Volume 34 Issue 25

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

New student radio station, WLHS, hits local airwaves

Low-power AM station plays music, plans sports broadcasts

By Dan Schneider

Broadcasting from a transmitter high atop Lowell High School, WLHS, the new student run radio station, is on the air.

of mostly golden oldies with just about anything else the programmers can get their hands on. On a recent Friday morning, listeners would have heard Howard Shore's "The Riders of Rohan," from his score to the Lord of the Rings movie, sandwiched between the Coasters' "Yakety Yak" and "Peppermint Twist" by Joey Dee and the Starlighters.

The studio is located in the "A" hallway of the school, next to the entrance to the Lowell Performing Arts Center (LPAC).

Listeners can pick up the signal at 1700 on the AM dial, but only on the Lowell High School campus. It's a low-power station ... onetenth of a watt of power. That's enough to cover the high school, the parking lots at the high school, and Red Arrow Memorial Stadium.

There are other options available to hear the broadcasts, however. There's a link to the station's live audio stream on www. lowellschools.com. And a new development as of last week: the station is

being broadcast on Lowell Cable Channel 20 while community announcements scroll on the screen in handselected colors.

"It's one step in It's broadcasting a mix a longtime effort to encourage student-produced programming on Cable Channel 20," said Lowell Light and Power and Cable TV general manager Tom Richards.

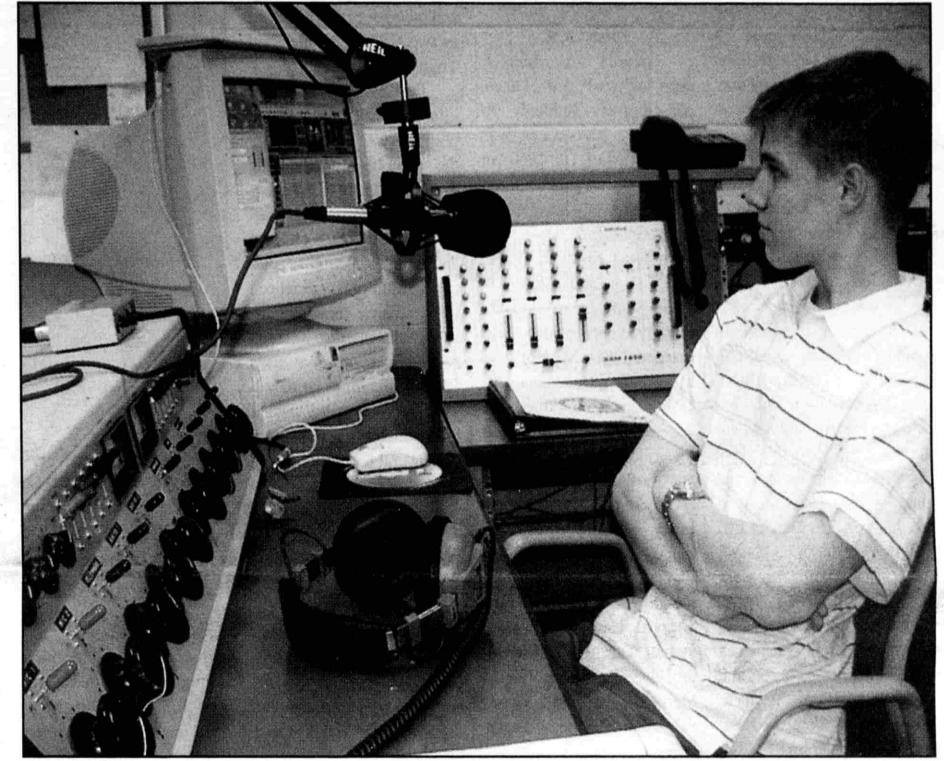
> Previously, Channel 20 had broadcast the National Weather Service feed as background sound for the community events listings.

> "My personal opinion was that something from here would be more interesting than the National Weather Service," explained WLHS advisor Al Eckman.

the students involved in the station, the key benefit is it will help more listeners tune in.

"Before, I didn't think we'd have very many listeners. Now people can just tune in on their TVs," Andrew Bewell said.

Bewell has been one of the key student figures in launching the station, Eckman said. Bewell didn't have any particular interest in talking into microphones or in radio. When he signed up for the seminar-period wireless technology class last September, he thought he



WLHS radio DJ Andrew Bewell monitors broadcast equipment in the low-power AM station's studio.

could do something behind the scenes. But WLHS had an immediate impact on his career preferences.

"I love this," he said. "This is my life, basically."

Eckman, who retired last year as security director for Lowell Area Schools, is teaching the seminar class on a volunteer basis. Grants have covered the cost

of equipment and music royalties (the station runs a tight, totally above-board ship, following all broadcast regulations).

They have a switchboard that came from the studios of WION in Ionia. Currently, the WLHS music library offers about 900 songs. The station is looking for donations of CDs to help

augment that library. People who like to listen to a certain type of music while they read public service announcements might want to consider donating that kind of music.

The wireless technology class originated with only seven students; it's up to about 25 now. With the radio station

fairly established, the class has moved on to robotics. They are assembling and programming a Boe-Bot. The "Boe" stands for "Board of Education," which refers to the circuit board on top of the robot that allows it to be programmed.

Student DJs, including

Radio, cont'd., pg. 11

Local dog park fundraising begins, planning continues

By Dan Schneider

Progress is being made toward the creation of a dog park in Lowell.

A group of local dog owners led by Jeff Eckstrom has begun fundraising for the park. They are working to get city approval for what Eckstrom said would be the preferred location for the park.

The land is situated south of Front Street and west of Division St. It is currently a wide-open grassy field with woods at its south end.

river has caused a high with them on a regular and pet supply retailers.

concentration of nutrientrich soil there. This is important, Eckstrom said, as it should help maintain a healthy turf in the park. Turf wear is one of the complications commonly associated with dog parks. This location would provide at least partial shade.

However, the wheels of city government still have some turning to do before a dog park could move into that location.

"There hasn't been any official decision on that," city manager Dave Pasquale It's proximity to the said. "We've been meeting major dog-food producers will receive a Lowell Dog

basis and we've been very supportive of the concept."

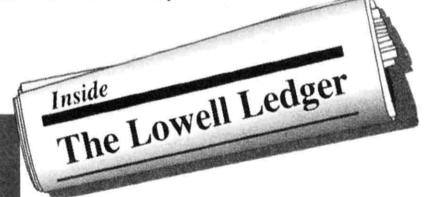
Fundraising has already begun toward the estimated \$40,000 cost to build the park. That figure includes the cost of installing a paved parking lot. Eckstrom sent out a mailing in mid-March seeking donations. Since then, about \$1,600 has been collected toward the cause, all donations from private individuals. Eckstrom is seeking funds from a variety of other sources, writing grants to foundations and soliciting donations from

The proposed park itself would cover about two acres. Fenced in with six-foot high, vinyl-coated chain link fence, the park would be a rounded-off Lshape. It would have a large running area for big dogs, and a smaller area for little dogs and puppies.

Donors will recognized when the park is built. For contributions of \$50 or more, donors can receive recognition on a community bulletin board or have a past pet memorialized. All donors Park sticker or decal.

"We're hoping for donations from the public, and anybody who wants more information, they can feel free to contact me," Eckstrom said.

He can be reached at 897-6677.



Cool plant art ... Page 10

Problematic plant pull ... Page 11

Signs over river ... Page 20



BIGNALL

78, of Lowell, passed away of Fremont, Hope (Kerry) Duane and Judy Hoffman unexpectedly April 17, Lynema of Wyoming, of Birch Run. Memorial 2006. She was preceded in Mich., Bud (Marilyn) Bush services were held Saturday death by her husband James of Alto. He was preceded at Shiloh Community Lasausky. Mrs. Bignall is in death by his parents. Church, Orleans, with Pastor survived by her daughters Funeral services were held Kenneth Harger officiating. aged 69, of Lowell, passed Joanne Deborah (Kurt) Beimers of Monday at the Crandell Lowell, Rose (Dan) Evans Funeral Home, White Cloud of Saranac, Penny (Jim) Chapel. Interment White Oswald of Lowell; four Cloud Cemetery. Memorial grandchildren; two great- contributions may be made grandchildren. Following to West Michigan Teen Joyce's wishes cremation Challenge in Muskegon. has taken place. A private gathering will be held by the family at a later date. Memorial contributions may Diabetes Association.

ELLIOTT

Mark, Michael, Mercer, Amanda Gage, Christopher, Tony, Krista; Samantha Gage, Susan aunts and uncles Evelyn Spence, Todd Spence all

MERCER

Regina, of Lowell; children Shelly

aged 45, of Six Lakes, be made to the American passed away suddenly on April 11, 2006. Greg was born on May 15, 1960, in Lowell, the son of William Robert L. Elliott, aged "Bob" Mercer and Dorothy 51, of Fremont, passed Jean Crawford. Greg was away unexpectedly on a lifelong resident of the Wednesday, April 19, 2006, Six Lakes and Lakeview at his home. Bob was born areas where he was a selfon November 18, 1954, in employed carpenter. He Cutlerville to James G. and married Dana M. Hoffman LaVon Mae (Bush) Elliott. Mercer on December 20, CPR certifications cards. He has been a lifelong 1997, in Greenville. He resident of the area where was an avid camper, loved he has worked for Newkirk to ride his motorcycle Rosenberger of the Grattan Electric Company for the but most of all he was a Township Fire Department.

past 30 years. He is survived loving son, husband, father by his son Damian (Lisa) and grandfather. Greg Elliott of Biddeford, Maine; was preceded in death by grandson Allen; brothers his father William "Bob" Kenneth Elliott of White Mercer. Greg is survived by Cloud, Raymond (Rebecca) his wife Dana M. Mercer; Elliott of Brethren; nieces mother Dorothy J. Mercer

To our Son, Grandson, Brother,

Uncle, Nephew and Friend,

STEVEN MORLOCK

who was taken to Heaven on April 28, 2000

ON THE NIGHT OF REMEMBER

On the night of remember Lord,

When my world changed once more.

Remember Lord, it was in the middle of the night,

When four knocked on our door.

I'm not sure Lord what I said to you,

But I knew you were with me on that night.

So on the night of remember Lord,

I knew you would get me through.

I will wait outside in the cold,

And again I'll talk with you.

In silent nights, I'll be with you.

Go to the Mountain.

All your love,

Dad, Mom, Jamie, Tyler, Kyle, Zach,

family and friends

We let them in, I still

remember,

The words they

started to say.

Your son, Steve, wer

to heaven,

On this earth he could

not stay.

Remember Lord, 1

prayed to you,

cold, under th

moonlight.

It was outside in the

Dale Davis of Belding; Cemetery, Entrican. nine grandchildren; sister Laurie and Bill Meadows of Greenville: brothers Mitch Mercer of Ada, Jody and (Carl) Hult of White Cloud, Sally Mercer of Belding; Joyce J. Bignall, aged George (Natalie) Elliott father- and mother-in-law

of Lakeview, Wendy and Interment in Hillsdale

OTTENS

Tressa Ottens, aged 94, of Alto, passed away Saturday, April 1, 2006. Services pending Matthysse-Kuiper-DeGraaf Funeral Home, Kentwood.

> **MCWILLIAMS** Joanne H. McWilliams,

2006. She was preceded in friends Donald (Carla) Gerard of Manor. Clawson; 17 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

will be deeply

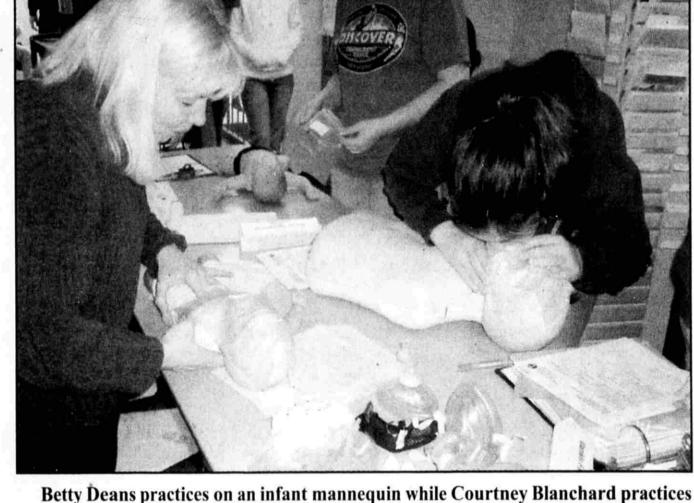
away unexpectedly April 20, missed by her family, her and especially death by her parents George by her mailman, her son, and Margaret McWilliams Tim. A memorial service and her son Joseph Gerard. is planned for May 1 in Joanne is survived by her Berkley, Mich. Interment children Caryl (Bob) Ziebell will be at Roseland Park of Troy, Tim (Lori) Gerard Cemetery. An additional of Lowell, Richard (Bev) time of remembrance will Gerard of Birmingham, be held May 5 at Schneider

Awana staffers undergo CPR training

Awana staff of the First Baptist Church of Lowell and others recently took part in two CPR and First Aid Gregory A. Mercer, Training sessions.

