



The Lowell Ledger

Volume 38 Issue 35

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Thriving garden loaded with growing community spirit

by Emma Palova

The Wittenbach/Wege garden is flourishing this year with the new Children's Garden and the community plots.

The Children's Garden with a vine barn and a sunflower house is framed by an ABC garden. Each letter is represented by a plant, herb or vegetable that starts with that same letter. The barn was created by Ben Carlson as his Eagle Scout project.

Walking into the garden you can spot volunteer Sheryl Helmus in her gardening hat working on the Children's Garden. The ABC garden was her brainchild, as well as the sunflower house.

The toughest letter to match with a plant was the letter X. So, Helmus intentionally spelled phlox backwards to get xolhp. Surprisingly enough Y was easy with yarrow readily

at hand. The ABC garden forms a horseshoe, where each end is embellished with an herb wheel.

"There's a story called the Sunflower House," Helmus said.

The Sunflower House is a rectangle formed by tall, mammoth sunflowers and by dwarf ones. Helmus grew most of the plants from seeds under light.

"I like to grow things," she said.

Helmus was especially pleased with the community plots this year. They were downsized by half this year to 10 feet by 12 feet. The cost to rent a plot is \$20. The plots are used mainly for organic gardening.

"The size is more manageable and it's encouraging," said Helmus.

So, there is a definite agriscience tie with the community garden.

"I am really happy how it's getting used,"

said Helmus. "We're emphasizing the agriscience component."

The garden has teaching plots with commodities grown in Michigan, such

as corn and wheat. There is also a fourth grade garden that was planted this year by

each fourth grade classroom from the Lowell Area School District.



Volunteer Sheryl Helmus works on the ABC garden at the Wittenbach/Wege community garden.

Attwood expansion will add many diverse jobs to the area

by Emma Palova

The Attwood Corporation will be expanding with 51 new jobs and a \$1 million investment in Motor Guide operation equipment consolidated from a plant in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The move was enabled by the latest state and city incentives. The city is expected to grant an industrial facilities tax exemption to Attwood at a public hearing set for August 3.

"This will be a benefit for those seeking employment and to the local businesses," said city manager Dave Pasquale.

Although the city is expected to grant a 50 percent tax abatement for

12 years on the equipment, taxed as personal property, Attwood's consolidation will still benefit the city tax base.

"It will still add tax dollars to the city that will help our operations," said Pasquale. "We're delighted they're expanding."

For Attwood president Chris Drees, the tax

incentives were the driving force to consolidate the Tulsa plant to the Lowell headquarters. The plant, with 61 employees in Tulsa, will be shut down and its machinery that makes trolling motors for fishing boats will be transferred to Lowell by Oct. 30.

This move is quite similar to last year's

consolidation of seat pedestal operations from Lancaster, TX to Attwood Corporation in Lowell.

All this means more diverse jobs for the area and a benefit to the local suppliers.

Attwood expansion, cont'd., pg. 15



Attwood president Chris Drees by the trolling motors.

Playground upgrade planned for Richards Park

by Emma Palova

Richards Park, located right in the heart of Lowell, will get a major upgrade. The badly deteriorated playground equipment will be replaced with a new structure and a skateboard park will be established.

The project received a nod from the planning commission Monday night as it was presented by Rotarian John Sterly.

The Lowell Rotary has raised \$12,000 for the

project matched by private donations for a total of \$36,000. The balance will be paid with proceeds from granite paver sales.

"We're trying to kick the park up a notch," said Sterly, member of the Rotary. "We want to give kids something to do."

Approximately \$24,000 could go into various portable skateboard stuff in the skating rink area.

The project, designed by Miracle Recreation Equipment Company, will include a swing set located in

the southwest corner of the playground off Elm Street, an indestructible wave for 20 people, a climbing tower and a slide in the middle. The playground is intended for five to 12 year old children.

"We're trying to make it multi-functional," said Sterly.

The construction date has been set for Aug. 15. Part of the park will be closed down as well as Elm Street.

Park upgrade, cont'd., pg. 4

Obituaries

Havens

Dwight Loren Havens, age 83, passed away on Sunday, July 26, 2009 at his residence in Perry, Fl. He was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan and had lived in Perry for the past 19 years. He was a Veteran of W.W.II serving in the Army Air Corps, and worked as a Vo-Tech Instructor in Automotive Repair. Mr. Havens enjoyed fly fishing, mechanic work on cars, and landscaping.

Survived by the mother of his children, Roselle Havens, of Middleville, Michigan; a son; Randy Havens of Perry, Fl, two daughters; Deborah Ann Havens, of Grand Rapids, Michigan; Lynette Doele, of Shelbyville, Michigan; a brother; Neil Havens of Kalkaska, Michigan; four grandchildren, (four great grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews also survive. Private family services will be held at a later date. You may sign the guestbook at: www.joeburnsfuneralhomes.com.



Kelly (Jim) Geldersma; grandmother, Adele Jensen; nephew, Kyle Geldersma; and niece, Keegan (Brent) Folsom. Greg graduated from Lowell High School in 1983. He owned and operated Y.E. Jensen Construction. He was an avid outdoorsman, hunting and fishing. Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 28 at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home with Rev. John Tobian officiating. Interment Bailey Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of ones choice.

VANDAWATER

Paul Vandawater, aged 60, of Lowell, went to be with his Lord and Savior July 22 at Heartland Hospice facility. Paul was born in Hastings and had lived in Lake Odessa, Reed City, Alto and most recently, Lowell. He graduated from Lowell High School and Ferris State University. Paul worked

for many years at ITM Manufacturing and lately at Metric Manufacturing in Lowell. His generosity and caring spirit was greatly respected and beloved by many friends, family members and co-workers. He was preceded in death by his mother, Doris (Keiser) Vandawater and step-mother, Lynette Sue Vandawater. Surviving are Deborah Vandawater; daughters, Stephenie (Tim) Karsies and Leah (Jason) Simons; grandchildren, Bailey, Halee, Andie, Hunter, AhnaBella and Gwendalyn Simons-Austin, Isabelle and



Aden Karsies; his father, Leon Vandawater; sisters, Linda Vandawater, Carol (George) Talsma, Janice (Kenneth) Staal, Joanne (William) Wierenga, Susan (Dan) Serne; brother, Todd (Laura) Vandawater; and several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held July 25. The family request memorials be made to the American Cancer Society or Grand Rapids First Church.

Lend A Hand

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEERS NEED TO HOST FOREIGN STUDENTS

Teenagers across Michigan will soon be filling their backpacks with supplies for the 2009/2010 school year. In Europe, South America and Asia, foreign exchange students are still waiting to hear that a family has opened their heart and home to host them for the school year. What a wonderful way to start the new school year by learning about another culture and forming an international friendship. Your family can make it possible for one of these students to start packing up their supplies to come experience life in the U.S. By the time the school year has ended you will both have a backpack full of memories that will last a lifetime. The nonprofit Cultural Academic Student Exchange (CASE), program is making its final push before the school year starts to find volunteer homes in Michigan for high school age foreign exchange students who will arrive in mid-August to attend a semester or year of schooling in the U.S. Each student has his or her own medical insurance, spending money, and has expressed a true desire to become a

participating member of an American family - pitching in on everything from household chores to family discussions. In return the student will share his or her culture and unique way of thinking with the host family and their new American school friends.

In particular, the program is looking for a host family for a 16-year-old boy from Brazil who is an avid soccer player and a 17-year-old from Mexico who says he loves all kinds of sports and playing the drums. Families supply room and board, and a measure of guidance for the student during his or her exchange stay.

For more information contact the CASE Field Development Office at 1-877-417-9675 or visit their website at: www.case-usa.org.

WHEN SUBMITTING PHOTOS

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The Lowell Ledger



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LEGAL NOTICE

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

File No. 09-187,139-DE

Estate of CHRISTINE ANN KWIATKOWSKI a/k/a CRISTINE ANN KWIATKOWSKI a/k/a CHRISTINA KWIATKOWSKI. Date of birth January 13, 1925.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, CHRISTINE ANN KWIATKOWSKI, who lived at 973 VanBuren NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan died April 3, 2009.

Creditors of the decedent

are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to JULIE RATHBUN, 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.

July 23, 2009

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Big band sound 'sizzles' on the Riverwalk



The Sizzlin' Summer concert series featured the Flat River Big Band last Thursday. The band was formed in 1981 as an outgrowth of a Danish Festival Band of Greenville. The band members come from all walks of life. They include middle and high school band directors, business people, factory workers, engineers and others. The band is a full big band featuring 17 instruments and a vocalist. The Flat River Big Band played the music of big bands such as Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton, Woody Herman, Les Brown, Benny Goodman, Glen Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Harry James, Ray Elgart, Sy Zentner and others. Rhythm and blues band, Root Doctor, will perform on July 30.

Local teen receives Girl Scout Gold Award

Close to fifty young women from West Michigan have been working on a lot more than community service. They put their

leadership skills and personal values into serving their community by going for the gold.

Kayla Barr, of Lowell, received the award for developing an interpretive trail and materials for the Wittenbach/Wege Center. Her project - Agriscience and Interpretive Trail.

The Gold Award is the highest honor any girl can achieve through Girl Scouting. Each girl who receives this honor has dedicated at least 65 hours to

a project intended to make sustainable change within her community. The project is more than a good service project - it encompasses organizational leadership and networking skills which leads to a lifetime of active citizenship.

Business Matters

Auto-Owners Insurance has announced AIC Insurance Services of Ada has been named one of the top ten growth agencies for the company in their Western Michigan Region for 2008. The agency was recognized at a luncheon meeting in Lansing where they and other recipients were presented with a plaque commemorating their accomplishment. AIC Insurance Services has represented Auto-Owners since 1997.

Jeff Harrold, president of Auto-Owners, thanked the agency for their support and their business stating, "Their growth and support only help to make the entire

community stronger and more secure. We are grateful they choose to do business with us."

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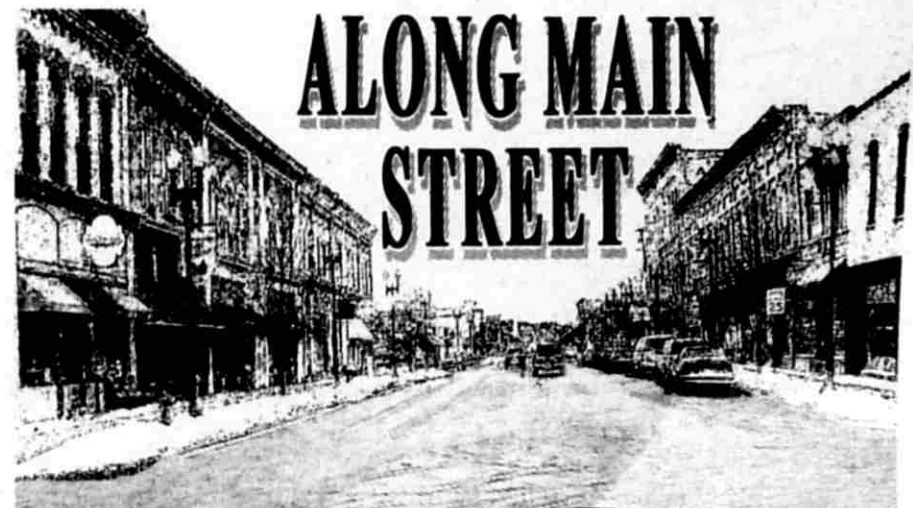
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TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC
Sat., Aug. 15, the sounds of traditional Irish music will fill the air as the Franciscan Life Process Center welcomes the Fenian Group. Entertainment begins at 7 p.m. and is free to the public, although donations are welcome. For more information call 897-7842.

CLASS OF 1944
Lowell High School Class of '44 65th class reunion will be held Aug. 29 at Schneider Manor, Bldg. D, 725 Bowes Rd. Social hour at noon and lunch at 1 p.m. RSVP by Aug. 1, or for more information, call Jeanne Blaser Owens, 616-949-1624.

F.R.O.M. FOOD PANTRY
The pantry is in need of canned vegetables, fruit, juice, and personal care products. Please help if you are able. Visit www.fromlowell.org

F.R.O.M. FOOD MOBILE
There will not be a food mobile for the month of August.

If your morals make you dreary, depend on it, they are wrong.

- Robert Louis Stevenson (1850 - 1894)

August 6

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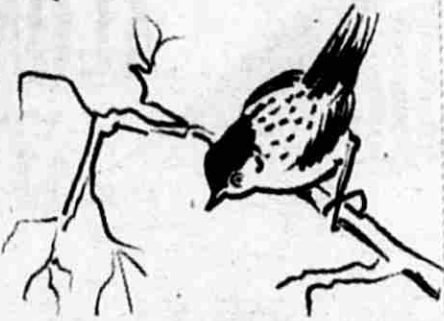
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Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis



GIVE 'EM A CHANCE

Getting out on the water provides a personal connection with nature which contributes to ones quality of life. Despite an increase in population over the last twenty years, the percentage of Michigan citizens who regularly go fishing has steadily declined. It is important to introduce outdoor lifestyle choices to young folks before they become booked-up.

