



The Lowell Ledger

Volume 38 Issue 21

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Girls' Night Out theme takes on the movie "27 Dresses"

by Emma Palova

The annual Girls' Night Out with this year's theme '27 Dresses' brought out the best in downtown Lowell.

It was a beautiful spring evening as women browsed the streets all dressed up in prom and bridal dresses carrying the new green and blue Shop Lowell bags.

Deborah and Rachael DeWit with friend Jennifer

Leslie checked out Glass House Designs, that was packed to the rafters. The shop displayed new hand blown glass by Battle Creek artist Joe Takens. Some merchants offered a \$5 gift certificate with the bag purchase, so it was free.

"We had so much fun getting ready for this night," said Rachael DeWit.

It wasn't just the customers who dressed up.

Many merchants like Eja Salon owner April McClure and museum volunteer Joy Smith dressed up as well. The museum had appetizers such as the artichoke signature warm dip catered by the Flat River Grill.

The museum's Victorian dining room and parlor, where guests were greeted, are available for rentals.

A steady stream of

customers visited most participating downtown merchants and restaurants. Lisa Mills looked at jewelry at Collector's Korner and discussed it with owner Rodger Ackerson.

Ladies, after an exhausting night out, dined at Larkin's on \$6 steak, shrimp or chicken specials.

Annually, Girls' Night Out, both in the spring and fall attracts hundreds of women to Lowell with specials and a grand prize drawing.

"The turnout was good, not above average, but good. GNO is intended to be a customer appreciation day; it's also a way to introduce

Lowell to people that have never experienced Lowell before. The merchants intend for the gals to have fun and they certainly do. The October GNO is much bigger in attendance and shopping! The Lowell Shopping Bags were a hit," said Liz Baker, Chamber of Commerce director.

City tables arts council request to hold fundraiser

by Emma Palova

The city tabled a request from the arts council to hold a fundraiser 'River Revelry' on the Riverwalk and the Showboat on July 25.

Mayor pro tem Jim Pfaller requested the city receive 10 percent of the proceeds from the event to maintain the boat.

"I am looking for consistency," he said. "We own the boat; we have a responsibility to maintain it."

In the case of sports

events in the parks, the city charges 10 percent of proceeds.

"It's inequitable the way I look at it," he said. "I don't have a problem with the event. We have gotten all our other agreements equitable."

Council woman Maryalene LaPonsie suggested a policy for everyone using the Riverwalk.

Barb Pierce of the Lowell Area Arts Council said the council would help with the clean up of the boat.

The event, with an auction, would be held on the Showboat and on the Riverwalk next to the boat.

"It's a night of entertainment and food," Pierce said. "It would expose the community."

In other business, the council extended the lease at 990 N. Washington for one more year to Gary Dietzel and Sandy Bartlett. The couple has been renting the house for the

City council, cont'd., pg. 3



Deborah and Rachael DeWit with friend Jennifer Leslie.

More pictures from Girls' Night Out on page 10.

Rails to Trails group takes steps to guarantee project is accomplished

by Emma Palova

The Rails to Trails group last week amended an application for a grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation to include a 5.5 mile piece on the trail north of Lowell to Greenville.

The portion of the trail from Foreman Road to Three Mile Road can now be purchased for approximately \$300,000 by a Friends Group to guarantee the entire project goes through.

The funding has been freed up due to the purchase of the Lowell to Ionia portion by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, according to Julianne Burns, Belding grants writer.

"This locks it in for sure," Burns said. "It's like earnest money in any real estate transaction. The railroad needs cash."

The group has been diligently working on a \$2.5 million project that will ultimately connect into other rail systems such as the Clinton Ionia Shiawassee rail and to Fred Meijer Heartland trail.

This will make Lowell the hub of several different rail systems including the Lowell Area Trailway, North Country trails, Safe Routes to School and the rails to trails corridors.

The proposed name for the two corridors are the

Grand River Valley Rail Trail for the Lowell to Ionia piece, and the Flat River Rail Trail for the Lowell to Greenville portion.

The group expects the approval of the grant funding anytime now, according to Burns. The target date of completion is April 2010.

The survey of the Lowell to Greenville portion has been completed prior to the railroad taking out the ties and rails.

An agreement between the rails to trails group and Mid Michigan Railroad will allow the railroad cars to be stored four miles east and north of Lowell for one year.

Trail planning forums may be held in the future to determine the use of the trail.

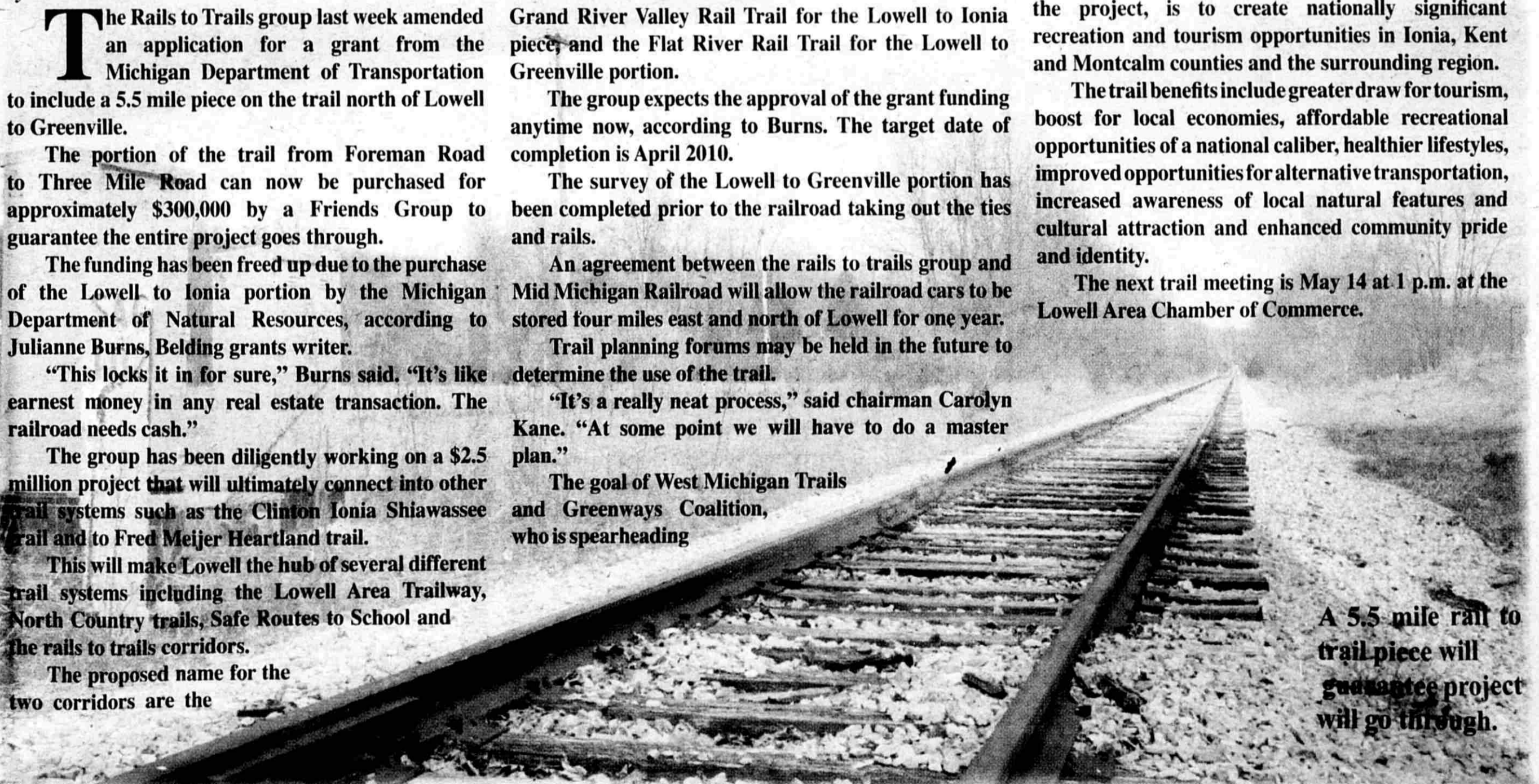
"It's a really neat process," said chairman Carolyn Kane. "At some point we will have to do a master plan."

The goal of West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition, who is spearheading

the project, is to create nationally significant recreation and tourism opportunities in Ionia, Kent and Montcalm counties and the surrounding region.

The trail benefits include greater draw for tourism, boost for local economies, affordable recreational opportunities of a national caliber, healthier lifestyles, improved opportunities for alternative transportation, increased awareness of local natural features and cultural attraction and enhanced community pride and identity.

The next trail meeting is May 14 at 1 p.m. at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.



A 5.5 mile rail to trail piece will guarantee project will go through.

Obituaries

CRAIG

Helen M. Craig, age 82, of Clarksville, passed away April 15 after a valiant fight against cancer. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harvey (Jack) Craig. She is survived by her daughter, Jacque and Denny Videan; her sons, Mike Craig and Charlie and Patti Craig; grandchildren, Vince (Amy) Videan, Vickie (Kirk) Fansler, Nicole (Scott) Pullen, Erin Craig; and three great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held on April 18. She will be sadly missed by all that knew her.

DOMBROWSKI

Donna J. Dombrowski, aged 71, of Grand Rapids, passed away Thursday, March 26, 2009, at Hearthstone Assisted Living Center. She was preceded in death by her husband, John

Dombrowski Sr.; sons, John Dombrowski Jr. and David Dombrowski. Donna will be lovingly remembered by her daughter, Deb (Tim) Schuitema of Lowell; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brothers, Ron Laskowski, Bob (Libby) Laskowski; and many nieces, nephews and friends. Donna shared her life with many people and touched many of them through her commitment to save people from alcoholism. She was a member of MADD for over ten years and was awarded the 2000 Victim Advocate of the Year, of which she was very proud. In keeping with her wishes, a private family service will be held at this time. Later this summer, a celebration of Donna's life will be held for friends and relatives. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to

Spectrum Health Hospice or Helen Devos Children's Hospital Foundation www.devoschildrens.org/give.

SCHUITEMA

Mavis Ellen (Ryskamp) Schuitema, age 81, passed away on Friday, April 3, 2009. She was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Eleanor Ryskamp, and by her sister, Carol Jean Ryskamp. Mavis is survived by her four sons, Michael and Karen Schuitema of Hudsonville, Jeff Schuitema of Sacramento, CA, Tim and Deb Schuitema of Lowell, and Dan and Deb Schuitema of Byron Center; grandchildren, Rick and Deb Schuitema, Mike Schuitema, Kari Schuitema, Matthew Schuitema, and Sara Schuitema. Mavis was employed at Gerontology Network until her retirement. Funeral services were held Saturday at the Zaagman Memorial Chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Spectrum Health Hospice.

Economic recovery payments coming for some

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which the President signed into law in February, provides for a one-time payment of \$250 to people receiving Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

The one-time recovery payments will go out in May 2009 and all payments should be received by the end of May. The payments will be sent automatically, meaning no action is required on the part of the person receiving benefits. The economic recovery payments will be made separately from a person's regular monthly payments. People with direct deposit will receive their payments

electronically. Those who receive paper checks will receive their payments in the mail. People who receive regular payments through the Direct Express debit card will receive their one-time payments through the card. If someone receives both Social Security and SSI, only one payment of \$250 will be made. Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 50 College SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or via email at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov.

All adults who receive Social Security benefits, including disabled adult children (but not minor children) are eligible for \$250 payment. In addition, all persons who receive SSI payments, including

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CITY OF LOWELL
PUBLIC NOTICE
LAST DATE TO FILE NOMINATING PETITIONS
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2009, 4:00 P.M.

City of Lowell registered residents of the City interested in seeking election to the Lowell City Council to fill any of the three (3) two to four year term vacancies occurring must obtain nominating petitions forms for circulation and return no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2009. Petition forms are available between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday from the Lowell City Clerk, Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell.

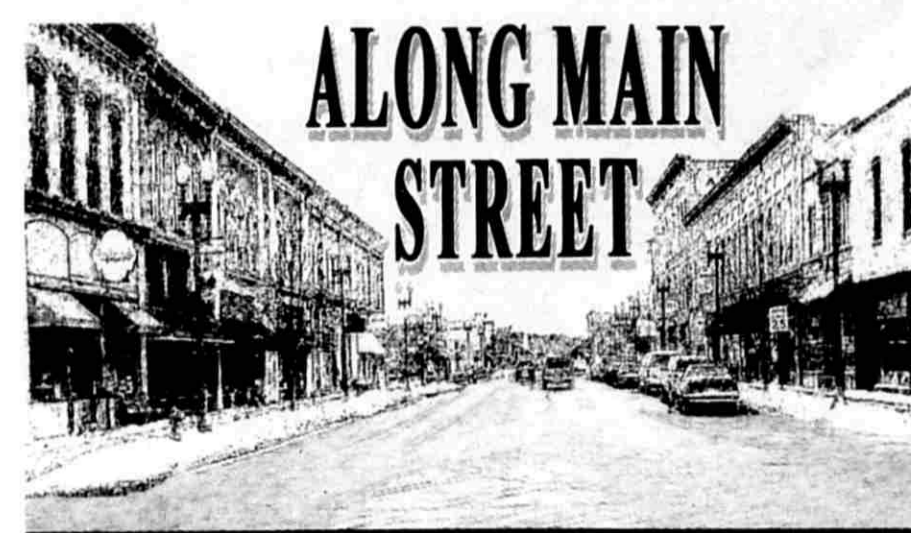
Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

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Service above self - honoring Rotarians



A bench has been placed along Main Street in front of Lowell Family Medical Center. The local Rotary Club purchased the bench from the Lowell Granite Company with the inscription, "In memory of the Lowell Rotarians, 1935-2000, who lived by the motto: 'Service Above Self.'" Pictured are: Richard Bryan, Jeff Morlock, Jeff Witterink, Paula Blumm, Eric Lundstrom and John Sterly.



ANNUAL PRESCHOOL SCREENING
Lowell Area Schools annual preschool screening for program placement of 3 to 4 1/2 year olds is Wed., April 22 and Thurs., April 23, by appointment only at Bushnell Elementary School, music room, 700 Elizabeth St. To schedule a screening or for questions contact Carol Briggs at 987-2516. Deadline to schedule is Friday, April 17.

BLUEGRASS MUSIC CONCERT
Sat., April 18 at 7 p.m. at Larkin's Other Place. Only \$5.

LAS K-12 STUDENT ARTS EXHIBITION
High school and middle school show, April 20 - May 2, reception April 28, 5-7 p.m. Elementary school show, May 6-20, reception May 6, 5-7 p.m. at the Lowell Area Arts Council, 149 S. Hudson St. Gallery hours are Tue.-Fri., 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m.; Mon. and mornings by appointment only. 897-8545 or www.lowellarts council.org.

BAG O' BOOKS SALE
Purchase a bag for \$4 and fill it with a great variety of adult and children's books. Fri., April 24, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sat., April 25, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Community Room of Englehardt Library. All proceeds go to the Kent District Library Foundation. Sponsored by the Friends of Englehardt Library.

