

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 34 Issue 7

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 21, 2005

Much interest as search for new superintendent begins

By Dan Schneider

Lowell Area Schools has begun a candidate search to find a new superintendent.

The job was posted last week Wednesday. Tom Pridgeon, regional president for the Michigan Leadership Institute (MLI), which LAS hired to conduct the search, said the organization was already fielding inquiries about the job before the posting was even completed. These came from superintendents, mostly from around Michigan, who heard about the job opening by word of mouth.

He said because of the holiday season, the posting will likely not generate a lot of response right away.

"We'll probably get most of the calls after January 1," Pridgeon said.

Under its \$7,000 contract with LAS, MLI will actively seek out candidates for the position, collect their application materials, and submit them for the review of the school board. The job

has been posted online, but the institute is also mailing it to all 57 intermediate school districts in the state, where it will be accessible to district superintendents.

"The third thing we do is we try to generate a list of potential candidates, people who we know are seasoned superintendents and at the peak of their performance, and we call them on the phone," Pridgeon said.

Most superintendents, he said, respond to the third method by saying they are happy where they are, but it usually yields a few candidates with strong potential.

When the school board approved the contract with MLI Dec. 12, board secretary Patrick Nugent said the \$7,000 price tag reflects the district's working with MLI in the past.

"We feel we got a pretty favorable rate from the company because of the good relationship we have had," Nugent said.

The job posting itself was the product of a long process. Earlier this month, MLI held forums with

the board of education, various other groups within the school district and community leaders to help prioritize the kind of leader the district is seeking. High on the list of prioritized skills for a new superintendent were

personnel management and labor relations skills.

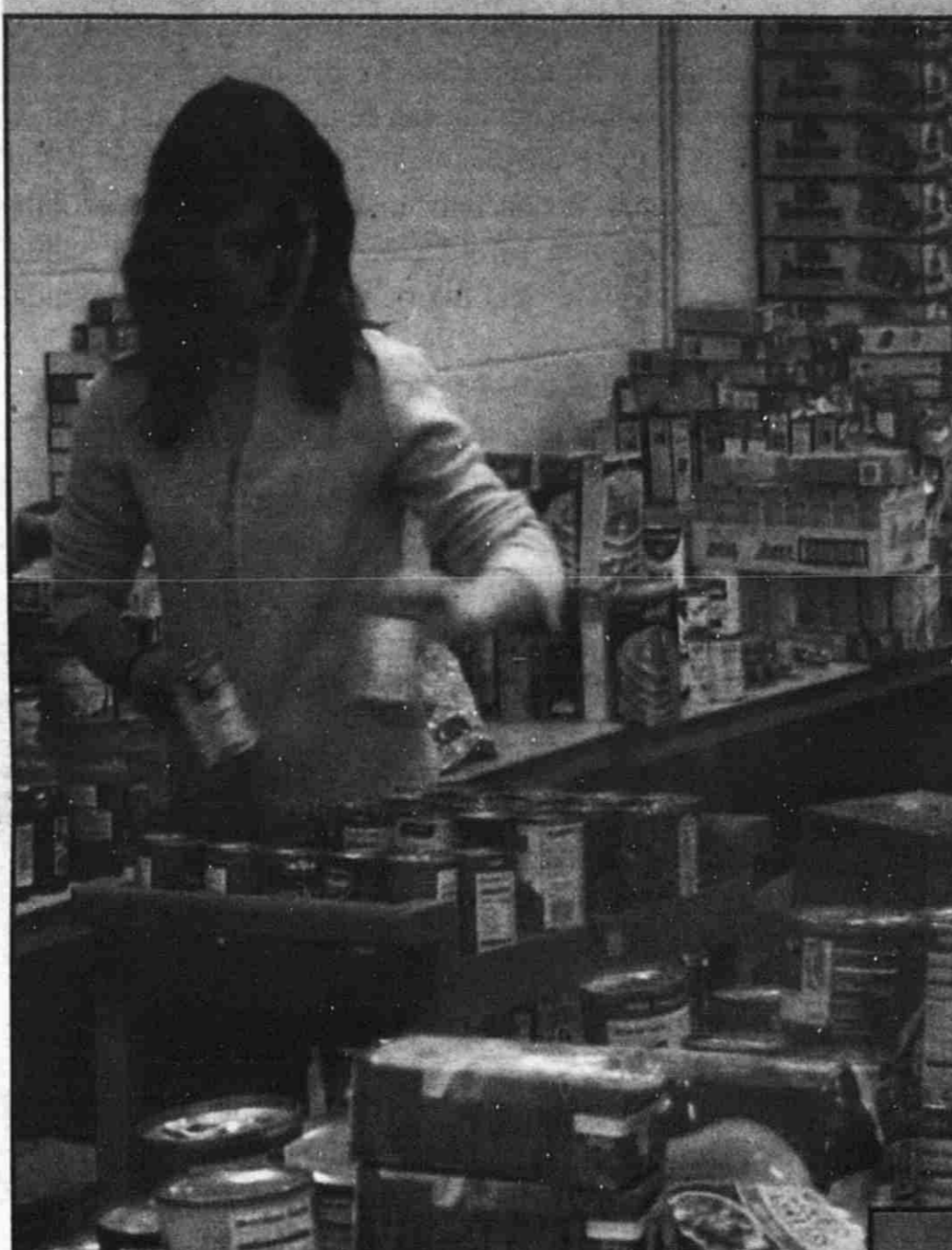
"That's virtually our biggest cost, it's 80 percent of our expenses, and we have to do more with less, so we have to have the best people," board trustee Peter Haefner said at a Dec. 12

board meeting to finalize the posting.

The board's top priority, according to the forum results, was personnel management followed closely by staff development ability and visionary leadership. The board also

put a high priority on the candidate's ability to keep up staff morale. Board president Nancy Hopkins said rather than a superintendent who will take the district in a new direction, the board

Superintendent, cont'd., pg. 4



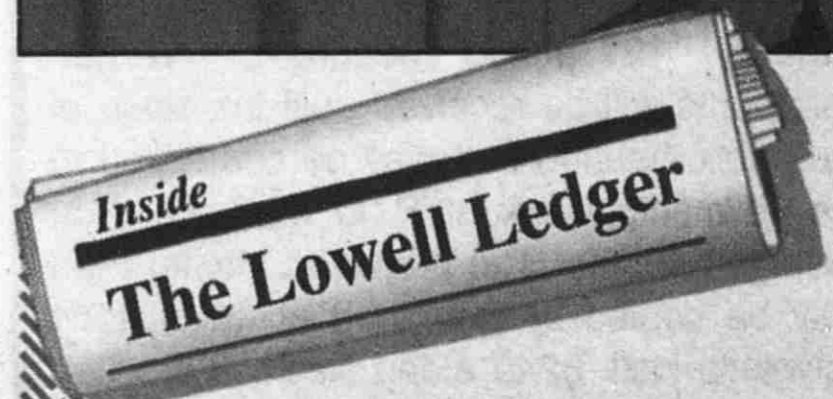
Packing in the spirit of the season

Jillian O'Haire loads cans of food onto a cart before packing them into food boxes for needy families in Lowell last weekend. The basement of First United Methodist Church was filled with boxes on long rows of tables last Friday as volunteers filled them for Flat River Outreach Ministries' Christmas drive. Then on Saturday, more than 250 Lowell area families received F.R.O.M. food boxes and 490 children received toys from the local charity. The food and toys were a conglomeration of individual donations and food and toy drives held at local schools, businesses and churches.



Santa is soon to be on his way

Wednesday is the last night to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The Claus family will be onboard the historic Lowell Showboat, on the frozen shores of the Flat River, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. A sign at the corner of Main Street and Riverwalk Plaza marks the way.



Extra Patrols ... Page 3
Celebrating 175 Years ... Page 8
Elementary Students Pitch In ... Page 9



Obituaries

CONKLIN
Lloyd T. Conklin, of Columbus, GA, passed on to another life with his loving family by his bedside in Upatoi, GA, on Saturday, December 10, 2005. Mr. Conklin is survived by his daughter Colleen E. Sweeney of Traverse City, son Dr. Jeffrey T. Conklin and his wife Connie of Upatoi, GA, son Gregory L. Conklin and his wife Monica of Grand Rapids, daughter Lori Conklin Duff and her husband Michael of Livonia, son Craig J. Conklin and his wife Terri of Lowell, daughter Melissa Ottenjan of Bonita Springs, FL; 14 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; other relatives and friends. A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Thomas Catholic Church on December 30 at 10:30 a.m. with Father James Chelich conducting the mass.

QUICK
Brenda Kay Quick, aged 53,

of Alto, died of accidental automobile injuries Friday, December 16, 2005. She was preceded in death by her father Allen Quick and brother Donald Quick. She is survived by her companion Daniel R. Merrifield of Alto; children Melissa White-Cati of Ionia, Luke (Julie) White of Belding, Kaly Merrifield of Alto; mother Edith (Dale) Meis of Ionia; brothers Steven Quick of Kentwood, Mark Cole of Belding, Matthew (Tonda) Cole of Greenville, Joseph Meis of Ionia; grandchildren James Frost, Destiney McGraw, Danny McGraw III, Dallas McGraw; best friends Jane Quick of Grand Rapids and Chris Murray of Hastings; several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Tuesday at Roth-Gerst Chapel, Lowell, Rev. Kenneth Harger of Shiloh Community Church, officiating. Interment Oakfield Township Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made for the grandchildren.

Be safe and follow some sensible snowmobiling rules of the road

Snowmobile rules vary from county to county, said Marine Deputy Donald Hamilton of the Kent County Sheriff Department. And off-road vehicles, such as a quad runner, are not allowed the same privileges as a snowmobile.

Snowmobiles ride on top of the snow and do very little damage. Off-road machines (quads) have tires and will tear up the turf and damage property.

A snowmobile may operate on a public highway under the following conditions:

- A snowmobile may be operated on the right-of-way of a public highway (except a limited-access highway) if it is operated at the extreme right of the open portion of the right-of-way and with the flow of traffic. Snowmobiles operated on a road right-of-way must travel in single file and shall not be operated abreast except when overtaking or passing another snowmobile.

- A snowmobile may be operated on the roadway or shoulder when necessary to cross a bridge or culvert if the snowmobile is brought to a complete stop before entering onto the roadway or shoulder and the operator yields the right-of-way to any approaching motor vehicle on the highway.

- A snowmobile may be operated across a public highway, other than a limited access highway, at right angles to the highway for the purpose of getting from one area to another when the operation can be done safely and another vehicle is not crossing the highway at the same time in the immediate area. An operator must bring the snowmobile to a complete stop before proceeding across the public highway and must yield the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic.

A person shall not operate a snowmobile:

- While under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- At a rate of speed greater than is reasonable for existing conditions.

- In a forest nursery, planting area or public lands posted or reasonably identifiable as an area or forest reproduction when growing stock may be damaged or any designated wild, wilderness or natural area in the state.

- On the frozen surface of public waters within 100 feet of a person, including a skater, not in or upon a snowmobile or within 100 feet of a fishing shanty or shelter except at the minimum speed required to maintain forward movement of the snowmobile or on an area which has been cleared for ice skating, unless the area is necessary for gaining access to the public water.

- Within 100 feet of a dwelling between 12 a.m. and 6 a.m. at a speed greater than the minimum required to maintain forward movement of the snowmobile.

- Upon the land of another without consent of the owner or their agent, as required by the recreational trespass act.

- In an area open to public hunting during the Nov. 15 - 30 firearm deer season from 7 a.m. - 11 a.m. and from 2 - 5 p.m.

- While transporting a bow unless it is unstrung or encased, or a firearm unless it is unloaded and securely encased.

- On or across a cemetery or burial ground, airport, public or private parking lot, railroad or a railroad right-of-way within 100 feet of a sledding, skiing or skating area.

- To chase, pursue, worry or kill any wild bird or animal

Driver's license information: Suspended Driver License

- You may not operate a snowmobile if your license to operate an automobile has been suspended by Michigan or your home state.

Restrictions on youthful operation: A person under the age of 12:

- May not operate a snowmobile without direct supervision of the parent or guardian except on property owned or controlled by the parent.

- May not cross a highway or street.

A person who is at least 12 but less than 17 years of age:

- May operate a snowmobile if they have a valid snowmobile safety certificate in their immediate possession or are under direct supervision of a person 21 years of age or older.

- May not cross a highway or street without having a valid snowmobile safety certificate in their immediate possession.

Helmet: all persons operating or riding on a snowmobile must wear a Department of Transportation approved crash helmet

Safe Riding Hints:

- Always keep your machine in top mechanical condition.

- Always wear insulated boots and clothing including a helmet and gloves.

- Never ride alone.

- Avoid, when possible, crossing frozen bodies of water.

- Never operate in a single file when crossing a frozen body of water.

- Always be alert to avoid fences and low-strung wires.
- Never operate on a street or highway.
- Always look for depressions in the snow.
- At an intersection, come to a complete stop and look for traffic.
- Always check the weather before you go.
- Leave a travel plan.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT OF KENT

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE
FILE NO. 05-180,672-DE

Estate of FELIX A. FREDERICK, deceased

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Including PAM, daughter of Harriette VanOosten, and any descendants of Larry Frederick, whose address and whereabouts are unknown. The decedent, who lived

at 1714 Lake Michigan Dr. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504, died 11/23/05. An application for informal probate of decedent's will was filed by John Gregory Krol, 3281 Rypens Dr. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504. On the Kent County Probate Court, 180 Ottawa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504 informally admitted the will and codicil.