The age at which to introduce a child to fishing depends on many factors, such as safety, attention span, behavior,

and enthusiasm. Fishing a farm pond for bluegills and wading the Au Sable River with a fly rod after dark are two completely different ventures, so common sense will dictate when a kid is ready.

Do some research to find productive water before taking a child fishing the first few times. Kids are not interested in the size of fish, but may lose interest if there is no action. Mild weather and proper clothing make it easier to keep the child comfortable. Being cold, wet, and hungry can dampen enthusiasm and shorten a trip.

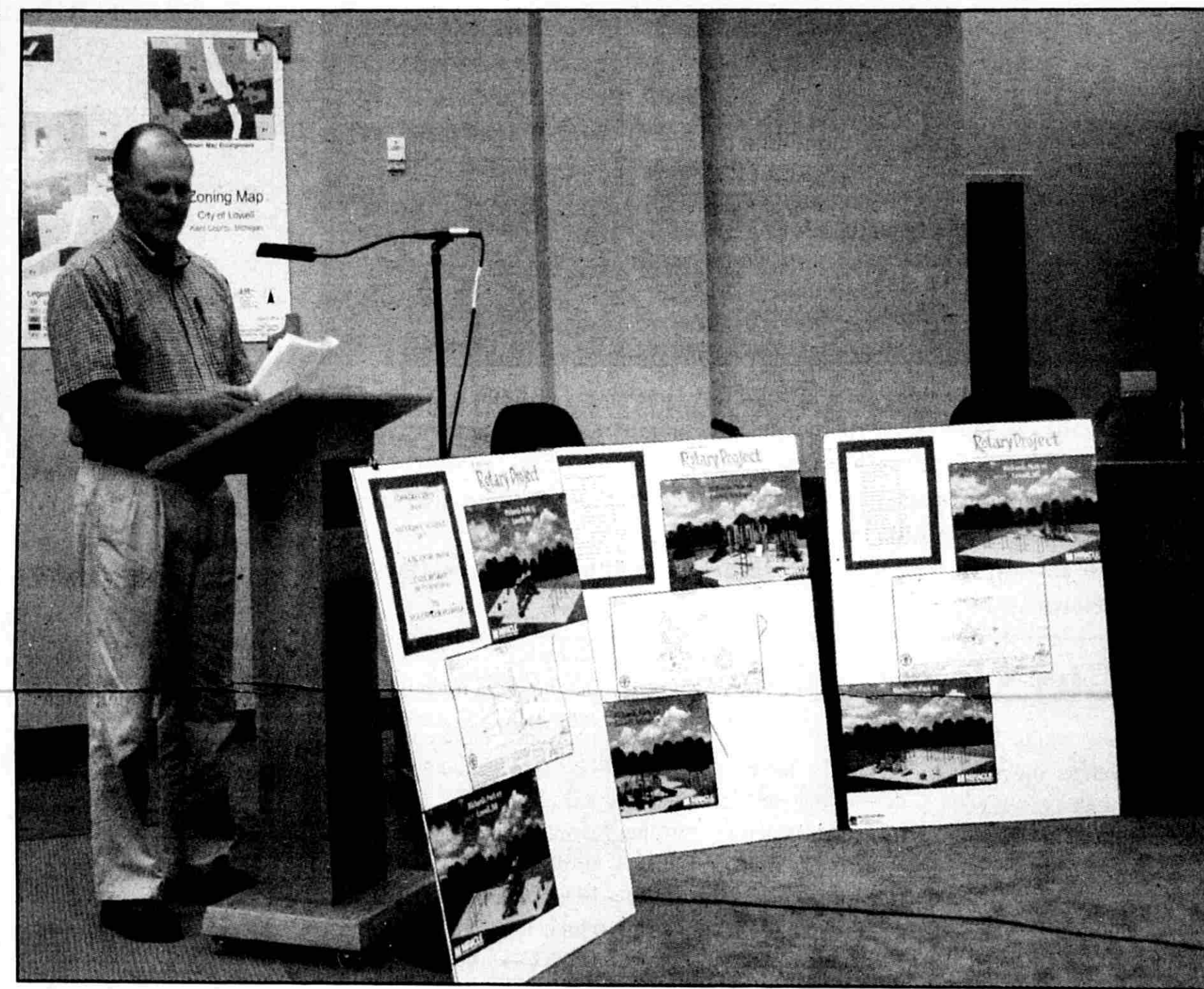
Broken or unreliable equipment is also discouraging for a beginner. There are lots of good inexpensive equipment available or let the youngster use your stuff. Most kids can handle any type of equipment when given clear instructions and an opportunity to practice.

One-on-one attention is very effective when teaching anyone something new. Don't plan on fishing yourself so you can focus your attention on the student. We recently

had an opportunity to take our eight-year-old grandson, Trevor, and his mom bluegill fishing. Trevor had been fishing before but usually with his brother or other kids. This trip, his grandma spent her time helping Trevor. He started out reeling in a few fish after grandma set the hook and handed him the rod. By the end of the day, Trevor was using a small jig and ultra-light rod to detect the bite, set the hook, and reel in the fish. Then he removed the hook, dropped them into the live well, baited-up, and went back down to jig for another one. When we got home, he helped clean the fish and then ate some for dinner. I have been fishing with Trevor's grandma since she was seventeen and I think this was our best trip.

Trevor may or may not become a lifelong fisherman, but he certainly knows what it is all about and will be able to make that decision based on real experience. If you get an opportunity, give someone a chance to fish.

Park upgrade, continued ... From Page 1



John Sterly presents the playground project at Richards Park.

The workload will be divided by expertise including a supervisor. The Lowell Light and Power will auger holes, and the work group may use the former congregational church parking lot.

"This is a significant community project," said city manager Dave Pasquale. "We're looking at this as something for the community. Neighbors have been concerned about vandalism at the park."

Commissioner Don Green said he was excited about the project. "I like the dual use," he said.

However, Green stated the ultimate location for the skate park will be at the Stoney Lakeside Park.

"It's the most needed thing," he said.

The Rotary also plans to place benches in high traffic areas. "It's an ongoing project," said Sterly.

Humanity has advanced, when it has advanced, not because it has been sober, responsible, and cautious, but because it has been playful, rebellious, and immature.

- Tom Robbins (1936 -)

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Viewpoint

To The Editor

Dear Editor,

I'd like to focus on the other issue of the hunting/no hunting conflict. Are we really concerned about population control? If so, then we must look at the buck vs. doe hunting.

As I understand, back in my father's and grandfather's day, bucks were mainly hunted because the DNR wanted to build the deer herds. At that time, the does needed to be preserved. These days, we are at the opposite end of the concern. The herds are too large and need to be thinned. This is necessary for both the health of the herd and our own safety and control of the nuisance factor. Thinning involves the does who have one or two fawns every year, not the bucks.

So let's stop the macho activity of hunting for a rack and look at the true need for hunting - population control. The DNR obviously encourages this through the number of doe permits they allow.

In this time of need, there are many families who would certainly appreciate additional meat if the hunter can't use all that is taken by hunting additional does.

Let's make the true macho/manly activity of hunting be the thinning of the herd through doe hunting and providing the meat to a family in need.

Please, hunters, rethink this whole issue. Wouldn't it be great if instead of first buck contests, we have: first doe, largest doe, or even greatest number of deer provided to those in need, as the possible contests supported.

It's time to break tradition and come into the reality of the times.

Thank you,
Peggy Covert

Dear Editor,

I couldn't find a clue that Michigan is in the worst recession since the Great Depression when I read Lowell's planning commission capital improvement plan. Matter of fact, what I read was just business as usual. And that is spend, spend spend.

The capitals improvement plan consist of many short term projected projects that are wants and not true needs. You would think while our community continues to be challenged by the loss of tax revenue that they would structure their improvement plan in ways to save money for the community's true needs, rather than spend it on its wants. The number one agenda should be maintaining what we have, not adding to it.

I would also like to mention that the DDA approved \$30,000 for public improvement in connection with three privately owned buildings over the Flat River. I have mentioned in the past that I was against the use of city tax dollars for private interest. I believe the city was prudent in handling this affair, suffering minimal damage to its monetary resources. Now the DDA is seeking to strengthen the west bank of Flat River. Who is going to be stuck with the bill?

What I have read about the project leaves me full of misgivings, but I have to give the DDA the benefit of the doubt until more information comes to light.

Sincerely,
Jim Howard

Dear Editor,

We love Richards Park, but think that the upcoming makeover (play structure, swings, skateboarding equipment, and new play area) will be a waste of donor and taxpayer money unless well planned measures are put in place to keep them nice.

While the changes are being paid for by generous donations from people who want to improve our city and create a great place for kids of all ages, we are saddened to share that it will be short lived. While we used to frequent Richards Park for a clean, safe, peaceful place to take our children, it is no longer that.

Over the past couple of years, we have witnessed a small group of teens, who would benefit from the new improvements, mistreat and damage what Richards Park already had to offer. The skateboarding visitors leave their marks everywhere by spray painting, abusing trees (one of which we're sure will die after having its exposed core kicked in), and leaving food wrappers, broken boards with nails, tampons, cigarette butts, broken glass and other trash on the ground. And, if we're unfortunate enough to be there with them, their swearing drives us to the farthest corner of the park.

We're sure we can also say goodbye to the ice rink. Although the skate equipment will be removed in the winter, we have witnessed the ice getting quickly smashed by the skaters, making it unusable.

While we've experienced much more pleasant, polite personalities at the park on an individual basis, as a group, they are a destructive, littering, swearing, disrespectful adolescent force that leaves its mark behind on our once pleasant park. Unfortunately, the few who are disrespectful and destructive are ruining it for those who are not doing the damage... but they're not stopping them either. We also know parents who want their children to skate there, but don't feel safe letting them go because of the current crowd. Does that really make it a place for all ages to enjoy?

So how will this be a waste of taxpayer money? Simple maintenance, paying a city worker and police time.

Ask the city how much junk and extra trash it's hauled off or how much damage it's fixed - including the expensive Richards Park sign that was cut in half when a skateboarder tried to jump it.

Ask our police department how much more patrol time is used to hang out around that area. When asked about the damage at the park, one officer said the skateboarders "destroy everything they're given."

Ask how much city worker time and water is spent to make that nice ice rink only to have it smashed.

Ask how the already depressed value of homes close to it will be affected when the nearest park is treated this way.

With the improvements, add fixing the new equipment, which will likely be spray painted. The new equipment rewards the destructive users with a permanent home, continuing to saddle the City of Lowell taxpayers with the expense of cleaning up after them and driving away others who want to play there.

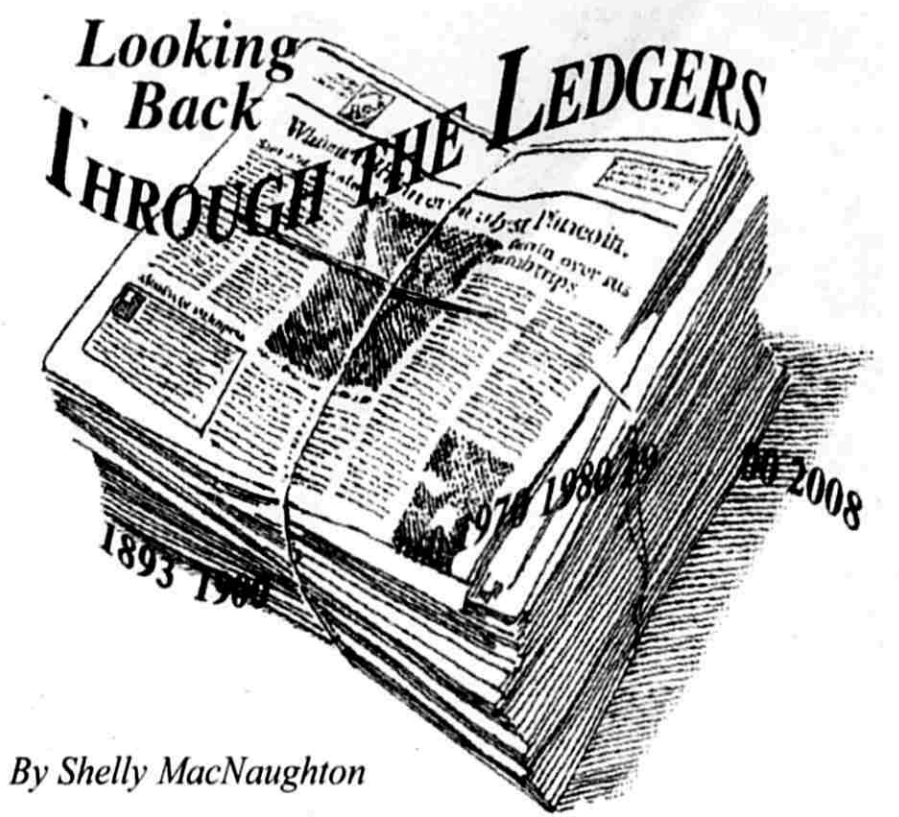
By adding this beautiful, much appreciated equipment, we are convinced it will end up in disappointed donors who will see their money go to waste and more money out of taxpayers' pockets for fixing what is put in. That is unless there is a maintenance fund already set up to incur the extra costs of this littering, damage-loving group AND a plan for regular supervision of the park (not at taxpayers' expense).