YOUTH THEATRE
Thebes Players present "Danny Trooper. In the Land of ModMyth" on April 24, 25, May 2 at 7:30 p.m. and May 3 at 2:30 p.m. at the Lowell Performing Arts Center (Lowell High School), 11700 Vergennes. Tickets are \$6 in advance, \$8 day of show, available at Lowell Area Arts Council, 897-8545 and Rookies SportsCards, 897-5650. For more information, www.lowellartscouncil.org

LOVE4LIFE BENEFIT CONCERT
Do you have a Love4Life? April is Organ Donor Awareness Month. We are having a benefit concert supporting organ recipient Melissa Roche and her donor sister, April May. The concert will be held at Larkin's, 301 W. Main St. on April 25. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. They can be purchased by emailing Love4LifeBenefitConcert@aahoo.com or calling 897-5859.

COMMUNITY GARDEN EXCHANGE
Sat., April 25, 9-11 a.m. at First Baptist Church, 6015 Bancroft Ave., Alto. Share plants you have, take home others. Door prizes and garden help. Rain or shine. No charge.

TOBACCO FREE FOR GOOD
Smoking cessation class begins Tuesday, April 28. The class meets for six weeks on Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m. at Lowell Family Medical Center, 2550 E. Main St. Registration encouraged, but not required. Call 616-975-0123 or go to www.tobaccofreepartners.org.

CALLING ALL DIRECTORS/PRODUCERS
Lowell Area Arts Council is looking for creative people to direct or produce 2009/2010 Thebes Players productions. All interested should deliver or email their resume/interest to: Thebes Director/Producer, Lowell Area Arts Council, PO Box 53, Lowell, MI 49331, info@lowellartscouncil.org or call us for more information, 897-8545. Deadline is April 30/May 1.

LAAC SUMMER SCHOLARSHIPS
Deadline is May 1 for Lowell Area Arts Council Summer Scholarships for students attending summer art/music classes and/or camp. All middle and high school students are eligible. For more information contact the LAAC office, 897-8545. Applications available at www.lowellartscouncil.org and at the office.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
File No. 09-186,686-DE

Estate of LYNNE O'KRANGLEY
Date of birth: 9/25/1946

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, LYNNE O'KRANGLEY, who lived at 611 Leonard NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan died March 29, 2009.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to JEFFREY L. O'KRANGLEY named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa NW, Ste. 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

John D. Mitus (P-31244)
410 Bridge St., NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-774-4001

Jeffrey L. O'Krangley
4589 Moffett, Apt. A
Comstock Park, MI
49321

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT CIRCUIT COURT - FAMILY DIVISION

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING
File No. 09-186714-CA

In the matter of ALICE SKRZYSINSKI

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS INCLUDING:

PHYLLIS GIAMINO, ESTHER ZWIEGLE and DAISY GAUTHIER

whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on May 26, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose:

to appoint a conservator for Alice Skrzysinski

4/20/2009

John D. Flynn P27413
1275 Hawthorne Hills SE
Ada, MI 49301
616-897-6632

Sheryl Sanders
415 Franklin SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
616-246-1754

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the following amendments to the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance: (1) Allow Family Child Care, Adult Day Care and Adult Foster Care in the AG-1, AG-2, R-1, R-2, and R-3 Zoning Districts by right and Group Child Care Homes by Special Use Permit; (2) Add definitions pertaining to categories of child care and foster care; (3) Establish operational and design standards for Group Child Care Homes; (4) Allow adult foster care small and large group homes and congregate care facilities in the AG-1, AG-2, and R-3 Zoning Districts by Special Use Permit; (5) Allow Child Care Centers and congregate care facilities in the Commercial Zoning District by Special Use Permit and; (6) remove existing ordinance language pertaining to these uses.

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

The proposed amendments are available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township
Planning Commission

Celebrating Arbor Day in Michigan

Residents of Michigan celebrate Arbor Day 2009 on April 24. While some states chose to celebrate Arbor Day on a different date that coincides better with their growing season, National Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April

by many states, including Michigan. The Arbor Day Foundation encourages everyone to plant a tree to celebrate this special holiday. The Foundation's Web site (www.arborday.org) offers many helpful tips from how

to plant a tree to selecting the right tree for the right place. Michigan has 115 Tree City USA communities. Tree City USA is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and

the National Association of State Foresters. The program was established to recognize communities that are committed to its trees. More than 120 million
Arbor Day, cont'd., pg. 4

City council, continued

... From Page 1

last 30 years. They pay \$350 a month. The lease expires June 30.

Mayor Jim Hodges said the city does not need to be in the rental business, but agreed to extend the agreement.

The city council also approved the change of name to a portion of South Division Street to South Jackson Street.

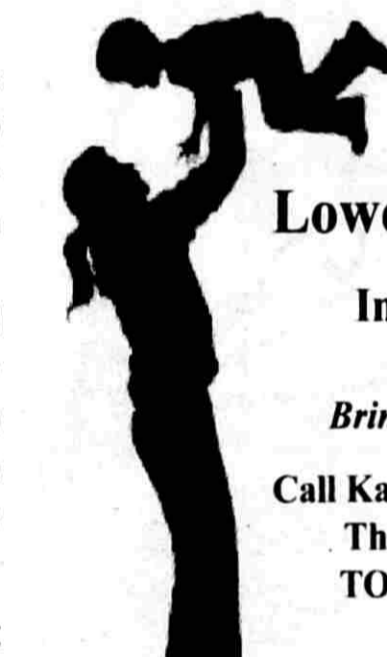
The city will participate in the Federal Surplus Assistance program to secure equipment at discounted prices for police, public works, city hall and the airport.

Dave Austin of Williams and Works gave an update on an application for the MDOT enhancement grant

for the LARA trails. The application totals \$225,000 for a trail connecting Cherry Creek Elementary with Wittenbach Wege Center.

A meeting will be held April 22 at 7 p.m. at the city hall to receive comments on eligible street improvements under the Federal Surface Transportation program.

TOTS/Mom-to-Mom Almost New Sale



Saturday, April 25, 2009 • 9-11 p.m.

Lowell High School Gym

Infant-High School Items - Free to Sell!

Bring your own tables and change.

Call Kathy at 987-2532 to reserve space.

This is a community service of TOTS and Lowell Area Schools Community Education.

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www.flatriveroutreachministries.org

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O 17 AGAIN (PG-13)
TUE 12:10, 2:30, 4:55, 7:10, 9:35
MONWEDTH 4:55, 7:10, 9:35
O STATE OF PLAY (PG-13)
TUE 11:00, 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:40
MONWEDTH 4:15, 6:50, 9:40
O HANNAH MONTANA: THE MOVIE (G)
TUE 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
MONWEDTH 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
O THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT (PG-13) DAILY 7:20, 9:30
O FAST AND FURIOUS (PG-13)
TUE 11:50, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45
MONWEDTH 4:50, 7:15, 9:45
O MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG)
TUE 12:50, 3:00, 5:10
MONWEDTH 5:10

Lowell's annual Crop Walk slated for May 3

Many area residents are gearing up to join in the Lowell Crop Walk on Sunday, May 3, at 1 p.m. The 6.2-mile (10-kilometer) walk will begin at Lowell United Methodist Church and end at the Flat River Outreach Ministries building at 11535 Fulton St. East, Lowell.

Organized locally, the Lowell Crop Walk has set a goal of 150 walkers and hopes to raise \$15,000 to help stop hunger here in the community and around the world, through self-help development initiatives. A portion of the funds raised here in Lowell will go to the FROM Food Pantry as well as the Lowell Senior Neighbors.

Last year, 130 walkers raised about \$15,000. This year, Lowell and some 2,000 cities and towns

nationwide are joining together in interfaith community Crop Walks around the theme "Walking Together." Many crop walkers will be wearing "Walking Together" t-shirts, proclaiming their solidarity with the millions of neighbors around the world who have to walk to live - as well as with the millions served by local food pantries, food banks, and meal sites in the U.S. These local ministries share in the funds raised by Crop Walks.

Africa is one part of the world where Crop Walks are making a big difference - in helping people grow food for their families, in providing clean water to villages, in working to assure that schools are zones of safety and learning, in the struggle against the AIDS pandemic, and in

dictate clothing needs and the proper care of bagged game.

When traveling beyond national borders, the learning curve gets even steeper. Choosing a reliable outfitter can increase the chance that one has a quality hunt by providing advice and assistance with all the issues related to hunting in strange places. Hunting in foreign countries and some states usually require hiring an outfitter which includes guide service. An experienced guide takes some pressure off the hunter for knowing specifics about the hunted game. Check references or, better yet, talk to friends or acquaintances who have hunted with the prospective outfitter.

An added challenge of international hunting is getting firearms through airports and across borders legally, smoothly, and intact. It is necessary to register firearms with U.S. Customs before leaving. It is also a good idea to register items such as rangefinders and cameras to insure getting everything back into the country upon returning. An industrial strength gun case to protect firearms in transit is a good investment. Hiring an agent to shepherd firearms

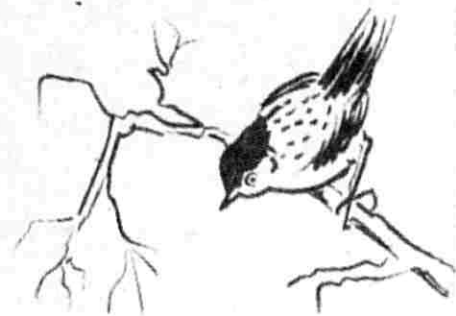
through customs in some countries is worth the price. Getting capes and meat back into this country can be relatively easy or may become a bureaucratic maze depending on where the game was taken. Homeland security and animal disease have made the process more complicated. Sometimes, it is required for game to be packed and documented in the country of origin, then shipped to a broker in the U.S. where it is inspected and then shipped to a licensed taxidermist before you take possession. There are also strict requirements for importing deer and elk from a number of designated states and providences into Michigan.

Information about all this is available at outdoor shows as well as state, federal, and foreign agencies. The Internet, of course, is a convenient way to become informed.

So whether you plan to hunt birds on the great plains of South Dakota or dangerous game in Africa, it certainly pays to do your homework. This takes time, and the dog ate my homework is no excuse.

Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis



HOMWORK

As the world becomes smaller through modern communications and transportation, hunting opportunities have expanded. Hunters now routinely roam beyond state and national boundaries in quest of game. These excursions require more preparation than just locating the dog leash and a handful of shells.

Hunting on your own in other states for unfamiliar game requires learning about local regulations as well as where to hunt and seasons. Game habits must be understood in order to establish a hunting strategy. Local weather conditions

Arbor Day, continued ... From Page 3

Americans live in a Tree City USA community. To see a list of Tree City USA communities, go to www.arborday.org/programs/treeCityUSA.cfm.

The first Arbor Day was celebrated in Nebraska on April 10, 1872, thanks to a resolution proposed by Nebraska City, Neb.,

resident J. Sterling Morton, a civic leader, agriculturist, and former newspaper editor, urged Nebraskans to "set aside one

day to plant trees, both forest and fruit." The tree-planting holiday was so popular that by 1920, more than 45 states and U.S. territories annually celebrated Arbor Day. Today, Arbor Day is observed in all 50 states and in many countries around the world.

The state tree of Michigan is the Eastern white pine and it was chosen in 1955. It lives an average of 200 years and can live as long as 400 years. This pine was known to the Haudenosaunee Native Americans as the tree of great peace, and its needles contain five times the amount of calcium than that of a lemon. Eastern white pines are among the tallest trees east of the Rocky Mountains, and

are the state trees of both Michigan and Maine.

The Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit conservation organization of nearly one million members, with a mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. More information on the Foundation and its programs or ways to celebrate Arbor Day can be found at www.arborday.org.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
BOWNE TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL LAND USE FOR
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY COMMUNITY SPACE AND
PARKING IMPROVEMENTS

In accordance with Public Act 110 of 2006 as amended, the Bowne Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider comments on an application by the Alto Downtown Development Authority for the construction of parking spaces in the public roadway, and special land use approval for community space to be utilized for the Alto Fall Festival and similar gatherings. The proposed location of the use is 1147 Kirby Street and 6047 Linfield Avenue. Public uses are permitted as special land uses in the C-1 Commercial zoning district. The hearing will be held as noted below:

WHEN: Thursday, May 8, 2009
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
WHERE: Bowne Township Offices meeting room
8240 Alden Nash SE
Alto, Michigan 49302

Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed special land use and parking spaces is invited to attend this meeting. A copy of the proposed site plan may be reviewed at the Bowne Township Offices, 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alto, Michigan during normal office hours Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 am - Noon and 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm; and Friday 9:00 am - Noon.

Written comments may be sent to the above address or emailed to clerk@bownetwp.org.
Jim Oosting, Chair
Bowne Township Planning Commission

Viewpoint

To The Editor

Dear Editor,

Re: Township Planning Commission of April 13:

a. Another grossly out of zoning business, now 36th near Snow, this time without the filmy shield of "home based." What business entity operates on site was of some confusion even to the Commissioners, but suffice it to say this family of commerce had the experience and opportunity to make an inquiry but did not. Nonconformity on top of nonconformity. What would St. Thomas Aquinas say?

b. The scepter has passed: we have a new Chicaneer-in-Chief, an ally who offers wisdom regarding manure collection, and aw shucks, he's just trying to make a living, and increase our tax base, and remember the people they (diminishingly) employ. John Bull would do even worse on the LSAT than I did.

c. Zoning can be awful to formulate and administer. The tap dance on 36th just began in the evening. Commissioners had to calculate sunset in October to pass upon a corn maze.

d. The "property rights" movement was relatively silent except for "(b)," who supported the chiseling without the standard sniveling. But they lack masculinity. If zoning is an offense against man - get rid of it! Think John Wayne, or better, Ronald Reagan playing Wayne, a nicer fellow.

G.M. Ross

Dear Editor,

It's that time of year again - the Garlic Mustard is growing! This is a highly invasive plant that chokes out everything else. The Lowell Area Conservation Association and The Flat River Girl Scout Troop have joined forces to help inform the public of this threat and to organize the fifth annual Community Garlic Mustard Pull.

Check out the display and information available at



Exploring Nature

With Meggan Johnson,
Director of the Wittenbach/Wege Center

Today is Earth Day. It's a day to reflect on our planet and what we can do to help keep it healthy. Throughout the week, millions of people in over 100 different countries will show their support for the planet through festivals, activities and rallies promoting environmental awareness.

Caring for the planet is cheap and easy to do. Simple gestures like picking up trash during walks and shutting off lights when they aren't in use are easy items anyone can do. If you'd like to get more involved but don't know where to

start, head on out to the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Center for our 9th Annual Conservation Expo on Sat., April 25.

The Conservation Expo runs from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. It is a free event for people of all ages. Over a dozen conservation organizations from around West Michigan will be onsite with information about what their organization is doing to help the planet and how you can get involved. Join us for a guided hike in search of Olympia Marble butterflies or step inside the Michigan Chapter of Safari International's Sensory Trailer to use your senses to get in "touch" with nature. These are just a few of the fun yet educational items offered. Stop by to check them all out. Call 616-987-1002 for more information.

Learning to enjoy and appreciate nature will turn every day into Earth Day.

Lynn Seese
Hunter Safety Instructor

Writing to the editor ...

The requirements are:

- All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification. All that will be printed is the writer's name and community of residence.
- Letters that contain statements that are libelous will not be published.
- All letters are subject to editing for style, grammar and sense.
- Letters that serve as testimonials for or criticisms of for-profit businesses will not be accepted.
- Letters serving the function of "cards of thanks" will not be accepted unless there is a compelling public interest, which will be determined by the editor.
- Letters that include attacks of a personal nature will not be published or will be edited heavily.
- "Crossfire" letters between the same two people on one issue will be limited to one for each writer.
- In an effort to keep opinions varied, at times there may be a limit of one letter per person per week.
- We prefer letters to be printed legibly or typed, double-spaced. For e-mailed letters, please copy letter as part of the e-mail body and send to ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com.



