

The Lowell Ledger

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Wednesday, July 5, 2006

Celebrating the present and the past at Riverwalk Festival 2006

By Dan Schneider

History and the celebration thereof will be important elements of this weekend's Riverwalk Festival in downtown Lowell.

This town is 175 years old this year, and organizers of the 12th annual Riverwalk Festival are using the occasion to recognize that fact. The festival will take place Friday and Saturday, with activities split between Riverwalk Plaza and the Lowell Fairgrounds. Many of the activities on and around the plaza have been given a historical flavor.

"We've done our best to try to integrate the history," said Riverwalk Festival committee chairperson Betsy Davidson. "It's a lot of things packed into a short time, but we worked hard with the historical museum and the chamber of commerce to get as much history in there as possible."

Historical tours on pontoon boat will be given Friday and Saturday evenings on the Flat River. Offered in the past, they are of particular relevance this year. New to this festival are historical shuttle rides, departing from Flat River Grill.

The annual Main Street parade will have a historical theme, with floats celebrating Lowell's 175 birthday. Parade-goers are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for donation to the Flat River Outreach Ministries food pantry. These will be collected by clowns along the parade route.

History will also be a theme at the Youth Zone, located at the playground on Avery Street across from the Lowell Police Station. Old-time activities such as sack races will be featured alongside such modern pastimes as a dance machine. Youth will have the chance to create artistic representations of Lowell's history on quilt squares. These will later be sewn into a quilt and displayed in the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

"I think it will be interesting to see what the kids do with their drawings," said chamber executive director Liz Baker.

The Youth Zone, sponsored by Impact Church, the Lowell YMCA and Lowell Community Wellness, will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



One hundred seventy-five years of Lowell history will be the theme of this year's Riverwalk Festival. Lowell's first permanent white settler came here in 1831. Dressed in Victorian garb are Lowell Area Historical Museum members, back row, left to right: Nancy Wood, Ivan Blough and Carolyn Jane Blough; front row: Karen Thomure, Luann Kaeb and Dolores Day. They are pictured on Main Street in front of the banner promoting the festival.

At noon, 86th district state representative and Lowell native Dave Hildenbrand will make a special presentation to the city of Lowell, Vergennes Township and Lowell Charter Township. The presentation will help mark the 175th year of the community's existence.

A variety of street musicians will provide entertainment

throughout the festival near Riverwalk Plaza; ten have signed up thus far. "I have horns, I have strings," said Lowell mayor and street musician organizer Chuck Myers. "It's primarily acoustic-type music."

Festival, cont'd., pg. 10

Seeds planted for Thursday opening of new farmers' market

By Dan Schneider

Farmers market organizers have gone from ideas in a notebook at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce to the opening of a new market at the fairgrounds in about a month.

Chamber executive director Liz Baker, fair manager Ron Wenger and some local farmers met at the chamber early in June to discuss the possibility of a market in Lowell.

Wenger, who will be the market master in charge of the market-day operations, said enthusiasm

has been high in the short time the market has gone from idea to reality.

"I've had a lot of people calling me and talking to me, so I think there's a lot of interest," he said. "The vendors are all pretty excited about it."

By Friday, five vendors had already signed up for the market.

marketing efforts have been fairly limited so far.

"If we have five vendors the first time, I think that's great, and as the weeks go by, I would expect a lot more participation," she said. "Just because of the marketing and getting the word out, there will be more interest."

Located near the fairgrounds'

put on temporary signs on the fence near the entrance. A large rectangular sign with the same logo will create an archway over the entrance to the actual market. Wenger said it is important to present a visually attractive market from the beginning.

"We're going to do it right. We're not going to do it halfway," he said.

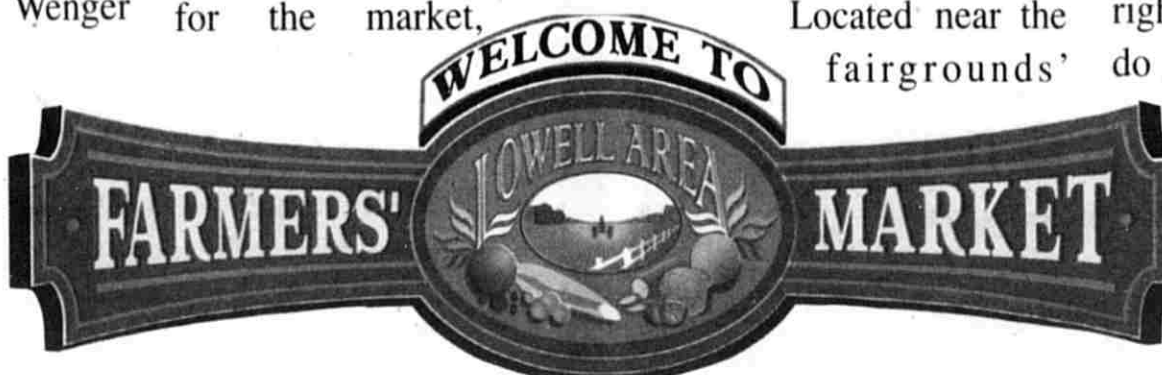
Last Thursday, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) allocated \$3,650 for the signage and for promotion of the market.

"Thanks for taking

the bull by the horns and running with it. I wish you luck," DDA chairman Jim Reagan said to the farmers

market representatives at the meeting.

Market, cont'd., pg. 3



including a Holland bakery. That's a good start, Baker said, especially considering

entrance across from Bowes Road, the chamber has commissioned a logo to

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Obituaries

DELLINGER
Ruth "Betty" Dellinger, our beautiful mother, left this world on Monday, June 26, 2006, and is now happily walking, flower gardening, and playing golf to her heart's content in heaven. Betty was born on April 22, 1930 and lived most of her young years in the Hillsdale, Michigan, area. She graduated as president of her class and captain of the basketball team from Pittsford High School in 1948. Betty moved to the Detroit area where she married and raised three daughters who adore her. Recently, she moved to Grand Rapids and was living at Sentinel Pointe Retirement Community. She is preceded in death by her brother Bill Robertson who was killed in the Korean War, her mother Ruth Aitken, step-father

Robert Aitken, father James Robertson. She will be lovingly remembered and sadly missed by her children Roxanne and Gary Goff of Lowell, Dawne and Gary Polsinelli of Northville, Stacey Dellinger and fiance Jim Brown of Holland; grandchildren Abbey Goff, Adrienne and Joe Everson, Jeremy Goff, Bryan Polsinelli, Alyssa Polsinelli; brother Bob Aitken of Ohio, a new great-grandson-to-be; many great friends who touched her life. The family celebrated her life on July 1 at the Sentinel Pointe SENTRY Room, Grand Rapids. Memorial contributions may be made in honor of Betty to the Faith Hospice of Grand Rapids.

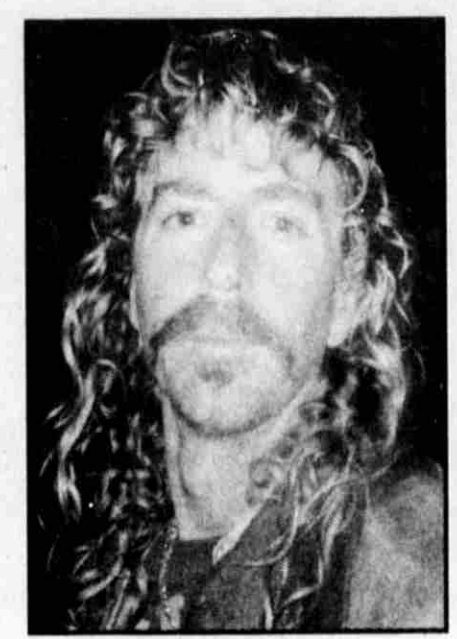
DEN HOUTER
Leonard Den Houter, aged 57, born on August 25, 1948, went to be with his Lord on Monday, June 26, 2006. He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Kathryn Den Houter of Lowell; four children Jonathan of Grand Rapids, Jennifer of Lansing, Jessica of Lowell, Benjamin of Lowell; sister Joy Den Houter Roanoke, IN; nieces Lily Pratico, Noel Den Houter; mother Edith Den Houter of Grand Rapids. He was preceded in death by his father John A. Den Houter. Leonard graduated from Hope College in 1969

and earned an M.Div in 1972 from Western Theological Seminary. He worked for the Department of Social Services from 1972-1982. During that time he earned his J.D. from Cooley Law School, graduating in 1980. He worked for the Michigan Department of Corrections as an Administrative Law Judge from 1982-2003. Presently, he had a private law practice, ran Outdoor Storage, Inc., and was a trustee for Lowell Township. He had a deep passion for reading, discussing theology, and loving his family. Funeral services were held Friday at Cascade Christian Church. Memorial contributions should be made out to Association for Christian Character Development, www.accd.org.

DEROSHA
Shirley Ann "Traxler" Derosha, aged 67, of Lincoln Lake, Gowen, died at home Wednesday, June 28, 2006. She was born in Saranac on December 28, 1938, the daughter of Lyle E. and Esther A. Farrell Sitzer. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers Ron and Larry. She was employed by the former Frigidare Refrigerator Co. in Greenville and was also a school bus driver in Cedar Springs, a former member of the Moose Lodge and a Grand Rapids Press Santa Claus Girl. She is survived by her fiancé Donald Evans; children Donald and Brenda Traxler of Wyoming, Sandra and Terry Eding of Pierson and Ted Traxler and Carol

Lee Olmstead of Gowen; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brothers Dick Gerette of Yankee Springs, Tom Gerette of Grattan, Dan Gerette of Lowell, Jerry Sitzer of Grand Haven and Roger Sitzer of Coopersville. Memorial services were held July 1 at Hurst Funeral Home, Greenville. Memorial contributions may be given to Hospice of Michigan.

LANE
Mildred DeBree Lane departed this life for the next leg of her journey on Saturday, June 24, 2006. She was born on July 3, 1908, and was nine days shy of her 98th birthday. Mildred was greeted at her heavenly home by her husband George and a host of family and friends. She will be missed by her sons and their wives Jack and Norma, Tad and Dianne; seven grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; sisters Phyllis House, Bonnie (Ray) Alkema. For Mildred, family came first. The joy she brought and wisdom she shared with them enriched their lives beyond words. Mildred's zest for life and positive attitude was evident in playing bridge, gardening, sewing, sports, traveling and going to the beach in her beloved Pentwater. She was one of the last surviving members of Park Church's Netta Gay Ten. She remained active by riding her stationary bike until her last two years. Per Mildred's request, cremation has taken place and a private graveside service was held by her family.



LESON
Mr. Joseph Paul "Joe Paul" Leson, aged 45, a child of Christ, beloved son, brother and a friend to all, passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, June 27, 2006 after passionately living life to the fullest as a true biker and bro to all that know. His mission in life was leading people to the Lord in his numerous travels. Joe was preceded in death by his father Joseph S. Leson, grandmothers Eunice Bebe Hilton, Mildred Andrews both of Lowell. Surviving are his mother Margot A. Leson; brothers Daniel Leson, Johnny Thompson; sisters Stephanie (Eric Lewis) Eikey, Tracy (Randy) Duell, Marie (Bob) Sluiter; treasured nieces and nephews Shannon Martens, Joey Theodore, Rodney Hatcher, Anastasia and Christiaan Duell, Andrew, Aaron, Jessica, Benjamin Sluiter, Brianna Leson; great-nieces and nephews Dominick C. Warner, Nicholas Martens, Shawn and Alasaundra Theodore; special friends Sue Asmusen, Wayne Farmer. Joe was associated and well loved by Roadbed Ministries. Joe was also a member of Resurrection Life

Church. Funeral services will be held Thursday, July 6 at 11 a.m. at Resurrection Life Church, 5100 Ivanrest SW. The family will greet relatives and friends Wednesday 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Ronan-Vanderpool-Stegenga Funeral Chapel, 3131 S. Division. Memorial contributions may be made to Roadbed Ministries.

MAYNARD
Earl Raymond Maynard Sr., aged 76, of Lowell, passed away June 27, 2006 in Grand Rapids. Earl served in the Air Force and was a Korean War veteran. Earl is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Louise Maynard of Lowell; children Earl and Carol Maynard Jr. of Ionia, Allen and Sandy Maynard of Saranac, Deborah Maynard of Lowell; brother Albert (Jim) and Phyllis Maynard of Arizona; sisters Virgie Coleman of Grand Rapids, Gene Landis of Grand Rapids; sister-in-law Sandra and Bubba Whitmore of Virginia; special friend Margaret Murphy of Lowell; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, two sisters, three brothers-in-law, one sister-in-law. Funeral services were held Friday at Lake Funeral Home in Ionia with Rev. Kenneth Harger officiating. Interment Balcom Cemetery. Anyone wishing may make a memorial contribution in Earl's name to Frederik Meijer Ovarian Cancer Unit.

Focusing on fitness this weekend

By Dan Schneider

With so much happening at the Lowell Fairgrounds and on Riverwalk Plaza this weekend, the Lowell Community Wellness Health and Fitness Fair might not be the most visible attraction. But organizers say they have put together a comprehensive health event well worth the trip to the Lowell Police Station garage, where people can get out of the sun for a while. "There will be activities and lots of information for

everyone from grandma and grandpa down to little kids," said community wellness director Patty Sellner.

Organizations on hand will include the American Heart Association, the North Country Trail Association and Paws With a Cause.

Activities at the health fair are targeted "to encourage families to be active and do stuff together," Sellner explained.

Featured is an electronic dance machine that parents and children can try their hands at together. Kids

will also be able to make bracelets out of sunlight sensitive beads; they change color outside when exposed to ultraviolet rays. The intent, Sellner said, "is to bring awareness that the sun is doing the same thing to your skin."

Other activities will tie in to the historical theme of the Riverwalk Festival, which is celebrating 175 years of Lowell. Old-time games such as sack races and tug-of-war are part of the plan. These contests will spill over from the Youth

Zone at the playground on Avery St. across from the police station. Collectively called the "Children's Health Challenge," youth activity stations will be clearly marked.

