

the lowell ledger

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youth gymnastics



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red arrow wrestling



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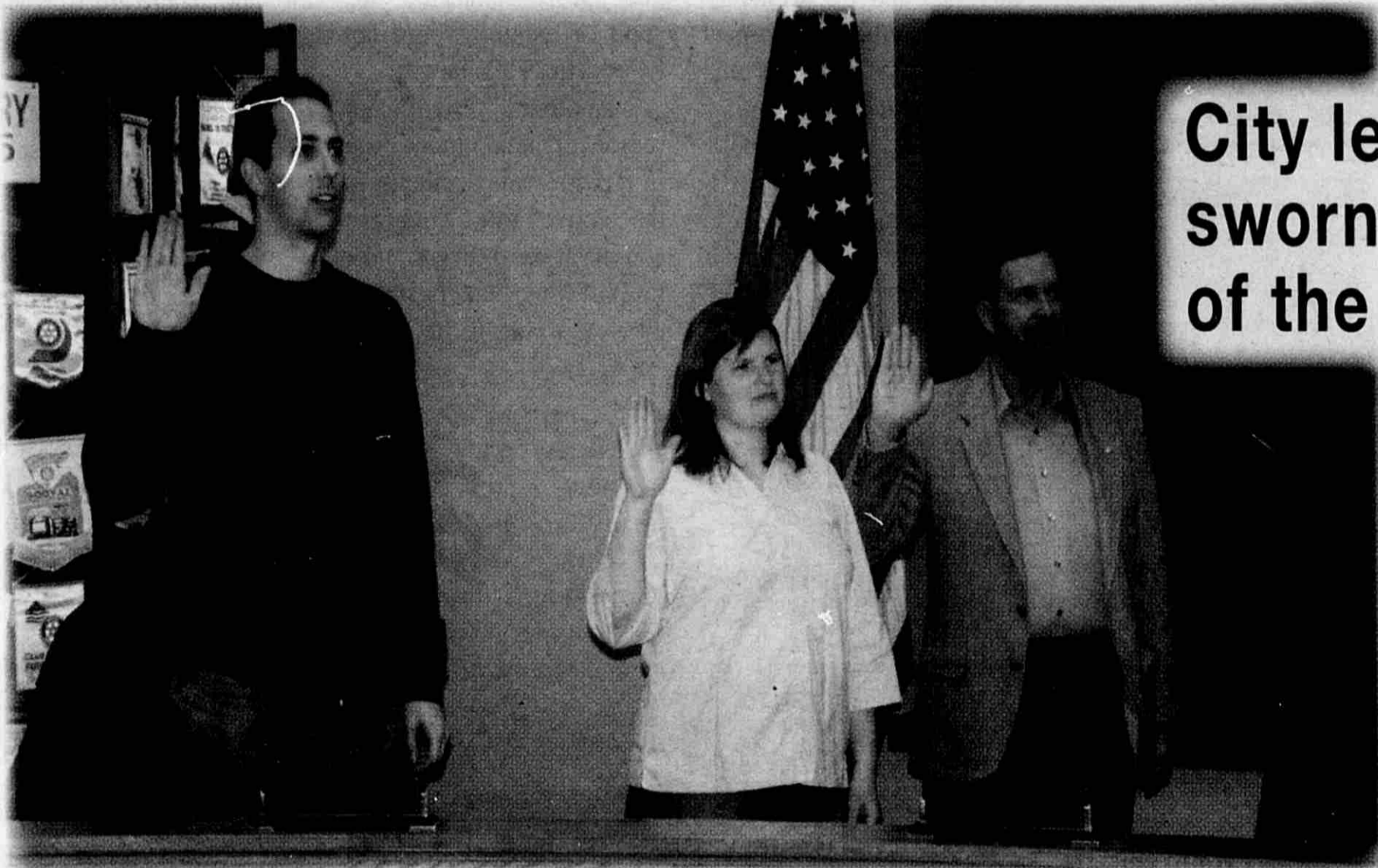
art exhibit



page 12



Police chief James Hinton requested a moratorium on growing and dispensing of marijuana.



City leaders sworn in at start of the new year

Andrew Schrauben, Maryalene LaPonsie and Jim Hodges were sworn in Monday night by city clerk Betty Morlock. Hodges is again mayor, while Sharon Ellison is mayor pro tem.

City council continues struggle over single hauler

by Emma Palova

The Lowell City Council continued its struggle with a proposed ordinance that would allow for a single waste hauler in the city to realize cost savings and cut

down on noise in the streets. The issue has been in the works for the last year after being brought up by council member Jeff Altoft.

Altoft encouraged the council to consider a single

hauler at their next workshop meeting on Jan. 11. Other communities that use single haulers include Greenville, Saranac, Portland and Ionia.

But smaller haulers oppose the ordinance amendment that would limit their capability to compete with large haulers in the bidding process.

"We're not taking away from smaller businesses," said Altoft, "a smaller business can handle our town. Anyone can bid on this."

However, due to imposed criteria by the proposed ordinance, smaller haulers are limited in services they

can provide, such as hours of operation for contact purposes from early in the morning into the evening.

"We're not dictating what they can do," said Altoft, "and we can always start all over. This has to be acted on."

However, the rest of the council requested more time and more options.

"We need to give people an option," mayor pro tem Sharon Ellison said. "I am not comfortable with the ordinance as it is written. I feel bad for small haulers and I am concerned about free enterprise. Something doesn't feel right."

Council woman Maryalene LaPonsie said she too was having a hard time with the issue.

Another public hearing will be held Jan. 19.

