

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 37 Issue 45

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

Autumnal beauty abounds in and around Lowell



Lowell area boasts two covered bridges, Fallasburg Covered Bridge and Whites Bridge near Smyrna lending themselves to beautiful fall color tours.

Also the two rivers, Grand River and Flat River offer autumn vistas of spectacular colors. The colors have just started to break with five to 20 percent of trees turning. Colors should peak around mid-October.



LL&P open house geared to educate public on energy savings

by Emma Palova

The Lowell Light & Power (LL&P) will hold an open house during the upcoming Harvest Festival on Oct. 11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to educate public about energy savings and lowering electric bills.

The effort is in conjunction with the National Public Power Week to launch a public awareness campaign regarding energy efficiency.

The biggest savings in the long run can be realized using compact fluorescent light bulbs, according to

LL&P interim director Greg Pierce. Coupons for fluorescent light bulbs will be available during the open house. Local retail merchants have agreed to accept the coupons and the promotion will run through December 31, 2008.

These light bulbs can generate 25 to 30 percent savings on lighting.

"That's a significant cost saving," said Pierce.

When changing appliances, customers should buy Energy Star efficient appliances. These too will provide savings of up to 25 percent.

In the future, Pierce hopes to offer energy audits of homes to determine unnecessary usage of energy.

As far as Christmas lights, Pierce recommends buying LED lights.

"They will save energy," he said.

Traditional methods of saving energy include turning out the lights when leaving a room or turning down the heat at night or putting extra insulation in the attic and weather stripping around windows and doors.

"This will be the first phase in an effort to inform our customers of ways to become more energy efficient and reduce their use of electricity," said Pierce. "We anticipate other promotions will be introduced over the next several months."

Gleaners - a reliable source supplementing area donations

by Thad Kraus

It's the difference between shopping for what you want and being given something you may not like and won't take time to prepare.

Second Harvest Gleaners has given West Michigan food banks an opportunity to improve their way of doing business and in the process put more food on their shelves for less.

The Flat River Outreach Ministry pantry has been involved with Second Harvest Gleaners for 10 years. It just hasn't used Gleaners a lot. That changed within the last year thanks to a \$5,000 grant toward purchase of food from Gleaners.

"We've been able to keep the pantry pretty well stocked with our donations," says food pantry director, Jodi Haybarker.

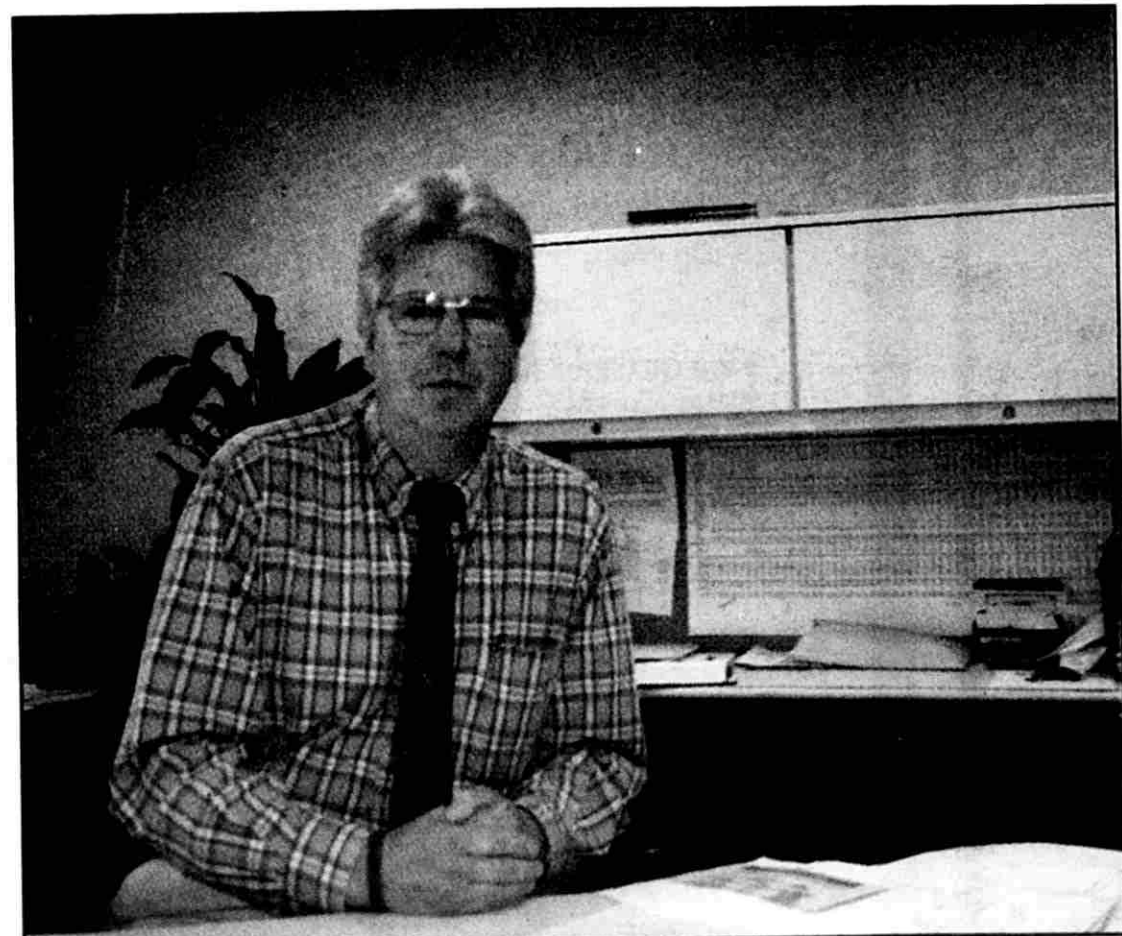
With its new location at 11535 E. Fulton, and increased space, the grant enables the local food pantry to purchase more food at a much reduced cost.

