

history mystery



page 8

art to make you smile



page 16

lhs sports



state champ



page 9



page 14

50 CENTS



## LAS one-mill sinking fund fails by 91 votes

by Ellen Mork  
contributing reporter

The Lowell Area School (LAS) sinking fund proposal failed by 91 votes. This sinking fund would have addressed issues such as safety, security and saving energy.

The vote was held Tuesday, February 26th and final results were 741-650.

The proposal put forth was one-mill for seven years. Rather than a bond millage, the sinking fund would have operated as a bank account. So as funds came in yearly, they would

be spent on projects such as renovations to schools and parking lots. This sinking fund would have raised approximately \$730,000 each year, for a total of \$5.11 million over the seven years.

The decision for a sinking fund was based on a two-year study analyzing the best funding option. Unfortunately, the analysis and number crunching was not finished in time to submit their sinking fund request for the November

6th, 2012 election so a special election was held with only the proposal on the ballot.

Although school officials are unsure what the next step will be, it does not include an election in the near future. The filing deadline for the May elections was February 26th, election day.

LAS superintendent Greg Pratt said, "We will be analyzing the voter results and turnout to identify what our next steps will be."

A total of 8.98 percent of registered voters in the LAS district turned out, which is a very low turnout. The millage passed in three of the ten precincts: Cascade Township, Vergennes Township and the City of Lowell.

There are several hypotheses why the sinking fund failed.

A winter storm hit the area in the afternoon, causing roads to become slick and snow covered. Another reason could be

most people did not know or care about the election.

Pratt said they used a range of channels to promote the election. The school promoted the election in an article in the Ledger, letters to the editor, Grand Rapids Press articles, signs on Main Street, as well as by providing information at most school events.

"It is too early to determine when or if we will come back to the voters," Pratt said Friday afternoon.

## City amends its constitution, adopts new strategic plan

by Ellen Mork  
contributing reporter

The city council has been working on reviewing and revising the code of ordinances. On March 4th, the council approved new changes to the administration chapter.

Because the council is amending the charter, a vote will be held during the general election November 5th. The ballot measure is asking to amend the constitution so new councilmen begin their terms on the first regular meeting in January following their election. Another amendment proposal is asking to change language so an appointee to a vacant seat will hold the seat until the first regular meeting in January following the election after the vacancy occurred. Both amendments will ask for a yes or no vote.

Current language states that an elected councilman begins their term the first regular meeting after the election. Changing the language allows for more time in case an election is being disputed or results are still being tallied the day of the council meeting.

City of Lowell Strategic Plan

Over the course of the past year, the council and city manager's employees have spent countless hours working on the strategic plan. Making the strategic plan entailed defining the city's strategies and direction and then deciding how to pursue these strategies.

The first step in making the strategic plan was creating a vision. Mark Howe, city manager, sees the vision as the center point for which everything revolves around. The vision is to "be the vibrant core of a thriving community." He hopes Lowell achieves this in the next ten to twenty years. The mission, taken from the charter, is to "provide for public peace, health and safety of persons and property."

After these two definitions were chosen, values and strategic focus areas were added. Specific goals are listed for each section related to the topic. All items listed are areas the city will work to improve and will help Lowell become a vibrant community.

Each year, the projects accomplished will be analyzed. The city will then



The council listens as Howe describes the new strategic plan for the city.

decide how progress was for the year in each specific area. The status of each goal is checked to see if it is on the right track, needs attention or needs immediate attention. Finally, a priority is given for each goal and the city focuses its efforts on

achieving goals with higher priorities.

2012's work was assessed with the new strategic plan and 17 areas of focus yielded progress, nine yielded little or no progress and none fell behind. Only four of the 26 areas are on

the right track and the rest need attention. Fortunately, with the strategic plan adopted by city council, the city can begin to work on the goals and make Lowell a well-rounded, vibrant city to live in.



## State Rep takes the plunge

State Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons, R-Alto, participated in the second annual "Legislative Polar Plunge" on Thursday, Feb. 28, benefitting Michigan Special Olympics, held on the Capitol lawn. Lyons joined with other state lawmakers as they jumped into a freezing-cold pool of water in an effort to help the organization. Rep. Lyons also participated in the event last year.

# Spring into retirement

Your age at the time you start receiving Social Security retirement makes a difference in your benefit amount. The full retirement age (the age at which 100 percent of retirement benefits are payable) has been gradually rising from age 65 to age 67. You can take "early retirement" as early as age 62, but if you

start collecting benefits before you reach your full retirement age, your monthly payment will be reduced. You can find out what your full retirement age is by referring to the convenient chart at [www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/retirechart.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/retirechart.htm)

Just as you can choose an early retirement and get

a reduced payment, you also can choose to keep working beyond your full retirement age to take advantage of a larger payment. Generally, your benefit will increase automatically by eight percent each year from the time you reach your full retirement age until you start receiving your benefits or until you reach age 70.

You may want to consider your options by using our Retirement Estimator to get instant, personalized estimates of future benefits. You can plug in different retirement ages and scenarios to help you make a more informed retirement decision. Try it

out at [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator).

You also can set up an online my Social Security account. You can use your my Social Security account to obtain a copy of your Social Security Statement to check your earnings record and see future estimates of the retirement, disability, and survivor benefits you and your family may receive. Visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

When you decide to retire, the easiest and most convenient way to do it is right from the comfort of your home or office computer. Go to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) where you can apply for retirement benefits in as little as 15 minutes.

*Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp St NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525 or via email at [vondavantil@ssa.gov](mailto:vondavantil@ssa.gov)*



## along main street

### FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries will be Wed., March 6 from 6-7 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

### CALL FOR ACTORS

LowellArts! and Thebes Players will present the dramedy, Steel Magnolias the weekends of April 26-May 11. Seeking six adult females for roles. Approximate ages needed are two young girls, early 20s; two in their 40s-50s and two in their mid-60s. Auditions will be held at LowellArts!, 149 South Hudson, on Sat., March 9, from 9:30-11:30 am and Tues., March 12, from 6:30-8:30 pm. For more information call or visit LowellArts! at 149 S. Hudson, 897-8545 or visit [www.lowellartsmi.org](http://www.lowellartsmi.org)

### BLOOD DRIVE

Lowell High School Student Council is sponsoring a Blood Drive Friday, March 15 from 7:30 am until 2:30 pm in the small gym. Cookies and ice cream will be provided to all donors. Please visit MI Blood to sign up or contact Heather DeJonge at Lowell High School 987-2945. Be a hero and sign up to save lives today!

### MOVIE AT LAHM

"The Ten Commandments" starring Charlton Heston and Yul Brynner, will be showing at the Lowell Area Historical Museum on March 16 and 17. Open 1-4 pm and the movie starts at 1:15 pm. Only 12 theater seats but will add a few more if needed. Admission and popcorn is free.

*Feel free to send your event information to the Ledger for Along Main St. All submission requests for Along Main St. are subject to space limitations. The Ledger makes no assurances that they will appear in print. To ensure that an event notification will appear in the Ledger, it is best to place a paid advertisement. All efforts will be made to place suitable items in the Along Main St. column but they are printed at the discretion of the publisher. For profit events, church services, yard sales and the like, will not appear in this column.*

### MAPLE SYRUP FEST

#### AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Celebrate the coming of spring and attend the Maple Syrup Fest, Sat., March 16 at the Wittenbach/Wege Center. Pancake breakfast (served from 9 am -12 pm) and a chance to go back in time and learn how maple sap was harvested and processed by both Native Americans and early settlers with the Lowell Area Historical Museum. Cost is \$5 per adult, \$3 per child and children 5 and younger eat free.

### LOCAL AUTHOR PRESENTION

Local author Tobin T. Buhk will present a program on true crime in the Civil War, based on his book about murder, treason, counterfeiting, massacre and more in America during the 1860's. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Englehardt Library and the Lowell Area Historical Museum and will be held at the Lowell Township Hall on Tuesday, March 19 at 7 pm. Light refreshments will be served following the program. Please call the museum for more information about this program 897-7688.