In related business, the council approved allocations from the Federal Community Development Block Grant for Sibley Street road and sidewalk improvements, for milling and repaving of S. Pleasant and S. West streets, and for North Kent Transit assistance to senior citizens and handicapped riders.

The city has also received \$140,000 from federal stimulus money.

Moratorium placed on growing/dispensing of medical marijuana

by Emma Palova

The Lowell City Council placed a six month moratorium on growing or dispensing of medical marijuana in order to explore a new ordinance that would regulate such activity.

During that time the city will consider proper regulations based on other communities.

Police chief James Hinton said the ordinance will coincide with the city's adult entertainment ordinance.

According to city attorney Dick Wendt, there may not yet be any communities that regulate medical marijuana except for the city of Grand Rapids that has recently placed a similar moratorium to consider regulation.

Questions remain how much regulation is possible

at the local level, since the state law which is in place supersedes local law in case of conflict.

In other business, the zoning board of appeals granted front yard variance for the construction of an office/maintenance building at the Schneider Manor.

Museum director Pat Allchin gave an update on museum activity during 2009. Between the exhibits and workshops, the museum enjoyed an attendance of \$22,000. However, the museum lost \$13,000 in revenues.

In 2013, the voter approved millage of 0.25 is up for renewal. The townships contribute to operations and may be approached for further funding in the future.

Council woman Maryalene LaPonsie questioned whether the issue has been put on the ballot in the townships for voters to decide.

Thursdays at the museum are free for all the city residents. The museum is open until 8 p.m.

Helping out during the holidays



Lowell Middle School Girl Scout Troop 3079 spent a day during their Christmas break to serve a meal at the Spectrum Health Renucci Hospitality House. Over 40 guests were served a complete spaghetti meal planned and prepared by the troop.

Pictured above, from left to right: Rebecca Schreur, Sara Barton, Meghan Mills, Breana Rich, Colleen Sterly and Anna Norder.

50 CENTS



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ask kathryn



Kathryn Denhouter Ph.D.

There are two more articles in the series on "executive functioning" in children. Today's article is on "working memory" and next month the article will be about something that is called "metacognition." These are big names for some very common sense ideas. "Working memory" is the ability to hold information in mind while performing complex tasks. It incorporates the ability to draw on past learning or experience to apply to the situation at hand or to project problem-solving strategies into the future. This definition comes from the book "Executive Skill in Children and Adolescents" by Peg Dawson and Richard Guare.

The first part of the definition which is "the ability to hold information in mind while performing complex tasks" I saw first hand at McDonald's last week. The cashier was able

up with the correct answer. A good working memory is essential to complete this task successfully.

If you or your child struggle with this skill, here are some exercises you can do to strengthen this skill area: 1.) Modify your environment so that you can get the information you need on demand (i.e., calendars, palm pilots, tape recorders, etc.). 2. Choose

effective cueing devices such as alarms on watches, post-its, computer pop-ups, and/or verbal reminders from friends, teachers, or parents. With children, it helps if they decide what cueing strategy will be the best for them. Make sure that it doesn't blend in with the surroundings. Typically, auditory cues tend to be more effective than visual cues. When teaching the

skill, clearly explain to the child what you are doing and then have them rehearse verbally the association between the cue and the working memory. Once they have been successful, they need to give feedback as to how well they have done and how it helped them with their working memory.

In summary, a key part of our success in school

and on the job is our working memory. Although some individuals have a special aptitude in this area, practicing our memory skills can go a long way in helping us be successful. If you have any questions or comments, please email me at kathryndenhouter@gmail.com. The next article will be on "metacognition."

health



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

Aortic Aneurysms

The aorta is the largest artery in our bodies. It runs from the heart down through the chest and into the lower abdomen supplying blood to the rest of our body. If the walls of the aorta are damaged or become weakened, an aortic aneurysm may develop. A section of the aorta may

expand or bulge somewhat like a balloon.

Aortic aneurysms tend to occur more commonly in men over the age of 65. Other risk factors for development of an aortic aneurysm are smoking, high blood pressure, family history of aneurysms, aging

and trauma to the abdomen. Aortic aneurysms are dangerous because they may rupture and cause life-threatening bleeding. The risk of rupture generally increases with the increasing size of the aneurysm. Unfortunately, there are usually no warning signs or symptoms of a developing aneurysm. Some people might experience lower abdominal, back or pelvic discomfort. Occasionally, aortic aneurysms may impede blood flow to the legs resulting in lower extremity pain while walking.

Your doctor may suspect an aortic aneurysm by listening to your abdomen

with a stethoscope and carefully feeling the abdomen for aortic enlargement. An ultrasound or a CT examination is done to determine the exact size and location of an aneurysm.

Treatment of an aneurysm usually depends on the size. If the aneurysm is small (less than 5cm) you and your physician may simply schedule follow-up imaging examinations to insure that the aneurysm isn't expanding. If the aneurysm is larger than 5cm or is growing by more than 1cm per year, surgery is usually indicated. If you have an aortic aneurysm strict control of high blood pressure is essential.

viewpoint

to the editor

Dear Editor,

Last week's issue of The Lowell Ledger had a front page article concerning the "bridge project" that will mandate one way traffic, without any on street parking for all of the summer months, which are the most productive times for most small downtown businesses! This is a hardship that rivals any merchant's worse nightmare!

One of the most popular prolific pronouncements of local, state and federal politicians is that they are ardent supporters of small businesses! That being the case, one would think that a 50 percent summer property tax break would be in line with these stated beliefs! Just being able to avoid business foreclosures would benefit all aspects of government and community.

I strongly urge our city, state and federal officials to pursue this reasonable and constructive concession for those affected businesses.

