

# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 34 Issue 13

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

## Current water/sewer system will be able to handle additional use

By Dan Schneider

The final outcome of a petition to annex 177 acres of Vergennes Township to the city of Lowell is still up in the air.

The state of Michigan Boundary Commission has recommended denial of the petition, but the final decision rests in the hands of the director of the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, David

C. Hollister. Hollister is stepping down from that post effective Feb. 3, by which time the Vergennes/Lowell annexation question is not likely to be settled.

But directives from the state have encouraged

the municipalities, along with Lowell Charter Township, to broaden their discussion of urban growth issues likely to affect them in the future. Vergennes Township supervisor Tim Wittenbach said having

these discussions now might make future interaction between the municipalities less complicated than the annexation petition has been.

"It's turning into a potentially larger issue now, so we don't have to face as many big issues in the future," Wittenbach said.

Wittenbach, Lowell city manager Dave Pasquale, and Lowell Township supervisor John Timpson met Jan. 11 to lay the groundwork for upcoming meetings on the subject of growth. One of the things they decided on during the two-hour meeting was to find an arbitrator to facilitate further discussions.

The city's water and sewer capacity will likely be important issues in any discussions related to urban growth outside the city limits. Whether or not the city would make the utilities available for a development on the 177 acres in Vergennes was a central issue in the

annexation talks.

Water treatment plant superintendent George Regan said the facility has capacity to spare for development outside the city.

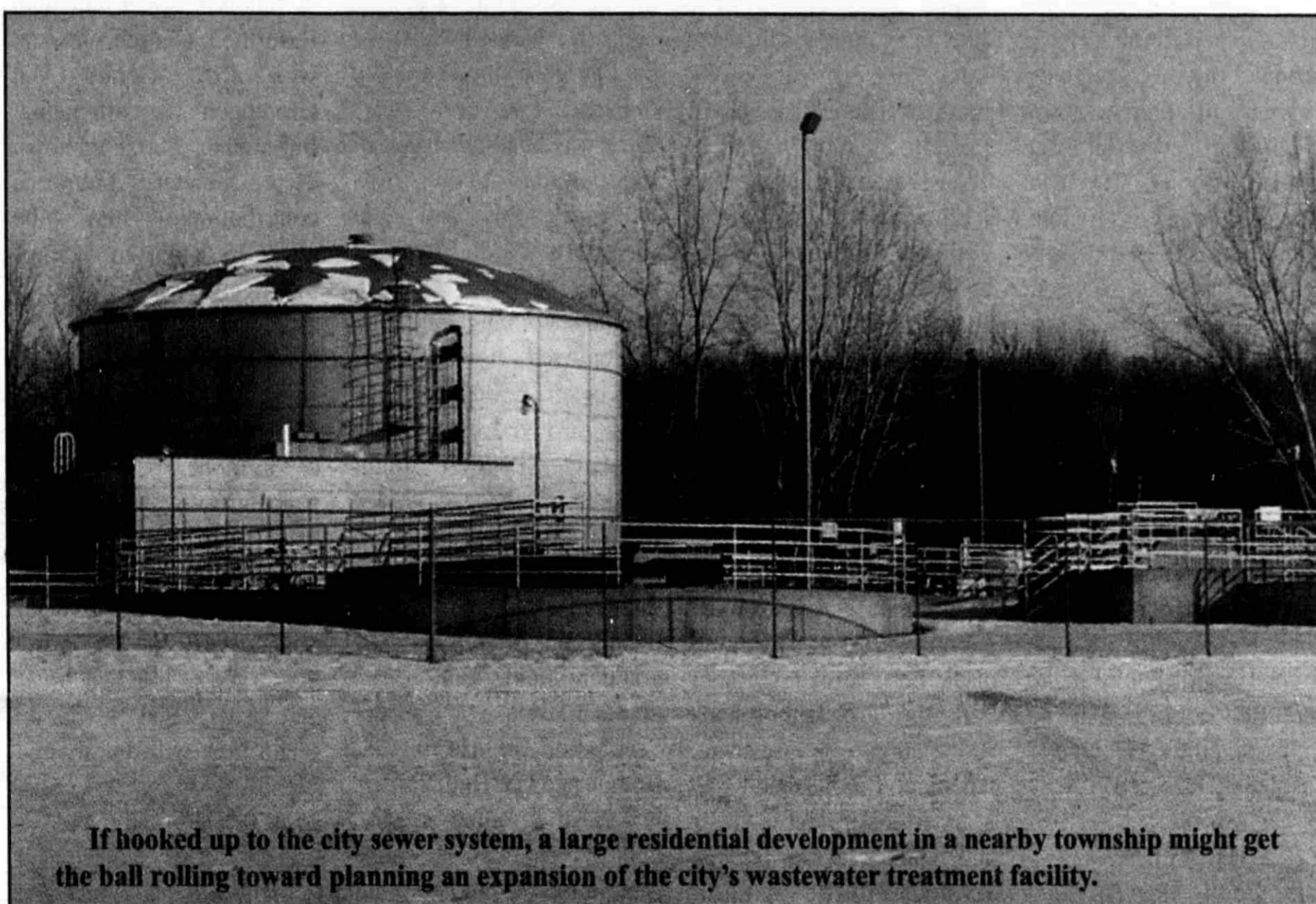
"Right now, we're producing less water per year than we were in 1988," Regan said.

He said modern manufacturing processes that consume less water have led to a decline in water use by Lowell's industrial sector. Houses built in Lowell since 1988 have not offset that decreased level of consumption, Regan said, and limited available property within city limits means residential development is not likely to push the plant's capacity.

"Whatever domestic water use we might incur probably wouldn't have a major impact," Regan said.

Part of the capacity of the city wastewater

*Water/sewer system, cont'd., pg. 10*



If hooked up to the city sewer system, a large residential development in a nearby township might get the ball rolling toward planning an expansion of the city's wastewater treatment facility.

## Kalamazoo firm chosen to update city's master plan

By J. Lobdell  
Contributing Writer

Looking for someone with a fresh perspective, the Lowell Planning Commission selected a firm from Kalamazoo to help update the city's master plan.

At its January meeting last week, the planning commission chose Kalamazoo-based McKenna Associates over Kalamazoo-based Gove Associates and Grand Rapids' Williams & Works, which has been involved in a number of city projects.

"McKenna was most impressive," said commission member Maryalene LaPonsie who along with most of the commission attended an interview process Jan. 16. LaPonsie felt the company's familiarity with urban growth boundary

issues, something the city has been working on with both Lowell and Vergennes townships, was a big bonus for the city. Coupled with its work in Eaton County and its legal expertise, the company seemed a good fit for what the commission needed done.

"One of the benefits is the company isn't as familiar with the city and might not take for granted something that we do," LaPonsie said.

The three companies had responded to request for proposals to help the city update its master plan, which has not been done in the state's required five-year timetable. Each of the firms

solicited were told upfront that only \$20,000 over a two-year period had been budgeted for this process and were given a specific outline of what was expected from the firm.

"All three firms are very good and qualified for what we need done," said

*Master plan, cont'd., pg. 11*

## Young Chess Champs



Five classes of fifth grade students got started on the annual Cherry Creek Elementary chess tournament last week. A total of 83 students signed up to play chess during recess. Fifth grade teacher Rob Stevens, who coordinates the tournament, said playing chess gives the students a chance to exercise their mind when the winter weather makes outdoor recess less attractive. The first four chess players pictured, clockwise from the lower left corner, are Danny Cowden, Austin Gildea, Jordan Dennie and Audrey Pearson.

