



# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 38 Issue 30

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, June 24, 2009



## Lowell Senior Neighbors partner with Gilda's Club

by Emma Palova

The Lowell Senior Neighbors have partnered with Gilda's Club of Grand Rapids to bring to Lowell, a satellite office for cancer programming.

The satellite center will offer programming on Tuesdays in five separate rooms upstairs and two rooms downstairs. Norm and Rosemary Byrne have donated \$25,000 for the renovations, challenging the

community to match that. The partnership dovetails with the Pink Arrow Project which enables funding for families with an active form of cancer.

The target goal is to have the center up and running, according to Senior's director Marcia Roth, on Sept. 12. The group is targeting that date for a ribbon cutting.

A new addition is planned in phase II.

"It's snowballing," said Roth. "This is an ideal location for it. Our seniors take ownership in the building."

And the partnership is all for the same goal of family socialization.

"We have the same goals, but in a different class," said Roth.

At the Monday night city planning meeting, Teresa Beachum and Roth presented the plan for upgrades to the commission.

The plan is to bring to the center people with an active form of cancer from the surrounding communities as well.

"As long as we can plow ahead," said Beachum.

The upgrade will include a new roof and gutter, interior upgrades, drywall, heating and plumbing upgrades. The building will be energy efficient. The upstairs will have rooms for children's programming. The main floor will continue to be a social area.

Gilda's Club, cont'd., pg. 9



Marcia Roth in front of the center and at right with Teresa Beachum at the planning meeting Monday night.

## Walker stops in Lowell on his trek to New York State

by Emma Palova

His trail name is Nimblewill Nomad. At 70, Eb Eberhart can be found hiking in the snow, sunshine or rain. When he arrived in Lowell, the headquarters of the National Scenic Trail, last week ahead of his schedule, it was cold and rainy.

But nothing stops Eberhart from reaching his goal of walking all eight of the National Trail systems. This year, he is walking his Odyssey 2009 trek from North Dakota to New York State.

"I wanted to hike all the national trails," he said. "It was never an intentional goal."

Eberhart, who is an outdoors person, likes hiking more than watching a football game.

"I don't want to sit and watch a football game," he said. "If you hike, the team is you."

A little fastidious, Eberhart challenged the interviewing media to ask

him the obvious question. "Aren't you going to ask me the big question?" he asked.

Apparently most of the interviewing media outlets and people along the trails and on the web ask Eberhart, if he is not afraid of bears and snakes.

"Of course I am afraid of bears and snakes, just like everybody else," he said. "But that's not going to stop me from walking."

However, Eberhart does get lonely on the trails while wandering all by himself.

"I miss the people and the places," he said.

Eberhart carries with him only the absolute essentials, always brutally scrutinizing what it is that he really needs.

"You have to be able to differentiate between what you want and what you need," he said.

So, he carries a tent, a sleeping pad and bag, a journal and a camera. Sometimes people along the way join him and travel with Eberhart.

Eberhart is like an Energizer battery, he just keeps going. And what keeps him going?

"I have an abundance of patience and faith," he said. "It rained on me, snowed on me. But once you set your mind to it, you keep on walking. It is my passion."

A poet and an author, Eberhart does go into the woods to live deliberately. He composes little ditties and poems.

"Nature's God is the same God," he said. "I commune with God in reverence and silence. There is no confusion in the woods. You live in harmony with nature."

He stops to resupply in communities and treats the water he comes across. Eberhart eats cheese, sardines, tuna in foil and energy bars.

"I carry water treatment tablets," he said.

Other trail walkers leave notes on the limbs, so they can eventually connect somewhere with each other.

On this trip he found a

note from "Heading Out" and "Tag Along," a couple he ran into while walking the Pacific Crest Trail. He followed the note with directions to their home.

"It was all coincidental, but completely in place," he said. "They offered me a steak and baked potato."

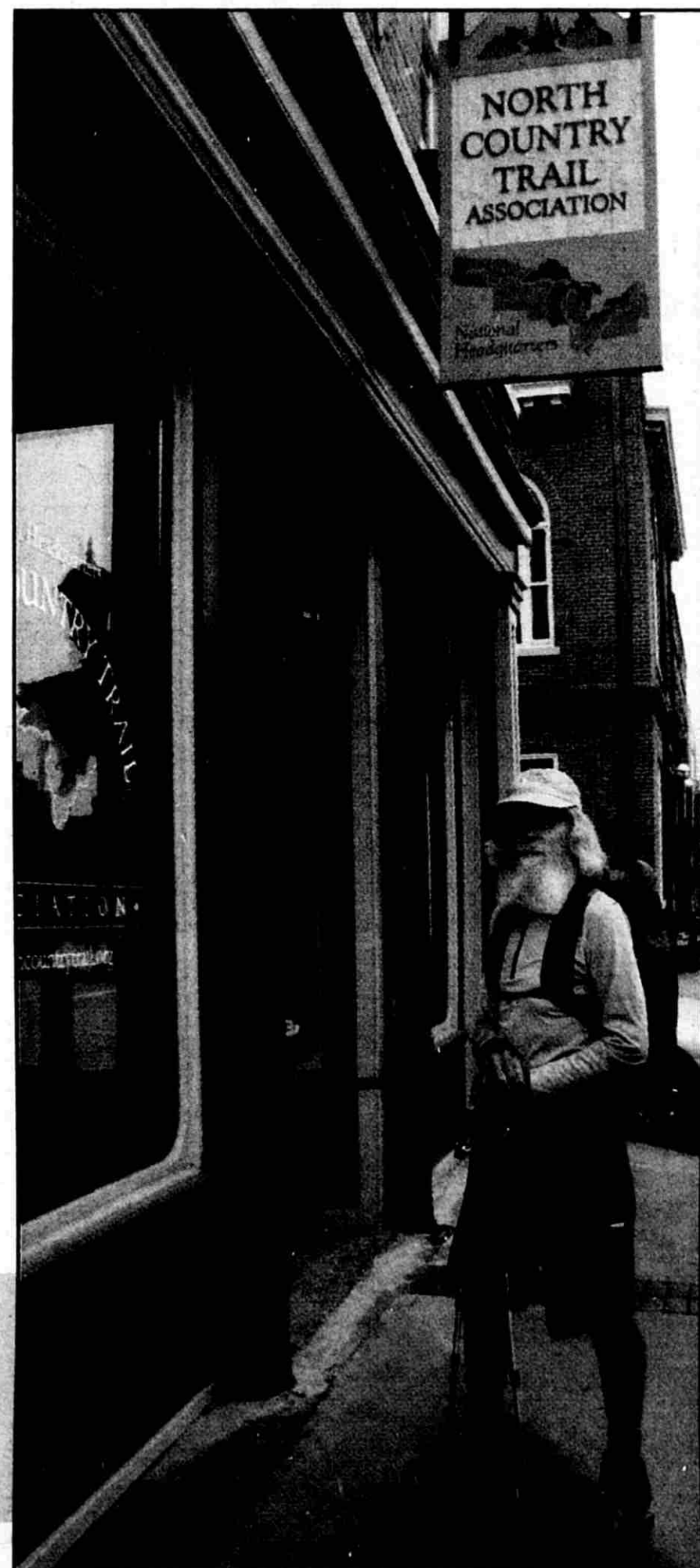
At Eberhart's age, another year is a lot.

"I thought, how big of an ordeal is this going to be?" he said. "I thought this is going to be one hell of a horrid walk. But, my lungs stayed clear and I have been healthy. It's been a cruise."

Eberhart walks approximately 25 to 30 miles a day.

Check out his website at [www.nimblewillnomad.com](http://www.nimblewillnomad.com).

Walker Eb Eberhart stopped in Lowell at the National Scenic Trail headquarters.





# Obituaries

## LOTT

Phillip D. Lott, age 89, of Clarksville, passed away June 21, 2009. He was born June 28, 1919 in Elmdale. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Minnie (Moore) Lott and his wife, Florence (Miller) Lott. Phillip is survived by two sons, Gary, of Henderson, Nevada, and Jeffrey (Shelley), of Clarksville; a daughter, Dianne (Allen) Sheldon, of Clarksville; grandchildren, Lesa (Nick) Tap, Michael (Lisa) Lott, of Lowell, Stacy Lott, Florence and Jake Sheldon, all of Clarksville; and a very

## They've served us; let us serve them

It's customary to honor the men and women of the Armed Forces each Memorial Day — especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. May was National Military Appreciation Month, a time to let members of the military know how much we value what they are doing for us and our country.

Serving the military is nothing new for Social Security. People in the Armed Forces have been covered under Social Security since 1957. Even people in the service before 1957 may receive special credit for some of

their service. People in the military are covered for the same survivors, disability and retirement benefits as everyone else who pays into Social Security.