Charlie Bernard Lowell

Dear Editor,

There seems to be a lot of people talking trash lately. Usually that isn't a good thing, but in this case it's not only good, it's necessary. The trash I'm writing about is the City of Lowell moving toward a one trash hauler system. I believe this is an idea that really makes sense for Lowell. I first started thinking about it when considering what we could do to improve the terrible condition of our streets. Did you know that in any given week as many as five or six

different trash companies drive their trucks down our side streets? Some streets have at least one trash truck a day drive down them because residents have different trash haulers. This kind of heavy vehicle is hard on residential streets. A one hauler system would put trucks in our town only one or possibly two days a week. That is a lot less diesel fumes, noise, congestion, and trash sitting out every day of the week. Another reason to consider using one trash hauler is when there's a trash spill or damage done involving trash trucks, who's responsible? Unless someone sees the spill there are too many companies it might be hard to find.

Much has been said about limiting free enterprise by using this system. That's just not true! I would never be in favor of damaging free enterprise. Every trash company has the opportunity to bid on the job. We, at the

city of Lowell, tell the trash companies what our needs are and the bidders give us their best price. Right now we are asking companies to give us quotes that include bags and carts. Many companies don't like bags because of employee liability, however, we want what's best for the residents of Lowell so quotes will have to include both carts and bags. A resident recently voiced their concern to me that if this system is so good for the residents, then why don't the businesses have to use the same hauler? The fact is, businesses have much more and different waste needs than residents. Some businesses need a specialized container or their waste needs to be disposed of in a different manner. Businesses are charged differently than residents, almost always at a higher rate. It wouldn't be advantageous for the residents to be lumped into a quote with the businesses.

Finally, we get down to

the costs. Trash costs have gone up drastically. If we keep doing what we are doing now, bag prices have to go up. We saved a bit by going to a twice a month recycle pickup, but even with the increase in bag rates that happened last year, money is coming out of the general fund to cover the costs of recycling. We can't keep doing that. The one hauler system will lower rates. I can't tell you what they are now because we haven't started taking bids yet, but they will go down, not up. Many surrounding cities have already gone to this method of trash pickup and I have not heard any bad comments from their local officials. I think this is a good idea. If we decide to go with it, the contract will be for two or three years; if after that time it doesn't work out, we can do something else. Citizen comments are important; let me know how you feel.

Jeff Altoft, Council member, Lowell

the 300 people and the flood of American flags that provided a welcoming corridor just beyond our own color guard. I can tell you that no one was more overwhelmed by that turnout than the media covering it. My answer to the same question that came from each of them was, "It's just typical of the community spirit you'll find in Lowell!"

Mayor Hodges and councilwoman Ellison and our own Santa were at the Showboat on Wednesday evening. We received a wonderful note from both Shane and Jacqueline thanking everybody for giving them the most wonderful Christmas present anyone could ever have hoped for, Shane's own welcome home in his adopted city!

Let this letter also serve as a special note of appreciation from the Lowell American Legion and VFW to all of you who responded to the call to give Sgt. Scherer something he had missed... the welcome home his unit received at Ft. Hood, Texas five months ago while he was still in the hospital struggling to recover from his own life threatening wounds.

Those two welcoming ceremonies at the Airport and in Lowell added a dimension to Christmas that became something special not only to them and to the Bennett family but to all of us.

Dave Thompson, Commander Lowell American Legion Post #152

To the greater Lowell community,

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge everyone who became part of something "truly Lowell" by turning out at either the airport or at the showboat to greet Sgt. Shane Scherer, the wounded Afghanistan veteran who spent Christmas in Lowell.

We were overwhelmed by



By Shelly MacNaughton

75 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo January 3, 1935

Frank A. Madigan, well known to Lowell people as the proprietor of the Melody Farms dairy and a Grand Rapids oil man for 25 years, died of a heart attack early Sunday morning at his home in Grand Rapids at 2610 Robinson Road SE.

The body of Madigan, who was 44 years old, was found by his business secretary, Miss Peggy Jones, 32, and her mother, Mrs. P. M. Jones, when they went to the home to prepare his breakfast.

Mr. Madigan had many friends in Lowell and at one time was quite active in local affairs. He took a conspicuous part in the Lowell Centennial celebration of 1931, as chairman of the parade committee. The parade was one of the big events of the celebration.

125 Years Ago The Lowell Journal January 7, 1885

Louis W. Shepard of Harbor Springs, a half-breed Indian, was found dead four miles from Saranac Thursday.

The Morning Telegram says that N. A. Stone (formerly of Lowell) will erect a building on West Fulton Street in the spring and open up a dry goods store.

Deaths from diphtheria continue to occur in Lowell.—Detroit Journal

Deaths from diphtheria do not continue to occur in Lowell. In one family three children have had diphtheria; one died and the other two are getting well. No other cases reported here up to date.

50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger January 7, 1960

Dave Clark, Sr. points to the first gas furnace for using natural gas for heating in the community just installed at the C. H. Runciman Co. The giant size burner which will take a two inch gas line to feed it will fire the newly installed boiler to furnish heat for all the Runciman buildings on South Broadway. This includes the electric eye picking plant, the warehouse, bean elevator and office.

25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger January 9, 1985

Lowell State Savings Bank president Keith Cadwell announced three promotions at the bank recently. Lucille Green was promoted to assistant vice president. Terry Conley is now vice president of operations and Charles R. Myers was named as a vice president.

Letters To The Editor:

The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor. Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher. All letters are subject to editing for length and grammar. Thank you letters, advertising or personal attacks will not be printed.

Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331. Also, our website, www.lowellbuyersguide.com has a link to submit emails on the left side of the page.