One workshop taught infant and child cardio pulmonary resuscitation; the other presented basic first aid for emergency situations such as heart attacks, strokes, choking and diabetes, as well as adult CPR. Students practiced using mannequins, and those interested could be tested to receive their

Sessions were taught by instructor Captain Mark



the skills for resuscitating a child.

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Electric wheelchairs armrest, and understand the

Additional qualifications include that

Call 1-800-749-8778 which is located on the for more information.

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ABSENTEE VOTER INFORMATION

The City and Township Clerks will be available at the following locations on Saturday, April 29, 2006 for any registered voter who would like to apply for or return an absentee voters ballot for the May 2, 2006 School Election.

Sandra Kowalczyk Bowne Township 10 am - 2 pm 8240 Alden Nash Alto, MI 49302

City of Lowell (616) 868-6846

Linda S. Regan Lowell Charter Township 10 am - 2 pm 2910 Alden Nash S.E. Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-7600

8 am - 2 pm 301 East Main Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-8457

Betty Morlock

Mari Stone Vergennes Township 10 am - 2 pm 10381 Bailey Dr. Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-5671

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Master plan update on schedule

By Emma Palova Contributing Writer

Commission will stay on to be the center of the live in lofts or condos, much These tools include a market schedule for the city master East Metro sub-region in like the baby boomers. plan update to be completed the Grand Valley Metro Together baby boomers with by mid 2007.

Planner Jim Breuckman an existing land use survey commission in May.

"We will be drawing said. "We have a generous time schedule.'

Hoekstraand Andy Bowman, income. from the Grand Valley Metro Council, encouraged new single family housing general look at regional concepts in said. their local planning.

With Drs. Paul Gauthier,

Jim Lang,

Wayne A. Christenson III,

SHINGLES

blistering rash that can

occur in people of all ages.

It always presents on an

area of skin that is on one

side of the body. This means

the rash does not cross

the midline of the body. It

usually starts with a tingling

or burning sensation on an

area of skin that turns into

painful, small red blisters by

of the chicken pox virus.

Anyone who has ever had

chicken pox is susceptible

to developing shingles.

Shingles is not contracted

from another person; rather

it is a reactivation of the

chicken pox virus that has

BARGAIN PRICES

O THE SENTINEL (PG-13)

1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 • THE WILD (G)

12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 SILENT HILL (R)

1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15 O SCARY MOVIE 4 (PG-13)

10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

+COUPON

20oz.DRINK

1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:40, 9:40 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN (FI

ADA-LOWELL 5

Shingles is a reactivation

the second or third day.

John G. Meier & Tracy Lixie

Shingles is a painful,

Lowell area will have an also called the millennials increase of 21,000 people by by the metro council. The should have adequate tools The Lowell Planning 2030. Lowell is considered millennials are expected to to accommodate growth. Council.

of McKenna Associates on growth will most likely occur population in the country. Monday night provided an on the west and east sides of update on the process to the city, with some cluster population is reaching that the planning commission. development and build-up age," Hoekstra said. "You'll also examining how to link

a land use analysis to the people you would like to lot of smaller households." accommodate," he said.

conclusions from that," he demographics, Lowell much projections, the metro 211,000 people by 2030. like other communities council is encouraging The majority of the growth should expect smaller municipalities to look at the will occur in the existing Representatives Jay households with less regional framework when highly developing South

"You don't need to build

council demographics, the boomers and their children, protect them."

been lying dormant in the

shingles tends to occur

more often in the elderly.

and in people who may

be immunocompromised.

person is someone who may

be receiving chemotherapy,

or someone whose immune

system is worn down. A

person's immune system can

be temporarily worn down

from emotional stress or

physical stress, like another

with shingles will not cause

shingles; however, it can

cause chicken pox in those

who have never had chicken

Exposure to someone

nfection or illness.

immunocompromised

outbreak of

the millennials will account Hoekstrasaidresidential for 154 million of the "The preponderance of Hoekstra.

Based planning locally.

understanding the planning commission to over the next 30 years," he of land use patterns the Grand Valley Metro and implications," The population will Bowman. "We have to keep permanently preserved, said According to metro mainly consist of aging baby the lands connected and Hoekstra.

pox. Shingles may also be

You Can't

contagious to someone who have shingles it is important

is immunocompromised. to visit your health care

Therefore, it is important provider immediately. There

that a person who has are antiviral medications

shingles avoid those who: which can decrease the

have not had the chicken severity and length of the

pox, may be receiving outbreak, but they must be

chemotherapy, may be ill, started within the first three

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The municipalities study and proper zoning. "We're getting back to creating spaces for people rather than accommodating traffic,"

The metro council is Breuckman has conducted in the existing town center. be seeing a lot more older the development centers "Tell us how much people with lower income between the regions, line up in the city. He will present growth of this 21,000 levels. You already have a streetscapes to accommodate pedestrians. Overall growth in the Grand Valley these Metro Council should reach Beltline corridor and the "You're looking at Grand Rapids Metro area.

> The northwest area of said Council is becoming

> > If you think you may

days to be effective.

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HEAD START ENROLLING

4 years, at Bushnell Elementary, 700 Elizabeth St.

Certain income guidelines must be met. Call 897-7920.

DINNER THEATRE

Larkin's Banquet Hall Friday and Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

(dinner), 7:30 p.m. (play); Sunday at 2 p.m. (show only).

Tickets: \$26 dinner theatre/\$21 for LAAC members,

seniors, students; \$10 show only and \$8 for LAAC

Thebes Players "On Golden Pond" will be held at

Lowell Head Start is now enrolling children, birth

THE LOWELL LEDGER - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2006 PAGE 3

BAG O' BOOKS SALE Great used books for sale at bargain prices at Englehardt Library, Friday, April 28, 9:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

GIRL SCOUTS DONATION DRIVE

The Goodwill store in Lowell will be accepting gently used clothing or household items this Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Girl Scouts will collect your items which will be used to support programs that help people in our community find and keep jobs.

TOTS ALMOST NEW SALE

Sale at Bright Beginnings Gym, 300 High St., 9noon, April 29. Set-up 8-9 a.m. Free to participate. 987-

GARLIC MUSTARD PULL

Volunteers should meet at Stoney Lakeside Park on Saturday, April 29 at 1 p.m. to clear the area of the invasive weed.

THE JOY OF ART

A reception for artist Irene Wordhouse will be held at the Franciscan Life Process Center this Saturday, 1-3 p.m. Exhibit runs through April. 897-7842.

RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER

Kickoff meeting on May 3 at Lowell High School LPAC, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. for American Cancer Society fundraiser, coming in August. Contact Elizabeth Males at 364-6121 or elizabeth.males@cancer.org if you are interested in volunteering.

YMCA PROGRAM EXPO

Ages 3-10 can experience a variety of youth sports programs Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at YMCA, 1335 W. Main St., Lowell. Gary Wade, 616.855.6997 cell, gwade@grymca.org

MUSEUM TOURS

A tour of West Michigan's small museums will be on May 6/7, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. "Spring into the Past" at these museums: Lowell Area Historical Museum, Fallasburg Hist. Village & Schoolhouse, Averill Hist. Museum of Ada, Bowne Twp. Hist. Museum, Boston-Saranac Hist. Museum, Ionia Hist. Society-Blanchard House, Flat River Hist. Museum and Flying Falcon Military Museum at Greenville, Freeport Hist. Society, and Belding Museum-Belrockton Dormitory. Donations accepted; special events and exhibits.

CROP WALK

The Lowell CROP Walk is Sunday, May 7 at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main at 1:30 p.m. Register at 1 p.m. 897-5936.

MICHIGAN MERIT AWARD

Seniors who have taken all components of MEAP and have achieved a Level 1 or 2 on at least 2 areas can use the ACT WorkKeys assessments to qualify for this award. KISD will give this test on May 17 at KC/TC from 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Registration forms must be submitted to KISD by May 8. Cost: \$50. See your counselor for more information.



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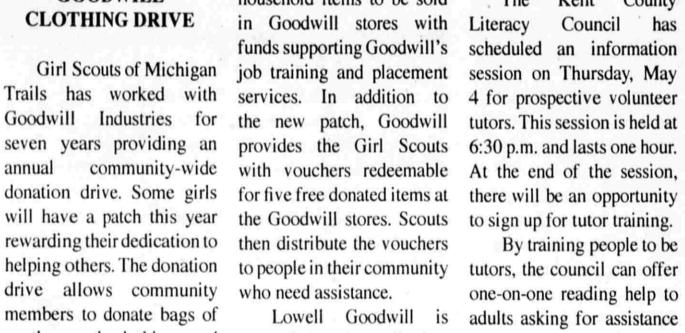
THE LOWELL LEDGER - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2006 PAGE 4

Lend A Hand VOLUNTEER **OPPORTUNITIES**

GIRL SCOUTS/ GOODWILL **CLOTHING DRIVE**

Goodwill Industries for the new patch, Goodwill seven years providing an provides the Girl Scouts 6:30 p.m. and lasts one hour. donation drive. Some girls for five free donated items at will have a patch this year the Goodwill stores. Scouts rewarding their dedication to then distribute the vouchers helping others. The donation to people in their community tutors, the council can offer drive allows community who need assistance. members to donate bags of gently used clothing and one of 24 drop-off sites in reading or English as a

household items to be sold





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OWFLI

participating in this drive on Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information,

call 897-2518.

HELP PROMOTE LITERACY

Kent County Council has funds supporting Goodwill's scheduled an information tutors. This session is held at there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

> By training people to be one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor

The information session will be held at the Grand Rapids Public Library, 111 Library St. NE, Grand Rapids in the VanderVeen Center. Call 459-5151 to

Successful turkey hunter

Vic Scudder bagged day of this year's turkey 18. He shot the bird this turkey on the third season, Tuesday, April around 8:30 a.m. on



private property east of Lowell. The bird weighed 22 pounds and had an 11-inch beard. Scudder was the first turkey hunter to bring a turkey to the Lowell Ledger office during this year's season. For that matter, he may have been the first hunter ever to bring a turkey to the Ledger

"I never get my deer in here because I'm always up north hunting so I thought I'd see if I could get my turkey in," Scudder said, referring to the popular annual Lowell Ledger First Buck Contest, which awards prizes to the first hunters to bring in deer on opening day of gun deer season.

Boaters urged to help protect Michigan's lakes

Environmental Quality's waters. Office of the Great Lakes

The Department of with many uses of our to dry five - 10 days also "We must all play our part in

is reminding boaters that Michigan's lakes and they play an important role streams should inspect in protecting Michigan's watercrafts and recreational waters from aquatic invasive equipment before leaving species. Over 162 aquatic a lake or other water body, invasive plants and animals remove any vegetation, drain threaten Michigan's diverse all live wells, clean areas ecosystems and interfere that may contain water, and dispose of unused bait in native fish and wildlife," said the trash. Allowing boating Office of the Great Lakes

enjoying of zebra mussels and other resources.' organisms from one lake to

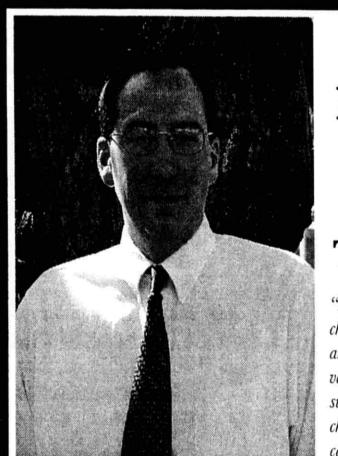
only impact the use of negative impacts on sport and commercial fishing, industry, municipalities, and and recreational equipment director Ken DeBeaussaert.

helps to prevent the spread protecting these vast water

The 2006 Great Lakes Protection Fund decal is now "Invasive species not available at a cost of \$35; Michigan waters, but have invasive species research, education, and eradication

> The decal does not required

Boaters, cont'd., pg. 13



VOTE for PAT NUGENT **LOWELL** SCHOOL BOARD TUESDAY, MAY 2

"Lowell Area Schools is facing an exciting and challenging future. My experience on the Board and my knowledge of educational issues will be valuable components as we work with our new superintendent. I look forward to meeting the challenges of the next four years. I hope that I

Board Experience:

• Board Member for eight years (Secretary six years)

Education Experience:

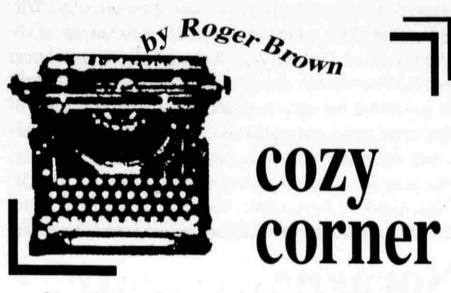
- Certified teacher with thirteen years experience
- Master's Degree in Education
- · Advanced coursework in and knowledge of curriculum, technology, school finance, and current trends

Community Involvement:

- · Lifelong Lowell resident, LHS Class of 1989
- St. Patrick Church History Committee and Cemetery Committee
- · Grattan Township Historical Society
- Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation
- Lowell Agriculture Supporters

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Patrick Nugent, 10060 Kehoe Dr., Ada, MI 49301

Viewpoint-



Our neighbors have a yellow Lab. He is a little over a year old and answers to Jake. He thinks I'm the greatest human in the whole world. That's what is wonderful about dogs, especially big old rambunctious dogs like a young Lab ... they're easily influenced.