Susan M. Potyraj P-46249
410 Bridge St. NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-454-4119

CITY OF LOWELL

PUBLIC NOTICE SNOW REMOVAL

Within twenty-four (24) hours, property owners/occupants are required to clear ice and snow from their sidewalk. If no sidewalk exists, the owner/occupant must clear a path if their property is adjacent to a sidewalk.

NOTICE TO SNOW PLOW OPERATORS

It is against the law to plow snow, ice or slush onto or across any roadway or highway.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

December 21, 2005
Sandra L. Kowalczyk, Clerk
Bowne Township

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOWNE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

PROPOSED NEW TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN

Public notice is hereby given that the Bowne Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 12, 2006 at 7:30 p.m., in the historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash, S.E., Alto, Michigan, to hear public comments regarding the proposed new Master Plan.

The proposed new Master Plan is intended to serve as a guide for future development and land use within Bowne Township. The proposed new Master Plan contains information about current and past conditions in the community, goals for the future of the Township, and a future land use map illustrating development patterns and intended land uses throughout the Township. The proposed Master Plan will replace in its entirety the current Land Use Plan adopted in 2000.

Adoption of the proposed new Master Plan does not change any ordinance or regulation regarding the use of land. Adoption of the proposed new Master Plan also does not mean that any property will be immediately rezoned to match the Plan.

Interested parties may be heard at the January 12 public hearing. Written comments will be received until the close of the public hearing and may be addressed to the Township Clerk at P. O. Box 35, Alto, Michigan 49302. The proposed Master Plan may be copied or examined at the historic Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash, S.E., 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.

Area workers donate a bundle of toys



Magna Donnelly assembly worker Anetta Fockler and employee advocate Carole Ricketts with toys donated by the Alto plant employees for the Toys for Tots program. After fundraising activities were held, they delivered the toys to the Toys for Tots drop-off site at Goldworks By Michele on West Main Street. The jeweler donated gift certificates and a ring for raffles at the plant. Proceeds from those raffle ticket sales and a 50/50 raffle were used to buy more toys for the program.

More patrols out for the holiday season

The holiday season between Christmas and New Year's Eve is one of the busiest on Michigan roadways and potentially one of the most dangerous because of the inclement weather, heavier traffic and the increased chances of impaired

driving due to holiday gatherings. For those reasons the Lowell Police Department is joining with more than 550 other law enforcement agencies across the state in a drunk driving crackdown between now and Jan. 1.

Through media information and visible patrols, the department is trying to increase awareness so that people will not get behind the wheel if they have been drinking; rather they will seek a ride with a sober driver or look for other means to get home.

Michigan's threshold for drunk driving is .08 blood alcohol content; costs associated with a drunk driving arrest are substantial.

The Lowell Police Department is asking that everyone use common sense and not drink and drive. Make this a safe holiday season.

EARLY DEADLINE

The deadline for the Dec. 28 edition of the Lowell Ledger is 5 p.m. Thurs., Dec. 22. All early copy would be appreciated.

Help Us Celebrate Our 60th Anniversary

ALL DAY THURSDAY, DEC. 22!

Come join us for free coffee, tea & pop!

We would like to thank the community of Lowell for supporting us for 60 years.

We are blessed,
Blair, Trudy & The Keiser Crew

Keiser's

700 E. Main Street, Lowell • 897-8455

ADA-LOWELL 5
www.adalowell5.com

21 1/2 Minutes East of Arroyo H.O. (1/2)

ALL DIGITAL STEREO 357-FILM

No cash. Free drink refills & 25¢ cover refills.

SHOWTIMES 12/16-12/19

THE KING KONG (PG-13)
11:00, 2:35, 6:10, 9:45

AEON FLUX (PG-13) 5:25, 7:30, 9:30

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (PG)
11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

JUST FRIENDS (PG-13)
11:05, 1:15, 3:25, 5:35, 7:45, 9:55

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE (PG)
1:20, 4:05, 6:50, 9:35

HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13) 11:00, 2:25

FREE 20oz DRINK (12-19)

at 40¢. See bag of bakery program.

BEST DEAL in a lowballer at www.ada-lowell5.com

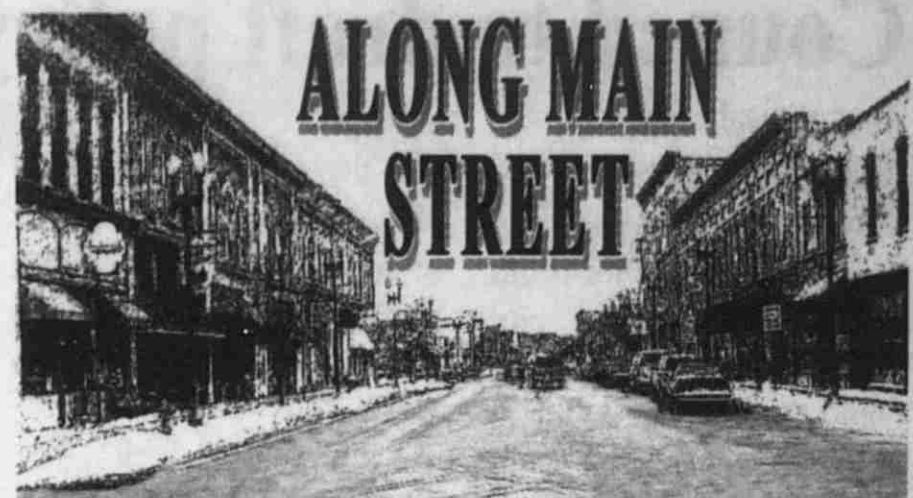
MAPLEWOOD SQUARE APARTMENTS

All Apartments On One Level

- 2 bedroom, 1 bath
- 3 bedroom, 2 bath

Attached garages, covered porches, all appliances included.

CONTACT: Michael Nosko at 616-682-1581
www.maplewoodsquareapts.com



KDL BRANCHES CLOSE FOR HOLIDAYS
All 18 branches of Kent District Library will be closed Dec. 24-26 in observance of Christmas. They will also be closed Jan. 1 and 2 in celebration of the New Year.

CHAMBER CLOSES FOR HOLIDAYS
The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce will be closed from Dec. 23 - Jan. 2.

WITTENBACH CENTER EVENT
Discover winter birds Saturday, Dec. 31 at the Wittenbach/Wege Center with the Grand Rapids Audubon Club. Bird count begins at 7:30 a.m.; hot lunch for \$5 or brown bag it. Free for 18/ under. Call 987-1002 to register or ask questions.

PITCHING CLINIC FOR GIRLS
Elementary and middle school girls softball pitching clinic at Riverside gym beginning Jan. 5. \$30. Applications at middle/elementary schools. Call Bob Rodenhouse at 987-2900 or 245-4596.

LHS FINANCIAL AID NIGHT
Joann Litton, Financial Aid officer from GVSU, will provide information about filling out the Federal Application for Student Aid on Thursday, Jan. 5 in the Lowell Performing Arts Center. The program lasts from 7-8 p.m. Call 987-2908 with questions.

SHOTGUN/ARCHERY LEAGUES
Caledonia Sportsman's Club, Alto/Freeport area, is offering shotgun and archery shooting leagues beginning in January. Call Al Potas at 698-2051 for information or email to shooting@csc.us.com.

GREG VAN STRIEN HEATING AND PLUMBING

HEATING SERVICE & INSTALLATION
AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE & INSTALLATION
PLUMBING SERVICE & INSTALLATION
WARM AIR/RADIANT HEAT
OIL BURNER SERVICE

(616) 897-5569
Visa And Master Card Accepted

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

May your Christmas be filled with all the gifts of the season!

Personal Service Since 1973

Showboat
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.

Mon. thru Fri. 8-7;
Sat. 8-5:30;
Sunday 9-3

1450 W. Main Street • Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-9231 • (800) 798-9973

Council to draft policy on using city facilities for private meetings

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

A request by a for-profit business to use the city chambers has the Lowell City Council looking at drawing up a policy on renting city facilities.

The city was approached by Jeff Linstrom, of UBS Financial Services, to use the second floor conference room for an evening social security seminar. City manager David Pasquale said Linstrom offered to pay \$150 for the use of the room.

The council was less than enthusiastic about offering other alternative sites such as the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and the Englehardt Library community room.

Upon further review, the council learned that several nonprofits—clerk Betty Morlock estimated about 10 to 15—have used or are currently using the facility for meetings and related activities. Morlock, who oversees the scheduling

for the city facilities, said if a meeting is held in the evening hours, the nonprofit usually gets a key from the city offices to have access to the facility.

Councilman Charles Myers said he was not too comfortable with a nonprofit organization having access to city records and other materials. Pasquale said the city offices are locked up as well as city records; the group does not have access to any of those areas.

Still the council felt having a city staff person at the site was important. Councilman Jim Pfaller said the policy would need to define "staff person."

"To rent the school facilities, you have to have a school employee on hand to use them," said Lowell chief of police Jim Valentine.

Other concerns were whether for-profits would be allowed to rent any of the facilities; if nonprofits outside the city would be allowed to use the facilities; and if organizations would

be required to pay any fees to help cover the costs for set up or a staff person.

Because of the number of issues, the council decided to form a committee to develop a policy on using city facilities that would include the fire station, City Hall and Englehardt library.

Morlock pointed out that the library's policy has been that the community room can only be used by nonprofits; the city council countered with: who owns the building?

"There are not a lot of meeting rooms in the city that can accommodate a good sized crowd," said mayor Jeanne Shores, adding that she felt it was important for the city to establish a policy.

The city has already entered into an agreement with the Lowell Rotary Club to rent the council chambers every Wednesday. The group pays \$75 per week for the use of the room. The club recently asked if

it could house a spinet piano in the chambers; the council said no.

After the meeting, Morlock said most often the groups currently using the city conference rooms

have a connection to the city with a city employee at the meetings. The conference room is used about once a week by various organizations that have included church groups, the

chamber of commerce, and the Lowell Area Historical Museum. While the policy is being drafted, the council did agree to allow in-city nonprofits to use the rooms.

Car crash kills Alto woman

An automobile accident early Friday morning took the life of Brenda Kay Quick, 53, of Alto.

At about 5 a.m. at the intersection of 60th Street and Alden Nash Avenue, Quick was driving eastbound

on 60th in icy road conditions in a Chevy Lumina. She either failed to stop or slid into the intersection because of the ice on the road.

A Chevy pickup headed southbound on Alden Nash

was unable to stop and collided with Quick's car. The driver of the truck, Dean Gilbert Miller, 60, of Hastings, received minor injuries and did not require medical treatment.

Alto man found guilty of violating environmental laws

An Alto man was found guilty and fined for damaging wetlands in Ionia County.

On Nov. 30, an Ionia County jury found Frank Ruffilo guilty of violating Michigan's wetland and floodplain laws. He was fined

\$2,500 for filling in forested and scrub-shrub wetlands and floodplain along the Grand River. The violations occurred in March and April of 2004.

In addition to the fine,

Ruffilo was ordered to restore

the damaged wetlands, and floodplain. Ricky Shults, the project's contractor, previously pled guilty to violating the wetlands law and was ordered to pay a \$2,500 fine.

Township makes appointments, discusses ambulance expansion

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell Charter Township board voted Monday night to table for one month consideration of a request by Rockford Ambulance company to help fund an expansion of the Look Memorial Fire Station to better accommodate the ambulance service.

"I think it is valid, but we also need to have more information before we spend our taxpayers' money," said board trustee Cliff Bonn.

The amount requested was \$16,000. The nonprofit ambulance company is

asking the same amount from the city of Lowell and Vergennes Township, the two other municipalities it serves.

The board selected Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols and Carter CPAs to be their auditing firm. The township had hired the firm in the past, used a different firm for a few years, and found the bid from Hungerford, et al to be the most favorable for the township this auditing contract renewal cycle.

Gerald Persha was the first on a short list of appointments to township offices approved Monday night. He was appointed to

the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for a three-year term beginning March 6, 2006. He replaces Dave Simmonds who is retiring from the ZBA.

Simmonds was appointed for another three-year term on the planning commission. His position on the commission is the reason for his retiring from the ZBA. Another commission member holds a seat on the ZBA, and the township is only allowed to have one officer in common between the two.

Leonard Den Houter was appointed to be the township board's representation on the

planning commission. He replaces Carlton Blough.

Miedema Auctioneering, Inc. is the service the township will rely on to deal with the sale of any future property seized for non-payment of personal property taxes. The township board approved an agreement establishing

a business relationship with the auctioneering company. The city of Grand Rapids uses the same company.

By way of updating its policies and procedures, the township added a social security number privacy policy. The board also reduced its definition of full time for its employees to

24 hours a week. This was because the township office is now only open 24 hours a week. Full-time status used to require 27 hours a week.

The township approved Luscious Landscaping as the 2006 contractor for care of Grand River Riverfront Park and the township cemetery.

Superintendent, continued

...From Page 1

looking for someone who will continue the work Shari Miller started here.