"With our grant money we're paying 16 cents a

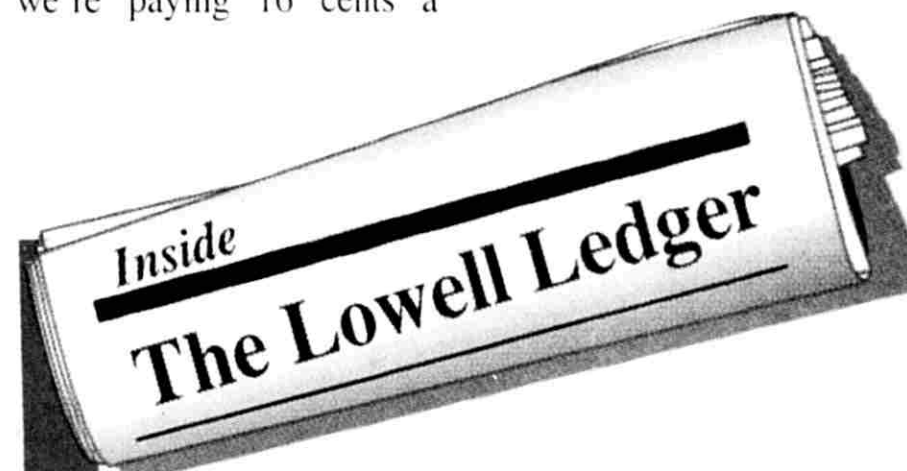
pound," Haybarker explains. That allows us to buy a heck of a lot of food."

With its last purchase from Gleaners, the pantry

Gleaners, cont'd., pg. 4



Interim director Greg Pierce talks about energy savings.



