

# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 35 Issue 29

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

## With Memorial Day ceremonies ahead, local cemetery vandalized

By Emma Palova

This year's Memorial Day parade is scheduled for May 28 at 9:30 a.m. starting at the Lowell fairgrounds. A brief ceremony will be held at the memorial monument by the Flat River Dam.

The major ceremony will take place at the Oakwood Cemetery which is now decorated with 561 flags and star posts honoring all veterans starting with the Civil War through recent wars. "This is a day of significant tradition in our history as we pause to pay tribute to members of our armed forces," said chairman Dave Thompson, a WWII veteran.

The Lowell High School band will play "America the Beautiful" while flowers are placed in the cemetery. Pastor Roger LaWarre will give an honorary speech.

To honor veterans, Oakwood Cemetery sexton Don DeJong recently compiled a walking tour of the cemetery highlighting 33 Civil War veterans.

These can be recognized at the cemetery by a star-shaped flag holder that says G.A.R. which stands for Grand Army of the Republic. "I tried retelling their stories to bring to life what they went through and how they survived," said DeJong. The walking booklet is available at the city hall, at the museum and at the sexton's office for \$5. Proceeds from the sale of the booklet will go toward refurbishing the cemetery cannon and statue.

On a sad note, the cemetery was vandalized recently for the second time. DeJong estimated damage at approximately \$2,000. Stones from the late 1800s have been knocked down and will have to be resealed. "This is so discouraging," said DeJong.

Sgt. James Hinton encouraged the public to call the Lowell Police Department (LPD) at 897-7120 with any information about the vandalism.

Approximately 25 stones were knocked over. The vandalism remains under investigation.



WWII veterans Alfred Roth and Dave Koontz put flags marking veterans burial sites at the Oakwood Cemetery.

## Council unanimously supports cable television sale

By Emma Palova

To the dismay of most residents, the Lowell City Council took another step toward the sale of the Cable TV by repealing the cable ordinance Monday.

In a tense atmosphere, the council unanimously supported the action after

an extensive public hearing. The sale to Comcast for \$3.5 million is expected to be completed by June 30. According to the city and Lowell Light & Power officials, the sale has been in the works for the last two years.

At a previous meeting, the council discussed

potential uses of the \$3 million in proceeds from the sale. One of the options included using the money to stabilize the city budget.

The opposition Monday was led by Ivan Blough who was instrumental in establishing the cable TV enterprise in 1982. Blough vehemently spoke against

the use of the money to patch the city budget. He contended that the money from the sale is not taxpayers' money but cable subscribers' money.

Mayor Charles Myers read out loud the rationalization behind the sale. Any upgrade to the outdated system would

cost around \$1 million. Upgrades would translate into a \$5 increase for one channel per subscriber. Also, over the years, the number of subscribers has declined by 40 percent.

According to Myers, Comcast requested confidentiality during purchase negotiations. Comcast was also the only company that pursued the purchase.

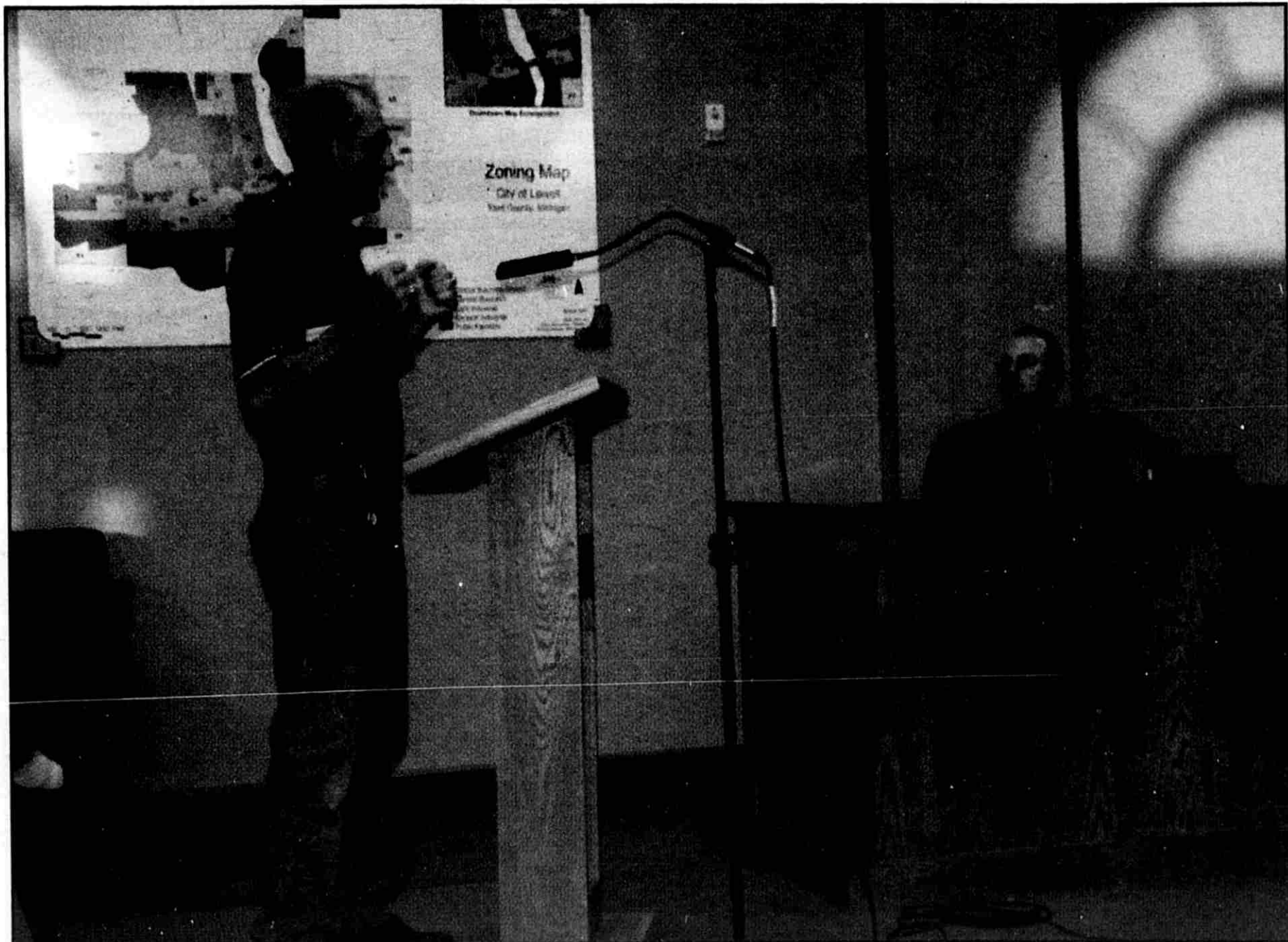
Myers said the city council has a fiduciary responsibility to watch over public funds. "I am grateful," he said. "The system has served well for 25 years."

However, throughout the years other players, such as high speed Internet, have entered the marketplace making it difficult for Lowell Cable TV to compete.

"Now, is the time to sell," Myers said. "Sentiment has to give way to a business decision. It is the economics that outweighed feasibility."

Blough requested that the subscribers money in three different communities be protected. "Money should not be used to stabilize the city budget," he said. "It is not taxpayers' money."

Cable TV, cont'd., pg. 4



Ivan Blough led the opposition against the Cable TV sale Monday, while Sgt. James Hinton looks on.

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Monday, May 28

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# Banners are up, summer's on the way

John Francis and Dave Morris of Lowell Light & Power last week put up a banner for the annual Pow Wow to be held in June. After winter's long hibernation, the community is all set to enjoy the fun-filled summer season. The fun started last week with the Bluegrass Festival and the opening of the Farmer's Market. The summer festivities will continue with the Memorial Day parade on May 28 and the kick-off for the 100 miles of the walking challenge.



# THANK YOU

Lowell Rotary Club raised \$99,000 at its Auction on April 27, 2007. Auction proceeds will benefit the Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation for local scholarships and Rotary International's Clean Water Project providing Biosand Water Filters to the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Honduras.



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- Larkin's Restaurant
- Lawrence Heibel Photography
- LHS Girls Basketball Varsity Team - Dee Crowley
- LHS Spirit Store
- LHS Varsity Football Team - Noel Dean
- Little Caesar's
- Lowell Area Arts Council
- Lowell Area Historical Museum
- Lowell Beer Store
- Lowell Community Ed
- Lowell Family Medical Center
- Lowell Granite Company
- Lowell Lanes
- Lowell Medical Specialists
- Lowell Vision Center
- Lowell Water Works
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- Marsha Ray Tupperware
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- Modern Photographics
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- Wendell & Helen Christoff
- West Michigan White Caps
- WG Grinders
- Wildflowers
- Wittenbach Sales & Service
- YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids
- Zulu Nyala Group

Special Thank you to Trent & Jeni Buck, our Junior Rotarians & Liz Baker for their help throughout the auction. And Thank You to all the Lowell Rotary Club Rotarians who worked so hard to make this auction a success!

## Renewing plates with holiday closings

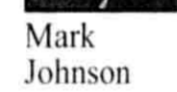
Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land announced that all branch offices and the Memorial Day. Secretary Office of the Great Seal of State SUPER! Centers

\*\*\*  
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- Eleanor Roosevelt

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normally offer Saturday hours but will be closed on Saturday, May 26.

The Department of State mails notices to motorists 45 days before their driver's license or license plates expire to give them ample time to renew. Licenses and plates that expire on a day when state offices are closed, such as a holiday or weekend, can be renewed the following day without penalty.

Motorists renewing license plates can "skip the trip" to the branch office and do business by mail, or if eligible, by Internet or touch-tone telephone. Easy to follow instructions can be found with the renewal notice. License plate tabs will arrive by mail within seven business days.

With the exception of holidays, branch offices are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Smaller branch offices may close for the lunch hour. On Wednesday most offices are open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., with those in city centers open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. PLUS offices and SUPER!Centers are open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday. SUPER!Centers also provide Saturday hours from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information visit the department Web site at [www.Michigan.gov/sos](http://www.Michigan.gov/sos).

## Farmer's Market opens for the season



Kara Kelley set up her table at the Farmer's Market last week opening the season. Kelley, along with husband Simon and sons Elliott and Ethan, peddled asparagus, rhubarb and brown eggs. This is Kelley's second season at the market. The Farmer's Market is open on Thursdays at the Lowell Fairgrounds rain or shine from 3-7 p.m. through Oct. 11.



### KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

All 18 Branches of Kent District Library, including Lowell and Alto, and the KDL Service Center will be closed on Sunday, May 27 and Monday, May 28 for the Memorial Day holiday. The libraries will open again on Tuesday, May 29 and resume regular hours.

## Semifinalists to perform during festival

On Saturday, May 12, many amateur acts from around the West Michigan area competed in the semifinals at Amateur Act Audition Day vying for six spots at the August 24 and 25 Showboat Nostalgia Nights. The acts were viewed by a panel of seven judges, and the top 12 have been invited back to the finals, to be held at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, July 14, during Riverwalk Festival weekend.

The following acts will be performing at the free event open to the public: Gabriel Estrada III - vocal solo; Jazlyn Conway - dance solo; Luie Bradley - vocal solo; Lynette Marie Rohrbacher - dance solo; Mariah Moore - martial arts performance; Marina Jones - vocal solo; Linda Moon School of Dance - group dance; Nicole Tyczynski - vocal solo; Reagan Family Singers - vocal duo; Ryder Jones - guitar/vocal solo; Stacia Scouten - vocal solo; Steve Flohr - juggler

The performers will compete for three spots at Friday night's and three spots at Saturday night's Showboat Nostalgia events in August.



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GEORGIA RULE (R) 12:20, 2:35, 4:55, 7:20, 9:35 FRI/SAT LS 11:55  
SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13) 11:00, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:00, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:00

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PIRATES 3 tickets on sale now First showings - Thurs May 24 8:00, 8:15 pm

## CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Lowell City Hall, Department of Public Works, Police Office, Light and Power and Cable TV offices will be closed on Monday, May 28, 2007 in observance of Memorial Day. The City of Lowell refuse schedule will be delayed one day; Thursday pickup will be on Friday due to the holiday.

Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk

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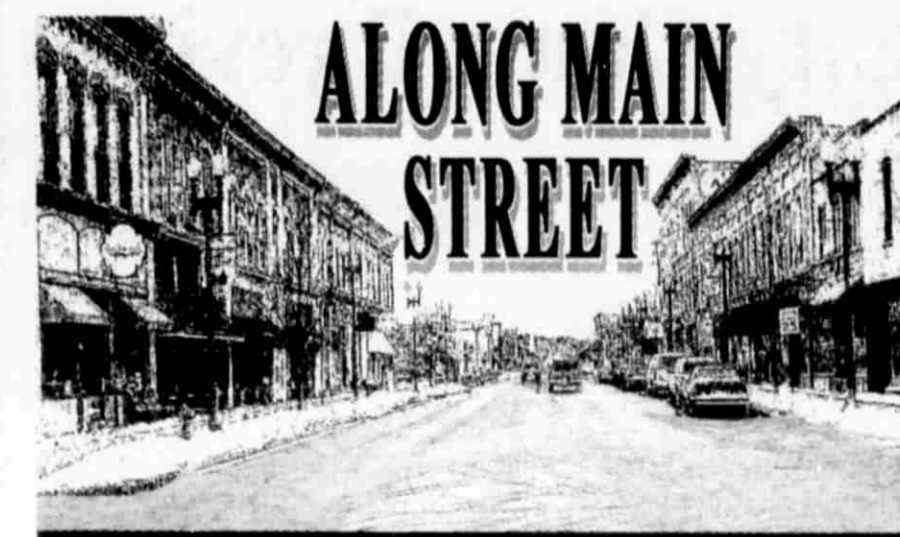
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### PERENNIAL FUNDRAISER

There will be a perennial fundraiser for the Accelerated Reader Program on Memorial Day weekend. Please contact Karen at 897-7808 if you can donate any plants.

### POP CAN DRIVE

The Lowell Skate Park Committee will be collecting pop cans in Eastgate from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, May 29. The proceeds will go towards building a skate park at Pebble Beach.