For today's military service members who have been wounded and need to apply for disability benefits, it's important to know that they will receive expedited processing. The expedited process is for military service members who become disabled while on active duty on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where the disability begins. Depending on the situation, some family members of military personnel may be

able to receive benefits, including dependent children and, in some cases, spouses. Learn more about it at [www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors).

To learn more about Social Security for people who have served in the military, read a copy of our publication, Military Service and Social Security. You can find it online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017.html), or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY

1-800-325-0778) to ask for a free copy to be mailed to you.

The men and women of the Armed Forces serve us each and every day. At Social Security, we're here to serve them too.

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 [vantil@ssa.gov](mailto:vantil@ssa.gov).

### VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE

**July Board Meeting Changed to Monday, July 13, 2009, 7 PM**

The Vergennes Township Board has rescheduled its Regular July 20, 2009 meeting to July 13, 2009, at 7 pm. The meeting will be held at the township hall located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, at the intersection of Bailey and Parnell NE.

Mari C. Stone  
Vergennes Township Clerk

### The Lowell Ledger

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## F.R.O.M. begins North Lowell vs South Lowell "Food Fight" contest

The Red Arrows are not taking to the gridiron just yet. However, Flat River Outreach Ministries (F.R.O.M.) just blew the whistle to kick-off what may be the biggest community competition Lowell has ever seen. "We are in difficult economic times and our Food



Pantry is being depleted faster than we can keep the shelves stocked," says F.R.O.M. board member, Rick Seese. "In addition to our regular serving of community families in their time of need, F.R.O.M. has extended the free lunch and reduced lunch program for Lowell school children through the summer months. Therefore, we need some extended help in order to meet those needs."

The "Big Game" proposal creates a friendly competition between all those who live north of Main St - East Fulton - M21 - Bluewater Highway, against all those who live south of that boundary line. The game winner is whichever team donates the most nonperishable food items toward those needs. "We've decided to call it 'F.R.O.M. the Heart Food Fight,' says Seese. "We will run the competition beginning now and through the 'F.R.O.M. the Heart Riverwalk Festival Parade,' which begins at noon on Saturday, July 11, in downtown Lowell. We will announce the winning team at the Saturday night Riverwalk concert at Riverwalk Plaza."

Flat River Outreach Ministries just celebrated their 10th Anniversary and has grown by leaps and bounds. For the first ten years of nonprofit community service, F.R.O.M. has managed to meet the community needs with an all volunteer organization.

There are nearly 50 merchants, service groups, municipalities and churches that have opened their doors to be drop-off sites for the food items. Several Main Street merchants on the north side of Main Street will collect for the North Lowell Team and several merchants

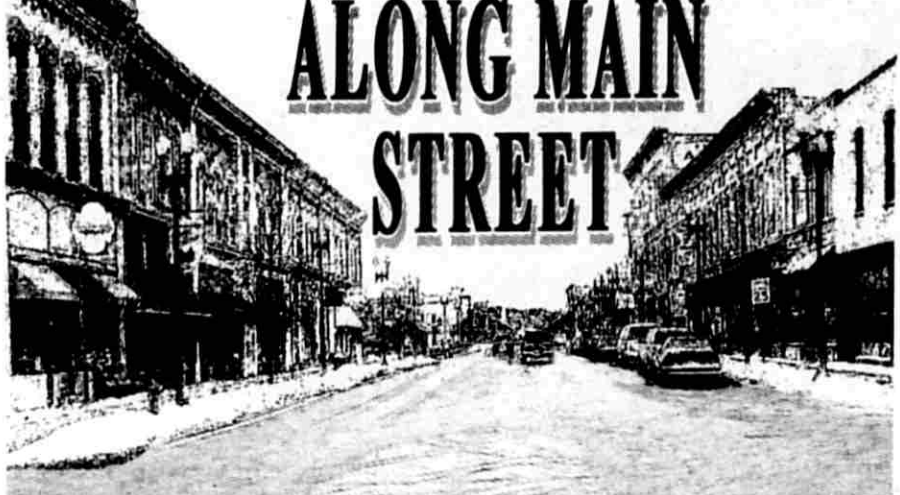
on the south side of Main Street will collect food for the South Lowell Team. The community is encouraged to look for posters and boxes with North Team and South Team signs all over the community. There will also be locations that will collect for both teams, such as at the Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series on Thursday evenings. "Our service area, as described by our mission, is mainly the Lowell area school district," says Seese. "However, we will accept food donations from anyone who wants to donate toward our cause. You don't need to live in the Lowell school district to play the game or you don't need to be a Lowell Red Arrow fan to be a team member in this game, you just need to have a heart for those families who have the need for help that Flat River Outreach Ministries provides."

So let the game begin. It's kick-off time and it's early in the first quarter. "We are sure that coach Noel Dean would recommend establishing the running game first, so every time you find yourself 'running' to the store or 'running' downtown to shop, take a can or two of food with you and be sure to help your team win the Big Game," says Seese. "If every person living in the Lowell school district donates just one can of food, we will collect over 14,000 cans of food! We anticipate this game will be a high scoring affair and we don't think it will end up a 7,000 to 7,000 tie game." Go Red Arrows!

North Team food collection locations: Goodwill, Zeigler Ford, Fifth Third Bank, Firstbank, Ada/Lowell 5, Canfield Plumbing and Heating, Tractor Supply, Rite Aid, Wittenbach Pontiac/GMC, Curves, Springrove Variety, Pep Talk, Dollar General, Parnell Grocery and Vergennes Township.

South Team food collection locations: Pauly's, River Valley Credit Union, Blue Ribbon Feed, Showboat Automotive, Curtis Cleaners, Good Chevrolet/Buick, Greenridge Realty, Inc., Brenda's Hair Design, Modern Photographics, Lowell Moose Lodge, Huntington Bank East, Deer Run Golf Course, Lowell Township, Grand Chrysler/Dodge and Lowell Family Medical Center.

Both North and South Team food collection locations: Flat River Outreach Ministries, Lowell YMCA, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, Lowell City Hall, Englehardt Library, Lowell Area Arts Council, Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series, and many Lowell area churches.



### BLOOD DRIVE

The Vergennes United Methodist Church, corner of Bailey at Parnell, is hosting a Blood Drive on Mon., June 29 from 3-7 p.m. in cooperation with the Michigan Community Blood Centers. Appointments are available, but are not necessary. Drop-ins are welcome. Call 897-6141 for more information or to make an appointment.

### CLASSIC CAR NIGHT

Larkin's Classic Car Night Cruise, every Monday from 5-8 p.m. Park your classic ride in the lot directly across from Larkin's.

### RELAY FOR LIFE

Relay for Life comes to the Lowell High School athletic field June 26 and 27, kicking off at noon. Cancer survivors will be honored during a special event on Friday evening. For more information, please visit the website at [www.relayforlife.com/lowellmi](http://www.relayforlife.com/lowellmi).

### CANCER WELL-FIT™ CLASSES

Lowell Community Wellness is offering a new wellness class designed for people experiencing cancer. This class will begin Mon., July 15 at 5 p.m. Contact Lowell Community Wellness at [info@lowellcommunitywellness.org](mailto:info@lowellcommunitywellness.org) or by calling 340-7781 for more information.

### FROM THE HEART PARADE

Highlighting the third day of the Lowell Riverwalk Festival will be the FROM the Heart Riverwalk Parade. The parade will take place on Saturday, July 11 at noon along Historic Main Street. Benefiting the Flat River Outreach Ministries, parade spectators are encouraged to give from their hearts. Bring your non-perishable food items and toys to the parade and watch for the clowns to donate your gifts. Can't make it to the parade? Drop off your donation anytime throughout the Riverwalk Festival at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce or other merchants and organizations throughout the Lowell Community.

### AUDITION NOTICE

The Thebes Players community theatre group is seeking seven actors for Christmas Carol: A Traveling Travesty in Two Acts directed by Casey Berg. Auditions are on Fri., Aug. 21 at 7 p.m. and Sat., Aug. 22 at 4 p.m. at the Lowell Area Arts Council, 149 S. Hudson. For more information call 897-8545 or visit [www.lowellartscouncil.org](http://www.lowellartscouncil.org).

### FOOD PANTRY

The F.R.O.M. Food Pantry is in need of canned fruit, juice, boxed potatoes, hamburger and chicken helper and cereals. Please help if you can.

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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 Walter Price for a Special Use Permit to allow for outdoor storage as part of a self storage facility. This property is zoned LI, Light Industrial and is located on the east side of Alden Nash Avenue approximately 1000 feet north of 60th Street.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The property is legally described as Parcel 41-20-34-300-020 which is 5890 Alden Nash Avenue SE.

The hearing will be held as follows:  
WHEN: MONDAY, JULY 13, 2009  
TIME: 7:00 P.M.  
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL  
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE  
LOWELL, MI 49331

The Special Land Use request 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, Thursday and Friday or by calling 897-7600.

