



candlelight vigil held



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wish list



bloom where you're planted

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lhs sports



ok white champs



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Four city council positions, school millage and three proposals on November 5 ballot

by Justin Tiemeyer

On Tuesday, November 5, 2013, City of Lowell precincts 1 and 2 will be reporting to voting locations in order to elect four city councilmembers, decide three proposals and choose whether or not to pass a Lowell Area Schools' millage.

For the four city council positions, there are four candidates on the ballot, Jeff Altoft, Jim Hall, Jim Hodges, and Christopher Schwab. With four candidates for four positions, the ballot appears less than controversial. However, Matt Mayer is currently running a campaign to be considered as a write-in candidate. Write-in candidates names must be entered by the voter, correctly spelling their names in order for their vote to be counted.

Hall, Hodges and Schwab are incumbents running for yet another term.

The new candidates, Altoft and Mayer, are backed by VOICE (Voters Organized in Civic Excellence) of Lowell.

Because the city of Lowell operates differently from many other municipalities, the four people elected to city council carry the responsibility for electing the next mayor and mayor pro tem.

The three proposals on the ballot each seek to amend the city of Lowell charter. The first two pertain specifically to election practices and the latter to the purchase and sale of real estate.

Proposal I is described as the "City of Lowell Charter Amendment to provide when councilmen terms of office begin." The charter currently holds that newly elected councilmembers begin their term on the Monday following the election in

which they were elected. Proposal I would delay the beginning of their term to the beginning of the first regular city council meeting in January of the following year.

Proposal II is identical in purpose to Proposal I in all terms except for scope. Whereas Proposal I applies to councilmembers who are elected for a whole term, Proposal II applies to councilmembers elected to fill a vacancy.

Both Proposals I and II would make city elections resemble presidential elections. A candidate is elected in November, but is not sworn into office until January.

Mayor Hodges explained the reasoning behind this in terms of smoothing the transition. For Hodges, the extra two months gives outgoing councilmembers a chance to say thank you and phase

out while giving the new councilmembers some time for orientation for their new position. Because the newly elected council will have to choose a mayor shortly thereafter, the proposals would allow some time for campaigning.

In light of the current battle between the city worker union and the city of Lowell over a contract agreement, this extra two months might mean something else entirely. Under the current charter, the newly elected council would be able to affect these negotiations immediately, meaning that a new councilmember running as a reformer might be able to change the outcome of these arguments. If these two proposals are passed, however, a contract could potentially be passed before these so-called reformers take office.



Asked about the probability of a city contract passing before January, mayor Hodges said, "There's always a chance for anything. I would hope so, but anything is possible."

Proposal III amends a standing law whereby all purchases, sales or leases of real estate with [a] term of ten years or more must be approved by voters. The new law, should this proposal be passed, would

November ballot, continued, page 2

First graders take part in apian study at WWC

For the past four years, Meggan Johnson and her staff have included a lesson on bees as part of their Junior Master Gardener curriculum. This fall, Murray Lake Elementary

(MLE) first graders were able to take part in this lesson about bees.

Johnson states, "In the past we had to borrow bee suits from Oakland University. After borrowing

the suits for a few years I decided that we needed to find suits of our own. I did a quick internet search for "bees and cancer" and I came across some research stating that bee

propolis (used as a hive sealant) slowed the growth of some tumor cells. That information was the basis for a grant request to Lowell Community Wellness. We applied for a Pink

Arrow Project Educational Initiatives grant to purchase the necessary items to get a youth bee program started here at the Wittenbach/Wege Center (WWC). Fortunately Lowell Community Wellness funded our request enabling us to purchase 30 bee suits, hive tools, educational materials and six hives complete with bees."

The grant allows the center to have elementary kids come and visit the hives to learn about the importance of bees and see them up close without the fear of getting stung. This fall WWC offered up to teachers the opportunity to bring their students here to learn about bees and Murray Lake first-grade teachers were interested.

This program is a perfect tie in to the curriculum as it meets several of the standards in the An Animal's Life unit of the Battle Creek Science Kits. During the program the kids not only have the opportunity to hear about



Students at Murray Lake Elementary learned about bees firsthand.

Bees, continued, page 8

50 CENTS



November ballot, continued

negate the need for voter approval unless the term is over 100 years.

Mayor Hodges explained that the city has had problems with this

particular section of the charter in the past. According to mayor Hodges, Lowell Arts has been looking for a better and more permanent home for some time now.

The city originally wanted to move Lowell Arts over by the chamber of commerce in what he called the "old cable building," but could not do so because the bank would

not approve of such a small lease. The term of the lease would have needed to be much closer to 30 years for this deal to go through.

If the amendment is passed, deals like this will go through with much less trouble. Mayor Hodges did mention, however, that there was never an attempt to bring the Lowell Arts move to the voters.

When asked if this proposal could give the city the right to sell local utilities to large, nationwide companies, like the cable service was several years ago, mayor Hodges said, simply, "No."

Opponents of Proposal III strongly dislike the idea that their right to vote on these sales and purchases will be taken away from them.

Finally, voters are asked to say yes or no to a Lowell Area Schools' millage

for the "Building and site sinking fund." If passed, all property within the Lowell Area School district would be taxed an additional \$1.00 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation in order to fund "construction or repair of school buildings, purchase of real estate for sites and other purposes authorized by law" until 2020.

The November 5 ballot can be viewed on the city of Lowell website's main page. The city charter can also be accessed by searching for "city charter" on the website's search bar and using the site's web link to the City Charter and the Code of Ordinances at MuniCode.

A sample ballot is also printed on page 15.



along main street

LAST COUNCIL MEETING AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING ON SITE AND WLHS

The inadvertently erased tape of the October 21, 2013 City Council meeting was retrieved by Chief Barry Getzen and will be on the city's website and on WLHS for viewing in its entirety.

PLAYOFF FOOTBALL INFORMATION

Lowell will be hosting Muskegon Mona Shores on Friday, Nov. 1, at 7 pm in the first round of district playoffs. Since this is a Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) tournament game, no passes are accepted at the gate. All fans will be required to have a \$5 ticket. Tickets will be on sale in the main office on Friday, Nov. 1, from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm and then at the ticket booth at the stadium beginning at 5:00 pm. Gates will open at 5:30 pm. There is also no reserved seating for play-off games.

COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

Come meet and have a cup of coffee with your city councilmembers on the first Saturday of the month from 8 to 10 am at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce office, 113 Riverwalk Plaza.

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

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) will be Wed., Nov. 6 at 6 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

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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Write-in candidate - Matt Mayer ●

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It's time to bake cookies for our veterans

The 6th annual Lowell Cookies for Veterans Day will be held on Saturday, Nov. 9. This is a special Lowell project that says thank you to our veterans who are residents of the Grand Rapids Veterans' Home and who seldom receive anything homemade. Once again, Lowell area

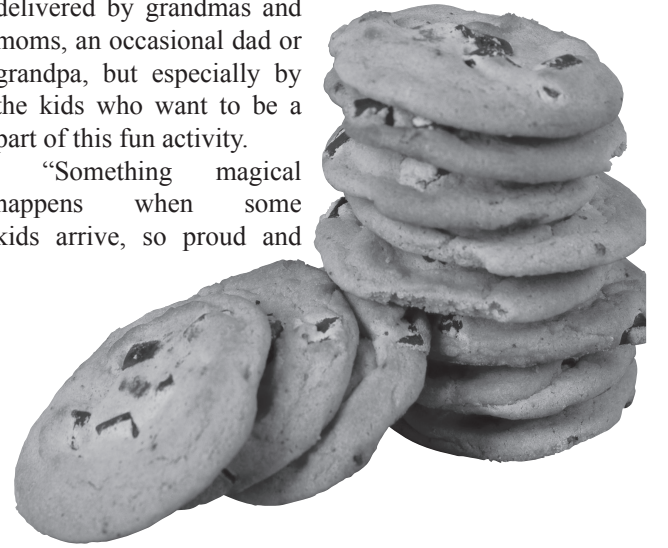
bakers are being "enlisted" to bake some of their family favorite cookie recipes and bring them to the Lowell Veterans' Center, located at 3116 South Alden Nash on Saturday, Nov. 9 between 10 am and noon. Volunteers will be on hand to package them, three to a zip locked bag, for delivery later that

afternoon. Organizers ask that no store packaged cookies be included, only those that come from the baker's own oven. Because of nut allergies, any recipes that contain either peanuts, peanut butter or nuts of any kind, must be identified as such. Jan Thompson, who

has chaired this event since the idea first came to her six years ago, has loved the wonderful outpouring of support from the Lowell community. "We wish you could see the smiles of pure joy on the faces of our veterans when the cookies are delivered. Homemade items of any

kind are a true rarity and nothing is more pleasing than a couple of baggies filled with some fresh baked cookies." She says the excitement is contagious on Saturday morning when cookies are delivered by grandmas and moms, an occasional dad or grandpa, but especially by the kids who want to be a part of this fun activity. "Something magical happens when some kids arrive, so proud and

bubbling with pride for their contribution to this special cause. It is heartwarming for everyone to see the kids' enthusiasm and excitement," she said, "but then, that's really how everyone feels!"



Lockdown procedures handled smoothly by school officials at Murray Lake Elementary

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

A belligerent man entered Murray Lake Elementary around noon, Wednesday, Oct. 23. "Principal Noskey met [the] man and stated that he either needed to come to the office so he could check his ID or he would have to leave our building,"

superintendent Greg Pratt said in an e-mail to the Ledger. "He became agitated and was noncompliant. Mr. Noskey convinced the man to leave." The school was placed under lockdown until the man was taken into police custody.

A letter was sent home to parents briefly describing the incident and stating that intruders would be "prosecuted to the fullest degree possible."

The letter went on to "commend" students and faculty for their conduct during the potentially dangerous incident.