Before these improvements are put in, there should be a plan, by parents of skateboarders (who we would think are either parents of the vandals or want to keep their kids away from them), The Rotary Club, and any other organizations involved, on how to protect the great updates they're working so hard to bring to the park.

Skateboarding is a great sport. Let's fix its reputation in Lowell so it stays that way.

Signed,
Neighbors of Richards Park
and City of Lowell taxpayers
Chris and Candice Fleszar
Pat Horn
Beth and Ray Wolfe

(Note: There were also park neighbors who did not want to add their name to this letter because of feared retaliation from the same group doing the damage. Is that what we want for our city?)



By Shelly MacNaughton

125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL JULY 30, 1884

If you can't afford to visit a summer resort come to Lowell and sit on our new bridge.

The new hotel on the east side - the Davis House - will soon be opened to the public.

The races at Train's Driving Park Saturday afternoon, August 9, will draw a crowd.

Now they say we need not worry - that the case of cholera, reported, was not cholera.

100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER JULY 29, 1909

A welcome rain came to us last week Thursday.

Mrs. Lura White received on her birthday last week Wednesday, July 21, 1909, nearly two hundred postal cards, a surprise to her from her many friends and relatives from all over the United States, as a remembrance of her 77th birthday.

Herbert Godfrey of Belding is visiting his cousin Earl Brown.

John Doyle is having his house repainted: Scott Bros. have the job.

75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO AUGUST 2, 1934

Lowell's 1934 Showboat tugs at her moorings impatient for her maiden trip of the season down Flat River. She's truly a bigger, better and more beautiful craft than either of her predecessors and that's saying a heap. Engineer R. D. Starkey has done a good job.

50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER JULY 30, 1959

Lowell's V. F. W., Flat River Post 8303, will present an outdoor boxing program at the Showboat stadium on Friday, July 31.

The program, being represented through the cooperation of the Ionia Reformatory's Dick Heyfelder and Warden George A. Kropp, will consist of 10 bouts.

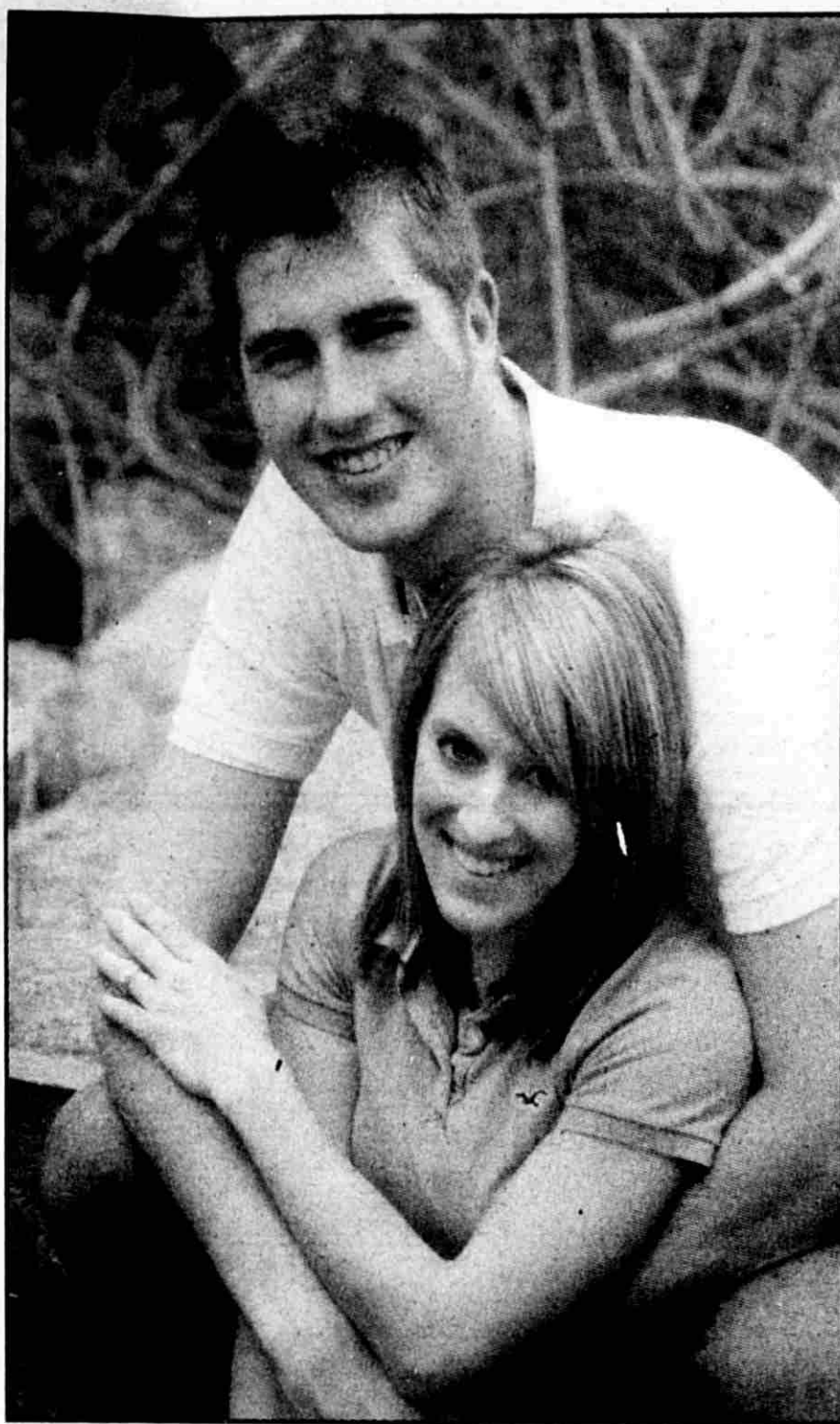
Four of the bouts to be held will be for the championship of the Ionia institution. These are sure to be great interest and provide plenty of action.

25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER AUGUST 1, 1984

One would never guess that the State Savings Bank of Lowell with its three modern offices, scores of employees and over \$50 million in assets is a product of the Great Depression. But that is indeed the case and the bank will be celebrating its 50th anniversary all next week. A large tent will be erected just west of the main office at 414 East Main Street and there will be lots of activity there from Monday, August 6 thru Saturday, August 11. Bank customers will be treated to free Coke and popcorn, player piano music, displays depicting the history of the bank, several contests and free gifts.

Engagements

Roth/Baar



Adam Baar and Lisa Roth.

Lisa Ann Roth will become the bride of Adam Baar on August 29, 2009. The bride-to-be, of Lowell, is the daughter of Larry and Mary Roth, also of Lowell. She is a graduate of Lowell High School and Chic University of Cosmetology.

Her fiancé, of Belmont, is the son of Charles and Anne Baar, also of Belmont. He is a graduate of Rockford High School and Grand Rapids Community College, and is currently attending Grand Valley State University.



Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
Edward Jones
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OWN A BUSINESS? PUT RETIREMENT PLAN IN PLACE

If you own a small business, you have a lot to think about: sales, expenses, marketing, cash flow, competition — the list goes on and on. However, by spending so much time on the issues of today, you may overlook the concerns of tomorrow. That's why, if you haven't already done so, you need to choose a retirement plan for your business.

Which plan is right for you? It depends on different factors, such as how many employees you have and how much you can afford to contribute each year. Let's take a look at some popular retirement plans for small businesses:

- **Owner-only 401(k)** — Also known as an individual 401(k), an owner-only 401(k) offers you many of the same advantages of a traditional 401(k): a range of investment options, tax-deductible contributions and tax-deferred earnings growth. You may even be able to choose a Roth option for your 401(k) which allows you to make after-tax contributions that can grow tax free. In 2009, you can contribute up to \$49,000 to your owner-only 401(k) or \$54,500 if you're 50 or older. (To make deductible contributions for the 2009 tax year, you'll need to set up your plan by Dec. 31, 2009.)

- **Solo defined benefit plan** — You may have thought you had to work for a big company to participate in a traditional pension plan, also known as a defined benefit plan, but you can set one up for yourself if you're self-employed

or own your own business. This plan has high contribution limits, which are determined by an actuarial calculation, and your contributions are typically tax-deductible.

- **SEP IRA** — If you have just a few employees or are self-employed with no employees, and you're looking for a low-cost, low-maintenance retirement plan, you may want to consider a SEP IRA. You'll fund the plan with tax-deductible contributions and you must cover all eligible employees. (Employees themselves cannot contribute.) You can contribute up to 25 percent of compensation (if you're an employee of your own corporation) or 20 percent of income if you're self-employed, up to \$49,000 annually. And you can fund your SEP IRA with virtually any type of investment you choose.

- **SIMPLE IRA** — As its name suggests, a SIMPLE IRA is quite easy to set up and maintain, and it can be a good plan if your business has fewer than 10 employees. As the business owner, you must contribute in one of two ways: a dollar-for-dollar match of up to three percent of salary or a contribution of two percent of employees' salaries (up to \$4,900 per year). Employee contributions are tax-deductible and your matching contributions are generally deductible as a business expense. Still, while a SIMPLE IRA may be advantageous for your employees, it's less generous to you, as far as allowable contributions, than an owner-only 401(k), a defined benefit plan or a SEP IRA. For 2009, your annual contributions are generally limited to \$11,500 or \$14,000 if you're 50 or older by the end of the year. You can also make a matching contribution of up to three percent to yourself.

To determine which plan is best for you, consult with your tax advisor and a financial advisor who has experience with small businesses. But don't wait too long to get started — you're moving closer to retirement all the time.

Happy Birthday

JULY 29:
Rachael Vegter, Mary Fox, Matt Lee, Terry M. Estes.

JULY 31:
Nancy Raymor, Sandy Roth, Rochelle Bieri, Morris Robert Young.

JULY 30:
Patricia Smith, Scott Kooistra, Jodi Mohr, Kimberly DeBord, Bill Potter, Paige Rash.

AUGUST 1:
Barbara Callihan, Bailee Emelander.

AUGUST 2:
Carolynn Kline, Hayley Woolfenden.

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

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

College News

Rebekah Woods, of Lowell, was awarded the Magna Cum Laude honors for outstanding academic accomplishment during her four years of study at Hope College.

Magna Cum Laude

honors are awarded to graduates who achieved a minimum 3.7 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Adam Konyndyk and Nicole Hensch, both of Ada, have been named to

the Dean's List at DePaul University for the 2009 spring quarter. To receive Dean's List commendation full-time students must earn a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or above on a four-point scale.

Ordinance regulating temporary garages tabled by planning commission

by Emma Palova

The planning commission, Monday night, tabled an ordinance that would regulate temporary garages in residential districts following a diverse input from the audience.

Although the issue has been discussed for several months, resident Bob Robinson urged the commission not to pass the ordinance.

The ordinance would only allow weather proof ridged material on all four walls and the structure would have to be removed after six years.

"We're asking this because of hardship, due to rules with car ports and temporary buildings," said city council member Jeff Altoft.

But, mayor Jim Hodges said it's a good ordinance for a temporary solution.