At a forum for community leaders held Dec. 6, participants

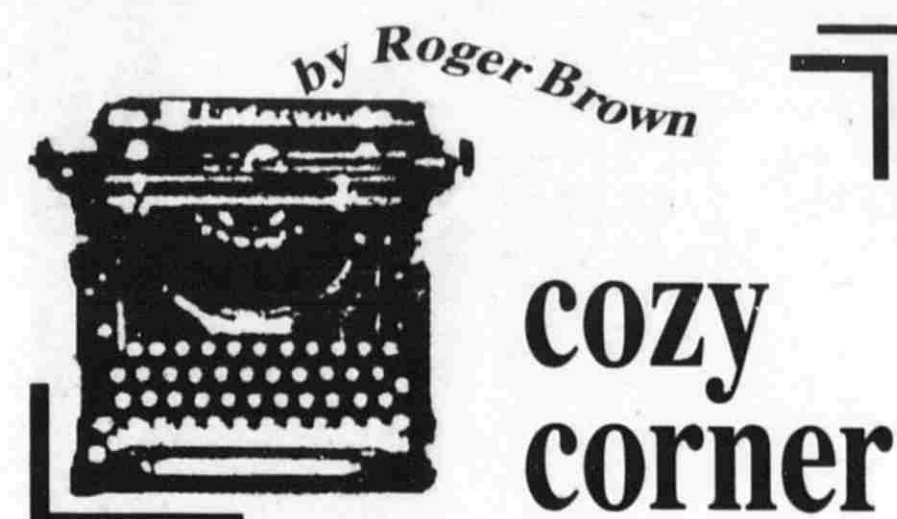
prioritized personnel issues, commitment to educational excellence and experience as a superintendent.

These various priorities were all reflected in some

way on the candidate profile section of the posting. A copy of the entire posting can be seen at the Lowell Area Schools web site, www.lowellschools.com.

The district is accepting applications until Feb. 2. After background checks and a meeting to select candidates for interviews, the initial interviews are

Viewpoint



As this year draws to a close there is only one word that comes to mind. That word is a big, "WHEW!"

I'm not going to chronicle the events that made this year so busy for Terese and me. If you follow this column, most of that stuff has been covered. There is one thing I'd like to know.

I'll start with a few lines from a Paul Simon song. The lines are from "You Can Call Me Al" off the fabulous "Graceland" album of nearly 20 years ago. The lines go, "A man walks down the street. He says why am I soft in the middle now? Why am I soft in the middle? The rest of my life is so hard."

That's what I'd like to know. Seems like this has been the busiest year of my life and I've gained weight. What's up with that? Guess I have a ready-made New Year resolution.

Hurricane Wilma has been touched on here. We were in Tibet when Wilma's storm surge brought four feet of seawater to our house. The house is built high on concrete columns, but everything down below was devastated. A partial list includes my pickup, boat, workshop, a new generator, a refrigerator, a freezer, garden tractor, push mower, numerous storage items and most of our landscaping. Needless to say, we came home to quite a mess. Two months later, we're still dealing with it.

The only insured item on that list was my boat. It wasn't totaled, but the boatyard still doesn't have a quote put together to submit to the insurance company. Guess I'm a landlubber for the foreseeable future.

There was one other insured loss from our Wilma debacle. That was my scooter. I loved my scooter. I bought it used several years ago. We had an old motor home and the scooter fit on a rack at the rear. It was our local transportation while on several trips with the motor home. We toured Natchez, Vicksburg and a couple old plantations on a trip up Highway 61. It took us from the campground to a shuttle launch. We rode it all over St. Augustine. Terese and I rode it around all sorts of interesting places.

We sold the motor home a year or so ago. I kept the scooter. It was great for trips to the hardware, grocery or post office. When the grandkids were around, we went every-

where on the scooter. One stood on the footboards in front of me, the other on the back. We were on the scooter when I had them so scared of the "Lost Boys" I told them lived in the woods we were riding through. I am really, really going to miss my scooter.

When Wilma's surge came through our carport, the scooter was carried a couple hundred feet down the driveway. The scooter was an Italian built Aprilia. It was 150 cc, four-stroke, liquid-cooled, belt drive, 3-speed automatic. It was a fairly complex machine to go swimming in four feet of corrosive seawater. Needless to say, the poor scooter was a total loss.

The insurance adjuster was prompt. He was also in ready agreement that my beloved scooter was totaled. He did warn me that it would be tough to put a number on it because it was an oddball make and model. Oh-oh! He said if it were a Honda or Yamaha or Suzuki, they would have a good Blue Book price and cut me a check right away. Putting a value on mine would require some research.

I waited for my check. They finally called on a Sunday, about two weeks ago. I was outside chain-sawing hurricane debris. Terese hollered at me with the quote, wanting to know if I'd accept it. The number was one of the few bright spots in the whole Wilma ordeal. It was easily double what I expected. The adjusters apparently gave up and offered me the price of a new scooter. As Homer Simpson would say, "Woo-Hoo!!!" (That's a big, "YES, I'LL ACCEPT THE QUOTE!")

One night last week I was watching the idiot box when the dogs started barking. A truck and trailer was backing down my drive. The ruckus was being caused by two strapping young guys and their skinny dog. It turned out the guys worked for an Atlanta-based motorcycle salvage company and were after my scooter. Their big trailer already had a dozen or so Harleys, Hondas, etc., heaped on it. My scooter was unceremoniously shoved onboard and secured. I can't say I cried, but there was a tugging at my heart.

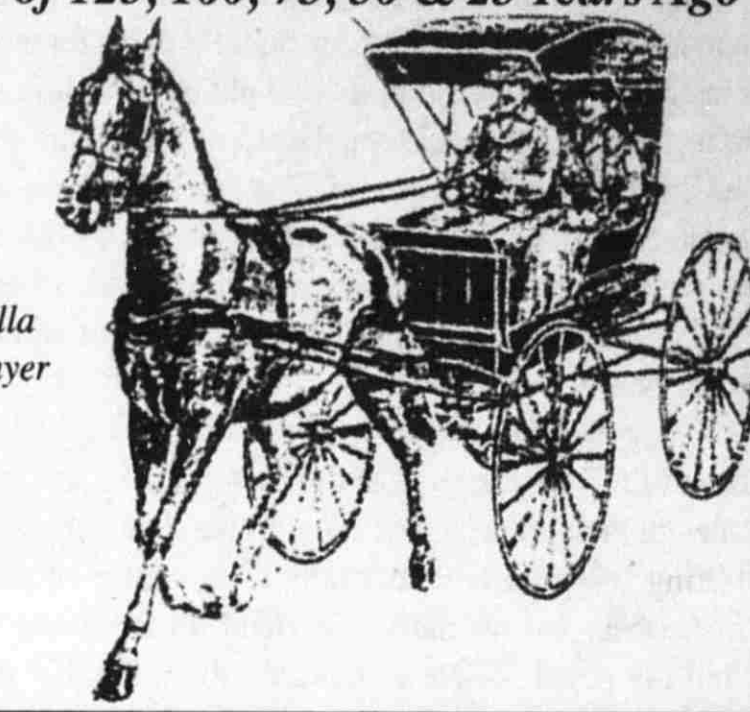
Throughout this brief encounter, the skinny dog was busy checking out my house and yard. The boys told me the stray dog had adopted them while they were picking up motorcycles after Katrina ravaged New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. The dog had been running the streets of New Orleans and now lives in the cab of a truck. He's happily riding around the country perched in the seat between his new owners. I'm sure he is fattening up on fast food, an occasional slurp of beer and lots of love. His new name? "Lucky", of course.

"Lucky" is my year-end feel-good story. He needs to put on a few pounds. I need to shed a few. Well, maybe more than a few. "Why am I soft in the middle?"

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Ledger Entries

of 125, 100, 75, 50 & 25 Years Ago



By Priscilla Lussmyer

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL DECEMBER 22, 1880

Great ice, no snow. A bedroom set by John Kopf is on exhibit in Kopf & Hill's window. "It is worth going to see." Prof. Grant, principal of the Lowell Union School, has resigned and plans to go into some other business soon.

The Cannon correspondent gives a recipe for fried cakes without eggs, as they are scarce this time of year.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER DECEMBER 21, 1905

"Borax Bill" and his 20-mule team paraded through Lowell on Friday; picture postcards will be available. The work actually begins on the Grand Rapids & Ionia electric railroad, at Saranac.

The new dam at Kiddville, replacing the one that broke last June, cost over \$6000.

The Snow church Ladies Aid Society meeting at the Wooding home was attended by 115 people last Wednesday.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO DECEMBER 18, 1930

Superior Furniture is chosen by a George Washington descendant to reproduce several items of furniture from Mt. Vernon for the Paris Exposition. A "brilliantly illuminated" Christmas tree has been put up at either end of Main Street.

Floyd Clark of Vergennes has a five-year-old Jersey cow that has given birth to a set of twins and two sets of quadruplets.

Federal Prohibition agents made 68,173 arrests in the past year.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER DECEMBER 22, 1905

Frank and Letha Keiser of Keiser's Kitchen celebrate its tenth anniversary today on the corner of Main and Amity. Sewer and water extension plans are voted down 3-1.

The post office record day was Tuesday with 16,000 cancellations; and as of Dec. 21, cancellations are 120,000 over the entire month of December 1954. With the help of J.B. Sims, a rate expert, Lowell Light & Power makes over its power rates, which have not changed for several years.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER DECEMBER 17, 1980

The county prosecutor's office is squelching the recent pyramid scheme that spread rapidly in West Michigan; leaders and all participants must return all money received.

The Kent County Park Commission is having a contest for a new logo; top prize is a \$100 savings bond. Today ceremonies are being held at the east end of the new Ada Bridge.

Grand Rapids Junior College will offer speakers for organization meetings in return for a \$20 donation to the Continuing Education Scholarship Fund.

To The Editor

Dear Editor,

We want to take this opportunity to thank the Lowell community for their incredible support during our MDA "Locked Up For Good" event to benefit the West Michigan Chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The event, held on Tuesday, Nov. 29, raised over \$11,000. We greatly appreciate our Lock-Up participants who dedicated their time and efforts to raising funds for MDA's local patient services program, as well as their generous contributions.

A large part of the success of the event is due to various local businesses and community leaders that sponsored and supported the event. We also appreciate Harold Zeigler Ford

for hosting the event at their wonderful facility and for their donation of the vehicles to haul our felons to and from jail, and to BC Pizza and Pizza Hut for donating the delicious food.

It's been proven time and time again that the Lowell community cares enough to make a difference. The dollars raised from the event translate into local patient services that benefit families who live right here in our local communities. These include support groups, ground-breaking research and MDA clinics and summer camp.

This event will make a difference in the fight against neuromuscular disease.

Kim Den Hartigh, district director
Muscular Dystrophy Association

Letters... We love to hear from you!

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 not exceed 250 words and not strictly thank you letters. "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. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity and to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy. The Lowell Ledger thanks you in advance for your cooperation.

Wishing You A Peaceful & Joyous Holiday Season

We thank you for your patronage throughout the year and your loyalty to our hometown business.

Dale & Nancy Triplett & Staff



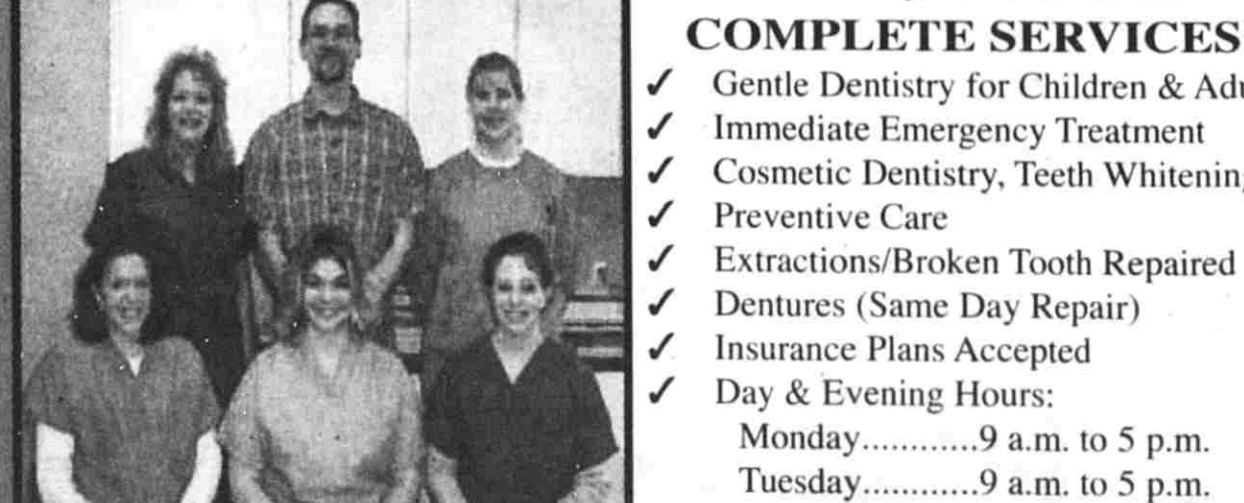
REGAL INSURANCE AGENCY
835 W. Main St. • Lowell
897-9259



GOING TO THE DENTIST DOESN'T HAVE TO HURT ANYMORE!