Jake hit the Lottery, big time, when adopted by his looked tired and frazzled. owners. He just doesn't realize it. These people are in their late fifties, are retired, never had kids and shower all their The surgery went well and there had been no complications. love, affection and lots of cash on their dog. Jake replaced Mac, another yellow Lab who lived to fourteen or so. These she explained. You're not going to believe this. people had a \$40,000.00 elevator built for Mac when he could no longer climb the stairs. I told you Jake hit the from licking his incision. I told you she is overly protective.

treat. It's like a guy sneaking a fast food burger while trying Seriously! to maintain a heart healthy diet.

tired. Labs relate to me, and Jake is no exception.

Our family has been through four male Labs over the to work. years. They were all raised from pups and I know what me tick. My daughter has a yellow Lab, and when I visit, he is at my side for the entire stay. He even follows me into the bathroom. How sick is that?

The neighbor lady is trying desperately to train Jake. She has a trainer coming over for regular lessons and is making some progress. If Jake sees me, forget the training. He bolts for his Milk Bone and then literally attacks me until we get some fetching or rough housing going.

If I'm out for my morning walk and maybe even a mile blame him. ahead of Jake and Linda, his owner, he'll pick up my scent miles is too tough on him. I know it's really because she to wear the neighbor's boxers ... I'm not so sure.

Are you a Lowell city resident? Do you enjoy the rural

atmosphere of your city - the possibilities for walking,

biking, hiking, etc.? If so, please be aware of the decision

your city council members are being faced with as Lowell

the rural country atmosphere for all these outdoor activities.

It is adjacent to the river as well as state land, which makes

it even more unique and valuable for preservation.

This is prime property for maintaining "green space,"

Lowell Ledger thanks you in advance for your cooperation.

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

Light and Power vacates the North Washington Street site.

To The Editor

Dear Editor,

thinks I'm a bad influence. It's sort of like high school when some girls' fathers wouldn't let them go on a date with me. They blamed it on the motorcycle, but I knew it was really me they didn't like.

Poor Jake has been relegated to this overly protective environment and we don't see much of each other any more. All of this brings me to an episode from last week. I needed to set the stage for this little story so that you can begin to believe it.

I knew Jake was scheduled to be neutered last Tuesday. Their vet recommended postponing the procedure until he had a chance to develop physically. I'm not sure I agree, but that's beside the point.

I hadn't seen Linda on my morning walk all week. When I did see her on Friday, she was in the car running an early morning errand. She stopped to talk briefly. She

The first words out of her mouth was a report on Jake. When I asked why I hadn't seen her out for a morning walk,

After the surgery, the vet told her to try and keep Jake I've told you no expense is spared for their dog. The reason Why does Jake think I'm the greatest? For starters, I Linda looked tired and frazzled was because she was always have a big old Milk Bone dog biscuit on me when I sleeping on the floor at night listening for him to try and think I might see him. I don't think Milk Bones are on his lick his incision. If he did, she'd be there to stop him. When closely supervised diet, so the cheap Milk Bone is a real I saw her, she'd been three nights without any real sleep.

She then said they might not be going to a wedding on More important than the treat, I have about the same Saturday that the entire neighborhood was invited to. She mentality as a Lab. For us, life is all about chasing cats, was worried about Jake's stitches. The vet had said boxer retrieving anything that can be thrown, swimming, eating, shorts work to keep the dog away from the incision. The bending the rules and flaking out on the sofa when we're only problem with that idea was Linda's husband, Jake's a shootout. dad, weighs close to 300 pounds. His boxers weren't going

At the wedding I was talking to another neighbor. makes them tick. Which is, all the same things that make I mentioned that Jake must have been doing okay, as his owners were there. (Yeh, I was going to poke a little fun.) This neighbor, a skinny little guy, replied with, "Oh, you haven't heard the latest?" Never above a little gossip I said,

Because this guy was the littlest in the neighborhood, he was tapped to loan a pair of underwear to Jake's recovery. He said they wanted to "borrow" the underwear. He told them they could go ahead and keep the boxers. Can't say I

That's the story of Jake, the poor pampered Lab. I had and literally drag her down the road. She has stopped taking always said that if I ever come back in another life I want to Jake with her on her morning walks. She tells me that four be these people's dog. After this neutering thing and having

We as neighbors have been working hard to convince

the city council to preserve this area but we are Vergennes

Township residents and so are not represented by the Lowell

City Council. They need to hear from you - city residents -

as to your concerns and desires for this area. Please let your

voices be heard since ours aren't. Call or write your council

members or attend the city council meetings to voice your

are what help make Lowell the wonderful rural community

that most of us live here for. When it's gone, there's no

We are losing more and more areas like this and yet they

Peggy Covert

Letters, cont'd., pg. 7

Ledger Entries



125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL APRIL 27, 1881

Arbor Day is coming up. Plant some trees.

This is the season for measles.

The east side has huge puddles and full basements. Something needs to be done about this.

There are too many boys in the streets each day who ought to be in school.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER APRIL 26, 1906

A Sand Lake burglar is captured on Bridge Street after

The state tuberculosis sanitarium will be located at Howell.

Parmalee will have a beauty contest for the woman with

the most shapely nose. A gang of men is trying to round up a herd of elk that

escaped from the Hill game preserve near Pontiac.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO APRIL 23, 1931

Elmer Layer makes state Class C records in the shot-put and discus in a meet with East Grand Rapids at Recreation Park, takes firsts in javelin and broad jump, and ties for second in high jump.

About 60 Kent farmers, including 20 from the Lowell area, have received federal farm aid, averaging about \$150.

There were 30,000 brook trout which were distributed in three local creeks last week, courtesy of Grand Trunk

Dr. Altland is driving a new Ford Victoria.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER APRIL 26, 1956

The damaged west gateway to Lowell is slated to be torn down in a week, and now the east gateway has been cracked by a dozing driver.

Over 50 rural school districts will meet at Lowell to discuss recent state changes in tuition and transportation rates, and annexation laws.

Councilman Frank Battistella tells the Ledger about the Law Enforcement Committee's concerns with speeding and overtime parking.

The police department office is being moved from the City Hall "kitchen" to the front of the building.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER APRIL 22, 1981

Rising costs plus lower student numbers and state conomy put next year's school budget in a crunch.

Frank Baker retires after 35 years in the Volunteer Fire Department, 27 years as fire chief; and 15 years as mechanic for the city of Lowell.



Rev. Randy Mevers Calvary Christian Reformed Church

TIGERS

Off in a corner of the huge empty country of Cheewho there was a remote village called Nansha. It was a village of tree people. They lived in trees because many hungry tigers roamed the forest floor. To keep the tigers out of the trees the tree people built cones at the base of the trees much like we would see cones on bird feeders to keep away the squirrels.

Now as tree children were inclined to do, they would play nearest the top of the cones as was possible. As you can imagine, this led quite often to various youth slipping to the tigers below. The fortunate thing was that frequently the youth would land on a tiger. The tiger would thrash about for a while but unable to eat the youth, the tiger would eventually settle down. Other tigers, though, wanting some food would be forced to stay away from the child on the tiger for fear of messing with one of their own.

Thus, as long as tree people fell out of trees, landed on tigers, and stayed on them, they were relatively free to go on living. If, however, they tried to get off a tiger it was almost certainly curtains. So they clung to the tiger on which they landed for dear life. They could relax their grip only momentarily when their cat napped. They could steal scraps of food while their tiger ate. They could sip water while

their tiger bathed in the river. But they could never let go.

Over time there grew to be two distinct cultures. There were tree people and tiger people. The tiger people even started to think they had better lives. For, while the tree people lived free, they were stuck in the trees and could only travel as far as they could jump or build a bridge from tree to tree. The tiger people, on the other hand, had managed somehow to build harnesses out of branches, grasses and vines which, within reason, permitted them to steer their cat, thus achieving some mobility.

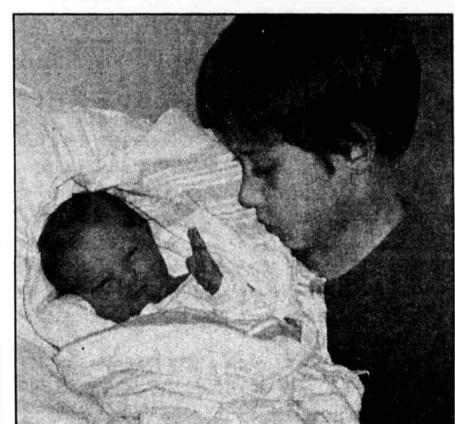
Occasionally a tree person would fall to the ground and the tiger people would console themselves with the fact that at least when they fell they had landed on tigers. They would use these opportunities to invite tree people to time their jumps, intentionally join them on the tigers, and avoid the accidental falls which almost never went well.

Of course, occasionally tiger people would also fall or get knocked off their tiger by a low hanging vine. These

times were reminders to the tree people of the hazards of life on the ground. They would call down to the tiger people asking if they could lower a vine, enabling the tiger people to climb back up to safety. But the tiger people remembered hearing a story or two about someone once trying that technique only to barely survive. So they pledged to never try it. Life was simply too good to mess with it as it was.

Reflection questions: Who are the tree people or tiger people in your life? Is it possible for you to be both? Why does life seem easier when it is lived unintentionally? Why is it easier to get on the tiger than off or to fall out of the tree than climb back in? Are all tigers bad and are all trees good? What event or course of action in your life was hard to get started but easy to maintain once it was started? If that event was positive, how do you keep it going? If that event was negative, how do you get out? What truth does this story illustrate? What moral could you learn from it? What questions do you have? Email calvarycrc@juno.com





Sprague

Big brothers, Jacob and Zachary Sprague wish to welcome home their baby brother, Lucas Kerry, who was born on February 14, 2006. He weighed 9 lbs. 9 oz. and measured 20.5 inches.

Proud parents are Brad of Indiana and Corliss Sprague of Highland.

Congregational church hosts concert

of the First Congregational

May 17 at 404 N. Hudson St., Lowell. The event is to help Sudanese families with basic everyday needs such as food, clean water and medical kits.

The public is invited to attend the 7 p.m. concert. All monies will benefit the

The Youth Justice Squad world.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church 6655 Cascade Rd. S.E. (between 28th St. and Burton) Grand Rapids, MI 49546

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First Monday of the month (starts May 1)

4:30 p.m. Registration begins 6:00 p.m. Food distribution

WHERE: The church parking lot

For more information, please call the church office at 949-4342.

and Heather Sprague of Lowell. Proud grandparents are Kerry and Shirley Tap of Lowell, Linda Harper of Dorr, John and Mary Sprague

Big brother, Jacob holding his baby brother, Lucas Kerry Sprague.

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College News James December, 2005 graduates.

The Youth Justice Squad Church will be holding a concert on Wednesday,

Phi Kappa Phi, Western J. Fisher, Ryan M. Jones, Michigan University chapter Jennifer L. Spinner and Pretzel, Debbie Burrows. on April 17. Membership Jennifer L. Williams. is by invitation only to the top 7.5 percent of second- Katherine R. Gritter and semester juniors and the top Neil B. Reimbold. 10 percent of seniors and graduate students within all of the colleges at WMU. a senior at Northwood

deprived citizens of Sudan.

was formed last year to help establish justice around the

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

ATTENTION: BIBLE BELIEVERS If you would like to attend a church where the King James Bible is held up as the perfect, preserved word of God with all the words of God for all English speaking people, then give us a visit at: 901 W. Main, Lowell

Across the street from the Vennen Dodge dealership. 897-6284 or 485-4195 10AM Sunday School; 11AM Morning Service: 6PM Evening Service; Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.

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ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison

Alto • 616-691-8011 ..9:30 A.M. Children's Church......9:30 A.M.

OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey

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Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648 .10:00 A.M Sunday School. Morning Worship ..11:00 A.M .6:00 P.M ..7:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA. (Sept. - April)

YOU ARE WELCOME!

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CHURCH OF LOWELL

Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org

Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor

Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Time

Nursery Provided · Barrier Free

AWANA/CLUB JC.....

. Worship Service 9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.

....Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M.

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Dave Noonon, Asst. Pastor Jonathan & Stacy Holmes, Youth Pastors SUNDAYS: Worship: 10:00 a.m - LIFE Home Groups & "XL" Youth Sunday evenings WEDNESDAYS: Family Night (For All Ages): 7 p.m.

