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## Citizens crowd city hall for contentious city council meeting

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

A standing-room-only crowd attended a contentious city council meeting Monday, Oct

21, that ended in a mass walk-out when the council refused to respond directly to comments or questions. About 14 people

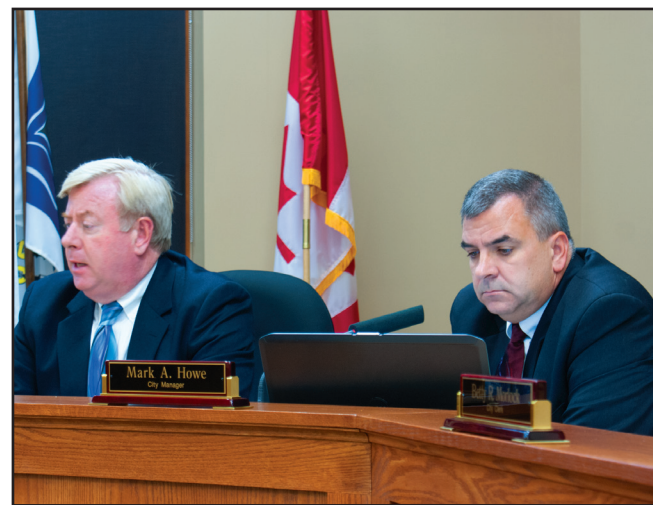
addressed the council about last week's Michigan Employment Relations Commission's decision and the stalled union negotiations between the city and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). Only one of the 14 citizens, Perry Beachum, spoke in favor of the city's policies.

To get the ball rolling, city attorney John McGlinchey gave a brief statement about the Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC) decision.

"In the 21 years that I've been practicing before the commission I've never seen anything like this decision," McGlinchey said. "I really think that this decision should be an embarrassment to the Michigan Employment Relations Commission."

McGlinchey said the judge was to blame and the city plans to appeal the verdict.

"We think he got it wrong on the law," McGlinchey said. "We plan



John McGlinchey, left, and Mark Howe listening to citizen comments.

on filing an appeal within the time periods provided and I think there's a very, very good chance that the Michigan Employment Relations Commission will reverse the judge on at least one of the issues, if not both."

Mayor Jim Hodges then asked McGlinchey to comment on city manager Mark Howe's appearance on WOOD-TV last week.

"Channel 8, I believe, came and interviewed Mark, or attempted to, in kind

of an ambush-style, as I understand it," Hodges said. "Do you have any directions or comments on this?"

"It's pretty difficult," McGlinchey said, "when you don't know what somebody's going to be asking you, when they ask you questions which I would equate to the question of 'Have you stopped beating your wife?' I would not really want to answer questions from somebody

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Barb Barber of VOICE (Voters Organized In Civic Excellence) confronts the city council.

## Community encouraged to participate in Celebrate My Drive campaign

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Members of the Lowell High School (LHS) Youth Advisory Council are leading the charge to earn one of \$100,000 cash grants and to spread awareness about safe teen driving habits by participating in the annual State Farm Celebrate My Drive campaign.

Celebrate My Drive is a contest that focuses on the positive aspects of earning a driver's license as a teen and also encourages them to take on safe driving practices. Auto accidents are currently the number one cause of death among teens in North America.

The campaign, which runs in conjunction with National Teen Driver Safety Week, is taking place from October 18th through the 26th. Participating schools have the opportunity to win 1 of 10 \$100,000 grants or 1 of 90 \$25,000 grants to



Deborah Wilks spoke to students at LHS.

be used for the betterment of their schools. Grand prize winners will also be treated to an exclusive concert featuring American Idol veteran and Grammy Award winning artist Kelly Clarkson.

Should LHS earn

one of these grants the funds would be distributed equally between the arts, the athletics department and the purchase of technology with ten percent being reserved for the Youth Advisory Council's continued effort

to raise safe driving awareness among their peers.

Chaya Klomprens, who is the leadership instructor at LHS as well as the advisor of the council, had this to say about the school's participation in the campaign, "Teenage driver safety is of great importance, especially during this technologically advanced time we live in. These kids are trying to create awareness while competing nationwide for a large grant which can make a big difference for our school."

The week-long competition kicked off with two assemblies featuring guest speaker and local State Farm agent Deborah Wilks who explained the

program, the rewards and the simple voting process. Winners will be determined by the total number of safe driving commitments made on the Celebrate My Drive Facebook page or the official website located at www.celebratemydrive.com. Anyone fourteen or older is eligible to make the commitment in the name of LHS once a day, every day during the campaign. Each commitment counts as a vote for the school. Wilks encouraged students to spread the word throughout the community and beyond using the power of social media. "We need about 1500-2000 votes every single day in order to accomplish this," she said, adding that there is nothing she would like better than to come back and present the student body of LHS with a check for \$100,000.

# Entertaining and humorous, latest Thebes production runs through Nov. 2

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

The comedy/drama “Over the River and Through the Woods” is now playing at Larkin’s Other Place dinner theater on Main Street.

The play is about Nick, a young, unmarried man from New Jersey with a successful career. Every Sunday he has dinner with his four grandparents, who drive him crazy. The grandparents are desperate for Nick to get married and invite a young lady over to dinner one Sunday. Hijinks ensue.

The play, first produced in New York City in 1998, was written by Joe DiPietro, whose work has won Tony Awards, Drama Desk Awards and Outer Critics Circle Awards.

There was a distinct “sitcom” vibe to the dialogue and action. Sometimes good actors can save the material from itself, which was the case here.

Although the play was set in New Jersey and one of the characters was an Italian immigrant, only one of the actors chose to attempt an accent. The one who did, John Foley as Nunzio, practically stole the show with an excellent Jerry Stiller impersonation. Foley delivered his lines with verve, making his Nunzio by far the most entertaining character in the play.

Ken Parrish played Frank who emigrated to the United States at age 14. Frank, a native of Italy who then spent 50 years in New Jersey, sounded weird with a

Michigan accent. Although perhaps it would have been worse if Parrish had actually tried the accent, who knows.

The other actors were all fine. Tyler Armstrong as Nick perfectly captured the whiny, self-centered 20-something character’s stomping, shouting and moaning. The two grandmothers, Sue Bradford and Diana Roush, were very grandmotherly. Amy McDaniel, the young lady who came to dinner, made the most of the material and got quite a few laughs.

“Over the River and Through the Woods” runs weekends at Larkin’s through Nov. 2. There is some very mild profanity, so if you’re incredibly sensitive to that you might want to get a babysitter.



The cast of “Over the River and Through the Woods” in action.



## along main street

### CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

A candlelight prayer vigil in memory of Andrea Herrera will be held Thursday, Oct. 24 at 8 pm at the Lowell Fairgrounds.

### ORPHANED ART AUCTION

The Little Orphaned Art Auction will be held in the King Gallery at LowellArts! on Oct. 26. Come and see all of the orphaned art. This is a free event that includes hors d’oeuvres, cash bar, door prizes and more. For more information contact LowellArts! at 897-8545.

### GILDA’S CLUB LOWELL CLUBHOUSE

**Soul Series: “Life’s Hard, Isn’t It?”** - Tues., Nov. 5, 4-5:30 pm. Join Gilda’s Club member, donor and volunteer Judy Joppie as she shares her perspectives on caregiving, living with cancer, and grief. Judy will speak to the ways in which she sees God’s grace bless us, help us take those baby steps to grow, and even show us how to mentor and advocate for ourselves and others on this journey. **Family Night Workshop** - Tues., Nov. 5, 6-7:30 pm. Join us at the Lowell Clubhouse as we explore anger in a hands-on and creative

way. Families are invited to attend this unique workshop. **Hope for the Holidays** – Tues., Nov. 5, 6-7:30 pm. Come for this program designed to offer support to those who have experienced the death of a family member or friend or are caring for a family member or friend whose health is failing during a season of memories, family, and traditions. Specific strategies for handling special occasions and taking care of yourself during this season will be discussed. Hosted by Hospice of Michigan. **“Look Good, Feel Better”** – Tues., Nov. 12, 1-3 pm. This program, presented by the American Cancer Society, will help women in treatment for cancer with appearance-related side-effects. Each woman learns to perform her own makeover using complimentary cosmetics and skin care products. Please sign up as class size is limited. **Woodcarving** – Tues., Nov. 19, 3:15-4:15 pm. Learn how to make easy and beautiful wood carvings with Doug Shassberger. Beginners are welcome and supplies are provided. **Book Club** – Tues., Nov. 19, 4:15-5:15 pm. Join Kathy Mieras for a relaxing and cozy book club. Pick up your book to borrow at the parlor desk. Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit [www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow](http://www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow)

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.



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•••  
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~ Walt Whitman  
(1819 - 1892)

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# City council, continued

unless I had some sort of an idea what they were going to be asking.”

“It was very unfortunate that I was approached the way that I was by Channel 8,” Howe said in an interview after the meeting. “Normally reporters will call, they’ll ask to set up a time with you or let you know they’re coming, something like that. I walked out the door and the cameras were rolling and it was a ‘60 Minutes’-style approach to reporting. I asked the reporter to come back to my office without the camera to get an idea of what his questions were going to be. He mainly was asking me to comment on the judge’s comments and I just didn’t think it was productive to get into an arguing match with the judge.”

