

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 30 Issue 37

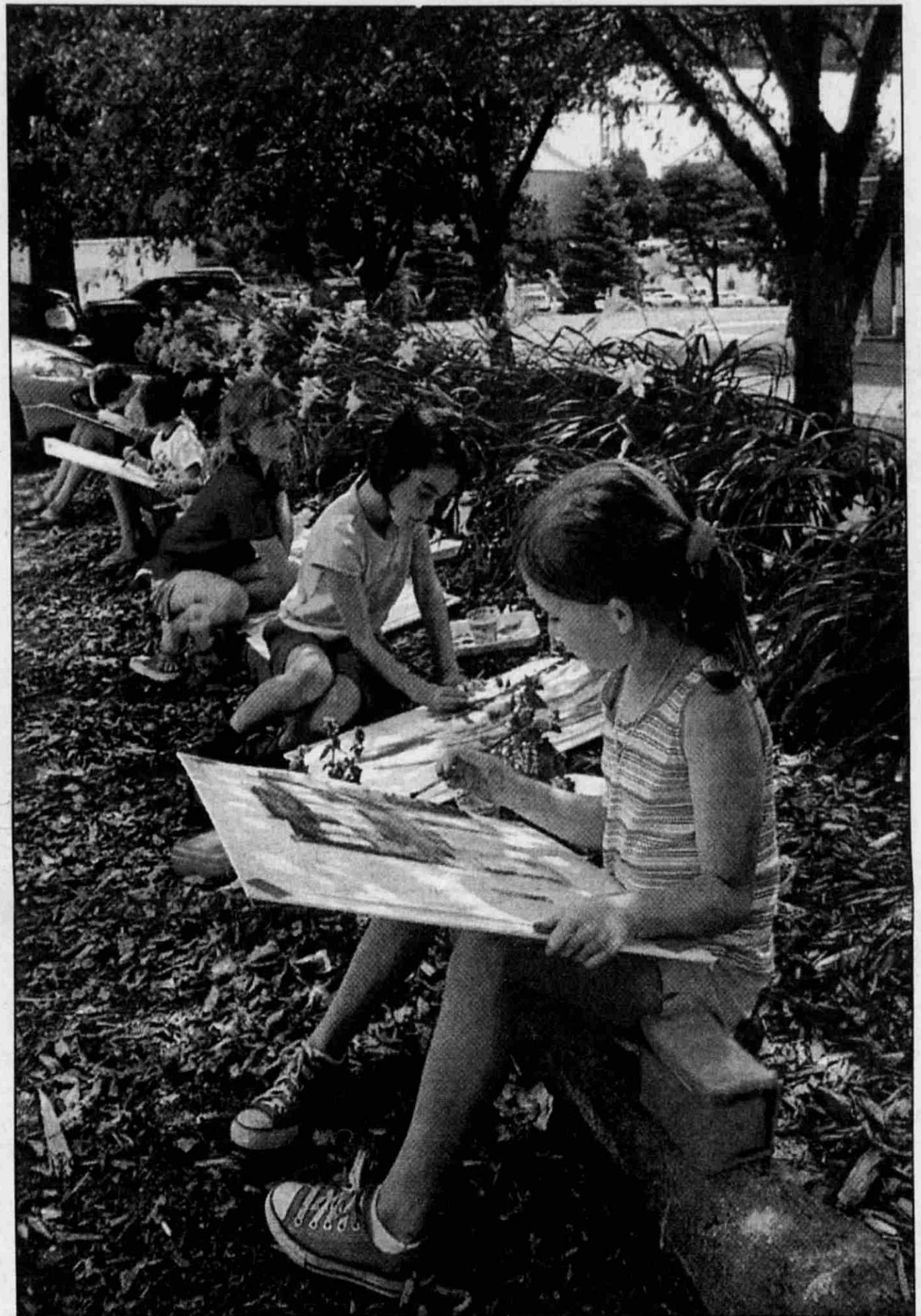
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Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Young artisans develop skills at summer art camp



Thursday was the fourth and final day of the Lowell Area Arts Council's summer fine arts camp. In addition to painting city scenes, campers painted portraits, made papier mache masks, wild pottery animals, collages of bugs, mosaic stepping stones and pots. The camp consisted of mostly visual arts projects this year, but campers also practiced musical rhythms on African drums. At left, Olivia Benzing concentrates on feeling the rhythm. At right (front to back), Lauren Weidenfeller, 8; Cassidy Kryger, 7; Katie Lane, 7; Alyssa Darby, 8; and Nikolaus Sanders, 10; paint Lowell scenes as viewed from the Flat River Antique Mall parking lot.



Coming into Lowell? "Please Turn Your Radios Down"

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell Police Department plans to step up enforcement of city noise laws related to car stereo systems.

"We're getting complaints from the residents of the city about the loud stereos," says officer Steve Bukala.

He explained the police office receives several such complaints per week.

"If you're inside your house and your windows are closed, and you have your TV on and you can hear a radio going down the road, obviously that's too loud," Bukala said. "We are going to start enforcement action but we want to inform the general

public, mainly the younger drivers with the \$1,000 stereo systems, that they need to keep it down."

Police can pull a motorist over for having the radio on too loud. Tickets range from \$50 to \$100 and require a court appearance.

Ralph Anheuser, owner of Special FX Inc, a business that installs car audio compo-

nents at 11390 E. Fulton in Lowell Charter Township, has posted "Please Turn Your Radios Down" on his sign on the way into Lowell. He put the message up for people who congregate at his shop occasionally to show off their car stereo systems.

"The people across the street are complaining so I told them I'd put a sign up and

see if I can help control it," Anheuser said.

He said most of the loud stereo systems in town were installed at other shops. He added that 70 percent of his shop's business is non-audio car accessories, and most of the radio work he does is just CD-player replacement and the like.

"I really haven't done all that many big systems around here," Anheuser said. "The people with big radios in their cars already had a big system in their car or were looking to get one."

"I don't think it's because of me that everybody's getting loud and obnoxious."

Township approves adult entertainment ordinance

By Dan Schneider

Any entrepreneur wishing to build an adult entertainment establishment in Lowell Charter Township will have to build it on the corner of M-21 and Boves Road. The southwest quadrant of that intersection is the only site in the township's commercial zone that fits requirements laid out in the

adult entertainment ordinance adopted at Monday's meeting of the Lowell Charter Township board.

The ordinance prohibits sexually-oriented adult entertainment businesses, such as strip clubs and porn shops, within 500 feet of the following: residential areas, schools, churches, daycare providers, public parks and other adult entertainment businesses. The

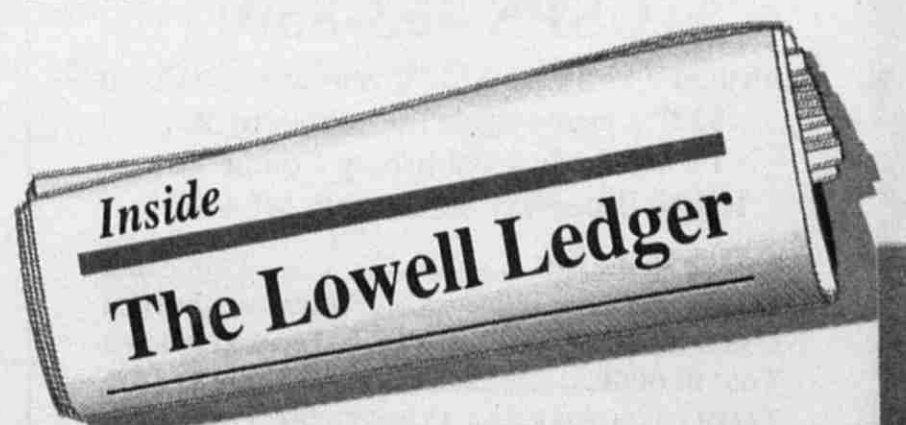
establishment of the space requirement alone makes it difficult to build an adult establishment.

"They would have to argue long and hard to get past that," said township planning commission secretary David Simmonds, who presented the ordinance to the board.

Under the ordinance, an adult entertainment establishment could be built only in

the township's commercial district and would require a special use permit. Activities within the building could not be visible from the outside. No one under the age of 18 would be allowed to work in or patronize the establishment. The hours of operation would have to fall between 7 a.m. and 2:30 a.m.

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Street Remains "High"

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Township Elections

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OBITUARIES

ACHESON - Marilyn J. Acheson, aged 80, of Lowell, passed away Friday, July 16, 2004. She was preceded in death by her son Tom Shimmel. She is survived by her husband Howard Acheson Sr.; her brother Donald (Sharon) Geelhoed; sisters Donna VanderLaan, Loraine Sloan, Eleanor (Jim) Serne; grandchildren Carol Shimmel, Christopher Shimmel, Lee Ann Shimmel, Ron Acheson, Karen Ham; stepson Howard (Gail) Acheson Jr.; four great-grandchildren Chase, Cheyenne, Toog, Juju; and her extended family. Funeral services were held Tuesday at the Roth-Gerst Chapel, Dr. Michael Conklin of First United Methodist Church of Lowell officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the First United Methodist Church of Lowell.

BREEN - Nancy L. Breen, aged 56, of Lowell, passed away July 17, 2004. She was preceded in death by her parents Charles Simmons and Jean Tryon; brother David Simmons; sister Sandra Kay (Simmons) Smith. She is survived by her sons James (China) Breen of Belmont, Scott Breen of Grand Rapids; brother Thomas (Pam) Simmons of CA; sisters Carol (Donald) Tryon of Cedar Springs, Judy (George) Mollien of Cedar Springs; sister-in-law Judy (James) Zydor of Grand Rapids; six grandchildren; many nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles. Following Nancy's wishes there will be private visitation and services. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes Rd., Lowell 49331.

FLOYD - Lora Welthie (O'Harrow) Floyd passed away on July 14, 2004, at the family farm where she was born September 16, 1913. She was preceded in death by her

husband Charlie "Curtis" Floyd in 1972 and a brother Miles O'Harrow. She is survived by her sister Lettie Shelling and her children Eva (Floyd) and George Goethal of Marysville, Byron Floyd of Ann Arbor, Kim and Joyce Floyd of Wrightwood, CA, and Cy and Lorraine Floyd of Lowell; grandchildren Mary and Mark Truett, Cameron Floyd, Darren Floyd, Christopher Floyd, Randy and Chris Floyd, Timothy Floyd, Laurie Floyd, Scott Floyd, Catherine VanDeWege and Jodi Lang, as well as many great-grandchildren and a great-granddaughter. Lora graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor of arts degree in 1933. She worked for Saginaw Gray Iron, Meijer Thrifty Acres and while living in Rogers Heights for 20 years, she worked for Ferris State College. Most recently she lived at Lowell Schneider Manor and leaves behind many good friends in her 22 years there. According to her wishes, cremation has taken place, and there will be no funeral home visitation or services.

HEFFRON - Elizabeth A. Heffron, nee Bette Young, was born in Lowell, June 27, 1925. She attended Lowell Public Schools and studied art in Grand Rapids. She continued her love of art through teaching for several years. Both Elizabeth and her husband of 57 years traveled extensively, and eventually made their home in Northern California for 20 years, where they established their own business near San Francisco. Upon retirement, they returned to Grand Rapids. Elizabeth was a life-long member of the Lutheran Church, most recently Christ Lutheran of Wyoming. After a lengthy illness, Elizabeth was called to her heavenly home on July 11, 2004. She is survived by her husband

Ray of Hudsonville; daughter Patricia; son Jerry; grandsons Sloan and Christopher all of California; brothers Hugh (Marcie) Young of Lowell, Dick (Evelyn) Young of Jenison. A second son Terry passed away in 1991 in California. A memorial service was held Thursday at Christ Lutheran Church officiated by Rev. Timothy Brown. Donations may be made to Hospice of Michigan or to the Elizabeth Heffron Fund at Christ Lutheran Church.

MANKEL - Carol Mankel, aged 58, of Coopersville, passed away very unexpectedly Friday, July 16, 2004. She is survived by her children Bryan (Linda) Mankel of Grand Rapids, Keith (Michelle) Mankel of Coopersville; her beloved grandchildren Bryan Melle, Felicia Mankel, Ilah Mankel, Brett Mankel, Emily Mankel; mother Thelma Hecksel of Coopersville; brother and sister Nancy Ryan of Grant, Glenn (Ilene) Hecksel of Orleans, Gary (Lois) Hecksel of Byron Center, Ken (Erin) Hecksel of Lowell; several nieces and nephews. Also her special friends the Dale and Bonnie Peck family, Mass of Christian Burial, and the staff at the Oncology unit at Blodgett. In celebration of Kathy's life, a private funeral service was held at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, with Rev. Gordie Barry officiating. A special memorial celebration was held at the Lowell Performing Arts Center Saturday. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Coopersville Cares.

RUOSS - Mrs. Esther Mary "Pat" Ruoss (nee Bielskas), aged 87, of Grand Rapids, went to join her loving husband Chris, Tuesday, July 13, 2004. Surviving are her children Ken (Sheryl) Ruoss, Rick (Linda) Ruoss, Mary Kay (Tony) Demski; grandchildren Alex, Tyler, Kyle, Rob, Kim and Rachelle; two great-grandchildren; one brother Rev. Edward Bielskas; sister Theresa Blanchard; sister-in-law Mary Doering; many nieces and nephews. Appreciation to the nurses and staff of Laurels of Kent; Marcia Satterla, the Danners, the Tuross and Cleavers, and her special neighbors. She was a member of Blessed Sacrament where a Mass of Christian Burial and Committal Service was celebrated Friday. In lieu of flowers masses in her memory will be appreciated.

TALUS - Katharine Ann Talus, aged 48, of Rockford, passed away July 14, 2004. She was preceded in death by her father Toivo Talus. She is survived by her mother Ailie Talus of Negaunee; sisters Jean

(Norman) McDougall of Brighton, Carrie (Mark) Trehella of Granger, Ind.; brother Larry Talus of Negaunee; nieces Brenda (Bill) Deyoe and their children Will and Gwen; nephew Brad (Lisa) McDougall and their daughter Hannah; nephews and niece Andrew, Matthew, Marissa; her very dear friend Thea Gerrish and her family; many special relatives and friends. Kathy's mere presence, her ability to listen and teach will forever enrich the lives of her family and friends. Kathy was a Breast Cancer survivor for the past 15 years, living her life with determination and courage. It was her zest for life that will be cherished. Kathy was a dedicated and creative health teacher at Lowell High School for 25 years. She was the girls track coach and former basketball coach. She was inducted into the NMU Sports Hall of Fame in 1989 (field hockey and basketball). She was the recipient of the 1996 KCEA Teacher of the Year. She was the former adviser for SADD and Lady Arrows Varsity Club. Special thanks to Dr. Kathleen Yost/her staff and the caring staff at the Oncology unit at Blodgett. In celebration of Kathy's life, a private funeral service was held at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, with Rev. Gordie Barry officiating. A special memorial celebration was held at the Lowell Performing Arts Center Saturday. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Kathy Talus Memorial Fund or the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

VEERSMA - Linda "Lin" M. Veersma, aged 56, of Lowell, went to be with her Lord on July 17, 2004. Her father Ralph Waters preceded her in death. She is survived by her beloved husband Robert "Bob" Veersma; two daughters Stephani Mauzy, Michelle (Eric) Schlaack; mother Dorothy Waters; sister Leslie (Dennis) Hess of Howard City; brother-in-law Dick (Debbie) Veersma of Rockford; two aunts Margaret Dunn, Marion Humrickhouse; several nieces and nephews. She was a faithful daughter, a wonderful wife, mother and friend. For over 20 years, Lin worked in the insurance industry. She had a great sense of humor and will be greatly missed by all. Funeral services were held on Tuesday at the Metcalf & Jonkhoff Chapel. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions are suggested to the Sjogrens Syndrome Foundation, Inc. 8120 Woodmont Ave., Ste. 530, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Kathy Talus remembered for her courage and commitment



Talus is pictured with her nephew, Andrew Trehella, backstage at a recent theater production in which Trehella was acting.

By Dan Schneider

Kathy Talus taught health and coached girls track at Lowell High School for 25 years. For the past 15 years she has repeatedly fought breast cancer. She continued to teach in spite of the battle until midway through this past school year.

