

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 32 Issue 37

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Walking safely through Lowell

By Dan Schneider

People in downtown Lowell are hoping some visible additions on Main Street will make pedestrians more visible to motorists.

First, there's the new crosswalk lines that were put down across Main Street at three intersections. Monroe Street, Riverside Drive and North Broadway now have designated crosswalks for the first time.

Then there's the red banner over Main Street at Riverwalk Plaza. The banner reads "Protect Our Pedestrians," with the O in "Our" in the octagonal shape of a stop sign. The Downtown Development Authority funded the banner at the request of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce's merchant group.

Yet to come are two

pairs of metal road signs, one pair for each side of downtown. They'll say something to the effect of "Pedestrian Crossings, next 1/4 mile."

"I'm hoping it makes people more conscious of pedestrians," Lowell police chief Jim Valentine said of the banner. "It seemed like in the old days, if you were standing there, and there was a line of cars going by, someone would stop and let you cross."

Now, some feel drivers are more intent on getting through town than on paying attention to pedestrians on their way. Cliff Yankovich, owner of the downtown business Chimera Design, has long been outspoken in favor of improving the situation for pedestrians in the business district.

"Every week I get at least one customer (complaining) about not being able to cross the street," he said.



Business owners downtown are hoping this banner will draw motorists' attention to pedestrians trying to cross Main Street.

He hopes the banner will help.

"It certainly can't hurt," Yankovich said. "I'm hoping that it will draw the drivers' attention to make them more aware of people crossing the street."

"But I still want a light," he added, referring to a traffic signal at Monroe Street that the Michigan Department of Transportation has so far not allowed.

"I'd like to see our city officials bug the state until

we get one," Yankovich said.

It remains to be seen whether the new visuals will be effective.

"I'll be interested to see when we put the speed board back out there if the

average speeds are going down," Valentine said.

Though he said traffic volume, rather than speed, is most responsible for lengthening pedestrian crossing times.

Over 1,000 tested during drive to find marrow donor

By Dan Schneider

Last Tuesday's marrow drive for Anna Organek at Lowell High School drew more than 1,000 people, even one from Alaska.

"I saw the poster in the gas station, at the Wesco station in Belding," Cynthia Ingraham said.

The 44-year-old woman from Soldotna, Alaska, was on vacation visiting relatives in Belding. "I wanted to get on the national registry," she said.

Soldotna is in rural Alaska, she explained, and she never saw any bone marrow drives around there.

By 1 p.m., about 150 people had registered, and blood samples had been taken in the high school cafeteria. By the end of the day, 1,117 people had given blood samples.

"We just thought it was so wonderful that people would come out for our daughter like this," said Heather Organek.

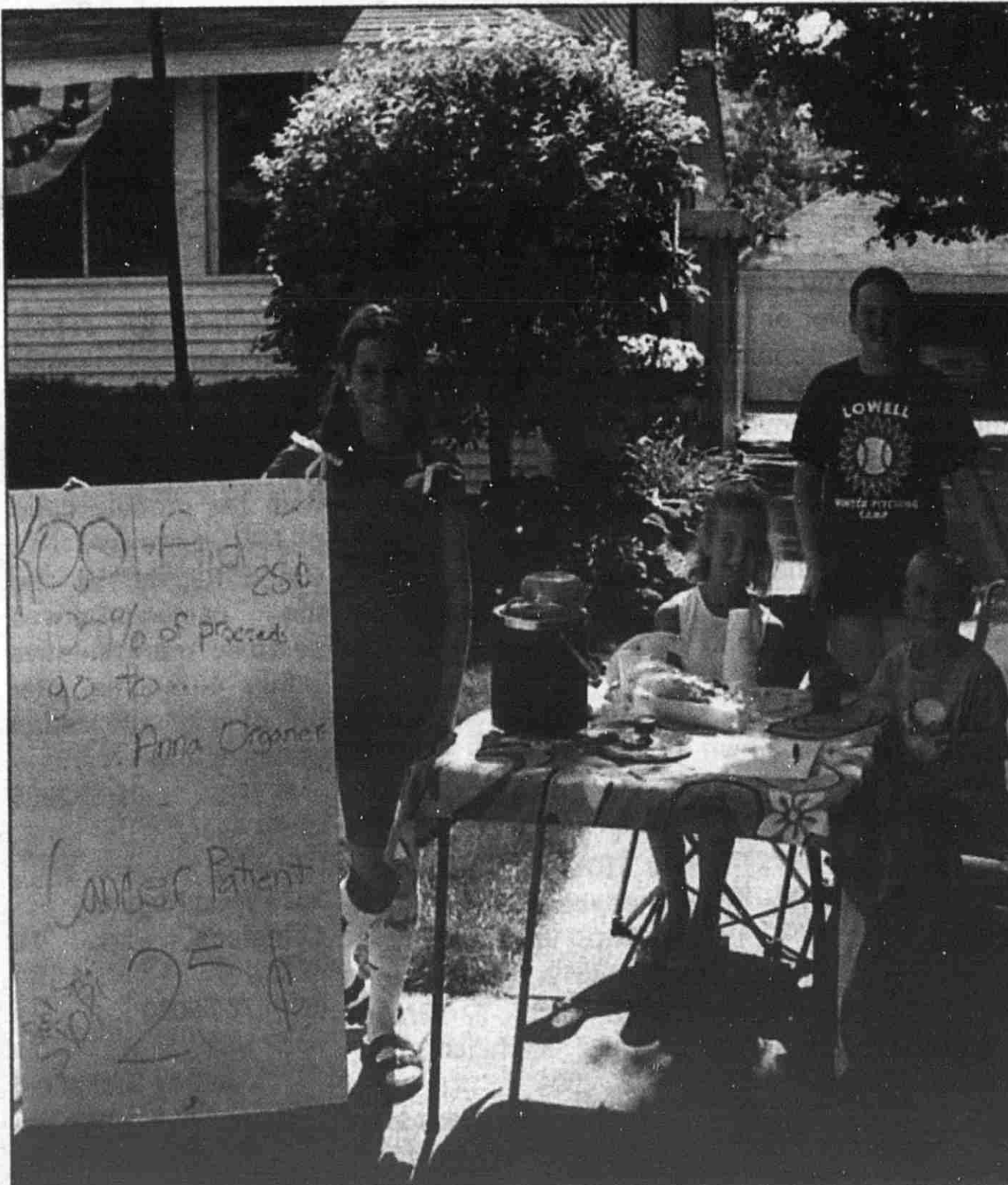
It shows what can happen when Lowell gets behind a cause.