### SEED SWAP

The Wittenbach/Wege Center (WWC) will be hosting a seed swap on Sun., March 24 from 2-3:30 pm at the center. Bring out any seeds you have to swap. Seeds can be up to four years old but please don't bring anything you know isn't viable. Make sure all packets are labeled with type and variety name. The WWC will have heirloom and traditional varieties available for a small donation. For more information call 987-2565.

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~ Isaiah Harden

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# Red Arrow robotics team participates in annual competition

submitted by Brendan Philo and mentor Sue Huffman

The name of the game is Ultimate Ascent and the name fits it well. The robots have to shoot Frisbees into four different goals or climb a pyramid with three levels to score points. The Lowell Red Arrow robotics, FIRST team 3234, participates in the annual FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition (FRC) - a popular challenge among high school students all over the world. Each team has to create, build and program one robot within six weeks. Three robots face off against three other robots in each match of the game, with a different game every year and this year's game involves shooting Frisbees and towers to climb.

The first competition last weekend was crazy. Many robots weren't finished and teams worked feverishly Thursday night before the competition until the pits closed. The Red Arrow team was picked by team 1596, The Instigators from Sault Sainte Marie and team 1711, The Raptors from Traverse City, to be in the 8th alliance for the elimination rounds.

There are eight three-team alliances that compete in double elimination. The Red Arrow alliance lost in the first round to the first alliance (1918, 2474 and 4835) who went on to win the competition.

The team will participate in two competitions this year, try to get enough points to go to the state competition and maybe even worlds. The first competition was in Traverse City last weekend.

The second competition will be at Grand Valley State University on March 22 and 23. The public is invited to come watch the matches, including the finals, for free. The Michigan competitions can also be seen on a live webcast at [www.coderedrobotics.com/webcast](http://www.coderedrobotics.com/webcast)

Each FIRST team is encouraged to support its community in many ways. The Red Arrow team has participated in various community events and supports Hunt for A Cure, which funds research at Michigan State University for a cure to cystic fibrosis.

The team is funded by sponsors and fundraisers. Team sponsors this year

included White's Bridge Tooling, Inc.; Lowell Area Schools; Lowell Community Fund; Visual Entities, Inc.; Alto Lions Club; Metric Manufacturing;

Szudera Insulation Co., Inc.; Rockstar Steaks; Phil Brown Welding Co.; Idea to Stitches; Enwork and Grand River Orthodontics.

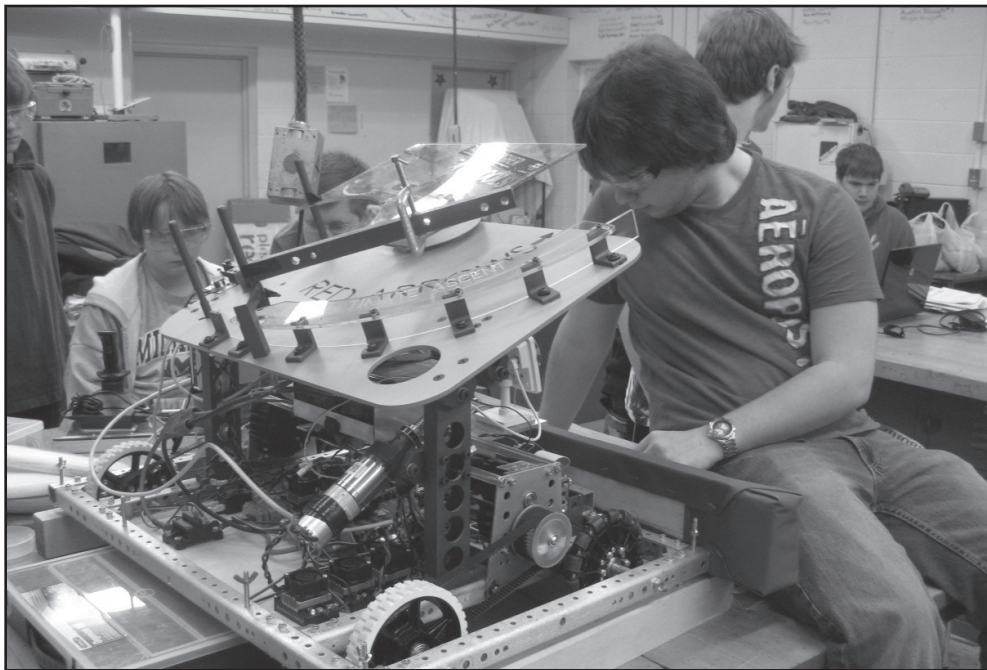
Our upcoming fund-

raiser will be a plant sale on Memorial Day weekend: May 25, from 8 am-5 pm, May 26, from 10 am-4 pm and May 27 from 9 am-10 am before the parade and

after the parade until 1 pm. The sale will be at 520 N. Monroe in Lowell. There will be potted perennials ranging in prices from \$.50 to \$3.



This year's team with last year's robot, from left to right, top row: Mansel Reed, Zach Gibas, Nick Longway, Mark Winogrocki, Steven Endres, Austin Sherrill, Josh Zalis, and JD Speck; second row: Cameron Philo, Jenny Huffman, Caleb Kaufman, and Esme Misiak; third row: Allison Annable, Robot and Brendan Philo; bottom row: Clayton Brown, Chloë Johnson, Gavin Palmer, Dylan Odland, Andy Hudson, and Todd Hovey. Not pictured: Seth Gibas, Nathan Barrett and Brayton Grant.



From left to right: Cameron Philo, Brendan Philo, Mentor Kyle Rokos, the Robotics president Zach Gibas, Mark Winogrocki, and Nick Longway.

## 2013 BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE Lowell, Mi. 49331

### 2013 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Lowell Township Board of Review for 2013 will be held at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE, on the following dates:

**Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 10 a.m. - Organizational Meeting**

**Monday, March 11, 2013 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon  
& 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

&

**Thursday, March 14, 2013 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
& 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2013 assessments.

By board resolution, residents are allowed to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 14.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2013 are as follows:

Agricultural.....	49.44.....	1.0113
Commercial .....	52.52.....	0.9520
Residential.....	47.47.....	1.0532
Industrial .....	48.43.....	1.0324
Personal .....	50.00.....	1.0000

#### American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 2 days notice.

Contact: Supervisor Jerry Hale, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE  
616-897-7600

Board of Review Members, Barbara Tremblay,  
Lisa Reed & James Foerch,  
Jerry Hale, Township Supervisor, Secretary of Board of Review.

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## ask kathryn



Kathryn Denhouster Ph.D.

This is the third article in a series that is discussing bipolar disorder (BPD) in children. More specifically, the evaluation of and the diagnosis of bipolar will be reviewed. How can we best spot the symptoms of BPD in childhood? First of all, if bipolar is present in the family or if symptoms that will be discussed later in this article are present, an evaluation is in order. An interview would be conducted by a psychiatrist and preferably one who specializes in child and adolescent psychiatry. A good evaluation would have the following: 1.) Enough time - this would be at least forty-five minutes or more. 2.) Included in the evaluation would be medical history, current symptom presentation, how the child functions in different settings, how the child interacts with family members and other adults,

and a close observation of the patient during an evaluation. Finally, the psychiatrist needs to eliminate or rule out other causes of the symptoms. Other illnesses can mimic bipolar disorder. These would include, but are not limited to hyperthyroidism, seizures, Wilson's disease and fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS).

