# The Lowell Leager

Volume 37 Issue 10

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, January 9, 2008

# Shores elected as Lowell's mayor for third time

by Emma Palova

one of the longest continuously serving members on the Lowell City Council, has been elected mayor for the third time during her tenure. She served as mayor from Jan. 2002 through Dec. 2005,

but lost the highest office previous term.

In the first organizational meeting of the year Monday, Jim Hodges nominated Shores as mayor with unanimous support from the rest of the council. Hodges

was named mayor pro-tem. to Chuck Myers in the New members Hodges, Sharon Ellison and Jeff Altoft were sworn in.

"We have a good team," said Shores, "and we have a lot of work ahead of us. We will push forward."

Shores also appointed

herself to the Chamber of Commerce board, Lowell Light & Power board and the fire board. The council is still seeking nominations for the parks commission.

In related business, Keith Valentine and Judy Straub were appointed to the Lowell Light & Power board for terms ending in 2010 and 2011.

As the council looks ahead to 2008, some of the upcoming projects include resolving issues surround-



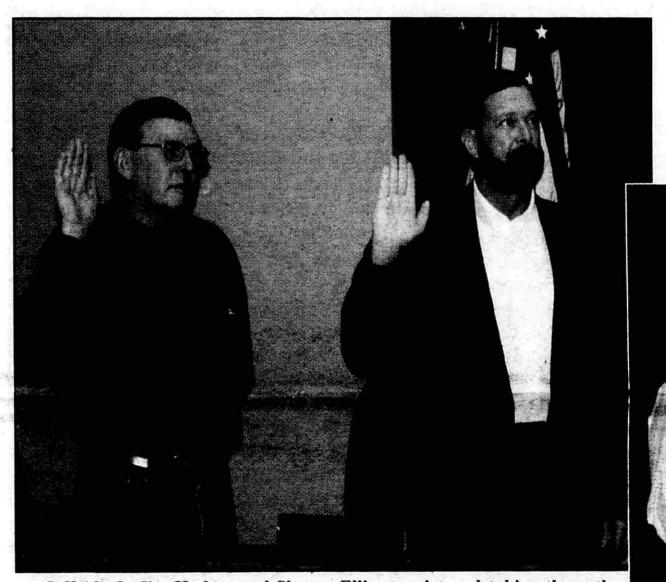
Jeanne Shores elected mayor while Jim Hodges takes mayor pro-tem.

ing the city-owned North Washington property. Some council members would like to put the parcel including the Boy Scout cabin into permanent conservancy to preserve it as a park. Other outstanding issues include balancing the budget for fiscal year 2008/2009 and the construction of sidewalks in the Valley Vista neighborhood funded by the Community Development Block Grant.

The council will con-

tinue to meet at 7 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of the month. However, the next meeting, due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, has been traditionally set for the following Tuesday, Jan. 22.

A public hearing is set for Jan. 22 to appoint representatives from the city council and Lowell Light and Power board to the Arbor board to provide for better communication on tree issues.



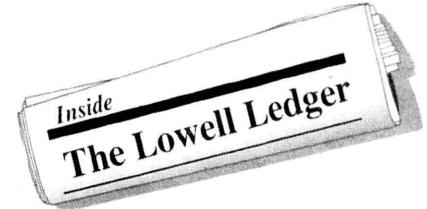
Jeff Altoft, Jim Hodges and Sharon Ellis are pictured taking the oath of office.

# Government offices prepare for Michigan's presidential primary

ursuant to state law, local governments such as Lowell Township conducted voting machine testing Monday prior to the presidential primary Jan. 15. During the testing, clerk Linda Regan checked if the ballots were being read correctly. After the testing, the machines are sealed up until the election day. New this year, election officers will be checking IDs of voters. In the primary, voters will only be allowed to vote straight Democrat or Republican. City clerk Betty Morlock said she doesn't like that. "I don't expect a big turnout," she said. Due to a squabble within the Democratic Party, candidates Barak Obama and John Edwards will not appear on the Democratic ballot.



Area Residents Asked About The **Primaries** ... Page 4



Taking Off Pounds ... Page 3

Working On The Trailways

... Page 8

Farm Preservation III ... Page 9

Red Arrow Sports ... Page 12-14

**BRAMBLE** 

of Saranac and Dewitt. Dearborn, the son of William his survived by his loving wife lakefuneralhomes.com. of 39 years Linda Bramble of Lowell; sons Michael and

STATE OF MICHIGAN

PROBATE COURT

COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO

CREDITORS

Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 08-184,496-DE

Estate of

JOHN BRASKA.

deceased

Date of birth:

10/30/1920

TO ALL CREDITORS:

JOHN BRASKA, who

lived at 3730 Sugarloaf

NW, Grand Rapids, MI

49544 died 7/23/2007.

Creditors

proposed

notice.

and Maria Bramble and Paul Michael F. Bramble aged Bramble, all of California; many nieces and nephews. 60 of Lowell, formerly grandchildren Zachary, Funerals services were held Mikalya, Timothy, Kyle, Saturday at Grace Lutheran slipped quietly away into Curtis, Casey and Cameron; Church. The family mother-in-law Anne Wells welcomes entries to their December 28, 2007. He of Arizona. He is preceded Memory Book online at was born July 13, 1947 in in death by his parents and www.cookfuneralservices. and Charlotta (Paulson) Hess. Funeral services contributions may be made Bramble. He married Linda were held Monday at First to the Endowment Fund at Modica September 20, Baptist Church in Lowell. Grace Lutheran Church or 1968. Michael served in In lieu of flowers you may the American Legion - Neal the US Marines and Army make contributions to First Fonger Post 179. Reserve. He was a member Baptist Church Building of the First Baptist Church Fund. Online condolences MITCHELL (Micele) in Lowell. Michael is may be made at www.

and Connie Bramble. Mark sister, Louise Barrett. Cliff his parents, Ignazio and

will be lovingly remembered Marianna (Viola) Micele; 16 grandchildren, by his children, Ron (Anna) his sister, Martha (Tony) great-grandchildren, eight friend, Margo Dilullo of father-in-law Harry com. In honor of Cliff,

HOOP Lori Bramble of St. John's, Clifford Hoop, aged 82, of St. Pius X Catholic is urged to take part in our Danny and Kari Bramble of of Lowell, formerly of Church and had served as state's presidential primary East Lansing and Thomas Wyoming, went to be with his a former Grand Knight of election, and let his or her and Shannon Bramble of Lord, Wednesday. January the Knights of Columbus. St. John's; brothers Eugene 2, 2008. He was preceded He was preceded in death and Patty Bramble, Jack in death by his wife, Marie by his wife of 63 years. and Nancy Bramble, Steve Hoop (Waggoner); and his Mary (Pellerito) Mitchell;

Hoop, Bob (Karen) Hoop, Palazzolo; and his brothers- great-great-grandchildren, Florida and Pennsylvania. Jim (Ginger) Hoop; his great grandchildren; and

January 2, 2008. Tony direction of our nation. was a founding member

Pellerito, Phillip Pell, Gloria Wyoming, Virginia (Sam) Poll, Ann Lucchese, and Stellini of Kentwood, Sam Josephine Impellizzeri, (Mary) Micele of Wyoming; Rose Lomonaco. Surviving brothers-in-law and sisters-(Nick) Noto of Grandville, Byron Center, Tony (Beth) Hoogterp of Middleville; of Rockford; many nieces

and nephews; and special in-law and sisters-in-law, brothers and sister, Frank Mass of Christian Burial John, Sam, Jim, and Andrew (Dorothy) Micele was offered Saturday at St. Pius X Catholic Church. Those unable to attend the visitation or funeral Mass may sign the family's are his children, Marian in-law, Don (Crystal) Poll of Memory Book at www. cookfuneralservices.com Rosalie (Ron) Thomet of Pellerito of Tekonsha, MI, Contributions in memory Lowell, Andrew Mitchell of Terry Pellerito of Grand of Tony may be made to St Wyoming, and Carol (Bob) Rapids, and Kate Pellerito Pius X Catholic Church.

# Resolve to vote on Jan. 15

by Terri Lynn Land

On Jan. 15, Michigan voters can help determine Anthony Mitchell, age 95, the next president of the passed away Wednesday, United States and the future

> Every registered voter voice be heard.

 Anyone -registered participate. At the polls, in writing which party's Republican or Democratic. You need not be a registered member of the party to vote meet Michigan's voter ID

In Re: 7/18/1902

DOB 12/19/1904

TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, HELEN LOUISE HALL, who lived Wyoming,

decedent are notified Creditors of decedent are notified that all claims against forever barred unless presented to PEARL barred unless presented E. BRASKA, named personal representative, personal representative, or proposed personal or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/ personal proposed representative within 4 representative within 4 months after the date months after the date of publication of this of publication of this

1/4/2008

Craig Avery P10311 Craig Avery (P10311) 3875 W. River Dr. 3875 W. River Drive PO Box 327 PO Box 327 Comstock Park, MI Comstock Park, Mi 49321 49321 616-784-5080 616-784-5080

Pearl E. Braska 3720 Sugarloaf NW Grand Rapids, MI 49544 784-0362

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

• LEGAL NOTICES •

NOTICE TO **CREDITORS** Decedent's Estate FILE NO. 08-184,489-DE

Estate of HELEN LOUISE HALL deceased

> Date of birth: 11/17/1921

at 1131 - 35th Street SW, 4/13/200, lived at 2161 Michigan, died 12/8/2007. Rapids, MI 49504.

Creditors the estate will be forever the decedents or the to ANITAR. HALL, named to representative, or to both the probate court NE. at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW. Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/ of publication of this personal notice.

Anita R. Hall

3157 Taft SW

616-531-2497

Wyoming, MI 49519

(P-31244) 1/3/2008 410 Bridge Street NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504 616-774-4001

> Richard Lawie **Successor Trustee** Grand Rapids, MI 49525

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The Szydlowski Family Trust

Celia Szydlowski, DOB Gertrude Szydlowski,

NOTICE CREDITORS: The deceased settlors Celia Szydlowski DOD 12/25/2007 and Gertrude Szydlowski Leonard NW, Grand

decedents are notified that all claims against trust will be forever barred unless presented Richard Lawie, Successor Trustee, at 4223 Valleyside Drive Grand Rapids. 49525, within 4 months after the date

January 3, 2008

John D. Mitus, Attorney

4223 Valleyside Dr. NE

voluntarily themselves from Michigan's

voting "Uncommitted."

 If you choose the Democratic Party's ballot. you will notice that names of some of that party's candidates do not appear.