After a brief statement of support for Howe from mayor Hodges, the meeting was turned over to the public for their comments. Members of the public were outraged that the union negotiations have stalled and that the city is appealing the MERC verdict.

“The union’s here. They’re not going anywhere,” said one citizen. “The only people that are making money are the lawyers.”

“We have become more insistent as we have seen reluctance to answer legitimate questions and concerns,” said VOICE’s Peggy Covert. “They [members of VOICE] demand that you follow Judge O’Connor’s decree and forgo any further taxpayer expense in attempting to appeal his decision.”

“To learn that simply wanting the opportunity to negotiate, these employees were denigrated, retaliated against and treated in such a poor manner was simply astounding,” said Sean Egan, president of the Kent-Ionia Labor Council. “The findings of the administrative law judge, dismissed by some as ‘a last hurrah,’ are based on fact. These findings show a concerted effort by some to negotiate in bad faith, prolong the process and to simply ridicule these employees for exercising their rights under the law.”

“We, the people that you represent, do not want any more tax money spent on huge bonuses, appeals, lawyers or fighting the union

workers,” said VOICE’s Barb Barber. “Give them a fair contract. No more, no less than the people and all other union workers in other communities have and stop this from going any farther. If you can’t or won’t do that job, that we put you in those



A citizen speaking to the city council.

chairs to do, then please step down.”

“These men aren’t asking for company cars and six weeks of vacation a year,” a citizen said. “They’re asking for a typical contract that just says they can’t be taken off the job and fired.”

“I do not want to be embarrassed to say that I’m from Lowell, that I live in Lowell,” said another citizen. “I do not want to be embarrassed by decisions that are made by the people who represent me and my friends in the community. I want to know that my community leaders respond to the sentiments of the people. I want to know that my community leaders do what is truly best for hard-working people in their own community. Hard-working, good, honest people deserve a fair contract.”

“It’s time to stop spending taxpayers’ money, sign a fair and reasonable contract and let everyone get back to business,” Covert said.

Many public comments focused on Mark Howe personally, some calling for his dismissal or resignation.

“Mr. Howe has proven time and again that he is unable to bargain in good faith,” Covert said. “He has broken labor laws, infringed on constitutional rights, lied under oath and demonstrated that he is unable to manage the workforce that he is responsible for.”

“You, the council, have been telling us that you can’t interfere with Mr.

Howe’s job regarding union negotiations,” Barber said. “But you’re his boss. You can certainly direct him to follow the will of the citizens.”

“I would like to compel the council to suspend Mr. Howe until the accusations

of nefarious activities can be resolved,” said one citizen. “We can’t trust a man who’s possibly being accused of violating peoples’ civil rights. I don’t see how he’s still present here today.”

“The fact that you said you were ‘ambushed’ by the press is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard,” said another citizen. “If you tell the truth you don’t have to worry about what you’re going to say.”

After the public had their say Hodges attempted to move to regular city council business. Members of the crowd protested and asked for comments from the council.

“I don’t want to have people removed from the room,” Hodges said. “That would be kind of a messy thing to do.”

At that point most of the crowd walked out of the meeting in protest.

“I think, in the end, it will work out,” Hodges said in an interview after the meeting. “Not everybody’s going to get quite what they want. I’m sure we won’t get everything that we want and, sadly, maybe they won’t get everything that they want.”

“They’re not bad people, maybe they just lost sight of the goal,” said write-in city council candidate Matt Mayer in an interview after the meeting.

Despite all the appeals from the public, the city is definitely appealing the MERC decision.

“We’re going to move forward and appeal the decision,” Howe said

in an interview after the meeting. “Even the Detroit News has said that Judge O’Connor, who was a political appointee, is notoriously pro-union. We think he’s wrong on the law and we’re going to ask the full commission to take

important to the citizens and taxpayers that we do that.”

The Detroit News article in question was an opinion piece that newspaper ran in its Oct. 15 edition. As Howe stated, the editorial described Judge O’Connor as “notoriously pro-union.” It should be noted, however, that this article was a statement of the anonymous author’s opinion and not an unbiased reporting of fact.

Other than the union issues, not much else of interest was covered at the meeting. Bids were accepted for improvements to Bowes Road, fencing for the water treatment plant and new carpet for city hall.

Greg Canfield and three other citizens spoke in favor of giving Sergeant Steve

Bukala the job of police chief. Bukala was “acting” police chief between the tenures of James Hinton and Barry Getzen. The city has been interviewing candidates for weeks, has settled on one candidate and did not consider Bukala for the position.

“With Steve Bukala we know what we’re getting,” Canfield said. “We’ve seen him in action for 18 years, even as interim ‘acting’ chief. Promoting from within makes sense. Let’s keep things local, taking advantage of relationships Steve has built instead of starting over with outside talent with the potential for a rough transition.”

Four seats on the city council are up for grabs in the Nov. 5 election.

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## financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

### Take advantage of "open enrollment"

At many places of work, it's "open enrollment" season — the time where you get to make changes to the various benefits you receive from your employer. As you review your overall benefits package, what areas should you focus on?

Here are three possibilities:

- Life insurance — If your employer offers life insurance as a benefit, and you haven't already signed up for it, consider adding it during your open enrollment period — because life insurance can be important to your family's financial security. If you already have life insurance with your employer, you may want to take the time, during open enrollment, to review your beneficiary designations. If you've experienced a change in your family situation, such as divorce or remarriage, you'll want to update your beneficiaries, as needed.

However, the amount of life insurance offered by your employer in a group policy may not be sufficient for your needs, so you may want to consult with a financial professional to determine if you should

add private, or individual, coverage. You may find that individual coverage is comparable, in terms of cost, to your employer's coverage. Also, individual coverage is "portable" — that is, you can take it with you if you change jobs.

- Disability insurance — Your employer may also offer disability insurance as a low-cost benefit. The coverage can be invaluable. In fact, nearly one in three women, and about one in four men, can expect to suffer a disability that keeps them out of work for 90 days or longer at some point during their working years, according to the Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education (LIFE). Again, as was the case with life insurance, your employer's disability policy may not be enough for your needs, so you may need to consider additional coverage.

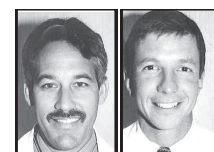
- Retirement plan — Your employer may offer a 401(k) or similar retirement plan, such as a 403(b) plan, if you work for an educational institution or a nonprofit organization, or a 457(b) plan, if you work for a governmental unit.

All these plans offer the chance to contribute pretax dollars; so the more you put in, the lower your taxable income. Equally important, your earnings can grow tax deferred, which means your money can accumulate faster than if it were placed in an account on which you paid taxes every year.

Consequently, try to contribute as much as you can possibly afford to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored plan. If you've gotten a raise recently, consider boosting your contributions during open enrollment. Also, take this opportunity to review the array of investments you've chosen for your 401(k) or other plan. If you feel that they're underperforming and not providing you with the growth opportunities you need, you may want to consider making some changes. You might also think about making adjustments if your portfolio has shown more volatility than the level with which you are comfortable. Your financial professional can help you determine if your investment mix is still suitable for your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

Open enrollment season gives you the perfect opportunity to maximize those benefits offered to you by your employer. So, think carefully about what you've got and what improvements you can make — it will be time well spent.

## health



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



### when do I need an antibiotic?

Antibiotics are strong medicines that can treat certain infections and save lives. But used incorrectly, antibiotics can cause more harm than good. Antibiotics only work against infections caused by bacteria. They do not typically work against infections caused by viruses.

Usually, antibiotics

kill bacteria or stop them from growing. However some bacteria have become resistant to specific antibiotics so the antibiotics don't work against them. Resistant bacteria develop faster when antibiotics are used incorrectly.

How can you tell if

you need an antibiotic? The following are some basic guidelines:

1. Common colds and the flu are caused by viruses and do not respond to antibiotics.

2. Bronchitis is almost always caused by a virus. However, if you have a chronic lung condition, or a long-standing infection greater than two weeks, you may require antibiotics.

3. Sore throats are typically caused by viruses and do not require antibiotics. The exception is strep throat which requires a lab test and an antibiotic to treat.

4. Ear infections can be caused by both viruses and bacteria. Antibiotics are used for some, but not all of these infections.

5. Sinus infections should only be treated with antibiotics if the infection is severe or persists for more than two weeks.

Often the best thing you can do for a mild illness such as the common cold or flu is to let it run its course. Sometimes this can take two weeks or more. As always, see your doctor if you are not getting better or if you have any questions.

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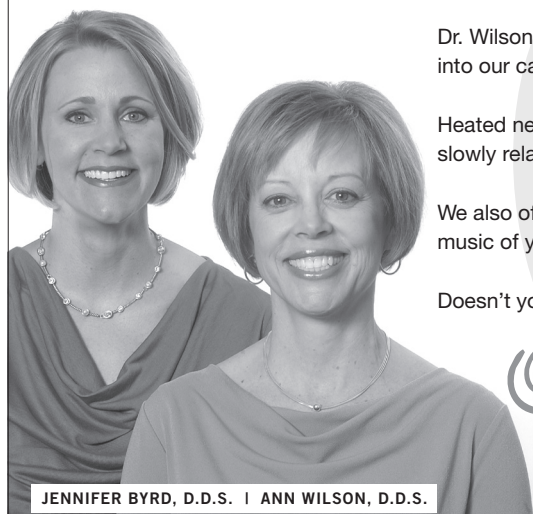
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# viewpoint

## to the editor

### reader can not fathom - is shocked

To The Editor,

I have never seen such an unprofessional pair of documents printed in any local newspaper. To back up a biased, childish and derogatory fact finding report with front page news is too much. A fact-finding report is just that...not an opinion and name calling report as printed.