Currently, there is not a widely accepted blood test or brain scan used to diagnose bipolar disorder. Typically, children do not present with the clearly defined episodes as adults do. Instead, they tend to be in a constant state of mood flux. To be diagnosed with bipolar disorder these symptoms must cause significant problems in relationships and normal functioning. During a period of heightened mood (mania) four of the following

symptoms are required: 1.) inflated self-esteem, 2.) overtalkativeness, 3.) racing thoughts, 4.) decreased need for sleep, 5.) distraction, 6.) risky behavior, and 7.) agitated movement. Depression is the opposite extreme of the manic part of bipolar disorder. Five or more of the following symptoms must be present: 1.) depressed mood most of the day, 2.) lack of pleasure in activities that use to bring enjoyment, 3.) fatigue and loss of energy, 4.) weight changes, 5.) lack of concentration, 6.) sleep changes, 7.) changes in physical activity level, 8.) feelings of guilt and worthlessness, 8.) thoughts of dying. It should be noted that a bipolar classification can change over time, so a psychiatric evaluation might be done often throughout one's life.

Next month, the article will be about "What is the best way to work with doctors and with medication?" If you have any questions about this article or concerns about bipolar, please email me at [kathryndenhouster@gmail.com](mailto:kathryndenhouster@gmail.com)

## PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF LOWELL

### 2013 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The City of Lowell Board of Review for 2013 will be held at the Lowell City Hall, 301 E Main St, on the following dates:

Organizational Meeting: Monday, March 4th, 11:00 am

#### Appeal Hearings:

Monday, March 11th, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Wednesday, March 13th, 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Meetings are by Appointment, to schedule, contact: City Hall @ ph. 616.897.8457

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests and to equalize the 2013 assessments

By City Charter, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 4th 2013

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2013 are as follows:

Commercial.....	52.56	0.9513
Residential .....	50.04	0.9992
Industrial .....	51.53	0.9703
Personal Property .....	50.00	1.0000

#### Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The City will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 3 days' notice.

Contact: Mark Howe – City Manager, ph. 616.897.8457

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# viewpoint

## sharing the vision



LAS Superintendent Greg Pratt

### school sinking fund fails by less than 100 votes

Rejection is never easy and sometimes it's impossible to avoid. But life is about going for things, especially when you feel it will serve others well. As you know, the Lowell Area Schools sinking fund ballot proposal placed before voters on February 26 failed. This represents the first time in approximately 22 years that a capital improvement proposal put forward by Lowell Area Schools has failed. We were seeking voter approval of a 1 mill sinking fund to generate dollars to address critical needs for our facilities like roof repairs and safety and security of our schools. Our seven year capital outlay plan was strategically designed to eliminate borrowing and interest costs, maximize taxpayer dollars, continue delivering educational excellence, and remain competitive. Let's face it, Lowell Area Schools is one of the largest employers in our community and it is well known that a strong school system keeps the

community vibrant by way of real estate values and increased business for our local merchants. Many folks move to Lowell because of the excellent reputation of our district.

I know that times are tough economically. For Lowell Area Schools, given what we know about the Governor's proposed State of Michigan budget, we will see a \$2.00 per student decrease in our per-pupil foundation allowance for the 2013-2014 school year. And, without passage of the sinking fund proposal, it will be necessary to fund high priority repairs with general fund dollars. If you've ever owned a home, you have at one time or another been faced with maintenance of your roof, driveway, or furnace. Like any proud homeowner, our

desire is to take care of our community resources before they deteriorate. Lowell Area Schools must maintain roofs, asphalt, etc. or our facilities become unsafe for students.

In honesty, I am not certain today where to go from here. I can say that our district will learn from this and we will work hard to figure out what's next. As we examine our budget for next school year, we do so understanding that some of our decisions that we must make to remain a viable school district may be unpopular. I assure you that every decision we make is based upon what is best for kids.

We are and will continue to be grateful for the continued support of our community!

## financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

### Be aware of risks of not investing

You've no doubt heard about the risks associated with investing. This investment carries this type of risk, while that investment carries another one. And it is certainly true that all investments do involve some form of risk. But what about not investing? Isn't there some risk associated with that, too?

In fact, by staying on the investment sidelines, or at least by avoiding long-term, growth-oriented investments, you may incur several risks. Here are some to consider:

- You might not keep up with inflation. If you put all your money under the proverbial "mattress," or, more realistically, you keep it all in "cash" instruments and very short-term investments, you might think you are "playing it safe." After all, you might reason, your principal is protected, so even if you don't really make any money, you're not losing it, either. But that's not strictly true, because if your money is in investment vehicles that don't even keep up with inflation, you can lose ground. In fact, even at a relatively mild three percent annual inflation rate, your purchasing power will decline by about half in just 25 years.

- You might outlive your money. For a 65-year-old couple, there's a 50 percent chance that one spouse will live past age 90, according to the Society of Actuaries. This statistic suggests that you may need your investments to help provide enough income to sustain you for two, or even three, decades in retirement.

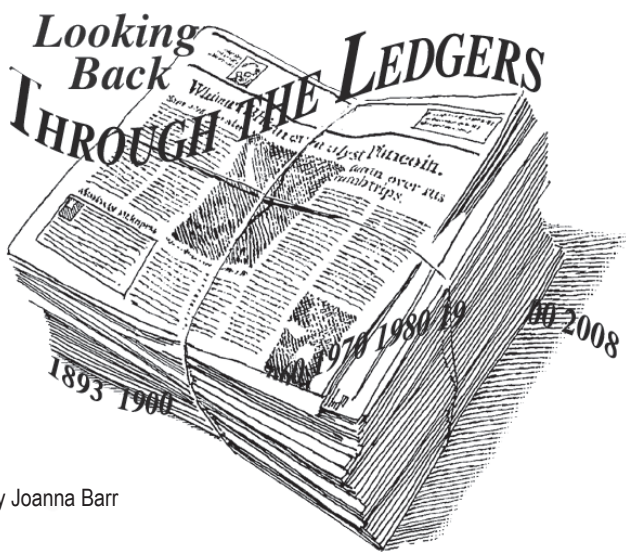
- You might not be able to maintain your

independence. Even if you don't totally run out of money, you could end up scrimping by — or, even worse, you could become somewhat dependent on your grown children for financial assistance. For most people, this prospect is unacceptable. Consequently, you'll want to make appropriate financial decisions to help maintain your financial independence.

- You might not be able to retire on your terms. You would probably like to decide when you retire and how you'll retire — that is, what sort of lifestyle you'll pursue during retirement. But both these choices may be taken out of your hands if you haven't invested enough to retire on your own terms.

- You might not be able to leave the type of legacy you desire. Like most people, you would probably like to be able to leave something behind to your family and to those charitable organizations you support. You can help create this type of legacy through the appropriate legal vehicles — i.e., a will, a living trust and so on — but you'll still need to fund these mechanisms somehow. And that means you'll need to draw on all your financial assets, including your investments.

Work with your financial advisor to determine the mixture of growth and income investments you need during your working years and as you move toward retirement to help you meet your retirement goals. However you do it, get into the habit of investing, and never lose it — because the risks of not investing are just too great.



By Joanna Barr

an elderly farmer living three miles west of Greenville, for being drunk. He charged Gilghman with having gone through his pockets and robbed him of \$90 and a Greenville bank check for \$22. It is alleged that there were witnesses to the act, not realizing that robbery was being committed. And further, it is charged that Wilson, who had just sold some produce at Greenville, was plied with liquor by Gilghman until he was willing to come to Lowell on a spree and where he could be gotten into condition for the contemplated act. Gilghman claimed that bail would be forthcoming from Greenville, but after allowing all reasonable delay, Justice Andrews held him for examination as above stated.

### 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 10, 1938

The Ledger is glad to report that as far as we have been able to learn, all Lowellites now in California escaped injury from the disastrous flood which visited that state last week, causing the deaths of 250 or more people with perhaps another 150 still missing and property damage estimated at anywhere from fifty to seventy-five millions of dollars.

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### 50 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 7, 1963

Headline: New high school ready June 1st. The new Lowell High School, now under construction

### 115 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 10, 1898

Headline: Those portraits. The offer will soon close. Those wishing to take up with it, must do so soon. Our offer of free crayon portraits to new subscribers and to old subscribers who pay a year in advance will soon be withdrawn. Those expecting to get pictures of us must act quickly. The portraits given free with the Ledger are crayon. Those wishing it, can have them finished in India ink by paying the artist 50c extra or can get a water color picture worth several times more money by paying \$1.50. You are not compelled to buy a frame.

Dr. Reagan and Mr. Brace who owns the hotel at Lowell, but resides in Grand Rapids, took dinner at Mr. Wilkerson's Monday. Mr. Wilkinson and wife were very pleasantly entertained at the Hotel Brace to tea, by Dr. Reagan and Mrs. Wilhelm, of Grand Rapids, and took in the Ole Olson play which was fine, last Tuesday and Wednesday evening.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 13, 1913

Headline: Greenville Farmer Victimized by Bottle Treater. On Tuesday, Justice Andrews sent James Gilghman of Greenville to the county jail to await examination here Friday on the charge of robbery. The case came to light at the trial of Joseph Wilson,

## 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](mailto: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.yournews.com](http://www.yournews.com) select "submit news" icon on the top left, then select "opinion".

# engagements area births

## Lowe/Gustafson

Ginny and Pete Gustafson are happy to announce the engagement of their son, Michael, to Hilary Lowe. Michael was a 2001 graduate of LHS and 2005 graduate of Northwestern University. He now works as a writer and video producer. Hilary is the daughter of John and Kim

Lowe. She grew up in Ann Arbor and attended Scripps College. She worked for Simon & Schuster in NYC, where the couple lived prior to relocating to Ann Arbor. They plan to open Literati Bookstore in downtown Ann Arbor this spring and will be married June 1.

## Doyle

Proud parents Patrick and Kati Doyle, of Alto, welcomed with love their baby girl Nora Elizabeth Doyle on January 11, 2013. Nora was born weighing 7 lbs. 14 oz. and measuring 20 inches. She is a healthy and happy baby surrounded by her loving family. Her grandparents are Brian and Cheryl Doyle of Alto and Paul and Rosemary Palawski of Davison.

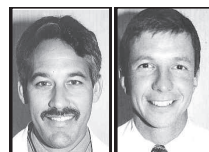


Nora Elizabeth Doyle

## college news

Michigan Technological University has released the dean's list for fall semester 2012. To be included, students must achieve grade point averages of 3.5 or higher. Among the honorees is Kendra Rasch of Lowell, majoring in management.

## health



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

## gout

Gout is an excruciatingly painful inflammatory disease of the joints. It is caused by an increased blood level of uric acid, which, when crystallized, can produce inflammation in the joints and surrounding tissues. People with gout tend to have conditions or take medications that increase blood uric acid. For example, kidney disease and diuretic medications (water pills) may increase the risk of gout. Genetic factors and diet also play a role. Foods associated with an increased risk of gout include organ meats, red meat, fish, fructose and alcoholic beverages, especially beer. Gout is common among men who are at least 30 years old and women who are postmenopausal; the incidence rises with advancing age. In the last several decades, the frequency of gout has almost doubled. The reasons include longer life spans, dietary choices and rising rates of chronic kidney disease, obesity and use of certain medications.

Typical gout attacks may cause sudden onset of joint pain and swelling in one or more joints, especially involving the first toe, inability to use the joint and fever. Over a number of years, these attacks may occur more frequently and lead to chronic gouty arthritis with tophi (lumps of uric acid in the soft tissues and joints), joint deformity and limited motion and chronic pain. The diagnosis of gout is aided by review of medical history, symptoms, physical examination and measurement of uric acid in the blood. The diagnosis can be confirmed by the detection of uric acid crystals in the joint fluid. Steps for preventing gout attacks include limiting red meat, organ meat and shellfish; limiting alcohol; losing weight and taking medications to lower uric acid. Gout flares tend to resolve within five to seven days even without treatment, but often recur. The pain and the length of gout attacks can be significantly reduced by nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and taking these medications within 24 hours of attacks is usually the first line of defense. In some cases, corticosteroid medications or a combination of medications is necessary.



## happy birthday!

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>MARCH 6</b><br>Pat Covell, Darlene McClure.   | <b>MARCH 9</b><br>Bob Vezino, Marsha Roudabush, Mark Richmond, Pam Cebelak.         |
| <b>MARCH 7</b><br>Carrie Metternick, Marshal Mooney, Michael Barnes, Shirley Canfield. | <b>MARCH 10</b><br>Daniel Miller, Randy Kuiper.                                     |
| <b>MARCH 8</b><br>Amber Rittersdorf, DJ Main, Charles Drake, Colleen Lally.            | <b>MARCH 11</b><br>Pat Ball, Ruth Griffith, Renee Nugent, Larry Martin, Kim Barnes. |
| <b>MARCH 12</b><br>David Baird, Lisa Homrich, Laura Horsley, Julie Idema, Kathy Fyan.  |   |

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Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.  
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Pastor Tony Shumaker

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11:00 A.M. ....Worship

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Pastor Wes Hershberger

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Celebration.....10:40 a.m.  
Wednesdays - Kid's Service, Teen's Service,  
Adult Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.  
Sunday School Hour/ABF's.....11:00 A.M.  
AWANA 6-8/Youth Ministry.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.  
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**WEDNESDAYS:**  
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"The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.  
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**SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9:30 a.m.**

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\*\*\*  
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~ Sacha Guitry (1885 -1957)

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# Looking Back, continued

on Foreman Street on Lowell's west side, originally scheduled for completion on August 15, will now be ready for acceptance by the Lowell Board of Education on June 1st, architect Donnally Palmer revealed today. Construction is so far ahead of schedule that Beckering Construction Company, general contractors for the job, expect to have their work completed by early May. Other installations of equipment should be finished by June.

The local Girl Scout Brownie and Intermediate Troops will take orders for Girl Scout Cookies beginning March 8-16. The girls will come around with order blanks for the five types of cookies which are ordered first and paid for upon delivery the week of April 8-15. As usual there will be five different types of cookies: four flavor sandwich cremes, chocolate and peanut butter cookies. The cookies will sell for 50 cents a box.

Headline: Leads police in high-speed chase. A 19-year-old Cascade youth received a five-day jail sentence and a \$30 fine Saturday when he pleaded guilty before Justice Andrew DeKraker of Byron Township on a charge of reckless driving. Sgt. Sid Frazer and Deputy Robert Tanner of the sheriff's department said Peter VanBemden led their cruiser on a high-speed chase on Cascade Road and Thornapple River Drive, S. E., Friday night.

## 25 years ago

### The Lowell Ledger March 9, 1988

The Lowell City Council denied an application for an entertainment permit for the former "Mr. Bill's" or "Village Inn" bar located at 211 W. Main St. The bar is being purchased by Jane Feutz of 900 Dayton St., SW, Grand Rapids. Lowell chief of police told the councilmen during the regular meeting of Monday, March 7, that he had conducted an investigation of Feutz and had no problem in approving the application for the transfer of the bar license. Emmons balked at the entertainment permit. "The permit is vague and doesn't leave us much control," Emmons said. The permit allows for monologues, dialogues, motion pictures, still slides, closed circuit television, contests and other performances for public viewing. Feutz assured the council that any entertainment she would offer would not be offensive. Emmons agreed that he had no reason to believe that Feutz would offer strippers, mud wrestling, wet T-shirt contests and the like, but acknowledged that an entertainment permit certainly opens the door for such performances.

