

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 38 Issue 5

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 31, 2008

Mixed weather, high winds create havoc for area residents



Saturday's thaw, rain and high winds left some residents without power, while others had to deal with fallen uprooted trees close to their houses. In Lowell, there were nine occurrences of power outages on the west side of town in the Gee Drive area and the apartment area. Approximately 250 residents were without power for one to two hours, according to Lowell Light and Power general manager, Greg Pierce. The outages occurred due to fallen limbs on power lines. "No poles were knocked down," said Pierce.

That weekend there were in effect three different weather advisories including

fog, wind and flooding. Winds reached more than 60 mph as they whipped across the state. Many areas in Vergennes Township were flooded and ponds formed in people's yards. Some gravel roads had to be closed off to through traffic due to flooding. But warmer temperatures were soon followed by another deep freeze dropping temperatures into the 20s and 30s. Monday, after many days without sunshine, the sun made its appearance.

The huge pine pictured at left was knocked down at the corner of Amity and Suffolk by the middle school. Many areas around Alden Nash and Vergennes roads were flooded.

Single mom receives phenomenal gift of warmth

by Emma Palova

It was the best Christmas present ever for single mom Jodi Sobota of Lowell. On Christmas Eve, she received \$15,000 worth of windows.

"It was phenomenal," said Sobota, "it means the world to me."

Sobota is still overwhelmed with gratitude over the gift to the generous donor. All-Weather Seal Windows/Siding selected Sobota for their annual donation. She was nominated by salesperson Matt Smith.

Sobota, who works part-time, as an office assistant at King Milling, was paying \$600 in monthly heating bills. She was seeking estimates to replace the original windows in

the 108 years old house on North Hudson Street. But, everything was way over her budget.

So, when the gift of windows and installation came last week, Sobota was not only surprised, but relieved.

"This will help big time," she said. "It will help with the gas bill and it will save so much on future energy expenses."

New windows will help Sobota save on heating costs, as well as with overall energy savings.

"I feel overwhelmingly grateful," she said.

She moved to the house with daughters Taylor and Alaina Harrison last year from Ada. Last Wednesday, they were all smiles, as they were presented a symbolic

check for \$15,000 from Scott McDowell and Matt Smith of All-Weather Seal Windows/Siding.

"Every year around this time we want to give back to the community," said McDowell. "It's our way of saying thanks for the business."

The company also picked another family with six children and provided toys, coats and clothing for them.

Sobota estimates the work on the windows could start in late January or at the beginning of February. She would also like to replace the old yellowish siding on the house.

"I feel overwhelmingly grateful," she said. "I couldn't have dreamt of receiving a better gift."



Alaina Harrison, Matt Smith, Jodi Sobota, Scott McDowell and Taylor Harrison receive \$15,000 worth of windows.

Subscribers catch up with locals in hometown newspaper

by Emma Palova

Getting ready to go horseback riding in the desert in Arizona, John and Betsy Rinard paused to reminisce about their high school days in Lowell and

Parnell. John graduated from Lowell High School in 1955, while Betsy graduated from Parnell Catholic School in 1958.

It is the Lowell Ledger that helps them catch up

with their friends, the locals and all the small town happenings.

Arizona subscriber, cont'd., pg. 9

2008-Year in Review

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

PAGES 12-25



Betsy Rinard reads the Ledger while riding her horse at home in Arizona.

Reflections of faith

by Dean Bailey, Pastor
Alto/Bowne Center United Methodist Churches

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

At camps for youth we used to sing "It's love, it's love, it's love that makes the world go 'round. It's girls, it's girls, it's girls that makes the boys go 'round. It's boys, it's boys, it's boys that makes the girls go 'round." While obviously not intended as a profound theological statement, it does go to the heart of Christian conviction that "God so loved the world that He sent His son."

Christina Rossetti, a 19th century English poet, wrote,

"Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine. Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign."

Reverend Gordon Berry, a Stevensville pastor and former Lowell pastor, tells this story:

"A woman was out Christmas shopping with her two children. After many hours of looking at row after row of toys and everything else imaginable, and after hours of hearing both her children asking for everything they saw on those many shelves, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids.

She was feeling what so many of us feel during the holiday season. We feel overwhelming pressure to go to every party, every open house, and taste all the holiday food and treats set out. We are anxious to get that perfect gift for every single person on our shopping list. We fret over completing our Christmas cards and responding to every greeting received.

Finally, the elevator doors opened to a big crowd already inside. She pushed her way in, dragging her two

kids along with all the bags of stuff. When the doors closed, she couldn't take it anymore and stated, "Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up and shot." From the back, everyone heard a quiet voice respond, "Don't worry, we already crucified Him." For the rest of the trip down, it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop."

The birth of the Christ accentuates, enfleshes, incarnates the divine love which gives meaning and purpose to our lives and to God's whole creation. The love that came down at Christmas was not only a dynamic life force, but also a sacrificial, redeeming love with forgiving, saving power. Jesus the Babe of Bethlehem was to be called Savior and Lord by millions over two centuries.

As we enter 2009, a new year, may we claim the love that came down at Christmas as our own Lord and Savior and thus affirm with Rossetti: "Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine; love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign."

Happy Birthday

DECEMBER 31:
Marcie Page, Bill DeHaan, Charles Boerema.

JANUARY 1:
Tory Abel, John Wenger, Alice Heschke, Carolyn Yonker, Amanita Fahmi, Bea Hoekstra.

JANUARY 2:
Rose Nead, Helen Kuiper, Angie Sloan.

JANUARY 3:
Jon Vezino, Agnes Kent, Audrie Olszewski, Lloyd Callihan, Jane Lally, Rick Fyan.

New Arrivals

Golden



Elise Belle Golden

Elise Belle Golden was born November 17, 2008 weighing 7 lbs. 7 oz. and measuring 19 inches. Proud parents are Tom and Kylie Golden of Ionia. Grandparents are Doug Shields, Sue and George Geisel, and Tom and Brenda Golden, all of Ionia.

At Your Local Library



SHOW OFF YOUR CREATIVE LEGO TALENTS.

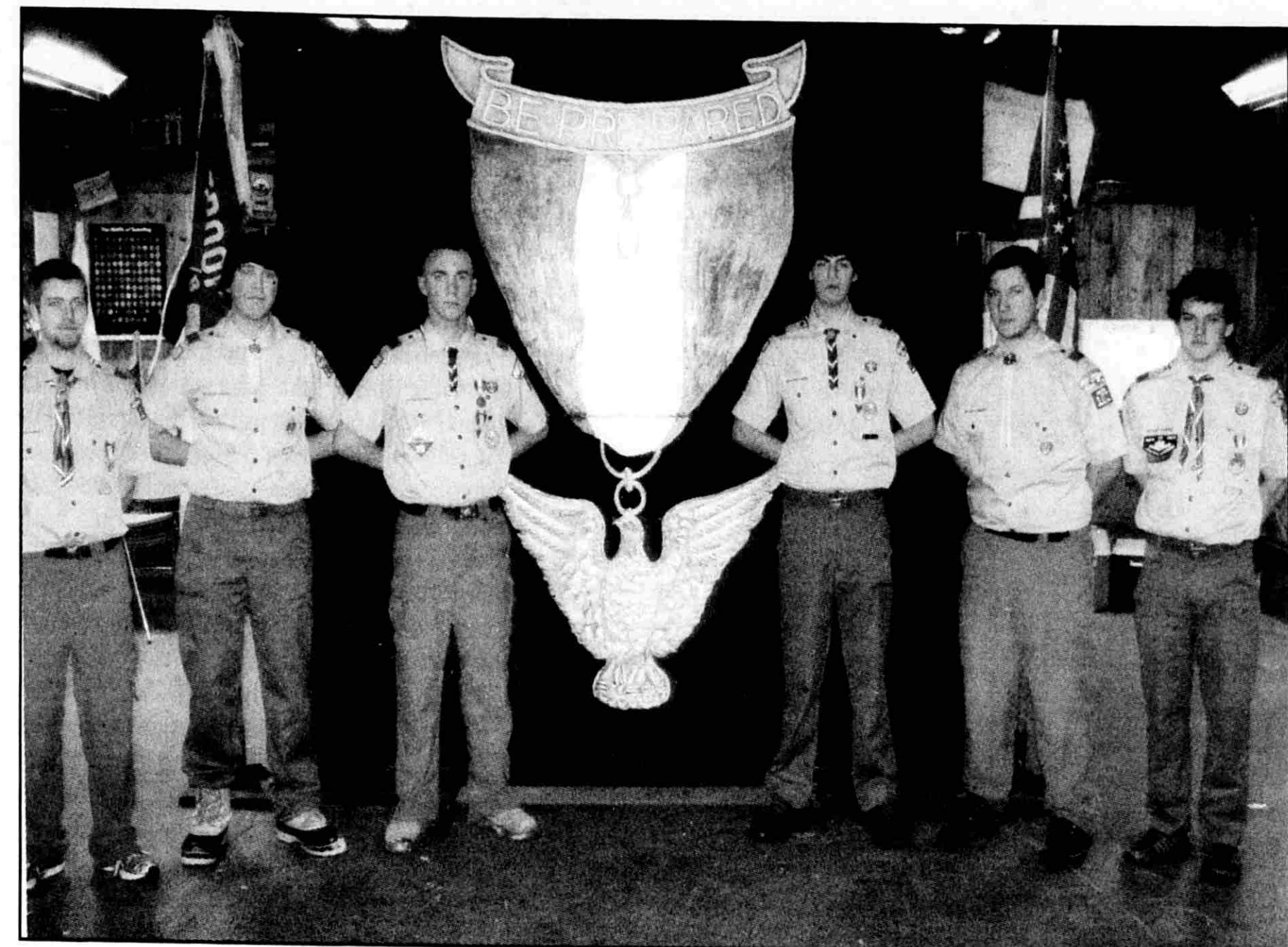
Lego Mania Exhibit - build a Lego creation and bring it to the Englehardt branch to be displayed during the month of January. You will receive a participant certificate and be eligible for prize drawings. For school-age children. For more information, visit www.kdl.org.

COMPUTER CLASSES FOR SENIORS

The Englehardt branch of the Kent District Library is offering computer classes for seniors. Registration is required for all computer classes. Call or visit the library for more information or to register. Participants must have a current library card. Winter classes include: Introduction to Computers for seniors - participants will learn to interact with the computer using both the mouse and keyboard, Thurs., Jan. 8 and Feb. 5, 9:30 a.m. Introduction to the Internet for seniors - learn to navigate the World Wide Web in this class for participants with a working knowledge of personal computers, Thurs., Jan. 22 and Feb. 19, 9:30 a.m.

The Englehardt branch of KDL is located at 200 N. Monroe St. in Lowell and can be reached at 647-3921. For more information, visit www.kdl.org.

Six new Eagle Scout from the Lowell area



New Eagle Scouts, from left to right: Brad Plaat, Jake Theisen, Kyle Riley, Alex Brock, Jacob Sterling, and Del Rockwell III.

The Eagle rank is the highest rank in Boy Scouting and only four percent of all Boy Scouts earn this prestigious award.

Boy Scout Troop 102 has been helping young men between the ages of 11-18 since Dec. 1942. We have guided 55 of these Scouts to the rank of Eagle which isn't bad for the 66 years we have been in service. There are other Troops who have more and some have less, but the boys in this Troop do earn the badge.

Each Scout must complete 21 merit badges, which 12 of those are required ones such as citizenship in the community, communications, family life, and first aid, to name a few, with nine more elective ones. They must have completed a leadership service project benefiting either the community, church, or school and have performed for six months in a leadership position in the Troop. They must also show scout spirit, living by the scout

oath and law, and complete all these requirements before their eighteenth birthday.

This troop has had a number of years of more than two Eagles. There were five in 1969 and 2004, four in 1978, three in 1990, 1996, and 2006 and this year there are six.

The following Eagles Scouts from Troop 102 are: Brad Plaat, Kyle Riley, Alex Brock, Del Rockwell III, Jacob Sterling, and Jacob Theisen. From Sam Yeiter who earned the first Eagle Scout in Lowell to Ken Dennis, Troop 102's first Eagle in 1945, through these boys in 2008, Boy Scouts have trained and will continue to train young men to be our future leaders.

HEALTH



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

ENURESIS

Enuresis is bed-wetting in a child five years or older. Most children stop wetting the bed before five years of age. More boys than girls have enuresis. It also tends to run in families.

Enuresis happens when your child doesn't wake up when his or her bladder is full. There is no obvious cause for enuresis in most children, but several factors make it more likely. For example, some children don't wake up easily or their bodies produce more urine than normal. In children who don't usually wet the bed, enuresis may be caused by a traumatic event (i.e. divorce or bullying) or a medical problem.

Most children with enuresis are healthy. However, you should tell the doctor if your child has been wetting during the day, has painful urination, or stomach or genital pain. You should also tell the doctor if bed-wetting occurs after a long period of no bed-wetting. Most children outgrow enuresis and don't need treatment. If bed-wetting upsets your child or it happens often, medicine or an alarm that awakens your child if the bed is wet may help. You can help your child by doing the following:

- Avoid giving your child liquids or anything with caffeine before bedtime.
- Make sure your child goes to the bathroom before bed.
- Avoid punishing your child for bed-wetting. Instead, reward your child for not wetting the bed.
- Have your child help change and wash the sheets after bed-wetting so that your child is involved in his or her own care.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY
Pauline LaDue
JANUARY 5
- From Your Family

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</p> <p>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 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 www.lowellumc.com</p> <p>WORSHIP.....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 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. Eugene Okoli 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 - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PATE WIGGINS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, EPTV FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Hallway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org</p> <p>Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:30 A.M. AWANA/EXCITE - TEENS, Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided - Barrier Free</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org</p> <p>Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:30 A.M. AWANA/EXCITE - TEENS, Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided - Barrier Free</p>	<p>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Vance Dimmick Jr.</p> <p>9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided</p> <p>A friend...a family...a mission!</p>

In The Service

Air Force Airman Adam J. Robinson has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, core values, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate in applied science degree relating through the Community College of the Air Force.

Robinson earned distinction as an honor graduate.



Air Force Airman Adam J. Robinson

He is the son of Trish Robinson of Lowell, and Jerry Robinson of Traverse City.

In 2008, the airman graduated from Lowell High School.

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And Don't Forget to Participate In Our Weekly Poll

Then watch for the results in the Ledger each week!

Mackinac Island winters provide a magic time

by Emma Palova

Although the majority of visitors to the island never see it covered in snow, winter on Mackinac Island is a magic quaint time, a respite from the bustle and hustle of the main season.

At this time of the year the downtown is decorated with wreaths and a Christmas tree stands in the middle of the main drag. Many come here to celebrate New Year's Eve spending the time skiing and snowshoeing.

As the cross country skis swish through a foot of fresh fallen snow on a perfectly groomed trail to the Arch Rock, the heavy pine branches sweep the shimmering white blanket. A scenic view by the icy

limestone rock formation uncovers the vast blues of Lake Huron and the northern sky. Looking down 150 feet from the observation bridge, visitors can easily spot the Lake Shore Road wrapping around the island like a snail or a silver thread.

A skier emerges from the woods in the fairy tale setting. Speaking with a slight accent, M.J. explains his summer job on the island. M.J., a farmer from Zimbabwe, made Mackinac Island his home because it reminded him of Africa. He is a driver for the Mackinac Island Service Co., that operates transportation on the island.

"The horses are not here

now," said M.J. "They're on a retreat in Pickford."

Yes, here on this island, horse reigns as the "King."

Vehicles have been banned from the island since 1898, when the first car frightened the horses. In winter, a fraction of the total 600-horse livery remains to taxi guests from the docks on the Haldimand Bay and the airport plateau to the inns that remain open.

For islanders like M.J. and the Park Place Suites innkeeper Jamie Schwemin, winter is magic time, a break from the busy season that keeps extending into the fall.

"Winter's better. It's quiet and the skiing is

phenomenal," she said. "This is it. We love it."

Winter months on the island are dedicated to winter sports and chili cook-offs. There are 18 miles of classic ski and skating trails on the east side of the Mackinac Island State Park.

The trails lead through the vantage points on the islands, the bluffs. The East Bluff provides the best panoramic view of the island. Below the bluff sleeps the city of Mackinac Island with the black steeple of Ste. Anne protruding into the sky.

To the right, Fort Mackinac stands sentinel to the island's history, a mix of Indian, French, English and American heritage. The Round Island Lighthouse marks the gateway to the Mackinac Island Marina.

Further west out of the fog rises the almighty "Big Mac," a suspended five-mile long bridge that connects Michigan's Lower Peninsula with the Upper Peninsula.

College News

Devon Collins was recognized for outstanding performance by receiving placement on the fall 2008 Western Michigan

University Dean's List. Devon is a senior at WMU and graduates in the spring with a major in Exercise Science.

Mackinac Island, cont'd., pg. 10

Character counts at Murray Lake



Pictured are Murray Lake Elementary's Character in Action award winners for November. These students were nominated by teachers for putting the November's character trait, Respect, into action throughout the month of November.

More environmental friendly programs follow tree recycling

Recycling is the name of the game at the Wittenbach Wege Center; even old calendars with animals and scenery are reused for environmental bulletin boards as educational tools.

Right now, discarded Christmas trees without ornaments are piling up at a drop-off site at the Wittenbach Wege Center for recycling on Jan. 4 between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. The trees will be shredded and used for mulch around the center. Trees can be dropped off prior to Jan. 4, but all tinsel, garland and decorations must be removed. This is an environmentally friendly way of disposing your tree, according to center director Meggan Johnson. Volunteers are needed to assist in prepping the trees to be chipped. If you are interested in helping or have any questions, call 987-1002 for more information.

The Lowell High School environmental club will be starting plastic and battery recycling programs, as well as cell phone and ink cartridge recycling.

Also, don't throw out your 2008 calendars yet. Calendars containing pictures of Michigan scenery and animals can be used for bulletins and other environmental activities.

Birders are encouraged to participate in the Christmas Bird Count on Jan. 3 at 7:30 a.m. at the center.



Several trees have already been left at this drop off site for Christmas tree recycling. It's located by the Wege Wittenbach Center.

OKAY - Someone Has To Say It ...

by Thad Kraus

Sometimes one has to admit to being wrong. I was wrong. The Lions were every bit as bad as advertised.

A few shorts weeks ago, after watching the Lions play against the Indianapolis Colts, I wrote that I thought they'd win their last two games (New Orleans and Green Bay).

Detroit is bad at football. Their quarterback is bad, their lines are bad, their secondary is bad, their coaching is bad, catching onto the theme here?

The only good thing to report on is their stud receiver, Calvin Johnson. He is really, really good and could even be better if he had a football to play with each and every Sunday.

I thought Kevin Smith, running back, was good also, then I watched him commit a crucial personal foul late in the fourth quarter on Sunday against the Packers.

It's my experience players guilty of those type of penalties repeat them over and over again in pressure situations.

Want to Rebuild? Here's how!

Build yourself an offensive line and defensive line.