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The Lowell Ledger

105 N. Broadway Lowell 616-897-9261

Four Democratic candidates stating they do not have ID withdrew to obtain a ballot. Those qualified

primary and are not to vote by absentee ballot listed. Additionally, some must meet the deadlines. candidates have decided not Voters wishing to receive to run after the withdrawal an absentee ballot for the deadline lapsed. You may primary by mail must submit vote "Uncommitted" rather absentee ballot applications than for a listed candidate. to the clerk of the township If you choose the or city in which the voter A few things to Republican Party's ballot, is registered by 2 p.m. you will notice the names of Saturday, Jan. 12. Absentee all of that party's candidates voters also have until 4 p.m. appear. Some of the Monday, Jan. 14, to vote in candidates have withdrawn person in their clerk's office. you will be required to state since ballots were printed If emergency circumstances and are still listed. Again, exist, the deadline for ballot you wish to vote - you also have the option of absentee voting may be extended up until 4 p.m. on You will need to Election Day.

Residents with questions and requesting a partisan requirement. Michigan's regarding absentee voting. ballot will not make you a voter ID law is in effect. It voter ID or other election registered member of that was upheld by the Supreme issues may visit the Michigan Court last July and requires Voter Information Center at that voters present photo www.Michigan.gov/vote, or identification in order to contact their local clerks.

vote. Properly registered Let's make voting in voters that do not bring a Michigan's presidential Michigan driver's license, primary an important New personal ID card or other Year's resolution we all keep acceptable ID document, on Jan. 15.

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# LPD marks increase in alcohol-related offenses

by Emma Palova

Although a high-speed chase down Lincoln Lake last year seemed to have been the only out-of-theordinary event for the (LPD), police chief Jim Valentine noted an increase in alcohol-related offenses.

According departmental statistics, alcohol-related offenses and

by Molly Benningfield

With the new year

brings hopes of better health

and fitness, and the YMCA

lose it" is now in its second

funded by the Lowell Area

said. She said it's an

Community Fund.

available for the first time, back."

executive

director Staci Messersmith down."

included Minorin Possession increase in traffic tickets. (MIP), open containers and drunk driving.

stay vigilant to prevent tragedies."

workout sessions.

of Lowell plans to help completed the program in the

those who want to shape up. fall and is back for a second

Lowell Police Department about MIP increase," said active proponent of officer assist other law enforcement Valentine, "our officers presence on the streets agencies in solving their are aggressive toward including their contact with cases. underage drinking. We will the public.

compared to 2006. These and traffic accidents due to crimes in progress," said

voluntary compliance with concerned the law, Valentine is an taken during a stop, LPD can

even when no enforcement On the other hand, there is taken is a good deterrent

arrests grew by 100 cases was a decrease in larcenies and helps in discovery of Valentine. "It has helped us To increase public clear a lot of crimes."

Based on information

Valentine calls routine "A simple traffic stop traffic stops a handy tool

LPD update. cont'd., pg. 4

# Contact Ranger Steve: smueller@lowellschools.com or 987-1002.

other purpose.

ATTENTION LHS ALUMNI The Lowell Alumni Association will be publishing the Second Edition of the LHS Alumni Directory. It is scheduled for completion in July 2008. If you are an LHS Alumni, and your name was missing from the First Edition, please call Alumni Research customer service at 1-800-299-1230 (toll free) weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., or Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please help make the directory as complete as possible by calling by Jan. 15. Information will only be available to other graduates and will not be sold or used for any

THE LOWELL LEDGER - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2008 PAGE 3

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

12 for recycling to WWC to prevent landfill deposition.

Free will donation requested (suggested \$3-5 per tree).

Volunteers needed to help with tree chipping. Place

trees at west end of parking lot before 3 p.m. on Jan. 12.

Bring Christmas trees between Christmas and Jan.

#### BREAK THE "WINTER BREAK" BOREDOM

Glass House Designs will have open studio all day on Jan. 2, 3, 4, and 5, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Bring the kids, ages 5 and up, in to create great fused glass projects. No appointment or reservation is needed, just stop in and plan to spend 45 min. - 1 hr in the studio. Project prices start at just \$4. Call 987-4527 for details.

#### ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 211 N. Washington St., Fri., Jan. 4, 6-8 p.m. or Sat., Jan. 5, 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Everyone welcome. Any questions call Esther

#### **NEW EXHIBIT**

Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes St., Lowell. Masks: art & illusion, artwork created by artists Roy Brown and Karen P. Cornwell. Jan. 6 - Mar. 2, 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information call 897-7842.

#### LAS ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

The Athletic Boosters will hold their regular business meeting in the high school staff lounge on Monday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. Please come and help support our athletes.

#### WINTER FAST PITCH

The Lowell High School softball coaches will be holding a pitching clinic for all girls interested in becoming a softball pitcher. The clinic will be held at Riverside Gym on Wednesdays, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 and Feb. 6, 13, 20. Girls in grades 6 and under are asked to report at 5:30 p.m. Girls in 7-8 please report at 6:30. The cost of the clinic is \$30, which includes a t-shirt. Applications can be picked up at Lowell Middle School, Cherry Creek, Alto and Bushnell schools. Please call Bob Rodenhouse at 987-2967 or 245-4596 for more information.

#### 2008 LACROSSE PLAYER/PARENT MEETINGS

The Lowell Lacrosse program will be holding parent/player meetings for anyone interested in playing lacrosse. Meeting dates and times are Jan. 10, High School level, Cherry Creek cafeteria. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 17, middle school level, middle school cafeteria, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

#### FREE SMOKING CESSATION CLASSES

Starting Tuesday, Jan. 15 at 6 p.m. at Lowell Family Medical Center, 2550 W. Main St. Call 616-975-0123 to register or to www.tobaccofreepartners.org.

#### CSI:LMS

On Tuesday, Jan. 15, from 6 - 8:30 p.m., put your deduction skills to the test as you sift through evidence to identify the LMS teacher who committed the CRIME. Middle School students and their families can use their math skills to play games that will unravel the clues. Win prizes! Pre-register before Jan. 10 987-2800 to get free pizza. Don't let your teacher get away with....

# Lowell YMCA to hold adult and teen versions of "Move it to Lose it" The teen program, as very strongly, due to its team the Y, said is very important. well as the adult program, is about "making a friendships are what help the complete lifestyle change, Monica Smelt, who participants stay motivated trying to overcome these

components," Messersmith

At the end of the

affect life at home.

Davis hopes to transfer said. She also noted that Their program "Move it to round, said the program is the success from the adult with the teens, it would be a program into the new teen parent commitment as well, year, and a teen version is It's really given me my life version, both of which since the program would started this week.

through the 10 weeks.

Smelt said she was able The Lowell Area to complete each week of Community Fund provided program, winners will be The 10-week adult exercise and good nutrition funds for 40 students in 9th announced and receive program is "similar to the because of the "loving and - 12th grades. Messersmith prizes, but Davis said "it's television show 'Biggest supportive way it's done. said 93 students signed up not about 10 weeks, it's not You're built up, not torn at the high school, and she just about weighing in, but That sort of atmosphere get funds for the program to aren't good for us. It's about

goal-oriented is what April Davis, the suit all students who want to being proactive." program, but camaraderie program's lead personal participate.

"absolutely life-changing.

hopes they can continue to getting rid of things that

and accountability factor in trainer and fitness director at

mentality and biweekly Talk of accountability and

Lowell Takes It Off vs. Greenville 2008 weight- community and to "out lose" about how a daily walking team member will make a loss challenge, sponsored the other city. Teams of four program can help take off \$20 donation to help fund will support one another to and keep off extra pounds. donations, the event and

of Michigan, runs Jan. 9 to lose weight and challenge Davis. West Michigan future health and wellness March 19 The 4th Annual Lowell

Lowell from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and at United Lifestyles in Greenville from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Please join us and

do you have to lose? is designed to encourage health and also to help reach

other teams. An oversized resident and mother of events in Greenville and scale will be used to weigh three, lost 162 pounds in Lowell. entire teams at one time. 16 months and has kept it Team weight-loss totals off for over five years by Weight-loss community along with following a daily walking Community

ADA LOWELL 5

All Lounger Seats All Digital Sound

**BIG SCREENS** 

12:55, 3:05, 5:15, 7:25, 9:35 National treasure: Book of Secrets

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R)

11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:25, 7:35, 9:40

advocate for Blue Cross Blue the weight-loss goal of each loss success story and talk

Jodi Davis, healthy a daily walking program can by Blue Cross Blue Shield test out the big scale. What lifestyle and walking be found at WalkyTalk.com. of Michigan. Community The 10-week event Shield of Michigan, will be component of the "Lowell make this project possible: a guest speaker at the kick- Takes It Off vs. Greenville Lowell Area Chamber participants to take positive off in Lowell at noon and in 2008" event is the support of Commerce, Lowell steps to improve their own Greenville at 3 p.m. She will given to local food pantries Area Schools and Good

share her 162-pound weight in each community. Each Chevrolet-Buick.

Challenge will be calculated in each simply eating healthier and is presented by Lowell community wide weight- program. Details about United Lifestyles of Davis' story and how to start Greenville and sponsored Another important partners that have helped to

The 2008 Community



(mostly produce) LOWELL FAIRGROUNDS Foreman Building, S. Broadway

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2008** 

Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. (FROM)

OF THE GREATER LOWELL AREA. Bring your own box or bag. Visit our website at

www.flatriveroutreachministries.org

10:00 TO 11:00 A.M. (or until food is gone) EXCEPT ADULT EVENING \$6.50 SHOWTIMES 1/7 - 1/10 O No passes Free drink refills & 25¢ corn refills COUPON **AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS** PREE 20oz DRINK with \$2.50 purchase I AM LEGEND (PG-13) 11:10, 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:25 ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)

# Residents comment on next Tuesday's Michigan primaries

candidates, Barack Obama their names from the ballot, Secretary of State office, are and Fred Thompson.

primaries a month earlier and Joe Biden, after a Mike Gravel and Dennis after Gov. dispute between the national Jennifer Granholm signed and Michigan party officials a bill in September moving over the set date. Most states ballot are Sam Brownback, the date to Tuesday, Jan. 15. will hold their elections on Rudy Giuliani, Two major Democratic "Super Tuesday", Feb. 5.

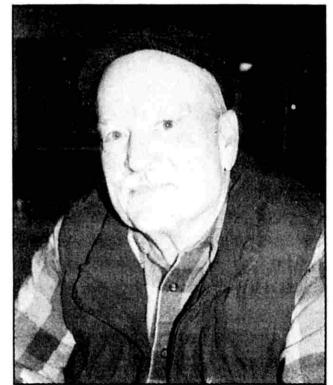
Michigan will hold its along with Bill Richardson Hillary Clinton, Chris Dodd,

Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, Democrats still on the John McCain, Ron Paul, and John Edwards, withdrew ballot, according to the Mitt Romney, Tom Tancredo

the primaries is expected to Huckabee surprised many Tuesday. be largely ignored because with a 34 percent win in season's first primary, in and McCain tying for third Iowa, Obama won on the at 13 percent. The New Democrat side with 38 Hampshire primary, one-half percent of the vote, followed of the all-important primary primary. by Edwards with 30 percent

For Michigan voters, Republicans on the of the absence of Obama Iowa, with Romney trailing a variety of issues are and Edwards. In the election at 25 percent and Thompson affecting their decision for presidential candidate. Here are what a few residents have to say about Tuesday's

John Neible from Grand Rapids



Do you know when the Michigan primary is?

Are you going to vote? I probably won't [on Tuesday], but will in November.

What issues affect you most? Moral issues.

Are you leaning toward a certain candidate?

No, I'm really not - it would probably be Republican, though.

Diane Fargo from Ada/Lowell



Do you know when the Michigan primary is? The 15th [of January]. Are you going to vote? I would like to, but I have to find out how

I qualify. What issues affect you most? The economy - that's major.

Are you leaning toward a certain candidate?

Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc.

THANK YOU!

Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. would like to

thank all of our friends in the community who

supported us in 2007. Your donations of food for

the Food Pantry and gently-used goods for the

Thrift Shop are very much appreciated, as are

the many cash donations. Our programs are

sustained by your generous giving and support.

WE WISH YOU ALL A BLESSED

AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR!

We especially want to thank all of the local

businesses that hosted a Toy Box or Angel Tree

for the collection of toys for the FROM

Christmas toy and food distribution.

A special thank you to Lowell's Meijer for the

generous donation. Because of the generosity

of our community, FROM was able to give

out 272 food boxes and 536 children received

toys and gifts this year.

Thanks, too, to all of the volunteers who packed

food boxes, assisted parents with their

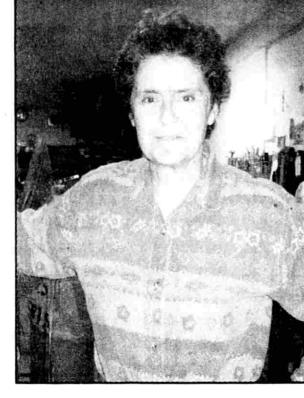
shopping, and carried food and toys to cars!

NOBODY DOES IT BETTER THAN LOWELL!

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU AGAIN.

John McCain - I vote independent, a lot of it depends on what I'm feeling.

Theresa Plummer from Lowell



the Michigan primary is? Not particularly. Are you going to vote?

The Democratic race in and Clinton with 29 percent.

the primaries. What issues affect you most?

I would say having a level head about foreign affairs, and taking a stance - not worrying about what other people think. Also, jobs, employment, health care - for people who can't afford it, but also for people who can barely afford it, who can't seem to get ahead (it's a vicious circle). I have a problem with corporate America having all the money, and not the others.

I'll definitely vote in November, not sure about

Are you leaning toward a certain candidate? John McCain.

Do you know when

# LPD update, continued ... From Page 3

according to Valentine.

Valentine.

"We want to install

voluntary compliance," said

Looking ahead

in finding the good, the bad and the ugly.

complaint locally nationwide, according to Valentine, remains speeding vehicles followed closely by only be deterred by officer

2008, LPD will continue its traffic lights. This too can technology upgrades with to prevent tragedies," said the help of a grant from the Lowell Community Fund. The upgrades include video recording equipment, telephone log-in system, dispatcher computers and overhead lights.

Budget-wise, piggest unknown in the upcoming budgeting process remains the cost of gas, although overall the budget is expected to stay around the same level of \$860,000.

The department will continue to participate in various law enforcement initiatives against drunk

"We will stay evervigilant for drunk drivers

The total number of department complaints, 4,520, has been artificially inflated by finger printing of teachers in the fall. Although not a complaint they must the be included in departmental statistics. according to Valentine.

keep progressing with technology training," Valentine.

Week of Jan. 14, 2007 MON: Pepperoni pizza (egg salad sandwich offered at Alto & Murray steamed broccoli, warm apple slices, milk.

LUNCH MENU

**ELEMENTARY** 

MENU

TUES: Cheeseburger on bun (chili & crackers offered at Alto & Murray whole kernel assorted fruit home baked cookie

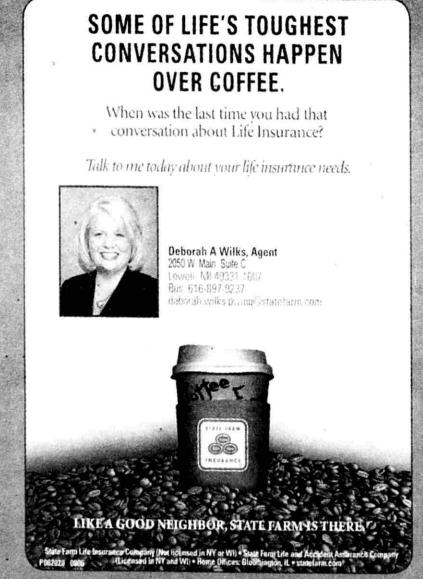
WED: Turkey cheese on bun (grilled sandwich offered at Alto & Murray Lake), vegetable pasta salad, pears, milk,

THURS: French toast sticks w/syrup, cereal w/graham crackers & scrambled eggs, fresh fruit, applesauce, milk.

FRI: Hot dog on bun w/yogurt 8 peanut butter offered at Alto & Murray Lake) mini carrots & dip fresh orange, milk.

The more you read and observe about this Politics thing, you got to admit that each party is worse than the other. The one that's out always looks the best.

- Will Rogers (1879 - 1935)



# Viewpoint

To The Editor

Dear Ledger, the Plain Dealer of Lowell:

I have before me Representative Hildenbrand's "2007 Legislative Review", and see why five years of fiscal nightmare in Michigan are not "squabbling" or "bickering" as journalists often say. At issue is the basic structure of society. On the day the new Legislature was seated and "Jenny" took her first oath, the State was already reeling from the arch-tax cutter and businessman's friend. The real slide was due to begin

Spring, 2007. Rep. Hildenbrand sent out his usual attractive mailing, so elegant it surely originated from a larger organization. On the front: "Bloated Government". Fancy that, methought. Twelve years of an activist Tory two-party system. governor, I forget how many years of his party's control of both houses, and several years of a willy-nilly Democrat, and still "bloated". Not easy to please, are we? But bloat is not the problem: what Mr. Hildenbrand and comrades-inarms object to is the benign state, per se.

December, 2007. "Still more room to cut waste and election. reform government." I thought "Jabba the Hut" was doing just that with his legislative allies, 1991-2002. Still not invariably after instructing voters that they could NOT cross done? Let's get their salaries back. The current scheme born party lines, only vote one party or the other, the machine of mighty compromising is termed a "massive \$1.4 billion" would reject the ballot. The voter then becomes very irate, tax hike", segue to a "staggering ... tax hike." They like the accusing the election inspectors, city, state or federal number, so ask them to break it down sometime. Moreover, government of taking away their right to vote for whomever even if the figure were \$700 million, listen for "massive" or they want to. I guarantee that it will happen this time also, "brobdingagian".

I know this philosophy, thanks to former hero Malcolm same again. "Cut taxes" - no matter what else is happening. for whomever you want to in November. Ayn Rand ("Big" Al Greenspan's early enamorata) would say there should be no state, what Michigan Republicans yearn for when the shades are drawn.

The requirement for a public declaration of party

life and the price paid for the convenience of shopping and

performing other transactions online.

G.M. Ross

Why I am not voting in the

I was city clerk for the City of Lowell from 1970-1986 and have worked as an election inspector here almost ever since, so I bring a small amount of expertise to the subject.

In this day and age, I cannot believe how many people still do not understand what a primary election is for.

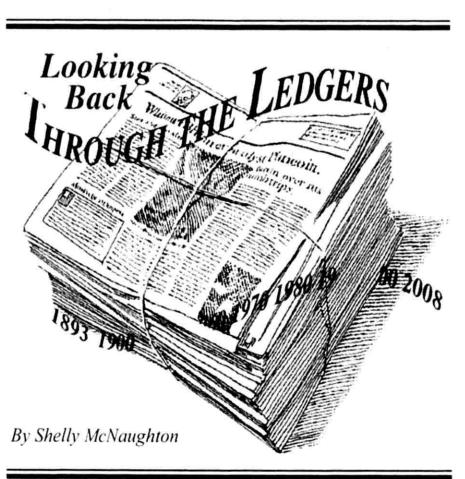
We are not "electing" anyone to any office in a primary, we are merely picking our choice of person from those people who are running for the privilege of being the "primary" (No. 1) candidate for our political party for the presidential election in November 2008. Thus the reason for having to declare a party affiliation, and this time, two separate ballots. (There are no Independents or other parties running in the Michigan Primary; we are still basically a

The reasoning behind the premise of only being allowed to vote within your own party is so that you cannot pick the strongest candidate for your party, then vote for the weakest candidate in the opposing party, thereby hoping to ensure that your candidate will win in the November presidential

Until now, both parties were listed on one ballot, and even with separate ballots.

However, refusing to vote at all for this reason, you are S. Forbes. When things are dodgy, "cut taxes". When healthy, only disenfranchising yourself. You will be allowed to vote

> Sincerely. Nancy J. Wood



125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL

This week is missing from files.

100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER **JANUARY 9, 1908** 

D. G. Mange has purchased W. E. Marsh's house on Washington Street and the family is moving in this

> 75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO **JANUARY 12, 1933**

C. H. Runciman has been confined to the home for a day or so on account of a badly bruised hand, one finger of which was crushed by the heavy vault doors of the Lowell

Harvey Callier, well known owner of the Strand Theatre, has been in Blodgett Hospital, Grand Rapids, since last Thursday, where he was taken in a Yeiter ambulance.

Mr. Callier had not been well for about a week and on Thursday suffered a severe hemorrhage which is thought to have been induced by ulcers of the stomach.

#### 50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER **JANUARY 9, 1958**

Nearly \$100,000 in damage resulted when a blazing fire swept through seven buildings in Lowell Thursday morning. The fire is believed to have started in Mel's bar, but the cause is unknown. The bar and six other stores were destroyed in the blaze. This includes the Showboat Inn, Wepman's Clothing Store, two barbershops, two empty

In the confusion of the fire, one of the fire trucks knocked over a light post which fell on Gerald Parker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Parker. X-rays were taken but he was found to be uninjured.

Early radio reports had said Christiansen's and Avery's and also the Levee were burning and another report even said that all of Main Street was on fire.

#### 25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER **JANUARY 12, 1983**

Headline: "Coons retires from Savings and Loan" A new year has brought new things to David Coons, who retired on January 1 from his position as branch manager of the United Federal Savings and Loan. Coons retires after 29 years with the organization.

Headline: "Hutson retires from Lowell Police

Seargent James C. Hutson, a well known figure to most Lowell residents, will retire from the Lowell Police Department on Jan. 15, 1983.

#### Michigan presidential primary by Fran Faverman Staff Writer The Jan. 15 Michigan presidential primary has many voters incensed for very basic reasons—it offends their sense

of individual privacy and fairness. preference has hit a raw nerve with people who by and large accept the loss of personal privacy suffered in the age of the Internet when all kinds of intrusions are accepted as a fact of

Over and over, one hears sentiments such as "It's nobody's business who I vote for," "I don't want my name on a party's lists-I get too much junk mail now," "It's outrageous that the taxpayers are being forced to pay for party lists," and even "It's a waste of money, especially when we kicked disabled children and their caregivers out of the Medicaid program." (Note: Only some disabled children - 40,000 - and their caregivers were removed from the

primary which the state pays for. The legislature, in its wisdom or collective loss of sanity, depending upon one's viewpoint, has appropriated \$10 million to pay for it. Knowledgeable observers have recently said that the primary could cost as much as \$12 million. This means the legislature would have to find another \$2 million in an already strapped state budget.

Beyond the issues raised for the state in the primary, the other issue of particular importance for Democrats or for people who would like to vote in the Democratic presidential primary is the impact of national party rules. Only four (Hillary Clinton, Sen.Chris Dodd, Mike Gravel, and Dennis Kucinich) of the eight announced candidates battling for the Democratic presidential nomination are on the party's presidential primary ballot. The remaining four (senators Joseph Biden and Barack Obama, John Edwards and Bill Richardson) have withdrawn, threatened by the Democratic National Committee's announced intention to penalize state delegations to the national convention in August.

On the Republican ballot, two candidates, Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kansas, and Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colorado, have formally withdrawn from the race, leaving seven on the

Besides voters, perhaps the people most affected and bedeviled by the return to a very closed system for the presidential primary are the city, town, and village clerks, who are charged by state law with running elections. The ways in which voter party preference information could become public does not imply a lack of integrity and commitment by current public officials or paid election workers. Many of them are also very concerned about privacy issues. Some have said they are reluctant to vote in the presidential primary precisely because of the privacy issues.

Procedures for implementing election laws and conducting elections in this state are designed, promulgated, and overseen by the Bureau of Elections in the office of the Secretary of State. And they have been coming forth in a blitz of paperwork as municipal clerks have seen forms Many voters are deeply offended by the cost of the redesigned, and solutions to many 'what-if' situations have been formulated and passed on by Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land and Bureau of Elections Director Chris Thomas.

A word is in order about the types of primaries: Open and closed. A truly open primary allows a voter, who might prefer a Republican candidate for one office to vote for that Republican candidate while preserving his or her ability to vote for a Democratic or other party candidate for another office. In other words, it was very similar to the normal general election ballot. That changed after 1972 when George Wallace, much to the embarrassment and chagrin of Michigan Democrats, won the state's presidential primary Since then, the trend in the state has been to restrict a voter's choices with a form of the closed primary

Voters had to pick a party ballot but the choice was made in the privacy of the voting booth and a voter could vote in only the primary he or she selected. The major disadvantage to that approach was the built-in possibility of confusion. Voters often invalidated their ballots by inadvertently voting

Why I am not voting, cont'd., pg. 11

By George J. Fekete, Pastor, St. Mary Church

Blessed Giles, a friend of St. Francis once stated, "There is no greater grace given to a person under heaven than to live at peace with those amongst whom his life is set." That's a beautiful, wise and simple truth. Whether we live in a conventional family, a nursing home, a college dormitory or apartment, military quarters or a religious community, one of the great graces we can experience is to live peacefully with those who surround us. Regarding family life, who can be more trying than a husband or wife, mother or father, son or daughter? Who has seen us at our worst? Who continually makes demands on us to give up and let go of our time, our finances, our selfishness in running our daily lives? It is no wonder that we need a great grace from God to live peacefully in our families.

A week ago, we celebrated the birthday of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. He was born into and became part of a family. It was the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We need the example of this Holy Family more than ever in our world in which there are so many fears and so much alienation and division.

Someone once referred to the family as a "school of love." St. Paul in his letter to the Colossians (3:12-21) on the practice of the virtues, gives us a detailed outline of what we need to learn if we want to be good students in this most important school. We are to clothe ourselves in kindness, humility and patience.

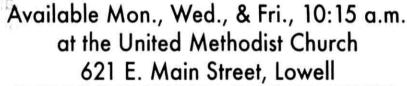
I'll end the prayer: "Jesus, Mary and Joseph as we begin this New Year, ask the Father to give each of us the grace to live peacefully with every member of our family and strengthen our desire to make our family a 'school of love' in which each person is respected as a child of God."

P.S. If the need is present there is a beautiful Prayer for Healing the Family Tree. It can be found at: http://www. mercyhealing.com/Prayers\_files/prayer-for-healing-thefamily-tree.html

A fun class just for seniors who want to be more active..

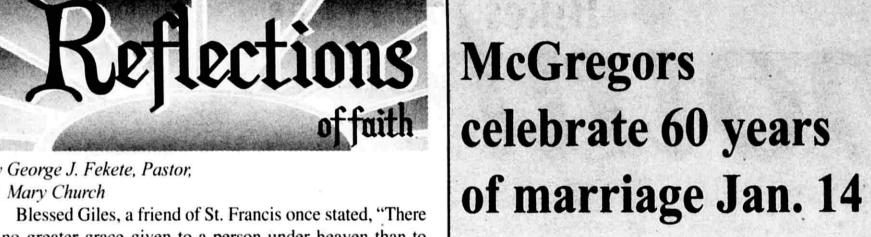
## EnhanceFitness

is an exercise program which has been proven to help you feel better, be healthier and have more fun.



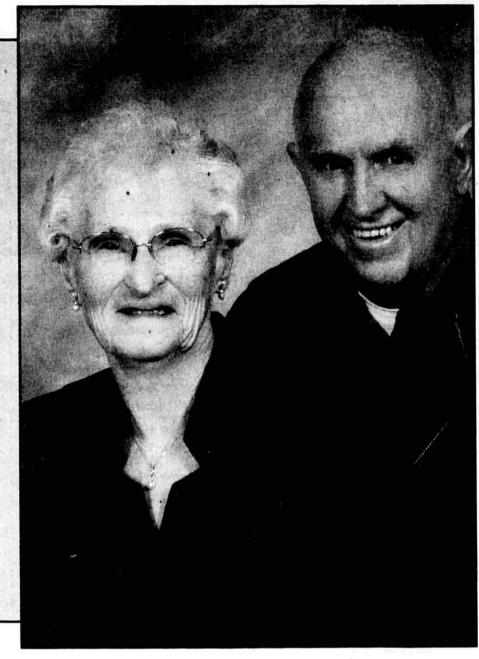
COST FOR THIS PROGRAM IS \$1.00 PER CLASS

This program is available through funds from the Kent County Senior Millage and is provided by Senior Neighbors. For more information please contact Julie at 233-0283



Donald and Jacquelyn McGregor of Ada will be celebrating 60 years of marriage on Jan. 14, 2008. Their children are: Ron and Donna Edwards, Rich and Pam Capek, Debbie McGregor, Jr. and Sherri Van Dyke, Larry and Kim Fosburg, and Darryl and Amy McGregor. The have 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A reception in their honor will be held at Third Reformed Church, Grand Rapids.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald McGregor





Boruta

Laughing at our mistakes can lengthen our own life. Laughing at someone else's can shorten it.

- Cullen Hightower



Guastavino.

Jordan Potter, Helena Jake Sterzick, Stephen Rutherford.

**JANUARY 10:** Mary Jo Vezino, Alvin Angie Nowak, Ryan Burns, Brenk I, Jared Felling, Mike Tim Yonker.

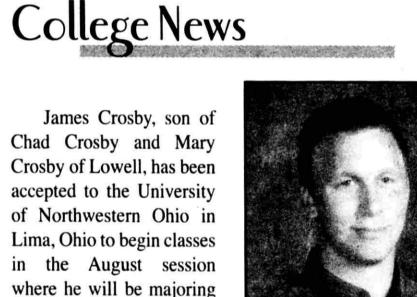
JANUARY 11:

**JANUARY 14:** 

**JANUARY 15:** Dennis Burns.

Plutschouw, Blodger, Marian

**JANUARY 12:** Judy Ellison, Stuart Sauber,



in the Diesel Technology

program. James attends

Financial Focus

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With Christopher C. Godbold

**EdwardJones** 

MAKE SOME FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS -

AND STICK TO THEM

follow through on it, what are the consequences? It all

depends. If you vow to learn French, but you never get past

"Oui, mademoiselle," your life will probably go on pretty

much as before (unless, of course, you're now living in

France). But if you make some financial resolutions, and

you abandon them, you could fall short of your long-term

attainable financial resolutions - and then discipline

yourself to achieve them. What sort of resolutions might

every year. If your employer offers a 401(k) or similar

retirement plan — such as a 403(b) or 457(b) — take full

advantage of it. Your earnings have the potential to grow on

a tax-deferred basis, and, because you typically make pre-

tax contributions, the more you invest, the lower your annual

taxable income. Furthermore, you may have a dozen or

more investment options within your plan, so you can tailor

shouldn't find it hard to keep this financial "resolution."

Contribute the maximum amount to your IRA. Your

traditional or Roth IRA can be a key part of your retirement

savings. A traditional IRA can potentially grow tax deferred,

while a Roth IRA's earnings have the potential to grow tax-

free, provided you don't take withdrawals until you reach

59 1/2 and you've had your account at least five years.

Consequently, you'll want to set reasonable and

• Boost your 401(k) contributions this year —and

goals — such as a comfortable retirement.

you make? Consider the following:

If you make a New Year's resolution, and you don't

Lowell High School.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY** 

**TEST OF THE OPTICAL SCAN** 

TABULATING EQUIPMENT

**FOR THE JANUARY 15, 2008** 

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the public

Presidential Primary Election will be

conducted on Thursday, January 10, 2008 at

2:00 p.m. at the Lowell City Hall, Council

Chambers, Second Floor, 301 East Main

#### **James Crosby**

Financial, cont'd., pg. 10

# AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Ava Lynn Boruta

are happy to announce the Terry and Nancy Raymor

birth of their daughter, Ava and Mike and Mary Boruta.

Lynn. She was born Novem- Great-grandparents are Ro-

ber 1, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. ger and Norma Raymor and

11 oz. and measuring 20 1/2 Jean Boruta.

Proud grandparents are

Joe and Becky Boruta



Kirby and Harrison

Alto • 616-691-8011 ...9:30 A.M. Children's Church......9:30 A.M.

**OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS**  OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey

..9:45 A.M Sunday School.. Nursery & Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended

Word Centered Service!" **CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER** (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery

John King, Youth Pastor SUNDAYS: 10:00 a.m - Worship & Evening: FE home Groups & "The Source" Youth **WEDNESDAYS:** Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.

SNOW UNITED

.Worship/Fellowship Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!

REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL

Mike Vezino.

Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship. .10:00 A. M Sunday School.. .11:20 A.M. Evening Worship. .6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free

ST. MARY'S **CATHOLIC CHURCH** Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL **CHURCH OF LOWELL** (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906

**SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M.** 

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M

119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell

**CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES** 

Pastor Robert L. Hubbard

Phone: (616) 897-1267

website www.aplighthouse.com

..10:15-11:15 A.M r. Roger LaWarre. ..C.E. Director .Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship

OF THE NAZARENE Lowell High School Performing Arts Center Greeting & Fellowship... Sunday Morning Worship... Nednesday Discipleship Ministries.....7:00 P.M. Meets at 201 N. Washington



Street, Lowell, Michigan.

Betty R. Morlock City Clerk

# **Bikes for Tykes**



The Wolf Pack Motorcycle Club held its fifth annual Christmas party in December. Every year they collect bikes and other toys for Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. This year they collected 30 bikes and eight bags

your choices to reflect your individual risk tolerance, goals of toys to be distributed to area children. The Wolf and time horizon. If your salary goes up every year, increase Pack would like to thank all of the area businesses that your 401(k) contributions at the same time. Since the money helped make this a successful event. will automatically be deducted from your paycheck, you

#### Serving the Lowell Area Since 1972

2008-2009

**SCHOOL YEAR** 

Registration

interaction in a

caring Christian

environment.

\*3 & 4 yr. old classes



Open to public **MONDAY, Jan., 14 • 9 AM** Our programs focus on school readiness and positive social 621East Main, Lowell

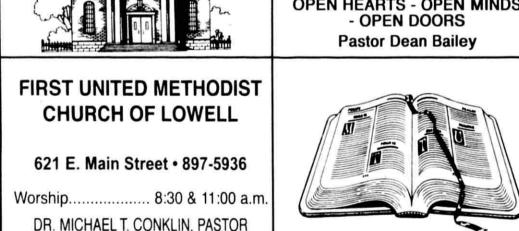
\*\*\*\* **Preschool Office** 897-8690

Limited number of scholarships are available; Deadline June 1, 2008

#### **CATHOLIC HOMECOMING**

Catholic Homecoming is an outreach to Catholics, who for whatever reason, no longer practice their faith. The reason one may have for leaving the Church tends to not diminish the yearning to receive the Eurcharist. That yearning is the result of the intimate contact with Jesus Christ that one experiences at Holy Communion. This intimate contact with Jesus is the "where the rubber meets the road," so to speak, of being Catholic. Unfortunately, many have encountered human obstacles to this contact with Jesus, obstacles that have damaged their relationship with Christ and His Church. If you are a Catholic who no longer practices the Faith, please consider this invitation to come home to Jesus. to join us again at the table of the Lord. We at Catholic Homecoming would like to be the ears that hear what happened to cause the rift between you and the Church, the heart that listens to your pain. Let our arms be the ones that welcome and embrace you, as the father embraced his prodigal son. Catholic Homecoming is a three week process that begins on Tuesday, January 15th at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Mary Church; 402 Amity; Lowell, MI. For more information please call the Office of Religious Education at 897-7915.

#### CITY OF **DAY BIBLE CHAPEL APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE ALTO UNITED CALVARY CHRISTIAN** 9305 Centerline, Saranac **METHODIST CHURCH** UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH 897-6332 SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. LOWELL



Barrier - Free Entrance **GOOD SHEPHERD** 

**LUTHERAN CHURCH** 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-2 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Worship Service.

Sunday School.. .9:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible

**FIRST BAPTIST** 

Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org

Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor

-Sun. Worship Service......9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.

Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times

Nursery Provided · Barrier Free

....Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M.

Sunday School Hour.

CHURCH OF LOWELL

Loving God ... Loving People! -METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurlan Meredith

Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE WIGGINS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING

LOWELL CHURCH

PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance

IN ONE VISIT ...SIMPLE! "If I had known it would be this easy, I wouldn't have put off getting a crown for so long. One visit accuracy test of the Optical Scan Tabulating and it was done. The crown fits and looks great. Equipment for the January 15, 2008 I have my smile back...simple!" (6) Family Dentistry of Lowell

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



# Weather break brings the dogs out

Dog owners gathered at the recentlyopened Lowell Animal Hospital Dog Park to let their dogs have fun and socialize in warmer temperatures Saturday. "It's been a huge success," said Jim Carey, one of the driving forces behind the park, that has been in the works for the last two years. More than 20 dogs with their owners worked on agility skills.

#### That man is the richest whose pleasures are the cheapest.

- Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)

group is expected to file a

grant application for the

acquisition of the \$3 million

corridor will be railbanked

as a transportation corridor

into perpetuity, since Mid-

Michigan railroad has filed

corridor," said Dave Heybor

of the West Michigan Trails

also allow the trail to be

converted back into a

& Greenways Coalition.

"We need to protect that

Rail banking would

In the meantime, the

corridor by Aug. 1.

# Trail group considers tri-county agreement to govern rail corridor

by Emma Palova

January 9

trail Thursday formed a governing authority between

A large citizens group running along the Flat

working on the conversion to Ionia running along the Grand River.

along the two lines include Belding on the northeast and Saranac on the

newly-appointed committee River, the other from Lowell member Julianne Burns,

goes through our downtown any type of an agreement along the river.

discussion, an interlocal agreement between the three counties appeared to be the interlocal

in the kitchen, the harder it image.

together, it will happen. An momentum going," interlocal agreement is the chairperson Carolyn Kane. best example of cooperation between governments."

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and connects everything will have to come back to the individual units of Following a long government for approval, according to Sabine

The benefits of an best option in spite of the between governing units fact it has not happened in along the two trails include non-competition for grants, "We can look at other one master plan, consistent said Kent rules and signage and a County Parks director Roger bigger perspective as a Sabine, "but the more cooks regional trail with first class

"We need to build "If we all agree to work a structure to keep the

Once defined, the authority will become the However, ultimately, grant applicant on behalf

railroad if needed. Although a purchase agreement has not been Meijer Foundation has committed to funding of the \$100,000 downpayment.

Other costs coming up include a baseline environmental assessment, title search and a survey.

The next meeting will be held on Feb. 7 at 1 p.m. at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

# NOTICE

# **Lowell Area Recreation Authority Trailway 2008 Meeting Schedule**

The Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA) meets monthly to discuss progress and make decisions on its community Trailway project. All meetings are open to the public, and are held at 6:00 pm. Locations given are subject to change. For current information, call Mari Stone at 897-5671 x2, or for a calendar of these and other events please visit the trails web site at www.lowellareatrailway.org

#### THE LOWELL AREA RECREATION AUTHORITY **BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2008 ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:**

**Lowell Township Offices** 

February 13 **Lowell City Offices** March 12 **Vergennes Township Offices Lowell Township Offices** April 9 May 14 **Lowell City Offices** June 11 **Vergennes Township Offices** July 9 **Lowell Township Offices** August 13 **Lowell City Offices Vergennes Township Offices** September 10 **Lowell Township Offices** October 8 **Lowell City Offices** November 12 December 10 **Vergennes Township Offices** 

by Emma Palova

Part 3

With a mile of frontage on Murray Lake and 4 Mile Kendra roads in Grattan Township, assistant to the preservation retired farmer Lloyd Flanagan could have raked Heffron, Grattan Township in a nice chunk of cash if he official. had parceled off the family farm for development

PRESERVED FARMLAND

Having a health Flanagan. "I made 100condition since 20, Lloyd some phone calls. I just Flanagan could have also couldn't see selling it." used the cash. After all, his uncle Irwin Flanagan had has been farming the land sold large parcels of land for development south of Lowell High School in Lally Road

Lloyd are places for housing in Flanagan embarked on a the township, and that long journey to preserving farmland should be left Flanagan. the farm forever through alone. the Kent County farmland preservation 1993. he did most of the administrative work over the phone.

program. dad to get the farm into

He found out about the the preservation program. program from preservation That meant also entering being able to drive since to protect the waterways efficient.

Auto Accidents

Personal Injuries

Work Related

**Injuries** 

Downtown

Lowell

(Next to Lowell City Hall)

to be created between the

Progress might have been all right once,

but it has gone on too long.

Noreen K. Myers

Attorney at Law

25 Years Experience as a Trial Lawyer

Free Interview - No Fee Unless You Recover

Evening Appointments Available

program and Dennis

"I didn't even know

where to start," said Lloyd

since he graduated from

1985. Dave believes there

Dave worked with his

- Ogden Nash (1902 - 1971)

Sexual Harrasment

Workers

Compensation

Social Security

Disability

307 East Main

Lowell, MI

897-5460

waterways. Dave grows

Grattan farmer preserves land to continue farming cycle

grain for ethanol fuel, which Kathleen with son Dave continue to live on the grain to be fed back to the farm.

> "I never regretted it," said Lloyd Flanagan, "I'd

less dependent on oil." Indeed dad Flanagan has been approached several times to sell off some land. He never gave in, and the process cemented his belief that farmland preservation

should have been done

many years ago.

comes back as distillers

"It's an entire cycle."

Dave said, "it's the future

trend for farming so we are

livestock.

"I encourage everyone to preserve farmland," said Lloyd Flanagan, "farms and acres are getting gobbled up for development and commercial.'

Lloyd Flanagan too Moreover son Dave believes, that there is already enough development in and Vergennes Grattan townships.

> "Uncle's farm has been developed, and they built a new school," said Lloyd

As a former farmer dependent on equipment, Lloyd Flanagan says schools located all in one complex with a bus garage pioneer Tim Howard. Not a conservation program have to be more energy

"My folks would have Buffers of sod had been proud to see the farm preserved all in one piece."

Interest in farmland preservation seems to be growing as more and more farmers enter the

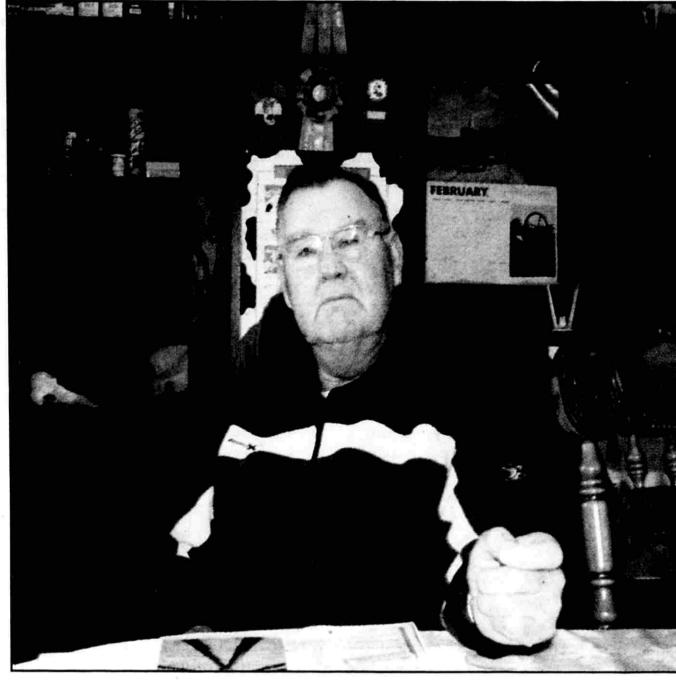
program. Flanagan's farm

was the first one preserved

the second one in Kent

"People ae getting more knowledgeable about it," said Lloyd Flanagan.

in Grattan Township, and



Lloyd Flanagan preserved 145 acres of farmland in 2006





An injury to the soft tissues of the neck that occurs from a sudden jerking or "whipping" of the head. This type of motion strains the muscles and the ligaments of the neck beyond their normal range of motion. Whiplash often occurs when a vehicle stops suddenly in a car crash or is struck from behind. Either of these two actions causes things in the vehicle to be thrown forward - including passengers. A seat belt will keep a person's body from being thrown forward, but the head may snap forward, then backward, causing a whiplash injury in the neck. In addition to car accidents, whiplash can also be caused from a fall or as a result of a sports injury.

#### TREATMENT

Chiropractic care works on correcting complications and relieving pain associated with whiplash injuries. To see if chiropractic may be able to help you call (616) 897-8284 today for a complimentary

**Lowell Chiropractic** (616) 897 - 8284 Aaron J. Buys D.C.

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• Orthodontic Care (Braces) • Wisdom Teeth Extraction

• Implants • TMJ (Jaw Pain Therapy) • Treatment of Periodontal Disease (Latest Non-Surgical Techniques Available)

· Dentures · Partials · Root Canals · Crowns and Bridges • Emergencies Accepted • Convenient Payment Plans

TODD GILLAN, DDS, PC

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WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO CALL

(616) 897-8491

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN LOWELL

The method for choosing delegates to the national

convention is contained in part in a document entitled How

President. It is a three-step process. Step one is the primary:

To earn delegates to the national convention, candidates and

uncommitted must get at least 15 percent of the vote in the

January primary. Step two is the selection of 83 delegates

and 15 alternates who will be elected in the 15 Congressional

District Conventions based on the results of the primary. Step

U.S. Senators and Representatives, Democratic National

Committee members from Michigan and two others and that

make up the state's 156 delegates to the national convention.

chosen, who they will be, and what groups they will actually

usually are political activists beyond exercising their right to

The Michigan Democratic Party has a commitment to

vote in elections, one may be sure that they are committed in

affirmative action goals and has ratios for minority delegates

and alternates. For example, African Americans are entitled

receive six delegates and one alternate. Hispanics get six

delegates and one alternate, while gay, lesbian, bisexual, and

transgender persons have six delegates and one alternate.

The list goes so on to include people with disabilities (eight

delegates, one alternate), Asian/Pacific Americans (three

delegates, no alternate); Native Americans (two delegates, no

alternate); and young people, ages 18 to 35, who receive 19

In the end, what does the Michigan presidential primary

Zilch. The notion than an early Michigan primary would

force the candidates to pay attention to Michigan's problems

is ludicrous. It is especially ridiculous when one considers

that of the candidates, the only major Democrat on the ballot

is Hillary Clinton, and her most credible opponent, Barack

very well matter significantly. Do the majority of these free

And here is where the uncommitted delegates may

Who is electable? That is the question that has the

Obama, has chosen to withdraw from the ballot.

delegates go to Clinton or to Obama?

The real kicker is how the uncommitted delegates will be

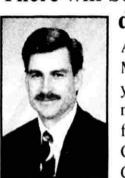
three amalgamates the results of the primary and the district

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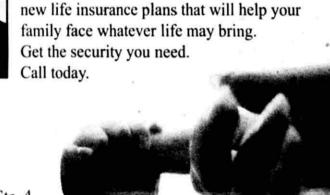
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# Financial Focus, continued ... From Page 7

Unfortunately, many people don't fully fund their IRAs each year because they're intimidated by the contribution limits (\$5,000 per year, or \$6,000 if you're over 50). But there's no need to fund your IRA all at once; you can do it incrementally. Why not write out a check to your IRA costs, and strive to live within your means. each time you get paid, or, better yet, have the money automatically sent from your checking account? Again, it will be easier to keep this resolution if you don't have to work at it.

Build an emergency fund. This resolution may take achieve your long-term objectives. a bit more effort, but it's worth it. If you can put away six to 12 months' worth of living expenses in a liquid account, help position yourself for financial success — for many and only use the money for emergencies — car repairs, unexpected doctors' bills, etc. - you may be able to avoid dipping into your investments to pay for these costs. And the less you tap into your investments, the better.

 Cut your debts. Here's another resolution that sounds simple, but can be difficult to achieve. Yet, every dollar that doesn't have to go for a debt payment can be invested for your future. In 2008, look for ways to cut your

See a professional. If you've never worked with a financial advisor, make 2008 the year to start. A qualified financial advisor can objectively evaluate your situation and suggest appropriate financial strategies for helping you

If you can follow all these resolutions in 2008, you can New Years to come.

Many forms of Government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.

- Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)

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# Why I am not voting, continued ... From Page 5

lever-action machines with which the selection of one primary automatically disabled access to the other. The use of punch cards and paper ballots permitted inadvertent error. Ballots with such errors were not counted.) The major advantage for the parties was the elimination of "cross-over voting."

presidential primary as a truly closed primary, but with gaping holes where voter privacy is concerned. Ballots and forms have been redesigned to reflect the new environment. elections in Michigan.) (See sample ballots in this issue.)

experience more than 50 years ago when she requested a Democratic primary ballot. The election worker's response was, "I've never heard of a (name) asking for a Democratic in Barry County's seventh county commission district where ballot before!"

In another instance, an elected public official would like to vote in the other party's primary. When it was suggested to him that this might not be a good idea should he choose to run for reelection to his office, he is now mulling his options. It is possible that his choice will become a matter of record available to his opponent in either a primary within his own party or in the general election.

His choice could become public knowledge in a number of ways. If challengers, who are allowed to watch the electoral process and inspect poll books are present, they could record the choices of individuals who are of interest to them. This could easily happen in the precinct setting. Beyond an individual challenger's ethical sense at the polls or later on the campaign trail, there is no safeguard to a voter's privacy.

Although political parties are generally protective nearly to the point of paranoia— about their lists of supporters, lists can be distributed to candidates. The compiling of lists has always been a significant expense for candidates, and the availability of voter preference lists by electoral units broken down into street addresses and available from the party is a godsend to candidates. (The writer speaks from personal experience; she ran in a party primary for a nomination for a state house district in 1994.) The provision of such lists also enables the parties to avoid a significant cost of doing business and allows the money saved to be directed to more advertising over the airwaves, the Internet, and through direct

Another aspect of the controversy over the lists that will be derived from the presidential primary election and their availability to the parties is the cost of the election. Many voters are left wondering what the legislature was thinking of when it approved spending public tax dollars for the benefit of the two political parties.

Consider the voter who usually uses an absentee ballot; Convention who are not those voters are put on the permanent absentee voter list, committed or pledged which means they automatically receive an application for an to any candidate. Those absentee ballot. (Filling out the application and returning it delegates can vote for any to the clerk means they will then receive an absentee ballot.) candidate they choose at the Clerks were required to send those voters a letter indicating convention. that for the Jan. 15 election, the voter had to indicate on the

application which ballot he or she wanted. If the voter does not indicate a preference, no ballot will be sent. (The only exception is voters serving in the military overseas who have APO or EPO addresses;

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# **BOWNE TOWNSHIP** CITY OF LOWELL **LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP VERGENNES TOWNSHIP** NOTICE

# **ABSENTEE VOTER** INFORMATION

The City and Township Clerks will be available at the following locations on Saturday, January 12, 2008 for any registered voter who would like to apply for or return an absentee voters ballot for the January 15, 2008 Presidential Primary Election.

Sandra Kowalczyk **Bowne Township** 10am - 2pm 8240 Alden Nash Alto, MI 49302 (616) 868-6846

Linda S. Regan

Lowell Charter Township 10am - 2pm 2910 Alden Nash SE Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-7600

Betty Morlock City of Lowell 8am - 2pm 301 East Main Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-8457

Mari Stone Vergennes Township 10am - 2pm 10381 Bailey Dr Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-5671

in both primaries. (With the exception of the mechanical, civilians living or working overseas also fall under the same exception.)

To complicate matters further, some jurisdictions have You Can Help Pick the 2008 Democratic Candidate for also scheduled local ballot issues. Forty-three of the state's eighty-three counties have at least one local issue pending. After all, why should the local municipality pay for an Current election law casts firmly the upcoming election when it can piggyback onto an already scheduled election paid for by the state? (Those interested in election arcana should go to the Secretary of State's site and click on

In areas with local issues, voters have to ask for those conventions and adds in the super-delegates (the governor, One anecdote told to this writer recounted a voter's ballots as well. So the absentee voter now has two ballots to contend with. Voters in Assyria, Baltimore and Johnston townships will receive a second ballot for the recall election incumbent Jeff Van Nortwick is being challenged.

Having considered all of the issues discussed above, the represent. The only requirement is they must be members voter now has an absentee ballot in hand or is standing in the of the state Democratic party. However, since these people voting booth. What to do next?

If the voter has selected the Republican ballot, things are pretty simple. Just vote for his or her presidential candidate while remembering that Sam Brownback and Tom Tancredo have withdrawn even though their names are still on the ballot. So it is pretty simple—choose one of the seven remaining candidates. Or if there is some dark horse out there to 37 delegates and five alternates, and Arab Americans known only to the voter, vote "uncommitted," and the party will be delighted to find somebody for you.

If the voter wants to vote in the Democratic presidential primary, things are not so simple. Voters have been asking this writer, "What do I do if my candidate is not on the ballot?"

The answer, according to the Voter Guide on the Jan. 15. 2008, Michigan Democratic Presidential Primary, supplied by the Michigan Democratic Party headquarters, is to vote delegates and three alternates.

The citizen who wants to vote for Joe Biden, John mean's Edwards, Barack Obama, or Bill Richardson, has to vote uncommitted because a write-in vote is not permitted in this primary. Why? Because state law requires that a writein candidate must have filed an announcement of his or her availability by 4 p.m. on the Friday preceding the election; in this case, by 4 p.m. on Jan. 10. Such a filing would immediately expose the candidate to the penalty provisions of the national party's rules and would defeat the candidate's purpose in withdrawing from the official ballot.

A voter who decides to vote uncommitted is really casting a ballot in the wilderness and hoping for the best. political junkies slavering.

A vote for 'uncommitted' is a vote to send delegates to the Democratic National

# **VERGENNES TOWNSHIP** NOTICE All meetings are held at the Township Hall, located at 10381

Bailey Dr., at 7:00 pm. For further information, phone 897-5671, or for a list of these dates visit the township web site at www.vergennestwp.org.

THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD **MEETINGS FOR 2008 ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:** 

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

THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR 2008 ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

> July 7 January 7

February 4 August - July 28 September 8 March 3

April - March 31 October 6

May - April 28 November – October 27

The Zoning Board of Appeals meet as required or requested.

December 1

June 2

Red Arrow

# SPARS

# four close games, including and finished with a 46-43 but FHC went to the line

**BOB WERNET** 

# Boys' basketball continues to keep fans on the edge of their seat

by Molly Benningfield

basketball team lost another against Lakewood. nail biter to Forest Hills Central Thursday night at was no different. Although - he was right.

one in overtime, in their victory. six-game set. The two wins

the Arrows never led, they

soon, after the boys' Greenville and a huge game dazzling plays - including to the right person to force a one-armed rebound to overtime. Thursday night's game basket in the fourth quarter

four points, but have lost were up by three at the half, Arrows within one point,

Brett McMahon led the

Matt Kurtz and Eric

at 7 p.m.

(Left): against FHC.

with less than 10 seconds Coach Jeff McDonald in regulation and secured Red Arrow fans might were also exciting, with a said FHC was one of the best their victory. The Arrows be in need of a manicure one-point thriller against in the league, and with a few just couldn't get the ball

McDonald said that the close games haven't had too At the end of the game, much of a negative effect on The Arrows have yet to also kept close for most Michael Schumm made his team. "Regardless, you lose to a team by more than of the game. The Rangers two free throws to push the can't let it - we challenge our guys to hang in there, but this is nothing compared to some things in life they'll

> eam with 13 points, while Schumm added 10.

> Saenz each had 9 points. The Arrows will face off at Kenowa Hills this Friday at 7:30 p.m. Their next home game is Thursday, Jan. 17 against East Grand Rapids

**Eric** Saenz (44) looks for an open teammate during Thursday night's game

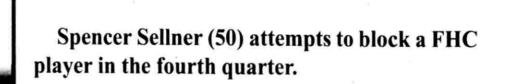
right): Michael Schumm (24) fights off four defenders layup.

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# Red Arrow

WOULD LIKE TO THINK WE ARE A PRETTY EXCITING TEAM TO WATCH, BUT I THINK AS THE SEASON PROGRESSES, WE'LL BE EVEN MORE FUN TO WATCH.

-Coach Jeff McDonald

# Red Arrows get tough loss against Thornapple-Kellogg

by Sean Garner special to the Ledger

he has an entirely different team than last year, and the on the court so far supports said his team is more athletic a solid win over traditional that statement.

The Red Arrows against a tough early slate. suffered a devastating 58-

by Molly Benningfield

Let the winter

sports season begin

After a good few months of covering high

school football each week, and wringing my hands

for the Spartans on Saturdays, I'm about ready to

move onto cold weather sports. It's just that time

when my mind wanders a bit and I'm ready for

offers a great selection of sports right now - in one

week I can cover basketball, both boys and girls,

wrestling, hockey and bowling. Pretty soon, I'll

start covering gymnastics and cheerleading to round

out the winter season. I've settled in nicely to my

undying love for MSU basketball (when they aren't

playing on the Big Ten Network), and have caught

enjoyed the bowl games and seeing some stellar

enjoy my winter sports, at least until the Super

But football is still around... It's true - I have

I guess I'll have to wait a bit longer to fully

a few Pistons games if I'm home early enough.

performances in the NFL moments.

Bowl rumblings have subsided.

For the most part, I have moved on. Lowell

Sports editor

The Benning-Fielder

weeks ago after the Trojans Friday's

and has been competitive power Lakewood.

Against Middleville, The Red Arrows' Lowell trailed by 15 points a distinct size advantage outside shots against big the second half." 59 loss to Middleville two early three losses include in the second quarter, but over the Red Arrows with people. I think you have to

impressed their coach.

heartbreaker turning it around. We caught ended the game with 21 McDonald said. "With pointer + foul shot) with game against Cedar Springs, didn't hang our heads. We intimidated.

> displayed resiliency that some of the post players take the basketball to big different "In the second quarter literally head and shoulders little bit too much for outside McDonald. He says the we dug ourselves a hole," above their Lowell shots at the beginning. We key difference is this team's

> McDonald said. "I was counterparts. Despite the just needed a better balance athleticism and ability to run really proud of our guys for size discrepancy, each team of attacking the rim. Even the court, which provides a

came back from a three- against Middleville, an a tough break there on that rebounds. McDonald said that being said, there are point deficit on the strength overtime contest against four-point play, but even one of the keys to the game going to be nights when we of a four-point play (three- Caledonia, and a four-point with that being said, we was for his team to not be shoot ourselves back into under five seconds to play. a team widely regarded as got the ball back and we got "There's no question be nights when we shoot one of the best in the area. all the way to the rim and about it, they were a big ourselves out of games. In Red Arrows' performance Lowell to 2-3, but McDonald The Red Arrows also have missed a lay-up at the end basketball team," McDonald this particular case we kind

> The Trojans possessed to back away and settle for shot ourselves back in it in them know that we are still going to attack the rim.'

> > Matt Kurtz led the Red 15-point hole.

is going to shoot the ball from outside the arc more."

ball games, and there may of shot ourselves out of the "We never just want game in the first half and

from Middleville standing people. I think we settled a this season according to though they had several stark contrast to last year's blocked shots, we need to let team which preferred a plodding, methodical

> "It's a different identity," Arrows with 20 points, while McDonald claims. "We are Tim Hettinga added 19. going to be an up-and-down Hettinga's outside shooting team. I would like to think helped lead Lowell out of its we are a pretty exciting team to watch, but I think as the "We are a team that season progresses, we'll be even more fun to watch."

# Lowell gymnastics takes 11th at Rockford

The Lowell gymnastics team took 11th place of 15 teams at the Rockford Flip Flop Invitational Saturday afternoon.

score of 119.125, while Forest Hills Blue won with 138.600. Karen Verbrugge of the Forest Hills Blue team led the meet in vault, balance beam and floor exercise, as well as winning the All-Around, with a score of 37.800.

a high score for the meet on uneven bars with a 9.7.

Wednesday, again at Rockford.

The Arrows ended the meet with a

Chelsea DeKuiper of Ludington had

The Arrows will compete next

## **SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING OF** THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL **MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2007**

Minutes of the November 19, 2007 meeting were approved as written and the accounts payable were approved.

The following actions were taken:

The Council was updated on Grindle Drive drainage issue.

Motion to deny the rezoning request for the 600 South block of E. Main Street and 700 E. Main from R-3 (Multiple Family Residential) to C-3 (General Business) as recommended from the Planning Commission.

Initial review of the 2008-2009 allocations of an estimated \$42,829.23 in Kent County Community Development Block Grant funds.

Motion to adjourn at 7:49 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, December 17, 2007.

Complete minutes are available on the City's web page at www.ci.lowell.mi.us or at the Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street



Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk



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Red Arrow

L/C STUCK STRONG TO THE GAME PLAN TO FINALLY SOLVE MANISTEE NET MINDER. -Coach Mike Ballard

Wrestling team takes 2nd in tough New Lothrop tournament

are on their way to another Addison, and Caro, to name standout season, with this a few. weekend's strong showing at a tough New Lothrop to see the team compete tournament, taking second of twice this weekend at home, 16 teams. The Arrows ended going against Forest Hills the day with 171 points, Central on Friday at 5:30 only trailing Hesperia who p.m., which was originally won with 233 points.

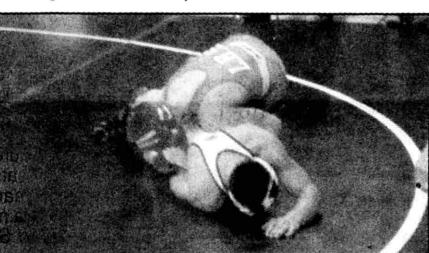
Lowell saw two of its wrestlers as champions, the Gary Rivers Memorial with sophomores Jackson Invitational all day Saturday, Morse and Ryan Olep. Zach hosting a number of good Baum and Tim Gingerich teams, including Allendale, both took second place, and Belding, a slew of wrestlers finished Byron Center, Carson City, well in the meet.

The Arrows defeated a Fremont, number of state qualifying Hastings, Hudsonville, Lake including New Lothrop, Martin and Whitehall.

The varsity wrestlers Durand, Montrose, Corunna.

Fans will have a chance slated for tonight. Lowell will then host

Coldwater. Erie-Mason, Gull Lake. teams, Shore, Lansing Sexton,



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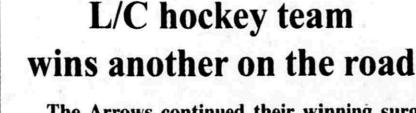
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The Arrows continued their winning surge against Manistee this weekend, with a 5-2 victory.

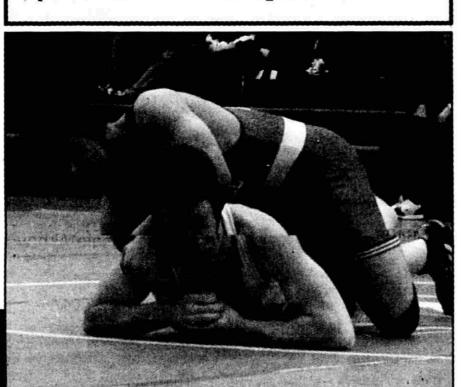
Coach Mike Ballard said the team came back at the end of the game to win.

"After falling behind in the first and second period, L/C came back to a tie at the end of Period 2 and stuck strong to the game plan to finally solve the Manistee net minder."

He said the team out shot Manistee 39 to 18. The Arrows were led by Lowell senior Bo Adams's three-goal game, two of which were on the power play unit.

Ballard said his team is "playing hard and has a tough match Wednesday night at Muskegon Catholic Central."

The team will return to league play Friday at 8 p.m. at Griff's Ice House against Northview.





(Top): Jackson Morse was one of Lowell's

(Left): Ryan Dean took 4th place at New

champions at the New Lothrop Tourna-

ment.

(Top): Ryan Olep (shown at the Sparta meet) was one of two Lowell champions at New Lothrop.

(Left): Zach Baum took 2nd at the tournament.



Photos from the New Lothrop Tournament contributed by Rob Stehley.

# **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

UPDATE TO RECREATION PLAN **VERGENNES TOWNSHIP, KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN** 

The Vergennes Township Board will hold a public hearing on a proposed update to the Recreation Plan on Monday, January 21, 2008 at 7:00 PM. The purpose of the hearing is to accept public comments on the update. A copy of the Recreation Plan is available for public inspection at the Township Hall during regular business hours.

> Mari Stone Vergennes Township Clerk

# Girls basketball wins big against Kenowa Hills

The girls basketball team split a pair of games this past week, defeating Kenowa Hills 46-36 last Friday, but falling short to Grand Rapids Christian Monday night, 38-45.

Chelsea Harrison led the Arrows again on offense, scoring 23 points against Kenowa. Hannah Oberlin grabbed 10 rebounds.

Harrison's 15 points led the Arrows against the Eagles, but wasn't enough to propel the team to a win. Logan DeClercq added 8

The Arrows will play East Grand Rapids this Thursday at home, with the varsity starting at 7 p.m.

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ads

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

2 bedroom house outside Lowell, large 2 stall garage no laundry, \$550/month References & deposit

ALTO - 3 bedroom apartment, \$500 deposit, \$650 a month. 1,100 sq. ft., newly renovated. Must see. 616 868-6411.

DUPLEX FOR RENT - 9 year old ranch on 2 acres in the country, 1 1/2 miles from I-96 (Clarksville exit) 1,000 sq. ft., all appliances, 2 bedrooms, living, dining, kitchen, bath, laundry, central air, attached garage w/remote. No smoking in duplex, \$700 month plus utilities. Call Dave (616) 292-1933.

FOR RENT - Mobile homes, 2 bedroom, \$400. 1st and last month deposit. No pets. Campau Lake

BEDROOM DUPLEX FOR RENT - Country set ting, 1 mile outside Lowell \$500/month, Call 616-450-

SENIORS!!-Rent could be as low as \$70 per month! 1 bedroom HUD subsidized apartments for rent! Rent based on income for those who qualify! BEAUTIFUL 6 acre country setting! Pets welcome! Conveniently located 20 minutes East of Grand Rapids. Call today to an interview call 616-522join our small waiting list. Equal Housing Opportunity. 616-693-2271, hearing mpaired dial 711.TEN

FOR RENT - Lowell, bedroom home, quiet area, \$400 a month. Call 897-7441 or 498-7441.

MURRAY LAKE HOME FOR RENT - Lakefront, one bedroom, one bath and walk out basement, \$615 per month. Available January 15, no pets please.

Call 616-897-8848.

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

FOR RENT - Newly remodeled and insulated 2 bedroom, 1 bath ranch. 3 miles from Murray Lake and elementary school. Laundry and garage. Call

HOUSEFORRENT-2bedrooms, kitchen with newer appliances, garage. \$700 p.m. Convenient location to Main street shopping. Deposit and references. Available Jan. 15th. Call 893-5499.

# **LOST**

LOST BLACK LAB - Female, near Tia Trail & Flat River Ave. \$100 reward. Please call 897-8762.

#### **HELP WANTED SERVICES** DIRECTSUPPORTSTAFF JOHN DEBIAK - certified

JOB FAIR - Serving De-

& Mentally III. Spectrum

Community Services on-

the-spot interviews Jan.

16 & 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

at 3353 Lousma Dr SE

Wyoming. We are hiring

for Direct Support Staff

positions in Lowell area,

PT, all shifts for a behavioral

group home. \$8.35/start,

more w/exp. Min. reg: high

school diploma or GED,

clear criminal record, valid

MI drivers license w/ac-

ceptable driving record. Pd

training provided; must be

avail. every other weekend.

Spectrum Comm. Services

is not affiliated w/Spectrum

Health. We're a non-profit

organization dedicated to

providing the best possible

supports for persons w/de-

velopmental disabilities.

HELP WANTED

Seeking experienced

professional to live in

AFC/Dementia home.

room & board plus

salary. Please call

NEW YEAR EXPANSION

Lansing Outlet, \$400/

week to start. No experi-

ence necessary, company

training provided. Positions

include: general help, cus-

team leaders, marketing

coordinators & entry leve

management. Progres-

sive pay, bonuses & paid

vacations. NO PHONE

INTERVIEWS. SERIOUS

APPLICANTS ONLY, For

SALESPERSONNEEDED

- Make \$50,000 first year

with the right attitude. Paid

training, some experience

a plus but not required. In

home sales. Great team to

work with. Call 616-648-

7036 & leave message on

**WANTED** 

LOOKING FOR BIKE CAR-

RIER - for hitch that holds

5 or more bikes. Call 874-

**SOUND OFF** 

PHONE LINE 897-0787

**SALES** 

4H TACK SALE - for Ionia

County. New & used equip-

ment, clothing & supplies,

Mar. 15, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

at Saranac High School.

Open to public, \$1 door

charge. Booth rental call

616-868-6042 or email

crclrflctn@aol.com.

616-862-6712.

EEO/AA/H.

velopmentally Disabled

time experience. Call 897-HONEY, DO - Your complete Handyman! Special rates for seniors. Get out your list and call Rog at 676-3313 today!

farrier. Horseshoeing &

hoof trimming with twenty

START THE NEW YEAR OUT RIGHT - at Brenda B's Daycare. We have lots of fun in our loving Christian home. Call Brenda,

PAYROLL & BOOKKEEP-**ING SERVICE -** by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-6351. EOWIEN

**GUITAR LESSONS - Matt** Cosgrove MM, FSU in guitar performance, accepting students of all ages. www. cgstudio.us. 350-6000.

ZOOLAND DAYCARE HAS OPENINGS - on 1st. 2nd & 3rd shifts. Call 897-8386 or 308-0195.

DON'T GET STUCK IN THE COLD - 10% off generator hookups Call A. J. Electric 616-691-7767 for all your electrical needs.

IOHN SCHLOOP BUILD-ER - New homes, additions & remodeling. Call 897-

#### **SERVICES** WORK WANTED - Expe-

rienced drywaller or any odd jobs. Call Eric 616-893-5772.

HANDY REPAIR SER VICE - Bob Ford formally of Hahn Hardware is now doing all kinds of servie work at your home or business. Free estimates. Call 299-3198.TEN

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

HORSE BOARDING - Inside/outside. For info call Peggy 897-5807 or 616-

SEAMLESS GUTTER Bleam Eavestroughing. Free estimates, 50 colors leaf guards. Since 1959 Choose the experience (616) 765-3333 or 1-877 945-RAIN. www.bleameaves.com

NEED A DUMPSTER Want great service? 10 15, 20 & 30 yards. Same day delivery. Best prices Call Greg 616-915-0506.

CHRYSLER ENGINE 3.2 liter, timing chain & head gasket problems Affordable repairs, call 616-292-7649.

UPHOLSTERY - Furniture, RV cushions, boat seats dinette chairs, 50 years exp. Low prices, 7 a.m. 9 p.m. Richard Kuyt Sr 531-3309.

# SAVE **MONEY AT** THE GAS **PUMP BY** SHOPPING LOCALLY!

No need to go to Grand Rapids! We have almost everything you need right here in Lowell! You are supporting your community &

saving gas!

**FOUND** 

FOUND - Chainsaw near Valley Vista & Main. Call to identify 897-9446 eve-

# A January thaw



A storm on New Year's Day dumped an additional six to eight inches of snow in Lowell. Department of Public Works crews and Olin Excavating worked hard to clear the roads and parking lots. For ice fishermen like Jeff Scalici the weather was paradise as the sun peaked out and warmed up Stoney Lake. Scalici, who lives nearby, fished for bluegills, although the ice started to melt. "It's a little soggy," he said. Scalici estimated the ice to be 3.5 inches thick.



After single digit temperatures last week, a few days of warm weather caused the meltdown of ice and snow at Stoney Lakeside Park, where just a few days ago ice fishermen were enjoying scouting ice for their catch of the day. However, according to recent weather forecasts that will not last too long. The yo-yo like weather that brought rain and fog, along with occassional peaks of sunshine, will be followed by freezing temperatures.



# Sharing The Vision

With Mark Lessens
Board of Education President

Welcome back students and staff! We begin the new year with great expectations and plans to continue the high levels of teaching and learning throughout the school district. Last month I wrote about how Lowell Area Schools has avoided spending millions of dollars for utilities by becoming more educated about our systems and buildings.

To further enhance our ability to reduce our spending on utilities, we have also entered into a performance contract with Honeywell Corporation. The mission of this partnership is "Creating an Improved Learning Environment with Financial Stability." The goals of the partnership include:

- · Reducing current operating costs
- Upgrade/enhance facilities
- Fund improvements through savings/cost avoidances from the existing budget
- Provide a better learning environment.

The partnership began two years ago, and so far we have realized a cumulative cost avoidance of over \$160,000! At the same time, we have replaced nearly all of the lighting fixtures in the halls, classrooms and gyms with more efficient ones, while providing higher levels of light. We have replaced our boiler system at the middle school, and adjusted all of our boilers to run at peak efficiency. We have added or updated many of our control systems so that we can heat or cool our buildings based on their usage throughout the day, night and weekends. We have also added weather stripping around doors, windows and other building envelope penetrations so that we do not waste conditioned air. We have also reduced our water consumption by installing more efficient bathroom fixtures.

Part of the program also resulted in new bleachers at the middle school and Cherry Creek Elementary. Although these are not energy-related improvements, the safety and ease of use of the old bleachers required that new bleachers be installed.

We plan to continue our partnerships with Honeywell and Energy Education, Inc., and look for ways to avoid paying more than we need to for utilities. By doing this, additional money can be budgeted for items that improve teaching and learning throughout the district. If you have any suggestions or ideas on how we can save additional money while enhancing teaching and learning, please contact your school building administrator or someone at the central office. Thank you for supporting Lowell Area Schools - Happy New Year!

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