Chris Kamphuis, member of Boy Scout Troop No. 102, Lowell, was recently presented "The Medal of Merit" by the National Court of Honor, Boy Scouts of America. This award was given for outstanding service in implementing scouting skills and ideas when he

used first aid skills to help his family following a car accident near Saranac on February 14, 1987. His mother hit a patch of ice and slid sideways down a 10-foot embankment. The car went airborne, nose dived, rolled over, then landed upright. Chris was the only person not seriously hurt. He got out of the car, took off his coat to cover his sister and went approximately 1/10th of a mile to get help. He banged on the door until the owner answered. Then the owner called the police and ambulance. Chris and the owner brought back blankets to the scene and covered his mother and sister to keep them warm. Chris also kept them talking to keep them from going into shock. Chris says if he hadn't had the first aid training (given by Mike Smith and Terry VanderWarf of Troop 102), he wouldn't have known what to do. Chris had received his first aid merit badge two weeks prior to the accident.

## college news

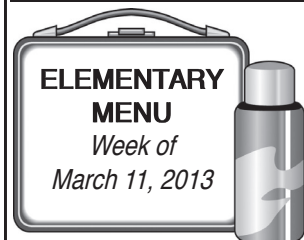
Grand Valley State University has announced the graduation list for the 2012 fall semester. The following are local graduates, their degrees and honors.

Ada: Elisabeth M. Brasure, Bachelor of Business Administration; James B. Bennett, Bachelor of Arts; Stephanie M. Cole, Master's in Physician Assistant Studies; Sarah J. Cooke, Bachelor of Science; Ryan J. Edgerle, Master of Science; Eric N. Grossnickle, Master of Business Administration; Ramya Gunda, Master of Science; Leigh E. Heckman, Bachelor of Science; Sarah E. Lardner, Master of Education; Richard L. Marmion, Bachelor of Science; Kevin M. Quinn,

Bachelor of Science; Sam D. Rasmussen, Bachelor of Business Administration; Carol F. Robinson, Doctor of Nursing Practice; Travis J. Trapp, Bachelor of Science; and Miranda R. Vandekerckhove, Master of Business Administration; Alto: Carolyn F. Fortune, Bachelor of Science Nursing cum laude (GPA 3.746-3.837); Kelsie E. Frick, Bachelor of Arts; Lisa M. Hyde, Master's in Physician Assistant Studies; Timothy J. Sinen, Bachelor of Arts; Joseph E. Smith, Bachelor of Science; and David J. Steffler, Master of Science Engineering; Lowell: Justin W. Boss, Bachelor of Science; Brittany A. Clark, Bachelor of Science; Cassandra J. Clark, Bachelor of

Business Administration; Jamie A. Dorsey, Master of Education; Timothy J. Forward, Bachelor of Science; Adam P. Ingraham, Master of Business Administration; David M. Johnson, Master of Science Accounting; Katlin J. Manszewski, Bachelor of Science; Nathaniel J. Morrison, Bachelor of Science; and Robert D. Nichols, Bachelor of Science.

### LUNCH MENU



**MON:** WG pancakes w/ turkey sausage, warm cinnamon apples, fruit & veggie bar: broccoli florets, baby carrots, orange juice, pears.

**TUES:** Cheeseburger on WG bun, baked beans; fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, baby carrots, mixed fruit, kiwi.

**WED:** Breaded fish sticks w/WG roll, baked French fries, fruit & veggie bar: baby carrots, cauliflower bites, applesauce, mixed fruit.

**THURS:** Pulled BBQ chicken w/WG biscuit, mashed potatoes w/gravy, fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, cucumber coins, applesauce, peaches.

**FRI:** Tony's Cheese pizza, seasoned green beans, fruit & veggie bar: red pepper strips, celery sticks, mandarin oranges, pears.

\*\*\*  
**Life is too complicated not to be orderly.**

~ Martha Stewart

## Want A Good Laugh?

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# Lowell writer raises money for multiple sclerosis

by Justin Tiemeyer  
contributing reporter

Doreen Rickert-Rademacher overfilled the quaint gathering nook at the Green Acres assisted living community with friends, family and interested persons from Lowell. With a parking lot far over capacity, visitors happily parked next door at Lowell Lanes or across the street at Flat River Outreach Ministries.

Rickert-Rademacher recently released a book titled "I Can and I Did! The Kelly Finger-McNeela Story," but the real reason for this assembly was to celebrate the courage and vision of Finger-McNeela herself.

Sitting regally in her wheelchair and never without a smile, Finger-McNeela exuded a confidence you would expect to see in a football or basketball player, certainly not in a woman who has struggled with primary progressive multiple sclerosis for nearly thirty years. A confident MSU basketball fan, Finger-



Doreen Rickert-Rademacher and Kelly Finger-McNeela keep the audience enthralled at Green Acres.

McNeela offered an open invite to watch the Michigan-Michigan State game in her room with her.

"She'd be fun to battle wits with," Rickert-Rademacher said. If five minutes went by without a reference to Finger-McNeela's fantastic sense

of humor, it must have occurred long before the reading began.

"I Can and I Did! chronologically follows

Finger-McNeela's struggles with multiple sclerosis (MS) from her diagnosis as a teenager through her placement in an unpleasant nursing home to her fateful meeting with Rickert-Rademacher and the difficult following years.

"Kelly took charge of her own destiny. She does that," Rickert-Rademacher said.

Rickert-Rademacher and Finger-McNeela originally met at a gathering of the Belmont Mom Group. Rickert-Rademacher had never dealt with persons with disabilities before. Overly polite, she was always afraid that she would say the wrong thing or stare. She recounted petting Finger-McNeela's service dog Nory, which is generally frowned upon while the dog is on duty. Rickert-Rademacher grew to admire her.

"There's a lot more to this lady than what you see in this wheelchair," she said.

Rickert-Rademacher spent much of the time summarizing and reading from her book, but she was also joined by Finger-McNeela's daughter Riley whose poem "The Most Amazing Mom" is featured in the book. In this poem, Riley describes her mother as "just like an eight ball, giving me all the right answers."

Finger-McNeela expressed her happiness about residing at Green Acres, but the one difficulty she faces there is that she is far younger than many other residents. With the profits from her collaboration with Rickert-Rademacher, she hopes to build a place where younger persons and persons with multiple sclerosis can gather. They will call it Kelly's Place.

"I Can and I Did!" can be purchased at Schuler Books and Music or online at [icanidid.com](http://icanidid.com)

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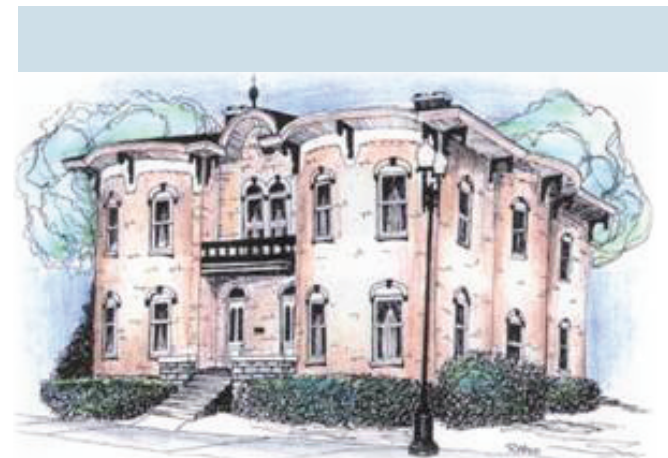
It keeps you up to date about what's happening with your city, county and school board, as well as other governmental bodies.

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

Reading public notices helps you become a more informed citizen.

\*EPIC-MRA 2011

This newspaper supports your right to know.



## history mystery

Do you know what this is?

From time to time, the Ledger with the help of Lowell Area Historical Museum, publishes a picture of something in the museum's collection. The following week the museum will supply a brief explanation and history of the artifact. Below is this week's mystery. Feel free to email the Ledger at [ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com) with your thoughts on this week's picture, then read the Ledger to see if you were correct.





# Red Arrow SPORTS

## - WRESTLING

# Individual championships net nine placers, one champion

by Karen Jack

The Palace of Auburn Hills hosted the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) high school wrestling individual championships this past weekend and Lowell had nine wrestlers qualify for action. For the first time in school history, all Lowell wrestlers who attended the championships placed, earning them all-state honors. Lowell also had four go to the finals, which ties the school 2008 record, when four made it to the finals. Winning the championship title this year was junior Bailey Jack.