"XL" Youth: 7 p.m. **SNOW UNITED** -METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurlan Meredith

.Worship/Fellowship 1:15 A.M. Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided 5 A friend...a family...a mission!

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BIG GAME

discussing big game hunting. The wild turkey is often overlooked. The turkey was given the status of big game by Florida. A few avid turkey hunters have achieved the grand wildlife managers, but the bird earned its status from those slam of turkey hunting by bagging all four sub-species. who have hunted it.

as any game animal. Excellent eyesight allows the bird to an ambush by responding to a variety of calls. This may Did I mention insects? The memories will last a lifetime. identify unnatural shapes and colors as well as detect the not seem to be that exciting, but listening to the booming

for Thanksgiving.

The most numerous is the Eastern wild turkey which is found in Michigan and throughout the Midwest over to the east coast. The Rio-Grande resides in Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas Elk, deer and bear typically come to mind when and the Big Island of Hawaii. Merriam's turkeys populate a the wind few isolated areas in the west, and the Osceolas strut around

A free ranging wild tom turkey is as difficult to hunt obsession. In the spring, wild turkeys are usually drawn into

slightest movement at long distances. Added to that, the gobble of a strutting tom as he moves even closer sparks exceptionally wary nature of the turkey makes it a very an adrenaline rush. The gobbles get louder and louder as challenging quarry. If they could smell like a deer, the turkey the distance shrinks until the huge bird with its bright red hunter would be wise to keep a back-up ham in the freezer and white head and fanned-out tail suddenly appears at the edge of the cover. It will seem like the bird is looking right There are four sub-species of wild turkeys in the country. through you and knows you are there even if you are in full. camouflage and sitting motionless. The drama now becomes intense because the slightest movement by the hunter will likely tip-off the tom and he will disappear like smoke on

Turkey hunting has all the excitement and intrigue of any moose or caribou hunt. The best part is that hunting during the spring season is a great time to be out in the fields Be advised that hunting turkeys can become an and woods. Birds sing, squirrels chatter, and the woods are filled with the smell of emerging greenery and damp earth.

Letters, continued...From page 5

From the Lowell area

Dear Editor,

University.

is responsible for the billboard promoting Lowell "The Next Place to Be," I would like to address a question that has been a billboard for Lowell located on the freeway past the exit phone number for the Chamber of Commerce. for Lowell? Good question, folks.

marketing is best described as an awareness campaign. We are not trying to get people to immediately exit the freeway We decided to get the ball rolling now. In addition to the one

into the Honors Society of are Kristen J. Alters, Skye

Forward, a 2002 graduate University in Midland, has

at Haworth College of this academic recognition,

Business, Western Michigan students must earn a 3.25

an accounting major for winter term. To achieve

of Lowell High School, been named to the dean's list Carmen Roudabush.

Michigan Jeffery and Julie Rickert of

grade point on a 4.0 scale.

the historical museum and the free concerts. Lowell is a awareness builder. great place to live, work, raise a family, open a business, or

What we are doing with the "Next Place to Be" consider it as a place to live, work or shop. As such, we

Janice Ryder, Dennis

APRIL 28:

Shawna Austin, Kattie

APRIL 29:

APRIL 30:

MAY 1:

MAY 2:

D'Agostino, Glen Bryant,

Tim Mastenbrook, Jaclyn

Dennis Anchors, Rick Roth,

Mark Christiansen.

From the Ada area are Terese Brown, Tim Vezino,

Jacob D. Rickert, K.J. Vezino, Bryan Roth,

Rickert is the son of Madison Briggs, Melinda

Hildenbrand.

Lucy Wade.

MAY 3:

Wilma Roudabush, Melissa

Merriman, Mimi Mitchell,

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Rich Bieri.

are trying to make people in West Michigan more aware of and visit Lowell (not that we would mind if they do!). This As a member of the Community Marketing team which everything Lowell has to offer - from our great schools to is not an event-driven advertising effort, but a long-term

The billboard on I-96 will be up for one year and we are posed to me several times since the billboard went up on simply visit for shopping and dining. The billboard directs planning other marketing tools like print ads, direct mail and westbound I-96 just west of M-50. The question is: Why is people to the website www.DiscoverLowell.org and has the some radio ads to supplement our efforts to bring Lowell to the attention of West Michigan. We could not have been able We want people to learn more about Lowell and to begin our marketing effort for several months if we had elected to wait until a billboard prior to exit 52 was available. on I-96, keep your eyes peeled for similar billboards along M-21, M-66, and rotating in various locations in and around Grand Rapids over the next 12 months.

Thanks for asking - I hope this clarifies things. Cliff Yankovich



Lynn Mitchell has moved to **Salon 206**

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WHAT I WILL WORK FOR A publicly stated goal to have the best academic program

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DON'T THROW YOUR MORTGAGE INTO "REVERSE"

If you're like many homeowners in this country, you Financial Focus probably saw your house appreciate in value quite a bit over the past few years. That's the good news. The not-so-good news is that, during this same time period, your savings and net worth might have stagnated or fallen. What does this mean for you? It could mean that when you retire, you do \$93,100 Serving Individuals Investors Since 1871 what a lot of current retirees are doing: using the equity in their homes to fund a large portion of their retirement. And

that is not a good thing.

Before looking at how retirees are tapping into their

home equity, let's review a few statistics from a recent survey by the Federal Reserve. (The survey, released in early 2006, covers the years from 2001-2004.)

The typical American household's net worth (assets minus debts) increased only slightly, from \$91,700 to

 The typical family's savings (including retirement accounts) fell from almost \$30,000 to just \$23,000.

Financial Focus, cont'd., pg. 9

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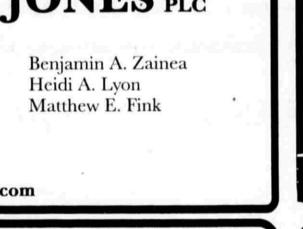
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Legal Ease

With Jonathan David

DEAR JONATHAN: My husband and I have been married just over three years. This is my first marriage and his second. He has children from his first marriage, but he

the house, and I realize that if he were to die that I would be entitled to those assets. However, he has approximately \$2,000,000 worth of assets in his name alone. If he dies and does not leave a last will and testament, how much of that \$2,000,000 would I be entitled to?

JONATHAN SAYS: Under Michigan law, any time someone dies intestate, which means without a last will and THE LOWELL LEDGER - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2006 PAGE 9

is not on real good terms with them, or his ex-wife. I have testament, and that person leaves a surviving spouse and been harping on him to prepare a will, but I can't seem to get children from a prior marriage, then the surviving spouse is him motivated. Some of our assets are in joint names, like entitled to the following: The first \$100,000 plus one half of the balance of the testate estate.

In your case, if your husband's testate estate is worth \$2,000,000, then you would be entitled to the first \$100,000, plus one half of the balance, or \$950,000 for a total of \$1,050,000; the remaining \$950,000 would pass to your

Legal Ease, cont'd., pg. 12

Financial Focus, continued...From Page 8

 The median value of homes rose from \$131,000 to \$161,000, a 22 percent jump.

resources available to comfortably support themselves are two to consider: during their retirement years. Consequently, an increasing installment payments.

But if you ever decide to sell your home, you will have to pay back what you borrowed on your reverse mortgage. And if you were to die and leave the house to your children, they would have to pay back the loan.

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WETCLEANER

Clearly, these are potentially big drawbacks to taking out a reverse mortgage. And that's why, if you have many By looking at these numbers, you can easily see years to go until you retire, you'll want to give yourself

· "Max out" on your IRA each year. Put in the number of retirees are taking out "reverse mortgages." This maximum allowable contribution to your Roth or traditional is a special kind of loan that enables borrowers to convert IRA each year. And fund your IRA as early as possible every their home equity into cash, either through a line of credit or year; the more time you have on your side, the greater your immediately start receiving an income stream, which can growth potential

Each time you get an increase in salary, defer more money in your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. As you enter retirement, you may be able to boost your

income by doing the following:

· Delay taking Social Security. You can begin collecting Social Security at age 62, but your monthly checks the problem that many retirees are facing: too few liquid more options for boosting your retirement cash flow. Here will be larger if you can wait until your full retirement age, which can be anywhere from 65 to 67.

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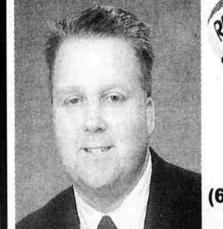
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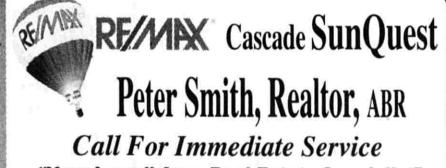


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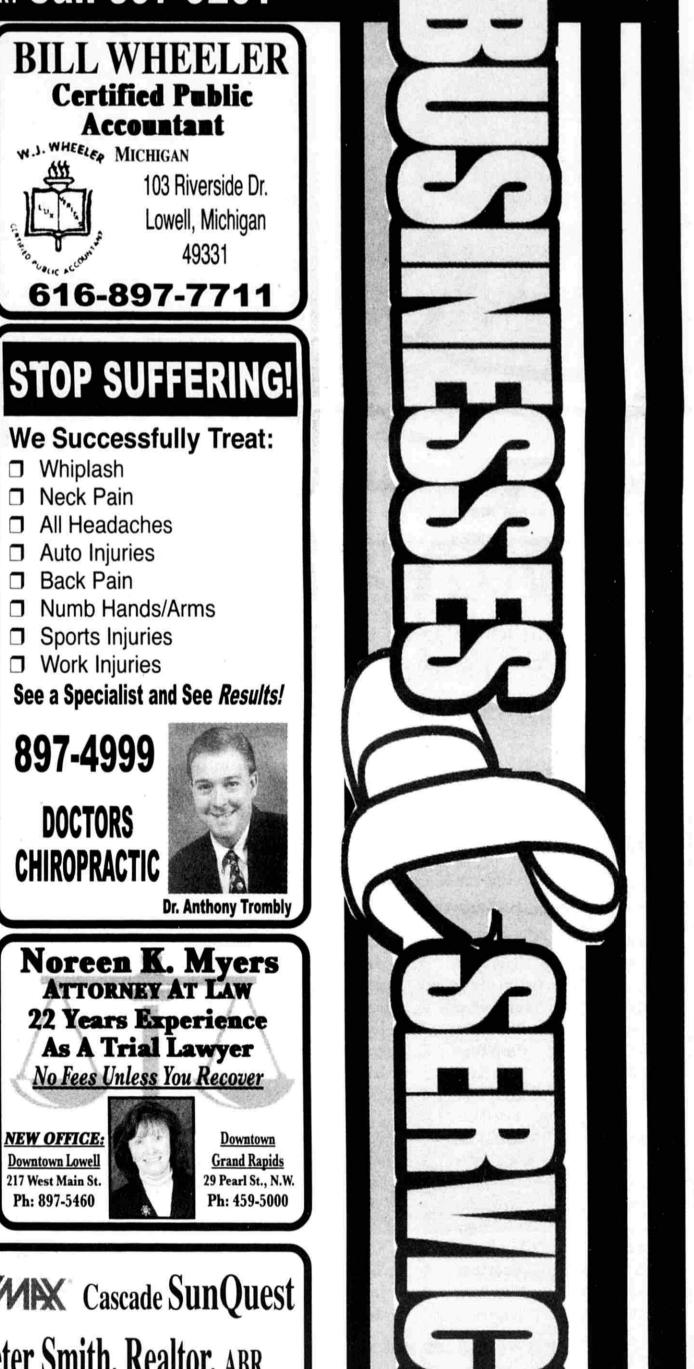


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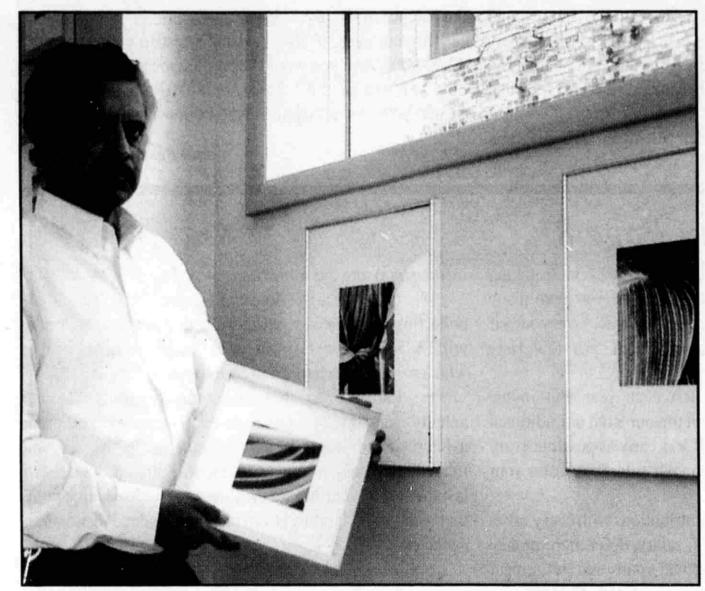


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Photographer explores time through lilies, chair, light



Artwork currently on display at Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

By Dan Schneider

Sevak at the Riverwalk be interested in exhibiting stop in what for Sevak Gallery in the Lowell Area more work in Lowell. He has been a tour of U.S. art Chamber of Commerce features some of the most exciting artwork to come Arvind, spent most of last to Lowell since the Lowell Tuesday afternoon hanging University invited him as West Michigan Regional commerce. His photographs that, he had taught graphic Competition (WMRC) not are parts of two series: one design for 17 years in India. too long ago.

what brought Sevak to Lowell in the first place. Arts aspects of both series. council executive director Lorain Smalligan saw his

photography in that juried he is an associate professor An exhibit by Pravin show and asked if he would of art. The post is the latest

Council's frames at the chamber of a visiting faculty. Prior to about a canna lily; the other Since then, he has taught That competition was about a chair. Color, line at Truman State University and shape are the primary in Missouri and Northern

"I enjoy playing with made and nature."