By Shelly MacNaughton

125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL APRIL 23, 1884

Better logs in the Flat River drive this year than last. The demand for baby carriages here is increasing. Several new dwellings have already sprung up this spring in our village.

Miss Hattie Morgan, the lady who gave an exhibition at the rink Saturday night, is a very graceful skater.

100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER APRIL 22, 1909

To encourage the corn-growing industry among the farmer boys of the county, the Kent County Corn Improvement Association has arranged for the distribution of cash prizes of varying denominations amounting in all to \$170 to those youths who offer the best exhibits at the Boys' Corn Show to be held in Grand Rapids in connection with the Farmers' Roundup Institute next winter.

75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO APRIL 26, 1934

Theron Richmond announces elsewhere in this week's issue, the opening of "Richmond's Tavern" in the Kellogg block at the corner of West Main and Broadway.

Mr. Richmond deserves much credit for his effort in providing the public with this new, modernly equipped, pleasant eating house. It is a valuable improvement to Main St.

50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER APRIL 23, 1959

Seventy-five school board members from virtually all of the thirty surrounding districts now being served by the Lowell school district were dinner guests of the local Board of Education Monday night.

The purpose of the meeting was to explain the position of the Lowell board regarding the annexation of districts which is simply that surrounding districts are welcome to become part of the Lowell system, but that no aspect of coercion will be used by the Lowell board.

25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER APRIL 25, 1984

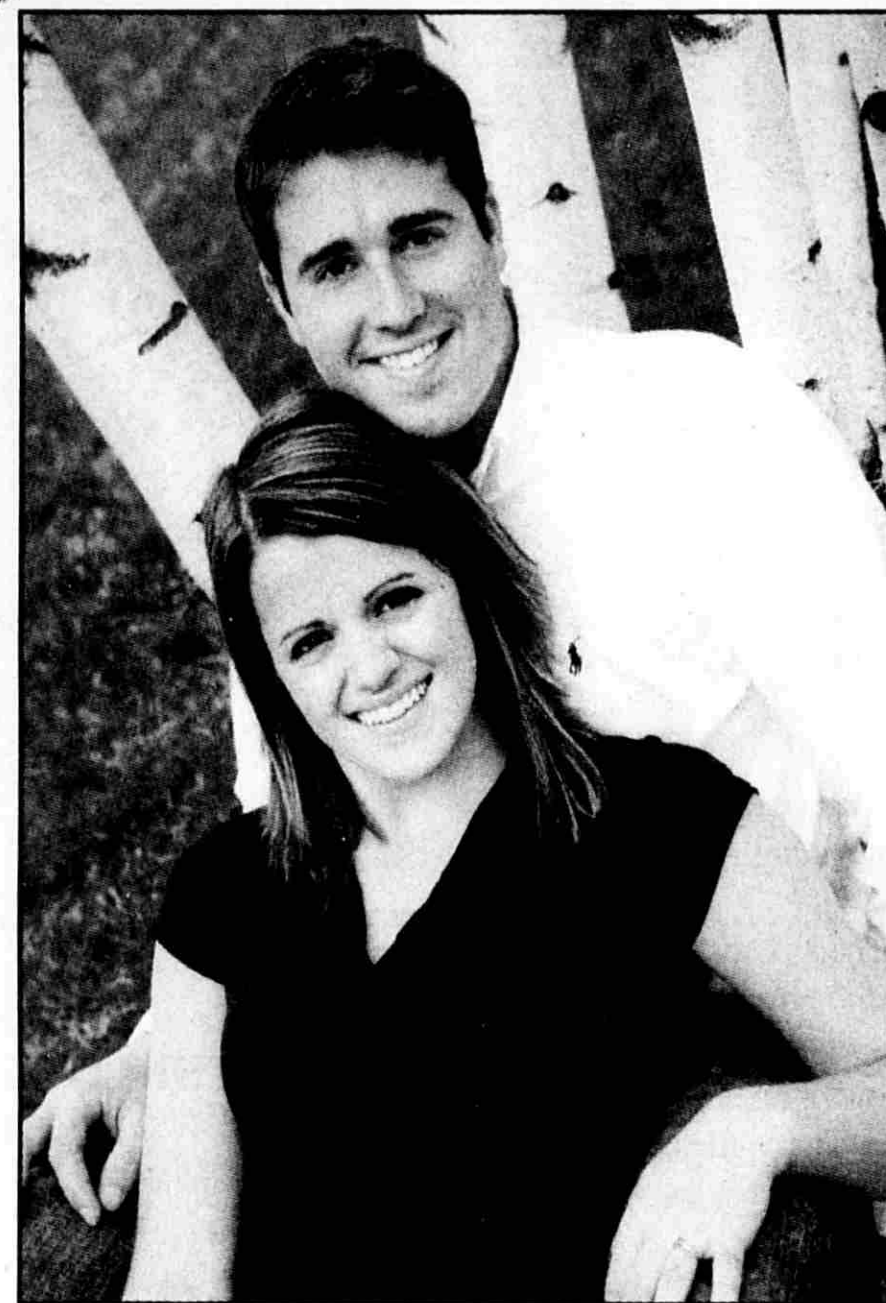
Ground was broken for a new 20 bed extended care facility at Cumberland Manor last Wednesday. The half million dollar project is the first phase in Cumberland's owner, Alin Mass' several year plan for the development of "Cumberland Village."

The "village" concept will include housing for persons in various stages of retirement from duplexes to condominiums where those in early years can take advantage of the village atmosphere.

Engagements

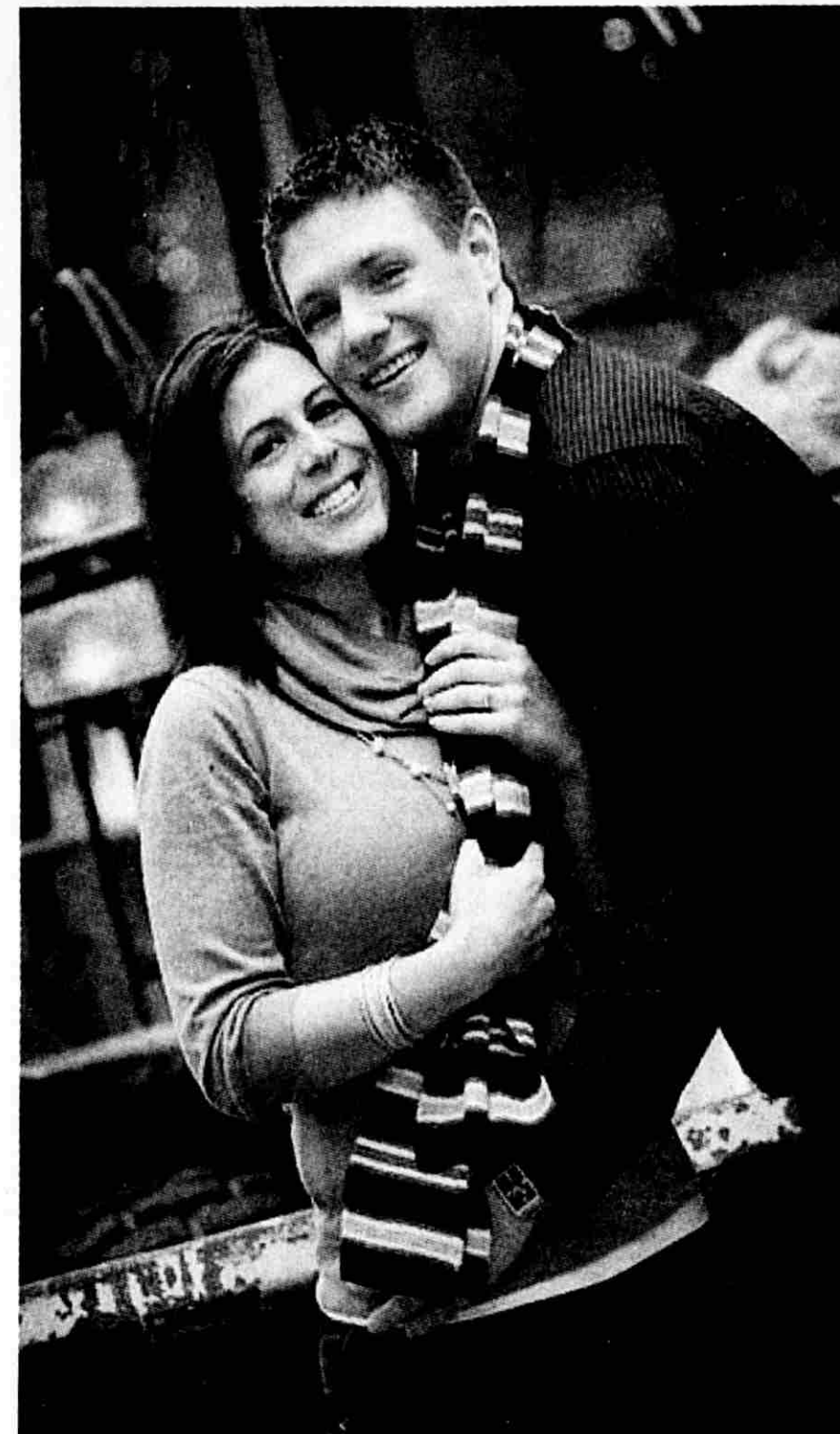
Gerard/Meibeyer

Emily Katherine Gerard and Zane Gregory Meibeyer will exchange wedding vows on July 11, 2009. The bride-to-be is a graduate of Lowell High School and is currently attending Taylor University in Upland, IN and will be pursuing a master's degree at Boston University in the fall. She and her parents, John and Lori Gerard, are of Lowell. The future groom is a graduate of both Western Michigan Christian High in Muskegon and Taylor University, Upland, IN. He and his parents, Greg and Deanna Meibeyer, are of Fremont.



Emily Gerard and Zane Meibeyer

Johnson/Brown



Amy Johnson and Beau Brown

Amy Johnson and Beau Brown, both of Columbus, Ohio, will be united in matrimony on November 7, 2009. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Kathy Johnson, of Depew, New York, and the late Paul Johnson. She is a graduate of Walden University and currently is employed as an elementary school teacher for Columbus City Schools. Her fiancé is the son of John and Frances Brown, of Saranac. He is a graduate of Central Michigan University and is currently employed as a technician at Edison Welding Institute.

The secret of happiness is to make others believe they are the cause of it.

- Al Bat

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Reflections of faith

by Rev. Randy Meyers
Calvary Christian Reformed Church

I read an article titled the "Art of Governance" from the Alban Institute that highlighted the unique challenges to leadership within a congregation. The author, Dan Hotchkiss, said that church leadership is special in that religion stirs people to change. Organizations on the other hand tend to conserve. It is with some work, he states, "Organizations can be flexible, creative, and iconoclastic, but only by resisting some of their most basic instincts." As I reflected on his thoughts it struck me that leadership holds another similar tension. The tension within the leader.

As a leader in the church, one of the things you gain is ground floor access to the right to influence the discussions and even make decisions regarding future. If what you want to see happen is going to happen, how it happens depends to a large extent on what you can do during your time as

a leader. What role does term limits play in this dynamic? What role does the emergence of staff led congregations play? As a leader, what will be different at your church because of your actions as a leader? And what, if you are not currently in a leadership role, could you work on to prepare yourself for that kind of influence?

Also, as a leader in the church, you lose something very important that every other member of the congregation has. You give up your right to speak in public against ideas and plans that the leadership have made. It is one of the costs of leadership. Now this does not mean you may not have a different opinion nor that you may not express them. Hopefully you have both different opinions and express them. But you must express them before a decision has been made and only within the leadership circle tasked with the responsibility.

What it means, for example, is that on home visitations or when someone corners you in the lobby or calls you on the phone, you may not side with congregants when they complain about the leadership or decisions that were made. Congregants should not know that you were against something the leadership has agreed on. And they should

know you are working towards the goals the Council has agreed on.

What you may do when faced with an irritated congregant is seek greater understanding. Hear out their concerns. Ask what they have done to address their issues. Ask how they will do about their issues. Ask how they expect you to help them. This kind of conversation will be helpful in their growth as people, growth of your leadership, and growth within your organization. To commiserate with a congregant about a decision you thought was poorly made hinders good growth.

Hotchkiss says, "No wonder 'organized religion' is so difficult! The transforming power of religion and the stabilizing power of organization—makes leading congregations a unique challenge."

Leadership is a challenge. There are things that leaders give up. It is an opportunity. There are things leaders get when they achieve a good balance. Ask your leadership team about this tension. Celebrate what you are doing well. Ask a trusted friend or have an open brainstorming session with your team about the challenges this tension raises. And here's to you becoming a more accomplished leader.

New Arrivals

Celebrating in the community of Lowell are five generations strong since 1928. Doris Jean Bishop was born to Otis and Ina (Clark) Potter. Jean is the youngest of five. She was born at home on Jackson Street in Lowell. Jean was married in 1946 to Budd Bishop. Budd and Jean had six children together and now have 13 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. She still lives here and

supports her home town of Lowell. Cheryl (Bishop) Kemperman was the fourth child born to Budd and Jean. Cheryl has two children of her own. Dale Lynn (Andrews) Thompson still resides here in the city of Lowell with her six boys and her one and only daughter, Ashley (Bissell) Moore. Ashley delivered the first great-great-grandchild, Cooper, born on February 21, 2009.



Hildenbrand

David and Sarah Hildenbrand, of Lowell, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Jane Rusch. She was born March 4, 2009 weighing 7 lbs. 2 oz. Proud grandparents are Rose and Ron Thomet and Lee Hildenbrand, all of Lowell, and David and Nancy Rusch, of St. Louis.



Jane Rusch Hildenbrand

Happy Birthday

APRIL 22:
Mallorie VanDerWarf, Tim Hill, Mackenzie Hacker, Sharon Potter.

APRIL 24:
Gary Hoff, Trevor Foss, Nichole Hoag, Don Shaffer, Logan Propst.

APRIL 23:
Nathan Roudabush, Jonathan Dixon, Karen Merriman, Nicole Cummings, Brandon Short.

APRIL 26:
Marsha Ray, Casey Brown, Bonnie Baird, Audrey Bailey, Jonathan Christiansen, Brad Brzezniak.

APRIL 27:
Janice Ryder, Dennis Pretzel, Debbie Burrows, Ashlyn Karp.

APRIL 28:
Terese Brown, Timmy Vezino, Shawna Austin, Kattie Hildenbrand.

College News

Freshman Heather Walendzik, of Lowell, was one of twenty-four Alma College students who were awarded the President's Cup during Honors Convocation on April 2 by Dr. Sandra J. Tracy, Alma's president. The students — 15 freshmen, seven sophomores and two juniors — earned the honor by achieving the highest academic standing in their respective classes at Alma. The tradition of the President's Cup was started in 1968 by Alma's ninth President, Robert D. Swanson. Students earning the honor receive a certificate acknowledging their achievement and

have their name inscribed on the appropriate class (freshman, sophomore or junior) President's Cup trophy. The trophies are kept on permanent display in the Reid-Knox Administration Building on campus, where, said Dr. Tracy, "they are a constant reminder of their achievements."

Walendzik is a 2008 graduate of Lowell High School and the daughter of Richard and Debora Walendzik, of Lowell.

Central Michigan University announces December 2008 graduates. Lindsay Lingenfelter, of Ada, with a Bachelor of Science in

Business Administration. Jordan Nawrocki graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and Justin Peterson graduated with a Bachelor of Science, both of Lowell.