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ABSENTEE VOTER INFORMATION

The City and Township Clerks will be available at the following locations on Saturday, November 2, 2013 for any registered voter who would like to apply for or return an absentee voters ballot for the November 5, 2013 School/Lowell City Election.

Sandra Kowalczyk Bowne Township 11am – 2pm 8240 Alden Nash Alto, MI 49302 (616) 868-6846	Betty Morlock City of Lowell 11am – 2pm 301 East Main Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-8457
Linda S. Regan Lowell Charter Township 11am – 2pm 2910 Alden Nash SE Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-7600	Mari Stone Vergennes Township 11am – 2pm 10381 Bailey Dr Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-5671

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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Don't get "frightened" by these scary investment ideas

Halloween is upon us. Of course, whether you're navigating the dark corridors of a "haunted house" or just dealing with the "creepy" characters coming to your door demanding candy, you're probably not too fearful of the sights of the season. But as you go through life, you'll want to avoid some things that really are scary — such as these investment moves:

- Chasing after a "hot" investment — By the time you hear about a supposedly "hot" investment, it may already be cooling off. But even more importantly, it might not have been appropriate for your diversification needs in the first place, especially if you already own similar investments.

- Investing too aggressively — To achieve your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement, you will unquestionably need to own a reasonable percentage of growth-oriented investments in your portfolio. However, the greater the potential reward, the greater the risk, so you don't want to go overboard by investing too aggressively.

- Investing too conservatively — Some types of investments can offer a high degree of preservation of principal. But they carry their own type of risk — the risk of not keeping up with inflation. Consequently, just as it's not a good idea to invest too aggressively and own only growth-oriented investments, it's also not wise to invest too conservatively by owning only those vehicles that sacrifice growth potential for principal protection.

- Following the crowd — In many arenas of life, you'll find that it may make sense to go your own way rather than "follow the crowd." And that's usually the case with investing, too. It's quite common for the "crowd" to collectively make an unwise investment decision — so, make your choices based on your individual needs, goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

- Taking a time out from investing — After sustaining big losses during the financial crisis of 2008, many investors decided to take a "time out" from investing — which meant

they may have missed out on the rally that began in 2009 and ultimately resulted in the financial markets achieving record highs. The best investors just keep on investing right through market downturns — and, quite often, their persistence is rewarded.

- Overreacting to the headlines — Too often, people will make long-term changes to their investment strategy in response to short-term news events, such as political turmoil, a bad economic report and even natural disasters. You'll likely help your cause tomorrow by not overreacting to the headlines today.

- Underreacting to changes in your life — You will experience many changes in your life, such as a new job, new spouse, new children, new home, the "empty nest" and so on. Many of these changes may require changes in your investment strategy. You could jeopardize your progress toward your financial goals by not reviewing this strategy regularly — at least once a year, in consultation with your financial advisor — and making the necessary adjustments in response to your evolving life.

By staying away from "scary" investment moves, you may well find that investing can be a positive, productive experience. And that's not a frightening thought at all.

lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

The Literacy Center session on Monday, November 4, 2013, for scheduled an information prospective volunteer

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Sunday, November 3
4:00 - 5:30 PM
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tutors. This session is held at 6:30 pm and lasts one hour. It allows persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors to find out more about the center and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

The Literacy Center of W. Michigan is a nonprofit, United Way agency devoted to reducing illiteracy in the community. Based on 1990 census figures, at least 19,000 adults in Kent County cannot read at a functional level. At least 6,000 adults cannot speak or understand English well. By training people to be tutors, the center can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

The information session will be held at the Literacy Center of West Michigan, located at 1120 Monroe Ave., NW, Suite 240, Grand Rapids, MI. Please call 459-5151 (ext. 10) to register.

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viewpoint

to the editor

straighten out negative attitudes

Dear Editor:

I am a new resident in Lowell - just 8 years - and have been so impressed with Lowell and all the great things that go on, such as Pink Arrow, FROM, Riverwalk, and Christmas through Lowell. For a small town we have a great reputation and I don't want us to lose this. Let's just get some of the negative

attitudes straightened out and get on with it.

I, for one, am going to vote for Matt Mayer because he works for a business here in Lowell and shows great interest and concern for our town. Let's all vote for Matt Mayer as our write-in candidate.

Jeane Rockwell
Lowell

vote is important for schools

To the Editor:

On November 5, voters will be given the opportunity to support the Lowell Area School district with a temporary one-mill proposal to create a restricted Building & Site Fund.

These funds will primarily be used to maintain the existing facilities that the school district owns and operates for the students and the use of our community. The money raised will be used to fix, repair and replace existing building components, many of which are beyond their life expectancy. Other fund uses will target safety and security related items and long-term energy savings. The additional tax to homeowners of a \$100,000 home will be \$50 per year or merely \$4.17 per month. Taxes for other home values can be calculated by multiplying about 42 cents per month for every \$10,000 in property value.

A solid school system is the backbone of every community. One of the leading motives for young

families to move to and stay in a community is a highly-rated public school system. Lowell Area Schools has been well-documented as one of [the] finest school systems in all of West Michigan. The strength of a school district is a major factor in maintaining and increasing home values. If Lowell continues to be a destination school system, the demand for housing increases and home values increase. If the value of the previously mentioned \$100,000 home were to increase even two percent, its value increases by \$2,000. Additionally, many studies have shown that a primary factor in business recruiting is the strength of the public school system. It helps draw businesses to the community.

In conclusion, a yes vote represents responsible stewardship of our school buildings and a positive investment in property values and the future of our community. Please consider these points when voting on November 5.

Rick Seese

no charter change

To the Editor,

Recently I was advised by someone more astute than I that the city's charter does not have a definition for parks. I trust him and go on from here.

The U.S. constitution was deliberated and framed with principles for the future. There are a few amendments well thought out and voted on.

I'm concerned. This city's charter holds many people's values. Let's think this out. Sandy and

I spent five years with consequences, to preserve the N. Washington property from development. Our efforts may be lost with this next vote.

Please retain the citizen's right to correct a sometimes misdirected administration and council. Please vote no on the change to the charter. Please vote for change. Here or gone.

Thank you,
Gary Dietzel
Vergennes Township

justice will prevail

Dear Editor,

Negotiations have been going on between the city of Lowell and the employees of the Department of Public Works (DPW) for almost two years. Recently it's been in the headlines of the Lowell Ledger and on TV. I don't believe the employees of the DPW are asking too much in the way of a contract. I believe all the employees want is a just contract like the one the Lowell Police Department has. Is that asking too much?

The city council and the city manager have failed to give a rational reason why the employees are being denied a just contract. The city council's arrogance and defiance in denying a just contract to the employees of the DPW has cost the community dearly.

The city council continues to take the cowardly way out by refusing to answer questions on the subject in public meetings.

In an Oct. 16 View

Point letter mayor pro tem Sharon Ellison said (that negotiating this contract in public or in the media is not the best procedure). The city council has denied the constituents of Lowell the facts from day one.

I believe the media (Lowell Ledger) gave the community facts and a chance to debate them. I believe the city council believes that they are superior and know what's best for the community and are not accountable for their actions. I believe the council has a dictatorial style of governing where right and wrong doesn't exist, just their agenda. I believe the city council lives in their own make believe world.

I'm pretty sure the city council will continue its arrogant ways because, like a bunch of little kids, they don't know any better. But I also believe justice will prevail for the members of the DPW.

Sincerely,
Jim Howard

concerned citizen

To the Editor,

As a very concerned citizen of Lowell, I would like to express my opinion of Monday's council meeting.

First, where is the recording of Monday's meeting? It should have been on TV for all to see! I wanted to listen to all of the speakers again but for some mysterious reason it is not available.

Secondly, thank you to the Ledger for pointing out that the Detroit newspaper article that was referred to, trying to discredit Judge O'Connor, was not a fact based article, it was an opinion piece by an anonymous writer.

It was the opinion of Mr. McGlinchey and Mr. Howe that Judge O'Connor was wrong in his reading of the laws. Everything is always their opinion. Why won't the councilmembers and Mr. Howe listen to the opinions of the citizens of Lowell?

I am very concerned when Mr. Howe gets a 22 percent pay raise but can't give the person who worked and studied hard, to get his license to do his job better, a one dollar an hour raise. I am

concerned when after two separate authorities say that Mr. Howe has intentionally broken three labor laws, he intends to appeal the ruling spending thousands more of Lowell citizens' dollars.

For the life of me, I cannot understand how the councilmembers can see and repeatedly hear what the citizens of Lowell think about Mr. Howe's actions against the hardworking, dedicated, longtime employees of the city of Lowell and not do something about it. Would any of them want a contract that allowed one person to decide, at will, if they would be disciplined or fired rather than for just cause? I think not.

Mr. Howe lied under oath, he lied to the press and worst of all, he continues to lie to the employees and citizens of Lowell. I encourage all voters of the great "Next Place To Be" Lowell to vote for new people who will stand up for our city workers and actually lead this city to better days.

Shirley Crawford
Lowell

reader's tax figures

To the Editor,

Some VOICE (Voters Organized In Civic Excellence) members have asked me to share with you, the citizens of Lowell, information that I arrived at after a study of the taxes on one residence over a five-year period. The study relates to the city council's statement that they have reduced our taxes by a small amount.

Although space does not allow for me to include in detail the figures used in these calculations, I will be happy to share them with anyone who contacts me and prove that these figures are accurate.

My study pertains to that portion of our taxes titled "Lowell City." This item appears on your summer tax bill only and is the one the council refers to when they say they have been lowered. It amounts to .13 mills.

In my study the amount of savings due to the "reduction" in the 2013 summer taxes came to \$5.77. However, since they failed to note that the "Administration Fee" (a one percent "tax"), that they and Mr. Howe added to our tax burden in 2012, amounted

to \$16.06 this year, that is actually an increase of over three times the savings by anyone's calculations. And we did not vote for this increase. If you are ready for a city council that listens to you, doesn't spin the truth to make excuses for their poor decisions and truly cares about this city, I implore you to vote for Jeff Altoft and write-in candidate Matt Mayer on November 5. It is very important that the write-in candidate's name be legible and spelled correctly. We can always take a note with us to the polls so we get this right.