Inside  
**The Lowell Ledger**

*LPD Promotions ... Page 3*

*New Party Place ... Page 11*

*Well-heeled Canines ... Page 20*

*Winter Days Are Numbered!  
Groundhog's Day  
Thursday, February 2*







### The Year of the Dog

Preschoolers at the Franciscan Life Process Center ushered in the "Year of the Dog" Monday, celebrating the Chinese New Year with a parade, ethnic snacks, and dog-related art projects. Pictured in the dragon costume during the parade are, from left to right, Madison Yurkinas, Holly Paris, Julie Anne Ritsema and Jill Ritsema as the head of the dragon. This is the third year the preschool has held special activities around the Chinese New Year.

### New Arrivals

#### Carl

Brad and Molly Carl of Grand Rapids are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Sophia Elise. She was born on December 15, 2005 weighing 7 lbs. 12 oz. and measuring 19 inches.

Proud grandparents are Doug and Ellie Carl of Wyoming and Dave and Cathy Wisner of Belding



Sophia Elise Carl

## Reflections of faith

Rev. Joseph Fremer  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

"Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it." Charles D. Warner, associate editor for the Hartford Courant, is credited with originating this common phrase, in an 1897 editorial.

Much has changed in the last hundred years, for Good Shepherd has several people who recently did something about the weather. They went south!

We hear from them, time to time. There's always a wee bit of gloating in the phone call or the postcard. First thing they have to tell you is the current temperature in Florida or the Southwest. Then they tell you what they did today, and what they were wearing (or weren't wearing) when they did

it. Then they smugly ask how it's going in Michigan.

Snow birds! Bah. Gimme grey and cloudy, and dry polar air cold enough to make your nostril hairs crackle. Anything else in February ain't natcherall. I lived in Florida for a number of years, and let me tell you, there's only about eight weeks of decent weather in a year there. The rest of the time it's too hot, or too cold (damp cold is much worse).

Well, now you've heard my opinions on the superiority of northern winters, and if I haven't lost you completely, let's get to the actual spiritual reflection for this week. You can run from a Michigan winter, but you can't run from—what? Did you think I was going to say, "Can't run from God"? That's a true statement, but I was going to say, "You can't run from yourself." Weather is external to us, so changing location can change your local forecast. But most of our biggest problems are a result, not of geography, but of identity. The Bible refers to that as "sin." My sinful nature is the source of most of the misery in my life, and a bit of the misery in the lives of my significant others. In Matthew 15:19 Jesus says, overruling Jewish kosher dietary restrictions, "The things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' For out of the heart come evil

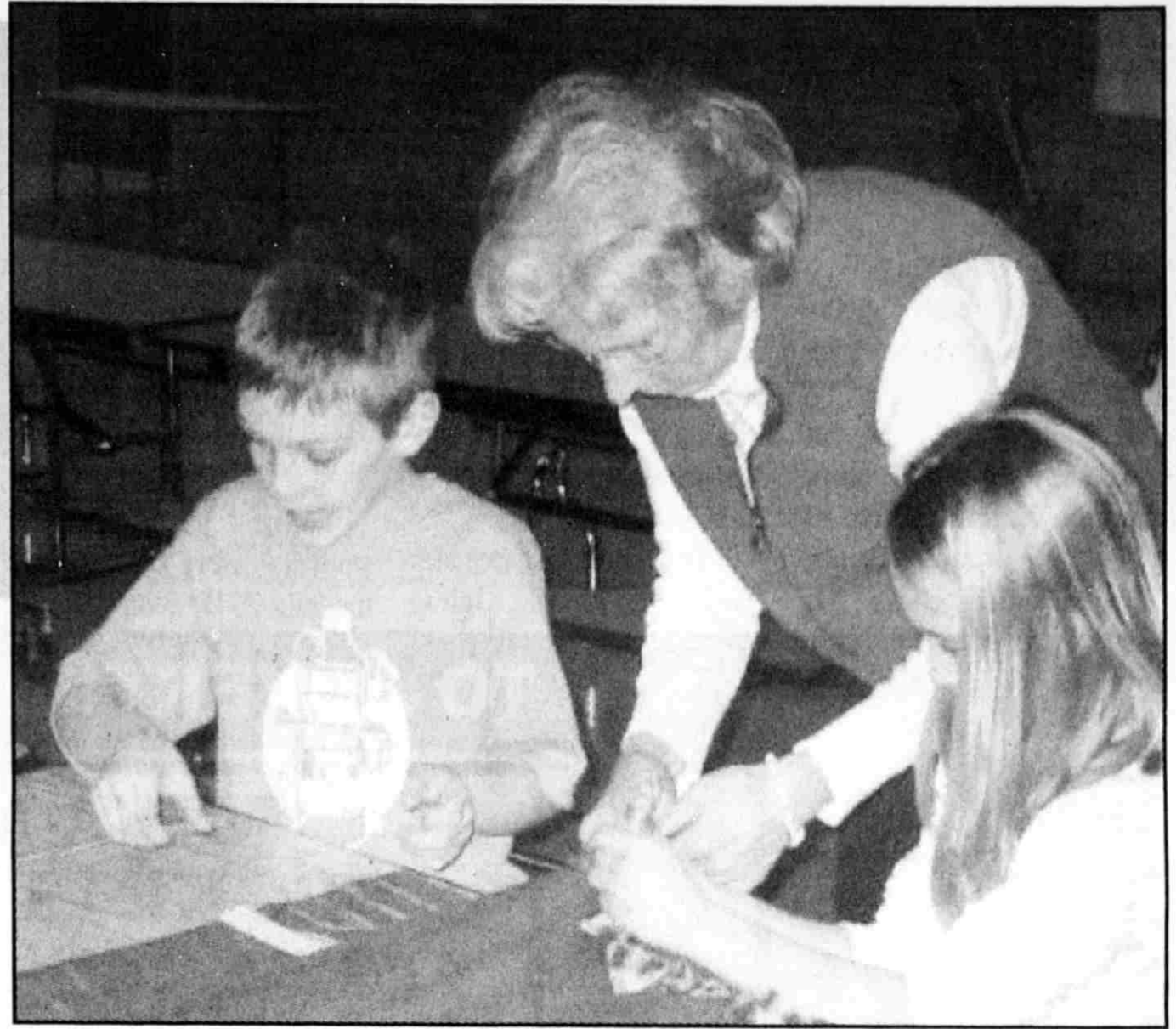
thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander."

Because I am by nature God's enemy, I'm my own worst enemy too. Relocating to a different latitude doesn't solve that problem. (As Buckeroo Banzai says, "Wherever you go—there you are!") The other ways that people try to run away from their identity problem (substance abuse, romantic affairs, overdoing a sport or a hobby) only offer distraction, not solution. The only solution is to change who I am (not just what I do), to get a new heart.

Jesus is standing by as the Donor. He took the punishment we deserved, and offers us His perfectly clean heart, and when I trust this good news, I receive the heart of Jesus, growing up alongside the unclean self-centeredness of my natural heart. I was "born again" as it says in John 3, in the waters of Holy Baptism that sprinkled me clean to get a new heart (Ezekiel 36:25-27) and I am renewed in that every time I renew my trust in my beloved heart Donor. And since I no longer am running away from God, I no longer feel the need to run away from who I am. Loved by God, I can love myself. I can cope. And that's a good thing, wherever I may be!