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New Gazebo ... Page 8

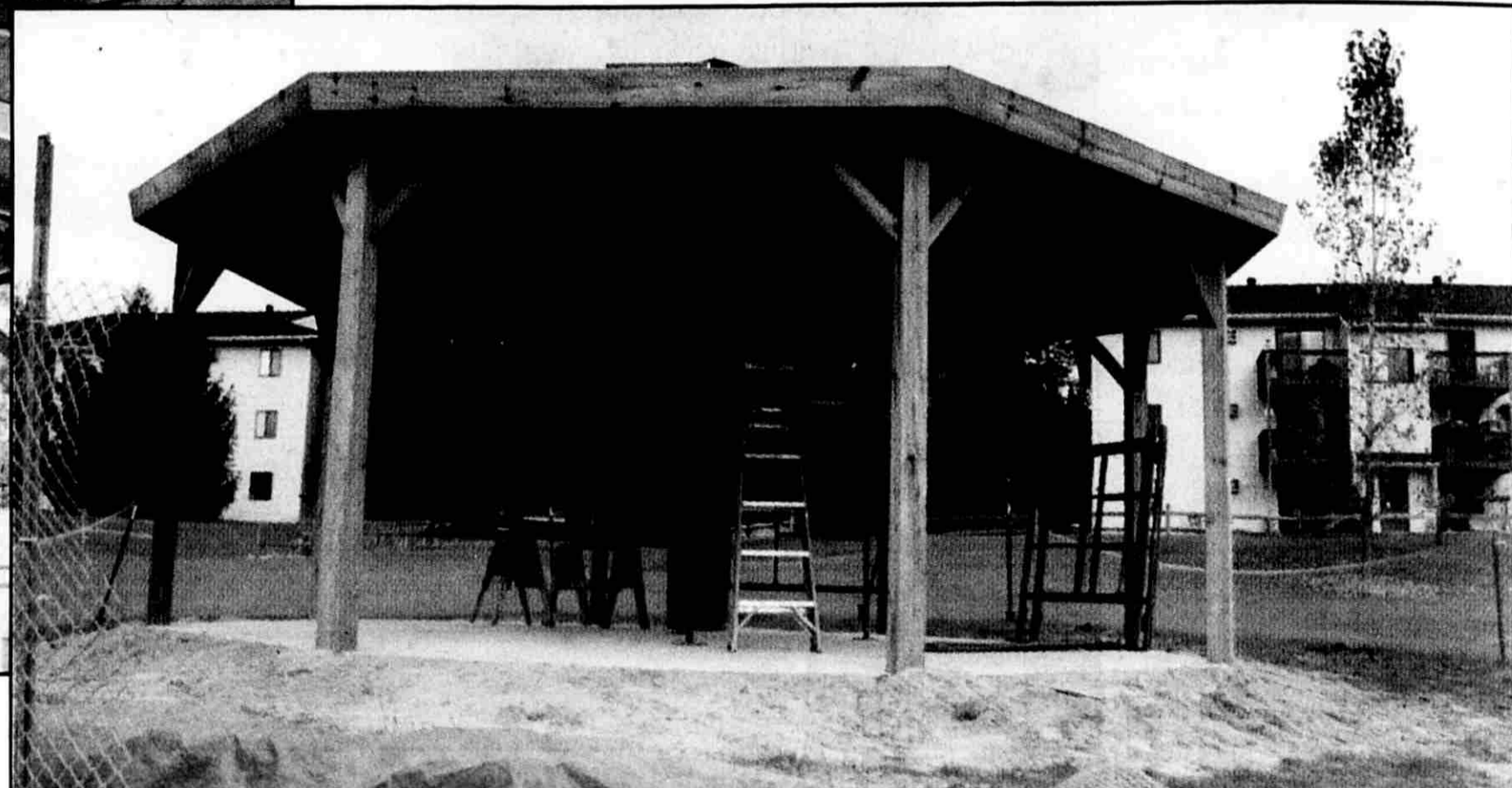
Circle Of Giving ... Page 14

Open Space Winners

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Gazebo finished at Stoney Lakeside Park

Volunteer Leo Pfaller completed a gazebo at the Stoney Lakeside Park on the east side last weekend. The new gazebo will compliment the existing picnic shelter, and it is just one of many improvements at the Lowell area parks. The monies for the project were generated from the recently-established park user fees.



Featured Artist

Bonnie Osborne

by Emma Palova

With the flavor of fresh figs still on palate, artist Bonnie Osborne calls the new pastel show, a 'Taste of Tuscany.'

The soft light over the hills and valleys in Tuscany in Italy made its way on to the canvas of a handful of American artists, whose work is now on display at the Riverwalk Gallery inside the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

The exhibit "Italian Works" showcases the skill of Michigan painters who transformed the beauty and the atmosphere of the pastoral scenes viewed from the Belvedere farmhouse on La Foce estate home to enrich and to inspire. Magnificent in its simplicity, the paintings create a feeling of tranquility.