"It was a great day, people were there to support the community, the drive and to try to be a match for Anna," said drive chairperson Brian Krajewski. "It was pretty cool."

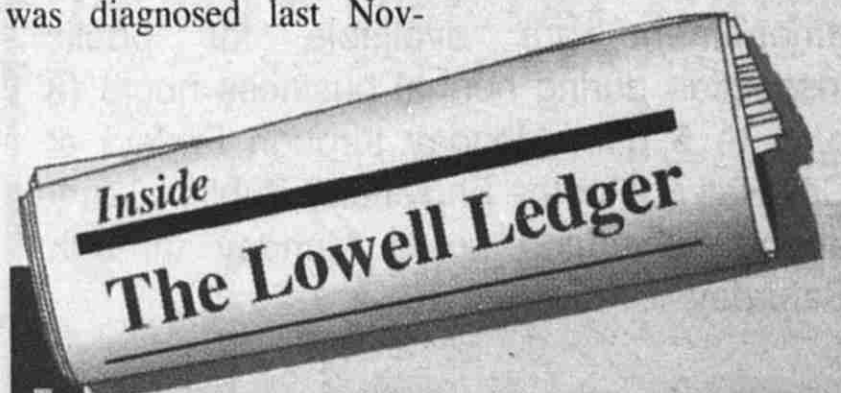
Anna Organek, an eight-year-old student at Cherry Creek Elementary, was diagnosed last Nov-

ember with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. In May, doctors discovered the cancer was in her immune cells and she would need a bone marrow transplant. A match couldn't be found on the national bone marrow registry, so Anna's friends and family organized a drive in Lowell.

Searching for a donor, cont'd., pg. 11



From left, Kyleigh Newman, Brynlee Pomper, Mattie Newman and Keaton Pomper ran a lemonade stand last Thursday as a fundraiser for the marrow drive.



Crime Low In Lowell ... Page 3

Power Blackouts?... Page 4

Skateboarding... Page 9

Garden Party... Page 11

Reflections of faith

Dr. Michael Conklin
First United Methodist Church

Toward the end of her life, Mother Theresa spoke of her relationship with Jesus. She said, "My little story, which was like a fairy tale, has turned into prayer." Mother Theresa's "little story" was filled with more content and more faith than most of us ever expect to experience in our own lives. Yet there is something inherently powerful about someone who has the perspective on life that she reflected in hers. It wasn't that she never regarded the work that she did as important work, but rather that she seemed always to be very clear that it was not her work, but the Lord's work that she was doing. Calling her powerful life "little" was not so much an effort to belittle herself, but rather it was the simple recognition that what she was doing was part of something—and someone—much larger than herself. It is this recognition that allowed her to see the expenditure of her life on behalf of the poor and outcast as a prayer to her Lord.

College News

Chris Huyser is a member of the Michigan Technological University Concrete Canoe team, which placed third in the nation while at the 18th annual ASCE competition.

This year, the team had its best finish ever amid a field of 21 teams that had earned the rights to compete in the nationwide contest, which is sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers. Traveling to Clemson University in South Carolina, the team placed in the top five in all of the events but one.

Teams were judged on their presentations, the race results, their design report and their display.

Huyser, a 2001 graduate of Lowell High School, is currently majoring in civil engineering at MTU. He is the son of James and Karen Huyser of Ada.

Jana Marie Young of Ada received a Bachelor of Arts degree in materials engineering on April 30, 2005 from Michigan Technological University. She is a 2001 graduate of Lowell High School.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus talks about this way of relating to the world when he says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 5:3). "Poor" is not poverty in the literal sense, but rather a characterization that has been used to describe the true people of God in all times and places, the people who know that their lives are ultimately not their own, and whose true security is found in God and God alone. It is a word used to describe a people who have discovered that, however important their work for the Lord is, they are fundamentally a part of the great movement of the kingdom of heaven into the world and into the lives of people. It is not self-deprecation to see oneself as a little part of a great movement, a great hope. It is instead a proper recognition of how we fit into the whole scheme of God's work in the world.

We saw in our own community the effects of a little thing—the giving of a blood sample—becoming part of something larger and greater—an effort to bring new life and hope to Anna Organeck. Whatever else I might know about that day, the one thing that I do know is that God was powerfully present among us in that time. The world and our lives are filled with little moments and small actions that become, as did Mother Theresa's life, a prayer. We don't always take time to notice, or to know that these moments are present. But when we do, we get one of those faith-giving glimpses into the powerful presence of God's kingdom in our midst. For some reason, this summer, more than any other in recent memory, has been one in which I have become more aware of the little moments and small actions that yield great hope and wonderful promise. It is indeed a time when the wonder of God's love and grace is revealed anew among us.

Happy Birthday

- JULY 21:** Dara Anchors, Stephanie Wade, Carolyn Mercer, Jeff Gurney, Kelly Tulecki, Alexander Stiles.
- JULY 22:** Kelly Marie Roth, Richard (Dick) Roth, Laurie Fonger, Eric Shear, Noreen Myers.
- JULY 23:** Dave Fosburg, Nathan Swift, Heather Pretzel, Robert Jahnke.
- JULY 24:** Nathan Bush.
- JULY 25:** Ella Tuinstra.
- JULY 26:** Elaine Gregersen, Eric Baird, Josh Geldersma.
- JULY 27:** Kyle Hendrick, Mike Shalander, Ed Roth Sr., Jason Spencer, Paige Allyse Wilson.

Engagements

Wood/Williams



Leah Wood and Brian Williams

Leah Wood, of Hastings, will graduate from Excel Academy of Cosmetology in September. The future groom is the son of John and Barb Williams of Lowell. He graduated from Lowell High School in 2003 and is currently attending Grace Bible College working on a degree in Youth Ministry.

LHS Class of 1940

The Lowell High School Class of 1940 celebrated its 65th reunion on Friday, July 15 at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. Of 77 members in the class, 15 attended along with 13 spouses or guests. Following a luncheon catered by Flat River Grill, the group toured the Showboat and the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

The class graduated at the start of World War II and 25 members served in various branches. Of those, six were killed in combat, the most of any class in the history of Lowell High School.



Pictured are members of the LHS Class of 1940. Standing, from left to right, are: Barbara Dawson Shaffer, Bill Lalley, Esther Kamp, Bill Cannon, Jack Tornga, Inez Cole Craig, King Doyle, Carroll Kyser, John Jasperse, Austin Byrne and Gerald Hoover; seated are: Helen Clark Blow, Vivian Hale Dent, Marjean Fonger Brillhart and Howard Acheson.

