

Volume 35 Issue 8

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 27, 2006

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

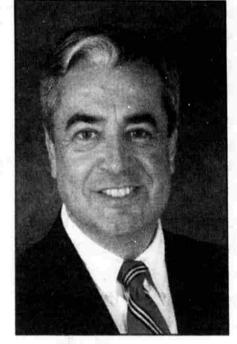
By Emma Palova

Chuck ayor sees 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 downtown area, and filling

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.

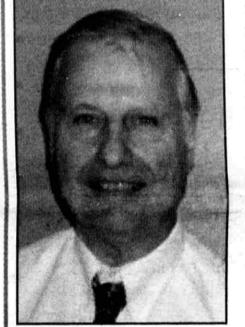
city to be fiscally sound and for more improvements in town. "I am looking forward to the ambulance addition," he said.

Pasquale expects the Michigan economy to



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.



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

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

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 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

**Greg Pratt** 

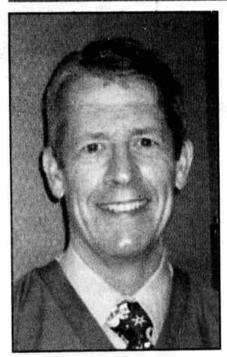
superintendent Greg Pratt is looking forward to the new year, encouraged by achievement in testing scores.

"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 receiving facilities reports.





**James Reagan** 

James Reagan D.D.S., DowntownDevel-opment 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

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 only been on the market 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."

Holiday donations

Dave Emmette presented



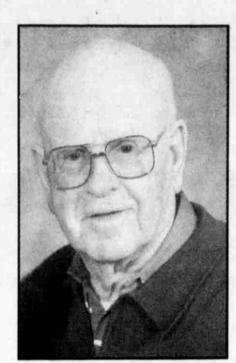
### DICKENSON

Mr. William G. Dickenson, years; son Thomas (Sharon) Connie (Mike) Scott of aged 89, died Tuesday, Dickenson of Lowell; Lowell, Suzanne (Philip) December 19, 2006, at Luther daughters Susan (Richard) Albert of Belding, Cindy Village in Grand Rapids. Jandron of Lansing, Mary (Denny) Addington of He was born February 5, (Fred) Apczynski of Lowell, Sherri (Denny) 1917, in Grand Rapids to Traverse City; grandchildren Huver; 18 grandchildren; Louis and Hazel (Groskopf) James Downs, Jason 15 Dickenson. Bill graduated Downs, Janice Chambers, brother Robert Fetterhoff; from Creston High School Jeff Dickenson; four great- sister Beatrice DeShambo. in 1937; served his country grandchildren. Cremation Funeral services were held during WWII from 1942 has taken place. Memorial Friday, Dec. 22 at the Rothto 1945; married Marion J. services were held Saturday Gerst Funeral Home, Dr. Hagman at Trinity Lutheran at the Luther Village Chapel Roger La Warre of the First Church in 1942; worked for with Rev. Joseph Fremer Congregational Pere Marquette Railroad, officiating. Inurnment South of Lowell officiating. retiring with 34 years of Sidney Cemetery, Memorial Memorial service as a locomotive contributions may be may be made to: Hospice of engineer in 1975 to Sidney, directed to The American Michigan, 1260 Ekhart NE, Mich., where they lived for Lung Association. 25 years before relocating to Kewadin to reside for an additional 10 years before Dick Fetterhoff, aged 78, Sheldon Blvd. S.E., Suite A, moving to Luther Village of Lowell, passed away Grand Rapids, MI 49503. in 2005. He is survived

by his wife Marion of 64 Fetterhoff

FETTERHOFF

December 20, 2006, at his home. He was preceded in death by his wife Bernice. Dick is survived by his children Roger (Sandra) of Lowell, great-grandchildren; Church contributions Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or Alzheimer's Association, West Michigan Region, 213



### INGERSOLL

Austin Henry Ingersoll, aged 86, of Lowell, passed away December 24, 2006. He was children Raymond Neal Ingersoll: three Ingersoll. Mr. Ingersoll

MILLER Cathy F. Miller, aged 51, Sparks of Austin, Texas. died at home Christmas Cathy is survived by her Eve day, 2006, following Michigan relatives mothera courageous battle with in-law Nina Miller; brothercancer. She was born May in-law and sister-in-law Jim 17, 1955, in Bowie, Texas. and Cheryl Miller of Ada: She grew up and lived most sister-in-law and sister-inof her life in Texas. She law Anita and Lisa Miller moved to Lowell in January of Lowell; sister-in-law and preceded in death by his 2003 where she was united brother-in-law Anna and wives Mazie and Esther. He is in marriage to Robert Dale Russell Collins of Saranac: survived by his wife Louise; Miller of Lowell. Cathy is nieces and nephews Jamie survived by her husband and Rich Larsen, Nichole Ingersoll and John (Lisa) Robert D. Miller currently Larsen, Craig Miller, Brent grandchildren of Kentwood, Mich.; her Storrs, Brandon Storrs, Jennifer, Michael, Janet, son and his wife Jonathon Logan Storrs, Leroy and Raymond Ingersoll and and Lisa Campbell of Joliet, Kerry Lozada, Mathew Justin and William Hewitt; Illinois; her son Matthew Lozada, J.R. Lozada, Calina great-grandchildren Campbell of Dallas, Texas; Collins, Taven Collins, Logan, Jaidyn, Shiann; her daughter Rachel Rice Jessany Collins. Per brother Allan "Gene" (Ruth) of Dallas, Texas; her request of the deceased, granddaughter Kaylee Rice there will be no funeral or was the chief engineer at of Dallas, Texas; sister and memorial services. There Lowell Light and Power brother-in-law Sharyn and will be a private, family only Company for 34 years. Bill Fullington of Mesquite, gathering for Celebration Funeral services will be held Texas; brother and sister- of Life. Memorials may Thursday, Dec. 28 at 1 p.m. in-law, Kenneth and Jane be made to Hospice of at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Sparks of Rockford, Texas; Michigan, The American Home, 305 N. Hudson, sister and brother-in-law Cancer Society or the church Rev. Greg Freed officiating. Anne and Jeff Deiter and of your choice. Interment Saranac Cemetery, their daughters Sarah

## Sandra E. (Kinsley) Gauw 01-07-49 to 12-23-05

Quietly remembered everyday, sadly missed along life's way. Just as you were, you will always be,

treasured and loved in our memories

The moment you died, our hearts split in two, one side filled with memories, the other died with you.

We hold you tightly in our hearts and there you will always remain.

The gift of your love continues to grow with us.

Deeply missed and always loved,

Dad and Mom, Terry, Bill, Rick and George

and the second and the second and the second and the

## **VERGENNES TOWNSHIP** NOTICE

THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2007 ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

> January 15 February 19 March 19 April 16 May 21 June 18

July 16 August 20 September 17 October 15 November 19 December 17

a . .

THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR 2007 ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

January 8 February 5 March 5 April 9

May 14

June 4

July 2 August 6 September 10 October 1 November 5 December 3

The Zoning Board of Appeals meets as required or requested.

All meetings are held at the Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Dr., at 7:00 pm. For further information, phone 897-5671, or for a calendar of these and other events visit the township web site at www.vergennestwp.org .

Mari Stone, Vergennes Township Clerk

## **Easy Ways to Cut Prescription Costs**

Whether around election health insurance are often of the larger pharmaceutical time or throughout the year, forced to make difficult outlets' bottom lines. These health care is almost always decisions, ones dictated by drugs are called generics. a hot-button issue. Typically, cost rather than personal Patients should be aware, escalating healthcare costs, preference, convenience however, that doctors often and how to cap them for the or, in some instances, need. prescribe the designer drugs, benefit of all citizens, rest at Oftentimes, prescriptions can and typically must be asked the heart of the debate.

That health care, a topic those in need, as prescriptions Unless your prescription is of concern for so many, are often an ongoing marked DAW (dispense as should come as no surprise. necessity, as opposed to a trip written), a pharmacist will According to data released to the emergency room or a substitute the generic form. in late summer of 2006, 46.6 yearly visit to the physician. • Ask for samples: In an million Americans were A variety of options exist effort to get physicians to without health care in 2005. to pare down prescription prescribe their medications, That's roughly 16 percent costs. of the entire population, by • Buy generic medications: free samples to doctors. For far the largest number of uninsured citizens in the pharmaceutical giants such doctors may provide their country's history. Among as Pfizer and Merck don't patients with enough free those uninsured are 8.3 million children, adding fuel to the fire that health care in the U.S. is in need of the same medications and that they're not guinea pigs reform.

present a huge problem to to prescribe generic versions.

There's a reason short-term illnesses, some look forward to the day their samples to last the duration patents wear off. Once that of the illness. It's important happens, others can make for patients to know as well sell them for a fraction of in this scenario, where the Even those who have the cost, often at the expense drugs are being tested on

_			
	The Lowell Ledger		
(USPS 453-830)			
	Published weekly for \$1700 a year in Kent County,		
	<sup>s</sup> 26 <sup>oo</sup> a year outside the county by the		
	Lowell Ledger Publishing Company,		
	105 N. Broadway St., Lowell, MI 49331		
	ROGER K. BROWNPUBLISHE JEANNE BOSSMANAGING EDITO TONI BLOUGHCOPY EDITO Emma PalovaLead Reporte Tammy JanowiakClassified/Accounting Jay VezinoAdvertising Sale		
	(616) 897-9261		
	E-Mail: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI		
	Published every Wednesday		

Published every Wednesday POSTMASTER: Send address change to: The Lowell Ledger

P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331 www.lowellbuyersguide.com

Visitation will be 2-4 and and Lauren of Houston. 7-9 p.m. Wednesday at the Texas; nieces and nephews funeral home. Memorial Stephen Sparks, Amanda contributions may be made Sparks, Nicholas Sparks, to Alzheimer's Association, and Ian Sparks. In addition 213 Sheldon Blvd. SE, Suite to her parents Clay and A,Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Joyce Sparks of Mabank

many companies provide

them. All drugs must pass

rigorous testing before they

can be given out to the

public. Samples can also be

a good way to see what your

reaction will be to a given

drug before you go and fill

Inquire about expiration

dates: Many a debate has gone

on concerning the validity of

prescription drug expiration

dates. Some consumer

advocacy groups have found

that these expiration dates

are often meaningless and

that drugs can be taken long

after their listed expiration

date. However, anyone

considering this should

consult their physician first

and foremost.

an entire prescription.

Texas, she was preceded in death by brother Clay T.

## Lowell remembers Roger Chapman as a philanthropic businessman

### By Emma Palova

The Lowell community has lost an altruistic businessman. Roger Chapman, 58, State Farm Insurance agent, died unexpectedly Sunday, Dec. 17 at his home in Clarksville.

"He was an outstanding Rotarian," said Jim White. president of Lowell Rotary Club. "He lived the Rotary motto.'

Chapman was a longtime member of Rotary Club. He was in charge of the Rotary raffles.

"He was always in the trenches," White said.

Chapman used to cook brats for Rotary during the Fallasburg Fall Festival.

"He helped out a lot," White said. "He was there when you needed him. He was always willing to give. He will be sorely missed."

Betty Morlock, secretary of Rotary Club, said Chapman's death is a great loss to the community.

"He raised his family in the area," Morlock said. "He was always there for you."

Cliff Yankovich, chairman of the steering and

marketing committee for the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, served with Chapman on the chamber board.

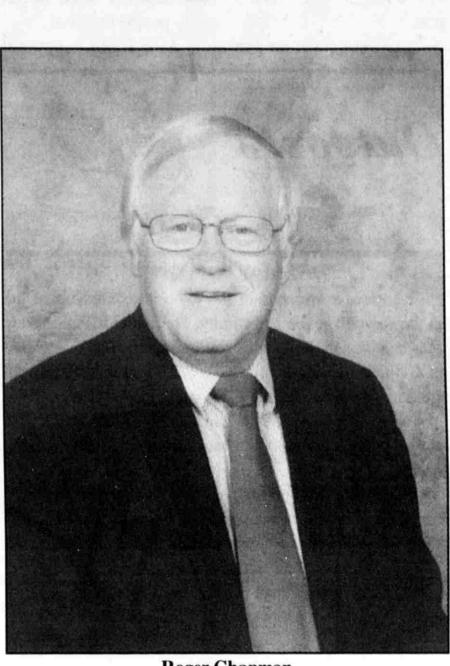
"He was very involved with the community," Yankovich said. "Lowell was important to him. His office looked like a TV commercial.'

Chapman's direct competitor Dale Triplett, of Regal Insurance Agency, thought highly of Chapman.

"I knew him as a business person since 1985. Triplett said. "He and I were around the longest. We had a fundamental understanding for the customer. He worked hard on a lot of endeavors. We lost a great business leader who will be hard to replace.

Chapman had been involved with the chamber for 13 years. He was a longtime supporter and sponsor of the Riverwalk Festival and the Duck Race.

"We are truly griefstricken at the passing of business have supported the State Farm agent, Roger Chapman," said chamber executive director Liz time," said Baker. "We will Baker



### **Roger Chapman**

Chapman served on the December.

and sponsoring or giving his Myers. miss Roger greatly

Lowell mayor Chuck chamber board of directors. Myers said Chapman was His term was to end in an asset to the community as a business person and a "Roger and his community volunteer.

"He was an engaged community by either giving community volunteer," said

## Santa Claus spreads cheer to all ages



Al Schuum played the part of Santa Claus at a Christmas party held at Fountain View of Lowell. **Resident** Olive Jackson is pictured receiving a present from Santa.



THE LOWELL LEDGER - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2006 PAGE 3

### CHESS SETS NEEDED

Lowell Middle School is starting a chess club. If you have a used chess set in good condition that you could donate, phone 897-7808.

### PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

Ann Dimmick, of Lowell, will have he photography on display at Huntington Galleria from Dec. 28 through Jan. 30 during regular business hours.

### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Families and individuals with bird interest are invited to the Wittenbach/Wege Center on Saturday. Dec. 30 for the annual Christmas Bird Count, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Partial day participation possible. 18/younger free. Adults: \$5. Call Ranger Steve to register 987-1002. smueller@lowellschools.com

### YOUTH HOCKEY NIGHT

The Lowell/Caledonia Hockey Program is hosting a Youth Night Saturday, Jan. 6 at the 8 p.m. game vs. South Christian at Patterson Ice Arena. All youth hockey players in the Lowell and Caledonia school districts will get in free with their jersey and be introduced during the game intermission. Call 897-5068 for more information.

### HOCKEY POP CAN DRIVE

Lowell/Caledonia Hockey Fundraising Pop Can Drive is Saturday, Jan. 6 starting at 10 a.m. If we don't make it to your front door please come to Meijer between 10 a.m. and noon and drop them off to us!

### SMOKING CESSATION CLASSES

Tobacco Free Partners is offering free smoking cessation classes; one begins in Lowell on Jan. 10 each Wednesday, 6-8 p.m. for six weeks at Metro Health Plaza, 2550 W. Main. Call 975-0123 or www. tobaccofreepartners.org for more information.

### FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

Juniors and seniors and their parents will be guided through the process of filing for and receiving financial assistance by Jo Ann Litton from Grand Valley State U. on Thursday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Lowell Performing Arts Center. Call 987-2908 for more information.

### LUMINARY WALK

The Wittenbach/ Wege Center will have a luminary walk with special events at the cabin from 6-8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13. Donations: \$5 individual; \$10 family. Refreshments. Call Ranger Steve 987-1002 with questions.

### CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

The Wittenbach/Wege Center will have its Christmas tree recycling on Jan. 13 from 2-5 p.m. Suggested donation of \$5 per tree to support LAS Environmental Club and WWC programs. Make checks payable to Lowell Area Schools, attn: WWC.



## Annual bird count slated for this weekend

### By Emma Palova

bird count at the Wittenbach/ Wege Center aims to document different bird species in a radius reaching to 28th Street.

on Saturday, Dec. 30 along Eastern bluebirds. with hundreds of other counts across the country. miles.

Eight sections of birders another count in May, the will break up into smaller Christmas count allows for groups to count every better bird visibility. individual bird. Last year, 10.000 different birds were sited including a few eagles

all winter long. Other birds The annual Christmas of trees, or search for frogs p.m. and fish in ponds.

Blue herons stay for winter if bodies of water remain open. The birders usually spot sparrows, The count takes place finches, cardinals and

"It's a great opportunity to learn some of the common The center of the circle is birds," said Mueller, also at 2 Mile and Honey Creek known as Ranger Steve, roads and reaches out 7.5 "and to meet other birders." Although there is

"You get a better look at

them," he said. To participate in the

along the Thornapple River. count, a \$5 donation is According to Witten- requested. It goes to the bach/Wege Center director National Audubon Society Steve Mueller, some birds which publishes the bird turn into vegetarians during count data. Children under winter, feeding on seeds. 18 are free. Data is also Bluebirds and robins, for published in the Michigan example, munch on berries Birds and Natural History.

"You can come for part

more people involved." A \$5 lunch is optional

Outdoors **Dave Stegehuis** 

### **NOW WHAT?**

I hope you are sharing the joy and excitement of the holidays with friends and family. The anticipation of New Year celebrations maintains the momentum of the festive atmosphere. Preparation for the holiday season began weeks ago and probably increased the pressure on already busy lifestyles. After all the hustle and bustle, the uneventful post holiday period can be somewhat of a letdown. Now what?

Don't despair ... we in Michigan have recreational opportunities which are not available to those who live in or have escaped to warmer climates. Here are some ideas to bridge the gap between now and springtime.

Sledding is a great traditional family activity enjoyed by folks of all ages. It can be done comfortably in extreme weather because the physical activity helps sustain body temperature.

Cross-country skiing requires an initial investment i equipment, but the cost is relatively reasonable and the stuff



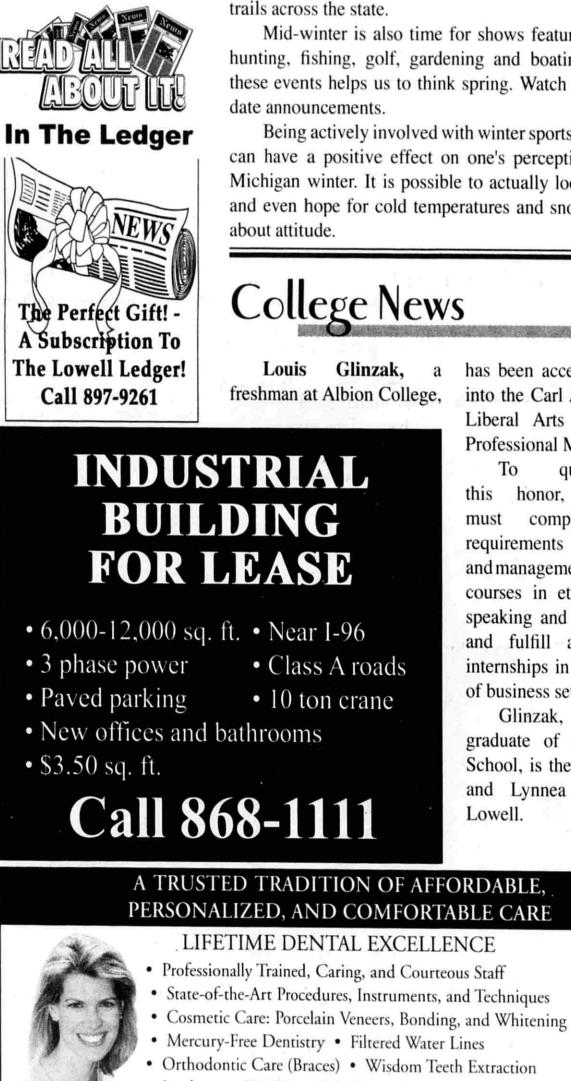
## **LOWELL AREA RECREATION AUTHORITY 2007 MEETING SCHEDULE**

All meetings will be held at 6:00 pm. Locations given may be changed due to special circumstances. For further information, phone 897-5671, or for a calendar of these and other events please visit the trails web site at www.lowellareatrailway.org

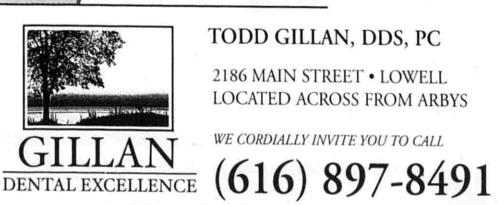
### THE LOWELL AREA RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2007 ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

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

Lowell Township Offices Lowell City Offices Vergennes Township Offices Lowell Township Offices Lowell City Offices Vergennes Township Offices Lowell Township Offices Lowell City Offices Vergennes Township Offices Lowell Township Offices Lowell City Offices Vergennes Township Offices



- Orthodontic Care (Braces) Wisdom Teeth Extraction
- Implants
  TMJ (Jaw Pain Therapy)
- Dentures Partials Root Canals Crowns and Bridges
- Emergencies Accepted Convenient Payment Plans Serving the Area Since 1981



CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN LOWELL

The birders will meet at or for the whole day," said or you can brown bag it. For register, call Ranger Steve at look for insects on the sides 7:30 a.m. and count until 5 Mueller. "We want to get more information on the 987-1002 or go to http://cdc. Christmas bird count or to audubon.org.