Last Wednesday, Talus lost her fight with cancer. The staff she worked with, in the classroom and on the track field, remember her tenacity, courage and humor. "She coached the entire time she had cancer ... nothing stopped her," Robin Briggs said. "She never quit and she taught her athletes that; she lived by it."

"She's just one of the strongest human beings I've ever met." Briggs was Talus's assistant coach for nine years. The Red Arrows won consecutive conference championships Talus's last three seasons. She took the team to the state meet two of those years. She also coached girls basketball, volleyball and cross country at both middle school and high school levels.

As a health teacher, Talus kept up with modern health issues and wasn't afraid to teach tough ones.

"She didn't back away from AIDS when AIDS came out in '81. She taught it, she knew that kids needed to know," Marsha LaHaye said. LaHaye and Talus taught health together in the fall of

1979, when they both started at the high school.

Talus won the Kent County Education Association's 1996 Teacher of the Year award.

"Her courage and her determination through all of this cancer—she never complained," LaHaye said. "We'd be crapping about a head cold and she would be going in for chemo and not complaining a word." Talus had four major bouts with cancer.

Talus rebuilt the Lady Arrows varsity club at Lowell High School, to help varsity athletes be role models and mentors for younger girls. She also started and was adviser for the Lowell High School chapter of Students Against Drunk Driving.

"She was just one of those people who, if you needed help getting something going, you'd just tell her," Laurie Summerfield said. "She had a lot of irons in the fire ... she'd get you working on stuff but it was so much fun and you'd laugh so hard, whatever you were doing, it didn't seem like work at all."

Summerfield met Talus when she started teaching gym at Lowell High School. Talus and Summerfield, an assistant track coach with her at one time, also initiated a variety show at the high school.

"She really felt strongly that everybody who wanted to perform should be able to get on stage," Summerfield said.

City's construction projects moving toward completion

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

What would be a summer without a little bit of road construction? In Michigan, it probably means it's another season.

The city of Lowell has several major road projects taking place this summer: Center/Clark streets and Foreman/Gee Drive, both of which are going

well, according to Dave Austin of Williams and Works.

Austin gave a short report to the city council at its Monday night meeting. He said the Center/Clark streets project has been delayed trying to obtain the proper gravel. The estimated completion date was actually July 20. Austin said that date was a random estimation.

Austin expects gravel to be in this week with paving completed by next week. The project will not require any more disturbances on Bowes Road and all the utilities have been put into place, he said.

The Foreman/Gee Drive project ran into a few snags including an array of utility lines found under one inter-

section which ran from Hudson to Beech. "We actually found lines that weren't really servicing anyone," Austin said. "Rather than wait around for [the utility work] to be completed, we moved on to the next section of the project."

The second phase was to go from Beech St. to the railroad tracks. The railroad com-

pany is scheduled to work on the tracks before November, but Austin said he did not know the exact date. At this point, the contractors are ready to pave from Hudson to the railroad tracks. Once this is completed, the project will flip, allowing traffic through the Hudson intersection so the

third phase, from the tracks and beyond, can be finished. Completion date for the Foreman/Gee Drive project is Aug. 20.

"We haven't uncovered any major problems," Austin said, adding that the city had to do a little more utility work than was expected.

Council decides High Street's moniker will remain

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

Since her home was built about 150 years ago, it has always been at 905 High St. and as far as Lynn Dawson is

concerned, she wants it to stay that way.

Dawson was one of three public speakers who voiced their opposition to changing the name of High Street, east

of James Street, to Highland Hill Drive. This was the request of Sundry, which is working on the Highland Hill project that will be located at the end of the street. The rea-

son for the request, Sundry stated in a letter to the city, is due to the number of thefts of the street sign at that location, and the issue the missing signs could create once the new

homes are up and occupied.

The Lowell City Council held a public hearing on the name change at its Monday night meeting. While no one from Sundry was in attendance, several people voiced their concern over changing the name. Dawson said it seemed more like a "whim of the developer" that the name change was being made without any consideration to the amount of paperwork her family will have to go through to change their address.

Dawson is one of two homeowners on the street, city clerk Betty Morlock said, adding that about six property owners were contacted about the proposed change. The one thing Dawson thought was strange is that the developer is worried about the signs being stolen, but a High Street sign would still have to be placed at the intersection to designate the street.

Property owner, councilman Charles Myers, said the council and the city have made

several "self-serving concessions" to the developer and he felt this is "one more self-serving concession we are being asked to make."

Planning commission chair Clarke Jahnke said he is concerned about two different street names at an intersection. That can be even more confusing for those looking for a specific location; drivers can easily misread a sign and think they are on the wrong road, Jahnke explained, adding that he didn't think it was a good idea.

Jane Mathews was concerned about the precedent it sets with others wanting to seek name changes to various portions of High Street.

"I just don't think it is necessary at all," said councilman James Hodges who with mayor Jeanne Shores tried to get a "no action" approved on the motion. Instead the council voted in favor of denying the request and to leave the name High Street alone.

Lowell High School Class of '39



The Lowell High School Class of 1939 met for their 65th class reunion on July 10 at Schneider Manor with 18 graduates in attendance. Besides reminiscing and catching up on happenings since their last reunion, the group enjoyed a noon meal catered by Annalaine's Catering Plus of Alto. The class has met every five years since their graduation. Forty-six of the 75 graduates are still living.

Pictured, first row, left to right, are: Betty (Freeman) Kropf, Elsie (Richards) White, Ernestine (Althaus) Stauffer, Lloyd Stauffer, Doris (Johnson) Boyd and Sybil (Reynolds) Robertson. Back row are: Edwin Roth, Ardis (Schneider)

Merrill, Donald Anderson, David Coons, Elaine (Hobbs) Nearing, Darlene (Ruark) Jousma, Jacqueline (Day) Willwerth, Dorothy (Slater) DeMaar, Helen (Shores) Houseman, Beulaine (Miller) Hillaski, Marjorie (Gross) Potter and Ralph Roth.

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11:25, 1:50, 4:15, 6:50, 9:15
O A CINDERELLA STORY (PG)
12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20
O ANCHORMAN (PG-13)
11:35, 1:35, 3:35, 5:35, 7:35, 9:35
O KING ARTHUR (PG-13)
11:15, 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55
O SPIDER-MAN 2 (PG-13)
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

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The teacher is often the first to discover the talented and unusual scholar. How he handles and encourages, or discourages, such a child may make all the difference in the world to that child's future—and to the world.

—Loren Eisleb

LHS Class of 1950 still relishes old high school rivalries

By Dan Schneider

About 15 years ago, the Lowell High School class

of 1950 got together to plan a reunion. They've been having fairly constant reunions ever since.

That graduating class had 69 students and a lot of them still live in Lowell. Now in their 70s, the former

classmates meet about once a month to tell old stories.

Last Thursday was old football stories from the Red Devil days of Lowell's pigskin history. A good number of the starting lineup from those years were sitting around Norm Borgerson's living room: halfback Gordy Newell; fullback Gordon Sterzick; left tackle Amos Sterzick; halfback Ron Collins, and others.

Although Borgerson was in a hospital bed with an oxygen mask, due to lung cancer, he was still talking a blue streak about the old times with "the kids." They were talking about sleeper plays ... which were legal back then, Rex Collins' 80-yard quick kicks, and the

1949 Grand Valley Conference championship.

"I hate East Grand Rapids," Ken Williams said. "It was the one time we lost to them all year and it was one run they got through."

East Grand Rapids had beaten Lowell 7-6 on a last-minute touchdown drive to win that championship.

Everybody on that team, hanging out last Thursday, had known each other since they were kids. That's why they still call themselves "the kids."

"Well, they're the kids because all of us started as friends together before kindergarten," Borgerson explained. "There were neighborhoods of kids in those days and neighborhoods

kind of ran together, and those guys were the upper east siders."

Borgerson was the quarterback on the 1949 conference runner-up Red Devil team. He's the one who has kept the group together using subtle persuasion.

"I yell at them and tell them, 'x#!!xxx!!!, we got to get down to Keiser's and have a malted, it's about time," he said. "And I want everybody to come back to Lowell who's ever lived in Lowell and some of them listen."

Borgerson was a dentist in Big Rapids for 26 years before he moved back to the Washington Street house in which he grew up.



Gordy Newell, pictured with Norm Borgerson, is wearing Borgerson's 1950 Lowell High School varsity jacket. A group of "kids" from that year's graduating class has been meeting regularly for the past 15 years.

IN THE SERVICE

Private second class Thursday. The 2002 Lowell Clifford Heiman completed one station unit training with the 1st and 40th Field Artillery at Fort Sill, Okla. last

Thursday. The 2002 Lowell High School graduate will report for duty July 25 at Fort Bragg, N.C.



Clifford Heiman

COLLEGE NEWS

Calvin College has announced its spring 2004 graduates.

From the Alto area are Anne M. Buttery, Katherine L. Sikma, Brooke D. Wierenga and Kimberly B. Wolthuis.

Memory is the treasury and guardian of all things. —Cicero

James P. Price, a graduate of Lowell High School, has completed a bachelor of science degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Price is currently a member of The United States Air Force at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas.

The cure for all ills and wrongs, the cares, the sorrows and the crimes of humanity, all lie in the one word love. It is the divine vitality that everywhere produces and restores life.

—Lydia Maria Child

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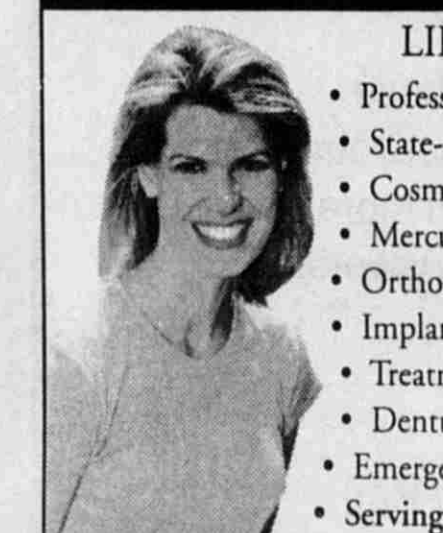
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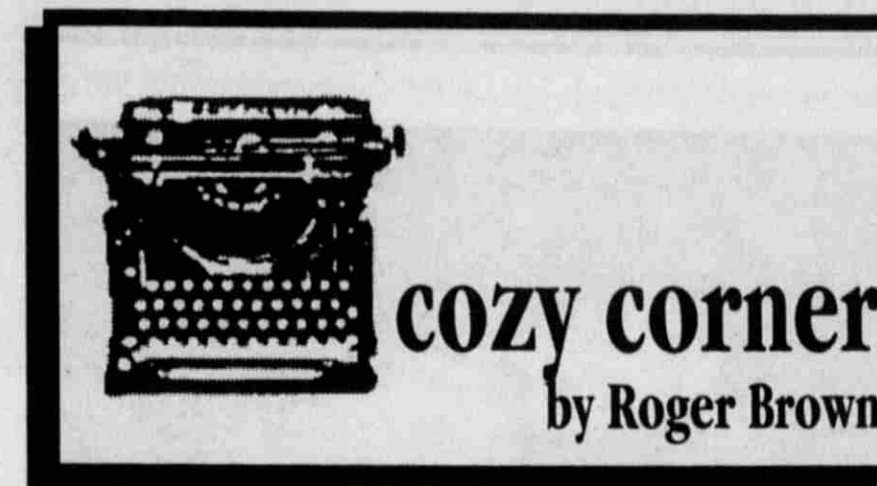
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Viewpoint . . .



Time for another rant about rude cell phone users. First a disclaimer: Yes, I have broken down and purchased a cell phone. I do use it when out making sales calls, primarily to stay in touch with the office, and sometimes when trying to find a customer. I always pull over before dialing out and usually get off the road when receiving a call. The phone stays in my truck, it is never on my person. I don't even know my cell phone number. This limited usage certainly doesn't put me on a level with those I see around me that seem hopelessly addicted to their phones.

We'll begin with cell phones and driving. I don't care if you "think" you can do both. I don't care if you've never been in an accident while talking and driving. Talking on the phone is distracting ... period. When behind the wheel you have very important responsibilities ... not the least of which is giving me a clue as to what you are doing. I am of course referring to the use of turn signals.

Now they are introducing cell phones into the equation. It's a good thing I have no inclination to ever go on another cruise. I'm afraid I'd have to herd a few people over the side ... blabbing on their cell phones all the way to the water. I saw Shaquille O'Neal (I'm guessing at the spelling) interviewed on Sports Center yesterday. One of the questions posed went something like, "If Kobe (Bryant) called you on your cell phone right now, would you talk to him?" Shaq's answer gave me a newfound respect for the big guy.

Shaq began by stating he doesn't have a cell phone. He said that he is "connected" with the people important to him. If there is a need to communicate with the people in this close group, they "communicate." Shaq then added something like "You have to understand how I think. When most people's thinking has reached an apex, The Diesel's (one of his nicknames) thought process is just beginning."

Shaq's theory may explain why people like he and I hate cell phones ... our thought process is on a higher plane. You think???

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor: The group of candidates running for Bowne Township office: Chris Wenger, Sandra Kowalczyk, Sally Johnson, Karen Kowalczyk-Hendrick and Joyce Reynhout, are running as a team with a platform of "experience."

Let's examine the "experience" they have given Bowne Township over the years: *Issue:* Chris Wenger is a former Bowne Township supervisor who was defeated in the 2000 election. While he was supervisor, Wenger made a "sweetheart deal" with a developer to convert his farm into a mobile home park. This was in direct conflict of the land use master plan approved by the township board, including himself. This action represented a glaring definite conflict of interest since Wenger was township supervisor at that time.

Sandra Kowalczyk was quoted in the *Lowell Ledger*, that based on their vote, "there would never be a mobile home park in Bowne Township."

intervention, the building sold to another bidder for the asking price of \$35,000. Is this really the "experienced team" the residents of Bowne Township want for the next four years? Thank you.

Sincerely,
Bernie Boelesa and
Donna Boelesa

of my comfort zone. But no, he had to be just like all those rude callers in airports who insist on invading the quiet places I seek out for reading.

At least this phone call was somewhat interesting. Most of the hundreds of one-sided conversations I've been forced to overhear are brain-numbing idle chit-chat.

This caller began by apologizing all over the place about not returning a call from the previous evening. He tossed out a litany of lame excuses. He then told whoever was on the other end that he was currently at a McDonalds in Rockford with his kids. In actuality, he was at the end of a dock in the Harbor Springs City Marina with no kids in sight. I resisted the incredible urge to scream that fact out for the benefit of the person being lied to.

I heard on a radio news report that cruise lines are about to introduce new technology that will allow cell phone use while at sea.

We went on a cruise once... once being the operative word. On a cruise you are herded through boarding, lifeboat drills and orientation. You are herded through breakfast, lunch and dinner. At every port you are herded off the ship, around the shopping district and back onto the ship. In short, you are in a herd of people all the time.

Now they are introducing cell phones into the equation. It's a good thing I have no inclination to ever go on another cruise. I'm afraid I'd have to herd a few people over the side ... blabbing on their cell phones all the way to the water.

I saw Shaquille O'Neal (I'm guessing at the spelling) interviewed on Sports Center yesterday. One of the questions posed went something like, "If Kobe (Bryant) called you on your cell phone right now, would you talk to him?" Shaq's answer gave me a newfound respect for the big guy.

Shaq began by stating he doesn't have a cell phone. He said that he is "connected" with the people important to him. If there is a need to communicate with the people in this close group, they "communicate." Shaq then added something like "You have to understand how I think. When most people's thinking has reached an apex, The Diesel's (one of his nicknames) thought process is just beginning."

Shaq's theory may explain why people like he and I hate cell phones ... our thought process is on a higher plane. You think???

Grattan Township. They have fought for the issues/concerns voiced by the community, even in the face of a failed recall effort.

Not only have both of these gentlemen established themselves as being "down to earth" and realistic in their day-to-day township activities, they have done a remarkable job in preserving farmland and open space in Grattan Township. Their effort to defeat the proposed Landon 690 unit mobile home park is a "shining star" on their record.

As residents of Grattan Township, we would like to voice our opinion of the great job performed by two representatives of our township. Denny Heffron and Paul Knoerl have exemplified themselves as trustees of

Grattan Township. They have fought for the issues/concerns voiced by the community, even in the face of a failed recall effort.