I can only hope people see it in the same light I did. And inseting Barb Barber's opinions and assumptions on this fact-finding report is ludicrous. Congrats Ledger, you have lost the business of a dedicated customer and again lowered the bar to a level of smear and biased reporting that an ant has to duck its head to fit under.

Sad to see what has

happened to a once reputable paper. Unbelievable.

Cancel our subscription immediately.

Post this in your letter to the editor if you have spine. Good gravy I just can't fathom your thought process.

I am absolutely shocked.

Ryan and Tammy Pawloski  
Vergennes Township

#### Editor's note:

*The Ledger would have been negligent to not publish this public document for our subscribers and plans to publish the results of the appeal. Unfortunately, for this reader, he'll have to check news outlets, other than the hometown paper, for the results.*

### are citizens complacent?

Dear Editor,

Citizens of Lowell, we have become so complacent in our small town! We have elected city council members because we recognized their names or saw them in the grocery store. They have, in turn, become too comfortable in their decisions. They are busy people who have lives. They have blindly taken the counseling of our city manager without doing the due diligence and investigation they were elected to do. We have constantly been assured by our mayor and others on the council to shut up and sit down (always with a smile and always very nicely). Because of our complacency our city workers have been bullied, threatened and told they were forbidden to talk to council members and us, the residents of the city. Or they have been bribed with pay bonuses to keep quiet. The very people that actually fix our roads, plow the streets, mow the grass, keep the cemetery up, keep our water and sewer

running, fix our power lines, keep our electricity running and probably many other things we don't even realize because they do it with consistency and efficiency.

A state judge just ruled what our city manager did to our city workers was illegal and wrong. Instead of changing the direction the city has been taking, our city manager wants to appeal the decision. This means more outrageous lawyer fees (we don't have in the budget) and dragging the union contract out longer, which will trap our city workers into a contract that once again is not fair. I have never been a union fan, I never thought a city the size of Lowell needed one. We are better than this Lowell! Let's talk to each other and attend a city council meeting.

We are a GREAT town! We cannot let our hardworking employees get a bad deal now and let go when the press goes away.

Jeff Altoft  
Lowell

### the next place to be?

To the Editor,

Is Lowell really the next place to be? Please ask yourself this question. Are you happy and satisfied with the gross neglect and indifference the city manager has for taxpayer dollars being spent on legal fees, even after being found guilty of unfair labor practices against city workers?

As a ratepayer of Lowell Light and Power (LL&P) and supporter of many local businesses, I am appalled at the disconnect and dereliction of the fiduciary duties of the city council and Lowell Light and Power board regarding their decision with tax and ratepayer dollars.

You have been told that the individuals that are raising the questions about the issues with the labor contract and the generators, that Lowell Light and Power purchased but can only operate during the summer months, were recruited by the workers that joined the union. I want to set the record straight on this. I do not belong to a union nor did any union member recruit me. This is spin that your elected and appointed officials are putting out there to continue to distract you and to make it appear that everything is okay. Well if anyone has watched the news lately or read the Ledger, I would venture to guess that the community is starting to see the truth.

I encourage all residents of Lowell and Lowell Light and Power ratepayers, to become involved in what is happening with our elected officials and appointed board members. Their decisions will have a negative impact on our checkbooks for years to come.

I also want to call attention to a direct quote from light and power board chairman Greg Canfield. In the October 16th Ledger Mr. Canfield was quoted as saying, "not a single ratepayer was in attendance" at the last light and power board meeting. I was in attendance, in fact Mr. Canfield engaged me in conversation regarding the \$.99 meter charge that was added to all light and power customer's monthly bills. When I asked Mr. Canfield if there was an option to opt out of the program, I was

told "no." Board member LaPonsie also stated that there was no option for not charging this fee. This is not true. If you read PA95 it clearly states an option for not enrolling in the program. Just another example of the disconnect that the appointed officials continue to have regarding decisions that affect the ratepayers of Lowell Light and Power.

I also want to challenge board member Beachum regarding his outburst at the September board meeting.

He scolded ratepayers for asking questions regarding past decisions. He also stated that the board hires experts and have studies done before they make decisions. My challenge for Mr. Beachum is where is the expert opinion and study results regarding the gas supply BEFORE you authorized the purchase of the combustion generators?

In closing, please get involved or your elected and appointed officials will continue to push Lowell as "the next place NOT to be."

For more information, not spin, visit voiceoflowell.org or start attending city council or light and power board meetings. The council meets at City Hall (upstairs) at 7:00 pm on the first and third Monday of every month. Lowell Light and Power board meetings are held at the LL&P office (upstairs) at 5:30 pm on the second Thursday of every month.

Concerned ratepayer and community supporter,  
Randy Halstead

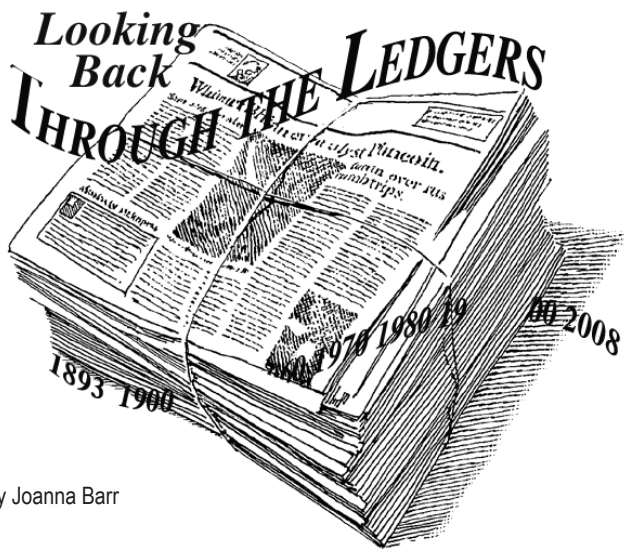
#### Editor's note:

*In the interest of clarity, the entire quote - printed in the Ledger (10-16-2013) read, "In anticipation of the larger group we expected based on Mr. Brecken's comments, we went to the extra work to move the [Oct. 10] board meeting to city hall," Canfield said in an e-mail to the Ledger. "I also wrote a letter to the editor of the Ledger which was published two days before our meeting asking for happy or unhappy customers to call or attend the meeting at city hall. We received three happy calls and there were no ratepayers at the meeting other than Mr. Brecken and four or five VOICE members."*

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By Joanna Barr

### 125 years ago Lowell Journal October 26, 1888

While the family of W. J. Raven, a farmer living near Cedar Springs, was riding home in a wagon recently, a little child of two years old fell from the seat upon an oil can and the long spout of the can penetrated the child's abdomen, inflicting fatal injuries.

Grand Rapids talks of a new evening paper, also of a towel supply company. It needs the towels more than it needs a new newspaper.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 23, 1913

Separation of the sexes plan suggested for Kent County Poor Farm. Separation of sexes and segregation of the diseased at the county poor farm was discussed by the board of supervisors during the annual inspection of the farm Thursday. The superintendent says his most difficult problem is keeping the men and women apart and it is thought that distinctly separate buildings would help much. The supervisors believe also that old persons who go there because of poverty should not be housed with inmates who are afflicted with various maladies. The board found everything satisfactory at the farm and enjoyed both the dinner and the two ball games that were played. [Grand Rapids News, October 17.]

The examination of D. R. Schiller on the charge of publishing illegal advertisements of a curative practice without a state license has been postponed until Friday, October 24. The old case of practicing, which was begun several weeks ago, goes to the circuit court in November. [Ionia Standard.]

### 140 years ago Lowell Journal October 22, 1873

Mr. H. H. Jenks was taken from Lowell to Detroit in a special car last Saturday. His spine and side still trouble him greatly and his prospects for speedy recovery is not at all encouraging.

If you have any feeling for suffering humanity, show it to that man who has a boil on the end of his nose and a cold in his head that makes him sneeze thirty times a minute. He wants to see you very much.

A lady rode from Saranac to Lowell on horseback the other day. She didn't have a side-saddle; she didn't have any saddle. The horse wore a small blanket and the lady rested on that blanket just as a clothes pin rests on a clothes line.

A large woman living in this village told a small boy the other day that if he wanted to get the lining jerked out of him in less than no time, why, all he'd got to do was to just intimate once more that she was the old thing who had been stealing his folk's wood.

# outdoors



bucks and butterflies

Dave Stegehuis

Anytime man interferes with nature there are often unintended consequences. Clearing an over grown field can rob habitat from frogs, bees, mice, insects, butterflies, and a bunch of other fauna you can't even see. Birds and animals that prey on these creatures also lose a food source as well as the protective cover it provides. As new land owners, we were about to jump on the food plot bandwagon and sow deer forage in a meadow deep in the woods. The objective was to plant a forage crop to give deer a reason to hang around and also help them through the lean northern winter months. The field was dense with weeds, grass, goldenrod, and milkweed.