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obituaries

HOFFMAN

Shirley Ann Hoffman, age 82, of Lowell, passed peacefully into the arms of Jesus Saturday, December 26, 2009.



Shirley was affectionately known to all as "Gramma Love." At her passing, she was surrounded by her family sharing memories of her and Grampa.

A New Year's resolution to keep

Many Americans begin each New Year with a list of resolutions and goals. You may want to go on a diet, shed a little weight, do a bit more exercising, or clean out the long-neglected attic.

Visiting a Social Security office to apply for benefits is no longer necessary. You'll save time, energy, and resources by filing your application from the comfort and convenience of your home or office computer.

Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 50 College SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or via email at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov

Understanding Insurance, continued

The co-insurance formula is: DID x LOSS + SHOULD = Difference. So using the example above, the home should be insured for \$185,000 (Should), but it was insured for \$70,000 (Did). If there was a \$50,000 loss from a fire, here is how you would get paid:

\$70,000 multiplied by \$50,000 divided by \$185,000 equals \$18,919 - so you would collect \$18,919 of your \$50,000 claim. This is why it is so important for you to make sure your home is properly insured.

1. Complete a replacement cost estimator with your agent for your home. 2. Inform your agent of any changes, renovations or additions to your home.

the well ledger OFFICE HOURS Monday - Thursday 8 am - 5 pm Friday: 8 am - 2 pm Closed Sat. & Sun. thelowelledger.com 897-9261

NORTHWOOD SHAVINGS Bulk Animal Bedding \$7 per yard in quantity 7587 S. Wisner Newaygo, MI 49337 231.652.1048

Someone, continued

as meatballs do. Goodbye Mike Leach! The Lowell Ledger/Larkin's Bowl Bonanza update shows this reporter one game in back of the leader (Dale Dawson) with four games to play.

area churches

LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington Lowell, MI • 897-8800 Pastor Wes Hershberger... CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery... FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168... ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. Eugene Okoli 402 Amity St. • 897-9820... SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Pastor Dr. Mike Conklin

LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington Lowell, MI • 897-8800... FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936... PARENTING: The Early Years Class - Mondays 7-8 p.m. RAYA Building 519 E. Main St., Lowell Class begins Jan. 11, 2010... HELP US DELIVER THE PAPER...please DIG OUT around your newspaper tube, mailbox, steps, walkways & porches! Let's all try to HELP EACH OTHER survive the Winter.

office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. Fri. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. closed Sat. & Sun. classifieds

for sale for rent help wanted services events events

MEMORY FOAM MATTRESS - Tempurpedic style visco memory foam. Never used. Queen \$595, king \$795. 616-682-4767 or 293-6160... RENOVATED (2009) - 2 bedroom Victorian (circa 1870) home for rent in Lowell.

NOW HIRING - & training for career positions with West Michigan's leading real estate company. Call Rick Seese, Greenridge Realty, Inc. for a confidential interview. 616-437-2576 or 616-974-4250... HANDY REPAIR SERVICE - All kinds of service work: locks rekeyed, deadbolts installed, screen & window repair.

THE EAST KENT COUNTY REPUBLICANS (EKCR) - will be meeting on Sat., January 9, 2010 at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce (113 Riverwalk Plaza) from 8:30 to 10 a.m. to discuss current events on the local, state and national levels.

HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER - Nice Adawalkout ranch, 3 BR/2bath. Large detached 2 stall garage, lot 100' X 325'. 633 Alta Dale, \$155,000, 616-881-2623. 2008 PONTIAC VIBE - 21,000 miles, great MPG. Extra safety options & traction control. Asking \$11,700. Call 897-5034.

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of I96. Call for specials 558-2900. 3 BEDROOM RANCH - with pasture & barn. Lowell Schools. Will not rent house only, this is a package deal. 616-897-5807.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES - Sign up at Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington, Sat., Jan. 9 a.m. - noon. You may also order online using your debit or credit card. Go to www.angelfoodministries.com. Any questions, call Esther 897-7395.

2007 RENDEVOUS CXL - Luxury package, smart track, automatic, V6, very clean, non smoker, silver w/black trim. 63,000 highway miles. \$16,000. Call 897-5178. FIREWOOD - Dry & split mixed hardwood, \$130 a cord or delivered for \$140. Call 616-821-9036.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR - begins Mon., Jan. 11, 9 a.m. at Lowell United Methodist Preschool. Classes available for 3 & 4 year olds. Call 897-8690. OPEN HOUSE - Stop by & wish Mark Ford Good Luck! Sat., Jan. 9, 6-9 p.m. Ford's Barn. He will be leaving for San Diego to become a United States Marine.

ADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY - second Saturday of every month at 10:30 a.m. at the Averill Historical Museum of Ada, 7144 Headley, Ada. COFFEE WITH THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL - First Saturday each month, 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. at Chamber office, 113 Riverwalk Plaza. Concerns & ideas welcome.

4X4 SILVERADO - '96 w/cap. Runs great, \$3,500 obo; NordicTrac, \$25. Call 897-5656. BUSINESS FOR SALE - eBay Drop-Off Store. Very busy. Great West Michigan location. Over \$268,000 sales last year. Priced low. Only \$50,000. Call 616-291-0039.