The University of Northwestern Ohio is proud to acknowledge that William B. Zigmont, of Lowell, has made the Dean's List for the February 2009 session in the College of Technologies. Full-time students must receive a grade point average of 3.5 or better to be named to the Dean's List.

LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY MENU
Week of
April 27, 2009

MON: French toast sticks w/syrup or cereal w/ graham crackers & scrambled eggs, fresh fruit, warm apple slices, milk.

TUES: Chicken patty on bun (tuna salad on wheat also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), oven French fries, vegetable pasta salad, applesauce, milk.

WED: Baked chicken nuggets w/dinner roll (turkey & cheese on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), mashed potatoes/gravy, assorted fruit, milk.

THURS: Pasta marinara w/cheese & bosco stick (cheese stuffed breadstick) (stacked ham & cheese on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), mini carrots/dip, pineapple, milk.

FRI: Tony's cheese pizza (chili & crackers also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), fresh tossed salad, applesauce, milk.

WEDDING INVITATIONS



We offer the Carlson Craft line of invitations. Wide variety & wide range in prices. Stop by to check out one of our books. Invitations back in 7-10 days.

LOWELL LITHO
105 N. Broadway
Phone 897-9261

Calli Jo Rottier is happy to announce the birth of her little sister:

ANDILYNN NOELLE

Andi was born on **March 23, 2009** weighing 7 lbs., 7 oz. and measuring 19 1/2" long.

Proud parents are Dan & Noelle Rottier of Rockford.

Grandparents are: Mark & Jill Dewey and Bob & Mary Rottier, all of Lowell

HEALTH

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

SHIN SPLINTS
Many people will begin running again as spring weather approaches. Some will experience "shin splints." This is a sharp pain along the inside of the lower leg. This initially will occur only while running, but will progressively worsen and ache during rest.

Shin splints (or medical tibial stress syndrome), occur as a result of training errors or an anatomical abnormality of the foot. Training errors include running too many miles per week or increasing mileage too quickly, hard surface running, or old shoes. Foot hyperpronation and fallen arches also contribute to shin splints.

Over time, a stress fracture may occur if one continues running with this pain. Plain x-rays of the area may not show a stress fracture, so sometimes a bone-scan is ordered to confirm this type of injury. Treatment for shin splints includes anti-inflammatory medications, rest, ice, massages prior to and after exercise, new shoes, and formal physical therapy. If shin splints continue to occur, custom foot orthotics may be needed. These help to correct anatomical defects, such as hyperpronation or fallen arches. After the pain has substantially subsided, runners can increase their weekly mileage by 10 percent or less.

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LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a request from Chris and Jennifer Clark to rezone 31.66 acres from AG-1, Prime Agricultural Preservation to AG-2, Rural Agricultural. This property is located at the northeast corner of Morse Lake Avenue SE and I-96.


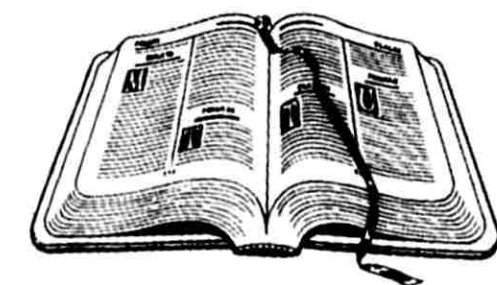


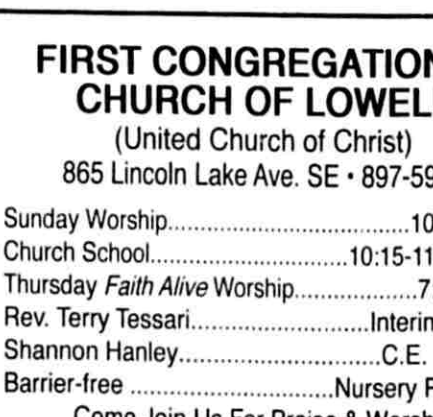


LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The property is legally described as Parcel 41-20-29-100-002 which is 4724 Morse Lake Avenue SE Lowell, Michigan.

The hearing will be held as follows:
WHEN: MONDAY, May 11, 2009
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

The rezoning application material is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township Offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, MI 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township
Planning Commission

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. OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332 Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M. Nursery & Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p> 	<p>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 Otoli 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 P.M. SUN. 9:30 A.M. Weekday Masses: 7:45 A.M. Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 4-4:45 PM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETER HIGGINS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, EPTV FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>
<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 www.lowellumc.com WORSHIP.....8:30 & 10:15 a.m. 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>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Vance Dimmick Jr. 9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p> 	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906 Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Rev. Terry Tessari.....Interim Pastor Shannon Hartley.....C.E. Director Barrier-free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>	
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Highway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....9:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fraemer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 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. 9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p> 	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906 Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Rev. Terry Tessari.....Interim Pastor Shannon Hartley.....C.E. Director Barrier-free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>	



A FEW NOTABLE EVENTS FROM APRIL 16 - APRIL 22 • 2009

• Twenty-one thoroughbred horses dropped dead Sunday before a polo match near West Palm Beach. A national investigation has been launched to find the cause.

- The CIA released a memo stating that CIA interrogators used waterboarding at least 266 times on two top Al Qaeda suspects.
- Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad accused Israel of being the "most cruel and racist regime," sparking a walkout Monday by angry Western diplomats at the U.N..
- The Great Wall of China is even greater than once thought. A two-year-old government mapping study has uncovered new sections of the ancient Chinese monument that totals about 180 miles.
- Stephen Hawking is hospitalized and reported very ill. He had been fighting a chest infection for several weeks.

Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.

- Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955)

Monday, April 20 marked the 10th anniversary of the killings at Columbine High School in Colorado.

• Mystery donors give \$45 million to at least eight colleges. The schools had to promise not to investigate the givers identities.

• Jim Dancy of Richland, Kalamazoo, donated his \$10,000 Michigan Club Keno winnings to the Greater Kalamazoo United Way.

• The alleged "Craig's List Killer" Philip Markoff, a Boston medical student, was arraigned on charges of kidnapping and murder on April 21.

• Oracle Corp. snapped up computer server and software maker Sun Microsystems Inc. for \$7.4 million Monday.



A comprehensive solution to abusive practices by credit card companies

With Senator Carl Levin

Especially in these tough economic times, American families cannot afford to be victimized by unfair and abusive credit card practices, and banks should not expect to build their profits on the backs of hardworking taxpayers already footing the bill for bank bailouts.

As chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, I've led an ongoing investigation into credit card abuses. This investigation included collecting information from thousands of irate credit cardholders across the country, holding hearings, and exposing a host of unfair practices that are miring American families in debt.

People from across Michigan continue to contact my office with horror stories about the abuses they have suffered at the hands of credit card companies. One man was offered the choice of seeing his interest rate increase from below 10 percent up to 25 percent, or having his account closed. A woman faced with two credit cards raising their interest rates to 29 percent was forced to close both accounts. Numerous cardholders with good credit scores and years of on-time payments have told us about sudden interest rate hikes for no apparent reason. I've seen far too many examples of people who have paid two or three times the amount of their original debt and are still losing ground to fees and interest. And all of these cardholders are being squeezed at the same time the current recession is making it harder than ever to keep up with payments. Unfortunately, credit card companies that undertake

these practices are, for the most part, operating within laws and regulations currently on the books.

That's why I've teamed up with the Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, Senator Chris Dodd, to introduce a tough credit card reform bill. Called the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure Act - the CARD Act, for short - this legislation would establish new safeguards in the law to make sure credit card users get a fair shake and that credit card companies willing to do the right thing are not put at a competitive disadvantage by companies that profit from unfair practices.

The Banking Committee recently approved this landmark legislation and sent it to the full Senate for a vote. This is a key procedural step

for the CARD Act to become law, and I have called on the Senate to act on the bill as soon as possible.

Among other measures, the CARD Act would prohibit higher interest rates from being applied retroactively to existing credit card debt, and it would prohibit credit card companies from increasing interest rates on cardholders for reasons unrelated to their credit card. The bill would also prohibit interest charges on any portion of credit card debt that is paid on time. It would require 45-day notice before credit card companies can impose a higher interest rate, require bills to go out 21 days before payment is due, and allow payments up until 5 p.m. on the due date. It would also put a stop to repeated penalty fees for a single instance of exceeding a credit limit.

Some claim this legislation isn't necessary because federal banking regulators issued new consumer credit card protections in December. But those credit card regulations, which would not have been written

without the pressure created by our investigation, don't take effect for more than a year and fail to stop a number of abusive practices. Also, credit card reforms need to be put into law so a future administration can't change them, and the law must be expanded beyond the

regulations to stop abuses not covered by the regulations.

With people across the nation depending on credit cards for everything from groceries to mortgage payments, Congress can't stand by while American families are being penalized by abusive credit card practices that take

even more money out of family savings. The Obama Administration has already announced its support for credit card reform, and I hope that this is the year that laws to stop credit card abuses finally make it into the books.

The Lowell Cable Television (LCTV) Fund is a nonprofit endowment fund established on September 17, 2007 by means of the sale of the assets of Lowell Cable Television. A portion of the annual investment earnings are distributed in agreement with the Grand Rapids Community Fund and may be available for grants each year.

The LCTV Board was created to solicit and review grant applications for projects that benefit the Lowell Area including the City of Lowell, Lowell Township and Vergennes Township. LCTV Board grant recommendations are subject to final approval by the Lowell City Council.

The LCTV Fund promotes projects that are:

- Non-profit making activities
- Benefit a broad segment of the Lowell Area Community
- Enhance the quality of life in the area
- Encourage cooperation among the communities
- Qualify as one time capitol improvement projects

The Fund does not support:

- *Individuals
- *Political projects
- *Salaries or continuing expenses
- *Religious Organizations
- *Profit-making activities

Grant Schedule:

2009 applications will be accepted beginning May 1st and must be received by June 15th. The LCTV Board reserves the right to modify the grant application schedule in future years. The selected project applicants will be formally notified and the projects will be publicized consistent with City policies and practices. Applicants may be requested to present information to the Board and or the Lowell City Council prior to the final decision.

The Advisory Board will make its recommendations formally to the City Council by the second regular meeting in August. The City Council will approve the projects recommended by the Advisory board, with or without changes, based on funding levels, city and area needs, etc., at its first regular meeting in September of each year.

The LCTV Advisory Board will inform all applicants of its recommendations to the Lowell City Council, no later than August 1st.

Application Process:

1. Applications are available at Lowell City Hall, Lowell Charter Township Hall, Vergennes Township Hall, Englehardt Public Library, Lowell Area Schools Administration Building and City and townships web sites.
2. Please write your grant application using the cover sheet and included application form.
3. Do not include materials other than the application.
4. Send or deliver 8 copies of the application and attachments as listed:
 - a cover letter that introduces the proposal
 - details for a specific project that includes a breakdown of expenses and key items the grant monies will be used for
 - a list of contacts, directors and project leaders
 - letters of support or recommendation
 - estimation of how many area residents will benefit from or use the project and description of how they may benefit
 - documentation of how a project will continue to be supported after the initial expense
 - proof of 501(c)(3) or governmental unit status

Applicants will be required to enter into an agreement with the City, which will outline the terms and conditions of the grants, as well as the reporting requirements, prior to any distribution of funds to the applicants. The agreement shall be finalized by December 31.

Grant applications shall be submitted to Betty Morlock, Lowell City Clerk, at 301 E. Main Street in Lowell, Michigan 49331. Questions should be directed to Dave Pasquale, City Manager.

Thank you for your interest.
Sincerely,
LCTV Endowment Board

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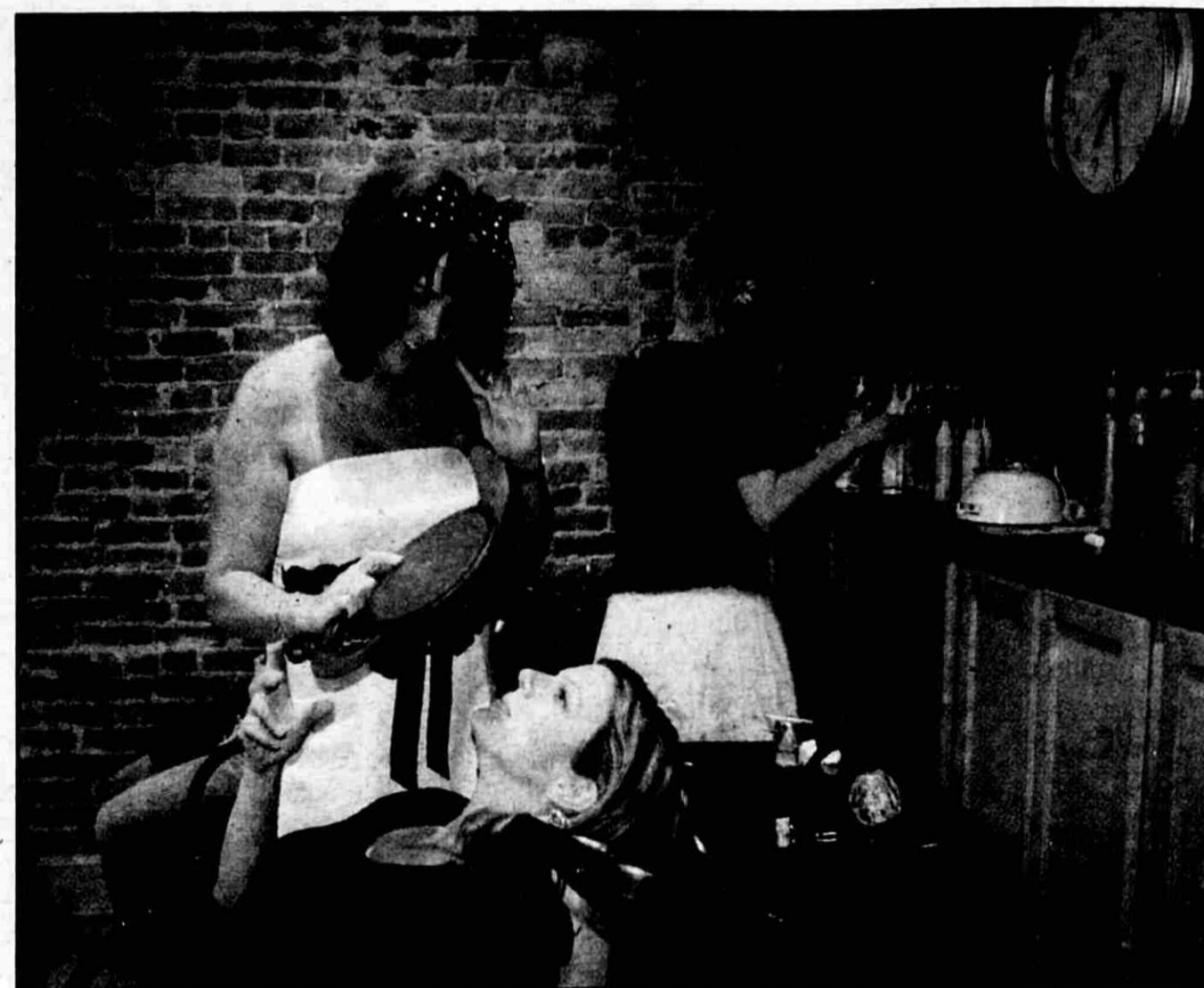
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Girls' Night Out, continued ... From Page 1



Lisa Mills talks jewelry with Rodger Ackerson.