The road to the palace is a three-weekend affair, where each qualifier must place in the top four at districts to move on to regionals. They then must

place in the top four at regionals to be able to go to the state finals. Jack was both the district champion and regional champion on his road to the finals. At the Palace, he won his first match against Mohamed Aljabaly of Coldwater by major decision (12-4), which advanced him to the quarterfinal round. He then beat Sean Speer of Allen Park 7-2, moving on to the semifinal round where he faced Nick Dunlap of Marysville. Finding himself down by two, with 11 seconds to go, he got the escape and went to his trusted double-leg take-down to take the lead and win that round, sending him to the finals.

In the finals, he faced #1 ranked Dean Sommers of

Lapeer West. Jack, ranked #2, started the match with a takedown and gave up an escape on the reset, voluntarily. In the second round, Sommers chose the down position and got a reversal, making the score 3-2, with Sommers leading. In the third period, Jack chose the down position and Sommers was called for locked hands, giving a point to Jack to tie the score. Jack then got the escape, giving him the lead at 4-3. He then got a takedown to give him a 6-3 lead. With 12 seconds to go, Jack released Sommers, giving Sommers another point, making the score 6-4. Jack shot on Sommers and held his leg until time ran out.

"I've been preparing for this moment for 11 years



**Bailey Jack stands on top of the podium after winning the state championship.**



**Garret Stehley tries to turn Payne Hayden in the state finals match.**



**Bailey Jack shoots the arrow into the crowd after winning the state championship.**

now and it feels great to finally be here, standing at the top of the podium," said Jack. "I'm excited about what's to come and aim to be back here again next year, not only for me, but for our team as well."

The other three finalists were freshman Zeth Dean at 112 lbs., junior Garret Stehley at 189 lbs., and senior Taylor Kornoely at 215 lbs., who all placed second.

Dean's road to the finals included wins against Seth Lashuay of Gaylord (6-5), Jon Wellman of New Huron Boston (5-0) and Mike Schmidt of Greenville (5-2). He then faced #3 ranked Mason Smith of Clio in the finals and lost by fall in the second period.

Stehley, ranked #2 in the state, beat Jordan Jabara of Fowlerville with a major decision (12-3), Robert James of Flint Kearsley (3-2) and Mike Hovatar

of Chelsea (7-4). He faced Payne Hayden, ranked #1, of St. Johns in the finals. In that match, it came down to the last seconds and Stehley just couldn't pull it off, losing 11-9.

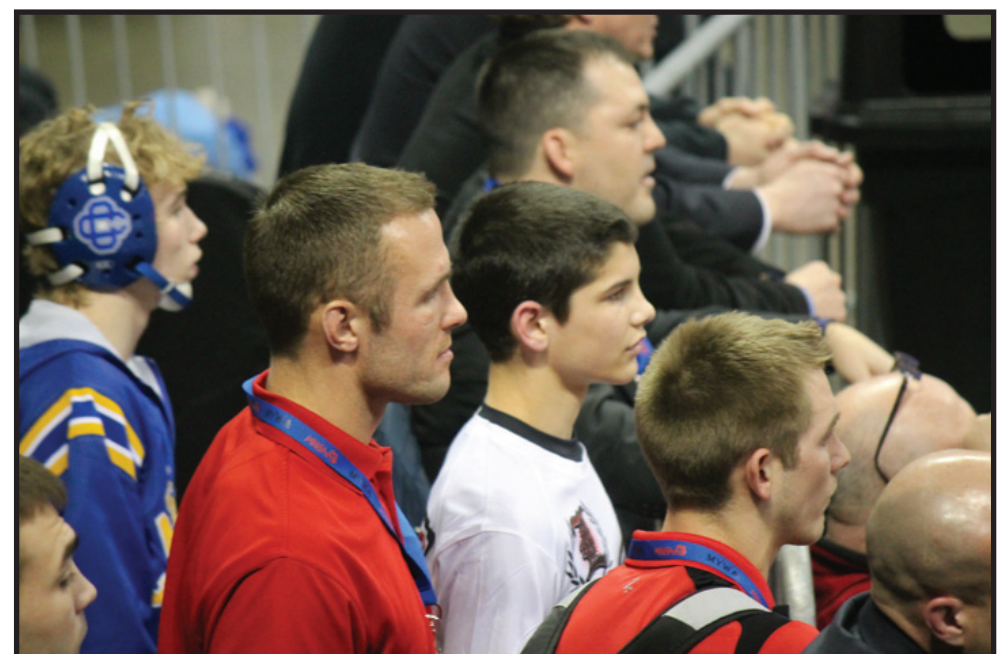
Kornoely beat Zach Underwood of Gibraltar-Carlson by major decision (18-6), Chase Challenger of Charlotte by pin and Jordan Haggerty of Petsoskey (14-8). He faced Brian Moran of Fowlerville (ranked #1) in the finals and lost 11-5.

Freshman Lucas Hall took fourth place, junior Kanon Dean took fifth place and freshman Max Dean took sixth place. Both junior Derek Krajewski and sophomore Jordan Hall took seventh.

"I'm really proud of these kids. Coming here, they faced the best of the best and to have all nine that we brought place at state is a credit to the wrestlers and my staff and all of the

hard work they have put in," said head coach Dave Dean. "It was great to have four in the finals and for Bailey Jack to push us over the line with a championship. The final results speak for themselves. I won't get in to all of the adversity we had this season, but the guys overcame a lot of it to put up an awesome finish over the past couple of weekends."

The Arrows only lose one of those all-staters, in senior Taylor Kornoely and look to come back strong next year. "There is a lot to look forward to. Basically, these guys and the younger ones coming up, need to just do more of the same. These kids have all worked hard to get there. I'm pleased that we will have nine state placers along with Logan Wilcox and Dan Kruse, who both made it to the blood round at the regional championships in our lineup next season," added Dean.



**Zeth Dean awaits his state finals match, with coaches RJ Boudro and Kyle Slocum.**

# 2012 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR CITY OF LOWELL AND LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

## Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

## Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Where does my water come from?

Your water comes from 4 groundwater wells, each over 87 feet in depth, and drawing from the Grand River watershed. They are located at 1596 Bowes Road in Lowell behind the water plant.

## Source water assessment and its availability

The state performed an assessment of our source water in 2003 to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very-low" to "very-high" based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our source is moderate.

## Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water

is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## How can I get involved?

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. Lowell City Council meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers at Lowell City Hall, 301 E. Main, Lowell, MI. Lowell Township meetings are held at 7:00pm on the first and third Mondays of each month at the Lowell Township hall, 2910 Alden Nash s.e. Lowell, MI. For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact Brian VanVeelen at 897-5234. For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at [www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/).

## Variance and Exemptions

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2012 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 to December 31, 2012. The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

## Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. City of Lowell is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety

of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring levels; these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG	MCL,	Your	Range		Sample	Violation	Typical Source
	or	TT,		Lo	High			
	MRDL	MRD	Water	w		Date	n	
	G	L						
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfectant By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	0.004	ND	0.004	2012	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm) City of Lowell	4	4	.44	0.31	0.59	2012	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm) Lowell Twp.	4	4	.44	.10	.62	2012	No	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	1.3	1	1.3	2012	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.89	NA	NA	2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

# 2012 WATER QUALITY REPORT, CONTINUED

Sodium (optional) (ppm)		MPL	15	12	15	2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	0	NA	NA	2012	No	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal coliform/E. coli - in the distribution system (positive samples)	0	0	0	NA	NA	2012	No	Human and animal fecal waste

A violation occurs when a routine sample and a repeat sample, in any given month, are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive.