Tim Clements, Secretary  
Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission

### LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

File No. 09-186,982-DE

Estate of ANN V. MANIKOWSKI, date of birth 5/14/1917.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

presented to SEAN T. HERRMANN, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave. NW, Suite 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

June 19, 2009

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

Sean T. Herrmann  
2355 Dunnigan NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525  
616-364-5789

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless

### NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

A Special Exception Use Permit will be considered at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Vergennes Township Board on July 13, 2009, at 7:00 pm at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell.

Josh Brewer, the owner of Arrowhead Golf Course, is requesting a Special Exception Use Permit to build a 40' X 40' covered pavilion for special events. The property is located at 2170 Alden Nash NE, permanent parcel number 41-16-10-300-008. The pavilion would be located behind the pole building located on the south side of the main building, and all setback requirements will be met. The request is permitted as an amendment to their original Special Exception Use under Section 201.502 of the Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance.

Copies of the application is available for public inspection at the township offices on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Mari C. Stone  
Vergennes Township Clerk

July 2

Live Music on the Flat River

Lowell showboat

Sizzlin' Summer Concerts

Brought to you by Lowell Area Arts Council

LOWELL

### On the Riverwalk • Historic Downtown Lowell

Hark Up Rapid City Swing Band  
Blue Water Ramblers  
Voices of Freedom

Hark Up Rapid City Swing Band - Specializes in providing unique musical expressions and entertainment for various corporate, civic and commercial events. RCS is a group of top notch local musicians who present an entertaining program of music all the way from the 30's to the current musical covers in a modified big band style.

Blue Water Ramblers are lead singers who take turns harmonizing with each other to create the Blue Water Rambler tapestry of sound. Banjo-Jim Foerch sings of the sailors, farmers, lumberjacks, politicians and workers. Bear Berends croons the love songs and delivers protest songs old and new.

Voices of Freedom is a semi-professional, eight-part, acapella vocal ensemble, specializing in performing Patriotic and Americana music. They are comprised of Christian men and women who love our country. They feel that we can express our pride as Americans by singing about our great land. This group has been in existence for over seven years.

Live Music • Food & Spirits • Free Admission • Free Parking

NEED INFO? [www.lowellartscouncil.org](http://www.lowellartscouncil.org) - 897-8545  
[www.lowellchamber.org](http://www.lowellchamber.org) - 897-9161

## WANTED HOMES THAT NEED ROOFING

A select number of homeowners in Lowell and the surrounding areas will be given the opportunity to have a lifetime Erie Metal Roofing System installed on their home at a reasonable cost.

If we can use your home in our campaign to showcase the look of our NEW Metal Shingle Roof, we will definitely make it worth your while.

Should your home and location meet our marketing needs, you will receive attractive pricing and have access to our special low interest unsecured bank financing.

An Erie Metal Roofing System will provide your home with unsurpassed "Beauty and Lasting Protection!"

Don't miss this opportunity to save!  
INQUIRE TODAY TO SEE IF YOUR HOME QUALIFIES!

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**1-800-952-3743**  
email: [roofing@eriemetalroofs.com](mailto:roofing@eriemetalroofs.com)

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# Planning commission tables lighting ordinance

by Emma Palova  
 The planning commission on Monday night, after an extensive semantic discussion, tabled an ordinance that would regulate off street outdoor lighting.  
 The ordinance, developed by commissioner Clark Jahnke, has been in the works for a number of years. However, it exempts public street lighting from regulations.  
 "Why exempt public roadways?" questioned commissioner Andrew Schrauben.  
 It was the consensus of the commission that public street lighting should be regulated as well.  
 "Public street lighting is the biggest offender of the ordinance," said Jahnke. "We're dropping wattage on street."  
 The whole lighting issue started because of the observatory, which is located in Lowell Township.  
 "My main concern is about public streets," said

chairman Doug Folsom. "The main street is a big reflecting canyon. The light can go up."  
 The commissioners agreed that more light, trespassing and glaring comes from the historic district than any other area.  
 "Why do the businesses have to comply, if we don't have to," said Schrauben. Since parking lots have not been exempted from the lighting regulations, neither should the public streets be exempted, according to the majority of the commissioners.  
 "The government has to follow rules like everybody else," said Folsom.  
 According to Folsom, the lighting in the historic district was poorly thought out in the first place because it lights interiors from the outside.  
 "It's not the way to light the buildings," said Folsom. It remained unclear under what kind of regulations were the lights placed in the downtown

area. In any case, the existing lighting is grandfathered.  
 "You've been bantering it back and forth," said commissioner Dee Doyle. "I am for tabling it and calling the state and county."  
 Jahnke opposed the tabling of the ordinance. Director of Public Works, Dan DesJarden, said the city will have to do something because the mercury lights will have to be replaced.  
 "The globes are getting brittle," said DesJarden.  
 "We need to get the light to go down."  
 The issue will again be discussed at the meeting on July 27.

# Summer concert rocks the Riverwalk




The classic rock band Natchez Traze took to the Riverwalk stage last Thursday cheered on by crowds of spectators. The evening on the Flat River was accompanied by good music, good friends and good food. The acoustics rock band was well known and loved all the way back to the 1970s. You could feel the magic of that time in the band's performance of songs by the Beatles, Badfinger, the Mamas and the Papas, Fleetwood Mac, and Crosby Stills and Nash songs. The Sea Cruisers, a 50s rock and roll band, will perform next week.



## CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Lowell has two positions available on the Planning-Citizen Advisory Commission Board. City residents who are interested in serving on this Board should submit a letter of interest to the City Clerk, Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331.

 Betty Morlock  
 City Clerk  
 616-897-8457

The Lake Odessa Area Arts Commission presents the 2009 Summer Concert Series

**Rock the Port**

Weekly concerts throughout the summer at the Village Park in Lake Odessa!

All concerts begin at 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 25: **Nowhere Band**

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Your FREE "Vacation" Destination!

Rain Venue: Multipurpose Building  
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For a complete concert schedule or for more info, visit [www.rocktheport.org](http://www.rocktheport.org)

06693535

**THANK YOU**

The Lowell Showboat Garden Club would like to thank Snow Avenue Greenhouse for its generous support to our club and the community of Lowell by helping provide flowers for the Showboat, Riverwalk Plaza and the Airport sign garden bed.

We appreciate all you do!

**Strawberries**

**Rasch Farm Market**

Corner of Lincoln Lake & 4 mile

Opening soon for **Strawberries**

Approximately **Tues., June 16th at 9 a.m.**  
 Please call before coming  
**(616) 897-8212**

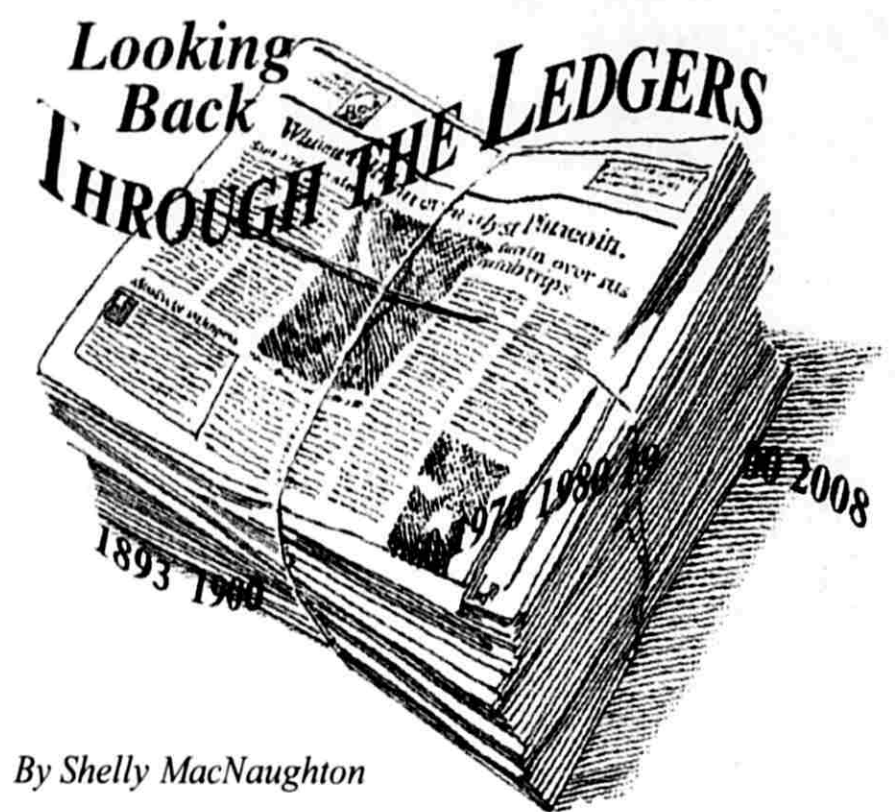
# Viewpoint

## To The Editor

Dear Editor:  
 Giving credit, where credit is due. I am not sure who specifically submitted the "Pink Arrow Project proceeds to bring Gilda's Club Grand Rapids' Cancer and Grief Support Program to Lowell" article, but whoever it was, they very obviously failed to mention one very important person, who put her heart and soul, and gave countless hours of effort and hard work into making it such a success. With that

being said, the Lowell Community Wellness board should be very embarrassed and ashamed of themselves for leaving Patty Sellner's name unmentioned.  
 The article failed to mention HOW the partnership with Gilda's Club and the idea of bringing this support group to Lowell, via Senior Neighbors, happened. Once again, incredible appreciation should be given to Patty Sellner. As a fellow volunteer, I sat alongside her in several meetings and went on many tours while this great partnership was being developed and it really bothers me not to see credit given, where credit is due.