Bike rally for hope & hunger passing through Lowell

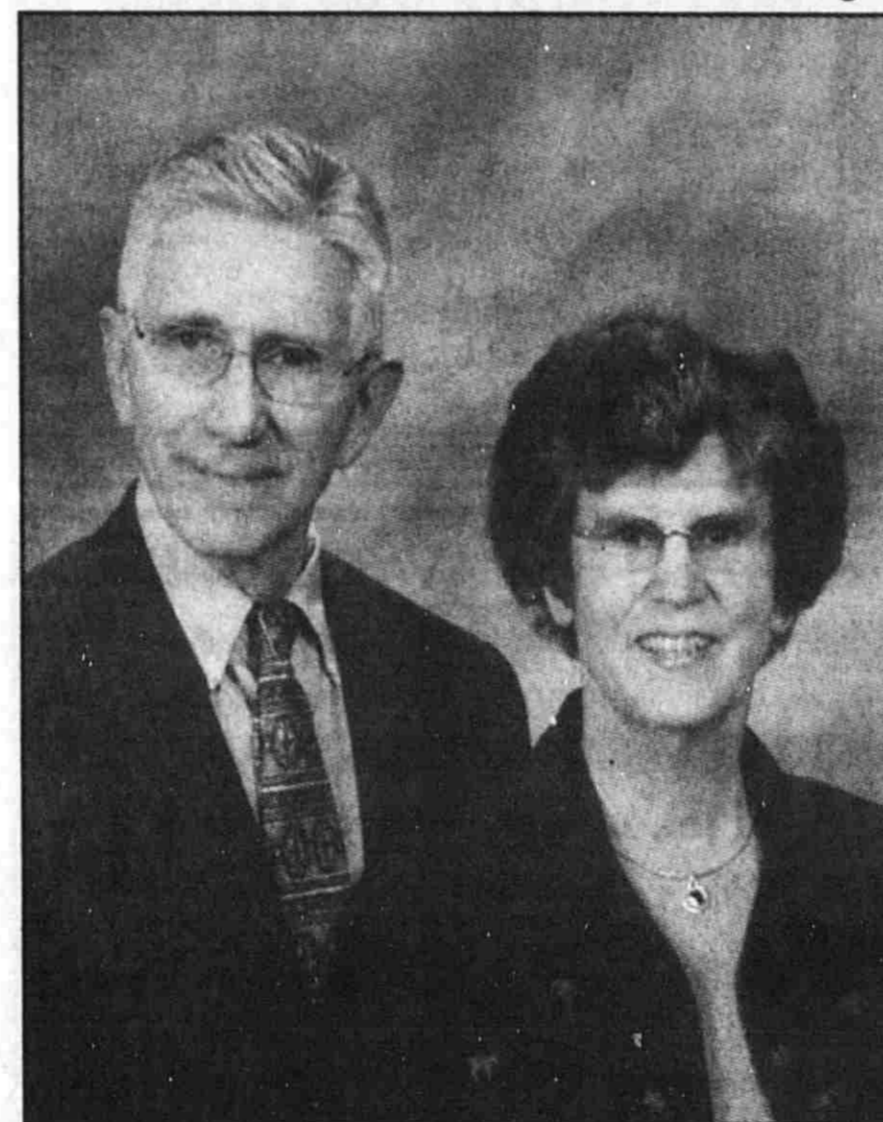
The 6th annual Rally for Hope and Hunger will be held this Saturday. Bike registration (\$20) and breakfast begin at Cannonsburg Ski Area at 9 a.m.; a one-hour motorcycle ride will conclude at Bertha Brock Park in Ionia.

Bikers who enter the Rally and participate in the ride will be entering Lowell around noon from Lincoln Lake Ave. and continue east on M-21 to the park.

Following the ride, around 2 p.m., a 2005 Harley Davidson Springer will be raffled off. Raffle tickets are \$20 each.

In 2004, over \$54,000 was raised. This year, over 350 bikers are expected to participate and proceeds will again be divided between God's Kitchen and the VanAndel Institute.

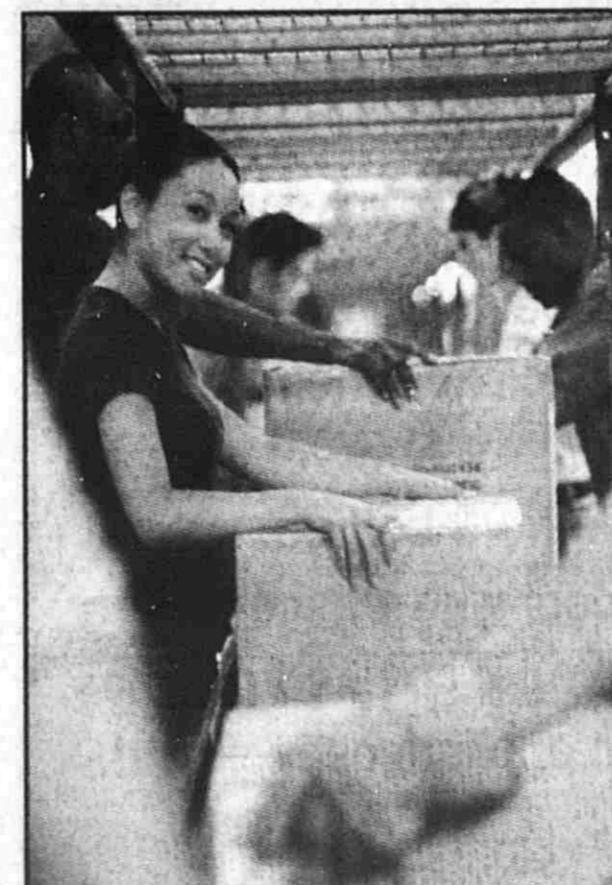
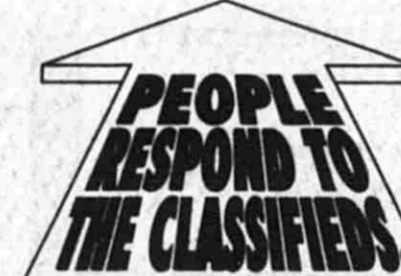
Golden anniversary celebrated



Dr. Robert C. and Linda B. (Brainard) Hall of Fort Wayne, Indiana, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 9.

The couple have one daughter, Kathleen Wilford, and three sons, Stephen, Martin and Brian. They also have 10 grandchildren.

Dr. Hall, a retired surgeon, lived in Lowell throughout his school years and graduated with the Lowell High School Class of 1950.