Finally, three cheers to the Lowell Ledger for not censoring our news, as some would have them do. Unlike what we receive from other media, the Ledger has consistently provided the citizens of the Lowell community with a complete picture of what is really happening in our small town. When something good happens, they tell us about it. When something bad happens, they tell us about that too. Isn't that the way it is supposed to work?

Barb Barber
Lowell

not a rabble rouser

To the Editor and the citizens of Lowell,

I am not a radical, a rabble rouser nor am I a political activist. I am an average tax-paying American citizen, as you. I have been paying close attention to the current activities involving the manager of the city of Lowell (Mark Howe) and the IBEW. From my perspective, the IBEW is far from asking for the moon. They are requesting a fair and equitable settlement. Mark Howe and the council have refused to negotiate further as Mr. Howe's interpretation of the law does not allow bargaining while in the middle of negotiations, even though Judge Doyle O'Connor (Administrative Law Judge, Michigan Administrative Hearing System) has ruled otherwise.

The city of Lowell and Mr. Howe have decided to appeal the judge's ruling as they feel it was biased. They have this right. From

the vilest murderers to an adjustment in child support, we have the right as Americans to appeal even though appealing carries high legal fees that ultimately, in this case, will come from the taxpayers. There are judges that can and have made mistakes but these are the exception and not the rule. Time will tell, but I personally don't feel that Judge O'Connor rose to his position and the many years following on the bench by being biased and subjective.

I attended the October 21 city council meeting and was astonished at the apparent indifference and apathy the council displayed. A few councilmembers spoke at the end and made it very clear that they supported Mr. Howe. Really?? That seemed baffling as it has been apparent that Mr. Howe's ability for telling the truth is difficult (see MERC

To The Editor,
continued, page 11

weddings

Hill/Smit



Justin and Chelsea Hill

The marriage of Chelsea Smit and Justin Hill was celebrated in Junction City, Kansas, on July 12, 2013. Parents of the couple are Ed and Jeanne Smit of Lowell and Doc and Terri Hill of St. Amant, Louisiana.

Maid of honor was Hope Wroblewski. Best man was Cory Wroblewski.



Justin Hill

happy birthday!

OCTOBER 30

Jeremiah Russo, Joseph Russo, Justin Wilczewski.

OCTOBER 31

Bill Richter, Bob Richter, Connor Duiven, Larry Taunt, Thomas Alberts, Patricia VanSickle.

NOVEMBER 1

Walt Batt, Abbot Kastanek, Brenda Lea Owen, Suzanne Olin, Anthony Kiedis, John Luc Richmond.

NOVEMBER 2

Barb DeLoof, John Mogor.

NOVEMBER 3

Connie Stencel, Jennifer Zoodsma, Denise Dommer, Christina Dixon, Becky Myers, Ken Kline.

NOVEMBER 4

Ken VanDerWarf, Carol Hunt, Meghan Plutschow, Laura Gildner, Joanna Barr.

NOVEMBER 5

Holly Stouffer, Mart DeYoung.

health



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

osteoarthritis

Osteoarthritis is a disease that happens when the protective cartilage in the joints wears down and the bones then begin to rub against each other. Because the knee is the largest weight bearing joint in our body, it is a common place to get osteoarthritis.

Knee arthritis is more common in people older than 50 years and in people who are overweight. People who have had other knee problems are likely to have knee arthritis later in life.

The most common symptoms are pain with activity, limited range of motion, stiffness, tenderness, swelling around the knee, feeling like the joint may "give out" and

deformity (such as knock knees or bowlegs). Your doctor will examine you and take x-rays to see if you have knee arthritis.

The first steps in treatment are anti-inflammatory medicine, exercise and weight loss (if needed). Your doctor may want you to work with a physical therapist to strengthen the muscles around your knee. If conservative therapy is not helpful, your doctor may recommend a cortisone shot into the knee joint to reduce inflammation and pain.

There is also a synthetic lubricant that can be injected to help reduce pain. If all fails, knee replacement surgery can be considered.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 13-194550-DE

Estate of JANE I. SLATE. Date of birth: 02/08/1929.

forever barred unless presented to Edward Slate, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

October 23, 2013

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Jane I. Slate, died 08/17/2013.

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

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

Edward Slate 1358 Honeysuckle Ln. Niles, MI 49120 269-262-0011

area churches

SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell
Pastor Tony Shumaker
9:45 A.M.Sunday School
10:30 A.M.Fellowship
11:00 A.M.Worship

897-9863

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(Nursery available)
Sunday School.....9:00 A.M.
Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL

897-7060
Pastor Rod Galindo
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
Morning Worship.....10:00 A. M.
Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.
Nursery available at both services
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Robert Holmes, Pastor
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Worship: 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAYS:

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"The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.
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Rev. Jon Pickens

Rev. W. Lee Taylor & Pastor Phil Severn
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Saturday confessions: 3-4:30 PM
Sunday School Hour/ABF's.....11:00 A.M.
AWANA 6-8/Youth Ministry.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.
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SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9:30 a.m.
YOUTH GROUPS (JR. & SR. HIGH).....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday After-School Kids' Club until 5:30 p.m.
Rev. Rick Blunt

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Candlelight vigil in memory of Lowell graduate

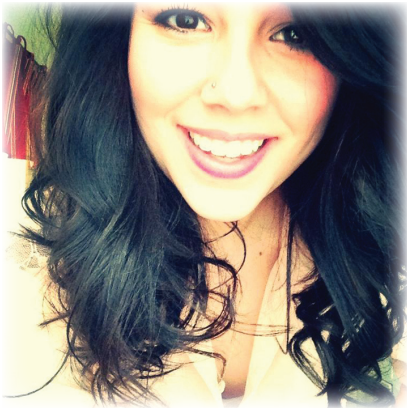
by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Tragedy struck the Lowell community on October 10 when the life of well-loved and talented 2011 Lowell High School (LHS) alumni Andrea Herrera was lost in a three car accident in Cascade Township caused by a man who is accused of driving under the influence of alcohol, a crime that claims the lives of nearly 30 people every day in America.

Last Thursday evening, at the Kent County Fairgrounds, over 200 people gathered to celebrate the positive impact that Herrera had in their lives and to take a stand against drinking and driving.

The candlelight vigil, which began at 8pm, was organized by Herrera's friend and fellow classmate Mariah Moore. "In planning the vigil, I hoped to bring our community together to honor Andrea's memory and also to comfort her family and closest friends. I also felt it was important for

us to make a community-wide statement against drunk driving," said Moore. "Andrea's death and so many others, are such



Andrea Herrera

senseless and preventable tragedies. Drunk driving is a choice you make before you ever take that first drink."

Moore led most of the vigil which opened with prayer and offered the opportunity for attendees to share stories and thoughts about Herrera, who was an avid photographer and was working toward a degree in graphic design. 100 Chinese lanterns, purchased by friends of Herrera Britney Poll and Jonathan Bassin, were available to guests for a donation to benefit the family. The multi-colored lanterns lit up the sky over

the fairgrounds in a touching farewell. "Though we were all terribly, terribly sad, as the night sky filled with all those Chinese lanterns in Andrea's memory, I couldn't help but think what a beautiful sight that was and I have to believe she was smiling from heaven." added Moore.

Brianna Thomet, who participated in cheerleading with Herrera, attended the event in her friend's honor, "She was an amazing person and will be missed by so many," she said. Besides cheer, Herrera was also a part of the lacrosse team, used her photography skills as a member of the yearbook staff and maintained a place on the honor roll for all four years of her education at LHS. Principal Amy Pallo said that the staff is mourning the loss of "an amazing young woman." One staff member described her as a kind-hearted person who was fun and laughed a lot.

Twenty-year-old Herrera, along with her boyfriend 23-year-old Eric Fischer, were both killed when Joseph Jay Ford, the driver of the offending

vehicle, ran a stop light at the intersection of 36th Street and Patterson Ave. Herrera and Fischer met at the Brann's restaurant on 28th Street where they both worked. Kate Hopkins, a coworker and friend, said that they were both super sweet people adding, "The worst part is knowing that careless choices took my friends' lives. Two young people paid the ultimate price for his mistakes." Fischer, who Hopkins described as fun, social and often the center of attention, was also attending college and the couple had recently purchased a puppy together.

Nationally, in 2011, 9,878 people died in alcohol related crashes. This statistic breaks down to about one death per hour. Another estimated 300,000 people were injured in the same year. Drinking and driving also comes with a heavy price tag for those not directly affected by tragedy as the nation is burdened with its 132 billion annual cost of the offense.

Locally, the Lowell Police Department (LPD) reports that over the past seven years about 21 percent of all arrests were alcohol-



related. This includes a total of 343 drunk drivers with the rest in the categories of either minor in possession or open intoxicant charges. Sergeant Steve Bukala of the LPD says that all of his officers are now trained in the ARIDE (Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement) training program which enhances the ability of officers to spot both drunk and drugged drivers on the road. He stresses the dangers of driving while under the influence also adding, "It is a very poor choice to have alcohol and get behind the

wheel. Drink responsibly and if you think you have had too much call for a ride or walk."

"When I heard the news of Andrea's passing it hit me hard. Young people aren't supposed to die like this," commented Moore, who hopes alongside many that the loss of Herrera, often referred to as Drea, will continue to bring people together to not only celebrate her all too short life, but to change the way people think about drinking and driving. "I knew we accomplished something great in Andrea's

Vigil, continued,
page 8

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November 5, 2013

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our community cares
November 5, 2013

exploring our national parks



Kurt Hieshetter

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The last time we were together, our family was on its way to Bull Frog, Utah, to spend time at Lake Powell with our friends, Jeff and Kathleen, on their boat. This 185-mile long impoundment of the Colorado River is part of the 1.2 million acre Glen Canyon Recreation area in Northern Arizona and Southwestern Utah. Glen Canyon Dam, which holds back the waters of Lake Powell, is the first of two large dams on the Colorado River. The larger and more famous Hoover Dam is located downstream with

the Grand Canyon filling the space between the two dams.

