

# The Lowell Ledger

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Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

## Litehouse celebrates 75 years & employees get a piece of the pie

By Emma Palova

**T**hey got their symbolic piece of the pie Friday as Litehouse, Inc. announced

transfer of ownership to its 539 employees.

The largest private sector employer in Lowell will transfer 30 percent

of the company's family-owned stock through the Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP.)

The decision will

preserve local ownership and further strengthen the company's future, according to Litehouse owners CEO Edward Hawkins and Wendell Christoff.

Hawkins said the plan to transfer ownership will prevent the business from moving away.

"We've worked too long and too hard to build this business and our communities," he said. "Moving was not an acceptable option."

Employee ownership of Litehouse has been a longtime dream for both Hawkins and Christoff, who are passionate about their business.

"We wanted to share

that passion with our employees," said Christoff.

After merging with Lowell-based Chadalee Farms in 1997, the company's annual revenues have grown to \$113 million in 2006. Litehouse is the second largest manufacturer of refrigerated salad dressings, dips and sauces with close to 900 products. Litehouse, Inc. supplies food service markets in both the United States and Canada.

Hawkins stressed five major points on which the company was built during Friday's announcement.

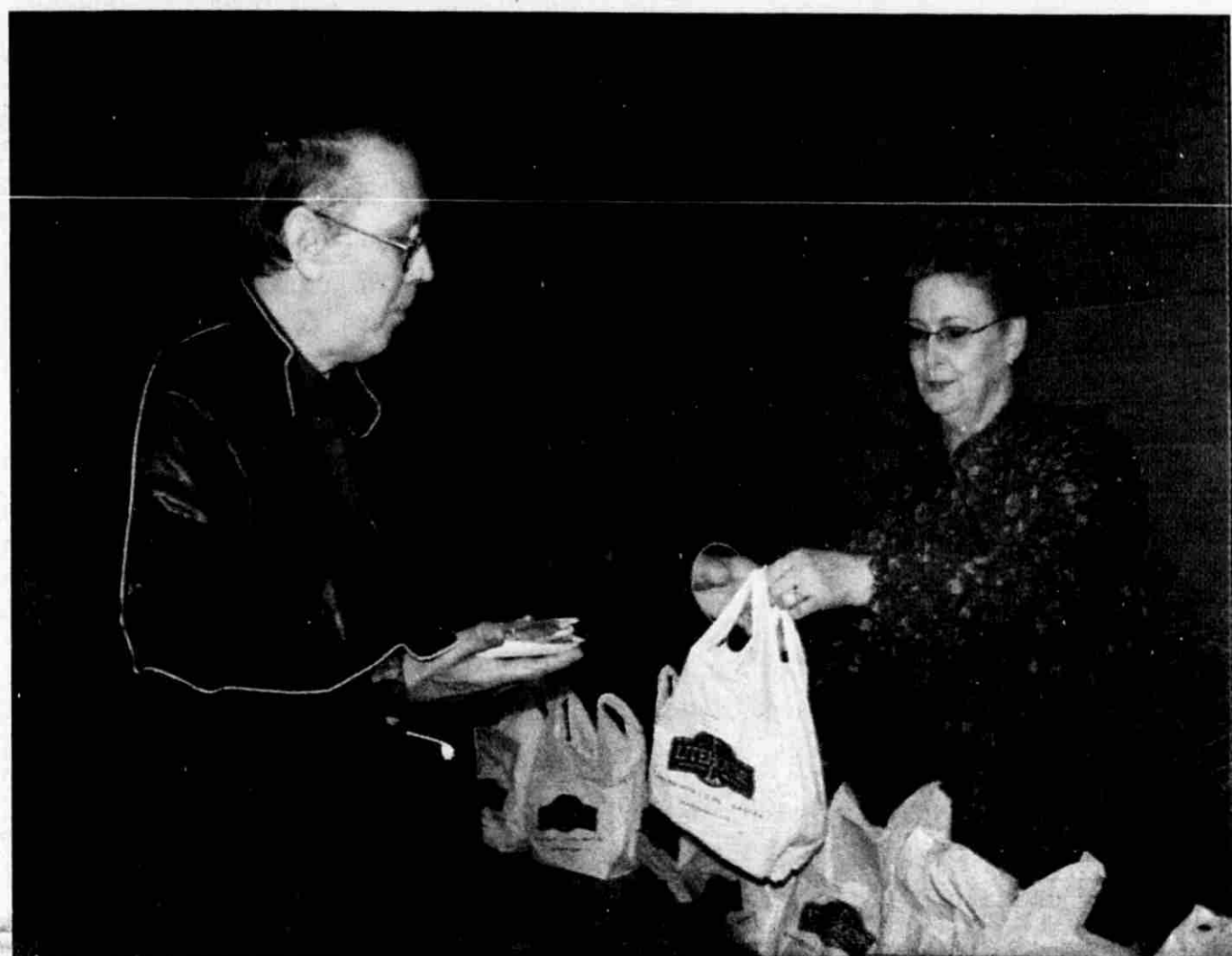
"I love coming to work," he said. "I love what I do. There are five things I think about every day."

They are responsibility to grow, to be profitable, customer service, quality and teamwork.

"We need to work as a team," he said. "We're in this thing together. I get passionate about what we do. I love our blue cheese dressing. Now, you are owners. Let's have a great ball."

A volunteer communications committee will train employees about ESOP within the next few months. Employee Jimmie Summers of Belding has been with the company for 11 years. Summers said he loves his

*Litehouse, cont'd., pg. 8*



Linda DesJarden hands an ESOP kit to employee Jimmie Summers Friday during the company's announcement of ownership transfer.

## Nature center vandalized during holiday break

By Emma Palova

**T**he Wittenbach/Wege Center was vandalized during Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks. The community garden shed burned to the ground the first

of January and the nature center was broken into during the Thanksgiving holiday.

According to center director Steve Mueller, someone threw raw eggs on the displays.

The Martha Parker Memorial Trail was destroyed; the trail post was uprooted and thrown into the pond, art sculptures along the trails were vandalized, and bee hives were damaged,

possibly causing the bees to have died, said Mueller.

Larry Mikulski, director of Lowell Area Schools operations, estimated the damage between \$2,500 and \$3,000 in labor clean

up, equipment, painting and building a new shed.

"It was just plain meanness," said Mikulski. "The center sits there all by itself. It is very vulnerable."

The Lowell Area Fire Department (LAFD) was dispatched to the fire at the shed on Jan. 1. According to the LAFD report, the shed had no electrical service or other type of ignition source that may have caused the fire.

Assistant fire chief Ron vanOverbeek found the padlock and hasp, used to secure the building, on the ground in front of the shed with a hinge from the right side door.

The fire was ruled undetermined but sus-

picious, and remains under investigation, said fire chief Frank Martin.

Mikulski said lighting will be increased on the outside of the building to prevent further incidents. More motion detectors will be installed, as well.

"We're going to keep the visibility open and we will increase the alarm system," said Mikulski. "It will cost us hundreds of dollars, but it will save us a lot more in the long run."

Kelly Walker, president of the Lowell High School Environmental Club, said she doesn't understand why anyone would vandalize the center.

"I just can't believe it," she said.



The Lowell Area Fire Department responded to a fire on Jan. 1 in the outside storage shed in front of the Wittenbach/Wege Center. The fire remains under investigation, as well as breaking and entering into the center, which is located across from Lowell High School on Vergennes.

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# Obituaries



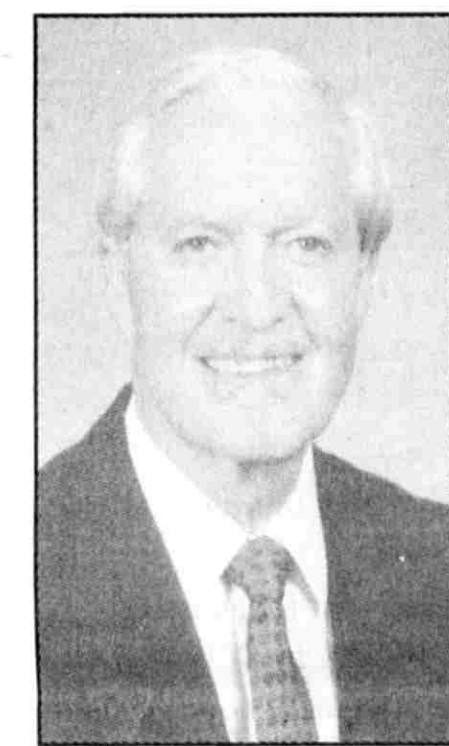
**BIGELOW**  
Madonna Rose (Bird) Bigelow, aged 83, of Ada, passed away January 3, 2007. She was preceded in death by her husband H. Wesley Bigelow, daughter Susan Gessler, son-in-law Ray Quada, great-grandson Cody Harrall. She is survived by her children Madonna Mary (Jack) Harrall, Nancy (Dan) Fansher, Beverly "Babs" Quada, Cindy (Bruce) Boyce, Rose (Randy) Maxim, Penny (Marc) Bullerman; son-in-law Jerry Gessler; 17 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; one very special granddog Shelby; brothers Ed (Arlene) Bird, Gerry (Pat) Bird; sister-in-law Ann Bird; several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Jan. 8 at First United Methodist Church of Lowell, Rev. Vance Dimmick, officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Renucci Hospitality House, 100 Michigan NE, MC 172, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

**ECKMAN**  
Helen Marie Eckman, aged 84, of Grand Rapids, died Thursday, January 4, 2007.

suggests memorials to Hospice of MI, St. Charles Catholic Parish or Education Foundation of Greenville.

**HENDRICK**

Edith Elaine Hendrick, aged 71, of Lowell, passed away January 4, 2007. She was preceded in death by her husband Rex Hendrick, sister Gloria Williams, grandson Christopher Hendrick. Edith is survived by her children Roger (Brenda) Hendrick, Carla Hendrick and Mark Dupont, Carlene (Rob) Bottrall; brother Vernon (Marilyn) Venneman; sisters Ellen (Bill) Warner, Joanne Childs; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and her dear friends from Laurels of Kent. A memorial gathering was held Jan. 8 at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan.



**KEREKES**

Mr. Carl Davis Kerekes, aged 82, of Cascade, passed away suddenly from accidental injuries on December 12, 2006. He was preceded in death by his wife Helen (Gowloski Dowling) in 1976, brothers Paul and Lloyd Kerekes of Lowell, step-daughter Joyce Woudenberg. Carl is survived by his loving wife of 26 years, Irene; daughter Carla Kerekes Martin and her husband Ron Martin

of Tucson, Arizona, step-children Wayne and Marian Dowling of Kentwood, Rex and Connie Dowling of Cascade Twp., Gwen Zanella of Lowell, Judy Kirksey of Colorado, Mary and Doug Van Der Aa of Byron Center, Virginia and Tucker Spohr of Alaska; many loving grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. The son of William and Laura Kerekes, Carl was born and raised in Lowell. He graduated from Lowell High School in 1942. He was so much a part of The Greatest Generation proudly serving as Company Commander and First Lieutenant in the 10th Mountain Division in Italy during WWII. He was awarded the Silver Star and the Bronze Star. After the war, he and his brother Paul ran a ski tow on the east end of Lowell, called Shushaway. Carl and his family and friends so enjoyed a lifetime of fishing, camping and telling stories on the Kerekes property along the Grand River. Many will always remember the annual fishing contest put on by the Kerekes brothers and the group that got named "The Knights of the Crooked Hook." After graduating from MSU, Carl worked for 30 years as director of Personnel and Labor Relations for Kelvinator, a division of American Motors, before his retirement in 1986. After Carl retired, he served as Cascade Twp. manager for 10 years. He was also a labor arbitrator for the State of Michigan. Carl maintained his passion for skiing all of his life. His skill was made obvious by the many awards and medals he earned through NASTAR, placing as high as first in the nation for speed in his age group. A memorial service was held at Shawnee Park CRC

in Grand Rapids. Interment Oakwood Cemetery, Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to Cascade Twp. for the Leslie E. Tassell Park which Carl was instrumental in getting developed.

**SMOOT**

Beverly Jean Smoot passed away January 3, 2007, in Lowell. She was born July 20, 1932, in New Athens, Ohio. She was preceded in death by her parents Harry and Sarah Appler and her husband Robert. Beverly retired after 30 years as a purchasing agent for the Federal Government while living in Columbus, Ohio. She is survived by her sister Nancy (Richard) Horan of Grand Rapids; several nieces, nephews and cousins. Services and burial will be at a later date in Ohio. Memorial contributions may be made to the National Kidney Foundation.

**TIMINSKIS**

Mrs. Kathryn May Timinskis, aged 73, of Lowell, was taken home by her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Friday, January 5, 2007. She was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Peter Paul Timinskis, who passed away just two months ago, and her sister-in-law Nancy Benjamin. Surviving are her children Bill and Sylvia Timinskis of Alaska, Carole Timinskis of Lowell, Vick and Phil Schreur of Lowell, Trish and Dan Shantz of Kalamazoo, Deb Timinskis of Grand Rapids, Pete and Kumari Timinskis of California; seven grandchildren Elizabeth, Eric, Daniel, Katrina, Alana, Katie, Jake; sisters and brothers-in-law June and Jack Mathews, Nora and Tom Boguslaski; brothers and sisters-in-law Chuck and Mary Benjamin, David and Nancy Benjamin; several nieces and nephews. Kathryn had a deep love for the Lord, family and friends. Her laugh, joyfulness and gift of encouragement enriched all those who knew and loved her. Mom, "You

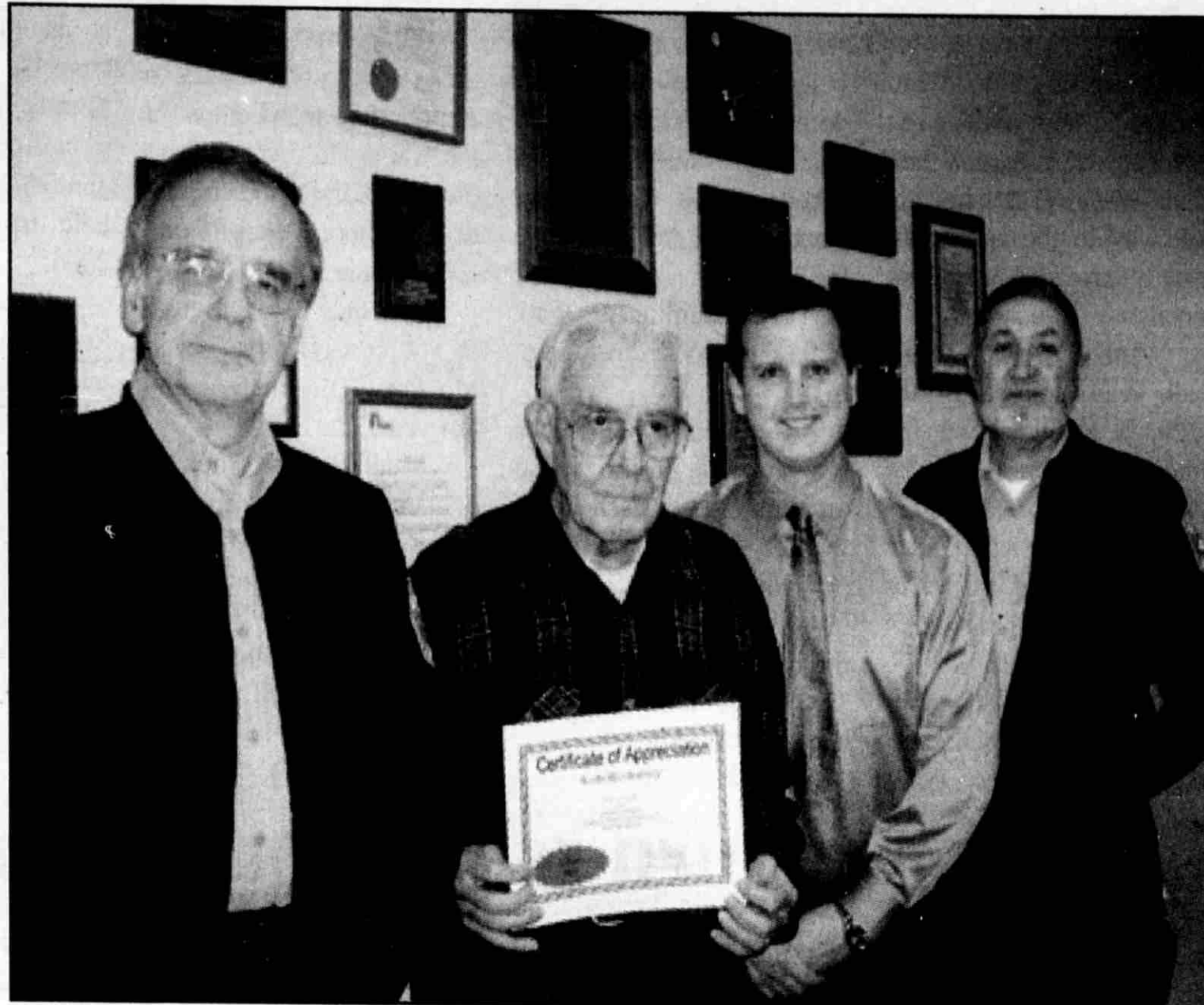
have fought the good fight, finished the race and kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). You will be greatly missed, never forgotten. Funeral services will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the Heritage Life Story Funeral Home, Van Strien-Creston Chapel, 1833 Plainfield NE with interment to follow at Alton Bible Church Cemetery. Memorial contributions to the Evergreen Missionary Church would be appreciated.

**WOODS**

Isabelle A. (Boulard) Woods went to be with her Lord and Savior on January 1, 2007, at 79 years of age at Faith Hospice-Trillium Woods. She went peacefully with her family at her bedside. She was born in Alto on November 14, 1927, to Mary and Ward Boulard. After graduation from Caledonia High School, she was employed by Hastings Piston Ring and Greyhound Bus and later retired from Sackner Products. She was active in Grace Lutheran Church with the Altar Guild. She was preceded in death by her husband Kenneth (Ken) Woods; parents Ward and Mary Boulard; sisters Elizabeth A. Boulard and Frances (Elmer) Sissook; brothers Ward Jr. and Clarke A. Boulard, sister S. Barbara (Mike) Appel. She is survived by her daughter Kathy (Marty) Nelson of Boise, Idaho, sons Ronald K. (Diane) Woods and Dwight D. (Carol) Woods of Kentwood and Sparta; step-sons-in-law Bud Collins; nine grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews. Celebration of Life memorial service was held at Grace Lutheran Church on Saturday with Pastor Roy Faulstick, officiating. Interment Bowne Center Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Lord, family and friends, 150 50th St. SW, Wyoming, MI 49548 or Faith Hospice, 8214 Pfeiffer Farm Dr. SE Byron Center, MI 49315.

## Heydenburg's years of service appreciated

The Lowell Police Department presented a certificate of appreciation to Keith Heydenburg for 10 years of dedicated service. Heydenburg participated in the LPD Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and recently retired after putting in countless volunteer hours. He was the first person to volunteer when Lowell police chief Jim Valentine initiated the program.



"Keith has been instrumental in helping set direction for the volunteers' involvement in the community," said Valentine. "He has kept our program very visible in the community volunteering countless hours of patrol, service and assistance around Lowell." Pictured, left to right, are Chuck Stuart, Keith Heydenburg, Detective Steve Bukala and Vance Dimmick.

## Three arraigned on charges of breaking into Lowell High School

By Emma Palova

Three men were arraigned last week in 63rd District Court on charges of breaking and entering into various area schools including Lowell High School. Other school locations included Forest Hills Eastern High School and Knapp Forest Elementary School.

Joshua Stanton, 21, of Wyoming, Jonathan Mayhanagian, 21, of Wyoming, and Travis White, 21, of Wyoming, were also charged with one count of safe breaking.

According to a report by the Kent County Sheriff's Department, deputies were called to a "suspicious vehicle" complaint. While on the scene on Jan. 1, they were alerted to an alarm at Lowell High School at 4:15 a.m. The deputies

discovered stolen property in the vehicle from one of the other schools.

The Lowell Police Department (LPD) assisted on the alarm call as they discovered a break-in at Lowell High School. No property was stolen from the school, according to director of school operations, Larry Mikulski.

"A neighbor next door saw a car pull in," said Mikulski. "They broke a window, and they rifled through some teachers' desks."

Wyoming police provided a K-9 unit but the track was later terminated without locating the suspects. During a follow-up investigation, detectives were able to arrest the three individuals.

## First 2007 bluegrass jam session

The West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association is hosting their first bluegrass jam session event for the 2007 season. A free jam session will be held on Saturday, Jan. 20 at the Riverview Restaurant, 14043 Fulton, Lowell.

The event begins at 7 p.m. and will continue for as long as participants wish to play. All players, from beginners to experts, are invited to bring their instruments and join in.

The jam session is held in a smoke-free room. Food

and beverages are available.

The West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association is a nonprofit organization formed to preserve and promote bluegrass music in West Michigan.

For more information or an interview, call WMBMA president Jim Strangways at 457-5228 or visit www.wmbma.org.

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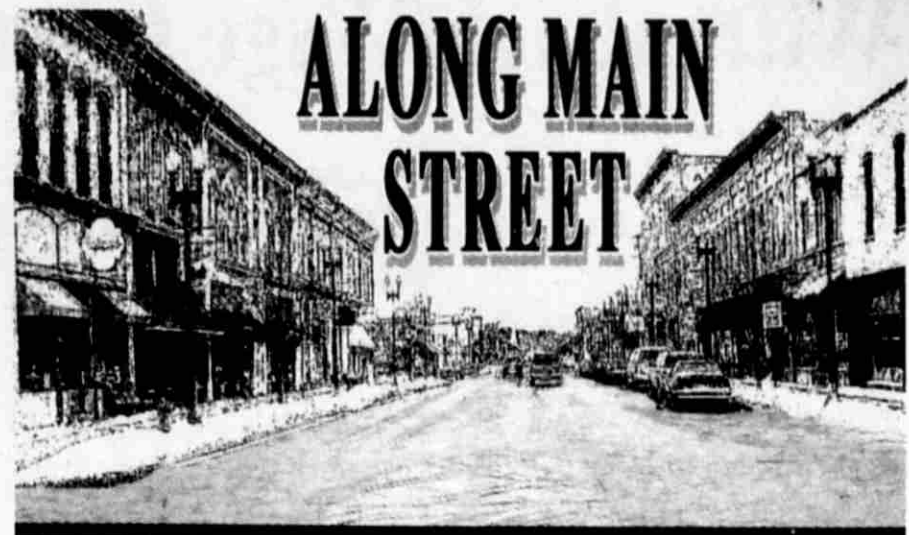
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**PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT**  
Lowell resident Ann Dimmick has a display of her photography at Huntington Galleria through Jan. 30.

**WELLNESS WEIGHT LOSS EVENT**  
Lowell Community Wellness will begin their weight-loss event Jan. 10. Looking for teams of 4 adults. Registration: \$20 per person. Call Patty 340-7781 for more info.

**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, seniors and their parents are invited to a financial aid program with Jo Ann Litton from GVSU this Thursday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Lowell Performing Arts Center. Call 987-2908 for info.

**LUMINARY WALK**  
The Wittenbach/Wege Center will have a luminary walk with special events at the cabin from 6-8 p.m. this Saturday, Jan. 13. Donations: \$5 individual; \$10 family. If ??s call Ranger Steve 987-1002.

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

**MUSIC BOOSTERS MEETING**  
The Lowell Music Boosters meeting will be held on Jan. 15 at 7 p.m. in LMS band room.

**SITE CONDO OPEN MEETING**  
Oak Hill, Forest River, Murray Lake and River Bluff site condo associations are sponsoring an open meeting at the Lowell Twp. Hall at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18. Open to the public; no charge. Call 897-7513 for info.

**LOWELL REUNION MEETING**  
Lowell classes of 1971 and 1972 meet at Larkin's Friday, Jan. 19 at 7:30 p.m. to plan a 35th reunion. Call Nancy Ellis Roth at 897-8870 and bring some new ideas.

**BLUEGRASS MUSIC JAM SESSION**  
Free bluegrass jam session Saturday, Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. at Riverview Restaurant in Lowell. Bring your instrument or just come and listen.

**ST. MARY BLOOD DRIVE**  
There will be a blood drive at St. Mary Parish Life Center on Jan. 20 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call the church 897-9820, Tom 897-9098 or Cindy 897-0452 to register.

**UKRAINIAN EGG DECORATING WORKSHOP**  
The Lowell Area Historical Museum will be hosting a Ukrainian egg decorating workshop for adults, taught by Linda Busman. Learn this ancient folk art Saturday, Jan. 20, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Lowell Township Hall. Cost: \$20. Call Linda Barnes at the museum to register: 897-7688. Deadline: Jan. 16.



# Wittenbach/Wege Center events to benefit LHS Environmental Club

By Emma Palova

A warm fire, hot chocolate, beef stew and a real-life trapper are just a few reasons to go to the annual Luminary Walk at the Wittenbach/Wege Center (WWC) this Saturday.

In spite of the recent vandalism at the center and to its trails, events will run as scheduled.

The annual Luminary Walk to the log cabin offers a nice hike through the woods.

This year's walk, lit by candles, will have a special twist to it. Trapper Kevin Syperda from the West Michigan Trappers

Association will offer insight into Michigan's first industry.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to take an evening walk and learn about our heritage," said Steve Mueller, WWC director. "It makes education more exciting for our kids."

Syperda will show and sell various furs and animal pelts at the cabin: bear, rabbit, beaver, weasel, raccoon and mink. He will also share stories of the early voyagers who came to Michigan to trap animals for their furs. "We all learned about the early trapping industry in Michigan history,

but most of us have not had the opportunity to visit with a trapper," said Mueller.

The LHS Environmental Club annually prepares the walkway to the cabin, and usually provides snowshoe rentals.

Although this year's walk may not be in the snow, it should be a fun time for the entire family, said club president Kelly Walker. "We usually get a good turnout and it gives us an opportunity to bond with the group," he said.

Suggested donations are \$5. Any funds generated

from the event will benefit the club and other community activities.

"The event gets families together," said Walker. "We stand by the fire and have fun."

The Luminary Walk will take place from 5 - 8 p.m.

The annual Christmas tree recycling program, also on Jan. 13, is scheduled from 2 - 4 p.m.

Wood chips from the trees are used on the trails in the community garden.

"It puts it back to good use," said Walker.

The club president hopes the program will continue to provide free wood chips for the trails. However, due to the cost of the wood chipper to the schools, the program could be discontinued.

"To date, the program is not cost-effective," said Mueller. "This may be the last year."

Mueller is hoping donations will keep the program running.

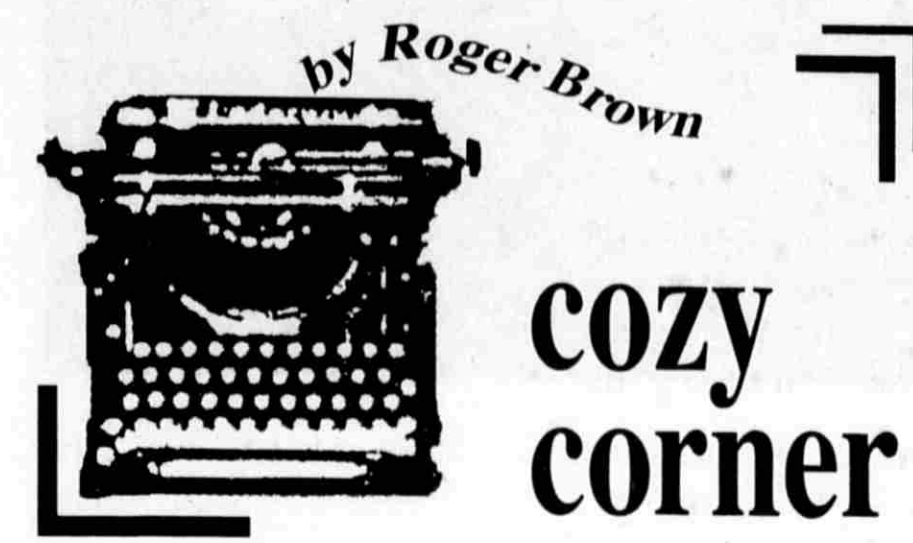
Also this Saturday, the West Michigan Butterfly Association will hold

a meeting at the center from 1 - 3 p.m. Called "Butterfly Year in Review," it will highlight butterfly gardening, butterflies, and field trip activities during 2006.

Mueller, a.k.a. Ranger Steve, encourages people interested in attracting butterflies to their yards to attend.

For more information call the center at 987-1002. WWC is located at 11715 Vergennes Road across from the Lowell High School.

# Viewpoint



Terese and I left Lowell after Gerald R. "Jerry" Ford died, but before the funeral services in Grand Rapids. We did watch some of the service on C-Span. It looked like those who knew the man, and loved him, paid a fine tribute to the area's favorite son.

Before we left town, accolades about President Ford's life and career were pouring in to the local media. Seems everyone of a certain age had a "Jerry Ford" story to tell. That fact in itself is a testament to the open, accessible and easy-going personality of a man who became President of the United States.

As you might guess, I too have a "Jerry Ford" story to tell. And, under the heading of "What Else Is New?" mine's a little different.

First you'll need just a little background. My dad purchased the tiny Saranac Advertiser in 1959.

I was nine years old. I remember Congressman Ford's mobile office from those days. It was a small travel trailer he took around to communities in his district during summer recess and when he was campaigning. I was too young and disinterested to remember much about what was actually going on. I assume he handed out his famous potholders, fielded a few gripes and glad-handed with the populace.

When the trailer visited Saranac, the congressman plugged it in next door to the Advertiser. Since my father owned the newspaper, albeit a very small newspaper, I'm sure "Jerry" made it a point to pay a visit. I am also certain "Jerry" addressed my dad by the only name anybody knew. I'm sure he'd share a laugh, slap my dad on the back and issue "Brownie" a good supply of potholders and bumper stickers.

Years later my dad had occasion to call on his congressman for a favor. I was in the army and serving overseas at the time this took place, so some of the details may be a little fuzzy. This part of the story is a little tough. Bear with me, as it does take a humorous turn.

In 1971 my dad's best friend died suddenly of a heart attack. He was a young man, still in his mid forties. He was married with a family of four. The youngest son was still in grade school.

## To The Editor

To the Editor,

When most cities are busy creating green space, Lowell already is very fortunate to have a beautiful green space on N. Washington St.

The area has been a great attraction for years for hikers, strollers, fishermen, dog walkers and sledders.

There are many people using this. It could be improved with a park and trails.

How lucky the people of Lowell would be to see their tax dollars go for something all could enjoy and preserve green space which is already pristine.

Ruth E. Thurtell

Dear Editor,

Recent discussion of what the City should do with the Light & Power property on North Washington prompts me to recall my first acquaintance with the area, when about 75 years ago my father took me for a walk up to Devil's Peak.

Dad was not an outdoorsman and had very little leisure time, so it was a special occasion I never forgot. To my wide eyes we were exploring a wilderness, Lewis and Clark's adventures scaled down to my size.

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They grew up during the Great Depression. They all served in WWII. When they came home from the war they got married, raised families, worked hard and always seemed to "do the right thing." They were easy to look up to.

A great number of those guys have left us. It will be five years in August since my dad died. Nearly all his pals are gone. And now, Jerry Ford is gone. I really think "Jerry" was just one of them. A great guy to have representing them in congress and in life. Yes, Jerry was a great guy, even if he didn't immediately know who the heck "Brownie" was when he called for a favor.

My best friend was a son of the deceased, and had just completed two years in the army infantry, to include a year in Viet Nam. His older brother had graduated from Michigan State and was drafted when his student deferments ran out. He was in the army at the time of his father's death, exactly where, is one of the facts I'm not sure of. My father's concern was that this eldest son be near his family at this time of great need, and not adding to his mother's woes by being shipped off to "Nam".

"Who you gonna call?" It sure wasn't Ghostbusters! The only man to call was Jerry Ford.

I'm not sure where my dad happened to catch Congressman Ford. As memory serves me it was summer, so he may have been home in East Grand Rapids. He might have even been out campaigning and picked up the phone in that mobile office of his. Whatever the case, the call was obviously not screened by a secretary. Mr. Ford took the call without knowing who was on the other end of the line.

My brother Ed was in the room when my dad made the call. Ed is a great storyteller, and this one has become a family classic.

My dad dials the number, the phone rings and Congressman Ford answers. My dad says, "Hi-ya Jerry... Brownie". An uncomfortable silence follows. "Jerry" obviously has no clue as to who "Brownie" is. "Uh, Dwight Brown... Jerry." Another pregnant pause. Ed is just guessing at the response on the other end of the line. It is either apologies for not knowing who "Brownie" is, or worse, dead silence.

My dad tries again. "Dwight Brown... The Advertiser... Saranac... Michigan..." Finally, Mr. Ford tumbles as to who in the heck he has on the line and the conversation eventually gets to the meat of the call.

So, my dad was taken down a peg or two. He wasn't quite on the first "nickname" basis with the Speaker of the House as he thought he was. It's a funny story, and just uttering, "Jerry... Brownie" to one of my brothers still gets a big laugh.

That's my Jerry Ford story. Like I said, it's a little different than most. I should tell you if my dad's call got any result. Yes, it did. With Congressman Ford's influence, the son was granted some leave time and a compassionate re-assignment to an army post in Indiana. He was stationed there for a few months, but did eventually ship off to Viet Nam. Nearly forty years later, it seems like it was a fair way to handle the situation. Just like the Nixon pardon now seems like it was the right thing to do.

This little story has made me think about guys like Jerry Ford, my dad and my dad's friend Louie Jackson, who died back in 1971. All those guys were cut from the same piece of cloth. They were born and raised in the Midwest.

Many years later, I've had the opportunity to explore many official wilderness areas that take a lot of driving to approach, and the experience can be pretty special. Here Lowell has its own little wild area on a scenic bend of the river, and it's right close at hand.

I sincerely hope that some means can be found to preserve it in its natural state so that future youngsters can have enjoyment doing something that doesn't involve electronics.

David F. Coons

To the Editor,

The N. Washington property is a soup becoming frothy. I admire the stamina that is necessary here. Viewing the 10 minute discussion and vote (not on the agenda) about raising that rent at the Jan. 2 city council meeting is confusing. This is the third time in the last month they have made ambiguous decisions for us without invite, conference or notification of results. They have never talked to us even though we tried. The following is about half of a gushing letter I submitted to them all on the Sept. 3, 2005.

"Twenty-six years ago my wife, with her 8-year-old daughter, and I made residence here. Sandy has read the city's water meters for 24 years, and then the township's when they came on line. I work locally at home maintenance and minor construction. With care and hard work, with a

## City aims to turn rental house into asset

By Emma Palova

Determined to turn the rental house at 990 N. Washington Street into city asset, the Lowell City Council approved a gradual \$50 increase in rent.

The increments will start March 1 and will be capped off at \$500. Currently, tenant Gary Dietzel pays \$70 per month barely covering taxes to Vergennes Township, according to city manager Dave Pasquale.

The city may eventually sell the house, which originally was home to the Lowell Light and Power caretaker. The lease on the rental house expires June 30.

"I don't feel this is an equitable arrangement in today's time," said mayor Chuck Myers in a previous telephone interview.

Myers said he ultimately hopes for a decision based on a fair and equitable amount for the city tax base.

Mayor pro tem Alan Mathews suggested removing the "junk" buildings on the North Washington property and putting the house on the market.

"It's not worth moving the house," said Mathews. "We need to adjust the rent in the meantime."

With a number of discussions by the city council concerning the rental house, Myers expects a resolution

on the N. Washington St. property in 2007.

"We can't just give it away," he said.

In regards to the rental house, council member Jeanne Shores was concerned about the council making piecemeal decisions.

Greenridge Realty estimated rent at the house between \$475 and \$575.

## Lowell may hire consultants to develop long-term finance model

By Emma Palova

Lowell City Council tabled the decision Monday to hire Rehman Robson to develop a multi-year finance model.

The five-year model would look at long-term budgeting mainly for the general fund, due

to continued financial constraints.

City manager Dave Pasquale said the model could avoid last year's budgeting situation by looking at the budget ahead of time.

"There is a need for additional forecasting,"

he said. "It's a continuing project. Using the model as a tool could help us from making a mistake."

Consultant John Kaczor of Rehman Robson presented a \$13,950 proposal to develop the finance model for the city of Lowell for each of its funds.

"My goal is to develop an understanding of what is going on in Lowell," he said. "We will be talking about the city's priorities."

The proposed finance model would work with trends and assumptions in a spreadsheet format. It would take into consideration fund balance, management of cash, potential city income tax, management of decreasing taxable valuation, financial policies, Headlee rollback and possible staff cuts.

"We will need to look at line item details such as benefits," said Kaczor.

The model would have to be updated internally

by the city staff. Budget projections could be as simple as multiplying items by the inflation rate, according to Kaczor.

In terms of the city equipment fund, the model would set up a replacement schedule.

Mayor Chuck Myers said one of the caveats of the proposal could create an uneasiness among staff.

However, Kaczor said the model would be used only as a tool.

"I don't make any recommendations," he said. "I only develop planning and management tools."

The model would allow the city to be proactive step by step with the budgeting process, according to Pasquale.

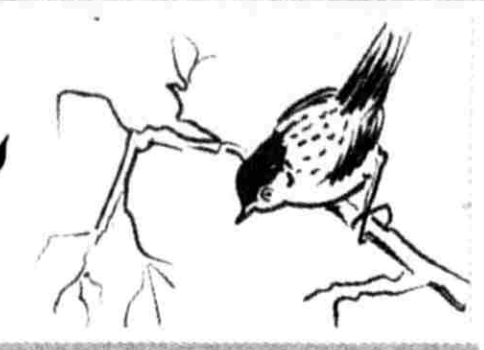
It would address the city's general fund, equipment fund, major streets fund and local streets fund as the city continues to struggle with less revenue sharing, the ongoing impact of Proposal A and rising employee costs.

"It is essential the city allocate scarce resources in a planned and forward-thinking manner," said Kaczor.

The council expects to make a decision at its meeting held on Tuesday, Jan. 16 due to Martin Luther King Day Monday.

## Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis



### NEW YEAR PROJECTS

It is easy to put off projects even though doing so could have long-term consequences. Out of sight, out of mind. For example, after pulling a boat trailer in and out of the water for six months, parking it in the garage for the winter without any maintenance is the convenient thing to do. Next spring, however, while pulling the boat to an Upper Peninsula walleye lake, the growling sound you hear is the failed bearings in that unattended wheel hub.

This time of year, there are no lawns to mow, gardens to tend, or leaves to rake. Use the extra time to inspect, repair or replace equipment so it will be ready for service when needed.

Getting back to the boat trailer. In addition to repacking wheel bearings, check the wiring for function and wear. Keep the boat starting battery and trolling motor battery charged, especially if they are exposed to cold temperatures. Winterize and re-lube the engine.

Firearms can be damaged if not thoroughly cleaned before storage. Disassemble them as far as you feel confident doing, and properly lubricate the parts on reassembly.

Now that the majority of hunting seasons are past, it is time to plan for next fall. Attend the hunting and fishing shows when they come to your area. Check out outfitters for that special hunt and determine application dates for drawing tags if necessary.

Sort out fishing tackle box contents. Clean and lube reels. Check the line and reverse ends or replace if necessary. How about patching those leaky waders?

Find an archery range where you can shoot all winter to keep up your skill and strength. Inspect tree stands for wear and tear.

Don't forget about yourself: eat smart and get regular exercise. It is easier to stay in shape than to try to get in shape just before a long hike or hunting trip in the mountains.

You can surely find examples of other chores which can be tended to this winter. The idea is to take care of these tasks while still thinking about them, or the projects may be forgotten until a problem unexpectedly pops up later to remind us of our oversight.

## At Your Local Library



### MID-WINTER BOOK SALE AT ENGLEHARDT

The Friends of the Englehardt branch of the Kent District Library are having a used mid-winter book sale this month.

A good selection of books for winter reading, including children's, fiction, non-fiction and hobby titles will be for sale on Friday, Jan. 26, 9:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 27, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

For more information call Friends' volunteer Joy Smith at 897-7957.

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## Ledger Entries

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



By Priscilla Lussmyer

**125 YEARS**  
THE WEEKLY JOURNAL JANUARY 11, 1882  
This issue is missing.

**100 YEARS**  
THE LOWELL LEDGER JANUARY 10, 1907  
The first Farmers Institute in Kent County is held in Caledonia, with 200 present to hear about orchard fruits. Clyde Purdy's barn burned down Friday from an exploding lantern.

Mrs. J.N. Hubbell pulled young onions out of her garden for dinner Sunday.  
"Dr. White, dentist. Phone 151"

**75 YEARS**  
THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO JANUARY 7, 1931

Lowell native and architect Ernest Graham has designed the Union Terminal and passenger station of South Chicago, a two square-block, \$16 million building.

The Strand Theatre is getting a 300-square-foot screen of the latest technology.

License plate sales have been extended from Jan. 1 to March 1 to aid those who cannot afford them now.

Rain and sleet on New Year's Eve leave trees, lines and poles all over the roads.

**50 YEARS**  
THE LOWELL LEDGER JANUARY 10, 1927

Joan Laux wins the local cherry pie baking contest; county is next. Says a judge: "I never thought a cherry pie could have so many different flavors."

The roof and walls of the 95-year-old Congregational Church building sag, necessitating repairs.

Supt. Walter Gumsert requests village police to warn children not to sled on roads or ice skate on the river.

The exhibition building at the 4-H fairgrounds is iced and ready for skating.

**25 YEARS**  
THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER JANUARY 7, 1981

As of Jan. 1, all men 18 years and older must register for the military draft at a U.S. post office.

Country Roads, Inc. goes up in flames on New Year's Eve.

After approaches by several companies, city council drafts a policy for granting cable TV franchises.

"How to Apply Tire Chains the Easy Way" is pictured.



# Engagements

## Gannon/Childs



Chelsea Gannon and Steven Childs

Chelsea Gannon and Steven Childs, both of Lowell, will marry in a January 13, 2007, ceremony in Grand Rapids.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Bette Gannon of Grand Rapids and Dennis Gannon of Byron Center.

She is a graduate of Lowell High School.

The future groom is the son of Maria Childs of Lowell and the late Brian Childs. A graduate of Lowell High School, he is in active duty in the Marine Corps and stationed in San Diego, CA.

## The Gospelmen to perform at First Baptist Church

The Gospelmen will be performing at First Baptist Church of Lowell on Sunday, Jan. 14 at the 9:30 a.m. service. They will also be performing at Clarksville Bible Church, 191 S. Main St., at 6 p.m. that evening.

The Gospelmen, from Genesee, Mich., began "presenting the Gospel through song" in 1985.

Members are Tim Herbert, tenor; Brian Wright, lead; Gregg Martin, baritone and manager; R.W. Hammond, bass; and Todd Brewer, sound engineer.

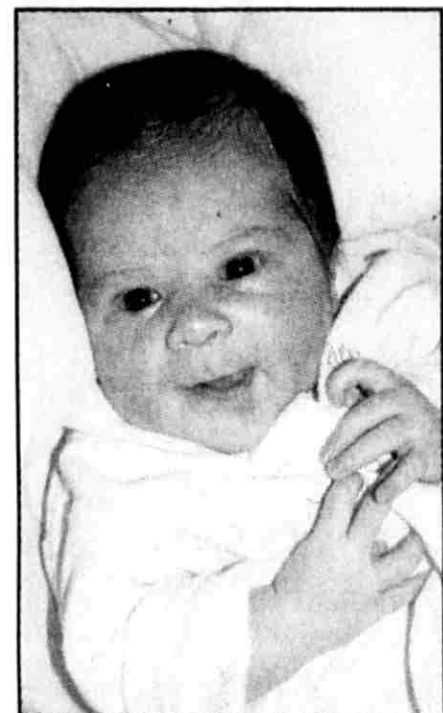
The Gospelmen have had the pleasure of sharing the stage with some of



Gospel music's very finest: Brian Free & Assurance, Classic Voices, Dottie Rambo, The Toney Brothers, Janet Paschal, Jeff & Sheri Easter, Ivan Parker, The Martins, Legacy Five, The Hoppers & Greater Vision, and many more.

## New Arrivals

### Richmond



Mya Diane Richmond

Mark and Sherry Richmond are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Mya Diane, born December 9, 2006 at 1:05 a.m. She weighed 9 lbs. and measured 20 1/2 inches. Welcoming her home is her big sister Grace.

Proud grandparents are Lee Hildenbrand, Ron and Rose Thomet, and Jerry Richmond and the late Diane Richmond, all of Lowell.

Great-grandparents are Tony Mitchell of Wyoming and Virginia Uzarski of Grand Rapids.

## Happy Birthday

- JANUARY 11:** Katie Plutschow, Ian Blodger, Marian Guastavino.
- JANUARY 12:** Judy Ellison, Stuart Sauber, Mike Vezino.
- JANUARY 13:** Jake Sterzick, Stephen Rutherford.
- JANUARY 14:** Angie Nowak, Ryan Burns, Tim Yonker.
- JANUARY 15:** Dennis Burns.
- JANUARY 16:** Alex Stuckey.
- JANUARY 17:** Kevin Rasch, Joe Potter.

the location of the child "who has been born King of the Jews," they received the answer, "in Bethlehem of Judea," referenced by a passage of scripture from the prophet Micah.

Micah said that the ruler born in Bethlehem would be one who will rule like a shepherd - a shepherd ruler, in stark contrast to King Herod who ruled from a base of cruelty and fear.

Christians believe Christ fits the image of a shepherd ruler. The good shepherd who cares for his sheep as most famously portrayed in Psalm 23 - green pastures, still waters, rod and staff, leading through the valley of darkness.

Rulers seem to fall in as leaders somewhere between

Herod and Christ, between terror and care. One of President Ford's eulogizers said that Ford was self-admittedly "charismatically challenged," but that what he lacked in charisma he more than made up for in character. President Ford opted from a base of values, ethics and convictions that was more like a shepherd ruler.

What we hope for and expect of our rulers, our leaders, we hope for and expect of ourselves. Christ is very clear about the caring of a shepherd: feeding the hungry, water for the thirsty, a welcome for the stranger, clothing for the naked, visiting the prisoner, taking care of the sick. (Matthew 25).

In other words, the caring shepherd lifestyle is for everyone: rulers, leaders and all the rest of us.

# Reflections of faith

Rev. Dean Bailey, pastor  
Alto and Bowne Center United Methodist churches

"... for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Matthew 2:6b

When the wise men inquired of King Herod as to

# AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p><b>ATTENTION: BIBLE BELIEVERS</b> If you would like to attend a church where the King James Bible is held up as the perfect, preserved word of God with all the words of God for all English speaking people, then give us a visit at: 901 W. Main, Lowell</p> <p>Across the street from the Vermont Dodge dealership. 897-6284 or 485-4195 10AM Sunday School, 11AM Morning Service, 6PM Evening Service, Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.</p>	<p><b>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.</p> <p><b>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS</b> Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p><b>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL</b> 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332 Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M.</p> <p>Nursery &amp; Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p><b>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	<p><b>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH</b> SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com</p>
<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 Worship Services.....8:30 &amp; 11:00 a.m. Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.</p> <p>DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery &amp; child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p><b>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH</b> Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648 Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>	<p><b>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)</b> 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor Dave Noonan, Asst. Pastor John King, Youth Pastor SUNDAYS: Worship: 10:00 a.m. - LIFE Home Groups &amp; "XL" Youth Sunday evenings WEDNESDAYS: Family Night (For All Ages): 7:00 p.m. "XL" Youth: 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: Sat. 5 PM, Sun. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM &amp; 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer &amp; adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETER WIGANS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p><b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906 Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Dr. Roger LaWare.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise &amp; Worship</p>
<p><b>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell &amp; Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Sunday School.....9:00 A.M. Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims &amp; Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. &amp; 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA CLUB, I.C. Wed. 6:15 &amp; 8:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p><b>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurian Meredith 9:45 A.M. ....Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M. ....Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery &amp; Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p>	<p><b>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:30 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:40 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M.</p> <p>PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>	

## Lend A Hand



### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HOST EXCHANGE STUDENTS

World Heritage Student Exchange program is seeking local host families for high school students from France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Switzerland, to name a few. Host families provide room, board and guidance to foreign exchange students. Couples, single parents and families with or without children in the home are all encouraged to apply.

The students arrive shortly before school begins fall 2007 and are fully insured and bring their own spending money.

Call Tim at 1-800-888-9040 or visit www.world-heritage.org if you would like more information.

#### LOCAL HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

Foreign high school students are scheduled to arrive soon for academic semester homestay programs, and the sponsoring organization needs a few more local host families.

Pacific Intercultural Exchange (P.I.E.) executive director John Doty said the students are between 15 and 18 years old, are English-speaking, have their own spending money, and carry accident and health insurance.

P.I.E. currently has programs to match almost every family's needs, ranging in length from a semester to a full academic year, where the students attend local high schools.

P.I.E. can fit a student into just about any situation: a single parent, a childless couple, a retired couple or a large family.

Families who host for P.I.E. are also eligible to claim a \$50 per month charitable contribution deduction on their itemized tax returns for each month they host a sponsored student.

Interested Kent County area families may call P.I.E., toll-free, at 1-866-546-1402.

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ORGANIZE MUSTARD PULLS

Plans are being made now for garlic mustard pulls this spring. If you would be interested in organizing these projects, making contacts, more information, etc., please call Peggy at 897-7948.

#### FROM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Do you have even as few as two to four hours a month to volunteer in the Flat River Outreach Ministries' Thrift Shop? We are presently in need of more counter help. If you are interested, please fill out an application at the Thrift Shop, 419 E. Main St., corner of Main and Jackson streets.

#### HOPE ON WHEELS

Do you know someone who has been deprived of their ability to walk due to illness or disease? Hope on Wheels helps seniors who suffer from respiratory disorders, arthritis, cardiovascular disease, mobility limitations, and difficulty in propelling a standard wheelchair, to receive a powerchair or scooter paid primarily by Medicare.

For eligibility information call 1-866-631-3028.

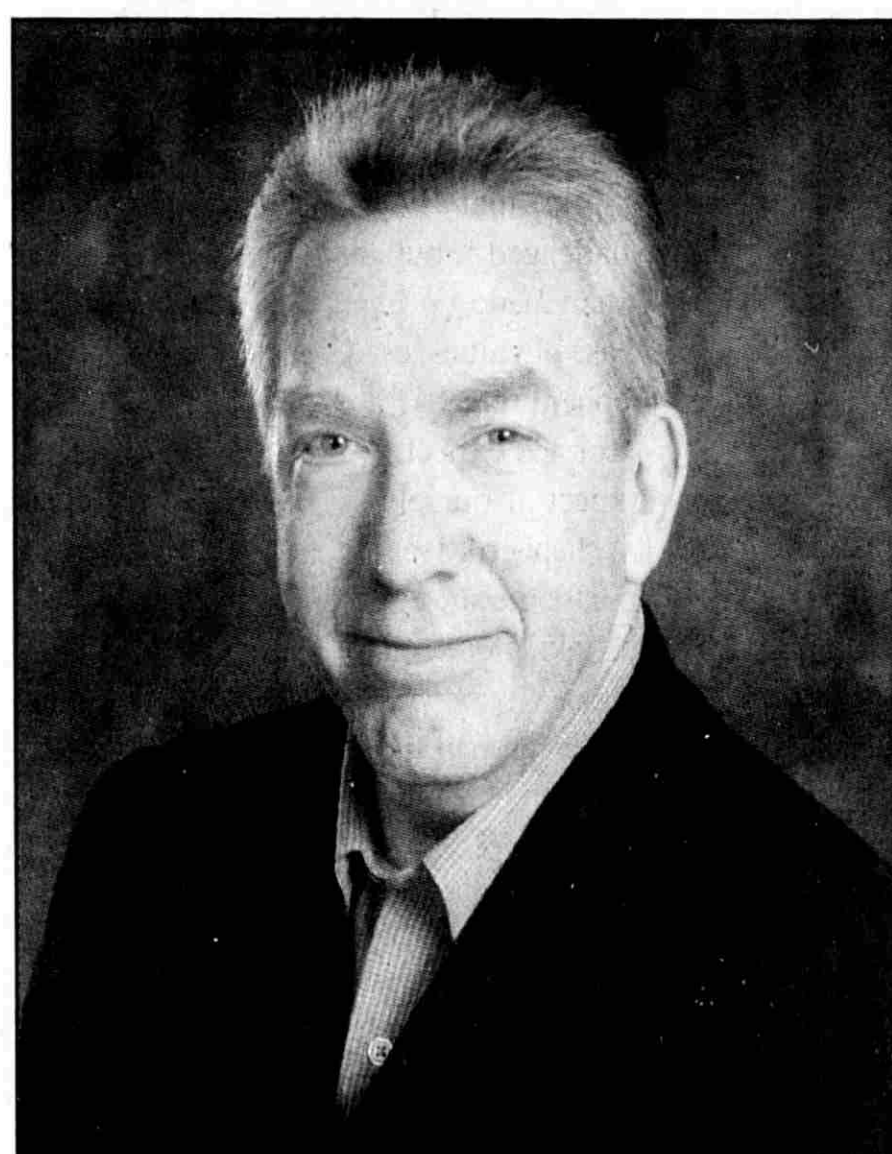
## Lowell native scores top honor nationally

Roger MacNaughton, "Charlevoix Keepsake" Lowell native and by the International Music Aid Awards. Performed first place in the United States for his composition

Steve VanRavenswaay on cello, the winning composition is one of six original instrumental tunes written by MacNaughton and recorded on the 2006 Acoustic Arts CD release "Winter Canvas."

Music Aid, launched in 1998, was initially a seven-day "Art of Music" festival held in London, England. The event featured art exhibits and

live performances to help brighten the lives of many, including the world's poorest children and others in need. Signed guitars and album covers from famous names including Paul McCartney, John Lee Hooker, Oasis and Bono helped raise funds for village children in southeast Asia. Music Aid continues to provide free international support to charities and projects.



Roger MacNaughton

## College News

Audrey S. Converse and Neal E. DeVoid, both graduates of Lowell High School, have been named to Hope College's dean's list for the first semester of the 2006-07 school year. To be recognized for this academic award, a student must have a minimum 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.



## HEALTH

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

### HIV INFECTION

Approximately 40 million people are infected with HIV worldwide. HIV (Human immunodeficiency virus) is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome). Although there are medications to prolong and improve the quality of life in persons infected with HIV, there is no cure.

HIV infection is transmitted through contact with body fluids (semen and vaginal secretions) during sexual activity. There is no evidence that HIV infection is transmitted through saliva. Contact with infected blood, accidental needle stick, or shared drug injection needles can also transmit HIV. Due to excellent blood screening programs in the United States, HIV is rarely transmitted through transfusion. Women with HIV can transmit the virus to their babies during pregnancy, delivery or breast feeding.

Symptoms of HIV are usually nonspecific at first. HIV infects the immune system so people infected develop illnesses that would normally be fought off in healthy persons. Symptoms increase in severity the longer the infection is present without treatment. Common symptoms include swollen lymph nodes, weight loss, fevers, coughing, shortness of breath, fatigue, skin sores and development of other infections. Your physician will diagnose HIV infection by performing a physical exam and performing a blood test.

You can prevent HIV infection if you:

- Do not have sexual contact with any persons unless you are sure of their HIV status.
- If your partner has had previous sexual experiences and is unaware of his/her status, use a new latex condom every time you have sexual contact.
- Do not share needles.

For more information contact the Center for Disease Control and Prevention National AIDS Hotline at 800-342-2437 or www.edc.gov/hiv/dhap.htm.

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**LUNCH MENU**  
ELEMENTARY MENU  
Week of Jan. 15, 2007

MON: Pepperoni pizza (egg salad sandwich also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), broccoli, warm apple slices, milk.

TUES: Cheeseburger on a bun (chili & crackers also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), whole kernel corn, fruited gelatin salad, milk.

WED: Pancake w/ syrup or cereal/ Graham Cracker w/ scrambled eggs, fresh fruit, applesauce, milk.

THURS: Italian Dunks (breadstick) w/meatsauce (turkey & cheese on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), vegetable pasta salad, pears, milk.

FRI: 1/2 Day Of School.

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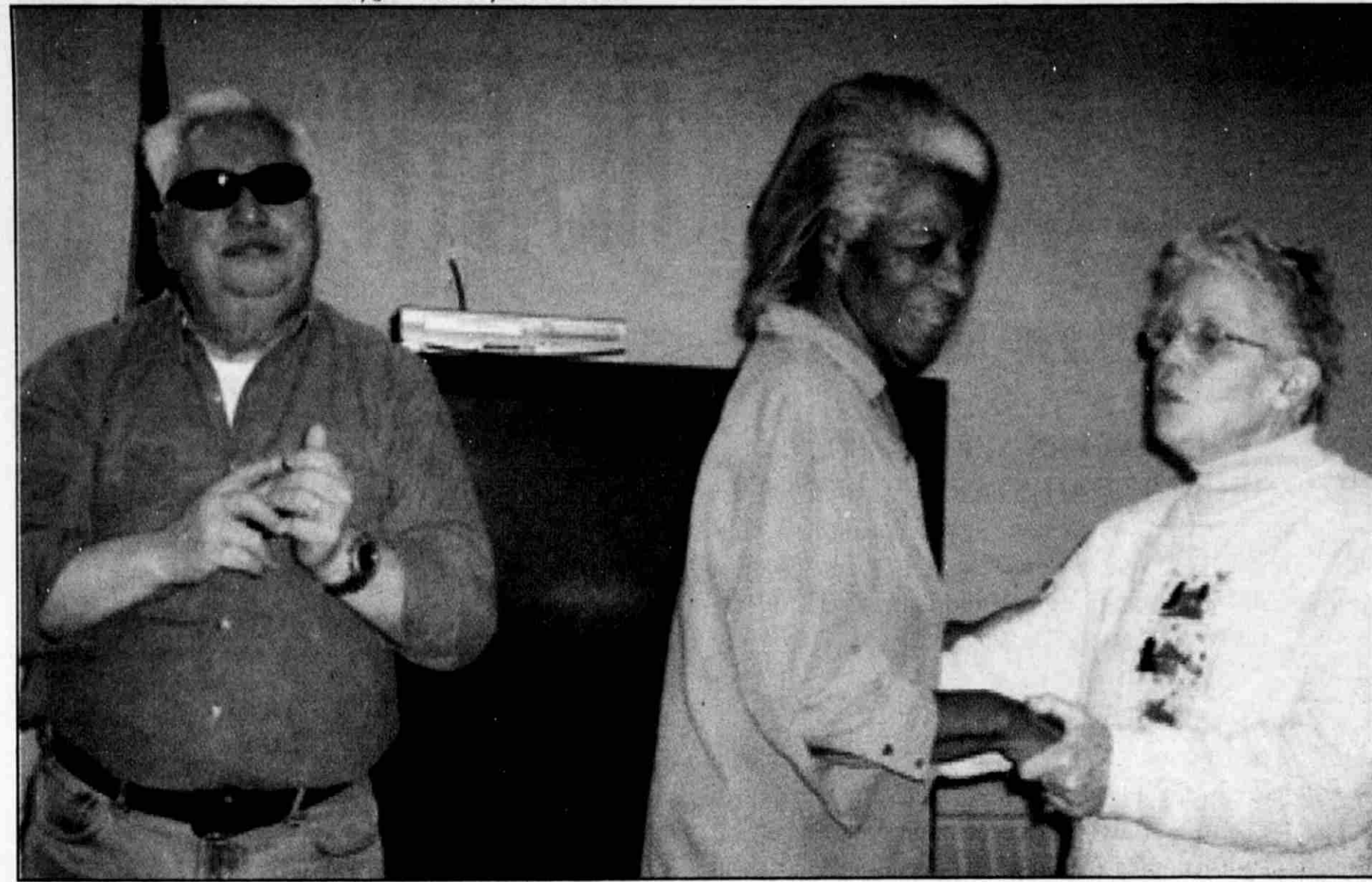
What a beautiful way to celebrate 50 years of marriage! We are so blessed to have had all three boys, their wives, our grandchildren and great-grandchildren, our sisters and brothers-in-law, brother and sister-in-law, Ron Weeks and Nancy who stood up with us, and so many friends and relatives together for the evening. Wow!

We would like to thank our boys, our daughters-in-law, our grands and sister Sally for all their planning and work to make our 50th an evening we'll never forget. It was such a joy to see so many relatives and friends. Thanks!

Thanks to all of you who came, called, sent cards, flowers and gifts. As Frank Sinatra sang, "Thanks for the Memories." May God bless all of you as he has us.

George and Pat Raimer





## Residents kick up their heels at Laurels of Kent

John Sanchez sings and claps while Laurels of Kent resident Jannie Bass dances the polka with Fran Mendez during activity day last Friday. Bass came to Lowell two years ago from Montgomery, Ala. She learned how to polka while growing up in the southern state. Sanchez and Mendez have been entertaining Laurels of Kent residents for the past 30 years. Sanchez, who is blind, plays the harmonica and sings. He is also a carver with the Lowell Area Arts Council.

## City discusses charter review/accepts CDBG allocation

By Emma Palova

The charter review was discussed by Lowell City Council Monday after consulting with city attorney Dick Wendt.

According to Wendt, there are two ways to amend the city charter (or city constitution). One way is to appoint a charter commission consisting of nine people, not necessarily elected officials.

The revision process must be completed within three years, and has to be approved by the electors by a majority vote.

"This is something that is not done frequently," said Wendt. "It can be costly and time-consuming."

Wendt estimated the cost of charter revision by a charter commission at \$40,000 to \$50,000.

The other route to revise

a charter is by amending individual provisions of the charter. However, these cannot be major revisions. It is up to the governor and attorney general to approve the proposed revisions, before they go for a public vote, said the city attorney.

The maximum number of amendments allowed for a public vote are six at a time. There is no need for a

charter commission in case of individual amendments.

"These address each issue separately," said Wendt.

If the council wanted to get the charter amendments on the November general election ballot, the proposed amendments would have to be ready by July.

The amendments would go on the same ballot as

the city council election in November.

In other business, Lowell City Council accepted the allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies in the amount of \$56,500.

A portion (\$6,000) will be allocated to the North Kent Transit assistance for senior citizens and handicapped riders.

The majority of the funds (\$50,500) will go toward sidewalks on S. Pleasant, S. Center and S. West streets from West Main to Strees Road.

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has allocated \$7,000 for 390 feet of sidewalk on S. West and S. Center streets within the DDA district.

## Council extends deadline to vacate chickens from city, ordinance upheld

By Emma Palova

Lowell City Council extended the deadline to Feb. 1 to vacate chickens from Brian McLane's property on Kent St.

The council members along with planning commission chairman Clark Jahnke stressed they will uphold the current zoning ordinance.

"We will tighten the rules rather than loosen them," said Jim Pfaller, chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), at the Monday meeting.

By upholding the

ordinance, the McLane family will not be allowed to keep four chicken hens on their city property which is 0.4 acre.

"They were in violation before they came to the city," said mayor pro tem Alan Mathews. "It's time to do something with the birds. I'd like to see a limit on the animals; we have regulations on dogs. Let the folks know it's time."

Under the current ordinance, small animals can be kept within the city limits on 0.5 acre with 50-foot setbacks from neighboring property lines.

According to city manager Dave Pasquale, there will be no liberalization of the current ordinance.

"It's come to roost," he said.

The planning commission has been looking into limiting the total volume of critters kept outside.

"We have no intention of loosening the zoning ordinance," said Jahnke.

Although the city ordinance regulates fowl, small animals and dogs, it has no restrictions on cats.

Deadline extended, cont'd., pg. 14

## Litehouse, continued ... From Page 1



Litehouse co-owner Wendell Christoff announced Friday the transfer of 30 percent of the company's stock to its employees.

job. He does everything from clean up, packaging, inspecting, labeling and set up of lines.

"We're like a big family," Summers said, as he ate his pie and drank Welch's grape champagne toasting to the company's future.

Linda DesJarden, in the human resources department, said the stock transfer is a wonderful opportunity for the employees.

"I'll do the best job I can and work more efficiently," she said.

Director of Lowell operations Susan Serne said Litehouse employees have always been empowered to provide outstanding products and services to customers.

"This is the perfect culture to transition to an employee-owned organization," she said.

The announcement was also good news to the city of Lowell.

"This will allow the company to stay in the community," said city manager Dave Pasquale.

Litehouse, Inc., established in 1932, also owns a facility in Sandpoint, Idaho.

## Lowell Scouts honor Gerald "Our" President

By Emma Palova

It will be a day the local Boy Scouts will remember for the rest of their lives. Troop 102 stood reverent as the motorcade accompanying former President Gerald Ford's casket passed by last Wednesday.

Under the direction of patrol leaders, the scouts saluted as they lined up shoulder to shoulder by Fulton Street. In full uniform attire, the scouts braved chilly temperatures in the morning and a surrealistic sunset enhanced by lingering Christmas lights in the evening.

"They spent the entire day there," said scoutmaster Rich Riley. "It was very cool."

Riley said listening to speeches of Ford, a man of integrity, taught the boys about character.

"I was greatly impressed," he said, "and proud of the boys showing up. They were very respectful to the motorcade."

The scouts also demonstrated infinite patience while waiting at dusk for the finale, the "Missing Man" formation 21-aircraft flyover by the U.S. Air Force. A crowd of approximately 67,000 people awaited the closing ceremonies by the Gerald R. Ford Museum. The entire day was marked by reverence and pageantry in downtown Grand Rapids.

The bridges leading to the museum were crowded with media and spectators



Lowell's Boy Scout Troop 102 gets ready for the motorcade to pass by Veterans Park on Fulton St. Photo by J. Bass

waiting for the returning motorcade. The murky waters of the Grand River

sent a chill through the body. "I knew it was going to be a once-in-a-lifetime

experience," said Parker Liu, scout assistant senior patrol leader of the troop. "I got to see a presidential funeral, and the security. It taught me a lot."

Liu, a freshman at Lowell High School, said he was impressed by the absolute silence as the procession went by.

"You could hear a pin drop," he said. "It was a very powerful experience. I learned that President Ford did a lot to heal our nation instead of passing the blame back and forth."

Perhaps the most amazing experience was the camaraderie of scouts from all around the country. There were scouts in the streets, parks, walkways and on the bridges.

According to scout assistant patrol leader Jim McCormick, scouts were present from North Dakota as well as from the East Coast. On behalf of Lowell was Cub Scout Pack 3188.

"By far, I've never attended an event of this magnitude," he said.

McCormick, who wants to be a history teacher, was impressed by Jimmy Carter as he rode by.

"President Ford was a

great role model for the Boy Scouts and the country," said McCormick. "It was a good turnout for all the troops. It was cool to have it in Grand Rapids."

Lowell mayor Chuck Myers attended the welcome home ceremony Tuesday for President Ford in the Federal Express building at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport. He and other elected officials from Kent County were invited by the Ford Foundation.

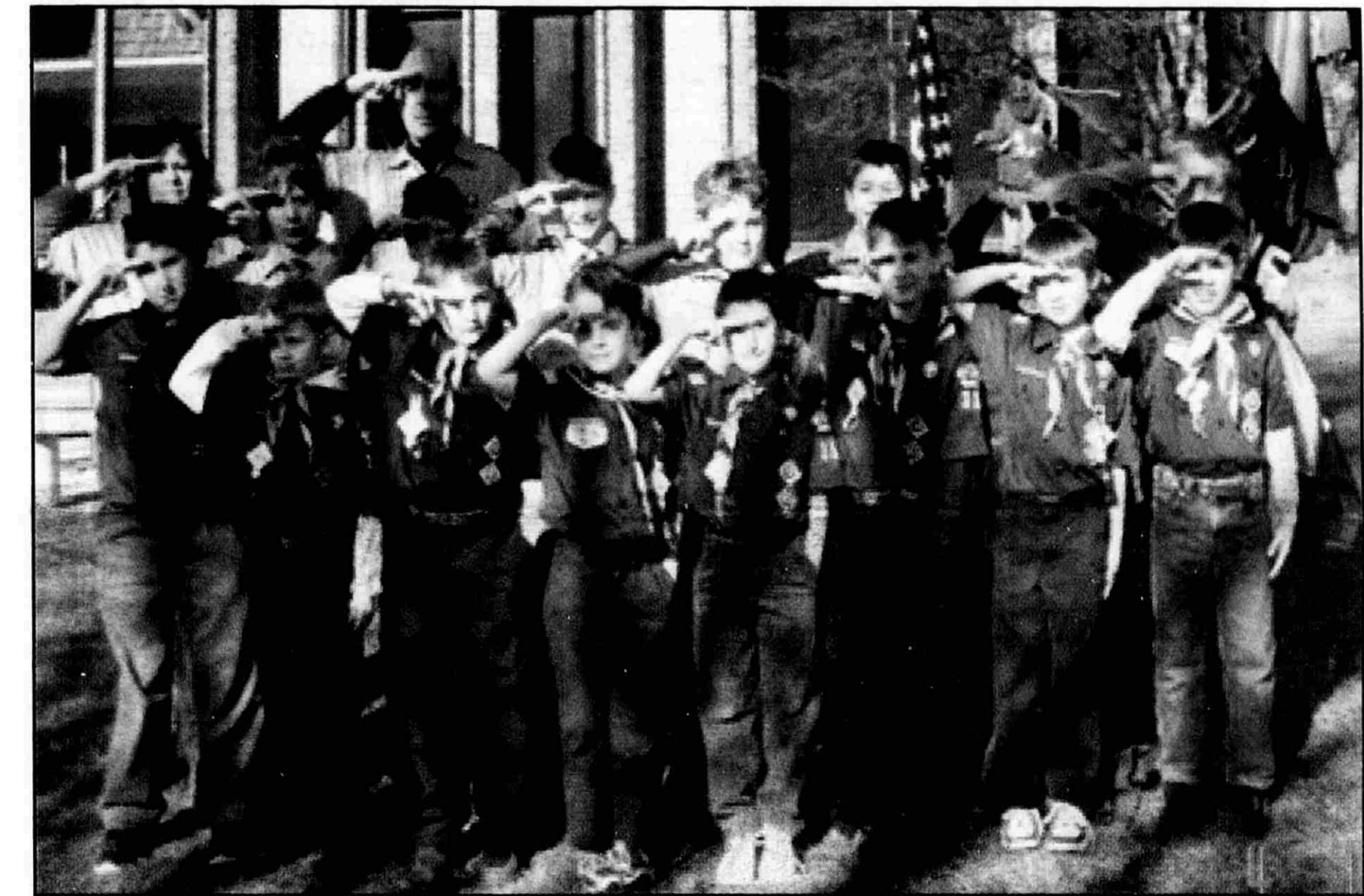
Myers saw family members and politicians disembark the plane, and observed the casket sliding from the plane.

"It was very respectful and emotional how the casket was handled," he said. "It was very dignified."

Myers, too, was struck by the absolute silence of the 300 member University of Michigan band, and the 21-cannon salute. He was able to see the start of the motorcade consisting of 50 black limousines and the hearse in front.

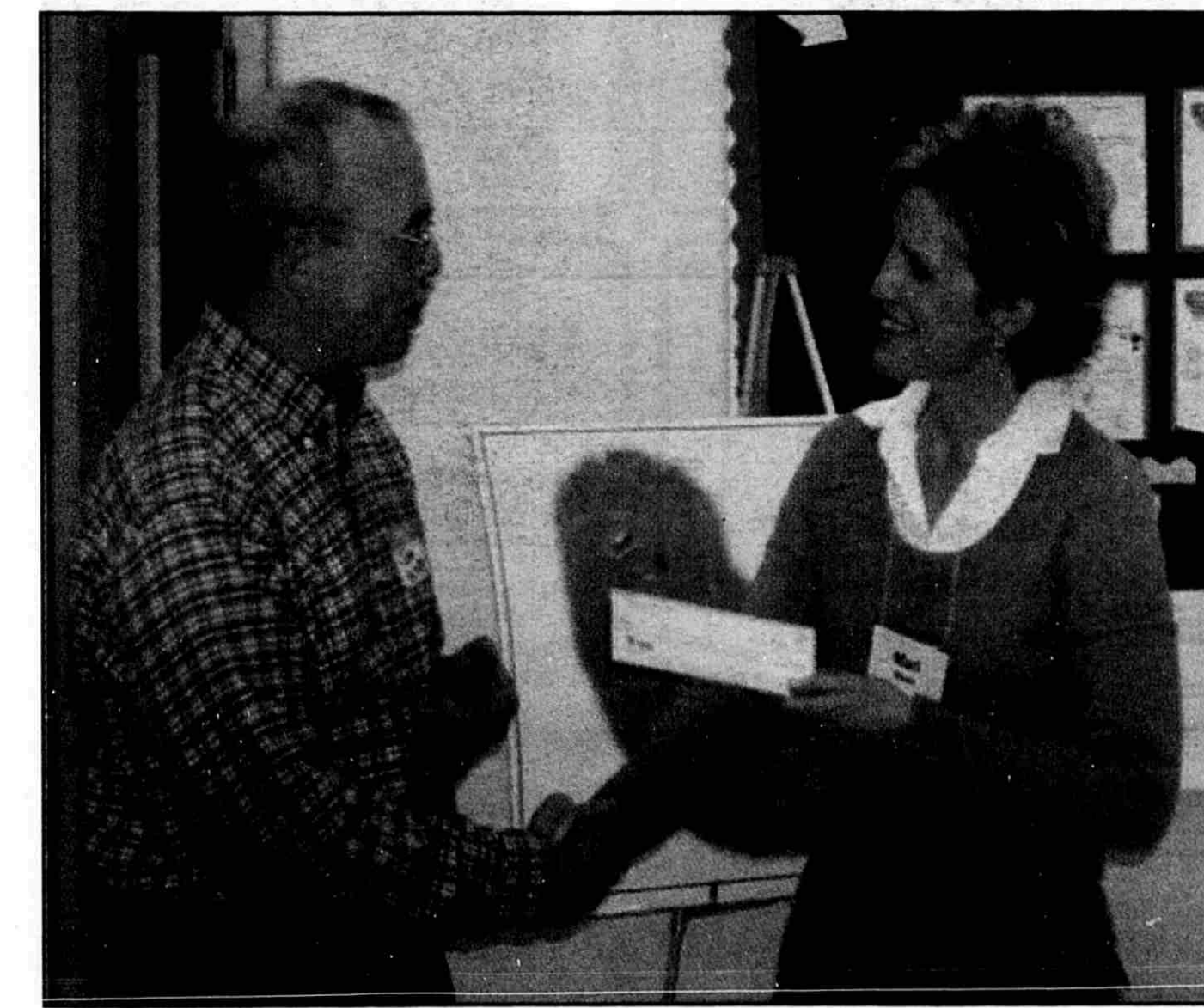
The band then played the U of M fight song, "Hail to the Chief."

"There were no disturbances or any other issues," Myers said.



Cub Scout Pack 3106 from St. Patrick Parish salute Ford's motorcade with leaders' Cathy Acker and Al Juarez.

## Rotary donates \$1,000 to trailway



Lowell Rotary president Jim White presented a check in the amount of \$1,000 to Lowell Area Trailway chairperson Mari Stone at the Dec. 13, 2006 trail meeting held at Lowell High School. This money will go toward the construction of the trailway. Anyone interested in more information concerning the trailway should contact Stone at 897-5671.



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## To The Editor, continued ... From Page 5

love of gardening and the river, with our rescued animals, with volunteering for local organizations, and with getting to know our neighbors and granddaughter, this house has become a home we love. We want and need to stay here. I hopefully trust you will consider this carefully.

Economically, the facts run like this: 26 years of rental at \$70 a month (not too unlike land contracts at that time) amounts to \$22,000. Utility use (all city concerns) is another \$31,000. Annually, our present contribution is close to \$3,000. This house was just a shell and would have disintegrated shortly without our presence. And our presence near all this remote city inventory has had untold security benefits to you. I've replaced the post and tube wiring to the main box; I've removed three layers of shingles, replaced truss ends and soffit, added sheathing and reroofed; lifted the porch and fixed the decking; replaced the front steps; added storm doors and windows; and have painted the outside nearly five times. I've put over 150 hours into the brick pump house to remove the rotten roof and bricks, and then remortared to a visual acceptance some 15 years ago. Landscaping is not insignificant. Outside of taxes, the city has not spent one hour or one dime on this space in 25 years. We would like a clearer understanding of your intentions in

this matter. What are the problems and is there anything we can do to help?

I believe we are an asset to this area. This could be a quiet space for people and nature to interact. N. Washington is not a place for development. The master plan is due to be revised. Re-vision is needed here. If there are other matters, I'll go to great lengths to work with you. My hope would be some limited assurance to remain here so I can continue maintenance and perhaps put a roof on the adjoining brick building. Our investment here is constantly necessary to the house and our mental health. We were put in doubt more than a year ago when Tom Richards (LL&P) approached Vergennes Twp. for annexation. Careful consideration and conversation is our largest hope."

That was a long time ago for us. Hope somehow continues despite the morass we sink into. With the big trees going down today I hope people can still see the big forest. Let it remain to be the gift that keeps on giving. The manager and council can still gracefully admit the problems with "progress" here. Honest, open conversation and time to heal will allow this unique area to flourish for everyone. They never cared until now - we always did.

Best Wishes for the New Year  
Gary Dietzel 990 N. Washington

To the Editor,

Our family is very thankful for the beautiful nature trails that the Wege Nature Center provides for us to use. Lowell is a lucky community to have such a great place. However, it is very disappointing when the general public cannot follow Michigan law and ruins the ability to enjoy such a great place.

I'm referring to the leash law. As far as our family is concerned, it is no longer a safe place to take a walk. I'm completely frustrated by the lack of judgment of dog owners. I myself am a dog owner. I always use a leash. Many other dog owners do not. I am told the same thing time after time as I and my three boys encounter strange dogs running up to us on the trails: "He is the nicest dog ever, wouldn't hurt anyone." "She just loves little kids." All the while these dogs are barking and growling at us ... not to mention it is horrifying for a 2 1/2 year-old child to be knocked to the ground by your 75 pound dog because he is so friendly.

The phrase, "My dog would never bite anyone" is my favorite. Are you kidding me? We have a lovable Golden Retriever and I am not so naive to ever make that statement. The fact is, you have no idea what your dog will do when

To The Editor, cont'd., pg. 11

## To The Editor, continued ... From Page 10

it encounters another strange dog. If one dog becomes aggressive I would assume it natural for the other dog to do so as well. Quite honestly I'd expect it. I hope our dog would defend us if she felt we were being threatened. I'd call it natural instinct.

As always, I do not blame the dogs for the poor behavior, but the owners. I often thought of carrying mace along for our walks. Of course, in this great society, were I to use it to keep a growling dog away from my children, I would probably be sued for animal cruelty. If people can win law suits because the coffee is too hot, I'm sure I'd lose too.

When I kindly state to other dog owners that I would appreciate it if they would abide by the law, I get really interesting feedback. Some don't even have a leash on them, so it's useless to say anything. Others apologize and then the next week we see them again and surprise! No leash. Others are quite rude and angry that you would dare tell them they need to use a leash.

Maybe I'm the only one who has had this problem. Maybe nobody else really cares, but my children and my dog are very important to me and I do not plan to put any of us at risk. We will simply walk elsewhere.

From a responsible dog owner  
Tammie Blackport

To the Editor:

Oh, the dreaded flat tire. It's happened to all of us. It happened to me as I was leaving work last Friday afternoon in a hurry (what's new) so I could make it home in time to eat dinner with my family. Thank goodness my husband happened to be picking up the baby from daycare that day so I could get some things done in my classroom.

Backing out of my parking space, I noticed that my car just didn't seem right. Does an SUV usually sound like an

airplane about to land? As soon as I began to pull forward and realized that my car felt like a ride at Michigan Adventure, I knew. Of course, a flat tire.

Immediately I pulled over in the school parking lot to take a look. Several cars were leaving the school from various after-school events and such. Each one that went by either slowed way down so the driver could give me that look of, "Wonder what's wrong with that person?" or the driver would frantically point toward my tire and mouth "You have a flat!"

I decided the best thing to do would be to call my husband. He was upset (rightfully so) and was trying to figure out how he could help me get home (I live about 30 miles away from Lowell). As we were talking and trying to figure out what to do, I noticed yet another car passing by me leaving the school. This time, however, the car stopped, turned around and came back. I put my husband on hold so I could roll my window down and talk to the approaching young man. I just knew he was going to tell me I had a flat tire (as if I wasn't already aware of that).

The young man, who I recognized, approached me instead by saying something like, "Oh! Hi Mrs. Cole. We noticed you have a flat tire. We know how to change flat tires if you want us to just do it for you."

My husband and I were both so thankful that such nice young boys would stop to help in such a time of frustration that we said they could certainly help out.

I want these four boys to be recognized for their act of kindness, caring, good citizenship, and also for giving up 45 minutes of their Friday afternoon to help me out. Some others did stop to aid in the changing of the tire as well, but these four boys were the ones who stopped to help out not even knowing who I was until they approached my vehicle.

I want Matt Griffioen, Mike Griffioen, Josh Nowak and Nick Geurkink to know how much I appreciate what they did. They are all students at our very own Lowell High

School. We should be proud! Keep up the good work. If I ever have another flat, I know who to call!

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Cole

Dear Editor,

I agree 100 percent with the letter David Davis sent to you.

The city council should never have the power to sell land that belongs to the people of Lowell. There should be a vote by the people who pay the property taxes.

Sincerely,  
Bertha Brown Lowell

## At Your Local Library



### IDITAROD SLED DOGS VISIT THE LIBRARY

Children will have an opportunity to learn about the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in Alaska and meet some sled dogs up close this month. Suitable for children 6 and up, those attending the program will learn about and see the mushing gear, clothing, and equipment used in sled dog racing.

Registration is required for the program at the Alto branch on Saturday, Jan. 20 at 11 a.m. Call 647-3820 or register online at [www.kdl.org](http://www.kdl.org).

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## Residents respond with memories of Gerald R. Ford

I was a police dispatcher in Vail when Gerald Ford was president. It was always interesting to look up at the dial phone on my console with a picture of the White House in the middle of the dial - it seemed so high-tech that the on-site White House operator would simply answer if we picked up the phone. A direct line! In 1976 that seemed very special.

One day, my supervisor and a colleague and I were having lunch in downtown Vail when President Ford went by, surrounded by a large crowd of people (he could barely walk!) - we had fun picking out the various Secret Service people in the crowd and on the rooftops above. We worked closely with them. Many times, citizens came in to the police department asking to speak to the President. We'd simply pick up the White House phone, tell the operator, and within a few minutes, the Secret Service would be there and very courteously interview the people.

At the end of one stay, we were invited to meet the President, which we did - we all shook hands and met him, but I never did get my photo. He was a good man.

- Kate Democoeur Lowell



Pictured in 1960, from left to right, are Dan Treleven of the Federal Housing Administration, then- Representative Gerald Ford, and Lowell developer William Schreur discussing development plans for the area. The child is Schreur's son Philip. Ford played a big role in obtaining FHA financing for insured loans.



This photo was taken of myself, Karen Alexander, and Karen Reagan when we went to Washington D.C. in June 1971. We were chosen to represent our Lowell High School's chapter of Future Teachers Association. As part of our itinerary that week we were treated to breakfast with Mr. Ford. That breakfast was the highlight of the week for me. It was one thing to see Mr. Ford around town and in the papers at home, but to see him in our country's Capitol brought home to me that real people worked in our government.

Thanks for letting me share this with you. This photo is one of my most treasured.

- Cathy Asplund Barger - Clarksville

Let me share with you two experiences I had with Jerry Ford when I was teaching government at Lowell High School in the 1970's.

He was always supportive and interested in students. In October 1973, he spoke to my government classes and spent some time after his remarks answering their questions. While I can't remember the topics he spoke of that day, what I remember most was that even though he was the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, he did not bring any staff with him. As I walked him to his car, I realized just how "normal" a person he was, when he got into a Ford station wagon and drove away. Two weeks after his visit, he was nominated to be Vice President of the United States.

In election years, I would always encourage my students to pick a candidate and volunteer to get involved in their campaign. Forty students eventually volunteered to work on Ford's presidential campaign in 1976 and staffed the campaign office, did mailings and made phone calls. After the election, I wrote President Ford expressing disappointment in the outcome, but also letting him know of the volunteer efforts of the 40 students.

A couple of weeks later, I received a reply on White House stationery. I'm sure it was a basic form letter, but the interesting part of it was that besides beginning "Dear Tom", he added a handwritten P.S. at the bottom of the letter saying: "Please extend my appreciation to those 40 students. I am most grateful."

The P.S. was signed simply: "J".

- Tom Stahr

## RED ARROW SPORTS

### Gymnasts' first meet shows promise

By Sean Garner  
Contributing Writer

A little rust was to be expected, but with a sound victory in their first meet, the Lowell gymnastics team is off to a solid start.

The latest winter sports team to begin competition, the Red Arrows played host to East Kentwood Jan. 3. The Arrows won the meet by a score of 129-110. According to coach Skye Fisher, the performance was about what she expected.

"I was looking for some strong floor scores and we did get some," Fisher said. "This was more of a learning experience. We still have

some stuff we need to clean up. Overall, we did fairly well and they looked fairly good tonight."

The Arrows were led by Richelle Kimble, who placed in the top three of four events: first in the uneven bars, second in the floor exercise, and third in vault.

Kimble, a sophomore, leads a core of young gymnasts who have the ability to lead the Arrows to a strong season this year. "I have a freshman and a couple returning sophomores from last year that I know will be strong parts for us," Fisher said. "If they can keep it together (we can do well)."

One big hurdle to

the Arrows' victory was the performance of East Kentwood standout Ana Foster. Foster, who won three of the four events, was Fisher's chief concern.

"I knew Ana would score a lot of points. She is a great gymnast," Fisher said. "She has always been a very strong competitor for us against East Kentwood."

Although the team has started competition rather late in contrast with other sports, they have been hard at work for nearly three months.

"It takes a lot of preparation to get ready for gymnastics," Fisher said. "There is a long period of

conditioning and getting our kids ready to do their routines."

Lowell looks to improve upon their middle-of-the-pack finish last season. Key competitors for the OK Division I title include Rockford, Kenowa Hills, and a Forest Hills squad combining all three schools (Northern, Eastern and Central).

The Arrows followed their win over East Kentwood with a ninth-place finish at the Rockford Flip Flop Invitational last Saturday. Their next home meet comes Jan. 15 against Kenowa Hills.



Sophomore Richelle Kimble led the team.

### Young volleyball team looking tough

By Sean Garner  
Contributing Writer

They may be young, but the Lowell High School volleyball team has made it clear from the beginning of the season that they are not vulnerable.

After their 3-0 win over

Reeths-Puffer on Thursday, the Red Arrows improved their record to 15-3, despite being led by only three seniors. Lowell even won an invitational hosted by Wayland, featuring strong competition, on the second weekend of the season.

"We played very well

tonight," coach Gigi Peal said. "They're probably pretty weak in perspective to some of the teams we'll play in our conference. We'll use it hopefully to get some nerves worked for the first night of the conference matches."

The few varsity letterwinners that return from

last year are mostly playing different positions from last year. "In theory, we don't have a single player playing the same position from the varsity team last year," Peal said. "We're young. It is a rebuilding year, and so far our kids have done a great job."

The Arrows' only three losses came against state-ranked opponents Unity Christian, South Christian and East Kentwood. Lowell lost to both East Kentwood, the defending state champion in Class A, and South Christian, last year's runner-up in Class B, at a tournament held Dec. 30 at East Kentwood. Despite the outcome of those two contests, Peal believes the Arrows' play in those

two games tell a lot about her young squad's ability to compete.

"We were playing the top two teams in the state and we had one good game against each of them," Peal said. "Our mindset was, if we can play like that all the time, we can do very well. There isn't anybody else who we'll play that will be like those teams."

One of the top goals of this team is capturing the school's first ever conference championship. Peal thinks that, despite the team's youth, an OK-White championship is very achievable.

"I would say it's up for grabs," Peal said. "One of our goals is to get a year up on the conference championship banner. We should be right up there contending with everybody else. There are about four teams that could walk home with it this year."

Lowell's next competition will come at Forest Hills Northern. According to Peal, this meet will be "the big one."

"They're always a strong program, so we'll look to go in there and start conference play out with a solid win."

### Red Arrows defeat Huskies 55-41

By Sean Garner  
Contributing Writer

Despite wallowing in a four-game losing streak, Lowell basketball coach Jeff McDonald knew his team was on the right path.

After winning their opening game against area power Cedar Springs, the Lowell boys basketball team dropped its next four games. Three of the losses were decided by six points or fewer, with the other defeat coming against East Grand Rapids, the top-ranked team in Class B.

Heading into their home game Friday night against Forest Hills Northern, the Red Arrows were desperate for a victory, and came through with a 55-41 win over the previously 3-1 Huskies.

"Despite the tough times, we've believed in ourselves the last five games even though we were 1-4," McDonald said. "We knew coming into the game that we had a great chance to win the game. I commend our kids for hanging in there, and keeping their chins up when we probably could be pouting a little bit."

In addition to believing in themselves, the players and the coaches also had faith in their ball-control, tempo-based system reminiscent of the movie "Hoosiers." McDonald has remained true to this philosophy, not only because it best suits his personnel's talents, but also

as a reaction to a number of the athletic teams they have played this year.

"We felt, against the teams that we were playing - Cedar, who was top ten in the state, Creston, who was considerably more athletic than we were, East Grand Rapids, who is No. 1 in the state - we had to control tempo," McDonald said. "Part of it was system, but part of it was understanding that if we can shorten the game and lengthen possessions, we'll be in every game we play."

Against the Huskies, the Arrows were assisted in no small part by the return of senior guard Mike McElroy, who missed the first five games due to injury, led all scorers with 16 points.

"Having Mike McElroy back allows us to push the ball and get some easy baskets," McDonald said. "He's anxious to be back, and you could tell that. He was a little over aggressive at times, but I thought he played great for his first game back."

Unusual for a high school varsity game, every player on each team got into the game. In fact, all 13 Red Arrows who dressed for the game received playing time in the first half.

"I saw they subbed five for five a couple of times, and I'm not sure what the motivation was there," McDonald said. "Using fresh bodies is very important."

The Arrows will host

Northview Friday. Their game against the Wildcats will be the first of three consecutive, and five of six home games, all of which will be played in conference.



Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc.

Thank you!

Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. would like to thank all of our friends in the community who supported us in 2006. Your donations of food for the Food Pantry and gently-used goods for the Thrift Shop were very much appreciated. We hope you have a blessed and peaceful New Year!

We would especially like to thank the following businesses for hosting an Angel Tree or Toy Box for the collection of toys for the F.R.O.M. Christmas toy and food distribution:

- SHOWBOAT AUTOMOTIVE • RITE AID
- HUNTINGTON BANK • DOLLAR GENERAL • IONIA CO. NAT'L BANK
- VOYAGES COFFEE SHOP • SPRINGROVE VARIETY
- BRENDA'S HAIR DESIGN • HUNTINGTON BANK WEST
- REEL TYME • FIFTH-THIRD BANK • ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY
- LOWELL ONE APARTMENTS • CURVES OF LOWELL

Also, thanks to the Ada/Lowell 5 Movie Theatre for collecting food and to Lowell's Meijer for their generous donation.

**BE SURE TO FREQUENT THESE ESTABLISHMENTS!**

Because of the generosity of our community, F.R.O.M. was able to give out 240 food boxes and 450 children received toys and gifts this year.

(Thanks, too, for those who helped pack the food boxes and carry toys and food to cars!)

**NOBODY DOES IT BETTER THAN LOWELL!**  
THANKS TO ALL OF YOU AGAIN.

## Show Us Your Smile!

DECEMBER SMILES OF THE MONTH:

### "No Cavities" Club Members

Doug Nordman	Abby Carey	Alyssa McIntire
Savanna Boersma	Maggie Carey	Jared Lardie
Kylie Jean	Spencer Lyon	Garret VandenHout
Kanon Dean	Katelyn Bush	Hunter VandenHout
Jacob Hays	Joe Baumgartner	Christy Lyon
Jasmine Peters	Breanda Boersma	Courtland Davis
Evan Swanson	Miranda Flier	Collin VanderWarf
Carlisle Clevenger		Mikayla Boersma

### FAMILY DENTISTRY OF LOWELL

Ann Wilson, D.D.S.

Jennifer Byrd, D.D.S.

New Patients Welcome!

147 N. Center St. • Lowell, MI 49331

897-4835

## SENIOR 55+ HEALTH EXPO

January 22, 2007 • Monday 1:30 to 4:00PM

Fountain View of Lowell

11535 E. Fulton #200 - Lowell, MI - 616-897-8413

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Jeffery Dalton

Presenting Senior Financial

Senior Veteran Benefits Information

2:00pm - Fountain View of Lowell's Main Library

FREE health screenings and information provided by:



COFFEE AND DESSERT WILL BE PROVIDED





### Financial Focus

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

#### ARE YOU REALLY A LONG-TERM INVESTOR?

Many people have been investing for a long time and their goals, such as retirement, are years away. Therefore, they consider themselves to be long-term investors. But are they?

Real long-term investors aren't necessarily those people who have been investing for many years or who have their eyes on distant goals - although those two elements are important. True long-term investors share several common traits. Let's consider some of them:

• **They own the same investments for many years.** Investing is not a risk-free endeavor - and your investments will have their "ups and downs." But long-term investors choose quality investments and stick with them through good times and bad. These investors have the ability to look past all the events - political turmoil, high energy prices, market volatility, corporate scandals, etc. - that send some people to the investment "sidelines."

• **They don't deviate from their strategy.** Long-term investors establish a strategy based on their individual needs, goals, preferences, risk tolerance and time horizon. Then, once this strategy is in place, they follow it steadily through the years. For example, if they determine that their goals for a comfortable retirement require them to build an investment portfolio consisting of 70 percent stocks and 30 percent bonds and "cash" instruments, then they will try to maintain that proportion. This is not to say, however, that they are inflexible. If their needs change somewhat over time, they make adjustments - but they don't abandon their overall strategy.

• **They invest in companies - not stocks.** Successful long-term investors pay little attention to day-to-day (or even month-to-month) shifts in stock price. Instead, they focus on the companies themselves, and they ask the right questions: Is the management solid? Does the company have a sound business plan? Are its products competitive? Does it belong to a healthy industry?

• **They don't listen to "hot tips."** Long-term investors do whatever they can to avoid expensive mistakes - such as chasing after "hot" stock tips. Of course, these tips can come from anyone - from the so-called "expert" on television to the well-meaning brother-in-law. Unfortunately, many of these hot tips turn out to be not so hot. And even if a stock was hot at one time, it might already have cooled off by the time an investor acts on the tip. But more importantly, long-term investors know that not all stocks are appropriate for their individual needs. Consequently, they train themselves to take a pass on today's hot stock tips.

• **They get the help they need.** The investment world can be complex. It's not easy for most investors to analyze investment possibilities, stay current on changing tax laws, calculate their retirement income needs, balance their portfolio or do any of the many other tasks that go into successful investing. That's why long-term investors frequently turn to financial professionals for guidance and recommendations.

So, there you have it - a few of the techniques employed by many successful long-term investors. Why not put them to work for you, too?

# Sound Off

The Ledger  
 "Almost"  
 Anything  
 Goes Column



www.lowellbuyersguide.com

Or CALL...897-0787

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

Hi McGaris- caught you reading!!!! Thanks so much for the cake and decorating for my birthday ---what a dear you and your sister are to me and your Dad.

I can win an argument on any topic, against any opponent. People know this, and steer clear of me at parties. Often, as a sign of their great respect, they don't even invite me.

- Dave Barry (1947 - )

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## Deadline extended, continued ... From Page 8

"We need to restrict more than just chickens and dogs," said council member Jeanne Shores. "If we limit rabbits or chickens, we need to go further." Shores challenged the planning commission

to further investigate the zoning ordinance. Pfaller said the ordinance should address exotic animals, as well. It has been the contention of McLane that

his chickens are kept as 4-H animals. Pfaller said, however, that his children have been involved in 4-H for the last 15 years. They kept their 4-H animals at other places than in the city.

"They had the opportunity to do projects without having critters in the city," he explained. In related business, the ZBA approved a front yard variance request for a 2,000-square-foot ambulance addition to the southwest

corner of the Look Memorial Fire Station. The ZBA also approved regulations for single family dwellings in the R-3 district. The minimum lot area is 8,200 square feet with a minimum lot width of 66 feet.

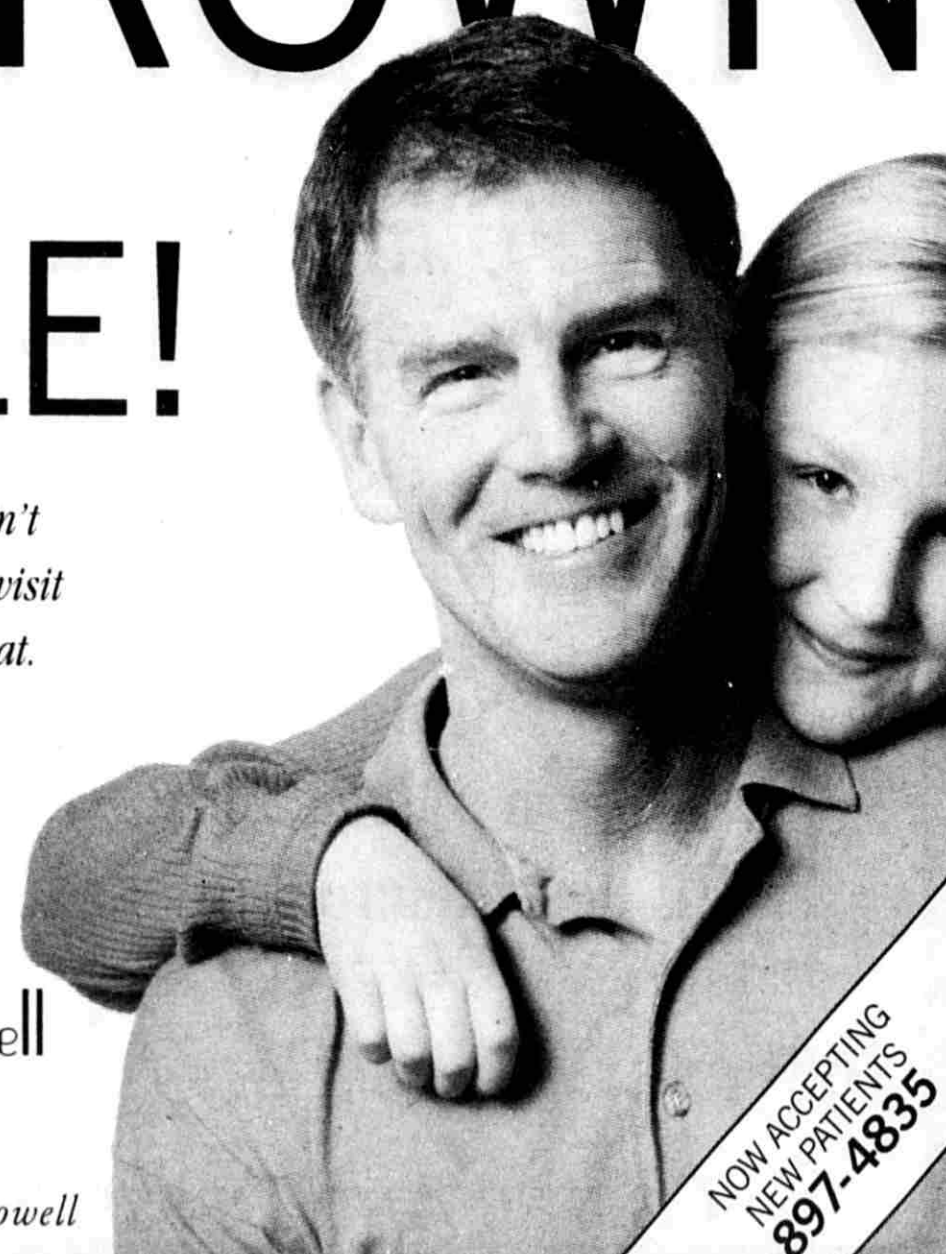
The council approved a \$40 compensation per meeting for the mayor pro tem when carrying out mayoral duties. Council members receive \$35 per meeting.

# A CROWN IN ONE VISIT ...SIMPLE!

"If I had known it would be this easy, I wouldn't have put off getting a crown for so long. One visit and it was done. The crown fits and looks great. I have my smile back...simple!"

Family Dentistry of Lowell  
 - ANN WILSON, D.D.S. -

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



NOW ACCEPTING  
 NEW PATIENTS  
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**"THE FOODMOBILE"**  
 MOBILE FOOD PANTRY  
 This Month's Sponsor: ST. MARY & ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH  
**FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION**  
 (mostly produce)  
**LOWELL FAIRGROUNDS**  
 Foreman Building, S. Broadway  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2007**  
 10:00 TO 11:00 A.M. (or until food is gone)  
 Distributed by  
 Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc.  
 (FROM)  
 AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS  
 OF THE GREATER LOWELL AREA.  
 Bring your own box or bag.  
 Visit our website at  
 www.flatriveroutreachministries.org

# CLASSIFIEDS

## FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR RENT HELP WANTED SALES SERVICES

**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.

**FOR SALE** - Kiln dried lumber: pine, cherry, walnut, poplar, oak, basswood, also hardwood molding & flooring. 1500 N. State Rd., Ionia. Call 616-527-4142.

**FOR SALE** - 2005 Ford Taurus SE, 49,000 miles, excellent shape, new tires, \$10,000 obo. 897-6516 or 560-6185.

**FOR SALE** - 1993 Monark Classic SC1600, 16.5 ft., with trailer. 40 hp, 4 cyl., Mercury trolling motor, AM/FM/CD, lots of extras. Excellent shape. Great for fishing or cruising. \$6,000. Call 616-581-4361.

**WOODED ACREAGE!** - Nice 6.7 acre build site! Located off Pinckney Rd. Saranac Schools. West Michigan Real Estate 897-0530.

**PLEATED WINDOW SHADES** - Off white, (2) 27" x 49.50"; (6) 23" x 49"; (3) 37.25" x 55"; (1) 51" x 50". \$10 each; Toshiba DVD player/recorder, \$25. Call 897-6652.

**FIREWOOD FOR SALE** - \$135 a cord with delivery within 10 miles of Lowell. 897-0576.

1998 GRAND PRIX GT - white, 4 door, loaded, \$6,000. 897-1597 or 745-2161.

1995 TAURUS SE - runs, damaged front, for parts or repair. \$300. Call 745-6822.

**FLORIDADREAMHOUSE** - with pool, \$15,000 below appraisal. \$225,000. Daytona area. Call for details, 616-897-8020.

'89 BRONCO - many new parts, good condition, \$700 obo. 893-4661.

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

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

**SECURITY ALARM SYSTEMS** - Free installation for basic systems. Call now for free security needs analysis. Ask for Steve 893-5644.

**FOR SALE** - Sofa bed, chest freezer, oak waterbed, Steelcase desk, Steelcase file cabinet, \$100 each. Call 868-6421.

**BEAGLE** - AKC, 3 years, trained hunting dog, \$300. 893-4661.

**BEDS \* BEDS \* BEDS** - Year-end 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.

**CAPE COD** - LOWELL - 3 bedroom 1 1/2 bath remodeled with new windows, new furnace and central air. 2 1/2 stall garage and full basement. Includes an 800 sq. ft. 1 bedroom apartment with separate entrance. \$179,900. Help-U-Sell Real Estate, 616-780-7774.

'97 SATURN - Twin Cam for sale - very dependable, runs great, need to sell, \$1,800 obo. 581-9256.

**FOR SALE** - 1994 Chevy Cavalier, runs great, looks good, \$500 obo. Call 897-6235.

**MANUFACTURED HOME** W/4 ACRES - 10125 W. Peck Lake Rd., Lowell. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, newly remodeled, \$99,900. 269-793-3307 or 616-291-1799.

**DODGE 1994 RAM SLT LARIAT** - 1/2 ton, 4x4, low miles, 360 V8, towing package, long box, bedliner. \$3,950 obo. Call 897-7519.

**FOR SALE** - Land contract, easy terms. Cute 3 bedroom, 1 bath home in Lowell, close to schools. Call 560-0405 or 560-0751.

**JOHN DEERE LAWN TRACTOR** - 38" blade, runs great, \$800 obo. 581-9256.

1998 JEEP CHEROKEE - 4x4, 4 door, Limited, red, new tires, loaded, \$6,000. 897-1597 or 745-2161.

**ONLY \$9.95 INTRODUCTORY OFFER!** - Sign up now for your virtual garage. Buy, sell or trade just about anything 24/7. www.slightlytarnished.com.

**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.

2007 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS - are available by Lowell Women's Club. Only \$25 each and 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.

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

**FOR SALE** - 7 piece kids First Act drum set, \$75; also electric dryer, used 1 yr., stored 1 yr., \$150. Please call Tammy at 897-5744 or 616-648-2898.

**HAY FOR SALE** - cow hay, 75¢ a bale, '06 first cutting. Call 897-0300.

**LEDGER OFFICE HOURS:**  
 MON. - THURS. 8-5  
 FRI. 8-4  
 Closed Sat. & Sun.  
 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

**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.

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

**HOUSE FOR RENT** - 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch north of Lowell. 3 car attached garage, newer home on a golf course, \$1,200 per month. Possible lease w/option to buy. 616-835-1844.

**FOR RENT** - 5-6 bdrm Centennial home near Deer Run Golf Course, \$850/mth, no smoking or pets. Call Joice Smith, 616-293-0980.

**FOR RENT** - Lowell duplex, 2 bedroom, country setting, \$575/mth, no smoking or pets. Call Joice Smith, 616-293-0980.

**HOUSE FOR RENT** - Nice 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath ranch style home in Lowell. Full basement and 2 stall garage. \$900 per month plus deposit. Call 477-1335 or 897-9274.

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

**FOR RENT** - 2 bedroom, Morrison Lake. Cute, clean, garage, dock, sun porch. Available immediately. \$750 a month. No pets, no smoking. Call 616-642-6903.

**ALTO HOUSE FOR RENT** - 84th St. at M-50. 3 bedroom ranch with 2 stall garage. Includes stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, disposal, washer, dryer, snowplow and lawn care. No smoking or pets. \$900/mo. Call 868-2053.

**FOR RENT** - Lowell 2 br 2 ba apt. newly remodeled. A/C, storage, deck, laundry room & trash pickup. \$650/mo + deposit & utilities. No pets, no smoking. 897-4829.

**FOR RENT** - Lowell, 1 br 1 ba upper. A/C, storage & trash pickup. \$400/mo & utilities + deposit. No pets, no smoking. 897-4829.

**ROOM FOR RENT** - Lowell area with 20 acres of hunting land. 897-1597 or 745-2161.

**APARTMENT FOR RENT** - Walking distance to downtown Lowell, 1+ bedroom, large yard, \$475 plus utilities. 897-1160, if no answer, leave message.

**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.

**WANTED**  
 I BUY ESTATES, ANTIQUES - collections & other "stuff"! Call 616-550-0521 for appointment for me to take a look.

**ATTN: JOURNALISM STUDENTS** - Lovesports? Need a part-time job? The Ledger needs sports writers. Send writing samples to: Sports Writers, PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com, in the subject line put Sports Writer. No phone calls please.

**CERTIFIED HOME 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.

**MANAGER** - Tyler Creek Golf & Camp in Alto, MI seeks candidates with background in one or more of the following: Accounting/Bookkeeping, Marketing, Golf, Event Planning, Recreation, Food & Beverage. The individual selected will co-manage the facility with the existing manager. Potential to expand its food & beverage and Special Events operations. Please respond to dgast@sandproducts.com or HR, 63 Kercheval, Suite 200, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

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

**SUMMER BABYSITTER NEEDED** - for 7 weeks in my home, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For children ages 9 & 11. References required. 897-6019 after 4 p.m.

**HELP WANTED** - Copy editor/proofreader & general office duties. Applicant must have excellent grammar skills & be a proficient spell checker. Mac computer experience helpful. Position is part-time, approx. 30 hours a week. Send resume to: Help Wanted, PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331. No Phone Calls Please.

**SOUND OFF PHONE LINE**  
 897-0787  
 Voice your opinion!

**EVENTS**  
 FIRST UNITED METHODIST PRESCHOOL - 2007-2008 School year - Family night/Open House, Thurs., Jan. 11, 6-7 p.m. Everyone welcome. Registration open to public, Mon., Jan. 15, 9 a.m. Limited number of scholarships are available, deadline June 1, 2007. 621 E. Main, Lowell, 897-8690, email: dmullins@sirus.com.

**4-H TACK SALE** - March 17, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. New & used, over 30 suppliers. For booth information call 868-6042. Sponsored by Ionia County 4-H.

**BUSINESS CARDS** - For as little as \$25 for 250. (white card stock, black ink). We can print cards in 4 color (for as low as \$20). Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates & our new styles! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

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

**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.

**PRINTING** - Before you order your next batch of envelopes, letterhead or business cards - call us for a quote! Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

**HOMETOWN AMERICA INVITES YOU** - to visit Valley Vista Village in the heart of Lowell where we have several homes of various sizes and price ranges for you to choose from. Make this your year of home ownership. 616-897-8427.

**SHIP UPS AT THE LEDGER OFFICE** - Daily pickup at 3 p.m. We cannot accept hazardous materials or firearms. Compare our prices! Call for a price quote! We will need weight, zip code & dimensions for a price quote over the phone. 105 N. Broadway, 897-9261.

**STOP LOOKING!!** - If you've been turned down, look no more. Good/bad credit, I do it all. Need to buy a home? Debt consolidation. Call Lisa Inbody, 897-1400, River Financial, 623 W. Main, Lowell.

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

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

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

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

**AIR DUCT CLEANING** - reasonable rates. Call Randy at R&R Enterprises, 616-581-8561. Mention this ad for 15% discount.

**GRADUATES** - We have open house & thank you cards with envelopes, 5¢ each. Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.





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*For A Great Experience*

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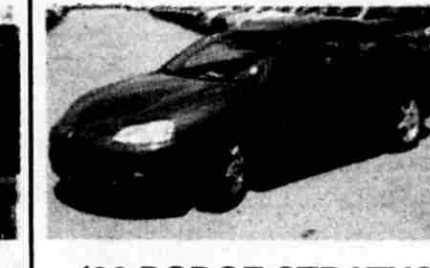
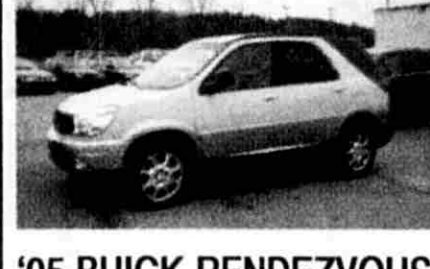











**2007 FORD F-150 SUPERCAB 4X4 XLT**

- TOW & GO 5.4 V8
- ALUMINUM WHEELS
- LIMITED SLIP REAR AXLE

**\$239 PER MO. ONLY**



### PRE-OWNED SPECIALS • SAVE THOUSANDS\$!

 <b>'97 DODGE RAM 4X4</b> Sport, V8, shortbox <b>Only \$149 mo.</b>	 <b>'01 FORD F250 CREW CAB 4X4</b> Power stroke diesel, XLT, shortbox <b>Only \$389 mo.</b>	 <b>'97 FORD F150 SUPERCAB 4X4</b> XLT, V-8, auto. <b>Only \$6,990</b>	 <b>'05 FORD F250 SUPERCAB 4X4</b> Powerstroke diesel, Lariat, extra clean <b>Only \$399 mo.</b>	 <b>'04 FORD F150 SUPERCAB 4X4</b> FX4, bucket seats, alum. wheels <b>Only \$299 mo.</b>	 <b>'98 FORD EXPLORER 4X4</b> Eddie Bauer, leather, moonroof <b>Only \$5,990!</b>
 <b>'02-'06 FORD EXPLORERS</b> 19 to choose from Starting at <b>\$8,990</b>	 <b>'05 JEEP LIBERTY 4X4</b> V-6, auto., alum. wheels <b>Only \$269 mo.</b>	 <b>'03 HONDA ELEMENT AWD</b> Auto., air, local trade <b>Only \$269 mo.</b>	 <b>'02 MITSUBISHI GALANT</b> Auto., air, CD <b>Only \$149 mo.</b>	 <b>'03 BUICK REGAL LS</b> Leather, moonroof, chrome wheels <b>Only \$189 mo.</b>	 <b>'02 PONTIAC GRAND AM SE</b> Chrome wheels, rear spoiler, CD <b>Only \$189 mo.</b>
 <b>'03 SATURN L200</b> Auto., air, alum. wheels <b>Only \$179 mo.</b>	 <b>'03 BMW 525i</b> 6 cylinder, leather, moonroof <b>Only \$389 mo.</b>	 <b>'06 CHEVY IMPALA LS</b> V-6, power seat, alum. wheels <b>Only \$249 mo.</b>	 <b>'06 FORD FUSION SEL</b> V-6, leather <b>Only \$15,990</b>	 <b>'05 BMW 525i</b> Leather, moonroof, 26,000 miles <b>Only \$34,990</b>	 <b>'02 DODGE STRATUS</b> RT, leather, moonroof <b>Only \$189 mo.</b>
 <b>'05 BUICK RENDEZVOUS</b> Leather, V-6, super sharp <b>Only \$249 mo.</b>	 <b>'05 FORD ESCAPE</b> Limited, leather, moonroof <b>Only \$269 mo.</b>	 <b>'06 FORD FREESTYLE AWD</b> V-6, 7 pass., factory warranty <b>Only \$279 mo.</b>	 <b>'04 CHRYSLER PACIFICA AWD</b> Leather, TV/DVD <b>Only \$279 mo.</b>	 <b>'98 FORD EXPEDITION 4X4</b> Eddie Bauer, 3rd seat, nice <b>Only \$6,990</b>	 <b>'99 GMC YUKON 4X4</b> SLT, 5.7 V-8, trailer tow <b>Only \$8,990</b>
 <b>'00 CHRYSLER TOWN &amp; COUNTRY</b> Quads, V-6, local trade <b>Only \$139 mo.</b>	 <b>'02 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN</b> Sport, V-6, 7 passenger <b>Only \$7,990</b>	 <b>'06 CHRYSLER TOWN &amp; COUNTRY</b> Only 3 left! <b>Only \$14,981</b>	 <b>'06 FORD CLUB WAGON</b> 12-pass., V-8, XLT <b>Only \$16,990</b>	 <b>'05 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER</b> Convertible, room for everyone <b>Only \$229 mo.</b>	 <b>'04 CHEVY CORVETTE</b> HUD, chrome wheels, 29,000 miles! <b>Don't wait for spring!</b>

\*Prices and payments plus doc fee and all state fees due at delivery. Terms may vary according to model. See dealer for details.  
All price and payments plus tax, license, title and doc fee. All vehicles include lease loyalty and applicable rebates. Pre-Owned: Drive for payments 48-60 month lease, 12,000 miles year, \$1,995.00 Due at start. No security deposit required, payments plus tax. Buy for payments, 2002 60 months, 2004 72 months. All with approved credit.

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616-897-8431

Model	Miles Per Year	Security Deposit	Down Payment	Term
FUSION	10,500	\$0	\$0	39
F-150	10,500	\$0	\$2,660	29

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