

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 37 Issue 36

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Airplane crashes on takeoff at Lowell Airport

by Emma Palova

The first crash since a plane ran into a roof approximately 10 years ago left the pilot of a Piper Cherokee 235 and his passenger only with minor scratches.

Chris Harper of Alto aborted the take-off on a hot Wednesday evening rather than climbing over the treetops. He was bound for Wisconsin.

"He put the airplane back on the ground," said airport manager Jim Sowle. "He would never be able to clear the trees."

Although Sowle didn't see the accident he spoke with the pilot. Higher temperatures contributed to the crash, since heat slows down the performance of an airplane, according to Sowle. Harper, a commercial and private pilot, was

experienced with a license since 2003.

"He flies a lot," said Sowle. "He flew many hours in the recent year. He bought his own airplane."

The aircraft, according to Sowle, was in beautiful condition. It was consumed by fire three to four minutes after Harper and Joshua Enrico got out.

"This was unusual," said Sowle about the crash.

Hangar tenant Scott Hersman said the plane wasn't developing full power needed for take-off. According to Hersman, the pilot couldn't get the plane airborne, so he diverted it to the right.

"They got out before the fire started," Hersman said. "Fire engulfed most of the airplane."

Lowell firefighters stayed on the scene through Thursday.

Hersman, an Ada resident, too couldn't remember a plane crashing at the airport in the last five years.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials were on site Thursday, but declined to comment.

FAA spokeswoman Elizabeth Isham Cory said the crash remains under investigation.

Also, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) will be conducting an investigation, that may take as long as a year before final determination about the cause of the accident can be reached.

"Only the pilot knows why he aborted the take-off," said Sowle. "Any other stories floating around are speculation at best."



A small plane crashed at Lowell Airport during take-off last Wednesday evening.

Local Korean War veteran receives service medal

by Emma Palova

Korean War veteran John Erickson would do it all over again, that is fight for his country.

For his courage, Erickson of Lowell, 78, received a Korean Service Medal (KSM) at the Ionia Free Fair last week.

The honor was bestowed on him by Colonel Gayle Larson.

"The medal means a

lot to me," Erickson said. "I believe in my country. I would go back."

Army Chaplain Dennis Slattery said the Korean War is largely known as the forgotten war.

"These are the heroes of the forgotten war," he said. "It was a lot more devastating than wars now. War is a team effort. Many would like to see us destroyed even now."

Erickson served in the U.S. Army 2nd Infantry Division from 1948 to 1953. His service was extended in 1950 when the Korean War broke.

He was also a prisoner of war for 33 months at POW Camp No. 5 at Pyoktong.

According to Erickson's memoirs, the prisoners were subject to political questioning and forced communist indoctrination.

To avoid the propaganda, Erickson pretended he couldn't read or write. A witness testified at the congressional hearings, that 1,500 prisoners died of beriberi, dysentery, pellagra and other diseases as a result of malnutrition.

Erickson credited the fact that he survived to being born and raised on a farm.

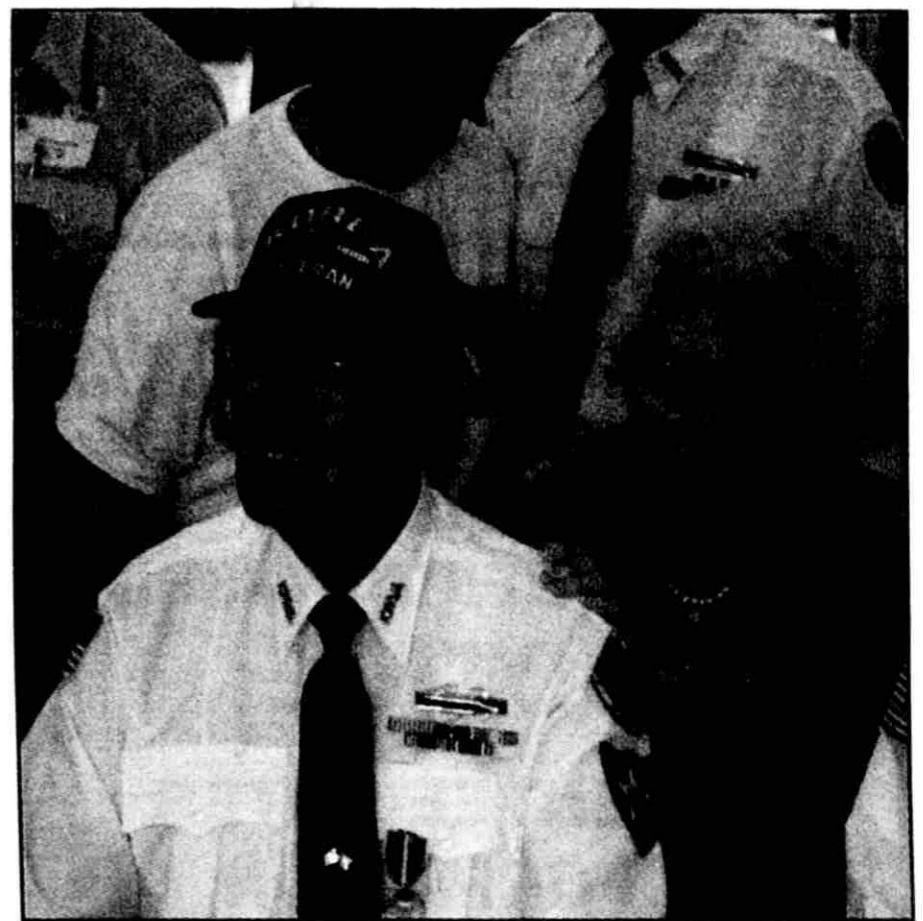
On July 27 1953 the Armistice was signed and North Korea released prisoners of war.

To this day, Erickson remembers his release.

"The Chinese put us on trucks and drove us south," he wrote. "We met up with an American military team and I have never been so happy in my life."