Several organizations, including the Sierra Club, have called for the removal of the Glen Canyon Dam and the return of the Colorado River to its original channel. The damming of the Colorado River above the Grand Canyon has brought drastic change to the way it flows through the Grand Canyon. The lack of flooding, causing sand bars and beaches to form and the cold water temperature from the bottom of Lake Powell are the most troublesome

for the Grand Canyon environment.

But, enough of the history and politics of Lake Powell. We arrived at the lake one day before our friends. The main reason we were using a tent on this trip is because of the time we were to spend on our friends 28 foot Sea Ray. If we had brought the trailer, we would have had to pay to park it for the four days we were on the boat.

After finding a suitable campsite with some shade, we headed down to the river to cool off with a swim. The temperature was approaching 100 degrees and being at the campsite in a tent was not the place to be. My knee was starting to feel a little better and I thought the cooling effect of the river would help it even more.

When Lake Powell is at full capacity it measures 3700 feet above sea level.

During our visit in June of 2012, the water was some 60 feet below the high water mark. Driving to the water's edge meant driving over sand that in years past was under water. Some of the sand was hard packed and some was very loose and soft. On our first day we found the soft, loose sand. The sand swallowed our Expedition like a Florida sink hole. Perfect way to start our Lake Powell trip. There we were... buried in the sand, the thermometer reading 100 degrees, Steph and kids in a panic and me with a bad knee. We hadn't even been in the water yet.

After two saviors showed up with their 4x4 and 20 minutes of digging, it was comforting to know that I wasn't the first one of the day to bury their truck. Ten minutes and \$20 bucks later we were on the hard packed route to the beach. The fine young men had pointed us to the drive that people take to the beach with their trailers full of goods that they load onto beached house boats. It



The campsite.

Exploring our national parks, continued next page

Vigil, continued

name when a man at the prayer vigil approached me and said, "I can't tell you how many times I have driven drunk, never once considering what might happen until tonight. Seeing the photos of this beautiful young woman, the candles lit in her name and the pain that so many people here

are suffering because one man chose to drive drunk has forever changed me. I will never, ever drive drunk again."

Time and time again at the vigil friends and family of Herrera noted the way in which she had fully embraced and enjoyed her

life spreading that joy to all those that surrounded her. Herrera perhaps expressed her genuine happiness best herself when she recently quoted poet Jack Kerouac alongside a striking self portrait on her Facebook page, "be in love with your life, every minute of it."

Bees, continued

the bee life cycle and the things they need to survive but when they visit the hives they actually get to see bees in various stages of their life cycle, bees bringing back pollen to the hive, worker bees doing waggle dances to show other bees where the food source is and where honey is stored. Now that the kids know a little bit more about bees they'll understand their importance and think differently about them. They'll also now help educate others about the importance of bees.

WWC is fortunate to have the help of Charlie Knudstrup. He takes care of the bees and helps with WWC's educational programs. In return for his

help, he is able to harvest and sell the honey as part of his business, Hannah's Wholesome Honey.

The Murray Lake first graders were excited and engaged in the lesson. One of MLE's first-grade teachers commented, "This was one of the best field trips our kids have ever taken. They learned so much and were having a lot of fun with their learning."

Some of the first graders comments following their trip included:

Liam - girl bees do all the work, boy bees eat.

Jillian - I think we look like astronauts in the bee suits.

Natalie - I liked tasting the honey. It was sweet.

Rylei - hard to walk in the bee suits. Mine was big!

Caden - It was cool to have the suits on because we could get by the bees and they did not sting us.

Kaci - smoke calms the bees down.

Blake - I learned wasp steal the honey from the honeybees because I had a wasp on me and a teacher brushed it off. She did not want it by the hive.

Evan - I thought it was cool to wear the bee suit. It was my first time.

Zayleigh- Miss Meggan let us taste some honey. It tasted like real honey.

The MLE first-grade teachers highly recommend the trip to other teachers.

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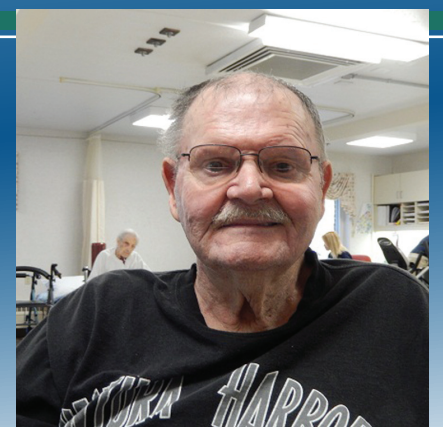
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Exploring our national parks, continued

seems the only way to load a house boat for a week's stay on Powell is to pull up on shore, put a long gang plank out, back a trailer up and start transferring food and beverages. The one 70-foot boat we watched being loaded had put the emphasis on beverages. We counted 33 cases of assorted varieties of beer being carried onboard.

After a sleepless night in the overheated tent it was time to get on the water. Jeff and Kathleen arrived late in the evening and slept on their boat while it was still on the trailer. We were able to load all our gear aboard while still in the campground. The tent, sleeping bags and cots, food and beverages for four more people had to be stored away. There was not much space left once all the gear was aboard.

The boat ramp at Powell is very different than any in Michigan. It is extremely wide, with enough area to launch fifteen or twenty boats at once. It also has to accommodate semi tractors with 70- to 80-foot house

boats. With the water level so low it is also nearly 400 yards from the top of the ramp to the water. As we were backing into the water the park service was pulling a boat out of the water that had ran into a rock and sank in 300 feet of water. A vacation that did not end well for someone.

With our boat finally in the water all I had to do was jump off the bow on to the dock and take the trailer up to the lot. As my left leg hit the dock it happened, my knee gave out completely. There I was sprawled out on the dock unable to walk with everyone else on the boat. Jeff was able to get the boat tied up, load me into the drivers seat and then park the truck and trailer. All I could do was sit and drive the boat.

Once on the river our first order of business was to find a campsite. It seems that the few shallow, sandy beaches are always taken before noon. Large house boats need lots of room to beach and there are very few of these sites on Lake Powell. Traveling up river near the 104-mile marker a tributary called Hansen Creek entered the main river channel. A mile into Hansen we were able to find a small beach with a few rocks that allowed us to tie the boat up.

Everyone but me helped to unload the boat. We decided not to put the tent up. Stephanie, Dillon and myself were going to sleep on the beach. Sierra in the boat with Jeff and Kathleen. I was able to jump into the water and float on a raft as Jeff kept me supplied with liquid pain killers. An outhouse was set up behind a few rocks. Everything had to be packed out, yes, including our waste. The coolers and a small portable kitchen was also set up on the beach. Sierra found a

large stick on one of her explorations that I was able to use as a cane. This allowed me to reach the outhouse without crawling.

The cane and large amounts of tequila were starting to help me forget about my knee. Most of the evening I spent sitting in a



chair at the water's edge. Jeff brought firewood for a fire. The kids were able to play in the river. Dinner was very good and things were not so bad considering I could not walk. As I laid on my sleeping bag watching the stars and satellites, I almost forgot about the pain in my knee. My birthday coming up the next day might not be so bad.

At 4 am everything changed. In the distance I could hear a squadron of P-51 Mustangs coming down the river. We were coming under attack from an enemy we could not see. Louder and louder as they got closer. What could it be? It was very dark. Whatever it was, they were starting to overtake us. Dillon got inside his bag, zipping his head inside. Nothing was biting us so I ruled out mosquitoes. My knee was feeling worse than ever so I could not outrun them. The noise was now deafening. So loud that I couldn't even hear Stephanie calling out for help. For over two hours we ducked in and

out of our sleeping bags hoping they would go away, but to no avail. As the sun started rising on my 56th birthday, the noise was starting to subside. We were still alive, but me barely. Everything was covered with black. Billions (and I am not exaggerating here)

of gnats had left their mark. They came and sacrificed their lives to make ours miserable.

The morning would not get any better. A breakfast of eggs mixed with sand, my throbbing head and knee, a serious lack of sleep, numerous margaritas the day before and not being able to walk, even to the temporary latrine - I was about to get very sick. It was at this point that my children thought their dad was going to die on a remote beach on Lake Powell. It was voted that I seek medical attention (or I think they may have left me on the beach). But getting to a doctor was not as easy as you might think. Everything had to be loaded back into the boat, myself included. The marina was ten miles away. Stephanie was dropped at the ramp. This required her to walk half a mile to the parking lot to look for the truck that she didn't park and drive it to the bottom of the ramp to transfer my sorry ass from the boat to the front seat of the truck. With this

complete, it was off to the Bullfrog Urgent Care Facility.

When the first thing you see is a heliport as you approach the low adobe building that houses the urgent care center and the park police station, you are not encouraged. On the bright side, there was no wait. On the downside, there was also no doctor or x-ray machine. Just a second-year med student from Brigham Young University. All I got for my \$475 was a knee brace, a few 800ml ibuprofen and a recommendation that I go home and see my primary care physician as soon as possible, which of course was 1,800 miles away. To his credit, he did tell me that it was possibly a torn meniscus, which in the end was correct.

After returning to the boat ramp, we convinced

our friends that we really should start home and that it would not be a good idea to stay for a few more days. We hastily loaded all our gear into the Expedition and headed back up the boat ramp. A three-day drive was ahead of us with Stephanie doing the bulk of it. Not the way we thought our trip to Powell would end, but Jeff's boat is always there, so hopefully we can get back.

I did learn a few things on this trip. One is that when you have a perfectly good travel trailer at home don't use a tent. Second is that Stephanie is a very good driver. She doesn't always get the chance to drive on our trips and did an outstanding job considering the circumstances. And third is that I am not a very good patient. If you don't believe me, just ask my family!

LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY MENU
Week of
Nov. 4, 2013

MON: Sloppy Joe scoops, baked beans (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), mini soft pretzel w/string cheese & yogurt, baked beans (served at Bushnell), fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, broccoli florets, mixed fruit, apple, milk.

TUES: Baked BBQ chicken w/biscuit, seasoned corn (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), chicken drumstick, seasoned corn (served at Bushnell), fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, fresh baby carrots, applesauce, banana, milk.

WED: Scrambled eggs w/ sausage & biscuit, hashbrowns, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, fresh cherry tomatoes, chilled peaches, (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), fresh pear (served at Bushnell), orange wedges, milk.

THURS: Homemade macaroni & cheese, seasoned broccoli, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, fresh baby carrots, fruit goop, fresh grapes, milk.

FRI: Homemade cheese pizza on WG crust, green pepper strips, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, green pepper strips, mandarin oranges, pears, milk.

ATTENTION CITY RESIDENTS

WHEN YOU VOTE ON NOV. 5

BE AWARE THAT YOU ARE BEING ASKED TO CHANGE OUR CITY CHARTER ON THREE SEPARATE PROPOSALS.

The Charter has been in effect, with few amendments, since we became a city. It has served us well. So why are we being asked to give up our right to vote on the sale, lease or purchase of city property? And why shouldn't a newly elected council member take his or her seat immediately, as they have in the past?

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ON PROPOSALS I, II & III

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Red Arrow SPORTS

Red Arrows crowned OK White champs with 200th career win for coach Dean

by Karen Jack

In the last regular game of the season, the Red Arrows beat Jenison for the OK White championship 49-7, while Noel Dean marked his 200th win of his career.

All the scoring happened in the first two quarters for both teams and scored on every possession except their first. Lowell punted to Jenison and Jake Stephens intercepted a pass at Jenison's 32-yard line. The Arrows then scored on a pass to Josh Branagan for 14 yards and a Kyler Shurlow rush for 12 yards. On Jenison's next possession, Jeff Houston intercepted a pass on Jenison's 41-yard line and returned it 30 yards. Kanon Dean then rushed it in for the touchdown. Lowell had another touchdown on a pass to Dylan Brower for 37

yards to put Lowell up 21-0.

At the beginning of the second quarter, Lowell scored again on a 61-yard pass to Ben Bigham. Jenison responded with a touchdown of their own on their next possession to make the score 28-7 and it was all Lowell for the remainder of the half. Dean rushed the ball six yards for the next touchdown after a Josh Colegrove reception for 21 yards, a Bigham reception for 12 and rushes from Brower for 19 yards.

The next score was all Shurlows for Lowell. Trevor Shurlow rushed five times for a total of 39 yards and Kyler rushed six yards before taking it in the end zone on a seven-yard rush. Lowell's last score was a pass to Bigham for 26 yards and a pass to Gabe Steed for

13 yards for the final score of the game.

Trevor Shurlow led the team on offense with 39 yards, followed by Kyler Shurlow with 23 yards. On defense, Max Dean and Derek Massey each had three tackles and Colegrove caused a fumble.

Noel Dean celebrated his 200th career win and was humble about the accomplishment. "It's been a great week for the Dean family," he said. His son, Kanon, was accepted to Harvard University and Dean was quick to take the spotlight off himself. "This [is] a great bunch of kids this year and I'm so pleased with how hard they've worked all year to get us the conference win."



After catching the ball, Ben Bigham runs it down the field.

The Arrows now head into the playoffs and will host Muskegon Mona Shores for their 17th straight appearance in the playoffs on Friday, Nov. 1 at 7 pm.



Austin Bieri goes perfect in the game with seven extra points.



Kanon Dean pushes through with the ball.



Jake Stephens gets the tackle while Josh Colegrove assists.



The Lowell defense gets to Jenison's quarterback for a loss.

To The Editor, continued

decision in the October 16 Lowell Ledger). Mr. Howe is now back-pedaling and justifying his deceptions. He has compromised his credibility. Also, it was not clear who the up line is in the city echelon. Does the council answer to Mr. Howe or vice versa? If Mr. Howe answers to the council, then I would suggest the council

and the residents of Lowell closely monitor the job performance of Mr. Howe, especially regarding his behavior in labor/employee relations with all city staff.

Lowell is a fine city but the leaders need to end this debacle.

Charlene Timmer
Lowell Township

sign a fair and reasonable contract and let everyone get back to business.

I would like to repeat what I said previously:

I am speaking for registered voters that you represent and who demand

that you follow Judge O'Connor's decree and forgo any further taxpayer expense in attempting to appeal his decision.

Thank you,
Peggy Covert
Lowell

is something else lurking

Dear Editor,

Long before it presents itself, a malignant cancer can be growing inside a person.

A deadly tumor could be hiding inside, silently and slowly sucking the life out of a person and no one knows it is there because the symptoms are so subtle and hidden.

I know because I have a 4" scar on my right shoulder and have endured five years of fearing that it might come back.

I now fear that there might be a tumor or two or three lurking inside city hall.

Coach Dean started our great kids on the way to wearing pink and raising money to fight cancer, but they can't even begin to stop this cancer.

This cancer sneaks up and wears us down as citizens by intentionally blinding our eyes to the reality that we may no longer be an "open" or even friendly community.

The "Next Place To Be" might just be somewhere else unless we stand up together and fight closed-door meetings and subversive agendas.

We are the adults who are supposed to lead our children by example.

Let's lead by seeking the truth and honoring the community we have by asking good questions and if by chance, someone is lying, wasting taxpayer monies and breaking down the foundations of this community, then we should vote them out.

The city looks healthy; it looks pretty and we go about as if nothing dangerous could be happening "inside" or "to" our hometown.

New sidewalks are installed, a new garden and decking area at the boat launch and many other good things are happening.

But the streets are still falling apart, the city sewer rates are rising faster than the rate of inflation and I have heard of a \$1,000,000 Lowell Light & Power (LL&P) biodigester that is not running.

Is this a rumor or can someone tell me about this power plant [biodigester] that was silently purchased and is not being used?

I watched the TV news last week and read both papers after mayor Hodges said, "It won't be pretty if we have to forcibly remove you citizens from the room..."

Forcibly remove?

An administrative law judge for the Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC) ruled that city manager Mark

Howe had violated state labor laws by punishing city workers for joining a union.

Howe had withheld a \$1 an hour raise from one union member and, without city council approval, gave \$1,000 bonuses to every city employee except those who had joined the union, according to the ruling issued by Judge Doyle O'Connor two weeks ago.

This judge had sided with the city workers and Mark Howe said that he will fight that decision.

The judge ruled that Howe was also arrogant in trying to bust the union and then Howe proved his arrogance by stating that he will continue the fight.

I then watched in disbelief as city manager "Howe" said that only 12 people out of 3700 in the community stood up.

He was right that 12 or 13 people stood up, but he didn't acknowledge that the room was packed to overflowing and those that did stand up were promptly shut down.

He wanted to take a news 8-TV reporter behind closed doors to "see what his agenda was" before he would answer question[s] on camera.

The comments at the bottom of that article talk about how embarrassing this must be for Lowell.

Is it Howe's job to make the community look like idiots are running the asylum?

I figured something was amiss in our little hamlet - so on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2013, I submitted a "Freedom of Information Act" [FOIA] request asking for the costs so far regarding the city manager's attorney costs thus far as involved in the city worker dispute.

On Saturday, Oct. 26, I received a letter from the Lowell police chief Barry Getzen stating that they needed more time and that I needed to wait until November 13 for a determination on whether they will be able to supply the information to me.

It seems to me and I know that I am just one citizen - might they be seeking to delay revealing this information until after the election?

What do you think?

Why would they delay?

It can't be that hard to add up the billable attorney hours that the city attorney is charging them and then calculate the cost per hour can it?

I am sure they truly must know the hours consumed so

far and the rates the attorney is charging the city.

I am posting each letter and their responses so they can be viewed at the website lowellcityhall.com.

On Saturday, a yellow pamphlet was dropped off at my home with facts from the city workers' point of view.

You can view it at the LowellCityHall.com website.

I want both sides and the city is stepping back from starting the dialog by delaying the FOIA information and the discussion.

How, after all these years of video recording city council meetings successfully, could

this single critical recording of a meeting have been lost, not recorded or destroyed?

In any case it has disappeared.

There are some choices on the ballot this year that if approved, just might take away your right to say "no" to city hall.

So I ask you citizens, are you going to start asking the questions I am asking and more?

There should be one more city council meeting next Monday and if you care, you should attend and voice your thoughts and questions.

I hope to see you there.

Alan Teelander
Lowell

correcting inaccuracies

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter because I feel there are some inaccuracies being stated as fact to the public about the current events that have plagued the community of Lowell. I am one of the two city workers that testified at the Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) trial that Judge O'Connor was presiding. This is where I would like to start.

Inaccurate statement #1

It has been stated by Mr. Howe, the city manager, that I could not talk to the city council about Mr. Howe's refusal of a \$1.00 pay increase to one of the city workers for passing a state license. Mr. Howe told channel 17 news that wasn't what he meant, but an e-mail from Mr. Howe states, "I cannot lawfully grant pay increases nor can this issue be taken to the council for consideration." Mr. Howe also stated during the trial that he "believed it to be within his power to prohibit the union from addressing the city council."

Inaccurate statement #2

Mr. Howe, in the same interview to Fox 17 news, states, "Our understanding under the law is that if you join a union, then any prior contracts that you've had are null & void." This is incorrect. The law states when workers enter into a union for a first time the current policy and procedures become the current working contract until a new contract can be negotiated. This was proven to be law when Judge O'Connor gave his decision which cites Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC) precedent. "The city was well aware that MERC precedent, and common sense, did not support the withholding of the scheduled pay increase under these circumstances. The commission rejected just such a defense in Detroit Public Library, 1997 MERC Lab Op 689, where, on the same theory, an employer denied to its workforce pay increases which had been promised prior to the employees exercising their statutory right to join

a union," - Judge Doyle O'Connor.