### LOWELL SENIOR HEALTH AND FITNESS DAY

Lowell Community Wellness will host a Senior Health and Fitness day event on May 30. This free event is being held at the First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main. Activities will begin at 11 a.m. Call Patty at 340-7781 for more information or visit [www.lowellcommunitywellness.org](http://www.lowellcommunitywellness.org).

### TOTS ANNUAL PRESCHOOL PICNIC

"Goodbye to the Summer" picnic and school bus ride will be June 5 at Bright Beginnings Playground, 300 High Street. Bring a sack lunch and we will provide a drink and dessert. There is no charge to attend. Rain: gym.

### ATHLETIC PHYSICALS

Lowell Middle School athletic physicals for next year's seventh and eighth grade students will be held Tuesday, June 5 at 6 p.m. at the middle school. Cost is \$10.

### SUMMER CONCERTS

Lowell Showboat "Sizzlin' Summer Concerts," Thursday nights, June 14 through August 23. Riverwalk Plaza, downtown Lowell, concerts begin at 7 p.m. and go until 9 p.m. Admission and parking are free.

### FIRE & WATER ART

Fire & Water Art! will feature pastel artist Bonnie Osborne during the month of June. The gallery is located at 219 W. Main St. in downtown Lowell. Hours are 1 - 6 p.m. Wed. - Sun. and Fri. 1 - 7 p.m. Call 890-1879 for more information.

### LOWELL CLASS OF 1977

Reunion planning meeting May 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Canfield Plumbing & Heating. The meeting is for anyone who would like to help in finalizing reunion plans. The reunion will take place at the Grand Rapids Hilton on July 28 at 6 p.m. We also still need addresses for a few more class members, call Deb at 897-0887.

### FROM FOOD PANTRY

Presently is in need of boxed mashed potatoes, canned fruit, crackers and cold cereals. Please help if you are able.

### CLASS OF 1952

Reunion is set for Friday, Sept. 7 at Deer Run. For address changes or information call Phyllis, 897-8258.

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## City Council reviews budgets

By Emma Palova

The Lowell City Council Monday reviewed first drafts of city general fund and Lowell Light & Power budgets for 2007-2008.

The proposed general fund budget has \$2.4 million in expenditures, with a fund balance of \$65,000. A two percent cost-of-living increase has been calculated into the budget for employees' salaries.

The city will continue its refuse collection program where residents pay \$1 per bag. The city also provides residential recycling.

A total of \$5,000 is being allocated from the Lee Fund for park maintenance. Approximately \$14,000 will go for future parks projects, while the parks and recreation commission has set aside \$6,000 for a skating rink at Richards Park. Agreements with YMCA, Lowell Little League,

Lowell Xtreme Softball and the Kent County Youth Fair will establish park usage fees per participant.

The city has set aside \$5,000 for the first payment of lease purchase of a cemetery truck.

The airport fund has a balance of \$15,622 on loan from general fund for improvements. According to city manager Dave

Budgets, cont'd., pg. 19

## Vashaw retires from LHS

By Emma Palova

Lowell High School principal Scott Vashaw will retire June 30 after 31 years in the Lowell school district.

Vashaw, principal for 12 years, also worked as a math teacher and high school assistant principal.

"The district and school system have grown and earned reputation as one of the best districts in Michigan," said Vashaw.

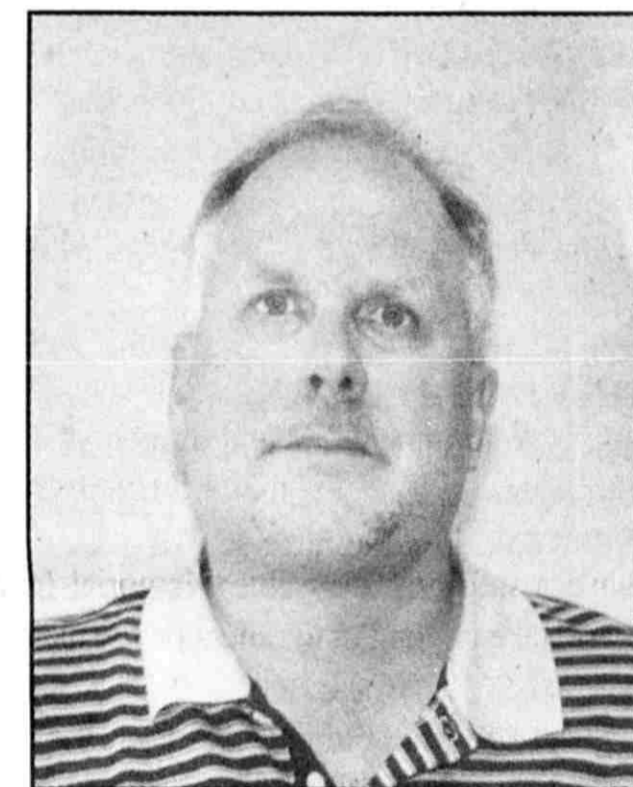
Although the district has grown tremendously, it has maintained a small community feel. "We've grown, but not out of control," said Vashaw. "We have good controlled growth. We have hard working kids who are well rounded."

During his tenure, Vashaw hired outstanding teachers and provided stability in difficult times. "We have caring and involved parents and staff," he said.

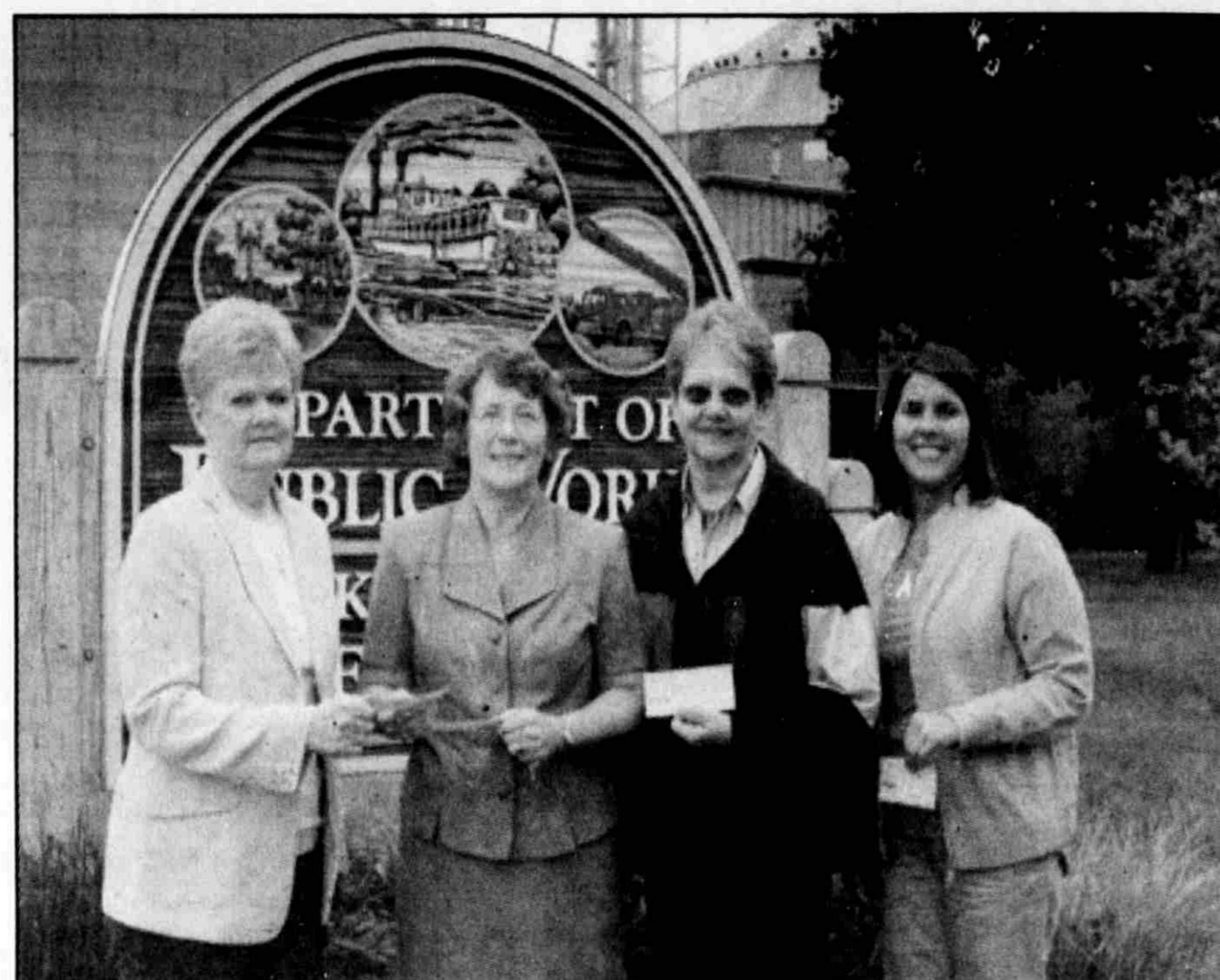
After retirement, Vashaw plans to work for Michigan Virtual University as an associate director for academic services.

Superintendent Greg Pratt said Vashaw will be a difficult person to replace. "He's been a fixture in the community," said Pratt. "We wish him well."

The position will be posted next week both internally and externally. Pratt said he is confident the district will get great applicants.



Scott Vashaw



## Women's Club donations

The Lowell Women's Club, represented by treasurer Kathy Horsch, presented a check for \$1,175 to Marge Rehl of Flat River Outreach Ministries, Madelyn Pfaller of St. Mary Pregnancy Crisis Center and Aina Rodriguez of the Lowell High School DARE program. Not pictured is fire chief Frank Martin.

## Cable TV, continued ... From Page 1

Resident Jan Blough spoke in front of the council opposing the cable sale. Blough said she had no prior knowledge about the sale.

Comcast is expected to pay five percent of its revenues to the city for expenses.

According to council member Jim Pfaller money from the sale will not be used to balance the budget. Instead it will be set up as an endowment fund. "I am not supportive of using the dollars toward the city budget," said Pfaller.

Ivan Blough suggested using part of the money from the sale for grants to fund scholarships, arts and education, and grants to businesses. The money should be managed by the Grand Rapids Foundation, according to Blough.



Ken Gregorson, Barb Barber, Cliff Yankovich and Betsy Davidson listen to mayor Chuck Myers' presentation about the Cable TV sale

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# Viewpoint



chosen to portray the Communist version of the "American War". Much of what is displayed is hard to look at. Unless a person has a sincere interest in the war, I'd suggest passing this up.

The old Presidential Palace reminded me of Graceland. I had a chance to visit Graceland a few years ago. My one line description of Graceland is, "It's so tacky, it's cool!" When Elvis died in 1977 it's like the clock stopped at Graceland.

The same is true with the South Viet Nam Presidential Palace. When the Communists crashed through the gates in 1975, they left the place just like they found it. All the décor is very 70s". There are rotary telephones, tele-type machines, ancient looking radio equipment, situation maps, etc. The "time warp" feeling alone made the Palace a worthwhile visit.

Another day we traveled by car about 40 miles northwest of Saigon to Cu Chi. Again, unless you have an interest in the war years, Cu Chi would be a site to pass up. Throughout the war Viet Cong used the area as a stronghold and developed an elaborate tunnel system in the area. Cu Chi is now an active tourist attraction. Again, the anti-American propaganda is everywhere.

At Cu Chi you can crawl through tunnels actually used by the VC, buy ammo and shoot an AK-47 or M-60 machine gun. I bought a few rounds to touch off with an AK-47. I'd never fired one. We tromped through the woods, crawled through tunnels, descended into bomb craters, etc. All the while machine gunfire clattered from the nearby firing range. It made for an interesting tourist attraction.

We booked a bus tour down to the Mekong Delta. The all day tour, to include the bus ride, a boat tour, lunch and several small stops along the river cost us a whopping nine U.S. dollars per person. The Viet Nam "bot" exchanges at about 16,000 per U.S. dollar. The decimals get the best of me.

Some of the river stops included a honey making operation, a place making coconut candy, lunch, a donkey cart ride, a ride up a narrow stream in a canoe-like boat and maybe a couple other things I've forgotten. Big day for nine bucks!

The first few days of our visit spanned a weekend and a couple national holidays. The grandkids didn't have school, and were with us on all the above excursions. On a day when they were in school, my daughter, my wife and I toured parts of Saigon on cyclos.

The contraptions amount to a seat between two bicycle wheels in front with the back end of a bicycle in the rear. We were each seated in the front of individual cyclos while three guys peddled us around town. The idea is to tour side streets and back alleys where you can't go in a car.

The tour was very interesting and a pretty good opportunity for taking photos. Unfortunately my camera battery went dead halfway through the tour and my daughter ran out of room on her camera's memory card. Guess we'll just have to do it again someday.

I should mention the food. Terese and I really, really enjoyed the cuisine. In particular, I liked a staple of their diet called pho (pronounced "fu", like Elmer Fudd without the d's). It is a simple noodle dish served in a bowl with either a beef or chicken broth. Various greens and bean sprouts are served along with assorted sauces and fresh limes. The idea is to add the ingredients to your taste. My granddaughter and I could live on the stuff.

That is a very quick synopsis of our time around Saigon. We did take a trip up to Da Nang later in our stay. This trip amounted to a whirlwind four days and three nights of trying to pack in as many sights as possible. I'll try to share that with you next week.

Until then, have a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day weekend. And please, take a moment to reflect on the meaning of the holiday.

## To The Editor

Dear Editor,

"Are these your kids?" With a waving finger pointing at graffiti, a Ball's Ice Cream employee confronted four Unity teachers (myself included), while we were attempting to purchase shakes and hot dogs. It was a weird situation to be harassed as a customer by a vendor due to an unfortunate stereotype that students from Unity are "those kids." I can proudly say out of the seven years teaching at Unity High School, this is by far the most accomplished group of 40 young adults graduating this June from our program (also including the night school program that will be dissolved next year.) These students have attained many successes such as placing first in scholastic competitions such as the county Quiz Bowl, garnishing awards on the state level through the Michigan Alternative Education Organization and displaying their team effort in placing first in this year's Spring Swing softball tournament. Also for the first time, a student from Unity will be speaking at the commencement ceremonies, which is long overdue. I think the speech will knock you out. Unity High School as a program is at its top. The community can be proud of a specialized school that has served its children who for various reasons needed more one-on-one instruction and an environment where they could discover their individuality in order to live their lives fully as conscious adults. So the next time someone says, "Are these your kids?" You better believe it. They are not only my kids but the community's kids and future adults, all of whom we can feel extremely proud.

