

# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 35 Issue 8

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 27, 2006

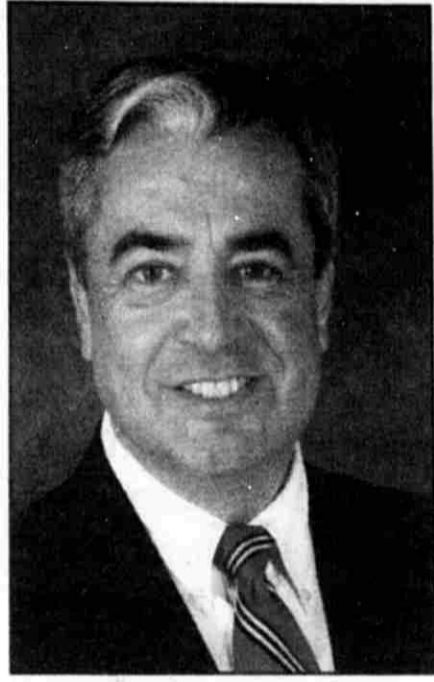
## City leaders reveal hopes, challenges & plans for 2007

By Emma Palova

Mayor Chuck Myers sees the North Washington property as the most eminent project in the upcoming year.

"We're on a fact finding mission," he said. "We're trying to come up with a resolution that will make everyone happy."

According to Myers, the city will not attempt to make any resolution until



Chuck Myers

the council hears from all interested parties. He added that there has been some interest in the property from residential developers.

"It is our responsibility to 4,000 taxpayers, as stewards of taxpayers' money, to investigate every option," he said. "We can't give it away."

The mayor expressed disappointment in the rental issue of the city-owned house on the property.

"I am disappointed," he

said. "We should have been looking at that house as an asset a long time ago."

Myers expects to reach a conceptual resolution for the North Washington property in 2007.

Other important city projects include the revision of the obsolete city charter from the 1960s in regards to the structure of committees and language, Lowell Area Trailway system, filling in building cavities in the

in land cavities on the west side of town.

"We want to continue to foster retail activity in the historic district and retail to the west," he said. "We want to see a turnover in retail."

There has been interest in the vacant Flat River Antique Mall building from a local nonprofit organization, the mayor said.

Communication, Myers said, between Lowell Light and Power and users of

the utility company has improved through the stump removal policy.

Contracts are expected to be hammered out by March with area organizations such as the YMCA and the Kent County Youth Fairgrounds.

As a banker with Ionia County National Bank in Lowell, Myers foresees an improved economic outlook as rates on the borrowing side are not expected to go up.



Betty Morlock

Lowell city clerk Betty Morlock hopes the city and the community will

continue to work together for the betterment of the community.

City and statewide economics will continue to be a challenge for the city staff. Morlock would like to continue to educate the community about the new voting equipment and voting in general, due to upcoming city elections in 2007. Three seats will be open on the city council.

Morlock said out of 2,600 registered voters, she is lucky if 800 people turn out to vote.



Dave Pasquale

Lowell city manager Dave Pasquale hopes in the upcoming year for the

city to be fiscally sound and for more improvements in town. "I am looking forward to the ambulance addition," he said.

Pasquale expects the Michigan economy to continue to be a challenge with receiving less monies from the state. The city has been steadily losing monies from revenue sharing at a rate of \$100,000 a year, and had to forego some projects due to budget constraints. "I am not overly optimistic," said Pasquale. "Michigan is way behind in recovery."



Liz Baker

Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker is looking

forward to 2007 with great expectations. "The chamber provides value for membership by having tools and programs that can assist with success," she said.

One of the chamber's larger projects involves marketing the Greater Lowell community as the "Next Place To Be." The chamber, now celebrating one year of billboard marketing between Grand Rapids and Lansing, also has two smaller moving posters in the Grand Rapids area and to the east.



James Reagan

James Reagan D.D.S., Downtown Development Authority (DDA) chairman, hopes for a tenant in the vacant Flat River Antique Mall to fill a cavity in the downtown historic district.

"I hope everyone who drives through town stops by and shops," he said.

A local nonprofit organization has shown interest in the former Flat River Antique Mall. "It's only been on the market

for six months," Reagan said. According to the DDA chairman, the DDA will not buy the building, but will help with the marketing of it.

Other DDA plans include taking out the concrete slab from the amphitheatre along the Riverwalk, and turning it into a potential green space destination. "We have to talk to the schools; the schools own the property," he said.

Along Riverwalk Plaza where the showboat summer concert series is held, the DDA, together with the city and the chamber, is hoping to put in permanent restrooms instead of using port-a-jons.

"We will continue to fund things we've already funded," said Reagan. "We don't expect any major projects."



Greg Pratt

Lowell Area Schools superintendent Greg Pratt is looking forward to the new year, encouraged by achievement in testing scores.

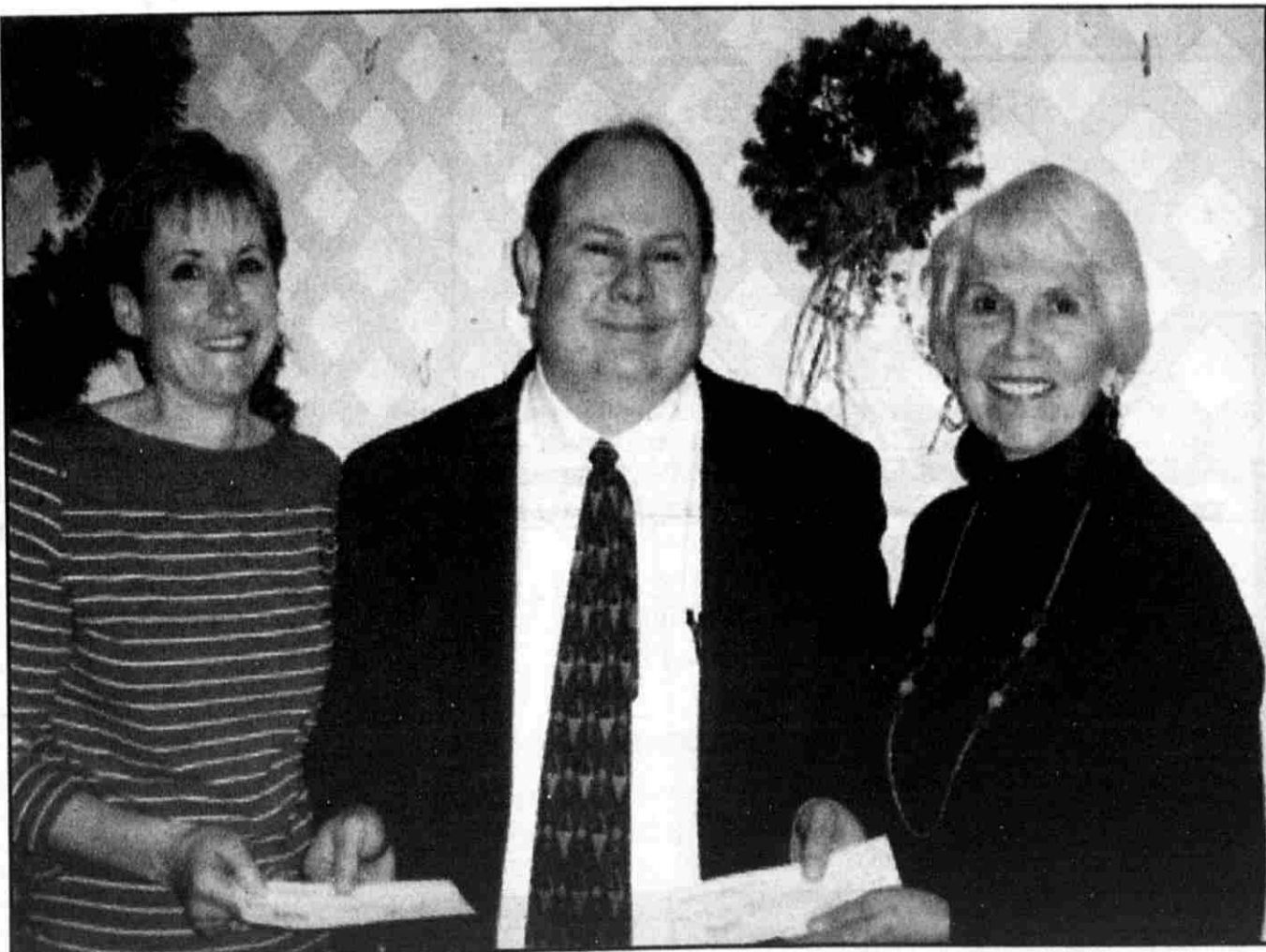
"We have a wonderful staff, administrators and board," he said.

Challenges will continue at the budget level as the state continues with the single business tax structure.

The major challenge, however, will be at the high school, due to reform in curriculum and testing. The district may need to make changes at the middle school, as well. Pratt expects the demographics in the district to stay flat. The district is currently in the process of receiving facilities reports.

### Holiday donations

Dave Emmette from the Knights of Columbus presented \$500 checks to two Lowell organizations. Emmette is pictured with Diane Kleczynski, left, from Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. and June Dilly from St. Mary's Pregnancy Center.