Inaccurate statement #3

Mr. Howe also states to Fox 17 news, "I was wrong, I was wrong about that. But I did not lie, I was just wrong in my testimony." But during sworn testimony Howe testified insistently and untruthfully, that VanVeelen, who was not present for the hearing, had never received one of the pay increases, despite the contrary assertion in the May 8, 2013 memo from the city treasurer that had been introduced as a joint exhibit. Howe implausibly insisted that he had independently, out of curiosity, reviewed the city records back in 2011, paying special attention to VanVeelen's pay rates, and that the deputy treasurer, who was in charge of the payroll records, was wrong. The record was held open to allow the union to call VanVeelen as a rebuttal witness. That proved unnecessary as counsel for the parties, instead, filed a post-trial stipulation acknowledging that VanVeelen had received the promised increase, as asserted by the union and despite the vehement denials by Howe. Lying under oath, untruthfully testifying, or just being wrong...I will let the reader be the judge of that.

Inaccurate statement #4

During the last council meeting 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 a look at it. And then we'll see where we go from there. We certainly have a right to appeal and we think it's important to the citizens and taxpayers that we do that."

The truth is the Detroit News' article in question was an opinion piece that the newspaper ran in its Oct. 15 edition. As Howe stated,

To The Editor,
continued, page 12

send a message with your vote

Dear Editor and citizens of the Lowell Community:

Are you ashamed of the bad publicity our wonderful community is receiving? Who's really to blame? The blame lies directly with a city manager who, because of threats to our 18-20 year veteran employees, brought a union into this town and a city council who refuses to rein him in. Send a message--We will not stand for this nonsense. Restore our reputation and bring pride back to our community. Vote for only new candidates, Jeff Altoft and write-in Matt Mayer. Also, please vote NO on the ballot proposals to change the city charter which would give them even more power.

Also, finding myself quoted numerous times, I'd like to provide here a copy of my entire statement to council at the October 21st city council meeting:

Over the past year there have been a number of meetings when this council room was filled to capacity with residents and rate payers, sometimes with standing room only. Each time, everyone left feeling like none of the city councilmembers were listening or had any interest in the citizens' concerns or questions. Many of those people refuse to continue wasting their time dealing with such indifference.

You seem to have such contempt for VOICE members. But we are continuing to speak for many others who care, but are unwilling to keep facing this attitude which is so prevalent within the city leadership. You certainly know many of us because we have been very open about our concerns. Others don't want to be in the forefront and we respect their wishes for privacy but their concerns are just as legitimate. We are all city residents and/or ratepayers of Lowell Light & Power which you, the city council, regulate.

We have become more insistent as we have seen the reluctance to answer legitimate questions and concerns. If that is considered hostile and combative then perhaps that is simply a difference in perspective.

As a member of VOICE I have been asked to speak on behalf of several of your registered voters who are not able to be here tonight or do not wish to speak publicly.

They are registered voters that you represent and who demand that you follow Judge O'Connor's decree and forgo any further taxpayer expense in attempting to appeal his decision. Even if Mr. Howe doesn't like the judge's attitude, Judge O'Connor's decisions were based on indisputable fact and law. Mr. Howe has proven time and again that he is unable to bargain in good faith. He has broken labor laws, infringed on constitutional rights, lied under oath and demonstrated he is unable to manage the workforce he is responsible for.

Winston Churchill once said: "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely." This certainly seems to apply here and you, as the city council, have allowed this one man to have absolute power over this city and with the taxpayers' money. To allow him to appeal this decision with more of the taxpayers' money would be adding insult to injury.

I am now going to quote from Judge O'Connor's court document:

"Howe's bargaining posture, if one can call it that, was particularly antagonistic. At the table, Howe insisted that any contract would have to include the IBEW members being employed at will; that the city reserved the right to replace the full-time IBEW members with non-bargaining-unit part-timers; and that the city reserved the right to subcontract all of the IBEW work. The union was asked to give up all of the rights which might be found in an ordinary contract.

(I'm still quoting) Such proposals are far from the norm in the public sector and can only be viewed rationally as an effort to avoid reaching a contract with the union, as a contract based on such terms would be tantamount to no contract at all. Howe's posture in bargaining was that he was to have the final word on every issue." (Absolute power!)

These are the points that the union has not been able to allow in a contract for our workers and are now the same points that this judge has deemed bargaining in bad faith. And this is basically reiterating what was previously indicated by an independent fact finder in the negotiations with LL&P.

It is time to stop spending taxpayers' money,

obituaries

OLTHOF

Norman Lester Olthof, age 95 of Lowell, passed away Wednesday, October 23, 2013. He was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy as well as his brother and two sisters. He is survived by brother-in-law Robert Rensland (Wyoming, MI). He will be lovingly remembered by several nieces, nephews and cousins. Norman served in World War II as a runway medic for the Flying Tigers and later cared for many at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans as a nurse. He enjoyed the outdoors, especially on his farm in Alto. Funeral services were held. Rev. Rick Blunt of the First United Methodist Church of Lowell officiated. Interment Bowne Center Cemetery.



SMITH

Alfred Lloyd Smith, age 61 of Grand Rapids, formerly of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly Friday, October 25, 2013. He was preceded in death by his parents Lovisa and Carl



Smith and niece Katie Alcorn-Streetman. He is survived by his brother, Allan (Teresa) Smith of Lowell; sister, Alice (Mark) Alcorn of Northville, MI; nephews, Carl Smith, Mark K (Carrie) Alcorn, John (Karin) Alcorn, Brentt (Kim) Streetman; several grand nieces and nephews; also many cousins. Alfred worked for Amway Corp. for 39 years and was a proud son of a wizard, a real Western Flyer. Funeral service was held Tuesday October 29 at Roth-Gerst Chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, 3000 Monroe Ave NE Grand Rapids, MI 49505.



To The Editor, continued

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. It should also be noted that Judge O'Connor's record is about 50/50, employer vs. employees.

I would like to ask the public one question. Who is benefiting from the current situation? Is it the city residents? Or maybe Lowell Light and Power (LL&P) customers? How about the workers? Well, if it isn't the city, LL&P or the workers, then it must be the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) union. The simple answer is nobody mentioned above is benefiting. Currently the city and LL&P has racked up \$70,000 + in attorney bills with no end in sight. The IBEW has not charged one cent in dues to the workers and has acquired \$10,000s in legal fees fighting for the workers state and federal constitutional rights. The most beneficial thing for the union is to quickly negotiate a contract, regardless of content and start collecting workers' dues. The workers have been denied their constitutional rights, intimidated and threatened. This has brought worker morale to an all time low (let's just say there is none). All of this for what, almost two years of stalled negotiations?

So again I ask, who is benefiting? Well there is someone who is making out like a bandit. His name is John McGlinchey and the law firm he works for. He represents the city of Lowell and Lowell Light and Power regarding worker contract negotiations, mediation, and factfinding. He was also legal counsel for the city of Lowell during the Michigan Employment Relations Commission trial regarding the ULP charges. He even made an appearance during the last city council meeting where Mr. McGlinchey made a short speech which cost the city approximately \$1200 dollars in legal fees. I quickly calculated this from the \$168 per hour (according to Mr. Howe's statements to the paper) and the fact that Mr. McGlinchey is from Novi. If you figured that it is a five hour drive from Novi to Lowell and back, and then add the two hours Mr. McGlinchey spent at the meeting that night, this would give you seven billable hours. 7 x 168 = \$1,176. In short, the longer the contract negotiations drag out, the more Mr. McGlinchey makes. Not to mention the cost of the planned appeal. In closing, I would encourage the public to be informed of the facts and ask your city leaders why they insist on supporting the unnecessary and costly appeal of Judge O'Connor's decision. I would also encourage the public to get out on Nov. 5 and vote. Voting is the time where your voice is as loud as anybody else's and allows you to express your thoughts to your representatives. You can make a big difference in your city, so please come out Nov. 5 and let your voice be heard.

We, the workers, are endorsing candidate Jeff Altoft who is on the ballot and write-in candidate Matt Mayer whose name is not on the voting ballot. If you intend to vote for Matt Mayer, you must write his name, completely and accurately on the write-in portion of the voting ballot. Thank you, Ralph Brecken Cedar Springs

Thank you, Ralph Brecken Cedar Springs

NEED TO SEND A



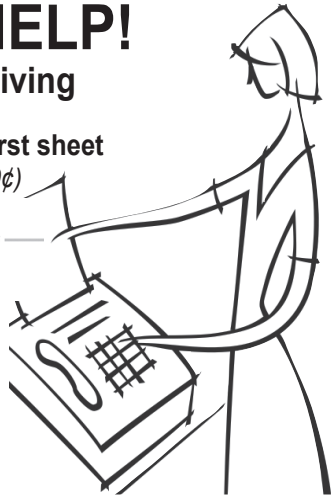
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NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

A Public Hearing will be held regarding a request for an amendment to a Special Exception Use Permit at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Vergennes Township Board on November 18, 2013, at 7:00 pm at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell, 49331.

Kathy and Tim Wittenbach of 13005 3-Mile NE, Lowell, owners/operators of Witt's Inn, have requested an amendment to their special exception use permit as allowed under Section 201.304 (C) (16) Agritourism Business of the Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance, for their Bed and Breakfast operation on 5 acres of property located at 2534 Alden Nash NE, Lowell. They would like to add a covered pavilion to accommodate gatherings held on the property as allowed under Section 201.304 (C) (16) (j). The property is located on Alden Nash between 3-Mile and the Arrowhead Golf Course in section 10.

Copies of the application are available for public inspection at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, 616-897-5671, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. and Thursdays from 9 to Noon. Public comment will be taken at the meeting, or if received by the Clerk in writing or by e-mail at clerk@vergennestwp.org before 7:00 pm November 18, 2013.