John Stempion

inheritance of a patient on life support and the plug hasn't even been pulled yet. There are many suggestions in what to do with the ill-gotten gains. Ill-gotten gains is just a little humor about this situation where the patient "Lowell cable TV" isn't terminally ill. What is terminally ill is a relationship between our city fathers and the community. The sale of this property is not a suggestion but near being finalized. Ivan Blough's articles and others refraining from selling Lowell cable TV and the "owners-subscribers" should be fully informed and I believe then there should be a vote. The mayor and city Council owe the constituents of Lowell answers to these articles and not just in a Council meeting where you get five minutes and then you are told to sit down. I hope the mayor and city council don't think that they are not accountable for their actions. It would be gratifying to see in the very near future a article by the mayor and council in the Lowell Ledger answering these questions and allegations and explain the accountability of this sale. I also believe the constituents of Lowell should consider the replacement of the mayor and city council if they proceed with the sale of Lowell Cable TV without a vote.

Sincerely,  
Jim Howard

Dear Editor,

I am writing in regards to the letter in the May 8 edition written by Ivan Blough.

I believe Ivan hit the nail on the head. He served with my father as one of the guiding hands who had the foresight to create another valuable asset for the citizens of Lowell. Nobody knows the intentions of those who created Lowell Cable better than one of the men who was seated at the table.

Twenty-five years ago one of the goals in establishing Lowell's own cable television service was to ensure the price of cable television was kept lower than any commercial venture would offer. The directors of Lowell Cable have been successful towards this goal despite increased costs from the program suppliers.

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my opinion about an article in the May 9 edition of the Lowell Ledger stating "3 million dollar cable TV sale proceeds discussed at city Council." This article reminded me of a family squabbling over the

It would be foolish to think that one could own a communication company for 25 years and never require a sizable upgrade or renovation. The realistic expectation of long term maintenance expense should be balanced by the many advantages of maintaining ownership of Lowell Cable TV.

It is unfortunate the city council decided a matter of this importance did not warrant a public hearing. Despite common belief, all business deals can be halted prior to the last paper being signed. It's not a "done deal" until the deal is done.

We should have had an opportunity for public comment. If the sale is consummated, all proceeds must be invested for future benefit. Making the future better was the intent of the original Lowell Cable Board members and it should be the intent of today's city council members.

I am not surprised many council members believe the revenue from the sale of Lowell Cable should be spent to alleviate budgetary problems or on other projects. However, I believe Mayor Myers is correct. If the sale is closed, the proceeds must be invested for the long term and treated as if Lowell never received the check. This is foreign thinking for many people. Witness what happens when most families get a tax refund; it is spent before it is even received. If Harold Englehardt had treated his finances in this manner the Lowell community would never have received the extraordinary gift he left!

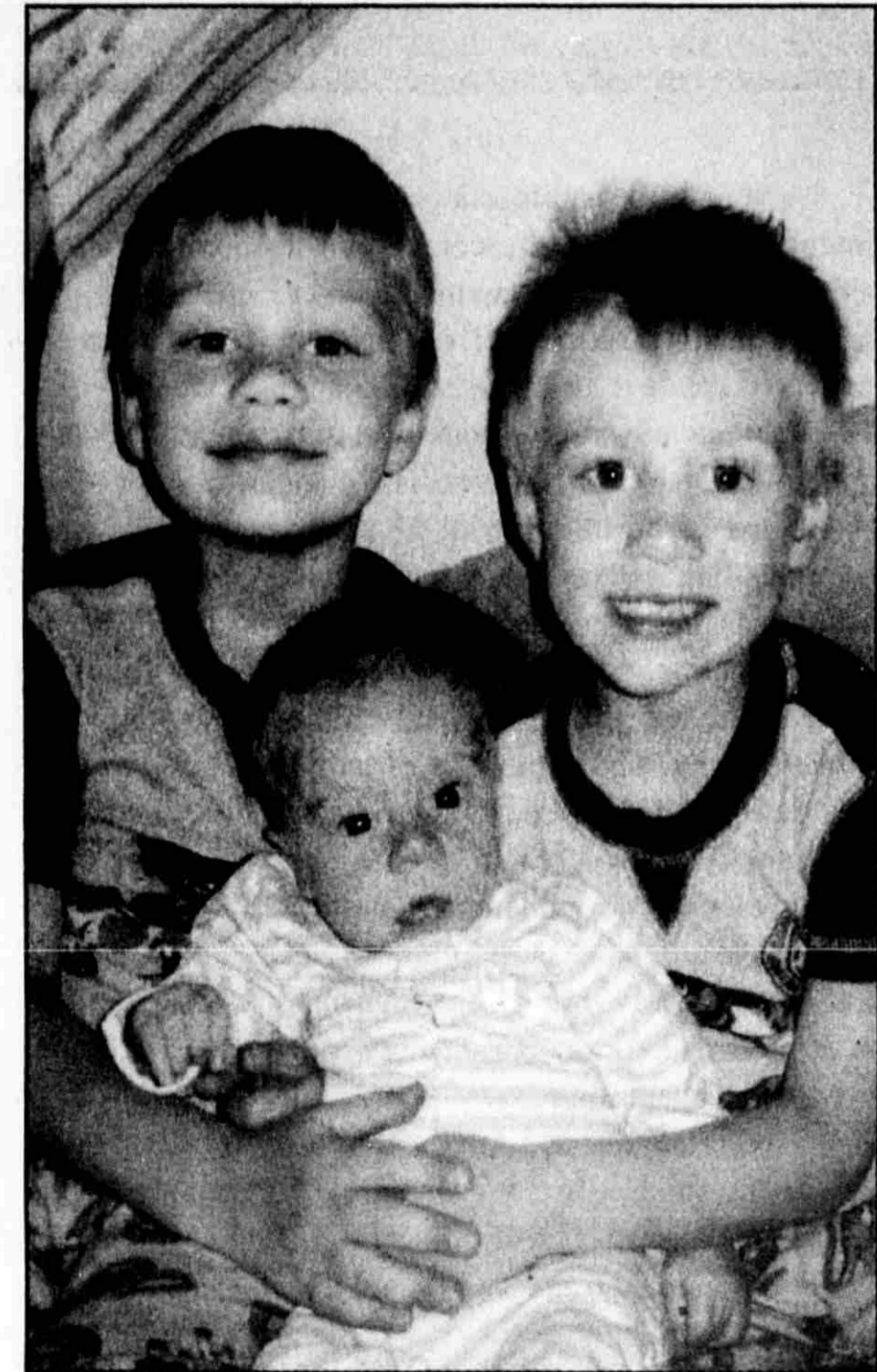
This matter warrants public discussion. The citizens of Lowell could evolve and improve our cable system just as we have upgraded the school system and our historic downtown district.

Additionally, I would like to thank Ivan Blough for his superb service to Lowell in the past and his continued watchful eye in the future.

Kent McKay

# New Arrivals

Reinsma



Big brothers Lee and Joe are excited to welcome home their new brother, Ben Robert. He was born March 25, 2007 weighing 8 lbs. 5 oz. and measuring 21 inches.

Proud parents are Matt and Jennifer Reinsma of Rockford. Grandparents are Sam and Jeanette Yeiter of Lowell.



By Phil Struckmeyer  
Pastor, Impact Church

Recently, I have been wondering a lot about wonder. The definition of wonder is to be astounded, be stunned, be amazed, be dumbfounded. I think a lot of my life is spent

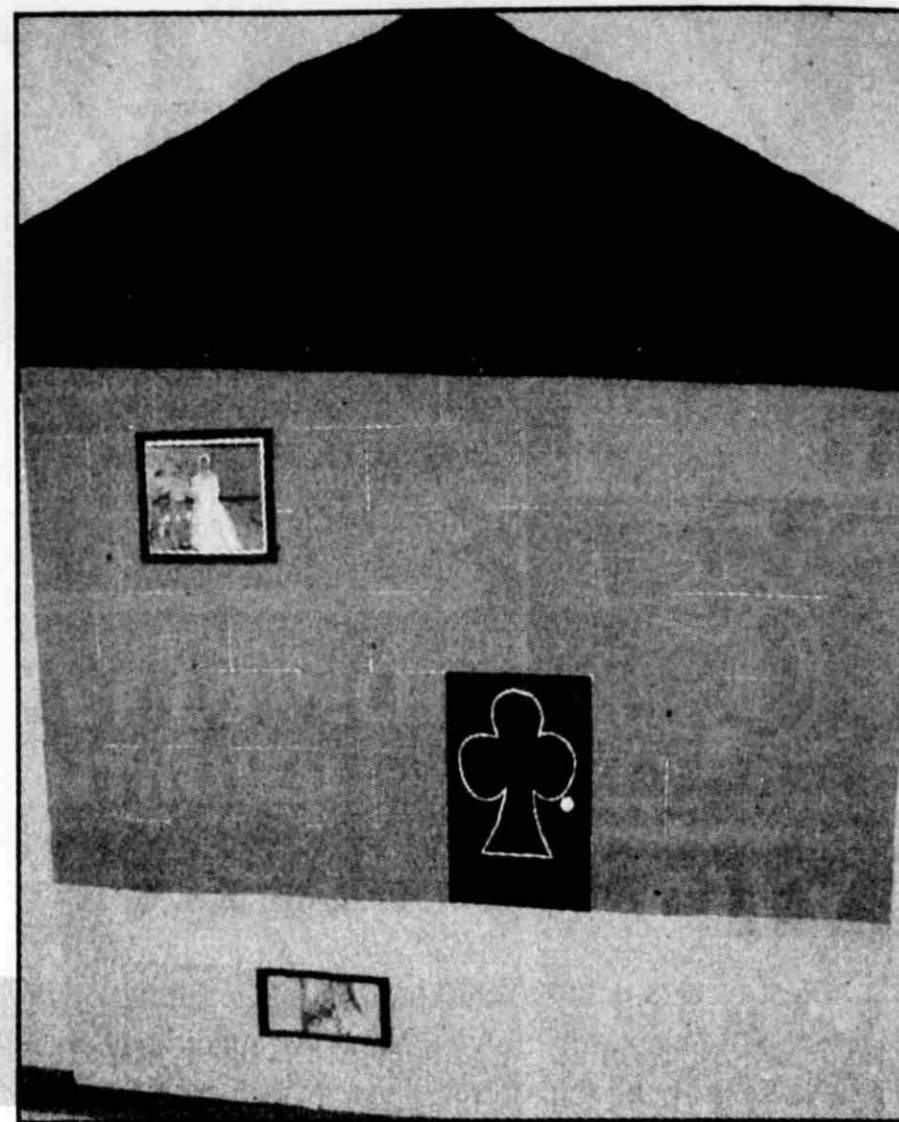
## Pages for Pennies at St. Patrick School

Students at St. Patrick School found out that reading can do plenty for someone who lives in a third world country.

Pages for Pennies, the brainchild of at St. Patrick staff member, was the new reading incentive used this past March during reading month. Students and families were challenged to read 200,000 pages from the end of February through Spring Break. To keep the program fresh in mind, a paper house was constructed brick by brick and slowly climbed the school wall, reflecting the

reading achievements of the passing weeks. The school exceeded its goal of 200,000 pages. Once the house was roofed, a donation of \$2,000 was made to Food for the Poor for the purchase of a real concrete block house. The new home provided a fresh start for a family who had been living in a tin and cardboard dwelling. Who got the real gift? When all the page turning stopped, students felt wonderful about themselves and their accomplishment. This reading program was a real winner.

The Pages for Pennies house helped keep track of reading progress.



## Happy Birthday

**MAY 23:** Wesley Patnode, Tory De-Bold, Patrick Ortiz, Anna Richmond.

**MAY 24:** Matt McClure, Josh Buechler, Harry Tichelaar, Summer Bevan, Dylan Bevan.

**MAY 25:** Rick Wernet, Phyllis Bieri.

**MAY 26:** Janet McIntyre, Guy Watrous, Joshua Bryant.

**MAY 27:** Dakota McClure, Bertha Brown, David Christiansen.

**MAY 28:** Casey Parker Gordon, Mary Beth Harwood.

**MAY 29:** Mike Lindhout, Sue Lindhout, Justin Doyle.

## College News

Blair Meyer graduated cum laude, receiving a degree in physical education-exercise science with minors in management and religious studies. Meyer is the daughter of Thomas and Barbara Meyer of Grand Rapids and a graduate of Lowell High School.

Christina Getz graduated cum laude, receiving a degree in psychology, with a concentration in the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Public Policy and Service. Getz is the daughter of Jonathan and Robin Getz of Lowell and a graduate of Lowell High School.

The honor of cum laude signifies that the students graduated with a cumulative grade point average above 3.5.

as worry enters. Worry, not necessarily about big things, sets into their daily, hourly and minute-by-minute minds. Concern strips innocence.

The connection I am looking at in my life is, "where is concern getting in the way of wonder in my life?" I really believe there are more signs of wonder in every moment of my life than there are issues of concern. The question is, "do I see and seize the wonder, or do I let the concern block out the sun?" Concern certainly moves in quickly to my heart and mind through a relentless onslaught. The battle to live in wonder is definitely a battle of epic proportion. But, I am truly fighting for it and find it quite and adventure to live!

## Growing church finds room at LHS

By Emma Palova

In an effort to go with the changing times, the Lowell Church of the Nazarene will be moving Sunday services to Lowell High School starting June 17.

The church, established in 1933 as the Kenyon Church of the Nazarene at the corner of North Washington and Avery streets, has been going through a transition.

"This is a mysterious journey for us," said pastor Mike Rhodabarger. "We're excited about what the mystery of the unknown will reveal."

Over the years, the congregation has grown from 20 to more than 100 members with youth and children's ministries. Currently, the hard-to-find church has property on half a city block.

"We're making an adjustment to meet the needs of the community of Lowell," said Rhodabarger.

Two years ago, the church started picking up momentum as the general church started changing the way of doing things.

The Lowell Church of the Nazarene plans to keep the message the same, but

change the way it is being delivered.

"It's more of a relational thing now," said Rhodabarger. "It's been a roller coaster."