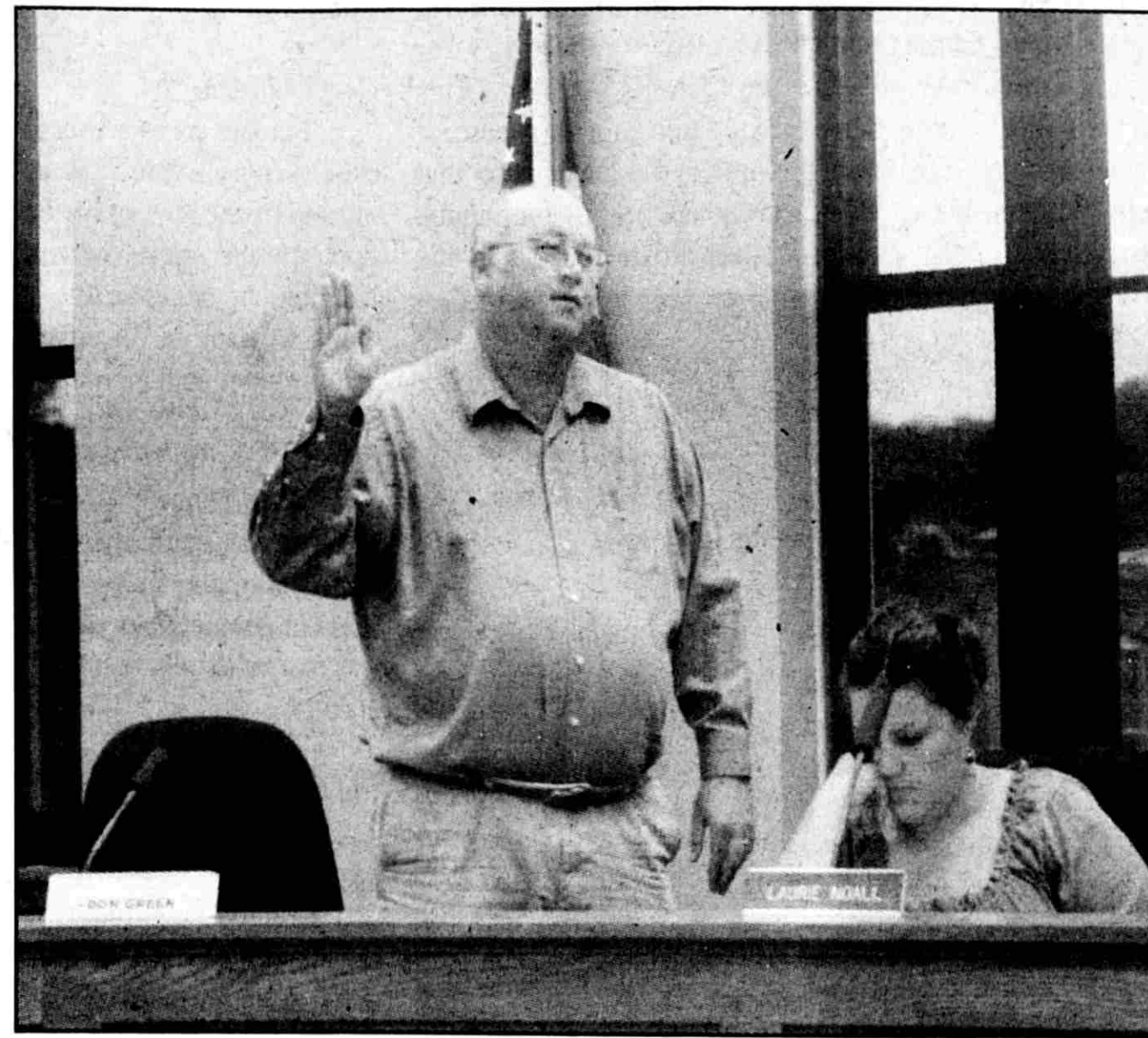
"We want to make sure our community looks good," he said. "And when we have temporary things, they are intended as temporary."

Resident Hercules Andrus said he's had a structure to shelter his RV for the last six years and no one has complained so far.

"You're drawing up an ordinance, making it hard for people who already have this," he said. "Mine is made of corrugated steel. It's not an eyesore."

However, commissioner Maryalene LaPonsie said if the planning commission doesn't do anything, everyone's structures will have to come down.

"It's not allowed right now," she said.



New commissioner, Don Green, gets sworn in.

Andrus stated he does not have the money to put the RV into a storage facility. Much discussion was devoted to the narrow scope of the ordinance. Since soft sided structures are not allowed, the ordinance allows only hard sided, enclosed structures on hard floor.

"It would apply only to a few people," said LaPonsie.

Also, the structures would have to be at the end of an existing driveway and if a driveway does not exist, it has to be put in, according to the proposed ordinance.

If the structure houses a nonmotorized vehicle, then it can be placed somewhere else.

Dan DesJarden, Department of Public Works director, questioned if these structures are considered a new construction. If so, then a sidewalk would have to be placed to them.

However, the commission determined that a sidewalk is not required in the case of temporary garages.

The issue was tabled until Aug. 24. A special work session has been set for Aug. 10 to discuss the outdoor lighting ordinance.

In related business, the planning commission considered the compatibility of use for a proposed commercial rental kitchen to be located at 501 Ottawa Street, as presented by Janet Tlapak and Robin Cunningham.

The commission determined the use is compatible with the industrial district zoning.

The planning commission granted a special use permit to Gilda's Club at the Senior Neighbors. Gilda's programming will most likely start out once a week on Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. The planned enhancements to the building will be shared with the seniors.

"It will benefit the community," said LaPonsie.

HEALTH

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



THE IMPORTANCE OF VITAMIN D

Every cell in the body has receptor sites that are activated by vitamin D. It is well known that vitamin D improves bone density by enhancing calcium absorption. Vitamin D also plays a roll in immune function. Low vitamin D levels have been associated with an increased risk of developing autoimmune diseases like MS and certain cancers. Vitamin D seems to inhibit growth of neoplastic tumors that occur in the colon, prostate and breast tissue.

The current recommended intake of vitamin D is 200 IU per day, but this is too low to prevent osteoporosis, and the number of cases of MS and cancers have been shown to increase significantly at this dose. Current medical literature supports a dose of 1000 IU daily and studies have shown that doses up to 3000 IU daily are safe.

Over 60 percent of elderly women's diets are deficient in vitamin D and studies have shown that about a third of younger adults had a vitamin deficiency during winter months.

Daily intake of vitamin D at 1000 IU daily can easily be achieved by taking a multiple vitamin containing 200-500 IU of vitamin D to supplement normal dietary intake. Twenty to thirty minutes of sunshine exposure (in T-shirt and shorts) will provide about 200 IU of vitamin D. In the skin, the sun allows the synthesis of vitamin D from cholesterol. Using sunblock prevents this from occurring. Many of us will need to be cautious about too much sun exposure because of the increased risk of skin cancer.

Your doctor may check your vitamin D level by ordering a simple blood test, especially if you have a history of osteoporosis or an auto immune disorder.

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AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison • Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.</p> <p>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>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>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>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. Eugene Okoli 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM 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 RETE WIGGINS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</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 Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</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>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Pastor Mike Conklin 11:00 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>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>BIRD BERRY FARM BLUEBERRIES Call (616) 794-5041 for picking information 2 1/2 miles East of Belding on M-44</p>

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Clothesline art show features works by the Studio 208 artists

From the brights, the whites, the darks and even the stripes, eight area artists from Lowell's Studio 208 will be featuring their work in this mid-summer show. The art displayed is a compilation of pieces representing various media: watercolor, mixed-media, drawing and photography that will be on display through August 29 at the Lowell Area Arts Council at 149 S. Hudson.

embody the spirit of free expression, similar to a summer breeze mingling among clothes on the line. The artists that represent this Studio Group are Connor Bergin, Ted Bergin, Cathy Dykstra, Karen Hale, Patti Salka, Jera Smith, Jerri Teelander and Gerard Wood.

Below, artists' briefly describe their motivation and work:

Connor Bergin
"I create art as a way to express myself. I am 13 years old and by the laws of nature find myself the youngest member in Studio 208. I enjoy working in the studio environment with a group of other artists. My preferred art medium is watercolor paint and pencil. From a young age my natural artistic talent has been nurtured. I started taking classes when I was five years old, taught by David Davis."

Ted Bergin
"In recent years I have renewed my love of photography with the new capacities of the digital world, both in camera and in software. Many years ago I began to explore the photographic medium, but was stymied by the costs associated to reach my vision. With a few clicks, I can now develop an image to what I seek without fearing the cost of mistakes. I am still exploring types and styles of image making and would not claim any overarching vision to my work."

Cathy Dykstra
"My life experiences have provided me with many experimental phases and uninhibited adventures that intertwined my life journey thus far as a daughter, wife, mother, and business professional. I have been heard saying, 'There are days where art for me

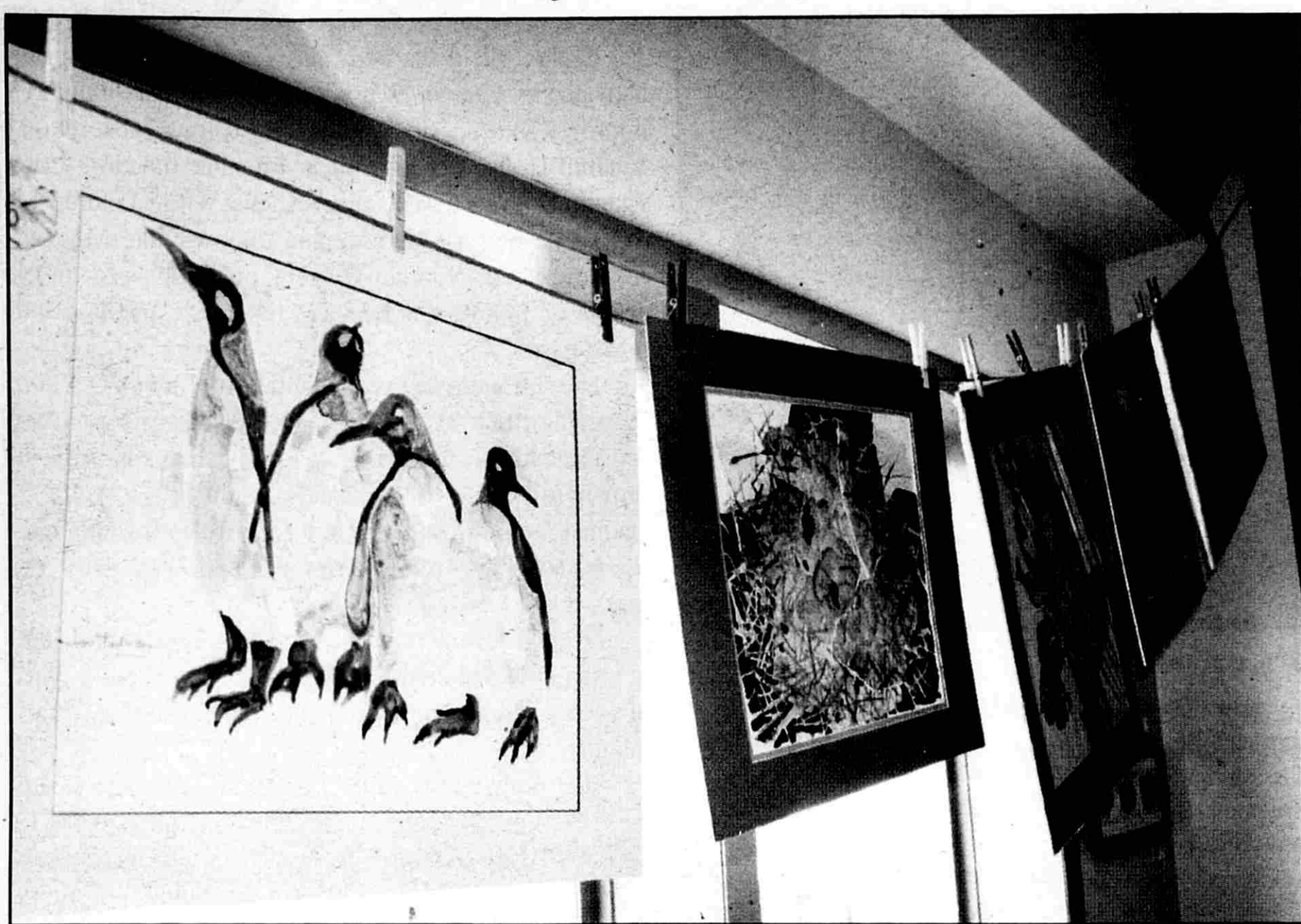
is cheaper than therapy!' I believe beauty comes in all forms and being able to play with paints provides me a calmness that isn't as integral to many of my other interests. I enjoy creating art for the sheer enjoyment of creating something and hope others appreciate it as well."

Karen Hale
"I have loved to draw all of my life and been painting for the last five years. Thanks go to the encouragement and prompting of a larger than life artist from Lowell, David Davis. He finally convinced me to get down and paint! The reason I believe I continue with painting is the comfort and release it provides. The level of absorption I'm able to obtain while in my 'painting' state brings great pleasure and at times surprises as I feel my art just happens. What this really means to me is the positive energy and balances my creative accomplishments offer me as an individual."

Patti Salka
"In recalling my earliest memories I see a reoccurrence for my love of art and creativity. I have been chasing a creative dream for years feeding the hunger to create. I have taken classes at Western Michigan University, Kendall College of Art & Design and various workshops from regional and national artists. This show finds me at the brink of a new chapter of my life. As I retire in June from the primary classroom after twenty plus years of teaching, I know that my role as a life long learner and my thirst for seeking knowledge will not be gone into a retreat mode!"

Jera Smith
"I have always had an interest in art and art history. The most probable reason I'm in this show today is

Clothesline art, cont'd., pg. 9



Engraved Paver Project for New Playground at Richards Park

Help Support Our Community . . .



The Rotary Club of Lowell is bringing Richards Park up to date with modern and safe equipment so that area children and youth have a safe place to spend time in healthy activities. One end of the park will be designed for younger kids, with a play structure and swings. The other end, which has an existing ice-skating rink, will be fitted with skateboarding equipment that is removable in the winter so the rink area will be usable year-round.

We invite you to join us at 8 AM on Saturday, August 15 for a Community Build Day to help assemble the equipment. Many hands make light work!

Another way to be involved in this project is to buy a commemorative granite paver stone, engraved as you direct, for \$100. The pavers will be used to edge the playground, and will be a permanent symbol of the support of families, businesses, and individuals for Richards Park.