The first thing Erickson ate was Campbell's vegetable soup. When the men got back to Washington, they were loaded into ambulances and bound straight for the hospital.

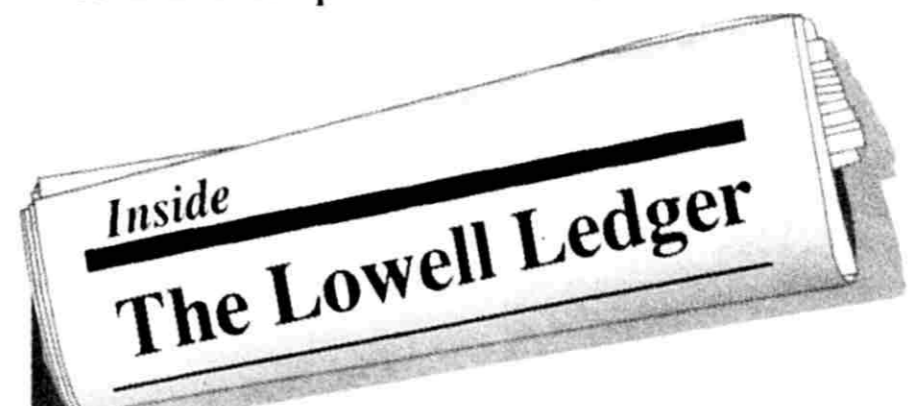
Erickson left the service weighing 100 pounds. In spite of all the tribulations, he enjoys a healthy life with wife Lucille.



John Erickson pictured with wife Lucille.



John Erickson receives medal from Colonel Gayle Larson.



The River of Time

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Veteran,
cont'd., pg. 10

Engagements

Strzyzewski/Meeuwen



Hannah Strzyzewski and Chris Meeuwen

The marriage of Hannah Strzyzewski and Chris Meeuwen will be celebrated on October 20, 2008. The couple and their parents, Luke and Cindy Strzyzewski and James and Gerri Meeuwen, are of Lowell. The bride-to-be is a graduate of Walker Medical. The future groom is in the Marine Corps.

Balaam/Mihalik



Katie Anne Balaam and Daniel Stephen Mihalik

Katie Ann Balaam and Daniel Stephen Mihalik will be united in marriage on August 2, 2008. The Novice couple are the children of Paul and Noreen Balaam of Lowell and Steve and Susan Mihalik of Northville, and the late Susan Keever Mihalik. Both the bride-to-be and the future groom are graduates of the University of Michigan.

Videans celebrate golden anniversary

A golden wedding anniversary will be observed Friday by Lowell residents Donald and Margaret (Backstrom) Videan Sr. They were married August 1, 1958 on the Lowell Showboat. The Videan's children are Rick and Valarie Bruse of Saranac, Robert and Debbie Austin of Saranac, Roger and Judy Ramirez of Saranac, Donald and Chris Videan Jr. of Belding, and Joel and Jennifer Manion of Lowell. They have 15 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.



Donald and Margaret Videan Sr. today and on their wedding day in 1958.



Reflections of faith

SOME THOUGHTS ON SUFFERING

by Rev. Randy Meyers
Calvary Christian Reformed Church

At times we all wonder what the point of suffering is. Why do I and why do those I love have to hurt are valid questions. I have reflected on Hebrews 12:1-13 recently and I think it helps those who hurt. If you need comfort in the middle of some painful life event, or if you'd like to be better prepared to handle crisis, I'd invite you to reflect on those verses. Here is what I have learned from them.

First, God does not send us suffering. It is not some harsh punishment for some sin we have committed and where God maniacally twists his hands while gurgling out evil laughter. Look at Job who was righteous of Peter, one of Jesus' disciples. Satan had to ask permission to test them. Other times we suffer simply because we live in a broken world and along with creation we desire wholeness.

Second, we do not earn our salvation through endurance. Yet we are called to persevere in the middle of painful experiences and to fix our eyes on Jesus.

We follow Christ. He walks us through our suffering

having already earned our salvation.

Third, we are not called to compare our suffering. Instead consider Christ. I learned this, literally, from a guy with no arms and no legs. People do not have the exact same hurts. Even if our pains feel similar the reasons we are hurting and the lessons we can learn are not the same. If we want to let someone else know that we care for them, we can simply say something like, "Because of what I have learned from my own painful experience, I am sensitive to your pain, and want to let you know I care."

Fourth, our perspective often needs to change. Hard experiences often hit us so close our tears blind us to the larger picture. In hardships we need discipline. Maybe new discipline, maybe renewed discipline, but discipline can do us well. It is certainly better than resignation, after all fate did not hit us. We live life. While we may never know the reasons for our pain, God is able to turn all things to the good.

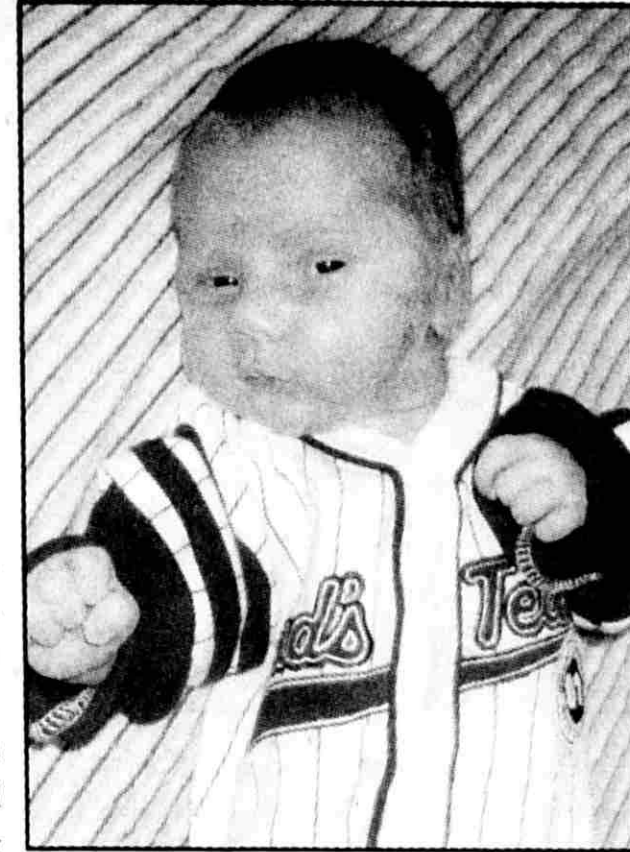
Fifth, the goal of suffering is a growth. Hopefully we will all live better lives because of the hardships we have faced. With the added distance and perspective of time we are able to learn from the very experiences that have rocked our otherwise once peaceful life, how to better be at peace.