As part of the transition, the church plans to erect a new building. "We need to reinvent ourselves - that's why we are going into a school," said Rhodabarger.

The congregation will hold Sunday services at the Lowell Performing Arts Center at Lowell High School because it has comfortable seats and a stage. However, the church will not abandon

its current location with its three standing buildings.

"We trust the Lord to lead us through," said Rhodabarger. "We've come to crossroads, we need to make a change."

These changes include relevant preaching and edgy music such as "Amazing Grace" set to the tone of "The House of the Rising Sun." Rhodabarger also said that the church needs to be modern.

The church hold a special celebration on June 3 at its property located at 211 N. Washington St.

## HEALTH

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



### VERTIGO

Vertigo is the feeling that you are moving when you are standing still. You might feel like you are spinning around or that everything else is spinning around you.

Anyone can get vertigo. The most common kind of vertigo is called benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. Another kind of vertigo is acute vestibular neuronitis, which is caused by swelling of a nerve in your ear.

A third kind of vertigo is Meniere's disease. This is a disease of the organs that give you a sense of balance and direction. Symptoms include vertigo, hearing loss, ringing in the ears, and perhaps nausea and vomiting. If your doctor thinks you have Meniere's disease he or she may refer you to a specialist for further care.

If you have vertigo or persistent dizziness, see your doctor. Certain test or imaging studies may be ordered. Treatment depends on the cause. Some medicines can help relieve vertigo. Sometimes exercises will help to reduce or cure symptoms. Most vertigo will ultimately go away on its own.

## Awana awards ceremony

The Awana program at First Baptist Church concluded an active year with an awards ceremony for all of the children enrolled in the three age-based clubs: Cubbies (ages 3-4), Sparks (grades K-2) and Boys and Girls Truth and Training (grades 3-6).

The Timothy Award is the highest award and is presented only to those who have completed all four books during their four years in the Truth and Training Club. In order to finish the books, each recipient was required to memorize over 300 verses of the Bible. Receiving Timothy Awards for the 2006-2007 Awana year were Mitchell Benjamin, son of Scott and Laurie Benjamin of Lowell, and Will McManus, son of Chris and Rechel McManus, also of Lowell. Awana Clubs International is a non-denominational program whose goal is to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him. It runs from late September to mid-May each year.



## College News

Lisa Wojciakowski, daughter of Ed and Sally Wojciakowski, of Lowell, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Aquinas College.

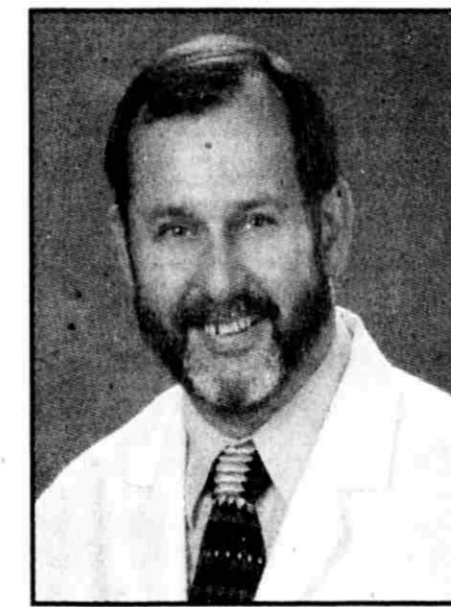
The following DePaul University students have been named to the Dean's List for the 2007 spring term: Marilena Mauro Van-Haren of Ada, who is pursuing a communication major.

Nicole R. Hensch of Ada, who is pursuing a communication major.

Ryan Curtis of Lowell has been inducted into the Grand Valley State University chapter of the honor society of Phi Kappa Phi. Curtis is a graduate of Lowell High School and is the son of Tom and Judy Curtis.

Debra Sova, daughter of Mark and Sue Sova, of Lowell, graduated on May 17 from the Veterinary Technology Program at Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona.

## Business Matters



Michael J. Flohr, M.D., recently attended the 2007 ASCRS (American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery) Symposium on Cataract, IOL and Refractive Surgery in San Diego, California. Dr. Flohr

Michael J. Flohr, M.D.

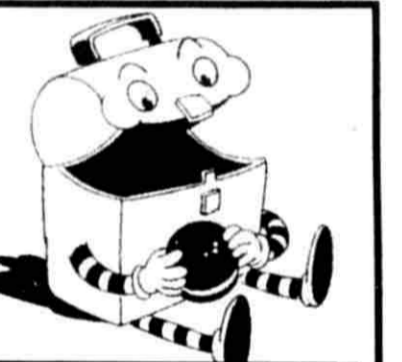
has attended this academic conference annually to keep on the leading edge of ophthalmic surgeries, techniques and technology to offer his patients the best possible eye care.

Dr. Flohr attended programs that featured the most up-to-date techniques and innovations, hands-on skills training, and

educational opportunities.

Dr. Flohr is an ophthalmologist who specializes in comprehensive ophthalmic care. He practices with Advanced Eyecare Professionals, which has locations in Lowell, Ionia and Hastings.

Ryan Curtis of Lowell has been inducted into the Grand Valley State University chapter of the honor society of Phi Kappa Phi. Curtis is a graduate of Lowell High School and is the son of Tom and Judy Curtis.



### LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY MENU  
Week of May 28, 2007

MON: Memorial Day.

TUES: Corndog (hamburger on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), green beans, assorted fruit, milk.

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

THURS: Pancakes w/ syrup or cereal/ Graham Cracker w/ scrambled eggs, fresh fruit, applesauce, milk. Bushnell Field Day.

FRI: Baked chicken patty on bun (chili w/ crackers also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), seasoned peas, fresh orange, milk. June/July Birthdays.

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<b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 Worship Services.....8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance	<b>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH</b> Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648 Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!	<b>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)</b> 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Lead Pastor John King, Youth Pastor SUNDAYS: 10:00 a.m. - Worship & Evening; LIFE home Groups & "The Source" Youth WEDNESDAYS: Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God... Loving People!	<b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.slmarys-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETER WIGGINS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, ENTH FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING	<b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906 Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Dr. Roger LaWarre.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship
<b>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Sunday School.....9:00 A.M. Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible	<b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbcloowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA CLUB J.C.....Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free	<b>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurlan Meredith 9:45 A.M. ....Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M. ....Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!	<b>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:30 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:40 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M. PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance	

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

Dear Editor,

I've been a resident of Lowell for 53 years. I completely agree with Ivan Blough, Jim Howard and Nancy Stroosnyder who wrote letters to the editor about the Cable TV sell-out to Comcast. I have been receiving offers from Comcast and several other cable companies over the years. They went straight into the trash. I believe that Lowell Cable TV has provided us with plenty of choices and excellent service. Over the years I have bragged about the excellent service we've had with Lowell Light & Power and with Lowell Cable TV.

Who needs hundreds of stations to choose from? More is not always better. Lowell Cable TV has been reliable and affordable. If the city council can get away with this sale without the approval of the subscribers, what's next? Will we suddenly be told that we no longer have the excellent service and reasonable price of Lowell Light & Power? (Every month in the envelope with my electric/cable TV bill I get an insert telling me that Lowell Light & Power is owned by the people of Lowell).

Nancy Stroosnyder wrote that if the Comcast deal goes thru she'll cancel her subscription out of spite. I will do the same.

Jim Howard wrote that selling our assets and then creating more liabilities sounds like phoney baloney is going on. I agree. It makes absolutely no sense.

Shouldn't the subscribers have been asked if they wanted to pay a little more for cable in order to upgrade the system? I'd much rather pay more than ship out local jobs to who knows where.

Thank you Ivan Blough for informing the people of Lowell and the surrounding area about what our city council is doing behind our backs.

I wonder how many subscribers will refuse to subscribe to Comcast if the deal goes through.  
A Lifetime Lowell Resident,  
Patricia Miller Mull

Dear Editor,

If the City Council and Lowell Cable Board feel that it is the best thing for the subscribers to get out of the cable business then let's do it in the same spirit and vision that Lowell Cable TV was founded.

Under the ordinance we didn't expect the taxpayers of the City and Lowell and Vergennes Townships to pay for something they did not want. Only the subscribers money was used to build, support, and maintain the system.

I believe the solution is very doable, with the following conditions built into the Comcast sales contract. This could be very good for Comcast, City of Lowell Council, Cable TV Board, and fair to Lowell and Vergennes townships.

The following conditions to be a part of the Comcast contract:

- Comcast to hire and maintain at least the same number of employees from our area as are now employed. (Good PR for Comcast).

- Support our local businesses by giving the local dealers the opportunity to bid on all vehicles and service contracts for those vehicles used in our area, including gas

and oil from our retailers in our area. (Again, good PR for Comcast).

- Appoint representatives from our area to their advisory board. (Good PR).

- Continue to pay franchise fees to local government. My challenge to the city council:

- The three million-dollar equity built up by the subscribers of the City of Lowell, Vergennes and Lowell townships must not be used by the council to balance the City of Lowell budget.

- The three million-dollar equity to be placed in an endowment fund, professionally managed by the Grand Rapids Community Fund, as our mayor has suggested. This will generate a minimum of \$150,000 per year after administration fees, and an amount returned to the principal each year to offset inflation.

- In that Lowell Cable TV was founded to bring quality education and entertainment to our communities, I think it only fitting and fair to the communities of the City of Lowell, Lowell and Vergennes townships, to use this whole \$150,000 for the benefit of these communities. These funds would be disbursed into scholarships to area students, grants to organizations and local businesses that will further their involvement in our local community activities such as government, entertainment, arts and education.

Ivan Blough

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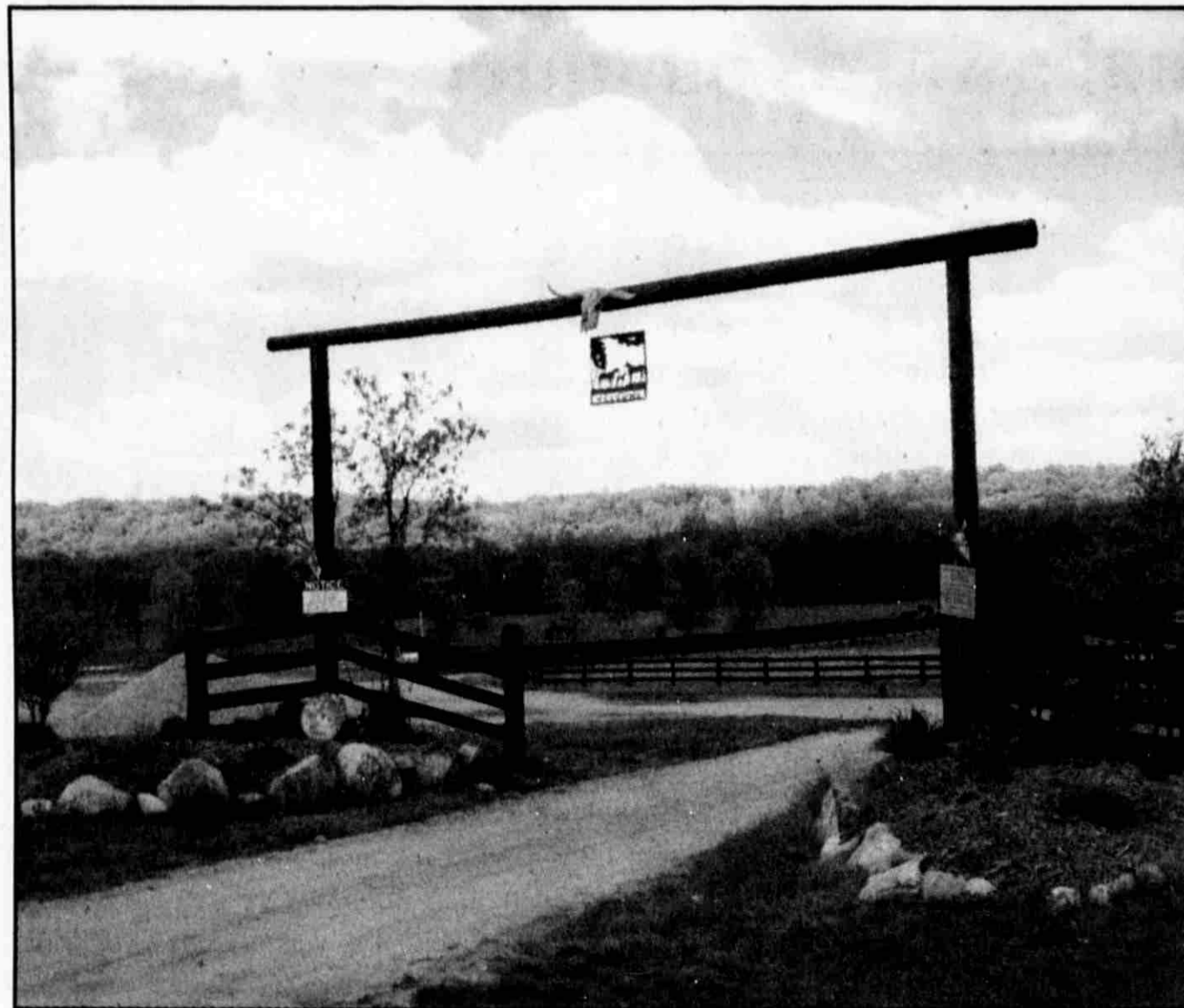
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Roanoke Ranch, located on the banks of Grand River, will serve as a day camp for underprivileged kids under the United Way umbrella.

## Residents petition to preserve North Washington property

By Emma Palova

Sharon Ellison of the Lowell Area Conservation Association presented a petition to the city council Monday requesting the preservation of North Washington property. The association collected 164 signatures seeking protection of the land from development.

Previously, the council expressed a desire to find the most equitable solution for city taxpayers. Additional housing would support the city tax base, according to some council members. In related business, the council held a public hearing to establish an Arbor Ordinance. As part of the Tree City USA program, the city must have an Arbor Board. The ordinance will set

forth rules and regulations for the board including terms of office, vacancies and the commitment of funds. Over the last few months, an Arbor Committee has been meeting to address tree replanting issues. The Look Memorial Committee awarded a \$5,000 grant to purchase and plant trees in the Bowers Road area. Approximately 20 trees will be planted at the owners discretion. Department of Public Works director Dan DesJarden is in the process of contacting owners.