We are asking you to join with us in this collaborative project to help build not just a playground but also our community through the fellowship of shared work. Community wide endeavors like this are what keep Lowell such a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Please Cut Here.....

Thank you for your support!

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P.O. Box 223, Lowell, MI 49331-0223


interacting and supporting each other, as artists, is part of what makes them grow and explore new ideas and media. This group of artists came together as students under the instruction of David Davis and have stayed together after his passing in the spring of 2008. They paint as a group and provide ideas and feedback to each other, so their artworks continue to grow and change."

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Retiring teacher is second to none in capturing educational moments

by Thad Kraus

The biggest change in education over the last 10 years has been technology.

The biggest change in education over the next 10 years will be technology.

Unless, of course, you're one of 20-plus students heading off to second grade this fall.

Missing from your second-grade experience will be that summer visit from Lani Rice.

A teaching staple in the Lowell School District for the past 22 years (36 in all), Rice announced early this year she would not be returning in the fall of 2009 and with it came the end of her summer visits to the homes of the future second grade class.

"It was always a way to get to know the dynamics of a student and to talk to their parents about our partnership in educating their child," Rice said. It also helped her to better understand them and to help relieve most, if not all, of their nervousness that came with the first day of school each year.

While students look forward to the start of a new school year and a new teacher, Rice begins adjusting to her new freedom of choice, such

as choosing when, why and how she does things.

"It wasn't an easy decision. It is one that Bob (my husband) and I have talked about. It will give Bob and I more time to travel around the country and to spend more time with our two grandchildren," Rice explained.

The Lowell second-grade teacher has left the door ajar just a little to substitute teach.

"It will be my option and I will be able to choose," Rice said. "I can't quit teaching cold turkey."

After all, she left still enjoying her work with children.

"I'm going to miss that time spent in the library, when it's time to go back to class and a child looks up to me and says 'Mrs. Rice, I can read this book.' I loved that look in their eyes," Rice stated.

Rice believes that it takes more than a teacher when it comes to education in a time when students expectations have never been higher.

Rice will also spend some of her free time working with the Gilda's Club steering committee inserting educational pieces

about cancer into schools for teachers to use.

One of the biggest challenges facing teachers today is the ever changing face of technology and how to prepare children to handle it.

Last school year, Rice's second-grade class was able to watch (live) elephants in Africa walk down to a stream.

Capturing an educational moment in class for

her students is what Rice did and she encourages parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents to capture educational moments, no matter how big or small, for the children in their lives.

"Bob and I are very fortunate we both have left the classroom loving our work and the kids," Rice concluded.



Lowell's Lani Rice holds up a commemorative plate signed by her 2008-09 second grade class.

Clothesline art, continued ... From Page 8

the fruition of a whim I took many years ago. I signed up for a watercolor class under David Davis at the Lowell Area Arts Council. Forever grateful for this fate and through his encouragement I found my artistic voice! Watercolor allows this voice to speak with spontaneity. I find the medium lends itself to interesting interpretations of subject matter that I seek to express."

Jerri Teelander
"Although I don't particularly have deep thoughts about the art I produce, while creating my work I easily immerse into a meaningful space. As I have progressed and grown as an artist, I have become more thoughtful and my work has

become loose and slightly abstract, bringing me great pleasure and fulfillment in what I create. My love for watercolor painting has been largely nurtured by the late David Davis, a former instructor, and continues to be cultivated by my fellow studio artists. We share a history and I enjoy the growth we have achieved as individuals and as a group. My primary medium is watercolor which compliments my attempts at staying loose in my interpretation of nature and everyday scenes that intrigue and challenge me."

Gerard Wood
"Art has been a pursuit of mine from a very early point in my life. As I made

choices and decisions over the years in my personal and professional life, you could say this pursuit has been the path least traveled. Although my artistic accomplishments may have gotten less attention than those in my professional career development, I have stayed committed to seeking opportunities to express myself in painting, architectural and landscape design. I believe this continued commitment to pursue art is a desire to visually interpret and enhance my view of the world around me. My confidence has increased over time as I have stepped out and exposed my art in shows and competitions."



A public reception to meet the artists will be held Thursday, August 6 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

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A FEW NOTABLE EVENTS FROM JULY 23 - JULY 29 • 2009

- A Virginia man was sentenced Monday to life in prison for joining Al Qaeda and plotting to assassinate then president, George W. Bush.
- Coca-Cola is preparing to launch fizzy milk on the world. The drink contains skim milk mixed with sparkling water flavored with fruit and sweetened with cane sugar.
- French president, Nicolas Sarkozy, was discharged Monday from the hospital where he spent the night after collapsing while jogging.
- Dallas Texas police said they found a 3 1/2 week old infant killed in a Texas home on Sunday and his mother screaming that she killed the baby after the devil told her to do it.
- A Canadian astronaut aboard the international space station said, on Sunday, it looks like Earth's ice caps have melted a bit since he was last in orbit.
- Farrah Fawcett leaves fortune to her troubled son, not longterm partner, Ryan O'Neal.
- Conservationists in Bangladesh are celebrating after remote tribespeople discovered a rare and threatened leopard that was believed to have been extinct in the country for almost 20 years.
- Washington National's Josh Willingham hits two grand slams in a win over the Brewers.
- Rock samples found in South China are causing researchers to question whether or not the first animals evolved from the ocean. The latest specimens have been found in ancient lake deposits.

The man who murdered Kelsey Grammer's sister was denied parole after the parole board receives a letter from the "Cheers" star. His sister was murdered over 30 years ago when she was 18 years old.

Pregnant women will likely be given the swine flu shot when it becomes available this fall. That population as been hit unusually hard.

U. S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates reports during a visit to Iraq that Iraqi forces are assuming the lead and the U. S. withdrawal of troops is going well.

Authorities are still investigating Michael Jackson's death. They're looking into his doctor's records and it appears that they may be working on a manslaughter case. More reports point to Jackson being administered a powerful anesthetic, by his personal doctor, that may have killed him.

The only time people dislike gossip is when you gossip about them.
- Will Rogers (1879 - 1935)



Light on the pedal accelerates Feutz's winning ways

by Thad Kraus
It was advice a young race car driver didn't want to hear, and more importantly, believe.

Now, more experienced and mature, Todd Feutz shares that same advice with his son Jason.

"My father told me many years ago to slow down and by slowing down I would end up being faster," Feutz explained. "When I was young I didn't want to listen to anything about slowing down."

After losing a handful of times, because he was at fault for not slowing down, Feutz changed his ways.

His attitude was also altered by his desire to win.

"I like to win. You're not going to win all the time, but by finishing the race I have

a better chance of achieving my goal," Feutz said.

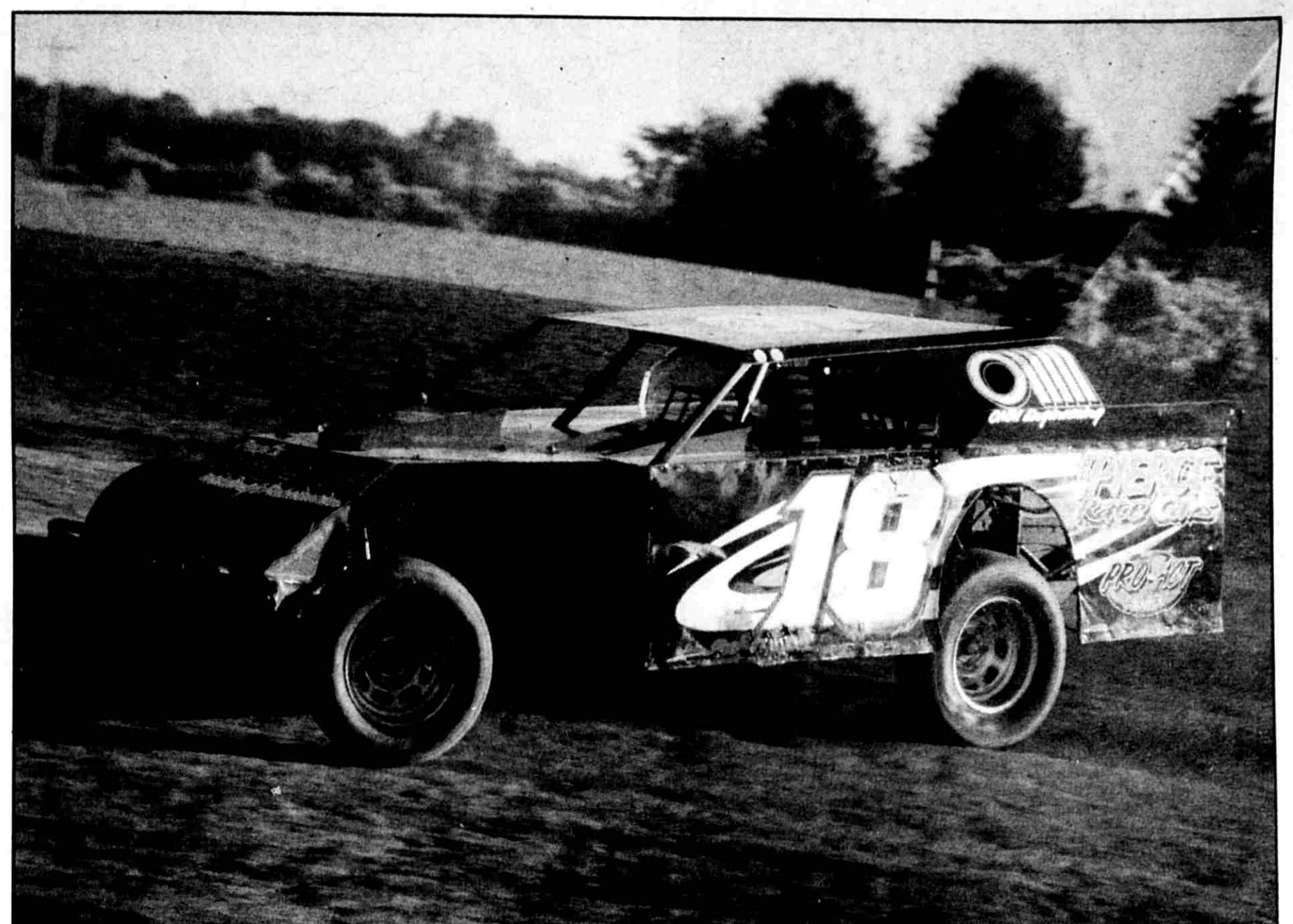
His goal this year is to repeat what he accomplished in 2008. Feutz was the I-96 Speedway modified points champion.

The Ada resident is atop the points standings again this year.

This year has been more challenging. A budget crunch has limited Feutz to just one race a week (Saturday at I-96 Speedway).

"This is all I've ever done, all summer, every year," Feutz said. "Every race that I'm in is special. I work hard for all of them whether the winning purse is \$500 or \$5,000."

His constant march toward week-to-week improvement has won Feutz many a features.



Todd Feutz races toward a second straight points total championship.

That passion and dedication still burns brightly.

"You can never stop trying to improve and that only comes with seat time (racing)," Feutz explained.

The driver of the Bob Pierce modified car understands he can't force things, but he can continue

to work hard toward the many goals he wants to accomplish.

On the track, Feutz relies on his mind and his hand, eye, and foot coordination. Everything happens fast and with every year of experience his reactions become more finely honed.

While race fans see and

read about who's winning on Saturday night, Feutz notes it is the drivers' endless hours in the garage and dedication to the sport that may go undetected.

Feutz is helped out in the garage by his father (Jim), friends and neighbors.

His racing sponsors in 2009 are Jim Feutz, OM&M

Engineering and Bob Pierce Race Cars.

With eight inch rims, steering a steady car requires finesse and an easy touch on the wheel.

"You don't go anywhere with wheels that are spinning," Feutz concludes.

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OKAY -
Someone Has To Say It ...
by Thad Kraus

NFL Commissioner, Roger Goodell, made it clear his first day in office that he would swing a bigger stick when it comes to dealing with inappropriate and criminal behavior committed by those playing in the NFL.

As the start of another football season progresses closer with the precision of three yards and a cloud of dust, Goodell has had some heavy duty dirt to brush off the league's suit in time for the start of the season.

There's Dante Stallworth who received just 30 days in prison by our justice system for a DUI manslaughter charge and was suspended indefinitely by the Commish.

There's Michael Vick who served 20-months for his disgusting treatment of dogs (funding a dogfighting ring). After being released for good behavior, Goodell tacked on a four-game suspension to start the season.

Finally, there's Plaxico Burress who shot himself in the thigh at a nightclub early on the morning of Nov. 29. He was charged with criminal possession of a weapon and faces up to three years in prison. Burress has pleaded not guilty and is free on \$100,000 bail. The Giants released Burress in April.

It's hard to argue with Goodell's indefinite

who shot himself with an unlicensed gun in November, was willing to agree to spend a year in jail, but prosecutors insisted on two, the Post reported.

Even if Burress would get the maximum sentence of 2-3 years, does anyone believe he will serve more than six months? I think it will be less than that.