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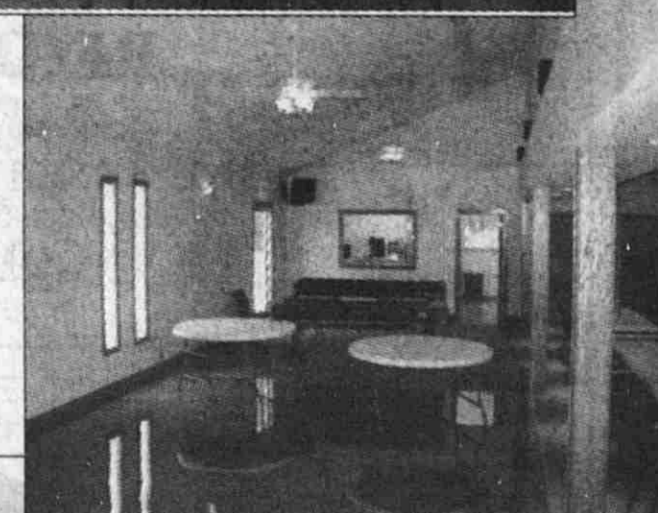
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<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936</p> <p>Worship Services 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p>EVERGREEN MISSIONARY CHURCH 16501 Saddlewood • Ph. 897-7185</p> <p>Sunday School.....9:45 A.M. Morning Worship.....11 A.M. Evening Service.....6:00 P.M.</p> <p>Prayer and Praise - Wed., 7:00 P.M. Rev. Rick Ferguson - 987-6475 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 Jonathan & Stacy Holmes, Youth Pastors</p> <p>SUNDAYS: Worship: 10:00 a.m. - LIFE Home Groups & "XL" Youth Sunday evenings WEDNESDAYS: Family Night (For All Ages): 7 p.m. "XL" Youth: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com</p> <p>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 REGIONS EDUCATION CALLEN TO KOLTS - CALL BRENDA REINE 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, EWIN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALTO 8015 Bancroft Ave. • 868-6403 www.fbcalto.com</p> <p>Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Service.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA (School ages 2-9).....7:00 P.M. Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Nursery provided Steven Harduk - Pastor Preaching the whole counsel of God. ALL ARE WELCOME!</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21</p> <p>www.goodshepherdlowell.org</p> <p>Worship Service.....10:00 A.M.</p> <p>(Nursery available) Joseph Fremmer, Pastor 897-6307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>FRIENDSHIP COUNTRY CHAPEL 10200 Grand River Ave. Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-9742 www.isfcc4u.com Pastor Bob Roush Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington • 897-8800</p> <p>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.</p> <p>PASTOR KEN ANDERSON Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>	<p>LOWELL MISSION of the Evangelical APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA Located at 404 North Hudson (First Congregational Church Facility)</p> <p>Christ Centered Sunday Worship.....4:00 PM Bishop Alex McCullough.....Clergy in Charge Reverend Deacon Mark O. Fleet, Clergy in Assistance Parsonage.....(616) 897-2587 Corporate Web Page.....http://www.caenca.org May the Lord fill you and bless you this day!</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 404 North Hudson • 897-5906</p> <p>Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Dr. Roger LaWarre.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>
<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbcloowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor</p> <p>Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA CLUB J.C.....Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided - Barrier Free</p>	<p>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648</p> <p>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 Kan Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</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.</p> <p>119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES</p> <p>Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com</p>	<p>PEOPLE RESPOND TO THE CLASSIFIERS</p>	

Fourth phase of sewer maintenance program in the works

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

If approved next month, the city's east side of the Flat River will see city crews and sewer workers in the area.

The city of Lowell is scheduled to start the fourth phase of its project to check and record its sewer system. The project was started in 2002 after several residents experienced sewer back-ups in their homes, some due to problems in the city's main lines.

This year, Department of Public Works director

Dan DesJarden said he has proposed \$35,000 to video tape, clear roots and test and seal joints. Depending on how much repair work is needed will determine if the city will complete the video taping of its entire sewer system this year.

"Once we have completed the entire city, we will then start back at the beginning," DesJarden said. "The next go around should go faster since we won't be televising."

The city wanted a complete record of its entire sewer system to reference

what was taking place and to help when major back-ups do occur.

Since starting the project three years ago, back ups have dropped, with the city having only a few minor problems, DesJarden verified.

The city has spent approximately \$97,000 on the sewer line project. The first area completed was the Valley Vista, Donna, Sibley, Jane Ellen portion of the city in 2002. It cleaned and televised 13,383 feet of sewer lines, cleared 1,482 feet of roots, tested 425

joints, and sealed 288 joints to keep groundwater out. The cost was \$24,565.

In its second year 2003, the city spent about \$31,126 to clean and televise 20,343 feet of sewer lines and clear roots from about 4,738 feet of the line. The covered area was mostly on the south side of Main Street including Bowes, S. Broadway, S. Hudson, Ridgeview, S. Valley Vista and West Street.

Last year, 22,361 feet of sewer line was cleared and televised with almost 3,343 feet cleared of roots in

the area directly west of the Flat River, which included Amity, Beech, Chatham, Broadway, Elm, Foreman, N. Hudson, Lincoln Lake, Riverside Drive, Spring, Suffolk and Water. About 316 joints were sealed. The total cost was \$41,066.42.

DesJarden plans to bring the estimated budget for this year's sewer work to the next council meeting Aug. 1. If approved, the work would begin toward the end of August.

Showboat, continued

... From Page 3

someone interested in using the boat for a wedding or similar function, Baker said.

She added that because of the amount of work involved in preparing the boat and checking it over after an event, renting isn't really encouraged. Last year, there were three weddings and only one gave a donation towards the facility, largely due to no enforceable contract.

"Wouldn't it be easier to say to someone interested in renting, 'Here, these are your responsibilities, this is what we do, and this is the fee?'" said councilman James Pfaller.

He promoted having a fee to help funnel money back into the boat for its maintenance. The city recently started charging \$50 for the pavilion at Creekside Park.

Within the contract, Pfaller said he wouldn't mind if there were different fee structures for those renting, i.e., nonprofit and for-profit purposes. He also indicated he had no interest in charging entities such as the chamber or the Lowell Area Arts Council, which organize and run city events.

Baker said she could understand the council's desire to have a contract in place and didn't think it would take much to do, especially since one was already started. Pasquale and councilman Charles Myers said they would work on the proposed contract with Baker and bring something back to the council in a month.

With funding, a skateboard park is possible

By Dan Schneider

Denny Denton, 14, has been skateboarding in Lowell, when he can find a spot, for about a year. For

nearly a quarter of a year, he has been attending city council meetings, hoping to make a skateboarding spot easier to find.

It could get as easy to

find as Stoney Lakeside Park on Bowes Road. The Lowell City Council approved that location with a list of capital improvement projects two weeks ago. But getting a

skatepark built there will require some work—mostly an estimated \$80,000 worth of fundraising.

"We haven't tried to raise funds yet because we don't know what to do yet," Denton said.

The Lowell Parks and Recreation Commission supports the project. They've even agreed to put up \$6,000 if the skatepark idea becomes a reality.

"I thought that was something we could do and it would also show this group that we're committed," Parks and Recreation Commission chairman Perry Beachum said.

But the skateboarders will have to organize the rest of the fundraising.

"It's up to that group, somebody who has a passion for it, to make it happen," Beachum explained.

He added it wouldn't hurt for the group to have some adult support, someone familiar with committee meetings and fundraising.

If the community shows enthusiasm for the skatepark, and Denton assembles a group of committed volunteers, Beachum said the group

could likely get matching grants for up to half of the projected cost. That would leave the skateboarders and their supporters with about \$40,000 to raise.

"I think that a group with a passion for that could easily raise that kind of money," Beachum said.

Denton thinks the location at Stoney Lakeside Park would be a good one for skateboarders.

"That'd be accessible for a lot of people," he said.

The nearest privately owned skatepark, where skateboarders can ride for a fee, is Modern Skatepark on 28th Street in Grand Rapids. It's a 20-minute drive away.

What Denton envisions is a street-style skatepark.

"We don't need ramps because nobody is inverted here," he said, referring to skateboarders who perform aerial tricks off curved ramps.

"Our idea is a flat slab with portable equipment on it," Beachum said.

The two visions are compatible, since most street-skating equipment is available in a portable variety. This includes rails for sliding and grinding and what Denton calls a "fun box," an up-and-over ramp with a flat top and integrated grinding rail. Now Denton just needs some help to make the idea a reality.

Eccentricity is not, as dull people would have us believe, a form of madness. It is often a kind of innocent pride, and the man of genius and the aristocrat are frequently regarded as eccentrics because genius and aristocrat are entirely unafraid of and uninfluenced by the opinions and vagaries of the crowd.

- Edith Sitwell (1887 - 1964)



Alex Zoulek, Kody Bissell and Denny Denton, with their skateboards on Riverwalk Plaza. Denton wants to create a place where Lowell skateboarders are allowed to skate.

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Friday, August 12th, 2005

Tee Time @ 10 a.m. • Registration @ 9 a.m.
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LEVEL II (BIRDIE) - \$75 per person and we will find a foursome for you! (Golf, cart, lunch, and prizes).

LEVEL III (EAGLE) - \$300 per foursome (golf, cart, lunch, and prizes).

LEVEL IV (DOUBLE EAGLE OR ALBATROSS) - \$500 for Company Sponsorship (Company name at tee-box, listing in media guide. Includes a foursome, golf, cart, lunch, and prizes).

LEVEL V (THE RINGERS) - \$750 for a Company Sponsorship w/ booth (Booth that can be manned throughout the registration and tournament, company name on tee-box, listing in media guide. Includes a foursome, golf, cart, lunch, and prizes).

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CONTESTS:

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- Longest Putt Hole
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**On Behalf of
ANNA ORGANEK,
the Michigan
Community
Blood Center
and the National
Bone Marrow Registry**

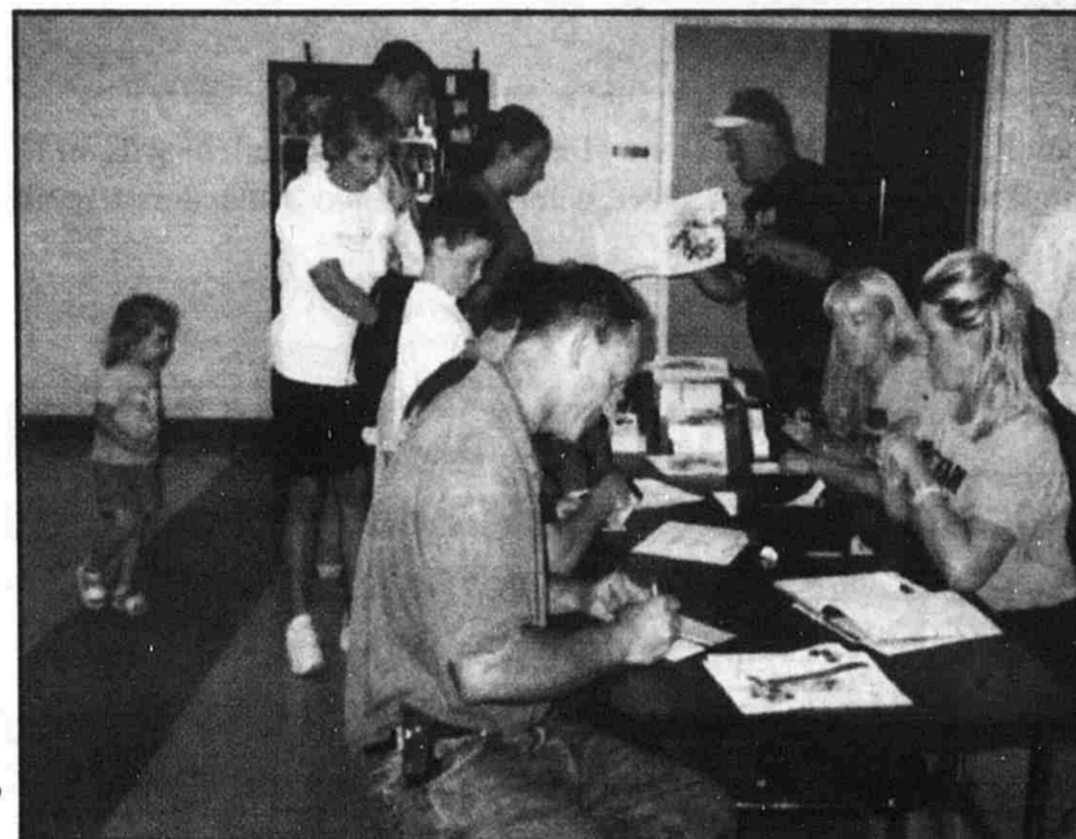
**We would like to thank everyone that participated
in the Bone Marrow Drive on July 12th
1,117 people were tested.**

Within 3-4 weeks the results of this drive will be filed on the national registry.

**Statistics would tell us that 3-5 people will be matched throughout the nation from this drive.
You are all Heroes for volunteering for such a worthy cause.**

Special thanks goes out to our committee leaders and all the Black and Pink shirted volunteers that were seen at the drive. These individuals are the core of what made this drive successful – If you see a Black or Pink “Ask Me About Anna” shirt – thank that individual for making this world a better place.

A Huge thank you goes out to – Lowell High School for allowing the use of the school facilities and the school staff for their help at the event and throughout the 6-week planning process. Also, we would like to Thank the Lowell Football and Cheerleading teams for their support in washing 308 cars in 8 hours (That’s 1 car every 1½ minutes)- of which Harold Zeigler Ford has graciously donated \$20 per car. Thank you to Showboat Automotive, L&A Rental and Harold Zeigler Ford for the supplies used to wash those cars. We can’t forget Hooper Printing for donating all the posters that were used to help spread the word and the web-site administrator “Hank” who has kept us all up to date on our Bone Marrow Drive events.



Special Thanks to all of our student Babysitters who helped watch over 100 different children throughout the day.

**Our Quest is not yet complete - at \$125/test we are obligated to pay \$139,625
of which we have raised \$88,237.**

*The committee, along with the family,
has 30 days to make this payment to the blood center for the DNA testing.*

Your help is still needed!!!

Visit our website at WWW.Help-Anna.org to see how you can help.

Thank You!! - Thank You !! - Thank You!!

This Advertisement has been graciously paid for by DuRay Development

Appreciated volunteers enjoy historical museum garden party

The Lowell Area Historical Museum’s garden party was held at the home of museum director Judy Straub last Tuesday evening.

Large hats were worn. Croquet was played on the lawn. Dinner and conversation were enjoyed by all. Straub hosted the event as a thank you for the museum’s volunteers.

“We have so much programming and so much activity that we could never do it without all these volunteers,” Straub said. “The volunteers are the lifeblood of the organization.”

In each of the last five years, volunteers totaled more than 4,000 hours of work. Straub said the museum has a core group of about 45 volunteers; 40 of them attended the garden party.



Searching for a donor, continued ...From Page 1

Fundraising efforts to cover the tests, each costing \$125 to perform, ranged from a Kool-Aid stand set up by some of Anna’s friends to a car wash the day of the

drive. The Lowell football and cheerleading teams washed cars for more than eight hours that afternoon. High school students also volunteered to run a nursery

for children while their parents waited in line to be tested.

Anna, who made an appearance at the drive, was excited by how many people turned out to try and help her.

“She just loves it,” Heather Organek said. “She wanted to make sure everybody gets a ‘poke prize,’ that’s something they do at the hospital, so we made sure they were here and everything.”

Anna undergoes frequent blood tests for her cancer treatment.

“We’ve had support from all over,” Organek said about the drive. “Even some of the nurses down at DeVos (Children’s Hospital) have come, even parents of kids out there who have different types of cancer are coming down to donate.”

Darcie Kies’ one-year-old daughter Madison was diagnosed in January with a nerve tumor in her neck. Madison’s treatment will not

require a marrow transplant, but Kies was still heartened to see the large turnout at Anna’s marrow drive.

“It adds hope,” Kies said. “If it were Madison in the same situation, I could only hope for the same thing, that there would be a good turnout.”

In the weeks leading up to the marrow drive, volunteers used the slogan “Paying it Forward” on posters promoting the drive. The idea is that though the chances of finding a match for Anna from the potential donors tested last Tuesday are small, those tested might help someone down the line. A potential donor can stay on the registry until the age of 61. About one in every 200 potential donors on the registry get the chance to donate.

The drive was a huge success in terms of getting people on the national bone marrow registry. But the drive organizers still have a lot of work ahead.

Fundraising efforts before and during the drive raised more than \$88,000. But \$51,388 still needs to be raised to cover the cost of all the tests.

“At 6 or 6:30 (last Tuesday evening) we had to convince the blood center that we would continue to fundraise ... and we didn’t have to turn anyone away,” Krajewski said.

Some local benefactors put up short-term, no-interest loans to cover the cost of the drive while fundraising continues. The group is planning several events to raise the rest of the money, including a Las Vegas night with a Texas Hold ‘Em tournament, a 5-K race on

the route of the last Cherry Creek Classic, and a pancake breakfast. The city is also on board. The fundraising committee to find a marrow donor for Organek requested and received permission to have a yard sale at Richards Park July 28 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The council also approved signage as needed.

“It is so fantastic that our community is pulling together for this type of thing,” said mayor Jeanne Shores. “A person is in need and we are all pulling behind her. This is why I live in Lowell.”

There will be fliers around town once the details are in place. Check www.help-anna.org for updates.



Tashia Lavallee has a blood sample taken during last Tuesday’s marrow drive for Anna Organek while others wait their turn in the background.

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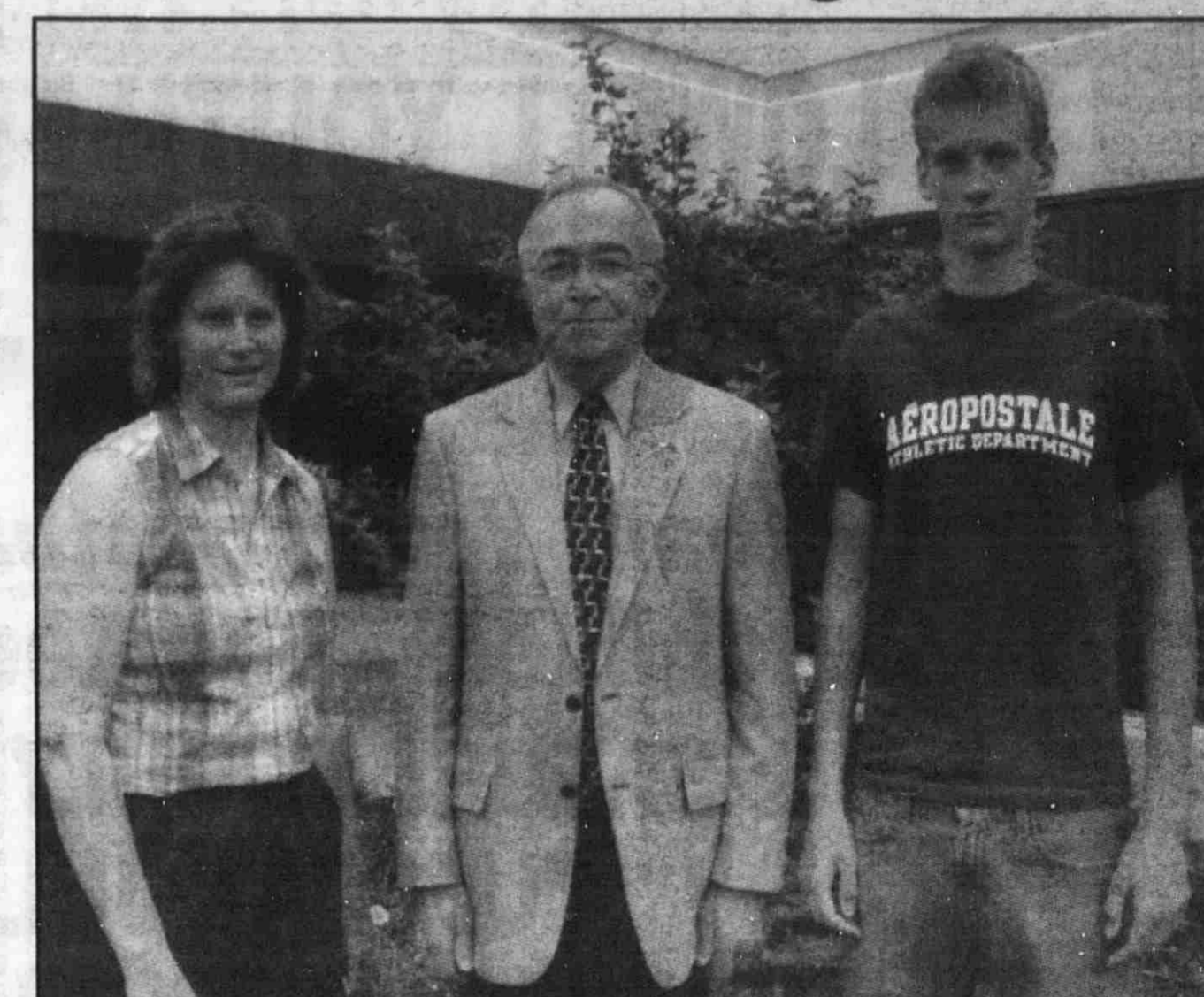
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Local student participates in MMPA milk marketing tour

Members and adult leaders of 4-H Clubs and FFA chapters from several Michigan counties gathered at Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA) headquarters in Novi on June 28-29 for the 68th annual 4-H/MMPA Milk Marketing Tour. The focus of the tour is to educate students about milk marketing principles, and duties and operations of a dairy cooperative. A professor from the food science department at Michigan State University explained how milk is processed through a dairy plant. Students also visited where they were able to see firsthand what happens to milk after it leaves the farm. The conference, co-sponsored by MMPA and Michigan State University Extension, is the longest running 4-H tour in existence with over 4,000 students having participated.



Pictured, left to right, are chaperone Lynn Drown, Elwood Kirkpatrick (MMPA president) and Grady Drown, Lowell High School student.

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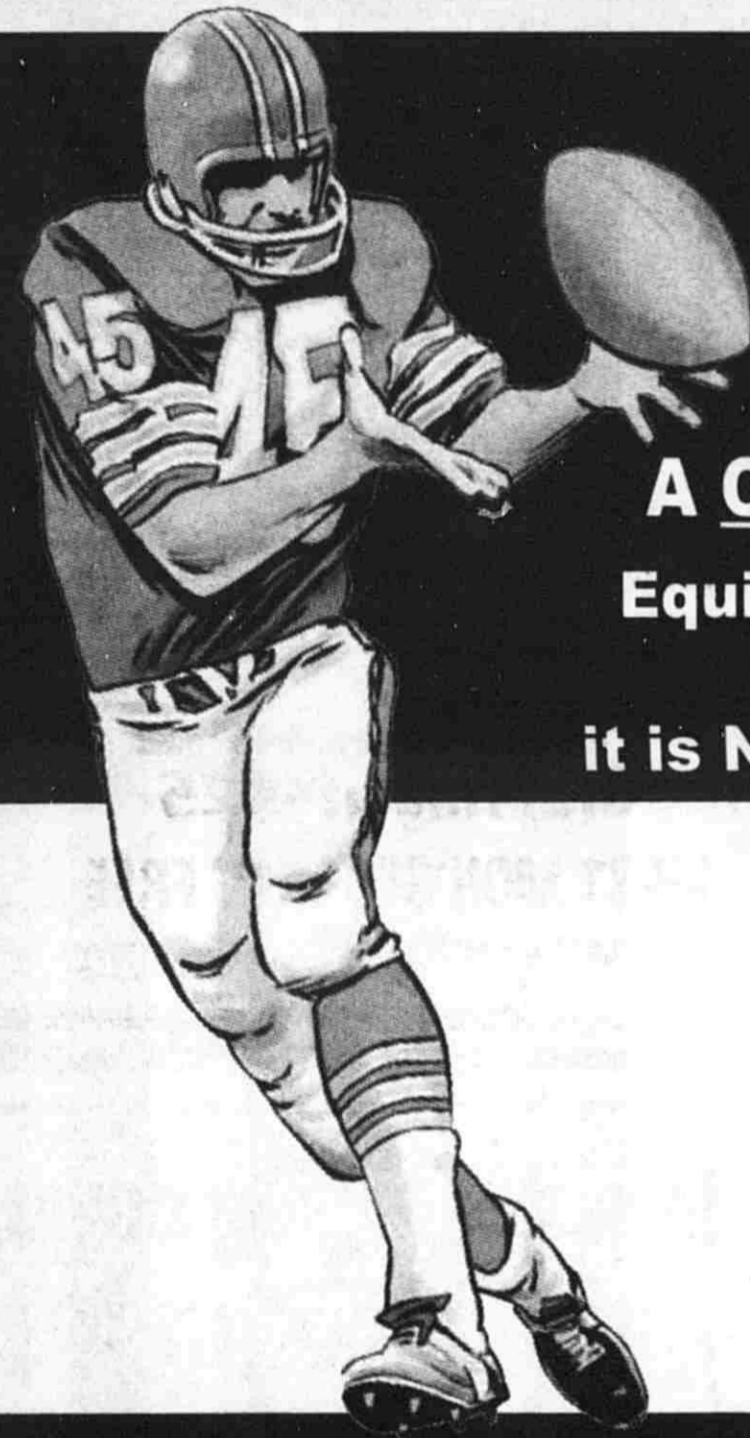
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Preserving farmland among items discussed at township meeting

By Dan Schneider

At its meeting Monday, the Vergennes Township Board approved four applications for the Kent County Purchase of Development Rights program.

The program seeks to preserve farmland from development by paying the owner for an easement guaranteeing the land stays in agriculture. Applying to sell such easements during this application cycle were Gay Nauta (73 acres on Parnell Ave.), Steven Koning (Koning Dairy Farm, 60 acres on Four Mile Road),

Marsha Wilcox (54 acres on Bailey Drive) and William Condon (61 acres on Three Mile Road). Board trustee Vern Nauta abstained from the vote.

In early June, the Howard Farm on Parnell Ave. in Vergennes Township became the first farmland in Kent County to be preserved under the program.

Bill Culhane, from Progressive Architecture and Engineering, went before the board to discuss an addition to be built onto Impact Church. The addition would cross from the city of Lowell into the township.

To expedite the planning and approval process for the project, Culhane inquired whether the township would entertain the idea of annexing the property to the city.

"The reason I suggest annexing is, because it's a church, the township isn't losing any tax base," Culhane said.

The township board, which is awaiting the ruling of the Michigan State Boundary Commission on a more complicated petitioned annexation elsewhere in the township,

was not enthusiastic about the potential for another. But the board said it would help the church with the zoning variances its design requires.

"We'd love to help you out as much as we can, make it as painless as possible," township supervisor Tim Wittenbach said.

The board discussed a proposed amendment to the township's Flat River Slow - No Wake Ordinance. The amendments define the sections of river the ordinance applies to: from the northern Lowell city

boundary to the bridge on Flat River Drive, and from the STS power dam to the covered bridge.

The board delayed voting on the amendment in order to continue discussions with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The DNR has a process through which townships can establish such ordinances, after which the DNR contributes to their enforcement.

Monday's meeting started with an annual report from the Kent District Library.

Representatives from the library system talked about new developments at the Englehardt Library in Lowell and in the library system in general.

One of the main points was technology. The Englehardt Library, for instance, now has two computers dedicated to

library catalogue searches and has added a 90-minute workstation computer.

"We've made a lot of advances in technology," KDL board trustee Chuck Myers said.

He mentioned in particular that the library now has several books available online for download onto home computers or PDAs.

Cheryl Garrison, the library system's assistant director for programs, outreach and marketing,

talked about new book check-out technologies KDL is implementing. They involve radio chips in books which allow librarians to scan multiple books at once.

The most noticeable change to the Englehardt Library is the new teen corner. This includes new furniture, new lime green walls, a computer, and new teen-oriented programs.

Objections heard, council chooses city auditors

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

Over the objections of the Lowell Light and Power Board, the Lowell City Council selected Biggs, Hausserman, Thompson & Dickinson to serve as the city auditors for the next three years.

The city had gone out for bid on a new auditor contract with only Biggs and former city auditor Rehmann Robson responding. Biggs, the lower of the two firms, put in a bid of \$16,500 per year to audit the city's general fund, Light and Power fund, and cable television fund. Rehmann Robson had proposed \$25,000 for the first year, \$25,500 for the second year, and \$25,750 for the third year.

"When it comes down to it, it is the dollar amount,"

said mayor Jeanne Shores, adding that she and the council have to be able to justify to residents spending the additional \$8,500 for the other firm. "I know cheapest isn't always the best, but in this case, when both firms are qualified, we need to look at the bottom line, which is the money."

The council voted four to one to hire Biggs, with only councilman James Hodges voting that the services be split between the two firms. Hodges supported the Lowell Light and Power Board's proposal that its budget be audited by Rehmann Robson.

Lowell Light and Power general manager Tom Richards said from staff and the board, concerns were raised that because Biggs doesn't audit any other electrical utilities, the firm didn't have anything to compare Lowell Light and Power to and didn't have the experience in dealing with some of the national contracts and regulations with which the company had to comply.

Rehmann Robson, on the other hand, has deals with several electrical utilities, including Holland Board of Public Works, and met the qualifications that

the Lowell Light and Power Board felt were needed to audit its books, he said.

City staff did explore whether the contracts could be split between both firms, and the firms indicated their prices would remain. Biggs, however, indicated there would be a fee to prepare and include the Lowell Light and Power and Cable budgets in the state reports. That fee would be \$750 for the first year, and \$300 for the other two.

Hodges made a motion to split the contract but

Auditors, cont'd., pg. 17

*A judge is a law student who marks
his own examination papers.*

- H. L. Mencken (1880 - 1956)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOWNE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE
TO AMEND SECTIONS 4.08 AND 5.05 REGARDING
MINIMUM LOT AREA, MAXIMUM LOT AREA FOR
NON-AGRICULTURAL DWELLINGS, MINIMUM LOT WIDTH,
AND REAR SETBACK IN THE AG AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT**

Public notice is hereby given that the Bowne Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 11, 2005 at 7:30 p.m., in the historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, Alto, Michigan, to hear public comments regarding a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment:

- 1) amends Section 4.08, Schedule of District Regulations, to reduce the minimum lot area in the AG Agricultural District from 3 acres to 1 acre, reduce the minimum lot width in the AG Agricultural District from 330 feet to 250 feet, reduce the rear setback in the AG Agricultural District from 70 feet to 40 feet, and add a footnote 11 to provide that the maximum lot area in the AG District for non-agricultural residential dwellings shall not exceed 5 acres.
- 2) amends Section 5.05 to reduce the minimum lot area in the AG Agricultural District to 1 acre, reduce the minimum lot width in the AG Agricultural District to 250 feet, reduce the rear setback in the AG Agricultural District from 70 feet to 40 feet, and establish the maximum lot area for non-agricultural residential dwellings in the AG Agricultural District at 5 acres.

Interested parties may be heard at the public hearing. Written comments will be received until the close of the public hearing. The proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance may be examined at the Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash, Alto, Michigan, on Wednesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and on Fridays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

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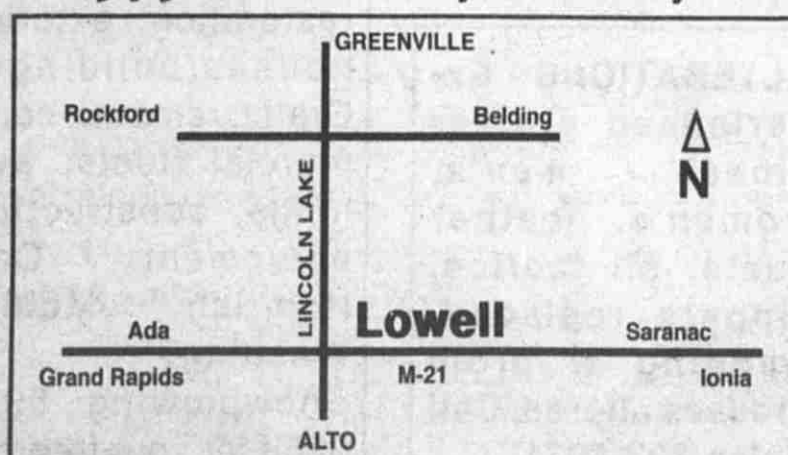


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