COMPLETE FAMILY DENTAL CARE

Accepting New Patients



- "Gentle & Painless Dentistry Is Our Goal"
- COMPLETE SERVICES:
- ✓ Gentle Dentistry for Children & Adults
 - ✓ Immediate Emergency Treatment
 - ✓ Cosmetic Dentistry, Teeth Whitening
 - ✓ Preventive Care
 - ✓ Extractions/Broken Tooth Repaired
 - ✓ Dentures (Same Day Repair)
 - ✓ Insurance Plans Accepted
 - ✓ Day & Evening Hours:
 - Monday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Tuesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Wednesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Thursday.....8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Judd T. Carroll, D.M.D.
103 East Main • Lowell, Michigan
(616) 897-7595

Reflections of faith

Father George J. Fekete
Saint Mary Church

In the Advent message of St. John's Gospel we read: "A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him" (John 1:6&7). This was John the Baptist who was sent from God to testify to the light of God, in the person of Jesus Christ, Savior. As John the Baptist saw the world it was in overwhelming darkness, mired in sinfulness, so he knew why Jesus Christ, the Light, was so important and hopeful for the world.

Certainly the inspiring word of the Gospel is that Christ's life "was the light of the human race," and "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness, has not overcome it" (John 1:4&5). Here's an example: A number of years ago, a missionary left his native Scotland for the South Pacific, to tell the people of New Hebrides about the life and light of Christ. When the missionary died, he was buried in the South Pacific. On his gravestone were these words: "When he came there was no light; when he died there was no darkness."

When Christ came, there was no light, but sadly, we cannot say when He died that there was no darkness. The crucifixion is a proof of that. We pray for the day to come when Christ is witnessed to by everyone. You and I have to look at our own witnessing to Christ. It was not only John the Baptist's calling to "testify to the light," it was our calling as well. "Walk as children of the light," St. Paul teaches us. "Now you are light in the world; walk as children of light" (Ephesians 5:3). By our lives, our words, and our deeds, we either show that we are children of darkness or children of light. As Christians we must be "children of light" who give witness to Christ "who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light."

In our prayer times between now and Christmas, let's think about how we can be a brighter light in witnessing to Jesus for others. If we will do this and ask for His grace to make this a reality, what a wonderful gift we would have to bring to Christ, the Light, as we celebrate His birth. God love you.

Weddings

Sweigart/Roudabush

Karen Joy Roudabush and Andrew Harold Sweigart were joined in marriage on September 17, 2005 at Weddington United Methodist Church in Weddington, N.C.

Parents of the couple are Kurt and Wilma Roudabush of Lowell and Harold and Ginny Sweigart of Fort Mill, S.C.

Maid of honor was Elizabeth Roudabush and matron of honor was Melody York. Bridesmaids were

Tanja Greenfield, Marsha Stephens and Susanna Fraser.

Best man was Jeff Phillips. Groomsmen were Chris Bender, JV Vacher, Tyler Zimmerman and Nathan Roudabush.

Flower girls were Jenna Greenfield, Karissa and Ashley Stephens. Ring bearers were Jonathan and William Greenfield.

The couple reside in Indian Land, S.C.



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Sweigart



Mr. and Mrs. Bradley VanderJagt

VanderJagt/Bol

Bradley VanderJagt and Elizabeth Bol were united in marriage on December 9, 2005 in Cascade.

Helping to celebrate their union was Chris Raymor as best man and

Eve Crompton as maid of honor.

Parents of the couple are Steve and Marcy Merritt of Lowell, Bruce VanderJagt of Lowell, and Robert and Amy Bol of Grand Rapids.

Everyone is talking about the Ledger!
Don't miss out on all the news!
Get your subscription today! 897-9261
Credit Card required with phone order



Students raise money for local missionaries

Ten Lowell and two Caledonia students pledged to raise \$7500 for missionaries in 2005. Each year the students contribute to a program called Speed the Light, which is the youth mission organization of the Assemblies of God. Speed the Light purchases transportation and communication equipment for home and foreign missionaries.

Since January, the teens have been hard at work with fundraisers. Students have collected nearly 10,000 pop cans, sold hot dogs at the Lowell Auto Show, and even "auctioned" off their babysitting and yard-raking services. Many contributed from their own pockets as well.

Stacy Holmes, youth pastor of Christian Life Center, said, "We definitely had our work cut out for us with this one. We faced many challenges, but we never lost sight of our goal."

After 12 months, the final calculation was \$7,551.49. All the money has been donated to Speed the Light missions.



Pictured, back row, left to right, are: David Phillips, youth pastors Jonathan and Stacy Holmes, Elijah Grawey and Jonathan Grawey; front row are: Tyler Phillips, Autumn Kaufman, Rachelle Levingston, Emily Hauschild and Erin Bartkus; not available for the picture are: Tim Droese, Nathan Elliott, Stephen Hauschild, Jordan Ickes and Kristina Noonon.

New Arrivals

Kapusansky



Kiara Terry Kapusansky

David and Tracy (Thuston) Kapusansky were blessed with the birth of their daughter, Kiara Terry, born November 17, 2005. She weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz. and measured 21 inches.

Kiara is welcomed home by sisters, Claire and Leeza and brothers, Vonya, Zhenya and Jacob.

Proud grandparents are Ken and Joyce Thuston of Lowell and Pat and Diane Kapusansky of Syracuse, New York. Great-grandparents are Charlie and Letha Thuston of Old Town, Fla.

Blood drive, Jan. 4

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Michigan Community Blood Centers will have a blood drive Wednesday, Jan. 4 at 10305 Blue Water Hwy. from 3-7 p.m. To schedule an appointment or ask questions, call Virginia at 897-4569.

Happy Birthday

- DEC. 22: Jason Seeley, Shay Hacker, Stephanie Peel, Butch Landman, Kaitlyn Callihan.
- DEC. 23: Norma Stevens, Marie Doyle.
- DEC. 24: Jeffrey Pfaller.
- DEC. 25: Chris Woolfenden, Scott Shindorf, Chris Treglia, Jeni Clouser, Peggy Hayes, Star Daverman.
- DEC. 26: Margaret Gasper,
- DEC. 27: Helen Triplett, Mark Nyp, Linda Aksamitowski, Jay Clark.
- DEC. 28: Lisa Stormzand, C.J. Sokolowski, Matt Francisco, Randy L. Smith.

If you see this sweetie on Dec. 21st, wish him a Happy 18th Birthday

CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST THIS WEEK
with EWTN Global Catholic Network as it offers inspiring Christmas programming for the entire family. Go to www.ewtn.com for program scheduling. EWTN is available on these channels: Lowell Cable TV 49, Dish Network 261, Comcast 291, & Direct Satellite TV 422.

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</p> <p>Across the street from the Vermont Dodge dealership. 897-5284 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.</p> <p>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332</p> <p>Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M.</p> <p>Nursery & Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL Rev. Randy Meyers • 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</p> <p>Worship Services.....8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School.....9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Kids Club Wednesdays After school to.....5:30 p.m.</p> <p>DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>		<p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor Dave Noonon, 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 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL BRENDA BERG 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</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. 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>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21</p> <p>www.goodshepherdlowell.org</p> <p>Sunday School & Adult Bible Study. 9 A.M. Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremmer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>EVERGREEN MISSIONARY CHURCH 10501 Settlement • 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>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurian Meredith</p> <p>9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588</p> <p>Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided "A friend...a family...a mission!"</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 MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>	<p>APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA "Lowell Mission" of the Evangelical Apostolic Church of North America (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.caana.org May the Lord fill you and bless you this day!</p>
<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.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>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</p> <p>Member FDIC</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</p> <p>Member FDIC</p>	

VERGENNES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
...a place to know, love and serve Jesus Christ.

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
December 24, 2005
5:00, 7:00 & 9:00 PM
10411 Bailey Dr., Lowell, MI 49331
Church Office (616)897-6141
www.vumc.net

Happy Holidays From ICNB!

Visit ICNB in Lowell this holiday season for all your financial needs.

897-6171
2601 W. Main St.

Brenda Burke, Lowell Office Manager

ICNB
Hometown Banking
www.icnb.com

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!"

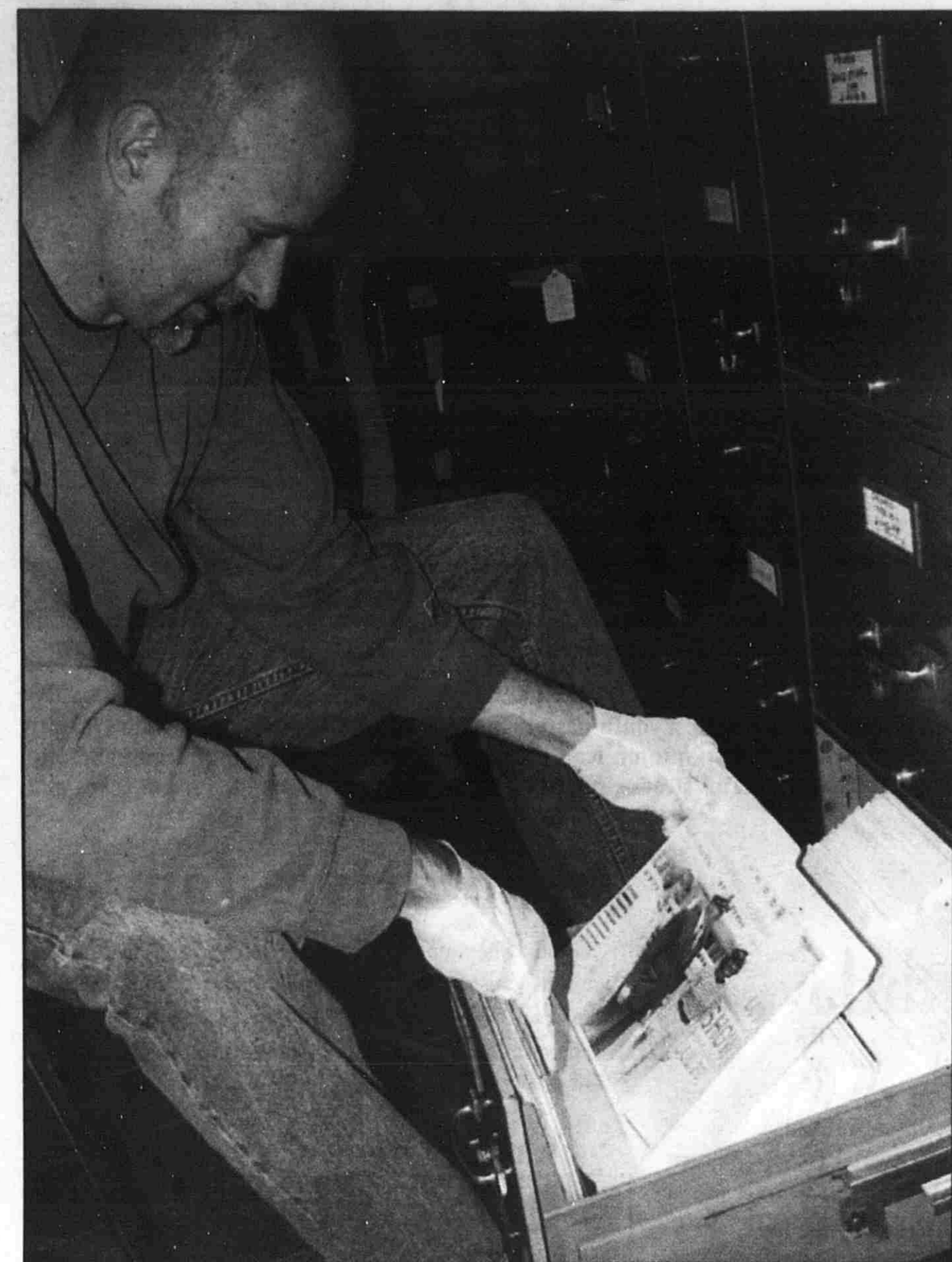
Family Dentistry of Lowell
- ANN WILSON, D.D.S. -

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

Member FDIC

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS 897-4835

Historical museum plans book to celebrate 175 years in Lowell



By Dan Schneider

In 2006, the upcoming year, Lowell will celebrate its 175th anniversary.

To commemorate the occasion, the Lowell Area Historical Museum is planning an ambitious book project. Specifically, they are planning to publish a book that is a pictorial history of Lowell.

"We wanted it so that people could pick up this book and really just enjoy the history of this town through pictures," said museum director Judy Straub.

But the museum wants the Lowell community to have a bigger stake in the project than that. It is asking Lowell area residents to lend pictures for use in the book. A number of general categories have been identified, though they may change as the project progresses. Currently, categories include: founders and early settlers, Main Street and businesses, the

Lowell Showboat, churches, schools and athletics, events and catastrophes, transportation, and farming and agriculture.

The museum will accept pictures until the end of January, at which time it will begin a tight production schedule with completion of the book slated for the end of April. Local graphic design company Mandolin Design has been contracted to do the design work.

When completed, the book will contain about 135 pages, Straub said, with more than 150 photographs. The photos will be reproduced in black and white to keep the book affordable, but the cover will be in full color. The book's dimensions, about eight and a half by 11 inches, will be large enough to sit on a coffee table. The initial printing run will comprise 500 copies.

"We expect both the number and the fact that this is going to be modestly priced for a pictorial book

that I think it's going to sell," Straub said. "We're really excited about this project. We think this is a wonderful way to celebrate 175 years of Lowell history."

That 175 years of Lowell history started in 1831 when Daniel Marsac established a trading post near the confluence of what is now known as the Grand and Flat rivers.

"He was actually here a couple of years before that, he traded with the Indians," Straub explained. "But in 1831, he established the trading post."

It was actually a woman known as Madame LaFramboise who came to Lowell before him. She left the place in 1821, transferring her trading rights with the Indians to Rix Robinson. Indians, of course, were also here before Marsac, Robinson or LaFramboise, but Marsac was the first permanent white settler.

Mike Trimble of Mandolin Design examines a photograph from the Lowell Area Historical Museum's archives. The museum has hired the graphic design company to lay out a pictorial history book of Lowell to celebrate the city's 175th anniversary.

Council endorses ambulance addition but needs to iron out details

J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

While it endorses the concept of creating more space at Look Memorial Fire Station for Rockford Ambulance, the Lowell City Council felt some details needed to be resolved before the project could get underway.

The council unanimously agreed to endorse the project to support Rockford Ambulance's request for \$125,000 to construct the proposed 34

by 72-foot addition to the fire station at 315 S. Hudson St. The proposed addition would go on the east side of the building.

Councilman Jim Pfaller was not happy with the location of the addition because it would require new grading of the slope cutting into the park - the end result being that the youth fair might not be able to put up its main tent if that grading were changed, he said.

Pfaller felt the plan needed to go before the Parks and Recreation Commission for review. Other council

members felt an invitation to Kent County Youth Fair officials should be sent as well.

"Maybe they could move the tent," said mayor Jeanne Shores, who walked the site with other fire board members and could see it being the most practical place for the addition. The north side of the building was proposed, but Department of Public Works director Dan DesJardens said there is a storm sewer drain running through that portion of the property.

Rockford Ambulance has been in the city since 1988, providing ambulance service to the city of Lowell, and Lowell and Vergennes townships. In 1989, the

company renovated space with the Lowell Fire Department to house an ambulance and crew on a 24-hour basis.

Rockford Ambulance chief executive officer Roger Morgan said the agency has simply outgrown the space with the fire department allowing ambulance employees to use public spaces.

"Over time, we have run out of room," said Lowell fire chief Frank Martin. "We would like to be working out of offices and right now we are working out of closets."

There is a need to have separate sleeping facilities for men and women who are at the station on call for 24 hours, Martin said. With the

addition, the fire department would gain the current space occupied by the Rockford Ambulance, giving the department office space, sleeping quarters, and more storage space, he said.

The cost for the addition is estimated at \$243,000. Rockford Ambulance has committed \$70,000 to the project and is seeking a \$125,000 grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund. It is asking both townships and the city to chip in \$16,000 each.

"I know everybody's budgets are tight, but I believe we could come up with financing for the amount," Morgan said.

Both townships had already been approached; Vergennes agreed to the amount contingent on Lowell Township and

the city agreeing to the project. Lowell Township has postponed a decision until a budget meeting in January. The city did not give financial support - only support of the concept - until the issue of location could be resolved.

Morgan believed the location could be worked out and felt there were some options. He planned to have Fishbeck Thompson, Carr & Huber, the architectural firm that has drawn up the proposed plans for the addition, look at a retaining wall. Morgan said he is willing to work with all parties to make the addition a reality.

City manager David Pasquale said a letter of support for the project will be sent to the Lowell Area Community Fund.

Students pitch in to help during the holidays

By Dan Schneider

Students at Lowell Area Schools kept busy before winter break with a variety of service projects.

They collected toys, food and winter clothes for the less fortunate and visited seniors, singing carols and spreading holiday cheer.

At Alto Elementary for the second year, all grade

levels participated in the "Flat River Outreach Ministries Express," collecting food, toys and personal care items in a row of boxes decorated to look like a train. For a service learning project,

Alto fifth graders visited Schneider Manor on Friday to go Christmas caroling.

Also singing Christmas carols were the first grade classes from Murray Lake Elementary. They spent more than an hour Friday morning singing carols, enjoying snacks, playing Bingo, and distributing gift packs to residents at Cumberland Manor.

The gift packs included items like shampoo and facial tissue, and an ornament custom-made by each student. Funds from the LAS service learning program fi-

nanced a portion of the project. To raise money for the gift packs, the first graders created and sold Christmas cards for \$3 a dozen.

Fourth graders from Murray Lake Elementary did extra chores and brought in pop cans and the like to raise money to buy toys at Meijer. The toys were donated to Flat River Outreach Ministries.

The middle school and East Grand Rapids middle school competed in a contest to see which school's students could bring in the

most coats, hats, mittens, personal care items and toys for middle-school aged kids in need. Lowell won.

Cherry Creek Elementary students raised more than \$650 for Flat River Outreach Ministries' "Angel Tree" program and \$575 for Toys for Tots. Students also collected food items for the Flat River Outreach Ministries food pantry. The fifth grade students will continue to collect food through January to help replenish food supplies depleted after the holiday season.

The fifth grade students will continue to collect food through January to help replenish food supplies depleted after the holiday season.



Murray Lake fourth graders raised money to go shopping at Meijer for toys to be donated to Flat River Outreach Ministries.

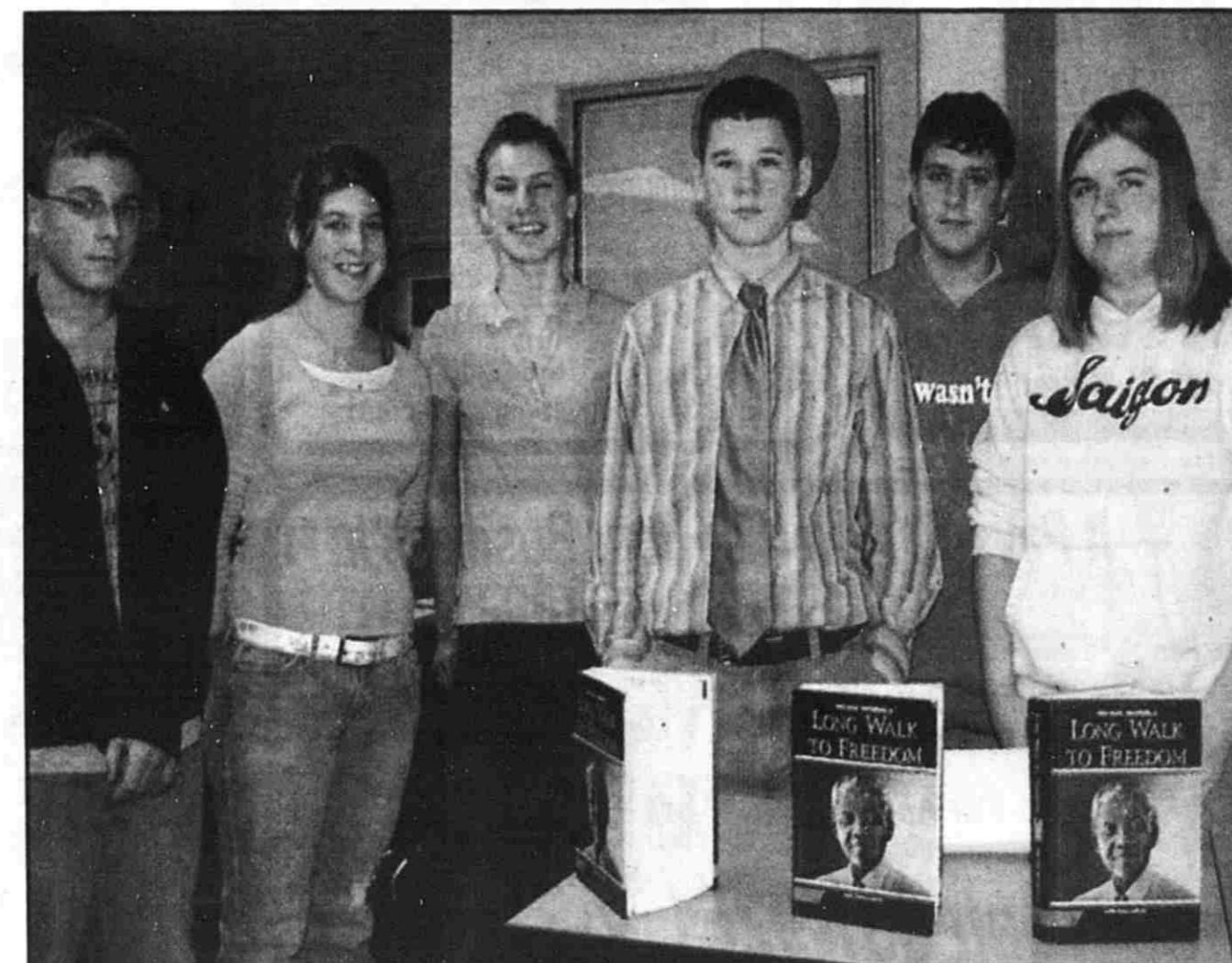


Murray Lake Elementary first graders sang carols for residents at Cumberland Manor instead of the usual class Christmas parties.

Required freshman reading teaches the value of freedom

Zach Wheeler (from left), Rachel Copeyon, Marin Tawney, Jordan Boon, Matt Crain and Sydney Stuewe were one group of Lowell High School freshmen who read the 1994 Nelson Mandela autobiography "Long Walk to Freedom." During the fall semester, freshmen are required to read the book in their English classes. On Dec. 5 and 6, they gave group presentations on the material to various community members, who asked them questions about the book's content and social value.

The students pictured all agreed that the critical study of the book gave them a new perspective on race relations and the American civil rights movement. They said it complimented things they have been learning in social studies classes.



EARLY DEADLINE
The deadline for the Dec. 28 edition of the Lowell Ledger is 5 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 22. All early copy would be appreciated.

CENTER COURT APARTMENTS
A NICE PLACE TO LIVE
Now leasing one and two bedroom apartments on quiet cul-de-sac. Units include heat, water, carport, trash removal; start at \$515.00. Call Pamela at 617-6341 for an appointment.
Pettibone Property Management

Great Gift Idea!
A subscription to **The Lowell Ledger** is the perfect gift for an out-of-town student, snowbird or favorite neighbor!
We also send a Christmas card announcing your gift subscription.
Just let us know how you would like the card signed.
Call 897-9261

SandCastle RIVERSIDE LLC
HOLIDAY CLEARANCE SALE
30% Off EVERYTHING!
THURSDAY 10-7; FRIDAY 10-7 and SATURDAY 10-4
ALL SALES ARE FINAL
NO OTHER DISCOUNTS APPLY.
209 W. Main St. • Lowell
(616) 897-8898

Need A Sitter For New Year's Eve?
Sunshine Mountain Daycare is offering New Year's Eve child care!
• Safe, licensed care for your child
• Games, crafts and activities for all ages
• Dinner, Snack and Breakfast included
• References Available
6 PM - 1 AM: \$25/CHILD
OR 6 PM - 10 AM: \$40/CHILD
(sibling discount available)
RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!
897-3120

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE
Lowell City Hall, Department of Public Works, Police Office, Light and Power and Cable TV will be closed for Christmas on Friday, December 23rd and Monday, December 26, 2005 and Monday, January 2, 2006 for New Year's Day.
Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

ADDORIO TECHNOLOGIES, LLC
Business and Residential Computer Support
Virus removal ■ Data Backup ■ System Troubleshooting & Clean-up ■ Networking ■ and much more... Call Betsy or Tony
Addorio Technologies, LLC
Phone: 616-987-9200
Serving Lowell for over 5 years...



Sharing The Vision

With Pat Murphy
Interim Superintendent

There are 2 four-year Board of Education positions to be filled at the regular school election which will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2006. The positions are for four-year terms ending June 30, 2010.

An individual is eligible for election as a school board

member if the individual is a citizen of the United States and is a qualified and registered elector of the school district the individual seeks to represent. Individuals interested in running for a board seat must first file nominating petitions (or a \$100 non-refundable fee in lieu of petitions) and an affidavit of identity. Petitions and affidavits can be obtained from all Kent County city and townships clerks or the election official at the school district. The deadline for filing is 4 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on Tuesday, February 7, 2006. Petitions are filed at the office of the Kent County Clerk (not at the school district).

The Lowell Board of Education will also be seeking voter approval of the non-homestead property tax renewal at the May 2, 2006 regular school election. The current non-

homestead property tax expires on June 30, 2006. In the near future, the Board of Education will be deciding the amount of millage that will be on the ballot and the number of years for the non-homestead tax levy.

Your comments about this matter or any issue would be greatly appreciated. Send to Interim Superintendent Pat Murphy, Lowell Area Schools, 300 High St., Lowell, MI 49331 or pmurphy@lowellschools.com (check out our Web page at www.lowellschools.com or make comments to the Board of Education at boardofed@lowellschools.com)



Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
Edward Jones
Serving Individuals Investors Since 1871

TIME TO MAKE NEW YEAR'S FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

Do you remember any of the New Year's resolutions you made for 2005? If you don't, it may not be such a tragedy. After all, you still may have had a good quality of life even if you didn't get to the gym three times a week, learn a new language or take that gourmet cooking class. On the other hand, you can make a big difference in your future if you make - and keep - financial resolutions for the coming year.

Of course, like all resolutions, the financial ones are easier to keep if they don't force you to radically change your lifestyle. So, with that in mind, here are a few achievable financial resolutions you may want to consider for 2006:

- Increase your 401(k) contributions. If your salary goes up this year, increase the percentage of your earnings that you defer into your 401(k). With tax-deferred growth, pre-tax contributions and a variety of investment choices, your 401(k) is one of the best retirement-savings vehicles around. Plus, since the money is taken out before it even reaches your check, you won't really "miss" your increased contribution.