Fortunately, before the field was mowed and tilled, we learned from our granddaughter about her project of hatching and releasing Monarch butterflies from eggs laid on gathered milkweed leaves.

We found out at that time the Monarch population has been in steep decline mainly because of habitat destruction.

When a parking lot is paved or a lawn is established, the butterflies lose another place to reproduce their kind. When we realized we were about to be part of the problem, we changed our plans. The meadow is now one-third food plot available for deer, turkey, and anyone else who can use some clover and rye. The remainder is left to milkweed, goldenrod, and wild flowers. The surrounding wooded acreage is also managed for the benefit of resident wildlife.

Around the world, habitat destruction is the number one threat to wildlife and plants. We have to be aware of consequences when tampering with nature in any way. Even by adding what we may think

are helpful improvements could have a negative effect. The stately muted swan was introduced as an embellishment to ponded landscapes but now is considered a serious threat to the wellbeing of a number of native species as well as the environment and people. The result has led to an expensive program to remove the birds from critically affected areas by killing them. Feeding and taking pictures of black bears may seem kind to the bears and innocent fun but often serves as a death

warrant for the animal. Just cleaning up or burning brush on a vacant lot destroys the livelihood of a large number of sometimes unseen creatures. We have to stop and think before taking any action to change the environment and determine if the action will be disruptive to wildlife or the environment and is it worth the cost.

We decided that our meadow is going to be shared by bucks and butterflies. Of course, any of the other wild residents are also welcome.

# Looking Back, continued

75 years ago

**The Lowell Ledger  
October 27, 1938**

We hear that while Bert Charles was in Grand Rapids one day this week, he came up missing. It was reported that when Bert was found, he was trying to get the jackpot out of the new parking meters on Monroe Ave.

The special hearing which was to have been held by the Common Council last Monday night upon the question of "Discontinuing and Abolishing Oak Street," was not held as those for and against the proposal failed to put in an appearance. A postponed hearing upon the matter will be held at the next regular session of the council, Monday evening, November 7, at 8 o'clock.

50 years ago

**The Lowell Ledger  
October 24, 1963**

Main Street Happenings: Strand Theatre will present a special Halloween midnight show on October 31. A new cement floor is being poured at the site of the new home for the Debonaire Shop. A soft drink distributing truck turned a corner, along Main St. last week and dropped a case of pop on the pavement—every bottle broke, to the disappointment of the kids rushing to the scene.

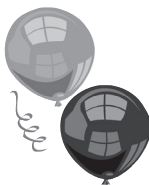
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Fluger, operators of the Lowell Bakery, announced this week, that they have purchased the former bank building and the adjacent building owned by the bank on East Main St. They plan to remodel the two buildings, at a future date, into a larger bakery, a retail store and a retail rental unit. The Fluger's three sons are all baking in the armed services and they hope to expand the business when they return. This building on the corner of Main and Monroe Streets has served the community as a bank building for over 60 years.

25 years ago

**The Lowell Ledger  
October 26, 1988**

Red Ribbon Week in full swing. Just a reminder this week is Red Ribbon Week in Lowell. It is a week to promote drug-free lifestyles in our community. The theme of the week is "The choice for me, drug free!" Some area merchants are offering some specials for anyone who is wearing a red tag with these words on it. If any extra ribbons are available you may purchase them at the Lowell Sports Shoppe for twenty-five cents each.

Headline: Dietz fills yard with ghosties and ghoulies. The ghosties and ghoulies and long-legged beasties this Halloween may be your gang from work or the work of your neighbors. Neighbors of Bonnie Dietz may already be experiencing those things that go bump in the night. Dietz, continuing a tradition that she started two years ago, has again decorated her yard with ghosts, skeletons, tombstones and large spiders which have spun a pleasant "little" web. Like many Americans across the nation. Dietz is enjoying one of the fastest-growing holiday trends, the celebrating of Halloween. Many celebrate by playing tricks on family and neighbors. Dietz, however, celebrates by decorating her yard for youngsters, including the kid that lives inside her. "It took two hours for my sister, Dawn Schondelmayer, and I to decorate the front yard," Dietz said. "I started planning what I was going to do months ago." Dietz adds that she still plans on lining her driveway with 50 milk cartons, each holding a lit candle inside. "These will be put out prior to Halloween night," she said. "There will also be lit pumpkins." Halloween isn't the only holiday that brings out the decorative genius in Dietz. "I also have lots of fun decorating at Christmas time," she said. The Lowell native added that decorating can become expensive. With new ideas each year, Dietz's costs have grown. "Yes, but I've been fortunate this year. I've had some stuff donated," Dietz said. "Newell's donated the cardboard; Erb Lumber donated the sticks; and friends donated the white sheets." "My parents did not do a whole lot of decorating when I was a kid. I think that's why I do so much now as an adult.



# happy birthday!

**OCTOBER 23**

Bill Stouffer, Melody Kastanek, Lyle Morrison, Rachael McIntyre.

**OCTOBER 27**

George Cook, Tim VanLaan, Tracey Johnson, Judy Purdy.

**OCTOBER 24**

Brian Ray, Elizabeth Cook, Tanja Greenfield, Don Miller, John DeVries, Lynn Perrien.

**OCTOBER 28**

Aaron Stencel, Bonnie Essich, Debbie Stoutjesdyk.

**OCTOBER 29**

Tammy Barber, Al Mulder, Jared Spencer, John Butler Jr., Jeremy Drake, Valerie Stuewe.

**OCTOBER 25**

Diane Pretzel, Bill Ellison, Amanda Stoutjesdyk.

**OCTOBER 26**

Ray Jones, Mike Ray, Thomas Cook, Kait Cummings, Joe Wilczewski.



*Thank You*

Thank you to all my family, neighbors and friends for making my 80th birthday a special occasion. Your calls, cards and visits made a memorable 80th birthday!

~ Best wishes to all  
Clark Parsons

# area churches

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Sunday School.....9:00 A.M.

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Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.  
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"The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.  
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Rev. W. Lee Taylor & Pastor Phil Severn

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Sunday School Hour/ABF's.....11:00 A.M.  
AWANA 6-8/Youth Ministry.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.  
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**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
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Barrier-free entrance

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# Ask the principal

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Principal Amy Pallo and the academic institution she leads, Lowell High School (LHS), are the focus of the final interview in our Q&A series. Mother of two sons and a native of Traverse City, Pallo has been at the helm of the successful high school for two years. Ranked this year by U.S. News as #25 in the list of best high schools in Michigan, LHS is recognized locally and nationally for the quality of education provided, the successful paths of its graduates and their pace-setting service learning project Pink Arrow Pride.

(Ledger) How did you come to be the principal at LHS?



Amy Pallo celebrating spirit week with students during lunch.

(Pallo) In 2004, LHS opened The Freshman Center and I was hired as an assistant principal to oversee this and help ninth graders transition to high school. I [was] worked in that capacity for nine years and truly enjoyed that job. The high school principal position opened up two years ago and I was fortunate enough to get this job. I cannot believe I have been in Lowell for 11 years. It has gone so fast, but has been a wonderful journey. (Ledger) What is the best part of your job?

(Pallo) Working with kids. That part of my job is not "work," it is fun and I enjoy every minute of it.

(Ledger) How would you describe the students at LHS?

(Pallo) Amazing. Fun. Dedicated. Compassionate. Hard-working. Kind. Creative.

As a staff, we regularly talk about how wonderful our kids are. When we take kids to events outside of our district, we always get compliments on how great our kids are. They really are incredible!

(Ledger) During your time as a principal what was one of the most endearing moments? The funniest?

(Pallo) I laugh every day with this job. Though our kids are "high school students," they still say some of the most funny stuff you can imagine. I keep a folder on my desk titled "My Book." In it, I keep a running list of all the funny stories from over the years. One day I might just publish it. :)

(Ledger) How have state budget issues affected LHS directly?

(Pallo) The state budget issues have impacted every public service agency. Though we have had cuts, I am so proud that our staff continues to work hard to provide the best education and opportunities for our kids.

(Ledger) What changes in government policy would most benefit students?

(Pallo) That is a tough question right now. I wish our government would recognize that teachers have a lot of experience and expertise in their fields and ask educators questions before making policy changes that impact kids. I think they would find that educators have a lot of great resources and insight that could help with decisions.

(Ledger) What career-oriented class offerings are available at LHS?

(Pallo) Many. We offer courses in CAD, computer programming, business, entrepreneurship, creative writing, animal science, government and politics, anatomy and physiology, forensics, many levels of mathematics, English, world languages, ceramics, photography, music and industrial arts and that is just naming a few.

(Ledger) How do you help students prepare for entry into college?

(Pallo) Our counselors meet with students to discuss college and career planning beginning in ninth grade. They utilize a small amount of class time to talk about planning and organizing for their future. Our teachers help kids select classes based on their area of interest. We offer 13 advanced placement courses so kids have the opportunity to take a "college level" course and test for actual college credit. We also help kids prepare for the ACT by offering support opportunities for this test to kids.

(Ledger) What role do you think extracurricular activities play in a student's education?

(Pallo) Extra curricular activities play a significant role in education. These activities provide an additional way to help students feel connected to their school. Plus, it helps them learn vital skills like teamwork, responsibility and dedication. We encourage all of our kids to get involved. We genuinely believe that there is something here for everyone!