"By painting plein air you have the memory of the place and the feeling," said Osborne, one of the local participating artists. "Your colors and values that is the dark to light scale, are more accurate."

Painting au 'Plein Air' in Italy were some of the best local and Michigan artists including workshop instructor Jim Markle, Bonnie Osborne, Ruth VanderMeulen, Carol Brenot, Eleanore Markle, Jan McKinnon, Carol Pope and Holly Sturges.

Each one of the artists has created their own memorable impression of Val-du-Orcia and Monte Amiata.

"It was peaceful painting with friends," said Osborne. "We were all in the same places, but it was interesting to see what people chose to paint, what caught their eye."

Almost every artist painted a view from the 'Belvedere' into the valley focusing on what the painters called the 'zig zag road.'

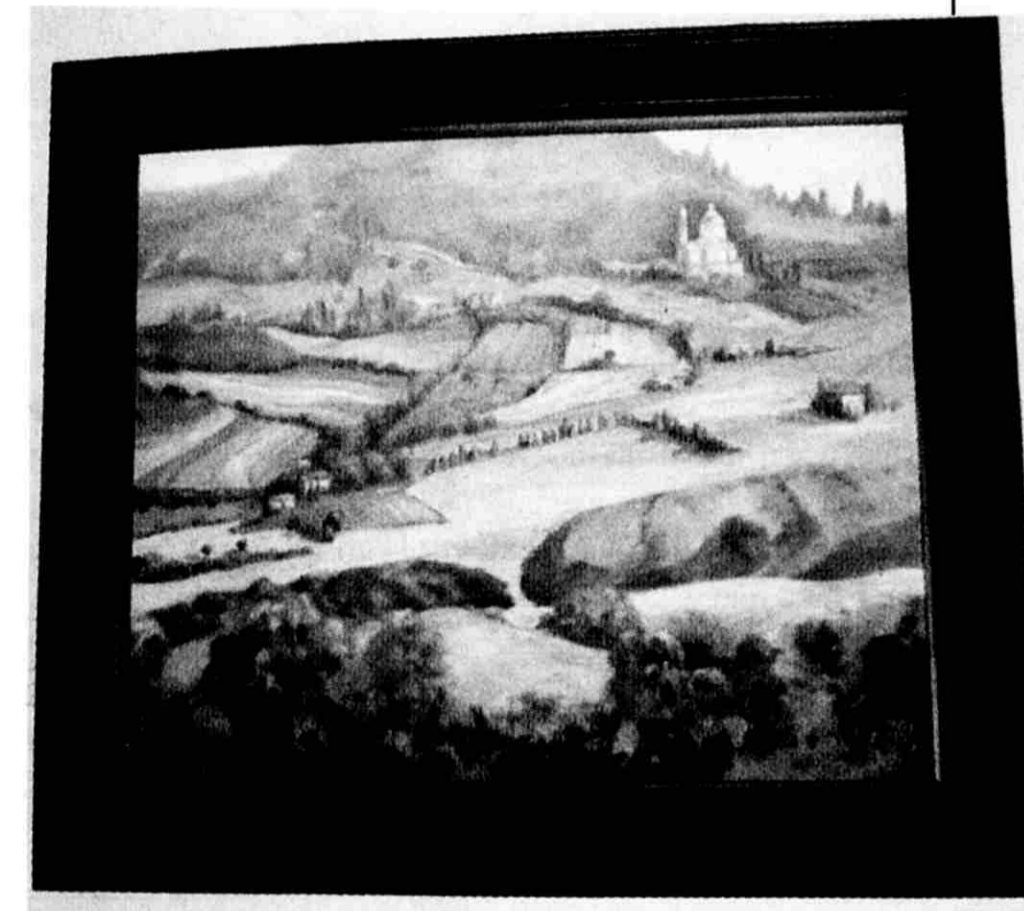
"Yet, the paintings were all different," said Osborne.

Interesting were scenes captured in oil by artist Ruth VanderMeulen such as 'Theology and Sunshine.'

A reception for the artists will be held on Oct. 10 at the Riverwalk Gallery from 6 to 9 p.m.



Artist Bonnie Osborne talks about a Tuscany workshop that inspired pastel show "Italian Works."