### Cherry Creek third graders caring for vets

At right, third grade students in the classrooms of Carol Mandle and Mary Beth Reed were busy last Friday morning making lap blankets for veterans from the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Through a service learning project, the Cherry Creek students have been studying about the sacrifices veterans have made for our country. The third graders will be delivering the lap blankets and other donated items on Wednesday, Feb. 1.



### Statewide free throw contest being held

The annual Knights of Columbus (K of C) youth free throw contest is currently being held across the state. Three girls from Lowell, Arielle Nausieda (11), Caitlin Fitzpatrick (12) and Jasmine Lillie (13), all members of St. Patrick Parish, won their respective age group at the district #70 championship at St. Charles Parish in Greenville on Sunday. The girls will now advance to the K of C Free Throw Diocesan Championship coming up Saturday, Feb. 18 in Kentwood.

## HEALTH

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

### HEART PALPITATIONS

Most of us have experienced heart palpitations at one time or another. Heart palpitations occur when the heart beats faster or harder than usual and we feel a pounding or fluttering in the chest. Most palpitations are not serious and can be due to a variety of things.

Common benign causes of heart palpitations are excessive caffeine intake, medications containing decongestants or stimulants, excessive alcohol intake and stress. Anxiety causes a release of adrenaline into the blood stream which stimulates the heart.

Most of the time, heart palpitations are harmless, but sometimes it can be due to a serious underlying heart disorder or other medical problem. If you experience frequent palpitations or sustained episodes of a rapid heart beat, you probably should be evaluated by your physician.

Evaluation of palpitations involves reviewing your medical history, listening to the heart, performing an EKG (an electrical tracing of the heart) and checking the blood for other conditions that may stimulate the heart. Frequently a heart monitor will be worn by the patient for a day or even up to four weeks in order to record an abnormal heart rhythm. Occasionally your doctor will recommend an echocardiogram which gives an ultrasound picture of the heart chambers, valves and muscle walls. It tells how the heart is functioning as an efficient pump. In patients that are at risk for coronary artery narrowing, a stress test or heart catheterization may be indicated.

Treatment of heart palpitations is directed at the cause. Benign palpitations require no treatment. If a more serious underlying condition is causing the palpitations, treatment of the condition will usually alleviate the palpitations.

### Lend A Hand



### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

#### HELP PROMOTE LITERACY

The Kent County Literacy Council has scheduled an information session on Monday, Feb. 13 for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 6:30 p.m. and lasts one hour. It allows persons interested in becoming volunteer

tutors to find out more about the Council and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

By training people to be tutors, the Council can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

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

## Happy Birthday

- FEBRUARY 2: Marie Wade.
FEBRUARY 3: Dale Phillips, Clarice Poisson, Sana Bryant, Cassandra Thomas.
FEBRUARY 4: Jo Hill, Kelsey Scheider.
FEBRUARY 5: Ann Mulder, Kenneth Gregersen Sr., Colleen Myers, Mandy Schneider, Joe Barnes, Mike Conklin.

- FEBRUARY 6: Donna Oesch, Reed Stormzand, Norm Johnson, Angie Blough.
FEBRUARY 7: Margaret Peckham, Gordie Barry, Peggy Covert.
FEBRUARY 8: Laurie Chambers, Maya Newhouse, Steve Estes.

WELCOME The Ledger
The Ledger Delivered Right to Your Doorstep!
Call us now to start your subscription, 897-9261. Credit Card Required for a phone order.

## AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Table with 8 columns and 2 rows of church listings including: ATTENTION: BIBLE BELIEVERS, ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, DAY BIBLE CHAPEL, CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL, APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE, CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER, ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL, GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL, SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE, and ALTON BIBLE CHURCH.

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

Ada Community Reformed Church 7239 Thornapple River Drive Ada, MI 49301 Presents 'I'm Worth It' What is the real basis for your self-esteem? By inspirational speaker JOLENE DeHEER THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23 AT 7:00 PM



# College News

Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and Design have announced that 2,963 students received Academic Honors for the fall 2005 semester which ended in December.

From the Lowell area are: Paul Athmann, Audrey N. Bailey, Brian P. Bodemann, Emily R. Cyrocki, Dawn M.

DeRaad, Seth T. Hay, Whitney N. Jernigan, Tara S. Kuipers, Shannon J. Levingston, Michael Mastrovito, Colleen Ritchie, Kimberly R. Seaman, Megan R. Shellenbarger, Michael Whitman and Randall S. Zeisler.

From the Alto area are: Paula M. Cronk, Jaime

J. Ekkens, Michelle L. Lindale and Patrick L. O'Connor.

Kristin Hufstader has achieved recognition as a member of the dean's list for the 2005 fall semester at Grand Rapids Community College.

She is the daughter of Tim and Maruszka Hufstader of Lowell.

More than 1,400 students were placed on the fall 2005 dean's list at

Michigan Technological University, earning grade point averages of 3.5 or higher. Those earning straight A averages of 4.0 are indicated by asterisks.

From Lowell are Joshua G. Abdo (electrical engineering) and Colin J. Moore\* (computer engineering).

From Alto are David J. Steffler\* (computer engineering) and Duane A. Stephenson (business).

Jennifer L. Dykstra, of Lowell, received an MS (master of science PhD Doctor of Philosophy) degree in psychology at Iowa State University's fall commencement Dec. 16-17, 2005.

The following students were named to the dean's list at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, for the fall 2005 semester: Rebecca Bonnell and Amy Oberlin, both of Ada.

Students must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale and carry an academic load of at least 12 credit hours.

Sarah J. Hasselquist, of Lowell, has been recognized on the University of Minnesota Duluth dean's list for fall semester 2005. Students must attain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

# Top spellers at Alto & Cherry Creek elementary schools



Twenty-five students participated in the annual Alto spelling bee on Jan. 25. The hard-working students prepared for nearly eight weeks. McKenzie Barnes, left, was the winner; Kelli Malcolm was runner-up. The girls will participate on Feb. 21 in the regional spelling bee (location to be determined).



Cherry Creek Elementary held its fifth gradespelling bee on Jan. 19. There were 25 top spellers who competed in this year's event. The winner was Sierra Drake (left) and runner-up was Corryn Bieri. The two students will compete in the regional spelling bee in February.

**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

**FREE MASSAGE!**



New Patients Only  
~ Pain Relief ~  
~ Stress Relief ~  
**897-4999**  
**DOCTORS CHIROPRACTIC**  
In Front Of Meijer

**BASIC COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**  
HERBERT PETT  
Telecommunications Consultant  
Phone 616-897-2045  
Fax 616-647-4001  
Email: hpett@basiccom.com

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

**CUMBERLAND Retirement Village**  
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

**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...

**Wags PET GROOMING, LLC**  
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

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

**FRY DADDY'S**  
608 West Main Street  
Lowell, MI 49331  
**897-FISH**  
Friday Special  
Lake Perch Basket  
JUST \$7.59  
DAILY SPECIALS!