(Ledger) How has the Pink Arrow Pride impacted LHS?

(Pallo) I do not know that I can begin to list all the ways this program has impacted our school! I think I will simply refer to Friday, October 3, when LHS played East Grand Rapids at EGR. Our students showed up covered in pink, with a banner that said "United Against Cancer." They did this because a teacher from EGR is presently fighting cancer and they wanted to show support. What I learned that night is that our students love a good rivalry, but when it comes to supporting someone that is fighting this dreadful disease, they put differences aside and unite to support. I could not have been more proud of our students for what they did that night!

(Ledger) What role do you feel Unity High School plays within the district?

(Pallo) Unity is an incredible resource that our district has for students. Sue Sweet, the program coordinator for Unity, does an amazing job building relationships with the students that attend and helping them make a plan for graduation. The kids that attend Unity simply need a different learning environment and this is a wonderful avenue for kids to pursue a diploma! I am very proud that our district recognizes the need for this alternative programming for kids!

(Ledger) Do you have any unique or new programs at the high school?

(Pallo) We have many. I could go on and on about all the great things our teachers do for kids. One that sticks out is the work that our teachers are doing with reading this year. Mrs. Schutte, one of our English teachers, made posters that each teacher has in his or her room. The poster simply says, "I am reading..." and the teacher writes the title of the book that he or she is reading. The discussion that these posters has prompted with students has been incredible! I have really enjoyed watching kids ask questions about different books and read them following their conversations with staff. It has been so cool to see how something so simple has had such a positive impact on our building!

(Ledger) How do you encourage social and personal growth in your students?

(Pallo) We try to incorporate [a] variety of activities throughout the year to help our students learn to support each other socially. We have a "Be Nice" week in February, where we talk about bullying and practice random acts of kindness. We have brought in speakers at various times throughout the year. We have student groups that are working to educate their classmates on safe driving practices. We have an awesome counseling staff that has implemented a program called "Live. Laugh. Love," which is a program aimed at helping students understand mental illness. Our number one focus is academics, but we know that kids need more and we try to offer a variety of

programming that helps each kid grow personally and helps them understand how to be a part of "something bigger" and support one another.

(Ledger) How can parents best encourage their children to achieve academic success?

(Pallo) I think parents have to make a commitment to be involved and support their child. They have to help their kids learn skills to talk with their teacher, ask questions and advocate for themselves. I am just learning about the "parent" role myself, with my two boys. I have figured out that I have to support my boys by developing a relationship with their teachers and reinforcing things that they learn at school.

(Ledger) What percentage of your graduates go on to college?

(Pallo) Eight-six percent.

(Ledger) What specific goals have you set for the 2013-2014 school year?

(Pallo) We have school improvement goals, which we decide on as a school improvement team. These goals are to improve reading, writing and math. We have also set a goal to help our students improve their college and career readiness skills. My personal goals are to help create an environment where kids feel connected to their teachers and work to support one another.

(Ledger) In what area(s) does LHS excel and in which do we need improvement?

(Pallo) Our students and staff excel in so many areas! We have an incredible FFA program, Model United Nations, theater program, arts, music, athletics, and this is just naming a few! On top of extra and co-curricular opportunities, we are proud to say that our ACT scores have gone up for the last three years. We are ahead of the state and county average in every area.

(Ledger) What role does technology play in your building?

(Pallo) We are working to incorporate many types of technology into our building. We show daily video announcements, which are student produced. Our teachers utilize many online resources to supplement their instruction. We use Chromebooks, iPads and netbooks in various capacities. We also offer some awesome classes that utilize specific technology (CAD, computer programming and digital photography, just to name a few).

(Ledger) Do you have a school motto or mission?

(Pallo) We do! We recently had a competition in our building where each student was asked to develop a motto. A committee of teachers narrowed the choices down to three and then our student body voted on the motto that they liked best. It is "Learners Today. Leaders Tomorrow. Red Arrows for Life." I love it!



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# A fun night for GNO in spite of rainy weather

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Ladies were invited to bring out their wild side and hit Main Street in historic downtown Lowell for shopping and fun at the fall edition of Girls' Night Out (GNO). Sponsored by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, it was held last Thursday from 5-9 pm.

More than thirty businesses opened their doors to crowds of shoppers, most keeping extended

hours for the special event. Each participating shop, from antique stores to salons, offered up a variety of special shopping deals, raffles and delicious refreshments for participants to enjoy.

Shoppers who visited at least fifteen different merchants and had their GNO postcard stamped were also entered into a drawing to receive \$100 dollars in Shop Lowell gift certificates.

The event, which aims to bring more shoppers to the downtown district, thrived despite the less than optimal weather conditions. First time attendee LeighAnn Harris, from just down the road in Alto, said she was really enjoying her first experience at the GNO event adding, "I love downtown Lowell! I just think it is a great place!" The next GNO is scheduled for spring 2014.



Riverbend East Styling Salon owner Carol Baer surrounded by her stylish crew during the event.



Co-owners of The Little Store in the Middle, Penny and Connie, enjoy their first Girls' Night Out.



Lowell teachers Sue Gordon, Margaret Harrison and Linda DeCator having fun at the Flat River Cottage.

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- Niles
- Portland
- Zeeland Board of Public Works
- Eaton Rapids
- City of Hart
- Paw Paw
- St. Louis



Grandmother Rhonda Baker shops at Springgrove Variety with her grandchildren Dylan and Laney Vanassen.



# LHS grad will box in Slugtoberfest at Delta Plex

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Caleb Grummet is a fighter. From wrestling mats to the professional boxing ring, it seems that it just comes naturally to this 2000 Lowell High School (LHS) graduate.

Following in the athletic footsteps of three generations of Grummetts before him, all raised in the Lowell area, he placed fourth in the state for wrestling while at LHS and was also a member of the football team. His grandfather and great-grandfather still hold records for track and basketball at the school. "My entire life history is basically formed in Lowell. My mom went to Lowell as well and with four sons she had to fight to keep her sanity. That's probably where I got it from," he said with a laugh.

After graduation Grummet took to fighting for the people when he joined the military becoming a mortar man for the United States Marines serving at Camp Pendleton. "It instilled many of my work ethics and dealing with adversity. I never saw any wartime but was always prepared to go," he said.

After returning home from the service Grummet married another Lowell native, Kelly Kemen and began raising a family together. "I had a crush on Kelly in high school but never made attempts to date her because I was the rebel and she was sweet, smart and way cooler," he said with a smile. The couple now share four children: Ava, 8; Naomi, 7; Griffin, 5; and Garrett, 3.

Along with his growing family and a job in what he calls "corporate America" Grummet stayed heavily involved in wrestling, competing in both the freestyle and Greco-Roman styles of the sport before deciding to give Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) a try at the suggestion of a friend. "Well that was it. I started

training and took my first fight after two months and it seemed like I took a fight every weekend after that. I was 26, kind of a late start, but it was what I was born to do."

Grummet, who has since been featured in Men's Health magazine, maintained an undefeated record as an amateur MMA fighter earning an 18-0 record before making the decision to step up to the professional level. Heeding the advice of his coaching staff he began training heavily in boxing to increase his abilities in his MMA fights. "Little did I know I would rather enjoy the art of boxing. So at 28 I took my first boxing match." He now holds a 4-3 record as a professional boxer and continues to fight seeing strong opponents such as olympian Dominic Breazeale and former Baltimore Ravens safety Tom Zbikowski.

Former Michigan Golden Gloves Coach of the Year Jamie Stevenson, who has been coaching and conditioning Grummet for 2 years, says he believes that Grummet will get the opportunity to fight for a world championship in the near future attributing his success to his strong work ethic. "Caleb's willingness to work and learn is amazing. He never questions what I say, he just does it to the best of his ability. What makes him unique is that he is a realist that's willing to take a risk knowing that the cards aren't necessarily stacked in his favor. He fights because that's just what fighters do. No other reason. As an athlete he is a wrecking machine," said Stevenson.

Grummet's next fight will take place this Saturday October 26th at the DeltaPlex arena where he will take on yet another tough opponent as part of the Slugtoberfest boxing event which will open its doors to the public at 6 pm.

He is scheduled to face fellow Michigan fighter Karinn Davis of Jackson on an impressive card that features three United States Boxing Organization title fights.

Beyond the squared circle, Grummet's fighting career has grown in other ways as well. He has been taken on as the assistant coach for the wrestling and boxing club at Olivet College where he had previously wrestled and currently attends as a student. "Right now I really love coaching; it adds a whole new dimension to my athletic game," he said. "Working with athletes and molding them mentally and physically seems to be a perfect fit for me."

Recently Grummet also got to try out his boxing in the Hollywood arena when he portrayed a boxer in an episode of the American Movie Classics (AMC) crime drama Low Winter Sun which aired back in September. "It was just unreal to be a part of! It was a lot of work. Eight to ten hours a day rehearsing for the perfect shots and angles. I would really enjoy doing more," he said adding, "It's fun to watch and the money is not bad either."

Grummet's wife Kelly is supportive of his career though she had some initial reservations. "At first my wife was like, how long will this be going on? But she knew that I was following the path I was being called to. She has been my support and strength," states Grummet, adding that his four young children "have been coming to gyms with me since they were babies."