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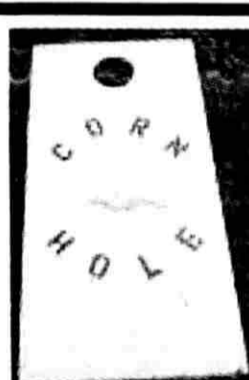
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\$20.00 a team • 2 person teams
• Cash (pay out to top 3 teams) • Must be 17 years or older
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Registration forms can be downloaded at Lowellchamber.org
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Murray Lake students elect student council reps

Student council candidates began running for office on September 15. Each candidate gave a speech to his or her fellow students. Student council elections were held last Friday. Pictured are the members of 2008-2009 Murray Lake Student Council.

Back row, left to right: Travis Cornell, Sam Mason, Bryan Ashenbremmer, Eden Nethercott, Gabe Steed (President), Allison Mooney, Garrett Nauta, Carter Noskey (Treasurer), Brady Schaefer (Secretary), Nathan Stephens, Sam Russell, Keaton Bell, Josealyn Pontius, Nicholas Kloosterman, Maria DeCator, Courtney Lubbers, and Jerrod Humphreys. Front row, left to right: Eric Dimmick, Adam Marks (Public Relations Officer), Mason Misiak (Vice President), Kayeleigh Lubbers, Sonja Grasman, and Sara Majestic.



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Wednesday edition.

Open space photo contest promotes importance of water

by Emma Palova

Len Mol's photo series 'Floodwaters' was a perfect fit with this year's photo contest theme of Wetlands and Waters, organized by the Open Space Preservation Council for the Eastern Townships of Kent County.

"The theme fit me well," said Mol, a resident of Lowell Township.

Mol recently got a kayak and a camera. What better way to explore the Grand River than on board and with a lens on high waters?

"I've always enjoyed photography and the kayak," he said. "Those two things I like doing happened to be in the flood waters," he said.

Mol couldn't wait to show the pictures to his wife. Then he entered the contest, and grabbed sec-

ond place in adult category and an honorable mention.

The placing in the contest has boosted Mol's confidence and opened up a whole new different world of possibilities.

"I did everything for fun and enjoyment," he said.

It was an equal success for the organizers of the second annual photo contest designed to promote open space in six Eastern townships.

"We were very pleased with the quality of the photographs and how well people were following the theme," said Betty Jo Crosby of Ada Township.

The contest organizers received 90 entries in adult and youth categories. The judges were Steve Fryholm, graphic designer at Herman Miller Inc. and an avid outdoor photographer,

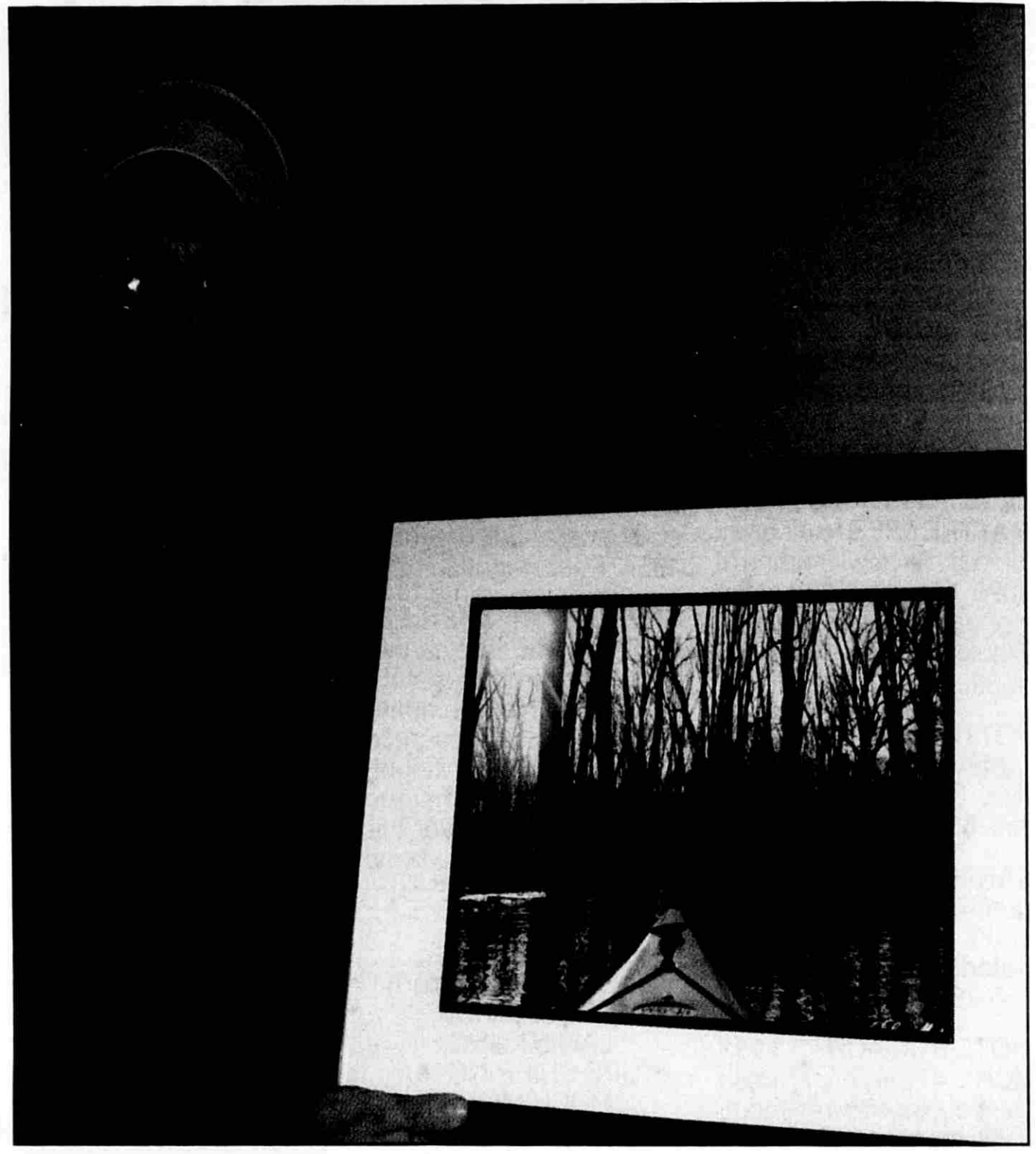
and Bob Day from the Department of Environmental Quality.

Crosby is encouraging people to get out there to the six townships and take a look at nature's beauty captured by the photographers. The photos are placed in Cascade, Ada, Grattan, Cannon, Vergennes and Lowell townships. They will be on display through Oct. 29.

Another Lowell Township resident Ted Bergin grabbed third place with his 'Iris Reflections' on display at the Cascade Township Hall.

The first place went to Sherry Moore of Rockford for 'Water Colors.'

"We wanted to increase the awareness of preserving water, its purity and availability," said Crosby.



Len Mol grabbed second place and an honorable mention with 'Floodwaters.'

City to tweak LCTV resolution

by Emma Palova

The city council will further fine tune the resolution that will establish the Lowell Cable Television

Endowment Board in a work session set for Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.

The make up of the endowment board

representing the city and the townships and specific details to the distribution of funds will come under fire.

According to council member Jim Pfaller limitations need to be set when considering requests for grants.

"We need to tighten it up," he said.

In relevant business, the city discussed a possible franchise agreement with Allied Services. Recycling on bi-weekly basis may be an option to weekly recycling subsidized by trash pick-up. In the future, licensing fee for any carrier may be used to subsidize recycling.

In other business, the council tabled the decision

in regards to closing or widening the alley between the post office and the Buyer's Guide until November. Interested parties including Larkin's, Lowell Area Historical Museum, post office, Buyer's Guide and Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will be notified. The city is requesting their input.

The issue originated with the DDA in an effort to increase the parking space for the museum to 17 spaces.

"The museum needs

more space," said council member Sharon Ellison.

According to Department of Public Works director Dan DesJarden, the post office carriers and post master Gil Brown opposed the closing of the alley westbound to Hudson Street.