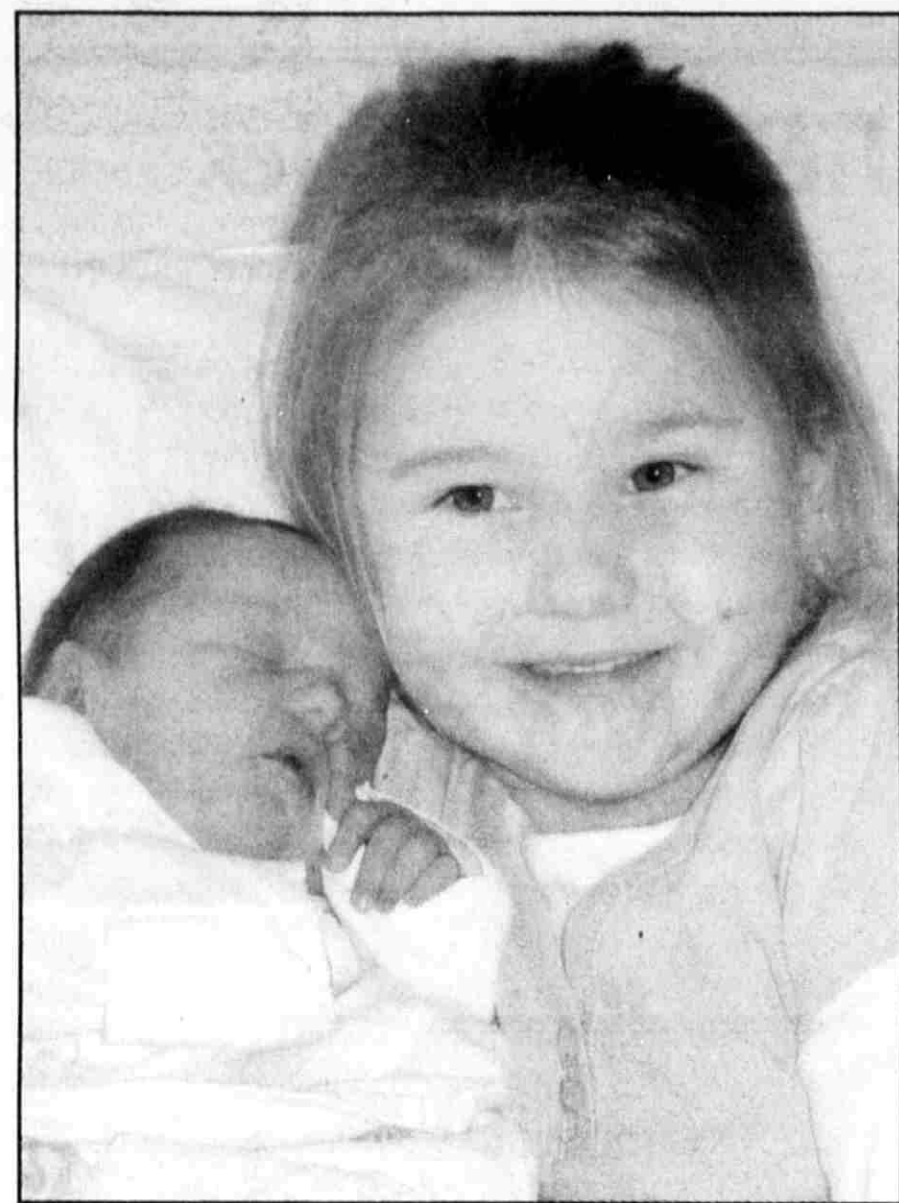


Year In Review Begins ... Page 13





# New Arrivals



Tyler James Boersen with his big sister Kayla

Kayla Boersen welcomes home her little brother, Tyler James, born December 7, 2006 to proud parents Tom and Jennie Boersen.

Grandparents are Bob and Marleen Boersen and John and Cheryl Allen. Great-grandparents are Tom and Gloria Harrell, Phyllis Boersen, Barbara Allen, and Jerry and Joyce Brockschmidt.

## Reflections of faith

By Father George J. Fekete  
Saint Mary Church

While watching a football game on TV, sometimes the announcer will say, "Time out on the field." Time is out on the playing field but nowhere else in the real world. We cannot stop time.

Spiritual writer, Charles E. Miller, C.M., tells us, "Time is God's precious creation and priceless gift to us... God is not only the creator of time but its master, and He chooses to work in time. 'When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman' (to be our Savior) Galatians 4:4.



### D.A.R.E. grads from St. Patrick School

Fifth grade students from Barb Vezino's class at St. Patrick School recently graduated from the Dare program. Deputy McCutcheon and Deputy Trevio were so impressed with their Dare reports that they were awarded an Honorable Mention. The deputies said that giving everyone an award was not generally done but that these reports were so good they had no choice! The winning reports were written by Jack Brooks, Jack Heffron, Colleen Lally and Bailey Roberts.

## Happy Birthday

- DEC. 28:** Lisa Stormzand, C.J. Sokolowski, Matt Francisco, Randy L. Smith.
- DEC. 29:** Amanda Martin, Donna Baker, Lauren Malone.
- DEC. 30:** Stacy Thomas, Ben Hodges, Kyle Triplett, Joe Hunt, Stacey Craig, Joshua Gee, Maliree Trierweiler, Matthew Trierweiler.
- DEC. 31:** Marcie Page, Bill DeHaan, Charles Boerema.
- JAN. 1:** Tory Abel, Alice Hesche, Carolyn Yonker, John Wenger, Amanita Fahrni, Bea Hoekstra.
- JAN. 2:** Rose Nead, Helen Kuiper, Angie Sloan.
- JAN. 3:** Jon Vezino, Agnes Kent, Audrie Olszewski, Lloyd Callihan.

# HEALTH

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



### A VACCINE TO PREVENT CERVICAL CANCER

Gardasil is a new vaccine recently approved to prevent diseases associated with human papilloma virus (HPV) infections.

HPV is a sexually transmitted infection acquired by young women after initiation of sexual activity. Most HPV infections will be cleared by the immune system after several months, however, certain HPV types may lead to persistent infection which can damage the lining of the cervix and progress to cervical cancer. Other HPV types cause genital warts.

HPV infection is very common and estimates are that the cumulative incidence of infection is about 40 percent within 16 months after initiation of sexual activity.

Gardasil has been shown to be nearly 100 percent effective in preventing persistent HPV infection and preventing precancerous cervical lesions and genital warts. The U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice recommends vaccination of all girls and women 11-26 years old. The vaccine is administered in three separate doses (the second dose given two months after the first and the third dose given six months after the first). Although the HPV vaccine ideally should be given before the first sexual activity, women who are already sexually active should also receive the vaccine.

Side effects of the vaccine are minimal and may include some soreness at the injection site, swelling, redness and itching.

In summary, Gardasil is a very important vaccine that prevents cervical cancer and genital warts. It should be given to all women between the ages of 11-26. At this time, we don't know whether immunity will last a lifetime without a booster.

## Getting together for some fun and friendship

Grace Nowak and Phyllis Condon work together on a 1,000-piece puzzle depicting a country fair at the Lowell Senior Neighbors Center before Christmas.



Above Louise Ryder, Julie Rasch and Mary VanPutten enjoyed a game of euchre.

### DEQ encourages holiday travelers to think green

This holiday season, the Department of Environmental Quality is encouraging travelers to stay at one of Michigan's Green Lodging facilities. can be earned by completing a self-assessment checklist and achieving a minimum number of requirements and points.

Michigan program and a list of current program partners, visit the website at <http://www.michigan.gov/greenlodging>.

For more information about the Green Lodging

MON: No School.


TUES: No School

WED: Cheeseburger on bun (corndog also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), green beans, assorted fruit, milk.

THURS: Rotini & Italian Meatsauce w/ garlic breadstick, (stacked ham/cheese on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), mini carrots/dip, pineapple, milk.

FRI: Pizza bagel (sloppy jo on wheat bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), whole kernel corn, assorted fruit, homemade peanut butter bar, milk.

# AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<b>ATTENTION: BIBLE BELIEVERS</b> If you would like to attend a church where the King James Bible is held up as the perfect, preserved word of God with all the words of God for all English speaking people, then give us a visit at: 901 W. Main, Lowell <i>Across the street from the Vanden Dodge dealership</i> 897-6284 or 485-4195 10AM Sunday School; 11AM Morning Service; 6PM Evening Service; Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.	<b>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M. <b>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS</b> Pastor Dean Bailey	<b>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL</b> 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!"	<b>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free	<b>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH</b> SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell <b>CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES</b> Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website <a href="http://www.aplighthouse.com">www.aplighthouse.com</a>
<b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 Worship Services.....8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance	<b>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH</b> 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 Kan Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!	<b>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)</b> 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor John Noonon, Asst. Pastor John King, Youth Pastor <b>SUNDAYS:</b> Worship: 10:00 a.m. - LIFE Home Groups & "XL" Youth Sunday evenings <b>WEDNESDAYS:</b> Family Night (For All Ages): 7:00 p.m. "XL" Youth: 7:00 p.m.	<b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: Sat. 5 P.M. Sun. 9:30 A.M. 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 PETER WIGINS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48. ENTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING	<b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906 Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Dr. Roger LaWarre.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship
<b>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Sunday School.....9:00 A.M. Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible	<b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: <a href="http://www.fbcloowell.org">http://www.fbcloowell.org</a> Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA CLUB J.C. Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free	<b>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurlan Meredith 9:45 A.M. ....Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M. ....Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided "A friend...a family...a mission!"	 <b>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:30 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:40 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M. PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance	

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## Varsity players visit elementary school

Murray Lake Elementary had some special high school visitors on Thursday, Dec. 21. Members of the '06 OK White Champion varsity football team (Cameron Blake, Mike McElroy, Justin Harden and Keith Nichols) and members of the OK White Champion and State semifinal varsity basketball team (Lindsey Trierweiler, Brittany Lyman, Brittany Bueche, Kelsey Crowley and Amanda Geelhoed) stopped by for a short visit.

These high school players represent two of the most successful teams in Lowell's history. They not only shared about how to become successful on the

court and/or field, but how to become a success in life. "You need to work hard and respect your teammates and classmates. Being successful isn't easy; it takes a lot of hard work," said Harden.

Lyman added, "You need to respect everyone around you ... your teammates, your teachers, your friends. Treat others the way you want to be treated."