You're not going anywhere on offense if there isn't a line that can run block and pass block.

Your pass defense is only as good as your front line and the pressure it can apply to the opposing quarterback.

If you can't pressure an NFL quarterback with your front four, your corners are toast.

Did you watch Detroit's corners this year? Did you watch them Sunday in the fourth quarter against Green Bay when they needed a stop? I'm not sure they could have covered me!

With lines in place, Detroit then must find itself a quarterback Orlovsky -- BAD! Stanton - BAD, otherwise he would have played already.

The popular off season push will be for fans outside of New England to rant about their team picking up the Patriots Matt Cassel.

Slow down Detroit fans. Cassel was good because he

was playing on a good football team. A good quarterback on a bad football team, guess what, tends to be bad.

I forgot the most important element to building a football team, a talent evaluator. Detroit has proven time and time again, they do not have people in place that can judge talent.

A lot to ask for in an off season. But there is a glimmer of hope. Can you say Miami (1-15), Atlanta (4-12) just a year ago? Both clubs have a date in the playoffs in 2008.

Friday Night...

Just a reminder The number one wrestling team in the state of Indiana pays a visit Friday night to face off against Lowell. Mishawaka's Cavemen will wrestle against the Red Arrows beginning at 6 p.m. The junior varsity will wrestle at 4 p.m.

Speaking of wrestling, can you tell me who is the wrestling coach at Newberry High School? Well, if you attended the super dual at Lowell this week you already know. If not you'll have to wait until next week to find out. HINT: He has a Lowell wrestling connection! He also knows a thing or two about running. That's two hints.

Happy New Year!

Arizona subscriber, continued ... From Page 1

"There's always something interesting in there about someone we knew," said Betsy.

While in high school and college, Betsy used to work at Christensen's Drug Store. John worked as an electrical line man for Lowell Light and Power, before he moved on to construction work.

The couple moved out of Lowell in 1962 to Scottville by Ludington. To this day they retain many fond memories of Lowell. Every year, the retired couple winterizes in Florence.

"We get the Ledger to keep in touch," said John. "We have a lot of friends in Lowell."

They visited Lowell this summer for John's 53rd high school reunion enjoying a good turnout.

This is the tenth winter for the couple in the desert always bringing with them their two horses. They stay on a ranch from October to May.

"We get the paper year round," said John, "you do a terrific job and for a small paper you have good coverage."

They both enjoy births, birthdays and obituaries. John likes an occasional Jack Friesner column.

"He writes when he has something important to say," laughed John. "I look forward to getting the paper every week."

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In The Service

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She is the daughter of Dennis Smith of Ada.



Air Force Airman Crystal M. Randolph

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Mackinac Island, continued ... From Page 8

The East and the West Bluffs carry the magnificent Victorian cottages with elaborate stables built by Michigan lumber barons and Chicago meat packers.

"The bluffs were the main reason for the settlement of the island," said local island guru and tour guide, 'extraordinaire' Tim Leeper.

Certainly, the bluffs can easily be seen from a distance aboard a ferry coming to the island from the mainland. The Arnold Line provides regular transportation even in winter.

If the straits freeze, a charter plane is available from St. Ignace on the mainland. And then a horse-pulled taxi to the island's cozy inns will make sure guests arrive to their destination.

The sparse arrival or departure of a ferry on the island in wintertime reminds one of bustling ports of yesterday. The significance of such an event can only be matched by the departure of

"Titanic." Everybody is there to take in the spectacle.

Horses and buggy drivers along with merchants patiently await the ferry. It is customary for the local innkeepers to be waiting for their guests at the docks with sleds and carts to haul luggage. What will it bring ashore?

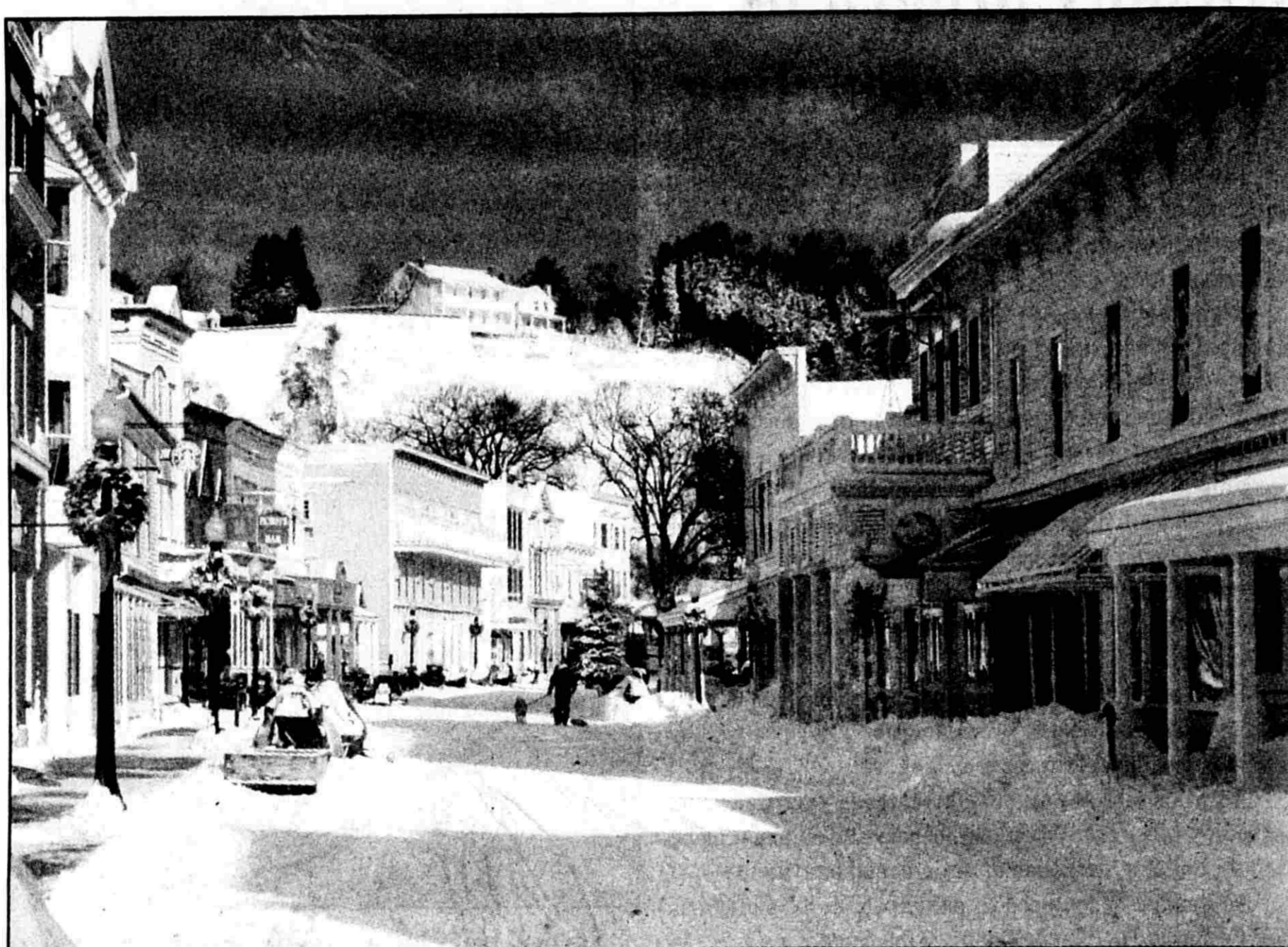
"Welcome, are you Emma?" asked Leeper holding on to an orange and blue baggage cart reminiscent of an Oriental jinrikisha.

Everything on the island is done out of pure necessity to be self-sufficient without motor power, except for the recent influx of snowmobiles.

"They're a necessity," said Schwemin.

Skiing or walking through downtown Main Street, also known as the historic Harbor District, is like stepping back in time.

The brightly colored facades of the mid 1800s buildings look like a movie set from Hollywood.



Downtown Mackinac Island in winter.

The main island and galleries built in Victorian style. A Russian student clerk at the Coin

Shop with memorabilia of all sorts talks about living on the island.

"It's beautiful," she said. "You meet so many different people."

Across the street at Patrick Sinclair's Irish Pub, it's lively. The annual construction crews await the next ferry headed to the mainland. Wintertime is also catch up time for the islanders to fix up everything for the approximately one million visitors to the island every year.

The Loon Feather further down west on Main Street rents skis and snowshoes. The souvenir shop carries everything from all the previous Lilac Festival posters to lilac essence soaps and diaries.

The fragrant purple lilac along with fudge are the signature staples of the island even in wintertime. Walking inside any of the fine island establishments, one can smell the essences of Mackinac Island whether it's the lilac bath salts and soaps available at Alford's Drug Store or souvenir fudge in a pretty white box.

Year after year, couples come to the island to celebrate their wedding anniversaries. The island provides an ideal setting for romance at any time of the year.

And you never know who you're going to run into on the island. It easily can be a movie star, a neighbor or a writer. The island traditionally draws artists as well as politicians.

The island's premiere landmark, the stately Grand Hotel, built from white pine in Grecian style with a 700-

foot long verandah, is a must see even in wintertime when it's closed. Its icy columns and roof are visible from the mainland seven miles away.

Stopping the skis at the green historical register landmark is almost like having a tour guide or a lecture from the island's colorful history. The Grand Hotel is a jewel on the island's historical crown.

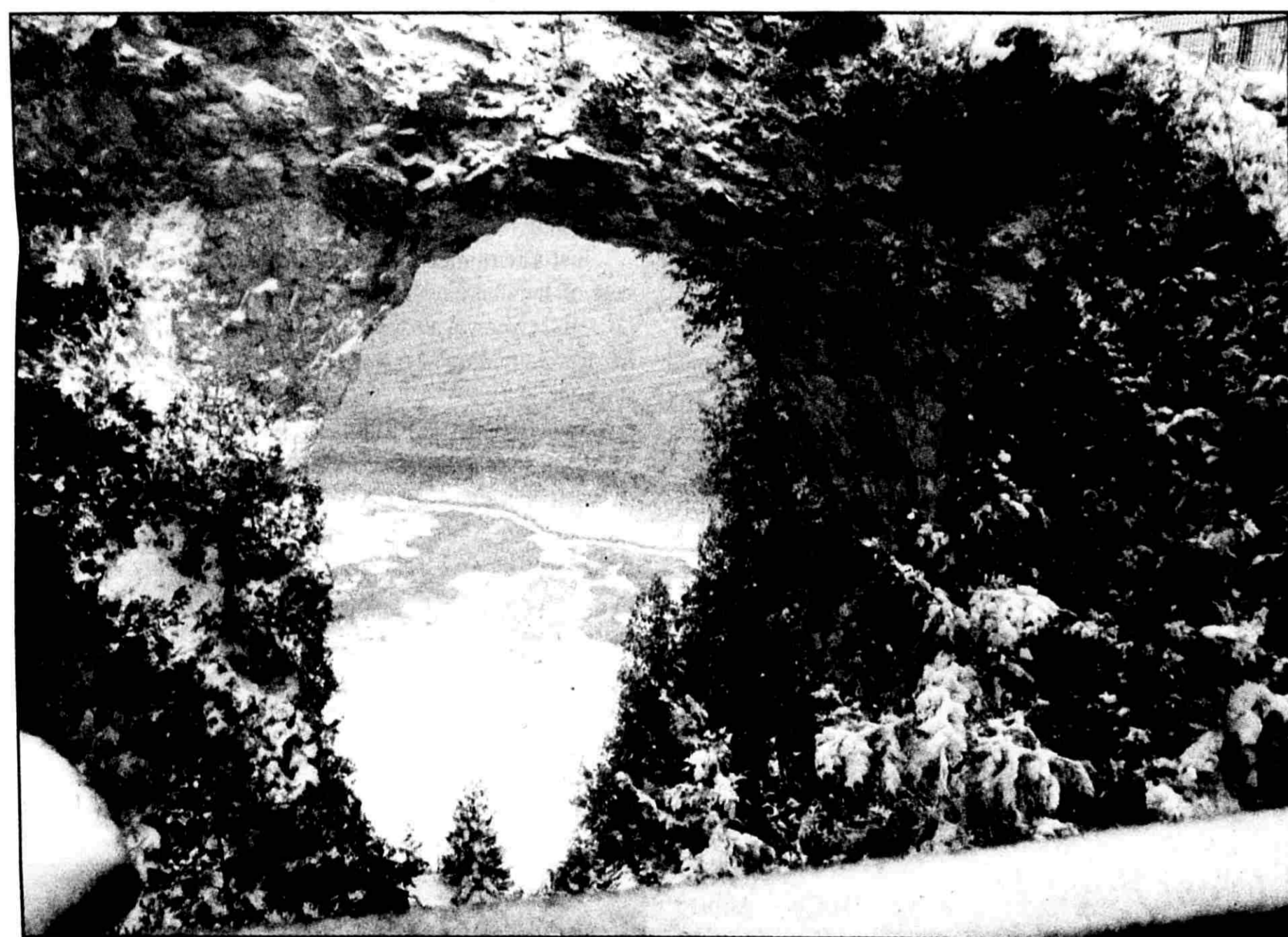
Built by railroad companies for vacationers coming on steamers from the large cities in the Midwest in 1887, the hotel breathes elegance and relaxation even in today's fast paced world of technology.

No wonder, it served as a set for the 1979 Jeanne Szwarc romance movie "Somewhere in Time" starring Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour.

Somewhere in Time Weekend is held at the Grand Hotel every October to commemorate the movie. A rock with a laser engraved image of Reeve and Seymour on the lakeshore trail is also a monument to the movie and the romantic charm of the island. Here by the three trees, Elise McKenna asked:

"Is it you?" Chilled by the wind from the straits, a stop at the cozy Village Inn back in town warms up the stomach and the heart.

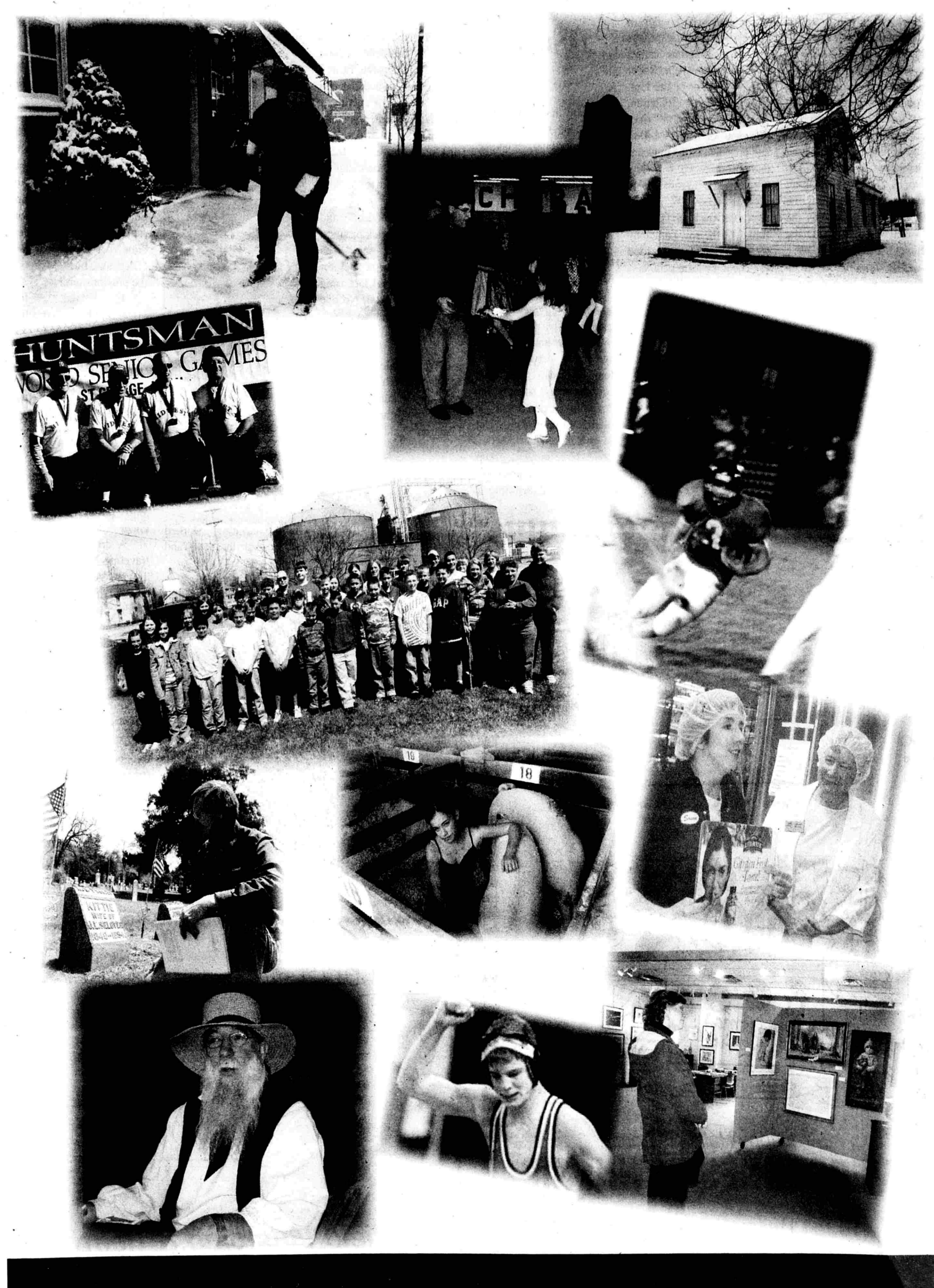
Chunky whitefish chowder, baked onion soup and planked whitefish are always on the menu. The town is lit now with lamps, and somewhere in the distance horse's hooves softly clip-clop into the night.



Arch Rock, a limestone formation, is covered with ice and snow.

2008-Year in Review

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER



2008-Year in Review

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DECEMBER 2007

Community leaders look ahead to 2008

From growth to change, the community leaders are looking ahead to 2008 with great expectations.

Sharon Ellison, elect council woman, stepped out last year determined to change the status quo in city politics.

For publisher Jon Jacobs, the most important event of last year was the family purchase of the Lowell Ledger and the Buyer's Guide.

"Taking it from a community newspaper standpoint, we were thrilled to get the phone call from Roger," said Jacobs. "Our two families always had a good relationship."

Roger Brown passed the torch to the Jacobs family in August of last year.

Pat Allchin took over at the helm of the thriving Lowell Area Historical Museum last year. Although

still learning the ropes, Allchin enjoyed putting together the successful "Gizmos and Gadgets" exhibit.

Staying on course of success with a vision into the future were longtime leaders in the community Dr. Roger LaWarre, pastor of the First Congregational Church, Jim Doyle, senior vice-president of King Milling and president of the museum and postmaster Gil Brown.

LaWarre calls his favorite Lowell event, "F.R.O.M. the Heart Parade." It may be the only parade by far where people bring food to benefit the local pantry.

Postmaster Gil Brown has just experienced the busiest Monday of the year standing in the window behind the counter of the post office.