Finally, suffering offers us choices. Some learn from pain, some refuse, for some this is easy and for some it is extremely hard. Yet we must remember we are in this life together. We have our own choices. Our choices can make it easier for others or more difficult for them to endure their hardships. We can leave bricks that can trip or we can lead the way so that the path for others to heal is clear.

New Arrivals

Peters

Brian and Cindy (Kosnik) Peters, of Hastings, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Brennen Spencer Peters. Brennen was born on July 4, 2008, weighing 6 lbs. 1 oz. and measuring 18 3/4 inches.

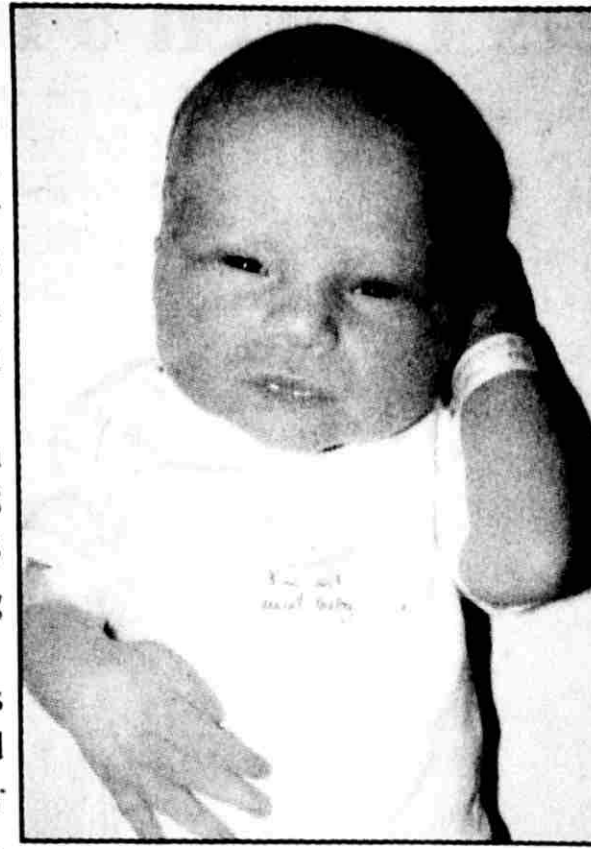


Brennen Spencer Peters

He is welcomed home by his big brother, Brycen Scott Peters. Proud grandparents are Leonard and Ruth Kosnik of Lowell, Don Peters of Dorr, and Betty Biggs of Mecosta.

Wilcox

Johnny and Angela Wilcox, along with sister Shelby Mae, are proud to announce the birth of Elijah John.



Elijah John Wilcox

He was born July 11, 2008 weighing 7 lbs. 13 oz. and measuring 21 inches. Grandparents are Dick and Susie Mouser of Lake Odessa, John and Nancy Wilcox of Portland. Great Grandma is Margaret Cerveaka of Sunfield.

Davidson



Max William Davidson

Max William Davidson was born on June 10, 2008, weighing 6 lbs. 10 oz. and measuring 19 1/2 inches.

Proud parents are Luke and Danielle. Also welcoming Max home is big brother Andrew and big sister Leah. Grandparents are, Phil and Sherry Johnson and Steve and Nancy Hubbarth.

Happy Birthday

JULY 30: Patricia Smith, Scott Kooistra, Jodi DeBold, Kimberly Potter, Paige Rash.

AUGUST 3: Rebbecca Heinicke, Becky Shindorf, Kelsey Brenk, Hillary Smith.

AUGUST 4: Irene Willmarth, Scott VanDyke, Cody Bieri, Nick Ty Kocki, Thomas H. Mahalic, Joann Childs, Kayleigh VanKeulen.

AUGUST 5: Robin Abel, Stephen Martin Jr.

AUGUST 2: Carolyn Kline, Hayley Woolfenden.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.</p> <p>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332</p> <p>Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M.</p> <p>Nursery & Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 21 E. Main Street • 897-5936 www.lowellumc.com SHIP..... 8:30 & 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>Rev. Rick Blunt Barrier-free entrance</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Lead Pastor John King, Youth Pastor</p> <p>SUNDAYS: 10:00 a.m. - Worship & Evening LIFE Home Groups & "The Source" Youth WEDNESDAYS: Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God... Loving People!</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. George J. Fokete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com</p> <p>Weekend Masses: Sat. 5 PM, Sun. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 9:00 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETER AGGINS: 897-7975 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906</p> <p>Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Rev. Terry Tessari.....Interim Pastor Singing.....Hanley Singing.....C.E. Director Singing.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>	<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE Greeting & Fellowship.....10:15 A.M. Sunday Morning Worship.....10:40 A.M. Wednesday Discipleship Ministries.....7:00 P.M.</p> <p>Meets at 201 N. Washington PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>
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FAXING
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The Lowell Ledger
105 N. Broadway, Lowell

ELECT SANDI MILES LOWELL TOWNSHIP CLERK
Paid for by the committee to elect Sandra Miles, P.O. Box 75, Lowell, MI 49331 with regulated funds

CATHOLIC INQUIRY
Are you looking for a church to join? Do you have a nagging voice inside urging you to check into the possibility becoming a Catholic? Were you baptized Catholic, but have never practiced the faith into which you were baptized? Are you curious about what the Catholic Church actually teaches? Catholic Inquiry is where you will find the answers to these questions and more. Catholic Inquiry will meet beginning on Tuesday, August 12 at 7:00 P.M. in Saint Mary's Church, 402 Amity, Lowell. For more information please contact the Office of Religious Education, 897-7915.

FARMERS' MARKET
At the Lowell Fair Grounds
THURSDAYS • 3-7 PM
The Best Place to Be is At the Farmers' Market!

This Week At The FARMERS' MARKET:
Michigan Grown, Baked & Handmade
Peaches, Sweet Corn • Raspberries • Blueberries • Lettuce • Sweet Red Cherries • Beans • Jerky • Wala Wala Onions • Cheese • Fresh Baked Bread • Honey • Maple Syrup • Soaps & Jewelry

Every Thursday from 3 pm - 7 pm
MAY 17 THROUGH OCTOBER 11
No market During Fair Week: Thursday, August 7th.

Birdsong family to perform August 3

The Birdsong Family, comprised of a father and five children, play a wide range of musical instruments and are recipients of many musical awards. They make their home in Tennessee where they are actively involved in working with their music. The family is becoming widely known for being one of the most versatile bands today, incorporating an extensive range of musical styles from traditional to contemporary. They will be performing at Friendship Country Chapel for one performance only on August 3 at 10:30 a.m. For information you may call 897-7489.

At Your Local Library



INFORMAL WII PLAY FOR TEENS
Teens, bring a friend or make a friend during the informal Wii play program at the Englehardt branch of the Kent District Library. Try out the latest craze, Wii Sports, on Wednesdays, August 13 through 27 at 2:00 p.m. Show us your athletic moves and learn some new tricks! No registration is required. The Englehardt branch of the Kent District Library is located at 200 N. Monroe St. in Lowell. For more information call 647-3920 or visit www.kddl.org.

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Tina Greene	Hannah Knudstrup
Jerry Persha	Marge Rehl
Rheta Persha	David and Susan Clements
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	John Cornish
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	Ted and Ellen Lietzke

Please vote for me in the August 5 Republican Primary.
www.Blumm4Supervisor.com
Paid for by the Committee to Elect Paula Blumm, 31 2 Kissing Rock Ave., Lowell, MI 49331

River of Time reinacts Lowell's history

by Sean Garner

Sixteen years ago, Heidi Kaeb Stoller grew frustrated with her high school classmates lack of appreciation for her town's history. So, she decided to do something about it.

Kaeb Stoller, just Kaeb in 1992, was a junior at Lowell High School when she wrote *The River of Time*, a play reenacting the history of Lowell during the time of the Ottawa Indian tribe in the eighteenth and

nineteenth centuries. The play was performed for the fifth time Saturday at the Kent County Fairgrounds on the bank of the Flat River by the local 4-H club. A healthy audience of over a hundred

people showed up to view the play, and, perhaps, learn a bit about the history of the city they live in. Stoller's motivation for writing the play came from a bus ride where she was less than impressed with her



Justin Ford and Kayla Blough as David and Collette Marsac.



Maria and Emma Blough as Mrs Sylvester Hodges and Timothy White naming the village of Lowell.

Pictures submitted by Luanne Kaeb

to maybe change that, and teach people about their own town."

The play has over three dozen roles, with many of the kids performing multiple roles. Preparation for the production began in January, with the kids making their own costumes and set designs, as well as learning to play the games incorporated in the play. *The River of Time* requires so much preparation that the 4-H club only produces it once every five years.

"It would just be too hard to do it every year," Stoller said. "This is what we did all of 4-H this year. Everybody made their outfits and learned about who they were supposed to be and what life was supposed to be like, mainly in the Indian village."

The play went into detail describing the early history dealing with important historical subjects such as: European integration into the American frontier, the assimilation of Native Americans into a Europeanized America, and life in the first settlements in Lowell. It spanned from the first temporary trading posts under the aforementioned Madame LaFramboise to the establishment of Dansville, named after its founder, Daniel Marsac, to its renaming of Lowell, which we come to find out is named after an industrial city in Massachusetts by the same name.

Few, if any, of *The River of Time* cast members have any sort of formal acting training. According to Stoller, the 4-H club only began preparing for

River of Time, cont'd. pg. 9

River of Time, continued ... From Page 8

the performance part of the production five days before the day of the show. Still, the actors were prepared as the play went off without any noticeable gaffes.

This was Justin Ford's second time performing in *The River of Time*, having been involved in the previous presentation back

in 2003. This time, he played one of the more prominent characters, Daniel Marsac. Though he admits he pretty much became involved this time because his mother made

him, he did come to understand and appreciate the Native Americans' relatively Spartan quality of life.

"We learned a lot about poison ivy for sure," Ford said. "It was interesting to do some of the things that the Natives did we consider obsolete, or eons ago type of stuff that actually does work, and you can enjoy doing it. For example, we had to make wigwams. We had to do some

research and find out a lot of the tricks they used and it was actually fun."

For Alissa Ford, who played Madame LaFramboise, *The River of Time* was an opportunity to

explore some of her greater interests.

"I love it. I love history," Ford said. "I enjoyed being out here and experiencing it, doing what they would

have done, canoeing down the river. We had to make our own costumes and moccasins so it kind of like living back in those times."



The keepers of the flame Marissa Sterzick and Kendra Ford.



Chief Wabwindego begin carried to the grave.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If you are a former Lowell Area Cable and TV subscriber and/or reside within Vergennes Township, Lowell Township, or the city of Lowell, or are a business owner in these communities, please read the following.

There is approximately 2.75 million dollars from the sale of Lowell Area Cable and TV set aside in an endowment fund with the Grand Rapids Community Foundation. Approximately 5% of that amount, or at today's rate of return \$100,000.00 to \$150,000.00 with growth, is money that can be used annually toward "charitable" ventures, according to the guidelines of the endowment fund. That's right, we said annually. Any returns greater than 5% would be invested back into the principal fund to assure that the fund continues to grow forever.

As Lowell Area Cable and TV was established and paid for by the subscribers (not the City of Lowell), which is a documented fact, with the subscribers living in Vergennes Township, Lowell Township, and the City of Lowell, we feel the residents of the three communities should benefit from the above proceeds (approximately \$100,000.00 to \$150,000.00 annually) to be used for charitable projects amongst the three communities.

Presently, the City of Lowell is the governing party and deciding factor in how the proceeds will be spent. According to the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, that can be changed. It is our intention to establish a new Resolution regarding the endowment fund, calling for a separate administrative board consisting of individuals other than just the Lowell City Council, in order to assure the monies are distributed in a fair and equitable manner amongst the three communities. The administrative board would consist of 2 City council members, the City Manager, Supervisor of Vergennes Township, Supervisor of Lowell Township, Superintendent of Lowell Area Schools, and the president or manager of one of the local banks.

Imagine each respective community having annually \$100,000.00 to \$150,000.00 to be shared and spent on projects deemed charitable in nature, i.e., education, communication, entertainment, the arts, scholarships, just to name a few. However, again, as it stands right now, the Lowell City Council is the only deciding party and beneficiary of the monies with only City projects to be considered and only capital improvement projects considered. This is the exact wording of the current Resolution as written by the City of Lowell.

Let's make things ethically correct, and let us all work together for the betterment of the Lowell Area, meaning the 3 communities. We are asking for a show of support from the three communities and that you simply join us and attend the Lowell City Council Meeting on Monday, August 4, at 7:30 p.m., Lowell City Hall - 2nd floor. At a time when everything around us is going up in cost, please don't let this opportunity to make a difference in your communities slip away. It is only proper that the three communities benefit from the funds generated by the sale of Lowell Area Cable and TV. This might be our only chance to make a difference. The amount of people in attendance is important. In September, the Lowell City Council will be holding their first meeting to discuss ways to start spending the first \$100,000 - \$150,000 in Lowell only, so time is of the essence.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting. All you need to do is show your presence. No speaking on your part is necessary. Please make the difference!

Respectfully submitted,
Disenfranchised Concerned Cable Subscribers Advisory Committee

If you have questions, please contact:
Ivan Blough - 914-3341 or Barb Barber - 897-9523

classmates knowledge of Lowell history.

"We went by Madame LaFramboise's rock commemorating the original trading post in Lowell, and nobody seemed to know what it was," Stoller said. "I just wanted to do something

VOTE * VOTE * VOTE * VOTE

Hello residents of Lowell Township.

My name is Monica Burt. I have enjoyed living in Lowell Township for over 30 years and will be running for Township Clerk in the August 5, Primary.



- Experienced in Local Government
- Professional Integrity
- Committed to serving Community
- Notary Public
- Married 19 years/Three Children

Presently I am working at Grattan Township as the deputy clerk and the office manager for the Kent County Youth Fair. I am a team player and would like to share my experience, dedication, commitment and professionalism to be your next clerk.

It's up to YOU! Your Voice: Your Choice: Your Vote:

MONICA BURTT FOR CLERK

Paid for by the committee to elect Monica Burt for Lowell Twp. Clerk 2806 Seggon, Lowell, MI 49331

VOTE * VOTE * VOTE * VOTE

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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell City Council will conduct a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting of Monday, August 4, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, Lowell City Hall, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the following:

An Ordinance to amend Section 21-67 of Division 1, "Generally," of Article IV, "Stopping, Standing and Parking," of Chapter 21, "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," (limit on street parking prohibition between 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. from November 15 to April 15) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell.

Copies of the proposed Ordinance are available for inspection during normal business hours at City Hall and the Englehardt Public Library.

Interested persons may submit written comments to City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 prior to the meeting or appear in person.

 Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

VOTE AUGUST 5

JERRY HALE

Lowell Township Supervisor

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Jerry Hale • 3061 Alden Nash SE Lowell, MI 49331

ElectJerryHale.com

Dear Lowell Township Residents,

As the election nears, I wanted to take a moment and let you know why I am running for the office of Township Supervisor. The office of supervisor is not a position to be taken lightly or for any other reason than a genuine commitment to serving the local community. I am running because I believe in this community and I believe I have the experience to positively impact our future. My Leadership experience includes a full circle from farming, to local government, and commercial as well as residential development.

Lowell Township is a unique entity among townships across the state. We have a long rural heritage that is impacted by urban pressures generated from a thriving metropolitan area to our west. In addition, we are a Charter Township and are confronted with many of the pressures that impact towns and cities. These combinations can create a pressure cooker type atmosphere that creates divisions within the community. My goal is to find the common ground to unite us as a community.

It may be impossible to avoid the pressures our community experiences, but we can address them in such a way as to develop a consensus between us all, brought about by Honest, Open and Respectful discussions.

Communication, Commitment and Balance are the strengths that I offer you. We have a Strong Community with many of us coming from a wide variety of diverse backgrounds with different wants, needs and opinions. It must be the goal of all Township officials to make each and every one of you feel that you are welcome in this Township and that the Township Hall is a friendly, fair and respectful place to raise issues relevant to all of us living together in this community. None of you should ever feel that you have been shut out from receiving a fair review or burdened with unreasonable and costly demands that stifle your access to due process and a fair and respectful exchange of views.

If elected to the office of Lowell Township Supervisor, I pledge to you that our government will be honest, straight forward and transparent. I further pledge that the Township Hall will be a building where the community comes together to make Lowell Township a great community to live in and raise our families. Government should make decisions based on a consensus of the people, I am committed to making this a reality. I respectfully ask for your support in the August 5th election.

Lend A Hand

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

The Lowell Area Historical Museum, like most organizations, is in need of more volunteers. We have lots of volunteer opportunities available. From volunteering for special events, to office and clerical support, to a Museum greeter or tour guide. If you are interested or someone you know would like to become more actively involved with the Museum, please give us a call at 897-7688 we would be happy to train you.

New pastor fills pulpit at First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Bishop Jonathan Keaton appointed Rev. Rick Blunt pastor of First United Methodist Church of Lowell, effective July 1, 2008. The Pastor and his wife, Natalie, have moved into the community and are busy learning about Lowell and its people.

Prior to coming to Lowell, Rev. Blunt served as pastor at Reed City

UMC for nine years. He is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey, where his senior concentration was in preaching and worship. Prior to entering the ordained ministry, Blunt was an elementary school teacher and principal. His undergraduate degree is from Western Michigan University.

Pastor Blunt served congregations in Mantion, Old Mission, and Lumberville, PA. He has been active with Habitat for Humanity, Love In the Name of Christ, Rotary, ministerial and ecumenical causes, Christian camping, and local schools.

"We are delighted to be in Lowell," says Blunt. "It is a wonderful community,

with a great spirit and much to offer. I am looking forward to getting to know many people."

His wife, Natalie, is a Physical Therapist Assistant, newly employed at Clark Retirement Community in Grand Rapids. They have two children in college, Michelle, a senior at Central Michigan, and Nate, a junior at Grand Valley.

RE-ELECT LESLIE STOUGAARD

LOWELL TOWNSHIP TREASURER



Paid for by the committee to re-elect Leslie Stougard 12618 Grand River Lowell MI 49331

Siblings take first at area triathlon

Ashley and Sage Serbenta of Lowell, both placed first at the Rockford Area Triathlon that took place Saturday, July 12. All proceeds benefit the DARE program.

They each had to swim 50 yds, bike two miles and run one mile.

They both won in their respective age groups. Sage was in the 6/7 year old boy's division and Ashley was in the 8/9 year old girl's division. There were about 25-30 kids in each of their age groups. They both attend Murray Lake Elementary.



Veteran, continued ... From Page 1

He worked for Kent County Road Commission for 36 years and as a dog catcher for Lowell.

"I love animals," Erickson said.

He regularly feeds a herd of deer.

Along with Erickson, other 12 Korean veterans were honored in a special

ceremony last Wednesday.

Rep. Brian Calley read the ceremonial flag folding text. Music was provided by Mary Cusack & Company.

Bruno Lott, former prisoner of war, tolled the bell in remembrance of fallen Michigan heroes.

JERRY HALE'S RECORD IN KEENE TOWNSHIP

Township board:

1984 (1) - present	1985 (6) - 5 present 2 absent
1986 (7) - 5 present 2 absent	1987 (5) - 2 present 3 absent
1988 (7) - 5 present 2 absent	1989 (8) - 6 present 2 absent
1990 (9) - 3 present 6 absent	1991 (7) - 2 present 5 absent

A man of the 1980s. Government is irrelevant, so why show up?

Planning Commission:

1990 (2) - 1 present 2 absent	1991 (7) - 2 present 5 absent
1992 (3) - 2 present 1 absent	

Nothing to plan about in Keene anyway.

Where cows used to roam,
And such a fine home,
Bury my heart on Sagawa Trail.
Let's have a developer,
So elect Jerry Hale.

Whilst looking for a training camp in Manchuria,
Paid for by G. M. Ross, 10561 36th S.E., Lowell Twp.

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LOWELL TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

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20 YEARS AS ZBA CHAIRMAN

35 YEARS RESIDENT OF TOWNSHIP IN AG 2

35 YEARS IN BUSINESS OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

3 YEARS EXPERIENCE WITH BIG 8 CPA FIRM

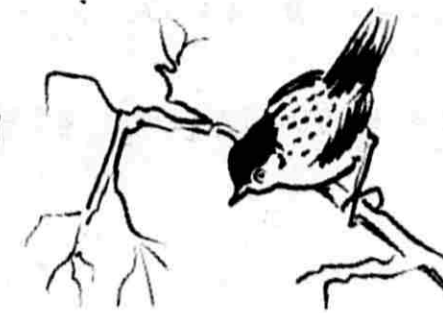
4 YEARS ON LOWELL YMCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN OR BOARD MEMBER OF MULTIPLE ORGANIZATIONS SERVING THE METROPOLITAN GRAND RAPIDS AREA

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT WILLIAM C. THOMPSON

Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis



Eight years ago, I had the good fortune to be introduced to lake sturgeon as the fish made their annual spawning run up the Black River in Cheboygan County. Because of the hard work and cooperation of many people, the future still looks promising for this rare and unique creature. The large fish look like something out of the Stone Age and have no fear of predators. But at six feet long and over one hundred pounds, swimming around in knee-deep crystal clear water make them extremely vulnerable to poaching.

By the late 70's the fish were becoming scarce in the Black River watershed.

Members of Sturgeon for Tomorrow, a non-profit organization, which has worked for years to restore and protect these great fish, along with other groups and individuals stand guard over the spawning fish each spring. That effort combined with scientific research and rearing stations has insured the continued presence of sturgeon in the area. Reestablishing a non-threatened sturgeon population takes patience because a female sturgeon could be as old as 30 before it spawns and then it may be another four to seven years before it can spawn again. Sturgeon have been around for over a million years and can live to be 150, so they don't tend to be in a hurry.

There is a spearing season with a five fish limit in the winter. That means a total of five fish between everyone who draws a license in a lottery. When someone spears the fifth

fish, it is all over for another year. It is not easy fishing because sometimes fewer than five are taken.

Ground was broken for a streamside rearing facility on the Black River in Cheboygan county July 2. Tower Kliber, a power company, will build the facility at Kliber Dam. This station should greatly aid the rehabilitation of the lake sturgeon.