**CMC IMPROVEMENTS**  
FROM COMMERCIAL WORK TO HONEY-DO-LIST  
**(616) 299-4803**  
• REMODELING • BUSINESS & HOME REPAIRS  
• BOAT SERVICE (i.e. EXCAVATING)  
• CERAMIC TILE INSTALLATION  
• MAINTENANCE WORK  
Chris M. Cavanaugh  
Licensed Builder

**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR**  
**SPRING ELECTRIC, INC.**  
• Mining • Industrial • Commercial • Residential • Machine Controls  
Call 616-292-6543 • Nextel 130-45-27732  
905 E. Main Street • Lowell, MI 49331  
Ph: 897-4239  
Fax: 897-3139  
cjahnke@springelectricinc.com

**YOUR BUSINESS COULD BE HERE!**  
**SAVE \$\$\$\$\$**  
ADVERTISING IN THIS SPACE!!!  
**Only \$1600 PER WEEK!**

**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 • 8-4  
**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  
**FEBRUARY SPECIAL**  
**20% OFF**  
4 ITEMS OR MORE  
EXCLUDES: Laundered Shirts, Leathers & Repairs  
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.  
**REG. INSURANCE AGENT**  
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 • DISHWASHERS  
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

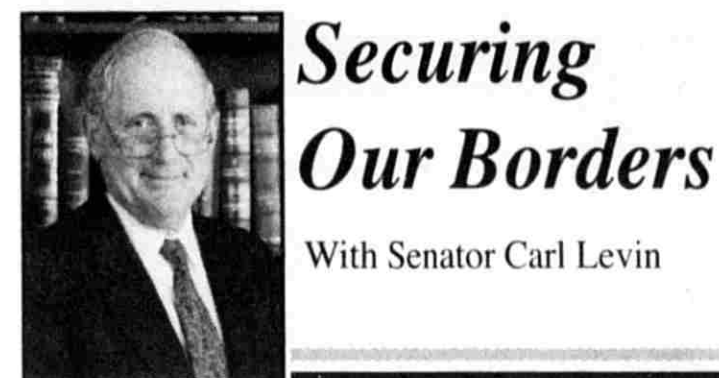
**BUSINESSES SERVICES**

**BUSINESSES SERVICES**



### Scout refurbishes bikes for F.R.O.M.

The Lowell police department auctioned off unclaimed bicycles last year which had been recovered after abandonment or theft. With the approximately 30 bikes left over, Lowell boy scout Eric Mundt (pictured with bikes) used them for his Eagle Scout project. He took the bikes home, got help from other scouts and parents, and condensed them into 11 bikes in good working condition. This was done by swapping parts among the bikes and soliciting free parts from local bike shops. Once he got the bikes running smoothly, he donated them to Flat River Outreach Ministries to be given away at Christmas.



### Securing Our Borders

With Senator Carl Levin

The Northern Border of the United States stretches more than 4,000 miles through 12 states, while our Southern Border measures just 1,900 miles along four states. Yet, as the 9/11 Commission pointed out in its final report, the Northern Border has traditionally received less attention and resources from the federal government. Because 721 of the border's 4,000 miles belong to Michigan - giving our state the longest section of the U.S.-Canadian border in the contiguous 48 states - we are acutely interested in Northern Border security.

Patrol agents assigned to the Northern Border compared to more than 8,000 along the Southern Border. Put another way, more than 20 times as many agents on the Southern Border were covering less than half the distance as the Northern Border. The inadequacies of Northern Border staffing were highlighted when border security was tightened after the September 11th attacks, resulting in backups of 12 hours or more at Southeast Michigan border crossings.

Fortunately, we have made some progress in the last few years. There are now more than 1,000 Northern Border patrol agents, including a large increase in southeastern Michigan. In addition, the Department of Homeland Security has recommended Southeast Michigan as the new home of a Northern Border Air Wing, an initiative launched by the Department of Homeland Security in 2004 to improve Northern Border security. The air wing will enhance law enforcement, surveillance and response capabilities along the border, and its location in southeast Michigan places it near three of our nation's busiest border crossings. The new air wing should also spur the deployment of new homeland security technologies along the Northern Border.

While we have made progress in addressing Northern Border security needs, we still have more to do. For example, we need to address the unique challenges our first responders face in communicating in the event of a large-scale disaster or terrorist attack. Our first responders need open communication not only with federal, state and local entities but also with their Canadian counterparts.

In 2005, the Senate twice approved an amendment I authored to help our first responders address these challenges. The amendment directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish demonstration projects on the Northern Border to address our first responders' interoperable communications needs. The projects would identify common frequencies for communications equipment and provide training and equipment to relevant personnel. Unfortunately, the House of Representatives did not agree so the amendments did not become law. I will continue to work with my colleagues from the Michigan Congressional delegation to ensure we address the needs of our first responders.

Levin, cont'd., pg. 18

### It's not "hoity-toity" - it's a new party store in town

By Dan Schneider

Beer connoisseurs, wine connoisseurs, or actually anyone with enthusiasm for either or both have a new place to go in Lowell.

Pauly's Beer, Wine and Spirits opened recently at 11250 East Fulton Ave. in Lowell Township. The place has all the products usually carried at a party store: beer, liquor, wine, etc. But beyond that it has a large selection of high-end beer and wine. Pauly's even sells all the supplies for the beer do-it-yourselfer, the homebrewing hobbyist.

The store has been open for a few weeks, and the husband-and-wife owners (listed on the business cards as "the boss" Paul Faba and "the boss's boss" Stacey Faba) reported that people are enthused with what the place has to offer. We're talking microbrews from all over, particularly Michigan and eastward, import beers, imported and domestic wine, cigars.

"People were elated to get things they haven't seen before or things that they had to go to Grand Rapids to get, and that's what we're hoping for," Stacey Faba said.

Both Fabas have extensive career histories related to the store's products. Stacey Faba was manager and buyer for the Grapevine on Michigan Avenue in Grand Rapids for 15 years. She's also been an avid home brewer for eight years. Paul's career has consisted largely of wine distribution and importing. He opened Woody's Market in Ada as manager and buyer, and has worked in Seattle in the coffee industry.

His rough slogan: "Demystifying the pretentiousness surrounding wine and providing wine education and appreciation."

The couple had a number of reasons for choosing Lowell for their establishment.

"From a purely analytical context, it's an unserved need," Paul Faba said. "From a sentimental side, we love what we've experienced from the community here in Lowell. We love going to the independently-owned shops, and Lowell exudes that."

He said the shop hopes to serve the growing Lowell community, but also attract interest from farther afield.

"Our goal is to make it worthwhile to drive out from Grand Rapids," Paul Faba said.

At the same time, he hopes to provide an introduction for people who don't have much experience with wine.



Stacey and Paul Faba are the owners of Pauly's Beer, Wine and Spirits, a new store in Lowell Township.

"It's not all hoity-toity, it's for everyone," Paul Faba said. "I mean, they're just crushed grapes."

The Fabas plan to host wine and beer tastings. "The only way to learn about wine is to taste it, beer too for that matter, and spirits," Paul Faba said.

While wine used to be drink of choice for the educated palate, beer has made major strides as a sophisticated beverage. A growing number of different specialty beers have

grown out of the public's zeal for craft-brewed beer and even homebrew.

"It's nice that beer now has a lot of the same things to offer as wine," Stacey Faba said. "There are so many styles and flavor components to beer now."