EMERGENCY AUTO REPAIRS - On road repairs. Used parts AV. saves \$\$ Flat Service, 616-292-7649 or 897-7749. BUSINESS CARDS - For as little as \$28 for 250. (white card, black ink). Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

ST. MARY'S PREGNANCY CRISIS CENTER - 402 Amity. Mondays: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Non-denominational. Help for pregnant women/adolescents in need. Provides support, referrals, food, clothing/infant items. Lowell area. 897-9393. LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS - (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs.: 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues. & Fri.: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 p.m. & 8-9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m. (NA) Mon./Thurs.: 6-7:30 p.m. 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

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

THANK YOU to those gracious people who gave me and my family love and support through my big brother's (Rick Roth) illness. Your wonderful cards and letters (Christmas and get well) were very much appreciated and the visits were enjoyed by all. Your friendship will always be remembered. Happy New Year to you and your families, Brenda

WHO WILL BE LOWELL'S NEXT BIGGEST LOSING TEAM? Lowell Community Wellness announces plans to host "Lowell Takes It Off Community Weight Loss Challenge." Wouldn't it be great to know that you were able to stick to your New Year's resolution and have fun at the same time?

STILL MISSING - A long-haired ALL black male cat named Blackie. Has bright yellow eyes. 2 years old. Last seen 10/28/09 on Ryan Ridge & Alden Nash SE in Lowell Twp. ANY INFO, please call 897-8385. REWARD. LOST - Male cat Hudson/Elizabeth, gray/white tiger, white belly & paws. Needs monthly meds. Let him out, he will come home. 821-3203.

CASH PAID FOR OLD STUFF! - Buying advertising items, military related, toys & games, jewelry, knives, lighters, hunting & fishing AND MUCH MORE. Call 616-550-0521. NEWSPAPER ENDS ROLLS AVAILABLE AT THE BUYERS GUIDE 105 N. Broadway. M-Th. 8-5 p.m. Fri. 8-2 p.m. Closed Sat. & Sun. Ph. 897-9261 Fax 897-4809

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PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. They are run 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. All Coming Events or changes to coming events should be submitted by fax: 897-4809, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

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December 30 - January 5

Bobby DeLaughter, the civil rights hero who secured the conviction in the Medgar Evers murder case, is himself heading to jail after a scandal that rocked Mississippi's judicial system. He reportedly lied about secret conversations he'd had with a lawyer over legal fees.

- U.S. and British officials say their embassies in Yemen will remain closed for a second day following security threats.
- Dubai prepares to inaugurate the world's tallest building. The building, named Burj Khalifa, stands 160 stories, 2717 feet tall and cost \$1.5 billion (\$9 million per floor).
- The Washington Redskins fire coach Jim Zorn.
- The future is uncertain for the Mars rover. It remains stuck six years after landing on Mars. 1 NASA rover is stuck in a sand rut.
- Baylor's Brittney Griner set a new school record for blocked shots against Texas State and the team nearly set a record for fewest points allowed. They beat Texas State 99-18 and Griner beat the season record of 87 blocks only 14 games in.

Apparently, it has been discovered that there was a third uninvited guest, a person traveling with the Indian delegation, allowed into the president's White House state dinner.

Photographs, by Annie Leibovitz, of Tiger Woods will appear in the February issue of Vanity Fair. Taken before his current scandal, the photos as well as the article are supposedly quite revealing.

To vote on the current poll question go to: thelowelledger.com



616-897-0787

Sound Off!

The Ledger's "Almost" anything goes column!

The Ledger reserves the right to choose what is printed, and reminds the public that views expressed in Sound Off, unless otherwise stated, are not the opinions of The Ledger staff or its publishers.

last week's Sound Off poll result:

In your opinion, does an increase in airport security mean:

- A) Great! Now we're going to have to put our underwear in the tray with our shoes. 40%
- B) Great! Anything they can do to keep us safe. 20%
- C) Who cares? I don't fly. 20%
- D) They'll never stop them all but it's a start. 20%
- E) They'll never stop them no matter what. 0%

DRAFT SYNOPSIS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2010

City Manager David M. Pasquale called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The following motions were made:

Motion to elect Councilmember Jim Hodges as Mayor.

Motion to elect Councilmember Sharon Ellison as Mayor Pro Tem.

Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2009 meeting as presented and the accounts payables was approved.

Motion to approve the annual authorization of signatures for City Bank Accounts and Designation of Depository Banks as presented.

Motion to approve the City Council Rules of Procedures as well as set the time of day (7:30 p.m.) that City Council meetings are held.

Motion of the Council appointments from its own membership as follows:

Zoning Board of Appeals Chair - Maryalene LaPonsie Parks and Recreation Commission member - Andrew Schrauben Lowell Area Recreation Authority member - Andrew Schrauben Planning Commission member - Maryalene LaPonsie Light and Power Board representative - Jim Hodges Downtown Development Authority representative - Jeff Altoft

Motion to approve the collection of summer property taxes for 2010 for Grand Rapids Community College at no fee but able to keep the interest earned during the bank deposit before distributing these monies.

Motion to approve the front yard variance request from Schneider Manor at 725 Bowes Road to construct a 76' x 36' office-maintenance building.

Motion to approve the following Community Development Block Grant funds:

2009-2010 - Sibley Street road and sidewalk improvements between Valley Vista Drive and North Center Street (\$25,073.40).

2010-2011 - Milling and repaving of S. Pleasant and S. West Streets (\$25,186.00) and North Kent Transit assistance to senior citizens and handicapped riders (\$6,000.00).

Motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, January 19, 2010.

Complete minutes will be available after approved on January 19, 2010 on the City's web page at www.ci.lowell.mi.us or at City Hall.

Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk



BOWNE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Bowne Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing to consider a request for a variance from the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Applicant: Robert Dine Address of Variance: 12522 72nd Street, Alto, Michigan 49302 General Location: South side of 72nd Street, approximately one-half mile east of Alden Nash Avenue Zoning of Property: Agricultural Variance Request: (1) Section 5.06 states that an original parcel with no more than 40 acres shall only be split once to create one new parcel. The original Dine parcel was split in 2008 to create the allowed new parcel. Mr. Dine wishes to split the original parcel again in order to create another new parcel and is therefore seeking a variance to do so.

(2) The Schedule of District Regulations states that for new parcels which are less than 40 acres in size the depth of the parcel shall not be greater than three times the width. Mr. Dine wishes to create a new parcel where the depth of the parcel is more than three times the width.

The hearing will be held as follows: WHEN: THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2010 TIME: 7:30 P.M. WHERE: BOWNE TOWNSHIP HALL 8240 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE ALTO, MI 49302

The application materials are available for review at the Bowne Township offices, 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Alto, Michigan, 49302 during normal office hours on Wednesday & Thursday from 9 AM to Noon and 1 PM to 5 PM and on Friday from 9 AM to Noon or by calling 868-6846.

Sandra Kowalczyk, Clerk Bowne Township

Kid Scoop THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

For puzzle answers, games, opinion polls and much more go to: www.thelowelledger.com AND CLICK ON KIDS SCOOP BUTTON

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

Make your celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day "a day on, not a day off." This year, thousands of people will do just that by volunteering.

SEEDS OF LEARNING AND SERVICE

AMHERST, MA - Every spring, kids at the Common School in Amherst, plant pumpkins and proceed to learn how to care for them. And from these seeds come study and service.

In the fall, after they harvest the pumpkins, students practice math skills by weighing them and counting the seeds.

The learning continues as they measure ingredients to make dozens of loaves of pumpkin bread, which they donate to the nearby senior center.

Read the above article and identify each of the following:

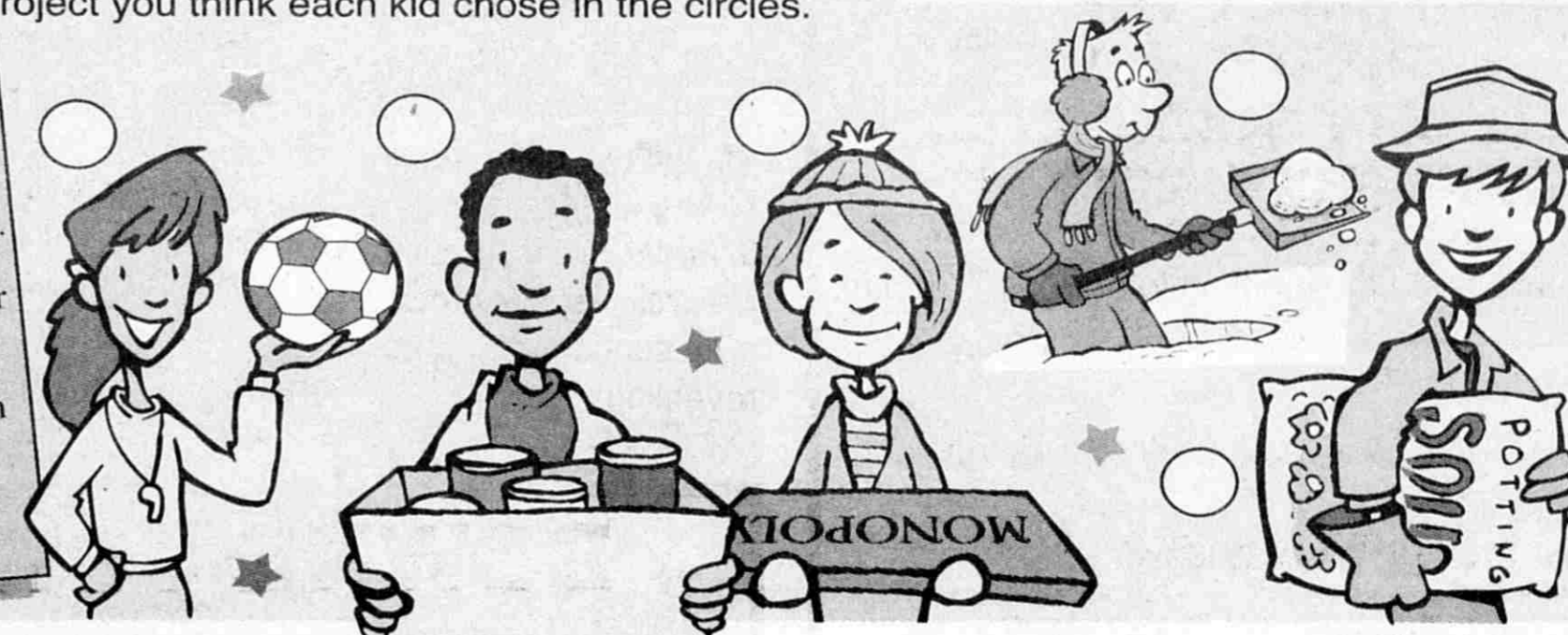
WHO: WHAT:

WHEN: WHERE:

Standards Link: Civics: Students understand the importance of volunteering as a characteristic of American society (e.g., people should volunteer to help others in their family, schools and communities).

Take a look at this list of MLK, Jr. Day of Service ideas. Then look at each picture. Number the project you think each kid chose in the circles.

1. Clearing an elderly neighbor's sidewalk.
2. Collecting canned goods for a food bank.
3. Help coach a younger child's team.
4. Help a neighbor with some yard work.
5. Play a game at the senior center.



Trash-bag Team The volunteer coordinator asked four students to collect as many bags of garbage as they could find in the park. How many did each student find? Use the clues to complete the chart.