Man-made would be the my passion, it's not my chair; nature would be the profession sort of thing,"

The concept of time is to this country, I restarted ntroduced in both series. that passion that I was doing In the chair photos, time is in India in my younger found in the movement of days." shadows. The canna lily photographs depict time in shows Sevak will present the life cycle of the plant. in Lowell. His next will

"It's a life cycle, I call be a series on water at the it a life line in the series," Huntington Galleria. At Sevak said. "How that plant the end of summer, he will grows and changes colors." be showing work at the

Later in the series, Riverwalk Gallery again. Sevak photographed the This time, it won't be lily as it was decaying, but photography but a set of 16 those photos are not part of yantras (pronounced ee-ahn-

in the for meditation. photographs is specifically known as a Bengal tiger of Sevak's office at Western said

"I am bringing Indian culture here to show people canna lily. Last year, it was what the yantra is and how growing outside the window I see these yantras," Sevak

tras). The paintings are used

"Photography

Sevak said. "Being very new

It is the first of several

He will also be one of four photographers who will spend a year chronicling their perspectives of Lowell for a show next year at the arts council gallery on Hudson Street.



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Top: Pravin Sevak with examples of his artwork currently on display at the Riverwalk Gallery in the Lowell Area

Above: Two photographs from Sevak's series on a Bengal Tiger canna lily. The images reflect changes in light and plant growth over time

VOTE MAY 2ND

And join these Lowell citizens voting YES, YES on the school millage issues Support our local schools!

YES Proposition I - Renew the 18 mill non-homestead property tax. (Currently provides over 3 million dollars of school funding)

YES Proposition II - Restore the millage back to 18 mills and override the Headlee amendment (Would provide over \$270,000 of lost school funding)

		or were consistent and se		0)
Kelly Taylor	Colleen Damm	Melissa VanderSloot	Brad Mooney	Phil Wilson
Patty Smith	Brent Noskey	Jeremy Barber	Jake Munson	Jennifer Haywoo
Tracy Loughlin	Jeff Clevenger	Heather Kuzdzal	Melissa Casalina	Mike Lezan
Rich Bouwhuis	Pearl Fohlbrook	Tammy Beatson	Howard Burton	Eva Carey
Rick Walendzik	Pat McMahon	Lannie Rice	Kate Dernocoeur	Greg Frey
Kathy Curtis	Dave Warsen	Heather McCormack	Renay Bouwhuis	Karl Fohlbrook
Mark Beatson	Carol Burton	James Carey	Mike McMahon	Bob Rice
Bonnie Frey	Bucky Curtis	Stephanie Warsen	Jeff McCormack	Marilyn Wilson
Lynn Nauta	Kyle Gildea	Judy Straub	David Pasquale	Phil Nauta
Angela Gildea	Kendal Khodl	Jodi Sheveland	Kelly Fuller	Angela Baerwald
Kathy Noffke	Jack Weeber	Toby Alderink	Karen Woodhead	Lisa Hindley
Paula Briggs	Cindy Wissman	Lisa Noskey	Mary Mooney	Mike Khodl
Jeff Fuller	Joan Weeber	Wendy Alderink	Denise Washburn	Sue Wernet
Don Hindley	Chris Briggs	Heidi Heffron	Andrea Clevenger	Mike Taylor
Tammy Barber	Mike Kuzdzal	Eric Damm	Heidi Munson	Breyound Haywo
Joseph Casalina	Karen Lezan	Dan Stadt	Diane Stinson	Kammie VanOost
Ken White	Katie Peters	Rachel Stadt	Ron Stinson	Bill VanOosten
Sandi White	Gregg Peters	Marcia Roth		

This vote does not affect the taxes of your primary residence or qualified agricultural property!

Support your local schools on May 2nd and vote YES, YES

For additional information visit the school website at http:// www.lowell.k12.mi.us/ or call 987-2500 Paid for by the Lowell Parents Yes, Yes Committee • 12691 Heim, Lowell, MI 49331

So he and his wife, 1998.

simple lines, colors," Sevak he has been for three years. said. "This whole show is Photography is something basically how beautiful our he has done on the side since surroundings are, both mancoming to the U.S.

Michigan University where

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OF KENT

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growing ecological scourge

By Dan Schneider

schools since he left India in owned land, is organizing are especially vulnerable. volunteers for a garlic Kentucky University before encouraged to attend. coming to Western, where

> north of the Boy Scout Cabin the west end of the lake. on North Washington Street.

citizens real good response with youth rid of what's growing at the will have a chance this groups, so that's been real great," Covert said. "They is considered by many a get a lot accomplished."

Lowell resident Peggy survival combatted the invasive plant competing local plants for mustard. species both on her property sun, water and soil nutrients. and on nearby publically- Delicate spring wildflowers things on my plate that

pull will take place at 1 p.m. area, it is difficult to near- DeJong said. at Stoney Lakeside Park. impossible to eradicate. That

"I noticed over there interested in participating. we're hoping we can stop channel 20.

"We've been having a it from spreading if we get

Volunteers out to destroy invasive plant species locally

Volunteers have been a help in combatting garlic Garlic mustard, a mustard. Department of in southern Michigan: garlic highly aggressive plant with Public Works employees do complex and successful not have enough time, among mechanisms, all their grounds care duties, Covert, who for years has damages ecosystems by out- to locate and deal with garlic

"I've got so many other don't really take huge notice Once garlic mustard of remembering where they mustard pull Saturday. This gets well established in an are," cemetery sexton Don

Pulling garlic mustard Anyone who is available is is why Covert has selected plants does have an impact. Stoney Lakeside Park as the Covert said Melanie Good, A similar pull last site for the next pull. There a naturalist with Blandford Wednesday attracted more is a large amount of the Nature Center who lives near than 25 people, who pulled plant growing there, but it is Lowell, has seen evidence of garlic mustard plants along located all in one place, near native wildflower recovery the Flat River in the forest the start of the hiking trail at in areas where garlic mustard was pulled last year.

Covert has produced a Covert expects Saturday's in the woods where we're video documentary about pull to attract a similar going, there's a huge area garlic mustard in Lowell. It number of people. She said right at the beginning of the airs at 7 p.m. Wednesday, 6 girl scouts and church youth trail but there's very little p.m. Thursday, and 7 p.m. groups have been especially farther on," Covert said. "So Friday on Lowell Cable



Volunteers plan to remove this and other garlic mustard plants, which are growing near a trailhead at Stoney Lakeside Park, this Saturday.

Local Brownie troop donates to Louisiana Girl Scouts



Brownie Troop #2408 recently donated \$100 towards rebuilding Girl Scout camps in southeast Louisiana hit by Hurricane Katrina. The second grade girls, most of them from Cherry Creek Elementary and one from Murray Lake Elementary, used profits from their Girl Scout cookie sale. They set a good example living by the Girl Scout Law to "be a sister to every Girl Scout."



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FOSTER'S

COUNTRYSIDE

Radio, continued ... From Page 1

several from outside the play all day, however, on computer rotation. Eckman said the station plans to put together a programming regular schedule, perhaps from 7 to 10 p.m. The station is equipped to do remote broadcasts, and plans to broadcast Lowell football games along with other athletic events. It will also broadcast live from community events such as the Kent County Youth

By the end of April, the the capacity to broadcast wireless technology class, station will be wired into musical performances and do most of their work the microphone system in other events there. after school. Music does the LPAC. It will then have



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Thebes Players' "On Golden Pond" production continues



Pictured, left to right, are: Ken Trupke, Jim Marron, Elly Stevens, Sally McAlpine, Daniel Trupke and Walt Williams.

Come join the Thayers and an evening of laughs! The Thebes Players are presenting the dinner theater "On Golden Pond" this weekend at Larkin's Banquet Hall. Dinner is at 6:30, the show at 7:30 on Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29; a 2 p.m. matinee is on Sunday, April 30. Tickets are available at the Lowell Area Arts Council 897-8545 or online at www. thebesplayers.org.

The cast includes Jim Marron as Norman Thayer, Elly Stevens at Ethel Thayer, Sally McAlpine as Chelsea Thayer, Walt Williams as Bill Ray, Daniel Trupke as Billy Ray Jr. and Ken Trupke as Charlie.

Turkey with stuffing. mashed potatoes, green and pie are on the Show tickets-only are also available.

Humane Society open house

reduced adoption fees on all pets, discounted microchip Mortgage ID's, pet photography and children's activities.

A spring open house a veterinary exam, disease will be held at the Humane screening, vaccinations, Society of Kent County spay/neuter surgery, pet ID on Sunday, April 30 from chip, and pet food. The event 12-4 p.m. Featured will be is sponsored by Bissell, Invisible Fence and Priority

For more information go online to www.HSKC. All adoption fees include org or call 791-8088.

Kite fest

kite weather is too.

The annual Great Lakes Kite Festival attracts thousands of people to the Lake Michigan area each spring. The 17th annual festival, put on by Mackinaw Kites and Toys, will be held May 19, 20 and 21 at Grand Haven State Park.

Just because March is featured: stunt kites, ballet behind us doesn't mean that kites and even fighter kites performing an aerial game of tag. Free kiting seminars are offered as well.

Families will also enjoy the Family Fun Tent with a giant inflatable obstacle course, carnival games and crafts for the kids on Saturday. All proceeds will benefit Children's Leukemia A variety of kites will be Foundation of Michigan.

Legal Ease, continued...From Page 9

husband's children from his set up trusts. Am I supposed estate on your husband's trust, the trustee of the trust last will and testament of your respective trusts and

and testament, he will finally purchased as an investment the will does not name you process.

months ago. Fortunately closing in order to transfer guess, however, is that your beneficiaries named in his of that person's death. we set up an estate plan the lot to the buyers? a couple years ago and arranged it so that we would

DEAR JONATHAN: name, so do I need to bring the lot would pass to the through probate before they decedent's residence within

his not preparing a last will husband owned a lot he to sell it. In other words, if on your own.

husband's trust is named in will to receive those assets.

to do anything with his behalf and depending upon can either sell the lot on your needs to be filed with the those assets which are titled Maybe after you explain will and trust at this point? what the will states, you may behalf or distribute the lot to probate court in the county outside of the trust. The to him the consequences of The reason I ask is that my or may not have the right you and allow you to sell it in which your husband attorney can further advise If your husband owned death. Under Michigan law, probating your husband's get motivated enough to several years ago, and now as the beneficiary of the lot any other assets in his the holder of the original estate and administering his engage in the estate planning I want to sell it. The realtor and names someone else, name alone at the time will of the decedent is pointed out that the lot is then you would not have of his death, then those required to file that will titled just in my husband's the right to sell the lot, and assets also will need to go with the probate court of the

his will as the beneficiary of In other words, in order for you meet with an estate JONATHAN SAYS: If his probate estate and that those assets to pass to the planning attorney who If legal advice or legal avoid probate at either of your husband's lot is just in you are the beneficiary of that named beneficiary, they can review with you your representation is desired, our deaths. Besides power his name alone, then in order trust. Assuming I am correct need to be probated first. husband's will and trust, as please consult with an of attorneys, we both wrote to be able to sell that lot, you in my assumption, then once Regarding your original well as those assets that are attorney. last will and testaments and need to open up a probate the lot is distributed to the question, your husband's currently titled in the name

resided at the time of his you as to how to go about

information contained in this column My husband died several the will and trust to the named beneficiary. My can be distributed to the a reasonable period of time is not to be construed as legal advice or legal I recommend that representation and should

LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS BOARD BRIEFS

Regular Meeting of April 17, 2006 STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Brooke Liu. Student Council President and Student Representative to the Board, reported that the Student Council sponsored blood drive went very well. The students who took the 18 hour bus trip to Mississippi to help with Hurricane Katrina relief were very impressed with staff, parents, and community members who turned out at the bus loading to wish the students well and to offer support. The Jr. Class is participating in "LHS Idol" which mirrors American Idol, and students are enjoying sharing their talents. Elections will be held in May for student council officers.