Another thing Pauly's plans for the future is to hold homebrew workshops for its customers.

The store's grand opening started Monday and goes through Sunday with deals on 12-packs of beer bottles, mix and match wine six packs, home brew supplies and whole bean coffee.

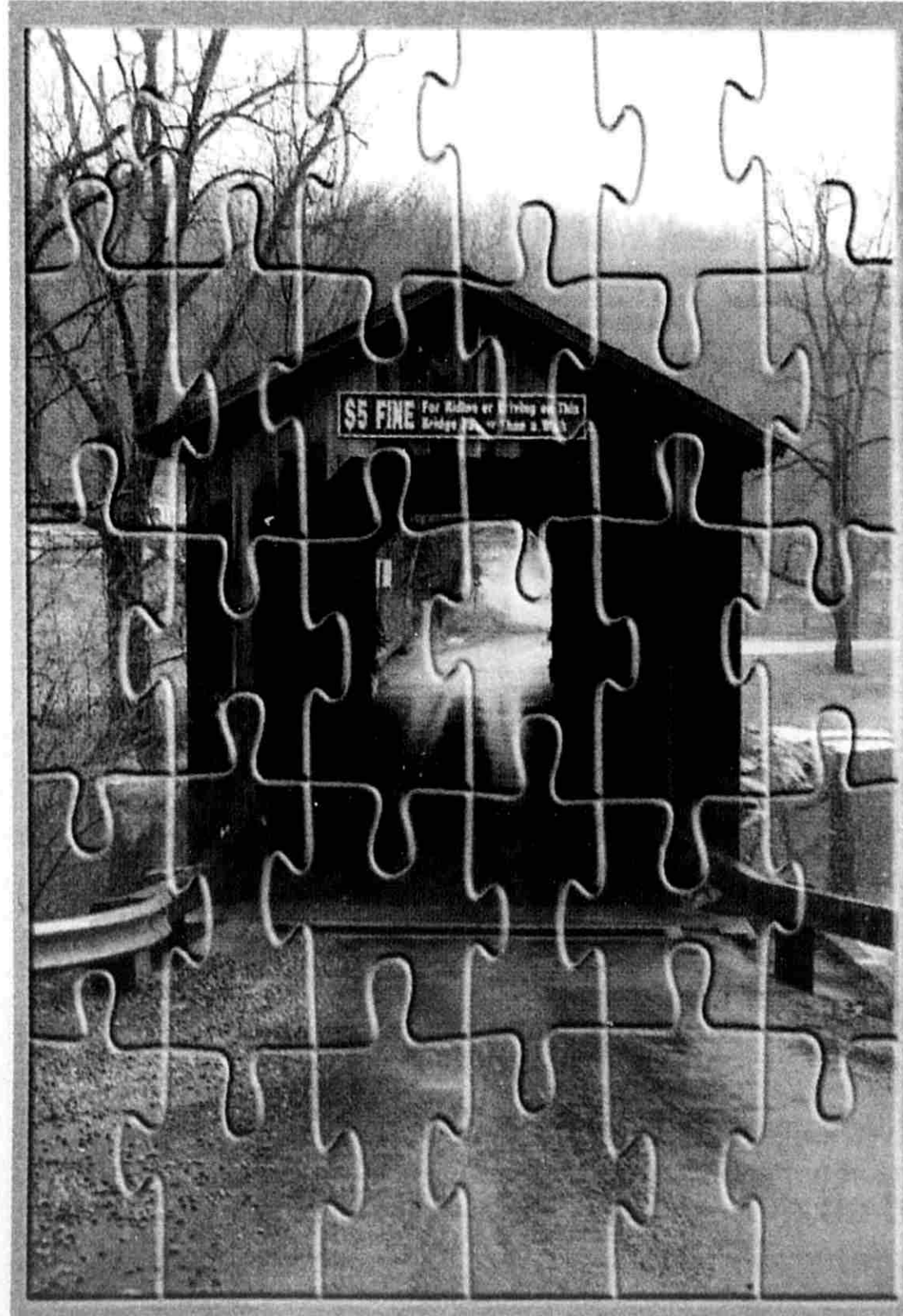
### Around The Town

## PUZZLE SOLUTION

Winners:

N. Steve Kelley, Geraldine Conner, Shirley Cornell

Come on in to The Ledger and pick up your decal!



### Water/sewer system, continued ...From Page 1

treatment plant is already used by customers in Lowell Township. The township owns 18 percent of the plant.

Wastewater flows fluctuate at the plant day to day, and the averages fluctuate from year to year. But over the past 15 years, the average daily flow has been consistently below the plant's designed flow of 1.4 million gallons per day.

In 2004 and 2005, the average flow was about 1.2 million gallons a day. In 2003, it was less than .8 million gallons.

The plant can handle up to 4 million gallons a day in emergency situations, but is not designed to run at such high levels for a sustained period. In 1993, the average daily flow was about 1.55 million gallons.

"We've had times when we've had significant amounts of flow coming through the plant in the past 15 years and been able to handle it just fine," wastewater plant superintendent Mark Mundt said.

Spring of 2004, when the Grand River flooded, was one of those times.

Mundt said the wastewater plant has seen some of the same reductions in industrial water usage as the water treatment plant. He also said development within city limits would not likely be on a big enough scale to challenge the plant's capacity.

"Any development that would impact us would be in the township," Mundt said.

He emphasized that he needs all municipalities to keep him up to speed on any residential development that plans to hook into the sewer system.

"The township is very aware that they need to keep us informed," Mundt said. "It takes a few years to design and actually build an expansion to a wastewater treatment plant."

There is some forewarning built into the process of property development.

"If somebody says, 'I'm going to build 500 homes,' you don't do that

in a month, so you do have time to react if you get an unexpected development," Mundt explained.

Few, if any, specifics are available about the size development DuRay Development LLC planned for the 177 acres in Vergennes when the company petitioned for the annexation. But a large development would send wastewater treatment plant designers to the drawing board in Lowell.

"What DuRay would do to us if it went in with the high density that has been proposed," Mundt said. "It would keep us below our designed daily flow, but it would put us over the threshold of starting to design an expansion to the plant."

In other words, the DuRay Development would be unlikely to put the plant over its designed capacity, but the next development down the road might. The city would want to be ready with plans and maybe even put bids out, Mundt said.

\*\*\*  
Reminds me of my safari in Africa. Somebody forgot the corkscrew and for several days we had to live on nothing but food and water.  
- W. C. Fields (1880 - 1946)

### Master plan, continued

... From Page 1

The matter will now go before the city council for approval of the firm and the \$20,000 for the updating process.

Hall also recommended that the commission begin seeking funds for a future revamping of the master plan, estimated to cost upwards of \$40,000 to \$50,000. City manager David Pasquale pointed out that each firm had strong candidates. Gove has Karl Freed, a well-known planner; Williams & Works has Jay Kilpatrick, an excellent planner with municipal experience and who has worked with Vergennes Township; and McKenna has Phil McKenna, a planner with more than 25 years of experience and who Pasquale worked with before coming to Lowell.

The commission decided a firm with no previous history with the city would offer a fresh view and maybe some insight, and recommended to the city council that McKenna Associates be hired for the task.

## NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Vergennes Township is currently taking bids for cemetery lawn care services to be performed in 2006. The bids should be received by Feb. 6, 2006 to be considered, and will be decided at the Feb. 13, 2006 meeting of the board.