I don't have a real good feel for what Goodell will do in the Burress case, but if I'm Commish, Plaxico gets a one-year suspension.

Now, can we talk some football?

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*Price plus tax, title, plate, doc and CVR fee. Rebate to dealer. Must qualify for rebates used including Lease to Buy on G6 and Torrent. Prices good through July 31, 2009. **GM Employee and Family Save More does not apply to Acadia in ad. Thank you for considering Wittenbach for your automotive needs.

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BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION ORDINANCES NO. 2-09 AND 3-09

At a regular meeting of the Bowne Township Board held on July 20, 2009 Ordinance No. 2-09 was adopted. This purpose of this Ordinance is to amend Section 3.37 Walls and Fences of the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

- In the C-1 and C-2 District:
- To permit fences, decorative or protective walls, or landscape screens in the front yard that shall not exceed three feet in height if solid and four feet in height if open unless specifically approved by the Planning Commission;
 - To provide a definition of open fencing;
 - To permit fences, decorative or protective walls, or landscape screens in the side and rear yards that shall not exceed a height of six feet unless specifically approved by the Planning Commission;
 - To regulate the setback, design, construction, and appearance of fences, decorative or protective walls, or landscape screens;
 - To permit the use barbed wire strands in the C-2 District.

- In the IND-Industrial District:
- To permit chain-link fences up to 10 feet in height;
 - To not permit razor wire or electric current unless specifically permitted by the Planning Commission;

Other amendments address maintenance of fences, decorative or protective walls, or landscape screens and expansion of existing walls and fences.

At a regular meeting of the Bowne Township Board held on July 20, 2009 Ordinance No. 3-09 was adopted. This purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance to comply with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act PA 110 of 2006 and PA 12 of 2008. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

- Amend Section 21.04 Public Hearing and Notification to amend the requirements for notification for public hearings:
- In the case of a single structure containing more than four dwelling units, notice may be given to the manager or owner of the structure who shall be requested to post the notice at the primary entrance to the structures;
 - In structures containing four or fewer dwelling units, only one occupant of each unit must be given notice for a public hearing.

Amend Section 21.05 Decision which permits the Township Board to refer any proposed amendments of the text back to the Planning Commission for a report thereon.

Amend Sections 3.39 C. 2. f., 14.02 C., and 19.04 B. and C. to refer to the requirements fonotification for a public hearing.

Amend Section 19.01 F. Membership to permit a member of the legislative body to serve as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Amend Section 19.04 D. Application and Hearing Process to require that a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals who is also a member of the Planning Commission or the Township Board may not participate in a public hearing or vote on the same matter that the member voted on as a member of the Planning Commission or the Township Board.

Amend Section 19.06 Appeals of the ZBA to require that an appeal under this section must be filed within 30 days of the decision or within 21 days after the Zoning Board of Appeals approves the minutes of its decision.

These Ordinances will become effective seven days after publication.

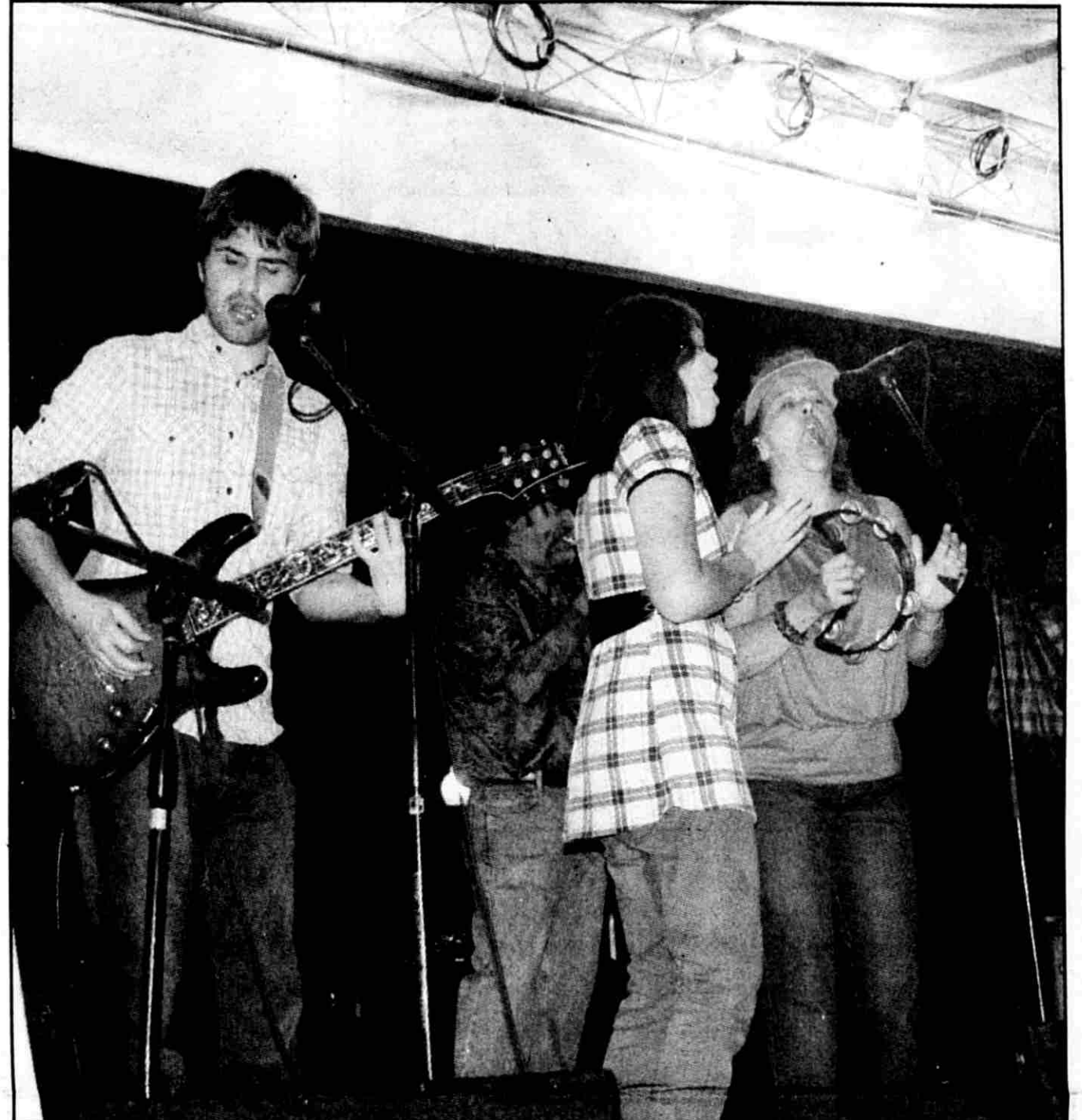
Ordinances No. 2-09 and 3-09 are available for review at the Bowne Township office, 8240 Alden Nash SE, PO Box 35, Alto, Michigan 49302-0035 during normal office hours or by calling 616-868-6846.

Sandra Kowalczyk, Clerk
Bowne Township

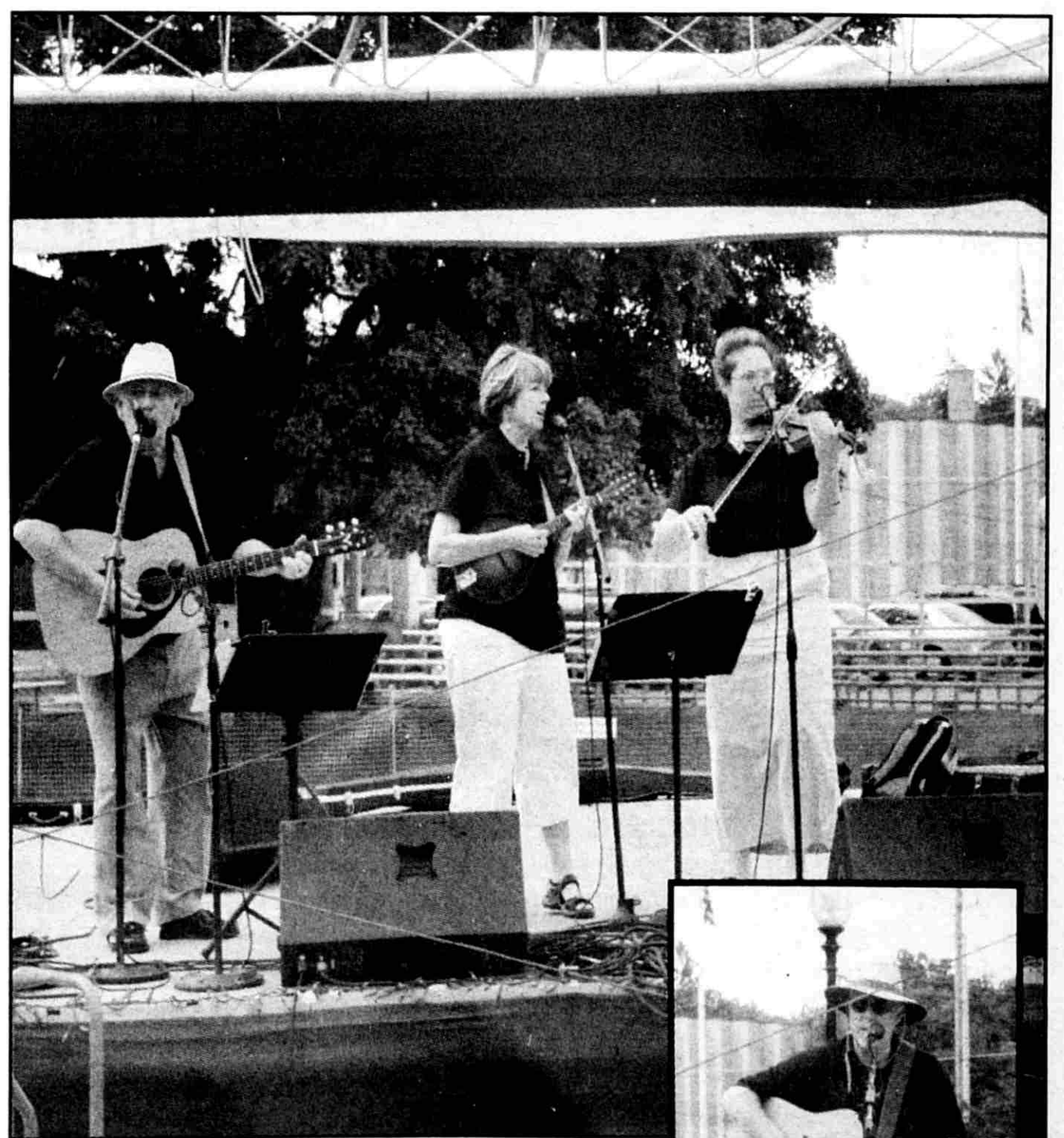
Revelry for the arts

The first River Revelry 2009, a fundraiser for the Lowell Area Arts Council, delivered a good mix of music, food and fun on the banks of the Flat River. In spite of scattered showers, the revelers stayed and enjoyed themselves, some even dancing on the Showboat. Veggie wraps and brats were catered by Victory Club of Ada. Local musicians, Easy Idle String Band, Hawks and Owls, Jonesy and Adams Family performed. Silent auction items were provided by local businesses and non-profits.

"Everything from awesome bands, delicious food, enticing auction items, and old-fashioned games to make you smile, created a festive atmosphere that even a little 'liquid sunshine' couldn't dampen," said Barb Pierce of the LAAC. "It was truly a fun night and kudos to our community for coming out to support the Lowell Area Arts Council."

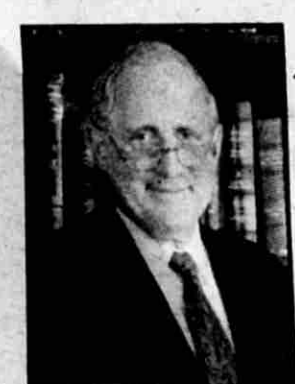


Jonesy plays for the crowd.



Easy Idle String Band was on hand to help raise funds for the LAAC.

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An Important Win for Wise Defense Spending

With Senator Carl Levin

The Senate recently passed an important test. When the president, the previous president, their secretaries of defense and their top military commanders all recommend that we end an expensive weapons program, would we have the discipline to do so?

Passing this test was a significant victory for our men and women fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq, and for the taxpayer. And it signaled an important change in how we do the business of national defense.

The question at hand was the F-22A. It is a highly capable fighter airplane. It is also extraordinarily expensive. The issue isn't whether the plane is a useful part of our inventory - it is whether we have enough. Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recommended that the program end after 187 planes are built.

Their reasoning was sound. Their analysis showed the planned fleet of F-22s is adequate to deter or defeat any potential enemy. The F-22, built for combat against other fighter planes, is less relevant to current and likely future wars where our enemies use crude roadside bombs and suicide bombers, not sophisticated fighter jets. And money that might buy more F-22s can go to urgent defense needs, particularly the personnel and equipment used in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In a letter to the Senate, Secretary Gates and Adm. Mullen made clear the consequences of continuing F-22 production. "If the Air Force is forced to buy additional F-22s beyond what has been requested, it will come at the expense of other Air Force and Department of Defense priorities - and require deferring capabilities in areas we believe are much more critical for our Nation's defense." Those priorities, they said, included pay and benefits for our troops.

statements and such powerful arguments from our military leaders, could we ever? Yet there was, of course, opposition. Supporters of the program sought \$1.75 billion to build seven more F-22s next year.