Troy Rowland, who also coaches boxing, says that he finds Grummet to be one of the most dedicated and hardworking fighters he has ever worked with. "He has a wife and four kids and goes to college and still never misses a training session. He is a guy that could have a million



Grummet, right, on the set of the AMC crime drama Low Winter Sun.

excuses and he never makes one," admits Rowland.

Grummet says he plans to continue to both fight and coach in the future believing that God has placed him

here. "God's plan to use fighting MMA and boxing in my life has been amazing. I've been walking by faith and have been blessed richly. I have been all over

the country and trained in the best gyms. Who knows what will be next. I just keep an open heart and mind," adds Grummet.



Grummet delivering a solid punch to his opponent in the boxing ring.

## YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

A guide to Michigan's public information laws

### PUBLIC RECORDS

The Freedom of Information Act, 1976 PA 442; MCLA 15.231 et. seq. gives citizens access to public records.

**Q** If a quorum of a public body goes to its attorney's office without posting notice of the meeting, is it a violation of the OMA?

**A** Most likely. The OMA defines a meeting of a public body as a gathering at which a quorum is present to deliberate towards, or render a decision on, a public policy. Therefore, if the quorum had engaged in any deliberation or decision-making, it is possible that an OMA violation occurred. However, a public body can sometimes meet in closed session to consider material exempt by law, such as a written opinion of the attorney covered by attorney-client privilege, or to discuss specific, pending litigation, but they must post a notice that such a meeting will occur, vote to go into closed session, provide an opportunity for public comment at the open portion of the meeting and follow the OMA's additional requirement of taking minutes.

**Q** Does the OMA apply to committees of a public body?

**A** It may. The OMA includes committees and subcommittees in the definition of public body. However, when a committee is merely advisory and capable only of making recommendations, it may not be subject to the act if the recommendation is about a governmental matter. A committee that has the authority to make governmental decisions is subject to the OMA and must comply with all its provisions including notice, taking of minutes and time for public comment.

**Q** How does the FOIA define public body?

**A** Under the FOIA, a public body includes any agency, board, commission or council in the legislative branch of the state; a county, city, township, village or other regional governing body; school districts and agencies thereof; and any other body that is created by state or local authority or that is primarily funded by or through state or local authority. An individual member of a board—a school board member, for instance—would not be considered a public

body. State officers and employees are, however, considered to be public bodies. The governor, lieutenant governor and the executive office of the governor are excluded from the FOIA, as is the judiciary and the legislature.

**Q** What is a public record?

**A** In general, all records except those specifically considered exempt are covered by the FOIA. As a citizen, you have a right to see minutes of open meetings, officials' voting records, correspondence, financial records, staff manuals, even personnel records and the salaries of public officials and employees. Further, you have a right to these records no matter the form in which they are maintained. The FOIA applies to any handwriting, typewriting, printing, photographing and photocopying, and it includes letters, words, pictures, sounds or symbols. It also includes papers, maps, magnetic or paper tapes, photographic films or prints, microfilm, microfiche, magnetic or punched cards, computer discs or other means of recording or retaining meaningful content. The exception to this list is computer software.

**Q** Is there a special form for making a FOIA request?

**A** No, the FOIA simply requires that you make your request in writing. Faxes and e-mails are acceptable. Some public bodies have created forms for citizens to use when requesting public records, but in general, the law only calls for a written request.

**Q** May a public body charge a fee for public records?

**A** Yes. A public body may charge a fee for a public record search, the necessary copying of a public record for inspection or for providing a copy of a public record. The fee for providing copies is limited to the actual mailing cost and the actual incremental cost of duplication including labor, search, examination, review and the separation and deletion of exempt material. The first \$20 of a fee must be waived for a person receiving public assistance or presenting an affidavit of indigency.

# Red Arrow SPORTS

- CROSS COUNTRY

## Cross country teams wrap up regular season

by Karen Jack

Both the boys' and girls' cross country teams ran in their final season OK White jamboree on Wednesday. Although both teams finished sixth, they had some impressive individual runs for the day.

In a field of 160 runners for the boys, Zac Diamond

finished 15th overall with a 17:09.08 run and Nick MacDonald finished 21st (17:14.55), which the coach hopes will set them up to finish well in regionals. The boys' team just missed fifth place by 14/100ths of a second and missed out on fourth by 48/100ths of a

second. Because this meet counts as double for the conference, it slid them into sixth place for the year.

For the girls, Lauren Blanchard finished in 16th place for Lowell with a time of 19:48.30 in a field of 178 runners and considering this was her first year out, it was

quite an accomplishment. Rachael Walters finished 25th (20:15.89) and Jessica Graves finished 30th (20:27.49).

"Even though we finished in sixth place, the guys ran probably their best race," said coach Clay

VanderWarf. "Our times continued to drop. Most of them ran personal bests for the season and I think the guys are peaking at the right time to run a great regional race this Saturday at Grand Traverse Resort."

**Both teams will head to Spruce Run Golf Course at Grand Traverse Resort on Saturday for the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) regional event. Run time is 2 pm for the girls and 3 pm for the boys.**

## Equestrians show well at MIHA state championships

The Lowell equestrian team finished the season strong, placing in the top five at the Michigan Interscholastic Horseman'ship Association (MIHA) state championships.

There were four state championships taken by Lowell riders. Senior Jessica Graves took a state championship for her first-place ride in hunt seat bareback. The second went

to senior Justin Rinks with winning rides in both speed and action and flag race. Another championship went to Henneh McMillian for the first-place ride in saddle seat pattern.

Strong rides were made by everyone on the team with great placings by Hannah Draigh, Sarah Kloosterman, Katie Canfield, Andi Reynolds, Olivia Hock and Rachel Phelps.

The team, from left to right: Jessica Graves, Olivia Hock, Henneh McMillian, Andi Reynolds, coach Holli Melton, Justin Rinks, Jessica Bouwman, Sarah Kloosterman, Hannah Draigh, Katie Canfield and Rachel Phelps.



...

Human beings are perhaps never more frightening than when they are convinced beyond doubt that they are right.

~ Laurens Van der Post

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**CITY OF LOWELL**  
**OAKWOOD CEMETERY**  
**FALL CLEAN UP NOTICE**

The annual clean-up of Oakwood Cemetery will be the week of October 28th through November 1, 2013.

Please remove all arrangements, baskets, etc. you wish to keep by Sunday, October 27, 2013.

 Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk

**LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2013**

at 7:00 p.m. at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash, SE, Lowell, MI 49331.

Brian Crandall has made application for a variance from Section 4.34(a)(1) of the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance to allow for a 4 foot side yard setback, where 25 feet is required, for an addition to an existing non-conforming house in the R-1 zoning district on property located at 11326 Foreman Street, Lowell, MI, Permanent Parcel No. 41-20-04-101-002.

The application is available for review at the Township Hall during regular office hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk  
Lowell Charter Township

# Red Arrow - FOOTBALL SPORTS

## Another nailbiter as Arrows beat GRC in double overtime

by Karen Jack

Friday night's game was played in honor of Doc Gerard's 50 years of service to the team and the Red Arrows proved to Doc their appreciation in a thrilling overtime win against Grand Rapids Christian (GRC).

In a battle of the last two unbeaten teams in the OK White conference, the Arrows had to win to stay on top of the conference. Going into two overtimes, they managed to dig deep and come out on top with a final score of 35-34. This is the second overtime win for the Arrows this season. When asked if he remembers a season with two overtime games, head coach Noel Dean said, "My heart would tell you no."

The Arrows brought up Gabe Steed from the junior varsity level for the game on Friday and he turned out to be exactly what was needed on the field. Steed scored one of the Arrows' touchdowns in overtime and caught a pass that was tipped by his teammate to set up another score earlier in the game. "He was great tonight and we couldn't have won it without him," said Dean.

Neither team scored in the first quarter of the game, but the Arrows were the first to put points on the board on a Kyler Shurlow 36-yard pass to Ben Bigham. That score only took four plays,

with a three-yard rush from Dylan Brower, a pass to Kyle Blough for seven yards and another pass to Bigham for 16 yards. Christian tied it up just before the end of the first half to make the score 7-7.

On the first play of the third quarter, Christian scored again to take the lead 14-7 and it wasn't until the fourth quarter before the Arrows tied it up on passes to Jeff Houston for 11 yards, Josh Branagan for 11 yards, a pass to Steed for 18 yards and rushes from Shurlow for a total of 12 yards to set them up on the Christian three-yard line on a third and goal. Kanon Dean was handed the ball and pushed his way through to score for the Arrows.

Christian scored again on the next play to take the lead 21-14, but true to Arrow form, they marched the ball 80 yards for another touchdown to tie it up again. Shurlow passed to Houston for seven- and four-yard gains, Steed caught the tipped pass for 54 yards and then a pass to Branagan put the Arrows on the 12-yard line. The ball was handed to Dean again and with help from Josh Colegrove, he got into the end zone for the score to put the game into overtime.

In high school overtime, they set up on the 10-yard line and each team gets four



Doc Gerard accepts the key to the city from Lowell mayor Jim Hodges before the game.

chances to score. Christian got the ball first and scored a touchdown, then Lowell responded with a pass to Steed to tie it up.