REPORTS -

Alternative Spring Break Trip

Brooke Liu, along with fellow students Alena Brubaker and Megan Lyonnais, reported on the Student Council sponsored Alternative Spring Break trip to Mississippi. The students were amazed at the devastation from Hurricane Katrina and they worked hard in bringing some relief to the victims. The students felt the trip was very rewarding and stated that they will be going next year as well.

ACTION ITEMS -

The Board accepted the following gifts:

the TOTS Program.

\$1500 to be used by the LHS Junior Class.

Adopted the resolution naming Michigan Teacher Day each of the school libraries.

Approved the implementation for the 6th-9th grade science curriculum along with the textbook adoption. Approved the renaming of the stadium at the high school to the levy on the May 2 ballot will be for three years. "Red Arrow Memorial Stadium", the field to the "Bob Perry

Field," and that Kathy Talus be honored with a plaque on the "honor wall"

CONSENT ITEMS - Approved/adopted were: · Minutes for March 13, 2006 Regular Meeting, the back for adoption at the May Board meeting on its March 21, 2006 Special Meeting, and the March 27, 2006 Board Workshop and Closed Session

The following payment of bills for March 2006: GENERAL FUND. SCHOOL SERVICES FUND A. Food Service Fund. B. Athletic Fund... 2004 Construction Fund. ..\$4,743.91 Scholarship Fund TRUST AND AGENCY FUND. .\$50,159,96

Shared Time Program at St. Patrick School **BUDGET UPDATE INFORMATION** - Connie Gillette reported that the '05-'06 budget will be reviewed with the Board members at their Board workshop. It is expected that the State will raise the per pupil foundation allowance by \$220 next year

NON-HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX LEVY David & Kelly Landgren donation of toys valued at INFORMATION - Connie Gillette explained the levy that will be placed before the voters at the May 2 property tax levy applies only to industrial, commercial, business, rental and second homes and does not affect as Tuesday, May 9 and purchase reading materials for the millage rate (6 mills) on owner-occupied primary residences. Voters approved the initial 18-mill levy in

for five years and expires in June, 2006. The 18-mill

WELLNESS POLICY DISCUSSION - Patty Sellner

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Pat Murphy thanked Burt Breuker and Amy Pallo for reporting on ...\$1,103,435.08 the science curriculum for grades 6-9. He also thanked the administrators for picking up jobs and duties from Mark Kasmer's curriculum and instruction position and for Connie's work with compiling information and reporting on the non-homestead property tax levy. Pat reminded voters of the May 2 election.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, May 8, 2006 Runciman Administration Building - Board Room 300 High St., Lowell, MI - 7:00 p.m.

Runciman Administration Building - Board Room 300 High St., Lowell, MI - 5:30 p.m.

Please visit our web page at www.lowellschools.com

Detroit Edison offers spring storm season safety tips

Damaging spring storms as quickly as possible.

continually prepares for power outages. Detroit unavoidable storm outages Edison offers the following aid kit, a fire extinguisher, to do before a storm:

First Baptist Church the group went inside to g.i.r.l. (growing intimate

of Lowell held their hear the resurrection story relationships with the

annual Easter egg hunt told by Terre Ritchie. Lord). It is a group of

on Saturday, April 15 Prizes and refreshments young mothers who meet

Renee Johnson's children were just a few who participated in this year's

The event was First Baptist Church.

First Baptist Egg Hunt

with approximately 75 followed.

Easter egg hunt at First Baptist Church.

continued...From Page 4

registration or identification may also be ordered online

stickers, though boaters through the Michigan e-

may notice the decal order Store at www.michigan.

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form in their registration gov/michiganmall.

Boating,

renewal package. Decals

After searching for eggs, hosted by the ministry,

food and a can opener.

weekly for Bible study at

customers can take as emergency kit: include a phone on hand because than absolutely necessary. to restore service. Always matches or a lighter, a first- automated garage doors.

medical equipment should ask their physician about has a medical condition source. that would be adversely accommodations family or friends.

 Customers who depend generator, on a well for drinking water

• Stay at least 10 feet away from downed power lines and anything they may be touching, especially metal fences. Treat every downed power line as if it were energized. Keep children and pets out of the area.

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· Customers should power outages through Detroit Edison's automated system at (800) 477-4747 from a location with power. Don't assume the company knows your power is out.

 If you lose power, don't open refrigerators

well to make sure they're battery-powered radio or cordless telephones need A closed refrigerator will operate generators outdoors prepared for - and stay television, a flashlight with electricity to operate. Learn stay cold for 12 hours. Kept to avoid dangerous buildup in Michigan. Detroit Edison safe - during storm-related extra batteries, candles and how to manually open closed, a well-filled freezer of toxic fumes. will preserve food for two • Customers who depend days. Partially thawed food conditions - when lights are to ensure service is restored tips and suggestions: What bottledwater, non-perishable on electrically powered or food that has ice crystals dim and television pictures

usually can be refrozen. a battery back-up system. for heating, or charcoal as refrigerators to prevent If a customer is elderly or an indoor heating or cooking possible damage. Sensitive · Turn off or unplug should be unplugged.

power all appliances to prevent an with when power is restored.

or switch to "off" all main even fatal injury. What to do during a fuses or circuit breakers to

· Keep a corded or cell and freezers more often protect line crews working

 During low-voltage are smaller - shut off motor-· Never use a gas range driven appliances such as electronic devices also

 Stay out of flooded electrical overload when or damp basements or develop an emergency plan power is restored. Leave on other areas if water is in that allows for alternative one light switch to indicate contact with outlets or any electrically-operated · If using a portable appliance. The water or disconnect moisture may serve as a house circuits from Detroit conductor of electricity. should have bottled water Edison power lines. Pull This can cause serious or

> "I don't want to be interesting. I want to be good." -Ludwig Mies van der Rohe

CITY OF LOWELL

KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF **AMENDMENTS** THE **DEVELOPMENT** AND TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLANS OF THE CITY OF LOWELL **DOWNTOWN** DEVELOPMENT **AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO ACT** 197 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1975, AS AMENDED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Lowell, pursuant to and in accordance with the Downtown Development Authority Act, Act 197 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1975, as amended ("Act 197"), will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 5, 2006, beginning at 7:30 p.m., local time, at the City Hall, 301 E. Main Street, in the City of Lowell, Kent County,

The public hearing will be held to consider whether the City Council shall, pursuant to Act 197, approve amendments to the Development and Tax Increment Financing Plans (the "Plans") of the City of Lowell Downtown Development Authority (the "DDA") to permit the DDA to create, operate and fund marketing initiatives that benefit retail and general marketing of the DDA District (the "Amendments").

\$50 to be used by Curiosity Corner Preschool and importance of renewing the non-homestead property tax Nancy Frazer donation of prom dresses valued at election. The restoration of the 18 mill non-homestead

1996 and a renewal in 2000. The renewal in 2000 was

reported on the Wellness policy that must be in place by all school districts by July 1, 2006. The Board reviewed the policy on its first reading and the policy will come second reading.

Board Workshop - Monday, May 22, 2006

· Responsibility · Respect · Caring · Trustworthiness · Fairness · Citizenship

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 6th and 20th May 4th and 18th *June 2nd and 15th * July 7th and 20th August 3rd and 17th *September 8th and 21st

*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

The Amendments are available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk located at the City Hall, 301 E. Main Street in the City between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

At the public hearing all interested persons will be heard and all aspects of the Amendments will be open for discussion.



Betty R. Morlock City Clerk

COMING EVENTS

APRIL/MAY

FRI., APRIL 28: Bag O' Books used book sale at Englehardt Library, 9:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

SAT., APRIL 29: TOTS almost new sale, 9-noon, Free to participate. Kathy 987-2532 for more information.

SAT., APRIL 29: Garlic mustard pull at 1 p.m. at Stoney Lakeside Park. All volunteers welcome.

SAT., APRIL 29: 1st annual Altorama car show at Alto Tire & Lube, 6445 Alden Nash SE (next to Alto Marathon). Bikes/trucks welcome. Lunch 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

TUES., MAY 2: Traveling breakfast at Ionia Country Kitchen, 8:30 a.m. Lowell Senior Neighbors.

WED., MAY 3: Volunteers needed for American Cancer Society fundraiser. Kick-off for A Relay to Life at Lowell

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 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).

historic museum, 84th/Alden Nash.

chamber office or Fallasburg, 7 p.m. All invited. Call 897-7161 School at 7:30 p.m. for info. or location.

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 MI#372 meets at Key Heights

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.

Kirby & Harrison meets at 5:30 p.m. Register 1/2 hour before 897-9794. 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

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

High School, LPAC, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Call Elizabeth 364-6121 for information or elizabeth.males@cancer.org

THURS., MAY 4: Vergennes Co-op Club at 1 p.m. at Schneider Manor. Program: Ivan Blough-Remembering our local veterans. Hostesses: Phyllis Bieri and Roma

SAT., MAY 6 & SUN., MAY 7: Spring Into The Past - a tour of W. Michigan small museums. 11-5 p.m. Cll 897-7688 for list of museums.

SAT., MAY 13: Saranac Legion Ladies Auxiliary Garage Sale, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Downtown Saranac.

TUES.. MAY 16: Baby shower for Lowell area expectant moms, at Bright Beginnings, 300 High St. Sponsored by TOTS. 7-8 p.m. Games, prizes, special gifts. Free.

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.

7-8:30 p.m. at Scout Cabin, end of N. Washington St. Call Tim 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. 1ST & 3RD THURS.: Alto Lions Club meets at Monterey Grill 5-8:30 p.m., 4 Health Wellness Center, Bridge St., Saranac. All 2ND MON.: Bowne Township Historical Society meets 7:30 at are welcome. Contact Bev or Melissa, 642-6466. Light dinner

3RD MON.: Fallasburg Historical Society board meetings at 2ND & 4TH TUES.: Knights of Columbus #7719 at St. Mary

3RD TUES.: Parents of children w/AD/HD at St. Luke's Lutheran 3RD MON.: Women of the Moose meetings are held at 7:30 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 St. anytime between 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

2ND WED.: Royal Arch Masons, Hooker Chapter #73 meets Mobile Home Park Community Bldg. Weigh-ins are at 5:45 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., Weight Watchers at Alto United Methodist Church, corner of St. Paul's Anglican Catholic Church, Grand Rapids. Dorothy

> 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

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

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.

Notices in the "Coming Events" are free to any nonprofit organization in the Lowell, Ada, Alto

& Saranac areas. Keep notices brief; may submit by mail, phone - 897-9261, fax -897-4809 or

email - ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com. All submissions are subject to available space.

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 647-3920.

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.

EVERY THURS.: Alcoholics for Christ. - 12 step Recovery Group for alcoholics, drug addicts & family members. 7 p.m. at Impact Church House, H. Hudson. Call Paul at 527-7796 for info. Family members call Erin at 527-7796.

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

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

2ND THURS.: Genealogy-Alto Family Tree Club at Alto Library

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

RED ARROW SIDORIES & TOTAL OF THE PROPERTY OF

Red Arrow track season off and running, jumping, throwing

By Dan Schneider

for both the boys and the (17.92), Monica Fitzpatrick a home win against Kenowa girls teams in Lowell.

into tough competition last Thursday when Greenville team lost 106-31. In the girls meet were Eric Dean in the meet, it was a closer result, pole vault (11'); Tom Doll with Lowell falling short by in the 100 meters (11.54); only three points, 70-67.

the girls team were Morgan Olininthelongjump(15'3"); meter relay team. Jasmine Holliman in the discus throw (95' 5-1/2"); Grand Rapids last Tuesday

in the pole vault; Richelle the Pioneers, 72-64. Track season has started Kimble in the high hurdles in the 1600 meters (5:42.13), Hills last Thursday, the girls potential in the younger The Red Arrows ran and Karen Judd in the 3200 team score was 82-54. The athletes. meters (12:39).

came to town. The boys Greenville in the boys' 15 Hastings Relays. First-place finishers for Onwon Griner and Scott

New LOWELL AND

Lowell's Grady Drown, left, and Mike Ford compete

in the high hurdles event during last Thursday's meet

against Greenville.

LOWELL

LOWELL

Opening the season with Briggs. Arrows also placed seventh Buikema vaulted 9'-6" at Placing first against out of 16 teams at the April Hastings. By the end of the

against Kenowa Hills by a of 10'-1 1/2". 74-59 score. They finished and Justin VanAcker, Doll, 14th at the Hastings Relays. Briggs looks for Lowell to

White (47.78) in the 400- experience this year, having field events and distance. only lost four seniors from The boys team beat East last year's squad.

LOWELL

jump (5'); Alyssa Buikema girls team fell short against experience on the team," awesome."

said Lowell coach Robin

She also sees a lot of Sophomore year, Briggs expects her to The boys team fell short challenge the school record

Similar to last year, The girls team has some win a lot of meet points in

"The field events are pretty deep this year," "We didn't lose a lot she said. "My distance Amy VanEns in the high by a score of 90-42. The so we've still got a lot of girls are awesome, totally

Fitzpatrick, for instance, medaled in all of her events at the Hastings meet and took first place in each event against Kenowa Hills.