The F-22's supporters also had strongly held opinions. The plane is indeed a marvel of technology, besting any other fighter in the sky, and they argued that more F-22s would make our nation safer. And there is no doubt that ending this program would have a real economic impact, affecting workers in a number of states.

Because of such concerns, the number of successful attempts to cancel unneeded weapons programs is small.

But when Sen. John McCain and I introduced a measure to end the F-22 program, a remarkable thing happened. Fifty-six senators, Democrats and Republicans, joined us. Ultimately, our colleagues recognized that the old way of buying weapons must end. They also recognized the job opportunities presented by the new F-35 Joint Strike Fighter that will soon enter production and more than replace the jobs involved in the seven F-22s not built.

If the Senate's position is maintained in conference with the House of Representatives, we will be able to make important investments in weapons, equipment and the readiness of our troops. Combined with legislation that Sen. McCain and I succeeded in passing earlier this year that targets Pentagon cost overruns, this vote represents important progress in managing our defense dollars and ending wasteful spending.

In voting to end the F-22 program, the Senate sent a strong message. The solid majority on this important, bipartisan vote signals that weapons programs, once begun, will no longer be assumed to continue indefinitely, regardless of whether our armed services need them. That means better use of our tax dollars and a stronger national defense.

GARAGE SALES This Week!

DAYCARE CLOSING/ CLEANING HOUSE

Baby equipment, car seats, kid's tables, toys, desk, table, antique phone seat and Schwinn bike, clothing and more. 99 Radny off Burroughs, Sat., Aug. 1, 9 to 3.

AMERICAN GIRL DOLL CLOTHES

homemade, teen clothes, mens jeans, books, 10 spd. bike, sm. freezer, doll house, too many items to list. July 30, 31 & Aug. 1, 8-5 p.m. 6117 Ellison Rd. (N. of M21 between Johnson & Hawley Hwys.)

HIS & HERS SALE

Fri. & Sat, July 31 - Aug 1. Lots of amazing things from barn & attic. Tools & treasures, collectibles, furniture and toys. 13461 Burroughs, N. of Vergennes btw Lincoln Lake & Flat River, Lowell.

BIG GARAGE SALE

July 31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Aug. 1, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hot tub, furniture/baby crib, toys, pottery, jewelry, household, stereo, CD/movies, antiques, much more. 4110 Cherry Lane, between Cascade & 36th Street.

GARAGE SALE

July 31 & Aug. 1, 9 to 6 p.m. 13261 Vergennes (between Lincoln Lake & Flat River). Lots of baby, boy & girl clothes (0-6 yr.), baby items & toys.

GARAGE SALE

July 31 & Aug. 1, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Household items, some girls clothes (up to 5/6), some boys (up to 2T), maternity clothes, women's clothes, tools, guns, ammo, paticleboard, tempered glass, books, CD's & much more. 5181 Conklin, Lowell.

A LITTLE BIT OF EVERTHING

Fri. & Sat., July 31 & Aug. 1, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 555 Alden Nash Ave SE, Lowell.

GARAGE SALE

One day only, Sat., Aug. 1, 9 to 2. 10577 Bell Rd., Clarksville. Clothing, S10 topper, Chevy truck rims & table saw.

GARAGE SALE

Sat., Aug. 1, 9-3 p.m. Name brand clothing, infant girl - size 10/12, teen boy & girl clothing, air conditioner & exercise rider & much more. 14125 28th St., off Lowellview.

ANTIQUe MALL CLOSING SALE

Starting Aug. 1, 10 a.m. 60% off & more than half the mall. Oak showcases, display cases, cupboards, furniture, glass, jewelry, pottery, books, records, tools, hunting & fishing, knives, rods reels, lures, nets, creels, knives, B.B. guns, military, duck & fish decoys, post cards, Indian artifacts & more. Sorry no credit card sales. Ionia Antique Mall, downtown Ionia, MI 415 Main St. 616-527-6720.

ADA/CASCADE GARAGE SALE

Sat., Aug. 1, 9-5, 7287 Ventura Drive SE (off Thornapple River Dr) Furniture, washer/dryer, household items, lots of books and bargains!

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Sound Off

The Ledger "Almost" Anything Goes Column



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It is not just a place to "walk" your dog. When we lose a loved one it is therapeutic to bring a beloved pet to "see" his owner. A way of closure!

Tell me it isn't so. The large Bowes Road bear seems to be MIA. What happened?

What happened to the

Bowes Road Bear? It's so sad to see the empty stump.

Wow! I didn't realize how damaged the tree really was in front of the Lowell Senior Neighbors. The picture showed the deep scar on the trunk, but once the tree was down there was a huge section of hollow tree along the majority of the trunk. Good call on whoever caught that.

Warning: Area theaters sell R-rated tickets to minors and are not requiring a parent to be present. Shame on them.

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HOUSE FOR SALE - 4 br. 2 ba. bi-level ranch style. Deck, professionally landscaped. Nice neighborhood, close to schools & shopping. \$122,000. 304-2027.

FOR SALE - 4 bedroom, 2 bath spacious doublewide in Key Heights, \$7,500. Call 897-4364.

MAHOGANY BEDROOM - Dresser, night stands, mattress, frame, \$175. Hammond Wholesale.com.

2006 CHEVY IMPALA LS - 6 passenger, loaded & in excellent condition. \$7,400 or best. Call 897-4205.

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AIR CONDITIONERS - bunk beds, twin beds, futons, from \$69. Hammond Wholesale, 989-584-1600.

MATTRESSES - Large selection of name brand mattresses starting at \$49. All sizes. Never used. Call 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.

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

NEW LISTING! - Newer 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with lovely hardwood floors, a spacious kitchen, master suite, a must see garage & a fantastic deck where you can enjoy the creek & the wildlife that abounds! All sitting on nearly 1 1/2 acres! Just \$129,900! Call Melinda Robison at 616-648-0151 or visit www.GoMelinda.com, Five Star Real Estate, 791-1500.

FOR RENT - Country setting near Lowell, Well water, Consumers Power, propane furnace. Baird's 897-9081.

FOR RENT - Country setting for your mobile home between Saranac & Lowell. 616-893-3317.

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. For details call 897-9798.

FOR RENT - Very small 2 bedroom house, 2 mi. N. of Lowell. Large garage, no laundry hookup. Good references & deposit required. \$550/mo. Call 897-7130.

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.

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

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.

COMEHELPUSCELEBRATE!! - Mom is turning 80! Birthday party & open house for Dode Collins - Sun., Aug. 2, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. at Schneider Manor Community Room. Stop in & say "hi", have cake & punch & reminisce.

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

MENDED HEARTS - a volunteer non-profit support group affiliated with the American Heart Assoc. is meeting the first Tues. of the month at the Spectrum Health Fred & Lena Meijer Heart Center at 100 Michigan St. NE, Grand Rapids, in room 8815 on the eighth floor at 7 p.m. Mended Hearts offers hope, information and encouragement to heart patients families and caregivers through those who have experienced heart disease. For more information, contact Jim Oldfield at 891-9395.

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

CLASSIFIEDS NOW POSTED ONLINE!
www.lowellbuyersguide.com

EVENTS 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.

COMEHELPUSCELEBRATE!! - Mom is turning 80! Birthday party & open house for Dode Collins - Sun., Aug. 2, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. at Schneider Manor Community Room. Stop in & say "hi", have cake & punch & reminisce.

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

MENDED HEARTS - a volunteer non-profit support group affiliated with the American Heart Assoc. is meeting the first Tues. of the month at the Spectrum Health Fred & Lena Meijer Heart Center at 100 Michigan St. NE, Grand Rapids, in room 8815 on the eighth floor at 7 p.m. Mended Hearts offers hope, information and encouragement to heart patients families and caregivers through those who have experienced heart disease. For more information, contact Jim Oldfield at 891-9395.

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.

FOUND - Grand River and Segun Ave. Young pit bull mix, male. Call 987-9231.

NEED - Winterbeater, 4WD anything. Call 890-2212.

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HELP WANTED SERVICES

INSIDE SALES PERSON - If you have a dynamic personality & sales aptitude & want to enjoy good pay, flexible hours & working for a leader in the Motor Sports industry we want to meet you. Responsibilities include prospecting new customers & selling to established customer base. Active leads & training provided. Good phone skills, organization & great attitude required. Sales experience preferred but not mandatory. Call Bill at 897-9803.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS BENDENIED? - Employer fighting your unemployment benefits? It's time to get experienced assistance. Call 1-800-305-2899 or 1-231-773-8529.

MYSTERY SHOPPERS - earn up to \$100 per day. Undercover shoppers needed to judge retail & dining establishments. Experience not required. 1-877-300-4369.

EARN \$1000-\$3000 A MONTH - to drive new cars with ads. www.AdDriveCars.com

NEW TO AREA SEEKING NEW CUSTOMERS - Flippo Roofing & Homecare Services. Experienced with Insurance 616-477-1566 or email flippside1022@att.net

ZOO LAND DAYCARE HAS OPENINGS - on 1st & 2nd shifts. Call 897-8386 or 308-0195.

CASINO TRIPS - Aug. 3 & 10 to Little River, Manistee. Pick-up at Lowell Twp. Hall, 6:45 a.m. Oct. 13, Firekeepers, Battle Creek. Pick-up at Lowell Twp. Hall, 9 a.m. Wilson Tours, 1-866-272-0731.

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

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

HORSE BOARDING - Large indoor/outdoor arena, 24/7 pasture turn-out w/shelters, stalls for feeding & bad weather, jumps, trails, deworming inc, nondominant geldings only. \$340/mo. Call Bruno 616-450-4080.

WILL CARE FOR YOUR CHILD - after school, in your home. Call 897-6320.

LICENSED DAYCARE - on Vergennes just east of Lincoln Lake, only \$100/week, any age. Large indoor and outdoor play areas. First 2 families to sign up get enrollment for free. Call Robin Engle 616-889-8384.

YOGA CLASSES FORMING - Tuesdays, Aug. 11 - Sept. 29, 6:30-7:30 p.m. (\$40); Fridays, Aug. 7 - Sept. 18, 8-9 a.m. (\$30); at Dery Physical Therapy in Lowell. Walk-ins welcome. Signup 616-893-5661 or www.hammocklearning.com

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.

LAMINATING SERVICE AVAILABLE - Next day service. Drop off & pieces will be available by 9 a.m. the next day. No photos or previous laminated items will be laminated. Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

ADDIE ABEL DAY CARE - is accepting children for the '09 school year. Before & after school, next to Bushnell School, bus stops for Cherry Creek School. Very reasonable. Call 897-8166.

IS YOUR GROOMER M.I.A.? - Do you need your pet groomed? Call "Hair-Do Pet Spa" 897-8484, serving Lowell since 1994. Extended hours available. Call 745-8520.

PAINTING & DRYWALL - DOORS - Tile & trim work, decks. Most types of repair work. 25 years experience. References available. Competitive prices. 616-340-6221.