"Look for the blue balloons, and that will be where the Children's Health Challenge stations will be," Sellner said.

The Health and Fitness Fair is scheduled to run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Lowell Police Station garage.

DDA approves funds for showboat improvements, considers R.V. park

By Dan Schneider

Some needed repairs will be made to the Lowell Showboat now that the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) approved funding for them at last Thursday's meeting.

The DDA approved \$3,930 to pay for repairs

to the showboat roof, installation of new wall paneling in the dressing room on the second floor, and touch-up paint for the boat's exterior. Because of leaks in the rear corners of the roof, Ivan "Mr. Showboat" Blough, the contractor who built the

current Robert E. Lee in 1979, said he has replaced drywall in the dressing room "I think more times than I care to remember."

A Lowell Leadership for Volunteer Excellence class made major cosmetic improvements to the boat two years ago, which is why touch-up paint is the only work necessary on the outside of the boat.

Blough said there has been a resurgence in interest in the Showboat, Lowell's most famous landmark, over the past few years.

"We're getting a lot more exposure on the boat, a lot more people on it, especially with the concerts," Blough said, referring to the Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts which are sponsored by the Lowell Area Arts Council and Lowell Area Chamber of

Commerce each Thursday on Riverwalk Plaza.

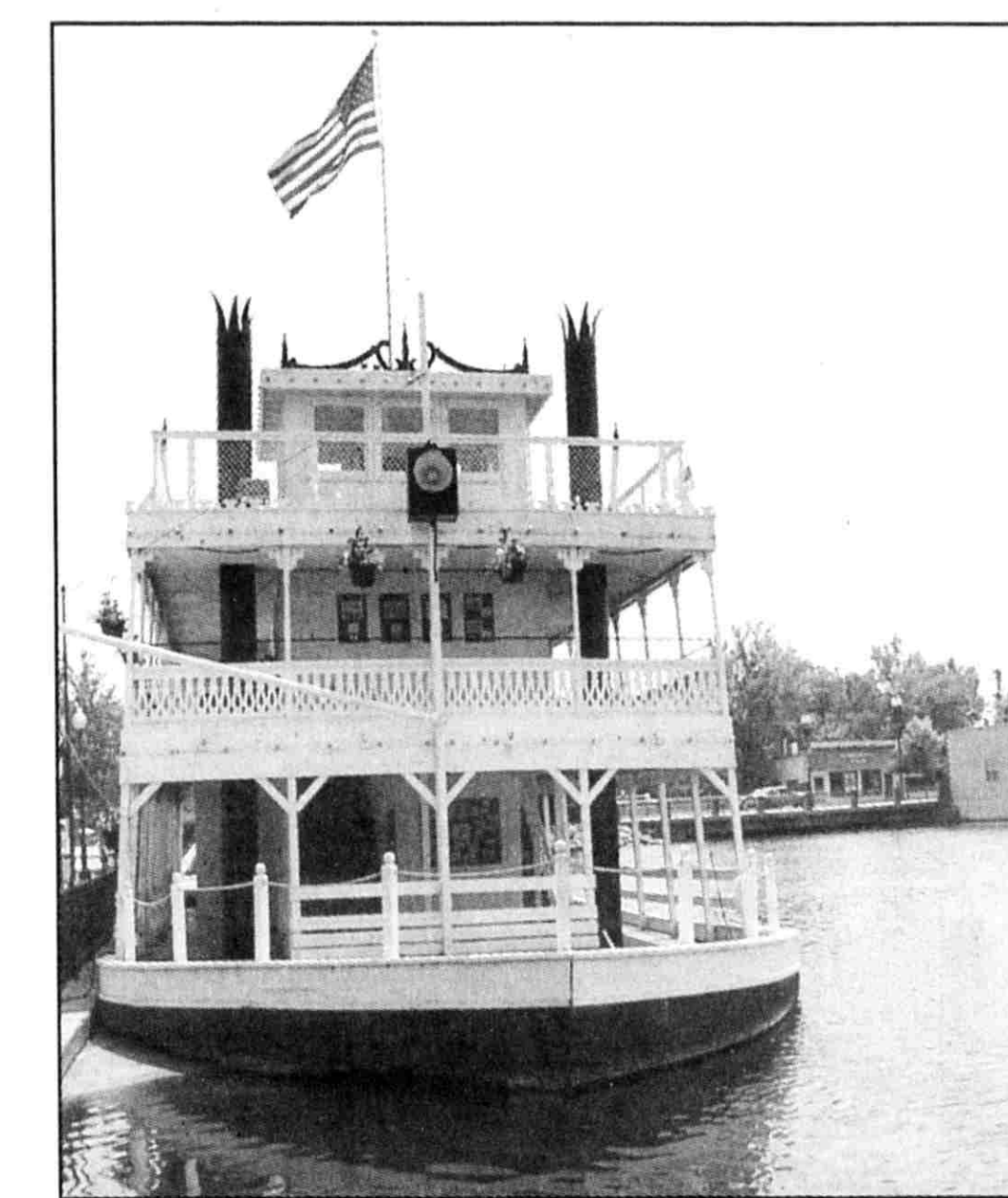
DDA board member Caroline Price, who owns Dream Pieces on Main Street, said downtown merchants have discussed using the Showboat as part of a plan to bring people to Lowell on group outings. She suggested dancing on the Showboat as one good activity.

DDA board member Brian Doyle said funding improvements to the Showboat are quite consistent with the DDA's mission, part of which is to promote a vibrant downtown business district.

"I think it falls right under our charge," Doyle said.

Jim Hall, who happened to be the designer of the Robert E. Lee, attended last Thursday's meeting on different business. He was presenting an update on his plan to develop about 20 acres of city-owned property south of downtown into a publicly-owned RV and tent campground. He gave the DDA a rough estimate

Funds approved, cont'd., pg. 4



The DDA approved funding for repairs to Lowell's landmark Showboat.

Market, continued ...

From Page 1

Baker said there are several reasons why the evening market is a good fit for Lowell.

"Farmers are kind of intrigued by it," she said. "They can pick in the morning. They don't have to pick the night before, so the produce will be fresher."

It is also important that the market not conflict with other markets in the area. The Fulton Street Farmers Market in Grand Rapids, for instance, rules out the

possibility of a Saturday morning market. "If we wanted to draw any quality vendors, who have done this a long time, we can't draw them from Grand Rapids," Baker said. "Thursday, the market will be open from 3 to 7 p.m. Well, 7 p.m. or later, if there are enough customers."

"If we've got paying customers, and they've still got produce left, we won't close down," Wenger said.



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LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE BOARD OF REVIEW
THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP WILL MEET AT THE LOWELL TOWNSHIP HALL 2910 ALDEN NASH, SE ON TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2006

NOTICE TO CORRECT PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT
ACT 14 OF 1985, being Section 211.53(b) of General Property Tax Laws, provides for correction of clerical errors and errors due to a mutual mistake of fact with respect to assessment roll figures, and correction to homestead exemptions, upon verification of the local assessing officer and approval by the Board of Review at a meeting called for that purpose, on Tuesday following the third Monday in July.

On JULY 18, 2006, a meeting will be called for this purpose at 10:00 a.m. in the Lowell Township Hall to conduct business as provided for in Section 211.53(b), Michigan Compiled Laws.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk
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My definition of a free society is a society where it is safe to be unpopular.
- Adlai E. Stevenson Jr. (1900 - 1965)

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Sharing The Vision

With Nancy Hopkins
Board of Education President

By the time you read this article Greg Pratt will have officially started his role as superintendent of Lowell Area Schools. Greg has already spent many "unofficial" hours in the district, meeting with staff, committees and parents, observing in classrooms, traveling around the district and seeing what it is that makes Lowell Areas Schools and our community unique.

The Board of Education too has been working with Greg; at the June workshop session, during individual meetings, and getting to know more about each other through phone calls and email.

What is obvious at this early stage is Greg's commitment to education, his energy, the enthusiasm he has for being a part of Lowell and the high expectations he places on himself and others. Also obvious are the philosophies shared between the Board and the new superintendent.

Together we believe in laying a strong foundation for any future changes by gathering community and staff input on major social and educational issues. We will communicate where the district is in terms of achievement and program effectiveness. We will reach out to the community and staff to understand and identify what the educational priorities are and how the district can best accomplish the identified educational needs.

The highest goal we strive for as a school district and community continues to be improved student achievement. Greg has begun the process of identifying a plan for the district that focuses on higher student performance and engaged community, as well as a realistic set of priorities. He and the Board will be sharing more details throughout the district and local community over the next few months.

Please feel free to welcome Greg with a phone call to his office (987-2501). He encourages students, parents, staff and residents to contact him with any questions or concerns, or simply to come in and get to know each other. I am confident that you will find our superintendent is committed to staying the course in Lowell and dedicated to leading for learning.

Comments may be made to the Board of Education at boardofed@lowellschools.com.

Cruisin' at the fairgrounds this Saturday

By Dan Schneider

Look for a lot of chrome at the Lowell Fairgrounds this Saturday ... a lot of chrome and some fire trucks and tractors.

Chrome will be on many of the classic cars at the Brian Mead Memorial Cruise-in. The car show has grown over the past few years and organizer Dale Dawson said that trend should continue this year.

"We've made more contacts, sent out more letters, so hopefully there will be more cars," said Dawson.

He added that the car show is a low-key, "fun event. Nobody's going to judge your car."

Awards will be handed out, such as "longest distance traveled." Event sponsors will also present awards, and there will be cash door prizes, the greatest of which is reserved for cars that "Rumble the Riverwalk."

The show should draw a good crowd. It's getting heavy promotion this year, thanks to Good Chevrolet Buick bringing in the Chevy Street Team with Grand Rapids radio station WGRD.

The promotional team travels with tricked out, late-model Chevrolet vehicles to different events.

"The idea is to introduce young people to Chevrolets and the benefits of owning a car," said Good Chevrolet general manager Rodger Garner.

He said WGRD's promotion of the street team should boost attendance at the car show.

The Brian Mead Memorial Cruise-in lasts from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There will be chrome on the tailpipes of many of the motorcycles parked at the fairgrounds, too. The Gray Dragons Motorcycle Club is hosting a bike show and poker run at the fairgrounds. But because of the poker run, the bikes will be a little harder to catch than the classic cars, which will be on display all morning.

"We like to get some place, jump back on the bikes, and go some place else," said poker run organizer Ron vanOverbeek.

But they'll be back in time for "Rumble the Riverwalk" at 1 p.m. That's when all the classic cars and motorcycles rev their engines along Main Street, cruising past Riverwalk Plaza where an abundance of activities will be taking place.

Money raised through the poker run will benefit Flat River Outreach Ministries. The poker run meets at Look Memorial Fire Station at 8 a.m.

Antique tractors, as well as a gathering of antique fire trucks (known as an antique fire truck muster) will be at the fairgrounds from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

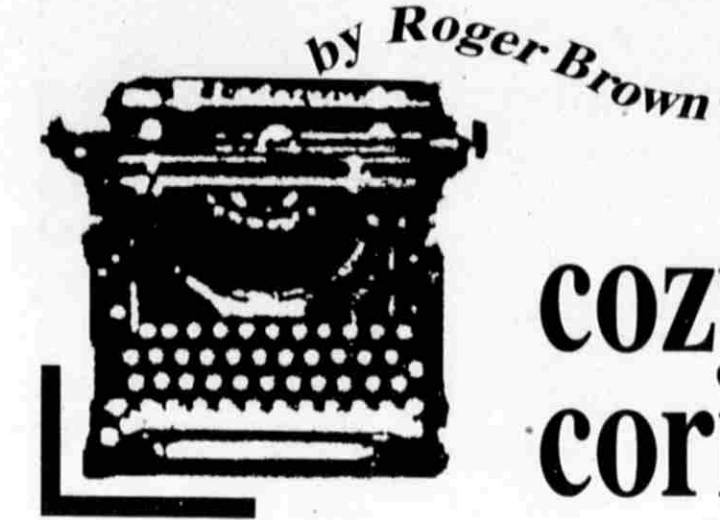
A Jaws of Life demonstration by the Lowell Area Fire Department will happen at 10 a.m. at the fairgrounds.

Wagon rides will be available to transport people from the fairgrounds to Riverwalk Plaza to make it easier to enjoy the day's activities.

*An Englishman is a person who does things because they have been done before.
An American is a person who does things because they haven't been done before.*

- Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

Viewpoint



With Mr. Brown flying west on his latest biplane adventure, we're repeating a few of his earlier columns.

(Cozy Corner 7/1/98)

I like to think I'm pretty adept at controlling my temper. In fact, there are people who've known me for years, and have never seen me lose it. My temper, that is. I lose lots of "its" on a regular basis. My car keys, phone numbers, stuff in general, and my mind are a few items that go the way of the moose on occasion. In fact, I think my mind has been missing for some time now.

However, when I do lose my temper it is not a pretty sight. Since I keep it hidden way down deep inside somewhere, it takes a bit of time and effort to stuff it back where it belongs. In the meantime, I almost always do something I regret later. A few cases come to mind, but you will probably never read about them here.

More about my temper later. This little story starts out innocently enough with an early Sunday morning walk. Each month I spend about 10 days in the Florida Keys with my wife. We have purchased a monthly real estate magazine there, and my visits coincide with the sales and production period of the monthly cycle. While I'm there, we take a brisk 30-minute walk around the neighborhood most mornings. Yes, we're still doing that despite the falls...you may remember reading about them in this space. While we may be getting up there in age, we're not ready for a rocking chair just yet.

We were out the door at our usual 6:30. My wife had Max on his leash and down the street we went.

Max is her dog. I call him the Lotto dog. When Terese moved to the Keys five years ago, she went to the Grand Rapids Humane Society for a dog to take along as a companion. Max was just a puppy, and was saved from the gas chamber by a woman who hustled him off to the Caribbean to be pampered the rest of his life. That's why the Lotto dog handle.

