

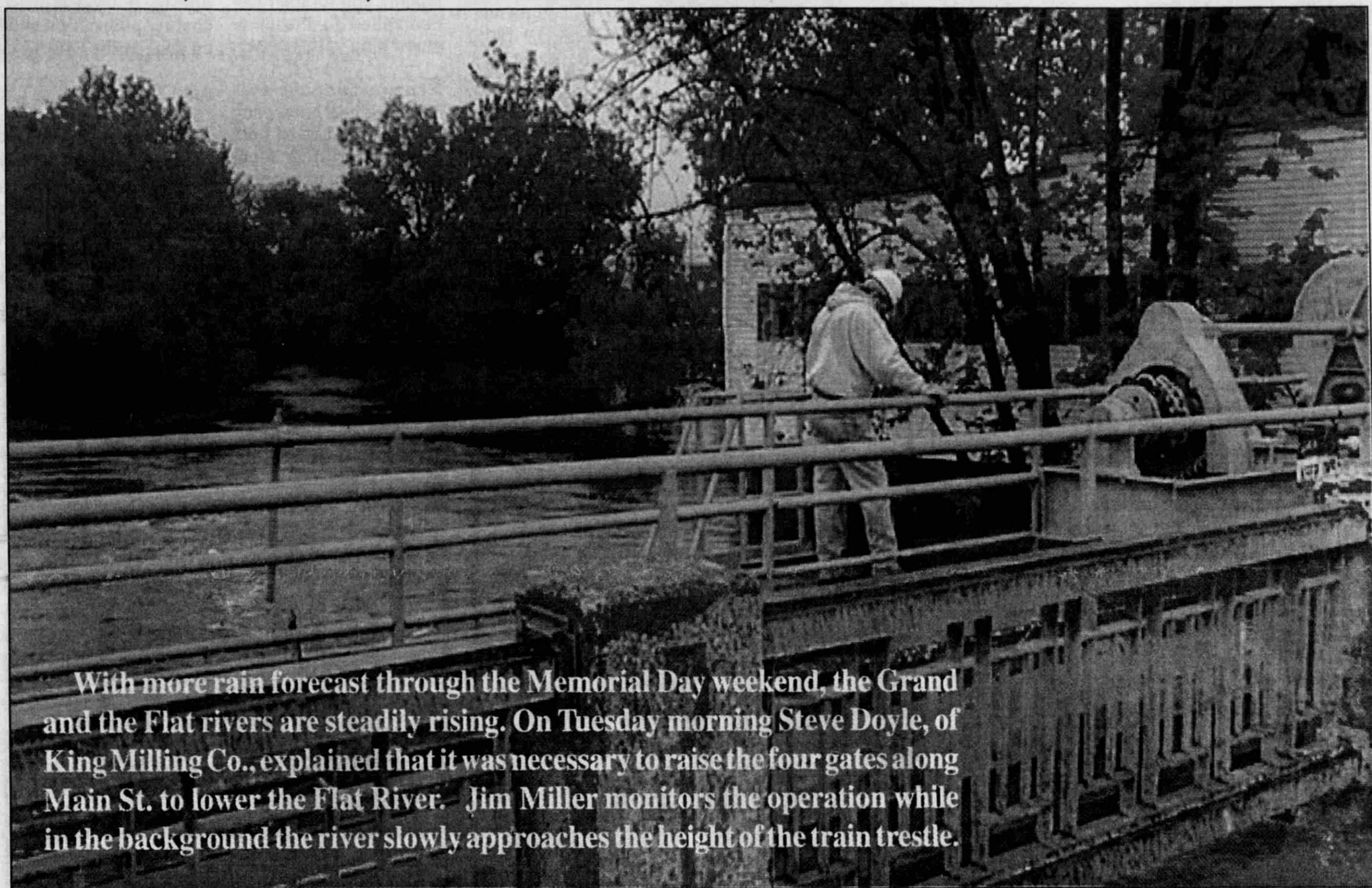
# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 30 Issue 29

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, May 26, 2004

## Rain, rain, rain & more rain



With more rain forecast through the Memorial Day weekend, the Grand and the Flat rivers are steadily rising. On Tuesday morning Steve Doyle, of King Milling Co., explained that it was necessary to raise the four gates along Main St. to lower the Flat River. Jim Miller monitors the operation while in the background the river slowly approaches the height of the train trestle.

## Local veterans recall experiences in past/present conflicts



In honor of Memorial Day, four Lowell men who served in four different conflicts in recent U.S. history have offered to tell their stories and to remind us of the sacrifices made by them, other veterans and their families.

By Dan Schneider

**Dave Clark,  
WWII veteran**

Military service began right out of high school for 11 graduates in the Lowell High School class of 1943. World War II was on and they had been drafted while still in high school.

"I graduated from high school on a Thursday night and Friday morning 11 of us got on a bus and left," Dave Clark said. "I was drafted but they let us stay and finish school."

Clark was the second generation to serve in a world war. His father, Dave Clark Sr., was in the Navy in World War I.

Clark went to the Great Lakes Naval Station south of

Chicago for boot camp. He'd been a drum major in high school so the Navy sent him to Michigan to train drum and bugle corps.

Clark was assigned to the U.S.S. Franklin, CV-13, the 13th aircraft carrier, built in the U.S. Navy. The ship would become the most decorated ship, with the most decorated crew, in the history of the U.S. Navy.

Commissioned on Jan. 31 of 1944, CV-13 left port from New York with Clark on board. The crew had to cut off the gun barrels on the side of the ship to fit the Franklin through the Panama Canal. They were welded back on en route to the South Pacific, where the Franklin would become the flagship of Task Group 58.2.

On the fourth of July, airplanes launched from the Franklin made strikes against



Dave Clark, a World War II veteran, in his Navy uniform during boot camp.

Iwo Jima, Chichi Jima and Ha Ha Jima. Clark earned six battle stars on board the ship. An Aviation Botson's Mate, third class, he worked in a repair aid crew, the first people to respond to the damaged planes making rough landings onto the carrier.

"I wore an asbestos suit on the flight deck so I could go into fires and get the pilots out," Clark said.

Veterans' recollections,  
cont'd., pg. 10

Inside  
**The Lowell Ledger**

**More Rain -  
More Grass... Page 3**

**Elementary Open House  
... Page 13**

## OBITUARIES

**DAMUTH** - Susan R. Damuth, aged 56, of Comstock Park, went to be with her Lord Wednesday, May 19, 2004 at her home after a courageous battle with cancer. Surviving are her husband of 38 years Don R. Damuth; her children Brian and Wendy Damuth of Sand Lake, Keith and Diane Damuth of Comstock Park; her grandchildren Chris, Ashley, Seth, Maggie, Maddie, Melanie, Heather, Holly, Heidi, Dustin and Mollie; her parents Kenneth and Minnie Howes of Grand Rapids; sister and brother Sandy Purvis of Traverse City,

Steve Howes of Lowell; mother-in-law and father-in-law Mary and Don Damuth of Grand Rapids; brothers-in-law and sister-in-law Ron Damuth, Mike and Joanne Damuth, Pat and Bill Keller, Dennis Damuth; several nieces and nephews. Susan loved her flower garden. In keeping with her wishes, cremation has taken place and a Service of Remembrance was held Saturday at the Reyers North Valley Chapel with Rev. Thomas A. Mc Kinney officiating. For those who wish, memorials may be made to Hospice of Michigan.

**JOHNSON** - Phillip M. Johnson, aged 75, of Lowell, passed away Tuesday, May 18, 2004 at his home. Surviving are his wife of 53 years, Janet; sons Blake (Rosalie) Johnson of Chicago, IL, Brooke Johnson of Denver,

CO; grandchildren Skylynn, Frank, Jim and Joe; great-grandson Dominic; sister Karin (Bill) Hollway; several nieces and nephews; many special friends. Phil worked at Root Lowell Engineering for 15 years and retired from Lowell

Engineering after 28 years of service. He will be remembered for his many years of working on community projects and as an avid reader. He was also an artist, historian and mentor to many. A service of remembrance was

held Saturday at the First Congregational Church, U.C.C. with Dr. Roger La Warre officiating. For those who wish, memorials may be made to the First Congregational Church building fund or Hospice of Michigan.

## LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
17TH JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT

BRENDA M. SANDERS  
V  
THOMAS BOGARD, JR.

ORDER FOR SERVICE  
BY PUBLICATION/  
POSTING AND NOTICE  
OF ACTION

LESLIE C. CURRY  
(P31222)  
WESTERN MICHIGAN  
LEGAL SERVICES  
89 Ionia, NW, Suite 400  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
(616) 774-0672, ext. 116

CASE NO. 04-01705-DO

180 Ottawa, NW, Grand  
Rapids, MI 49503

TO THOMAS BOGARD,  
JR.

### IT IS ORDERED:

You are being sued by plaintiff in this court to obtain a divorce. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before 6/01/04. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.

A copy of this order shall be sent to Defendant, THOMAS BOGARD, JR. at the last known address by registered mail, return receipt requested, before the date of the last publication, and the affidavit of mailing shall be filed with this court.

Pursuant to the fee waiver obtained by Plaintiff, costs of publication shall be paid by the Court.

A copy of this order shall be published once each week in The Lowell Ledger for three (3) consecutive weeks, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.

April 13, 2004

Daniel V. Zemaitis  
(P32490)

## The Lowell Ledger (USPS 453-830)

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## LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE

SUMMER HOURS FROM MEMORIAL  
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## CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Lowell City Hall, Department of Public Works, Police Office, Light and Power and Cable TV will be closed on Monday, May 31, 2004 in observance of Memorial Day.



Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk  
616-897-8457

## CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

**UPCOMING STREET CLOSING NOTICE.** Foreman Road (Hudson to Gee Drive) will be closed to through traffic from mid-June until August 20th for street and water main improvements. Traffic will be limited to local access only. Through traffic will be detoured.

Prior to the beginning of construction, the City of Lowell will meet with local residents and businesses to discuss project staging and local access.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience.



Dan DesJarden, Director  
Department of Public Works

## The Lowell Ledger

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email address - ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

## EARLY DEADLINE

Due to Memorial Day our Deadline for the June 2, 2004 edition of the Lowell Ledger has been changed to: **Friday, May 28, 2004 at noon**

**EVERYTHING MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE THIS DEADLINE IN ORDER TO APPEAR IN THE JUNE 2nd EDITION.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at the above number.

We apologize for any inconvenience this early deadline may cause.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell City Council will conduct a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, June 7, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lowell City Hall Council Chambers, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan.

The purpose of said hearing will be to receive comments on the following:

City Operating Budget for 2004-2005. The document outlines proposed revenues and expenditures for the coming fiscal year. The General Fund has a total of \$2,429,333 in proposed expenditures. After the hearings, the Council will consider adoption.

Copies of the proposed 2004-2005 Budget 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 comments to Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street prior to the meeting or appear in person.



Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk  
616-897-8457

# Grass ordinance drowning in May downpour

By J. Lobdell  
Contributing Writer

April showers appear to have come in May which, in turn, has encouraged the grass to grow. The problem is that there has been so much rain, many Lowell residents are having a hard time keeping up with taking care of their lawns.

City clerk Betty Morlock understands the situation. She is the person who oversees the

city's ordinances on grass height. "It is all done on a complaint basis," Morlock said. "As soon as we get a complaint, we send the letter out."

Grass needs to be at least 12 inches or taller for it to become an issue. Usually once a letter has been sent, the property owner has 48 hours to mow before the city comes and does it for him.

Morlock said letters went out Friday; however, it rained all weekend, making it difficult for residents to mow lawns.

"A lot of people have busy schedules," Morlock said, adding that the city is mindful of the rain situation and is trying to work with residents. "If it's been dry for a couple of days since the letters went out and it still

hasn't been mowed, then we are going to go ahead."

For some residents, mowing the lawn will first have to wait until they can find it. The river was already inching its way up onto Division St., preparing to spill itself onto Main St. Monday night. Many residents are dealing with flooded basements and yards.

There are also other con-

cerns with the rain and tall grass, specifically the West Nile virus. Commission member Garland Berry said he has already heard that due to the weather conditions this year, the virus is expected to be worse than last year. "So we can at least encourage people to do our little part and cut back on the virus this year by

trimming their lawn," Berry said.

In relation to the West Nile virus, Public Works director Dan DesJarden said his department will be treating all the water runoff drains. The department does it twice a year. It has not yet been done due to the rain, DesJarden said.

## Planning Commission opts to hold off on stormwater ordinance

By J. Lobdell  
Contributing Writer

Citing it as a good idea, the Lowell Planning Commission opted to drop the stormwater ordinance proposed by the Kent County Drain Commission.

After a short discussion at its Monday night meeting, the commission voted unanimously to slash the subject from its agenda. The reasons were twofold: economical and the lack of open developable space within the city.

The model stormwater ordinance was created in response to the phase II plan of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, which are regulations created by the Environmental Protection Agency to address storm water discharges into the nation's lakes, rivers, streams and oceans. In phase II, according to the Kent County Drain Commission website, the plan addresses non-point source pollution such as fertilizers, soil erosion, etc., that are carried into inland lakes and streams by runoff.

Phase I dealt with point discharges such as wastewater treatment plants and industrial runoff. Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr, and Huber had, earlier this year, given a presentation to the planning commission on the model stormwater ordinance, which gives guidelines on everything from regulations to soil erosion to permits. It also discusses performance standards, enforcement, and other record-keeping requirements. "It's another level of government, another expense that isn't really needed," said commission member Jim Hall who added that the city really didn't have any way to enforce the issue. Hall said he supported postponing discussion on the ordinance.

Commission chair Clark Jahnke, who had been studying the issue for the city, said he couldn't justify spending the money during these tight economic times just to find out what it was going to cost the city to create and institute the ordinance. "We could have significant costs just to get to the point where we can say, 'Okay, developer, now you have to pay these fees so we can recoup our money,'" Jahnke said. "And you never really recoup the money because the fees help cover the processing of the paperwork."

With that, Jahnke said it could become very costly for a single homeowner to develop a piece of property with the city adding additional costs that require engineering to show water runoff. Jahnke was also quick to point out that the city doesn't have much developable land left. "It's a great idea, but in the end result, I don't see it being economical," Jahnke said.



## Laundry the way it was

Gary and Emmalee Blough show Jordan Harding how to use an old-fashioned washing apparatus during "Spring into the Past" at the Lowell Area Historical Museum. The demonstration was part of a tour of small history museums in West Michigan that took place May 1 and 2. The Lowell museum and Fallasburg Historical Village and Schoolhouse were among 11 museums participating.

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## Planning commission rules - no mining on Bowes Road

By J. Lobdell  
Contributing Writer

After reviewing the current excavating conditions along Bowes Road, the Lowell Planning Commission determined that the project didn't fall under the city's guidelines for mining.

A city council member said the work Dykema Excavators was doing along Bowes Road, which was moving soil from one side of the road to the other, appeared to be mining. Concerns were also raised that no silk fencing had been put in place to help with soil erosion and keep the lake clean.

Mike Berg, of Dykema Excavators, came before the planning commission Monday night to discuss the project. He said his company did not seek a permit for mining the area since none of the dirt was being removed and processed offsite. Grand Rapids Gravel actually owns both pieces of land on Bowes Road, which belongs to the same

person who owns Dykema Excavators.

Because the company was filling in a 100-year old flood plain, the Department of Environmental Quality requires that Dykema create a similar cut within the same area. Berg faxed over copies of the company's DEQ permits which state that. The property was split by Bowes Road when the city reconstructed the road; several commission members noted that Grand Rapids Gravel was helpful in getting the extension for Bowes Road.

Commission member Jim Hall said the city is required to install an access road between Lowell Family Medical Center and the newly constructed River Valley Credit Union, properties that are owned by Grand Rapids Gravel.

Berg explained the company owns more than 50 acres along Bowes Road and plans to develop them. As for this site, he said Dykema has filled in about 6,000 square feet, but

has taken out and stockpiled another 14,000 square feet on the land, leaving a larger cut than what was filled in.

This is actually rewarded by the DEQ since it should help elevate any water runoff issues on surrounding properties. Eventually what has been stockpiled will be processed, Berg said, but currently since the company does not have a mining permit, it has left the dirt on the property.

As for the lake, Berg said, it is not fed by the river. Even with fencing, it will get muddy from all the activity. The reason the fencing has not been placed is because of all the work going on, he explained. Since both pieces of property are owned by the same person and because the soil is not being removed for processing, the commission unanimously agreed that Dykema did not need to get a special land use permit for the work that had been done on the property.

## COLLEGE NEWS

A total of 4,628 students are included on the dean's list for the spring semester of the 2003-04 academic year at Western Michigan University.

From the Lowell area are Zachary Beachum, Joshua Fisher, Kristen Ford, Eric Howes, Amber Kuipers, Trevor Land, Tim Nowak, Anthony Robinson, Brandy Stroo, Shelby Tomczak, Nicole Waldron, Lori

Walsh and Tyler Yaeger. From the Alto area are Sophia D'Agostino, Nathan Dannison, Christian Gorgas, Jaimie Griffith, Kurt Imuta, Jaelyn Shurmack and Arturo Ziraldo.

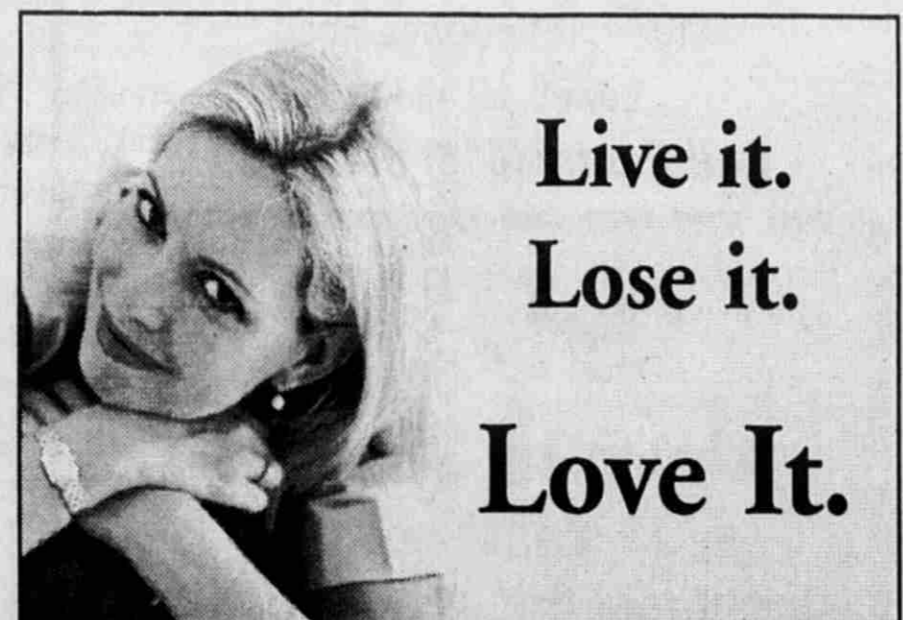
To be eligible, students must have completed at least a 3.5 grade point average in at least 12 hours of graded class work.

Jolynn Stalsonburg, a graduate of Lowell High School, was among 23 Indiana Institute of Technology students inducted April 25 into the Indiana Lambda chapter of Alpha Chi, a national honor scholarship society.

Stalsonburg is a junior majoring in business administration with a concentration in marketing. She is on the Indiana Tech women's soccer team and dance team and is a student ambassador.

To be eligible for membership in Alpha Chi, a student must have been in the top 10 percent of the junior or senior class and be approved by a vote of the faculty.

Stalsonburg is the daughter of John and Sherrie Muha of Lowell.



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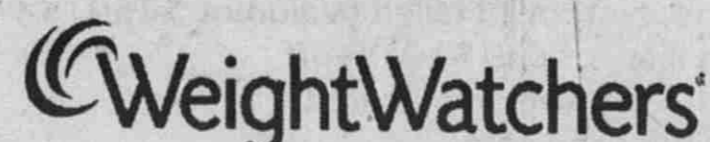
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**MOVIE GUIDE**

**SHREK 2**

**SHOWTIMES 5/24 - 5/27**

SHREK 2 (PG)  
12:30, 2:50, 5:00, 7:00, 9:15  
TROY (PG)  
11:55, 3:05, 6:15, 9:25  
VAN HELSING (PG-13)  
11:00, 1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20  
NEW YORK MINUTE (PG)  
11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30  
MEAN GIRLS (PG-13)  
12:55, 3:00, 5:05, 7:10, 9:15

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## Classic cars

A line of classic Buicks was parked in downtown Lowell last Friday. The Buick Club of West Michigan stopped in Lowell during a cruise to Lansing. They checked out the antique shops, ate lunch downtown and generally had a good time. They continued on to Lansing to go to the Ransom E. Olds museum.

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**EVENT IS SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 4**  
Shotgun start at 4:30 pm - check in 3:00 - 4:15  
Cost is \$60 per golfer - dinner included.  
Silent auction, specialty holes, golf awards and raffles during and after the event.

If you are interested in golfing or would like to donate a door prize -  
Please contact Perry Beachum at 460-3943

If you are interested in a monetary donation or hole sponsorship -  
Please contact Mike Meppelink at 437-4475

# Viewpoint . . .

## OUTDOORS

By Dave Stegehuis



### NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

The future of Michigan's natural resources is in the hands of its citizens. Collectively, the people will determine what issues receive attention and how those issues are resolved. For this process to work, individuals must be concerned and informed about the choices that must be made to insure the wise management of our land, plants, wildlife, air, and water. Those who are most affected by the outcomes of these choices are usually the ones who are the most committed to the resolution of the problems.

Our natural resources are at risk, but there is something we older folks can do to help restore and protect what is left. We can make an effort to pass on to the next generation an appreciation of nature. This can be accomplished by seeing that youngsters have the opportunity to be an active

participant in our natural environment and not just an observer.

If young people stay involved in outdoor pursuits throughout their lifetime, they will be directly affected by what is happening to our lakes, rivers, and forests and thus have a personal stake in the results of public policy and the effects of individual behavior on our natural surroundings. They will then be more likely to support conservation efforts by voting, buying licenses, and joining conservation focused organizations.

As one becomes more familiar with nature, elements like wind, temperature, smells, and sounds, as well as plants and wildlife make up the total outdoor experience. The idea is to encourage young people to get involved with activities like hiking, camping, cross-country skiing, canoeing, fishing, and hunting. These and similar pastimes bring the young person into close contact with nature.

This youngster might be your child, a grandchild, relative, or the son or daughter of a friend. Take the time to see that he or she has the opportunity to choose a lifestyle that includes regular interaction with the natural world and not just that which is artificial. We don't want to leave these young folks behind in a world of shopping malls and electronic entertainment.



By Priscilla Lussmeyer

## Ledger Entries

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

### 125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL MAY 28, 1879

Archery is a popular pastime this summer. E.D. Finch of Stanton has received a patent for his perfected telephone. Beware of the 'wire fence' agent. No explanation given. J.C. Train is building a new elevator at the depot, in time to take the new wheat crop. Weather makes us wish we hadn't taken off the heavy flannels.

### 100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER MAY 26, 1904

The Grand Rapids & Ionia electric railroad will have its power plant at Saranac and a substation at Cascade. The company has started buying optioned land. The cobblestone gutters of Grand Rapids streets will be whitewashed this summer, for looks and weed prevention. The editor urges Council to act against sale of cannon firecrackers in Lowell. They cause many deaths and injuries. A new unbreakable hatpin for women has been designed to use as a weapon for self-defense. Lowell Light and Power will install a light at the Pere Marquette crossing on Main Street, to be turned on each evening by the homeowner, H.W. Smith. The light will be wired to his house.

### 75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO MAY 30, 1929

Lowell's Fineis Oils base ball team defeats the unbeaten Leonard Refrigerator team, 6-5. John Mills, 86, of Detroit, dies and is buried at Oakwood Cemetery. He was a wagon maker in Lowell for 50 years. Stocking's Radio Sales and Service also has golf clubs and bags for sale. Uncle Marcus' Cozy Corner complaint: correspondents who can't spell names and don't understand the words they use. Straw hat days are here, and Coons has them for \$2.

### 50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER MAY 27, 1954

Kent County sheriff Hugh Blacklock dies after a long illness; Arnold Pigorsh is the new sheriff. Lowell's official flowers (petunias) have been planted in the Main Street tubs. The third and final polio shots will be given June 3 at the various schools in the area. Fifteen FFA boys are awarded an eight-day expenses-paid camping trip to the north country. Oscar Nelson of King Milling is elected vice president of the international Association of Operative Millers.

### 25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER MAY 30, 1979

Reduced federal funding for CETA (job training) positions leaves Kent County parks shorthanded. King Pool is open, both during school hours and at other times. Teacher Elvis Sheehan retires after a long career; she has taught first graders at Alto for the last 13 years. Supt. Don Kelly and chief custodian Ken Smith are honored for their combined 56 years of service to Lowell Area Schools. The paddle wheel, weight one ton and 12 feet in diameter, is mounted on the new Showboat.

## TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

The Lowell community should be thanked for supporting the Lowell CROP Hunger Walk, May 4. A community of 150 people came together to walk against hunger. So far, your efforts have raised over \$20,000, with money coming in every day.

Lee Watterworth  
Coordinator Lowell CROP Hunger Walk

I want to thank all of the people who helped make this walk a success: the Hunger CROP committee, Meijers for the apples, volunteers who put up signs, checked people in and, most of all, to the walkers who took the time and made a statement against hunger.

This community has always shown its support to this event. Your spirit touches people beyond this community and I am proud to be a part of it.

## Financial Focus

Edward Jones  
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With Christopher C. Godbold



### DON'T MAKE THESE MISTAKES IN RETIREMENT

When you are starting out in your working life, or even when you're in the middle, you obviously don't want to make costly financial or investment mistakes. However, if you do, you'll generally have time to recover from most of them. But when you're entering retirement, or you've been retired for a while, you clearly have less margin for error. That's why you'll want to do everything you can to avoid some common mistakes made by retirees.

What are these missteps? Here are a few of the more serious ones:

• *Not investing for growth* - You can reasonably expect to live two or even three decades in retirement. And during all those years, inflation, even if it's relatively low, will erode your purchasing power. For example, if you start out with \$1,000, and we experience even a four percent inflation rate for the next 15 years, your purchasing power will shrink to just \$549. So, just to break even, you'd need your investment to earn at least four percent.

Unfortunately, many retirees overlook the impact of inflation; as a result, they invest too conservatively. But even in retirement, you should earmark an appropriate portion of your portfolio for growth, based on your risk tolerance, time horizon and goals. How? By looking for high-quality stocks—those with strong earnings records, solid management and competitive products. Of course, even these stocks will fluctuate in value and are subject to market risks, but if you make them part of an investment mix that contains bonds, CDs and government securities, you can help smooth out your portfolio's overall volatility. Remember, though, diversification does not protect against market loss.

• *Underestimating expenses* - Many people assume that their expenses will drop drastically during retirement. But that's just not true. While some work-related expenses may indeed go down, other costs will fill the void. You may decide

to travel, remodel your home, buy a vacation home - the list is endless. Also, as you move further into retirement, your medical costs will almost certainly rise. If you do underestimate your living expenses, you may be forced to dip into your savings and investments more than you'd like. Furthermore, you might have to increase your taxable retirement-plan withdrawals—a move that could bump you into a higher tax bracket. The solution? Put a realistic "price tag" on your retirement-well before you retire.

• *Withdrawing money from the "wrong" source* - By the time you retire, you will have probably accumulated sizable sums in both taxable accounts (stocks, bonds, etc.) and tax-deferred accounts (IRA, 401(k)). When you start taking the money out, you may want to withdraw funds from the taxable accounts first so you can let your tax-deferred accounts continue the opportunity for growth as long as possible.

• *Taking a 50 percent late withdrawal penalty* - Sooner or later, you'll have to take withdrawals from your traditional IRA or your tax-qualified retirement plan, such as a 401(k) or 403(b). If you don't start taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) once you reach age 70 1/2, you'll be penalized 50 percent of what you should have taken, plus ordinary income tax. However, at least in the case of your IRA, you do have a possible escape clause from taking RMDs. By converting your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA before you're 70-1/2, you'll pay taxes at the time of the conversion, but you won't have to take RMDs.

To avoid these and other problems, you may want to work with a financial professional to develop a plan that spells out, among other things, how much you'll need to accumulate for your chosen retirement lifestyle and where the money will come from. By taking action early, you can put yourself in position to enjoy all the possibilities that retirement offers.

### 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 one written page or one typed, double-spaced page. "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 Ledger thanks you in advance for your cooperation.

# Reflections Of Faith

**Dr. Roger La Warre**  
1st Congregational Church

How can you and I presume to pray, to be heard, to find any shred on connection with God in ways that make any difference to our life? "God is in heaven and thou art on earth," thunders the great theologian Karl Barth (*Church Dogmatics, Vol. 1*). There is something within us that echoes the thoughts. God is so far removed from us, how can we bridge the gap? After all, we are mortals, our feet firmly planted on the earth and God seems so high and lifted up.

The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Roman church, must have also felt or known the dilemma. He encourages us "not to fear." He states in Romans 8:15ff, "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.'" The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God ... The dilemma is addressed when we recognize that our secretive, sometimes dishonest and deceitful approach to life situations cannot block us from speaking to God as a child speaks to a loving daddy (Abba). In Christ, even our groans of anguish and pain are heard and our spirit strengthened and uplifted.

A story shared by a pastor spoke of his friend in the mountains of North Carolina, with a group, on an extended hike involving his nine-year-old daughter. Perhaps the confining feelings of the group walk contributed to the child's desire to get away from the crowd. She took a side path, and it was not until the group stopped for a late afternoon snack that the father, to his horror, realized his daughter was not with them. A search was immediately begun.

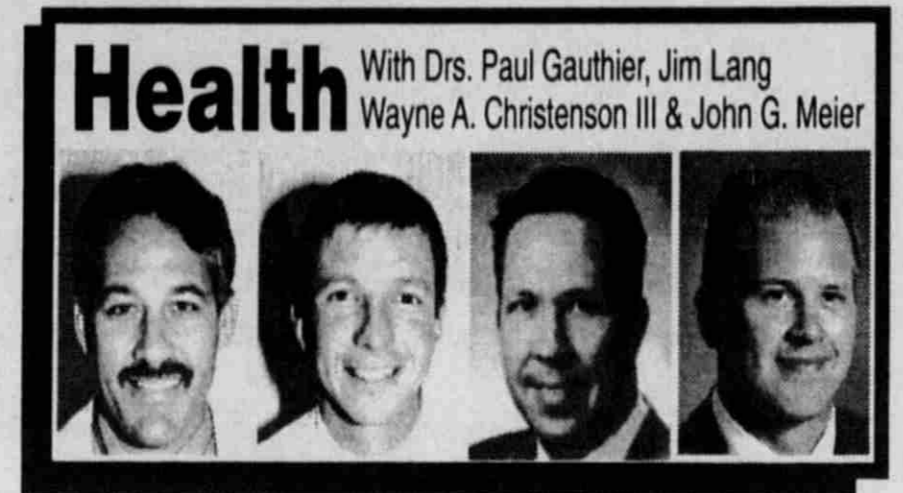
During the course of the two-hour search, as night was falling, the pastor's friend, a somewhat sophisticated theologian and seminary professor, experienced the evolution of prayer from formal, dignified learned response to the basic power of a person speaking to God in heartfelt, deeply human terms as a child speaking to his daddy.

At first, he noted, he prayed, "Lord, please let me find my little girl." But then, only a short time later, he prayed, "Lord, if you will let me find her, I promise to be the best father that ever was. I will never again raise my voice to her." In other

words, he was reduced to bargaining with God. Then finally, after more time had passed and they had not yet found the child, the father prayed, "God, if I don't find her, if anything happens to her, you and I are finished. I will never do anything for you again. I will hate you forever. God, let me find her now!" This prayer had degenerated into outright threats.

You see, you and I (as illustrated) really don't know how to pray. Sitting in church, the words come easily. It is safe in church and we can say whatever we want, the words come

relatively quickly and simply, surrounded with good thoughts and feelings. But alone and in the dark, facing the ugly, the fearful, the painful, we struggle, we plead and bargain and threaten and accuse. Yet, in all of this, God brings to us a Spirit of adoption that hears even our groans too deep for words. For nothing shall separate us from the Love of God as revealed in Christ Jesus. We can count on that!



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

**POISON IVY SEASON**

The summer season is here and with this comes outdoor activity. Poison ivy lurks everywhere and this plant is responsible for many aggravating cases of contact dermatitis. The ivy has oil in the leaves, which on contact with the skin causes a light blistering effect as well as surrounding redness. Contrary to popular belief, the condition is not infectious, it is purely a reaction to the offending oil.

When exposed to the oil, it will produce its effect on any skin touched. The oil is not only on the skin but also on our

clothes, car seats or furniture; therefore, it is imperative that the fabrics be cleaned if there is a chance that the object has been exposed, otherwise there is risk of ongoing irritation from continued contact.

Treatment depends on the severity of the exposure. An isolated case can be treated with antihistamine cream over the counter or a medium potency topical steroid prescribed by a physician. When the exposure involves a wide area, oral steroids may be required to control the symptoms and get the area resolved.

Overall, poison ivy is more a nuisance than anything else, but the skin condition it causes can take up to three weeks to completely disappear.

## Lowell FFA members recognized at banquet

Over 225 Lowell FFA members and guests attended the annual banquet on April 27 at Lowell High School.

Kari Bergy was recognized as the outstanding middle school member. Mike Roth, Morgan Olin and Brian Langlois won the Star Greenhand award for 1<sup>st</sup> year high school members. Steven Koning earned the Star in Production Agriculture award for his work on the family farm in dairy and horse production. Colin Walsh was recognized with the Star in Agribusiness award for his work in small animal care and on the family farm. Patti Leasure was rec-

ognized with the DeKalb Outstanding Senior Agricultural Award. Ian Blodger was recognized as the state winner in middle school prepared public speaking with tribute from Sen. Hardiman.

The Lowell Agricultural Supporters (LAS) awarded over \$2,100 in scholarships. Julie Dunn, Louis Glinzak and Hannah Knudstrup received scholarships to attend the Washington Leadership Conference this summer. Steve Koning was awarded a scholarship for post-secondary education in honor of retired FFA advisor Pete Siler. Justin Peterson and Holly Young were recognized with the Everett & June Wittenbach Scholarship, and Patti Leasure was awarded the Rachel Penninga Scholarship.

Members were recognized for involvement in career development projects, PALS - the FFA's mentoring program, and leadership contests. Two community members were recognized with the Honorary FFA Degree for their support of the FFA and agriscience and natural resources education. They include Dr. Paul Bieneman of Aquinas College and the Michigan Wire Company represented by Dean Lonick who is a lifetime member of the Lowell Agricultural Supporters.

## Featured Artist

### Mary Bommarito

The artworks presently on display at the Huntington Galleria do not in any way feature birch trees ... that's rare because the paintings are by Mary Bommarito and birch trees are her favorite thing to paint.

"Any time people see a painting and there are no birch trees, they say, 'Mary, where's the birch tree?'" Bommarito said. "I enjoy the chemical reaction of the paint when I am working on a birch tree, the pigments and the way things play off each other."

She also likes the colors revealed under the birch bark as it is peeled away ... the orange and indigo and the paper-thin birch bark itself. She became interested in the trees

when she first saw them in large numbers in the Upper Peninsula. But there are no birch trees at this exhibit.

Instead, there are flowers ... something Bommarito hasn't done a lot of before. "I don't enjoy painting flowers as much as I enjoy painting landscapes," Bommarito explained. "I'm just not as relaxed when I paint florals. I'm too critical of myself."

But she received a commission some time ago to paint four floral arrangements. Those flowers are the paintings now displayed on the walls at the gallery.

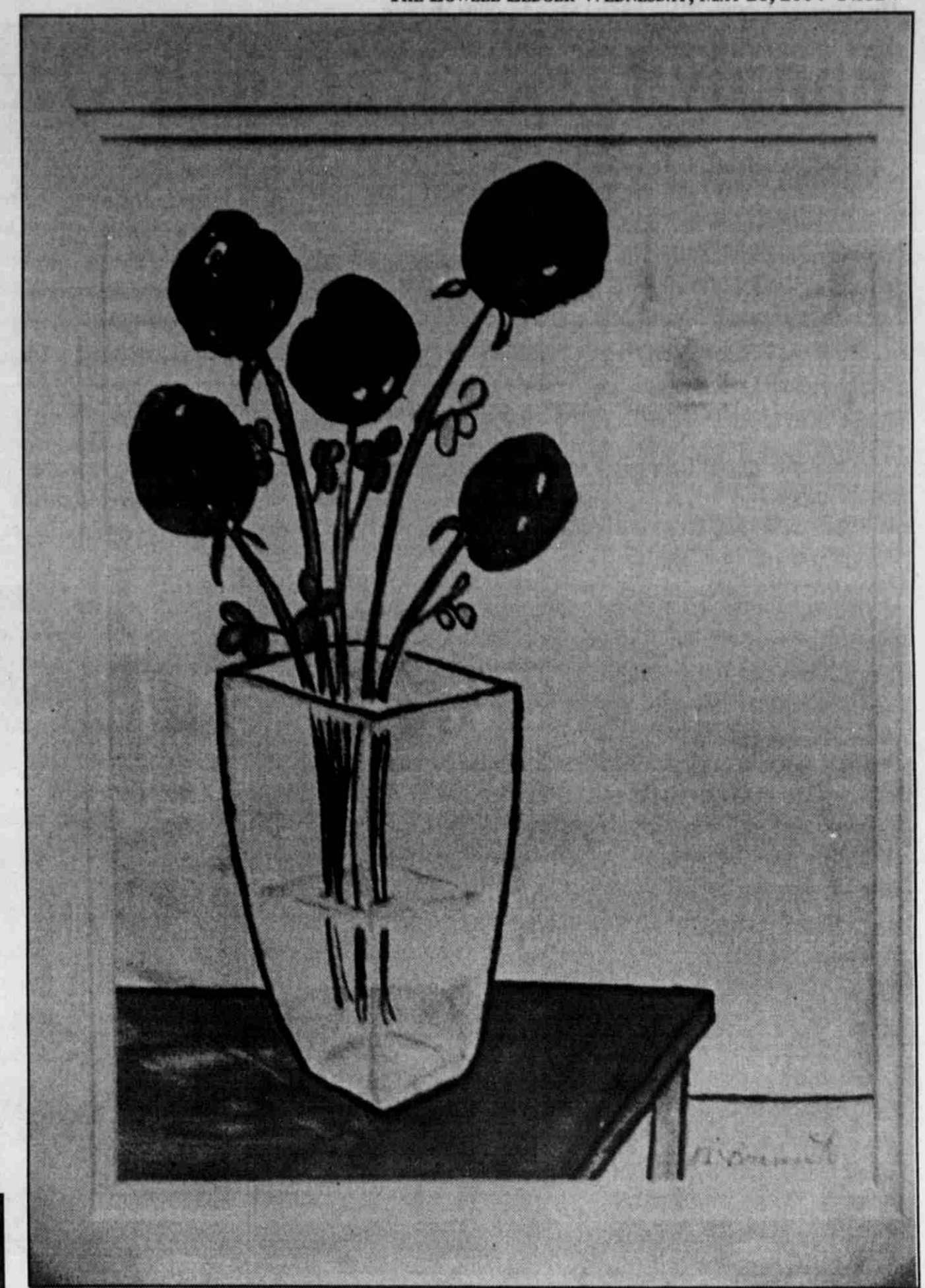
Her art ranges from subtle, realistic renderings of flowers in watercolor to bright,

loose roses. "Doing them like that is really out of the realm for me," Bommarito said.

The Lowell resident started painting with Loretta Sailors in 1998 and immediately took to watercolor.

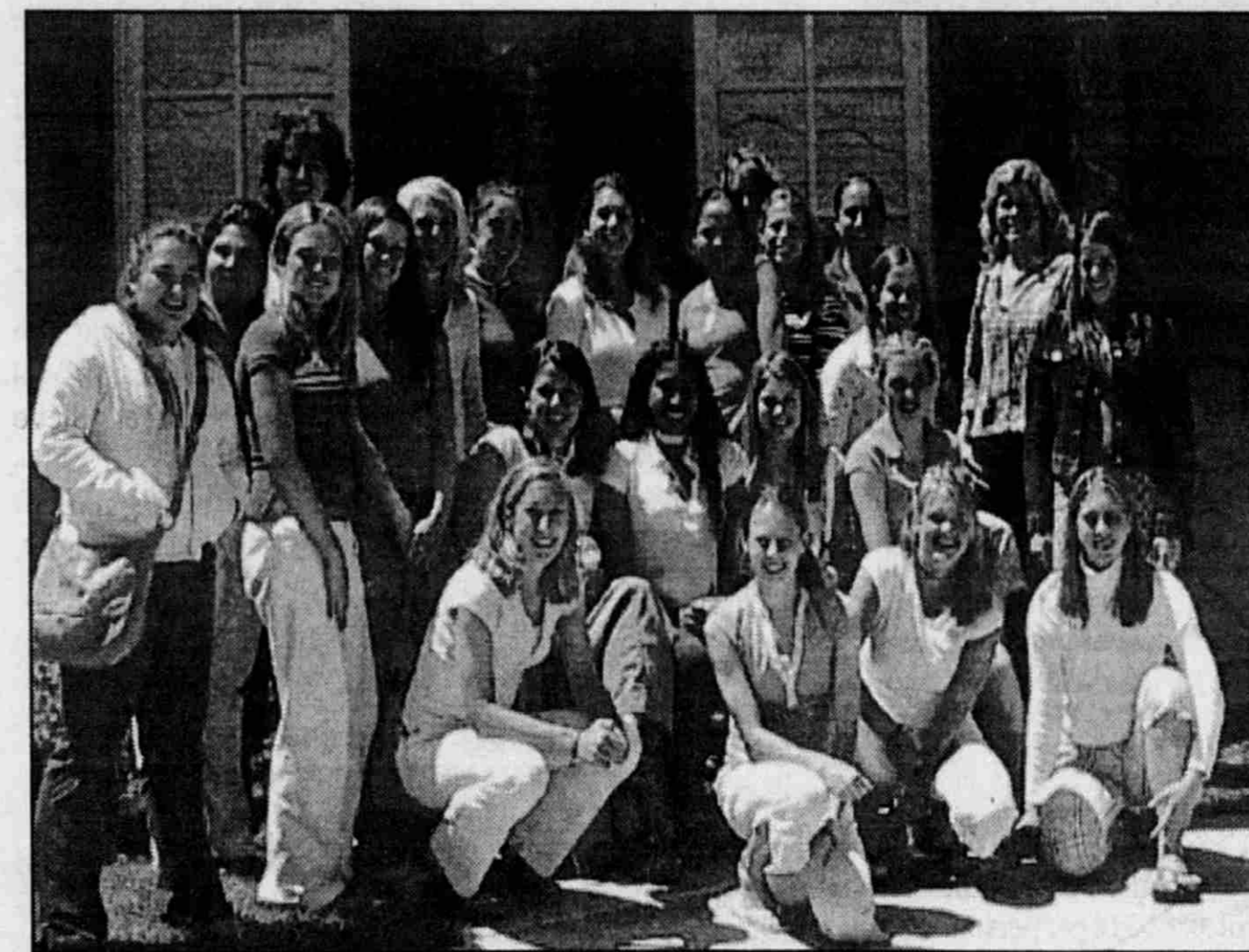
"I loved working with the medium and I just went all in," she said.

She has been taking classes with Sailors ever since. She also paints outside in the summer with David Davis and other Lowell artists. She recently hosted a show called "Hangin' with Friends" at her home. It featured about 120 works for sale by local artists. Another will take place in the fall during Christmas Through Lowell.



These roses, painted in bright colors, represent a departure for local artist Mary Bommarito. The painting is among several currently on display at the Huntington Galleria.

## Lady Arrows Varsity Club enjoys year-end activity



The Lady Arrows Varsity Club held its year-end activity on May 19 with a visit to the new Grand Valley State University Health Sciences Building. The day ended with a luncheon at Johnny Carino's.

Twenty female athletes toured the health sciences building, guided by Barb Hoogenboom and Ron Perkins, GVSU

assistant professors in physical therapy and nursing. The tour participants were introduced to "Medi-Man," a \$187,000 computerized dummy that is used for training and testing in the nursing education program. The visit also included tours of the various health labs used in the nursing, occupational therapy, and physical therapy education programs.

# AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

**ATTENTION: BIBLE BELIEVERS**  
If you would like to attend a church where the King James Bible is held up as the perfect, preserved word of God with all the words of God for all English speaking people, then give us a visit at: 901 W. Main, Lowell  
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Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.  
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Pastor Dean Bailey

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Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.  
Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.  
Nursery available at both services  
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621 E. Main Street • 897-5936  
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10501 Settlewood • Ph. 897-7185  
Sunday School.....9:45 A.M.  
Morning Worship.....11 A.M.  
Evening Service.....6:00 P.M.  
Prayer and Praise - Wed., 7:00 P.M.  
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Worship: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAYS:**  
Family Night: (For All Ages) 7 p.m.  
Generation Jacob Youth: 7 p.m.

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Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM  
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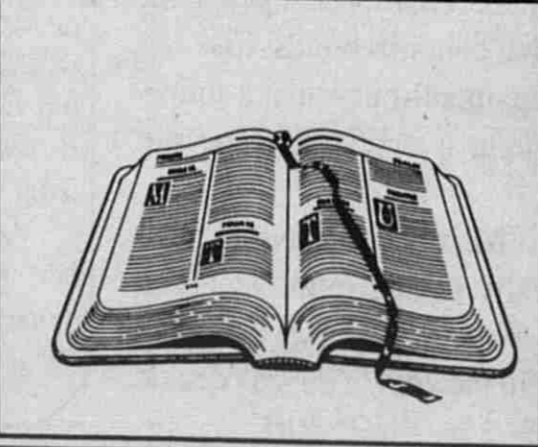
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Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M.  
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Evening Praise.....7:00 P.M.  
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Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M.  
AWANA/JV.....Wed. 6:15 & 7 P.M.  
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Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M.  
Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M.  
Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M.  
(Sept. - April)  
Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M.  
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# Family Links, PTO hold Q&A session with LAS officials

By Dan Schneider

Lowell Area Schools administrators and building principals responded to the public by answering questions last Tuesday evening at Cherry Creek Elementary.

The Alto PTO and Family Links at Cherry Creek, Bushnell and Murray Lake put on the program.

One thing that came out of the session was the announcement that no full-time teachers will be laid off next year.

"I think we can safely say at this point no full-time teachers—teachers who are full time with the district—will be laid off next year," said superintendent Shari Miller. "Anybody who is full-time now will be back in a position—they may have to shift—but will be in a position next year."

Also related to teaching staff, Miller said that building assignments for teachers will be posted within a week. Several questions arose concerning the walk zones taking effect next fall in the city of Lowell. A parent asked why buses were being eliminated from Valley Vista. With its high density of students, the neighborhood is a more efficient area to pick up students compared to other parts of the district.

Director of transportation Larry Mikulski said because the neighborhood is close to the school buildings, and has sidewalks and lighted streets, it makes more sense for students living in that area to walk.

Another parent wondered what precautions would be taken to prevent bullying now that high school students will be boarding buses at the middle school.

"We do have a security officer there," said middle school principal Linda Warren, noting she would also be responsible for keeping an eye on students in the morning. Student development director Kathy Cole announced the first "Safety Town" will take place Aug. 16-20. This is a program whereby students learn pedestrian skills for safely walking around town by negotiating a miniature city. There will be two sessions each day and a \$25 fee.

"We're looking at giving priority to those students who will be in the walk zones," Cole said. A few parents raised concerns over the new PASS-key program to be implemented at the middle school in the fall. One parent wondered whether the program would benefit all students.

"What we have now doesn't work for every kid so we're looking for other options to help them," Miller said. Another parent questioned if she would have a say in whether her child was placed in the program. "It's certainly parent-choice driven," Miller said. Assistant superintendent

for finance and personnel Connie Gillette reported that, based on the recent state revenue consensus, schools may be facing an additional \$37 cut in the per-pupil foundation allowance in the near future. This would mean a revenue reduction of about \$100,000 for Lowell Area Schools.

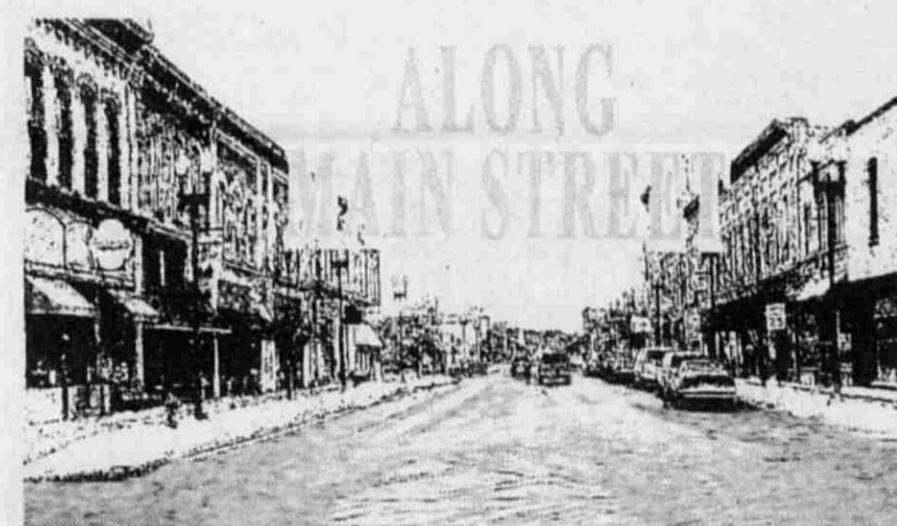
Mikulski announced the middle school will be getting a new boiler. The new unit will cost about \$200,000. "We anticipate actually paying for the boiler with the savings we will incur with the more efficient boiler," he said.

Parents thought the evening was a success. "I think it will help a lot," Carmen Campbell said. "It's nice because it's an open dialogue back and forth... at school board meetings you make your statement whereas this is a forum."

This was the first time the Family Links and PTO groups had worked together to create a forum. And this was the first time as large a panel had been put together. Family Links facilitator Dee McKendrick said the session was important because of the changes occurring in the district.



A sizeable panel of Lowell Area Schools administrators and building principals answered questions about the future of the district last Tuesday at Cherry Creek Elementary.



**MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE ON CHANNEL 20**  
The Lowell Area Historical Museum presents "The One-room Schoolhouse" on Lowell Cable TV channel 20 on Wed., May 26 at 3 p.m.; Thurs., May 27 at 5 p.m.; Fri., May 28 at 7 p.m.; Sat., May 29 at 11 a.m.

\*\*\*  
One thing life has taught me: if you are interested, you never have to look for new interests. They come to you. When you are genuinely interested in one thing, it will always lead to something else.  
—Eleanor Roosevelt

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### WATERCOLOR EXHIBIT

Huntington National Bank is featuring a watercolor painting exhibition by Lowell artist, Mary Bommarito now through June 21 during regular business hours.

### 40TH REUNION SCHEDULED

The Class of 1964 and past classmates will have their 40th reunion on May 29 at Deer Run Golf Course at 8 p.m. All Lowell alumni are invited to join for a time of socializing and reminiscing. Call Jean (Stormzand) Jeltema at 897-7511 with questions.

### LHS ALUMNI GATHERING

The Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation will host its first annual Lowell High School all alumni gathering, Saturday, May 29 at the high school. Cost \$18 per person. 897-8415.

### KDL BRANCHES CLOSE

All branches, including the Englehardt and Alto libraries, will be closed May 31 in observance of Memorial Day. Regular hours resume on June 1.

### FREE COMMODITIES

Low income families will receive free food commodities on Thursday, June 3 from 8-5 p.m. at Moose Recreation Hall, 1320 E. Main. New and re-registrations must have proof of income for entire family and social security numbers for each person; Kent County residents only. Call 897-5150 or 897-8754.

### ACADEMIC BOOSTERS

The last academic boosters meeting for this school year will be June 3 at 8:30 a.m. in the volunteer room of the high school. Call Julie at 897-6353 with questions.

**LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS**  
**NOTICE OF TESTING**  
**OPTEC COMPUTER PROGRAM**  
**FOR THE JUNE 14, 2004**  
**REGULAR ELECTION**

Notice is hereby given that the OPTEC Computer Program testing for the June 14, 2004 Regular Election will be conducted on June 7, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. at the Lowell Area Schools, 300 High Street, Lowell, Michigan.

### TOTS BUS RIDE

Tots on Track for School will have their picnic and school bus ride on Thursday, June 3 at 300 High St. from 11:30 - 1 p.m. It's free; bring a blanket and sandwiches. Call 897-1232 for information. Rain location: Bright Beginnings gym.

### ATHLETIC BOOSTERS MEETING

The Lowell athletic boosters will meet on June 7 at 7 p.m. in the high school staff lounge.

### BOARD CANDIDATE FORUM

Lowell Area Schools candidate forum will be on Tuesday, June 8 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the administration building board room, 300 High St. The public is invited to attend and hear remarks from each of the four candidates. Election day: June 14.

### CHAMBER GOLF SCRAMBLE AT DEER RUN

The Lowell Chamber of Commerce and Deer Run Golf Course will sponsor the 3rd annual golf scramble on June 18. Call 897-9161 with questions.

### 68TH LHS REUNION COMING IN JULY

The Class of 1936 will celebrate its reunion on July 9 at Schneider Manor. Classes of 1929 - 1939 are also invited to the potluck at 1 p.m. RSVP to Irene Osborne at 691-8939 or send confirmation to 4076 Murray View Dr., Lowell.

### ART CLASSES

The Lowell Area Arts Council will offer a variety of classes for youth and adults in the visual arts. To receive a listing of all class offerings with dates and times, call 897-8545 or visit the website at www.lowellartscouncil.org.

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# Footo earns two state titles/ FFA sets new state record

Lowell High School junior Kelly Foote attended Michigan State University last week in the Michigan FFA Career Development Events. She was a member of Lowell FFA's Marketing Plan team and a member of the FFA Horse Judging and Evaluation team, both of which earned state championships.

Foote, along with Katie Serne and Shelly Wernet, earned first place as a team in the marketing event where students create a marketing plan for a local agribusiness product. The horse judging and evaluation team included Foote, Lauren VanEns, Michelle Wolf and Julie Dunn. These students are also members of the Lowell Equestrian team. Both teams will compete at the National FFA Convention in October.

Other Lowell teams in career development events included the Agricultural Communications team which finished with a silver rating and a top five finish. The team included members Patti Leasure, Marie Wade, Julie Dunn and Katie Ward. Lowell's other horse judging team of Travis Craig, Steve Koning and Christian

Koning placed 7th in the contest out of 24 teams.

The Lowell FFA chapter recently broke its own record set in 2002 for the highest number of American FFA degrees submitted in one year. This year, 17 Lowell members will be recognized with the American FFA Degree which is the highest level of membership with the National FFA Organization. The previous record of 12 recipients in 2002 was set by Lowell. Prior to that, the record was held by Montague FFA with 10 in 2000.

Members must meet minimum standards related to work experience, scholarship and participation in FFA and community events. A special session at the National FFA Convention in October will recognize this year's recipients: Becky Bosserd, Katelyn Bush, Katie Clements, Heather Blough, Nathaniel Canfield, Brandon Gessler, Natalie Kent, Teresa Leasure, Matthew Oesch, Routhanne Oesch, Bryan Posthumus, Brian Rasch, Laura Rasch, Pieter Serne, Courtney Perkins, Brian Zook and Tim Zook.



Junior Kelly Foote (left) was a member of two leadership and career development teams that each won their respective contests and will compete at the national level this October. Katie Serne (right) and Shelly Wernet (center) completed the team that will compete at the National FFA Convention this fall.

## REGULAR SCHOOL ELECTION

**NOTICE OF REGULAR ELECTION OF THE ELECTORS OF LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS KENT AND IONIA COUNTIES, MICHIGAN TO BE HELD JUNE 14, 2004**

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:  
Please Take Notice that the regular election of the school district will be held on Monday, June 14, 2004.

THE POLLS OF ELECTION WILL OPEN AT 7 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING AND CLOSE AT 8 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING.

At the regular school election there will be elected two (2) members to the board of education of the district for full terms of four (4) years ending in 2008.

THE FOLLOWING PERSONS HAVE BEEN NOMINATED TO FILL SUCH VACANCIES:

- Daniel C. Brubaker
- Kate Dernocoeur
- Maureen A. Fleet
- Melanie J. Searfoss

Write-in candidates must file a Declaration of Intent on or before 4 p.m. Friday, June 11, 2004.

THE VOTING PLACES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

**PRECINCT NO. 1**  
Voting Place: Runciman Elementary School, 300 High Street, Lowell, Michigan. The first precinct consists of the City of Lowell and those portions lying north of the centerline of Cascade Road in Cascade and Lowell Townships in Kent County, and Boston Township in Ionia County.

**PRECINCT NO. 2**  
Voting Place: Old Bowne Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash Road, Alto, Michigan. The second precinct consists of Bowne Township in Kent County and Campbell Township in Ionia County and those portions lying south of the centerline of Cascade Road in Cascade and Lowell Townships in Kent County, and Boston Township in Ionia County.

**PRECINCT NO. 3**  
Voting Place: Vergennes Township Hall, corner of Bailey Drive and Parnell Avenue in Vergennes Township. The third precinct consists of the Townships of Ada, Cannon, Grattan, and Vergennes in Kent County, and Keene Township in Ionia County.

All school electors who are registered with the city or township clerk of the city or township in which they reside are eligible to vote at this election.

This Notice is given by order of the board of education.

Patrick Nugent  
Secretary, Board of Education

## Annual Scout BBQ



Boy Scout Troop 102 held their annual chicken BBQ on Sunday, May 16 at the Lowell First United Methodist Church. Over 500 chicken dinners were served by the scouts, leaders and parents this year. Pictured are just a few of the people involved in the day-long event.

### Correction

In the May 19 issue of the Lowell Ledger, the story about children's author Diane Youngblood Donlon incorrectly reported that the music for her book "Balancing on a Rock" was composed by Bill Vits. Youngblood Donlon wrote and composed the song herself. Vits performed percussion for its recording. Vits' name was also spelled incorrectly in the story.

# Veterans' recollections...

Continued From Page 1

The Franklin had to return to the United States twice to repair damage sustained during its South Pacific service.

"We took three kamikazes during the cruise that we were on," Clark said.

As the war continued, deck crews began repainting the spinners on the airplane props each time the planes came in to reload. This was to fool the Japanese into thinking there were more carriers in the fleet.

"We were running short of airplanes," Clark said.

The morning of March 19, 1945, the Franklin came within 50 miles of mainland Japan. This was the nearest any U.S. ship had yet approached.

"We were bombing Kyushu Air Force Base in Japan where the kamikazes came from," Clark said.

At 7:05, a lone Japanese airplane made a bombing run at the carrier. Two armor-piercing bombs struck the deck, rocking the ship. U.S. fighter planes shot down the Japanese bomber, but the damage was already done.

Clark was among 300 trapped below deck in the mess compartment. They breathed through a hole in the hull about the size of a baseball. Flames and explosions were still tearing through the decks. Outside, smoke and flames towered over the ship.

It was Clark's commanding officer, Lt. Donald Gary, who discovered the trapped men. He was given the Congressional Medal of Honor, one of two awarded to the Franklin crew, for leading the 300 to safety.

Casualties neared 1,000. The ship was charred and listing 13 degrees to starboard. It was towed out to sea and repaired enough to make the trip back to New York on its own power. Clark sailed home on a survivor ship with fellow sailors.

More than anything, Clark remembers the courage of the men with whom he served.

"It's an honor," he said of serving on the ship. "Everybody's a brother's keeper. You never turned anyone down if they needed help."

## Mike Lessens, Operation Restore Hope

Mike Lessens was never directly involved in combat in the Army. He enlisted in 1985 after completing a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from the University of Michigan.

The Army offered him a job as a radio broadcaster.

"I did mostly news features, interviews and public service announcements," Lessens said.

After two years as a bass

vocalist in the Army's Europe Band and Chorus, he started doing radio broadcasts for the Armed Forces Network in Stuttgart, Germany.

In December of 1991, Lessens joined a broadcasting team at Fort Polk, La. It was a five-member public affairs attachment ... a joint-forces team with members from the Army, Navy, Marines ... that could deploy within 18 hours to any part of the world.

The team covered events in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, while the United States was detaining Haitian immigrants there in 1992. Lessens wrote and produced television and radio programming broadcast to the soldiers involved in the operation.

He did feature stories on soldiers who exemplified proper conduct around the detainees and produced public service announcements on how to follow the rules of engagement and how to treat detainees.

In 1993, the team deployed for three months in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia. Their mission: to restore order in a country that had descended into chaos. Clans of people desperate after years of drought were destroying cities and blocking United Nations relief shipments.

"There were people that



A P.O.W. flag flies next to the U.S. flag at the Veterans' Memorial Park in downtown Lowell.

were wreaking havoc in Somalia causing people to starve," Lessens said.

The U.S. forces were there to try to get weapons out of the hands of the militant clans.

"It seemed like we were trying to give back these people some sense of purpose," Lessens said.

He and the rest of his broadcast group had the role of creating stories that would reinforce that goal among the troops in action.

"We did the news features that just told people what this was about, what our place was in all this," Lessens said.

After Operation Restore Hope, Lessens spent the rest of his military service (1993-1995) as a non-commissioned officer in charge of the Armed Forces radio station at Fort Greeley, Alaska.

Lessens was diagnosed with bipolar disorder during his deployment in Somalia. "They have said my bipolar disorder is service-related but weren't specific," Lessens said.

He said it might have been caused by the series of vaccinations and medications he was given before his Somalia deployment. He has been on permanent disability since he left the Army. He's worked a

few jobs and now volunteers for Meals on Wheels.

Lessens joined the Army after becoming an Eagle Scout. "Once you have achieved that, you seem to be capable of taking the next step and serving your country," Lessens said.

Despite his health problems, Lessens doesn't regret serving in the military. "It gave me a better understanding of what's going on in the world and it gives me a better idea of what's going on in Iraq right now," Lessens said.

## John Erickson, Korean War veteran

John Erickson was a 17-year old from Alto when he enlisted in the Army. His dad had to sign the papers for him because he wasn't old enough yet.

That was in 1948. He went for training to camps all around the U.S., including Alaska and Washington D.C. He joined the 23rd Infantry and, in 1950, he was on his way to fight in the Korean War.

The infantrymen landed at the southern end of South Korea. They first engaged the enemy at Pusan. The 23rd In-

fantry pushed the North Koreans back through Ch'ngch'ong bukto and battled their way to Korea's capital, Seoul.

Then they pushed north again, to the Yalu River, between North Korea and the border with the U.S.S.R.

Along the way, the South Koreans had told them that Chinese troops were marching down. Seeing them approaching on the other side, they radioed back to headquarters.

"The regimental headquarters said they were friendly troops but they weren't friendly troops because they attacked us, pushing us all the way back to the 38th parallel."

Erickson's regiment dug in around a barn in Munch'on and returned fire.

The regiment's guns were jamming and the enemy overwhelmed them. The U.S. troops were captured and made to march. But before the march began, Erickson and the other soldiers had to watch as one of their fellow servicemen was pulled up a tree on a rope, stripped of his clothes and eviscerated.

They were marched to a cave underground. "There must have been a thousand of us underground," Erickson said.

The prisoners of war marched by night. During the day, their captors crammed them into buildings. They were given only corn on the cob to eat. They got their water by eating snow, or drinking from rancid rivers which resulted in terrible dysentery.

Veterans, cont'd., pg. 11

# Veterans, continued...

"I was on that for 20 some days on that death march, walking only at

ily for a month, he went to another hospital in Detroit, where he stayed for six months

would rather not.

"I never dreamed in my whole life that I would be a prisoner of war."

But he never regretted joining the Army.

"I served my country, I love my country," Erickson said. "That old red white and blue flag means a whole awful lot to me."

## Jason Stoutjesdyk, Operation Iraqi Freedom

Jason Stoutjesdyk is one of Lowell's most recent war veterans, having returned to Lowell April 17 from Iraq. Originally with the Army's 180th Transportation Company out of Muskegon, he was involuntarily transferred to the 946th Transportation Company.

The Army reservist was called into active duty last year, leaving for Kuwait on Feb. 3 of 2003.

"The reality hadn't set in yet until I actually got on the plane and landed in Kuwait," Stoutjesdyk said. "Kuwait's not exactly the hostile country we were dealing with, but I'd never been there."

He wore full gear and carried an M-16 on the plane ride over to Kuwait. Once in Iraq, it took some time getting used to the environment and the people. It was Stoutjesdyk's first deployment.

to recover from hepatitis.

He finally returned to a hero's welcome. Alto held a parade in his honor. Then-Sen. Gerald R. Ford was the speaker at the Alto American Legion. C.H. Runciman gave him a 1953 Ford Fairlane and a job.

Erickson later worked for the Kent County Road Commission before retiring.

It wasn't until 1988 that the government finally recognized and honored him for his service. He received in the mail the medal for Good Conduct, for Korean Service, for Honorable Service While a Prisoner of War and for National Defense Service.

These days, Erickson spends his time taking care of his goats and cow on a piece of land near Fallsburg Park. He walks at the end of all the parades in Lowell with his animals and carrying a P.O.W. flag.

He still remembers his time as a P.O.W., though he



Jason Stoutjesdyk with Iraqi children while making a fuel delivery in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

power plant, they'd all come stand around the outer fence hooting and howling," Stoutjesdyk said. "They'd always have cold pops for us and stuff like that."

Another humanitarian mission was refueling a concrete plant. They kept it supplied so the Iraqis could rebuild their roads.

This is how the 946th traveled: "We had, say, 15 to 20 of us in a convoy and they all hit these spots and would reload and return and it was the same thing day in and day out except for avoiding camels and donkeys and getting shot at," Stoutjesdyk said. "For the first two or three missions,

just so we would know the route, we had a military police escort but after that we were all alone."

The convoys each included two humvees with Mark 19 guns. One to clear the way ahead and the other would follow. The convoys were not exempt from the dangers of war.

"We had more problems with what we call IEDs, roadside bombs," Stoutjesdyk said. "We were mortar-rounded a couple times. As far as actual weapons' fire, it was only a few times."

His unit had to wear 50 pounds of gear—flak vest, helmet, carrying an M-16.

"When you're anywhere outside of camp, you have to have your gear on," Stoutjesdyk said. "They call it full battle rattle."

He lost 40 pounds while he was in Iraq.

"I'd go back in a heartbeat," Stoutjesdyk said. "You have your ups and downs, and I have my different thoughts, but overall I'm glad about what we did over there. I think we helped the Iraqi people a lot, our unit at least."

Stoutjesdyk, now back at his security job at Lowell High School, said it will take some time for the rest of the operation.

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**YARD WASTE PROGRAM FOR 2004**  
 Yard waste pickup will be the same day as your recycling pickup.  
**Tuesday Yard Waste Pickup Schedule**  
 May 4 & 18; June 1, 15 & 29; July 13 & 27; August 10 & 24; & September 7 & 21  
**Thursday Yard Waste Pickup Schedule**  
 May 6 & 20; June 3 & 17; July 1, 15 & 29; August 12 & 26; & September 9 & 23  
 Bags are available at Ace Hardware, City Hall, Meijer & Springrove Variety.

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# COMING EVENTS

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

**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.

**EVERY MON.:** Women's over 30 drop-in basketball, 7-9:30 p.m. at Cherry Creek Elementary. Call Dave (YMCA) 897-8445. Fee \$3.

**3RD MON.:** Fallsburg Historical Society board meetings at chamber of commerce or Fallsburg, 7 p.m. All invited. Call 897-7161 for info. or location.

**2ND MON.:** Lowell Board of Education meets 7 p.m. in Administration Building, 300 High Street.

**2ND MON.:** Bowne Township Historical Society meeting at Historical Museum, 84th and Alden Nash, 7:30 p.m.

**3RD MON.:** 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.

**4TH MON.:** Clark-Ellis American Legion Post 152, 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30 p.m.

**3RD MON.:** Women of the Moose business meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**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 TUES.:** Grattan Historical Society meets in O'Brien Room of Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd. Public invited.

**1ST & 3RD TUES.:** Diabetic Support group, 9:30 Schneider Manor Community Rm., 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.

**2ND TUES.:** G.R. Chapter of the American Sewing Guild, D.W. Richardson Center, 5255 Grand River Dr. 6:30 social time; 7 p.m. meeting & program. Olga, 975-9977.

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

**EVERY 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.

**2ND & 4TH TUES.:** Saranac Needlers, needleart/quilting bee meets 5-8:30 p.m. at 4 Health Wellness Center in Saranac. For all or part time; Anyone is welcome. Contact Bev or Melissa, 642-6466 for info. A light dinner will be provided.

**2ND & 4TH TUES.:** Knights of Columbus #7719 meets St. Mary School, 7:30 p.m.

**2ND TUES.:** Lowell Masonic Lodge meeting, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Center, 119 Lincoln Lake.

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

**3RD TUES.:** Saranac Scrappers, scrapbooking/journaling group meets at 4 Health Wellness Center, Saranac, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Light refreshments served. Bev or Melissa, 642-6466.

**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.

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

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

**2ND WED.:** Kent County Youth Fair Board meeting at 7:30 p.m., King Memorial Youth Center at 4-H Fairgrounds. 897-6050.

**2ND WED.:** Lowell Women's Club meets at 12 p.m. in Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd.

**2ND WED.:** Support group for Peripheral Neuropathy, 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Catholic Church, Grand Rapids. Dorothy 897-9794.

**EVERY 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 2ND THURS.:** Loyal Order of the Moose, men's meeting 7:30 p.m. - ? All members in good standing are invited.

**EVERY THURS.:** Saranac Area Musicians and Singers practice at Saranac High School Band Room. Choir: 6-7 p.m./band: 7-8. Call Kathy Maatman at 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.

**1ST THURS.:** Michigan Hepatitis C Foundation support meetings, 7-8:30 p.m. at Spectrum Health Kent Community Campus Multipurpose Rm. 750 Fuller Ave. NE

**1ST THURS.:** 4-H drama club meeting, Lowell Middle School choir room. Call 897-1502 after 5 p.m.

**2ND THURS.:** Ada Historical Society at 7 p.m. Averill Historical Museum, 7144 Headley, Ada.

**3RD THURS.:** 4 Health Wellness Center in

Saranac, Parent Support Group meets 7-8:30 p.m. Parenting issues, educational topics. Call 642-6466 for information.

**1ST & 3RD THURS.:** Alto Lions Club meets at Annalaine's on S. Alden Nash Ave. at 7 p.m.

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

**3RD THURS.:** Rubber stamping at Christian Life Center 6-9 p.m. Create scrapbooks, share supplies. Dawn 862-8841.

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

**3RD THURS.:** Parents Supporting Parents group, Franciscan Life Process Center. 897-7842.

**3RD THURS.:** Royal Arch Masons, 7:30 p.m., Lowell Masonic Center, 119 Lincoln Lake. Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

**3RD THURS.:** LaLeche League of Ada, Cascade, Lowell 6:30 p.m. socializing; meeting 7 p.m. Support for pregnant/breastfeeding women; Ada church. 752-8300.

**3RD THURS.:** Parent Support Group meets 7-8:30 p.m. at The 4 Health Wellness Center in Saranac. Many educational topics related to parenting and parenting issues are discussed. Call Bev or Melissa at 642-6466 for more information.

**2ND THURS.:** Genealogy-Alto Fam. Tree Club, Alto Library 6:30 - 8 p.m.

**EVERY FRI.:** Arts/Crafts volunteers meet at Franciscan Life Process Center, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Call Pat or Judy at 897-7842 to meet new friends, share your talent.

**2ND 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.

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

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

**FLAT RIVER OUT-REACH 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. Call 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. Call 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. For information call 897-8565.

**MON., MAY 31:** Grattan Township Historical Society cookbook and bake sale, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Grattan Museum, 12050 Grattan Centre. Museum will also be open.

**WED., JUNE 2:** Lecture series at Metro Health Lowell Plaza, 2550 W. Main, 7-8:30 p.m. Diabetes and stress. Free admission; open to the public; no registration required.

**THURS., JUNE 3:** Last Academic Boosters meeting of the school year at 8:30 a.m. in volunteer room of Lowell High School. Everyone is welcome.

**THURS., JUNE 3:** TOTS summer picnic and school bus ride, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at 300 High St. Free. Call 897-1232, ask for Kathy Cole. Held in Bright Beginnings gym location if rains.

**THURS., JUNE 3:** Free food commodities for low income families, 8-5 p.m. at Moose Recreation Hall, 1320 E. Main. Kent County residents only. Call 897-5150 or 897-8754 with questions. Bring proof of income and social security number.

**THURS., JUNE 3:** Vergennes Club will meet at Schneider Manor activity room at 1 p.m. Sponsor: Marie Rickett; program is "Eating Well" by Kathie Hawn, dietitian; hostesses are Mary Myers, Dorothy Byrne and Char Siciliano.

**WED., JUNE 9:** Natural Features Inventory for Vergennes Twp. kick-off Bar-B-Que, at Vergennes Twp. Hall, 6-8:30 p.m. Call 897-5671, ext. 2. Open Space Committee if you can help with food or just bring yourself.

# New elementary opens its doors

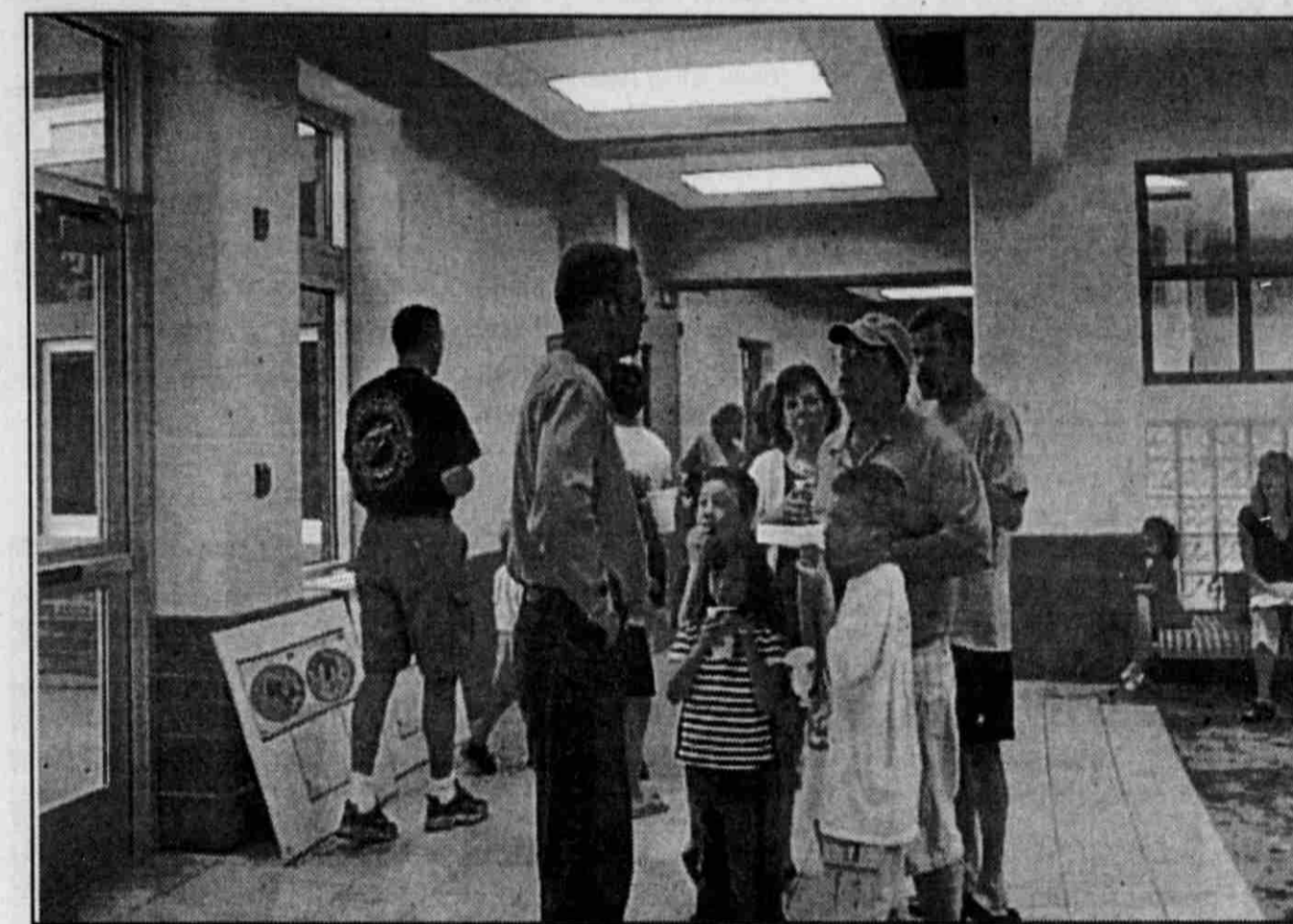
The new Murray Lake Elementary School is scheduled to be completed on June 30. The community was invited to tour the school on Saturday, May 22 during an afternoon open house.

For those who were not able to visit the newest facility of Lowell Area Schools, here are a few facts you might be interested in knowing. The school has:

- 400 student capacity • 18 classrooms • two special education classrooms
- Family Links room • art, music and PE rooms • fenced bus parking
- 30-acre site • media center • computer lab • day care room
- small stage • gym/cafeteria • four group rooms



Over 300 families toured Lowell Schools newest facility. Approximately 330 students will attend this fall.



Brent Noskey, the principal for Murray Lake Elementary, is pictured talking with Ryan and Dawn Scott and their children Justin and Khayli along with Cannon Dean and Fred Linger. There was an open house for the new school on May 22 during the afternoon.



Refreshments were available during the open house. Family Links council member Terri Doll and Chris Kaczanowski served punch donated by parent volunteers and MacDonald's.

Photos submitted by Cathy Acker

## Local tech center student regional winner

Tera DesJarden, a student at Kent Career Technical Center from Lowell High School, took third place in commercial baking at the state competition in Lansing this spring. She was a regional winner as well.

The Skills USA Region 1 competition was held in Coldwater at the Branch County Area Tech Center and featured more than 25 student competitors in a range of hospitality-related categories:

culinary arts, food and beverage service, and commercial baking.

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## EARLY DEADLINE

Due to Memorial Day our Deadline for the June 2, 2004 edition of the Lowell Ledger has been changed to:

**Friday, May 28, 2004 at noon**

**The Lowell Ledger**

105 N. Broadway • PO Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331  
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Place your graduate's picture & a greeting in the Lowell Ledger! Deadline is Fri., June 4 at 4 p.m.

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# Re-importation—A prescription for lower prices

By Senator  
Debbie Stabenow

Prescription drug prices are too high in this country, and I have made it one of my top priorities to lower them. In fact, the first bill I introduced in the U.S. Senate was to allow for the safe re-importation of lower-priced prescription drugs from Canada.

As I travel around Michigan I hear many disheartening stories from people who cannot afford needed medicine because the U.S. has the world's highest prices for prescription drugs. The average retail price for brand-name prescriptions rose 3.5 times faster than inflation last year. Many popular drugs rose even faster!

A constituent in Romulus

recently endured heart bypass surgery, the cleaning of both arteries in her heart, and an operation for cancer; however, due to the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs, she can only afford three of the nine drugs she needs.

In a recent email, she said, "I guess my story is no different from the many Americans, when it comes to deciding if I can afford food to live, or medications. It boils down to a choice these days: what can I afford to keep myself alive, once I pay my bills?" This situation is morally wrong! We can—and must—do better for our citizens in the greatest country in the world.

Recently, I sponsored a new bipartisan breakthrough

agreement in the Senate to allow the re-importation of FDA-approved prescription drugs, most of which are American-made. This agreement will reduce prescription drug prices by up to 70 percent by allowing pharmacists and wholesalers to re-import prescription drugs from several industrialized countries including Canada if they comply with strict safety regulations under FDA oversight. Individuals will also be allowed to import 90-day supplies for themselves or family members under strict safety regulations.

This new legislation will make lower-priced prescription drugs available to every American. For example, Tamoxifen, a vital drug for breast cancer patients, costs \$340 in the U.S., \$39 in Canada. Americans who

need Zocor to reduce their cholesterol must pay \$130 here, but our Canadian neighbors buy it for \$67.

As more and more people understand that re-importation can save them money, support is growing quickly, even from policymakers once firmly opposed to it. Recently, former Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) announced, "I cannot explain to my mother any longer why she should pay twice or two-thirds as much more than what they pay in Canada or Mexico for the same drugs. I can't do it anymore."

The pharmaceutical industry benefits handsomely from tax break, patent protections and taxpayer funded research by the National Institute of Health. The ironic result of this government assistance is that we pay the highest prices in the world for medicine.

Now more than ever, we need this bill because the recently passed Medicare law fails to lower prices. The discount drug cards provided under that law probably will not even cover the cost of inflation of most drugs, nor will it prevent drug companies from raising prices.

Another effective way to lower prices is to use the "unadvertised brands," generic drugs. Generic drugs are safe and effective and can also save consumers up to 70 percent.

I have listened to small-business owners, Big Three auto executives, workers, hospital administrators, par-

ents of children with chronic disorders, and seniors—all affected by exploding prescription drug prices and, consequently, rising health insurance costs.

Drugs that are unaffordable are drugs that are unavailable. That is simply unacceptable. I have never understood why we can import Canada's trash, but not their medicine, and it is time to reverse that situation. Stop the trash and give us lower priced medicine! Stories from Michigan families strengthen my resolve to stand up to the powerful pharmaceutical lobby every day. Life should never be a daily struggle between food and medicine ... not for any American.

# LHS crew team rows to smooth finish

The Lowell crew team took one gold medal and two bronze medals at the East Grand Rapids regatta on May 5. They concluded their season on May 22 at Kensington Metro Park in Auburn Hills with a silver medal finish rowing against 22 Midwest schools.

Clockwise: the men's novice IV+ received a gold medal. Pictured, left to right, are Mike Drake (coxwain), Chuck Grubham, Dennis Smith, David Roth and Brian Janeschek; the women's varsity IV+ also received a bronze medal. They are Katie Huver, Katie Shepard, Kelly Koning, Ashley Slater and Wendy Seif and in the women's novice IV+, the team received a bronze medal. Pictured are Katy Barnes, Hollie Gunderson, Hannah Cunningham, Robin Figley and Karen Judd (coxwain).



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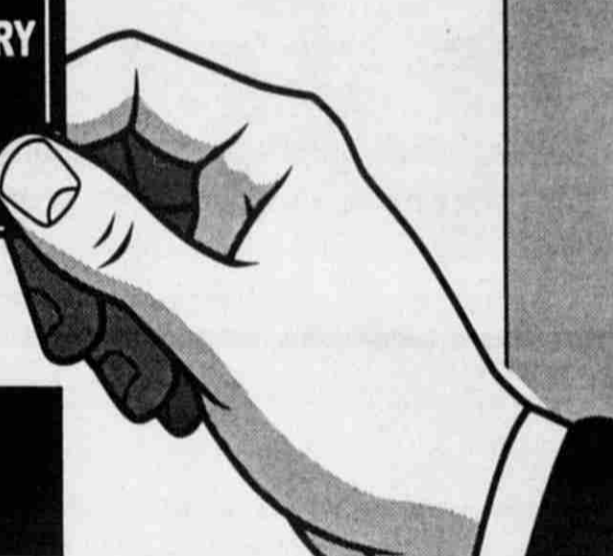
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# Softball team splits double header with Greenville



Lowell's Brittany Bueche tried bunting to get on base in the first game last Wednesday against Greenville. The Arrows were more consistent in the second game of the double header, winning 5-3.

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell varsity softball team lost the first game and won the second in a home double header against Greenville last Wednesday night.

The Yellow Jackets scored one run in the second inning and drove in two runs in the fifth to win the game, 3-2. The two runs in the fifth inning came from an error thrown to first base.

Lowell's runs came in the seventh inning. Brittany Bueche walked to first base. Rachel Nawrocki's base hit advanced her to second. Bueche scored on Andrea Dewey's single. Nawrocki made it home on an error.

Lowell's Becky Plummer struck out 13 and walked only two in the game.

In game two, the Red Arrows were hitting the ball more consistently.

They scored a run in the first, a run in the second and three in the sixth. Bueche had two hits in the game. Plummer had two as well. On the mound, she had five strikeouts and four walks.

Ashleigh Inman hit a double ... her 10th of the season which gives her the Lowell High School record for doubles in a single season.

Lowell had a total of eight hits in the game; they won with a score of 5-3.

"We finally hit the ball," Lowell coach Bob Rodenhouse said. "It's wonderful what happens when you get a lot of hits-you score runs."

# Lowell baseball wins in dramatic come-back; wins second game of double header

By Dan Schneider

The Red Arrows struggled early last Wednesday against Greenville.

It was the first game of a double header and Lowell was down 7-2 headed into the fifth inning. But in the fifth and sixth, Lowell scored 13 runs on 15 hits to go up 15-7, which is where the score stayed.

Lowell had 10 hits in the sixth inning alone. "They threw four pitchers in that one inning and we just continued to hit," Lowell coach Jared Curtis said.

Andrew Benedict went 4-5 with four runs, a double, one RBI and two stolen bases.

Alan Nugent was 3-4 with one run, one double, one triple and six RBIs.

Dustin Osborne entered in the fifth inning and

pitched for the win. He threw no walks and no strikeouts.

Kyle Rozema started the game for the Red Arrows.

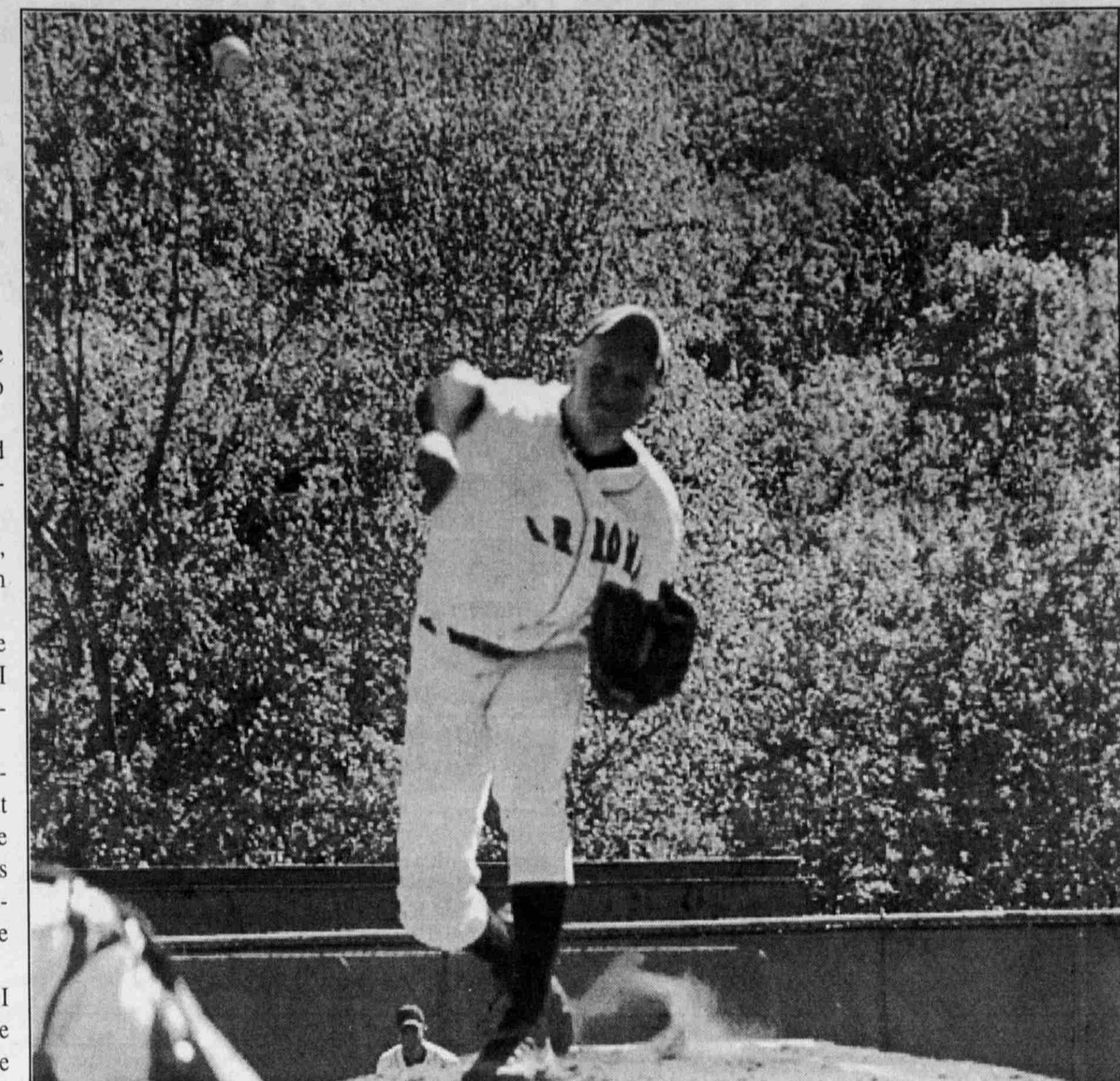
In the second game, Lowell was in control from the start.

Mike Jansma began the scoring, hitting two RBI singles in the second inning.

It was in the fourth inning that Lowell really put some runs on the scoreboard. Sean Myers had an RBI single, his second hit and third RBI of the game.

Benedict hit a two-RBI triple that bounced off the top of the outfield fence back into play. Lowell won 6-0.

Luke Tomczak pitched the shutout.



Lowell's Kyle Rozema allowed seven runs last Wednesday against Greenville before the Arrows' bats took off in the fifth inning and Lowell won, 15-7.

## CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE - OAKWOOD CEMETERY

Below please find a synopsis of the amended Rules and Regulations for Oakwood Cemetery, Lowell, Michigan. Enforcement of these will begin on June 1, 2004.

**Section 3.10 Flower Urns.** Concrete urns must be located at the ends of grave space markers. One urn is permitted for each grave space, provided, it must be within 48 inches of the marker of a single grave space and 96 inches of the marker of a double grave space. Artificial flowers, plants and arrangements may only be placed in urns except as otherwise provided in Section 3.13 hereof.

**Section 3.11. Placing of Objects on Grounds Around Marker.** The placing of decorative fencing, boxes, shells, toys, crosses, ornaments, chairs, settees, vases, tin cans, jars, rocks, clay statuettes, plaques and similar articles upon the ground of lots or grave space is not permitted. One shepherd's hook per grave space is permitted, provided, when it is not in use it must be promptly removed. Up to three non-glass objects are permitted on a marker. Cemetery employees may remove and dispose of prohibited objects without notice to the owners of lot burial rights.

**Section 3.12. Planting of Flowers and Plants.** The planting of live flowers and plants is permitted during the growing season. Such plantings must be placed at the ends or in front of markers and memorials and may not extend more than 12 inches from the base of a marker or memorial (note: marker or memorial size may not permit 12 inches on each side for plantings). Flowers and plants that become unsightly or have died may be removed and disposed of by cemetery employees without notice to owners of lot burial rights. Cut flowers and arrangements may also be removed and disposed of by Cemetery employees if they become unsightly without notice to the owners of lot burial rights.

**Section 3.13. Artificial Flowers, Plants and Arrangements.** Artificial flowers, plants and arrangements are permitted on lots or grave spaces from November 1 through March 31 each year. Such artificial flowers, plants and arrangements remaining from April 1 through October 31 each year may be removed and disposed of by Cemetery employees without notice to the owners of lot burial rights. Artificial flowers, plants and arrangements may be placed only in urns from April 1 through October 31 as provided in Section 3.10 hereof.

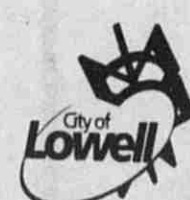
**Section 3.14. Special Remembrances.** Special remembrances for birthdays, anniversaries, deaths, etc., are permitted provided they are placed on a lot or grave space no earlier than one week before the date of the remembered event and removed no later than one week after such remembered event.

**Section 3.15. Special Allowance for New Burials.** For a period of one year to the anniversary of a death up to five additional objects are permitted on a lot or grave space with the prior written permission of the Cemetery Sexton.

**Section 5.5. Plants, Trees and Shrubs.** A lot or grave space burial rights owner may beautify his lot or grave space upon prior written approval of the Cemetery Sexton. Plantings must be in harmony with the general landscape design of the cemetery grounds, and should not interfere with adjacent lots or grave spaces. A lot or grave space burial rights owner may choose plantings from a variety of plants, trees and shrubs contained on a list which may be obtained from the Cemetery Sexton.

**Section 5.6. Removal of Plants, Trees and Shrubs.** The Cemetery Sexton has the right to remove and dispose of, without notice, plants, trees and shrubs planted in violation of these rules and regulations. The Cemetery Sexton also has the right to trim, cut down and remove any plantings which are undesirable in their present condition. When it is necessary to remove any trees or shrubs on a lot or grave space in order to make the lot or grave space usable, the cost of removal will be borne by the lot or grave space owner.

If you have any questions or would like a complete set of rules, please call (616) 897-8457 or email bmorlock@ci.lowell.mi.us



Betty R. Morlock  
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## TOWNSHIP OF GRATTA COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the Township of Grattan will hold a public hearing on June 17, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Road, within the Township, on a proposed ordinance to amend the Township Zoning Ordinance. The principal provisions of the amending ordinance are as follows:

**1. Private Roads and Driveways.** Section 3.29 of the Zoning Ordinance would be amended in its entirety to provide provisions regulating private roads and driveways. The amending ordinance includes provisions on private road permits; applications for such permits; design and construction requirements for private roads; approval standards for private roads; requirements on the maintenance and repair of private roads; procedures for the approval of private roads and inspections thereof; performance guarantees, permit fees, definitions, frontage requirement on private roads and other matters.

**2. Site Plan Review.** Chapter 17 of the Township Zoning Ordinance covering site plan review, would be amended in its entirety. The amending ordinance includes provisions on land uses requiring site plan review; procedures for applications for site plan review by the Planning Commission; the required contents and information to be included in a site plan including site data, access and circulation, landscaping, buildings and structures, utilities, drainage and other matters; standards under which site plans would be reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission; procedures for approval of changes in an approved site plan; the imposing of terms and conditions on site plan approval; time limitations for the commencement of construction under an approved site plan; performance guarantees and other provisions.

All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment on the proposed amending ordinance. Written comments concerning the ordinance may be submitted to the Township office, at the above-stated address, up to the time of the public hearing.

Dated: May 24, 2004

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I hope the teacher contracts will be settled soon!

Alto PTO!! What a wonderful Carnival! Thank you to everyone who helped on that day!

I'm so glad someone is getting the word out about the invasive garlic mustard plant. Let's not let it destroy our environment.

The cemetery looks beautiful, thanks to Don DeJoung and his crew!

We need a motel in town. People have to drive all the way to Grand Rapids for one. Please, please we don't need anymore fast food places, just a little motel.

I don't understand why parents would care enough to come to their child's event but then wear thong underwear visible for all to see. And a shirt with swear words on it to a field day.

I live on Monroe. It is sad that people drive 30 to 40 mph. I've seen many animals get hit. People need to slow down. Also semi trucks come through even though there is a sign that says "No Truck."

We sure could use a signal light at the corner of Bailey and Parnell. I hope someone doesn't have to get killed for this to happen.

This is for the woman who was the only adult who sat in reserved - for seniors section during the senior awards ceremony. Not only did you sit where you didn't belong but you answered your cell phone during the awards. You should have had your phone off or walked out. You owe everyone an apology.

A lot of empty lots in Lowell. We need another Family Fare.

How about left turn lights on Main & Hudson?

As far as the increase in the cable rates - while we are still below other cities rates we do not have as many channels. The Ledger was not comparing apples to apples in their recent column.

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2000 BLACK CHEROKEE SPORT - 47k miles, inline 6, 4x4, PW, PL, A/C, cruise, tilt, keyless entry, new tires within last 3,000 miles, brush guard w/Plaa 520 driving lights, rear tail light guards, Pioneer CD deck, optional Yakima ski/snowboard rack (carries 4), K&N filter. Oil changed every 3-4K miles. Good condition. \$11,000 obo. 616-308-5481.

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

'96 FORD F-150 - 2 WD, green, \$4,500. Call 897-1597 or 450-7910.

BUNK BED - Oak, has mattresses (2 mos. old). Sell \$95. 517-719-0451.

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2001 JEEP CHEROKEE - 4x4, 60th anniversary edition, 55,000 miles, 4 door, black, loaded, \$10,200. Call 897-1597 or 450-7910.

MEMORY FOAM - mattress set, NASA developed, Visco memory cell, relieves pressure points. Never used. Queen \$650, also full & king. Call 682-4767 or 293-6160. Can deliver.

FOR SALE BY OWNER - 2/3 bedroom, 419 Monroe. Call for more info. 897-0319.

MATTRESS SETS - Brand names. All sizes. Low wholesale prices. Don't be fooled by fake pillowtop, used hotel (yuk) or bait & switch ads. Buy with confidence. Prices starting at \$80. Call 682-4767 or 293-6160. Can deliver.

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SOFA - Ethan Allen, off white, excellent condition. 82w, 32h, 26d, \$300. Call 269-795-1136.

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FOR RENT - 4 bedroom house in Eastgate. 1 1/2 bath, fenced in yard, central air, \$875 a month plus utilities. 897-6782, leave message.

FOR RENT - 1 & 2 bedroom trailers \$1,000 - \$1,050 to move in. No dogs please. \$400 - \$420 per mo. plus 1 1/2 mo. rent deposit. Call 813-8041 or 616-754-0276. No smoking. Call 676-9431.

HALL FOR RENT - with kitchen, seats 150. Call 897-6050.

APARTMENT FOR RENT - 2 bedroom, all utilities & cable included \$550 per month. Call 897-5787.

HOUSE FOR RENT - 3 bedroom, 2 bath, updated interior, fenced-in yard, garage & carport. \$925/mo. No pets.

HOUSE FOR RENT - in city of Lowell. 1 bedroom. \$500/mo. Call 897-4963.

HOME BUSINESS - Priced to sell, owner retiring. Move to own location. Call Gary Steere at Altus Group 616-974-6052 or 616-949-5500 for more details.

LOCAL AUTHOR IN READERS DIGEST - A story from local author Bob Tarte's humorous book "Inslaved by Ducks" in June issue of Readers Digest. Book available at book stores everywhere.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**TO PLACE AN AD**

In Person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell  
By Mail: PO BOX 128, Lowell, MI 49331

By Phone: 616-897-9261

By Fax: 616-897-4809

By Email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com

**DEADLINE MONDAYS AT 5 PM**

**Classified ad rates:**  
15 words...\$1  
each additional word 10¢  
Bold or Box \$1 each

**FOR SALE**

"DON'T RENT" - Stop throwing your money away. Building lot, improvement and home only \$699 a month. 3br/2bath, all appliances. Be in by July 25th. 1-616-291-2994.

POLE BARN - 30x50x10, only \$5,295. Includes painted metal, plans, how to build book, slider. Free delivery. 937-789-0309.

HOME BUSINESS - Priced to sell, owner retiring. Move to own location. Call Gary Steere at Altus Group 616-974-6052 or 616-949-5500 for more details.

LOCAL AUTHOR IN READERS DIGEST - A story from local author Bob Tarte's humorous book "Inslaved by Ducks" in June issue of Readers Digest. Book available at book stores everywhere.

**WANTED**

LAND WANTED - Developer looking to purchase vacant land. J.T. Scott Co., Broker 616-540-8950.

HOUSEKEEPING JOBS WANTED - Reasonable rates. References. Call 897-7008 anytime.

2 COLLEGE GUYS - looking for extra money, looking to do any job around the house or farm. Call 616-633-5802 for Steve.

**FREE**

FREE GUINEA PIG - includes cage, water bottle, bedding & food. If you want to give Lola a new home, please call 868-6805.

**PERSONALS**

JUNE 1ST DAWN FINKLER - will celebrate her Birthday. Send her a card at 4130 Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, MI 49508.

**FOR RENT**

FOR RENT - 4 bedroom house in Eastgate. 1 1/2 bath, fenced in yard, central air, \$875 a month plus utilities. 897-6782, leave message.

HOME HEALTH CARE AIDES NEEDED - in Lowell & Saranac immediately. 1-866-835-3385.

FOR RENT - 1 & 2 bedroom trailers \$1,000 - \$1,050 to move in. No dogs please. \$400 - \$420 per mo. plus 1 1/2 mo. rent deposit. Call 813-8041 or 616-754-0276. No smoking. Call 676-9431.

**HELP WANTED**

DO NOT MISS OUT! - Immediate Openings Greenville, Portland, Lowell, Saranac, Rockford, Ionia and Belding areas \$7.00-\$16.00 per hour depending on position and area. Seeking those interested in: Assembly, Molding, Plastics Injection, Sanding, Metal and Steel Repair, Industrial Maintenance, Machinist, Warehouse, General Labor and Maintenance Technician (must have HVAC, PLC and refrigeration experience). Please apply today at Axios, 2031 South State Street, Ionia, MI or call 616-522-0500 for details. Start a new job today!

LOOKING FOR A FULL OR PART-TIME JOB? - Multiple positions need to be filled. If you are a woman who loves having your hands on the hottest trends, you may qualify. Must be at least 18. Call Brooke at 616-318-7757.

CHILD CARE NEEDED - Female only, for my 11 yr. old daughter. Hours approx. 6 a.m.-3:30 p.m. M-F. Non-smoker, must have own trans. 897-9004.

**IN MEMORIAM**

MEMORIAL 2004 RICHARD C. BEACH In memory of Dick, who was taken from us suddenly in a car accident 22 years ago, May 23, 1982.

There are so many things on Earth we simply can't explain - Why one of us is taken while the rest of us remain; But 'til the day we see the Lord and He makes all things clear, We must find comfort knowing that His love is always near.

Lovingly remembered & missed by his family

**CARD OF THANKS**

THANK YOU Bushnell Elementary would like to thank: Mike & Kim Harding for loaning their race car for our "Nascar" Field Days. Kropf Orchards for providing all the apples.

CARD OF THANKS A big "thank you" to our sons, daughter-in-law, grandchildren, mother and all other family members and friends for the wonderful 50th anniversary party. The food, decorations and picture displays were outstanding. Thank you to all who attended the party and made it so special, and to those who sent cards and for the gifts. This was a very memorable celebration and one that we will never forget. Thank you again everyone.

PAYROLL & BOOKKEEPING SERVICE - By certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.

WEDDING INVITATIONS Available at Lowell Litho 105 N. Broadway. Stop by & Check out a book! 4 books to choose from. Wide variety of invitations and prices. Ph. 897-9261

PIANO INSTRUCTION - Experienced, patient, performer & teacher has openings starting in June. Member of MMTA & GRPTF. Ph. 897-9485. email MissMeowisic@msn.com.

AN ABSOLUTE ADVANTAGE - offering lowest prices on quality vinyl siding & windows. Expert installation. Eliminate middle man costs. Save Big! Senior discount. Call Ron Cash today 616-891-5896.

DOES YOUR CHRYSLER, PLYMOUTH, DODGE CAR, TRUCK OR VAN NEED REPAIR? - Don't make a mistake & take it anywhere else - give Geo-Tech a try! Contact George at Geo-Tech Transmission & Repair, 897-0743.

**Garage Sale Page**

**GARAGE SALE** - Sat., May 29, 9-7 1818 Parnell SE (near Settlewood)

**GARAGE SALE** - 4361 Buttrick Ave, between Cascade Rd. & Whitneyville Ave. Fri. & Sat., May 28 & 29, 9-5 p.m. Variety of new & old for all ages!

**GARAGE SALE** - Fri., May 28 & Sat., May 29, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 13505 Crestwood off N. Washington. Name brand clothing, teen to adult, golf clubs, misc. furniture, something for everyone. Follow balloons.

**MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE** - Great prices, Thurs. & Fri., May 27 & 28, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. 14110 68th St., Alto. Between Pratt Lake & Montcalm Rd.

**YOURS, MINE & OURS SALE** - 5/28, 8-3 p.m. & 5/29, 8-3 p.m. Household items, men's & women's clothing (lg. sizes), small appliances & much more. 10702 Settlewood, M-21 to Settlewood/Parnell.

**GARAGE SALE** - 1 day only! May 29. Priced to sell. Variety of household items. Emptied out a storage unit. Children's books, teaching supplies, cell phones, pitching net, even a kitchen & bathroom sink. 13322 Grand River Dr., Lowell.

**MAY 28 & 29, 9-4 p.m.** 1570 Hawthorne Hills Dr. off Fulton just E. of Sargent. Lots of baby items, baby clothes, girls to 4T & boys to 18 mos. Toys, furniture & lots more!

**GARAGE SALE** - May 28 & 29, 928 Riverside Dr., Lowell. Rescue Heroes, girls clothes, lots of misc.

**YOUR AD COULD BE HERE! CALL US TODAY! 897-9555**

**MOVING SALE** - Swing set, books, Precious Moments, girls clothes 8-12, ladies clothes 10-12, toys, exercise equipment, Beanie Babies, household items and much much more. May 27, 28, & 29, 8 a.m. - 7, 832 N. Jefferson.

**GARAGE SALES** - 290 & 306 Sagamore Trail. Fri. & Sat., May 28 & 29, 8:30 to 5 p.m. Little bit of everything: computer, office, garden, tools, electronics, sports, clothes, kitchen & household items.

**YARD/PORCH SALE** - May 27, 28 & 29, 9:00 - 9:30 3435 Causeway Dr., Murray Lake, Lowell. Clock and watch repair tools & parts, clock lathe, fax telephone, men's clothes, beautiful card mail boxes for graduations & weddings, roller skates & Indian dolls and much more. 897-8927.

**ANTIQUES/COLLECTIBLES YARD SALE** - 465 Pineland Dr., off Vergennes 1/4 mi. from Pettis. Fri. & Sat., May 28 & 29, 9-6 p.m. Dishes, glassware, side & ice cream chairs, furniture, wicker, oil lamps, household, books, baskets, bunkbed, rugs, microwave, handicap items, bikes & much more. Cash only. Don't miss this one.

**NEIGHBORHOOD SALES** - May 27 & 28, 702 & 820 N. Jefferson. Antique furniture, "1800" pie safe, attic treasures, wicker, housewares, flute, clarinet, Little Tikes toys, MUCH MORE!

**NEIGHBORHOOD SALES** - 6+ locations, East side of river in Lowell. Pick up list of homes at your first stop. 27 & 28 May.

**2 FAMILY GARAGE SALE** - lots of girls & boys clothing, toys, home decor, Mary Kay & much more! May 27 & 28, 9-5 p.m. & May 29, 9-1 p.m. 792 Fallasburg Park.

**GARAGE SALE** - Avon products and lots of misc. May 28 to 31, 9A-5P, 2395 Pinckney Rd.

**ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY SALE AT PERRY'S** - Fri. & Sat., May 28 & 29. Quality household items, clothes, furniture, bikes, lawnmowers, toys, snowblowers, knick-knacks, fine jewelry & misc. Something for everyone. 6939 Alden Nash Rd. (M-50).

**CLEAN SWEEP** - Furniture, toys, kids and adult clothes, antiques, housewares, automotive, tools, exercise equip., misc. May 29 - 31, 9 a.m. - ?? 12584 Vergennes, Lowell, 1/8 mile west of Lincoln Lake Rd. intersection.

**CARRIAGE HOUSE SALE** - Camp & cottage furniture, vintage linens, coffee table, trunks, perennials, antiques, lamps. 520 N. Monroe, 27 & 28 May, 9-6 p.m.

**CAMPBELL LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD SALES** - May 28 & 29. Crib, stroller, antique oak desk, guitar, bedroom suite, sofa, Toro lawnmower, Avon, leather recliner, clothes, dishes, toys, file cabinet, boys infant-size 6, Dygert Dr. off 84th St., 1 mile east of Whitneyville Rd.

**GARAGE SALE** - May 27 & 28. Guns, tools, electric hand grinder, vices, military stuff, Jack knives. 210 Marsac, Lowell. 8-5 p.m.

**MULTI FAMILY SALE** - Furniture, camping stuff, foosball table, clothing, household, '94 Ford conversion van, auto parts, etc. May 28 & 29, Fri. 9-6 p.m., Sat. 8-2 p.m., 515 King St. (corner of N. Jackson and King).

**Come Join  
The Celebration!**

**Observed Monday,  
May 31, 2004**

**LOWELL**

*The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8303 and American Legion Post #152 invite all Veterans, Civic Organizations, Scouts & other participants to take part in the annual Memorial Day Ceremonies & salute our deceased & living Veterans.*

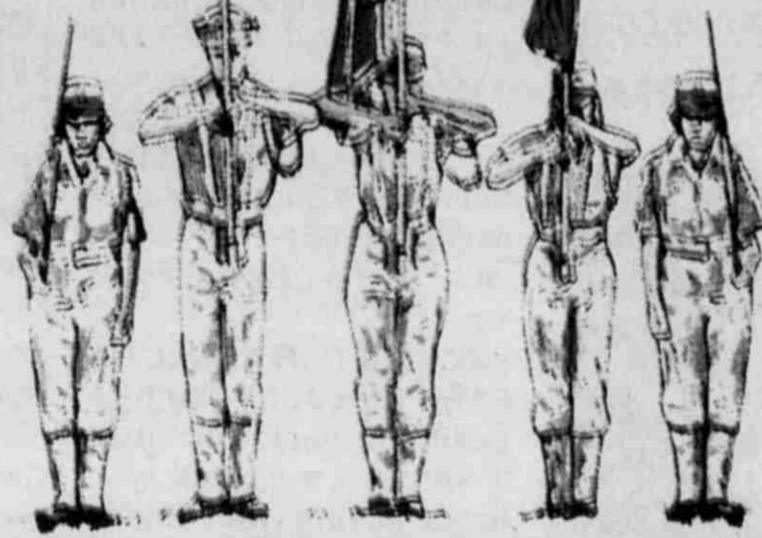
**MONDAY, MAY 31, 2004** - The parade assembles and forms at Kent County Youth Fairgrounds on S. Broadway St. between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. with departure promptly at 9:30 a.m. *(We can no longer block Hudson St.)*

The parade will proceed North on Broadway St., East on Main St. with the usual stop at the Veterans memorials on the east side of the Flat River for rendering of honors to Those Who Have Perished at Sea.

The parade continues East on Main St., North on Monroe to Oakwood Cemetery for observances at the GAR Civil War Memorial there. Any wishing to participate should please contact Parade Marshal Gordon Marshall at 897-8625.

Only floats depicting or expressing patriotic themes shall be permitted. **Commercial and political advertising is prohibited. Tossing of candy from floats or passing out of literature along the parade route, is strictly prohibited. Memorial Day is a day to remember and honor those who have served our nation and have passed on.**

Guest Speaker: (at this time) -Rev. Dean Bailey



**SARANAC**

10:00 a.m. - Parade starts at Erv Taylor Avenue at the rear of business district and ends at the cemetery. All entries welcome. There will be a program at the cemetery.

**Speaker:** Sheriff Dwain Dennis of Ionia County  
**FREE COFFEE & DONUTS** for parade participants at the American Legion prior to parade.

**ALTO MERRIMAN CEMETERY**

Monday, May 31 @ 2 p.m. In case of rain go to Alto Methodist Church.

**SOUTH BOSTON CEMETERY**

107th meeting of South Boston Cemetery Association will be held on Monday, May 31, 2004 at noon at the South Boston Bible Church on 6958 Kyser Road. Speaker will be Rev. Robert Roush of Friendship Country Chapel. There will be a potluck dinner at the Fellowship Building following the service. All are invited to attend.

**BOWNE CENTER**

8:00 p.m. - Meet at the Bowne Cemetery. Service will be held followed by a gun salute and taps.

**GRATTAN**

16th Annual Bridge Walk and Memorial Day Tribute. Monday, May 31, 2004.

7:00 - 10:00 a.m: Pancake Breakfast-Sponsored by Grattan Twp. Fire Dept. & Ladies Auxiliary

11:15 a.m: Memorial Service-Grattan Center Cemetery

Noon: Bridge Walk

OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL

**THIS AD IS SPONSORED BY THE  
FOLLOWING LOCAL BUSINESSES:**

**Harold Zeigler Ford**  
11979 E. Fulton, Lowell  
**897-8431**

**Regal Insurance Agency**  
835 W. Main, Lowell  
**897-9259**

**Wittenbach Olds - Pontiac-GMC**  
749 W. Main, Lowell  
**897-9227**

**State Farm Ins. Roger Chapman**  
217 W. Main, Lowell  
**897-9237**

**ICNB**  
2601 W. Main, Lowell  
**897-6171**

**Bernard's Ace Hardware**  
1601 W. Main, Lowell  
**897-9490**

**Vennen Chrysler-Dodge-Plymouth**  
930 W. Main, Lowell  
**897-9281**

**Keiser's**  
700 E. Main, Lowell  
**897-8455**

**ReMax Country Hills**  
2345 Bowes Rd. Lowell  
**897-8106**

**VFW #8303**  
3116 Alden Nash Ave. Lowell  
**897-8303**

**JB Harrison Insurance Agency**  
6090 Alden Nash, Alto  
**868-0050**

**Sneakers**  
211 E. Main, Lowell  
**897-6746**

**Lowell Granite Co.**  
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1450 W. Main, Lowell  
**897-9231**

**L & A Rent-All**  
2401 W. Main Lowell  
**897-8451**

**Thomet Chevrolet-Buick**  
1250 W. Main, Lowell  
**897-9294**

**Lowell Tire Center Ronda Tire**  
746 W. Main, Lowell  
**897-6200**

**Roth Gerst**  
305 N. Hudson, Lowell  
**897-7101**

**City Of Lowell**  
301 E. Main, Lowell  
**897-8457**