> lasts forever. Fashion is not a factor with the cross-country crowd. One can choose to ski at popular trails or spend the day alone in a wilderness area. Pick a venue that suits your

Snowshoeing opens up the backcountry to those who like to experience nature firsthand. New snowshoe designs and materials make exploring the winter woods easy and

Don't forget about ice-skating. It may require some research to find a place to skate without having to travel too far. Most communities have an ice rink somewhere.

Ice fishing is more complicated, but can be done with a minimum of equipment. Beginners can just follow the crowd. This method can work for anyone. Ice conditions vary according to the location and weather conditions, so extreme caution is required.

Rabbit hunting season is open through March 31st. Hunting rabbits with or without a dog is an enjoyable productive way to get outside and get some exercise. Fresh snow, calm winds, and sunshine make for a perfect day

afield. Although downhill skiing and snowmobiling are relatively expensive pursuits, these sports are very popular with Michigan residents as well as visitors. There are a number of ski slopes and hundreds of miles of snowmobile

Mid-winter is also time for shows featuring camping, hunting, fishing, golf, gardening and boating. Attending these events helps us to think spring. Watch for place and

Being actively involved with winter sports and activities can have a positive effect on one's perception of a long Michigan winter. It is possible to actually look forward to and even hope for cold temperatures and snow. Life is all

a has been accepted this fall into the Carl A. Gerstacker То qualify

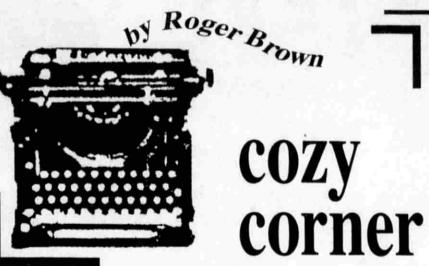
Liberal Arts Institute for Professional Management. for this honor, a student must complete degree requirements in economics and management, along with courses in ethics, writing, speaking and management, and fulfill at least two internships in a wide range

Glinzak, a 2006 graduate of Lowell High School, is the son of Louis and Lynnea Glinzak of Lowell.

of business settings.

• Treatment of Periodontal Disease (Latest Non-Surgical Techniques Available)





Some days, if not most days, it seems like I've been in 25 hours. Pretty good for old folks! around for a long time. A case in point was Sunday night at a Christmas Eve get together at my mother's house.

One of my nieces gave me a hug, said hello and threw in the obligatory, "How are you, Uncle Roger?" I always answer the query with, "Not bad for an old man." Since most people will readily lie at the drop of a hat just to be nice, my wisecrack usually elicits a response like, "Oh, you're not so old." True to form, that's exactly what my niece said.

I came back with, "Oldest guy here." With my dad gone, that is unfortunately the truth. She took a quick look around, Fortunately there are a lot more additions than subtractions. saw my gray-haired brothers, one of whom is her dad, and said something like, "Wow ... I guess you're right." I'm not family gathering. One of her sisters has four daughters. They quite sure what she meant by that, but I'm guessing it was a realization that I really must be old. She moved on to greet somebody else ... somebody not so old.

Since my family and my wife's family both celebrate now the mother of ten-year-old quadruplets. Christmas on Christmas Eve, we had to split our time between the two functions. My father-in-law has been gone for a long time, so I found myself to be the "Old Man" at that gathering as well.

work this into a column of some sort.

When Terese and I bought the Ledger in 1975 we inherited a tradition of not publishing the week between publish the big Christmas greeting and year-end review creepy being here. issue a little early. This allowed us to stretch our time off into nearly two weeks. This vacation became the high point of each passing year.

soon as that Christmas edition was off to the printer, Terese and I threw the kids in the car and headed for Florida. We Fits great!!! would tow my little catamaran sailboat and camp in the Keys. Some years, on the way home, we would stop to "Feed the Mouse" (Disney World).

Those vacations evolved into our current situation. That situation being, Terese and I living in the Keys, running a like being "the old man" at the Christmas party! little business there and more and more thinking of it as home. The bottom line is this. We haven't been around for creepy, but a great time just the same.

Christmas with our families here in Michigan for nearly thirty years.

My daughter's family, which means my grandkids, is moving from China to Viet Nam. They are between houses and are in Michigan for the holidays. We couldn't resist the temptation to see our only grandchildren.

It was just like the old days ... but in reverse. Our business in the Keys is a monthly publication. We worked like crazy to get the January edition off to the printer a few days early, By threw the dogs in the car and headed for Michigan. We split Priscilla the driving, shot straight through and made the 1,600 miles Lussmyer

Back to this feeling of old stuff. Looking around at these family functions was a serious reality check. The niece I mentioned earlier is thirty-something now. She was still in diapers the last time I was around for Christmas.

My brothers and I have grandkids considerably older than our kids were the last time Terese and I were here for Christmas. Some of my nieces and nephews weren't even born that last time we were here for the holidays. Some family members have passed away over these thirty years.

It was more of the same when we went over to Terese's are young ladies ranging in age from about 16 to 24. None crowded with shoppers. of them was born the last time we were here for Christmas. Her other sister was only twelve years old back then. She is Battle Creek property to her daughters.

Given the distance we live apart, we do manage to see possible and send only items of general interest. all these family members at least once a year. There are visits, reunions, funerals, weddings and other events that bring us together from time to time. It's not like we have I don't mean to be a "Captain Bring Down" with all totally lost contact for thirty years. Nevertheless, these this. I'm hoping to finally get to a point here. Maybe even Christmas gatherings did leave me feeling like I'd been in a bit of a time warp.

Gotta be careful here. Most of my family reads this column. I certainly don't want to offend anybody. The Christmas and the New Year. As owners of a weekly paper, hospitality was wonderful. The food was outstanding. It was that was our only shot at any extended time away. We would a joy to share the holiday with family. Still, it was kinda

Maybe it has something to do with the hat. Some time sorting machine warrant a special power line and agreement ago, my mother gave one of my brothers an old hat that between Consumers Power, Lowell and General Bean Co. belonged to our dad. It is a nice felt, brimmed hat. The hat Renis Doyle and E.C.Foreman are injured in separate It was never a popular decision with our families, but as didn't fit my brother. When he heard I was going to be at auto accidents. the Christmas party, he wrapped it and re-gifted it to me. Village council member Edwin Kniffen, 62, dies of pneumonia.

I wore the hat after opening the package. Everybody commented that it looked good on me. Many also said, I look like my dad with it on. Which brings us full circle to my wisecrack about "not bad for an old man." Not sure I All kidding aside, it was a great Christmas. A little

To The Editor

### Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the many articles written about the property on N. Washington. I am not only bothered by the powers to be in Lowell considering tearing down all development, but also the referrals in these articles to "the any vandalism to the Light and Power buildings. He has to be "the home" of Gary Dietzel and Sandy Bartlett for over fed 27 years.

When Gary and Sandy began renting this house from their home and tearing it down. Who thinks that way! These the city it was abandoned, except for the dozens of mice, people are not second class citizens and do not deserve to be fire, all happen the same day. and in need of many repairs to make it livable They made all treated this way!

If you want to run for a village or township office, be the repairs and made it their home. Just drive by their place sure to file your petition before Dec. 31. The John Timpson apple storage barn burns, along with in the summer and you will see a large garden and many 2300 bushels of apples and other storage. beautiful flowers.

Village Council discusses whether to sell the old library Gary and Sandy have given a lot to the community of building at the corner of Main and Hudson. Offers have Lowell. They both have volunteered countless hours to the Lowell Area Arts Council. Sandy has worked for the city been made. of Lowell reading meters for many years. Gary has worked 25 YEARS for numerous senior citizens in the Lowell area over the THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER DEC. 23, 1981 years, many times for little or no money. Gary has watched over that property keeping the kids from tearing up the land The Ledger's window air conditioner was stolen last the buildings on this beautiful property and selling it off for around the Boy Scout cabin and more than likely curtailing week. Phil Beachler's baskets and Tom Caldwell's rebounds rental house" on the property. That "rental house" happens kept the numerous deer and birds that live in the area well lead the Red Arrows' 54-51 squeaker in two overtimes over Fremont.

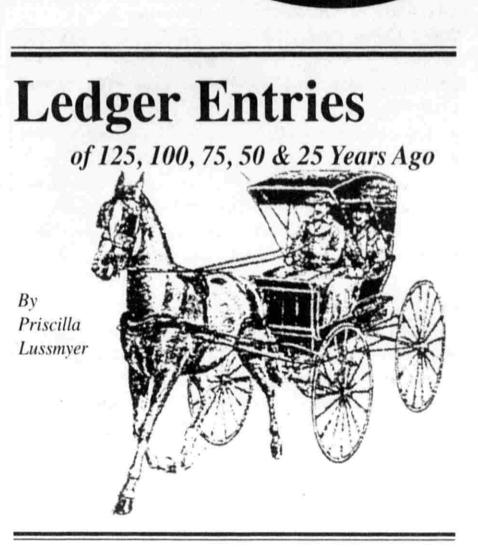
I cannot believe there is talk of evicting them from

## 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.

THE LOWELL LEDGER - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2006 PAGE 5

Michael Jernigan down.



**125 YEARS** THE WEEKLY JOURNAL DEC. 28, 1881

This issue has four pages of property tax rolls. Christmas Eve day was like October, and the town was

Sojourner Truth, at 106, has made her will and left her

The Ledger requests correspondents to be brief as

### 100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER DEC. 27, 1906

None available.

**75 YEARS** THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO DEC. 24, 1931

The exacting requirements of the new electric-eye bean-

Melody Farms advertises "regular milk" at 8c/quart, and Grade A Raw Milk at 10c/quart.

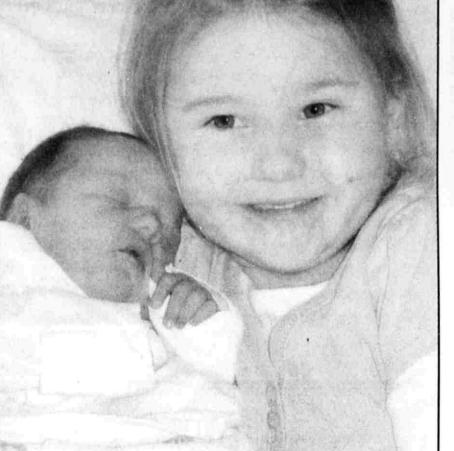
### **50 YEARS** THE LOWELL LEDGER DEC. 27, 1956

Eight children are pictured across the front page top, sitting on Santa's lap.

Editor Brown goes on vacation, so the air conditioner theft, plus Country Roads and Superior Furniture catching

The popular Mel B's pub at Big Crooked Lake burns

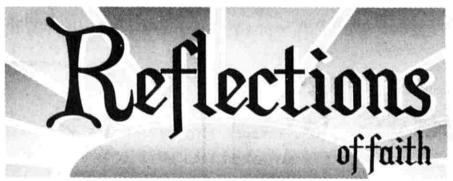




Tyler James Boersen with his big sister Kayla

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.



By Father George J. Fekete Saint Mary Church

While watching a football game on TV, sometimes meaning." the announcer will say, "Time out on the field." Time is out on the playing field but nowhere else in the real world. We greatly thank our all-loving God who has blessed us with cannot stop time.

Spiritual writer, Charles E. Miller, C.M., tells us, "Time We know that a truly Happy Year is one in which we live Stacy Thomas, Ben Hodges, is Goo not on work his So



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

from Barb Vezino's class Trevio were so impressed deputies said that giving reports were written by at St. Patrick School with their Dare reports that everyone an award was not Jack Brooks, Jack Heffron, recently graduated from four reports won and the rest generally done but that these Colleen Lally and Bailey the Dare program. Deputy of the class reports received reports were so good they Roberts.

Fifth grade students McCutcheon and Deputy an Honorable Mention. The had no choice! The winning

of the coming of God's Son into the world and into time.

Time has meaning for us because the Son of God gave it

the gift of time in which He has sent to us his divine Son.

As we look forward to New Year's Day, we want to



to understand it is that God placed all the previous moments of time, one on top of each other, until they reached a **DEC. 28:** pinnacle, a summit which, if your imagination will allow C.J. Marcie Page, Bill DeHaan, Stormzand, Lisa it, reached high enough to touch heaven and summon into Sokolowski, Matt Francisco, Charles Boerema. time the eternal Son of God ... Where we are going in time Randy L. Smith. depends on whether we have grasped in faith the meaning

> **DEC. 29:** Amanda Martin, Donna Baker, Lauren Malone.

## **DEC. 30:**

is God's precious creation and pricel not only the creator of time but its ma work in time. 'When the fullness of time his Son, born of a woman' (to be our	ess gift to us God is according t ster, and He chooses to Son, the Lo me had come, God sent New Year.	o His Will especially as shown and ta ord Jesus Christ. May you and I truly l	ught by His Kyle Triplett, Joe
ARRI ATTENTION: BIBLE BELIEVERS If you would like to attend a church where the King James Bible is held up as the perfect, preserved word of God with all the words of God for all English speaking people, then give us a visit at: 901 W. Main, Lowell Across the street from the Vennen Dodge dealership. 897-6284 or 485-4195 10AM Sunday School; 11AM Morning Service; GPM Evening Service; Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.	<b>EXACTLY</b> <b>CALTO UNITED</b> <b>METHODIST CHURCH</b> <i>Kirby and Harrison</i> <b>Alto • 616-691-8011</b> Worship	RCHDD DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332 Worship	CALVARY CHRISTIAN      REFORMED CHURCH      OF LOWELL      Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060      1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI      Morning Worship
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 Worship Services8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School9:45 a.m. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance	ALTON BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648 Sunday School	Dave Noonon, Asst. Pastor John King, Youth Pastor SUNDAYS: Worship: 10:00 a.m - LIFE Home Groups	ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE WIGGINS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, EWITN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTIN
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Sunday School	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 Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service	SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 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 frienda familya mission!	

'The fullness of time' is a curious expression. One way understand it is that God placed all the previous moments **DEC. 31:** 

Wenger, Amanita Fahrni, Bea Hoekstra. **JAN. 2:** Rose Nead, Helen Kuiper,

**JAN. 1:** 

Tory Abel, Alice Hesche,

Carolyn Yonker, John

oe Hunt, Joshua ierweiler,

ORY

Angie Sloan. **JAN. 3**: Jon Vezino, Agnes Kent, Audrie Olszewski, Lloyd Callihan.

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 FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (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. ...Pasto Shannon Hanley. ..C.E. Directo arrier-Free. Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZABENE

WT TTTM TTTM TTTM	m I W Sam
201 N. Washington • 89	7-8800
Sunday School	9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship	10:40 A.M.
Sunday Evening	
Wednesday Family Ministry.	
PASTOR MICHAEL RHOD Staffed Nursery Prov	
	2 State (1997) (1997)

Barrier-Free Entrance

## **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

Department at one of Michigan's Green points. Lodging facilities.

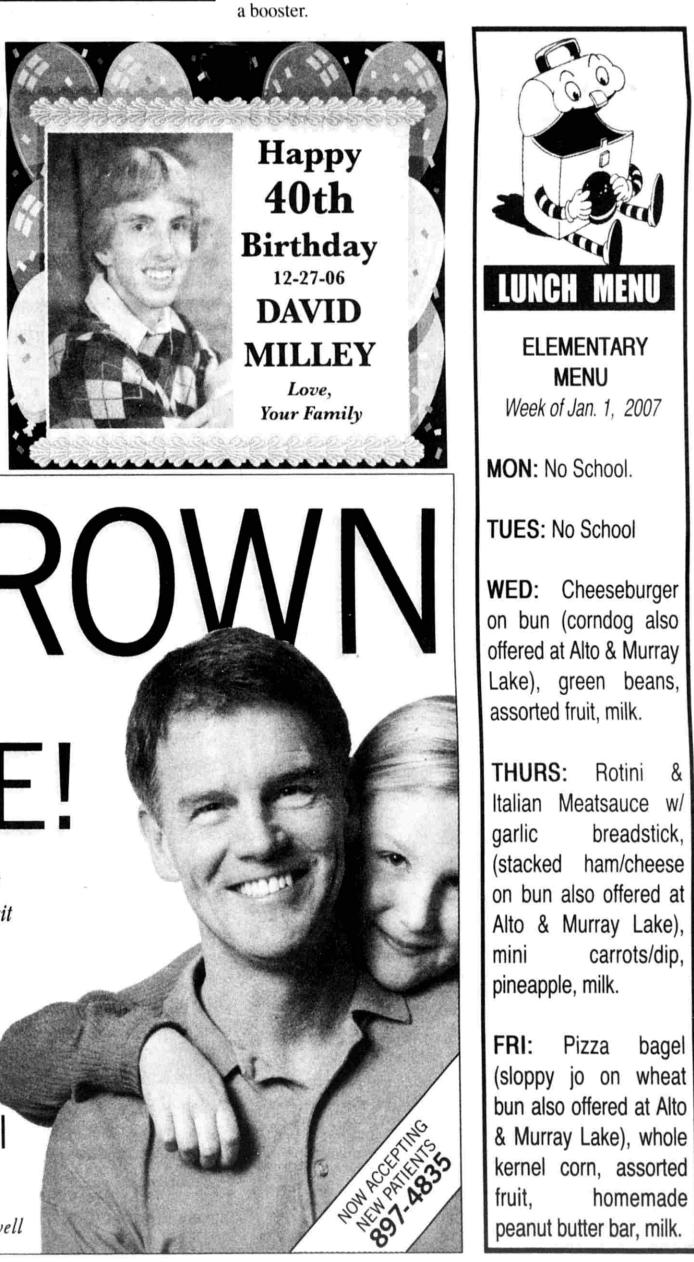
Department of Labor and Economic Growth launched the new Green Lodging Michigan (GLM) program this fall that encourages hotels, resorts, motels, and bed and breakfast locations to implement environmentallyfriendly and cost-saving practices to conserve energy, reduce water consumption and waste, and protect Michigan's air quality.

GLM is a voluntary and non-regulatory certification program offered to hoteliers at no charge. DEQ and DLEG provide technical assistance to those who are interested in implementing "green" strategies and earning certification. The GLM program certifies facilities based on environmental initiatives such as air quality, energy efficiency, solid waste reduction, toxic waste management, water conservation, purchasing and communication.

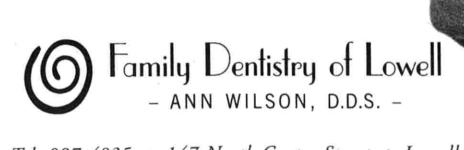
There are three levels Steward, and Leader, which

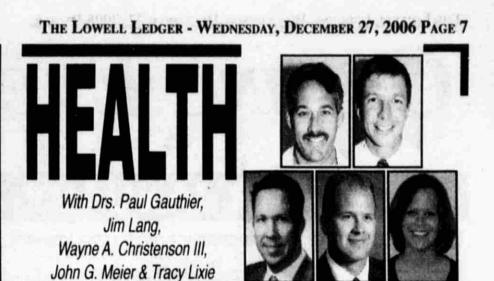
encouraging travelers to stay number of requirements and

The DEQ and the about the Green Lodging









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

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

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.

## **DECEMBER/JANUARY**

COMING EVENTS

THURS., DEC. 28: Euchre/cribbage at 1 p.m. Lowell for juniors, seniors, and parents. A guide through the Senior Neighbors.

SAT., DEC. 30: Christmas Bird Count at Wittenbach/ Wege Center, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. \$5 adults; 18 and younger free. Any interested families or individuals welcome. Call Ranger Steve 987-1002 to register.

THURS., JAN. 4: Hearing aid check at Lowell Senior Center, 10 a.m., crafts, 9:30 a.m.

SAT., JAN. 6: Pop can drive for Lowell/Caledonia hockey team 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. or drop off at Meijer.

MON., JAN. 8: Athletic Booster Club regular business meeting at 7 p.m. in high school staff lounge.

THURS., JAN. 11: Financial Aid Night at 7 p.m. at LPAC

### 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 Belding-Ionia-Lowell Masonic Lodge #355, 7:30 p.m. 211 E. Main, Belding, Dinner at 6:30 p.m. All Masons may attend.

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

2ND MON .: Lowell Board of Education, 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. Will resume Sept 18.

3RD MON .: Lowell Showboat Garden Club, Fellowship Hall at Church of the Nazarene, N. Washington St. at 7 p.m. No December meeting.

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

EVERY OTHER MON .: Lowell Area Juggling Club, Community room, Englehardt Library, 7-8:30 p.m. 12/older. 897-9879.

MON., TUES., THURS.: Alpha Women's Center, 2251 W. Main. Call 987-9533 for appt./ open Mon. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tu. 6-9 p.m., Th.10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Diapers, formula and clothing.

EVERY MON: Women of Grace study series, St. Mary Church, 402 Amity, 7:30 - 9 p.m. Cheryl 868-6204.

EVERY MON .: Women for Sobriety, 7-8 p.m. Bowne Center United Methodist Church, 84th & Alden Nash. Call Sue 868-6219; www.womenforsobriety.org.

### TUESDAYS

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

Cub Scout Pack 3188 at 1st United Methodist Church 621 E Main St. 6:30 p.m. Call Bruce Doll, cubmaster at 304-0082.