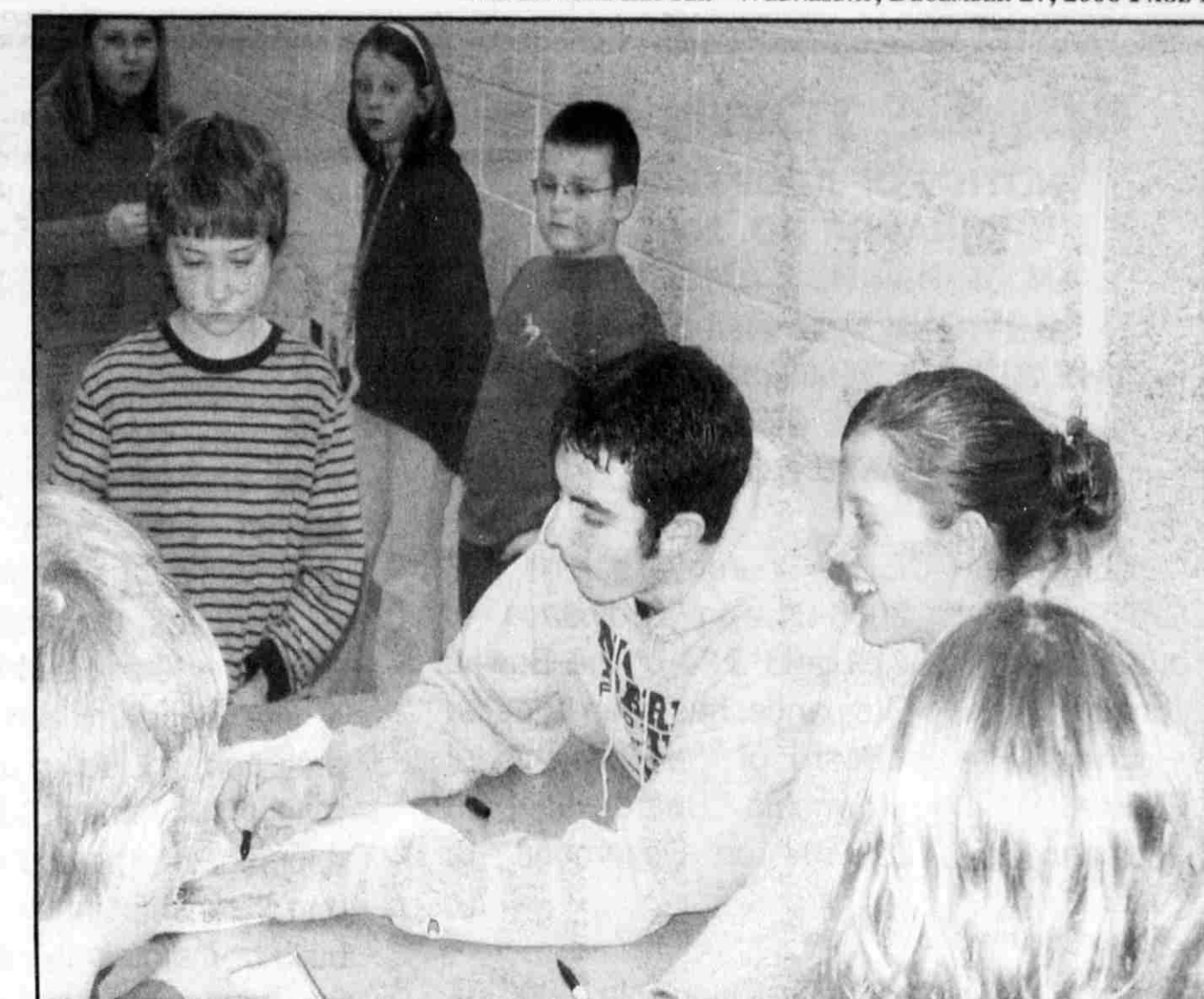
Each senior took a turn speaking to the students about sports, school and life. Afterwards, a highlight video was shown and autographs were signed by the players.

Varsity football coach

Noel Dean commented, "Not only were each of these players highly successful in athletics, but their combined grade point average is over 3.5. Kids that participate in sports have a much higher chance of doing well in school."

Murray Lake fourth grade student, Paige Wilson said, "I liked getting their autographs. They taught me that it is very important to have good sportsmanship."

Nathan Kyburz, also in fourth grade at Murray Lake, said, "I liked meeting all the players, and learned that you need to work hard at sports and in school."



Keith Nichols signs an autograph for third grader Jacob Sprague, while Brittany Bueche and other Murray Lake students look on.

## Nichols, continued ... From Page 9

a lot of great kids. I'm very fortunate to have a boy like Keith as an acquaintance."

Nichol, who has played football since he was nine years old, admits there will be a steep transition going from Lowell to Norman, Oklahoma.

"I'm sure things are

going to be different going to the Midwest to the West," Nichol said. "But people are people wherever you go. I think I'll have fun. It's going to be a little different, maybe a little more cowboy, but I'm looking forward to it."

Nichol also anticipates

seeing a different world on the grid iron.

"All these other guys are the best from where they came from," Nichol said. "There's going to be a lot more size and speed. It's going to be the best of the best every week, some good competition."

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# BUSINESSES SERVICES

**BOWNE TOWNSHIP**

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2006-04 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 3.01 and 3.24 OF THE BOWNE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING PRIVATE ROADS.**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that Ordinance No. 2006-04, an Ordinance to amend Sections 3.01 and 3.24 of the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance, has been adopted by the Township Board of the Township of Bowne. The Township Board adopted Ordinance No. 2006-04 on December 18, 2006.

The regulatory effect of Ordinance No. 2006-04 is summarized as follows:

**Section 1 – Amendment to Section 3.01:**

Amends Section 3.01 (Access to a Street) of the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance to require all lots or parcels to have frontage on an approved public street or private road prior to construction of any building.

**Section 2 – Amendment to Section 3.24.A.:**

Amends Section 3.24.A. (Location Allowed) of the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance to allow private roads in all districts except agricultural, commercial, and industrial districts.

**Section 3 – Amendment to Section 3.24.D.:**

Amends Section 3.24.D. (Design Standards for Private Roads Serving Six or Fewer Lots) of the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance as follows:

- a) Replaces the term "parcels" with "lots."
- b) Requires turnarounds in a cul-de-sac to have a right-of-way radius of at least sixty (60) feet and a gravel turning radius of at least forty (40) feet.
- c) Measures the length of the private road (maximum length of 1,000 feet) on the nearest edge of the public street right-of-way to the center of the furthest cul-de-sac or road end.
- d) Requires all cul-de-sacs to be posted with "no parking" signs.

**Section 4 – Amendment to Section 3.24.E.:**

Amends Section 3.24.E. (Design Standards for Private Roads Serving Seven or More Lots) of the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance as follows:

- A. Replaces the term "parcels" with "lots."
- B. Requires turnarounds in a cul-de-sac to have a right-of-way radius of at least 60 feet and a paved turning radius of at least 40 feet.
- C. Measures the length of the private road (maximum length of 2,000 feet) on the nearest edge of the public street right of way to the center of the furthest cul-de-sac or road end.
- D. Requires all cul-de-sacs to be posted with "no parking" signs.

**Section 5 – Amendment to Section 3.24.G.:**

Amends Section 3.24.G. (Maintenance and Repairs) of the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance as follows:

- A. Requires the property owners adjacent to and benefiting from a private road to maintain and repair the private road and to be responsible for the costs thereof.
- B. Requires private roads to be continuously maintained and accessible to emergency vehicles.
- C. Requires permanent easements for drainage and access.
- D. Requires the applicant/owner of the

proposed private road to submit a recordable private maintenance agreement or restrictive covenant agreement (or, in the case of a site condominium, the Master Deed and Bylaws) to provide for the regular maintenance, repair, and snow plowing of the private road. The Planning Commission shall not approve a private road application until the agreement (or Master Deed and Bylaws) has been approved by the Planning Commission.

E. Requires the maintenance agreement (or Master Deed and Bylaws, in the case of a site condominium) to contain certain provisions including a method for financing road improvements and maintenance and apportioning the costs thereof; a statement that Township funds shall not be used to build or maintain the private road; remedies for failure to maintain the private road (including the creation of a special assessment district or, at the sole option of the Township, the maintenance of the private road by the Township and the costs thereof paid by the lot owners and secured by a lien or placed on the tax roll); easements to the public for utilities and emergency or other public vehicles; and the requirement that the agreement will be recorded with the Register of Deeds and will run with the land.

F. Requires the maintenance agreement to include a statement that the private road is not required to be maintained by the Kent County Road Commission or Bowne Township and that the owners adjoining the private road are responsible for maintaining the private road.

G. Requires easements to the public for utilities and emergency vehicles.

H. Requires the applicant and those who use a private road to indemnify and hold the Township harmless from any claims arising from the failure to construct, maintain, or repair the private road and requires this statement to be inserted in all deeds for lots served by the private road and in the maintenance agreement.

I. Provides for remedies for violations of Section 3.24.G. (including the remedies in Article 20 of the Zoning Ordinance) and allows the Township to stop work or refuse to issue permits to property owners on the private road if there are violations.

J. Authorizes the Planning Commission to impose additional requirements for maintenance agreements to effectuate the intent of Section 3.24.

**Section 6 – Severability:**

Provides that the ordinance provisions are severable in the event that any part of the Ordinance is invalid.

**Section 7 – Full Force and Effect:**

Provides that, as amended by Ordinance No. 2006-04, the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance remains in effect.

**Section 8 – Effective Date:**

Ordinance No. 2006-04 becomes effective upon the expiration of seven (7) days after publication of this Notice.

