.

"We'll have four days of competition in one week's time," Peal said.

Lowell opens conference

play tomorrow night at East Grand Rapids.

"It's our biggest match of the season," Peal said. "We'll definitely have to play one of our best games of volleyball in order to beat them."

On Saturday the Red Arrows travel to the Portland Invitational. They host a tri-meet on Jan. 12 with Creston and Godwin, and will be at home on Jan. 15 against Kenowa Hills.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider amending Section 4.3 of the Zoning Ordinance of Lowell Charter Township. The proposed amendments would provide new regulations for outdoor lighting. The proposed regulations specify what exterior lighting is regulated, places restrictions on the location of exterior lighting and light output from exterior lighting. The regulations also provide for shielding of exterior lighting. In addition, the following Sections of the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance would be modified to conform to the lighting regulations: 3.4.5.F, 4.3.2, 4.444.E, 4.8.9.M, 5.4.1.H.o and 5.5.1.F.

The hearing will be held as follows:

**Monday, January 12, 2004
7:00 P.M.**

**Lowell Charter Township Hall
2910 Alden Nash Avenue S.E.
Lowell, Michigan 49331**

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

Dave Simmonds, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township
Planning Commission

SNOW SHOVELING SAFETY

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.
- Bend from the knees.
- Push the snow like a snowplow.
- 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.
- Take it slow. Pace yourself and take breaks as needed.
- Wear a scarf or mask.
- Stop if your body feels pain or discomfort.

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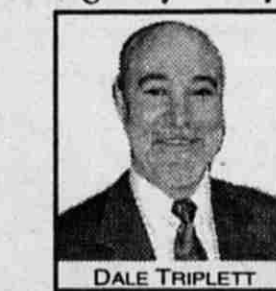
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LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION SCHOOL ELECTION

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE ELECTORS OF

Byron Center Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan
 Caledonia Community Schools, Kent, Allegan and Barry Counties, Michigan
 Cedar Springs Public Schools, Kent and Newaygo Counties, Michigan
 Comstock Park Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan
 East Grand Rapids Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan
 Forest Hills Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan
 Godfrey-Lee Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan
 Godwin Heights Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan
 Grand Rapids Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan
 Grandville Public Schools, Kent and Ottawa Counties, Michigan
 Kelloggsville Public School District, Kent County, Michigan
 Kenowa Hills Public Schools, Kent and Ottawa Counties, Michigan
 Kent City Community Schools, Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and Newaygo Counties, Michigan
 Kentwood Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan
 Lowell Area Schools, Kent and Ionia Counties, Michigan
 Northview Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan
 Rockford Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan
 Sparta Area Schools, Kent and Ottawa Counties, Michigan
 Thornapple Kellogg School, Barry, Allegan, Kent and Ionia Counties, Michigan
 Wyoming Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan

TO THE ELECTORS OF EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Please Take Notice that the Boards of Education of the above named school districts, pursuant to a directive from the Intermediate School Board of Kent Intermediate School District, Michigan, have called special elections to be held in each of the districts on Tuesday, February 24, 2004.

TAKE NOTICE that the purpose of the special elections is to vote on the following proposition:

SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE PROPOSAL

This proposal will increase the levy by the intermediate school district of special education millage previously approved by the electors. All or a portion of the revenues will be distributed to local school districts in the intermediate school district to reimburse costs for special education programs and services.

Shall the original millage limitation on the annual property tax previously approved by the electors of Kent Intermediate School District, Michigan, which has been reduced by the "Headlee" amendment, Michigan Constitution of 1963, to 2.7099 mills (\$2,709.99 on each \$1,000.00 of taxable valuation) for the education of persons with disabilities be increased by 1 mill (\$1.00 on each \$1,000.00 of taxable valuation), without limitation as to number of years, commencing in 2004; the estimate of the revenue the intermediate school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2004 is approximately \$17,650,000 from local property taxes authorized herein?

THE LAST DAY ON WHICH PERSONS MAY REGISTER IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE SPECIAL INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION CALLED TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2004, IS MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2004. PERSONS REGISTERING AFTER 5:00 O'CLOCK, P.M. ON MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2004, ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE SPECIAL INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION.

To register, visit any Secretary of State branch office or your county, city or township clerk's office. Persons planning to register with the respective county, city or township clerks must ascertain the days and hours on which the clerks' offices are open for registration.

This Notice is given by order of the Boards of Education.

John VanSinger
Byron Center Public Schools

Bernard Nagel
Caledonia Community Schools

Sara Thornton
Cedar Springs Public Schools

Kathleen E. Sullivan
Comstock Park Public Schools

Rosalie R. Stein
East Grand Rapids Public Schools

Molly Krauss
Forest Hills Public Schools

Julie Jacamel
Godfrey-Lee Public Schools

Lee Ann Platschorre
Godwin Heights Public Schools

Luis R. Pena
Grand Rapids Public Schools

Mary Walsh
Grandville Public Schools

Alan Woodcox
Kelloggsville Public School District

Bernie Beckman
Kenowa Hills Public Schools

Eva Miller-Videtch
Kent City Community Schools

Ed Kape, Jr.
Kentwood Public Schools

Pat Nugent
Lowell Area Schools

M. Thomas Lothamer
Northview Public Schools

Carl W. Dufendach
Rockford Public Schools

Denise Bloom
Sparta Area Schools

Kim Selleck
Thornapple Kellogg School

Dennis Bush
Wyoming Public Schools

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GM ANNOUNCED THEY WILL SCALE BACK ON INCENTIVES AND REBATES IN 2004. STOP AT THOMET CHEVROLET-BUICK BEFORE JAN. 12, 2004.



The Following Rebates End On January 12, 2004



2004 REGAL
\$3,000 Rebate
***or 0%**
for 60 months

2004 LESABRE
\$3,500 Rebate
***or 0%**
for 60 months

2004 CHEVY
AVALANCHE
\$3,500 Rebate
***or 0%**
for 60 months



2004 CHEVY MALIBU
\$1,000 Rebate
***or 1.9%**
for 60 months

2004 IMPALA
\$3,000 Rebate
***or 0%**
for 60 months



2004 SILVERADO
\$2,500 Rebate
***or 1.9%**
for 60 months

Hurry in before these Great Rebates are Gone!

**with GMAC approved credit*

◆ THOMET USED VEHICLE SPECIALS ◆



2003 CHEVY G2500 EXPRESS VAN
12 pass., auto., V8, dual air & heat, cruise, tilt, AM/FM/Cass/CD, cloth, 21,000 miles
Stk. #UP087
\$17,995



2002 CHEVROLET S-10 ZR5 4X4
Auto., V6, cruise, tilt, AM/FM/CD power windows & locks, 29,700 miles.
Stk. #UP082
\$18,995



2001 DODGE DURANGO SLT 4X4
Auto., cruise, tilt, AM/FM, full power seats, windows & locks, leather.
Stk. #UP083
\$17,995



2000 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO
Auto., V6, cruise, tilt, AM/FM, air, power sunroof, leather.
Stk. #UP084
\$15,995



2003 CHEVY SUBURBAN LS 4X4
Auto., V8, dual air, cruise, tilt, AM/FM, power seats, rear DVD player, 6,000 miles.
\$32,995

SALES • SERVICE • SELECTION

Thomet

CHEVROLET BUICK®

*plus tax, title, doc fee & plates. With approved credit

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