April McClure gives a facial to Danielle Hall.

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The following steps for safety are recommended:

Check the condition of your life jackets. Make sure that there is one properly

fitting life jacket for every person on board and that they are in good condition. Check for discoloration, dry rot, and mildew; popped seams and tears in the fabric; and that the straps, buckles, and zippers still work.

Check your equipment to make sure it is in good working order. This includes items like your visual distress signals, sound-producing devices, navigation lights, bilge pumps, ventilation blowers, and fire extinguishers.

Check to make sure your navigation charts are on board and updated to the most current conditions.

Boat owners should have the Coast Guard perform a free vessel safety check. Vessel examiners will check the boat for mechanical safety as well as verifying the proper safety equipment is on board and offer recommendations on how to best outfit vessels to comply with federal and state laws and regulations.

In short, boaters should be prepared! By following these simple tips, boaters should be able to enjoy a long relaxing weekend on the water.

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LCTV accepts applications for grant funding

by Emma Palova

The Lowell Cable Television Board will be accepting applications for grant funding from all nonprofit organizations starting May 1. The applications will be available at the city hall, Vergennes

and Lowell township halls, at the Englehardt Library, Lowell Area Schools administrative offices and on their web sites. The deadline is June 15.

The target is to award \$50,000 toward projects such

as park improvements, trails and public improvements, according to city manager Dave Pasquale.

Funding could include one time capital improvement projects such as the amphitheater or fixing

up the local streets. "It is a possibility," said Pasquale.

The LCTV board will make recommendations to the city council, that will ultimately make a decision in September.

The LCTV fund was

established on Oct. 1, 2007 from the proceeds of the sale of the Lowell Cable TV, and it is managed by the Grand Rapids Community Foundation. The fund was started with \$2.7 million with the main purpose being to fund local projects, foster cooperation, and for one time capital improvements.

The fund will promote nonprofit projects, benefit the entire Lowell community, enhance the quality of life in the area and encourage cooperation

among communities. It will not support individuals, political projects, salaries or continued expenses and religious organizations.

The LCTV board consists of four city representatives. Dan Brubaker, Sharon Ellison, Dennis Kent and Barb Barber; the Lowell Township representatives are Sue Simmonds and Bill Thompson; representing Vergennes Township is Tim Wittenbach.

Cherry Creek students visit Wittenbach Center

Cherry Creek fifth graders, Jared Bzrezniak, Tim O'Connor, Cameron Harper, and Drew Struckmeyer take an air temperature reading at the Wittenbach Wege Center. Eric Bredin's class spent the day conducting a scientific inquiry where they sought evidence to find out if organisms can change the ecosystem they live in. In their day-long study of four different ecosystems, the students found that living and nonliving things do, in fact, impact one another. The investigation is a part of fifth grade science curriculum that has students learning about different systems through authentic, hands-on experiences.



Boys' basketball holds banquet

The Lowell boys' basketball team recently held their end of the year banquet. All freshmen, JV, and varsity players were honored for their efforts this season.

The freshmen team, coached by Kim Stevens, managed eight wins this year, and several heartbreaking losses. Coach Stevens commented, "These young men put forth a lot of effort each and every game. I am proud of what we accomplished this year. I know you will hear a lot about these kids in the future."

Coach Sean Pullen commented on this year's JV team, "We did not manage a lot of victories this year. I will say that these kids never gave up. They never put their heads down. They kept a positive attitude throughout the season, and were a lot of fun to coach. I was able to coach these kids for two years, and I can't say that I have been around a finer group of young men."

This year's varsity team had a lot of holes to fill with four starters graduating from last year's second place OK

White squad. Brett Mahon, Mike Schumm, Matt Kurtz, and Spencer Sellner, along with 6'8" Bob Wernet all graduated. This left varsity coach Jeff McDonald with many questions about this year's team.

Lowell started the year off answering all these questions with three solid victories early on. They badly defeated a solid Cedar Springs team, and added nice wins versus Lakewood and Greenville. Tim Hettinga played a big part in those early victories, but coaches saw the tapes and Hettinga was closely guarded the rest of the season. Lowell remained very competitive the rest of the way, but wins did not come very easily. There were many very close losses to some strong teams. "Like every season, we had some great wins and some tough losses, but through it all these young men handled themselves with class and were great teammates. The true test of character is how you handle yourself when times are tough and how you handle adversity. These kids handled both winning

and losing in a manner that our staff and our community expects.... like champions," shared McDonald.

Many awards were handed out at the banquet. Senior forward Danny (Night Train) Lane brought home the Most Improved award. Senior guard, Tim Hettinga, was named the Most Valuable Player and was also named to the OK White All Conference Team. The Coaches award went to seniors Lance Fargo and Mitchell Malling. Sophomore, Elliot Drain was named the Best Defender and junior, Zach Noskey took home the Scholar Athlete and Sportsmanship award.

Coach McDonald pointed out that the cumulative GPA of all 11 players was 3.487, and that seven kids had a GPA of 3.5 or higher. "I'm really proud of these young men on our team. They have been outstanding students, as you can see with their cumulative GPA, and outstanding members of our community. They were a joy to work with and always brought their best effort in practice," added McDonald.

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NEWSPAPERS we're still the

Red Arrow SPORTS

Arrows battle from behind to claim baseball invitational

by Thad Kraus

It was an unfamiliar view with an expected response from one of West Michigan's elite clubs.

The Red Arrows trailed 5-1 to St. John's after three innings in Saturday's title game of the Lowell Invitational.

The Arrows began its trek back with two runs in the fourth inning, two more in the fifth and a game-winning four-run seventh inning.

"The boys showed some resilience playing from behind against a good St. John's club," said Lowell baseball coach Justin Miller.

The comeback was aided by strong relief performances by Torsten Boss. After Trasky shut the door on St. John's in the fourth inning, Boss closed

it out over the final three innings of play.

Trasky went four innings, allowing five runs on three hits while walking four batters. Three of the five runs he allowed scored on two walks and a hit batsman.

Miller was also pleased with his club's error-free baseball.

"We didn't give St. John's any extra outs. That usually brings success," Miller said. At the plate, Lowell continued to get strong hitting from the meat of its order.

"Boss, Stephens (Zach), and Drake (Jeremy) have had a phenomenal start to the season with the bats," Miller said. "Our seven, eight and nine hitters (Keegan Hanrahan, Trasky and Dean Ryan) also got some timely hits today."

Josh Drake's home run and five RBI along with Keegan Hanrahan's three hits and three runs batted in, lifted Lowell to an 18-8 win over Hopkins in the tourney opener.

"It was a good win for us. It enabled us to get everyone some playing time," Miller said.

Lowell 10-18

Ionia 3-3
Lowell made short work of Ionia in the nightcap. The Red Arrows pounded out 13 hits in levying an 18-3 win.

"Our three through six batters hit over .500 against Hopkins pitching," Miller explained.

Boss had two hits and scored four runs, Stephens rapped out three hits

including a home run, double and seven RBI.

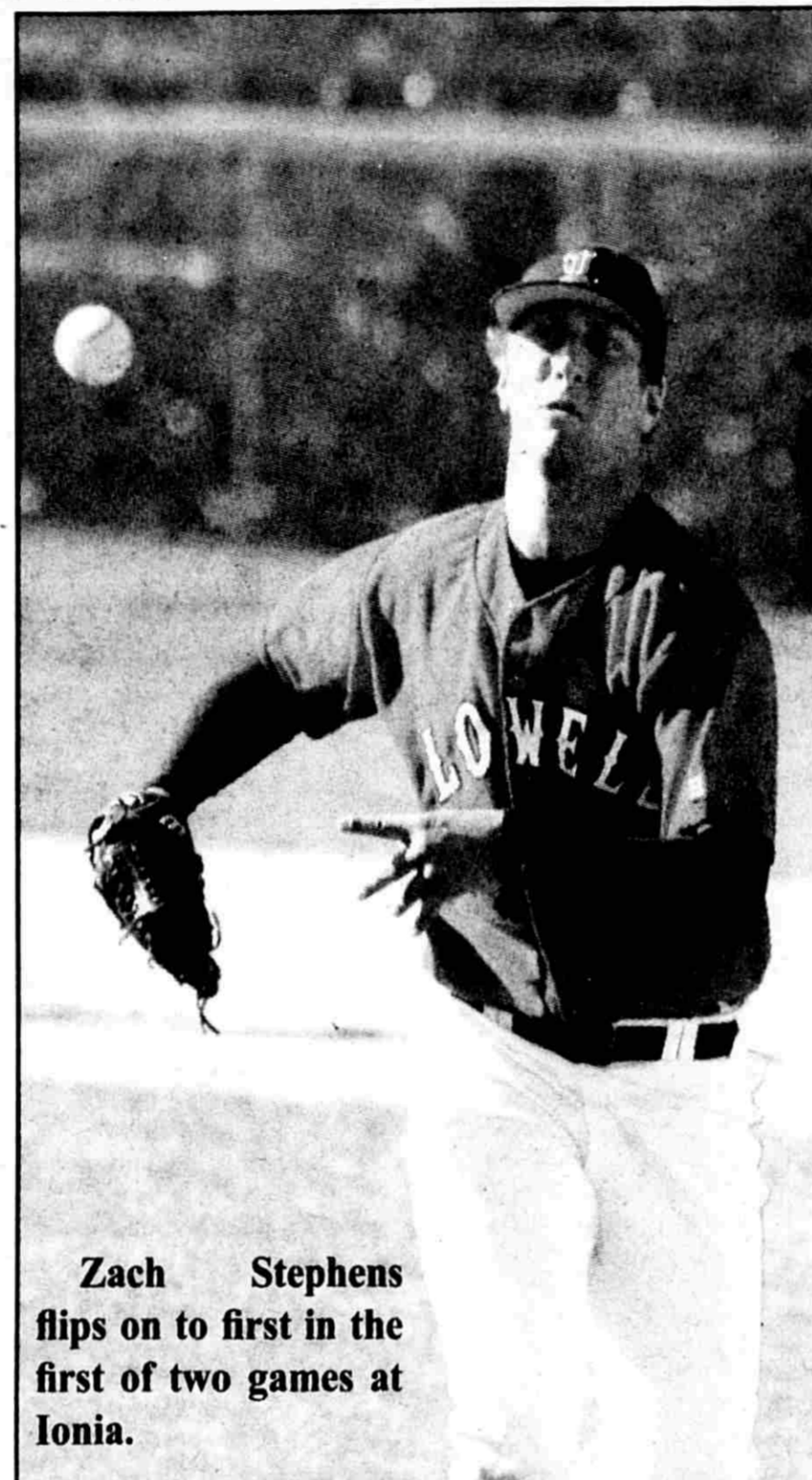
Drake contributed with two hits including four RBI while Shane Ryan was 3-for-3 with a double.

In the opener, Lowell broke open a close game late, with three runs in the fifth inning and five in the seventh.

"We faced Ionia's best pitcher and were able to get some runs late against him," Miller explained. "I thought the boys were patient against him which allowed them to hit with some positive counts."

Zach Stephens carried a shutout into the seventh inning, before giving way to Tim Hettinga in relief.

"Zach had another great outing. He keeps getting better."



Zach Stephens flips on to first in the first of two games at Ionia.

Lowell girls unable to glove a softball victory

by Thad Kraus

After a difficult week of softball, Bob Rodenhouse had some words of wisdom for his young squad.

"I told them to keep working, stay positive and get better," the Red Arrow coach explained.

Lowell's youth and inexperience has been most evident in its fielding and hitting.

"Right now, we're just not hitting the ball and we're making too many mental and physical errors in the field," Rodenhouse said.

In its opening loss to Ionia, Lowell's Bailey Allen gave up three earned runs, however, the Bulldogs pushed across six unearned runs to defeat the Red Arrows 9-7.

Lowell committed four costly errors.

Beth Wyckoff led Lowell at the plate with two singles and two RBI.

In game two, Lowell was unable to get anything going at the plate as it managed just four hits. Three of those came off the bat of Wyckoff.

"The girls were hitting the ball right at people," Rodenhouse explained.

Lauren Dood pitched well enough to win as she gave up just two hits.

Ionia tallied a run in the first inning, three in the second and a run in the sixth.

East Kentwood Invitational

Lowell opened the tournament with its best effort of the afternoon.

The Red Arrows committed just one error and led 3-1 after five-and-a-half innings.

A Jordan Westdorp RBI sacrifice fly followed Beth Wyckoff and Jenna Smith singles.

Lowell plated two runs in the sixth inning. The big hit was a Westdorp RBI triple. Ellie Timpson followed with a run-scoring sacrifice fly.

"I was pleased with our effort. Caledonia has a very good pitcher. If we play like this the rest of the way I'd be very happy," Lowell softball coach Bob Rodenhouse explained.

That wouldn't be the case as Lowell followed up its 9-6 loss to Caledonia with a discouraging 14-4 defeat at

the hands of Traverse City West.

Five errors were too much to overcome as Traverse City scored three runs in the first inning, three in the second, two in the fourth and three more in the sixth.

Wyckoff and Brianna Richardson led all Red Arrow batters with two hits apiece.

It was Richardson's first hits at the varsity level.

In its final game of the day, Lowell fell 12-2 to hard-hitting East Kentwood club.

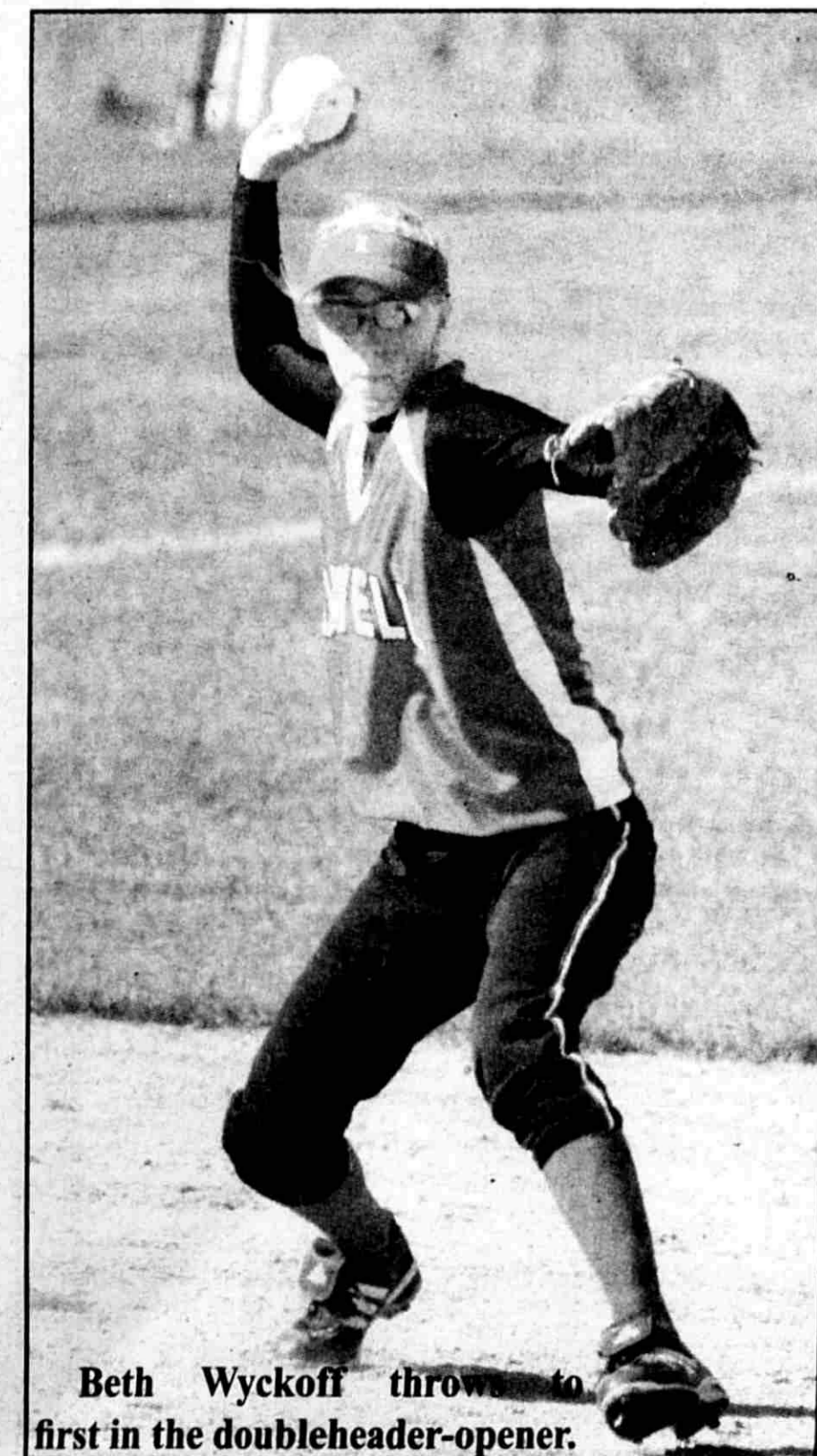
"They hit the ball well," Rodenhouse said. "We

made a lot of freshmen and sophomore mental errors."