In the second overtime, Shurlow rushed for six yards and Dean rushed it in for four yards on the touchdown putting the Arrows in the lead 35-28. Christian responded with a score of their own, but went for the two-point conversion to win the game. The Lowell defense came up strong and stopped the run just short of the goal line.

"That was a huge stop," said Shurlow. "We had a feeling they were going to call the same play that got them the touchdown. We called the right call and we got the stop. It was tremendous call playing by coach Katt tonight. He really called a good game for us."

Shurlow led the team in rushing with 110 yards and Dean had 20. Steed led the receivers with 122 yards, followed by Bigham with 115 and Houston with 69. Brower had a 45-yard punt return in the game and Austin Bieri was perfect on the extra point kicks for the game.

Leading the defense was Dean with nine tackles. Josh Colegrove had six and Max Dean and Brower both had five. Blough and Brower each got one sack.

"Christian was unbelievable on defense," said Dean. "It's very hard to defend, but it shows you

what a bunch of kids who play together and play hard for their town can do. I'm proud of our kids tonight."

**The Arrows host Jenison on Friday for the last regular season game starting at 7:00 pm.**



Jeff Houston running the ball.



Ben Bigham goes up for the ball with double coverage.

# obituaries

## BEACHUM

Donald Eugene Beachum, age 86 of Lowell, passed away Sunday, October 20, 2013. He was preceded in death by his parents Byrd and Ethel Beachum, brother Budd, sister Bernice Windon and son-in-law Tom Koewers. He is survived by his wife of 65 years Flora Jean, children Patricia and Gary Leazenby, Donna and Al Miller, Perry and Teresa Beachum, Beth and Kim Stevens, grandchildren Carrie (Shane), Kevin (Diane), Brian, Jeff, Lisa (Paul), Erin (James), Kelsey, Zachary (Sophia), Meghan (Ben), Kory, Kelly, Stephanie and Ryan, great-grandchildren Elizabeth, Alivia, Mason, Logan and Brooke. Graveside service will be held 11 a.m. Wednesday at Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Lowell Pink Arrow Pride, c/o Lowell Community Wellness, P.O. Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331.



the lowell ledger

P.O. Box 128  
Lowell, MI 49331  
897-9261

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday - Thursday:  
8 am - 5 pm  
Friday: 8 am - Noon  
Closed Sat. & Sun.

## GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

**Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.**  
**Synopsis of Minutes**  
**Oct. 14, 2013**

Motions Approved:  
Replace lights & add a ceiling fan at G/V Sewer Plant  
Update Fee & Permit Schedule  
Clean up landscaping at FD  
4 new computers for office  
Assistant Office Administrator pay increase

Budget Amendments:  
Phone System/Ins. Recovery  
SAW Grant/Legal Svc  
Landscaping & Clean Up Day  
G/V Under drains  
Sludge Removal/Capital Inv.

Our next Township Meeting will be **Nov. 25th**  
The minutes may be reviewed on our website at [www.grattantownship.org](http://www.grattantownship.org)

# CITY OF LOWELL

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST OF THE OPTICAL SCAN TABULATING EQUIPMENT FOR THE CITY GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 5, 2013

Notice is hereby given that the public accuracy test of the Optical Scan Tabulating Equipment for the November 5, 2013 City General Election will be conducted on Monday, October 28, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. at the Lowell City Hall, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan.



Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk

# Social Security serves those who've served

On November 11, we honor our Nation's veterans for their service to America. What better time than now to tell you — and for you to help spread the word — about the many benefits and wealth of information Social Security has available for veterans and military personnel?

Social Security recognizes those who put their lives on the line for our freedoms. Members of the armed forces receive expedited processing of their Social Security disability applications. The expedited process is available for any military service member who became disabled during active duty on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where the disability occurs. Some dependent children and spouses of military personnel may also be eligible to receive benefits.

Visit our website designed specifically for our wounded veterans: [www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors). There, you will find answers to a number of commonly asked questions, as well as other useful information about disability benefits available under the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. Please pay special attention to the fact sheet available on that website, *Disability Benefits for Wounded Warriors*.

Military service members are covered for the same Social Security survivors, disability, and retirement benefits as everyone else. Although the expedited service is relatively new, military personnel have been covered under Social Security since 1957, and people who were

in the service prior to that may be able to get special credit for some of their service.

To learn more about Social Security for current and former military service members, read *Military Service and Social Security*. It's available in

our digital library at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

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

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7	2	1	5	8	9	3	6	4
8	3	4	6	2	7	9	5	1
3	1	7	2	9	5	4	8	6
2	4	9	8	6	1	5	7	3
6	5	8	3	7	4	1	9	2
9	7	2	1	3	8	6	4	5
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4	6	3	9	5	2	8	1	7

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## NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Accuracy Test of Voting Equipment

A public accuracy test of the voting equipment to be used in the November 5, 2013 Election for Lowell Area Schools will be held on Monday, October 28, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at the Vergennes Township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell, MI 49331.

Mari C. Stone  
Vergennes Township Clerk

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA  
KOSCIUSKO COUNTY

IN RE: THE MARRIAGE  
OF BRIAN L. YODER,  
Petitioner, and AMY  
MARIE YODER,  
Respondent

IN THE KOSCIUSKO  
SUPERIOR COURT #1  
2013 TERM  
CAUSE NUMBER  
43D01-1310-DR-319

### SUMMONS

This summons is to the Respondent above named and to any other person who may be concerned.

You are notified that you have been named as a Respondent in the Kosciusko Superior Court #1, Kosciusko County, Indiana, in an action entitled In Re the Marriage of Brian L. Yoder, Petitioner, and Amy Marie Yoder, Respondent, Cause Number 43D01-1310-DR-319, by the person named above as Petitioner.

This summons by publication is specifically directed to Amy Marie Yoder, who whereabouts are unknown.

The named Petitioner is represented by Joseph A. Sobek, Attorney at Law, attorney number 30864-64, 318 South Buffalo Street, Warsaw, Indiana 46580.

The nature of this proceeding is the Petitioner's request for the Decree of Dissolution.

An answer or other response in writing to the Petition must be answered either by you or your attorney on or before 30 days after the third notice of this petition, and if you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded by the Petitioner. Dated Oct. 2, 2013.

Ann Torpy, Clerk  
Kosciusko Superior Court #1



# Neighbor 2 Neighbor wish list

**Neighbor to Neighbor is once again organizing to get some of these projects done and disbursed. If you would like to help by donating your time and energy to fulfill one of these requests, contact Tamela Spicer to confirm which project you could complete at [tamelas@fromlowell.org](mailto:tamelas@fromlowell.org)**

A local married couple is in need of a new furnace. Their current furnace has barely been running for the past two years, but is now unsafe. Due to recent economic challenges the couple is not able to absorb the cost.

Couple needs to repair all of the flooring in their trailer. There are holes and soft spots throughout the flooring in their home. The duct work needs to be replaced as it is not blowing heat to the front of their trailer. Their back door also needs to be replaced. Limited income makes it difficult for this couple to manage the repairs on their own.

A married couple in Lowell has found themselves on harder than normal times. The husband is wheelchair bound due to being a brittle diabetic. The wife has part-time, seasonal work but is limited to the amount of hours she can work due to caring for her husband. This past month the wife had to undergo surgery that has left her unable to work and drive for a month, which has presented many challenges for this household. A recent inspection for their home owners insurance revealed the need for roof replacement. The condition of the roof not only impacts the safety of the home, but also the affordability of the insurance.

A family of four living on Veteran's Assistance and Social Security benefits is in need of a new furnace and roof repair. The furnace has electrical issues that the family has been unable to resolve. When the furnace goes on, you can see the electricity voltage throughout the vents. The roof also has a big hole, which requires a new application of tar a couple of times each year just to keep from leaking.

A senior widow living on a fixed income is in need of tree removal. She currently has her daughter and granddaughter living with her to help them through a period of unemployment. There are many unstable trees along the house that need to come down to prevent potential damage to the home. This homeowner hopes to donate the wood to another family in need.



**bloom where you're planted**

A single mother is in need of a new bathroom floor. She recently lost her full-time job and is getting some part-time work through Manpower. There is no extra room in this single mom's budget to fix the floor.

A local family is in need of a new roof for their garage. What started out as a bee problem in the soffit area of their garage has now turned into a bigger problem of needing a whole new roof replacement.

Unsteady employment and health issues in the last couple of years have left this family with little resources to replace the roof themselves.

A single mother of two is in need of all new windows throughout her mobile home. There are no screens and locks on them to ensure proper weatherization as well as to keep intruders out.

A retired male needs help before the weather turns colder. His furnace needs to be replaced and he does not have the resources to manage this on his own.

A single woman who purchased her home in 2008 has fallen on hard times. When she originally purchased her home, she was working two jobs and lost them both in 2009. She was unable to find employment even with a master's degree. She has started her own business to try to pay her current bills and is barely making ends meet. She is in need of many repairs for her home which include electrical, plumbing, driveway replacement/repair, as well as the repair/replacement of the foundation of her home which is leaking water into her basement. There are structural issues with the garage and flooring issues with the bathroom.

A married couple is struggling to make necessary repairs for a mobile home. They have been piecing together dry wall as their resources allow them to, but need help finishing the work. All of the flooring needs to be replaced throughout their home. They need all new windows as well as insulation to ensure proper weatherization. Their porch is falling apart. They currently have no kitchen cabinets. All of the walls in their bathroom need to be replaced because of mold concerns. The bathroom faucets also need to be replaced.