The people at the pound guessed he was an Australian shepherd. Other than the fact he is unusually tall and lanky for the breed, that's pretty much what he grew up to be. He has white/blue eyes. His coat is long flyaway hair in random patches, streaks and flecks of black, white and brown. He has a long pointy nose, little floppy ears, a bobbed tail and big feet. I figure he has to be Australian, as that's where all the other weird animals come from. A duck billed platypus has nothing over Max when it comes to weird.

So, away we go. Every other house seems to have a dog, or dogs, that come to the fence to raise a ruckus when we walk by. Max does the same thing when people go by

our house, but he is well-mannered while on these walks. He remains heeled in alongside Terese and minds his own business as we pass barking dog after barking dog.

Max's leash manners are not at all like my dogs. They could likely outpull a team of Clydesdales. It's a good thing I have two, or one arm would be longer than the other.

Before long we came to the house with the pit bulls. There are three of them. They were out in the yard. There is a large bitch who recently had a litter of pups, and they kept one. He is about half grown. There is also a young, but full grown male that I'm guessing may have been kept from a previous litter. All three bark like crazy and run around behind a four-foot board fence when we go by. As pit bulls go, the bitch and the grown male are pretty good size, and are intimidating, to say the least. We always breathe a little easier when we're well past their house.

On this morning, the male decided to have a go at scaling the fence. Oh boy! His big head, shoulders and forelegs were over the top and I could tell his hind legs were clawing for footing on the back of the fence. Yikes! He finally found a toe hold, and in an instant he was up and over. Now we had an 80- or 90-pound pit bull, all teeth, snarl and muscle charging straight at us with only the width of the street between us. That didn't give us much time to react. Maybe a heartbeat. Holy fangs Batman!

Terese's first instinct was to protect her dog. She straddled him and bent over with her arms around his neck. The pit bull had to go through her if he was after her precious mutt. Max was plenty happy to stay right where he was. Like I said earlier, he is a pampered dog.

I instinctively tried to keep myself between the pit bull and Terese. I threw out my arms and began stomping and dancing around, all the while screaming at the oncoming meat grinder. He looked like he was all business as he came on. To say he was frightening would be a drastic understatement. He easily side-stepped me and ran right up to Terese and Max, all teeth, muscle and growl.

Then it was over. As soon as he got to Max, he stopped, turned and loped back to the fence where he cleared the four-foot obstacle in a single bound. It was as if he had made his point, and the game was over. Or like a game of dog tag, and Max was now "it." Who knows? Hell, I don't know what goes through a pit bull's mind, or if he even has a mind.

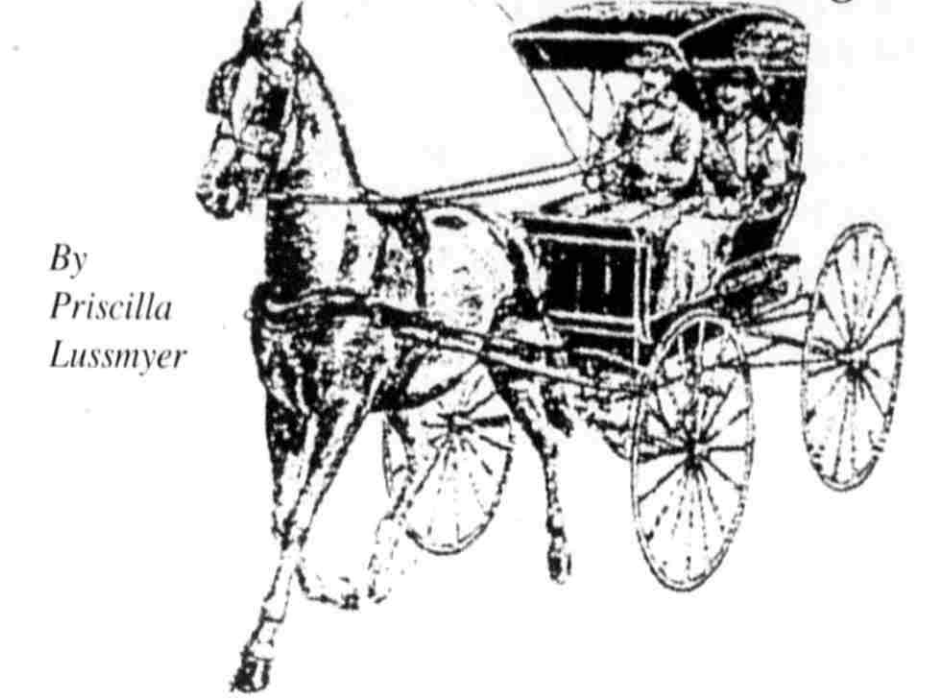
All I know is, that dog scared the liver out of me! Suddenly, my temper decided to put all the adrenaline coursing through my body to use. I ran over to the fence and began throwing gravel, sticks and anything I could find at the pit bull house. All the while I was screaming at the occupants to get their #@%*\$ *&#@\$ out of bed and deal with their @%\$&*^ *(^%\$#&^ dogs!!!! It was a full blown tirade. A real spectacle in a quiet neighborhood at a quarter to seven on a Sunday morning.

The owners never came out. They were probably as afraid of me as I was of their dogs. I finally calmed down and trotted down the street to catch up with Terese and Max. They had wisely left the scene. Not so much because they were scared of the pit bulls as they were embarrassed by me.

I told you my temper is not a pretty thing.

Ledger Entries

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



By
Priscilla
Lusmyer

125 YEARS
THE WEEKLY JOURNAL
JULY 6, 1881

This issue is missing; the next one will be October 5, 1881

100 YEARS
THE LOWELL LEDGER
JULY 5, 1906

Only one house remains in quarantine in Lowell, and no deaths reported: a successful handling of the smallpox scare (the word "smallpox" is not mentioned in the article).

M. Rubens July Slaughter Sale starts in two days. Look's has Eskay's straw hat cleaner for 10 cents. The Freeport Herald has a new cylinder press and a gasoline motor, after 24 years of "armstrong power."

75 YEARS
THE LOWELL LEDGER
AND THE ALTO SOLO
JULY 2, 1931

Townsend, Caledonia and Fallsburg parks are the most popular ones in Kent County. Mayor M.N. Henry starts a Kent County Protective League of Taxpayers. Tax Commissioner M.B. McPherson is a speaker.

Michigan residents do not need fishing licenses for anything except trout.

William Priebe is knocked across the room when taking a drink from a kitchen faucet during an electrical storm.

50 YEARS
THE LOWELL LEDGER
JULY 5, 1956

The front-page photo spread shows Otto Conrad and his wife making the famed Conrad clarinet and saxophone reeds; they moved from New York to be with their daughter, Anneliese Godfrey. (yours truly loved the reeds and their makers).

Dr. Orval McKay brings in some histories of other showboats to the Ledger.

Showboat chorus rehearsals are Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Lists of registered voters in Lowell, Bowne and Vergennes townships fill two pages.

25 YEARS
THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER
JULY 1, 1981

Two parades this month, on July 4 and the Sesquicentennial. Fireworks this year for July 4 will cost \$2400; donations welcome.

Forrest Buck, in his Showboat column "The Captain's Quarters", recalls Saturday nights when the "stores never closed" and people from every small town around came to Lowell.

July 4 events: parade, canoe race on the Grand, Alto-Lowell firemen in waterball, and a bucket brigade contest.

Funds approved, cont'd ... From Page 3

of the cost of a feasibility study on the project: \$5,000 to \$17,500. Hall said that estimate would be fine-tuned

considerably once parameters are established for the campground.

The DDA agreed with

Hall that an RV campground has the potential to bring visitors to Lowell and be an economic boon for the city.

But they wanted to know how the city council felt about the project before they agreed to fund a feasibility study.

"I think it's something we need to hear back from the city about," said DDA chairman Jim Reagan.

Also, since the land is located outside the current DDA district boundaries, the project would require redistricting before the DDA could fund any of it. Redistricting, too, was a process the DDA did not want to go through without the city council's blessing for the project. Hall planned to present his idea at this week's city council meeting, Wednesday.

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JULY 8, 2006 • 10 AM-4 PM

Located at the
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- Children take the "Wellness Challenge" -

This event will include: trying the *Dance Dance Revolution* game, making a sun sensitive bracelet, testing your hand eye coordination at the *Stacking Game*, sack races, a tug-of-war, three legged race, also make a showboat craft and a historic quilt square ..., prizes ...

• Also at the Health and Fitness Fair:

- Learn about the latest sports injury prevention equipment
- Discover our area recreational opportunities • Have a Massage • Vision screening • Check the Progress of the 100 Miles in 100 Days Walking Challenge •

Relay for Life information • Door Prizes • and Much, Much More!

Contact:
Lowell Community Wellness
at (616) 340-7781
for more information.

Lowell Community Wellness is funded through the Lowell Area Community Fund.

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**An Englishman is a person who does things because they have been done before.
An American is a person who does things because they haven't been done before.**

- Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

on parade

To be held
July 8th at 2 p.m.
Registration is at 1:30 PM

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To The Editor

Dear Editor,

This letter is to call attention to the talented pet groomer now located in her own shop in the Stoneridge shopping center. Nikki Jankowski loves a challenge as she told me when I asked her help with my one-year-old Miniature Schnauzer. We recently just had a very bad experience with another groomer and Murphy was not going to be

cooperative. Nikki has now seen Murphy twice weekly for three weeks and they have formed a respectful friendship and yes, my dog has been beautifully groomed.

I am grateful for Nikki's talents and professionalism and for not giving up on Murphy. I recommend Paws-itively Grooming and Nikki Jankowski to pet owners seeking a great experience for their pets.

Sincerely,
Lois Horstman

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 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or emailed to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com. Letters must be signed and please include a phone number. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity and to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy. The Lowell Ledger thanks you in advance for your cooperation.

Reflections of faith

Dr. Michael Conklin, pastor
First United Methodist Church

Summer, as I remember it from my distant youth, was a slower-paced life than it seems to be today. I can even remember when, in the activity life of the churches, summer was a slower, easier time.

I am not at all sure what has happened in the intervening years. We have become a society that is as busy, pressed, and stressed in the summer as we are at other times of the year. Certainly many of us take vacation time in the summer, and the schedule of our busy-ness shifts dramatically.

For one thing, we are not governed, at least in the early part of summer, by the school schedules. But soccer, family commitments and reunions, summer camps of all kinds, little league, softball, golf and a myriad of other events lend a certain frantic cast to our summers these days. Then, of course, the lawn needs to be mowed, the garden weeded, the outdoor projects completed, and we come to the end of the summer wondering where it all went.

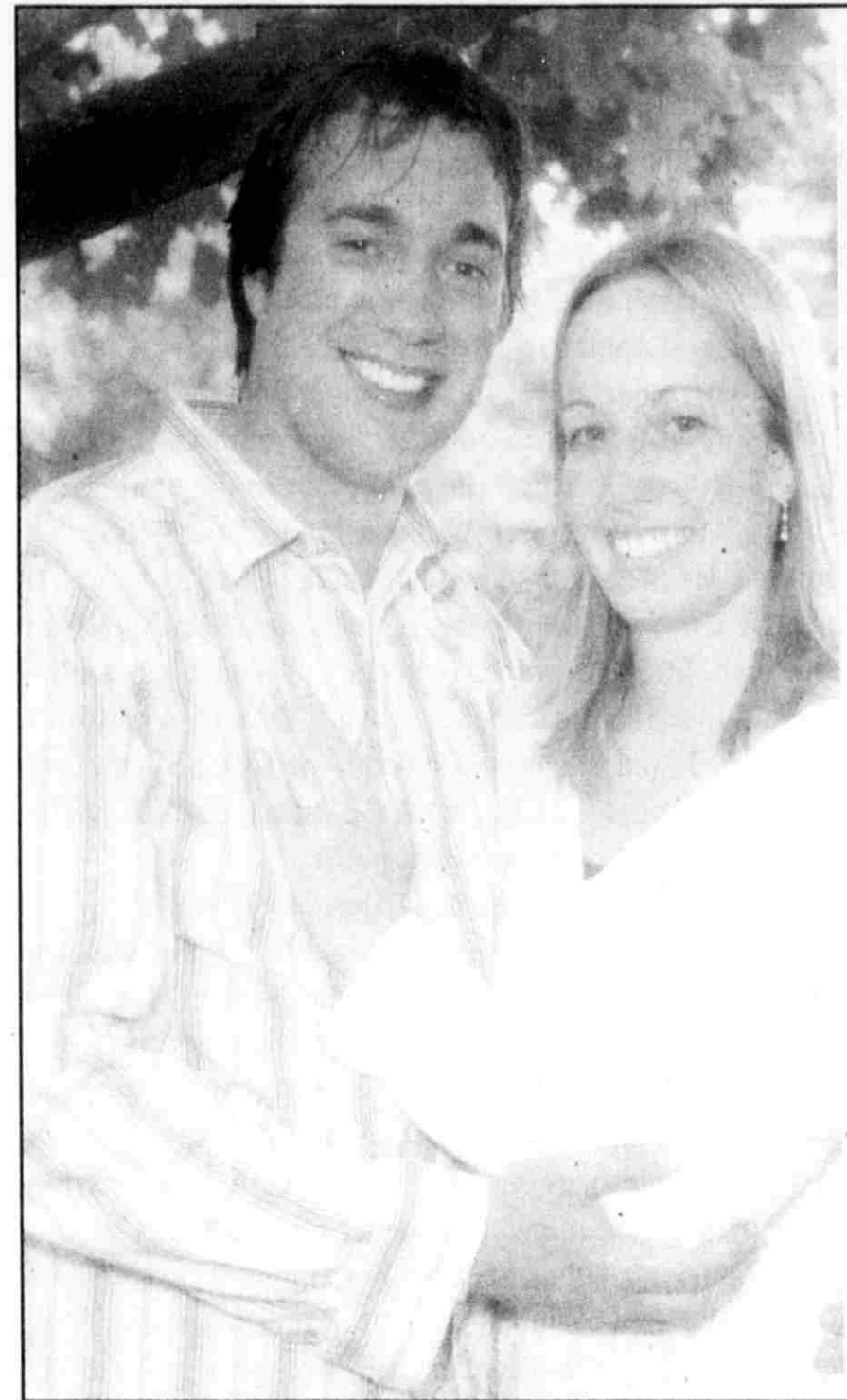
It isn't that any of these activities are bad or unproductive. It is just that we fill our days and nights, weeks and months with so much that there is little time for noticing the colors of the summer, the raspberries reopening, and the good gift of God's gentler days to refresh and sustain us. In fact, the thought of God's gracious gift of summer has a hard time making it into our busy minds and schedules.