For more information, please stop by or contact the township offices at 10381 Bailey Dr., PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331-0208. Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Phone number is 897-5671, fax 897-5674.

Mari Stone  
Vergennes Township Clerk

## CAMERA PHONE \$49.95

**AMERICA'S CHOICE CALLING PLANS**  
**\$39.99** 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

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

- LG 5200 \$49.95** (\$99.95 less \$50 mail-in rebate)
  - Digital Camera
  - Dual color displays
  - speaker phone
- With a **NEW** 2 year agreement. While supplies last. Terms apply. TXI messages 10¢/send & 10¢/receive in National Enhanced Services Coverage Area only. Coverage limitations & maps at verizonwireless.com.
- Samsung 570 Free**
  - Color Display
  - Text Message Capable
  - Voice Dialing
- With a **NEW** 2 year agreement. While supplies last. Terms apply. TXI messages 10¢/send & 10¢/receive in National Enhanced Services Coverage Area only. Coverage limitations & maps at verizonwireless.com.



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



\*Our surcharges (incl. 2.29% Federal Universal Service (varies quarterly), 5¢ Regulatory & 40¢ Administrative/mo., & others by area) are not taxes (details 1-888-684-1888); gov't taxes and our surcharges could add 6% to 33% 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 - \$5/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.

8 FREE channels of d.sh  
3 FREE channels of d.sh  
3 FREE channels of d.sh  
3 FREE channels of d.sh

100 d.sh  
100 d.sh  
100 d.sh  
100 d.sh

**ASK HOW YOU CAN SAVE \$100**

free Standard Professional Installation

Call or visit The Cellular Connection



# RED ARROW SPORTS

## Lowell basketball beats Greenville, Kenowa Hills



The big scoreboard at the Van Andel Arena shows an early Lowell lead.



Mike McElroy looks to pass inside against Greenville.

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell boys basketball team made the transition into the second half of the season last week. The first half of the season ended on a good note and a grand stage as Lowell beat Greenville 47-41 at the Van Andel Arena in downtown Grand Rapids. It was the first game in the "Pepsi Jam at the Van" high school basketball doubleheader.

Lowell got off to a good start when Josh Hettinga drained a three pointer on the Arrows' first possession. Mike McElroy's short jumper put Lowell up 5-0 to start. But the Arrows trailed after eight minutes of play, 15-11. Ryan Lane closed the gap with a short fadeaway in the paint, and tied it 15-15 with a put-back in the second quarter's early going.

Still, Lowell trailed by three at halftime with the score 26-23 in favor of the Yellowjackets. Throughout the game, Lowell was able to play the slow pace they favor, working their half-court sets and waiting for an opportunity.

"It was definitely a slower-paced game the way they (Greenville) played their zone," Lowell coach Jeff McDonald said. "We knew if we were patient on offense we would get a good shot."

Behind by three to start the second half, Lowell needed a defensive stop to quickly wrest control of the game from the Yellowjackets. Greenville gave them the stop, getting called for traveling on their opening possession. It was Lane again with an inside shot closing the gap to a single point. Lowell made another stop, which allowed Hettinga to put the Arrows on top with a triple. The score was 28-26.

Lowell did a good job of getting inside and a good job rebounding in the third quarter, and had a 35-32 lead going into the final quarter of play.

Greenville tied the score at 37 with just under

## Lowell-Caledonia hockey team trounces Wayland

### Red Arrows/Fighting Scots light up scoreboard with 12 goals

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell-Caledonia hockey team turned Patterson Ice Arena into a shooting gallery Saturday.

The Red Arrows/Fighting Scots bested Wayland 12-3 on home ice.

Things got off to a fast roll for Lowell-Caledonia. They were up 6-1 after one period of play. It started with a goal by Jordan Steger 1:34 into the game. It was his first goal in a hat trick and was assisted by Joel Scheele and Brent Steele.

Kyle Austin scored not long afterward, assisted by Nick Truszkowski and Steve Napper. Then it was Austin DeClercq scoring on assists from Scheele and Steger.

Wayland tallied their

only goal of the period at the 4:29 mark.

Steger contributed again on an assist from Scheele. Then Kyle Baker scored on an assist from Ken Hayes. The last goal of the first period came at the 9:57 mark by Scheele on an assist from Steger.

The Red Arrows/Fighting Scots outscored the Wildcats 3-0 in the second period. Kyle Baker scored a power play goal with DeClercq and Steger assisting. Steve Nappers scored unassisted, then Truszkowski made an unassisted goal while Lowell-Caledonia was shorthanded.

Wayland scored the first goal of the third period 1:21. Steger completed his

hat trick .17 seconds later on an assist from DeClercq. Then DeClercq scored with Steger and Scheele assisting. Wayland scored again and then Lowell-Caledonia made the final goal of the goal-filled game at the 7:54 mark. That goal was by Justin Story on an assist from Truszkowski.

The goalfest was partly due to Wayland's primary goalkeeper being ineligible to play. But it was also due to Lowell-Caledonia playing better team hockey after skating out the frustrations of a then-2-14 season the previous week of practice.

"Two things played into tonight," Lowell-Caledonia coach Mike Ballard said. "One, last week we got blown out by Kenowa Hills



Lowell-Caledonia's Nick Truszkowski (#10) gets a pass from Jay Ryan.

9-3 and then, two days later, we lost in overtime, 2-1, to South Christian. We had

what I would call a special practice Tuesday morning (Jan. 24) and changed our practice habits and our game habits."

The practices involved a lot of skating.

"I think they got the message from those practices," Ballard said.

Against Wayland, Lowell was in near-constant control of the puck. They

moved it efficiently and on the offensive side of the ice, players were as much on the lookout for open teammates as for open shots.

"Between the second and the third period, I was glad because we were doing some of the things we've been learning," Ballard said.

Lowell-Caledonia travels to Georgetown Thursday for a league game.

## Volleyball has up and down week

By Dan Schneider

Lowell volleyball gave a strong effort but fell short last Thursday at Forest Hills Central.

The Red Arrows lost in three games, the scores 25-21, 25-20, 25-15.

"We actually played the first two games probably the best volleyball we could play," said Lowell coach Gigi Peal. "The intensity was there. It was very back and forth; it was a one- or two-point game until the end."

Kristin Johnson had 13 kills for Lowell. Malley Cahoon had eight kills and seven blocks.

Lowell traveled to the West Ottawa Invitational Saturday, where the Red Arrows finished fifth. Peal said it was a disappointing outcome for the team after the strong play they exhibited against Forest Hills Central.

"It just never really looked like we got comfortable," Peal said.

Lowell placed second in pool play. The Arrows beat Shelby 25-19, 25-16. Then they lost to Traverse City West 25-10, 27-25 and beat Mason County Central 25-15, 25-20.

Lowell faced St. Joe in the quarterfinals of bracket play, losing 25-15, 25-16 there. It was very back and forth; it was a one- or two-point game until the end."

Eva Wilcox had 15 kills for Lowell on the day, Amanda Schneider had 11. Cahoon had nine blocks and Taryn Schumacher had 38 assists.

Lowell played Middleville Thornapple Kelllogg and Delton Kelllogg Monday at Ionia.

Lowell won the first game against Middleville 28-26, but lost the next three

by scores of 25-22, 25-19 and 25-22.

The Arrows beat Delton Kellogg in a very close match. Lowell lost the first game 26-24, won game two 25-17, lost game three 25-18, then won the last two games 25-16 and 15-13.

Cahoon had 10 blocks for Lowell, Schneider made nine. Johnson had 28 kills, Samantha Mol, 14, and Schneider, 13, on the night. Schumacher had 27 assists and Lisa Johnson had 40.

Lowell is still ironing out a few creases in its game. "We're getting great blocks and great touches on the ball at the net, there's just certain areas where we're struggling with consistency," Peal said.

But she said the strength of the schedule they've played this year will prepare them well for the last

**LOWELL LITTLE LEAGUE**  
Under New Leadership  
**SIGN-UP**

**NEW SIGN-UPS NEED TO BRING A COPY OF YOUR BIRTH CERTIFICATE**

**Sign-up Fee:**  
\$45 (With 10 Fundraiser Items)  
\$60 (Without Fundraiser)

**Sign-up At:**  
Lowell Area Chamber Of Commerce

Wednesday, February 1.....6 - 9 PM  
Saturday, February 4.....10 AM-2 PM  
Wednesday, February 15.....6 - 9 PM  
Saturday, February 18.....10 AM-2 PM

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**CITY OF LOWELL NOW ACCEPTS PASSPORT APPLICATIONS**

City of Lowell is pleased to announce that it now accepts passport applications on behalf of the U.S. Department of State. U.S. citizens planning international travel may apply for their passports on Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell.

For application forms, information on documentation required, fees, and wealth of other passport and international travel information, visit the only official website for passport information "travel.state.gov".

Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk  
(616) 897-8457

Basketball, cont'd., pg. 17

**LOOK AT ME NOW!!**

Prior to his discharge home, Donald Bates gives a big smile while sitting next to his Physical Therapist, Jay Maglasang. When asked how his stay was at The Laurels of Kent, he replied, "It has been wonderful, I couldn't ask for anything better. This changed my life completely around; I'm a new person." His rehabilitation increased his strength 100% he says and after 30 days he returned to his home in Ionia with his wife. We wish him the best and congratulate him on his accomplishment.

**THE LAURELS OF KENT**  
A Skilled Nursing Center  
350 N. Center St. • Lowell, MI 49331 • (616) 897-8473

**PARENTS' NIGHT OUT**

Sponsored by Lowell Area Elementary Schools Family Links  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7**  
6:30 - 8:30 PM  
Cherry Creek Elementary Cafeteria

Please join us for an informational question and answer event.

**JOINING US WILL BE:**  
Connie Gillette (District Finance Coordinator),  
Jim White (Acting Alto Principal and District Energy Manager),  
Larry Mikulski (District Transportation Director),  
Brent Noskey, Karen Burd and Maureen Dorough (Elementary Principals), Kay Hahn (Food Services Director)

The following topics will be addressed:  
millage renewal, energy conservation in district, possible construction of another school building for district, and questions from our audience.

Refreshments served







# Area dog breeder makes it to the "Superbowl" of dog shows

By Dan Schneider

The Superbowl, the biggest event in professional football, will be played Sunday at Ford Field in Detroit, and no team from Michigan will be playing.

The Westminster Kennel Club dog show, the biggest event in dog show circles, will be held Feb. 13 and 14 at Madison Square Gardens in New York City. And Darlene Wallace of Alto will be bringing her dog "Tommy."

Actually, "Tommy" is only part of the two-year-old Italian Greyhound's name. His full name is "Ch. Deerfield's The Ice Man." The "Ice Man" comes from a Bruce Springsteen song title. Wallace is a big fan.

"I name all my dogs after Bruce Springsteen songs," Wallace said.

The last time she was in New York was to see a Springsteen concert.

Tommy's first trip to the Big Apple will be to participate in his second high-profile dog show of the year. He won an award of excellence on Jan. 15 at the AKC Eukanuba Championship Invitational in Florida, the only invitation-only dog show in the country.

Tommy is the number-four-ranked Italian Greyhound in the country. The ranking comes from a complicated scoring system based on the number of dogs of his breed he has beaten at various dog shows; he has been to a lot of dog shows. Wallace competed in two shows over the weekend in Chicago, and two the previous weekend in Detroit. Although Wallace has traveled all over the country with her dogs, she primarily attends shows in the Midwest.

Tommy came from a litter born to one of Wallace's

other Italian Greyhounds, Gina. She has a third Italian Greyhound named Fancy. Wallace started showing Tommy when he was six months old. He attained his championship status with four major dog show wins within a month.

"Then I knew I had something special," Wallace said. "Most dogs don't finish their championships that fast."

Championship status makes dogs eligible to compete in "best in breed" competitions, which is where they build up their rankings points. The dogs are judged on body structure relative to the "ideal" dog description for their breed. The "ideal" is determined by the American Kennel Club.

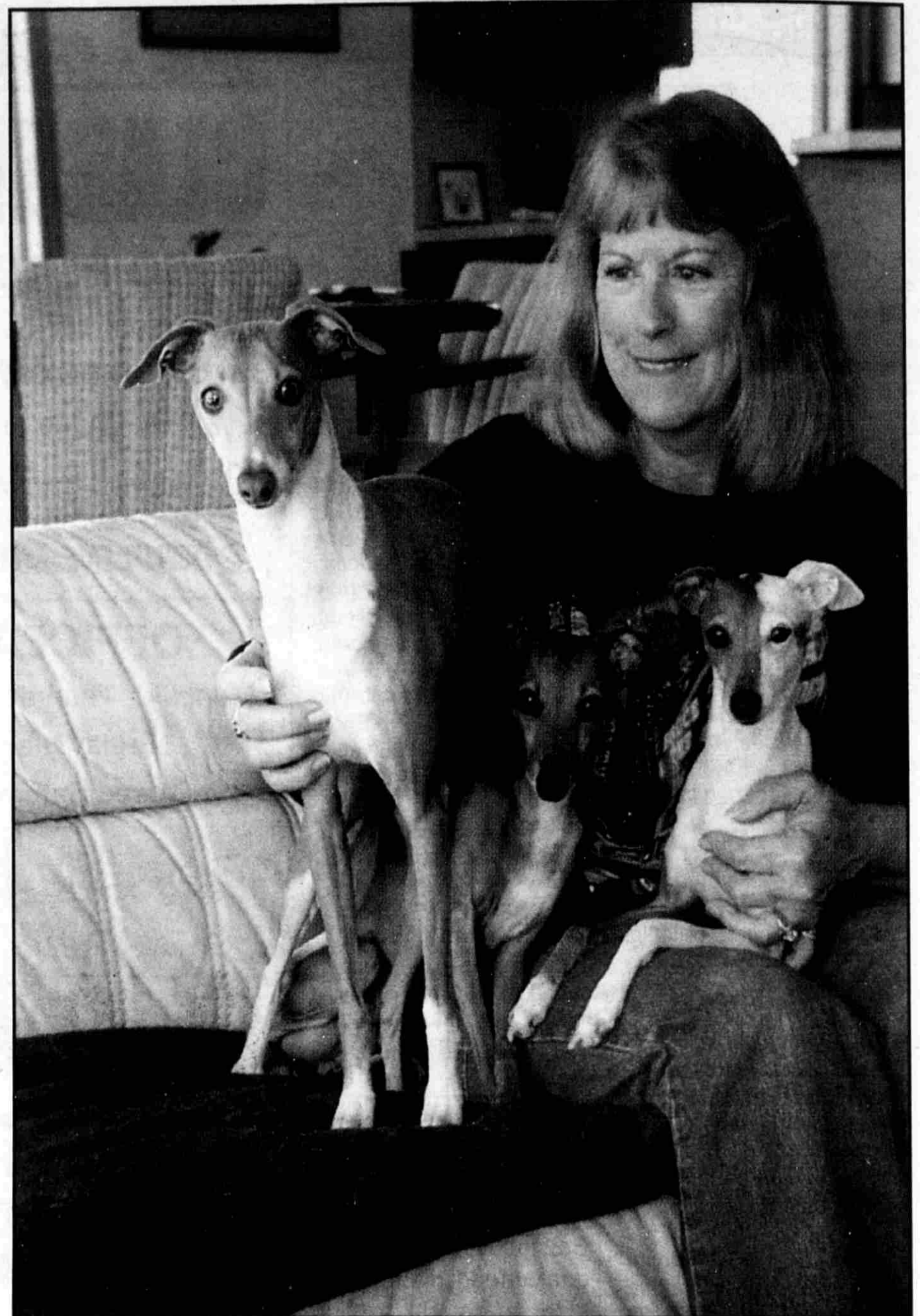
"The biggest thing is their structure, how they're put together and their movement," Wallace explained.