- The 4 students filled a total of 15 bags.
- No one filled more than 7 bags.
- None of the students filled the same number of bags.
- Cassidy filled 5 bags.
- Owen filled 3 less than Cassidy.
- Sam filled the most bags.

| Students | Bags |
|----------|------|
| CASSIDY | |
| OWEN | |
| BODIE | |
| SAM | |
| TOTAL | 15 |

How many stars can you find on this page in 60 seconds? Now have a friend try. Who found the most?

Extra! Extra! Helping Others

- Look through the newspaper to find:
 - An organization that helps others
 - A person helping others
 - Adjectives about helping
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day events

Standards Link: Civics: Know how various American holidays reflect values, principles and beliefs of Americans.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Starting at the R, move clockwise around the circle and write every third letter on the lines to find out something you can do today to help someone.

What's a great way you can help someone today?

R _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

SERVICE TUTOR DONATE VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY SENIOR SUPPORT PROMOTE COLLECT ENERGY KING LOAVES SEEDS CARE POSTER

S S D E E S B R C T
U Y G R E N E E O C
P D O N A T E E M E
P P I E I C A T M L
O O V O I K L N U L
R S E V A O L U N O
T T R O T U T L I C
U E A P R O M O T E
S R C N T E E V Y R

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Thank You Ads Find ads in the newspaper that thank and acknowledge community volunteers. Create a newspaper "Thank You" ad for participation in a Book Drive. Contact your local newspaper to find out the cost of running this ad.

Standards Link: Research: use the newspaper to locate information.

Why was the broom late?

ANSWER: IT OVERSLEPT!

Kid Scoop Together: Missing Words

Use the words in the word list to complete this news article.

100 Hours of Service

Longmont, CO - Julie Kraus, a _____ at Longmont High School, is working to _____ a few of her own volunteer hours into 10,000 _____ of community service. _____ Kraus _____ a club with 100 students at her school who each _____ to volunteer _____ 100 hours by the _____ of the school year. When 100 students volunteer 100 _____ hours, that _____ 10,000 hours of community _____.

| HOURS | END |
|---------|---------|
| TOTALS | SERVICE |
| TURN | AGREED |
| STUDENT | FORMED |

Standards Link: Civics: Understand the importance of volunteering as a characteristic of American society.

What a Character! Service is ...

... helping people in your community whenever possible.

Kid Scoop-doku

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word DONATE in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | E | | | A |
| O | | | A | |
| N | | E | | |
| A | O | | | |
| T | N | | | |
| E | A | | | D |

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: VOLUNTEER

The verb to volunteer means to work or help someone for no pay.

The fourth grade students volunteer to read to the kindergarten students.

Try to use the word volunteer in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

Write On! Make a Difference

Tell how you make a difference in someone's life within your family, your school or in your community.

Artist's work explores human spirit

by Emma Palova

In her 'Human Spirit' series 1&2, artist Janet Barker explores the relationship between the body and the spirit.

Barker's complete solo show is now on display at the Riverwalk Gallery through April 9.

"I situate each figure in an atmosphere of drama," she said. "There they act out a piece of their lives."

So, each figure acts out its own personal drama with the help of metaphoric objects and landscapes.

Barker uses herself as a model with picture references to the body. In the first series, the figures are on a stone couch representing the hardness of life.

In the latest series, Barker positions the figure near the entryway of a maze hedgerow. The maze represents life with its archways indicating a new passage that the human spirit has entered.

This evolution from hard to soft and calm, also shows

the evolution of the spirit of the artist.

Barker, as an artist, has evolved from depicting sad and crouched figures to more graceful and calm ones.

Barker considers the human spirit series as the heart and bulk of her work, her artistic identity.

The series started as a subject for her senior theses in 1997.

"I wanted to create more than just a still life," Barker said. "I wanted to explain the human spirit and the soul."

Barker has been intrigued by the human face and figure for most of her artistic life, but has also done pencil drawings on commission.

"I am getting back into my own work now," she said.

Her large oil painting 'Storehouses' is an explosion of colors with snow in the background.

"I want people to stop and think about where they are in life," she said. "Take a moment to pause and think about our own spirit."

Her show includes illustrations such as the carousel animals. She paints children's and mother's portraits.