Not only have both of these gentlemen established themselves as being "down to earth" and realistic in their day-to-day township activities, they have done a remarkable job in preserving farmland and open space in Grattan Township. Their effort to defeat the proposed Landon 690 unit mobile home park is a "shining star" on their record.

Sincerely,
Michael M. &
Darlene C. Pickem

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.



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

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL JULY 23, 1879

Sometimes the tiny print in these old papers is a bit blurry too. So here are some ads instead:

"Lowell Omnibus Line, G. Waters, Proprietor. Leave orders at hotels."

"J.A. Lally, dentist. Office over post office. Special attention given to preservation of the natural teeth."

"Robert Marshall, Cooper. East Water Street. Flour barrels and all kinds of custom work."

"Boyce & Nash, Manufcs. of axes, Mattocks, Mill-picks, &c. Old plow points made new, mowers and reapers repaired."

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER JULY 21, 1904

The construction men have walked over the proposed right-of-way, and the Grand Rapids-Ionia Electric Road construction "will begin shortly."

Rail excursions to Grand Rapids and to Ottawa Beach are popular Sunday attractions.

Rural mail carriers in northern Michigan say they couldn't get along without the produce farmers set out for them.

Frank J. McMahon attended a meeting of the Grand Rapids Electric Light Association yesterday.

"Adjustment sale of \$10 suits for \$7.65 at Godfrey's. This sale is not to make money but to raise money."

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO JULY 25, 1929

The wife of a couple charged with the beating murder of an elderly woman is said to be a former Lowell girl.

The Ionia Road Commission has several hundred men at work, both building new roads and repairing old ones.

U.S. food prices rose by one percent between June 15 and July 15, and the editor warns about moving to the city to get a high-paying job.

Kent County has developed park, picnic areas and playgrounds in its newest rest spot, Fallasburg Park.

Two-column ads on both sides and a half-column movie ad in the center leave two columns and two half-columns for front-page news.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER JULY 22, 1954

The Robert E. Lee XIX is ready for Opening Night next Monday.

The new wheat crop is good in both price and quantity. Ferris Institute offers two years of high school credits in one year for veterans taking advantage of the reauthorized GI Bill.

Hail, wind and torrential rain struck Tuesday morning, flooding basements and knocking out power.

The Garden Lore Club and husbands have their annual picnic at Quab-a-Quash-Sha (Indian for "Flat River"), home of Dana and George Johnson.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER JULY 25, 1979

The opening Showboat parade is an impressive half-mile long.

Showboat has the "Biggest and best opener ever" with a packed house and Leslie Uggams to wow the audience.

Forrest "Bucky" Buck is an Endman for the 44th time this week.

Eastgate's Giant Grand Slam Garage Sale is set to go during Friday and Saturday this week.

Reflections Of Faith

Michael T. Conklin
First United Methodist Church

There is a little church in South Korea that lives in an upper floor in a high rise. It began with 50 members, and before long it grew to 100 members. Then, by prior agreement, and in keeping with their vision, the church split into two congregations. One congregation of 50 remained in their quarters. The second moved out to a new location. The congregation that stayed steadily grew, and when their membership reached 100, they split again. They do this over and over again as a means of spreading the Good News.

Will Rogers once said of Methodist preachers that they were like manure. Spread them around and they can do a lot of good. Keep them together too long in one place and they get to stinking. It is that way with all of God's people. Good news is not intended to be controlled and confined. God intends for it to spill out into the world like a free-flowing stream. "There is hope for the lost and abandoned," God declares. "The lost, the forgotten, the poor, and the outcast—there is a place at the table of grace for them all."

Yet too often we try to confine that Word of hope and promise to a particular place, a particular vision of how the people of God should look and act. It is like damming up a stream so that the flow downstream may be controlled and contained. In the Christian churches we build our dams out of sacraments of baptism and communion, throwing on our organizational structures as mortar for the stones. In local congregations we reinforce the dams with our buildings, our cherished programs, and our pet theologies. Sometimes the water flow downstream seems all but vanished. Like the mighty Colorado, it no longer has the power to cut new channels, or carve more deeply the rocky floor of the Grand Canyon.

And yet, as we learned this spring, sometimes the upstream pressure becomes so great that we have to cut the water loose and let it flow freely into the world. The book of Acts in the New Testament is often the story of the attempt by the early Christian community to control the direction and flow of the gospel into the world, only to discover that God has a different, more dynamic notion of how and by whom that Good News will go out. Stephen was not "ordained" as a preacher and an evangelist. He was one of those selected for servant ministry. And yet the Good News that brimmed inside him could not be contained, but flowed out freely until leaders, threatened by

the vitality and energy of his message, stoned him to death. A dam was built to stop the flow. And yet the stream of Good News splashed over Saul of Tarsus, who became the apostle Paul—and the stream flowed on.

A young campus minister offered a simple prayer at the dedication of a beautiful new campus chapel on the campus of the University of Oklahoma: "Lord, burn down this building and scatter these people for the sake of the gospel." I don't have his courage, but oh, sometimes I know that God is calling all of us to such a prayer!

ENGAGEMENTS

Baumgardner/Slone

Heidi Baumgardner and Darren Slone, both of Lowell.

The bride-to-be attended Lowell High School. She is the daughter of Cheryl Keller of Kentwood and the late

Warren (Bud) Baumgardner. The future groom attended Lowell High School. He is the son of Tom and Marion Clemens of Lowell and the late Lenville (Bud) Slone.



Darren Slone and Heidi Baumgardner

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JULY 22: Kelly Marie Roth, Laurie Fonger, Richard (Dick) Roth, Eric Shear, Noreen Myers.

JULY 23: Dave Fosburg, Nathan Swift, Heather Pretzel, Robert Jahnke.

JULY 24: Nathan Bush.
JULY 25: Ella Tuinstra, Wayne Thomas.

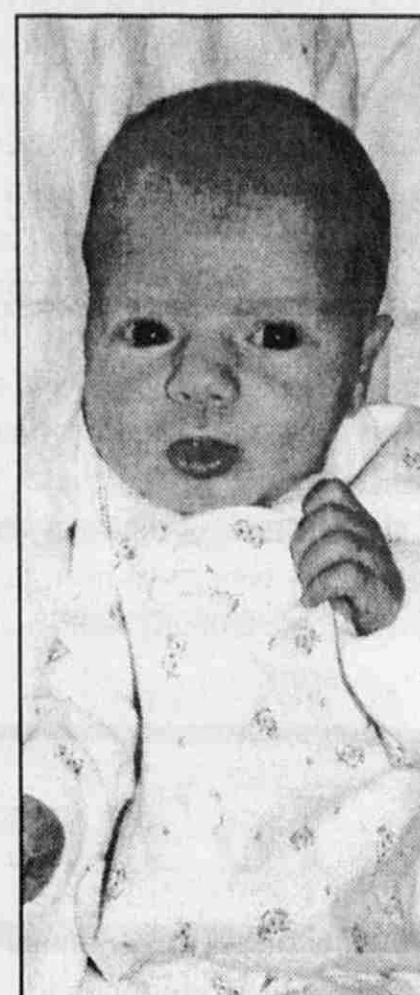
JULY 26: Elaine Gregersen, Eric Baird, Josh Geldersma.

JULY 27: Kyle Hendrick, Mike Shalander, Ed Roth Sr., Jason Spencer.

JULY 28: Tom Speerstra, Rachel Shanne Smith, Bobby Wright, Tiffany Hunt.

AREA BIRTHS

Luke and Jenni Bosscher of Grand Rapids are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Elyse Joy, born June 14, 2004. She weighed 5 lbs. 14 oz. and measured 18 inches long.



Elyse Joy Bosscher

Proud grandparents are Don and Deb Hall and Roger and Barb Bosscher, all of Lowell.

Great-grandparents are Harold and Lillian Bosscher of Lowell, Faye Postma of Grand Rapids and Norm and Millie Hall of Hastings.

Others welcoming Elyse home include aunts and uncles Kris and Sarah Fox and Shelley Bosscher of Lowell, and Dave and Michelle Bosscher of Houghton, Mich.; also cousin Garret C. Fox of Lowell.

Michelle Fetterhoff and Bruce Yeiter are the proud parents of a new baby daughter, Kara Louise Yeiter. She was born June 13 at Spectrum Health Butterworth Campus. She weighed 10 lbs. 2 oz. and measured 22 inches long.

Welcoming her home is big sister Alicia. Proud grandmas are Cora Yeiter and Teresa Fetterhoff.

Lowell student will attend young leaders conference in Washington D.C.

Ian Blodger, a Lowell student, will join 200 middle school students from throughout the United States at the Junior National Young Leaders Conference (JrNYLC) from July 30 through Aug. 4 in Washington, D.C.

Themed *The Legacy of American Leadership*, the Conference introduces young people to the rich tradition of leadership throughout American history, while helping them develop their own leadership skills. Blodger will participate in educational activities and presentations led by individuals in high-level positions as well as young people who exercise leadership skills within their communities. Students will also visit historic national landmarks, including Colonial Williamsburg.

"By participating in the Junior National Young Leaders Conference, students like Blodger will learn early that young people are not only welcome in Washington, D.C., but they actually keep this city and our

country running," said Mike Lasday, executive director of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council, the organization that sponsors JrNYLC.

In addition to examin-

ing notable U.S. leaders and historic figures, Blodger will study the impact of leadership throughout critical periods of American History including the Civil War and Reconstruction,

W.W.II, the Great Depression and the Civil Rights Movement.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Blodger of Lowell.

25 years together celebrated



Roger and Dorothy (Burton) Alighire will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on July 27 with a family dinner. A trip is planned for a later date. Their children are Dawn, Matthew and Rachel.

Silver anniversary



Carol and Ed Webb on their wedding day in 1979.

Ed and Carol (Thomson) Webb of Lowell celebrated their wedding anniversary on July 21. They were married 25 years ago on July 21, 1979 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Lowell. They have two children: John and Julie.

Congratulations On Your Engagement!



Amore
Collection

Experience the quality and contemporary styling of Amore at

Lowell Fine Jewelers
Chimera Design
208 E. Main • Lowell, MI
897-9480

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p>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 897-6284 or 485-4195 10AM Sunday School; 11AM Morning Service; 6PM Evening Service; Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.</p>	<p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M. OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>Contemporary Services Lowell High School Auditorium (Nursery & Children's Ministry Provided) Sunday Mornings.....10 AM Impact Youth (Sunday's at the Pastor's home).....5 PM Phone us @ 897-0333 or 437-5093 Call for a free CD Service Sample</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL Rev. William J. Renkema • 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>
<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 Summer Worship Services 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p>EVERGREEN MISSIONARY CHURCH 10501 Settlement • 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. Rev. Rick Ferguson - 987-8475 ALL ARE WELCOME! (Barrier-Free)</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor Dave Noonan, Asst. Pastor Stacy Holmes, College & Twenties Brian Baber, Youth Pastor SUNDAYS: Worship: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. WEDNESDAYS: Family Night (For All Ages) 7 p.m. Generation Jacob Youth: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL BRENDA BERONE 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, ENTRY FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>
<p>GOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Sunday Worship.....9:30 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremmer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. At 215 1/2 W. Main, Lowell (entrance in rear of building) CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com</p>	<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:45 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:50 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M. PASTOR LYN SMITH Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>	<p>SOUTH BOSTON BIBLE CHURCH (Kyser Road SE at Grand River Ave.) WE ARE YOUR NEIGHBORS • WE CARE ABOUT YOU Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M. Word of Life (for Jr. & Sr. High).....6:30 P.M. Evening Praise.....7:00 P.M. Wednesday Kids Klub (ages 2-5).....7:00 P.M. Olympians (1st - 6th grades) Prayer and Bible Study Library, Nursery, College & Children's Services provided - Wheelchair Accessible Church 897-7823 • Parsonage 897-5464 • sbccbch@juno.com</p>
<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbcloowell.org Rev. W. Lee Taylor & Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Services, 9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/JUV.....Wed. 6:15 & 7 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free "You Matter To God"</p>	<p>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648 Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 404 North Hudson • 897-5906 Worship and Church School.....10:00 A.M. Dr. Roger LaWare.....Pastor Megan MacNaughton.....Music Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>	

AREA BIRTH

Merren

Pete and Heather Merren of Belding, along with big sister Kelsey, welcomed twin boys to their family on June 22, 2004. Henry Mitchell was born at Carson City Hospital at 9:02 a.m., weighing 6 lbs. 12 oz. and measuring 20 inches long. Owen Michael

was born at 9:03 a.m., weighing 7 lbs. 14 oz. and measuring 20 1/2 inches long.

Proud grandparents are Mike and Candy Merren of Sheridan, Cathy Ormiston of Lowell and Jon Ormiston of Lake Orion. Great-grandparents are Jane Merren of Greenville and Herb Swan of Lowell.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

HELP PROMOTE LITERACY

The Kent County Literacy Council has scheduled an information session on Monday, Aug. 2 for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 6:30 p.m. and lasts one hour. It allows persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors to find out more about the Council and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

The information session will be held at the Yankee Clipper Library, 2025 Leonard St. NE, Grand Rapids. Call 459-5151 to register.

RE-ELECT CARLTON BLOUGH

VOTE AUGUST 3RD
LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT CARLTON BLOUGH
12709 CASCADE RD., LOWELL

Woods BUILDERS

OPEN SUN 2-4 pm, WED 6-8 pm

9319 Clear Meadow
\$198,780 1640 sq ft

- 3 Bed, 2.5 Bath
- Daylight basement
- Master suite
- Spacious lot
- 2004 Parade Home

9311 Clear Meadow
\$205,925 1775 sq ft

- 3 Bed, 2.5 Bath
- Dining room/den
- Large master WIC
- Open floor plan
- Great location!

Location: Clear Meadow Estates; 52nd St, 1 mi east of Whitneyville Rd., Lowell Schools

For more information contact:
616/262-0424

A CROWN

IN ONE VISIT
...SIMPLE!

"If I had known it would be this easy, I wouldn't have put off getting a crown for so long. One visit and it was done. The crown fits and looks great. I have my smile back...simple!"

Family Dentistry of Lowell
- ANN WILSON, D.D.S. -

Tel. 897-4835 • 147 North Center Street • Lowell

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS 897-4835



Wittenbach Center host to huge family reunion

More than 300 members of the Wittenbach family showed up in Lowell and the vicinity this past weekend. They traveled from all over the United States and points farther east—including England and the family's homeland, Switzerland. Their purpose: to see what brought their family to this country in the late 19th century.

The first Wittenbach to move to Lowell was Friedrich in 1888. More family members immigrated; they farmed the large open spaces of Lowell and its surrounding area. Eventually some of the Wittenbach's got into the car business as well as various other pursuits in Lowell, Greenville and Belding.

The highlight of the two-day reunion was undoubtedly the family farm tour Saturday. The family visited four farms including Ed Wittenbach's award-winning apple orchards in Belding and Keith Feldman's Alto farm complete with 35 fully restored antique tractors. Family members went golfing, roasted hot dogs and practiced Swiss yodeling techniques. The family also set up an exhibit of historical family artifacts at the Wittenbach Center.

On Sunday, the reunion concluded with a worship service at Lowell High School, the dedication of a family cemetery marker and a family picnic.

Pictured is the Wittenbach Center across from Lowell High School. The Swiss flag is on the left; the Berne (bear) canton banner on the right greeted family members as they entered the center.

New proposals at latest school contract negotiations

By Dan Schneider

Contract negotiations for Lowell Area Schools teachers and support staff continued last Wednesday with both sides considering new proposals. The session lasted from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"It's the longest session we've had," Lowell Education Association president Dorann Truax said. "It was a positive session, I thought, and productive."

"There's definitely been movement, there's movement on both sides and that's always a positive sign."

The district presented its formal proposal in response to the unions' formal proposal from the June 28 mediation session. The union

received the district proposal the Monday before the mediation session. The unions responded with a mediated proposal at the session.

School board members Pat Nugent and Mark Lessens were present at the mediation session.

Both formal proposals were for a three-year contract. Since the contract was unsettled through all of last school year, a three-year contract would be in effect through the 2005-2006 school year.

The district released a summary of both formal proposals, Monday.