This is another example of forming partnerships to solve problems and get things done. Business, government, organizations, and individuals working together is becoming a popular and effective way to successfully develop and complete projects, because we can't always rely on government alone to meet all our needs. The key is for people with diverse interests and backgrounds to focus on achieving a common goal. The sturgeon story provides an example of how we can move projects in our own community to a successful conclusion.



Protecting Our Kids

With Rep. Dave Hildenbrand

NEW LAW GIVES KIDS A "BOOST"

When traveling across Michigan this summer, there's no cargo more important than our children. Recently passed legislation helps parents give their kids a "boost" to keep them safer on the road.

Public Act 43 of 2008 requires that all children under the age of eight, who are shorter than 4 feet 9 inches tall, be securely fastened in a booster seat while riding in a car or truck. Michigan is the 39th state in the nation to expand the child seat law.

Many parents know that child safety seats are required for infants and toddlers, but this recent change in the law is important for those parents with older children. More than 90 percent of children between the ages of four and eight years old who are seriously injured in auto accidents are not restrained in a booster seat. The use of a booster seat with a seat belt reduces a child's risk of injury by nearly 60 percent. Booster seats are readily available at many stores and often provided free of charge to those in need.

For more information about booster seats, visit www.michigansafekids.org or contact my office toll-free at: (877) 328-3086. Don't forget to buckle up this summer as you travel across our great state.



In The Service

Coast Guard Reserve Seaman Shane R. Parent, son of Sharon and Richard J. Parent of Alto, recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N. J.

During the eight-week training program, Parent completed a vigorous curriculum consisting of academics and practical instruction on water safety and survival, military customs and courtesies, seamanship skills, first aid, fire fighting and marksmanship. A major emphasis is also placed on physical fitness, health and wellness.

Parent and other recruits also received instruction on the Coast Guard's core values -- honor, respect and devotion to duty -- and how to apply them in their military performance and personal conduct. Parent will join 36,000 other men and women who comprise Coast Guard's force.

Men and women train together from the first day in the Coast Guard just as they do aboard ships and shore units throughout the world. To reinforce the team concept, Parent, and other recruits were trained in preventing

sexual harassment, drug and alcohol awareness, civil rights training, and the basics of the work-life balance, as well as total quality management.

Parent is a 2008 graduate of Caledonia High School.

Marine Corps Reserve Lance Cpl. Brad J. Kovich and, son of Julie Echinaw of Lowell and Mike Kovich of Rockford and Marine Corps Reserve Lance Cpl. David J. Austin, a 2005 graduate of Saranac High School, Saranac, and fellow Marines from 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, recently returned from a deployment to Latin America where they participated in Partnership for Americas (POA) 2008. More than 500 Marines from units throughout the United States deployed with Special Marine Air Ground

Task Force (SPMAGTF) 24 for the month long deployment which included training operations in the Dominican Republic, subject matter expert exchanges in Uruguay, jungle training, and a community relations event in Brazil and Colombia. The biggest humanitarian mission for the SPMAGTF was in San Clemente, Peru,

which just last year suffered an earthquake measuring 8.0 on the Richter scale.

POA is an annual U.S. Marine Corps Forces South multi-national exercise throughout the Caribbean, Central and South America to develop the relationships needed to ensure maritime security in the region.

RE-ELECT CLIFFORD BONN

LOWELL TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE



Paid for by the committee to re-elect Clifford Bonn 3385 Bewell Lowell MI 49331

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for Lowell Township Board of Trustees on August 5th

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- Over 25 years of leading the fight in codes and standards for the protection of the people of our great country?
- Over 25 years of fiscal responsibility?
- Over 30 years of creative problem solving experience?

In these tough economic times let my experience be your voice within the township. Let's start by looking at the budget. Let's look at property taxes. Did you realize there are alternative formulas that can be used, perhaps smoothing out your tax bill? Also, the Master Plan has just gone through the 5-year renewal process. Are we really taking care of the AG1 owners or do we still have handcuffs on them? These are delicate issues that need someone with experience to help get them resolved. Let me be that person.

Your vote on August 5th is a vote for "experience and hope!"
A hope for a better tomorrow!

Paid for with regulated funds by the Committee to Elect Scott Edwards, PO Box 22, Alto, MI 49302

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Residents claim bright lights are disturbing their rest

by Emma Palova

Even though Lowell city does not have a lighting

ordinance, officials Monday vowed to rid residents of trespassing light from Grand

Chrysler dealership under nuisance penalty.

According to Mike and Kelly Taylor, who live on South Center Street, lights past 2 a.m. from the dealership prevent them from sleeping.

"It's been an issue for the last six years," said Mike, "we can't sleep and we haven't got anywhere."

Kelly said ever since the trees have been cut, lights shine into the north side of the house. The couple has approached the dealership with little results.

"We've been promised a lot, but got little," said Kelly.

Now that the planning commission is in the

process of crafting a lighting ordinance, the couple is hopeful the situation will get corrected.

"We've installed expensive blinds and we still have light coming through," said Kelly.

The lights are two-tier lights with the tall tier being located approximately at 24 feet.

"The lights are brighter than standard," said Kelly, "with high beam."

However, the city has nothing specific to take to the dealership, other than the nuisance route.

"It's been pretty consistent stonewalling," said Mike.

Planning commission chair Maryalene LaPonsie said the city ordinance is a blank check.

"People can do whatever they want," she said.

Some commissioners were concerned if the lights shine bright for security reasons. But, that concern was dispersed by commissioner Jim Hodges, who has been involved

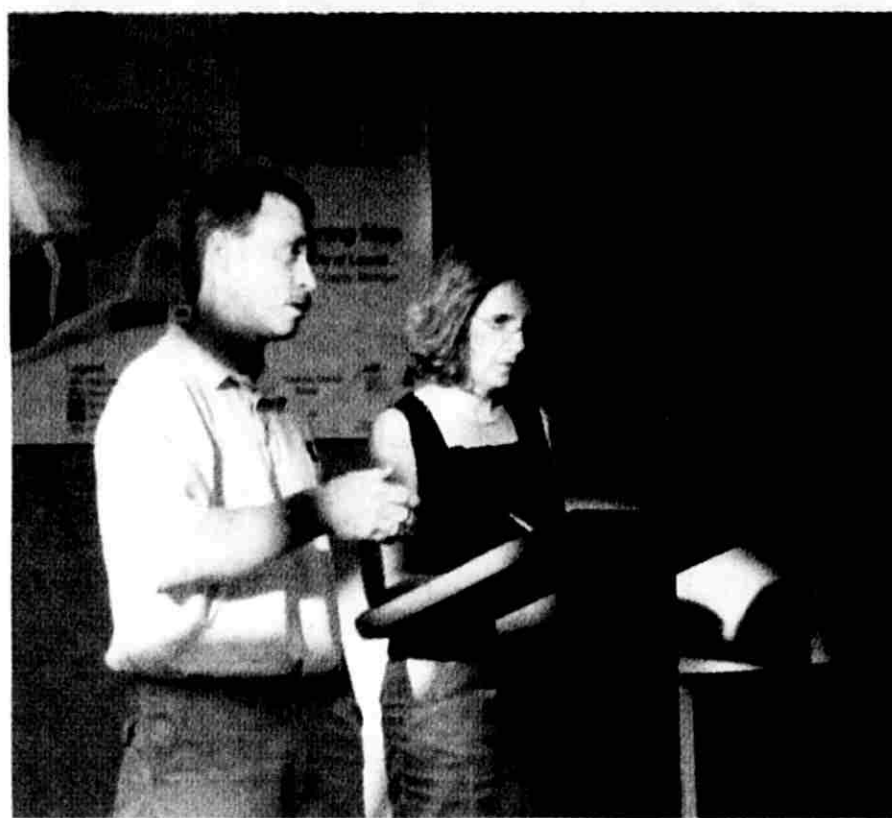
in the off-street lighting ordinance with vice-chair Clark Jahnke.

"There's a difference between lighting up the whole world and security lights," said Hodges.

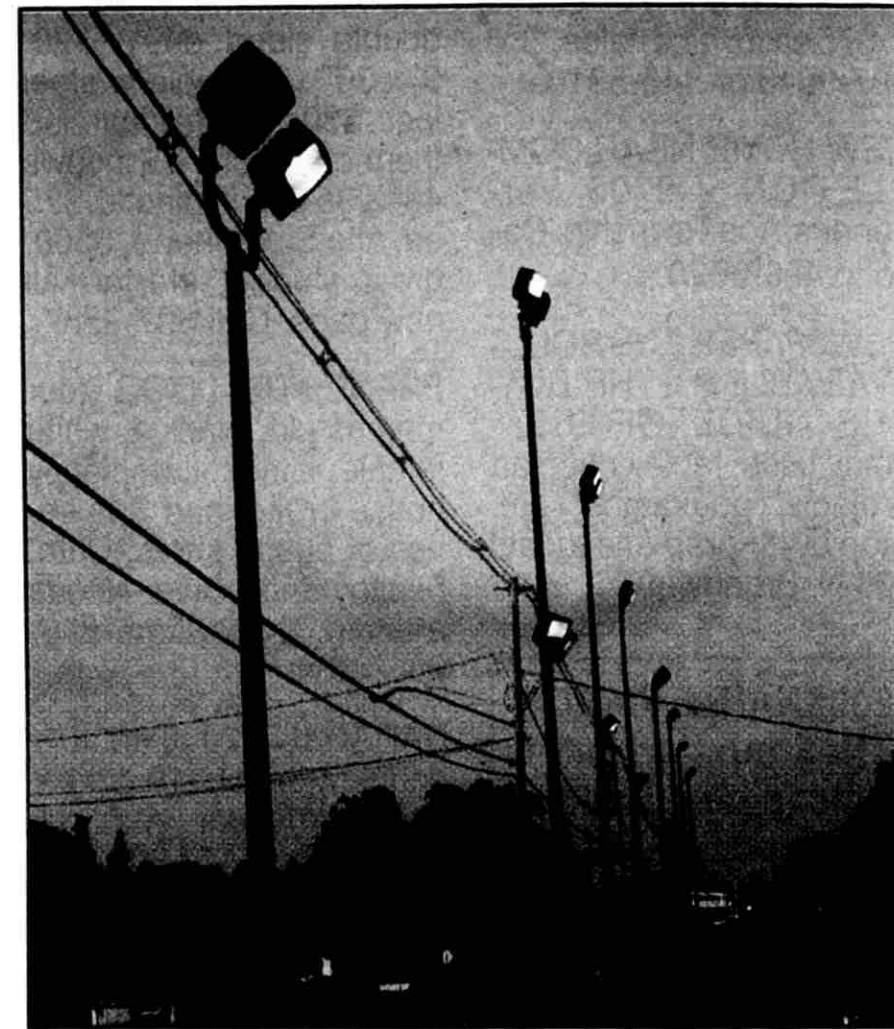
In the meantime, the planning commission will continue its work on the off street lighting ordinance.

"We will make amendments to the ordinance requiring lighting improvements," said city manager Dave Pasquale.

According to most communities' lighting standards, lights have to be boxed with the beam directed into the ground.



Mike and Kelly Taylor complain to the commission about shining lights from dealership that prevent them from sleeping.



These lights have are reflector type two-tier lights that shine past 2 a.m.

July 31

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(Linden, MI) - Blues



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One 16-year-old girl from Thailand likes tennis, swimming, drawing. She is willing to attend church with her family.

PIE have students from 45 different countries with many hobbies and interests. Host families are responsible for board and room. The students have their own spending money and insurance.

There is no typical host family. Single parents, large families, empty nesters, retired families may apply.

If you have questions or would like to host a student please call your local manager at 1-800-382-7439.