Kathleen Duma



By Shelly MacNaughton

## Exploring Nature



With Meggan Johnson,  
 Director of the Wittenbach/Wege Center

On Saturday, June 27, the Lowell Fire Department will conduct a prairie burn at the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center (WWC). This burn will be an important training opportunity for the fire department as well as an essential management technique for the prairie ecosystem.

Fire was a natural occurrence on the prairie landscape. Lightning strikes and fires set by Native Americans drove game, encouraged growth of nuts, berries and seeds for food, improved pasture for domestic and wild animals, protected villages, and made travel easier for Native Americans and eventually, European settlers.

According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, it is estimated that when Michigan was first settled approximately 2.35 million acres were lightly timbered and contained large park-like openings called savannas, barrens or prairies. These were some of the first lands used for agriculture by European settlers because of the lack of trees and rich soil. With the invention of the steel plow came the disappearance of the prairie and fires that sustained them.

Several years ago, a prairie was constructed at the WWC. In order to properly manage the plant community, fire is essential. Unburned prairies leave a mantle of dead and decaying vegetation which stifles growth and deprives the plants of space and light. Fires also help release nutrients in the dead vegetation so it can be used by the new growth. Additionally, burning will knock back invading shrubs and trees. After a burn, the blackened soil heats up fast by absorbing solar energy, thus stimulating speedy seed germination, sprouting and growth.

Typically, prairies are burned every two to five years in the spring or fall; however, in order to increase wildflower production, summer burns are beneficial at knocking back prairie grasses and shrubs. The prairie at the WWC has a strong native grass community and we would like to encourage more wildflowers, so we are conducting a summer burn.

If you live in the area, we recommend leaving your windows closed throughout the morning as summer burns can be smoky. The fire may also spook pets, so we suggest keeping them indoors as well.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause members of the community. We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we do our best to provide a suitable habitat for the wildlife here. If you have any questions, please contact Meggan Johnson at 616-987-1002 or [mjohnson@lowellschools.com](mailto:mjohnson@lowellschools.com).

## 125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL JUNE 25, 1884

Haying this week and harvesting soon.  
 West and Co's soda fountain says "draw on me."  
 Rickert, the ice cream man, has six new marble top tables in his "creamery" and is doing a rushing business.  
 Good work is being done in claying and graveling West Water Street.

A running race between Wobbling Moll and Pitcher's Mare on the train track, Saturday afternoon, was witnessed by many interested spectators. Much to the disappointment of several wallets, Wobbling Moll wobbled in ahead.

## 100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER JUNE 24, 1909

Will Flynn has entered the employ of McCarty Bros. Grocers.  
 Lloyd Coppens is leading the Ramona theater orchestra at Reed's Lake this summer.  
 Born in Vergennes, June 15, a son, to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Batchelor.

## 75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO JUNE 28, 1934

W. E. Hall is getting in readiness for the coming winter by installing a steam heating plant in his cream station. In addition to providing warmth, steam will be used for the sanitary cleaning of cream cans.  
 Cliff Hatch is doing a fine job at the Lee building on W. Main St., where a new and modern front is being installed and the interior remodeled. The building will be occupied about July first by the Priscilla Shoppe.  
 The lake fishing opened on Monday and innumerable local nimrods celebrated the event by "goin' fishin'" in nearby lakes.

## 50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER JUNE 25, 1959

Lowell Police Officer, William Richard, was involved in a crash Friday night at 10:30 near the intersection of Bowes Rd. and M-21, a mile west of the village, while chasing two cars drag racing on Bowes Rd.  
 The Lowell police car was laid up for four days while \$350 repairs were made; Kent County Sheriff's Dept. provided a car for the police to use while the damaged one was being repaired. The two youths, one 16 and the other 19, were identified. The younger boy will be sent to juvenile court and the other will be charged with reckless driving.

## 25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER JUNE 27, 1984

Headline: McDonald's is Open  
 Well over 100 patrons lined up well before the scheduled 10 a.m. opening of Lowell's newest business Tuesday. A McDonald's Restaurant, long awaited by Lowell's younger populace, officially opened its doors right on schedule according to owner Al Symons.

## 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](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com).

## WHEN SUBMITTING PHOTOS

Please remember that we only keep photos on file for 6 months.

If you would like your photo returned, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

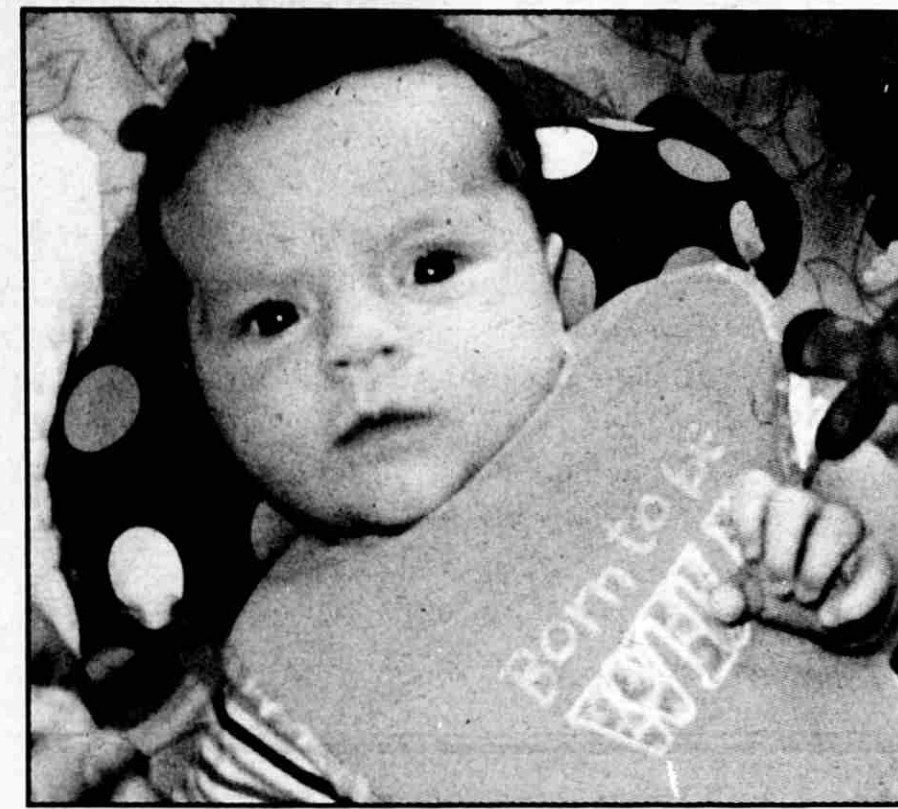
## The Lowell Ledger





# New Arrivals

## Golczynski



Adam Henry Golczynski

Mike and Ryan (Roth) and Dianne Golczynski, of Lowell, welcomed home Adam Henry on April 24, 2009. He weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz. and measured 18 1/2 inches. Also welcoming him home are grandparents Mike and Nancy Roth and Rick Roth of Lowell; great-grandparents, Rosemary K. of Grand Rapids, and Bob and Eileen Brimmer, of Sparta.

# Golf outing raises funds for trailway



A golf outing to raise funds for the Lowell Area Trailway was held at Tyler Creek. Winners of the event were: Matt Davidson, Betsy Davidson, Tony Dommer and Jason Barber.

\*\*\*

*Slow down and enjoy life. It's not only the scenery you miss by going too fast - you also miss the sense of where you are going and why.*

- Eddie Cantor (1892 - 1964)

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## College News

Michigan Technological University has released the Dean's List for the spring 2009 semester, recognizing students who achieve grade point averages of 3.5 or higher.

Among the honorees are the following: Melissa Hawks, of Ada; Stephanie Garbacik, David Steffler, and Duane Stephenson, all of Alto.

Robin Kwiatek, of Ada, a Northeastern University student majoring in nursing, was recently named to the

University's Dean's List for the 2009 spring semester, which ended in May 2009.

To achieve the Dean's List distinction, students must carry a full program of at least four courses, have a quality point average of 3.25 or greater out of a possible 4.0 and carry no single grade lower than a C during the course of their college career. Each student receives a letter of commendation and congratulation from their college dean.

Northern Michigan

University has announced the Dean's List for the winter 2009 semester. The following students from this area qualified with a grade point average 4.00: Mitchel Solon, of Lowell.