On June 28, the LEA and LESPA proposed a contract with a two percent sal-

ary increase for each of the three years the proposal covers. In the unions' proposal, health insurance benefits would continue under the Michigan Education Special Services Association (MESSA)'s Super Care plan. The coverage would change to MESSA Choices, a less expensive plan awaiting state approval, once it becomes available.

The unions proposed a \$2 drug card and a deductible of \$50 for singles and \$100 for families. Their proposal added language to the contract about the district cutting middle school planning time.

Under the district proposal, raises would be limited to step increases for 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 with the district continuing to pay insurance premiums. The insurance would stay under the MESSA Super Care plan, changing to MESSA Choices when it becomes available.

"There's no guarantee it

will be approved," LAS superintendent Shari Miller said. "We don't yet know exact premium costs, nor do we know when it will become available."

The district proposed a \$5 drug card and a \$100/\$200 deductible to recoup some of the costs of continued district payment for insurance premiums.

Under the district proposal, contract negotiations on the topics of insurance benefits and salary increase would reopen for negotia-

tion for the 2005-2006 school year. While bargaining is under way on those two items, the district would pay 90 percent of insurance premiums and the employees would pay 10 percent.

Last Wednesday, both sides approved the calendar for the 2004-2005 school year by letter of consent. The main change is the new calendar includes three more professional development days for school staff. This brings the total to eight and will allow the district to bet-

ter move forward with its strategic development plan, according to assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction Mark Kasmer.

"With No Child Left Behind... you have to improve, you can't stay status quo," Kasmer said.

The district and unions will have an informal meeting to discuss contract options Friday, July 23. The next official mediation session is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 17.

VOTE KURTIS PARKS

LOWELL TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE EXPERIENCE & LEADERSHIP

- Firefighter Lowell Area Fire Department
- Board of Directors Lowell Little League
- Board of Directors Lowell Expo
- Board of Directors Lowell YMCA
- Member Lowell Moose
- Oakfield Township Trustee
- Oakfield Township Planning Commission
- Eaton County Sign Board of Appeals
- Eaton County E.D.C.
- State of Michigan Senate Committee

GET OUT AND VOTE!!! AUGUST 3RD

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT KURT PARKS
2917 SEGWUN • LOWELL, MI 49331

PEBBLE BEACH APARTMENTS

1102 - 1116 Bowes Road
Lowell, MI 49331
Call Penny (616) 897-6880

\$995⁰⁰

Move In Special
13 Month Lease
Includes: Security Deposit,
Cleaning Fee (Non Refundable),
1st Month's Rent

CITY OF LOWELL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST OF THE OPTECH COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the OPTECH Computer Program Testing for the August 3, 2004 Primary Election will be conducted **Monday, July 26, 2004 at 3:00 PM** at the Lowell City Hall Conference Room, Second Floor, 301 E. Main St., Lowell, Michigan.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk



BATS OF THE WORLD

The Englehardt branch will present the program "Bats of the World" on Wednesday, Aug. 4 at 6:30 p.m. Kids, ages six and up, will be shown and hear about hibernation, migration and food preferences of these unique mammals from a representative of the Organization for Bat Conservation.

Registration is required. Call 647-3920.

GETTING MARRIED?

We offer a wide variety of wedding invitations!
Stop by & Check out one of our books!
Lowell Litho,
105 N. Broadway

NOTICE TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GRATTA OF THE AUGUST 3, 2004 SPECIAL ELECTION

To all registered voters of the Township of Grattan, County of Kent, notice is hereby provided that the Township Clerk will be at the Clerk's office, located at the Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Road, within the Township on Saturday, July 31, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to receive applications for absentee ballots to be sent by mail for the August 3, 2004 State primary election.

This Notice is given by authority of the Township Board of the Township of Grattan, County of Kent, State of Michigan.

Lana F. Green,
Township Clerk

LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS IS SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
(full-time/41 weeks per year)
BUSHNELL ELEMENTARY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
(Half-time/41 weeks per year)

Must possess excellent interpersonal, organizational, and phone skills and have the ability to handle multiple tasks and make decisions. Must be creative and self-directed. Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Proofreading and the ability to type a minimum of 55 wpm are required. A love of children is a must.

FOOD SERVICE WORKER -
Bushnell Elementary (2 hrs. per day)
FOOD SERVICE WORKER -
Murray Lake Elementary (2 hrs. per day)

High school diploma is required. Must possess excellent interpersonal and organizational skills and have the ability to handle multiple tasks. A love of children is a must.

Letter of interest should be sent to the attention of Connie Gillette, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Finance, 300 High Street, Lowell, MI 49331 by **12:00 noon, July 30, 2004.**

We want to be your Other Family Doctor.

- Sick or Injured Animals Seen Same Day
- Evenings & Saturday Hours Available
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- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Science Diet Pet Foods
- Boarding & Grooming

Call 897-8484
11610 East Fulton Street • Lowell, Michigan

ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF
LOWELL

I still have more work to do...

- Completion of Phase III of Lowell Township Riverfront Park
- Continue residential growth in a manner that makes Lowell Township an attractive place to live.
- Encourage commercial development to enhance our local economy.
- Maintain fiscal responsibility.
- I will continue to listen to your needs and concerns and act accordingly.
- Teamwork is our strength.

PLEASE RE-ELECT
JOHN R. TIMPSON
FOR LOWELL
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR
VOTE AUGUST 3

PAID FOR BY JOHN R. TIMPSON • 3025 SEGWUN AVE. S.E. • LOWELL

Tension mounts between skateboarders and Main St. businesses

By Kelsay Myers
Lowell Ledger Intern

Finding a place to do skateboard tricks in Lowell can be tough. So skateboarders are heard pounding the Main Street sidewalks and Riverwalk Plaza, one of the better places to skate in Lowell.

Skater Jeff McMullin said, "It is the only place to go. The picnic tables and stage make it good for jumps." Steven Bluwman, age 14, basically agrees with McMullin, adding that the picnic tables

are good, and people don't yell at you there.

The people "yelling" are not usually police officers, but downtown business owners who are not pleased to see skateboarders on their property. Natasha Versluys, owner of Voyages Coffee Shop, said, "I haven't had any personal trouble with skateboarders. They just don't add to the atmosphere that downtown Lowell is trying to create."

She adds that it's mostly a liability issue. Downtown organizations are concerned about the safety of the kids, as

well as the liability costs if they injure themselves or someone else. Kathy Griffin, of Overbeck Construction, worries that one day skateboarders will seriously hurt themselves by falling through the plate-glass windows in front of the business.

Lowell police chief Jim

Valentine explained, "There have been no third party injuries, but the threat is always there. They do injure themselves. Property damage is the main issue—it's not intentional but a result of what they're doing. A \$1,200 park bench is ruined by jumping with skateboards."

Skateboarders also caused, by Griffin's estimation, \$400-500 worth of damage to the ramp in front of Overbeck Construction. The ramp was built to aid elderly patrons. Riding up the ramp, close to the edge, and jumping with skateboards has scratched the top and eroded

the mortar causing one of the bricks to jut out of the ledge.

"It's scary that they have no remorse for the elderly," Griffin says. "They're rude. They just don't care about

Skateboarders on Main St., cont'd., pg. 19

Lowell woman is first female urologist in W. Michigan

Diane C. Bigham, D.O., of Lowell, joined the staff at Michigan Urological Clinic on July 1. She is West Michigan's

first female urologist, one of a small group of female urologists dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of male and

female urological disorders. Within the field of urology, she has a special interest in female and male sexual dysfunction, incontinence and bladder dysfunction.

Dr. Bigham received her bachelor's degree from Maryville University in St. Louis, Mo. and her medical degree from Midwestern University-Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. She completed her Internship at Deaconess Hospital (now known as DesPeres Hospital) in St. Louis.

Dr. Bigham is married with three children.



Diane C. Bigham

LOWELL LEDGER DEADLINE:
Monday at 5 p.m. for Wednesday Publication

FAX SERVICE AVAILABLE
At the Lowell Ledger Office, 105 N. Broadway

NOTICE TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GRATTA

OF THE AUGUST 3, 2004 SPECIAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that a SPECIAL ELECTION will be held in the Township of Grattan, on Tuesday, August 3, 2004, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Local Time, in conjunction with the State primary election, to vote on the following Ballot proposition:

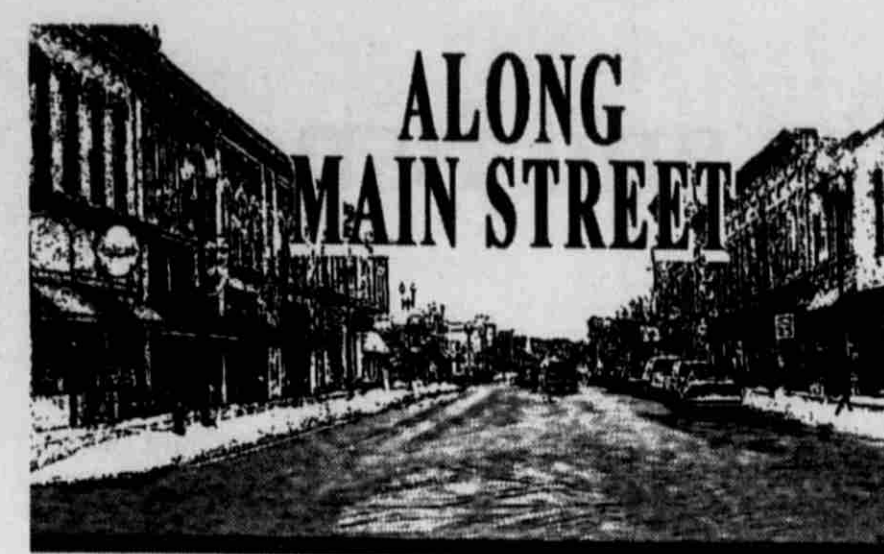
**TOWNSHIP OF GRATTA
COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN
REFERENDUM ON 2002 AMENDMENTS
TO THE GRATTA TOWNSHIP
ZONING ORDINANCE, ADOPTED
NOVEMBER 25, 2002**

Shall the 2002 amendments to the Township of Grattan Zoning Ordinance, adopted by the Township Board on November 25, 2002, being amendments to the text of Articles 1 through 16 of the Zoning Ordinance, be approved?

List of Polling Place Locations:
(1) Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Road, N.E.
(2) Grattan Academy, 12047 Old Belding Road, N.E.

This Notice is given by authority of the Township Board of the Township of Grattan, County of Kent, State of Michigan.

Lana F. Green,
Township Clerk
Township of Grattan



SIZZLIN' CONCERT
This Thursday at the Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts, Weezil Malone & the King Size Blues Band (blues) will perform from 7-9 p.m. at Riverwalk Plaza.

ENTER A DRAWING AT GOLDWORKS
Bring a bag of groceries to Goldworks for the Flat River Outreach Ministries food pantry during July. You'll be entered in drawings every day and a final drawing for a 1/2 ct. diamond.

Entertainment ordinance, cont'd...From Page 1

The ordinance permits all adult businesses to sell some adult material, exempt from its restriction, as long as the material doesn't occupy more than 10 percent of the business's floor space. If the adult material expanded to over 10 percent of the floor space, then the business would become subject to the restrictions of the ordinance.

The ordinance is a preemptive measure, since the township has not received any proposals for adult entertainment businesses. The township planning commission has been working on the ordinance for the past three years.

Later in Monday's meeting, some township residents commented on the township's enforcement of its current ordinances.

Charles Miller, who lives east of the city of Lowell on M-21, wondered if Lowell Township's noise ordinances could be applied to reduce noise from semi-trucks' engine braking on the state highway. He had gone through county and state avenues to try to get a road sign put up reading "engine braking prohibited." The Michigan Department of Transportation had told him his best option was to see if the township government had a pre-existing ordinance it could enforce in the matter.

Dennis Sanford, a township resident and planning commissioner, complained to the township about the lax enforcement of its lighting ordinance, citing Classic Car and Harold Zeigler Ford as violators.

"They have been in violation of our lighting ordinance since they moved back in," he said about Classic Car.

The lights at the Ford dealership are tilted upward, he said. The lighting ordinance requires full cut-off fixtures, which prevent light from traveling upward.

Sanford also questioned why Dykema Excavators was allowed to process gravel at a site west of Meijer without a special use permit.

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LOWELL YMCA ADULT SOFTBALL STANDINGS!

UPDATED 7/16/04

MONDAY NIGHT CO-ED LEAGUE	W	L
DIVISION I		
Team 1: R.G. Enterprises	2	6
Team 2: Turning Leaf Homes	3	3
Team 3: First Methodist	7	1
Team 4: Vergennes United Methodist	5	2
Team 5: Lakeside Sluggers	0	7
DIVISION II		
Team 6: Lowell Moose	6	2
Team 7: Team GNS/Roll-A-Way Fun Center	5	1
Team 8: Paragon Custom Homes	2	6
Team 9: Vitale's	3	4
Team 10: Bowne Center United Methodist	3	4
WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEN'S LEAGUE		
Team 1: Ball Busters	6	3
Team 2: Larkins	2	8
Team 3: General Crete	1	9
Team 4: Shape Works	9	1
Team 5: Full Throttle	6	3
FRIDAY NIGHT MEN'S LEAGUE		
Team 1: Proseal/Denny's Extended Stays	8	0
Team 2: Ground Haws	4	4
Team 3: Sysco	3	4
Team 4: Mop	0	7
Team 5: The Billy Clubs	2	5
Team 6: Ada Beef	4	3

Sign up by August 9 for the Fall Adult Softball League that starts the week of August 16-September 30

ELECT ROGER ODELL VERGENNES TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

- Protect Rural Character
- Responsible Zoning
- Control Sprawl & Excess Traffic
- Defend Property Rights
- Protect AG Lands
- Continue Traditional Township Government
- Annual Meeting
- Responsive
- Close To People
- Maintain Financial Integrity
- Fair Taxes
- Correct Land Classification
- Spend Wisely

VOTE AUGUST 3RD

Paid for by the committee to elect Roger Odell
10999 Bailey Dr., Lowell

BOWL/HELP THE FOOD PANTRY
Open bowling at Lowell Lanes every Saturday during July and August from 4-7 p.m. Half of the fees for shoes and lanes go to Flat River Outreach Ministries food pantry.

LHS 10-YEAR REUNION
There will be a Lowell High School 10-year reunion at Larkin's The Other Place, 301 W. Main on Saturday, Aug. 7. Buffet begins at 4 p.m. with a DJ at 7 p.m. \$20 per adult in advance, \$10 kids 5-10. Call Shannon at 616-437-6329 to RSVP or request more information.

CLASS OF '79 REUNION
The Lowell High School class of 1979 will have their 25th reunion at Annalaine's Banquet Center on Sept. 25 from 6 p.m.-midnight. Write to P.O. Box 121, Lowell or call 897-0461 for more information.

GIVE BLOOD
Lowell First United Methodist Church will host a blood drive on Monday, Aug. 2 from 4-8 p.m. at the church parking lot where the Michigan Community Blood Center's Mobile Blood bus will be located.

QUAD RAFFLE
The Kent County Youth Fair will raffle a 2004 Honda quad runner and trailer on Aug. 14 at the fairgrounds. Tickets are \$5, available at Keiser's, LACC, Backwater Cafe, Ledger, Equine Medical, Blue Ribbon Feeds, TSC, ICNB; winner need not be present to win.

SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL JULY 6, 2004

Minutes of the June 21, 2004 meeting were approved as written and the accounts payable were approved.

The following motions were approved:

- Motion to establish a public hearing for July 19, 2004 concerning the amendments to the Private Street Ordinance.
- Motion to approve the Capital Improvements Plan as amended.
- Motion to accept the bid from Weather Shield Roofing Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$36,197 for the roofing work at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Motion to place a moratorium on the sign ordinance enforcement throughout the residential districts.
- Motion to establish a public hearing for July 19, 2004 to discuss renaming High Street east of James Street to Highland Hill Drive.
- Motion to adjourn at 7:53 p.m. The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Monday, July 19, 2004.