The publication of this Notice meets the requirements for publication pursuant to Michigan Public Act No. 110 of 2006. No further publication of Ordinance No. 2006-04 is required or contemplated by the Township. A copy of Ordinance No. 2006-04 may be purchased or inspected at the Township offices located at 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, Alto, Michigan, on Wednesdays and Thursdays, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and on Fridays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Date: December 27, 2006  
Sandra L. Kowalczyk  
Bowne Township Clerk

**Sound Off**

The Ledger  
"Almost"  
Anything  
Goes Column



Email your comment to:  
ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Or CALL...897-0787

Brief, "Sound Off" comments are always welcome but will be, at times, edited for content and length. All comments are submitted by the public and do not necessarily represent the views of the Ledger. Feel free to sign your comment. For more lengthy views please consider a letter "To The Editor".

*Merry Christmas to the Grinches that stole the blue Christmas lights on the little tree in my front lawn up in Eastgate last Saturday night around 11 p.m.*

*I agree. Shoveling sidewalks is way too controversial. Let's whine about the president for four years instead.*

*Let's keep the Boy Scout property public – don't sell it to a developer so that only a few may enjoy its beauty! Call your city council and tell them!*

*To everyone who voted for our current "leader" - I hate to say I told you so but I'm going to say it anyway! I told you so!*

*Good Luck in the Navy, George. You'll be in our prayers.*

*83 families were given food boxes in November from the F.R.O.M. food pantry. Thanks to all who donate.*

*Wouldn't it be nice to have word puzzles in the Ledger every week?*

*For the person in Sound Off who thinks clean sidewalks are something dumb to whine about. Think about this - how would you like to have a wheelchair and the sidewalk as your only form of transportation?*

*Ever have a complete stranger tell you that you were good looking or just give you a nice compliment? That happened to me last week and boy, that made my day. Thank you to that sweet man.*

*Hello. Yeah. Uh. I always thought you were supposed to drive defensively and have your lights on especially when there's a storm. Where did most of you get your license? From a comic book?*

**College News**

Northwood University, who were granted bachelor's or master's degrees during commencement exercises on Oct. 7. From the Lowell area is **Mary Petrovich**, with a degree in Family Life Education.

From Lowell is **Taylor R. Verdon**. From Alto is **Sarah M. Niemeyer**.

To achieve this academic recognition, students must earn a 3.25 grade point on a 4.0 scale.

Spring Arbor University recently announced students

**PLAY IT AGAIN....**



**2006  
A YEAR  
IN REVIEW**

JANUARY 4

From Dec. 19 to Dec. 23, Lowell Police Department patrol officers logged about 23 hours of overtime, paid for with a grant from the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. During that time, a total of 43 vehicles were stopped, leading to 13 arrests.



The sun peeked through the heavy gray sky over Lowell for a brief period last Thursday. This happened on the thirteenth day of absolute cloud cover in the Greater Grand Rapids area, which approached the record 15 straight days of zero sunshine. 1-11-06



Members of the Lowell High School Environmental Club stand among the pile of trees accumulating for recycling Saturday. Christmas tree recycling is an annual event for the club. 1-11-06

With the start of the 2006 season, Lowell Little League will have new faces on its board.

JANUARY 11

Anyone can drop off their tree at the center, located at 11715 Vergennes Street across from the high school. From 1 to 4 p.m., adult volunteers will be chipping up the trees in a tree shredder. The resulting wood chips will be used for trail mulch on the paths behind the center.



Retired metal fabricator Walter Henschke helps Lowell High School freshman Jeffrey Johnson turn a hammer handle on a metal lathe. Henschke gives the shop class an added dimension. 1-4-06

It's a new year and the city of Lowell has a new person at its helm. At the city council meeting last week, the council, in a 4-1 vote, elected Charles Myers as its mayor; he will serve for two years. Al Mathews was elected in a 4-1 vote as mayor pro tem and will serve in that capacity for two years. The only no vote came from former mayor Jeanne Shores who said the mayor's position takes a lot of time.

"Kaleidoscope" has been around Lowell for a while. For most of its existence, it has been a quarterly print publication that promotes community activities from nonprofit groups. Since last October, Kaleidoscope has been increasing in popularity as a web site.

The library staff is hoping that a new neon "open" sign in the shape of a book will help patrons determine with a simple glance whether the library is open or closed.

Lowell Middle School remained a busy place during winter break, filled with air quality testing contractors rather than students. At Monday's board of education meeting, Lowell Area Schools director of transportation and operations Larry Mikulski presented a report summarizing the progress of a feasibility study on the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system at Lowell Middle School, where parents have complained of their children's respiratory problems.



Rev. Glenn Marks stands with some of the wood he and his family split this year to burn in his wood stove, which saves money with today's high heating costs. 1-11-06

Students in Keith Boeve's vocational skills class at Lowell High School are learning about retail sales through a project that involves selling craft supplies at a local variety store.

JANUARY 18

With "4 Floors of Antiques" and "More Antiques Downstairs," according to signs posted around the place, the Flat River Antique Mall is a giant of antique commerce. It will close at the end of February after nearly 20 years in business.

A farmer in Lowell Township is hoping to get a better price for the development rights on his land, through the Kent County Purchase of Development Rights farmland preservation program, after the township board approved rezoning the land to a less strict agricultural designation.

Stew Thomet can't remember the first car he ever sold, but he figures odds are it was a Chevy pickup truck. Thomet has retired as general manager of Thomet Chevrolet Buick after 35 years with the company.

Almost a year after district officials approved the recycling of lunch trays at Lowell High School, the polystyrene trays are still going out with the garbage.

Planning on traveling overseas in the next couple of months? The Lowell City Clerk's office can now process passport applications.

A high level of interest continues for the Lowell Area Schools' superintendent position.



Last Wednesday, Cherry Creek Elementary third grade students sang patriotic songs for residents of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans as part of a service learning project. 2-8-06

JANUARY 25

This year's Lowell Community Wellness weight loss challenge is off and running

At last Tuesday's weigh-in, the first of this year's challenge and one week into the 10-week weight-loss schedule, a total of 57 teams weighed in. Each team of four gets weighed all together on the same scale. In terms of numbers of participants, the challenge is down slightly from last year.

Lowell High School graduate Joe Mendez won the Outstanding Wrestler award at the Cliff Keen National Duals in Cedar Falls, Iowa, recognizing him as the top individual wrestler at the event. He was wrestling for Grand Valley State University.

An 18-year-old man from Lowell was arrested last Tuesday on charges of breaking and entering at Vennen Chrysler Dodge in Lowell.

For the first time in 15 years, the city's mayor and council members will receive a raise.

Because the city is still waiting for the results of a rate study analysis on its water and sewer rates, the Lowell City Council has decided to extend its current rates through the February billing cycle.

At least once each week, elementary students from Lowell schools meet at Rollaway Bowling, Skating and Laser Tag.

The community skate nights are both exercise and a social mixer.

When John Muha received a phone solicitation from an organization claiming to raise money for the Lowell Police and Fire departments, he was just a little surprised.

Muha is a lieutenant for the fire department and has been with the department for more than 20 years, and he had never heard of the organization nor seen any of the funds it claimed to have contributed. A quick phone call to chief of police Jim Valentine confirmed Muha's suspicion: this was a phone scam.

FEBRUARY 1

The final outcome of a petition to annex 177 acres of Vergennes Township to the city of Lowell for a development is still up in the air. As the city and surrounding townships

begin to discuss residential growth in the area, water and sewer availability are likely to enter into the conversation.

Looking for someone with a fresh perspective, the Lowell Planning Commission selected a firm from Kalamazoo to help update the city's master plan. The commission chose Kalamazoo-based McKenna Associates over Kalamazoo-based Gove Associates and Grand Rapids' Williams & Works, which has been involved in a number of city projects.

Five classes of fifth grade students got started on the annual Cherry Creek Elementary chess tournament last week. A total of 83 students signed up to play chess during recess. Fifth grade teacher Rob Stevens coordinates the tournament.

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

After about two months of negotiations, the Lowell Area Schools board of education approved a contract settlement with the Lowell Education Association (LEA) and Lowell Educational Support Personnel Association (LESPPA) at a meeting early Friday morning.

On Jan. 20, Lowell police officer James Hinton was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He has been on the Lowell police force for 14 years. Brandon Robinson and Scot VanSolkema are the department's latest full-time hires.

Alice Victoria (Johnson) Baut of Lowell, aged 103, passed away peacefully on Sunday morning at Spectrum Butterworth.

FEBRUARY 8

The brightly lit American flag at the new Mobil station in Lowell Township is generating comments. Some appreciate the statement while others feel the lights are too bright. The property is zoned Light Industrial, where the uplighting of flags is prohibited by township zoning ordinances. Craig Hoppen, president of J&H Oil Company which owns the station, said the company plans to tone down the light. He hopes to attain a variance that will allow the station to light the flag in the same way as is allowed in areas of the township with residential zoning. A public hearing is scheduled.

A 52-year-old Lowell woman is scheduled for a Feb. 15 arraignment on third degree retail fraud charges. She was arrested Jan. 29 under suspicion of shoplifting from Dream Pieces at 219 W. Main in Lowell.

The Lowell City Council has opted to host a public hearing on whether the Lowell Light and Power (LL&P) should move its storage facilities from North Washington Street to Chatham Street.

Cherry Creek Elementary third grade students from Carol Mandel's and Mary Beth Reed's classes rode a bus to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans last Wednesday. There, they sang patriotic songs for the veterans. They also distributed blankets they had made at school.

Tamara Sue Stauffer and Casey Karl Brown will exchange wedding vows on August 5, 2006. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Dave and Sandy Stauffer of Lowell. The future groom is the son of Roger and Terese Brown, formerly of Lowell, currently residing in Big Torch Key, Florida.