The following students qualified with a grade point average of 3.25-3.99: Robert Karasiewicz - Ada, Keith Sabin - Ada, Kelly Shaheen - Ada, Abigail Debiak - Lowell, Patricia Lawrence - Lowell, Seth Mayhew - Lowell, Cole Schmidt - Lowell, and Chelsea Smit - Lowell.



## In The Service

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class, George J. Pfaller, son of Elizabeth and James Pfaller, of Lowell, recently completed the Naval Nuclear Power Training Pipeline.

During the course with the Nuclear Power Training Unit, Ballston Spa, N.Y.,

Pfaller received instruction about nuclear theory, chemistry, physics, reactor operations, safety and security. Upon completion of the course, Pfaller qualified as a Naval nuclear operator. Pfaller joined the Navy in January 2007.

# If it's big and Buffett it's GOOD

By Thad Kraus

Cheeseburgers in Lowell, without the lettuce and tomato, were served up Thursday at Lowell's GOOD Chevrolet and Buick.

It was all part of the dealership's annual Jimmy Buffett ticket giveaway.

"I am a big Parrot Head and at GOOD we like to do big events," said GOOD general manager Roger Garner. "This is not a sales gimmick. It is, however, an opportunity for GOOD to give back to the community."

Garner has hosted the event for four years in cooperation with Grand Rapids radio station WLAV.

Both GOOD Chevrolet and Buick, and LAV gave away two sets of tickets (eight tickets in all) for the Aug. 15 show in Chicago.

As part of the promotion, LAV also partnered with Byron Center Meats and Dad's Magic Bus.

For its remote broadcast, LAV sent out radio personality Mary Ellen Murphy.

"I'm the voice of their commercials. People hear my voice and know it's GOOD," Murphy explained.

The LAV disc jockey has been living her passion, playing music, for 26 years.

"I'm fortunate, and I

know it, to have been able to do what I love for 26 years," Murphy says.

It hasn't all been in Grand Rapids. She also has had radio shows in Seattle and Detroit.

Murphy grew up in Roseville, MI listening to Led Zeppelin, Crosby Stills and Nash, The Ramones and Iggy Pop.

Murphy can be heard on the LAV airwaves in the evening, before and after Tiger baseball.



Roger Garner visits with WLAV's Mary Ellen Murphy, Thursday, prior to the Jimmy Buffett ticket giveaway remote at Lowell's GOOD Chevrolet and Buick.

# HEALTH



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

## IMPETIGO

Impetigo is a skin infection caused by bacteria. It is a rash that starts as a small red spot or bump and turns into a blister. The blisters break easily and leave a honey-colored crust. Sometimes the blisters get very large. They usually are on the face or arms but also can be in damp areas like the armpit or diaper area.

Impetigo is most common in children. It is very contagious and you can get it by touching other people who have it. You can spread it on yourself by scratching. It is most common in the summer and in crowded living situations or in areas where it is hard to stay clean.

If your doctor makes a diagnosis of impetigo, it is treated with antibiotics. If the area of involvement is small, an antibiotic cream may be used. If the rash is larger, oral antibiotics will be necessary. Over the counter antibiotic ointments don't work well for this infection.

Washing hands frequently may help prevent the spread of impetigo. Quick treatment may stop the spread to other people. If you have impetigo, you should stay home from school or work until you have been treated for 24 hours to avoid spreading it to other people.

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# Happy Birthday

**JUNE 24:**  
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**JUNE 25:**  
Ann Wittenbach, Kim Raines, Angela Lonero.

**JUNE 26:**  
Cathy Acker, Velma Perry, Dwane Cavanaugh, Pat

**JUNE 27:**  
Dylan Schneider, Aaron Kroemer.

**JUNE 28:**  
Brian Doyle.

**JUNE 29:**  
Stephanie Yonker, Jackson Simmons, Trevor Wernet.

**JUNE 30:**  
Shelia Yeiter, Kayleigh Page, Miranda Jo Zaleski, Noah Garrett.

**JULY 1:**  
Brandon Hewitt, Dylan Borton.

# AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p><b>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.</p> <p><b>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS</b> Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p><b>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL</b> 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332</p> <p>Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M.</p> <p>Nursery &amp; Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p><b>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL</b></p> <p>Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	
<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 621 E. Main Street • 897-9336 www.lowellumc.com</p> <p>WORSHIP.....8:30 &amp; 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>Rev. Rick Blunt Barrier-free entrance</p>	<p><b>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)</b> 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Lead Pastor John King, Youth Pastor</p> <p><b>SUNDAYS:</b> 10:00 a.m. - Worship &amp; Evening LIFE home Groups &amp; "The Source" Youth</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAYS:</b> Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God ... Loving People!</p>	<p><b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Fr. Eugene Okoli 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com</p> <p>Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM, SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM &amp; 7 PM Saturday confessions: 4-4:45 PM Prayer &amp; adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETER WIGANS: 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 45, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p><b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906</p> <p>Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Rev. Terry Tessari.....Interim Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise &amp; Worship</p>
<p><b>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell &amp; Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org</p> <p>Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbcloowell.org Rev. David O. Sims &amp; Rev. W. Lee Taylor</p> <p>Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. &amp; 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/EXCITE - TEENS, Wed. 8:15 &amp; 8:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p><b>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Vance Dimmick Jr.</p> <p>9:45 A.M. ....Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M. ....Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery &amp; Children Worship Programs Provided</p> <p>A friend...a family...a mission!</p>	<p><b>Hope Community Church</b></p> <p>7000 Myers Lake Ave, Rockford (1/4 mile north of Belding Rd/M44) 616-874-4673 www.hoperockford.org ELCA Lutheran Worship Sundays 10 AM Blended contemporary/traditional</p>

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# Lowell Chiropractic

## Your Spine is Vital to Your Overall Health

By: Dr. Jim Chichester

Regular exercise, good nutrition, stress management, a positive attitude, and spinal checkups are all good steps to take toward wellness.

Health requires a commitment to building and maintaining wellness. Though health is a process that takes time, the payoff is worth it: feeling good and enjoying your life. A healthy spine can help to protect your health.

Ask yourself if you are doing all you can to ensure your optimum health as well as the health of your family members - from infancy to old age.

Your spine supports your weight and protects the nerves that carry messages between your brain and the rest of your body. At the same time, your spine is flexible, so you can stretch, twist, and bend. The goal of Chiropractic care is to keep you healthy by keeping your spine healthy.

A healthy spine can continue to support your weight and protect your nerves, while letting messages travel freely from your brain to your body and allowing you to move easily throughout your day.

**Lowell Chiropractic**  
2531 W. Main St.  
Lowell, MI 49331

He can be reached at (616) 897-8284 to answer any questions you may have regarding this topic. Initial consultations are complimentary.



# Lowell woman becomes advocate for regular mammograms after dealing with breast cancer



Kathy Akers has become preachy about breast cancer.

*Note: We bring you the first of a series of stories about people dealing with cancer. Following is the story of Kathy Akers, 60, a former teacher and an owner of a day care. She has received funds from the Pink Arrow Project to help offset her expenses.*

by Emma Palova

Dealing with cancer is like being in deep water without knowing how to swim. You may learn how or you may sink to the bottom.

For Kathy Akers, a planner and an organizer, the phone call announcing she had breast cancer came like a hit out of left field. She had no history of cancer in the family. Her 80 year-old mother, Mame Ireland, is completely healthy and Akers has led a fairly healthy lifestyle.

"The first time it was a total shock," she said. "It just hits you. You don't plan for something like this."

Akers, who owns a day care, was used to a healthy lifestyle bouncing around kids. At 47, she had her first mammogram that showed some gray dark areas in the spring of 1997. Since there was nothing to compare it to, a three month wait ensued. In August, a mammogram showed a small stage I lump in the right breast.

Akers had a bilateral mastectomy and a total reconstruction of both breasts. Her chest was scraped to get any tissue off, and the reconstruction came from muscle tissues. Doctors told Akers she did not need any more mammograms,

since there was only a one to three percent chance of recurrence.

"I thought that chapter of my life was closed," she said.

Far from being over, an annual physical showed alleviated cancer markers. Before Christmas of 2008, Akers found a lump, again, in the right breast. She had a mammogram and ultrasound done that showed the lump. The lump was removed and an aggressive journey into chemotherapy started.

Today, Akers has just completed six rounds of chemotherapy and she is waiting to start radiation next Monday. Drug therapy will follow.

Although the doctors say it's new cancer, in her own mind Akers is convinced it's something left from the first one.

Whenever she compares the two rounds with cancer, one treated with mastectomy and reconstruction, the other with chemotherapy, radiology and drug therapy, Akers says the latter is much more difficult.

"The first one was a shock, something unexpected, but the second one was physically, mentally and emotionally a lot more difficult," she said.

Her mom, Mame,

was there to help with the day care, much like the rest of the family. But, chemotherapy takes its own toll.