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

Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk
City of Lowell

VOTE FOR THE HOMETOWN GUY

DAVE HILDENBRAND



Republican for
86th State
Representative

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Lowell Mayor Jeanne Shores
Bowne Township Supervisor Pete Siler
Grattan Township Supervisor Rich Herweyer
Ada Township Supervisor George Haga
Lowell Township Supervisor John Timpson
Vergennes Township Supervisor Tim Wittenbach
The Honorable Dick Posthumus
State Senator Bill Hardiman
State Representative Jerry Kooiman
State Representative Jim Koetje
State Representative Glenn Steil, Jr.
State Representative Joanne Voorhees
Kent County Sheriff Larry Stelma
Kent County Commissioner Dean Agee
Kent County Commissioner Gary Rolls
Kent County Commissioner Dan Koorndyk
Kent County Commissioner Jack Horton
Kent County Commission Chair David Morren

Kent County Commission Vice Chair Roger Morgan
Walker City Commissioner Cyndy Stek
Right-to-Life of Michigan PAC
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce PAC
Michigan and Kent County Farm Bureau
National Rifle Association "A" Rating
Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Michigan Fraternal Order of Police
Citizens for Traditional Values
Grand Rapids Association of Realtors
Home & Building Association of Greater Grand Rapids
Michigan Association of Insurance Agents
Michigan Restaurant Association
Great Lakes Education Project
Deputy Sheriff's Association of Michigan
Michigan Credit Union League

And many, many more. For more information visit www.davehildenbrand.com

ELECT DAVE HILDENBRAND ON AUGUST 3RD
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PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT DAVE HILDENBRAND, 2700 TIMPSON AVE. SE, LOWELL, MI 49331

Lowell Charter Township candidates and issues

By Dan Schneider

In the election for local offices in Lowell Charter Township, five of seven positions are being contested. As in the Bowne Township election reported on last week, all candidates in the Lowell Charter Township's election are running as Republicans, making the Aug. 3 primary the deciding vote in the race. Candidates are running for four-year terms, with the winners taking office at the board's November meeting.

The township supervisor, clerk and treasurer each receive a salary of \$18,816.

The following are brief descriptions of the different township offices and the candidates running for them.

Supervisor candidates:
The Lowell Charter

Township supervisor presides over township meetings, votes on issues, is the chief assessing officer for the township, appoints planning commission members with board approval, and is the legal agent and executive officer for the township. Since Lowell Township is a charter township, its supervisor has some additional responsibilities including ensuring enforcement of township ordinances, managing public improvements, making sure that terms and conditions of contracts are kept and performed.

Paula Blumm, 53, is running for township supervisor. She is coming to the end of a term as a township trustee. She has lived in Lowell Township since 1991. Blumm graduated in 1980

from Wayne State University with a bachelor's degree in psychology and economics. She worked in a public information job with a public television station in Detroit and owned a small medical supplies company before moving to Lowell Township.

Her community involvement since coming to Lowell includes the Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation board of directors and the board of directors for the Veen Observatory. She received the 1996 LAS Volunteer of the Year Award for organizing the Inside-Out classroom at Alto Elementary. She served for a time on the board of directors for the Michigan Alliance for Gifted Education and is on the board of directors for the Michigan Women's Foundation.

During her term as a trustee, she took a citizen planner course from the MSU Extension service, graduated with the first class of the Lowell Leadership Institute for Volunteer Excellence, and became state certified in property assessment administration in 2003. She will graduate in January from the Townships Governance Academy, a 70-credit course of study through the Michigan Townships Association.

She wants to find alternatives for financing the township during current times of declining state funding. Her ideas include increasing prices for re-zoning applications to make developers cover the administrative costs, seeking outside grants for cooperative projects, and recovering costs for some township services, i.e., making people who cause property damage with illegal fires pay for the cost of the fire department's response.

John Timpson, 73, has been Lowell Township supervisor since 1988. It was his first elected office.

A lifetime apple farmer, Timpson was born in Alto and moved to Lowell Charter Township in 1941. He graduated from Lowell High School and finished one year of college before enlisting in the Navy before the Korean War. He served four years.

"I have a good board and they cooperate and they run quite smoothly and if you got a good thing going, don't try to upset it," Timpson said.

During his time in the office of supervisor, the township built a new township hall and completed a township park. Continual improvements have been made to its dirt roads.

"We've cut down the

miles of unimproved roads considerably," Timpson said. "About every two years we upgrade a mile of gravel road, that's kind of our goal."

Timpson's future plans, if elected, focus on developing the township's commercial district.

"I intend to finish the M-21 corridor," Timpson said. "It now has sewer and water available so it should be able to develop in a more sophisticated manner."

He said this about the township's land preservation and response to development pressures: "Being a lifelong farmer, it's high on my list."

"We've been responding to them for quite some time. We pay particular attention to our zoning and our master plan."

Clerk candidate:

The Lowell Charter Township clerk manages all of the township's records, keeps accounts with the township treasurer and for each of the townships funds, and chairs the township's elections committee.

Linda Regan is the current Lowell Charter Township clerk. She is running unopposed this year for a second term. She was appointed in late 2000 at the end of Carol Wells' term after Wells moved out of the township.

Regan has lived in Lowell Township for 15 years. Her previous work experience is varied, mainly related to retail.

Treasurer candidate:

The Lowell Charter Township treasurer is charged with receiving township funds, making board-approved payments, and investing township accounts. The

treasurer is the township's tax-collecting agent. The treasurer must keep an account of the township's receipts and expenditures.

Leslie Stougaard, 47, is the candidate this year for Lowell Charter Township treasurer. She studied at Grand Rapids Community College and at Kendall College of Art and Design. She worked nine years as project manager and vice president of operations for Dawson and Company, formerly of Grand Rapids. For the last eight years she has been self-employed with Stougaard Business Management Services, which helps small businesses set up accounting systems and works with retirement and hospital-ity facilities around West Michigan.

She has lived in Lowell Charter Township for nine years. This is her first run for elected office and she believes her 25 years of accounting experience, communications skills and technical skills will be beneficial to the township.

Trustee candidates:

Lowell Charter Township trustees participate in board votes. They can also serve various other roles in the community, such as on the elections committee.

Carlton Blough, 47, is completing his second term as a Lowell Township trustee. He has lived his whole life in the township. Graduating from Lowell High School, he went to Grand Rapids Community College for an associate's degree in applied science, then began farming corn, soybeans and wheat.

"When I originally ran, it was to get my input into the township," Blough said. "So ag had a voice in the township government."

"I enjoy what I'm doing and I'd like to do what I can to keep the township a nice place to live and raise a family."

He values land preservation but says the current zoning is adequate to stand up to development pressure.

"I'd say basically it's standing up to it. It's not perfect but I think it's doing a relatively good job."

Blough said he hopes to keep the township one third agriculture.

He's proud of the work the township has done on its park. "They started working on the park before I was on but I would like to continue to promote the township park," Blough said.

Clifford Bonn, 67, has lived in Lowell Township for 20 years. He graduated from South High School in Grand Rapids and enlisted in the Navy where he served from

Township candidates, continued...

1955-1961. Then he started his career in general aviation, and was maintenance manager for several fixed-base operations in Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. For the last 10 years before he retired in 2002, he was chief of aircraft maintenance for Altacor.

This is his first time running for elected office.

"I've been going to the meetings for the last three years or so ... to see how the government is run and I think I could add to the township," Bonn said.

His work in aircraft maintenance management gave him experience in managing people and facilities, he said. "I've worked with government regulations for the last 44 years."

"As a trustee I'll make the tough decisions to guide the township into the 21st century to ensure the quality of life by protecting and preserving the value of land throughout the township," Bonn said.

He said growth is now an inevitability in the township and must be dealt with before it progresses too far.

"What you need to do is manage the growth so it's a slow trend and make the decisions so it's going to be a good way to go and follow the ordinances that are in place," Bonn said.

Leonard Den Houter, 55, has been a resident of Lowell Township since 1982. He lived in the city of Lowell previously, since 1973.

He received a bachelor's degree from Hope College and went to law school at the Thomas Cooley Law School in Lansing. Den Houter has worked in administrative law and for the state of Michigan. He is now a lawyer in private practice.

This is his first time running for local office. He has two major reasons for doing so.

"I'm concerned about orderly development of the township that preserves the natural beauty we have in the township," he said. "I also think taxes should be kept as low as possible and I'd like to make sure that that happens as well."

He talked about land he sold to a developer, which became the Oak Hill subdivision off Alden Nash, as being land developed with natural beauty in mind.

"Some developers are more interested in making money than in creating an environment that is a good place to live, and I think that might increase as development accelerates out here in Lowell Township," Den

Houter said. "I think that at this point the pressure is really increased. There might have to be some changes made depending on the development that happens in the future."

Richard Huver, 68, is completing his 30th year as a trustee on the Lowell Charter Township board. He was appointed to his first term in 1974. He first took the office out of an interest in local government.

"I was interested in what was going on in the community as a whole and being involved in it I learned quite a bit ... still more to learn," Huver said.

He retired from Smith Industries in 1999. He worked as a material handler for 43 years.

Huver was born in Lowell Township. He lived in Ver-gennes and Bowne townships for a total of three years, moving back to build a house on his family's farm. He's a graduate of Lowell High School and pursued some studies at Grand Rapids Community College.

"I think I have some history of this area and I want to help people who are living in this community to make it more pleasant," Huver said. "Anybody that I could help at

the local level of government, I would like to help them pursue whatever they're looking into and still keep this a rural community."

Kurtis Parks, 50, is running for Lowell Township trustee. He's lived in the township for 10 years. He has been the general manager of Overbeck Construction for the past two years; he was previously self-employed.

Parks has a two-year business degree from Michigan State University. He has past board experience. He was a trustee on the Oakfield Township board. He was part of the Eaton County Economic Development Corporation, the Delta Township (Eaton County) board of appeals and on state investigative committees. This is his first run for office in Lowell Township.

"I'm a disabled firefighter, hurt in the line of duty so I can't serve as a firefighter any more and I thought this was a way to serve my community, and still be active," Parks said.

Keeping an eye on growth in the community is his top priority.

"They need to be aware that it is going to grow and they need to work with the people to ensure that it retains

the rural feel for the people of the community," Parks said. "We can't just enforce the ordinances and enforce the law—we need to work with the people to find out what's best."

"I'd like to see us have the old-fashioned town meetings ... get input not just from the people who are unhappy."

Parks also wants to attract national corporations to the township's commercial district.

"We have to have a spirit of cooperation with the 'outsiders' if you will and make it attractive to relocate to Lowell Township," Parks said.

This is the first run for township office for **Gerald Persha, 55,** but he has worked on several township issues in the past. In 1995, he was part of the Lowell Township Residents Association, which convinced the township planning commission to reject an industrial development plan by Grooters Development Corporation.

Persha also led a referendum against a change to the township zoning ordinance approved in 2000. The change would have allowed commercial activity in industrial areas. The referendum vote overturned the change in 2002.

In 2003, Persha joined the committee that drafted the township's lighting ordinance.

Persha has lived in Lowell Township since 1992. He moved to the city of Lowell from Detroit in 1978, establishing his business, Optec, in 1979. The company makes atmospheric measurement instruments, astronomy and microscopy equipment.

His goals, if elected, focus on improving the township's money management and updating ordinances to limit development in the township.

"Right now a lot of our zoning ordinance has enough holes in it, or doesn't address the issues at all, that developers can do what they want," Persha said. "I want to direct industrial and commercial development to the M-21 corridor and prevent it south of the river."

Persha said because of the small voter turnout for local elections, voters who do go to the polls can have a large impact on local elections.

"Quite often citizens don't understand the importance of local government," Persha said. "Their vote can make a big difference in their lifestyle."

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LOWELL YMCA

FITNESS ASSOCIATE
Provides one-on-one fitness service to members. Develops fitness routines that satisfy member goals. High school diploma or general education degree (GED); enrolled in college courses and three to six months' fitness, instructional, or personal training experience, or equivalent combination of education, training, and experience, preferred. Part-time; night and weekend hours available.

KIDS' GYM ASSOCIATE
Responsible for the children in the Kids' Gym to ensure a safe, fun area for children 3 months through 12 years old and their families to interact and enjoy. Three to six months' childcare or customer service experience; or equivalent combination of education, training and experience. Part-time; night and weekend hours available.

Fax resumes to (616) 456-7232,
jobs@gymca.org, or 40 Monroe Center NW,
Suite 201, Grand Rapids 49503,
or fill out application at Lowell YMCA.
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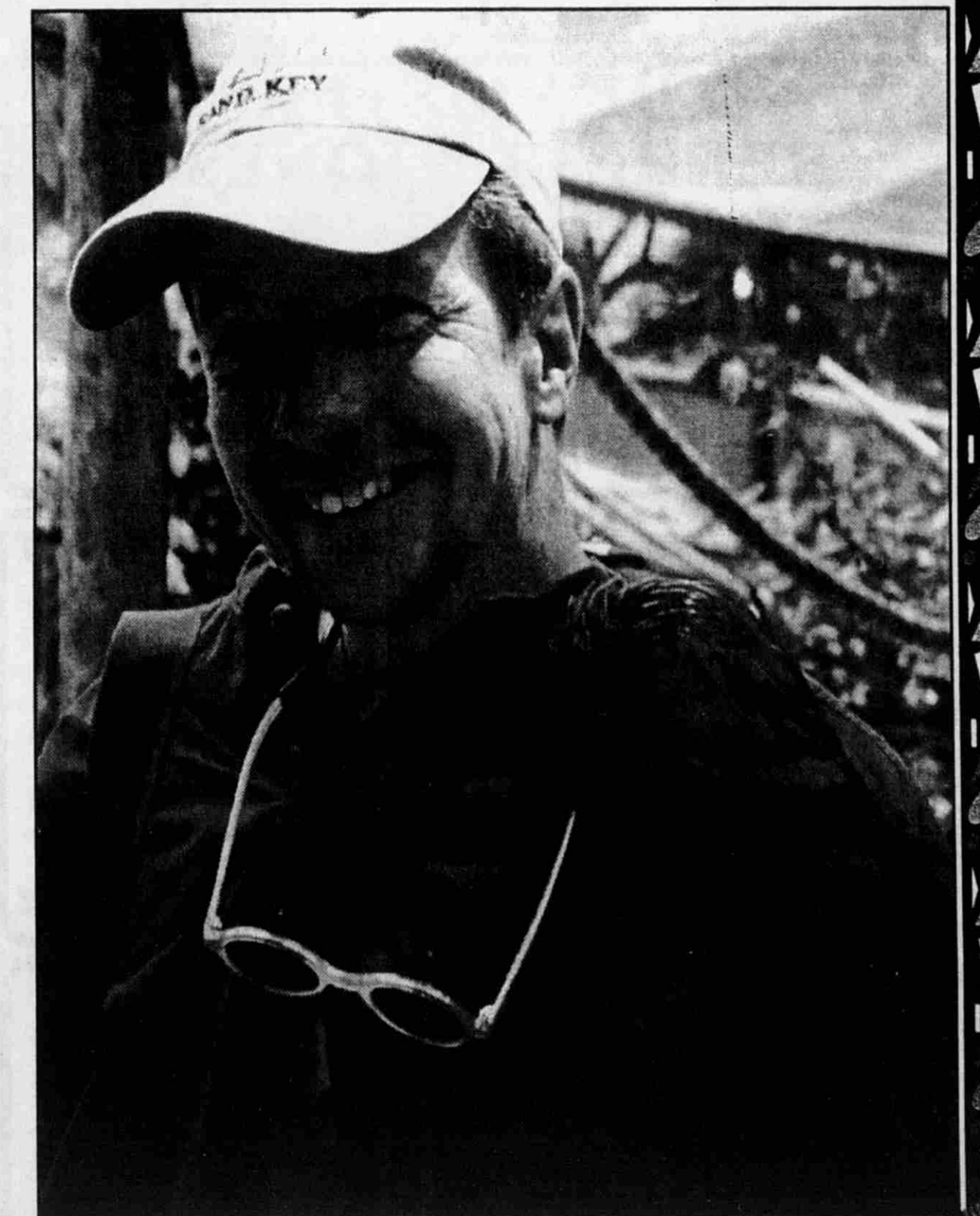
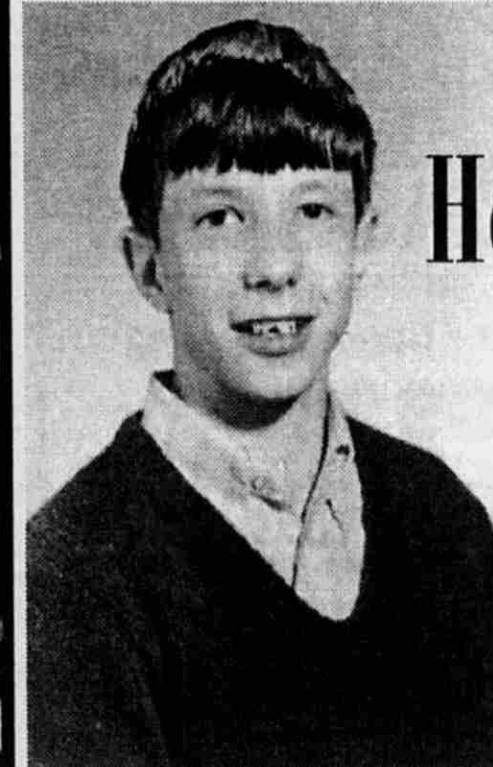
Not so shifty
He thought we forgot,
He just turned

50!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Geezer!

Your friends at

Lowell Family Medical Center



Financial Focus

Edward Jones

Serving Individual Investors Since 1871

With Christopher C. Godbold



TAKE STEPS TO MANAGE INHERITANCE WISELY

You may have read about a vast "transfer of wealth" that is taking place as baby boomers start to inherit money from their parents. While it's true that the wealth being transferred is enormous—in the billions of dollars—it may not have much of an impact on your life.

In any case, if you get an inheritance, you'll want to make the right moves.

Of course, you already know your situation and what you're likely to inherit, but it's useful to keep in mind that relatively few people in the baby boom category—just over 17 percent—have received any inheritance, according to a study by the AARP. And the same study showed that the average inheritance has totaled only about \$48,000.

Still, even that amount of money could help you make progress toward your financial goals—if you manage it carefully. Here are a few steps you may want to follow:

• **See your tax adviser**—Your inheritance may have tax implications, so, before you do anything with the money, see your tax adviser.

• **Consider "parking" your money**—You may receive an inheritance during an emotional time. But you want to make financial and investment decisions with your head—not your heart. Don't rush into any decisions—it won't hurt you to "park" your inheritance temporarily in a money market account or a certificate of deposit. Later, you can decide how to use the money to your best advantage.

• **Think twice about "splurges"**—Once you're ready to take action, you may be tempted to spend some of your inheritance on a new car, a down payment on a vacation home or some other major purchase. You'll want to evaluate these choices very carefully before signing on the dotted line. Ask yourself some key questions: *Do I really need this purchase? Will this move add to my debt load? There's certainly nothing wrong with using part of an inheritance for something that you may have wanted—just make sure you don't actually set*

yourself back by making the purchase.

• **Boost your savings and investments**—If you were determined to cut down on debt before the inheritance, now you can do it even faster. But if you were already pretty much debt-free, and you wanted to help diversify your portfolio, now you've got more resources with which to work.

• **Review your long-term strategies**—If your inheritance is particularly large, you may want to re-evaluate all your long-term investment moves. For example, you may want to look at how you're allocating investment dollars in your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. Or, you may need to look at the percentage you need to earn from your investments each year to achieve your retirement goals. You may even consider additional "tax-smart" investment moves. In fact, with so many issues involved, you really should consult with your investment professional.

By following these suggestions, you can help yourself get the maximum benefit from your inheritance—and, perhaps just as importantly, you'll be showing respect for the people who left it to you in the first place.

LEGAL EASE

By Jonathan David



DEAR JONATHAN: My widowed mother died a few weeks ago. In the last few years she was not doing well so she placed my sister's name on all of her bank accounts so that my sister could pay her bills and handle her affairs for her. I have a copy of her will and it states that everything she has is to be divided equally between my sister and me. My sister claims, however, that the will doesn't control because her name is on the title to all the assets and now that my mother is deceased, my sister claims that she is the legal owner of those assets; as such, she is refusing to share any of those assets with me. I was shocked by my sister's comments and the position that she is taking regarding my mother's will. Is what she is saying correct? Do I have a leg to stand on?

JONATHAN SAYS: Unfortunately, your situation is one that is all too familiar. Elderly people will often place

a child's name on the title to their assets thinking that they are simplifying matters. However, instead of simplifying matters, they more often than not are complicating matters and making things more confusing unless it is truly their intent (and that intent has been expressed) that that child own those assets outright. More often than not, however, the case is that they are expecting that child to share those assets with their siblings.

Your sister is correct in that if she is named as the joint owner on all of your mother's bank accounts (when I say joint owner, I mean that she is named as a joint tenant on the bank accounts as opposed to just having the right to write checks on your mother's behalf), then she would legally own those assets at your mother's death, regardless of what your mother's last will and testament states. This is because a last will and testament only controls the disposition of assets that are subject to probate; a last will and testament has no control over non probate assets. Non probate assets include: jointly titled assets; assets held in Trust; assets that pass pursuant to contract, i.e., to beneficiaries on a life insurance contract.

Assuming your sister is a true joint tenant on all your mother's bank accounts, then from a legal standpoint, she owns those assets outright as of the date your mother died. What this means is that she is not legally required to share those assets with you, even though your mother's last will and testament clearly states that her estate was to be divided in equal shares.

Having said that, the only assets your sister has legal title to would be those bank accounts where she was named as a joint tenant while your mother was alive. Any other assets your mother owned in her own name, as well as any untitled assets, such as personal property, i.e., the contents in her home, jewelry, furniture, etc., would be controlled by the will and divided between the two of you.

You should also consult with an estate planning lawyer who is experienced in will contests and probate litigation who can review your case and circumstances to determine whether you have any kind of cause of action against your sister or your mother's estate. For instance, if you have any type of extrinsic proof that shows that your sister somehow manipulated your mother in putting her name on the title to those assets, and that it was never your mother's intent that your sister would be the sole owner of those assets upon her death, then you might have a case. A lawyer will be able to tell you whether you have a case worth making and what it will cost you to pursue it.

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

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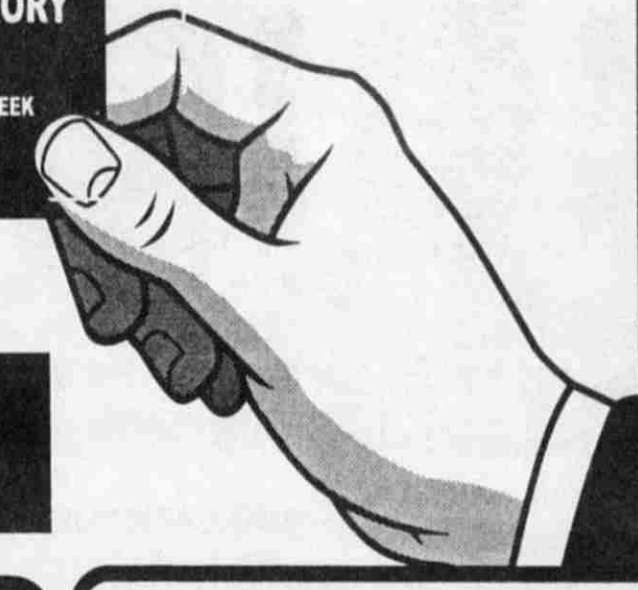
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COMING EVENTS

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.: Fallasburg Historical Society board meetings at chamber office or Fallasburg, 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.

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 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 M1#372 meets at Key Heights Mobile Home Park Community Bldg. Weigh-ins 5:45 p.m.

EVERY TUES.: Flat River Woodcarvers meet at the LAAC from 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 Vacation Bible School, 5:30 - 7:30 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. Call 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 information call 1-800-651-6000.

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.

SAT. ALL SUMMER: Open bowling at Lowell Lanes, 4-7 p.m. 1/2 off fees for shoes & lanes go to Flat River Outreach Ministries food pantry.

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

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

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT SHOP HOURS: Wed.-Fri. 12-6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. 519 E. Main St. Call 897-2037.

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

LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL: Tues.-Fri.: 12 - 5 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. Monday and a.m. by appt. 149 S. Hudson. Call 897-8545 or www.lowellartscouncil.org.

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

ALL OF JULY: Bring a bag of groceries to Goldworks by Michelle for

the Flat River Outreach Ministries food pantry. You'll be entered in drawings every day; final drawing for 1/2 ct. diamond.

JULY 22, 27, 29: First Aid and CPR classes at the Lowell YMCA. Call 897-8445 to register.

MON., AUG. 2: Blood drive at First United Methodist Church, Lowell, corner of Main & Jackson, 4-8 p.m. Michigan Community Blood Center's Mobile Blood bus. Call 897-6403.

THURS., AUG. 5: Vergennes Cooperative Club will meet at 1 p.m. at Schneider Manor activity room. Program: Lowell Area Historical Museum. Hostesses: Donna Wilkinson, Treva Johnson, Barb Briggs.

SAT., AUG. 14: Drawing for '04 Honda quad runner & trailer at fairgrounds during Kent County Youth Fair. Tickets \$5; available at businesses in town or call Ron Wenger 897-6050.

New Alto tack store brings needed supplies closer to Lowell

By Dan Schneider

Cowpoke Supply, the first business in several years to open in Alto, is a tack

store looking especially to serve youth riders.

"The idea behind the whole tack store was to basically help people that were

every day horse people and 4-H kids, and equestrian teams with lower prices and one a little closer," said owner Lisa Lotterman. "I'm

trying to do the best I can to get my prices low."

Before the store opened July 1, the nearest places to buy horse tack supplies were north of Rockford and on 68th Street in Grand Rapids.

Cowpoke Supply offers a full range of basic supplies needed to ride and care for horses. The shop carries harnesses, bridles, and new and used saddles. There's also feed—12 percent sweet, senior horse feeds, shelled corn and food for barn cats, plus seasonally-offered wild bird seed. Caledonia Elevator, where Lotterman worked previous to opening the store,

helped put together Cowpoke Supply's feed selection.

The shop sells fly sprays and some other animal health products. It also stocks feed buckets, brushes and barn cleaning tools.

"I also sell stuff like Texas longhorns, hides and horns," Lotterman said.

These are used for decoration. "It's a cowboy thing," she said.

Cowpoke Supply, located at 6059 Linfield Ave., is in the building formerly occupied by the Bowne Township Hall, fire department and library. The space

was a drug store in the 1950s. Lotterman began converting the windowed storefront into a tack store in March after her husband, Randy, bought the building to put an auto shop in the back.

Cowpoke Supply's hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m.- 8 p.m. Friday; and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. Lotterman is having a Grand Opening this Friday and Saturday, with refreshments from 12-2 p.m. The tack store will share a booth with Caledonia Elevator at this year's Kent County Youth Fair.



April Wolfe, Lisa Lotterman and Michelle Wolfe in front of Cowpoke Supply, the new tack store in Alto. The Wolfe sisters, who work in the store, are Ionia High School students and will both ride with the Lowell equestrian team this fall. Lotterman opened the shop especially with 4-H and equestrian team riders in mind.

The task of the leader is to get his people from where they are to where they have not been. —Henry Kissinger

STEAK DINNER

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Lowell Moose Rec Center
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LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES
897-5949

MON.: 9:00 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.

TUES.: 9:00 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.

FRI.: 9:00 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.

SPECIAL EVENTS

WED., JULY 21: 10 a.m. Advisory Council.

THURS., JULY 22: 12:30 p.m. St. Anne's Dessert and Music.

FRI., JULY 23: 9 a.m. Farmers' Market; 11 a.m. Lowell Area Fire Department; 12:45 p.m. Bingo.

THURS., JULY 27: 12:45 p.m. Visit Lena Meijer Children's Garden.

WED., JULY 28: 8:30 a.m. Traveling Breakfast "Sundance Grill."

FRI., JULY 30: 12:45 p.m. Bingo.

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GOLDWORKS by Michelle

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- Hahn Hardware
- North Country Trail Association
- Lowell Beer Store
- Crooked Tree
- Daisy's Floral & Rentals
- Hunan Gardens
- Garage of Lowell
- NAPA
- Arby's Restaurant
- Ada-Lowell 5
- Dollar Superstore

At least 31 Lowell businesses are working to pull the community together for a local food drive. The Flat River Outreach Ministries needs your help - their food pantry is at an all time low. We are working together to fill that pantry up for Lowell families in need, how can you help?

Beginning July 1st - ending July 31st...

Drop off a bag of food (dry goods only please) to GoldWorks By Michelle, 2333 West Main, Lowell, and be entered into a drawing for many prizes! There will be a drawing each day in July for wonderful prizes donated by our sponsors and you'll be entered also for our grand prize... a 1/2 carat diamond valued at \$1,200 from GoldWorks By Michelle!

Show your support - stop in our store during July!
Every bag you donate is a chance to WIN!!!

Skateboarders on Main Street, continued...From Page 10

other people's property or realize the damage they're doing."

But to skateboarders it's all about hanging out with friends and finding something to do in small town America. As Josh Smith, age 14, puts it, "A lot of my friends skate. The best part is having fun with them and getting to do something."

Tim Sief, also 14, shakes his head. "Doing tricks," he said. "The best places to skate are the Riverwalk, middle school, the church is fun too, and the ledge that's all waxed in front of Dollar General."

Currently there are no ordinances banning skateboarding in the downtown district. Businesses posting "No Skateboarders" signs will be en-

forced, however, and there is an ordinance against property damage, a main cause of worry for business owners and the police department.

Chief of police, Jim Valentine, said, "We have talked about making it illegal. It's just such a political hotbed when you have these two controversial views. Most of these kids are just trying to get from Point A to Point B, and I don't want to make all skateboarders violators when only five-10 percent of them are causing trouble."

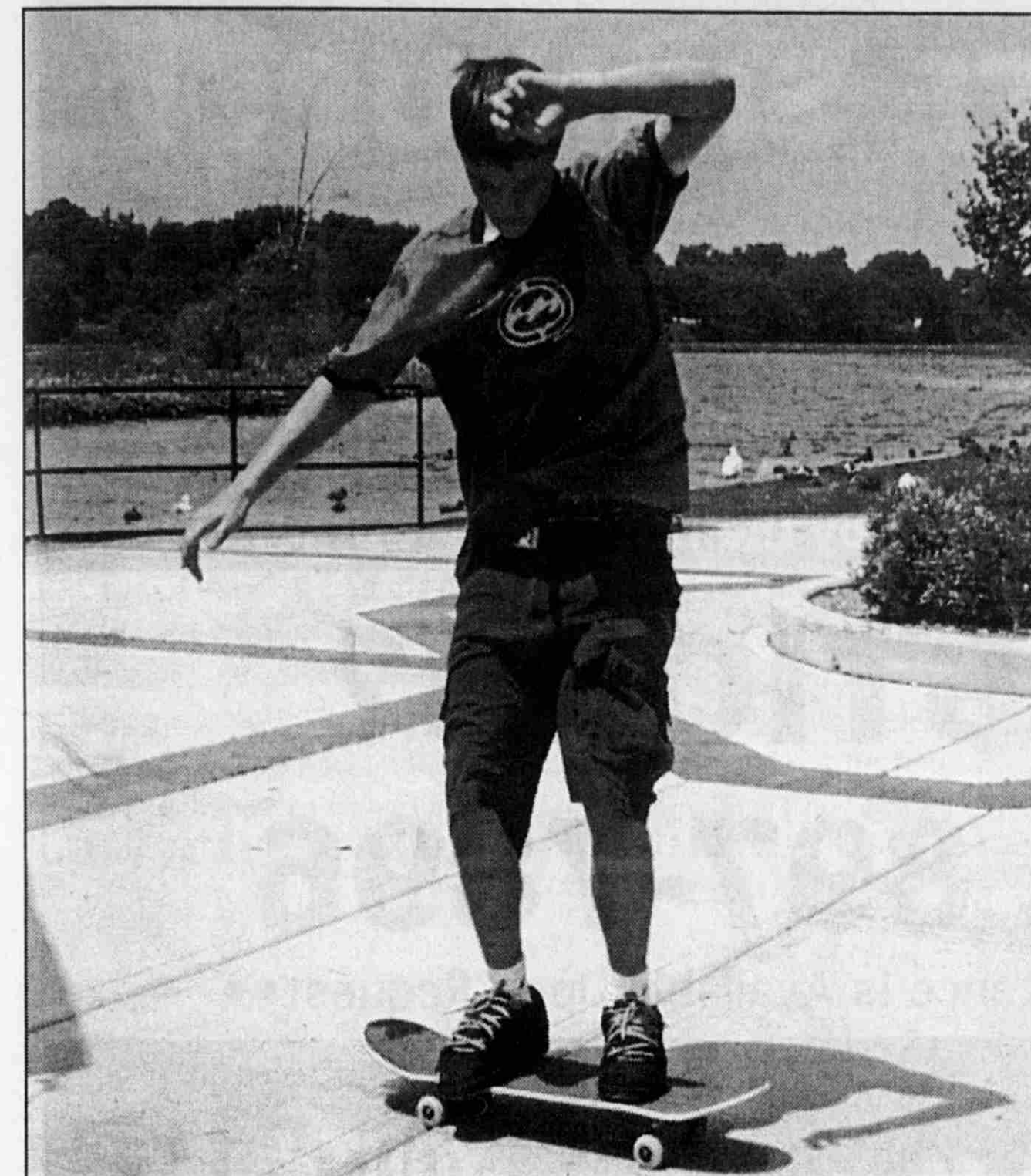
Police officers and skaters have been trying to reach a resolution that is acceptable to all parties, and complaints have been declining. Four years ago a resolution was reached when some families

offered money and resources to build a skate park if the city would provide them with land, but the park was never built.

Everyone seems to think a skate park would solve the animosity, at least temporarily. Bluwman said, "We need a skate park. They should build one behind the library where that playground is."

Smith argues, "I think it will solve the problem for awhile, but people would get tired of it."

With no skate park, little empathy from patrons and business owners, and charges of property damage, trespassing, and repeat offences the only outlets for police to punish illegal skating activity, tension between the city and skateboarders continues.



Steve Bluwman rolls his skateboard along Riverwalk Plaza, one place where skateboarders feel they can skate in peace.

NOTICE TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GRATTA OF THE AUGUST 3, 2004 SPECIAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that a SPECIAL ELECTION will be held in the Township of Grattan, on Tuesday, August 3, 2004, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Local Time, in conjunction with the State primary election, to vote on the following Ballot Propositions:

PROPOSAL NO. 1 MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSITION 1.0 MILL FOR FIRE PROTECTION PURPOSES

Shall the increase in the Township of Grattan tax rate limitation, currently .9377 mill (\$0.9377 per \$1,000 of taxable value), be renewed and levied in the years 2004-2008, both inclusive, and shall an additional .0623 mill (\$0.0623 per \$1,000 of taxable value) be approved and levied to restore previous millage reductions under the "Headlee Amendment" since this millage was last approved, resulting in the levy of 1.0 mill (\$1.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value), subject to reduction as provided by law, on taxable property in the Township?

The purpose of this levy is to provide fire protection within the Township, including the operation of the Township fire department and the acquisition and maintenance of fire and rescue vehicles and apparatus and real property and improvements used for fire protection purposes. It is estimated that a levy of 1.0 mill would provide revenue of \$113,999 in the first calendar year, of which \$7,574 would result from the additional .0623 mill. The revenue from this millage levy will be disbursed to the Township of Grattan.

Yes _____
 No _____

PROPOSAL NO. 2 MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSITION 0.5 MILL FOR ACQUISITION OF FIRE AND RESCUE VEHICLES, APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, AND REAL PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT PURPOSES

Shall the increase in the Township of Grattan tax rate limitation, currently .4688 mill (\$0.4688 per \$1,000 of taxable value), be renewed and levied in the years 2004-2008, both inclusive, and shall an additional .0312 mill (\$0.0312 per \$1,000 of taxable value) be approved and levied to restore previous millage reductions under the "Headlee Amendment" since this millage was last approved, resulting in the levy of .5 mill (\$0.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value), subject to reduction as provided by law, on taxable property in the Township? The purpose of this levy is for acquisition of fire and rescue vehicles, apparatus and equipment, and real property and improvements for fire department purposes. It is estimated that a levy of .5 mill would provide revenue of \$56,993 in the first calendar year, of which \$3,793 would result from the additional .0312 mill. The revenue from this millage levy will be disbursed to the Township of Grattan.

Yes _____
 No _____

List of Polling Place Locations:
 (1) Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Road, N.E.
 (2) Grattan Academy, 12047 Old Belding Road, N.E.

The following is the statement of the Kent County Treasurer, given as provided by Act 62 of the Public Acts of Michigan 1933, as amended:

Statement of Kent County Treasurer as to Voted Increases

I, Kenneth Parrish, Treasurer of Kent County, Michigan, hereby certify that as of June 16, 2004, the records of this office indicate that the total of all voted increases over and above the tax limitation established by the Constitution of Michigan, in any local units of government affecting the taxable property located in Grattan Township, Kent County, Michigan, is as follows:

By Kent County:	.84 Mill 1990 to 2009 Inclusive
	.25 Mill 1998 to 2005 Inclusive
By Belding Area Public Schools:	18.00 Mills 1999 to 2018 Inclusive
By Rockford Public Schools:	18.00 Mills 2000 to 2004 Inclusive
By Lowell Public Schools:	18.00 Mills 2001 to 2005 Inclusive

Date: June 16, 2004

Kenneth D. Parrish
 Kent County Treasurer

This Notice is given by authority of the Township Board of the Township of Grattan, County of Kent, State of Michigan.

Lana F. Green, Township Clerk

CITY OF LOWELL/ WASTE MANAGEMENT

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE YARD WASTE PROGRAM FOR 2004

Yard waste pickup will be the same day as your recycling pickup.

Tuesday Yard Waste Pickup Schedule

August 3 & 17, September 7 & 21

Thursday Yard Waste Pickup Schedule

August 5 & 19, September 9 & 23

Bags are available at Ace Hardware, City Hall, Meijer & Springrove Variety.

LOWELL YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE SIGN-UPS!

Flag Football, Youth Football, 78er's & Cheerleaders!
At Burch Field - Located at Lowell Fairgrounds

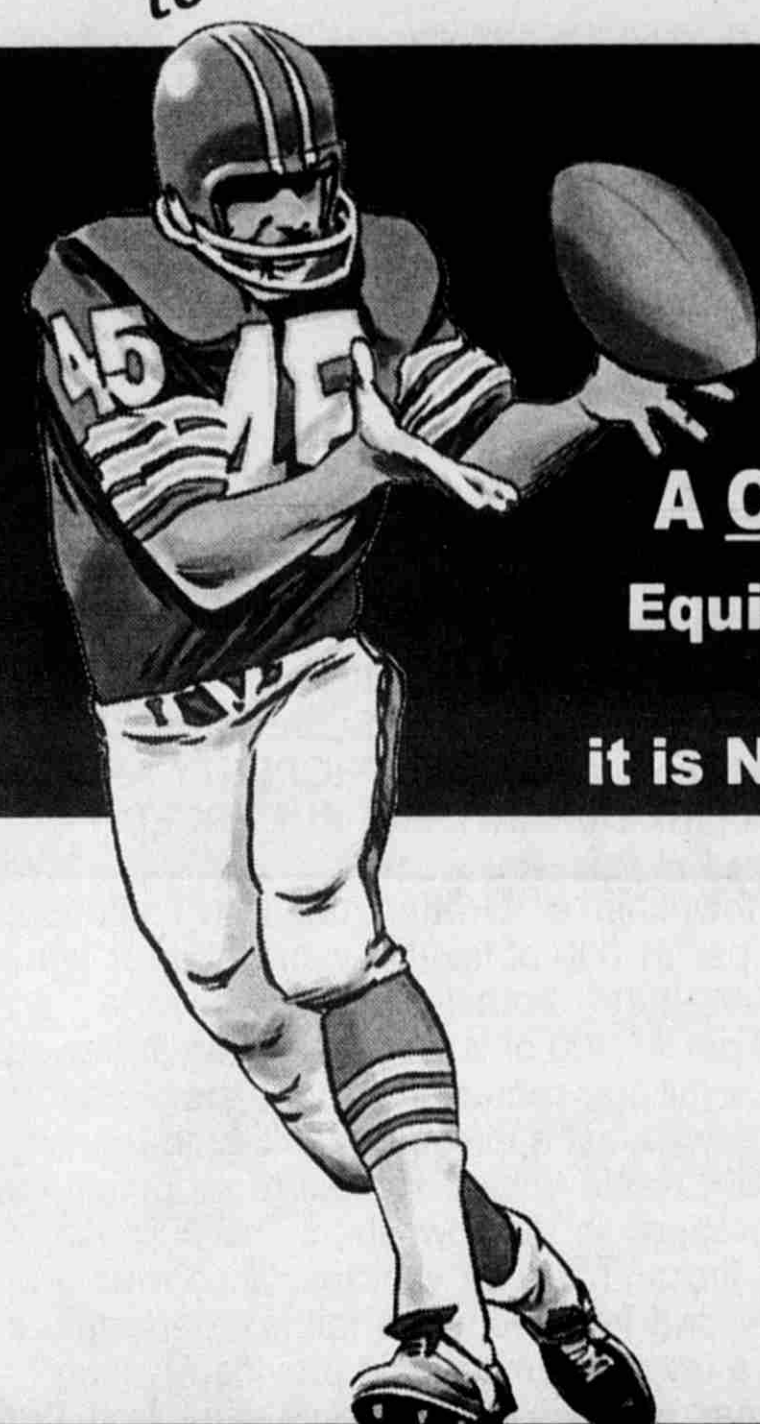
*Due to construction
on Foreman we
have moved
sign-ups
to Burch Field!*

SATURDAY, JULY 24 • 10 AM - 2 PM
TUESDAY, JULY 27 • 6 - 8 PM
THURSDAY, JULY 29 • 6 - 8 PM (LAST 78ER SIGN-UP)
THURSDAY, AUGUST 5 • 6 - 8 PM

NO LATE SIGN UPS!

**ALL NEW SIGN-UPS MUST BRING
A COPY OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE!** *(that we can keep on file)*

Equipment is handed out on a first come, first serve basis!
If we have to order new equipment,
it is NOT guaranteed to be here by the first contact practice!



QUESTIONS? CALL 897-7896

••Financial Assistance Is Available Upon Request••

FLAG FOOTBALL Ages 4-7

Must be 4 years old by Nov. 1

Flag Football is a fun way to teach basic football fundamentals.

Games are played:

4 & 5's on Monday
6 & 7's on Tuesday
Nights

Cost: \$20
T-shirt included

YOUTH & 78er FOOTBALL

8 YEARS OLD TO 8TH GRADE

Must be 8 years old by Nov. 1

Registration Fee.....\$40

Helmet Rental:\$15

Shoulder Pad Rental.....\$15

Total Cost.....\$70

An additional charge
of \$10 for 78er bus fee

YOUTH CHEERLEADING

Must be 8 years old by Nov. 1

8 YEARS OLD TO 8TH GRADE

Learn basic cheerleading

78er's will cheer at
Wednesday games
Youth will cheer at
Saturday games

Cost: \$30
T-shirt included

Lively entertainment on the Riverwalk



Last Thursday evening the Willeys played folk music on the Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts stage. Actually, it was folkwave, an upbeat kind of folk music approaching rock. During intermission, magician Dustin Winters entertained children with tricks and balloon animals. This Thursday's performance will feature Weezil Malone and the King Size Blues Band, taking the stage at 7 p.m.

Photos submitted by John Wenger



GREAT NEWS!!!

The Lowell Ledger NOW AVAILABLE AT:



MEIJER (Inside Store)

In Our Community ♥

✦ AMOCO

✦ SHELL ✦ SPEEDWAY

✦ RITE AID

✦ MEIJER GAS MART

✦ LOWELL FOOD MART

✦ LOWELL BEER STORE

✦ GARY'S COUNTRY MEATS

✦ ALTO TOTAL STATION

GARAGE SALES

GARAGE SALE
Furniture, children's clothes, lots of misc. 319 Roberta Jayne, 9-3 p.m. Thurs., July 29 & Fri., July 30.

GARAGE SALE
Thurs., Fri. & Sat., July 22, 23 & 24, 9-5 p.m. E. on Grand River 3 miles to Sandhill Dr. Follow the signs. Tools, weed whip, color TV, tents, many household items, clothes, pop-up camper, travel trailer & more!

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!
Deadline for this page in the Ledger is Monday at 5 p.m. for Wednesday paper! 897-9261

HUGE YARD SALES
8740 & 8744 Rickert Road, Saranac. Large assortment of items, tons of infant, boys clothing & toys. Fishing equipment, bikes, aquarium, gas grill, yard & household items; 2 man Bass boat w/ motor, \$150; riding lawnmower, \$75; trumpet, \$125; Total gym, \$75; electric keyboard w/ stand, \$50; wedding ring set, \$200. Call for priced items 616-902-0337. Friday & Saturday, July 23 & 24. In case of rain, July 30 & 31, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Everything must go!

GARAGE SALE
13025 Burroughs. Fri., 12-4 p.m. & Sat., 8-5 p.m. Kids clothes, toys & Barbie Jeep.

6 FAMILY SALE
July 23 & 24, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 1600 & 1640 Faith Dr. Children's, men's & women's clothing; bicycle, tricycle; twin box springs; housewares, small furniture; videos; CD's; XBox games; Little Tikes scooter, misc. toys, books, vacuum, educational materials, Muzzy French language videos, sleeper sofa, kitchen booster seat, Gerry baby backpack & more!

GARAGE SALE
Fri. - Sat., July 23 & 24, 9-4 p.m. 504 N. Monroe, Lowell. Household items, toys, picture frames, teen name brand clothes, baskets, girls new 20" bike, many new items reasonably priced.

POST REMODELING, PRE-MOVING SALE
Antiques, jewelry, clothing, household items, bedding. July 22, 23 & 24, 12279 60th St., E. of Alden Nash, Alto.

BASEMENT SALE
Many items too numerous to mention. Thurs. & Fri., July 22 & 23, 9-4:30 p.m. 208 N. Division.

GARAGE SALE
9224 Peck Lake Rd. July 22 - 23, 9-5 p.m. Misc. tools, VHS's, new microwave & lawn cart, sewing machine.

GARAGE SALE
Fri., July 23 - Sat., July 24 at 3115 Dildine Rd., Ionia (3 mi. W. of M-66 & N. of M-21) 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Outdoor Gear, hunting gear, building materials, misc. household, swing set, no clothing.

HUGE GARAGE SALE
Thurs., July 22 & Fri., July 23, 9-5 p.m. at 6891 McCords, Alto. All proceeds go to help a family member adopt a baby.

YARD SALE
11418 Five Mile Rd. Lots of men's stuff, dirt bike, lawn tractor, vehicles & misc. Beginning Sat., July 17 - ?

HUGE BARN SALE
July 17 thru July 23, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 2046 W. Grand River Ave., Ionia.

GARAGE SALE
Lots of toys, books, misc. household, clothing & much more! 12000 Cascade Rd. (corner of Alden Nash & Cascade) July 22, 23 & 24.

GARAGE SALE
July 23, 24 & 25, 10 - 6 p.m. Many different items, including clothes & furniture. 8752 Peck Lake Rd., Saranac.

3-FAMILY GARAGE SALE
Something for everyone! Fri., 7/23 & Sat., 7/24. 13500 Downes St. NE. Fallsburg Park to Downes St. Follow the signs.

MOVING SALE
Thurs., July 29, 9 a.m. - ? Washer/gas dryer, mirrored bedroom set, queen 12 drawer deluxe waterbed, microwave cart, corner TV stand, metal shelves, newer queen mattress & box springs & much more! 1250 Valley Vista. 897-5032.

GARAGE SALE
Thurs., July 22, 9 to 5 p.m. 10763 Grand River Dr. (near Kissing Rock Rd.)

SECOND SALE
3277 Segwun. Any REASONABLE offer. Friday & Saturday, July 23 and 24, 9-4 p.m.

YARD SALE
Fri. & Sat., July 23 & 24, 413 N. Monroe. Radial arm saw, mountain bike, juniors, women's & men's clothes, housewares, toys.

LEAPING LIZARDS

(WHAT A SALE!) 4-families. Swing set, freezer, riding mower, new screen rooms for camper, school supplies, nice school clothing, bikes, variety of sporting goods, bow & arrow in case, winter coats, printers, copier, fabric, hamster habitat, toys galore, Rescue Hero ship & accessories, Leap Frog & pads, Hulk cans, Leggos, scooters, Ekara, exersaucers, Tupperware. Too much more to list. Please come visit - rain or shine. Fri., July 23, 9-3 p.m. & Sat., July 24, 8-2 p.m. 345 Donna Dr.

HUGE ESTATE - GARAGE SALE

Many antiques, tools, hardware, hunting, fishing, toys, collectibles, sewing, cooking, canning, china, appliances, gardening, chains, furniture, power tools, workshop lights, tables, shelves, old rock polisher with rocks, and much more. Thurs., July 22 - Sat., July 24. 9-5 p.m. Grand River Dr. to 2620 Timpson.

Want to tell us how you feel? Got a pet peeve To Get off Your Chest? Did someone do the RIGHT thing for a change!

Sound Off

The Ledger (Almost) Anything Goes Opinion Forum

897-0787 or

www.lowellbuyersguide.com

Please, no signs in the residential area of the city of Lowell. Keep Lowell looking good. Don't change anything - think beautiful!

Thank you Lowell for a wonderful Riverwalk Festival and our dedicated volunteers! We could not do it without you!

Major complaint at the food banks was "rich folks" walk out with six watermelons. None left for people at the end of the line. People should have to be present to collect food, not just say, "We have six people at home." Nothing left for those who need it.

Thank you Laurels of Kent for a wonderful Fireworks Display!

Can't wait for next year's Riverwalk Festival! If you missed it, don't next year!

To those who think our police are overweight, I would like to see you keep up with the chief as he jogs through town. Do you look that good with less on?

The Riverwalk Parade looked more like a campaign trail than a Festival Parade. Why?

Just a short note to congratulate the Lowell Chamber of Commerce for a fabulous Riverwalk Festival. Thank you! -Jim McFadden

Thanks Taco Bell for having the poster - that was very nice. A lot of the seniors went by and saw it.

We thoroughly enjoy the summer concert series. One of the reasons we moved to the Lowell area. (also Ball's Ice Cream).

It's amazing what a community can do. With your generous donations and Support To F.R.O.M Thrift Store we are able to help fund the Emergency Service & Food Pantry. Thank You - S. Jahnke

To the jerk in the green explorer, TURN DOWN your stereo. Everyone in the city doesn't need to hear it.

CLASSIFIEDS

The Lowell Ledger

<p>PRICES 15 words for \$1.00 each additional word is 10¢ \$1 extra for bold \$1 extra for a box</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p>	<p>EVENTS</p>	<p>SERVICES</p>
<p>HOW TO REACH US By Phone: 897-9261 By Fax: 897-4809 By E-Mail: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com By Mail: PO Box 128 Lowell, MI 49331</p>	<p>PROPERTY FOR SALE - 2.2 acre lots for sale. M-21 to Hayes Rd., Muir, North 1/4 mile. Lots are on West Side of road. Look for signs. For more information call eves 269-367-4900. Phil Bishop.</p>	<p>SEALY, SERTA, STEARNS & FOSTER MATTRESS SETS - New, shipping damage. Full, queen, king sizes. From \$99 each piece. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.</p>	<p>AURORA - Oldsmobile, '99 V8, powerful, leather, loaded; white exterior, 100K, very nice condition, asking \$6,800. 868-6666.</p>	<p>10-YEAR REUNION - Lowell High School Class of 1994, Sat., Aug. 7 at The Other Place, Main St. in Lowell. Buffet dinner beginning at 4 p.m. DJ at 7 p.m. \$20 per adult in advance, \$10 kids ages 5-10. Call Shannon at 616-437-6329 to RSVP or request more information. It's not too late!</p>	<p>JOHN DEBIAK HORSESHOEING & HOOF TRIMMING - Serving the Greater Kent/Ionia County area with 15 years of professional, full-time experience. Call 897-4290.</p>
<p>DEADLINE Monday at 5 p.m. For the Wednesday Publication</p>	<p>MATTRESS SETS - Brand names, large selection. Brand new, still in plastic. Twin & full, \$80, queen \$115, King \$150 & up. 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.</p>	<p>'98 CHEVY PICKUP - Long box, 2 wd., new tires, brakes, etc. \$4,200. Call 897-1597 or 450-7910.</p>	<p>6 PIECE AMISH BEDROOM - Complete bed w/head, foot, log rails, cedar post, hand built, \$475. 517-719-8062.</p>	<p>ALLEGAN ANTIQUE MARKET - Sunday, July 25 - Rain or Shine. 400 exhibitors, most inside or under cover. 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, located at the fairgrounds, right in Allegan, Mich. \$3.00 adm. www.alleganantiques.com.</p>	<p>PAYROLL & BOOKKEEPING SERVICE - By certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.</p>
<p>SUBSCRIPTION RATES In Kent County \$15 - 1 year \$29 - 2 years Outside Kent County \$22.50 - 1 yr. \$38.00 - 2 yrs.</p>	<p>EDISON PHONOGRAPH - 1913, works superbly, \$200; 250 Edison - thick records, \$250. Call 897-6626.</p>	<p>GENERAL ELECTRIC WASHER/DRYER SET - 5 years old, runs great, large capacity, guaranteed. \$75 each. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.</p>	<p>HOUSEFUL OF FURNITURE - 3 rooms, appliances, kitchen table, bedroom set, 2 months old. \$2,500 new, sell \$1,300/best. 517-204-0600.</p>	<p>KIDS! - Vacation Bible School "Castle Kids," Bible songs & stories, come as you are, bring your friends, grades K-8th, July 26-30, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Alto Baptist, 868-6403, 891-1840, at 60th/Bancroft in Alto.</p>	<p>LICENSED DAYCARE OPENINGS - North of Lowell. Several openings. Craft activities planned. Lowell busing available. Call 897-3065.</p>
<p>OFFICE HOURS Mon. - Thurs. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Sat. & Sun.</p>	<p>25 BUNK BEDS - bought from university, 4 years old, very sturdy, solid oak, \$99/set. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.</p>	<p>BOAT TRAILER - \$175; boat 12 ft. V, \$175; 14 ft., \$400. Ph. 540-0540.</p>	<p>'99 JEEP CHEROKEE - 4x4, 50,000 miles, red, 4 dr., auto, loaded. \$7,200. Call 897-1597 or 450-7910.</p>	<p>HELP WANTED - Part-time position - Require individual over 21 to work evenings & weekends (Saturdays 8-5 & Sundays 10-3). Must have Michigan driver's license & clean driving record. Some mechanical ability required. Apply at Bernard's Ace Hardware.</p>	<p>TOWING - Servicing Lowell & surrounding areas. Flat bed & wrecker, Tire changes, Jump starts, Lock outs, 24 Hr. service. Call Lincoln Lake Autos 446-5909.</p>
<p>FOR RENT FOR RENT - 1 & 2 bedroom trailers \$1,000 - \$1,050 to move in. No dogs please. \$400 - \$420 per mo. plus 1/12 mo. rent deposit. Call 813-8041 or 616-754-0276.</p>	<p>BOAT MOTORS - 3 hp Evinrude, \$200; 4 hp Johnson, \$275; 7 hp, \$175; 7 1/2 hp Johnson, \$275; 15 hp Evinrude, \$300; 15 hp Sears, \$350; 9.6 Sea King, \$375. All tuned, guaranteed. Call 540-0540.</p>	<p>LIQUIDATION - HUD approved homes with land! \$500 moves you in, 6 homes left, all new appliances. Call 616-647-2563.</p>	<p>MEMORY FOAM BED - Mattress, box. Space age visco NASA foam. Tempurpedic style, queen, never used. New \$2,600, sell \$595. 517-204-0600.</p>	<p>WEDDING DRESS - & matching veil, from Bridal Elegance, size 6, \$150. Call 897-6626.</p>	<p>GETTING MARRIED? - Now booking for 2005 weddings. Call today to reserve your date. Daisy's Floral (Lowell) Invitations, rentals, referrals for DJ, cake & photographer. Call 897-2588.</p>
<p>HALL FOR RENT - with kitchen, seats 150. Call 897-6050.</p>	<p>ABANDONED REPOS! - Only 5 left, all 3-4 bedroom, 2 bath, new appliances. Must sell, country setting. 800-615-1224.</p>	<p>MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE - Owner financing available, 2 bedroom, \$6,000, 1 bedroom \$4,000. Nice park, low lot rent. No banks. Call Joe, 897-5884.</p>	<p>FOR SALE - 1990 Tioga Motorhome 21' class C, 63,000 miles, Chevy 454 engine, great condition, must sell. Call 616-527-2807. Asking \$10,900.</p>	<p>APPLIANCES - Refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves. Reconditioned, guaranteed, over 100 to choose from, \$59 and up. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.</p>	<p>PLUMBER - Experienced. Residential, Service or New Construction. Reasonable rates. Call 897-2575.</p>
<p>APARTMENT FOR RENT - 2 bedroom 1 bath, N. Center St., Lowell \$550/mo. Call Sheryl 252-5611.</p>	<p>DINING ROOM SET - Solid oak, butterfly leaf table, 6 chairs (2A 4S) new in boxes. Must sell, \$800. 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.</p>	<p>'97 CHEVY CONVERSION VAN - White, 350 cu. in., loaded, CD, PW & PL, 120,000 hwy miles. \$4,800. Call 897-1597 or 450-7910.</p>	<p>2001 JEEP CHEROKEE - 4x4, 60th anniversary edition, 55,000 miles, 4 door, black, loaded, \$9,700. Call 897-1597 or 450-7910.</p>	<p>HOUSE FOR SALE - Caledonia Schools, 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath home with heated garage. 5 years old, near lake. \$147,900. Call 868-7012.</p>	<p>FREE - you disassemble & haul- swing set w/slide, glider, 2 swings - good condition. 616-527-2807.</p>
<p>SOUND OFF PHONE LINE 897-0787 Voice your opinion (good or bad) in our new column!</p>	<p>LAND FOR SALE - 10A. or two 5A. parcels for sale. Asking \$130,000 for 10a., \$70,000 for 5A. 33 foot easement to parcels. 10A. is 660x660 feet, 5A. 330x660 feet. Call 897-5148.</p>	<p>AIRBED - Why pay mall price?? Dual chambers, remote control & warranty. Brand new, name brand. Queen at mall \$1,500, sell \$700; King \$950. 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.</p>	<p>CHILD'S BEDROOM SET - Dresser, bed, mattresses, stands, very clean, used very little, \$150. 517-719-0451.</p>	<p>WANTED - the gentleman who was watching me from the top of the Showboat on Saturday, July 10 at the Lowell Riverwalk. Maybe I was supposed to dance with you. Meet me July 24 at 2 p.m. at the place I was sitting. I hope to see you there.</p>	<p>IN MEMORIAM In loving memory of Mark Taylor Kropf July 21, 1965 - June 18, 1970 Memories live forever, They grow richer through years; They are nurtured by our laughter They are watered by our tears. Gone not from memory, nor from love. No longer here our lives to share, But in our hearts he's always there. Deeply missed, lovingly remembered. Your family</p>

JUST FOR VALUED GM OWNERS.


An exclusive offer to rev up your ride.

Because you are a valued GM Owner you are eligible for up to \$5,000 toward select 2003 and 2004 GM vehicles. Check out the chart — **this is the best exclusive GM owner offer we've had all year on such a wide selection of vehicles!** This offer is so good, it isn't combinable with other current GM offers or employee discounts. Take retail delivery before August 2, 2004.

\$5,000	 2004 BUICK RAINIER	 2004 CHEVROLET AVALANCHE	 2004 CHEVROLET BLAZER
	 2004 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN	 2004 CHEVROLET TAHOE	 2004 BUICK LESABRE
	 2004 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER	 2004 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER EXT	 2004 CHEVROLET VENTURE

\$4,000	 2004 CHEVROLET CAVALIER	 2004 CHEVROLET CORVETTE	 2004 CHEVROLET IMPALA
	 2003 CHEVROLET MALIBU	 2004 CHEVROLET MONTE CARLO	 2004 CHEVROLET S-10
	 2004 CHEVROLET SILVERADO	 2004 CHEVROLET MALIBU	Thomet <i>Where Great Deals Happen Every Day!</i>

\$3,000	 2004 CHEVY COLORADO EXT CAB	 2004 CHEVY COLORADO REG CAB	 2004 CHEVROLET EXPRESS
	 2004 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1/2 TON CREW CAB	GMAC LEASE PULL AHEAD If your GMAC Lease expires between August 1, 2004 & March 31, 2005, you can turn your leased unit in early and waive the balance of payments and take delivery of a new 2004 Chevrolet or Buick. Expires August 2, 2004	

\$2,000	 2004 CHEVY COLORADO CREW CAB	GMAC LEASE PULL AHEAD If your GMAC Lease expires between August 1, 2004 & March 31, 2005, you can turn your leased unit in early and waive the balance of payments and take delivery of a new 2004 Chevrolet or Buick. Expires August 2, 2004	

CHEVROLET BLAZER & TRAILBLAZER
Extra \$1,000 BONUS
If Finance With GMAC



BUICK RAINIER
Extra \$1,000 BONUS
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HOURS: MON & WED - 8-8;
TUES, THURS & FRI - 8-6; SAT - 9-3

Kurt Hieshetter Chad Vander Velde Jason Westveld Charlie Craig Stew Thomet Steve Thomet

Lowell City Council backs library millage

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

For a brief time it appeared that the Lowell City Council would not give its endorsement for the Kent District Library millage ... until Charles Myers' impassioned plea.

KDL is seeking a 10-year renewal of its .88 millage, which expires this year. It is also seeking a .12 millage, which will make the entire proposal 1.0 - to help maintain services at the 18 KDL branches, which includes the Englehardt branch. The issues are on the Aug. 3 ballot.

Myers, a Lowell city councilman and chairman of the Kent District Library, said the city has made an investment in the library system by providing a facility of 8,000 square feet. Without this millage, the doors to that building will close. "We don't own the books, we don't have the staff or own the computers," Myers said, adding that the city would spend three to five years reestablishing a library in the Lowell community if KDL closes down. "The passage of this millage will keep the doors open," Myers said. "Because of the investment [the city has made], it seems to me that this falls under a fiduciary responsibility to want the continued success of that building."

For councilmen Jim Pfaller and Al Mathews, they said while they themselves

could support the proposal, they weren't sure that the council should endorse a position on any issue or candidate. "If we personally want to have a candidate or proposal sign in our yard, I don't see a problem with that," said Mathews.

Councilman James Hodges was on the fence. He said at the beginning he agreed with Pfaller and Mathews, but later said Myers' speech changed his mind; Hodges supported endorsing the proposal. The proposal passed with Hodges, Myers and mayor Jeanne Shores in favor. Pfaller abstained from the vote.

Just to keep the doors open, KDL needs to pass the .88 millage proposal. The additional increase of .12 mills would allow all library materials, including CDs, DVDs and videos to be free; increase the bestsellers, increase the books and material budget; increase self-checkout terminals; continue to support local library building projects; offer literacy programs such as lap-time and storytime; increase programs and services for older adults; continue to fund the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped; and provide new technology that effectively delivers library service.

Assistance may be available for area flood victims

If you suffered damage from the May 20-24, 2004, severe storms, tornadoes and flooding, you may be eligible for Federal and State Disaster Assistance.

Homeowners, renters and business owners in 19 counties including Kent and Ionia can apply; your insurance may not cover all of our losses.

- Assistance may include:
- Grants for basic home repairs and/or rental assistance
 - U.S. Small Business Administration low-interest loans for renters, homeowners and businesses
 - Grants for serious disaster-related needs and expenses such as appliances and furniture.

This temporary office is for individuals who have already applied for assistance under President Bush's June 30 disaster declaration for Michigan. However, it is not necessary to visit this center. You can get answers to your questions by calling the FEMA hotline.

Before you call, have the following information available:

- Your Social Security number
- Insurance information including policy numbers
- Information on your damages
- Direct deposit information
- Day and evening contact information

Officials have opened a Disaster Recovery Center at the Plainfield fire station headquarters, 4383 Plainfield Ave. NE. They are open 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday - Saturday.

Call 800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY: 800-462-7585 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. seven days a week.