### CITY OF LOWELL KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION AND SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE ADDING ARTICLE VI, "COMPLETION OF EXTERIOR FEATURES TO STRUCTURES," TO CHAPTER 7, "BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS," OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LOWELL**

The Lowell City Council adopted Ordinance No. 07-05 adding Article VI, "Completion of Exterior Features to Structures," to Chapter 7, "Buildings and Building Regulations" of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell on May 7, 2007. Ordinance 07-05 requires that the exterior features of (i) a residential structure be completed within 12 months of the issuance of a building permit and (ii) commercial, industrial or other structures be completed within 18 months of the issuance of a building permit.

Ordinance No. 07-05 is effective 10 days after this publication.



Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk

## Lowell Township planning commission issues special permit for Roanoke Ranch

By Emma Palova

The Lowell Township planning commission issued a special use permit last week to Roanoke Ranch on Grand River Drive.

The 200-acre ranch, established in 2003, can now officially serve as a day camp for underprivileged kids under the volunteer umbrella of the United Way. Ranch owner Aaron Decker plans to hold fundraising events on the premises to support various activities. A fundraiser is scheduled for June 10 and half-day camps will start on June 18.

The planning commission attached a long list of conditions to the

permit because the ranch is in a residentially zoned area. These conditions include proper manure management, no overnight camping, limited hours of operation from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., the installation of a fence around the pond, proper lighting and signs, and Porta-Jons to be provided upon determination by township officials.

The special use permit will be subject to annual review by the township planning commission. "It's just a way for us to keep in touch," said planning commission chairman Dave Simmonds.

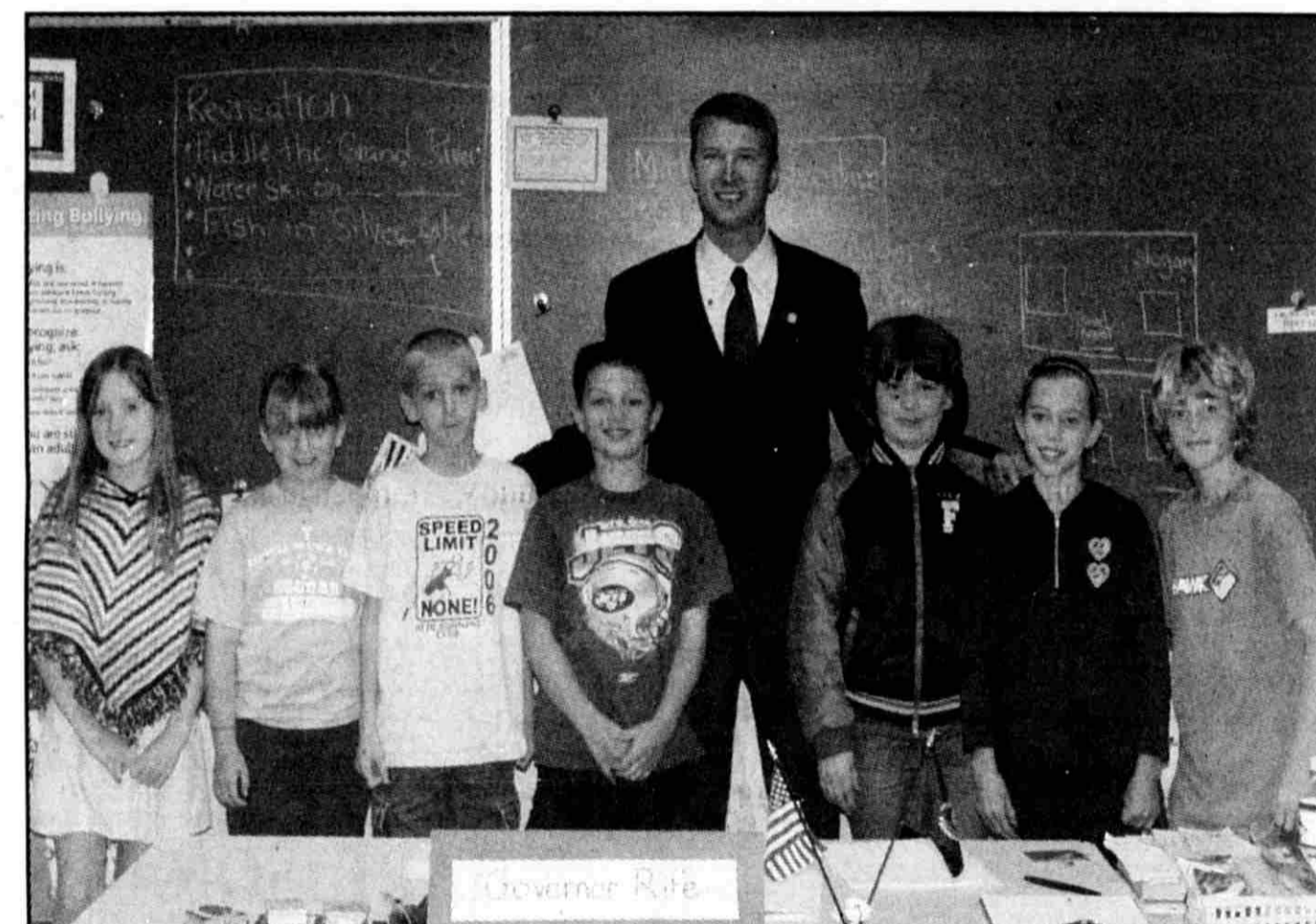
Since a railroad track runs through the property, the planning commission requested a letter of acknowledgment from the railroad. "Nobody wants this to be safer than I do," said Decker whose main mission is to have a positive impact on kids.

The ranch has 17 horses, a large barn for rainy day activities and horse trails. Chelsea Talaski is program director; Leroy Johnson is board president.

Roanoke Ranch is a nonprofit organization located at 11221 Grand River Drive. The organization is looking for volunteers. Phone 1-616-879-4380

For more information go to [www.roanokeranch.org](http://www.roanokeranch.org).

## Hildenbrand visits fourth-graders



Rep. Hildenbrand visited both fourth grade classrooms last week at Alto Elementary. He presented each fourth grade student with a Junior Legislator

certificate. The students took an oath which came from the certificate. Fourth graders will visit the capitol on May 31. Hildenbrand introduced himself to each of the fourth grade branches of government and shook hands with Gov. Rife (Sharon Vensas's class) and Gov. Blough (Rachel Millhisler's class). Students asked him questions such as: What would he be if he wasn't a representative; what does he like best about being a representative; what bill did he work on that he's proud of; and what famous people has he met?

He answered that he would be a veterinarian; he likes helping people; he worked on a bill that increased high school graduation requirements, and he has met Governor Jennifer Granholm and President George W. Bush.

From left to right: Anne Shirley Capman, Morgan Schlanderer, Zach Tozer, Jason Price, Rep. Hildenbrand, Taylor King, Emily Judd, Keegan Solon.

### In Memorium

To Our Dear, Beloved Animals Who Passed Away So Tragically, 3-27-07.

Dear Jane, 6 yrs., Lorraine, 6 yrs., and her son Sammy, 4 yrs., and Jimmy 4 yrs.

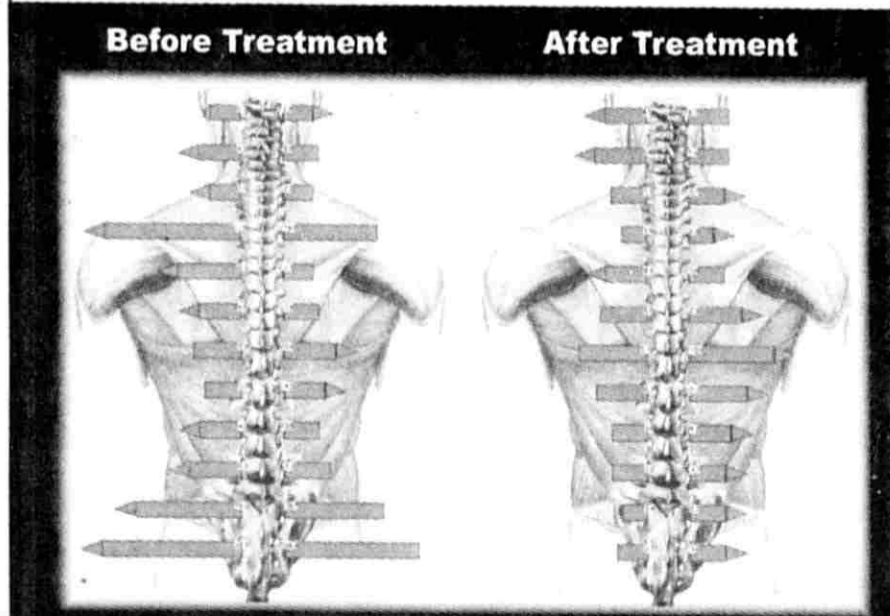
Last but not least dear Norma Rae, 6 yrs., who passed away suddenly 5-19-07.

You will always be in our hearts and we will never forget you.

- John & Lucille Erickson

### May is Posture Awareness Month

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## Lowell teachers honored at annual awards banquet

The Kent County Education Association Spring Awards Banquet honored some familiar faces this year as three teachers from the Lowell Education Association received top honors. Carmen Reynolds, Wendy Kapolka and John Stempien were all named "Teacher of the Year" in their respective grade levels.

Kapolka received the award for "Lower Elementary Teacher of the Year." A 27-year veteran, she has spent the last 13 years as a lower elementary resource room teacher at Cherry Creek Elementary. During her tenure, Wendy has been a founding member of the school's Nature's Place Environmental Club, participated in several team-teaching partnerships, and recently agreed to serve as one of Lowell's two Michigan Education Association representatives for the Lowell Education Association.

"Wendy is a very caring, nurturing teacher and challenges her students with high expectations," said Kim Lum, a friend and fellow Cherry Creek teacher. "I am honored to say that Wendy is a member of our teaching staff, and she is a great educator for our children."

Reynolds received the "Upper Elementary Teacher of the Year" award. She teaches fourth grade, also at Cherry Creek Elementary. As a member of the school's Building Leadership Team, she has been instrumental in the implementation of Cherry Creek's language arts philosophy. Carmen spends a great deal of time teaching the elements of service learning in her classroom, and was also responsible for bringing civil rights activist Ruby Bridges to the Lowell community several weeks ago.

"Carmen has a vision for her students and for the district," said Barb Wismer, a friend and fellow Cherry Creek teacher. "She willingly shares her ideas with others, listens openly and integrates the ideas of others."

Rounding out the list of honorees is Stempien, who received the "Multi Age Teacher of the Year" award. As a teacher at Unity High

School, Stempien has taught in the district for the past seven years. He currently serves on the Lowell Education Foundation and Technology committees while teaching a wide

variety of subjects, including computer, journalism, United States history, art and photography. "John's passion for art has helped him to inspire many students at Unity," said Marlene Heemstra, Unity's principal. "He has worked collaboratively with the Lowell Arts Council and has helped students believe in their artistic talents."

The 25th Annual Kent County Awards Banquet took place on May 8, and honored teachers from all over the county. Recipients were nominated by friends and colleagues.



Teachers of the Year Wendy Kapolka, John Stempien and Carmen Reynolds.

## Lowell High School staff members honored

Lowell High School staff members Robin Briggs and Lisa Nauta were also honored at the Kent County Education Association Annual Spring Awards Banquet.

Briggs was named "Food Service Employee of the Year" and Nauta collected the award for "Secretary of the Year."

A graduate of Lowell High School, Briggs has worked in the district's food service department for the past 14 years. She also currently serves as the head coach for girls' track and field, a position she has held for the past three years. Briggs also coached

middle school cross country and served as Lady Arrow Varsity Club advisor for five years. "Robin is an integral part of the high school," said Laurie Kuna, a friend and fellow teacher. "She actively involves herself in coaching, food service and other extracurricular activities all for the benefit of Lowell's students."

Lisa Nauta has worked as an administrative assistant for the Student Services Center at Lowell High School for the past 11 years. A Lowell graduate, Nauta also spent several years as the freshman football cheerleading coach. Nauta's

mother-in-law, Carol Nauta, works at the Lowell Area Schools' central office. "Lisa is pleasant, concerned, and always willing to help," said Mary Moore, a counselor from the high school. "She draws students to the Student Services Center who may not otherwise come in. She is the best."

The Kent County Education Association Spring Banquet took place on Tuesday, May 8. Honorees were nominated by friends and colleagues.

**Food Service Employee of the Year Robin Briggs**

Secretary of the Year Lisa Nauta



**Secretary of the Year Lisa Nauta**

**Food Service Employee of the Year Robin Briggs**

## LOOK AT ME NOW!!!

The Laurels of Kent celebrates another successful rehab to home!

Pauline Ladue lives in the Lowell Community and when she fell and fractured her hip she was recommended by her orthopedic surgeon to receive therapy at a sub-acute Rehabilitation provider. The first place that came to mind for Pauline was Laurels of Kent; she had visited residents in the past that received therapy and had a great experience. When asked how her experience was, Pauline replied, "It couldn't be better!" After her therapeutic stay Pauline wanted to return to her home, but at the same time she said, "I don't want to leave, everyone makes me feel special and the therapy is great!" Pauline will return to her home and continue going to the Lowell Senior Center for activities and to visit friends.



Congratulations Pauline! We Are All Very Proud Of You!!!