Mari C. Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

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RIFLE - British 303 bolt action rifle with scope. Good shooter. \$225. Call 897-0020.

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A BED - A brand new queen pillowtop mattress set in plastic, w/warranty, sacrifice, \$135. Call 989-584-6818.^{TFN}

KENMORE REFRIGERATOR & STOVE SET - (2006), cost \$900, sell \$199 for pair. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.^{TFN}

TWIN BED - Mattress, box spring & frame, (Sealy), \$85 complete. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.^{TFN}

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QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET - (new), \$248/set. Thick & plush. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.^{TFN}

card of thanks

NOTE OF THANKS

We wish to express our thanks to the Lowell Area Schools and the City of Lowell for the outpouring of support which we and our family experienced on Friday, October 18, 2013. We especially give our thanks to Lowell High School Athletic Director Mrs. Dee Crowley, Lowell Area Schools Superintendent Mr. Greg Pratt, football coaches Mr. Mark Russell and Mr. Noel Dean, along with the entire football program. Our thanks also goes out to the City of Lowell including Mayor Jim Hodges, the City Council and City Manager Mark Howe for their recognition.

Dr. Donald & Donna Gerard

for rent

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ASSISTED LIVING - Beautiful modern country home in Alto, excellent care. Cathy, 616-891-1840. Email: AssistedLivingAlto@charter.net

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. FREE All Vets Coffee Hour at the center the 3rd Thursday of each month. Bring a friend. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.^{TFN}

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of 196. Call for specials 558-2900.^{TFN}

help wanted

THE LAURELS OF KENT - is seeking an experienced part-time night housekeeper from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Must pass background check & drug screen. Apply in person at The Laurels of Kent, 350 N. Center St., Lowell, MI 49331 to the attention of Jim VanHeulan.

P.T. HOUSEKEEPING - experience preferred. Apply in person: Emerald Meadows, 6117 Charlevoix Woods Ct. SE, G.R. 49546.

help wanted

TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER - Job share position to provide transportation for a Senior Center in the Lowell area for essential services. Qualified candidates will have a satisfactory driving record, high school diploma or GED, CDL with passenger endorsement and the ability to complete all necessary paperwork. Salary \$9.62/hr. Send cover letter and resume by email to secretary@seniorneighbors.org or by mail to Senior Neighbors, Inc at 820 Monroe NW, Suite 460, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 "An Equal Opportunity Employer" **No phone calls.**

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misc.

TREAT YOURSELF FREE YOGA - Nov. 4-6, 901 W. Main. Introducing Yogalates, power & gentle yoga. Info at 616-893-5661, www.thehammockllc.com

PUBLIC SIGHT-IN - Qua-Ke-Zik Sportsman's Club will host a supervised fall sight-in at their range facility at 8731 West Riverside Dr. This service is free to the public & will be held on Nov. 2 & 3 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Targets & assistance will be provided. For more information please go to www.Qua-Ke-Zik.org

SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - at 3189 Snow Ave SE, will serve a family style turkey & dressing dinner on Wed., Nov. 13 at 5:30 p.m. Adults are \$10 & children 6-12 are \$4, children 5 & under are free. Take out dinners also available.

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I WANT TO BUY - Refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer & furniture in good shape. Have cash. 989-584-6818.^{TFN}

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services

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Coming Events

PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement. Coming events are ran on a space available basis & **ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO RUN.** If you would like to make sure your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as a classified ad. We will not run ANY Garage or Rummage Sales as a coming event. All Coming Events or changes to coming events should be submitted by fax: 897-4809, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

WEE WEDNESDAYS - Every Wednesday, 11-11:20. Rhymes, stories, songs & fun for adult & baby. Babies birth to 17 mo. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

NEEDLERS - Second & fourth Monday evenings, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Schneider Manor Community Room.

WOMEN OF THE MOOSE - third Monday at 7:30 p.m. for business meeting.

ALTO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY - meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Alto American Legion Post.

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

LOWELL SHOWBOAT GARDEN CLUB - meets the 3rd Monday in the Church of the Nazarene Fellowship Hall, 211 N. Washington St. at 6:30 p.m.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 102 - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Randy Jesberg at 897-4569 or Del Rockwell at 897-6814.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY TOPS MI #372 - every Tuesday, weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m. Key Heights, 11335 Fulton, Lowell.

CUB SCOUT PACK 3188 - meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main.

SCAVENGER HUNT - Oct. 29. Stop in for clues during open hours. Game ends on Oct. 31. Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB - meets second and third Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at 8731 West Riverside Dr. Go to www.qua-ke-zik.org for information. New members welcome.

LOWELL LIONS CLUB - meets third Tuesday at noon at Lowell City Hall.

LOWELL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - meets the 2nd Saturday at Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 E. Fulton, 9 a.m. social gathering; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

TRICK OR TREAT - Oct. 31, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Stop by for a Halloween treat. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT STORE - is open Wed. & Fri. 10 - 8 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6; Sat., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 11535 Fulton St. E. Thrift Shop, 897-8260; Food Pantry, 897-8260; Emergency Services, 897-8260.

ALPHA WOMEN'S CENTER - 517 E. Main. Hours: Mon. 11-5 p.m.; Tues. 6-9 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6 p.m. 987-9533. Diapers, formula, clothing & free pregnancy testing available.

ALTO LIBRARY HOURS: Tues. & Wed., 12-8 p.m.; Mon. & Sat., 9:30-1:30 p.m.; Thurs., 1-5 p.m. Info., call 784-2007.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS - Mon.-Wed., noon - 8 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri., 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 784-2007.

LOWELL ARTS! GALLERY HOURS - Mon. - Fri., 10 - 6 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m.; 149 S. Hudson.

Visit www.lowellartsmi.org or call 897-8545.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM - open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday: 1-4 p.m. Families: \$10; individual \$3; ages 5-17 \$1.50; members free. 897-7688.

FRIDAY FUN - Every Friday, 11-11:45 a.m. Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes, games & a simple craft. For 3-5 year olds. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

ST. MARY'S PREGNANCY CRISIS CENTER - 402 Amity. Mondays: 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Thursdays: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Non-denominational. Help for pregnant women/adolescents in need. Provides support, referrals, food, clothing/ infant items. Lowell area. 897-9393.

LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS - (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs.: 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues. & Fri.: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 p.m. & 8-9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m. The first step is always the hardest. If your life has become unmanageable due to alcohol, please join us at 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

LEGOS AT THE LIBRARY - Second Sat. of each month, 10 a.m. - noon. Bring your imagination & be ready to build. Legos provided. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main St., Belding, 616-794-1450.

EVERY THURSDAY - Night service at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 865 Lincoln Lake SE at 6:30 p.m. Public welcome.

NEW STORY TIME AT FROM - first Wed. of every month, 6-7 p.m. at FROM, 11535 E. Fulton, Lowell.

MOMS IN TOUCH INTERNATIONAL - Thursdays 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. at Friendship Country Chapel, 10200 Grand River Ave. Moms & grandmas come pray for our kids & schools. Contact Missy at 308-7920 or missykooistra@gmail.com with any questions.



OCTOBER 23 - OCTOBER 29

- Citing a "deep rift" between group members The Jonas Brothers are splitting up.
- Medicare Chief Marilyn Tavenner is being questioned by the House Ways and Means Committee about what went wrong with HealthCare.gov and whether everything can run efficiently by the end of November.
- A movie about John Belushi's life is in the making - he died 30 years ago - it will star Emile Hirsch as Belushi.
- Game five of the World Series has the Boston Red Sox ahead 3 games to 2 over the St. Louis Cardinals. The Red Sox will have the home-team advantage as they head to Boston for the next game.

THIS WEEK'S POLL RESULTS

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

YES..... 73%
 NO..... 9%
 We do parties instead..... 9%
 We don't participate 9%



TO VOTE IN THIS WEEK'S POLL VISIT

**WWW.
 thelowellledger.com**

THEME: TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

ACROSS

- Measured with a penny?
- *Carrie Bradshaw and Mr. ___ hit silver screen in '08
- "Ali ___ and the 40 Thieves"
- Twilled woolen fabric
- Australian flightless bird
- ___ Mara in Africa
- Like pre-Christian religion
- Often measured on the dash
- One born under Aries
- *Lance's offense
- *Influenza health scare
- E in CE or BCE
- Where the road splits
- Scot's woolen cap
- Walkie-talkie word
- Saudi Arabia's neighbor
- Color wheel elements
- Seed covering
- Native American fruit
- In neutral
- Reasoned judgement
- Frost
- *Segway user
- Gilbert of "Roseanne"
- Subway in U.K.
- Crashed or slept
- ___ Bell
- Top engineering school
- Detest
- Make a scene
- *U.S. enemy
- *Kind of media
- "El Capitan" composer
- Pressure unit
- Disconnected
- Deadly snake of southeastern Asia
- Reef dweller
- Olive branch meaning
- ___ good example
- Backstabber

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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72						73				74				

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- Mandarin's headquarters
- Titanic's cause of sinking
- Mischief-maker
- New Orleans restaurant staple
- Shakespeare, e.g.
- "In your dreams!"
- Worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples
- Hokkaido native
- Price minus cost
- Maryland Academy
- Rub the wrong way
- War vessel
- *Current millennium, e.g.
- *What an iPod delivers
- Blends
- Aphrodite's son
- Result of kissing a frog
- Celery, technically
- Iambus, pl.
- *Succinct public message
- Witnesses
- *Italy stopped using it in 2002
- Chocolate source
- Fix leftovers
- *Prince William became one in 2013
- *Wall Street
- Common candle shape
- Fungal skin infection
- Requests
- Paul Bunyan story, e.g.
- Arabian tea
- *Kim Jong-un's part of the world
- Deposited by a river
- Comic Sandler
- Head vermin
- Last word of "America, the Beautiful"
- Bear cave

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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*National average annual savings based on data from customers who reported savings by switching to Esurance between 12/1/11 and 4/30/12. © 2012 Esurance Insurance Services, Inc. All rights reserved. CA License #0G87829

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 Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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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

A local married couple is in need of a new furnace. Their current furnace has barely kept 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 things 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.