FEBRUARY 15

Step by step and with help from interested people in the community, Lowell is getting closer to having a dog park.

This year's Harp Throbs fundraising event at the Franciscan Life Process Center will feature the jazz music of New Orleans ... played on harps.



Ray and Barb Zandstra were recognized as this year's Person of the Year. Ray read an acceptance speech by flashlight due to the power outage that affected this year's Chamber of Commerce gathering. 2-22-06

Kyle Acker, 10  
Mr. Fillman  
Murray Lake Elementary

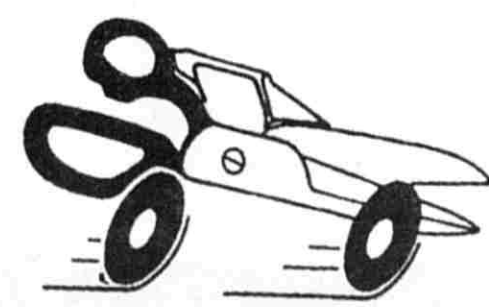
Daylove Marie Kurzhols,  
10  
Mr. Bredin  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Lowell  
City  
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Merry Christmas  
Lowell

Jacob Wielinga, 11  
Mr. Stevens  
Cherry Creek Elementary



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OH... The weather outside is frightful...




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Mrs. Young  
Cherry Creek Elementary

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Brenda's Hair



Catherine Majinska, 10  
Mr. Fillman  
Murray Lake Elementary

1002 W. Main, Lowell  
Phone 897-7131



### Featured Artist

Jan Upp

By Emma Palova

Embroidered stitches found their way into most of Jan Upp's paintings. Inspired by stitches on her favorite dress, handmade by her mother and grandmother, Upp skillfully uses the motif in her watercolor art.

She cuts up little hand-painted squares of paper and applies them to the painting. "The stitching creates a pathway through the exhibit and it feels like the edge of a film strip," she said.

As one of the artists at the Fire and Water Art! Gallery, Upp carefully planned out her exhibit. One piece, "Butterfly Stroke" was on display at Frederik Meijer Gardens.

"I had to finish it," she said. "I kept a chart and always planned ahead for the next painting."

In the end, Upp was displeased with the speed of the production. "There were a few paintings I was not happy with," she said. The millennium project was inspired in the mid-'90s by a painter from England. In preparation for the project, Upp has taken numerous trips throughout the state. She witnessed many festivities and captured them in her artwork.

Always an avid traveler, Upp visited all counties of Michigan. Each painting represents one day of the year 2000. The pictorial collection includes images from each of the 83 counties of Michigan.

"The artwork created for this project captures the essence of local and regional annual events," she said. "The paintings depict well-known places, events and nature at its finest."

On Christmas day of 1999, Upp was still painting on the floor of a motel in Dayton, Ohio. With eight paintings to go, she finished the project at the start of 2001.

The exhibit was one of the largest solo person exhibits; for three years, she had 91 pieces at the Lansing state of Michigan in the state of Michigan in the state of Michigan in the state of Michigan.

seven continents with her photographer husband, Don. The couple often captures scenes and images, and displays the artwork side by side.

Their trip to Antarctica and South America produced a still life "Iguazu Waterfalls" painting and photography. One of the artist's

ambitious projects is "There's more than one way to paint a watercolor." It is a collection of 120 paintings of four subjects using 40 different techniques. Currently, Upp is working on creating altered books for each member of the family. An altered book, in which she uses old books

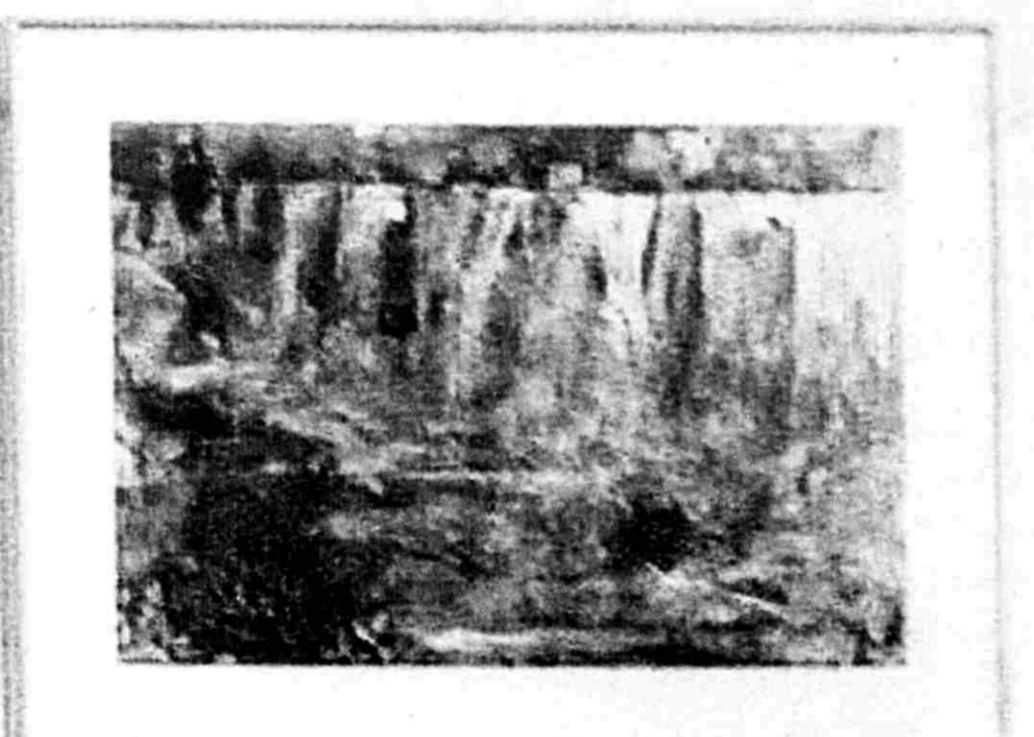
and adds things to them, is much like a scrapbook. "It makes me feel connected to the family," she said. Unlike most artists, Upp keeps a time sheet for herself. Her paintings are on display at the Fire and Water Art! Gallery in Lowell, and at the East Grand Rapids Library.

In February, Upp will hold workshops at her studio in Jenison called "Pushing Your Creative Limits." "I am a product of art and grace," she said. "I have more art than grace."



Jan Upp has created an artistic celebration of Michigan with her collection of paintings "Michigan in the Millennium."

and adds things to them, is much like a scrapbook. "It makes me feel connected to the family," she said. Unlike most artists, Upp keeps a time sheet for herself. Her paintings are on display at the Fire and Water Art! Gallery in Lowell, and at the East Grand Rapids Library.



With husband Don, the couple captures images and displays them side by side as shown with the "Iguazu Falls" photography and painting set.

#### BOWNE TOWNSHIP MEETINGS 2007 PLANNING COMMISSION - 2ND THURSDAY

- January 11, 2007
- February 8, 2007
- March 8, 2007
- April 12, 2007
- May 10, 2007
- June 14, 2007
- July 12, 2007
- August 9, 2007
- September 13, 2007
- October 11, 2007
- November 8, 2007
- December 13, 2007

#### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 3RD THURSDAY

- January 18, 2007
- February 15, 2007
- March 15, 2007
- April 19, 2007
- May 17, 2007
- June 21, 2007
- July 19, 2007
- August 16, 2007
- September 20, 2007
- October 18, 2007
- November 15, 2007
- December 20, 2007

ALL MEETINGS HELD IN THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE, 8240 ALDEN NASH SE., ALTO, MI

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## Students make and bake goodies for residents of Schneider Manor

Fifth grade students at Alto Elementary spread holiday cheer to the seniors at Schneider Manor on Friday, Dec. 22. The students spent a day making goodies - fresh bread, sugar cookies, fudge, peanut butter balls, coconut balls, truffles and more. Plates were then loaded with the goodies and delivered to individual seniors. After the students visited with the seniors, they shared their vocal talents and sang Christmas Carols.

Pictured, front row, left to right, are: Tristen Bray, Dakota Jordan, Mallory Paiz, Adam Charron and Adrian Mitchell; back row, left to right, are: Chad Willett, Tristan Larson and Becca Richardson.



At left, Forrest Stoffers, Katie Haan, Blyth Carvajal and Donna Oesch breadmaking.



Sylvia Frederickson, Makenzie Frederickson and Jordan Kazen making fudge.

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A group of 45 Lowell High School students traveled to Mississippi's gulf coast to do service work helping Hurricane Katrina victims on an "alternative spring break." Painting houses and taking down old drywall were among the tasks the students performed in Pass Christian, Mississippi. 4-12-06

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

MARCH 29

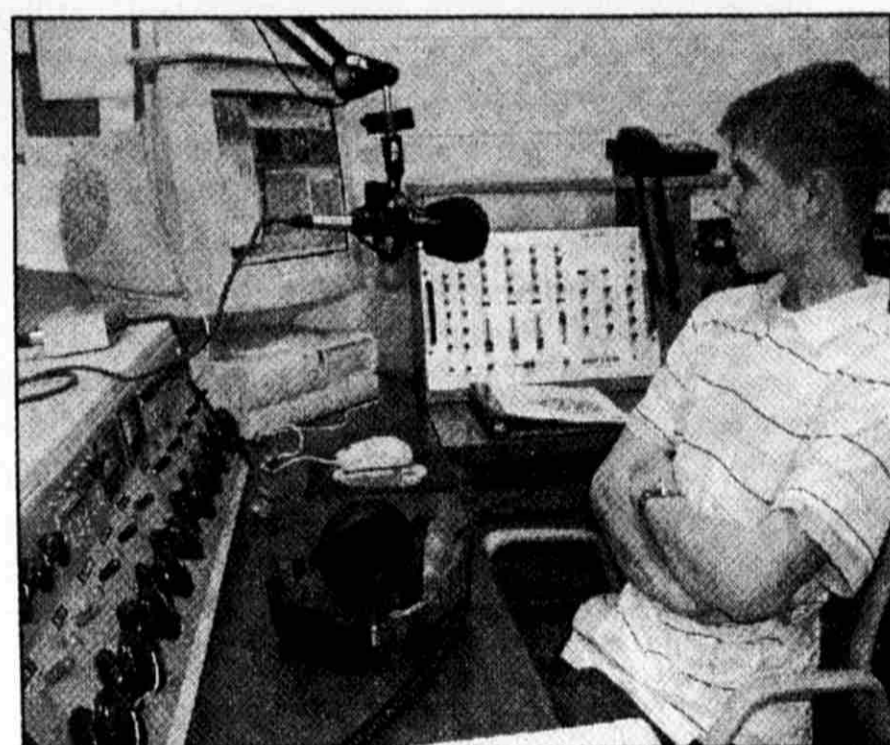
Lowell High School was a crowded, bustling place Saturday for the 10th annual Lowell Community Expo. Local businesses and organizations, and groups from places outside of Lowell, were presenting what they have to offer to the public. There were churches, music groups, even a business that sells African hunting safaris.