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	0.003	2010	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	1E-05	2010	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
positive samples	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variations and Exemptions	Variations and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

For more information please contact:

Contact Name: Brian VanVeelen  
 Address: 1596 Bowes Rd. Lowell, MI 49331  
 Phone: (616) 897-5234  
 E-Mail: h2otrt@att.net

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
 PROBATE COURT  
 COUNTY OF KENT

PUBLICATION OF  
 NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE NO. 13-193448-GA

In the matter of  
**JESSIE B. RIDEOUT.**  
**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS** including:  
 Thelma Martin and Jessica Rideout whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

hearing will be held on March 29, 2013 at 9:00 am at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: on the petition of Leslie Patten-Scipioni for the appointment of a guardian for Jessie B. Rideout.

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

Leslie Patten-Scipioni  
 121 Franklin SE Grand Rapids, MI 49507  
 616-826-3904

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## CITY OF LOWELL KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION AND SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 2-2, "DATE OF ODD-YEAR PRIMARY ELECTIONS," AND SECTION 2-3, "SALE OF CITY PERSONAL PROPERTY," OF DIVISION 1, "GENERALLY," OF ARTICLE I, "IN GENERAL," AND SECTION 2-82, "SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS EXEMPT FROM COMPETITIVE BIDS," OF DIVISION 3, "CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT," OF ARTICLE II, "FINANCE," OF CHAPTER 2, "ADMINISTRATION," OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LOWELL

The Lowell City Council adopted Ordinance No. 13-01 amending Section 2-2, "Date of odd-year primary elections," and Section 2-3, "Sale of city personal property," of Division 1, "Generally," of Article I, "In General," and Section 2-82, "Substation construction contracts exempt from competitive bids," of Division 3, "Construction Contract," of Article II, "Finance," of Chapter 2, "Administration," of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell on March 4, 2013. Ordinance No. 13-01 (a) provides, in conformance with State of Michigan law, that the City's odd-year primary elections shall be held on the first Tuesday in August, (b) provides the procedures for the sale of obsolete and unusable City personal property based on the value of said property established in accordance with a policy or procedure approved from time to time by the City Council and (c) deletes a provision that exempts substation construction contracts from competitive bids.

Ordinance 13-01 is effective 10 days after this publication.



Betty R. Morlock  
 City Clerk

# obituaries

## ARMSTRONG

Anne Marie Glovack Armstrong, age 92, of Lowell, Michigan, passed away Sunday, March 3, 2013. Anne was born in Harvey, Ill. July 4, 1920 to Jacob Glovack and Aneila Skavina. Anne graduated from Union High School in Grand Rapids in 1939. She enlisted in the Women's Army Corps during World War II and served for three and a half years. She trained in Denver in the photographic school and was transferred to Spokane for the duration of the war. She married Lawrence C. Armstrong on September 20, 1945 in Lowell and together they raised three sons. Anne thoroughly enjoyed life. She liked laughing with friends, doing needlework, and taking long walks. Her three sons remember fondly her homemade bread and her grandchildren were especially fond of her applesauce and scrumptious desserts. She was a loving mother with high standards and a great sense of humor. She had knowledgeable opinions on many topics and was ready to speak the truth when necessary. She always tried to do the right thing and was a role model for many. Anne was a faithful Catholic who was actively involved in St. Mary's Church in Lowell for over sixty years. Anne is survived by three sons, David (Sally) of Barre, VT, Blair (Georgy) of Lowell, MI, Mark of Holland, MI; seven grandchildren, Jeremy, Jennifer, Yvette, Maria, Peter, Christopher, Kaileigh; five great-grandchildren, Fiona, Aven, Jackson, twins, Harper and Haiden; and sisters, Helen Morrison of Grand Rapids, MI and Joan Nyden of Sunnysvale, CA. Anne is preceded in death by her parents, sisters, brother, and the love of her life, husband, Lawrence, in 1983. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Thursday, March 7 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Lowell. Interment St Mary's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Faith Hospice, Trillium Woods, 2100 Raybrook St. S.E., Suite 30, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.



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## CONDON

Mary Crawford Condon, age 84 of Lowell, passed away Friday, March 1, 2013. She was preceded in death by her parents Andrew and Annie Crawford. She is survived by her husband of 58 years Bill; children Drew (Sally) Condon, Susann (Dean) Alger, Sandra (Dan) Stuart, Dawn (Kent) Feldman; 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Mary emigrated from Northern Ireland in 1932 and grew up in Chicago. Upon graduation from Wheaton College, she taught school. After Mary retired, she was the Activities Director at Lowell Senior Neighbors, then organized trips around the world. A Funeral service was held Monday, March 4th at Alton Bible Church. Rev. Ken Ford officiated. Memorial contributions may be made to Alton Bible Church.



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## DEYOUNG

Cornelius 'Neil' DeYoung Jr., age 88, of Lowell, passed away February 27, 2013. He was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years, Louise Mae in 2011, brothers John and Ted DeYoung. He is survived by children, Gordon (Ann) DeYoung, Linda (Pete) Perdok, Lois DeYoung, Dan (Kathy) DeYoung; grandchildren, Roger DeYoung, Marty (Michelle) Perdok, Brenda (Ted) Matusik, Wendy (Chad) DeBoer; great grandchildren, Kyle and Katelyn DeYoung, Katie & Jamie Perdok, Alex & Anna Matusik, Linnae & Emalie DeBoer; sisters Marion Russ and Darlene Willett; several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 2nd at The Community of Ada. Rev. William Norden officiated. Interment Ada Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice.



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# Red Arrow SPORTS

- GYMNASTICS

## Team finishes fifth at regionals; four qualify for state

by Karen Jack

The Lowell gymnastics team scored their highest score of the season as a team, to finish fifth at state with a 133.875. Just missing out on going to the state competition, they still sent four individuals to state, which is the most the team has ever qualified in the past 19 years. The previous record was sending three. The qualifiers are Megan Plutschow, Bethany Kaczanowski, Lauren DeHaan, and Kaezi Bladey.

To qualify for state on any event, the gymnast must finish in the top eight at regionals. Bladey competed against 43 other girls on the bars and finished seventh with an 8.225. "Kaezi has really cleaned up her routine in the last few weeks. I'm so pleased to see she was rewarded for her efforts to make her routine better," said coach Michele DeHaan.

Three girls qualified on the vault, including Plutschow and Kaczanowski, who tied for eighth with 8.75, which advances them both to the state competition. DeHaan



The gymnastics team at regionals.

finished sixth with an 8.85. On the vault, these girls competed against 76 others to qualify. All three of them do a handspring full, which has a higher start value of 9.4 if landed perfectly, which gives them an edge over many competitors,

but they still have to land it almost perfectly to get a high score.

DeHaan also qualified for the beam, with her personal best score of 9.1 and finishing fourth. "Lauren has been struggling the last few meets to stay on

the beam. When she turned to complete her pass on Saturday, she had a huge smile on her face. I knew she was home free at that point," added DeHaan.

Freshman Sarena Wilterdink just missed out on the floor in qualifying

by 0.125, which her coach believes will motivate her for next year. Colleen Cater also had her personal best routine on the beam, with an 8.425.

"Overall, we had a great day. This is a great team and the girls have worked so

hard. I'm looking forward to taking our four qualifiers to state and see what they can do there," said DeHaan.

**The state individual meet will be held at Canton High School on Saturday, starting at noon.**

## Relay for Life kickoff Thursday, March 7

by Ellen Mork  
contributing reporter

The Lowell Relay for Life (RFL) season begins Thursday, March 7th. The kickoff celebration is being held at the Lowell Middle School cafeteria at 6 pm.

RFL is a 24-hour community fundraising walk. Cancer survivors, those affected by cancer and anyone aiming to have an impact on cancer research can participate. All money raised goes towards the American Cancer Society (ACS). The ACS tries to help people stay healthy, get healthy, raise awareness of cancer and find a cure. Funds are used for research, prevention programs and support programs, just to name a few facets of their cancer-related work.

The "kickoff is a great opportunity to learn all about Relay and also to hear how the fundraising helps the ACS both nationally and locally right here in West Michigan."

In 2013 alone, an

estimated 57,000 new cancer cases will be diagnosed.

The Lowell RFL is celebrating its 8th year this year. The Relay is being held June 21-22 at Red Arrow football stadium.

Throughout the event, there are many ways to celebrate the lives of cancer victims and survivors. There

is the opening Survivors' Lap, where people can celebrate overcoming cancer. At night there is time to commemorate those lives lost in the Luminaria Ceremony. There is also an opportunity for everyone to participate in the "Fight Back" Ceremony that gives everyone a chance to

proclaim their way of taking action against the disease."

Relay for Life started over twenty-five years ago in Washington. To date, the organization has raised over \$4 billion.

The Lowell RFL has raised over \$390,000, or an average of close to \$60,000 each year.

This year there are already 20 teams signed up and officials expect 30 teams when Relay begins.

"Hundreds of Lowell neighbors, friends and co-workers" participate each year.

The RFL kickoff is open to everyone and any

help is welcome. Anyone is invited to join a team or form their own.

The evening will consist of light refreshments and an informative program. Current Relay volunteers promise the event to be "motivating and inspiring."



**FAMOUS INVENTORS**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Squirrel away
- 6. Young newt
- 9. They put the bitter in beer
- 13. Jousting pole
- 14. Tap choice
- 15. Bone-chilling
- 16. Cast member
- 17. Greater than the whole?
- 18. Dismal
- 19. \*Cotton gin inventor
- 21. Do this for a waltz, e.g.
- 23. \* \_\_\_ Isaac Newton
- 24. Shirts on their backs, e.g.
- 25. Farmer's \_\_\_
- 28. Turkish honorific
- 30. Lots
- 35. Brother of Jacob
- 37. Uh-oh
- 39. Poet's "below"
- 40. Slash mark
- 41. Fine-tune
- 43. A fit of shivering
- 44. Sarong
- 46. Therefore
- 47. Connecting point
- 48. Acquiesce
- 50. \* \_\_\_ Tupper, inventor of Tupperware
- 52. Actor's domain
- 53. "Null and \_\_\_"
- 55. Payment for an eye
- 57. \*Corn Flakes inventor
- 61. \*Motorcycle inventor
- 65. Eskimo boat
- 66. a.k.a sodium hydroxide
- 68. Pleasant Island
- 69. Electron tube
- 70. Goon
- 71. Barry Bonds formerly was one
- 72. Large pots
- 73. Choose instead
- 74. Wintry mix

CROSSWORD														
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**FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 5**

- The oldest woman alive turned 115 on Wednesday, according to the Guinness Book of World Records. Misao Okawa, of Japan, was born March 5, 1898, in Osaka. She became the world's oldest woman on Jan. 12, when Koto Okubo, also Japanese, died at the age of 115 and 19 days.
- A U.S.-China draft resolution to punish North Korea for its latest nuclear test would impose some of the toughest sanctions ever ordered by the United Nations, according to U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice.
- A giant sinkhole opened up and devoured a man while he slept in his Seffner, Fla., home. Demolition revealed the giant sinkhole to be more than 60 foot deep. They were unable to recover the body so a short service was given and it became his grave. Within the week another, smaller sinkhole had opened up just a few miles from the first. No one was hurt in the second event.

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**DOWN**

- 1. Deli side
- 2. Dash gauge
- 3. Opposed to
- 4. \*Alexander Graham Bell and John Boyd Dunlop
- 5. Possible consequence of heavy lifting

- 6. No problem
- 7. Common winter bug
- 8. Time in Italian
- 9. German title
- 10. Cream-filled treat
- 11. "La Vie en rose" singer
- 12. Owned by the lord
- 15. \*He saw the light
- 20. Cereal killer
- 22. Often preceded by a time period
- 24. Gradually diminished
- 25. \*Namesake of electric car maker
- 26. Singular form of "ascii"
- 27. Indian cuisine staple, pl.
- 29. \*Sewing machine inventor
- 31. \* \_\_\_ Kamen, inventor of the Segway
- 32. Chief port of Nigeria
- 33. Short composition for solo instrument
- 34. \_\_\_ music
- 36. Instinctive motive
- 38. It's a long story
- 42. Land of "Gangnam Style"
- 45. Conjure up
- 49. Clothe
- 51. Pinocchio's fabrications
- 54. Inuit shelter
- 56. Modern letter
- 57. Spiral-horned African antelope
- 58. Arabic for commander
- 59. He gets bigger share?
- 60. Boys
- 61. Adroit
- 62. Molokai party
- 63. Sea eagles
- 64. \* \_\_\_ Handler, Barbie doll inventor
- 67. Small dog's bark

*Puzzle Solutions on page 12*

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# Lowell Arts believes in the healing power of laughter

by Justin Tiemeyer  
contributing reporter

Bonnie Grooters is an artist. She studied doll art. Her sculpture on display at Lowell Arts titled "Patience Pays Off" doesn't depict Venus in a clam shell or a mysterious woman smiling. Rather, it is a woman sitting on a couch eating chocolates. This is not the Louvre; it is Punch Line, an art exhibition devoted to art that makes audiences laugh.

"It was just a lot of fun doing something with a sense of humor," Grooters said.

According to Lowell Arts council member Kacey Cornwell, this is the second Punch Line exhibition. Last year, the arts council was looking for something that would add some fun to the mid-winter drag, so they began taking entries of art inspired by the greater Grand Rapids comedy festival called LaughFest. Punch Line was so successful that LaughFest donated umbrellas, theater tickets and several other gifts to the artists whose works gathered the most votes.

This year's artists pay a small fee to enter their works into the exhibition

and \$5 from every entry fee goes to Gilda's Club in order to provide cancer and grief support free of charge. Visitors are asked to vote for their favorite funny piece of art at the cost of a \$1 donation to Gilda's Club.

"It's a legal place to buy votes," Cornwell said. Apparently, the humor isn't exclusive to the exhibit.

Once you've had your share of visual comedy, you can treat your ears to some comedy at Lowell Arts in mid-March. Because of the success of Punch Line, LaughFest has decided to make Lowell Arts a venue for three live events. The first event is Kids Joke Night, where the entire family can

watch children fifth grade and younger tell jokes at an open mic format. Kids Joke Night takes place Fri., March 15 at 6 pm. Parents and guardians can sign children up to participate online at [laughfestgr.org](http://laughfestgr.org) or by calling Lowell Arts. The other two events, Amateur Stand-Up and Late Night Semi-Pro will take place Sat., March 16 at 7 and 9 pm. These events are rated R for "really not appropriate for kids." Tickets are free for all three events. Fast passes can be acquired at Cousins' Hallmark or online at [laughfestgr.org](http://laughfestgr.org). A limited amount of tickets will be available at the door.

Punch Line is quickly turning into a Lowell tradition. Grooters is joined by Gary Eldridge, Rose Hammond and many other local artists, proving that an artist's blue period doesn't have to last forever. Their art speaks to the need to relax, the need to cackle in laughter.

"I don't make money at this," Grooters said. "I do it because I like it."

Grooters was not entirely truthful. She does make money, just not for herself. She makes money for people who have suffered through difficult times. If those dollars aren't enough, there is one kind of

currency Grooters deals in that won't depreciate with the ups and downs of the market - smiles.

The Punch Line exhibition remains at Lowell Arts until March 17.



Patience Pays Off, a mixed polymer clay piece by Bonnie Grooters.



Which One Helps Me Blend In?, a mixed-media piece by Karen P. Cornwell.

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Saturday, March 16, 2013 at 7pm

Photo: Peggy Sirota

The Music Man is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019 Tel.: (212) 641-4884 Fax: (212) 397-4884 [www.MTIShows.com](http://www.MTIShows.com)



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