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 and 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 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 her window. She has a leaky 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 in order to ensure that the hole does not get 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 window 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 ensure 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.

A single retired woman, living only on her Social Security benefits, is in need of some assistance cleaning out her gutters and removing a brush pile in her backyard. She has recently acquired double-vision and is not able to do as much work around her yard as she used to.

A married couple with two children is in need of some help with weatherization of their home. Both adults are working, yet are struggling to make ends meet. They are currently on the budget plan and pay over \$200/month in heating bills. They are hoping to have someone come out to their home and wrap their home in plastic and would like assistance on energy savings efforts.

A married couple who just recently combined their families is in need of transforming their three season porch into a room for their two young boys that just moved in with them. Both adults are working at this time and earning just over minimum wage, which allows them to pay for basic needs. However, this is a need that exceeds their means.

City of Lowell General Election sample ballot

OFFICIAL BALLOT City General Election Tuesday, November 5, 2013 Kent County, Michigan City of Lowell, Precincts 1 & 2	
CITY	
COUNCIL MEMBER Vote for not more than 3	
Jeff Altoft	<input type="radio"/>
Jim Hall	<input type="radio"/>
Jim Hodges	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>
COUNCIL MEMBER Partial Term Ending 12/31/2015 Vote for not more than 1	
Christopher Schwab	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>
PROPOSAL SECTION	
CITY OF LOWELL PROPOSAL I	
CITY OF LOWELL CHARTER AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE WHEN COUNCILMEN TERMS OF OFFICE BEGIN.	
<small>The purpose of this Charter amendment is to prescribe that the terms of office of Councilmen shall begin at the beginning of the first regular meeting of the City Council in January following the election at which they were elected, provided the term for Councilmen elected in this election, in November 2015, and for a four-year term in November 2017, shall commence at 8:00 p.m. on the Monday next following the election at which they were elected.</small>	
Shall this amendment be adopted?	
YES	<input type="radio"/>
NO	<input type="radio"/>
CITY OF LOWELL PROPOSAL II	
CITY OF LOWELL CHARTER AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE THAT AN APPOINTEE TO FILL A VACANCY IN ANY ELECTIVE CITY OFFICE SHALL HOLD OFFICE UNTIL THE FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL IN JANUARY FOLLOWING THE NEXT CITY GENERAL ELECTION AFTER THE VACANCY OCCURRED.	
<small>The purpose of this Charter amendment is to provide that a person appointed to fill a vacancy in any elective City office shall hold office until the first regular meeting of the City Council in January following the next City general election after the vacancy occurred.</small>	
Shall this amendment be adopted?	
YES	<input type="radio"/>
NO	<input type="radio"/>

PROPOSAL SECTION	
CITY OF LOWELL PROPOSAL III	
CITY OF LOWELL CHARTER AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE THAT CITY CONTRACTS FOR THE PURCHASE, SALE OR LEASE OF REAL ESTATE MAY HAVE A TERM NOT EXCEEDING NINETY-NINE YEARS WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE ELECTORS.	
<small>Current, Section 13.3(a) of the City Charter requires that City contracts for the purchase, sale or lease of real estate with a term exceeding ten years must first receive voter approval at a regular or special election. The amendment would delete the requirement for voter approval of these real estate contracts with terms up to and including ninety-nine years.</small>	
Shall this amendment be adopted?	
YES	<input type="radio"/>
NO	<input type="radio"/>
LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	
LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS BUILDING AND SITE SINKING FUND MILLAGE	
<small>Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property within the school district of Lowell Area Schools, Kent and Ionia Counties, Michigan, be increased by and the board of education be authorized to levy a new additional millage of not to exceed 1 mill (\$1.00 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) to create a sinking fund to be used for the construction or repair of school buildings, purchase of real estate for sites, and other purposes authorized by law, for a period of seven (7) years, 2014 through 2020, inclusive (estimated to provide revenues of approximately \$740,920 in 2014)?</small>	
YES	<input type="radio"/>
NO	<input type="radio"/>

The Lowell Area Community Fund was established in 1997 by longtime resident Harold Englehardt. The purpose of the Community Fund is to seek community cooperation and participation to create a healthy and dynamic community. To achieve this, the Community Fund provides grants in seven critical areas including: arts and culture, economic development, education, environment, health, human services and recreation.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT, Year Ended June 30, 2013

REVENUE	
Investment Earnings	\$ 1,920,234
Contributions	\$ 500
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 1,920,734
EXPENSES	
Grants and Scholarships	\$ 639,175
Investment Manager Fee	\$ 57,885
Support Services	\$ 68,927
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 765,987
Change in Net Assets	\$ 1,154,747
Net Assets, Beginning of the year	\$ 13,776,718
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$14,931,465

Community Fund Advisory Committee 2012

- Jeff Bunn**, representing Vergennes Township
- John Darling**, representing the Englehardt Family
- Mark Howe**, Lowell City Manager
- Amy Pallo**, Principal, Lowell High School
- Darren James**, Huntington Bank
- Gregory Pratt**, Superintendent, Lowell Area Schools
- David Simmonds**, representing Lowell Township

GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

185 Oakes Street SW
 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
 Tel: 616.454.1751, www.grfoundation.org/lowell

For more information, or to make a donation, please visit www.grfoundation.org/lowell



Lowell Area Community Fund Grants July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

Program Name	Description	Organization	Grant Amount
Technology Infusion	To purchase mobile iPad labs to improve access to technology.	Lowell Area Schools	\$ 90,000
Signage and Wayfinding Project	Provide technical expertise and equipment for community wayfinding.	City of Lowell	\$ 53,500
Tots on Track/PreSchool	To help families prepare their preschool children to enter school healthy and ready to learn.	Lowell Area Schools	\$ 52,000
Financial Assistance & Transformation	To meet the critical needs of greater Lowell area residents.	Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc.	\$ 50,000
Community Wide AED Project	To help increase the save rate from sudden cardiac arrest.	City of Lowell	\$ 39,390
Wireless Project	To develop the wireless infrastructure throughout the district to support teaching, learning and community activities.	Lowell Area Schools	\$ 37,468
Ambulance Replacement Program	To replace the ambulance stationed in Lowell.	Rockford Ambulance, Inc.	\$ 28,000
Greater Lowell Community Marketing Plan	To provide continued match funding for implementation of the Greater Lowell Community Marketing Plan.	Greater Lowell Chamber Foundation	\$ 25,000
Pavilion Project	To match funding for a pavilion and recognition area that will be located west of Cherry Creek Elementary.	Lowell Area Recreation Authority	\$ 21,400
Sidewalk Liability Mitigation	To repair dangerous conditions on city sidewalks.	City of Lowell	\$ 19,500
Strand Theatre Feasibility Study	To support the cost of a Pre-Capital Campaign Feasibility Study, a Phase-One Environmental Assessment and a Full Appraisal of "The Strand Theatre" building in downtown Lowell.	LowellArts!	\$ 17,500
Marketing the Arts in Lowell	To support LowellArts! marketing cost to promote its programs, events and services for calendar year 2013.	LowellArts!	\$ 17,000
New Sheep Panels & Document Preservation	To purchase new sheep panels and to provide funding to preserve the records of the Kent County Youth Fair.	Kent County Youth Agricultural Association	\$ 15,844
Ready, Set, Move Seniors	To continue to educate and empower Lowell Area seniors in health and wellness practices.	YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids	\$ 14,100
Creekside Park Safety and Dugout Improvements	To enhance safety and provide improvements to dugouts at Creekside Park.	City of Lowell	\$ 13,000
Riverwalk/Library Stage Planning	To hire a Landscape Architect for the planning and design of a permanent stage and band shell for the riverwalk and library.	City of Lowell	\$ 13,000
Greater Lowell Community Calendar Kaleidoscope	To provide one year of funding to publish the Kaleidoscope ads, brochure and community based website.	Greater Lowell Chamber Foundation	\$ 12,947
Urban Forest Initiative 2013	Assist the City of Lowell Arbor Board with implementation of its Comprehensive Tree Plan.	City of Lowell	\$ 12,500
Lowell LaughFest	To support the Lowell LaughFest 2013 event.	Gilda's Club Grand Rapids	\$ 12,000
Inventory and Collection Assessment	To seek a complete inventory and assessment of the Lowell Area Historical Museum's artifact collection.	Lowell Area Historical Museum	\$ 9,750
2013 Lowell Showboat Summer Concerts	To provide financial support for the 2013 Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts.	Greater Lowell Chamber Foundation	\$ 8,400
Memorial Play Structure & Equipment Replacement	To construct a community play structure in memory of Ronald Wenger and replace tables and chairs.	Kent County Youth Agricultural Association	\$ 7,700
Police Evidence Recording and Preservation	To upgrade aging mobile recording equipment with state of the art vehicle and personal cameras to improve officer and citizen safety.	City of Lowell	\$ 7,000
Mobile Radio Communications	To replace non-compatible radios.	City of Lowell	\$ 4,000
Interpretive Historic Panel Project	To promote a sense of our community and cultural heritage with the installation of sixteen historic Interpretive Panels to be installed around the city of Lowell.	Lowell Area Historical Museum	\$ 4,000
Lowell Dog Park Drinking Water Source	To provide an onsite drinking water source for human park users and their dogs.	City of Lowell	\$ 2,000
Englehardt Public Library Fire Alarm Monitoring	To purchase and install a fire alarm monitoring system.	City of Lowell	\$ 1,000
Scholarships	College scholarships awarded to Lowell Area Residents.		\$ 54,000
TOTAL GRANTS			\$ 641,999

Lowell Area Community Fund is a fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation