

The Lowell Ledger

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Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, February 18, 2004

Merchant Group offers incentive to shop locally

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Merchant Group has printed some yellow cards which are now available at various shops and eating establishments in Lowell.

They're the size of business cards and have a row of 12 ducks along the bottom. A purchase at any of the 12 participating businesses earns a punch. When all the ducks are punched, the card is worth 10 percent off at any of the establishments.

Springrove Variety, owned by Mike Sprenger, is one of the businesses participating. "They can punch it if they come in here all the time and then they can use it at any of the places," Sprenger said. "It's a win-win because one of the things we wanted to do is share customers. And it's Lowell, it's all Lowell."

The Merchant Group came up with the idea at a meeting about two weeks ago.

"One thing led to another and a half-hour later we had an idea; usually we don't flow that smoothly," Cliff Yankovich said. Yankovich is co-owner of Chimera Design, which is also participating.

Michelle Tava, owner of the Touch of Country furniture store, used a similar promotion when she opened her store. She handed out punch-cards worth \$100 off for every \$1,000 spent at her store.

"It was just a promotion I did myself to get my business moving 10 years ago," Tava said.

Now, Tava said, a lot of her business comes from Ionia and Portland and other towns surrounding Lowell. She said she believes the cards will help stimulate business in Lowell, and not just in her store.

"I really think it's going to add an increase in sales over the year and the volume of traffic that's going to be downtown," Tava said.

Liz Baker, executive director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, said the cooperative discount represents a strong commitment among Lowell businesses.

"These businesses that started it should be proud because they believe in it and they're passionate about it and that's why they chose Lowell," Baker said.

The other participating businesses are Cousin's Hallmark, Daisy's Floral, Dream Pieces, Flat River Grill, Larkin's Restaurant, Roll Away Family Fun Center, SandCastle Riverside, Sneakers and Touch of Country.

In addition to the 10 percent discount, a full punch-card is entered in a drawing to win \$1,200 worth of gift certificates. The drawing will take place on Saturday, Dec. 4, after the Santa Parade. The winner receives gift certificates worth \$100 from each of the 12 businesses.



Cliff Yankovich, co-owner of Chimera Design, punches a yellow Shop Lowell card for Angie Carlson.

Lowell post office added to growing list of targets

— Recent break-ins across the state include several smaller towns

By Dan Schneider

The drop box in front of the Lowell post office was broken into last Wednesday night.

A postal employee discovered the break-in and mail theft early Thursday morning.

"Essentially, we went out early this morning and the lock was cut and, actually, the lock itself was gone," Lowell postmaster Gil Brown said last Thursday.

Collection boxes at the post offices in Ada and Ionia were also hit that night, according to Lowell police detective James Hinton. These are the most recent incidents in a string of postal drop box break-ins in small towns across Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

"It's run from all the way over near Grand Rapids, kind of a diagonal line across the state right on into the Saginaw Bay area," U.S. postal inspector Fred Van De Putte said.

Van De Putte said mail thieves typically have one of two motives. They look for cash, pre-approved credit

cards, and checks. The other motive is a crime that has risen to prominence more recently; the thieves can per-

form identity theft using personal information gleaned from mail.

Brown said the Lowell post office collects about 400 pieces of mail during morning drop box collection. He encourages customers to drop off all mail before the last collection of the day which, in Lowell, is at 6 p.m. Hinton advises people to take quick action if mailed checks do not make it to their destination.

The break-ins have been occurring on a weekly basis since late January, Van De Putte said. There are typically three to five towns hit on each night of break-ins. Van De Putte said the break-ins occur around midnight. Small towns are targeted, he said, because they have less likelihood of witnesses.

"In the middle of the night in a small town, there are not a lot of people around and perhaps not a lot of streetlights," Van De Putte said.

So far, there are no sus-

pects in the investigation. The Postal Inspection Service out of Detroit is offering a cash reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the conviction of the person or persons responsible for the break-ins. Witness accounts identify a teal Pontiac Grand

Am or Grand Prix, with gold- or bronze-trimmed wheels, as possibly being involved in the thefts.

Anyone with information should call the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at (313) 226-8184. That line can be called 24 hours a day.



Mail thieves cut the lock that secures the door of the drop box in order to steal the mail. This lock has replaced the one that was cut.

Inside
The Lowell Ledger

Grant To Help Rural
 Land Preservation...Page 3

Special Ed Millage Vote...Page 8

Art Contest Winners...Page 11

OUTDOORS

By Dave Stegehuis



PLAN AHEAD

It is the middle of winter in Michigan and this year actually looks and feels like it. That is why it might seem a bit early to be concerned about spring, summer and fall activities at this time. But, as an example, spring turkey hunting applications were due on Feb. 1. I almost missed that one because of some unusual distractions.

Special unit hunts and non-resident applications for big game in many western states are due before the snow melts here. Contact the respective state fish and wildlife management departments to get details.

February and March are when most hunting, fishing and travel shows take place around the state. Watch for dates and locations through the media.

The Huntin' Time Expo West at the Delta Plex Arena in

Grand Rapids on Feb. 20, 21 and 22 features outfitters from around the world. Hunts can be booked on the internet, by mail, or over the phone, but meeting the outfitter or representative in person allows an opportunity to size-up personalities. It also provides a chance to chat with old friends if an outfitter you hunted with in the past attends the gathering.

Several boat and fishing shows present new gear and often have seminars to offer new techniques and tackle as well as providing basic information to newcomers. Every year I come away with at least one new idea to try the next season.

One show that probably comes close to having something for everybody is the Outdoorama Family Sport and Travel Show at the Novi Expo Center Feb. 25 - 29. I plan to get to that one for the first time this year.

Recreational vehicle shows take over civic centers as well as shopping malls in the area. I have found, however, that shows specifically for recreational vehicles or boats tend to feature mostly high-end units, which is okay if that is your interest.

In any case, these shows provide an opportunity to get out and research warm weather activities and talk with industry people and others about common interests. Outdoor type people are generally eager to share their experiences and offer advice about their favorite pastimes.

Plan ahead, make some decisions, and you can hit the ground running when the sun shines again.

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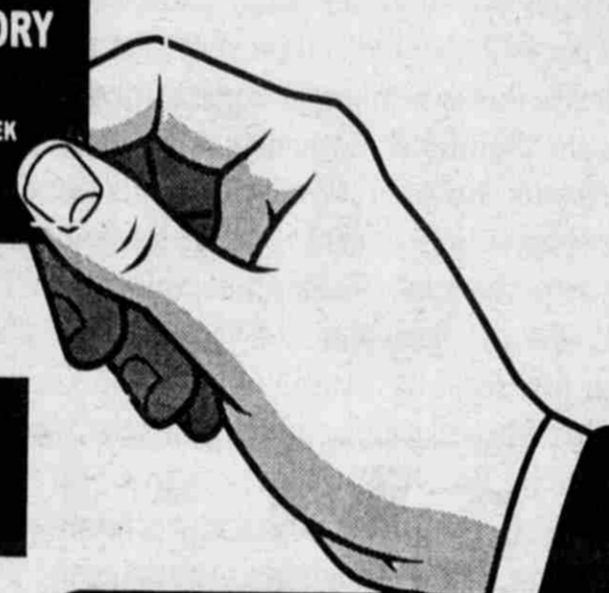
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Sharing The Vision

SHARI MILLER
Lowell Schools Superintendent



The Freshman Center at the high school has provided an extra boost for many freshmen. In a recent survey, parents indicated that their students felt safe in the Center and are comfortable contacting their teachers.

A high percentage of parents and students are pleased with the block scheduling. Parents feel that block scheduling gives students more quality time with teachers. Parents also indicated that the Freshman Center is a great way for students to make the transition from middle school to high school.

The survey also provided helpful feedback for staff members. The Freshman Center is staffed by two teams of teachers that meet together regularly to review student needs and to discuss curriculum and opportunities for joint projects that incorporate the same theme in the different content areas. Parents also expressed an interest in providing students with test taking skills and more computer classes. Overall, parent comments were very positive.

Freshmen are also seeing academic gains with 65 percent

earning a 3.0 or better. The staff members in the Freshman Center continue to work toward their goals for this year: to establish a safe and caring environment for freshman students with a rigorous academic standard.

Thanks to our staff, students, and parents for their efforts in making the Lowell High School Freshman Center a success!

Your comments about this concern or any issue would be greatly appreciated. Send to Shari Miller, Lowell Area Schools; 300 High St., Lowell, MI 49331 or smiller@remc.k12.mi.us. (check out our web page at www.lowell.k12.mi.us)

Freshmen Students of the Month



Freshmen students of the month, front row, left to right: Brittany Balyeat, Stephanie Kempker and Kelsey Koewers; back row are: Rachel Brinks, C.J. Huisman, Colin Rich, Mike McElroy. Not pictured is Shay Hacker.

Freshman Students of the Month, from left to right, are: Justin Harden, Austyn Foster and Jordan Blanchard.

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Planning commission looks to county model stormwater ordinance

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

It is something the city of Lowell needs to address, admitted planning commission chair Clark Jahnke...he's just not sure how to do it yet.

The issue is stormwater runoff and ultimately water quality. The group has been discussing the issue since July

and last month had a presentation from Jim Smalligan, of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber. Smalligan's company helped write the Kent County Model Ordinance for storm water. The planning commission is expected to have further discussion on storm water at its upcoming Monday night meeting at the Lowell City Hall.

The model ordinance put

together by the Kent County Drain Commission is in response to the Environmental Protection Agency's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Phase II regulations. It is designed to address the storm water discharges into the nation's lakes, rivers, streams and oceans. Phase I of the plan dealt with wastewater treatment plants and industrial discharges; phase II looks at such items as fertilizers and soil erosion that is carried into waterways like the Flat River via stormwater runoff.

"Water quality is something we all need to think about as our population grows and grows," said planning commission member Sherry Grimm. "We need not only to think about it here, but all over."

The 36-page document specifically details requirements for storm water maintenance and enforcement including the development of a permit for developers, fees and recovery for damages to the system. These are items that Williams and Works, which serves as the city's engineer, said the city would need to address before putting such an ordinance in place. Williams and Works Dave Austin suggested the city try to fit the ordinance to its own needs.

Another aspect of the plan is to break areas into specific zones: Zone A are areas that have had little development or changes to the natural stormwater system; Zone B are areas which have had some development; and Zone

C are highly urbanized areas that have had significant modification of the drainage ways.

Most of the city of Lowell would fall into the Zone C area with suggestions for storm water management being the use of sediment basins, maintaining and enhancing buffer strips, and reducing directly connected impervious areas. Also bank erosion and flood control measures would be that storm water runoff should not exceed the capacity of the downstream system.

The Lowell Planning Commission didn't feel comfortable with just adopting the model ordinance outright, even though Smalligan pointed out that a plethora of people from engineers to bi-

ologists to lawyers had extensively reviewed the document in committee and subcommittee meetings.

But what to take and how to fit it is the question. The city of Lowell is actually the recipient to much of what comes into the Flat River which winds its ways through surrounding communities.

Smalligan suggested the city could make a statement by incorporating policies on stormwater runoff that would encourage others to follow suit.

The planning commission opted to study the model ordinance more and determine what direction the city should take in regards to standards, permits, fees and enforcement.

Public hearing set on new fence and paved driveway regulations

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

It started out as a request to put in a white picket fence. Several meetings, revisions, and months later, the Lowell Planning Commission will present its new ordinance for fences.

At its upcoming planning commission meeting set for

Monday at 7 p.m. at the Lowell City Hall, the commission is scheduled to review two ordinance changes. One deals with fences and walls; the other with driveways being paved.

Resident Candice Fleszar-Smith approached the planning commission last spring in regards to a variance to allow her to install a white

picket fence across her front yard. The current ordinance didn't allow for it and after reading it, Fleszar-Smith found several items a bit confusing, i.e., how the fence is measured.

Working with the planning commission and building inspector Doug Hopkins, Fleszar-Smith worked on a proposed ordinance change which the commission has been reviewing for several months. At its special work session meeting in December, the group made some final changes and at its January meeting set a public hearing for February.

Under the proposed changes, fences 50 percent solid or less could not be more than four feet in height in the front yard or six feet in height in any other area. Fences greater than 50 percent solid cannot exceed a height of three feet. Fences would be measured from the finished grade

to the top of the fence with the posts not counting unless the zoning enforcement officer determines the post obstructs vision.

Also up will be revisions on paved driveway requirements. The commission has spent several months discussing hard surface driveways. The concern was to create a dustless surface which would reduce the amount of debris coming into the streets and minimize maintenance. The commission decided that hard-surface driveways should be required to all primary garages, attached or unattached.

At the meeting, the commission will review the change that will require the construction of a hard surface driveway to any new primary accessory building or addition to an existing one. Driveways would be required to be a minimum of 10 feet in width and 12 feet for a new curb cut.

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF BID

Lowell Charter Township is seeking bid applications for mowing the Township Hall, Township Cemeteries, and the Grand River Riverfront Park for the 2004 season. Bid specifications can be obtained at the Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash SE, Lowell, MI 49331. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All bids must be received by Monday, March 8, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. Please call 897-7600 for more information.

John R. Timpson, Supervisor
Lowell Charter Township

Llama "Best of Show" at art competition

By Dan Schneider

The Best of Show award for this year's West Michigan Regional Competition at the Lowell Area Arts Council went to Alec Hall for his casein painting titled "Alaina."

This is the first time Hall has submitted work to the competition, now in its 18th year. The painting is of a regal llama, white with black spots, standing in the grass with the sky and clouds behind her.

"We live on an 80-acre farm," Hall said. "We have llamas and donkeys and goats and, of course, dogs and cats."

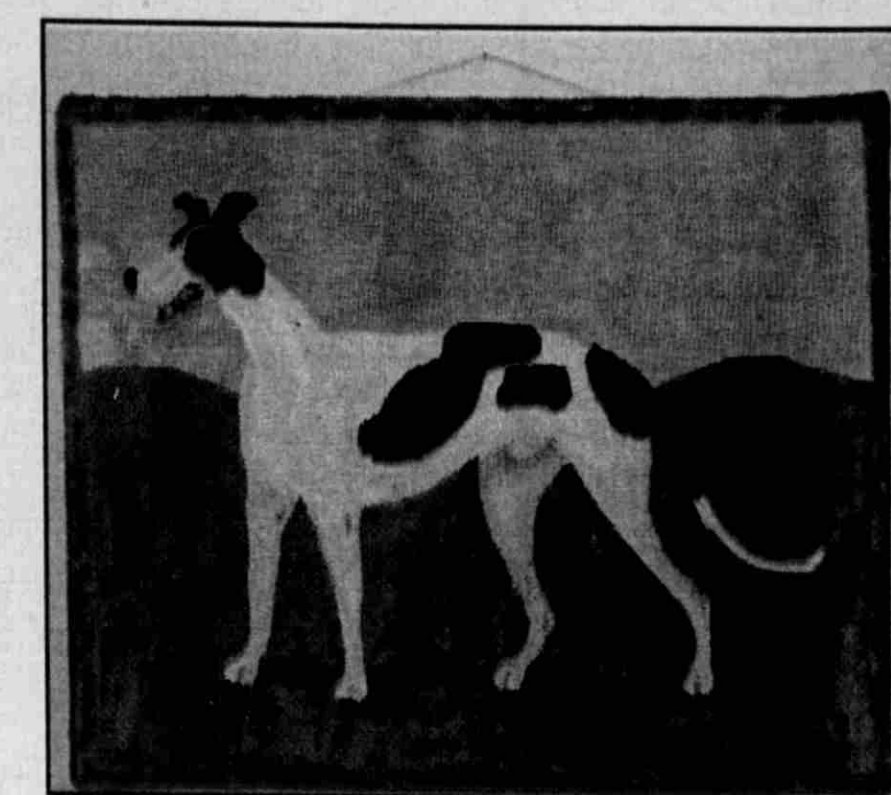
Hall is a veterinarian, which explains the frequency of animals as subjects in his nine years of painting.

"I'd say 50 percent of my paintings are wildlife and the other half are domestic, and the domestic are usually my own," he said. "When I approach a painting,

I try to capture the character of the species and when I know the animal, the per-

sonality of the particular animal as well."

To achieve the llama's stance, Hall relied on the llama's natural fear of dogs and wolves and the like. Before he took photos and



Linda Harwood's "Greyhound" won second place.

sketched studies of the llama, his wife brought a dog into the next pasture over. "As soon as the llama saw the dog, she struck that pose," Hall said.

First place in the contest went to Lynn Strough, an artist born and raised in Grand Rapids. She's painted throughout Michigan, in Colorado and New England

sky with clouds. "The scenery on the train the whole way was just this kind of fields with trees," Strough said. "It was a fairly simple landscape but there was something kind of peaceful ... the cloud formations were beautiful so when I got back I painted it."

Strough had submitted work to the competition before. This is the first time a piece of hers has made it up onto the wall for the show. She's been an artist for about 25 years and has been painting for the last nine since a distaste for computers drove her out of graphic design work.

Linda Harwood of Ionia won second place in the show for her dyed-wool rug hooking titled "Greyhound." Kathleen Ford of Grand Rapids took third place for "3 A.M.," a watercolor collage on canvas. Lisa Orr of Grand Rapids received honorable mention for "Obsessive Love." This is a series of honeycombs composed of soldered copper and filled with translucent rubber and flowers and bees. Suspended in the golden rubber, the bees are fixated on the flowers.

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In jurying the show, Marianne Menger tried to choose the best work that reflected the diversity of art going on currently in West Michigan. "The submissions really were fairly balanced and diverse," she said, which made it easier to create a dynamic show. Menger has lived in Lowell for about two and a



"Alaina" a painting by Alec Hall took Best of Show.

half years. She came here from Fitchburg, Mass., where she curated shows at the local art museum.

The Awards presentation for the competition took place a week ago Sunday at the Arts

Council. The show will be on display through March 20. For anyone who seldom goes to the Arts Council gallery, now is the time to see some cool art.



"3 A.M." by Kathleen Ford was awarded third place.

Too often the strong, silent man is silent only because he does not know what to say, and is reputed strong only because he has remained silent.

—Winston Churchill

CITY OF LOWELL

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Lowell City Planning Commission-Citizen Advisory Committee will conduct a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting of Monday, February 23, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, Lowell City Hall, Second Floor, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, Michigan for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the following:

- An Ordinance to amend Section 4.07 of Chapter 4, "Fences and walls" of the Zoning Ordinance of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell.

Copies of the proposed Ordinances are available for public inspection during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday) at City Hall and at the Englehardt Public Library during scheduled hours Monday through Saturday.

Interested persons may submit written comments to City Hall, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 prior to the meeting or appear in person.

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Pest threatens ash trees

Michigan State University entomologists spent much of 2003 evaluating methods to control the emerald ash borer (EAB), an exotic pest that threatens ash trees in Michigan. A report that summarizes the results from their insecticide trials is now available in hard copy or on the web.

The report provides a summary of the insecticide products and application techniques tested, including the advantages and disadvantages associated with specific products and techniques. The study evaluated the ability of insecticides to control EAB adults and larvae and assessed the persistence of the insecticides

over time. The insecticide research occurred in Washtenaw and Livingston counties in 2003.

"Evaluation of Insecticides to Control Emerald Ash Borer Adults and Larvae" is available in hard copy at MSU Extension offices and on the web at www.emeraldashborer.info.

Several products used to control similar borers in other trees were evaluated and factors were identified to consider when selecting a method to control EAB in shade and ornamental trees.

MSU researchers worked with scientists from the USDA Forest Service and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to test the products and collect the data. EAB, a wood-boring

beetle, was first discovered in several southeastern Michigan counties in May 2000. To minimize the spread of this pest, the counties were quarantined, restricting the movement of ash trees, branches, logs and firewood. In August 2003, the quarantine area expanded to include seven counties surrounding the initial core of quarantined counties. The adult EAB beetle is dark metallic green, 1/2 inch

long and 1/16 inch wide. The larvae tunnel under the ash tree bark and create S-shaped galleries as they feed. This pest appears to have a life cycle of one year, with adults emerging from the ash trees beginning in late May and peak emergence occurring in mid-June.

For more information, check the website at <http://www.emeraldashborer.info>.



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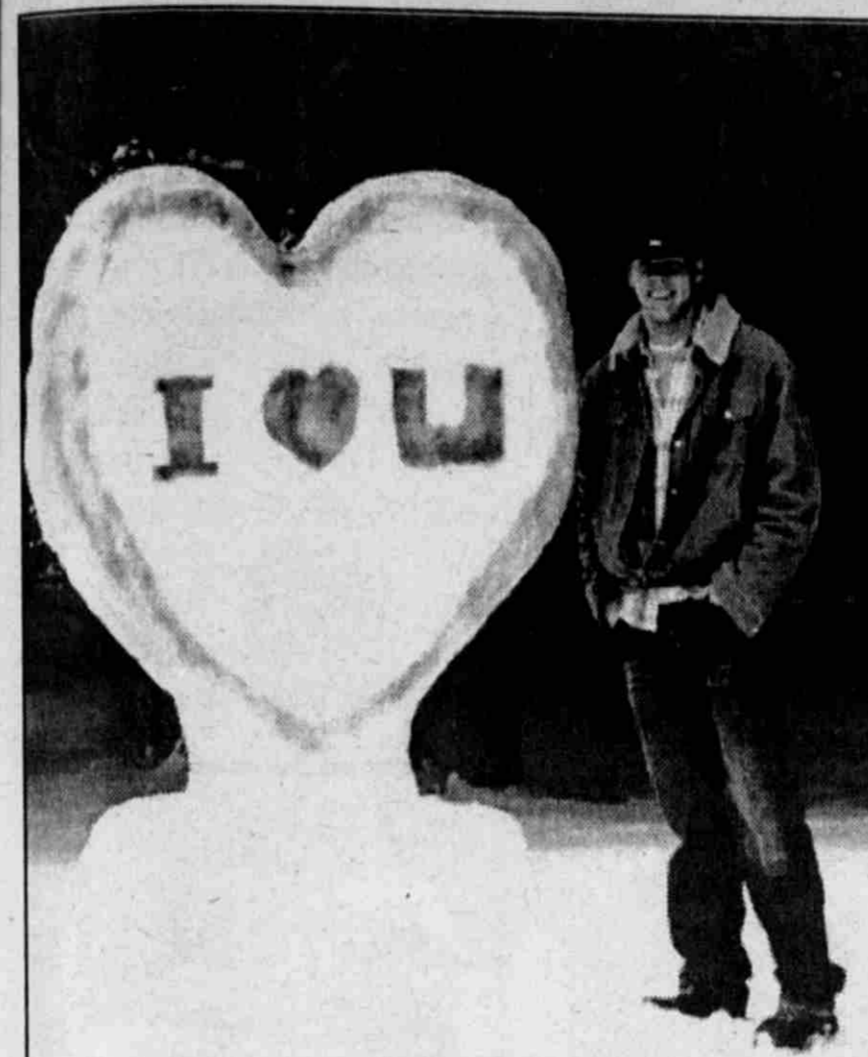
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Love, Sue

"Snow" in love



Eric Gruber, 21, of Alto, built this snow sculpture for his girlfriend, Sara Schoen, for Valentine's Day. The heart stands approximately seven feet tall. Schoen, who grew up in Lowell, was reportedly surprised and impressed. "She came over a day early before she was supposed to see it and some weird way she didn't see it," Kathryn Gruber, Eric's mom, said. "On Valentine's Day he pulled up to the house and then pulled up to where the heart was sitting. She just thought it was the best. She hugged him and kissed him and said thank you."

The big heart remains situated on the Gruber's front lawn. "When everyone pulls up, it makes everyone smile," Kathryn Gruber said. Schoen is studying nursing at Grand Valley State University. Eric Gruber plans to soon attend the school to study business.

Deadline for early Chamber Expo registration

The deadline for early registration for the 2004 Lowell Community Expo is March 5.

As of Monday, 43 local groups and businesses had signed up for spaces, leaving 94 open. The eighth annual Lowell Community Expo will happen Saturday, March 27 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Lowell High School.

Every year, the Expo is an opportunity for members of the Lowell community to find out what the area has to offer. This means businesses as well as church, school, government and nonprofit groups.

The cost of a space is \$85 for members of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and \$105 for non-chamber members. A \$10 late fee will be assessed to applications received after March 5. There is also a charge of \$10 for tables and chairs for non-chamber members.

Applications are available at the chamber, the Lowell Ledger, and at various businesses around town.

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LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider amending Section 5.4.1 of the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendments would provide new regulations for an Adult Entertainment business. The proposed Adult Entertainment Ordinance ordains that certain regulatory provisions governing adult entertainment businesses shall be added as Section 5.4.1 (P) of the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance. In addition, the Adult Entertainment Ordinance requires certain amendments to the Table of Use Regulations in Section 4.1.1 of the Zoning Ordinance as hereinafter described.

The Adult Entertainment Ordinance regulates all adult entertainment businesses located in Lowell Charter Township. For purposes of this ordinance, an "adult entertainment business" is defined as any store, establishment, tavern, club, or theater having more than twenty five percent (25%) of its stock in trade, books, peep booths, magazines, or other periodicals or video movies, films, photographs, novelties, sexual aids, live appearances, or performances which are distinguished or characterized by their emphasis on matters depicting, describing, or related to specified anatomical areas or specified sexual activities, as further defined in the ordinance. Under the provisions of the Adult Entertainment Ordinance amendment, an adult entertainment business may only be located in a general commercial zone and only by special use permit granted by the Township Planning Commission. Under the provisions of the Adult Entertainment Ordinance, an adult entertainment business shall not be located:

- (1) Within 500 feet of the property line of any single-family, two-family or multiple-family residential use. For purposes of this section, the term "multiple-family residential use" shall specifically include, but not by way of limitation, any retirement, convalescent or nursing home or facility or other housing for the elderly.
- (2) Within 500 feet of the property line of any public or private school, college or university, or of any nursery school, day nursery or child care center.
- (3) Within 500 feet of the property line of any church or other religious facility or institution.
- (4) Within 500 feet of any public park.
- (5) Within 500 feet of any other adult entertainment business.

The Adult Entertainment Ordinance further regulates and restricts signage and other exterior elements of the building in which the adult entertainment business is located. For example, the merchandise or activities of the adult entertainment business shall not be visible from any point outside the business and the number and type of signs is restricted by the ordinance.

Under the provisions of the Adult Entertainment Ordinance, adult materials may be held for sale, rent, or view in the township only in accordance with specified regulations set forth in the ordinance. All adult materials shall be maintained in a separate area of the premises. The area shall be completely enclosed by opaque walls or partitions which are at least seven feet in height. The area shall have no windows, and shall have an opaque door which shall enclose the area from the floor to at least seven feet in height. The door shall be kept closed during all hours of operation. An employee of the business shall monitor the enclosed area either in person or by video camera at all times. In addition, no adult materials may be sold or made available to any person who is not at least 18 years of age, including employees of the adult entertainment business.

Any person who violates the Adult Entertainment Ordinance shall be guilty of a municipal civil infraction. In addition, the Township shall be entitled to obtain injunctive relief for the purpose of enjoining any activity which violates the ordinance.

In addition to the provisions to be added to the Zoning Ordinance as Section 5.4.1 (P), the Adult Entertainment Ordinance further amends the Table of Use Regulations in Section 4.1.1 of the Township Zoning Ordinance as follows:

- The reference in Column 2 (Uses Permitted by Right), pertaining to the General Commercial District, to "Retail shops where no assembling, treatment or manufacturing is required" shall be changed to "Retail shops, other than adult entertainment businesses, and where no assembling, treatment or manufacturing is required."
- The following shall be added as item number 3 to Column 3 (Special Use by Planning Commission), pertaining to the General Commercial District: "Adult Entertainment Businesses."
- The reference in Column 3 (Special Use by Planning Commission), pertaining to the Light Industry District to "Any use permitted in the General Commercial District" shall be amended to state as follows: "Any use permitted in the General Commercial District, except an Adult Entertainment Business."

The hearing shall be held as follows:

Monday, February 23, 2004
7:00 P.M.
Lowell Charter Township Hall
2910 Alden Nash Avenue SE
Lowell, Michigan 49331

The above notice only contains a summary of various provisions of the Adult Entertainment Ordinance Amendment. A complete copy of the proposed Adult Entertainment Ordinance Amendment can be obtained at the Lowell Charter Township Hall or on the Township's website at <http://www.twp.lowell.mi.us>.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk
Lowell Charter Township

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All vehicles have been inspected and their titles have been certified and cleared for transfer to prospective new owners. **200 LIEN-FREE VEHICLES WILL BE AVAILABLE.**

The majority of these vehicles are still under factory warranty.

SALE INFORMATION

FOR 5 DAYS ONLY, *West Michigan Auto Liquidators* will offer these vehicles for sale to the public for as little as 10% of their original lien amount, with at least three vehicles to be sold for \$500 each.

VEHICLES TO THE PUBLIC FROM

\$89 PER MONTH AND UP

PRICING INFORMATION

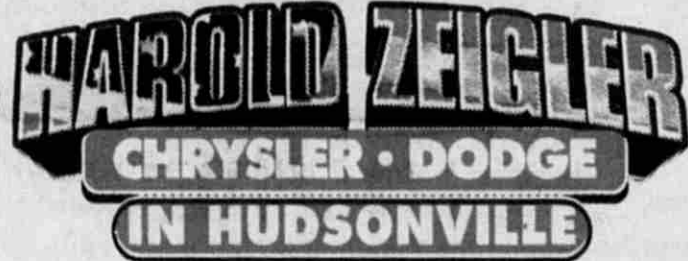
PAY THE \$39 DOWN PAYMENT, then start making payments* as low as \$89 per month. Pricing may be below the posted settlement amount.

REGISTRATION

You must be 18 years or older and possess a valid driver's license. Vehicles are sold on a first come, first served basis. In the event of multiple offers, vehicles will sell to the buyer whose purchase order is approved.



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1 LOCATION!**



Seized & Prior Bank Assets To Be Sold To The Public

Vehicles as low as \$89 mo. and Up*

West Michigan Auto Liquidators to Dispose of Over 200 Vehicles by Feb. 23

LOWELL, MI - Seized and bank repossessed cars and trucks are among the most hunted-for bargains in the automotive industry. Unfortunately for John Q. Public, they're also the hardest to come by.

Banks often unload seized and repossessed vehicles to car dealers at rock-bottom prices - allowing dealers to re-sell them for retail value. But bargain-seekers can take heart. This week, West Michigan Auto Liquidators is going to change that.

This Wednesday, February 18th through Monday, February 23rd, West Michigan Auto Liquidators will offer over 200 seized, repossessed and other pre-owned vehicles for up to thousands below normal values, pass the savings on to their customers.

"These vehicles have been acquired at incredible savings from banks, auctions and other sources," West Michigan Auto Liquidators said. "We will sacrifice this inventory immediately - regardless of loss of

profit. And if that means selling these vehicles for up to thousands below normal values, then that's what we'll do."

Every seized, repossessed and other used vehicle will be available for as low as \$89 down payment* then start making payments. "It's that simple."

"To make bargains even easier, vehicles will be clearly marked. Just pick your vehicle and pick your payment. You won't find a faster, easier way to get a good deal on a used vehicle."

Almost every type of vehicle and price range will be available, from luxury 4x4s to basic transportation. Many are still under warranty. "With our preowned inventory near an all-time high, chances are we have what you're looking for in stock and ready to drive home," said Charlie Jeffrey.

Extra sales and finance staff will be on hand to

assure customers prompt, quality service and the best finance terms possible. Mr. Jeffrey said, "We'll have over \$2.3 million in financing available for this event, so chances are we can arrange financing for just about anyone who is employed, regardless of past credit history."

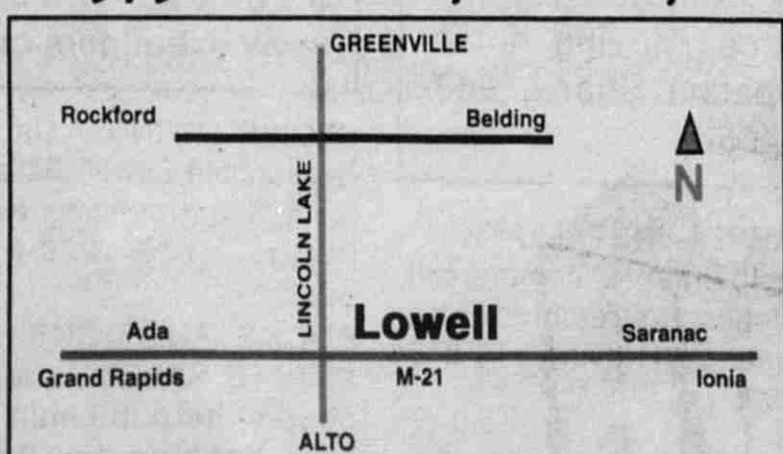
Trade-ins will be accepted, and customers are encouraged to bring their title or payment book to expedite delivery. "The opportunity Michigan bargain-hunters have been waiting for happens this Wednesday through Monday only at Harold Zeigler in Lowell. Customers may never see savings like this again," said Mr. Jeffrey.

After the \$89 Super Sale ends at 8 p.m. on Monday, February 23rd, many of these vehicles will be sent to auction. Questions can be directed toll free to 1-888-612-8400.

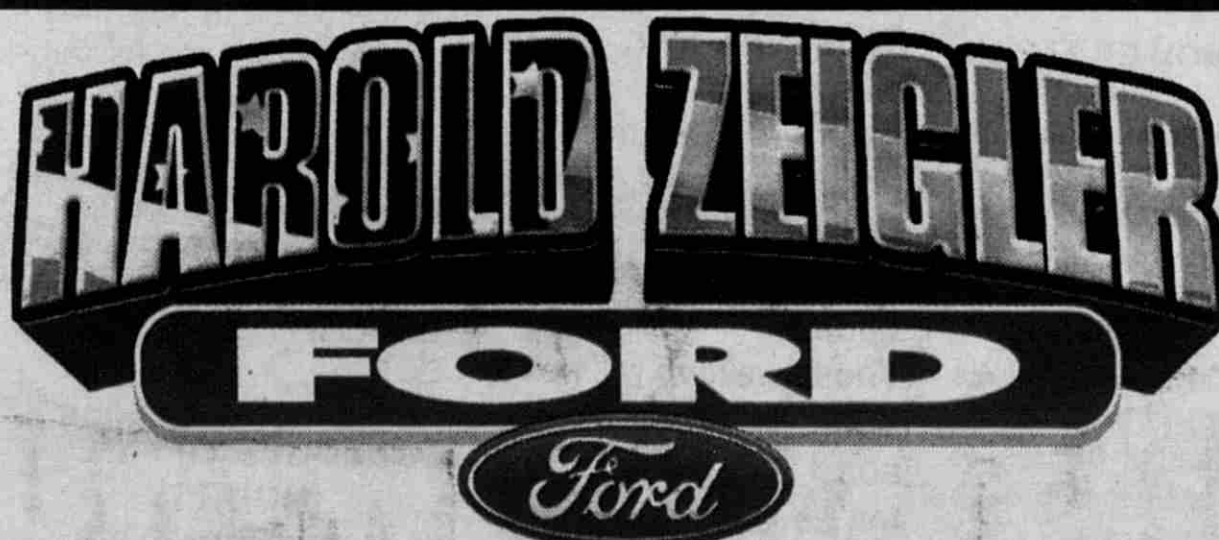
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Total amount financed \$4,990, plus tax, total of payment \$5,340 plus tax, additional down payment may be required for credit approval subject to credit approval and prior sale subject lenders approval.



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WED. 9-8; THURS. 9-6;
FRI. 9-6 & SAT. 9-3**

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