"It knocks the wind out of you," she said. "You're tired and you have a low energy level."

But, Akers felt young enough to go through the ordeal. And she has become preachy about getting mammograms. She encouraged her sister Kris Karlek to have one.

"I wish I hadn't thought that chapter in my life was over," she said. "You have to stay on top of things."

She received funding from the Pink Arrow Project for her nice synthetic wig that cost \$450. Akers is very grateful to the entire community for their help and all the awareness.

"You know you always think someone else might need it more," she said.

Akers is also excited about the satellite programming brought by Gilda's Club to Lowell Senior Neighbors. She is interested in volunteering and taking a class there.

If you are experiencing active cancer, go to [www.lowellcommunitywellness.org](http://www.lowellcommunitywellness.org) or [www.pinkarrowpride.org](http://www.pinkarrowpride.org).

# Gilda's Club, continued

... From Page 1

"It will be energy efficient and welcoming," Beachum said.

Beachum also said with the generous pledge of the Byrnes, the renovations will start soon.

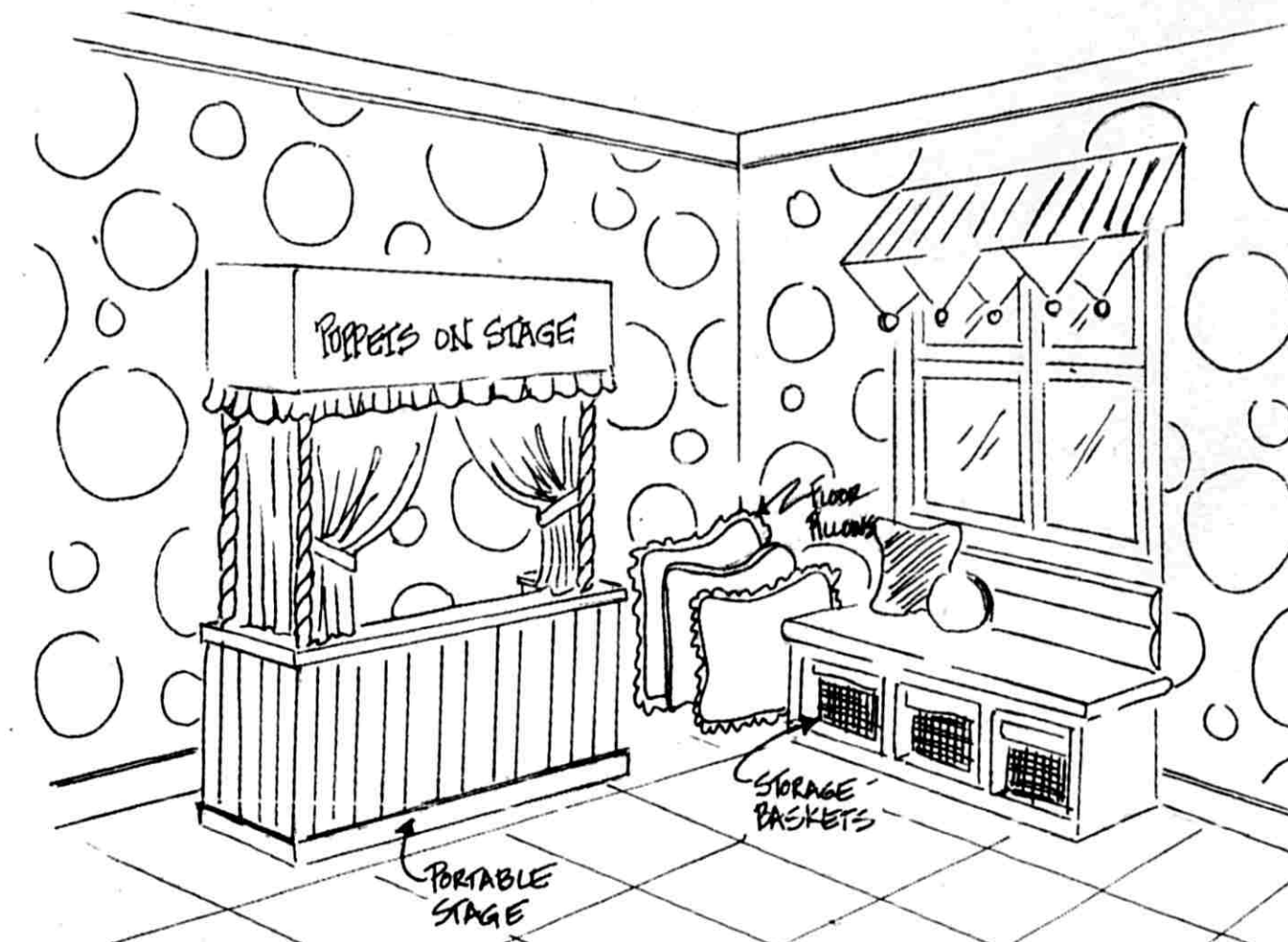
General contractor for the upgrades in phase I will be Nugent Builders. They are asking Lowell

businesses to help with labor and materials.

The Pink Arrow Project raised \$93,000 last year. From that amount, \$50,000 has been earmarked for scholarships, \$10,000 for educational purposes and \$33,000 is being awarded to families who live in the Lowell Area School District

who are experiencing an active form of cancer.

This money can be used for household expenses, travel to treatment and other related expenses. Applications are still being accepted at [lowellcommunitywellness.org](http://lowellcommunitywellness.org) and [pinkarrowpride.org](http://pinkarrowpride.org).



Pictured at right is a rendering of the proposed Kid's Programming Room for arts and crafts. Drawing provided by Pam Schlosser.



### Why do we need to have public notices?

Public notices tell you, as a citizen, what is being done by your government. State law requires actions of interest to you be published in these notifications. It keeps you up to date about what's happening with your city, county and school board, as well as other governmental bodies.

More than two-thirds of active Michigan voters think legal notices should continue to be placed in your local newspaper.\*

Reading the public notices helps you become a more informed citizen. \*EPIC-MIRA November 2007



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Some examples of items you can bid on ...

The silent auction takes place at our store:  
208 E Main Street in Lowell  
We will be closed on Wednesday, July 15 to get set up.

- All bidders will register and be given a number to bid with so no one knows your name.
- All bidders will be entered into a drawing for a Shimmering Diamond pendant on a 14kt white gold chain. (Approximate value \$875.00!)
- Bids must increase in \$5 increments.
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In addition to the auction pieces, we will have just about everything in the store on sale during the three days of the auction.





A FEW NOTABLE EVENTS FROM JUNE 18 - JUNE 24 • 2009

• A Michigan man in his fifties, who thought he might be a child who was kidnapped in 1955, is found by the F.B.I.'s DNA results to not be the missing boy.

- Ryan O'Neal says he will marry the terminally ill Farrah Fawcett.
- Two Washington D.C. Metro subway trains collide. Nine are dead, 70 injured.
- Johnny Carson's longtime sidekick, Ed McMahon, dies Tuesday, June 23 at the age of 86.
- The lawyer for Bernie Madoff, who swindled millions of dollars out of investors, is asking for a 12-year sentence for his client.
- The National Association of Realtors reports that existing home sales were up 2.4 percent in May.
- The social networking website, MySpace, plans to cut two-thirds of its workforce.
- Johnny Depp is reportedly considering playing the Riddler in the next Batman movie.
- Heavy rains and a flooded fairground forces the cancellation of an annual free concert in Ionia Michigan. Over 1,000 cars are stranded and not expected to be removed until the end of the week when the water subsides.
- Work has begun on the world's deepest underground lab in South Dakota. At its deepest point, the mine will be 8,000 feet below the surface.
- Tropical storm, Andres, runs along Mexico's coastline, kills one.



### Fun fuels success for Lowell UMP Modified driver

by Thad Kraus

"This looks like fun. You ought to do that." And with those magical words from his wife, Mark Anderson's love affair with racing began. That was 10 years ago. Anderson has been chasing the big shows ever since. The Lowell graduate started in street stock and after a year switched to United Midwestern Promoters (UMP) Modified.

"Street Stock is just one big piece of rolling shrapnel." Anderson explained. "With UMP you can race anywhere in the U.S., February through October."

Anderson won for a second consecutive week on Saturday night, winning the 30-lap feature which included NASCAR's Kenny Schrader.



Mark Anderson won for a second consecutive week at I-96 Speedway Saturday night. The race included NASCAR's Kenny Schrader.

"He's a heck of a nice guy. Kenny's all business before the race but is friendly and fun afterwards," Anderson said. These days Anderson drives a 2008 BMS, which was purchased out of Pennsylvania, built by Close Racing. "It's my third one. The first two I bought from John McCaul (Muskegon)," Anderson notes. His BMS' have taken in a few checkered flags. Last year, at one stretch, Anderson won eight consecutive features at two race tracks. The driver, whose peers refer to as 'Gas Man,' attributes his success to not being afraid to wreck equipment. To take chances. "I've been racing since March. I have eight-10 features

under my belt before racing at I-96 starts," Anderson said. "That makes a huge difference." His racing is not limited to Michigan. Anderson also competes in Indiana, Illinois and Ohio. He identifies his 55-lap win at the Paul Bouwman Thunderbird Raceway as his signature track moment. "I chase big shows," Anderson said. A victory at Eldora Speedway has narrowly escaped Anderson twice and it remains on his radar as one he wants to get. The Anderson six-man pit crew consists of: Nick Tap, Kerry Tap, John McClure, Greg McClure, Mike Roe, Bob Adrianse, and Anderson's eight-year old son, Chase, which makes it seven. Race day sponsors are: Accurate Engineering, Showboat Automotive, Jet's Pizza, Cannonsburg Wood Products and Total Automotive Performance. "I have guys with a lot of wisdom helping me. They are the ones that make a good car go fast consistently." It's that horsepower and winning that has kept Anderson's motor running. The 'Gas Man' loves that horsepower. "My cars are always wide open and I run to win," Anderson concludes.

#### I-96 Speedway Results - June 20

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Nesmith Ultimate</b> | 2. Collin Erwin        |
| Late Model Feature      | 3. Jay Steinbach       |
| 1. Trever Sloan         |                        |
| 2. Rick Stout           | <b>Road Beater</b>     |
| 3. Mike Nugent          | 1. John Primm          |
|                         | 2. Charles Peterson II |
|                         | 3. Adam Bernath        |
| <b>UMP Modifieds</b>    |                        |
| 1. Mark Anderson        | <b>Street Stocks</b>   |
| 2. Shannon Fisk         | 1. Ronald Wiers        |
| 3. Ken Schrader         | 2. A.J. Ward           |
|                         | 3. Aaron Wolf          |
| <b>Mini Sprints</b>     |                        |
| 1. Mike Fountain        |                        |



### OKAY - Someone Has To Say It ...

by Thad Kraus

I'm watching ESPN last Wednesday or Thursday. Scott Van Pelt is at BethBlack Page previewing/promoting the U.S. Open.

He wasn't on very long before he uttered (I paraphrase), measuring the sentiment of the crowd that's gathering, if it could it would lift Phil Mickleson up and carry him on to the championship.

He was referencing the empathy U.S. Open fans have for Mickleson (even before they arrived) since it was announced his wife had been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Yes, I'm sure there is a great deal of empathy for Mickleson's wife and her family. There is a great deal of empathy for anyone who is battling breast cancer or any other form of cancer.

To suggest that somehow this empathy might lift Mickleson to a U.S. Open championship is typical ESPN garbage.

Mickleson may very well have won the Open, if the rain ever stopped, but it will not have had anything to do with how saddened golf fans feel about his wife battling breast cancer.

It will have everything to do with playing a great final round of golf without blowing up. Feel bad, feel sad, say a prayer, think good thoughts, and do it because you're a caring human being, not because Van Pelt suggests that it may help Mickleson win a U.S. Open Championship. And the next time Van Pelt is on ESPN's Sportscenter, show some empathy for your ears and turn down the volume.

#### FOOD FIGHT

Here's a case where your empathy and actions stemming from it will help determine a winner. It's the North versus the South, it's a food fight F.R.O.M. the Heart.

In an on-going effort to serve Lowell area families during trying times, a nonperishable food collection game has been created. It pits north of Main Street against south of Main Street.

The competition will end at the conclusion of the F.R.O.M. the Heart Riverwalk parade on Saturday, July 11. The parade begins at noon with the winner announced that evening at the Riverwalk Festival Concert on the Riverwalk Plaza.

Look for north and south collection locations in this week's paper. GAME ON!

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### CHOOSE MUTUAL FUNDS CAREFULLY TO HELP DIVERSIFY PORTFOLIO

If you're somewhat familiar with investing, you probably have heard that owning mutual funds is a good way to help diversify your portfolio. Is this true? And, if so, how should you go about selecting the right mutual funds?

### Erni Bundy is retiring!

For some it means the bliss of doing nothing... To others it is having the freedom to do the things they love. Whatever it is for you Erni, we wish you the best!

Please stop in and join us in wishing Ernie a happy retirement!

**Firstbank** Friday, June 26th  
9:00 - 3:00  
Firstbank- Lowell  
2601 West Main Street, Lowell

To begin with, let's quickly review the importance of diversification. By owning a variety of investments— such as stocks, bonds and government securities — you can help reduce the effects of volatility on your portfolio. And while diversification by itself cannot guarantee profits nor protect against a loss, a diversified portfolio can help you reduce the impact of market downturns that may hit one asset class particularly hard.

Because an individual mutual fund invests in many different securities, it automatically brings a certain degree of diversification to your portfolio. And yet, you can't just purchase any combination of mutual funds and expect good results. Consider this: There are more than 8,000 mutual funds in the financial marketplace, according to the Investment Company Institute, the trade group for the mutual fund industry. About 60 percent of these funds are stock funds, with the rest being "hybrid" or "balanced" funds (which invest in a mix of stocks and bonds), taxable bond funds, municipal bond funds, and money market funds. With such a large number of funds available, and with a finite amount of stocks, bonds and other securities in which these funds can invest, it's easy to see that there is going to be considerable duplication among many of these mutual funds — and duplication is the opposite of diversification. Consequently, when you invest in mutual funds, you can't just adopt a philosophy that can be boiled down to "the more, the merrier." Furthermore, it isn't just a matter of one

"large-cap growth" fund looking like another. You might find that the large-cap fund (a fund that invests in stocks of large companies) is also quite similar to a "technology" fund.

So, what's the solution to avoiding "overlapping" funds? There's no magic formula — you have to do your homework. Before purchasing a new fund, look closely at its holdings, which will be posted on the fund's prospectus. (Also, while you're looking at the prospectus, make sure you understand the fund's investment objective, risk, charges and expenses.) Then compare these holdings to the ones listed on your existing mutual funds — if you see too many redundancies, you may want to take a pass on this particular fund.

Ultimately, your first step in diversifying a mutual fund portfolio is to identify your individual risk tolerance and investment objectives. Are you a conservative, moderate or aggressive investor? Do you need growth, income or a combination of both? Once you've answered these questions, you can then begin selecting the right mix of mutual funds to help you achieve your financial goals. Of course, with all the variables involved, both in your personal situation and in the funds themselves, you may want to enlist the help of a professional financial advisor — someone with the experience to help you choose those funds that are right for you.

Many people have successfully incorporated mutual funds into their investment strategy — and with the proper effort and assistance, you can too.

Mutual funds are offered and sold by prospectus. You should consider the investment objective, risks, and charges and expenses carefully before investing. The prospectus contains this and other information. Your Edward Jones financial advisor can provide a prospectus, which should be read carefully before investing.



## Preventing tobacco-related deaths

With Senator Carl Levin

Tobacco is responsible for 440,000 deaths each year, making it the leading cause of preventable deaths in the United States. Yet, despite these deaths, additional devastating but nonfatal impacts on health, and its addictive nature, tobacco is not a regulated product.

Congress has just passed a law to allow the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to regulate tobacco and protect consumers for the first time since a 1998 court case found that the FDA had no such authority. The law, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, will go a long way toward regulating tobacco products.

Currently, there are more than 44 million smokers. Of these, some 90 percent began smoking before the age of 18. Each day in our country, approximately 3,000 minors take up smoking. Reducing the use of tobacco by even 50 percent among minors would prevent more than 10 million children from becoming habitual smokers and save over three million of them from premature death due to tobacco-related disease.

In 2005, cigarette manufacturers spent more than \$13 billion to attract new users, retain current users, and increase consumption of tobacco. Children are especially vulnerable to tobacco promotions, and tobacco companies have taken advantage of this by promoting tobacco use in movies and buying advertisements and sponsoring of sporting events.

Advertising campaigns have succeeded in misleading Americans young and old into discounting the risks of tobacco use, and into believing that certain tobacco products are healthier. For example, "Light" or "Low-Tar" designations are widely believed to be a health-conscious

alternative to regular cigarettes, but the reality is that they are barely better — and in some cases may be worse.

It is critical that the FDA gain regulatory authority over tobacco-related products in order to ensure that consumers are better informed of the possible risks, the addictive qualities, and the health outcomes associated with using tobacco products.

The new regulatory authority in the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act will create more transparency and will prevent underage smoking. As is the case for many other consumable goods, tobacco manufacturers will be required to list all ingredients included in their products so that consumers will know exactly what they are purchasing. The law will require FDA approval for all labels before the products are put on the market. The act also gives the FDA the ability to set quality criteria for tobacco products and to prohibit cigarettes containing any flavoring other than tobacco or menthol.

The act will also allow the FDA to analyze tobacco products that claim to be "reduced risk" to make sure that health claims are verifiable. And it will forbid tobacco manufacturers from targeting advertising at children and from undertaking advertising campaigns that mislead the public about the risks of tobacco use.

It is estimated that these measures will save hundreds of thousands of lives and save more than \$150 billion in health care costs a year, impacting the lives of smokers and non-smokers alike who suffer adverse health effects from tobacco. And the law will help protect children from establishing a dependence on tobacco products.

For too long, tobacco manufacturers have taken advantage of loopholes in our legal and regulatory framework that allowed them to avoid common sense regulations. By putting an end to their free run without regulation, this law will protect consumers and help improve the health of smokers and non-smokers across the country.

## Sweet desserts for God's Kitchen



Jan Thompson, Jeannette Yeiter and Renee VanderWilt pose by desserts collected for God's Kitchen at the American Legion. Desserts were collected at the Lowell Veteran's Center.



# Thank You

Thank you to all the volunteers that stepped in and helped with the estimated 1000 extra people brought into Lowell this past weekend for the Schools Out Backyard Blast Baseball Tournament.

Thank you to parents, grandparents and friends that helped and volunteered their time, some of which were there three straight days from sun up to sun down making sure everything got done.

Thank you to our community, retailers in town, City of Lowell, Lowell Little League, Lowell High School Baseball, and all umpires

Thank you to the retailers, and friends of Backyard Dreams that donated items for use at the tournament.

- 9U  
Champion Grand Rapids Elite  
Runner Up Backyard Dreams
- 10U  
Champion Novi Heat  
Runner Up Backyard Dreams
- 11U  
Champion Backyard Dreams  
Runner Up Grand Rapids Flames
- 12U  
Champion Viking Baseball  
Runner Up Livingston Storm



### 2009 Schools Out Backyard Blast

A fantastic weekend concluded June 7th in the 1st annual Schools Out Backyard Blast. Hosted in Lowell and Alto, headed by the Backyard Dreams Travel Baseball Teams.

Many memories were made this past weekend, not only on the field but also meeting other players, participating in the Home Run Derby, Speed pitch, field help, concessions help and much, much more.

On the diamond, all the teams had great success including our 11U team taking the Championship over the Grand Rapids Flames 11U. Our 9U team played outstanding ball, finishing 2nd to a very strong Grand Rapids Elite Team. Our 10U went undefeated heading into the Championship against the Novi Heat (that outscored their opponents on average of 15-1 over the tournament), and fought hard before succumbing to the deep Novi talent and finished in 2nd place. The 12U squad played great, close, hard fought baseball as well, losing two of their games by a total of 3 runs combined. All teams played outstanding baseball this past weekend and continue to make giant strides in the development of our kids.

There we so many great plays made, come from behind victories, laughs, excitement, cheers and even tears of hard fought games. Trophies and shirts earned for 1st and 2nd place. Kids giving it their all, coaches, parents, grandparents, and friends all standing proud. So many people having so much fun, so many compliments, from our own community to those that traveled from across the state from many of the 25 different organizations that were present.

We all should be very proud of our accomplishments, and where our Backyard Dreams families are headed this year and into the future. Backyard Dreams will host the 2nd annual Schools Out Backyard Blast next summer, the weekend right after school is out in 2010.

The Backyard Dreams season is just past the half way point for all teams, with 2 or three tournaments left to travel to, along with local games yet to be played before the season concludes in the 3rd week in July. Backyard Dreams will start again with tryouts for the 2010 season that will be held in August 2009. Come see a game, come out to see what all the fun is all about!

## NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the regular meeting of the Lowell Charter Township Board held on June 15, 2009, the Board adopted Ordinance 03-2009, an amendment to the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance, a summary of which follows:

- 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.
- Add definitions pertaining to categories of child care and foster care.
- Establish operational and design standards for Group Child Care Homes.
- 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.
- Allow Child Care Centers and congregate care facilities in the Commercial Zoning District by Special Use Permit.
- Remove existing ordinance language pertaining to these uses.

The ordinance shall become effective July 1, 2009. A copy of the complete text of the ordinance can be obtained at the Lowell Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash SE, during regular office hours or by calling 897-7600.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk

\*\*\*  
Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.  
- Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

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# State offers summer pet vaccination reminder

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) is reminding residents to protect animals and humans from harmful diseases by vaccinating pets and livestock. By following some easy guidelines, owners can take significant steps toward providing a safe and healthy summer for their animals.

A standard vaccination program includes vaccinations required by law, along with vaccinations for diseases commonly found throughout the state. Licensed vaccines are also available for horses, cows, sheep and goats.

"Pet and livestock

owners should always consider the animal's environment when deciding on vaccinations," said Dr. Steve Halstead, state veterinarian. "If animals will be attending fairs or exhibitions, for example, they should receive additional vaccinations to protect against diseases they may be exposed to in group housing or stressful situations. Owners should consult their private veterinarian to develop an appropriate vaccination program specific for their animals."

In addition, an Equine Infectious Anemia test, also known as a Coggins test, to check for this blood borne disease of horses, is mandatory for all horses entered into exhibitions, expositions or fairs. MDA also suggests vaccinating all horses against rabies, Eastern/Western Equine Encephalitis, Tetanus, and West Nile Virus.

Along with the standard vaccinations, household pets must meet additional requirements. Michigan law requires owners to license their dogs. To be licensed, an owner must show proof of up-to-date vaccinations for rabies. MDA recommends having dogs checked for

heartworm and intestinal parasites, along with vaccinations against canine distemper, parvovirus, and adenovirus.

Pet owners should also have cats checked for heartworm and internal parasites. Vaccinations for cats should include rabies, herpes virus, calicivirus, and panleukopenia. Ferrets must be vaccinated for rabies and cannot be sold without the Ferret Health Advisory Sheet. This advisory can be found at the following address, [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MDA\\_FerretHealthAdvisorySheet\\_31881\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MDA_FerretHealthAdvisorySheet_31881_7.pdf).

For more information on pet and livestock vaccination requirements, please visit [www.michigan.gov/mda](http://www.michigan.gov/mda).

## Sound Off

The Ledger  
"Almost"  
Anything  
Goes Column



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.

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### NOTICE OF REZONING - LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the regular meeting of June 15, 2009, the Lowell Charter Township Board approved the Planning Commission's recommendation and rezoned 31.66 acres of property located at 4724 Morse Lake Avenue, Lowell, MI, Permanent Parcel No. 41-20-29-100-002, from AG-1 Prime Agriculture, to Ag-2 Rural Agricultural. This rezoning will take effect July 1, 2009.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk  
Lowell Charter Township

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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.

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

WEDDING INVITATIONS Available at Lowell Litho, Ph. 897-9261. Stop by & check out one of our books. Many different styles & price ranges to choose from.

CHICKEN BARBEQUE - Sat., June 27, 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at Saranac Community Church. Half chicken, \$8; quarter chicken, \$6. Side dishes included are: potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans, roll & dessert. Carry out available & delivery to Mill Creek Housing.

ALTO AMERICAN LEGION POST 528 AUXILIARY - meets 2nd Monday of the month - 7 p.m.

## The Lowell Ledger CLASSIFIEDS

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## EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. They are ran on a space available basis & are not guaranteed to run. If you would like to make sure your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as a classified ad.

ALLEGAN ANTIQUE MARKET - Sunday, June 28. 400 Exhibitors. Rain or Shine. 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., located at the Fairgrounds, right in Allegan, Michigan. \$4 admission.

THORNAPPLE VALLEY LION'S 4th OF JULY FLEA MARKET - Sat., July 4, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Booth Space is available, call Dave Anible at 676-2418 or Tom Hauck at 949-1408.

SUMMER SIZZLE FOR KIDS - (ages 4-12) Wednesdays through July 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Evergreen Church. Join us for puppets, ponies, treats & more! For more details see [www.evergreenmc.org](http://www.evergreenmc.org) or call 897-7185.

W.F.W. POST #8303 - meets the first Monday at 7 p.m. at 3116 Alden Nash S.E.

LOWELL SHOWBOAT GARDEN CLUB - meets the 3rd Monday in the Church of the Nazarene Fellowship Hall, 211 N. Washington St. at 7 p.m.

FLAT RIVER WOOD CARVERS - Tuesdays at LAAC 6:30-8:30 p.m. New members welcome.

THE LOWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION - second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building, 300 High St., Lowell.

WOMEN FOR SOBRIETY - meets every Monday, 7-8 p.m. at Bowne Center United Methodist Church, fellowship hall, 12051 84th St., corner of Alden Nash. Call Sue at 868-6219 or [www.womenforsobriety.org](http://www.womenforsobriety.org).

BOWNE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY - meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Historical Museum at 84th/Alden Nash.

AMERICAN LEGION CLARK-ELLIS POST 152 - meets the fourth Monday at 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30 p.m.

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ALTO AMERICAN LEGION POST 528 AUXILIARY - meets 2nd Monday of the month - 7 p.m.

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