His biggest event of the past year was the day the post office got the 5 Star Customer Service Award.

Jim Doyle, senior vice-president of King Milling and president of the Lowell Area Historical Museum,

has seen growth in the stable food industry. "We feel fortunate we continue to do well and thrive," Doyle said.

JANUARY

"Behind the Scene" series will profile people you know in the community who make things happen. Whether ordinary or unique, leaders or followers, they get things done regardless of the circumstances. Sometimes under pressure and in a short time frame with dwindling resources, yet still able to accomplish their goals.

Trail group considers tri-county agreement to govern rail corridor

A tri-county interlocal agreement between Kent, Ionia and Montcalm counties may become the governing structure for the future 40-mile long Flat River Railroad corridor.

A large citizens group working on the conversion of the railroad bed into a

trail Thursday formed a committee to hammer out the governing authority between 16 involved municipalities.

An unwanted Christmas present came to Schneider Manor resident John Gwatkin and his family, as a car almost crashed through the front of his apartment Tuesday afternoon. The Mercury Sable, which was driven by an unidentified woman who is the daughter of a resident in Schneider Manor, ran over two decorative reindeer and demolished a brick partition wall. Police said she probably hit the accelerator instead of the brake, causing her to hit the wall. No one was injured, and no arrests were made.

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

Instead Lloyd Flanagan embarked on a long journey to preserve the farm forever through the Kent County farmland preservation program.

preservation seems to be growing as more and more farmers enter the program. Flanagan's farm was the first one preserved in Grattan Township, and the second one in Kent County.

A storm on New Year's Day dumped an additional six to eight inches of snow in Lowell. Department of Public Works crews and



Icelfisherman Jeff Scalici enjoyed a sunny January day on Stony Lake.

temperatures last week a few days of warm weather caused a meltdown. The yo-yo weather brought rain and fog but was followed by more freezing temperatures.

Shores elected as Lowell's mayor for third time

Jeanne Shores, 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 to Chuck Myers in the 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. New members Hodges, Sharon Ellison and Jeff Altoft were sworn in.

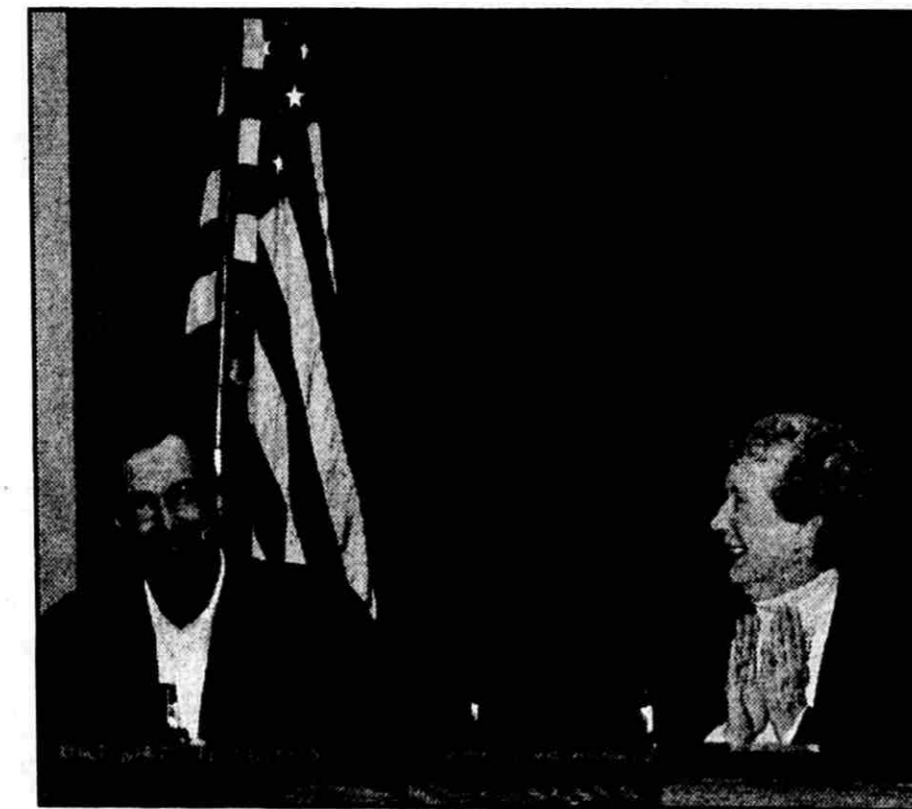
Traveling exhibit and tour reveal area ghost towns

A driving tour and a traveling exhibit "Ghost Towns Around Lowell" reveal the ghost towns of the past in the greater Lowell area.

Organized by the Lowell Area Historical Museum, the exhibit was unveiled Monday at the city hall.

"The main purpose is to expose more people to the museum," said director Pat Allchin, "and to visit our other exhibits."

The deep freeze of the past few weeks has made the skating rink at Richards



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

2008 - Year in Review, continued...

Aaron Jakudiak
Mrs. Young
Cherry Creek

Where Mrs. Clause waits on Christmas eve.

Happy Holidays from
VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

10381 Bailey Drive
897-5671

Sarah Dec
Mrs. Young
Cherry Creek

Have a Merry Christmas

Jake Misak
Mr. MacDonald
Alto Elementary

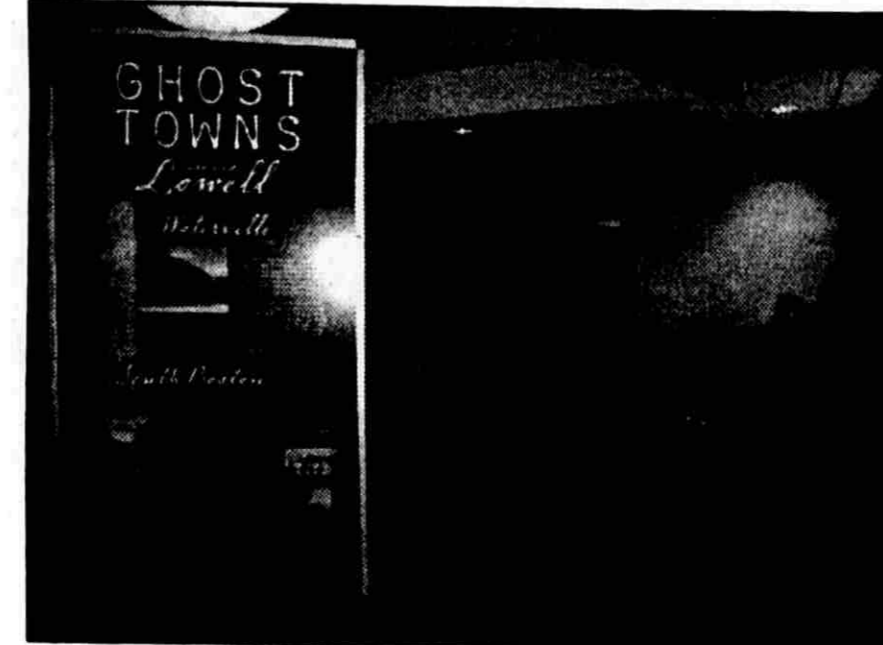
Amanda Webster
Mr. Hawkins
Alto Elementary

Up On The Housetop

Canfield Plumbing & Heating
411 E. Main, Lowell • 897-0887

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"Ghost Towns Around Lowell" was on display at city hall.

Park a huge success. The rink has a new permanent concrete slab. In spite of the warm weather on Monday a cold snap mid-week should firm up the ice for more skating fun.

Voyages to host weekend Halo Tournament

Voyages Coffee Shop will host a tournament featuring the popular video game, Halo, during the weekend of Feb. 15.

Sterling Massey, the owner of the cafe, said "first and foremost, what we noticed is there weren't a lot of places for kids to go. We were trying to think of ways to involve younger people in activities."

FEBRUARY

Lowell merchants shovel out during snowstorm

Heavy snowfall Friday brought additional accumulation of two to four inches of fresh snow on top of the existing six inches.

Little League president calls for customization of contract

A \$5 user fee and a 10 percent charge on tournaments are the results of year-long negotiations between the city parks commission and sports organizations.

The city council Monday approved a five-year contract with the Lowell

Little League for Creekside Park use. The contract with the league is the same as with the other non-profit sports organizations.

Mayor Shores waives fee for performing marriage ceremonies

It was the mayor's choice not to get paid for performing marriage ceremonies.

The city council Monday waived a \$50 fee for marriage ceremonies per mayor Jeanne Shores' request. The fee was instituted by former mayor Chuck Myers through a motion of the city council.

"I felt it was high. I didn't vote for it. I want it waived," said Shores, "It's my time. I don't want money for my time."

Former educator named Person of the Year

At 84, she still keeps reaching for the stars. Her favorite quote is by Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Hitch your wagon to a star."

Person of the Year 2008 Betty Yeiter lives by Emerson's philosophy. Even though she knows she won't be able to reach a star, Yeiter keeps trying.

Lowell Cable TV fund spending to be determined

The governing structure over spending the approximately \$100,000 earned annually by the Lowell Cable TV endowment fund has yet to be determined.

The city council Monday in a workshop setting squabbled who will determine what will get funded from the deep coffers of the \$2.8 million fund.

City extends lease agreements on N. Washington

Following a heated debate whether the city should be in the rental business, the

With the hand-forged grand staircase firmly in its place inside the 3,500-square-foot foyer, the Grand Lux Ballrooms are now on target for a March opening.

Business award recipient Lowell Granite stays on cutting edge

Granite monuments embellished with intricate laser-etched scenes from a family's life are a signature staple of one of the oldest businesses in West Michigan.

The Lowell Granite Co. is the recipient of the 2008 Business Appreciation

Award from the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. It is the first award for a company doing continuous business for the last 135 years.

"To be recognized was an honor," John Wilterink, one of the owners, said. "Jeff and I were pleased."

Lunar eclipse

A total eclipse of the moon may be seen this Wednesday if the February sky clears up. The beginning partial phase of the eclipse will start at 8:43 p.m. with the greatest eclipse at 10:26 p.m., according to Space Watch Michigan.

2008 - Year in Review, continued...



Betty Yeiter, Person of the Year 2008,

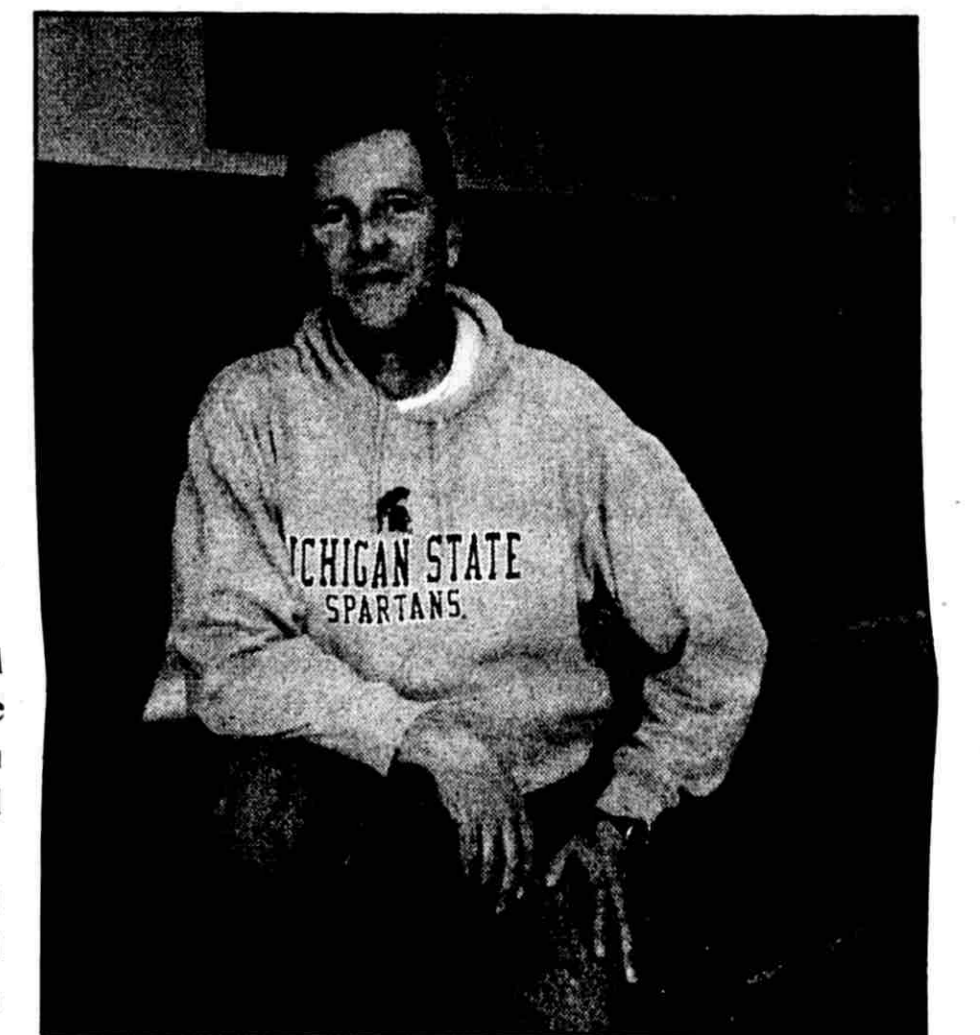
council extended a couple of lease agreements on North Washington property Monday.

A 60-day extension was given to the Boy Scouts to hammer out a final agreement for the use of the cabin located on the property.

Railtrail group inches toward interlocal agreement

A tri-county trail commission may oversee the future rail trail system from Lowell to Ionia and Greenville.

The Flat River Railtrail citizens group moved Thursday to form an unprecedented tri-county interlocal agreement between Kent, Montcalm and Ionia counties.



John Wilterink a Lowell Granite owner, received the Business Appreciation Award.

Merry Christmas

Maya Aalsburg
Mrs. Schneider
Alto Elementary

Tyler Ritchie
Mr. Bredin
Cherry Creek

209 W. Main • Lowell
897-8200

Affordable Boutique

The Hanger
hot clothes cool prices
hangerhotclothing.com

Daniel Miller
Mrs. Young
Cherry Creek

Merry Christmas
Happy Holidays
Happy Hanukkah
Happy New Year
Season's Greetings
Have a Nice Winter
Ho, Ho, Ho!

Marilla Marks
Mrs. Young
Cherry Creek

W. J. WHEELER
Certified Public Accountant
103 Riverside Dr., Lowell
897-7711

2008-Year in Review

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The next eclipse is scheduled for December 2010.

Family preserves farmland - hopes to attract ag businesses

Better known as the Merriman Corners, prime farmland east of Bancroft and 52nd streets will now be preserved forever.

Sitting at the dining table, Joseph Merriman tells the story of his quest

to preserve a major part of the family-registered black angus farm in Lowell Township.

Officials attempt to shed light on regulations protecting dark skies

To protect dark skies, city planning officials shed some light on regulations determining the level of illumination Monday.

The proposed off-street parking lighting ordinance

has been developed in sync with Lowell Township regulations over the last few years. It has now been set for a public hearing at the end of March.

"It's an important thing to be looking at this lighting ordinance," said Dennis Sanford.

Lowell Township has developed a lighting ordinance to protect the skies for astronomy fans of the Veen Observatory located in the township.

Local women brave cold on Girls' Night Out

It was chocolate, champagne and chili at last week's premiere shopping event for girls.

On a cold February evening, the smell of chili at the Hanger fashion store tickled the nose. Owner Kristina Laux with clerk Sam Snyder welcomed the Girls' Night Out gang with hugs.

That same warm atmosphere echoed through all the participating stores.

Temporary signs to hang around a bit longer

Temporary signs announcing sales in commercial districts will now be allowed for up to 60 days following the city's planning commission recommendation.

Based on a request from the area car dealers crying for equality in signage rules between Lowell Township and the city of Lowell, the commission spent more than a year mulling the issue.

received their yellow or white property tax notices showing skyrocketing property tax assessments, while their home values have plunged due to the housing crisis.

According to Vergennes Township supervisor Tim Wittenbach, this has not happened since 1994 when Proposal A passed.

Proposal A capped the taxable value used to compute property taxes. Prior to the proposal, property taxes were calculated on state equalized value (SEV). SEV is 50 percent of the market value of a property.

Women's History Month to be celebrated by local artists

In recognition of Women's History Month, local artists will be celebrating with a tribute to other women artists who have inspired them.

"We want to look at the role of women who have inspired us," said Fire and Water Art gallery owner Kathleen Mooney.

MARCH

Annual chamber gathering a big hit

The annual chamber membership gathering drew large crowds to the new venue at T.J. Sports Bar & Grille on the east end of town. Among the honored were Betty Yeiter as Person of the Year, and John and Jeff Wilterink of Lowell Granite received the Business Appreciation award.

Prime Vergennes farmland preserved

Marsha and Gordon Wilcox of Vergennes Township have put into permanent preservation 60 acres of prime farmland located on Murray Lake and 3 Mile Road.

"It's the best piece of farmland in Vergennes Township," she said.

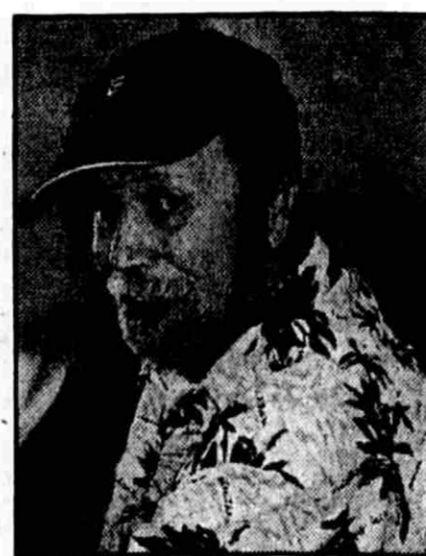
Property tax increase brings out residents to appeal - GOP proposes reform

An increase in property taxes in a depressed housing market brought out twice as many people to appeal their assessments in front of the board of review in Vergennes Township Monday.

In early March, residents

Lowell Area Schools achieve high marks in energy conservation

Teachers and staff at Lowell Area Schools are leading the way for other school districts while achieving big savings with energy-efficient behavior. Four years ago, the district formed a strategic alliance with Energy Education Inc., a national energy conservation company. Lowell Area Schools has achieved a 41 percent cost avoidance totaling \$1,916,902 in 48 months since partnering with Energy Education Inc.



Dave Davis

Local artist remembered as a motivator

A set of brushes in an orange pouch and an easel without canvas next to the "Yet Another Roadside Attraction" 2004 painting highlighted memorial services for David Davis. A painter, mentor, arts guru and teacher Davis passed away a few days prior to his 65th birthday.

District-wide school improvements to begin at middle school; plus newly-designed parking lot at high school

Lowell Middle School will be experiencing major renovations soon. Work could begin as early as May 1; however, much of the work will take place over the summer when the students are on break.

Updates to the middle school will include a new roof, new ceiling tiles, new carpet where needed, site lighting and signage, new lockers, doors, and hardware.

Wege preserves 577 acres in Vergennes Township

Conservation easements totaling 577 acres in Vergennes Township have been donated by philanthropist

2008 - Year in Review, continued ...

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Peter Wege.

The preserved area also known as the Parnell Avenue Corridor has been considered by the residents of Grattan and Vergennes townships as prime farmland.

"Conservation easement is a legal document that restricts the use of the property," said Kendra Wills of MSU Extension.

North Washington property will become a park The much debated North Washington property will become a park, an integral part of the city park system.

Following a motion by the council, the city planning commission started the process Monday by making an amendment to the master plan to include the property as a park.

Lowell Expo '08 packed with entertainment

The Lowell Expo, held at Lowell High School Saturday saw many residents and vendors, despite the snowstorm on Friday.

Liz Baker at the Chamber of Commerce said there were between 4,500 and 5,000 people in attendance, a bit down from last year's number.

"The attendance was down, because of Easter weekend and the Friday snowstorm," Baker said. "The No. 1 thing is that the weather's been so crummy." The Expo is always held on the fourth Saturday in March.

City tree trimming nears completion

This year's tree trimming in several areas of town including Hudson Street is almost complete. Identified trees on private properties in 25 locations have been removed or trimmed according to the Lowell Light & Power policy.

"This is an ongoing process as long as trees grow into power lines," said director Tom Richards.

Richards doesn't expect any trimmings past April.

Lowell may be left without the DDA

Lowell may be left without a Downtown Development Authority (DDA) in five years.

As the DDA Act sunsets in 2013, the city will face a decision whether to reinstate the authority or not.



April McClure of eja Salon and Kristina Laux of The Hanger stand next to their booth during the Expo.

That was one of the issues discussed at a Thursday meeting of the DDA members.

It's all about quality and energy efficiency at All-Weather Seal, a new business located between Flat River Cottage and Canfield Heating & Plumbing.

Owner Scott McDowell moved his business from Grand Rapids to Lowell to offer a full-service package to customers approximately three weeks ago.

Abraham Lincoln and his wife Mary Todd Lincoln in a first-class venue.

"We're making history," said museum director Pat Allchin.

The fundraiser will become the first event held at the brand new Grand Lux Ballrooms on Lincoln Lake.

It is also the first major event put on by Allchin, who took over the helm of the museum director last fall.

"Take it Off" a success for area participants

The team "Flabulous Four" was the big winner of Take it Off, the Lowell Community Wellness weight-loss challenge.

The group members included Mark Sanders, Julie Bishop, Tim Bergy and Jane Sanders, and they lost 96 pounds among the four of them.

APRIL

Huntington Bank robbed and evacuated for "hoax" bomb

The Huntington National Bank, on East Main Street, was robbed last Wednesday afternoon, and the search for the male suspect is still ongoing.

Police chief Jim Valentine said the suspect displayed "some type of explosive device" on the counter in the bank around 3:30 p.m. Wednesday and asked the female teller for money. It is undetermined how much money he got away with.

The suspect is described as 5-foot-10 to 6-foot, a medium to stocky build, reddish hair and mustache and wearing a black bike helmet. He was also wearing a dark face mask at the bank. Valentine said he was seen riding away on a red bike in a southwest direction from the bank.

"Somewhere in Time" to raise money for historical museum

Using the "Somewhere in Time" new logo, the Lowell Area Historical Museum will hold its annual spring fundraiser in style.

The event will feature dinner with President

Lowell receives Tree City USA designation

Lowell has been named Tree City USA as one of five new communities boasting the designation in Michigan. The town will celebrate its first Arbor Day on April 25.

"I am really excited about being named Tree City USA," said mayor Jeanne Shores.

The national program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, shows Lowell's commitment to tree care, according to Kevin Sayers, MDNR urban and community forestry coordinator.

In a city council meeting Monday, Shores and Dana Chase, member of the tree

board, accepted the national recognition. In order to become a tree city, Lowell has met the required four standards in an organized approach to its trees. The city has a tree board, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive forestry program and an Arbor Day observance.

"It shows our commitment to trees from now on," said manager Dave Pasquale.

Pastor LaWarre of First Congregational Church retires

Pastor Roger LaWarre of First Congregational Church will bid farewell to the congregation and Dana Chase, member of the tree

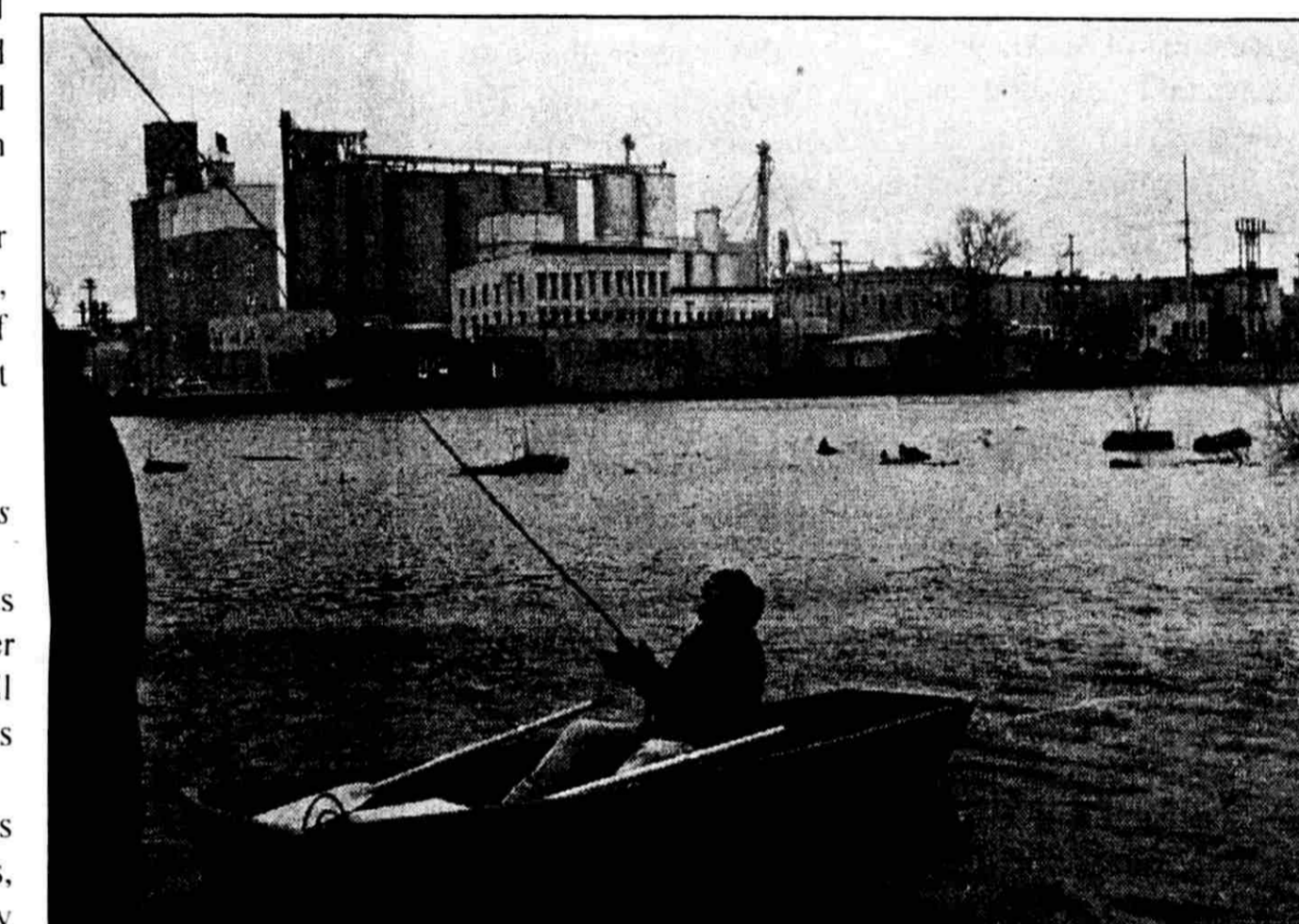
of closure on April 27 at 2 p.m.

A visionary, LaWarre's accomplishments are highly visible in the community from the new church to the well-anchored Flat River Outreach Ministries.

LPD upgrades in-car computers using community grant

A grant of up to \$25,000 from the Lowell Area Community Fund will be used to upgrade in-car police computers and other technological infrastructure.

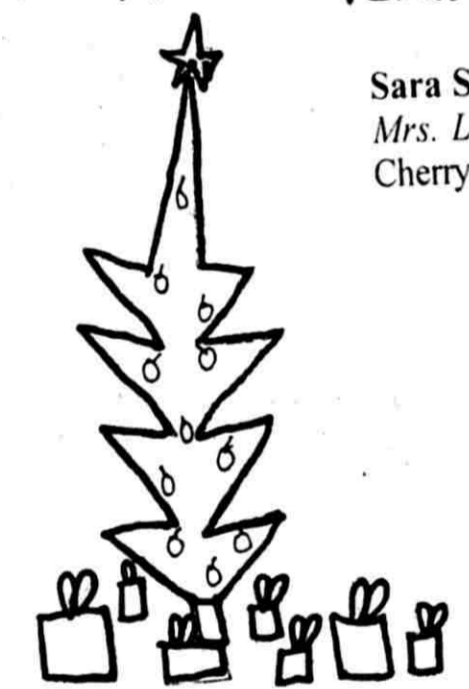
This year the police department will purchase four computers model



Comcast upgrades with fiber optic cables across the Flat River.

2008 - Year in Review, continued ...

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Sara Schuitema
Mrs. Larva
Cherry Creek



Be Jolly!

Drew Struckmeyer
Mr. Bredin
Cherry Creek



Let the Angels sing

Courtney VanderMark
Mr. Hawkins
Alto Elementary



1400 Foreman
Lowell
Phone 897-5911

Madison Smith
Mr. Bredin
Cherry Creek

Welcome

2009

Alina Chappell
Mr. Hawkins
Alto Elementary

BERNARD'S HARDWARE

1601 W. Main • Lowell • 616-897-9490

HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8 AM - 8 PM • SATURDAY 8 AM - 5 PM • SUNDAY 10 AM - 3 PM

Season's Greetings

Emily Roche
Mrs. Young
Cherry Creek

Kyle Bell
Mr. Fillman
Murray Lake

CURTIS
CLEANERS • LAUNDRY

1410 W. Main, Lowell
897-9810

Ondine Eardley
Mrs. Vezino
St. Patrick's

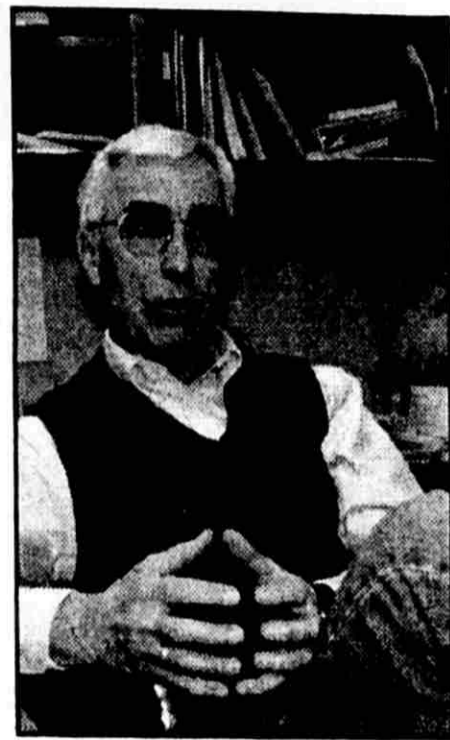
Ashley Serbenta
Mr. Fillman
Murray Lake

Lowell Family Medical Center

Paul R. Gauthier, D.O. • James C. Lang, D.O.
John G. Meier, D.O. • Wayne A. Christenson, D.O.
Tracy L. Lissic, D.O. • Julie Rathbun, PA.-C.
2550 West Main, Lowell • 616-252-5600

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Pastor Roger LaWarre retires on April 27. 04.09.08

for families in our area that needed a helping hand," said Buys.

Gusty winds and a strong current last week made stretching a fiber optic line across the Flat River from a rowboat next to impossible.

Jeff Pierce, of All American Communications, in vain pulled the lasher on the fiber line to straighten out the sag, while the current took him farther and farther down the river.

"We're doing it the old-fashioned way with a rowboat," said Pierce.

Usually, the crew uses a robot called a "Squirrel" on lengths of up to 500 feet to run lines across water.

However, in this case, with the river being 750-foot wide, the rowboat was a natural solution. The name of the robot was in fact inspired by squirrels running on lines, according to Pierce.

The crew runs lines across water only once in two or three years.

City Council to control spending from cable TV fund - may patch streets

It wasn't just street talk Monday night at the city chambers, as the council focused attention on potholes and local streets falling apart after the harsh winter.

A potential \$100,000 allocation from the cable TV fund may be used to fix the streets, if approved at the next city council meeting.

With the last pending payment of \$359,000 from the cable TV sale due by the end of June, and budgeting in progress, the council held a workshop to determine its spending.

As a former World War II pilot flying from Dallas in a training plane, Peter Wege wanted to stop in Pittsburgh, but he couldn't find it in the smog in the middle of the day. That was long before caring for the environment became a modern trend.



Environmentalist and philanthropist Peter Wege sets example for the country.

Concerned then as he remains today, Wege, 88, is a true visionary looking beyond the horizons.

"That jarred me," he said. "What are we doing?" Sitting at a community breakfast in Wege's honor for his preservation efforts at the Franciscan Life Process Center last week, one couldn't help but be touched by his presence.

"We should have been

preserving since 1950," said Wege. "It should be as normal as kindergarten. It has taken us 40 years to get it started."

Postage will be raised by a penny starting in May

A one-penny increase on first class stamps starting May 12 will offset inflation and the cost of gas. From now on, each May, the price of mailing services will be adjusted to the rate of inflation, in accordance with the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act.

This year the price of first class stamps will go up to 42 cents. The hike also impacts express mail, priority mail, parcel select,

parcel return service and international mail.

Conservation expo at WWC kicks off land preservation week

The conservation organization expo held last week at the Wittenbach-Wege Center kicked off the newly declared land preservation week April 20 through April 26 by Senator Patty Birkholz. The expo

featured numerous booths of area environmental organizations, like Wild Ones.

Bowne to construct new township hall

A new township hall will be constructed near the current historical building, which is home to the Bowne Township government. The existing historical park, including the old township building and the school, will remain intact.

The 50-by-40-foot structure will house offices and a conference room to serve the growing needs of the township.

Lowell celebrates Arbor Day, kicks off Big Tree Contest

The city of Lowell has announced the first ever "Big Tree Contest" to kick off Lowell being designated as Tree City USA.

The east side of the Flat River will be competing against the west side within the city limits only in two categories, pine trees and hardwood trees.

The contest runs through September 28, and the winner will be announced during the Harvest Celebration.

Lowell Area Schools honored with Chairman's Award from KISD

On April 22, Earth Day, 32 local school buildings and four districts were honored at the first Green School awards program, hosted by Kent County and Kent ISD at Sibley Elementary School in Grand Rapids. The program recognized the work of educators and students in the area in environmental education and energy conservation.

Arts council celebrates 30 bloom'ing years

The Lowell Area Arts Council is celebrating 30 years of growth with a grand re-opening on May 4.

A complete remodel of the building on South Hudson Street included new carpeting and tiling, as well as coats of fresh paint.

"We wanted to spruce up the place, kind of like spring cleaning," said Loraine Smalligan. "All the painting was done with volunteer hours."

Council to control LCTV endowment fund

In a swift change of mind, the council has eliminated funding for the streets from the Lowell Cable TV fund, while maintaining control of its administration.

"I've changed my mind," said council woman Sharon Ellison; "All the money should go to the principal. We should only use proceeds from the investment."

Approximately \$2.5 million from the cable TV sale has been placed with the Grand Rapids Community Foundation. The council has been split whether a portion of the last payment should go toward the dilapidated streets, or should completely be invested in the principal.

MAY

Tri-River museum tour tracks the history of settlements along area rivers

A charming step into the past during last week's museum tour of the three rivers network offered insight into the history of settlement in the area.

The annual 'Spring into the Past' tour featured 17 small museums in West Michigan located along the Grand River, Flat River and Thornapple River.

From train depots, dormitories, war museums to historical homes, a wide variety of structures represented a span of more than 150 years.

Superheroes on the streets of Lowell

Batgirl, Supergirl, Thor and Captain America were all in Lowell this weekend. Yes, these superheroes browsed the streets of Lowell last Saturday during the 7th Annual Promotion Free Comic Book Day.

Crowds flocked in front

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Lowell Women's Club gives to community. Pictured are Lowell community members with checks from the Lowell Women's Club. (First row, L-R): Rhonda Fitzpatrick, from St. Mary's Pregnancy Center; Kathy Horsch, of the Women's Club; Liz Baker, from the Chamber of Commerce; Stacy Messersmith, from the YMCA; and Marge Rehl, of FROM. (Second row, L-R): Frank Martin, the fire chief; Ranger Steve from the Wittenbach-Wege Center; and Lorain Smalligan, from the Arts Council.

of Rookies Sports cards to pick up two free comic books of their choice.

Preserving our heritage trees

The Arbor Board, in cooperation with the city of Lowell and the Department of Public Works has authorized Bartlett Tree Experts of Grand Rapids to perform extensive seasonal maintenance to the city heritage tree located at the Englehardt Library and to a tree located at the city parking lot at the corner of Monroe and Avery streets. This is in addition to the tree planting already announced.

"White Freight Liner," Dave Simmonds and Nate Garrelts can't wait to get the Mayfest show on the road.

After being cooped up for the winter, the 13th annual Mayfest at the fairgrounds opens the summer season with bluegrass, fun, sunshine and camping on the river Grand.

Farm markets expected to grow with weakening economy

With rising food prices due to fuel costs, local farm markets are booming.

Fresh, close to earth, natural and organic, home-grown produce meticulously maintained by the grower without pesticides and chemicals, means lower prices and higher quality.

"We're going to have more produce than ever," said Ron Wenger, Lowell Farm market manager.

Wenger expects this year's Farmers' Market to be bigger and better than the previous ones.

"We will close out with the harvest celebration," said Wenger.

City of Lowell hosts mayor exchange with Hastings

A Lowell tradition of 21



LHS holds "Drive your tractor to school" day

Jeff Mansfield, community development director John Hart and photographer Rose Hendershot.

The City of Lowell was represented by mayor Jeanne Shores, council members Jim Hodges, Jeff Altoft, city manager Dave Pasquale, and clerk Betty Morlock.

In preparation for Memorial Day this Monday, local veterans from the American Legion and VFW of Lowell placed American flags at veteran gravesites in Oakwood Cemetery. There are almost 500

veterans buried in the cemetery, and the flags placed will stay put for four weeks surrounding Memorial Day.

Lowell High School held its annual "Drive your tractor to school" day last week before the seniors' last day.

About 25 tractors were in the high school's parking lot after school on Wednesday.

Taking part in the tradition were Blake Zigmont, Steve Harden, Eric Sledright, Eric Denhoff,

P.J. Penninga, Casey Homerich, Seth Bogard, Dan Hogan, Brandon White, Tony Larkins, Bob Crosby, Jim Crosby, Mike Thuston, Tricia Thuston, Gus Geldersma, Kevin Jones, Noah Blough, Paula Blough, Nick Ropalski, Justin Elliott, Bry Johnson, Mike Clover, Kevin Nugent, Kyle Fitzpatrick, and Micah Soyka.

2008-Year in Review, continued...



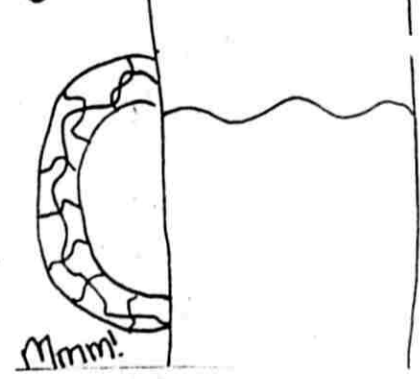
Hastings and Lowell city officials enjoyed lunch together during the Mayor Exchange Luncheon Wednesday, May 21. Pictured here are:

First row, L-R: Hastings City Council member Dave Tossava, Linda Campbell, Lowell Mayor Jeanne Shores, Deb May, Hastings Mayor Bob May, Hastings Council member Barry Wood, Hastings Community Development Specialist Deb Hatfield, Executive Director of the Lowell Chamber of Commerce Liz Baker, Lowell Council member Sharon Ellison, Lowell City Treasurer Sue Olin. Second row, L-R: Hastings Council member Frank Campbell, Hastings Council member and Mayor Pro Tem Donald Tubbs, Hastings Council member Donald Bowers, Lois Bowers, Lowell Mayor Pro Tem Jim Hodges, Hastings City Manager Jeff Mansfield, Lowell Clerk Betty Morlock, Lowell City Manager Dave Pasquale, Lowell Council member Tim Pfaller and Hastings City Assessor Jackie Timmerman.

Monica Olmstead Mrs. Vezino St. Patrick's



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Jocelyn Polinsky Mrs. Young Cherry Creek



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Feliz Navidad!

Ryan Stevens Mrs. Schneider Alto Elementary

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Season Greetings

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Morgan VanEnk Mr. Stevens Cherry Creek

LOWELL

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Cameron Philo Mr. Stevens Cherry Creek

Merry Christmas!!!!

Feliz Navidad!

Anna L. Mrs. Schneider Alto Elementary

Grand 930 W. Main Lowell 897-9281

2008-Year in Review

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

Hastings Mayor May changes places with Mayor Shores

Members from Hastings Rotary, Kiwanis and Exchange clubs, as well as officials from the cities of Lowell and Hastings gathered for lunch at the Walldorff Brewpub and Bistro for the annual Mayor Exchange Luncheon Wednesday.

Exchange Club President Marjorie Haas welcomed guests to the lunch before Hastings Mayor Bob May introduced Lowell and Hastings city officials. Lowell Mayor Jeanne Shores came to Hastings for the day with several Lowell City Council members and several city staff.

"We have thoroughly enjoyed our morning here," said Shores. "I really think I need to come to Hastings some time for a runaway weekend. We're really enjoying ourselves here."

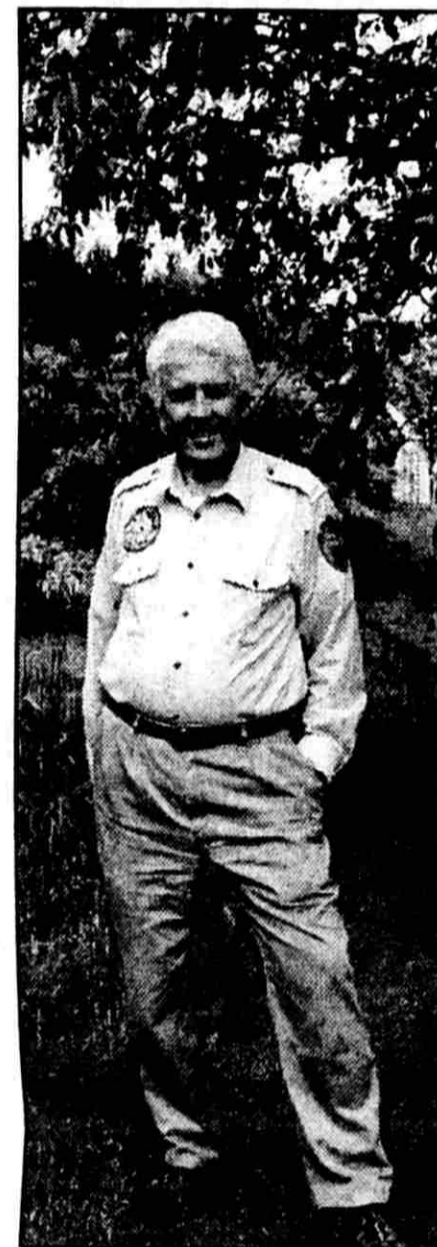
JUNE

Lowell High School graduates Class of 2008

With 320 graduates for Lowell High School's 130th annual commencement ceremony, Red Arrow Stadium was packed to the brim. Even with the wind blowing the graduates' cowls all over, the weather proved sunny and clear on Sunday afternoon.

As a kid, Steve Mueller collected insects. As the director of the Wege Wittenbach Center (WWC) he never stopped.

And now on the threshold of retirement, Mueller is still not ready to hang up his ranger hat. He's worn it well for the last 29 years launching his career as a state park ranger for the Traverse City State Park.



Ranger Steve to retire without hanging up his hat

Since Mueller plans to continue his work at the

center on a contractual basis, he hopes to increase the ever successful community programming, curriculum development and staff development. "I am not ready to hang up my ranger hat," he said.

City approves budget with same millage rate/hikes water, sewer rates

The city council Monday approved the 2008-2009 budget supported by the same millage rate as last year. One mill of the general fund revenues will be transferred into the local street fund for street repair.

The millage rate remains at 16.08 mills including votes in millage for the operations of the Lowell Area Historical Museum. Overall projected revenues are expected to grow by 2.79 percent.

The general fund balance is \$153,000 or 5.94 percent of total expenditures.

Residents will see an increase in water and sewer rates based on an analysis study conducted by Tetra Tech.

Lowell Light and Power manager resigns following drawn-out controversy

Steeped in deep controversy over last year's Cable TV sale and tree cutting, Lowell Light & Power (LL&P) manager Tom Richards, 54, has resigned

effective June 5.

Richards cited the differences between the utility board's expectations and his own expectations of the board as the major reason for his resignation.

Lowell keeps head above water as storms ravage West Michigan

After a few days spent in the upper 80s and 90s temperature-wise, Lowell and its surrounding communities across West Michigan were cooled down thanks to a weekend of severe storms.

The bad weather started in the area on Friday, when a tornado warning was issued for many of the counties around Lowell.

Over the weekend, many storms traveled throughout the area, causing power outages (as many as 100,000 people were without power Sunday), traffic jams and major flooding.

Unemployment, rising costs coupled with poor economy increases the need at area food pantries

When Flat River Outreach Ministries moved out to a bigger location on Fulton Street, they had no idea how busy they would get within less than a year.

With high gas prices, bad economy and weather damaging the crops, the need for food has risen multi-fold. And the outlook for fall isn't any better with

At the Monday night City Council meeting, representatives from the Attwood Corporation announced the consolidation of the Lancaster, TX operations into the Lowell facility. The first machinery from the Lancaster plant will be delivered by August 15.

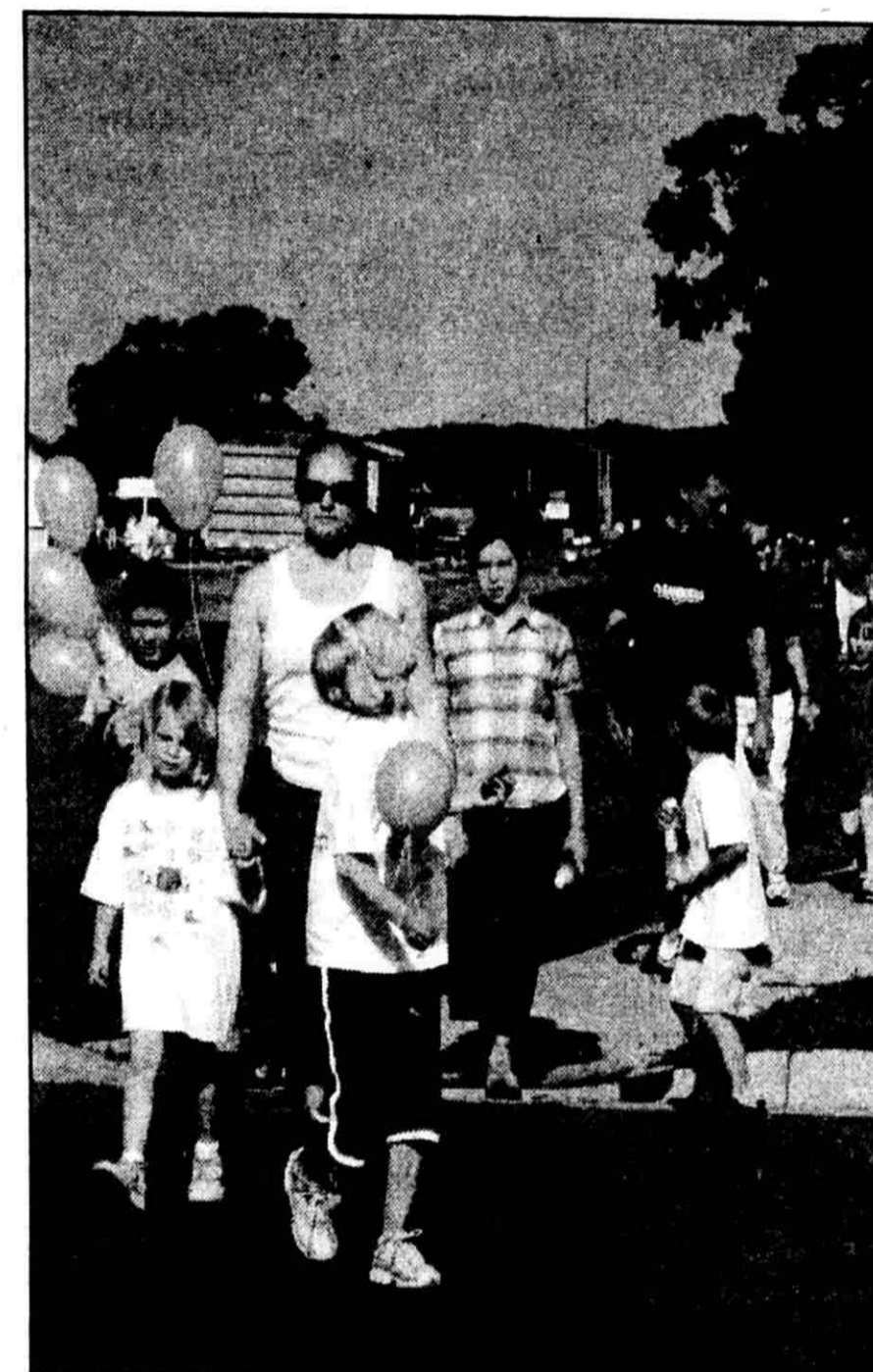
This, according to company president Chris Drees, will result in 43 new jobs in addition to the existing 116 employee base.

Rockin' on the Riverwalk

The Sizzlin' Summer concert night last Thursday enjoyed record crowds underneath a bright blue



In 2008 the final Pow Wow was held in Lowell.



Alpha Women's Center of Lowell held their fifth annual LifeWalk on Saturday, June 14. The weather was beautiful for the 83 walkers participating in the walk.

Lowell Middle School gets a \$3.2 million face lift

A \$3.2 million upgrade at the Lowell Middle School will bring the building up to modern standards and speed, including new technology updates.

The reconstruction of the 1960s building, which at one point served as a high school, started at the end of the school year. The completion is slated for September.

"We're delighted with the progress," said superintendent Greg Pratt. "The construction is on schedule."

Last Pow Wow in Lowell

The 10th annual and last Pow Wow in Lowell organized by the Grand Valley American Indian Lodge will take place this weekend at the fairgrounds.

"This will be the last year for the Pow Wow at the fairgrounds," said one of the representatives. "We wish to thank the Lowell community for all of their support and kindness during the last five years we've been here."

City, planning commission to set guidelines for cutting grass

A joint meeting between the city council and the planning commission set for July 14 will address guidelines for cutting grass.

Following recent complaints about inequality of enforcement of mowing

of residential and city properties, the planning commission Monday considered placing moratorium on the current rules.

JULY

The Relay for Life was held at Lowell High School's Red Arrow Stadium, starting Friday at noon and ending Saturday at noon.

The event helped raise \$71,125.73 for the American Cancer Society.

Walgreens, increase in building permits may signal better economic times

A new Walgreens store on the corner of Bowes and Fulton roads may be an indicator of better times for the local economy.

Dave Prueter, senior vice-president of Agree Realty Corp. based in Farmington Hills said the project is waiting for municipal approvals in July. It is slated for fall completion.

100 Miles in 100 Days encourages healthy living

You know it's summer when you see more people walking, riding bikes and enjoying the outdoors, and this one is no different as Lowell Community Wellness gets its fifth annual "100 Miles in 100 Days" under way.

The program started on May 26, and lasts until Sept. 2. There are 83 people registered.

Covered Bridge Bike Tour routes lead through beautiful scenery

Trekking from the lovely Fallsburg Covered Bridge along Grand River Drive to the Ada Covered Bridge and back provides for an enjoyable ride.

That is why the 28-mile route is the most popular with families on the annual Covered Bridge bike ride.

The Fourteenth Annual Covered Bridge Bike Tour will take place this Sunday, July 13.

Thunderstorms, high winds cause flooding, fallen trees in area

Thunderstorms caused many fallen tree limbs and flooding, but power outages were kept to a minimum, according to Lowell Light & Power general manager Greg Pierce.

"There were some outages, but not many," Pierce said. He said they received between 75 and 80 phone calls for the outages, and a "vast majority" of the

houses had power back on within a half hour.

Just on the eve of Independence Day on a chilly night on the Riverwalk, the energetic patriotic Americana band "Voices of Freedom" took to the stage. Beautiful music and songs echoed into the summer evening. A decent size crowd enjoyed the patriotic music, along with dancers doin' the swing.

Farmer's Market - It's the berries!

Raspberries, strawberries, blackberries, cherries, peas and tomatoes, all sweet and fresh from the local patches were available last week at the Farmer's Market located at the fairgrounds.

Lowell candidates want rural township to be a nice place to live

A crowded ballot with all the seats on the Lowell Township Board contested is shaping up for the Aug. 5 primary.

For Lowell township just like many townships in the area, the primary is the decisive race due to the prevailing Republican partisanship. A total of 13 candidates are vying for seven open seats, all on the Republican ticket. All terms are for four years.

2008 Riverwalk Festival, a myriad of fun activities

In between drops of rain and sunshine, the Riverwalk Festival, truly held on tight to its title. Starting off the parade was the yellow and orange omnipresent Duck mascot. In fact, ducks, paper, rubber or real swimming in the Flat River, were everywhere.

Lowell High School 66th Reunion

The Lowell High School Class of 1942 held its 66th reunion at noon on July 10 at Schneider Manor. Twelve members of the class attended along with eight spouses or guests. The 1942 class had 72 members and today 30 are still alive.

Backwater Cafe catered a fine luncheon. Ed Myers was the chairman of the reunion and he presented a program about numerous students who attended the old West Ward School. A great deal of time was spent in renewing old friendships.

School district hires two new elementary principals

Lowell Area Schools will see two new principals this school year, with Shelli Otten taking over at Cherry Creek Elementary and Randy Fleenor at Alto Elementary.

Lowell Pink Arrow Project underway for first home football game

The Red Arrow football program will host the "Lowell Pink Arrow Project" during their first home game on Friday, Sept. 12.

Our Love Skatepark holds free concert

Our Love Skatepark hosted a free concert on Saturday, July 12 in Richard's Park. More than 200 people attended the event, listening

to five bands play for four hours. The event was put on to raise funds and awareness for the need of a skatepark in Lowell. Our Love Skatepark raised around \$100 in donations, according to vice president Ellen Mork.

Fair promises a wholesome family deal

Fair officials expect a great fair due to ailing economy and high gas prices this year. Both factors should boost attendance at the favorite local event so close to home.

Financed through the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) monies, Riverside Street and the municipal parking lot between Lowell Light and Power and West Main, received improvements last week. However, alley improvements between the post office and the Ledger offices, have been delayed due to Lowell Light and Power (LL&P) work.

2008 - Year in Review, continued ...

Chelsea Blake Bonee
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Cherry Creek

Calvin Warning
Mr. Fillman
Murray Lake

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Kaleb Fisk
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the flooding of the corn in the Midwest.

Nowadays, the choices quite often come down to: "Do I eat or do I buy medication?" according to pantry director Cindy Cornell.

"Employers are cutting back on health insurance," said Cornell, "and then you have the slowing down economy."

LAAC director plans to stay connected to Lowell community

Lorain Smalligan, executive director of the Lowell Area Arts Council, has accepted the position of development director for the West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology in downtown Grand Rapids.

Smalligan has been with the arts council in Lowell since the fall of 1999.

Atwood Corporation expands with 43 new jobs in Lowell

After a series of bad economic news, Lowell finally got a break.

LL&P names new interim general manager

Lowell Light & Power has named Greg Pierce as interim general manager, after Tom Richards resigned two weeks ago.

Pierce comes to Lowell from Traverse City Light & Power, where he was deputy director.

He said the move will keep pace with what he was doing in Traverse City, since both places are municipally locally-owned. Pierce said he is looking forward to the new job. "It's going to be a good opportunity."

2008 - Year in Review, continued ...

Bridget Lally
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St. Patrick's

Lexie Bowen
Mrs. Schneider
Alto Elementary

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2008-Year in Review

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

Airplane crashes on takeoff at Lowell Airport

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.



Korean War veteran John Erickson receives service medal.

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.

River of Time reenacts Lowell's history

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 at the Kent County Fairgrounds on the bank of the Flat River by the local 4-H club.

Youth fair enjoys successful year, looks ahead to 75th anniversary in 2009

Sitting by her calf Chibi on a pile of hay, Olivia Richmond patiently awaited to be picked up by her mother. She showed her calf for the first time, and the fair magic just flew by.

"I liked staying with my animal," she said.

The horse barns and the riding arena stayed pretty busy with all the horse judging and events ranging from Western horsemanship, jumping to English/Western riding patterns.

The Foreman Building was packed to the last inch of space with a variety of 4-H exhibits. The Merry Seamstresses club recreated a scene from an old farm kitchen complete with cardboard characters and an old stove.

Lowell mayor Jeanne Shores, 72, was released from St. Mary's Hospital last Wednesday after undergoing major surgery to remove brain tumors. She had been in the hospital since late July.

"She is in great spirits," said Carla Stone in an earlier interview. Mayor pro-tem Jim Hodges is serving as acting mayor. Shores has spent 27 years in public service.

A silent auction at the Lowell Area Arts Council currently in progress will lead up to the biggest fundraiser of the year, the Art Attack set for Aug. 23 at the fairgrounds.

"This is the first time here we have a silent auction," said interim director Barb Pierce. "We want people to come in to the arts gallery."

City council holds work session for LCTV funds

The city council held a work session on Wednesday to discuss the funds set up by the sale of Lowell Cable. The meeting, which is usually held only among city council members, was filled with residents wondering how the funds would be used.

Sea to Sea bike tour rides through Lowell on Monday

A group of cyclists passed through town on Monday morning, saving enough time to stop for breakfast and a much-needed break at the Calvary Christian Reformed Church on W. Main Street.

The group of about 144 riders stopped for fuel and company at the church as they passed through the Grand Rapids area in Week 8 and day 50 of their cross-country bike trip.

An original sketch by former Lowell resident and LHS graduate Dan Vosovic

will be auctioned at the Lowell Arts Council's Art Attack this weekend. A minimum bid of \$100 has been placed on the piece.

Vosovic has been one of Lowell's most recognized citizens, after he appeared in Bravo TV's "Project Runway," a competition show for a designing career in the fashion industry. Vosovic, who now lives in New York City, has a book of his work scheduled to be released this fall.

Farewell to Sizzlin' Summer Concerts

In the last concert of the Sizzlin' Summer series on the Riverwalk, rock country band Branded bid farewell to summer and Lowell. Hundreds of music lovers and dancers took to the Riverwalk to take in fun and rhythm. Country line dancers showed off their skill. Vessels of different sorts floated on the Flat River to look at the last spectacle.

Backwards billboard expected to generate chatter

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce officials are hoping to stir some chatter with the new backwards billboard by Exit 52.

If you drive by it west on I-96 toward Grand Rapids, in your rear view mirror you will be able to read that "Lowell is the next place to be."

However, if you do not have a rear view mirror or if you are heading east, you will get puzzled.

"Don't blame the billboard company," said chamber director Liz Baker. "We told them to do it that way."

Baker explained that the marketing committee responsible for the backwards message was trying to generate some chatter in the community.

2008 - Year in Review, continued ...

AUGUST

Pink Arrow project hits a personal note for those involved

For Pep Talk owner Amy Hayes, the opportunity to become involved with the Pink Arrow Pride project is as much a personal issue as it is a way to unite the community around an important cause.

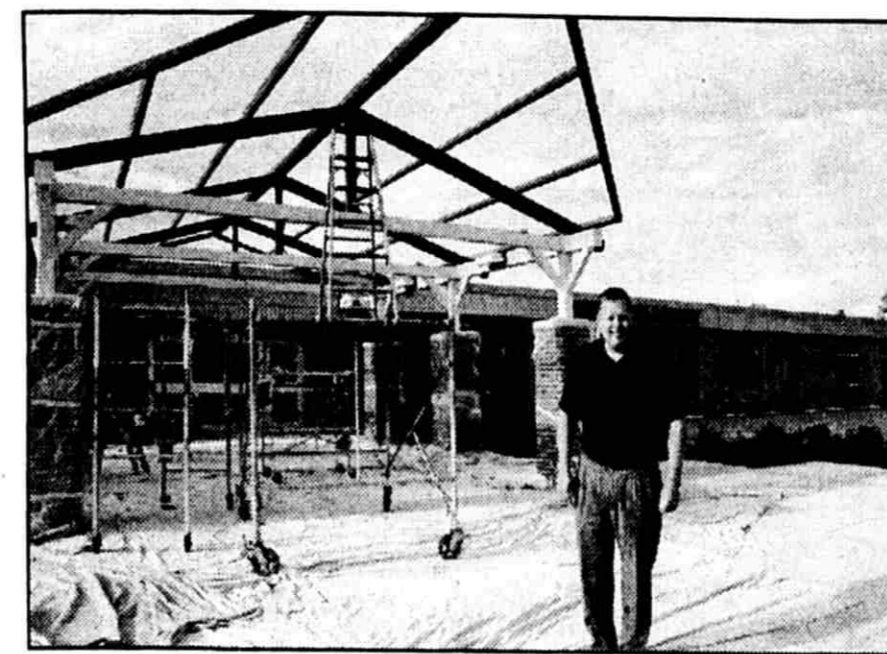
Hayes is currently collaborating with Red Arrow Varsity Football Coach Noel Dean, who will have his team wear pink jerseys for their first home game Sept. 12 against Holland High School.



The 68th class reunion of the Lowell High School class of 1940 was held at Schneider Manor on Thursday, Aug. 14. First row, left to right: Inez Cole Craig, Marjean Fonger Brillhart, Helen Clark Blow and Barbara Dawson Schaeffer; second row, left to right: King Doyle, Jack Tornga, Esther Kamp, Bill Lalley, John Jaspersse and John Scripps.

2008-Year in Review

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER



Lowell Middle School gets \$3.4 million facelift. Fresh paint, bright red lockers and a steel beam overhang to the entrance will give a new look to the Lowell Middle School. A \$3.4 million upgrade including technology was completed this summer.

SEPTEMBER

Meggan Johnson of Grand Rapids has been named the new director of the Wege Wittenbach Center.

Johnson, originally of Iowa, has most recently worked as a regulatory specialist for Universal Forest Products. Prior to that, Johnson worked as guest programs coordinator for John Ball Zoo.

Johnson, who fills a void left by retired director Steve Mueller, also known as Ranger Steve, encourages residents to stop by the center to check out the trails and the community garden.



Meggan Johnson is the new director of Wege Wittenbach Center (WWC).

the right area and the right store. "I try to help people, whether it's with dressing them, or making the store shopper-friendly." Laux has a basket of children's toys in the back for parents who want to shop, but still bring their kids.

Benningfield moves on to tackle new challenges

Sports editor Molly Benningfield, 23, is leaving the Lowell Ledger after one year on staff. "My biggest accomplishments are in the sports section," she said. "But I wish I could have written more stories."

Council, citizens group inch toward resolution on LCTV fund

The city council postponed the disbursement of monies from the Lowell Cable Television Fund (LCTV) until a final resolution is reached in a special meeting Monday. No funding requests have been received this year, due to complexity of the process since the fund's establishment last September.

Due to major disagreements on the existing resolution drafted in August, the city and the citizens group met several times in an effort to hammer out a new resolution. Finally the two bodies agreed Monday to have a LCTV endowment board rather than an advisory board.

Lowell's police chief warns, "Keep airsoft toy guns at home."

Police chief Jim Valentine cautions against kids carrying toy guns on the streets or visibly in cars. During a routine traffic violation last Saturday, detective Steve Bukala spotted a Glock gun on the floor inside the car. As the 16-year-old started bringing

up the gun to show it was a toy gun labeled with an orange barrel, the trained detective in fear for his life had drawn his gun and started yelling commands. "It looked like a real gun," said Valentine. "We need to educate parents not to let the kids carry airsoft guns away from residences."

City Hall shows Pink Arrow Pride

Wearing pink t-shirts with wording "Arrow Force Pink Arrow Pride," city council members and staff Tuesday adopted a resolution proclaiming Friday, Sept. 12, 2008 as Pink Arrow Project Day in the city of Lowell.

The Lowell High School football team will compete against Holland High School wearing pink jerseys to honor cancer victims and those battling cancer, in particular breast cancer.

A new scholarship will be created to honor Dr. Donald Gerard's (MD) ongoing commitment to Lowell Athletics. The scholarship will be given annually to a Lowell graduate who is entering medical school.

The remaining proceeds from the project will be administered by the Lowell Community Wellness Center.

Nancy DeBoer decorated the storefront of Salon 206 with pink ribbons and a large pink arrow with letters inside saying: "Pink Arrow Pride." "I've been touched by cancer," she said, "my family, my friends are either cancer survivors or they have died of cancer."

It was last Friday before the big game that the community embraced

the pink project with such an overwhelming response that shocked the outside communities. In less than a month, Pep Talk, the main outfitter for the Red Arrows team sold 7,000 pink t-shirts. That morning the store was flooded with more buyers, but there was nothing left, even size XX was gone. "It's Lowell," said Amy Hayes, Pep Talk owner, about the unexpected response to the pink project.

Lowell airport names new fixed based operator

Following the August departure of the School of Missionary Aviation for Ionia, the airport board has named Williams Air Power as the new Fixed Based Operator (FBO) at the Lowell City Airport.

Williams Air Power now has exclusive rights to do maintenance, fuel sales

and flight instruction at the airport.

Celebrating nature's fall glory, the annual Fallasburg Festival is a rendezvous for artists, crafters, artisans, musicians and food lovers.

From quilting, weaving, rug hooking and fly tying demonstrations to fine arts, sculptures and jewelry, the weekend promises a smorgasbord of activities. Parking donations will benefit the Lowell FFA.

Fall mustard pull will prevent plants from maturing

The first fall garlic mustard pull scheduled for Oct. 11, with location to be announced, will prevent the invasive plant from further seeding itself.

2008 - Year in Review, continued ...



The "Pink Arrows" enter the field surrounded by Arrow Force support at the game.

* A Christmas Wish * * A Christmas Wish * * A Christmas Wish *

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Mr. Hawkins
Alto Elementary

Bryndal McGillicuddy
Mrs. Young
Cherry Creek

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* A Christmas Wish * * A Christmas Wish * * A Christmas Wish *

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Cherry Creek

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Merry Christmas!

Hannah Duvernay
Mrs. Young
Cherry Creek

Happy Hanukkah

Ally Frederickson
Mrs. Schneider
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2008-Year in Review

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

OCTOBER

Build a scarecrow, taste some chili and fresh-baked pies or get scared listening to ghost stories at this year's annual Harvest Celebration set for Oct. 11. Activities will take place both in historical downtown Lowell and at the fairgrounds.

The event kicks off with the 4th annual Family Fun Harvest Hustle 5k Run/Walk organized by the Lowell Community Wellness.

"Take the kids for a ride," said chamber director Liz Baker. "Join us at the Lowell Area Farmers' Market for the Scarecrow Building Hoedown at the fairgrounds."

Historical museum exhibit showcases Lowell's retailing past

From "Cobblers to Tin-Knockers" exhibit at the Lowell Area Historical Museum showcases Lowell's retailing past.

An entire retailing block known as the Lyon Block, named after builder Morgan Lyon of four stores, has been recreated for the exhibit. The storefronts used to house Drugs, Dry Goods, Grocery and a Bank.

2008 Fallasburg Fall Festival marks 40th anniversary

Butternut squash bisque with cinnamon and origami art by Hito Akehi were some of the highlights of this year's 40th Annual Fallasburg Fall Festival.

Beautiful weather, good art and music rocked the grounds all weekend long. Several artisans held demonstrations in the cabin including weaving and rug hooking.

This year 85 artists were selected in a juried competition. Booths included jewelry, pottery, glasswork, leather-tooling, fiber work, wood carving, painting, sculptures, dried floral, and photography.

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 the 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.



Mike Larkin donates \$2,045 in proceeds from the annual chili cook-off to Craig Haybarker of Flat River Outreach Ministries. The money will be used to stock the pantry.

Building a scarecrow together to celebrate a 17th wedding anniversary may not be a typical activity, but Alto couple Rick and Cathy Loetz did just that after reading about the harvest hoedown in the Buyer's Guide.

In what turned out to be a perfect weekend for the annual harvest festival, the streets of Lowell and the fairgrounds were crowded with fun seekers and chefs of all sorts.

At the annual Larkin's chili cook-off, Rockford resident Rocky Ashlock made green chili verde, while his friend Rich Pringer made red chili. Lowell Township treasurer Leslie Stougaard with friend Lori Rinard also cooked up a storm.



After a hiatus that lasted five years, Thad Kraus of Grand Rapids has returned to the Lowell Ledger to pursue his love of writing. "It's just great to be back," he said. "I missed the people, the businesses and the schools."

Lowell's Homecoming. Another crowning of the new queen and the coronation of the 10th consecutive homecoming win, by a Noel Dean coached club.

"We were impressed with Creston on film and then we had a chance to watch them in person," Lowell football coach Noel Dean said.

NOVEMBER

Election Day 2008
Hundreds of voters flocked to the polls Tuesday in the historical US presidential election. At 10 a.m., the parking lot in front of the city hall was full, and people were streaming in. All the voting booths were taken and election workers were busy handing out registration forms and ballots.

Michigan Wildlife Center expands with addition
Igi, a seven-year-old iguana, rescued by volunteer Kristin Cowell now has a new home in the latest addition to the Michigan Wildlife Center.

Owners Sjana and Bob Gordon finished the building this summer to house incoming wildlife for rehabilitation on top of all their outdoor pens and barns on 20 acres of property off Vergennes Road.

The center is unique because it takes all animals unlike others specializing in certain animals only, according to Sjana.

Alley closure approved by city council

The city council Monday approved the blocking of the alley between the post office and the Lowell Ledger to increase parking spaces for the carriers. Police chief Jim Valentine supported the action due to the shortage of parking spaces west of the river. "Parking is an absolute premium," he said. For the post office, it means that it loses parking for carriers.

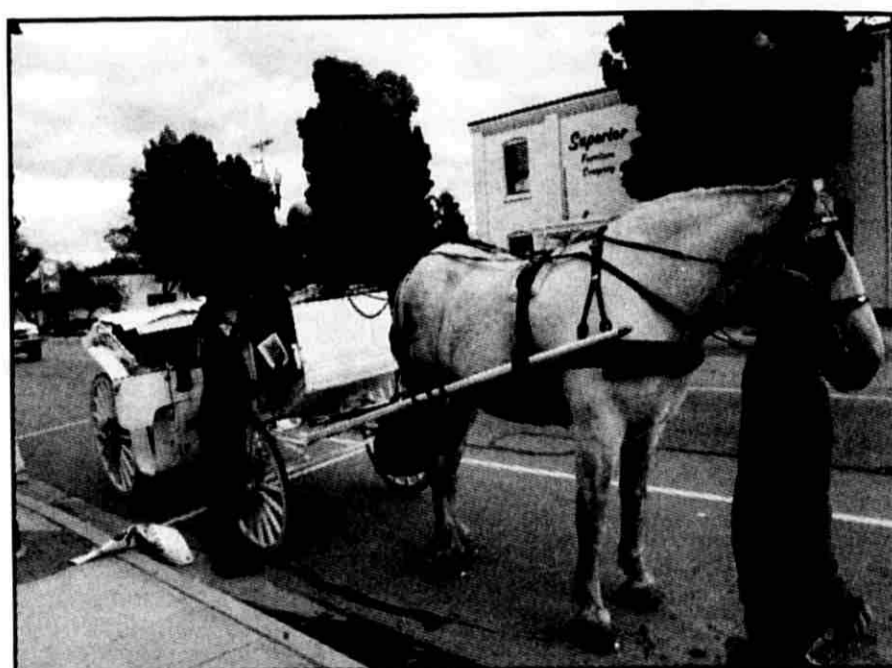
Supervisor of the Lowell Post Office Sue Dombrowski opposed the action citing safety hazards for the carriers. Police chief Jim Valentine supported the action due to the shortage of parking spaces west of the river. "Parking is an absolute premium," he said. For the post office, it means that it loses parking for carriers.

The city has set Nov. 3 to hold a public hearing to adopt a resolution establishing the Lowell Cable Television Endowment Board after months in the works.

Consolidation is one of many changes in voting in the city limits since the last presidential election.

City clerk Betty Morlock advises those voters who voted at the Englehardt Library and at the Look Memorial Fire Station that both precincts now vote at the city hall on the second floor. Voters must now also show a picture identification such as a driver's license. Due to the length of the ballot, voting may also take longer, approximately 20 minutes.

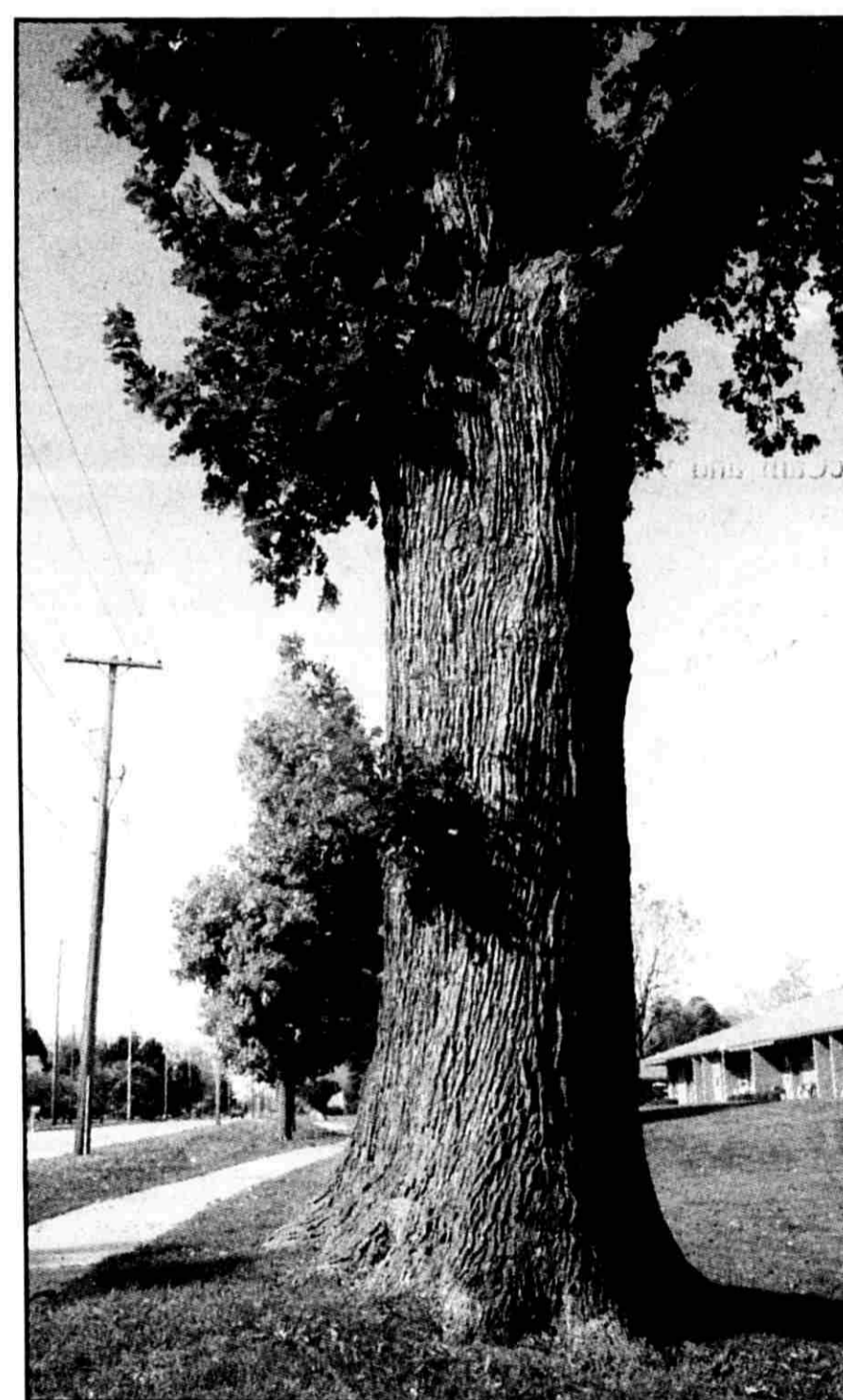
Christmas through Lowell rings in the holiday spirit
What started out as a walk-through seven crafters' homes in the Suffolk Street neighborhood has grown



On a lovely October evening, hundreds of ladies from far and near hunted for bargains during the annual Girls Night Out. The Common Gentry Carriage Co. offered transportation for shoppers.

Election 2008 yields record voter turnout

It was an emotional day for most, regardless the party vote. The young and the old voted for the first time, from college students



The huge girth helped this big oak win city's Big Tree Contest

council, as well as new crafters and businesses.

"This is an opportunity for crafters to sell their crafts," said Barbara Schmalz, volunteer and marketing coordinator for the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

"This is when people start their Christmas shopping," said Schmalz. Most crafters donate gifts for a drawing of the post cards at the end of the event. One person then wins a whole basket of gifts.

The chamber has sent 2,800 post cards to people who have attended in the past.

Presidential election 2008 marked a massive turnout at the polls.



Cousins Hallmark celebrates 24 years in business. Karen Hale says the attachment to the customers and product innovation keeps the business exciting as it celebrates 24 years on Dec. 7.

Approximately 136.6 million Americans voted, mainly because of the economy.

Lowell saw an increase in voting compared to the last presidential election. "We were up on overall voting," said Morlock. Morlock doubled the number of election workers to 20.

In Lowell, between the two precincts, 68.5 percent turned out to vote, of that 922 voted for Senator John McCain and 915 for now president-elect Obama.

In Lowell Township, 77.1 percent voted, of that 1,736 for McCain and 1,244 for Obama. In Vergennes Township, 80.6 percent voted, of that 1,550 for McCain and 898 for Obama.

President-elect Obama, however carried Kent County for the first time as a democratic presidential candidate since 1964. He won by a landslide in a resounding electoral victory 364-173 over McCain.

Lowell police chief accepts new position in Ionia County

Lowell police chief Jim Valentine, 55, has announced his retirement with the city of Lowell just shy of 26 years. He has accepted the position of director of Ionia County Central Dispatch.

He has been in law enforcement for 34 years.



Jim Valentine retires at the end of 2008.

He was followed 40 minutes later by David Hildenbrand. The state representative was out for the 21st consecutive year on his birthday.

Hildenbrand with his father Lee, shot on and hit an eight-point buck at 7:45 a.m. with his Remington 12-gauge.

Lowell auto salesmen "deal" with the economy

Parade floats, food drives, and the drivers education program are just a few of the fixtures that connect Lowell auto dealers to the local community.

The trust local auto dealers have been able to bank over the years has also drawn in local financial institutions.

While many banks, if not most, fall under the umbrella of a credit score lender, some community banks use credit as a criteria, but that alone does not determine whether a potential buyer secures a loan.

The economy has shifted the focus of many buyers from new to used.

Planning commission approves special use permit sets agenda items for Dec.

The planning commission Monday approved a special use permit for Ignite Church to establish at Larkin's Other Place.

Ignite Church is an autonomous body, a spin-off from Impact Church, currently located on Lincoln Lake. It is proposing greater involvement in downtown activities.

With guidance from "A Piece of the Pie Company," the Lowell Wrestling Program held a fundraiser making apple pies from scratch. This year the program went a step further and offered the option to donate apple pies to the Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM).

DECEMBER

With Christmas Lane up on the Riverwalk and the downtown decked out with decorations, planned festivities for Saturday promise variety and fun.

Amphitheatre may be renovated with DDA funds

The dilapidated amphitheatre at the end of the Riverwalk may get a face lift for a new clean look.

The city Monday heard proposals for renovations

from firm Design Plus. Two options were presented by Pete Lazdins and Mike Houseman.

City to explore changes in police department

In the aftermath of police chief Jim Valentine's announced retirement, and his future replacement, council member Jim Pfaller, Monday, suggested that city may explore the option of contracting for police services with the sheriff's department.

"I'd like to see it done because of the budget," he said.

Meteorological winter arrived Monday blanketing the area with six to eight inches of snow. Lowell and several surrounding schools were closed on Monday and delayed two hours on Tuesday.

Billboard contest results

The Marketing Committee met behind closed doors to determine the winning entries in the Backward Billboard Contest. First Prize - \$500

More than 63 units signed up, and many kept with this year's parade green theme.

On a chilly December night in historic downtown Lowell, the second annual nighttime parade took to the street to ring in the holiday spirit last Saturday.

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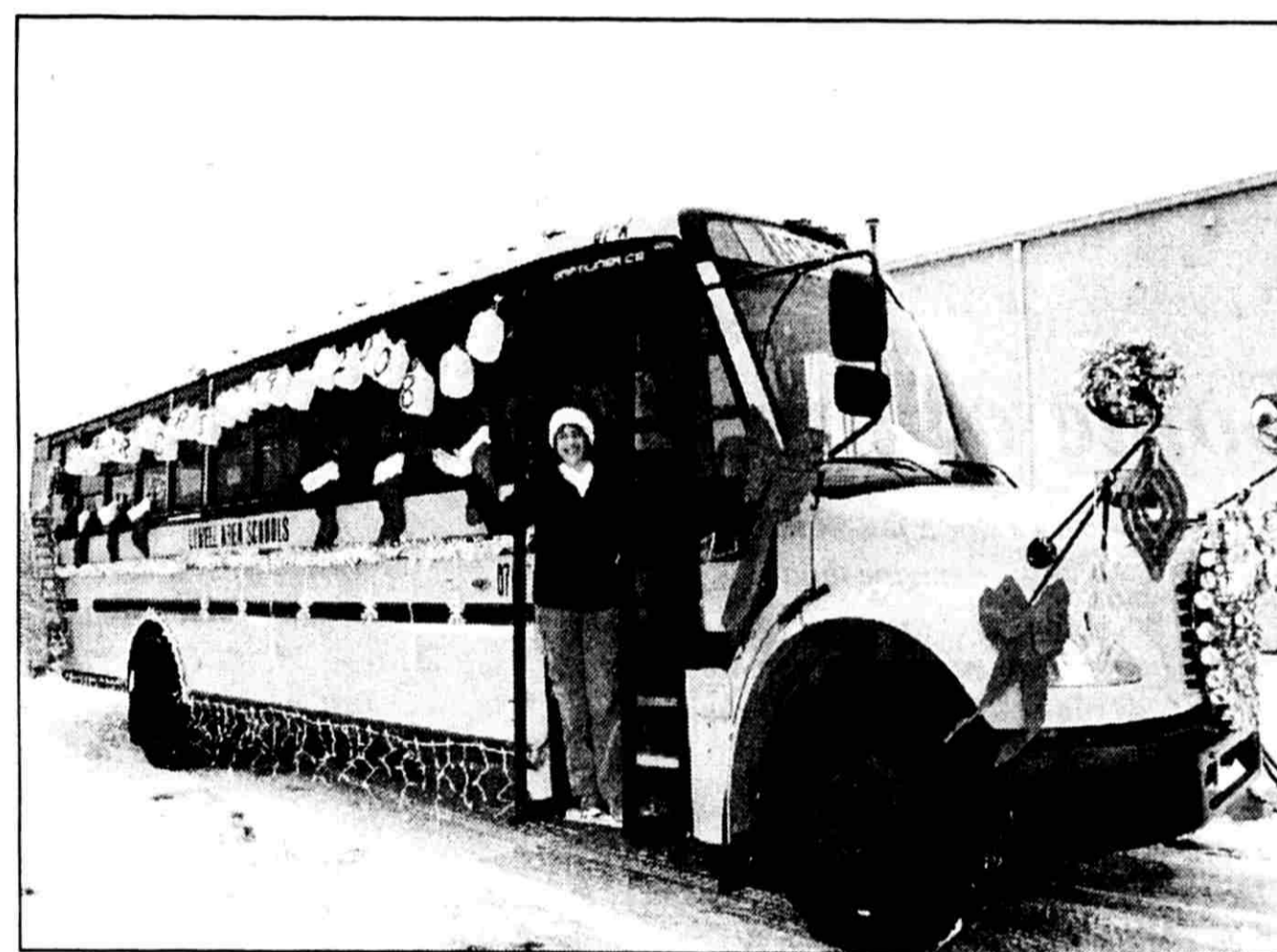
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2008-Year in Review

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER



Bus driver Betty Nelson with her parade-ready ride.

Anastasia Barnes
Mr. Fillman
Murray Lake

Seasons Greeting

Avery Buckius
Mr. Fillman
Murray Lake

LOWELL VISION CENTER
David Durkee, O.D. F.A.A.O.
2186 W. Main, Lowell • 897-2020

Jenna Bessey
Mr. MacDonald
Alto Elementary

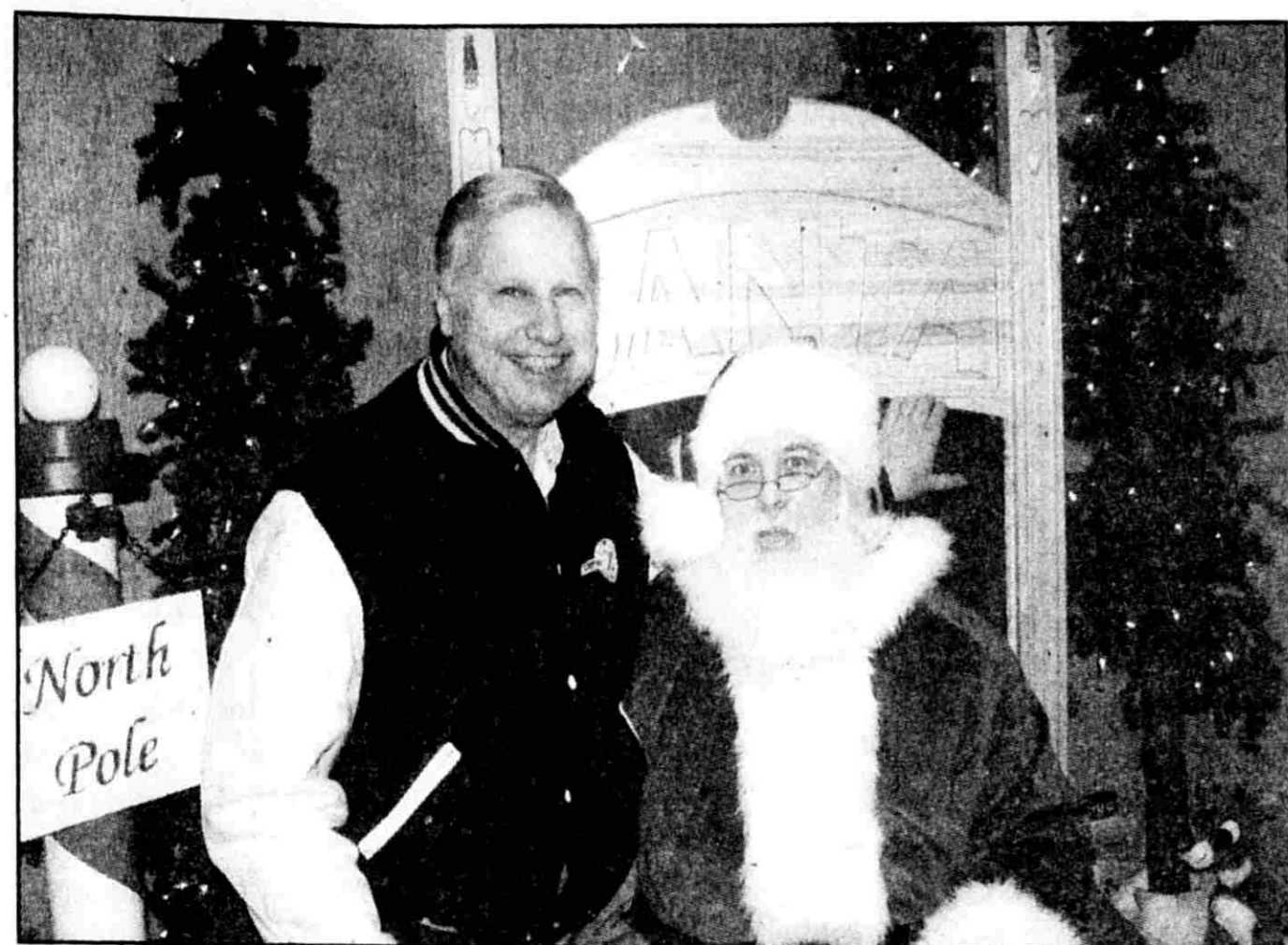
Brett Maxim
Mrs. Larva
Cherry Creek

Hallelujah!

Salon, Inc.
204 W. Main • Lowell • 897-1700

2008-Year in Review

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER



Dave Pasquale enjoys his first visit with Santa on the showboat.

Cherry Creek Pasquale. The city manager couldn't recall if he ever had his photo taken with Santa Claus.

The showboat, which serves as a venue for summer concerts, played out its Santa show well again. Frozen in time, the showboat with icy steps, is decorated with vaudeville acts from its heydays on the Flat River.

The grant will also cover school parking lot improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists, update advance warning and crosswalk signage. The project will be a part of the Safe Routes to School program.

Wishes of peace, joy and jobs to residents from Santa's Showboat
It was a first for Dave

In the wake of Valentine's departure, the board decided to explore potential changes in the police department, such as contracting the services to the Kent County Sheriff's Department at the previous meeting.

This has stirred some opposition from the city residents.

The Lowell Township Board added a new section regulating Wind Energy Systems to the township ordinance on Nov. 17.

The main purpose of the ordinance is to promote safe, effective and efficient use of wind energy.

From Alaska to Virginia, Ledger subscribers like Joan Tower and Kathy Oxenburg stay connected to home with their hometown paper.

Tower, a 1959 graduate of the Lowell High School, calls herself a rolling stone. Currently, she lives in Palmer in south central Alaska.

Tower likes reading the history column. Once, she found herself in the 'Looking Back Through the Ledgers' 50 years ago column as the winner of the Betty Crocker Cherry Pie contest. Tower won the contest three years in a row.

"Betsy McPherson beat me the fourth year," she said. "By that time I didn't care anymore."

She knows of other people from Lowell living

in Alaska like Sharyl Seese and Bill Covert.

Kathy Oxenburg of Smithfield, Virginia, got her subscription to the Ledger, when she saw her mother Joanne Lucas in the paper this fall during Girls Night Out. Her uncle, Bill Fluger, got the subscription for her.

"I just thought it be fun to read what's happening back home," she said.

A major storm last Friday dumped a foot of snow on the area making it hard to navigate the treacherous roads and intersections. The plowing crews could hardly keep up with the falling snow. "It's just peachy," said Dan DesJarden, Department

of Public Works director, sarcastically about snow plowing. The snow blizzard was followed by a big chill and gusty winds with freezing temperatures in the teens on Sunday and Monday.

As Saturday rolled in, the day after a major snow storm blanketed the area with a foot of snow, hundreds lined up in cars waiting for a parking spot in front of the Flat River Outreach Ministries (F.R.O.M.)

The sun finally peeked out on the final pick up day for Christmas food baskets, which was also an opportunity for the parents to shop for their children in Santa's toy shop.



Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived in Lowell on a snowy Saturday night. Photo by Bruce Doll

Some of the silliest Sound Off entries from '08

A while back I saw a fox on the tennis courts...
Imagine that!

To whoever stole my election sign Monday night -
do you really think my vote changed?

Wouldn't it be great to have an old-fashioned hymn sing?

I have really missed the "Sound Off" section of the Ledger. It's the best part of the paper. Please put it back.

Please give Jim Howard his own weekly column. Oh, that's right, he already has one.

If only Michael Savage were running for President, oh how happy I would be!

F.Y.I. the speed limit on N. Jackson Street is 25 mph... or are you "pretending to qualify?"

It's 95 degrees and snowing according to a local bank in Lowell.

Why is the Ledger looking so bare? Where's all the feel good gobby-goo stories?

Hey chick in the 4-Runner: If you have shoes and a coat on, your baby needs too as well.

If your gears are grinding, you should get them lubricated.

Knowledge should be free. Scientology is a scam.

Honest officer, I haven't been drinking. I've been just trying to dodge some potholes.

Please, please dress the Bowes Rd. bear. He's been bare awhile! Children think he/she is cold. Thank you!!!

Just exactly what Lowell needs... is another park! Put your brains in your head, not in your feet.

My dog and I love the new dog park. Thank you Bruce and all of those who made it possible.

Please don't ever consider selling Lowell Light & Power.



The article "GOP: Roll back the tax hike" was very biased! All of the Republican viewpoint with no other opinions mentioned. Let's hear both sides of the story!

I think it is about time we got the Republican side. Good grief, we get Carl Levin's biased reports just about every week. Maybe this is the beginning of hearing both sides.

To whatever half-brained doofus took my pig - put her back! I want to see your cowardly face when you set her back in her home.

People with computers should get a life and stop just sending forward nothing but junk mail.

Has anyone noticed the bed mattress on Lincoln Lake Road just past Fallasburg Road?

\$4 per gallon gas....it's coming soon to a pump near you.

Take pride in our neighborhoods. Don't park on your lawn.

I just love the Bradford pear trees in bloom around town! Some of God's beautiful bounty!

Either give the kids a skate park or stop complaining!

I would like to know how we can have a big tree contest in Lowell when we've cut all the big trees down.

Thanks to the coward who hit our parked mini-van Monday evening. You ruined a good family evening.

Headline - City saves with elimination of full time police officer...I believe it should've said "opening will not be filled." Wording makes a big difference in the meaning.

I hope to see more comments about the city and the city council and then we can compare our own facts.

Silliest Sound Off, cont'd., next page

The 2008 "Elliot Awards"

Given in a spirit of lightheartedness to our most laugh-loving Lowellians

The Backward Billboard Award - Goes to Jim Valentine for moving on to Ionia.

The Fowl (Must Be Quacked) Award - Goes to Liz Baker for keeping the Chamber ducks in line.

The Boomerang Award - Will have to be shared by Thad Kraus and Lorain Smalligan for returning to their previous jobs in Lowell.

The Hot and Spicy Award - Goes to Mike Larkin for keeping it "chili" in the summertime.

The Golden Mower Award - Goes to Charlie Bernard for being outstanding in his field.

The My Friends Award - Of course goes to John McCain. And we all know how fickle friends can be.

The Sarah Palin Award - Goes to Bill Fluger for holding down the Moose.

The Cut and Run Award - Tom Richards need we say more?

The Elvis Award - To Roger Brown - he has left the building.

The "Timber Award" and the Where You Want To Be Award - The City of Lowell - Received two awards. How obvious can we be?

The Buzz-Off Award - Goes to S.M.A.T. for flying off to Ionia.

The Smeelink Award - Goes to Sarah Palin for making glasses popular again.

The Binocular Award - Also goes to the Alaskan governor for being able to see Russia from her kitchen window.

The "Never Gonna Happen" Award - Goes to K.F.C. - enough said.

Light-Up Award - Goes to April McClure for alerting the town to illumination theft.

Clogged Main Street Award - Goes to M-DOT. The is a predictive award for tying up the Main Street bridge this summer.

The Well-Lubed Award - Goes to Paul Faba for keeping up our "spirits".

The Weighty Award - Goes to Patti Sellner for helping the town keep things light.

The Bill Clinton Award - Had to go to Quamy Kilpatrick What was he thinking?

The Skin of the Teeth Award - To the new township supervisor Jerry Hale.

The Floral Award - Goes to Jennifer Lopez for pushing up "Daisy's" before her time.

The Bailout Award - To the Wall Street Bankers and A.I.G. for proving you can take it with you!

The Leaky Bucket Award - Goes to the administration for bailing out their cronies on Wall St. and in the banks and insurance companies.

The Leaf and Limb Award - Goes to the Lowell City Airport.

The Fly United Award - Goes to the Big Three Auto Execs for not knowing flying commercial.

The Pink Panties Award - Goes to coach Noel Dean for proving men can wear pink.

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"Fair'y Award - Goes to Bruce Doll for his fabulous photographic coverage on the fairgrounds.

Sports Parent of the Year - Goes to Mac McPherson. This award comes with a UoFM #1 foam finger.

The Road Kill Award - Goes to the Detroit Lions because they stink on the road and at home.

The Hush Puppy Award - Goes to George Bush for his catlike reflexes while dodging shoes.

The Bipolar Award - Goes to the oil companies for the wildly fluctuating gas prices.

The Great Clips Award - Goes to governor Blagojevich of Illinois for being clever enough to hide even more secrets on his forehead.

The Family Jewels Award - Goes to Cliff Yankovich for keeping the gems in Lowell.

The Wooden Spoon - Is awarded to The Lowell Ledger for stirring things up.

The Ledger invites the public to join in next year. Please feel free to submit your entries for the 2009 Elliot Awards.

Let's try to be humorous and e-mail your suggestions throughout the year to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com, bring them into the office at 105 N. Broadway or snail-mail them to: Award Ideas c/o The Lowell Ledger, PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331. All suggestions will be considered, mulled over and/or immediately tossed by the publisher.



Silliest Sound Off entries, continued ...

Am I the only one that has noticed the price of a barrel of oil going down but the price of gas is going up?

It may come as a surprise to some, but City Hall isn't on Bowes Road or Pleasant Street.

Everyone has opinions, but being a senior citizen doesn't qualify you as being right. We happen to live in a democracy. The voting majority made their choice. Live with it.

Why are we getting a Walgreens in Lowell? I would so rather get a Big Boy!

By the time the people who are raising money for the skate park get enough money to build it they will be 80 years old! We don't need a skate park at Stoney Lakeside Park.

I wish we could go back to the "good old days," when the people we sent to Washington were statesmen, not politicians, people wanted to be elected to an office to "work," not "fight" for the people, and people were proud to be an American, not a Democrat or a Republican.

I've been trying to find a home in the Lowell area to rent and not only are the prices outrageous but people don't allow pets. Don't they realize that they are part of the family too? Isn't that the reason for a security deposit? Come on people - give us animal lovers a break.

I found your male pit bull puppy on Grand River Dr. 2 weeks ago. He had been hit by a car and was dead. My friend and I took him off the road and gave him a decent burial at Noah's Pet Cemetery. I've looked at all the lost

ads since then. NOTHING!!! I am so sad you don't care enough to find out what happened to him.

The fastest way communities get together to build a skate park is when a skateboarder is injured or killed by a car. Is this what we are waiting for?

Teenagers are usually hard to figure out, so when they tell us exactly what they want - a skate park - why don't we do something about it?

If our boys are wearing pink, they'd better win! :)

What is so great about Big Boy anyway?

1.5 Million, is that all! What do you think a Walgreens is going to cost? If it's only \$2 each, then 750,000 people would like to have a Big Boy, WOW, I guess you're out voted!

I hope that somebody enjoys all of the articles the Ledger does on the needless killing of wildlife.

To the person who thinks hunting is not cool anymore, we (the hunters) are population controllers.

Why do some people put their garbage out to the street too early? What is up with this?

I can't believe someone would steal the cap off a scarecrow the first day it was up.

Isn't it a bit late to be celebrating the biggest tree - seems they're all gone.

Wow! Did she really say "hunting isn't cool". Wake up! Did you listen to the news or radio Oct. 1 - tons of hunters out. Did you see the cool young hunters pics in the Ledger?

If you do not allow people to kill animals then the deer will be overpopulated. It's called the circle of life.

Something to think about: "When your city does not have a skate park, your whole city is a skate park."

I was wondering if you would publish a story on the upcoming Halloween this Friday and inform readers that trick-or-treaters should actually go out Saturday night due to the Lowell Football game against Lansing Everett. There will be 1500 trick-or-treaters deciding between going Saturday or Friday night, and I believe some will go on each night, becoming a nuisance.

Gee Mr. Howard, seems like you have many opinions, why don't you join a committee and help make a change!

Dear John, You don't need to introduce me to 'Pork Barrel' Politics. I voted for the 3 million dollar Bridge to Nowhere.

Sincerely, Sarah

Oh My, maybe the Lions will get it right after all. They are the only team left that can have a perfect season.

CLASSIFIEDS

small ads **BIG** deals

FOR SALE

NEWSPAPER END ROLLS AVAILABLE AT THE BUYERS GUIDE OFFICE - Many uses, table cover, art projects, packaging, etc. Stop by & grab one today! 105 N. Broadway.

MEMORY FOAM & LATEX MATTRESSES - 8 different models. All new. Starting at \$399. Why pay \$699 at the big name stores?? RCD Wholesale, 616-682-4767 or 293-6160.

FREE RANGE FRESH FARM EGGS - 897-8722, 1661 Whites Bridge Rd., Lowell.

CAR FOR SALE - 1996 Dodge Intrepid, 153,000 miles, needs struts (included), brakes. \$680. Can be seen at 619 Lafayette. Lowell. 437-2576.

FOR SALE - 1992 GMC Rally 15 passenger van, 268k, clean seats, brand new tires, \$1,500. 446-5118.

MATTRESSES - Large selection of name brand mattresses at 30% less than the stores 50% off "sale" price. Yes, 30% less! RCD Wholesale, 616-682-4767 or 293-6160.

FOR SALE - 29 seal drum parts. Various prices. Rings, child snow sliders, drums & fiber hampers. Call 897-8684.

CLASSIFIEDS ARE NOW ON OUR WEBSITE ALSO - www.lowellbuyersguide.com.

AIR BEDS - Final close out of 2008 models. Select a comfort firmness for each of you. All new. Why pay double at the mall?? Air Bed Store, 616-682-4767 or 293-6160.

KEY CARDS ARE HERE! - Help support the Lowell Academic Boosters. Key Cards are \$15. They make the perfect gift! Cash please. Available at the Buyers Guide, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

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

HIGH EFFICIENCY - Central Boiler Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace, 25 year warranty, Dual fuel models. Maxim Corn & Pellet burner also available. Call today SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

USED TIRES - 100's to choose from, like new, reasonable prices. 292-7649.

SLEIGH BED - King size with Sealy mattress set, (floor model), \$250. Out of plastic but still like new. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600.

FOR SALE

100 APPLIANCES - Reconditioned refrigerators, stoves, washers and dryers. From \$69. 1 year Warranty. Mention this ad for free 30 mile delivery. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600.

WEDDING INVITATIONS - We offer Carlson Craft wedding invitations! Stop by & check out a book today! Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. 897-9261.

FORSALE - Black bedroom suite, queen or full, mirrored headboard, two night stands with drawers, mirror with six drawer dresser, armoire with two drawers, \$500. 616-642-6873.

DAVAL'S USED FURNITURE & ANTIQUES - 4 buildings with 12,000 sq. ft. of quality used furniture, antiques & collectibles. Huge selection, great values. We are worth the drive. Layaway terms available. We buy estates. 2 miles W. of Hastings at M-37/M-43. Sun. 12-5 p.m.; M-Th 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Fri. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. & Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 269-948-2463.

UPS SHIPPING COPY SERVICE, (black & white & color!) **FAX SERVICE, LAMINATING, & MUCH MORE AVAILABLE AT THE LOWELL LEDGER BUYERS GUIDE** 105 N. Broadway **HOURS** M-Th. 8-5 p.m. Fri. 8-2 p.m. Closed Sat. & Sun. Ph. 897-9261 Fax 897-4809 email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

FOR RENT

LOWELL MOBILE HOME PARK - Under new management. Nice 1, 2 & 3 bedroom trailers for rent. Rent from \$350 - \$550. For info call George at 616-754-0276 or 616-813-8041.

COMMERCIAL BUILDING FOR LEASE OR SALE - 1,200 sq. ft. Newly remodeled. 427 E. Main, Lowell, 616-307-0213.

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 897-8303.

ADALOWELL - 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 1/2 story, country setting, 1,200 sq. ft., \$650 per month. No pets or smoking. 10860 Bennett St. 897-6337.

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

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year! The Ledger staff wish you & yours all the best in 2009!

The Lowell Ledger
Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

HELP WANTED

SALES - needed. Self-motivated, confident, outside sales rep. Earn 60K first year. Highest commissions in the industry. Email resume to Scott at scott@awswest.com.

GOVERNMENT JOBS - \$13.64 - \$29.45/hr. Now hiring. Many positions available. For application & government job info, call American Assoc. of Labor, 1-913-599-8290, 24 hrs. emp. serv.

TELEMARKETER - hourly plus commission, apply at 319 E. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331. Mon.-Fri., 9-5 p.m.

WANTED

BUYING ANTIQUES - Collections, toys, games, advertising items, fishing & hunting things, jewelry & lots of other "stuff." Call 616-550-0521 today!

HELP US DELIVER THE PAPER...please DIG OUT around your newspaper tube, mailbox, steps, walkways & porches!
The U.S. Mail carriers and the folks who deliver your Buyers Guide would appreciate your help! Let's all try to HELP EACH OTHER survive the Winter.

EVENTS
YOGA CLASSES - starting Jan. 6 at Cherry Creek Elementary 7 to 8 p.m. \$20 for 4 classes (Tues. only) \$40 for 8 classes (Tues & Thurs) Info 616-893-5661.

BLUEGRASS JAM - 1st and 3rd Thursday. Kountry Korner of Alto, 6077 Linfield. Call 868-6371.

LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS - (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs.: 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues. & Fri.: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 p.m. & 8-9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m.; (NA) Mon./Thurs., 6-7:30 p.m. 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING - Sun., Jan. 4 at Wittenbach Wege Center, 1-4 p.m. Will be shredded & used for mulch around the center. Trees can be dropped off prior to Jan. 4 in the designated drop off area. Please remove all tinsel, garland & decorations. Volunteers are needed to assist in prepping trees to be chipped. If you are interested in helping, please call 987-1002 for more info.

AARP LOCAL CHAPTER 120 - Meets the second Monday of the month from 10-12 at Trinity Lutheran, 2700 E. Fulton, Centennial Hall. P. Vanderweide, 457-0614.

SERVICES

ALTO DAYCARE HAS 2 OPENINGS - planned weekly art activities, fenced-in backyard, accepts DHS payments. Call 868-0752.

PAYROLL & BOOKKEEPING SERVICE - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-6351.

NEED YOUR ROOF SHOVELED OFF? - Call 616-262-1019, Flippo Roofing. Insured & reasonable price.

CATS/KITTENS - Spayed & neutered. \$25 for entire litter w/mama. Also, entire barn of cats for \$25. This is for Kent County residents only. Call 897-8865 to schedule an appointment.

LAMINATING SERVICE AVAILABLE - Next day service. Drop off & pieces will be available by 9 a.m. the next day. Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

HANDY REPAIR SERVICE - All kinds of service work: locks rekeyed, deadbolts installed, plumbing, electrical, screen & window repair. Call Bob Ford, 299-3198.

BRENDA'S DAYCARE HAS OPENINGS - Christian home. We have lots of fun! Call today, 987-9351.

ART GALLERY and CUSTOM FRAMING - Fire and Water Art! 219 W. Main St., Lowell. Open Wednesday thru Sunday, 890-1879.

BUSINESS CARDS - For as little as \$28 for 250. (white card, black ink). Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

RISNER ROOFING - serving you since 1961. Licensed & insured. Free estimates. New & reroofs. Snow & ice removal. Call Steve, 868-6015 or Terry, 897-7968.

WORK WANTED - Experienced handyman. Doors, windows, plumbing, electrical, siding, carpentry & tile work & lots more. Call for estimate, 616-841-1497.

SNOW PLOWING - Does your driveway need a plow for a reasonable price? Call Mike @ 616-822-1884. Rates for per time plowing.

SIDING INSTALLATION - 30 years experience, new & reside; also do repairs. Cornett Siding, 304-0557.

COPIES COPIES COPIES - Color & black & white copiers! Excellent quality! Stop by our office, Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway.

JIM SOLOMONSON DRY-WALL - Hang & finish, textures & repairs. New homes, remodels, basements. Free estimates. 616-527-1858 eves. or 616-498-4539.

MADD
Tie a MADD Ribbon on a visible part of your car to show others your support TO STOP Drunk Driving and your commitment to DRIVE SOBER!

MADD of KENT COUNTY
517-487-6233
800-323-6233
MADD Mission
"To stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking."



PUT THE BRAKES ON DRUNK DRIVING

Good
CHEVROLET BUICK

Great Deals From Good People

1250 W. Main
897-9294



WITTENBACH
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749 West Main
897-9227



HAROLD ZEIGLER
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• FOR A GREAT EXPERIENCE! •

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DODGE Jeep CHRYSLER

930 West Main
897-9281



CHEVROLET AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION



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CHEVROLET BUICK



Drive Beautiful

Help Us Clean The Lot!!!

We Are Out Of Room!!!

Year-End Clearance

NEW

USED

Thanks at Year's End

As we say goodbye to 2008 and ring in a new year, we hope some things stay the same - like the opportunity to serve good folks like you.

Thank you for your loyal support and friendship this past year.

Happy New Year!

Good
CHEVROLET BUICK

'07 Silverado 3500 Dump



#7T208, Duramax, 6 spd., Allison, 10' power dump box, cruise, locking diff. Was \$38,075
Now \$26,975

'08 Chevy Colorado Ext.



#8T001, pow. pkg., chrome whls., auto, locking diff., demo. Was \$24,620
Now \$16,602

'08 Chevy Equinox LS



#8T097, AWD, full power, CD-MP3, auto, air, demo. Was \$25,155
Now \$17,271

'08 Chevy Corvette Cpe.



#8C077, 6 spd., auto, Z51 perf. pkg., chrome whls. Was \$53,690
Now \$45,768

'09 Chevy 3500 Crew



#9T029, W/T, Duramax, HD trailer equip., cruise. Was \$44,700
Now \$38,272

'09 Chevy 1500 Reg. Cab



#9T039, 4x4, Z71, 5.3 V8, full power, trailer tow. Was \$32,205
Now \$27,349

'09 Chevy 1500 W/T



#9T018, air, auto., 4.3 V6, cruise. Was \$20,530
Now \$17,232

'09 Chevy HHR



#9T001, full power, On-star, XM radio, 5 star crash rating. Was \$18,590
Now \$16,983

'09 Chevy Silverado 1500



#9T027, Crew cab, 4x4, W/T, air, On-star, XM radio, trailer tow, cruise. 5.3 V8, 6 spd. auto. Was \$33,725
Now \$27,790

'09 Chevy Traverse 1LT



#9T028, Bose sound, chrome assist steps, trailer tow, On-star, XM radio. Was \$33,170
Now \$29,650

'09 Chevy Malibu 1LS



#9C042, full power, 2.4L, cruise, air, On-star. Was \$22,505
Now \$20,700.60

'09 Chevy Cobalt LS



#9C019 2 dr. cpe., rear spoiler, XM radio, On-star, protect. pkg. Was \$16,240
Now \$13,998

'09 Buick Lucerne CX



#9B008, 6 pass. seating, 50,000 bumper to bumper warr. Was \$30,325
Now \$28,178

'09 Buick Lacrosse CX



#9B011, 6 pass. seating, On-star, 50K warr., heated seats. Was \$27,335
Now \$24,995

'01 Chevy Lumina



#IP943, Low miles, full power, nice car. Was \$7,497
Now \$6,795

'05 Chevy Cobalt LS



#IP940, 1 owner, local trade, low miles, full pow.. Was \$8,995
Now \$8,595

'02 Ford F150 SC



#IP919A, Local trade, 4x4, great winter truck. Was \$7,995
Now \$7,795

'05 Buick Terraza CX



#9B015A, 1 owner, local trade, great family hauler. Was \$9,795
Now \$9,595

'04 Chevy Trailblazer LT



#IP901A, Very nice local trade, loaded, leather, great 4x4. Was \$8,995
Now \$8,495

'08 Toyota Prius



#UP947, 1 owner, the best in MPG, SAVE BIG from new. Was \$19,475
Now \$18,995

'06 Pontiac Grand Prix GT



#IP945, loaded, leather, moonroof, Monsoon sound, heated seats. Was \$9,495
Now \$8,995

'05 Chevy Silverado 2500



#IP949, 4x4, reg. cab, LS, full pow., GM cert., snow plow prep. Was \$18,495
Now \$17,995

'05 Chevy Silverado 2500



#IP920, Duramax, 4x4, snow plow prep, GM Cert. Was \$20,975
Now \$19,995

'05 Chevy Trailblazer Ext.



#IP906, 4x4, GM certified, 7 pass, very nice unit. Was \$12,995
Now \$12,475

'01 Buick Park Ave.



#IP922, leather, 3.8 V6, great MPG, luxury ride. Was \$8,495
Now \$6,995

'06 Pontiac G6



#IP885, low miles, very nice, GM certified. Was \$12,995
Now \$11,995

'08 Chevy Cobalt LT



#UP878, auto, air, Save from new! Was \$13,995
Now \$12,995

'05 Chevy Impala LS



#IP883, low miles, 3.8 V6, full power. Was \$11,995
Now \$10,995

*plus tax, title & state fees

EXTRA BONUS CASH IF YOU ARE IN A LEASE. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS

HOURS:
MON & WED 8-8;
TUES, THURS & FRI - 8-6 • SAT - 9-1



HOLIDAY HOURS:
Dec. 31 'til 5 p.m. • Jan. 1 - Closed
SERVICE:
Open 'til 8 p.m. - Dec. 29th

**1250 W. Main, Lowell
897-9294**

www.goodchevybuick.com