- "Max out" on your IRA. In 2006, you can put in up to \$4,000 to a traditional or Roth IRA, or \$5,000 if you are 50 or older. If you cannot come up with the maximum amount at once, try dividing your IRA contributions into 12 equal monthly payments - and have the money taken automatically from a checking or savings account.

- Pay down your credit card debt. As you may know, the Federal Reserve raised short-term interest rates 12 straight times from June 2004 through November 2005. Sooner or later - and probably sooner - these rate increases will affect interest rates charged by credit card providers. So, if you are paying a variable rate on your credit cards, be prepared to pay more in interest. These interest payments do you no good, as you can't deduct them from your taxes; consequently, you'll want to pay down this debt as quickly as you can.

- Review your investment portfolio. It's a good idea to review your investment portfolio at least once a year. Over the course of 12 months, your life can change in many ways; e.g., new spouse, new house, new child, new job, etc. And if your life changes significantly, your investment goals may also change. But even if your circumstances haven't changed much in a year, you should review your holdings to make sure they are properly diversified in a way that reflects your individual risk tolerance, time horizon and long-term objectives. A financial professional can help you review your investments to make sure you are still on track.

- Avoid last year's mistakes. Everyone makes

investment mistakes - but the smartest investors only make them once. So, try to identify any errors you made in 2005. Did you chase after "hot stocks" only to find they had already cooled off by the time you purchased them? Did you incur a large tax bill by constantly buying and selling investments? These are the types of mistakes you should seek to avoid in 2006.

So, there you have them: some New Year's financial resolutions that, if followed carefully, can provide you with benefits long after 2006 is over.

PEBBLE BEACH APARTMENTS

LAKESIDE LIVING - BOWES ROAD
LOWELL, MI

INCLUDED: HEAT, WATER, BLINDS, CARPORT

On-Site Property Manager
24-Hour Maintenance
1-2 Bedroom residences
Starting at \$555

FIRST MONTH'S RENT FREE
www.PebbleBeachApts.com

Call Penny at (616) 897-6880

TO ADVERTISE IN THE LEDGER BUSINESS DIRECTORY Call 897-9261

**MIKA MEYERS
BECKETT & JONES PLC**
ATTORNEYS

John T. Sperla
Mark A. Kehoe
Ross A. Leisman

Benjamin A. Zainea
Heidi A. Lyon
Daniel J. Parmeter, Jr.
Matthew E. Fink

307-A E. Main Street
Lowell, Michigan 49331
(616) 897-3111 www.mmbjlaw.com

Noon Tire

STEVE NOON

11930 E. Fulton (M-21)
Lowell, MI 49331

Dealing In Most Brands (616) 897-5925

Durkee Lumber, Inc.

Lumber and Building Materials
868-6026
6071 Depot St.
Alto, MI

24 Hour Towing & Road Service

Flat Bed Service
Jump Starts
Lock Outs
Tire Changes

Lincoln Lake Auto's
Cell #446-5909

Arctic, Inc.

HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING
1301 Bowes Rd., Lowell, MI 49331
897-4123
www.heatingcoolingonline.com
Licensed & Insured

FREE MASSAGE!

New Patients Only

~Pain Relief~
~Stress Relief~

897-4999
**DOCTORS
CHIROPRACTIC**
In Front Of Meijer

CUMBERLAND

A Leisure Living
Managed Community
www.leisure-living.com

11535 E. Fulton • Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-8413 • Fax 616-897-7839
e-mail: cmbld@leisure-living.com

BASIC COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

HERBERT PETT
Telecommunications Consultant

Phone 616-897-2045
NexTel 616-262-6102
Fax 616-647-4001
Email: hpett@basiccom.com

Curtis Accounting & Tax Services

209 E. Main St. - Suite A, Lowell, MI
Complete accounting,
payroll and tax services
(616) 897-4120 • (616) 262-4873

It Pays To Advertise Your Business In
The Lowell Ledger
Business & Service Directory

For As Little As \$8⁰⁰ Per Week!

Call 897-9261 for information

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR
SPRING ELECTRIC, INC.

• Mining • Industrial
• Commercial
• Residential
• Machine Controls

Cell 616-292-6543 • Nextel 130*45*27732
905 E. Main Street • Lowell, MI 49331
Ph: 897-4239
Fax: 897-3139
cjahnke@springelectricinc.com

FRY DADDY'S

608 West Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331
897-FISH
Fresh Fish & Chicken
DAILY SPECIALS!

WAGS PET GROOMING

dogs & cats
by appointment only
616-745-1258

618 LAFAYETTE, LOWELL, MI 49331
Just 2 blocks north of Main St. Lowell
Discounts for referrals & for standing appointments
Diane Smith - Certified Groomer & Proprietor
Leah Lessard - Certified Groomer

NO CREDIT CHECK! PROCESSING FEE! REPAIR BILLS!

-GET IT TODAY-

• FURNITURE • TV & VCR • STEREO SYSTEMS
• COMPUTERS • WASHER & DRYER
• REFRIGERATORS • AIR COND., & MORE

HRS: MON 10-7; TUE-THURS 10-6
FRI 10-7, SAT 10-4
616-897-9630
FAX 616-897-9631

11630 E. FULTON ST.,
LOWELL, MI 49331

TO ADVERTISE IN THE LEDGER BUSINESS DIRECTORY Call 897-9261

AT YOUR SERVICE

Thomet
Chevrolet BUICK

SERVICE HOURS: M, T, TH & FR • 8-5; WED • 8-3
Phone 897-9294

KIRK COLLINS
Owner

Showboat
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.

Auto Value

1450 W. Main St., Lowell, MI
(616) 897-9231
HOURS: MON - FRI 8-7; SAT 8-5:30; SUN 9-3

BILL WHEELER
Certified Public Accountant

W.J. WHEELER MICHIGAN
103 Riverside Dr.
Lowell, Michigan
49331

616-897-7711

CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL WETCLEANER / CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL DRYCLEANER

CURTIS
CLEANERS • LAUNDRY
CAR WASH

Open 7 days • 897-9809 • 1410 W. Main

DECEMBER SPECIAL
20% OFF
DRESSES & SPORT COATS
SANTA SUITS FREE!

FREE PICKUP & DELIVERY

SELF SERVE LAUNDRY
60 LB. WASHERS
& 75 LB. DRYERS
TURN LAUNDRY DAY INTO LAUNDRY HOUR

CAR WASH \$1.00
VACUUMS 50¢

Buy life insurance and save on your home and car.

When you buy your life insurance from us through Auto-Owners Insurance, you'll receive special discounts on your home, mobile home or car insurance. We'll save you money. As an independent Auto-Owners agent, we take great interest in you - as well as your home and car. We are specialists in insuring people and the things they own.

Auto-Owners Insurance

REGAL INSURANCE AGENCY

835 W. Main St.
Lowell, MI 49331
897-9259
(800)804-3322

Dale Triplett

STOP SUFFERING!

We Successfully Treat:

- Whiplash
- Neck Pain
- All Headaches
- Auto Injuries
- Back Pain
- Numb Hands/Arms
- Sports Injuries
- Work Injuries

See a Specialist and See Results!

897-4999

**DOCTORS
CHIROPRACTIC**

Dr. Anthony Trombly

JB HARRISON INSURANCE AGENCY
COMPETITIVE AUTO RATES

Since 1885 Hastings Mutual Insurance Company
Hastings, Michigan
www.hastingsmutual.com

Daniel Urich
Judy Harrison

6661 Alden Nash, Alto 868-0050

Noreen K. Myers
ATTORNEY AT LAW
22 Years Experience
As A Trial Lawyer
No Fees Unless You Recover

NEW OFFICE:
Downtown Lowell
217 West Main St.
Ph: 897-5460

Downtown Grand Rapids
29 Pearl St., N.W.
Ph: 459-5000

Rich's Service Co.
In-Home Appliance Repair

INSURED • 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
WASHERS • DRYERS • REFRIGERATORS
GARBAGE DISPOSALS • STOVES

209 E. Main St. **RICH CURTIS**
Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-5686

RE/MAX Cascade SunQuest

Peter Smith, Realtor, ABR

Call For Immediate Service
"Your Lowell Area Real Estate Specialist"

(616) 949-6980 Ext. 27 • (800) 800-3915 Ext. 27
(616) 460-6634 Cell
www.realtybypetersmith.com

BUSINESSES SERVICES

BUSINESSES SERVICES

Season's early going is tough for Lowell basketball

By Dan Schneider

Lowell basketball's tough early season schedule is reflected in their record.

After a season-opening home win over Lakewood, the Arrows have fallen to 3-1 after a series of losses to tough teams on the road.

Last Tuesday, Lowell struggled with discipline and intensity in a 62-56 loss at Kenowa Hills.

"That's definitely the best Kenowa team that we've had in a long time," Lowell coach Jeff McDonald said.

Kenowa led 22-19 after the first quarter. The Knights led at every quarter mark, though it was a close game most of the way.

Josh Hettinga led Lowell with 14 points. Mike McElroy and Ryan Lane had 10, Justin Harden put in eight.

"We played poorly and we still had a chance to win it, so we have a lot to build off there," McDonald said. "We didn't execute very well and didn't play with the kind of passion we need to play."

At East Grand Rapids on Friday, Lowell led after the opening quarter 15-11. Even though Lowell lost the game 67-57, McDonald considered it the beginning

of the team's building process. "We played much better and we played with a lot of pride Friday night ... against a pretty good team with some pretty good athletes," he said.

East had three players in double digits, led by Kelvin Grady (19) and DeMarcus Grady (18). Harden led Lowell with 14 points followed by McElroy, who

made 13. Hettinga scored eight, Kory Stevens, seven, and Colin Rich, six for the Arrows.

"We got off to a decent start," McDonald said. "The pace of the game was the way we wanted it to be."

It hasn't helped that Lowell has played most of its games so far this season on the road.

"Seven of our first 10

games are on the road so we gotta be road warriors," McDonald said.

Lowell returned home Tuesday for a game against another tough team in the Creston Polar Bears. The Lowell coach described them as big and fast.

"We schedule those games for experience," McDonald said.

Harrison named staff member of the month

Physical education teacher Missy Harrison was named staff member of the month for November at Murray Lake Elementary.

Fellow staff members commented on Harrison's flexibility in her gym schedule. "She is always willing to work around teachers' schedules and changes when they arise. If the

gym is not available due to an assembly or play, not a problem; Missy will hold gym somewhere else in the building," said kindergarten teacher, Karen Eldridge. Fourth grade teacher Glenna Blanding was impressed with her positive attitude. "Missy is not only a great gym teacher, but a terrific person. She thinks all kids

are wonderful. She sets a good example for all kids as far as how to live a healthful life."

Harrison, who has been teaching PE for 15 years, became full time this year when longtime PE teacher, Bill Stouffer retired.

Harrison and her hus-

band Bill have a son, Bill, who is a senior at Albion College; a son Dan, a sophomore at Central Michigan University, and a daughter Chelsea, a sophomore at Lowell High School.

Harrison said, "I am truly flattered. There are so many great teachers out

here that deserve this type of recognition. I enjoy teaching physical education at Murray Lake because I get to know all the students in the building, and I am able to encourage active and healthy lifestyles. It is great to be with children that are

so full of life and so enthusiastic about everything."

Harrison also runs a mileage club during the students' lunch recess (weather permitting). Her students have already accumulated over 300 miles of walking or running.



Missy Harrison with several third grade students during a recent gym class.

CITY OF LOWELL

PUBLIC NOTICE REFUSE AND RECYCLING UPDATE

Starting the week of December 5, any City of Lowell resident who uses **ALLIED WASTE (SUNSET)** cart service or City bag service will have their refuse and recycling picked up on **THURSDAY**.

City of Lowell orange refuse bags are now available at Bernard's Ace Hardware, Springgrove Variety, Meijers and City Hall at a cost of \$10 for a bundle of 10 bags.

When you recycle, please have all paper products in a bag to keep separate from other recyclables such as cans and glass. The bag can be placed either inside or next to the bin.

If you have any questions, please contact City Hall at 897-8457.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

Teachers open the door.
You enter by yourself.
Chinese Proverb

NOTICE LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HOLIDAY HOURS

THE LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HOLIDAY HOURS WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22.....CLOSED
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23.....CLOSED
MONDAY, DECEMBER 26.....CLOSED
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27.....9 AM TO 5 PM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28.....CLOSED
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29.....9 AM TO 5 PM
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30.....CLOSED

TAX PAYMENTS THAT NEED TO BE POSTED BY DECEMBER 31, 2005 MUST BE PAID IN PERSON BY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2005.

Heavy wrestling schedule tests Red Arrows' readiness

By Dan Schneider

The Red Arrows wrestled through a grueling schedule last week, putting in eight matches over the course of four days.

Last Wednesday, Lowell traveled to Hesperia where they wrestled first the Panthers, rated number one in the state in division 4 in the coaches' poll, then Hart. Thursday, Lowell dispatched East Grand Rapids. And Saturday, the Arrows went to the Coldwater Invitational, opening the day with Allegan, who was ranked third in the division 2 poll.

It was rough going against Hesperia. Lowell won four individual matches in the 45-21 loss. Brock Graham pinned Lee Maynard in 1:33 at the 171 weight. Alex Fleet won a major decision against Ryan Dubic, 12-1. Rob Karasiewicz tech-falled Mark Ackerberg at 130 and Chris Jones pinned Aaron Thompson in 1:22 at 145. Several Arrows wrestled well in losses. Some held leads early in their matches but ran out of gas at the end.

"The five matches we won, it wasn't close; we just didn't win the close matches," Lowell coach Dave Dean said. "They got back into matches we were blowing them out in, and that happens when you stop wrestling."

Lowell some of the weaknesses they will have to work out over the season to make a good run in the state tournament. "This is the right time of year to go through this because we can adjust now," Dean said. "They've got a very quality team," Dean said. "I don't want to take away any credit they deserve; they're a very good team."

Lowell trounced Hart 60-6. The following night, at East Grand Rapids, Lowell beat the Pioneers 70-9, with four Red Arrows winning by pin. The loss did show

Invitational, their first tournament of the season. The toughest test of the day was in the first dual match against Allegan, who came in ranked third in the state in division 2. The Tigersharks won 44-18 with Lowell winning four matches. "They matched up pretty well with us," Dean said. "Where we're good, in the upper weights, they are exceptionally good."

After dispatching Portage Northern 53-9 and Charlotte 73-3 in the other two matches of their pool, Lowell faced Bronson in their fourth match of the day. It was the first match of a round robin of teams who finished second in their respective pools. It came down to the very last match, 275, with Lowell leading 31-29. Dominic Doyle beat Neil Hyska 13-0 to seal the win.

Bowlers knockin' them down

Both Lowell varsity bowling teams remain undefeated in dual matches this season.

The boys team extended its winning record to 4-0 with a 20-10 win over East Grand Rapids Dec. 12 and a 28-2 victory over Forest Hills Central last Wednesday. Lowell rolled at home against East Grand Rapids and away at Forest Hills Central.

The girls team beat East Grand Rapids 23-7 at Lowell Lanes. Forest Hills Central does not have a girls team, so the Red Arrow girls scrimmaged Forest Hills Eastern last Wednesday and won.

The boys team had a good finish at Saturday's

Lowell Invitational. They came into the tournament seeded fourth and finished in third place behind Zeeland and Rockford. A few missed spares kept the boys out of the finals, where Zeeland beat Rockford for the championship.

"They had a couple little oomps there where they missed a couple spares, and if they covered them up they would have made it to the finals," Lowell coach Rocky Eickhoff said.

The girls team finished sixth. "We struggled a little bit," Eickhoff said. "It was the same way, missing those easy spares and it hurts you."

The same as in

the boys final, Zeeland defeated Rockford for the championship. The Lowell Invitational has increased in stature over the years, now drawing top teams in the area like Rockford, Zeeland, Grand Rapids West Catholic and Union.

"We've been carrying them pretty good the last couple of years, getting (teams) coming in to play," Eickhoff said. The next match for both Lowell teams is Jan. 9 at home against Rockford, a league game.

"Whoever wins those matches in the boys and girls should be right on top (in the league) because nobody has lost yet," Eickhoff said.

LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS BOARD BRIEFS

Regular Meeting of December 12, 2005

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA -

The Board removed the Administrative Regulation "8670-R Administering Medication to Students" and the closed session from the agenda.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Cory Kowalski, Student Council Vice-President, reported on the various activities taking place by each of the classes. The Student Council is conducting a food and toy drive and will be having a Secret Santa party on Friday. The Junior Class is starting to work on Prom which will be held at Notos and will have a Tuscan/Italian theme.

REPORTS -

Audit
Phil Saurman, from the district's audit firm of Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter, P.C., presented the 2004-2005 audit, and the Board accepted the audit.

H.S. Band and Orchestra Program
Tim Haan reported on the success of the annual band camp which was held in August for 5 days. The marching band participated in two festivals which is new for them. There will be a Concert Band Festival and Solo and Ensemble Festival coming up in the spring along with their performance at a Spring Concert and at graduation.

Wendy Tenney reported on the orchestra program for Lowell Area Schools and the honor the students felt in performing at Shari Miller's Memorial Service at the high school. This is the first year that senior high students are participating in the orchestra program. A request will be submitted to the Lowell Area Community Fund for help in purchasing bass and cello instruments.

Safe Walks to School Update
Larry Mikulski and Dee McKendrick reported on the success of the Safe Walks to School program that is taking place at Lowell Area Schools. The international program deals with educating students about safety as they walk to school and in making the actual routes safe. Cherry Creek was a pilot school and received \$3000 from the State for implementing the program. The City is working with the school in providing sidewalks through Creekside Park and better lighting. A bridge in Valley Vista needing new

handrails will be upgraded in the spring. This year Middle School students are now included in the Safe Walks to School program.

Service Learning - Veteran History
Carla Stone along with students Christopher Bilski, Dylan Dues, and Linzy Zylstra gave a report to the Board on their service learning project involving local veterans and hearing about their experiences in WWII and Vietnam. The students shared the process they used in setting up the interviews and showed the video they produced.

ACTION ITEMS -

The Board accepted the following gifts:
• Dr. Robert Reagan/Lowell Community Fund donation of \$200 for the 5th Grade Program
• Altior donation of used computers valued at \$4800 to be used by the Technology Department.
• Alto Lions Club donation of slide and support parts valued at \$906.66 to be used by the lower elementary playground.

The Board accepted the agreement with Michigan Leadership Institute (MLI) to conduct the superintendent search.

The Board offers Drivers Training for 2006-07 with the fee to be set at \$300.

The Board adopted a resolution dealing with the district's use of electronic transfer of funds.

The Board approved the curriculum changes for Middle School and High School Reproductive Health.

The Board amended the 2005-06 general fund budget.

CONSENT ITEMS - Approved/adopted were:
• Minutes for November 14, 2005 Regular Meeting and Closed Sessions, the November 23, 2005 Special Meeting, and the November 28, 2005 Special Meeting and Closed Session.
• The following payment of bills for November 2005:
GENERAL FUND.....\$1,364,415.86
SCHOOL SERVICES FUND
A. Food Service Fund.....\$81,189.60
B. Athletic Fund.....\$34,392.36
1990 Debt Fund.....\$61.35
2000 Debt Fund.....18.88

2004 Debt Fund.....\$2,230.49
TRUST AND AGENCY FUND.....\$23,621.33

• Board policy 4750 "Naming of Facilities" and accepted administrative regulations: 4750-R Naming of Facilities and 5300-R Release of Employee Information and Access to Personnel Records.

CURRICULUM REPORT - Mark Kasmer thanked the second grade teachers who are working on literacy and also the principals and literacy school improvement teams. Mark reported on Sue Beute's work with teachers in grades 1, 3, 4, and 5 in upgrading the Every Day Math curriculum to meet state grade level expectations. Lowell is 95% further along in this area than most school districts. Mark thanked the District Tech Team for all their work in the absence of a technology director.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Pat Murphy reported that bids were received for the Middle School Feasibility Study and the review committee will be meeting this week to conduct a thorough review. The May 2 annual election will have the non-homestead millage on the ballot along with two board seats. Patrick Nugent and Peter Haefner's terms are up and Pat hopes they will consider running again. The budget could be better but he indicated things will improve. Pat wished everyone a happy holiday season.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Regular Board Meeting
Monday, January 9, 2006 - 7:00 p.m.
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room
Board Workshop
Monday, January 23, 2006 - 5:30 p.m.
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room

Please visit our web page at www.lowellschools.com

We Value:
Responsibility • Respect • Caring • Trustworthiness
• Fairness • Citizenship

Universal Life Insurance... As permanent as your love
Your love for your kids is permanent, so protect them with permanent life insurance. It gives you peace of mind, lifelong protection, and cash values you can borrow against. Call today.

Mark Johnson
6095 28th St., SE, Ste. 4
Grand Rapids
940-8181

Making Your Future More Predictable
FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
FARM BUREAU MUTUAL • FARM BUREAU LIFE • FARM BUREAU GENERAL
www.farmbureauinsurance-mi.com

TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN
COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT AND SUMMARY OF THE REGULATORY EFFECT THEREOF

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on December 12, 2005 the Township Board of the Township of Grattan adopted an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the Township of Grattan. The principal provisions of the amending ordinance are summarized below.

Section 13.11 of the zoning ordinance, pertaining to the special land use for removal of natural resources, is amended so as to provide for the payment of an annual surveillance fee to the Township by owners and operators under the terms of the special land use granted for the removal of natural resources operation, for the purpose of defraying the Township's costs incurred in its administration, surveillance and enforcement of the special land use. The annual surveillance fee includes but is not limited to Township expenses for the review of applications, testing, monitoring, sampling, surveying, consultant fees and other related costs and expenses for the ongoing administration and surveillance of the special land use and for related Township purposes.

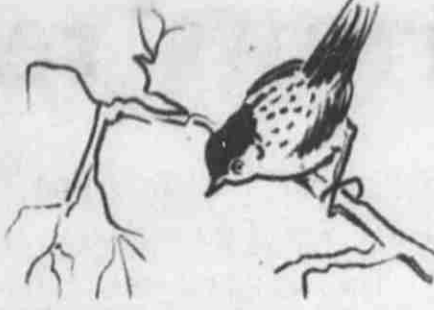
The amending ordinance includes other provisions covering procedures whereby notification of the annual fee is made, the refunding of any accumulated but unused annual fee amounts and other matters. The ordinance will become effective December 28, 2005. A copy of the amending ordinance can be examined or purchased at the Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Road, within the Township.

Dated: December 14, 2005

TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN

Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis



ICE TECH

The simplest, most economical, and, incidentally, fun way to catch a batch of pan fish for dinner is pulling them through a hole in the ice with a short fishing pole. The introduction of data gathering electronics and labor saving equipment, however, has increased the cost and complexity of catching fish in the winter.

Ice augers were the first sign that ice fishermen were about to experience major changes in a sport that had remained the same for several generations. The ice spud, which is a length of steel bar or pipe with a wedge shaped steel head on one end, was used to chip away at the ice to produce a fishable hole. A cup-shaped hand auger replaced the spud in the '60s. This innovation substantially reduced the time and effort to make a hole. We thought it couldn't get any better. Today the hum of power augers, made with lightweight components and powered by a gas engine, interrupt the silence on fishable lakes.

The next notable change was ultra-light spinning reels which replaced the plastic spool on the short light rods. The floating cork bobber gave way to a spring bobber fastened to the end of the rod which detects the lightest bite and won't freeze up.

In the old days, gathering information about what was under the ice was as simple as clipping a one-ounce lead weight on the end of the line and dropping it to the bottom of the lake to find the depth. Exploring under the ice today is accomplished with a portable sonar unit. Flashers, as they are called, have been around since the first salmon runs in the '60s, but the new units are able to sort out hard and soft lake bottoms, weeds, location and size of fish, and even track the movement of a 1/32 ounce jig. An educated user can interpret this information from flashing colored bars on a circular screen. A few fishermen take all the guesswork out of it by viewing the scene with an underwater video camera.

Navigating on big water is easier with the aid of a GPS (global positioning system). The GPS will also locate that drifted over fishing spot that was hot yesterday.

Portable canvas shelters warmed by L.P. gas heaters are taking the place of heavy wooden shanties. The easily transported shelters fold out on site for comfortable fishing.

Obviously, not all of this gear would fit into my ice fishing box that I made from a desk drawer or even the ever-popular six-gallon bucket. A special plastic ice-fishing sled will handle the load, but an appropriately rigged ATV or snowmobile can move lots of equipment long distances.

Ice fishing can still be productive with minimum equipment. Don't stay home because you're not a gear and gadget person. Basic fishing techniques worked for generations, and the fish are still the same. But if you want to play the game on a whole new level, the technology is on the shelf.

Sound Off



The Ledger "Almost" Anything Goes Column

www.lowellbuyersguide.com
Or CALL...897-0787

While tutoring a student at Unity twice a week, I have been impressed with the school atmosphere and how students are always friendly and respectful. Great job students and staff!

Times are tough for everyone! Even for us waitresses in local restaurants. But when a local store owner does not tip at all, after good service, something is really wrong!

The lady that delivers the GR Press - Smile. It's your job.

The lunch ladies at school are nice, I would like to thank them for making the food! But still the food is a tad creepy, maybe we could have a healthier food choice.

Merry Christmas everybody... not Happy Holidays! You don't hear people saying "Happy Holidays" for any other holiday, do you?

Don't you love Bush and his buddies the oil executives, Xmas gift to us - 35 cents more a gallon for gas in a week. Merry Christmas!

The Alto Girl Scouts did a great job delivering the fruit baskets and the lovely handmade angels to the residents at Schneider Manor. We also enjoyed the carols.

The Alto Elementary Learning Club's first year was exceptional. Keep up the great work!