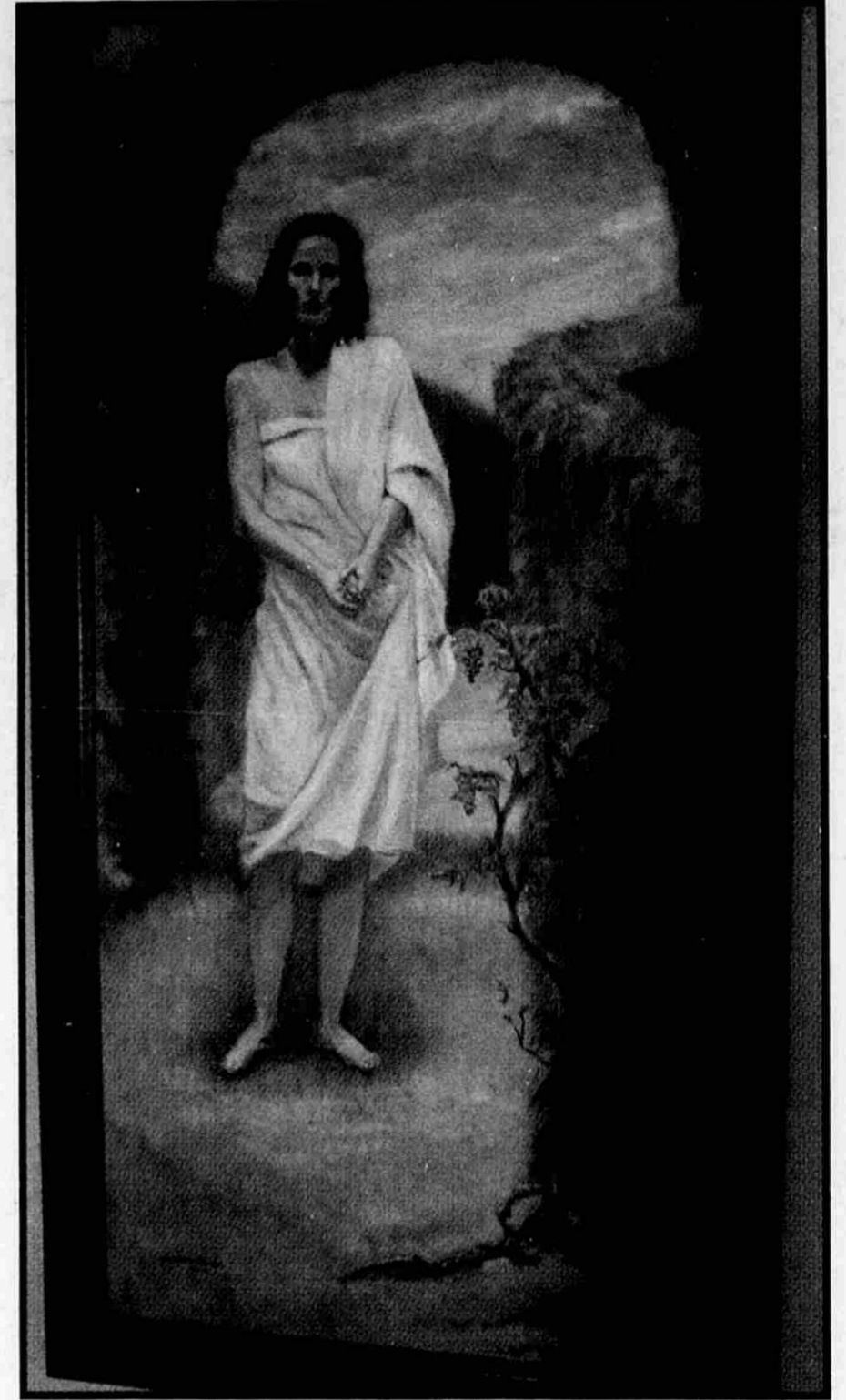
Barker plans to continue the Human Spirit series and the Wing series. She started the Wing series when she was having many dreams.

In 'Earth Bound' the figure is depicted with wings, but not necessarily considered to be an angel. She is wearing regular dress, and the wings are broken.

Barker will display her artwork on the Internet at www.artspan.com with other artists. She would also like to have her paintings in a gallery.

"I want to keep on going," she said. "It is evolving where I am as an artist. The spirit has increased and changed."

With the understanding that there are highs and lows in everybody's life, Barker is hoping people will be able to identify with her artwork.



Human Spirit series #2

"Art is a major way I like to communicate," she said. "It's a communication mode and I delight in the process that art takes me through." Barker has a bachelor's degree in fine art and illustration. Artist's reception will be held on Feb. 14 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the chamber.



Artist Janet Barker with 'Storehouses.'

BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 09-05

At a regular meeting of the Bowne Township Board held on December 21, 2009 Ordinance 09-05 was adopted. This Ordinance amended the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance to add Section 3.40 regulations for outdoor furnaces. A summary of this Ordinance follows:

Outdoor furnaces are not permitted in the R-4 Multifamily Residential District, the R-5 Manufactured Housing Community District, the C-1 Commercial District, or the M-50 Corridor Overlay District. Outdoor furnaces are permitted in all other zoning districts subject to the requirements of this Section 3.40. A building permit from Bowne Township is required to install an outdoor furnace.

Outdoor furnaces shall be installed and operated according to the manufacturer's instructions. Outdoor furnaces shall be operated in the most efficient and clean manner possible.

An outdoor furnace shall only be used to burn wood without additives, wood pellets without additives or agricultural seeds in their natural state. Certain materials are prohibited.

No outdoor furnace shall be used or operated in such a fashion as to become a nuisance to the owners or occupiers of adjoining or nearby properties or dwellings or in such a fashion that smoke emissions unreasonably interfere with the safe or reasonable enjoyment of the owners or occupants of nearby or adjoining properties.

The ordinance contains specific requirements for Outdoor Furnaces in the R-3 Urban Residential District, the C-2 Commercial District, and the IND Industrial District, including the requirement that no outdoor furnace shall be located within 100 feet of a dwelling unit which is not on the same lot as the outdoor furnace.

This Ordinance shall become effective seven days after publication.

Ordinance 09-05 is available for review at the Bowne Township offices, 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Alto, Michigan 49302 during normal office hours on Wednesday & Thursday from 9 AM to Noon and 1 PM to 5 PM and on Friday from 9 AM to Noon or by calling 616-868-6846.

Sandra Kowalczyk, Clerk
Bowne Township

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

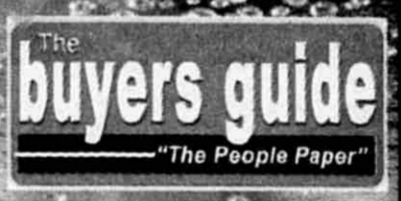
SPECIAL SECTION January 16

Make sure you advertise in the Buyers Guide Health & Wellness Section


SPECIAL AD RATES:
 1/8 PAGE - \$65
 1/4 PAGE - \$125
 1/2 PAGE - \$240
 FULL PAGE - \$459

Spot color \$50
Full color \$100

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