Lowell punched out five hits. The big hit was a Jenna Smith two-run double in the fifth inning.



Shelby Roberts fields and throws to first in time for an out against Ionia.



Beth Wyckoff throws to first in the doubleheader-opener.

Red Arrow SPORTS

Lowell uncovers field event surprises in defeat of Northview

by Thad Kraus

Entering the 2009 season, field events were a question mark for the Lowell girls team.

In its first league meet of the season, it was the field events which surprised none other than Lowell's track coach Robin Briggs.

Lowell used that bump to upend Northview 100-37.

Kara Rasch, competing for the first time in the long jump, stretched out a mark of 14'-1 1/2". It earned the senior a second place finish behind teammate Richelle Kimble's 15'-8 1/2".

"That was Kara's first time out. I'd call that a bonus," Briggs explained.

If that was a bonus, Allison Oesch's personal best of 26'-1" in the shot put was reason to celebrate.

"It was Allison's first first-place and a personal best," Briggs said.

The good news from the field events kept on coming as Stephanie Winsor's

personal best throw of 71'-5 1/2" took top honors in the discus.

The good and surprising results extended beyond the field events as Crystal Vosburg, competing for the first time in the 200 and 400-meter runs stopped the clock in the second fastest Lowell time of 29.8. The sophomore also finished third in the 400, coming home in 1:07.56.

"That was another surprise," said a smiling Briggs.

In the 3200-meter relay, Haleigh Timmers in filling a void, earned herself a leg in the race with a split time of 2:43.

In the not surprising category, Kallie Holzhueter continued her chase of the 800-meter school record as she stopped the clock in 2:29 leaving just four seconds off the school mark.

"Kallie is going to get it, it's just a matter of when," Briggs explained.

In other first-place finishes recorded by Lowell, Kimble won the pole vault with a height of 11 feet.

Kelsey Teft came home in 17.68 in the 100 hurdles. Miah Jackson stopped the clock in 13.98 in the 100-meter dash. Kendall Hewitt finished in 1:05.13 in the 400-meter run. And Timmers came home in 13:32 in the 3200.

In the relays, Lowell won the 3200 in a time of 10:42; the 800 in 1:59.14; the 400 in 56.22; and 1600 at 3:50.2.

"It was a good start but we have a lot of work to do," Briggs said.

GIRLS TRACK Lowell 100 Northview 37

HIGH JUMP - 2. Brower 4-8.

LONG JUMP - 1. Kimble 15-8-1/2; 3. Jackson 13-9.

SHOT PUT - 1. Oesch 26-1; 2. Everitt 25-10 3/4.

DISCUS - 1. Winsor 71-5 1/2.

POLE VAULT - 1. Kimble 11-0; Teft 9-6.

3200 RELAY - 1. Lowell 10:42 (Holzhueter, Timmers, Hewitt, Trasky).

100 HIGH HURDLES - 1. Teft 17.68; 2. Kimble 17.88.

100 - 1. Jackson 13.98.

800 RELAY - 1. Lowell 1:59.14 (Teft, Jackson, Rasch, Kimble).

1600 - 2. Timmers 6:07.

400 RELAY - 1. Lowell 56.22 (Vescolani, Teft, Lewis, Jackson).

400 - 1. Hewitt 1:05.13; 3. Vosburg 1:07.56.

300 HURDLES - 3. Everitt 58.24.

800 - 1. Holzhueter 2:29; 3. Trasky 2:52.

200 - 1. Rasch 29.56; 2. Southwell 30.56; 3. Vescolani 31.63.

3200 - 1. Timmers 13:32; 2. Dilly 14:14.

1600 RELAY - 1. Lowell 3:50.2 (Holzhueter, Jousma, Rasch, Hewitt).



Boys track team falls short at Northview meet

by Thad Kraus

There were plenty of good things that played out in its opening league track meet at Northview.

Seven firsts and six second-place finishes, however, were not enough to overcome field event shortcomings as

Lowell boys track team fell to Northview 72-56.

"The boys were competitive and looked good," said Russ Stevens. "We just didn't have the field event points to match Northview."

What the Red Arrows

did have were the legs in winning three of the four relays.

"We were amazing in the relays. We won the mile relay. It's been a long time since we've won the mile relay," Stevens said.

In the 1600-relay it

was the team of Brandon Hrusovsky, Matt Kyllonen, Zach Robinson and Chris Eckman coming home in the winning time of 3:50.

In the 800-meter relay it was Austin Tackmann, Austin Graham, Kyllonen and Eckman coming home in a winning time of 1:38.6.

Tackmann, Graham, Drew Culross and Marc Destine posted a winning time of 47.05 in the 400-meter relay.

Tackmann also had a big day in both dashes. The junior won the 100 in a time of 11.89 and the 200 with a time of 26.64.

"Austin just had a great day," Stevens said.

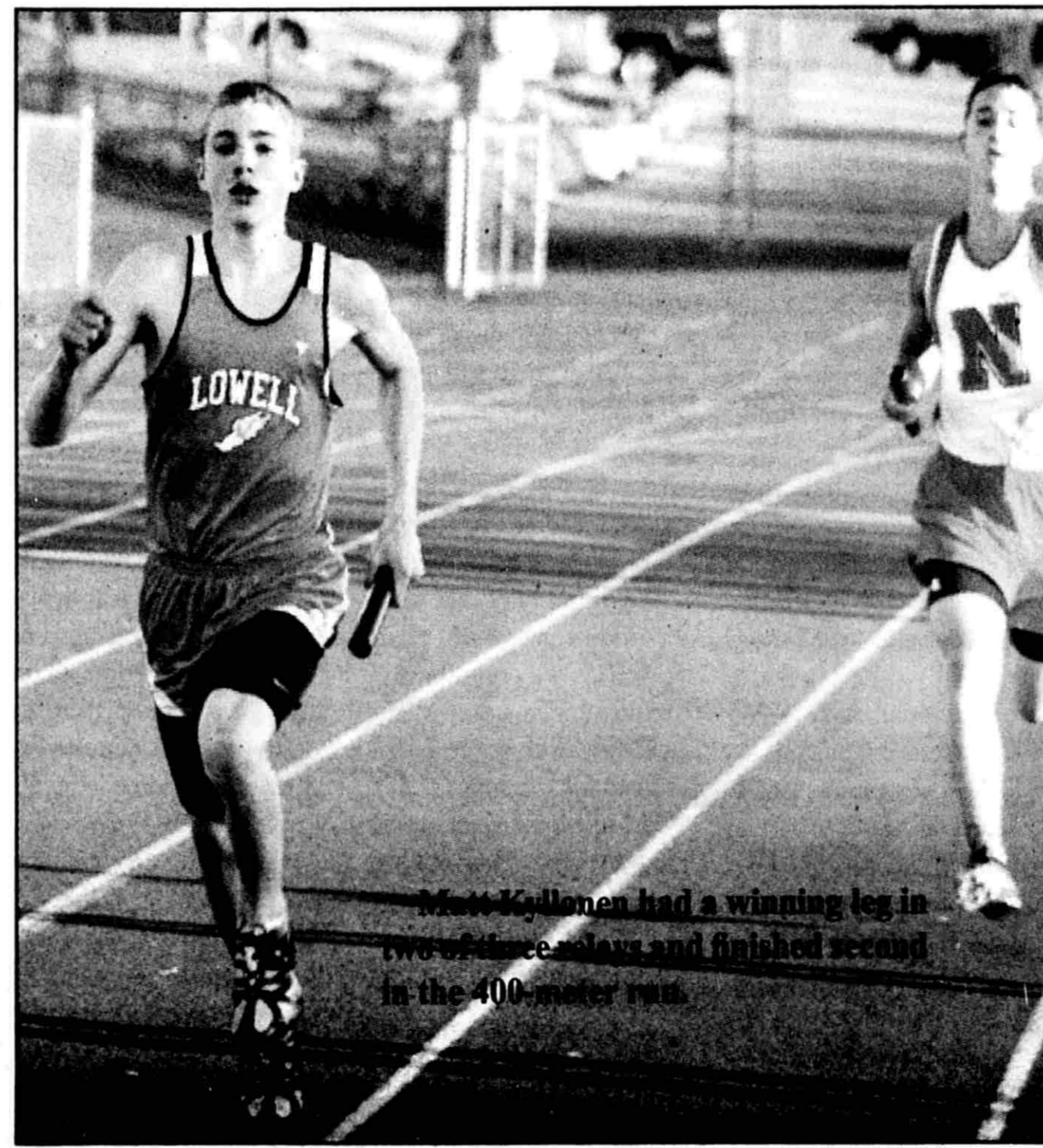
Robinson also made a mark in the 1600- and 3200-meter runs. The Red Arrow won the 3200 in a time of 11:11.

"Zach's right where we expected him to be," Stevens said.

Robinson was second in the 1600 with a time of 4:55.

Culross took top honors in the long jump with a distance of 18'-1 1/2".

Other second place distances and times were Destine, long jump, 16'6"; Destine, 100 dash, 12.6; Kyllonen, 400 meter, 55.59; Ben Partridge, 800 meter, 2:27; and Kyllonen, 200, 24.74.



Matt Kyllonen had a winning leg in two dash relays and finished second in the 400-meter run.

Annual golf tournaments open Lowell's '09 season

Lowell boys' golf team finished 11th in the annual Lowell Invitational at the Deer Run Country Club.

Taking top honors in the 16-team field was Grand Ledge with a team total 292. Filling out the top five were DeWitt, 313; Grand Rapids Christian 319; East Kentwood 322 and South Christian 330.

Lowell's Evan Wilterink and Zach Fizer carded 18-hole scores of 93 and 97 respectively.

In best ball action Red Arrows' Cole Wade and Tom Alberts finished with an 80.

In the scramble event, Keith Neubecker and Mark Ford penciled in a 77.

Other team scores included Forest Hills Eastern 335; Unity Christian, Middleville and Greenville 337; Byron Center 339; Mason and Hamilton 353; Holland 360; Tri County 384 and Wyoming Rogers 411.

In the Kent County Classic at the par 71 Elks Highlands, Lowell linksters came home in 378.

Mark Ford was the team-leader with a 90 followed by Evan Wilterink 92, and Kyle Nichol 95. Keith Neubecker and Cole Wade each shot a 101

Red Arrow SPORTS

Close matches deciding factor in tennis losses

by Thad Kraus

The level of tennis play needed to defeat the level of its competition at the Lowell Invitational Saturday was missing as just one Red Arrow netter advanced to the finals.

"The girls just didn't play as well as they could have in a number of the tight matches," said Lowell tennis coach Bonnie Wall.

That wasn't the case for

Lowell's top singles player Kelly Trapp.

The Red Arrow advanced to the finals in number one singles before losing to Petoskey's Kali Phillips, 6-1, 6-1.

"Phillips is a tough tennis player," Wall said. "Kelly, however, doesn't beat herself and plays intelligently. She, too, is a tough competitor."

Lowell lost two matches in third-set tie-breaks.

"We just lost a lot of close matches," Wall said.

For the second straight year, Forest Hills Eastern won the Lowell Invitational. The Hawks finished with 18 points, followed by South Christian 15, Petoskey 13, Catholic Central 11, Unity Christian nine, and Lowell six.

Northview 5, Lowell 3

In a tightly contested league match, the Red Arrows fell short against the Wildcats.

The score was a reversal of Lowell's 5-3 win over Northview.

The Red Arrows earned wins in first and fourth flight singles play. Kelly Trapp, first singles, defeated Katie

Hammond 6-3, 6-4.

In fourth singles, Megan Williamstein upended Alisha LeMire 6-0, 6-1.

In other singles matches, Taylor Mankel (second singles) lost 6-0, 6-0 and Lauren Heemstra (third singles) fell 7-5, 6-4.

Lowell's only win in doubles play came from Erin Brechbiel and Caitlin Baker. They won the first singles match in three sets, 6-3, 2-6, 6-3.

In other doubles play, Kelsey Wittenbach and Rachel Wallendzik (second doubles) lost 6-0, 6-4;

Morgan Rogalke and June Ramsay (third doubles) were

upended 6-4, 6-3; while Brynlee Pomper and Taylor Mankel lost in fourth doubles 6-3, 6-4.

Lowell did check the win column in a non-conference 7-1 win over East Kentwood.

Trapp recorded an impressive 6-1, 6-0 win over the Falcons' top player Maria Tran.

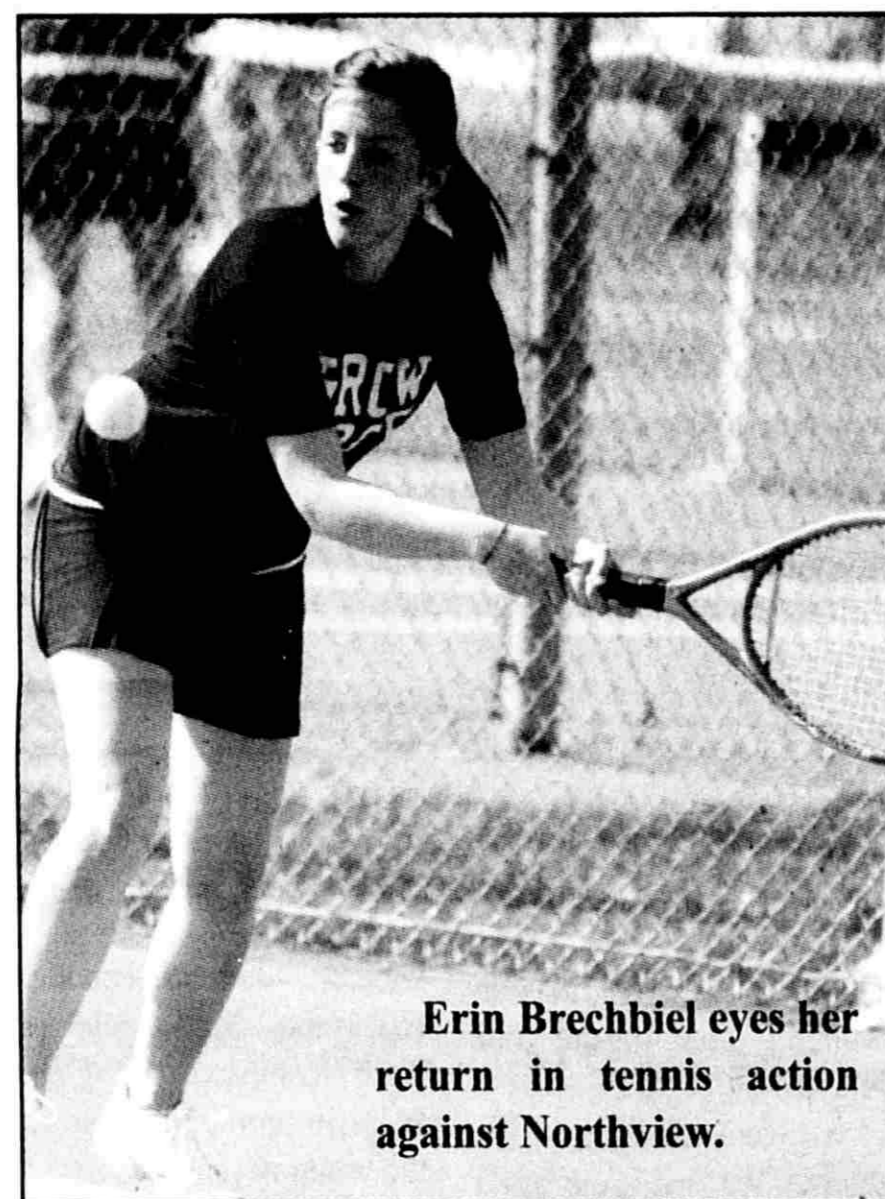
Heemstra battled back from

a 4-1 third-set, tie break deficit to win 10-7 in her third singles match.

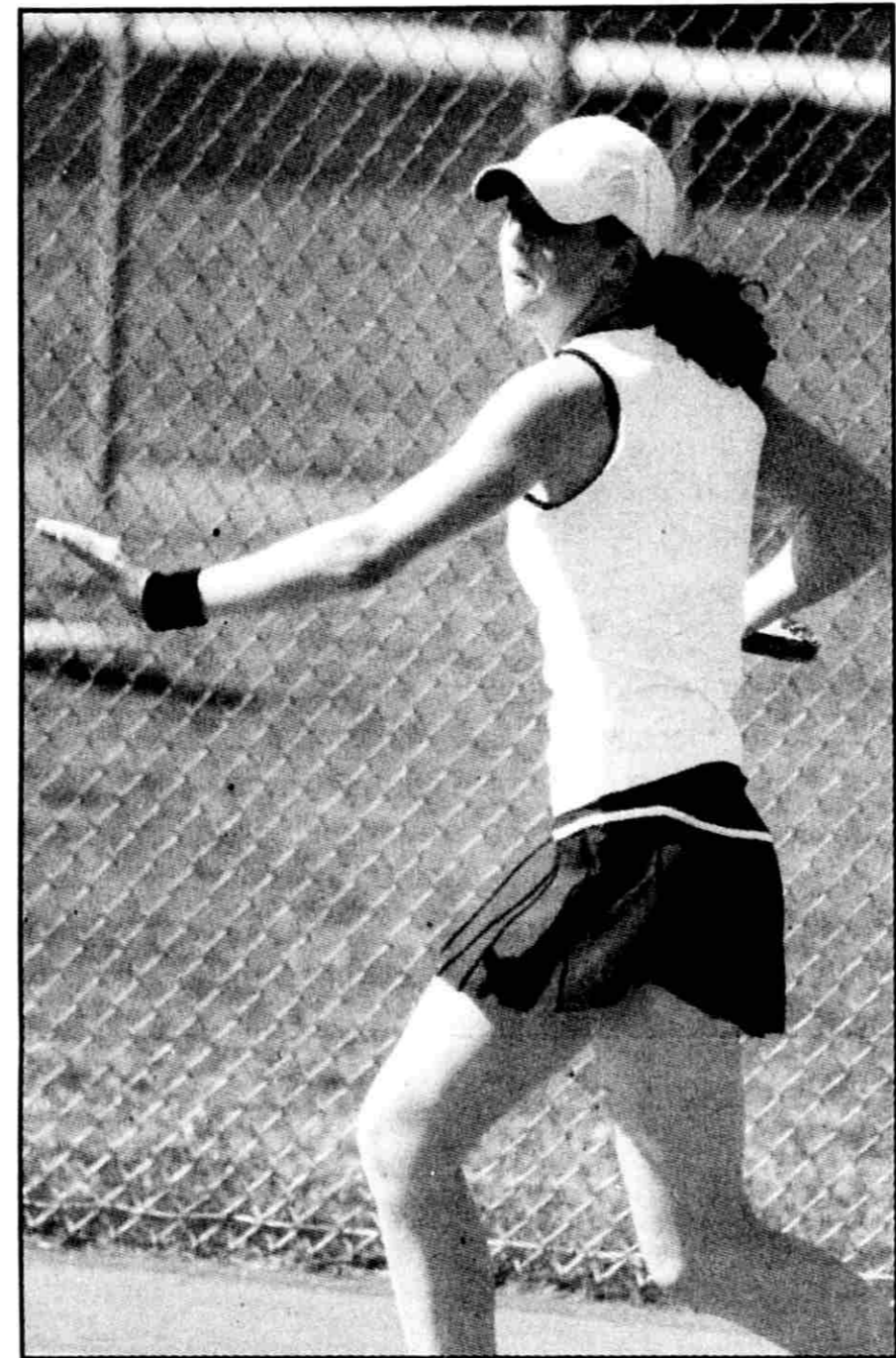
Lowell swept all four double matches.

"We did pretty well against a seasoned, more experienced team," Wall said.

The Red Arrows were outgunned in a nonleague 8-0 loss to a strong Forest Hills Northern team.



Erin Brechbiel eyes her return in tennis action against Northview.



Kelly Trapp earned wins against Northview and East Kentwood at first singles.

Red Arrows cruise to win in Quik Stix Invitational

by Thad Kraus

Good things come to a lacrosse team when it plays 75 percent of a game in its offensive zone.

That was the story Saturday at the 4th Annual Quik Stix Invitational as Lowell upended Grand Rapids Christian 11-3.

"We had good ball movement as evidenced by our seven assists," said Lowell lacrosse coach Eric Bredin. "Our best defense today was our offense. By controlling the ball it also gives your defense a chance to rest."

In an earlier meeting, Lowell defeated Grand Rapids Christian 7-3.

"This game was a huge departure from that one," Bredin explained.

Lowell opened the game

with a 5-0 first quarter advantage. It lengthened its lead to seven (8-1) at half-time.

"It provided us with an opportunity to get many guys some playing time," Bredin explained.

Joel Morgan led the Arrows in scoring with three goals. Abe McIntire and Jimmy McCormick each added two goals a piece to lead Lowell scorers.

The afternoon and evening of lacrosse also included two junior varsity games, the JV B squad lost 2-0 to Grand Rapids Christian while the A squad defeated Battle Creek 6-0.

The final game of the day was a college contest between Davenport and Ferris State University.

"Our lacrosse board did a great job of planning the event," Bredin explained. "This is a great way for us to showcase the game of lacrosse from fourth grade up through college."

Lowell 9, Holland 5
Lowell started slow but finished strong against a lesser Holland team.

"We didn't play real well. We didn't move the ball as well as we could have," Bredin explained. "Many guys, however, got to put in some quality minutes."

Collin Morgan and Joel Morgan led Lowell in scoring with two goals apiece. Collin Morgan added a team-leading three assists.

The Red Arrows led 5-3 at half-time and then

outscored the Eagles 4-2 in the second half.

"We displayed better team play in the third quarter," Bredin explained. Grand Haven 10, Lowell 3

A two-minute span of the second quarter separated Grand Haven from Lowell. "We got impatient and suffered from a mental lapse," said Lowell lacrosse coach Eric Bredin. "Our guys played good lacrosse for 46 of the 48 minutes."

Lowell's three goals were delivered by Alec Downing, Joel Morgan and Eric Petersen.

Lowell finished the week at 4-3 overall and 1-3 in league play.

Red Arrow SPORTS

Arrow girls' soccer team locking down opponents

by Thad Kraus

Sometimes winning isn't enough as was the case for Lowell girls' soccer coach Paul Legge in the Red Arrows 1-0 win over Northview.

"Defensively we were awful. The whole game was a nightmare," Legge said afterwards. "The other night against Hastings, the girls could do no wrong and

played like a championship team."

Against the Wildcats, Lowell left plenty of scoring opportunities on the field.

Legge says being young is a double-edged sword.

"We're young and that's why we are good, and at the same time, we're young and that's why we are bad," he explains.

The Red Arrows' only goal came in the first half off the foot of Jordan Timmer.

Lowell's coach was able to find a glimmer of light in the play of senior midfielder and captain, Logan DeClercq.

"She plays every minute. She's constantly on and is so smooth.

In Lowell's 8-0 win over Hastings, Lowell dominated from start to finish.

"The girls were dominant in every aspect. They played lights out," Legge said. "That was as fast a pace a game a girls team has played since I've been here."

Through its first five games, Lowell (3-0-2) has posted four shutouts.



Lowell's Sara Nagy works her way around a defender in Lowell's 1-0 win against Northview.

"We're not giving anything up, and defensively, that's good," Legge said.

Lowell 4, Wyoming 0

Lowell's girls soccer team has given up one goal in six games.

"Defensively we're pretty

good," said Lowell girls soccer coach Paul Legge. "The girls are locking it down defensively."

In six games opponents have managed just seven shots on goal.

Netting Lowell's four goals

against the Vikings were Sara Nagy, Claire Hopkins, Hannah Oberlin, and Brooke Curtis.

The Red Arrows finished the week at 4-0-2.

Red Arrow crew season begins

Lowell crew started its season at the 14th Annual Grand Rapids Invitational High School Regatta at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids.

There were 14 teams, including eight area teams, and more than 700 athletes who competed Saturday.

"We have a small but dedicated team this year," said coach Pete Chittenden. "We are looking forward to being very competitive."

The weather and river conditions were ideal. The crew competed in the Men's Junior 4, Men's Senior 4, Women's Junior 8, Women's Junior 4 and Women's Double events.

The highlight of the day was the 'Senior Woman's Double' sculls of Matie Kropf and Samantha Hagerman who earned a third place finish.

"We were worried about our start, but once we came off the line we felt great and rowed our race," said Kropf.

"A strong breeze had kicked up late in the day before the race. We knew it would be a tough race with strong experienced crews. I told them to stay relaxed and their strokes long and they

would be fine" said head coach Pete Chittenden.

Coach David Cadwallader added that it was great to see the smiles on their faces and their confidence grow.

It marked the first time Lowell has ever placed a boat in this regatta against such a strong field of rowers.

Our team is young with only one senior, five juniors and ten underclassmen. We really are working hard to get more students involved, especially boys," Chittenden explained.

Lowell crew had a strong showing with their Woman's Junior eight boat coming a 1/2 second short of making the finals. They rowed strongly in second place throughout the race only to have a rower catch their blade at the finish of a stroke allowing East to slip past them in the last 15 strokes.

"I am extremely pleased with the boats swing, stroke rate and overall effort," said coach Keith Gillespy. "Half the boat was novice rowers and their strong finish will help motivate them."

Similarly, Lowell's Men's Junior 4+, with three novice rowers, also held second place throughout their race before being nudged out by East in the final 10 strokes. "I am bummed because we had a great start and the boat felt great," said a disappointed Steve Trierweiler, a junior and the lone returning rower in the boat. The unsung hero of the day was Sue Gillespy who cooked two hot meals

and prepared all the food for the crew. The crew has moved their boat corral and practice facility to the old amphitheater and can be seen weeknights honing their skills on the waters of the Flat River. Check them

out and see what crew is all about.

Their next regatta is the inaugural Red Arrow Regatta on Saturday, April 25 beginning at 8:30 a.m. on the west side of Murray Lake. This will be hosted

by the crew, their parents and sponsors. For season highlights, information about the crew and the summer Learn To Row program, visit their website at: <http://www.lowellcrew.com>.



OKAY - Someone Has To Say It ...

by Thad Kraus

filing for bankruptcy. I'm sure they would lease a new 2009 model or two at a reasonable rate for this glorious occasion.

The Lions can then get down to the dirty business of drafting a lineman or two to protect the Georgia Peach before an angry defensive end turns him into cobbler!

Hey Detroit, what do you say, the Lions are going to win..... oh who are we kidding?

Cleveland's Mike Brown was named coach of the year in the NBA. Was his coaching that much better than the rest of the league or is it that LeBron James plays for the Cavaliers?

Don't ever tell me that one guy doesn't make a difference at the defensive end of the court. Have you watched the Celtics without Kevin Garnett? The defending champs will be lucky to get past Chicago. Without Garnett, they are bad!

Detroit has to figure out a way to guard King James! Enough said!

Some Lowell High School Spring athletes to watch: Kallie Holzhueter (track); Kelly Trapp (tennis); Joel Morgan (lacrosse); Logan DeClercq (soccer); and Zach Stephens (baseball). I'm sure there are more, but if I give you the full list after the first full week of play, what's left?

DRAFT SYNOPSIS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2009

Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion to approve the Regular Minutes of the April 6, 2009 meeting as corrected and the accounts payables were approved.

Motion to approve the request from Ray and Barb Zandstra to closed King Street between Washington and Jefferson on May 2, 2009 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. for the neighborhood Annual Spring Fun Time.

Dave Thompson, the Post Commander of the Lowell American Legion stated the Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday, May 25, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. with a brief ceremony following the parade at Oakwood Cemetery.

Motion to approve the request from Dorla West to use City owned property located at the southwest corner of Front and South Jackson for a plant swap on Saturday, May 9, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Motion to approve a resolution to extend the lease at 990 N. Washington to Gary Dietzel and Sandy Bartlett from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 with the same terms of the current lease.

Motion to approve the resolution to participate in the Federal Surplus Assistance Program with DPW Director Dan DesJarden as the local coordinator.

Dave Austin provided an update regarding the Michigan Department of Transportation Enhancement Grant application for the construction of LARA trails.

Motion to approve the resolution requesting the Kent County Road Commission change the name of a portion of South Division to South Jackson Street.

Motion to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, May 4, 2009.

Complete minutes will be available after approved on May 4, 2009 on the City's web page at www.ci.lowell.mi.us or at City Hall.

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk



Sound Off

The Ledger
"Almost"
Anything
Goes Column



www.lowellbuyersguide.com and
Click "Contact Us" to submit comment.

Or CALL...897-0787

The Lowell Ledger welcomes all "Sound Off" comments, but would like to remind readers of the nature of the column. "Sound Off" is meant to be a community notice board, a means for comments that can be regarded as helpful, congratulatory, thankful and informational. We will not print any comments that are offensive or libelous. Direct aims at individuals, political figures and businesses will not be printed. For direct opinions on a subject (including, but not limited to, politics, businesses, city government and Ledger criticisms), please send a letter "To the Editor". All letters must be signed (first and last names). All comments are submitted by the public and do not necessarily represent the views of the Ledger.

ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Are you planning a home garden this year?

- YES, for the first time **9%**
- YES, always **55%**
- NO, I lack a green thumb **9%**
- NO, Too much work **27%**

Thank you Grand Volute for the most memorable cheerleading banquet! Being announced individually and walking down the grand staircase to receive my award was the icing on the cake! (And I didn't even trip!)

Every Athlete should be so lucky!
- Cheerleader

A good neighbor knows "Do unto others..." and that "What goes around comes around."

If you would like to suggest what programming material (audio or video) should be placed on the Lowell Public Access channel (25), e-mail your suggestions to: wths@lowellschools.com or call 987-2549.
-A. Eckman

Be sure to check us out online at ...
www.lowellbuyersguide.com
and vote
in this week's poll!

Vergennes Township to spend \$11,000+ of who's money for a high speed internet survey? Vergennes Township residents both want and need this service!
Who can take an online survey when we deal with dial up internet? A local company has already offered to put in a high speed tower for less than the cost of the survey and the state will help pay for the cost.

Let's move forward and get Vergennes Township out of the stone age.

This is a big "Sound Off" to Jeff and the good old boys at the Backwater for making my move to Schneider Manor effortless.
I'm truly grateful.
- Shirley

With high taxes, high wages, job loss, loss of revenue and deteriorating services, how dare city employees ask the public for a two percent raise.

Good luck to the Lowell crew team this season. A lot of hard work, blisters and caluses can pay off now.
We're proud of you Sara P.
- From Grandma and Grandpa G.



CLASSIFIEDS

small ads **BIG** deals

FOR SALE FOR RENT

PROTECTION DOGS FOR SALE - Professionally trained for home, personal, business protection. Special requests accommodated. www.K9academyinternational.com. 616-293-5653.

BOB'S 11TH ANNUAL SPRING BIRDHOUSE SALE - Bluebird scouts are on their way! Good selection of Bluebird, Wren & bat houses also feeders. Top quality materials & construction, excellent prices. Bob's Birdhouses, 12279 60th St., Alto, 868-6633.

RASPBERRY PLANTS - Everbearing, dig your own, \$2 a hill (pot). 897-7893.

PET ID TAGS - Engraved ID tags, only \$5.50 each. Locally engraved. Check us out at www.BarnyardTags.com.

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 293-5188.

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

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 293-5188.

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 293-5188.

LOSE WEIGHT NOW! - Helps with hunger. Control cravings, boost energy, all natural. Call 616-693-2602.

EVENTS

SINGLES DANCE - Sat., April 25, 7-midnight, Lowell Fairgrounds. \$7 admission. Questions call 616-885-0503 or 616-897-0161.

LOST

LOST - orange & white cat. Elizabeth Dean area. 706-6433.

FOR RENT

ALTO AREA - Country setting, immediately available. 1 bedroom, garage, washer, dryer, dishwasher, refrigerator/freezer. \$600/mo. + utilities. Call 949-4702.

APARTMENT FOR RENT - in Lowell, 1 bedroom, \$150/week includes utilities & basic cable. Call Bob at 299-3198.

2 APARTMENTS FOR RENT - 1 bedroom in Historic downtown Lowell. Recently remodeled. All utilities + central air included. Month to month lease. Available immediately. \$600 per month. Call 914-0828 or 897-9074.

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

2 BEDROOM COTTAGE - on Campau Lake, 10 miles SE of GR. Includes 14 ft. fishing boat. Sleeps 6. Available June thru Aug. \$550 weekly. Call 868-7214.

CENTER COURT APT - first month rent free! (w/12 month lease.) 2 bedrooms, \$600; 1 bedroom, \$500; on-site laundry & cats allowed. Center Court Apt., 201 N. Center St., Lowell, Call CB Richard Ellis/Grand Rapids, 877-780-2200.

HOUSE FOR RENT - Lowell/Ada area, Ratigan Lake, 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, \$800 per month. 676-2546.

ALTO - Nice newly remodeled, spacious, 3 bedroom apartment. \$650/month, includes trash removal, sewer pickup, washer/dryer hookup. Call 868-6411.

HOUSE FOR RENT IN COUNTRY - 3 miles from Murray Lake. Cute, recently remodeled ranch w/garage, 2 carpeted bedrooms w/ large closets, hardwood floor in living room, full basement w/laundry facilities, appliances included. Available in May. For more details call 897-9798.

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.

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.vfw8303.org. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.

SALES

GARAGE & HOUSEHOLD SALE - April 24 & 25, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., 1389 Parnell.

MOVING SALE - April 23 - 26, Thurs - Sun. 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., 237 Elizabeth Dean Dr.

JUST MOVED INTO NEW HOUSE SALE! - April 24 & 25, 9 to 5 p.m., 12125 Alden Nash Meadows, bet. Bailey & McPherson. Dell computer, furniture, household, misc. gift store sample items, home building materials. Gallons of new indoor paint, electronics, prom dress and lots of clothes for teenaged boys & girls.

The Lowell Ledger CLASSIFIEDS

TO PLACE AN AD

In Person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell
By Mail: PO BOX 128, Lowell, MI 49331
By Phone: 616-897-9261

Classified ad rates:
20 words...\$4
each additional word 10¢
Bold \$1 each or Box \$2 each

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Closed Saturday & Sunday

SALES

GARAGE SALE - Thurs., April 23, Fri., April 24 & Sat., April 25, 9 - 13534 Forest River Drive.

ALLEGAN ANTIQUE MARKET - Sunday, April 26. 400 Exhibitors. First show of 2009. Rain or Shine. 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., located at the Fairgrounds, right in Allegan, Michigan. \$4 admission.

LARGE MULTI-FAMILY SALE - Thurs - Fri, April 23 - 24, 9-? Vergennes between Cumberland and Parnell. Lots of name brand clothes, infant to tween, womens and mens to XXL including size 38 and 40 pants, household, homedecor, misc. furniture, toys, kids books, baseball bats, too much to list.

HUGE 6 FAMILY SALE - 5406 Bancroft Ave, Alto, April 23-24, 9-5. Dressers, baby furniture, wedding dress size 6-8, household items, clothes, craft supplies, toys, much more! Sale includes the 6054 Bancroft Sale and Price reduced estate items. Rain or Shine.

LOWELL AREASCHOOLS - is currently seeking applicants for the following position: Middle School Principal. For full job description please visit www.lowellschools.com

COMMERCIAL CLEANING POSITIONS - Part time positions available immediately in the Lowell area, Tuesday & Thursday, day shift, approximately 3 hours a trip. Transportation and valid drivers license required. Stop in soon and fill out an application: Metropolitan Building Maintenance, 868 Barnum SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49509

NEED SOMEONE TO PAINT A SMALL BARN - Call for details, 616-437-1526.

LPN - Medicare certified home care agency seeking skilled nurses for care in the clients home. We have opportunities for evenings, overnights and weekends for pediatric & adult clients. Call Community Care Givers at 616-531-9973.

HELP WANTED

CUSTOMER SERVICE/GENERAL HELP - \$450 a week & up. We want you. Production bonus available. Join a great company & start a new job. No experience required, hiring immediately. We must open a new store in the next 90 days. So we have entry-level management positions available. We offer: Full-time hours, paid weekly, performance reviews, clean work environment, paid vacations. Call for a one-on-one interview. 616-243-1250.

JANITOR/CLEANER - Portland, Saranac area. 2-3 12 hour shifts per week. Must have clean criminal record. 866-869-6582 ext. 370.

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED - Need help cutting brush. Paid by the job. Call 616-292-7738.

WANTED

TUESDAY MORNING WOMENS TEN STROKE GOLF LEAGUE - is looking for some fun loving women to join us. Meeting time is May 5, 10 a.m. at Arrowhead. For questions call Josh, 897-7264.

WANTED - looking for a 3-wheel adult bicycle (24") for a special needs teenager. Please call 868-6176.

CASH FOR STUFF AROUND YOUR HOUSE OR GARAGE! - Buying your old gold & silver jewelry, antiques, toys, ceramics, advertising items, lighters, lures, and many other odds & ends. Call 616-550-0521.

CARD OF THANKS

TO THE CITIZENS OF LOWELL AREA

I just want to express my sincerest thank you, to everyone that attended my retirement party, open house on Tuesday, March 31 at City Hall. I enjoyed visiting with all of you. I enjoyed everyone's comments, personal and homemade gifts. I hope my 35 years of service as a police officer have served you well.
Sincerely,
Calvin Kamphuis

SERVICES

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

HELP IS ON THE WAY - Residential cleaning. Many years experience. Call for in-home quote. Stephanie 616-835-3392.

ALTO AREA DAYCARE - has 2 openings. First shift, fenced in back yard. See website for more details www.amyskidsdaycare.com/default.aspx or 868-0752.

HOT TUB SERVICE - Every make & model, covers, supplies, maintenance. Call the HotwaterDr. 616-874-3385 or contact hotwaterdr.com.

ONE MAN SAVES YOU \$\$\$ - Lawncare from One Man and a Mower is personal, affordable and your best offer for a great looking lawn this summer. Average \$22 a lawn w/seasonal sign up. Fully insured with references available. Ask for Brad 295-8803.

SOUND OFF LINE 897-0787
Voice your opinion!
(good or bad)

SERVICES

MARY KAY - Enter to win \$100 of MK. If you don't currently have a consultant, just call or email Rebekah your name & number to enter, 616-299-6575 or jnrhancock@hughes.net. Also Mother's Day is right around the corner, get that special lady something wonderful. Gift certificates also available. Visit my website for shopping made easy, www.marykay.com/rhancock17.

DOG TRAINING FOR ALL BREEDS - The best training for the best price. 20 years experience. www.K9academyinternational.com. 616-293-5653.

LOOKING FOR AN EXCELLENT TREE SERVICE? - Tree service without tearing up your yard from heavy equipment. Call the experts in climbing tree repair or complete removal stump grinding. Free estimates & references (insured). Mark Marentette, 616-291-2492.

LICENSED DAYCARE - in Eastgate for over 15 years. Program includes arts & crafts, pre-reading & pre-math skills. First aid & CPR certified. Fenced-in backyard, reasonable rates. First shift. Call Diane at 897-8398.

HOSTING A GRADUATION OPEN HOUSE? - Need help sprucing up the yard or with another gardening project? Strong hands with a feminine touch are here to help. Going on three generations of green thumbs and a love for dirt. Call Linda, The Rustic Gardener, 897-8331 to talk dirt.

TAXES, PAYROLL, QUICKBOOKS, & ACCOUNTING SERVICE - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-6351.

NEED A DUMPSTER? - Dudley's Dumpsters. Dumpsters priced to get rid of your trash & save you cash! Garage, attic, household clean-up, roofing, trash, junk etc. 14 to 20 yards available. Call for free estimates. Contact Doug 616-295-6640.

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

COPIES COPIES - Color & black & white copiers! Excellent quality! As low as 10¢ per copy for black & white. Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway.

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

NOTICE FOR TESTING OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT FOR THE MAY SCHOOL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the May 5, 2009 school election will be conducted Monday, April 27, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash S.E., Lowell, MI 49331.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk
Lowell Charter Township

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LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS BOARD BRIEFS

Regular Meeting of April 13, 2009 Reports

- Parker Liu, Student Representative, provided an update on the high school and student council activities.
- Superintendent Pratt presented a kindergarten programming update.
- Mr. Mikulski provided a phase two and phase three construction update.
- Mr. Bearup presented a MEAP report.

Action Items

- Accepted the following gifts to the district: Bach Trumpet and Dulcimer, Valued at \$425.00, Donated by Sandy Liu
- Approved Resolution Authorizing Membership in Michigan Schools Energy Cooperative and Participation in its Cooperative Energy Purchase Programs
- Authorized Superintendent to Approve and Execute Bids for Phase Three of the Construction Process

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes for the March 9, 2009 Regular Meeting and March 23, 2009 Work Session.
- The following payment of bills for March, 2009:
 1. GENERAL FUND.....\$1,061,427.58
 2. SCHOOL SERVICES FUND
 - A. Food Service Fund.....\$76,747.98

- B. Athletic Fund.....\$21,973.47
- C. Scholarship Fund.....\$2,818.20
- 3 TRUST AND AGENCY FUND.....\$59,945.15
- 4. DEBT FUNDS.....\$329.79
- 5. 2007 CONSTRUCTION FUND.....\$115,230.23
- TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....\$1,338,472.40
- Personnel - Deny Extended Leave Request
- Overnight Student Trips:
 - MAEO STARS State Conference: Midland, Michigan - May 13-15, 2009 (Sue Sweet - Lead Teacher, Unity)

Budget Update

Mr. Pratt announced that discussions continue regarding the federal stimulus funds and their impact on the district's budget. Mr. Pratt explained that the funds are restricted with specific regulations; however the district is examining options for use of the funds. Additional information will be presented to the Board in the near future.

Curriculum Update

Mr. Bearup informed the Board that elementary staff members have been examining the social studies program and an ad-hoc committee has conducted work on alignment of elementary grade level content expectations. Mr. Bearup noted that the county Change Leadership coaches met and discussed opportunities for collaboration. Mr. Bearup stated that data retreats are planned at the building level,

and planning for fall professional development initiatives is underway. Mr. Bearup reported that program evaluations are taking place for literacy coaches, RTI, and Title II educational technology positions.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Pratt announced that the upcoming election on May 5, 2009 will encompass a Board of Education seat election and the renewal of an 18 mill nonprinciple resident exemption which would result in \$2.9 million of revenue for the district. Superintendent Pratt stated that an article containing specific information will appear in the spring edition of *Directions*.

Board Discussion

Mr. Turner stated that local federal representatives will be meeting at East Grand Rapids on April 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. and urged community members to attend. Mrs. Hopkins recognized Superintendent Pratt and other staff members who worked on the process for kindergarten programming. She added that their work represents the thoughtful, careful steps taken to address the young 5's and kindergarten programs. Mr. Nugent indicated that the Board will adjourn to closed session to conduct the annual superintendent's evaluation and expressed appreciation to administrators for their valuable input.

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- Zeigler Vehicle Value Protection Program.

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- Zeigler Owner Advantage Program with exclusive maintenance, labor and parts discounts.

Quality

- Not even Honda or Toyota can beat Ford Quality
- Ford Motor Company was awarded eight 2009 Consumers Digest Best Buy Awards.
- No other car company has earned more IIHS Top Safety Pick and NHTSA five-star crash test ratings.
- 2010 Ford Fusion - the most fuel-efficient mid-size sedan in America.

- Lincoln is the only luxury brand to run exclusively on regular fuel
- 2010 Fusion Hybrid deliver best-in-class 41 city mpg - 8 mpg better than Toyota Camry Hybrid.
- Escape Hybrid - the most fuel-efficient SUVs on the planet.
- Available Ford-exclusive SIRUS Travel Link and SYNC with 911 Assist and Vehicle Health Report.

Credit

- While others tell you there's no credit available, Zeigler Ford is ready to help finance your Ford vehicle with over 1,000 vehicles sold monthly, no other dealer has more bargaining power to help you secure your best rates and terms.


- 0% APR financing available on most Ford cars, trucks, SUVs and crossovers.

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- Buy or lease a new vehicle and we'll cover your payments for up to 12 months if you lose your paycheck.
- Offered at no additional cost to you.

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\$22,747
OR
\$278/mo**



*All prices are plus tax, title and document fee. After rebates, customer must qualify for renewal rebate. **All payments are 72 months @ 7% with approved credit after rebates plus tax, title and doc fee. Subject to prior sales. Not compatible with any other offer.

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Automatic, air, nice van.

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Leather, power sliding door, loaded.

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