A TRUSTED TRADITION OF AFFORDABLE, PERSONALIZED, AND COMFORTABLE CARE

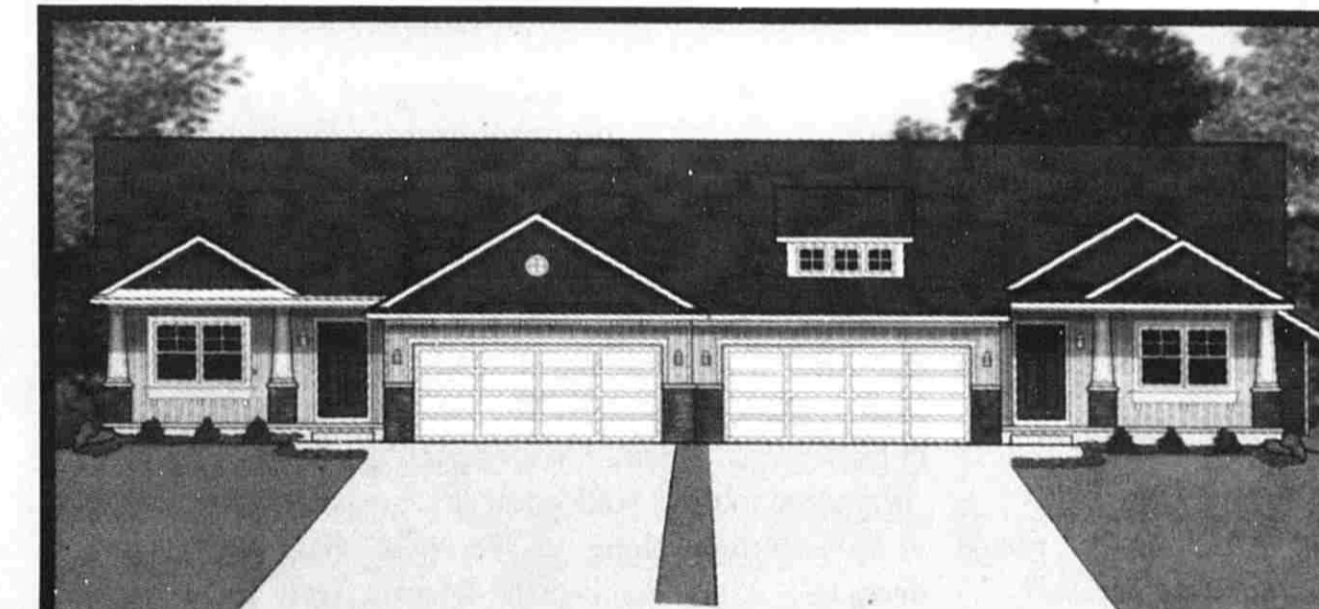
LIFETIME DENTAL EXCELLENCE

- Professionally Trained, Caring, and Courteous Staff
- State-of-the-Art Procedures, Instruments, and Techniques
- Cosmetic Care: Porcelain Veneers, Bonding, and Whitening
- Mercury-Free Dentistry • Filtered Water Lines
- Orthodontic Care (Braces) • Wisdom Teeth Extraction
- Implants • TMJ (Jaw Pain Therapy)
- Treatment of Periodontal Disease (Latest Non-Surgical Techniques Available)
- Dentures • Partial • Root Canals • Crowns and Bridges
- Emergencies Accepted • Convenient Payment Plans
- Serving the Area Since 1981

TODD GILLAN, DDS, PC
2186 MAIN STREET • LOWELL
LOCATED ACROSS FROM ARBYS

WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO CALL
(616) 897-8491

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN LOWELL



IONIA'S NEWEST NEIGHBORHOOD

CONDOS from the \$150's HOMES from the \$130's

Austin Pines

NOW TAKING RESERVATIONS!
west off M-66, just north of Tuttle Rd

West Michigan REAL ESTATE
www.WestMichiganRealEstate.com
616.897.0530

in partnership with:
HEKSTRA HOMES **BELTLINE TITLE AGENCY, INC.**
FUSION HOMES

Choose from 6 incredible plans

Each well-designed floor plan includes covered porches, finished garages, main floor master suites, maintenance free exteriors and landscaped yards.

Conveniently located near the west end of Lowell, just a block south of Main St. Crab Apple Cove is within walking distance of pharmacies, shopping, restaurants, banking, YMCA fitness center, city parks and beaches.

MODEL HOURS
Friday: 4-6 pm
Saturday: 1-4 pm
Call 616.676.9961 today!

find your quiet community

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate FILE NO. 05-180,682-DE

Estate of ROBERT JONES II deceased
Date of birth 07/08/1923

TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICETOCREDITORS:

The decedent, **ROBERT JONES II**, who lived at 2909 Peckheath, Wyoming, Michigan, died 11/23/2005. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **JENNIFER JONES**, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave. NW, Ste. 9500C, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

December 15, 2005

Karen S. McFadden P-57043
403 W. Main Belding, MI 48809
616-794-1220

Jennifer Jones
4131 Valley Ridge Dr. Kalamazoo, MI 49006

We want to be your Family Doctor.

▪ Sick or Injured Animals Seen Same Day
▪ Evenings & Saturday Hours Available
▪ Early Drop-offs & House Calls
▪ 24-Hour Emergency Service
▪ Science Diet Pet Foods
▪ Boarding & Grooming

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

ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL

FOR SALE

MATTRESS/BOX SPRINGS - Brand new, \$49/set. Twin, full, queen, delivery available. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.

SHELTIES PUPPIES - very small, \$350-\$400; also Border Collie female, \$250. Baird's 897-9081.

BERBER CARPET - 80 yards, beige color, bought, never used. Cost \$800, sell \$295. 517-719-0451.

3 PIECE TAN MICRO FIBER SECTIONAL - dual recliners & fold out bed, \$2,000 obo. 616-723-6105.

MISSION OAK DINING TABLE - 6 chairs, JC Penney brand (2 mos. old). Family size. Cost \$1,800, sell \$250/best. 517-719-8062.

WOODY'S OFF-THE-TRUCK GOLF SALES - Christmas Specials: 3 sets of new irons; 2 men's & 1 ladies, each \$95. 1 set men's new left hand irons & woods, \$175.00. Stocking stuffer golf balls (experienced), \$4.00 per dz. or 3 dz. for \$10. Also used clubs and bags, sets or singles. Great condition. Phone 616-897-7585.

BED & MATTRESS SET - Queen pillowtop (new, in plastic), never used, comes with warranty, \$125. Call 517-719-8062.

1996 DODGE DAKOTA - extended cab, short box, 4x4, new tires, excellent truck, needs tranny. Call for info., \$1000 obo, 292-2196.

MOVING, MUST SELL!!!! - 1980 14x70, 3 br., 1 bath Fairmont mobile home in Key Heights. \$1,500 obo, can stay in park or be moved out. Please call (616) 780-8500.

\$175 CHERRY SLEIGH BED - Queen w/pillowtop mattress set (never used), \$175. Call 517-719-8062.

FOR SALE - 1997 Chevy Tahoe LT, 4x4, leather interior, excellent condition, runs good, \$5,200. Call 897-9444.

MEMORY FOAM MATTRESS - Developed by NASA. Relieves back pain. Never used. 1 queen, \$700; 1 king, \$900. 682-4767 or 293-6160. Can deliver.

BARBIE COLLECTION - 75 Barbies, boxes never opened, including Holiday Barbies. Original purchase price \$20-\$400, \$2,200 for full collection, will sell individually. Call 616-897-9444 for more details.

AIR BED - Selecta comfort firmness for each of you. Great for couples of different sizes. Fully adjustable/with remote. Never used. Queen, \$695, King, \$895. 682-4767 or 293-6160.

V8 302 FORD ENGINE - excellent running, low miles, extras, \$300 obo. Call 292-2196.

MATTRESS SETS - Name brand all new, special purchase, while supply lasts. Twins, \$70, Full, \$80, Queen \$95 & up. 682-4767 or 293-6160. Can deliver.

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM
In loving memory of **GLENN RICKERT**, husband, father, grandfather & great grandfather who passed away 14 years ago on December 23, 1991. Always remembered & deeply missed by wife Marie, children Marilyn & Larry Cahoon & Shirley Weeks, grandchildren & great-grandchildren

LOST
LOST DOG - Husky mix, name is Bailey, Alto/Clarksville area. Call 291-6564.

WANTED
WANTED - working fuel oil furnace, 868-1220.

PERSONALS
LONELY, HOMETOWN GUY TEMPORARILY DISPLACED - Pen-pals wanted! Will send pictures! Steven James Osborne 10852040, PO Box 8000, Bradford, PA 16701-0980.

The Lowell Ledger CLASSIFIEDS TO PLACE AN AD

In Person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell
By Mail: PO BOX 128, Lowell, MI 49331
By Phone: 616-897-9261
By Fax: 616-897-4809
By Email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com
DEADLINE MONDAY AT 5 PM

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Closed Saturday & Sunday

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



FOR RENT

LOWELL FOR RENT - 2 br/1 bath apt. Storage, trash, water & sewer incl. W/D hookup, \$550/mo. Sec. deposit \$300, no smoking, no pets, 897-4829

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

FOR RENT - small 1 bedroom house in the country. \$650 per month, Baird's 897-9081.

FOR RENT - 1 & 2 bedroom trailers \$600 - \$840 to move in; \$400 - \$420 per mo. plus 1 mo. rent deposit. No dogs please. Call 813-8041 or 616-754-0276.

LOWELL FOR RENT - 1 br/1 ba. apt. Storage, trash, water & sewer incl. \$450/mo. Sec. deposit \$300. No smoking, no pets, 897-4829.

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.

HELP WANTED SERVICES

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS BEEN DENIED? - For possible information, assistance or free representation in your area, call anytime! Member B.B.B., call 1-800-305-2899.

STORE CLERKS & SANDWICH ARTISTS - Lowell Mobil Mart is looking for friendly and professional individuals to fill part-time openings for our brand new store. Duties will include cleaning, stocking, customer service and food service. Applicants must be available to work weekends and holidays. Stop by and fill out an application at 4475 Alden Nash Ave., Lowell or Meadowbrooke Mobil, 4919 Town Center Ave., Grand Rapids, MI 49548. Please visit our website, www/jhoil.com for the complete location list. EOE

DATA ENTRY - Experienced person who enjoys fast-paced mfg data entry but has a keen ability to understand production systems. Work is very challenging & accuracy is vital. Other duties include general accounting, typing & filing. Wages based on experience. Comprehensive benefit package. Send resume to: Michigan Wire Processing, Human Resources, PO Box 70, Lowell, MI 49331.

SCRATCH PADS OF PAPER - We have em'l 2 different sizes. \$1.25 per lb. Lowell Litho/Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway.

COUNTRY WESTERN PARTNER DANCE CLASSES - Learn Texas Two Step, Cowboy Cha-Cha, Waltz Across Texas, East & West Coast Swing & much more. Classes begin Fri., Jan. 6 from 7-8 p.m. at Ada Dance Academy. \$5 per person. For more info call Darci Heck (instructor) 889-8944

PLUMBER - Experienced. Residential Service or New Construction. Reasonable rates. Call 897-2575.

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

BILL'S CUSTOM MADE FURNITURE & CABINETS - All types of wood: oak, maple, hickory, cherry plus others. Reasonable rates and free estimates. 989-855-3644.

JOHN DEBIAK HORSESHOEING & HOOF TRIMMING - Serving the Greater Kent/Ionia County area with 15 years of professional, full-time experience. Call 897-4290.

SHIP UPS AT THE LEDGER OFFICE - Daily pickup 3:30 p.m. 105 N. Broadway. Compare our prices - call for a price quote! (weight, dimensions & zip code required for a quote). 897-9261.

ALTERATIONS - Experienced professional men's, women's, leather coats, all fabrics, zippers replaced, wedding & prom dresses altered. Call Helen 897-6071.

LINKS SNOWPLOWING 897-1536 or 204-7385.

NO JOB TOO SMALL - Those little jobs about the house need fixing. Call me and get them done at a reasonable price. Call 616-443-3718.

FREE CAMERA PHONE

after mail-in rebate

AMERICA'S CHOICE CALLING PLANS

\$39⁹⁹

Monthly Access

Now With
Unlimited  Calling

Talk to any Verizon Wireless Customer on the
Largest Mobile to Mobile Calling Area in America

Unlimited Night & Weekend Minutes

450 Anytime Minutes

All when calling from within the America's Choice Coverage Area. New 2 yr Agreement required.
(Activation fees, taxes, and other charges apply.) * Coverage not available everywhere.

Double Your Anytime Minutes
900 Anytime Minutes - \$59.99 Monthly Access



LG 5200

Free after mail-in rebate
(\$49.95 retail price less \$50 mail-in rebate)

- Digital Camera
- Dual Color Displays
- Voice Dialing

With a **NEW** 2 year agreement. While supplies last. Terms apply. Rebate takes 8-10 weeks. Offer expires 1/16/06.



LG 3300

Free after mail-in rebate
(\$29.95 retail price less \$30 mail-in rebate)

- Color Display
- Text Message Capable
- Voice Dialing

With a **NEW** 2 year agreement. While supplies last. Terms apply. TXT messages 10¢/send & 10¢/receive; in National Enhanced Services Coverage Area only; coverage limitations & maps at verizonwireless.com. Rebate takes 8-10 weeks. Offer expires 1/16/06.



Lowell - 11635 E. Fulton Street, located next to Curves
616-897-6849



*Our surcharges (incl. 2.13% Federal Universal Service (varies quarterly), 5¢ Regulatory & 40¢ Administrative/line/mo., & others by area) are not taxes (details 1-888-684-1888); gov't taxes and our surcharges could add 6% to 35% to your bill. Activation fee: \$35 (25\$ for secondary Family SharePlan lines with 2-yr Agreements).
IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Customer Agreement, Calling Plan, Get It Now Agreements, rebate form & credit approval. \$175 termination fee, 45¢/min after allowance, other charges & restrictions. Usage rounded to next full minute. Offers not available everywhere. America's Choice Coverage Area covers 291 million people. Network details, coverage limitations & maps at verizonwireless.com. Nights 9:01 pm - 5:59am M-F. Rebate takes 8-10weeks. Limited time offer. ©2005 Verizon Wireless