The council also approved a five-year agreement with Williams Air Power Inc. as the next Fixed Based Operator following the departure of the School of Missionary Aviation Technology.

girls night out

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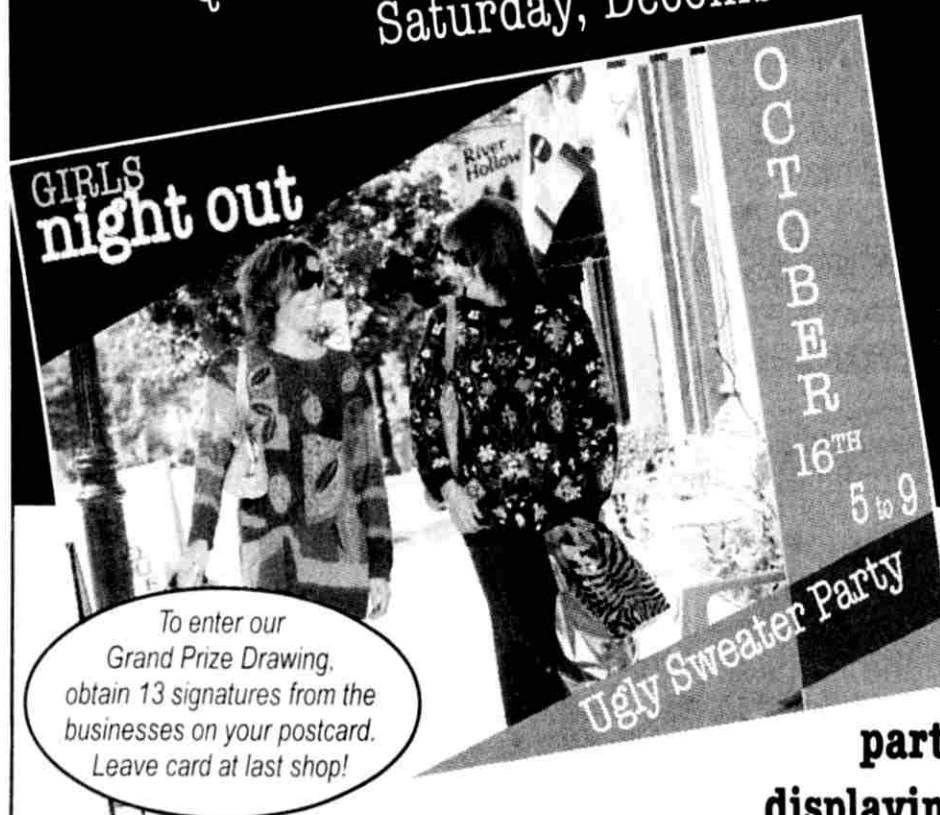
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- eja' Salon - 204 W Main St • Fire and Water Art! - 219 W Main St
- Flat River Cottage - 317 E Main St • Flat River Grill - 201 E Main St
- Glass House Designs - 215 W Main St • Hearthstone Design Studio - 218 E Main St
- L4 Boutique - 216 E Main St • Larkin's Fine Food & Cocktails—301 W Main St
- Lowell Area Historical Museum - 325 W Main St • Modern Photographics - 104 W Main St
- Pep Talk - 207 E Main St • Rookies Sportcards Plus - 106 W Main St
- Simple Pleasures Fine Bath Body - 508 W Main St • Springrove Variety - 123 W Main St
- The Backyard Boutique/The Lily Pad Candle Shoppe - 219 E Main St
- The Hanger - 209 W Main St • Wildflowers by Wildwood - 214 E Main St



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VOLUNTEER CHAIRS:
Boy Scouts Troop 102 - Rich Riley, George Majenska, Del Rockwell, Teresa Beachum, Diana Bittrick, Al Eckman, Donna Jean Ford, Jon Francis, Gordon Gould, Lowell Crew Team - Tina Greene, LPAC Crew - George Hommowun, Toby Jones, Kevin Nugent - LHS Future Farmers of America, Barb Pierce, Joy Smith, Mari Stone, Jim Stone, Ron Wood, Nancy Wood, Ron Wenger, Doug Wilbur

QUILT WINNER:
Mary Harrall, Saranac

"The Fallasburg 40th Beauty" by Lowell Artist Dawn Ysseldyke

A BIG thank you for the crew at Fallasburg Park, performing musicians and the many, many community volunteers for another great festival!

Lowell Area Arts Council