I write this article in the midst of a week at camp on a beautiful lake, with fires built in the late evening on the shore of the lake, songs of faith sung by middle school kids and their adult leaders, learning and fun activities during the day. All of this is done at a pace that is slower, more reflective and more life-giving than the other days of my summer.

I also write this on a night when I needed to pull myself out of camp to come home for an important church meeting. I am glad I made it to the meeting, but it is hard to shift gears. I will be glad to immerse myself again, in just a few minutes, into that energizing camp setting where life flows at a softer speed, where faith is openly and deeply explored, and where renewal takes place. May you find renewal places in your summer.

Engagements

Boersma/Glupker



Aaron Glupker and Lynn Boersma

The marriage of Lynn Marie Boersma of Lowell and Aaron Gerald Glupker of Byron Center will be celebrated on August 26, 2006, at Ada Christian Reformed Church.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Tom and Jo Boersma of Lowell. She graduated from Davenport University with a bachelor's

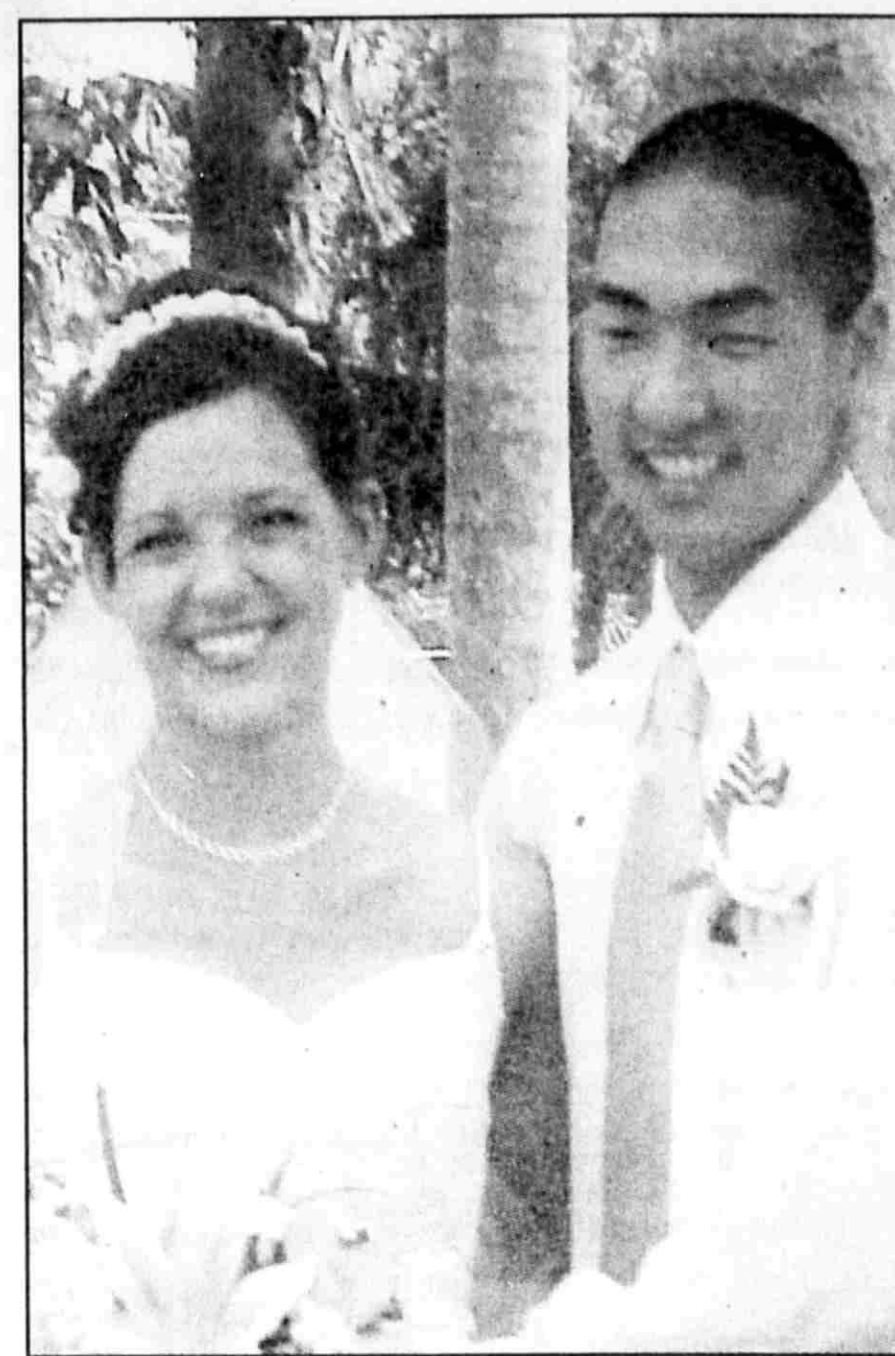
degree in accounting and is currently pursuing her MBA. She is employed at Fifth Third Bank.

The future groom is the son of Phil and Karen Glupker of Byron Center. He graduated from Cedarville University in Ohio with a bachelor's degree in

business. He is employed at Watsons in sales.

Weddings

Cavanaugh/Rowell



Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Cavanaugh

Palma Sola Botanical Park in Bradenton, Fla., was the setting for the June 23, 2006 wedding of Myla Sue Rowell and Patrick Sean Cavanaugh.

Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. David Rowell of Green Bay, Wis. and Mr. and Mrs. Terry Cavanaugh of Alto.

Maid of honor was Angela Rowell. Bridesmaids were Mrs. Gina Linszen and Mrs. Judi Hermans.

Best man was Justin VanderPol. Groomsmen were James Telman and Andrew Rowell.

The couple will reside in Lakeland, Fla.

*The love of liberty is the love of others;
the love of power is the love of ourselves.*

- William Hazlitt (1778 - 1830)

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p>ATTENTION: BIBLE BELIEVERS If you would like to attend a church where the King James Bible is held up as the perfect, preserved word of God with all the words of God for all English speaking people, then give us a visit at: 901 W. Main, Lowell 897-6284 or 485-4195 10AM Sunday School; 11AM Morning Service; 6PM Evening Service; Wed., 7:30am Prayer Meeting.</p>	<p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M. OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332 Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M. Nursery & Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL Rev. Randy Meyers • 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	<p>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com</p>
<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 Worship Services.....8:30 & 10:00 a.m. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p>ALTON BAPTIST CHURCH Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648 Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor Dave Noonan, Asst. Pastor Jonathan & Stacy Holmes, Youth Pastors SUNDAYS: Worship: 10:00 a.m. - LIFE Home Groups & "XL" Youth Sunday evenings WEDNESDAYS: Family Night (For All Ages): 7 p.m. "XL" Youth: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. George J. Falek 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmarys-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 9 PM, SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL BRENDA BERING 897-7515 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 404 North Hudson • 897-5906 Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Worship.....7:00 P.M. Dr. Roger LaWarre.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Hanes, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA CLUB.....Wed. 6:15 & 8:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided - Barrier Free</p>	<p>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurian Meredith 9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p>		<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:30 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:40 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M. PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>

HEALTH

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



GIVE BLOOD

Blood donation is probably one of the most important gifts that we can give. Blood donors help save lives every day. Blood that is transfused today must be fresh, so there is an ongoing need for blood every day.

Giving blood is easy. From start to finish, the whole procedure takes less than an hour with the actual donation less than 10 minutes. After donating blood, your body replenishes the fluid within 24 hours and red blood cells are replaced within 3-4 weeks.

Each pint of blood will help 3-4 people. The blood you give is separated into different components such as red blood cells, platelets or plasma, and can be used to help different people.

You can't get AIDS or any other disease by donating blood. All the equipment/needles are sterile and used only once. All blood donated goes through rigorous screening in order to prevent transmission of disease to recipients.

To give blood you must be at least 17 years old, in good health and weigh at least 110 pounds. You can donate blood every eight weeks. You may not donate blood if you are HIV positive or if you have either chronic lung, liver or heart disease.

For more information contact the Grand Valley Blood Center at 616-774-2300 or log on to miblood.org. We have several opportunities to donate blood right here in Lowell. Every year there are local blood drives sponsored by the Fire Department and the Lowell Rotary Club.

New Arrivals

DesJarden

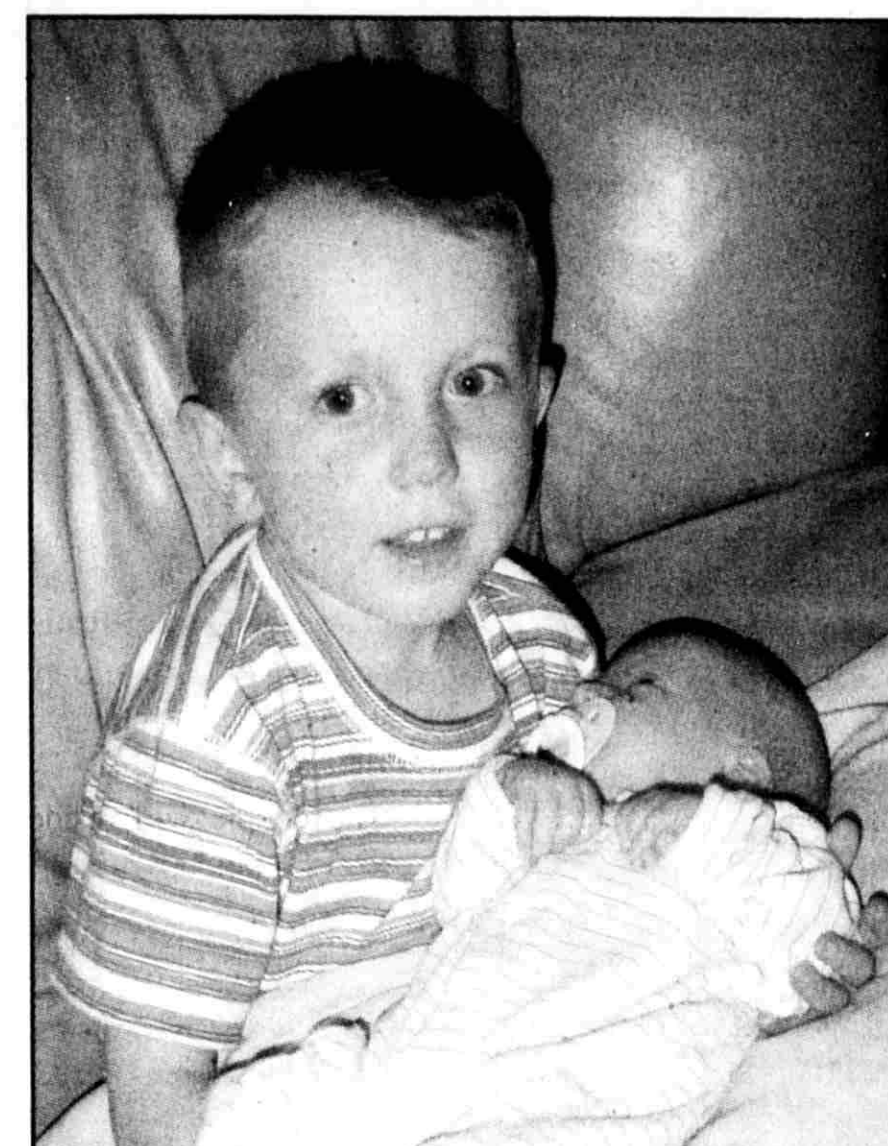
Big sister Lauren Kay DesJarden is excited to welcome home her baby sister Sophia Lyn. She was born May 2, 2006, weighing 3 lbs. 1 oz. and measuring 14 1/4 inches.

Proud parents are Jason and Phaedra DesJarden of Saranac. Grandparents are Dan and Linda DesJarden of Lowell, Vicky McElvain of Saranac and the late Richard McElvain. Great-grandparents are Clifford and Phyllis DesJarden of Manistique, and Carol Stevens of Lowell.



Sophia Lyn DesJarden with big sister Lauren.

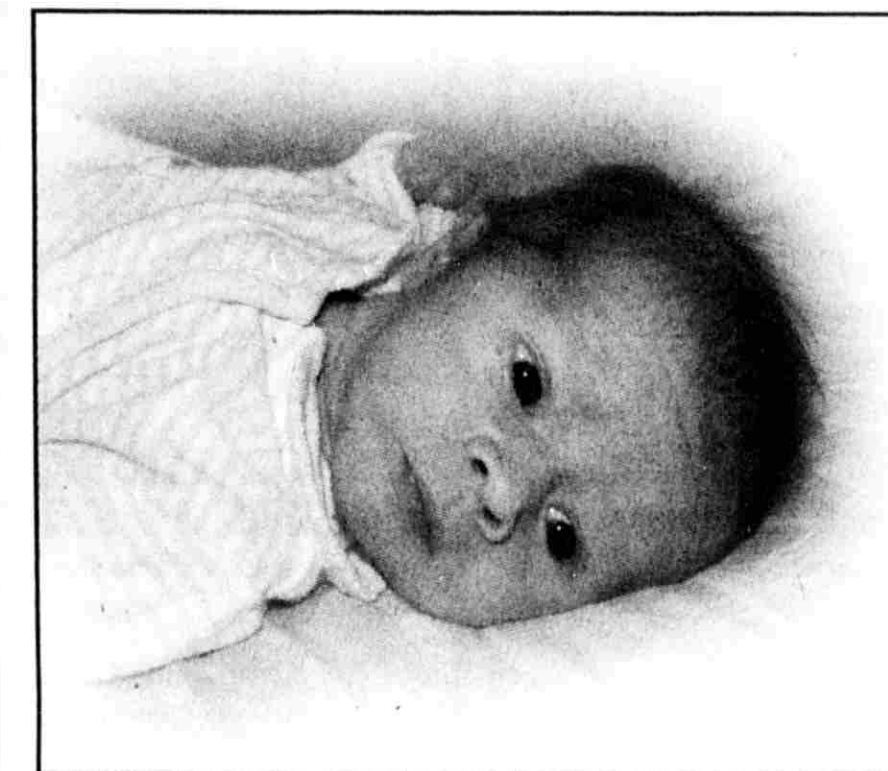
Fox



Quinn Robert Fox with big brother Garret

Kris and Sarah Fox along with big brother Garret are happy to announce the newest addition to their family. Quinn Robert was born June 3, 2006 at 9:07 p.m. He weighed 7 lbs. 5 oz. and measured 19 inches.