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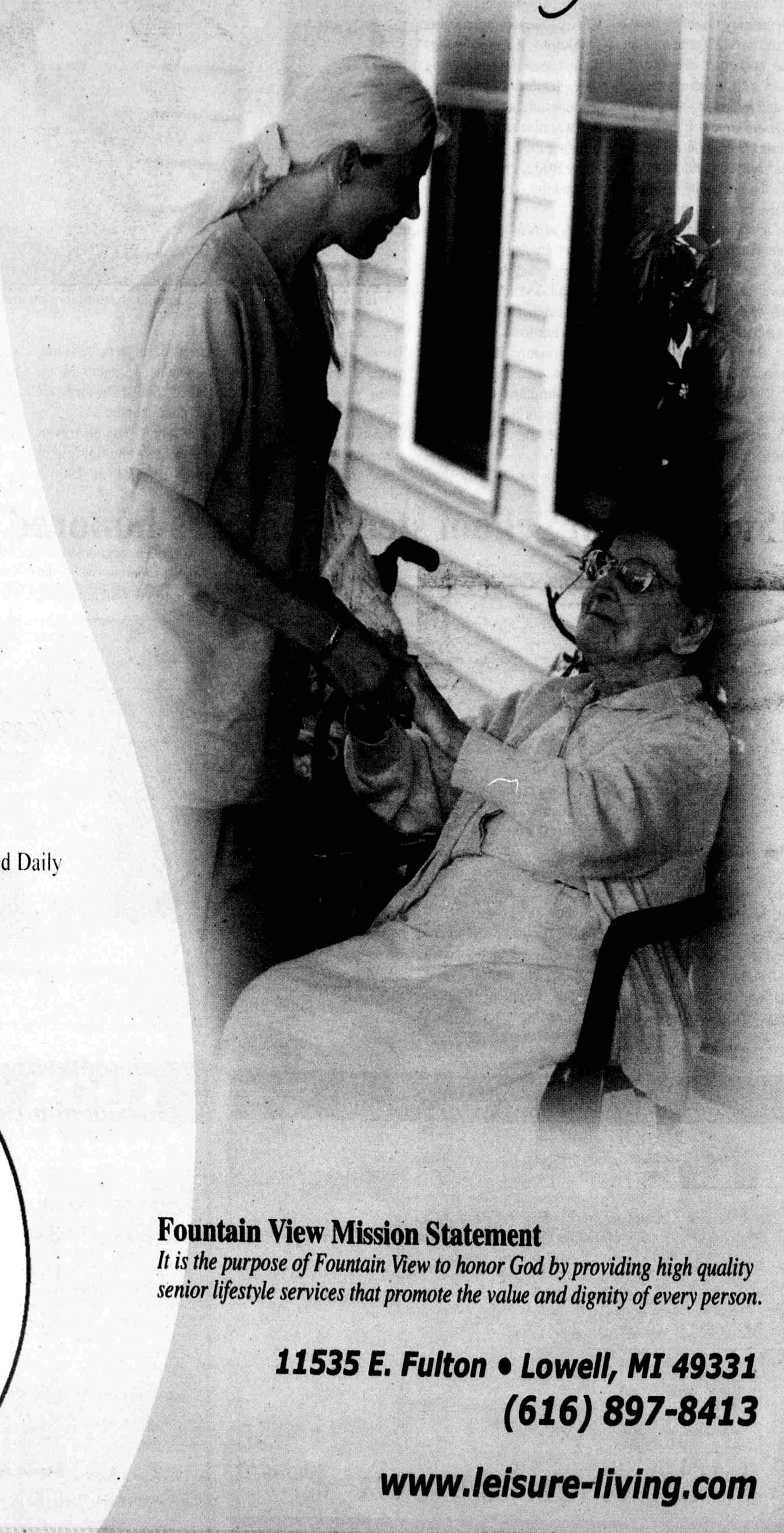


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## Community readies to walk 100 miles

By Emma Palova

After the success of the previous 100-mile walks, the community is getting ready to walk again this summer in the 'Walk Lowell in 2007' program starting May 28.

For those who don't like to walk, a conversion chart provided by Lowell Community Wellness will convert other activities into miles.

Instead of walking, lawn, water and garden lovers can swim, garden or push mow their lawns to put in some miles. Golfers can also apply their swings toward miles.

For walkers with pedometers, approximately 2,000 steps equals one mile. Pedometers are available at registration sites for additional \$5 on top of the \$15 registration fee.

Wellness Director Patty Sellner encourages participants to walk the downtown business district and the area parks and trails.

"We want to encourage people to get moving a

little," Sellner said. "Sign up as an individual or a team, get a clever team name."

Walking maps will be available at [www.lowellcommunitywellness.org](http://www.lowellcommunitywellness.org).

Registration for \$15 per person is now taking place at Englehardt and Alto libraries, Lowell city hall and Lowell Senior Neighbors.

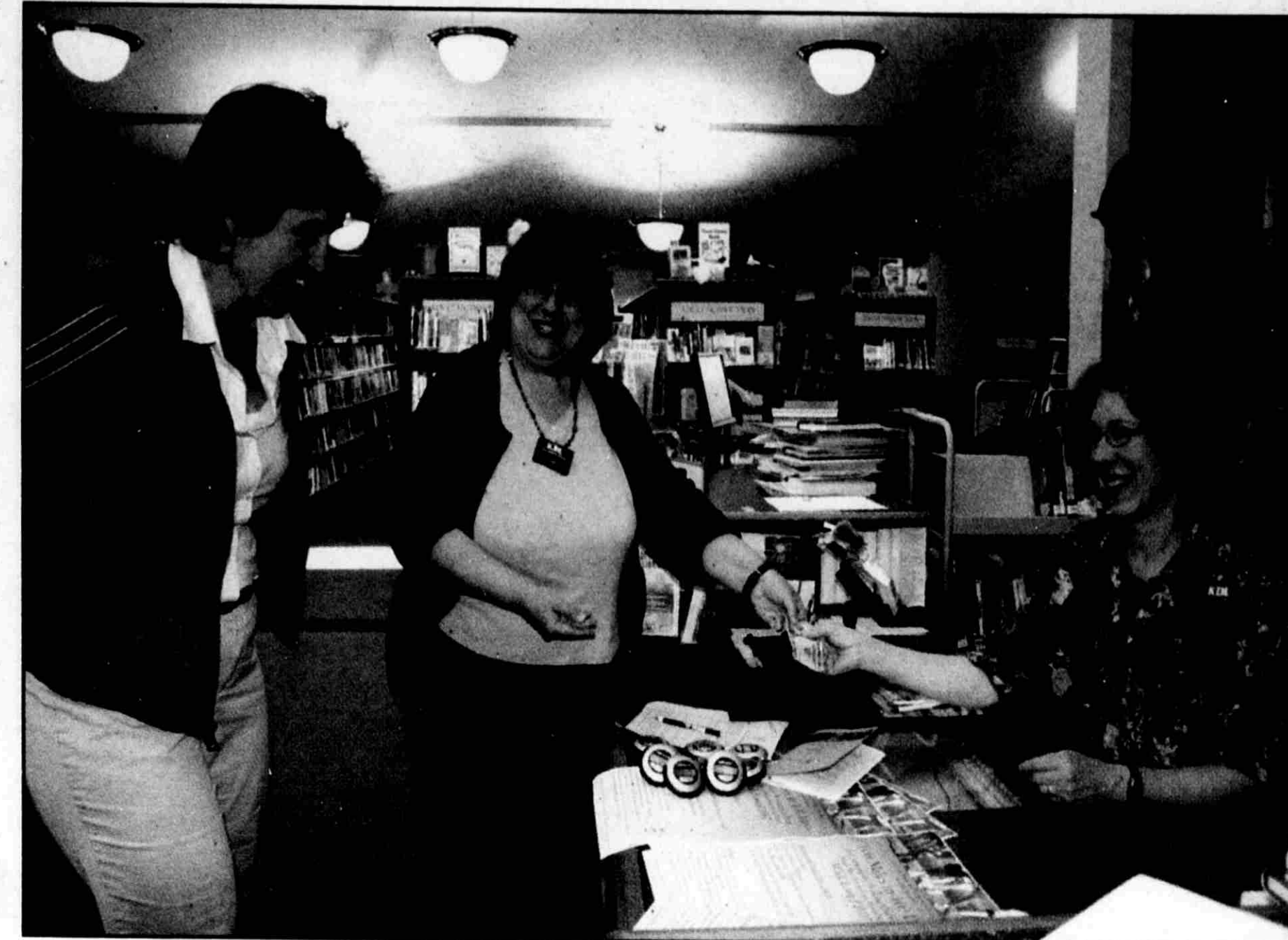
Sellner said it's never too late to register for the 100-mile challenge. The program runs through September 4. It encourages people to walk one mile a day.

Community wellness board member Teresa Beachum will again participate in the walk this year.

"It's a wonderful low-impact program," said Beachum. "It appeals to a large demographical group."

The program is so flexible, that even while on vacation walkers can log in their miles.

Anne Pasquale will be e-mailing her miles from a vacation spot in Greece. This is Pasquale's first year,



Pictured at the Englehardt registration walking site with brand new pedometers are: Patty Sellner, Anne Pasquale and Jan DeVries.

and she will also be walking on behalf of Jeanne Shores, who cannot walk this year. "I'll do it for both of us," Pasquale said.

The library has two teams this year, and a complete walking display of tapes and other educational material such as the 'Walk Away Pounds Express.'

Jan DeVries, another walker from the library, said team members hold each other accountable to stick to their goals. "I just want to get walking again," DeVries said.

The walking program educates and motivates each person to adopt a

healthy and active lifestyle for a lifetime. A log booklet obtained at the registration sites provides information on healthy living.

Proceeds from the program will help fund future health and wellness initiatives throughout the community of Lowell.

Lowell Community Wellness is funded by the Lowell Area Community Fund. After June 15, t-shirts will be available at Pep Talk.

## Friend inspires her generosity



Kortney Beachler displays her shorn locks.

Kortney Beachler, 11, and a fifth grade student at Murray Lake Elementary, read an article in the Lowell Ledger last year about her friend, Morgan Fuller, who donated her hair to Locks of Love. Locks of Love is a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under the age of 18 suffering from long term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. Inspired by Morgan, Kortney decided to grow out her hair to donate.

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All proceeds will benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

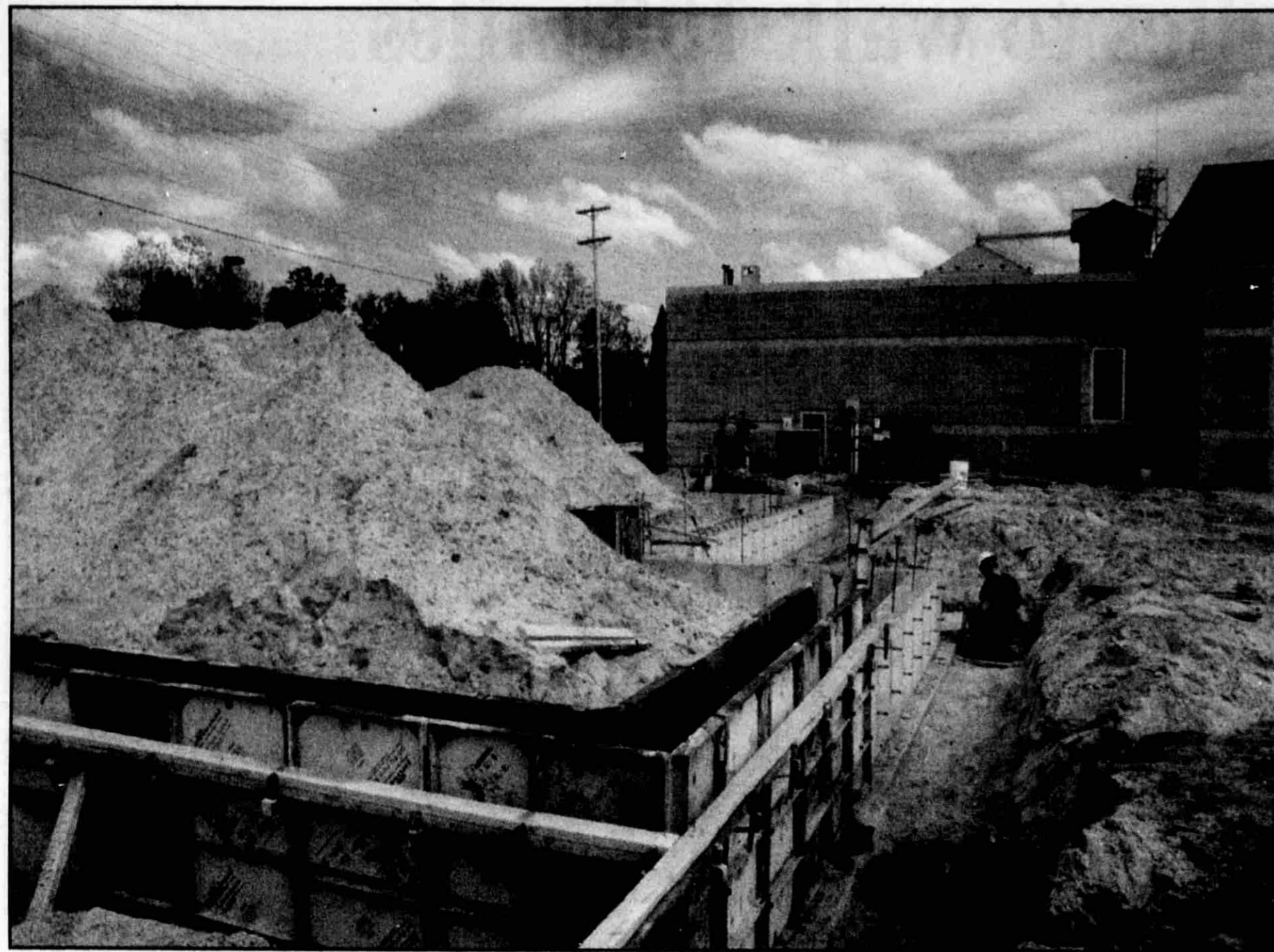
Last year we raised over \$1500 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. This year we are shooting for \$2500 and we can only get there with your help!

\$50.00 a person buys:

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## Construction underway near fire station

The ambulance addition south of the Look Memorial Fire Station is currently under construction. Last week, Coldwater Concrete, based in Freeport, poured concrete foundation for the 2,170-square-foot building. The addition is a cooperative effort between the city of Lowell, Rockford Ambulance, Lowell and Vergennes townships. The addition will have two bays, storage space, day room and sleeping quarters. This will free up room for the fire station, according to city manager Dave Pasquale. The addition is expected to be completed by fall. Working on the site were: Frank Iciek, Graham Tuinstra and Kurt Kolenda.

## Murray Lake's Staff Member of the Month

First grade teacher Nancy Breuker was named Staff Member of the Month at Murray Lake Elementary for the month of April. Breuker is married to Burt, a science teacher at Lowell Middle School, and they have three children: Olivia, Grant, and Anneke. Breuker has taught for 15 years; this is her fifth year teaching first grade students. She was nominated by several staff members who have recognized her going above and beyond at Murray Lake. "Her students are a reflection of her patient, positive and calm teaching style; Nancy is a true professional," said gym teacher Margaret Harrison.

Kindergarten teacher Karla Byrne adds, "Nancy always tries very hard to come up with new ways to meet all of her students' needs. She has written and received grants for the last several years to better her classroom and students. She is always willing to share ideas, even with those not in the same grade level. She is very deserving of this award." "I love Murray Lake because the kids, parents, and staff are truly partners in education," said Breuker. "Also, because it is in my own backyard and I can drive my moped to work!"



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## "Discover It - Science Mysteries" Summer Reading Program at the Kent District Library

Have you ever wondered how they dig up dinosaur bones? How a bridge can support the weight of a car? Come join us in some simple science experiments to learn why some things work the way they work. Learn to ask questions, try experiments, and look for solutions. If at first, you don't succeed - find a super sleuthing scientist! Scientists of all ages can help discover these mysteries. Experiments will take place at labs located in various KDL branches: Alto Branch, Wednesday, June 13 at 1:30 p.m., 6071 Linfield Ave., 647-3820. All scientists must register. For more information and registration, please visit [www.kdl.org](http://www.kdl.org) or contact the local branch.

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Every Thursday from 3 pm - 7 pm • May 17th through October 11th  
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### INVESTING FOR KIDS? KEEP THESE DATES IN MIND

If you have young children or grandchildren, you may want to start investing for them — and you should. As you invest, however, you'll need to keep a couple of key dates in mind — because they can make a difference in your family's tax situation and your control of your child's or grandchild's assets.

One important date to remember is the day your child or grandchild turns 17 — because that's the last year he or she will be affected by the "kiddie tax." The kiddie tax applies to unearned income — typically from investments held in the child's name — above an annual threshold, which in 2007 is \$1,700. Of that \$1,700, the first \$850 of earnings is tax-free, but the next \$850 will be taxed at the child's rate, which is typically 10 percent. Any income above that \$1,700 will be taxed at your rate, which could be as high as 35 percent.

However, while your child's or grandchild's tax rate may be 10 percent, it doesn't necessarily mean that every investment that generates \$850 in earnings will be taxed at that same rate. For example, a child will pay only a 5 percent tax rate on income from most types of stock dividends. (At least, that's the case for now; Congress is considering legislation that would subject that \$850 — or whatever the future amount may be — to the 10 percent rate, no matter what the source of the income.)

On the other hand, if a child invests in growth stocks — those that generally don't pay dividends — he or she won't generate significant unearned income until after the shares are sold. So, if you and your offspring follow a "buy and hold" strategy with these stocks until the child is at least 18, he or she would have to pay only the capital gains tax, which is currently just 5 percent for people in the 10 percent tax bracket. (This rate drops to zero for the years 2008 through 2010, but the proposed legislative changes would deny this rate drop to children.)

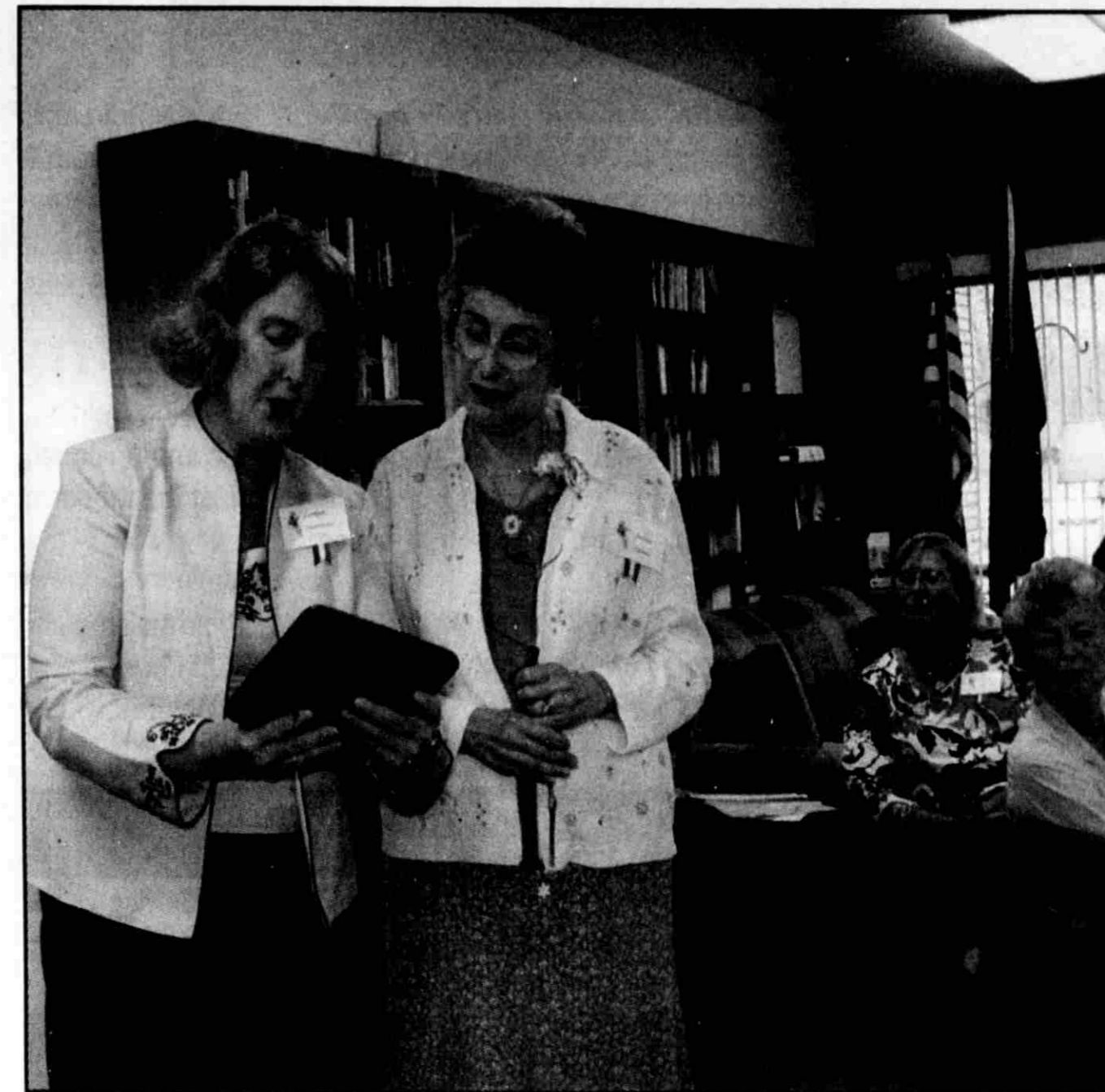
Once your child or grandchild turns 18, he or she will no longer be affected by the kiddie tax.

The age of 18 is also important if you've been investing for your children or grandchildren through either the Uniform Gift to Minors Act (UGMA) or the Uniform Transfer to Minors Act (UTMA). Essentially, UGMA/UTMA allows you to fund an account for a child, but limit the child's access to the account until he or she reaches the age of majority — either 18 or 21 in most states. The child owns the account, but you are named as custodian, and you control the account until the child is no longer a minor. At that point, the custodial relationship ends and the child assumes control over the account.

In other words, once the child is 18 (or 21), there's no guarantee that he or she will use the money for college, as you may have intended. If you really want to put all your child's investment money into a fund designed strictly for college, you might want to consider an alternative.

In any case, if you've got investments earmarked for your children or grandchildren, be aware of the changes that will occur once they turn 17, 18 or 21. Those years can be challenging enough without any financial "surprises."

## Lowell Women's Club names Woman of the Year



At the Lowell Women's Club May luncheon, Joanne Parker was named the club's Woman of the Year for 2006-2007. Joanne was recognized for her service within the club to benefit the community of Lowell, senior scholarships and her volunteer service to her church and fellow man. Joanne has served on the scholarship and membership committees for the past seven years. Joanne is a retired preschool teacher, and is the full partner and Vice President/Treasurer in a home based business.

## Lend A Hand



### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Kent County Literacy Council has scheduled a one hour information session on Thursday, May 24 at 6:30 p.m. for prospective volunteer tutors.

Prospective volunteer tutors can find out more about the Council and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

The Kent County Literacy Council is a non-

profit, United Way agency devoted to reducing illiteracy in the community. Based on 1990 census figures, at

least 19,000 adults in Kent County cannot read at a functional level and at least 6,000 adults cannot speak or understand English well. By training people to be tutors, the Council can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a

Second Language (ESL). Volunteers do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

The information session will be held at the Gaines Township Library located at 421 - 68th Street, SE, Grand Rapids. Call 459-5151 to register.

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- Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

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# 2006 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR CITY OF LOWELL AND LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

This report covers the drinking water quality for The City of Lowell and Lowell Township Water for the calendar year 2006. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided to you in 2006. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards.

Your water comes from 4 groundwater wells, each over 87 feet in depth, drawing from the Grand River watershed. They are located at 1596 Bowes Road in Lowell behind the water plant. The State performed an assessment of our source water in 2003 to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very-low" to "very-high" based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our source is moderate. (See Table 1.) We have no significant sources of contamination. We are making efforts to protect our sources by maintaining a wellhead protection program. A copy of the full Source Water Assessment can be obtained by contacting George Regan at the Lowell Water Treatment Plant, 1596 Bowes Rd., Lowell, MI 49331 or call at 616-897-5234.

**Contaminants and their presence in water:** Drinking Water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Vulnerability of sub-populations:** Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune systems disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Sources of drinking water:** The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our water comes from wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- T **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- T **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- T **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.

- T **Radioactive contaminants**, which are naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- T **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

### Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2006 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 - December 31, 2006. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All of the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

#### Terms and abbreviations used below:

*Water Supplier: Define only the terms you use in the table below. Delete any you don't use.*

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **NA:** Not applicable. **ND:** not detectable at testing limit. **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter. **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter. **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).
- **Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Regulated Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	1.0		05/11/06	No	Run off from fertilizer use and erosion of natural resources
Total Trihalomethanes (ppm)	0.080	0.080	0.0034		05/11/06	No	Organic and chlorination by-products
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.1		05/11/06	No	Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Radioactive Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Alpha emitters (pCi/l)	15	0	<3		10/31/00	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Ra226/228 (pCi/L)	5	None	<1		5/13/03	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Contaminant **	Single Sample Test	Range	Sample Date	Typical Special Monitoring and Source of Contaminant	
Sodium (ppm)	25		05/11/06	Erosion of natural deposits	
Contaminant Subject to AL	Action Level	90% of Samples ≤ This Level	Sample Date	Number of Samples Above AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15	2	6/23/04	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppb)	1300	38	6/23/04	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

\*\* Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

# Budgets, continued ... From Page 4

Pasquale's report, the Airport Board is seeking to upgrade the facility to General Utility status enabling the airport to qualify for state grants. A \$70,000 loan from the Michigan Aeronautics Commission will assist in securing air easements enabling tree removals at the ends of the main runway. This year, easements will be secured and trees cut using a 90 percent grant from the State of Michigan. The School of Missionary Aviation Technology signed a 10-year agreement in August 1997 to manage the airport. A new contract is being negotiated between SMAT and the Airport Board. Negotiations are expected to be completed by August, 2007. An increase is expected in water rates, while no street projects are planned except for the completion of Gee Drive. The DDA has set aside \$100,000 for downtown projects. In the Lowell Light and Power budget, residential sales have been growing faster than anticipated, according to manager Tom Richards. A decline in sales attributed to conservation efforts. The largest expense remains the erratic cost of energy. The budgets will continue to be tweaked until final approvals.

## 2006 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR CITY OF LOWELL AND LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP CONTINUED

Microbial Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Number Detected	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	1 positive monthly sample (5% of monthly samples positive)	0	0	No	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform and E. coli	Routine and repeat sample total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or E. coli positive	0	0	No	Human and animal fecal waste

**Table 1**  
Distribution System Regulated Contaminant Source Water Assessment

Sample point	Test Result	Analyte Name	Tested	Limit MCL	Rpt Limit
Plant Tap	0.0040 mg/l	Max Potential Trihalomethanes	6/28/05	0.08 mg/l	0.0004 mg/l
Sample Hydrant	0.0200 mg/l	Max Potential Trihalomethanes	7/07/05	0.08 mg/l	0.0004 mg/l

#### CHLORINE RESIDUALS:

"Maximum residual disinfectant level, or MRDL (4.0mg/l), means the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants."

"Maximum residual disinfectant level goal, or MRDLG (4.0mg/l), means the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants."

"RAA is the running annual average."

Chlorine (ppm)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bacteriological sample site #1	.583	.527	.396	.528	.498	.498	.438	.410	.538	.465	.526	.540
Bacteriological sample site #2	.310	.343	.125	.250	.182	.190	.050	.090	.200	.210	.300	.270
Bacteriological sample site #3	.545	.483	.293	.460	.366	.448	.440	.456	.430	.355	.462	.485
Monthly average of samples	.383	.444	.264	.413	.349	.388	.309	.318	.384	.343	.429	.432
RAA computed quarterly			.364			.383			.337		.401	
RAA 2005 quarterly			.310			.330			.326		.323	
RAA 2006			.336			.349			.352		.371	

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which provide the same protection for public health.

**Monitoring and Reporting Requirements:** The State and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We met all monitoring and reporting requirements for 2006.

We will update this report annually and will keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year, as they happen. Copies are available at Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main, Lowell, Michigan and at Lowell Township Offices, 2910 Alden Nash S.E., Lowell, Michigan. This report will not be sent to you.

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. Lowell City Council meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:30pm in the Council Chambers at Lowell City Hall, 301 E. Main, Lowell, MI. Lowell Township meetings are held at 7:00pm on the first and third Mondays of each month at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash S.E., Lowell, MI. For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact George Regan at 897-5234. For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at [www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/).

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105 N. Broadway, Lowell

## CITY COUNCIL CITY OF LOWELL KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

The adoption of the following Ordinance was moved by Councilmember Hodges, seconded by Councilmember Shores.