A widow needs help. Her husband's extended illness and a fixed income since his passing have made it difficult for her to keep up with much needed home repairs. The window in her bedroom rotted out and currently has a piece of wood and a blanket covering it. She has leaky a faucet and mold in the basement resulting from a leak on her deck. The dry wall and insulation needs to be replaced to ensure proper weatherization. There is a hole in her driveway that she would like to refill with asphalt before winter comes so the hole does not get any bigger.

A widowed senior citizen, whose only source of income is her social security benefits, is in need of some help. The roof needs repair for safety and weatherization reasons. Both the dining room and bedroom flooring needs to be replaced due to termite damage.

A married couple with three children need help replacing two broken windows. One of the windows has a rotting sill that needs to be replaced. One of their daughters has recently been diagnosed with asthma. The mold from the rotting window sill is contributing to her asthma symptoms and the family does not have the financial means to replace or repair the window.

A single lady who receives disability benefits is in need of some home repairs. She has a basement window that has no glass to for proper weatherization and security. She has been using plastic, as well as a bale of hay, to cover the window. There are two holes that are unreachable to her on the outside of her home that need to be repaired to ensure that rain and snow doesn't come through. She needs a storm window in her kitchen as well as a new kitchen faucet.

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## At Your Local Library

Kent District Library programs at Englehardt Branch, 200 N. Monroe St. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

**Band Books at the Library: Music Makers –**

Connect with musical happiness by making your very own instrument out of provided materials! Make tambourines, maracas, harmonicas and more using household materials. For all ages. Fri., Nov. 22 at 1 pm.

**Happy Birthday, Amelia Bedelia! –**

Celebrate Amelia Bedlia's 50th birthday with a party featuring activities inspired by her books! Connect to Happiness with Amelia Bedelia as your guide. For ages 6 and younger. Thurs., Nov. 7 at 10:30 am.

**Beyblades –**

Test your skills and have fun competing in KDL's Beyblade Battles! Bring your own Beyblades and arenas, or train and compete using the library's equipment. For ages 6 and older. Wed., Nov. 27 at 1 pm.

**Star Wars Reads –**

May the force be with you as we celebrate Star Wars and reading. Join us for crafts, games and activities that are out of this galaxy! Come dressed as your favorite character to add to the fun. For all ages. Tues., Nov. 5 at 6:30 pm.

What's Your Sport?

Keep Caught Up On All The Lowell High School's Sports Action In

# The Lowell Ledger

**THEME:  
WORLD SERIES**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Free diving does not require this
- 6. "And She \_\_\_\_" by Talking Heads
- 9. Current unit, pl.
- 13. \*Short fly ball
- 14. Matterhorn, e.g.
- 15. "The Barber of Seville," e.g.
- 16. Squirreled-away item
- 17. High \_\_\_\_
- 18. \*This Bob won 2 games pitching in '48 World Series
- 19. \*Winner of most championships
- 21. \*2004 champs and once named Americans
- 23. Deadeye's forte
- 24. Sure or uh-huh
- 25. Pipe material
- 28. Conclusion
- 30. \*Nicknames for World Series champs Hornsby and Maris
- 35. Coral ridge
- 37. Rigid necklace
- 39. Conical tent
- 40. Shamu, e.g.
- 41. Become eventually
- 43. Convict's weapon
- 44. The lesser of two \_\_\_\_
- 46. Preacher's elevation
- 47. Antler part
- 48. Carnegie \_\_\_\_\_ University
- 50. Hurry up!
- 52. Cub's home
- 53. Desirable state
- 55. Sin and \_\_\_\_
- 57. \*Last year's Series loser
- 60. \*"Black Sox" hometown
- 64. \*Lawrence \_\_\_\_\_ Berra, owns 13 World Series rings
- 65. Like arctic air
- 67. Waterwheel

**CROSSWORD**

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**OCTOBER 16 - OCTOBER 22**

- Lionfish, a voracious predator with bright stripes and spiky fins, is venomous and this non-native species is growing out of control in the Atlantic Ocean along the U.S. east coast.
- A 65-foot boat, belonging to singer Wayne Newton, sank stern-first while it was in a slip at the Temple Bar marina east of Las Vegas.
- Davion Only, 15, the Florida orphan who stood up at church and asked for a family to "love me until I die" has received around 10,000 requests from people wanting to adopt him and the adoption agency says he has a good chance of finding a home. The boy has been in foster care his whole life.

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- 68. Chinese weight unit, pl.
- 69. \*Pitcher's stat
- 70. Aldous Huxley's experiences
- 71. Lacking on Venus de Milo
- 72. \*At least one is needed to win
- 73. Brewer's need
- 29. Lady of Lisbon
- 31. Joker's act
- 32. Plant louse
- 33. "Die Lorelei" poet
- 34. \*Best-of-what?
- 36. \* \_\_\_\_ Classic
- 38. \*Drought victims
- 42. Hunt illegally
- 45. Becomes not intoxicated
- 49. "Neither a borrower \_\_\_\_ a lender be"
- 51. Sharp
- 54. Basket material
- 56. \*Listed by inning
- 57. Product of laceration
- 58. Any thing
- 59. Hair styling products
- 60. Blue hue
- 61. "Tosca" tune
- 62. Scams, var.
- 63. Brewer's equipment
- 64. "Harper Valley \_\_\_\_"
- 66. French vineyard

**DOWN**

- 1. Neuter

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**NEED TO SEND A**



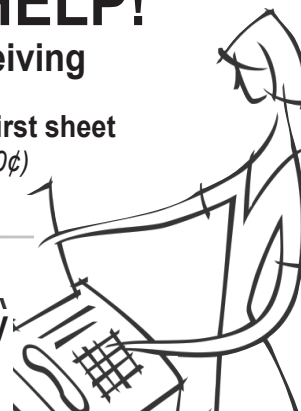
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**THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL**

*Do you still let your children trick or treat on Halloween?*

YES  
NO

We do parties instead  
We don't participate

# Artist exhibits watercolors at Flat River Gallery this month

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Pat Cole is the visiting artist this month at Flat River Gallery, 219 W. Main.

Cole, a former k-12 art teacher in Ann Arbor and Jenison, specializes in watercolors. Her subjects vary from portraits of people and animals to still lifes of dolls and flowers.

"I like to do portraits," Cole said. "I like flowers too."

Cole started out using oil paints, but switched to watercolors about 30 years ago.

"I had a child who was hyperactive and I couldn't

let him run around the house with oil paints," Cole said. "That's the truth! I was afraid!"

Flat River Gallery is a "co-op." A group of artists who already belong vote on potential new artists. If they are approved and join the co-op they can display and sell their work. Flat River Gallery is always looking for new artists.

"The visiting artists have to be willing to show their work," said Marylu Dykstra, one of Flat River Gallery's artists. "We're looking for really strong

artists, always local and somebody who's willing to participate in some of the activities we do."

Cole takes photos of her subjects and then spends a long time perfecting the painting.

"All you need is water, a sink and a place to lay your paintings," Cole said.

Everything in the gallery is for sale and there are pieces in just about every price range.

"We want art to be accessible to everybody," Dykstra said.



Pat Cole with her watercolors.

**LUNCH MENU**

**ELEMENTARY MENU**  
Week of  
Oct. 28, 2013

**MON:** Beef taco & seasoned corn (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), corn dog & seasoned broccoli (served at Bushnell), fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, fresh baby carrots, mixed fruit, peaches, milk.

**TUES:** BBQ pork ribbie on WG bun (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), WG breaded chicken sandwich (served at Bushnell), baked beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cucumber coins, peaches, fresh cantaloupe, milk.

**WED:** WG French toast sticks served w/sausage, warm cinnamon apples, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, broccoli florets, pineapple, orange juice, milk.

**THURS:** Grilled chicken on WG bun (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), WG chicken nuggets (served at Bushnell), mashed potatoes & gravy, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, fresh baby carrots, strawberries, peaches, milk.

**FRI:** Tony's pepperoni pizza on whole wheat, seasoned green beans, (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), side salad (served at Bushnell), fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, fresh celery sticks, fresh apple, pears, milk.

## WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address has the answer: "that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

It's our government and we have the right to know what it's doing.

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Open Meetings Act (OMA) protect that right for "all persons" in Michigan. Not just adults. Not just citizens. Not just the media. ALL OF MICHIGAN'S PEOPLE have the right to know what THEIR government is doing. And it doesn't matter why they want to know.

Some would argue that access to information like the personnel files of public employees or private business information held by government should be limited because those limitations could spare public employees from telemarketers or shield competitive financial information.

But the open and neutral FOIA and OMA help us understand the acts and actions of our public officials and employees.

FOIA ensures that parents can review the qualifications of teachers in their school system so they know that qualified teachers are being hired without regard to race or gender.

FOIA ensures that the police blotter is always available so that citizens can be warned that car thefts are occurring in their neighborhood.

FOIA ensures access to applications for government benefits so that citizens can see that only qualified entities are obtaining taxpayer dollars.

FOIA and OMA are about accountability. They can help spot wrongdoing and weaknesses, but they can also provide us with information to improve our neighborhoods, our schools and our society.

The Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act are important in a democracy that is of the people, by the people and for the people.

And that's why you should care.

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