Phillips



Corbett Jeffery Thomas Phillips

Todd and Rachel Phillips are happy to announce the birth of their son Corbett Jeffery Thomas. He was born May 10, 2006 at 7:19 a.m. He weighed 6 lbs. 9 oz. and measured 19 inches.

Welcoming him home is big brother Brayton.

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JULY 6:
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JULY 7:
Phil VanLaan, Elizabeth Gerard, Tim Tulppo, Zach Meiste, Wayne Racine.

JULY 8:
Jason White, Tony Stencil, Ryan Washaw, Jessica Tulppo, Marilyn Venneman.

JULY 9:
Elaine Haines, Leo Pfaller.

JULY 10:
Barb Rivette, Pete VanLaan, Austin Bieri, Carter Peel.

JULY 11:
Dina DeCator,
Jodi Hutchinson.

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Still think you don't have a thing to donate?



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Business Matters

Lowell native will perform in Grand Haven



Julia Thomas

Greenridge Realty announced that Julia Thomas received Realtor of the Month in June.

This award recognizes Thomas for her outstanding success and achievements.

Lowell native and recording artist, Roger MacNaughton is on tap as the Grand Haven Arts Council presents an evening of outdoor music.

The Roger MacNaughton Trio will perform July 25 in the series "Tuesdays in the Park" from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Grand Haven Central Park. Musicians include Steve Anzivino (drums), Charlie Hoats (bass), Tami

Hjelm (vocals) and Carlos Melendez (guitar).

In addition to keyboard, MacNaughton provides the group's original material.

"In composing for the jazz trio, I almost always begin writing at the piano, leaving room for the incredible improvisations that Charlie and

Steve bring to the final mix," said MacNaughton. "This year good friends Carlos Melendez and Tami

Hjelm will join us." MacNaughton recently released a solo piano CD, "Cold-Hearted Orb."



Roger MacNaughton Trio

"When a whole nation is roaring Patriotism at the top of its voice, I am fain to explore the cleanness of its hands and purity of its heart."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882)

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

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Museum's contribution acknowledged

Lowell High School history teacher Nick Blough presents a Lowell Area Schools Community Partner plaque to Lowell Area Historical Museum director Judy Straub. The plaque recognizes the museum's role in the veterans' history project, which Blough has worked on with his advanced placement European History class the last two years. "The museum has really backed this project from the beginning and gotten it under way," said Blough.

For the project, students interviewed World War II veterans from Lowell about their experiences before, during and after the war. It was both world and local history. "The men and women who served our country are in that global context, but they're our guys," Straub said.



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Do they need an extra hand?

Dear Lowell Alumni or Lowell Friend,

When Mr. Bob Perry, known as "Mr. Red Arrow" died this past year, many of us felt it was appropriate to start the



process of renaming our stadium at the high school. Our renowned athletic director, biology teacher and coach touched many lives with his contributions to our athletic programs. The proposal to the school board and superintendent asked that the field at our high school be named Red Arrow Memorial Stadium with the field becoming Perry Field.

We would appreciate your help. We are collecting money to help purchase the sign that will be featured on top of the scoreboard commemorating Perry Field.

Recognition for your donation will be printed in the program for the dedication ceremony August, 2006. Please make your check out to:

The Perry Field Fund.
Checks can be sent to the
Ionia County National Bank
2601 Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331.

We would also like to recognize others within our athletic community who have contributed to the successes of our Lowell teams. A wall of honor will be built to feature other individuals inside the stadium.

If you'd like more information regarding either Perry Field or the Wall of Honor please contact
Mrs. Robin Briggs (897-9904)
or Mark Russell (897-4235).

Thank you for your interest,
Bob Perry Field Committee.

Festival, continued ... From Page 1

There will also be an accordionist. "Actually I think he calls it a squeezebox," Myers said.

One of the musicians will be Myers, playing harmonica under the name "Chaz Bluz."

Rotating among several stations, the musicians will play half-hour sets at each with breaks every few hours.

"That will not only give a change of music to the people in that spot every 30 minutes, but the musicians will get a chance to play at different spots," Myers said.

Donation containers at each location will benefit Flat River Outreach Ministries.

From 12 to 4 p.m., the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual flush tank fundraiser featuring local personalities. For a dollar, passersby can purchase a chance to throw bean bags at a plunger attached to the flush lever of a toilet suspended above the person's head. Knocking down the plunger sends a cascade of water down on the person sitting below.

Other Saturday activities include kayak rides, chainsaw sculpture, and traditional craft demonstrations (such as weaving and rug hooking) on the Lowell Showboat.

A new addition this year is "Play Day with Thomas and Friends" for children, ages three to eight, on Friday and Saturday.

The Englehardt Friends of the Library will have their annual used book sale under the tent both days. Arts and crafts along the Flat River will be for sale, as well as a cash bar on the Lowell Showboat both days.

The River Rogues Jazz Band will perform Friday at the Fifth Third Stage on Riverwalk Plaza from 6 to 9 p.m. The Great Lakes Band will be the main stage entertainment Saturday, playing from 7 to 9 p.m.

In conjunction with the festival, there are events planned at other locations in Lowell, as well. Larkin's Restaurant is holding a horseshoe tournament

starting at 12:30 p.m. Laurels of Kent, at 350 N. Center Street, will host a pet parade at 2 p.m., Saturday. Nearer to Riverwalk Plaza, in the Lowell police garage on Avery Street, Lowell Community Wellness is holding its health and fitness fair.

Wagon rides will bring visitors back and forth between Riverwalk Plaza and the Lowell Fairgrounds, site of the Brian Meade Memorial Cruise-in classic car show and a number of other events. The Fairgrounds will also be the site of the finish line for the annual Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce duck race. The winning duck gets \$1,500 for its owner. The race starts at 5 p.m. Tickets are available at the chamber and at businesses around Lowell.

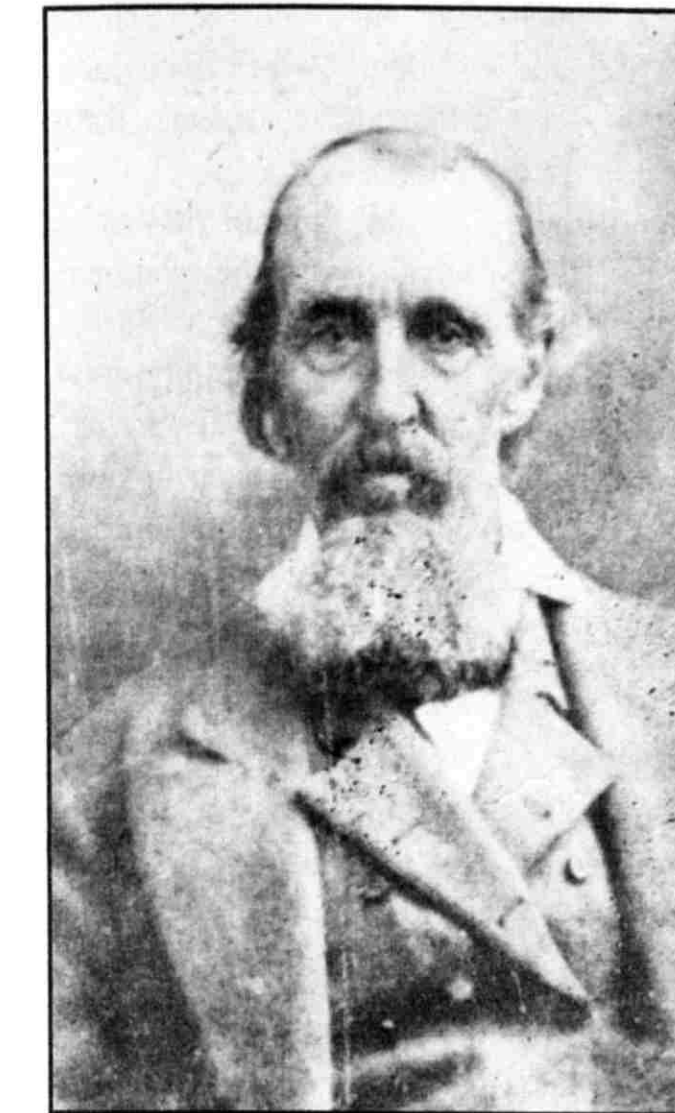
To conclude the festival, fireworks are planned at Stoney Lakeside Park at 10:15 p.m.; they are sponsored by Laurels of Kent.

Lowell Celebrates its 175th Year

By Dan Schneider

This year marks the 175th anniversary of the existence of Lowell, Mich.

The town was first settled in 1831. Fur trader Daniel Marsac is credited as the first Lowell settler, having set up his trading post in that year though he is far from the first person



Fur trader Daniel Marsac, the first permanent white settler in Lowell, built his log trading post at the confluence of the Flat and Grand rivers in 1831.

to live at the confluence of the Grand and Flat rivers.

Before Marsac, for hundreds of years, the area was home to a sizable Native American population. The Ottawa tribe had a large and thriving village close to where the rivers come together. These were the people with whom Marsac traded furs.

But there were others who beat him here. Madame LaFramboise (history books do not agree on her first name, so "madame" is used generically) was one of them. A fur trader of French Canadian and Ottawa descent, she traded furs in the Lowell area even prior to 1820. She eventually sold her fur trading business to a man by the name of Rix Robinson.

But the first to set up a permanent settlement was Marsac, a Frenchman from Detroit who was nothing if not a colorful character. He built his log trading post here in 1831. In the history of Lowell written to mark its 100th year in 1931, Marsac was described as "tall, straight, athletic and well-liked by the Indians."

He married an Ottawa woman named Jenute, but later left her for a French woman named Colette

Beaufait, whom he brought back to Lowell from Detroit. This complicated his fur trading business with the Ottawa.

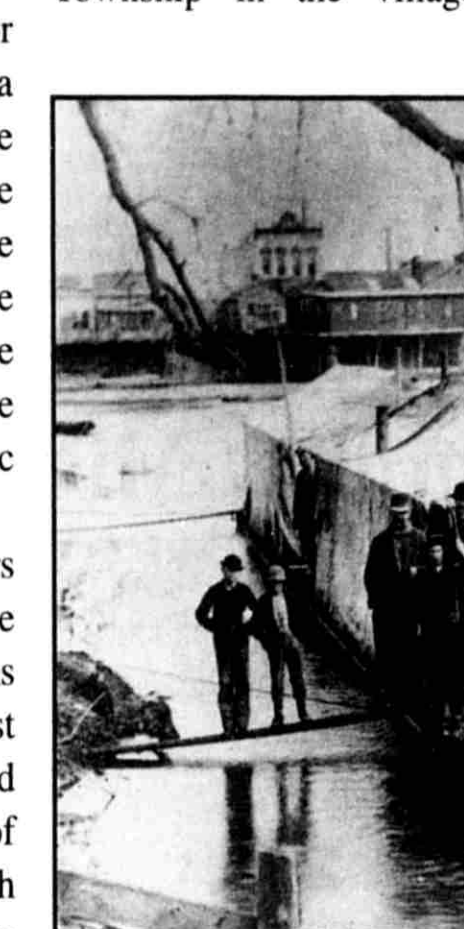
"Obviously," the 100-year history states, "Marsac lost the respect and trade of the local tribe, so he turned to farming."

He bought 80 acres of land on the northeast end of the confluence of the rivers and farmed it.

In 1848, Marsac platted a village on that land. Not a man afflicted with humility, Marsac named the village Dansville.

The town already had a bridge over the Flat River, which Cyprian S. Hooker built in 1844. The Flat River had already been bridged in Vergennes Township in the village

of Fallsburg. Vergennes Township was established in 1836. Lowell Township came into being in 1848.



This was the floating cooking shanty for the last logging run down the Flat River in 1892.

Dansville had a population of 214 in 1850. In 1857, the state legislature changed the village's name from Dansville to Lowell.

Historical accounts vary on where that name came from. One story has it that the name Lowell was suggested by Roxinda White, the wife of the owner of the tavern where the first Lowell Township meeting was held. She had recently returned from a trip



The first Lowell Showboat, the George Washington, was built in 1932. Subsequent showboats were named the "Robert E. Lee."

to Lowell, Mass., a leading textile manufacturing town on the east coast. Another account, published in an old edition of the Lowell Ledger, states that a village leader suggested the name based on Lowell's location in a river valley, a conglomeration of the words "low" and "elevation."

However Lowell got its name, there were more and more people calling the village home as the 1800s progressed. In 1870, the population was 2,576. Ten

Lowell's first newspaper was published in 1860. The first issue of the Lowell Journal was



This float carried Centennial Queen Emma Kropf along Main Street during the big parade for the Lowell Centennial Celebration, held in 1931.

published July 13, 1865.

July apparently being the best time of the year to begin publishing a newspaper in Lowell, the first issue of the Lowell Ledger was also published in that month. Volume one, issue one of the Ledger was printed July 1, 1893 with the following "Excuses and Acknowledgements" printed in the right-hand column of the front page:

This issue of the Ledger is gotten out under difficulties such as none but those who have gone through the experience of starting a new paper in a strange town can understand. We beg the public to be charitable. For kind assistance, we are under obligation to many, and in personal mention, we may be partial, but we cannot omit to mention the courtesies extended by Hon. A.S. White and II C. White of Grand Rapids and of Messrs. Edmonds, McCarty, Nash, Train,

the day when they extended helping hands and helped stand the Lowell Ledger on its feet. The front page also contained a set of scores from a recent trap shoot held at the Lowell Fairgrounds. And under home news, an eclectic bunch of items: V. Obeneaur, of Marshall, is in town ... Miss Mamie Walsh is home for vacation ... Painless extraction of teeth at Dr. Goodsell's ... Prof. Larzelere and wife will attend the world's fair ... A set of silver spoons free with a dozen photos at Wilson's.