Weight Watchers, Alto United Methodist Church, Kirby & Harrison, 5:30 p.m. Reg. 1/2 hr. 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/preschool story hour/craft time 9:45 - 11:15 a.m./women only at 7:15 p.m.Calvary Christian Reformed Church. 897-7060 or 897-7555.

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

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

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

process of filing for and receiving financial assistance.

SAT., JAN. 13: Christmas tree recycling, 2-5 p.m. Donation \$5 per tree. Luminary walk at Wittenbach/Wege Center, 6-8 p.m. Donations \$5 individual; \$10 family. Refreshments, campfire treats.

MON., JAN. 15: Lowell Music Booster meeting at 7 p.m. in Lowell Middle School band room.

SAT., JAN. 20: St. Mary Blood Drive, in Parish Life Center, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Walk-ins available if time permits. Call Tom at 897-9098, Cindy at 897-0452 or church office 897-9820 8:30-2:30 p.m. Mon. - Wed. to make appointment. Donors receive free spaghetti dinner Jan. 20 or free pancake breakfast Jan. 21.

### TUESDAYS

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 TUES .: Doric chapter #75, Order of Eastern Star 6:30 dinner, 7:30 p.m. regular meeting. 211 E Main, Belding.

2ND & 3RD TUES .: Qua-Ke-Zik Sportsman's Club, 8731 West Riverside Dr., 8 p.m. www.qua-ke-zik.org.

2ND & 4TH TUES .: MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers meets at Impact Church, 1069 Lincoln Lake, 9:15 - 11:30. 897-8304.

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. No cost.

TUES .: Back to Basics Closed AA meetings at 1st Congregational Church, 865 Lincolnn Lake SE 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking.

EVERY TUES .: Women of Grace study series, St. Mary Church, 402 Amity St., 9:15 - 10:45 a.m. Beth 897-5771.

EVERY TUES .: Thornapple River Chapter BNI professional networking group, 7-8:30 a.m. Ada Bible Church, 8899 Cascade Rd. Cheryl 868-7551.

### WEDNESDAYS

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

8 p.m. ALANON new location: 206 N. Jackson, north of 1st United Methodist Church, corner of Avery & Jackson. 897-5936.

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

1ST WED.: GR/W. Mich. Scrabble Club at Schuler's Bookstore, 28th St. 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. walk-ins welcome. Jan 897-5759.

2ND WED .: Lowell Area Trailway, 6 p.m. alternate locations. Call Mari Stone 897-5671 or www.lowellareatrailway.org.

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

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

2ND WED.: Lowell Women's Club, 11:45 a.m. in Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd.

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

3RD WED.: GR/W. Mich. Scrabble Club at Schuler's Bookstore, 28th SE 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. walk-ins. Jan 897-5759.

3RD WED .: Alzheimer's Assoc. of West Mich. support group at Fountain View of Lowell, 11535 E. Fulton, 1 p.m. 897-8413.

### THURSDAYS

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

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

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

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY : 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. 10 a.m. -6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. 519 E. Main St. Call 897-2037.

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

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.

on Alden Nash S. 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 a.m. - 2 p.m. Round Robin, bring your board, all levels, walkins 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

2ND & 4TH FRI .: Teen MOPS support group for pregnant teens/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. Call Pat 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

### THURSDAYS

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

# RED ARROW SPORTS JACK.

### Lowell wrestlers challenged by tough area teams By Sean Garner

Contributing Writer

lenging week of the season, Arrows wrestled without a Greenville on top of their going to face." Lowell wrestling coach number of starters who were loss to Hesperia. Dave Dean still feels he has out with illness. As a result,

the Lowell wrestling team faced two of the state's top- figure out exactly where it ranked teams in Greenville is at right now," Dean said. has to figure out if it wants for the team, heading into and Hesperia. They also "Getting good also means to be a great team," Dean the new year. headed west to Chicago to dealing with reality. We've said. "Some of the teams face nationally recognized been exposed lately. Now, we've faced, we won't see doing quite a bit of work competition, including No. we know where our issues anybody that good all year. over break," Dean said. 7 St. Rita's.

## battle last Friday with The team has had its share as tough as anybody we're "We've got a competition just threw all my weight and a lot to learn about his team. Hesperia disposed of Lowell a bit of promise, scoring tournament, the Lowell In the span of eight days, with a sound 39-28 win.

"This team needs to Rita's. are." According to Dean, the Hesperia and Greenville are In their most recent Arrows are at a crossroads.

The Arrows still show will continue with their own and face up." 14 team points against St. Super Duals, Dec. 28. Dean the Arrows' meet against strides.

"We're a good team that serves as a positive transition

After the most chal- team in Division IV, the Red in-conference to rival better than anyone we're days after Christmas. Mostly said.

believes this tournament

## Nichols honored before Hesperia match

By Sean Garner **Contributing Writer** 

experts as the best in a scale with Gatorade." generation for high school football talent in the state classes at Oklahoma Jan. and I know his folks are reason I am going where I of Michigan, the best of 12. He broke a 15-month- grounded people." them goes to Lowell High long verbal commitment School.

Lowell before graduating opportunity. last week, a half year ahead of his class.

three-year all-state starting former Lowell quarterback. he feels uniquely privileged quarterback for the Lowell Red Arrows, received his spoken young man, is honest plaque for the Gatorade when asked if the progress of Michigan High Player of the Year Friday the past three seasons has in the Lowell High School matched his improvement of gymnasium before a Red the field. Arrow wrestling match. The Oklahoma-bound senior how much I've progressed was presented the award each year," Nichol said. "I by his coach Noel Dean in like to think that I improve a ceremony appropriately each year. As I get older, I fitting both personalities: brief, modest, body can grow a little bit a wee bit emotional and but it is still hard to tell just without the slightest hint of how much better I was this a wasted word or motion. year from my sophomore

"It's great to get year." "What separates him recognized for all of my hard is his work ethic and his that I was able to play for work," Nichol said. "It's nice character," Dean said. "It's a him (coach Dean) and for In a year touted by to be noticed on a national product of his family and it's Lowell," Nichol said. "Being

to Michigan State, he very strong relationship, as Or at least, he did go to says, simply because of evidenced by their brief hug by that," Dean said. "I feel

awesome opportunity to play credits Dean as his main recognize me like that. I've Keith Nichol, the for a great team," said the football influence and says

School the awards he has received

"It's hard to say just men's get a little smarter and my

during the ceremony before as though it's nice to have "I just thought it was an receiving his plaque. Nichol a player take the time to Nichol, a deep, soft- to have played for Dean.

"I feel very blessed a product of this program. able to play under coach Nichol will be starting We try to be very humble Dean, I think is the only am and accomplished the Nichol and Dean have a things I've accomplished."

"I'm verv humbled had a lot of great players and

BOWNE TOWNSHIP SYNOPSIS

Motions Approved:

- Minutes of November 20, 2006 regular board meeting. List of invoices presented.
- Ordinance Amended -Provision Sections 3.01, 3.24A, 3.24D, 3.24E and 3.24G.
- Renewed Contract with P.C.I. of MI Inc., approved resolutions increasing fees for building, mechanical, electrical and plumbing permits.
- Snow Avenue work approved for payment, forwarded to Community Block Grant Program.
- Resolution of schedule of 2007 board meetings.
- Board of Review appointments.

Copies of entire minutes available on the website bownetwp.cc.

> Sandra L. Kowalczyk Bowne Township Clerk

Held At: Township Office 8240 Alden Nash S.E. Alto, MI 49302 616-868-6846

Meetings at 7:30 p.m.

**BOWNE TOWNSHIP BOARD** SCHEDULE OF MONTHLY **BOARD MEETINGS 2007** January 15, 2007

February 19, 2007 March 19, 2007 April 16, 2007 May 21, 2007 June 18, 2007 July 16, 2007 August 20, 2007 September 17, 2007 October 15, 2007 November 19, 2007 December 17, 2007 THE LOWELL LEDGER - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2006 PAGE 9

Nichols, cont'd., pg. 11



General

it's just to get their attention

Hesperia came from the big man, Rudy Spaulding. work." Spaulding has placed fourth Doyle last year.

against mine and his knee he faced was tough. It was a planted on the mat and I great win."

Hesperia, the top-ranked of disappointments, losing going to face. St. Rita's is (Lowell Super Duals) a few girth against him," Doyle

Doyle believes his TheArrows' competition back so we can get together effort before the season was the main factor enabling The biggest win of him to be able to make such

"Definitely (what made biggest wrestler on the team. the difference) would be me HeavyweightDominicDoyle working out in the summer," extended his unbeaten start Doyle said. "I was willing to "We're going to be to the season with a second put in more hours than most period pin of Hesperia's other guys were willing to

> Dean agrees. "Dom's at the state tournament each done a ton of work and he's of the past two seasons and got all kinds of talent," Dean scored a first period pin over said. "He's very dedicated, a great leader and a "I felt his hips anchoring tremendous fighter. The kid

PUBLIC NOTICE **CITY OF LOWELL, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CITY OF LOWELL'S** PROPOSED USE OF 2007-2008 KENT COUNTY **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS** 

A public hearing will be conducted by the Lowell City Council on TUESDAY, January 2, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, Lowell City Hall, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan.

Public comments will be received during the hearing, orally or in writing, regarding the City of Lowell's proposed use of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban (HUD) Development Community Development Block Grant Funds for the following projects:

South Pleasant, South Center and South West streets, both sides of sidewalk from West Main to Bowes

\$50.554.83 North Kent Transit assistance for senior citizens and handicapped riders

> \$6,000.00 \$56,554.83

The County of Kent has allocated approximately \$56,554.83 of its 2007-2008 federal entitlement Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to the City of Lowell. The primary objective of the federal CDBG Entitlement Program "is the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income". Activities using CDBG funds must meet one of the following National Objectives: benefiting low and moderate income persons; addressing slums or blight; or, meeting a particularly urgent community development need.

Interested persons may submit comments to Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street prior to the meeting or appear in person.



Betty R. Morlock City Clerk



## Varsity players visit elementary school

Murray Lake Elemen- court and/or field, but how Noel Dean commented, tary had some special high to become a success in life. "Not only were each of these school visitors on Thursday, Dec. 21. Members of the '06 and respect your teammates athletics, but their combined OK White Champion varsity and classmates. 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 the players. become successful on the

Being successful isn't easy; takes a lot of hard work," said Harden.

Lyman added, "You need to respect everyone around you ... your teammates, your grade student, Paige Wilson teachers, your friends. Treat said, "I liked getting their others the way you want to autographs. They taught me be treated."

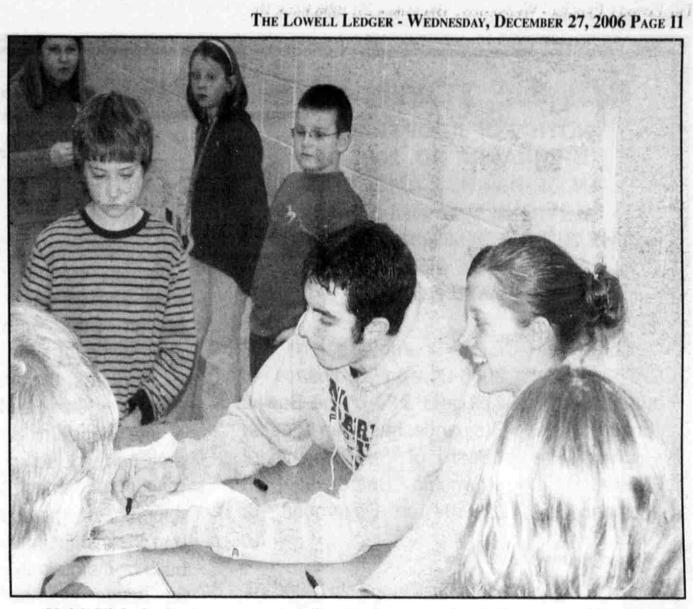
speaking to the students about sports, school and in fourth grade at Murray life. Afterwards, a highlight Lake, said, "I liked meeting video was shown and all the players, and learned autographs were signed by that you need to work hard

Varsity football coach

"You need to work hard players highly successful in 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 that it is very important to Each senior took a turn have good sportsmanship."

Nathan Kyburz, also at sports and in school."



## Nichols, continued ... From Page 9

from Lowell to Norman, Oklahoma.



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

### **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 The Township Board adopted Bowne. 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 ollows

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 2:00 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 neccessarily 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 in Midland, has just released or master's degrees during the names of students who received dean's list recognition for fall term.

From Lowell is Taylor with a degree in Family Life R. Verdon. From Alto is Education. Sarah M. Niemeyer.

Toachievethisacademic recognition, students must earn a 3.25 grade point on a 4.0 scale.

Spring Arbor University School. recently announced students

Eva B. Wilcox, a freshman at Michigan State University, has made the dean's list. She is a 2006 graduate of Lowell High

commencement exercises

on Oct. 7. From the Lowell

area is Mary Petrovich,



From Dec. 19 to Dec. 23, Lowell Police Department patrol officers logged aobut 23 hours of overtime, paid for with a grant from the Michigan Office of Highwah 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

A car accident Saturday morning took the life of a 22year-old Lowell woman.

The accident happened at 10 a.m. Sunny Moyer was driving eastbound on Sayles Road in Keene Township in Ionia County when her car slid in front of an oncoming truck.

Teams are forming now for the 2006 Lowell Community Weight Loss Challenge.



Antique Mall drew quite a bit of traffic to Lowell. It will close its doors at the end of February. 1-18-06

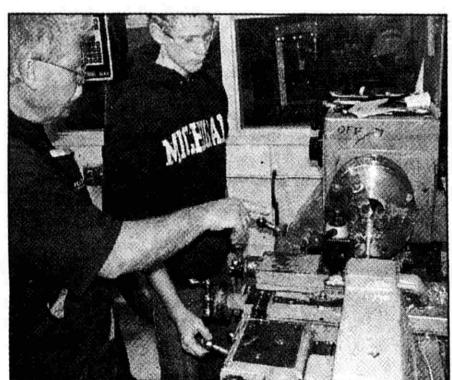


Members of the Lowell High School Environmental Club stand among the pile of trees accumulating for recycling Saturday. Christmas tree recycling is an annual event for the club. 1-11-06

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 In its almost 20 years in business, the Flat River 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.



### 00000

### 00000



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.

00000

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 Kalamazoobased 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 (LESPA) 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

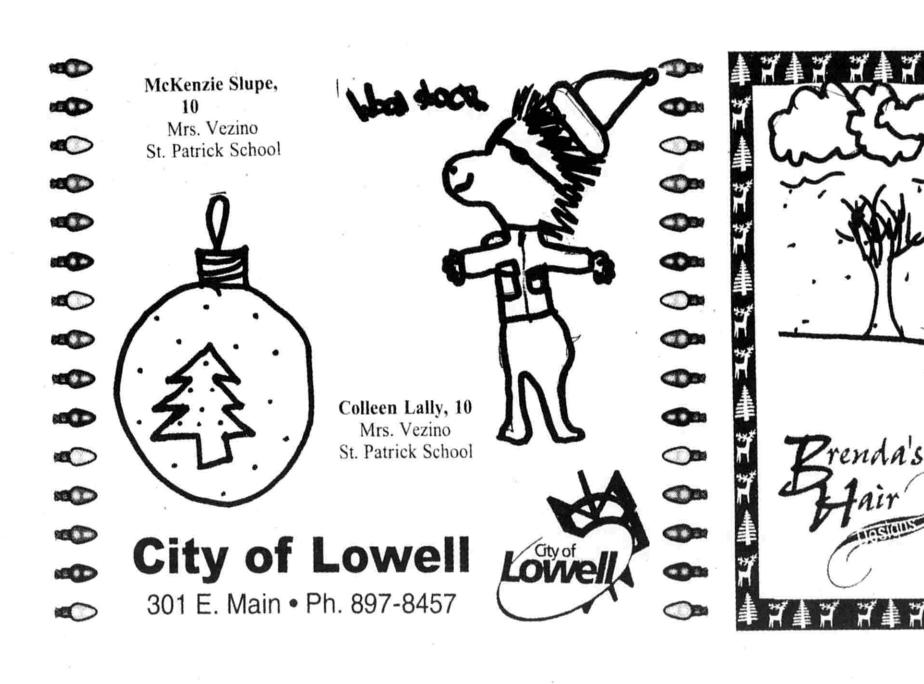
The brightly lit American flag at the new Mobil station in Lowell Township is generating comments. Some appreciate the statement while others feel the lights are too bright. The property is zoned Light Industrial, where the uplighting of flags is prohibited by township zoning ordinances. Craig Hoppen, 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 Mandle'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



**Featured** Artist Jan Upp

### By Emma Palova

found their way into most annual events," she said. of Jan Upp's paintings. "The paintings depict well-Inspired by stitches on her known places, events and favorite dress, handmade by nature at its finest." her mother and grandmother, Upp skillfully uses the motif 1999, Upp was still painting in her watercolor art.

"The stitching creates a 2001

pathway through the exhibit film strip," she said.

planned out her exhibit.

She drew up a sketch One piece, consisting of squares and Stroke" was on display at rectangles her paintings. When her "I had to finish it," she said. artwork "Vinculum" of the "I kept a chart and always seven continents with her ambitious projects is and adds things to them, is at the East Grand Rapids Mackinaw Bridge sold, Upp planned ahead for the next photographer husband, Don "There's more than one way much like a scrapbook. immediately had a plan of painting." how to replace it.

Millennium." For five years, happy with," she said. Upp concentrated on realistic The millennium project a still life "Iguazu Waterfalls" books for each member of display at the Fire and Water more art than grace." scenes of Michigan and was inspired in the mid- '90s painting and photography. the family. An altered book, Art! Gallery in Lowell, and painted 366 watercolors.

"It an artistic celebration of the wonders of the state of Michigan," she said

one day of the year 2000. The in her artwork. pictorial collection includes images from each of the 83 traveler, Upp visited all counties of Michigan.

"The artwork created for this project captures the Embroidered stitches essence of local and regional

On Christmas day of on the floor of a motel in She cuts up little hand- Dayton, Ohio. With eight painted squares of paper and paintings to go, she finished applies them to the painting. the project at the start of

The exhibit was one and it feels like the edge of a of the largest solo person exhibits; for three years, she As one of the artists had 91 pieces at the Lansing at the Fire and Water Art! Gallery. No gallery in the Gallery, Upp carefully state of Michigan was able to display the entire collection. "Butterfly representing Frederik Meijer Gardens.

One of her biggest displeased with the speed of and displays the artwork of four subjects using 40 she said. and most famous projects the production. "There were side by side. "Michigan in the a few paintings I was not

by a painter from England. In preparation for the project Upp has taken numerous trips throughout the state. witnessed many Each painting represents festivities and captured them

Always an avid



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

Their trip to Antarctica

The couple often to paint a watercolor." It is a In the end, Upp was captures scenes and images, collection of 120 paintings connected to the family," hold workshops at her studio different techniques.

> Currently, Upp is Upp keeps a time sheet for and South America produced working on creating altered herself. Her paintings are on and grace," she said. "I have One of the artist's in which she uses old books

"It makes me feel



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

- Library. In February, Upp will
- Unlike most artists, Your Creative Limits." "I am a product of art

in Jenison called "Pushing

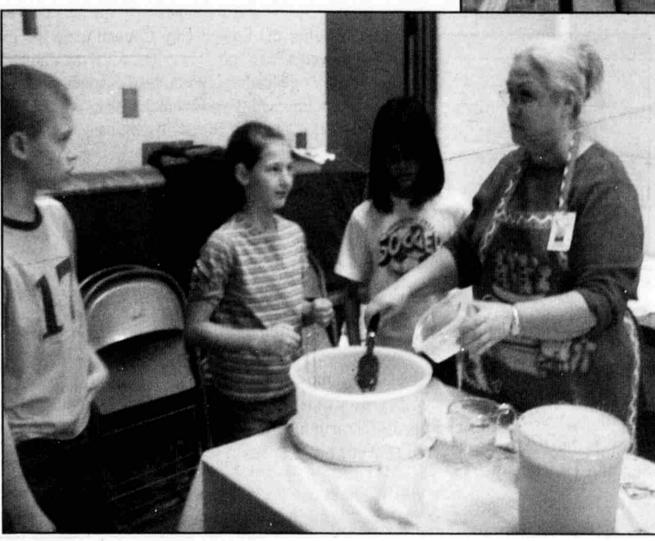
411 E. Main · Lowell 616-897-0887 Residential Kheem Commercial **Air Conditioning Heating Systems** Licensed Insured Water & Sewer Hookups **Video Inspection** Same Day Water **Heaters Installed** Sales, Service & Installation of All Plumbing Fixtures **Drain Cleaning** Water Softeners

## **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.





**Fountain** 

View >

Lowell

New Vision... New Standards... New Focus...

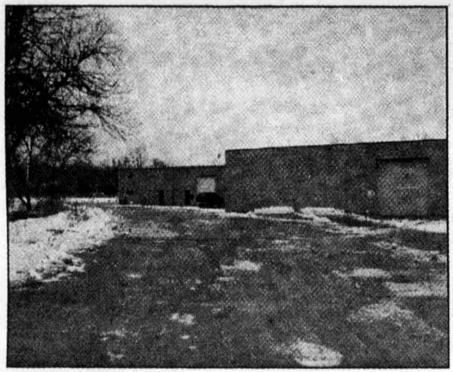
Fountain View is designed to provide choice and convenience for seniors requiring various levels of assistance. We are pleased to offer quality Assisted Living services and Specialized Memory Care.

At Fountain View, family involvement is not only welcomed, it's encouraged. We celebrate the participation of families, providers, volunteers and individuals from the local community who foster a truly caring spirit. Call today to find out more.

# Fountain View Mission Statement

It is the purpose of Fountain View to honor God by providing high quality senior lifestyle services that promote the value and dignity of every person.

> 11535 E. Fulton • Lowell, MI 49331 616-897-8413 web: www.leisure-living.com



Part of the former Newell Manufacturing Plant on Chatham will provide much needed storage for Lowell Light and Power. 3-15-06

Treadmills will be rolling for 24 hours straight Friday and Saturday at the Lowell YMCA for a fundraiser for the Y's Strong Kids Campaign, the Lowell YMCA's scholarship program for underprivileged children and families.

### A child identification day will be held Friday, Feb. 17 the Lowell branch of the River Valley Credit Union. Parents can bring their children to have their fingerprints taken.

The Lowell Police Department executed a search warran for controlled substances last Friday, at a residence on North Monroe Street. Officers seized a small amount of narcotics and drug paraphernalia. Four males ages, 17 to 26, were cited for use of marijuana, and given a court arraignment date of Feb. 22.

### 00000

The Lowell Area Schools board of education held a special meeting Saturday to review applications for district superintendent. They selected six candidates to interview.

This town does have its own taxi cab. Roger Bont has be, been running the Lowell Rider Taxi service since Sept. 1. His cab isn't yellow, it's blue, but he hopes it will be an increasingly common sight on the streets of Lowell.

### **FEBRUARY 22**

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual dinner last Thursday by candlelight due to power outages affecting the venue, Deer Run Golf Club. At the dinner, King Milling Company was given the 2006 "Business Appreciation Award." Ray and Barb Zandstra were the collective recipients of the chamber's 2006 "Person of the Year Award."

### 00000

The Lowell Area Schools board of education will interview the final two candidates to be the district's new superintendent. The six candidates in this first round of interviews have diverse experience with a number of different school districts. All of them are from Michigan. 00000

From March 1 to April 30, monetary and food donations to Flat River Outreach Ministries will be augmented by money from Alan Shawn Feinstein, who founded the Feinstein Foundation in 1996.

### 00000

While residents of many other cities in the area were in the dark, Lowell was relatively free of power outages after last Thursday's ice storm. Lowell Light and Power received "only about a dozen" calls from customers with their power

A group of people called the community-wide marketing committee is now putting together a plan to let more people know about the positive aspects of Lowell. The group is putting together a marketing plan to promote Lowell to the wider West Michigan area as a place to live, work, visit, shop, and go to school. Local artist Gary Eldridge was commissioned to create a logo and slogan for the effort. The slogan is: "Lowell, the next place to

Air Force Airman 1st Class Sean Devette



The Lowell Area School board of education unanimously selected Greg Pratt to be the district's new superintendent. 3-15-

military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Jack and Monica Devette of Alto and is a 2002 graduate of Ottawa Hills High School, Grand Rapids.

### MARCH 1

Lowell's Congregational Church will

this weekend: 150 years. Rev. S.S. Brown and Cyprian S. Hooker were the originators. They organized the Union Sunday School in 1851. Five years later, on March 6, 1856, the Congregational Church Society was established with nine members. Rev. S. Hemenway was hired as pastor. They dedicated their sanctuary on June 1, 1861.

The problems with a brightly lit American flag at the new Mobil station on Alden Nash Avenue were apparently resolved at last Wednesday's meeting of the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). "One of our ZBA members, in fact our newest member, had gotten onto the internet and downloaded some information on a light fixture that would attach to the light pole from the top and illuminate the flag that way," ZBA chair Bill Thompson said.

The Lowell Area Historical Museum sent an application to Michigan's Charitable Gaming Commission seeking a license to hold a raffle as part of the museum's kick-off event for its yearlong celebration of Lowell's 175th anniversary. A note came back indicating it needed, among other things, a resolution from the city stating it is a nonprofit organization. The council approved the resolution and now, museum director Judy Straub said the committee has sent the required paperwork in and is waiting for the license.

Minutes after the Lowell City Council gave the green light for Lowell Light and Power (LL&P) to purchase a storage facility on Chatham Street, residents near its current North Washington facility were making plans on what could be done with that site once the utility company vacated it. 00000

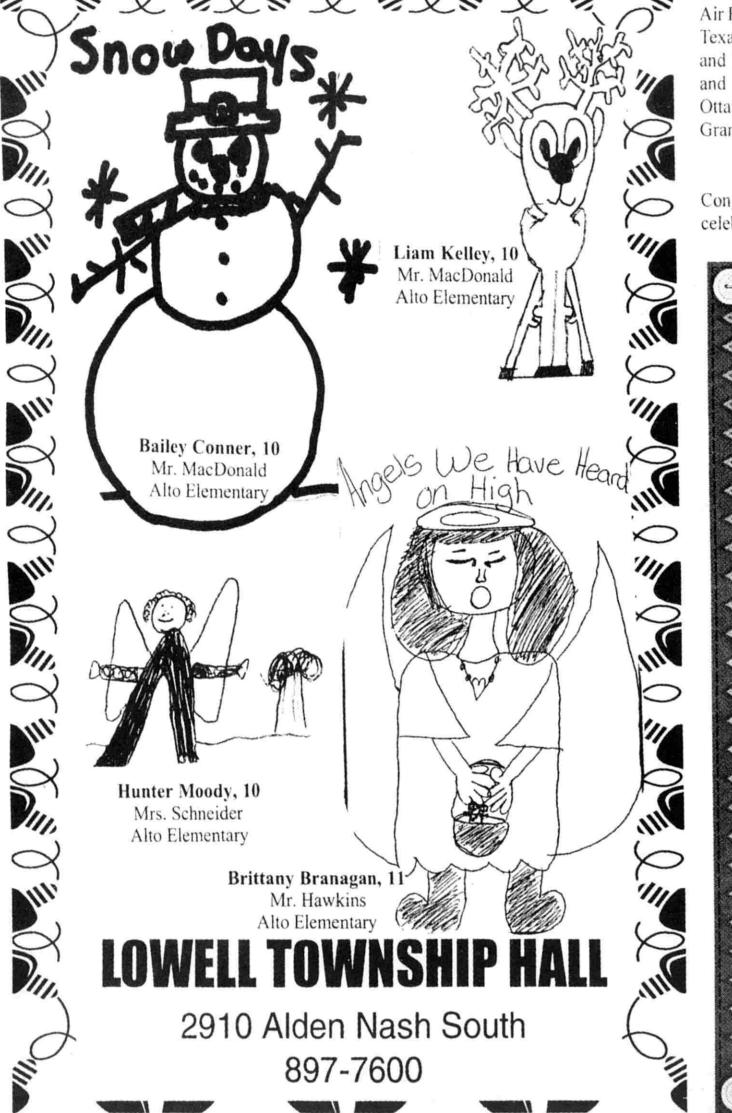
Lowell High School senior Marie Lazar was named a National Merit finalist and senior Kristen McAlpine was given a National Merit Commendation. 00000

Lowell High School senior Benjamin Ritzema was recently accepted into the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Navy Seaman Recruit Tera L. Kropf recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. Kropf, a 1990 graduate of Lowell High School, is the daughter of Christine L. Kropf and stepdaughter of Jody A. Hall of Lowell.

Daniel Vosovic has let his fashion designing talents carry has graduated from basic him from Lowell to New York City. His talents have also taken him into the final round of the reality TV show, Project Runway 2 on the Bravo Network. The show airs Wednesday from 9 to 11 p.m. Vosovic is among three finalists in the fashion design competition hosted by Heidi Klum.

Students from Lowell High School will head south for spring break, but not for fun in the sun. The student council is planning an "alternative spring break" in which LHS students First will travel to Pass Christian, a town in Mississippi that is still recovering from the destruction wrought by Hurricane celebrate a big birthday Katrina. The student council had been talking about a relief



SANTA CLAUS 'om in' Towni Dani Starkey, 11 Mrs. Schneider Alto Elementary 

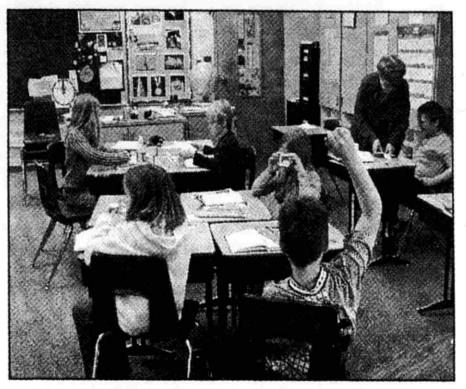
MARCH 8





The flags along the Riverwalk Plaza in Lowell stood straight out from their poles Monday evening as south and southwest winds gusted over 45 miles per hour through town. 3-15-06

project since the beginning of the school year, shortly after Katrina slammed into the gulf coast. Rather than rush to put together a fundraiser, student council adviser Jaime Christians said, "We wanted to really do something that was meaningful."



Third graders in Sheryl Melle's class at Cherry Creek Elementary construct cubes during math class. Her class is currently studying geometry. Math was the top subject in Lowell Area Schools' most recent round of elementary and middle school MEAP testing, particularly at the third grade level. 3-22-06

Residents may see a jump of 20 percent in their sewer and water rates and non-residential users could see an upward of 69 percent if the Lowell City Council approves the recommendations of a sewer and water rate study. According to Vic Cooperwasser, a unit vice president for Tetra Tech, study results indicated the city should be charging about \$22.79 for readiness to serve, which is about \$2 above the

current \$20.75. The study proposed that the commodities per 1,000 gallon rate be lowered from \$1.68 to \$1.43.

The Lowell Area Schools board of education voted unanimously to visit the Kent City Community School district where Gregory Pratt is superintendent, after its second round of interviews last week. "We just felt that he had the best fit for our district now and for taking it on into the future," school board president Nancy Hopkins said.

For the first time in years, there is an orchestra in the orchestra pit beneath the stage at the Lowell Performing

Arts Center. That orchestra is there because it is playing the music for the Lowell High School spring musical production of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast." This musical has an absolutely huge cast with villagers, sheep, chorus, teacups, spoons and a talking candelabra. 00000

Lowell High School principal Scott Vashaw, assistant future. principal Kevin Pearson and assistant principal for the Freshman Center Amy Pallo hope to be evicted from their offices by the end of the month. The students are collecting food items for Flat River Outreach Ministries and storing them in the principals' offices.

### MARCH 15

This year's Lowell Community Expo promises to be better than ever. Something new this year is the addition of live demonstrations.

00000 Testing of several factors related to air quality at Lowell Middle School did not reveal significant health risks according to a report issued in late January.

00000

Lowell Light and Power (LL&P) feels added space is just one of the benefits of the area it is purchasing at the former Newell Manufacturing plant on Chatham Street.

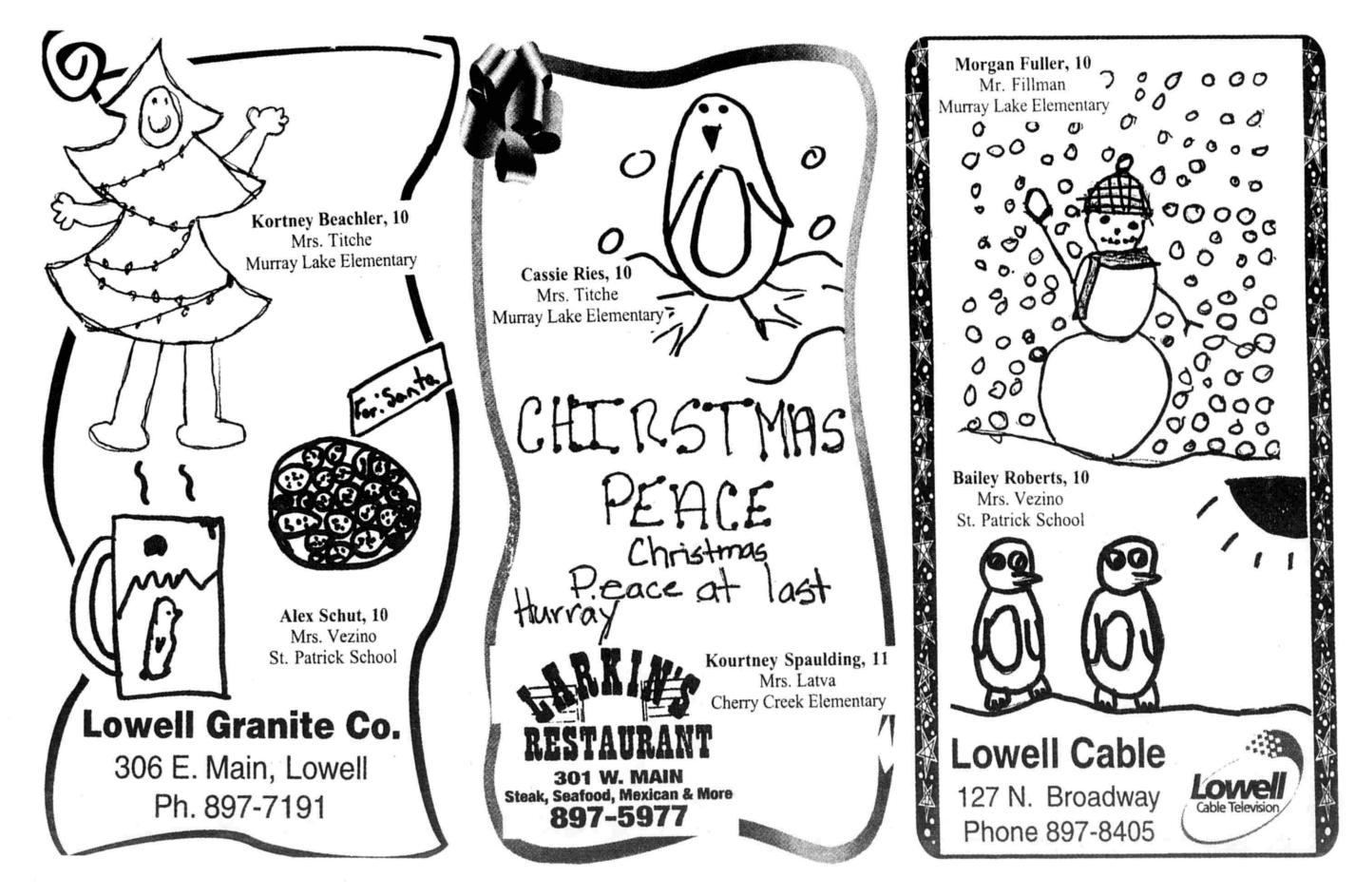
Lowell Area Schools has a new superintendent. The LAS board of education unanimously decided to offer Greg Pratt the district's superintendent position last Tuesday.

Lowell Area Schools assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction Mark Kasmer is leaving the district April 1 for the same job in Sparta Area Schools

### MARCH 22

The Lowell Downtown Development Authority (DDA) voted, last Thursday, to give financial backing to a community-wide marketing project. The board voted 6-1 in favor of spending \$25,000 per year for the next three years on a marketing plan that would promote Lowell through billboards, radio advertisements, fliers and other means.

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



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

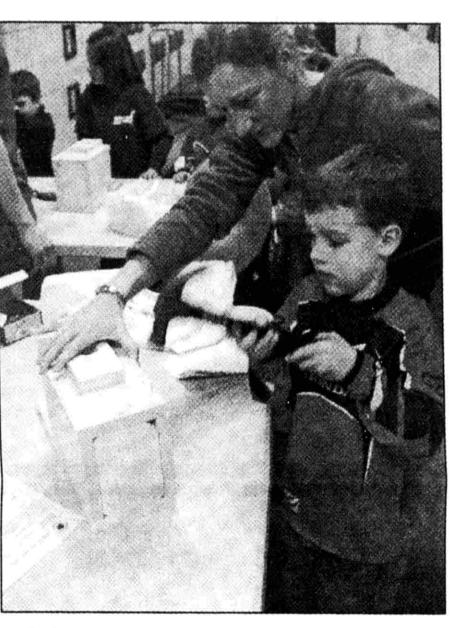
00000

While it is less than proposed, city water and sewer users could still see quite a spike in their rates. At its Monday night meeting, the Lowell City Council reviewed a new proposal that would still increase the water and sewer rates, but not as high as originally proposed.

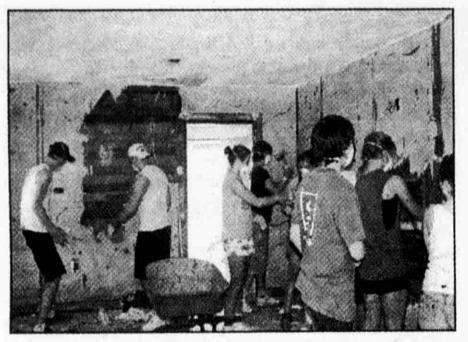
### 00000

More than 6,300 people participated in or visited the Lowell Area Historical Museum in 2005, according to a report presented by its executive director, Judy Straub, to the Lowell City Council Monday night. With monies raised through memorial gifts and some seed money, the Lowell Area Historical Museum was able to establish an endowment fund with \$50,000 to help with costs and other needs in

Lowell Area Schools' elementary and middle school students performed above state and county averages in nearly every subject and grade level on the latest Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests. The tests were taken in the fall of 2005. Lowell scored consistently well in math, particularly compared to state and county averages.



Bethanie Pollock helps her son, Austin, 6, by holding his birdhouse steady while he pounds in a nail. B&G Services offered a birdhouse construction workshop for kids at Saturday's Lowell Community Expo. 3-29-06



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 1 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 style and feel. public. There were churches, music groups, even a business that sells African hunting safaris.

### 00000

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.

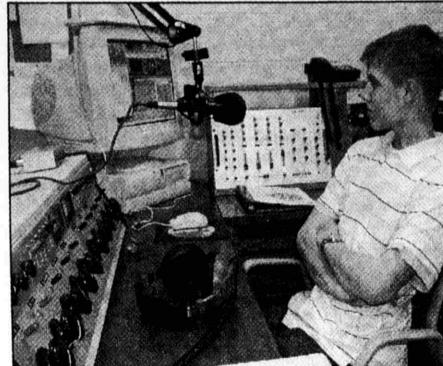
### 00000

The Lowell Area Schools board of education met last Tuesday to approve a contract for newly selected district 2010. superintendent, Greg Pratt. Pratt was given a three-year contract with a starting salary of \$121,000 for the 2006-2007 school year.

### 00000

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.

owell Area Arts Council's Gallery will be covered with Lowell. 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

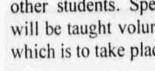
Reel Tyme, the movie rental store at 11635 East Fulton Street, is now locally owned and operated.

### **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

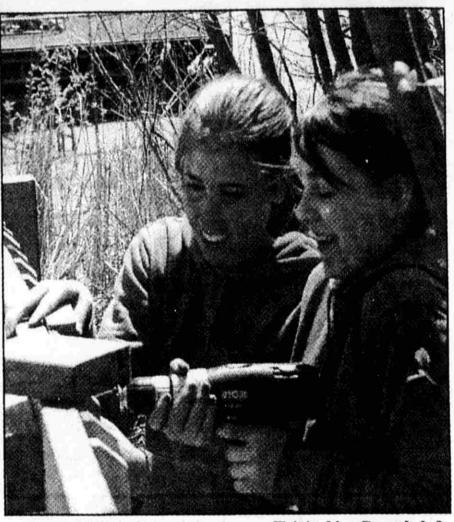
Excellence (LIVE) will be passing on what it has learned to Monday, to take it slow with the North Washington Street





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, Throughout most of the month of April, the walls of the is the son of Rhonda and stepson of Michael T. Fisher of

> 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 Tuhsmeheta, 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. 00000

This year's class of the Lowell Institute for Volunteer The Lowell City Council agreed, at its meeting on



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.

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 has begun fundraising for the park. They are working to get long way off. "It was like a ghost town," sophomore Alex city approval for what Eckstrom said would be the preferred Harrington said of the city that had a population of more than location for the park. 6,500 in the 2000 census.

children who took part in the Lowell Mosse Lodge's annual Easter egg hunt at Creekside Park.

hostan open house Thursday, April 20 at the Wittenbach-Wege Agriscience and

00000

An Alpha Women's

00000

theater

of Ernest

Center will open in Lowell

dinner

Thompson's "On Golden

Pond" will be performed

by the Lowell Area Arts

Council's Thebes Players at

Larkin's Banquet Hall this

is hosting its first ever art exhibit at the township hall, and is also holding its seventh annual community

educational forum on open

APRIL 19

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

Smithee, Pat Nugent and

Peter Haefner.

Voters in the Lowell

space issues.

00000 Vergennes Township

Environmental Center.

April 17.

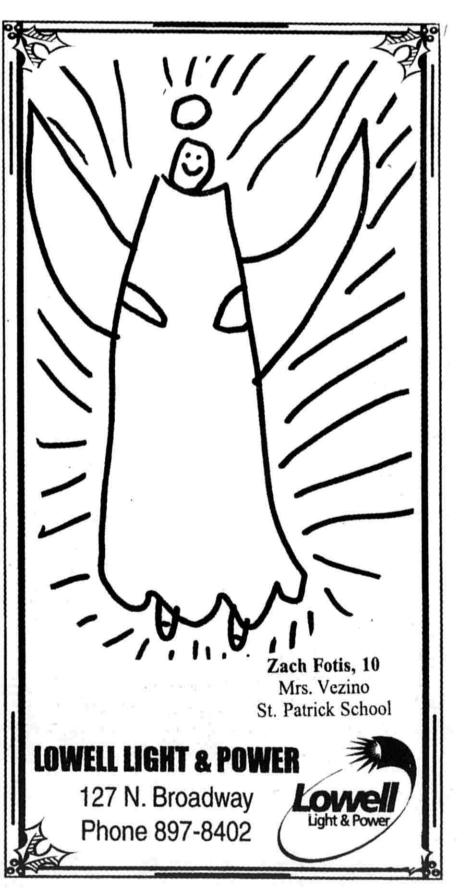
Α production

month.

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



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.

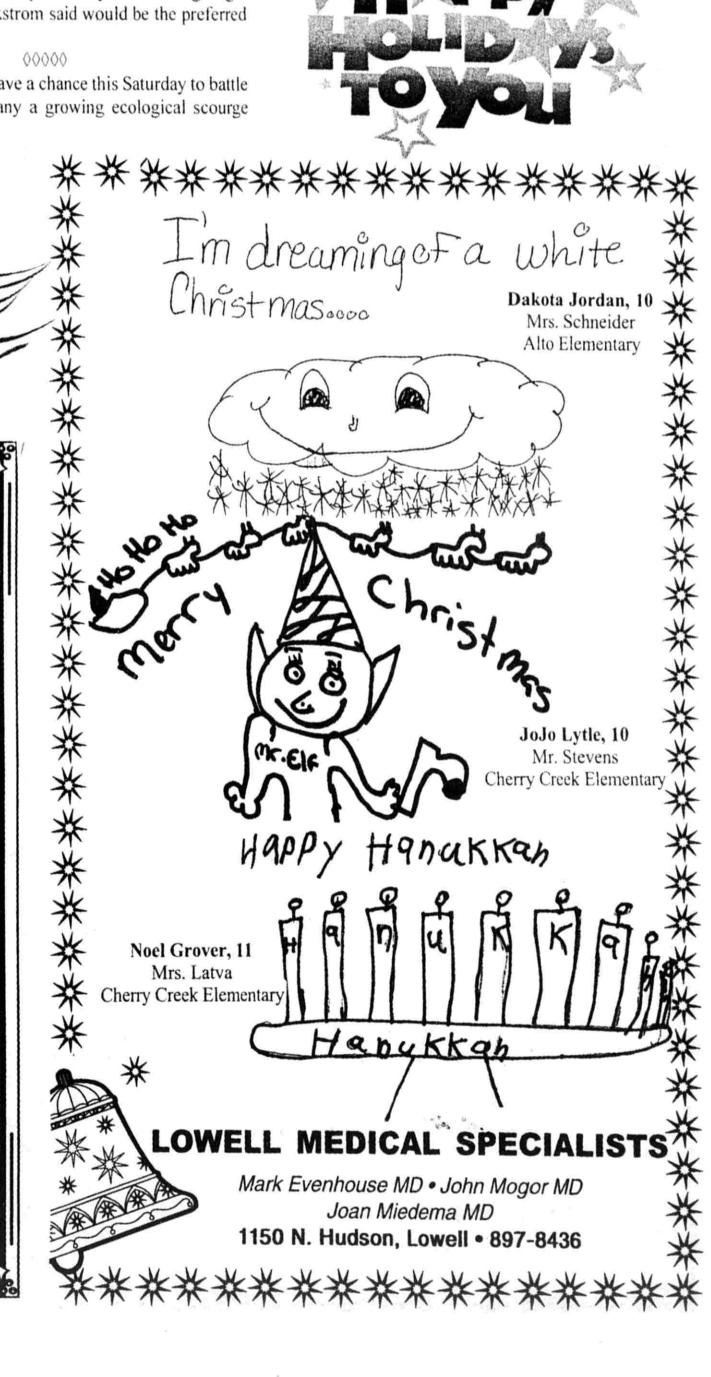
The new middle school science curriculum will be spread over a longer period of time, allowing teachers more time for in-depth coverage of different topics. For example, students will get their introduction to sixth grade science in the second half of their fifth grade year.

### **APRIL 26**

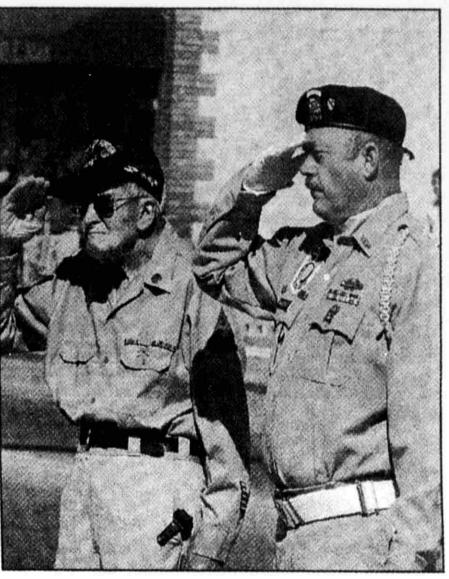
The Lowell Planning Commission will stay on schedule Broadcasting from a transmitter high atop Lowell High for the city master plan update to be completed by mid -School, WLHS, the new student run radio station, is on the 2007. 00000

Progress is being made toward the creation of a dog park in Lowell. A group of local dog owners led by Jeff Eckstrom

Lowell citizens will have a chance this Saturday to battle There was excitement on the faces of hundreds of what is considered by many a growing ecological scourge



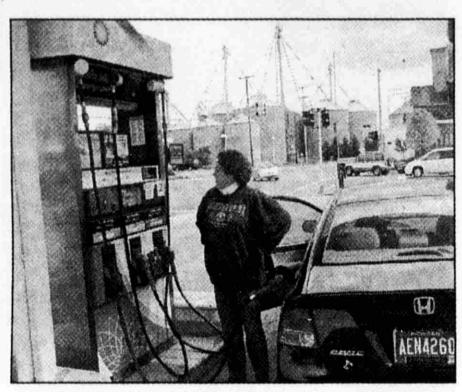
00000 Lowell's Riverwalk THE LOWELL LEDGER - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2006 PAGE 21



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.

An exhibit by Pravin Sevak at the Riverwalk Gallery in



BP station. She bought the car late last year for a vehicle with better gas mileage. 5-3-06

the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce features some of the most exciting artwork to come to Lowell since the Lowell Area Arts Council's West Michigan Regional Competition Past" tour of nearby small-town historical museums. (WMRC) not too long ago.

A change in the city zoning ordinance may allow wall signs on buildings in the downtown business district if approved by the Lowell City Council. The Lowell Planning Commission on Monday night recommended the change to 862. Peter Haefner won the second four-year term, garnering accommodate several businesses which have petitioned for 836 votes. wall signs facing the Flat River.

### MAY 3

Prices for a gallon of unleaded gas have hovered around \$2.89 for the last several days at local gas stations. It is and second houses). It received 979 votes in favor and 380 causing some local residents to re-evaluate their transportation against. choices.

When a big group of Lowell High School freshmen after a series of car break-ins. arrived at Camp Tuhsmeheta, a summer camp for blind youth located on Lincoln Lake Road near Greenville, the place was covered with a uniform, four-inch-deep layer of leaves. For about eight hours last Thursday, and another five contest on Feb. 27 to misdemeanor charges of embezzlement hours Friday, half of the LHS freshman class raked the leaves from the Lowell Little League for over \$200 but less than minds of people in the West Michigan area. 5-10-06 and undertook a number of other projects to get the camp \$1,000.

ship-shape for the summer camp season. Meanwhile, the other half of the freshman class was at Camp Mel Trotter in Hopkins, a summer camp for troubled teens run by Mel Trotter Ministries in Grand Rapids.

The Lowell Police Department (LPD) has completed a \$20,000 electronic fingerprinting and mug shot project prior to the September deadline. As part of the grant proposal, the school district will not be charged a \$16 applicant fee. The police department, however, will charge \$16 for all non-school applicants. Chief Jim Valentine said the police department completed the equipment installation and training as of April 25.

The Lowell Showboat may have lower rental fees this season, as well as serve alcohol again during the upcoming summer concert series from mid- June through the end of Robin Omillian fills her Honda Civic at the Lowell August. The council also approved the use of the showboat during the summer concert series of Flat River Grill to serve alcohol.

number of artifacts on hand. Those who are interested can see a lot of them this weekend during the "Spring Into the

### **MAY 10**

Both incumbents will keep their seats on the Lowell Area Schools board of education following last Tuesday's school election. Pat Nugent had the highest vote total with

Both operating millage proposals passed, the first by a wider margin than the second. The first was a proposal to renew the millage on Non-Homestead property (meaning property other than primary residences, such as businesses

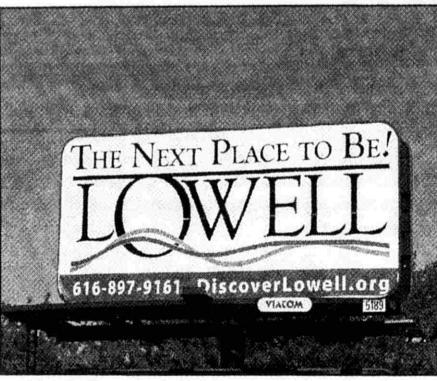
Lowell police are advising car owners to take precautions

Former Lowell Little League president Ed Parks was sentenced last Friday in 63rd District Court. Parks pled no

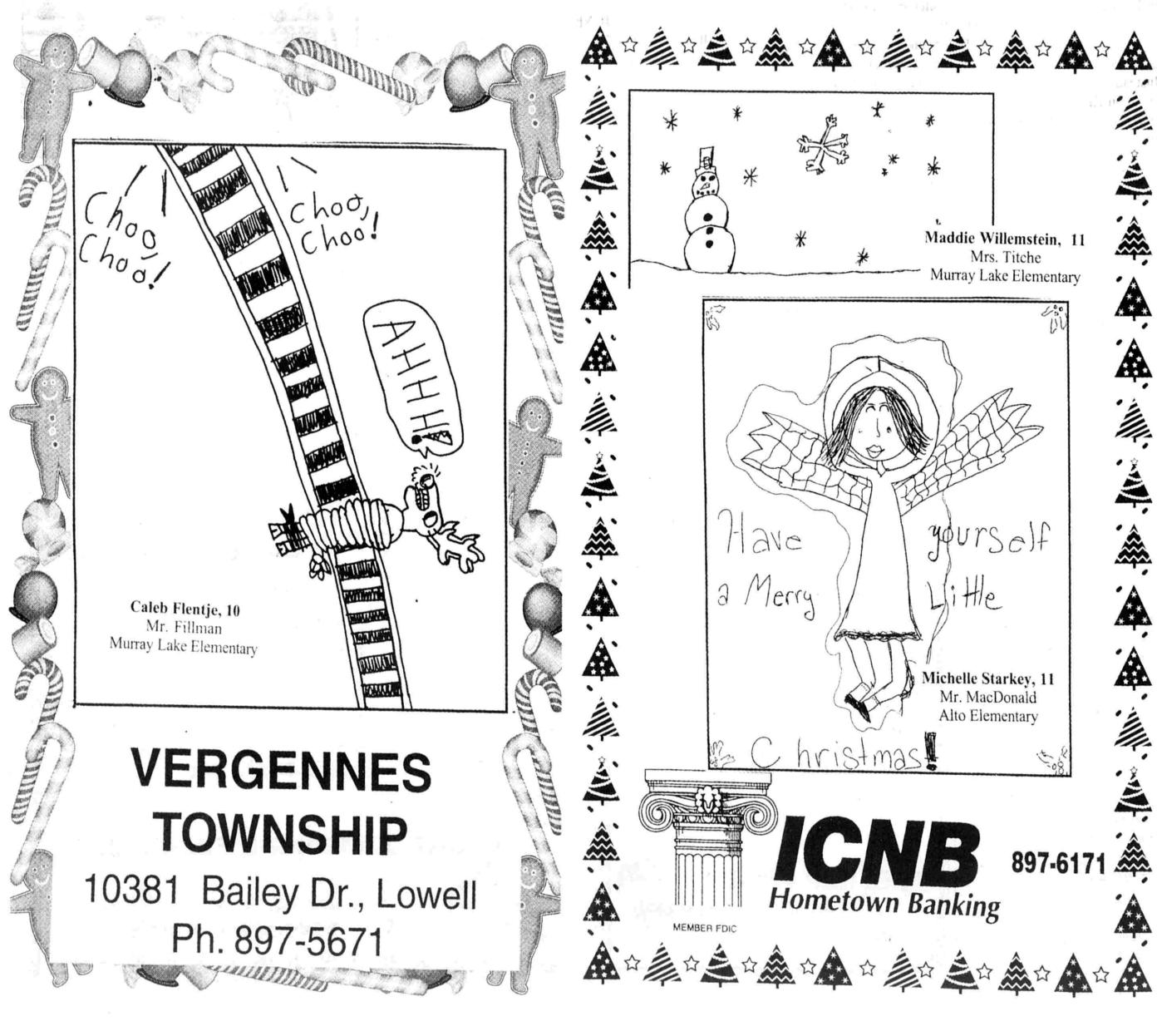
Air Force Airman Caleb T. Reinbold has graduated Lowell.

Lowell Area Schools has itself on good footing to meet upcoming Michigan Merit Standards for high schools. That's the message Lowell High School principal Scott Vashaw had for the board of education at Monday's meeting. Lowell, he said, already has a rigorous academic program that meets or nearly meets the new requirements in most subjects. Vashaw also mentioned that Lowell High School was mentioned on the Newsweek web site among the top five percent of high schools in the country. It was part of their May 8 issue which ranked top high schools based on their Advanced Placement testing.

Students in Nate Fowler's ninth grade social studies Small town museums and historical societies have a class at Lowell High School are learning about life in the Middle East, directly from students who live there. For the



This billboard on M-21 east of Ada, one of two, is the first visible step in the Lowell Community-wide Marketing Committee's plan to ingrain Lowell into the



### -00000

from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Reinbold, a 2005 graduate of Lowell High School, is the son of Dennis and Suzanne Reinbold of

### **MAY 17**

past three weeks or so, the class has been editing articles for an online magazine called "Life Behind the Wall." The articles are written by Palestinian students living in Ramallah in the West Bank. Palestinians talk about their experiences under Israeli occupation: waiting at checkpoints, having houses invaded by Israeli soldiers, seeing parents shot. There are articles on political topics, such as the recent Hamas party victory in Palestine, and lighter subjects, too, such as music, food and fashion.

### 00000

The Flanagan farm in southern Grattan Township was dedicated as the second farm to be preserved through the Kent County Purchase of Development Rights program (PDR), Monday. The 145-acre farm has been in the Flanagan family since 1947, when Lloyd Flanagan's parents moved there in the spring.

### 00000

Bluegrass music will roll into Lowell once again this weekend. The West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association (WMBMA) is bringing its 11th annual Mayfest Bluegrass Music Festival to the Lowell Fairgrounds.

### 00000

Lowell's only bookstore, The Bookabout at 100 Main Street, will close by the end of July. In business for 26 years, The Bookabout is among the longest-running shops in downtown Lowell.

The Lowell City Council approved by a 3-2 vote an amendment to the zoning ordinance Monday night that will allow wall signs in the commercial business district over the Flat River.

### **MAY 24**

For this year's Mayor Exchange Day, Lowell traded mayors with the city of Coldwater. Mayor Gene Wallace and representatives from that city in south-central Michigan were greeted at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Tuesday morning.

### 00000

With the sound of banjos, mandolins and stand-up basses, the West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association's 11th annual Mayfest hit the Lowell Fairgrounds over the weekend. ... among the campers in the parking lot, in the horse barns and in the King Memorial Youth Center, string pickers were congregating and playing songs.

### Lowell Community Wellness's second annual 100 Miles in 100 Days walking challenge will kick off Monday.

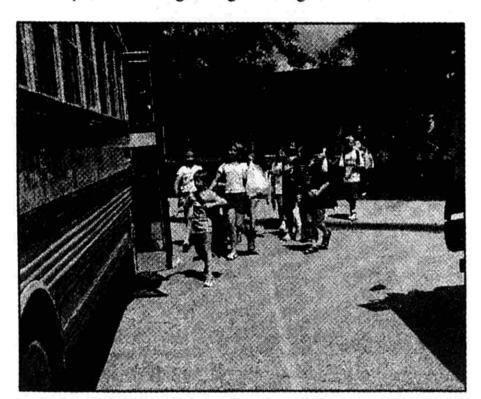
Organizers of this year's Riverwalk Festival in Lowell are taking a new direction with its afternoon performers. Instead of scheduling a slate of acts to perform on the main stage on Riverwalk Plaza, the festival committee is seeking street performers to entertain on the street at various locations in and around the festival.

### 00000

The preliminary 2006/2011 Lowell Capital Improvement Plan based on last year's plan proposes the following improvements at the city parks to be approved by the parks and recreation commission: Gravel to boat launch at the Stoney Lakeside Park for \$1,440, one pavilion at the Stoney Lakeside Park for \$6,500, paving of parking lots on the east side of Stoney Lakeside Park for \$9,300 and sprinkling at Richards Park for \$10,600. Other future projects include tennis courts, an ice skating park, a future park at the Unity High site and dugouts at Creekside Park.

The 2006 Lowell community survey will examine residents' attitudes and willingness to fund projects such as a dog friendly park, a skate park, an RV park, an indoor swimming pool and increased zoning enforcement.

### Compiled demographics by contracted planners' McKenna Associates show the city is in line with state and county demographic trends, but not with the surrounding townships, which are growing at a far greater rate.



Students lined up for the school bus ride home for summer vacation last Friday. The Lowell Area Schools district will spend the summer getting ready for next school year, which includes making the transition to a new superintendent. 6-14-06

Army Pvt. Zebulun P. Nyhuis has graduated from basic Riverwalk Plaza, summer starts a week early ... Thursday, combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. Nyhuis, a to be specific, the first day of the Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' 2003 graduate of Vision Quest High School in Wyoming, is Summer Concerts. the son of Paul and Sylvia Nyhuis of Alto.

In its 57 years of existence, the Lowell Showboat Garden Club has left a mark on this town. For the past several years, the club has hung baskets spilling over with flowers from the rafters of the showboat, among other horticultural projects in the community.

Alongside where the Flat and Grand rivers meet, just southwest of the train tracks, would be a good place to park an RV. That's the belief of Jim Hall, who presented a proposal for a Recreational Vehicle Park to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) last Thursday.

### **MAY 31**

Lowell's Main Street was lined with American flags flapping in the breeze Monday as Memorial Day was observed with a parade heading to Oakwood Cemetery for a brief program. A sizeable group of Lowell veterans and current soldiers marched at the front of the parade. A steady stream of applause could be heard from people who had gathered to this?" he asked. "We have to consider everything, any stone watch from South Broadway to Monroe St.

Many people in Lowell spent Monday, Memorial Day, attending family barbecues or traveling to the beach, perhaps after taking in the parade and other observances in town. For veterans and people currently serving in the military, the day can have other meanings. It's a time to remember fallen beyond. friends, and also to be proud of one's service.

On Thursday, Lowell Police officers stopped 17 cars and issued 14 tickets for seatbelt violations during a special seatbelt-enforcement wave over Memorial Day weekend. Officers issued two tickets for other violations and a verbal warning. The special seatbelt enforcement continued Sunday; 30 cars were stopped and 21 seatbelt tickets issued. Tickets were issued for seven other traffic violations and police gave two verbal warnings.

Lowellians are proving to be enthusiastic about the Lowell pictorial history book the Lowell Area Historical Museum published to commemorate the 175th anniversary of Lowell.

### JUNE 7

Lowell High School's 128th annual commencement exercises were held Sunday at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium. Principal Scott Vashaw mentioned Lowell High School's recognition from Newsweek magazine as being in the top 5 percent of more than 18,000 U.S. high schools.

Some folks in Lowell have been putting together ideas with the intent of creating a farmers' market in Lowell. The idea has bounced around a bit in the past, but the group that met last Thursday at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce hopes July 6 will be the opening day for a market in Lowell.

### The Lowell City Council approved a preliminary agreement under the Conditional Land Transfer Act (P.A 425) for the development of Cook property in Vergennes Township on Monday.

The Lowell High School Class of 2006 is giving back to the school a student memorial for LHS students who died before graduation. The memorial is a two-tiered deck with white railings that overlooks woods and Red Arrow Stadium It is far enough away from the bustle of the school building to be a quiet place to sit and think. A red granite monument will accompany the deck.

A new pet grooming business has opened on the west side of town. Paws-itively grooming opened its doors last Tuesday in the Stoneridge shopping center. It is a full-service dog and cat salon.

The Lowell City Council rejected the proposed budget for next year on a 3-2 vote, however, the city charter forced its approval.

An amendment approved by the Lowell City Council on Monday night will allow the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to allocate \$25,000 for the marketing of the city.

### **JUNE 14**

Summer vacation began last Friday for all Lowell Area School students. But as they lined up in front of their schools for their last bus ride until late August, the district was already preparing for the next school year. Among the biggest things to be done is the installing of Greg Pratt as the new district superintendent. That process has been going very well, Lowell Area Schools board of education president Nancy Hopkins said.

### 00000

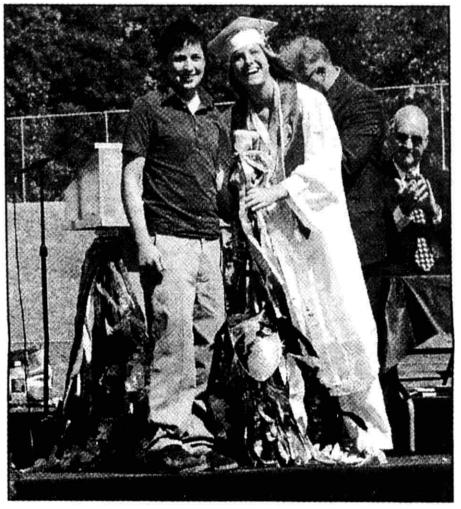
The official start of summer is a week away. But on the

Lowell's fairgrounds are still at their busiest during the Kent County Youth Fair in August. That's not likely to change. But what has been changing over the past several years is what's going on at the fairgrounds the rest of the time. Whereas 10 years ago, the grounds may have hosted one or two events per summer outside of fair, now there is activity just about every weekend.

A feasibility study conducted by Honeywell Municipal Services could save the city money in energy costs in tight budget times. With revenue sharing down, the cities now have to be more creative, said Dick Williams of Honeywell at the Monday night meeting.

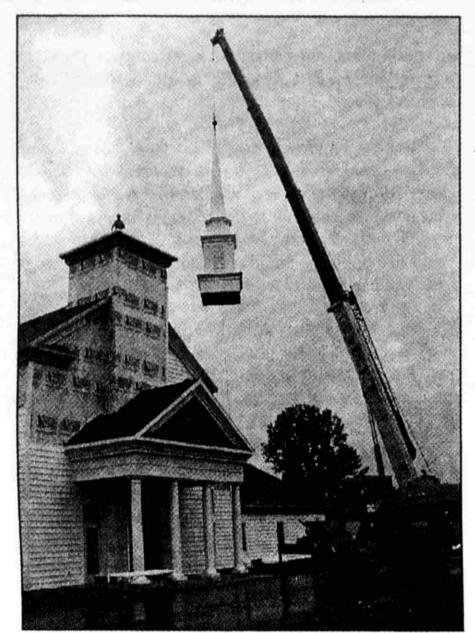
Police and fire departments were under fire as the Lowell City Council scrutinized cost savings in a work session Monday. Using a list of cost saving priorities, council member James Pfaller questioned if the city needs as many road patrols. "Why don't they use bikes more on a day like shouldn't go unturned. Do we need six people working?"

Weapons of Mass Instruction, a new business selling Airsoft guns, is now open in Lowell. Owner Simon Rosenbaum hopes 505 West Main Street, where the store is located, will become Airsoft central for West Michigan and



In the Lowell High School tradition, class of 2006 president Nikita Miles passed the spade to class of 2007 president Kevin Vuong. 6-7-06



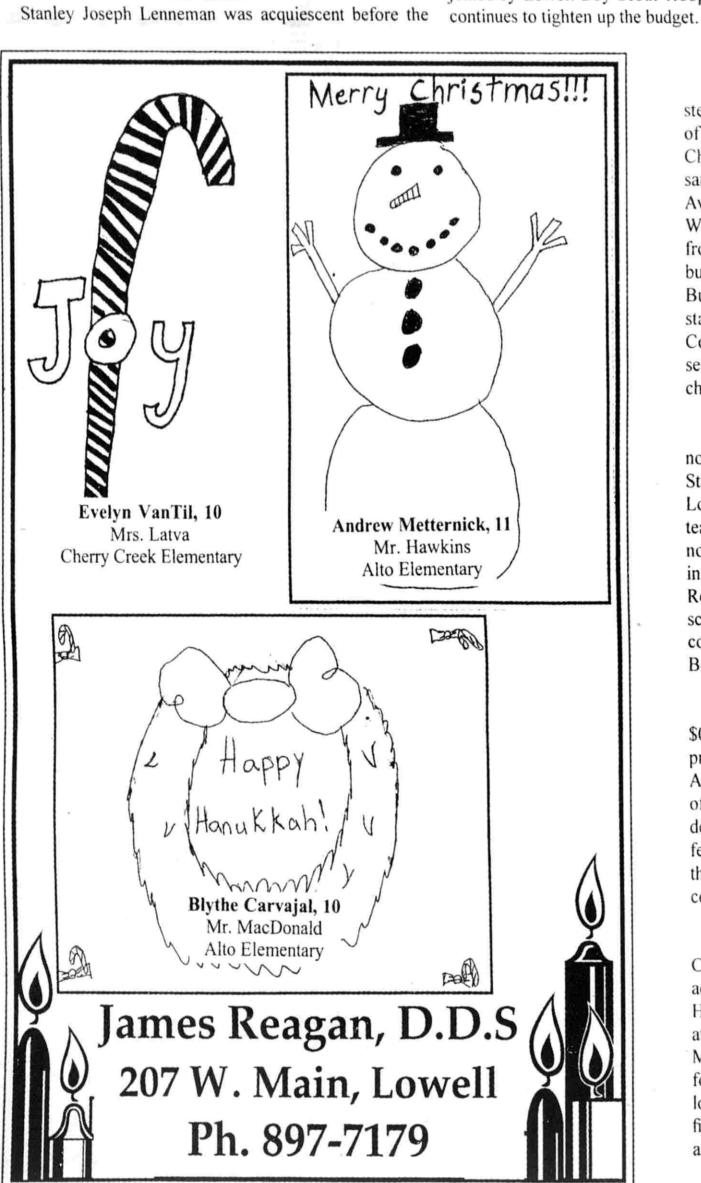


A crane lifts the steeple to the top of the First Congregational Church of Lowell's new sanctuary on Lincoln Lake Ave. 6-28-06

The Lowell Area Schools board of education gave special recognition to the district's recent retirees, Marsha Wilcox Community Service Award winner Betty Yeiter, 30year service award recipients, and to the district's two bus mechanics. Then the board discussed the budget for the 2006-2007 school year.

The Flat River Antique Mall has been closed since the end of February. Since then, the building has sat empty and there have been few signs of anything going on in or around said. it. Concern over that state of affairs recently prompted the Lowell Merchants Committee, a subgroup of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, to send a letter to the building's ownership group inquiring about their intentions.

### **JUNE 21**



judge last Tuesday as he entered a guilty plea to charges of defrauding the Lowell community of as much as \$10,000 with a false cancer claim. By pleading guilty, Lenneman waived his right to a trial by jury. He is scheduled for an Aug. 10 sentencing.

Lowell's Bushnell Elementary will be the grounds for an old-time circus. Two shows will be given Sunday, at 2 and 4:30 p.m. The midway opens one hour before each show with pony, camel and elephant rides.

The Lowell Fairgrounds will be the site of the eighth annual Restoring the Circle Pow Wow this weekend. The Restoring the Circle Pow Wow, in particular, is a time when new participants are taught about native customs. "Restoring the Circle is bringing that back to the people and getting them that education," said Alicia Haggerty, treasurer of the Grand Valley American Indian Lodge.

The Lowell Police Department is offering discount bicycle helmets for children in the Lowell area for a cost of \$7

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last Thursday that the taking of evidence in violation of the "knock and announce" rule in the fourth amendment does not require that evidence be suppressed in a criminal trial. Lowell police chief Jim Valentine does not think the 5-4 ruling will change police practice in Lowell. He said that when serving a warrant, the department will continue to knock and announce "except for the extreme circumstances where we were warranted to not knock and announce already."

Lowell city manager Dave Pasquale delivered the State- teller space. The ATM will be moved from behind the bank weeks after the approval of the city budget. The address decrease from four to three. touched on the main goals in the near future. These goals include continued support of the Downtown Development Authority and the Downtown Historic District Commission as economic tools of the community. "The vitality of Lowell's downtown is critical for the city's success," he

In the wake of recent budget discussions including the world: interviewing World War II veterans. potential sale of Lowell Light & Power utility as well as the North Washington Street property, utility general manager joined by Lowell Boy Scout Troop 102 Monday as the city in Lowell.

### **JUNE 28**

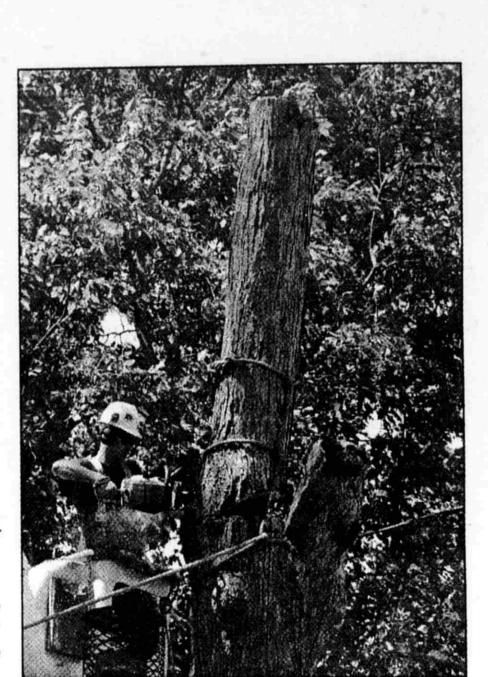
church.

### 00000

Red Arrow Stadium is now Red Arrow Memorial in honor of the late "Mr. Red Arrow," longtime high school biology teacher, coach and athletic director Bob Perry.

The city has stopped the \$0.5 million reconstruction project of Gee Drive to Alden Nash due to lack of money. The federally designated road paid by a federal grant has exceeded the allowed construction costs of \$375,000. 00000

The Lowell Planning Commission approved an addition and renovations to Huntington Bank located at 1425 W. Main St. on Monday. The 134-squarefoot addition will add more lobby space to the bank and five additional parking lots,



Lucas Simon of Medco Tree Service cuts down a tree trunk on North Monroe. The trees must be cut carefully to keep branches from striking wires. Branches and trunks are braced with ropes to prevent them from damaging shrubs and pavement below. 7-26-06

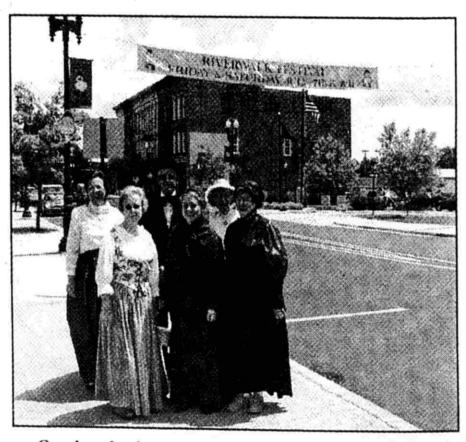
of-the-City address at the council meeting on Monday two to the front, while the number of drive-through lanes will

The new Quality Express Car Wash and Lube Center offers customers a wide array of services.

History students at Lowell High School spent the last month of the spring semester working on a project that will help preserve Lowell history and the history of the wider

00000 Dancers young and old celebrated Native American Tom Richards asked the council for support. Richards was culture this weekend at the Restoring the Circle Pow Wow

> JULY 5 History and the celebration thereof will be important elements of this weekend's Riverwalk Festival in downtown Last Wednesday the Lowell. This town is 175 years old this year, and organizers steeple was added to the top of the 12th annual Riverwalk Festival are using the occasion of the First Congregational to recognize that fact. The festival will take place Friday Church of Lowell's new and Saturday, with activities split between Riverwalk Plaza sanctuary on Lincoln Lake and the Lowell Fairgrounds. Many of the activities on and Ave. Pastor Roger La around the plaza have been given a historical flavor. "We've Warre said using the steeple done our best to try to integrate the history," said Riverwalk from the current church Festival committee chairperson Betsy Davidson. "It's a lot building was considered. of things packed into a short time, but we worked hard with But ultimately, that steeple the historical museum and the chamber of commerce to get stayed in place because First as much history in there as possible." Historical tours on Congregational hopes to pontoon boats will be given Friday and Saturday evenings sell that building to another 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.



00000

Farmers market organizers have gone from ideas in Stadium. The field where a notebook at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce to Lowell's football and soccer the opening of a new market at the fairgrounds in about a teams will play this fall is month. Located near the fairgrounds' entrance across from now named Perry Field, Bowes Road, the chamber has commissioned a logo to put on temporary signs on the fence near the entrance.

One hundred seventy-five years of Lowell history will be the theme of this year's Riverwalk Festival. 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 as well as renovations to the Thomure, Luann Kaeb and Dolores Dey. 7-5-06



Farmers market vendor Duane Rasch bags some peaches while Helen Huver inspects potatoes at the Lowell farmers market. 8-2-06

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.

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.

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



Flat River Outreach Ministries volunteers sort clothing donations in the cramped confines of the charity's current location. The charity will soon move to a larger building, formerly known as Cumberland Manor. Pictured from left to right are Dolores Dey, Jantina Wasciuk, Polly VanderStel, and, in background Iris Clark and Bev Fron. 8-23-06

Anna Organek, 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 the utility says it is a necessary safety precaution. kids she played with in the play rooms at DeVos Children's Hospital. She will use money left from her benefit fundraisers to buy toys for the play room at the hospital.

### **JULY 12**

This year's Riverwalk Festival brought big crowds to Lowell. The sun shone Friday evening and all of Saturday. In spite of the heat, Riverwalk Plaza was crowded all afternoon. Also crowded were the sidewalks along Main Street during the annual parade. This year's parade celebrated 175 years since celebration at the park so this is to celebrate the existence the settlement of Lowell.

With the installation of portable skateboard equipment, the Lowell Branch YMCA is hoping to meet some of the desire among local skateboarders and increase interest in its teen center.

The Lowell Downtown Development Authority may fund a feasibility study for an RV campground if it stretches its boundaries pending legal opinion by the city attorney.

Organizers were not sure how a farmers' market would fly in Lowell. "We'll find out Thursday," market master and awareness for the fight against cancer. Lowell Fairgrounds manager Ron Wenger had said more than once before the market's opening. It turns out they had nothing to worry about; the first day 13 vendors set up shop. And there were enough customers to make it worth their while.

The Lowell City Council approved a six percent hike Wednesday in cemetery burial rates over the next three

Citing a need to balance contingencies, Lowell City Council remained elusive Wednesday about the fate of the North Washington Street property.

The Lowell Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) upheld the planning commission's recommendation Wednesday to deny a variance request for an enclosed porch on a house on Sibley Street.

Efficiency and teamwork were two themes presented at Monday's meeting of the Lowell Area Schools board of education.

### **JULY 19**

Monday's high temperature was 93 degrees Fahrenheit, the third straight day of mid-90 temperatures in Lowell. The record high temperature for June 17 was 101 degrees, set in the middle of a hot spell in 1894.

Greg Pratt has been at his post officially since July 1 and his office walls are completely bare. His desk is similarly spartan. Aside from a computer, it holds up only a few books and some file folders. "I'll have my wife come in sometime and do the decorating, we haven't had much time for that," Pratt said. Instead, for the past month, he has been busy familiarizing himself with the district.

The citizens of Vergennes Township might get the chance to vote this November on whether the sale of liquor should be permitted in the township as an entrepreneur is circulating a petition to get that question on the ballot.

The Lowell City Council endorsed a proposed RV campground Monday on Rogers property south of town. According to city attorney Richard Wendt, however, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) cannot provide funding for a feasibility study for the park as requested previously by developer Jim Hall.

The Lowell High School student council hopes to raise about \$5,000 to put finishing touches on the memorial deck recently constructed at the northeast end of the school.

Karate kid Mariah Moore of Alto now has a few new nicknames. "World Champion" is one of them. She can actually use that one twice. She picked up both titles at the World Eskrima Kali Arnis Federation Championships, July 3 and 4 at Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

Lowell city manager Dave Pasquale received a nod from the council to move ahead with negotiations for PA 425 and inter local agreements with Vergennes and Lowell townships for the Cook property.

The Lowell City Council approved an increase Monday in wastewater surcharge rates to offset additional costs for industrial users. The only customer impacted by the increase is Lighthouse, Inc., due to its discharging wastes in higher concentrations than typical into the plant.

The biggest addition to this year's Kent County Youth JULY 26 Fair will happen at the very end of fair. It is a rodeo, complete While the Lowell Light and Power's tree-trimming with seven different events. The rodeo starts at 7 p.m., rain and cutting has not been popular among some residents, or shine, Saturday, Aug. 12. It should inject some life into the last night of fair, which in the past has been a slow time.

Kent County Drain Commissioner will be the most The Lowell Area Historical Museum is seeking hotly-contested office Lowell area residents will vote on submissions of communication-related artifacts for its in the Aug. 8 primary elections. Most other primaries on upcoming exhibit titled "From Caves to Computers: the the Lowell ballot are uncontested this year. History of Communication."

The Lowell Charter Township parks and recreation committee is putting on a "Party in the Park" at Grand River Riverfront Park. "We never had a grand opening of the park and hopefully get more people to come out and use it," said committee chair Paula Blumm.

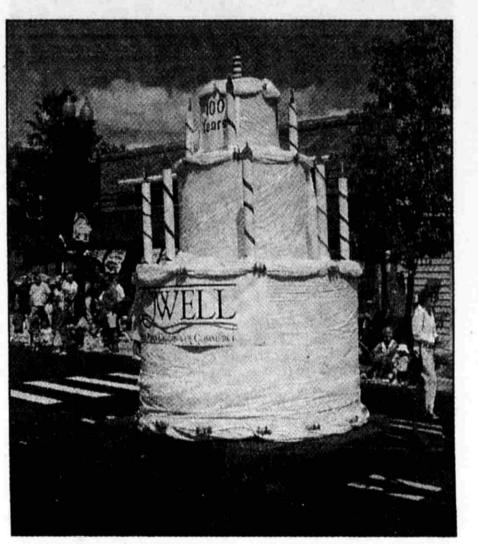
On the ballot in the Aug. 8 primary election is a renewal and increase of the Kent County Senior Millage. Regulars at the Lowell Senior Center are hopeful that the voter turnout will be similar to their weekday lunches, where every seat is packed with a supporter of the millage.

The first weekend in August, the track at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium at Lowell High School will be the site of Relay for Life, a large-scale event to raise money and

Modern Photographics in Lowell is changing hands as owner Roger Van Vleck goes into semi-retirement.

weeks among Lowell-area residents and among wildlife Fallasburg Fall Festival. 9-27-06 enthusiasts elsewhere in the state.

THE LOWELL LEDGER - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2006 PAGE 25



The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 100th birthday with a giant cake float at the Riverwalk Festival Parade. 7-12-06

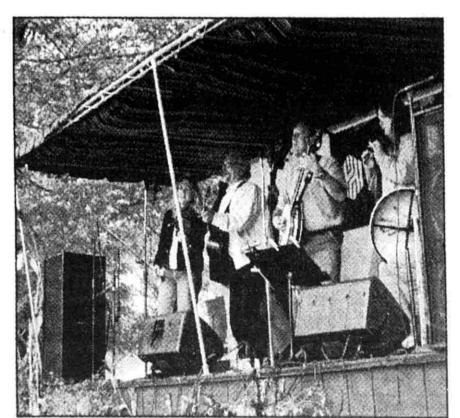


Lowell mayor Chuck Myers (from left), state representative Dave Hildenbrand, Vergennes Township superviser Tim Wittenbach and Lowell Charter Township superviser John Timpson (seated) with plaques commemorating 175 years of Lowell history. 7-12-06

### AUGUST 2

A fire late Monday morning damaged a pole barn in Vergennes Township.

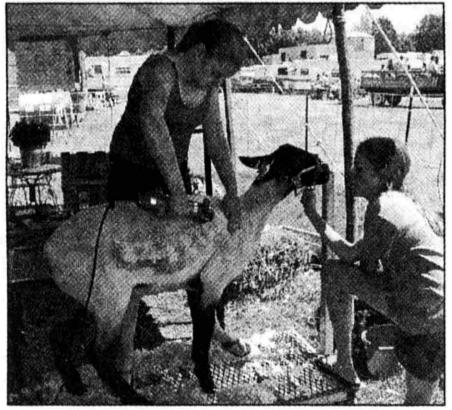
Lowell Area Schools (LAS) is removing what is left of the benches from the former Lowell Showboat amphitheater.



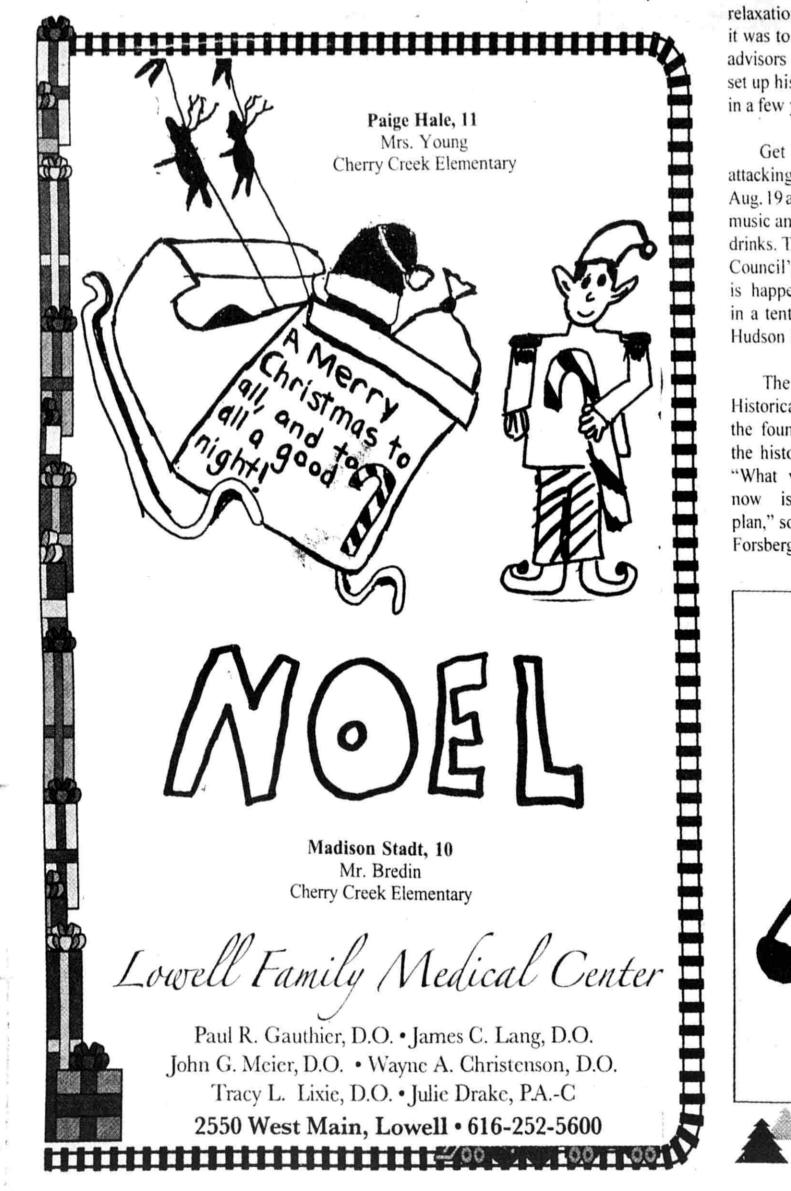
Talk related to cougars has been circulating in recent Thornapple River Band performed at the 38th



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



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



00000

Last Thursday's high heat slowed business at the Lowell Farmers Market, but the fledgling institution is proving popular in Lowell.

00000 A new computer business opened in Lowell Friday.

In November, voters in Vergennes Township will decide whether or not the township will remain "spirit dry." Kent



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

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. 00000

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.

Get ready for art. It is attacking Lowell Saturday, Aug. 19 along with Caribbean music and food ... and mixed drinks. The Lowell Area Arts Council's Art Attack art party is happening that Saturday in a tent behind their South Hudson Street gallery.

Fallasburg

The

Historical Society is laying the foundation for securing the historic village's future. "What we are doing right now is determining the

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 midweek.

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. 00000

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.

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.





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 plan," society president John dedication of a student memorial at the high school. Perched Forsberg said. At present, on a hill at the southeast corner of the school building, the



### AUGUST 16

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

memorial consists of a deck overlooking woods and Red Arrow Memorial Stadium, and a red granite monument. The Lowell. At an Aug. 9 special meeting, the township board, monument bears the simple inscription "In memory of our representatives from DuRay Development and members of 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.

clown parade, distributed the large foam clown noses at property owners are concerned about being compensated for Monday's school board meeting during a presentation restrictions placed on their property. 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

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.

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.

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 the future development of Lowell and the surrounding area. according to city manager Dave Pasquale. the Cook family discussed the feasibility of building a private Snowflakes covered still green and yellow wisterias sewer system for the site. on Oct. 12, the earliest public officials can remember.

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.

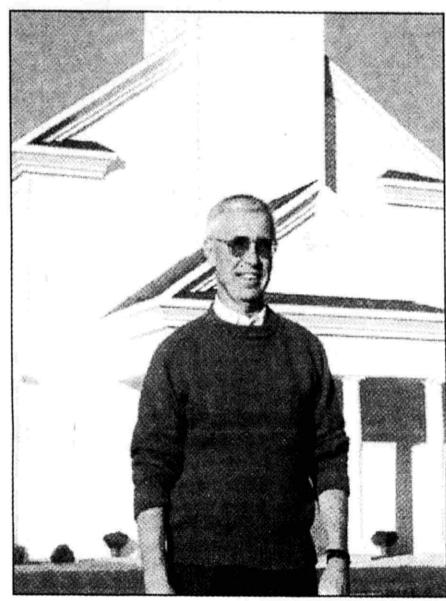
### AUGUST 30

In pursuit of a higher level of safety, a general utility Dave Thompson, chairman of the upcoming Lowell designation is being sought for the Lowell Airport, but nearby

> 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 elementaries and The Lowell Planning Commission will work on an Lowell Middle School received overall A grades. Lowell ordinance that would require home builders to complete their High School received a B while Unity High School received projects within a certain time limit. a C grade. 00000

00000

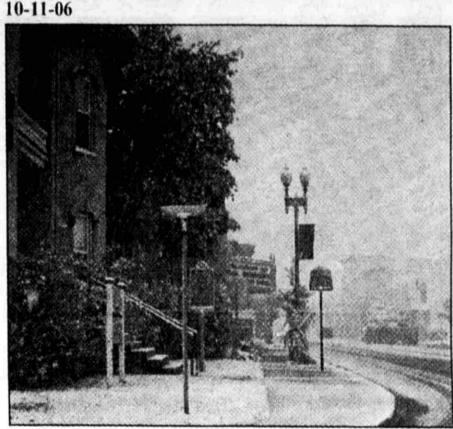


Pastor Dr. Roger La Warre stands in front of the new church located at 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. 10-11-06

A group of blind people from Camp Tuhsmeheta Vergennes Township resident Josh Kleczynski will travel Stanley Lenneman received the maximum sentence for visited Lowell last Thursday afternoon, using GPS units to to Boulder, Colo., for the Scholastic Clay Target Program's tour downtown. Camp Tuhsmeheta is a summer camp near Junior Olympic Development Camp later this month. Greenville operated by Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind

community survey is part of the city's master plan update her discoveries. process. It is seeking the opinion of community residents and stakeholders to understand the city residents' preferences for





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 Vernon 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.

Emma Palova, a regular contributor to the Lowell Ledger, has traveled to Czech Republic, the country of her The Lowell Planning Commission approved a survey birthplace, for the second time since she permanently moved at its Monday meeting to be mailed out shortly. The six-page to the USA in 1989. The Ledger presents a brief account of



00000

Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class Kristian M. Magro has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Magro graduated in 1994 from Lowell High School and received a bachelor's degree in 2002 from Grand Valley State University.



Beverly Holst, with her great-granddaughter Trinity Holst, retired from Ball Floral in October. 10-25-06

### **SEPTEMBER 13**

The 26th annual Alto Harvest Festival will be held Saturday in the village of Alto in Bowne Township.

The Lowell City Council approved an amendment Tuesday to the tree removal policy concerning the grinding of stumps.

According to the amendment, whoever removes a tree in a public right of way will also be responsible for grinding the stump. Previously the city was responsible for the stump grinding

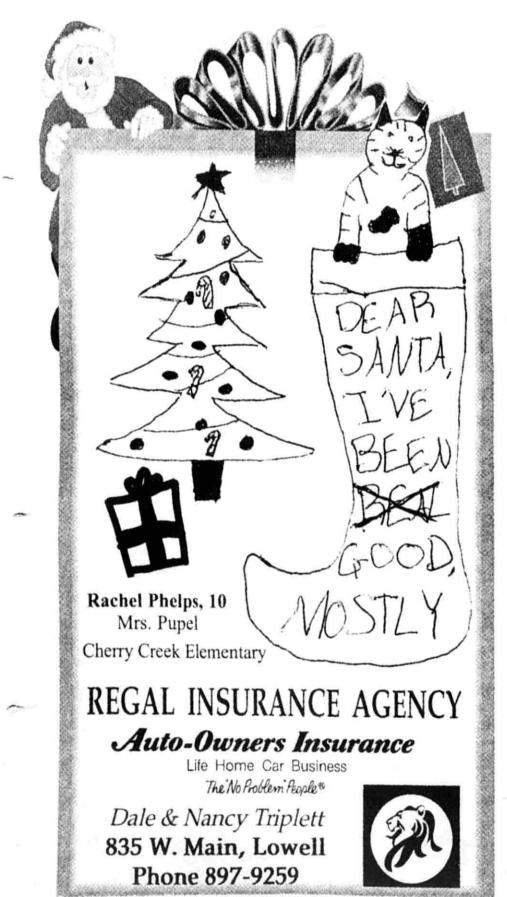
"InnerScapes" exhibit featured either artwork that incorporates text elements in its design, or written work that compliments and adds to the visual art. In some pieces, it's hard to tell which came first, the art or the writing.

In the last two decades of the 19th century, Alton was an up and coming town.

At the crossroads of Three Mile Road and Lincoln Lake Ave., Alton had a grist mill, a cheese factory, a blacksmith's shop, a sawmill and a dress shop.

The utility board, represented by manager Tom Richards, requested a change of firms to Vredeveld Haefner CPA's a few months prior to its December audit deadline.

The Lowell City Council approved the change for the 2005/2006 audit of the utility only, with stipulation to go out for bids next year.



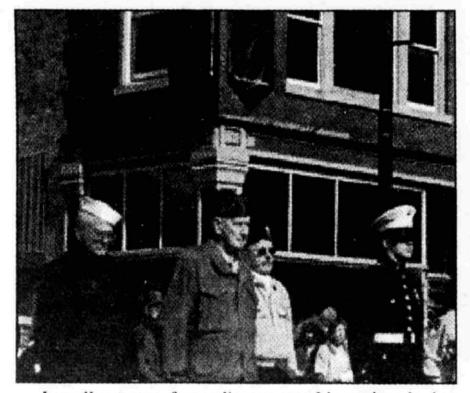
### **SEPTEMBER 20**

Vergennes Township's board heard a laundry list of concerns related to the upgrade of the Lowell airport at its meeting Monday night. About 40 people filled nearly every available seat at the township meeting room. Most were there to discuss the airport upgrade.

A hammer mill in the whole wheat flour line at King Milling Company caught fire last Thursday morning. Damage to the hammer mill was easily repaired, Doyle

Lowell's first ever Relay for Life was a tremendous success, according to Mike Lindhout, Area Executive Director of the American Cancer Society.

It was hard to find a parking space Saturday in Alto. While that is an unusual scenario for the quiet village just off 60th Street, it was certainly the case during the Alto Fall Festival. This year's was the 26th annual festival.



Lowell veterans from all wars stood in review during the Harvest Celebration in October, 10-18-06

### **SEPTEMBER 27**

In spite of the bad weather, thousands of people attended the 38th Fallasburg Fall Festival last weekend. Artisans and crafters showed their skills between sunshine and raindrops

Food booths representing nonprofit organizations offered a variety of fares from hot dogs to pork barbecue sandwich and Polish kielbasa.

"This is a true community fundraiser," said Lorain Smalligan, executive director of the Lowell Area Arts Council. "The entire community benefits from this event."

The Lowell High School student council is making an extra effort this year to include the entire community in its homecoming week's activities.

"We think it's really important to get the community involved," student council president Brooke Liu said.

Lowell Light and Power and Cable TV general manager Tom Richards sought to clarify the utility's position following the publishing of Biggs, Hausserman, Thompson and Dickinson, P.C.'s letter of resignation as the utility's auditing firm.

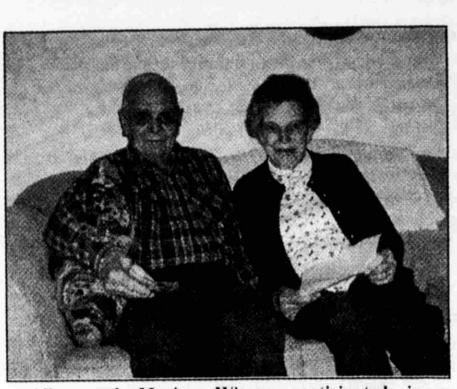
The Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation accepted its last proposals Monday for the current school year's grant cycle.

The Ed Foundation annually grants about \$20,000 to further educational opportunities within the school district. These include grants to teachers, proposals for which were due Monday. Last year, the foundation granted \$6,000 to fund 15 projects throughout the district.

Police chased a Lowell man through town both on foot and in squad cars last Monday afternoon. Attempting to resist and obstruct a police officer is a one-year misdemeanor.



Amanda Trimble of You Crack Me Up showcased her



11-8-06

Lowell Area Schools has three new buses in its bus fleet. By comparison to the older buses parked next to them on the transportation center lot, the new buses look like something out of a science fiction movie. But when LAS director of transportation and operations Larry Mikulski looks at one of them, all he sees is safety.



Justin Heyboer is the president of Wildwood Landscape, Inc. 11-15-06

The newest special exhibit at the Lowell Area Historical Museum titled "From Caves to Computers" opened on Oct. 7. The exhibit tracked the history of communications from cave writings in France to the Internet and cell phone instant messaging.

Lowell City Airport manager Jim Sowle provided an update to the city council Monday night on airport projects in the wake of a heated meeting in Vergennes Township two weeks ago. The airport, owned by the city, is located in Vergennes Township which has no control over the airport. According to Sowle, the upgrades at the airport will enhance safety issues rather than expand the airport.

New merchandising of books and the debut of self checkout express stations are among the novelties at Kent District Library (KDL).

New fashion trends now adorn Main Street in Lowell. No longer just antique shops, but fashionable storefronts with wild paintings signify a new era for the downtown. Walls at The Hanger consignment shop are painted with funky green and blue waves and a blast of pink.

Days Community Walking Challenge.

day for 100 days.

The homecoming class floats represented themes based on children's books like Hansel and Gretel and Little Red Riding Hood. Junior float Jack and The Bean Stalk took fourth place.

The Englehardt branch of the Kent District Library (KDL) will soon have new self check-out stations to improve service to its patrons. In preparation for the expedient service, the library has already installed a self pickup holding area at the front desk. "It will speed up the check-out process," said branch manager Jane Aronson.

The First Congregational Church of Lowell UCC found a new home at 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. S.E. The beautiful white building with an 85-foot tall

steeple is situated on 19 acres of land. It is pastor Dr. Roger mosaic art during Christmas through Lowell. 11-8-06 La Warre's dream to have ball and soccer fields for the

Allen and Marian Wisner participated in a Veteran's Love & War program at Lowell High School

### **OCTOBER 4**

The Lowell community just completed logging in 13,000 miles during the second annual 100 Miles in 100

The summer-long event was organized by the Lowell Community Wellness Center to promote healthy lifestyles. Individuals and teams registered to walk at least one mile a

### **OCTOBER 11**

community on the property.

"We're going to make a difference in this town," said La Warre.

The Lowell Police Department has made an arrest of a window peeper. During the time period of Sept. 30 and Oct. 4, there were four incidents of window peeping in the area of Elizabeth and Amity streets, two of which were reported to Lowell police. A 16-year- old male was arrested in the act on Oct. 4 at approximately 7 a.m.

The Vergennes Township Board approved a private road Monday for the Cumberland Woods development. contingent upon several conditions.

### 00000

Dan Vos Construction Co. recently completed its 150th church at 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE. in Lowell.

The Ada-based design-build general contractor celebrated this milestone with the churchgoers of First Congregational United Church of Christ on Oct. 8 at a special dedication service.

### 00000

Softly painted walls in sage accessorized in black with fashionable panty display tables give a hint of what L4 Ladies Lingerie & Loungewear of Lowell is all about. The new store, located at 216 E. Main Street, opened last week.

### **OCTOBER 18**

While the fall colors haven't had a chance to fully materialize, last week's snowflakes covered still green and yellow wisterias, Boston ivies and purple plum trees. The surreal-like weather created majestic scenes of gardens, woods and cityscapes. Even the Lowell Showboat was powdered with snow.

### 00000

Lowell Area Arts Council recently announced its winners from 31 entries in the inaugural Ghost Stories contest. Stories were judged in two categories: adult-written and student-written.

00000 Lowell Area Schools has hired Roger Bearup as the new curriculum coordinator.

Hundreds of spectators enjoyed the Harvest Parade on a chilly but sunny afternoon last Saturday only two days after a record snowfall.

### **OCTOBER 25**

The funds raised from the 5th annual chili cook-off will benefit Saint Mary's Pregnancy Center.

Sponsored by Larkin's Restaurant, this year's chili cook-off at the Harvest Celebration raised \$1,506. "It's the most money we've raised so far in conjunction

with the Harvest festival," said owner Mike Larkin.

### 00000

More than anything, Beverly Holst, owner of Ball Floral, will miss the people she has helped in the good times and bad with her flowers.

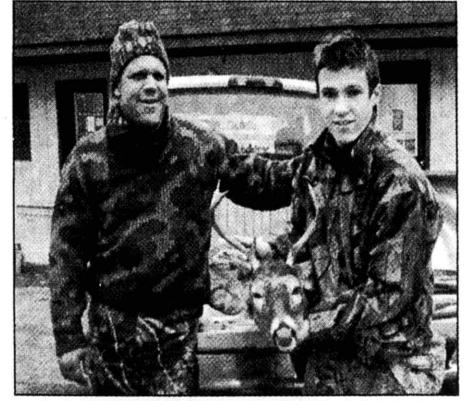
After 30 years in business, Holst is retiring to spend more time with her family and to pursue her love for gardening.

A seminar at the Wittenbach/Wege Center showcase mysterious butterflies and moths on Oct. 28 from 1 - 3 p.m.

### **NOVEMBER 1**

### 00000

Kent McKay, with 17 years of experience from a fivestar diamond resort in Phoenix, AZ, vowed to bring an upscale facility to the Lowell area.



Dean and Dylan Olin bagged a six-point buck on opening day of the hunting season winning Ledger's gifts First Buck Contest 2006. 11-22-06

Lowell High School received a \$500 grant from the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance program.

The Lowell Mobil Station worked with school officials to secure the grant which is one of 4,000 available to schools across the country.

A proposed law to establish mandatory school funding would provide a \$565 million increase annually to schools K-16. "It's a reaction to citizens' concerns," said Greg Pratt, Lowell Area Schools (LAS) superintendent, "to ensure adequate funding for schools."

### **NOVEMBER 8**

This year's Veterans Day dinner on Nov. 13 will feature speaker Richard Thelen, a survivor of the U.S.S. Indianapolis CA 35. "Each year we have a different speaker," said legion commander Fay Johnson of Cascade. "It's an appreciation of veterans."

A public hearing will be held for a proposed canine of \$93,000 into a new account. training facility on Lincoln Lake Ave. south of Vergennes Street.

The Vergennes Township ordinance requires a special use permit for the training facility to be located in the commercial/industrial district.

Joe Baker, a Department of Public Works employee, last week took a picture of an albino squirrel in the Greater Lowell area. While other DPW employees have never seen an albino, this was Baker's second one in 20 years.

It was a Christmas shopping extravaganza. The 15th annual Christmas Through Lowell featured local crafters and businesses just in time for holiday shopping.

Organized by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, it featured 45 homes and businesses. More than 200 artists and crafters showcased their gifts the weekend of Nov. 17 - 19.



Sleigh Bells & Holly exhibit at the Lowell Area Arts Council were part of the Lowell Christmas Magic holiday season. Pictured is executive director Lorain Smalligan. 11-29-06

### NOVEMBER 15

While Scenic View Plat owners, William and JoAnne Schreur voiced concerns about chaotic expansion of the Lowell City Airport, officials say the issue is safety.

Complaints at the Lowell City Council meeting last week came on the heels of airport manager Jim Sowle's remarks about trees surrounding the airport being a safety

### 00000

Fire investigator and former captain Ron vanOverbeek has been named the assistant fire chief of the Lowell Area Fire Department.

### 00000

After two years in the making, Vergennes Township officials were surprised Monday night with increased density for a development on Cook property off Alden Nash.

The large-scope project on 177 acres has been plagued by complex urban services agreements between the city of Lowell, Vergennes and Lowell townships and conditional land transfer. 00000

Monday approved a special use permit and site plan for a canine training center to be located off Lincoln Lake Ave.

The Vergennes Planning Commission granted a special use permit for a banquet hall on Lincoln Lake Ave. to Kent McKay, contingent on a new forthcoming site plan.

The permit came on the heels of McKay's landslide victory in last week's election to sell spirits and mixed drinks for consumption on the premises.

### 00000

A new floral and garden design shop in downtown Lowell offers fresh flowers, appealing arrangements and

Wildflowers by Wildwood is located inside an 1875 Italianate architectural - style building with an uncovered brick wall, tin ceiling and hardwood floor.

### **NOVEMBER 22**

All of the city precincts will vote in the City Hall chambers beginning next year. The Lowell City Council

approved the consolidated location to accommodate handicap voting and to increase election efficiency. 00000

Grattan Township clerk Lana Green talked about her service to the public for the last 17 years. Green, who will turn 61 on Dec. 2, felt it was time for her to retire and enjoy

The Lowell Police Department investigated mail and telemarketing fraud involving senior citizens. One of Lowell's senior citizens was defrauded of approximately \$6,500. The exact total of fraud could be as much as \$16,000 for this family. LPD was able to stop a transaction

### 00000

A pilot model in the Lowell Area Schools (LAS) district for grades K-3 aims to increase student achievement. The Response to Intervention (RTI) model is a new approach to the diagnosis of learning difficulties. "It's a three-tier model where we try to identify students' issues and define a plan of action," said LAS superintendent Greg Pratt.

### **NOVEMBER 29**

The Lowell Planning Commission approved a site plan Monday for an ambulance addition south of Look Memorial Fire Station. The 2,170-square-foot addition will provide space for two ambulances, sleeping quarters and office space. Rockford Ambulance, serving the city of Lowell, is currently housed inside the fire station.

### 00000

Lowell City Airport officials held an informational meeting with property owners from Scenic View Plat III at the SMAT terminal. The airport is home to the School of Missionary Aviation Technology (SMAT).

Trees in the way of air traffic on the east side of runway 12/30 on Forstrom Drive present a safety hazard, according to the officials. "We have a big issue of safety," said airport manager Jim Sowle.

The LARA board has proposed an amendment to eliminate term limits, but keep the same length of two years when LARA board members assume new terms in January.

The Lowell City Planning Commission determined to further address the ongoing issue regarding the city fowl ordinance. Any amendment to the ordinance will be more restrictive addressing the number of animals on 0.5 acre.

### **DECEMBER 6**

A four-panel kiosk about the history of Lowell Schools will bring home the story of the Red Arrows as it travels around the community through 2008.

Currently at Lowell High School, it is sponsored by the Lowell Area Historical Museum and funded partially by the Lowell Area Schools Foundation. The Red Arrows exhibit explains how the district got its nickname.

Grattan Township clerk Jim Fues, 47, started his duties as the township clerk on Dec. 1. Fues replaced long time clerk Lana Green who retired.

The Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids announced on Nov. 27 the results of their annual grant process, awarding \$35,000 in Operating Support Grants for 2006.

While Santa made his annual visit to the Lowell Showboat during the holiday season, for the first time real reindeer made an entrance on Riverwalk Plaza on Dec. 8.

Two reindeer, Noel and Prancer from the Rooftop Landing Reindeer Farm in Pewamo pulled a sleigh for instant family photos for \$10.

Organized by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, The Vergennes Township Planning Commission both Santa and the reindeer were special a treat for the community.



The Flat River Outreach Ministries pantry is readying for a move into the Fountanview (former Cumberland building). 12-13-06

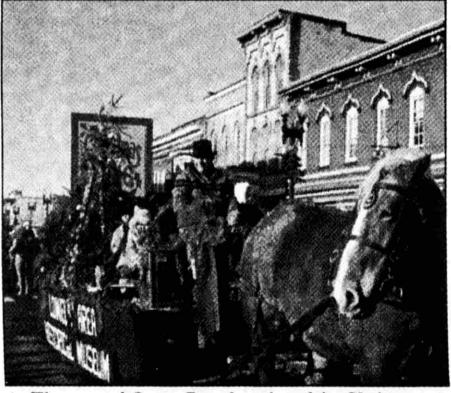


As the weather shifted dramatically in December from freezing to balmy temperatures, Janet Kruger and Karen Waid enjoyed kayaking on the Flat River. 12-06-

### **DECEMBER 13**

The Lowell Police Department (LPD) asked for help in identifying a suspect who has been littering the area, while slandering two Ionia County Sheriff's deputies.

The suspect may face littering charges, a misdemeanor with up to a \$500 fine.



The annual Santa Parade ushered in Christmas to downtown Lowell. Pictured is the Lowell Area Historical Museum float. 12-06-06

### 00000

Lowell author Nick Myers recently published a comic book collection called "Oasis Omnibus."

years. It is a graphic novel, which he both illustrated and Mooney named the showroom after the heat and water future. This came as a response to questions and concerns wrote.

In a joint session with the city, the planning commission limited the number of small animals to two on 0.5 acre by special use permit only in residential districts. A faction of the planning commission members was in favor of eliminating fowl completely in the city due to stench and noise. 00000

AirWave Computer Services in Lowell, died Sunday during a liver transplant surgery at the University of Miami Jackson Memorial Hospital.



Santa Claus visited the Lowell Showboat during December and posed for pictures in the newly decorated room. 12--06-06.

Weight-loss teams in Lowell will compete against teams in Greenville in the third annual community weightloss challenge starting Jan. 10.

### **DECEMBER 20**

The North Country Trail Association (NCTA) proposed a concept plan at the Lowell City Council meeting on Monday for the North Washington Street property owned by the city.

The 27-acre parcel includes a cabin owned by the Boy Scouts and a pole barn storage building that was used by Lowell Light and Power. The property has been a topic of discussion for potential development on a portion of the

### 00000

The Fire and Water Art showroom has opened its Myers has worked on the collection for more than five for local artists. Owner and showroom coordinator Kathleen components that she uses in her work.

Roger D. Chapman, aged 58, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, December 17, 2006. H was a past president and very active in Lowell Rotary, a supporter of Lowell Area Schools programs and a member of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. Roger was a strong and active supporter of the Lowell community, the Lowell YMCA, Lowell Area Arts Local businessman, David Yomtoob, 38, owner of Council, and owner for 22 years of the State Farm Insurance Agency in Lowell.



Christmas shopping event. 12-20-06

The Lowell City Council concurred Monday with the airport board that there are no plans to expand the boundaries of the Lowell Area Airport in the foreseeable future. This came as a response to questions and concerns from neighboring property owners, said city manager Dave Pasquale.

All Lowell High School juniors are required to take the changed Michigan Merit Exam based on the ACT test on March 13. Any college-bound student would have to take the ACT test regardless, said principal Scott Vashaw. 00000

The Lowell Planning Commission may use a professional planner in the future for site plan reviews. Commission member Mark Mundt requested a planner due to the complexity of the site plan review process. 00000

Special agent Anthony Heykoop of Lowell retired from a military career, after 21 years of service, on Dec. 1 at the Little Rock Air Force Base in Arkansas.

The Lowell City Council concurred Monday with storefront at 219 W. Main Street providing another venue the airport board that there are no plans to expand the boundaries of the Lowell Area Airport in the foreseeable from neighboring property owners, said city manager Dave Pasquale.

CHRISTMAS MAGIC! 業績 

Lexie Bocskey, 10 Mr. Stevens Cherry Creek Elementary Sarah VanderKlok, 10 Mrs. Latva 18 HH Cherry Creek 田田 Elementary IFI I II Ethan Hedlund, 10

Mr. Stevens Cherry Creek Elementary

The Lowell Ledger Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

105 N. Broadway, Lowell • Phone 897-9261 \* Fax 897-4809

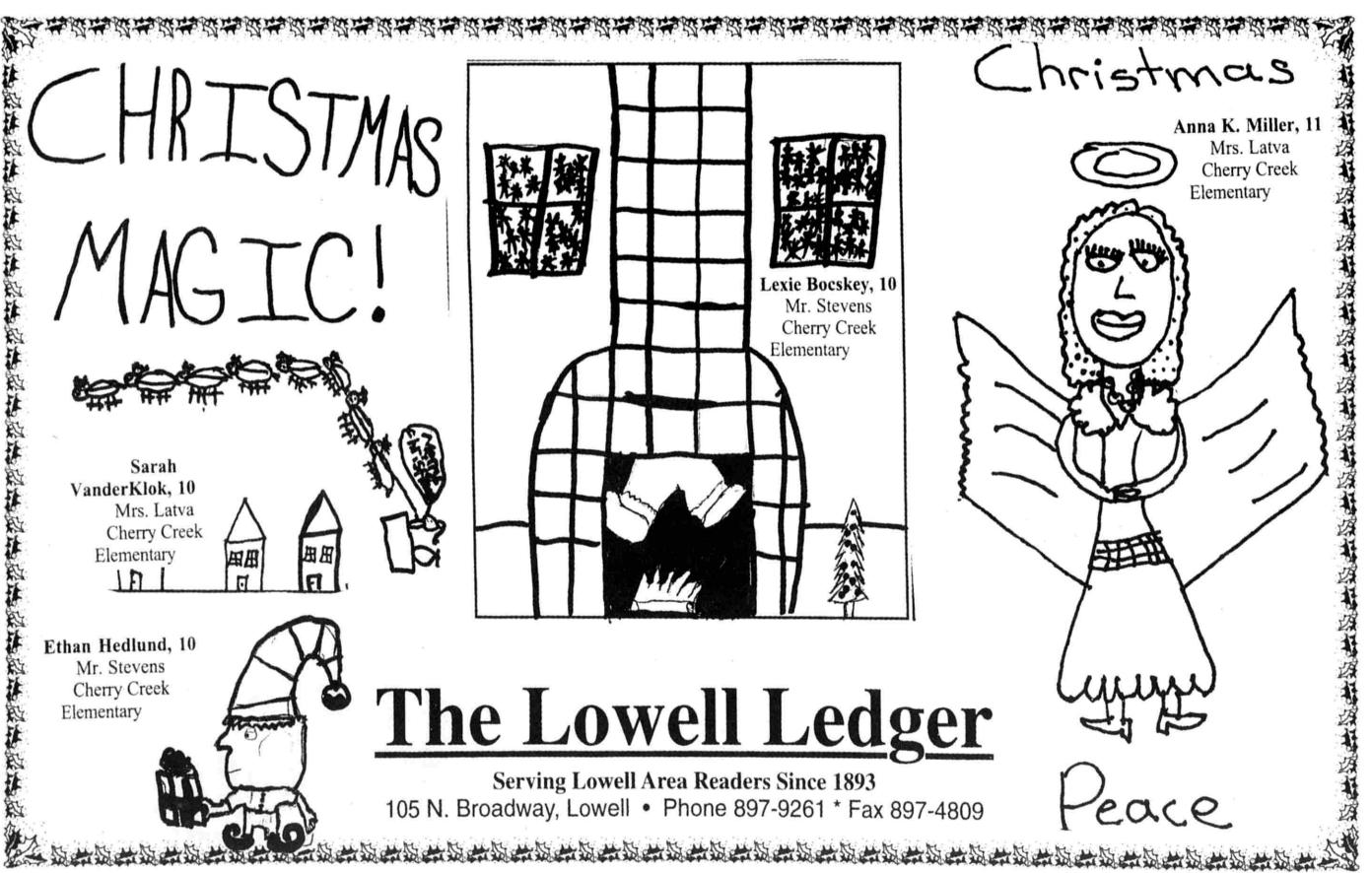
### 00000

### Harry Haight, of Alto, chats with L4 owner Doug Folsom during Lowell's first annual "Guys Night Out"

### 00000

### 00000

00000



### FOR SALE

SINGLE/DOUBLEWIDES starting at \$615. 3 bed/2 bath. Valley Vista Village, 1800 W. Main St. 616-897-8427 Stop by and visit with us. Not ready to buy, ask about our new rent to own program. www.HometownAmerica.com.TEN

BED A VISCO TEMPUR-**PEDIC** - style mattress set. Total support, relieves back pain. 20-year warranty. Store price \$1899, will sell \$899. Never used. 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160. Can deliver.

ESTATE ITEMS - antiques, collectibles & lots of used furniture & housewares. Open every Thurs., Fri., & Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Peddlers Market, 420 N. Lafayette, Greenville. 616-225-2664.

FOR SALE - Christmas Chihuahua-mix puppies. \$30 each. Very cute, very smart for little puppies. Call 897-6381.

AIR BED - Selecta comfort firmness for each of you. Harmony 5000 pillowtop set. Dual chambers. Digital number remote. Never used. Mall price \$1799, sell \$1099. 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.

FOR SALE - Kiln dried lum- or reject any & all bids. ber: pine, cherry, walnut, poplar, oak, basswood, also hardwood molding & flooring. 1500 N. State Rd. Ionia. Call 616-527-4142.

50+STALLMATS-ingreat condition, \$25 each. 616-560-8686.

BERBER CARPET - Beautiful beige color, 12x30 (40 sq. yards). New, never used. Cost \$500, sell \$150. Call 517-204-0600

BEDS \* BEDS \* BEDS - Yearend closeout "Sale" All 2006 styles must go at reduced prices. All sizes. Large selection. No bait & switch fake pillowtops or used hotel. 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160. Can deliver.

29 FT. CONQUEST - by Gulfstream, less than 41,000 miles, \$18,000 obo. Call 693-3018.

2007 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS - are available by Lowell Women's Club. Only \$25 each & are good through Oct. of 2007. They can be purchased at Brenda's Hair Designs, Huntington Bank, by club members or Marj at 897-8107. Proceeds go toward senior girls scholarships & local projects.

REGISTERED GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPPIES Sire & dam both on site, ready for Christmas. \$300 each. Call 897-6682.

**APPLIANCES** - Refrigerators, stoves, washers & dryers. Reconditioned & warranteed from \$69. Delivery available. Dennis Distributing, 315 N. Lansing, St. Johns, 989-224-4822.

> SOUND OFF PHONE LINE 897-0787

### FOR SALE

HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER - in Alto. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, full walkout basement, 2-stall garage. \$99,500. Phone 868-7139.

FOR SALE - Air bed, \$500 obo: wooden futon, \$200 obo. Call 897-8704.

'86 GMC VAN - Full size, starts and runs. Good beater. \$250. Call 897-3039.

REGISTERED GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPPIES - Sire & dam both on site. ready for Christmas. \$300 each. Call 897-6682.

OAK FIREWOOD - Split \$50 a face cord. Free local delivery. Call 897-0569.

DUMP TRUCK FOR SALE - 1992 F-350 dump truck. 2-3 yd. box, V8, auto., Jasper reconditioned transmission, new brake shoes & cylinders, like new tires, well maintained, w/extra parts & filters. Bids may be mailed to or dropped off at: Village of Saranac, 10 N. Bridge St., PO Box 312, Saranac, MI 48881 Bids will be accepted until Thurs., Jan. 4 at 12 p.m. For questions or to schedule a time to see the truck, call 616-642-6324. The village reserves the right to accept

Chihuahua-mix puppies. \$30 each. Very cute, very smart for little puppies. Call 897-6381.

FOR SALE - Pair of Suzuki 80's, auto-matic's 1998. \$1,800 for the pair. Call 897-9838

AKC SHIH TZU PUPPIES 10 weeks old, vet checked Call 897-5666.

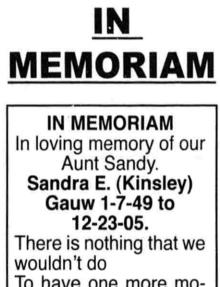
**CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRY** ONE TODAY!

20 Words for \$2, each additional word is 10¢ CALL 897-9261

FAX 897-4809. Email:

classifieds@lowellbuyers guide.com DEADLINE MONDAY AT 5 p.m. for Wednesday Publication.





To have one more moment with you To look into those beauti ful brown eyes And see you looking back at us. We love & miss you

Bobby, Heather, Neil Josh, Casey, Autumn, Kelsea & Jake

## FOR RENT

HOUSE FOR RENT - 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch on 3 country acres. All new flooring. \$900. Call 897 0686

FOR RENT DUPLEX - 2 bedroom, full basement nice country setting, \$575/ month. Call 897-5426 or cell 581-5265.

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.TEN

APARTMENT FOR RENT IN LOWELL - 1 bedroom living room & kitchen w bath, upstairs, separate entrance w/deck. \$650 includes all utilities + Dish-Network. Call 897-7176.

APARTMENT FOR RENT in Lowell, 2 bedroom, upstairs, separate entrance \$475 + utilities. Call 299-

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

FOR RENT - 3 bedroom apartment across from park, \$650/month plus deposit. 897-0486.

FOR RENT - Country living, 2 story 3 bedroom house ER-Newhomes, additions with garage between Alto & remodeling. Call 897-FOR SALE - Christmas & Clarksville. \$800 per month. Call after 6 p.m. 616-868-7101

> FOR RENT - Lowell Veterans Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled. smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.TEN

> APARTMENT FOR RENT - 1+ bedroom, \$500 plus utilities. 897-1160.

### FREE

FREE - 2 male kittens & older cats, 2 free female dogs. Also female ferret, \$100. Call 794-0847.

### WANTED

WITNESS WANTED - for an accident on 12/21/06 between 6 & 6:30 a.m. on M-21 & Ada Dr. If you witnessed this accident, please call 616-794-0877



CARD OF THANKS Thank you to the people of Cherry Creek Elementary, Lowell Middle School & St. Mary's Church for helping me and my family get through the most difficult 6 months of our lives. The meals, gifts, flowers, thoughts and prayers helped more than you could know. Your love and support have made me a stronger person. Lowell is a wonderful town to live in. God bless you all and Merry Christmas. Cindy Smith

## **HELP WANTED**

LOVE SPORTS? NEED A PART-TIME JOB? - The Ledger needs sports writers. Send writing samples to: Sports Writers, PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331. No phone calls please.

UNEMPLOYMENT BEN-EFITS BEING DENIED? - Employer or state causing problems collecting benefits? Call us for possible free legal assistance! 1-800-305-2899.

LOWELL TRUCK REPAIR FACILITY - seeks a certified mechanic for engine & driveline work. Qualified candidates will be able to demonstrate proficiency in problem diagnosis & repair of diesel engines. Experience with electronics a plus. Excellent benefit package. Wages commensurate with experience. Apply in person to: D&D Trucking, 2485 West Main St., Lowell, MI 49331 or call Earl at 616-897-5995.

YEAR!

### SERVICES

JOHN SCHLOOP BUILD-

DECEMBER SPECIAL Locks rekeyed or keyed alike, includes up to 4 locks, \$50. Also deadbolt lock & installation \$75 at your home or business. Call Bob Ford 299-3198.

JIM'S FLOOR COVERING SALES & INSTALLATION -22 years experience. Best price & quality installation on vinyl, carpet, and laminate flooring. 897-0737 or 560-8515, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. leave message. TEN



HAPPY NEW



### SERVICES

HOUSE CLEANING - Experienced, reliable, reasonable rates. Call 642-0395.

HEALTH CARE - in home care for your loved ones. 12-24 hr. shift, 10 years experience. References. Specializing in Parkinson's & Alzheimer's. Services include range of motion, showers or baths, light housework, meals & errands. Call Donna 616-527-1419. Portland, Ionia or Lowell area.

JOHN DEBIAK HORSE-SHOEING & HOOF TRIM-MING - Serving the Greater Kent/Ionia County area with 15 years of professional, fulltime experience. Call 897-4290. TEN

ZOOLAND DAYCARE Full-time & part-time openings for 1st & 2nd shifts. All ages and special needs children accepted. Call for more information or to schedule an interview, 897-8386 or 308-0195.

**PAYROLL & BOOKKEEP-**ING SERVICE - By certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686. EOWTEN

**DIVORCE BY AGREE-**MENT - Save \$\$\$! Nonttorney. Free quote & brochure. David, 616-248-5045 ext. 51 or 888-381-6863 ext. 51 (24 hours)

WE ARE HERE - to serve our housing needs. Rent to Own starting at \$498. Call today, Valley Vista 1-877-634-6700. New hours 10-7 Tues.-Fri. & Sat. 10-5. www.HometownAmerica. COM. TEN

AFFORDABLE DAYCARE \$25 a day. Comfortable, clean & spacious in-home daycare. Great references. Call Brenda 987-9351



LAKE ODESSA CARPET CARE - Professional carpets & upholstery cleaning serving your area. Owner CERTIFIED HOME operated, same day service. Call before 12 p.m. M-Sat. Christmas Special - 15% off 1/2/07. 13 yrs. experience. Fully insured.

24 hr. flood service. Satisfaction guaranteed. Call 7a - 7p, 616-706-9872.

BOB FORD - Formerly of Hahn Hardware, is doing all kinds of service work. Call 299-3198.TFN

**BUSINESS CARDS** - For as little as \$26 for 250. (white card stock, black ink). We can also print cards in 4 color. Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

HOMETOWN AMERICA OFFERS - financing with awesome down payment assistance. Call today! Be in your home tomorrow. Valley Vista 1-877-634-6700. www.HometownAmerica. COM. TEN



DOES YOUR CHRYSLER. PLYMOUTH, DODGE CAR, TRUCK OR VAN NEED REPAIR? - Don't make a mistake & take it anywhere else - give Geo-Tech a try! Contact George at Geo-Tech Transmission & Repair. Call 897-0743.

> LEDGER OFFICE HOURS: MON. - THURS. 8-5 FRI. 8-4 Closed Sat. & Sun.

Happy New Year from The Staff of The Lowell Ledger Our office will be closed on Mon., January 1, 2007.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Lowell

897-7200

307-B E. Main

897-4337



897-6200

Lowell, MI 49331

897-8200

Lowell, MI

897-0500