COMPUTER REHAB - \$45 all repairs - Virus & Spyware removal. No diagnostic fees! Mon. - Sat., 100 W. Main St., Lowell. 616-828-5346, www.computerRehab.ws

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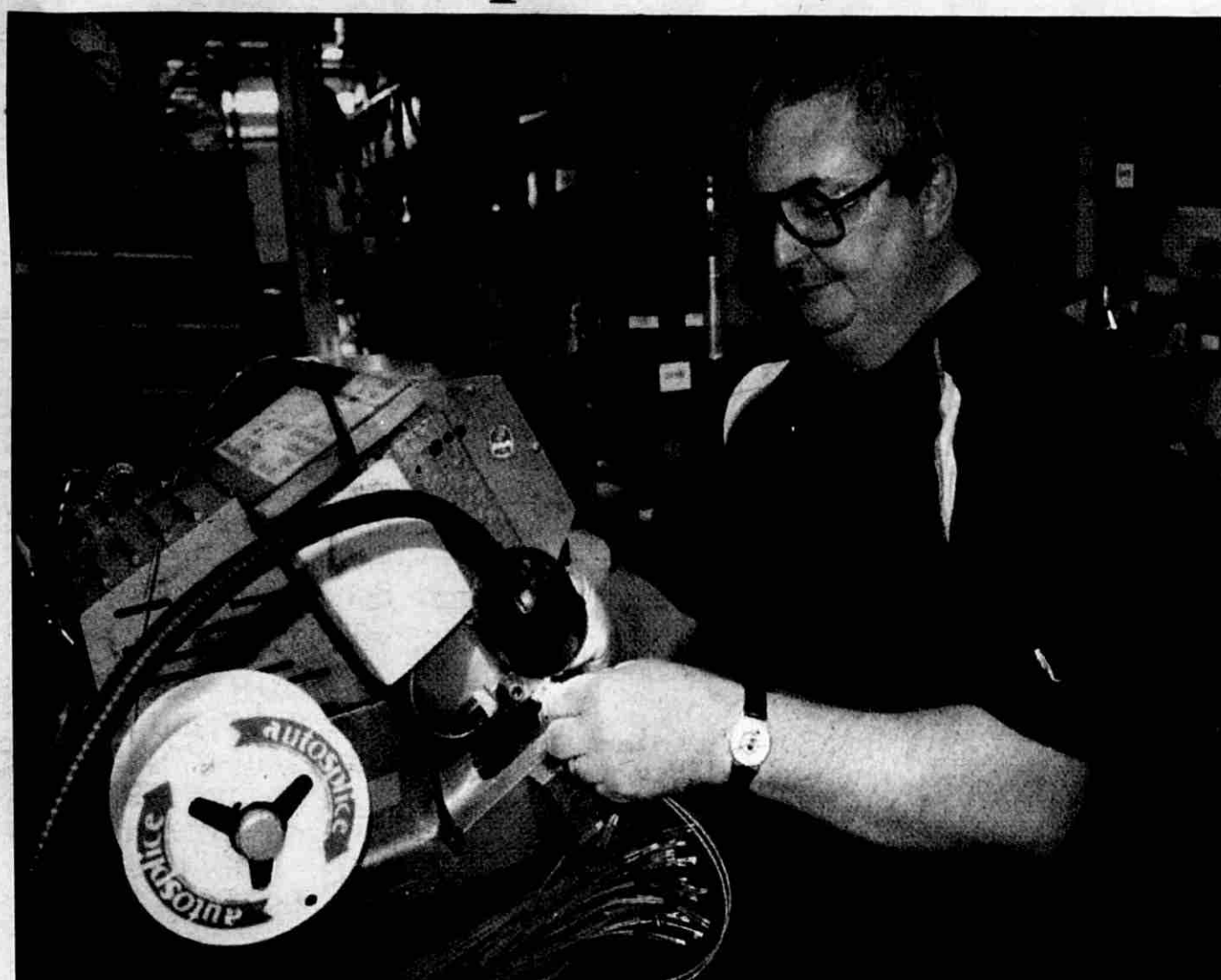
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Attwood expansion, continued ... From Page 1



"Anytime you bring more jobs to the community, it will have a positive impact on the city of Lowell," said Drees.

The jobs will all be new hires available immediately. These include hourly and salaried positions, professional and production jobs.

Dave Stevens of Belding has been working at

the plant for the last 25 years doing assembly. Stevens said he was excited about the expansion.

Attwood's expansion offsets recent bad economic news impacting local businesses that has resulted in closures or moves to other locations.

"Any time we get good news, especially jobs coming to our city, it gives us all hope

that perhaps there is light at the end of the tunnel," said chamber director Liz Baker. "New jobs mean less people on assistance; it creates the trickle down effect in a positive way. It will be good for our city, business, greater Lowell community and Michigan."

You can apply at: www.Brunswick.com and select the careers link.

Dave Stevens of Belding works in assembly.

You Can't Predict When...



Mark Johnson

Prime tornado season is March through September, but your home will be well protected all year long with a Homeowners policy from Farm Bureau General Insurance Company of Michigan. Call today.

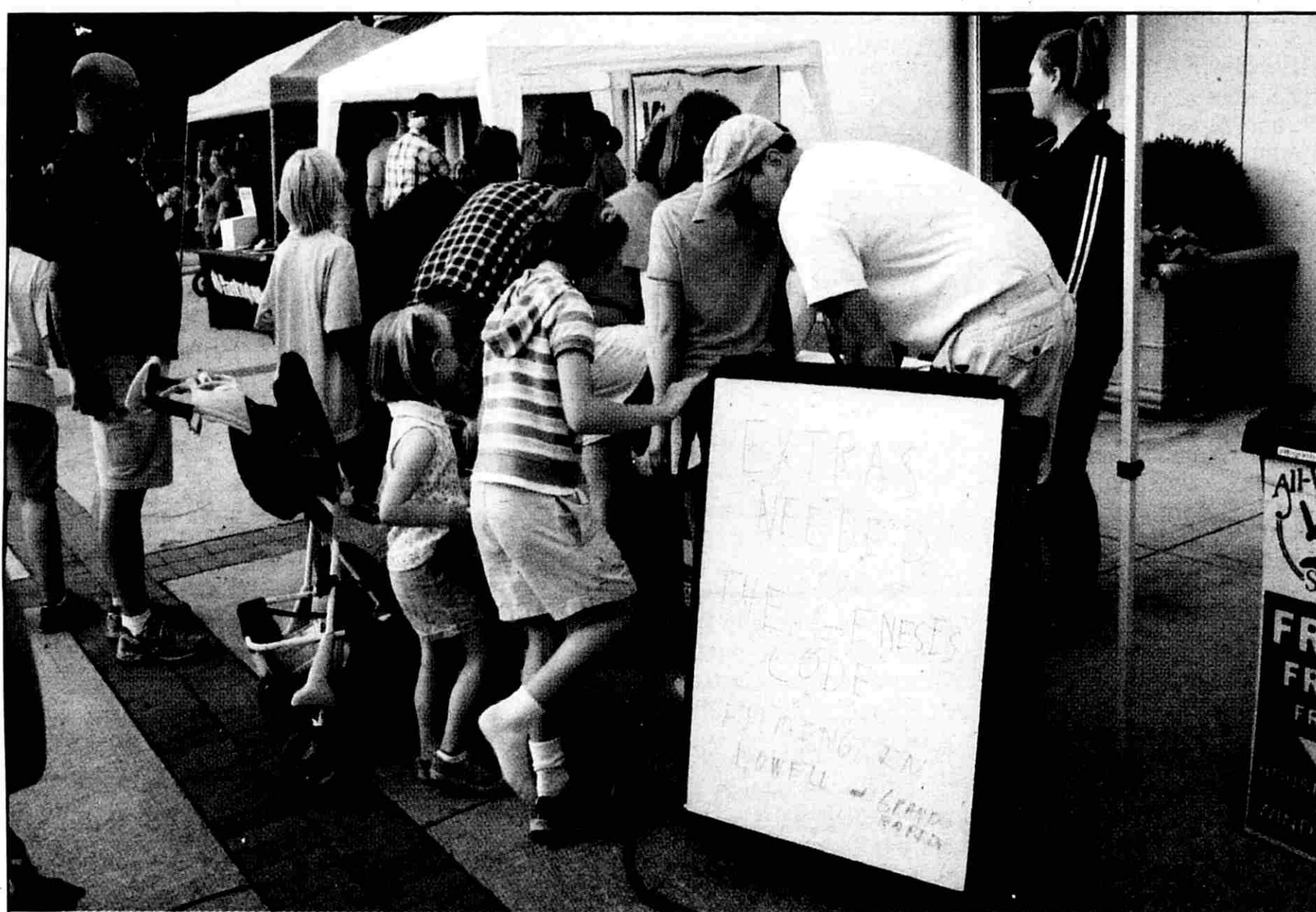
6095 28th St., Ste. 4
Grand Rapids

940-8181

www.MarkJohnsonAgency.com



Casting call on the Riverwalk

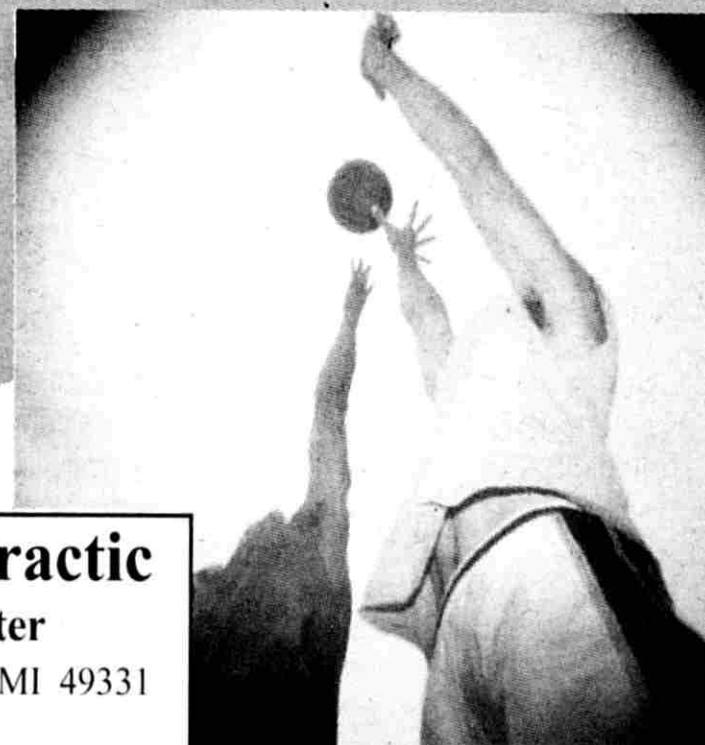
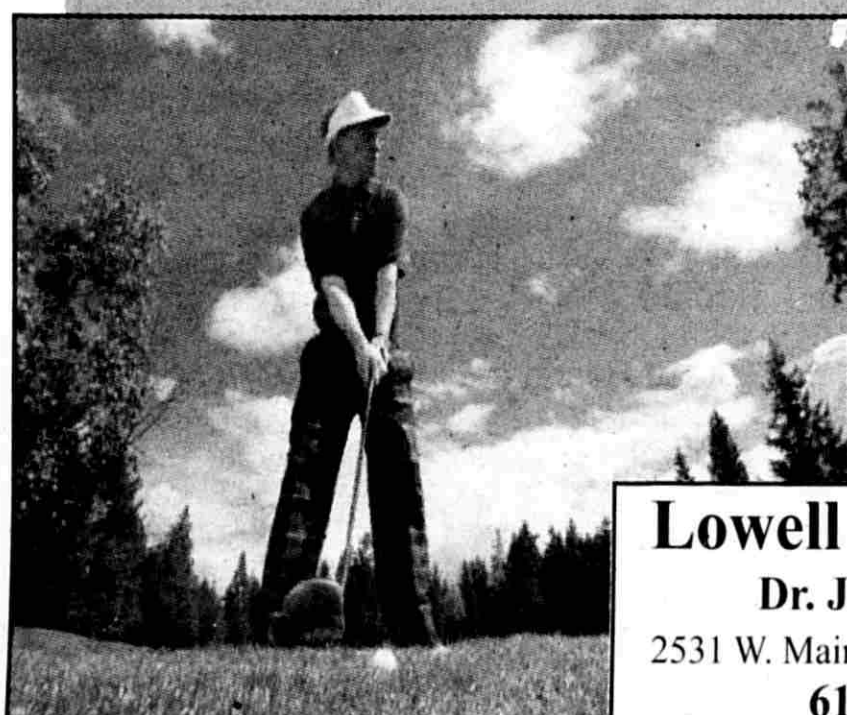


An open casting call was held last Thursday during the Sizzlin' Summer concert for the movie Genesis Code. Genesis Code will be needing hundreds of extras for many scenes in the movie that is being filmed in Grand Rapids. The big crowd scenes include a hockey game at the Patterson Ice Arena. The crew, which has production offices in Lowell, will be shooting in Lowell in August. Another casting call is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29 from 2 to 7 p.m. at Larkin's Restaurant and at the chamber office on Thursday during the Root Doctor concert from 6 to 10 p.m. Hopeful extras are asked to bring a head shot. More information is available by e-mail to genesisextras@gmail.com.

IS YOUR GAME SUFFERING BECAUSE YOU'RE SUFFERING!

Problems can begin with an extremity, like a knee or an ankle and then create further compensation problems in the spine. Professional athletes, "weekend warriors" and those who just want to remain fit, are discovering the benefits of regular chiropractic care.

FIND OUT IF CHIROPRACTIC CARE CAN HELP RESTORE YOUR HEALTH, IMPROVE YOUR PERFORMANCE AND INCREASE YOUR COMPETITIVE EDGE.



Lowell Chiropractic
Dr. Jim Chichester
2531 W. Main St. • Lowell, MI 49331
616-897-8284

NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP Public Hearings

Two Public Hearings will be held at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Vergennes Township Board on August 17, 2009, at 7:00 pm at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell.

Lloyd Landman, 4289 Causeway Dr., Lowell, has requested a special exception use permit to build a free-standing farm building on his property at 11150 2-Mile Rd, Lowell, as allowed under the Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance, Section 201.304 (C) (10).

Duane and Carolyn Fitzgerald, 840 Montcalm NE, Lowell, are seeking a variance from the Private Road Ordinance under Section 202.006 (b) (4). This section allows the township board to consider alternative approaches where unusual or extraordinary circumstances make compliance impossible.

Copies of the applications are available for public inspection at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, 616-897-5671, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Public comment will be taken at the meeting, or if received by the Clerk in writing or by e-mail at clerk@vergennestwp.org by 7:00 pm August 17, 2009.

Mari C. Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk