

# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 34 Issue 20

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, March 22, 2006

## Youthful thespians entertain a packed house at Cherry Creek



The Thebes Youth Players class presented its play Thursday on the stage in the Cherry Creek Elementary cafeteria.

The class, part of the Lowell Area Arts Council, was playing to a packed house, as every seat was filled. The play, called "Snow White and Rose Red," featured a cast of eight.

A rabbit, dove and sheep were narrators. The story told about two sisters who encounter bears and possibly angels out in the woods.

Junior theater teacher Brent Alles adapted the story from a Brothers Grimm tale. He included enough characters in the script to have a part for everyone who signed up for the class.

"When we do our youth classes, we always do a production at the end," Alles said.

In addition to teaching the youth theater class for the arts council, Alles has directed numerous children's theater productions in Lowell and elsewhere. The next Lowell production will be a youth/teen play workshop culminating in the performance of Alles' adaptation of "Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh." The workshop runs from April 27 until May 25.

From left to right are Alec Juarez, Elsie Wagner and Sarah Dec who played Rabbit, Dove, and Sheep, respectively in the play.

## DDA approves funding for marketing plan, with condition

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell Downtown Development Authority (DDA) voted, last Thursday, to give financial backing to a community-wide marketing project.

The board voted 6-1 in favor of spending \$25,000 per year for the next three years on a marketing plan that would promote Lowell through billboards, radio advertisements, fliers and other means. The approval is contingent on a review by city attorney Richard Wendt. DDA member Dean Lonick recommended the contingency after questioning whether the

DDA is allowed to spend money on a community-wide project, rather than a project specific to the city's DDA district.

The purpose of the marketing plan is to encourage people to visit, shop and live in Lowell. The Lowell Area Community Fund has granted \$32,500 in matching funds to support the project. Community-wide marketing committee member Cliff Yankovich said six local businesses have each committed to \$300 in support of the plan and two larger local corporations are considering contributing \$1,000 each. The estimated annual cost of the marketing plan is \$100,000.

Yankovich had given a presentation about the marketing plan at the February DDA meeting. This involved a Powerpoint slideshow highlighting Lowell's features including the rivers, the historical museum and the schools. Some community leaders were present at last Thursday's meeting to support the project.

"It can do nothing but good for Lowell," said Lowell Area Historical Museum director Judy Straub.

Lowell Area Schools assistant superintendent

DDA, cont'd., pg. 10



Members of the Lowell community-wide marketing committee plan to put this logo and slogan in more places than just the window of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce now that \$25,000 in support of the project has received preliminary approval from the Downtown Development Authority.

## N. Washington land use options to be discussed by city residents

By Dan Schneider

A community meeting has been organized to discuss ideas concerning approximately 20 acres of land at the end of North Washington Street. Lowell Light and Power has committed to moving its equipment storage facility from the site.

The utility is in the process of purchasing the former Newell Manufacturing building to use as storage space for its equipment and vehicles. That will leave its current storage facility, or "pole yard" vacant on city property at the north end of Washington Street, probably by mid-summer. That property also

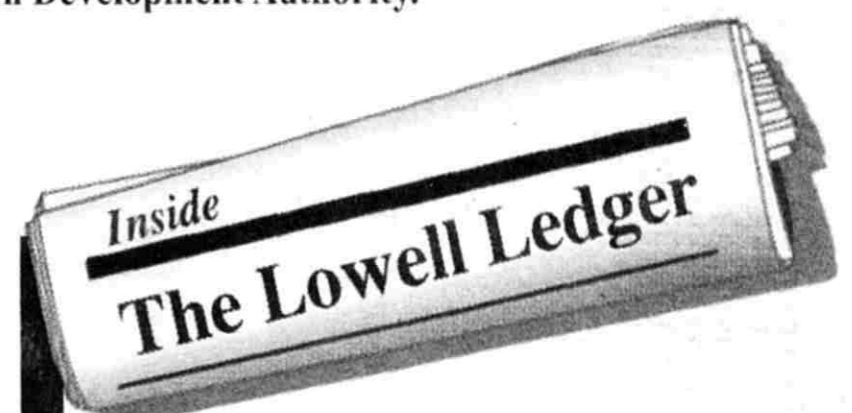
includes the boy scout cabin, a sledding hill, and frontage on the Flat River.

While nearby residents are relieved that the utility will be moving to a downtown location rather than expanding at the North Washington site, some are concerned about the city's intentions with the land,

especially if it includes selling it to a developer.

"We don't want the woods disturbed, we don't want a big development up there," said Peggy Covert, a North Washington resident whose house is in Vergennes Township but who lives close to the property in question.

Land use, cont'd., pg. 8



Local Physician Now Chief ... Page 3

Museum Much Visited ... Page 10

MEAP Scores .. Page 11

Town Clowns Needed ... Page 13

# Obituaries

**BEURKENS** 1260 Ekhart St. NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503.

Mona Dean (Pridgeon) Beurkens, aged 78, of Lowell, died Sunday, March 19, 2006. She was preceded in death by her husband Marvin Pridgeon. She is survived by her husband William Beurkens; children Marie (George) Kibler, Nancy (Roger) Miller, Janet (Lester) McCaul; sister-in-law Helen Daane; 14 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews. Mona had a great gift of love for her husband, family and friends. She will be greatly missed by all. Memorial services will be held Saturday at 11 a.m. at Christian Life Center, 3050 Alden Nash SE, Lowell, Rev. Robert Holmes officiating. Interment Clarksville Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan.

**EARLE** Dorothy Earle, aged 97, formerly of Grand Rapids, passed away at Laurels of Kent Nursing Home in Lowell on Monday, March 13, 2006. She is survived by her son Willis (Nancy) Earle of FL; daughter Georgia Hall of Grayling. She was preceded in death by her husband Willis M, son James A, son-in-law Clifford Hall, grandson Kip Hall. Funeral and committal service were held Friday at Archer, Hampel & Kubiak Wayland Chapel with Pastor Nancy Zerban of United Church of Wayland officiating. Interment at Saranac Cemetery.

**GOULOZE** Mrs. Phyllis J. (Funk) Gouloze, aged 78, of Grand

Rapids, by the grace of God, went home to be with her Lord and Saviour on Monday, March 13, 2006. She is lovingly remembered by her husband Bill; children Robert and Tracy Funk of Grand Rapids, Phillip and Pam Funk of Grandville, Judy and Jerry Payne of Holland, David and Lynne Funk of Olivet, David and Vonya Gouloze of Tennessee; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren; brothers and sisters Shirley Folkertsma of Alto, Ted and Pat Sierveld of Grand Rapids, Norma and John Andree of Grand Rapids; many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her first husband Robert Funk, step-daughter Donna Jean Ponne, sisters Judy Hamelink, Joyce Schlosser. The service was held Thursday in the Chapel at Calvary Church, Grand Rapids, with Pastor Joe Gerkin officiating. Interment in Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens. Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider

the American Diabetes Association or Hospice of Michigan.


**HOGAN** Cassandra (Sandy) J. Hogan, aged 42, of Lowell, formerly of Carson City, passed away Monday, March 13, 2006 at her home with her family by her side. Cassandra was born January 1, 1964, the daughter of Jerry Carroll and Leanne (Holmes) Reeves in Carson City. She graduated from Carson City High School in 1982. She married Dennis Hogan on November 27, 1982, in Carson City at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Cassandra worked for Smith Aerospace in Grand Rapids as a computer specialist. She loved to ride horses, camp with her family, hunt, run, and be outdoors. She is survived by her husband Dennis of Lowell; parents Jerry (Connie) Carroll of Crystal, Leanne (Denny) Reeves of Carson City; sons Phillip, Daniel, Randy J. Hogan all of Lowell; brother Randy (Gena) Carroll of Carson City; sisters Cathy

(Steve) Ralph of Palo, Katy (Todd) Beach of Vestaburg, Jessica (Roger) Wawersik of Vestaburg; many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her grandparents. Funeral services were held March 17 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Carson City with Father George Fekete officiating. Interment in St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Hubbardston. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or West Michigan Hospice.

**SEESE** Phyllis Seese, aged 79, of Lowell, passed away Friday, March 17, 2006, St. Patrick's Day. She was preceded in death by her husband Orton. Survived by her children Patricia (Clifford) BeVier, Robert Seese, Lynn Seese (Bill Myers), Reatha (Vic) Kox, Floyd (Dawn) Seese, Paul (Ellen), William Seese; daughter-in-law Mabel Grochowalski; 16 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Tuesday at Roth-Gerst Chapel, Lowell, with Pastor Greg Freed officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

**OLSON** Jeannie Olson, aged 74, of Lowell, flew into the heavens and into the arms of Jesus on March 16, 2006. As she did with everything in her life she fought a courageous battle against lung cancer for two years. She was preceded in death by her parents Harold and Mildred Lind and nephew Michael Lind. She will be lovingly and forever remembered as the most giving mother and grandmother by her children John (Mandy) Schneider, Marta Rozema, Kim (Lane) Hofman; her grandchildren David, Kyle, Matt, Anna, Chris, Zach, Megan, Sam, Linsey, Tyler, Dylan and Kaleigh; brothers Bob (Bonnie) Lind, Jim Lind;

*In loving memory of*  
**KENNETH R. KROPF**  
 Loving dad and grandpa  
 who passed away five years ago  
 March 24, 2001



A precious one from us is gone.  
 A voice we heard is still.  
 A place is vacant in our hearts, which never can be filled.  
 They say that time heals heartache,  
 But we feel that this is not true.

Five years have passed already, and our hearts still ache for you  
*Sadly missed and loving you forever,*  
 Chris, Kim, Mike, Sara, Scott,  
 Emily, Kenny and Adia

**The Lowell Ledger**  
 (USPS 453-830)  
 Published weekly for \$170 a year in Kent County, \$260 a year outside the county by the Lowell Ledger Publishing Company, 105 N. Broadway St., Lowell, MI 49331

ROGER K. BROWN.....PUBLISHER  
 JEANNE BOSS.....MANAGING EDITOR  
 DAN SCHNEIDER.....LEAD REPORTER  
 TONI BLOUGH.....COPY EDITOR  
 TAMMY JANOWIAK.....CLASSIFIED/ACCOUNTING  
 JAY VEZINO.....ADVERTISING SALES

(616) 897-9261  
 E-Mail: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com  
 Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI  
 Published every Wednesday  
 POSTMASTER: Send address change to:  
**The Lowell Ledger**  
 P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331  
 www.lowellbuyersguide.com

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**BOWNE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 11.01, 11.04, 11.05, 11.06, 12.01, 12.02, 12.04, AND 12.06 TO ADD CERTAIN USES AS SPECIAL LAND USES IN THE C-1 COMMERCIAL DISTRICT AND TO REVISE THE USES ALLOWED BY RIGHT AND THE SPECIAL LAND USES IN THE C-2 COMMERCIAL DISTRICT**

Public notice is hereby given that the Bowne Township Planning Commission will hold a hearing on Thursday, April 13, 2006, at 7:30 p.m., in the historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, Alto, Michigan, to hear public comments regarding a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment:

Amends Section 11.01 (Description and Purpose) to revise the purpose of the C-1 Commercial District to allow for flexibility in allowing non-traditional activities as special land uses.

Amends Section 11.04 (Special Land Uses) to add minor vehicle repair (within existing buildings), upholstery and furniture repair businesses, contractor's storage and maintenance facilities, and other similar uses not otherwise specifically provided for, as special land uses in the C-1 Commercial District.

Amends Section 11.05 (Height, Area, and Dimension Regulations) to provide that where the front setback has been established or where the average setback of existing buildings on either side of a parcel or lot has been established at a distance greater than zero, the Planning Commission may approve a front setback greater than zero, in the C-1 Commercial District.

Amends Section 11.06 (General Requirements) to provide that a site plan shall be submitted and reviewed for uses in the C-1 Commercial District in accordance with Article 18 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Amends Section 12.01 (Description and Purpose) to revise the purpose of the C-2 General Commercial District to provide that this District will typically be established on major arterial roads and may be subject to access management standards.

Amends Section 12.02 (Uses Allowed By Right) to allow "vehicle and boat sales and rentals" and "banks, credit unions, and similar financial institutions, including drive-in facilities" as uses permitted by right in the C-2 General Commercial District, to exclude "drive-in restaurants" from the C-2 General Commercial District, and to eliminate automobile, motorcycle, and boat servicing from the C-2 General Commercial District.

Amends Section 12.04 (Special Land Uses) to allow "vehicle repair" in place of "automobile repair" as a special land use in the C-2 General Commercial District.

Amends Section 12.06 (General Requirements) to provide that a site plan shall be submitted and reviewed for uses in the C-2 General Commercial District in accordance with Article 18 of the Zoning Ordinance.

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

March 22, 2006  
 Sandra L. Kowalczyk, Clerk  
 Bowne Township

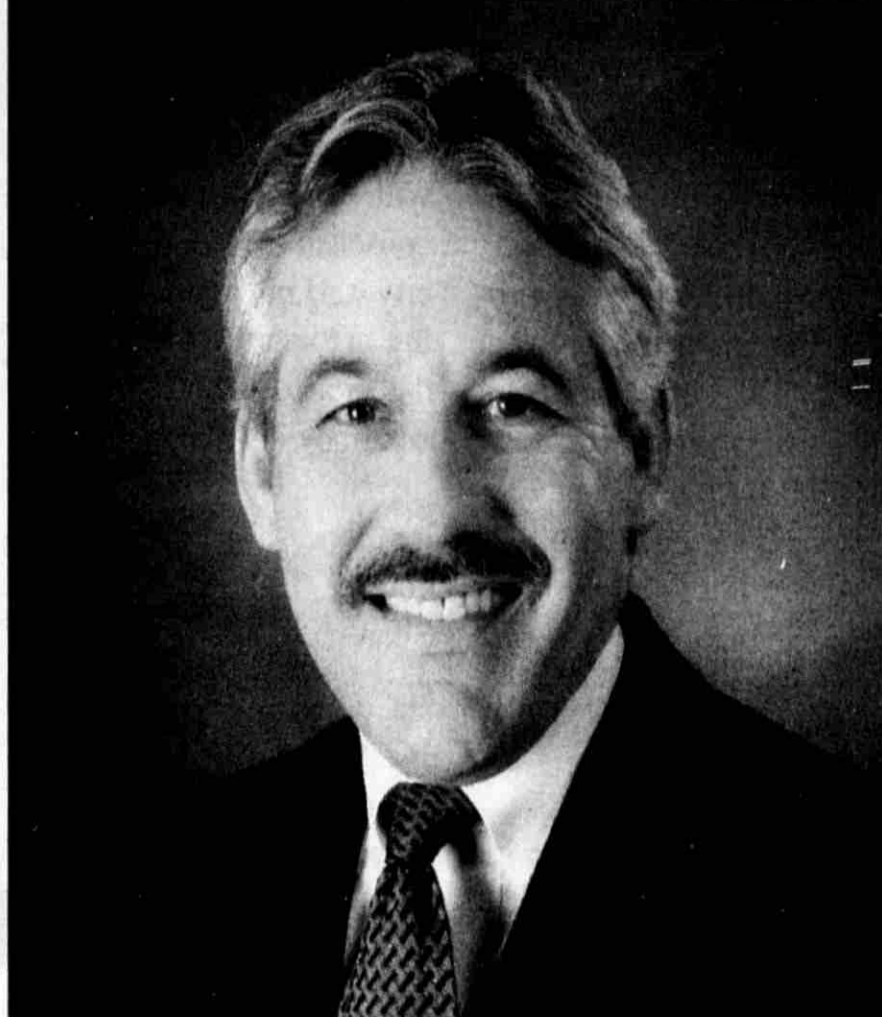
## Gauthier named chief of staff for Metro Health

Dr. Paul Gauthier, of the Lowell Family Medical Center, was elected to a two-year term as chief of staff for Metro Health Hospital.

Gauthier was selected by his peers for the position. It will not affect his practice in Lowell, but he will have significantly more responsibilities including running general staff meetings and executive medical committee meetings. He will also represent the hospital's medical staff at the board of directors level, at medical functions, and will be the spokesperson for the staff.

Gauthier said he was honored to receive the post. "I'm glad that I'm a primary care physician," he said. "I think it's an honor to our department."

Gauthier has practiced medicine in Lowell for 26 years. He has served five years on the hospital's board of directors.



Dr. Paul Gauthier

## Grass fire burns Lowell Township hillside

A grass fire at a home on 36th Street in Lowell Township burned briefly Monday afternoon, consuming the dead scrub on a small hillside before being extinguished.

Firefighters from the Lowell Area Fire Department responded to the fire around 3 p.m. Neighbor Geoff Pollinder was working on his homework when he looked out the window and saw a grass pile starting to burn. He thought the fire was beginning to burn out of control, so he ran next door and attempted to extinguish it with a shovel.

"The wind was so strong," Pollinder said. Unable to slow down the fire, he went back to his house and called 911. The homeowners were at work when the fire started.

"Yesterday, my neighbor had been burning grass

clippings out there," Pollinder said.

The homeowner had reportedly tried to extinguish the pile of clippings the night before, but the grass clippings flared up again and dry grass and scrub nearby caught fire. A creek at the southwest edge of the property prevented the fire from spreading far, despite windy conditions.

Pollinder said the fire department responded quickly with its grass fire truck and a pump truck. It took about 20 minutes to extinguish and soak a perimeter around the smoldering grass pile. No one was hurt and there was no apparent property damage.

Though the hillside looked blackened and bleak, the damage will likely be indiscernible in a month after spring plant growth has set in.

## Skateboarders may have to wait for their own park

After gaining some momentum last summer, the push to build a skateboarding park in Lowell has pretty much stalled.

The project picked up some support last year after a high school student attended a few city council meetings and discussed the idea with the council. The Lowell Parks and Recreation Commission even pledged \$6,000 to support the project. But that is about as far as it got.

Elaine Denton, whose son Denny approached the city council last year, took charge of the project. She set up a bank account for the skate park through the city of Lowell, put up fliers and an advertisement in local papers asking for donations. She also sent letters to local businesses, but those efforts failed to yield a response.

Now, Denton is looking for help in raising the estimated \$50,000 to \$70,000 it would cost to install a skateboard park.

"I want to see the skate park go through, the kids are all into it and they don't have anywhere to go," she said.

A local landscaping company, she said, was willing to donate the excavation and grading work.

"That's as far as I've gotten," Denton said.

But after that, there still needs to be concrete and the actual equipment--ramps, rails, etc.--that make a skate park fun for skateboarders ... not to mention the various local government avenues that must be traveled before construction can start on such a project.

Denton said she needs help from people with more experience in fundraising and other aspects of putting

**ADA-LOWELL 5**  
 Quality Theaters  
 ALL DIGITAL SOUND  
 SHOWTIMES 3:20 - 3:23

**FREE**  
 SPRING MATINEES  
 SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10 & 11 AM  
 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY (PG)

**COUPON**  
 FREE 20¢ DRINK  
 with \$2.00 purchase  
 of 40¢ bag of Subway popcorn  
 at participating locations. See your manager for details.  
 BEST DEAL in Newmarket at  
 ADA-LOWELL 5

**COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN PARENT MEETING SCHEDULE**

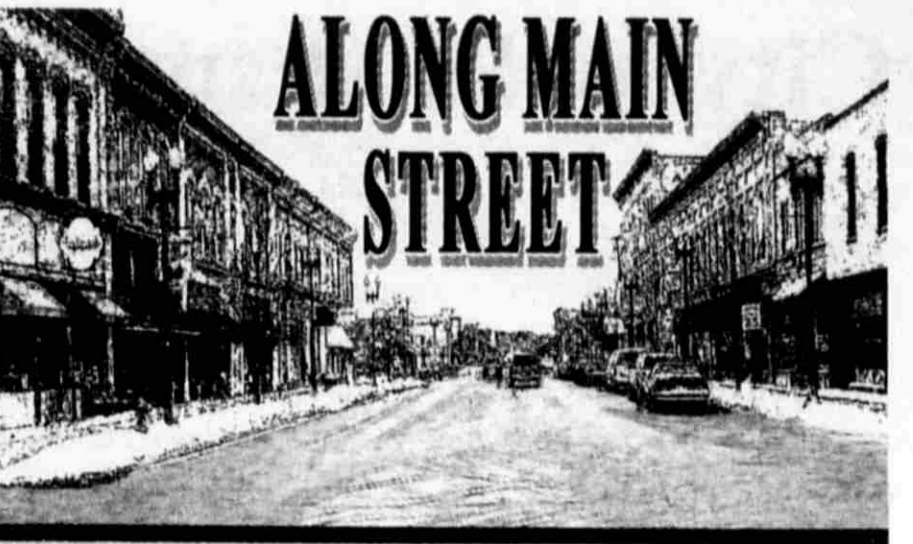
**Attendance is important!**  
 You will be scheduling your child's visitation time!

**ALTO ELEMENTARY**  
 Kindergarten Parent Meeting  
 Thursday, April 13, 2006  
 6:15-6:25 PM - Sign-up  
 6:30-7:30 PM - Meeting

**BUSHNELL ELEMENTARY**  
 Kindergarten Parent Meeting  
 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2006  
 6:00-6:25 PM - Sign-up  
 6:30-7:30 PM - Meeting

**MURRAY LAKE ELEMENTARY**  
 Kindergarten Parent Meeting  
 TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2006  
 6:15-6:25 PM - Sign-up  
 6:30-7:30 PM - Meeting

**FAXING**  
 Sending or Receiving  
 \$1 for 1st sheet, 50¢ each additional sheet  
**The Lowell Ledger**  
 105 N. Broadway, Lowell



**RIVERWALK GALLERY**  
 Works by photography artist Kevin Barrett will be on exhibit from March 23 - April 18 at the Lowell Chamber of Commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza. The public is invited to a reception Sunday, April 2, from 2-5 p.m. Riverwalk Gallery is open during business hours, Tuesday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**  
 Cherry Creek Elementary will have a Winter Writing Fest and Ice Cream Social on Thursday, March 23 from 6-8 p.m.

**APPS ACCEPTED FOR DRIVER'S ED**  
 Applications for Driver's Ed available at the high school, middle school and Unity through March 30. Birth certificate copy and \$150 are needed to sign up; the remaining \$150 is due the first day of class. Classes: June 12-29/July 10-27. Eligibility date: Nov. 10, 1991.

**CALL FOR DIRECTORS**  
 The Thebes Players are gearing up for the 2006-07 theatre season and need directors and producers for four productions. Interested applicants must submit resume by April 28 to LAAC (Thebes Players) P. O. Box 53, Lowell 49331. Call 897-8545 for more information.

**WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT**  
 Woman2Woman is a fun, inspirational night out that meets at Impact Church, Thursday, March 30. Call 897-8304.

**LOWELL HEAD START**  
 Your 3 or 4 year old child may qualify for a free preschool. To find out how, contact Lowell Head Start at 897-7920. Offered to low income families in the Lowell area.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
 The Lowell Area Fire Dept. pancake breakfast is this Saturday, serving from 7-11 a.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson. Donations at the door. Proceeds to go toward fire equipment.

**FLPC NEW EXHIBIT**  
 A collection of work by artist/muralist Gretka Domer is at the Franciscan Life Process Center now through March 31, Mon. - Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Weekends by appt.

**EXPO THIS WEEKEND**  
 The 10th annual Lowell Community Expo will be at Lowell High School this Saturday, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Over 150 booths, plus entertainment, giveaways, refreshments. Free admission/parking.

**SPRING BREAK SPECTACULARRR**  
 Guf Troupe's third sketch comedy show will be Friday, March 31 at the Lowell Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. Tickets at the door \$5 general admission. Viewer discretion advised. Call Brent Alles at 616-301-2790 for more information.

**CLASS OF 1986**  
 The Lowell Class of 1986 will have its 20th reunion on Aug. 19. Visit www.lowellmi.net or call Michelle 866-7276 for more information.

**ART EXHIBIT AT HUNTINGTON**  
 Local artist Kendra Postma has a mixed media art exhibit at Huntington National Bank, 414 E. Main through April 4. For information call Lowell Area Arts Council at 897-8545 or visit www.lowellartscouncil.org

**WEST MICH. BLUEGRASS**  
 The West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association will have a fundraiser on Saturday, April 1 at Riverview in Lowell. Open jamming 6 p.m.; bluegrass bands 7:30 p.m. Music/food.

# City looks at smaller rate increase for water and sewer

By J. Lobdell  
Contributing Writer

While it is less than proposed, city water and sewer users could still see quite a spike in their rates.

At its Monday night meeting, the Lowell City Council reviewed a new proposal that would still increase the water and sewer rates, but not as high as originally proposed. Tetra Tech was hired by the city last year to review its wa-

ter and sewer rates to make sure the city was receiving enough to cover its expenses along with building a fund balance.

At the last February meeting, Vic Cooperwasser of Tetra Tech proposed that the city increase its water readiness charge from \$20.75 to \$22.79 and its sewer readiness charge from \$13.50 to \$17.83.

After receiving comments, Cooperwasser restructured the rates over a

five-year period with less of a spike the first year. His new proposal for the initial year would be \$21.99 for water and \$16.50 for sewer. This would reduce the proposed increase for a typical residential customer from \$62.32 for both services to \$60.19. Currently that customer pays about \$51.65.

"It didn't totally smooth the spike in rates for the first year," said city manager David Pasquale, "but it did reduce it somewhat."

It reduced it a enough that the council felt more comfortable moving ahead with the new rates and by consensus vote is having city staff put together a resolution to increase the rates to the proposed \$60.19 for its next meeting April 3.

"I really feel this should be done over time," said council member Jeanne Shores, who supported a gradual increase over the five-year period. "We have

a lot of people in the community who are on fixed incomes and pensions, and that was a pretty big spike for them to handle."

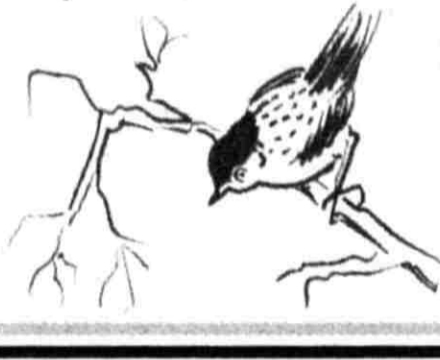
Councilman Jim Pfaller, who supported the proposed rates, said he wanted to know if the city had to charge the same rates for all its users or if different rates could be charged for township users. Pasquale said the city has an agreement with Lowell Township, which is

a wholesale customer. There are a few Vergennes Township customers with which the city deals directly and he would need to investigate if by state statute those rates had to be the same.

There are some pitfalls to the projected rates. Cooperwasser stated in a memo that the new rates make no adjustment for a deficit year during the five-year period.

## Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis



### BEYOND THE PAVEMENT

The Palm Springs area in southern California is a labyrinth of high-end resorts, manicured championship golf courses, streets lined with upscale shops and restaurants, and high-density housing in a beautifully landscaped setting. Thousands of people live, work and play here in the sunny Coachella Valley located between two mountain ranges along the San Andreas Fault.

Gwen and I were visiting in the area, and about the time we thought there was no more open space left on the west coast, we came across a book titled "120 Hiking Trails In The Palm Springs Area." We borrowed a vehicle and followed the directions in the trail guide to the Coachella Valley Preserve west of Palm Springs. The 17,000-acre preserve is a protected area and is the home of the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, which is on California's endangered species list, and probably the only reason this area is still undeveloped.

We joined a group of 12 other hikers and trekked to a palm grove oasis several miles into the desert. None of the folks were residents of California and judging by the gear they carried apparently traveled the world as eco-tourists. Our guide, from Oregon, identified plants and wildlife and explained how the shifting plates of the St. Andreas Fault formed the topography of the area. The terrain was hot and rugged, and we encountered only two other hikers during

the four hours it took to complete the loop. By lunchtime, we had become familiar with the real southwest.

Encouraged, the next day we chose another trail that began at The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens on the south side of Palm Desert. The gardens is a popular destination that features plant and animal displays, informative presentations at the amphitheater, and an animal hospital where one can observe animal care including surgery. The park draws large crowds every day. A dirt trail that leads west towards distant mountain peaks intersects the busy main paved walkway through the park. The trail proceeds east through open desert, then continues up a rocky dry-wash as it eventually ascends to 1000 feet on the face of Eisenhower Peak, then

drops back down on the north side of the mountain revealing panoramic views of the Coachella Valley. The hike covered six miles of rugged terrain where we encountered only four other people during the three-hour climb.

The point is that even in densely populated and busy regions of the world it is possible to seek out natural areas to experience and learn about the local ecosystem and also find solitude. So the next time you visit a destination and are overwhelmed by crowds and traffic, check with the chamber of commerce, study maps, or inquire at outdoor businesses to locate that trail which will lead you to a fun and educational adventure beyond the pavement.

## HEALTH

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

### INFLUENZA "THE FLU"

The past two weeks we have noted a dramatic increase in the number of patients with the "real flu" or Influenza virus. It has been affecting both children and adults equally. Several children have developed pneumonia. If you have received the flu shot, you will still develop some flu symptoms, but they should be mild and quite a bit shorter in duration.

The flu spreads through the air and is very contagious. It generally takes two to three days after exposure to develop the illness. Initially, an abrupt fever occurs. This is usually between 102 and 105. Body aches and fatigue

set in. The fever lasts from two to five days. On about day four, respiratory symptoms start to appear. These typically involve a sore throat, hacking cough, "cold" type symptoms, but also may involve ear infections, bronchitis/bronchiolitis and pneumonia.

Please do not go to work or school if you have the flu. It is highly contagious and spreads very easily. Stay home, drink plenty of fluids, take Tylenol and decongestants, and get plenty of rest. If you are diagnosed within 48 hours of initial symptoms, tamiflu may be prescribed to decrease the duration of your symptoms.

## College News

Shelby Tomczak will present a project at the 38th Conference on Senior Engineering Design Projects at Western Michigan University on April 18. Her project is a thermal dilution optimization of a regenerative thermal oxidizer.

Tomczak plans to receive a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering in April 2006. She is a 2002 graduate of Lowell High School and the daughter of Roger and Kathy Tomczak of Lowell.

The conference, open to the public, will be held at the Parkview Campus. It is free of charge and is sponsored by WMU's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

# Viewpoint



by Roger Brown  
cozy corner

Sporting a cold, I had to pay a visit to the local drug-store recently. On my way back to the "cold and flu remedies" (there's an oxymoron for you) aisle, I happened to pass through the candy department. Easter must be nearing, as the shelves were loaded with all the candy that goes along with the season.

Despite my desperate mission to gain some relief from a killer sinus headache and a racking cough, I still had to smile when I noticed the rows and rows of "Peeps" in the candy aisle. It's funny how the sight of something stupid can make your day. Then again, maybe if something stupid can make a person's day, we might have some insight to that person's thought process. Or lack thereof. I'm not sure that someone stimulated by "Peeps" has a whole lot going on up there. That would be me.

Just for the record, "Peeps" are those little marshmallow chicks that are coated with bright yellow sugar. To my knowledge, they are only available around Easter time. The company has introduced little bunnies of the same composition and in different colors. There may also be other marshmallow and sugar treats in their line, but the chicks and rabbits are what you see most.

So, why do the sight of "Peeps" make me smile? It may have something to do with the arrival of spring ... sort of like buds on the trees, daffodils or robins. There is another reason.

One of my employees is absolutely crazy about those gooey, sugar-coated, little chicks. Back when I was making sales calls for the Buyers Guide and Ledger I'd spot the "Peeps" when calling on the local dime store. I'd buy a few boxes and take them back to the office for my "Peeps" crazy employee. Did I mention that "Peeps" are cheap ... not cheap, cheep, but really cheap?

This employee is very likeable, loves life and I guess it would be all right to say that she is easily excited. When I'd plunk the "Peeps" down on her desk you'd think I'd bought her a new car! She'd jump up and down screaming, "The Peeps are here! The Peeps are here!" It was always quite a show. Now you know why the sight of "Peeps" makes me smile.

Later in the day of my recent "Peeps" sighting, I was looking for something on the Internet. For some reason I was reminded of a dancing "Peeps" cartoon my "Peeps" crazy employee had on her computer. I Googled "Peeps." Big mistake.

There is an official "Peeps" company website that details the product line. On the website there are all kinds of fun facts, screen savers, factory tours, history, etc. All that devoted to "Peeps." But wait, there's more!

There are tons of other websites devoted to "Peeps." There is even a website devoted to listing websites concerning "Peeps." I did some clicking around.

There are several websites devoted to "Peeps" cruelty, thinly veiled as "Peeps" research. This "research" includes photos and video streams.

One experiment involved freezing "Peeps" solid, then shattering them with a hammer. Another soaked them in a bowl of water where they sort of dissolved to goo. In other experiments, innocent "Peeps" are melted in ovens, shot with BB guns, shrunk in a vacuum chamber, blown up with firecrackers, sent aloft tied to helium filled balloons.

There was even a grainy black and white video of a "Peeps" autopsy using a Dremel tool. Oh yes, it's horrible. The experiments reminded me of the Saturday Night Live "Oh noooooo ... Mr. Bill" skits.

In most of these experiments there are official observers ... "Peep Bunnies." The bunnies are equipped with protective gear to fit the experiment ... goggles, aprons, earplugs, etc. In the water experiment the caption said the observer bunnies tried to save the drowned "Peep" with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Unfortunately, Peep Bunnies don't have mouths and the "Peeps" didn't make it.

There are lots of other websites where "Peeps" aren't so horribly abused. There was one where a bunch of "Peep" bunnies and chicks visit a big library. The photos showed their arrival in a toy car, operating the computers, reading (with little tiny eyeglasses), being shushed by the librarians, etc.

There were websites for "Peep" festivals. I kid you not! These websites had lots of photos of people gathered for the sake of displaying, playing with and eating "Peeps" in a timed event. Can you say, "Sugar High?"

Eventually, I did find some dancing "Peeps." I'm not sure if it was the same site my employee had years and years ago. If it was, the dancing "Peeps" didn't seem as novel, or as cute. My perception may have something to do with the fact the Internet was relatively new back then. Now there are dozens, and dozens, and dozens of sites devoted to ... "Peeps"?

Given all these "Peeps" websites, I guess there are way too many people out there with way too much time on their hands.

Who am I to talk? I must have too much time on my hands if I'm snooping around on the Internet looking at "Peeps" websites. Which brings us to the fact I must have way, way too much time on my hands if I'm going to the trouble to write about "Peeps" websites. We won't go in to what all this says about people taking the time to read about someone browsing around the Internet looking at "Peeps" websites.

The bottom line is this. "Peeps" sightings are a sure sign of spring, and that will make me smile every time!

## Ledger Entries

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



By Priscilla Lussmyer

### 125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL MARCH 23, 1881

Mills are tied up by high water. There have been 135 days of sleighing since last fall. The Journal is approaching a circulation of 1500. Lowell receives three mails from the east and two from the west daily via train. Vergennes will have a Grange Hall.

### 100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER MARCH 22, 1906

Lowell's Robert I. White is superintendent of the Coldwater schools at a salary of \$1600. The Twentieth Century Culture Club has been organized at the Congregational church. Pneumonia was the leading cause of Michigan deaths in February. Kalamazoo jewelers are busy making Panama nickels into stickpins while the canal-building goes on.

### 75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO MARCH 19, 1931

Mrs. Swift Winegar of Alto recalls going to Lowell with a bag of oats under the seat and paying ten cents to leave the horse and buggy at McQueen's "stand-in barn" all day. Students have been telling parents that the public dances on week-nights are sponsored by the school. Not so, says Supt. Gumser. Four local Grand Rapids Herald newsboys are competing for a trip to Greenfield Village and Niagara Falls. The House of Representatives will be reapportioned instead of increasing the total number of representatives.

### 50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER MARCH 22, 1956

Village Assessor Harold Jefferies gives Lowell's total assessed valuation for 1955 as \$2,460,700, up \$28,000 over last year.

Chief Frank L. Stephens reports a record four weeks of no vehicle accidents.

Lowell's Don Mullen will present a history of puppetry on Frank DuMond's popular WOOD-TV program, along with a "Punch & Judy" puppet skit.

Jack Howe is promoted to head football coach.

### 25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER MARCH 18, 1981

Cost of mailing a first-class letter goes from 15 cents to 18 cents.

Seven fires in four days here, and more all over the county result in a burn ban on all outdoor fires.

Editor Roger Brown's computer crashes on Friday the 13th. His Murphy's Law calendar is right on the money, both for the crash and extent of repairs.

Michigan auto licenses are now available for a two-year period.

Income tax credits for reduced energy usage are expanded.

## To The Editor

Dear Editor,

The Lowell High School marching band has committed to competing in at least one marching band competition next year. In doing so, we have committed to work and practice extensively on a show which we will perform in this competition and during halftime at football games. The costs associated with this event are quite hefty and

include the drill, buses for one competition, band camp staff, baton instructor, pit instructor, entry fee to enter a competition, and a trailer to transport the equipment. To cover the costs we plan on doing two major fundraisers this spring and early summer.

We would appreciate any support the community can give us in our fundraising or by serving as a sponsor.

Sincerely,  
Mandy Vezino,  
on behalf of the Lowell High School marching band

## 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 be strictly thank you letters. "Letters to the Editor" should be sent to the Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, P.O. Box 1216, 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.

## 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)

## Dovetail Antiques

211 W. Main St. (M-21) Lowell, MI 49331  
PH: 616.897.0898

### STOREWIDE SALE MARCH 18 - 26

MONDAY - SATURDAY • 11:00 AM TO 5:00 PM  
SUNDAY 12:00 TO 5:00 PM

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

Alto Elementary School  
6150 Bancroft, Alto, MI 49302

### FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2006

5:00 - 8:00 P.M.  
5th Grade Camp Fundraiser

Adult Meal.....\$5.00  
Kids Meal.....\$3.00  
5th grade & under.....\$3.00  
3 Years & under.....FREE

MEAL INCLUDES:  
Spaghetti, garlic bread, salad,  
apple sauce, beverage & dessert

## ADDORIO TECHNOLOGIES, LLC

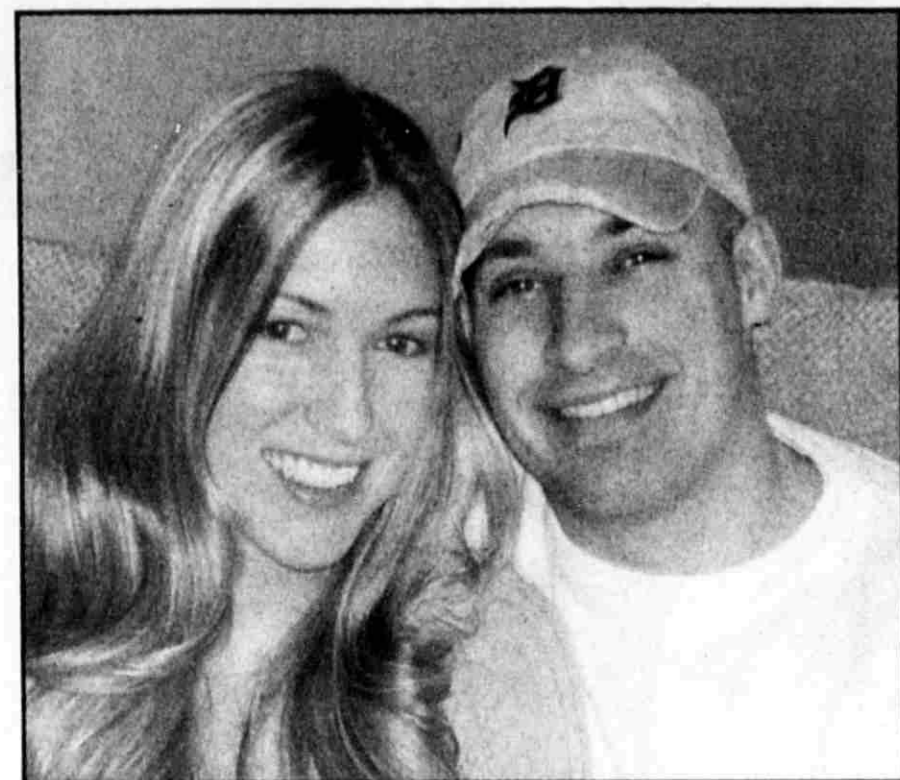
### VISIT OUR BOOTH at 2006 Expo for chance to win a FREE 17" flat panel monitor.

## LOWELL COMMUNITY EXPO

Saturday, March 25  
9 AM - 3:30 PM  
LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL  
For more information call 897-9161 or visit [www.lowellexpo.org](http://www.lowellexpo.org)

# Engagements

## Halbeisen/Stevens



Heather Halbeisen and Brian Stevens

Heather Halbeisen and Brian Stevens, of Lansing, will be joined in marriage on July 22, 2006.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Alan Halbeisen and Linda LeSage of Lowell. She is a research assistant at Michigan State University and part-time engineer at SECOR International, Inc., while completing her master's degree in environmental engineering.

The future groom is the son of Richard and Julie Stevens of Marine City, Michigan. He is a graduate of Central Michigan University and currently manages two Enterprise Rent-A-Car branches in Jackson.

The summer wedding will take place in Pentwater.

## Dykhousel/Tousley



Richard Tousley and JoAnne Dykhouse

The marriage of JoAnne Dykhouse and Richard Tousley will be celebrated in July 2006.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Larry and Carole Dykhouse of New Jersey, and the future groom is the son of Jackie Tousley of Lowell and the late Paul Tousley.

\*\*\*

**Hope is a waking dream.**

- Aristotle (384 BC - 322 BC)

# Reflections of faith

Pastor Michael Rhodabarger  
Church of the Nazarene

I began this column by praying, "Lord, what would you have me to say to the community of Lowell?" Immediately the word "Determination" came to mind. This made perfect sense to me.

As we approach the Easter season I am reminded of Christ's determination to get to the cross. He certainly didn't want to and could have, at any given moment, bailed out. The cross event was God's will and Jesus' choice. Read what John wrote, "The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life - only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord." (NIV)

Many things in our personal lives come along proving to be a major catastrophe for us. Marriages suddenly take a

turn for the worst, teens feel like giving it all up. Maybe your job is beginning to get the best of you. Unfortunately we live in a world that promotes self-serving attitudes.

The world would tell you to "get a divorce if it isn't working out." "Quit that job if it doesn't go your way." "Suicide is the only answer."

This is all false and dangerous teaching. We know that life can suddenly turn bad, but the cross event gives us a promise that things are only temporary and there is a hope that all things will become new in Him.

Paul wrote, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (II Cor. 5:17 KJV)

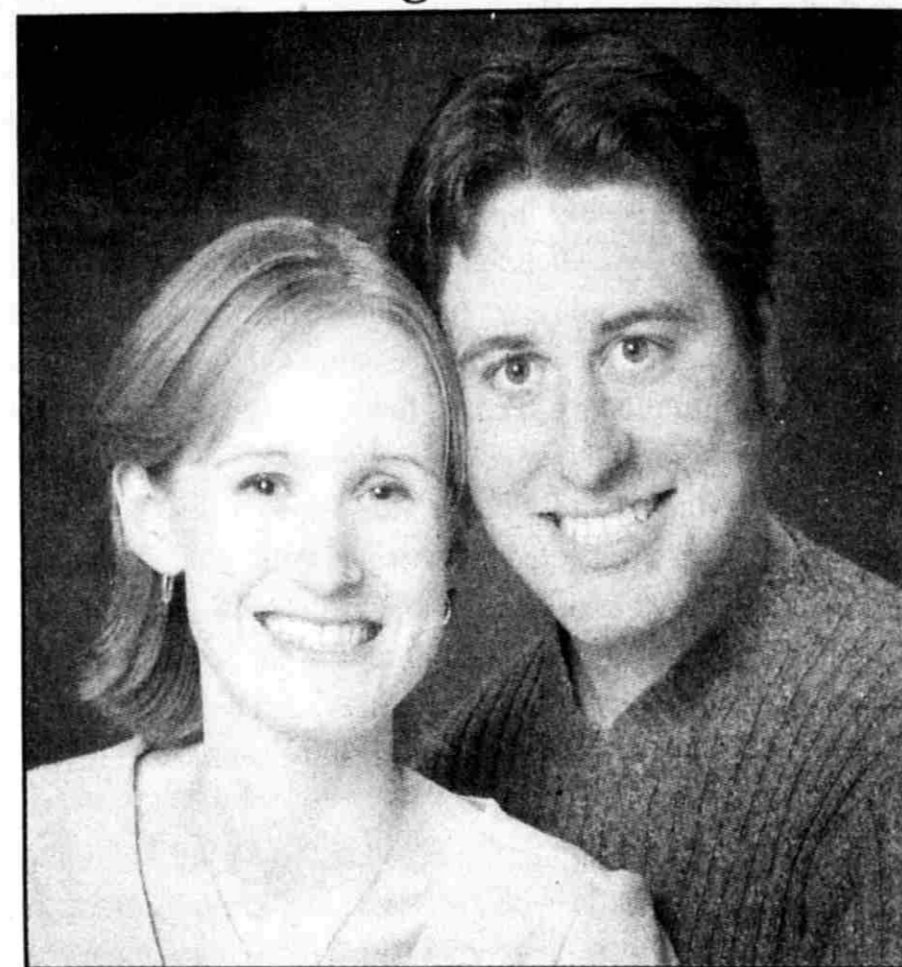
In Christ we can have the determination to see it through. The most amazing part about what Christ did that day at the cross was the fact that he never had his own interests in mind; he had yours in mind. That was the determination factor. Our determination can quickly be stifled when we are only interested in ourselves. We become an isolated entity. However, if everyone would be more concerned about someone else, our determination would suddenly have support.

I recite this quote from Warren Weirsbe to my church every so often because it is a good one. Mr. Weirsbe says, "To consider persons, events, or circumstances only in the light of their effect on me is to live on the doorstep of hell." (On being a Servant of God) In other words we often give up because we don't like what is happening to us.

I don't know what you're dealing with, but I do know there is an Awesome God who can take your situation and turn it completely around if you give Him the chance.

Determination is not an easy attribute to retain in this world. I would suggest that you turn your circumstance over to the One who created the world. God Bless you and I'll see you around town.

## Robords/Vinciguerra



Jessica Robords and Eric Vinciguerra

Jessica Robords and Eric Vinciguerra joyously announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Alan and Cindy Robords of Charlotte, Mich. She is a 2001 graduate of Charlotte High School and will earn her bachelor of science degree in music from Central Michigan University this May.

The prospective groom is the son of Bill and Nancy Rowell of Lowell. He is a 2003 graduate of Livonia Franklin High School and is pursuing a degree in music education at Central Michigan University.

A summer 2006 wedding is planned in Charlotte.

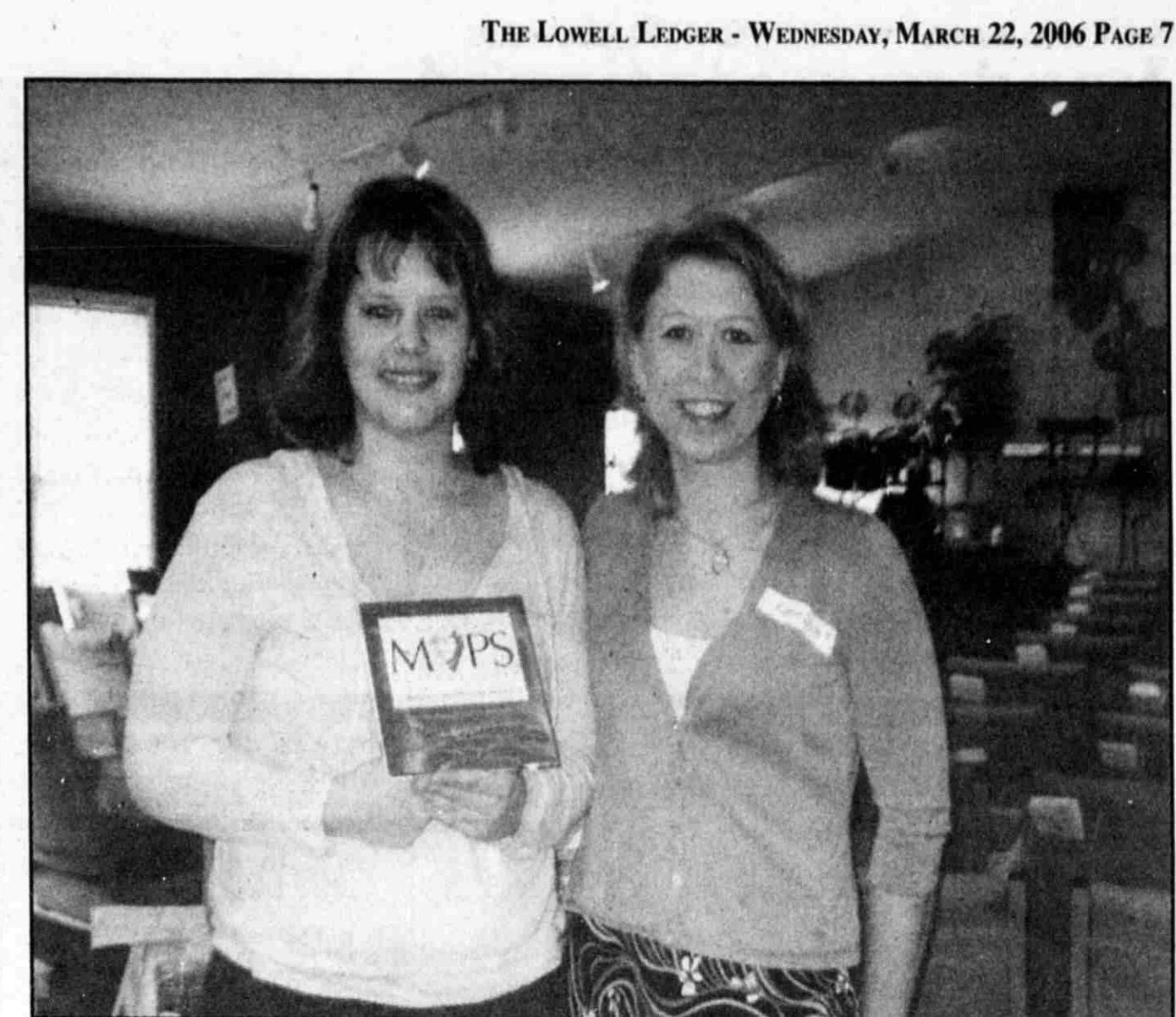
# Lamberts celebrate 50th anniversary by renewing vows



Duane and Arlene (Zinck) Lambert

Duane and Arlene (Zinck) Lambert celebrated their golden wedding anniversary March 3. They renewed their vows March 4 at New Community Church in Grand Rapids with Rev. Tidbits. Tidbits is the same minister who married the couple 50 years ago. They currently reside in Safety Harbor, Fla., but lived in Lowell for several years. Duane Lambert owned the variety store that is now Springrove Variety. A formal dinner followed the ceremony, and the music and flowers were replicated from 50 years ago.

Sharing in the occasion were the couple's children: Steven Mumaw and Cindy Starring; Edward and Karen Kohn, along with their children Nick, Jesse, Matthew and Tyler Kohn; Brian and Debra Broekema and daughter Chelsea; Darwin and Shannon Lambert and their children Jordan and Justin Lambert.



## MOPS awards area foster parent's dedication

Karen Lezan, right, co-ordinator of Impact Church Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group presented an award of recognition to Carmon Campbell. MOPS, an international Christian women's organization for mothers with young children, recognized Campbell for her dedication as a foster parent. With her husband Eric,

Campbell has taken in foster children for three years. fundraisers. Each meeting includes a devotional.

"It's just a very incredible thing to take children into your home and love them," Lezan said. "We do different activities for mothers as mothers," Lezan said.

Childcare is provided at the meetings, and crafts and activities are provided for the children. Impact Church in Lowell. They have speakers, crafts and impactmops.150m.com.

\*\*\*

**The superior man is modest in his speech, but exceeds in his actions.**

Confucius (551 BC - 479 BC)

**ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
*Soup & Salad Supper*  
Homemade Soup Favorites  
• Chili • Vegetable Beef • Cheese Broccoli  
• Salad Bar • Rolls • Homemade Pies  
Donation: New Church Building Project  
Sat., March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006 5 - 7:00 p.m.

# AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p><b>ATTENTION: BIBLE BELIEVERS</b> 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 Across the street from the Venable Dodge dealership 897-6284 or 485-4195 10AM Sunday School, 11AM Morning Service, 6PM Evening Service, Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.</p>	<p><b>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.  <b>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS</b> Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p><b>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL</b> 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332 Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M.  Nursery &amp; Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p><b>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 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><b>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH</b> 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 Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com</p>
<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 Worship Services.....8:30 &amp; 11:00 a.m. Sunday School.....9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Kids Club Wednesdays After school to.....5:30 p.m. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery &amp; child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p>"Lowell Mission" of the Evangelical Apostolic Church of North America Located at 404 North Hudson (First Congregational Church Facility) 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><b>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)</b> 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 - Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor Dave Noonan, Asst. Pastor Jonathan &amp; Stacy Holmes, Youth Pastors <b>SUNDAYS:</b> Worship: 10:00 a.m. - LIFE Home Groups &amp; "XL" Youth Sunday evenings <b>WEDNESDAYS:</b> Family Night (For All Ages) 7 p.m. "XL" Youth: 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM &amp; 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer &amp; adoration each Wed. 6:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS, CEE, BAPTIST, BROTHERHOOD, 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, CH. 49 FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p><b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> (United Church of Christ) 404 North Hudson • 897-5906 Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Dr. Roger LaWare.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise &amp; Worship</p>
<p><b>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell &amp; Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Sunday School &amp; 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><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims &amp; Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. &amp; 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA CLUB J.C. Wed. 6:15 &amp; 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p><b>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurlan Meredith 9:45 A.M. ....Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M. ....Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery &amp; Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p>	<p><b>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:30 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:40 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M.  PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>	<p><b>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH</b> Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-6448 Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>

# Happy Birthday

**MARCH 23:** Brian Gabrion, Richard King.  
**MARCH 24:** Joe Vezino Jr., Candy Speerstra, Isobel Edwards, Angela Titcombe, Marian Rutherford.  
**MARCH 25:** Chris Yeiter, Shirley Carigon, Sari VanKeulen, Andy Quada.  
**MARCH 26:** Margaret Hoats, Carol Maynard.

**PANCAKE SUPPER!**  
MARCH 25 • 5-7 PM  
at Day Bible Chapel  
9305 Centerline Rd. • Saranac

**Young & old invited!**  
Free will offering for the youth fund.

## F.R.O.M. Volunteers Honored



On February 25, the Board of Directors of Flat River Outreach Ministries honored the many volunteers and friends who make FROM services possible. Held in St. Mary's Fellowship Hall, a wonderful array of hors d'oeuvres and desserts were provided by donations from Meijer, BC Pizza, Larkin's, Sneaker's, Flat River Grill, Keiser's and Sam's Club. Flowers for the tables were donated by Daisy Floral.

**We thank these businesses and ask that you frequent them whenever possible.**

**18<sup>TH</sup> - MARCH 26!**  
Happy Birthday Nikita!  
Love ya, Family & Friends

**LUNCH MENU**  
ELEMENTARY MENU  
Week of March 27, 2006

**MON:** Soft taco w/ meat, cheese, lettuce (chicken patty on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), peas & carrots, assorted fruit, milk.

**Woods BUILDERS**

**814 GRINDLE**  
\$169,900 1,579 sq. ft.  
• 3 bed., split bath up  
• 1/2 bath on main floor  
• Daylight basement with finished 10.6x21 family room  
• Future bedroom & full bath in basement  
• Wooded lot

**1350 McCabe**  
\$314,900 2,114 sq. ft.  
• Area of more expensive homes  
• 4 bed., 2 1/2 bath  
• 2.2 acres, beautiful view  
• Wood floors, gas fireplace  
• Master bath w/hot tub  
• 3 stall garage  
• Close to Ada  
• Walkout basement

**Both Lowell Schools**  
Call: Dave Woods 437-7091  
woodsbuildershomes.com

# Land use, continued ... From Page 1

Lowell city manager Dave Pasquale said it is too early to speculate about development or other uses for the property.

"At this point, it's premature but we still want to talk about it," Pasquale said.

The city council is scheduled to discuss the property at its April 3 meeting. Covert has

organized a meeting before that, hoping to get some ideas from the community about how to use the land.

"It's mainly to see what kinds of other interest and ideas we can present to the city council," Covert said. "I'm hoping that we can get some city council members, too. I'd like to see this be all of us talking about it instead of the contention that has

been around some issues of late."

She said residents near the property are concerned that uses such as residential development would compromise the natural beauty of the area.

"We up here would like to see a park up here," Covert said, "because this is such a nice area up here for recreation."

Above all, Covert said, she hopes the city doesn't rush into any decisions.

"I'm hoping if we can go to the city council and say there is interest, they will give us a few months to see what we can come up with," she said.

She would like to "find out what the city really needs out of it (the property) and if

there are some ways to get the city's needs met."

One idea she suggested is involving a land conservancy.

The meeting will be held Wednesday, March 29, at 7 p.m. at the Lowell Area Arts Council.

The Lowell boy scout cabin, with a sledding hill behind it, is one structure built on the property in order to take advantage of the natural surroundings at the end of North Washington Street.

# Staff Member of the Month

Murray Lake Elementary named Angela Baerwalde Staff Member of the Month for February.

Baerwalde began working for Lowell schools last year as Murray Lake's office assistant.

Staff enjoy the positive atmosphere she creates in the office and her willingness to help staff.

Fourth grade teacher Linda DeCator said, "Angela is always thinking of the 'other person.' She lends a hand to anyone who needs it. She always has an inviting smile, especially to those parents who visit our building."

Baerwalde said, "I have the opportunity to see the students begin at kindergarten and see them grow through their elementary years. These years are fun, and to be here 'cheering' for the students when they excel, and being a support when it's a difficult day is a great perk for me in my job."

Baerwalde and her husband Matt have two children. She also has two step-children who are students at Lowell High School.



Baerwalde is getting ice for third grader Kailee Dawson, who bumped her knee. Kailee's friends' Ana VanOverbeek and Danielle Krajewski look on.

\*\*\*

*The person who makes a success of living is the one who see his goal steadily and aims for it unswervingly. That is dedication.*

Cecil B. DeMille (1881 - 1959)

**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

## CAR ACCIDENT?

Michigan - A new free report has just been released. It discloses vital information every car accident victim must know before they speak to anyone or seek medical help. If medical care has already started, you need this report even more. Hidden injuries: Research shows that even a so-called "fender bender" can cause hidden injuries: pain, headaches and lifelong arthritis which show up long after your rights under the law have ended. Many car accident victims worry more about their car than securing their rights. If you have been involved in an auto accident no matter how small, call the free 24-hour recorded message at 1-888-897-4994. This call is free and the report is free.

**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 Boves 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

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

**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

**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  
cjhnlke@springelectricinc.com

**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

**FRY DADDY'S**  
608 West Main Street  
Lowell, MI 49331  
**897-FISH**  
Friday Lent Special  
Buy 2 Baskets  
GET 2 FREE SALADS  
DAILY SPECIALS!

**GOT MOLD?**  
• Mold Screening and Testing  
• Indoor Air Quality Testing  
• Pest Inspections • Home Inspections  
• Certified and Insured  
**Homewise**  
Professional Home Inspections  
Tom Speerstra  
Serving folks just like you...  
...all over Southwest Michigan  
616-262-8721 www.homewisepros.com

**A BUSINESS DIRECTORY AD THIS SIZE ONLY**  
**\$16<sup>00</sup> PER WEEK!**

**YOUR BUSINESS COULD BE HERE! SAVE \$\$\$\$\$**  
ADVERTISING IN THIS SPACE!!!

**Andrew C. Vredenburg PLC ATTORNEY AT LAW**  
**616-454-4993**  
FOR YOUR BUSINESS & PERSONAL LEGAL NEEDS  
Business Formation,  
Planning & Litigation, Real Estate  
Transactions, Wills & Trusts

**TO ADVERTISE IN THE LEDGER BUSINESS DIRECTORY Call 897-9261**

**AT YOUR SERVICE**  
**Good**  
CHEVROLET BUICK  
SERVICE HOURS: M, T, TH & FR • 8-5; WED • 8-8  
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  
**MARCH SPECIAL**

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

**20% OFF SWEATERS**  
FREE PICKUP & DELIVERY  
**SELF SERVE LAUNDRY**  
60 LB. WASHERS & 75 LB. DRYERS  
TURN LAUNDRY DAY INTO LAUNDRY HOUR  
**CAR WASH \$1.00 VACUUMS 50¢**

**JB HARRISON INSURANCE AGENCY**  
COMPETITIVE AUTO RATES  
Since 1885  
Hastings Mutual Insurance Company  
Hastings, Michigan  
www.hastingsmutual.com  
Daniel Ulrich 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

# Volunteers are a large part of historical museum's success

By J. Lobdell  
Contributing Writer

More than 6,300 people participated in or visited the Lowell Area Historical Museum in 2005, according to a report presented by its executive director to the Lowell City Council Monday night.

Judy Straub presented her annual activities report and a projected budget to the council. As part of an agreement to allow the museum to seek a millage from the city residents for operational costs, Straub agreed to give the council a yearly update on the museum's activities. The residents approved the

quarter of a mill which generates about \$21,500, nearly a third of the museum's operational costs.

Straub said 2005 proved to be a busy time for the institution with 1,090 visitors visiting the museum, located on the corner of Main and Hudson streets in Lowell.

This included museum tours for students, as well as people coming in off the street. About 638 students participated in a variety of school programs including Grandma's trunk, candle dipping and a Native American program. Another 3,297 people had the opportunity to partake

in outreach programs and booths that were at various city functions including the Riverwalk.

Straub said the number at those outreach events was estimated conservatively at 10 percent whereas the Lowell Chamber of Commerce estimated closer to 20 percent of the total number of participants visited museum-related programs or booths.

Another 1,200 people attended programs such as the Civil War activities or helped with collecting the memories and stories

of the Lowell veterans. The veterans' project also garnered a partnership award from Lowell Area Schools, with students participating in the project, Straub said.

"A total of 6,320 people have been impacted by museum activities or programs," Straub said, adding that none of this could have been done without the 4,200 hours put in by volunteers.

"Luanne Kaeb and I are the only paid staff and we are part time," Straub said. "We can oversee the programs, but to make sure they run,

we need those volunteers."

With her report, Straub also presented a projected budget for 2006. The budget is estimated at \$65,400 in revenues, a large chunk coming from the millage. Straub said she did meet with both townships and requested funding for operational costs. This year Lowell Charter Township agreed to give \$2,500 and Vergennes Township was expected to make a decision soon on a contribution.

With the monies raised through memorial gifts and some seed money, the Lowell

Area Historical Museum was able to establish an endowment fund with \$50,000 to help with costs and other needs in the future. Straub said, adding this would create some stability for the museum.

And as busy as 2005 was, 2006 is proving to be even more so with the celebration of Lowell's founding 175 years ago. Straub said plans are already in the works for a year-long celebration that will get underway with the upcoming Antique Treasures dinner scheduled for April 28.

## DDA, continued ... From Page 1

for finance and personnel Connie Gillette pointed out that school funding is based on student numbers, which go up if more people move to Lowell. She said marketing the community would be a good way to get people thinking about living here.

"Until people get here, they don't know what we have to offer," Gillette said.

DDA chair Jim Reagan was in favor of the project.

"I think it's only going to be a positive thing for us," he said.

Reagan suggested quantifying the results of the marketing plan with survey cards at local stores, asking how people heard about the store and/or Lowell.

Also at Thursday's meeting, the DDA approved

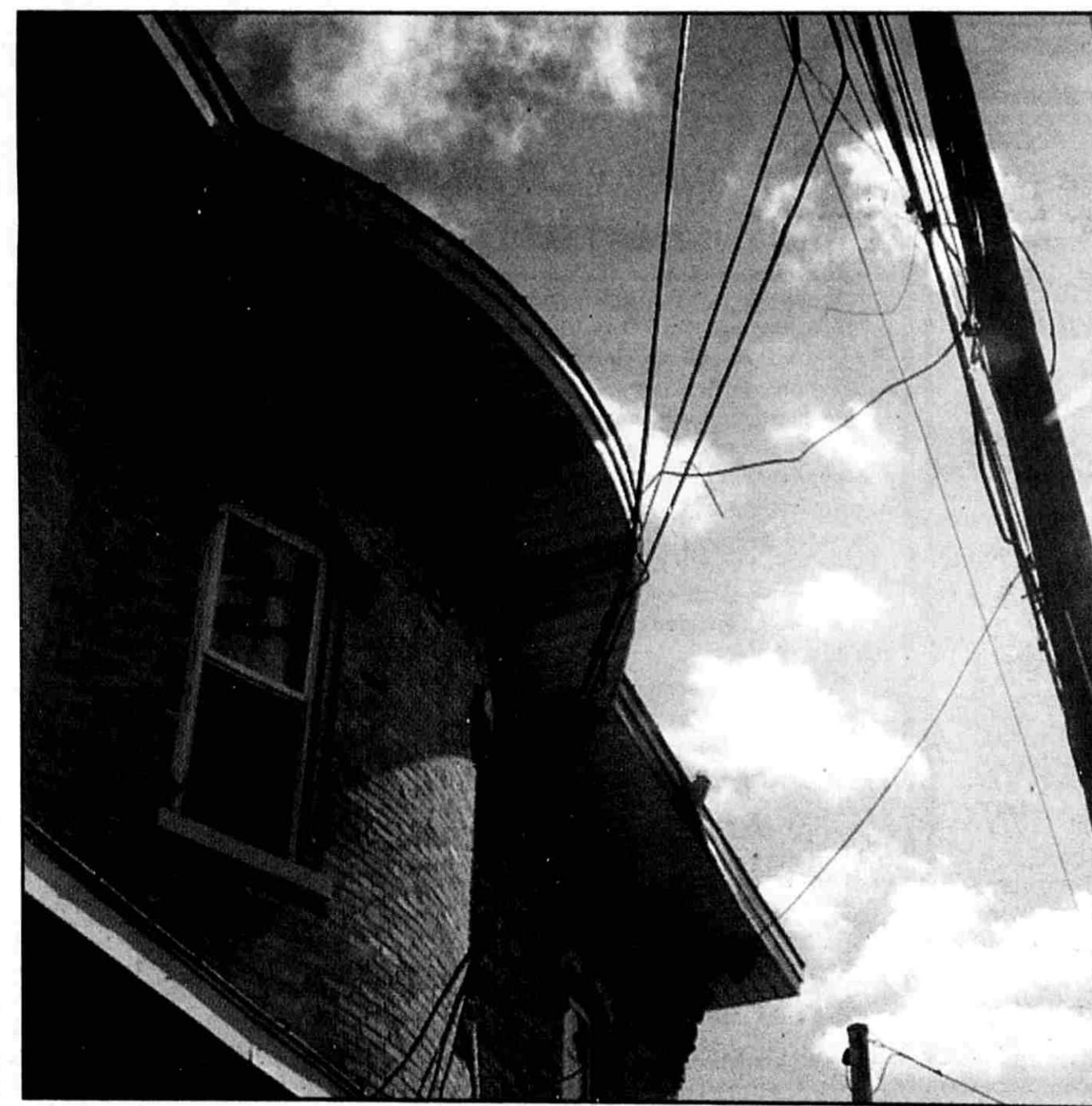
spending \$10,962.50 on fencing at the Department of Public Works (DPW) facility. The fencing will surround the lot where the DPW stores its construction equipment. It has been necessary to store the equipment outdoors in recent years, DPW director Dan Desjarden said, because of increased seasonal use of the Foreman Building on the

fairgrounds, where the DPW used to store its equipment year round.

The DDA also decided to pursue the purchase of the showboat amphitheater from Lowell Area Schools. The property sits behind Unity High School and the amphitheater has gone unused for years.

The DDA tabled until next month's meeting consideration of what to do with a pair of superfluous electrical meters on the Lowell Area Historical Museum building. The museum currently has three meters though it only needs one. Desjarden first brought up the removal of the meters at the February DDA meeting.

Removing the meters at a cost of about \$1,500 would save the city \$576 per year in meter-reading and other fees. The DDA's original thought was to have the city pay for their removal, but Desjarden wondered if the DDA would be interested in paying to have the electrical connection moved underground. The DDA has moved electrical connections and meters underground on downtown Main Street buildings in the past as an aesthetic enhancement.



The DDA is debating whether to pay for moving these power lines at the Lowell Area Historical Museum placed underground for aesthetic improvement.

## TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on April 5, 2006 at 7:00 p.m., the Planning Commission of the Township of Grattan will hold a public hearing at the Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Road, within the Township, on an application by iPCS Wireless, Inc. for a special land use so as to authorize the co-location of a communications antenna on an existing communications tower, and for accessory facilities associated with such antenna, on land commonly described as 6610 Nugent Avenue, N.E., which is legally described as follows:

Part of the Northwest 1/4, Section 17, Town 8 North, Range 9 West, described as commencing 1220.48 feet North 00°00'03" East along the North-South 1/4 line from the center of the Section; thence North 88°59'04" West 1583.32 feet; thence North 01°32'58" West 200.00 feet; thence North 88°59'04" West 600.60 feet; thence South 01°32'58" East 200.00 feet; thence North 88°59'04" West 394.08 feet more or less, to the West section line; thence North along the West section line to the North section line; thence East along the North section line to the North-South 1/4 line; thence South to the point of beginning, Grattan Township, Kent County, Michigan.

Information concerning the requested special land use is on file and may be examined at the Township office, 12050 Old Belding Road, Belding, Michigan, 48809, during office hours. All interested persons may attend the public hearing and be heard with regard to the requested special land use. Written comments may be submitted prior to the hearing, to the Township office, up to the time of the public hearing.

Dated: March 6, 2006

PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN

**WELCOME SPRING**

With Fashions by Woolrich

**River Hollow**

221 W. Main St.,  
Downtown Lowell  
616-897-0273

Mon-Fri 9-8  
Sat 9-6 • Sun 11-5

Our New Online City Guide

**Lowell Helper.com**

Your Place To Find

- Businesses - Coupons - Classifieds - Job Listings
- News - Weather - Events - Local Info - Travel
- Recipes - Articles - Games - Forums - Polls

Free Classified Add Listings

Businesses Up-date Your Listings

# Lowell elementary, middle school MEAP scores above average

By Dan Schneider

Lowell Area Schools' elementary and middle school students performed above state and county averages in nearly every subject and grade level on the latest Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests.

The only exception was in fifth grade writing, where Lowell's score (66) was below the average for the Kent Intermediate School District (68). The fifth grade writing score was above the state average score of 63, however.

The tests were taken in the fall of 2005. Lowell scored consistently well in math, particularly compared to state and county averages.

"We've used the everyday math program and the Chicago Math series in this district for many years now and one of the benefits of that system is it teaches mathematical thinking and reasoning very well," LAS assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction Mark Kasmer said. "We're also engaged in ensuring that the skills and expectations in the math program are

well aligned with the state expectations."

Kasmer also attributed Lowell students' strong math performance "to the expectations in the math program and the instruction that's given to the kids."

While Lowell Area Schools excelled in science and math, one of the district's weaknesses on the MEAP this year was writing. In most cases, however, Lowell did score better than the state and county averages in that subject.

"The writing is one area that I think statewide, but also with this district, has to be targeted as an area for improvement," Kasmer said.

Some new programs are already in place to bolster writing at the schools, such as a secondary literacy team and a district leadership team focused on literacy. Secondary teachers will receive training in the six traits of writing and types of writing this week and next.

Kasmer congratulated the staff on the overall performance of Lowell students on this year's MEAP.

"Given the fact that the central office has gone



Third graders in Sheryl Melle's class at Cherry Creek Elementary construct cubes during math class. Her class is currently studying geometry. Math was the top subject in Lowell Area Schools' most recent round of elementary and middle school MEAP testing, particularly at the third grade level.

through difficult times with Shari's (Miller) illness and unfortunate passing, it is clear that the building administration and staff

should be commended because they have done a good job under less than ideal circumstances," Kasmer said.

Math was the strongest subject for Lowell third graders, 95 percent of whom had satisfactory scores. Math was also the subject in which they were furthest ahead of the state (87) and county (88) averages.

Writing was the lowest

scoring test for the third graders, 58 percent of whom met the test's requirements. Lowell's score was still higher than the state (51) and county (56) averages.

Lowell schools scored 93 on third grade reading and 87 on English Language Arts (ELA, a compilation of reading and writing scores).

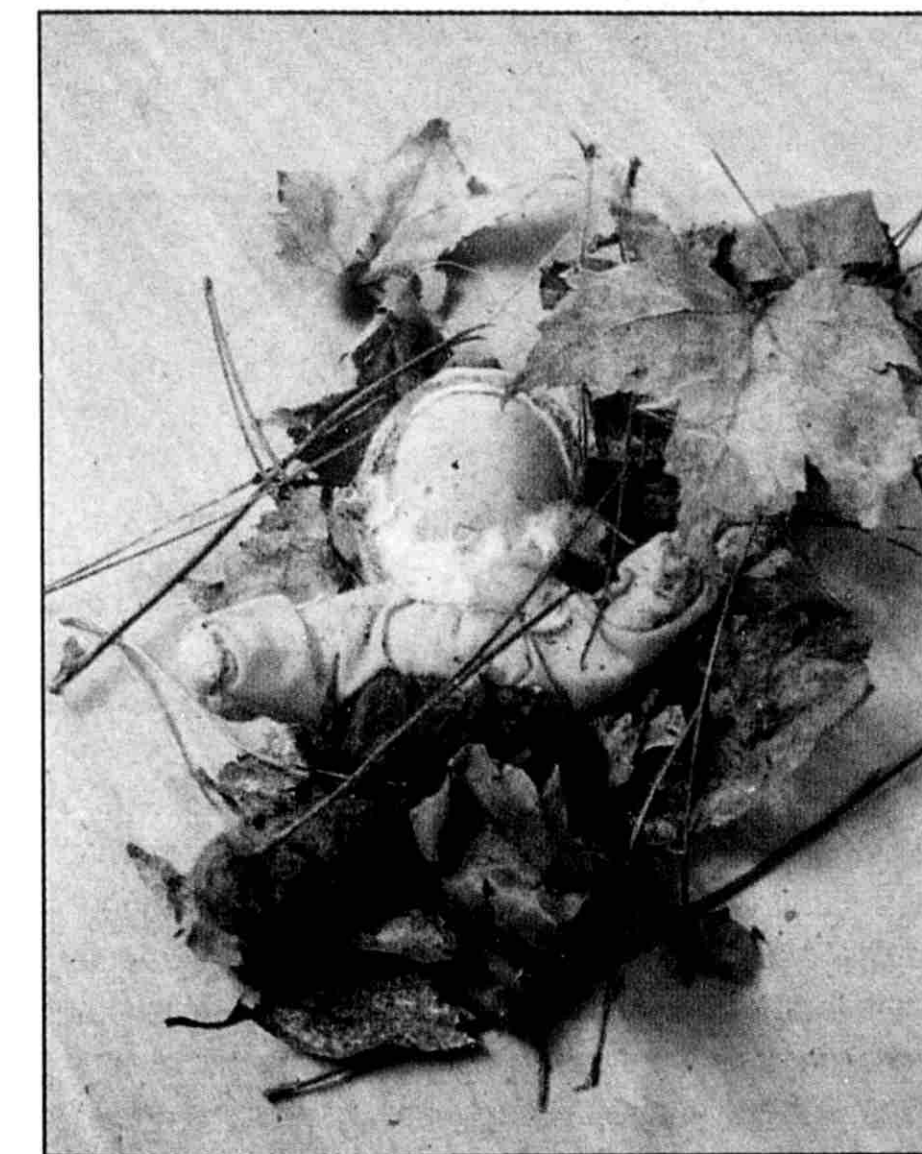
In fourth grade, 93 percent of students passed the math test. That's 10

percentage points above the county average. The state average was 82. Fourth graders also scored well on reading, with 90 percent passing the MEAP reading test. In writing, 64 percent of LAS fourth graders passed the MEAP test and 83 percent passed ELA.

At the fifth grade level, 88 percent of students passed

MEAP, cont'd., pg. 12

## B'gosh a leprechaun!



This stuffed leprechaun was found Thursday morning, March 16 (the day before St. Patrick's day) out in the woods behind the Wittenbach Wege Agriscience and Environmental Center. Center interpreter Kathy Doyle was leading Lowell Middle School sixth and seventh grade students on an orienteering course, well off the beaten trails, when they discovered the leprechaun under some leaves on the forest floor. Doyle brought the leprechaun into the Ledger office at the end of the school day.

## We've got your best INTEREST in mind!

4.75% Interest Rate  
4.84% Annual Percentage Yield  
10-month CD available through April 10, 2006  
(\$500 minimum opening deposit.  
Penalty for early withdrawal.)



Lowell • 2601 W. Main St.  
Call 897-6171 • www.icnb.com MEMBER FDIC



Brenda Burke  
Office Manager  
Lowell

**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. Rebate takes 8-10 weeks. Offer expires 3/31/06.

**Nokia 2128 Free**

- Color Display
- Speakerphone
- Voice Dialing

With new 2 year agreement. While supplies last. Terms apply.

**Cellular Connection**

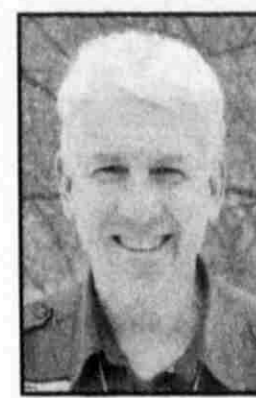
LOWELL - 11635 E. Fulton Street, located next to Curves; 616-897-6849

8 Premium channels of Starz free for 3 months

free DVR upgrade

free Standard Professional Installation

Call or visit The Cellular Connection



**On The Wild Side**

With Ranger Steve Wittenbach/Wege Center Director

**SPRING ARRIVALS**

We wait and anticipate. Each year my colleagues and I have selected a date we each think the red-winged blackbirds will first arrive. Once someone selects a date, others must choose a different date. One wants to get theirs selected early so they do not lose the magic date. This year I selected March 3 and on that date Mark Nyp saw some red-winged blackbirds in the morning. I saw one on the way home from work. This is the second time in 20 years I have hit it right on date.

It is fun but more importantly, the activity encourages us to pay attention to activities in the natural world. We practice our science skills of making accurate predictions based on observation data. We do not make wild guesses.

We watch the weather patterns, arrival dates from previous years, and hope natural conditions are just right for the date we selected.

Some of the first arrivals I sighted this year were large flocks of crows in mid-February; Sandhill cranes on March 1, killdeer, hooded mergansers, wood ducks, American woodcocks on March 11, and common grackles on March 12.

Eastern bluebirds and American robins could be found in our area all winter by those who know their winter habits. Some bluebirds and robins spend the winter here. They are probably males from farther north that only came this far south. In the spring they get to start north early and claim the best breeding territories. If conditions are particularly tough in the winter, those wintering here die. If conditions allow their winter survival, they get to pass on their genes to offspring in the most ideal habitats.

Our area is the deep south for some species and we are lucky to observe them coming this far south. Sean Fitzgerald saw a white-winged crossbill in the spruces at Wittenbach/Wege Center on Feb. 22 while I was leading a Cornerstone University zoology class field trip. I have still been seeing red-breasted nuthatches as of mid-March. I wonder how long until they depart for nesting areas farther north.

Natural world events require our attention if we hope to eat maple syrup, suck on sapsuckles, catch spawning fish, or eat grains. Agri-business depends on careful observations in order for us to know when to tap trees, catch fish or plant crops. People paying close attention to what is occurring around us every day allows us to live. I am disappointed that more people do not personally watch and enjoy the world around them. If you desire to learn more about natural events and species living among us, visit the Wittenbach/Wege Center.

Sign up for our free e-newsletter by sending your name and e-mail address to Ccheers@lowellschools.com.

I am certain some of our readers have never tasted sapsuckles. It was a good year for them. The ice storm damaged many branches. When the sap started flowing, the branches bled sap. When evening temperatures fell below freezing, the sap froze making sapsuckles. In the morning I could break off the ice and suck on the sweet sugar ice. I enjoy this annually.

Come to WWC and discover everything natural. Contact smueller@lowellschools.com or call 987-1002 at WWC.

**MEAP, continued ... From Page 11**

the math test compared to the state average of 73 and county average of 76. Eighty-six percent of Lowell fifth grade students passed the reading test, and 82 percent passed ELA.

Fifth grade science was another particularly strong suit for LAS, with 93 percent of fifth graders passing the MEAP science test. That score is well above the state and county averages (both 77) and an improvement over last year's science test, which 86 percent of Lowell fifth graders passed.

"That's pretty darn good performance, relatively speaking," Kasper said.

"I think that's one of the positive outcomes of that inquiry-based science."

He said this is the first year Lowell has had full implementation of the Battle Creek Science program, which teaches through hands-on inquiry using science kits.

LAS's sixth grade math score was 79 compared to a county average of 69 and a state average of 65. LAS scored 86 on sixth grade reading, 71 on writing and 80 on ELA.

In LAS, 82 percent of

sixth graders passed the social studies test.

At the seventh grade level is where LAS had the best writing score in comparison to the state and county averages. In LAS, 79 percent of students passed

the writing test compared to a state average of 67 and a county average of 70.

LAS had 78 percent of students pass the seventh grade math test; 82 percent passed seventh grade reading and 81 percent passed ELA.

**Campaign kicks off spring home buying/selling season**

Coldwell Banker Hoppough & Associates will help kick off spring home buying and selling season by participating in April's Coldwell Banker® International Open House Month.

"Open houses work," said Suzie Reinbold, a

realtor of Coldwell Banker Hoppough & Associates in Lowell. "For newly listed homes and those that need a marketing boost, open houses attract potential buyers in a short amount of time. Locally, we market open houses through local papers and internet advertising.

Reinbold pointed out that www.coldwellbanker.com will contain a list of local open houses being conducted each April weekend. The site will also contain streaming video content providing consumers with tips on buying and selling homes.

**Art on display at FLPC**

Artist Irene Wordhouse opens her collection of artwork at the Franciscan Life Process Center next month. "The Joy of Art" will run from April 3 through May 2. "I've worked in a variety of media through the years - oil, acrylic, watercolor, collage, graphite and soft pastel. Painting outdoors, landscapes and portrait

work are challenges in which I find joy," said Wordhouse. "This exhibit highlights my art journey through the various media."

Her exhibit is open 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 weekdays and by appointment on weekends. For more information call the center at 897-7842.

**ESTATE SALE**

Leather sectional sofa and recliner, Victorian marble top parlor table, two organ stools, five piece and four piece bedroom suites, oak computer desk, maple dinette set and hutch, spinet writing desk, Lazyboy recliner, oak dinette and coffee tables, set of four Bentwood chairs, four bar stools, cherry grandfather's clock, antique Seth Thomas pillar mantle clock, Ingraham oak shelf clock, New Haven banjo clock, steamer trunks, crocks, jugs, old platform rocker, pie birds, Fostoria "America" glassware, cups and saucers, two sets of Pfalzgraff dinnerware, Ansel Adams print, decorative oil paintings and prints, mirrors, collection of Caribbean hand carved figurines, gas grill, patio furniture, television, lamps, exercise bike and treadmill, Hoover carpet steamer, portable sewing machine, circular saw, portable table saw, ladders, and many miscellaneous household items.

2002 Pontiac "Grand Prix S.E." - very good condition with 90,000 miles.

14100 Natures Place Court • Lowell, MI (from Lowell): Lake Hudson south off Main Street (M-21), east on Grand River to Lowell View, east on 28th for one mile)

March 28 - Tuesday - 9:30-5:00 (numbers at 8:30) Pictures at: www.larryfillstateservice.com LARRY FILL ESTATE SERVICE

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS 897-4835

**Plans set for some clowning around in Lowell this fall**

By Dan Schneider

Clowns will be invading the Main Street of Lowell one afternoon in October.

They will not only be walking along the street but marching in bands, riding in miniature Model T automobiles and playing in a kazoo band. These clowns will come from all over for the first ever Lowell Clown Parade.

The famous Scottville Clown Band will march in the parade, sponsored by the Lowell Rotary Club. There will be a calliope and clown troupe from Muskegon and the Mini-Ts Shriner group from Battle Creek.

Clowns from far and wide will participate, but the clown parade committee isn't looking too far.

"What we're looking for is some hometown clowns," explained clown parade committee chairman Dave Thompson.

"We've got a couple unicyclists lined up," said Theresa Beachum, who is recruiting local talent for the parade.

She will also be asking for participation from local school students.

A kazoo band is in the works, and the committee will be searching for Lowell High School band alumni to wear clown makeup and blow kazoos. For those in the community not familiar with formal clowning, the committee is hoping to get a grant to offer a clown class. The curriculum would consist of costume construction, makeup application and etiquette tips for proper parading.

The start time for the clown parade will be 1 p.m. on Oct. 14. The afternoon time, as opposed to the usual Lowell parades which occur in the morning, has been set to avoid conflicting with other Harvest Festival activities taking place the same day. "It should be quite an interesting day," Thompson said.

The clown parade committee met last Tuesday with organizers from other events happening that day. Parking issues and potential



There are no clowns in this Main Street scene, but plans are in place to change that on Oct. 25, when Lowell will host a clown parade.

parade routes were discussed to allow all the events to take place harmoniously.

Lowell High School and Lowell Middle School bands have been invited to participate. Invitations

have also been extended to high school bands from Saranac, Ionia, Greenville and Belding. After marching in the parade, the Scottville Clown Band will give a stage performance.

The clown parade is something new in Lowell which is sponsoring the clown parade, is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, and the Lowell Area Fire Department has been in existence for 150 years.

**Local breeder to compete in annual beef expo show**

The 2006 Michigan Beef Expo will be held at the Michigan State University Pavilion on March 31 and April 1. From Lowell will be Merriman Farms who will exhibit and sell five Angus females.

The annual event attracts beef cattle breeders from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Pennsylvania. Entries from leading breeders of Angus, Beefalo, Chianina, Hereford,

Limousin, Maine-Anjou, Shorthorn and Simmental are showcased in the show and auction format.

A committee of the Michigan Cattlemen's Association, headquartered in Okemos, organizes the three-day event.

The beef expo is the only event of its kind in Michigan where all breeds come together to market their cattle and showcase innovative products.

Visit the Michigan Cattlemen's Association web site www.micattlemen.org or telephone 517-347-8117 for more information.

**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

**CUT IT OUT AND SAVE!**

**SAVE \$1 ON UPS SHIPPING**

Must present this coupon when shipping. Limit 1 coupon per package.

**The Lowell Ledger**  
105 N. Broadway, Lowell  
897-9261

**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

**LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS BOARD BRIEFS**

**Regular Meeting of March 13, 2006**  
**STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT**  
Brooke Liu, Student Council President and Student Representative to the Board, reported that the school musical "Beauty and the Beast" is very good and there are three more performances. Spring sports (lacrosse, soccer, track, softball, and baseball) have started. The Juniors will be taking the MEAP this week and next. Student Council members are very excited about their alternative spring break to Mississippi to help with the hurricane relief. The blood drive is March 24.

**STUDENT RECOGNITION** - School Board President Nancy Hopkins along with Interim Superintendent Pat Murphy and LHS Principal Scott Vashaw presented certificates to the following students: Marie Lazar - National Merit Finalist; Kristen McAlpine - National Merit Commendation; and Ben Ritzema - Admitted to West Point

**REPORTS - K5 Math Assessments/Alignments**  
Sue Beute gave a report on what the district is doing to develop K5 Math assessments and curriculum alignment.

**Character Education Update**  
Kathy Cole presented an update on how character development is being taught at the school buildings.

**ACTION ITEMS -**  
The Board accepted the following gifts:  
• John and Carol Lee donation of flute and case valued at \$200 to be used by the Lowell Middle School Band program.

• Alto Lions Club donation of \$120 to purchase software for the Alto School kindergarten program.  
• Cathleen Noffke donation of toys, clothes, and games valued at \$100 to be used by the TOTS program.  
• Employees of Holwerda Builders donated their Christmas bonuses valued at \$1100 to be used by the TOTS program.

The Board confirmed the offer to and acceptance by Gregory Pratt as superintendent of Lowell Area Schools with start time and salary to be negotiated. The Board amended the food service budget for 2005-06.

**CONSENT ITEMS** - Approved/adopted were:  
• Minutes for February 11, 2006 Special Meeting and Closed Session, February 13, 2006 Regular Meeting, February 20, 21, and 22, 2006 Special Meetings, February 23, 2006 Special Meeting, February 27, 2006 Board Workshop, and February 28 and Mar. 2, 2006 Special Meetings  
• The following payment of bills for February 2006:  
GENERAL FUND.....\$1,108,690.42  
SCHOOL SERVICES FUND  
A. Food Service Fund.....\$66,064.22  
B. Athletic Fund.....\$2,971.98  
2004 Construction Fund.....\$1,320.00  
Scholarship Fund.....\$300.00  
TRUST AND AGENCY FUND.....\$65,000.68  
Overnight trip for the Girls Soccer Team to travel to Palm Springs, CA, over Spring Break.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** - Pat Murphy reported that administration is working at balancing the '05-'06 budget and has begun the process of putting together the '06-'07 budget. Pat reviewed the MEAP scores for Fall, 2005. Lowell continues to rate higher than state and county averages. Test results are a reflection of dedicated and resilient staff members, administrators, students, and parents. Pat thanked Sue Beute, Kathy Cole, and Brooke Liu for their presentations at the meeting. He also stated that the Board made an excellent choice for their next Superintendent. He said that Greg will do a great job for Lowell. Pat also mentioned the Lowell EXPO which will be held at Lowell High School on Saturday, March 25.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**  
Board Workshop - Monday, March 27, 2006  
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room  
300 High St., Lowell, MI - 5:30 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, April 17, 2006  
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room  
300 High St., Lowell, MI - 7:00 p.m.

Please visit our web page at www.lowellschools.com

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

## Lowell FFA has good showing at state convention in Lansing

Lowell FFA members attended the State FFA Convention, held March 8-10, at Michigan State University.

Lowell received a Silver Award in the Agricultural Issues contest. Members of the team were Melissa Blough, Edie Chittenden, Amy Junewick, Hannah Knudstrup, Katie Rottier and Kim Ward. They prepared a presentation on the use of biofuels, specifically ethanol and soy-diesel.

Middle school members Cassie Balfour, Emma Bencker, Kari Bergy, Kelsey Langlois, Josh Phelps, Chelsea Pipkins, Kelsey Ward and Jack Weeber competed in the Jr. High Conduct of Meetings contest and received a Silver Award. They had to demonstrate they could run a meeting

using correct Parliamentary Procedure.

In the individual contests, eighth graders Sean Greenhoe and Paula Blough received a Gold Award in Jr. High Public Speaking. Rachel Folkersma received a Silver Award in the Creed contest for her recitation of the FFA Creed.

Nick Canfield, Regan Doyle, Tim Harden, Brian Langlois, Andy Oesch, Morgan Olin, Mike Roth, Katie Rottier, Ashley VanSpronsen, Stephanie Wade and Pat Walsh received the Outstanding Junior Award.

Delegates Raymond Seese and April Wolf participated in the convention sessions and voted on the State FFA officers for the coming year.



Lowell FFA members attended the State FFA Convention in East Lansing earlier this month.

## Vergennes Township agrees to 425 mediation

By Dan Schneider

Vergennes Township's board voted Monday to have an outside mediator facilitate discussions with the city of Lowell about a 425 agreement for 177 acres petitioned for annexation to the city.

In October 2004, Rob Munger, owner of

DuRay Development LLC, petitioned for the annexation in order to build a development on the land at the corner of Vergennes Street and Alden Nash Avenue. In October 2005, the state boundary commission voted 3-1 against the annexation. The head of the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth has not

yet given the final say in the matter in hopes that issues between the municipalities can be resolved locally.

Representatives from each municipality have met over the course of the last several months without much progress. At issue has been zoning control and whether the city would provide sewer and water

service to the property if it remained in Vergennes Township.

"We spent way more taxpayer money now than anticipated and we're right there with where we began," township trustee Al Baird said.

The mediation, to be provided by Joe VanderMeulen, executive

director of the Land Information Access Association, will cost \$2,600 for three meetings lasting two and a half hours each. The township hopes to get a grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund, especially if Lowell Charter Township agrees to take part in the mediation. Lowell Township owns the water and sewer lines that run under the property. But Vergennes voted to pay a share of the cost if no grant is available.

The board, however, seemed reluctant to spend much more money on issues surrounding the 177 acres.

"We want it over within the worst way, but we have to be responsible," township supervisor Tim Wittenbach said.

Vergennes trustee Vern Nauta said the mediation will be an opportunity to address issues that are bound to come up as the Lowell area grows, regardless of the annexation petition.

"This is just a catalyst that brought things to a head and we were going to get there anyway," Nauta said.

"We are still a community and I think ideally we should try to work this out," township clerk Mari Stone said.

The township also voted to set two public hearings for its April 17 meeting. One will address a sign modification to put a low-profile sign at the entrance to the Alden Nash West development being built south of Lowell High School.

The second public hearing will be on the topic of a special use permit for Impact Church to expand its sanctuary on North Hudson Street. The addition would increase the size of the building by about one third. A special use permit is required since the church will be building into Vergennes' commercial zone.

\*\*\*

*Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you.*

Carl Sandburg (1878 - 1967)

### MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES!



But it may be hanging out in your garage, attic or basement! Cash that money in with a classified in the Lowell Ledger!  
Ph. 897-9261 • Fax 897-4809  
email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com

### GRATTAN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC NOTICE BUDGET HEARING

Notice is hereby given that Grattan Township Board will hold a public hearing for the purpose of answering questions, reviewing and adopting the annual budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

The meeting will be held on Monday, March 27, 2006 in the Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Road, Belding, Michigan at 7:00 p.m.

"The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed Budget will be a subject of this hearing."

All interested parties are welcome. A copy of the proposed budgets can be viewed at the Township Hall prior to the public hearing.

For those with disabilities, call the Township office, we will try to accommodate you the best we can.

Lana Green, Clerk

### BOWNE TOWNSHIP SNOWPLOWING BIDS

Bowne Township is now accepting bids for the 2006 Lawn Maintenance Season - Specifications are available at the Township office. 8240 Alden Nash S.E., P.O. Box 35, Alto, MI 49302 or telephone 616-868-6846 Wednesday, Thursday 9-5 or Friday morning 9 to noon.

## America and Me contest winner

Shelby Herb, a student at Lowell Middle School, has been named a local winner in the 37th annual America & Me Essay Contest.

The eighth grade student will receive an award certificate for the achievement, and her name will be engraved on a plaque

for permanent display in the school.

Herb's essay now advances to the state level competition, from which the top 10 essays in Michigan will be selected.

Several thousand eighth grade students from nearly

500 Michigan schools participated in the 2005-2006 America & Me Essay Contest. The topic was "My American Hero."

Lowell's contest was sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance agent Mark Johnson of Grand Rapids.

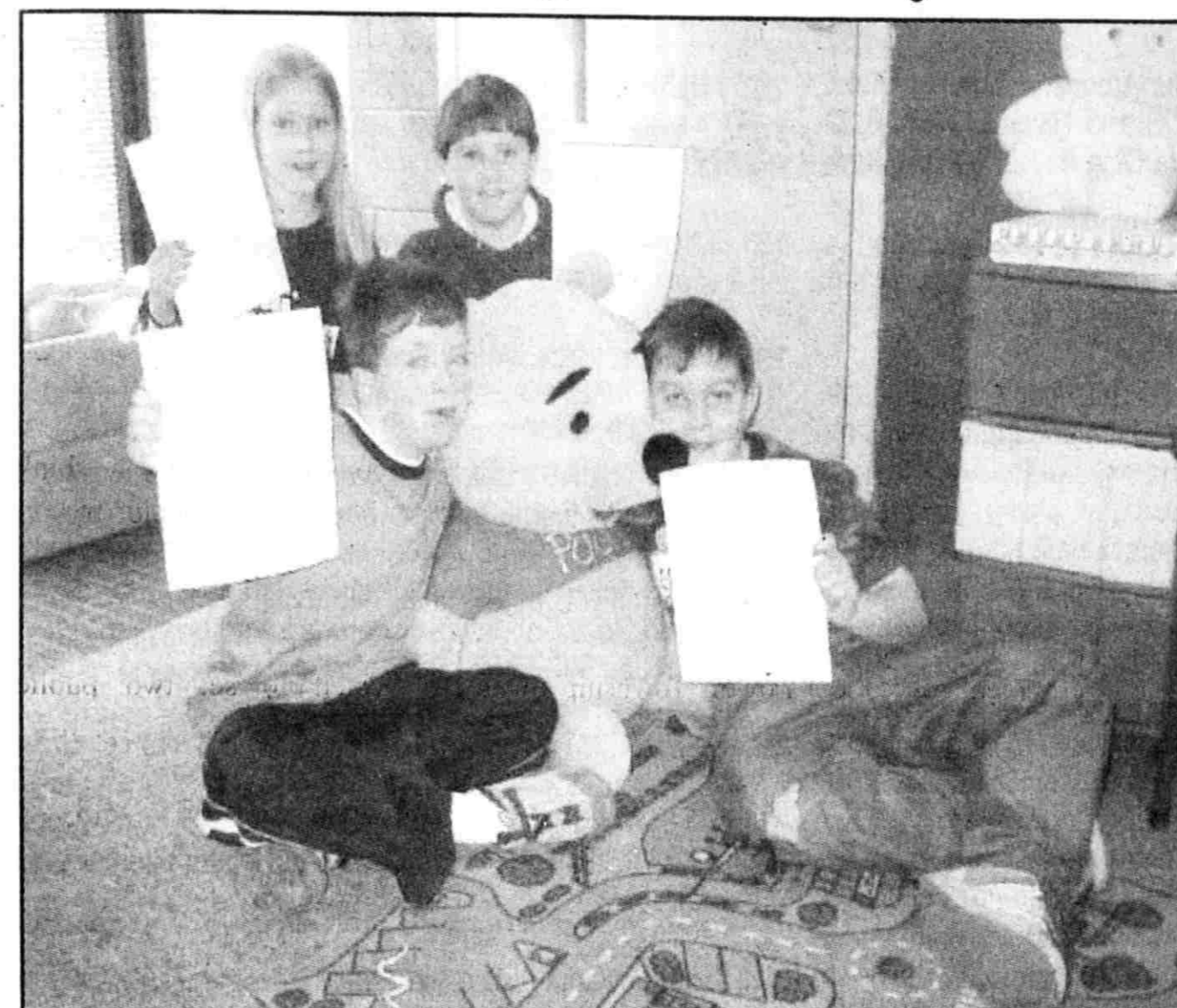
Shelby Herb, Lowell winner in the America & Me Essay Contest, and Mark Johnson, Farm Bureau Insurance agent.

\*\*\*

*You must keep sending work out; you must never let a manuscript do nothing but eat its head off in a drawer. You send that work out again and again, while you're working on another one. If you have talent, you will receive some measure of success - but only if you persist.*

- Isaac Asimov (1920 - 1992)

## Winter writing at Cherry Creek



Cherry Creek students behind Pooh, Katie Holzhueter and Max Barber and, left to right in front, Jacob Hoofman and Nick Patterson.

"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." -Dr. Seuss

Lots of smiles were visible at Cherry Creek Elementary this week and many more were anticipated at the Winter Writing Fest, scheduled for Thursday.

Staff selected 10

student essays based on a Character Trait quotation to send to the Foundations for Life National Essay Competition.

They will be displayed - along with more writing by Cherry Creek students on March 23 at 6 p.m. - when the school opens its

doors for a Winter Writing Festival/Ice Cream Social.

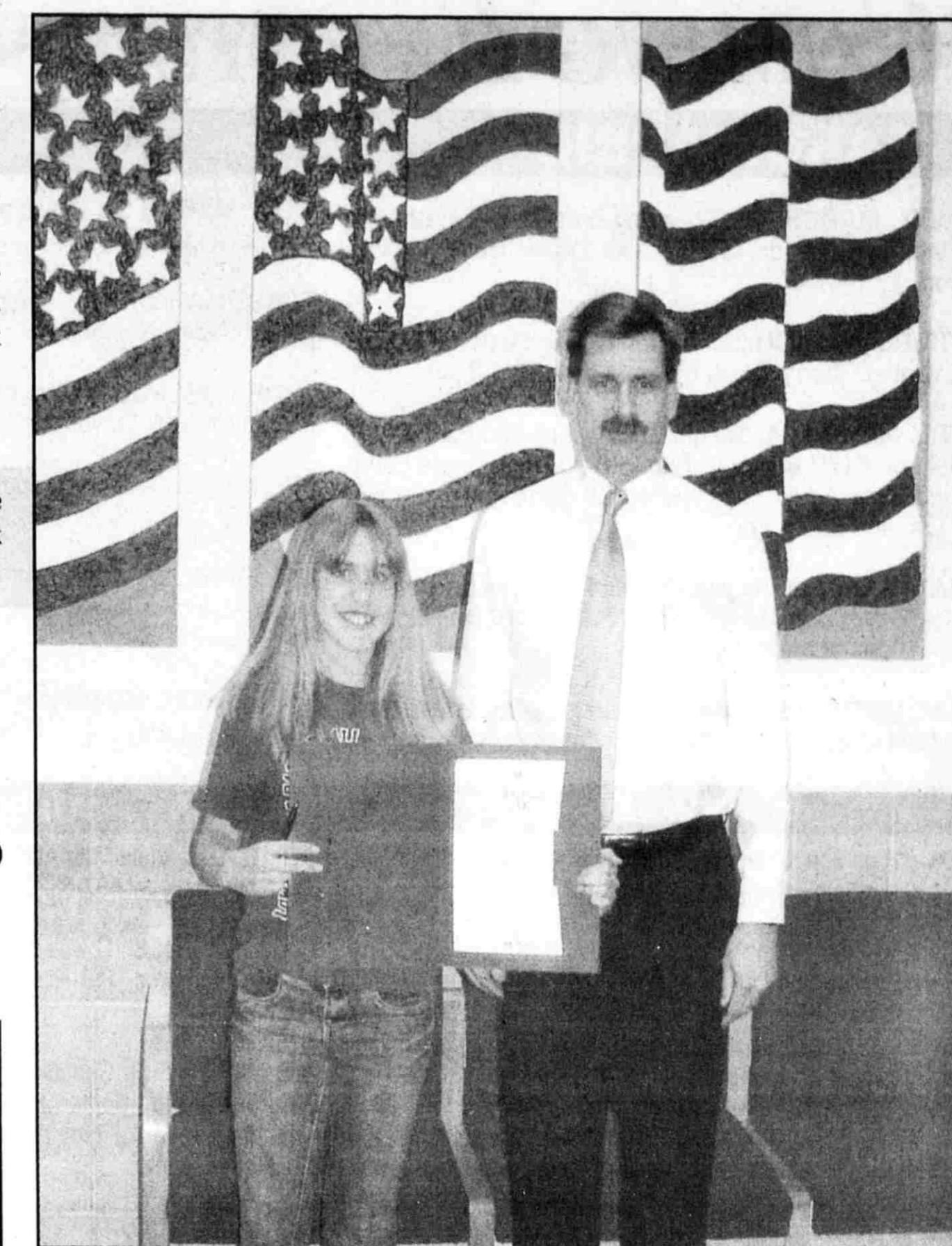


Join us for breakfast, lunch & dinner

Now serving Sandwiches, Soups & Salads

MON-FRI: 6:30 AM - 7:00 PM SATURDAY: 7:30 - 7:00 PM

307B Main St. SE  
Lowell, MI 49331  
(616) 897-4337  
www.voyagesdeli.com



## At Your Local Library



### ALTO BRANCH OFFERS BABY ANIMAL PROGRAM

Young children who love animals are invited to the Alto branch of the Kent District Library for a morning of baby animal stories, games and crafts. Library program staff

a.m. For more information contact Sandy at 647-3820. The library is located at 6071 Linfield Ave.

You'll Save Money When You Advertise in the Lowell Ledger!



## CITY OF LOWELL/ ALLIED WASTE SERVICES

### YARD WASTE PICKUP PROGRAM FOR SPRING AND SUMMER 2006

The City of Lowell yard waste pickup program is scheduled for the first and third Thursday of each month, unless there is a holiday in that week and the pickup day will be Friday. Your waste pickup will be the same day as your refuse/recycling pickup is. The dates are listed below.

#### Yard Waste Pickup Schedule

April 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>  
May 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>  
\*June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>  
\*July 7<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>  
August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>  
\*September 8<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

\*PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES ARE A FRIDAY PICKUP DUE TO HOLIDAY DURING THE WEEK.

If you have any questions, please contact City Hall (897-8457)



Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk

### THERE IS MORE THAN ONE WOMAN

who knows that stressed is desserts spelled backwards

BUT THERE IS ONE PLACE where they can all get together and start to change

Join today for only \$19!

Call 1-800-572-5727 or visit www.wv-wmi.com

### Lowell

Lowell Nazarene Church • 201 N. Washington  
Wednesday 9:30 a.m.  
Thursday - 5:30 p.m.

Meetings also in Ada and more!

WeightWatchers®  
watch yourself change™

Valid for a limited time at participating meeting locations. Not valid for All Work meetings and Online subscription products. WEIGHT WATCHERS is a registered trademark of Weight Watchers International, Inc. ©2006 Weight Watchers International, Inc. All rights reserved.



# COMING EVENTS

## MARCH/APRIL

**WED., MARCH 22:** Traveling breakfast at Gathering Place in Cascade at 8:30 a.m. Lowell Senior Neighbors.

**THURS., MARCH 23:** Winter Writing Fest/ Ice Cream Social at Cherry Creek Elementary from 6-8 p.m.

**FRI., MARCH 24:** Spaghetti dinner at Alto Elementary School, 6150 Bancroft, Alto. 5-8 p.m. 5th grade camp fundraiser. Adults: \$5; children 5th grade and under, \$3; 3 yrs. and under free.

**SAT., MARCH 25:** Lowell Area Fire Dept. pancake breakfast, 7-11, Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson. Donations at the door.

**SAT., MARCH 25:** Lowell Community Expo at Lowell High School, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Free admission and parking.

### MONDAYS

Lowell High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes & Friends, 7-8:30 p.m. at Gallagher's. Call 676-1355.

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

Boy Scout Troop 102, 11 up or completing 5th grade, meets 7-8:30 p.m. at Scout Cabin, end of N. Washington St. Call Tim Vanderwulp at 897-4302 for more info.

**1ST MON.:** Regular communication of the Belding-Ionia-Lowell Masonic Lodge #355 at 7:30 p.m. in lodge room, 211 E. Main, Belding. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. All Masons may attend.

**1ST MON.:** V.F.W. Post #8303 meets at 3116 Alden Nash S.E. at 7 p.m.

**2ND MON.:** Lowell Board of Education meets 7 p.m. in Administration Building, 300 High Street. (Note: except in April due to spring break which is the 3rd Monday).

**2ND MON.:** Bowne Township Historical Society meets 7:30 at historic museum, 84th/Alden Nash.

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

**3RD MON.:** Women of the Moose meetings are held at 7:30 p.m.

**3RD MON.:** Peripheral Neuropathy support group, 7 p.m. at Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd. Call Dorothy 897-9794.

**3RD MON.:** Lowell Showboat Garden Club meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall at the Church of the Nazarene, N. Washington St., at 7 p.m.

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

**EVERY OTHER MON.:** The Lowell Area Juggling Club meets in the Community room at Englehardt Library, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Anyone 12 or older who can juggle 3 balls is welcome. No dues. Call 897-9879.

### TUESDAYS

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

Cub Scout Pack 3188 meets at 1st United Methodist Church (as long as there is school), 6:30 p.m. 1st-5th grade boys. Contact Clarence Whittum at 897-8194 after 11 a.m.

Weight Watchers at Alto United Methodist Church, corner of Kirby & Harrison meets at 5:30 p.m. Register 1/2 hour before meeting, 800-651-6000.

Flat River Woodcarvers meet at LAAC from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Women's Community Bible Study. Free nursery and preschool story hour/craft time 9:45 - 11:15 a.m./women only at 7:15 p.m. Calvary Christian Reformed Church. Call 897-7060 or 897-7555.

**1ST TUES.:** Grattan Historical Society at O'Brien Room of Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd. Public invited.

**2ND TUES.:** Diabetic Support group, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Schneider Manor Community Rm., 725 Bowes Rd. 897-2760 or 897-9160.

**MON., MARCH 27:** Movie at Center 12:45 p.m. Lowell Senior Neighbors.

**TUES., MARCH 28:** Dinner at Sam's Joint, 4:30 p.m. Lowell Senior Neighbors.

**THURS., MARCH 30:** Woman2Woman fun night out at Impact Church, Lowell. Call 897-8304 for more info.

**FRI., MARCH 31:** Guf Troupe's spring break spectacular at LPAC, 7:30 p.m. \$5 gen. admission. 616-301-2790.

**SAT., APRIL 1:** Fundraiser for West Michigan Bluegrass Music Assoc. open jamming 6 p.m.; bands 7:30 p.m. at Riverview in Lowell.

**MON., APRIL 10:** Masonic Lodge degree practice at Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main, Belding. 7-9 p.m.

### TUESDAYS

**1ST TUES.:** Adults with AD/HD at Calvin College, 7-9 p.m. Call Gary Engle at 897-6325 or 248-2423.

**1ST & 3RD TUES.:** Lowell Lions Club, 12 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza. Call 897-5449 for information.

**2ND TUES.:** G.R. Chapter of the American Sewing Guild, Plainfield Senior Center, 5255 Grand River Dr. NE. 6:30 p.m. refreshments/ 7 p.m. program Olga 616-975-9977/June 231-780-1249 info.

**2ND & 3RD TUES.:** Qua-Ke-Zik Sportsman's Club, 11400 Foreman Rd. at 8 p.m. Go to www.qua-ke-zik.org.

**2ND & 4TH TUES.:** MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers... because mothering matters. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Impact Church, 1070 N. Hudson. Call 897-8304.

**2ND & 4TH TUES.:** Saranac Needlers, needleart/quilting bee, 5-8:30 p.m., 4 Health Wellness Center, Bridge St., Saranac. All are welcome. Contact Bev or Melissa, 642-6466. Light dinner is provided.

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

**3RD TUES.:** Parents of children w/AD/HD at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4 Mile NE/E. Beltline) at 7 p.m. Call Linda at 874-5662; teen group: call Sarah at 281-6588.

### WEDNESDAYS

Rotary meets at noon at City Hall, 301 E. Main, 2nd floor.

8 p.m. ALANON upstairs at 1st Congregational Church, 404 N. Hudson St.

Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 6-10 p.m. Larry 754-7104.

**1ST WED.:** GR/W. Michigan Scrabble Club at Schuler's Bookstore, 28th SE anytime bet. 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Round Robin, bring your board, walk-ins welcome. Jan 897-5759.

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

**2ND WED.:** Royal Arch Masons, Hooker Chapter #73 meets at 7:30 p.m. in Belding Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main; dinner at 6:30 p.m. All Royal Arch Masons are welcome.

**2ND WED.:** Lowell Women's Club, noon in Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd.

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

**3RD WED.:** GR/W. Michigan Scrabble Club at Schuler's Bookstore, 28th SE anytime bet. 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Round Robin, bring your board, all levels, walk-ins. Jan 897-5759.

### THURSDAYS

Weight Watchers at Lowell Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St. 5:30 p.m. Register 1/2 hr. before the meeting. For info. 1-800-651-6000.

Saranac Area Musicians and Singers practice at Saranac High School Band Rm. Choir: 6-7 p.m./band: 7-8. Kathy Maatman, 897-5981.

**LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM:** Tues., Sat. and Sun. 1-4 p.m.; Thurs., 1-8 p.m. Families: \$10; individuals \$3; 5-17 \$1.50; members are free. Call 897-7688.

**ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS:** Mon. - Wed., 12 - 8 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri.: 9:30 - 5 p.m.; Sat.: 9:30-1:30 p.m. 200 N. Monroe. Call 647-3820.

**ALTO LIBRARY HOURS:** Mon. & Sat. 9:30 - 1:30 p.m.; Tues. & Wed. 12-8 p.m.; Thurs. 1-5 p.m. 647-3820.

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

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

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

### THURSDAYS

Pottery classes at Franciscan Life Process Center, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call 897-7842.

St. Mary's Pregnancy Crisis Center, 402 Amity St., non-denominational help for pregnant women/adolescents, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Mondays: 5:30-8 p.m. 897-9393.

**1ST THURS.:** Michigan Hepatitis C Foundation support meetings, 7-8:30 p.m. 250 Cherry, Lacks Cancer Center, Grand Rapids.

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

**1ST & 3RD THURS.:** Alto Lions Club meets at Monterey Grill at 7 p.m.

**1ST & 3RD THURS.:** Bluegrass Jam inside Kountry Korner of Alto, 6077 Linfield. 868-6371.

**2ND & 4TH THURS.:** GR/W. Michigan Scrabble Club, 10 - 2 p.m. Round Robin, bring your board, all levels, walk-ins welcome. Call Jan 897-5759 for location and information.

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

**2ND THURS.:** Loyal Order of the Moose, men's meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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

**3RD THURS.:** Rubber stamping at Christian Life Center 6-9 p.m. Call Dawn 862-8841.

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

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

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

### FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY

**1ST & 3RD FRI.:** Teen MOPS support group for pregnant teens and teen moms, 9:15 - 11:30 a.m. at Impact Church, 1070 N. Hudson. 897-8304.

**FRI.:** Arts/Crafts volunteers, Franciscan Life Process Center, 9:30-12:30 p.m. Pat or Judy at 897-7842.

**2ND SAT.:** Ada Historical Society, 10:30 a.m. at Averill Historical Museum, 7144 Headley, Ada.

**2ND SAT.:** Lowell Amateur Radio Club, held at Lowell Airport, 730 Lincoln Lake NE. 9 a.m. social time; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

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

**SUN.:** Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 12-5 p.m. Call Larry at 754-7104. Public welcome.

# Lowell High School crew team builds own floating docks

Lowell High School's rowing team assembled wooden docks on March 11 for their new practice location at the Kent County Youth Fairgrounds.



Sections of floating dock were hammered together.

Students, parents and dockworkers worked together to frame out the docks, drill/screw them together, attach the buoys, and secure the top boards.



Then they were tested in the spring floodwaters of the Grand River.

Perry Beachum and Dave Cadwallader determined dock specifications, and local businesses provided the wood and materials.

Practices will soon begin on the Grand River to prepare for regattas against teams in the Grand Rapids, Detroit and Tri-state areas.

An indoor Ergatta at Forest Hills Central High School was held March 18 which served as a good warmup to upcoming river regattas. The Lowell crew team, coached by Missy Harrison and Carol Beernick, joined 400 other students from high schools and colleges in the

Grand Rapids area. Ergs (short for Ergometers) are electronic rowing machines that crew members use for conditioning purposes in the winter months.

Students rowed 2500, 2000, 1500, 1000 or 500 meter heats.

Novice rowers' Kyle Riley, Logan Brenk, Jessica Mankel and Lauren Hanson all placed in their individual heats. Coxswain Andrea Kulhawik placed first in her heat, and Leera Glinzak placed third.

Lowell's first on-the-water regatta is April 22 at Grand Rapids Riverside Park.

# Questions about spring gardening, landscaping answered

With spring just a few weeks away, lots of questions pop up concerning flower and vegetable gardening and landscape plants and insects.

**Q. What's the difference between English peas, shelling peas, snow peas and snap peas?**

**A.** Shelling pea is just another name for English pea. We call this member of the legume family "English" because it was developed in England. It's a shelling pea because it's grown for the peas within the pod and harvested when the pod is plump with peas. Removing the pea is shelling; we eat the peas and discard the pods. The snow pea is harvested when the peas inside are immature and eaten pod and all. Snap peas can be harvested immature like snow peas or later, after the peas have developed. The pods stay tender and tasty and can be eaten along with the peas inside, or the peas can be shelled like English peas.

**Q. How did butterflies get their name?**

**A.** Butterflies aren't flies, but the name "fly" was used in long-ago times for any insect that could fly. The "butter" part of the name comes from "butter season." Spring was known as the cream of butter season because that's when cows, sheep and goats gave birth and milk was available for human use. From the milk came cream, which was used to make butter. Over time, "flies of the butter season" became "butterflies."

**Q. Do I need to prune my clematis vines? If so, when?**

**A.** This depends. Plants that bloom in spring or early summer on flower buds produced the previous year should be pruned only immediately after flowering. Pruning in fall or winter would remove the flower buds. Plants in this group usually don't require pruning every year and may flower better if left unpruned for several years. Plants that bloom on the current year's growth in late summer and early autumn are usually cut back nearly to the ground in late winter. Leave at least one pair of healthy-looking buds on the trunk.

**Q. When should I cut back the tops of my buddleia bushes, Russian sage plants or ornamental grasses?**

**A.** Anytime during the dormant season. The main aim is to get rid of last year's growth before new growth begins. Ornamental grasses are often left in place until late winter for the color and texture they add to the winter landscape. Whether you want to look at the dead stems of other perennials is up to you.

**Q. When should I stop harvesting rhubarb?**

**A.** In mid-June. This gives them a chance to rebuild the food resources that will support next year's growth. Also remove flower stalks as soon as they appear so plants don't expend energy on flowering and seed production.

**Q. I had a number of good-sized trees growing under the roadside utility lines. The power provider recently pruned them, leaving them pretty ugly. Since I don't have any sentimental attachment to them, what could I replace them with?**

**A.** Hardiness-suitability of the growing conditions to the plant's needs, the plant's ability to tolerate the road salt, compacted soil and air pollution that frequently come with the territory alongside roads, and maintenance needs (pruning, pest control, etc.) are basic considerations.

Aesthetics - presence of flowers and fruits, shape, fall color, etc. - may be what you think of, but if a plant can't survive where you're going to plant it, how it will look is irrelevant.

## LEGAL NOTICES

**STATE OF MICHIGAN IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT**

**146 Monroe Center N.W. Grand Rapids, MI 49503 616-459-3303**

**TO FEDERICO F. MOGUEL defendant 35 Celia S.W. Wyoming, MI 49548**

**COURT ADDRESS: 180 Ottawa Ave. N.W. Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

**Plaintiff SHANI RAE MOGUEL v defendant FEDERICO F. MOGUEL**

**Attorney for Plaintiff Robert N. Swartz (P21196) 1100 McKay Tower**

**1. This Court has ordered that you be served by publication.**

**2. You are notified that you are being sued by plaintiff in this court for a Judgment of Divorce. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the address above on or before April 28, 2006. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.**

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

**4. The court waives mailing a copy of this order to defendant Federico F. Moguel at the last known address.**

**Kathleen A. Feeney (P40614) Circuit Court Judge March 7, 2006**

**Give Blood at Lowell High School**

**Must be 17 and 110 lbs. March 24 8:00 AM-2:00 PM In the Auxiliary gym**

**MICHIGAN COMMUNITY BLOOD CENTERS**

**Flat River REAL ESTATE**

**897-1300**

**Your Real Estate & Mortgage Specialists!**

**LOWELL: New Construction**  
3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath w/fireplace in a country setting minutes from expressway. Home has a master suite w/whirlpool tub and large walk-in closets in all bedrooms. A must see! \$196,500!

**LOWELL: 3 Bedroom**  
1 1/2 bath home. Beautifully maintained w/new roof and windows. Attached two stall garage and 1500 sq. ft. finished unattached workshop w/rec. room!! \$149,900!

**Chuck Lupton Broker/Owner**  
1-616-617-1862 Lupton@grar.com Contact me for a list of homes for sale!

**Stampin' Up!**

**Kimberly Smith**  
Independent Demonstrator  
11549 40th SE • Lowell, MI 49331  
(616) 897-6562 • Cell: (616) 485-3748  
jmsmith123@voyager.net  
http://cre8tivekim.stampinup.net

**Rudd's SEPTIC SERVICE**

**897-8560**

**Mention this ad for \$10 off!**



**Lobbying reform too critical to sidetrack**

With Senator Carl Levin

Sadly, there are many of our citizens who believe that Members of Congress are corrupt. It is unfortunate for at least three reasons. First, it's not true; most Members of Congress are honest and work hard to represent the people who elected them. Second, tarring politicians as unethical discourages our young people from careers in public service. But, most importantly, the stereotype numbs us for when a real scandal hits.

Washington today is gripped by real scandal. We need to recognize that what we are seeing is not "business as usual" but something different and dangerous. And we need to demand better from our government.

The public face of this scandal has been disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff. He recently pled guilty to charges that he provided gifts, travel and campaign contributions to Members of Congress and their staff in return for legislative favors. Similarly, Rep. Duke Cunningham recently pled guilty to accepting houses, boats, and other financial benefits worth millions of dollars from a lobbyist in return for directing contracts to a particular company.

But the scandal goes far beyond a few unethical individuals. The relationship between lobbyists and lawmakers has changed dramatically in recent years. When Republicans won a majority Congress in 1995, they established the so-called "K Street Project" (referring to the street in Washington where many lobbyists have their offices) aimed at cutting contact with lobbyists who give campaign contributions to Democrats and to pressure lobbyists to provide jobs to former Republican congressmen and members of their staff.

In 1998, the House Ethics Committee formally admonished Rep. Tom DeLay for pressuring an association not to hire a Democrat as its chief lobbyist. Newspaper reports at the time indicated that the Republican leadership later punished the association for defying its wishes by holding up a

vote on a treaty it supported. Five years later, the Washington Post reported that the chairman of the House Financial Services Committee offered to ease up on a congressional investigation of abusive practices by mutual fund companies if the industry association would hire a Republican as its chief lobbyist.

One result of this conduct has been a blurring of the lines between Members of Congress and lobbyists. Too often, it appears that the legislation in this Congress is being written by lobbyists to serve the narrow interests of their clients, rather than being written by Members of Congress to serve the public interest. In short, the relationships between some lobbyists and lawmakers are undermining our democracy.

We need to take forceful action to stop these abuses. In the early 1990s, Sen. Bill Cohen (R-Maine) and I wrote and persuaded Congress to adopt the bipartisan Lobbying Disclosure Act. The reforms that we enacted more than ten years ago made significant improvements in both lobbying practices and congressional gift rules. In fact, many of the

offenses we are seeing today are prohibited under that law. Recent events, however, have made clear that we need to close loopholes that have appeared in the law and dramatically increase the enforcement of it.

I believe Congress should prohibit Members of Congress and congressional staff from accepting meals that are paid for by lobbyists; ban congressional travel paid for by special interests that have business before the Congress; prevent the sponsors of lobbying campaigns from hiding their identities behind coalitions; and require the disclosure of paid efforts to generate lobbying campaigns.

Recently, the Senate began consideration of a bill that would take many of these steps. Regrettably, however, that bill is now on hold. This issue is too important to our democracy to be sidetracked.

The improper conduct of a handful of Members of Congress and lobbyists has confirmed many Americans' worst fears about Washington. Americans deserve a Congress of which they can be proud. To restore faith in our government, we must insist on real lobbying reform.

**Sound Off**

The Ledger  
"Almost"  
Anything  
Goes Column

www.lowellbuyersguide.com

Or CALL...897-0787

Send us your comments, criticisms and compliments. Some will be edited and/or rejected due to space limitations, and content. Longer submissions should be signed and sent to the Editor.

There was a bluebird  
in my back yard  
yesterday.



We that live in Alto do a lot to support the Lowell community, I don't think that requires us to have our own paper.

Three years into the Iraq War. 2300 dead, No end in sight. 200 billion spent. Give me one good reason not to vote Democrat.

My child's bus driver noticed a problem with her bus, and unable to get a response, she limped the bus to the garage and transferred everyone to another bus before continuing on her route. We appreciate you thinking of our kids safety first.

Alto is part of the Lowell school system. I live in Alto and work in Lowell. I enjoy reading about both of these neighboring communities and all they do. - Deb Apol

With hundreds of taxpaying Alto families sending hundreds of Alto students to the Lowell schools we believe we can reasonably call the Lowell Ledger our hometown paper too! Keep the Alto articles coming. We're watching and reading!

The Middle School parents who provided dinner for our staff during conferences really made us feel appreciated.

North Center Street needs to be fixed in front of Laurels or Kent the potholes are really bad there.

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 • Partials • 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

**NOW AVAILABLE**  
**CONDOMINIUM HOMES**  
**From \$109,500**

Maplewood Square Condominiums  
Crab Apple Condominiums

Contact Michael Nosko  
616-676-9961  
www.michaelnosko.com

You need just ONE Insurance Agent...  
As long as it's a Farm Bureau Insurance Agent

Life, Home, Auto, Farm, Business, Retirement, and more... your Farm Bureau Insurance agent brings you peace of mind in so many areas of life.

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

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

AIR BED - As seen on TV or at mall. Dual chambers, number remote; warranty, never used, mall price, \$1,800; sell \$850. Call Air Bed Store of GR, 682-4767, www.rcddirect.com.

MATTRESS - Large selection, all new, all sizes. Twin, \$65, full \$75, queen \$95 & up. Call 682-4767, can deliver.

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

ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL

**CLASSIFIEDS**  
small ads **BIG** deals

FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR RENT	HELP WANTED	HELP WANTED	SERVICES
<b>MATTRESS/BOX SPRINGS</b> - Brand new, \$69/set. Twin, full, queen, delivery available. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.	<b>OPEN HOUSE</b> - Sun., March 26, 1-3 p.m. 4.25 acres on private drive. 2,252 sq. ft., open floor plan, 5 bedroom, 3 bath daylight ranch, tile & hardwood flooring, hickory cabinets, cathedral ceiling in great room, large family room in lower level. 3 stall unattached garage w/heated workshop. 297 Sudan Dr. (off Vergennes between Cumberland & Parnell) 616-897-4980.	<b>APARTMENT FOR RENT</b> - In Lowell, includes gas, electric, water & trash; has A/C, coin washer & dryer, possible cable TV, \$140/week. Call 299-3198.	<b>DELIVERY DRIVER</b> - CDL-A drivers needed. Looking for dependable customer service oriented person w/chauffeur's CDL-B, CDL-A license. Good working environment. Also hiring nights/weekends. 616-248-7729.	<b>CASHIER NEEDED</b> - 4 days per week in Plainfield area. Send resume to Heffron Farms, 7724 Ashley Ave., Belding, MI 48809.	<b>DAYCARE OPENINGS</b> - 1st & 2nd shift, low rates, FIA payments. Food program, CPR & First Aid trained. Lowell Head Start afternoon pickup. For more info, call 897-7911.
<b>MAPLE BEDROOM SET</b> - 2 mos. old w/Sealy mattress (queen), like new. Cost \$1,400, sell \$350. 517-719-8062.	<b>1990 FORD 6.6 DIESEL</b> F700 - 18 ft. flat bed, new tires, good mechanical condition, 300,000 miles, \$3,000. Call after 5 p.m. 868-6368.	<b>LAKE HOUSE FOR RENT!</b> - Spacious, just remodeled, 2 bedroom with 60 ft. frontage on All Sports Big Crooked Lake, \$1,150 per mo. 616-318-7470.	<b>PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR</b> - Night Shift Steel Processing Company is seeking a self starter with good organizational, leadership, oral and written communication skills. 3-5 years of experience in manufacturing supervision is required, metal working and heat treating preferred. Experience in TS16949 and QS9000, bilingual in Spanish a plus. Salary commensurate with experience, excellent health, dental, life insurances & 401K. Please include salary history with resume and send to: Michigan Wire Processing Co., Inc., P.O. Box 70, Lowell, MI 49331.	<b>BARN HELP NEEDED</b> - at local dressage barn. Cleaning stalls, handling horses & other misc. barn chores. Hours: M-F, 7 a.m. - 11 a.m. May be able to work for board &/or lessons. Contact Dawn at 868-0448 or 616-581-2528.	<b>JOHN DEBIAK HORSESHOEING &amp; HOOF TRIMMING</b> - Serving the Greater Kent/Ionia County area with 15 years of professional, full-time experience. Call 897-4290.
<b>FARM/HORSE EQUIPMENT</b> - tractor-T280 Millennium diesel, 310 hours, quick release loader, 6' back blade, 5' king cutter brush hop, cultivator, round bail spear, \$9,500. Mill Creek manure spreader for compact tractor/ATV \$600. Flexible-line harrow \$100. Round-bale feeder \$30. Free-standing outdoor hay/grain feeder \$40. (2) Rubbermaid 100 gal. stock tanks \$30 each or \$50 pair. Electric stock tank heater \$10. 616-304-2991.	<b>LAND FOR SALE</b> - 3 miles NE of Lowell, 3.8 acres, 65% wooded, 35% open with great walkout setting, perked and surveyed. Call/LM at 616-485-5702.	<b>HALL FOR RENT</b> - with kitchen, seats 150. Call 897-6050.	<b>OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE</b> - in historic downtown Lowell, 22x16, 209 E. Main, call 292-6631.	<b>NEW</b> - Local company looking for 16 men/women to shampoo carpets. Must start immediately! Call for interview 616-475-6603.	<b>PLUMBER</b> - Experienced. Residential Service or New Construction. Reasonable rates. Call 897-2575.
<b>BERBER CARPET</b> - 80 yards, beige color, bought, never used. Cost \$800, sell \$295. 517-719-0451.	<b>'92 OLDSMOBILE 88</b> - runs good, new tires, dent on right door, \$1,000 obo, 897-2712.	<b>BIRCHWOOD GARDENS</b> apartments - We are almost full, come see why! We have (2) 2 bedroom apartments left that start at \$546 per month. We offer several amenities that set us apart from the others. Birchwood Gardens is a well maintained property with a full time staff that cares. Call Brian today at 897-8049 and find out what makes us different. We are now pet friendly! Professionally managed by Medallion Management. Equal Housing Opportunity.	<b>CNC MILL OPERATOR</b> - Preferred Tool & Die is seeking CNC mill operators, experience with metal stamping preferred, but not necessary. Good benefits, competitive wages. Apply in person or send resume to: PO Box 386, 5400 West River Dr., Comstock Park, MI 49321.	<b>BOB FORD</b> - Formerly of Hahn Hardware, is doing all kinds of service work. Call 299-3198.	
<b>MISSION OAK DINING TABLE</b> - 6 chairs, JC Penney brand (2 mos. old). Family size. Cost \$1,800, sell \$250/best. 517-719-8062.	<b>18" AUSTRALIAN STOCK SADDLE</b> - w/horn, handmade by Outback Saddle Co. This saddle is equal to 16" western saddle. Weighs approx. 25 lbs. Seat is deep & padded, top of the line, all oil tanned leather. The saddle is fully rigged. Medium Tree & 6.5" Gullet. \$250. Never used. 897-2703 or 616-970-0949.	<b>FOR RENT</b> - 1 & 2 bedroom trailers in Lowell. \$400 - \$420 per mo. plus 1 mo. rent deposit. No dogs please. Call 813-8041 or 616-754-0276.	<b>THE LAURELS OF KENT</b> - is currently seeking an RN/LPN charge nurse. 2nd & 3rd shifts. Nursing home, med surg or hospital experience preferred. Someone who can take charge of a 32 bed ward. Experience plus. Apply in person, 350 N. Center, Lowell.	<b>JOHN SCHLOOP BUILDER</b> - New homes, additions & remodeling. Call 897-1335.	
<b>BOB'S ANNUAL BIRDHOUSE SALE</b> - Think spring! Welcome your favorite birds back with a fresh new birdhouse. Nice selection of bluebird, wren, & bat houses. Various styles. Top quality materials & workmanship at the best prices anywhere. Bob's Bird Houses, 12279 60th St., Alto, 868-6633.	<b>'02 FORD ESCAPE XLT</b> - 4 wheel drive, loaded. \$9,800 obo. Contact 616-446-9106.	<b>LOWELL</b> - \$400 moves you in. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Garage. Washer/dryer connections. Walk-in closets. Open house Tuesday 3:30-5:30 p.m. \$650/mo. 866-443-3098 www.wmpmonline.com. Stoneridge Apartments.	<b>RIDING INSTRUCTOR NEEDED</b> - Must have formal teaching experience & certification is preferred. Please call 269-795-9774 ext. 230 for more information.	<b>grhandyman.com</b> - No job too small. We do it all. See us on line or call 616-204-9243.	
<b>BED &amp; MATTRESS SET</b> - Queen pillowtop (new, in plastic), never used, comes with warranty, \$125. Call 517-719-8062.	<b>LAZY-BOY</b> - dual reclining love seat, tan/lt. brown, only 3 months old, paid \$800, asking \$450; also large TV stand, approx. 34x34, holds up to 27" TV, with one open shelf & 2 enclosed shelves (1 side glass), opens for CD/video storage, \$50 u-haul, 616-693-2845 leave message.	<b>HOUSE FOR RENT</b> - small with studio floor plan, close to Lowell, heat included, pets considered, \$550 per month. Call John at 897-6414.	<b>ARE HOUSE EXPENSES GETTING WAY TOO HIGH</b> - thinking of downsizing? Let me help you see the full potential in selling your current home & purchasing the home that meets your current economic needs. Reduce heating costs, taxes & other uncontrollable costs. Call Peter Smith at Re/Max SunQuest to help you & your real estate needs when you need them most. Office 949-6980 ext. 27 or my cell 460-6634.	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS BEEN DENIED</b> - by the state? Is your employer fighting your benefits? For possible assistance/free representation call 1-800-305-2899.	
<b>MONSTER JEEP</b> - With complete Jeep 304 V8, auto., for parts. 9 in. rear end locker, 44 in. ground hogs, w/rims, lots of extras, \$2,200. Call 616-446-4144.	<b>\$175 CHERRY SLEIGH BED</b> - Queen w/pillowtop mattress set (never used). \$175. Call 517-719-8062.	<b>HALL FOR RENT</b> - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.	<b>TRUCK DRIVER</b> - Tractor trailer flat bed exp. required. Minimum 2 yrs. driving exp. & good driving record. CDL-A required. Home weekends, most weekdays. Competitive pay, "hub miles," assigned equipment, weekly paychecks, life, medical & dental insurance. Part time also available. Apply in person, Michigan Wire/D&D Trucking, 2487 W. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331.	<b>SERVICES</b>	
<b>MEMORY FOAM MATTRESS</b> - Developed by NASA. Relieves back pain. Never used. Retail \$1800, sell \$800. Call 682-4767, can deliver.	<b>TOO MANY TOYS FOR THIS OLD MAN</b> - 45' center cockpit Ketch, 7 births, queen size up front; PROJECTS: 38' Sloop, 33' Baltic double ender; 31' kit, Cad Cam designed, 550 precision cut pieces; truck camper; telescope for traveling; Cassitt racer, aerobic; hipbipe, aerobic. 262-7567.	<b>ROOM FOR RENT</b> - nice room in Ada, nice area. Non-smoking house. 262-7567.	<b>NOW HIRING</b> - experienced restaurant personnel, part time & full time, specializing in pizza, saute, broil or restaurant management. Apply in person Mon. though Fri., 1 to 4 p.m. at Oliveria's Pizzeria & Restaurant, downtown Ionia, corner of M-66 & Main St.	<b>INDEPENDENT ACRES</b> - AFC, in Lowell has an opening for a developmentally disabled male. Our home is unique offering many activities, a large farm setting & church involvement in Downes Syndrome. Day program required. Transportation may be available. Call Jennifer 616-868-6302 for information or a tour.	
<b>RABBIT CAGES FOR SALE</b> - rabbits for sale & baby bunnies; Lionheads, Lops, Dutch & Mini Rex dwarfs, & other breeds. 616-691-6619.	<b>AIR BED</b> - As seen on TV or at mall. Dual chambers, number remote; warranty, never used, mall price, \$1,800; sell \$850. Call Air Bed Store of GR, 682-4767, www.rcddirect.com.	<b>FREE</b>	<b>HELP WANTED</b> - The Laurels of Kent is now accepting applications for experienced 2nd shift certified nursing assistants. Certification and at least 1 year experience are required. Applications are available at the Laurels of Kent, 350 N. Center St., Lowell 49331.	<b>ROBIN'S CLEANING SERVICE</b> - Thorough, reliable, honest service. References available. Call 616-723-8153 for a free home/business estimate.	
<b>MATTRESS</b> - Large selection, all new, all sizes. Twin, \$65, full \$75, queen \$95 & up. Call 682-4767, can deliver.	<b>MATTRESS</b> - Large selection, all new, all sizes. Twin, \$65, full \$75, queen \$95 & up. Call 682-4767, can deliver.	<b>FREE - 3-year tax review.</b> We find errors & missed deductions on personal & small business returns. Go to www.itaxback.com/khuisman for more information.	<b>WANTED</b>	<b>COME ENJOY OUR WINTER DELIGHT SPECIALS</b> - at Sneakers, 211 E. Main, Lowell, 897-6746, Mon - Thurs, 2:30 - 5:30	
		<b>FOR RENT</b>	<b>ALTERATIONS</b> - Experienced professional men's, women's, leather coats, all fabrics, zippers replaced, wedding & prom dresses altered. Call Helen 897-6071.	<b>C &amp; S DRYWALL</b> - Complete drywall services, new construction or remodel jobs of any size. Free estimates. 868-6140.	
		<b>SALES</b>	<b>STEPEK WELDING &amp; REPAIR LLC</b> - Custom fabrication & weld repair. Mild steel, stainless & aluminum. On or off site welding. Call Tim at 616-322-8967 or 616-868-6215. Come See Us at the Expo!	<b>LOOKING FOR ANY SCRAP WHEELS</b> - Scrap, metal, mowers, snowmobiles, etc. Will haul away for free. Call Scott at 616-522-0903 or 616-755-2154.	
			<b>SOUND OFF LINE</b> 897-0787 or go to: www.lowellbuyersguide.com		

10th Annual

# LOWELL COMMUNITY EXPO

## March 25, 2006

9 AM to 3:30 PM

Lowell High School • 11700 Vergennes

Presented by...



- Over 150 Booths On Display
- Entertainment
- Famous Mascots
- Door Prizes
- Exhibitors' Giveaways
- Concessions
- Free Admission
- Free Parking

Lowell Area Chamber Of Commerce  
897-9161 Or [www.lowellexpo.org](http://www.lowellexpo.org)

ACARA  
Ada Tree Care, Inc.  
Adamy & Company PC  
Addorio Technologies  
Advanced Eyecare Professionals  
Advanced Home of West Michigan  
Airwave Computer Service  
All Source Imaging LLC  
Alto United Methodist Church  
Ameriprise Financial - Shanna Shillington  
Animal Hospital of Lowell  
Apex Financial/Flat River Real Estate  
Arctic Inc. Heating & Air-Conditioning  
Arrowhead Golf Course  
B & G Service Inc.  
Beachum Flooring  
Beauti Control  
BHT & D Financial Group LLC  
Big Yellow Box by Crayola  
Branch Adventures  
Brim Computers  
C.T.'S Scrapbook Central  
Calvary Christian Reformed Church  
Canfield Plumbing & Heating Inc.  
Cellular Connection  
Chase  
Chimera Design  
City of Lowell  
City of Lowell Police Department  
Close to My Heart  
Coldwell Banker Hoppough & Associates  
Comfort Keepers  
CoverUp Enclosures, LLC  
Cub Scout Pack #3188  
Culligan  
Cumberland Retirement Village  
Curtis Cleaners

D & D Fabricating  
Deer Run Golf Club  
Dery Physical Therapy Services  
Digital Image  
Double R Ranch Resort  
Dream Maker Bath & Kitchen  
Dream Pieces  
Earthworm Dozing & Excavating  
Edward Jones - Chris Godbold  
Faith Bible Church of Alto  
Farmers Insurance  
Fifth Third Bank  
Fireplaces Plus of Lowell  
First Baptist Church  
First Congregational Church of Lowell  
First Horizon Home Loans  
First United Methodist Church of Lowell & Preschool  
Flat River Outreach Ministries  
Floors By Design  
Galaxy Signs & Awards  
Garlic Mustard Display  
GFS Marketplace  
GOOD Chevrolet Buick  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Goodwill Industries  
Grand River Veterinary Hospital PC  
Great Clips for Hair  
Great Lakes Paving  
Greenridge Realty, Inc.  
Harding Enterprises  
Hatch Hollow Creations  
Healing Wind Touch Therapy  
Heffron Farms Market  
Heritage Furniture Restoration  
Home Experts Heating, Cooling & Electric  
Honey Creek Community Church

Hooper Printing  
Huntington Bank  
ICNB  
Impact  
Jana's Jewelry/Shopgirlz  
Joyous Illusions Wedding Veils  
Kathy's QuickBooks Service  
Kent County Youth Fair  
Kodiacs.JerkyDirect.Com  
Kronewitter Mechanical/A & R Plumbing  
Lakeside Resort Campground  
Lee Wayne Corporation  
Lia Sophia Jewelry/Mary Kay Cosmetics  
Life in Balance  
Limcroma Safaris  
Linda L Graff CPA PC  
Litehouse, Inc  
Lowell Ambulance  
Lowell Area Arts Council  
Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce  
Lowell Area Community Fund  
Lowell Area Fire Department  
Lowell Area Historical Museum  
Lowell Area Hunger Crop Walk  
Lowell Area Schools  
Lowell Area Trailway  
Lowell Youth Football  
Lowell Buyers Guide  
Lowell Church of the Nazarene  
Lowell City Directory  
Lowell Community Wellness  
Lowell Education Foundation  
Lowell Light & Power  
Lowell Rotary Club  
Lowell YMCA  
Master Creations

MI Dept. Labor & Economic Growth - MI  
Rehab Service  
Modern Photographics  
Net Group  
Pep Talk  
Personal Choice Cabinetry Inc  
Production Manufacturing Sources  
Regal Insurance  
RG Enterprises  
River Hollow  
River Valley Credit Union  
Root Lowell Manufacturing Co  
Sabrecom  
School of Missionary Aviation Technology  
Simplicity Gourmet  
Spring Electric, Inc.  
State Representative Dave Hildenbrand  
Stepek Welding & Repair LLC  
Sunshine Senior Care  
Taste of Home Entertaining  
The Investment Center at ICNB  
The Laurels of Kent  
The Lily Pad & RSK Soaps & More  
Treasures of Grand Rapids  
Trudy Holtz Photography  
Tupperware  
University of Phoenix  
Vents, LLC  
Vergennes United Methodist Church  
Voyages Deli & Coffee Shop  
Wags Pet Grooming  
Williams Kitchen & Bath  
Wisconsin Log & Cedar Homes  
Western MI Chapter - North Country Trail  
Association  
Woody's Vacuum Sales & Service

- MEET AND GREET LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS NEW SUPERINTENDENT  
**Gregory Pratt** .....All day LAS booth Gym B
- FREE BIRDHOUSE WORKSHOP for Children (ages 6 – 10)  
Presented by B & G Service..... 10:30 am and 2:00 pm - Hallway
- DOG & CAT GROOMING DEMOS  
Presented by Wags Pet Grooming 10 am, 11:30 am, 12:30 pm & 2:30 pm - Gym A
- CLIMBING DEMONSTRATIONS  
Presented by Ada Tree Care..... 11 am, 12 pm, & 1 pm - Gym B
- FREE KITCHEN WORKSHOP, "The Changing American Kitchen"  
presented by Dream Maker Bath & Kitchen ..... 11:30 am Main Hallway
- \$5 HAIR CLIPPER CUTS, presented by Great Clips for Hair ..... All day Gym A
- "ASK A TECH", presented by AirWave Computer Services, LLC. ....All day Café

- ALL DAY OUTSIDE -  
Grilling & Chilling Tasting  
Presented by Fireplaces Plus of Lowell  
Bucket Rides, Work & Safety Procedures  
Presented by Lowell Light & Power

STAGE ENTERTAINMENT – GYM A  
10:00 am.....National Anthem – Brennan Prill  
10:30 am .....Peyton Murphy  
11:00 am.....St Mary Choir  
11:30 am.....The Kasmer's – Mark, Moe, Mac, Sam & Syd  
12:30 pm.....6th Grade String Orchestra  
1:00 pm.....The Fiddle Club  
1:15 pm.....FBC Puppets – P.I.C. Jesus  
1:30 pm.....FBC Puppets – P.I.C. Jesus  
1:45 pm.....FBC Puppets – P.I.C. Jesus