Lowell police were granted a warrant last Thursday for the arrest of a 35-year-old Lowell man suspected of defrauding the Lowell community of thousands of dollars with a false cancer claim.

The Lowell Area Schools board of education met last Tuesday to approve a contract for newly selected district superintendent, Greg Pratt. Pratt was given a three-year contract with a starting salary of \$121,000 for the 2006-2007 school year.

Lowell was only 92 pounds short of losing a ton this year during the Lowell Community Weight Loss Challenge, which concluded last Tuesday. This year 28 teams of four competed in the challenge, which is put on by Lowell Community Wellness. In total, they lost 1,908 pounds.

Throughout most of the month of April, the walls of the Lowell Area Arts Council's Gallery will be covered with artwork of eight artists. It is called the ICON Show, meaning



WLHS radio DJ Ian Blodger announces a song in the low-power AM station's studio. The student-run radio station recently went on the air. 4-26-06

The work on display was selected to exemplify each artist's style and feel.

Reel Tyme, the movie rental store at 11635 East Fulton Street, is now locally owned and operated.

APRIL 5

The project is approximately four years away, but the rebuilding of the superstructure of Lowell's Main Street bridge is on the horizon. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has the project on its to-do list for 2010.

This year's class of the Lowell Institute for Volunteer Excellence (LIVE) will be passing on what it has learned to

other students. Specifically, Lowell High School students will be taught volunteer and leadership skills in a new class which is to take place during the seminar period.

Navy Fireman Justin T. Krouse recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. Krouse, a 2005 graduate of Lowell High School, is the son of Rhonda and stepson of Michael T. Fisher of Lowell.

Police have arrested the man accused of defrauding as much as \$10,000 from the Lowell community with a false



Lowell High School freshmen Tricia VanGessel, left, and Lauren Wolfe assemble a railing for a wheelchair ramp at Camp Tuhsmehta, a summer camp for the blind in Greenville. 5-3-06

cancer claim. Michigan State Police arrested Stan Lenneman late last Thursday afternoon at a residence outside of Saranac. They turned him over to the Lowell Police Department.

The Lowell City Council agreed, at its meeting on Monday, to take it slow with the North Washington Street

property to be vacated by Lowell Light and Power (LL&P) in June.



Mike Rooze, senior warden of the Belding-Ionia Masonic Lodge, presented a check for \$1,350 to Lowell fire chief Frank Martin at the Look Memorial Fire Station.

A committee consisting of city and Vergennes Township representatives will mediate the annexation of 177 acres of Cook property from Vergennes Township into the city.

A meeting of city residents and city councilmembers was held last Wednesday night at the Lowell Area Arts Council to discuss options for the use of city property at the end of North Washington Street.

APRIL 12

Lowell High School students returned from an "alternative spring break" in Mississippi. They had traveled by bus to Pass Christian, Mississippi, a small town not far from Biloxi, where they found recovery from Hurricane Katrina still a long way off. "It was like a ghost town," sophomore Alex Harrington said of the city that had a population of more than 6,500 in the 2000 census.

There was excitement on the faces of hundreds of children who took part in the Lowell Mosse Lodge's annual Easter egg hunt at Creekside Park.

New book shelves at the Alto Elementary library were dedicated to John Haggai, a longtime member of the Alto Lions Club who was dedicated to education, last Tuesday evening. Over the past two years, the club built book shelves for two corners of the library.

The Lowell Community Wellness weight loss challenge raised \$1,000 for Flat River Outreach Ministries.

The Lowell Area Recreational Authority (LARA) will host an open house Thursday, April 20 at the Wittenbach-Wege Agriscience and Environmental Center.

An Alpha Women's Center will open in Lowell April 17.

A dinner theater production of Ernest Thompson's "On Golden Pond" will be performed by the Lowell Area Arts Council's Thebes Players at Larkin's Banquet Hall this month.

Vergennes Township is hosting its first ever art exhibit at the township hall, and is also holding its seventh annual community educational forum on open space issues.

APRIL 19 Voters in the Lowell Area Schools district will have the opportunity to elect two school board members to four-year terms on May 2. There are three candidates vying for the positions in this year's election: Todd Smithie, Pat Nugent and Peter Haefner.

Lowell's Riverwalk

Plaza will be 10 years old this year. Over the next several years new projects--gallery space for the Lowell Area Arts Council, the removal of a power substation--could give the walk a new look.

Air Force Senior Airman Rachael E. Plumley has graduated from Airman Leadership School at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal. She is the daughter of Joel Plumley of Lowell and Anna Marie Zielinski of Rockford.

When voters go to the polls May 2, selecting two school board candidates will be just one of three items on the ballot. Proposal I and Proposal II both have to do with the Non-Homestead property tax, which has to do with school financing. The first proposal renews the local millage on Non-Homestead property, the second restores the levy to its original 18 mills.

Lowell's football and soccer teams will play on a field with a new name now that the Lowell Area Schools board of education has approved the recommendations of a facility naming committee. At its Monday meeting, the board approved the recommendations to rename Red Arrow Stadium "Red Arrow Memorial Stadium." The field will be named Bob Perry Field. An honor wall will be constructed near the stadium entrance. The first name to be honored on it will be that of longtime girls track coach Kathy Talus.

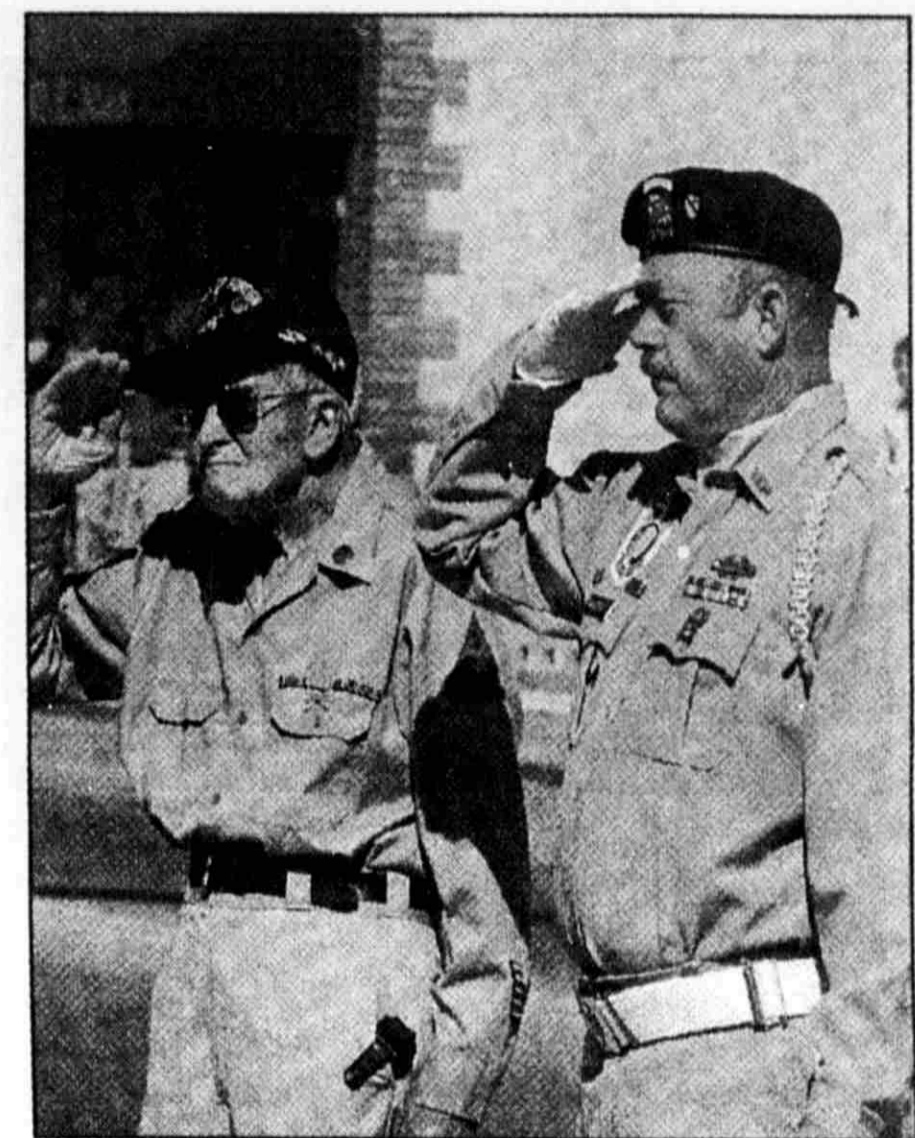
The new middle school science curriculum will be spread over a longer period of time, allowing teachers more time for in-depth coverage of different topics. For example, students will get their introduction to sixth grade science in the second half of their fifth grade year.

APRIL 26

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

Progress is being made toward the creation of a dog park in Lowell. A group of local dog owners led by Jeff Eckstrom has begun fundraising for the park. They are working to get city approval for what Eckstrom said would be the preferred location for the park.

Lowell citizens will have a chance this Saturday to battle what is considered by many a growing ecological scourge



Glenn Lyons, left, and John Vanderwilp of the Flat River Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8303 salute the American flag during the playing of the national anthem in Monday's parade. 5-31-06

in southern Michigan: garlic mustard. Lowell resident Peggy Covert, who for years has combatted the invasive plant species both on her property and on nearby publicly-owned land, is organizing volunteers for a garlic mustard pull Saturday.

The Lowell Planning Commission will stay on schedule for the city master plan update to be completed by mid-2007.

An exhibit by Pravin Sevak at the Riverwalk Gallery in



Happy Holiday drawing by Jacob Stephens, 10 Mrs. Tiche, Murray Lake Elementary. Includes Salon, Inc. 204 W. Main • 897-1700.

Jack Brooks, 10 Mrs. Vezino, St. Patrick School drawing of a star and houses. Includes METRIC MANUFACTURING CO. 1001 Foreman Lowell 897-5959.

Sidney Anderson, 10 Mrs. Young, Cherry Creek Elementary drawing of a snowman and girl. Includes HAROLD ZEIGLER FORD 11979 E. Fulton, Lowell 1-888-854-6400.

Zach Fotis, 10 Mrs. Vezino, St. Patrick School drawing of a figure. Includes LOWELL LIGHT & POWER 127 N. Broadway Phone 897-8402.

Lowell Medical Specialists advertisement featuring drawings by Dakota Jordan, JoJo Lytle, and Noel Grover. Includes Mark Evenhouse MD, John Mogor MD, Joan Miedema MD, 1150 N. Hudson, Lowell • 897-8436.



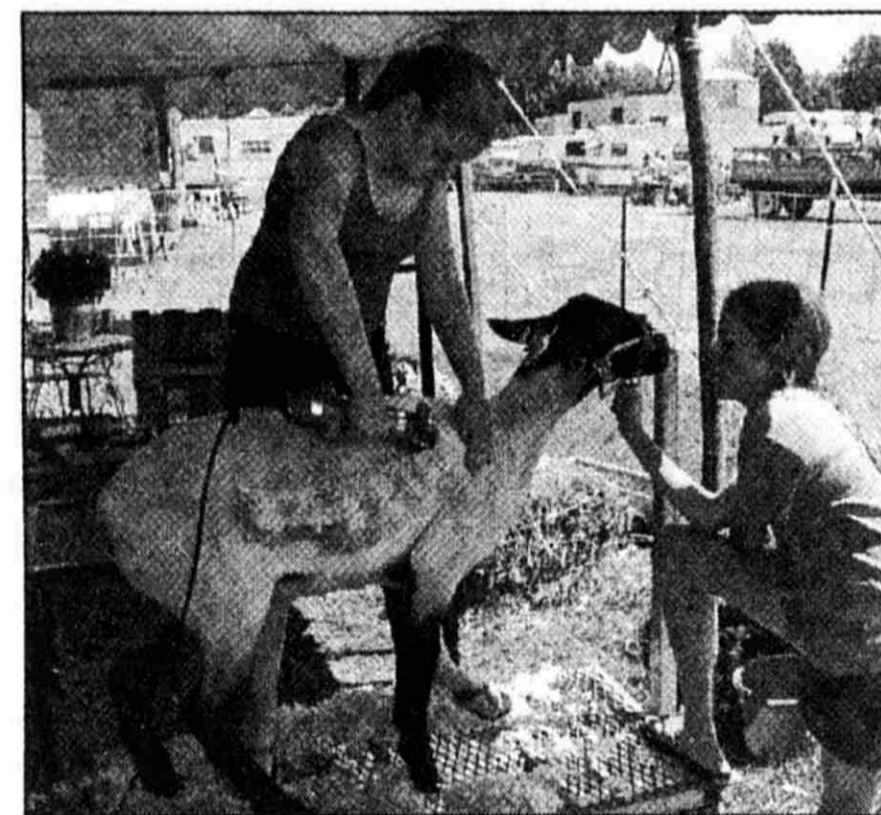




Schneider Manor board members John Timpson, from left, and Rev. Glenn Marks; manager Jody Haybarker; and board members Phil Schneider, Leo Pfaller, Ray Zandstra, Richard Bieri and Dick Bewell dedicated the new building, 9-13-06



Lowell Area Schools director of transportation and operations Larry Mikulski, left, and bus driver Tracy Dean stand next to one of the district's new buses. The bus has a different look compared to an older counterpart, pictured to its left. 9-27-06



Kendra Merriman, 12, of the South Kent 4-H Club, sheared her sheep Monday, day two of this year's Kent County Youth Fair, while her sister, DeeAnne, 13, held the animal still. It was Merriman's first time shearing a sheep. 8-16-06

McKay, a businessman who plans to open an upscale banquet facility in the township, collected enough petition signatures to put the question on the Nov. 8 ballot.

**AUGUST 9**

Kent County Youth Fair 2006 is off and running. It is hard for a guy like Daniel Vosovic to take a vacation. Vosovic, who was one of the stars of the Bravo Network's fashion-design reality television show "Project Runway," was in Lowell last week. He visited, spent time with family, went clothes shopping, even got his teeth cleaned at Dr. Jim Reagan's office on Main Street. But his main reason for being in town, his first trip home since the show aired, was not relaxation or dental hygiene; it was to meet with business advisors who will help him set up his own clothing label in a few years.

**AUGUST 23**

By the end of this fall, Flat River Outreach Ministries (F.R.O.M.) will have a new building and a lot more space. The local charity organization plans to move into a large building formerly occupied by Cumberland Retirement Village. Cumberland has changed its name to Fountain View of Lowell and consolidated its operations into two smaller buildings on the east side of its property.

**AUGUST 30**

In pursuit of a higher level of safety, a general utility designation is being sought for the Lowell Airport, but nearby property owners are concerned about being compensated for restrictions placed on their property.

the historic village's finances are on shaky ground. Just how shaky is one of the things the society is trying to determine as it evaluates the village's status. But Forsberg said if nothing is done, the society's funds will dry up in "well under a year."

Lowell mayor Chuck Myers was absent from Monday's meeting. He was in the hospital recovering from complications to heart surgery. Mayor pro tem Alan Mathews visited Myers on Sunday. Mathews said the mayor was up and walking around and is expected to return from the hospital by mid-week.

Debbie Carl-Badami, 42, graduated from Lowell High School in 1982. Her carnival, A.J. Carl Shows, is on the midway of the Kent County Youth Fair this week. It is her first time in Lowell as the owner of her own carnival.

There is a new place to look at art in Lowell. As luck would have it, it is also a place where people can buy and drink a cup of coffee. So it has now become a place where people can buy a cup of coffee and drink it while looking at art. It's Voyages Coffee Shop.

**AUGUST 16**

Regulars at the Lowell Senior Center were happy after results came in from last Tuesday's primary election. The Kent County senior millage renewal and increase, which funds county-wide programs that support senior citizens, passed by a wide margin.



Luanne Kaeb arranges one of many displays at The Lowell Area Historical Museum. 10-04-06



Superintendent Greg Pratt walked to Cherry Creek Elementary with students. 10-11-06

Lowell High School students, graduates and members of the wider community were on hand last Tuesday for the dedication of a student memorial at the high school. Perched on a hill at the southeast corner of the school building, the

memorial consists of a deck overlooking woods and Red Arrow Memorial Stadium, and a red granite monument. The monument bears the simple inscription "In memory of our classmates that have gone before us."

Lowell will again play host to a gathering of hovercrafts this year. The event is likely to draw crafts and their builders from as far away as Pennsylvania.

A ceremony dedicating Perry Field and the Lowell High School honor wall will be held at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium Friday, Aug. 25 before the season's first varsity home football game.

Dave Thompson, chairman of the upcoming Lowell clown parade, distributed the large foam clown noses at Monday's school board meeting during a presentation seeking Lowell Area Schools involvement in the parade Oct. 14. School board president Nancy Hopkins said the board would discuss ways it could get involved in the near future.

The Lowell Fairgrounds will be the site of a large-scale Christian concert Saturday, Aug. 26 as the God is Movin' music festival brings 11 bands to town.

The First Congregational Church of Lowell's Youth Justice Squad is sponsoring a musical production to raise money for refugees in Sudan.

Nowhere was the success of this year's fair more evident than at the livestock auction. The auction brought in \$436,188, almost \$100,000 more than last year's total. It was a new record for the fair. There were more animals this year than last year, which was one factor in the record sale. But animals were also getting a higher price per pound than in previous years.

**AUGUST 23**

While local business owners aren't sad to see Michigan's Single Business Tax (SBT) go, many are more concerned about the other financial obstacles they face.

Fountain View of Lowell, formerly Cumberland Retirement Village, held an open house last Wednesday afternoon to mark the completion of a renovation project.

The Lowell Zoning Board of Appeals held a public hearing Monday on Donald and Connie Reedy's request for a lot split to build an additional home. The Lowell Planning Commission at its July 24 meeting was against the split due to the lot width.

Stanley Lenneman received the maximum sentence for using a false cancer claim to defraud the Lowell community of as much as \$10,000.

Fireplaces Plus owner Bob Nurmikko has been quite happy with how things have been going since he moved his business to Lowell from Ada May 1.

Vergennes Township and DuRay Development LLC have agreed to pursue a new direction for establishing sewer service for the Cook property, one that would not

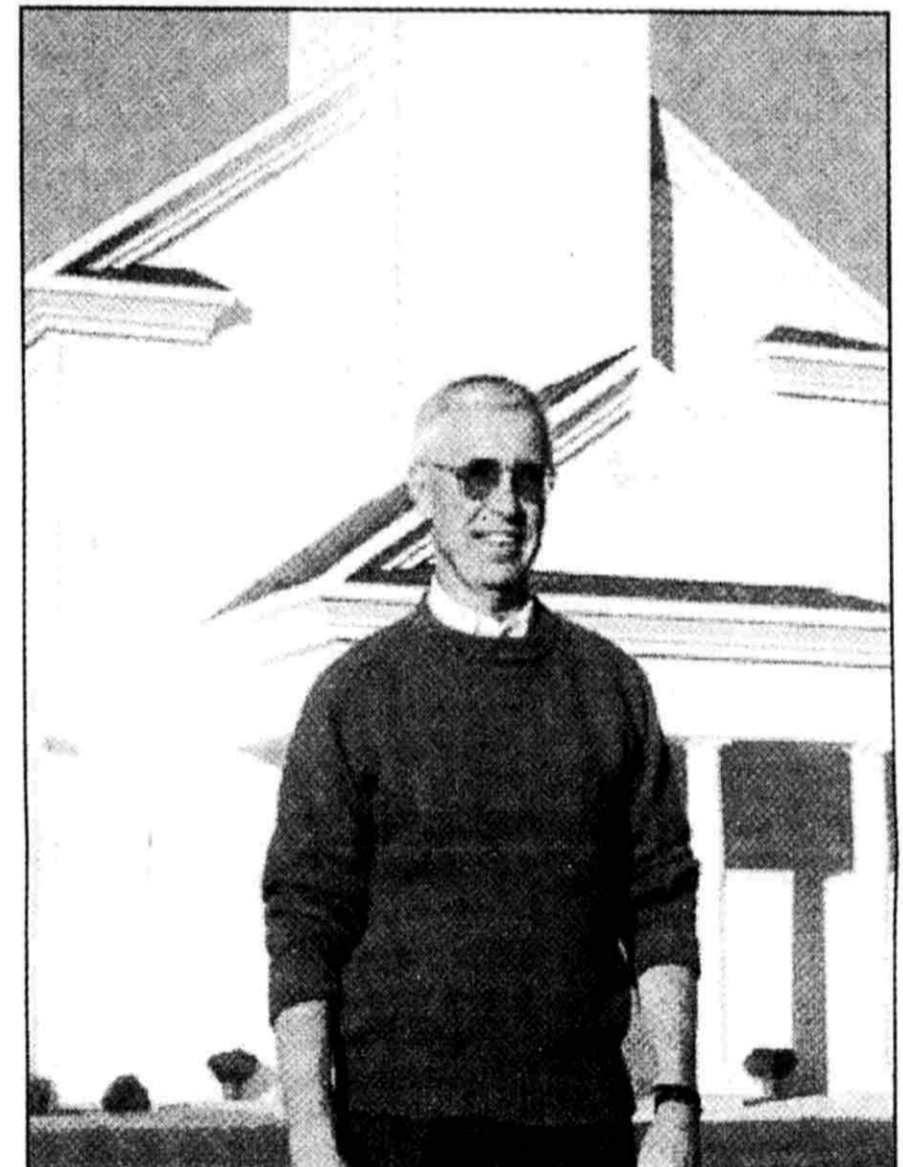
require annexation by or a 425 agreement with the city of Lowell. At an Aug. 9 special meeting, the township board, representatives from DuRay Development and members of the Cook family discussed the feasibility of building a private sewer system for the site.

At Lowell's Wolf Pack motorcycle club fifth annual "Running with the Pack" poker run Aug. 12, the club raised \$2,710 for Jordan Basinger, the 10-year-old son of Wolf Pack member Alice Basinger. Jordan was diagnosed with leukemia in January.

**AUGUST 30**

The Lowell Fairgrounds hosted the God is Movin' Christian music festival, Saturday. There were 11 bands along with the Christian strongman group The Conquerors.

Lowell Area Schools administrators are pleased with the district's performance on this year's EducationYES! report cards. The Michigan Department of Education released the grades last Thursday. All of the district's elementary and Lowell Middle School received overall A grades. Lowell High School received a B while Unity High School received a C grade.



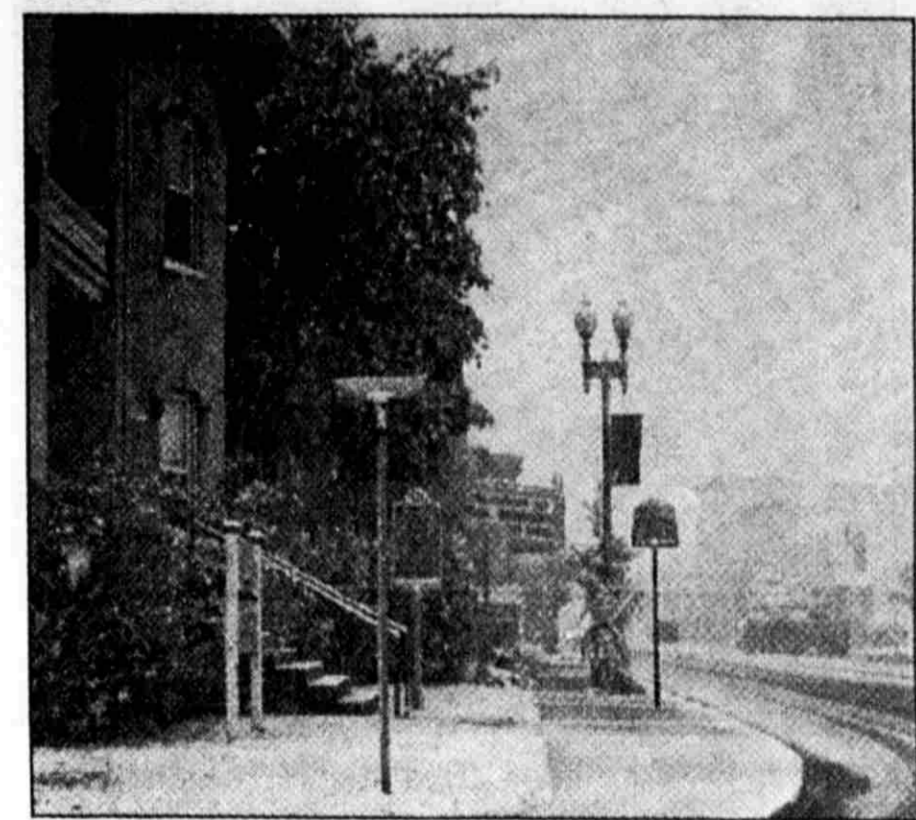
Pastor Dr. Roger La Warre stands in front of the new church located at 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. 10-11-06

A group of blind people from Camp Tuhsmehta visited Lowell last Thursday afternoon, using GPS units to tour downtown. Camp Tuhsmehta is a summer camp near Greenville operated by Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind.

The Lowell Planning Commission approved a survey at its Monday meeting to be mailed out shortly. The six-page community survey is part of the city's master plan update process. It is seeking the opinion of community residents and stakeholders to understand the city residents' preferences for

the future development of Lowell and the surrounding area, according to city manager Dave Pasquale.

Snowflakes covered still green and yellow wisterias on Oct. 12, the earliest public officials can remember. 10-11-06



The Lowell Planning Commission will work on an ordinance that would require home builders to complete their projects within a certain time limit.

Lowell's art scene keeps drawing new people, and with them new ideas, into the art mix.

Airman First Class Michael W. Pretzel graduated from Air Force basic training on Aug. 4 at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. Pretzel, a 2006 graduate of Lowell High School, is the son of Dennis and Diane Pretzel of Lowell.

**SEPTEMBER 6**

This year, 2006, features the coincidence of several anniversaries in Lowell. In total, six institutions are marking anniversaries of note. First and foremost is the area of Lowell itself, which is celebrating 175 years. The Lowell Area Fire Department and the First Congregational Church of Lowell are both celebrating 150th anniversaries. The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce is 100 years old this year. The Superior Furniture Company will be 70 years old this year while Tip Top Gravel in Lowell Township is celebrating 40 years in business.

Lowell Rotarians got a taste of what is happening on Capitol Hill last Wednesday as Michigan third district congressman Vern Ehlers was the speaker at their weekly meeting.

Rockford-Lowell Ambulance is close to securing the funds needed to build an expansion to the Look Memorial Fire Station.

Vergennes Township resident Josh Kleczynski will travel to Boulder, Colo., for the Scholastic Clay Target Program's Junior Olympic Development Camp later this month.

Emma Palova, a regular contributor to the Lowell Ledger, has traveled to Czech Republic, the country of her birthplace, for the second time since she permanently moved to the USA in 1989. The Ledger presents a brief account of her discoveries.

Paige Hale, 11  
Mrs. Young  
Cherry Creek Elementary

A Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

**NOEL**

Madison Stadt, 10  
Mr. Bredin  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Lowell Family Medical Center

Paul R. Gauthier, D.O. • James C. Lang, D.O.  
John G. Meier, D.O. • Wayne A. Christenson, D.O.  
Tracy L. Lixie, D.O. • Julie Drake, PA-C  
2550 West Main, Lowell • 616-252-5600

Mallory Kramer, 11  
Mrs. Vezino  
St. Patrick School

**NOEL**

211 E. Main, Lowell  
897-6746

**SNEAKERS**

Merry Christmas

Brandon Vos, 10  
Mrs. Latva  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**Keiser's**

700 E. Main • Phone 897-8455

Catherine McNaughton, 10  
Mrs. Latva  
Cherry Creek Elementary

On that Magic Night  
Came the 3 Kings...

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