In 1896, Lowell Light and Power brought electricity to Lowell. It was generated at the Whites Bridge Dam near Smyrna.

The years after the turn of the century were marked by disaster in Lowell. Major floods struck the town in both 1904 and 1905. A 1905 fire destroyed several buildings on East Main Street.

By 1931, however, Lowell was in pretty good shape for the Centennial Celebration. Though it was the middle of the Depression, village leaders put together a spectacle that drew thousands of people from far and wide to Lowell. There was a large parade, baseball games and boxing matches, music, a midway and an ox roast. Emma Kropf was named the queen of the Centennial Pageant.

A year later, the Lowell Showboat was born, which would become both a landmark and a major claim to fame for this town. City leaders dreamed up the idea as a way to preserve the enthusiasm born out of the Centennial Celebration. The George Washington was the first of several

showboats; thereafter they were all named the "Robert E. Lee."

The showboat was destroyed in a 1978 windstorm that also caused extensive damage throughout Lowell. A "Refloat the Showboat" campaign led to the construction of the current boat, which floats on military surplus barges. Many prominent entertainers performed on the Showboat; among them were Louis Armstrong, Loretta Lynn and Milton Berle. Former president, Gerald R. Ford made more than one trip to Lowell while vice president to attend Showboat performances.

Downtown Lowell, with its brick buildings dating back to the 1860s, was registered as a national historic district in 1996.

In 2001, the Lowell Area Historical Museum opened to keep track of Lowell's history.

Finnie awarded Morse scholarship



Ross Finnie, the recipient of this year's Benjamin Morse Scholarship, receives a check from Judy Straub, director of the Lowell Area Historical Museum. He used the scholarship to help pay for his participation in the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp International Tour. The tuba player will return from the tour July 10 having played at venues in France, Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark. In an e-mail, Finnie told his parents the Europeans have been very responsive to the song "Stars and Stripes Forever." Finnie will be a freshman at Lowell High School this fall where he will play in the marching band. The historical museum established the Benjamin Morse Scholarship to help Lowell youth participate in educational endeavors outside of school. The scholarship is named after Lowell Civil War hero and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Benjamin Morse.

Shooting teams win state championships

By Dan Schneider

A pair of Lowell shooting sports teams won state championships two weekends ago.

At the Scholastic Clay Target Program State Championship Shoot June 23 at the Detroit Sportsman's Congress in Utica, the senior novice sporting clays team and senior novice skeet team took first place. The junior novice skeet team placed third. Consisting mainly of Lowell high and middle school students, the teams are part of the Kent County Conservation League, where their practice shoots are held.

At the state shoot, each skeet and sporting clays team has three shooters. Each shooter shoots at 100 targets over the course of the day. The skeet shooters shoot all their targets on

the skeet field, while the sporting clays shooters move among several stations. The sporting clays course at the Detroit Sportsman's Congress had 14 stations. To get a team score, the team members' individual scores are added up.

To take first place, the senior novice sporting clays team hit 257 of 300 targets on the day. That team was made up of Lowell High School students Josh Kleczynski and Tony Mulder, and Greenville High School student Tristan Eastlick.

"The sporting clays squad had the highest score of any team at the shoot," said coach Bob Humphries.

Their 257 was a better score than the best score in the senior experienced division, the highest division at the shoot.

Based on their diligence in practice, Humphries was not surprised to see the team win the championship, despite this being the team's first year of existence.

"I thought they had a very good chance of winning," he said. "They've been shooting very well in all the fun shoots, practice shoots. They've been practicing a lot, seeing a lot of different (target) presentations."

The term "presentation" refers to a target's launch point, trajectory and velocity.

The senior novice skeet team hit 276 of their targets, meaning they only missed 24 "birds," as the orange clay discs are sometimes called. That team consisted of Lowell High School students Zachary Hoover, Javon Brown and Kleczynski.

This is also the skeet team's first year of competition. The Kent County Conservation League started its first youth team last year with a trap shooting team.

The junior novice skeet team, coached by Carter Huysler, who is also the head coach for the conservation league's youth shooting teams, hit 228 of 300 targets to earn their third place finish. That team consisted of Lowell Middle School students Parker Bachelder, Rashodd Jenkins and Tony Larkin.

All three of the teams advance to the National Scholastic Clay Target Program Championships July 13-16 in Rochester, New York. The teams are looking for sponsors to help defray their travel costs.

Local musician tours China

Clarinetist Susan Hanline, a resident of Lowell, recently returned from a musical tour of China. A member of Windiana, a professional concert band centered in northwest Indiana, Hanline completed a 10-day tour, including concerts in Shanghai, Hangzhou, Wuxi and Nanjing with an additional stop in Beijing. The band tour was planned with the assistance of the Roosevelt Institute, which promotes cultural and educational exchanges between the US and China.

The concert tour opened in the Concert Hall

of the Shanghai Oriental Art Center, a new facility equivalent to New York City's Lincoln Center. "Performing concert band music 'in the round' was an interesting experience," said Hanline. "I was also excited to see how traditional concert band music would be received, but we were thrilled with the reception we received from Chinese audiences."

A highlight for most members of Windiana was playing with the Hangzhou Utility Band which is comprised of people who work for the electric company. The

company supports the band by providing instruments and music lessons for each of the band's members. "Collaborating with local musicians on both Chinese and American music was phenomenal. I don't speak Chinese, but we communicated perfectly by following the music... it truly is the universal language," Hanline said.

House approves legislation to protect Michigan jobs

State Rep. Dave Hildenbrand announced House approval of legislation that will give state businesses preference over billions of dollars in annual state government contracts to protect Michigan jobs from outsourcing.

Hildenbrand announced the legislation last week at a news conference at Festida Foods in Cedar Springs, a local company that has a contract to supply Michigan schools with tortilla products. House Bill 6257, sponsored by Hildenbrand, gives preference to products manufactured or services offered by Michigan-based firms for all purchases made by the state.

"Michigan is host to a wealth of businesses owned and operated by Michigan taxpayers who contribute to the economy and provide jobs to thousands of residents," said Hildenbrand, R-Howell. "These business owners are our neighbors, our friends

and the lifeblood of our state's economy. With state contracts, we can invest in these businesses that invest in our communities."

Other bills in the House Republican plan to fight job outsourcing include:

- HB 6258, a measure that establishes a Michigan Business Purchasing Program to help all Michigan businesses become qualified vendors, understand the bidding process and find available contracts;
- HB 6259, which creates a Web site that contains information on all Michigan contracts, allows businesses to easily find bids in certain categories and includes other useful information about bidding requirements;
- HB 6041, which requires the state to compile an annual report of the bids awarded to companies to

Legislation, cont'd., pg. 16

With cancer in the past Organeck sets her sites toward helping other kids

By Dan Schneider

Anna Organeck, the nine year old whose fight with cancer rallied the Lowell community around major bone marrow drive and fundraising efforts, won her battle with non-hodgkins lymphoma.

Now, she has turned her attention to helping the kids she played with in the play rooms at DeVos Children's Hospital. Organeck is using the money raised from a fashion-show fundraiser held at Lowell High School to buy toys for the

play rooms. While she was there, she often found there weren't enough toys for all the children who wanted to play. "They were running out of paints, their markers were running out of ink," she said.

So Organeck is looking forward to making a trip to Toys R Us to rectify that situation. She has already donated a tricycle.

She's donating the toys in her name and the name of Ashleigh Kieliszewski, her four-year-old friend who lost her battle with cancer.

Tests showed Organeck was cancer-free as of May 24, though she'll continue taking daily chemotherapy pills for another year.

This Christmas, for the second year, Organeck will put together gift baskets for the in-patient kids at the children's hospital.

Last year's marrow drive for Organeck at Lowell High School added more than 1,000 potential donors to the National Bone Marrow Donor registry.

Anna Organeck (upper left) with sister Emma Organeck (on slide), friends Jenna and Madison Sullivan, and mother Heather Organeck on a slide outside Organeck's home. Anna Organeck is donating some of the proceeds from her cancer benefits to buy toys for children still fighting cancer.



Lend A Hand

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BURMESE REFUGEES

Bethany Christian Services in Grand Rapids is recruiting families to provide foster care to refugee children from Burma.

Currently there are over 100 Burmese refugee children in Malaysia who are waiting for clearance in the United States.

Bethany Christian Services helps set up families in the West Michigan area with refugees coming into the U.S. to help assimilate them when they arrive from their native country.

To learn more about being a refugee foster family, call 616-224-7540.

PROMOTE LITERACY

The Kent County Literacy Council has scheduled an information session on Tuesday, July 11 for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 6:30 p.m. and lasts one hour. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

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

Another session is on Monday, July 10 at the Grand Rapids Public Library, 111 Library NE.

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4th Annual

"Hunt For A Cure" Charity Golf Scramble

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or Chris Wilks
(616) 224-2204

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COMING EVENTS

JULY

THURS., JULY 6: Vergennes Cooperative Club fundraiser picnic at Fallasburg Park, upper level, C-1, 12:30. Bring table service, dish to pass, chair. Beverages furnished.

FRI., JULY 7: 12 p.m. Pizza Lunch; 12:45 p.m. Jim & Pat Healy Golf Talk. Lowell Senior Neighbors.

FRI., JULY 7 & SAT., JULY 8: Riverwalk Festival. Fireworks Sat., 10:15 p.m., Stoney Lakeside Park. Used book sale Englehardt Library, 6-9 p.m. Fri.; 10-4 p.m. Sat.

SAT., JULY 8: Relay for Life car wash at Tractor Supply Co., Lowell, 10-2 p.m. Down 2 Earth Car Club to raise money to fight cancer.

WED., JULY 12: Lowell Area Fire Dept. blood drive for MI Community Blood Center, 2-7 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson.

WED., JULY 12: Writer's Workshop at Franciscan Life Process Center w/Lori Hudson. Call 897-7842.

WED., JULY 12: Hooker Chapter #73 Royal Arch Masons practice in lodge room of Belding Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main, Belding. 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

FRI., JULY 14: 12:45 p.m. Bingo. 6 p.m. Cannonsburg Picnic Pops. Lowell Senior Neighbors.

SAT., JULY 15: School of Missionary Aviation tours, rides, hog roast, children's activities at Lowell airport; events 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Proceeds to SMAT scholarship fund.

SAT., JULY 15: Volunteers needed to help build Bob Perry Field Memorial Wall, 8 a.m. at stadium. Call Mark 897-4235 or Terry 897-5148. Rain date: July 22.

MONDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

2ND MON.: Lowell Board of Education meets at 7 p.m. in Administration Building, 300 High Street.

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

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

3RD MON.: Peripheral Neuropathy support group, 7 p.m. at Schneider Manor Community Room. Canceled for July/August. Will resume Sept 18.

3RD MON.: Lowell Showboat Garden Club meets in the Fellowship Hall at 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. Ages 12 or older. No dues. Call 897-9879.

MON., TUES., THURS.: Alpha Women's Center, 2251 W. Main. Call 987-9533 for appt. or stop by M. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tu. 6-9 p.m.; Th. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Diapers, formula and clothing are available.

TUESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. 897-5449 for information.

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

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

2ND & 4TH TUES.: MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers meets at Fallasburg Park, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Call 897-8304.

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

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

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

TUES./THURS.: Back to Basics Closed AA meetings at 1st Congregational Church, 404 N. Hudson. 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking.

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 897-6050.

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

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

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

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.

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

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY: 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: 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 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: 5:30-7:30 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, North Hudson St. Call Paul at 527-7796 for information. Family members may call Erin at 527-7796.