### ORDINANCE NO. 07-04 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONE MAP OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LOWELL

THE CITY OF LOWELL ORDAINS:  
1. That the "Official Zoning Map" as referenced in Section 3.02 of Chapter 3 of the Zoning Ordinance of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell is amended to change the zone district classification of real property located at 211-225 South Washington Street legally described as Lots 8, 9 and 10, Block 17 of Avery's Plat and 330 South Washington Street legally described as Lot 1, Block 21 of Avery's Plat from R-3 Residential District to L-1 Light Industrial District.

2. This Ordinance shall take effect ten (10) days after its publication in the Lowell Ledger, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Lowell.

YEA: Councilmembers: Hodges, Shores, Mayor Pro Tem Mathews and Mayor Myers.  
NAYS: Councilmembers: Pfaller.  
ABSENT: Councilmembers: none.  
ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED.  
Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk

I, Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk of the City of Lowell, do hereby certify this Ordinance was adopted by a majority vote of the members elect of the Lowell City Council at a regular meeting held on May 7, 2007 and that the Ordinance was published in the Lowell Ledger on May 23, 2007.

Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk

A copy of this ordinance may be purchased or inspected at City Hall, 301 E. Main Street, during regular business hours Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Ordinance No. 07-04 is effective 10 days after this publication.



Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk

# RED ARROW SPORTS

## Red Arrow soccer team soars over Yellow Jackets

By Ellen Mork

The Lowell High School varsity girls' soccer team dominated in its first conference tournament game with a score of 7-0 over the visiting Greenville Yellow Jackets.

"We did all right today," said coach Paul Legge. "It's nice to be getting some finishes. Our last three games have been shutouts."

The team got off to a fast start with Katie Kruse scoring in the first minute with a header. With Greenville's defense lagging, Mikhaïla Hart scored a goal 14 minutes later. The Arrows continued to dominate the action and Kruse scored her second goal at the 30 minute mark. Feeling left out, Greenville contributed a score as well, accidentally scoring a goal

for Lowell while attempting a clearing kick. That brought the score to 4-0 at the half.

Brittany Lyman scored two goals, almost within a minute of each other, to keep the score moving in the right direction in the second half. The final goal of the evening was made by Kruse and assisted by Logan DeClercq. This game marked Kruse's first hat trick.

It was an impressive

performance by Lowell as they maintained constant pressure on the Greenville defense. Rarely did the Arrows let the ball on their defending end. Lowell had a letdown at the end of the game and Greenville had their one attempt at goal in the final minute of the game, missing wide right.

It was a team victory as the Lowell team substituted

freely with every member getting quality action. This clearly helped Lowell maintain the ball pressure, as players were always fresh.

Lowell's victory advanced the Red Arrows to the semifinal conference game against East Grand Rapids, winners against Kenowa Hills. "We beat East last time we played them, and I think we can beat

them again," Legge stated. "Whoever wins this game will be guaranteed second in conference." The winner of this game advances to the championship game against the Forest Hills Central/ Forest Hills Northern game scheduled for today.

The semifinal games were played on Monday but results were not available.



## Frosh softball wins Belding Invitational

On Saturday May 19, the Lowell freshmen softball team won the Belding Invitational softball tournament. In the first game Lowell beat Belding 20-14; winning pitcher was Lauren Dood. In the championship game Lowell beat Covenant Christian in a thriller 6-5. Winning pitcher in game two was Kaleigh Mete. It was a full team effort by all the freshman girls. Front row, left to right, Kim Reid, Ashlie Jahnke, Samantha Robinson, Kacy Anderson Second row, left to right, Sarah Weaver, Kaleigh Mete, Alyssa Poland, Shante VanOverbeek Back row, left to right Coach Steve Nelson, Alyshia Peterson, Elissa Lorentz, Leigha Frisbee, Lauren Smit, Lauren Dood, Coach Bill Frisbee. Not pictured is head coach Kim Griffith.

# RED ARROW SPORTS

## Unity students win Spring Swing tournament

Unity High School won the 2007 Spring Swing Alternative Ed. Softball Tournament.

In game one, Unity defeated Englishville 9-3. In game two, Unity faced three-time Alternative Ed. State winners, Oasis High. Trailing in the third inning, Unity's Tony Warner opened a hitting streak with a home run. Unity scored six more runs to take the lead and held off Oasis in the final inning to win 12-10.

In the championship game, Unity faced their old arch-rival, Crossroads. Crossroads, with its big-gun hitters, knocked out five home runs, but Unity never gave up, relying on their fundamental skills and teamwork. Unity crushed Crossroads in the late innings, winning 14-8.

Team members are Tony Warner, Amanda Witherell, Meggen Abel, Jensen

Miller, Ed Zanderbergen, Tim Stevens, Alan Onan, Dan Baird, Esther Porritt, Jake Moore, Troy Heimer, Ron Ludwig, Tom Mullins, Tyler Ryfiak and coach Russ Stevens.

"I'm very proud of these students" said coach Stevens. "Many of these players have been on the team for a couple of years. They have practiced hard; they have been coachable; they have met the standards to participate in sports that the high school athletes have to adhere to and they're a fun group of kids to be around. Our school has had a very successful year - our volleyball team was victorious; we won the Quiz Bowl and we received honors at the MAEO Stars. Bringing home the championship trophy is the crowning moment for the year."



## At Your Local Library



T-SHIRT CHIC AT KDL  
SUMMER READING CLUB

T-shirt what? T-shirt Chic! Kent district Library teens get stylish as they rip, cut, and slash their way into high fashion. Teens, bring a favorite t-shirt to the library and we'll provide patterns, ideas, and fun. Turn something old into something cool! Runways are available at these locations: Alto Branch, Wednesday, June 13 at 4 p.m., 5255 Alpine Ave NW, 647-3810 and Englehardt Branch, Wednesday, June 27 at 2 p.m., 200 N. Monroe St. in Lowell, 647-3920.

Registration is required. For more information and registration, please visit [www.kdl.org](http://www.kdl.org) or contact the local branch.

### LADIES GOLF

**Starting June 6**  
**- 10 week ladies fun league**

MAY - JUNE WOMEN'S GREEN FEES ARE FREE ON SATURDAYS FROM 8-NOON. CALL FOR AVAILABILITY.

**Ridgeview Golf Club**  
616-794-1860  
5200 Flat River Trail, Belding

## Golfers finish solid season - make it to state finals

Overall, the Lowell girls' golf team has had an excellent season, according to coach Bob Stuewe. As the team gets ready to compete at state, its record stands at 9-3 overall and 3-3 in the conference. The girls will

compete in the state finals June 1-2 at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

"We took third in our conference, the OK White, which is regarded as the toughest conference in west Michigan if not the entire state," said Stuewe. "All six players contributed this season at various times. We came a long way in a short time from chipping and hitting practice putts in the snow to qualifying for the state tournament."

Four players return next season though the Red Arrows will lose four-year varsity, three-time all conference selection Stefanie Stuewe who captained the team this season. The girls' season moves from spring to fall next year and the team will play in more 18-hole statewide tournaments.

Stuewe said that team members have increased

confidence in their ability to play golf at a competitive level. "They know now it's not how far you hit or how pretty your swing looks," said Stuewe. "It's getting the ball in the hole in less strokes than your opponent. We play smart golf and play within our limitations."

According to coach Stuewe, Crystal Dietz came through for the team with her good putting and Sydney Stuewe came through in regionals shooting a career best 91 (for 18 holes) to lead the team into the state finals.

The coach also said that Sarah Eickhoff had some great 9-hole rounds and was a medalist in one of the team's matches. Kim Kline also had some good 9-hole rounds that helped boost the team's record. Lauren Heemstra was steady all year, coach Stuewe said.

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## LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS BOARD BRIEFS

### REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 14, 2007

**ADDITION TO THE AGENDA** - The Board approved the addition of a LESA Severance Proposal to the agenda under action items.

### STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Brooke Liu, Student Council President and Student Representative to the Board, reported that this would be her last board meeting and thanked the Board for the great opportunity to serve in this capacity. Brooke introduced Tyler Barkacs who will be next year's representative to the Board. She reported that AP testing is finishing up this week. The seniors are very busy preparing for the Honors Reception, Baccalaureate, rehearsals, senior trip, and graduation. The Student Council will be having a breakfast for those students who participated in the alternative spring break trip to Mississippi.

**STUDENT RECOGNITION** - Congratulations were given to Kara Schloop who is a Finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Awards competition 2007. She currently attends Liberty University in Virginia and is transferring next fall to the University of Texas. Kara's parents accepted her certificate on her behalf. Congratulations were also given to Anna Lane, a senior at LHS, who is a Commended National Merit Scholar. Anna and her parents were in attendance to accept the certificate.

### REPORTS

#### Alternative Spring Break Trip

Brooke Liu shared a video of the spring break trip to Mississippi that LHS students went on to help with the Hurricane Katrina rebuild.

#### Winter Color Guard Exit 52

Sharon MacDermaid reported on the first year of competition for Exit 52. A video of their performance "All at Once by the Fray" was viewed and congratulations were offered in receiving 4th at the State competition.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Laurie Kuna - Teacher Appreciation Day, MHSAA lawsuit

### ACTION ITEMS

The Board accepted the following gifts:

- Al Eckman donation of radio equipment valued at \$1,340.62 to be used by the WLHS radio station.
- Alticor donation of computer equipment valued at \$2,910.50 to be used by the LAS Tech Department.
- Adopted the resolution supporting the Kent Intermediate School District's budget for 2007-08.
- Adopted the resolution designating the district's representative at the Kent ISD June 4 election.
- 2007 Resignation & Retirement Plan for Support Staff.

### CONSENT ITEMS

- Approved/adopted/denied were:

- Minutes for the April 16, 2007 regular meeting, and the April 23, 2007 Board Workshop and Closed Session minutes
- The following payment of bills for April 2007:
 

GENERAL FUND.....	\$1,404,905.70
SCHOOL SERVICES FUND	
A. Food Service Fund.....	\$78,502.95
B. Athletic Fund.....	\$11,079.19
TRUST AND AGENCY FUND.....	\$35,393.26
1990 Debt Fund.....	\$3,191,936.25
2000 Debt Fund.....	\$366,339.90
2004 Debt Fund.....	\$500.00
2005 Debt Fund.....	\$261,074.45
- Personnel - Leave of Absence
- Superintendent Evaluation
- Student Overnight Trip - Unity Senior Class Trip
- New Board Policy #8045 "Homeless Children"
- New Board Policy #4520 "Filtering Software"

**BUDGET UPDATE** - Connie Gillette reported that the State Funding for 2006-07 is still uncertain, with only 1 month left in the

fiscal year. There is talk of a \$34 cut per student this year which would be a loss of \$135,000 or a \$122 cut per student this year which means a loss of \$470,000 from the budget. Administration is still in the process of determining what cuts will be incorporated for next year if the state funding is cut. A budget amendment will take place at the end of June for the 2006-07 school year. A budget hearing for the 2007-08 budget will be held on June 11 at 6:30 p.m.

**CURRICULUM UPDATE** - Roger Bearup presented a Writing Update to the Board and explained the action that will take place across the district to improve student writing skills.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** - Greg Pratt thanked Brooke Liu for her service to the Board and wished her well in her future endeavors. He reflected on the following initiatives that have taken place throughout the school year: trimester schedule, new graduation requirements, focus groups, community survey, demographics study, curriculum alignment with emphasis on improved student writing, student management database "Infinite Campus," Data Warehouse, administrators retirements, and the budget saga. Legislators are being contacted by district staff and parents, and Greg thanked Paul Jacobus, teacher union president, for his help in this legislator contact campaign.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Board Workshop - Monday, May 21, 2007 - 5:30 p.m.  
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room  
300 High St., Lowell, MI

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, June 11, 2007  
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room  
300 High St., Lowell, MI - 7:00 p.m.

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**Come Join  
The Celebration!**

**Observed Monday,  
May 28, 2007**

**LOWELL**

*The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8303 and American Legion Post #152 invite all Veterans, Civic Organizations, Scouts & other participants to take part in the annual Memorial Day Ceremonies & salute our deceased & living Veterans.*

**MONDAY, MAY 28, 2007** - The parade forms at Kent County Youth Fairgrounds on S. Broadway St. at 9:00 a.m. with departure promptly at 9:30 a.m.

The parade will proceed North on Broadway St., East on Main St. stopping at the Veterans memorials on the east side of the Flat River for rendering of honors to Those Who Have Perished at Sea.

The parade continues East on Main St., North on Monroe to Oakwood Cemetery for observances at the GAR Civil War Memorial there. Any wishing to participate should please contact Parade Marshal Herman Weststrate at 897-9479.

Patriotic themes shall be permitted. **Commercial and political advertising is prohibited. Tossing of candy from floats or passing out of literature along the parade route is strictly prohibited. Memorial Day is a day to remember and honor those who have served our nation and have passed on.**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Robert LaWarre, First Congregational Church

**BOWNE CENTER**

**Monday, May 28 - 8:00 p.m.** - Meet at the Bowne Cemetery, corner of Alden Nash (M-50) & 84th St. Service will be held followed by a 21-gun salute and taps.

**GRATTAN**

19th Annual Memorial Day Celebration & Bridge Walk  
**Monday, May 28, 2007.**

7:00 - 10:00 a.m.: Pancake breakfast - Fire Station

11:00 a.m.: Memorial Service

11:45 a.m.: Bridge Walk & Foot Parade - Grattan Center Cemetery across bridge.

Shuttle available

OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL

**SARANAC**

10:00 a.m. - Parade starts at Erv Taylor Avenue at the rear of business district and ends at the cemetery. All entries welcome. There will be a program at the cemetery.  
**Speaker:** Dan Bauer, Saranac, Community Schools, Superintendent

**ALTO MERRIMAN CEMETERY**

Sunday, May 27 @ 2 p.m. Remembrance program with guest speaker, at Merriman Cemetery 12030 - 52nd St. In case of inclement weather to be held at Alto United Methodist Church.

**SOUTH BOSTON CEMETERY**

The 110th meeting of South Boston Cemetery Association will be held on **Monday, May 28, 2007** at noon at South Boston Bible Church, 6958 Kyser Road, Lowell. Rev. Dick Manion, Director of Tentmakers Bible Mission will be the speaker. Service will be followed by a potluck dinner at the Fellowship Building. All are invited to attend.

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