The boys team is benefiting from a deeper roster than they've had in recent years. Coach Russ Stevens said several seniors have come out for the track team for the first time this year to get in another sport their last season at Lowell.

Stevens said this is the strongest track team Lowell has fielded in a while, "but what has impressed us coaches the most is the guys' dedication to improve, their coachability and their sense of team unity."

Senior Tom Doll once have already swept the high again leads the Arrows in the 100 meters event.

"Tom Doll has a very Rapids and Kenowa Hills). good chance of being all Andy Mark is the Arrows' Dean has cleared 12'6" in conference in the 100 top distance runner. Stevens the pole vault and Brad Shea meter and 200 meter dash," has also been impressed is throwing the discuss more

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

Regan Doyle, Mike improvement in the 400 Ford and Grady Drown meters.

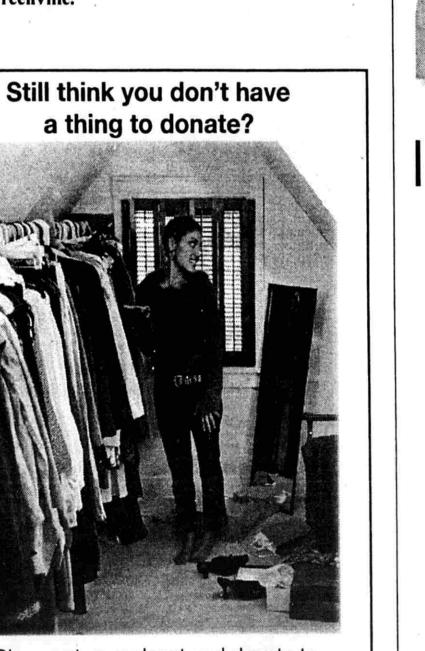
Lowell's Jasmine Holliman throws the discus during

"It's obvious that Micah this season (East Grand

Thursday's meet.

hurdles event in two meets worked hard in the offseason," Stevens said. In the field events, Eric

Stevens said. with Micah Tawney's than 120 feet. HACROM 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!"



Clean out your closet and donate to

goodwill stores

Red Arrow baseball rolls through two doubleheaders

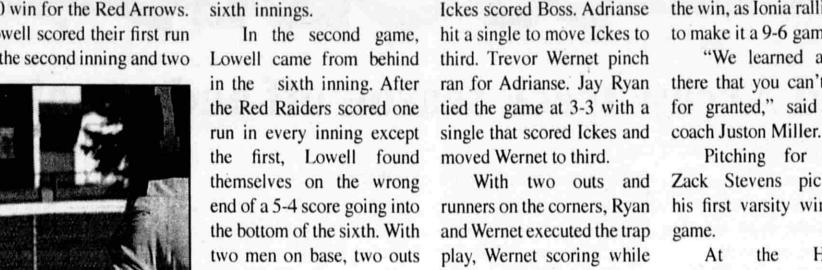
against Ionia.

Saturday.

Lowell scored six goals

of Portland and Ionia

won two games each against out 13 batters en route to a runs each in the third and to third. Then a single by Arrows had to hold on for 5-0 win for the Red Arrows. Hosting Portland last Lowell scored their first run the Lowell baseball team Monday, Jordan Ickes struck in the second inning and two



last week at Cherry Creek seventh. baseball field was kind of

After retiring all three Lowell's Torsten Boss was safe at first on this play during last Wednesday's game

up the field during last

Wednesday's game against

Zeeland East.

Ickes scored Boss. Adrianse In the second game, hit a single to move Ickes to Lowell came from behind third. Trevor Wernet pinch in the sixth inning. After ran for Adrianse. Jay Ryan the Red Raiders scored one tied the game at 3-3 with a for granted," said Lowell

end of a 5-4 score going into runners on the corners, Ryan his first varsity win in the the bottom of the sixth. With and Wernet executed the trap game. two men on base, two outs play, Wernet scoring while and two strikes against him, Ionia was preoccupied trying Tony Adrianse hit a single to to get Ryan out between first drive in the tying run and the and second. The maneuver go-ahead run for the win: 6- made the score 4-3, Lowell.

Ionia tied the score with Game one against Ionia a run in the bottom of the scoring five runs in each of

Lowell scored the bizarre for the Arrows. A winning run on a wild pitch trap play in the bottom of in the bottom of the seventh the sixth turned out to be after Ionia walked the bases the pivotal moment in the loaded (Ickes and Boss drew intentional walks).

The umpire ended game when they host last year's Ionia batters in the top of two after five innings due to league champion Kenowa the sixth, Lowell trailed 3-1. darkness. Lowell went into Hills. Lowell travels to Up to bat was Torsten Boss; the final inning with a 9-0 Forest Hills Northern Friday he made it to first base on lead, having scored six runs for a doubleheader. an error and stole his way in the second inning. But the

the win, as Ionia rallied back to make it a 9-6 game.

"We learned a lesson there that you can't take it

Pitching for Lowell, With two outs and Zack Stevens picked up

Lake 10-6 in the next game,

Lowell took their 9-4

the first and third innings.

record to Lakewood Monday

Their next game is the OK

White opener Wednesday,

Tournament on Saturday, Lowell lost their first game to Sparta by a score of 10-1. Their only run came in the that put Unity up 1-0. Lowell beat Spring

Malling.

By Dan Schneider

division II, 3-2.

when Chelsea Wolbers first to Plummer, who was team got off to a good start singled, advanced to second covering home plate, and Saturday at the Hamilton on a sacrifice bunt by Ashley tagged out the tying run Schmidt, made it to third on The Arrows made two outs Lowell faced a tough a wild pitch, and scored on a from what could have been team in the first round but Kerri Ort single.

was up to the challenge. The Unity scored again in Arrows beat Unity Christian, the bottom of the sixth, but ranked fifth in the state in the Arrows held on to their lead with a wild defensive struck out 10, walked none seventh. McElroy, in at hits in the game. and gave up five hits. One catcher for the first time at of those hits as a home run the varsity level because of game of the tournament to in the bottom of the second an injury to starter Ashley Allendale by an 8-3 score, Lowell came back in strike-three pitch that sent out to a 3-0 first-inning the following inning, when the batter running for first. lead. McElroy and Tawney Plummer hit a triple, scoring Unity had a base runner at shared pitching duties, with Katie McElroy and Kelly third who took off for home. Tawney coming in, in relief

again in the top of the sixth Terrah Tawney threw from a rough situation.

Lowell softball beats state-ranked Unity Christian

"That was a big win," Lowell coach Bob

Wolbers was the leading Pitcher Becky Plummer play in the bottom of the Red Arrow batter with two

Nawrocki, mishandled a despite Lowell's jumping McElroy made the throw for at the fourth. Allendale The Arrows scored the out to first base. Then tallied three runs in each of



Lowell's Becky Plummer sends a pitch toward home plate during the first game of last Wednesday's doubleheader against Ionia.

Red Arrow girls golf team scores dropping

By Dan Schneider

golf team has been steadily improving. The Red Arrows Kenowa Hills. score was three shots short 226. of Middleville-Thornapple-Kellogg's score of 196.

Stef Stuewe led the way direction," Lecuru said. for Lowell with a personal

"They were three shots

Lowell lost 173-215 setbacks, the young Arrows' last Wednesday to a tough team continues to improve East Grand Rapids team at its score. Lecuru said that Thousand Oaks Golf Club. is what is important for the Stef Stuewe shot a 48 in the team to focus on right now. match; Dietz, a 51; Sydney

Foreman.

Stuewe, a 57; and Sarah Eickhoff, a 59. A home match at Deer

Run Golf Club last Monday ended in a 203-224 loss to Lowell started the score of the season last season on April 10 scoring a

Thursday, shooting a 199 238 at Egypt Valley Country at Yankee Springs Golf Club; they lost to Forest Course. Unfortunately, the Hills Eastern, who scored Unity Christian at Deer Run

but we're moving in the right

In their second match best score of 40 for nine of the season, the Arrows holes. Crystal Dietz shot a shaved 21 shots off their 46. Sydney Stuewe had a team score. Playing at Cedar 54, and Rachel Plotner shot Springs, the Arrows won 217-235.

they played really well," which was held April 14 at

Despite some early

young team, we want to learn and improve in every match," she said. "Our goal is to lower our scores, learn

Arrows' next match is and two RBIs. Plummer walks. Lowell won game doubleheader, Friday. Thursday when they host Golf Club. They travel to Belding Friday.

Lowell finished seventh short, unfortunately, but at the conference meet, said Lowell coach Becky Silver Lake Country Club.

"Because we are

experience."

"We started a little high

CITY OF

LOWELL

UPCOMING STREET

CLOSING NOTICE

Gee Drive (from Creekside Park to

approximately 1/2 mile west) will be

closed to through traffic from May 8 until June

23 for street improvements. Traffic will be

limited to local access only. Through traffic wil

be detoured to Foreman Road and Alden

Nash. Creekside Park will be accessible from

Thank you for your cooperation and patience.

The City of Lowell

LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY

MENU Week of May 1, 2006 MON: Cheese pizza

(BBQ rib on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), vegetables & dip, assorted fruit, milk.

TUES: Soft taco w. meat, cheese, lettuce (stacked ham & cheese on bun also offered a Alto & Murray Lake) green beans, assorted fruit, milk

WED: French toast w/ syrup (cereal also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), sausage, fresh fruit, 100% fruit juice.

THURS: Hotdog on bun (cheeseburger on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), oven French fries, assorted fruit, brownie, milk.

FRI: Staff Professional Development Day - no the third and fourth innings struck out 11 and walked two 11-4. Winning pitcher Lowell split a and four RBIs. Plummer hitters were having a hard doubleheader with Portland went two for three with a time making good contact last Monday, winning the double

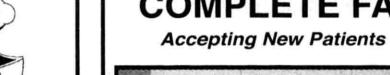
"We hit a lot of pop-ups 9 in the second.

first game 3-0 but falling 14-

McElroy also had three hits

Lowell softball off to a strong start this Hosting Ionia last season with a 9-4 record Wednesday, the Arrows before Monday's game at Lowell scored one run lost the first game of the Lakewood. Lowell hosts and get a lot of kids varsity in the first and three in the doubleheader 3-0. Malling Kenowa Hills Wednesday third for a 4-2 win over and Tawney were Lowell's for the OK White conference hosted Hamilton in the third-place only base runners in that opener. They travel to Greenville Tuesday. The game. Tawney had two hits game and made it on by Forest Hills Northern for a

Going To The Dentist Doesn't Have To Hurt Anymore! **COMPLETE FAMILY DENTAL CARE**



and one run in each of the none

sixth and seventh. Lowell

and didn't hit the ball very

solidly," Rodenhouse said.

throughout the game.

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

Cumberland Retirement Village would like to celebrate National Volunteer Week by thanking all of its many volunteers that have donated their

time and talents over this past year.

It takes a special person who is dedicated, caring, and giving of themselves to be a volunteer. Thank you, students, church groups, individuals, and all community groups that have given our residents a part of themselves. Our volunteers make a difference in our residents' quality of life each time they enter the building. We truly appreciate your efforts and dedication.

Thank you from all of the Residents and Staff at Cumberland Retirement Village. Assisted Living and Specialized Memory Care



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider amendments to the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance to regulate off street parking. These amendments would add Section 5A and amend Section 4.2.7 and the Table of Use Regulations of the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance. The specific amendments would in part set forth regulations for off-street parking including requirements for number of spaces by land use, types of parking lot surface, parking lot lighting, size of parking spaces, parking lot setbacks, and offstreet loading requirements.

The hearing will be held as follows:

MONDAY, MAY 8, 2006 TIME: 7:00 P.M. WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER

TOWNSHIP HALL 2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE **LOWELL, MI 49331**

The proposed amendments are available fo review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, NE, Lowell, Michigan 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday & Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Tim Clements, Secretary Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission



Lowell girls soccer team undefeated in April games

The Red Arrow girls in the first period of last a three-game home stand Monday, the Red Arrows

went on for a 6-0 victory. the Arrows' OK White MemorialStadium.

Knights by a score of 3-0.

is Wednesday against

East Grand Rapids. Next

Lowell's next match

soccer team has been Wednesday's game against Monday against Kenowa host the Greenville

undefeated throughout the Zeeland East. The Arrows Hills. The game opened Yellowjackets at Red Arrow

Jenison 1-1 the following Middleville-Thornapple- a good start, shutting out the DeClercq moves the ball

After beating Rockford In another home conference season. They got

4-3 on April 12, Lowell tied game Friday, Lowell beat the conference season off to

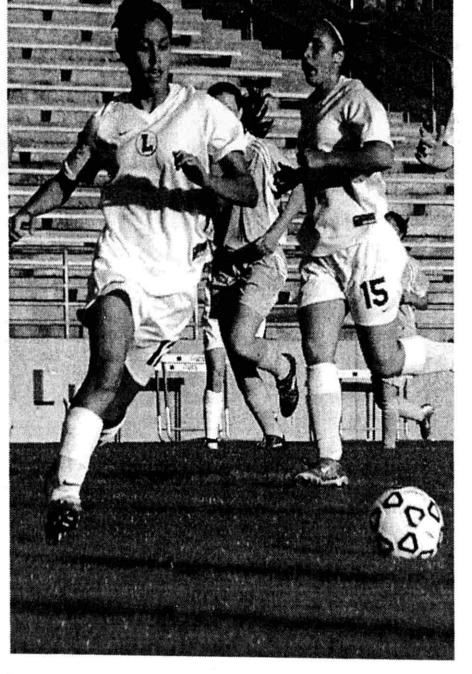
Kellogg by a score of 2-0.

Lowell finished off

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the regularly scheduled meeting of April 17, 2006, the Lowell Charter Township Board adopted Ordinance 04-2006, an amendment to the Lowell Charter Zoning Ordinance. The amending ordinance amends Section 4.5 Private Streets. The amendments regulate existing private streets; require additional information to be submitted as part of the application; require a public hearing for a private street; require certification from a professional engineer or surveyor that the street was built to the approved construction plans; require a minimum and maximum right of way; require certain construction standards relative to the number of dwellings to be served; require a maintenance agreement; and require a second means of access if the private street serves more than 50 lots or dwellings. Additional definitions are also part of this amendment.

This ordinance shall become effective May 3, 2006. A copy of the complete text of the amending ordinance can be obtained at the Lowell Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash SE, during regular Township hours or by calling 897-7600.

> Linda S. Regan, Clerk Lowell Charter Township



Need some extra cash?

HELP is on the way!

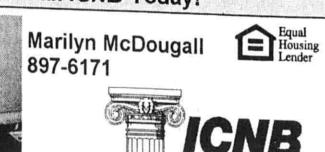
Apply for an ICNB Home Equity Loan / Line Program (HELP) to have extra cash for just about anything!

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 And more! Vehicle purchases

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The Buyers Guide Sale Gamage Sale GUIDE

HUGE SALE Thurs. - Fri. 4/27 4/28, 8 to 4 p.m. 4711 Honey Creek. 1/4 mile south of Cannonsburg. Baby items. furniture, home deck & more.

GARAGE SALE Thursday - Friday, 4/27 & 4/28, 9-5, 6022 Bancroft, Alto Antiques: dining table, sewing cabinet: recliner: lawn furniture; boys household; books; toys; homeschool

& girls clothes 6-8; resources: decorative; plus lots

GARAGE SALE 1018 Riverside Dr. Toys, boys clothes 6 to 8, girls up to size 3, women's clothes. lawn chairs. 4/27 & 4/28.

BARN SALE Punching bag, Intex pool, toys, odds & ends. Small, but good. Priced to sell. 60th & Bancroft. Alto. Thursday, 4/27,

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

3-FAMILY SALE Bikes, Little Tikes. roller blades, toys & clothes galore. 11259 Ware Rd. April 28 & 29, 9-noon. 9 a.m.

GARAGE SALE

Lots of kids' toys &

clothes, boys size 5-

8 & girls size 24

mos. - 3T. April 28 8

29, 9-4 p.m.,

311 North St.,

Lowell.

MOVING SALE

1 day only, April 27, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Everything must go! Clothes, toys, household items, furniture & lots of guys stuff. Something for everyone, 725 Whites Bridge Road, inside trailer. Rain or shine!

9 FAMILIES - 1 BIG GARAGE SALE hurs. & Fri., 9 - 5 p.m. Clothes, shoes, snowmen, men's jeans, rubber stamps, wicker double bedroom set, ladies bike, household items & much more. 5406 Bancroft, Alto.

ALLEGAN **ANTIQUE** MARKET

Sunday, April 30, 400 Exhibitors, First show of 2006! Rain or shine. 7:30 am to 4 pm. located at the fairgrounds, in Allegan, \$4 adm. www.alleganantiques

SALE Good Shepherd Lutheran Chruch. Three miles east on 21. Thurs., May 4th, 9-5, Fri., May 5th, 8-12. Clothes. household items. books, baked goods. & plants.

We recommend you place your ad a week before the sale, not the weekend of your sale. Some people do not receive the Buyers Guide until late Sunday.

SECOND BEST GARAGE/MOVING SALE

115 Center St., home schooling books, and more. Thurs., April 27: Fri., April 28; and Sat., April 29. 9-5 p.m.

> **GARAGE SALE** Saturday, April 29, 9-6, 13534 Forest River Dr. Take Lincoln Lake to Vergennes east to Flat River to Forest

Saranac, Furniture,

It is also a good idea to put in directions.

DEADLINE FOR THE LEDGER IS MONDAY AT 5 PM FOR WEDNESDAY PUBLICATION.

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Lacrosse beats Buccaneers

lacrosse team's favorite direction to run in during last over Grand Haven.

their first goal in the opening the game. minutes of the game. But make it 2-0.

changed directions in the That preserved the win." second period. Heading

most of that lead in the whether goals are scored. third quarter, when Grand

8-6 contest heading into the Adam Bowers, Scott Devroy Northward-bound one goal apiece. Bowers,

each had an assist. The Arrows headed offense of the period, but improvement Lowell has south early in the game and it was all that was needed, made since last year. The allowed the Buccaneers to since Grand Haven only Arrows, who are 2-3 this period. Grand Haven scored three minutes remaining in Buccaneers last year.

Playing at Red Arrow "We were up 7-3 at Stadium on April 15, Lowell

"They were the most physical team we'll probably play all year," Bredin said. its offense sluggish, Grand key to the game was our "It was a big win because whenever we've played a goal late in the period to held Grand Haven to only team like that, we've never one goal in three minutes been able to keep our focus

In the win, Lowell For most penalties in almost doubled their best north, Lowell completely lacrosse, a player is required previous scoring total, as scored 25 seconds into is released to the field if against DeWitt and Grand that period. Outscoring the the opposing team scores a Haven, the Arrows' highest Buccaneers 7-1, they took a goal. In the case of a non-score in a game had been

Red Arrow tennis team

championship match.

tournament of the season was held Saturday at Big Rapids and the Lowell boys team of Josh Hobrla and Kenowa Hills 7-1 at home. tennis team won.

20 for the win, compared falling 6-2, 6-4 to Pat Hosky the toughness of the match. to 16 for Big Rapids, 9 for and Tyler Sparks of Big Harbor Springs and 6 for Rapids.

close second doubles Lowell's Travis Trapp Lowell. They defeated Riley success to improved doubles defeated Payne Schanski Merideth and Tim Hamel of play. of Harbor Springs 6-2, 6-3. Big Rapids 7-6(4), 4-6, (10-Brett Hobrla beat Harbor 5). Lowell's third doubles teams are hustling a lot Springs' Todd Phillips 6-3, team of Cory Kowalski and more and that's why they're 6-1 to win the third singles Greg Harreld fell 6-3, 6-2 to pulling out those tough match. Brett McMahon beat Big Rapids' Brett Pacholka matches and that's good to

> doubles championship. The Red Arrows Caledonia tournament.

Big Rapids' Brian Shea 6- traveled to Whitehall last The second invitational 0, 6-0 in the fourth singles Tuesday where they beat Lowell's first doubles Wednesday, Lowell beat Drew Kyllonen placed Lowell coach Bonnie Wall The Red Arrows scored second in the tournament, said the score did not reflect

> "The Kenowa Hills team was really a very nice team," Tony Dubbink and said Wall. "Very scrappy, Wall attributed some

championship match for of Lowell's early season

"Overall, our doubles

Lowell traveled to Nathan Willemstein beat East Grand Rapids on Micah Vanderhill and Cal Monday. Their next match Bennedict of Big Rapids 4-6, is Wednesday when they 6-3 (10-5) to win the fourth host Greenville. The Arrows will compete Saturday at the



By Dan Schneider

North was the Lowell final period.

once again, Lowell scored Tuesday's 9-7 home victory 32 seconds into the fourth quarter. It was their only score two goals in the first managed one goal with

Lowell buckled down on halftime and maintained the beat DeWitt 15-11. defense and managed to intensity to come out with control the ball for most of the victory," said Lowell the remaining period. With coach Eric Bredin. "The Haven scored their second man-down defense that The Lowell offense of non-releasable penalties. and win the game."

dominated. The Arrows to sit out for a minute, but 7-3 lead into halftime of the releasable penalty, a player eight goals. must remain off the field for

Haven was chipping away two goals each for Lowell: Rapids Catholic Central on at it by scoring five goals Mike Nichols, David Tuesday. Their next game is to Lowell's one. It was an Gallagher and Greg Huyser. Thursday at Zeeland East.

and Brett Ostrander scored Nichols and Ben Nugent

The win shows the season, lost 14-4 to the

well. Before the games

Lowell traveled to The Arrows needed a full minute regardless of Holland Christian Thursday, where the Arrows lost 9-Three players scored 5. They traveled to Grand

wins Big Rapids Invitational

By Dan Schneider

Greenville.

Lowell flights. At second singles,

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won Chase Canning won a they just didn't give up."

and Kirk Blackford in the see," Wall said. final match. Elvis Lane and

the Vikings 6-2. Last

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Planning commission may allow wall signs over river

By Emma Palova Contributing Writer

A change in the city zoning ordinance may allow wall signs on buildings in the downtown business district if approved by the Lowell City Council.

The Lowell Planning Commission on Monday night recommended the change to accommodate several businesses which have petitioned for wall signs facing the Flat River. Hungry Howies and the office of Dr. Judd Carroll

had requested wall signs open to the river.

Currently, the existing city ordinance allows only wall signs and projecting signs facing a street, a public or a private parking area. The proposed amendment would allow projecting signs extending no more than five feet from the building or one-third of the width of the sidewalk, but none on the

Steve Doyle, chairman of the downtown historic commission, opposed the

measure on behalf of the group. In a recent meeting, the historic commission had voted 4-0 to maintain the current ordinance, according to Doyle.

"We felt the current ordinance should stand," he said. "It's appropriate."

Doyle was concerned that someone could put up a five-foot projecting sign over the river.

"You could see a projecting sign sticking off the side of the building," he said.

According to manager David Pasquale, wall signs can be made attractive like the sign on the east side of the Flat River Grill.

"The whole issue is allowing a wall sign here," he said. "Projecting signs came as an unintended consequence."

Moreover, to protect the historic image of Lowell, the historic district has stringent design standards for signs as well. Under the proposed amendment, any sign would

still have to adhere to these criteria.

According to building inspector Doug Hopkins, individuals must receive approval from the historic district, and then apply for a sign permit.

Also opposing the change was commission member Sherry Grimm. Grimm said she does not want to see signs over the river.

"I enjoy the view over the river," she said. "I would like not to see them."

However, the majority of the commission members agreed wall signs should be allowed as long as they are historically accurate and pleasing.

"I don't have a problem with a wall sign as long as it meets historic commission standards," said commission member Garland Berry. "I don't want to see projecting signs."

The city council may decide to hold a second public hearing on the amendment.

Lowell crew competes in Grand Rapids Invitational regatta

The Grand Rapids Invitational regatta was held at Riverside Park on April 22. Competing with Lowell High School crew members were local adversaries, Rockford, Forest Hills Northern, Forest Hills Central, Northview and East Grand Rapids. Teams from as far away as Culver, Indiana, and Ignatius, Chicago also participated.

Competition in the heats proved to be fierce. Varsity girls 8-boat (Dana Zerbe, Jackie Moerdyke, Heidi Cadwallader, Ashley and Nicki Freed) placed Brim and Riley) placed 5th. 4th.

Novice boys 4-boat (Logan Brenk, Kyle Riley, Nick Gillhespy and Eric Holmgren) placed 5th.

Novice girls 8-boat team (Brittani Sherman-Hibbitts, Kate Wehby, Jillian Lane, Gabbie MacDonald, Laura Blanton, Lauren Hanson, Kristen Nelson and Jessica Mankel) placed 3rd.

Varsity girls 4-boat (Zerbe, Hesher, Cadwallader and Freed) placed 4th.

Novice boys 8-boat team (Nick Gillhespy, Holmgren, Krolewicz, Mary Gillhespy, Brenk, Garet Foote, Steve Katie Slatten, Carla Hesher Maier, Nick Drake, Andy

Varsity girls 4-boat (Andrea Kulhawik, Kelly Wingeier, Julie Johnson and Moerdyke) placed 5th.

The coxswains included Kulhawik, Alexis Strouse, Leara Glinzak and Jessica Nelson.

The Hebda Cup Regatta is Saturday, April 29 in Wyandotte on the Detroit River.

At right: Lowell crew team members prep their shells for the regatta.

Bottom: Rowing in the Grand River in downtown Grand Rapids.