EVERY THURS.: Alpha Women's Center, 2251 W. Main. 987-9533, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Diapers, formula, clothing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOWELL COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

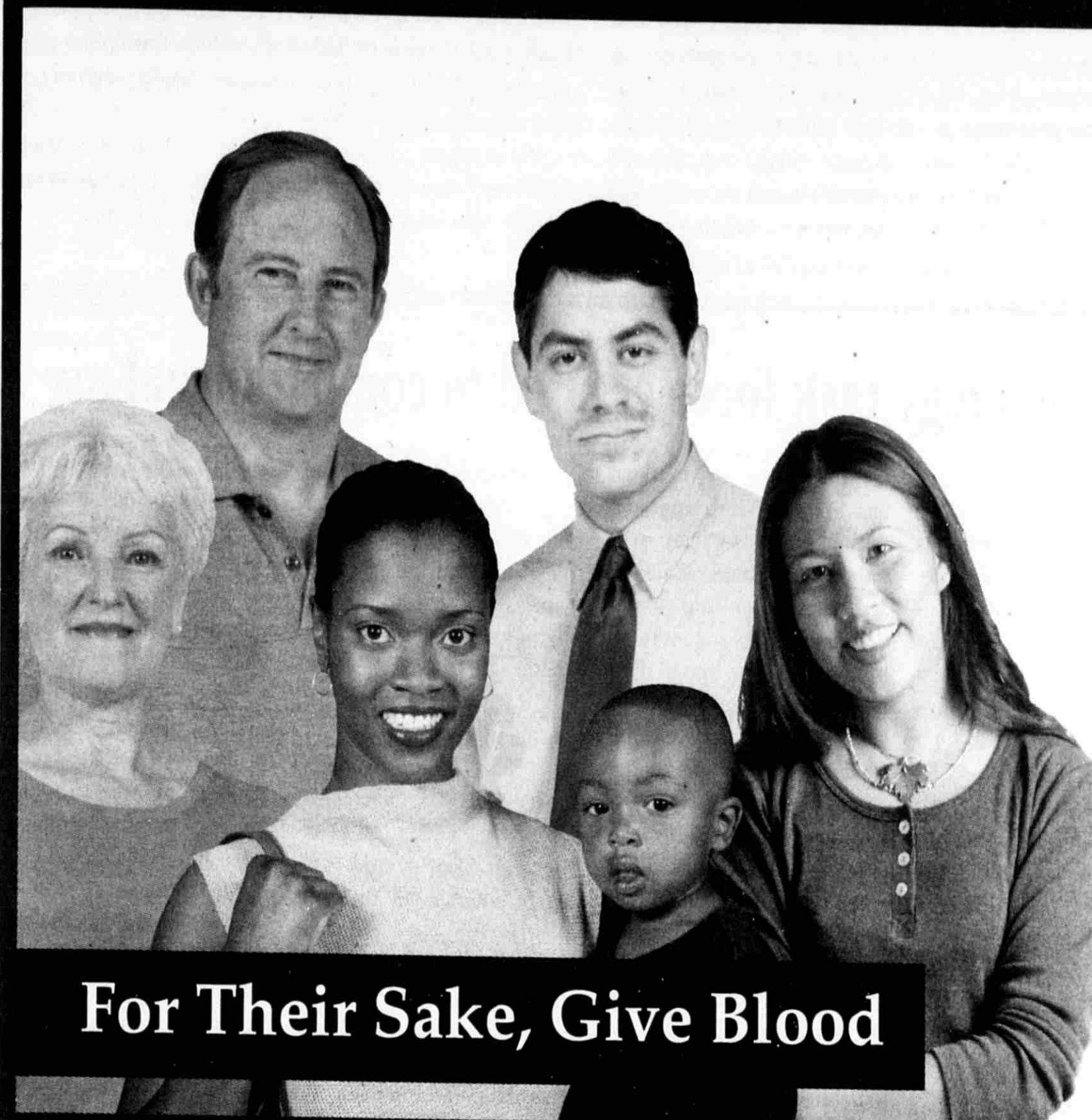
**Wednesday
July 12, 2006
2 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

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Financial Focus

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

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING A PORTFOLIO REVIEW

If you are serious about achieving your long-term financial goals, you should work with an investment professional - someone with the training, resources and objectivity to help you choose the right mix of investments for your individual needs and preferences.

And you'll want to meet periodically with your investment professional to gauge your progress. You'll get more out of these meetings if you know what to look for - and what to expect.

To prepare for a portfolio review, you may need to bring last year's tax return, recent statements from your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, life insurance policies and other documents suggested by your investment professional. When the review begins, here are a few things to look for:

Suitability of investments - You'll need to make sure your investments are suitable for your individual needs. This may mean holding on to investments that are, for the moment, not "doing well" as defined by traditional measures, such as stock prices. To cite a recent example, from 2000 to 2002, many investments were "down" - and yet, they were still the right ones for some people to own. This isn't to say you don't want to know your investments' recent performance history - just don't let it be the determining factor in making "buy" or "sell" decisions.

Portfolio balance - Investment portfolios are never "static." You should be open to making adjustments in response to changes in your life; i.e., a child nears college,

you move closer to retirement, etc. Consequently, it's a good idea to review your holdings periodically to see if they are still properly balanced in a way to help you make progress toward your goals. At the same time, you'll need to make sure your portfolio is still aligned with your risk tolerance; in other words, you don't want to inadvertently take on more risk than you'd like.

Tax efficiency - Many people don't pay sufficient attention to the impact of taxes on their investments. A portfolio review may be a good time to examine your situation and determine if you are fully taking advantage of tax-deferred vehicles (such as your 401(k) or traditional IRA), tax-advantaged free investments (such as municipal bonds) and tax-efficient strategies (such as holding stocks for the long term to achieve the best capital gains rate). Be

sure to consult with your tax advisor prior to making any "tax-smart" investment decisions.

Changes in investment-related laws - Like most people, you are probably busy with your work and family, and you may not have time to stay current on the always-changing laws that can affect your investment strategies. At your portfolio review, your investment professional can inform you of these changes. In 2006, for instance, the new "Roth 401(k)" was introduced; if you have this option where you work, you may be able to receive tax-free earnings on some of your 401(k) dollars.

To stay on track toward your important financial objectives, you will find few events more helpful than your portfolio reviews - so make the most out of them.

ORV strategy task force created to combat illegal use

Glenn Moll of Newberry has been riding ORVs, ATVs and motorcycles for his entire adult life. He loves the feeling of freedom when riding, as well as the excitement that concentration brings when he must hone in on a challenging trail.

"It's like reading a great book, walking on a balance beam, practicing rapid hand-eye coordination, all the while setting your senses at their maximum," he said. "But then you add the element of motion. It takes everything you have to make it work right."

ORV use in Michigan has always been common, but no more so than over the past few years, as newer machines and an aging population have combined to catapult the sport to a whole new, higher-pitched level. Today's ORV can be super-charged, side by side, camouflaged and equipped with anything from gun racks to tow-behind wagons. They come in standard, automatic, and even four on the floor.

"There has been a revolution in the evolution of ORVs that are on the market today," said Ron Yesney, recreation specialist for the DNR's Forest, Minerals and Fire Management Division in Marquette and an avid motorcycle trail rider. "Today, thanks to the latest technology, ORVs can go fast, over tough terrain and carry big loads, or they can simply be used to ride the trails and enjoy the liberation of being outdoors."

ORVs indeed have many uses. Some older hunters and physically challenged people enjoy using an ORV because it allows them to access areas to hunt without having to walk great distances. Some young people love to race modified ORVs. Some just love having an ORV to use on their property for hauling firewood and helping to get the chores done.

While most ORVs and their riders have stellar reputations and play by the rules, as with any sport, there are those who are not mindful of safe, sustainable practices. This has become a growing concern for conservationists.

"The DNR oversees about 3,100 miles of designated ORV trails in Michigan," Yesney said, "yet that is not enough to keep up with the huge demand for places to ride. We have riders who sometimes decide to set their own track, which is illegal on public property. Environmental damage is the ugly, upsetting result."

Yesney also pointed out a major misperception that many riders have. "A lot of ORV riders think that snowmobiles trails are OK to ride on in summer. But they are not and, in fact, the DNR has lost some easements for snowmobile trails in winter because of illegal use of snowmobile trails by ORVs in the summer. ORV riding on snowmobile trails can jeopardize the very existence of the trails, as 60 percent of snowmobile trails cross private property, and property owners oppose ORVs using those trails

during the non-winter months" Yesney added.

Facing a building crisis, Moll joined a group of specialists from many fields related to ORVs and public recreation. Formed this spring, the Off-Road Vehicle Strategy Task Force was formed by DNR director Becky Humphries to address the growing problems associated with illegal ORV use in Michigan.

"Michigan was recently certified under two separate initiatives for sustainable forest management," Humphries said. "While Michigan was ranked highly in the vast majority of areas, there were a few things that those conducting the survey wished for us to address. One of the major findings and a leading issue for concern was illegal ORV use, which has unfortunately led to widespread, and in some locations, significant environmental damage."

The task force, under the leadership of Steve DeBrabander of the DNR's Forest, Minerals and Fire Management Division, met to develop a strategy that would significantly reduce or

ORV, cont'd., pg. 17

Legislation, continued ...

From Page 12

ensure Michigan businesses are given preference.

Currently, preferences are given to state businesses if other criteria are equal. The plan would require the state to give preference to Michigan-based companies when reviewing all contracts.

The goal is to increase the number of Michigan businesses competing for contracts and winning contracts. Thirty percent of state contracts are not bid on by any Michigan business, according to the state Department of Management and Budget.

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ORV task force, continued ... From Page 16

eliminate the unacceptable amount of environmental damage being caused by illegal ORV use. If not addressed to the satisfaction of the forest certification teams, Michigan risks decertification of state forests and the potential loss of millions of dollars in revenue generated through forest products and management.

The task force looked deeply into three separate areas: user education, enforcement and restoration/maintenance. The group then developed draft strategies to address each. Overriding the discussion was the fact that the DNR would be hard-pressed to improve the situation without the support and understanding of the ORV community as well as the general public. The task force formed a long list of recommendations that would hopefully get the momentum going in the direction away from illegal and environmentally degrading uses.

"I was very pleased with the approach to public information that was suggested by the task force," DeBrabander said.

Most significantly, the group recommended a concentrated two-year period during which everyone connected with ORVs, including state and federal agencies, ORV riding groups and manufacturers, focus closely on making sure that riders fully understand the problems they are creating by not abiding by the rules. Those giving the sport a bad reputation by not obeying the rules have the potential to force limitations on all riders.

The group also focused on increased law enforcement, including setting up a toll-free telephone number to report problems. The idea that other law enforcement agencies should establish patrols and enforce laws was well received. In addition, the DNR spends approximately \$320,000 annually restoring damage caused by illegal ORV use. While this program has been effective, there is room for improvement. The DNR also spends about \$1.6 million a year on the maintenance of existing designated trails. The proper maintenance of designated trails is an important component of the overall ORV program. The better that trails are maintained, the less likely it is that illegal use will occur.

The task force recommendations are under review by the DNR and a final report is due out later this year. Meanwhile, it is important that ORV riders recognize what is proper and what is not in terms of

land use. "Riding ORVs through streams is illegal and severely degrades the stream bed," Yesney said. "Riders should only cross streams where there is a bridge or culvert. Rivers and streams are very susceptible to erosion and ORVs have the potential to really tear up a stream bed or river bank, causing significant loss of habitat for fish and creating the potential for lots more erosion, especially during high water periods."

Spur trails off designated trails are another major cause for concern. Often riders will follow a designated trail for a while,

and then veer off to create a new spur trail, usually to access a location for hunting. This is an illegal activity and causes a lot of environmental concern and damage.

"Mudding" is another activity that causes major and sometimes irreparable damage to the land. The practice of taking ORVs through mud and water holes, often on hillsides where springs make soils unstable, is illegal and environmentally damaging. Run-off from the muddy holes and loose soil can cause significant environmental damage to rivers, streams and lakes as well as scar the landscape, often permanently. The

bottom line is that ORV riders must think and act responsibly in order to be able to maintain the freedom to use their ORVs.

They also asked that four-wheel drive Off-Highway Vehicles, mainly trucks, be restricted to special OHV parks designed to prevent off-site impacts.

"We do not want that to gettothatpointinMichigan," said Humphries. "The ideal solution would be that ORV riders abide by the laws and rules and respect our forests. I am calling upon all ORV enthusiasts to govern themselves and their peers and help us heal the damage illegal uses cause in

Michigan's state forests." The DNR and the Michigan Sheriffs Association have issued a new publication, called The Handbook of Michigan Off-Road Vehicle Laws. The handbook highlights what is safe and responsible riding, and what is not. Pick up a copy at any DNR office or ORV dealer, or go to the DNR Web site, www.michigan.gov/dnr.

In addition, a growing nonprofit organization that was designed to address the problem of illegal and environmentally damaging ORV uses, calls itself "Tread

Lightly" and it offers educational materials, ethics training, restoration funding, networking opportunities and many other tools. They can be found at www.treadlightly.org or by calling 800-966-9900.

Michigan's public ORV trails offer thousands of miles of single and double track riding opportunity. Riders should keep in mind that all individual actions can impact the entire sport. ORV riders must preserve what they have in Michigan by riding responsibly and exhibiting absolute respect for the landscape.

Best of Luck to Lowell's Hometown National Champion Mariah Moore competing in the World Championships at Walt Disney World July 2nd-8th, 2006

94.5 Thunder FM - Wilhite & Wall
"Mariah kicks butt all over the country and we play butt kickin' country"!!!
"Good luck Mariah from your two favorite numchucks...Wilhite & Wall"

Alto Lions Club
Mariah, Best wishes from the Lions!

Alto Marathon/Campau Corner
Good for you! Best of Luck, Mariah!

Alto Tire and Lube
"Be Proud!"



Anonymous

Wow! And we thought Lowell had a great football team. Keep up the hard work and GOOD LUCK!

B&T Screen Printing
Our Stick Chick Rocks!

Bowne Center United Methodist Church
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Brenda's Hair Design
The whole Bergy family and staff at Brenda's are cheering you on! You're going to do a great job! We are so proud of what you have accomplished. Good Luck, keep smiling and especially have FUN!

C.T.'s Scrapbook Central
Good Luck Mariah and Best Wishes to you for this memorable event!

Gary's Country Meats
We're so impressed with your charisma, confidence and drive!
Best of Luck Mariah!

J.B. Harrison Insurance
Mariah insures more success!

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Mariah, your photo session ROCKED!
Keep up your spirit and drive!

Ice Cream Caboose
Alto's hometown girl takes on the World!
Best Wishes Mariah!

Larkin's
Lowell's Karate Kid Rocks!

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World Champions have to start somewhere. Why not the Y? Our Champ did! GO MARIAH!

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Salon 206
Mariah,
A CUT ABOVE THE REST!

Swisslane Dairy Farms
Way to MOO-ve it, Mariah!

2 Swords + 2 Sticks = 2 Win



The Lowell Ledger Garage Sale GUIDE

Let them know that you saw their ad in the Garage Sale Guide!