The Alto resident has raised and shown Italian Greyhounds for 14 years.

"I'd always admired them when I would see them in shows," Wallace said.

She has shown Dobermans for 25 years.

"This is the first time I've gone to Westminster," Wallace said. "For Westminster, I'll probably get a little nervous."



Alto dog breeder Darlene Wallace is shown with her Italian Greyhounds, from left to right, Tommy, Gina and Fancy.

Tommy will be one of 2,500 at the show.

The dog show will be televised on the USA network. But to get on television, dogs have to advance to the "group" level, and to achieve that, they have

to win best in breed. Wallace said she faces long odds of getting on television.

"There's always hope, but I don't think he'll win," Wallace said. "The dog who won the Eukanuba will probably win this one

also. But it's an honor to be invited and to go, so we're going to do it."

She plans to breed a litter of puppies with Fancy and show the best of that bunch in upcoming years.

\*\*\*

*If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and a man.*

- Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

## NEW HOME

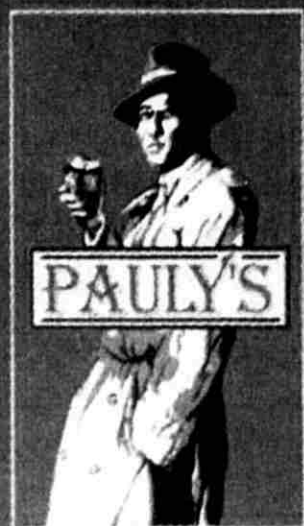
LOWELL SCHOOLS, VERGENNES TOWNSHIP  
GREAT LOCATION



Attached 2-stall garage, cathedral ceilings, oak trim & cabinets, large bdrms. with W/I closets, 12x12 deck. Priced at \$150,000

For more details on this house & others call Neil French Builder LLC at 616-292-3481

## NOW OPEN!



STACEY FABBA  
THE BOSS'S BOSS  
BEER, WINE, & SPIRITS  
11250 EAST FULTON AVE  
LOWELL, MI 49331  
(616) 897-BOOZ  
(2669)

WINE CELLAR

UNIQUE SPIRITS

SPECIALTY BEERS

HOME BREWING SUPPLIES

11250 EAST FULTON  
AVE.  
LOWELL, MI 49331  
(616)897-BOOZ  
(2669)

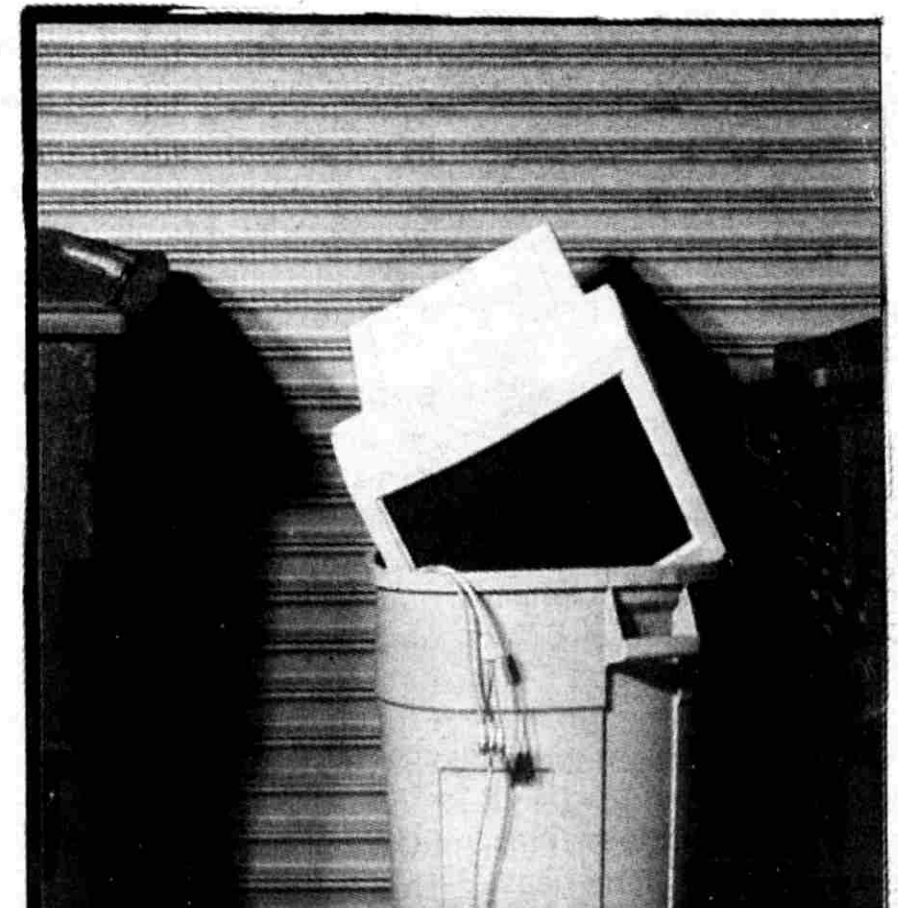
# GRAND OPENING

Monday January 30th  
thru Sunday, February 5th

GRAND OPENING  
SPECIALS  
throughout  
the entire store!

FREE  
Coffee and  
Schwag!!!

- Blue Moon - 12 Pack Bottles.....\$12.99
- Heineken - 12 Pack Bottles.....\$12.99
- Wine - Mix & Match - 6 pack sale.....15% Off
- All Home Brew Supplies.....Save 15%
- Whole Bean Coffee. Buy one get one 1/2 Off



## Data Dump.

Your unwanted computer deserves a better home.

Simply drop off your old computer equipment at a participating Goodwill store or donation site. This free program reuses or recycles electronics, helping the environment and putting people to work.

And your old computer is entitled to a second lease on life.

For more details: [www.reconnectpartnership.com](http://www.reconnectpartnership.com)