<p>GARAGE SALE Sat., July 8, 9-? 2929 Montcalm SE, corner of 28th St. & Montcalm. Infant clothing, boys & girls size 12-18 mos., toys, household items, collectibles.</p>	<p>STORE CLOSING Now thru July 29, Tues. - Sat., noon to 5 p.m. The Bookabout, 100 W. Main, 897-6510. Books and gift items, 50% - 80% off original prices.</p>	<p>MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE You don't want to miss this one. 56 Vosper Street, Saranac. Thurs., July 6 - Saturday, July 8, 8 am - ? Kid-adult clothing, Nascar items, PS1 and PS2 games, DVDs, CDs, VHS, books, XM radio, brass bed, air hockey table, Game-Boy color and Advanced, wooden buggy wheel, Western clothing, Pixter color, household items, train set, Legos, toys and much much more.</p>
<p>GARAGE SALE Thurs. & Fri., July 6 & 7. Something for everyone. Proceeds to benefit Relay for Life, Aug. 4, Lowell. 430 N. Washington, Lowell.</p>	<p>SALE AT KEY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY BUILDING Computer hardware, digital camera, movies, MP3s, pictures, and misc. items. Thurs., Fri., Sat., July 6, 7 and 8, 10 a.m. - ?</p>	<p>GRATTAN TOWNSHIP GARAGE SALE Thurs., Fri., Sat., July 6, 7, & 8, 8-5 p.m., 6124 Lincoln Lake Ave. 1/2 mile S. of 44. Lots of goodies.</p>
<p>MOVING SALE/GARAGE SALE 5978 Jackson Road, Saranac. Corner of Peck Lake & Jackson roads. Thurs., Fri., & Sat., July 6, 7 & 8, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Beds, sofas, chairs, kitchen stools, dining table & chairs, end tables, photo printer, toys, 50 gallon aquarium with stand, books & much more.</p>	<p>MULTI FAMILY SALE July 7 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 1687 Gee Drive. Girls clothing 2T-3T, women's & men's variety of sizes, baby furniture, LazyBoys, end tables & misc. household items.</p>	<p>GARAGE SALE 2948 Marble - off Centerline between Whites Bridge & Pinckney. Fri., July 7 & Sat., July 8. Books, videos, knick knacks, fabric, yarn, jewelry, trolling motors, & tools.</p>
<p>GARAGE SALE July 8th - 9th, 9 a.m. - ? Washer & dryer, welder, boys clothe 0-3T, girls 2-3, 7-12-14-16, ladies med., lg., & juniors, men's, lots misc., shoes. 12961 7 Mile, north of Lowell, 691-8476.</p>	<p>MOVING SALE 5718 Segwun between 52nd & 60th. Something for everyone. July 8th & 9th, 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. Barbies, books, hunting & fishing equipment.</p>	<p>GARAGE SALE Fri., July 7th, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. & Sat., July 8th, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., 203 S. Pleasant, Lowell. Tons of boy clothes sizes 6-18 months, kids toys, maternity clothes sizes M & L, men's & women's clothes & shoes. Queen sized sheets (some never used), large area rugs, knick knacks, baby changing table, washing machine, storm door, 2 ten speed bikes, glider rocker with ottoman, French style antique vanity, old spinning wheel, other antiques, and MUCH MORE!</p>
<p>SALE Fri., July 7, 8-6 p.m. 7120 Centerline Rd., Saranac. Antique furniture, kids clothes, toys, misc.</p>	<p>GARAGE SALE July 6, 7 & 8, 8-5 p.m. Facial bed, facial steamer, creative memory products, clothes, desks & lots of misc. 7262 Parsonage Rd., Saranac.</p>	



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. It is also a good idea to put in directions.

Price is 20 words for \$9, each additional word is 25¢. For that price your ad runs in both the Lowell Ledger & the Buyers Guide on the Garage Sale Page. Your ad can be called in: 897-9555 or 897-9261. Faxed to: 897-4809 or Emailed to: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com (please include home phone number & billing address)



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Sound Off

The Ledger
"Almost"
Anything
Goes Column



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

Why do all the men in Lowell look like Larry the cable guy?

I believe that the Lowell Ledger has set political views and shows this through the excessively long sound off.

Regarding the cell phones - I am truly sorry for your loss. It was not meant to hurt anyone.

I pay for upkeep of city parks in my city taxes. Those in the townships do not pay to use our parks. Maybe they should share in the expenses.

I think this is the best year the Little League has had in many years. If you disagree, then maybe you should volunteer some of your time to help!

I LOVE the political banter in the sound off!

Hasn't anyone ever heard of energy conservation? Or are they trying to raise electric usage by taking out all the trees! How ridiculous!

Where is the coverage of the St. Patrick's Festival? Have we been forgotten again?

Why is it that one family pays \$32 for 7,000 gallons of water usage and another family pays \$122 for 6,000 gallons usage? Neighbors: Compare your water bills!

Wonderful Pow Wow last weekend! So glad they come here for their Restoring the Circle ceremonies.

A stupid comment? Excuse me...just because the person may have been young you did not need to associate stupid and young together. Thanks, you must be an old person.

Thanks Kent County, the new road is great! Now how about Ionia County getting on top of their roads for all of us that live east of town.

For education of many of your readers, it was President Bill Clinton that signed the Free Trade Agreement with Mexico. Thank you.

Saranac, Hastings, and Ionia all have skate parks-- Kids get plenty of exercise and off the sidewalks. Check them out--get with it Lowell.

I would like to thank the board and all those that "volunteered" their time to help restore our Little League's reputation. You did a great job!

What does Jenny have to do with the Free Trade Agreement? Gov. Engler brought business to Michigan. Jenny's policies chase business out of Michigan. Jenny is anti-business.

I love the new lane markers at Valley Vista and M-21. They will work well if people could read!

You show your lack of intelligence when you set off that M-80 at 6 a.m. Monday morning.

As for the skateboards. I'm a senior and I was almost hit. If I had been hit, the parents would be responsible for the bills!

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FOR SALE - GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPPIES - high quality, parents imported from Europe, free training session. www.k9academyinternational.com. Call 616-293-5653.

FOR SALE - 3 PIECE LEATHER SECTIONAL - with queen bed & 2 reclining sections (beige), \$1,200; microfibre chair, chenille sofa & chaise lounge, \$1,200. Call 682-8168.

FOR SALE - HOME GYM - Like new condition. Pacific Fitness, one of best manufacturers. Professional gym quality. Retail \$2,600, sell price \$500. Call 616-855-4008.

FOR SALE - GOLF BALLS FOR SALE - All in perfect condition with no scuff marks. Assorted brands new only 25¢. Practice balls 50 for \$5. Call 897-1355.

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

FOR SALE - 1990 SUN VALLEY - 23 foot travel trailer, fully self-contained, AC, furnace, bunkbeds, bathroom with shower, awning, asking \$3,200. Call 897-6583.

FOR SALE - GOLF BALLS FOR SALE - Previously experienced all in perfect condition - Titleist & Precept, 46 per doz.; Pinnacle & Nike, \$5 per doz.; Top-Flite, \$4 per doz. or 3 doz. for \$10. Many other brands also. Call 897-1355.

FOR SALE - 1996 CHEVROLET CONVERSION VAN - hi-top, white, leather interior, 350 engine, loaded, 42,000 miles, tires & brakes new, \$9,500. Call 897-1597 or 745-2161.

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

FOR SALE - HOTTUB - Emerald spa, 8 person, cover, chemicals, electrical hook ups, cedar exterior, \$1,700/offer, 293-3024.

FOR SALE - 15 MATTRESS SETS - All sizes. Hotel quality. Serta & Sealy. \$75/set until gone. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.

FOR SALE - BEAUTIFUL MOBILE HOME FOR SALE - Located in Key Heights park. 1995 Dutch, 16x80, 3 bedrooms, 2baths, master bath has garden tub w/skylight & separate shower. Price reduced to sell. \$16,000. Call 616-916-0028 if interested.

FOR SALE - Top mount bike rack for camper, holds 4 bikes. 10 inch spare tire for trailer. Basketball back board with rim. Call 897-5205.

FOR SALE - 2000 FORD EXPEDITION FOR SALE - 110,000 miles. Loaded, \$7,800 obo. Call 897-3065.

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HELP WANTED - MARKETINGRESEARCHER - Gather people's opinions on what goes to market nation-wide. No selling. Keyboard knowledge and communication skills needed. Will train. \$8 per hour. Day, evening, weekend hours available. Call Alice 616-363-7643 EOE.

HELP WANTED - TRUCK DRIVER OPPORTUNITY - Expansion has created an opening for a delivery driver based out of our Lowell warehouse. Full time, Monday through Friday. Must hold a current CDL or CDLA with good driving record and submit to pre-employment drug/alcohol screen. Call Bill at 616-897-8044 to arrange an interview. Admiral Petroleum Company E.O.E.

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

HELP WANTED - WATERFRONT COTTAGES - completely furnished (including air) on chain of 12 lakes. Free use of boats. 70 miles N. of Lowell. Call Ron 616-897-5062

HELP WANTED - HOUSE FOR RENT - on 3 acres in the country. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. \$900/mo. Available now. 897-0686.

HELP WANTED - HOUSE FOR RENT - on 3 acres in the country. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. \$900/mo. Available now. 897-0686.

HELP WANTED - FOR RENT - 1 & 2 bedroom trailers in Lowell. \$400 - \$420 per mo. plus 1 mo. rent deposit. No dogs please. Call 813-8041 or 616-754-0276.

HELP WANTED - RENT TO OWN - your home starting at \$498 @ Valley Vista. New hours to serve you, 10 to 7 Tues-Fri & Sat. 10-5, 897-8427 call today. www.HometownAmerica.com.

HELP WANTED - SENIORS! - Rent could be as low as \$70 per month! 1 bedroom HUD subsidized apartments for rent! Rent based on income for those who qualify! BEAUTIFUL 6 acre country setting! Pets welcome! IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY! Conveniently located 20 minutes East of Grand Rapids. HURRY... before they are gone! Equal Housing Opportunity. 616-693-2271.

HELP WANTED - LOWELL - \$500 moves you in. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Washer/dryer hookups, air, garage, cathedral ceilings, \$675/month. Stoneridge Apts, 1-866-443-3098. www.wmpmonline.com.

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

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

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

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SERVICES - D.M. MOORE FINE HARDWOOD FLOOR REFINISHING & INSTALLATIONS - Over 25 years experience. Highest quality guaranteed. See www.dmmore.com or call 616-802-0120 for unsurpassed 2006 Summer Specials.

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SERVICES - THE FIRST, THE BEST. - House calls, dog & cat toenail trims, in home. Small dog grooming & boarding. 745-8520.

SERVICES - JOHN SCHLOOP BUILDER - New homes, additions & remodeling. Call 897-1335.

SERVICES - STEPEK WELDING & REPAIR LLC - Custom fabrication & weld repair. Mild steel, stainless & aluminum. On or off site welding. Call Tim at 616-322-8967 or 616-868-6215.

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SERVICES - HOUSEKEEPER - I have openings, weekly or bi-weekly, experienced, reliable, reasonable rates. Call 642-0395.

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SERVICES - JULY 8TH LARKIN'S PATIO PARTY - Music by James Wood, tiki bar, pig roast, horseshoe tournament.

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

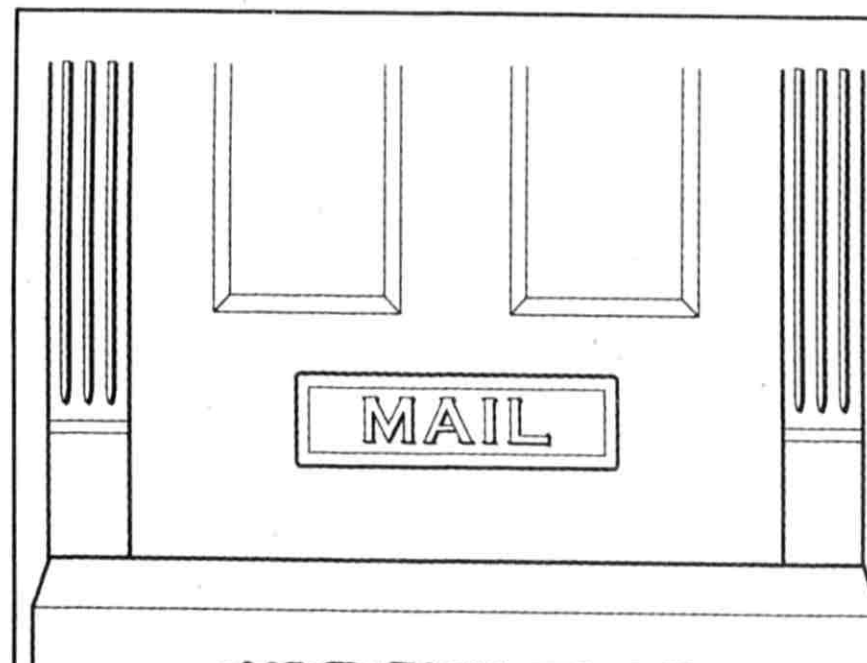
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 '00 OLDS INTRIGUE Equipped, not stripped! \$8,781	 '00 MERCEDES C230 80,000 miles \$11,481	 '98 OLDS CUTLASS SUPREME 68,000 miles \$6,881	 '04 CHEVY AVALANCHE 4x4, one owner Super Saver \$312 MO.	 '03 FORD F-150 4X4 Power everything, low miles Super Saver \$269 MO.	 '03 CHEVY SILVERADO 4x4, V-8, tow Super Saver \$269 MO.
 '02 DODGE DAKOTA 4x4, power goodies \$12,881	 '02 FORD F150 4X4 V-8, tow \$12,881	 '98 CHEVY SILVERADO 4x4, low miles \$7,981	 '98 CHEVY S-10 4x4, loaded \$7,481	 '06 E-350 12-passenger van Super Saver \$265 MO.	 '05 FORD EXPEDITION 4x4, 3rd seat, V-8 Super Saver \$269 MO.
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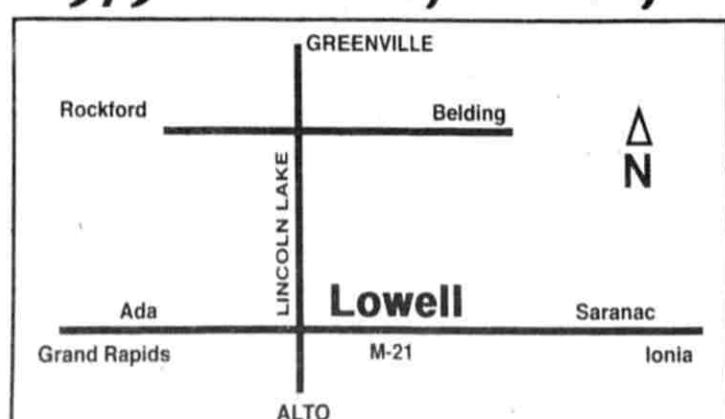


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